



CHEROKEE NATION

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Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief

John A. Ketcher
Deputy Chief

May 19, 1993

Sherman Bold warrior
Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma
BOX 2
White Eagle, OK

Re: Letter of April 23, 1993 regarding "Cherokee Strip Land Run,
1893"

Dear Mr. Bold Warrior:

We appreciate sincerely your notice and understanding of the tragedy represented by the Cherokee Strip Land Run and the lack of comprehension by the general public of the significance of this event to Indians, especially Cherokees.

As you know, the Cherokee Strip Land Run, (actually the Cherokee Outlet Run) in 1893, was a situation where non-Indian settlers waited at the State of Kansas border for a signal to run into what, six months earlier, had been the Territory of the Cherokee Nation, and to claim 160 acre tracts.

We find the glory of the portrayal of this event repulsive in light of the history of the Cherokee Nation with the United States Government. It portrays accurately what happened, the wholesale and coercive taking of tribal land in violation of numerous treaties. Painting such an ugly political event as a pious attribute of American history is improper and vulgar. The Cherokee Strip Land Run marked the beginning of efforts of the federal government to destroy the Cherokee Nation and its breaking of covenants found in numerous Cherokee treaties.

Let me share with you some of our background research on the issue.

After the infamous Trail of Tears removal of the Cherokees from their homeland in the southeastern United States by the fraudulent Treaty of New Echota of 1835, the Cherokees reorganized in Indian Territory which is now Oklahoma.¹ A previous treaty with the federal government in 1828, the Treaty of May 6, 1828, provided that this Indian Territory would be: