

CHEROKEE NATIONAL MUSEUM:

Selected Readings

The following list of readings were selected by Duane King (D.K.), Wilma Mankiller (W.M.), and Richard Allen, (R.A.) and to provide interested readers with a general introduction to the study of Cherokee history and culture. The annotations reflect their personal response...

Allen, Richard L. "Culturally Related Academic Needs: A Historical Overview of Indian Education," Illuminations: Visions, Voices in Indian Education 1, v.4 (May, 1981):1-4.

Armstrong, Virginia I. I Have Spoken: American History Through the Voices of the Indians. Pocket Books. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1971.

Ballenger, T. L. Around Tahlequah Council Fires. Oklahoma City, OK: Cherokee Publishing Company, Inc., 1946.

Bass, Althea. Cherokee Messenger. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1936.

This is a particularly well-written biography of Samuel Austin Worchester, who devoted his life to the translation of the Bible and other religious tracts into Cherokee. In 1831, while post-master of New Echota, Georgia, Worchester was arrested and sentenced to four years at hard labor for failing to take the oath of allegiance to the State of Georgia. The U.S. Supreme Court decision in Worchester vs. Georgia is a frequently cited case in U. S. constitutional law. (D.K.)

Brown, John P. Old Frontiers. Kingsport, TN: Southern Publishers, Inc., 1938.

Brown's account of the Cherokee-white conflict on the Appalachian frontier focuses heavily on the role played by Dragging Canoe and ~~the Sewee and~~ the Chicamanga Band. The information on the Cherokee participation in the American Revolution and subsequent conflicts is useful but is overshadowed by the author's overly favorable bias toward Dragging Canoe. (D.K.)

Carter, Samuel. Cherokee Sunset. New York: Doubleday, 1979.

This detailed history of the early 19th Century provides insights into a period of rapid acculturation and political uncertainty. ~~The author's background as a fiction writer shows through in a few instances where imagination substitutes for adequate research.~~ (D.K.)

Drawing from his background as a fiction writer, the author employs a readable rather than heavily academic style.

Corkran, David H. The Cherokee Frontier Conflict and Survival, 1740-62. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1962.

In this work, Corkran examined more than two thousand primary documents to write a very intriguing segment of Cherokee history. The book is ~~probably the most~~ definitive statement on mid-eighteenth century Cherokee-white relations. (D.K.)

Dale, Edward Everett and Litton, Gaston. Cherokee Cavaliers. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, reprint ed. 1969.

Focusing on the correspondence of the Watie and Boudinot families, Dale and Litton reveal the level of sophistication, family and political loyalties, and daily concerns of prominent Cherokees the turbulent times of the nineteenth century. (D.K.)

Finger, John R. The Eastern Band of Cherokees 1819-1900. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1984.

Fleischmann, Glen. The Cherokee Removal, 1938.
New York: Franklin Watts, Inc., 1971.

Fleischman provides a well illustrated, concise account of the Trail of Tears, the forced removal of the Cherokees from their original homeland the south appalachian area to Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. The author's direct approach and readable style makes this text an excellent introduction to the most publicized period of Cherokee history. (D.K.)

Foreman, Grant. Sequoyah. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, reprint ed., 1980.

Although Sequoyah is one of the most famous individuals in Cherokee history, very little is actually known about his life. Foreman has from a primary documents, a vivid portrayal of this remarkable genius and creator of the Cherokee writing system. (D.K.)

Hudson, Charles M., ed. Four Centuries of Southern Indians. Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1975.

Kilpatrick, Jack F., and Anna G. Kilpatrick. Friends of Thunder: Folktales of the Oklahoma Cherokees. Dallas, TX: Southern Methodist University Press, 1964.

_____. Walk in Your Soul: Love Incantations of the Oklahoma Cherokees. Dallas, TX: Southern Methodist University Press, 1965.

_____. Run Toward the Nightland: Magic of the Oklahoma Cherokees. Dallas, TX: Southern Methodist University Press, 1967.

King, Duane E., ed. The Cherokee Indian Nation. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1979.

Reflecting a range of interests, twelve noted scholars offer fascinating insights into little understood areas of Cherokee history. From the origin of Cherokee culture, to the behind the scenes politics of the 18th and 19th centuries, to observations of 20th century Cherokee life, the book encompasses a multifaceted view of the Cherokees. (D.K.)

Malone, Henry Thompson. Cherokees of the Old South. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1956.

In the period immediately prior to forced removal, the general perspective of Cherokees was that of a "primitive people" who were obstacle to removal. The author dispels that fallacy with an objective account of the Cherokees and their effective economic competition with their white neighbors and sophisticated dealings with state and federal governments. (D.K.)

Meredith, Howard L., and Virginia E. Milam, eds. A Cherokee Vision of Elohi. Muskogee, OK: Indian University Press, Bacone College, 1981.

Mooney, James. Myths of the Cherokee and Sacred Formulas of the Cherokees. Nashville, TN: Charles and Randy Elder Booksellers-Publishers, reprint ed. 1982.

Mooney's works, first published as the Annual Reports of the Bureau of American Ethnology, have survived as classics in the field of Cherokee Studies. Based primarily on field work on the Qualla Boundary in the late 1880's, his collection of sacred formulas, myth and legends represents the exhaustive repertoire of the most knowledgeable Cherokee elders. The historic sketch provides an excellent context for the ethnographic material. (D.K.)

Repertoire

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Moulton, Gary E. John Ross Cherokee Chief. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1978.

John Ross served as principal chief of the Cherokee Nation for thirty-eight years (1828-66), yet he was 7/8 white and did not speak Cherokee fluently. His leadership during the most turbulent period of Cherokee history is clearly elucidated in this well researched biography.

Murphy, James E., and Sharon M. Murphy. Let My People Know: American Indian Journalism, 1828-1978. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1981.

Prucha, Francis Paul. The Great Father: The United States Government and the American Indians. Lincoln, NB: University of Nebraska Press, 1984.

Strickland, Rennard. Fire and the Spirits:
Cherokee Law from Clan to Court. Norman, OK:
Univeristy of Oklahoma Press, 1975.

The traditional Cherokee legal system underwent radical modification in its transformation to a court system with trail by jury. However, in the matter of a decade (1810-20) the Cherokees outlawed the traditional law of Blood Revenge and established judicial districts with provisions for appeals to a Supreme Court. The litigation procedures in which the Cherokees were involved, provide the context for this important work. (D.K.)

Tinnin, Ida Wetzel. "Educational and Cultural Influences of the Cherokee Seminaries," Chronicles of Oklahoma [?].

Wardell, Morris L. A Political History of the Cherokee Nation. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, reprint ed. 1977.

(Originally written as a Ph.D. dissertation, this book documents the political events which determine the course of the Cherokee Nation prior to Oklahoma statehood. Informative and well researched, the author explores the details of 19th century Cherokee politics. (D.K.)

Woodward, Grace Steele. The Cherokees. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1963.

This popular text is required reading for readers desiring a comprehensive history in a single volume. Easy to read and detailed the books offer a good balance of information for the beginning student. (D.K.)

Wilkins, Thurman. Cherokee Tragedy. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1970; Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, reprint ed. 1983.

Concentrates on the Ridge family, the authjor not only delineates the history of the early 19th century, he also allows the reader to get to know the principal characters. Well researched and written, this book is essential to an indepth understanding of 19th century Cherokee history. (D.K.)