

CHEROKEE CHRONOLOGY

1700-1838* AND 1838-66**

- 1700 Cherokee country at the beginning of the 18th century-- from the Ohio River to southern reaches of the Tennessee River, westward and north along the Tennessee valley, and eastward from the Great Kanawha to the headwaters of the Savannah
- 1700 Main settlements--Over Hill settlements on the Tellico River below the Cumberland Mountains; the Middle Towns, on the Little Tennessee and Tuskasegee Rivers; the Lower Settlements, on the headwaters of the Savannah; and the communities to the west of the Middle Towns, near the Valley River, which became known as the Valley Towns
- 1700-1800 Series of wars with other Indians, especially Creeks; emergence of Cherokee leaders, greatest of whom were Attakullakulla or "the Little Carpenter," known at first as Onkanacleh; Oconestota (Great Warrior); and Ostenaco, known as "Judd's friend"
- 1711-
ca. 1800 Scottish and English traders, living in Cherokee Country and often marrying Cherokee women; Eleazar Wiggan (Cherokee name, "Old Rabbit") mentioned 1711, interpreter for Attakullakulla in England in 1730; James Adair, outstanding trader of his day, began trade with Cherokees and Catawbas in 1735; British Indian Agents under Capt. John Stuart (Bushyhead), Alexander Cameron (Scotchie), and John McDonald; descendants of these men, mixed-blood leaders in the late 18th century--Nancy Ward, John Watts, Charles Hicks, James Davidson, John Ross, James Carey, Doublehead, George Lowrey, James Vann, Richard Justice, and Jesse Bushyhead
- 1721 Treaty with South Carolina, establishing boundary between Cherokees and South Carolina settlements; principal chief, with whom he could deal, appointed at request of Governor Nicholson

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- 1730 Visit of Attakullakulla and delegation of six Cherokees to London to help cement Anglo-Indian friendship; unofficial Treaty of Dover during this visit (some terms: eternal friendship with two nations, British traders only to be allowed in Cherokee territory), treaty kept for 30 years in spite of being unofficial; Chief Moytoy, one of delegates, crowned "Emperor" of Cherokees in elaborate ceremonies 1700
- 1733 Trade laws enacted by Georgia to regulate and improve trade with Cherokees 1700
- 1735 Estimate of Cherokees (64 villages, 16,000 population, 6,000 fighting men) 1700
- 1736 Project of Christian Gottlieb Priber setting up an elaborate Cherokee state, in which he hoped to interest other tribes later; Chief Moytoy proclaimed "Emperor of the Kingdom of Paradise"; British destruction of scheme; imprisonment of Priber, 1746 1700
- 1738-39 Smallpox epidemic among Cherokees; other such epidemics in 1783 and 1806
- 1752-1800 Missionary activity in Cherokee Nation; Moravian influence first to reach Cherokees after settlement of Bethabara (later Wachovia) in 1752 on Upper Yadkin River, close to Cherokees; 1758, two Presbyterian missionaries preaching among Over Hill Cherokees for several years not successful; little known of Baptist efforts; first large-scale efforts of Methodists in 1822 1710
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- 1753, 1755 Treaty conferences with representatives of Carolina; current Cherokee war with Creeks to be terminated in return for British promise to build forts in Cherokee country; forts established--Fort Prince George (1753), Fort Loudoun (1753), and Fort Dobbs (1756) 1720
- 1755 Treaty at Saluda Old Towns; cession to Carolina of large tract, sparsely settled, in upper South Carolina
- 1760-61 Devastating war with England; English massacre of Cherokees at Fort Loudoun; counterattack by Cherokees; 1761, campaign led by Capt. James Grant responsible for final Cherokee defeat
- 1760-61 Visit of two successive Cherokee delegations to London, escorted by Lt. Henry Timberlake * Cl
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- 1761 Improvement of relations with British when they created two Indian districts (Northern and Southern) and appointed Indian agents; Edmund Atkin, who soon died, first ** F
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- British Indian Agent for the Southern District; suc-
 cessor Capt. John Stuart (Bushyhead)
- 1761 Visit of Cherokee chiefs led by Ostenaco to England to
 cement new Anglo-Indian friendship
- 1763 Substantial migration, especially of unscrupulous traders,
 into Indian lands, in spite of British Proclamation of
 1763 forbidding settlement beyond the Appalachian divide
- 1766 Cherokee attack on several villages of Illinois Indians
 on Ohio River; made to honor alliance with British
- 1773 First Cherokee conversions to Christianity, in Delaware
 Indian country, two Cherokee captives baptized by
 Moravian missionaries
- 1775 Treaty with Transylvania Company and Col. Richard Hender-
 son, known as the "Henderson Purchase"; Joseph Martin,
 agent for Transylvania Company
- 1775 Cherokee maintenance during Revolutionary War of British
 alliance; warriors aid British
- 1776 Log cabins by now standard type of Cherokee dwelling
- 1776-77 American attacks on Cherokees during Revolutionary War;
 attack by forces from South Carolina on two Cherokee
 towns in 1776; 1777, destruction of towns in the Over
 Hill region by North Carolinians and Virginians; as a
 result 1777 peace treaty with Americans, ceding almost
 all Cherokee lands in South Carolina and large tracts
 in North Carolina and Tennessee; refusal of Dragging
 Canoe to sign treaty
- 1777 Secession of Dragging Canoe and about 1,000 dissident
 followers from Cherokee Nation; removal to Chickamauga,
 where they were known as Chickamaugas; continued to raid
 and harrass Americans
- 1782 Attack on Five Lower Towns of the Chickamaugas by John
 Sevier
- 1783 Spanish trading post operating on the Tennessee River
 as early as 1783; Spanish colonial administration, often
 assisted by the Creek chief, Alexander McGillivray, force
 for dissension among Cherokees
- 1783-89 Appointment of Joseph Martin as special agent to the
 Cherokees and Chickasaws for U. S. and North Carolina
- 1785, Treaty of Hopewell, first treaty made between the U. S.
 November as a whole and the Cherokees; officially ended war between

