

**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.

### **Creek removal records**

The Creek Indians lived in villages. These records are usually arranged by name of village and thereunder by name of Indian.

#### **285. CENSUS ROLL.**

**1833. 1 vol. 1 in.**

This roll was completed by Benjamin S. Parsons and Thomas J. Abbott in accordance with article 2 of the treaty of March 24, 1832. Given are the names of heads of families and the number of males, females, and slaves in each family. The volume is divided into two parts: information for the families living in Upper Towns and Lower Towns, respectively. Each part is arranged by name of town and thereunder by name of head of family. The entries for each town are numbered in order. These entry numbers were used for purposes of identification in later records. Indexed by name of town. The index to Creek reserves (entry 286) can be used to find the town in which a particular Indian is listed. These records have been microfilmed by the National Archives as T275, roll 1 and online transcription

#### **285A. INDEXES TO CREEK RESERVES (ABERT & BRIGHT).**

**2 vols.**

Volume 1 was compiled by Bright and volume 2 by Abert (Entry 287). They index, by name, the Creeks. Also included is a short numerical code, apparently corresponding to volume and page numbers, and a location providing section, township, and range. These serve as indexes to the volumes in entry 286A. (new entry)

#### **286. INDEX TO CREEK RESERVES.**

**n.d. 1 vol. 1 in.**

An alphabetical listing of the Creek Indians entered on the location registers prepared by Albert and Bright (entry 287). It serves as an index to the census roll described in entry 285.

#### **286A. REGISTER OF CREEK RESERVATIONS UNDER THE TREATY OF MARCH 24, 1832**

**2 vols.**

Arrangement is alphabetical by the first letter of the surname. Each entry covers a two page span and includes the following categories of information: number of entry, reservee's name, Creek town, location book number and page, location, locating agent, name of purchaser, date of approval, and date of patent. (new entry)

#### **287. LAND LOCATION REGISTERS.**

**ca. 1834-86. 5 vols. 6 in.**

Under the provisions of article 2 of the treaty of 1832, each head of a Creek family was entitled to a reservation of land in the East. John J. Abert and James Bright located these reservations in 1833-34. Given for each reservee are his name and a description of land; and sometimes other information is included. If the land was sold, the name of the purchaser, the amount of sale, and information concerning administrative handling of the contract are also given. There are

two copies of a register for Abert's locations and two copies of a register for Bright's locations. There is also a preliminary version of the Bright register. In one copy, when applicable, the date of issuance of a patent by the General Land Office is given. There are notations dated as late as 1886. Arranged by town and thereunder by name of Indian in the same order as the census roll described in entry 285. For an index to names of Indians, see entry 286.

**288. LOCATION REGISTERS AND CERTIFICATIONS OF CONTRACTS.**

**ca. 1834-36. 2 vols. 3 in.**

Labeled, respectively, as registers of certifying agents Robert McHenry and James F. Sanford. Both names, however, appear in both volumes. Each volume consists of location registers for certain areas, similar to those described in entry 287, giving both the location of land and information concerning sales. One includes evaluations of the quality of the land. There are also schedules of approved contracts in each volume. These volumes contain many corrections and deletions.

**289. ABSTRACT OF CREEK CONTRACTS.**

**Jan. 22, 1836. 2 vols. 1 in.**

Two copies of a report, in tabular form, that was submitted by John B. Hogan, Superintendent of Creek Emigration, acting under special instructions to investigate fraudulent land sales. Given for individual cases are census number (see entry 285) and name of reservee, location of land, name of registered purchaser, price of sale, judgment on validity of contract, and other information. Some notations were made later. Arranged by town.

**290. REPORT CONCERNING CREEK CONTRACTS.**

**1836. 1 vol. 1/4 in.**

Submitted by investigating agents John B. Hogan, James W. Burney, and George D. Anderson on June 10, 1836, and approved by the President on July 7, 1836. Given are judgments on the validity of certain contracts for the sale of Creek reservations that were certified by Leonard Tarrant. Later notations were made in the Bureau. Arranged by town.

