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Creek Tribal Laws

by

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The creek Indian laws were adopted by the Creek National Council, which composed of representatives from the forty-four tribal towns and the four colored towns of which the Indians were forced to give to their slaves an allotment the same as the Indians. These slaves were and are called Creek freedmen.

Their Legislature consisted of a House of Kings, corresponding to the Senate, and a House of Warriors, corresponding to Congress. One member from each town was elected to serve in the House of Kings. For each hundred Indians in a town, one member was elected to serve in the House of Warriors.

In the House of Kings and Warriors were the Supreme Court and Supreme Justice which passed laws, with the Head Chief as executive. The Head Chief had the sole power to veto any treaty or law. His word was final.

There were six judicial districts in the Creek Nation. Each district was entitled to one Lighthorse captain and five or six privates. Six districts tried the criminal and civil cases. Each District had a district Judge, a prosecuting attorney and a jury of twelve men.

Criminals, guilty of a minor offense the first time, were given fifty lashes; second offense, one hundred lashes; third offense, death by shooting. An Indian murderer was also shot

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unless pardoned by the Chief.

The Lighthorse captain acted as lasher, the criminal was told to stand on tip toe and his hands tied to a pole that was supported by two forked posts. The criminal that was condemned to die was on his honor for thirty days to settle his property. An Indian always returned on the appointed day.

The third offense--Indian criminal or murderer was shot by an Indian Horseman, the Captain gave the command to fire to his privates. Only one of the five privates had a loaded shell, the others were blanks. The Captain was the only person who knew which man fired the gun with the loaded shell.

The criminal was ordered to sit in a chair, with his eyes blindfolded and his hands tied to the back of the chair, and a white piece of paper or cloth was placed over his heart. The horseman would dismount take ten steps backward turn and than shoot.

The six districts were Eufaula, Coweta, Okmulgee, Muskogee, Deep Fork and "ewoka. This old Creek Indian Tribal law was in effect from 1836 to 1899. The Creek Laws were abolished by a treaty of the U. S. Government between 1900 and 1901.