

I and many Cherokees share the sentiments of the Poncas in your objection to the subject statute. In the least it is insensitive to a very painful history of the Cherokees.

We have not planned a public response to the whole 1993 Cherokee Strip Celebration. We find that in many ways a response by the Cherokee Nation adds dignity to the event. We plan to issue one response during September, 1993, presenting our side to the "celebration." If you have any questions, Chad Smith, (918) 458-9440 will be glad to visit with you.

Again, thank you for your letter and stand on issue.

Sincerely Yours,

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Wilma P. Mankiller  
Principal Chief

1. Foreman, Grant, The Five Civilized Tribes, Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1933 (reprinted 1968); Royce, Charles, The Cherokee Nation of Indians, Chicago, Adline Publishing Co. 1975; Treaty of New Echota, December 29, 1935, 7 Stat 478.

2. Treaty of May 6, 1828, 7 Stat. 311.  
ARTICLES OF A CONVENTION

May 6, 1828

WHEREAS, it being the anxious desire of the Government of the United States to secure to the Cherokee Nation of Indians, as well those now living within the limits of the Territory of Arkansas, as those of their friends and brothers who reside in States East of the Mississippi, and who may wish to join their brothers of the West, a permanent home, and which shall, under the most solemn guarantee of the United States, be, and remain, theirs forever--a home that shall never, in all future time, be embarrassed by having extended around it the lines, or placed over it the jurisdiction of a Territory or State, nor be pressed upon by the extension, in any way, of any of the limits of any existing Territory or State.

ART. 2. The United States agree to possess the Cherokees, and to guarantee it to them forever, and that guarantee is hereby solemnly pledged, of seven millions of acres of land, to be bounded as follows, viz. Commencing at that point on Arkansas River where the Eastern Choctaw boundary line strikes said River, and running thence with the Western line of Arkansas, as defined in the foregoing article, to the...

In addition to the seven millions of acres thus provided for, and bounded, the United States further guarantee to the Cherokee Nation a perpetual outlet, West, and a free and unmolested use of all the Country lying West of the Western boundary of the above described limits, and as far West as the sovereignty of the United States, and their right of soil extend.

3. Treaty of May 6, 1828, 7 Stat. 311.

4. Treaty of 1828, 7 Stat. 311, Article 5 and 6.

TREATY WITH THE CHEROKEES 1835

ARTICLE 5. The United States hereby covenant and agree that the lands ceded to the Cherokee Nation in the foregoing article shall, in no future time without their consent, be included within the territorial limits or jurisdiction of any State or Territory. But they shall secure to the Cherokee Nation the right by their national councils to make and carry into effect all such laws as they may deem necessary for the government and protection of the persons and property within their own country belonging to their people or such persons as have connected themselves with them: provided always that they shall not be inconsistent with the constitution of the United States and such acts of Congress as have been or may be passed regulating trade and intercourse with the Indians; and also, that they shall not be considered as extending to such citizens and army of the United States as may travel or reside in the Indian country by permission according to the laws and regulations established by the Government of the same.

5. Treaty of August 6, 1846, 9 Stat. 871, Article 5.

TREATY WITH THE CHEROKEES  
AUGUST 6, 1846

ARTICLE 1. That the lands now occupied by the Cherokee Nation shall be secured to the whole Cherokee people for their common use and benefit; and a patent shall be issued for the same, including the eight hundred thousand acres purchased, together with the outlet west, promised by the United States, in conformity with the provisions relating thereto, contained in the third article of the treaty of 1835, and in the third section of the act of Congress, approved May twenty-eighth, 1830, which authorizes the President of the United States, in making exchanges of lands with the Indian tribes, "to assure the tribe or nation with which the exchange is made, that the United States will forever secure and guaranteed to them, and their heirs or successors, the county so exchanged with them; and, if they prefer it, that the United States will cause a patent or grant to be made and executed to them for the same: Provided, always, That such lands shall revert to the United States, if the Indians become extinct, or abandon the same."