

# NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

## NATIVE GIFT GUIDE!

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DECEMBER 2021

# CREDITS

# NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

## NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE | DECEMBER 2021

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**NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE** is a monthly publication provides content from the Native community. For more information, to sell on our shop or to advertise, please call Adam Proctor at 918-409-7252 or email [adam@nativeoklahoma.us](mailto:adam@nativeoklahoma.us)

**SUBSCRIBE:** Native Oklahoma is available FREE at tribal and Oklahoma welcome centers; gift shops; hotels; travel plazas; and online at [www.nativeoklahoma.us](http://www.nativeoklahoma.us). For a listing of all locations, please visit us online.



## NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

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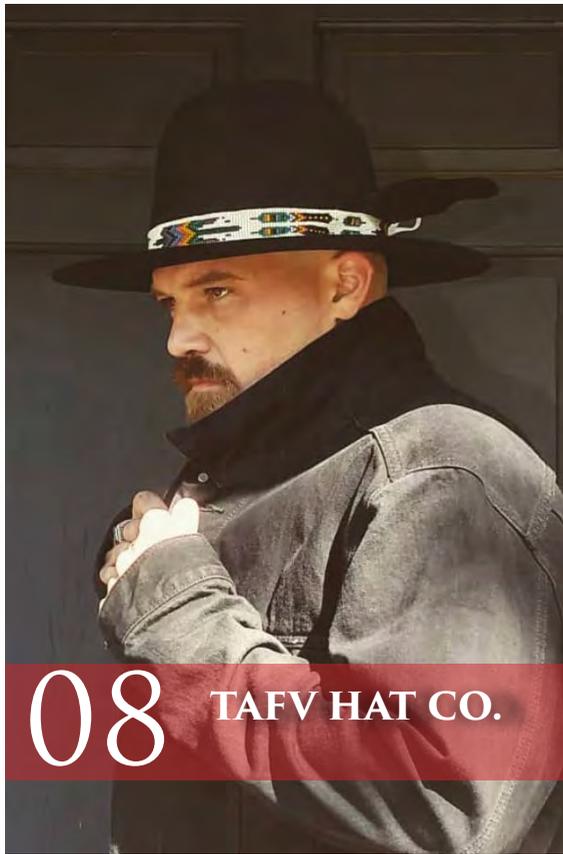
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ART, EVENTS & MORE!



