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Effie S. Jackson,  
Indian-Pioneer History S-149,  
3-22-37.

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GEORGE BULLETTE

Interview with his daughter  
Mrs. C. E. Baldwin - 122 N.  
Xanthus, Tulsa, Okla.

"My father, George Bullette, a Delaware Indian was born Kansas in 1854. He was educated at Carlisle in Penn. His brother, John Bullette established a store in Claremore in 1875 in which the post office was located. My father worked among the Indians and was representative of the government in the Coowee-scoowee District. My mother was of pure English descent. She came from St. Joseph, Mo. to visit in Claremore and there met my father. After a three months courtship they were married. The nearest minister was Rev. Adams, also a Delaware, who lived near Chelsea. It was a good day's drive. It was November, snowing, just open woods, no houses or way stations. Father knew all the roads, not only in Oklahoma, but through Kansas and Colorado, he had hunted so much and had been a cattle driver. They did not reach Rev. Adams' home until 10 o'clock that night. Rev. Adams wrote out the record of the marriage in long hand.

"Father opened a store in Tulsa in 1882. It was the first frame building built in Tulsa. It was located on the southwest corner of First and Boulder. On the east side of this building is a marker with the following inscription:

FIRST STORE

On this spot in August 1882, George and John Bullette, members of the Delaware Indians opened the first store in Tulsa. All goods was then freighted from points in Kansas and Missouri by mule and ox caravans.

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Erected as a public service by Mrs. C. K. Baldwin,  
Mrs. E. N. Holmes and Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Payne.

Mother had never seen Indians before. Tulsa at that time was filled with Creeks who couldn't speak English. They lived in tents. My father had to get his merchandise from Independence. It was brought by ox-team. The railroad was built just to the Verdigris. My parents lived in a room back of the store. The only furniture was a bed, stove and chair. They used dry goods boxes for tables. My mother made sun-bonnets and sold them in the store.

"Father entered the cattle business later and they moved upon the Delaware Creek, but it <sup>was</sup> not a healthful place due to malaria. So they came back to Tulsa and built a three room frame house where the Banfield Packing Plant now is located. I had two sisters burned to death in the yard of this home. Their remains were later removed to a cemetery.

"The house where I was born 45 years ago still stands, my step-mother is living in it. It is a large eleven room house in the 800 block on N. Norfolk. Two blocks west is the Bullett Presbyterian church built as a memorial to my father.

"I remember mother had a pet deer. Every fall Father would go out and kill a deer and bring it home behind his saddle. We killed our own beef and always had a half in the smoke house. We were especially fond of venison. Father himself always prepared the Sunday evening meal in true pioneer fashion. We had a fireplace that used six foot back logs. It took two men to bring them in. He made bread in the ashes and rolled eggs in wet paper

and roasted them. When they popped they were done. He also<sup>309</sup> fried bread, it was biscuit dough put in a skillet on the coals. We sometimes had mush. We filled our plates and ate around the fire.

"My mother, although only nineteen at the time of her marriage was very serious minded and came to be quite a favorite the country over. We always had help and she was free to go at any time wherever she was needed. I know that she assisted at thirty-six births.

"As to amusements. There was a dance each week somewhere. My mother didn't believe in dancing and would never go but father was quite a dancer. One winter evening, Father went out to feed the hogs, the air was clear as crystal, he heard a dance being called. He set everything down right there in the lot and went off to the dance. All the women and girls around decided they would break him of that. So they made it up that they wouldn't dance with him. About the second dance he went to and everybody turned him down he quit going. If the girls didn't have horses or their beaux didn't have buggies they rode behind the boys on horses.

"The women and girls did lots of fancy work, crocheting especially. We played a lot of out-door games but <sup>9</sup> P.M. was bedtime. Each of us was given his own horse and saddle at the age of five. The men's chief sport was hunting. Patent medicine shows set up in the streets were the only kind of shows we had. We were not allowed to go.

"Forty-five years ago there were no fresh fruits or vegetables except in season. A man traveled through once a year

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from Kansas City taking orders for suits and shirts. Every man had his suit made to order. This man brought us oranges and we looked forward to his visit like it was Santa Claus. Mother bought all the materials for our baby clothes and new nice things later from samples from Nugents at St. Louis. We went to the World's Fair at St. Louis and that is where I saw my first auto. Of course we wanted to see Nugents. They were lovely to us and called a special guide to show us through. Sometime before that we had had a trip to Kansas City to see the Priests of Pallas Parade. We had never known anything of electricity and we were very much interested when we saw our first trolley cars and elevators.

"My father hired a teacher who taught us and some others who wished to come. School was held in the house where I was born. Later we went to the Catholic school because we could get training in so many subjects. We always took the Kansas City Star and mother ordered our books from Nugents.