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Cherokee in a Battle of Survival

upon the host until the host is either dead or the parasite dies. Gene Stipe is a good example of this form of political parasitism. Chad Smith is another.

Characterizations that tend to be broad and all encompassing usually are more wrong than right, particularly when they are based on assumption rather than real research. In discussions of the Cherokee want to be that left our Nation for what ever reason and now clamor for a space at our table I class as runoffs.

My characterization of the runoffs is based on research of the particular families who now constitute a voice, albeit a weak one, for enrollment of authentic Cherokees descendants with no ancestors on the Dawes Rolls.

It is easy to use the horrific events of our history to justify citizens of our Nation taking their leave. But does that really apply? Every wannabe I've ever talked to said their ancestors hid out from the Dawes Commission or escaped the Trail of Tears. Every authentic Cherokee descendant I have talked to have a very different story and I might add a much more plausible one.

Those Cherokees citizens who abandoned the Nation, first knew the law. They were aware that by leaving, they were giving up their Cherokee nationality. I have found through my extensive research that those Cherokees did not leave the Nation during times of extreme people. Most of the Cherokees who left for California in the 1840s did because of greed. They were seeking gold. Barbara Hildebrand Longknife went to California with her alcoholic husband William Longknife, who abused her. She then went on to Hawaii without him to work as a missionary to the Cherokees. The Murrells, descendants of the Ross family and former owners of the famous Hunter's Home (Murrell Home) at Park Hill, moved to Louisiana to work in the oil industry. John Rollin Ridge moved to San Diego to work in journalism. Harriett Bean moved to Kilgore, Texas with her husband to manage a ranch they had purchased in 1840. Some of the Texas Cherokees lived among the Absentee Shawnees and Caddos, having intermarried among those tribes. Some Cherokees chose to remain in the eastern states while their brethren were being rounded up and moved west on the Trail of Tears. They didn't pass for white, or hide out. They simply took advantage of a provision in the Treaty of New Echota that allowed Cherokees to remain and become citizens of the state of their residence. You can see their names listed on the 1851 Chapman Roll and they and their descendants appear again on the 1909 Miller Roll.

While there is some evidence of desertions from the contingencies moving west on the Trail of Tears, the numbers are very low. There is evidence that those deserters returned to their homes in the east, sought protection under the terms of the Treaty and remained there as citizens of the states; or they joined the Eastern Cherokees who were never asked to leave (read the book, The Eastern Cherokees, by Finger). The numbers of deserters, however, are extremely low and could never account for the number of wannabes who claim their

ancestors "jumped off the Trail."

Regarding the Old Settlers, it is important to understand that they were not a homogenous group of Cherokees. They actually were constituted of at least three separate and distinct groups. The first group of Cherokees to exit the Nation were the Keetoowah Cherokees. They had been pacifists and refused to fight against the Americans. They preached peace and a return to the traditional ways of the Cherokees that would sweep away the Americans. The second group of Cherokees to leave the Cherokee Nation and move west were the Chickamauga Cherokees. They had fought a valiant war against the Americans for over 30 years. When they were finally defeated following the death of their war chief The Bench, they began moving west and settling in the area around the present Russellville, Arkansas. They joined the Chickamaugas to found a full blood Cherokee community. The third group of Cherokees to join the Old Settlers were mixed bloods who began trickling west after selling off their land holdings in the East. Most of them came west after the Western Cherokee Nation (Old Settlers) had been removed from Arkansas to Indian Territory in 1828. The Texas Cherokees, under the leadership of The Bowl, were Chickamauga Cherokees who were dissatisfied with the boundaries of the Arkansas reservation, which did not include their village. They lived in Texas for about 10 years, but were either killed off, left with other tribes, or came up to Indian Territory to rejoin their Old Settler brethren.

