From Talking Leaves to Pixels

The Evolution of the Cherokee Syllabary

Roy Boney, Jr.
Overview of Cherokee Nation Language Initiatives
Tahlequah, OK
Cherokee Language Program Overview

Office of Translation

Community Language Program

Language Technology
Additional CN Language Initiatives

Cherokee Immersion Charter School
Early Childhood Cherokee Program
Master / Apprentice Pilot Program
Employee Classes and Incentive Bonus Pay

Cherokee Phoenix Articles in the Language
History of the Cherokee Writing System & Adapting to New Technologies
ᏍᏏᏉᏯ
Treaty of 1828. Sequoyah's signature
Sequoyah’s original handwritten syllabary 1821
Cherokee type was contracted to the Griele Foundry in Boston.
Mr. Worcester has furnished the following translation of the first five verses of Genesis. It is written in the new characters invented by Guess, and is printed from the found of types lately cast for the Cherokee government.

1 RSAHET OLOWO-A OLOWAT SACT RGAZ.

2 RGAZ NUREO DO OSAATOW KAT, OPHYZ DASSY EST OSEPZON-A KAT; OLOWO-AZ OPO-A DRY ES SZEAPRT.

3 OLOWO-AZ, TO OSLY, OMLT, TE TOAT.

4 DO OLOWO-A OSEPZON-A TO KAT. OLOWO-AZ SWPWL TO OPHYZ.

5 OLOWO-AZ TO RE TO SORY; OPHYZ RGA SORT.
CONSTITUTION OF THE CHEROKEE NATION.

The Cherokee Nation is a sovereign and independent nation of people, and the Constitution and laws of the United States shall not apply to them. The Cherokee Nation shall have the power to make all such laws and regulations as shall be necessary for the government and welfare of the people. The Cherokee Nation shall have the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and with the Indian tribes within its jurisdiction.

ARTICLE I.

Section 1. The Constitution of the Cherokee Nation shall be contained in this article, and the laws and regulations shall be published in the Cherokee Phoenix, and the newspapers of the United States.

Section 2. The Constitution of the Cherokee Nation shall be adopted by the General Assembly, and shall be subject to the approval of the President of the United States.

ARTICLE II.

The Cherokee Nation shall have the power to regulate the internal affairs of the Cherokee Nation, and to provide for the security and protection of the Cherokee Nation.

ARTICLE III.

The Cherokee Nation shall have the power to regulate the foreign relations of the Cherokee Nation.

Section 1. The Cherokee Nation shall have the power to make treaties with foreign nations, and to enter into alliances with other nations.

Section 2. The Cherokee Nation shall have the power to negotiate and sign treaties with other nations, and to enter into alliances with other nations.

Section 3. The Cherokee Nation shall have the power to negotiate and sign treaties with other nations, and to enter into alliances with other nations.

Section 4. The Cherokee Nation shall have the power to negotiate and sign treaties with other nations, and to enter into alliances with other nations.

Section 5. The Cherokee Nation shall have the power to negotiate and sign treaties with other nations, and to enter into alliances with other nations.
Ans. Only one of the three letters in question, viz. ș, has simply the sound of un French. The other two are aspirated, and differ from each other only in that the sound of ș is more open than that of ș. This distinction has been regarded as of so little consequence, particularly by Maj. Lowrey, who has been the oracle on this subject, that the character ș has been omitted, and, as no type has been cast for it, your printers can only represent it, as I perceive they have done, by breaking the English capital G.
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Broadsheet of the syllabary from Union Mission press c. 1836
HYMN 3. L.M.

The same.

1 As he sawed,
    Me Gawo-a,
    Ofvii gvo-y,
    Hi-wawra-z.

2 sly ay by
    ovra-wa-ri,
    'e hy sover
    vovra-wa-ri.

HYMN 4. L.M.

Close of Worship.

1 obmodo, ayawse
    ov-yiwa-ot,
    Do teywet
    hir ayavv.

2 Ozer ovz
    Ywaw ovz-es
    Quo-0-y, do ody
    ovz-es-

3 Wispy, ha
    Sawya-re;
    ha-aaz vao-
    ha auyra-

HYMN 5. L.M.

