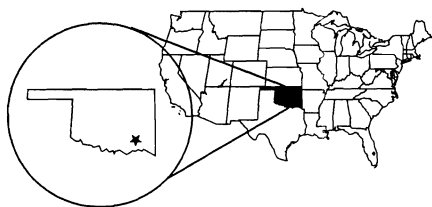


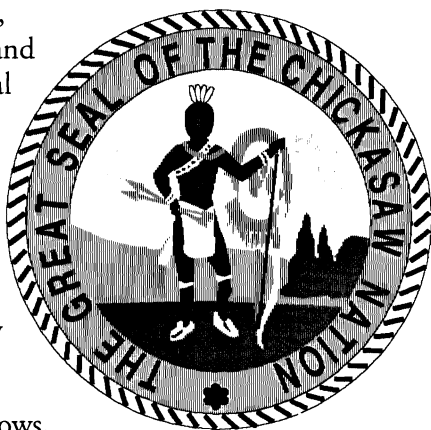
CHICKASAW



The Chickasaw Nation, one of the five “civilized” nations of Oklahoma, was constituted on 4 March 1856, after its forced removal from the banks of the Mississippi (ENAT, 53-54). Its constitution was adopted 16 August 1867 and its tribal seal designed in 1907 (FBUS, 255-

256). The original capital, Tishomingo, was named for the last great war chief of the Chickasaw. An image of Tishomingo dominates the tribal seal and the flag.

The Chickasaw flag is indigo and bears a full-color representation of the seal of the nation (sample flag provided by the Chickasaw Nation, Tishomingo, Oklahoma). The orange (or gold) and light purple bands encircling the seal symbolize the purity and honor of the Chickasaw people. The warrior, besides depicting the beloved Tishomingo, stands for all Chickasaw (*The Great Seal of the Chickasaw Nation*, undated, unsigned letter from The Chickasaw Nation Headquarters).



Chief Tishomingo carries two arrows, which stand for the two historical divisions of the Chickasaw, the forest dwellers and the town dwellers. The chief wears four head feathers, representing the four prime directions of the compass. The bow, traditionally made of hickory, symbolizes the hunting prowess of the Chickasaw warrior and his willingness to defend his people. The quiver, made of deerskin and decorated with white fur, reinforces the same ideals. Stretching across Chief Tishomingo's shoulder is a warrior's mantle, traditionally made of swan feathers. His deerskin shield symbolizes the protection Chickasaw warriors offer their people. The deerskin

kneestraps represent the fleetness of the Chickasaw warrior (*NAVA News*, Mar./Apr. 1989, 6).

The river in the background recalls the Mississippi, a Chickasaw word meaning “without source”. The foliage represents the flora found along the Mississippi, the ancient homeland of the Chickasaw.

Although the Chickasaw have lived in Oklahoma for almost 150 years, their hearts still lie along the banks of the Mississippi. Their tribal seal and therefore their flag recall their days in the east, a time when their heritage blossomed, their history, pride, and glory achieved its zenith, a time that they will not forget.

(The Confederate States of America apparently created flags for each of its allies in the five Civilized Nations; unfortunately the design presented to the Chickasaw nation is not known.) 🍀