

the moment, it was known that they had adopted a constitution to set up their little government, everything broke loose against them. You know the rest of the story. You know the terrible price the Cherokee people paid because the government, the government they depended upon forsook them. What was that price? I think in reckoning in the feelings of the human heart, being compelled to leave the graves of their ancestors was probably, probably the most distressing thing for so many of the mothers and the fathers. Sons of mothers' dead, to leave them there to be trampled upon, to be robbed, some of those graves were pilfered even before the families were moved off of the farms. As you students of Cherokee history know, the people who were affected, our people, were gentle, they were religious. They were fine outstanding people, totally unlike the description in the '70's which you see on television today of some of our brothers in the West, less fortunate than our own people. There we were, a wealthy people. Stripped as we were of so much of our land, had been stripped of some sixty-eight millions of acres of our land for portly nothing. But what we have left was worth something. We gave it up. We came here, and here we lived from 1839 until now. But unmolested by government not bothered by government except in the Civil War. And that's the story within its self. Certainly no pressure upon our people except in the Civil War. We were in a word, we were left alone and we thrived from 1846. We prospered from 1846 until the outbreak of the War, the Civil War. And you know the reason we divided 3/5 went Ross and the North, and 2/5 went with Stand Watie in the South. This Capitol was burned in 1863. Ross's home was burned. Every home in this country from Fort Smith to Kansas was burned to the ground, every fence rail, every barn, every haystack, 300 thousand head of our cattle were driven off to war. We've lost twenty-two hundred men in the Union Army, buried in the National