

“The Instabilities of Fortune:”

American Expansion Westward by the Conquering
of the Trans-Appalachian Frontier

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The Closing of the Trans-Appalachian Frontier, an Episode of America's Westering Tide:

- Douglas R. Hurt – “The frontier has never been a single place in time and space. Rather, many frontiers have existed simultaneously, and they have changed constantly.”
- The closing revealed the fall of a nativist movement: to set aside white progress and embrace traditional ways.
- Out of this period emerged the idea of the Indian as a “noble savage.”



<https://www.jstor.org/stable/30223047?seq=3>

The War of 1812 and the Creek Indian War of 1813-1814: A War Within a War.

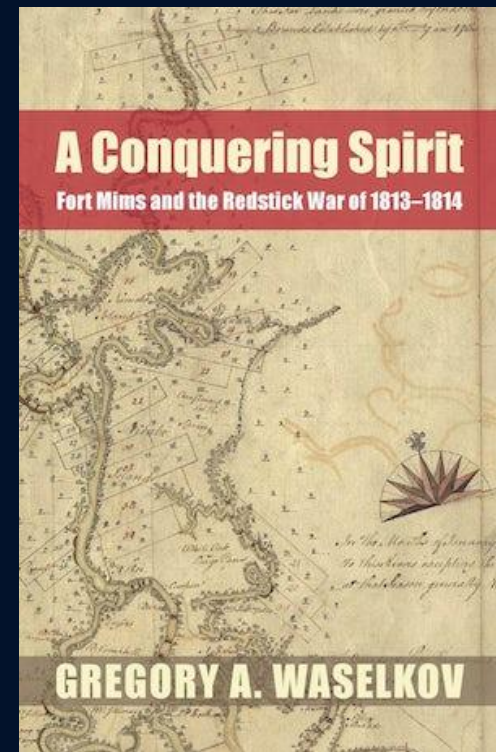
- Is there a connection between the two?
- With the connection in mind, there was the destruction of Tecumseh's vision of a pan-Indian confederacy and of nativism that he spread on the frontier.
- How was the movement broken?: The successive Indian battles and subsequent treaties from both wars marked the end of organized Indian resistance on the frontier.



<http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-4858>

A Brief Historiography:

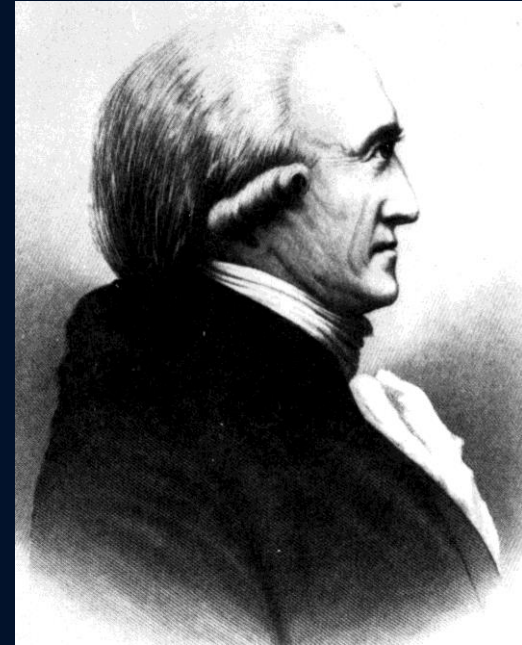
- John Sugden's "The Southern Indians in the War of 1812: The Closing Phase" (1982).
- Gregory A. Waselkov's *A Conquering Spirit: Fort Mims and the Red Stick War of 1813-1814* (2006).
- Any forceful/organized Indian opposition on this frontier no longer existed after March 1814.



<https://www.uapress.ua.edu/9780817355739/a-conquering-spirit/>

Unrest and Decline in the Creek Nation:

- A “plan of civilization.”
- Accommodationist and Nativist (Red Sticks).
- What Tecumseh had sown in October 1811: The Dance of the Lakes and “signs and wonders.”
- White encroachment, a “civilizing” Indian policy, and an enhanced division between factions exacerbated creek society.
- The road to civil and international war: Little Warrior’s execution and the Battle of Fort Mims.



<https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/benjamin-hawkins-1754-1816/>

The Battle of the Thames and the Battle of Horseshoe Bend:

- The crippling of the nativist movement in October 1813.
- The expulsion of the movement from the frontier in March 1814.
- Subsequent treaties (of Fort Jackson and Ghent): collective punishment and long-range expansionism.



<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3b52018/>

Stoic Romanticism and the “Noble Savage.”

- The idea of the tragic Indian made for a compelling, dramatic flair.
- Franz Kottenkamp’s *Die Ersten Amerikaner im Western* (1855).
- Alexander Beaufort Meeks’ *The Red Eagle: A Poem of the South* (1855).



<http://southof64.cdale.biz/the-shawnee-forest/tecumseh-chief-of-the-shawnee/>

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Sugden, John. *Tecumseh: A Life*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1997.