

that we can say that long before the tribes moved here to eastern Oklahoma that they had a system of public education, and it was well on it's way.

They had schools in Georgia, in Tennessee, they had board of education, everything was pretty well under control. So when the main body of the tribe were brought to Oklahoma, they brought these beginnings with them.

In other words, they knew about the schools. They knew about how they should be run and so forth. The first tribe to move west was the Cherokee. With the first group of migrants was a Chieftain by the name of, and I may not be pronouncing it right, ToyaTisKe. He soon returned to Georgia and induced missionaries, this was his first attempt, induced missionaries to come west and carry the burden of education. As a result of his efforts, Reverend Cefus Washington and Alfred Finney founded Dwight Mission and what is now Poke County or Mulberry, Arkansas in the year 1819. After a few years, the school was moved to a spot on Salisaw Creek in the present Sequoyah county in Oklahoma. Dwight was a manual labor boarding school. They used the Lancaster system of instruction, expressed the teachings of the Bible, placed great store in the preaching of the Gospel. According to those reports, the quality of instruction of the school was very high, and would favorably compare to many of the schools that we find today in our modern school systems.

The Cherokees were virtually interested in educating their young people as adequately substantiated by the fact that in 1823, the tribe loaded public funds for the support of their schools. This, however, did not end their endeavor. When in 1839, they made this statement, quote: "morality and knowledge being necessary to this government and preservation of happiness and liberty of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever