

BEGINNING OF "AGE OF SEQUOYAH"

Beginning of sentence not clear--the "Age of Sequoyah," 1800 to 1839. You would think that this was, in fact, the Age of Sequoyah until you started doing research on Sequoyah. Mr. Gregor (?) and I have been working for the last year and a half now on a book about Sequoyah and we're not so sure, after all, if 1800-1839 is the Age of Sequoyah. He's a mysterious person. It's very difficult to find anything about him. The last three days, I've been reading some 150 manuscript pages of reports of the old Dwight Mission and this is what came in reference to Sequoyah out of the entire Dwight Mission Journals--five small cards. So while Sequoyah himself as a person does not dominate the period 1800-1839, Sequoyah, I feel, is a symbol of the period 1800-1839 Cherokee history. Why do I say that Sequoyah is a symbol, when we can say the Age of Sequoyah? Well, for a number of reasons.

PROGRESS OF CHEROKEE PEOPLE-EDUCATION AND THRIFTINESS

First, Sequoyah unquestionably was a child of the native Cherokee, whether he was born in 1760, 1770--whatever particular period you choose--just take it as his birthday. He was born in a period before the influence of a White Man was so great that you could say that Cherokees had changed from their traditional ways. When he died in 1843 or 1844, the Cherokee Nation had completely changed. The Cherokees of Sequoyah's youth were gone. And in its place, we have seen the rise of a new and very sophisticated Cherokee people. So tonight, I would like to look at the years between 1800 and 1839 and see what changes took place in the Cherokee Nation during, what we would call "The Age of Sequoyah."

There are several symbols of Cherokee Civilization which I think indicated the changes that were taking place in the Cherokee Nation. The Alphabet