March 5, 1969

T-382

Index side A, [illegible] minutes.

Informant: Vinnie Jones, 82 years old, of Creek Indian ancestry, [Father a Negro Freedman]
Tullahassee Community, Wagoner County, Oklahoma

Subject: Today as one drives along Highway 51 and at a point about a half a mile east of the little town of Tullahassee, it would tax the imagination to picture an Indian boarding school sitting on the higher ground just south of the railroad track. But to Mrs. Vinnie 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 [illegible] schools and missions [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Creek [illegible] Civil [illegible] closed the school for [illegible]. After the [illegible] mission [illegible] reopened, [illegible] [illegible] Mission burned, [illegible] [illegible] closed except for the [illegible] of the mission [illegible]. Again, the Mission [illegible] to continue its work. [illegible] was primarily to benefit children of the Freedmen, although Mrs. Jones says both Creek and Negro children went to the Mission, during which time she also attended the school. After she [illegible] her school work there she stayed at the Mission, employed as cook. Mrs. Jones remained at the institution until it was closed [illegible] 1917. Shortly thereafter she was married [illegible] in the Tullahassee community until they retired.

Mrs. Jones [illegible] Mission, even before the little town [illegible] started. [illegible] the town's [illegible] Mrs. Jones [illegible] children [illegible] from [illegible] Tullahassee [illegible].

[illegible] Mission, [illegible] the Jimtown Cemetery, [illegible] Creek Indian cemetery [illegible] mile northeast of the town [illegible] the original Tullahassee Indian burial ground. It is interesting to note that the older Indians remember the name-origin of their communities, and in this case the name was carried from the old Creek Indian country in the east, which translated means "old town".