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TENNESSEE- Chickamauga

Tennessee's Indian Peoples,

From White contact to removal covering the period of 1540 to 1840 there were several tribes that laid claim to portions of Tennessee. The two main ethno-typed cultures of Tennessee were the Mississippian and Woodland cultures. Eventually, all natives of Tennessee blended these two cultures together.

The names of the Mississippian tribes weren't as prominently known to historians as are the familiar names recorded- the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Creeks, and Shawnee (2). Tennessee was also the home to remnant bands of Natchez, Yuchi (6), and the Chickamauga*(anglicized spelling) Indians.

Exactly when the "Chikamaka*" Indians first wandered into the Tennessee Valley is unknown. Their forbears the "Chitimaucas" lived in the lower Mississippi Valley (5). After 1776, additional tribes make Tennessee their residence as they align with the Chikamaka (1) under the leadership of the former Cherokee Draggingcanoe. These delegations from their respective nations include the Mohawk, the Ottawa, the Delaware, the Mingo (3), the Saponi, the Choctaw, and the Catawba. This is the hostile confederacy that gained notoriety in Tennessee history.

These were the primary tribes who claimed residence in Tennessee prior to 1800. A less significant tribe once in Tennessee was the Koasati (4). Smaller and less known tribes were either assimilated or annihilated. In addition, out of state tribes, such as the Iroquois (2), occasionally used Tennessee as hunting grounds or for warfare.

* Correctly said "Chikamaka." The spelling is documented in the works of the Moravian missionaries and is found in the book, (1) "Cherokees of the Old South a People in Transition" by Henry Thompson Malone, The University of Georgia Press Athens;

Sources of information: (2) Tennessee's Indian Peoples by Ronald N. Satz copyright 1979 by the University of Tennessee Press with cooperation from the Tennessee Historical Commission; (3) Heart of the Eagle by Brent Yanusdi Cox Chenanee Publishers, Milan, Tennessee 1999; (4) The Cultures of Native North Americans Copyright 2000 from the original title: Kulturen der Nordamerikanischen Indianer printed in Germany ISBN 3-8290-2985-3; (5) The History of Hamilton County and Chattanooga Tennessee Volume I by Zella Armstrong, the Lookout Publishing Company Chattanooga Tennessee; (6) Tennessee County History Series: GRUNDY; Oral history of the Chikamaka.

Chikamaka timeline

1776 March 1 Dragging Canoe went to Mobile AL to escort 2 British Commissioners, Cameron (Dragging Canoe's adopted brother), to bring a pack train to the Cherokee back to Chota & give the British line regarding the upcoming American Revolution. Dragging Canoe was in full agreement.

April Back at Chota. Alexander Cameron advises Indian neutrality because there were Loyalists among whites - Indians wouldn't know the difference. Cameron & Stuart sent letters to whites in the area. Text was altered to promote anti-Indian sentiment (fear of attack).

Delegation of northern Indians, predominantly (but not totally) Shawnee (Cornstalk?), came to Chota requesting a Cherokee alliance against the American.

Raven of Chota led an attack against the Carter Valley sentiments - burned houses, but Americans had withdrawn. Nancy Ward, a "Beloved Woman of the Cherokee, having been a warrior in her day, forewarned the Americans. Abram of Chilhowee led the attack against Fort Watauga where Sevier was at the time. Laid siege, nothing happened, so the Cherokee withdrew.

Dragging Canoe went against the Holston River settlements, including the Eton Station fort, but the Americans, forewarned by Nancy Ward, were prepared and successfully defended themselves. The Cherokee attacked, Dragging Canoe got shot through both legs; his brother, Little Owl, also got hit. The Cherokee withdrew for lack of numbers.

****Elders, including Oconostota, wanted to capitulate and offered a reward of 100 pounds on the heads of Dragging Canoe and Alexander Cameron. No record of known attempts on their lives. The Cherokee Council sent a message that Dragging canoe's faction were no longer citizens of the Cherokee Nation.****

Dragging Canoe responded by saying the peaceful Cherokee were nothing more than "Virginians and Rogues," withdrawing from the area and moved with his people closer to the Chattanooga area. Joined by survivors of the Lower Towns of South Carolina. **This is where he joined forces with the Chikamaka. It is not known for sure when they wandered into the Tennessee Valley, but after this union they become the Powerful tribe known today by the anglicized name "Chickamauga."******

1776 July 700 Chikamaka attacked two American forts in North Carolina: Eaton's Station and Fort Watauga. Both assaults failed, but the raids set off a series of attacks by other Cherokee and the Upper Creek on frontier settlements in Tennessee and Alabama.

The Wataugans, led by their popular and soon-to-be-famous Indian fighter John Sevier, repulsed the onslaught and swiftly counter-attacked. With the help of militia from North Carolina and Virginia, they invaded the heartland of the Cherokee and put their towns to the torch. John Sevier's son later married into

the Cherokee Nation.

1776 At the outbreak of the American Revolution, lives father up north Knoxville way, moves families down river to Chickamauga & Chattanooga & Running Water with the Creeks ... Upper & Lower Towns.

[At the beginning of the year Dragging Canoe wanted to attack the American whites, and vice versa. However, most of the Cherokee were opposed to war. British didn't want Indians involved. A Letter was copied and faked, with derisive comments about Indians added. Copies were circulated to stir up anti-British hate among Indians. Dragging Canoe was very militant. He led an attack against whites. Rather than capitulate with the older men, he and other warriors (1000 warriors and families,) moved south to Chattanooga with the Chikamaka Creeks and became the war some Chikamaka waging war against the settlers for the next twenty years. A Confederacy involving numerous tribes and Tory allies is formed.]

