

Annals of Shawnee Methodist Mission and Indian Manual Labor School

Section 3, Pages 61 - 90

These annals are a compilation of events concerning the Shawnee Methodist Mission year by year. The information was culled from a variety of sources. Most entries include a citation to the source. Thomas Johnson established the mission in 1830 near Turner in present Wyandotte County, Kansas. He also founded the Indian Manual Labor School, which operated in conjunction with the mission. It was moved to the Johnson County area in 1839 and the school operated until 1862. The Santa Fe and Oregon trails passed near the Johnson County location so travelers frequently stopped at the mission. The site housed the executive offices of the first territorial governor and the first territorial legislature met there. In addition to the Methodist mission, the Baptist and Quaker churches also operated missions for the Shawnee. These annals are the complete manuscript from which a condensed version was published by the Kansas State Historical Society in 1939.

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arithmetic; the other 3 can spell. Eleven of the girls have learned to sew, and 2 can weave."

"There are 3 other boys, who have not attended the school this year, that have just got through their apprenticeship at the cabinet-making business in a mechanical shop connected with the mission. These 3 boys make some very respectable-looking furniture."

"The Baptist board of foreign missions have a missionary establishment among this tribe, but no school for the last three years.

"The Quakers have also established a mission among them, and commenced a school, which was kept up only a few months, during the latter part of the year."

the
Reports of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1835-1839, p. 496.

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1839

"The new house"--the two-story brick that stands on the south side of the road, and faces north, at the Mission station south of Westport--was erected while mother was teaching; and the move was made from "the old place"--some distance away--to the present site either in the fall of '39 or the spring of '40. Of this I am certain--for this reason: Mother was ill with the fever while the Mission was yet at "the old place", and I find a receipt from "Dr. J. Dummer for professional service--two visits . . . \$25.00," and this paper is dated "Oct. 1839;" and moreover my brother and sister were born Sep. 1840 in "the new house" the building south of Westport.

Belle Greene.

Such Extracts from letters as have reference to the Shawnee Mission.

(By way of explanation of the St. Louis episode alluded to in the letter I will state that I do not remember having heard my mother say what the amount of her traveling expenses from Philadelphia to Shawnee Mission or whether the New York Conference Board of Missions made provision therefor; but I have frequently heard her say that before starting on her journey she borrowed of and gave her note to Mrs. Shurlock for \$75.00 for traveling expenses; and by being water-bound in Wheeling for five weeks an unexpected draft was made upon her funds so that when she reached St. Louis she found herself a stranger alone in a strange land and without means to proceed on her way.)

Belle Greene.

Jan. 14.

My very dear Miss Todd:

Mrs. Catharine Shurlock writes:-- A Philadelphia, Jan. 14, 1839.-- We have been looking with longing eyes for a letter from you. I received one from you at Wheeling and one from St. Louis. . . I had no idea of your remaining five weeks in Wheeling or I should have written. . . But when your letter came from St. Louis we all praised God and wept for joy and were struck with admiration at the goodness of God, and his wonderful care over you. O, our dear sister, how my heart (or rather all our hearts) swelled with love and sympathy. . .

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when we read that your money failed you and that you had to trudge alone through the mud. . . In imagination I have gone over that ground scores of times and have stood with you at the door of the stranger preacher and have heard you tell him that you were a missionary on your way to Mr. Johnson's station at Shawnee Mission but could not go forward for want of means. . . At thought of it now--of all your encountered--the tears blind my eyes. . . And who could but adore and wonder at the kindness of our dear Redeemer when we see how soon the mountain became a plain--to see how Bro. Johnson had anticipated all your wants and made provision for them. . . Surely God sent you. . . just where help was assured. . . No one ever went on a mission more in the order of God than you! There was no self-accommodation, no changing of climate for health . . . it was the leaving all things in obedience to the call of God. . .

The day you left we stood and looked and prayed as long as we could see your handkerchief waving then with slow pace we moved toward the carriages, came home and had a solemn day of it. We shall never forget the day while memory holds her seat." ...

(The friends who composed the little company, who bade her "God speed" were Mr. and Mrs. Shurlock, Miss Mary Weaver, Rev. David Terry and wife and Rev. E. S. Janes, afterward Bishop and Rev.--Mathias.--Belle.)