- Cherokees and Americans and regulated trade and settlements; unsatisfactory, terms not kept
- 1786 Creation of two departments of Indian affairs by U. S., one north and one south of the Ohio River; first appointee for the Southern Department, James White (1786-88); duties to supervise and control trade and restrict issuance of annual trading licenses
- 1788-89 Richard Winne of South Carolina, Superintendent of Southern Department of Indian affairs
- 1790's First school in Cherokee Nation, that established by Daniel Ross for his children; John B. Davis, teacher
- 1791, July 1 Treaty of Holston, first successful peace between Cherokees and Americans; some terms of this comprehensive agreement--U. S. to have exclusive control of Cherokee trade, annuity granted Cherokees (later continued annually), cession by Cherokees of large tract; terms of treaty administered by William Blount, Superintendent of Indian Affairs until 1796 (creation of Tennessee as a state)
- 1792-93 Appointment of Leonard Shaw as counselor and protector (special deputy) to Cherokees at their request as buffer against Blount's harsh treatment; John McKee, successor of Shaw
- 1792, September Unsuccessful raid on Buchanan's Station, Tennessee, by group led by John Watts, Chief of the Chickamaugas; declaration of war on U. S. by Chickamaugas; was not pursued
- 1792 Move of Cherokee capitol, indicating population shift south, from Echota (or Chota) in what is now Monroe County, Tennessee, to Oostanaula (or Ustanali), Georgia
- 1794 Spanish overtures to Chickamaugas; presents and promises of support to John Watts, during visit to West Florida; May 14, treaty between Spain and Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks, and Cherokees
- 1794 Departure of band of Cherokees under Chief Bowls for Arkansas country
- 1794 Raid on Five Lower Towns of Chickamaugas and destruction of two, Running Water and Nickajack; raid led by Maj. James Ore of the District of Mero with encouragement of William Blount, who afterward publicly disavowed responsibility
- 1795 Estimate of Cherokees (43 villages, 2,500 fighting men)

