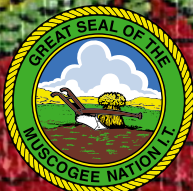


OFFICIAL GUIDE to the

# MVSKOKE

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION



THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

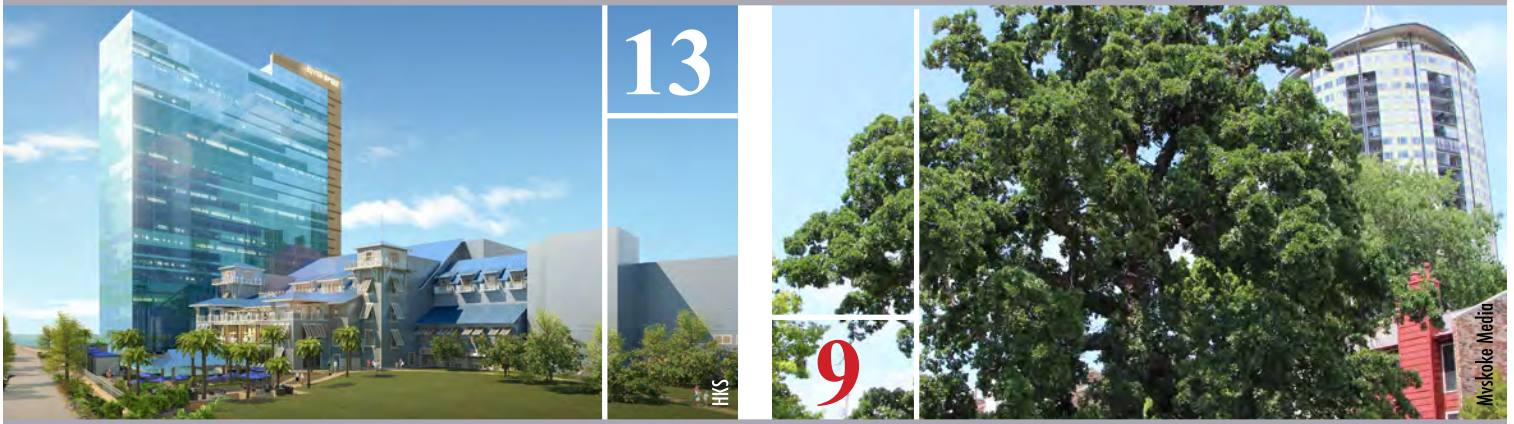
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# OFFICIAL GUIDE to the MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION



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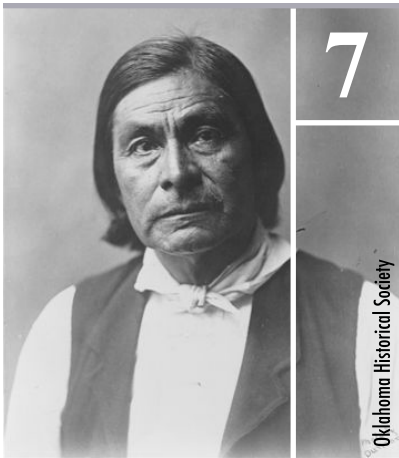
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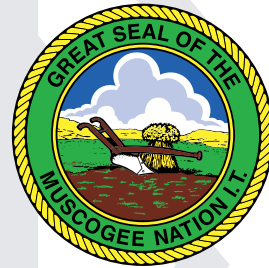
# WELCOME



## PRINCIPAL CHIEF JAMES R. FLOYD

Hesci!

On behalf of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I want to extend my warmest welcome. I hope that this guide will show our desire to share the richness of our history and culture as well as the charm and hospitality of our people throughout our diverse Nation. I also hope it will inspire you to visit and experience what Muscogee (Creek) Nation has to offer and that all of our lives will be enriched by our time together. Mvto.



## SECOND CHIEF LOUIS A. HICKS

Greetings!

I hope you enjoy this Official Guide of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. With this, you will be able to learn of our history, intriguing culture, traditions, and exciting points of interest for you to visit. You will get a glimpse of our past, present and progressing future.

I would like to extend a warm welcome for you to visit and explore the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and all it has to offer. MVTO.



The Executive power shall be vested in and shall be known as the Office of the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Principal Chief shall hold office during a term of four (4) years upon election by majority of the votes cast by registered Muscogee (Creek) voters. No person shall serve office of Chief more than two (2) consecutive terms for which he/she is elected. *Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Article V § 1(a).*

# AWEPVKS!

/ah•WE•büks/  
COME!

**THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION** is one of 38 federally-recognized tribal governments in Oklahoma. The Nation's enrollment consists of more than 80,000 citizens and counting making the Muscogee (Creek) Nation the third largest tribe in Oklahoma and the fourth largest in the United States.

The Nation's jurisdictional area includes eleven counties, either whole or in part, in east central Oklahoma. The Nation is comprised of eight districts for political representation and the purpose of administering elections. Twenty-five chartered Muscogee communities, each managed by its own board, thrive within the Nation's boundaries with one located outside the jurisdiction in Oklahoma City.

Located in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex serves as the seat of tribal government and houses the Executive (Principal Chief, Second Chief, Support Staff) Legislative (National Council), and Judicial (District and Supreme Courts) branches as well as many support services essential to the function of tribal government.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation operates as a self-determined visionary government, designing, developing, and managing an advanced service system for its Citizens and Communities, while maintaining the traditions, culture, and respect of the Muscogee people. The Nation operates a \$290 million plus budget, employs over 4,000 people, and provides vital services to its citizens such as health care, housing, education, job training and placement, social services, and operates many other programs including culture and language preservation.

The Nation generates revenues from its many business ventures and its tribal tax commission. Monies generated from these ventures allow the Nation to give back to state and local governments, schools, communities, businesses, and Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

Discover the tribe's rich history and intriguing culture by visiting the many historical sites and points of interest including locations in Tulsa and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation capital of Okmulgee.

Stay entertained during your visit by soaking in the winning atmosphere at one or all of the tribe's nine casinos. Fuel up at the tribe's travel plazas in Okmulgee or Muskogee. Take in a round of golf at the Fountainhead Golf Course on Lake Eufaula. Grab a bite to eat, shop, or enjoy live

entertainment at the RiverWalk family entertainment district on the banks of the Arkansas River in Jenks. Lake Eufaula, Okmulgee Lake and Dripping Springs State Parks are also beautiful attractions and worthwhile destination choices within the tribe's jurisdictional boundaries.

Join us during the fourth weekend in June for the Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival. There's something for the entire family in this Nation within a Nation.

Contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism & Recreation Department for more information. 918.732.7992 | 800.482.1979. Look for us on the web at [CreekTourism.com](http://CreekTourism.com) or [CreekFestival.com](http://CreekFestival.com); like us on Facebook; follow us on Twitter and YouTube.



**THE GREAT SEAL** of the Muscogee Nation, displays a sheaf of wheat and a plow in the center surrounded by the words, "Great Seal of the Muscogee Nation, I.T." I.T. denotes the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's location, after the removal, in Indian Territory.

Adopted by the National Council after the War, this seal was a modern symbolism of the industry of the Muscogee people as agriculturists. After arriving in Indian Territory, the successful growing of small grain, especially wheat and some oats and rice, besides large crops of corn in the rich lands bordering the Canadian and the Arkansas rivers and their tributaries, brought prosperity to the Muscogee people. Connected with tribal customs, the green corn ceremony is celebrated in summer as a thanksgiving and rejoicing in the new crops and mark the beginning of the new year in the nation.

The sheaf of wheat and the plow in the center of the device have a broader significance reflecting Christian influence.

A Biblical interpretation of the sheaf of wheat in the Muscogee Seal may be found in Joseph's dream (Genesis 37:7): "For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright...."

An interpretation for the plow may be found in the prophecy (Amos 9: 13): "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper..."

Muriel H. Wright, "The Great Seal of the Muscogee Nation." *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. Volume XXXIV (spring, 1956)



# WE ARE MVSKOKE

/mŭ•SKŌ•gē/

GREAT AND LESSER TEMPLE MOUNDS | OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT | MACON, GA

Ocmulgee National Monument

**T**he Muscogee (Creek) people are descendents of the Mississippian culture that, prior to A.D. 1400, spanned the entire region of the present Southeastern U.S. The Mississippian ancestors of the Muscogee constructed massive earthen pyramids that were part of an elaborate ceremonial complex that expanded regionally from the Macon Plateau near present-day Macon, Georgia. Archaeologists corroborate that Ocmulgee Mounds was one of the ancestral Muscogee residences.

The Mississippian culture declined after A.D. 1400, which then became single-mound ceremonial centers among separate towns that were either related or allied. Coosa, in northwestern Georgia, had been an influential paramount chiefdom prior to the Hernando de Soto expedition's visit in the 1540s but rapidly declined in the aftermath. The diseases introduced by the Spaniards decimated the Muscogee towns, and their survivors coalesced as populations shifted. Refugees from Coosa moved downstream to Alabama, where they merged with other town

survivors like Abika. The towns of Abika, Coosa, Coweta, and Tuckabutché are considered the four "mother" towns of the Muscogee people featured in oral histories.

Population shifts, amalgamation of town survivors, pressure from slave traders, and changes in trade practices all combined to accelerate a long-term trend toward merging groups aimed at stability. This led to formation of what Europeans termed the Creek Confederacy. Member tribes were called tribal towns, numbering at least fifty with a population of more than twenty thousand, that were all born of the "mother towns". Within this political structure, each tribal town was led by a Mekko /MEK•gō/ and maintained political autonomy and distinct land holdings; however, the Mvskoke (Muscogee) language and the culture of the founding tribal towns became dominant.