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**\*ON THE COVER:**

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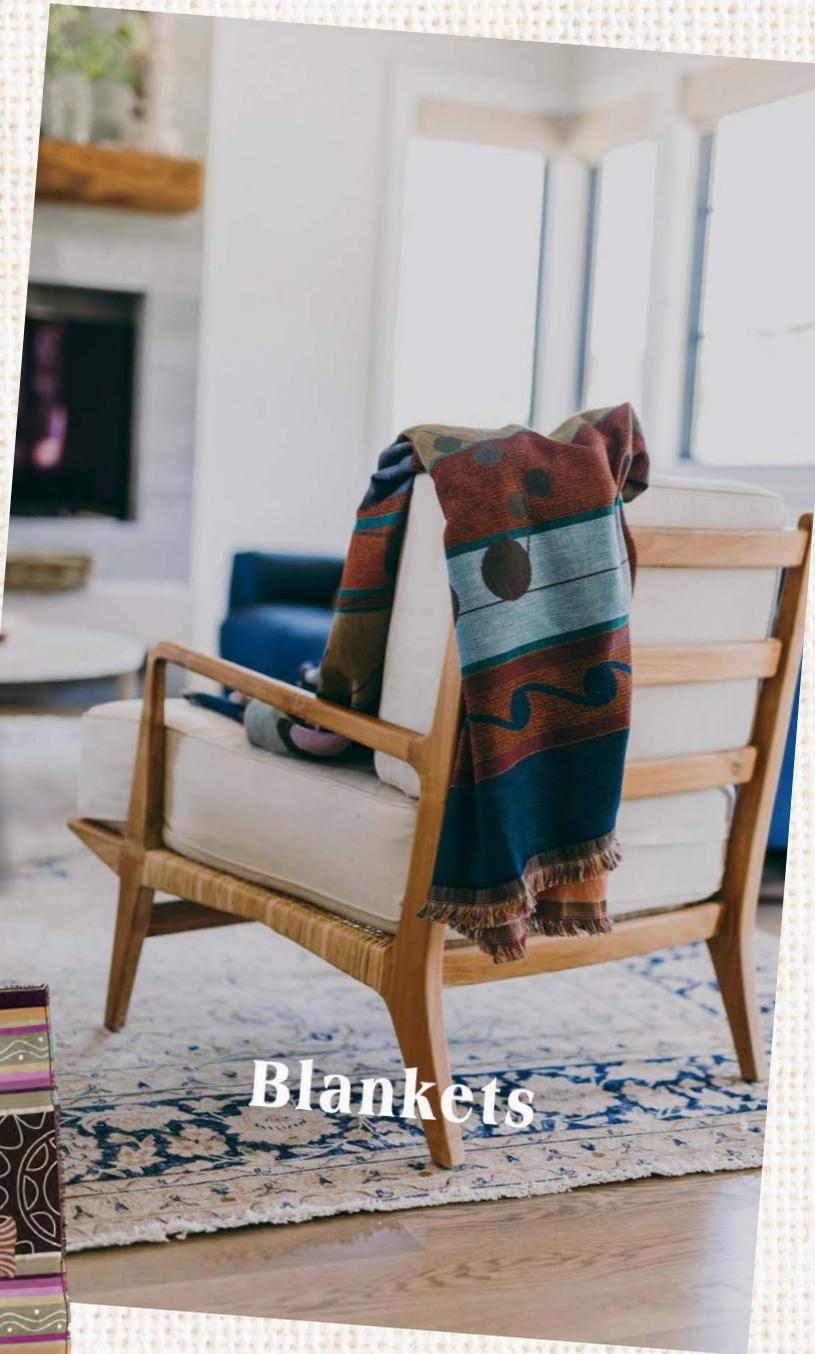
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To Carry Sweet Things Blanket  
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# Blankets



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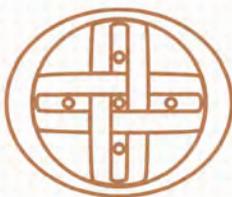


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## The Circle of Life

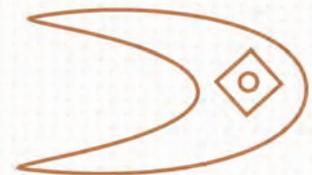
Circles represent life, light, growth, and eternity in Chickasaw culture. We use the theme of circles to show the generations that went into creating this brand. From in-house designing, sustainable materials to artisans we partner with, we continue to grow our circle and expand the legacy of Mahota.



Rich Symbolology



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Artisan Created



# TAFV HAT CO.

[Tafvhatcompany.bigcartel.com](http://Tafvhatcompany.bigcartel.com)



Written by Kimberly Burk



## “FELT HATS GET A NATIVE TWIST AT HANDS OF CHEROKEE ARTIST”

TULSA -- Hats made by Casey Riggs have been reclaimed, reshaped, refreshed and reimagined.

**R**iggs, who is Cherokee and Creek, has been all about headgear for a while now, and in October he launched the Tafv Hat Company.

His one-of-a-kind creations start with well-loved Stetsons and Resistols that he has found online or at an antiques shop or trading post.

“I try to get the highest-quality felt hat I can acquire and go from there,” he said.

He first steams the hats and brushes them with a hat brush.

“I also use sage to spiritually cleanse them and prepare them for their new owner,” Riggs said.

He breaks the hats down to the felt, reshapes the crowns and gives them a new liner and sweatband. They are then adorned with hatbands made from leather or beadwork, or maybe a strip cut from a vintage blanket. Usually he adds a ground-sourced feather that he has cleaned and painted.



