

more and more land. Having fought along side them, McIntosh felt strongly that the Creeks should sell their land and take the money and land promised in the west. It was to this end that he signed the Treaty of 1825 at the Indian Spring Hotel. Unfortunately, McIntosh was unable to convince the leaders of the Upper Creek villages or the Cherokee at New Echota. He wrote to his cousin, Governor Troup asking for support, but the promised troops never arrived. While the Treaty was being signed on the bar, leaders of the Upper Creek villages stood outside the hotel and swore revenge on McIntosh.

McIntosh was traced to his home, Acorn Bluff, in Carroll County where he was found and killed. His slaves were run off, his crops burned, and his cattle slaughtered. His plantation was burned. McIntosh fought valiantly but was mortally wounded and driven by fire from his home. After falling, McIntosh was scalped. His wife, Susanna threw herself over his body and protected it from 3 days until troops arrived and buried McIntosh on the spot.

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### The Butts County Historical Society

The major function of The Butts County Historical Society is to discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area: its exploration, settlement, development, and activities in peace and in war; its progress in population, wealth, education, arts, science, agriculture, manufacturing, trade and transportation. It will collect printed material such as histories, genealogies, biographies, descriptions, gazetteers, directories, newspapers, pamphlets, catalogs, circulars, handbills, programs and posters, manuscript material such as letters, diaries, journals, memoranda, reminiscences, rosters, service records, account books, charts, surveys, paintings, portraits, aboriginal relics and material objects illustrative of life, conditions, events, and activities of the past and the present.

For information or if you are interested in membership, special events, or how you can help, please contact us at 770-775-2493 or e-mail to [buttscountyhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:buttscountyhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com)

For inquires, membership, and donations, our address follows:  
Butts County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 215  
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*Illustrations for this brochure were drawn by John Kollock.*



## The Indian Springs Hotel

(Also known as the Varner House and the McIntosh House)

The Indian Spring Hotel was built in 1823 as an Inn by Chief William McIntosh and his cousin, Joel Bailey, who also operated it. In 1825, a two-story addition was built. The addition included the Tavern known as the Treaty Room and a large ballroom above it.

The hotel is unique and extremely significant to the history of the State of Georgia. It is the only known ante-bellum mineral springs hotel in Georgia still standing. It's history yields much data on the culture, society, and architecture of Georgia throughout the 19th century. The Federal style architecture, hand-planed wide boards, wooden pegs, and handmade bricks clearly indicate an early 19th century construction date. The foundation was made of native stone. The alcove in the wall, where the treaty was signed remains intact.

Indians had been coming to the Spring for many decades prior to 1800. They believed in the medical qualities of the water. No permanent structures were built near the waters due to the fear that crying children and talking women would scare the "healing spirits" away from the waters. However, William McIntosh built a cabin here in 1800.

In 1838, the Indian Spring Hotel was the only public house at the Spring. It appears to have been a reasonable successful es-

establishment that would have compared favorably with any other in the state. The Inn was gaining a reputation as Georgia's finest. While the momentous events at the Indian Spring Hotel in 1825, and the aftermath of the treaty would certainly be the most outstanding single historical event in the history of the hotel, the decades from 1840 to 1860 proved to be the heyday of the hotel.

There is no doubt that by the 1840's, the Indian Spring Hotel, with its resort style architecture, wrap around porches, ballroom, bar, billiard room, and other amenities, had taken on the appearance of a "Springs" resort much like those found in Virginia and New York.

Edward Varner of Putnam County, brought the house in 1850. This family owned the hotel the longest, until 1953, for a total of 103 years. Their daughters, Misses Amanda and Josephine Varner inherited the hotel upon the death of both their parents. Miss Joe was very politically active and entertained many important people at the hotel.

By 1900, the Indian Spring Hotel had ended its hotel career. The old hotel had given Indian Springs the impetus for its early development. It was Indian Springs first hotel and for many years its finest. It has a history unequalled by any other hotel in the state.

On July 1, 1911, the McIntosh Rock was marked with a bronze tablet unveiled by the Piedmont Continental Chapter, D.A.R., of Atlanta. Judge Joseph Henry Lumpkin, of Atlanta, delivered the principal address on that occasion. Mrs. John M. Graham, then State Regent, Mrs. W. H. Yandle, and Col. Ogden Persons also addressed the crowd. The flag near the McIntosh Rock was the gift of the people of Butts County.

In 1953, the hotel was sold to J.H. Elliott, an antique dealer, who operated it as a museum. In 1974, Mr. Elliott sold the hotel to the State of Georgia. The state had planned to restore the hotel, but gave up the idea when they estimated it would take \$300,000 to get the hotel back in shape. In 1982, the state deeded the property to Butts County and the county leases it to the Butts County Historical Society for \$1.00 per year.

The Society began its restoration work in 1985 and the work continues today with the help of many grants and donations to the 1823-1833 time period when the stage coaches were in operation. Their passengers stopped for meals and perhaps to spend the night at the hotel. Your tax deductible donations are essential for the continued restoration.

*Source: History of Butts County, Georgia, Compiled by Lois McMichael*



### **Chief William McIntosh** (ca 1775 - May 31, 1825)

William McIntosh, son of Captain William McIntosh and Senoia Henneha of the Coweta-Cussetta Towns of the Lower Creeks. Born about 1775 near Wetumpka (now Alabama), McIntosh was raised by his mother's brothers who taught him the life skills necessary to survive in the wilderness on his own.

McIntosh also spent much time with his father and stepmother in the Savannah area. It was here that he learned to read, write, and speak English. He learned his business skills from his father as well. Feeling comfortable with both his mother's people and his father's people helped McIntosh to gain the confidence necessary to become a leader.

His mother was of the Wind Clan, the clan from which leaders are usually chosen. McIntosh became a Micco or king of the Lower Creek villages. That is he was elected orator or chief spokesman for these loosely aligned villages.

White's Historical Collections of Georgia, an early Georgia history, described McIntosh as intelligent and brave, in person he was tall, finely formed and of graceful and commanding manners. His first cousin was George Troup who served as Governor of Georgia.

McIntosh's military rank was earned by fighting with American forces under the command of Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812. He fought well at the battles of Autossee, the Battle of Horse Shoe, and in the Florida campaign. His rank was Brigadier General.

An astute businessman, McIntosh amassed considerable wealth. His plantation in Carroll County was the home of 72 slaves, many head of cattle and sheep as well as much land under cultivation. McIntosh was married three times; Eliza Grierson, a person of mixed blood, Susanna Roe, a Creek, and Peggy, a Cherokee. Each lived in her own home on a nearby plantation.

By 1821, when the first of the treaties for land in Georgia were being signed, McIntosh was aware that the Americans were going to acquire