

The enclosed material consists
of letters and other documents that
hitherto have never been copied.

J. Clark

103-38

CREEK MANUSCRIPTS

Correspondence relative to Public Schools

The following two documents pertain to a dispute between the Interior Department and the Creek Nation over the supervision of the public schools.

The original letter written by Alexander McIntosh, Superintendent of Public Instruction and bearing the date 1899, appears in its original form written by long-hand in black ink and is now the property of Stanley A. Clark, 315 Fredonia, Muskogee, Oklahoma. Accompanying the document is a typewritten reply from the Department of Interior, dated August 28, 1899.

On the back of the typewritten document is a pen-written notation to the effect that it had been read and referred to the House of Kings and House of Warriors, as shown by the attached sheet.

Clark
12-10-37

Read & Referred

to H. of N.

10/6/99

G. ... Alexander
Pres. H. of K.

L. McK.
Clk.

Read & Referred to

Educational Comtee

G. W. Grayson
Sp. H. of N. protom

L. P. McK.
Clk.

~~10/6/99~~ 10/6/99

Okmulgee, Ind. Ter.
Hon. Isparhecher.

1899

Principal Chief of Muskogee Nation.

Dear Sir:

I herewith submit my annual report for the scholastic year of 1898 and 1899, for your consideration.

During the past year, as a whole, we have had a very encouraging attendance of the neighborhood schools. The aggregate attendance for the past year, was 1084 pupils, with an average of 538 Indians and 546 colored pupils, and an enrollment of 766 Indians and 746 colored pupils. You will remember that the cold weather of the ~~past winter was~~ the severest known for many years and was a great drawback to the school interests. And also in the latter part of the past scholastic year, the agitation caused from the small-pox existing in the country contributed partly to reduce the attendance at both the neighborhood and boarding schools. Furthermore, on account of the failure of the Teachers to receive their pay in a reasonable length of time, there was much discouragement, but I am glad to say, that the majority of them continued on with their work, in the face of such a discouraging state of affairs.

I am also glad to inform you that there remains unexpended, a balance of \$2770.75 out of the appropriations

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for the support of the neighborhood schools. On account of the small attendance, I have been compelled to suspend several of the neighborhood schools, and in lieu thereof, have established schools in other neighborhoods, which I am confident will keep up the required average. However, there still remains five schools to be established, for which there have been made appropriations, and I have given notice of this fact, and I am prepared to receive applications from neighborhoods desiring the establishment of a school in their community, and having the required number of pupils to sustain a school. I hope to be able to establish these schools within a short time. I will state that there are now in our midst, parties acting in the capacity of Supervisors or Superintendents of the Creek National Schools, who have interfered greatly with my work of managing the school affairs of the Nation. These parties claim an appointment through the Secretary of the Interior. Only a short time previous to the beginning of the ensuing school year, I made all necessary appointments and arrangements for the various schools, and expected good results, but just at this time to my utter disgust, these Supervisors proceeded to make various changes

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and refused to sanction quite a number of my appointments, and have hindered in various ways the smooth workings of the school affairs. In this connection, I deem it my duty to call your attention to the position assumed by General Supervisor Benedict. He claims the power to withhold the pay of those Teachers whose appointment by me he refused to approve, and cause salaries to be paid only those whom he has appointed or those appointed by me, of whom he has approved. This position he has assumed, regardless of my position as Superintendent of Public Instruction in behalf of the Creek Nation. As an instance of this assumed authority, I would state upon the receipt of the resignation of Hon. Mr. McCombs, Superintendent of "Eufaula High School," I, after mature deliberation, appointed L. G. McIntosh to the vacancy thus caused and which appointment Supervisor Benedict quickly refused to sanction, and at once appointed W. L. Posey to said position, thus creating a conflict of authority, and placing myself and the school in an embarrassing position. Mr. Posey now has charge of the school. I have given due notice by publication and otherwise, that I would not issue any requisition to Mr. Posey for any service rendered by

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him in his capacity of Superintendent of said school or on account of any contract made by him for the maintenance of said school, nor would I recommend that any appropriation be made for the benefit of said school for the present scholastic year. In support of this position, I hold that I am a bonded officer of the Creek Nation, and am held responsible by the Nation, for the conduct of the schools of the Nation. I also claim that I alone have the authority to make appointments of those whom I can trust to manage the schools, and I therefore, do not feel justified in recommending that a fund be created to be placed in the hands of parties with whose appointment, I, the authorized officer am allowed to have nothing to do. In substantiation of the claim that I alone have the power to make appointments, I enclose a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, showing that while the General Supervisor is empowered to exercise a general supervision over the educational affairs of the Nation, nothing is said in said communication, indicating that the supervisor has the power to make any appointments, wherein, I am utterly ignored, but he is simply empowered to withhold the warrants of those whom he deems unfit for the position to which they have been appointed.

