

# Mvskoke History: A Short Course for Muscogee Nation Employees





# Mvskoke History

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# Mvskoke History

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# Mvskoke History



## PRE-REMOVAL





# Mvskoke History

Pre Removal:

The Southeastern  
Homelands

## Background

- Maskoke Creation Story (See Appendix)
- The Mvskoke have always been in the Traditional Homelands in the Southeast for thousands of years. Spanish explorers traveling in the region were impressed by the good looking people, large towns, and prosperous country sides.
- Archeological time periods: Swift Creek through Mississippian Period: 100AD – mid/late 1500's AD.



- Swift Creek/Woodland Period: moundbuilding begins; complicated stamped pottery/ceramics.
- Mississippian Moundbuilders: shell gorgets, shell-tempered ceramic-ware, copperware, and complex sedentary villages.
  - Coosa Chiefdom





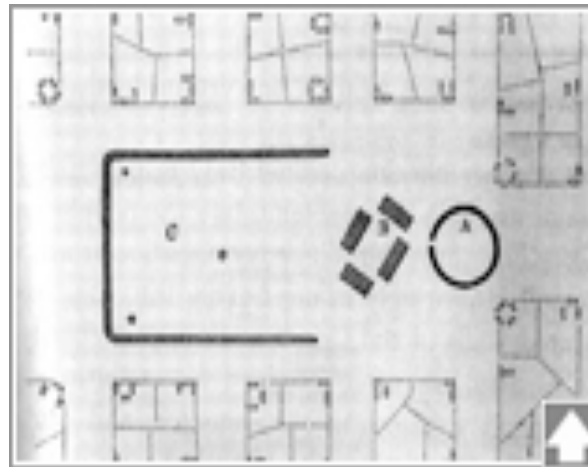
# Mvskoke History:

Pre Removal:

The Southeastern  
Homelands

## The Creek Confederacy

- From chiefdoms to *vlwv*
- Mother towns/Daughter towns
- Red towns/white towns
- In the 1700's Europeans started calling the Mvskoke , Creeks, because they resided near rivers, streams, and creeks.



## Features of a Historic Creek Town:

- A town square that consisted of an open area surrounded by terraces or banks was representative of the Creek's ability to incorporate culture into the design.
- A circular mound topped with a rotunda.
- A square terrace upon which a public square stood.
- Residential buildings in Creek towns mirrored the organization of the public square. Family plots consisted of small compounds of up to four houses enclosing a courtyard, with the number of houses depending upon the size of the family. The Creeks had large fields of corn, beans, squash and other vegetables.

# Mvskoke History:

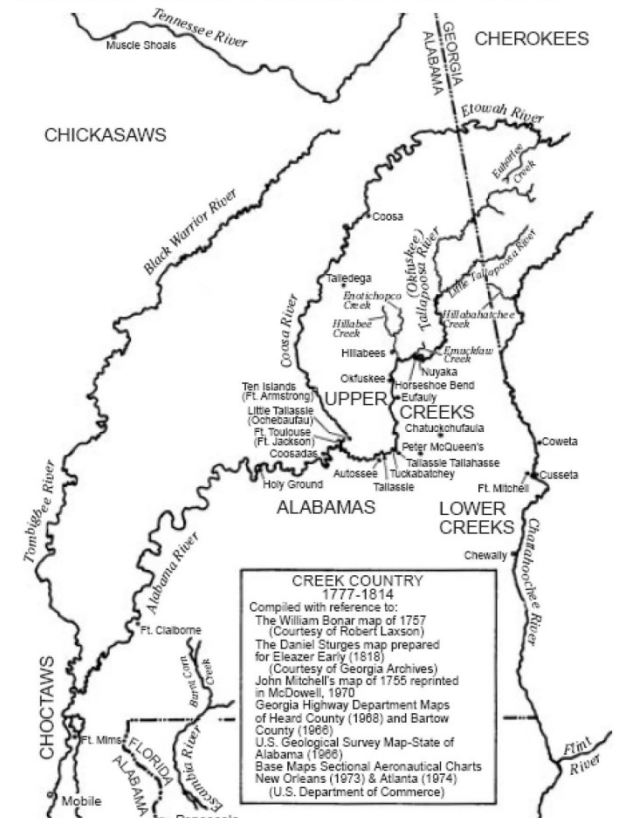
Pre Removal:

The Southeastern Homelands

## Locations of Mvskoke Towns

- Upper Creeks: Lived along the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers in Alabama. Many Upper Towns were close to Ft. Toulouse and supported the French.
- Lower Creeks: Lived along the Flint and Chattahoochee rivers in Georgia. Many Lower Towns were close to Florida and were friendly to the Spanish.

ORIGINAL CREEK TERRITORY WITH TOWNS





# Mvskoke History

Pre Removal:

The Southeastern  
Homelands

## **Social Structure: Matrilineality and Clans**

- Women were considered heads of the household. Within Creek society women held a most prominent place.
- Females as the head of household owned the houses and land.
- The towns consisted of groups of houses owned by women. Their daughters built houses on family land or nearby after they were married. Creek clans were dispersed through several communities, with each town containing members of several clans. Clan identity influenced where members lived, as clan members' houses were generally located together in a household group. (See Appendix for a list of Clans.)





# Mvskoke History

Pre Removal:

The Southeastern  
Homelands



## Creek Trading

- 1540 Hernando de Soto invaded Muscogee lands and was followed by numerous other explorers, traders, and settlers. Europeans brought deadly diseases such as small pox, measles, and plague.
- 1600's the Muscogees adopted horses, guns, metal utensils, and cloth.
- Trade with the English began around 1670 with the settlers at Charles Town. Creeks traded captives and deerskins for European goods.
- When the slave trade was outlawed in the colonies, focus shifted to deerskins.
- Trade soon developed between the Creek and English, French, and Spanish.
- The French constructed Fort Toulouse near present-day Montgomery, Alabama and Hickory Ground in 1714.
- To promote diplomacy, the Creeks agreed to friendly relations with all three of their trading partners: England, France, and Spain. Creek tribal leaders established commerce with their neighbors to build the tribe's economy.



# Mvskoke History:

Pre Removal:

The Southeastern  
Homelands



## Treaty Land Cessions

- 1733 the Lower Creeks permitted General Oglethorpe to establish the colony of Georgia. Creek Leaders recognizing the inevitable pressure of the Europeans, negotiated Treaties in the best interest of Creek people as possible.
- Other nation's entered into the Treaties with the Creek Nation as did England in the Treaty of 1733 which promised friendship, protection and acknowledged that the area doth by ancient right belong to the Creek Nation.
- A Treaty is a binding instrument by parties with treaty making powers governed by international law.
- 3 assumptions for Indian Treaties
  - Both parties to treaties were sovereign powers
  - Indian tribes have some form of transferable title to the land quite often referred to as aboriginal title
  - Acquisition of Indian lands was solely a governmental matter
- The Federal Government in its first Treaty with the Creeks— the Treaty of New York 1790 guaranteed Creek claim to their land—promised protection against Georgian encroachment (See Appendix for facsimile of the 1790 Treaty). Land cessions of 1783, 1785, and 1786 were approved in this Treaty (See Appendix for Land Cessions by Treaty).
- Alexander McGillivray (Creek/Scottish), a dynamic tribal leader, worked to change the Great Council from a loose association of town governments to a more centralized, forceful, and active institution. To effect this change, however, required that the towns relinquish their control over the political and cultural life.

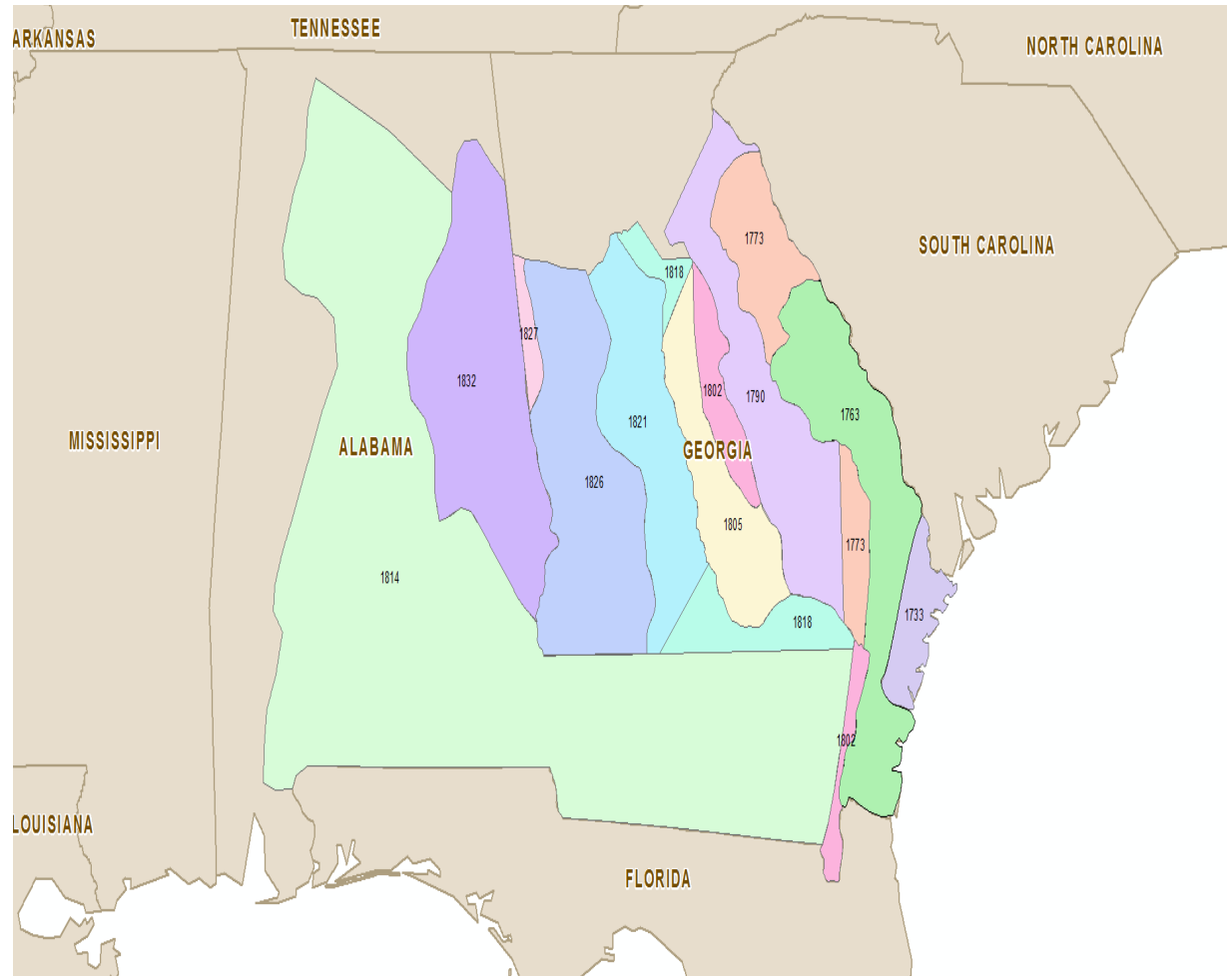


# Mvskoke History: Pre- Contact

Pre Removal:

The Southeastern  
Homelands

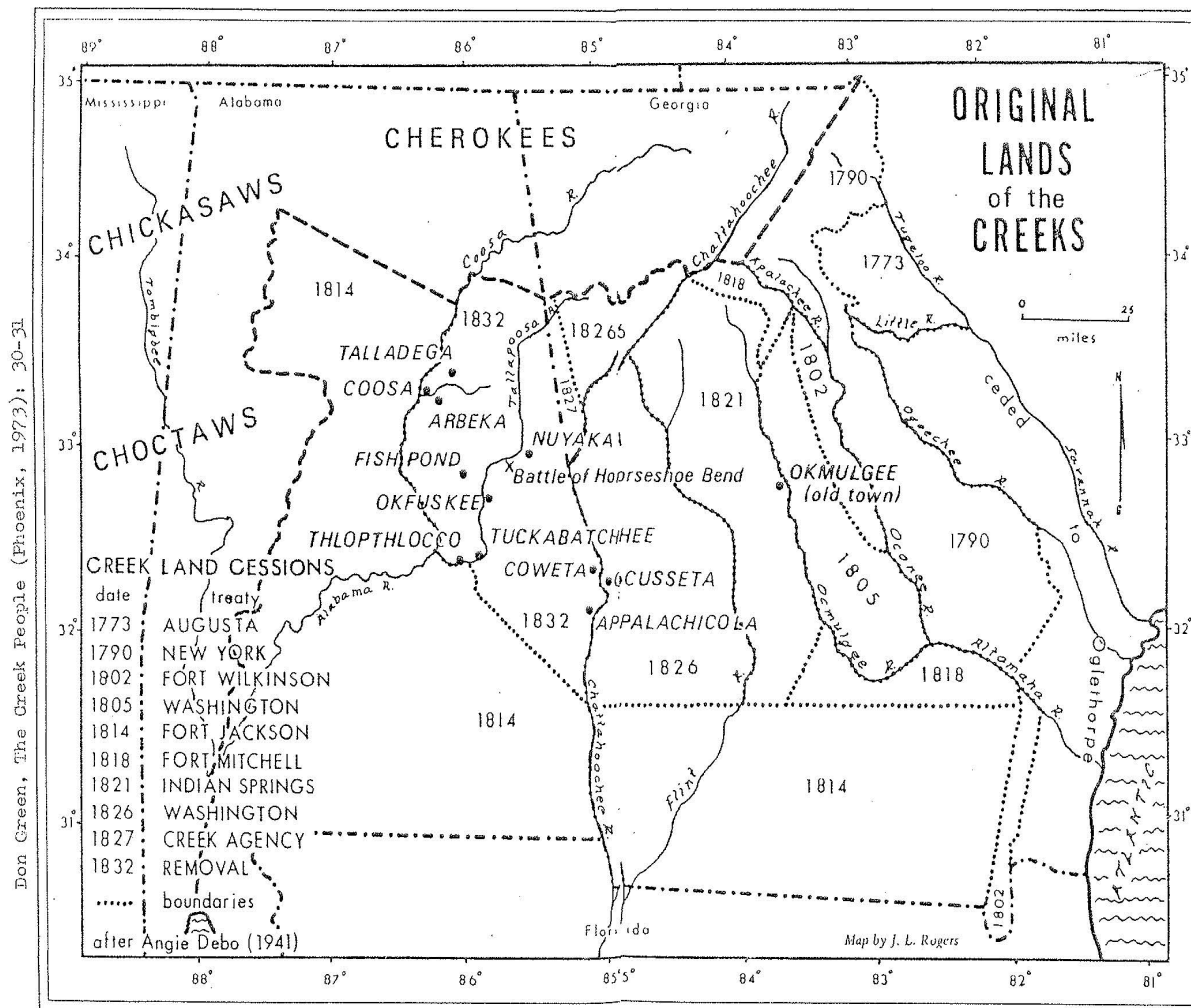
## Land Cessions by Treaty



# Mvskoke History: Pre- Contact

Pre Removal:

The Southeastern  
Homelands



Up until the formation of the United States, Creek leaders had entered into Treaties with European Nations however, after the Revolutionary War, McGillivray negotiated with the U.S. to obtain federal recognition and protection.



# Mvskoke History:

Pre Removal:

The Southeastern  
Homelands

## Outside Influences

- Treaty of 1796 allowed the U.S. to establish trading or military posts in set boundary lines with Choctaws and Chickasaws. All total during an 81 year period, 18 Treaties were ratified between the U.S. and the Creek Nation.
- Treaty of 1802 allowed for Garrisons to be established on Creek lands and the Treaty of Washington 1805 established boundaries, a military post and a road from Ocmulgee to Mobile. Lands were ceded under both Treaties.
- To preserve their Traditional existence, Creeks emulated their white neighbors to convince the alien society that Native people were being assimilated, in hopes that they would be left alone and in peace. Based on what he saw among the Creeks, Benjamin Hawkins, Indian agent believed that he was bringing civilization to the Muscogeans. Individualism, cash crops, and the steel plow were introduced to Creek families in the 1790's.
- In 1811 Tecumseh and his followers came to Tuckabatchee, a major Creek population and Political center located on the west bank of Tallapoosa River, to ask the main Upper Creek Town, to join in his revolution against the U.S. A group of Koasati warriors accompanied Tecumseh to his home in Shawnee Territory. In the Spring of 1812 on their return home they executed several white settlers in Tennessee. As a result the Secretary of War instructed the Tennessee governor to retaliate, which was a precursor to the conflict between the Creeks and Andrew Jackson.



*The town site of the Creek annual council where Tecumseh made his impassioned speech to the Tuckabatchee in September of 1811 urging the Creeks to take up arms to protect themselves against the incursion of white settlers.*

*The town site is located south of the town of Tallassee, Alabama, off Highway 229. It is unmarked and lies on private land. A marker commemorating the site stands across the street from a city park in the town of Tallassee.*

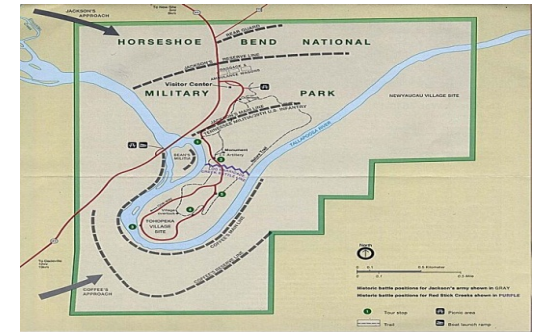
# Mvskoke History:

Pre Removal:

The Southeastern  
Homelands

## The Effects of War

- Red Stick War 1813-14. The more traditional Creeks were against the new life that was being introduced. Encroachment of the Whites into the traditional lands of the Upper Creeks instigated the Red Stick War. This conflict was looked upon by the U.S. as a means to weaken Creek people by pitting one side against the other (divide and conquer). In defending their homelands Creek warrior patriots exhibited great bravery.
- Red Sticks battle General Andrew Jackson at Horseshoe Bend (Alabama). The outnumbered force of Red Sticks unsuccessfully defended their encampment against the Tennessee Militia and Cherokees. That day over 1000 Red Sticks were lost to the battle defending their homeland. As a matter of vengeance 22 million acres of land, what was determined to be equivalent to the expenses of the war, was ceded to the U.S. under the Treaty of Ft. Jackson in 1814.



- Some early Treaties dealt primarily with land cessions such as, the Treaties of 1818 and 1821.
- The Muscogees strengthened and centralized their National Council by codifying Tribal Laws in 1818. A law was passed that no tribal lands could be sold without the approval of the council under the penalty of death.
- In 1825 William McIntosh, speaker of the Lower Towns, signed the Treaty of Indian Springs, which ceded all Muscogee lands in Georgia and 2/3 of their Alabama lands in return for new land in what is now Oklahoma. McIntosh was executed under N.C. laws. A new Treaty of Washington-1826 declared the 1825 Treaty null and void and ceded Georgia lands. The remaining lands in the Creek Nation were ceded in the Treaty of 1827.



# Mvskoke History

Pre Removal:

## Forced Removal

- 1830 U.S. Congress passed the Indian Removal Act. A 2<sup>nd</sup> Treaty of Washington ceded AL lands and dividing the remaining lands between Creeks who did not want to join McIntosh's group in I.T.
- Forbidden by Georgia state law for Indians to testify in court, the Muscogees were legally powerless to protect their lands.



- In 1827-38 approximately 23,000 tribal members were forcibly marched on the 1,200-mile painful journey to Indian Territory-an estimated 3,500 Creeks died on the trail. An estimated 2,500 Creeks considered to be prisoners, were shackled and placed on board steam boats at Montgomery, Alabama. Three hundred died tragically on the steamboat Monmouth in the Mississippi River. The final removal took place in the winter of 1838 when 500 Creek families were forced to leave their homes.



## Mvskoke History

Pre Removal:

### **Forced Removal cont'd.**

- Many of the Tribal Towns brought with them their sacred fire which helped them persevere on their long journey from the homeland. This fire was the focal point for many of the Tribal Towns as they established roots in their new lands.
- Even though each and every Creek encountered great tragedy and trauma during the Removal to Indian Territory, they remained courageous and hopeful that the new land would bring peace for them. The Creek identity remained strong through this ordeal that brought enormous personal loss-the Creek spirit was not broken.



# Mvskoke History



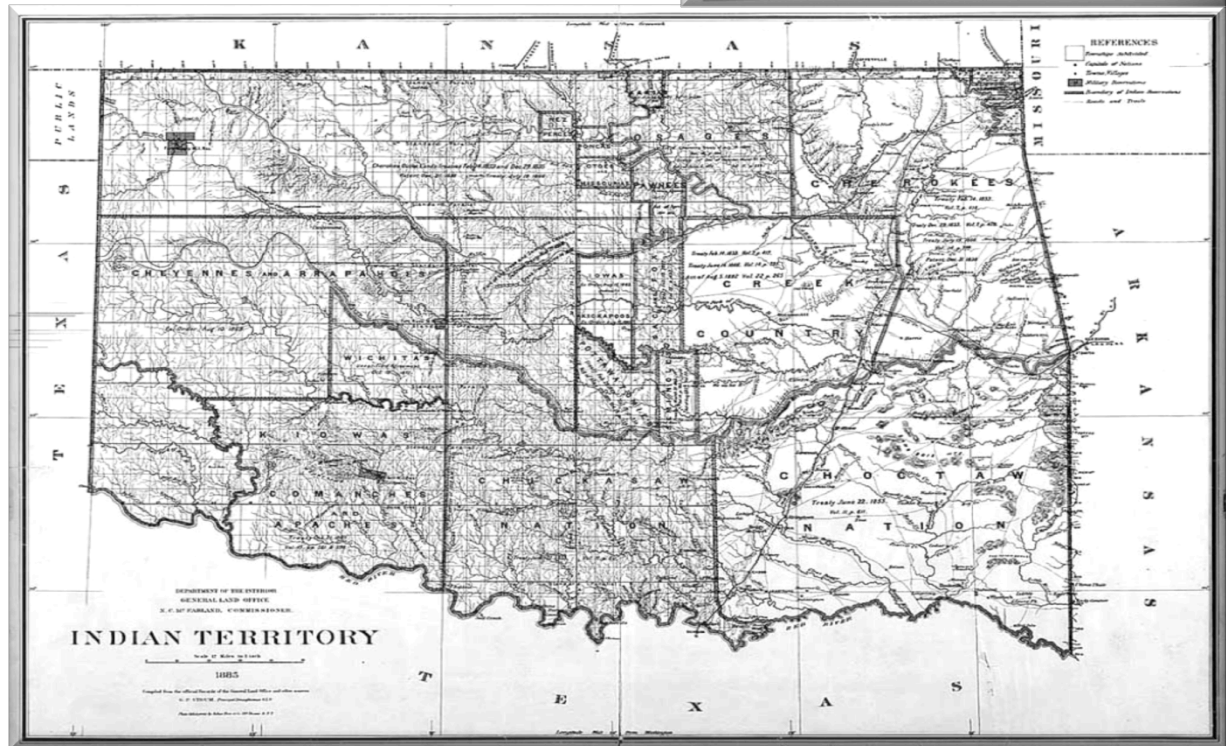
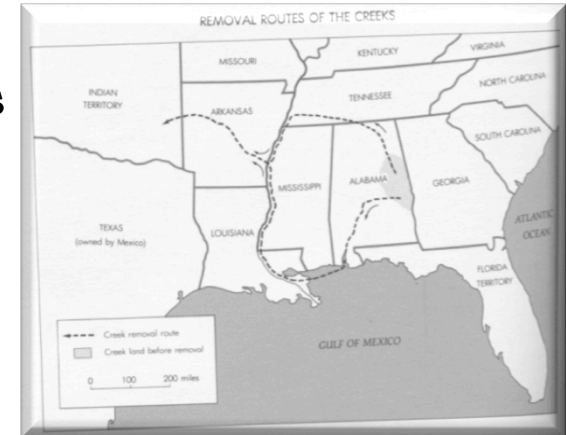
**INDIAN TERRITORY**

# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

The Creek Nation in the  
West

- Arrival in Indian Territory
- Upper and Lower Creeks
- From the southeast to  
Indian Territory






# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory:

The Creek Nation in the  
West

## Arriving in Indian Territory

- The Treaty of 1832 (Upper Creeks) was the precursor to forced removal, where thousands of Creeks lost their lives. The sacrifices that were made could never be compensated within the Treaty, however, Creek Leaders pushed for larger and more allotments and insisted on funds for public works projects in the new land (See Appendix for the Treaty of 1832). 
- The Treaty of 1833 (Lower Creeks) granted a land patent to the Creek Nation. The most accredited type of land conveyance is a land patent that is greater than an aboriginal title. See Appendix for the 1852 Land Patent.
- Creeks erected new homes, transplanted their religious and political institutions, and worked hard to strengthen their independent republic. The survival of Creek families, from the homelands to Indian Territory, depended on their ability to adapt to a new environment and persevere against adversity.
- Creek communities replicated as much as they could, the life left behind in the East, by staying close to the rivers and planting corn fields in their new towns.
- The Western (non-traditional) Creeks resided near the Arkansas and Verdigris Rivers, while the Eastern (traditional) Creeks settled near the Canadian River.



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory:

The Creek Nation in the  
West

## **Pre-War between the States**

- The Treaties of 1835 and 1837 were significant in that it involved other Indian Nations including the Creeks as a pact of peace and friendship.
- The Treaty of 1838 made provisions for those Creeks who were promised payments and goods during Removal that were not received. The Treaty of 1854 nullified Articles III and IV of the 1838 Treaty that provided monetary investment and payment.
- The Treaties of 1845 and 1856 addressed the boundaries of the Creek and Seminole Nations.
- The war between the States in the 1860's involved the Creek Nation, with the Lower Creeks siding with the Confederacy and others with the Union.



