

OKLAHOMA  
TERRITORY

# TERRITORIAL TALES

Bits of  
History  
Before  
Statehood

INDIAN  
TERRITORY

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## *1843 Intertribal Council Met to Establish Peace*

In 1843, a great intertribal council was called by the Cherokees to meet at Tahlequah, Indian Territory. Historian Muriel Wright described the meeting place as a cluster of about 30 cabins surrounding a central square, which was used each year by the Cherokee Legislature.

Representatives of 23 tribes gathered in June for this council and Cherokees spent \$250 a day for beef and other food for the 3,000 participants and guests.

When a large horn was blown to call the meetings into session, each speaker delivered his address in his native language, which was then interpreted into English. Tribal leaders translated the message from English into languages of each Indian tribe.

Attire of delegates reflected every stage of the Indians, ranging from hunting shirts and moccasins to colorful shawls, sashes, handkerchiefs and blankets.

Chief John Ross of the Cherokees said the tribes had been invited to the council to establish peace and friendship.

Chief Roley McIntosh of the Creeks appealed to the Indian sentiment by saying, "Brothers, our fires are all behind. They were kindled in the East but now have been driven to the West, and have renewed our fires." He said he wished their children might all walk in paths of peace.

Many other speeches were made, none more eloquent or patriotic than that of an old Osage chief who limped to the center of the circle and pointed to the flag of the United States waving above the meeting. He said: "When I come out of my lodge and look upon that flag — that wipes out all past stains."