



MINUTES OF THE CHICKASAW CONVENTION  
ASSEMBLED AT TISHOMINGO, OKLAHOMA,  
THEIR OLD CAPITOL, NOVEMBER 11,  
1929.

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Convention opened at 10:30 A. M., Wm. H. Murray presiding as Temporary Chairman.

Enrollment of Chickasaws eligible to vote was proceeded with, and only enrolled Chickasaws and descendants of enrolled Chickasaws over twenty-one years of age were considered eligible to vote.

Convention then proceeded with organization and Ben W. Carter, son of Charles Carter, was elected Permanent Chairman, and Jessie E. Moore, Secretary.

Telegram of greetings was sent to Mrs. James Colbert, in care of Mrs. Michael Conlan, Oklahoma City.

Resolutions by W. H. Murray that Chickasaws keep separate in future, as in past, all official acts as a tribe: Action postponed until later.

Motion by H. H. Burris that Interpreters be appointed, which was passed, and Nelson Wolf and Albert McDonald were appointed as Interpreters. The postponed resolution by W. H. Murray was then given by each Interpreter in Chickasaw language.

Motion by W. H. Murray, that Governor Douglas H. Johnston deliver his message to the Convention; and Governor Johnston requested that as his voice was in bad condition, the message be read by Mr. Cornish, who has been employed by the Chickasaws, and approved by the President and the Secretary of the Interior, to represent them in their suits brought against the United States Government.

Mr. H. H. Burris made a motion that Governor Johnston read the message. After some discussion Mr. Burris withdrew his motion and Mr. Cornish proceeded with the reading of the message.

At 12;45 o'clock, the Chairman suggested that the Convention recess, in order that the Indian people might again, after many years, partake of Pochofa, their old national dish, which had been prepared out in the woods and was waiting.

Motion made by W. H. Murray that before recessing for noon that the Resolution Committee be appointed, in order that anyone having a resolution might submit same to the Convention. Passed.

Mrs. W. T. Ward moved that Chairman appoint Committee of five members.

Neal Johnson made a motion to amend Mrs. Ward's Motion by substituting a committee of ten members. The amended motion was accepted by Mrs. Ward and was passed as amended.

On suggestions from the floor, the Chairman then appointed the ten members of the Resolution Committee as follows:

Resolution Committee

Neal Johnson	Norman
J. F. McKeel	Ada
Forbys Cravatt	Connorville
Dr. T. P. Howell	Davis
A. N. Leecraft	Durant
Walter Colbert	Ardmore
Joe Colbert	Purcell
Robert Inmitichey	Ada
Mrs. W. T. Ward	Oklahoma City
Mrs. Dettie Pickens	Ardmore

After appointment of Committee, Convention recessed for Pachofa 136 to meet at 2:15 P. M.

At 2:15 the Governor resumed reading of his message, both in English and Chickasaw. At the conclusion of the reading of the message in English the Resolution Committee retired and during the interim the message was read in Chickasaw by the Interpreters, and interesting talks were made on Chickasaw history and affairs.

The return of the Resolution Committee to the floor of the Convention was the signal for again taking up the business of the day.

The report of the Resolution Committee was read by A. N. Leecraft, Secretary of the Committee, as follows:

Resolution No. I. Creating a permanent organization to be known as the "Chickasaw Tribal Protective Association", was read and adopted by the Convention. (See Resolution Report #1).

Resolution No. II. Relative to the separation of Chickasaw Tribal interests from that of Choctaw Tribal interests. Approved by the Convention. (See Resolution Report #2).

Resolution No. III. Endorsing Governor Douglas H. Johnston and his administration of affairs of Chickasaw Nation. (See Resolution Report #3).

Motion by A. N. Leecraft that Majority Report of Resolution No. III be adopted--signed by eight members of Resolution Committee.

