

Emig. Chickasaw. U.S. 4.  
Col. A. M. M. Upham.  
Little Rock, Sept. 1. 1838.

Arrived at Little Rock  
on the 15<sup>th</sup> July, since which time,  
in obedience to orders of 15<sup>th</sup> June has  
been engaged in settling the out-  
standing dues against Capt. Emig.  
Nearly all the Gov. for Indian Service  
Furnishes are have been settled - Am't  
paid is between \$23,25,000; prob-  
ably \$2 or 3000 in claims have not been  
presented - There are in file \$400 in  
defective vouchers, with a claim of  
Capt. J. Buckner's, for between \$97,  
10,000, which cannot be settled until  
Capt. Phillips arrives -

Replies to the remarks of this Office  
as to these unpaid dues, the Chief  
travelling through the country, of the  
great expense, of the Emig -

Has been informed by Capt. Collins,  
that in his letter to this Off. as to the matter  
concerning, he had no allusion to him, but, the

(Pack - 4)

Settling 68

Recd 14 Sept. 1838

Ans 24 Sept 1838

fuller

40-6

Little Rock Ark.  
August 1<sup>st</sup> 1838

Hon. C. A. Harris  
A<sup>d</sup> Gen,

I arrived at this place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, since which time, in obedience to your order of the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, I have been engaged in settling the accounts that were standing against the Chickasaw Emigration. I am happy to say that nearly all the accounts for subsistence, ferriages &c. have been settled. The amount paid is between twenty three and five thousand dollars. Probably there may be between two and three thousand dollars in claims that have not been presented, and there are on file seven hundred dollars of defective vouchers together with a claim of Capt. S. Buckner, amounting to between nine and ten thousand dollars, which cannot be settled until Capt. J. A. Phillips arrives here, which I am in hopes will be in a few days.

In the third sentence of your communication, and referring to the second, you say, "I am at a loss to account for this extraordinary and as it appears to me, as at present informed, inexcusable state of things. Having attended this emigration in person, it was most obviously your duty as the chief and responsible officer to see that every portion of the business connected therewith was closed, and every account duly adjusted, and

every document and voucher depending upon you made out in due form before you left the country to return East. It is true, ~~that~~ that I attended a small party of Chickasaws on a Steam Boat to Fort Coffee, where I arrived about the middle of December, and returned in the course of fifteen days. I sent on before I left Memphis, three parties of Indians by land: the first under the care of Mr. Langtree, the second under Mr. McBurn, and the third under the care of Major McIlhenny. Their orders were to take their parties by land, though they did, except Langtree, take the responsibility of putting a part of the Indians on board of Steam Boats at this place. Major McIlhenny went himself on board of a boat from this place to Fort Coffee, leaving the larger body of his party here, which was the rear party, under the charge of Capt. J. A. Phillips, who was to accompany them to Fort Coffee; thereby enabling him to settle all the accounts, either as he was going, or on his return, which I requested him to do, and I believed it was done until I received your communication upon the subject. I went West with the small party that I accompanied, not for the purpose of hunting up the various persons that various articles were purchased of for the use of the Emigration. I went to satisfy the Indians, for it was the wish of them all that I should go, and I promised them early in the fall that I would do so, and complied with their request.

With due regards to your opinion, I

file 41-4

must beg leave to say that, I was and am of the opinion that it is the travelling Disbursing Officer's business to get all the accounts made out in proper form, and then present them to the Superintendent for his approval. If I am mistaken in this my opinion, the Disbursing Officer at Little Rock would have answered every purpose.

Gal 13 A

As to parties of Chickasaw Indians straggling through the country is very easy for me to account for. In the first place, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January last, as I was passing Helena, I found a large body of Chickasaw Indians, near four hundred and fifty and were encamped about seven miles of that place. They had crossed the river near Helena paid their own ferryage, had never been enrolled, and refused most positively to be. They refused to let me send a Conductor with them. They were determined to cross the River at the Port of Arkansas, and furthermore said that they did not wish to get to their new homes until the last of this summer. Therefore agreeably to your orders I abandoned them. They are the Indians, together with some few others that left their old country alone that make the straggling parties, but a part of Glover's party which are the Indians that Capt. Collins alludes to as being between this place & Memphis. Majr. Maillards went with them in the latter part of May, and they by particular request of Capt. Collins, consented that he should take charge of them, which he did, and safely



conducted them to Fort Coffee.

