

COALGATE COURIER

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Editor's name not given.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MOTY TIGER

Guthrie: Moty Tiger, chief of the Creek Indian nation, succeeding the late Chief Pleasant Porter, has received his commission from President Roosevelt making him the authoritative head of the Creeks.

In view of the fact that he will probably be the last chief of the Creeks, much interest attaches to Chief Tiger. Bearing a name which indicates agility and strength, Chief Tiger does not belie his name in appearance. He is straight as an arrow, wears a black beard and has a dignified manner which commands attention at the first glance.

The chief's given name is Ho-mah-ti-ka, which, being difficult to pronounce in English, has been corrupted to "Moty." This name translated from the Creeks means, "The first to cross the river, enter enemies' countries and recapture canoe." It was the name of one of Tiger's gallant ancestors who, with three other brave Creek warriors were the first to recapture the

canoe from the enemy during the Florida war.

Moty Tiger comes from pure Indian blood, and was born in Indian Territory five years after his father, Tulsa Fixico, and mother, Louisa, emigrated with the Creek tribe to Indian Territory in 1835.

Tiger, true to his name and parentage, early became a warrior, and at the outbreak of the civil war he enlisted in the volunteer Indian regiment of Colonel Chilly McIntosh and served through the war, retiring as a first sergeant. Reduced to poverty in the service of the southern cause, he split rails, fenced a plat of ground and proceeded to make a living for himself and family. He was not called to official position until 1874, when he was elected captain of the light horse of the Creek nation. Later he was elected a member of the house of kings from Tuckabatchee town and held successively thereafter the position of district judge of Deep Fork district, member of the house of warriors, attorney general, superintendent of Creeks orphans' homes and prosecuting attorney of Deep Fork district.

In the fall of 1899 Tiger was elected second chief of the Creek nation and re-elected in 1903. In 1893 the Dawes commission was created by act of congress for the purpose of negotiating with the several tribes

of Indians in Indian Territory with a view of dissolving the tribal relations and allotting the Indian lands. A mass meeting of the Creeks was called by Chief Perryman to consider the proposition of the commission and Tiger was the only Indian present who did not oppose the plan.

Chief Tiger is following the precedent of Sam Checote, who was chief of the Creeks many years ago. He was an English scholar, but whenever anyone spoke to him in an official capacity, especially as a representative of the government, he refused to talk unless the conversation was interpreted into Creek. He took the ground that he was representing the Creek nation and that their native language was the only one he would recognize in the transaction of business for his people.

Since assuming the duties of chief a constant stream of full-blood Indians may be seen filing into his office. His callers represent largely the non-progressive element, who hope through their new chief to restore some of their lost power. Although he can talk English perfectly, Chief Tiger conducts all his conversations regarding official affairs in the Creek language. His office force is composed of a secretary, two stenographers and an interpreter and if a white

man wishes to speak to the new chief he must do so
through this interpreter.

THE HARTSHORNE SUN

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September 26, 1907
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T. W. Hunter, Editor

MOTY TIGER LAST OF THE CREEK CHIEFS

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