

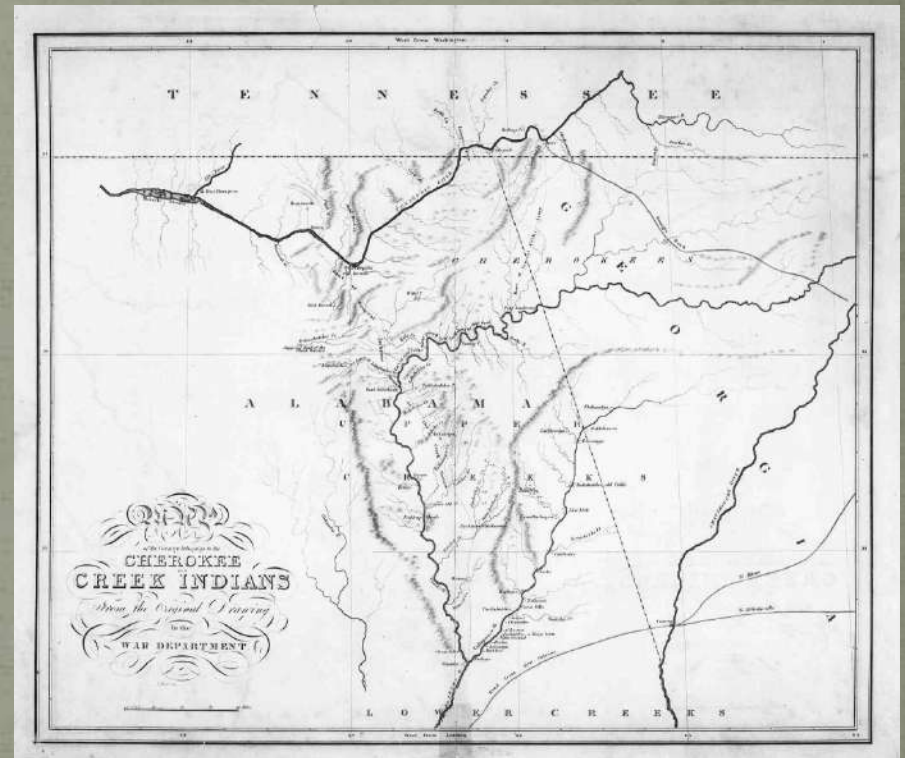
Cherokee Removal

The Cherokees

- The Cherokee lived in the mountains of North Georgia long before Spanish exploration. After the English settled South Carolina and Georgia they became an important trading partner with England.
- While the Creek traded with both the French and the English, the Cherokee were exclusively loyal to the English; this loyalty caused much conflict between themselves and the Creek.
- During the Revolution, the Cherokee continued to support the British and fought the Americans even after the war officially ended.

The Cherokees

- Once peace was established the Cherokee made several treaties with the United States government, including one that led to the Federal Road being built through their land.



The Cherokees

- During this time period the Cherokee began to believe that their best hope for maintaining their land would be to transform their society to resemble that of the United States. In the 1820s, the Cherokee developed a written language, a written constitution, and a newspaper. They invited Monrovia missionaries to set up schools and adopted an agricultural system that included the use of slavery. However, none of these changes stopped the whites in Georgia from demanding their removal.

- *Sequoyah* (ca. 1770-ca. 1840), was the nickname of George Gist and meant "little lame one" in Cherokee.
- The traditional story about Sequoyah's life was that he was born to a Cherokee mother and white father. His father was said to be a soldier in the Continental army during the Revolution.
- Unlike Alexander McGillivray and William McIntosh, Sequoyah completely rejected white society and never learned English.