Longing for the house of God. Ps. 42.

1 Do da-sat
    Tusa-wa-ta,
    Owa a-rep;
    Ova Ge-o-a.

2 Lelal a-sa,
    Ge-o-a an;
    Awa t-k
    t-sa na-

3 He, se-
    Owze ovz-
    Oyve.

4 Ralal de-ov
    She-sto-
    Olyv oya-
    Azyw ovz.

5 Dye, de-ov
    Owze ov-
    Owze ovz-

6 Dey, de-ov
    Owze ov-
    Owze ovz-

HYMN 6. 12, 9.

Psalm 5.

1 He, yee eto-
    Hee tua-wa-
    Ha-ewra-
    Ha etn-

2 Olyv a-sat
    KI se-
    Olyv a-
    Et-

3 He, yee eto-
    Hee tua-wa-
    Ha-ewra-
    Ha etn-

4 He, yee eto-
    Hee tua-wa-
    Ha-ewra-
    Ha etn-
§ 45. **Dewaj ksas dawajip dewaj alasat, dasag dawaj pe jala akcug, dawaj kwaj dawaj alasat.**

Oew dawajip cwe cwe dawaj pe jala jala alasat, gaw evoji akcug, akcug dawajip gaw evoi dawaj alasat.


§ 46. **Dewaj alasat, akc dewajip dawaj alasat, dawajip koc dawajip.**

**Ihealeg iley.**

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<th>Alasat.</th>
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CHEROKEE ROSE BUDS.

VOL. I. Devoted to "The Good, the Beautiful and the True."

NO. 2

FEMALE SEMINARY, CHEROKEE NATION, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1854.

THE

CHEROKEE ROSE BUDS

is published at stated periods

by the

co-editresses.

CATHARINE GUNTER,

NANCY E. HICKS.

TERMS.
The terms of subscription, as regulated

by the committee, are 10 cents per copy.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

Our Wreath of Rose Buds.

I.

We offer you a wreath of flowers
Called in recreation hours,
Which will not wither, droop, or die,
Even when days and months pass by.

II.

Ask you where these flowers are found?

Report of the Secretary.

It having been proposed to elect new

editresses for our paper, a meeting was

convened for the purpose; it, however,

proved ineffectual, and a second meet-

ing was called, at which, after being

called to order,

Miss Catharine Gunter and Nancy E.

Hicks were chosen as editresses of the

Paper.

The meeting then adjourned.
1863 Abraham Lincoln Letter to the Cherokee Nation
SJALS, APALONZ

DE SB

JOOGOL

BY

GWY DSB JOS ST

DE SB 870707 070707 70707

M 8 S 8 T:


1878.

GWY, DSB

CHEROKEE NATION®
c. 1890 Cherokee Shorthand by William Eubanks
1918 Pamphlet on infectious diseases and hygiene
1886 First Telephone Line West of the Mississippi Was Established by Cherokee Nation

First conversation on the phone (in Cherokee):

"SA ᎦᏰ?" (Who is this?)

"ᏲᎦᏫᏲᏦᏯᏥ ᎠᏯᏩᏲ ᏲᏣ�풂" (The devil and I'm coming for you)
Cherokee Advocate (literally “Cherokee Helper”)
Typed letter from Washington DC to the Cherokee Nation, 1917.
Hermes 3000 Cherokee typewriter c. 1960s
Inside the Hermes 3000 Cherokee typewriter c. 1960s
Taken from the 1965 Cherokee Primer by Willard Walker
Taken from the 1975 Cherokee Dictionary by Durbin Feeling
“Sequoia” type design from Hermann Zapf’s book
“Alphabet Stories: A Chronicle of Technical Developments”
Computer Aids Literacy Project Of Cherokees

By Kim Alys Marks

TUSKEGEE — For years now, Durbin Feel-
ing has been struggling with his native la-
guage.

A member of the Cherokee Nation and a
Cherokee language spe-
cialist, Feeling speaks,
reads and writes Chero-
kee, but has had a diffi-
cult time finding and
putting together ade-
quate publications
with which to teach it.

