

# Georgia's Deportation of the Creeks and Cherokees: A Prelude to the Trail of Tears

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# The Trail of Tears (1830-1850)

- Andrew Jackson, Indian Removal Act (1830)
- Deportation of Creek, Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw and Seminole west of Mississippi
  - 15 thousand dead
- Taught as a national effort. Actually began as a state by state process



Illustration of the trail of tears,  
<https://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/trail-of-tears>

# The State of Georgia, Early 1800's

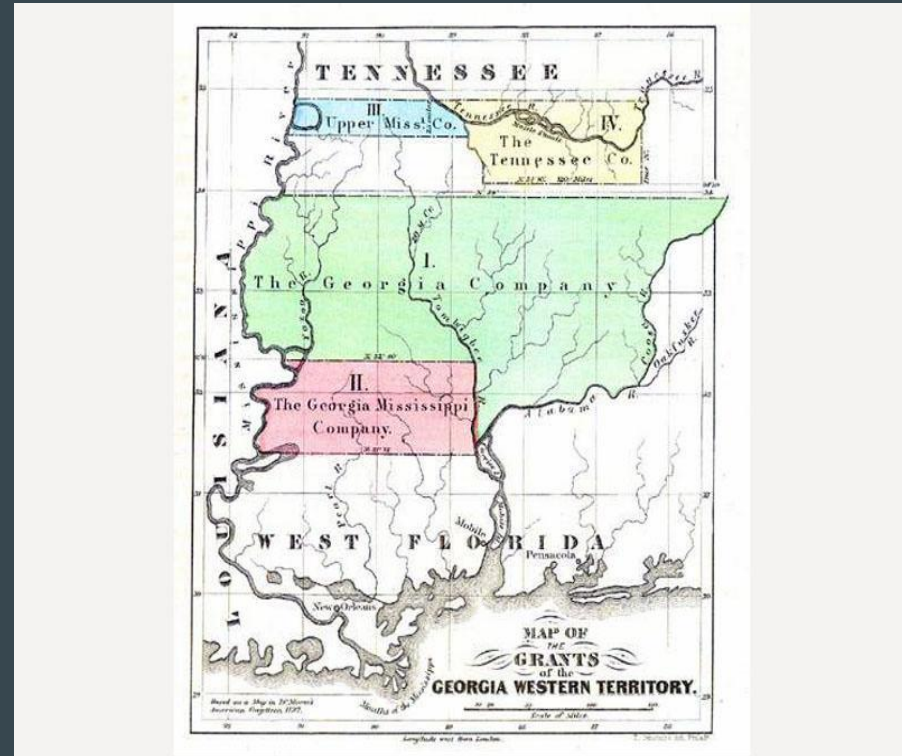
- Part of the indigenous homeland of both Creeks and Cherokees for thousands of years
- Growing white population after American Revolution
- Lacking money post-Revolution, struggling with war debt
- Large area of claimed land to the west - "Yazoo Land"



Map of former Creek and Cherokee lands in Georgia,  
<https://etc.usf.edu/maps/pages/9800/9861/9861.htm>

# The Yazoo Land

- 35 million acres - present day Alabama, Mississippi
- Sold in 1795 for \$500,000 (~\$12 million in today's money)
- Land largely undervalued, state politicians demanded reversal of the sale, labeled a "fraud"
- Decreased size of Georgia's borders, increased tensions between whites and Native Americans



Map of the Yazoo Land Sale,  
[https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/yazoo-land-fraud/yazoo-land-fraud-grants\\_001/](https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/yazoo-land-fraud/yazoo-land-fraud-grants_001/)

# The Compact of 1802: A Promise of Indian Removal to Georgia

- Jefferson comes to Georgia's aid, supports the Articles of Agreement and Cession, aka the Compact of 1802
- Federal govt. pays Georgia \$1.25 million, assumes control of the Yazoo
- Article IV, “the United States shall, at their own expense, extinguish, for the use of Georgia, as the same can be practicably obtained on reasonable terms, the Indian title to the Country.”



Thomas Jefferson, who supported the Compact of 1802

<https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/thomas-jefferson>

# The Creeks: A Divided People

- Upper and Lower Creeks - geographically separated, frequently clashing
- The Creek War: the “Red Sticks” and the “White Sticks,” increasing divisions
- Lower Creeks or “White Sticks” side with US. Upper Creeks far more distrustful

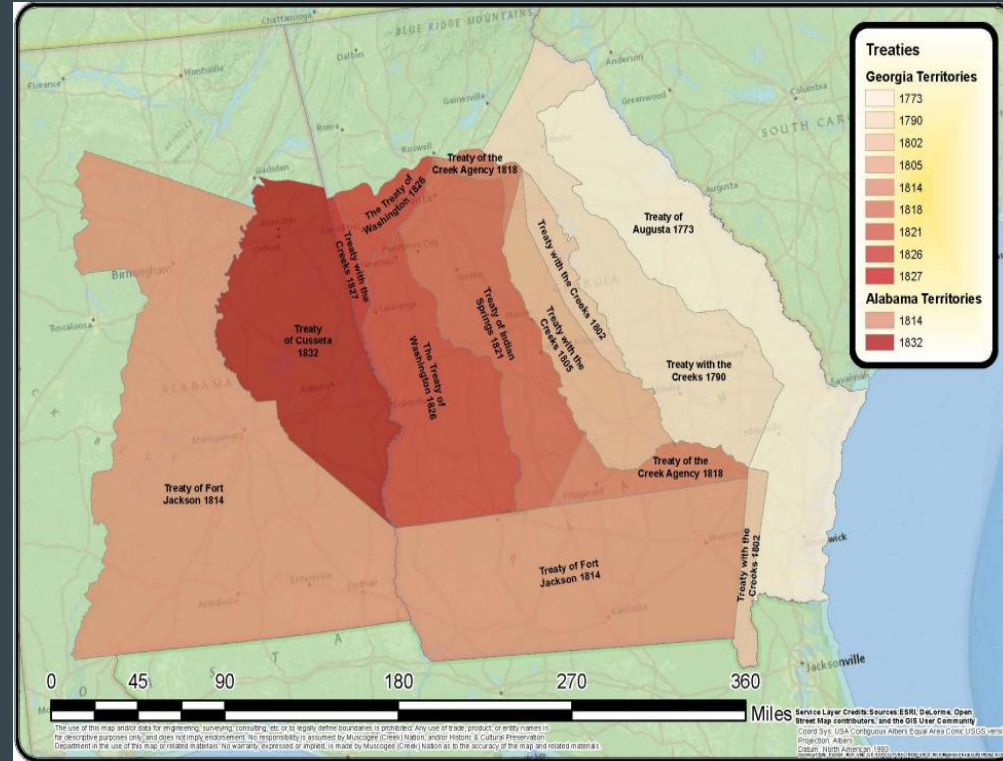
# William McIntosh and George Troup

- William McIntosh (1775-1825)
  - Born to Lower Creek woman and Scottish fur trader. Dual life.
  - Fought alongside US troops in the Creek War. Became a Lower Creek chief.
  - Illegitimate leader.
  
- George Troup (1780-1856)
  - Governor of Georgia (1823-1827)
  - Cousins with McIntosh
  - Main concern - Creek removal, carrying out federal promises to Georgia



# Indian Springs, and the “Troup-McIntosh Alliance”

- McIntosh and Troup not only cousins, but political allies - letters between them show this and treaties led by McIntosh
- First Treaty of Indian Springs (1821) - McIntosh sells Creek land to Georgia, gifted 640 acres
- Second Treaty of Indian Springs (1825) - aimed at complete Creek removal from Georgia, gave remaining Creek lands to McIntosh. Never federally ratified.



Land lost by the Creeks in Georgia from 1773-1886

<https://native-land.ca/maps/treaties/cession-172/>



# The Treaty of Washington (1826):

- Assassination of McIntosh, April 30, 1825, due to anger of Indian Springs
- Upper and Lower Creek chiefs protest Indian Springs to Fed. Govt. - President John Quincy Adams refuses to ratify treaty
- New treaty drafted - Treaty of Washington (1826) completed Creek removal from Georgia



The Killing of William McIntosh,  
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/62843/62843-h/62843-h.htm>

# Key Takeaways

1. Creek Removal in Georgia completed prior to the Trail of Tears and Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act (1830).
2. "The Troup-McIntosh Alliance": Governor George Troup and Lower Creek chief William McIntosh were political allies who worked together. McIntosh gained wealth and land, while Troup accomplished his goal of Creek removal from Georgia. Seen through the Treaties of Indian Springs and exchanged letters.
3. The Treaty of Washington (1826) solidified Creek removal from Georgia.

**Any Questions?**