



Native American Research for Five Civilized Tribes: Step-by-Step (Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Seminole)

Trace your ancestor in census records back to the 1900 Census. Was your ancestor living in Oklahoma? **If Yes, see I. If No, see III.**

- I. **Yes**—Follow steps a-d below to determine if your ancestor was listed on the Final Dawes Roll. Only those Native Americans removed to and residing in Indian Territory (now NE Oklahoma) who made application between 1898 and 1907 and met the enrollment requirements are on the Final Rolls.
 - a. Check for the Census (Enrollment) Card
The Dawes Commission prepared Census (Enrollment) Cards for each “family group” to record information about the applicants.
 - 1) Databases: Ancestry LE (*Oklahoma and Indian Territory, Dawes Census Cards for Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914*) or Fold3 (*Dawes Enrollment Cards*)
 - 2) Microfilm: M-1186 (Index is on roll #1)
 - b. Write down the following information from the Census (Enrollment) Card which may be helpful when viewing the corresponding images:
 - 1) Tribe (Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek or Seminole)
 - 2) Group within each tribe (Blood, Minor, by Marriage, Freedman, New born, etc.)
 - 3) Census (Enrollment) Card number
 - 4) Dawes roll number
 - c. Find the Dawes Roll Application through one of the following methods:
 - 1) Database: Ancestry LE (*U.S., Native American Applications for Enrollment in Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914*) or Fold3 (*Dawes Packets*)
 - 2) Microfilm: Dawes Roll Applications (M-1301)
 - d. Check the Final Dawes Roll
 - 1) Database: Ancestry LE (*U.S., Native American Citizens and Freedmen of Five Civilized Tribes, 1895-1914*)
 - 2) Books: *Final rolls of citizens and freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory* (970.00497 F49) or *Dawes Roll “plus” of Cherokee Nation “1898”* (970.004975 B611D) by Bob Blankenship

If you are a direct lineal descendant of an individual listed on the Final Dawes Rolls, contact the tribe for registration application and requirements. **If not on the Final Dawes Roll, See II.**

- II. Doubtful, Rejected, and Overturned
 - a. Doubtful—They will have a Census (Enrollment) Card. Application required further documents. Names may or may not appear on the Final Roll depending if they were accepted or rejected. Dawes Roll contact the tribe, **If not on the Final Dawes Roll, See III.**
 - b. Rejected—The Commission rejected nearly two-thirds of the applications. Names will not appear on the Final Roll, but they will have a Census (Enrollment) Card. **If Rejected, See III.**
 - c. Overturned—Applications for citizenship under the Act of 1896 were overturned. Only those that reapplied and were accepted will be found on the Final Roll. **If they did not reapply, See III.**

III. Guion Miller Roll (Eastern Cherokee)

The Guion Miller Roll is a list of Eastern Cherokee who applied for compensation resulting from a 1906 lawsuit. Those who applied were descendants of a person that had been included in the forced removal to Indian Territory and not affiliated with any other tribe other than the Cherokee.

- a. Find your ancestor on the Guion Miller Roll Index and record the application number through one of the following methods:
 - 1) Ancestry LE or Fold3
 - 2) Microfilm: M-685 (index is on roll #1)
 - 3) Books:
 - Cherokee by Blood: Records of Eastern Cherokee ancestry in the U.S. Court of Claims, 1906-1910* by Jerry Wright Jordan (973.0049755 J764)
 - Guion Miller roll "plus" of Eastern Cherokee, east & west of Mississippi "1909"* by Bob Blankenship (970.004975 B611 2nd) (includes both accepted and rejected)
- b. Find the Eastern Cherokee Applications of the U.S. Court of Claims, 1906-1909 through one of the following methods:
 - 1) Database: Fold3 (listed alphabetically)
 - 2) Microfilm: M-1104

If you are a direct lineal descendant, contact the tribe for registration application and requirements. **If No, see IV.**

- IV. Check the book *Cherokee Roots* by Bob Blankenship (970.3 B611) to see if your ancestor was listed on another roll. **If Yes**, your ancestor may be Cherokee, but you may not qualify for tribal membership. **If No, see V.**
- V. If you did not find your ancestor on any roll, they may have belonged to another tribe, they may have chosen not to be recognized as a Native American, or they may not have been Native American.