

May 25th, 2022

NABS

Tribe: Rosebud Sioux Tribe
School: St, Francis Boarding School.

This is about my mother who went to the St. Francis, SD Mission School in the 1920's. My mother was born on January 31, 1922 and went to the Mission School when she was six years old. Her oldest sister died at the St. Francis Mission School a few years before my mother was placed in that school, she was six years old and I don't know what she passed away from. My mother had a "nervous breakdown" when she was a junior in high school (St. Francis Mission) and was taken out of school. She said that she was punished (hit) so much that when she heard the nun's keys she would start shaking and crying. She said that her and other children were always hungry and would steal onions from the garden to eat!!!!

The children had to serve the nuns and priests their meals and she said they ate meat, steaks, potatoes, really good food while they served unpleasant foods. She said they would just "wish" they could eat that food. (I get so angry when I think of the things she told us). She and her sisters were punished a lot for taking up for their baby sister because she would wet her bed and be severely punished, mind you a five year old!!

My mother had moments when she just zoned out, we could be talking to her and there was no response. She chewed her fingernails until her fingers bled, we were punished severely, like the only way she knew how to discipline.

My family is dysfunctional in different ways, I believe because of her boarding school experience. Also, her mother was a student at Carlisle Indian Industrial School, they didn't know how to be mother's because they were basically raised in boarding schools.

My oldest brother is 80 this summer, I'm 74 I have one more brother and two sisters, we are not a young family any more. I believe there should be some sort of compensation for the survivors.

Mother - Ruby Larvie Leneagh
Daughter - LaRaine Leneagh Waln