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# THE TRAIL OF TEARS

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LSkfmCj8Jg>







- \* During the 1830s the U.S. government forced some 100,000 American Indians to leave their homes in the East and move to new lands west of the Mississippi River.





R. Michelson Galleries

"The Trail of Tears"

© 2007 Max B. Standley

- \* Most of the Indians had to make the grueling journey on foot.





- \* About 15,000 died during the trip, which is remembered as the Trail of Tears.





- \* In 1763 the British government had set aside the land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River for the exclusive use of the Indians.





- \* Nevertheless, many Euro-American settlers soon entered the region. The British and, later, U.S. governments did little to stop them.



unanimous is any other course than the  
wise line of constitutional duty; and that  
the securities for this independence may be  
considered as strong as the nature of power  
and the weakness of its possessor will  
admit. — I cannot less earnestly invite  
your attention to the propriety of promoting  
such an amendment of the constitution as  
will render him ineligible after one term  
of office.

It gives me pleasure to announce  
to Congress that the benevolent policy of  
the Government, steadily pursued for  
nearly thirty years in relation to the removal

is approaching to a happy consummation.  
Our important tribes have accepted the  
provision made for their removal at the last  
session of Congress; and it is believed that  
their example will induce the remaining  
tribes, also, to seek the same obvious ad-  
vantages.

The consequences of a speedy re-  
moval will be important to the United  
States, to individual States, and to the  
Indians, themselves. The pecuniary ad-  
vantages which it promises to the Govern-  
ment, are the least of its recommendations.  
It puts an end to all possible danger of

- \* In 1830 the U.S. Congress passed the Indian Removal Act, which authorized the president to negotiate with the Indians to bring about their relocation to land west of the Mississippi River.
- \* Andrew Jackson truly believed he was helping the Native Americans by moving them.
- \* Jackson told the Indians that the new land that they were moving to would be theirs alone.
- \* A barrier has thus been raised for their protection against the encroachment of our citizens, and guarding the Indians as far as possible from those evils which have brought them to their present condition.”





- \* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tdo2WGgfZQk> (1:03:31)
- \* The Indians of the Southeast reacted to the Indian Removal Act in various ways.





\* Choctaw were the first tribe to agree to turn over their land and move west.





- \* However, the federal government had no experience in transporting large numbers of civilians, let alone their household effects, farming equipment, and livestock.
- \* Many Choctaw died from exposure, malnutrition, exhaustion, and disease while traveling.





- \* The Creek people had just as much trouble as the Choctaw
- \* Lots of Creek Indians died from the same preventable causes that had killed Choctaw travelers.





- \* The Chickasaw acted fast. They sold their land on their own.
- \* They used the money they got when they sold the land to buy the things they would need for the journey. They had plenty of time to get what they needed.
- \* As a result, their journey had fewer problems than did those of the other Southeast tribes.





- \* The [Seminole](#) fiercely resisted removal, battling U.S. troops between 1835 and 1842 in what became known as the Second [Seminole War](#).





