

The Trail of Tears

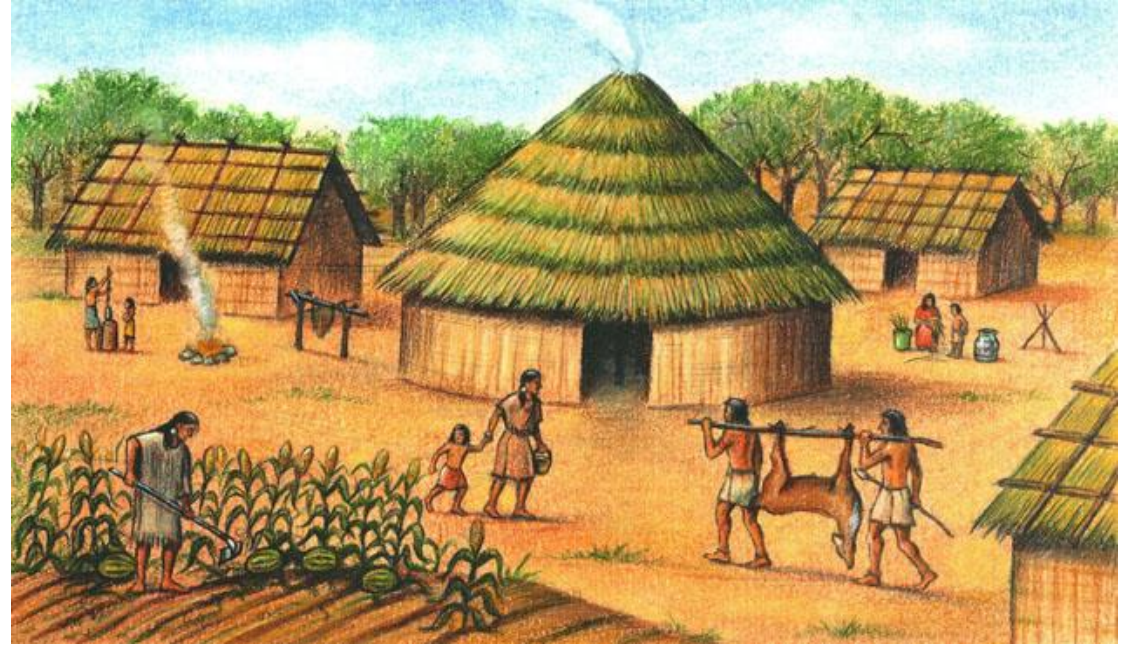


Presented to the Saginaw Valley Torch Club

March 6, 2018

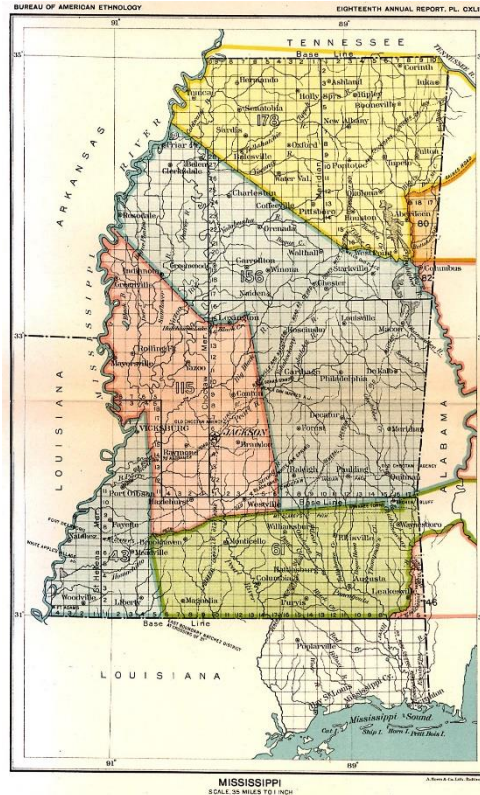
Danny J. Krebs

Southeastern Indian Tribes

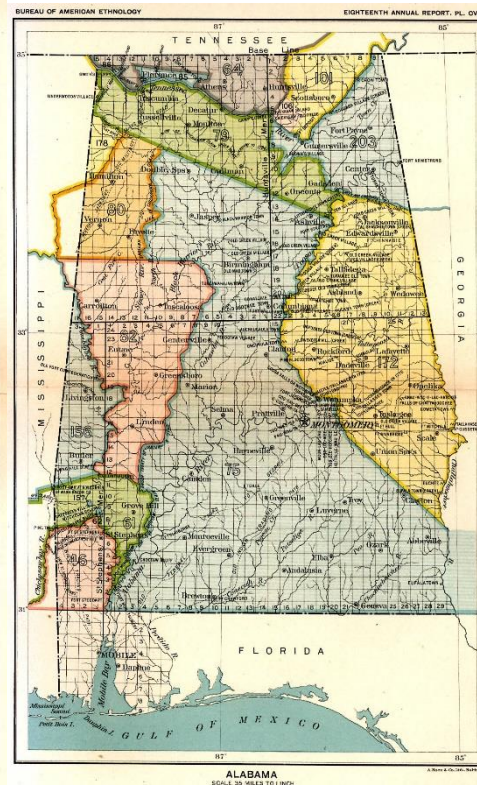


- Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek (Muscogee), Chickasaw, Seminole
- Primarily agrarian societies, living in small villages
- Three sisters – squash, beans, and corn
- Animal husbandry introduced by the Spanish and French in late 1700's

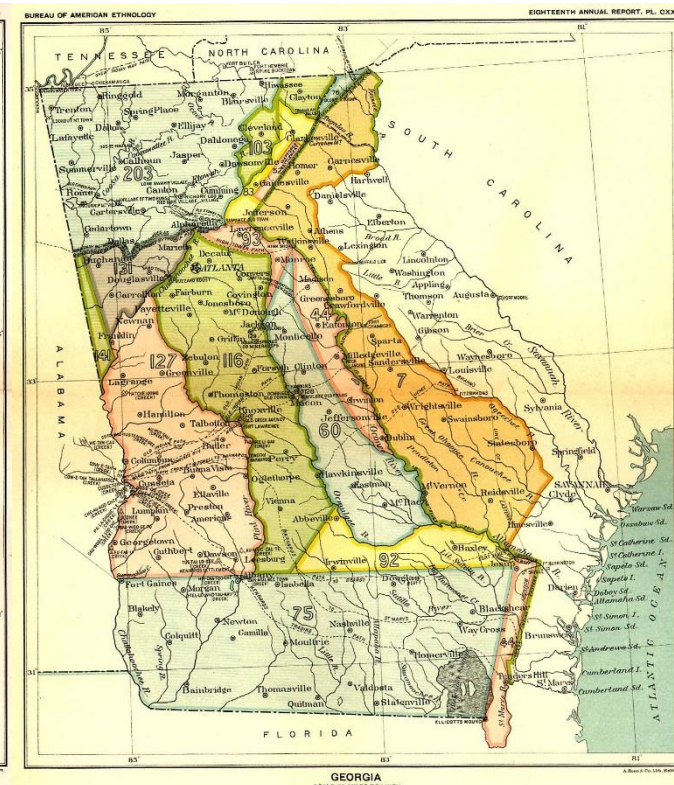
Indian Land Cessions



Mississippi



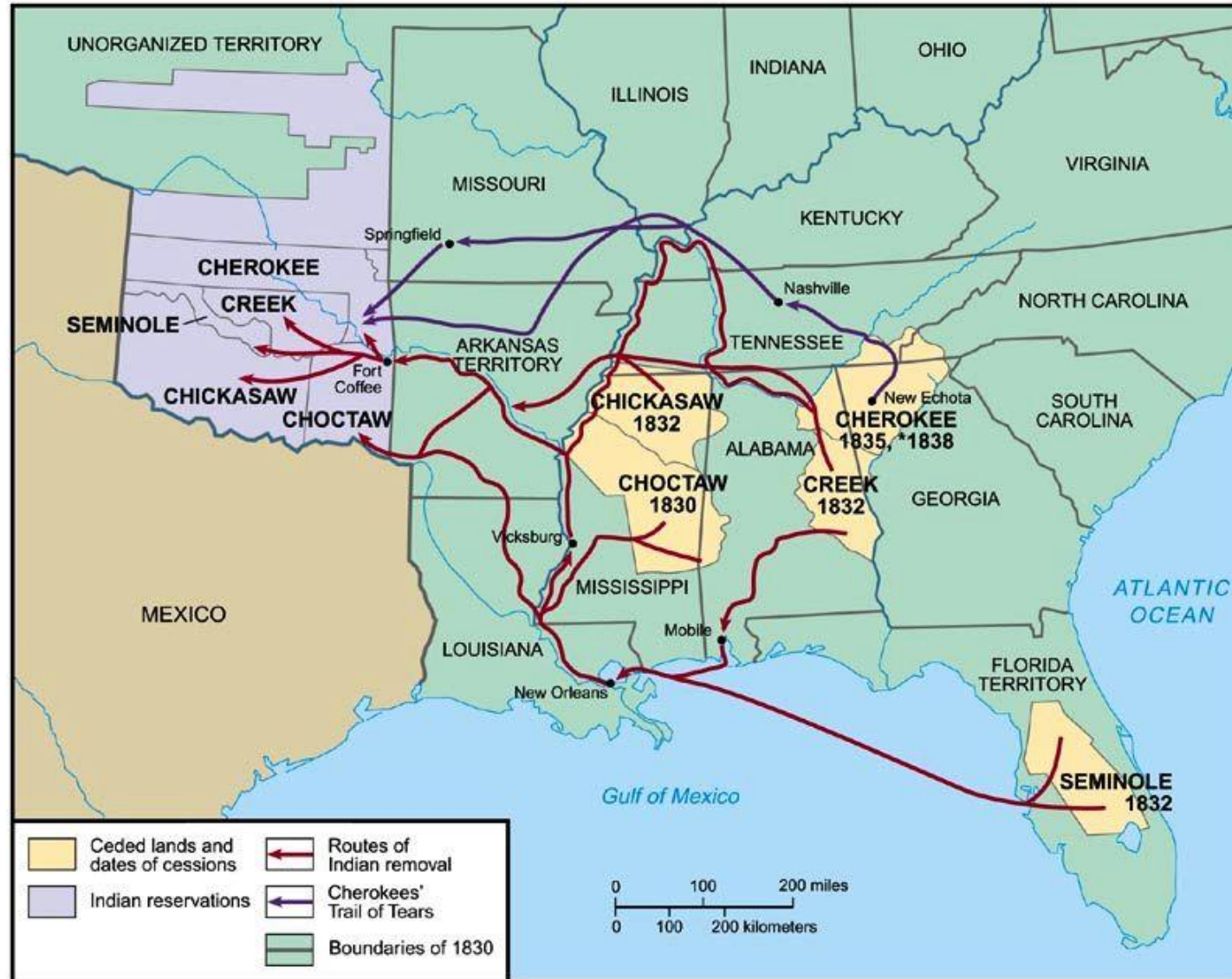
Alabama



Georgia

- Each color in each state is a land cession tied to a specific treaty.
- Most Indian land cessions in the South occurred after 1814, accelerated after 1820
- More than 100 treaties nibbled away at Indian land boundaries
- Treaties nearly always promised Indian sovereignty within remaining tribal areas

Indian Removals – 1830 - 1838

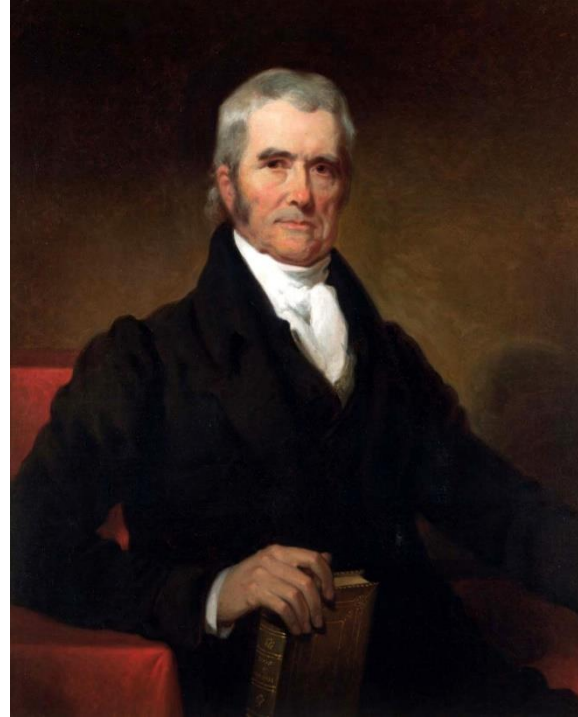


INDIAN REMOVAL

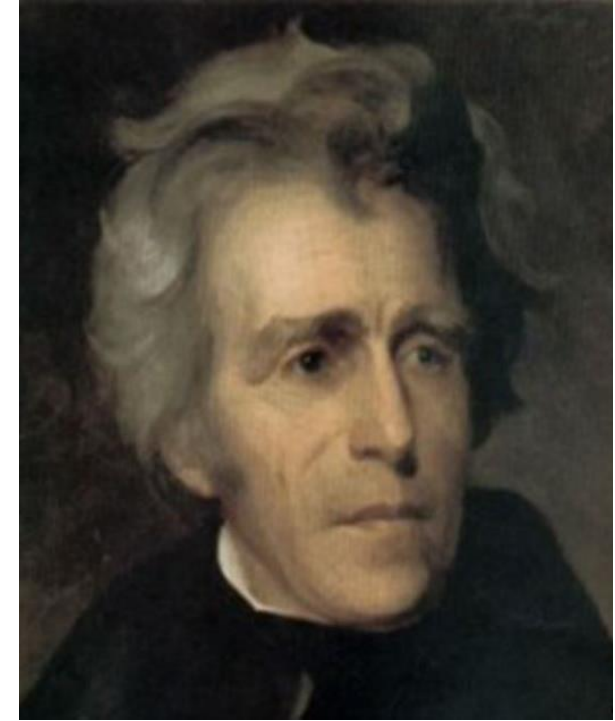
Indian Removal Act of 1830 – Supreme Court Challenge



John Ross – Principal Chief,
Cherokee Nation, 1828 - 1866



John Marshall – Chief
Justice, US Supreme Court,
1801 - 1835









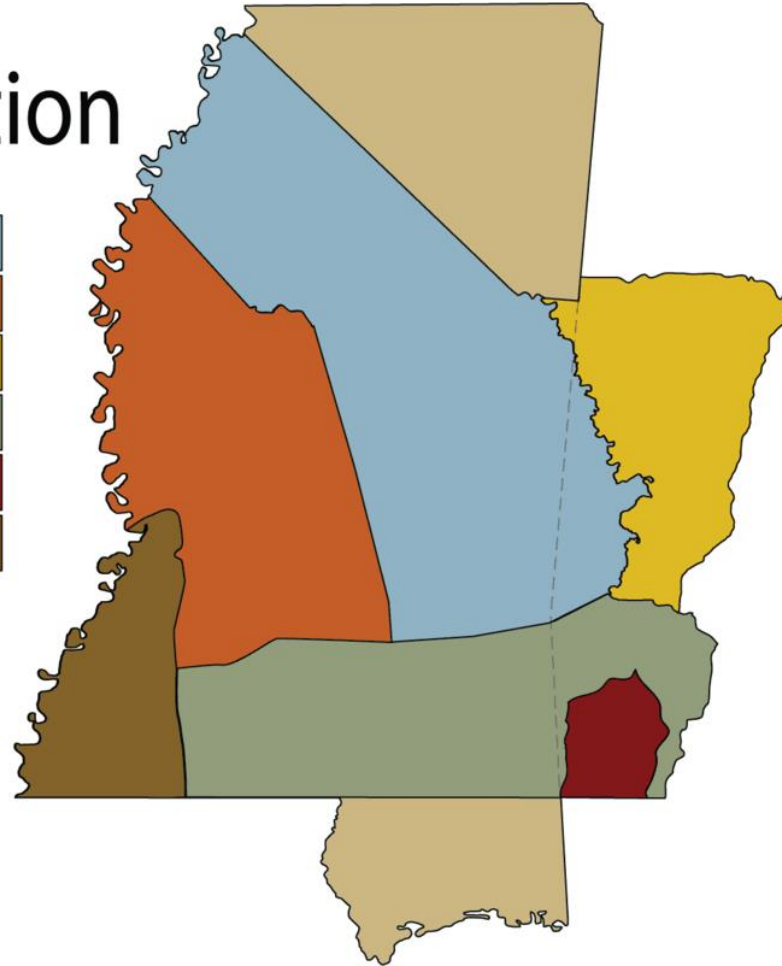
Andrew Jackson – President,
1829 - 1837

“Justice Marshall has made his ruling, now let him
enforce it.” (*maybe* said by A. Jackson)

US Nibbles Away at Choctaw Nation Boundaries with Treaties (1801 – 1830)

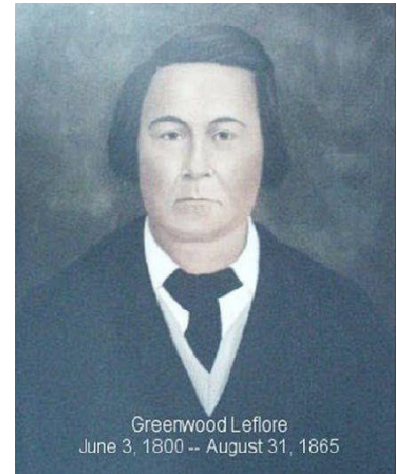
Choctaw Nation

1830	Dancing Rabbit Creek	
1820	Doak's Stand	
1816	Fort St. Stephens	
1805	Mount Dexter	
1803	Hoe Buckintoopa	
1801	Fort Adams	

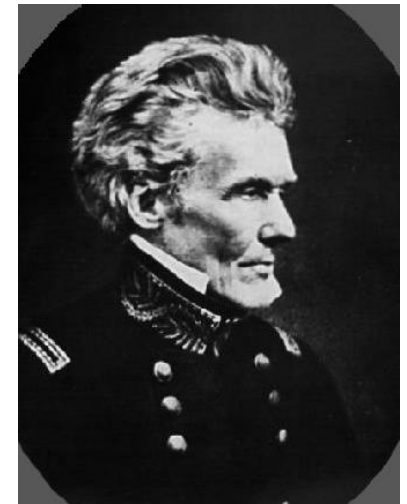


Choctaw Removals

- Winter of 1830/1831 – LeFlore motivated, missionary guided
 - 1000 Indians set out, only 88 reached Red River that winter
 - 400 stragglers arrived in spring of 1831
- Winter of 1831/1832 - Army supervised, Col. George S. Gaines, chief agent
 - 3000 Choctaw at Vicksburg, 2000 at Memphis for Army supervised removal
 - Memphis group offloaded at Arkansas Post, some died waiting for wagons
 - Vicksburg group had to walk last 150 miles with scant rations
 - Last 150 miles took 3 months due to delays, map checks
 - 300 self-migrating Indians led into swamps near Lake Providence
- Summer of 1832
 - About 2000 gathered at Vicksburg several hundred died of cholera
 - The “Big Wade” from Rock Row to Little Rock, dysentery, more cholera
 - Joined about 1000 who walked from Memphis
- Fall of 1833 – About 1000 transported with little loss of life
- **Of about 12,500 removed by 1836 an estimated 2,000 to 4000 perished**

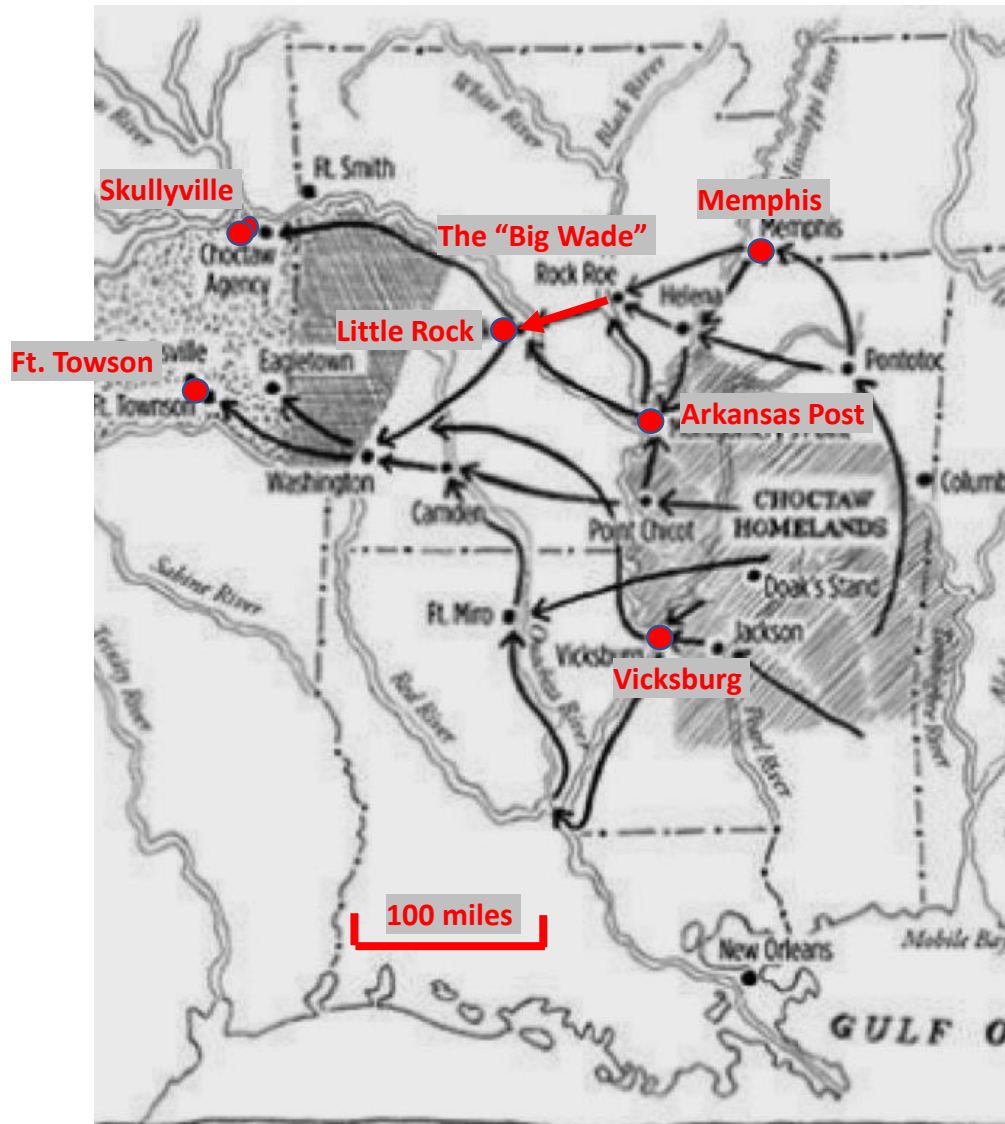


Greenwood LeFlore
Principal Chief



Col. George S. Gaines
Chief Removal Agent

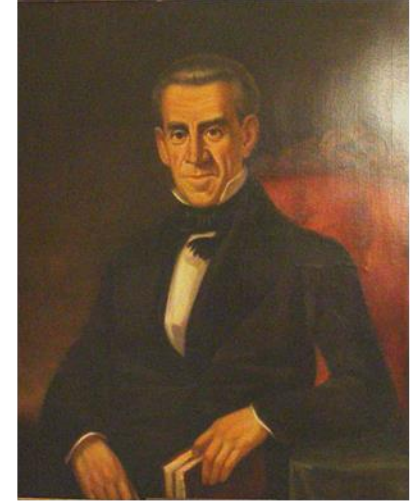
Geography of Choctaw Removals



- Rivers were both highways and barriers
- Southern Arkansas is hilly, swampy in places, and heavily timbered, climate colder than today
- Roads were poor and often too muddy for wagons
- Red River was not navigable so migration to Ft Towson was overland
- Arkansas River – often not navigable
- Ft. Towson – first Choctaw settlements from LeFlore’s district
- Choctaw Agency on the Arkansas River, near Skullyville, first Choctaw Capital and home of Pacide Krebs
- Later there was another agency at Ft. Towson

Creek Removals (1834 – 1837)

- Treaty of Cusetta (1832) – Allotted land in Alabama to Creeks refusing removal
- Whites descended on Creek territory swindling Creeks out of their allotments.
- Hostile Creeks attacked and burned Roanoke, Georgia and a stage coach near Tuscaloosa.
- State militia and friendly Creeks defeated the hostiles.
- Very little land left in Indian hands leads to involuntary removals.
- Alabama Governor Clement Clay admitted that “frauds and forgeries . . . were among the principal causes which excited the Indians to hostilities.”



