

# Moytoy of Tellico

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<b>Moytoy of Tellico, "Emperor of the Cherokee"</b>	
<b>Born</b>	c. 1687 Tellico
<b>Died</b>	1741
<b>Residence</b>	Great Tellico
<b>Nationality</b>	Cherokee
<b>Title</b>	First Beloved Man of the Cherokee
<b>Successor</b>	Amouskositte

**Moytoy of Tellico** (d. 1741<sup>[1]</sup>) was from Great Tellico. Sir Alexander Cumming, a Scots-Anglo trade envoy from the Province of South Carolina, gave him the title "**Emperor of the Cherokee**", although he is regularly referred to as "King" in official reports.<sup>[2]</sup> Moytoy's name in Cherokee was *Amo-adawehi*, or "rainmaker."<sup>[3]</sup>

In 1730 Cumming, a Scottish adventurer with ties to the colonial government of South Carolina, arranged for Moytoy to be crowned emperor over all of the Cherokee towns in a ceremony intended to appeal to Cumming's colonial sponsors. He was crowned in Nikwasi with a headdress referred to the "Crown of Tannassy."

Cumming arranged to take Moytoy and a group of Cherokee to England to meet King George II. Moytoy declined to go, saying that his wife was ill. *Attakullakulla* (Little Carpenter) volunteered to go in his place. The Cherokee laid the "Crown" at King George's feet, along with four scalps.

According to some authorities, Moytoy's wife was a woman named *Go-sa-du-iswa*. After his death, his son, *Amouskositte* attempted to succeed him as "Emperor". However, by 1753 *Kanagatucko* (Old Hop) of Chota in the Overhill Towns had emerged as the dominant leader in the area.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Notes

[1] Gearing, Fred (1962). *Priests and Warriors: Social Structures for Cherokee Politics in the 18th Century*.

[2] Grant, Ludovic (2008). "Historical Relation of the Facts". *The Journal of Cherokee Studies* **XXVI**: 64.

[3] Brown, p. 538

[4] Hoig, Stan (1998). *The Cherokees and Their Chiefs: In the Wake of Empire*. University of Arkansas Press.

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# Article Sources and Contributors

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