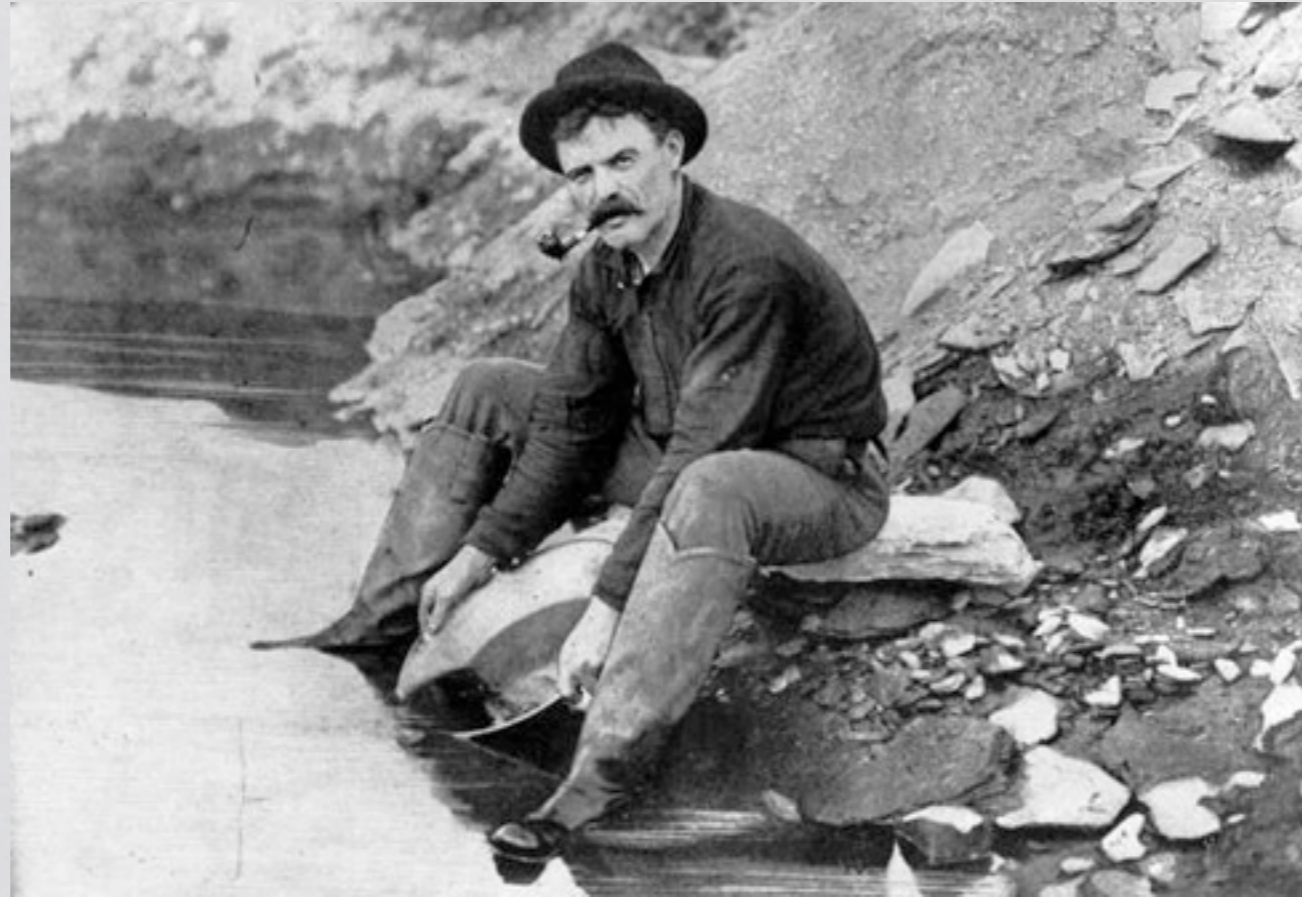
- \* Although many Seminole were eventually captured and removed to the west, some managed to elude the authorities and remain in Florida.





\* The Cherokee acted more slowly than the other groups.



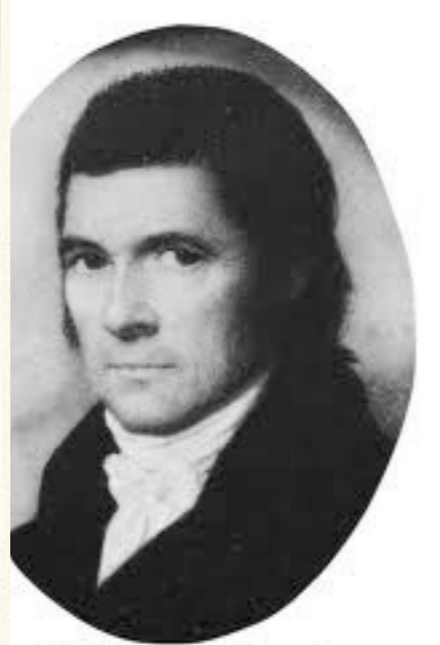


- \* In 1829 gold had been found on Cherokee land in Georgia.
- \* Georgia was giving some of this land to whites.
- \* The Cherokee were told that they could not pan for gold on their own land.





*Marshall*



John Marshall, ca. 1797. (See also figure 1.)