***Records of the Commission of Crawford and Belch***

In 1836 the President appointed Thomas Hartley Crawford and Alfred Belch to investigate reports of frauds in the sale of Creek lands and the causes of recent hostilities of the Creek Indians.

**291. JOURNAL.**

**1836-38. 1 vol. 3/4 in.**

Contains proceedings of the Commission, consisting chiefly of copies of correspondence and other documents. Arranged chronologically.

**292. DOCKET BOOKS.**

**1836-38. 5 vols. 5 in.**

A record of cases of alleged fraud in the transfer of Creek reservations presented to the Commission. Given for individual claims are date of filing, names of contestants, nature of claim, notations on actions taken, and other information. Later notations were made in the Bureau. Arranged in three groups: (1) cases in which more information was needed; (2) cases in which the Indian reservee was a contestant; and (3) cases in which the reservee had died. Within these groups, the cases are arranged chronologically by filing date of claim and numbered consecutively. In three of the volumes there is an alphabetical index to names of contestants. For decisions, see entry 293. Papers submitted concerning the cases are now filed with the reserve papers described in entry 529.

**293. REPORTS.**

**1836-38. 3 vols. and unbound papers. 5 in.**

Summaries of the evidence presented and the decisions of the Commissioners in fraud cases. There are cross-references to the docket books (entry 292). Later notations were made in the Bureau or the War Department. There are one general report and other reports for special groups of claims. Arranged by name of town, usually in alphabetical order.

**294. SCHEDULES OF REVISIONS BY THE SECRETARY OF WAR.**

**1839. 1 vol. 1/2 in.**

Copies of schedules approved by the President. Arranged in groups of related cases and thereunder by town. There are later notations, dated for the most part in 1840, relating to administrative actions.

*Other Creek removal records*

**295. ABSTRACTS OF APPROVAL CONTRACTS FOR SALE OF RESERVATIONS.**

**1839-142. 1 vol. 1/2 in.**

Schedules, approved by the President, of contracts that had been approved by certifying agents and Commissioners. The dates given above are those of the schedules; the contracts were approved as early as 1834. Arranged chronologically by date of schedule; the individual schedules are arranged alphabetically by name of town.

**296. REPORTS CONCERNING LAND OF DECEASED RESERVEES.**

**1841. 1 vol. 1/2 in.**

Five reports submitted to the Secretary of War by John Wyse and John J. Abert concerning the land of deceased reservees. These reports formed a separate group of claims presented to Crawford and Belch (see entry 292) Some notations were made later.

**297. REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMISSIONER JOHN W. EDMONDS.**

**Feb. 22, 1841. 1 vol. 1/2 in.**

Contains decisions on cases involving the validity of contracts made with J. C. Watson and Company for sale of Creek reservations. Arranged by town. Included in the volume are also some related schedules concerning settled and uncontested cases and also cases admitted for adjudication after the prescribed time.

**298. MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS CONCERNING CONTRACTS.**

**ca. 1833-57. 9 in.**

Schedules, statements, abstracts, lists, and other records relating to the contracts for sales of reservations and to some related subjects. Many of these records were prepared by locating and certifying agents and Commissioners. Arranged in rough chronological order.

**299. EMIGRATION LISTS.**

**1836-38. 8 vols. and unbound papers. 5 in.**

Muster rolls of Creek Indians about to emigrate and Indians who had emigrated. There are also lists of Indians entitled to subsistence and some receipt rolls for subsistence goods. One roll includes some names of Seminole Indians. Arranged for the most part chronologically.

**300. MISCELLANEOUS CREEK REMOVAL RECORDS.**

**ca. 1827-59. 1 ft.**

Correspondence, depositions, contracts for sale of land, memoranda, drafts of reports, statements, and other records relating particularly to land fraud cases. Included are some records of investigating officers -- particularly John Wyse, secretary to Special Commissioner John W. Edmonds (see entries 296 and 297). Arranged by subject or type of document.