

**BRINGTON'S LIBRARY OF ABORIGINAL
AMERICAN LITERATURE. NUMBER IV. A
MIGRATION LEGEND OF
THE CREEK INDIANS, WITH A LINGUISTIC,
HISTORIC AND ETHNOGRAPHIC
INTRODUCTION; VOLUME I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649079919

Brinton's Library of aboriginal American literature. Number IV. A migration legend of the Creek Indians, with a linguistic, historic and ethnographic introduction; Volume I by Albert S. Gatschet

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ALBERT S. GATSCHET

**BRINGTON'S LIBRARY OF ABORIGINAL
AMERICAN LITERATURE. NUMBER IV. A
MIGRATION LEGEND OF
THE CREEK INDIANS, WITH A LINGUISTIC,
HISTORIC AND ETHNOGRAPHIC
INTRODUCTION; VOLUME I**

LaAm.
B8585k

c Daniel Garrison Brinton.

BRINTON'S LIBRARY OF
ABORIGINAL AMERICAN LITERATURE.
NUMBER IV.

A
MIGRATION LEGEND
OF THE
CREEK INDIANS,

WITH A LINGUISTIC, HISTORIC AND ETHNOGRAPHIC
INTRODUCTION,

BY

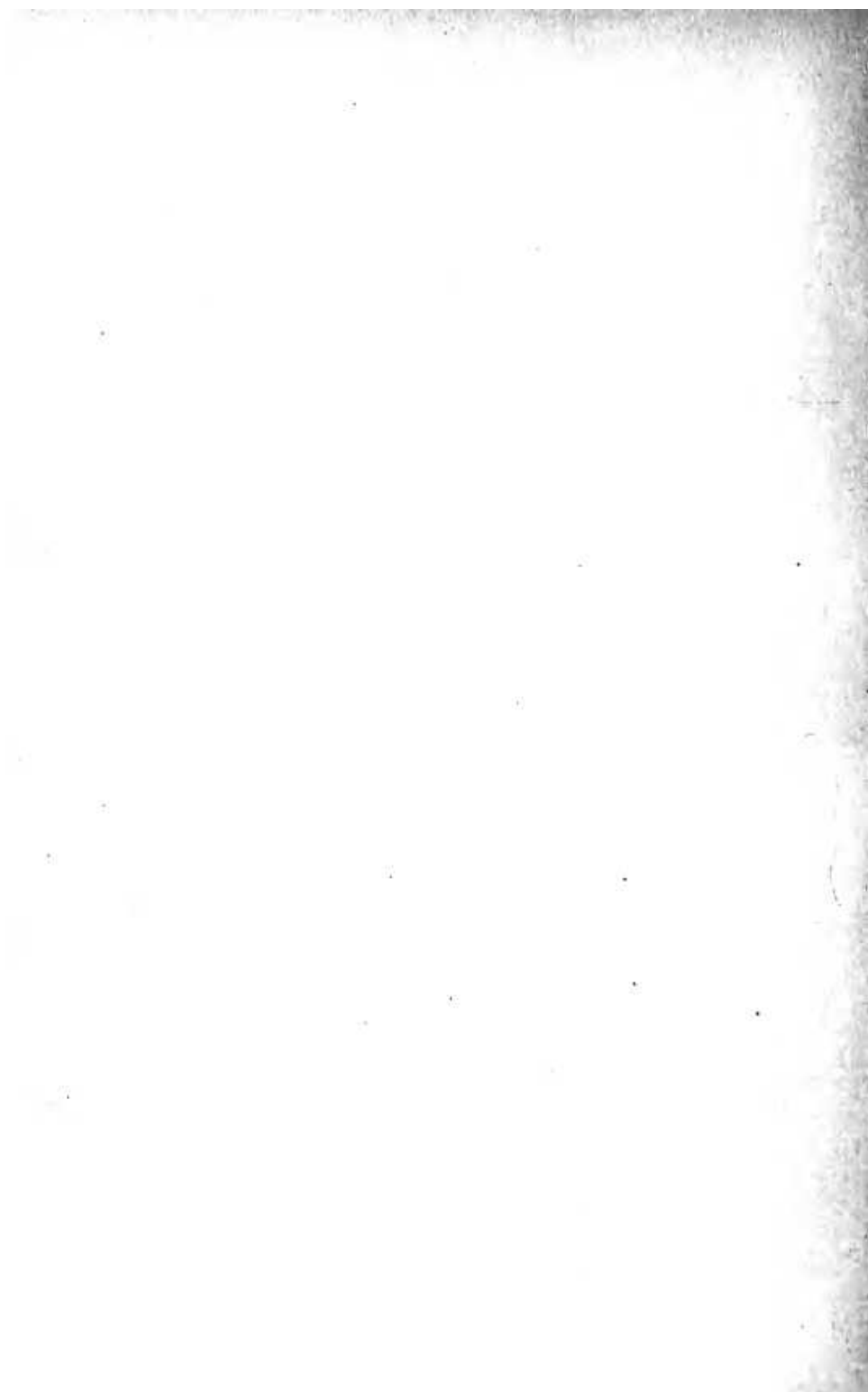
ALBERT S. GATSCHET,

OF THE U. S. BUREAU OF ETHNOLOGY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

VOLUME I.

*Nūfi kal mēmas' āpistēn
ārthra taūta tōn φρενῶν.
Epicharmus.*

PHILADELPHIA:
D. G. BRINTON.
1884.



PREFATORY NOTE.

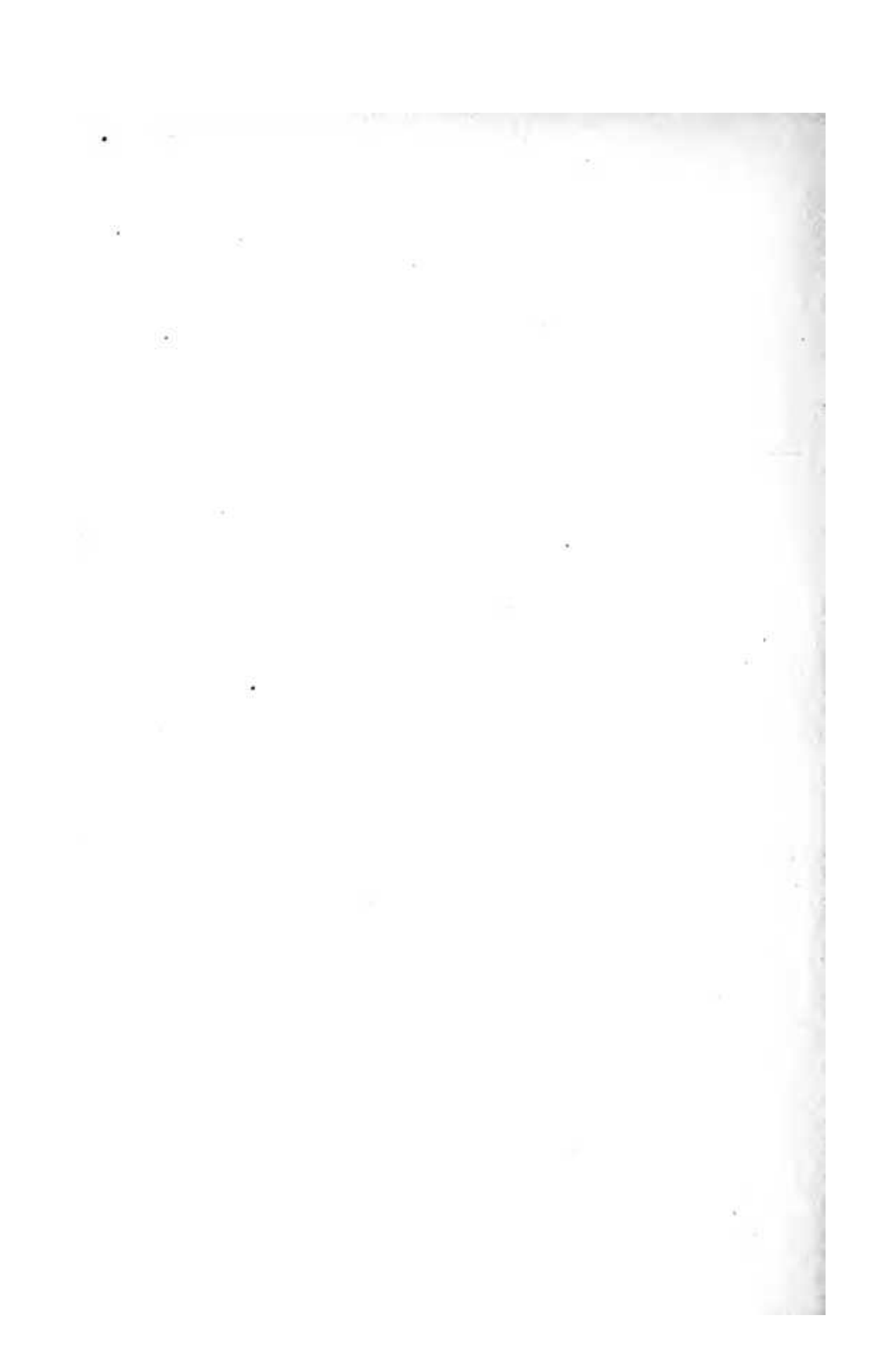
In the present work, Mr. Gatschet has carried out a much needed investigation. The tribes who inhabited the watershed of the north shore of the Mexican Gulf must always occupy a prominent place in the study of American Ethnology, as possibly connecting the races of North and South America, and those of the Valley of the Mississippi with those of Anahuac and Mayapan.

