

Brother Wayne Scott

Living to share the Word

"I recall when I was young, my mother and father didn't tell me anything about Indian culture. I was born at Reycol, Oklahoma, about six or eight miles east of Hartshorne. I was born at home, not in a hospital. The midwife was Julia Anderson.

"My mother, Dolly Della Going, was born in 1918, and my dad, Russell Leroy Scott, was born in 1912. He did common labor to earn a living.

"Times were hard back then. We lived off the land most of the time. Our family moved from Reycol in 1941 to Gum Creek. Both places, we lived in a log cabin with a dirt floor. The third move was near Damon. I started school at the Damon school house when I was about six – it was probably a mile away. I had to walk and cross a low water bridge."

Brother Wayne said he learned how to hunt when he was four or five years old, going with his dad hunting. "We hunted to provide meat, and we hunted to skin hides. We ate rabbits, deer, squirrel and fish, and pelted out coon, possum bobcat, and fox. If we could get a chance, we would kill a wolf, even beaver and mink. We also had a little pork farm for a couple of years."

Brother Wayne also joined his dad on jobs to help work. He said they raised a few head of cattle for a while, but had no place to grow hay, so his dad would work at a farm in return for a few bales of hay. "I would help my dad cut ricks of wood. He would saw and I would stack. Before I started school, I worked with my dad, and then after I was six and started school, I would work with him after school."

Other jobs Brother Wayne remembered doing alongside his dad included working on a ranch, learning to build barbed wire fence and working in the hayfield. "I learned to use post hole diggers and learned to straighten and pull rusty barbed wire without breaking it!"

Education opportunities moved him to Jones Academy and then to Haskell in Lawrence, Kansas. After high school at Lawrence, he graduated Vo-Tech training at Haskell as an electrician.

He said he was ill with yellow jaundice and was hospitalized several months. "I got out and went to work in Wilburton at the Latimer Nursing Home for three months. I was the maintenance man and janitor. Then I moved across the yard to the Latimer County Hospital for a job and worked there almost seven months. I had just started dating the woman who became my wife." Brother Wayne said he and Nora Lee Ramsey were married July 12, 1963. "That is my best memory! We had a small wedding at Boiling Springs Baptist Church. There were just a few people there. I was really excited! We have been married 58 years."

Brother Scott laughed and said, "I had been all the way to Kansas and came back home and found a wife in my own back yard! I have known her all her life."

Advice from his own parents had been to ask around or "fish around" for information on what girls thought about being married in order to find the right girl. "I had always been a home guy. I like to stay home, work around the house, raise a garden, have a pig or two, a Jersey cow. I like honey and drinking milk. I like to raise chickens and do a little fishing. A lot of girls don't like to do that." He found a home girl who matched his values!

"I went into the Army September 10, 1963. First was boot camp at Fort Polk, then, six weeks training as Quartermaster Supply at Fort Lee, Virginia. I had orders for Korea when my oldest

son, Wayne Jr, was born in March of 1964 and my orders were delayed. They let me spend some time with my wife and son.”

He said, “They sent me to Korea to a supply unit at Inchon, Korea. I spent thirteen months there at Headquarters, Co. B.” Brother Wayne was sent over as an E-1 and was discharged June 21, 1965 as an E-3.

“I got saved in April of 1966 at Boiling Springs Baptist Church in Wilburton after I married Nora. She had been saved when she was 14. I fell out of fellowship for about 11 years.”

He moved to a variety of places and jobs - Kansas for three years in construction and welding; back to Oklahoma for odd jobs and work in a café a while; and to Texas for warehouse and welding jobs until 1974.

“I came back to Oklahoma in 1974 and went to school under the Choctaw Nation for small engine repairs. I came back to church and found out I had a job to do there!”

The job he had found at church was important. It was talking to people about Jesus Christ and sharing the Word with them. “My job at the church was being a jack-of-all-trades. I became song leader, Sunday school director, youth director and then surrendered to preach in March of 1977. I was licensed to preach in August of 1977 and ordained to pastor at Sardis Baptist Church in Pittsburg, Oklahoma.”

Brother Wayne is currently the pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church, and has served in that capacity 41 years. “All of my five children were saved there,” he said.

He and Nora have also worked with church members to share the Gospel outside their community. They belong to the Choctaw/Chickasaw Association. “I have served as song leader and youth director with the Association, was moderator three times and was a missionary from 1988-1991.”

He said, “In 1989, we went to Mississippi to conduct Vacation Bible School. My wife taught. About 1995 we also had a team led by Brother Ray Taylor that went to Ignacio, Colorado. and had Bible school there. I preached there.”

Brother Wayne describes himself as fairly easy to get along with. “I hope to be remembered as a good, hardworking fellow!” He told about an experience he had when he was employed at Eastern Oklahoma State College at Wilburton and was at the county courthouse. His boss was with a person at the courthouse and saw Brother Wayne, grabbed his arm and introduced him. “The guy I worked for said, ‘Mr. Scott is a good man, I would vouch for him anywhere, any time. He does not stand around – he works hard!’” and continued to compliment him. Brother Wayne said, “That made me proud and made me want to work even harder!”

He said, “I hope people remember me for doing the best I can. Sometimes I can’t walk too far. And sometimes I can’t stand, but I still preach the Gospel!

“I tell my congregation that our country is going down fast, but don’t give up hope – Jesus loves you. Jesus always loved you! Don’t turn your back on Jesus. Don’t turn your back on the country.”

Boiling Springs Baptist Church sits in the midst of Choctaw Reservation at Wilburton. “The church was established in 1849 at a different location than it currently sits,” said Brother Wayne. There is a cemetery to mark the original location, about two miles as the crow flies, or eight miles by drivable road. “In the mid-1900s we moved the church from the cemetery to four miles west on top of High Bridge Hill. There was a railroad station there. When people came by

rail, they could get off close to the church. Eventually the church was moved here on Center Point Road where it is now.

“This old church building used to be a horse barn”, said Brother Wayne, waving toward the old church, badly in need of renovation. “We used to have really NICE singings and fellowship. This land used to be known as *Choctaw Reservation* land. Everyone called it that. My grandma, Sarah Scott, lived near here in house number 28. She used to carry me on her back. I remember a man named John Anderson and his family lived where the Wilburton school ballfields are located.”

The Wilburton Reservation was a project plan on land bought in 1933 started by the Civil Works Administration. They built fifteen houses, with barn and root cellar. The fifteen families living in these homes even had a 40-acre community garden. Under the Emergency Works Division, all of the homes were equipped with wells.

The Boiling Springs Church building has been vandalized – both exterior and interior. With no funds to repair it, the church put up a small building that can accommodate the less than twenty parishioners who attend regular service. “We are raising money to fix up the big church! It has a lot of precious memories!” he said.

Brother Scott also wanted to take the opportunity to tell everyone, “To encourage everybody, I would say, *Keep your eyes upon the Lord Jesus Christ. Never get tired of serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus loved the world, so let us give back to Jesus Christ.*

“He walked to Golgotha Hill beaten up, carrying the weight of the people that are upon this earth, taking sin upon Himself to save at least ONE person! Let us turn back to Jesus Christ and serve Him with all our hearts.”

Cut line:

Brother Wayne Scott stands in front of the historic Boiling Springs Church building, in need of repair so that it can once again host services.

Photo by Judy Allen.