While it is possible that someone could point to their ancestor leaving the Cherokee Nation during a time of duress, the more likely and logical view of those people is that they left the Cherokee Nation voluntarily to find what they viewed to be a better life away from their Cherokee brethren. Our ancestors held on, their ancestors let go. I'm sorry, but I have no sympathy for them. There is NOTHING special about having Cherokee blood, to believe that is racism. What makes us special is that our ancestors stayed, we stayed and this is OUR Nation, and built what we Cherokee Indians point to with pride as the Golden Era of the Cherokee Nation 1846-1859.

The indigenous governments of the United States, i.e. the Cherokee Nation, Seminole Nation, Creek Nation, et al, are constantly under attack. The foundations of attack against our governments is based almost solely upon economic foundations.

The earliest colonizers fought wars with the tribes in efforts to wrest land from our grip and pass it on to white colonizer. The culmination of this effort was the allotment scheme made notorious by Senator Henry Dawes in his General Allotment Act.

While originally exempted from allotment, the Cherokees were finally exposed to the exploitive process that divested the whole Cherokee people of nearly seven million acres of land.

by David Cornsilk
http://www.opednews.com



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Congress seeks BIA freedmen clarification

By JIM MYERS World Washington Bureau - 3/19/2008

Others at that meeting included Reps. John Conyers, D-Mich., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee; Barney Frank, D-Mass., chairman of the House Financial Services Committee; and Mel Watt, D-N.C., a key player on the issue for the Congressional Black Caucus.

Watson said a letter will be sent to Artman to get his responses in writing.

Frank and Conyers did not respond to requests for comment.

Nedra Darling, a spokes woman for Artman, confirmed that the meeting with the four lawmakers took place but said some of the issues raised by the lawmakers should be addressed by the Cherokee Nation.

On the issue involving the Seminole Nation, Darling said that tribe sued the BIA over the freedmen descendants issue and did not have its own court system, unlike the Cherokee Nation.

"There lies the difference," she said.

Last year, Artman said an 1866 treaty between the U.S. and the Cherokee Nation affirmed the citizenship rights of the freedmen, adding that the government would consider taking the tribe to court to make sure it lives up to that treaty.

Mike Miller, a spokesman for the Cherokee Nation, issued comments Tuesday offering assurances again that the 2,867 freedmen descendants who were reinstated last year pending the outcome of ongoing litigation continue

Congress members meet with BIA director about Cherokee Nation freedmen issue

By The Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. -- Members of Congress plan to send a letter to the director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs seeking clarification on the status of the Cherokee Nation freedmen descendants and why the agency has not done more to end the controversy.

Four lawmakers, including U.S. Rep. Diane Watson, met last week with BIA director Carl Artman.

Watson, D-Calif., has been the most vocal congressional critic of the Cherokee Nation and its efforts to deny citizenship to descendants of former slaves. She said the tribe and the BIA need more oversight on the issue and told the Tulsa World's Washington bureau that she is concerned the freedmen descendants are being treated as temporary members of the tribe.

They are not being issued cards they could use to receive certain benefits, she said.

"From what I understand they haven't issued one," Watson said.

A tribe spokesman said the descendants still have access to services.

Another issue raised at last week's meeting with Artman involved what some see as different approaches by the BIA on the issue with the Cherokee and Seminole nations.

Watson has introduced legislation to strip the Cherokee Nation of its federal funding to get the tribe to give up on its efforts to rescind citizenship of the freedmen descendants.

Last year, nearly 77 percent of Cherokee voters decided in a special election to amend the nation's constitution to remove the freedmen descendants and other non-Indians from tribal rolls.

Critics of the vote, however, noted that only 9,000 of the tribe's 270,000 membership cast ballots.

Reps. John Conyers, D-Mich., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee; Barney Frank, D-Mass., chairman of the House Financial Services Committee; and Mel Watt, D-N.C., a key player on the issue for the Congressional Black Caucus, also attended the meeting with Artman.

Nedra Darling, a spokeswoman for Artman, confirmed that the meeting with the four lawmakers took place but said some of the issues raised by the lawmakers should be addressed by the Cherokee Nation.

As for the Seminole Nation, Darling said that tribe sued the BIA over the freedmen descendants issue and did not have its own court system, unlike the Cherokee Nation.

