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APPLICATIONS FOR ENROLLMENT AND ADOPTION OF WASHINGTON INDIANS, 1911-1919

Introduction

On the six rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the bulk of the records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs relating to Special Agent Charles E. Roblin's enrollment of those Indians in western Washington who were neither affiliated with nor allotted at any Indian agency.

In 1916 Roblin was instructed to enumerate and enroll unattached Indians of western Washington and, on January 31, 1919, he submitted to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs his report and a roll of such Indians arranged by tribes and by families. This report and the accompanying enumeration roll, known as the Roblin Roll, has been filmed on the first roll of this microfilm publication. The applications and evidence submitted to him and his recommendations and decisions have been filmed immediately following the roll.

The applications for enrollment and allotment, which have been described as Entry 613 of the *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs*, were submitted to Special Agent Roblin by persons who wished to be recognized as Indians and to be granted land allotments. Roblin accepted the applications, requested additional information and evidence, and interviewed as many of the applicants as was possible. He grouped together the records relating to persons who claimed a common ancestry and consolidated the records of all family members under the name of the head of the family or the name of the person who they claimed as their common ancestor. On his roll he divided the applicants by tribe and thereunder by families. He made cross references to other families or tribes whenever appropriate.

The tribal groupings on the Roblin Roll are not arranged in any discernable order although the names of the families belonging to each tribe usually are arranged in rough alphabetical order. For this publication, the applications and evidence are grouped together by tribe and arranged in strict alphabetical order by the name of the tribe. A copy of the pertinent section of the Roblin Roll has been filmed before the records relating to each tribe. Under each tribal grouping the records relating to families are arranged in strict alphabetical order by the name of the head of the family. Within each family grouping the records relating to family members are arranged alphabetically by the surname of the individual which sometimes differs from that of the head of the family. At the end of some of the tribal groupings are applications received from persons

who already were enrolled at some Indian agency although they might not have been allotted at that agency. Special Agent Roblin reported that he had not placed the names of such persons on this roll. Target sheets have been inserted to separate both the tribal groups and the records relating to each family.

Many applicants previously had applied for adoption by the Quinaielt Indians after an act of Congress of March 4, 1911, authorized the allotment of the Quinaielt Reservation, but the Bureau of Indian Affairs had questioned the validity of their applications. Roblin also was instructed to investigate the adoption applications. Cross reference sheets have been placed in this publication to indicate that records relating to a specific family also are to be found among the Quinaielt adoption records. The Quinaielt adoption applications have been microfilmed by the National Archives as M1344, *Records Concerning Applications for Adoption by the Quinaielt Indians, 1910-1919.*

The records vary considerably in completeness and legibility. Documentation relating to some families is exhaustive while that for other families is meager and confusing. Some records are difficult to read; some have deteriorated over the years; and some are fragmentary. There is no alphabetical index to these records.

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Roll	Description
1	Report and Roll of Special Agent Roblin Alaskan; Chehalis; Chemicum; Chinook; Clallam
2	Cowlitz
3	Dwamish; Gig Harbor; Klickitat; Lummi; Mitchell Bay; Montesano; Muckleshoot
4	Nisqually; Nooksack; Oregon; Puyallup; Quileyute; Quinaielt; San Juan; Sanpete; Satsop; Shoalwater Bay; Skagit
5	Skokomish; Snohomish
6	Snoqualmie; Squaxin Island; Steilacoom; Stillaguamish; Suquamish; Swinomish; Tulalip-Spusam; Wynookie