Mr. Vanderslice had orders and did return from Fort Coffee to this place, and took charge of all parties that had stopped on the route, which stoppage was occasioned by sickness and extreme cold weather. Mr. Crockett conducted Col. Kin's party from a few miles East of Memphis to this place, where he met with Vanderslice, and Vanderslice took a part of them by water, and sent Mr. Crockett by land with the ballance to Fort Coffee. Col. Kin's party did not arrive at Fort Coffee until the 17<sup>th</sup> of March; nor did the main body of Chickasaws arrive there until some time in February, which was the party that Capt. J. C. Phillips was conducting.

As for the expense of moving the Chickasaws being so great, I have to account for it in this way. In the first place, they had a great deal of money, that is, their own private funds which they spent very freely. They bought a great many valuable articles for themselves, to take west, believing that their wants could not be supplied after getting to their homes. In fact some of them bought as high as a thousand dollars worth of goods of various kinds, which it was impossible for me to prevent, even had I been present. Every merchant was pressing off on them every article he could. In fact, sir, I saw two women purchase seven hundred dollars worth of goods in the course of two hours. And sir, in getting these Indians to Memphis I did not get one more public waggon than I could possibly help. But a great number of them had waggons of their

ours. Some had three or four wagons. In fact Col. James Wolf sent to Memphis, besides two wagons of his own six wagons loaded with baggage. Besides the wagons that they brought loaded, they brought about seven thousand ponies and horses, all packed as long as an Indian could pack them, and they can pack more on a horse than any other people I ever saw. Well, sir, all this came to Memphis. What had I do? I complained, told them they could not take so much baggage. What was the reply of the Chiefs and heads men to me? It was this. "We are moved out of our own money. This is our property. We want it. It is valuable to us. Were we to attempt to sell it, we could not for a hundred dollars worth get five dollars. Will you make us burn or throw our property in the river? We are the friends of the Whites, We have ever been and wish ever to be. In our Treaty with our Great Father, it does not say that we shall not carry our baggage with us." Under these circumstances what could I say. I tell you what I did say "Put your baggage in the boat." If I was wrong it was in not obeying the Regulations. Feelings of kindness and justice compelled me to take the course I did. It was too late at that time to get instructions from the Department, for we were at the river.

In the petition of the Chickasaws of Helm. any 1837 they petitioned to go by water. I was instructed to take them that way. In the Council that I held with them in September 1837, I

enquired of them particularly if they wished to go by water; that if they did I had but a short time to have the boats ready. The day after the Council, they informed me that they wished to go by water. I then informed Capt. Phillips that I wanted Steam Boats at Memphis by such a time, which requisition was complied with.

I was much gratified on an interview with Capt. R. D. Collins of this place, when he informed me, and I have no doubt, but what he will inform the Department, also that in his letters, concerning the Chickasaw Emigration, he had no allusion to me whatever.

In a few days I will write again. Then I present in your City I could convince you and the world that as far as I have acted in this Emigration that it has been in due faith, both to the Government and Indians.

With high regards,  
Yr. most Obedt. Servt.

A. M. Stephens

Supt. Rome, Chickasaw

Little Rock, AR  
August 1, 1838

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Sir,

I arrived at this place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, since which time in obedience to your orders of the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, I have been engaged in settling the accounts that were standing against the Chickasaw Emigration. I am happy to say that nearly all the accounts for "subsistence, ferriage, etc." have been settled. The amounts paid is between twenty-three [sic--hundred] and five thousand dollars. Probably there may be between three and five thousand dollars in claims that have not been presented, and there are on file seven hundred dollars of defective vouchers together with a claim of Capt. S. Buckner, amounting to between nine and ten thousand dollars which cannot be settled until Capt. J.A. Phillips arrives here, which I am in hopes will be in a few days.

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With due regard to your opinion, I must beg leave to say that, I was and and [sic] am of the opinion that it is the travelling Disbursing Officer's business to get all the accounts made out in proper form, and then present them to the Superintendent for his approval. If I am mistaken in this my opinion, the Disbursing Officer at Little Rock would have answered every purpose.

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In a few days I will write again. Were I present in your city I could convince you and the world that as far as I have acted in this Emigration that it has been in due faith, both to the Government and Indians.