1776 September Americans destroyed more than 36 Cherokee towns killing every man, woman and child they could find. [Rather than killing all the Indians, impromptu slave auctions on site were held to raise money for the White militia by selling Native women & children.]

1777 Unable to continue resistance, the Cherokee in the area asked for peace. The Treaties of DeWitt's Corner (May) and Long Island (or Holston) (July) were signed at gunpoint and forced the Cherokee to cede almost all of their remaining land in the Carolinas.

1777 Summer Dragging Canoe led raids against American settlers as far up as southern Virginia - killing whites whenever they could find them & burning houses.

1778-79 Most Cherokee fighters (made up of many half-bloods & mixed-bloods, predominantly a white mix - French, English, Irish, Spanish & American-born whites, Cherokee, Shawnee, Creek, and free Blacks) went to Georgia to join the British forces in the Georgia campaign

1776-82 Cherokee under Dragging Canoe joined the side of Great Britain in the American Revolution against encroaching white settlement. Cui Canacina or Tsiyugunsini (Dragging Canoe) and the Chikamaka refused the Overhill Cherokee Treaty and kept raiding the new settlements. At the outbreak of the Revolution, the Cherokee received requests from the Mohawk, Shawnee, and Ottawa to join them against the Americans, but the majority of the Cherokee decided to remain neutral in the white man's war. The Chikamaka, however, remained at war with the Americans and formed an alliance with the Shawnee and numerous other Northern Indian Nations.

1779 Evan Shelby attacks & burns 11 Chikamaka towns between the Knoxville and the Chattanooga area while Dragging Canoe was in Georgia. Upon learning of this, Dragging Canoe & men come back, Cameron with British arms also. At this time a Shawnee delegation came down to see if the burning of the towns had broken the Cherokee resistance. Dragging Canoe assured them that he would keep fighting. Alexander Cameron recorded Dragging Canoe's speech, "We are not yet conquered."

A group of Cherokee went to the Shawnee to fight with them and to assure consolidation of will. Likewise, a group of Shawnee, including Tecumseh's widowed mother, her son, Tecumseh, a boy, and his triplet brothers, including the later White Prophet, came down. Their older brother fought with distinction, but was killed a few years later in the raid on Nashville.

Dragging Canoe again moves Chikamaka this time to the region between Chattanooga and The South Cumberland Plateau. He resides in Lower Town of Running Water; Breath established Nickajack by Nickajack Cave - across the river from Little Cedar Mountain. THERE WERE SEVERAL TOWNS, CAMPS AND VILLAGES. SOME WERE KNOWN AND DOCUMENTED AND OTHERS WERE NOT. SOME OF THESE NOT DOCUMENTED ARE NOW KNOWN TO US AND SADLY SOME ARE FORGOTTEN BECAUSE OF OUR NEED TO ASSIMILATE IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH OUR NUMBER ONE GOAL: LAND PRESERVATION

1780 Dragging Canoe rescued the British Col. Brown in the American Siege of Augusta. Returned home.

The Chikamaka remained hostile and renewed their attacks against western settlements in Tennessee, Alabama, and Kentucky. Continued his resistance, attacks Nashville against Cumberland settlements.

1781 July After more fighting, the forced second Treaty of Long Island of Holston confirmed the 1777 forced cessions and then took more Cherokee land.

1782 The English give up the war effort and sued for peace. Dragging Canoe established contact with the Spanish in Florida and British in Canada and Detroit.

1785/6 Treaty of Hopewell (SC) - The Cherokee thought this would be the end of the settlers' invasion of Cherokee land. Within 3 years bitter fighting had erupted as settlers continued to move into the Cherokee Nation. This treaty is the basis for the term "Talking Leaves," the name of the tribe's written language. The Cherokee felt that written words were like leaves, when they were no longer of use they withered and died.

1790 Chikamakas continued action with the Shawnee in the Ohio Valley: the Ohio Chikamaka

1790-94 "Little Turtle's War" of the Miami in the Ohio Valley with the Wyandot, Delaware, Hurons, Mohawks and Dakota. After their initial victories, from here they had the unofficial encouragement of the Spanish governments of Florida and Louisiana and continued attacking American settlements. One of these incidents almost killed a young Nashville attorney/land speculator named Andrew Jackson, which may explain his later attitude regarding the Cherokee.

1791 January Chikamaka Chief Glass/"Catawba Killer" captured James Hubbard and 16 men building a blockhouse at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and released them with a warning not to return.

1791 November 4 Combined force of Chikamaka, Creek, Asshinnabe (Chippewa), Shawnee, Delaware, Iroquois, Miami, Wyandot and Dakota totally annihilated the forces of American Gen. Arthur St. Clair at the Wabash River in Indiana. "St. Clair's Defeat" - the biggest (number of whites killed) united Native triumph in

history. (Bigger than Little Big Horn...Custer's demise.)

1791 - Treaty of Holston signed. Includes a call for the U.S. to advance civilization of the Cherokees by giving them farm tools and technical advice.