- \* The Cherokee successfully went to the U.S. Supreme Court for help.
- \* John Marshall told Georgia to stop taking land from the Cherokee Nation.





- \* Samuel Worcester was a missionary of New Echota. He opposed relocation.
- \* He bought a printer that could create a newspaper in the Cherokee language. He wrote articles about his views on relocation and gave his newspaper to the Cherokee for free.
- \* He was arrested for failing to follow a law that required all whites living in the Indian nation to take an oath of allegiance to the state.





*Marshall*

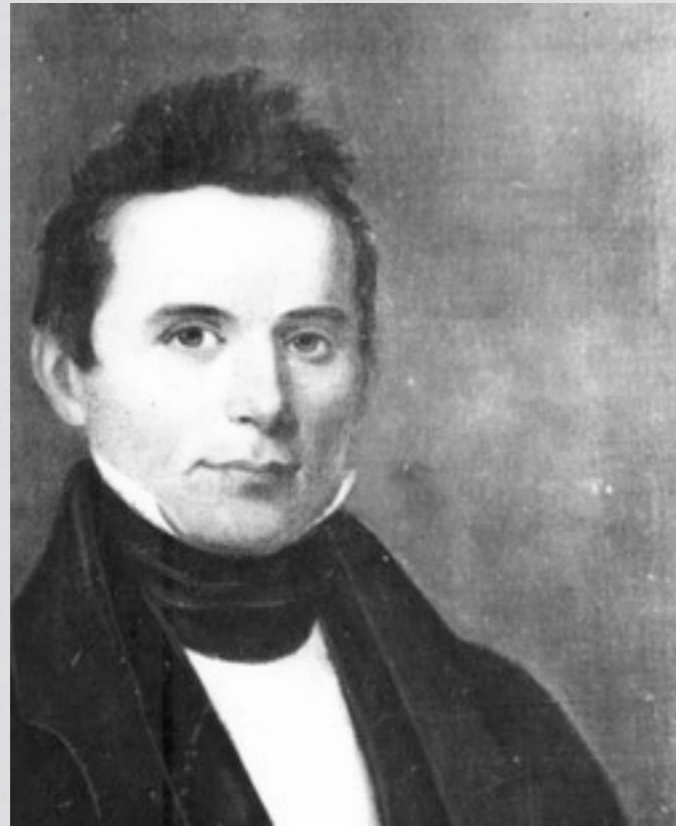
- \* He was sentenced to 4 years of hard labor, chained to his bed at night, and forced to walk 35 miles per day.
- \* John Marshall said that he must be let go.
- \* In November, Worcester was let go.
- \* He continued with his paper.
- \* He believed that the nation's progress depended largely on the intelligence of its individuals, and that intelligence, he believed, was earned through information and the printed word.





- \* Most Cherokees opposed removal.
- \* Yet a minority felt that it was futile to continue to fight.
- \* They believed that they might survive as a people only if they signed a treaty with the United States.





The treaty was signed  
in Elias Boudinot's house.  
(murdered later)

- \* In December 1835, the U.S. sought out this minority to effect a treaty at New Echota, Georgia.
- \* Only 300 to 500 Cherokees were there; none were elected officials of the Cherokee Nation.
- \* Twenty signed the treaty, ceding all Cherokee territory east of the Mississippi to the U.S., in exchange for \$5 million and new homelands in Indian Territory.





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- \* Many Cherokee didn't really believe that they would actually be forced to move so they just stayed put.





- \* In 1838 the U.S. military began to force Cherokee people from their homes, often at gunpoint.
- \* They were not given time to pack.





## Cedar Town Camp

*The soldiers gathered them up, all up, and put them in camps. They hunted them and ran them down until they got all of them. Even before they were loaded into wagons, many of them got sick and died. They were all grief stricken. They lost all on earth they had.*

Remembrance of Cherokee descendant Elizabeth Watts, 1937

You are on the site of the Cedar Town Camp, the southernmost military post established for the forced removal of Cherokee Indians from Georgia. On May 26, 1838, militiamen started rounding up all Cherokees who lived within 10 miles. Day after day they captured Cherokees until they had 217 men, women, and children.