With high regards

Your most obt srvt [obedient servant],

A.M.M. Upshaw

Supt. Removal Chickasaws



*Journal of Pontotoc County, Historical Society 1935 Summer 1999*

## Letter From The Past - 1838

### Editor's Note

The fascinating letter reproduced on this and the following page was written by Nancy Fontaine, daughter of Patrick Henry Fontaine of Virginia. Mr. Fontaine was sent by President Andrew Jackson, to serve as Manager of Sales at the Land Office in the newly opened Chickasaw lands. The Land Office was located in what later became the City of Pontotoc. The letter was written to a friend in Paris, France only two years after Pontotoc County was organized. The vivid descriptions of life at that time and the events which transpired make it interesting reading. It prefaces the feature articles of that same period included in this Journal. This letter is property of the Winston family (related to the Fontaines) and was shared with Bob Cook in 1978, by Winnie Winston and published in the *Pontotoc Progress*. Toby Winston, his son, gave permission to use it in this journal.

## —Parade, oratory, balloon ascent were highlights— *Infant Pontotoc celebrated Fourth in patriotic fashion in 1838*

[The year was 1838, and Pontotoc was still in its infancy as a town and county—only two years old, although the Pontotoc territory was one of the earliest inland territories opened in Mississippi, since the Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary War of six decades back.

[The date was July 5, 1838, and a young lady of Pontotoc was writing to a friend visiting abroad in Paris, France, and she recounts the patriotic fervor and celebration that was carried out in this still rugged pioneer town and county, including a parade, band, and a manned balloon ascent of 140 years ago.

[The letter, published by permission of Lawrence "Winnie" Winston, was written by Nancy Fontaine (who later married Judge John Brooks) to a friend, Miss Kate Anderson, who was visiting in France, and is printed as a special July 4 feature by the *Progress*.]

Pontotoc, Mississippi  
July 5, 1838

The thought of writing to a lady in Paris cramps my ideas and has caused me for several minutes to "cudgel my brains," hoping to draw something from them which they have never yet produced, and which may be worth sending over the Atlantic. I find to my mortification that

the stores of my mind will furnish me with nothing more than common. So I will cast off a feeling of pride and realize the simple fact that I am writing to an acquaintance who, though in France, is the very same Miss Kate Anderson in Pontotoc and whom I have so often seen company with Miss Kate Monroe ascending the narrow rugged path which leads to the old school house. Reminiscences of many interesting Pontotoc scenes have brought you plainly to my view.

It is probable you are now returning to America. I should have answered, before this, your unexpected and truly interesting letter, written February and arrived the last of May, but was under the impression you would sail for home about the first of June.

Mrs. Murray, you have no doubt heard before this, is settled in Desoto, has lately written me that a letter may reach you before leaving Paris, as it is very probable you will not sail for the United States until August.

Now what shall I endeavor to entertain you? surrounded as you are with so much that is curious, beautiful, grand and all sorts of things. I can not tell you of the melodious strains of a music, but I can say we had a most entrancing serenade a few nights past from our Pontotoc band, and yesterday the Fourth (4th) of July we were blessed with a celebration which all the continent of Europe, and all the United Kingdom of the whole earth, could not produce. A large collection of people assembled

[Continued on Page 12]



# Infant Pontotoc Celebrated Fourth — — — — —

[Continued from Page 1]

in the Land Office Grove to celebrate the independence of our free and happy United States. A procession of the school girls from the Female Academy was formed which came through town followed by a band of music and the Pontotoc Volunteers Company. It was a grand and lovely sight to see them all march through the grove and take seats particularly assigned them near the stage erected for the orator of the day.

Dr. Taggart, Captain of the Volunteers, read the Declaration of Independence. Brother Edward delivered the oration. If he were not my brother, I would say his speech was superior to any I had ever heard. The Miss McGehees, their brothers and several others returned with us from the grove and spent the day.

Oh! I must tell you who these ladies are and where we live. The Miss McGehees are a considerable acquisition to our Society. They are the daughters of a wealthy and pious gentleman who moved from Georgia near our Village last spring. Mary (Fontaine Perkins, her sister) and myself occupy Mr. Bolton's room, which is within a few feet from Mr. Hubbard's cabin, now occupied by Uncle Dandridge's family (Nathaniel West Dandridge). My brothers, Edward and Charles, stay in the Surveyors General Office and eat with us.

