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RECORDS OF THE SOUTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
1832-1870

On the 22 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records of the Southern Superintendency of Indian Affairs, 1851-70, and of its predecessor, the Western Superintendency, 1834-51. A few earlier records of the Choctaw Agency, West, are also included.

During the 19th century superintendencies and agencies were the two principal field jurisdictions of the Office (now called Bureau) of Indian Affairs. Superintendencies had general responsibility for Indian affairs in a geographical area, including supervision of relations among the various Indian tribes in that area and between the tribes and citizens of the United States or other persons, and of the conduct and accounts of agents responsible to them. Agencies were immediately responsible for the affairs of one or more tribes.

The jurisdictional area of the Western Superintendency extended west of the Mississippi River from Arkansas to the Rocky Mountains and south from the limits of the St. Louis Superintendency--the northern boundary of the land of the Osage Indians. The principal tribes originally within the superintendency were the Choctaw, Cherokee, Creek, Osage, Seneca, and the Mixed Band of Seneca and Shawnee. Quapaw, Seminole, and Chickasaw Indians moved into the area within a few years. The superintendency, on occasion, had some responsibilities relating to Caddo, Kiowa, Comanche, and other Indians.

The Western Superintendency was an "acting superintendency." The duties of the superintendency were actually carried out by the agent for the Choctaw Indians with headquarters in Indian Territory at the Choctaw Agency near Fort Coffee--in the eastern part of present Oklahoma. Originally there was in the superintendency only one agency, called the Southern Agency of the Western Territory. This was a continuation of the agency for the Choctaw Indians living west of the Mississippi River, and beginning in 1837 it was again called the Choctaw Agency. Three subagencies were assigned to the Western Superintendency. They were responsible, respectively, for the Creek, Cherokee, and Osage Indians. The Cherokee Subagency was also made responsible for the Seneca and Mixed Band of Seneca and Shawnee Indians. The Osage Subagency was made responsible for the Quapaw Indians when they arrived in Indian Territory.

Reorganization of the Western Superintendency in 1837 left full agencies for the Choctaw, Cherokee, and Creek, with the Seminole Indians attached to the Creek Agency; a new subagency, the Neosho, for the Quapaw, Seneca, and Mixed Band of Seneca and Shawnee Indians; and a subagency for the Osage. Later changes established, in 1839, an agency for the Chickasaw Indians, who by that time had moved west onto Choctaw land, and a separate subagency for the Seminole in 1842. The Osage Subagency was transferred to the St. Louis Superintendency in 1843 but was reassigned to the Western Superintendency in 1847 and back to the St. Louis Superintendency in 1849.

In 1851 the Southern Superintendency replaced the Western Superintendency as part of a general reorganization of the field service of the Office of Indian Affairs. The new superintendency, with a full-time superintendent, was placed in charge of the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, and Chickasaw Agencies and

the Seminole Subagency of the former Western Superintendency as well as the new Neosho Agency, formed by a consolidation of the Neosho and the Osage Subagencies. In 1855 the Chicasaw Agency was consolidated with the Choctaw Agency, and the Seminole Subagency was made a full agency. In 1867 the Neosho Agency was transferred to the Central Superintendency, successor to the St. Louis Superintendency.

In 1859 Caddo, Anadarko, Waco, Tonkawa, Hanai, Kichai, Tawakoni, Delaware, Shawnee, and Comanche Indians were moved from Texas to the Wichita Agency in Indian Territory, which had been established in 1857 under the Southern Superintendency for the Wichita and Kichai Indians. The Wichita Agency was consolidated with the Kiowa Agency of the Central Superintendency in 1869, but was established again as a separate agency in 1870 and remained in the Central Superintendency. By 1870 the Southern Superintendency had supervision over only the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw and Chicasaw, and Seminole Agencies.

The office of the Southern Superintendency was originally at Van Buren, AR, but in 1853 it was moved to Fort Smith, AR. At the beginning of the Civil War, when Indian Territory was occupied by Confederate troops, the superintendent and some of the agents of the Southern Superintendency accepted similar positions under the Confederacy. The Arkansas Superintendency was the Confederate equivalent of the Southern Superintendency. Some of the Indians of the Southern Superintendency also joined the Confederacy. Others who remained loyal fled to Kansas, and temporary headquarters for the various agencies was established in that state. A new superintendent for the Southern Superintendency, unable to reach Fort Smith, also established his headquarters in Kansas. His first office, located at Humboldt, was burned by Confederate troops. For a time he had a second office at Leroy, but for most of the war years the superintendent's office was at Leavenworth. Beginning in 1865 the superintendent's headquarters was at Lawrence.

