

**Journal #2932**                      *from sdc*                      **9.4.13**

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*Pinyon Pine Nut season*  
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<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2013/08/29/oklahoma-town-tries-to-rid-water-supply-worms/>  
(town within bounds of Cherokee Nation near Tulsa, OK)

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**The Choctaw Confederates**            By **ADAM GOODHEART** February 9, 2011

**Doaksville, Indian Territory, February 1861**

During the first week of February, while gentlemen from across the South convened in Montgomery, Ala., to [establish a new nation](#), a meeting of another, far older nation was happening 500 miles to the west. Instead of taking place under the lofty dome of a [neoclassical capitol](#), this one was held in a simple wooden council house, on the red clay banks of a muddy creek near what is now the Texas-Oklahoma border. Here the tribal leaders of the [Choctaw Nation](#) gathered to debate their future.

No detailed description of that council session survives. But the Choctaws on the eve of the Civil War were a heterogeneous, sometimes fractious people, poised at an intersection of races and cultures, of new ways and old ones. Here is how a white missionary described a gathering in [Doaksville](#), the tribe's capital, a few years earlier:

There were cabins, tents, booths, stores, shanties, wagons, carts, campfires; white, red, black and mixed in every imaginable shade and proportion and dressed in every conceivable variety of style, from tasty American clothes to the wild costumes of the Indians; buying, selling, swapping, betting, shooting, strutting, talking, laughing, fiddling, eating, drinking, smoking, sleeping, seeing and being seen, all bundled together.

Now the Choctaws' elected representatives – like the leaders of many other native tribes across the South – faced a momentous decision: Whether to remain loyal to the United States or cast their lot with the new and untested Confederate States of America.

There was no obvious answer. After all, the United States had not always been quite loyal to the Choctaws. In the previous century, the tribe, then living mostly in what is now Alabama and Mississippi, had been one of the first to sign a treaty of friendship with the newly independent American colonies; in the War of 1812, they had fought bravely alongside Gen. Andrew Jackson against the British at New Orleans. In 1831, General Jackson – by then president – had repaid his debt by making the Choctaws the first Indian nation to be forced west along the [Trail of Tears](#). Thousands died along the way.

Still, many of the 20,000 or so Choctaws – especially those whose families had intermarried with whites – now considered themselves not just Native Americans, but also Southerners. A significant number of tribal leaders owned black slaves. Just a few years after the move west, the General Council had passed laws forbidding any public expression of “the most fatal and destructive doctrine of abolitionism”; barring slaves from learning to read and write; and refusing to let free blacks settle within the nation’s territory. In 1856 the tribe became an object of particular revulsion among Northern abolitionists when reports spread that a Choctaw lynch mob had burned alive an enslaved woman accused of complicity in the murder of her master.

At the same time, strong ties still bound the Choctaws to the Union, whether willingly or otherwise; not least among these were bonds of financial self-interest. Even as the tribal council met in Doaksville, one of its leading members was absent in Washington, preparing to reap the rewards of many years of skillful diplomacy on behalf of his people.

[Peter Pitchlynn](#) – who possessed only one-quarter Native American ancestry – conformed to very few white stereotypes about Indian chiefs. Tall, courtly and debonair, he read Shakespeare and Milton and hobnobbed with Henry Clay. Once, he happened to find himself aboard an Ohio River steamboat with Charles Dickens, who was touring the United States. Pitchlynn sent Dickens his calling card by way of introduction, and the two were quickly engrossed in conversation about the poetry of Sir Walter Scott. “He was a remarkably handsome man,” the great novelist wrote afterward, “with long black hair, an aquiline nose, broad cheek bones, a sunburnt complexion and a very bright, keen, dark, and piercing eye ... as stately and complete a gentleman of Nature’s making, as ever I beheld.”