“They look completely different from when I buy them,” he said. “I’m going for sustainability, repurposing instead of going to a felt factory.”

His wife, Sarah, who is Creek, helps him with the business and has been perfecting her beadwork skills.

The hats sell for about \$350, depending on the quality of the materials. Felt hats are made from a beaver fur blend and are naturally water-resistant, he said.

Most of his customers are Native, but non-Natives who favor Western attire also like his work.

As far as Riggs is concerned, his hats “go with just about anything. I wear them with jeans and a T-shirt, or nicer jeans and a button-up, even a tie. My wife wears them with her ribbon skirts. They look great with a ribbon shirt

on a man.”

The hats are designed in his home workshop, “what used to be my dining room,” he said with a laugh. They are currently sold online-only, at [Tafvhatcompany.bigcartel.com](http://Tafvhatcompany.bigcartel.com). Riggs, who is 33, also owns Tomahawk Customs, offering such custom work as screen printing, logos and murals.

# NATIVE GIFT IDEAS AROUND ACROSS OKLAHOMA

**F**rom fry bread to chocolate bars to that perfect cup of coffee, the foods that provide holiday flavors and aromas are available from Native-owned businesses across Oklahoma.

Jessica Davis, retail manager for Red Corn Native Foods in Pawhuska, grew up in a household where fry bread was made from scratch. But now she's sold on the mix. "All you have to do is add water," she said. "And you can make several recipes from it. I've made plenty of biscuits with it, and chicken and dumplings, and pizza crust, and noodles. It just depends on how much water you put in." Davis said the Osage-owned company sells fry bread mix in 8-ounce packages at Waterbird Gallery, the Osage Trading Post and Spurs and Arrows in Pawhuska, the Highway 123 Smoke Shop in Bartlesville and the gift shop at First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City. It's also shipped in cases of 24 to people who order by calling (918) 214-2389 or emailing [redcornnativefoods@gmail.com](mailto:redcornnativefoods@gmail.com).

Just in time for the holidays from Ogahpah Coffee is Frosty's Winter Roast, named for the white bison that joined the Quapaw Nation's herd last year.

The coffee is roasted at the tribal-owned facility in Quapaw, said Retail Manager Lauren Cousatte.

Customers can go to [shop.ogahpahcoffee.com](http://shop.ogahpahcoffee.com) to choose grind size or whole beans.

"We don't grind it until an order is placed," Cousatte said.

"That controls how fresh it is."

The coffee is also sold at the roasting facility, at a tribal gas station near the casino in Miami and a convenience store near the Downstream Casino on the Missouri border and at the First Americans Museum gift shop. Customers can enjoy it by the cup at tribal casinos and in the coffee shop and restaurant at First Americans Museum.

The Quapaw Nation also manages 80 aviaries and has an FDA-certified processing plant for beef and bison. One of the holiday baskets offered by Ogahpah Coffee contains packages of coffee and honey, a T-shirt and beef sticks. The other gift basket features a sampling of coffee blends.

Chocolate's origins stretch back thousands of years to the early Mesoamerican cultures of North, Central and South America, where the cacao tree is native. The word chocolate is believed to be derived from the Aztec language, according to the website of the Chickasaw-owned Bedre Fine Chocolate.

Gourmet chocolate offerings from Bedre include solid dark chocolate bars, milk chocolate caramel bars, milk chocolate-dipped potato chips, OU and OSU-themed products and premium dark chocolate coffee.

Bedre products can be purchased online, at the retail store in Davis, at Chickasaw Travel Stops, at the Artesian Hotel and Bedre Café in Sulphur, at Exhibit C Gallery in Oklahoma City and at other retail locations across Oklahoma and in neighboring states.