## THE IMPACT OF LOCATION

Throughout the period of contact with Europeans, most of the Muscogee population was concentrated

into two geographical areas. The English called the Muscogee peoples occupying the towns on the Coosa and the Tallapoosa Rivers (Georgia), "Upper Creeks," and those to the southeast, on the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers (Alabama), the "Lower Creeks."

## The British referred to them as the "Creeks."

Due in part to their proximity to the English, the Lower towns were substantially effected by intermarriage and its consequent impact on their political and social order. In 1690, the British established a trading post on Ochese Creek, present-day Ocmulgee River in Georgia. Several Muscogee towns moved from the Chatahoochee River to this vicinity to be near commerce. The towns were known as the Ochese Creek Nation. The British referred to them as the "Creeks."

The Upper towns remained less effected by European influences



**1776:** Muscogee divided during the Revolutionary War.

**1790:** Treaty of New York cedes land to the U.S.



**1799:** William Bowles forms the state of Muscogee lasting until 1803.

**1812:** Tecumseh (Shawnee) leads Muscogee in rebellion against the U.S. Start of the Creek War.



**1814:** Battle of Horseshoe Bend ends the Creek War.

and continued to maintain distinctly traditional political and social institutions.

Rival European desires, combined with shrewd native diplomatic and survival skills, made the Creek predominant in the region. Creeks maintained a delicate balance of French, Spanish, and British colonial interests until the British emerged in 1763 as the sole European power. The Americans succeeded to British influence after 1783.

### ASSIMILATION & REMOVAL

1793 left Creek interests under the guidance of U.S. Indian Agent, President George Washington appointee, Benjamin Hawkins. He implemented an assimilation policy that emphasized missions, education, and individualized farming. His policy made inroads among Lower Creek towns. Eventually, the changes that became visible, like ownership of slaves, European clothing and lifestyle, and restructured government, lent the assumption and label “civilized” to the

tribe. This label would also be used to describe the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole historically creating the Five Civilized Tribes.

As the white population increased, the Creeks began to divide among themselves, into those who held more traditional views and those who were more assimilated through contact with colonists. Just before the start of the War of 1812 between England and the United States, the Shawnee leader Tecumseh traveled south from the Great Lakes to try to unite all Indians against white Americans. After Tecumseh's visit, the Creeks divided. Most Upper Creeks, called Red Sticks because of their bright red war clubs, wanted to join Tecumseh's efforts of resistance to white encroachment. Most Lower Creeks were inclined toward peace. This division led to the Creek War of 1813-14.

The “Creek War” or “Red Stick War” climaxed in what is known as the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. Several Upper Creek towns had gathered at Tohopeka on the Tallapoosa River. The

warriors of this faction were defeated by an army consisting of U.S. soldiers and Cherokee and Creek allies led by Major General Andrew Jackson. The Muscogee people were forced to sign the Treaty of Fort Jackson ceding half of central Alabama and part of southern Georgia.

In 1825, William McIntosh of the Lower Creeks along with a small contingency signed the Second Treaty of Indian Springs ceding all Lower Creek lands that remained from the cession in the First Treaty of Indian Springs, also signed by McIntosh. The Second Treaty also ceded a large tract of land in Alabama. According to a Muscogee law that McIntosh himself had supported, a sentence of execution awaited any Creek leader who ceded land to the United States without the full approval of the entire Creek Nation. Shortly thereafter, the Muscogee National Council ordered the execution of William McIntosh and his conspirators for their role in treasonous acts against the Nation.

**...the only time that a ratified treaty with an Indian nation was overturned.**

On January 24, 1826, the Second Treaty of Indian Springs was nullified by the U.S. Supreme Court marking the only time that a ratified treaty with an Indian nation was overturned. In return, Muscogee leaders signed the Treaty of Washington restoring Muscogee land within



WATTLE & DAUB HOUSE  
ETOWAH INDIAN MOUNDS HISTORICAL SITE | CARTERSVILLE, GA

**1816:** Indian Agent David B. Mitchell undermines Muscogee sovereignty and initiates acts to take all of their lands in Georgia.



**1825:** Second Treaty of Indian Springs cedes all remaining lands in Georgia and a large tract in Alabama in exchange for cash and land in Indian Territory.

**1830:** President Andrew Jackson signs the Indian Removal Act.



**1832:** Treaty of Cusseta cedes all remaining Muscogee land east of the Mississippi River to the U.S.

**1836:** 20,000 Muscogee men, women, and children forcibly removed from their homes in Alabama to Indian Territory.

Alabama but allowing the state of Georgia to keep ceded lands.

Believing loss of all their land inevitable, many Muscogee, including McIntosh supporters, moved to Indian Territory in 1827 after the signing of the Treaty of Washington.

In 1830, with increased pressure from land-hungry cotton and tobacco farmers, President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act. This act led to the deportation of native peoples in the Southeast to Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River.

The Treaty of 1832 ceded all land claims of the Muscogee people in Georgia and Alabama. Despite treaty obligations of land reserves in the southeast, all Muscogee people were forcibly moved from their homelands to Indian Territory in 1836.

## INDIAN TERRITORY AND THE CIVIL WAR

In the new nation, the Lower Creeks located their farms and plantations on the Arkansas and Verdigris rivers. The Upper Creeks re-established their ancient towns on the Canadian River and its northern branches. The tribal towns of both groups continued to send representatives to a National Council which met near High Springs. The Muscogee Nation, as a whole, began to experience a new prosperity.

The American Civil War was disastrous for the Muscogee people. The first three battles of the war in Indian Territory occurred when Confederate forces attacked a large group of neutral Muscogee led by Upper Creek leader Opothle Yahola. For the majority of the Muscogee people, desired neutrality proved

impossible. Eventually Muscogee citizens fought on both the Union and Confederate sides. The reconstruction treaty of 1866 renewed Muscogee allegiance to the U.S. and required the cession of 3.2 million acres, the entire western half of the Muscogee domain.

## A NEW CAPITAL AND THE CURTIS ACT

In 1867, the Muscogee people adopted a written constitution that provided for a Principal Chief and a Second Chief, a judicial branch and a bicameral legislature composed of a House of Kings and a House of Warriors. Representation in both houses of this legislative assembly was determined by tribal town. This “constitutional” period lasted for the remainder of the 19th century. A new capital was established in 1867 on the Deep Fork of the Canadian at Okmulgee. In 1878, the Nation constructed a familiar native stone Council House that remains at the center of the modern city of Okmulgee.

In the late 1800s, the Dawes Commission began negotiating with the Muscogee Nation for the allotment of the national domain. In 1898, the United States Congress passed the Curtis Act which made the dismantling of the National governments of the Five Civilized Tribes and the allotment of collectively-held tribal domains inevitable.

In 1900, the Creek nation agreed to allot its lands, thereby consenting to the Curtis Act. Noted Statesman, Chitto Harjo, aka Crazy Snake, realized that immediate action must be taken if the identity of the Muscogee Nation was to be preserved. In 1901, Harjo lead

organized opposition to the dissolution of Muscogee National government and allotment of collectively-held lands. In his efforts, he epitomized the view of all Muscogee people that they possessed an inherent right to govern themselves. For individuals like Harjo, it was unimaginable that the Nation could be dissolved by the action of a foreign government.

In 1907, Oklahoma became the 46th state, thus completing the assimilation of Indian territory into the folds of civilization.

## A PERPETUAL PEOPLE

Through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, mainstream pressures gradually transformed many of the forty-seven remaining Muscogee tribal towns from ceremonial grounds into rural agricultural communities. These centered on their Indian Baptist churches among Upper Creeks and their Indian Methodist churches for descendants of Lower Creeks. The Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936 helped establish the former Creek tribal towns of Kialegee, Thlopthlocco, and Alabama-Quassarte as sovereign nations.

In 1971, the Muscogee people, for the first time since the partial dismantling of their National government, freely elected a Principal Chief without Presidential approval. In the decade of the 1970s, the leadership of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation drafted and adopted a new constitution, revitalized the National Council and began the challenging process of asserting sovereignty. Supreme Court decisions have affirmed the Nation’s sovereign rights to maintain a national court system

**1837:** Some groups travel via water routes. One group suffers a loss of more than 200 lives in an accident aboard the Monmouth Steamboat after leaving New Orleans.

**1861:** The Civil War divides the tribe. Some support Union efforts and others support the Confederacy.



**1861:** Battle of Round Mountain, IT. Neutral Muscogee under leader Opothle Yahola defeat Confederate forces.

**1863:** Battle of Honey Springs. Union forces battle the Confederate Indian Brigade. Largest of more than 107 hostile encounters in Indian Territory.



**1867:** The Muscogee Nation adopts a written constitution providing for a Principal Chief and Second Chief, judicial branch, and legislature. New capital established at Okmulgee.



and levy taxes. The federal courts have also consistently re-affirmed the Muscogee Nation's freedom from state jurisdiction. The present day Mound Building located at the Tribal Headquarters, houses the National Council Offices and Judicial Offices.

Presently, Muscogee (Creek) people are actively engaged in the process of accepting and asserting the rights and responsibilities of a sovereign nation.