Most Cherokee lan-
guage publications are
done by hand, which is
time-consuming and ex-
pensive.

The struggle, how-
ever, is almost over.

Feeling and Attorney
William Nelson Cose Jr.
of Barston Range, La., re-
cently completed a pro-
tect that will allow
Cherokees to write in
their own language on
computer word pro-
cessors.

The pair's project be-
gan in February when
Feeling became inter-
ested in the language after
reading an issue of the
Cherokee Advocate.
Cose and his wife, Mat-
tie Finch, wrote to the
Cherokee Nation to see
if there was any interest
in his idea of making the
language printable by
a word processor.

Feeling, who had
written a Cherokee dic-
dionary, was eager to
help.

While Cose concen-
trated on designing
the tribe's syllabary
and software made by
Rising Star Industries
of Tuskegee, Cose, Feel-
ing worked on developing
a keyboard that would
include the 85 Cherokee
syllabics, which repre-
sent the syllables in
the language.

"I had been studying
the layout of the type-
writer keyboard," Feel-
ing said, adding he did
research on the 85 syllab-
ics to determine the fre-
quency of use for each.

When the study was
complete, Feeling said,"I
put each character in
a descending order."

The syllabic most
used was numbered one,
while the syllabic least
used was numbered 85.

From that study, Feel-
ing and Cose deter-
dined where on the key-
board each syllable's sym-
bol would be placed.

"(He) (Cose) put the
most frequently used
syllable on the middle
row," Feeling said, add-
ing that row is the most
accessible. "The pur-
pose of that was for effi-
ciency."

Cose said Feeling's
study enabled the key-
board to be designed
specifically for speed.

Cose will demon-
strate the new software
at the Dec. 14 Cherokee
Nation Tribal Council
meeting in Tahlequah.

While the Cherokee
Nation has about 60,000
members, with the larg-
est concentrations in
northeast Oklahoma, only
about 20 percent of
that number can speak
the language.

"Feeling said that 85 percent
only about 19 percent
want to learn it and about 5
percent can write it.

The reason for the
deciding number of
Cherokees who cannot
speak, read or write their
native language dates
back to school, Feeling
explained.

Before statehood, classes in schools
were in English and Cherokee;
but, "when Oklahoma became state and
took over schools, they said no more Cherokee," Feeling said.

"One of the main reasons we're down in
our literacy is plain old neglect," Feeling said. "It will
take awhile to reverse the situation."

But, with the ability
to print instructional
books on Cherokee,
Feeling thinks the per-
centage of people liter-
ate in the language will
rise.

"I know it will," he said. "The language has
a lot to do with the culture. I think a lot of
people are realizing that.

Cose, who said he
took on the project "for the
heck of it," hopes to
research the Navajo
and Hopi Indian lan-
guages for inclusion on
word processors as his
next project.

For Feeling, however,
this project is just the
beginning of the rev-
olution he hopes will
keep the Cherokee lan-
guage alive.

Cose has written a
Cherokee dictionary,
which will be sold to
schools to help teach
the language.

(C)1987 ROY CASE, ASSP, "Ky
SIST." 1 D1.

The shortest verse in the Bible says, "Jesus slept."

(RW) JOA SISAI OLICRT

When he threw the ball down, it bounced.

O DWLNSAY ALA DLIQI AILOL

The ball player is bouncing the ball hard.

O DLIQ AILOL VAGAOL

The boys are playing ball.

O ZAYR DJTWO, OLCAI

When he was accused of stealing, he denied it.

ULOCRT, PJZ AIPO

I was denying him because I don't know him.

ROG TAWI HASO+ KGO OYFST

His boat is ten feet long.

NF TAWI, NF TAWI T93 T293

That ball player is six feet, six inches tall.

WS TAWI T0 TAWI HOPOLIAI

Twelve inches make one foot.

GFWA DIBP

Do you speak Cherokee?

MW DHGWY SHOWAT GWY

DICT?