- 1795 Establishment under Congressional Act of Cherokee trading factory at Tellico Block House to maintain fair trade practices; authorized until 1802; unable to compete with outside traders, especially British
- 1795 Death of Upper Cherokee leader, Hanging Maw; succession of Little Turkey as Principal Chief; some usurpation of his power by local chieftain, Doublehead; other chiefs rising to national power--Black Fox, Pathkiller, The Glass, George Hicks and George Lowrey
- 1796 Move of Cherokee capitol to Newtown (close to what is now Calhoun, Georgia)
- 1796-1801 Appointment of Benjamin Hawkins as "Principal Temporary Agent for the Southern Indians"
- 1797 Designation of Silas Dinsmoor as U. S. Temporary Agent to the Cherokees "to improve them in civilized pursuits"; success among Cherokees of U. S. policy of civilizing Indians, which grew out of the 14th Article of the Treaty of Holston; steady Cherokee progress in such skills as farming, weaving, home making, and animal husbandry; supplied with instruction, tools, and implements by the U. S.
- 1801 First mission in Cherokee Nation, Moravian mission at Spring Place; home of James Vann, first location; Abraham Steiner assisted in preaching by Gottlieb Byhan and Jacob Wolfahrt
- 1801-23 Administration of Return Jonathan Meigs as Southern Indian Agent and Agent of the War Department; combined Indian and War Department Agency at South West Point; 1801, subsidiary agency, with Maj. William L. Lovely in charge, at Tellico, set up at request of James Vann and other Cherokees; nine land grants, most in north-east Georgia, many arranged through Meigs' office, reduced Cherokee Nation to ten million acres; Cherokee removal to West encouraged by Meigs
- 1801-08, 1810-11 Black Fox, Principal Chief of the Cherokees; leader in unpopular scheme to resettle Cherokees in Arkansas
- 1802 Compact of 1802 between U. S. and Georgia; basis for Georgia's subsequent demands that Creeks and Cherokees be removed from the state; terms--Georgia ceded to U. S. her western claims, which became part of the Mississippi Territory; Georgia to receive payment of \$1,250,000; Yazoo land companies' claims to be assumed by the U. S.; U. S. guarantee to "extinguish, at their own expense, 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"
- 1802 Establishment of school at Moravian mission, Spring Place, demanded by Cherokee National Council; mission to be banished if school not provided 180
- 1803 Thomas Jefferson's removal proposal; eastern tribes of Indians to be removed to newly acquired western lands; \$15,000 appropriated; suggestion broached to Cherokees, unpopular with majority; some bands of Cherokees already west of the Mississippi 180
- 1804-38 Some important mission schools
- 1804, 1806 - establishment of Rev. Gideon Blackburn's two schools, subsidized by Presbyterians; children fed and clothed as well as taught; 1810 - Rev. Blackburn's retirement and closing of schools
- 1804 - first Cherokee child brought to Moravian mission school at Spring Place; 1805-20 - expansion of school under leadership of talented teachers, Rev. James Gambold and wife; 1821 - second mission at Oothcaloga; 1824-37, Evan Jones, superintendent; ca. 1825 - Tinsawatee Mission, branch of Valley Towns; both active until 1838; about a dozen Cherokee converts in 1819, including Charles Renatus (Reborn) Hicks
- 1817 - opening of Valley Towns Mission by Humphrey Posey and Thomas Dawson (for Baptist Missionary Convention); several schools established; some Cherokee workers--two preachers, Jesse Bushyhead and Kaneeda (renamed John Wickliffe); James Wafford; Onanaya 180
- 1817, January 13 - opening of Brainerd Mission on Chickamauga Creek (for one year called "Chickamauga Mission") by Cyrus Kingsbury, acting for the American Board for Foreign Missions (Congregationalist, Presbyterian, and later, Dutch-Reformed); 1811-35, ten branches in Cherokee country; 1818 - Ard Hoyt, superintendent; 1825-34, Samuel Austin Worcester (The Messenger) at Brainerd, translations into Cherokee of sacred works, teaching of practical arts, including printing; Brainerd missions active until 1838; some prominent Cherokees trained at Brainerd--Elias Boudinot (Buck Watie), John Ridge, John Vann, Leonard Hicks, and David Brown 180
- 1824 - Upper and Lower Methodist Missions under direction of Richard Neely and Thomas D. Scales; school at Oothcaloga begun 1825 under Asbury Owen after urging of Bishop William McKendree; some Cherokees active in Methodism--1826, appointment of Turtle Fields as first Cherokee itinerant preacher in Methodist Church; unofficial preachers--John Fletcher (The Boot), 18

- Edward Gunter, Joseph Blackbird; John Ross, a famous conver
- 1808 U. S. Government ejection from the Cherokee Nation of James Chisholm, "residing on the Indian lands as an aggressor"
- 1808-10 Pathkiller, Principal Chief of the Cherokees, during Black Fox's fall from power
- 1808-27 Progress toward formal government by the Cherokees
 1808 - Adoption of a written legal code, parts of which had been in operation since at least 1797
 1817 - Steps toward establishing a republic; two houses--upper house, called the "Standing Committee"; Cherokee National Council continued as lower house; election by joint ballot of Principal Chief, Assistant Principal Chief, and Treasurer of the Nation; delegation of duties of each; establishment of property rights
 1820 - Division of Cherokee Nation into judicial districts; provisions for district courts, judges, and officers
 1822 - Creation of Cherokee Supreme Court
 1827 - Writing of Cherokee national Constitution by an elected constitutional convention, of which John Ross was president
- 1809 Inspection mission arranged by Agent Meigs to Arkansas; delegation of Cherokees headed by John Ross, then 19; other delegations sent to Arkansas in succeeding years, especially in 1818-19, until 1835
- 1811-27 Pathkiller, Principal Chief of the Cherokees; limitation of his leadership with the rise of such prominent men as "Major" Ridge (The Ridge), Charles and William R. Hicks, and John Ross
- 1813 By 1813 capitol established by Cherokees West; twice moved, finally located at Tahlonteeskee, near Illinois River
- 1813 Maj. William L. Lovely, subagent to Cherokees West; subsequently, 1816, arranged for U. S. to buy 7,000,000 acres of land lying between the Verdigris River and the boundary of Western Cherokees--known as "Lovely's Purchase"
- 1813-14 Allegiance of Cherokees with Americans during the Creek War; ca. 700 to 800 fighting men sent; some native officers were Col. Gideon Morgan, Maj. John Lowrey, and Capt. Richard Brown; Cherokee support largely responsible for winning of Battle of Horseshoe Bend and ultimate victory, with Chief Junaluska playing a crucial part

- 1817 Inauguration of U. S. mail service through the Cherokee Nation; first post office at Ross' Landing (near present-day Chattanooga, Tennessee)
- 1817 Already ca. 2,000 "Cherokees West" or Cherokees beyond the Mississippi River
- 1817, Exchange treaty, providing for Cherokee eastern lands, lands of equal size in Arkansas; unpopular minority treaty; U. S. Commissioners--Andrew Jackson, Joseph McMinn, and David Meriwether; reservations clause giving reservations in ceded lands to heads of families who became U. S. citizens 1828-6
July 8 1828-2
- 1819-23 U. S. recognition of government of Cherokees West; treaties 1819, 1828, 1833
- 1819-27 John Ross, president of the Cherokee National Committee 1828, Decemb.
- 1820 Cherokee West verbal law enacted into written one; John Jolly, Principal Chief, responsible 1829, Decemb.
- 1821 Completion of alphabet (86-character syllabary) by Sequoyah (George Guess or Gist); rapid use throughout Nation and between Nation and Cherokees West 1828
1829
- 1823-28 Discussions regarding national free schools for the Cherokees; 1825, Council resolution for future national academy; 1828, School Inspections Act, to apply to public and private schools 1830
- 1824, Cherokee land, West, divided into four districts; laws enacted 1830, Decemb.
July
- 1824-28 Cherokee official census (15,000 Indians; 1,000 slaves; aggregate property value, \$2,200,000)
- 1825, Authorization of Council for laying out of lots and November 12 streets of New Echota, near present-day Calhoun, Georgia, and close to old capitol, Newtown; construction of government buildings; headquarters for Cherokee republic until 1830 1830-31
- 1827 Resolution by Georgia "to extend her authority over the Cherokee country [to her chartered state limits] if the United States should further refuse to assist her" in accordance with the Compact of 1802 1832
- 1828, First issue of Cherokee Phoenix, Cherokee national February 21 paper; bi-lingual, in Cherokee and English; Elias Boudinot (Buck Watie), first editor; Isaac N. Harris,

- official printer for Cherokee Nation; John F. Wheeler, assistant printer; Samuel A. Worcester, purchaser in Boston for Cherokee Nation of supplies and type in Cherokee characters; 1829, February, name changed to Cherokee Phoenix and Indian Advocate; last issue, May 31, 1834
- 1828-66 John Ross, Principal Chief of the Cherokees
- 1828-29 Discovery of gold in eastern part of Cherokee Nation; ca. 10,000 gold seekers in that area; claims taken up and Cherokees dispossessed; summoning of troops by Agent Hugh Montgomery to evict intruders; departure of troops on orders of President Andrew Jackson, who sided with Georgia, who had asked for them to leave
- 1828, December 20 Edicts by Georgia state legislature cancelling Cherokee authority and extending sovereignty over Indian territory
1829, December 19
- 1828 Not only Georgia, but Tennessee, Alabama, and North Carolina pressing for Cherokee removal
- 1829 Election of George Lowrey as Assistant Principal Chief; 1822, Lowrey member of National Committee; 1827, member of Constitutional Convention
- 1830 Cherokee membership in Methodist Church, 1,028; possibly result of personal evangelizing and camp meetings in 1820's
- 1830, December 22 Creation by Georgia legislature of 60-man "Georgia Guard"; sent to eastern part of Cherokee Nation; eventually jurisdiction extended to all the Cherokee Nation; passage by Georgia of oppressive laws against the Cherokees; all white men in Nation to procure licenses and swear allegiance to Georgia
- 1830-32 Arrest of about a dozen missionaries by Georgia Guard; those swearing allegiance to Georgia released; Samuel A. Worcester, who was arrested twice, most prominent and case heard by U. S. Supreme Court in February, 1832, when it announced against Georgia; decision ignored by Georgia; missionaries still in jail finally released on taking oath
- 1832 Georgia lottery parceling out land claimed by Georgia in Cherokee Country; Cherokee County, Georgia, subdivided into 10 smaller counties; some peaceable possession of lottery lands, but also much violence by new landowners and Georgia Guards

- 1832, August 11 Resignation of Elias Boudinot because Ross would not allow a free discussion of the removal question; in September, Elijah Hicks, editor of Cherokee Phoenix and Indian Advocate 1838 July
- 1834 Population of Cherokees West--5,800 1838 August
- 1835 Unofficial census, Cherokee East (16,542 Cherokees; 1,592 slaves; intermarried whites, 201) 1838
- 1835 Acquisition by Cherokees West of "Cherokee Strip," 800,000 acres in a 25-mile strip extending 50 miles north from Cherokee West boundary; referred to by Cherokees as "Neutral Land"; later source of controversy between white squatters from Kansas and Cherokees; attempt to sell to U. S. 1838 1839
- 1835 Formation of Treaty Party, who believed that problems of Cherokees would be solved by removal; William R. Hicks to be Principal Chief, John McIntosh to be Assistant Principal Chief; leaders--"Major" Ridge, John Ridge, Elias Boudinot, and Stand Watie; emigration of some members to Arkansas; treaty of John Ridge and his delegation accepted in Washington at the same time Chief John Ross and his delegation were negotiating 1839
- 1836, May 23 Ratification of Treaty of New Echota; similar to treaty of John Ridge of 1835; minority treaty signed by about 300 during Chief Ross' absence in Washington; John F. Schermerhorn, U. S. negotiator; terms--Cherokee Nation ceded its eastern territories and released all claims for damages for \$5,000,000; removal to take place within two years of ratification of treaty; received exchange guarantees for land in the West; U. S. agreed to remove Indians across the Mississippi and grant them one year's subsistence; Cherokee Nation no longer to be a nation within a state; Governor Lumpkin of Georgia and Governor Carroll of Tennessee to supervise treaty's execution; subsequent assassination of two Ridges and Elias Boudinot for their part in this treaty 1839, Septe
- 1836-37 Arrival of Federal enrolling agents and appraisers of Indian property; 1837, arrival of Gen. John E. Wool and large force in Cherokee Country to prevent uprising; imprisonment of some Cherokees 1839, August
- 1837, July Report of War Department confidential agent, John Mason, from Cherokee Country--opposition to treaty unanimous, irreconcilable, and sincere 1839, Septe
- 1838, Spring Gen. Winfield Scott ordered to supervise an enforced removal; total number removed since 1835 to mid-summer 1838, over 6,000; several stockades built into which Indians were gathered prior to removal by land or boat

1838, Request of Chief John Ross that Cherokees handle their
 July own removal granted by Gen. Scott; delays in departure
 due to hot season, drought, and illness

1838, Resolutions passed by Cherokees in East that their
 August 1 government would be transported West; Ross still to
 be chief

1838 Removal of final contingents of Cherokees, some by land
 and some by boat, the first detachment leaving in
 October and the last November 4

1838-March, Loss of nearly one-third population on westward trek,
 1839 which came to be known as the "Trail of Tears"; 1839,
 March, before last detachment reached Arkansas

1839 Land of Cherokees West plentiful and held in common;
 Park Hill, site chosen by John Ross, his proposed capital
 to be nearby at Tahlequah; sumptuous home, called Rose
 Cottage, later built by Ross (burned by Stand Watie in
 1863)

1839 Assassination of "Major" Ridge, John Ridge, and Elias
 Boudinot

1839-40 Period of power struggle between two Cherokee nations,
 East and West, the government of each having been
 acknowledged by the United States; some of U. S. ap-
 pointees involved--Gen. Matthew Arbuckle, commandant
 of Fort Gibson, intermediary in negotiations with
 Cherokees; William Armstrong, with headquarters at
 Van Buren, Arkansas, Superintendent of Indian Affairs
 for the Western District; William A. Crawford, Com-
 missioner of Indian affairs; Monfort Stokes, Agent
 for Cherokees West

1839, July- Convention of Eastern and Western delegates; Act of
 September 4 Union signed by George Lowrey, President of the Eastern
 Cherokees and by Sequoyah (George Guess), President of
 the Western Cherokees, and by headmen; established
 Cherokees with title, "Cherokee Nation"; William Shorey
 Coodey, responsible for draft

1839, Depositions relieving from office John Rogers and John
 August Brown (Principal Chief) as chiefs of the Cherokees West;
 John Looney, other Western chieftain won over to Ross

1839, Constitutional convention; writing of constitution by
 September 6 William Shorey Coodey, similar to one of 1827 in the
 East; assent not given by more than two dozen Cherokees
 West; under Constitution Ross elected Principal Chief,
 Joseph Vann, Assistant Principal Chief; election of
 other officers

- 1840 Vain protests of Cherokees West against Act of Union; visits to Washington of Ross and delegates, a Treaty Party delegation (William Rogers, John A. Bell, and Stand Watie), and a delegation from the Cherokees West party 18
- 1840, June 26 New Act of Union, signed by eleven Old Settlers and twelve of the late emigrant party; John Ross remained, and was repeatedly elected to be, Principal Chief; no increased annuities from Washington as asked 180
- 1840-60 Old Settlers and Treaty Party generally disappointed group, a minority; unwilling to participate in Ross government; Andrew Vann, Assistant Principal Chief until death, 1842; 1842, George Lowrey, Assistant Principal Chief
- 1840-41 Visit of John Howard Payne to the Nation with John Ross; 1841, appointment as U. S. agent to investigate Cherokee affairs 180
- 1841-43 Period of crime and controversy; numerous murders, some of which were tribal revenge murders, and much drunkenness; Starr family particularly lawless
- 1843 Grand Council at Tahlequah of Indian tribes agreeing to amity between themselves in order to preserve peace in the Territory 186
- 1845, September 1 Decision of eleven Old Settlers and forty-three members of Treaty Party to look for homes in Texas; already many Cherokees there
- 1846, April 13 Legislation providing for division of government of the Cherokee Nation and permitting Cherokees to settle in Texas and elsewhere; defeat by John Ross and his party of legislation calling for division 186
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- 1843-59 Period of peace and prosperity; erection of public buildings at capitol, Tahlequah, 1844; 1851, opening of Cherokee Male and Female Seminaries near Park Hill, closing in 1856; construction of churches, businesses; 1844, September 26, first issue of Cherokee Advocate, William Potter Ross, first editor, last issue in 1854; by 1856, 22 elementary schools 186
Oct
186
Feb
- 1846, August 6 Important treaty in Washington uniting Cherokees; representatives present of all three factions--Treaty Party, Cherokees West, and Eastern Cherokees 186
- 1856-61 Mounting national debt in Cherokee Nation

