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RECORDS CONCERNING APPLICATIONS FOR ADOPTION BY THE QUINAIELT INDIANS, 1910-1919

On the five 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 investigation of the applications for adoption by the Quinaielt Indians.

In 1916 Roblin was instructed to investigate and report on 82 cases, covering over 500 applicants for adoption by the Indians of the Quinaielt Reservation, Washington. These applications had been accepted by a tribal council held at Taholah on the Quinaielt Reservation on April 4-6, 1912. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, however, had requested the validity of many of the applications and had instructed Roblin to secure evidence from the applicants as to their tribal membership and affiliation and to resubmit their applications, with additional evidence, to the tribal council for a second adoption proceeding. The Quinaielt had regretted their earlier liberal adoptions and at the second council meeting held on December 18-20, 1918, they were more selective in accepting applicants as tribal members. At the 1918 council meeting a number of new cases were presented and acted upon. These cases were numbered from 83 through 125. On January 31, 1919, Special Agent Roblin submitted to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs a detailed report and his recommendations concerning the 125 cases. This report has been filmed on the first roll of this microfilm publication.

The applications for adoption, which have been described as Entry 614 of the *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs*, were prepared by persons who wished to be adopted as Quinaielt Indians after an act of Congress of March 4, 1911, authorized the allotment of the Quinaielt Reservation. Roblin reviewed these applications, requested additional information and evidence, and interviewed as many of the applicants as was possible. He grouped together the records of 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 whom they claimed as their common ancestor, numbering the cases from 1 to 125.

The first document in each case is a copy of the pertinent portion of the Roblin report relating to the specific case. Roblin's notes, if any, concerning family relationships are filmed next, followed by cross reference sheets to related families. Within each case file the records relating to the head of the family have been filmed first, followed by the records relating to other family members arranged in alphabetical order by the surname of the individual which may sometimes differ from that of the head of the family. Target sheets have been inserted to separate the

records relating to each family.

The records in this publication 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.

Many applicants who applied for adoption by the Quinaielt Indians also applied for enrollment and allotment as unenrolled Indians of western Washington. Roblin also was instructed to enumerate and enroll these unattached Indians. On January 31, 1919, he submitted to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs his report and a roll of such Indians arranged by tribe and by family. 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 enrollment records. The enrollment applications have been microfilmed by the National Archives as M1343, *Applications for Enrollment and Allotment of Washington Indians, 1911-1919*.

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