

TAKEN FROM
PRELIMINARY INVENTORY (PI 163) OF
THE RECORDS OF
THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (RG 75)
WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA
Compiled by Edward E. Hill, 1965

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.

Choctaw removal records

258. CENSUS ROLL

1831. 1 vol. and unbound papers. 2 in.

This roll is known as the Armstrong Roll. Given for individual Indians owning farms are name of Indian, number of acres cultivated, number in family, number of males over 16, number of males and females under 10, location of farm, probable value, and other information. Arranged by Choctaw district. For each district there is also a list of Indians entitled to additional land under the provisions of the treaty of 1830. There are two copies of the roll, one bound and one unbound. Included with the unbound copy is an alphabetical name index for each district. The volume described in entry 259 can also be used as an index.

259. ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CHOCTAW RESERVES

n.d. 1 vol. 1 in.

Information abstracted from the census roll described in entry 258, with additional information concerning action on reservation claims. Arranged alphabetically by initial letter of name of Indian and thereunder in the same order as on the census roll. There is a note stating that the volume was compiled by the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

260. CENSUS ROLL

1856. 1/4 in.

A listing, prepared by Agent Douglas H. Cooper, of those Choctaw who still remained east of the Mississippi. Given are the names of heads of families as well as the number of men, women, and children in the family and the place of residence. Arranged by geographical location. A typed alphabetical name index has been inserted.

261. EMIGRATION LISTS

1831-57. 5 vols. and unbound papers. 5 in.

Chiefly rolls of Choctaw Indians who were about to emigrate or who had already emigrated, either under Government supervision or by themselves. Included are some schedules of property abandoned and lost, some correspondence, and other records. Arranged for the most part chronologically. Some of the lists are indexed.

262. REGISTER OF CLAIMS FOR RESERVATIONS

1834-36. 1 vol. 1 in.

A register, prepared by George W. Martin, for Choctaw families wishing to remain in the East and to secure title to lands provided for by article 14 of the treaty of 1830. Each entry gives date of claim, name of reservee, number of children in family, a description of the land, and other information. Arranged chronologically by date of registration and indexed by name of reservee. For an unbound copy and other registers, see entry 266.

263. REPORTS CONCERNING CERTIFICATION OF LAND SALES

1836-41. 1 vol. and unbound papers. 2 in.

Submitted by Andrew V. Brown and his successor, Andrew A. Kincannon, Commissioners to certify contracts for sale of Choctaw reserves. The reports are mainly in tabular form. Included are some abstracts of testimony. Later notations were made in the Bureau. Arranged for the most part by action taken. Indexed in part. For other documents submitted by these Commissioners, see entries 265-267.

264. MEMORANDUM BOOK OF COMMISSIONERS BROWN AND KINCANNON

1837-39. 1 vol. 1 in.

Contains notes concerning approved locations and abstracts of claims of Hiram Carver and Co. for purchases of land. For the purchases, there is an alphabetical index to names of reservees.

265. STATEMENTS CONCERNING SALES OF CHOCTAW ORPHAN LANDS

1838-83. 2 vols. 1 in.

Give information concerning the original and subsequent sales and valuations at different times. There are some notations dated as late as 1918.

266. STATEMENTS AND SCHEDULES

ca. 1831-1906. 9 in.

Relate to location of reservations, claims, issue of scrip, payments to Indians, use of proceeds from sales of land, and other subjects. Some of these records are preliminary versions of those in the bound volumes. Arranged in part by subject and in part chronologically.

267. MISCELLANEOUS CHOCTAW REMOVAL RECORDS

ca. 1825-58. 1 ft.

Correspondence, lists, statements, deeds, notes, bonds, briefs, and other records relating to removal, reservation claims, the Choctaw Academy, and other pertinent subjects. Some of these records may be those of commissions. There is some material that was prepared for publication. Arranged for the most part by subject or type of document.

Records of Commissioners Pray, Murray, and Vroom

In 1837 the President appointed James Murray, Peter D. Vroom, and Gen. Publius R. Pray (who soon resigned) to adjudicate reservation claims arising under article 14 of the treaty of 1830.

268. JOURNAL

1837-38. 1 vol. 1 in.

A record of proceedings of the Commission from its beginning on June 22, 1837, until its adjournment on May 12, 1838. Arranged chronologically. There is an alphabetical index to names of claimants. In the same volume are also a list of heads of families claiming reservations (see entry 269 for another copy) and some general depositions. For main series of depositions, see entry 270.

269. DOCKET OF CLAIMS

1837-38. 1 vol. and unbound papers. 1 in.

Given for claims heard by the Commissioners are claim number, name of claimant, and names of witnesses. Arranged by claim number. There are two copies of the docket, one bound and one unbound. In the bound volume there is a list of Choctaw heads of families who claimed land under article 14 of the treaty of 1830 (see entry 268 for another copy of this list).

270. EVIDENCE

1837-38. 1 vol. and unbound papers. 8 in.

Depositions of claimants and witnesses taken by the Commissioners. Arranged by claim number. There are two copies, one bound and one unbound. The bound volume is indexed byname of claimant. There are also some loose general depositions (see entry 268) and some documents submitted by attorneys.

271. ABSTRACTS OF CLAIMS ADJUDICATED

1837-38. 2 vols. 2 in.

General statements and schedules for individual claims. Entries for individual claims give name of claimant, names of children, place of residence, names of witnesses, and other information. Arranged by captains' companies (communities) and thereunder by action taken. There are two copies, one of which has later annotations.