Papa and Mama have moved a mile from town (Ridgeway) only one room of their house yet habitable; as soon as it is finished Mary and myself will go over. We dislike leaving our commodious dwelling having spent our time so delightfully with Uncle Dandridge's family during the winter and spring. Well, as I was telling you the Miss McGehees spent the day with us; in the afternoon several ladies called: Mrs. Taggart, Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Driver, (A lady from Alabama who expects to settle in our village), Miss Cherry, Miss Craig, and etc. Of gentlemen after returning from a public dinner, Mr. Thomason, Mr. John Bradford, Mr. McGehee, Mr. Macleman, Mr. Sterns, Mr. Crawley, Dr. Dandridge and his brother, Henry, Edward and Charles, Papa and Uncle Dandridge. Our cabin appeared smaller than usual, but a little space was left for the ladies to give us "Hail Columbia" and several particular tunes on the piano.

Mrs. Taggart, the Miss McGehees and Lightfoot Dandridge were the performers. The day passed off very pleasantly. At night when all the company had dispersed, and tea was over, Aunt Dandridge, Mary, Lightfoot, Dr. Dandridge, Edward, Charles, Henry and myself were sitting in the pleasant grove before our cabin door, conversing merrily and enjoying the moon

light night and the breezes, presently we heard a loud report of a gun; we looked towards town and, behold, a balloon was ascending; Miss Mary Cherry came out from Mr. Summer's (who lives at Harbolt's place, just above the Intelligence (newspaper) office) and told us that the balloon exhibition was the work of her brother Joe.

Since you left, our village presents a different appearance. The Indians are all gone; it was melancholy to see the poor creatures leaving the land of their birth and the graves of their fathers. A deep sadness was imprinted on their countenances.

We have the walls of three churches raised in Pontotoc. The Female Academy is completed and school in operation. We have formed a harmonious and flourishing sewing society. I found your advice to be good. I wish I had room to tell you all about it.

We had some deaths, marriages, and removals. Mrs. Murray, has, I expect, informed you that D. Tenville, the brightest star in our social circle, has set to rise no more among us forever. When I beheld his corpse in Col. Lewis parlor, death appeared indeed a cruel tyrant.

I must close the melancholy scene and leave you to imagine the distressing sensation produced in our whole village and vicinity. Mr. Edmundson died last winter. Mr. Parrish is no more. Mrs. Parrish is still deeply disturbed, her husband died last fall. The marriages, Jane and Kenneth (Jane Sanders, and Mr. Campbell), Mr. Ingram to Miss Williams, Dr. Taggart to a lady in Alabama, Mr. C. P. McDowel not to Miss Mary but to Miss McNeal of Tennessee.

The Chickasaw Union (newspaper) has changed its name, and enlarged its sheets. It appears now "Mississippi Intelligence and General Advertiser for the County," edited by Mr. Leland. Oh! my sheet is almost filled and I have scarcely commenced writing what I intended. I must hasten to warn you to beware of the "Excessive admiration"—it is very near akin to love. Don't marry any of those Counts or Barons. Come home. I have a great deal to tell you. Remember you were happy in Mississippi and can be again. Willie D. is the sweetest thing you ever saw. I hope to visit Mrs. Murray soon. Will you not be DeSoto next fall?