Motion by Mr. Oscar K. Lowrance to substitute the Minority Report for the Majority Report. After discussion it was agreed to vote on the motion to substitute Minority Report, signed by two members of the Resolution Committee. Time was apportioned for argument to thirty minutes on each side. Walter Colbert opening the argument

for the Minority followed by Robert Immitichey and Forbys Cravatt for the Majority Report in Chickasaw language. J. F. McKeel, A. N. Leecraft, and W. H. Murray also for Majority Report, and argument closed by Neal Johnson for Minority Report. The vote was then taken and Motion of Oscar K. Lowrance for the adoption of Minority Report was lost and Majority Report adopted endorsing Governor Douglas H. Johnston and his administration. Both Majority and Minority Reports were read in English and Chickasaw language.

Resolution No. IV. That the "Chickasaw Tribal Protective Association include all matters and things pertaining to the Tribe and its citizens. That an executive committee of five be chosen by any method Association might approve to be known as "The Executive Committee of the Chickasaw Tribal Protective Association". Read and adopted. (See Resolution Report #4).

Resolution No. V. That a President, Vice-President, and Secretary of the Chickasaw Tribal Protective Association be selected by vote of the members. Read and adopted. (See Resolution Report #5).

Resolution No. VI. The extending to President McCool, the Murray State School of Agriculture, the City of Tishomingo, and the Press, sincere appreciation for their hospitality and many courtesies.

Motion by A. N. Leecraft that the Temporary Chairman Ben W. Carter, and Secretary, Jessie E. Moore, of Chickasaw Tribal Protective Association be made permanent President and Secretary, and that J. F. McKeel be elected Vice-President of Association. Motion carried.

Motion by J. F. McKeel that President of Chickasaw Tribal Protective Association appoint Executive Committee. Motion carried.

Convention adjourned subject to call by President Ben W. Carter or Governor Douglas H. Johnston.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONVENTION OF CITIZENS OF THE  
CHICKASAW NATION, IN SESSION AT TISHOMINGO,  
OKLAHOMA, THE CAPITOL OF THE CHICKASAW  
NATION, ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1929.

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WHEREAS, this convention of citizens of the Chickasaw Nation (full bloods, mixed bloods, and intermarried), assembled from the various counties and communities of the Chickasaw Nation, to receive and consider the report of Hon. Douglas H. Johnston, Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, upon the status of Chickasaw affairs; and of counseling together and deciding what action, if any, should be taken by us, to promote and safeguard tribal interests; and,

WHEREAS, the report of Governor Johnston has been presented, read and interpreted, and has been found to be full and complete, in every particular, dealing as it does, not only with important matters heretofore disposed of; but with matters, of the deepest and most vital importance to us which are now pending and in process of solution;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS MASS MEETING OF CHICKASAWS IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED: THAT,

1. This organization be made permanent under the name of "The Chickasaw Tribal Protective Association" and that all duly enrolled Chickasaws and their descendants twenty-one years or older are eligible to membership. That it may convene at the call of its Executive Committee in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, the Capitol of the Chickasaw Nation, when in the judgment of said "Executive Committee" such meeting is necessary. Meetings may be called elsewhere only when the Governor of the Nation shall approve such call for some place other than Tishomingo.

2. It is the sense of this convention that as a Tribe our official acts should in the future as in the past be separate from the

Choctaws as the best course for the protection of our Tribal property interests. That we join the Choctaws only where the law and Treaty obligations require it, or where the joint or separate interests of either Tribe require joint action. Our property interests have always been in the past best served by such course. For this purpose the Chickasaws gave the Choctaws \$300,000.00 in 1855 for separate Government; and we stand for a continuation of such course, since on many occasions we have been made secure only because of our separate control of our affairs. United we stand for the rights of each other. In the selection of those to represent us we shall ever remain separate and self-governing.