For more than two decades, Pitchlynn had lobbied the federal government for reparations to compensate the Choctaws fully for their lost tribal lands. He had haunted the halls and cloakrooms of the Capitol and circulated among the dining rooms of the congressional boardinghouses. Now he seemed on the verge of success, with Congress poised to enact a bill awarding \$3 million to his nation. (On Feb. 6, [Sen. Andrew Johnson of Tennessee](#) gave a rousing speech on the Choctaws’ behalf: “For my part I will never consent to ... bare faced robbery inflicted on the weak by the strong.”)

Not long afterward, Pitchlynn would describe the dilemma facing the tribe:

The Choctaws are completely tied up, by treaties, with the government of the United States. ... By these very same treaties, we now have a complete title and right to the land we now live on and all our invested funds are now in the hands of President Lincoln. These treaties are the only guarantees we have for our country and our monies. If we now violate them by joining the secessionist, we lose that guarantee.

The Choctaws' conundrum was similar to those facing dozens of other tribes across the continent. Native American leaders had long since grown accustomed to the high-stakes game of making or breaking alliances with various groups of whites. Each side – whether Britons battling Frenchmen or Mohawks fighting Pequots – tried to manipulate the other and defeat its enemies through various forms of proxy warfare.

Now Union and Confederacy would each try to leverage Indian power, and Indian grievances, for its own benefit. So too, the Indians now wondered if a weakened United States might not be to their advantage. And some members of long-peaceful tribes relished the opportunity to revive dormant warrior traditions: in 1861, young Choctaws began donning war paint and performing dances unseen since their grandfathers' time.

Certainly the new president-elect and his party seemed unlikely to be great friends of Indian interests. In the recent electoral campaign, the Republicans had put an alarming degree of emphasis on westward expansion, including a transcontinental railroad and the distribution of free land to white settlers. [William H. Seward](#), the party's political chieftain, had recently proclaimed that the country's destiny rested in "the great west" and that hence "Indian territory ... south of Kansas must be vacated by the Indians." As for Abraham Lincoln, he often spoke proudly about his participation in the Black Hawk War, a ghastly conflict in which frontier militiamen massacred Sauk and Fox women and children. (Lincoln himself had not seen combat.)

On the other hand, Jefferson Davis had participated in that war, too. And a decade earlier, as a congressman from Mississippi, he had pushed for the forcible removal of the last few Choctaws remaining in his state. Oddly, Davis apparently also claimed descent (spuriously) from the great 17th-century Virginia chieftain Opechancanough – uncle of Pocahontas and foe of the Jamestown colonists – though it doesn't seem to have softened his attitude toward latter-day Indians.

Ultimately, different Native American tribes chose very different allegiances. The Choctaws' Cherokee neighbors would wage a kind of civil war within the Civil War, with different groups fighting for Union and Confederacy. The nearby Delawares went solidly for the North: by one reckoning, some 85 percent of the tribe's eligible males enlisted in the Union army.

As for the Choctaws, their tribal council at Doaksville passed a series of resolutions on Feb. 7:

That we view with deep regret and great solicitude the present unhappy political disagreement between the Northern and Southern states of the American Union, tending to a permanent dissolution of the Union and the disturbance of the various important relations existing with that government by treaty stipulations and international laws, and portending much injury to the Choctaw government and people. ...

That in the event a permanent dissolution of the American Union takes place, our many relations with the general government must cease, and we shall be left to follow the natural affections, education, institutions and interests of our people, which indissolubly bind us in every way to the destiny of our neighbors and brethren of the Southern states.

Two days later, in far-off Washington, the Senate passed a bill awarding the tribe \$1.2 million. (The House would later reduce this to \$500,000.) Pitchlynn, unaware of the developments in Indian Territory, set off for home to share news of his short-lived triumph. He would remain a staunch Unionist throughout the war – but three of his sons, like many other young Choctaws, would soon ride off to fight for the Confederacy.

In 1865, another momentous meeting would take place in Doaksville. On June 23, the Confederate general Stand Watie – who was also principal chief of the Cherokees – rode into town with the remnants of his cavalry brigade and surrendered to Union officers. But it was not until the following year that the Choctaw nation formally abolished slavery and signed a treaty with the United States.