#### RESOURCES

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Fold3 (2013). Muscogee (Creek) Indians. Available: [http://www.fold3.com/page/109919248\\_muscogee\\_creek\\_indians/](http://www.fold3.com/page/109919248_muscogee_creek_indians/)

Muscogee (Creek) Nation (2013). History. Available: <http://www.MCN-nsn.gov/Pages/History/history.html>

Ted Isham and Blue Clark. "Creek (Mvskoke)." Oklahoma Historical Society's Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History & Culture (2007). Available: <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/C/CR006.html>

## CHITTO HARJO MEMORIAL

A marker in Nichols Park, New Lake Road, Henryetta, engraved in both Muscogee and English languages, denotes the trail of spiritual and political leader Chitto Harjo. Beginning in 1890, Harjo helped lead organized opposition to the dissolution of the Muscogee National government and allotment of collectively-held Muscogee lands.

**1878:** The Nation constructs a native stone Council House at Okmulgee.

**1890:** Dawes Allotment Act breaks up tribal landholdings to allot land to individual households encouraging assimilation as subsistence farmers.

**1971:** The Muscogee people freely elect a principal chief without Presidential approval.

**1979:** The Muscogee people ratify a new constitution and revitalize the national council (the Nation's unicameral legislation).

**Today:** The Muscogee (Creek) Nation operates as a self-determined government designing, developing, and managing an advanced service system for its citizens and communities.

CETTO HARJO

CreekTourism.com

# TULSA

## RELOCATION

In 1836, the Locv Pokv /LŎŎ•jŭ•BŎ•gŭ/ (turtle meeting place) tribal town settled in the area of the present-day city of Tulsa. Along the removal route, they brought with them ashes of their ceremonial fires from their Alabama homelands. In a ceremonial act proclaiming their arrival in Indian Territory, the people of the group placed these ashes at the base of an oak tree that stood on a hill overlooking the Arkansas River. This act established their new home and ceremonial ground. The people referred to their new home as Tvlvhasse /tŭ•lŭ•HAHS•sē/ (old town), later shortened to Tulsey Town and eventually Tulsa.

Growth of the area around the tribal town became a disturbance to ceremonies. Sometime in the late 1800s,

the town moved and eventually became non-active while members joined surrounding tribal towns. Eventually the tree and surrounding land would be referred to as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council Oak Park. It would also be recognized as Tulsa's first City Hall. The site at 1750 S. Cheyenne Ave was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

After 1879, Tulsa's official post office was established near Thirty-eighth and Trenton Streets at a house owned by Muscogee citizen George Perryman. George's brother, Josiah Perryman, was named Tulsa's first postmaster. George Perryman signed the original 1898 Charter for the "Town" of Tulsa.

COUNCIL OAK PARK | TULSA



## COUNCIL OAK

Traveling north on Riverside Drive, along the Arkansas River, one will arrive at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council Oak Park. The Council Oak Tree stands at the present location of 18th Street between Cheyenne and Boulder Avenues along with a statue created by Muscogee sculptor Dan Brook. Brook's sculpture was a state centennial project created to commemorate the journey of all Muscogee people to Indian Territory. Just across the street from the Council Oak is the Stickball Park with bronze figures of children engaged in a friendly game of Muscogee-style stickball.

Each year, in October, the leaders of Muscogee (Creek) ceremonial grounds gather at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council Oak Park for the Council Oak Ceremony. The event commemorates the arrival of the Locv Pokv people to Indian Territory. The ceremonial leaders, or Mekko /MEK•gō/, are joined by tribal and City of Tulsa officials and the general public to recall the history of the Council Oak, the Locv Pokv tribal town, Muscogee cultural traditions, and rekindle a ceremonial fire.

## RIVERWALK

Falling in line with the tribe's vision for tribal economic development, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation RiverWalk is a destination for the entire family. The

entertainment district is situated on the west bank of the Arkansas River on the edge of Oklahoma's Antique Capital, Jenks, Oklahoma.



Riverwalk Jenks, Tulsa's pioneering commercial Arkansas River development, offers 170,000 square feet of retail and office space in two distinct clusters linked by an anchor, the 53,000-square-foot FlyingTee golf, dining, and entertainment complex. Riverwalk's iconic cobblestone waterfront is home to Los Cabos, Melting Pot, and other busy entertainment destinations. The center hosts a number of popular events during the summer tourist season, including the Boomfest July 4 celebration and Riverwalk's annual concert series. It holds an anchor position on the river's west bank, just north of the Oklahoma Aquarium.

60 BAYS | CASUAL DINING | SPORTS BAR



**FLYINGTEE**

**FRIENDS**

**FOOD**

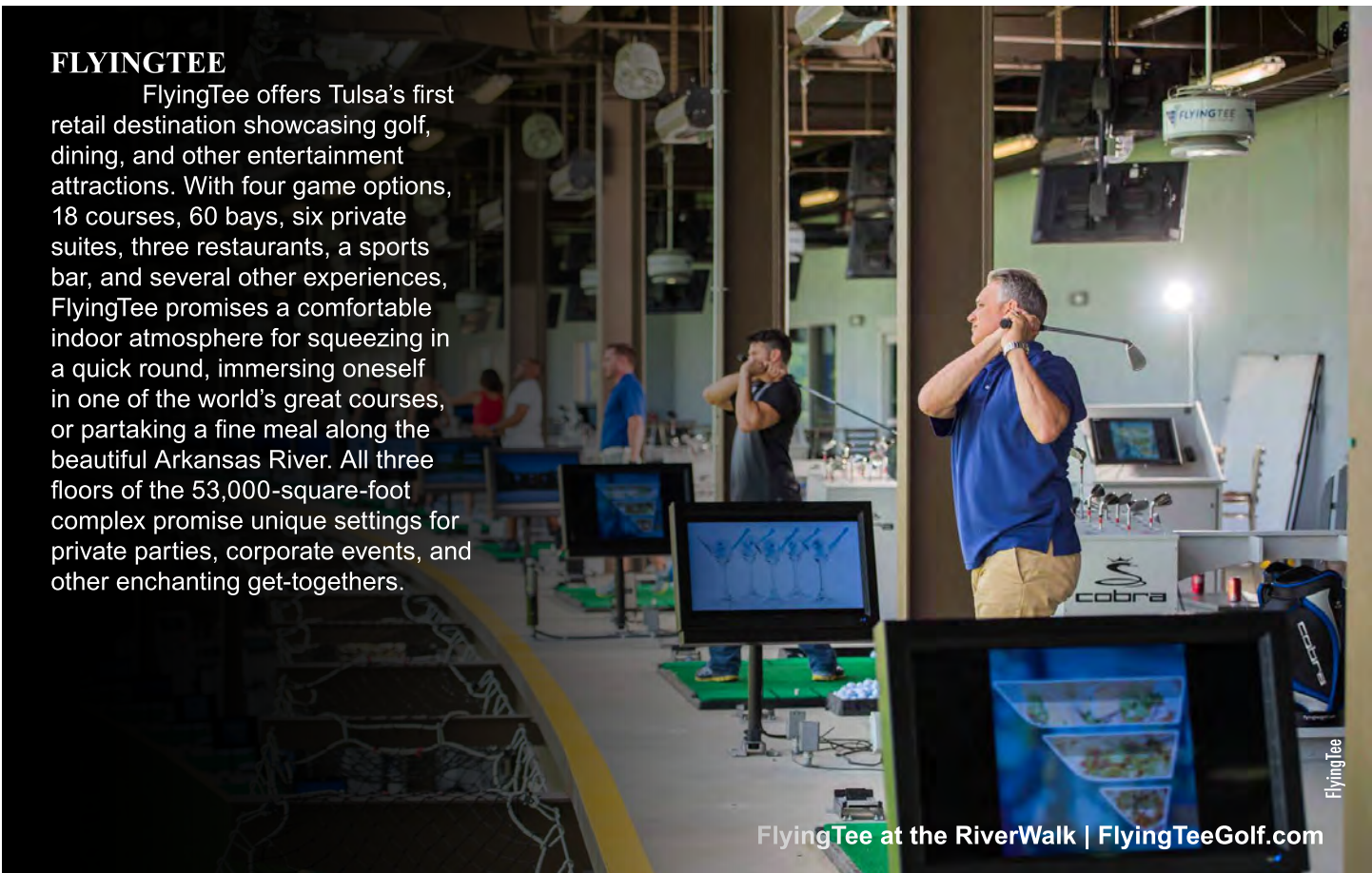
**FUN**



**ON JENKS RIVERWALK | [FLYINGTEEGOLF.COM](http://FLYINGTEEGOLF.COM)**

### FLYINGTEE

FlyingTee offers Tulsa's first retail destination showcasing golf, dining, and other entertainment attractions. With four game options, 18 courses, 60 bays, six private suites, three restaurants, a sports bar, and several other experiences, FlyingTee promises a comfortable indoor atmosphere for squeezing in a quick round, immersing oneself in one of the world's great courses, or partaking a fine meal along the beautiful Arkansas River. All three floors of the 53,000-square-foot complex promise unique settings for private parties, corporate events, and other enchanting get-togethers.



FlyingTee at the RiverWalk | [FlyingTeeGolf.com](http://FlyingTeeGolf.com)

FlyingTee

# COMING SOON to RIVERWALK



**PAINE**  
ARCHITECTURE GROUP

JENKS

[RiverWalkTulsa.com](http://RiverWalkTulsa.com)



4

RIVERWALK  
ANDOLINI'S CONCEPT  
04.20.16



### RIVER SPIRIT CASINO RESORT

Just across the Jenks River Bridge, on the east bank of the Arkansas River, lies the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's River Spirit Casino Resort. The Nation's flagship casino boasts a Vegas-style atmosphere, one of the largest gaming floors in Oklahoma, the largest buffet, luxury hotel, convention and meeting center, world-class spa, Paradise Cove Showroom Theatre and Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville Casino & Restaurant and the Land Shark Bar.

