

**TSALAGIYI NVDAGI ANILASDALA' – TEXAS CHEROKEE TRIBE:
Co-operation of Outreach & Solidarity with AICS;
AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY
HISTORICAL OVERVIEW – SALUTATION**

BATTLE OF THE NECHES MEMORIAL SITE - VAN ZANDT, COUNTY: TEXAS



At a time when many people in U.S. society thought Native Americans were savages, General Sam Houston lived with the Cherokee Indians twice in his lifetime; once as a runaway teen and secondly as a resigned and tired politician and Governor of the state of Tennessee. That kindred spirit connection and empathy led to Houston becoming a strong advocate for Native Americans and their rights in the early half of the 1800's. A preserved document in the Sam Houston Memorial Museum's collection from 1829 formally certified Houston as a citizen into the Cherokee Nation at that time with all rights and privileges.

Chief Bowles, the Ugu' or principal chief of the Cherokees in Texas, was born in North Carolina around 1756. Between 1810 and 1819, Chief Bowles and his people immigrated, traveled across the Southern United States until they settled across the Red River into Spanish Texas just north of Nacogdoches. In Texas, Chief Bowles became the primary "civil" chief or "peace chief" of a council that united several Cherokee villages and 12 Other American Indian tribes that had immigrated with him, or that were already settled within the boundaries of Tejas'. In 1822, Bowles began negotiations with the Mexican government for a land grant or land title for the Cherokees in East Texas. He cooperated with the Mexican government in putting down the Fredonian Rebellion, but still did not receive a land grant. In 1833 he made another attempt to secure from the Mexican government land on the Angelina, Neches, and Trinity rivers, but negotiations were interrupted by political unrest in Texas. Finally, in 1836 Chief Bowles and Sam Houston negotiated a treaty guaranteeing the tribe possession of lands occupied in East Texas. However, after the Texas Revolution against Generalissimo Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna; the senate of the Republic of Texas invalidated and refused to validate the treaty between Bowles and Houston.