

SCENIC
HISTORIC
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

When we return from those hill cities and mountain resorts in other parts of our own land and of different countries; And lift our eyes to the grand front of Lookout, as it stands sentinel over the river and city, we may conclude that it is unsurpassed in its union of historic and geographic interest.

*Charles A. McMurry—Chattanooga:
Its History and Geography, 1923*

By John Wilson

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CHAPTER ONE

Nature has reared many gigantic mountains but none more beautiful or picturesque than "Mount Lookout," standing as it does—a sentinel—ever guarding the rich valley of the Tennessee River, whose peaceful waters gently lave its base.

Hardie's Guide To Lookout Mountain



✓ When the early explorers came to the Lookout Mountain country, the Indians they found referred to the long, narrow plateau as "Chatanuga Mountain." This word, of Muskogean origin, means "rock coming to a point," and is an apt description of the mountain's abrupt halt over the beautiful Moccasin Bend of the Tennessee River.

The name "Chatanuga" was adopted, with some modification, by the city which grew up at the mountain's northern summit. The white men eventually began referring to the mountain as the Look-Out Mountain.

Most likely, they used this name because of the spectacular "lookout" afforded by the mountain's summit. It has also been suggested that the mountain served as a landmark to early river travelers, warning them to "look out" for the dangerous sucks and swirls ahead.

Another explanation is related to the fact that rivermen not willing to run the treacherous stretch of water below Chattanooga at night pulled in near Lookout Creek in the late afternoon. Desperadoes learned of this and began making forays at night against the rivermen. Word circulated up river,

"When you pass Ross's Landing, look out for robbers."

After the Americans wrested full claim to Lookout Mountain from the Indians, the French, the Spanish, and the British, states were established in the area. Tennessee finally claimed a small, but important, section of the mountain at its northern summit. Other parts of the mountain were designated to Georgia and Alabama.

Lookout Mountain is a part of the Cumberland Plateau, which constitutes the southern terminus of the great Appalachian chain. To the west is 1,700-foot Sand Mountain and 1,100-foot-high Missionary Ridge is to the east. The widest portion of Lookout Mountain is the nine miles between Cloudland, Georgia and Mentone, Alabama.

The elevation is 1,986 feet above sea level at Point Park and 2,146 feet above sea level near the upper Incline station. The highest portion of the mountain is at High Point, Georgia, where the elevation is 2,393 feet above sea level.



Geologists say that marine waters covered the Lookout Mountain area about 600 million years ago. Countless millions of simple marine life filled the warm shallow sea which covered the entire South. In time the seas retreated and beds of limestone were formed from the mud, silt and hardened lime-skeletons of the marine life.

Later vast swamplands dominated by large scaly-barked trees and ferns were formed along the shoreline. The vegetation fell into the swamp and was eventually compacted into thick peat deposits, and finally into coal.

About 200 million years ago, the Appalachian Mountains were born in a tremendous upheaval. When first formed, these mountains were higher than the present Rocky Mountains or the European Alps, geologists say.

Over a period of millions of years the rains and wind beat down these mountains and the Lookout Mountain area was reduced to a nearly featureless plain. About twenty million years ago, the Chattanooga area was again uplifted and the Cumberland Plateau was formed.

The erosion of the Cumberland Plateau produced the fantastic shape of rocks atop Lookout Mountain. The upheavals and periods of erosion caused unusual formations, odd folds in the rocks, and weird angles. The glaciers which covered a large part of North America also had their effect on the Cumberlands.

Although the glacial ice did not reach the Cumberland area, the many advances and retreats of the ice left its effect on the Lookout Mountain landscape. During periods when the ice advanced there was greater frost action and when the glaciers retreated tropical climates prevailed. The large rocks and trains of boulders scattered over many Lookout Mountain slopes are a result of this glacial period.

Basically, three kinds of rock form Lookout Mountain—a sandstone cap 200 to 300 feet thick, a shale bed of some 400 feet, and a bed of solid limestone, 800 feet thick. In this lower limestone lies Lookout Mountain's intricate system of caverns and underground streams.

The sandstone cap is itself composed of a mixture of sandstone, shale, conglomerate and coal. Breaking the structure of Lookout Mountain down further, the exposed portion consists of a base of Chattanooga black shale, topped by Fort Payne chert, Bangor and Monteagle limestone, Pennington shale and several kinds of sandstone and shale.

High Point, the mountain's highest elevation, is a peak rising above the plateau on the east brow in Walker County, fourteen miles from Chattanooga. This lofty point was used as a signal station during the Civil War, and a fire tower is now situated there.

Around the fire tower are huge sandstones, resembling large buildings scattered haphazardly. At the summit an unusual plant known as Whitlow-wort flourishes, as well as frost aster, silver-leaved golden aster, mountain laurel, sourwood and huckleberry.

From High Point it is possible to view the tableland of Lookout Mountain far to the north and south and also see far beyond Chattanooga Valley to the east.

Near High Point is a hump on the back of Lookout known as Round Mountain with an elevation only fifteen feet less than at High Point. It was at Round Mountain that coal mining operations began prior to the Civil War and flourished in the period 1890-1929.

Further south, near Trenton, Georgia, is Johnson's Crook, which marks the northern boundary of the Wills Valley between Lookout and Sand mountains. It was named for George W. Johnson, who drew this section of land in the Georgia lottery.

Thirty miles south of Point Lookout, an arm of the mountain runs to the northeast for some eighteen miles. This spur, known as Pigeon Mountain, has a flat top like Lookout and its highest peak, Northeast Knob, has an elevation of 2,329 feet. A beautiful cove, named for the Cherokees Robert and John McLemore, lies between Lookout and Pigeon mountains.

From the point where Lookout Mountain leaves Chattanooga to its southern terminus at Gadsden, Alabama, the mountain loses about 987 feet of its altitude. It has an altitude of about 2,111 feet at the upper end, but is only 1,124 feet high at the southern point.

Unlike the north end, the southern terminus spreads out over a width of about five miles. The flora near Gadsden is highlighted by pink and blue spiderwort, white and rose wild pinks, and white phlox.

Lookout Mountain has a number of spectacular waterfalls, two of which are underground. One beautiful waterfall deep inside the mountain was discovered by accident in 1928 during drilling for an elevator shaft to a cave across from Moccasin Bend.



Early Lookout Mountain residents gather by Leonora Spring, located at the base of rock bluffs overlooking the city of Chattanooga.

Colonel James A. Whiteside devised a method to pump the spring water to the mountain's summit.

Leo Lambert, who explored a deep, black shaft for many hours before hearing a thundering waterfall, named it Ruby Falls in honor of his wife.

Another underground falls nearby was used by the City Water Company of Chattanooga from 1887 to 1911 to supply the towns of Lookout Mountain and St. Elmo with water. This Mystery Falls, located by the Old Wauhatchie Pike, was discovered by Charles Cravens Anderson, a grandson of Robert Cravens.

Anderson was born in the original Cravens House on Lookout Mountain July 30, 1860. He later lived in Nashville, but he came back to the mountain and in 1885 explored the extensive cave network directly under his grandfather's home.

On November 15, 1885, Anderson discovered a stream of water which proved to be at the base of what became known in later years as Mystery Falls.

He determined that shafts should be drilled to the abundantly-flowing stream and the water piped out for the use of St. Elmo and Chattanooga. A stock company was formed in 1886 to carry out the project.

Shafts were driven to the falls and a dam was built in the mountain, with the water being pumped out at the lower entrance. The flow was 975 gallons per minute at the time it was opened, but it had slowed to 225 gallons per minute in 1917.

The City Water Company leased the spring, paying a rate of \$15 per day, until it was condemned as unsafe for use.

A corporation was later formed to develop the underground wonder, which is higher than Ruby Falls. However, the plan failed and one of the shafts was eventually closed off to Mystery Falls.

One of Lookout Mountain's highest and most beautiful waterfalls is Lula Falls, located three miles from Lookout Mountain, Georgia.

Lula Lake and Falls are fed by rugged, fern-clad Rock Creek, which flows in a V-shaped gorge from the old mining community of Durham northward until it spills over into Lula Lake.

The lake is actually a deep pool some seventy-five feet across in a hole scooped from the hard sandstone. A hundred yards past Lula Lake the creek rushes over a towering ledge and thunders into a wide gorge known as McCallie Gulch.

This gorge is framed by broken sandstone cliffs to the south and, on the north, an unbroken wall of sandstone continuous with the long line of bluffs leading to Rock City.

The bluffs above Lula Falls are clothed in the early spring with fragrant trailing arbutus and tiny bluets and at the base of the rushing water, later in the season, can be found jack-in-the-pulpit, cucumber root, and a dozen different fern varieties.

Rhododendron adds beautiful dashes of color in crevices of the huge rocks nearby, and clinging to the stone tops are sourwood, huckleberry, gnarled pines and numerous dark green mosses.

A species of bush honeysuckle, first described to botany at Lula Lake, grows above the pool amid mountain laurel, fringe tree, blazing star, partridge berry and wild ginger.

In the days when fancily-dressed guests arrived at the Lookout Inn to dine on roast antelope and terrapin a la Newburg, Lula Lake was a favorite picnic spot. Guests rode in open carriages to inspect the wondrous lake and falls and climb over the gigantic sandstone boulders that serve as their fitting backdrop.

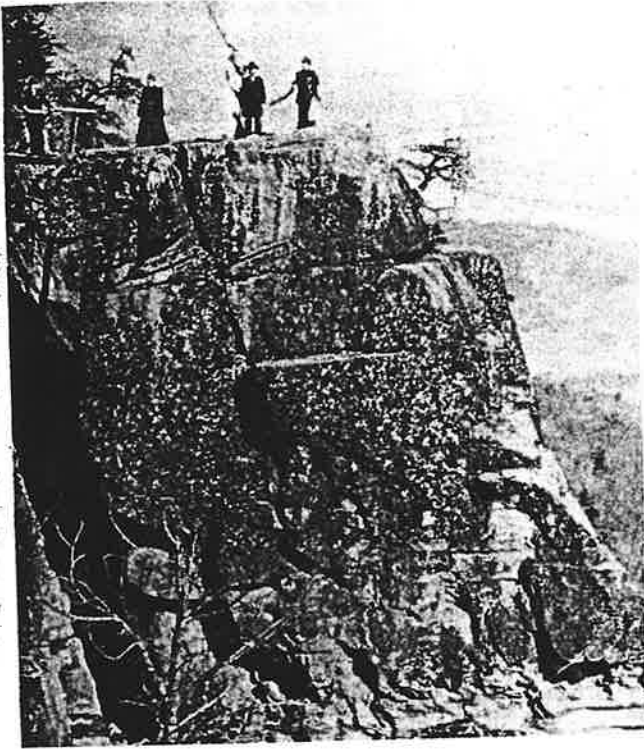
Early white visitors to Lookout Mountain included the lake and falls on their itinerary after inspecting the unusual boulders at Rock City. Many Civil War soldiers also visited this site and they called it Lake Seclusion.

One of the first graveyards for the white settlers on Lookout Mountain was established below Eagle Cliff, the high bluff above the lake and falls overlooking Chattanooga Valley.

Twin falls are on the same stream in Cloudland Canyon near Trenton, Georgia. Further south on the mountain, the Little River spills over into DeSoto Falls and Little River Falls before merging with the



Rock Creek tumbles into peaceful Lula Lake, one of Lookout Mountain's loveliest spots.



Perilous perch for mountain visitors.

Coosa River.

Near Blue Pond, Alabama, is Yellow Creek Falls, which cascades for 200 yards before taking an eighty-foot plunge. Rugged cliffs are nearby which formerly were the nesting place for ravens.

The mountain's southernmost waterfall is on Black Creek near Gadsden. Noccalula Falls drops into a rugged sandstone gorge as the water rushes off the mountain to the valley on the west.

The springs of Lookout Mountain played an important part in its early history. In the days before water was piped conveniently to homes, settlers sought out springs to build their houses by. The first settlement at the northern end of Lookout Mountain was by Holman Spring.

Then Mrs. Harriet Leonora Whiteside discovered Leonora Spring and a community and hotel were built on the east bluff overlooking Chattanooga.

The springs at Natural Bridge and at Mentone were famous for their supposed healthful qualities and hotels were built nearby. At least one spring was named for a prominent Indian chief. Skyuka Spring, which flows in a steady stream from the side of the mountain into Lookout Creek, is in honor of the Cherokee Chief Skyuka.

Other springs, such as Jackson Spring near the present Covenant College, are named for early settlers. A spring that flows on the east side of the mountain in Chattanooga Valley is known as Crutchfield Spring, after William Crutchfield, who once owned a large farm in the valley.

Lay's Spring in Etowah County is named for William Lay, whose family operated a large plantation on the Coosa River following the Indian Removal. A hotel was built at the site of the spring and Boy and Girl Scouts later began meeting there.

Cave Spring, near Rising Fawn, Georgia, is another delightful spring, after which a community and church have been named.

Some Lookout Mountain springs, located near caves, exhibit an unusual "blowing phenomenon." In the summer, breezes flow from the caves because of a difference in density between the surface and cave air. In the winter, there is a reverse movement of air and a sucking effect results.

Blowing Spring, near the Tennessee-Georgia line, and Hassell Spring, several miles north of Menlo, Georgia, are such springs.



Twin falls are a highlight of Cloudland Canyon.

There is a legend that several soldiers during the Civil War got lost in a cave at the north end of Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga and staggered out several weeks later near Gadsden. Actually, the large cave across from the Moccasin Bend is not this extensive, but it does stretch for over a mile, and the limestone substrate of Lookout Mountain has many caverns and underground streams its entire length.

The mountain is located in one of the richest regions for caves in the world. When Lookout Mountain was pushed up and formed, separations of the rock (faults) occurred. The limestone near these faults was gradually dissolved by the carbonic acid found in weak solution in rain water.

Gradually, the water made its way through large sections of the lime substrate of the mountain, leaving only the more durable ledges of rock. Huge caverns and miles of winding passageway were left hundreds of feet below the mountain's sandstone top.



View from the original entrance to the cave that is opposite the Moccasin Bend of the Tennessee River.

This cave was later sealed by a railroad tunnel and Ruby Falls was discovered in a higher cave during drilling to reach this cave.



Exploring one of Lookout Mountain's many caves.

Cave explorers make regular forays into the caves of Lookout Mountain. Unfortunately, not all who enter the caves treat the underground wonders with respect. Some casually break off formations which took millions of years to form.

Other careless persons carve their names upon the cave walls or spray paint recklessly. Beer cans and paper litter some of the cave floors.

Caves should be seen and enjoyed, not carelessly destroyed. They should be left intact for serious scientific study by geologists, archaeologists and paleontologists.

Professional cavers practice the motto: Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints. Kill nothing but time.

Much attention has been given to the cave across from Moccasin Bend, which is now closed off by a railroad tunnel but may be reached via the Ruby Falls elevator. This cave was known by the Indians for centuries and was used by both armies during the Civil War.

The cave was sealed off not long after a railroad tunnel was put through in 1908, but twenty years later an elevator shaft was drilled down to the cave from above. During the drilling of this elevator shaft, the amazing underground waterfall Ruby Falls was discovered.

The top of the elevator shaft has an elevation of 1,095 feet and the point at which the shaft intersects the cave to Ruby Falls is 260 feet below the top of the shaft. The lower cave is at the 420-foot level.

The Ruby Falls passage extends west for a short distance then southwestward for 2,037 feet to the falls. The passageway averages fifteen to twenty feet high and three to five feet wide.

Cave explorers still descend the Mystery Falls through the old water line used by the City Water Company. It is necessary to block off the falls by raising a dam before rappelling down the 281-foot drop. This dam was used to divert water above the falls into the water line for use by water company customers.

In February, when the underground flow is usually the greatest, the cavers must hurry in their descent because the dam at Mystery Falls spills over in as short a time as two minutes.

In the dryer months it may take as long as an hour and forty-five minutes for the water to reach the top of the dam.

At the bottom of the descent at Mystery Falls is a gigantic room with a 290-foot ceiling. The passageway extends about 300 feet.

Case Cave and Sitton's Cave are near Cloudland Canyon. Case is the larger of the two, having several large rooms and some pools of water in the lower parts. Sitton's Cave includes over a mile of passageway and stream.

At Johnson's Crook near Rising Fawn, Georgia are at least seven caves. The largest has a waterfall at both ends and extends about 1,800 feet under

Lookout Mountain. There are also caves at Cave Spring, located just south of Johnson's Crook.

A cave at Blowing Spring on the east side of the mountain below St. Elmo extends back for some distance. The entrance to this cave was blocked off by a cave-in. Frick's Cave, on the opposite side of Johnson's Crook, contains several large rooms.

One of these was formerly known as the "Potato Room" because it was used for storing potatoes. Water was piped by gravity from a stream in Frick's Cave to a home nearby.

The most spectacular Lookout Mountain caves are at Pigeon Mountain near LaFayette, Georgia. The two deepest free falls in the United States were discovered here in 1968 by cave explorers. One, called the "Fantastic," has a perpendicular drop of 510 feet, and the other, the "Incredible," drops 440 feet. Both of these amazing dropoffs inside the mountain have water plunging down them.

In the months when the water flow is greatest, it is difficult to go down the 510-foot drop and impossible to rappel down the 440-foot free fall. These two pits intersect an ancient fault in Pigeon Mountain.

Much of the mountain here is pure limestone, ideal for cave formation. The two drops, along with four more steep free falls, are in Ellison's Cave. This cavern is so complex that very few cave explorers are able to make their way through it.

More than nine miles of passageway have been mapped in Ellison's, which has its entrance at the top of the mountain. Another cave at Pigeon Mountain has an entrance in the valley. This cave, called Pettyjohn's, extends for over six miles.



Pigeon Mountain frames secluded McLemore's Cove near LaFayette, Georgia.

CHAPTER TWO

Even the aborigines had not been insensible to its charms; for in the name which they have given to the Look-Out mountain we have a laconic, but very striking description of the scenery. This name, in the Cherokee language, without the aspirated sounds, is O-tulle-ton-tanna-ta-kunna-ee; literally, "mountains looking at each other."

*Elias Cornelius
Phillips, New Voyages and Travels, III*

Evidences of some of the early inhabitants of Lookout Mountain still remain in several locations. Near the Cravens House in the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park are several sections of stone walls and at least twenty-nine stone "circles" or "rings."

For many years they were attributed to the Confederate forces during the Civil War and labeled by the park service "Confederate Rifle Pits." Confederate Brigadier-General E.C. Walthall, who occupied the Cravens House September-November 1863, stated that "my predecessor" built stone fortifications on the side of the mountain.

However, some archaeology students believe that the stone walls and circles were built at a much earlier period than the Civil War. They point out that the Confederate engineers reported that it was not feasible to construct a defensive line for that part of the mountain. It is also noted that the walls are too carefully laid to have been hurriedly placed.

The main section of wall does not follow strategic contours or make use of protective rock outcroppings. The rock wall is considered too high to serve riflemen lying prone and too low to protect them while kneeling.

The stone circles do not seem feasible as rifle pits for some of them are exposed on all sides and others are blocked off on the downhill side, presumably the direction of attack.

They are for the most part too heavy for tent foundations and too small for horse corrals.

At Johnson's Crook, there are at least 100 stone cairns. It is believed that some ancient tribe laboriously piled up these mounds of stone for some purpose unknown to us.

A team of University of Georgia students and professors, investigating a group of Indian mounds

by Lookout Creek north of Trenton in the summer of 1973, found abundant evidence of a race of people who lived by Lookout Mountain in the period 200 B.C. to 400 A.D. Archaeologists designate this time period as "Hopewellian" after a type of culture which was discovered while digging on the Hopewell farm in Ohio.

A leader of the Lookout Creek expedition later wrote that "the site contains the greatest variety and quantity of Hopewellian artifacts reported from the interior southeast." The group designated the dig area as the "Tunacunnhee Site" after the Cherokee word for Lookout Creek.

The Trenton dig revealed that men living by Lookout Mountain near the time of Christ were already carrying on an extensive trade network throughout the North American continent. Items were found in the mounds and burials that were verified by scientific tests as having come from the Gulf of Mexico, the Yellowstone National Park area, Ohio, Minnesota, the Tennessee Copper Basin, and elsewhere.

The archaeology students found a number of "exotic raw materials," including shark teeth and vertebrae, marine shell, "exotic" flint, silver and copper. Items made from these materials included earspools, panpipes, platform pipes and gorgets.

One flint blade was identified as having been made from Flint Ridge, Ohio. Other significant finds included a ceramic bird effigy platform pipe, a copper breastplate, small sand-tempered vessels, polished bone tools and chert projectile points.

The students noted that the site is situated at the base of Lookout Mountain below one of the few gaps in the mountain that would permit passage over the ridge. It is the first point where a relatively easy crossing would be possible after leaving the Tennessee River and traveling southwest along Lookout Creek.



Early cave dwellers in the Chattanooga area as depicted at the Lookout Mountain Museum.

At DeSoto Falls on the Little River near Mentone are two stone walls and several manmade rooms which have been recognized since the first white men came to this area. The walls and rooms were described by one of the missionaries from the Brainerd Mission and also by the author of a volume dealing with archaeological explorations in Yucatan.

A writer in 1833 told of "a recent discovery of one of those ancient works among the Alleghanies." He described a stone wall, built on the brow of a tremendous ledge. He said there were two rock walls leading to a path from the ledge down to the river. At the end of the two rock walls were five rooms, which had been dug out of the stone. The rooms were connected by doors. The writer continued:

Mr. Ferguson thinks them to have been constructed during some dreadful war, and those who constructed them, to have acted on the defensive; and believes that twenty men could have withstood the whole army of Xerxes, as it was impossible for more than one to pass at a time; and might by the slightest push, be hurled at least a hundred and fifty feet down the rocks.

Albert Pickett, in his Alabama history, said the unusual stone rooms were known by some as "De Soto's Rock House." He conjectured that they once served as a strong Indian fortification. He said the walls were black with smoke and there was ample evidence that the rooms had been inhabited for many years.

In order to get into the first cave, a person had to pass along a rock passage wide enough for only one man. Below him, on his right hand, was the awful precipice, and on his left, the rock wall reaching far above his head.

Pickett speculated that "a few persons in the first rock house with swords or spears could keep off an army of one thousand men." The outer wall at DeSoto Falls was about 600 feet long and the inner one 500 feet.

When the white man first came to America he found three great Indian families living in the eastern portion of the country—the Algonquin, the Iroquois, and the Muskogee. There are indications that each of the three great families lived in the Lookout Mountain area at one time or another.

The first arrivals are believed to have been the Shawnee tribe of the Algonquins. The Shawnees held all of what is now middle Tennessee, Ohio, Kentucky, and portions of Georgia. They were followed by the Creeks, a Muskogean tribe, who occupied all of the present Georgia and Alabama.

When Hernando De Soto made his way by Lookout Mountain in 1540, the Cherokees, an Iroquoian tribe, held the vast mountainous region of the southern Alleghanies in what is today southwest Virginia, western North and South Carolina, eastern Tennessee, northern Georgia, and the northeastern part of Alabama. Lookout Mountain served primarily as a hunting ground for the Indians.

Numerous Indian towns were located by the mountain and trails, or "traces," crisscrossed the area. The trails were mostly rough foot paths, often following the routes taken by huge herds of buffalo and other animals. These trails often extended for hundreds of miles.

At least some of the trails across Lookout Mountain must have been rather wide by 1792, as evidenced by a letter written by Governor William Blount on March 20 of that year:

The Chatanuga mountain, which lies to the southeast of the five lower towns—Running Water Town, Long Island Town, Nick-a-Jack, Lookout Town and Crow Town, can be passed at several places either by cavalry or infantry if not opposed.

The Great Indian Warpath, which passed over the north slope of Lookout Mountain across from the Moccasin Bend, was one of the most important Indian trails in America. This trail was used by numerous Indian war and trading parties and by the early settlers.

It entered Tennessee near Kingsport and continued south past Fort Loudoun, the Cherokee capital of Echota, and the present Cleveland and Ooltewah. The warpath continued to the mouth of Citico Creek, to the mouth of Chattanooga Creek, and on across the talus of Lookout Mountain to the Indian town of Nickajack.