Years ago the general editor of this series stated, in various publications, the problems that region offers, and on finding the remarkable legend of Chekilli, translated it and published it, as pointing to a solution of some of the questions involved. This legend has, at his request, been taken by Mr. Gatschet as a centre around which to group the ethnography of that whole territory, as well as a careful analysis of the legend and its language.

The first volume contains the general discussion of the subject, and closes with the Creek version of the Legend and its translation. The second will contain the Hitchiti Version, the Notes, and Vocabulary.

One statement of the author, overlooked in the proof reading, seems of sufficient importance to be corrected here. The *Choctaw Grammar* of the late Rev. Cyrus Byington was published *complete*, and from his *last revision* (1866-68), not as an extract from his first draft, as stated on page 117. The full particulars are given in the Introduction to the Grammar.

THE EDITOR.



PREFACE.

The present publication proposes to bring before the public, in popular form, some scientific results obtained while studying the language and ethnology of the Creek tribe and its ethnic congeners. The method of furthering ethnographic study by all the means which the study of language can afford, has been too little appreciated up to the present time, but has been constantly kept in view in this publication. Language is not only the most general and important help to ethnology, but outside of race, it is also the most ancient of all; ethnologists are well aware of this fact, but do not generally apply it to their studies, because they find it too tedious to acquire the language of unlettered tribes by staying long enough among them.

The help afforded to linguistic studies by the books published in and upon the Indian languages is valuable only for a few among the great number of the dialects. The majority of them are laid down in phonetically defective missionary alphabets, about which we are prompted to repeat what the citizens of the young colony of Mexico wrote to the government of Spain, in Cortez's time: "Send to us pious and Christian men, as preachers, bishops and missionaries, but do not send us scholars, who, with their pettifogging distinctions and love of contention, create nothing but disorder and strife."¹ In the same manner, some Creek scholars and churchmen agreed five times in succession, before 1853, upon standard alphabets to be followed in transcribing Creek, but, as Judge G. W. Stidham justly remarks, *made it worse each time*. To arrive at trustworthy results, it is therefore necessary to investigate the forms of speech as they are in use among the Indians themselves.

