

Native American Heritage Month Speaker Series

"The Last Choctaw Removal of 1903"

by Ryan L. Spring & Deanna Byrd

Choctaw Nation

Following the Indian Removal Act, Choctaw Chiefs were forced to sign the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830. This treaty not only ceded the last remaining Choctaw homelands in Mississippi, but also led to the removal of over 20,000 Choctaw people to Indian Territory through a series of orchestrated removals from 1830 to 1855. The last federal removal was organized in 1903, with the intent on removing more Choctaw people to Indian Territory in time for the closure of the Dawes Rolls. In anticipation to this in 1902, land speculators were eager to exploit Choctaw families in order to take a portion of allotted lands. Over the past four years, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Historic Preservation Department has worked to research and document these stories of the final removal with the hope of honoring our ancestors and to contribute to the family history of Choctaw people today.

November 8 at 6 pm
Registration link- <https://bit.ly/3AW78E0>

Deanna Byrd is a registered professional archaeologist and completed her education at The University of Oklahoma and Illinois State University. She serves as the NAGPRA Liaison-Coordinator for her Tribe The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She is currently working with several institutions across the United States for the respectful repatriation of Chahta ancestors as part of a comprehensive nationwide search, No Stone Unturned Project. Deanna values her time by learning new Chahta cuisine dishes, beading, quilting, restoring her historic home, and spending time with her three children.



Ryan Spring is a tribal member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and has worked in the Historic Preservation Department since 2011. He works to assist the Choctaw community in protecting and preserving Choctaw sacred and historic sites as well to assist the community in its efforts to revitalize Choctaw traditional culture and history. In 2017 he received his M.S. in Native American Leadership. Ryan plays for the Choctaw Nation's Tvshka Homma Stickball Team and lives in Calera, Oklahoma with his wife Kathia and his two nieces Amiya and Kinsley Walker.