Last year, Artman said an 1866 treaty between the United States and the Cherokee Nation affirmed the citizenship rights of the freedmen, adding that the government would consider taking the tribe to court to make sure it lives up to that treaty.

Cherokee Nation spokesman Mike Miller said the 2,867 freedmen descendants who were reinstated last year pending the outcome of ongoing litigation continue to receive health care and other services. They also have the right to vote, Miller said.

"CDIB cards are given out by the U.S. government," he said. "Only people who can show documentation of degrees of Indian blood can receive them by federal law."

to receive health care and other services provided to tribal members. They also have the right to vote, Miller said.

"CDIB cards are given out by the U.S. government," he said. "Only people who can show documentation of degrees of Indian blood can receive them by federal law."

Miller also urged Congress members to avoid a rush to judgment based on misinformation.

"We are a diverse and open tribe," he said. "We have thousands of African-Americans and more than 1,500 descendants of former slaves who are citizens."

Jim Myers (202) 484-1424

Response to Can anyone open this file CNO Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2007

I was sent an interpretation from an accounting student, from a prestigious college...

The message:

"The assets of the Nation's governmental activities exceeded liabilities at September 30, 2007 by \$164 million, which is stated as net assets."

On December 10, 2007, CNE was notified by Bank of America that the Portfolio had been closed. CNE's balance in the Portfolio on the date of the closing was approximately \$84.8 million. As a result of the closing, investors in the Portfolio, including CNE, cannot make further investments into the Portfolio and cannot request an immediate cash distribution of their position in the Portfolio. Investors, including CNE, have the option of taking a pro-rata distribution or allowing Columbia to liquidate the assets of the Portfolio and distribute proceeds to investors. As of the date of this report, CNB and CNE management has elected to remain in the Portfolio. A substantial portion of the Portfolio is expected to be distributed to CNE within the next 12 months.

Columbia has informed CNE that there is a potential for loss of principal upon the sale of certain securities, which Columbia estimates should not exceed 2% of the Portfolio balance. In January 2008, after the closing of the Portfolio, CNE received distributions of principal totaling approximately \$26.3 million and has incurred losses on the distributions totaling approximately \$348,000 (1.3% of the distributed value).

At January 3 In, 2008, CNE recorded an additional loss of \$858,001 to adjust the Portfolio balance to its estimated fair value on that date.

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Lawmakers press Artman on Freedmen issues

The tribe has enrolled about 2,800 Freedmen descendants. But they face removal pending a tribal court ruling on their citizenship.

The Seminole Nation has enrolled some Freedmen as well. But some say they aren't receiving services afforded to other tribal members.

Watson is sponsoring a bill to cut federal funds to the Cherokee Nation, as well as any other tribe, unless the tribe Freedmen stay enrolled. Conyers, as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and Frank, as chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, have used their positions to pressure the tribe.

Watt is a former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, whose members oppose disenfranchisement of the Freedmen.

FRY BREAD

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- * 1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- * pinch of salt
- * 1-1/3 cups warm water
- * vegetable oil for frying
- * honey

Combine the flour, baking powder and salt. Add the water and knead the dough until soft. Roll the dough out on a lightly floured board until 1/4" thick. Cut out 4" rounds. Heat 1"-2" of oil in a saucepan. Fry the bread until puffed. Turn bread when edges are brown and continue cooking til brown.. Serve with honey.

FEBRUARY 2000, Problems with the 99 Revision of the 75 Swimmer supposed Constitution!

Since our last report in September of 1999, the Constitution Convention Commission has been working diligently to secure approval of the revised constitution adopted by the delegates from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. After nine months of review by two separate field offices, the Solicitor's office, and several internal levels in the Washington central office, the Commission was successful in receiving a preliminary response on December 7, 1999. Much to our disappointment, the Bureau granted no approval of the revised constitution as we had hoped, but instead furnished the Commission with a list of concerns which the Bureau feels need to be addressed before approval will be considered. The Bureau categorized its review of the document into two sections: (1) Articles in need of change, and (2) Articles where changes are recommended. Listed below is a summary of the areas the Bureau feels need to be changed:

1. Article II - Territorial Jurisdiction: The Bureau is requiring a verification of the territorial jurisdiction boundaries articulated in Article II by the Field Solicitor's office prior to final approval.

