

Grayson Papers

Historical

subject

I

James C. Davis
National Attorney for The Creek Nation
Muskogee, Oklahoma



Atty. Davis' letter detailing what the Red Cross society had done toward rendering the Council House habitable, and enclosing the Contract with the Red Cross society approved by the Acting Secy. of the Interior

Honorable G. W. Grayson,

Principal Chief of the Creek Nation,
Eufaula, Oklahoma.

2-1-36 CW

G.W.GRAYSON
PRINCIPAL CHIEF OF CREEK NATION
EUFULA.OKLAHOMA

Letter of Commissioner Gato Sells
Concerning use of Council House
and my answer thereto.

SL-136

May 20, 1908.

Hon. J. R. Garfield,
Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

On the 13th of January last, the Creek delegation addressed an official communication to you suggesting, in the absence of a feasible plan for equalizing the value of standard allotments in the Creek Nation as provided in agreement with the Government, that the available funds of the Nation be distributed per capita to the citizens.

As we have not yet received answer to the said communication, and as the people are anxious to know the attitude of the Department on this point, the undersigned respectfully asks to be favored with an answer to the letter of the 13th of January, 1908, touching the subjects of equalization of allotments, and the disbursement of Creek funds therein suggested.

I have the honor to be

Respectfully,


G.W. Grayson

Creek Delegate.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
MUSKOGEE NATION.

MUSKOGEE NATION.

Omulgee, I.O. June 15th 1883

Hons

G W Grayson &
James Latney.

Gentlemen

In addition to what I have said to you verbally in regard to the business with which you are intrusted, I deem it proper to give the following in writing:-

You will earnestly request that Lopachee and party be delivered to the Creek authorities without delay.

You will protest against feeding or other expenditures that may be occasioned at the instance or request of those people at ^{the} expense of the Muskogee Nation ~~unless the same is authorized by treaty stipulations~~.

You will assure the proper officials of the United States Government of the disposition and ability of the Muskogee Government to deal justly with those people under all circumstances.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

MUSKOGEE NATION.

Oklmulgee, I. T.

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You will protest against the occupation of our Country by United States troops unless so requested by the constitutional authority of the Muskogee government.

You will request the President of the United States to dispose of this matter at as early period as possible.

Very respyly yours.

Sam'l. Checote

J. Blallahan.

Pm Chief

Pm Secy.

M W

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feby 2nd, 1889

Dear Grayson

I have just received your
Telegram, I am so glad the Council
has acted affirmatively, for the Okla-
homa bill passed the House yesterday
and had the Creek not have acted
just in this nick of time all
the land interests of the Creeks
as well as all the Indians owing
in the west would have been turned
over to fortune of chance and ac-
cident. Now the tide has been given
direction by the Creeks, by seizing
the opportune moment, and not only
the Creeks but all the other Nations
will will be dealt with upon princi-

rules of equity and justice. I don't know just how far the Mc Kee Note would influence legislation here, but in the outset of negotiations I had to promise to favorably report it to the Council should Council have acted adversely on it. I would have gotten along as well as I could. However it was best to dispose of it sometime, and it could never have been done cheaper than now. The Creek will be from time to time withdrawing sums of money and at some juncture favorable to the Stevens, Root and Elkins political fortunes the Creek might be forced to pay the full face of the note. And again the Creek Council under certain influences might agree to pay the face of the note. But returning to the matter at issue in this main. The President will on Tuesday send the approved Agreement up to Congress for its ratification. We cannot

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

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overestimate the importance of what
the Creek have done. As I remarked
to you at Okmulgee last fall
It puts the Creek in the van of coming
events and they can lead the Indians
to higher successes. It is the beginning
of a practical policy, and all who
are actors must measure their po-
litical apparel by and principle by
a practical measure. I simply
give you this pointer because you
have an inclination to public affairs
and I would be proud to see all the
Creek be up to the times.

Now as refers to final success
I will say to you confidentially

I have not got the shadow of a doubt
of success. I think the working
plan here is well arranged and
is in exact accord with the policy
of the Administration and the
sentiment of the public. It
is an honest settlement on the
part of the Govt.

