

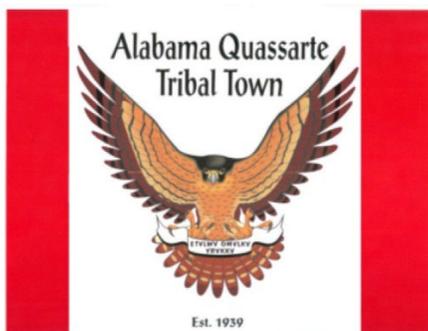
Oklahoma Indian Education Tribal Guide: Alabama- Quassarte Tribal Town

Tribal Seal/Flag/Website

Tribal Seal:



Tribal Flag:



Tribal Website: <http://alabama-quassarte.org/>

Alabama-Quassarte (ala-bam-ah- Qah-sah-de) Tribal Town

- Original Homeland



- The Alabama-Quassarte original land is in northern Mississippi. Members of the Soto expedition found some that resided in the vicinity of what is now Starkville, Mississippi.
- Location in Oklahoma:
- The Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town is located in southeastern Oklahoma. It located outside of Wetumka, Oklahoma.

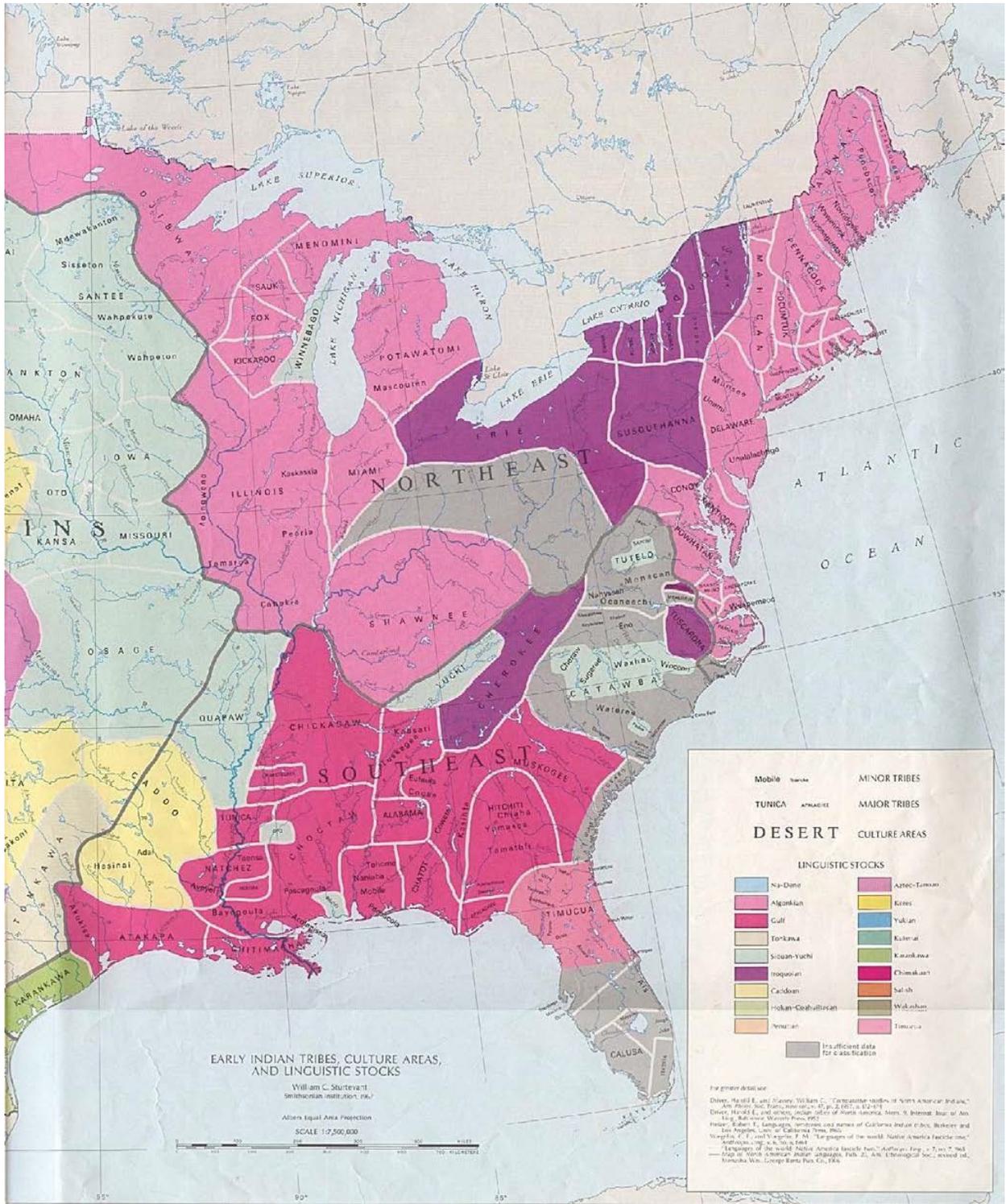
[Oklahoma Historical Society source to consider for Indian Removal information.](#)

- Like other members of the Creek Confederacy, the Alabama-Quassarte were allotted individual parcels of land under the Dawes Act, beginning in 1899, and they were offered separate federal recognition under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act in 1936. Alabama-Quassartes were removed along with the Creeks. During the 1930's the U.S. Congress enacted legislation permitting tribal groups to form governments and federally chartered corporations to engage in economic activities. They organized as a tribal town separate from the Creek Nation and maintained a traditional tribal town political structure.

