

CONFEDERATE INDIAN DEPARTMENT CONDITIONS
IN AUGUST, 1864

By Allan C. Ashcraft*

One area seldom given consideration in Civil War studies is the Confederate Indian Territory. With the coming of secession and war, the Confederate States government made strong overtures to tribes residing there. Working under the belief that "they were better to have as friends rather than as enemies," Confederate agents negotiated a series of friendship treaties and alliances with several major Indian groups. In exchange for promises of protection and gifts, these tribes swore to support the Confederate government and, in some cases, agreed to provide military units for the Southern army. Eventually the Confederacy could list over a dozen regiments, battalions, and squadrons bearing Indian designations in their titles. While the military ability of these organizations fell under very serious question, they continued to be used in actions against the Federals.

As for non-military tribal members, their care caused serious problems for Southern leaders. Particularly the Confederate authorities felt obliged to safeguard the well being of tribes furnishing military units—the Cherokees, Creeks, Osages, Seminoles, Chickasaws, Choctaws, and a mixed group known as the "Reserve Indians." To attend these peoples, a Confederate Superintendency of Indian Affairs was created. Because the Superintendent was also the military commander of the District of Indian Territory, most of the actual supervision of the tribes fell to the Assistant Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

In August of 1864, Colonel R. W. Lee completed a four month term as Assistant Superintendent and was preparing to transfer to a new station. As a final step in resigning his Indian duties, Lee prepared a comprehensive report on tribal conditions at that

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time. The document sheds much light on the problems of the Indians, on the location and numbers of Confederate Indian groups, and on the manifold difficulties encountered by Lee as he carried out his strange task of bringing military governmental supervision to the various tribes: ¹

Office Supert. Indian Affairs
Arka. & Red River Superintendency
Fort Towson Choctaw Nation
August 20, 1864

Maj Gen S. B. Maxey ²
Comdg Dist Ind Terry
Ex Officio Supert. Indian Affairs

Being about to retire from this office, under orders from the field, I have the honor to submit the following Report.

¹ The "Endorsement" shown on the original Report by Col. R. W. Lee in the National Archives at Washington is as follows:

Endorsed
Report of Col.
R. W. Lee Asst. Superintendent
of
Indian Affairs
Arkansas & Red River
Superintendency
August 20th 1864
Headquarters. Dist. Incl. Tex.
Fort Towson. C. N.
Oct. 1st 1864
Respectfully forwarded for information
of the Genl. Comdg. T. M. Dept.
S. B. Maxey
Maj. Gen.
Ex Off[icio] Supt.
Ind. Affairs

Rec. Hq. Qtrs. T. M. D. 2 Oct. 64

² Samuel Bell Maxey, a native of Kentucky, graduated from the U. S. Military Academy and was promoted to Bvt. 2nd Lieut. Seventh Infantry, July 1, 1846. He served with his command in the War with Mexico, and resigned from the U. S. Army in 1849. He was a counsellor at law in Kentucky, 1851-57, and in Paris, Texas, 1857-61 when he joined the Confederate States Army. As Brig. Gen., he was assigned the command of the District of the Indian Territory, Trans-Mississippi Department, C.S.A., on December 11, 1863. General Maxey in command of Gano's Texas Brigade and Tandy Walker's Choctaw Brigade served in the Army of Arkansas under the command of General Sterling Price, and was with the victorious Confederate forces in the Battle of Poison Spring (Arkansas) on April 18, 1864. General Maxey with his Choctaw and Texas brigades, that had been cited with high approbation for gallantry in action during the recent battle, was relieved from duty in the Army of Arkansas (Special Orders No. 11, on April 23, 1864, and returned immediately to the Indian Territory, with his headquarters at Fort Towson near Red River in the Choctaw Nation (References: George W. Cullum, *Biographical Register* *** *U. S. Military Academy* (New York, 1869), Vol. II; *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Ser. I, Vol. XXXIV, Pts. I and II.)—Ed.

Since I assumed the duties of Assistant Supert. by virtue of your order of the 10th May last, but little business of a general character touching the interests of the several tribes in this Sup-erintendency has demanded my attention or action.

