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EARLY HISTORY OF THE CREEK INDIANS

James R. Gregory, a citizen of the Creek nation, and now advanced in years, is authority upon early Indian history in the Southwest. In a contribution to the Record he tells of the war of the Creeks with other tribes as follows:

"That portion of the Creek nation lying south and west of the Arkansas river, before the advent of the Creeks, was the common battle ground between the Osages on one side and the allied tribes of the Pawnee, Picts, Kiowas, Comanches and Caddoes on the other side. All this country was Pawnee Pict territory, who are now known as the affiliated tribes of the Wichita agency. In conjunction with their allies, the Comanches and Kiowas, the Osages were driven from the east by the Chickasaws. The Osages in turn defeated and drove out the Pawnee Picts with great slaughter.

"The Pawnee Picts, having formed a strong alliance with the tribes mentioned, were beginning to cut the Osages short and had them driven from beyond the Arkansas river to the Verdigris river swamps and Grand river hills and into the Ozark range. The Conchartry mound was the last fortress the Osages were compelled to relinquish to the Pawnee allies south of the Arkansas river. The Cherokee and Osage war followed, being new foes from the east against the Osages.

"The first settlers of the Creeks came west and began building homes, churches and school houses on lands the Pawnee allies claimed to have recovered as their old ancient homes. Contentions followed. The first Creek killed by these wild allies was named Joe, a member of the Hitchiee town. He was killed within a mile of the present townsite of Muskogee.

"This war party was driven west by a war party of Creeks. It was then that Jerry Cates -- an inter-married white man -- made a remarkable shot at a Pawnee spy disguised as a wolf, who was lying by a point of rocks viewing a passing column of Creek warriors. Jerry's horse began bucking,

and Jerry fired his rifle from the horn of his saddle without aim, killing the Wolf Pawnee at seventy-six yards distance. When the Creeks first met these prairie warriors who circled in open field battalion tactics, covered with snow-white shields, bedecked with war trophies and eagle feathers, they mistrusted the ability of their rifle balls penetrating the shields of these noble wild warriors. On trial, however, they found that these beautiful shields were no defense against a swift half-ounce rifle ball, which gave them great courage.

"The Creek frontiersmen pushed forward far west of other civilized outposts. Such men as Can-cha-tee-matha, Au-kan-teenne-ya, Chola-fek-sel-ko, Long Tiger and Tiger Bone, also the elder brother and uncle of ex-Chief Roley McIntosh and others should be recognized as the pioneers and knights who led the present civilization into this country. Creek blood, drawn by Pawnee arrows and lances, splashed the wild prairie flowers far and near. In sight of Judge N. B. Moore's residence one fell. Just over the succeeding ridge to the west, near the base of the Concharty mountain, Loney Bruner defeated a superior force of the enemy. The rifle

being too slow, the Creeks charged the Pawnee Picts, sword in hand, against the forces of the wild men. In battle royal, worthy of the fame of eastern hills, the enemy was driven away. Loney Bruner is the father of Richard Bruner, now of Coweta. A few miles further on, near Blufford Miller's residence, an entire Creek family was slaughtered. The innocent boys and girls, with the infant child, and both parents whom the writer well knew long years ago, and still remembers the little life flushed cheeks of each as if they were present and speaking, were ruthlessly butchered in their home yard. Just beyond, further west, a band of Eucheas, of the Creek nation, fought a large band of Pawnee Picts in open field fire on Dick Creek prairie, defeating the Pawnees and capturing the war standard of the war chief of the Pawnee Picts.

"On Tiger Creek, now in Oklahoma, during the fall of 1859, Lone Tiger, Tiger Bone and a crippled brother of theirs -- three alone -- fought a war party of Comanches and Pawnee Picts. These three Tiger brothers whipped the Comanches and Pawnee Picts, killing seven of them. Tiger Bone's horse was shot from under him. Other similar contests

extended along the entire western frontiers of the Creek nation, which was advanced out into Old Oklahoma of today, and beyond the parallel of the Cherokee frontier, and in a line with the Seminole and Chickasaw western frontier. These troubles lasted forty years, with Fort Gibson garrisoned with walking pop-guns, followed by Fort Arbuckle with like conditions. The last blood shed was by a Creek lighthorse company under Captain Leslie Haynes, an uncle of S. J. Haynes, now of Okmulgee, and a party of Caddoes in 1866. Then the noble red chief of the Caddoes -- George Washington -- and the illustrious Christian nobleman, Samuel Checotah, then chief of the Creeks, made a permanent peace between the Creeks and the allied tribes that had so long and manfully contested for this land that the United States government had sold to the Creeks. -- Star.