

Upon reading that your mother was of Dutch-Irish descent, I remembered a conversation I overheard when I was around 10 years old. Two of my aunts were talking, and I recall one saying that somewhere in our family there had been an Indian Chief that was banished from his tribe for marrying an Irish woman. I didn't give this much thought until I realized how many prominent men in Cherokee history were mixed-bloods. Especially since Chief John Ross was only 1/8th Cherokee. I am puzzled as to why he would be banished? Maybe there were other reasons, or possibly it didn't happen at all - just family gossip? Have you heard of any story like this?

At the beginning of this letter, I mentioned there were feelings and emotions that I experienced from reading your book. Though I have never been ashamed of my Native American heritage, I never took pride in it. You have changed that - forever!!

However, along with my new found pride comes some genuine shame and anger - from the other part of my heritage. Not only from what actually happened to the Native Americans, but from not learning about these atrocities in American History classes in school.