

## HISTORY OF CHIEFS

Tempe: Tempe (Timpey, Timpy) became chief of the Middle Coushatta Village after the death of Long King around 1838. He was well known among Texans during the early decades of the nineteenth century and Sam Houston occasionally sent greetings to Tempe by means of letters via messengers. Tempe Creek in western Polk County was named for this Coushatta Chief.

Long Tom: Long Tom, a Coushatta chief, was a successor to Long King and Tempe as the leader of the Coushatta who lived along the valley of Long Creek in Polk County.

(Note) After 1959, a small number of Coushatta remained in the Colita Village in San Jacinto County under the leadership of Chickasaw Abbey and Mingo. The last of these Coushatta moved to the Alabama-Coushatta Reservation in Texas in 1906.

### John Scott

John Scott, principal chief of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas from 1871-1913 and grandson of a former chief of this tribe prior to moving to Texas, was born in 1805 near Opelousas, Louisiana.

John Scott moved with his family from Peach Tree Village in northwestern Tyler County, Texas to the Fenced-In Village (three miles southeast of Peach Tree Village) and later to James Barclay Village in western Tyler County. Later, they moved to Rock Village in eastern Polk County, and finally to the present Alabama-Coushatta reservation during the winter of 1854-55.

He served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, was an active leader on the reservation, and served as a trustee of the Alabama-Coushatta community school. He died March 3, 1913, and was buried in the reservation cemetery.

John Walker: John Walker was elected second chief of the tribe in 1871. Records are unavailable as to the length of his service as second chief.

### Charles Martin Thompson

Charles Martin Thompson - Sun-Kee - served as principal chief of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas from 1928-1935.

He was born on the Alabama-Coushatta reservation in Polk County, Texas in 1860. Not only did he become a leader in Tribal business, church activities, and school development, but he also ranked above all other Tribal members in efforts

to focus attention on the Alabama-Coushatta culture and heritage.

He died September 8, 1935, and was buried in the Tribal cemetery on the Alabama-Coushatta reservation.

(Note) Mikko-Se Hotka Clem Fain, Jr. served as second Chief under Chief Sun-Kee Charles Martin Thompson.

McConnico Battise: Interpreter to Charles Martin Thompson.

Bronson Cooper Sylestine

Bronson Cooper Sylestine - Tic-Ca-Che - was principal chief of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas from 1936-1969. He was born March 7, 1879 on the present-day reservation. Elected Tribal chief in November 1935 and inaugurated January 1, 1936, he was widely respected for his leadership and influence among the Alabama-Coushatta. Tic-Ca-Che died on February 23, 1969 and was buried in the reservation cemetery.

Robert Fulton Battise

Robert Fulton Battise - Kina - was elected second chief in 1935, and began his service on January 1, 1936. Kina was inaugurated chief of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas on January 1, 1970 and served until his death on February 9, 1994

Emmett Dean Battise: Emmett Dean Battise - Colabe Atokla - was elected to serve as second chief of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas after Robert Fulton Battise became principal chief. He died on October 21, 1991.

Clayton Marion Sylestine

Clayton Marion Sylestine - Oscola - was elected second chief after the death of Colabe Atokla (Emmett Dean Battise) and was inaugurated as first chief on January 1, 1995 after the death of Kina (Robert Fulton Battise.)

Clem Fain Sylestine

Clem Fain Sylestine - Colabe III - was elected as the second chief of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas on October 19, 1994 and was inaugurated as second chief on January 1, 1995..