### ONESTOP

Onestop Fueling Convenience, a joint venture between Onefire and Blue Market Energy, is developing a chain of fueling stations that offer gasoline, diesel, and compressed natural gas pumps for fleet, commercial, or consumer use. These will feature electronic systems that automate billing and records for users. The first Onestop location will open this summer at 181st and U.S. Highway 75. Onestop hopes in open five or more locations in the greater Tulsa area within the next two years.

### COMMUNITIES

The Tulsa District is also home to two chartered Muscogee (Creek) Communities. Tulsa and Glenpool both offer their members a central location for gatherings and support as well as cultural and personal enhancement offerings throughout the year. The Tulsa Creek Indian Community owns and operates a smoke shop located just north of the River Spirit Casino.

### LOCATIONS

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council Oak Park  
1750 South Cheyenne Ave  
Tulsa, OK 74119  
CityofTulsa.org

Muscogee (Creek) Nation RiverWalk  
300 RiverWalk Terrace  
Jenks, OK 74037  
918.605.5643  
RiverWalkTulsa.com  
FlyingTeeGolf.com

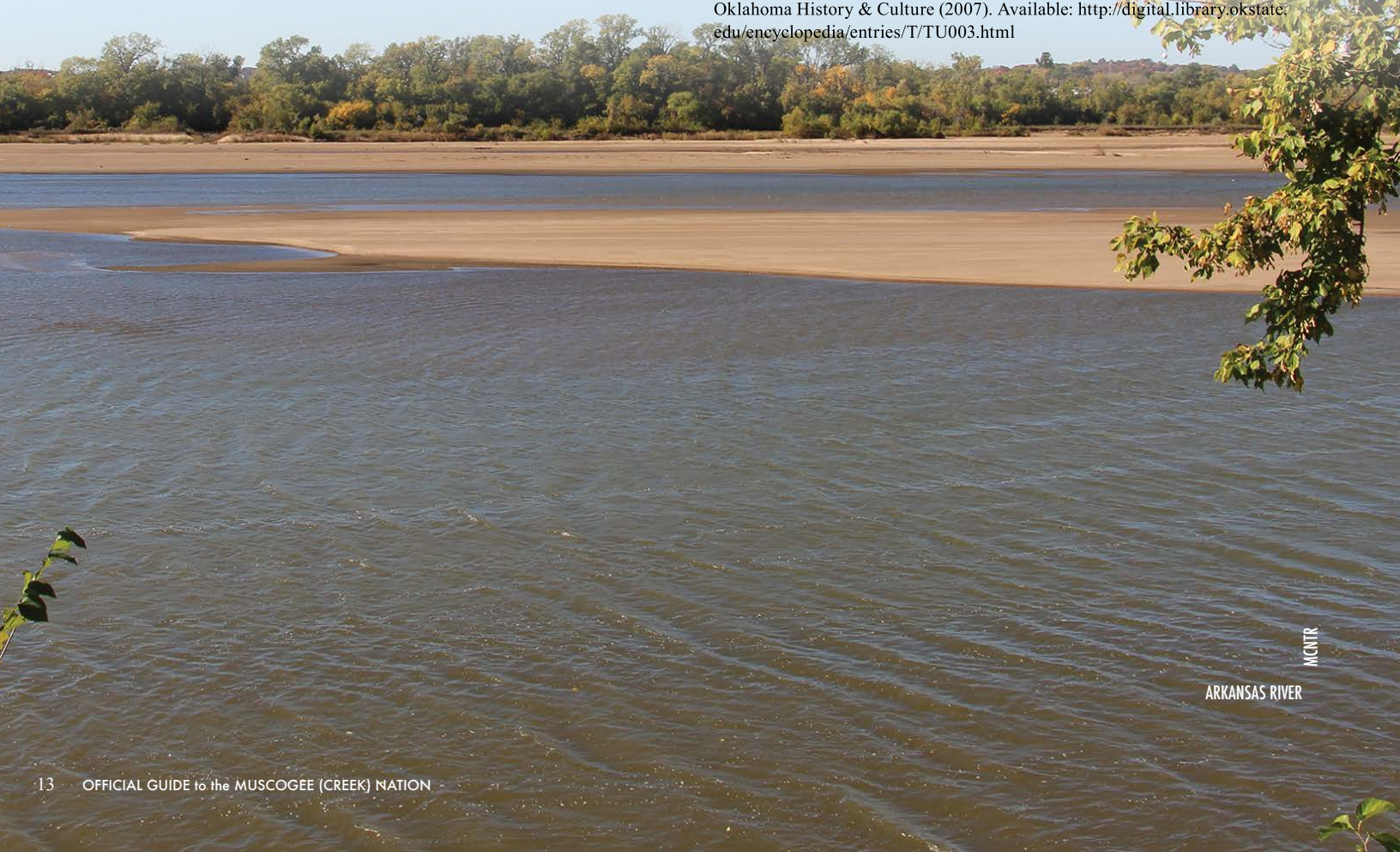
River Spirit Casino Resort  
Margaritaville Casino & Restaurant  
8330 Riverside Parkway  
Tulsa, OK 74137  
918.299.8518  
RiverSpiritTulsa.com

Onestop Fueling Convenience  
181<sup>st</sup> Street South & U.S. Hwy 75  
Glenpool, OK 74033

Tulsa Indian Community Smoke Shop  
114th East 81st Street  
Tulsa, OK 74137  
918.299.7155

### RESOURCES

Carl Gregory. "Tulsa." Oklahoma Historical Society's Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History & Culture (2007). Available: <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/T/TU003.html>



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**RIVER SPIRIT**  
CASINO RESORT

# OKMULGEE

The town's name is of Muscogee origin, *Okmvrke* /ōk•MŪLTH•gē/, translated as "boiling water."



*The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House, 1878. Courtesy, Oklahoma Historical Society.*

## RESTORATION

Following the destruction left by the Civil War, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation began restoring order to their new home. In 1867, the Nation adopted a new constitution calling for

a new national government modeled on a bicameral legislative system similar to that of the United States. In 1867, the Nation constructed a log cabin capitol building at the newly selected national capital of Okmulgee to accommodate the meetings of the legislative branch, House of Kings and House of Warriors, of the new government.

A post office opened there on April 29, 1869, under the spelling Okmulkee until November 15, 1883, when it became Okmulgee. The town's name is of Muscogee origin, *Okmvrke* /ōk•MŪLTH•gē/, translated as "boiling water" and is named for the historic tribal town, Ocmulgee, in present Russell County, Alabama.

The two-story, log council house of the Creek Nation was constructed near the edge of a stand of timber and quickly became

the center of town. In 1878, fire destroyed the council house, and a stone structure was built in its place. The Creek Council House received designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1961 and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 (NR 66000632). Downtown Okmulgee was added to the Register in 1992.

The Council House remains at the center of the historic Okmulgee town square. It is now operated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center & Archives.

## MODERN AMENITIES

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation's current seat of government is currently located at the Tribal Government Complex north of the City of Okmulgee at the intersection of U.S. Highway 75 and State Loop 56. The campus houses the executive

## CREEK NATION COUNCIL HOUSE TIMELINE

**1878:** The structure is built after a fire destroys the original Council House built in 1868.

**1906:** The U.S. Department of the Interior removes the Council House from the possession of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

**1923:** The Creek Indian Memorial Association establishes the Creek Council House Museum as an education center for Native American history.

**1961:** The National Park Service designates the Council House as a National Historic Landmark and it is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1966).

**1971:** The U.S. Department of the Interior sells the building and grounds to the City of Okmulgee.

**2010:** The Muscogee (Creek) Nation regains ownership of the Council House from the City of Okmulgee.

**2016:** The Muscogee (Creek) National Council appropriates funds to the Council House for restoration as an interpretive site.



MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION COUNCIL HOUSE | OKMULGEE





MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION MOUND BUILDING

MCCTR

(Principal Chief, Second Chief, support staff), legislative (National Council) and judicial branches (District and Supreme Courts) of the Nation created by the 1979 constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The complex is also home to many of the support services of the Nation.

The legislative and judicial branches are housed in what's known as the "Mound Building." The building's architecture pays homage to the Muscogee people's Mississippian ancestors and the great earthen mounds they constructed in the Southeastern U.S.

Inside the Mound Building, are the National Council chambers, offices of the courts, a courtroom, the Mound Auditorium, and dioramas depicting Muscogee towns prior to Removal. Guided tours of the Mound Building are available through the Nation's Tourism & Recreation Department. 918.732.7992

The Veteran's Affairs building, built to resemble the U.S. Pentagon, offers a place for Muscogee Veterans to display some of their possessions relating to their time dedicated to the armed service. Just west of the building lies the Veteran's War Memorial dedicated to fallen Muscogee Veterans and their respective tribal towns. Both venues are open to the public, Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm.

The Muscogee (Creek) National Library & Archives, part of the Cultural Preservation Office, also located on the campus, is home to many valuable and irreplaceable historical documents and family histories and genealogy. This is the starting point for those interested in researching their Muscogee roots. Librarians and archivists are available for assistance. 918.732.7733.