Jan 15. . . . The above was written last evening. . . Mr. Young gave me a letter while I was at dinner. . . I read the post-mark, "Westport," . . . no more dinner for me. I read it aloud. We all rejoiced again . . . We love you my sister . . . because you are our friend . . . because you love our Lord and Saviour and because you have forsaken all--your home and your friends--to aid in spreading light and truth among those noble-minded men and women of the forest. Surely these are of the tribes of Abraham . . . we are glad you corroborate Bro. Lee's statements relative to sister Johnson. He spoke in the highest terms of Brother and Sister Johnson and of the Mission generally; and wept when speaking of your experience in St. Louis; and said yours was "the true



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missionary spirit--resolute, persevering and trustful". . . A load is removed from our hearts now that we know that you are arrived safe, were cordially received at the Mission station and that you are so pleased with your situation and with all concerned . . . God bless you and make you useful and give you favor among that people . . . I assure you that we are not a little pleased that you are at Brother Johnson's station . . . Brother Janes says he is the best missionary he ever saw . . . and is willing to answer any questions relative to his mission. Brother Lee is very unwilling to answer questions about the Mission and has published an article in the Christian Advocate on the subject of being questioned so much. Brother Lee said when he was there a Presbyterian lady was teaching in the Indian Manual Labor School. I hope you have the school Brother Johnson designed you should have. He is a wise man and will do what is right . . . God prosper you and give you grace to go in and out among that people . . . and I feel that he will--I feel Sister Todd that your walk and conversation will be what becometh the gospel.

Copy of extracts of letters sent by Belle Greene, MSS. Dept. K. H.S.

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1839.

Shawnee Mission, Jan. 22, 1839

Jan. 22.

Dear Brother,-- I have neglected to write to you a little beyond the usual time; and I can only say, by way of apology, that I have been so much crowded with business for a few weeks past, it has been exceedingly difficult to find time to write to any person. And, secondly, the community have been so thoroughly furnished with information recently, from our beloved brothers, Seys and Lee, who represent two of our most important missionary fields, that it did not seem necessary for us to write much at present; and I thought it would be best for us to work as hard as we could, and say but little until Brother Lee got through with all he has to say about Oregon country, and collects his company of missionaries, and hoists his sails for Willamette; and by that time perhaps we may have something good to tell about the Shawnees, Delawares, Peories, Kickapoos, Pottawotamies, Kansas &c.

We have already commenced preparing buildings for our Indian manual labor school. We have employed Brother David Lock, of Carrollton, Ill., to do our brick work, and he has come on with a company of hands and is now making preparations. We have employed the Shawnee Indians to make rails for the farm; they are now at work, and I expect they will furnish some twenty-five or thirty thousand by planting time.

Our plan is to fence and plough up some four or five hundred acres of prairie, sow some in grass for meadow and pasture, plant some in corn, sow wheat, oats, &c., so we will be able to raise nearly the whole support for the school ourselves, after the improvements are made. We expect to have our buildings ready to open school immediately after our next conference which will be held in October.

The Indians friendly to civilization are much pleased with our plan

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of a manual labor school, because their children will be taught how to work and make a comfortable support for themselves, as well as to read and write; and some who have hitherto opposed schools, say they will send their children to this school, that they may learn to work, for they know that the Indians cannot live any longer by hunting as they formerly lived. I am more than ever convinced that when we get our school ready we shall be able to educate more children, and do it cheaper than we ever could on our old plans.

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Yours affectionately,

Thomas Johnson

Christian Advocate and Journal, March 8, 1839, Files in Baker
U. Library.

Jan. 28. "The Shawnees have agreed it is said, to sell a strip 3 miles wide, off the east side of the land bordering on the state line, either to the Gov't or to the Wyandots, for the settlement of that tribe. You will observe that this 3 miles will include our Shawnee Mission Station, and that it will be necessary to take some steps to secure the occupancy of the station as well as the proper privilege of using firewood etc. I saw Cummins yesterday, who promised to keep me apprised of the progress of this matter so as to enable me to secure our station. The Indians then had reported to him the result of their decisions but were in Council in the yard. . .

I somewhat suspect, that advantage will be taken, if our station shall fall into the hands of the Wyandots, they being mostly Methodist. . .

There is much excitement among the Shawnees in regard to the new Meth. establishment, and this matter of selling, may in some way or other

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be the result of it. I have heard that Cornstalk says he will sell a portion of land to the whites so as to exclude this new station from their country."

Lykins to McCoy, McCoy Correspondence.

February. "In February, 1839, 400 acres of land were fenced, 12 acres of which were planted in apple trees. This was the first apple orchard set out in Kansas. 76 acres were planted in corn, over 40,000 rails were made by the Indians in a short time, about 40 hands were employed. The brick was burned on a farm a short distance south of the school. A saw and grist mill were also erected. The grist mill turning out about 300 bushels per day. This mill was run by steam. The school was well supplied with plenty of country cured meat, about 300 hogs averaging 300 pounds each were often killed in one season. There are some iron hooks in the joist in the basement of the second house named and I have been told it was here these cured hams and shoulders were hung for future use."

