



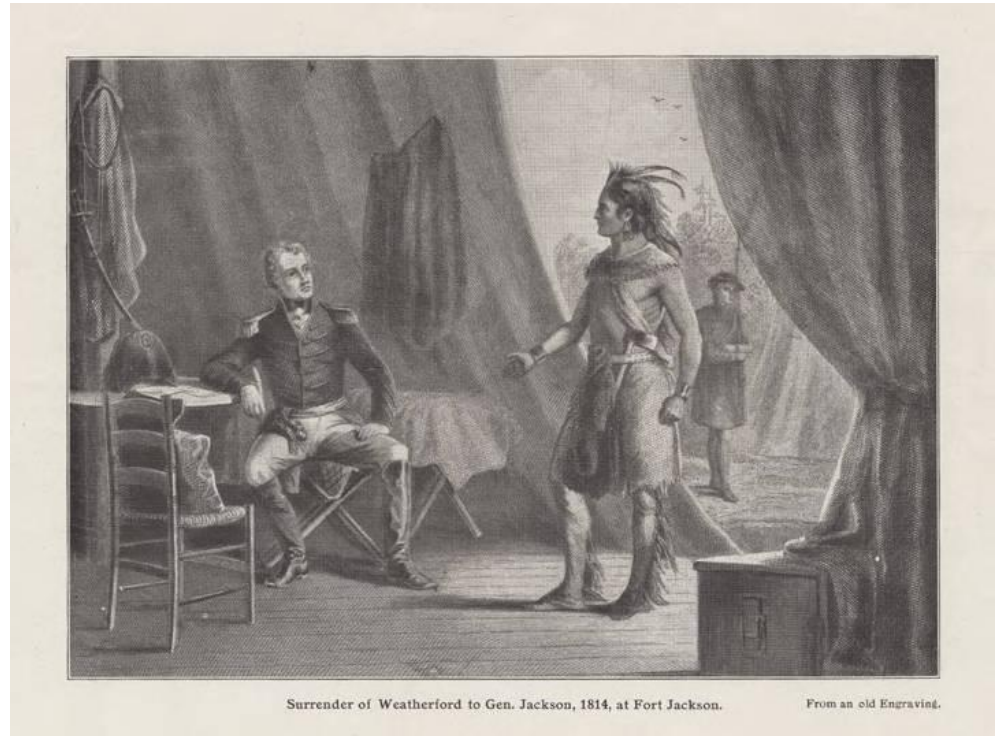
Surrender of Weatherford to Gen. Jackson, 1814, at Fort Jackson.

From an old Engraving.

WHO WAS WILLIAM WEATHERFORD?

William Weatherford is known for

his leadership in the Creek War in 1813 and 1814, as well as surrendering to Andrew Jackson to end the war, as we see in this primary source.




But did you know...

- William Weatherford's mother was Sehoy III, princess of the Wind clan of the Creek Indians.
- His father was Charles Weatherford, an Englishman.
- He was born on April 28, 1780.

When he was growing up...



- He enjoyed fishing.
- He learned to identify plants.
- He learned to live on what nature provided.

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- When he reached a certain age his parents gave him the choice to live as a white man or an Indian, and he chose to live as an Indian.

As an adult...

- He owned a plantation.
- He married Mary Moniac. They had three children. She died in 1804.
- He was a **chieftain**; this means he was a leader of his people.

And...

- He knew he must do what he could to preserve the way of life of his chosen people.



A Closer Look at William Weatherford

Let's look at an article to learn more about this Red Stick leader, William Weatherford.

His first documented public role came in 1801, when, with a group of young warriors, he helped seize William Augustus Bowles, a former Loyalist whose activities were condemned by the Spanish, American, and Creek leadership.

As a young man in the years leading up to the Creek War, he continued to trade in both deerskins and cattle.

William Weatherford Article

William Weatherford



A Closer Look

- Read paragraphs 3, 4, 5, and 6 with your partner. Highlight anything you think is important or interesting.

William Weatherford Article

A Closer
Look...

- Reread the paragraphs with your partner.
- While you are reading, complete the L,Q,A,F graphic organizer.

William Weatherford Article

A Closer Look at the last two paragraphs.

- As the vilified leader of the horrific action at Fort Mims, Weatherford might logically have expected to have been executed for his role in the war. Instead, **his prominent family**, many of whom fought against the Red Sticks, waged a rehabilitation campaign on his behalf, celebrating his bravery and horsemanship, turning his famous leap from the cliff at Holy Ground and his peaceful surrender to Andrew Jackson into legendary feats of heroic virtue. In letters and other forums, family members also stressed his supposed coerced or reluctant participation in the Grave of William Weatherford conflict and claimed he left Fort Mims before the murder of women and children, thereby hoping to distance the heroic warrior from the deeds of war. Moreover, his open cooperation with Jackson's army at the end of the war, coupled with the protection of his family, assuaged notions of Weatherford as the "savage" warrior and promoted him as the noble leader who tried to serve his misguided people bravely and attempted to restrain their excesses. After the war, under the protection of his prominent kin, he lived as a plantation owner in south Alabama, distancing himself from tribal affairs. When he died in 1824, he was married to a Christian woman of mixed Indian ancestry and left sizeable property in land and slaves to his descendants.
- Weatherford is nearly universally called Red Eagle by writers. The sobriquet has no basis in fact. According to a family friend, Thomas Woodward, Weatherford was known by two Creek names, Hoponika Fulsahi (Truth Maker) and Billy Larney, which translates as Yellow Billy. The name "Red Eagle" did not appear in print until the 1855 publication of A. B. Meek's poem "The Red Eagle: A Poem of the South," a lengthy romanticized tale based loosely on Weatherford and his exploits.

References

Hastie, Lynn. William Weatherford His Country His People.

<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2593>