Sequoyah



Sequoyah

Cherokee Syllabary

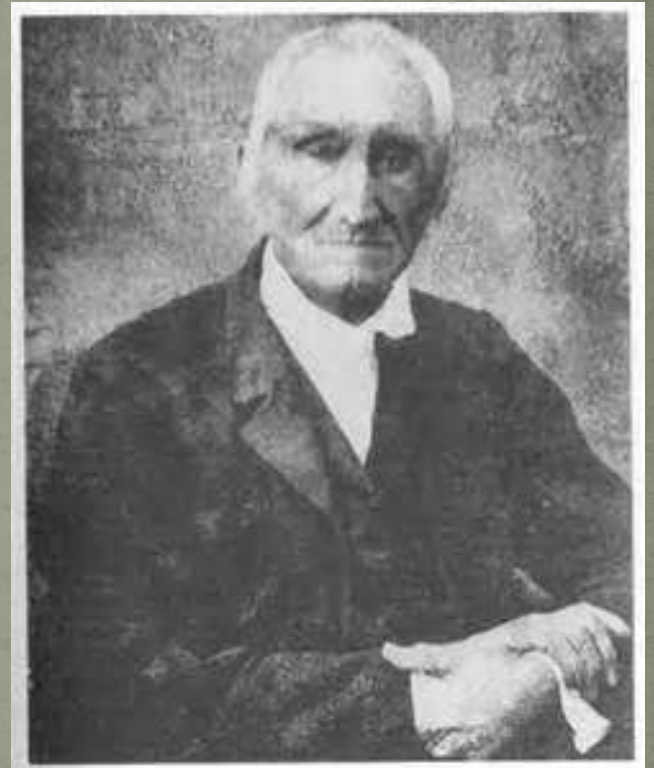
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I qwa	ᑎ qwe	ᑎ qwi	ᑎ qwo	ᑎ qweu	E qwe
ᑎ sa ᑎ s	ᑎ se	ᑎ si	ᑎ so	ᑎ su	R se
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ᑎ dla ᑎ tla	L tle	C tli	ᑎ tlo	ᑎ tlu	P tle
G tsa	V tse	ᑎ tsi	K tso	J tsu	ᑎ tse
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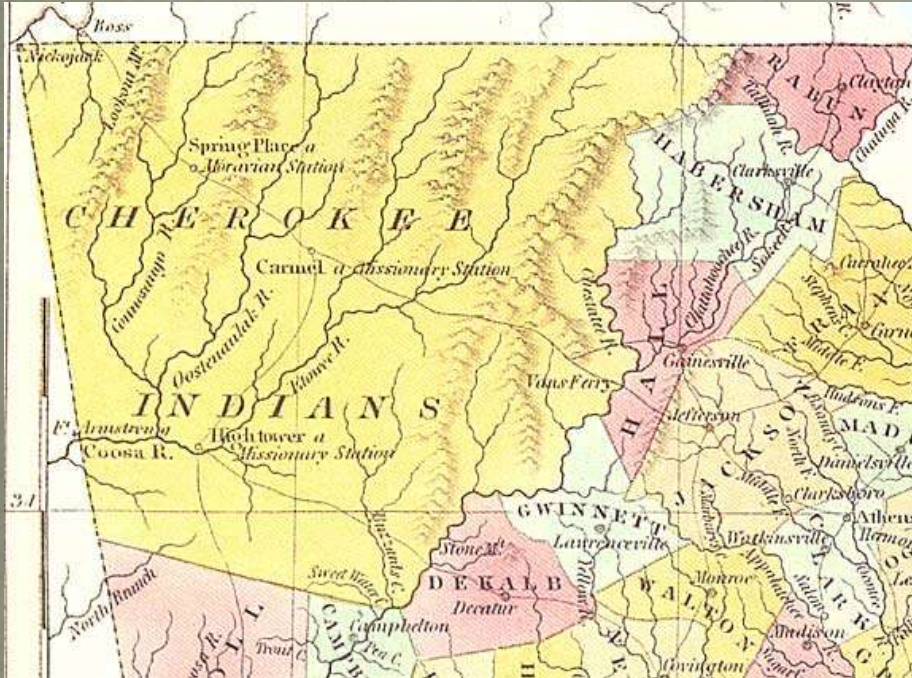
- He was impressed with the way that Whites were able to communicate over long distances and in 1821, created the Syllabary.
- After its creation, Sequoyah traveled throughout the entire Cherokee Nation, including Georgia, to teach and promote the use of the new written language.
- Within one generation of its development it was used by nearly all Cherokees.

