

1 Her Cherokee name was Nanye'hi. The English settlers on the American frontier called her Nancy Ward. But to her own people this Cherokee woman was best known as "Beloved Woman." This was the title given to those females who sat on the highest councils and had a voice in the important decisions made by the tribe.

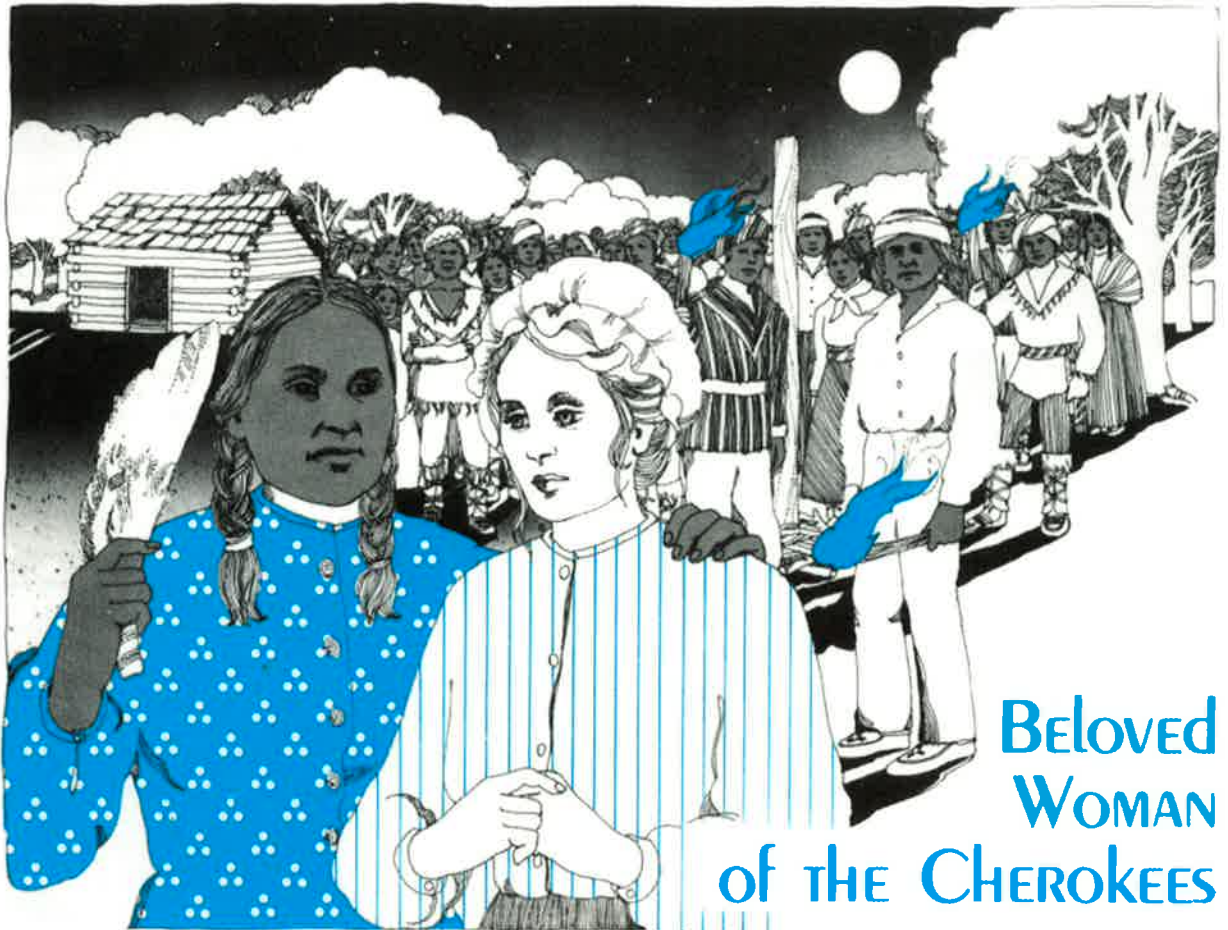
2 The following incident took place in the 1770s during the American Revolution. Against Nancy's wishes, the warriors in her village had agreed to help the British by attacking a colonial settlement in Georgia. In her home Nancy waited for the warriors to return from the battle.

3 Tired and weary, the Cherokee war party returned to the village. Those who had been left behind came running to greet them. As news spread of the dead and missing, cries of sorrow rose among the people.

4 The warriors brought back with them a white woman named Lydia Bean. "I captured her as she was trying to escape," one warrior boasted. "All the other people had gone ahead, but she stayed behind to save her cows."

