

HARJO, MILLIE

SECOND INTERVIEW.

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~~Billie Byrd,~~
Interviewer,
July 7, 1937.

An Interview With Willie Harjo,
Age 66, Wewogufkee town (tulwa)-
Hanna, Oklahoma.

Back in Georgia long years before the Indians were moved to the Indian Territory, in a wooded place along the Coosa River, some of the Indians of the Muskogee tribe were gathered to form a new and separate tribe. This wooded place along the river was a favorite haven for the crane (Wakko Thakko). It was here that the crane (Wakko Thakko) laid their eggs and multiplied.

The Indians had selected this place for a gathering for the purpose of selecting a name for the new tribe about to be organized. It seemed that a suitable name could not be readily decided on when an old woman spoke up and suggested the name of Wakko Kais meaning Hatching or Laying Place of the Crane. This name was accepted.

After the question of a name for the tribe had been settled, the settlements of the Wakko Kais tribe were along the Coosa River up until the final removal to the Indian Territory. A division occurred in the Wakko Kais tribe during the early days in the Indian Territory.

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It was during a rainy part of the season that the new division of the Wakko Kais were on their way towards the Seminole country which was west of where they had temporarily stopped. In the course of their journey west, this group reached a large stream of water which was too swift and too deep for some to cross, from the rains. Some few successfully crossed and went on their way to find new places to settle in the Seminole country. Those that did not cross the stream resolved to make no further progress to the west but to establish a settlement right where they were.

It was at that time that a selection of a name for the new tribe was made and the name of Wewogufkee was chosen because of the large muddy stream of water along which they first had settled. "Wewogufkee" means Muddy Waters in the Muskogee-Creek language.

For a time the Wewogufkee and Wakko Kais tribes functioned as two and separate tribes but a little later these two tribes wished to unite and become one tribe and that under the name of Wewogufkee. This plan and request was submitted to the chief of the Muskogee-Creek Nation and to other proper leaders. In 1891 this plan was approved and Wakko Kais and

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Wewogufkee became one single tribe or town (tulwa) under the name of Wewogufkee.

The present Wewogufkee busk and ceremonial grounds are located in the vicinity of the original Wewogufkee settlement which was five miles west of the present Hanna in McIntosh County, Oklahoma.

Tokpafka tribe is closely related to the Wewogufkee tribe as it is a part of the small division that occurred from the Wewogufkee tribe.

Wewogufkee, Ochai and Pakantallahasse are near to one another and are and always have been friends, with the Tokpafka tribe included.

The council fire of either one of those tribes is just as one to the members of the tribe. Even in the large match games in the ball games, the best players were chosen from these four tribes and formed as one tribe to participate in the fray.