

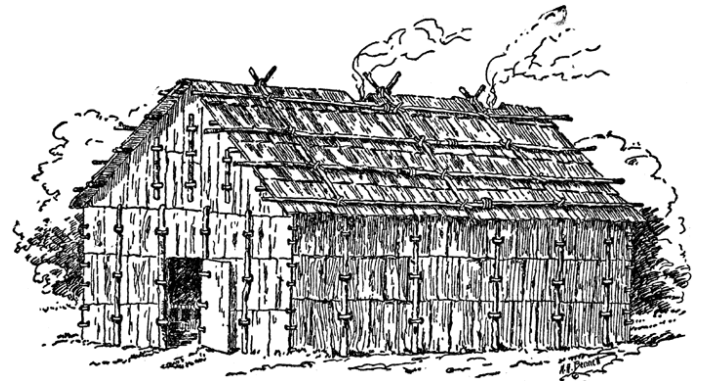
Native Americans

Some Native tribes came to the Ozarks by choice. Others were forced off their homelands by Treaties. **Cherokee**, **Shawnee**, **Delaware**, **Piankashaw**, **Miami** and others lived around Calico Rock at one time or another.



The U.S. Treaty of 1817 established a huge reservation for the **Cherokee Nation** between the White and Arkansas Rivers and Oklahoma.

In 1837, Cherokee left Georgia for Arkansas to escape congestion. They disliked Europeans, but accepted their **iron kettles** and **guns**. They built **log cabins**, farmed and hunted.



The Cherokee invited **Shawnee** from Indiana and Missouri to join them, in part to fend off frequent hunting raids by southern Missouri **Osage**. Early settlers described a large Shawnee village across the river from Calico Rock. The 1827 Treaty moved local Cherokee and Shawnee to Oklahoma.

Trail of Tears

During their voluntary migration from Georgia in 1837, several Cherokee settled in places along the way to Oklahoma. Ray Watts, now deceased, was a descendant of this group. His family stayed around Calico Rock.

According to J.J. Sams, **1,500 Cherokee** camped at Athens during their trip to Indian Territory. These Cherokee made the journey by their own decision. Unfortunately, others would not be given a choice.

In 1838-39, the United States Army drove thousands of Cherokee from Georgia and Alabama to Indian Territory. Many Cherokee lost their lives on the route, aptly named **“Trail of Tears.”**



There were several routes taken. One was the **Benges route** which traveled through Crossroads. A small group went to Batesville to repair wagons. They rejoined the larger group near Iuka.

James Jeffery applied for a United States Post Office at Calico Rock in **1851**. It was approved and opened. It was short lived and closed on **November 18, 1852**.

Even without a Post Office, the mail was delivered. The steamboats brought the mail to Calico Landing where it was distributed or delivered by carrier to homesteads.

***Mail arrived every
Saturday like
clockwork...
unless the river
was too low,
the weather
was poor,
or the carrier
felt bad.***

The Last Decade of Slavery

1850-1860

Before 1850, county population records are scarce. The population was sparse. In 1850, the county population was **3,266**. In 1860, the population had exploded to **7,215**.

In 1850, there were **196 slaves** owned by 45 slave owners in Izard County. Fifty of those slaves lived near Calico Rock.

In 1860, there were **382 slaves** owned by 65 slave owners in the county.



Under Arkansas law, slaves between the ages of 5 and 60 were assessed for property taxes. The assessed value of each slave in 1861 was **\$659**, unrealistically low. The real value of the slaves was closer to \$1,000 each.

While slavery was important, it wasn't critical to the economy in Izard County. This is likely one of the reasons Izard County residents were not pushing for Civil War.

Frontier Settlers 1837-1860

- 1817 Treaty established Cherokee Nation in Arkansas**
- 1827 Cherokee and Shawnee moved to Oklahoma**
- 1837 Voluntary Cherokee migration from Georgia**
- 1838 Trail of Tears**
- 1851 Post Office established**
- 1852 Post Office closed**
- 1857 Bartley Kennedy opens the first store**
- 1861 Arkansas secedes, Civil War begins**