

Beginning remaining tribes in the east and



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Beginning in the 1830s, thousands of Native Americans of different tribes had lived on millions of acres of land in the southwestern U.

S. that their ancestors had grown and lived on for generations. However, there were white settlers who wanted to grow cotton and use other valuable resources on the Native Americans land. In agreement, the federal government forced all of the population leave their homelands, walking thousands of miles to a designated “ native territory” across the Mississippi River. This tragic, hopeless, and deadly journey is called the Trail of Tears. The white population’s bitterness towards the Cherokee was building over a long time, and reached a climax with northern Georgia’s discovery of gold. With a greedy thirst for more land and gold, many white states had turned on the natives. With the government now involved, the states that were lands to the natives such as Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina started to pass laws that restricted Cherokee rights and their land.

However, the removal of the native people was not sitting right in others minds who were in oppositional favor. Two Senators, Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, were not congruent and spoke out. A case in 182 called Worcester vs. Georgia, involved a Reverend named Samuel Worcester, who was missionary to Cherokees. He denounced Georgia’s pursuit to smother any Native American entitlement to so called territory in the state, winning his case in the Supreme Court. The U. S.

Supreme Court ruled for Georgia in an 1831 case, but in Worcester vs. Georgia, the court insisted on Cherokee sovereignty. The election in 1828

introduced President Andrew Jackson, who made his achievement as an Indian fighter, set for a change in federal policies.

Martin Van Buren was introduced as the Vice President, and the brute force of the Indian removal. In 1838, Martin Van Buren implemented the Treaty of New Echota with three signatures from prominent natives. He sent General Winfield Scott and the U. S. army to put all the Cherokee in stockades.

Stockades were removal forts, which were located in North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. In total there were thirty one forts located throughout the states. As part of his plans for the United States, President Jackson was persevering to remove the remaining tribes in the east and relocate them to the west. Between the 1830 Indian Removal Act and 1850, the U.

S. government used forced treaties and U. S.

Army action to move over 100, 000 American Indians living east of the Mississippi River, west towards Indian Territory that is modern day Oklahoma. The Cherokees tried to not go to court but when they did, any decisions made in their favor were not enforced and they were forced into detention centers. The Cherokee Natives referred to the forced relocation as ' Nunahi-Duna-Dlo-Hilu-I' or ' Trail where they cried'. At the time of the forced removal the Cherokee leader was John Ross. His father was Scottish and his mother was only one-eighth Cherokee. He was a solid leader, and his loyalty to the Cherokees was strong. He remained their leader once they reached their new designated " territory" in Oklahoma. The removal of the Indians was done by land and by water.

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The original plan was to move the Cherokee by steamboat at the beginning of the summer. The Indians who wished to oversee their removal had asked to wait until the end of the summer to begin their journey due to the harsh winter months, but the request was never considered. During the journey the relocating natives were struck with scads of diseases such as the cold, influenza, pleurisy, measles, diarrhea, fevers, septic toothaches, and among young men, gonorrhea.

There were three groups had traveled via water route. The first group left on June 6th by steamboat. They arrived at Fort Coffee on June 19.

However, the other two detachments were not so lucky and were affected by diseases and drought. These two groups did not arrive until the end of the summer and unfortunately the children seemed to be the ones who most likely contracted the diseases. The Cherokee whom were taking the land routes were organized into groups that varied between 700-1600 people. The groups were led by people appointed by Chief John Ross. The Indians who signed the treaty however, were led by John Bell and administered by the U. S. Army. They were treated much better than the other detachments for this detachment had a physician as well as a clergyman.

Supplies included flower, corn, salt pork, coffee, and sugar. The trail to their designated lands west of the Mississippi River was more than 1, 000 miles long, and this treacherous journey was made by foot. It is approximated that 4, 000 Cherokee men, women, and children died commonly of disease, exposure, and famine while traveling. Once they got to the new territory,

many problems were still far from over. In the new lands, many Cherokee struggled, and died of starvation or some form disease.

Being partly responsible for the perish of many people, the three natives responsible for signing the Treaty of Echota were killed for treason. They were Major Ridge and his son John Ridge, both part of a prominent Cherokee family, and Elias Boudinot also part of a trusted Cherokee family.