Join [Disunion on Facebook](#) »

Sources: *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Vol. 1*; Grant Foreman, “Notes from the Indian Advocate” (*Chronicles of Oklahoma*, March 1936); John Wesley Morris, “Ghost Towns of Oklahoma”; Angie Debo, “[The Rise and Fall of the Choctaw Republic](#)”; Clara Sue Kidwell, “[The Choctaws in Oklahoma: From Tribe to Nation, 1855-1970](#)”; Donna Akers, “[Living in the Land of Death: The Choctaw Nation, 1830-1860](#)”; W. David Baird, “Peter Pitchlynn: Chief of the Choctaws”; Charles Dickens, “American Notes”; Laurence M. Hauptman, “Between Two Fires: American Indians in the Civil War.”

Adam Goodheart is the author of the forthcoming book “[1861: The Civil War Awakening](#).” He lives in Washington, D.C., and on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where he is the Hodson Trust-Griswold Director of Washington College’s C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience.

[http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/02/09/the-choctaw-confederates/?\\_r=0&pagewanted=print](http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/02/09/the-choctaw-confederates/?_r=0&pagewanted=print)

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## Water Tap:

### Increase the Flows

The Army Corps of Engineers has released a draft report on how it plans to implement a [\\$US 1.7 billion project to revive the Florida Everglades](#). In essence, the corps will send more water south from Lake Okeechobee, treat it to remove phosphorous, and let it drain slowly to mimic natural filtration into the River of Grass. Comments on the plan will be accepted through October 13 and can be emailed to [CEPPcomments@usace.army.mil](mailto:CEPPcomments@usace.army.mil).

### Dam Safety

A 2008 review found that the worst-case flood scenario for the string of dams and nuclear plants operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority is worse than previously thought. The TVA now plans [to raise the height of four dams](#) by 1 to 2 meters (3.5 to 6.6 feet) to decrease the risk from flooding.

### USDA Climate Change Report

What is agriculture’s role in the carbon cycle? How many greenhouse gases do farming and ranching produce and capture? The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released a 564-page draft report outlining new [methods to calculate the balance](#).

## **Coal Hearing**

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing at West Virginia University on September 4 to talk about [the future of coal](#). Three panels, representing industry, labor, academia, think-tanks and state and federal government, will testify.

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## **ConnectNevada News**

### **[Registration Now Open for 2013 Nevada Broadband Summit](#)**

[Registration](#) is now open for Nevada's third annual Broadband Summit taking place November 18 in Reno!

The event, called Learning in the Digital Space, will bring national, state, county, and local leaders together to discuss broadband expansion and the critical role technology is now playing in education.

The one-day meeting will take place at the University of Nevada, Reno. The summit is being co-hosted by nonprofit Connect Nevada and the governor's Nevada Broadband Task Force. [Click here](#) to learn more and register now!

### **[Eureka County Welcomes Comprehensive Technology Plan](#)**

Eureka County now has an action plan to make way for greater technology use across the community and to pave the way for a brighter economic future!

The Technology Action Plan was recently unveiled at the Eureka Opera House earlier this month as part of community's participation in the Connected Community Engagement Program.

Fourteen Nevada communities are currently involved in some stage of the Connected program.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Eureka County's top technology goals, and mark your calendar for more Technology Action Plan presentations in September!

**Lander County Technology Action Plan** - Wednesday, September 4, at 11 AM - Battle Mountain Civic Center, 625 Broad Street, Battle Mountain, NV

**Esmeralda County Technology Action Plan** - Tuesday, September 17, at 9 AM - Esmeralda County Courthouse, 231 Crook St Goldfield, NV 89013

### **[Education Month is Underway](#)**

#### **Connected Nation's Education Month is in full swing!**

We're working with partners across the nation on efforts and initiatives to connect more classrooms and bring better technology to students and educators.

