

Quill and Ink

Heather Miller

Historical Fiction Author

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Americans overcome. I write their stories.



Creek Chief William McIntosh



Creek Prime Minister, Opothle Yoholo

Where He Walked

Where He Stood

“Yoholo tried to stop him. Made a speech, standing on one of the river rocks near McIntosh’s tavern. Yesterday, he said that he reminded McIntosh of the law again, the one we wrote for them. He screamed at McIntosh through a window, ‘I have told you your fate if you sign that paper. Beware.’ McIntosh’s traitors violated the law we transcribed. None of Yoholo’s speech mattered. None of it mattered.” -David Vann, *Tho I Be Mute*



Where He Walked

Born to a Scottish father and a Muskogee Creek Mother, Chief William McIntosh settled in Middle Georgia with two wives, one Creek and one Cherokee. A Veteran of the War of 1812, the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, fighting Lower Creeks under General Andrew Jackson, McIntosh earned his rank.

He owned and managed vast properties in Middle Georgia: a home and farm near present day Carroll County (pictured above is a similar "dog trot" cabin on what was once his property) and a large tavern/inn near High Falls, the Indian Springs Tavern (photograph below). However, his notoriety would come in February of 1825 when he sold Creek land in Georgia to the U.S. Government under a treaty named for McIntosh's Hotel where it was negotiated.



Locations

[McIntosh Reserve Park | Carroll County, GA - Official Website \(carrollcountyga.com\)](#)

[Indian Spring Hotel/Museum | Official Georgia Tourism & Travel Website | Explore Georgia.org](#)





The Treaty of Indian Springs

Influenced by his cousin, Georgia's Governor Troupe, McIntosh decided to negotiate — knowing the Upper Creeks would not abide. Following the Cherokee decree by Major Ridge, Yoholo and fellow Chiefs agree to no treaty selling their land, not for any sum. Despite written warning, McIntosh signed.

He denied the desires of his people as well as direct orders from Big Warrior and Little Prince. In exchange for the land, the Creek people received \$400,000 in annuities and \$200,000 paid directly to McIntosh after Senate ratification of the treaty.

"...be they ever so great, they all must abide [by] the laws. We have guns and ropes: and if any of our people should break these laws, those guns and ropes are to be their end."

Opothle Yoholo



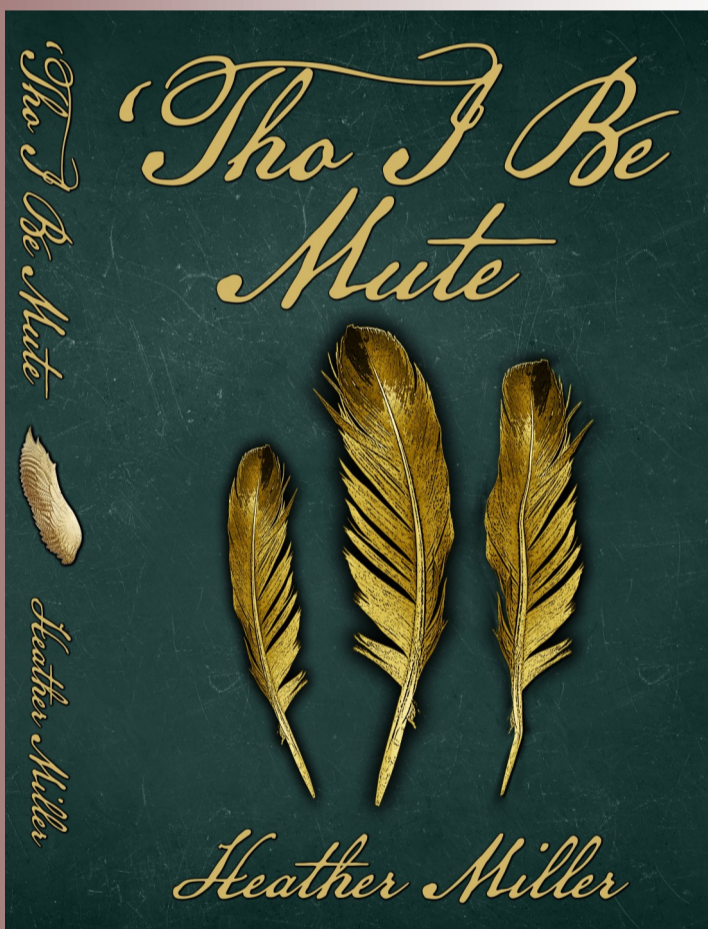


Where He Stood

Opothle Yoholo stood on this river rock and shouted his warning to McIntosh through the window of the tavern. McIntosh's choice that day would prove to be his end.

Early one morning in April, 1825, a Creek war party led by Menawa and Yoholo attacked McIntosh, shooting him nearly fifty times. It is told that his son, Chilly, dressed as a woman to escape the warriors, and swam up the Chattahoochee River with the treaty in his mouth.

Yoholo led a Creek delegation to Washington, assisted by Cherokees John Ridge and David Vann. They succeeded in the annulment of the Indian Springs Treaty, only to be coerced into the Treaty of Washington the following year. For the most part, Muskogee Creek land in Georgia was gone.



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