

## RESEARCHING DAWES RECORDS FOR THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA

Individuals and families applied to be listed on the Final Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma. The Dawes Commission used the applications to determine if the individual or family were eligible for enrollment. The Commission kept applications of all individuals and families that applied even if the application was rejected or ruled doubtful.

Was he/she a part of one of the following Five Civilized Tribes: Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws, or Seminoles?

**NOT SURE**

For more information about researching an individual or family, visit [Researching an Individual or Family](#). For information related to current Federally Recognized American Indian Tribes, visit the Bureau of Indian Affairs website.

**NO**

Only individuals living between 1898 and 1914 will be on the Final Dawes Roll. There might be information about those who were born too late or died too early.

**YES**

Was individual living on tribal land?

**NO**

Search the Final Dawes Rolls, but note that an individual was only approved if he/she was living on tribal land. Individuals that did not live on tribal land may have applied, but ultimately would have been determined doubtful, denied, or rejected. Records of applications ruled doubtful, denied, or rejected are still available for research.

**YES**

Search the Final Dawes Rolls.



## Choctaw Nation

Genealogy

To find out more information, visit our website, visit our Facebook page ([Choctaw Nation Genealogy](#)) or contact us.

### CONTACT US

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## RESEARCHING CHOCTAW ANCESTRY AND UNDERSTANDING THE DAWES COMMISSION ROLLS



\*If you are unable to answer "yes" to these questions, continue gathering information that can help you to determine if your individual was an American Indian.

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## ARE YOU CHOCTAW?

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

## WHAT ARE THE FINAL DAWES ROLLS?

The Dawes Commission was created to enroll citizens of the Choctaw/Mississippi Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole tribes (known as the Five Civilized Tribes). It accepted applications for the Final Dawes Rolls from 1898 to 1906. This was done during the federal government's efforts to divide land among members of the Five Civilized Tribes. If enrollment was approved, roll numbers were assigned and land was allotted. Each approved application listed individuals by tribal affiliation, family group, and blood quantum, and their information was recorded on Census Cards. Your direct ancestor must have lived in the southeastern Indian Territory during the enrollment period and must have been able to prove lineage by blood quantum to be enrolled with the Choctaw Tribe.

The rolls became the foundation for determining land allotments at the time and are still used today to establish tribal membership.

The U.S. Government instituted the Dawes Rolls after many years of hardship to the tribes and forced movement away from their native lands east of where we live today.

- ◆ 1830 Indian Removal Act (Legally sanctioned removal of Native nations; passed by narrow margin)
- ◆ 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek (Choctaws forced to relocate to Indian Territory)
- ◆ 1893 Dawes Commission (Establishment of the commission tasked with negotiating allotment with the Five Tribes)
- ◆ 1897 Atoka Agreement (Established allotment process the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations)
- ◆ 1898 Curtis Act (Consolidated the allotment agreements of the Five Tribes; began the allotment process)

## YOU FOUND YOUR ANCESTOR ON THE DAWES ROLL...NOW WHAT?

When you have names and dates of your ancestors, it is time to put the information together in a document. If you do not have access to a family pedigree chart, write the information onto a page in a format that is easy to understand. Pedigree charts are available online from many genealogical websites that you can download and print.

**Once you have completed your list of ancestral names, please submit them on the Chahta Achvffa Tribal Member portal through the Genealogy submission area. Program staff will help you to verify your findings. [chahtaachvffa.choctawnation.com](http://chahtaachvffa.choctawnation.com)**



## NEED A COPY OF DAWES COMMISSION APPLICATION PACKETS FOR YOUR RECORDS?

As a service for Choctaw tribal members, you may receive copies of your Choctaw Dawes Enrollee application packet by sending a request to [genealogy@choctawnation.com](mailto:genealogy@choctawnation.com). Include your name, date of birth, and contact information when submitting the request.

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 applicant. Census cards will be provided along with copies of application packets for each household. They give information on enrollees and often provide information about their families.

You can also receive copies of your ancestor's application packet for a fee from the U.S. National Archives ([archives.gov/fort-worth](http://archives.gov/fort-worth)) or the Oklahoma Historical Society ([okhistory.org/](http://okhistory.org/)). Ancestry.com and Fold3 ([fold3.com](http://fold3.com)) also have Dawes Commission census cards and packets available online.