

Lucy Elm

[IB-4]

8-21-41

Age 59

I was two years old when my mother died of childbirth. I was the youngest child of the family. I don't hardly remember my mother, but I do remember that I used to miss her, although my older sister was very kind to me. We were both sent to Wittenburg Boarding School, Wisconsin, and when we came home for the summer the following Fall we were sent to Keshena, Wisconsin, another Boarding School. After being there three years we again came home. I don't even remember where we stayed, but it was with some relatives. That Fall we signed up to go to Carlisle. I must have been about nine years old. I did not learn fast, but I learned to speak English, and forgot my Oneida tongue. We were at Carlisle several years, and I worked in different departments. I was detailed in the dining room waited on the students tables and I worked in the laundry hanging out the clothes, and ironing dresses, and aprons. I also worked in the sewing room first I learned how to darn stockings, then I learned how to patch under wear, then overalls, shorts and dresses. Every month we changed detail. The last

year I was there I worked in the sewing and made dresses. I learned everything about dress making excepting to draft a pattern. That was before the stores sold dress patterns etc. in the summer months I worked with my older sister, and I learned all about housework. We stayed in the country with some Quaker people and they were very nice to us. We went to school, but I was too shy, and did not learn much. Every summer we were sent to work for some white people. I always had a good easy place and the people always like me and my work. I never had no trouble. I don't think any of the people took advantage of me. Of course I had to work, but not too hard. I guess I always worked for well to do people. And every thing was convenient, I never worked for country people. I have no complaints of any of them. I have nothing but pleasant memories when I think of my school days, and the time spent working away from Carlisle. I presume that I enjoyed my school life because that was the only home I had. All my childhood was spent in school and when I was leaving Carlisle I could not help but regret that my time was up. My sister and I both came home. My father had a little place, and we went there. We were grown up now, and could do the work. My sister was 18 and I was

16. We stayed home all summer, and had a good time. My father just let us do as we pleased. We had all the boy friends we wanted. My sister met the young man that she married, and alter I met his cousin, and I fell in love with him, and I was married the following fall. Then my sister who was like a mother to me lived away from me. My husband was just a poor young man, and we had no idea how we were going to make out living, but he worked for different farmers and we managed to eat all winter. We moved to Green Bay and my husband worked in a coal yard. About a year after we were married we had our first child, a boy. My husband never tried to farm. We sold our allotments as soon as the Oneidas were permitted to sell their land. We always lived in the near by towns, and Ed worked for different concerns as laborer. He managed to take care of us, but it was a case of hand to mouth. I had a child about every two years, excepting the last one. He was three year younger than his older sister. I had five children. I experienced lots of hardships while my children were small. We always had rent to pay besides our food, fuel, and clothing. My husband drank liquor now and then and sometimes he spent more money for liquor than he

intended, then that meant that I would have to skimp on our coats until the next pay day. We moved to Manitowoc, Wisconsin during the World War, and my husband worked in the ship-building factory. He made a lot of money and he was able to rent a better place and clothe the children well. They were all attending school. My children all finished the grade school and my two daughters both attended the high school, but they both failed to finish. Both of my daughters married outside of the tribe. One of my sons is not married yet, and the one that was married had an accidental death a few week ago, when a car struck the car he was riding and he was killed instantly. My other boy died several years ago. He fell off the bridge and was drowned. My husband was sickly several years before he died, and he died about twelve years ago. My husband was a good man and a good provider but he drank very heavily towards the end of his time. After my daughters and one of my sons got married I came back to Oneida and I am keeping house for K. Hill. I am not very strong, so that is one reason I don't try to find some other work, I was badly injured when I was in a car accident. I had a midwife take care of me when I had my first child, but it was because we

could not get a doctor quick enough, but with the other children I always had a doctor. In each case I suffered alike so I can't say which I prefer. I never thought of preventing myself from having children. I just took for granted that I was supposed to have children while I was married. I would considered I would consider a person who does something to cause abortion to oneself, or to another a very wicked person, but I think if a person knows what to do to keep from getting pregnant is alright, as long as they are not hurting any one. A child must derive its soul from its mother, so when a child is born the soul become active just like the child. The child starts to use its own sense and gradually uses its power of motion. The child does not cry while it is in the womb, but it does have the power to cry right after birth. The old people used to tell me that it is very easy to mark a child at any time during pregnancy. I used believe all they told me, and I used to be always cautious, but one time I was going to the neighbors, and I came across a crippled man. He was very badly crippled up, and one just hated to see him, because his feet seemed to be twisted around his body, and he moved around on his hands and knees. This fellow was sitting by

the road side in the grass. I was surprised and I went around him, but I did not stop to look at him, and he spoke to me and laughed. I went right on but I made up my mind I was not going to be frightened by him. I thought of what the old folks had told me, but kept myself from thinking about it, and when my baby came I was a little anxious to see if I did not mark it, and I was glad to find out that nothing happened to it. From that I would infer that if a person can control oneself from getting excited about anything that they can prevent the impression on the child. All my children were normal, and healthy, and yet I never was under a doctor's care during pregnancy, but really never got sick, but my menstruation gradually stopped so then I knew I was passing that period of my life.

When They Sold The Government School.