Written by Kimberly Burk



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NATIVE FOODS**



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## OUR STORY

In 2016 Quapaw Nation and the Business Committee wanted to improve the quality of coffee offered in the casinos and restaurants. This led to a complete overhaul of the program, establishing an in-house roastery within a dedicated 2,500-square-foot warehouse about a mile from Downstream Casino in Quapaw, Oklahoma.

O-Gah-Pah Coffee began with a focus on one goal, to grow through innovation and dedication to excellence. Our passion for coffee drives us to create vibrant coffee selections that reflect, improve, and inspire our communities. Creating extraordinary experiences and memories for all our clients.

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**A**s a teenager, and until my early 20s, I was a pretty rambunctious young man," he said. "I lived a life that wasn't pleasing to my mother. But she always hung in there, and she always prayed for me." Bible, 60, said it would be years before he fully appreciated everything his mother did for him, such as obtaining a teaching degree in her 40s so she could finish raising her three children after his parents divorced. He felt badly about the worry he had caused her. But he was given a chance to return some of that unconditional love. "My wife and I ended up taking care of her until her last days," he said. "She was frail. You had to carry her from the bed to the car for dialysis." Bible's love for his family and his heritage played a role in his decision to launch Southwest Trading Co., a Native American gift shop at 11th and Peoria on Route 66. The grand opening was Oct. 23. Bible is a citizen of the Muscogee Nation through his father's line. His mother was Hopi. Every summer when he was growing up, the family spent time on the Hopi Reservation in Arizona, where his grandfather was a rancher. The horses, the cattle ranch, the Hopi ceremonies, even living off the grid, he loved all of it. The name of the store is a nod to his mother's ancestry, and the business offers jewelry and pottery from the Southwestern tribes as well as beadwork, cedar boxes and other handcrafted items from tribes in Oklahoma. Everything in the store was designed by Natives, and most items are handmade. Whenever possible, Bible buys from his relatives and other Native artisans. But when the pandemic hit and leisure travel was all but halted, many who were left without a market for their work went in search of steady jobs, so inventory is not always easy to come by. "We are looking for Oklahoma artists' beadwork and paintings," Bible said. "We will showcase some local tribal talent. The store will evolve as time goes by." The store is an outgrowth of what started as a sideline for Bible and his daughter Ashley Bible. Eight years ago, he was approached by family friend Pauline Tsosie, who asked him to take over her popup blanket store because she was busy with her grandchildren's softball games. He and Ashley started at the Stillwell Powwow, selling blankets only, but the business expanded as they traveled to conferences, seminars, Main Street celebrations and powwows. Tsosie and her husband died last year from Covid, Bible said. "She is dearly missed." The store will also meet a need expressed often by leaders of Tulsa's travel industry. It's been years since Tulsa has had a brick-and-mortar Native store. "People who come to conferences are always looking for Native American arts and crafts," Bible said. Ashley will manage the shop while Bible tends to his job as area manager of a molding company. He will help on weekends. Ashley's daughter Marley has accompanied her mom to the vendor events since she was born and will grow up in the store, Bible said. "My granddaughter and her mother live with us, so I get to see her every day of her life," he said of Marley, who is 2. Bible is chairman of the Tulsa Indian Club, which produces the Tulsa Powwow and is often called upon to provide honor guards and otherwise share the Native culture. He also serves on the city of Tulsa's Native American Board. Bible said he considers himself an activist, and the causes that are important to him include racist sports mascots, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and injustices in the judicial system. His hobby, Bible said, is volunteer work, "whether it's giving somebody a ride, paying a bill or 10 minutes of listening, just being there. That's what I miss with this pandemic. My family has hunkered down and stayed close to home." The Southwest Trading Co. is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. It is closed on Monday.



# SOUTHWEST TRADING CO.



16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

DhGwY JhCGwWw&wy 0-0L00T

# CHEROKEE ART MARKET

DECEMBER 6-17



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## GIVE THANKS | John Morris

Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. -1 Thessalonians 5:18

It is getting close to Thanksgiving and just wanted to remind you of what we need to be doing during this time of the year! I know it has been a tough year, but it is getting better as we go along. We also need to continue to seek God through His Son, Jesus every day of the year and not just during this time of the year! I am praying that God has allowed you to make it through everything that you are going through as a person, family and nation. We always need to trust the Lord with all things!