Visit the Senior Citizens Gift Shop located within the Solomon McCombs Building at the MCN Complex. The shop offers a variety of Muscogee and other American Indian hand-made items and artwork as well as some staples for preparing traditional Muscogee foods. 918.756.5350

## HIGHER EDUCATION

Okmulgee is also home to the College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN). The college, established in 2004, was created to serve Muscogee citizens and other citizens with the history, government, and culture of the Muscogee people as its primary focus. CMN offers a variety of general education and tribally related courses. In addition, the CMN is an associate member of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) and is accredited to provide Associate-level degrees.

The college campus includes two facilities containing class rooms, computer lab, library center, faculty offices, cafeteria, bookstore, and student commons area. The campus also offers 16 two-bedroom student housing units that accommodate 64 students.

## COMMUNITIES

The Okmulgee District is home to six chartered Muscogee (Creek) communities. Each Community serves as an economic development springboard for the local area and offers support to their community members and a central place for gathering.

The Okmulgee Indian Community owns and operates a smoke shop on the south side of the City of Okmulgee.

The Twin Hills Indian Community owns and operates a convenience plaza at the corner of intersecting state highways 16 & 52 in northeastern Okmulgee County. The convenience store offers fuel, snacks, necessities, tobacco products, and hot food items.

Duck Creek Community, in north central Okmulgee County, owns and operates a smoke shop located in the parking lot of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation operated Duck Creek Casino on U.S. Highway 75.

Other Muscogee (Creek) communities within the Okmulgee District include Dewar, Morris, and Wilson.

### FUN, FOOD, FUEL

The Okmulgee District is home to two Muscogee (Creek) Nation casinos. One Fire Casino is located just south of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex on U.S. Highway 75 and offers food and gaming. Duck Creek Casino is located in the opposite direction on U.S. Highway 75 just south of the Tulsa County line. Duck Creek offers food and gaming as well. Both casinos have been recently renovated and both offer the most up to date gaming available.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Travel Plaza, located just west of the Nation's capital complex, offers a convenient place to game, fuel, food (including a Burger King), and necessities. Where else can you fill up your vehicle, stomach, and wallet all in the same place?

### LOCATIONS

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House  
106 W. 6th Street  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
918.549.2434  
CreekCulturalCenter.com

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex  
1008 E. Eufaula  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
918.732.7992  
MCN-nsn.gov

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Travel Plaza  
2800 North Wood Drive  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
918.752.0090

Claude Cox Omniplex & the Mvskoke Dome  
2950 Warrior Road  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
918.732.7992  
CreekTourism.com

One Fire Casino  
1901 North Wood Drive  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
918.756.8400  
OneFireCasino.com

Duck Creek Casino  
10085 Ferguson Road  
Beggs, OK 74421  
918.267.3468  
DuckCreekCasino.com

Duck Creek Indian Community  
Smoke Shop  
10079 Ferguson Road  
Beggs, OK 74421  
918.267.1282

Okmulgee Indian Community  
Smoke Shop  
2850 South Wood Drive  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
918.752.0018

Twin Hills Convenience Plaza  
18902 Oklahoma 16  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
918.733.1344

Okmulgee & Dripping Springs  
State Parks  
16830 Dripping Springs Road  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
918.756.5971  
TravelOK.com

### RESOURCES

Maxine Bamburg. "Okmulgee." Oklahoma Historical Society's Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History & Culture (2007). Available: <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/o/ok092.html>



COLLEGE OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION

MCNTR



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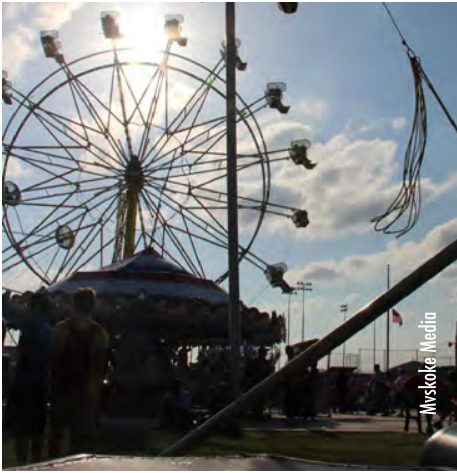
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# FESTIVAL CAPITAL



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival consists of more than 25 events and requires the help of nearly 900 volunteers. All events are free to attend and everyone is welcome.

During the month of June, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation becomes a Festival Nation. Held annually, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival celebrates the living culture of the Mvskoke people. Since 1974, the Muscogee Nation Festival has been a treasured and time-honored experience.

Festival events include sports tournaments, an all Indian rodeo, parade, Junior Olympics, horseshoes, live entertainment, 5K run, children's activities, senior activities, fun fair, art festival, stomp dance, cultural exhibitions, and fireworks. With an estimated attendance of 40,000 plus, the Festival is a way in which the Mvskoke people, local communities, and national visitors can come together and celebrate contemporary

Mvskoke life.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival consists of more than 25 events and requires the help of nearly 900 volunteers. All events are free to attend and everyone is welcome.

Festival attendance has dramatically increased in recent years thanks to the addition of a few well-known names for the live entertainment portion. Some recognizable names include Smokey Robinson, Eli Young Band, Kool & The Gang, and Bret Michaels.

The acquisition of top musical acts has garnered the Nation much attention and a larger Festival. All subsequent Festivals must now be bigger and better than previous celebrations.

The increased awareness of



Parade • Art Festival • Cultural Exhibitions • Live Entertainment • INFR Tour Rodeo • Sports Tournaments • 5k Run

Fourth Weekend in June • Muscogee (Creek) Nation Claude Cox Omniplex



MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TOURISM & RECREATION | 918.732.7992 | [CreekTourism.com](http://CreekTourism.com) | [CreekFestival.com](http://CreekFestival.com)

the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival has also heightened participation and attendance of all other events including a momentous celebration of traditional Muscogee culture to open the Festival each year. Everyone is welcome to attend and immerse themselves into a small part of traditional Muscogee culture that has been passed on from generation to generation since time immemorial.

**...SOFTBALL tournaments that attract more than 100 teams**

While visiting the Festival, make sure to check out some of the largest sporting events in Oklahoma including fast pitch and slow pitch softball tournaments that attract

more than 100 teams, volleyball, horseshoes, basketball, as well as a tennis tournament, and the second largest All-Indian Rodeo in the U.S.

Everyone enjoys a parade and the Festival Parade is not one to be missed. Each year, since 2012, the Festival parade amasses more than 100 entries. The Parade is always enjoyable to view as it passes in front of the historic Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House.

While some events occur in other locations throughout the Nation, the majority of events are held at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Claude Cox Omplex just north of the City of Okmulgee.

Check the festival website, [CreekFestival.com](http://CreekFestival.com), for a full schedule and list of locations or contact the

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism & Recreation Department for more information, 918.732.7992 or [CreekTourism.com](http://CreekTourism.com).



**E NATION FESTIVAL**

*tiaval*

**ALL EVENTS  
Free  
TO ATTEND**

Jr. Olympics • Children's Activities • Senior Activities • FREE FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

Okmulgee, OK

Muskogee Media

# CEREMONY

The turtle shells, or *locv* /LŌŌ•juh/, are an integral and inseparable part of the traditional Muscogee ceremony, the stomp dance. The shells from female box turtles are filled with pebbles and other trinkets that will make a rattling noise. Each shell is then tied to the removed top of a boot or a piece of leather. Each boot top, being covered in shells, is then strapped to a woman's calves. The women make a stomping motion creating the instrumental music to which the men sing in tune. While the men sing and the women "shake shells," each participant falls in line: male-female-male-female..., forming a circle that spirals in a counter-clockwise motion around a central fire that symbolizes the One Above or Creator. The ceremony represents a restoring of harmony on earth combining masculine and feminine elements acknowledging the One Above from whom all creation flows.

# CREEK

## "CHIEF " SAPULPA

The county seat of Creek County, Sapulpa, is situated approximately twelve miles southwest of Tulsa along Interstate 44. State Highways 33 and 97 and Historic Route 66 also lead travelers to Sapulpa. The town is named for "Chief" James Sapulpa, a full-blood Lower Creek from Alabama, who came to Indian Territory and around 1850 established a trading post about one mile southeast of the present community. In 1886 the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad (later the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway) extended its line from Red Fork to this area. This place became known as Sapulpa Station in honor of Sapulpa, who had befriended railway workers. A post office was established on July 1, 1889, and the town was incorporated on March 31, 1898.

The Euchee Mission Boarding School was built nearby in 1894 to educate Euchee children in the area. The school had two dormitories and a three-room schoolhouse. The

school was improved, enlarged and maintained by appropriations from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. In 1928, it was taken over and supported entirely by federal appropriations under the supervision of the United States Indian Office until its closing in 1947. A marker remains at the site. The land and buildings were sold to the Sapulpa school district for use by the public school system.

## BRISTOW

West of Sapulpa on historic Route 66, lies the historic town of Bristow. Bristow's Main Street, Route 66, is lined with historic buildings and more brick roads than any other town in Oklahoma.

Bristow was the site of Oklahoma's first radio station, KRFU "The Voice of Oklahoma;" which was renamed KVOO and moved to Tulsa in 1927.

The Bristow Indian Community is one of three Muscogee (Creek) chartered communities within the Creek District's boundaries. While the

Bristow, Sapulpa and Kellyville Indian Communities offer a central meeting place for their members, Bristow also owns and operates a smoke shop located just east of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casino Bristow.