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory:

The Creek Nation in the  
West

## Effects of War between the States

- The Upper Creeks, known as Loyal Creeks lead by Opothleyahola, attempted to remain neutral in this war by moving to Kansas in the north.
- Opothleyahola believed that the Creeks should remain neutral in what he saw as a white man's war.
- Under his visionary leadership 6,000 Creeks were moved safely from the Southern Creek Nation out of harms way. His goal was to secure a new Treaty that would be representative of the Loyal Creek needs.
- He wanted to meet with President Lincoln about his tribal members however, before this could happen the Great Mvskoke Chief and Hero passed away suddenly.



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory:

The Creek Nation in the  
West

## Rebuilding after the War

- The Treaty of 1866 was the final Treaty between United States and Creek Nation and was punishment for the Lower Creeks signing the 1861 Treaty with the Confederate States of America.
- The War between the States facilitated the creation of a new Creek constitution in 1867 includes adoption of freed slaves (Freedmen) into the nation as citizens.



- In 1889 the Creek Nation was paid \$2.3m for land ceded in the 1866 treaty.
- Upper Creeks resided in the Southern half of the Muscogee Nation with the Lower Creeks living predominately in the Northern half.
- The Upper Creeks perpetuated their economic system in which the town leaders took charge of the harvest and the tribe's annuity payments. Annuity money was used for public works projects including gristmills and ferries. Creeks were known for budgeting their Tribal funds wisely.
- The Lower Creeks were influenced by mainstream American culture which affected their perception of economics, social, and political issues.



## Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

### **Exhibits: Representing the Muscogee Creek Nation**

- Creek Towns (Ceremonial Grounds)
- Map of Creek Nation
- Education and Christianity
  - Creek Churches
  - Creek Schools
- Political Parties







# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Creek Towns-1900

Alabama

Arbeka

Arbeka Deep Fork

Arbekochee

Artusse

Big Spring

Broken Arrow

Cheyahah

Concharty

Coweta

Cussehta

Eufaula Canadian

Eufahla Deep Fork

Euchee

Fish Pond

Greenleaf

Hickory Ground

Hillabee Canadian

Hitchete

Hutchechuppa

Ketchopataka

Kialagee

Little River Tulsa

Lochapoka

Nuyaka

Oegufkee

Okchiye

Okfuskee Canadian

Okfuskee Deep Fork

Osoche

Pukon Tallahassee

Quassarty No. 1

Quassarty No. 2

Taskagee

Thlewathle

Thlopocco

Topofka

Tuckabatchee

Tulladega

Tullahassochee

Tulmochussee

Tulsa Canadian

Tulwathlocco

Wewoka



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Ceremonial  
Grounds-2012

Today there are 16 active ceremonial grounds. Each still maintains a sacred fire, which in many cases was brought from the east during the "removal". The communities associated with these grounds act both independently and as part of the Muscogee Creek Nation, and serve many of the same political and spiritual purposes as the original tribal towns.

Alabama  
Bobby Yargee  
Rt. 3 Box 97-G  
Okemah, Ok 74859

Arbeka  
Raymond Meeley  
Rt. 4 Box 480-N  
Muskogee, Ok 74402

Duck Creek  
Simon Harry  
1175 N. 250th RD  
Mounds, Ok 74047

Fish Pond  
Thomas Mack Sr.  
Rt. 3 Box 247-B  
Seminole, Ok 74868

Greenleaf  
Bill Proctor  
P.O. Box 272  
Henryetta, Ok 74437

Hickory Ground  
George Thompson  
P.O. Box 903  
Henryetta, Ok 74437

Hillabee  
Daniel Harjo  
P.O. Box 201  
Hanna, Ok 74845

Sand Creek (Iron Post)  
Gary Bucktrot  
1874 N. 380  
Wetumka, Ok 74883

Pole Cat (Kellyville)  
Jim D. Brown Jr.  
514 N. Elizabeth  
Sapulpa, Ok 74066

Muddy Waters  
Bill Hill  
2401 E. 2nd  
Okmulgee, Ok 74447

New Tulsa  
Jeff Fixico  
Rt. 1 Box 223  
Seminole, Ok 74868

Nuyaka  
Phillip Deere Jr.  
Rt.3 Box 75  
Okemah, Ok 74859

Okfuskee  
Barney Harjochee  
Rt. 4 Box 209-D  
Okemah, Ok 74859

Peach Ground  
Dave Hill  
548 College  
Seminole, Ok 74868

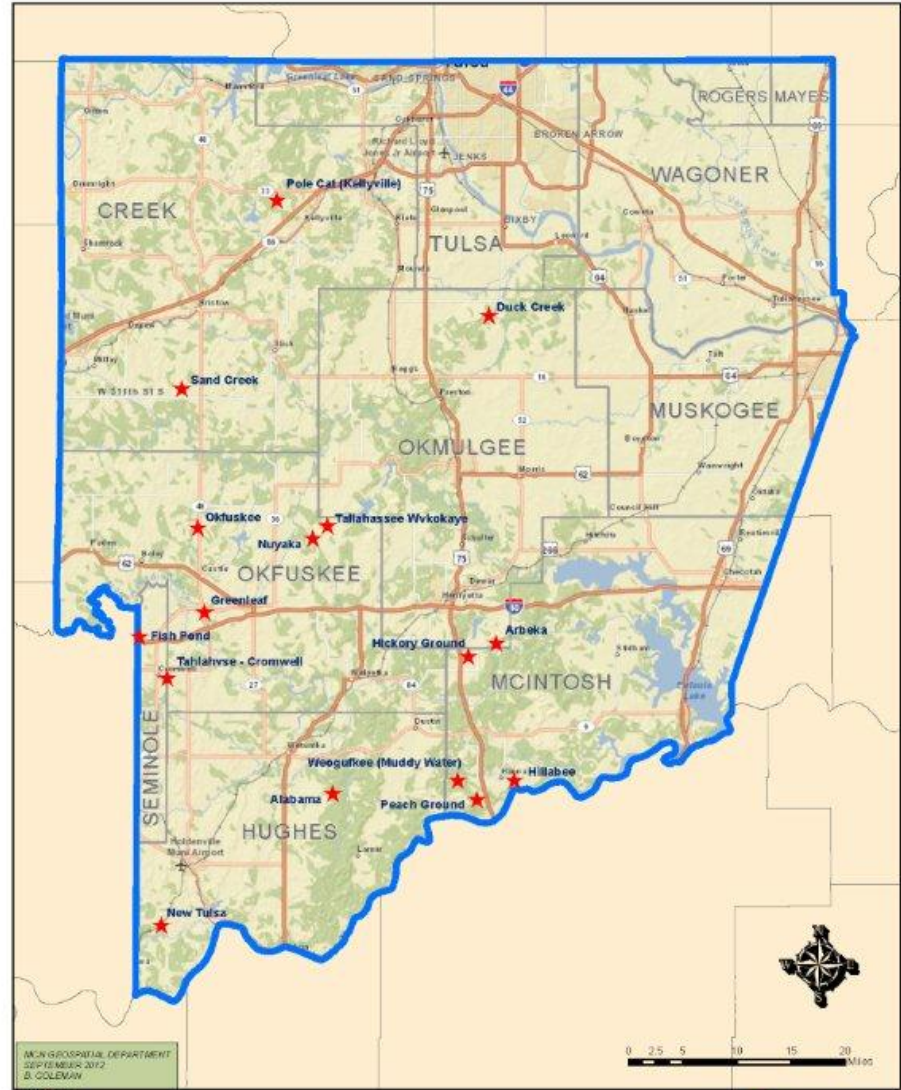
Tallahassee  
David Proctor  
1004 Plainview  
Okmulgee, Ok 74447

Tahlahvse  
Thomas Yahola  
P.O. Box 303  
Wetumka, Ok 74883

# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Ceremonial  
Grounds-2012



MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
CEREMONIAL GROUNDS

- MCN Boundary
- County Boundaries
- Ceremonial Grounds



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Church Listings-2012

Alabama Coushatta BC  
Pastor: Houston Tiger  
373140 E. 1030 Rd.  
Okemah, OK 74859-5981

Arbeka IBC  
% Wilbert Lowe  
7895 Locust Rd.  
Weleetka, OK 74880

Belvin Baptist Church  
Pastor: Randy Colbert  
Rt. 3, Box 28E  
Okemah, OK 74859

Big Cussetah UMC  
Pastor: Newman Frank, Jr.  
16210 N. 270 Rd.  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Butler Creek IBC  
Pastor: Norman Daniels  
5410 W. 78<sup>th</sup> St. So.  
Muskogee, OK 74401

Community IBC  
Pastor: Truitt Johns  
POB 2225  
Sapulpa, OK 74066

Creek Chapel UMC  
Pastor: Joe "Edwin" Jimboy  
POB 506  
Bristow, OK 74010

Emmanuel Ministries  
Pastor: Wilson Deere  
1470 N. 250<sup>th</sup> Road  
Mounds, OK 74047

First Indian IBC  
Pastor: James Farmer  
POB 946  
Muskogee, OK 74402

Alabama IBC  
Pastor: Eugene Whitlow  
POB 63  
Weleetka, OK 74880

Arbeka UMC  
Pastor: Abraham Jackson  
9775 N. 200 Rd.  
Beggs, OK 74421

Bemo Church  
Pastor: David Randolph  
13323 S. 73<sup>rd</sup> E. Ave.  
Bixby, OK 74008

Broken Arrow UMC  
Pastor: Anna Stilwell  
20854 E. 141<sup>st</sup> St.  
Broken Arrow, OK 74014

Cedar Creek BC  
Pastor: Bert Robison  
30283 E. 141<sup>st</sup> St. So.  
Coweta, OK 74429

Concharty UMC  
Pastor: Newman Frank, Jr.  
19040 S. Garfield Road  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Davis Chapel UMC  
Pastor: Ben Ewing  
POB 1060  
Coweta, OK 74429

Faith Baptist Church  
Pastor: Daniel Buck  
POB 297  
Holdenville, OK 74848

Forest Creek Church  
Pastor: Vacant  
POB 134  
Henryetta, OK 74437

All Nations  
Pastor: Brandon Kimble  
609 Burbank  
Muskogee, OK 74403

Artussee IBC  
Pastor: Robt. Washington  
502 W. Creek Dr.  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Big Arbor BC  
Pastor: Roley McIntosh  
HC 64 Box 796  
Eufaula, OK 74432

Buckeye Baptist Church  
Pastor: Wayne Harjo  
POB 710  
Okemah, OK 74859

Choska UMC  
Pastor: Chester Brown  
24401 S. 289<sup>th</sup> W. Ave.  
Bristow, OK 74010

Covenant Harvest  
Pastor: Alan Pulver  
722 North Hodge  
Sapulpa, OK 74066

Deep Fork Hillabee IBC  
Pastor: Richmond Carr  
POB 929  
Checotah, OK 74426

Fife Memorial UMC  
Pastor: Jerry Byrd  
5101 Emporia  
Muskogee, OK 74401

Glenpool Fellowship  
Pastor: Bernadine Dowdy  
POB 1229  
Glenpool, OK 74033



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Church Listings-2012

Grace Herkv Baptist Church  
Pastor: Wallace Gambler  
1020 W. Girard  
Okemah, OK 74859

Greenleaf Baptist Church  
Pastor: Dave C. Hill  
621 N. Bullitt  
Holdenville, OK 74848

Hickory Ground #2 IBC  
Pastor: Sidney Lee  
POB 692  
Henryetta, OK 74437

Honey Creek UMC  
Pastor: Jerry Baker  
2138 N. Okmulgee Ave.  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Indian Baptist Fellowship  
Pastor: Reuben Kelly  
POB 758  
Oakhurst, OK 74050

Little Cussetah UMC  
Pastor: Paul Tecumseh  
25135 S. 220 Road  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Middle Creek #1 BC  
Pastor: Mark Smith  
316 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Wetumka, OK 74883

Morning Star Evan. Ctr.  
Pastor: Negiel Bigpond, Sr.  
P.O. Box 198  
Mounds, OK 74047

New Beginnings BC  
Pastor: Walter Taylor, Jr.  
1309 W. Trudgeon  
Henryetta, OK 74437

Grant Chapel UMC  
Pastor: Josephine Deere  
3020 S. Harvey  
OKC, OK 73109

Haikey Chapel UMC  
Pastor: Royce Wittman  
P.O.Box 3818  
Broken Arrow, OK 74013

High Springs IBC  
Pastor: Jesse Wind  
POB 642  
Okemah, OK 74859

Holdenville 1<sup>st</sup> IBC  
Pastor: Maurice Morgan  
POB 915  
Holdenville, OK 74848

Jesus More Than Enough  
Pastor: Steve Kahbeah  
714 W. 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Little Quarsarty BC  
Pastor: Fred Lindsey  
POB 71  
Wetumka, OK 74883