Indian trails also led along either side of Lookout Mountain its entire length. The Willstown Trail between Lookout and Sand mountains followed closely the present highway from Chattanooga to Birmingham. It led from Chattanooga past the present sites of Trenton, Rising Fawn and Fort Payne.

The first white visitors to the Lookout Mountain country were the Spaniard Hernando De Soto and his band of about 700 men in the year 1540. De Soto had permission to explore and settle Florida, and he made his way to the new territory in hopes of finding gold and other treasures.

The De Soto party, including priests, horsemen, and footsoldiers, trekked northward through the unknown wilderness from the Tampa Bay, meeting various Indian tribes along the way.

The Spanish Conquistadors marched through what is now Georgia into the Tennessee Valley at the headwaters of the Hiwassee River. It is believed that they then struck overland along an old trail to the Tennessee River.

Eventually the Spaniards were in sight of the north end of Lookout Mountain at the future site of Chattanooga. De Soto and his party departed from this area on June 28.

It was not until 1673 that two Virginians, James Needham and Gabriel Arthur, made the first recorded English expedition into eastern Tennessee. The French were exploring the area about Lookout Mountain in this early period.

Joliet and Marquette floated the Mississippi River the same year as the Needham-Arthur expedition, and French colonies were set up at New Orleans and Mobile. The Spanish centered their activities in Florida, and the English began settlements along the east coast.

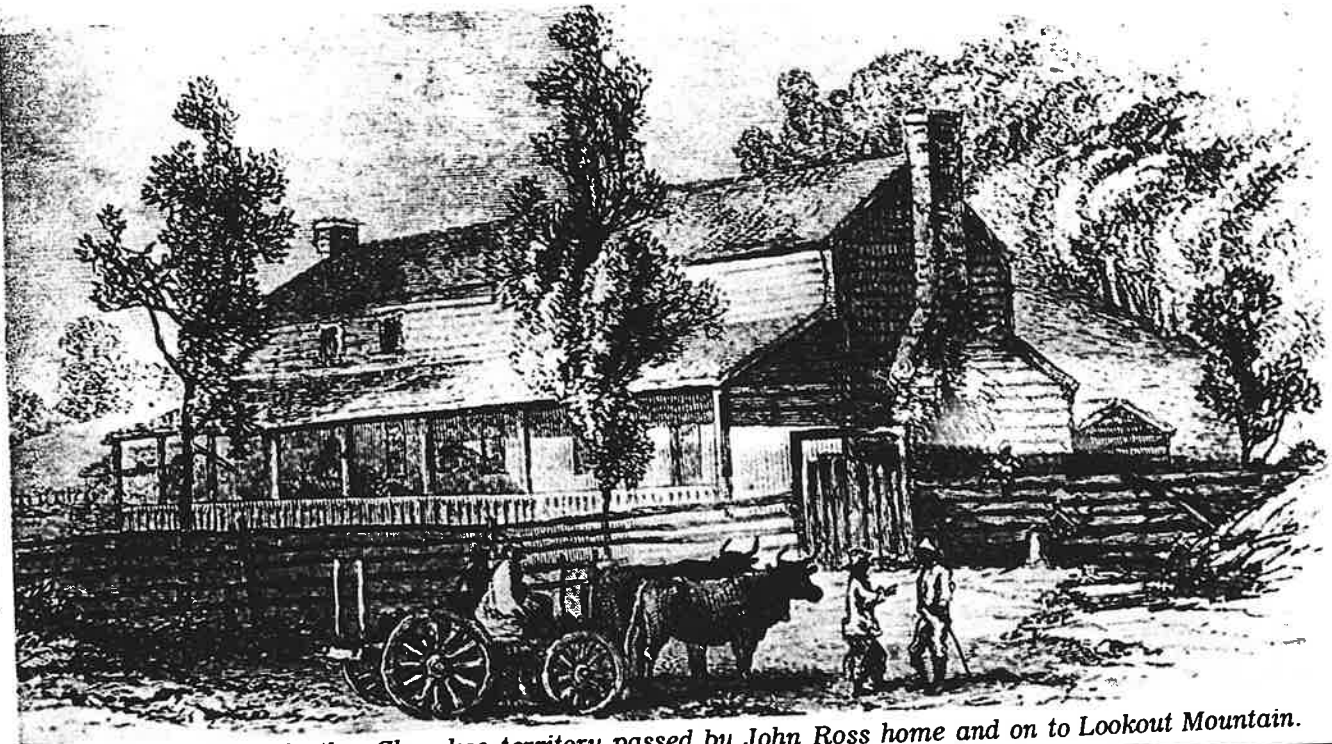
By the beginning of the eighteenth century, all three of these European powers eyed covetously the beautiful mountainous area which included Lookout Mountain. Traders and government emissaries began going among the Indians who held these prized lands, seeking to win their allegiance.

The first of the Carolina traders appeared in the region about 1690. Pack trains soon began making regular trips between the Overhill towns of the Cherokees and the English settlement at Charleston, South Carolina. The Overhill towns were in the vicinity of the Little Tennessee and Hiwassee rivers.

The competition for Indian territory was one factor resulting in the breaking out of war in 1754. The Cherokees, who were at first loyal to the English, turned against their allies and attacked Fort Loudoun on the Little Tennessee River in August 1760. The Cherokees were angered by the English demand for land and by the ingratitude shown by some of the English.

The British eventually won the French and Indian War and the peace treaty of 1763 yielded them much land in North America. The French gave up all of the eastern portion of the Mississippi Valley and Spain ceded Florida to England.

It was during this period that a group of Acadians, in search of lost friends and relatives who had been transplanted from Nova Scotia to Louisiana, passed by Lookout Mountain, according to legend.



First road through the Cherokee territory passed by John Ross home and on to Lookout Mountain.

The Acadians had been deported and scattered among the English colonies after they came under British control. The group of Acadians who may have passed by Lookout Mountain spent three years in Maryland, then decided to try to join other of their fellow exiles in Louisiana.

The Cherokees, who still hunted and made their villages in much of the Lookout Mountain area following the end of the French and Indian War, were a powerful and warlike tribe. The favorite occupation of the Cherokee men was war and their second most beloved activity was hunting.

The men also made bows, tomahawks, war clubs, canoes, and earthen ware, while the women busied themselves with gardening, care of the hogs and poultry, the smoking of meats, the tanning of hides, the making of clothing, and raising of children.

The trader James Adair estimated that in 1735 there were 16,000 to 17,000 Cherokees, occupying sixty-four villages. The beloved peace town of the Overhill Cherokees was to the northeast of Lookout Mountain, not far from where the Little Tennessee joins the main Tennessee River.

The Creek Indians, a portion of whom ranged along the southern end of Lookout Mountain, occupied an area corresponding roughly to the present states of Georgia and Alabama.

There were fifty or more Creek towns with a population which ranged from 15,000 to 23,000. The Upper Creeks had 14,142 members, according to an 1833 census. This part of the tribe was centered on the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers.

In 1763 the British had proclaimed that the land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River was to be Indian territory, but this imaginary line did not stop the rush of white settlers, traders and government agents.

Among those who came to the Lookout Mountain area was John McDonald, a native of Inverness, Scotland. McDonald arrived in Charleston in 1766 at the age of nineteen and soon made his way to Savannah where he took a job with a trading firm. Later, McDonald and Alexander Cameron were sent as British agents to the Cherokees.

McDonald first settled at a Cherokee town in the valley of the Little Tennessee River where he married Anna Shorey, the daughter of an early trader, William Shorey, and an Indian woman.

McDonald later moved near the north end of Lookout Mountain where several important Indian trails came together. He set up a trading post along the Great Indian Warpath, near the mouth of South Chickamauga Creek, and gained much influence among the Indians in behalf of the British.

In the latter part of the 1770s, the Cherokee, Dragging Canoe, and his followers withdrew from the Little Tennessee River Valley to near Lookout Mountain, where McDonald had made his headquarters. Dragging Canoe and his band of fierce warriors were incensed at the advances of the Whites on the Indian territory and were determined to fight for their homeland.

The shift of Dragging Canoe's five principal towns to the region west of Lookout Mountain was made because it enabled his Chickamaugas to enjoy the great natural protection of high mountains and treacherous river.

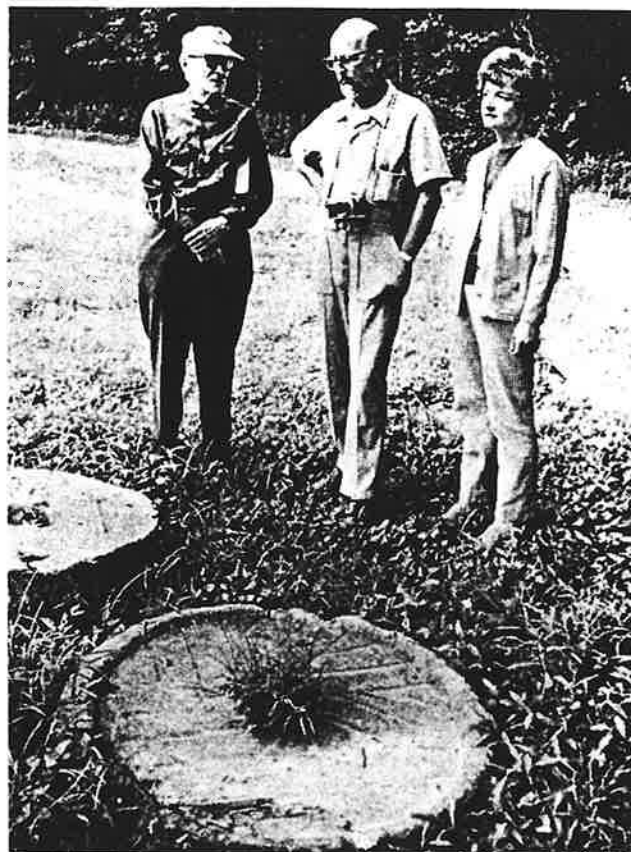
Beginning just beyond the Moccasin Bend at the north end of the mountain, the Tennessee River is compressed into a narrow gorge, which was formerly filled with dangerous "sucks," "boiling pots," and "narrows" for many miles. A location beyond this natural barrier of river and mountain would make the Chickamaugas infinitely safer from the sudden attacks of the frontiersmen from the east.

The new "Five Lower Towns" included Crowtown, Long Island, Nickajack, Running Water and Lookout Mountain Town (just north of the present Trenton, Georgia). Another Indian settlement known as Willstown was founded near the present Fort Payne by the red-headed, half-breed Chief Will.

By the end of 1778, there were about 1,000 warriors joined with Dragging Canoe, who was by then the most powerful Indian leader in the South. The Chickamaugas began stealing away from their towns near Lookout Mountain on frequent forays to burn and scalp on the frontier of Virginia, the Carolinas, Kentucky and Ohio. Supplies were received from the British, including one pack train of 300 horses delivered to John McDonald.

Determined to end the reign of terror brought by the Chickamauga Indians, a force of frontiersmen made several counterattacks. In the spring of 1779, a joint force from Virginia and North Carolina had gathered in the northeastern part of what is now Tennessee, with Colonel Evan Shelby as their leader, and moved against the Chickamaugas and McDonald.

This raiding party destroyed numerous Chickamauga towns and captured a huge cache of supplies and furs easily as few Indians were at home to defend them. Most were away on a foray against parts of the frontier.



Gilbert Govan, Chattanooga historian; Bob Elmore, of the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Carol Hobbs, tour guide, examine mill stones at Reflection Riding.

The stones are believed to be part of the mill built by Casper Vaught of Blount County for the Cherokee Indians.

It was during this dangerous period that John Donelson determined to lead a group of settlers through the Indian menace to the rich lands along the Cumberland River near the present Nashville. Donelson planned to conduct a number of families down the Tennessee River to the Ohio and then up the Cumberland.

The voyage was begun December 22, 1779 from Fort Patrick Henry on the Holston River. The fleet of thirty boats and 200 voyagers did not reach the Tennessee River until February 27, 1780. Among this group was Rachel Donelson, who was later to marry Andrew Jackson.

In his campaign of 1782, Colonel Sevier had been purposely led away from the powerful lower towns of the Chickamaugas by the wiles of the Indian John Watts, who had offered to guide Sevier's forces. Therefore, the Chickamauga Indians continued their bloody raids on the frontiersmen.

Dragging Canoe was spurred on by Spanish and British agents who frequented the Lookout Mountain area as well as by Shawnee and Creek Indians. Tecumseh, the famous Shawnee chief who was later to urge confederation of the Indians against the Whites, lived with the Chickamaugas near Lookout Mountain for a time.

The frontiersmen held a council in June 1788 to consider once again how to deal with the Indians based near Lookout Mountain. Some 500 men were enlisted to make a march against the Chickamaugas in August, with the settlers to meet at the present Knoxville. The troops marched quickly down the Tennessee Valley toward Lookout Mountain, destroying two Indian towns as they went.

General Joseph Martin, the brigadier-general of the western counties of North Carolina, was in overall command, aided by Colonel Robert Love, Colonel Daniel Kennedy and Colonel George Doherty. General Martin had formerly lived with the Cherokees as an agent and had married Betsy Ward, the daughter of their "Beloved Woman," Nancy Ward.

The party arrived at Moccasin Bend late in the afternoon, hoping to surprise the town. However, most of the Indians had already left, though fires were found in several cabins.

A detachment was sent ahead to cross the river and made its way across the mountain, but Indians hiding among the rocky bluffs fired down on the advancing party. Surprised by the counterattack, the men wheeled their horses and fled back towards the river.

During the night the Indians were reinforced and settled in to defend the steep mountain. Spies sent out by General Martin the next morning were fired upon from the same spot where the Indians had hidden before.

When General Martin heard the gunshots, he ordered the entire force forward near the Great Indian Warpath. The frontiersmen galloped to the foot of the mountain, dismounted, and proceeded up the trail.

The path was steep and rocky and the men had to march single file while weaving their way among the boulders between the bluff and the river.