1792 February 17 Chikamaka Chief Glass and Dragging Canoe's brother, Turtle At Home, waylaid the John Collingsworth family near Nashville, killing the father, mother, and a daughter, and capturing an eight-year-old girl. Returning to Lookout Town (near Trenton, Georgia), they held a scalp dance, grinding one of the scalps in his teeth as he performed. Dragging canoe, recently returned from Mississippi after meeting with Choctaws, celebrated the occasion so strenuously that he died the following morning, age ±54. John Watts of Will's Town (near Fort Payne, Alabama), became the new Chikamaka leader of the united war effort. Chikamaka resistance continues - led a big campaign against settlements in Nashville (Buchanan Station 1793) and in upper east Tennessee led the combined Cherokee-Creek attack at Cavett's Station in 1793 in which there were no white survivors.

1794 American victory at Fallen Timbers in the north Ohio Valley. British failed to support Native allies. American General orders Chikamaka to leave Northern region. They comply.

After two years of fighting against the Tennessee militia, the support from other Cherokee declined, and the Chikamaka's resolve began to weaken.

1794 Skirmish near Muscle Shoals in Alabama.

1794 Battle at Nickajack & Runningwater. White attack on Nickajack, & Runningwater burned town. Breath, long-time headman of Nickajack, killed. Unofficial militia raid ordered by Robertson, led by Maj. James Ore of (*see year 1800*) Nashville area took Nickajack by surprise and killed mostly women and children, took a few captives (apx. 19 women and children) back to Nashville. Most men were attending a social function down in Turkeytown, Alabama. Men wanted pursuit, but were talked out of it by the families of captives who feared their family members' death. Survivors fled into the mountains that are now Marion and Grundy Counties. Nickajack rebuilt. ...

Spanish withdrew their support, suggesting some accommodation with the Americans rather than continue fighting. THE LAST TWO TOWNS MENTIONED, NICKAJACK AND RUNNING WATER WERE BOTH DESTROYED IN September OF 1794 BY MAJOR JAMES ORE. THE SURVIVORS AND FORMER INHABITANTS OF THESE TWO TOWNS FLED TO THE AREA NOW LOCATED

ON TOP OF THE SOUTH CUMBERLAND PLATEAU AND SETTLED IN THE AREAS NOW KNOWN AS GREEN TOWN, HOBBS HILL, AND TRACY CITY. THEY WERE NOTHING MORE THAN VILLAGES AND CAMP SITES HID OUT OF THE WAY IN HOLLOWES AND SLOUGHS ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN.THE TOWN WHERE TRACY CITY IS NOW, WAS THE HOMEPLACE OF CHIEF SHOOK WHO REMOVED TO OKLAHOMA WITH HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY, LEAVING THOSE WHO WISHED TO STAY BEHIND.OTHER CHIKAMAKA-CHEROKEE REESTABLISHED IN PLACES LIKE THE "POCKET" IN PRESENT DAY MARION COUNTY, IN JASPER-TOWN, THE CURRENT SITE OF JASPER, TENNESSEE, IN SEQUATCHIE COUNTY, AND OTHERS CONNECTED UP WITH THE CAMPS AND CHEROKEE SETTLEMENTS LOCATED IN THE VALLEYS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SOUTH CUMBERLAND PLATEAU IN WHAT IS NOW WARREN COUNTY AT THE INTERSECTION OF BARREN FORK CREEK AND THE COLLINS RIVER. ANOTHER SUCH CAMP WAS LOCATED AT THE HEAD OF THE ELK RIVER OR THE CHUWALEE RIVER IN PELHAM VALLEY. THIS WAS A HUNTERS CAMP