Middle Creek #2 BC  
Pastor: George Harjochee  
P.O. Box 841  
Holdenville, OK 74848

Mutteloke UMC  
Pastor: Phil Whinery  
POB 155  
Kellyville, OK 74039

Grave Creek Bapt. Church  
Pastor: Willie Randall  
POB 822  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Hickory Ground #1 IBC  
Pastor: Mitchell Taylor  
37070 N. 4030 Rd.  
Talala, OK 74080

Hillabee Ind. Bapt. Church  
Pastor: Dennis Bible  
HC 63 Box 233A  
Eufaula, OK 74432

Hutche Chuppa IBC  
Pastor: Eugene Harjo  
POB 864  
Henryetta, OK 74437

Little Cussetah IBC  
Pastor: Ray Samuel  
POB 1432  
Sapulpa, OK 74066

Many Springs IBC  
Pastor: Jimmy Anderson  
POB 89  
Holdenville, OK 74848

Montesoma IBC  
Pastor: Josh Downing  
14208 S. Harvard Pl.  
Bixby, OK 74008

New Arbor IBC  
Pastor: Ken Loma  
2101 Georgia Ave.  
Muskogee, OK 74403

Newtown UMC  
Pastor: David Dunson  
POB 281  
Okmulgee, OK 74447



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Church Listings-2012

Nuyaka Indian Baptist Church  
Pastor: Wilson Hicks  
Rt. 3, Box 51  
Okemah, OK 74859

Pecan Grove  
Pastor : Malcolm Tiger  
100 S. Burgess  
Holdenville, OK 74848

Randall Indian Baptist Church  
Pastor: Timmy Lowe  
POB 566  
Mounds, OK 74047

Salt Creek UMC  
Pastor: Nelson S. Harjo  
400 Country Club Dr.  
Holdenville, OK 74848

Silver Springs Baptist Church  
Pastor: AJ Tiger  
POB 490  
Dewar, OK 74431

Springfield UMC  
Pastor: David Little  
POB 182  
Okemah, OK 74859

Thewarle Baptist Church  
Pastor: Edward Whitlow  
307 West Donna  
Sapulpa, OK 74066

Tookparfka Baptist Church  
Pastor: Vacant  
8428 Diagonal 1409 Rd.  
Calvin, OK 74531

Tulmochussee Baptist Church  
Pastor: Donnie McNac  
Rt. 2, Box 402  
Henryetta, OK 74437

Okfuskee IBC  
Pastor: Vacant  
POB 583  
Eufaula, OK 74432

Pickett Chapel UMC  
Pastor: Bernadine Dowdy  
2576 S. Main  
Sapulpa, OK 74066

Ryal Community BC  
Pastor: John Tulsa  
Rt. 2, Box 397  
Henryetta, OK 74437

Sand Creek IBC  
Pastor: Harry Anderson  
POB 27  
Wetumka, OK 74883

Snake Creek #1 BC  
Pastor: Andrew Johnson  
901 N. 275 Road  
Mounds, OK 74047-5324

Springtown UMC  
Pastor: Amy Johnson  
14029 S. 294<sup>th</sup> E. Ave  
Coweta, OK 74429

Thewarley UMC  
Pastor: Kenric Boyiddle  
POB 537  
Holdenville, OK 74848

Trenton Baptist Church  
Pastor: Johnnie Hicks  
Rt. 4, Box 194H  
Okemah, OK 74859

Tukvpvtce MC  
Pastor: Paul Fixico  
318 So. Creek  
Holdenville, OK 74848

Okmulgee IBC  
Pastor: Vacant  
902 S. Chickasaw  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Prairie Springs IBC  
Pastor: Richard Fixico  
POB 223  
Castle, OK 74833

Salt Creek IBC  
Pastor: Edward Whitlow  
POB 33  
Wetumka, OK 74883

Sapulpa Life Center  
Pastor: Bart Kelly  
POB 9  
Sapulpa, OK 74067

Solid Rock IBC  
Pastor: Todd Parker  
POB 729  
Glenpool, OK 74033

Tallahassee UMC  
Pastor: Sam Chupco  
11240 Celia Berryhill Rd.  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Thlopthlocco UMC  
Pastor: David Little  
POB 487  
Okemah, OK 74859

True Vine Baptist Church  
Pastor: Don G. Tiger  
615 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Bristow, OK 74010

Tulsa IUMC  
Pastor: Judy Aaron  
1901 N. College Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74110



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Church Listings-2012

Tuskegee Ind. Bapt. Church  
Pastor: Vacant  
Eufaula, OK 74432

West Eufaula IBC  
Pastor: Vacant  
2316 Sallie St  
Muscogee, OK 74403

Yardeka Ind. Bapt. Church  
Pastor: Amon Harjo  
Rt. 2, Box 395  
Henryetta, OK 74437

Wekiwa IBC  
Pastor: Johnsey Wisdon, Jr  
POB 1568  
Sand Springs, OK 74063

Wewoka Indian Baptist Church  
Pastor: Cutis Kinney  
903 S. Hitchite  
Wewoka, OK 74884

Yeager Mission Methodist Church  
Pastor: Kenric Boyiddle  
107 Lou Drive  
Holdenville, OK 74848

Weogufkee IBC  
Pastor: Ernest Best  
Rt. 1, Box 28A  
Hanna, OK 74845

Wewoka IMC  
Pastor: Nelson Harjo, Sr.  
POB 243  
Holdenville, OK 74848







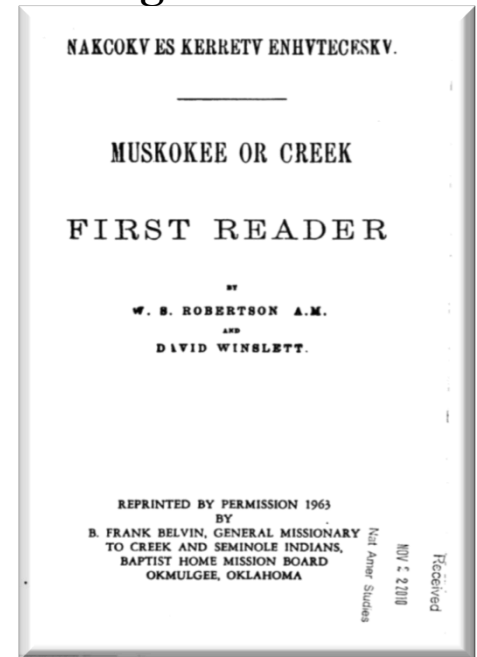
# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Creek Schools

## Creek Schools

- The Tribal School system of the Creek Nation, funded from annuities, consisted of 7 Boarding Schools for Indian children, 3 Boarding Schools for the descendants of Freedman and 65 day schools.
- Teachers were appointed at a uniformed salary at \$25 a month with the requirement of an average of 10 pupils. An additional \$2 a month for each additional pupil was added to the average.
- Creeks built a reputation for having a well developed system of education. In the early 1900's, the Superintendent for Creek Schools estimated the literacy rate for Creeks who could read and write the language to be 95%.





# Muskoke History

Indian Territory :

Creek Alphabet

## NAKCOKV ES KERRETV ENHVTECESKV.

Roman Letter.

Script.

A	a		a
C	c		c
E	e		e
F	f		f
H	h		h
I	i		i
K	k		k
L	l		l
M	m		m
N	n		n
O	o		o
P	p		p
R	r		r
S	s		s
T	t		t
U	u		u
V	v		v
W	w		w
Y	y		y

## NAKCOKV ES KERRETV ENHVTECESKV.

Muskokee Alphabet.

A	a	as in far, as afke.
C	c	che, for tch, as ceme Ueavv.
E	e	as i in pin.
F	f	fe, as in English.
H	h	he, " "
I	i	as in pine, as likes.
K	k	ke, as in English.
L	l	le, " "
M	m	me, " "
N	n	ne, " "
O	o	as in note. as ofv, opv, oster
P	p	pe, as in English.
R	r	hle, for hl, as rvro, rakke.
S	s	se, as in English.
T	t	te, " "
U	u	as oo in wood, as hoktucc, puun
V	v	as u in tub, as yvmv, ekvuv.
W	w	we, as in English.
Y	y	ye, " "

Diphthongs.

Æ	æ	as in æha.
Au	au	as in vhauke.
Eu	eu	as in yafkateu.
Œ	œ	as in hopetakuo-
OU	ou	as in sapokou.
Ue	ue	as in uevv.

1853: National Alphabet adopted by Muscogee Creek Nation. Previously, several alphabets were in use.



# Muskogee History

Indian Territory :

Creek Schools

- Tullahassee Manual labor school was located ten miles north of present Muskogee.
- Koweta Mission a day school was opened in 1843.
- Loughridge Boarding School was opened in 1851.
- Asbury Manual labor school was opened by the Methodist Northeast of Eufaula.

Kowetah National School





# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Creek Schools

- Harrell Institute, a Methodist school was awarded a charter in 1881 as the Creek Nation's first Higher Education Institution in Muskogee.
- Bacone College (Indian University) was awarded a charter and a land grant from Creek Nation in 1885.
- In the 1890's Levering Mission operated near Wetumka, Nuyaka Mission west of Okmulgee, and Yuchi in Sapulpa.
- Wealaka replaced Tullahassee, which burned in 1880.



Wealaka Creek Mission School baseball team 1899



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

## **Political Parties**

- In the 1879 election, there were political parties formed one known as the Pin, later reorganized as the Nationalist Party, who were supporting Checote. A second Party, known as the Muskogee Party was led by Ward Coachman and mainly opposed the Pins. The third was the Loyal Party that nominated Isparhecher.
- The primary differences in the Parties were both the Loyal and National Parties favored more traditional forms of government, with the Muskogee Party being more moderate and willing to compromise over white immigration into Creek Territory which the other two were not prepared to do.
- In 1883 three Political Parties; the Loyal, Muskogee, and Pin were in existence during the election for Chief, Second Chief, members of the House of Kings and Warriors.
- Nominees were as follows: Pin Party-Principal Chief, Samuel Checote, and Second Chief, Coweta Mekko; Muskogee Party-Principal Chief, JM Perryman, and Second Chief, Sam Brown; Loyal Party-Principal Chief, Isparhecher, and Second Chief, James Fife. See Appendix for Platforms of National (Pin), Muskogee, and Loyal Parties.



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory:

## **Pre-Allotment**

- With the Treaties U.S. had recognized Indian nations as well as the Creeks as independent sovereigns.
- Even though the federal government had acknowledged the tribes as distinct political communities with full authority and rights to manage their own affairs, the US took on a paternalistic attitude towards Native people.
- The federal philosophy was one of assimilation in which the ownership of land would be owned individually and not in common.
- To bring about assimilation, the federal government gained legal control over the tribes through legislation such as the Dawes Allotment Act.
- An 1871 act ending Treaty making provided the first legal groundwork necessary to begin assimilationist lawmaking.



# Muskoke History

Indian Territory :

Allotment 1887-1907



*Dawes Commission Headquarters, Muskogee.*

In 1887, Congress passed its most assimilative law, the Land in Severalty Act, also known as the Dawes Act or the Allotment Act.

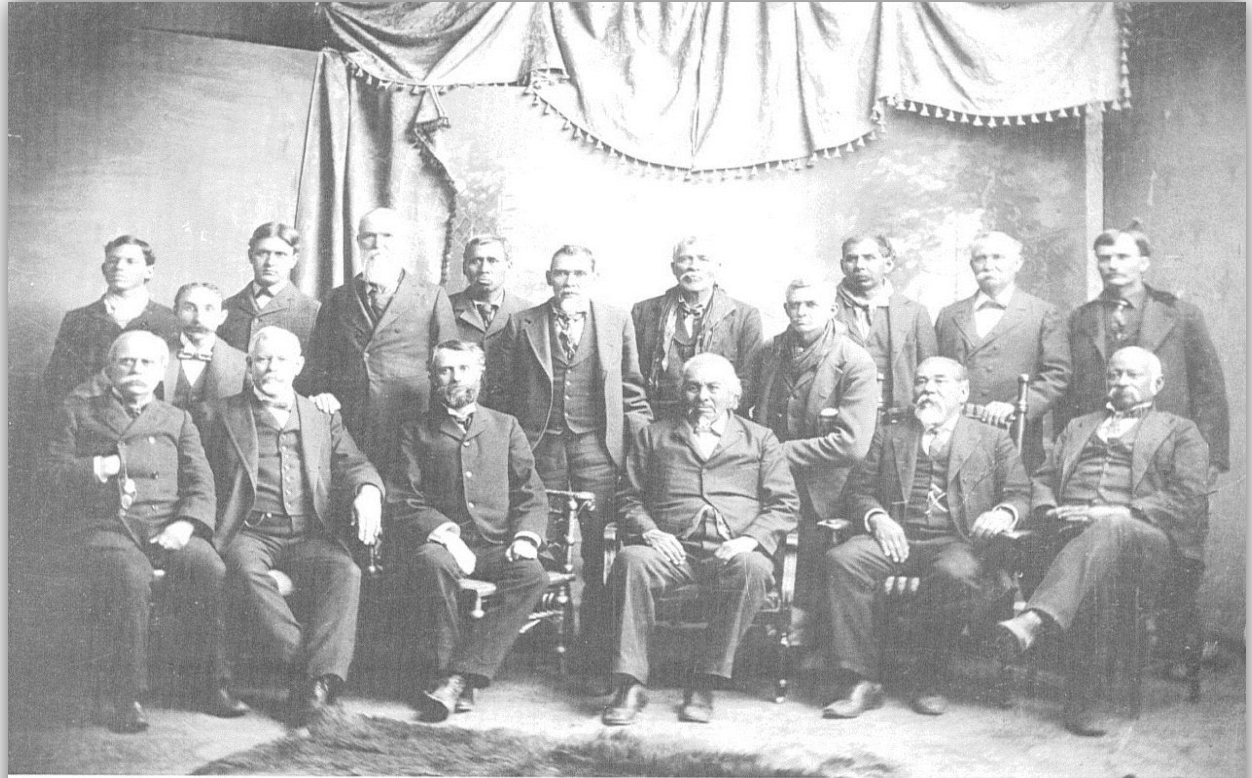
The act's aim was to assimilate Indians into white society by teaching them the techniques of farming and the values of individualism and private ownership.



