

TAKEN FROM
PRELIMINARY INVENTORY (PI 163) OF
THE RECORDS OF
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RECORDS RELATING TO INDIAN REMOVAL

With the advance of white settlement, there was an increasing demand to remove the Indians in the East to an Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River. From the time of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 such removals were officially encouraged, and some Indians did move west. Indian removal became an explicit policy during the administration of President Andrew Jackson. A number of treaties were negotiated whereby tribes agreed to give up their lands in the Eastland move west. The provisions of the different treaties varied, but they all included some means of compensating the Indians for their land and property and of assisting them during the removal as well as for a period after their arrival in their new homes. Individual Indians who wished to stay in the East could accept a reservation of land in fee simple and remain as citizens.

The actual work of removal was assigned to the Office of the Commissary General of Subsistence in the War Department, and Army officers supervised it. Some Indians, however, were permitted to move by themselves. Private companies managed some of the removals. In 1836 the functions and records of the Office of the Commissary General of Subsistence relating to Indian removal were transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The removal of the Indians was completed for the most part by the late 1840's, although some Indians did manage to stay in the East.

Many of the records described below do not relate to actual removal but to the enforcement of other provisions of the treaties. Certain problems arose concerning reservations granted to Indians in the East and the compensation of Indians for losses. Three treaties caused the most trouble: the treaty of December 29, 1835, with the Cherokee; the treaty of September 29, 1830 (Dancing Rabbit Creek), with the Choctaw; and the treaty of March 24, 1832, with the Creek. Four commissions were appointed successively in an attempt to settle different kinds of claims arising from the Cherokee treaty. Most of the difficulties concerning the Choctaw treaty arose from article 14, which entitled Choctaw families to secure title to a reservation and to remain in the East. The Creek treaty provided for the allotment of land to all heads of families. It was intended that the Indians should then sell the land; and certifying agents were appointed to supervise the sales. Most of the Creek removal records relate to the attempted settlement of fraud cases arising from these sales.

The records relating to Indian removal include the records of the Office of the Commissary General of Subsistence that were transferred to the Bureau. They also include records of commissions that were established to adjudicate claims. The commissions customarily

transmitted their records to the Bureau when they had completed their work. Most of the Indian removal records were among the records of the Land Division at one time. They have been regarded as a distinct body of records, however, and are so described in this inventory. There are other records relating to Indian removal and related subjects among the general records of the Bureau, particularly in the "emigration" and "reserves" headings of the letters received (entry 79); the Special Files (entry 98), and Special Case 54 (see entry 102). Among the records of the Land Division are many records concerning land reserves of Indians.

The removal policy of the Federal Government is discussed in Annie H. Abel " The History of Events Resulting in Indian Consolidation West of the Mississippi," Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1906 (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1908). For a discussion of the actual process of removal see Grant Foreman, Indian Removal (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1932).

Records of the Commissary General of Subsistence

The Office of the Commissary General of Subsistence was established within the War Department in 1819. to purchase and issue Army provisions In 1830 it was also assigned the task of conducting the removal of the Indians. It was made responsible for their transportation to the West and for their subsistence for a year after they reached their new homes. Army officers were detailed to the removal work. Gen. George Gibson held the position of Commissary General throughout the period from 1830 to 1836. Early in November 1836 the Secretary of War transferred the Office's functions concerning Indian emigration to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Army officers continued to perform their duties under the direction of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The records of the Office of the Commissary General relating to Indian removal were transferred to the Bureau with the function and are now among the records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the National Archives. A few of the volumes that were transferred continued to be used for a time by the Bureau.

198. REGISTERS OF LETTERS RECEIVED.

1831-36. 3 vols. 7 in.

Entries for individual letters give date of receipt, file number and heading, name and address of writer, date of letter, and subject matter. The three volumes are for the years 1831-33, 1833-35, and 1836, respectively. There is some overlapping of dates, but there is no duplication of entries in the first and second volumes. Entries in each volume are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of writer and thereunder for the most part chronologically by date of letter's receipt. The entries under each letter of the alphabet are numbered consecutively throughout the three volumes. For the letters received, see entry 201. For a register of letters received by referral, see entry 199.

199. REGISTER OF LETTERS RECEIVED BY REFERRAL

1831-36. 1 vol. 1 in.