The *taxation* of refugee Indians who by the fortunes of war, have been compelled to seek an Asylum in Texas, was brought to my notice by the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation.¹ The subject of this onerous and unjust requirement, on the part of the authorities of the State of Texas, was submitted for your consideration, on the 11th day July ult, and the papers connected with this matter, with your endorsement thereon, were returned same day, and were immediately referred to the General Comdg Department, that they might be laid before the proper Confed-erate and State Authorities.

This Office has not been notified of any subsequent action in the premises, but from the known liberal and benevolent policy of the Confederate Government toward the Indians, a favorable result may be anticipated.

The impossibility of procuring clothing and other necessities for the destitute Indians, either in the Territory or neighboring State had received your attention before I entered upon the duties of this office, and the project of purchasing cotton for the Mexican market² with which to purchase the articles required had been inaugurated by yourself, and permits of exemption for some Fifteen Hundred bales, for the benefit of the Cherokees, Creeks, and Chickasaws, had been obtained.

On the 6th July last, the Agent for the Seminoles,³ forwarded to this office an application of the Seminoles, through their principal chief, Col. John Jumper,⁴ for permission to export, as above indicated, and for the purposes specified, Two Hundred bales.

Pursuant to the policy adopted by yourself, I referred the

¹Stand Watie became the Principal Chief of the Confederate Cherokees, with the factional split in the Cherokee Nation over seces-sion.

²For many months various commands and governments of the trans-Mississippi states of the Confederacy had taken advantage of the Texas-Mexican border, the only overland trade route left open to the South. In frequent cases of need, authority was given to haul cotton to the lucrative markets in Mexico.

³The Reverend J. S. Morrow, Baptist Missionary to the Seminoles, well known in the post-war history of the Indian Territory.

⁴Lieutenant Colonel John Jumper was also commander of the Seminole Battalion in the First Indian Brigade, C.S.A., under the com-mand of Brigadier General Stand Watie. John Jumper was chief of the Seminole Nation (1850-1877), during and after the Civil War rep-resenting the Southern Seminoles.

matter to Gen Smith ⁷ comdg. Dept, requesting that the privilege be extended to the Seminoles, and that permit issue therefor. No reply has as yet been received at this office, and the delay is much to be regretted, as the Season for suffering approaches.

Although this project is conducted by national and individual enterprize, without pecuniary aid from the Government, yet in the capacity of Guardians of the rights and interest of the Indian. The Government authorities in the territory might properly and doubtless should exercise a discretionary control and supervision over the entire operations and process of the business, lest instead of a benefit and blessing, it becomes an engine of wrong and oppression.

During the month of May last Governor Colbert ⁸ of the Chickasaw Nation reported to this office that depredations upon the property of the Chickasaws, had been committed by members of the Creek Nation and intimated that should the outrages be persisted in the amicable relations existing between the two Nations might be disturbed.

This intelligence was communicated to the Creek Chief, ⁹ and to Major Vore ¹⁰ Agent for the Creeks, and the latter directed to investigate the matter and make report. In May Vore's intelligent report, he sets forth that some wrong may have been done, in the process of Separating the horses, belonging to the two tribes, which had been penned together for the purpose of identification; and that some stray horses might have been claimed by Creeks, which were proven to be the property of Chickasaws. He presumes that the aggressions complained of, were in the main inadvertent, or were committed perhaps by straggling Creeks if by Creeks at all.

He was unable to discover any specific acts of larceny, or identify any offenders, and as the matter was entirely divested of a National Character and seemed based upon misapprehension,

⁷ General Edmund Kirby Smith (native of Florida, graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, 1841, served with the U.S. Army in the Indian Territory before the Civil War) commanded the Confederate Department of the Trans-Mississippi West.

⁸ Dougherty ("Winchester") Colbert, was governor of the Chickasaw Nation in 1858-1860, and during the Civil War served in the same position for two terms (1862-1865).—Ed.

⁹ Samuel Checote was a full blood Creek and member of the McIntosh Party in the Creek Nation. He was commissioned Lieut. Colonel of the First Regiment of the Creek Mounted Volunteers, C.S.A., in 1861. He was a minister in the Methodist Indian Mission Conference (South) from 1852. He was elected and served several terms as Principal Chief of the Creek Nation after the Civil War.—Ed.