FOR CHUWALEE TOWN NAMED FOR THE CHIEF CHUWALEE WHO SETTLED NEAR THE CURRENT SITE OF BEERSHEBA SPRINGS IN GRUNDY COUNTY. ONE CERTAIN CHIKAMAKA-CHEROKEE CHOSE UNDER THE 1817 RESERVATION TREATY HIS 640 ACRES ON TOP OF THE SOUTH CUMBERLAND PLATEAU IN WHAT IS NOW BOTH MARION AND GRUNDY COUNTIES AND IS KNOWN STILL TODAY BY HIS NAME, "PIGEON," OR PIGEON SPRINGS. THIS IS ACCESSIBLE FROM THE TOP BY WAY OF PARTIN'S FARM ROAD OFF HWY. 41 ON THE LEFT GOING FROM TRACY CITY TO MONTEAGLE. IN CURRENT FRANKLIN COUNTY THE TOWN WHERE THE PRESENT DAY SEWANEE IS NOW LOCATED WAS THE SITE OF SUWANEE OLD TOWN. OTHERS MOVED ON TO THE AREA KNOWN AS GOOSEPOND IN COFFEE COUNTY. THIS WAS ALSO A SITE WHERE MANY RETURNING CHEROKEE SETTLED ON THEIR WAY BACK FROM OKLAHOMA. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE DUNCAN FAMILY WHOSE NAMES APPEAR ON THE 1852 DRENNON ROLL IN THE DELAWARE DISTRICT. ANOTHER LADY WAS "RESCUED" FROM THE PARTY THAT LEFT THE STOCKADES IN RATTLESNAKE SPRINGS IN PRESENT DAY BRADLEY COUNTY. SHE WAS THE GRANDMOTHER OF JAMES TURNER OF LAKE ROAD IN TRACY CITY. THIS GROUP OF CHEROKEE CAME UP WHAT IS NOW HWY. 41 FROM JASPER INTO PRESENT DAY TRACY CITY ARRIVING THERE IN EARLY 1840. THEY WERE FOLLOWING THE NICKAJACK TRAIL (WHICH PASSES BY THE HEAD OF HICKORY CREEK IN GRUNDY COUNTY) ON THEIR WAY TO OKLAHOMA. THIS GROUP (MINUS THOSE WHO ESCAPED) WENT OFF THE MOUNTAIN ON WHAT IS NOW CLOUSE HILL ROAD THAT GOES FROM THE SPRING AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN IN PAYNES COVE AND CONTINUED FOLLOWING THE NICKAJACK TRAIL TILL IT INTERSECTED WITH THE INALI, (BLACKFOX TRAIL.) AS MORE AND MORE WHITE SETTLERS CHOSE TO MOVE INTO THE AREA, THESE CAMPS AND VILLAGES DISPERSED INTO THE MORE REMOTE AREAS SUCH AS DYKES HOLLOW, CLOUSE HILL, SANDERS CROSSING, COALMONT, DOG TOWN, CHIGGER TOWN, DUCK TOWN, ALTAMONT, AND BEERSHEBA. OTHERS CHOSE TO MOVE FURTHER NORTH TO Daus and Ross MOUNTAINS LOCATED NEAR PRESENT DAY TATESVILLE. OTHERS STILL CHOSE TO MOVE ON NORTHWARD TO PRESENT DAY CAGLE IN SEQUATCHIE COUNTY. ALL OF THESE PRESENT DAY SETTLEMENTS WERE MADE UP OF THE CHIKAMAKAS AND THEIR MIXED BLOOD AND WHITE RELATIVES. AS THAT WAS PRETTY MUCH ALL THAT COMPRISED THE AREA, THOSE WHO WANTED TO REMAIN BEHIND AFTER THE REMOVAL DID SO. THOSE WHO SHOWED A LOT OF THE CHARACTERISTICS EITHER REMAINED IN THE DESOLATE AREAS OR MOVED AROUND IN THE SOUTHEAST GOING FROM ONE CHIKAMAKA COMMUNITY TO ANOTHER. SOME EVEN MOVED BACK AND FORTH FROM THESE (6) SIX REGIONS TO OKLAHOMA, NORTHEAST ALABAMA WHERE THE PRESENT DAY DESCENDANTS OF THE ECHOTA CHEROKEE REMAIN, AND BACK TO NORTH CAROLINA AND TO NORTH GEORGIA WHERE THERE WERE POCKETS OF CHEROKEE LIVING. THIS IS AN OLD HABIT CARRIED OVER FROM THE EARLIER CHEROKEE WHO MOVED ABOUT BECAUSE OF CLAN LAWS RELATING TO MARRIAGES AND DIVORCE WHICH CARRIED OVER TO THE EARLY 1900's IN THIS REGION.

1796 Tellico Treaty* ended hostilities between USA, Cherokee, and the Chikamaka, signed by the Chikamaka and leader of the Chikamaka John Watts, a half-blood, Old Tassel's nephew. Warfare generally ended between Cherokee and Chikamaka, although armed resistance by Will Webber "Red-Haired Will", half-blood who founded Will's Town, and full-blood Bowl, and others continued. Webber later went west of the Mississippi, Bowl later went to Texas. Others stayed in the region. Some integrated back into the Cherokee Nation. (*not all Chikamaka agreed with this treaty.)

1800 *James Ore, who led the 1794 expedition that burned Nickajack, lived in the Knoxville area, went bankrupt, failed in White society. He went to live among the Indians, ironically, selected Nickajack, (near what is now Jasper, TN) and

was accepted, especially after he explored Nickajack Cave and began mining the cave, producing gunpowder for the Chikamaka. He also operated a tavern there.

1809 Following Blood laws...Death of Doublehead at the hands of Ridge, James Vann and Alexander Saunders for taking bribes to sell land as well as mistreating his wife. Saunders was once a resident of Suwane Oldtown.

1810 During the period from about 1810 to 1840, settlers poured into the wilderness which was to become Grundy County. The records of Warren County detail the Collins River valley settlement during this period, while the Elk River valley was part of Franklin County. Death of James Vann

1812 Shawnee warrior Tecumseh agitates American Indians on the frontier to rise up and destroy the settlers. A faction of the Creek* Indians the "Red Sticks," revolt, attacking Fort Mims, Alabama and massacre 250 men, women and children. (*this era is where the saying, "Good Lord willin' and the Creek's don't rise" came from*)

1813-14 Cherokee warriors fight alongside future president Andrew Jackson during two campaigns (5 major battles) against the Red Sticks, saving both his army and his life in separate battles. Some of these warriors were Chikamaka who in addition to fighting in the Cherokee regiments, also fought under Captain Cherry's company formed in Franklin County, TN.

1813 September Chikamaka David Meeks signs affidavit sent to Return J. Meigs regarding a stolen horse. This was done in Franklin County, Tn that later becomes Grundy County.

1814 Jackson demands cessions of 2.2 million acres from the Cherokee.

1817 - Treaty makes exchange for land in Arkansas. Old settlers begin voluntary migration and establish a government there. In 1828, they are forced to move into Indian Territory

1819 Chief Shook signs Emigration roll but doesn't relocate until 1838. He was Chief of the Chikamaka town located where Tracy City now stands.

