

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service
Washington 25, D. C.

September 12, 1963

IN REPLY REFER TO: N

Honorable Roy A. Taylor
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Taylor:

This is in reply to your letter of September 9, 1963, concerning the confusion that has crept into the matter of the 1837 survey of the land of the Cherokee Indians.

The copies of the documents in your possession are from our Record Group 77, which comprises the Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers.

It has now come to our attention that in 1931 the Office of the Chief of Engineers transferred to the General Land Office (the records of which in the National Archives are designated Record Group 49), a group of 13 notebooks containing field notes of the 1837 survey of the Cherokee lands. These 13 notebooks are in the custody of our Cartographic Branch, which describes them as follows:

Field notebooks of reconnaissances and surveys made in the Cherokee Nation in North Carolina and extending over the border into Georgia and Tennessee. The notes and topographic sketches are in pencil and include surveys of routes between Forts Butler, Delaney, Hembrie, and Lindsay in North Carolina, and surveys and reconnaissances of creeks, rivers, and trails in the area. Names found in the books are Mr. Adams, A. Campbell, C. Fremont, Mr. Pillans, and John K. Stimson. The surveys were apparently made under the direction of Capt. W. G. Williams, U. S. Topographical Engineers, Ca. 1837-38. 13 notebooks. Manuscript. 945 p. Average size 8½ x 5. These notes appear to be related to a map and report filed as U. S. 125 in Record Group 77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers.

In summary, it should perhaps be repeated that this survey was carried out by Captain W. G. Williams of the U. S. Topographical Engineers. The General Land Office had no relationship to the making of the survey,

but in 1931 was presented with the field notes of the survey by the Office of the Chief of Engineers. These field notes are now in the Cartographic Branch in the National Archives, where they form a part of Record Group 49, Records of the General Land Office.

I regret that all of this was not made clear earlier.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne C. Grover
Archivist of the United States