The Dahlonega Gold Rush

- Legend has it that in 1828 a young man named Benjamin Parks kicked an unusual stone while deer hunting in North Georgia.
- This stone was actually a gold nugget and Park's find led to America's first gold rush in Dahlonega.
- No matter if this story is true or not (there are many others describing how gold was discovered) someone discovered gold around 1828, and soon almost everyone knew about it.



The Dahlonega Gold Rush



- Soon after the discovery, thousands of white gold miners began clamoring for Cherokee land and began to settle there without permission.
- So many whites wanted land in the area; Georgia held a land lottery in the region in 1832.

The Dahlonega Gold Rush

- It did not matter that the Cherokee still lived on the land that was being allocated. Hungry for land and gold, whites began to demand for their removal. In 1838, the Cherokee were removed from the region by the U.S. Army.



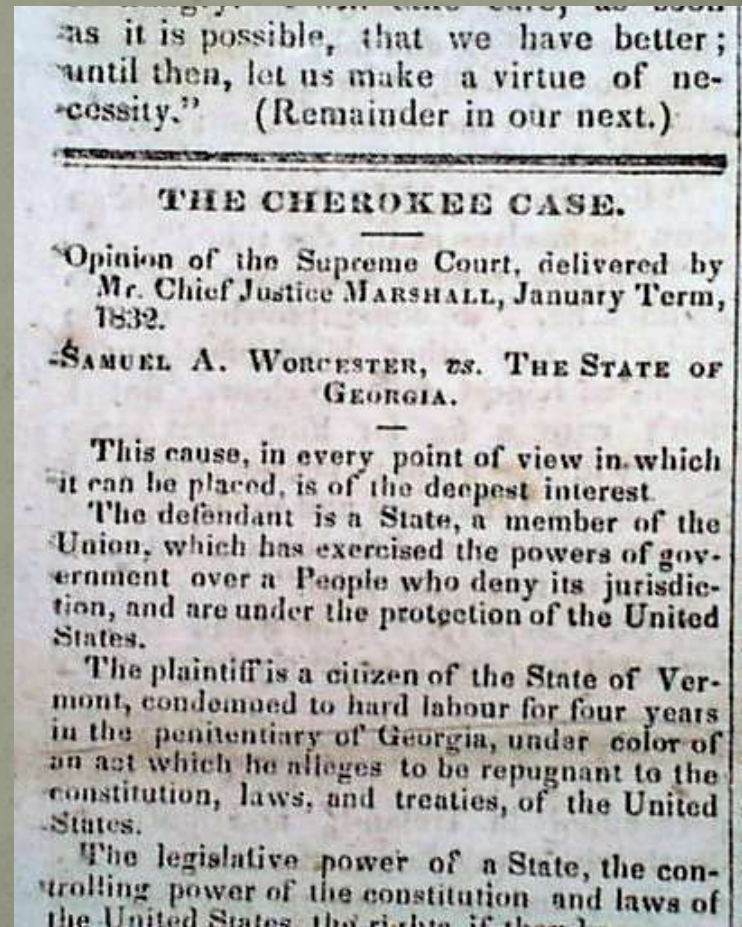
The Dahlonega Gold Rush

- For two decades gold was plentiful in and around Dahlonega. So much gold was found that in 1838, the U.S. government set up a mint. This mint produced almost 1.5 million gold coins.
- As the years passed, gold became much more difficult to mine in the area. In 1849, California's more famous gold rush began and brought thousands of Americans out west to find their fortunes. Even though there was still "gold in them thar hills" the gold rush ended in Georgia as soon as the first nugget was found in California.



Worcester vs. Georgia

- Worcester vs. Georgia (1832) was a landmark court case that should have protected the Cherokee from removal. The Supreme Court's decision declared that the Cherokee Nation was sovereign and were subject to their own laws. As a sovereign nation, the state of Georgia could not interfere in their affairs.



