Introduction

On May 12, 1814, Tennessee settler Isaac Stephens wrote to his uncle Henry Mackey in Virginia about the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in Alabama. In that battle on March 27, 1814, US Army and Tennessee militia troops under General Andrew Jackson defeated 1000 warriors from the Creek confederation, ending the Creek War of 1812–1814. Stephens reported that "we yesterday recieved intelagence that the Creek War is finally at an End. our troops are now Geting their discharges." With his letter, he included a map illustrating the positions of the Indians and the US forces at Horseshoe Bend. He also anticipated the terms of the treaty:

The Creek propheits have Nearly all Come in and Surrendered themselves Gen¹. Pinknay & Colⁿ. Hawkins are autheriz^d To treat with them which treaty is dictated By congress. they preliminaries are that they Indians are to pay all the Expence of the Campaign and admit publick road through their Country &c

The Treaty of Fort Jackson between the United States and the Creeks was signed in August 1814 and required the Creeks to cede 23 million acres of land to the United States.

Transcript

Isaac Stephens to Henry Mackey, May 12, 1814

Blountville 12th May 1814

Dear Sir

myself and your friends here are well at present I recieved a Letter from my father in march which Inform^d me that three of my brothers were out with the ohio malitia at fort megs. we yesterday recieved intelagence that the Creek War is finally at an End. our troops are now Geting their discharges. The Creek propheits have Nearly all Come in and Surrendered themselves Gen¹. Pinknay & Colⁿ. Hawkins are autheriz^d To treat with them which triaty is dictated By congress. they preliminaries are that they Indians are to pay all the Expence of the Campaign and admit publick road through their Country &c I here anex you a draft of the Battle of the horse Shoe which was fought on the 27th March by the Tennessee malitia & 39 Reg^t of Regulars and the Creek Indians when The Indians were finally Defeated by the unequaled Bravery of the Tennessee malitia Commanded By Maj: Gen¹. Jackson. I wish you woud wright to me I not heard from you since I saw you I am your affectionate Nephew

Isaac Stephens

Questions for Discussion

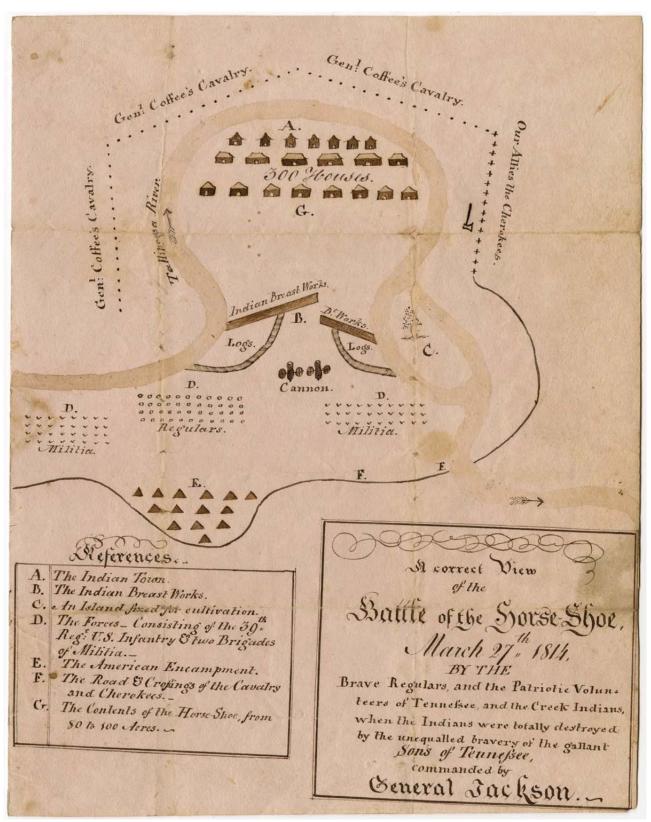
Read the introduction, study the transcript of the letter, and examine the images of the original letter and map. Then apply your knowledge of American history to answer the following questions:

- 1. Using the information from the letter and map, briefly describe the events at Horseshoe Bend.
- 2. What was the outcome of the battle, and how did it affect the Creeks?
- 3. Who led the US troops? How did his participation in this battle serve as a stepping stone for his future political career?
- 4. To what extent did Horseshoe Bend indicate the continuation of conflict between whites and American Indians? Please refer to the map and cite passages from the letter to support your response.

Images

Blountville 12th May 1814	-
Mountage He I way 1014	
fito universe 1 - 0 - 1	
Dear ofin	
Lear Offin	
	-
supelf and your friend, here are well at preases	u
green from green of none	
	1 .
I received a Letter from my father in mank wh	un
of where a south	
Informed me that, three of my brothers were out	
Informe me that, Three of my office	
with the ohio malities at fort megs, we	
1 Distriction	4
Genterday received intelagence. That the Green	10
War is finally at an End. our troops and now	
more or generally at any cono. Our marger are the	
0 - 18 - 1 - 1 0 1 1 1 1 1	5
Geting their dis larges The breek propheits have	18.82
Sen ey all Com Vin and Surrendered Themselves	
Nearly all bom you was our	0-
Gen! Tinkney to boln Hawkins and authing	-
to elle on the streng and authority	7
yew Linkney to both Hum	
	_>
To treat with them which breaky is dictated	* F. S.
1	
By congress they prelimen as es one that they	1
By congress they preliminaries and that they	/
Indian on to hay all the capene of the	The same
Indians and to pay all the Expence of the	
Campaign and admit publick road through	
I for me wime public road	
H 14 100 -11	-
There country & There aren you a draft	
If the Baitle of the horse show which was fan	-1.
- The Salle of the wise shoe which was can	gut
an anti-	20
on the 27th hand by the Tennessee matition to	39
orace for a first	
Heat of beautions and the breek Indians when	
July of Cogar of the	01101
Reg t of Regulars and the breek Indians when the Indians were finally Defeated by the une for Bravery of the Tenneper malitio bom many	7
of Indians were generally	0
e the a lite from many	eo
· () Bravery of the Lenneger macino	-
	-
	no
By anil of Sanking I wish you wo	
By hay Gen Jackson - Just you	18 18 18
By hay Gen Jackson - Just you	_
By hay Gen Jackson - Just you	-
loging to to mo I not heard from you sim	
loging to to mo I not heard from you sim	
loging to to mo I not heard from you sim	
wight to me I not heard from you sim	hen
wight to me I not heard from you sim	hen
wight to me I not heard from you sim	hen
wight to me I not heard from you sim	hen
loging to to mo I not heard from you sim	hen

Isaac Stephens to Henry Mackey, May 12, 1814 (Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC06772)



"A Correct View of the Battle of the Horse-Shoe, March 27th, 1814" (Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC06772)