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*Sequoia*

*Cupressaceae*

[*Taxodiaceae*]

*Sequoia* commemorates George Guess or Gist (c.1770-1843) also known as Sequoyah, Sequoia or Sequoiah, who was an American half Cherokee Indian scholar (his mother was a Cherokee Indian and his father was said to be a British merchant). Sequoia is Cherokee for 'opossum' and was also the Cherokee nickname for a half-breed. George Guess was brought up as a Cherokee and was not familiar with the English language during his childhood. Yet by 1821 (some authorities say 1826) he had developed a Cherokee syllabary and within a relatively short period from then half the tribe became literate. Then in 1838 the United States army evicted the Cherokees from their territory and authorities ponder on the likelihood that at least 4,000 Cherokees died in the path of advancing settlers' greed.