March 5, 1969

Index side A, recording time [illegible] minutes.

T-382

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 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 tracks. 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] partnership, [illegible] Creek [illegible]. [illegible] Civil War [illegible] closed the school for [illegible]. After the war [illegible] the Mission [illegible] reopened, [illegible] closed except for the [illegible] of the Mission [illegible] open. 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 finished her school work there she stayed at the Mission, employed as a cook. Mrs. Jones remained at the institution until it was closed about 1907. Shortly thereafter she was married and [illegible] lived in the Tullahassee community until they retired.

Mrs. Jones lived to [illegible] Mission, even before the little town was started. [illegible] the town's [illegible] post office was [illegible]. Mrs. Jones [illegible] children [illegible] from [illegible] Tullahassee [illegible].

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