

PREFACE

Ever since the Chickasaws gave up their homes east of the Mississippi River to move to an unknown land called the Indian Territory, now a part of the state of Oklahoma, they have been determined that their children must be educated in order to be able to understand the white man's ways. Many of the older full bloods did not understand the terms under which they had to leave their homes, believing they would never again be disturbed. As is now well known, that belief proved false.

As the years have gone by, Chickasaws realize even more clearly that education is a necessity for their children to be able to compete in a changing world. But that education, by and large, has been the white man's education; and my late husband, the Reverend Jesse Humes, and I began to wonder about our heritage. Would it be forgotten? Would our culture be lost? What could we, as individuals, do to remind the young Chickasaws that they have a proud heritage?

As we saw increasing numbers of young Chickasaws without a working knowledge of their native language, we began to fear that the language itself might be lost. And here was one place where we might be able to help. Thus, with the thought of preserving our language, we compiled a list of Chickasaw words in a very simple manner. Disregarding all rules of orthography, we made an effort to spell the words as they sound, in the hope that anyone using the list could pronounce them. The result is not a conventional dictionary in any sense. We have not attempted to define words except when there could be confusion about the meaning of two similar English words or homonyms. We have selected words that we have found need of, including a few no longer in general use, and we have attempted to include also equivalents for modern words that were never in the old-time Chickasaw's vocabulary.

The arrangement is English to Chickasaw, since that is apparently the greatest need for today's young people. First is given the English word, then the Chickasaw word, then a respelling to indicate pronunciation. A few simple guides to pronunciation precede the lists of words.

Much time and effort and many prayers have gone into the project. I

A CHICKASAW DICTIONARY

know only too well that it is not perfect, but it is my hope that the user will find this volume useful in acquiring a Chickasaw vocabulary.

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Wapanucka, Oklahoma
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ENGLISH	CHICKASAW	PRONUNCIATION
abandon, v.	aiissachi	ah-iss-ah-che
abandoned, adj.	aichukilissa	ah-chöök-e-liss-ah
abase, v.	kalakshi	kah-lük-she
abash, v.	hofayachi	hoh-fah-yah-che
abashed, adj.	hofaya tok	hoh-fah-yah tohk
abbreviate, v.	tilofa	tee-lohn-fah
abdicate, v.	kucha	köo-chah
abdomen, n.	itakoba	it-ah-koh-bah
abet, v.	apela	ah-pe-lah
abettor, n.	apelachi	ah-pe-lah-che
abhor, v.	skamosha	ehn-kah-moh-shah
abide, v.	aiutta	ah-üt-tah
ability, n.	impona	em-pohn-ah
abject, adj.	kalakshi	kah-lük-she
ablaze, adv.	kela	ke-lah
able, adj. (physically fit)	kelimpi	ke-lim-pe
abloom, adj.	pakali	pah-kahn-le
aboard, adv.	chukoa	chöök-oh-ah
abode, n.	chuka; aiiasha	chöök-ah; ah-yah-shah
abolish, v.	kashofi	kah-sho-fe
abolition, n.	akshochi	ük-sho-che
abominable, adj.	okpulo fehna	ok-poh-loh fe-nah
abominate, v.	ikyailo	ek-yah-il-oh
abomination, n.	isht ikimpo	isht ee-keem-poh
aboriginal, adj.	tkba	tīng-bah
aborigines, n.	tkba okla	tīng-bah ohk-lah
abortion, n.	oshi okpuni	o-she ohk-pün-e
abound, v.	lawa	lah-wah
about, adv.	yumma foka	yüm-mah foh-kah