Mrs. Frank Hardesty in The Suburban News, Merriam, Mar. 5, 1936.

May 23. "On the subject of the intended Manual Labor School, located within this agency by the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. Thomas Johnson, agent, made a beginning about the first of Feby. At this time he has four hundred acres of land enclosed under a good new fence; 12 acres of which is set in apple cions, selected fruit, also planted in Irish potatoes and other garden vegetables, one hundred and seventy six acres planted in corn, 85 acres in oats. Five ploughs are breaking the balance of the ground enclosed, which is intended for timothy and blue grass. 100 acres in addition to the 400 enclosed is expected to be ploughed by 15th July and enclosed in September, which will make

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500 acres ready for next year. The rails, upwards of 40,000, were all made in a short time by the Shawnee Indians, with the exception of about 3,000.

The buildings are under way, mechanics preparing brick, 30,000 feet of lumber at the place, 15,000 of it dressed ready for laying floors, 2,500 lights of sash made, stone quarried for the first building, nails, glass, hinges, locks &c., ready on the premises.

They expect to have a part of the buildings ready to commence the school in October. I think however this is doubtful. Although they have gone on very rapidly, there is yet a great deal to do. The agent is very attentive and persevering. At this time about 40 hands are employed."

R. Cummins, Ind. Agent. to Joshua Pilcher, Supt. of Indian Affairs.

U. S. Superintendency of Indian Affairs, v. 8, pp. 4, 5. MSS.
Dept., K. S. H. S.

June 3.

Fort Leavenworth Agency

June 3^d 1839

Sir: David Kinnear, school teacher to the Kickapoes Indians, under treaty stipulation &c. wishing to pay a visit to his friends in the State of Ohio, and offering to furnish a Miss Lee as substitute to teach the school in his place until he returned. I consented to the arrangement on the following conditions, vis. for Miss Lee to teach the school for him until he returned, if not approved of by the commissioners, his pay to stop from the time he left until he returned. He started the last of May & expects to be gone about three months. Mr. Kinnear is a member of the Methodist Church. In consequence of his qualifications being well adapted to teach and manage Indian children, the agent of the Manual Labor



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School wishes to procure his services as teacher as soon as the school goes into operation, and as he has been closely engaged in the Indian Country for a long time, and intended to visit his friends next year, it was thought most advisable for him to go at this time. I am informed that Miss Lee has taught school in the State of N. York near twenty years. She was brought out here by the Society for a teacher of female children in the Manual Labor School. I have no doubt but she is well qualified to discharge the duties.

Be pleased to request a reply from the Comm., as I wish to pay Mr. Kinnear, in accordance with his decision.

I am very Respectfully

Your Ob. Svt.

Richd W. Cummins

Indian Agent

Major J. Pilcher

S. I. affs.

St. Louis

U. S. Superintendency of Indian Affairs, v. 8, pp. 5, 6.

June 21. Rev. Jesse Greene and Mary Todd are married at Shawnee Manual Labor school.

Belle Greene to Geo. W. Martin, Nov. 13, 1906. MSS. Dept.,
K. S. H. S.

Mary Greene wrote, "We were united in marriage in June, 1840."

Mary Greene, Biography of Rev. Jesse Greene, p. 41.

Aug. [Probably as he says he expects to commence Manual Labor School in 2 months.]

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Rev. David Terry writes:--

Aug. 14, 1838.-- Miss Mary Todd: Esteemed Sister. . . .

Be sure we are well pleased to learn from your letter that you are fully determined to "stand in your lot" in the confidence that your Redeemer has inspired your heart withNo light is equal with our light; let it then be your endeavor to be acquiring more light and love. . . . Endeavor to continue to improve in knowledge and purity, for who can tell to what work the Lord may yet call you to perform. . . . Grow in grace and in the knowledge of the love of God. Increase in these respects is absolutely necessary to personal holiness and happiness. Why should you stop short of perfection's height. . . . Allow me to say, continue to read the Bible first and last; make it the man of your counsel. Read other devotional books as you have opportunity. Lose no time in idle chit-chat. . . . a fault you are not^{at} all addicted to. Let your reading be such as tends to the salvation of the soul. . . . There is no rest here; but that is small moment if you be only journeying to that rest that remains to the people of God."

Later he wrote regarding her starting on her journey to the Shawnee Mission:-- "I will return (from Newburgh) to New York shortly. . . . Mrs Terry will leave on the evening of the 24th Aug. . . . You can make arrangements perhaps accordingly and go with her when she goes."

MSS. Dept., K. S. H. S.

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August ?

Extract from the report of the Rev. Thomas Johnson to Major Cummins.