Very few statements of the Kasi'hta migration legend can be made available for history. It is wholly legendary, in its first portion even mythical; it is of a comparatively remote age, exceedingly instructive for ethnography and for the development of religious ideas; it is full of that sort of *naïveté* which we like so much to meet in the mental productions of our aborigines, and affords striking instances of the debasing and brutalizing influence of the unrestricted belief in the supernatural and

¹ Quotation, *ad sensum*, from Bernal Diaz' "Historia verdadera."

miraculous. Of the sun-worship, which underlies the religions of all the tribes in the Gulf territories, only slight intimations are contained in the Kasi'hta legend, and the important problem, whether the Creeks ever crossed the Mississippi river from west to east in their migrations, seems to be settled by it in the negative, although other legends may be adduced as speaking in its favor.

Owing to deficient information on several Maskoki dialects, I have not touched the problem of their comparative age. From the few indications on hand, I am inclined to think that Alibamu and Koassáti possess more and Cha'hta less archaic forms than the other dialect-groups.

From Rev. H. C. Buckner's Creek Grammar, with its numerous defects, I have extracted but a few conjugational forms of the verb *isita to take*, but have availed myself of some linguistic manuscripts of Mrs. A. E. W. Robertson, the industrious teacher and translator of many parts of the Bible into Creek.

The re-translation of the legend into Creek and Hitchiti is due to Judge G. W. Stidham, of Eufaula, Indian Territory, who in infancy witnessed the emigration of his tribe, the Hitchiti, from the Chatahuchi river into their present location. My heartfelt thanks are also due to other Indians, who have materially helped me in my repeated revisions of the subject matter embodied in these volumes, and in other investigations. They were the Creek delegates to the Federal government, Chiefs Chicote and Ispahidshi, Messrs. S. B. Callaghan, Grayson and Hodge.

I also fully acknowledge the services tendered by the officers of the U. S. Bureau of Ethnology, as well as by Dr. Daniel G. Brinton and by General Albert Pike, who placed the rich shelves of their libraries at my disposition. In the kindest manner I was furnished with scientific statements of various kinds by Messrs. W. R. Gerard, C. C. Royce and Dr. W. C. Hoffmann.

THE AUTHOR.

Washington, August, 1884.

CONTENTS.

FIRST PART.

THE SOUTHERN FAMILIES OF INDIANS.....	PAGE 9
---------------------------------------	-----------

I. Linguistic Groups of the Gulf States.

Timucua, 11. Calusa, 13. Tequesta, 15. Kataba, 15. Yuchi, 17. Cherokee, 24. Arkansas, 29. Taensa, 30. Tangipahoa, 34. Naktche, 34. Tonica, 39. Adai, 41. Pani, 42. Shetimasha, 44. Atakapa, 45. Bidai, 47. Koroa, 47. The Westo and Stono Indians, 48. The Linguistic Map, 49.

II. The Maskoki Family.

The Common Maskoki Language, 53. The Name Maskoki, 58. Tribal Divisions; the Yamassi, 62. Yamacraw, 65. Seminole, 66. Apalachi, 74. Mikasuki, 76. Hitchiti, 77. The Hitchiti Dialect, 80. Alibamu, 85. Koassati, 89. Chicasa, 90. Tribes on the Yazoo River, 97. Cha'hta, 100. The Cha'hta Language, 116.

III. The Creek Indians.

Creek Settlements, 120. List of Towns, 124. The Indian Pathways, 151. The Creek Government, 152. Tribal Divisions and Gentes, 153. Civil Government, 156. The Warrior Class, 158. War Titles, 160. War Customs, 164. Organization of the Confederacy, 168. The Public Square, 171. The Annual Busk, 177. Further Ethnographic Notes, 183. Creek History, 188. The Creek Dialect, 198. Lexical Affinities, 212.

SECOND PART.

The Kasi'hta Migration Legend.

Indian Migration Legends, 214. Migration Legends of the Creek Tribes, 222. Tchikilli's Kasi'hta Legend, 235. The Text, 237. The Translation, 244.
