

It is now important that each of you be united instead of allowing factions to separate you, and it now behooves you to exert your utmost efforts to promote the welfare of your people and your country with wisdom and understanding.

As for me I will not leave you nor forsake you and I hope that you will all work together for the peace of your country. And may your friendship ever become stronger as you journey through life and may you be able to protect your people and promote their general welfare.

GEORGE KEETOOWAH (LOWREY)

Lowrey served as Assistant Chief from 1828 to 1839 and again from 1843 to 1851. He was Acting Chief during the latter part of 1845 and part of 1846 and again in 1848, when John Ross was away on national business. He spoke to the seventeen Indian Tribes that convened here at Tahlequah in 1843 on the significance of the sacred fire and upon the use of wampum among the Indians. He said that the sacred fire originally came from the Iroquois and was intended to enlighten all Indians along the highroad to universal peace and brotherly love. Hence the importance of keeping it continually burning. Similarly the belts of wampum stood for peace and unity, and in early times, strings of wampum were exchanged when treaties of peace were made. The custom was practiced as late as the Treaty of Prairie des Chien in 1825. George Lowrey was not only held in high esteem by his Cherokee friend but was respected and honored by Indian peoples all over the country. At this meeting in 1843 he was instrumental in drawing up a treaty of peace and friendship among the tribes represented.

Lowrey was a staunch advocate of temperance among the Indians. He co-operated with Dr. Worcester in the organization and promotion of his Cold Water Army among the Cherokees. In 1845 Lowrey made a talk on temperance in Cherokee at the Fairfield Mission, which was located between Stillwell and Bunch and was under the direction of Dr. Palmer. Seventy-four Cherokees signed the temperance pledge on this occasion. At that time Lowrey lived near Sequoyah's home on Skin Bayou. He later moved to his place on the present Qualls road eight miles south of Tahlequah.

Lowrey assisted in making the treaty of 1840 between the Cherokees and the Federal Government, which, at least legally, settled the differences between the Cherokees factions. According to the Cherokee Advocate of February, 1846, just prior to the making of this treaty, while he was serving as chief of the Nation, he issued a proclamation announcing that "in times of national calamity and difficulty and fear it is peculiarly becoming that both rulers and people, should humble themselves before Almighty God, the sovereign disposer of all human events, and look to him for direction in their difficulties, deliverance from their calamities and fears, and bestowment of needed blessings--such a time is the present with the Cherokee Nation." He designated a day of fasting, humiliation