

this, you can imagine how they reacted. "We are not interested." So, in 1894, 1895, 1896, and most of 1897, the Federal Government through the work of the Dawes Commission will try to convince them.

DAWES COMMISSION, PREPARING FOR STATEHOOD

Finally, they will go through with what I mentioned a moment ago--preparing us for statehood, land in servitude and eventually giving up our tribal form of government. Talk about the Cherokees, the Cherokees negotiated through '93, '99, 1900, and 1901. In other words, a period of about 7, 8, 9 years before they finally agreed to abide by the decision of the works of the Dawes Commission. Now, what was inclusive or included in the works of the Dawes Commission? Well, again, use your imagination. Before an individual could be suited of his or her life, you could think of some things, a number of them, involved in this. For example, all the names, Cherokee Nation, must be surveyed. So, they surveyed before, so the Government, of course, reserve the same in the other four nations. Not only the land survey, but the land must be appraised because you know the property--the land in this region and surround regions not all the same, fertile, some mountains, some valley land, river bottom land, and so forth. So, the Federal Government, in other words, sent twelve surveying parties, I believe that's the correct number, and will work for several years in survey and land appraisal. So, if you were on this group and you received an allotment, you perhaps might have received: if you were Cherokee, we'll say a hundred and eighty-five or two hundred acres, your sister might receive, we'll say four hundred and fifty, or you might have received a hundred and sixty-five, and another member of your family might be even less. So, the number of acres that the Cherokee received or a Choctaw or Chickasaw, in other words, determined by usually the amount--