

Oklahoma Indian Education Tribal Guide: Delaware Nation of Oklahoma

Tribal Seal/Flag/Website

Tribal Seal:



Tribal Flag:



Tribal Website: <http://www.delawarenation.com/>



Migration/Movement/Forced Removal

- Original Homeland - Northeast United States
- Migration- New Jersey, New York, Delaware, and Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri
- Forced removal- Kansas, Arkansas, Spanish Texas, Southwestern Oklahoma.
- [Reservation](#) 1874-1875
- [Treaties](#) (First treaty between U.S. and an Indian Nation; additional treaties)
- Location In Oklahoma - Southwest Oklahoma; 2 miles North of Anadarko, OK

Condensed Timeline

- 1778- The Delaware signed the first Indian treaty with the new United States
- 1793- Main body of the Delaware Tribe resides along the White River (present day Indiana), another group crosses the Mississippi River into Spanish Missouri, receiving a land grant, near present day Cape Girardeau, Missouri
- 1818- White River Delaware were removed to SW Missouri - the Cape Girardeau Delaware had already immigrated to N Arkansas
- 1820- Cape Girardeau Delaware became known as Absentee Delaware and entered Spanish Texas and received a land grant from Spanish authorities.
- 1829- Texas troops remove the twelve tribes from East lands, saying that the treaty of 1836 had never been ratified by the Texas Senate and was void. Cherokee War of East Texas ensued and most of the tribes were driven across the Red River. (Some escaped and settled near Eagle Pass in Mexico.)
- 1836- Texas land grant encompassed a fifty square-mile area in East Texas when Sam Houston signed a treaty with the East Texas Cherokee's and affiliated tribes.
- 1838- 250 Delaware families reside in Nacogdoches Department of the Republic of Texas.
- 1839- Brazos Reserve set aside for tribes who had resided in East Texas
- 1854-59- Brazos Reserve was short-lived. Texas settlers demand Indians be removed to Indian Territory, depredations being committed on the settlements.



- 1859- Tribes lost the Brazos Reserve lands, forced to flee for their lives across the Red River in August.
- 1859- Wichita Agency was established near present day Ft. Cobb, included Absentee Delawares.
- 1862- Civil War causes the Delawares and other tribes to lose their lands.

Brief History of the Delaware Nation

The Delaware people have a long and ancient history. They are the descendants of the Lenape people originally located in New Jersey, New York, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. The name Lenape comes from the root words “lenni” meaning “original” and “ape” meaning “people.” Other tribes referred to them as the “Grandfather” tribe. The Lenape became collectively referred to as the Delaware by European colonists because of their proximity to the Delaware River. The Delaware Tribe of Indians is located in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Delaware Nation is located in Anadarko, Oklahoma and is separate from the Delaware Tribe.

Over the course of the late 18th and 19th centuries, the Lenape are forced further and further from their homelands along a trail of broken treaties. Between 1778 and 1830 the Lenape governing bodies that would become known as the Delaware Tribe of Indians and Delaware Nation were party to over 15 treaties with the United States that moved them from Ohio to Indian, into Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Texas, and eventually Oklahoma. Each treaty agreement was eventually broken, paralleling the United States westward expansion. As lands the Lenape were told to occupy were reclaimed by the United States again and again without fair compensation, the Lenape were asked to sign new treaties forcing them to move to new promised lands.

Around 1789, the main body of Lenape people split into two separate sovereign entities. One community began to move from Indiana to Missouri, and eventually into Kansas then eastern Oklahoma, which would become known as the Delaware Trib of Indians. The other community was deemed the “Absentee Delaware” who in 1793 moved to a different land grant in Cape Girardeau, Missouri given to them by the Governor General of Louisiana, Bron de Carondelet, which they would share with the Shawnee. This governing body of Lenape people would eventually become known as Delaware Nation. B 1815, the Absentee Delaware were ousted from their Missouri lands and moved toward the then Spanish territory of Texas, making settlements in Arkansas along the way. In 1854, after Texas had become an official state, the government established a reservation on the Brazos River for Tribal Nations in the area which included the Absentee Delaware. They would find themselves removed within Texas several more times before they are eventually moved for the last time to Wichita allotments in



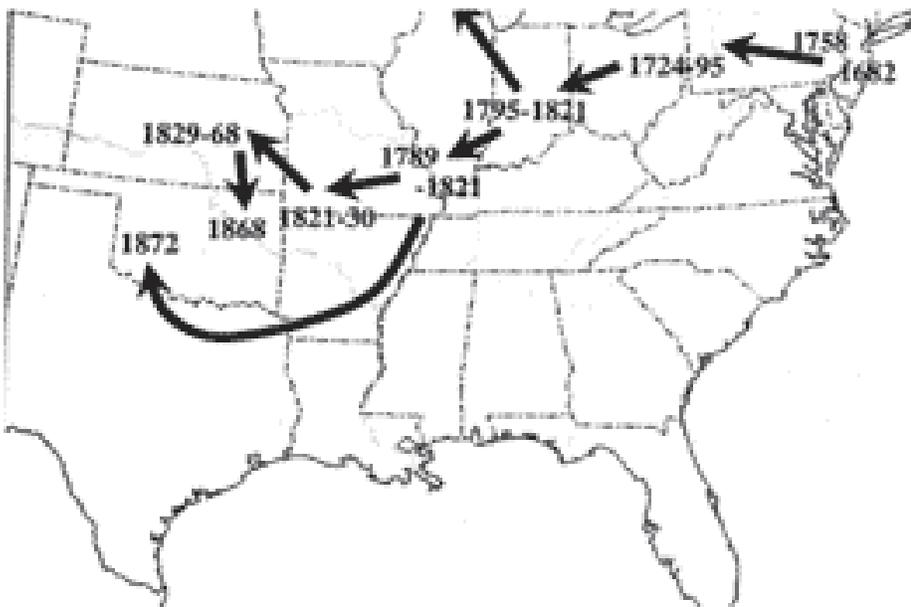
Anadarko, Oklahoma around 1873 (Hale Peacemakers 54, 87).