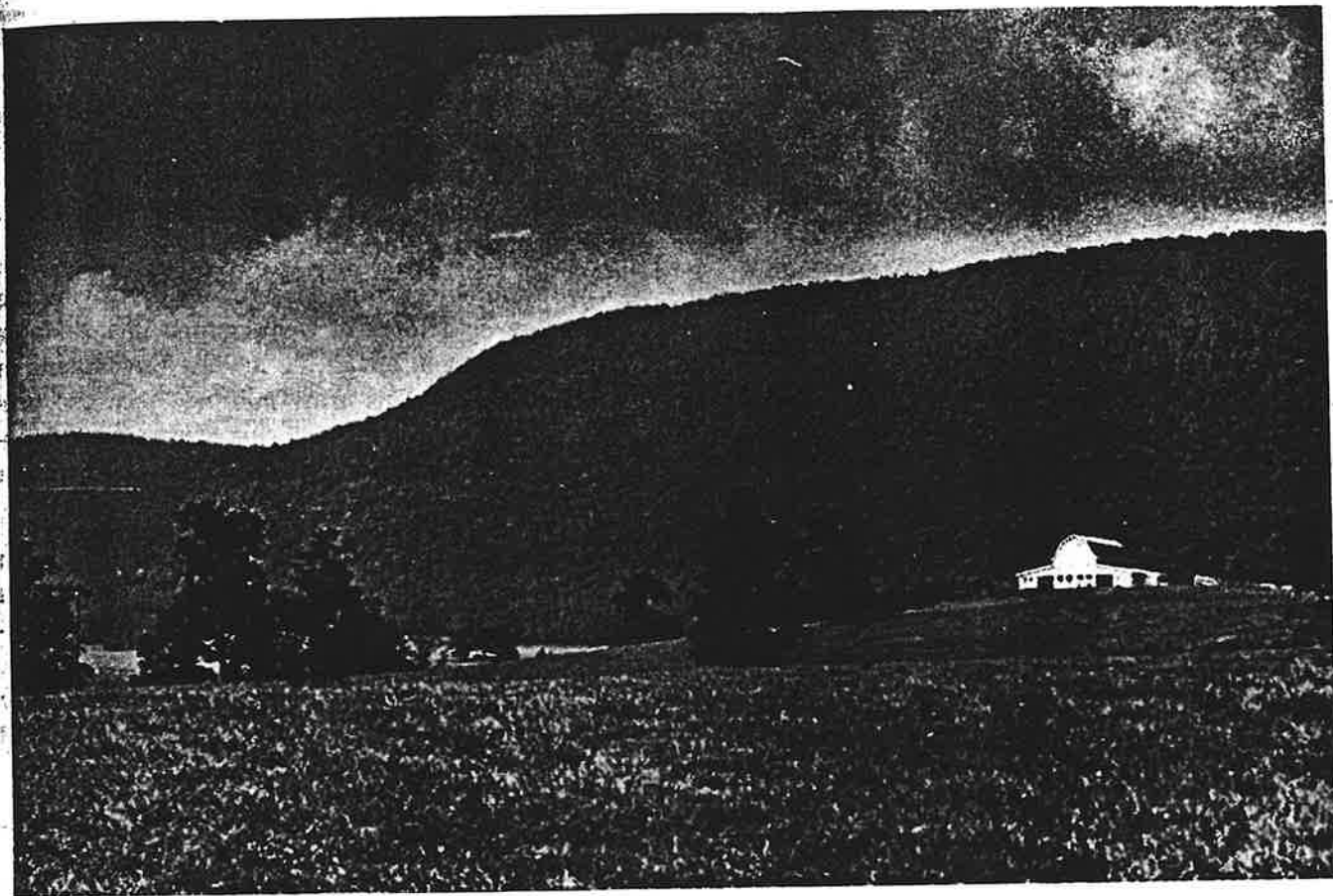


Eagle Cliff overlooks Lula Lake and Falls.

The Indians, hidden behind rocks and trees in their favorite manner of fighting, poured down a heavy fire on the advancing forces. Several captains who were marching in front were killed and many of the men began fleeing back toward the river. With only sixty men standing with him, General Martin was forced to call a retreat.

The Indians were further incited to wage war against the frontiersmen when in 1788 the chief Old Tassel was cruelly killed under a flag of truce. Following the death of Old Tassel, the Cherokee towns east of Lookout Mountain who were inclined to peace selected Little Turkey as their head man.

These towns included Coosawatie, Elijay, Ustin-ali and Etowah. Little Turkey made his headquarters by Lookout Mountain near the present Centre, Alabama. The mild and inoffensive Little Turkey became the principal chief of the Cherokee nation in 1794 upon the death of Hanging Maw.



Quiet farm graces McLemore's Cove as Lookout Mountain looms in the background.

The Chickamauga Indians gathered at Lookout Mountain Town on February 26, 1792 for a great celebration and scalp dance following the killing of two frontiersmen. The scalp of the trader Mims was taken in the teeth by several of the Indians and ferociously torn as they danced.

On February 28, Dragging Canoe and his warriors from Running Water Town arrived to take part in the celebration. The next day the renowned chief Dragging Canoe, who was then about sixty years of age, died.

John Watts, the half-breed who had purposely misled the Sevier party in 1782, became the new leader of the Chickamaugas. Watts was born about 1750, the son of a white trader and a prominent Indian woman.

Diplomatic and a smooth talker, he had taken up the tomahawk after the killing of Old Tassel. After the death of Dragging Canoe, he determined to keep the Chickamaugas on the warpath against the encroaching Whites.

Soon after learning that the Chickamaugas had

a new war chief, the Spanish governor at Pensacola invited John Watts to come and receive plenty of guns and ammunition. Watts, Doublehead, and Young Dragging Canoe accepted the Spanish aid and they were loaded with presents at Pensacola.

Warriors from all parts of the Nation gathered to hear Watts' report of his trip to Pensacola. The meeting was held in September 1792 by Lookout Mountain at Willstown, where Watts had moved his residence after Dragging Canoe's death.

The Chickamauga leader told his followers that it was time to link themselves with Spain and attack the frontiers of Holston. Three days after the Willstown council, some 600 Chickamaugas gathered at Lookout Mountain Town, planning to launch an attack on the Holston settlements in four divisions. An all-night war dance followed the planning session.

However, word of the planned attack leaked out and Watts decided to march against the Cumberland frontier. But, before the march began, many of the Indians became drunk on whiskey, so the campaign was temporarily called off.



High Point is mountain's tallest peak.

Little Turkey had at first been disinclined to join his forces with John Watts in a war against the frontier settlers. Early in 1792 he wrote the chiefs of the five lower towns:

The Little Turkey is tired of talking to you. I have heard what you have lately done. I will no more travel the path to the Lower Towns, to hold talks. If you must go to war, go, and I will sit still and look at you, but you must stay on your own side of Chatanuga Mountain, and not mix with other parts of the Nation.

However, Watts was able to enlist the aid of Little Turkey when he told him of the promise of Spanish support. Little Turkey, along with John McDonald and the Boot, then went to Pensacola to receive a share of the presents and ammunition.

Watts took to the warpath in September 1792, but the march toward Nashville with 281 warriors ended in a miserable retreat. Watts led another large party of warriors toward Knoxville the following August, and the Indians were again defeated during a counteroffensive led by John Sevier.

Watts, Little Turkey and several other chiefs then went again to their Spanish friends for help. However, Spain was in difficulties internationally and, to the surprise of the Indians, the Spanish governor advised them to make peace with the Americans. This failure of a vital ally left Watts a disheartened man as he returned to Willstown.

With the object in mind of finally destroying the lower towns, a force of frontiersmen under Major James Ore began advancing against the Indians in September 1794. This army marched past the present Murfreesboro, the Old Stone Fort near Manchester, near the present Monteagle, and on to a spot near the present South Pittsburg.

On the night of September 12, Ore's 268 men crossed the Tennessee River with plans to march five miles further and attack Nickajack. The surprised Indians were routed and the town destroyed. Major Ore then led the frontiersmen to the nearby town of Running Water which was also destroyed after it was found to be deserted.

John Watts was now left without Spanish support and two of his lower towns had been burned. Furthermore, his allies to the north had been defeated by Anthony Wayne. With no other choice of action available, Watts sent word to Governor Blount that he would meet him at Tellico Blockhouse to discuss peace. Governor Blount met with Watts, Little Turkey, the Glass, Richard Justice and other of the Indian chiefs on October 11, 1794.

Another meeting was arranged in late December to set the terms of peace. At this meeting Governor Blount advised the Cherokees to "settle on the waters of the Tennessee at Chatanuga mountain. By this plan should any of your Nation remain below the mountain, and join the Creeks, the innocent can be spared, and the guilty punished."

After 1794 the Cherokees as a nation remained at peace with the Americans, but the Creeks were not subdued until Andrew Jackson led a campaign in the vicinity of the south end of Lookout Mountain in 1813.

During the Creek War there was a camp set up at the extreme north end of Lookout Mountain, known as Camp Ross.

Little Turkey died soon after the Brainerd Mission was established.

CHAPTER THREE

Perhaps the most remarkable man who has ever lived on Georgia soil was neither a politician, nor a soldier, nor an ecclesiastic, nor a scholar, but merely a Cherokee Indian of mixed blood.

*Dr. H.S. Scamp, Emory College
(speaking of Sequoyah)*

Two of the most famous Indians in American history—Sequoyah and John Ross—lived near Lookout Mountain at one time or another. Several other distinguished Cherokees lived in the coves and villages by the mountain prior to the Indian Removal in 1838.

Sequoyah, who was called George Guess or Gist by the Whites, was born at Tuskegee, near Fort Loudoun, about 1770. His father was Colonel Nathaniel Gist and his mother was the Cherokee, Wurteh.

By herself Wurteh raised Sequoyah in a little cabin in the Overhill country. Then this unschooled mixed blood, who was to make one of the most remarkable intellectual achievements in human history, moved by Lookout Mountain to Willstown.

When war was called against the hostile Creeks, Sequoyah enlisted at Turkeystown on the opposite side of Lookout Mountain on October 7, 1813. He served as a private under Captain John McLemore and took part in the battles at Tallaschatshe and Horseshoe Bend. He later emigrated to Arkansas, where he lived most of the rest of his life.

