

reserved by them as it had been before, the tribe in Council making choice of a reliable person to take care of it. As time passed on and the tribe was removed westward this copy fell into his hands, and he had it in his possession until the breaking out of the civil war. He was then living on the north side of the Washita River, where the Washita Agency was afterward located.

While on a visit to his sister in the Chickasaw Nation, he learned that an officer whom he had known during the Mexican war was in command of a neighboring fort (I think either Fort Arbuckle or Fort Washita) and went to make him a visit. Here he first learned of the secession of the Southern States. As the Chickasaws and Choctaws, by whom the fort was surrounded, were slave owners the commander of this garrison found himself completely hemmed in by Southern sympathizers, if not actual abettors, so that he saw no way to escape with his force from his embarrassed condition, and laid his situation before Captain Black Beaver, who knew the whole country well, calling upon him to help him out of his difficulty. The Captain at first objected on account of the exposed condition his own property would be in and the loss he might be liable to sustain if he did not remove it (principally cattle and ponies) to a place of safety.

On being ^{assured} ~~recommended~~ by the commanding officer (whose name I do not recollect) that Government would fully reimburse any loss he might sustain while endeavoring to rescue Government troops and property from evident destruction, he finally agreed to make the effort to conduct them to a place of safety. This, from his intimate knowledge of the country and acquaintance with the wild tribes to the westward, and northward, he was enabled to successfully accomplish, although it would necessitate an absence of several weeks from his home.