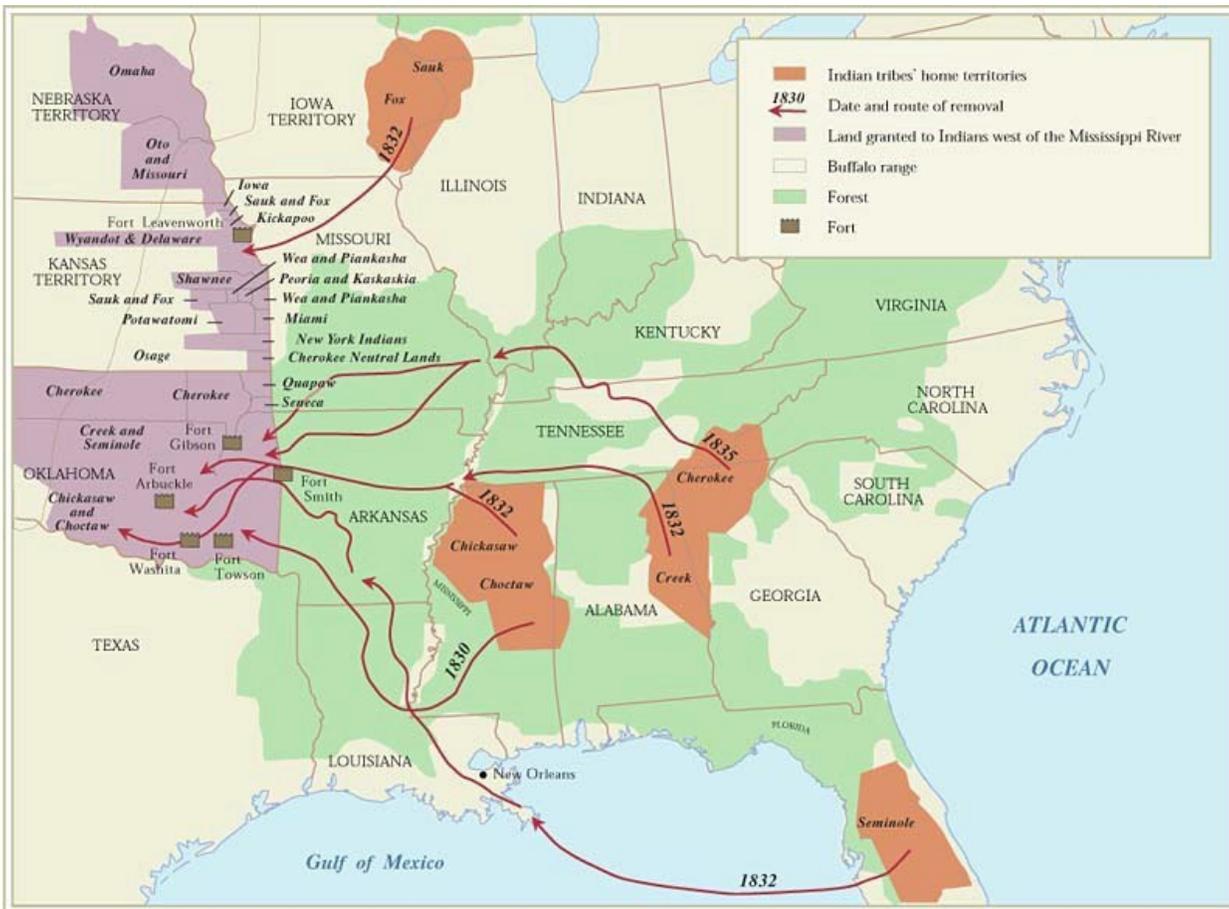
Maps

Maps of tribal hometowns before 1830

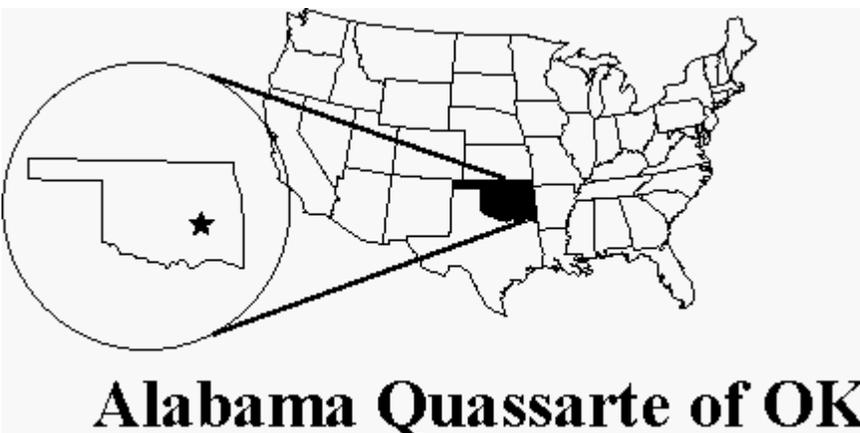




Trail of Tears route – The Alabama-Quassarte were moved with the Muscogee Creeks during the removal.



Tribal lands after 1830



Population Past/Present

- Total tribal enrollment
- Tribal enrollment in Oklahoma: 350 members

Government: Chiefs vs Chairman, Elected or Paternal

Tribal Government leadership -

During the 1930's the U.S. Congress enacted legislation permitting tribal groups to form governments and federally chartered corporations to engage in economic activities. The Alabamas and Quassartes merged and took steps toward recognition. They organized as a tribal town separate from the Creek Nation and maintained a traditional tribal town political structure.

Language Group

Alabama-Quassarte's language is closely related within the Muskogean family. Their traditional languages include Alabama, Koasati, and Mvskoke.

Traditional Lifeways

The Alabama and the Quassarte entered documentary history in the colonial period as two closely related tribes living on the Alabama River north of present Mobile, Alabama. Both the river and the state are named after the Alabama Indians. The Quassarte have also lent their name to history, either in the form "Quassarte" or as Koasati, Coosauda, Coushatta, and many other spellings. The languages are closely related within the Muskogean family. In historical times the Alabama and Quassarte have been highly intermarried.

After a brief confrontation with the French in the early eighteenth century, the Alabama and Quassarte became their allies and trading partners. They also were intermittent allies of the Creek Indians, to their north and east, and became firm members of the Creek Confederacy after the French withdrew from North America in 1763. At that time the Alabama and Quassarte constituted six to eight towns. With further encroachments by the Americans and the threat of removal in the early nineteenth century, the two tribes began to migrate west, town by town. One group, predominantly Alabama, ended up with a reservation near Livingston, Texas, while other bands and families settled in central Louisiana. Those



remaining with the Creeks were removed to Indian Territory in 1835, where they came to live in the area between Weleetka and Wetumka, Oklahoma, near the juncture of the Canadian and North Canadian rivers.