A register for " letters referred to the Commissary General of Subsistence by the Secretary of War, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and others. The entries are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of writer and thereunder in rough chronological order. The letters registered in this volume are also registered in the main series of registers of letters received (entry 198).

200. WEEKLY REPORTS OF LETTERS ADDRESSED AND REFERRED TO THE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE

1832-35. 3/4 in.

For each letter are given name of writer, his address, date received, subject matter, and a brief of the reply or the reason for not replying. There are many gaps in this series of reports. Arranged chronologically. These reports were prepared in addition to the registers described in entries 198 and 199.

201. LETTERS RECEIVED

1831-36. 7 ft.

Chiefly letters received, but including some reports, petitions, muster rolls, journals of emigrating and exploring parties, estimates, accounts current, abstracts of disbursements, abstracts of provisions issued, and vouchers received from Army officers in charge of removals and from disbursing officers, Indian agents and superintendents, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, individual Indians, and others. Arranged alphabetically by name of tribe, jurisdiction, or geographical area. The following headings are used: Cherokee, Chicago, Choctaw, Creek, Florida, Kickapoo, Miscellaneous, Ohio, Ottawa, Potawatomi, Quapaw, St. Louis Superintendency, Seminole, Western Superintendency, and Winnebago. Within each heading the arrangement is for the most part by year, thereunder alphabetically by initial letter of name of writer, and thereunder by file number. File numbers were assigned to letters in order of receipt; a separate set of numbers was used for each initial letter of surnames of writers. Included are some unregistered documents without file numbers and also a few that are dated before 1831. For registers, see entries 198 and 199; for letters sent, see entries 202 and 203.

202. LETTERS SENT**1830-36. 4 vols. 9 in.**

Handwritten copies of letters to the Secretary of War, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Second Auditor, superintendents of Indian removal, disbursing agents, Indian agents and superintendents, Members of Congress, and others concerning disbursement of funds, purchase and distribution of goods and supplies, exploring parties, transportation of Indians, health of emigrating parties, accounts, appointments, and other pertinent subjects. Arranged chronologically. Each volume contains an alphabetical index to names of addressees. There are also marginal notations to indicate the page numbers for other letters to the same addressee. For draft copies of letters sent, see entry 203; for letters received, see entry 201.

203. DRAFTS OF LETTERS SENT**1834-36. 4 in.**

Arranged in rough chronological order. For fair copies in letter books, see entry 202.

204. REPORTS AND STATEMENTS**1832-36. 1 vol. 2 in.**

Handwritten copies of tabular reports and statements that were prepared primarily to accompany letters to the Secretary of War and others. They relate to such subjects as fulfillment of treaty stipulations, Indian cattle, supplies for Indians, and employees. Arranged chronologically. The letters are copied in the letter books described in entry 202.

205. ESTIMATES**1832-36. 1 vol. 2 in.**

Chiefly copies of estimates, submitted to the Secretary of War, of costs of removing and subsisting Indians. Arranged chronologically. Copies of the transmittal letters are in the letter books described in entry 202.

206. CONTRACTS

1831-36. 1 vol. 2 in.

Handwritten copies of contracts made with suppliers for furnishing rations, livestock, equipment, and transportation. Arranged for the most part by name of tribe and thereunder usually in chronological order. There is an alphabetical index to names of officers and contractors. This volume is marked "B," but no volume "A" has been locate Included in the volume are a few loose copies of contracts.

207. RECORD OF RECEIPT AND ISSUE OF SUBSISTENCE GOODS

1831-38. 1 vol. 1 in.

Gives information concerning goods received and issued by disbursing agents and other officers, including names of those from whom they were received or to whom they were issued and the quantities of different commodities and complete rations. Arranged by name of agent. Thereunder entries for receipts and entries for issues are on separate and usually facing pages and are arranged chronologically. There is an alphabetical index to names of agents.

208. REGISTER OF REQUISITIONS OF DISBURSING AGENTS

1831-36. 1 vol. 3/4 in.

There are two sections in this volume, each of which consists of only a few pages. One section lists, in chronological order, requisitions on Disbursing Agent Capt. Will G. McClintock for advances for transportation of horses, 1831-32; and the other section lists, also in chronological order, requisitions on disbursing agents for the removal and subsistence of Cherokee Indians, 1831-36.

209. REQUISITIONS

1835-36. 1 vol. 3/4 in.