God wants you to trust him one day at a time. He wants you to ask for your "daily bread" (Matthew 6:11), not for your weekly bread, monthly bread, or yearly bread.

The bible tells us 'Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable — if there is any moral excellence and if there is any praise — dwell on these things. -Philippians 4:6-8

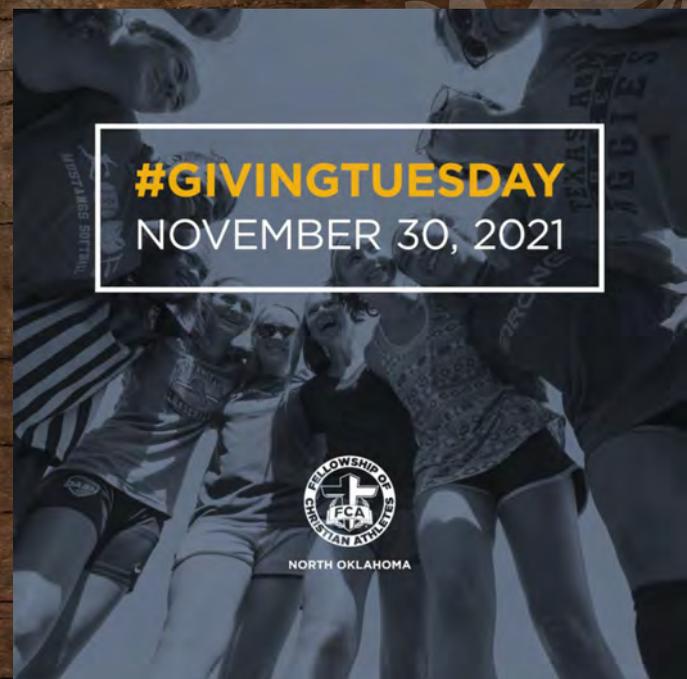
This passage teaches four things to do daily to trust God: Worry about nothing. "Don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today" (Matthew 6:34). Why is worry such a big deal? Because it's not just a bad habit—it's a sin. But God keeps his promises, and you can trust that he will take care of you.

Pray about everything. Prayer changes things. Romans 8:32 says, "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" God solved your biggest problem—the sin that kept you from heaven—when he sent Jesus to die for you. If God loved you enough to send Jesus to die for you, don't you think he loves you enough to take care of all your other problems? Thank God in all things. No matter what happens, give thanks. The Bible doesn't say, "For all things, give thanks." It says, "In all things, give thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). You don't have to be thankful for bad things in your life. You should never be thankful for evil. You don't have to be thankful for cancer or

a car accident. But God says that in everything you can give thanks. Why? Because you know that God's going to take care of you. You know he's going to meet your needs. You know he's going to help you.

Think about the right things. In Philippians 4, God has given you a list of things to think about—things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and worthy of praise. Where do you find things that are pure and lovely to think about? You won't find them watching TV or scrolling through social media. You will find pure, lovely, and honorable thoughts in the Word of God. Read it, study it, memorize it, and fill your mind with it. Isaiah 26:3 says, "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!"