I will write you as matters
progresses, and please don't use
any of my letters for publicity
for they are purely personal
~~you may use as your own~~
any idea that you may find in
that will enlighten the Indians
in the pathway progress now open
to them by the Creeks. If I were
in the newspaper business I would
throw off all respect to the prejudices
of the past, and lead the public's
thought to a higher conception
of their future destiny. The idea
of the Gibson Grand Council resolutions
is practical. In conclusion - Come
here towards the last of the session and
you can aid us - all will be O.K. P. Poste

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 23, 1889*

B. W. Grayson

Dear Friend

Judge Stidham

has no doubt told you all about our settlement. Your letter intimating that it may not be acceptable to the people, I must confess gave me some uneasiness about proceeding in the matter. But I decided that, if the settlement was good, and such a one as would commend itself to the honest judgment of the Creeks, that they were a sensible people, and would cheerfully endorse our work, and enact such legislation as would be necessary to succeed before Congress. Thus

inspired, we bid all faint-heartedness
adieu, and addressed ourselves to the
~~work~~ the task or Mission entrusted to us.
Our work is done, and all the necessary
combinations are made to achieve
success here. The matter now rest with
the Greek Council. The agreement together
with our report has been forwarded to
the chief. He has called a Council on
the 29th to lay it before that body. You
are one of its most intelligent members
and leaders. I have but to say, do your
duty to your country and people.
The agreement if accepted with all that
is incidental to final success, will put
the Greek people in condition and means
that will enable ^{them} to meet ~~with success~~
all the demands of the future. It will

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

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be simply a question; have the delegates to whom the matter was entrusted done their work well? If so, then further empower us by passing the act recommended in our report. We were instructed to bring the question a final settlement we have done so. And have exercised our best judgment, and put forth our highest energies and effort. A careful perusal of the provisions of the Agreement will disclose one leading idea as ~~its~~ bases. "The present and future welfare of the Creek people. It will enable them them educate every child in the Nation. It will enable them to withdraw all their invested funds at any moment

that any exigency of the future may make it necessary. The amount secured to the Creek people is far beyond the expectation of the most hopeful. I think we have done well. If the Creek Council think so, which I have every reason to feel confident they will, then we their representatives are content.

When the Council passes the act it is here understood that it will not be made public a home, but returned here and announced officially by the President in transmitting it to Congress. see to it that this agreement are not violated by getting the matter in the newspapers. When all is finished there. Near the end of the session of Congress, come on here and you can do valuable service here. Write me on receipt of this.

Your friend

Pleasant Porter

P.S. explain the matter to our mutual friend Espar Becker sends his best wishes to you. The old man has acted nobly he has a very high opinion of you, and believes in fidelity in you standing by our work

Your friend

P. Porter

Confidential

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

January 1,

1889.

Friend Grayson

Yours of the 29th came
due to hand this morning. I am glad
to hear from you. This is the first time
I have written under date 1889. Now
let the receiver of this letter be an
inspiration of good success for the Com-
ming year. The year opens upon us
here under the most favorable auspices.
We have opened negotiations on the OK
lakoma lands under the authority of ^{the Act of} Com-
cil, which is deemed sufficient au-
thority by the Govt and all things
thus far point to an exceedingly
favorable settlement. I am sorry
you are skeptic. Now just lay

aside all doubt, and look on the matter with hope and good cheer.

Now just suppose the case that we were to make a settlement with the Govt. relinquishing all rights and interests to the ceded lands and for said relinquishment receive One and one half Million or two or three Millions dollars. Don't you believe the Council would ratify such an agreement together with what ever incidents attending such a success. This would be a splendid settlement, and I have confidence in the business judgment of the Creeks in not throwing away such an opportunity. We are proceeding upon the theory that the Creeks

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec 1888.

have a realization of the urgency of the situation - you have I know - It stands thus - Should the Springer Bill or any other like measure pass the Creeks would get nothing. Should the Barnes proposition take its place - then and in that event the Indians west of ninety eight would be moved into Oklahoma and the Creek treaty would be fulfilled, and the Creek would get nothing. Now pending these choices of disaster, to negotiate an exceedingly favorable settlement under the act of Congress of 1885, which would injure no one, but gives to the Creeks from one to three Million dollars. Does not that strike you like nutting

the situation at the right time and
in the right way. When this matter is
submitted to Council of Course I
take it that you will favor it as
every well wisher of this country will
you know that however favorable a
settlement is made with the Executive
department of the Govt that Congress
is not apt to Act until the Creek
ratify the settlement together with
all the incidents connected with
the settlement. After the Creek
have acted which must be
this winter, before long, if we are
to have success, then come on here
and see the inauguration and Creek
success. Happy New Years to you -
regards to Poly and other friends
Yours / P. Postle