272. REVISION OF CLAIMS BY THE SECRETARY OF WAR

1846. 1 vol. 1 in.

Entries for individual claims give name of claimant, names of children, place of residence, remarks concerning the decision, and sometimes notations of issue of scrip and other information. There are entries for all claims, both for those in which the decision of the Commissioners was upheld and for those in which the Secretary reversed the decision. Arranged in the same order as the abstracts of claims (entry 271) and indexed by name of claimant.

Records of the Commission of Claiborne, Graves, Tyler, Gaines, and Rush

This Commission was appointed by the President to adjudicate claims under articles 14 and 19 of the treaty of 1830. John Claiborne and Ralph Graves were the original members appointed in 1842; William Tyler was appointed in 1843; and in 1844 George Gaines and Samuel Rush replaced Claiborne and Graves. The Commission adjourned in June 1845.

273. LETTERS SENT

1842-45. 1 vol. 3/4 in.

Handwritten copies of letters to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Secretary of War, and others. Arranged chronologically.

274. JOURNALS OF PROCEEDINGS

1842-45. 8 vols. 7 in.

Arranged chronologically. In most of the volumes there is an alphabetical index to names of claimants. There are two copies each of four journals.

275. JOURNAL KEPT BY COMMISSIONER GRAVES**1842-43. 2 vols. 3 in.**

This journal gives a more complete account of the claims presented during the period it covers than the regular journals of the Commission (entry 274). Arranged chronologically. There are two copies; one is incomplete. In the complete journal there is an alphabetical index to names of claimants. In the incomplete copy there is a tabular statement of cases adjudicated by the Commission.

276. CLAIM PAPERS**1842-45. 2 ft.**

Application statements, depositions of claimants and witnesses, and some other documents concerning individual claims presented before the Commission. The finding of the Commission is indicated on each enclosure. Arranged by claim number. Some of the papers are now with the Choctaw reserve papers among the records of the Land Division (entry 529).

277. JUDGMENTS**1843-45. 2 vols. 3 in.**

Decisions on individual claims. Arranged chronologically and indexed by name of claimant. There are two copies.

278. ABSTRACTS OF CLAIMS ADJUDICATED**1845. 2 vols. 2 in.**

Schedules submitted by the Commissioners and approved by the Secretary of War with some modifications. The individual entries give name of family, names of children, residence, and information concerning the evidence presented and the decisions; and sometimes other information is included. Arranged in groups of related claims. Each volume includes an alphabetical index to names of claimants.

279. REVISION OF CLAIMS BY THE SECRETARY OF WAR**1846. 1 vol. 1 in.**

Entries for individual claims under article 14 of the treaty of 1830 give name of claimant, names of children, place of residence, remarks concerning the decision, and sometimes notations concerning issue of scrip and other information. Included are entries for claims in which the decision of the Commission was upheld as well as for those in which it was reversed. There is no discernible order to the sequence of claims. There is an alphabetical index to names of claimants.

280. ABSTRACTS OF CLAIMS ADJUDICATED BY THE SECRETARIES OF WAR AND THE INTERIOR**1846-54. 1 vol. 2 in.**

Abstracts of claims for land and scrip for which decisions were made by the Secretaries under the provisions of special acts. Many of them had been presented previously to one of the commissions. Individual entries give name of claimant, names of children, residence, and

remarks concerning the evidence and decision. Many of the claims were rejected on September 30, 1854. Arranged in groups of related claims and indexed by name of claimant.

Records relating to land scrip

281. REGISTER OF LAND SCRIP

1843-46. 1 vol. 2 in.

Contains copies of schedules submitted to the President for approval and with later annotations. The schedules show the amount of the scrip due Choctaw reservees who could not be granted land as provided by article 14 of the treaty of 1830. The scrip entitled the Indians to select land from the public domain. The approval of the President is indicated on most of the schedules. Arranged chronologically and indexed by name of reservee. For other statements and schedules, see entry 266. For scrip and stubs, see entry 282.

282. SCRIP AND STUBS

1843-46. 4 vols. and unbound papers. 1 ft.

The scrip certificates entitled the Indians to public lands in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, and Arkansas, instead of the land to which they were entitled under the provisions of article 14 of the treaty of 1830. Arranged by the classifications that determined the amount of land to which the Indians were entitled and thereunder by date of issue. For the earlier sets there were two certificates prepared for each award, each entitling the Indian to one-half of the land awarded. The second certificate was not to be delivered until the Indian had moved to Indian Territory. In most cases only one of the certificates has been removed (see entry 284 for explanation). For the later sets there are only stubs. There are also some undelivered certificates that were returned. For other records concerning Choctaw scrip, see entries 266, 267, 281, 283, and 284.

283. RECEIPTS FOR SCRIP

1845, 1848-49. 3 in.

Standard forms signed by Indians who were issued scrip. The 1845 receipts were used in Mississippi and the 1848-49 receipts were used at the Choctaw Agency in Indian Territory. Arranged in rough chronological order.

284. SCHEDULE OF SCRIP ANNUITANTS

1845-49. 1 vol. 1 in.

An act of Congress approved March 3, 1845 (5 Stat. 777); provided that instead of delivering certain scrip certificates to Choctaw Indians who had moved to Indian Territory the value of the scrip should be funded and interest on it paid to the Indians. For the individual Indian this schedule gives name, value of scrip, and information concerning payments made. Arranged by certificate number. For later payrolls, see entry 906.