

received
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January 15, 1993

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir or Madam:

A year or so ago, I requested some information regarding tracing one's American Indian ancestry. Having been preoccupied with other things, I either packed the information up or misplaced same after looking it over.

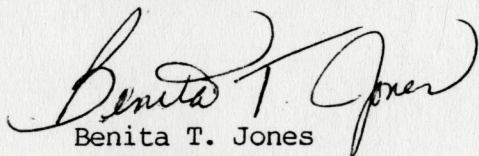
Recently however, I read an article describing Wilma Mankiller's experiences with bigotry as a child, and in the context of some other matters, my father told me that I was adopted. In any event, it has heightened my curiosity about my American Indian ancestry for a number of reasons, including my own experiences with bigotry from both black and white people; certain experiences with the law and legal profession; among others.

I grew up in the black community of Little Rock, Arkansas, through the racial "desegregation" years of the 1950's and 60's. My grandmother on paternal side looks American Indian, based on pictures I have looked at in publications, and American Indians I have seen (though not many). During a high school experience, I met some American Indian people, whose tribal affiliations (to the best of my recollection) were out of New Mexico, Montana, Oklahoma, and also Canada, although I do not remember which province. My grandmother may have had knowledge of some tribal tie, however she died when I was 7.

Enclosed are pictures with comments that might assist you in giving me some direction with the information that you can provide.

I shall look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,



Benita T. Jones
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cc: Chief Wilma Mankiller, Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, Oklahoma
Enclosures