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Interview with Mr. Lem Greenwood
by Grace W. Smith, Field Worker.
At Tishomingo, Okla., April 7, 1937

Mr. Greenwood was born at Viola, Indian Territory, March 21,

1899. He lives at Reagan, Oklahoma, now. He is a fullblood Indian, his mother was Amanda Keel Greenwood, his father was Wilson Greenwood, they both belonged to the Chickasaw tribe and were fullblood Indians. Mr. Greenwood's grandmother was French. In the old days they had negro slaves. Mr. Greenwood's ancestors come from Tennessee. His mother, Amanda Keel Greenwood was born in 1836 and died in 1928 and is buried in her daughter's family cemetery about three and one-half miles southeast of Reagan, Okla. The late Frank Owens, the husband of Mr. Greenwood's sister, is buried in this same cemetery. Mr. Greenwood's mother was married twice, the two husbands were brothers.

SCHOOL

Mr. Lem Greenwood attended Harley Institute from 1898-1903. He was about eight years old when he entered this school, he stayed there the year around. There were about thirty-six rooms in this building. Mr. Greenwood said the discipline of the school was good. One form of punishment was the "dark room or dungeon", very seldom did a child have to be sent to this place for punishment twice.

RECREATION

The boys played baseball, which was the only game that was played then. The boys used bows and arrows a lot for hunting and fishing. The boys were allowed to keep the bows and arrows, so they would hide them in the woods near the school. They made their bows out of bois D' arc and the arrows out of cane and sometimes out of dogwood.

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TEACHERS

The teachers were J. C. Kemp, superintendent, Mrs. P. B. H. Shearer, Mr. McKeel, principal, and Mr. Turner. Miss Lula Cox was matron one year while Mr. Lem Greenwood was at school. Mr. Greenwood thinks all of these people are living today.

PENNINGTON

Mr. Pennington was a soldier of the United States Army, and ranked as a Captain. He was killed at the mouth of Pennington creek (which is about one mile south of Tishomingo). The Creek that winds its way near Tishomingo, Oklahoma was named Pennington in honor of Captain Pennington. This fact was told to Mr. Greenwood by his people.

CHURCH

The Indians in this vicinity still carry on the custom of their ancestors pertaining to the church. They have a work conference, which is quarterly and is held about two miles northeast of Reagan. They have four churches that they call the Circuit. The one near Reagan is called the Pennington Church, the Yellow Springs Church is near Stonewall, Oklahoma, Seely Church is east of Connerville and the other is near Fillmore, Oklahoma, this is the Maytubby Chapel. These churches come together every three months for their meetings. These meetings last two and three days. Byrus Columbus is the pastor over all the four churches. He preaches in English but if the congregation consists of many that do not understand English, he speaks in his own language.

BURIAL GROUND

The Greenwood family cemetery, southeast of Reagan about one mile was

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abandoned in 1919 because they did not own the property anymore. Mr.

Maxwell is the present owner of this property.

COMMENTS

Mr. Greenwood is a well read man and an interesting person to talk with. He is a fullblood Indian. At one time his people had plenty but today Mr. Greenwood is working for the W.P.A. on the relief rolls.