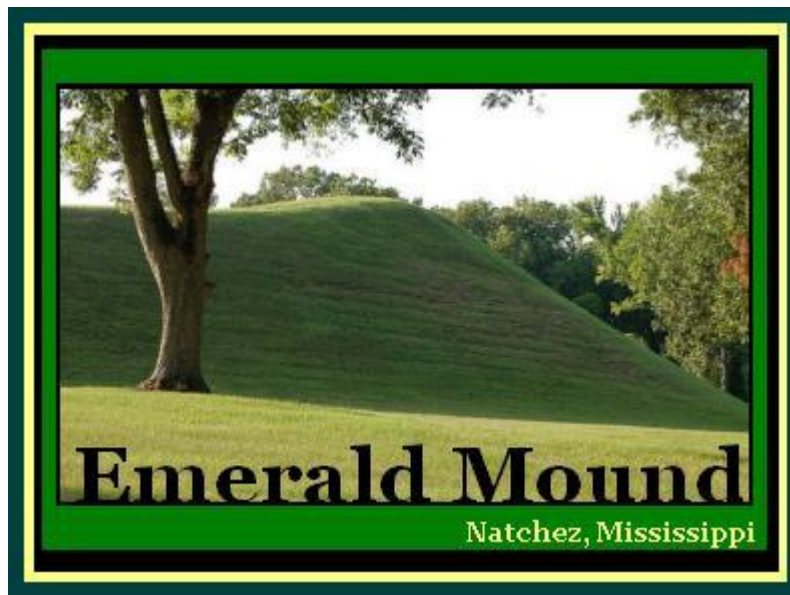


## MOTHER MOUND



"Mother Mound" - Nanih Waiya - (nah-nee--Wah-ee-yah)

A long time ago, people were created at the mound called Nanih Waiya. First to come out of the mound were the Muscogees. They sunned themselves on the earthen rampart, and when they got dry they traveled to the east. By the Tombigbee River they rested. While smoking tobacco they dropped some fire.

The Cherokee came next out of Nanih Waiya. They also sunned themselves on the earthen rampart, and when they got dry they followed the trail of the other tribe. At the place where the Muscogees had stopped and rested, and where they had smoked tobacco, a fire had burned the woods. The Cherokees could not find the Muscogee's trail. So they trekked to the north where they settled and made a homeland.

The Chickasaws came third out of Nanih Waiya. They sunned themselves on the earthen rampart. When they got dry they followed the Cherokees' trail and settled close to the Cherokees.

The Choctaw came forth and last out of Nanih Waiya. They sunned themselves on the earthen rampart, and when they got dry they did not go anywhere but settled down on the spot. And this land is the Choctaw's home.

NOTE: This old story was told to Henry Halbert by Isaac Pistonatubee, a Mississippi Choctaw around 1870. Halbert took the story down word for word in Choctaw and then translated it. It explains the origin of the Southern Nations. Nanih Waiya is a real place in Mississippi where today one may visit the great earthen mound. The Muscogees refer the Creek Nation. Muscogee means "people of the earth" in the Creek language.