

William “Red Eagle” Weatherford

GPS location N 31 16.654 W 87 45.689



William Weatherford was the son of a Scottish trader, Charles Weatherford, and his Indian Princess wife Sehoy III. Most records state that he was born about 1765, but that date is probably incorrect. Sehoy III was married first to Colonel David Tate and they had several children including a son David Tate. This David Tate, Jr.'s birthdate on his tombstone is 1778, and since he was the older half brother to William Weatherford, our subject was probably born around 1780. Charles Weatherford and Sehoy III also had a son named John, who was born in 1783, and a daughter named Elizabeth. William was given his Indian name “Lamochatte” which means “Red Eagle.”

In the Creek Nation, the power and prestige came from the mother’s line which ensured that William Weatherford was a respected and powerful member of the tribe. The Creek Nation was divided on their loyalties to the white man and split into two factions: The White Sticks, who wanted to work with the white man, and The Red Sticks, who felt the white man was taking their land unfairly. Red Eagle was the leader of the Red Sticks, and was present at the Fort Mims Massacre where hundreds of white settlers were killed.

Following Fort Mims, Andrew Jackson began a campaign to end the Red Sticks campaign. Davy Crockett was also present for at least one of these battles at Tallussahatchee. At the Battle of Holy Ground, after being trapped and unable to find an escape route, Red Eagle rode his horse straight off a bluff and into the Alabama River. He was able to escape.

These battles continued until the Creek Nation surrendered at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. William Weatherford was not present at this battle. In April of 1814, William "Red Eagle" Weatherford boldly rode into General Andrew Jackson's camp. According to Albert James Picketts' "The History of Alabama" Weatherford stated,

"General Jackson, I am not afraid of you. I fear no man, for I am a Creek warrior. I have nothing to request in behalf of myself; you can kill me, if you desire. But I come to beg you to send for the women and children of the war party, who are now starving in the woods. Their fields and cribs have been destroyed by your people, who have driven them to the woods without an ear of corn. I hope that you will send out parties, who will safely conduct them here, in order that they may be fed. I exerted myself in vain to prevent the massacre of the women and children at Fort Mims. I am now done fighting. The Red Sticks are nearly all killed. If I could fight you any longer, I would most heartily do so. Send for the women and children. They never did you any harm. But kill me, if the white people want it done."

Andrew Jackson did not kill Red Eagle. He released him to his half brother's protection. William Weatherford died on David Tate's plantation in 1824 and was buried beside his mother.