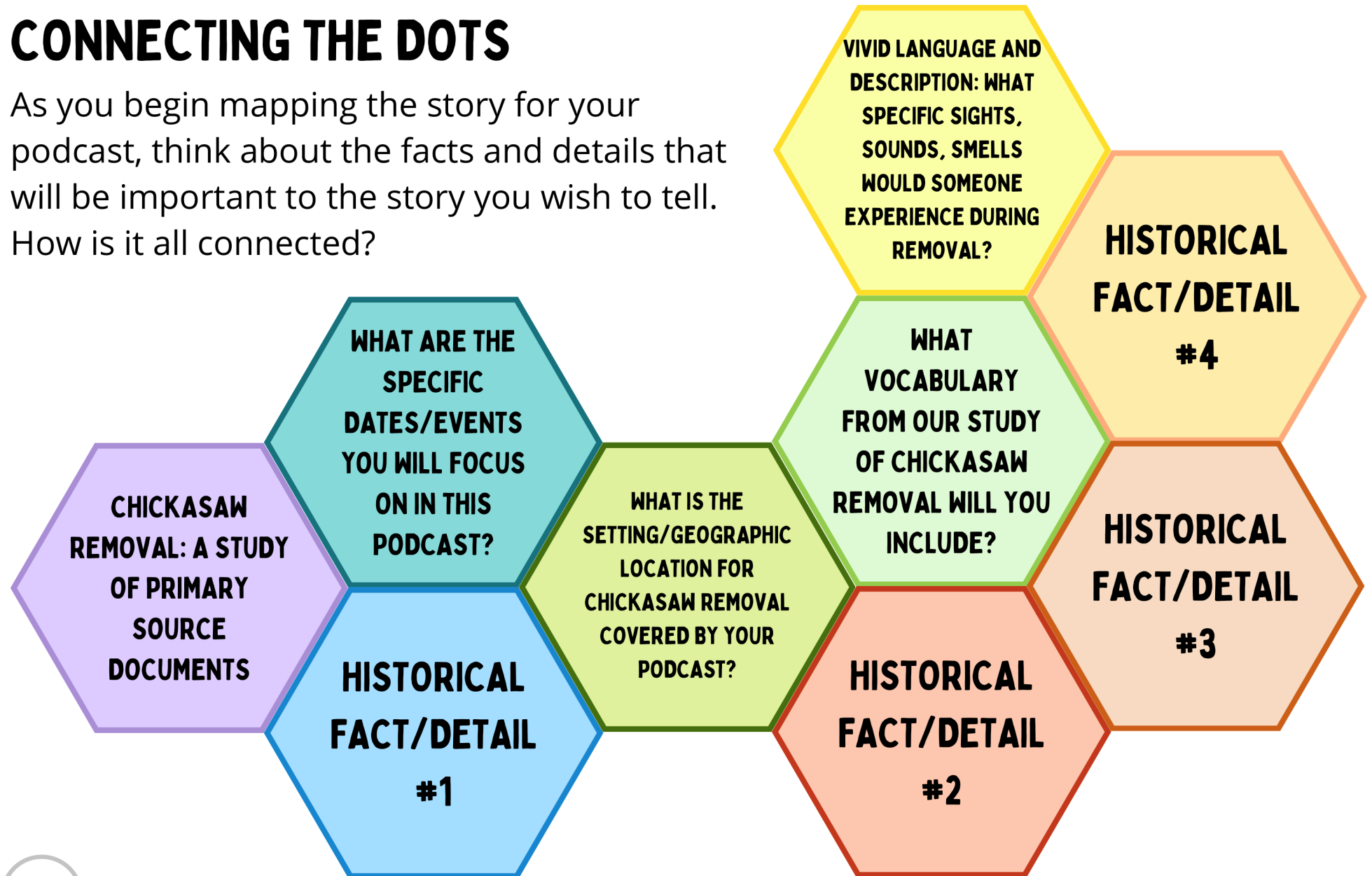
Come home and be blessed with a suitable companion from your native soil. There are many precious jewels to be found here; "perfection" you never will find. You surely might marry and bear with a little imperfection. I have a great message for you, but what shall I do with them? Make haste and come.

—Nancy Fontaine.