## LOCATIONS

Creek Nation Casino Bristow  
121 West Lincoln  
Bristow, OK 74010  
918.367.9168

Bristow Indian Community  
Smoke Shop  
710 South Main Street  
Bristow, OK 74010  
918.367.9448

## RESOURCES

James W. Hubbard. "Sapulpa." Oklahoma Historical Society's Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture (1997). Available: <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/S/SA021.html>

Oklahoma Historical Society Historical Marker #233-1998.

Visit Bristow, OK. 2004. Available: <http://www.visitbristowok.com/funfacts.htm>



# McINTOSH

## FIELDS OF GREEN

Close to home and far from ordinary, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Fountainhead Golf Course is an 18-hole, par 72 course offering oversized bent grass greens, Bermuda grass tees and fairways, water hazards, wide open front 9 and challenging back 9. Well-placed sand bunkers, lake views and watchable wildlife make this course visually appealing yet challenging.

Views of Lake Eufaula provide the backdrop for the 12th hole, a 200-yard par 3. A pond in the front of the sloping green protects the landing area of the signature par 5 ninth hole.

Facilities include a putting green, driving range, and golf shop with cart and club rentals, snacks and drinks. Fountainhead carries major golf brands and is available for tournament outings. Private or group lessons are available with the resident golf professional. An airstrip is conveniently located near the course. Recreation and RV camping are available at nearby Lake Eufaula State Park.





## EUFAULA

While planning a trip to Fountainhead, one must include the town of Eufaula named for a tribal town in Alabama. Along with its historical downtown full of charming shops, Eufaula has a rich history. In 1848, the Methodist Church established the Asbury Manual Training School. After it burned in 1889, students attended the Creek Nation's Eufaula Boarding School for Girls that eventually became a boarding school for all Mvskoke children. The boarding school currently serves as a dormitory for Mvskoke children and its residents attend Eufaula Public Schools.

In 1876, the Indian Journal became the first newspaper published in the Muskogee Nation, IT. The writing style of Mvskoke poet, journalist and humorist Alexander Posey brought the publication national attention during his tenure as editor from 1902 to 1904. Alexander Posey became nationally and internationally known for writing political satire in what became known as the *Fus Fixico Letters*.

## FARMING

After settling in Eufaula, Indian Territory, the Muskogee successfully grew cotton and corn in the rich soil of the river bottoms. Dairy and cattle operations expanded as well.

In 1946, the U.S. Corps of Engineers received congressional funding for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. In 1964, the plans for damming and impounding the Canadian drainage basin concluded with the dedication of Lake Eufaula. Currently the largest capacity lake in Oklahoma, Lake Eufaula serves the purposes of flood control, water supply, and hydroelectric power and as the backdrop for Lake Eufaula State Park.

Farming remains a lucrative business in the McIntosh District. Southwest of the Town of Eufaula, lies the small community of Hanna. The Muskogee (Creek) Nation Office of Interior Affairs operates and maintains Hanna Farms. The 350 acres that is farmed produces wheat, soy beans, watermelons. Hanna Farms also maintains a small garden containing a variety of vegetables.

Also located in the McIntosh District, within the community of Dustin, the Muskogee (Creek) Nation Office of Interior Affairs operates and maintains the Dustin Ranch. The ranch in north and south McIntosh County encompasses an estimated 2700 acres on which more than 450 head of cattle graze.

## HONEY SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD & VISITOR CENTER

The Engagement at Honey Springs (called The Affair at Elk Creek by the Confederates) was the largest of more than 107 documented hostile Civil War encounters in Indian Territory. The engagement took place on a rainy Friday, July 17, 1863 between the 1st Division, Army of the Frontier and the Confederate Indian Brigade.

The historic site is located near Checotah, in the McIntosh District, and offers six walking trails with a total of 55 interpretive signs.

## COMMUNITIES AND CASINOS

The McIntosh District is home to four Muskogee (Creek) Chartered communities. The Checotah, Eufaula, Hanna, and Yardeka Indian Communities serve as central gathering places for their members. The Checotah and Eufaula Indian Community both operate smoke shops as economic development for their

respective communities.

Muskogee (Creek) Nation Casinos in Eufaula (recently having undergone a \$1.2 million renovation) and Checotah are two exciting entertainment destinations in the McIntosh District.

## LOCATIONS

Fountainhead Golf Course  
Hwy 150  
Checotah, OK 74426  
918.689.3209  
FountainheadGolf.com

Creek Nation Casino Checotah  
830 North Broadway  
Checotah, OK 74426  
918.473.5200

Creek Nation Casino Eufaula  
806 West Forest Avenue  
Eufaula, OK 74432  
918.689.9191

Checotah Indian Community  
Smoke Shop  
998 Maple Street  
Checotah, OK 74426  
918.473.2801

Eufaula Indian Community  
Smoke Shop  
702 West Forest Avenue  
Eufaula, OK 74432  
918.689.9570

Honey Springs Battlefield & Visitor Center  
1863 Honey Springs Battlefield Road  
Checotah, OK 74426  
918.473.5572  
[okhistory.org/sites/honeysprings](http://okhistory.org/sites/honeysprings)

## RESOURCES

John C. Harkey and Mary C. Harkey. "Eufaula." Oklahoma Historical Society's Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture. Available: <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/E/EU001.html>



# NIGHTFALL

As evening splendors fade  
From yonder sky afar,  
The Night pins on her dark  
Robe with a large bright star,  
And the new moon hangs like  
A high-thrown scimitar.  
Vague in the mystic room  
This side the paling west,  
The Tulledegas loom  
In an eternal rest,  
And one by one the lamps are lit  
In the dome of the Infinite.  
—Alexander Lawrence Posey

ALEXANDER LAWRENCE POSEY, 1873-1908

Oklahoma Historical Society

# CHARTERED COMMUNITIES

A chartered Muscogee (Creek) community is legal entity separate and distinct from its members, has a geographic limit, is created by and existing only in contemplation of the laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and is recognized by a Charter issued by the Principal Chief on behalf of the Nation. This means that a chartered Muscogee (Creek) community should be recognized by the courts as a legal person and a business entity that can sue and be sued, manage its own affairs, own and sell property, borrow and loan money, enter into contracts, and carry on business operations.

Chartered communities are created to carry on operations of special interest to their members. They become chartered to supply themselves with more services than surrounding governments are willing or able to supply and they are

chartered to give themselves closer control of such services. Thus, a Muscogee (Creek) community is formed to provide something special for its members, something over and above what the tribe, other governments and special agencies are supplying. The process of becoming chartered begins when a certain proportion of the residents adopt and submit a community constitution and by-laws to the central government of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The basic government structure and the basic powers of each community are set forth in the community constitution and by-laws. Every community is a creature of the tribe. Although the communities are created at the request of their inhabitants to serve their special wants and needs, chartered communities are created by tribal power and may not do anything that the tribe prohibits. Much of

what the tribe will allow should be written in the community constitution and by-laws.

A charter is the stamp of approval of the community constitution and by-laws. It can be viewed as a written grant of specified rights and/or as a contract (dual sovereignty) between the local chartered community and the central tribal government. The Muscogee (Creek) National Council adopted National Council Amendment (NCA) 83-11, which established the procedures and authority for creating a Creek community.

## RESOURCES

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research & Development  
918.732.7963  
MCN-nsn.gov



# MUSKOGEE

## INDIAN CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

Following the Civil War, the Five Civilized Tribes signed new treaties with the federal government. In these, they gave up western lands and agreed to allow railroad rights-of-way. In 1871, the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway (MK&T) crossed Indian Territory, paralleling the route of the Texas Road. Reaching the Three Forks area in fall 1871, the depot was known as Muskogee Station. In 1872, the town of Muskogee (originally spelled Muscogee) developed around this depot.

In 1874, federal officials consolidated the agencies to the Five Civilized Tribes into one, Union Agency, and located it in the Creek Nation just west of Muskogee. This decision solidified Muskogee as the center of federal activity in Indian Territory.

In 1894, the Dawes Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes established its headquarters at Muskogee. The commission undertook the tasks of negotiating new treaties, enrolling tribal members, and

assigning individual land allotments.

## THE CONVERGENCE OF FIVE

The Union Agency building was the first to be built by the United States Government to house the Superintendents of the Five Civilized Tribes. Until this point, each tribe had their own Agency, except for the Chickasaws and Choctaws who shared one at Boggy Depot.

A fact which is scarcely known is that the term “Five Civilized Tribes” does not officially appear in history until one year after the opening of this consolidated Indian Union Agency. Upon completion, it was used for the offices and residence of the Indian Agency Superintendent and his family.

The building has also been a school and orphanage for the Creek Freedmen. After World War I, it began a new life as “The Chateau” where area residents came to listen and dance to live bands. After World War II, the building fell into disrepair; however, through the efforts of the Da-Co-Tah Club, the building was preserved and opened its doors as the

Five Civilized Tribes Museum on April 26, 1966. The Five Civilized Tribes Museum is dedicated to preserving the art, history and culture of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muskogee (Creek) and Seminole tribes.

## BACONE COLLEGE

Bacone College is Oklahoma's oldest continuing center of higher education and began, in 1880, as a school in the Cherokee Baptist Mission at Tahlequah, Indian Territory.

Upon the increase of enrollment and a need to expand arose, an appeal was made to the Creek Tribal Council for 160 acres of land in Muskogee. The land was granted, and in 1885 Indian University was moved to its present site on the east side of the City of Muskogee. In 1910, it was renamed Bacone Indian University after its founder and first president and was later changed to Bacone College.

