

March 5, 1969

T-382

Index side A, reporting time 11 minutes.

Informant: Winnie Jones, 62 years old, of Creek Indian ancestry, Tullahassee Community, Wagoner County, Oklahoma

*3 1/2 Negroes
Father a Freedman*

Subject: Today as one drives along Highway 51 and at a point about half a mile east of the little town of Tullahassee, it would tax the imagination to picture an Indian boarder school sitting on the higher ground just south of the railroad tracks. But to Mrs. Winnie Jones the picture comes easily, because at one time she went to school there at Tullahassee Mission.

Mrs. Jones is unable to recall what years she went to the Mission but would probably be in the late 1900s and early 1900s. Like other day-schools and missions there were no dormitories, no mess hall, no recreation, no school nurse, no playground, no gymnasium, no library, no school bus. The school was a simple building with a few classrooms and a kitchen. Mrs. Jones says she went to school there for about a year. After the school was closed she stayed at the Mission, employed as a cook. Mrs. Jones remained at the institution until it was closed out 1917. Shortly thereafter she was married and lived in the Tullahassee community until they retired.

Mrs. Jones likes to recall the school days, especially the time before the little town was started. She says that the school was not a large one, as it had only a few students. Mrs. Jones attempts to recall the names of the teachers and the students, but she cannot remember them. She says that the school was a very simple one, with a few classrooms and a kitchen. She says that she was employed as a cook at the Mission after the school was closed.

The name of the town is derived from the Creek word "Tulaha" which means "old town". Mrs. Jones says that the name was carried from the old Creek Indian country in the east, which translated means "old town".