The Indians began to return to Indian Territory in 1864. The office of the Southern Superintendency was not returned to Fort Smith until 1866; and in 1868 it was moved to the Creek Agency on the Deep Fork of the Canadian River, about 50 miles west of Fort Gibson.

Because in 1869 Congress appropriated money for the expenses of only two superintendencies east of the Rocky Mountains, the Southern Superintendency was to be closed on July 1, 1869. Treaties with the various tribes, however, stipulated the services of a superintendent for certain matters, such as the investigation of certain claims. An Army officer was therefore detailed to act as superintendent in connection with treaty stipulations and as especially directed by the Office of Indian Affairs in Washington. This arrangement was continued until August 1870, when the Southern Superintendency was abolished and the Central Superintendency was placed in charge of the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw and Chicasaw, and Seminole Agencies. It was originally intended that the superintendent should exercise full supervisory control over the agencies; but, on December 21, 1870, the instructions were modified to provide that the superintendents should handle only the treaty matters.

The records of the Southern Superintendency relate to almost all aspects of Indian administration in its area, including negotiation and enforcement of treaties, Indian emigration and subsistence, claims arising from Indian removal, land reserves, land surveys, intrusions on Indian lands, law and order, hostilities and military operations, depredation claims, annuity and other payments to Indians, traders and licenses, delegations to Washington, location of agencies, missionaries, schools, mills, blacksmith shops, construction and repair of buildings, purchase and transportation of goods and supplies, employees, and accounts. Most of the correspondence of the superintendency was conducted with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and with the agents and subagency in the superintendency. There was also correspondence with other field officials and employees of the Office of Indian Affairs, the Secretary of War, Army officers, Treasury Department officials, traders, contractors, Indians, and others.

On the first 21 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced three series of correspondence of the Western and Southern Superintendencies:

1. Letters received, 1832-61, including some vouchers, estimates, contracts, financial statements, copies of letters sent, and other records. The records are arranged by year, thereunder for the most part by source (particularly from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington and the different agencies of the superintendency) and thereunder chronologically. There are some variations in the arrangement from year to year.

2. Press copies of letters sent, 1853-61. These letters are arranged chronologically, in four bound volumes and loose pages from a fifth volume. In the first volume is an alphabetical index to names or addressees.

3. Handwritten copies of letters sent and letters received, 1869-70. This correspondence coincides with the period when an Army officer was detailed to act as superintendent. The letters sent are separate from the letters received; and the letters in each group are arranged chronologically.

On the last roll are reproduced the following:

Agency Records

1. Correspondence of the Wichita Agency, 1860-61 (including some records of the Comanche Agency in Texas).

2. Correspondence and other records of the Cherokee Agency, 1866-67.

3. Correspondence of Richard Fields, Special Agent for the Cherokee Nation, 1868-70. Fields was appointed by the Cherokee Nation to examine its accounts with the United States, as provided by article 22 of the treaty of July 19, 1866.

Confederate Records

1. Correspondence of the Arkansas Superintendency, 1861-62.

2. Correspondence of the Wichita Agency, 1861-62

3. Accounts and other records, 1861-62. There are records of both the Arkansas Superintendency and its agencies--particularly the Creek Agency.

The records reproduced in this microcopy are part of the record in the National Archives designated as Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Related records in the same record group include *Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-80* (M234); *Registers of Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-80* (M18); and *Letters Sent by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-81* (M21). Records have also been microfilmed for other superintendencies: Michigan, 1814-51 (M1); New Mexico, 1849-80 (T-21); Oregon, 1848-73 (M2); and Washington, 1853-74 (M5)

COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Name; Date Appointed

Elbert Herring; July 10, 1832

Carey A. Harris; July 4, 1836

Thomas Hartley Crawford; October 22, 1838

William Medill; October 28, 1845

Orlando Brown; June 30, 1849

Luke Lea; July 1, 1850

George W. Manypenny; March 24, 1853
James W. Denver; April 17, 1857
Charles E. Mix; June 14, 1858
James W. Denver; November 8, 1858
Alfred B. Greenwood; May 4, 1859
William P. Dole; March 13, 1861
Dennis N. Cooley; July 10, 1865
Lewis V. Bogy; November 1, 1866
Nathaniel G. Taylor; March 29, 1867
Ely S. Parker; April 21, 1869

SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE WEESTERN AND SOUTHERN SUPERINTENDENCIES

Western Superintendency

Name; Date Appointed

Francis W. Armstrong; June 30, 1834
William Armstrong; September 8, 1835
Samuel M. Rutherford; July 10, 1847
John Drennen; May 29, 1849

Southern Superintendency

Name; Date Appointed

John Drennen; March 12, 1851
Thomas S. Drew; April 8, 1853
Charles W. Dean; March 3, 1855
Elias Rector; March 17, 1857
William G. Coffin; May 3, 1861
Elijah Sells; April 28, 1865
William Byers; September 20, 1866
James Wortham; March 27, 1867
L. Newton Robinson; June 17, 1868
Bvt. Maj. Gen. W.B. Hazen; June 30, 1869

AGENTS AND SUBAGENCY

Cherokee Agency

Name; Date Appointed

George Vashon; March 12, 1830; became subagent under regulations adopted July 7, 1834
Montford Stokes; subagent March 25, 1836; agent March 8, 1837
Pierce M. Butler; September 13, 1841
James McKisick; August 19, 1845
Richard C.S. Brown; February 14, 1848
William Butler; May 29, 1849
George Butler; notified October 31, 1850
Robert J. Cowart; March 12, 1860

John Crawford; April 5, 1861
Charles W. Chatterton; March 6, 1861
Justin Harlan; September 11, 1862
John J. Humphreys; September 25, 1866
William B. Davis; November 29, 1867
Capt. John N. Craig; June 22, 1869
John B. Jones; December 9, 1870

Chickasaw Agency

Name; Date Appointed

Gaines P. Kingsbury; June 11, 1837
A.M.M. Upshaw; March 4, 1839
Gabriel W. Long; November 6, 1849
Kenton Harper; June 30, 1851
Andrew Jackson Smith; September 1, 1852

Choctaw Agency

Name; Date Appointed

Francis W. Armstrong; Assigned September 7, 1831
William Armstrong; September 8, 1835
Samuel M. Rutherford; July 10, 1847
John Drennen; May 29, 1849
William Wilson; June 30, 1851
Douglas H. Cooper; April 18, 1853
Isaac Coleman; July 31, 1861
Martin W. Chollar; August 22, 1866
Capt. George T. Olmsted; June 23, 1869
Theophilus D. Griffith; October 21, 1870

Creek Agency

Name; Date Appointed

Robert A. McCabe; subagent; notified July 8, 1834
Wharton Rector; subagent August 19, 1835
Francis Audrain; subagent August 29, 1836
John W.A. Sandford; March 8, 1837
James Logan; February 23, 1838
James L. Dawson; May 16, 1842
James Logan; June 8, 1844
Philip H. Raiford; April 5, 1849
William H. Garrett; April 18, 1853
George A. Cutler; July 16, 1861
James W. Dunn; June 9, 1865
Capt. F.A. Field; July 15, 1869

Neosho Subagency

Name; Date Appointed

Alexander S. Walker; April 29, 1837
Robert A. Callaway; December 1, 1837
Congrave Jackson; January 24, 1840
Smallwood V. Noland; June 5, 1840
John B. Luce; April 15, 1841
Montford Stokes; September 8, 1842
Benjamin B.R. Barker; March 24, 1843
James S. Rains; April 25, 1845
Burton A. James; June 1, 1848
Andrew J. Dorn; March 31, 1849

Neosho Agency

Name; Date Appointed

William J.J. Morrow; June 30, 1851
Andrew J. Dorn; April 18, 1853
Peter P. Elder; April 29, 1861
George Mitchell; special agent April 8, 1864 (served until 1871 in addition to the regular agent)
George C. Snow; March 16, 1865

Osage Subagency

Name; Date Appointed

Paul L. Chouteau; July 2, 1834
Edwin James; transferred from Council Bluffs, January 8, 1838
Congrave Jackson; March 27, 1839
Robert Callaway; January 24, 1840
John Hill Edwards; February 14, 1844
Joel Cruttenden; September 6, 1844
Samuel H. Bunch; notified February 13, 1846
John M. Richardson;

Seminole Subagency

Name; Date Appointed

John McKee; January 19, 1842
Thomas S. Judge; October 29, 1842
Marcellus DuVal; July 11, 1845
Bryant H. Smithson; April 26, 1853
Josiah W. Washbourne; April 20, 1854

Seminole Agency

Josiah W. Washbourne; June 8, 1855

Samuel Rutherford; November 5, 1857
 William P. Davis; Appointed July 13, 1861, but did not serve
 George C. Snow; January 7, 1862
 George A. Reynolds; March 18, 1865
 Capt. T.A. Baldwin; June 23, 1869
 Henry Breiner; October 24, 1870

Wichita Agency

Alexander H. McKisick; March 12, 1857
 Samuel A. Blain; July 6, 1858
 Mathew Leeper; July 26, 1860
 John J. Humphries; April 19, 1861
 Edwin H. Carruth; March 6, 1862
 Milo Gookins; July 22, 1864
 Henry Shanklin; April 26, 1866

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