¹⁰ Major Israel G. Vore served as the Confederate Creek Agent and, also, was quartermaster of Brig. General Douglas H. Cooper's Indian Cavalry Division, C.S.A.

further inquiry was deemed unnecessary. No complaint has since been made, and with ordinary vigilance it is presumed that the understanding between these Nations with regard to the rights of property will not again be disturbed.

The subsisting of the destitute families of the several Indian tribes, who have been driven from their homes or deprived of the means of subsistence, during the present war, being obligatory upon the Government as implied by treaty stipulations, and being besides a matter of generous policy, aside from ultimate and permanent considerations, the utmost efforts of their office, have been directed to its accomplishment in a manner, at the same time, as efficient as possible, under the present system, and under existing circumstances, as far as practicable, satisfactory to the Indians.

The system of supplying these indigent families from the Commissariat of the Army, is liable to objections; it involves a vast amount of labor, much inconvenience and uncertainty. These persons are scattered over a great extent of country, the stores cannot be accumulated at any given point for want of sufficient transportation the trains for the different depots, cannot be kept up in consequence of being compelled to haul from different mills, a distance of from fifty—to one Hundred and fifty miles—and thus the supplies are uncertain, and consequently the issues are deficient, and irregular oftentimes causing suffering and discontent. I need not enlarge upon this subject; and merely submit for your consideration whether it would not be practicable and advisable, to sever the operations for supplying the army, and those for supplying these dependents, and to provide for at least a portion of the indigents by Contract. I am aware that in these degenerate times, it is difficult to procure contractors, honest and honourable and free from the sins of speculation speculation and swindling, but it does seem to me that by the adoption of a system of strict accountability, on the part of all Agents and by throwing around all engaged in furnishing, or in any way handling supplies, a vigilant chain of scrutinizing sentinels, that something like fair and honest dealing might be realized, a certain regular and equitable distribution of supplies be attained and a very considerable amount of labor and expenditure saved.

Should the present system be continued, it will be absolutely necessary to keep a large independent train for the exclusive purpose of accumulating supplies at Warren, Texas, for the Creeks, Cherokees, Chickasaws and a portion of the Choctaws, which train should be entirely under the control of the subsistence Agent for that depot and not subject to diversion or interference. -

From this Depot the Subordinate depots could (with facilities increased) be furnished by trains procured within the encampments.

The balance of the Choctaws could be supplied as at present from the stores at Doaksville, which however for this special purpose, have hitherto been very deficient.

The Creek families are encumbered on both sides of Washita River extending up it from its mouth, some 25 miles, and up Red River about 12 miles. Two depots are established for these, one on each side of the River, which are conducted by a commissary agent at each place. Many have built huts, and in general they are reasonably comfortable, and healthy, and if regularly supplied with provisions would be as contented as they could well be made, away from their once cheerful homes. Notwithstanding the unremitting exertions of all concerned during the last three months, owing to the constantly increasing want and uncertainty of transportation, the supply for these people did not reach more than one half the amount intended for them. They have suffered some what but have been sustained. -

I remark here that the beef has been furnished by special contractors who have not been prompt and punctual in their deliveries. Perhaps it would be well for the Commissary Agent at Warren to employ additional purchasing Agents, for this Special Service, and thus control the supply of Beef as well as bread-stuffs.

For June the number of indigent Creeks drawing or entitled to rations was as follows. 3307 Adults — 1364 children making 4671 persons, and drawing 3989 rations, children under 10 years of age having but half rations. For July the whole number of persons was 4823.

Amongst those receiving this aid from Govt. are some who under ordinary circumstances as to currency and provisions might well subsist without aid. But in consequence of the scarcity of provisions and the difficulty of obtaining them with the depreciated currency at their command, together with the impossibility of making discriminations among Indians, without creating disaffection, it has been deemed proper to include all whose names the chief desires placed upon the Rolls. This has added comparatively little to the expense, while it has visibly increased satisfaction and content. The presence of even a few disaffected persons in a community especially an Indian Community "leaveneth the whole lump" and it is better to expend something to secure harmony, than by a niggardly economy to ensure discord among our Indian friends.

Under the superintendence of the Inspector of Camps, work-shops have been erected and are in successful operation. These consist of a manufactory for making Looms and spinning wheels, a wagon shop and blacksmith shop. These have accomplished considerable, but in order to meet the wants of the families the transportation service et cetera—their operative powers are too limited and I respectfully recommend that their capacity be increased at least three fold.