Experience and observation during the past year strengthen us in the belief that our plan for a central manual labor school is the best that can be adopted to meet the wants of the Indians in this part of the country. They are scattered over a large portion of the country, a few hundred only in a tribe in many cases, and each tribe speaking its own dialect; and if a teacher should go and settle down among them, he will only succeed in collecting a small number around him a few hours in the day; the principal part of their time would be spent among their own people, and of course they will speak and understand the language of the people with whom they associate, and no other. It is true, they may be greatly improved in agriculture, religion, etc., by having suitable persons to live among them, who are willing to labor for the good of the Indians; but they never can be advanced in education so as to become English scholars. Now we think that a central manual labor school will go very far to remove the difficulties alluded to. Here the children from the different tribes will be taken to one place, and put under the care of competent teachers, with a suitable number of white children mixed in with them, and all required to speak the English language; which they will be inclined to do, for as they come from different tribes, they cannot understand one another in any other way; consequently, when they have learned to read our books, they will understand what they read, and profit thereby; and as we will have them under our care all the time, we can give them a physical education as well as mental, by having suitable men connected with the institution to learn them the more useful branches of mechanism, agriculture, etc. But we do not intend to convey the idea that we think a school of a higher order is necessary for the Indians, or that they need a classical education at present. We only

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mean to concentrate our efforts at one point, that we may make them more efficient, so that we may be able to give the Indians an education suited to their wants in the cheapest way, and not spend our time, and money too, by following the old plan which avails so little. But while we make our central school our chief dependence for education, we do not expect to slaken our efforts to instruct the Indians in their different tribes; for we expect to continue our regular missionaries in the different tribes, who, in addition to the religious instruction of the Indians, will be expected to instruct them in agriculture, to select children and send them to the central school, to exercise a kind of guardianship over the children who may be educated at the central school when they return home, by aiding them in settling themselves and commencing business, and, when it is necessary, they can teach a school; though I presume this will only be done as preparatory to the central school.

We expect to be able to commence our central school in about two months. We have teachers engaged; but as the spring and summer were very wet, and the clay not of good quality, our brick work has been protracted beyond our former calculations, so that we shall only have buildings to accommodate 60 or 70 children this fall; but our present plan of buildings when completed will be sufficient for 150 children or more, with the necessary teachers. We have the principal part of the materials for the whole of the buildings collected at the place, and hope to have them completed in the course of the next summer.

We have laid off a farm of 500 acres, and have the whole of it ploughed up, and 400 acres fenced. We have raised this year 1,500 or 1,800 bushels of oats, and have 175 acres in corn, which we think is good



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for 5,000 bushels. We have sowed 100 acres in wheat, and 100 acres in timothy, and planted an orchard of 10 acres."

Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1835-1839, pp. 433, 434.

Oct. 2. The Missouri conference meets at Fayette, Mo. The appointments are: "Indian Mission District, Thomas Johnson, Presiding Elder. Shawnee Mission, Thomas Johnson. Indian Manual Labor School, Wesley Browning and David Kinnear."

"The school appears this year for the first time as a separate and distinct appointment and so it remained ever after."

Joab Spencer, "Extracts from Wesley Browning's Journal,"

Missouri Valley Historical Society, v. 1, p. 459.

"At the session of the Missouri Conference held at Fayette, Mo., in 1839, W. Browning and D. Kinnear were placed in charge of the Manual Labor School, and were assisted by Mrs. Jesse Greene, Mrs. Browning, and Miss Elizabeth Lee. Mrs. Greene, who came from Bristol, England, is said to have been a lady of more than ordinary culture and much strength of character."

Rev. E. J. Stanley, Life of L. B. Stateler, p. 98

Oct. 1. Extract from Report of Rev. Thos. Johnson.

L. Shawnee School.-- During the past year, we have had twenty regular scholars living in the mission family, fourteen girls and six boys, eight can read, write, cipher a little, recite the tables in arithmetic, and the first lessons in geography; eight others can spell and read a little, and recite the tables in arithmetic &c.; four are new beginners, and have made but little progress. A few others have attended school occasionally, but as it is common with those who attend from their homes, they have learned so little that we shall not number them. The girls in



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this school are quite ready with the needle, and some of the larger ones can weave.

Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1835-1839, p. 523.

Oct. 14. Wesley Browning wrote in his journal:

"Monday, the 14th (of October), reached the place of the school and in the afternoon went to T. Johnson's and stayed a day or two and then came down and went to work."

Joab Spencer, "Extracts from Wesley Browning's Journal," op. cit.

"Missouri Conference Missions"

October 15.

Rev. and Dear Brother,--It is my duty to transmit to you a copy of the last annual report of the Missouri Conference Missionary Society; and this I take the earliest opportunity of doing after reaching home.

