

Hello,

I my name is Stephen Silva Brave. I am an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, but it is more appropriate to say that I am a citizen of the Sicangu Lakota Nation.

My Unci Eleanor Brave transitioned to the next part of her journey on December 15, 202. She was my biggest supporter and the reason I have such a strong connection to my Lakota community and want to serve our people. She attended St. Francis Mission Indian School on the Rosebud Reservation from the time she was 5 until she graduated at 18 years old.

When she entered boarding school, she only spoke Lakota. At the boarding school, she was not allowed to speak her language and was physically punished if she did so. My grandmother has mixed feelings about her experience in boarding school. On the one hand, she learned skills that she felt she needed to survive in modern society. On the other hand, she was physically and mentally tortured by the adults in the school who were supposed to take care of her. The trauma that comes from this experience was with her for her entire life.

Except for when she was around close family, my grandmother was a shy person. She never spoke up for herself, even to the point of being abused by her husband who did not allow her to leave the house without his permission. Her boarding school experience caused her to be afraid to stand up for herself. Because the boarding school taught her that speaking Lakota was wrong and that our ceremonial ways were evil and illegal, she did not pass her culture on to her children.

She had many atrocious to tell of. She even mentioned that she knew the part of the school that sick kids were taken and many times never came back from. Worst of all it was tremendously cruel for her and the other children to be apart from their family for more of their than they were with them

She finally returned to her Lakota tradition and started healing when she was in her 50s. When she began healing much of the family began to heal as well, however, there is still deep generational trauma that stems from her boarding school experience. To take it even further her experience stems from her father's experience.

Stephen Silva Brave.

Please reach out to me. I would love to share more of her story and experiences in any way possible.