

PRINCIPAL CHIEF SAMUEL CHECOTE

From: J. B. Thoburn and M. H. Wright,  
Oklahoma: A History of the State and Its  
People (New York, 1929), p. 876.

The Chairman of the Government Commission (General Fisk) notified the leaders of both parties of the time of the proposed council and especially enjoined that they should be prompt in attendance. It so happened that the day selected for the convening of the council was Monday. At the appointed hour, practically all of the leaders were present with the single exception of Colonel Checote, who was principal chief of the Creek Nation. He did not arrive until twenty-four hours after the time set for the council to convene, which greatly annoyed the members of the government commission, who were anxious to avoid any delay. When he did arrive, Checote, who had been for many years a Methodist minister, made a most courteous and dignified apology for his tardiness. He said he could not have arrived at the council at the appointed hour except by traveling on the Sabbath, which, he said, would have been contrary to the teachings of his church and faith, and, much as he disliked to disobey the