Your affectionate brother

Thos. Johnson

Shawnee Mission House, Oct. 15, 1839

The board of managers of the Missouri Conference Missionary Society feel devout gratitude to the great Head of the Church in being again permitted to meet their brethren and friends, and to congratulate them on the success that has attended this best of causes the past year within our bounds. It has obtained a deeper hold on the affections of our people, and called forth a larger measure of their prayers, and also pecuniary aid. And although there is so large a portion of Missionary ground within the limits of this conference, we hope the day is not distant when our now scattered population and distant settlements will be equally able and willing to sustain the gospel and its institutions,

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and when these rich valleys and plains will send forth streams to fertilize other parts of Immanuel's land. The board herewith presents the following information touching the Indian missions within the bounds of this Conference:--

1. At the Shawnee mission there are 22 white, 3 colored, and 93 Indian members in society, and 20 very promising children in the school; with a fair prospect of extending the influence of the gospel to many others in that nation who have stood opposed to civilization and religion, but are now ready to receive and profit by instruction.

.

The measures heretofore adopted for preparing a manual labor school in connection with these missions have been pursued according to the means at command; but owing to various difficulties attending the erection of the necessary buildings in a new and thinly settled part of the country, the work is not as far advanced as we had hoped it would have been by the present. A frame building sufficient for two families is nearly finished. A brick building, designed for a boarding house, cook room, family residence &c., is in progress, which it is hoped will be up this season; and it is intended to commence the school as early after conference as practicable. Good progress has been made on the farm attached, and produce raised sufficient for wintering the stock thereon at present. Your board regards this intended institution with great interest, and cherish the hope that it will prove an efficient auxiliary in spreading the gospel and its institutions, with civilization and the arts of life, extensively among the tribes in the west

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J. Green, Vice-President

T. Johnson Sec'y.

Christian Advocate and Journal, Nov. 22, 1839. Baker U. files.

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Oct. 22. From W. Browning's Journal:

"Tuesday (October 22nd), Brother Johnson moved his family down to the school and on the 23rd moved the 'children.'"

Jacob Spencer, op. cit.

Oct. 25. "'And on Friday, the 25th of October we celebrated the centenary of Methodism and had the company of several of the missionaries and took a centenary subscription of \$1248, chiefly subscribed by the missionaries.'" The Missionaries who made the subscription were: "Thomas Johnson, Wesley Browning, David Kinnear, L. B. Stateler, J. C. Berryman, N. Talbot, E. T. Peery, and William Johnson. Everyone poor and the salary they received was \$100, if unmarried, and \$200 if married."

Ibid.

Oct. 25. From Johnson's report:

"We have built some houses of brick and some of wood, and commenced our labors at this institution, by holding a centenary meeting on the 25th of Oct. Several of the Missionaries from other stations were present, being on their way from conference, and notwithstanding the day was unfavorable, the rain falling in torrents, and hindering many who wished to attend, we had an excellent time. The Rev. W. Browning, the principal of the institution, gave us a very interesting discourse embracing the rise, progress, and peculiarities of Methodism. The subscription amounted to something over \$1,200, which I suppose would be about \$50 for each adult person who subscribed, though the subscriptions ranged from \$5 up to \$300, and some Indian children gave 50 cts. each, and one Indian man gave \$50. I believe that every adult white person gave something with one solitary exception. We do not expect to be able to compete with you rich folks who live in fine cities, but we thought it would do pretty

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well for us who live in the far, far west."

From Johnson's report of Feb. 20, 1840.

Oct. 27. "Sabbath, October 27th, began our sabbath school in the cabin; the next sabbath in Sister Greene's room, and the following in mine, in the frame house' We have no way of identifying 'the cabin'. Sister Greene, nee Mary Todd was a teacher and one of the grandest women of her time. Her room was in the superintendent's house. The 'frame House' was located east of the other buildings, and was used as a school house by the Indian boys until the large brick house was completed but how long we do not know. At the same time Mrs. Greene taught the girls in her room. The frame house here spoken of was occupied as a residence by the farmer in charge of the mission farm, after it ceased to be used as a school house."

Jacob Spencer, op. cit.

Oct. 29. "On the Tuesday following the centenary we opened our school, which has been continued ever since."

Johnson's report. See Feb. 20, 1840.

Winter. Jerome Berryman writes: "It was in the winter of 1839 that I was commissioned by Rev. Thomas Johnson to go to Pittsburg, Pa., to purchase materials for the Shawnee Manual Labor School. This trip to Pittsburg was made as far as Louisville, Ky., on horseback. Taking my Kickapoo interpreter, Eneas, with me, we passed down through Missouri, Illinois, and a portion of Kentucky, giving Missionary talks by the way. This put \$500 or \$600 in hand for the benefit of our mission. . .