Worcester vs. Georgia



- In this case several missionaries, including Samuel Worcester, who were living among and supporting the Cherokee were arrested (several times) for living amongst the tribe without Georgia's permission. The state finally prosecuted the missionaries and sentenced them to four years of hard labor in a Milledgeville prison.

Worcester vs. Georgia

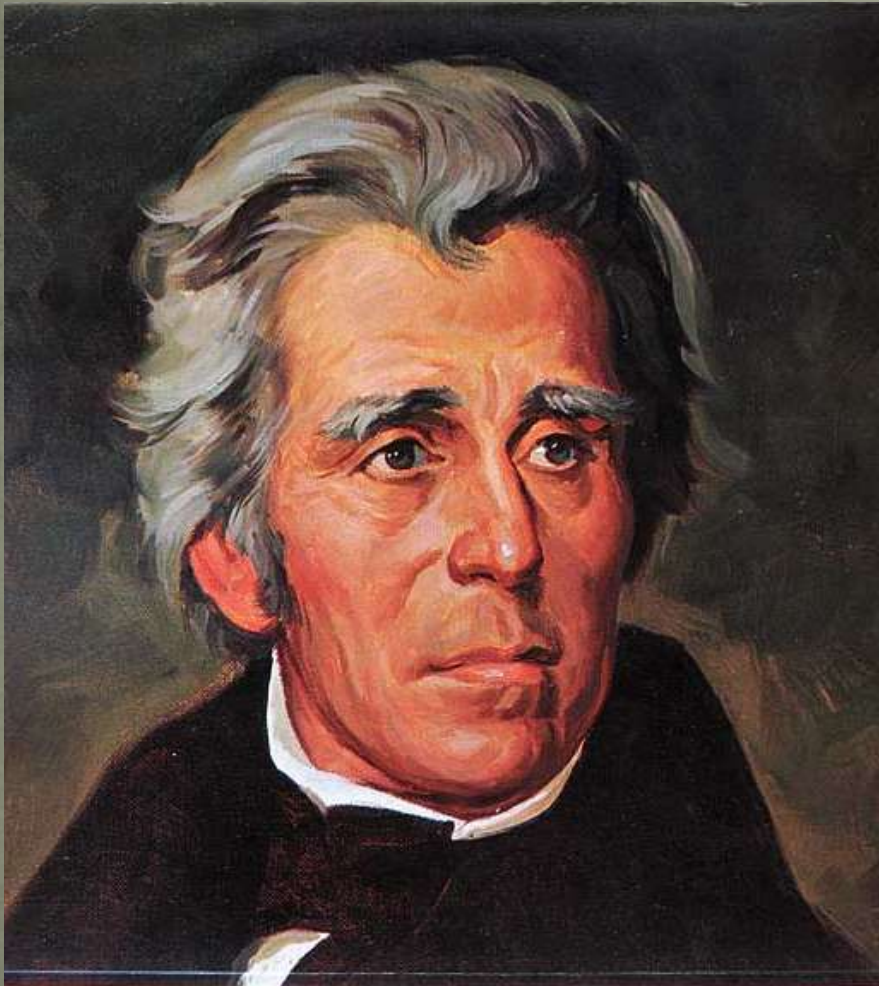
- The Cherokee Nation hired lawyers to represent the missionaries to appeal their sentencing.
- The Supreme Court ruled in their favor and Chief Justice John Marshall condemned legislators of Georgia for their actions.
- However, due to President Jackson's unwillingness to enforce the court's decision, Georgia kept the missionaries in prison and continued to push the federal government for removal.



Worcester vs. Georgia

- A small faction of Cherokee signed The Treaty of New Echota without the permission of the other Cherokees. Upon receiving it, Andrew Jackson signed the treaty and Congress approved it. In 1838, most of the Cherokee were forcefully removed from the state and suffered on the Trail of Tears to Oklahoma.

Andrew Jackson and John Marshall

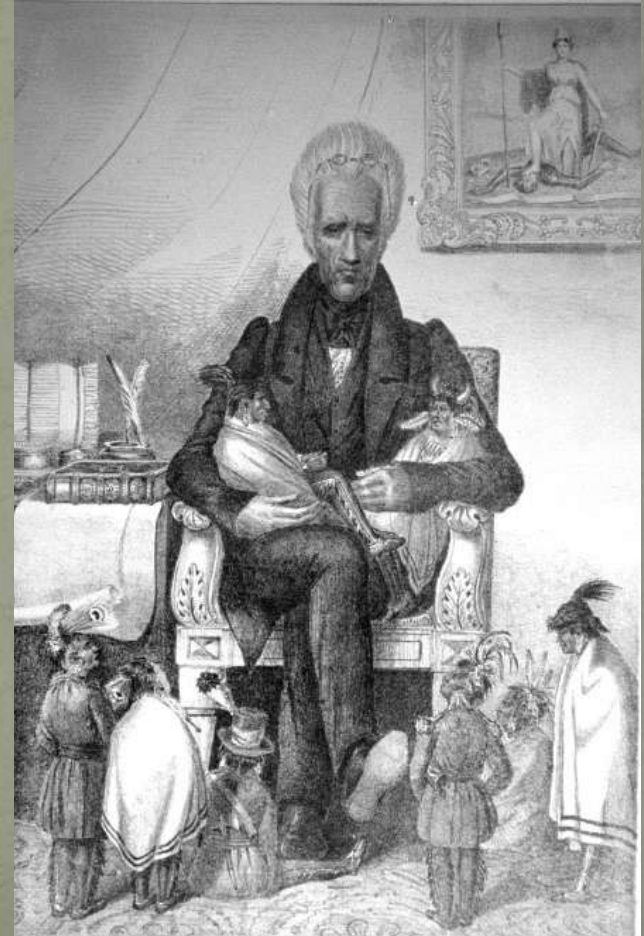


Andrew Jackson and John Marshall

- Simply put, Andrew Jackson's and John Marshall's roles during the Indian removal were on opposite ends of the spectrum.
- Marshall ruled in favor of the missionaries and the Cherokee in general, in *Worcester vs. Georgia*. In his ruling he condemned Georgia for its actions against the missionaries and wrote that Indian nations were "distinct, independent political communities retaining their original natural rights."

Andrew Jackson and John Marshall

- On the other hand, Andrew Jackson, who had fought with and against Native Americans, believed that they should be moved to Indian Territory. One Cherokee man, who had fought with Jackson against the Creeks, is said to have stated that if he knew how Jackson would have treated Indians when he became president he would have killed him when he had the chance.

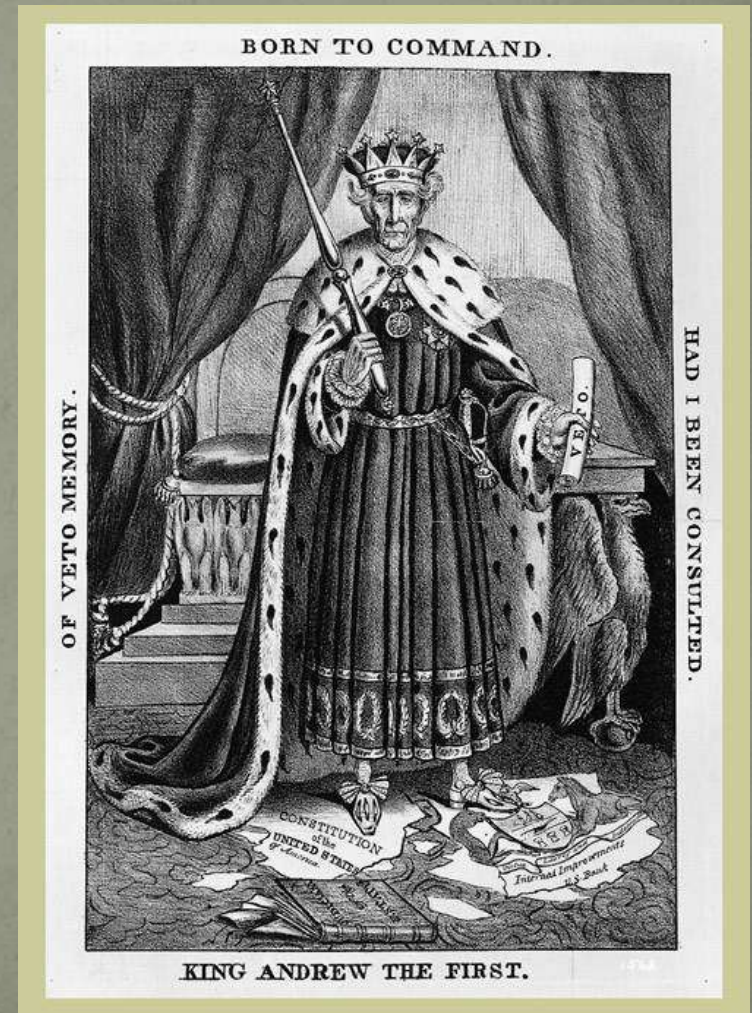


Andrew Jackson and John Marshall

- Some researchers have claimed that the primary reason that Jackson wanted to remove the Native American tribes out of the southeast was due to their past history of siding with the British and other European powers during wars against the United States. Others have said it was Jackson's way of pacifying the Southern states after his threat to invade South Carolina during the **Nullification Crisis**. Still others have argued that it was Jackson's intense racial prejudice of Native American's that led to his actions.

Andrew Jackson and John Marshall

- No matter the reason, or combination of reasons behind Jackson's decision, by not enforcing the ruling of the Supreme Court, he did not meet his Constitutional requirements as president. When asked about his choice Jackson is often quoted as saying "John Marshall has made the decision, now let him enforce it."





- *John Ross* (1790-1866) was the principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. He was born in present day Alabama, and his family later moved to Georgia. Ross, similarly to McGillivray, McIntosh, and Sequoyah was also of mixed heritage. Like the Creek chiefs, Ross spoke English and practiced many European customs.

John Ross



John Ross

- Ross became a successful business man when began selling goods to the U.S. Government in what became Chattanooga, Tennessee. He used the profits he earned to buy a plantation and create a ferry business.



John Ross

- Ross used his wealth and connections to win several governmental positions in the Cherokee Nation, eventually becoming principal chief in 1827. During the same time white Georgians were lobbying to remove the Cherokee from the state. When gold was discovered in Dahlonega in 1828, it all but assured that the Cherokee would eventually be displaced.



John Ross

- Ross had faith in the U.S. Government, primarily the U.S. Supreme Court and believed that the government would protect the most "civilized" tribe in Southeast. Even after Congress passed the Indian Removal Act (1830) it still appeared that the Cherokee would be able to stay in Georgia when the Supreme Court ruled in their favor in *Worcester vs. Georgia*.