Recently, we launched our [Edified](#) program. The initiative seeks to increase the deployment of the latest mobile technology, robust wireless connectivity, education apps, and twenty-first century teaching practice in America's K-12 schools, colleges, and universities. [Click here](#) to learn more!

### **Internet Offers Nevada Students Alternative Schooling Options**

As we focus on education, virtual or online academies are an alternative to traditional public schooling. They give children access to a high quality public school in a home-based learning environment. Students are still given the state standardized K-12 curriculum, but are able to learn at their own pace.

What many don't realize is that since these schools are still public schools, they are free! [Click here](#) to learn more.

### **Get Connected with Nevada's Every Community Online program!**

Connect Nevada's [Every Community Online](#) Program offers the perfect way to get connected.

ECO offers free computer and Internet training that qualifies participants for discounted computers. Participants in the Las Vegas area are also eligible for discounted home broadband service.

ECO participants are eligible for:

- **Desktop computers for \$182.00**
- **Laptop computers for \$199.00**
- **Broadband service for \$10.00 a month** (Las Vegas area only)
- **Desk modems starting at \$73.00**

The program is offered in partnership with [JOIN, Inc.](#) and the [Nevada State Library and Archives](#) (NSLA).

[Click here](#) to learn more about how ECO training is designed to change lives and get every Nevadan online!

### **Take Our CAI Survey!**

We need the help of all Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) in Nevada to answer a short questionnaire regarding broadband adoption. Institutions include K-12 schools, universities, libraries, hospitals/emergency medical facilities, and public safety facilities, and the information you provide will allow us to add data to our map. We made it easy for you too - [just click here!](#)

### **Join the Connect Nevada Conversation!**

We're excited to see Connect Nevada's reach growing daily!

We're often on the road meeting with people in communities across the state as we work toward better broadband access, adoption, and use in Nevada.

You can keep up with our activities in real-time and contribute to the conversation by joining our social networks!

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In addition to our weekly blog posts and these monthly e-Newsletters, we encourage you to [follow us on Twitter](#) and [like us on Facebook!](#)

We look forward to hearing from you as we continue our work with the [Governor's Broadband Task Force](#) to expand broadband and improve digital literacy skills across the state!

## **Upcoming Events**

**Lander County Technology Action Plan** - Wednesday, September 4, at 11 AM - Battle Mountain Civic Center, 625 Broad Street, Battle Mountain, NV

**Esmeralda County Technology Action Plan** - Tuesday, September 17, at 9 AM - Esmeralda County Courthouse, 231 Crook St Goldfield, NV 89013

**Register for TIA 2013: The Future of the Network & Get 10% Off!** - Use code "CNAT13" and Join Connected Nation and partners at the industry's premier event - Monday, October 7 - Thursday, October 10, 2013: Gaylord National, Washington, DC

**2013 Nevada Broadband Summit: Learning in the Digital Space** - Monday, November 18, 2013 - Reno, NV - Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!

*If you have a broadband meeting or event that you would like us to present or help publicize, please contact Lindsey Niedzielski, [lniedzielski@connectnv.org](mailto:lniedzielski@connectnv.org).*

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## **Managing a Business - Resources from SBA**

- [Leading Your Company](#)
- [Growing Your Business](#)
- [Exporting](#)
- [Running a Business](#)
  - [Managing Business Finances & Accounting](#)
  - [Marketing](#)
  - [Sales](#)
  - [Human Resources](#)
  - [Using Technology](#)
  - [Insurance](#)
  - [Emergency Preparedness](#)
    - [Disaster Assistance](#)
    - [Emergency Preparedness](#)
    - [Disaster Planning](#)
    - [Disaster Cleanup](#)
    - [Disaster Recovery Plan](#)
    - [State Government Information](#)
  - [Green Business Guide](#)
  - [Energy Efficiency](#)
  - [Doing Business Abroad](#)
  - [Size Standards](#)
- [Business Law & Regulations](#)
- [Getting Out](#)
- [Business Guides by Industry](#)
- [Health Care](#)
- [Forms](#)

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**Nevada Magazine photo needs November/December 2013 issue**  
**Submission Deadline: Friday, September 27**

**Modern Mining in Nevada** - please do not try to set up a mine tour as a representative of Nevada Magazine. If you're interested in doing this, contact Nevada Magazine first, not the mine. Looking for photos of miners, underground mining, open pits, etc.