3. We hereby give the administration of Governor Johnston, of Chickasaw tribal affairs, throughout the years he has been Governor and to the present time, our hearty and unqualified approval and endorsement. We hereby testify and proclaim that he has ever and always been loyal and devoted to the best interests of the Chickasaw Nation and people. He has achieved rank and prestige, among the leading men of our state and nation, of which we are proud; and we fully realize that the rank and prestige which he has achieved, has been and will be of great value and use, both at home and in Washington, in bringing about a favorable solution of the great questions and issues that have arisen and are now pending, in connection with our tribal affairs;

That we specially commend him for his successful services in our behalf, in the following matters, many of which have been disposed of and many of which are now pending:

For the defeat of the "Court Claimants" thus enabling our citizens to receive allotments of 320 acres, to give allotments to our minor children, born prior to March 4, 1906, and to receive, from the sale of

surplus and other lands and tribal property, per capita payments of approximately \$26,000,000.00; 110

For defeating every effort of the "Court Claimants" and their attorneys and other citizenship claimants to reopen the citizenship rolls;

For continuing our tribal government, for our protection, by the collection of "tribal taxes", for the full term of eight years, as guaranteed by treaty;

For retaining control and operation of our tribal schools, under tribal law and customs until March 4, 1906, more than six years longer than any one of the other Five Civilized Tribes;

For defeating the efforts of Oklahoma and its counties, to tax Indian lands, in violation of treaty, thus saving the homes and lands of our Indian people from confiscation by taxation;

For his earnest efforts, throughout all the years, to bring about a sale of our coal lands, according to the treaty of 1902, and for finally securing the passage of the act of 1918, providing for their sale;

For defeating, in the Court of Claims, the claims of the heirs of Eli Ayres;

For recovering compensation, from the United States, for the lands allotted Chickasaw Freedmen;

For the defeat of the claims of J. F. McMurray;

For his efforts in presenting and urging our claim against the United States for compensation for the "Leased District" lands;

For securing the passage of the act of Congress continuing for twenty-five years, the restrictions, as to taxation, upon the homesteads



of our restricted Indian people, thus saving their lands and homes from loss to them by taxation;

For securing the passage of the "enabling act" of June 7, 1924, authorizing us to file in the United States Court of Claims, suits upon all claims we may have against the United States, growing out of treaties and laws; and for his actions in directing the filing of such suits, in which the Chickasaws are jointly with the Choctaws suing the United States for the total sum of \$32,901,074.00; and the Chickasaws, alone, are suing for the total sum of \$10,563,504.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we have no definite and specific directions or instructions to give Governor Johnston, as to future conduct of Chickasaw affairs which are now pending. We heartily endorse and approve the course he has pursued, up to this time, and have every confidence that his future actions will, likewise, merit our endorsement and approval. We know of no higher compliment that we could pay to him, nor of any wiser or more useful action that we could take, in our own interests, than to say to him that it is the wish of this convention and of the people whom it represents, that he continue, in the future as in the past, to use his talents and best endeavors in serving us, in connection with all pending and future matters, both at home and at Washington.

4. The jurisdiction of "The Chickasaw Tribal Protective Association" shall extend to and include all matters and things affecting the Tribe and its members as Chickasaw citizens. That a committee of five persons, to be chosen by any method, the Association may approve, shall be selected and known as "The Executive Committee of the Chickasaw Tribal Protective Association", and they shall serve at the pleasure of the Chickasaw Tribal Protective Association.

5. That a president, a secretary, and a vice-president shall be **142** selected by vote of the members, who shall hold office while the association is in session and shall call the first subsequent meeting to order. They may then be re-elected or others elected in their stead.

6. We extend to President McCool, the Murray State School of Agriculture, the City of Tishomingo, and the Press, our sincere appreciation for their whole-souled hospitality and all courtesies extended to this convention.

THESE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED BY THE CHICKASAWS  
IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED AT TISHOMINGO, OKLAHOMA,  
THEIR OLD CAPITOL, NOVEMBER 11th, 1929.