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Allotment 1887-1907



*The members of the Dawes Commission and a delegation of Creeks photographed in Washington, D.C., in 1899. The Creek group included such leaders as Isparhechar (seated, third from right), Roley McIntosh (seated, second from right), and George Grayson (last row, third from left).*

**In 1893, Congress created a special commission, headed by Senator Dawes, to negotiate allotment agreements. A specific law was written for the Five Tribes Allotment.**





# Muskoke History

Indian Territory :

Allotment 1887-1907



*Indians enrolling for allotments at Muskogee, I.T., 1898-1900.*

The Dawes Act divided communal Indian lands into individual allotments, eradicating Tribal Governments and opening reservation land to white settlement. It was believed this legislation would “civilize” Indians.



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Allotment 1887-1907



The President could allot acres to individual Indians. Head of a family = 160, Single person 18+ = 80 Boys under 18 = 40. Married Indian women were not entitled.



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Allotment 1887-1907

# INDIAN LAND FOR SALE

GET A HOME

OF

YOUR OWN

•

EASY PAYMENTS



PERFECT TITLE

•

POSSESSION

WITHIN

THIRTY DAYS

## FINE LANDS IN THE WEST

IRRIGATED  
IRRIGABLE

GRAZING

AGRICULTURAL  
DRY FARMING

IN 1910 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SOLD UNDER SEALED BIDS ALLOTTED INDIAN LAND AS FOLLOWS:

States.	Acres.	Average Price per Acre.	States.	Acres.	Average Price per Acre.
Colorado	5,211.21	\$7.27	Oklahoma	34,664.00	\$19.14
Idaho	17,013.00	24.85	Oregon	1,020.00	15.43
Kansas	1,684.50	33.45	South Dakota	120,445.00	16.53
Montana	11,034.00	9.86	Washington	4,879.00	41.37
Nebraska	5,641.00	36.65	Wisconsin	1,069.00	17.00
North Dakota	22,610.70	9.93	Wyoming	865.00	20.64

FOR THE YEAR 1911 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 350,000 ACRES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE

For information as to the character of the land write for booklet, "INDIAN LANDS FOR SALE," to the Superintendent U. S. Indian School at any one of the following places:

CALIFORNIA:  
Sacramento  
Colorado:  
Alamosa  
IDAHO:  
Lupat  
KANSAS:  
Burlingame  
Nebraska:

MINNESOTA:  
Ogish  
MONTANA:  
City Agency  
VERMONT:  
Warr  
Larson  
Woodbury

NORTH DAKOTA:  
Fort Totten  
Fort Totten  
SHELLBURN:  
ANDERSON:  
Cannonville  
Lacey  
Duluth  
Bismarck, J.L.  
Pawnee

OKLAHOMA - Gen.  
Saw and Fire Agency  
Guthrie  
Wagonwheel  
ILLINOIS:  
Chicago Agency  
Pekin  
Rockford  
Sibley  
Sibley

SWISS EMERYVA:  
Ogish Agency  
Crow Creek  
Greenwood  
Lower Brule  
Fort Ridge  
Prairie  
Sioux

WASHINGTON:  
Fort Stevens  
Fort Spokane  
Tulsa  
Tulsa  
WISCONSIN:  
Dodge

WALTER L. FISHER,  
Secretary of the Interior.

ROBERT G. VALENTINE,  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Allotment 1887-1907

## **Effects of Allotment**

- Allotments held in “trust” by Federal Government for 25 years.
- In regard to Allotment, full bloods were not allowed to sell their allotments for 25 years, mixed bloods were allowed to sell immediately, and guardians were appointed to handle the allotments of full bloods and orphans.
- The allotment process proved disastrous for tribes culturally, politically, and economically.
- Culturally- the notion of private ownership seriously conflicted with the deeply held Creek tribal belief that land was a sacred resource to be used communally.
- Politically- the allotment process seriously eroded the role and authority of Creek tribal government.
- Economically- 60 million acres of land had been sold as “surplus” in accordance with the Dawes Act. Government officials often intentionally allotted poorer land to Indians and labeled more desirable parcels “surplus” for sale to settlers.



## Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Allotment 1887-1907

### **Opposing Allotment**

- In 1895 Creek Chief Isparhecher opposed allotment because he believed that it would break up Tribal government.
- In 1900 the Muscogee, hoping that compromise would save their government from extinction, finally agreed to the allotment of their lands.
- In the 1900's William A. Jones, Commissioner of Indians Affairs, approved regulations that enabled a Creek Allottee to sell all of his land except for the 40 acres homestead. However, this regulation was unsuccessful and was replaced by a requirement that the Indian office supervised any sales.
- Many full bloods refused to accept their allotments and a separate government was formed. At this point in Creek history, the Crazy Snake Rebellion had its beginning.



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Allotment 1887-1907

## **Pre-Statehood**

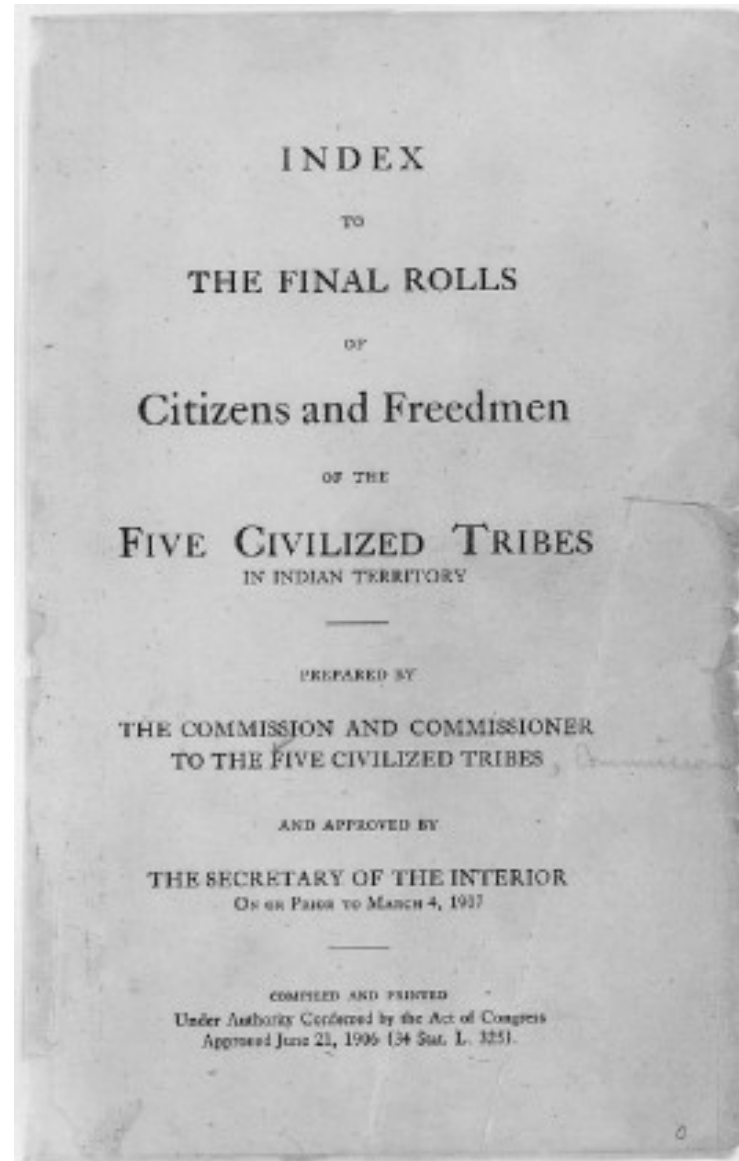
- The Curtis Act (1898) in conjunction with the Dawes Act was written specifically for the Five Civilized Tribes under which Creek lands were allotted. It also dissolved tribal courts, put tribal funds under the control of the secretary of the interior and required presidential approval of all tribal laws.
- That Act provided for forced allotment and termination of tribal land ownership without tribal consent unless the tribe agreed to allotment. It also made Tribal laws unenforceable in Indian Territory.
- In 1898 Principal Chief Pleasant Porter signed the first and second Creek Agreements which allowed for Allotment of Creek Lands.



# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Allotment 1887-1907



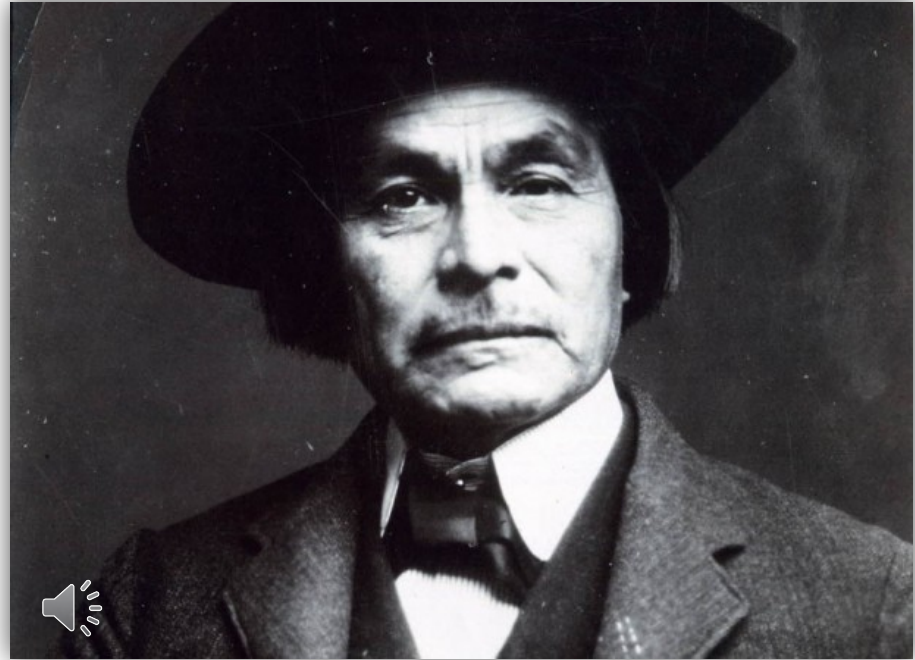


## Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Allotment 1887-1907

Chitto Harjo (Crazy  
Snake)



Chitto Harjo led a traditional movement against Allotment and was an advocate for the traditional clan and Creek Government that the U.S. was attempting to eliminate. The followers of Chitto Harjo established a traditional Creek Government at Hickory Ground. They cited the Creek Nation's previous treaties with the U.S., especially the treaty of 1832, which had guaranteed them self-government. See Appendix for the Plea of Crazy Snake.





# Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Allotment 1887-1907

Chitto Harjo (Crazy  
Snake)

*Chitto Harjo (Crazy Snake) and his followers, photographed in 1901. Crazy Snake is standing at the far right.*



Many Creeks rejected the terms proposed by the Dawes Commission.

The American press referred to Crazy Snake's men, and any other Creeks who opposed allotment as "Snake Indians."



## Mvskoke History

Indian Territory :

Allotment 1887-1907

Chitto Harjo (Crazy  
Snake)



Crazy Snake patriots in U.S. custody, 1909.

The traditionalists set up a National Council that passed laws prohibiting allotment, forbidding Creeks from hiring whites to work for them or encouraging whites to move into the Nation.

Cited previous treaties with the U.S. which had guaranteed them self-government, as grounds for opposing allotment.