Like other members of the Creek Confederacy, the Alabama-Quassarte were allotted individual parcels of land under the Dawes Act, beginning in 1899, and they were offered separate federal recognition under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act in 1936. The forty or so towns of the Creek Confederacy were sovereign under traditional Creek law, and they were ethnically and linguistically different, but only three of them chose to accept a separate federal charter in 1936. Among other things, this made them eligible for special loans from the federal government.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century Alabama-Quassarte membership stood at approximately two hundred persons. They maintained a tribal headquarters in Wetumka, consisting of an administration building and a housing office, and a smoke shop at Henryetta.

Oklahoma Historical Society source to consider for Boarding Schools:
<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/a/am012.html>

Fine Arts

- **Music**

For the Alabama-Quassarte tribal town, religion is a private matter, not to be discussed in public; at the request of their civil leadership, the topic of ceremony is excluded here.

- **Art**

The Alabama-Quassarte is noted for contemporary basketry as well as for their ceramic style pottery (vessel shapes and handle styles).

- **Significant Events**

The Alabama and Quassarte became their allies and trading partners. They were also intermittent allies of the Creek Indians, to their north and east, and became firm members of the Creek Confederacy after the French withdrew from North America in 1763. At the time the Alabama and Quassarte constituted six to eight towns. With further encroachments by the Americans and the threat of removal in the early nineteenth century, the two tribes began to migrate west, town by town. One group, predominantly Alabama, ended up with a reservation near Livingston, Texas, while other bands and families settled in central Louisiana. Those remaining with the Creeks were removed to Indian Territory in 1835, where they came to live in the area between



Weleetka and Wetumka, Oklahoma near the juncture of the Canadian and North Canadian rivers.

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced the tribal town, along with the rest of Muscogee, to Indian Territory. They settled in what would become Hughes, McIntosh, Okfuskee, and Seminole Counties. The Dawes Allotment Act of 1887 and the Curtis Act of 1898 splintered tribal land holdings and closed tribal government and courts.

Oklahoma Historical Society source to consider:

<http://www.okhistory.org/research/indianrecs>

Current Tribal Information