There was much debate in Councils among the Oncidas when they were about to sell the Government School. The main one was this Minnie Kellogg who traveled so much and every so often she would call a meeting to discuss different problems. She was in favor and working on to keep the Government School and possibly start something like a canning factory there.

So one time they had planned on having a meeting so many people came to the meeting and those people who were on her side were late so these people crowded into the Hall and waited. After some time the opposing side elected a Chairman for that meeting. They choose Dennison Whcclock, just about this time she came running in this Minnie Kellogg and trouble then started because a Chairman was chosen who was on the opposing side so trouble started between the Chairman and Minnie Kellogg and others who all worked against her. They were almost ready to adjourn when the Chairman on Minnie Kellogg's side came in.

So they chose him to make a speecch but he had given up. So then different ones spoke after awhile old man Larson spoke, he spoke against starting a canning factory because there were factorics on both sides like Seymour on one side and Green Bay on the other side both had canning factory and should they start one between the two. The last speaker was the minister Whiting what he spoke about was that they did not need to start a canning factory there is the overall factory.

Then they voted as to which side they wanted whether to sell the School or to keep it and start something there. So the ones who wanted to sell the School won the vote. So then when

we received our pay for it. It came with our Annuity which amounted to seven dollars and some cents for each one.

0-62 By Martin Hill to Oscar Archiquette 9-29-39

I Went To Carlyle Penn.

I was 17 years old when I went to Carlyle Indian School, I was in the 3rd grade when I went. I had been going to school at Ashwabenon here, they put me in 2nd grade when I got there. I went to school 10 months then I ran away, I was caught in Pittsburg, and I ran away again. And this time I came home, so that is all the education I have is 3rd grade. I ran away from home and I got a job on the boats, we went to Buffalo, I worked on the board 4 months and I got scared so I quit. Then I got married March 12, 1890.

Football,

It has been long time already, that the Oneidas have been famous for playing football. They used to go to different schools for the Indians.

They were big fellows these Oneidas that were on the team of different schools such as, Carlisle, Haskell, Chilocco, Flambeau, Tomah, and Riverside California. These that I am going to call their names were some of the best players in their day:

Jonas Metoxen, Martin Wheelock, Joelo Cornelius, Tom Skenandore, Alex Parkhurst, Samson Cornelius, Chauncey Baird, Wilson Charles, Philip Cornelius, Johnie House, Percell Powles, and Chauncey Archiquette. And not very long ago playing football for different schools were man and their names were as follows:

Ben Greene, Emerson King, Ben Skenandore, Charles Baird, Fredrick Skenandore, Frank Summers, Guy Elm, Emerson Mcfoxen, Lynas Skenandore, William Metoxen, Rueben King, Layton Skenandore, George Peters, George Hill, Joel Wheelock, Hugh Wheelock, La Front King, Elijah Smith, Wilson Charles Jr, Clarence Powles and Norbert Hill.

This man's name I mention before Wilson Charles Jr, was the best football player and all around athlete. He was almost as good as the famous of all time all around athlete, Sac and Fox Indian James Thorpe.

The Carlisle Indians were the best team of all Indian Schools Teams. They tried to beat all the best whitemen's teams of the Universities and Colleges. They used to travel all over the United States and Canada.

Some of these players were able to be placed on the All American Teams.

D-24 Louis Hill to Dennison Hill 3-8-39

Once upon a time a man and his wife, had a home somewhere, they had three children. Something was wrong with the man's leg, he could not walk, so he took care of the children a good deal of the time, they had many hardships together, he was always thinking of his affliction. He made up his mind to kill two of his children, the oldest girl managed to run away.

The man who did this was name Freezing-is-coming, deccased, he dropped himself down into the cellar and that is where they found him when they arrested him. Squatting-down, deccased, was his wife. He was tried and convicted by the Oneidas and according to their laws was hung for the crime.

written by Amos Christjohn

110781

Where that I
hundred and
old eight tee
where they a
that eight ye
to go. Durin
money there

Pretty
Sore
you can
use

English it's called. Eight teen
did they teach me one teen I was that
I went to school at the school Oneidas
t me. Just not one did I go home during
my relatives to pay on the train for me
sent me. I was glad then I was surprised
glad at two bits they sent to me than if ten dollars

they would have sent, because I know that just barely that they support themselves at that time.
Large room this there big building where we stayed the males. Then there's an addition this.
Three of them there they sleep there themselves they are responsible if it is wanted to keep it
clean. So that someone three of them he'll clean up. We alternated then amounts of one week
and it is now another cleaned up again. Sometimes I volunteered a lot it seems I made money
again he's lazy to clean up so often I got the job. And so that's the way that I got money. This
now school at this time a former soldier, this head one he was called a good man it is he used to
love Onocida people. And the one who took care of the males it was an army officer. Anywhere
we go always that we go in formation we go to eat and then we go to class just one we stepped
that way as we went. No chewing of tobacco not even your language could you speak only
English how they speak could you speak. Not even any chance for us to smoke. Every spring
and we had a chance to go to work these that live there the farmers our gang always there they

sent us. In the fall always at that time again the doors opened at school. So then of them they used to work during the summer all always it is they returned. Enjoyable always again all we came back now we are ready to learn. Some this all winter not he'd come back that there they taught him where they teach English.

Told by Lewis Webster

Translated by Amos Chrisjohn 11/07/81