



Records Relating to the Five Civilized Tribes at the National Archives at Fort Worth

The National Archives at Fort Worth, Texas (Southwest Region), holds a large amount of material pertaining to the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole Indians, also known as the Five Civilized Tribes.

Administrative Records of the Muskogee Area Office, 1835–1957

The Muskogee Area Office was responsible for administering the Bureau of Indian Affairs's business with the Five Civilized Tribes. Although not established until 1948, the records of the Muskogee Area Office contain documents created by its predecessor offices, including tribal administrative offices, the Union Agency, and the Five Civilized Tribes Agency. With the exception of an index to the 1835 Henderson roll and a token Indian roll from 1847, most of the records start in the 1850s.

The records include

- Administrative files
- Allotment records and other records pertaining to land transactions
- Land plats
- Tribal enrollment records
- Census rolls dating from 1852
- Annuity and other payrolls
- Case files for individual Native Americans, including some financial files
- Lawsuits, probate case files, and related records
- Records documenting the activities of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes (the Dawes Commission)

Administrative Records of District Offices, 1907–1953

The Bureau of Indian Affairs created several district offices in 1908 to investigate the conduct of guardians in charge of the estates of minors, and to provide legal advice to allottees of restricted lands. Located in Oklahoma, these district offices included Ardmore, Durant, Hugo, and McAlester for the Choctaw and Chickasaw; Okmulgee for the Creek; Vinita for the Cherokee; and Wewoka for the Seminole. The records include case files for individual Native Americans.

Records of Indian Schools

The National Archives at Fort Worth also holds records of several schools for Native Americans.

Muskogee Area Office Schools, 1901–1952

The Muskogee Area Office records include material for several schools including the Mekasukee Academy (Seminole), the Jones and Wheelock Academies (Choctaw), the Euchee Boarding School (Creek), Carter Seminary (Chickasaw), and Eufaula and Sequoyah Schools (Cherokee). The records contain

- General correspondence
- Individual student case files

- School census records, employee records, and accounts

Chilocco Indian School, 1890–1952

This school opened in the Indian Territory in 1884 as a non-reservation industrial and agricultural training school for Native Americans. The records include

- General administrative files
- Accounts and other records of individual students
- Attendance records
- Employee records
- A collection of photographs of individuals and campus scenes

Contact Information

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