1818-19 Calhoun Treaty ceding land north of the Hiwassee River and North and West of the Tennessee signed by Secretary of War John Calhoun and Cherokee in Washington and ratified by the U.S. Senate. New Eastern Cherokee immigration to Western Cherokee. Numbers now 6,000. The Glass, John Walker, Path Killer, Going Snake and more signed. ± Treaty signer John Boggs may have lived at Little Cedar Mountain. His wife was Turtle At Home's daughter.
Treaty established boundaries of Cherokee lands in Arkansas Territory

1820 Elizabeth Pack who is listed on the Reservation Roll of 1819 and the Henderson Roll of 1835. She is also on the Chikamaka Roll. The City of Jasper, TN has put up a Historical Marker to Elizabeth Pack for her donation of 40 acres of her Reservation land to the City: "Betsy Pack Historic Sign." She was born Elizabeth Lowery. She was daughter of Chief Lowery. She lived in a house about

60 yards southeast of the Marion County courthouse. She donated 40 acres on condition the county seat would be moved to Jasper instead of Cheekville, in 1820 the County seat moved to Jasper from Cheekville-located near Whitwell

1831 Chief Justice John Marshall rules that the Cherokee have no standing to file suit in the United States in Cherokee Nation vs. Georgia. He then instructs attorney William Wirt on how to correctly file; Samuel Worcester and others arrested for violation of Georgia law requiring whites to get permits to work in the Cherokee territory.

1832 The Supreme Court of the United States declares the Cherokee Nation to be sovereign (Worcester v. Georgia). This has constitutional implications, disallowing the state of Georgia from passing any law governing the Cherokee; Elias Boudinot resigns as publisher of the Cherokee Phoenix under pressure from John Ross because of his editorial support for removal.

1835 Treaty of New Echota in north Georgia. The "Treaty Party" sign away all land of the Cherokee Nation east of the Mississippi. This did not have the approval or support of the majority of the Cherokee Nation. Following Blood Laws, later, upon arrival in Oklahoma, three principle signers: Major Ridge, John Ridge and Elias Boudinot "Buck Watti", were assassinated for their signing & for supporting the 1819 "Old Settlers" in opposition to John Ross' late arrivals. Period of intense civil war between the Cherokee in Oklahoma. Sequoyah withdrew from the area and moved to Mexico, others immigrated to California.

1838 One Hundred Full bloods move from Burroughs Cove Pelham Valley up onto the Mountain to avoid Forced Removal. Mixed-blood Chikamaka and their White neighbors assisted many Cherokee in escaping the Forced Removal. The "Red Council" cedes governing power back to the "White Council," or Clan Mothers.

1838 May 23 Deadline for voluntary removal. Georgia Guard had begun round-up 5 days earlier. U. S. forces under command of Winfield Scott begin roundup in Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, and North Carolina. Cherokee are herded into "forts" gradually making their way north to the Cherokee Agency (Rattlesnake Springs) or Ross's Landing in southeastern Tennessee. This is generally recognized as the beginning of The Cherokee Trail of Tears

1839 The Rev. Bushyhead preached in Warren County Collins River Valley at the Baptist Church near the Indian camp at Barren Fork and Collins River. Some chose to stay behind while others left their children behind by white and mixed-blood neighbors to raise to become the "Keepers of the land." His route followed the North prong of the Nickajack Trail* which passes the head waters of Hickory Creek now located in Grundy County. (*see Indian Trails Of the Southeast at www.Chikamaka.org)

1843 In 1843 more than 300 residents of the area petitioned the state legislature asking that a new county be formed. On January 29, 1844, the legislature honored their request, and created the new county of Grundy. They named it for Felix Grundy <http://www.tngenweb.org/bios/g/grundy.html>, one of their number who had risen to national prominence, and who had died just three years earlier.

1844 Grundy County was formed. Alexander Nunley was one of the founding officials. He was also a Chikamaka. From then to Present, numerous Chikamaka have held Public Office in Grundy County.

The first election of officials in Grundy County was held July 6, 1844, the results of which were canvassed at Jesse Wooten's the following Monday. Emerging as the county's first "high sheriff" was Phillip Roberts. Other officers were Reuben Webb, county court clerk; Abraham Jones, registrar of deeds; and John Burrows, trustee. The first constables were Solomon P. Goodman, John C. Lockhart, Alexander Nunley, John Tipton, and Elijah Walker. Now Grundy County, Tennessee, not only was a bounded place on earth, it was also a functioning government.

1850's In the 1850s a prestigious community developed at Beersheba Springs, on top of the mountain in the northeastern part of the county. Under the leadership of the wealthy John Armfield, Beersheba Springs became a popular health resort. A fine hotel, many impressive summer "cottages" for prominent southern families, and the businesses needed to support such a community sprang up on the mountain top. It was at Beersheba Springs that the plan to develop an Episcopal university at Sewanee was hatched and brought to fruition.

1860's Mrs. Hawkins, sister to Henry Sewell remembers seeing Indians during this time shortly before the Civil War. She was present at the laying of the Cornerstone in 1860 but says she was too small to remember much about it. Because of the Indians and wild animals her father would worry about his cattle because they used to run wild with the deer. This was in Sewanee Tennessee near what used to be know as "Rattlesnake Springs" and now known as Rowe's Spring

1860's During the Civil War (or War of Northern Aggression) both Union and Confederate units were raised in the county. The first of these was Alexander Patton's company of infantry, which became part of the First Tennessee Infantry under Franklin County's Col. Peter Turney. Patton owned many slaves and a large plantation near Pelham, and was the county's wealthiest man before the war. Much hard feeling existed between neighbors with differing views on the conflict. Grundy saw some fighting, particularly skirmishes in the area around Tracy City, but no serious battles. Probably the greatest damage was done by bushwhackers and outlaws who took advantage of the lack of legal authority and disorganization of the war to prey on innocent civilians. After the war, men like Patton and Armfield were in financial ruin, and the entire county suffered the effects of a long Reconstruction-era depression.

