

NATIVE AMERICAN CHIEFS - LAND CESSIONS/BATTLES

Alexander McGillivray

Alexander McGillivray (ca. 1750-1793) was a Creek Chief who was of dual lineage. His mother was a Creek Indian and his father was a Scottish trader named Lachlan McGillivray. Lachlan was a member of the Scottish Highlanders who came to Georgia with Oglethorpe.

Alexander was considered to be a full member of both cultures so he received a traditional English education and, due to his mother's ancestry, was also a leader in Creek society.

In 1790, McGillivray signed the Treaty of New York which created a treaty of friendship between the United States and the Creek Nation. The treaty also ceded Creek land to the United States, in return the United States promised to honor the boundaries of the Creeks' remaining lands.

After the treaty, McGillivray continued in his role as the Creeks' national leader until his death near Pensacola, Florida in 1793.

William McIntosh

William McIntosh (1778-1825) was another Creek chief with a Scottish father and Creek mother. McIntosh was also first cousins with Georgia's governor George Troop and was related by blood or marriage to several prominent Georgia families. McIntosh infuriated his Creek tribesmen by consistently siding with the United States on several occasions, even during the Red Stick War.

After the war, the Creek Nation suffered through a terrible famine and McIntosh used this opportunity to regain his status in Creek society by befriendng a U.S. Indian agent. Due to this alliance, McIntosh gained the influential position of allocating food and supplies to those Creeks in need.

McIntosh was in favor of changing the traditional Creek lifestyle by promoting the move to agriculture and slaveholding. McIntosh led this lifestyle himself and was the owner of two plantations. Most Creeks did not support his abandonment of traditional ways.

The final conflict between McIntosh and the Creek was his decision to sign the Second Treaty of Indian Springs (1825). McIntosh, along with six other Creek chiefs, agreed to sell the remainder of Creek land in Georgia, without the tribe's consent, for \$200,000. McIntosh received extra cash for his personal lands in the treaty.

Upon hearing about what they considered to be a bribe, the Creek Nation ruled to execute McIntosh for his actions. On April 30, 1825, 200 Creek warriors carried out McIntosh's execution at his home by shooting and stabbing him repeatedly. Nevertheless, the Second Treaty of Indian Springs officially removed the Creek from Georgia's borders.

John Ross

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.

Ross became a successful business man when he 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.

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.

However, 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 the 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.

This ruling declared that the Cherokee were a sovereign nation and were not under the jurisdiction of the United States or the state of Georgia. Nonetheless, this ruling did not protect the Cherokee from removal as President Andrew Jackson refused to enforce it.

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	<u>Alexander McGillivray</u>	<u>William McIntosh</u>	<u>John Ross</u>
Tribe and position			
Cede Land/ Protect Land			
Treaty/Court Case and significance			
Opposition/ conflict			
Outcome			