"It was while on this errand I met and made the acquaintance of Rev. Wesley Browning and his excellent wife, being by them most hospitably

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entertained during my detention of a full month in Pittsburg.¹ Brother Browning was a valuable assistant to me in the purchase and shipment of what we needed, which in bulk and value amounted to a steamboat load. For the transportation of this freight I chartered a new boat just built by Captain Kizer for the Missouri river. The cargo was safely delivered by the Shawnee, for that was her name, at Kansas Landing, now Kansas City, and Brother Johnson was much pleased with the manner in which the trust had been discharged."

Berrymen MSS. in K. S. H. S. vault.

¹ Wesley Browning arrived at Shawnee Manual Labor School Oct. 14, 1839, according to an extract from his journal.

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1840.

Jan. 27. "The Delaware Chiefs in Council a few days since requested me to inform the Government that they had visited the Manual Labor School established within this Agency for the purpose of educating Indian children, and had an investigation with the agent of the institution relative to the plan proposed for the management and education of Indian youth, and that they wished the interest arising from their School funds to be applied in the following manner, To wit:- \$1000, One thousand dollars annually for the purchase of agricultural implements for the use of the Nation, and the remainder of the interest per Annum to educating their Children at the above mentioned School."

R. Cummins to J. Pilcher.

U. S. Superintendency of Indian Affairs, St. Louis, v. 8, p. 28.

Feb. 20. "Indian Missions in the Missouri Conference"

Dear Brother,-- I have been trying for several days to forecast so as to get time to write to you concerning our prospects among the Indians west of Missouri.

1. Indian Manual Labor School.-- We labored hard last year, but did not get as many buildings ready for occupancy as we anticipated. The failure was in consequence of the brick mason we had employed not being able to fulfil his contract; he was disappointed in the clay. We have built some houses of brick and some of wood, and commenced our labors at this institution, by holding a centenary meeting on the 25th of Oct. Several of the Missionaries from other stations were present, being on they [sic] way from conference, and notwithstanding the day was unfavorable, the rain falling in torrents, and hindering many who wished to attend, we had an excellent time. The Rev. W. Browning, the principal of the institution, gave us a very interesting discourse embracing the

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rise, progress, and peculiarities of Methodism. The subscription amounted to something over \$1,200, which I suppose would be about \$50 for each adult person who subscribed, though the subscriptions ranged from \$5 up to \$300, and some Indian children gave 50 cts. each, and one Indian man gave \$50. I believe that every adult white person gave something with one solitary exception. We do not expect to be able to compete with you rich folks who live in fine cities, but we thought it would do pretty well for us who live in the far, far west.¹

On the Tuesday following the centenary we opened our school, which has been continued ever since.² We now have 60 Indian children, and to our great mortification we have been compelled to stop the Indians, and not allow them to bring any more until we can put up more buildings, which we are preparing to commence early in the spring. Upward of 20 children are now held back in reserve, until we get more room, and if our buildings were ready, the number could be increased to over a hundred without any effort on our part. We think that our most sanguine expectations of the success of this school will be fully realized. It is true, our expenses will be heavy until our buildings are finished, but after that they will be comparatively light, for we have already prepared a farm of 500 acres, and will be able to raise the principal part of our provisions at the institution.

2 Shawnee Mission.-- We have two other regular preaching places in the Shawnee nation besides the school above named. At both of which we have societies, and have lately received 19 on probation. The prospects are quite encouraging in this nation at present.

¹See Oct. 25, 1839.

²See Oct. 29, 1839.

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Yours affectionately

Thos. Johnson.

Christian Advocate and Journal, Mar. 20, 1840. [Files at Baker U.]

March 28.

Fort Leavenworth Agency

March 28, 1840

Sir

I enclose herewith a report of the expenses and condition of the Indian manual labour school, made to me by the superintending committee of the institution--, the report in regard to the farm, buildings and school I know to be correct, I have not myself a correct knowledge of the amount of money expended, but have not the remotest doubt but what the report is substantially correct, the institution is only one fourth of a mile from my Agency site. I very frequently see it.

I am Respectfully

Yr. obt servant

Rich W. Cummins

Ind. Agent

Mr. T. Hartley Crawford

Com Ind. Affairs

Washington City

March 28.