# Mvskoke History



## **EARLY TRIBAL GOVERNMENT**



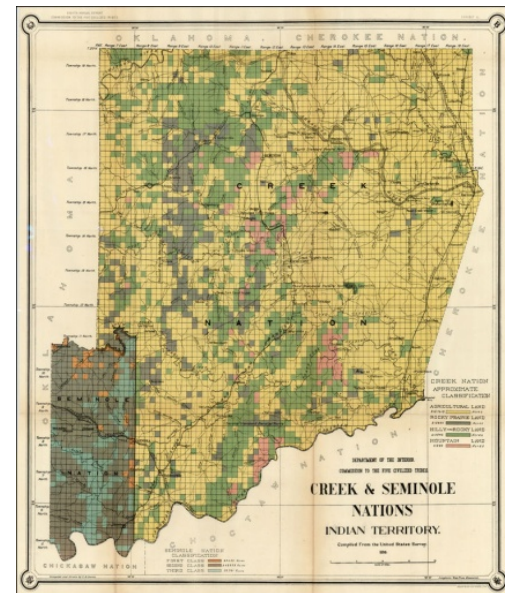
# Mvskoke History

Early Tribal  
Government:

Muskogee Nation  
Constitution

## 1867 Constitution

- October 1867, the nation adopted a new constitution and code of laws, an effective framework of government for Creek citizens.
- The new government was patterned after the U.S. system, it included three branches the executive, legislative and judicial.



- The Creek Government was presided over by an executive branch.
- The executive branch consisted of a principal chief and second chief, elected by male citizens over the age of 18.



## Mvskoke History

Early Tribal  
Government:

Muskogee Nation  
Constitution

### 1867 Constitution cont'd

- Samuel Checote was the first elected Principal Chief.



- The legislative branch, or National Council, was a bicameral form of government made up of a House of Kings (like the Senate) and a House of Warriors (like the House of Representatives).
- The leaders of the individual Tribal Towns chose National Council members according to the traditional system of representation.



# Muskogee History

Early Tribal  
Government:

Muskogee Nation  
Constitution

## 1867 Constitution cont'd

- The Creek Nation was composed of 6 Districts: Muskogee, Coweta, Arkansas (Eufaula), Deep Fork, North Fork (Okmulgee) and Wewoka.



- The judicial branch consisted of a national Supreme Court composed of 5 judges chosen by the council, 6 prosecuting attorneys and a law-enforcement agency.
- One of the greatest changes brought about by the 1867 constitution was the system of voting by secret ballot rather than visible show of hands.



## Mvskoke History

Early Tribal  
Government:

Muskogee Nation  
Constitution

### **Considerations relating to the Constitution**

- The Muskogee Creek had for hundreds of years been governed by their local Tribal Towns and participation in a form of regional councils.
- A large number of Creeks were opposed to any further tampering with their method of government by internal or external elements.
- Most of the people who felt this way lived in Tribal Towns, still practiced original customs, and continued to embrace traditional Creek culture.



# Mvskoke History

Early Tribal  
Government:

Muskogee Nation  
Constitution

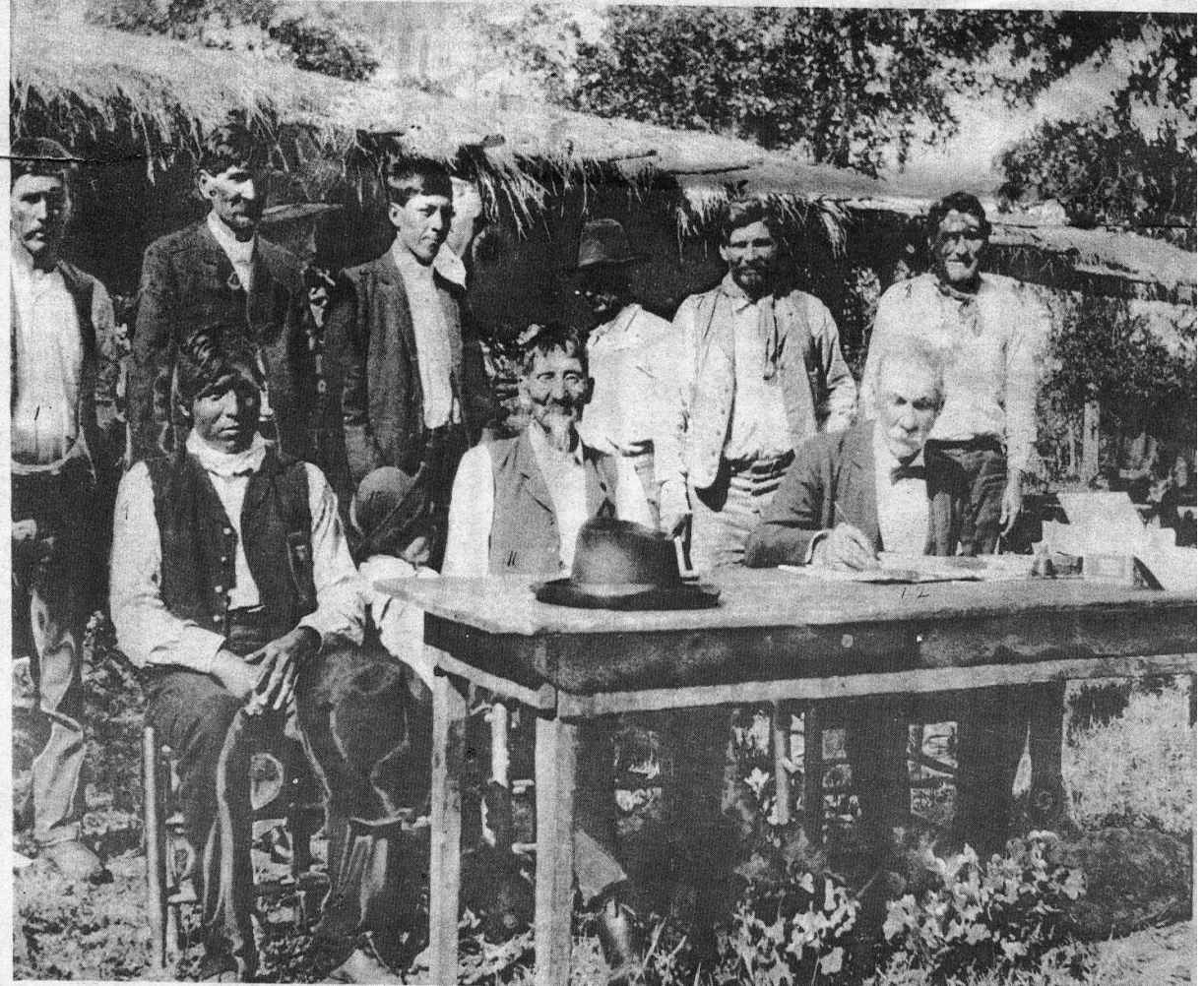
- Samuel Checote  
1867-1875
- Locher Harjo 1875-1876
- Ward Coachman  
1876-1879
- Samuel Checote  
1879-1883
- Joseph Perryman  
1883-1887
- Legus Perryman  
1887-1895
- Edward Bullette 1895
- Isparhechar 1895-1899
- Pleasant Porter 1899-1907
- Moty Tiger 1907-1917 \*
- George Grayson  
1917-1920\*
- Washington Grayson  
1921-1923\*
- George Hill 1923-1928\*
- Henry Harjo 1930\*
- Peter Ewings 1931\*
- Roley Canard 1935-1939\*
- Alex Noon 1939-1943\*
- Roley Canard 1943-1951\*
- John Davis 1951-1955\*
- Roley Buck 1955-1957  
(Appointed)
- Turner Bear 1957-1961  
(Appointed)
- W.E. "Dode" McIntosh  
1961-1971 (Appointed)
- Claude Cox 1971-1991
- Bill Fife 1991-1995
- R. Perry Beaver  
1996-2003
- A.D. Ellis 2004-2011
- George Tiger 2012
- \*Elected by Creek voters,  
but had to be appointed  
by the President.
- See Appendix for photos of the  
Chiefs.





# Mvskoke History

Early Tribal  
Government:



*Last Creek Nation Constitutional Election held in 1903:  
Concharta election officials. Pleasant Porter re-elected as  
Principal Chief & Moty Tiger elected Second Chief.*

# Mvskoke History

Early Tribal  
Government:

Five Civilized Tribes



## Proposal for an Indian State

- In 1904 the Five Civilized Tribes drew up a constitution and requested that the Indian Territory be admitted to the union as an Indian state named Sequoyah.



- Muscogee Creek people, known for being leaders, played a significant role in the development of the proposed Indian State. Chief Porter presided over the Sequoyah Convention. Alexander Posey, Creek poet and journalist, suggested the name Sequoyah.
- Despite all the efforts, in 1907 the Oklahoma and Indian territories were combined and admitted to the Union as the state of Oklahoma.

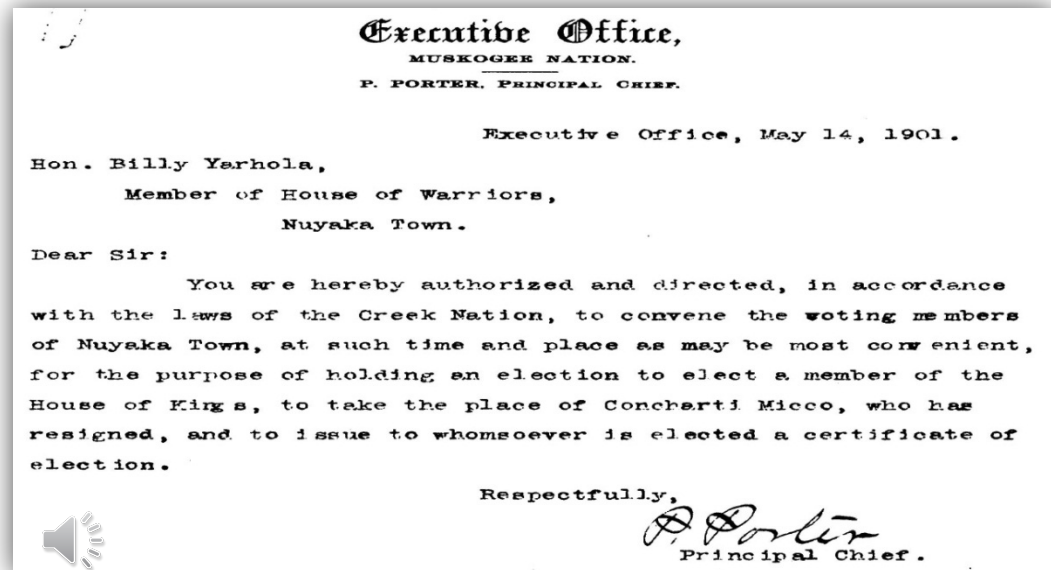


# Mvskoke History

Early Tribal  
Government:

## Pre-Statehood

- 1901—All members of the Five Tribes are made US citizens. Tribal members, including Creeks, did not lose their tribal citizenship or rights when they became American citizens. Creeks have always maintained a strong Tribal identity.



- In 1903 the final elections for Principal Chief and National Council were held.
- 1906—The Five Civilized Tribes Act attempted to dissolve the tribal governments. Timeline extended to June 1907.



## Mvskoke History

Early Tribal  
Government:

### **Pre-Statehood Cont'd**

- 1907 – The final National Council meeting at the Council House on 6<sup>th</sup> Street, downtown Okmulgee was conducted. The meeting lasted for 3 days as the council sought to resolve all pending issues of national importance before closing the Tribal government.
- 1907 – At this point the Creek government was not recognized and a period of federally appointed chiefs begins.





## Mvskoke History

Early Tribal  
Government:

Effects of Statehood

### **Pre-Statehood Cont'd**

- 1907—the Creek Nation could no longer elect its own head of government but was forced to accept the Bureau of Indian Affairs' choice for Principal Chief. Contrary to the rights guaranteed to the Creeks in their Treaties, the federal actions were deemed illegal and denied the nation's inherent rights of sovereignty. For several decades, Creek leaders continued to fight for status to elect our Tribal leaders and reestablish the government.
- In an attempt to reorganize Creek government in 1909, the Tribal Towns elected delegates and convened the Creek Convention. However, the US did not recognize the tribal government.



## Mvskoke History

Early Tribal  
Government:

Major Events affecting  
Creeks

### **The Context of Indian Country**

- The Meriam Report of 1928 on Indian economic and social conditions revealed an existence of poverty, suffering, and discontent. It was concluded that Indians suffered from disease and malnutrition, a life expectancy of 44 years, and an average annual per capita income of only \$100. Many Creeks participated in this study.
- The impact of this report led to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 allowing Indian Tribes throughout the country to establish Tribal governments-later resulting in the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act that would effect Creek government.
- Commissioner of Indian Affairs, John Collier believed that Indian cultures and values had much to offer non-Indian society and that Indian problems were best solved by Indians. Congress passed the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act on June 26, 1936 for tribes in Oklahoma. The OIWA was similar in objectives to the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA).



