

Literacy and intellectual life in the Cherokee nation, 1820-1906 / James W. Parins

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Object Details

Contents

Writing in early America -- Literacy in the Cherokee nation -- The Cherokee phoenix -- Education after removal -- The Cherokee language and the Sequoyan syllabary -- The Cherokee Advocate and other Indian newspapers -- Four Cherokee writers -- Political writers and feuders -- A steady stream of Cherokee writers

Summary

"By the 1820s, Cherokees had perfected a system for writing their language--the syllabary created by Sequoyah--and in a short time taught it to virtually all their citizens. Recognizing the need to master the language of the dominant society, the Cherokee Nation also developed a superior public school system that taught students in English. The result was a literate population, most of whom could read the Cherokee Phoenix, the tribal newspaper founded in 1828 and published in both Cherokee and English. English literacy allowed Cherokee leaders to deal with the white power structure on their own terms: Cherokees wrote legal briefs, challenged members of Congress and the executive branch, and bargained for their tribe as white interests sought to take their land and end their autonomy. In addition, many Cherokee poets, fiction writers, essayists, and journalists published extensively after 1850, paving the way for the rich literary tradition that the nation preserves and fosters today. *Literacy and Intellectual Life in the Cherokee Nation, 1820-1906* takes a fascinating look at how literacy served to unite Cherokees during a critical moment in their national history, and advances our understanding of how literacy has functioned as a tool of sovereignty among Native peoples, both historically and today."--Publisher's description.

Author

Parins, James W

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19th century

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United States

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Cherokee Indians--Government relations--History

Cherokee Indians--History

Literacy--Social aspects--History

Authors, American

Indian authors

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