

March 5, 1969

T-382

Index side A, reporting time 1, minutes.

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

*34 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 1890s and early 1900s. Like other day-schools and missions there were no dormitories, no mess halls, no playgrounds, and no special buildings. The children were taken from their homes and placed in the homes of the missionaries. Mrs. Jones 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 in 1917. Shortly thereafter she was married and lived in the Tullahassee community until they retired.

Mrs. Jones likes to recall the days at the Mission, especially before the little town was started. She says that the town was not built until after 1917. Mrs. Jones attempts to recall the names of the missionaries who were there, but she cannot remember them. She says that the children were taken from their homes and placed in the homes of the missionaries. She says that the children were taken from their homes and placed in the homes of the missionaries. She says that the children were taken from their homes and placed in the homes of the missionaries.

...the name was carried from the old Creek Indian country in the east, which translated means "old town".