# CHICKASAW REMOVAL:

## CONNECTING THE DOTS

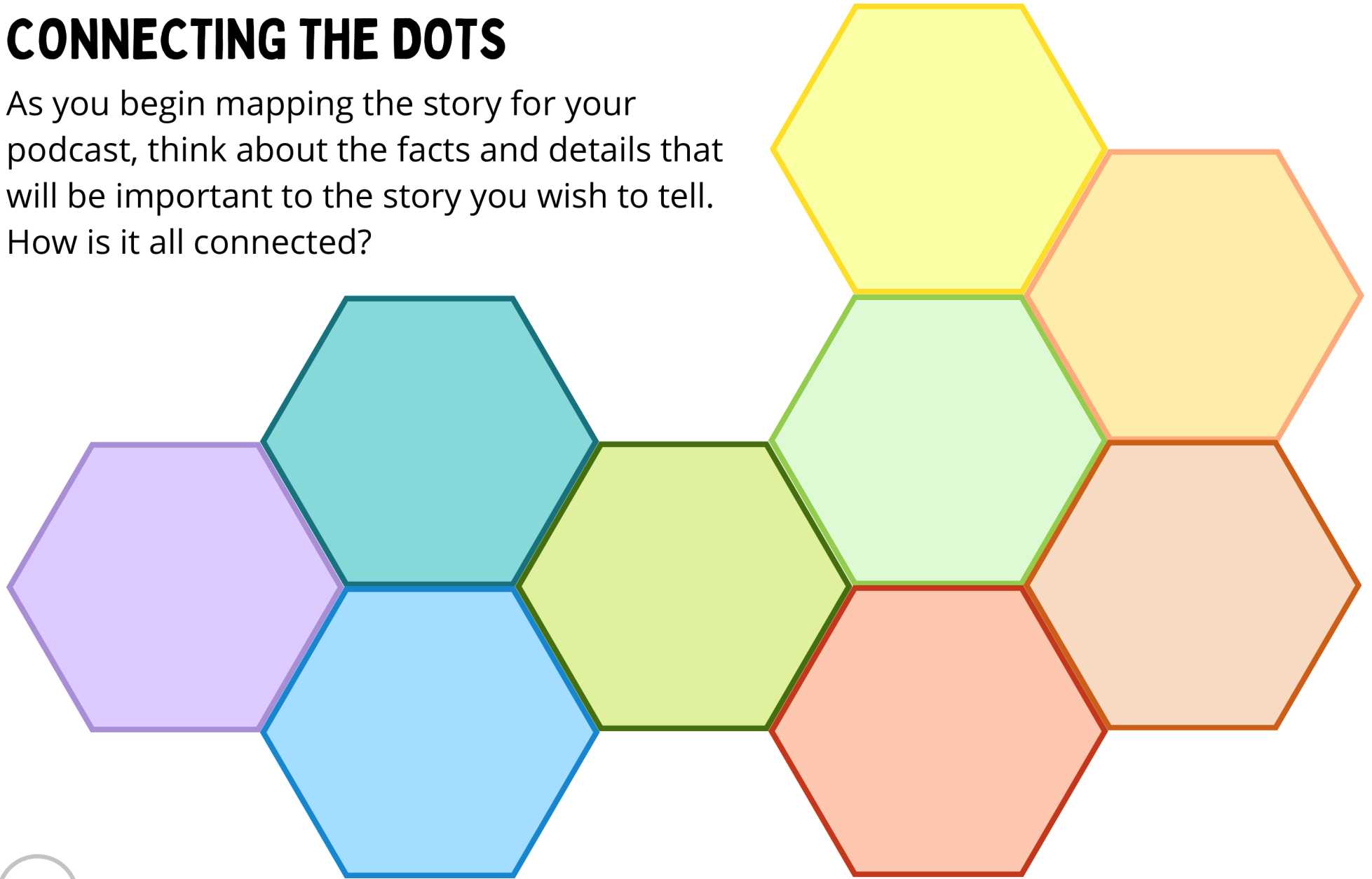
As you begin mapping the story for your podcast, think about the facts and details that will be important to the story you wish to tell. How is it all connected?



# CHICKASAW REMOVAL:

## CONNECTING THE DOTS

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# CHICKASAW REMOVAL:

## TELLING THE STORIES OF HISTORICAL FIGURES

The individuals involved in the Chickasaw Removal, both Chickasaw people and government officials, will be central to your storytelling of this historic event.

Who are the one(s) you will focus on?

What stories need to be told? Your study of these individuals will connect them to history and help bring an event from the past to life through good storytelling.

Use this graphic to identify who is involved in this story. What role did they play as participants in this event? What aspects of their character are essential for listeners to know and understand?



