

# *Historic Fort Mitchell, Alabama*

*Fort Mitchell Historic Site is a park and an archaeological site in Fort Mitchell, Alabama, that was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1990.*

*561 Hwy 165*

*Ft. Mitchell, AL 36856*



*Fort Mitchell Visitors Center*



*Lobby*



*Lobby*



*Fort Mitchell Visitors Center Auditorium*



*A Walk In Time*



*A Walk In Time*



*A Walk In Time*





*A Walk In Time*



*A Walk In Time*



*The Crowell-Whitaker Cabin*



*Historic Fort Mitchell*



*The Trading Post*



*Inside the Trading Post*



*Inside the Trading Post*



*Replica of Historic Fort Mitchell*





## JAMES CANTEY

NEAR HERE WAS THE HOME OF CONFEDERATE BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CANTEY WHO ARRIVED IN 1849 TO OPERATE A PLANTATION OWNED BY HIS FATHER. PRIOR TO COMING TO RUSSELL COUNTY HE HAD PRACTICED LAW AT HIS BIRTHPLACE, CAMDEN, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND HAD REPRESENTED HIS DISTRICT IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE THERE FOR TWO TERMS. CANTEY FOUGHT IN THE MEXICAN WAR AND RECEIVED NEAR MORTAL WOUNDS. HE WAS LEFT AMONG THE DEAD BUT WAS RESCUED BY HIS BODY SERVANT WHOSE PLANS WERE TO BEAR HIM HOME FOR BURIAL. THE SLAVE'S DETECTION OF A FAINT SIGN OF LIFE CAUSED HEROIC ACTION THAT REVIVED HIS MASTER. FOR THIS DEED THE SERVANT WAS OFFERED HIS FREEDOM WHICH WAS REFUSED.

ERECTED BY THE HISTORIC CHATTAHOOCHEE COMMISSION  
AND THE RUSSELL COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
1980



## JAMES CANTEY

GENERAL CANTEY WAS MARRIED IN 1858 AT FORT MITCHELL TO MARY ELIZABETH BENTON, NIECE OF COLONEL JOHN CROWELL, ALABAMA'S FIRST CONGRESSMAN. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES HE ORGANIZED "CANTEY'S RIFLES" IN WHAT WAS THEN THE 15TH ALABAMA REGIMENT. HE SERVED THROUGHOUT THE WAR AND SURRENDERED WITH JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON AT DURHAM STATION, NORTH CAROLINA, APRIL 26, 1865. THE FIRST CHAPTER OF THE UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY IN RUSSELL COUNTY, ORGANIZED AT SEALE, WAS NAMED IN HIS HONOR. GENERAL CANTEY WAS BORN DECEMBER 30, 1818, AND DIED JUNE 30, 1874. HE IS INTERRED IN A FAMILY CEMETERY AT FORT MITCHELL.

ERECTED BY THE HISTORIC CHATTAHOOCHEE COMMISSION  
AND THE RUSSELL COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
1980



*Family Cemetery at Fort Mitchell*



*Family Cemetery at Fort Mitchell*



*The Carriage House*



*One of many Historic Carriages*



*Tavern and Gift Shop*



## THE CREEK TRAIL OF TEARS

Approximately one mile due east of this marker, back down the Old Federal Road, called by frontiersmen and Indians the Three Notched Trail or the Three Chopped Way, stood Fort Mitchell, an early 19th century American fort that in 1836 was one of the principal gathering places for the forced removal of the Creek Indians from their homes on the Chattahoochee River to the West. Weakened by starvation, defrauded of their lands and swindled out of most of their possessions, thousands of Creeks, including some in chains and shackles, made the forced journey from Alabama to what is now Oklahoma, where many of their descendants now live. Alabama also remains the home of many Creek Indians today.

ERECTED BY  
THE ALABAMA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
AND THE CHATTAHOOCHEE INDIAN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION  
1986





## THE CHATTAHOOCHEE INDIAN HERITAGE CENTER

The Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center honors the legacy of the Creek Indians and all Native Americans of the lower Chattahoochee Valley. It was created by the Historic Chattahoochee Commission in collaboration with the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Association and several local, state, and federal partners. The site is located at Fort Mitchell because it was a major assembly area for Creeks prior to their removal to the West. The center features a large sculpture symbolic of the Sacred Fire that sat at the heart of every Creek town and several other interpretive elements.

ERECTED BY THE HISTORIC CHATTAHOOCHEE COMMISSION  
HISTORIC COLUMBUS FOUNDATION  
AND THE ILLGES FOUNDATION  
2016



*Walking Trail to the Sacred Fire Sculpture*



*Walking Trail to Fire Sculpture and the Creek Nation Gathering Place*



*The Creek Nation Gathering Place – Scared fire Sculpture*



*Sacred Fire Sculpture*



## THE CREEK NATION

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The Creek Nation was a loose confederacy of independent towns that ranks among the most sophisticated and powerful native political organizations in North American history. Largely speakers of the Muskogee dialect, the Creeks coalesced from remnants of prehistoric societies and thrived for centuries. At its height, the Nation consisted of about 22,000 people living in over seventy towns scattered throughout Alabama and Georgia. The Creek Nation was roughly organized into Upper and Lower districts. Many of the most important Lower Creek towns lay along the Chattahoochee.

ERECTED BY THE HISTORIC CHATTAHOOCHEE COMMISSION  
HISTORIC COLUMBUS FOUNDATION  
AND THE ILLCES FOUNDATION  
2016

## THE CENSUS OF 1832

In 1832, a treaty with the United States allotted parcels of land to every Indian household in the Valley. A government census enumerated, according to tribal towns, every Indian head of household, along with the number of males, females, and slaves of each family. However, only four years later, the Indians were forced to leave their homes and moved their sacred fires west of the Mississippi River. Their names, as recorded by the census taker, are listed here. After the census was completed, the Head Chiefs of the lower Creeks claimed that the names of some Indians "...were not put down" because they were away hunting.

*The Creek Indian Census of 1832*



*The Creek Indian Census of 1832*





## INDIAN BALL GROUND

The most popular game among the Indians of this region was "stick ball." This field has been constructed so that the game may be enjoyed again in the Chattahoochee Valley where it was played for hundreds of years. Sometimes known as "little brother to war," the game was played with an intensity second only to war. Hand crafted sticks with small loops on the end were used to catch and throw a small deer skin ball often filled with squirrel fur to make it "lively." One of the last games played here in the valley was viewed by General Lafayette when he visited Fort Mitchell in 1825.

CREATED BY  
THE HISTORIC CHATTAHOOCHEE COMMISSION  
AND THE CHATTAHOOCHEE INDIAN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION  
1996