

INDEX CARDS

- Towns--Creek
- Town Government--Creek
- Dances--Creek
- Smallpox--Creek Nation
- Medicine Men--Creek
- Churches--Creek Nation

5344 18

LEGEND & STORY FORM
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Billie Byrd

This report made on (date) April 16, 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) Rev. Tingo Frank
2. Address Okemah, Oklahoma
 This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian
 If Indian, give tribe Creek
3. Origin and history of legend or story Told of the one time existence of a sub-town of old Arbeka town (tulwa) then known (the sub-town) as Little Arbeka (Abekochee)
4. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form: Number of sheets attached. 1 sheet in triplicate
3 sheets attached

LITTLE ARBEKA (ABEKOCHEE)

A sub-town (tulwa) of Old Arbeka town (tulwa)
An interview with Rev. Tingo Frank, Creek, 10 miles
west of Okemah, Oklahoma

Billie Byrd, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History S-149
4-16-37

A small group of the members of the Old Arbeka town (Abeka tulwa) settled in a neighborhood where a small sub-town (tulwa) was formed and a ceremonial ground established, Section 15, Township 11 North, Range 8 East, in what is now Seminole County.

When this organization was effected it was because the mother town of Old Arbeka town, southeast of Henryetta, Oklahoma, was a distance that some of the members of this settlement could not easily make. There were no roads or fast travel as of today. The distance being about or over twenty-eight miles east. The members of this sub-town could not always be present at the ceremonies of the Old Arbeka town.

The town chief (tulwa micco) of Old Arbeka did not give his consent for the organization of this sub-town. But the usual procedure and customs were still followed. Sam Lasley, deceased, served in the capacity of the town chief, while John Yarbough, also deceased, was the selected medicine man.

The ceremonial grounds were active until a number of members died during the small pox epidemic. In 1890 a church movement was begun, one-fourth mile northeast of the ceremonial grounds. It was then that members of this settlement began to take interest in the church work and the ceremonial grounds began to recede in the background of their lives.

A certain few of the members of the Arbeka town still live in this vicinity now. The original site of the ceremonial grounds and the first church grounds have long been abandoned. The present church grounds of the Arbeka Methodist church were moved south of the old site, Section 22, Township 11 North, Range 8 East.

Rev. Tingo Frank is a member of the Arbeka town and is now the pastor of the Arbeka Methodist Church.