

## Source #1: Twelve Missionaries

On December 29, 1830, a group of twelve missionaries who were working and living among the Cherokees drew up the following statement:

### Part A: Describe the advance or growth of the Cherokees in becoming civilized...

The Cherokee people have been advancing in civilization for a considerable number of years, and are still advancing as rapidly, we believe, as ever. Our various opportunities of acquaintance with them have been such, that we suppose our united estimate of their progress cannot vary widely from the truth...

When we say that the Cherokees are rapidly advancing in civilization, we speak of them as a body. There are very different degrees of improvement; some families having risen to a level with the white people of the United States, while the progress of others has but commenced [just begun]. Between the extremes are all grades, but we do not believe there is a family in the nation, which has not in a measure felt the change...

### Part B: Describe how the Cherokees used to be...

It is well known that the Cherokees were originally found by the Europeans in a purely savage state, naked almost in summer, and clothed with skins in winter, living in miserable huts, without floors or chimneys, and subsisting (living), partly indeed by agriculture, but mainly, by the chase (hunting). Without implements of iron, and without the art of manufacturing cloth, it could not be far otherwise. To this purely savage state the present certainly bears a far less resemblance, than to that of the civilized people of the United States...

At present many of the Cherokees are dressed as well as the whites around them, and of most of them the manner of dress is substantially the same....

### Part C: The Cherokees have learned to be farmers. Give some examples...

Twenty years ago most of the Cherokee children, of both sexes, were entirely naked during most of the year. Now there are few, if any families, where the children are not habitually clothed; and especially a Cherokee girl without decent clothing is an object very seldom seen. If the present course continues, when those who are not in the decline of life shall have passed away, the dress of the Cherokees will scarcely distinguish them from their white neighbors...

Thirty years ago a plough was scarcely seen in the nation...Six years ago the number of ploughs, as enumerated, was 2,923. Among us all, we scarcely know a field which is not cultivated without ploughing...Most families provide, in the produce of their fields, for the supply of their own wants....

### Part D: Describe the homes of Cherokees and their education...

The dwellings of the mass of the Cherokees are comfortable log cabins...Formerly their huts had neither floors nor chimneys. Twenty years since nearly all had chimneys, but few had floors. Now most of the cabins are floored...Many of houses in the nation are decent two-story buildings, and some are elegant...

In education we do not know that the progress of the Cherokees should be called rapid...however...We have before us the names of 200 Cherokee men and youths who are believed to have obtained an English education sufficient for the transaction of ordinary business...

Taken from The Missionary Herald, March 1831, XXVII, 80-84

Resource: Selected Case Studies in American History, Vol. 1, by Gardner-Beery-Olson