In June, militiamen marched all the prisoners who could walk to a fort at New Echota and then on to deportation camps in Tennessee. A few days later, the soldiers put the sick and elderly Cherokees into army wagons and sent them to the Tennessee camps.

Over 200 Cherokees were taken from the Cedar Town area in less than a month. In late June, the company broke camp and mustered out of military service. No traces remained of the roundup of Cherokees from their homes around Cedar Town.

Map courtesy of the National Archives. Home sketch by Charles Walker. Provisions document courtesy of the University of Georgia Libraries.

Eighty soldiers set up camp here in May 1838. Each day the troops fed their prisoners meager rations of bacon, hard bread, and corn meal. Some Cherokees became so ill the company had to build a makeshift hospital for them.

*Prisoners Return of Capt. Venable for the Southern prisoners in the camp at Cedar Town for eight days commencing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and ending on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 1838*

No. of soldiers	No. of prisoners	No. of horses	No. of mules	No. of oxen
177	15	100	100	100

*Some of the sick were kept in a hospital at Cedar Town*

This Cherokee man was one of thousands taken to removal camps in 1838.



*Cherokees living on Cedar Creek, 1835 Census*

*All of these Cherokee, and their families, would have been at the removal camp at Cedar Town.*

Gus  
Bill Cornsick  
Nancy Lying Fish  
Waggon  
Daniel Pompain Pie  
Buckeye  
House Bug  
Eloose  
Greenwood  
Winter Grapes  
Charles  
Tomowee  
Catekidge  
Bear Sitting Down  
Sakkyeah  
Crow  
Rinkie But  
Little Tarapin



Line Fish, or Lying Fish as written on the 1835 census, left behind his log cabin home, pictured above, when forced to go to the camp.



This map, sketched by Lieutenant E. D. Keyes in 1838, shows the military post and distances in the Cherokee homeland. Cedartown is labeled on the bottom left.

- \* Held in miserable prison camps for days or weeks before their journeys began, many Cherokee became ill, and most were poorly prepared for the very difficult trip.





- \* With inadequate food, shelter, and clothing, the Cherokee suffered terribly on the march, especially after cold weather arrived.





- \* <http://tn.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/akh10.socst.ush.exp.trail/trail-of-tears/> (start at 2.12)
- \* About 4,000 of the estimated 15,000 Cherokee died on the 116-day journey, many because the escorting troops refused to slow or stop so that the ill and exhausted could recover.









- \* In 1987 the U.S. Congress named the Trail of Tears a National Historic Trail in memory of those who suffered and died during removal.





1

Andrew Jackson



2

Winter Grapes

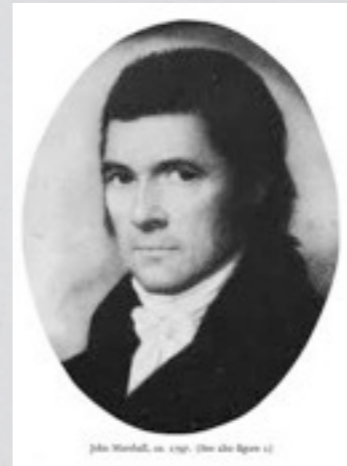
- \* A barrier has thus been raised for their protection against the encroachment of our citizens, and guarding the Indians as far as possible from those evils which have brought them to their present condition.”





1

Bear Sitting Down



2

John Marshall

- \* “The Cherokee nation, then, is a distinct community, occupying its own territory, with boundaries accurately described, in which the laws of Georgia can have no force, and which the citizens of Georgia have no right to enter, but with the assent of the Cherokees themselves, or in conformity with treaties, and with the acts of congress.”





1

Samuel Worcester



2

Winter Grapes

The soldiers came and took us from home. They first surrounded our house and they took the mare while we were at work in the fields and they drove us out of doors and did not permit us to take anything with us, not even a second change of clothes...They marched us to Ross' Landing, and still on foot, even our little children, and they sent us off.





1

Cherokee Child



2

Samuel Worcester

- \* “The nation’s progress depends largely on the intelligence of its individuals, and that intelligence is earned through information and the printed word.”