*Make today the day you start trusting God one day at a time. Just a reminder of Giving Tuesday which is November 30th, 2021, if you would like to help me in raising support, please go <https://my.fca.org/johnmorris> to help with Giving Tuesday! Thank you!*



*John Morris is currently serving with Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is supported financially by faith partners. If you are interested in more information on FCA or being a faith partner go to this link <https://my.fca.org/johnmorris>. John can be contacted through email: [johnmorris@fca.org](mailto:johnmorris@fca.org) or by cell number (785-760-1627).*

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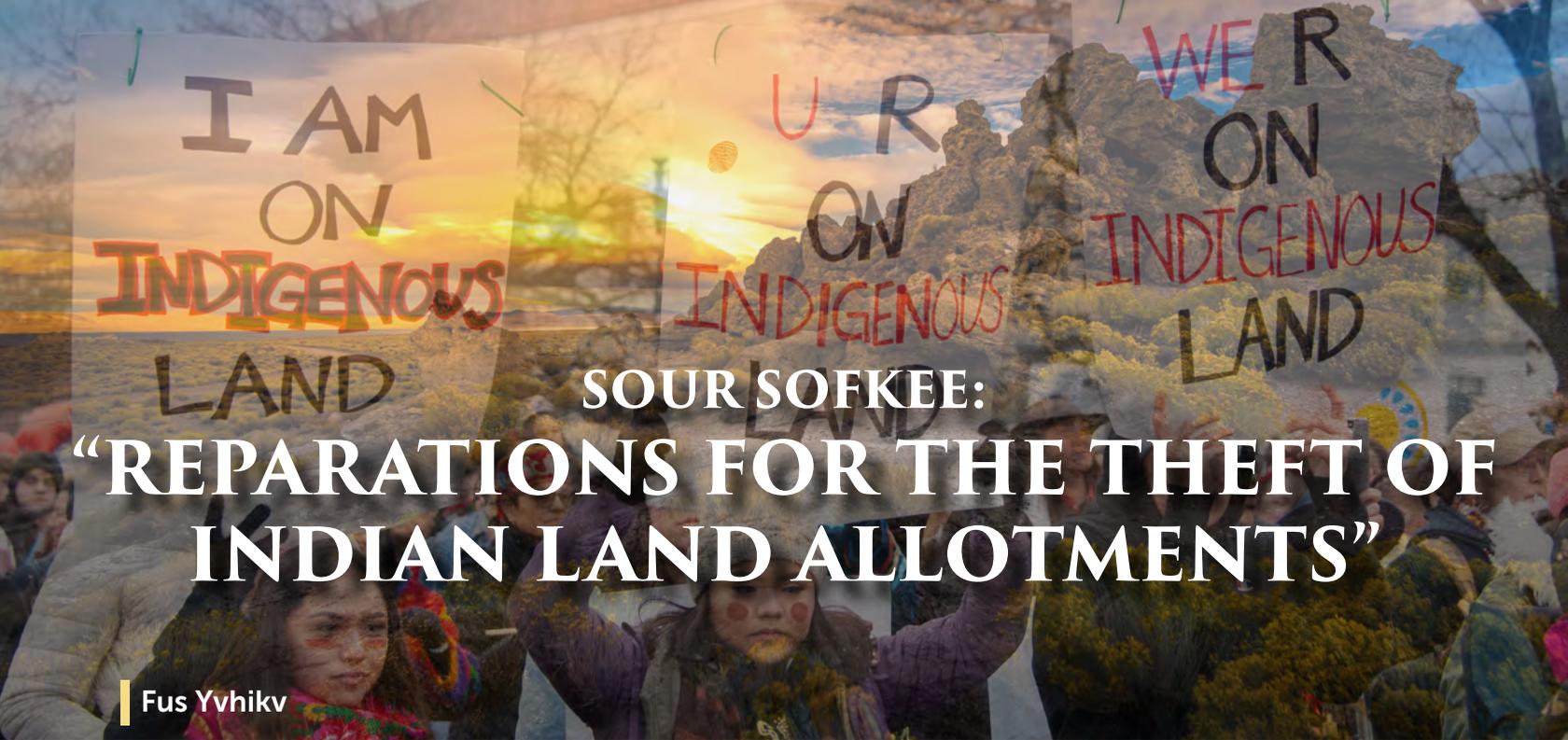
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# SOUR SOFKEE: “REPARATIONS FOR THE THEFT OF INDIAN LAND ALLOTMENTS”

Fus Yvhikv

**I**n 1908, the Pontotoc County District Court approved the sale of lands belonging to Lucy Carney, a non-English speaking Chickasaw. Her 154 acres were sold for \$1,600. The purchaser then borrowed \$2,100 from a Trust Company. As the lender could not loan more than forty percent of market value, the land was worth at least \$5,250. Lucy was thus legally robbed of \$3,650. Her land forever gone; her descendants eternally despoiled.