**Pre-Statehood Photos** - we need help obtaining historical photos from Nevada before it became a state in 1864. We're interested particularly in the era of 1849-1864. This also means present-day photos of Austin, Dayton, Genoa, Virginia City, etc. (in other words, towns that were founded prior to Nevada gaining statehood in 1864).

**Fort Churchill State Historic Park** - South of Fernley

**Winnemucca Lake petroglyphs** - Believed to be the oldest in North America. They've been in the news recently. If you visit them, treat them with the utmost care and respect.

**Scenic Winter Drives** - Do you have photos of beautiful snowy byways in your collection? If so, we want to see them. Generally, we will consider great winter photos for the cover and our Visions department.

**Fall & Winter Events** - Any images that capture the spirit of a popular November/December celebration in Nevada.

*Please get permission to photograph on private property. If you just want publication and photo credit (no pay), please notify us when you submit your images.*

**Editor's Note**

When you're out shooting, think of how you can get people enjoying Nevada in your photos. Remember, people engaging in activities adds a nice touch.

**Visions**

Captivating images from your collection could be used in this department. Think seasonal and timely to the issue.

**Your Nevada**

A gallery page featuring a single intriguing image, or multiple images, of the Silver State. Send your favorite Nevada images, subject line 'Your Nevada,' along with detailed caption info.

*E-mail images to:*

**Art Director Sean Nebeker at [snebeker@nevadamagazine.com](mailto:snebeker@nevadamagazine.com).**

Please put the subject and issue date (ND13) in the subject line, and provide your mailing address. We prefer you send an initial sampling of low-resolution images. Sean will contact you later if he needs the high-res versions.

Mail CDs or slides to:

Attn: Sean Nebeker, Nevada Magazine, 401 N. Carson St. Carson City, NV 89701

[More Items of Interest](#)

### Connect With Us

\* If you have a Facebook account, we'd be honored to add you to the Nevada Photographers group: [HERE](#)

\* If you have a Google+ profile, we'd be honored to add you to the Nevada Photographers community: [HERE](#)

\* Follow us on other social media: [HERE](#)

### Subscribe

Nevada Magazine has a number of exciting subscription offers: [HERE](#)

### Video

Watch our new Nevada Magazine video: [HERE](#)

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*“You know, understanding history is so important, and Nevada is the classic boom/bust state economy and so they should be teaching that in every school and every political science class ever, because that cycle is definitely not broken.” Jenny Brekhus, Reno City Council*  
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[Pinyon Pine Nut season](#) [deborahsmall.wordpress.com](http://deborahsmall.wordpress.com)

[It's almost pinyon pine nut gathering season in southern California. It's a really labor-intensive process, but the aroma of roasting pine cones is intoxicating, and each nut is a succulent jewel, ...](#)

Native Community Action Council P.O. Box 140 Baker, NV 89311 August 29, 2013  
Dear Environmental Leader,

We need your support to allow our participation at the Atomic Safety Licensing Board. As you may be aware, the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been ordered to resume the licensing of Yucca Mountain as a repository for high-level nuclear waste. We will not go into the technical flaws we believe disqualify the site. We will, however, tell you why we must continue as a “party with standing” and press our contentions before the NRC Atomic Safety Licensing Board Panel.

In the early 1990’s Shoshone and Paiute people questioned the exposure to our land and people in the Great Basin from radioactive fallout from the testing of nuclear weapons. The Nuclear Risk Management for Native Communities (now the Native Community Action Council (NCAC)) began investigating risk and exposure pathways that impact tribal communities. Results from our study, among the first to bring community

stakeholders and researchers from academia (funded by CDC, ASTDR and NIEHS) conducted collaborative research (1992-1998) and found that lifestyle differences: Diet (what we ate and how we prepared food; mobility: where we went and what we did there; and shelter: where we lived and what our houses are constructed of; increased our risk of exposure significantly.

