



CHEROKEE NATION

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FILE COPY

Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief

John A. Ketcher
Deputy Chief

March 29, 1993

Patricia Foulkrod
Producer
Trans Pacific Films
1250 Sixth Street, Suite 205
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Dear Patricia:

Thank you so much for March 24, 1993 letter in which you inquire about my interest in working on the history of Native Americans. I am currently working on a book, part biography, part Cherokee history, which will be published by St. Martin's Press in October. I love history and particularly Native American history. I wish I had time to join you in this effort but I simply do not.

At this point I am simply overwhelmed with hard work related to the Cherokee Nation and other causes and issues I am involved with. Much as I would love to be involved, I know that this year and next will be incredibly busy. If I can't do something justice, I don't get involved.

I do, however, have a couple of suggestions. While Alfonso Ortiz and Hanay Geigogamah are immensely talented and will contribute greatly to your project, I believe it is equally important to get a couple of people who are skilled legal and political historians. I have a couple of suggestions: The most prominent Indian lawyer and historian is Vine Deloria, Jr., a Lakota Sioux author and professor currently at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Scott Mommoday, Kiowa author and Pulitzer Prize winner would also be good. Rennard Strickland, (Osage and Cherokee) Dean of the School of Law at the University of Oklahoma and an outstanding historian. John Mohawk (Seneca) writer, professor and historian at SUNY-Buffalo campus would also be good. These are all serious scholars who could really help make the project work well.

As you undertake this project of looking at the history of Native America, I hope you will pay special attention to the contributions of women. It is a little harder to find this material and information about Native women because so much of written history was recorded by white men, missionaries, military people, government officials and so on. When women are mentioned in the journals of these men, they are mentioned only as they relate to men.