

## **Districts of the Cherokee Nation**

*-by Charles O. Walker*

In 1829 the Cherokees divided their Nation into eight districts. The citizens of each district came and designated precincts and elected their district judge. The districts were:

1. **CHICKAMAUGA:** It is in extreme northwest Georgia and goes into Tennessee. The name came from several large creeks by this designation. The seat of government was Crawfish Spring where the Walker Courthouse was built. This is in today's city of Chickamauga.
2. **CHATOOGA:** It is a wedge of Georgia west of Rome, but it is mainly in Alabama. The Chatooga River came out of Georgia and went into Alabama to Coosa River. The town of Chatoogaville was on GA 114.
3. **COOSAWATTEE:** It comes from Rome, east to Sixes Town which is west of Canton. From this community, called Sutallee today, the line goes north to Talking Rock, through Talona Valley to Cartecay in Gilmer County. The line turns at the corner and goes west to Gregory in Murray County and then back to Rome.
4. **AMOAH:** It begins in west Fannin County and goes north into Tennessee. [Cleveland, Bradley County, Polk County]
5. **HICKORY LOG:** This includes southeast Gilmer; all of Lumpkin, Dawson and Forsyth Counties; east Pickens, east Cherokee, old Milton (upper Fulton) County. This district included most of Pickens County.

The Court House was at Hickory Log Town where I-575 and old GA 5 cross. The old building was near the Etowah River, across from River Stone, and was moved from near the river up to the main house of the Brown/Lewis/Crosswell farm. This is the only Cherokee court house still standing.

6. **ETOWAH (HIGHTOWER):** It was mainly south of the Etowah River. It included southwest Cherokee, south Bartow, southeast Floyd, Cobb, Paulding, Polk and north Haralson Counties.
7. **TARQOHEE:** It was above Hickory Log District. It included east Fannin, north Lumpkin, Union, Towns counties, plus the Valley Towns near Murphy and other lands in western North Carolina.
8. **AQUOKEE:** It had part of Towns County and mainly North Carolina including Cherokee.

Cherokee towns and settlements were always on creeks or rivers. The banks helped protect larger settled towns on one or two sides. The water was for drinking and bathing. Rich and fertile valleys furnished cane as well as rich crop lands. Fish traps were built along the larger streams. Isolated individual families connected to a town could live as far as ten miles from the council house. Others lived in settlements which did not have a town government.

*From the book, Observations From the Side of the Road, by Charles O. Walker, Copyright©1999. Used with permission. First published in the Pickens County Progress.*