



Afterwards, Sam Houston became President of the Texas Republic and maintained peaceful relations with Bowles and the Cherokees in Texas, and the other 12 allied Tribes. In 1838 a political movement of former Mexican officials known as ‘the Cordova Rebellion’ was instigated in and around Nacogdoches. In May of 1839 a Mexican agent was killed near the Red River, and a diary, other papers were found which indicated that Mexico was working to incite the Cherokees to rebel against Texas in exchange for recognition of Tribal Lands. Despite the discovery of the documents intended for Chief Bowles – President Houston believed his brother and friend Chief Bowles denials and refused to order the Cherokee arrested. In his several letters of reassurance to the Bowl during the unrest, Sam Houston again stated his intent to give titles to their promised lands.

As well - in October of 1838 a tragic incident occurred near present-day Cherokee County, when the Texas settler Killough family were attacked and killed by unknown assailants. The 18 deaths of the stated ‘Killough Massacre’ were conveniently blamed on Chief Bowles and the Cherokees in Texas, and the newly elected Republic of Texas President in 1839, – Mirabeau B. Lamar ordered Chief Bowles and his people to leave Texas, with political letters and ultimatums issued to the Chief. Unwilling to leave, Chief Bowles mobilized the warriors of all 13 allied tribes, to resist expulsion, protect their families, and to fight against the Republic of Texas forces.