1861 October 9, Request for ratification of the treaty between the Cherokee Nation and the Confederate States of America -- from Cherokee Chief John Ross to the Cherokee National Committee and National Council

October 28, 1861 Declaration of the Alliance of the Cherokee Nation with the Confederate States of America by the Cherokee National Committee, National Council, and Chief John Ross.

1862 River ferry, first established by Dragging Canoe's brother, Turtle At Home, operated at Little Cedar Mountain (Shell mound) by mixed-bloods, and subsequently by a white man named Love.

Union General Negley drove Confederates out of the north side area at Battle Creek, through Jasper, to Little Cedar Mountain.

1862-63 Confederates mined saltpeter from Nickajack Cave (south side of river). Rebel soldiers abandoned it, the largest Confederate saltpeter mine, (Saltpeter was also mined in "Saltpeter's cave just above Martin's Springs,) escaping over the Sand Mountain to Chattanooga.

1863 August. A Major encampment and river-crossing site for the Union Army's approach to Chattanooga. Numerous Chikamaka fought on both sides. Some were "pressed" into service With The Vedette Calvary.

1864-65 Jasper area under US military control to protect area and ferry against Rebel insurgency.

1869 In 1869 a group of Swiss emigrants arrived in Grundy County. Shrewd promoters had persuaded them to purchase lands they had never seen atop the Cumberland Mountain. Upon arrival, they were dismayed to find the "paradise" that had been promised them to be a rough, unpromising country. They established the village of Gruetli, however, and through hard work and innovative methods many of the Swiss became successful farmers and merchants. Some intermarried with the Chikamaka.

1875 Railroad and mining interests on the mountain led to the development of Tracy City after the Civil War. This growth was prompted mainly by the Tennessee Coal and Railroad Company. The coke ovens at Tracy City, supplying railroad and industrial fuel, brought an influx of workers and their families during the period from about 1875 to 1900. By 1910, problems with labor unions and convict labor had taken their toll on the mining business, and it gradually faded out.

1879 Federal court ruled that an Indian was a person.

1881 Silas Lankford had a land grant of 1164 acres. Some of the land was on the side of the mountain, and at the head of Collins River. He died in 1881.the land was confiscated and sold "for back taxes;" The truth of the matter was because this family was Chikamaka. Legally Indians couldn't own land in Tennessee, or marry, for that matter. His wife was "Me-li" Seitz Lankford. Her mother was Elendar Shoat*, of the Longhair Clan. (*see Chikamaka Rolls)

1897 Wonder Cave Discovered by three Vanderbilt University students in Pelham Valley. R M Payne purchased property in early 1900's early visitors entered cave in flat bottom boats. A large entrance hole was blasted in rock face in early 1900's

1900's * * WPA Workers during the Great Depression in the early 1900s, many Americans were given a "job" by the United States Government to support their family.

Local Chikamakas and white neighbors work the coal mines ranging from Harlan KY down to Coal City GA. This kept them out of the sun so their features would diminish.

1909 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Building erected is one of oldest standing Mormon Churches in the SE U.S.

1913 Hales Bar Dam built one mile upstream from Dragging Canoe's old home at Running Water.

1917 Boat trips into Wonder Cave were abandoned.

1924 Citizenship Act passed making all Indians US Citizens. Grundy County doesn't hear about this law for another 50+ years. Prior to this time we legally couldn't own land, vote, marry, or be in Tennessee. To get around this you were either "Black Irish" or "Black Dutch," or you claimed "white" and a lot of times joined the KKK. Many thought, "What better way to hide who you are than in an organization like the Klan." Others joined the Improved order of Redman so nothing would be thought about their practicing Indian ceremonies.

1933 US government created the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) as a Depression-era social plan to make fertilizer down in Mussel Shoals, Alabama, and later expanded their role to control flooding in Tennessee River valley and provide for rural electrification. Also in the 1930's the CCC employed thousands in local projects.

1934 James H. "Pony" Meeks AniTsiskwa born to Marvin Meeks and Agnes Sanders at home in Brushy Ridge, Grundy County delivered by "Aint Sarry" Sarah Anderson Meeks.

1939 TVA purchased Hales Bar Dam, displacing the town of Guild.

1941 Norvell, Ernest Campbell (1870-1941) Born in Bedford County Tenn., December 16 1870 Republican. He was a Member of Tennessee State House of Representatives 1917-25. Episcopalian Member, Junior Order Odd Fellows; Woodmen; Died, of a cerebral hemorrhage in Tracy City, Grundy County Tenn., December 28 1941 Interment at Tracy City Cemetery Tracy City, Tenn.

1950s TVA determined Hales Bar Dam inadequate, plans drawn up for site six miles downstream and 1 mile below the old town of Nickajack.

1952 February 13, 1952, a tornado hit the Grundy County area of Monteagle, Summerfield and Tracy City. It was about 10:30pm when limbs, trees, sheet metal, and property began to be destroyed. No one was seriously hurt and no one was killed in the storm but everyone was thankful that their lives were spared. The communities came together to help with the re-building.

1955 Last public Indian festival held until 2000 in Grundy County. Private ceremonies continued among families with several Fire keepers, who until recently kept the sacred fires burning by themselves, for 80+ years in some cases, before passing on the knowledge. Government Surveyors attempt to complete questionnaires about who is Indian on the mountain.