Funds for putting these shops in operation were borrowed to the amount of \$1650—. About \$850— of which only have been spent. The balance being unavailable is on hand leaving some indebtedness. It is presumed that the amount expended will be refunded by the Indian Bureau, and that additional funds will be supplied to pay indebtedness, improve the present shops, and meet the expense attendant upon the contemplated extension of their capacity.

The plan of making these shops self sustaining has been adopted, and the experiment seems to work well, and meets but little opposition. The actual cost as near as can be ascertained, of all work done is charged, and this being reasonably light, is not burdensome to the people, while at the same time, it restrains them from troubling the artisans for work, not absolutely needed or crowding the shops with valueless dilapidated vehicles, and other trash.

Beside the fact of paying something for an article received, factitiously enhances its intrinsic value, and induces increased efforts, for its preservation, if not for the enlargement of its utility. Should it however be deemed advisable to perform, without charge the work done at these shops it would be very acceptable to the people; and perhaps precautionary regulations might be devised, which would prevent an abuse of the privilege.

The foreman of these shops occupies an important and responsible position, and to secure the faithful services of a competent person, his compensation should be liberal. The pay of mechanics allowed by the regulations of the Indian Bureau, is entirely inadequate and increased pay should be substituted. This will apply not only to the Artisans, in this particular service, but to all employed within the Superintendency.

Provision having been made to supply looms wheels, and cards for these people in order that they may be enabled to render them subservient to their necessities and comfort, the mode of supplying them with cotton and wool, becomes an appropriate matter for consideration. From the scarcity or remoteness of these articles, it is impracticable for the few individuals who have means to make purchases themselves, and it will be neces-

sary that the articles should be procured in quantity, and transported to the vicinity of the encampments and depots. I respectfully suggest that the commissioner of Indian affairs be requested to authorize the purchase, and that the articles be distributed gratuitously, under judicious supervision, to such as are prepared to make use of them.

The *Cherokee* families are principally located upon the waters of "Blue" from its mouth to Tishomingo a distance of forty miles, and at Goodland 20 miles West of Fort Towson. The authorities of this nation have been permitted to exercise the control of the measures necessary for the comfort and subsistence of their destitute families, drawing their supplies however from the Depot at Warren, Texas and other sources in that State, under the supervision of the Superintendent of Issue for Indigent Indians.

Three depots have been established to supply these people, and an agent appointed for each all under the Superintendence of a chief issuing Agent. During the last three months, the *Cherokees* have been supplied some what more regularly than the *Creeks*, although from various causes the supplies have frequently been deficient in quantity and irregular in distribution.

One of the causes of deficiency and irregularity is the universal hindering Hydra—short and uncertain transportation, another the frequent change of Issuing Agents, and their irresponsibility—and consequent want of energy and activity. It is in place here to remark that the present mode of appointing agents, is for the above reason objectionable; and to suggest that all agents be appointed by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and that they be removable by him alone, and be responsible only to him. This dependence and responsibility would serve as a stimulus to exertion, and by selecting and placing his Agents, intervals of service would be prevented, and the Superintendent be at all times cognizant of their position, character and conduct.

A moderate degree of comfort characterizes the *Cherokee* settlements, and since the subsidence of the small pox which has prevailed amongst them they are comparatively healthy and contented.

The *Cherokees* have a wheel and loom manufacturing, wheel-right and blacksmith shops on quite an extended scale, which turn out a considerable amount of work for the benefit of the indigent families. These are conducted under the charge of the authorities of the Nation, without expense to the government. They are well supplied with hands, and have furnished most of the families the Articles needed for household and other purposes, at moderate rates.

No application has been made for cotton and wool, and it is not known whether the assistance of the Government, in this regard is desired or not.

The number of this tribe fed by the Government for the month of July was 2906.

The *Chickasaws* more fortunate than the *Creeks* and *Cherokees*, have not been compelled to abandon their country, still a portion of them have been driven from their homes and are in a destitute condition, and even those families which have been enabled to linger by their firesides, have been deprived of the helping hand of father husband brother or son, by the patriotic devotion of their people to our cause, in the ranks of the Army, and have consequently created but little which upon to subsist.