How many Cherokees work at the Cherokee Nation?
14 December 1987

Chief Wilma Mankiller
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Tahlequah
Oklahoma 74465

OEOGW DASDA
GWYA DBC AO SWIW
W26
ASWIY 74465

RGAW OEOGW DASDA
Honorable Chief Mankiller;

AATS OLYCL SGAYE, TEO DVM OEOGW ASEPAY YKNAE GWYA DBC, SLYEWS SCAYMAY YHSAY DVM GWYA DBC.

On this historic occasion, the installation of the first woman Chief of the Cherokee Nation, we are indeed proud to be here as the guests of the Cherokee Nation.

OWHE TS SALIPPE DE EHFR ZAPAH, AD JGUY JANGVA ZE SCAYM.

With equal pride and sense of accomplishment, we hereby present you with this copy of the files which allow, for the first time, the use of the modern word processing computer, to write, print, and publish in the Cherokee language.

AD OAY JGUY JANGVA DHGW OOVJ SCAYM4, OSY OYAPAY JCTE B0 OOVJ DE HSAYR TSAYMAY OAY GWY TKTHADL TAK.

We present these files for the use of your people, in the hopes that your historic and wonderful language will continue to grow and prosper along with the Nation as a whole.

OLYPE DLM TI EH TWIVLAI YOSP ILOR OEOGW KET.

With best wishes for a long and fruitful administration, we remain,

Respectfully,
### Upper Case (Shift + Key)

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<th>Upper Case</th>
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### Lower Case

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Cherokee support added to Unicode in 2000
2003 Mac OS X adds Cherokee font and keyboards
2009 Cherokee Facebook Crowd-Sourced Localization Begins
September 9, 2010 Apple releases software update with Cherokee support
Add New Keyboard

English (UK)
- Arabic
- Bulgarian
- Catalan
- Cherokee
- Chinese - Simplified
  - Handwriting
  - Pinyin
  - Stroke
- Chinese - Traditional
  - Handwriting
- Chinese - Traditional
  - Pinyin
- Chinese - Traditional
  - Consonant
  - Stroke
- Chinese - Traditional
  - Zhu Yun
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- Estonian
- Finnish
- Flemish
- French
2011 Google Search Cherokee localization released
2012 Gmail Cherokee Localization Released
2012 Windows 8 Cherokee Localization Released
The man wanted to speak Cherokee.
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http://www.cbtbc.org/cherokee/

Cherokee Braille as developed by Commonwealth Braille and Talking book Cooperative 2014
Android 5.0 with Cherokee syllabary support 2014
Cherokee keyboard app in the Google Play Store
Male 1:

Nice weather today, right?

Male 1:

Hello! What is your name?
We will see each other again later.

A.deb VΩlA&I!
Apple Watch with Cherokee syllabary support 2015
BY JAMI MURPHY
Reporter
08/19/2015 08:00 AM

LOST CITY, Okla. — Cherokee Nation citizen Larry Shade has lived his life in this northern Cherokee County community learning the ways of the Cherokee culture from his grandparents and father, the late Deputy Chief Hastings Shade. Among the cultural aspects he's learned, one he truly enjoys is crawdad gigging.

Larry gigs crawdads in a section of... Read More

“..."
Challenges & Looking Forward
Handling Update Cycles

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2015

Announcing The Unicode® Stand

Version 8.0 of the Unicode Standard is now available. It includes 41 new emoji characters (including five modifiers for diversity), 5,771 new ideographs for Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, the new Georgian lari currency symbol, and 86 lowercase Cherokee syllables.

Cherokee Unicode Updates

Updating Cherokee Windows 10
Digital Natives/Digital Immigrants: does it apply to Indian Country?

Digital Native
Lucky you.
Every moment of your short life has been spent basking in the warm embrace of the global snuggie that is the internet. Please be patient with everyone who’s so old their parents didn’t even put their sonograms on Facebook.

Digital Immigrant
Welcome to the e-melting pot. You make the internet great. You could have stayed on the sofa praying Facebook was a fad, but you dove in. Now you have hundreds of “friends.”

Designed by Neph Trejo
The Digital Divide In Indian Country

We Native Americans are 'poster children' for no Internet access

Loris Taylor of the Hopi Nation has been a leading figure in the effort to bridge the digital divide for Native Americans.
Cherokee Nation Education Services

Language Program

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