

# THLOPTHLOCCO CREEK TRIBAL TOWN

Tribal Headquarters: Okemah, OK



## A brief history

The Thlopthlocco are one of four members of the Creek Confederacy that originated in Georgia and Alabama. Before 1832 the Thlopthlocco split from the large tribal town Clewalla (Thlewarthle). The Thlopthlocco were removed to Indian Territory in 1834 where they formed their new town about eight miles north of Okemah, OK. Their tribal leader is a town king, which is one of two examples of a monarchical title used for the leader of a native nation.

In 1936 the Thlopthlocco formed their own charter which distinguished it from the Creek (Muskogee) Nation. One reason for this separation was to take full advantage from the Tomas-Rogers Act, also known as the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act. The tribal town of the Thlopthlocco has a business committee as the governing body, consisting of a town king, two warriors, secretary, and a treasurer elected by the town membership.

## About the flag

The Thlopthlocco Tribal Town flag has a white tribal seal centered in a dark red field. Four black and white feathers attached to the seal represent the cardinal directions as well as the natural elements. Inside the seal are the words THLOPTHLOCCO TRIBAL CREEK TOWN. The center of the seal features crossed stickball sticks with a ball in between the nets. Just below the stick is a campfire symbolizing the Sacred Fire that villagers would take coals from

to rekindle the hearth fires in their dwellings. This ritual occurred after the cleansing Green Corn Ceremony or Busk (which comes from the word "Boskita," meaning to fast.)

Positioned near the bottom of the flag, in bold white, are the words OKEMAH, OK, the location of the tribal town, and EST. 1834, the date the tribal town was established in Indian Territory.

### **Educational Activity**

The Thlopthlocco tribal government contains a town king and it remains one of two examples of a monarchial title used for the leader of a native nation. What is the other kind of monarchial title? What do these titles mean?