

Digitally Narrated

Strike of the
Water Moccasin

APRIL W GARDNER

Strike of the Water Moccasin

Drawn by the Frost Moon

Book Four

AUDIOBOOK COMPANION DOCUMENT

April W Gardner



Strike of the Water Moccasin

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Scripture quotations taken from the King James Version.

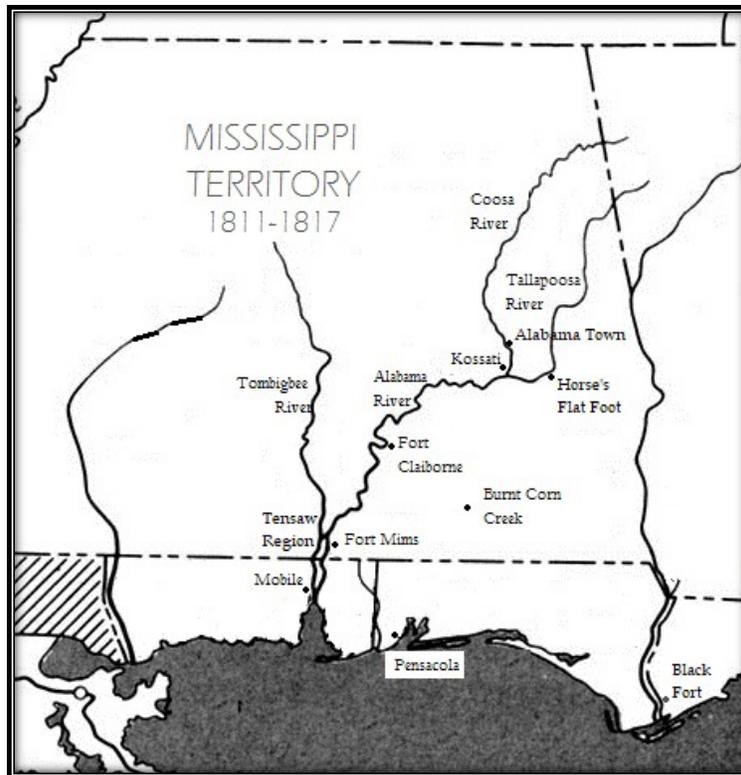
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ISBN-13: 978-1-945831-22-5

Published by Big Spring Press

San Antonio, Texas

Printed in the United States of America.



Glossary

A'ho: commonly used Native American term that roughly means “may it be so” or “blessed be.”

Assee: holly (yaupon) leaf tea popular among Southeastern tribes (Muskogee language). It was used recreationally, as their version of black tea or coffee, as well as ceremonially. Also called “black drink” by settlers for its dark color, or “white drink” by the Creeks for its purgative qualities when combined with other herbs for ceremonies.

Bluecoat: suletawa in the United States Army. So named because of their blue wool coatees. For this era, my creation.

Breechcloth: a long rectangular piece of animal hide or cloth that was brought up between the legs and under a belt at the waist. The ends hung like a flap over the belt in front and behind. Worn as outerwear by men and sometimes as underwear by women.

Couch: used for sitting and sleeping. Couches were arranged along the wall, raised two-three feet off the ground, made of saplings and cane, and covered with split-cane mats and animal skins.

Defiance: the group of Red Stick who would not sign Andrew Jackson's treaty at the end of the Creek War but fled to the Floridas for refuge. My creation.

Ehi: yes (Muskogee language, pronounced eh-hee)

Frost Moon Dance: a dance led by four hunters who offer portions of a hunt to the sacred fire in order to bless the upcoming hunting season.

Horse's Flat Foot: the Muscogee's term for the Battle of Horseshoe Bend (Jan. 8, 1815)

Maddo: thank you (Muskogee language, pronounced mah-doh).

Matchcoat: an outer garment consisting of a length of stroud, worn wrapped around the upper body.

Micco: chief (Muskogee language, pronounced mee-koh). There were many levels of micco in both civil and military roles.

Miccohokti: female chief (Muskogee language, pronounced mee-koh-hoke-tee).