Unsigned copies of War Department forms for the requisition of funds from the Treasury. Arranged chronologically. There is an incomplete index to names of persons in whose favor warrants were to be issued or for whom funds were to be deposited.

210. JOURNAL

1830-37. 1 vol. 2 in.

A chronological record of financial transactions. There are cross references to the ledger described in entry 211. For rough copies of journal entries, see entry 216.

211. LEDGER

1830-37. 1 vol. 2 in.

A record of the same financial transactions as those entered in the journal described in entry 210, but the ledger entries are arranged by account rather than chronologically. Separate accounts were kept for individual officers and other persons and also for different uses of funds. There are page references to journal entries. The entries for transactions under each account are arranged chronologically. There is an alphabetical name and subject index.

212. LEDGER

1830-33. 1 vol. 2in.

There are entries for many of the same transactions as those entered in the ledger described in entry 211, but they are in somewhat different form. Arranged by account, chiefly for individuals, and thereunder chronologically. There are references to a daybook that has not been located.

213. RECORD OF COMPENSATION OF AGENTS

1830-33. 1 vol. 2in.

Given for individual agents are date of appointment and information concerning compensation for personal services and for expenses. Arranged by name of agent and thereunder chronologically. There is an alphabetical name index. (See also the reports and statements described in entry 204.)

214. REGISTER OF APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT

1831-35. 1 vol. 1 in.

Entries for individual applications usually give name of applicant, position sought, name of person recommending, and dates and file numbers of letters (see entry 201). Arranged alphabetically by initial letter of name of applicant and thereunder in rough chronological order.

215. LEDGER

June-Oct. 1836. 1 vol. 1 in.

A ledger maintained by D. A. A. Buck, disbursing agent, for paying salaries and contingencies. Each account is arranged chronologically. Only a few pages of the volume, labeled as a daybook, were used.

216. PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL RECORDS

1830-36. 1 in.

Rough drafts of journal entries (see entry 210); a ledger maintained by William C. Easton, disbursing agent, for paying salaries and contingencies; and a list of accounts sent to the Second Auditor.

Chickasaw removal records

252. LETTERS SENT

1832-61. 3 vols. 7 in.

Handwritten copies of letters sent by the Bureau to Chickasaw agents, superintendents, other field officials, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Interior, the Commissioner and other officials of the General Land Office, Members of Congress, bankers, members of missionary groups, Indians, and others relating to removal, land reservations, claims, investment of proceeds of land sales, applications for bounty lands, education, and other pertinent subjects. Most of the letters relating to the Chickasaw Indians and the Chickasaw Agency for this period were copied in these letter books rather than in the main series of copies of letters sent (entry 84). Arranged chronologically. Each volume is indexed alphabetically by name of addressee and in part by subject. There are marginal notations beside letters to indicate page numbers of other letters sent to the same addressee.

253. CENSUS AND MUSTER ROLLS

1837-39. 1 vol. 1 in.

A list of the members of the Chickasaw tribe, which was prepared in 1839 by Agent A. M. M. Upshaw. It is bound with some muster rolls of Indians emigrating in 1837. Arranged chronologically.

254. ABSTRACTS OF LOCATIONS OF LAND

1836-44. 2 vols. and unbound papers. 3 in.

Schedules giving name of reservee, location of land, and other information for locations made under different articles of the treaty of May 24, 1834. The two volumes contain schedules approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Secretary of War, and the President. There are original schedules for each article of the treaty and also supplements and revisions. Arranged by article. In this series are also some loose preliminary schedules and plats.

255. REPORTS OF LAND SALES AND DEEDS

1836-39. 1 in.

Schedules of Chickasaw land sales and deeds issued for the land approved for sale by authorized agents. Arranged chronologically by date of schedule.

256. JOURNAL OF EXPENDITURES

1833-36. 1 vol. 2 in.

A chronological record of expenditures for carrying into effect Chickasaw treaties.

257. STATEMENTS CONCERNING PROCEEDS OF SALES OF LAND

1849. 1 vol. 1 in.

Four statements relating to the use of proceeds of sales of Chickasaw lands under the treaty of 1834: (1) statement of investments for incompetent Indians; (2) statement of payments of

claims from uninvested funds; (3) abstracts of notes of indebtedness of incompetents: and (4) statement of investments for orphans. For a ledger for Chickasaw trust funds, see entry 929.