

Many presumptions are made that the Cherokees were peaceful, that they were agricultural, pastoral, and so forth, various names given to the Cherokee which came to them at a much later period. The fact is, the Cherokees were very warlike, actually. Now let me read some choice descriptions again. "That war with the Cherokees was a main occupation until the nineteenth century, was a unanimous conclusion of White Man with whom they came in contact. The journals and letters and official records of Charles Downs and George Collingness of English Scottish emissaries from the crown, of traders and missionaries, and even a Quaker botonist from Philadelphia who visited the eighteenth century Cherokees. All attested the Cherokee had a fondness for war. About 1730, English emissaries for the Crown strove to make peace between the Cherokees and the Tuscarora. They had a battle about that time to alienate the Cherokees from the French. Colonel George Chicken noted for Cherokee support on occasions: "We set away from home, Charlestown, and went to Stockholm, a large and well fortified all around, by punchings, and also ditches." Punchings, incidentally are sharpened sticks, you know, nowadays, we hear about them as "punchy sticks" in Korea or Vietnam. "And, also ditched on the outside of such punchings were ditches stuck full of spikes so that if the enemy should fall therein, they must, without doubt receive a great deal of damage by those spikes. Afterwards, there are several new flankings made in fortification of a town and the towns also had them." Another writer, plantation owner of Charlestown who, wrote to his brother quite regularly said, "Warriors, there at the Cherokee principal study, in their greatest ambition is to distinguish themselves by military action. Even the old men who are of past, betrayed themselves and used every method to stir up the marshal ardor and the youth. The women as among the Whites who know how to persuade by praises or ridicule the young men to what they please, and further the art to make them warlike.