# Of Influence:
# Portraits of Cherokee People

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*Ranging from 1845, which was just after the removal of the Cherokees to Indian Territory, to the 1960s, this collection of portraits records people of influence in the Cherokee tribe. From William Penn Adair, a Cherokee leader and Confederate army colonel to Jennie Ross Cobb, a photographer, these photographs illuminate Cherokee individuals and their roles within the tribe and their communities.*

*Many images in this exhibit show the actual size of the original photograph alongside an enlarged one. The photographic record on its own can serve a variety of purposes. Originally, photographs provided families with a permanent, visual record of loved ones. Today, historians value historic photographs because they add a level of actual truth to our understanding of history. For example, we do not assume to know what people wore in 1865, we are certain of it because we see the evidence in a photograph. Zooming in on a photograph, one can also examine items such as clothing and furniture in great detail. Unfortunately, with the growing popularity of digital photography, the photograph as an accurate historic record is fading.*

*In this exhibit you will also see the evolution of photography. With increasing accessibility and ease of process, the subject matter of these portraits change from featuring predominately wealthy individuals in studio settings, to images that showcase the average student, to some that have a candid quality.*