Another case involves Sina Battiest. She died on November 8, 1918. Four years later, “Sina” appeared in court as a man to execute a land lease. “His” signature was notarized and attested by two witnesses. Such was the power of the swindlers that they could not only bring the dead to life again but also to change their sex.

Elsewhere, predatory grafters were gathered at Hilly Bear’s deathbed. Once dead, they pressed her thumb to an ink pad. They affixed her fingerprint signature to “her” will. An investigation revealed ink on Hilly’s thumb. Such was the zeitgeist that the brazen pillagers didn’t bother to dispose of the smoking gun evidence.

Thousands of similar thefts occurred across Oklahoma. So ubiquitous were the robberies that the esteemed historian Angie Debo described the situation as “A grand conspiracy to defraud Indians of their lands and wealth.”

Debo documented many instances of this grand conspiracy in her classic 1940 book *And Still the Waters Run: The Betrayal of the Five Civilized Tribes*. So too did the Indian Rights Association in their 1924 report *Oklahoma’s Poor Rich Indians: An Orgy of Graft and Exploitation of the Five Civilized Tribes – Legalized Robbery*.

Oklahoma bears sole responsibility for establishing the framework that enabled, facilitated and encouraged the wholesale theft, rape and murders of Indian allottees. The Enabling Act of 1906, providing for admission of Oklahoma as a state, stipulated that the federal government would have sole authority over tribes and Indians. Oklahoma was so eager for statehood, that its citizens readily agreed to this condition.

However Oklahoma quickly began a concerted effort to disestablish federal control. This undermining effort bore fruit with the passage of the Act of May 27, 1908. The Act removed protective restrictions on approximately 64,000 of the 101,000 allotments in eastern Oklahoma. The Act also gave Oklahoma district courts full authority over all Indian probate matters. The graft was on, cloaked in the sanctimonious mantle of “protecting the helpless Indians”. Full bloods, minors and Indians with valuable lands were targeted by rapacious whites. County judges appointed guardians. Guardians were oftentimes country club buddies of the judge.

Judges frequently signed guardianship papers during fishing trips. White guardians had plenary power over their wards. They sold, leased and mortgaged Indian assets in a frenetic orgy of self-dealing, graft and corruption. So lucrative were such guardianships that it gave rise to a phenomenon unique to Oklahoma; the rise of the professional guardian.

Guardianship was a full-time occupation. Guardians might have dozens of wards. They, their attorneys, bankers, merchants and other conspirators siphoned vast amounts of money from Indian estates. A pittance, if any, found its way to helpless wards. Reparations is defined as the act of making amends for wrongs inflicted on innocent parties. The grand conspiracy that defrauded Indian allottees is a scarlet stain upon the state of Oklahoma. Justice demands reparations by the state to descendants of allottees.

Some may say that the theft and exploitation of Indian allottees is deplorable but that the victims are long since dead. However, absent such widespread thievery, descendants of the original allottees might still own vast amounts of valuable land in Tulsa and eastern Oklahoma. Descendants of allottees thus continue to be injured and damaged by state sanctioned grand theft.

Moreover, current property owners throughout the former Indian Territory are today unwitting beneficiaries of this vast transfer of wealth and of Oklahoma’s egregious failure to properly discharge its fiduciary and trust responsibilities.

We can’t change the past but we can begin to acknowledge and make amends for the crimes committed against Lucy Carney, Sina Battiest, Hilly Bear and thousands of Indian allottees and their descendants. Reparations are just and proper. Do the right thing Oklahoma.





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