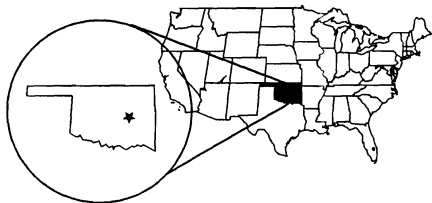


MUSKOGEE (OR CREEK)



The Muskogee are the largest band of the Creek Indian nation. They were one of the “Five Civilized Tribes” uprooted from their southeastern home by President Andrew Jackson (ENAT, 74-76). In Oklahoma, following initial hardships and deprivation, the Creek nation has thrived. The

tribe currently controls a small Tribal Historic Area in Oklahoma.

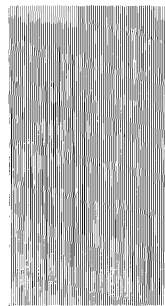
The Muskogee use a white flag (*Retrospect*, Creek Communications Department, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, 1983) bearing the latest rendition of the tribal seal (Annin & Co.). This seal dates to the 19th century and has varied with changes in artistic styles.

It has always depicted a traditional plow and sheaf of wheat, which appear in full color on the flag and refer to the agricultural base of the tribe since reaching Indian Territory in the 1830s (FBUS, 259). The latest version adds a large billowy red cloud, possibly alluding to the “Dust Bowl” hardships of the 1930s, edged in white on a blue sky.



This flag of the Muskogee Nation is nearly identical to one created by the Alabama Department of History in 1940 for the dedication of the Hall of Flags in Montgomery. At the time, the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma—the Muskogee, the Seminole, the Choctaw, the Cherokee, and the Chickasaw—were without flags, but as former residents of modern Alabama, they were included in the grand opening. To permit the participation of these nations in the ceremonies, special banners were created for the five tribes. Each was white and bore a full-color tribal seal in the center. The continued use of that design may be traced back to that event (“Official Seals of the Five Civilized Tribes”, *The Oklahoma Chronicles*, XVII:4, Oklahoma City, Dec. 1940, pp. 357- 359).

Almost 150 years ago the Muskogee (Creek) flew another flag, also presented to them. The Creek nation was given a flag by Miss Alice Leeper, daughter of the Confederate agent to the Creek and other tribes [*True Democrat*, Little Rock, AR, 29 Aug. 1861]. The Confederate Indian Commissioner, Albert Pike, reported from the Wichita Agency on his mission to the Indians, calling the devices “new and appropriate”, and describing the flag of the Creek as “a crescent and red star in a green union and upright bars of red and white for the Creeks”. (The Confederate States of America apparently created flags for each of its allies in the Five Civilized Nations [see Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, and Seminole of Oklahoma]). 🇵🇸



[Thanks to the Flag Research Center for information concerning the 1940 flags of the “Five Civilized Tribes”.]