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I have made a proposition to General Supervisor Benedict, through Supervisor Ballard, to withdraw my appointment of L. G. McIntosh, as Superintendent of Bufaula High School, and he to withdraw that of A. L. Posey, and we to mutually agree on another appointee, but all to no purpose. The proposition however, I deem fair and reasonable. However, I submit the matter to you, and ask that some measure be taken, by which the school system of our Nation can run smoothly, and not be a continual source of trouble to the person whom the National Council has delegated to superintend said affairs, and which trouble is being caused as I firmly believe, by the unnecessary interference by those, whose authority to go beyond a certain point, it appears, is self assumed, and are under no obligations to the Creek Government. I received a lengthy petition asking for the removal of Supervisor Benedict's appointee of Bufaula High School, in which petition grave charges are set forth. I would ask for such instructions as will enable me to fully perform the duties of my office quietly and smoothly and in accordance with law. With the exception of the Boarding school mentioned, all other schools of this class, are now managed by appointees of mine, and are giving general

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satisfaction so far as I know. Supervisor Ballard and I visited all of the Mission Schools last June, for which the Nation had made appropriations for repairing purposes, made an itemized schedule of all necessary repairs to be made, and which work is about completed, but I am not prepared to submit the exact figures at present, but will at an early date. There is, however, a balance remaining of this fund, and I would suggest that it be allowed to remain to the credit of the school for which the appropriation was made, as I found that a great many articles were needed for the comfort of the pupils. I would further suggest that a uniform salary be paid to teachers of neighborhood schools, in order to give justice and satisfaction to all teachers alike. It is often quite difficult to grade the schools according to law for any length of time, so as to give general satisfaction, from the fact that the average attendance is constantly changing, oftentimes falling below the number required by law, and as the length of time and amount of labor involved in the school-room is about the same, I feel that each Teacher should receive the same salary and I would therefore suggest a salary of Thirty-Five Dollars per month for each Teacher of a neighborhood

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school, feeling that it would give less cause for complaint among the Teachers, - I would request that an appropriation of Sixty eight Dollars and Seventy Five Cents, (\$68.75) for services rendered as Teacher of Okfusky School, for the third quarter of the scholastic year of 1897 and '98 be made in favor of Miss Susana Grimes. She has performed her work, but has never received any pay on account of the change just at that time, in the Superintendents of Public Instruction. Miss Grimes made her report to my predecessor, and as I never rece'd any report from Miss Grimes. I did not issue any requisition for her pay, and in consequence she has failed to receive any pay for the above named services, and therefore, I make this request. As some of the Superintendents of Mission Schools have failed to render an itemized statement of expenditures accompanied by receipts of payments thereon, I am likewise unable to render an itemized statement of the expenditures of all the Missions, thus setting forth the true condition of this part of the school fund; but I expect to be in possession of the same in a few days, and will place the same before you for your consideration. I will present

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ballance of papers to committee on demand.

Very Respy

Your obt servant

Alex McIntosh
Supt Pub Inst

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

August 23, 1899.

Messrs. L. G. McIntosh, Superintendent,
Lewis McGibbon)
and) Trustees,
George Coser,) Creek High School,

Mufaula, Indian Territory.

Gentlemen:

The Department is in receipt of your communication of the 23rd instant, desiring to know if the Superintendent of Schools in the Indian Territory has authority to appoint a superintendent of a Creek boarding school.

In reply, you are advised that the Superintendent of Schools for the Indian Territory acts under the direction and authority of the Secretary of the Interior, who is charged with the disbursement of all funds due the Creek Nation, under the provisions of section 19 of the act of Congress approved June 28, 1898 (30 Stat., 495).

On August 24th the Department fully advised the Commissioner of Indian Affairs relative to the removal of a superintendent of the Creek High School at Mufaula, and he was directed to instruct the Superintendent as follows:
that

"hereafter no warrants shall be paid to any appointees of Superintendent McIntosh for services of any person who may be employed, who, in the judgment of the Superintendent of Schools is unfit for his position."

It is the desire of the Department that only competent persons shall be employed as superintendents of the schools, in order that the moneys which have been appropriated for school purposes may be properly disbursed, and surely the authorities of the Creek Nation ought not to be willing to have any person employed in the school service who is unfitted mentally or morally for the position he occupies.

Respectfully,

Signed: Thos. Ryan
Acting Secretary.

Ind. Ter. Div.

2489-1899

2410-1899

CREEK MANUSCRIPT.

Late in November two of our field workers contacted a Creek Indian preacher named Joseph Looney, who lives near Weleetka. Mr. Looney has in his possession five of the books containing the court records of the Old Deep Fork District of the Creek Nation.

The other two books were stolen from his wife, who is a full-blood Creek and does not understand English. They presumably were taken because they contained material that could be used in the famous Jackson Barnett case.

Mr. Looney's people were followers of Crazy Snake and were very much opposed to allotment and the Dawes Commission. For that reason, the books were hidden away and were not turned over to the Federal Government.

We have copied excerpts from some of the books that show the type of interesting material they contain. The spelling is unchanged.

J. Alark
12-15-37