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Mrs. John B. Lilley Collection

Lilley, (Mrs.) John B. Diary, 1842–1857. 1 item.

Missionary. A typescript of a diary (1842–1857) kept by the wife of John B. Lilley, a Presbyterian missionary to the Seminole Nation. The diary describes the Lilleys' arrival among the Seminoles, the hardships of living in Indian Territory, problems with slaves, friction between the Creeks and the Seminoles, the departure of Wild Cat (Coocoochee) for Mexico, and tensions prior to the Civil War.

This collection is available online at the [University of Oklahoma Libraries website](#).

Diary: 1842-1857

The Lilley children: Cornelia, Maggie, Eliza, Robin, Mary Matilda, John, Walter, Douglas, Elenor Stephens

- P. 1 1842. Introduction to Mr. John Bemo and acquaintance with his work.
- P. 2-8 Called on Walter Lourie, Mission Rooms, Philadelphia. Mr. Robert Loughridge, whose wife had died in Indian Territory needed assistance. Appointment accepted by Mr. Lilley. Started for Indian Territory in November and traveled by train, car, ship and stage with wife and three children. Salary \$500. Description of hotels, food, accommodations and mode of travel.
- P. 9 Cherokees in state of civil war. Stopped off with John Drew family. Mention of Roly McIntosh.
- P. 10-11 Travel by six wagons with Indians. Snow. Diet--pork and corn. Met Mr. Willie of Old Dwight Mission. Introduction to sofkee. Arrival in Ft. Gibson, then on to Creek Agency.
- P. 12-13 Travel difficulties; food, roads, and mules. Arrival at Koweta in February. Trip was of four months duration.
- P. 14 Slave problems, teacher problems--McMasters dismissed. Loughridge's child dies at Dwight Mission. Mention of Sanford Perriman.
- P. 15 School started. About 30 scholars. Loughridge marries Miss Avery, teacher at Park Hill.
- P. 16-17 Salary \$100 per adult, \$50 per child. Chief Louis Perriman's stepson, Thomas Winslett, interpreter. His death.

- P. 18 A marriage problem. Church members are mostly African-Americans.
- P. 19 Indian settlement near Koweta. Another daughter born, Mary. Mr. Murrow's daughter named Muskogee. Arrangements for a larger school. Joseph Perriman, grandson of chief, one of the scholars, also Pleasant Porter. Names of students.
- P. 20. After three years Mission at Koweta turned over to Mr. Ballentine. Mr. Ballentine's teaching tactics. Lilley's appointment to Tallahassee among the Seminoles.
- P. 21 Residential description.
- P. 22-27 Left Koweta to build home in Seminole Nation. Description of building and setting up house keeping. Traveled by oxen.
- P. 27-28 Jim Jumper a member of the Seminole Council. Mention of John Jumper. Encounter with Wild Cat re: school and the Government's attempt to meld Seminole and Creek laws and customs. Wild Cat opposed, and takes a group to Mexico.
- P. 29 Beginning of school among the Seminoles, some of the students.
- P. 30 Eliza Chupco's contact with the school. Death of Lilley's daughter Nancy.
- P. 30-33 Seminole's view of death and burial of Walter Lilley. Mention of school personnel, Wauponocka (Rock Academy) and Koweta Mission, and Mr. Bemo.
- P. 34 Illness of Walter Lilley. More Seminole children taken into the school.
- P. 35 Clan of Baptist slaves living at Rocky Mountain.
- P. 36 A Negro story of the fighting in Florida.
- P. 37 African-Americans promised protection of government at Gibson but sold back into slavery. They join Wild Cat. School built up to about 20 students. Description of work assignments.
- P. 38-40 Food and work problems of running a school. Candle making, soap making and drying of beef.
- P. 41 Son John born, 1852. Two daughters attend school at Stubenville.
- P. 42 Brief description of Mr. Allen, Supt of Wauponocka. Elenor born in 1854. Visit East to have eyes treated in 1855. Two women appointed as teachers. One to Spencer, the other to Wauponocka.
- P. 43-44 Resume of trip East.

- P. 45 Dr. in New York examines eyes.
- P. 46-47 Return home, and description of filthy boat trip. Meeting of Israel Fulsom, Chickasaw, and his daughter, Mrs. Robb.
- P. 48 Home. Harriet Robertson born 1855. Illness and marriage of daughter Maggie to Henry E.A. Washbourne in 1857. Tallahassee mentioned. Marriage of Eliza to Mr. Ross Ramsey.
- P. 49 Supplies at Van Buren become difficult to obtain due to impending Civil War.