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CHOCTAW NATION MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

**Gardner, Jefferson (ca. 1846-1906)**

**Printed materials 1894-1906**

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**Indian chief. Typescripts of newspaper articles (1894-1906), including speeches and letters, by and about Gardner, a principal chief of the Choctaws, and also relating to such issues as slavery, financial affairs, tribal factionalism, and the allotment of land by the Dawes Commission.**

From 1894 to 1896 the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation was Jefferson Gardner. The three main problems that Gardner had to deal with were negotiations with the Dawe's Commission, the reorganization of Choctaw schools, and mineral leases for exploitation of coal lands in the Choctaw Nation. Along with these problems, Jefferson Gardner was responsible for defining the guidelines (i.e., certain requirements for citizenship) needed to check the influx of outsiders into the nation. The collection consists of 67 pieces spanning from 1894 to 1909.

**Packet 1**

**F1:** *The Indian Citizen*, Vol. 9, No. 24 "Message of J. Gardner." Atoka, Indian Territory. Editors: B. S. Smiser and Norma E. Smiser. Contents: Dispute concerning Dawes Commission's proposition. 3 copies. Oct. 11, 1894. Length: 5 pp.

**F2:** *Minco Minstrel*, Vol. 5, No. 16 "Editorial on Views of Chief" Minco, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory. Editor: Lewis N. Hornbeck. Contents: Dispute concerning Dawes Commission's proposition. 3 copies. Oct. 19, 1894. Length: 4 pp.

**F3:** *The Davis Advertiser*, Vol. 1, No. 50 "Editorial on Jefferson Gardner" Davis, Indian Territory Managing Editor: M. B. Rutherford. Contents: Discusses the three factions of Indians in Choctaw Nation and the action they are taking toward one another. 3 copies. April 8, 1895. Length: 3 pp.

**F4:** *The Afton News*, Vol. 3, No. 29 "Editorial on Jefferson Gardner, W. N. Jones "Afton, Indian Territory. Editor: Randolph Ballard. Contents: Discusses skirmishes between the three factions of Indians. 3 copies. April 19, 1895. Editorial dated April 13 - Paris, Texas. Length: 4 pp.

**F5:** *Fairland News*, Vol. 3, No. 35 "Letter of H. L. Dawes to Jefferson Gardner" Fairland, Indian Territory. Editor: W. A. Keel. Contents: Henry L. Dawes, Chairman of the Dawes Commission asks Jeff Gardner when it would be appropriate to set up a meeting to negotiate the proposed proposition. 3 copies. May 31, 1895. Letter dated May 18, 1895 from Muskogee, Indian Territory.