

## BOOK REVIEW

*A Guide To The Indian Tribes of Oklahoma.* By Muriel H. Wright. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1951. XVII, 300 pp. Illustrations, suggested readings, bibliography, and index. \$5.00. Number 33 in the Civilization of the American Indian Series.)

This compact and readable volume brings into sharp focus the impact Indian settlement has had upon the history of Oklahoma. But wayward federal policies toward Indian tribes and remnants of tribes located here were national in scope, hence the volume will attract more than local interest.

The 24 page introduction presents a synthesis of colonial and federal relations with the Indians, and sufficient information on linguistic divisions, removal problems, cultural advances, organization and location in Indian Territory, allotment, assimilation and present status.

Sixty-seven tribes are discussed topically. Twenty-nine of these still retain their identity but the others were adopted into or assimilated by other tribes immediately before or after removal to Indian Territory. Where possible, the author has traced the origin of the name of the tribe and its English translation, the location of the tribe in Oklahoma, present and past census data, historic locations, government, contemporary life and culture. Not treated lightly are the many evidences of oppression, cruelty, subtlety, and duplicity used in attempting to solve the Indian problem by federal and state officials.

The work is sufficiently encyclopedic in form to furnish general answers to questions about our Indian neighbors, their leaders, origins, institutions, contributions and adaptability to citizenship status. Many have achieved prominence in community, state, and national affairs but our counties of lowest per capita income are those where the Indian population is greatest. Acquisitiveness and drive for economic gain are not Indian characteristics.

Every reader, certainly every Oklahoman should enjoy this book: colorful place names peculiar to Oklahoma, such as "Swapping Back Church," the sympathetic treatment of the greatest mass migrations in the history of our country, removal of the Five Tribes, information on the tribe that carried on its own allotment program, and definitions peculiarly ours, such as the "fullblood white Quapaw."

The value of the book is increased by 128 illustrations of leaders, places, and happenings among the Indians. The only omission of any moment is an illustration of the former capitol of the Creek

Nation. Six maps of the Indian country or Oklahoma, 1837-1951, are included. Of utmost interest is the one that appears on page 24 which shows former Indian reservation or Indian nation boundary lines in respect to the present state and county lines.

The University of Oklahoma Press is to be commended for the excellent format in this, Number 33 in its Civilization of the American Indian Series.

—J. Stanley Clark

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