

Understanding the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Watershed: Timeline

8,000 BCE--Arrival of first humans in Chattahoochee Valley (hunter-gatherers)

1,000 BCE - 700 CE--Woodland-period civilizations; some farming; mound building; Kolomoki

700 CE - 1500 CE--Mississippian civilizations; extensive farming; more mound building; Rood's Landing

1500 - 1600s--Upheaval, epidemic, migration in the Mississippian cultures

1539--DeSoto's expedition skirts the ACF watershed

1560s--Spain establishes Florida as a colony

1600s - early 1800s--Creek (Muscogee) Confederation

1670--Charleston, SC founded by English

1670s--Spanish missions (3) built near Chattahoochee/Flint confluence

1685--English traders reach Coweta Falls

Late 1600s--Spanish build forts on Chattahoochee and then permanently abandon them

1715--Yamasee War; Yamasee and Creeks vs. English and Cherokees

1717--French establish regional presence with Ft. Toulouse on Alabama River

1718--Spanish build Ft. San Marcos on Apalachee Bay

1733--Colony of Georgia established

1739--General Oglethorpe visits Coweta, establishing boundary

1700s--English colonists from Georgia encroach on Creek land, moving further into the ACF valley

1763--British acquire Florida; Apalachicola River designated boundary between the colonies of East and West Florida

1775--American Revolution breaks out; most Creeks unofficially side with British

1783--British relinquish claim to all lands east of Mississippi; American independence

Late 1700s--Ongoing Georgian v. Creek conflict over land

1800--Creeks and Spanish battle over Ft. San Marcos and access to the Apalachicola (and thereby to the Gulf); Spanish win

1802--Georgia cedes lands west of the Chattahoochee to the Federal Gov't; Federal Gov't negates all Indian land claims within GA boundaries

1811--Road completed linking Washington and New Orleans; passed through upper ACF region

1812 - 1815--War of 1812 pits U.S. v. Great Britain

1813--Tecumseh stirs Creeks to civil war

1814--U.S. Army and "friendly" Creeks defeat hostile Red Stick Creeks at Horseshoe Bend

1814--Creeks forced to cede 23 million acres to U.S. in Treaty of Fort Jackson

1814--British invade Florida via Apalachicola River and establish Ft. Prospect in what's now Franklin County

1815--British leave Ft. Prospect; runaway slaves and Seminoles use it as a base for raids into Georgia (renamed Negro Fort)

1816--In Battle of Negro Fort, U.S. and Creek forces defeat the Seminoles and runaway slaves

1817--Alabama becomes a territory

1819--Alabama becomes a state

1821--Spain cedes Florida to the U.S.

1823--Apalachicola, FL officially founded

1827--First steam boat used on Apalachicola/Chattahoochee

1828--Columbus, GA, officially founded

1834--First bridge across the Chattahoochee (at Columbus, GA)

1836--Creek War; Creeks' last stand

1820s - 1830s--Most Creeks removed to Oklahoma

1820s - 1850s--ACF river system the principal means of shipping area cotton to port (Apalachicola, FL)

1838--First area textile mill opens at Columbus, GA

1840s - 1850s--Columbus develops other industrial facilities, including an iron works

1845--Florida becomes a state

1847--Atlanta, GA officially founded

1850--Apalachicola, FL third busiest port on Gulf of Mexico

1850 - 1860--Chattahoochee valley cotton production doubles

1851--Dr. John Gorrie of Apalachicola, FL patents the first ice maker

1853--Columbus-Savannah railroad completed, beginning the decline of Apalachicola, FL

1854--Fredrick Law Olmsted visits Columbus, GA

1857--Railroad reaches Albany, GA on the Flint River

1861--Alabama, Florida, and Georgia secede from the U.S.

1861 - 1865--Civil War

1861 - 1865--Columbus, GA booms as a textile and munitions producer

1861--Apalachicola, FL blockaded by Union Navy

1862--Confederates abandon Apalachicola, FL

1862--Confederates block Apalachicola River at the Narrows (near Sumatra, FL)

1863--CSS *Chattahoochee* sinks on Apalachicola River near Blountstown, FL

1864--General Sherman's army battles across the Chattahoochee near Atlanta, GA before burning the city

1865--Union forces sack West Point and Columbus (war had already ended)

1866--Two mill dams built near West Point

1867--Telegraph lines are strung through the ACF valley

1877--"Song of the Chattahoochee" by Sidney Lanier

1870s - 1880s--Corps of Engineers improves Apalachicola, FL harbor and AC channel from Columbus to Gulf

Late 1800s--Steamboat travel and shipping again flourishes on the ACF system

Late 1800s--Mill dams completed near Columbus, GA

1899--North Highlands hydroelectric dam completed north of Columbus

1912--Goat Rock Dam completed

1919--Major flood on the Chattahoochee

1924--Bartlett's Ferry Dam completed

1930s--New Deal programs pump money into ACF region and into Apalachicola, FL in particular; John Gorrie Bridge opens

1945--National Rivers and Harbors Act provides for a 9' deep by 100' wide channel from Columbus and Bainbridge, GA to the Gulf

1950s--Metro Atlanta, GA population surpasses 1,000,000

1953--Congress authorizes ACF Project, designed to provide electricity, flood control and improved navigation

1956--Buford Dam completed northeast of Atlanta; creates Lake Sidney Lanier

1957--Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam completed near Flint-Chattahoochee confluence; creates Lake Seminole

1959--Oliver Dam completed

1960s--Atlanta, GA a hub of Civil Rights activity, hosting SCLC and SNCC headquarters

1963--Walter F. George Lock and Dam completed near Ft. Gaines; creates Lake Eufala

1975--West Point Dam completed near West Point; creates West Point Lake

1988--Apalachicola Bay declared a federal disaster area after reduced ACF flow damaged local oyster harvest

1996--Olympic Regatta takes place on Lake Lanier

2003--AL, GA, and FL fail to agree on a water-sharing plan (the ACF Compact); Georgia makes secret pact with Corps of Engineers allocating ACF water

2007--Drought and human consumption lead to record low water levels at Lake Lanier

2008--U.S. Court of Appeals invalidates recently unveiled 2003 Georgia-Corps pact; Georgia appeals to U.S. Supreme Court

2009--U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear Georgia's appeal