

The Greek Indian influence upon this part of the Arkansas never left some permanent memorials of their early day work and progress. witness the old Indian towns of Broken Arrow, Soweta, Oneta, Redbird, Choska, and even a place called Tulsa. The town of Forter took its name from Pleasant Porter, a Greek Chief of the late 1800's.

Mrs. Jones talks about the early days when she and her husband farmed in the rich bottom lands of the river valley below. Tuttleson's men planted fine crops of cotton and corn. Some years the elements fought them hard. At different times there would come the hordes of mosquitos, armyworm, grasshoppers, floods, prairie fires and early killing freeze, all to keep life in balance. They worked long and hard for their land. She recalls one time they only had one old mule and a twelve shovel to farm with, but they raised a little crop and got by that year. Looking back now she says "ever thought there were times when they had very little, they were always happy, but this was the main think".

Vinnie Jones was the daughter of Caleb Murphy and Salina Davis Murphy. She was born near the river at Fort Gibson. She was one of six children. The family moved to the farmland near Unity in the early part of 1870 when they farmed and spent the greater part of their time. Her mother and a number of relatives are buried in the old cemetery along the south side of the river. Mrs. Jones and her children farmed the land until the creek washed away the house and the family moved to a new home. Her husband died in 1890 and she became a widow. She had to support herself and her children. She did this for the rest of her life. She had no money and no possessions, or the knowledge of a time and society unknown to her. She had to live more simply for the most part, in their log house, which she heated by morning, coming with the shovel and an old woodbox, watching with watery eye the boiling water in making lettuce. Her parents' old home family did not own a stove, but did their cooking in the fireplace.

After the mission closed, the first church to be built was the Baptist in Tullahasse town and Rev. Wells preached to a silent and somber like. Little did any knowless churches later were built in town. The present First Baptist was started about 1907, which part of the original house structure. The front building, a log in later years had been taken to the rear and back.

The old millhouse has gone now to the ground, and the old mill sadness has also seen its last days. It stands as a monument to the railroad and new highway which it helped to build many years ago. The Park business reached Milwaukee in 1870 and 1871, and remained there, during the early state, a lumber and meat market. When the railroads came to downtown Fort Gibson it became a point of connection. Railroads soon tore down the highway. As with most towns, Fort Gibson is filled with modern supermarkets, quick service restaurants, and the variety of convenience centers today to satisfy the demands of the people. There is a tendency to move to larger cities from the area scene in the wake of constant progress.