

HUMES

Memorial Fund



Vinnie May Seely James Humes

- Inducted into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame in 1991
- An original enrollee of the Chickasaw Nation
- Knew only the Chickasaw language until age 8
- Received her GED at age 70
- Served as a special case worker for Chickasaw people during Oklahoma Governor William H. Murray's administration

Vinnie May "Sadie" Humes was born in Coatsworth, Indian Territory in 1903, and was an original enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation.

Although Mrs. Humes was seventy years old before receiving her high school equivalent degree (GED) through courses offered by the Chickasaw Nation, she will forever be linked to the education of Chickasaw people for generations to come.

The Chickasaw Historical Society (CHS) Board of Directors has set up a memorial fund to honor the memory of Mrs. Humes. Collaborating with her husband, the Reverend Jesse Humes, Mrs. Humes compiled *A Chickasaw Dictionary*, printed in 1972. For her educational contributions, Mrs. Humes was inducted into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame in 1991.

Mrs. Humes said in an interview, "We sat at that kitchen table, working. We had this little old Webster's Dictionary, and I would call out the English word and Jess would hand it back in Chickasaw, pronouncing it in syllables and spelling it phonetically. Our aim wasn't to get the meaning of the words so much as it was to help people who wanted to learn how to speak the language."

The Chickasaw Historical Society is dedicated to the honorable promotion and protection of Chickasaw culture and history. We were pleased to have Mrs. Humes as a charter member. Her memory will continue to live in the hearts of everyone who knew her and due to her efforts, future generations will as well.

The Humes Memorial Fund is used to encourage Chickasaws to learn and teach their native language. If you would like to make a contribution, please make your check out to the CHS Vinnie May "Sadie" Humes Memorial Fund. Mail your contribution to:

The Chickasaw Historical Society
PO Box 1548
Ada, OK 74821