2. Article III - Bill of Rights: The Bureau feels that this section omits "important provisions" of 25 U.S.C. §1302 (the Indian Civil Rights Act) but does not articulate the elements it feels are missing.

3. Article IV - Section 1 - Citizenship: The Bureau feels that changing the term "member" to "citizen" causes confusion. In addition, with respect to the paragraph recognizing the sovereign rights of the Cherokee, Shawnee, and the Delaware Cherokees, the Bureau asserts the proviso in the second sentence of the provision is ambiguous and should be stricken.

4. Article VI - Legislative - Section 3: The Bureau is of the opinion that our constitution cannot preclude Freedmen Cherokee from voting or holding office. In addition, the Bureau feels the constitution does not adequately address:

- (1) When the first election of the 17 Council members is to take place;
- (2) How staggered terms will be implemented; and,
- (3) How the increase in the number of Council members from 15 to 17 will be handled.

Article VI - Legislative - Section 7: Relying on language found in Section 28 of the Act of April 26, 1906, 34 Stat. 137, (the Five Civilized Tribes Act), the Bureau has taken the position that Secretarial approval of all acts, ordinances, or resolutions of the Tribal Council (except resolutions of adjournment) must be required and offered the following substitution language:

"The Council shall have the power to establish laws which it shall deem necessary and proper for the good of the Nation, which shall not be contrary to the provisions of this Constitution or Federal law and shall be ap-

proved by the Secretary of the Interior as required by Federal law."

In addition to these requirements, the Bureau also set forth a number of articles where it felt changes would be recommended:

1. Article VI - Legislature - Section 10: The Bureau feels that the original language of "No enactment shall become a law after final adjournment of Council unless approved by the Principal Chief within 15 days after such adjournment" should be reinstated.
2. Article VII - Executive - Section 14: The Bureau recommends this Section be changed to incorporate requirements of qualification background checks for tribal law enforcement officers and recommended the following language:

"subject to a favorable background and criminal history report processed by a properly designated adjudicating official of the Cherokee Nation" to be added to the second sentence.

The Bureau also recommended inserting "properly trained and commissioned law enforcement" before "officers" in the second sentence.

3. Article IX - Election - Section 3: The Bureau recommends inserting the following language:

"All adult citizens of the Cherokee citizens of the Cherokee Nation, eighteen years of age or older on election day, shall have the right to vote in general and special elections in accordance with voting registration requirements and procedures as may be enacted by the legislation."

4. Article XV - Initiative, Referendum, and Amendment: The Bureau recommends that language be reinstated in Section 10 of Article XV, requiring approval by the President of the United States or his authorized representative for future amendments or new constitutions to become effective.

On December 14, the Principal Chief's office received an official copy of the Bureau's response, issued through the Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office (Muskogee Area Office), which included the technical reviews conducted by the various field offices involved. The content of the official letter was unchanged from the preliminary response outlined above.

Meeting with BIA. In response to these recommendations and requirements Principal Chief Chad Smith arranged a meeting with Assistant Secretary Kevin Gover in Washington D.C. to seek clarification and discussion of these issues. On December 17, 1999, a meeting was conducted in Washington D.C. with Assistant Secretary Gover and staff members, Commission Officers, the Principal Chief and other interested tribal officials and invitees attending. Discussions principally focused on the Bureau's requirements involving the Freedmen issue and Secretarial approval of tribal legislative enactments. Chief Smith requested that these two requirements be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Assistant Secretary, which he

more to come

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• Turnpike Exit, 1 Block North off Steve Owens Blvd. in Miami

• Parking Lot of Grand Lake Casino on Hwy 10 in Grove

Check out back issues of the Cherokee Observer - goto www.cherokeeobserver.org and click on the back issue link.