

July 19, 1866, yourself. It's the only treaty of the five, all signed and sealed and formulated in Washington in the spring and in the summer, 1866. You'll find that the Seminoles, the Creeks, the Choctaws, and the Chickasaws, all four of them ceded their lands lying west of that line. The Cherokees didn't. Read the 16th article of the Treaty of 1866 and read the peculiar language of the treaty. Ross was deposed at Fort Smith in September. He repaired to Washington in the spring. He took sick to bed in the National Hotel. It became his death bed. There were two delegations of Cherokees there with whom the Secretary was dealing. One was the Confederate group led by Elias Cornelius Boudinot. William Kildare, they were Confederates. The other was Reverend John Ross; he was, he was not recognized by the Government as the Chief of the Nation. He was the most trusted man, the full-blood Cherokees had. He was their Chief, but the United States simply wouldn't recognize him, and dealt, not with Ross, but with Thomas Pegg, Samuel Houston Bench, his great grandson, is sitting in this off, in this room where are you Paul Rogers? Hold your hand up. Samuel Houston Bench is buried in the Office of Circle, in the National Cemetery, Fort Gibson, he was a captain in the Union Army. A lawyer, our greatest deposition. Later, given an law suit in Washington. He died in 1895. Before that, he was called on and he testified by deposition about conditions in Washington. Striped, the delegation was striped of their leader. Imagine, if you please, if Charlie Victory and some of us who'd go to Washington with Bill Keeler today, and after we arrive there, we were told that Chief Keeler's been deposed. Not since John Ross have we had anyone. We've had some great Cherokee Chieftains but not one is respected and trusted in Washington today and I'm sure loved and respected with the Cherokees at home than W.W. Keeler. But imagine our condition