

Publication Number: M1650

Publication Title: Applications from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Muskogee Area Office, Relating to Enrollment in the Five Civilized Tribes under the Act of 1896

Date Published: 1992

APPLICATIONS FROM THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
MUSKOGEE AREA OFFICE, RELATING TO ENROLLMENT  
IN THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES UNDER THE ACT OF 1896

Introduction

On the 54 rolls of this microfilm publication, M1650, are reproduced applications for enrollment in the Five Civilized Tribes under the act of June 10, 1896. These applications, housed in the National Archives-Southwest Region, Fort Worth, Texas, were maintained by the Muskogee Area Office and are part of Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75.

Background

On March 3, 1893, Congress authorized the establishment of a commission to negotiate agreements with each of the Five Civilized Tribes--Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole. The Dawes Commission, named for its chairman, Senator Henry Dawes of Massachusetts, undertook the compilation of a complete Indian census that could be used as the basis for the allotment of tribal lands to individual Indians.

Prior to 1896 the tribes exercised sole jurisdiction over tribal citizenship, but in that year Congress passed an act allowing the Commission to hear and "determine the applications of all persons who may apply to them for citizenship and...determine the right of such applicant to be admitted and enrolled." The Dawes Commission issued notices on July 8, 1896, announcing that it would accept applications for citizenship until September 10, 1896. The application had to be a signed and sworn statement containing all the facts supporting the claim, and the applicant had to provide proof that a copy had been furnished to the tribal chief. Congress required the Commission to make its decision within 90 days of receipt of the application and authorized an appeal process through the recently established U.S. Court in Indian Territory.

The application and appeal process had been underway for two years when Congress passed the Curtis Act on June 28, 1898, (30 Stat. 495). The act authorized the Commission to prepare for each tribe new citizenship rolls that incorporated names of successful applicants. This "Final Roll" became the only roll used for allotment purposes.

Records Description

This microfilm publication comprises the applications for enrollment of Cherokees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, and Creeks, as well as those of former slaves (freedmen) of the Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes. The National Archives has not located any Seminole applications. Applicants to the Commission included Indians by blood; spouses of Indians, although the spouses themselves were not Indians by

blood; and freedmen who had formerly belonged to members of the Five Civilized Tribes.

When they were in active use, most applications were filed numerically according to application numbers assigned by the Commission. Applications from Chickasaw and Choctaw freedmen were filed separately from those of other applicants for citizenship in the two tribes. The Commission maintained some applications, called Choctaw-Chickasaw Duplicates, in alphabetical arrangement. Despite their title, these files do not duplicate any of the applications filed numerically.

To facilitate access to the numerically-filed applications, the Commission prepared several indexes. These have been consolidated into one index and are reproduced on roll 1 of this publication.

Typical application files include supporting affidavits, depositions, letters, memorials, answers of tribal attorneys objecting to enrollment, lists of evidence, and receipts for service of papers. Also included are notices of appeal to the U.S. Court in Indian Territory at either South McAlester or Ardmore and a reference to the case number assigned by the court. While several files contain only a receipt for papers signed by the Clerk of the U.S. Court, a few files document in greater detail the applicant's life. Occasionally there are marriage licenses, photographs, and judgments issued by the U. S. court. Some records provide background information on the applicant including name, post office address, age, degree of blood, lists of children and their ages, and other relatives. Every document within the application files has been microfilmed.

On the last roll of microfilm are miscellaneous files and applications that were received too late for consideration. These records are not included in the index on roll 1.

#### Related Records

Related records are found in other series within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, RG 75. The Final Rolls, also known as the "Dawes Rolls," have been reproduced as *Enrollment Cards for the Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914* (M1186). These enrollment cards include both individuals with tribal citizenship before 1896 and those who were approved for citizenship by the Dawes Commission. The applications for enrollment on the Final Rolls have been reproduced as *Applications for Enrollment of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914* (M1301). Records relating to enrollment and allotment for the Five Civilized Tribes, including appeals to the U.S. Court in Indian Territory and cases heard before the Choctaw-Chickasaw Citizenship Court in Tishomingo and McAlester, are housed at the National Archives-Southwest Region (entries #60A-101, and 114-126). Related records for the Five Civilized Tribes are housed at the Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.

#### CONTENTS

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Index
2	Choctaw Applications 1 - 193
3	194 - 396
4	397 - 588

5	589 - 768
6	769 - 952
7	953 - 1138
8	1139 - 1305
9	1306 - 1419
	Choctaw Freedmen - Index
	Choctaw Freedmen Applications 1 - 39
10	Chickasaw Applications
	1 - 150
11	151 - 285
	Chickasaw Freedmen - Index
	Chickasaw Freedmen Applications
	1 - 3
12	4 - 129
13	Choctaw-Chickasaw Duplicates
	Abels - Cobb, Charley
14	Cobb, George S. - Goings
15	Goins - Kemp, Emily
16	Kemp, Jesse - Nelson
17	Nesmith - Spring, Olive A.
18	Spring, Sallie - Miscellaneous
19	Creek Applications
	1 - 166
20	167 - Miscellaneous
21	Cherokee Applications
	1 - 114
22	115 - 261
23	262 - 423
24	424 - 485
25	486 - 681
26	682 - 768
27	769 - 902
28	903 - 1005
29	1006 - 1169
30	1170 - 1461
31	1462 - 1698
32	1699 - 1919
33	1920 - 2154
34	2155 - 2384
35	2385 - 2565
36	2566 - 2705
37	2706 - 2843
38	2844 - 2979
39	2980 - 3099
40	3100 - 3235
41	3236 - 3357
42	3358 - 3515

43	3516 - 3738
44	3739 - 4007
45	4008 - 4243
46	4244 - 4373
47	4374 - 4463
48	4464 - 4622
49	4623 - 4826
50	4827 - 4988
51	4989 - 5175
52	5176 - 5320
53	5321 - 5464
54	5465 - 5574