I. M. L. School

March 28. 1840

Major R. W. Cummins

Dear Sir

In compliance with your request we have the honour to submit

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for your inspection the following brief statement of the expenses and condition of the Indian Manual Labor School up to the present time

There has been paid out

For	Clothing for Indian children,	399.06
	Salaries of Teachers, school Books, &c.	679.16
	Beds & Bedding	894.60
	Household & Kitchen furniture	595.66
	Provisions, & boarding hands,	1431.69
	Live stock, waggons, & farming utensils	2200.00
	Making and cultivating farm, gathering crop, &c.	5566.20
	Buildings, including \$2,200.00 worth of materials on hand	10,637.60
		<u>22,363.97</u>

There has been received

From Missionary Society 15,922.57

Amount of debt owing at the present date \$ 6,441.40

N. B. As we hired hands by the time, and sometimes employed the same hands about the buildings, and sometimes on the farm, we could not keep up a very accurate distinction between the expenditures of the two departments, though the statement above is believed to be sufficiently correct to answer all necessary purposes.

Stock on hand

3 work horses

95 cattle, including 13 work oxen.

75 Hogs. 2 Waggons. 13 ploughs. 2 harrows.

1 small mill "Smith Patent".

Farm

divided as follows, Viz. 100 acres sowed in wheat. 100 in timothy,

88 in blue grass for pasture. 12 in orchard. 100 for oats; and

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100 for corn. And in addition we have about 40 acres of raw prairie fenced for pasture, making in all 540 acres under good fence, nearly all of it staked and ridered.

All the rails, excepting some 3 or 4 thousand, were made, and a large portion of them hauled also, by Indians.

Buildings erected.

- 1 A brick house 44 by 20 feet, 3 stories high, including basement.
- 2 A brick house 20 feet square, 3 stories high, including basement. The foundation is laid, and the materials ready for uniting these two buildings by two walls, which will make a room 70 feet long intended for a dining room.
- 3 A frame building 50 by 32 feet, one story high, for two mechanic's families, each having 3 rooms.
- 4 The frame work of another raised, ready for roofing, same size with the above.
- 5 Logs ready, and partly raised, for stables, cribs, and barn 64 feet by 47.

The School

was commenced October 29th 1839:

Indian children in attendance during the winter

35 Boys

32 Girls

Total 67

Now in school

Boys 27

Girls 29

Total 56

The children in attendance during the winter are from the following tribes:

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Shawnees	27
Delawares	16
Pottawatomies	7
Peories	5
Kickapoos	6
Kansas	3
Gros Ventures	1
Piankashaws	1
Muncey	<u>1</u>
Total	67

We have made very little effort to procure children for the school; the Indians have brought them in of their own accord, and have offered many that we have been compelled to reject for want of room. A band of Chippewas have recently applied to us to know if we would take their children into this school provided they should emigrate to this country: We promised to take them in order to encourage them to remove here where they can be permanently settled. We anticipate no difficulty in obtaining as many children as we can manage; but we do apprehend serious difficulties in being able to make arrangements for as many as wish to attend: Consequently we have determined to make our buildings larger than we at first contemplated.

Our present plan of buildings, when completed will accomodate nearly two hundred scholars. But as we have commenced school and thereby have incurred heavy expenses before the expenses of our buildings are disposed of; and as the appropriation of the Missionary Society of the Methodist E. Church is limited to ten thousand dollars per annum, you will perceive, from the amount of debts now due, that we are greatly embarrassed in our operations by not having funds to go on with.



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If the officers having charge of the Indian department could feel safe in advancing the funds promised for the erection of buildings, and for defraying the current expenses of the school as the Missionary Society does, it would greatly relieve the institution and enable us to complete our buildings much sooner than we otherwise can do.

All of which is respectfully submitted by the undersigned superintending Committee.

Thos. Johnson

J. Greene

J. C. Berryman

Photostat copy in MSS. Dept., K. S. H. S.

April 24. A requisition was issued in favor of Rev. T. Johnson and J. Green, present, for \$6,250, "being the amount of a donation to aid in the erection of school buildings in the Indian country, and for education expenses for 1840, as promised by the Dept. in a letter to T. Johnson of 20th June, 1838."

Copy in MSS. Dept, K. S. H. S.

Abstract of case of the Manual Labor School in the Shawnee Country, sent by Paul Flickinger Dec. 11, 1937.

