

Insights: Publications

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians: How One Isolated Tribe Beat the Odds

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Not many people know that one tribe remains in Alabama. My Tribe is descended from the original Creek confederacy, which occupied most of Alabama and Georgia. My ancestors lived along the Alabama River and migrated south during the 1700s to serve as guides, interpreters, and river pilots for the federal government. As many people know, however, this dynamic changed dramatically during the early 1800s, and the federal government began to forcibly relocate most tribes throughout the Southeast to Oklahoma. A few Creek families, my ancestors who had provided these services to the federal government, were allowed to keep their lands and stay in their homeland.