

Major Ridge (ca. 1771-1839)

The Cherokee leader Major Ridge is primarily known for signing the Treaty of New Echota (1835), which led to the Trail of Tears.

of \$5 million to the Cherokees. He and a minority of Cherokees signed the Treaty of New Echota in December 1835 without authorization from Ross or the Cherokee government.

Major Ridge was born in the early 1770s in Tennessee. His Cherokee name, Kah-nung-da-tla-geh, means "the man who walks on the mountaintop."

The Ridge family and others voluntarily moved west, but Principal Chief Ross and opponents of the treaty fought its implementation.

As a result of U.S. president George Washington's "civilization" policy for Native Americans, the government agent Benjamin Hawkins provided the Ridge with new farm implements and Susanna with a spinning wheel and loom.

Ridge's grandson John Rollin Ridge would be known as the first Native American novelist. Suggested Reading Litton, eds., Cherokee Cavaliers: Forty Years of Cherokee History as Told in the Correspondence of the Ridge-Watie-Boudinot Family (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995).

When the War of 1812 (1812-15) began, The Ridge joined General Andrew Jackson's forces in fighting the Creeks and the British in Alabama.

Gary E. Moulton, John Ross, Cherokee Chief (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1978).

Thurman Wilkins, Cherokee Tragedy: The Ridge Family and the Decimation of a People, 2d ed., rev. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986) Alice Taylor-Colbert, Shorter College

After the war, the Ridge family established a plantation on the Oostanaula River in present-day Rome. With his friend and neighbor John Ross, Ridge helped establish a Cherokee Nation with three branches of government in 1827.

Major Ridge along with Elias Boudinot and John Ridge were executed for signing the illegal removal treaty in 1835. I cannot imagine why the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma's tribal government would have a scholarship under his name.

Believing that they had succeeded in the "civilization" process by establishing a government on a U.S. model, Cherokees like the Ridges were shocked when the U.S. Congress passed the Indian Removal Bill of 1830 and Georgia implemented a lottery to dispense Cherokee lands shortly thereafter.

Major Ridge said he was signing his death warrant when he penned his name to the illegal removal treaty. He knew the majority of the Cherokee people did not want to leave our ancestral homes in the east.

This is one of the men who forced our people to walk to Indian territory in the dead of winter.

The CNO leadership should have started a scholarship for Chief John Ross who was our greatest chief...no one has come close to his leadership skills...no one.

mjs



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About Andy Wells of Wells Technology President and CEO of Wells Technology, Andy Wells, takes pride in producing high quality products, using the latest in machine capabilities and technology.

The Business Owner of the Year award is presented to a business owned and operated by an American Indian(s) who demonstrates good "corporate citizenship" in the community.

About Muskogee Metalworks A subsidiary of Creek Indian Enterprises, the economic development arm of the Poarch Creek Indians, Muskogee Metalworks is this year's recipient of the Tribal Enterprise of the Year award for its outstanding service, growth and business in Indian Country.

About GenMari Creations Sisters Genevieve and Marita Growingthunder founded GenMari Creations in 2006. Early last year, the girls began to diversify their product base from cookies to handcrafted specialty items such as beadwork, jewelry and ornaments.

Both girls reside in Polson Montana on the Flathead Indian Reservation. Their partnership in business is a natural nexus. Genevieve, a student at Polson Middle School became interested in business in the fourth grade after participating in an entrepreneurial introduction program.

If you are a member of the media requesting access to the conference and/or would like to schedule interviews with the award winners, please contact Melissa Wenzel (602) 357-4701 or Melissa@ams-companies.com

For more information about the event, visit www.ncaied.org.

Dick Tulane Productions has several new videos on YouTube about the CNO Landfill http://uk.youtube.com/user/DickTulane

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The Cherokee Observer DGWY D840DJ "The Only Independent Cherokee Newspaper" P.O. Box 487 Blackwell, OK 74631-0487