As a young man Sequoyah showed talent as a silversmith and in sketching, but he was also fascinated with the art of writing. He decided to attempt the tremendous task of translating the spoken Cherokee language into a written form.

Many of his friends and neighbors thought it was a ridiculous project and Sequoyah's wife became so disgusted that she once threw his precious papers into the fire.

But the talented Cherokee built a small cabin retreat and persevered at his self-appointed task. After twelve long years of diligent effort, Sequoyah completed a syllabary of eighty-six characters.

He went back East to the Cherokee Nation in 1821 and submitted his finished work to his people. Within only a short time the Cherokees were able to read and write in their own language. Even Indians who had never been to school could read in a few days time.

Now, for the first time, the white man's ability to communicate by the written word was available also to the Cherokee. A poor Indian had become the only man in history to conceive and perfect an alphabet in its entirety.

The Cherokee who once lived in the shadow of Lookout Mountain received many honors after his invention was accepted. A medal was struck for him by the Cherokee Nation "as a token of respect and admiration for your ingenuity." The giant trees of the Far West were named in his honor. Sequoyah died in the Southwest in 1843.

Another well-known Cherokee, Major George Lowrey, also lived in Wills Valley by Lookout Mountain. Born in 1770, he was the second son of John and Nannie Lowrey. John Lowrey was a Scottish trader who operated a ferry on the Tennessee River by the Federal Road.

George Lowrey was employed by a British officer to carry messages to authorities in Canada when he was a young man. Later he was promoted to the rank of major after serving with distinction under Andrew Jackson in the war against the Creek Indians. He moved to Willstown soon after the Creek War and remained there until the Indian Removal.

Major Lowrey was an advisor to John Ross, the Cherokee chief, and he served as assistant principal chief of the Cherokees for almost thirty years. Major Lowrey was also a strong supporter of the Brainerd Mission and he acted as an interpreter for the Indians.

Major Lowrey's oldest brother, John Lowrey, took Ga-ne-lu-gi McLemore as his second wife. Her family lived in the beautiful McLemore Cove which lies between Lookout and Pigeon mountains near LaFayette, Georgia.

This cove was named for the McLemore family, which included John and Robert McLemore, two prominent Cherokees. They were sons of a missionary who came to the Lookout Mountain area and

married an Indian woman.

John McLemore served in the War of 1812 as captain of a company of Cherokee warriors in the regiment of Colonel Gideon Morgan Jr. He served from September 7, 1813 to January 6, 1814 and from January 27, 1814 to April 11, 1814.

Other well-known Cherokees who lived near Lookout Mountain included the Glass and Dick Justice. These two Indians operated a mill on Lookout Creek at the present Reflection Riding.

Casper Vaught of Blount County built the mill at the point where the Great Indian Warpath and the



George Guess, better known to history as Sequoyah, lived for a time by Lookout Mountain near the present Fort Payne, Alabama.

He developed an alphabet for use by the Cherokee tribe.

Federal Road crossed Lookout Creek. A millstone from this pioneer mill is still at the site. Vaught also built Brown's Tavern nearby at the present Tiftonia.

The Indian chief, Wauhatchie, lived in Lookout Valley alongside Lookout Mountain. The area by Lookout Creek where he lived is known today as Wauhatchie. This Cherokee took part in the Creek War as a member of Captain John Brown's Company in Colonel Gideon Morgan's Regiment. He served from January 27 to April 11, 1814.

Wauhatchie lost his horse and was severely wounded in a battle against the Creeks, March 27, 1814. He recovered and was one of the chiefs who signed the Hiwassee Purchase, July 8, 1817, at the old Indian agency in the present Meigs County.

Wauhatchie was a candidate for the Cherokee General Council in 1830. He is listed as an inhabitant of Walker County in Lookout Valley in the 1835 census of the Cherokee Nation. The name of Chief Wauhatchie is recorded among those who were removed along the "Trail of Tears."

A spring which flows from under Lookout Mountain into Lookout Creek south of Reflection Riding is named for another prominent Cherokee chief who once lived nearby. Skyuka was the chief in command of the Indians who fought John Sevier's forces September 20, 1782 in the "Last Battle of the Revolution."

Among the first white men to venture into the Lookout Mountain country was a young Scottish orphan named Daniel Ross. In 1785 he hired on with Francis Mayberry of Hawkins County, Tennessee, who traded supplies from Baltimore for Indian furs.

Members of the Mayberry party entered the part of the Tennessee River controlled by the Chickamauga Indians and were taken captive at the present Citico Creek. The Indians were in disagreement about what to do with their prisoners until John McDonald intervened to spare the lives of the captives. He invited Ross to stay among the Indians and set up a trading post.

Daniel Ross eventually married McDonald's daughter, Molly, and he set up his store by Chattooga Creek at the north end of Lookout Mountain. A cultured man in the midst of a wilderness, Ross kept a good library, maps, and American and English newspapers. His daughters were sent to distant boarding schools to be educated.

Daniel Ross is credited with starting the first school in the Lookout Mountain area. He built a log schoolhouse near his home in the year 1800 and hired a man to teach his children. Three years later this tiny school was absorbed by one of the pioneer mission schools to the Cherokees.

Wilson Lumpkin, governor of Georgia who was active in pushing for the removal of the Indians, described Ross as:

a very shrewd and sensible man, of good education and very extensive general information. He had a small, but valuable, collection of books, which he both read and understood. He was in easy circumstances, and understood the Indian character perfectly. He never admired the free institutions of the United States, but retained to the last his revolutionary prejudices against our American institutions.

When the Indians first agreed to allow the Whites to build a road through the Lookout Mountain country, one branch of the road passed beside Daniel Ross' home. The Cherokees had first been approached about the building of this road in 1801 and they were initially very much opposed to the idea.

However, they had agreed to allow much of the road by 1805, largely due to the insistence of the Indian agent Return J. Meigs.

This road, known as the Georgia Road or Federal Road, connected Nickajack to the tavern of John Brown and wound across from the Moccasin Bend past Ross' home and on to the present Rossville, Georgia. The road went near the present Lake Winnepesaukah grounds and on below today's Ringgold, Georgia—through the present Hamilton, Catoosa, Whitfield and Murray counties.

Several miles below the Daniel Ross home there was an old Indian trail leading across the mountain at the Nickajack Gap to the present Trenton, Georgia, and this trail was utilized as an early road. Along the pioneer roads came wagonloads of supplies from the coast towns of Charleston and Savannah.

Log houses, stands and stables went up alongside the roads. The early roads also became avenues for the transportation of fine beef cattle, horses, mules and hogs toward the seacoast. By 1825 visitors to the Cherokee territory found numerous white persons carrying on business, many roads, ferry boats, and houses of entertainment for travelers.

Cyrus Kingsbury, who came to the Lookout Mountain area in the summer of 1816 to begin a missionary work among the Indians, told in a letter how other Christian workers could make their way to the Indian territory.

They should go by water to Savannah, Georgia, thence to Augusta in a boat and call on Colonel G. Morgan for directions. At Augusta they may purchase horses or come with wagons, which are frequently passing through the nation.

They will take the main road from Georgia to West Tennessee and proceed on to Mr. John Ross's near Lookout Mountain, on the Tennessee River. Mr. John Gambold, the Moravian missionary, who lives at Springplace, Georgia, thirty miles before they come to Ross's, would be exceedingly glad to entertain them.

Kingsbury was introduced to the chiefs of the Cherokees and Creeks at Turkeytown, near the present Centre, Alabama, by General Andrew Jackson. The Indians were gathered by the Coosa River to settle boundary lines and to ratify a recent treaty made with the United States. General Jackson urged the importance of educating the Indian children on this occasion.

Among the missions to the Indians founded in the vicinity of Lookout Mountain was an outpost at Willstown. It was founded in 1823 and closed in 1839. Ard Hoyt was superintendent of the Willstown mission from May 22, 1824 until his death there February 18, 1828. Daniel Sabin Butrick was another missionary who labored at Willstown.

William Chamberlain, a native of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, was at Willstown from 1824 to 1838 and Nancy Thompson of Washington County, Virginia, worked there from 1833 to 1836. The mission included two schoolhouses, a smokehouse, several cabins, a saw mill, a grist mill, a springhouse, and a blacksmith shop.