Throughout its history, the College has attracted Indian and non-Indian students. Bacone attempts to prepare students to function in the mainstream of society, without losing their culture and heritage.

The campus contains many reminders of Bacone's history, tradition, and goals. One of these is the historic Ataloa Lodge Museum. The museum offers one of the finest collections of American Indian art and life-ways in the United States. In addition to its community presence, Ataloa Lodge Museum is active in educational outreach emphasizing American Indian/Alaskan Native culture.



FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES MUSEUM | MUSKOGEE



CREEK NATION TRAVEL PLAZA | MUSKOGEE, OK

Muskogee Media



ATALOA LODGE

ATALOA LODGE

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Muskogee Indian Community is the only Muskogee (Creek) Chartered community in the Muskogee District. The community offers support to their community members and owns and operates a smoke shop that is located in the parking lot of the Creek Nation Casino Muskogee. The casino is an exciting entertainment venue offering the most current gaming technology.

The Muskogee (Creek) Nation Travel Plaza, Muskogee location, located near the main entrance of the Creek Nation Casino Muskogee, offers convenient amenities, fuel and hot foods.



CREEK NATION CASINO MUSKOGEE | MUSKOGEE, OK

Creek Nation Casino Muskogee

**LOCATIONS**

Five Civilized Tribes Museum  
 1101 Honor Heights Drive  
 Muskogee, OK 74401 | 918.683.1701  
 FiveTribes.org

Bacone College/Ataloa Lodge  
 2299 Old Bacone Road  
 Muskogee, OK 74403  
 918.683.4581/918.781.7283  
 Bacone.edu

Creek Nation Casino Muskogee  
 3420 West Peak Boulevard  
 Muskogee, OK 74401 | 918.683.1825  
 CreekNationCasino.net

Muskogee (Creek) Nation Travel Plaza  
 3420 1/2 West Peak Boulevard  
 Muskogee, OK 74401 | 918.781.2350

Muskogee Indian Community Smokeshop  
 3400 West Peak Boulevard  
 Muskogee, OK 74401 | 918.687.8922

**RESOURCES**

- Wallace F. Waits, Jr. "Muskogee." Oklahoma Historical Society's Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture. Available: <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/m/mu020.html>
- Bacon College. About Bacone College. Available: <http://www.bacone.edu/about/>
- Bacone College. The Ataloa Lodge Museum. Available: <http://ataloa.bacone.edu>

# WAGONER

## TRIBAL TOWN IN THE NEW NATION

After the removal from the southeastern U.S., Muscogee people began to rebuild their towns in eastern portions of what is now Wagoner county. The far western portion of present Wagoner County belonged to the Cherokee Nation, which attained the land in 1828 in exchange for their land in Arkansas. These first Western Cherokee were joined by their eastern counterparts after the 1835 Treaty of New Echota, which sold the remainder of their land in southeastern United States.

In 1843, the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions founded Koweta Mission, one mile east of present Coweta. Among the earliest educational institutions in the present county was the Tullahassee Mission, opened in 1850 for Creek students. At three stories in height, the main building was one of the tallest in Indian Territory. In 1881, the school was given to the Creek freedmen (former slaves within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation).

During the Civil War, the present county was the scene of

one fight, known as the Hay Camp Action, or the Battle of Flat Rock. In September 1864, Confederate troops led by Brig. Gen. Stand Watie and Brig. Gen. Richard Gano attacked Union troops who were cutting hay, capturing eighty-five and killing more. The Southern soldiers then burned the hay along with the harvesting equipment. Confederates also housed troops on the Koweta and Tullahassee school campuses and camped at Choska and Concharty, both Muscogee tribal towns rebuilt post removal.

In 1905, it was proposed that present Wagoner County would be included in the state of Sequoyah. The proposal would have divided the area into two counties, with the western portion named Coweta and the eastern called Tumechichee. Instead, in 1907, it was incorporated into one unit when Oklahoma became a state and the county retained the Wagoner moniker.

## MUSCOGEE PRESENCE REMAINS

A joint venture between Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Indian

Health Services, the Koweta Indian Health Center opened its doors in 2006. The health center is 58,903 square feet and is currently staffed with 108 employees. There are 20 exam rooms in Primary Care and 16 operatories in Dental. Services available include: Primary Care, Pediatrics, Contract Health Services, Dental Care, Optometry, Audiology, Physical Therapy, Radiology, CT, Mammography, Ultrasound, Laboratory, Diabetes Prevention & Education, and Pharmacy Mail Order Service, Behavioral Health, WIC Program, and Community Health Representative Service.

Also located in the City of Koweta, the Koweta Indian Community operates under a charter granted from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Community offers a central gathering place and social service programs for their members and owns and operates a smoke shop.

## LOCATIONS

Koweta Indian Health Center  
31870 East Highway 51  
Coweta, OK 74429  
918.279.3200  
CreekHealth.org

Koweta Indian Community  
Smoke Shop  
13751 South State Hwy 51  
Coweta, OK 74429  
918.486.4948

## RESOURCES

Liz McMahan. "Wagoner County." Oklahoma Historical Society's Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture. Available: <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/w/wa003.html>

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health. Koweta Indian Health Facility. Available: <http://creekhealth.org/index.php/facilities/health-centers/koweta>



KOWETA INDIAN HEALTH CENTER

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Public Relations

# *Mvskoke punayēs.*

## WE SPEAK MVSKOKE.

*a c e f h i k l m n o p r s t u v w y*

Four hundred years ago, a single language was shared among a large number of towns in Alabama and Georgia. It was the most widely spoken language in the region, used for diplomacy, medicine, and personal names even in towns where other languages were used for everyday speech. The language the townspeople shared came to be known as the language of the *Mvskoke* people. English settlers later called it Creek. Today the English words Creek and Muskogee are used interchangeably by some, though the term Creek is still better known. Others retain usage in which Creek is a slightly broader in scope than *Mvskoke*, possibly referring to dialects spoken by Seminoles. Creek is a member of the Muskogean language family indigenous to the southeastern U.S. Other languages belonging to the Muskogean family include the languages of the Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole people.

The *Mvskoke* language, in written form, uses the letters of the English alphabet. Through the work of many missionaries, the alphabet of the Creek language was adopted by many interpreters and chiefs of the Nation in 1853. The sound given to most of the letters are very different from their English counterparts and are distinctly *Mvskoke*.

The Muskogee (Creek) Nation Language Preservation Program works to promote and protect the *Mvskoke* language. The program produces resources and provides language teachers to communities and schools throughout the Nation to increase use of the language. 918.732.7724

### COMMON PHRASES

Hello! (All is well!)	<i>Hesci!</i> /hĭs•JĀ/ ( <i>Heres ci/Her'sci</i> )
How are you?	<i>(E)stonko?</i> /(i)•STŌN•gō/
Very good.	<i>Heremahe!</i> /hĭ•thlē•MAH•hē/
And you?	<i>Centv?</i> /JĪN•dū/
What is your name?	<i>Naket cehocefkvte?</i> /NAH•gīt jē•hō•JĪF•gū•dē/
My name is ____.	<i>cvhocefkvtos.</i> /jū•hō•JĪF•gūt•ōs/
Thank you.	<i>Mvto.</i> /mū•DŌ/
I will see you again.	<i>Hvtvm cehecares.</i> /hū•DŪM jē•hē•JAH•thlē/
Come! (said to 3 or more)	<i>Awepvks!</i> /ah•WĒ•būks/

### RESOURCES

Martin, Jack B. and Margaret McKane Mauldin.  
*A Dictionary of Creek/Muskogee.*

# OKFUSKEE

The Okfuskee District encompasses Okfuskee County and a small portion of Seminole County. While English speakers pronounce the district with a long "O," Mvskoke speakers pronounce it akfvske /ahk•FŪ•skē/ originally referring to a promontory in the homelands. Within the boundaries of the Okfuskee District of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation are four chartered Muscogee (Creek) Communities: Okemah, Weleetka, Okfuskee, Cromwell. While all offer a central gathering place and social service programs for their members, Okemah Indian Community also owns and operates a smoke shop.

Entertainment can be found at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casino Okemah, owned by the Nation and operated by the MCN Office of Public Gaming. The Okemah casino offers the most up-to-date gaming available.

Also within the Okfuskee District, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation operates the Okemah Community Hospital. On November 4, 1977, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation signed a Sub-Lease agreement and an Operation and Maintenance agreement with the Trustees of the Okfuskee Memorial Hospital Authority and the Okfuskee County Commissioners to occupy and operate the former Okfuskee County Hospital in Okemah on a thirty-year lease purchase. That facility is now the Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah, Oklahoma.

## THLOPTHLOCCO TRIBAL TOWN

Located within the Okfuskee District, a Muscogee tribal town maintains its identity and exercises its federal government-granted sovereignty.

The Thlopthlocco (rvprakko /thlahp•THLAHK•gō/) Tribal Town was formed toward the end of the eighteenth century and was an upper Creek town of the old Creek Confederacy that

was situated in Alabama and Georgia. Thlopthlocco Tribal Town was one of the more than 40 Creek tribal towns that immigrated to Indian Territory after the famous Removal Treaty of March 24, 1832 was signed. Thlopthlocco translates as "Tall Cane" or "Big Reed" and was situated in the vicinity of a stream on which there was an abundance of cane or reed from which blow guns were made.

