

Walter Battice to Ida M. Ferris

In this letter to Ida M. Ferris, Sac and Fox member Walter Battice addresses Ferris's quest to gather information on the Sac and Fox tribe. In fact, Battice explains that Mrs. Keokuk, the wife of Chief Keokuk, was alive and well at 84 years old. Battice also explains that his "tribe is composed of two tribes - The Foxes and the Sacs - and in bygone days we used to have a Fox Chief & a Sac Chief - at the time you speak of [mid-1800s] - Keokuk was our Sac Chief."

Creator: Battice, Walter

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Brushing Okla

March 2nd 1910

Mrs Ida M. Ferris -

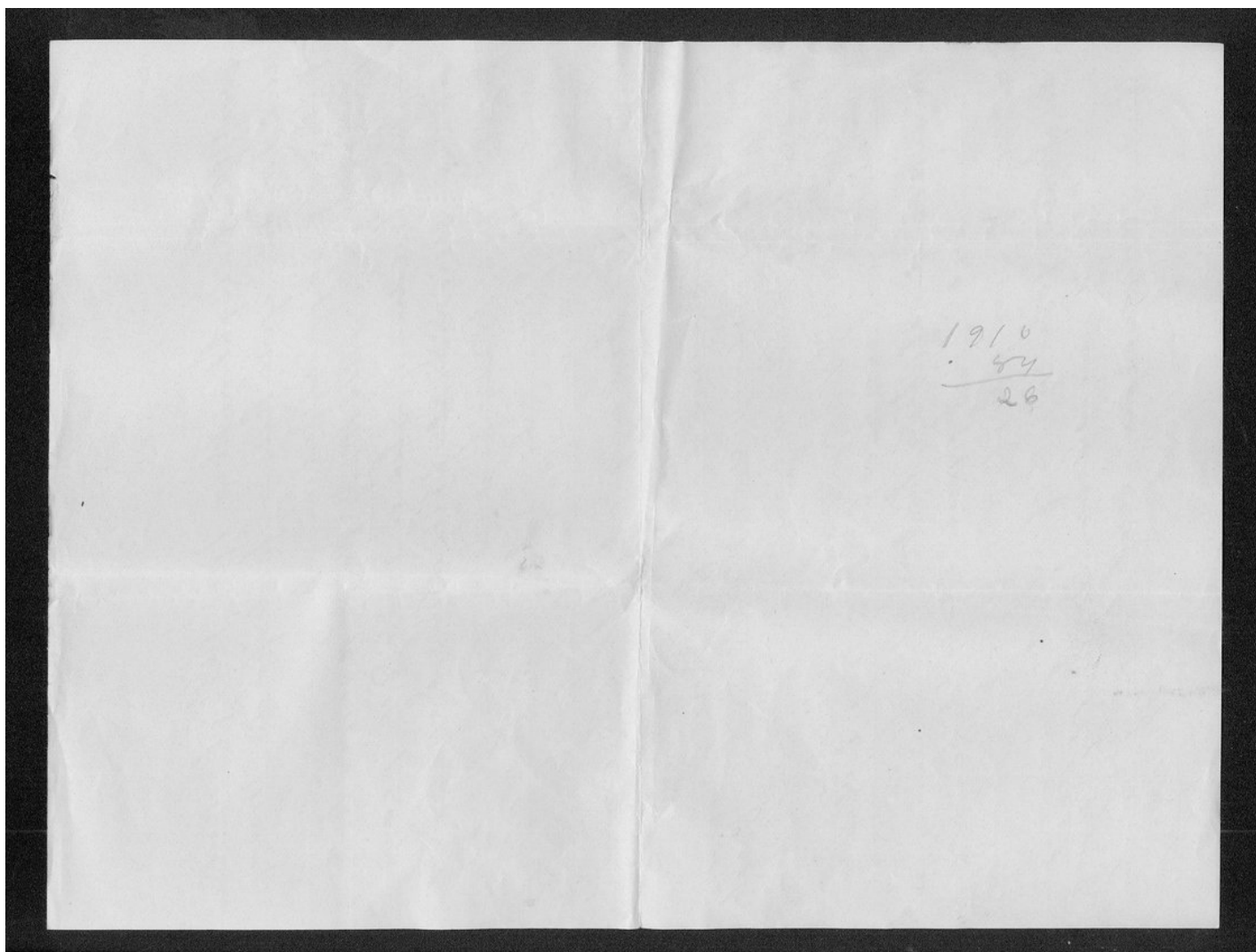
Osage City Kansas.

My Dear Madam,

Yours just received - and in reply will state that you have surely misunderstood me concerning Mr. H.C. Kolb - because his address is Sac & Fox Agency Okla - and not Toledo, Iowa, at which place you would be able to ascertain the little girls name in the group. You will understand a fear of the Sac & Fox Indians are located in Tanja County Iowa, and Toledo - is the place their Supt. lives - I think his name is Mr. Green.

Mrs. Fannie M. Nadeau is an adopted daughter of Mrs. Julia Goodell, the party who swam the Mississippi River - and would consequently would know a great deal of such information you have been asking me - Mrs. Julia

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Goodell daughter now Mrs Mary Keokuk
and whom you know perhaps as Mary
Means stays a week at Mrs. Fannie
H. Nadeau. Mrs Mary Keokuk never had
any children - she is now 84 years
old - Mrs. Sarah Whistler is a half sis-
ter to Mrs. Mary Keokuk - and an adopt-
ed to Mrs. Nadeau -

"

I would be a good plan to write
Capt. H. C. Kohlberg of Sac & Fox Agency
Okla. concerning Chief M^r. Koito's
family & history. also write him concern-
ing Chiefs - Headman - Councilman &c;

"

You will understand my tribe is
composed of two tribes - The Foxes & the
Sacs - and in by gone days we used to
have a Fox Chief - & a Sac Chief - at
the time you speak of - Keokuk was our
Sac Chief - and whose has been dead a-
bout seven years - and Charlie Keokuk
died about a year later. Our Fox Chief

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at the time you mention was Chick-o-skuk who was Joe's father and who died about 1887 and Joe dying about 4 years later. Mr. W. C. Kohlberg can give you the dates correctly.

Yes my name used to be Colonel Battice - but when I entered Hampton School in 1882 - I was requested by Capt. Brown who was the drill master, to change my name. As he could not have any officer over him - as he was only a Captain, so I said he could call me Walter and that has been my name ever since.

Mrs. Fannie W. Nadeau and Mary Kirkuk can write you more about Loughom than I can. Also about Jane Shopakaw-Kah - She is also an adopted sister of Mrs. Sarah Whistler, Mrs. Kirkuk & Mrs. Nadeau.

I am now 53 years old - was born about 6 miles Northwest, of Ottawa Kans.

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was married to Rosa M. Kocito in 1901. I have a daughter Cora, - going to school at Carlisle Pa., who is now 18 years old.

"

Those going to school at Hampton whom I did a great many - I shall attempt to name only a few. Thomas & Hattie Miles - children of Jack Miles - a letter to Shawnee Okla. will reach Thomas Miles who is a very highly educated man - & no doubt will give some interesting writings. Hattie & Thomas are both doing well. William & Alice Moon - both of Prague Okla. - no letter in the country - have good homes and are looked to citizens. Lydia Hamblin, and Jane Meets - both of Shawnee and who are sisters are also doing well and living in fine homes. It would be a good plan to write to these parties as they all have good homes and large families - and would gladly send you pictures & themselves & homes. As to Harry Jones would gladly write about me - be -

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Cause he and I don't "J" together very well.
Henry Jones is a very remarkable man,
and has always strived to educate his boys
& girls - Now as to Churches and school
Mr. Isaac M. Coy an Ottawa, Indian whose
address is Sac & Fox Agency Okla. would
be the party to write to - as he was a
preacher among us for some years.

"

Sarah Penrock is now Mrs. Sarah Whittier,
the party you wrote to at Cushing Okla.

"

I am going to the Agency today and I will
take your letter with me & consult with
Mrs. Nadeau & Mrs. Kiskut on matters you
have written & will send you letter from
them & will find out William Jones mother's
name &c. Miss Tolson of Hampton can
give a good history of Mrs. Jones and you
should have it by all means.

"

To make my story short, I am a poor hand
to write about anyone, because it's quite a

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serious thing to me - and to write about
myself is something I can't do - Oh for
several reasons - I know myself too well.

"

The John Whistler who is living Mass. is
not the old John Whistler - but is a
nephew of his - John Whistler died in
Arkansas City Kansas in 1890 or 91.

"

I will also have a talk with Mrs. Keo-
Kuk - concerning the Keokuk family - & per-
haps I can get a Photo. Charlie Keokuk
has a boy living in Strong Okla. who
could give you a good of the Keokuk
family - his name is John E. Keokuk.
Charlie also has a beautiful daughter
at Corliss Pa - going to the same school
my daughter is going - her name is Fannie
Keokuk.

"

Will write you again from the
Agency, very soon -

I am

Very respectfully
Walter Battice