

T-5-3 (Third of Three Interviews)  
BESSIE BASSETT WILTON, NON-INDIAN  
INTERVIEWED BY: BILL SAVAGE  
INTERVIEW DATE: JUNE 8, 1967  
TRANSCRIBED BY: MARY HAIR

GENERAL SUBJECT: EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES AND EXPERIENCES AS  
A POSTMISTRESS

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

TERRITORIAL SCHOOL IN NINNEKAH  
CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES  
INDIAN TUITION IN SCHOOLS  
BEN HILLMORE  
EFFECT ON FARMING ON EDUCATION  
LIFE WITHOUT MODERN CONVENIENCE  
SEEING INDIANS IN CHICKASHA  
EXPERIENCE OF T. E. BASSETT  
SAMSON T. JEFFERSON  
LEILA DUKE  
EXPERIENCE AS POSTMISTRESS IN HOCHATOWN

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Bessie Bassett Wilton was about 65 years of age at the time of this interview. She was born in Arkansas and came to Indian Territory with her father, step-mother, three brothers and grandmother, in 1904. She attended her first school at Ninneka in Grady County. After leaving Grady County, the family moved to McCurtain County where Mrs. Wilton became postmistress at Hochtown, having succeeded a prominent Indian in that position by the name of Samson T. Jefferson. While serving as postmistress she could speak Choctaw well enough to understand the Indians who did not speak English.

Note: The other interviews on this tape are: B. W. Jolly, Non-Indian  
Joel Hogue, Non-Indian