



CHOCTAW ANCESTRY RESEARCH

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FAITH ♦ FAMILY ♦ CULTURE

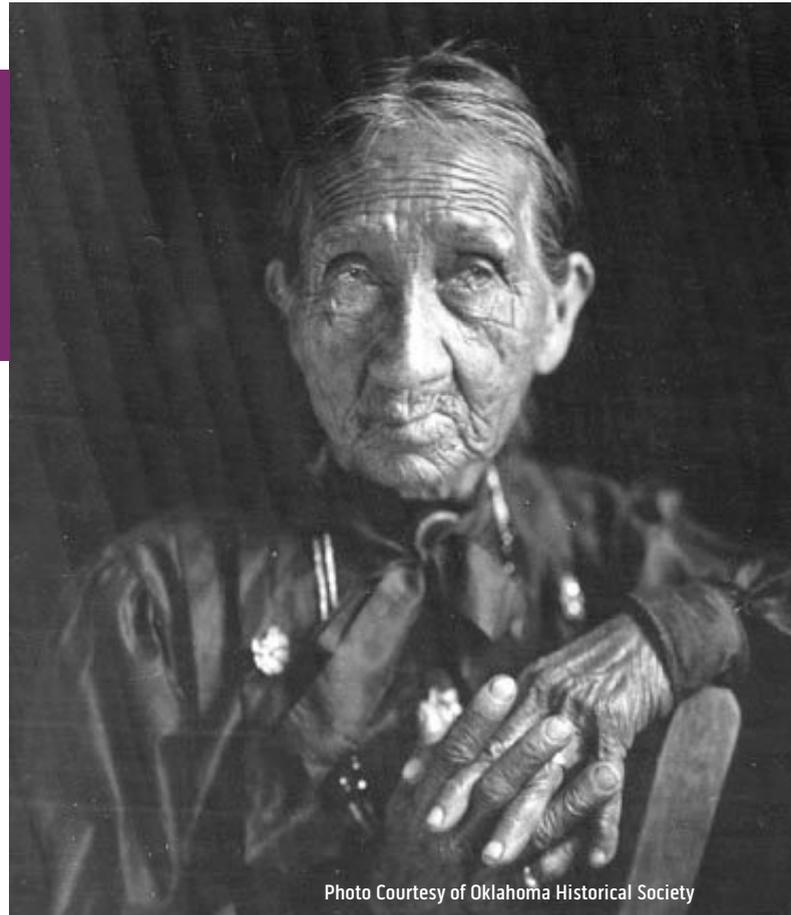


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Choctaw Nation

Genealogy

ARE YOU CHOCTAW?

Have you ever heard you were Choctaw but did not know for sure? Have you ever thought about becoming a Tribal Member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma? Are you a Tribal Member and want to know more about your Choctaw ancestors?

To prove tribal heritage with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, you must be a descendant of someone listed as Choctaw or Mississippi Choctaw with a blood quantum on the Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory (also known as the Dawes Roll).

The Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes (also known as the Dawes Commission) was created to enroll the citizens and freedmen of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Creek and Seminole tribes. If enrolled, they received an allotment of land. The Dawes Commission accepted applications for the Final Dawes Roll between 1898 and 1906. Your ancestor must have been living in Indian Territory during the enrollment period and must have been able to prove their Choctaw heritage thus enrolling as Choctaw.

LOCATING THE ROLL NUMBER.

To research this, start with the Index to the Final Roll to determine your ancestor's roll number. Many state and local historical and genealogical societies, large city libraries, and the National Archives Branch in Fort Worth, Texas, have copies of the Index and Final Roll. The Final Roll is searchable through the Oklahoma Historical Society's website (www.okhistory.org/research/dawes). You can also access the Index and Final Roll on-line using the National Archives website (<https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/dawes>), but it is not searchable.

The names will be listed in numerical order by the roll number. There are several different categories of enrollment: "By Blood", "Newborn", "Minor", "By Marriage", and "Freedmen". The "By Blood" category included those individuals enrolled with blood quantum. "Newborn" and "Minor" categories included young children of Indian and freedmen parents. "By Marriage" included individuals with no Indian blood who were married to Indians. "Freedmen" were the former slaves of tribal members.

Using the Roll book, locate the Choctaw tribe and category. Once you have found your ancestor's name, record the rest of the information from the listing. The listings will include the name, age, gender, blood degree, and census card number.

If females were not married when enrolled, they were enrolled under their maiden name. If they were married when enrolled, they were enrolled under their married name.

YOU WANT TO APPLY FOR A CDIB?

If you want to apply for a CDIB card and Tribal Membership with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and you have found verification that your ancestor was enrolled with blood quantum by the Dawes Commission, then you have the information that you need to begin the process. You will be required to provide an original state certified birth and/or death certificate for each person in your lineage back to and including the enrollee.

If you have access to the internet, you can download the CDIB and Tribal Membership applications for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma from our website (www.choctawnation.com) or contact the Choctaw Nation CDIB/Membership Department at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 4030, and applications will be mailed to you.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you are also interested in finding out more about your ancestors, you can obtain copies of the Dawes Commission census cards and application packets for your ancestor.

The census cards will give information about other family members who might have been enrolled and the names of the enrollee's parents. The application packets may contain transcripts of any testimony taken by the Dawes Commission, birth and death affidavits, marriage licenses, and correspondence between the Commission and the applicant.

NEED A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS?

You can receive copies of your family members' packets by sending an email to genealogy@choctawnation.com with your request. Include your mailing address, the census card number, and an ancestor's name for each card and application packet you would like to order. There is no fee at this time.

You can also order copies for a fee from the National Archives (www.archives.gov/fort-worth) or the Oklahoma Historical Society (www.okhistory.org/). Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com) and Fold3 (www.fold3.com) now have the Dawes Commission census cards and packets available online as well. They are subscription websites, but many libraries and archives have subscriptions that you can use free by using their computers.