

THE STORY OF “THE TRAIL OF TEARS”

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My research is on the Native American culture, especially the Cherokee. This tribe located in various parts of the United States, but almost 100,000 members lived in Oklahoma. Many others migrated elsewhere. The Cherokee Indians existed from the 1700's through the 1850's. The Cherokees were one of the most prosperous and progressive tribes in the country. The early Cherokee farmed and hunted in the southern Appalachian Mountains. During the 1750s and 1760's, they fought the colonists who moved into their territory. In about 1800, the Cherokee began to adopt the way of living of the white settlers. The tribe also established a republican form of government called the Cherokee Nation in 1821. During the winter of 1838-1839, U.S troops forced around 17,000 Cherokee to move to the Indian Territory in Oklahoma. Thousands died on the way. About 1,000 Cherokee escaped. Their forced march became known as “The Trail of Tears.”