The Absentee Delaware spent much of the late 19th and early 20th century demonstrating their ongoing sovereignty as an enduring Lenape/Delaware Tribal nation separate from the Delaware Tribe of Indians in eastern Oklahoma, an appealing to the United States government to uphold their treaty obligations. They ratified their first constitution in 1973 (Hale Peacemakers 155) and changed their name to Delaware Nation in 1999. Delaware Nation's federal recognition status today is an affirmation of their longstanding and ongoing legacy of sovereignty, self-determination, and government-to-government relations with the United States, and with other European and Tribal Nations before them.

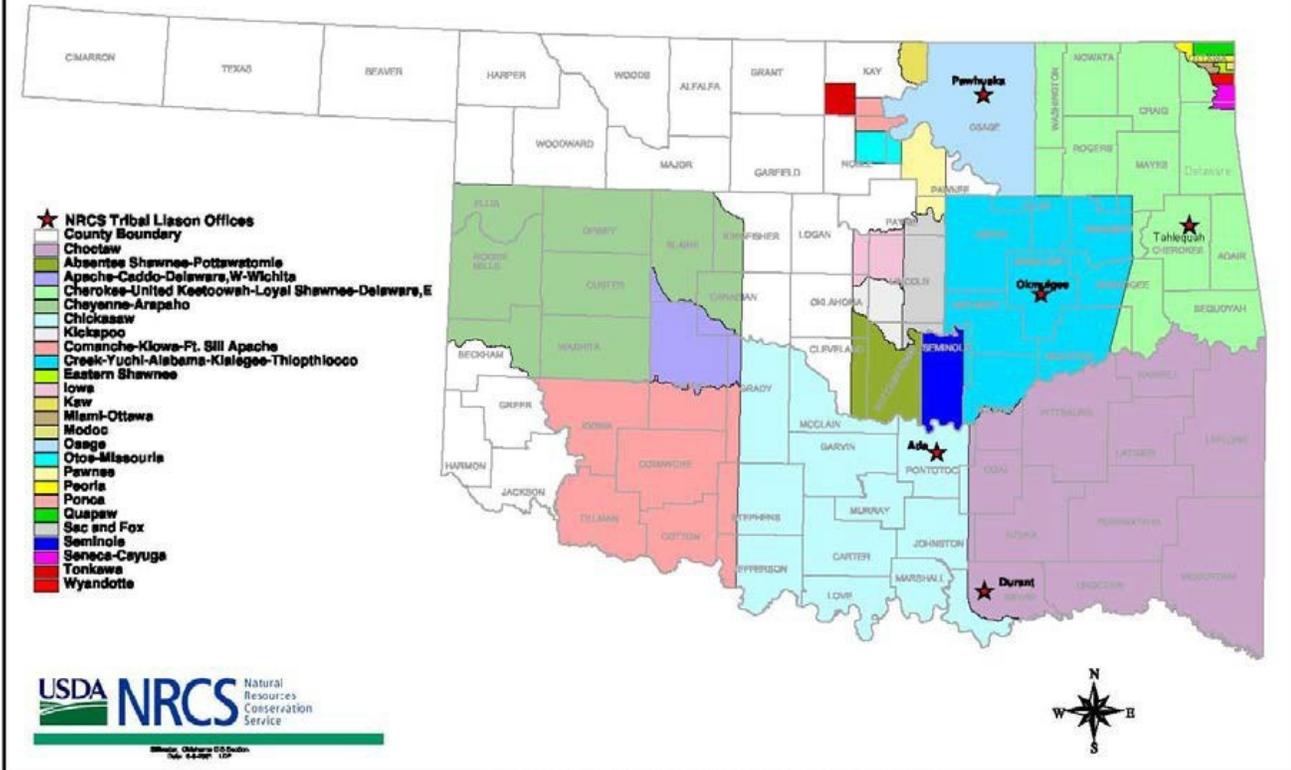
In 2019, Delaware Nation became the first Tribal Nation on the western side of Oklahoma to remove BIA oversight from their constitution, strengthening their sovereignty and self-governance. In 2019, with a majority vote from tribal citizens, they also eliminated blood quantum as a requirement for enrollment in favor of lineal descendency, ensuring the longevity of the Nation.

Maps

Location prior to 1830 and after removal:



Tribal Jurisdictional Areas



Population Past/Present

- Total tribal enrollment - 2233
- Tribal enrollment in Oklahoma - 1270
- Membership criteria – lineal descendency



Government: Chiefs vs Chairman, Elected or Paternal

- The Delaware Nation adopted a tribal resolution in 1958. The constitution was approved in 1973.
- Tribal Government leadership: It has an executive committee with a president, and five other elected members.

Language Group

- The language belongs to the Eastern branch of the Algonquian languages. There are two dialects of Lenape language, the Unami and Munsee.
- Sources: Delaware/Lenape talking dictionary; audio sentences, stories, and lessons; vocabulary; spelling system, word list, picture dictionaries (animal; body parts; color words), pronunciation and spelling guide: <http://www.talk-lenape.org/>

Traditional Lifeways

Fine Arts

Significant Events

- Signed first treaty with the United States (September 17, 1778);

Current Tribal Information

Famous tribal member- Black Beaver (1806—1880), Delaware leader, scout, and rancher