Ben W. Carter  
Chairman of Convention

The following data was sent to Dr. Grant Foreman by Miss Emily R. Torrey, 238 Williams Street, Providence, Rhode Island. Her father, Charles Dotter Torrey, came to Indian Territory in 1856, as a missionary of the A.B.C.F.M.

*J. Lark*  
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Charles Cutler Torrey and his wife, Adelaide Damon Torrey went as missionaries of the American Board to what was then the Indian Territory in the year 1815. They left Boston about the last of October, and travelled by rail via Albany, Syracuse, Detroit, and Kalamazoo to Chicago, visiting friends and relatives along the way. From Chicago they went to Springfield, thence to Alton on the Mississippi, where they took a boat to St. Louis, arriving there on November 10. Two weeks were spent in St. Louis purchasing supplies, covered wagons and horses, and the journey from there on was a slow and difficult one four hundred miles southwest across Missouri, then southward through a part of Arkansas to Fairfield, about forty miles northwest of Van Buren.

This journey is vividly described in letters written at the time to friends in Vermont, and also in Dr. Torrey's recollections of his life, written for his grandchildren.

Of the trip from Chicago to Springfield, Mrs. Torrey gives a picture of railway travel in the early days:

"Friday we left Chicago at 7 in the morning and rode all day till 5 p.m. over the roughest railroad I ever saw travelled, and you know I am getting to be quite a traveller nowadays. The

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cars seemed to jump along so that I often saw passengers thrown several inches from their seats. The cause of its being so rough is that the prairies through which our road for the most part lay are so moist and light a soil that the rails settle badly. Besides the roughness of the road we were often obliged to stop very suddenly to escape being thrown off the track by horses, cows, pigs, sheep, etc."

The following quotations are taken from Mr. Torre's autobiography:

"At St. Louis we met Messrs. Copeland and Lathrop, lay missionaries, and their wives who had been home on a furlough, and were to buy supplies for the Choctaw Mission, --six horses, two covered wagons, a carriage for me and my wife, harnesses, robes, etc. These purchases detained us two weeks in St. Louis very pleasureably passed. Everything at the hotel was first class, except the river water, which looked like dish water, but was not bad to drink after one got used to the milky color. The weather was delightful. The river was full of traffic, and innumerable boats lay along the levee... .."

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"At last on a delightful afternoon more like May than November we started and rode a few miles into the country.... The teachers rode in the wagons, and A--and I in the carriage ..... we reached towns for the night when we could but had to depend largely on the hospitality of the people. Had their help been what we might have expected in New England, we never could have made the journey.

"The fall rains set in very soon, loading our wheels with mud and greatly hindering our progress. A-- began to suffer from the roughness of the roads. One day I had to hold her in my arms and let someone else drive. We came that night by full moonlight to a creek on the other side of which were two cabins, far from any other dwelling. At first they told us that they had no spare room, that we must camp. But being told of A's sickness, they kindly gave up one of the cabins to my wife and me, and the others camped. A-- had a very sick and painful night. I did not try to sleep. I began to fear she would never leave that spot. I shall always remember the enormous sycamores lifting their gaunt branches to the sky and shining white in the moonlight.....

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"We met great droves of Texas cattle on their way to St. Louis. These droves had regular stopping places at farms where corn was raised with special reference to their wants. The cattle were fed from night to night at these stations, and were driven leisurely along, resting occasionally and grazing, and thus gaining flesh all the way. The day after this sick night we met one of these droves as we had often done before. But this time there was a tamed buffalo in with the cattle, at which one of our teams took flight, ran into a tree, and badly damaged one of the wagons, breaking a wheel.

"The missionaries and their wives camped. The two teachers, A-- and I took refuge in a dilapidated cabin. It was a double log cabin, small, made of rough logs with the interstices filled with clay mud. There were chimneys at both ends, but one of the cabins had been abandoned and the chimney had fallen to pieces, leaving only the hearth.... The night was raw and rainy. We supplemented the beds with our blankets and robes. There was no floor but the ground and nothing to sit upon but the rough bedsteads. I started