

Sequoyah State Proposed

The Curtis Act of 1898 provided that the governments of the five civilized tribes in the Indian Territory should end within eight years. Since each of the tribes considered itself to be an independent nation the act stirred substantial reaction.

A call for an inter-tribal convention to be Aug. 21, 1905, at Muskogee was issued by Principal Chiefs W.C. Rogers of the Cherokee Nation; Green McCurtain of the Choctaw Nation; Pleasant Porter of the Creek Nation and John F. Brown of the

Bits of
History
Before
Statehood

Seminole Nation, according to Muriel H. Wright's "The Story of Oklahoma."

Porter was chosen president of the convention, and the Creek poet Alexander Posey was elected secretary.

The purpose of the convention was to frame a constitution for a new state and to secure "separate statehood" for Indian Territory. Out of 182 delegates elected by the tribes, 150 attended.

A constitution was framed for the new state, which was to be

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called "Sequoyah." It was submitted to a vote of the people and adopted, but the turnout for voting was very light. This was taken as an indication of relatively light interest in this approach.

Leaders continued to push for legislation by Congress that would have authorized procedures for creating the state of Sequoyah and the official report of the Muskogee convention was given to appropriate committees in Congress. But it was never approved.