

Let's Learn About Chickasaw History!

Presented by Dr. Alaina Roberts, Professor of History at the
University of Pittsburgh

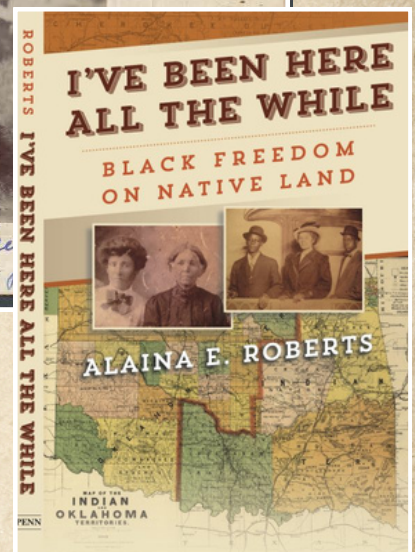
and

Rev. Robert O. Smith, PhD, Chickasaw Citizen and History
Professor at the University of North Texas

Monday, June 30th
5:30-7:30pm
at the
Ardmore Public Library



320 E St. NW
Ardmore, OK 73401
580-223-8290



University of Pittsburgh Professor of History, Alaina Roberts, and Chickasaw citizen/University of North Texas Professor of History Rev. Robert O. Smith, invite members of the community to learn about and discuss the rich and complicated history of the Chickasaw people.

In their southeastern homelands, the Chickasaws survived raids from neighboring tribes and Europeans intent on enslaving them but also participated in the system as slave traders themselves. Through the late 1600s and early 1700s, the Chickasaws came together as a formidable people, creating alliances and gaining wealth. But one of the keys to their social and economic success was engaging in an institution Europeans and Americans had introduced: the enslavement of African women and men.

These Black people endured Removal with the Chickasaws and helped them rebuild in their new home, which would eventually become the state of Oklahoma. After the Civil War, even though these slaves had helped forge the new Chickasaw Nation, learned the Chickasaw language, cooked Chickasaw food, and many even had Chickasaw ancestry, the Chickasaw Nation refused to give them citizenship.

How can we understand what happened by looking back at traditional Chickasaw concepts of kinship and adoption? Drs. Roberts and Smith will draw on Chickasaw history to open a space for all attendees to talk with open-hearts and minds about what it means to be Chickasaw in 2025.