# Mvskoke History

Early Tribal  
Government:

Indian Re-organization  
Act

## **The Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act**

- The Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act affected Creek Nation in the following ways: stopped the allotment process, ended the loss of Indian lands, and reestablished tribal governments.
- The Creeks recognized that the OIWA which was modeled after the IRA was written without tribal input, its ratification was highly irregular, and that the tribal governments would contradict the Tribal cultures.
- A typical OIWA constitution established a governing board, often called a business committee and did not provide for a separation of powers. The executive, legislative, and in many instances, judicial functions were performed by the governing board. Adult Tribal members make up the general council membership with each having voting privileges.
- Creeks refused to adopt the OIWA fearing that the Federal government would force an alien government on citizens of the Creek Nation. It was believed by the Creeks that the citizens would best benefit by not accepting the requirements of the OIWA. Creek leaders petitioned Commissioner Collier to allow for an election of the Principal Chief and second.



## Mvskoke History

Early Tribal  
Government:

Oklahoma Indian  
Welfare Act

## **Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act cont'd**

- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town adopted its own government in 1938 under OIWA .
- Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town adopted its government in 1939 under OIWA.
- Kialegee Tribal Town adopted its government in 1941 under OIWA.
- These three Tribal Towns located in or near Wetumka were developed during the administration of Roley Canard also a Wetumka resident.





## Mvskoke History

Early Tribal  
Government:

Creek Council

### **Creek Council: Continued Governance**

- In 1934, delegates of 42 tribal towns elected their first Principal Chief in 31 years.
- In 1939, the Secretary of Interior sent a letter to the President recognizing the Creek Convention as the Legislative body of the tribe; the convention at this time was functioning much as the council had earlier.
- 1944—The Muscogee General Convention adopted a new constitution and bylaws. Under the new constitution the executive and legislative branches were merged into one body, the Creek Indian Council.



## Mvskoke History

Early Tribal  
Government:

Creek Council

### **Creek Council: Continued Governance cont'd**

- The Creek Indian Council through the 1944 Constitution followed a pattern of self government that evolved over the course of more than a century.
- This government never received BIA approval because the new governing document excluded the Freedmen without giving Creek citizens the opportunity to vote on that provision.
- 1950—Chief John Davis did not recognize the Creek Indian Council on the basis that their credentials were improper and irregular and repudiated the 1944 Constitution. He immediately appointed members of the various Tribal Towns as the new Creek Indian Council, reversing the trend of having Tribal Towns elect the Chief.



# Mvskoke History

Early Tribal  
Government:  
Termination

## **Reversal of Federal Policy**

- Less than 15 years after passing the IRA/OIWA legislation to rebuild tribal nations, Congress reversed its goal to strengthen Indian sovereignty and tribal governments by terminating federal governmental responsibilities to the tribes and to integrate Indians into the white communities of their resident states.
- The BIA in dealing with the Creek government began to favor Termination policies under House Concurrent Resolution 108, which would terminate the office of Principal Chief and eliminate any further elections of the Chiefs. In the mid 1950's the BIA refused the Creeks the right to elect a Chief and the office was filled by BIA appointees until 1970.
- Since the appointment of the Creek Tribal Council in the early 1950's the council served as advisory more than legislative capacity in regard to conduct of Tribal Affairs by the Chief and the BIA.

# Mvskoke History



**CONTEMPORARY TRIBAL GOVERNMENT**



## Mvskoke History

Contemporary Tribal  
Government:

Indian Affairs studies in  
the 1960's and 70's

### **Indian Reports: Effects on the Creek Nation**

- Commission on the Rights, Liberties, and Responsibilities of the Indian—1966
- Coleman Report—1966
- White House Task Force on Indian Health—1966
- Indian Education: A National Tragedy-  
A National Challenge —1969
- American Indian Policy Review  
Commission—1977
- U.S. Senate Select Committee on  
Indian Affairs—1977



# Mvskoke History

Contemporary Tribal  
Government:

## Context: Relocation and Activism

- Indian Adult Vocational Training Act of 1956 (P.L. 84-959) provided funds for institutional and on-the-job training available only to Indians who relocated to urban areas. Many Creeks who moved to cities to achieve economic opportunities for their families continued to maintain ties with their relatives in the Creek Nation.
- 1961—The American Indian Chicago Conference involved more than 500 Indian Tribal members that drafted the Declaration of Indian Purpose, a blueprint for future Federal Indian relationships.



In 1961, a week-long gathering at the University of Chicago attracted hundreds of Indian people from across the country. The Chicago American Indian Conference resulted in a Declaration of Indian Purpose and helped mobilize a generation of Indian activists. This photograph illustrates both the broad representation at the conference and the growing strains of generational conflict. Attendees included Irene Mack (Menominee) at the microphone; fourth row right Father Peter Powell; third row right, second from aisle Clyde Warrior (Ponca), Mel Thom (Northern Pauite), and Leo La Clair (Muckleshoot).

- Much of the activism began with the National Indian Youth Council, followed by the founding of the American Indian Movement (AIM) in 1968 which ushered in a new period of Indian militancy.
- 1968—Indian Civil Rights Act provides a Bill of Rights to protect individual Indians from abuses of power by tribal governments.
- In 1969, a group of Indians occupied Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay. The activists claimed rights to the land under the terms of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868.



## Mvskoke History

Contemporary Tribal  
Government:

### **Tribal Development**

- Tribal towns assert more control over social and political life due to general mistrust of federally appointed chiefs
- 1964 - Indian Claims Commission awards Creek Nation \$2.9m in recompense of federal violation of 1814 treaty
- 1965 – a further award of \$1m is made for violation of 1856 treaty
- Office of Economic Opportunity allows Creek Nation to begin creating/ funding own community programs



## Mvskoke History

Contemporary Tribal  
Government:

### **Tribal Development cont'd**

- Termination had clearly failed to “liberate” Indians or to solve the “Indian Problem.”
- The major recommendation of each report was that Indians be given greater self-determination, that is, greater control in governing their reservations and greater participation in planning federal Indian policy.
- President Nixon, in a speech to Congress denounced termination and pledged federal government resources “to strengthen the Indian’s sense of autonomy without threatening his sense of community.”



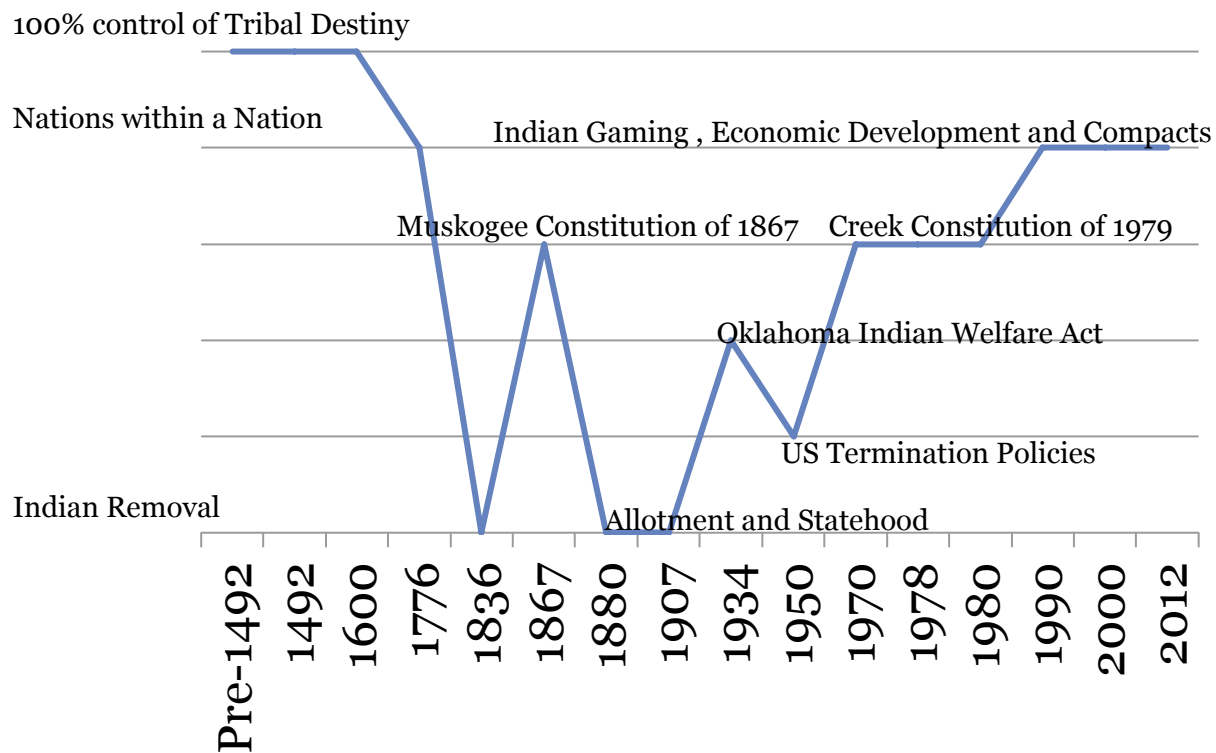


# Mvskoke History

Contemporary Tribal  
Government:

## Muscogee (Creek) Nation Government

Tribal Sovereignty Level Throughout the History of the U.S.



*Tribal Sovereignty: the right to govern ourselves, define our own citizenship, manage Tribal property, regulate commerce and maintain law and order; it further recognizes the existence of the government to government relationship with the federal government.*



# Mvskoke History

Contemporary Tribal  
Government:

## **Tribal Government 1970's**

- 1970 – Principal Chiefs Act (PL 91-495) granted Creek Nation permission to vote for Principal Chief
- 1971 – Claude Cox was the first elected Principal Chief under the new Constitution since 1903
- 1975 – P.L. 93-638: Self-Determination and Indian Education Act passes certain rights of sovereignty and right to education back to Indian nations
- 1976 – Harjo v. Kleppe decision acknowledges Creek right to self-governance by ensuring the creation a legally constituted Creek National Legislature.
- Tribal governments can now manage their own housing, law-enforcement, education, health, social service, and community development programs.
- Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, passed in 1978, further solidified the government's attempt to recognize and respect tribal cultural rights.



# Mvskoke History

Contemporary Tribal  
Government:

## **Tribal Constitution**

- 1979—The Nation adopted a new constitution under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act.
- The New Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution continued the 1867 constitutional organization of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the government, with distinct separation of powers among the three.
- The current Constitution (1979) was the first Constitution for the Muscogee Creek Nation since 1867.
- The Principal Chief has the authority to appoint an Election Board, Supreme Court members, College of the Muscogee Nation's Board of Regents and other Tribal Boards. The Principal Chief shall create and organize the executive office, prepare the annual budget and administer appropriated funds. In accordance with the Constitution, Article V, Section 4., Principal Chiefs are required to present a State of the Nation Address each year. For an example of an entire State of the Nation Address see Appendix. Excerpts are included in the section on the Principal Chief Bill Fife Administration. In addition, an audio clip of Chief Tiger's State of the Nation Address are included in the section related to his Administration.
- The National Council consists of one house with two representatives from each of the eight districts. Every bill shall have passed the National Council and be presented to the Principal Chief for approval before it becomes ordinance.
- The Judicial Power of the Nation is vested in the Supreme Court. All litigations between Tribal Officers shall originate in the District Court with the right of appeal to the Supreme Court.



# Mvskoke History

Contemporary Tribal  
Government:

## **Tribal Government under the new Constitution**

- The Muscogee Government is divided into three major branches as determined by the Constitution and are described as follows:
- **LEGISLATIVE BRANCH:** The Legislative Branch is comprised of the National Council of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and oversees proposed legislation.
- **EXECUTIVE BRANCH:** The Executive Branch includes the Office of the Principal Chief, Second Chief, Tribal Administrator and Chief of Staff who oversee the daily operations of the tribe.
- **JUDICIAL BRANCH:** The Judicial Branch is divided into two court levels including the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court and Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is the Nation's highest court with original jurisdiction over challenges to the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and appellate jurisdiction over cases appealed from the District Court. The Supreme Court is the final authority on the Constitution and Laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. *(1982 The Tribe passed an ordinance allowing tribal courts to enforce criminal and civil jurisdiction over Tribal Members and subsequently sought funding from the BIA for the Tribal Courts and a Law Enforcement program. Funding denied by the BIA and Interior resulting in MCN v. Hodel.)(1988— Muscogee (Creek) Nation vs. Hodel citing the OIWA, any recognized tribe or band of Indians residing in Oklahoma shall have the right to organize for its common welfare and to adopt a constitution and bylaws, the Creek Nation retained its court system.)*





# Mvskoke History

Contemporary Tribal  
Government:

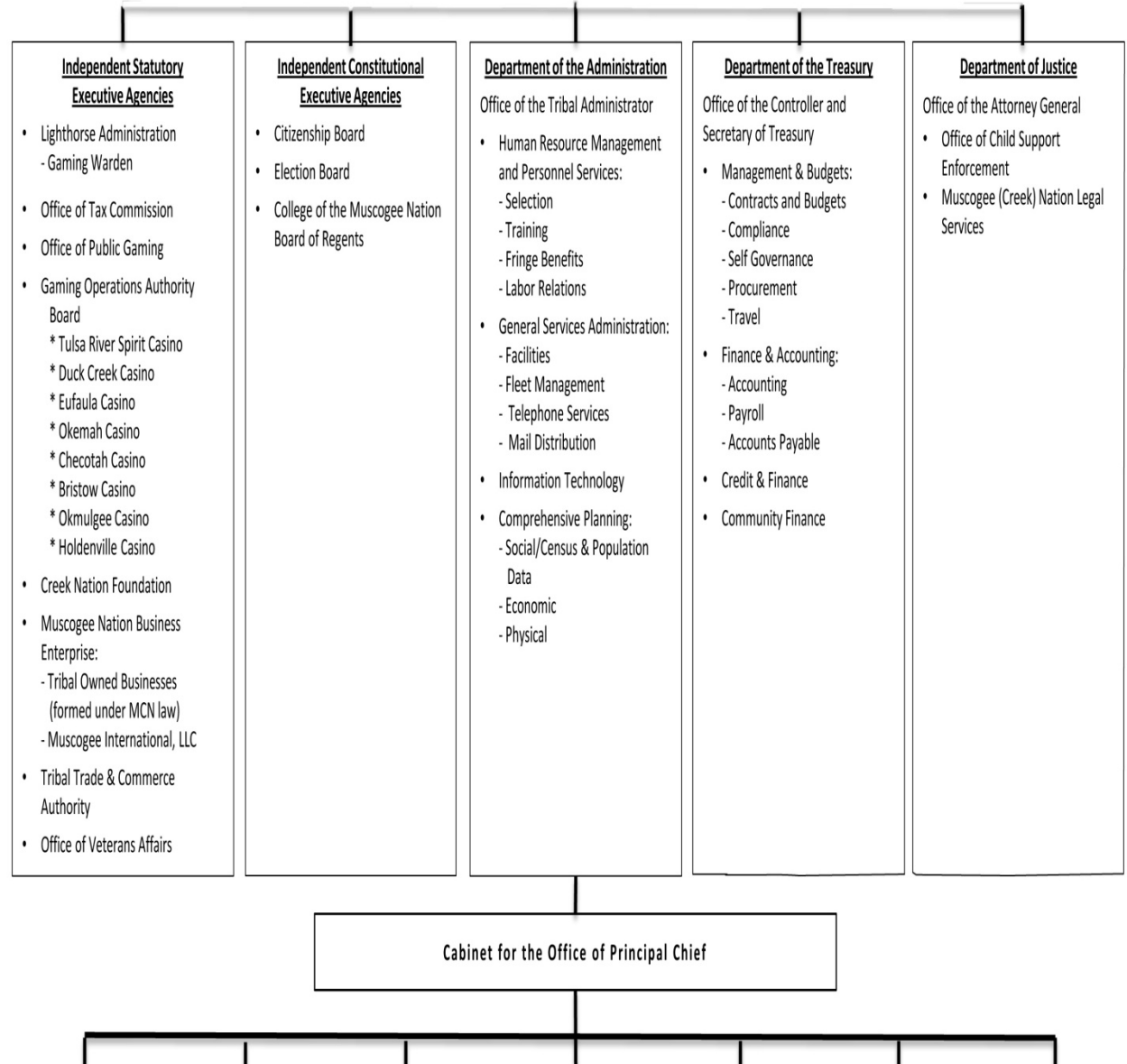
## The Government of The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Organizational Chart Constitution and Statutes

NCA 12-174, Title 16, Chapter 1



# Mvskoke History

## Contemporary Tribal Government:

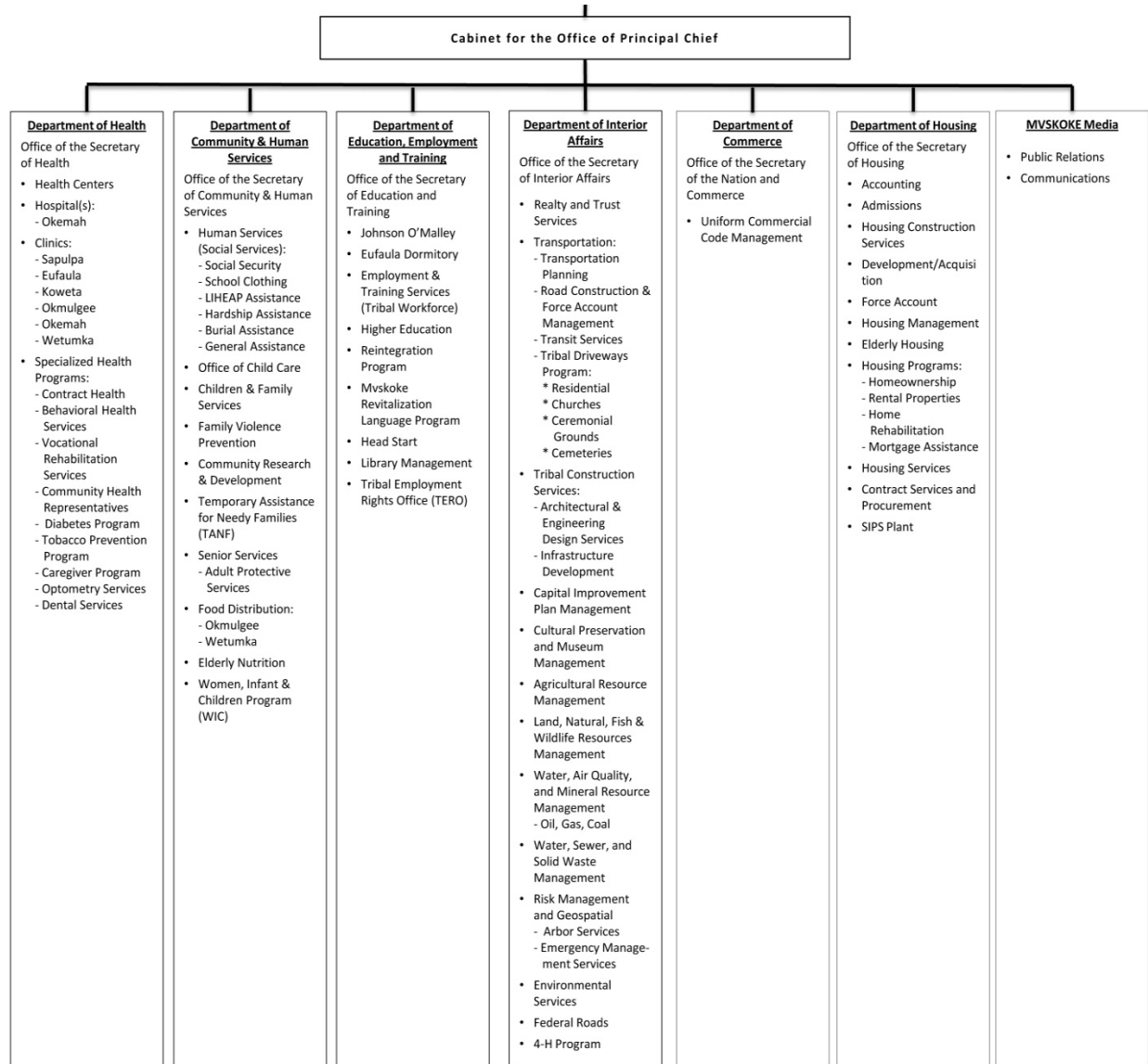




# Mvskoke History

## Contemporary Tribal Government:

### Cabinet Level







# Mvskoke History

Contemporary Tribal  
Government:

## Differences of the 1867 and 1979 Constitutions

Below are the major differences between 1867 and 1979  
Constitutions. See Appendix for the two Constitutions.

### 1867 Constitution

- Commission consisted of two elected males from each tribal town
- Representation of all tribal towns
- Bicameral form of legislature-House of King and House of Warriors
- Only males over 18 can vote
- First elected Principal Chief for the Muskogee Nation

### 1979 Constitution

- Commission consisted of five appointed tribal members
- Representatives from geographic regions rather than towns
- Tripartite form of government-single body legislature
- All citizens over 18 able to vote
- 1980—First elected National Council since 1903



# Mvskoke History

Contemporary Tribal  
Government:

## Principal Chiefs since 1971

- 1971 – 1991: Principal Chief Claude Cox pursues a course of tribal sovereignty to consolidate Muscogee (Creek) Nation's status as a self-governing entity.
- In 1972 the first Tribal programs were opened in the Oakdale school south of Okmulgee on Highway 75. Later in 1974, a Tribal Complex was built on the northern edge of Okmulgee on Highway 75. This era saw the opening of several bingo halls and creation of numerous tribal departments such as housing, education, employment, and Lighthorse police.



Principal Chief Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
Claude A. Cox  
1971 to 1991

- In the 1970s the Muscogee Nation News and Creek Festival were originated to provide regular communication with tribal members and to organize an annual celebration for Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
- The Muscogee Creek Nation began operating its own hospital in Okemah through an arrangement with the Okemah Hospital Trust Authority.
- 1990—BIA declares Thlopthlocco, Kialegee, and Alabama Quassarte to be sovereign entities.
- The Contracting of services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service which was facilitated by the P.L. 93-638 Indian Self-Determination Act and P.L. 100-472 Self-Governance enabled the MCN to determine its service priorities for such programs as Education, Social Services, Law Enforcement and Realty.
- 1981-82: Creek Nation assumes control of health services from IHS and all programs previously run by the BIA. 1983 Office of Public Gaming created.
- The idea for the Chartered Communities was conceptualized in the early 1970's to promote local community development and later in 1983 a process for the tribal government to sanction. Muscogee (Creek) community organizations was approved by the National Council.
- Beginning in the 1980's the National Council recognized the important place of the Ceremonial Grounds and Churches in Creek society by providing funds for maintenance and development.

# Mvskoke History

## Contemporary Tribal Government:

### Principal Chiefs since 1971 cont'd

- 1991-1995: Principal Chief Bill Fife convened a meeting between the leaders of the Tribal Government and the Tribal Towns. In 1993, for the first time in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a meeting was held between the elected chief and traditional Mekkos.
- The Tribal Complex was expanded to include more government services as well as obtaining federal funds for Community buildings.



*Bill S. Fife*  
1992 to 1996



- *State of the Nation excerpts:* “1992, the first year of my administration reaffirmed what we should expect in our relationship with the state. Oklahoma challenged our sovereignty and we stood our ground. ... Building our economy must start right here at the Capital—in the Council Chambers and in the Executive Board. We must set our own economic priorities for the management of our tribal income and expenditures.”
- Completed a Strategic Plan for the Nation.
- In 1993 Tobacco Tax Stamps were approved.
- The Standoff at Duck Creek: At the Duck Creek Trading Post on U.S. 75 north of Okmulgee a Tribal transport vehicle followed by the State Highway Patrol pulled into the Duck Creek Trading Post parking lot to avoid seizure of cigarettes that were being transported.



# Mvskoke History

Contemporary Tribal  
Government:

## Principal Chiefs since 1971 cont'd

- 1996-2003: Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver extended the Tax Commission responsibilities to include individual Tribal License Tags. Initiated discussions with OSU to create a Tribal College to provide continuing and higher education for Tribal employees (opened in 2004).
- Completed construction of an office building in Muskogee to lease to the BIA Area Office and completed construction on the Travel Plazas in Okmulgee and Muskogee.





# Mvskoke History

Contemporary Tribal  
Government:

## Principal Chiefs since 1971 cont'd

- 2004-2011 Principal Chief A.D. Ellis signed the law to establish the College of the Muscogee Nation and appointed the first Board of Regents. Signed a gaming compact with the state of Oklahoma.
- A Constitutional Convention was convened in 2008-2009 to provide for a referendum to amend the Constitution. Some of the major amendments included the number of council representatives, CMN, and protection of cultural sites. A total of 11 amendments were approved by Creek voters.
- The governing structure for The Housing Division was changed from a State Corporation to a Tribal Independent Agency to provide for more tribal control.
- Purchased the original Creek Council House located in downtown Okmulgee. Council held its regular meeting at this location as a symbolic gesture to signify the return of the Creek Nation.



Principal Chief Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
A.D. Ellis  
2004 to 2012





# Mvskoke History

Contemporary Tribal  
Government:

## Principal Chiefs since 1971 cont'd

- 2012-(Present): Principal Chief George Tiger re-established ties with traditional leaders. Began a program to diversify economic development activities including a shopping center and golf course.
- Emphasized the re-development of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes.
- A tobacco tax compact was signed with the State of Oklahoma on August 24, 2012.
- A Strategic Plan and a Semi-Annual Report were completed for the Tribe. Chief Tiger delivered his State of the Nation Address on January 28, 2012.





# Mvskoke History

Contemporary Tribal  
Government:

## Tribal Operations

- In the year 2012, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation operated a \$200 plus million dollar budget, with over 3,500 employees, has tribal facilities and programs in all eight districts of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and has a service population exceeding 74,500 enrolled tribal citizens.
- The Administrative support office allows the Principal Chief to spend his time in a leadership role versus a day to day administrative role.



- The National Council, in its role as the legislative body holds regularly scheduled committee meetings and meets as a full council on a monthly basis.

# Mvskoke History: A Short Course for Muscogee Nation Employees