May 4. "Since your last session a plan has been devised, with the approbation of the officers and Board of Managers of the Parent Missionary Society, to establish a central Indian Manual Labor School, with the design of collecting and teaching the native children of the several adjacent tribes. The plan has been submitted to the executive department of the national government having the superintendence of Indian affairs and has met with a favorable and encouraging consideration; and we are

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much indebted to the officers and agents of the civil government in, and adjacent to, the Indian country, for the extensive aid they have given in the establishment of the institution, both by employing their influence in recommending it to the Indians, and advising in its structure and organization. This school is already, to a considerable extent, in successful operation. Native children from five different tribes are collected, and men from these tribes have visited the institution, and have very generally been satisfied with its government and objects. We cannot but regard this establishment as full of promise of lasting benefits to the Indian race. But as a detailed report of its organization, designs, and prospects, will come before you, we will only add our earnest recommendation of the plan to your deliberate consideration, with regard to the present condition and wants of the Indians, and its adaptation to the great objects it is designed to accomplish--the conversion of the Indians to the Christian faith, and their improvement in all the arts and habits of civilized life. And we would further recommend an inquiry into the expediency of establishing one or more institutions at suitable locations in the Indian country, on the same plan, and for the same purposes."

R. R. Roberts
Joshua Soule
E. Hedding

James A. Andrews
B. Waugh
Thomas A. Morris.

From the Address of the Bishops, General Conference Journals and Debates, 1840-1844, p. 140, 150.

[Baker U]

May 26. Report of the Committee on Boundaries at the General Conference. "The Missouri Conference shall include the state of Missouri and that part of Missouri Territory which lies north of the Cherokee line."

General Conference Journals, 1840-1844, p. 79. Baker U.

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June 1. Report of the Committee on Missions.

"Resolved, by the delegates of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church in General Conference assembled:

1. That we have learned with much satisfaction, that the Indian manual labour school which has been commenced under the superintendence and direction of the Missouri Conference, is in a state of forwardness, and promises all that usefulness which its projectors anticipated; that we hereby acknowledge our obligations to the executive officers and local agents of the general government for the favourable light in which they have been pleased to view the undertaking, and their generous co-operation in carrying it into effect; and we earnestly recommend, that it be promptly sustained, and that so soon as circumstances shall render it expedient, others, on the same plan, and for the same purposes, be established at such places in the Indian country as shall be deemed most suitable."

General Conference Journals and Debates, 1840-1844, p. 101.

[Baker U, Library]

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June 15.

Under date of "June 15, 1840" Mrs. Shurlock writes in reference to the note for \$75.00 she loaned Miss Todd:--

"Rev. Mr. Greene:-- Dear Brother; Mr. Canterbury called on me the 22nd of May and paid me \$75.⁰⁰ for which I gave him a receipt. . . . He said he was directed to pay me this with the added interest. I told him to tell you that I expected my interest from another source. I had no idea of ever charging my dear sister Todd any interest for any good I may have done her in any way. Tell her for me that I do not think that I ever put money upon so good an interest as that I lent her; and I am sure that I never felt so much real satisfaction in the use of any money that I ever had as in that: And if it has been a blessing to her then it has done good in a three-fold sense for it has also been a blessing to me and I think it is a blessing through her to the Indians. . . . I had made arrangements to go to Baltimore to meet

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you and Brother Johnson at the Conference; as a letter from sister Greene said you would both be there and that both of you expected to come to Philadelphia I did not go to Baltimore. When Mr. Canterbury came and said you would not come to Phila. my disappointment was very great. . . . It was too late then to again make arrangements to visit the Conference. . . ."

Inclosed in the above letter was one to:--

"My Dear Sister Greene:--(After speaking of matters relating to acquaintances and friends and subjects of local interest Mrs. Shurlock writes:). . . . I must tell you how much we were all pleased at our namesakes among your little folk. We were going to send them all some nice present if Brother Greene had come to Phila. . . . When Mr. Canterbury said Brother Greene is not coming I could not refrain from tears right before him. . . . We want to send a box of things, write me and tell us how to send-- Can it be done through any of your merchants? --and also tell what things would be most suitable--what you want and you shall have it. . . . Give our love to those dear children that are named for us. Mr. Shurlock is very much pleased that you thus remembered him and is greatly obliged to you for the honor you have bestowed in giving him a name among that people who are destined at no distant day to make a great Christian nation, and thus perpetuating our name long after we are dead. . . . Sister Weaver and Sister King are also both well pleased and said the same thing about the survival of their names. Allow me to suggest that . . . if there is another pair that you name them William and Rachel Blanding. . . . They would be greatly pleased"

Copy of extracts from letters sent by Belle Greene, MSS. Dept. K. H. S.

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From Thomas Johnson's Journal:

June 27th.-- "Reached home from General Conference, and found my dear companion pressed down with many sorrows; two of our children having been taken from us by the cold hand of death during my absence. One, an interesting little boy, nine and a half months old, the other an affectionate daughter, nearly six years. The providence of God is indeed a great deep which we cannot fathom. O for grace to be resigned. It was a great relief to me when I learned that the mind of my wife had been astonishingly sustained by the grace of God in the midst of the almost unparalleled affliction through which she had been called to pass while