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BYRD, BILLIE

LETTERS - MOTIEY TIGER

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LETTERS

Billie Byrd, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History
8-17-37

I knew that there was in existence these two letters, which I have translated into the English language, in the possession of Louis Dunson, age 59, of the Thlopthlocco town, and who lives two and half miles east of Okemah, Oklahoma.

The letters were written in the Muskogee-Creek language to Motey Tiger who was a member of the Tuckibutchee town (tulwa). Motey Tiger served as chief of the Muskogee-Creek nation at one time. The Tuckibutchee town was a powerful and influential town but there came days when the power and influence were being pulled down.

Wewoka District

Hon. Motey Tiger and my nephew:

I am writing you concerning the welfare of our town and concerning the Muskogee party. I am forewarning you about some things that might happen in the days to come.

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It is that I am urging you to reconsider the time of our elders. There was a time when they were very strict spokesman of our nation and they had great influence over the other tribes. They had their friends but they were strong in their protection of the town (tulwa). At this time, it seems that the tribe is gradually losing its strength and importance, but I still feel that this tribe is not completely lost.

Many obstacles have fell in the path of the tribe yet the tribe is always looking forward to the progress and advancement of its young people and children.

We are the descendants of those who have had to keep in with progress yet we look to our tribe and realize that this was the way our elders came because there are times when obstacles and hindrances came our way. Ours was the Muskogee party and what it stood for. Those of the party have put on us a coat that is not ours and called us or gave us names that are not ours and so all difficulties are

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coming our way. Even now, the Muskogee party as it was before, have the attitude that the party wants to take the stand it had when it was casting burdens in our way. This party has never made peace with us to fulfill its wants. This fills me with sadness. It saddened the hearts of our elders that came under its influence.

I dread to be brought under the influence of this party and abide under their laws and I very bitterly oppose its workings. You and I know the disgraceful acts of the party, so I further urge you to take an opposing stand and your friends will think highly of you.

Be strong in your struggle against this and in your struggle, it will seem to you that many are against you but return to your friends to take a firm stand and take heed to their sayings even if you are wrong.

Do not be led by the Muskogee party and their wants but forsake them and return to your tribe to strongly uphold them and lead them. Disregard the wants and

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and desires of the party.

If the desires and power of the Muskogee party still moves forward things will not be so well, but if we, ourselves, move to accomplish our desires and purposes we will all then rejoice and be happy.

So it is to the Tustanugge of Coweta and his uncle that you report on yourself so that your friends will know of you. I will be there to see you before long as I have many things to talk over with you but this is all that I am writing now.

T. W. Fixico.

Newoka District
Sept. 30, 1880

Motey Tiger :

This letter is to let you know that the state of unrest that has been felt in our tribe has decreased. The people come together and talk with

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one another and I am very glad to see all these acts and know that you will rejoice with me.

Be not fearful but I implore you to look to the future and struggle with and for your people to be strong in their effort to advance and progress.

I also beseech the others of your tribe to have and be of one purpose and a united mind so that our rights will be safeguarded. Ever hold Cok-cat Fixico in high estimation but I have no worry about Ko-sa Fixico for I have read the letter which he has received but that is of the Muskogee party. I know where it came from and I know where it is going.

This is all I am now writing and am closing.

Your humble servant,

Joseph Dunson,
Wewoka District Judge.