That research was used in 2008 to prepare contentions filed in the NRC for the licensing for domestic nuclear facilities (10 CFR Part 960 Subpart J). We presented contentions that the US Environmental Protection Agency did not use a culturally appropriate context for determining the likely exposure the Native Americans living in the distant future. The radiation exposure limits set were for non-Native Americans that would never hunt, gather or practice Native American traditional life-ways that we live.

Also, we presented a legal contention that the Shoshone people own Yucca Mountain arising from interests supported by the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley. We believe that this halted the licensing proceedings at the NRC (10 CFR §63.121 Requirement for ownership and control of interest in land. (a) Ownership of land. (1) The geologic repository operations area must be located in and on lands that are either acquired lands under jurisdiction and control of the DOE, or lands permanently withdrawn and reserved for its use).

We need your support to continue in the NRC licensing. We are the only party with standing in the licensing proceedings that does not receive federal funding for their involvement. We have been at a disadvantage since the Yucca Mountain project began. Your support is the only way we will be able to continue. Any donation can help us meet the basic requirements for our participation in the proceedings.

We ask for your support in two ways. 1) Please contact members of Congress that you have influence with and explain that the site cannot meet the licensing requirements as explained above; and, 2) send your financial support in any amount you can and we will maintain our involvement in the NRC licensing proceedings. Send you support to:

Native Community Action Council (NCAC) P.O. Box 140 Baker, NV 89311

We need approximately \$3,000 dollars to hold a full board meeting of our 11 member board that has representatives from Shoshone and Paiute communities in Nevada, California and Utah. Part of the funding, approximately \$500 will be used to reassemble and start the Licensing Support Network online documentary material that is a requirement of licensing.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Margene Bullcreek, President

Ian Zabarte, Secretary

Native Community Action Council

Native Community Action Council

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Mr. Ian Zabarte

Please visit my non-profit websites and consider supporting our work. Click on the link to donate.

[www.poohabah.org](http://www.poohabah.org)

[www.dbgnewe.org](http://www.dbgnewe.org)

Note the internet resources below that are related to my work on nuclear issues:

<http://digital.library.unlv.edu/ntsohp/>

[http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/comprehensive\\_planning/nuclear\\_waste/Pages/VideoLibrary.aspx](http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/comprehensive_planning/nuclear_waste/Pages/VideoLibrary.aspx)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJ2N9-n-ka0&feature=share>

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**NATIVE HEALTH is proud to present the 4th Annual NATIVE HEALTH Children's Pageant on Saturday, October 5 at MetroCenter Mall. There are still contestant slots remaining.** Please click here to view the [flyer](#). We hope that you and your family will attend this event. This will be a free fun day you can spend with your family and build memories. Please see the article below for more details.

NATIVE HEALTH is pleased to provide free flu shots for Native Americans beginning Tuesday, September 3. These will be available Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Extended hours are available by appointment. For information and documents required please contact [Karen](#).  
Construction for the new NATIVE HEAL

TH building has been progressing on schedule. Tenant improvement are in the late stages and our move is quickly approaching. The photo at right shows how quickly things are moving. Our move is on target for early October. Watch for upcoming details about the move, services, and Open House at our new location at 4041 N. Central Avenue, Building C (southeast corner of Indian School and Central Avenue)! Watch for our new tagline, "Your Healthcare Home" which will include updates on the upcoming move!

Fall is again upon us and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and the State Employees Charitable Campaigns are kicking off. NATIVE HEALTH is an approved agency. Please consider NATIVE HEALTH in your workplace giving. For more information please see the article in the newsletter.

NATIVE HEALTH and the local Native American community have many exciting events planned for the Native American Recognition Days beginning in October. Click [here to view the NARD Calendar/Poster](#).