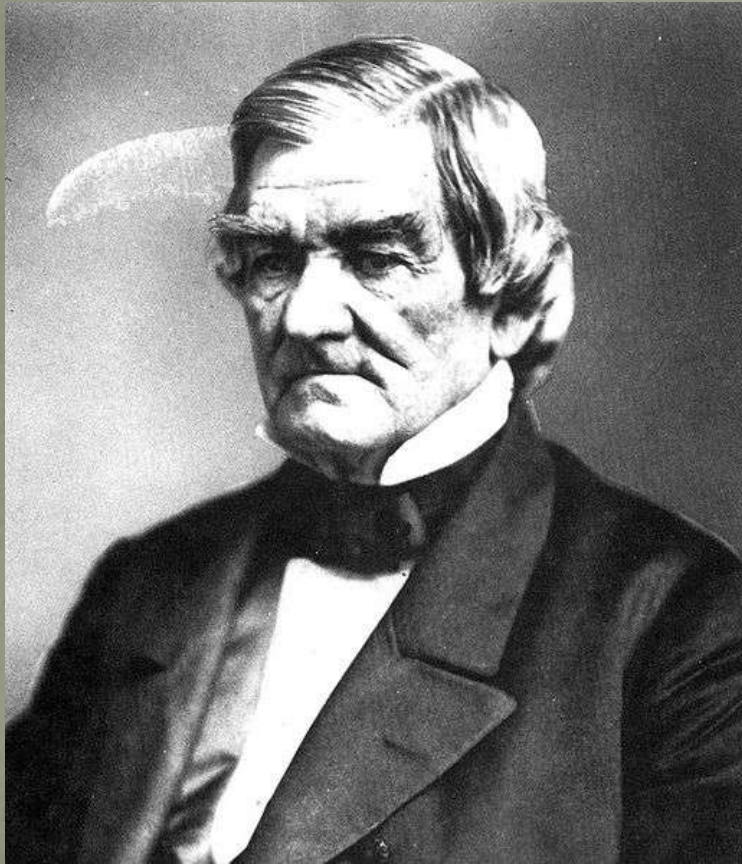


John Ross

- Ross continued to fight removal until 1838, when he negotiated a deal with the U.S. Government to pay for his moving expenses. However, this still did not completely protect Ross from tragedy on the Trail of Tears. Ross' wife died of exposure on the long journey to Oklahoma.



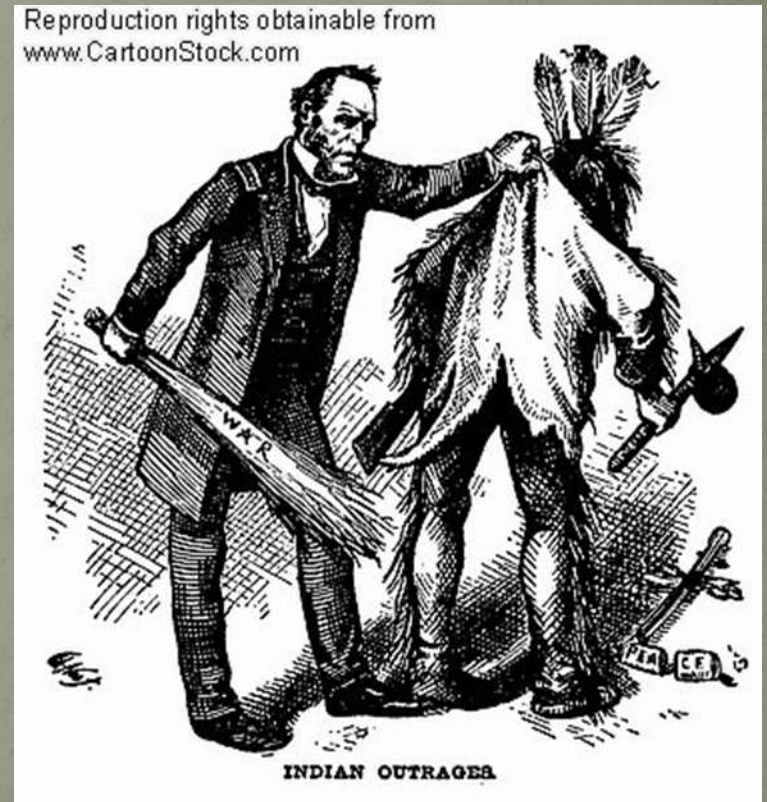
John Ross



- After arriving in Oklahoma, Ross continued to serve as principal chief of the Cherokee. During the Civil War, Ross initially sided with the Confederacy, but soon supported the Union. This caused a split between the Cherokee in Oklahoma with Ross remaining chief of those Cherokee who supported the United States. After the war, Ross became chief of the reunited tribe and remained in this position until his death

The Trial of Tears

- In 1838, after a series of court cases, petitions, and treaties, President Martin Van Buren ordered the U.S. Army to forcefully remove the Cherokee from Georgia. Led by General Winfield Scott, the army rounded up as many Cherokee as they could find and put them in temporary stockades.



The Trial of Tears

- Once they were satisfied that they found as many Cherokees as they could, the Army began the forced march to Oklahoma. This march was called the "Trail of Tears" due to the fact that the under supplied Cherokee lost over 4,000 people to disease and exposure.

