Cochise (Hardwood)

(Tribe: Chiricahua Apache) 1815-1874, chief of the Chiricahua Apache in Arizona, noted for courage, integrity, and military skill. From 1861, when soldiers unjustly hanged some of his relatives, he warred relentlessly against the U.S. army. Peace talks in 1872 promised him a reservation on his native territory, but after he died his people were removed.

Washakie (wahsh'-uh-kee) (Tribe: Shoshoni)

Washakie, c.1804-1900, a chief of the Eastern Shoshoni Indians of Wyoming, was noted for his exploits in fighting and also for his friendship with the white pioneers. When wagon trains were passing through Shoshoni country in the 1850s, Washakie and his people aided the overland travelers in fording streams and recovering strayed cattle.

Tecumseh ("Crouching Tiger" or "Shooting Star") was a major military leader and alliance builder who sought to stop Euro-American expansion into the Ohio Valley area early in the nineteenth century. Tecumseh was born about 1768 near present-day Oldtown, Ohio. He was raised from birth to make war on the encroaching whites by his mother, Methoataske, whose husband, the Shawnee Puckeshinwa, was killed in cold blood by settlers when Tecumseh was a boy. Tecumseh and his mother found him dying. As he watched his father die, Tecumseh vowed to become like "a fire spreading over the hill and valley, consuming the race of dark souls."

Gall (Pizi) Tribe: Hunkpapa (Lakota/Sioux)

A Hunkpapa chief who played a leading part in the Lakota's long war against the United States, Gall encouraged his people to accept assimilation once they were confined on reservations. Gall eventually became Sitting Bull's military chief, and led attacks on army troops along the Yellowstone River in 1872 and 1873. At the battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876, he led the Hunkpapa warriors who first drove Major Reno from the Lakota's encampment and then swept north to join Crazy Horse and his forces in the attack on Custer. Following the Custer fight, Gall fled with Sitting Bull into Canada, but a quarrel between them caused Gall to bring his band back across the border late in 1880. He finally surrendered on January 3, 1881. In 1889 he even became a judge on the reservation's Court of Indian Offenses.