

PROCTOR, JULY

INTERVIEW.

1436309

## OCHAI TRIBE

An interview with Hully Proctor, age 65,  
Wewogufkee town (tulwa), Hanna, Okla.

Billie Byrd, Field Worker  
Indian-Pioneer History  
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Hotulke Emarthla was the strongest leader of the Ochai tribe and was the spokesman for the tribe. Greenleaf and Fish Pond towns (tulwas) in Okfuskee County are branches of this Ochai tribe. Any information desired by these tribes (tulwas) was obtained from Hotulke Emarthla who rendered decisions and settled any questions that might arise.

Hotulke Emarthla was instrumental in establishing the permanent Ochai busk grounds along the Canadian river, four miles south of the present Hanna, McIntosh County. He placed the traditional council fire on the very spot where the fire is now built for the tribal ceremonies on the present Ochai busk grounds. The fire was placed in a deep hole, about the width of a saucer and the depth of the hole

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was approximately the length of the whole arm from a person's shoulder. The entire members of the tribe was present at the placing of the council fire. After the ceremony had been completed, Hotulke Emarthla said to the members, "My town (tulwa) shall not go any further West, but this marks the end of our journey." As long as Hotulke Emarthla was living, he was known to hold the members of his tribe at the ceremonial grounds for two days before they went to their various homes.

The fire as termed here was brought from the old country and was only the ashes from the old tribal town of the old country which had been sacredly carried through all the hardships of the removal.

A heavy rain occurred soon after the placing of the fire and many of the members declared that the fire was extinguished, but their leader replied, "The fire still stands." With these words he held up his hands so far from the ground to indicate how far up the flames were.

Hotulkee Emarthla's grave is about one mile south of the Ochai busk grounds and is not marked.