5 The crowd seized the woman. Perhaps she could give them what they were seeking—revenge for their lost warriors.

6 From her home Nancy Ward heard the angry shouts of her people. The shouts grew louder and more urgent. She opened a



## BELOVED WOMAN of THE CHEROKEES

by Harold W. Felton

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- wooden chest near the fireplace and took out a white swan's wing, the symbol of her high position. Then she rushed from her house and down the road.
- 7 Pushing her way through the excited crowd, Nancy saw Mrs. Bean tied to a wooden stake. Twigs and logs were piled on the ground at her feet. A blazing torch was in one man's hand.
- 8 "Stop!" Nancy cried. She spoke as the tribe's "Beloved Woman" now. Moving the white swan's wing through the air in a wide, sweeping gesture, she demanded, "Cherokees, listen to me! Have you not had enough bloodshed? Let your tears flow for those who have not returned, but hold your hands still. You do violence to the Great Spirit who guards us all!"
- 9 The crowd was suddenly quiet and thoughtful. The swan's wing paused in its flight and pointed to the man who held the flaming torch. He nodded in agreement and dropped the torch.
- 10 Now the swan's wing pointed at Mrs. Bean. Gesturing, Nancy requested, "Cut the cords that bind this woman."
- 11 From somewhere a knife flashed, and the cords loosened and fell.
- 12 Nancy stepped forward and helped the woman through the crowd. The hand that held the swan's wing was round Mrs. Bean now. Slowly the two women made their way up the dirt road, leaving the silent crowd behind them.
- 13 In a few days Lydia Bean had recovered from the shock of her ordeal. Though at first she had been wary of the Cherokees, she found Nancy a fine companion, and the two women became close friends. Weeks passed as Nancy looked for a way to send Lydia home through the wild frontier that separated the Cherokee village from the colonial settlements.
- 14 "Don't you worry," Nancy said. "I'll find a way to get you back to your home and family."
- 15 "I'll be so glad to see them—and my cows, too," Lydia Bean said fervently.
- 16 "Why did you stop to take care of your cows instead of escaping?" Nancy asked.
- 17 "I couldn't leave them," Lydia replied. "Their milk—it is so good for the children."
- 18 "But there is mother's milk," Nancy said.
- 19 "Of course," answered Lydia, "milk for babies, but often there is not enough. And then there are the older children and adults. Cows and their milk are very important."
- 20 "I don't know about cows," said Nancy. "Our people have never raised them. Since cows are slow-moving, many of the Cherokees believe that people who eat their meat will move slowly too."
- 21 "What a shame!" Lydia Bean cried. Then she caught herself. She didn't want to insult her friend, the woman who had saved her life. "I don't mean to criticize the beliefs of the Cherokees," she said, "but I am sure they are mistaken."
- 22 "That could be," Nancy said, smiling.
- 23 "Cattle have been considered to be very valuable since the beginning of civilization," Lydia continued. "From cows there is meat, of course, as well as milk. And from milk come cream, butter, and cheese."
- 24 "Tell me about butter and cheese," Nancy said, "and tell me about cows."
- 25 Lydia Bean told Nancy about dairy products and the methods of making butter and cheese. When she had finished, Nancy stood up. She was serious and determined, just as she had been when she requested the release of Lydia Bean. "We must have cows," she said.
- 26 The cows were quick to come. Hunters drove in those that had escaped from the settlers, and Nancy purchased others. With Lydia Bean as a teacher, the Cherokees learned how to milk cows and make cheese and butter.
- 27 When it came time for Lydia to leave the Cherokee village and return to her family, she tried to express her thanks.
- 28 "I only did what was right," said Nancy, "but you have helped our whole nation. You have taught us the great benefits of cows."
- 29 "It is you who have done it, Nancy," said Lydia Bean. "You have brought great knowledge to your people that will benefit them forever."

## How Well Did You Read?

Write the letter of the best answer for each question.

- 1 Why did the Indians attack the American settlers?
  - a To help the British
  - b To please Nancy
  - c To prevent bloodshed
- 2 Why were the Cherokees able to capture Lydia Bean?
  - a Because she wanted to save her cows
  - b Because she wanted to save her children
  - c Because she was slower than the others
- 3 What did the Cherokees plan to do with Lydia Bean?
  - a Sell her to the British
  - b Send her back home
  - c Burn her at the stake
- 4 When Nancy went out to face the crowd of Cherokees, why did she take a white swan's wing?
  - a It was a symbol of peace.
  - b It was a symbol of her high position.
  - c It was a symbol of close ties between the Cherokees and the whites.
- 5 Why were the Cherokees in an angry mood when they returned from battle?
  - a They felt that the British had betrayed them.
  - b They wanted revenge for their lost warriors.
  - c Both a and b
- 6 What did Nancy want to do with Lydia Bean?
  - a Turn her over to the British
  - b Send her back home
  - c Burn her at the stake
- 7 Why did Lydia Bean think that cows were important?
  - a Cows were a source of meat and butter and cheese.
  - b Milk from cows was good for children.
  - c Both a and b
- 8 What did the Cherokees think would happen to people who ate beef?
  - a They thought these people would die.
  - b They thought these people would become slow-moving.
  - c They thought these people would become brave warriors.
- 9 Which words describe Nancy best?
  - a Fierce and wild
  - b Sad and melancholy
  - c Peaceable and kind

## Learn about Words

### Vocabulary

**A** You can often tell the meaning of a word by reading the words around it.

Look at each number in parentheses. Find the paragraph in the story with the same number. Then find the word that fits the given meaning. Write the word.

- 1 land at the edge of a settled area (1)
- 2 bragged (4)
- 3 harm done in return for a wrong (5)
- 4 sign (6)
- 5 difficult or painful experience (13)
- 6 suspicious; distrustful (13)
- 7 with great feeling (15)
- 8 find fault with (21)

**B** A word may have more than one meaning.

Look at each number in parentheses. Find the paragraph in the story with the same number. See how the word in **heavy type** below is used in the paragraph. Decide whether it has meaning **a**, **b**, or **c**. Write **a**, **b**, or **c**.

- 9 **title** (1)
  - a name of a book or poem
  - b legal right to possession of property
  - c name showing rank or position in life
- 10 **position** (6)
  - a rank or standing
  - b job
  - c place where a thing is located

## Word Study

- C Joe knows May and May knows Joe.  
Joe knows May and **she** knows **him**.

The words *she* and *him* are pronouns. Pronouns are words that are used in place of nouns. In the example above, notice how *she* takes the place of *May*. Notice how *him* takes the place of *Joe*. Some other common pronouns are *you*, *he*, *it*, *her*, and *them*. Each sentence below has a noun in **heavy type**. Later in the sentence there is a pronoun that takes the noun's place. Find that pronoun and write it.

- 11 **Grandpa** said he would sit on our porch.  
12 **Floretta** told Sam she would like to go to school with him.  
13 Pick up the **pencils** and bring them here.  
14 Pam grabbed her **parakeet** and put it in the cage.  
15 What did **Clarence** do with the pen Lil gave him?  
16 Tell **Charmaine** that I have an umbrella for her.  
17 **Casey**, I wish you would help with the dishes.  
18 **Daniel** told Emma he would find the bracelet for her.

- D Jill hopes **she** will score six points.  
If the cap belongs to Joe, give **it** to **him**.

In these examples, *she* is a pronoun that stands for *Jill*; *it* is a pronoun that stands for *cap*; *him* is a pronoun that stands for *Joe*. To understand what you read, you must be able to tell what nouns the pronouns stand for. Each sentence below has a pronoun in **heavy type**. Find the noun that it stands for. Write the noun.

- 19 Delores, **you** promised to go with Tom.  
20 That's my pen, isn't **it**?  
21 I made pancakes and **they** were good.  
22 The Smiths took the dog with **them**.  
23 Whose poodle is **it**?

24 Ruby said, "I have to leave."

25 Charles said **he** was surprised to see Lou.

26 Irma has all the money **she** needs.

- E As you use the dictionary, you will find that many words have more than one meaning—also that a word can serve as more than one part of speech. Used one way, *pair* is a noun. Used another way, *pair* is a verb. A dictionary will generally use *n* to identify a noun and *v* to identify a verb. Here are some words defined both as nouns and as verbs:

**scale** (*n*) an instrument for weighing  
**scale** (*v*) to climb

**dress** (*n*) an article of clothing  
**dress** (*v*) to put on clothes

**mark** (*n*) a spot or stain

**mark** (*v*) to label, often to show price

Notice how those words are used below. Decide whether each one is acting as a noun or as a verb. Write *n* or *v*.

- 27 We plan to **scale** the hill today.  
28 Will you buy me a cool summer **dress**?  
29 **Mark** that lamp "Used."  
30 Take a shower before you **dress**.  
31 The **scale** showed that I had lost weight.  
32 The butcher put the meat on the **scale**.  
33 The **mark** from the pen couldn't be removed.