

March 5, 1969

T-382

Index side A, reports to be maintained.

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

*3rd Negro
Father a Freedman*

Subject: Today as one drives along Highway 91 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 1890s and early 1900s. Like other day-day schools and missions there were no formal curricula, no textbooks, and no teachers. The children were taught to read and write by the missionaries. Mrs. Jones says she was one of the first to go to the Mission. She was a boarder and worked there for a long time. She says both Creek and Negro children went to the Mission, during which time she also attended the school. After she finished her school work there she stayed at the Mission, employed as a cook. Mrs. Jones remained at the institution until it was closed out in 1917. Shortly thereafter she was married and lived in the area in the Tullahassee community until they retired.

Mrs. Jones lives to have the Mission closed out in 1917, she says before the little town was started. She says that the town was started as a result of the efforts of the missionaries. She says she remembers the town when it was first started. She says she remembers the town when it was first started. She says she remembers the town when it was first started.

The name of the town is said to be of Creek origin, and is said to be the name of the Indian burial ground. It is interesting to note that the older Indians remember the name origin of their community, and indeed once the name was carried from the old Creek Indian country in the east, which translated means "old town".