- 1859 Report of George Butler, Cherokee Agent: 21,000 population, 4,000 eligible to vot; 1,000 whites; 4,000 Negroes (including slaves); as of 1857, 30 public schools; 102,500 acres under cultivation
- 1860-61 Friction between "Knights of the Golden Circle," later "The Southern Rights Party," who were Stand Watie's men with headquarters at old Fort Wayne, and between the secret society of full-bloods, "Keetoowahs," also referred to as "Pins" or "The Pin Indians," reorganized by Evan and John Jones in 1859 to perpetuate tribal traditions, but in 1861 revitalized to fight slavery; on departure of the two Jones from the Nation in 1861 on orders of the Baptist Missionary Board, frequent attacks by "Pins" on "Knights"
- 1860-61 Steps by Confederates to gain Cherokee allegiance; appointment of Albert Pike as emissary; creation of Confederate Bureau of Indian Affairs, David L. Hubbard, Indian commissioner; assignment of Brig. Gen. Ber. McCullouch to the "command of the district embracing Indian territory"; meetings between Texas commissioners and Cherokees; offer to buy "Cherokee Strip"
- 1860-61 Strenuous attempts by Ross to keep Cherokees neutral during Civil War; several Grand Councils of Indian tribes, some Cherokee delegates--William Potter Ross, Thomas Pegg, John Spears, Lewis Downing; several meetings with and letters from Confederate representatives; Ross' capitulation, August 21, 1861, when Indian convention informed by him that a treaty with the Confederates should be made
- 1861, Secession convention in Arkansas; Elias Cornelius March Boudinot of Arkansas, secretary
- 1861-62 Attacks on Opotheyohola and followers, who wished to join the Union; their final defeat and training as Confederate guerrillas
- 1861, Treaty between Cherokee Nation and Confederate government at Park Hill; protection by Ross of recalcitrant October- Creek chief, Opotheyohola; abrogation of treaty, 1863, February, 1863; continuation of fighting nevertheless
- 1861-63 Several companies of Cherokees in Civil War and three regiments--First Regiment Cherokee Mounted Rifles under John Drew, Second Regiment Cherokee Mounted Rifles under Col. Stand Watie, Third Regiment; some desertions to Union side--Capts. Vann and Pike, Scraper, Lts. White, Catcher, Eli Smith, Foster, Bear Meat and Fish, Capt. J. D. Hicks

- 1862,
July 15 Capture and arrest of Chief John Ross by Union expedition under Col. William Weer; removal to Washington with family, Cherokee records, and treasury; residence in Philadelphia after parole
- 1862, July-
1863 Period of lawlessness with Ross' detention in Washington; most Cherokee territory still Confederate; attacks by Stand Watie on Union positions, some in the Nation, and burning of parts of Tahlequah; August 21, 1862, Watie elected Principal Chief in Council convened by him; February, 1863, meeting of National Council (Ross men) protesting election of Watie
- 1863,
July 17 Battle of Honey Springs, fought in Creek country, turning point in territorial warfare during Civil War
- 1863,
Winter Assurance by Abraham Lincoln to John Ross that treaty with Confederates would not be held against Cherokees
- 1864-65 Stand Watie, now Brig. Gen. in Confederate Army; surrender held off until June 23, 1865; after Appomattox; last Confederate general to give up the fight
- 1865 Meeting of Indian tribes at Fort Smith with Commissioner Dennis Cooley and other U. S. representatives; absence of Ross during much of the meeting due to illness; Ross' representatives--Assistant Principal Chief Lewis Downing, delegates Christie, Reese, Pegg, Flute, Conrad, Fish, Chee-Chee, William Potter Ross, Baldridge, White Catcher and about six more; denunciation of Ross by Cooley
- 1865 Treaties at Fort Smith; main articles--Indians lost all rights to annuities and lands, abolition of slavery, a nation and tribes in Territory to be formed into a consolidated government; treaties not considered permanent by President Andrew Johnson until signed in Washington
- 1866,
January Meeting with President Johnson, Secretary Harlan, and Commissioner Cooley; memorial presented on behalf of John Ross; delegation of opposing party also in Washington
- 1866,
July 19 Treaty signed by Cherokee delegation in Washington, substitute for Fort Smith treaties; main terms--abrogation of Confederate treaty alliance of October 7, 1861; abolition of slavery; general amnesty; restoration of property confiscated during Civil War; permission to occupy Canadian and other districts; citizenship and right to occupy same lands given freed slaves and Negroes; cession of "Cherokee Strip" and some other land to Kansas
- 1866,
August 1 Death of John Ross
- 1866,
November Election of William Potter Ross as Principal Chief; conciliatory attitude to Treaty of July 19, 1866, shown by W. P. Ross