

Dragging Canoe Lecture

By Albert Bender

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The presentation shall focus on the life of the great Cherokee war chief, Dragging Canoe who has been called by some historians as the "Most significant Indian leader in the history of the Southeast." He has been called by others the "Red Napoleon" and is now considered a military genius.

Dragging Canoe first made his entrance on the stage of American history when he so eloquently opposed the Treaty of Sycamore Shoals that, by conventional historical accounts, sold Cherokee land that is now Kentucky and Middle Tennessee to Anglo-American speculators. Subsequently, he led the Cherokee armed resistance that changed the course of U.S. history by stopping the flood of settlers over a vast area of the South in the late 18th century. His successful holding action paved the way for an unprecedented era of peace between red and white that allowed for the flowering of the cultures of Native people in the Southern United States.

Also, I am a published author and contributing columnist for the Tennessean Newspaper, and my most recent publication is the book "Native American Wisdom." It is a volume listing the inventions, contributions, discoveries, and cultural sharing's of American Indians from ancient to contemporary times. The book is available by calling: (615) 337-8512.

Culture in Transition: The Cherokee in Middle Tennessee

Cherokee Resistance

Handout # 4

The treaties signed after the Cherokee Campaign of 1776 marked the first forced land cessions by the Cherokee, and for the first time the land ceded was not unsettled hunting grounds but the sites of some of the tribe's oldest towns, in which the Cherokee people had lived for centuries. The Cherokee Campaign of 1776 also caused a rift between the old chiefs and young warriors. Many of the latter withdrew to Tennessee and northern Alabama, where they became known as the Chickamauga Cherokee and continued to fight white Americans until 1794.