

Various Indian leaders felt that institutions beyond the elementary level would be essential if the Nation were to survive. So consequently, in 1847, the Council voted to construct two such institutions, one for males, one for females, at a cost of ei--, roughly eighty thousand dollars each. The Male Seminary located one and half miles south of Tahlequah. It's near a clear spring of water at the foot of a wooded hill so the books say. The Female Seminary, of course, was built near Park Hill. Both institutions were well-equipped and furnished in modern appliances, a well-balanced curriculum, a very carefully chosen faculty, placed the educational attainment of the institutions of a very high level, a place they maintained until they were temporarily abandoned because of the Civil War. By terms of the Treaty of 1835, looking back a little bit, the Cherokees were to provide elementary education at public expense. So consequently, by 1841, there were eleven publicly supported schools in the Cherokee country. Seven more schools were added in 1843 making a total of eighteen. In fact, a number continued to increase until the Civil War closed most of them including the academies and the mission schools. After the Civil War, tribal authorities soon demonstrated their disposition to re-open their schools. Consequently, by 1867, there were 32 public day schools in operation in the Cherokee country, two of which were for Negroes. This is the first mission of Negro education in northeastern Oklahoma, year 1867. By 1880, there were hundred and six schools in operation. This number increased to hundred and ten in 1899. Now, this hundred and ten is a very amusing thing to me, that forty-three of this hundred and ten was for Negro students. Along with the restoration of the public day schools came the restoration of the seminaries and the mission schools.