

OKLAHOMA
TERRITORY

TERRITORIAL TALES

Bits of
History
Before
Statehood

INDIAN
TERRITORY

JUL 27 1982

Chief's Faith Delayed Talks

Samuel Checote, who belonged to the Lower Creek or McIntosh Party of the Creek Nation, served as principal chief during the 1880s. On one occasion, the chairman of a government commission notified him and leaders of the rival party to attend a council meeting on a Monday.

At the appointed hour, practically all of the leaders were present except Col. Checote, who did not arrive for another 24 hours. This annoyed members of the commission.

When Checote arrived, he made a courteous and dignified apology for his tardiness. He had been for many years a Methodist minister and he said he could not have arrived on the appointed hour except by riding on the Sabbath.

This, he said, would have been contrary to teachings of his church and faith. Much as he disliked to disobey mandates of the great government of the United States, such was his regard for the precepts and example of Christ, whose humble follower he was, that he felt constrained to postpone his start until after the Sabbath.

Gen. Fisk, who headed the commission, at once assured Checote that he had done right in following the dictates of his conscience and added that he never again would make a business appointment that would cause anyone to travel on the Sabbath contrary to his beliefs and wishes.