Muscogees: an indigenous people who once dominated the Southeast. They occupied land from the Atlantic coast to central Alabama and were the founders of the Creek Confederacy. Also known as the Creeks.

Muskogee: language spoken by the Creeks and Seminoles.

Old Sharp Knife: the name given to Andrew Jackson by the Muscogees of his day.

Pawa: maternal uncle (Muskogee language, pronounced pah-wah). A pawa oversaw the discipline and training of his sisters' sons. See elder brother. (Muskogee language.)

Red Sticks: 1. one of two social labels available to Creek men (Red Sticks/White Sticks). Red Sticks were known for courage, strength, alertness, physical skills. They held leadership roles in warfare, security, and law enforcement. So called because of the red war club, the symbol of war. **2.** During the Creek War, the term "Red Stick" took on new meaning for the white settlers. For the duration of the war, a Red Stick was a Creek warrior who opposed the Americans; however, many warriors of the White persuasion shared their views and fought alongside them.

Roach: a stiff crest of hair running down the middle of the head. Also called a Mohawk.

Sight, a: as far as one could see. Rough equivalent to our mile.

Sleeps: the marking of days or the passage of time. One sleep equals one day.

Sofkee: a thin gruel made of cornmeal or rice. Cooked with wood-ash lye and often eaten after being left to sour.

Tafia: a cheap trade rum, the primary liquor consumed by the Southeastern Indians of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Talwa: a Creek community (Muskogee language, pronounced tahl-wah)

This World: the middle world of the Indian three-world cosmos. The place Indians lived.

Warriors' House: the communal lodge where warriors met for council, purification, and to plot warfare.

Water Spirit: female; one of the four law-giving elements. Takes the form of rivers, lakes, rain, mist, streams, and the ocean.

West, Sacred: one of four sacred cardinal directions; associated with the Moon Spirit, souls of the dead, and death.

Wind Spirit: male; one of the four law-giving elements. Also called Master of Breath.

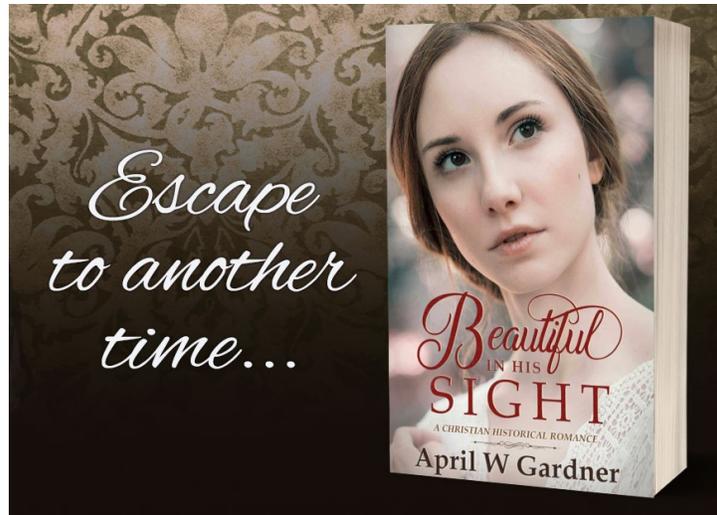
Winters: the span of a year. My creation. The Creek year began in late summer at the Green Corn Festival.

Yatika: speaker, orator (Muskogee language, pronounced yah-tee-kah). Every talwa had a yatika who was well-versed in the nuances of the many Muskogean dialects. Typically, a micco did not make public speeches. This job fell to the yatika who knew the micco's mind and used his oratory talents to convey the micco's (and the council's) wishes.

I hope you enjoyed Birdie and Water Moccasin's story!

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**Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1917
World War I
Jack is her freedom. Silas, her salvation.
God? He's the building that buries her.**

About the Author



APRIL W GARDNER is an award-winning indie author. Her great passion is historical romance with themes of Native American and Southeastern U.S. culture. Copyeditor, mother of two grown children, and non-trad college students, she lives in South Texas. In no particular order, April dreams of owning a horse, learning a third language, and visiting all the national parks.

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