**Remembering Red Bird and Sequoyah: A Reply to Simek et al.**

**Supplemental Table 3**

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Supplemental Table 3. Biographies of Sequoyah Written during His Lifetime Documenting the Invention of the Cherokee Syllabary.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Source** | **Text** | **Reference** |
| Excerpt from “Invention of the Cherokee Alphabet,” *Cherokee Phoenix*  August 13, 1828 | Mr. Guess is in appearance and habits, a full Cherokee, though his grandfather on his father’s side was a white man…picking up a flat stone, he commenced scratching on it with a pin; and after a few minutes read to them a sentence, which he had written by making a mark for each word…He at first thought of no way, but to make a character for each word. He pursued this plan for about a year, in which time he had made several thousand characters, he was then convinced that the object was not attainable in that way…he at length conceived the idea of dividing the words into parts…the same characters would apply, in different words, and the number of characters would he comparatively few…he made some use of the English letters, as he found them in a spelling book, which he had in his possession. | C. 1828:2 |
| Excerpt from the “Invention of Indian Letters,” from Knapp's Lectures on-American literature,  *Niles Register* September 5, 1829 | I will state what I know of it, from the lips of the inventor himself. “In the winter of 1828, a delegation of the Cherokees visited the city of Washington, in order to make a treaty with the United States, and among them was See-qua-yah, the inventor of the Cherokee alphabet. His English name was George Guess, he was a half-blood, but had never, from his own account, spoken a single word of English up to the time of his invention, nor since…that he, (See-quah-yah), was now about sixty-five years old…The thought struck him to try to ascertain all the sounds in the Cherokee language…he attempted to use pictorial signs, images of birds and beasts, to convey these sounds to others or to mark them in his own mind…He soon dropped this method, as difficult or impossible, and tried arbitrary signs, without any regard to appearances, except such as might assist him, a recollecting them, and distinguishing them from each other. At first these signs were very numerous; and when he got so far as to think his invention was nearly accomplished, he had about two hundred characters in his alphabet…he reduced them at last, to eighty-six, the number he now uses. He then set to work to make these characters more-comely to the eye, and succeeded—as yet he had not the knowledge of the pen as an instrument; but made his characters on a piece of bark,  with a knife or nail… | Knapp 1829:27-28 |
| Excerpt from the “Cherokee Alphabet” in the *Missionary Herald Volume 24, Number 5* | …the syllabic alphabet, which had been invented by George Guess…The original number of characters was 86, the present number is 85… | Worcester, 1828:162-163 |
| Excerpt from the Payne manuscripts *Old Frontiers* | Gist was the father of Sequoyah, the inventor of the Cherokee alphabet…Sequoyah was engraving letters into silver as early as 1799. | Brown 1938:478-479; Payne 1841 |
| Excerpt from *The Cherokee Syllabary: Writing the People’s Perserverance* | When Sequoyah was developing his syllabary during the first decade of the nineteenth century, he was often seen “making odd little marks, sometimes on rocks.” These marks might have “reminded Cherokee of ancient petroglyphs and perhaps would not have seemed aimless to them. Cherokee had carved pictographs into rocks for thousands of years.” The finalized Cherokee syllabary was first presented to the Cherokee Nation in 1821 by Sequoyah and his daughter…Samuel Worcester, a white Christian missionary, cast the Cherokee syllabary type for the first edition of the *Cherokee Phoenix* published on February 21, 1828. *Despite the fact Worcester’s type face was subsequently adopted as the standard for the Cherokee syllabary, it differed from Sequoyah’s original symbols and their arrangement* (italicized words are our emphasis)**.** | Cushman 2011:32-45 |

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