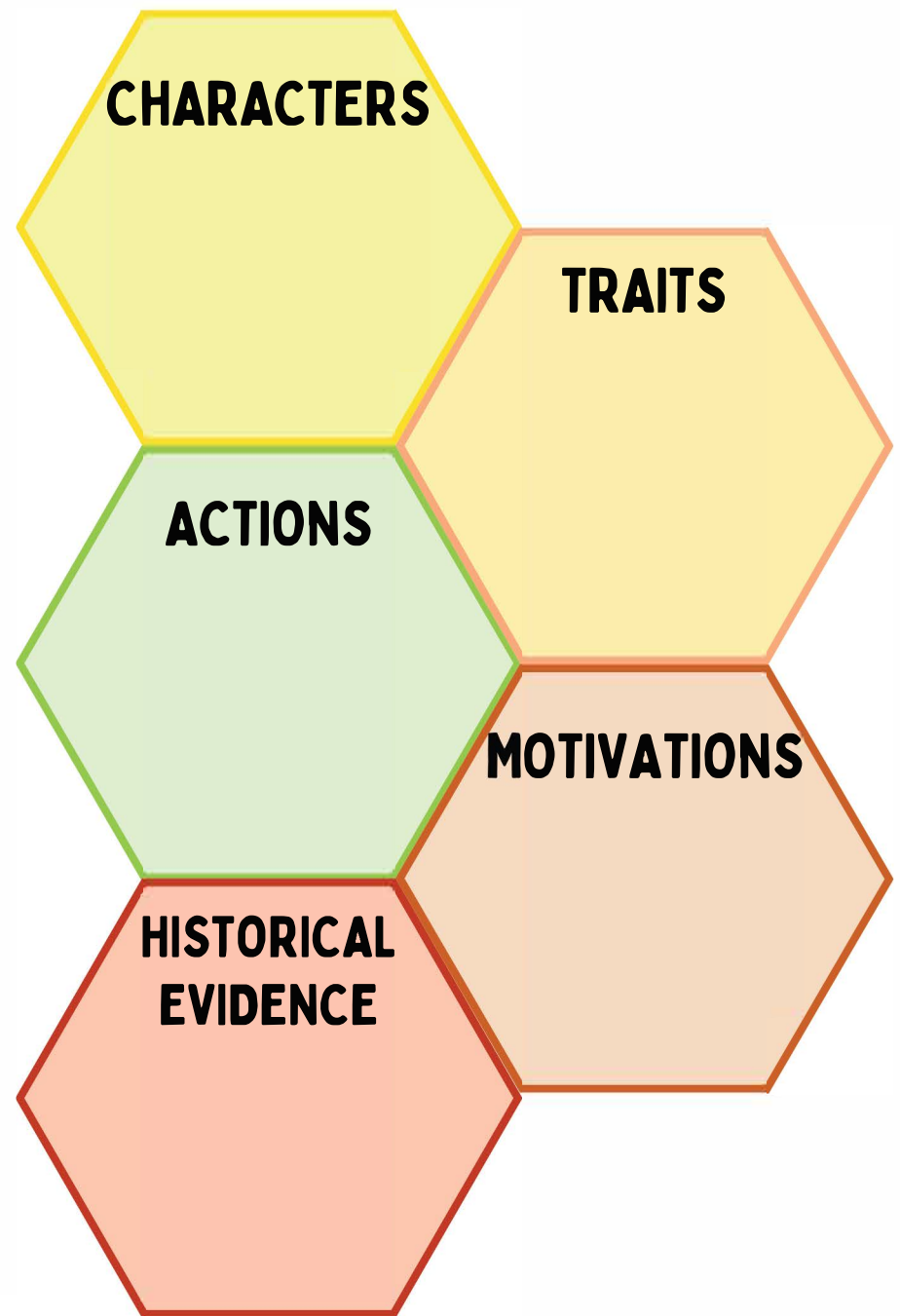
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EXAMPLE

## Ago (a Found Poem)

Respected elder,  
KING,  
the white men called him  
in ceremonies long  
AGO  
he was  
Tushatohoa,  
selected warrior,  
by blood passed down,  
RESPECTED  
in conflict  
embracing leadership  
in a time of enormous change  
MINKO, ELDER, PROPHET LEADER  
of power and influence  
RESPECTED  
by blood passed down  
DESTINED  
to lead  
at the dawn  
of a new century  
KING  
as white men called him  
he was  
Tashka Aalhtoka,  
the selected warrior,  
he became  
Piominko, Mountain Leader  
DESTINED. RESPECTED  
his influence  
ENDURING  
In ceremonies long  
AGO,  
at the dawn of a  
new century,  
a reputation of  
POWER. INFLUENCE  
for Chickasaw people  
who remain  
DESTINED





### EXAMPLE



# TISHOMINKO

## CHICKASAW LEADER



# PAYAMATAHA

## CHICKASAW LEADER





# PIOMINKO

## CHICKASAW LEADER

