
Greenwood LeFlore, Indian and White

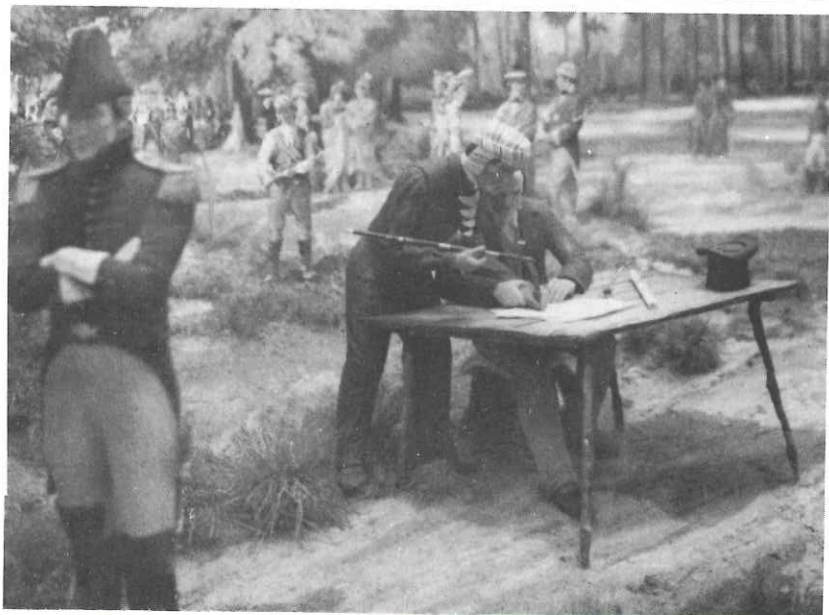
Greenwood LeFlore, son of Louis LeFleur, a French-Canadian trader, and Rebecca Cravat, a French-Choctaw woman, was born in 1800. Shortly after his birth, his father opened a trading post on LeFleur's Bluff, now downtown Jackson.

LeFlore spent his early years at the trading post. When he was twelve, a family friend, Major Donley, took him to Nashville, Tennessee, to go to school. LeFlore stayed six years, fell in love with Donley's daughter, and married her. He returned to Mississippi in 1818 and became a United States citizen.

His influence as a tribal leader began to grow, and he became a leader of the young faction that opposed any more land cessions to the United States. However, he believed that the Choctaw way of life was coming to an end, and in the 1820s he pushed for increased acculturation. He became chief of one of the Choctaw districts, but lost his office in 1830. He then drafted a removal treaty in secret conference with the United States commissioners and persuaded the Choctaws to accept it. However, Andrew Jackson realized that the LeFlore treaty would cost the United States more than \$50,000,000, far more than he wanted to pay. On his advice, the Senate rejected the treaty. Jackson then required the Choctaw leaders to meet at Dancing Rabbit Creek. There he forced on them the final removal treaty. LeFlore succeeded in adding Article Fourteen, which allowed individual Choctaw families to remain in the state, but many Choctaws accused him of selling out his people to the United States.

His accusers based their attacks on the fact that LeFlore received 2,500 acres of Delta land from the commissioners. From this beginning, he became a wealthy planter. He did not go with his people to Oklahoma, but became part of Mississippi white society. He owned 15,000 acres of Mississippi land, 60,000 acres in Texas, more than 400 slaves, a store, a sawmill, and a steamboat.

LeFlore served in the Mississippi Senate from 1840 to 1844. Then he retired to his plantation. In 1861, he firmly opposed secession, remaining loyal to the United States until his death in 1865.



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