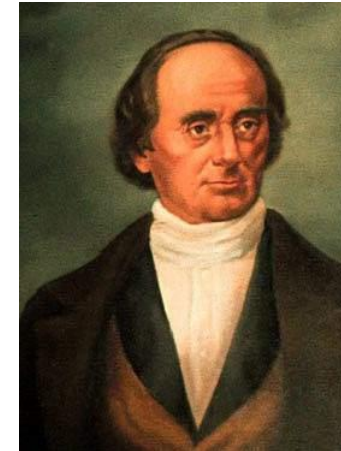
Governor Clement Clay

Cherokee Removals – 1837-1838

- 1837
 - Cherokees disarmed
 - ~2000 voluntary migrations of small groups
 - Northern overland route – 3 months travel beginning in October, ~5% mortality
 - Southern water/train route – 1 month travel, low mortality
- 1838 - 1839
 - ~15,000 remained in Georgia/Tennessee
 - Driven from homes into concentration camps in May
 - Groups embarking in June
 - Northern and Southern routes
 - High mortality due to disease both routes
 - Main body embarked on Northern route in October – arrival January – March 1839, high mortality due to cold, disease.



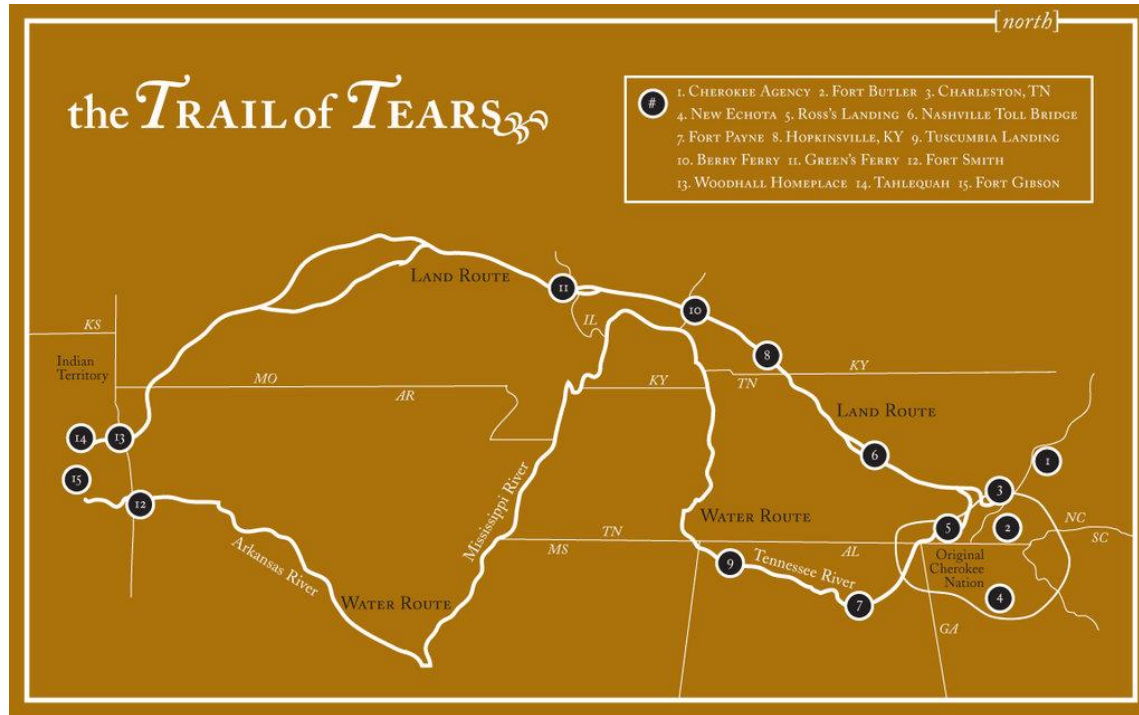
Gen. Winfield Scott



Governor R. Gilmer

Of 17,000 Cherokee collected in Georgia and Tennessee about 4,000 perished either on the trail or in concentration camps.

