

with William Penn concerned several tribes  
They in a general council selected a person  
to have the especial care of this first, or as  
they called it, "Great Treaty" On his death  
another was chosen, & so it continued to be first  
served for many years by persons selected  
in a general Council. Eventually as the  
different Tribes became scattered the Delaware  
retained possession of it, & it was preserved  
by them as it had been before, the tribe in  
Council making choice of a reliable per-  
son to take care of it. As time passed  
on & the tribe was removed westward this  
copy fell into his hands, & 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 Wichita  
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 neigh-

boring fort (I think either Fort Arbuckle or Fort  
Washita) & went to make him a visit. Here he  
first learned of the secession of the Southern  
States. As the Chickasaws & 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, &  
laid his situation before Capt. Black Bear  
war, who knew the whole country well, call-  
ing upon him to help out of his diffi-  
culty. The Captain at first objected on  
account of the exposed condition of his  
own property would be in & the loss he  
might be liable to sustain if he did not  
remove it (principally cattle & ponies)  
to a place of safety.

On being assured by the commanding  
officer (whose name I do not recollect) that  
Government would fully reimburse any