1960s TVA acquired property from all surrounding property owners by eminent domain.

Archaeologists worked to determine the Native American "cultural resources" in the future reservoir that would be forever lost.

1962 Tennessee Consolidated Coal Wars bring much violence to the region. Numerous attacks with dynamite in Palmer. Effigy of a "SCAB" hung from the traffic light. Local boys turn back Federal Troops on the Tennessee River who are escorting Coal Barges.

1964 Construction of TVA Nickajack Dam begun. Cedar Mountain Corporation formed to install a marina, 44 house lots, and hotel. Plan later given up.

1964 President Johnson signs Civil Rights Act barring discrimination in public places based upon race or color.

1967 TVA Nickajack Reservoir filled. Dragging Canoe's lower town lands flooded.

1967 TVA urged State of Tennessee to develop a state resort park on a 701-acre tract of TVA land known as Tract 3, the land currently in jeopardy.

1968 TVA developed the Shell mound Recreation Area on 81 acres on the down river portion of the Tract 3 land in an attempt to boost the State's interest in expanding the facilities into a resort.

1969 Local Shriners create Annual Fall Color Cruise celebration begun at the Shell mound Recreation Area.

1972 This was the first time I heard someone call James H. "Pony" Meeks a "Dirty old Indian." and, "My mama tried to warn me about you." I heard this numerous times through life when she started in on him. He Suffered with this for many years.(examples of prejudices)

Also this same year the signs located at the county line came down. These were "Welcome" signs that advised "Niggers" they were not welcome. This had also deterred "prying strangers" from "sticking around." It was a common site on weekends to see Klansmen in robes taking donations at the major intersections. (Previous years and for several more years to come.)

1973 State of Tennessee completed a Master Plan for a large-scale resort park on Tract 3 and subsequently rejected plans. Savage Gulf/Stone Door State Park a 55 mile trail system was obtained by State of Tennessee in 1973. It protects one of the last known stands of virgin timber in Eastern U.S. & has approximately 55 miles of trails

1974 U.S Government sends "survey team" to Grundy County to question people attempting to locate Indians. It is not known if anyone would admit as they are scared of being relocated to Oklahoma.

1975 "Massage Parlor" located just off I-24 at exit # 134 is first burned (attempted) and then Dynamited after attempts to shut it down failed.

1976 Bi-Centennial Celebrations held.

1983 Tennessee Legislation creates "Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs" (TCIA)

1984 Legislative Amendment to TCIA.

1987 Mandated by federal regulations, TVA initiated the Nickajack Reservoir Lands Planning project, and as a part of this, solicited archaeological survey proposals of the entire reservoir. University of Alabama Office of Archaeological Research conducted a "Cultural Resources Survey" of Little Cedar Mountain.

1990 TVA Board of Directors approved the Nickajack Reservoir Land Management Plan which identified 638 acres of Tract 1 (below the dam) for Industrial Use, 701 acres of Tract 3 for Public Recreation Development, and 39 acres of Tract 4 (the mountain itself) for Public Recreation Development. Management Plan states that private sector proposals for development of public recreation facilities on Tract 3 (the land in question) would be considered with evidence of financial feasibility. The plan also stated that private residential or non-recreational commercial development would not be allowed.

1990/91 Wilma Mankiller elected Chief of the Cherokee Nation Oklahoma. She writes letters and gives speeches that the only real Cherokee are registered members of the CNO.

Also this year Iraq invades Kuwait. Hundreds of "Local boys" called up to liberate the Kuwaiti Peoples. Grundy and surrounding counties are known for their eager spirits and willingness to serve with distinction in America's Armed Forces in almost every conflict since 1812.

1991- Grundy County and Local American Legion Post 74 holds celebration and unveiling of monument honoring all Grundy Countians returning home from "Operations Desert Shield and Storm."

1994 Tornado hits North end of the county, Billy Gene Reid loses Sheriff's election to Robert Meeks. In September Tracy City shuts down Police Department and contracts it out to the County at the urges of Sheriff Meeks.

1995 The person who called James H. Meeks "The dirty old Indian" found out through her children's research and her brother's research "She was also a Dirty Old Indian."

This is also the same year methamphetamines and "crank labs" started taking hold. Many people will die because of this illegal drug. Tracy City re-opens the Police Department after a year of "lawlessness." It was not safe to ride through town after dark. Tim Meeks is made Lieutenant and "Acting Chief." One Saturday night all (5) five members of the Force work over. Apx. 31 charges filed and over 60 citations issued. Town settles back down to "normal." Mike Luzadder is Palmer's Chief of Police and Farrell Hicks is Gruetli-Laager's.

1996 Tracy City demotes Tim Meeks from Acting Chief to patrolman for "trying to run things, and making too many trips to the county jail in Altamont." Lonnie Cleek returns as Captain. He is later promoted to Chief of Police.

1998 Chikamaka Elders (White Council) decide after 204 years of silence it is time to publicly "re-organize." Even though we all know who is Chikamaka, the family trees need researched, and descendants documented.

1999 Monthly Public meetings began & were held in the old Grundy High school

cafeteria for "All those of Indian Heritage." A Pot-luck dinner was held. Terry "Standingbear" Weatherby was guest speaker at the first pot-luck.

2000 Chief James H. "Pony" Meeks (AniTsiskwa or Bird Clan Chief) dies in January, his son Tim "Gvnidigardi" Meeks elected Principle Chief of the Chikamaka (Red Council).

June: First Public Festival since 1955 "James H."Pony" Meeks memorial. Grundy's

Population 2000: 14,332 Population Change 1990-2000: 7.3% Percent Urban 2000:

0.0% Percent Nonwhite: 1.7%; Source: U.S. Census 2000. People are still scared

to admit true heritage. Education Level: Adults with a high school/GED diploma

or above: 5,207 Adults with nine or more years of education but no diploma:

1,914 Adults with less than nine years of education: 2,320 Source: Adults 25 and

older, U.S. Census 2000 Per

Per Capita Income of Grundy County: \$12,039; was\$7,227 in 1990

Source: U.S. Census 2000

percent of Adults 25 and Over with a High School or

GED Diploma in 2000

2001 2nd Pony Meeks Memorial in October. Gov. Sundquist "Sunsets" Tn. Commission of Indian Affairs.

{Was told by Russ Buchan that the businessmen's club did an informal survey in Grundy County about who was Indian and of those questioned, over 4200 (out of an estimated 14,000) people admitted to being American Indian, but out of fear or other reasons they still listed themselves "white"}

2002 May 18th Chikamaka incorporate with the State of Tennessee. Dispute among

initial incorporators about organization settled by resignations of John O'Neal,

Gail King, and Ollie Speakman. 3rd Annual Pony Meeks Memorial held in August.

One guest speaker, Randy Woodley; a Baptist preacher, a Member of the United

Keetowah Band of Cherokee and founder of "Eagle's Wings Ministries, has

ancestral ties to Warren County TN. Also this year:

Alan Winkler is a "victim" of hate crime. Alan, a North Carolina resident, had

purchased a 75-acre track of property in Gruetli-Laager, a community in a remote

section of Grundy County. Since August he had been busy preparing the property

to open as a gay and lesbian camping resort under the name of Blue Fox Retreat.

Winkler reports he invested \$30,000 for the property down payment, utilities,

construction and improvements including the driveway. The office building had

been pulled down and ran over with tractors. The padlock on the property's water

main was cut off, the meter was turned on and then the main waterline was broken

off to allow the water to run. The septic tank lid was unearthed and busted.

Finally and sadly, several dogs were butchered and left scattered around the

property. Not only are public displays of "alternative lifestyles" abhorred,

they still will not be tolerated in Grundy County.*see the year 1975*

2003 501(c) 3 approved by the IRS. Chikamaka Chief meets with Walker Calhoun at

his home in Big Cove, NC. 4th Annual Pony Meeks Memorial. Chikamaka sign

mutual agreement with local governments. Gov. Bredesen Appoints new Commission

of Indian Affairs, but.with no funding. Oct. 19th Chikamaka are active

participants at the "Great Outdoor Weekend Festival" in Gruetli-Laager

demonstrating various exhibits of culture. Confederate Marker & Memorial Service takes place in Tracy City.

2004 Uncle Jeff Meeks dies. He was a WWII Veteran and member of the AniWodi. Uncle Jeff was an enrolled member by blood Chikamaka. 5th Annual Pony Meeks Memoriam and Chikamaka Cultural Days is held August 21st and 22nd. Many new babies are listed as "Chikamaka" on their birth certificates. Chikamaka attend Green Corn Ceremonies with the Piqua Sept Shawnee in Kentucky.

WE THE CHIKAMAKA RECOGNIZE THAT THE FOLLOWING FAMILY SURNAMES from the South Cumberland Plateau Region ARE ASSOCIATED as descended from the Chikamaka Roll, BUT not necessarily ALL-INCLUSIVE AS THOSE OF THE CHIKAMAKA-CHEROKEES OR OF CHIKAMAKA-CHEROKEE BLOOD AS THE NAMES ARE COMMON. THESE NAMES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Alexander, Anderson, Baker, Bean, Berry, Bible, Bivens, Blackhawk, Blevins, Bolin, Brewer, Brock, Bryant, Campbell, Choate (Shote, Shoat), Chance, Cheek, Childers, Clark, Cleek, Cluck, Cooper, Cope, Copeland, Corn, Cox, Crisp, Dye, Dykes, Duncan, Foster, Fults, Geary, Green, Griffith, Griffin, Haney, Handy, Hatfield, Hawk, Hawkins, Headrix, Hendrix, Henderson, Hice, Hicks, Hobbs, Holt, Hornbuckle, Hughes, Ivey, Johnson, Jones, Kilgore, King, Ladd, Lankford, Lawson, Layne, Lingo, Lovelace, Lowrey (Lowry, Lowrie), Mainord, Mayes, McBee, McDaniel, McWain, Meeks, Morgan, Myers, Nunley, Newsome, Norris, Northcutt, Orange, Pack, Parmley, Parson, Patterson, Patrick, Payne, Phipps, Powell, Price, Raper, Richardson, Roberts, Ross, Salyer, Sanders, Seagroves, Seitz (Sitz),

Shadrick, Shelton, Shook, Shorey, Smartt, Saylor, Smith, Tate (Tait), Thomas, Thompson, Turner, Walker, Walter(s), Woodley(lee)

This is in no way to be considered a complete list of our Chikamaka family surnames, nor can it automatically be assumed that one is a Chikamaka because of a connection to these surnames.

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"W.W.D.D?"

Ayv Gvndigardi dagwado?v Meeks Dagwado hagsterdv?i Ayv AniTsikamaka

<www.Chikamaka.org>

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