For many years after the Revolutionary War, the Indians held fast to their beloved Lookout Mountain. But there was pressure from Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee for the land.

In 1663, Charles II of England had given a group of his favorites a large grant of land in America which came to be called Carolina. The southern boundary of this grant was the thirty-fifth parallel of latitude and its western limit was listed as the "South Seas."

A later English king, George II, gave to James Oglethorpe a grant of land to the south of Carolina called Georgia. This included all the land between the Altamaha and the Savannah rivers from their "head waters to the South Seas."

Georgia, one of the thirteen original colonies, laid claim to a large territory north of the Tennessee River after the Revolutionary War.

This included almost all of Lookout Mountain as well as the present Marion County and part of the present Hamilton County in Tennessee. Much of the land in question was within the "Great Bend" of the Tennessee River where it swings down to Muscle Shoals and then back to the northwest.

North Carolina appointed commissioners in 1782 to locate lands for Revolutionary War veterans. These commissioners declared that the "Great Bend" was not in North Carolina, but they failed to fix the line between Georgia and North Carolina.

North Carolina finally ceded its western lands to the federal government in 1789 and the state of Tennessee was formed in 1796.

However, the boundary between Tennessee and Georgia remained uncertain until 1818 when the two states appointed commissioners to survey the line. The commissioners were Judge Stocks of Georgia and John Cocke of Tennessee. Their surveyor was Colonel Hugh Montgomery. The two mathematicians in the party were James Camack of Georgia and James Gaines of Tennessee.

The surveying party began at a large stone near Nickajack and inscribed "Tennessee" on the north side of the rock and "Georgia" on the south side. They then ran the line west along the thirty-fifth parallel.

By this time the thirty-fifth parallel had been agreed as the true southern boundary of the original Carolina grant and therefore the northern boundary of Georgia.

The 1818 line intersected Lookout Mountain about three miles from the northern terminus of the mountain. It passed not far south of Daniel Ross' home.

James Camack made new surveys in 1826 and reported to the Georgia legislature that the 1818 line was too far south. This would mean that even more of Lookout Mountain should have been placed in Georgia. Through succeeding years there was discussion of re-establishing the boundary, but to this date the 1818 line stands.

In 1819 a portion of Georgia's former western lands was laid off into the state of Alabama. The Alabama-Georgia boundary line also intersected Lookout Mountain.

About thirty-five miles of Lookout Mountain remained in Georgia, while some forty-five miles of the mountain were placed in the new state of Alabama.

Also in 1819, Hamilton County was created by the state of Tennessee. This new territory, which had 766 white settlers, was taken from Rhea County.

The section south of the Tennessee River, including the northern tip of Lookout Mountain, was not included in the new county at first. This section was reserved for the Cherokee Nation until the treaty of 1835.

Hamilton County is named in honor of Alexander Hamilton, secretary of the treasury during George Washington's administration.

The man who was destined to lead the Cherokees' valiant stand to keep their homeland was reared in the shadow of Lookout Mountain. John Ross, third child and first son of Daniel Ross and Molly McDonald, was born October 3, 1790.

His early years were spent in the present St. Elmo where his father operated a deerskin tannery and trading stand by the Federal Road. The young mixed-blood attended an academy at Kingston and then went to live with his grandparents, John and Anna McDonald, after the death of his mother in 1808.

John Ross gradually took over his grandfather's store, located at the present Rossville, and became involved in Cherokee affairs. Ross went West in 1809 to visit the Cherokees who had already moved across the Mississippi River, and he fought along with the United States government in the Creek War.



John Ross led resistance to White takeover.

John Ross returned to the site of the present Chattanooga about 1816, where he had a general store, a ferry, wharves and real estate interests. This trading area on the Tennessee River came to be known as Ross's Landing, and the name was not changed to Chattanooga until 1838.

When a post office was established in 1817 at Rossville, he was made postmaster. Mail reached this frontier outpost from Augusta and Nashville over the Federal Road. It was said that it required twelve horses to pull the stagecoach over the spur of Lookout Mountain.

John Ross became a member of the Cherokee National Committee in 1817, and two years later he was chosen as president. For the eight years he held this position, Ross demonstrated his complete honesty and his determination not to give up any more of the Cherokee land to the white man.

Governor Lumpkin, though an enemy of John Ross, described the Cherokee leader in these terms:

He is a well-educated man—converses well, writes well, and is a man of soft, easy, gentlemanly manners, rather retiring and reserved; seldom speaks unadvisedly. In all the common duties and intercourse of life, he has always maintained a good moral character.

The clamor for the removal of the Indians was led by the state of Georgia. The Federal government had, in 1802, made an agreement with Georgia whereby that state was to give up her western lands to the United States in exchange for \$1,252,000.

Georgia also received the guarantee that the United States would extinguish "for the use of Georgia, as early as the same can be peaceably obtained upon reasonable terms, the Indian title to the lands lying within the limits of that state."

Before this compact could be carried out, a portion of the Indians, including some from the Lookout Mountain area, voluntarily moved West.

However, a majority of the Indians were staunchly opposed to leaving their beloved homeland. The Federal government gradually acquired portions of the Indian territory, often through bribes to various chiefs.

Following the defeat of the Creeks in the War of 1812, Andrew Jackson demanded twenty-three million acres from this tribe.

In Northwest Georgia by 1827 both the Federal government and the state of Georgia claimed some jurisdiction over the territory, while the Indians maintained they had the right to govern themselves.

The United States said it could license traders in the Indian territory, and Georgia had extended her criminal laws and jurisdiction over the Cherokee lands. Georgia also demanded that every white man residing in the Cherokee territory should take an oath of loyalty to the state of Georgia.

The popular John Ross became principal chief of the Cherokees in 1828, at a time when the tribe was making its final stand against the encroaching Whites.

Aided by Sequoyah's invention and missionary teachers, the Cherokees had made phenomenal cultural advances in only a few short years. The tribe began publishing its own newspaper and turned from the old tribal patterns to a government based on the United States system.

But Georgia continued to press for fulfillment of the terms of the Compact of 1802. Andrew Jackson, who became president one month after John Ross became principal chief, was more than willing to accommodate the Georgians, and he encouraged the state to oust the Cherokees.

Whites began roaming the countryside, taking over the homes and possessions of the Indians. John Ross' fine estate was taken by the state of Georgia in the spring of 1834 and offered to white settlers.

The successful lottery drawer took over Ross' valuable ferry at the head of the Coosa River as well as his large farm and houses. Mrs. Ross, who was in poor health, was left only one room on the ground floor.

In the fall of 1829, the Creek Indians at the south end of Lookout Mountain held a full council and voted to remain in Alabama and submit to the laws of the state. But intruders flocked onto the Creek lands, making life unbearable for most of the Indians. The Lower Creek chief sent a list of the trespassers to Washington in 1831 and the reply was "removal."

The following spring the Creeks signed a treaty yielding all their land in Alabama. Some members of the tribe were to be allowed to stay, but even this proved impossible. More than 2,500 Creeks joined their Cherokee and Chickasaw brethren, rather than heading directly for the West.

When some of the Creeks took to acts of hostility against the white settlers, the secretary of war ordered the removal of the whole tribe from Alabama. All Creeks were called upon by the government to aid in putting down the "hostiles" and a civil war ensued.

Finally, 2,495 Creeks were forcibly transported to the West and 543 others of the tribe were hunted out from among the Cherokees by the military. The Creeks had vacated the state of Georgia following a treaty signed November 15, 1827.

A small group of Cherokees signed a removal treaty with the United States in December 1835. John Ross and a majority of the Cherokees protested that the signers were not true representatives of the

nation, but to no avail. Following a heated debate, the United States Senate approved the treaty by a single vote.

Those Cherokees who refused to voluntarily leave for the West were rounded up and placed in stockades. One of these was located at Ross's Landing, the site of John Ross' former flourishing business operations.

With broken hearts the Cherokees gazed at beautiful Lookout Mountain for the last time as they began their "Trail of Tears" to the West.



Lula Falls pour into a beautiful gorge featuring sheer cliffs and giant boulders adorned with moss, lichen and ferns.