



Creek Indian Land Cessions



TREATY OF SAVANNAH (August 21, 1739): Signed six years after General James Oglethorpe arrived at Savannah, this peace treaty guaranteed that a wide section of land along the Atlantic coast belonged to the British colonists.

TREATY OF AUGUSTA (May 1, 1773): As a result of indebtedness to English fur traders, the Indians ceded the lands between the Little and Tugeloo Rivers.

TREATY OF AUGUSTA (November 1, 1783): Actually two treaties – one signed by the Cherokees, one by the Creeks – the Treaty of Augusta ceded to Georgia the land between the Ogeechee and Oconee rivers. However, Creek Chief Alexander McGillivray and many of his followers refused to recognize the treaty, and questions of its legality would continue until the Treaty of New York in 1790.

TREATY OF NEW YORK (August 7, 1790): This treaty, like the 1773 Treaty of Augusta, was compensation for debts accrued by the Creeks in their trade with the English. The new tract of land bordered territory given in the 1739 Treaty of Savannah, running west to the Apalachee and Oconee Rivers. Its northern boundary stopped a few miles east of the Chattahoochee River and the southern boundary ended at the Altamaha River.

TREATY OF COLERAIN (June 29, 1796): This treaty gave the United States rights to set up trading or military posts on Creek land, resulting in the establishment of Fort James. Stipulations were made that, once the outposts were abandoned, the land would revert back to the Indians.

TREATY OF FORT WILKINSON (June 16, 1802): This cession formed two detached tracts, both rather narrow. The first was located in the center of what is now Georgia and consisted of land to the west of the Apalachee and Oconee Rivers. The second tract was located near the coast and ran from the Altamaha River, south to the border of Spanish Florida.

TREATY OF WASHINGTON (November 14, 1805): The Treaty of Washington ceded land between the Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers, except for a central tract five miles by three miles, called Ocmulgee Old Town – what is now Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park. However, concessions were given to the United States to build a fort (which became Fort Hawkins) and to run a horse path on the Creek land.

TREATY OF FORT JACKSON (August 9, 1814): At the end of the Creek Indian War of 1813-1814, the defeated Creeks were forced to cede land in compensation for war expenses. The land encompassed large areas of the present-day states of Alabama and Georgia. The tract of land in Georgia rested on the border of Spanish Florida with its northern border several miles below the Ocmulgee River, and extended west to the present-day border of Georgia and into Alabama. The U.S. demanded the right to establish military posts and trading houses and to open roads within the territory still retained by the Creeks. Chiefs and warriors of the Creek Nation who were friendly to the U.S. during the Creek war were each entitled to locate a reserve of 1 square mile, to include their improvements. On February 20, 1819, the President was authorized to purchase these reserves whenever the reservees should desire to sell.

TREATY OF FORT MITCHELL (January 22, 1818): This treaty covered the tract of land between the territory taken in 1814 and the Ocmulgee and Altamaha Rivers. It also included a small area bounded by the Apalachee River to the east and the Chattahoochee River to the south. This cession overlapped the

Cherokee cession of July 8, 1817.

TREATY OF INDIAN SPRINGS (January 8, 1821): This treaty extended Georgia territory further west. The tract of land ran between the Flint and Ocmulgee Rivers and was bordered to the north by the Chattahoochee River. A one-thousand-acre tract, which included the Indian Springs, was set aside to remain within the Creek nation. Several small reserves belonging to individual Creeks including the chief, General McIntosh, Michey Barnard, James Barnard, Buckey Barnard, Cussena Barnard, and Efauemathlaw were also exempt from the cession on the condition that the land would go to the United States once the present occupants left. The land containing the Creek agency would also continue in the Creek Nation until the agency moved.

TREATY OF INDIAN SPRINGS (February 12, 1825): The Creek Nation ceded to the United States all lands lying within the boundaries of the State of Georgia, as defined by the compact of April 24, 1802, between the U.S. and Georgia. In return the Creeks would receive an equal amount of land west of the Mississippi along the Arkansas River. The reservations at Indian Springs and Ocmulgee Old Town were also given up. William McIntosh signed his own death warrant when he put his name on this Second Treaty of Indian Springs in 1825. He and several more of the chiefs that signed it were assassinated for surrendering all remaining claims the Creeks had to Georgia land.

TREATY OF WASHINGTON (January 24, 1826): In response to protests from chiefs and headman of the Creek Nation against the validity of the treaty of 1825, President John Quincy Adams decided that the treaty of Indian Springs was flawed. Despite protests from Georgia's Governor Troupe, he ordered a ban on surveying Indian lands until a new treaty could be negotiated. Creek representatives arrived in Washington where a new treaty was hammered out more favorable to the Indians. The Creek Nation ceded to the United States all the land belonging to said Nation in the state of Georgia, including parcels set aside in previous treaties such as the Ocmulgee Old Town (present-day Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park) and Indian Springs. Later in March of the same year, the territory to be given up was expanded. As in the 1825 treaty, the Creeks would receive land west of the Mississippi.

TREATY OF INDIAN AGENCY (November 15, 1827): "The boundaries of the cession of January 24, 1826, not having comprised, as was expected, all the Creek lands within the limits of Georgia, the Creek Nation now therefore cedes to the U. S. all the remaining land owned or claimed by the Creek Nation not previously ceded, which on actual survey may be found to lie within the chartered limits of Georgia."

TREATY OF WASHINGTON (March 24, 1832): Only 88 years had passed from the signing of the first treaty establishing Savannah until the Creeks were pushed out of Georgia; and another five years later they were moved completely out of the southeast. The Treaty of Washington stated, "The Creek tribe of Indians cede to the U.S. all their land east of the Mississippi River." What followed was their version of the "Trail of Tears."