

about two years to write it. I again approached him with it, and he said, "Well, all right, you can if you want to." At the particular time, I started on the paper, talked about the educational opportunities that we had for Indian children today in northeastern Oklahoma. I spend two years and eight months writing just little thing here, and what went into it was reviewing roughly five hundred thousand pages of manuscript writings. These were tribal documents that had been passed down to the tribal council, all the copies of the Cherokee Advocate, and I might mention Chief Victory. There was no place to obtain a full copy of the Cherokee Advocate at that particular time except in London, England. One of the London Times had been on the exchange with our people here and they'd saved those copies. So I requested microfilm copies, and they send me those microfilm copies, and they send me those microfilms and that's how I was able to read all of the copies of the Cherokee Advocate. Much of the work that I read, in fact, about 90% of it was contained in the Oklahoma Historical Building just in the files. I did use other sources, other private collections, the Alice Robertson collection at Tulsa University, the Dawes Commission files, the Cherokee documents, documents pertaining to schools among the minor tribes in Oklahoma Historical Building, the Frank Phillips Collection, the Grant Foreman Transcripts at O.U., and of course, the Cherokee Advocate that I mentioned before, and the Thornborne Collection of printed material and I can tell you that not too many people are sold on history, and I probably wasn't too much when I started. But after you review a half a million sheets of paper that are pencil written, that are written, some in Cherokee, and just to look through the half a million sheets of paper and see signatures and articles that were written by some of our great leaders, Chief Ross,