

Cemetery, Fort Gibson, Cherokees. At the end of the war in September, 1865, notwithstanding John Ross had been in Washington, a confidant to Lincoln, a confidant to the Federal Government. His very presence in Washington and in Philadelphia during the last three years of the war, as a symbol to all the other Indian tribes in this country. Yet land hunger again at the end of the war and this is the story that's not too much publized, but it's true, John Ross was deposed, this principal chief of the Nation by order and direction of Secretary James Harland, Secretary of Interior in September, 1865, at Fort Smith. They were there dealing with the Cherokees trying to take some land away from them as punishment for the Civil War. They acted, the emmisaries of the Government as though the Cherokees brought on the war. The simple truth that we had, we had treaties that guaranteed our protection against anybody. There were troops at Fort Gibson to back up those treaties, troops at Fort Arbuckle, Fort, troops at Fort Towson. Those troops were pulled out of here at the moment the war began. Lincoln was sworn in as President of the United States and Arkansas ceded from the Union, Texas followed. The Cherokee Nation was helpless. The troops of the Federal Army was moved out of this country, and, then McCollough came up from Texas with the brigade of men. Albert Pike and others came over from Arkansas and the little Cherokee Nation was surrounded. Ross was intimidated but he went through the alliance in 1862, went back to and stayed in Washington. I repeat, Colonel Drew and the full-bloods fought in the Union Army; but Ross was opposed, opposed by the edict the fiat of the Secretary of the Interior and out and out publicly charged; that he did it for one purpose, and that was to exploit the people of the Cherokee Nation unjustly. His object was to take the great Cherokee Outlet by deed, take it then in 1865. Everything lying west of 96th Meridan, that's the line that runs from Kansas down to Tulsa, the present eastern Border of Osage county; that's the 96th meridan. Read about the treaty of