After removal, members of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town settled along the north fork of the North Canadian River between Wetumka (uetvmkv / wē•DŪM•gū/-flying water) and Okemah, Oklahoma. The Town was one of the most western settlements of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

After the passage of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act in 1936, the U.S. federal government offered each of the Muscogee (Creek) tribal towns the opportunity to enroll as an individual tribe. Of more than 40 towns, only three accepted: Thlopthlocco, Alabama-Quassarte, Kialegee.

In 1938, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town ratified its constitution and bylaws and, in 1939, ratified its federal charter of incorporation. In 1941, the Secretary of the Interior placed 1900 acres of land in trust for the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town for its exclusive use and benefit.

Presently, the Town owns 2,330 acres of land in Okfuskee and Hughes Counties Oklahoma, consisting of trust and fee simple lands. The Tribal Town's headquarters are located near Interstate-40 Exit 227 near Okemah. The Town's casino enterprise, Golden Pony Casino, is also headquartered there.

## LOCATIONS

Okemah Indian Community Smoke Shop  
1100 South Woody Guthrie Street  
Okemah, OK 74859  
918.623.2519

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casino Okemah  
1100 South Woody Guthrie Street  
Okemah, OK 74859  
918.623.0051

Okemah Community Hospital  
309 North 14th Street  
Okemah, OK 74859  
918.623.1424  
CreekHealth.org

Golden Pony Casino  
109095 Okemah Street  
Okemah, OK 74859  
918.560.6199  
GoldenPonyCasino.com

## RESOURCES

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health. About the Health System. Available: <http://creekhealth.org/index.php/component/content/article?id=75>

Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. About. Available: <http://tttown.org/about.html>





# TUKVPTCE

The Tukvptce /too•kū•BŪT•jē/ District encompasses Hughes County. Within the boundaries of the Tukvptce District of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation are three chartered Muscogee (Creek) Communities: Dustin, Wetumka, Holdenville. While all offer a central gathering place and social service programs for their members, Wetumka and Holdenville also own and operate smoke shops.

Entertainment can be found at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casino Holdenville, owned by the Nation and operated by the MCN Office of Public Gaming. The Holdenville Casino offers a recently renovated venue and the most up-to-date gaming available.

## ALABAMA-QUASSARTE TRIBAL TOWN

The Alabama and the Quassarte entered documentary history in the colonial period as two closely related tribes living north of present Mobile, Alabama. The Quassarte have also lent their name to history, either in the form "Quassarte" or as Koasati, Coosauda, Coushatta, and many other spellings. The languages are closely related within the Muskogean family.

After a brief confrontation with the French in the early eighteenth century, the Alabama and Quassarte became their allies and trading partners. Once the

French withdrew from North America in 1763, the two tribes became firm members of the Creek Confederacy. At that time, the Alabama and Quassarte constituted six to eight towns.

With further encroachments by the Americans and the threat of removal in the early nineteenth century, the two tribes began to migrate west, town by town. One group, predominantly Alabama, ended up with a reservation near Livingston, Texas, while other bands and families settled in central Louisiana. Those remaining with the Creeks were removed to Indian Territory in 1835. They came to live in the area between Weleetka and Wetumka, Oklahoma, near the juncture of the Canadian and North Canadian rivers.

Like other members of the Creek Confederacy, the Alabama-Quassarte were allotted individual parcels of land under the Dawes Act, beginning in 1899. The Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town accepted separate federal recognition under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act in 1936.

The Tribal Town currently offers assistance and support to tribal members from a central location in Wetumka, Oklahoma.

## KIALEGEE TRIBAL TOWN

Kialegee emerged as an independent town from the larger Creek town, Tuckabatchee, located in what is now the state of Alabama. Recognized by the federal government as an independent nation, leaders from Kialegee signed a peace treaty with the United States on June 29, 1796.

In 1813, U.S. troops burned the town after the Kialegee townspeople allied themselves with the Red Stick faction of the Muscogee People.

In 1814, 1818, 1825, and 1826, Kialegee representatives signed treaties with the United States in hopes of retaining their security and homelands. Inevitably, in 1835, 166 families of Kialegee were forced to relocate to Indian Territory under the Indian Removal Act.

The tribal town settled south of what would become Henryetta, Oklahoma. They maintained a ceremonial ground there until 1912 when their fire was extinguished.

After the passage of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936, the tribe ratified its constitution and by-laws on June 12, 1941. The sovereign Tribal Town currently operates from its headquarters located in Wetumka, Oklahoma.

## LOCATIONS

Wetumka Indian Community Smoke Shop  
123 Oklahoma 9  
Wetumka, OK 74883  
405.452.5773

Holdenville Indian Community  
Smoke Shop  
224 East Poplar Street  
Holdenville, OK 74848  
405.379.3882

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casino  
Holdenville  
211 East Willow Street  
Holdenville, OK 74848  
405.379.3323

## RESOURCES

John H. Moore. "Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town." Oklahoma Historical Society's Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History & Culture. Available: <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/A/AL001.html>

John H. Moore. "Kialegee Tribal Town." Oklahoma Historical Society's Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History & Culture. Available: <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/K/K1001.html>



# PWNKW

BUN·GU / DANCE

ABOUT

In March 2014, a delegation of more than 200 Muscogee (Creek) citizens from Oklahoma traveled to the Horseshoe Bend National Military Park near Alexander City, Alabama to remember and mourn the more than 800 Muscogee lives lost on March 27, 1814 during the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

MCNTR

STOMP DANCE AT HORSESHOE BEND NATIONAL MILITARY PARK | AL

## *Osafke* /ō•SAHF•gē/ A MVSKOKE DELICACY

Shell good, clean and dried flint corn scraped from the cob; enough to have a peck or more of the shelled grain to prepare sofkey for several meals. Cover the shelled corn with cool water and soak over night.

Pound the soaked corn, or a portion, lightly in a wooden mortar enough to break the grains in half. Place the pounded corn in a fanner, and clean out the hulls. Put the clean, broken grain into a large vessel, cover with water and boil until thoroughly cooked. Add water, if necessary, to keep the hominy in a loose fluid. When it is cooked thoroughly, add ash-lye solution in the proportion of a cupful to a gallon of the boiling hominy, stirring it regularly for it will scorch easily. Boil the hominy with the ash-lye solution for at least another half hour and pour it into a stone jar to keep and serve. The Creek informant for this method of making sofkey added an old saying, "As long as the Indian can eat and drink *osafki*, he will not go dead."

### RESOURCES

Muriel H. Wright. "American Indian Corn Dishes." *Chronicles of Oklahoma* (1957). Based on a manuscript of penciled notes written by Charles Gibson (Creek), of Eufaula, in 1918, sent to Dr. Joseph B. Thobum.



## THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

TOURISM & RECREATION  
P.O. BOX 580 | OKMULGEE, OK 74447  
T 918.732.7992 | F 918.732.7994

### QUICK FACTS

- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation operates as a self-determined visionary government, designing, developing, and managing an advanced service system for its Citizens and Communities, while maintaining the traditions, culture, and respect of the Muscogee people.
- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation 1974 Constitution, ratified 1979, continued the 1867 constitutional organization of the executive (Principal Chief & Second Chief), legislative (National Council), and judicial (District Court & Supreme Courts) branches of the government, with distinct separation of power among the three.
- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex, located in Okmulgee, Okla., serves as the seat of tribal government and houses the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches as well as many support services essential to the function of tribal government.
- The Nation operates a \$290 million budget, employs more than 4,000 people, and provides vital services to its citizens such as health care, housing assistance, education assistance, job training and placement, social services, and operates many other programs including culture and language preservation.
- The official name of the tribe, as noted in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The word *Creek* should always appear in parenthesis. It is not a translation of *Muscogee*. It is, essentially, a pseudonym by which the tribe has become known to the general public.
- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation was forcibly relocated to Indian Territory (Oklahoma) from its original ancestral lands in Georgia and Alabama beginning with the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Removal was complete in 1837.
- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Jurisdictional area is comprised of 11 counties in east central Oklahoma either whole or in part. This area is divided into 8 districts for election purposes. These districts are Creek, Tulsa, Wagoner (Wagoner, Rogers, Mayes Counties), Okfuskee (Okfuskee and Seminole Counties), Okmulgee, Muskogee, Tukvpytce (Hughes County), and McIntosh.
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation is the fourth largest tribe in the United States and the third largest in the state of Oklahoma.
- Today, there are more than 80,000 enrolled Muscogee (Creek) Citizens. (Numbers change daily.)  
Citizens living in Oklahoma: 46,000 +  
Citizens living outside Oklahoma: 34,000 +
- To be eligible for Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship, one must be Muscogee (Creek) by blood and trace back to a direct ancestor listed on the 1906 Dawes Roll by issuance of birth and/or death certificates.  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board 918.732.7941
- Enrolled citizens, 18 years of age and above, are eligible and encouraged to register to vote in Muscogee (Creek) Nation Elections. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board 918.732.7631
- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation owns and operates nine casinos within its jurisdictional boundaries.
- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation provided \$8.5 million (gaming funds), in FY 16, to the state of Oklahoma through the Oklahoma State-Tribal Gaming Act. *Oklahoma Gaming Compliance Unit Annual Report FY 2016. www.ok.gov.*
- The traditional language of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is Mvskoke /mũ•SKŌ•gê/.



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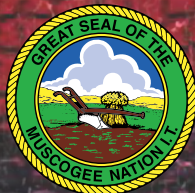
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