

Tribes Sought Recognition

The five civilized tribes of Indians transferred from their homelands into Indian Territory in the 1800s considered themselves to be independent nations just as much as smaller nations of the world today. So did some of the other 63 tribes who were moved here.

The Indians argued that the United States should recognize them as nations, because they made treaties with them. As they settled in Indian Territory the tribes set up national capitals.

The capital of the Choctaw Nation was Tuskahoma, meaning "Red Warrior." It is near Clayton Lake in Northern Pushmataha County. Tishomingo was the capital of the Chickasaw Nation. The stone capital building is now the Johnson County courthouse.

Tahlequah was the capital of the Cherokee Nation from 1839 until 1907. Its capital building now is the

TERRITORIAL TALES

Bits of
History
Before
Statehood

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Cherokee County courthouse.

The capital of the Creek Nation between 1868 and 1907 was Okmulgee. The Creek Council House is now a museum of Creek history.

Wewoka was the capital of the Seminole Nation. The frame building that served as its capital is no longer standing.

Although these five nations have been merged into the state of Oklahoma, the tribes continue to elect chiefs and other officials who represent their interests in dealing with the government. They also lead in perpetuating tribal history and customs.