Northern (land) and Southern (water) Routes of the Cherokee Removals



Seminole Removal and the Seminole Wars

- Seminole tribe in 1822 – 22,000 individuals
 - ~ 3,000 original Seminoles + 14,000 Creek refugees + ~5,000 escaped slaves
- Second Seminole War (1834-1843)
 - Initially several US defeats, Ft. King, Dade's Massacre, Battle of Wahoo Swamp, etc.
 - Osceola captured in 1837 (US violated a truce flag) war continues 6 more years
 - Cost estimated at about \$40,000,000, more than the cost of the Louisiana purchase
- Third Seminole War (1855-1858)
 - ~100 Seminoles left, avoided white settlers
 - Lived in swamps into the 1940's



Osceola, aka Billy Powel

Hugo Ernestus Krebs (1714 – 1776)

Inventor, Surgeon, Planter



LaPointe-Krebs House Pascagola Mississippi

Maybe Eli Didn't Invent Cotton Gin

One of the most convincing stories on the naming of Krebs, Okla., is that the community adopted the name from an old-timer known as Judge Krebs.

A letter from an Indianola, Miss., attorney, Aaron Edwards, substantiates that claim and goes even farther in questioning Eli Whitney's fame as to the cotton gin.

The first cotton gin, an American invention of course, was invented by one Sieur Francis Krebs of Pascagoula, Miss., is Edwards' contention.

So here's an interesting connection with Krebs and the original cotton gin.

Edwards' story has appeared in the Jackson, Miss., Daily News.

Here goes! Krebs (the man) invented the apparatus in 1772 and had it working long before Whitney allegedly invented the gin in 1793.

Krebs' gin was operated by steam power, which one Haller Nutt arranged as energy. Nutt likewise used steam to power one of Whitney's gins. Whitney and Nutt were friends and between them they produced a machine which turned about the cotton economy of the south.

So, says Attorney Krebs, the mechanized gin Whitney is presumed to invent, really was the invention of his relative, Sieur Francis. The latter operated his gin at Pascagoula the rest of his life.

The connection of Krebs and the cotton gin story is one of relationship. Judge Krebs was a descendant of Sieur Francis Krebs who located east of McAlester and gave the community his name.

Attorney Edwards says that Sieur Edmond H. Krebs, a grandson of Judge Krebs, lives in Eufaula.

Whoever invented the cotton gin did the south and the nation a great service. Prior to the gin, the seeds were separated from the cotton by hand, which slowed the economy. The gin made the southern part of the United States one of the most prosperous areas in the world.



Edmond Folsom Krebs (1821 – 1893)



- Born in Mississippi to Placide Krebs and Rebeca Krebs (nee: Folsom)
- Married Amelia Walker sister of Principal Chief Tandy Walker
- Trained in law in Tennessee
- Fought for the Confederacy, brother Nathaniel Krebs fought for the Union
- Choctaw interpreter for (hanging) Judge Isaac Parker in Ft. Smith, Arkansas
- Choctaw judge for Coal County in present-day McAlester, Oklahoma
- Town of Krebs, Oklahoma is named for Edmond

Southeastern Tribe-Removal Summary

Nation	Population east of the Mississippi before removal treaty	Removal treaty & year signed	Years of major emigration	Total number emigrated or forcibly removed	Number stayed in Southeast	Deaths during removal	Deaths from warfare
Choctaw	19,554 ^[100] + white citizens of the Choctaw Nation + 500 black slaves	Dancing Rabbit Creek (1830)	1831–1836	12,500	7,000 ^[101]	2,000–4,000+ (Cholera)	none
Creek	22,700 + 900 black slaves ^[102]	Cusseta (1832)	1834–1837	19,600 ^[103]	100s	3,500 (disease after removal) ^[104]	? (Second Creek War)
Chickasaw	4,914 + 1,156 black slaves	Pontotoc Creek (1832)	1837–1847	over 4,000	100s	500–800	none
Cherokee	21,500 + 2,000 black slaves	New Echota (1835)	1836–1838	20,000 + 2,000 slaves	1,000	2,000–8,000	none
Seminole	5,000 + fugitive slaves	Payne's Landing (1832)	1832–1842	2,833 ^[105]	250 ^[105] 500 ^[106]		700 (Second Seminole War)

More than one in four perished.

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