Many of the *Chickasaws*, however have failed to avail themselves of the proffered aid of the Government; and the fact is creditable to them that they have not applied for assistance unless impelled by absolute want.

For the month of July the rolls exhibit the names of 785 persons entitled to rations but the number drawing has never exceeded 584. But one depot has been found necessary. This is established at "Robinson's Academy" under the charge of Revd. J. C. Robinson, as Issuing Agent.

The refugees of this tribe seem well satisfied, and if the effort to procure clothing from Mexico, proves successful, they will be reasonably comfortable during the coming winter.

The *Choctaws* like the *Chickasaws* still have a footing in their own country and amongst the families thereof also much destitution prevails from causes similar to those which affect the *Chickasaws*. Nearly all of the men are in the field and but little has been done this season towards cultivating the soil. To subsist successfully and satisfactorily all the destitute of this tribe will be found a serious if not impractical undertaking. They are scattered through the length and breadth of the nation; they are found at and around Bogey Depot (hence along the road to Gaines Creek stretching along its banks, on Jacks Fork and Kiamitia from source to mouth, in Sugar Loaf and Wade Counties in the direction of Ft Smith and from Island Bayou to the eastern limits of the Nation. Much of the country in which these people are located is rough and mountainous and nearly inaccessible, admitting of but few depots, which could be regularly supplied, or from which issues could be made without great inconvenience to the people. It must however be borne in mind, that suffering exists, that relief has been promised, and is expected, and that

no difficulty attending the fulfillment of a promise made to an Indian is appreciated, no impossibility recognized. It remains therefor for the best means to be devised, by which to approximate as nearly as possible the fulfillment of their expectations of these people and the satisfaction of their wants. The necessity of establishing depots, as near the base of supplies as possible, is too obvious to require comment. One Depot is already established at Ft. Towson which supplies some 600 Choctaws at that place and extends occasional help to the suffering families on Jacks Fork and Kiamitia, and the Superintendent of Issues, is now engaged in perfecting the enrollment and making arrangements to supply all within our reach. The establishment of three depots at Boggy Depot at John Springs on Kiamitia and perhaps at Johnsons Station will it seems to me, be as much as we can do in the premises. If these Depots are well supplied, provisions will be within reach of the largest portion of the needy, and will sufficiently manifest the benevolent purpose of the Government. If those requiring aid will wantonly wander everywhere, we cannot follow them, nor can we seek and succor them in remote mountainous recesses.

The number of Choctaws immediately dependent upon the depot at Ft Towson is about 800 adults and 600 children, making 1400 persons and when the Rolls shall have been completed they will show about 4480 persons in the Choctaw Nation claiming the aid of the Government.

The Seminole families are located near the "Oil Springs" about 50 miles west from Ft Washita and are provided with rations by the Contractors for supplying the Reserve Indians, Messrs Johnson & Grimes. The number of Seminoles thus supplied is 574 and with them 441 Creeks are also fed, being connected with the Seminoles by ties of consanguinity or affinity, and always living amongst them.

The Agent for the Seminoles sometimes since having filed complaint against these contractors, alleging that they had repeatedly failed to comply with the contract, The Inspector of Camps was directed to make thorough investigation of the matter. The report of the Inspector exonerates the contractors from any intentional short comings and from all failure, except from interrupting causes which could not have been foreseen or controlled; and that the inconveniences arising from these occasional delays, had been remedied as soon as possible and deficiencies supplied.

The charges have been reiterated by the Agent and his letter on file in this office of date of August 6th is referred for further scrutiny in the premises to my successor.

The *Reserve* Indians having left the "Reserve," have their temporary agency on Washita river about 18 miles west of Ft. Arbuckle and the affairs of the tribes are now under the personal supervision of the agent, Capt. L. G. Harmon. The only "Reserve" now represented and residing at and around the Agency, are, the Cadodacacos, the Anadacos and Comanches and number 532. These are satisfactorily supplied with rations by the contractors Messrs Johnson & Grimes.

Through the well directed zeal and energy of Capt Harmon, these Indians have been induced to labor somewhat, and with the assistance of four hired laborers they have cultivated a farm, which will give them sufficient corn to furnish them bread during the coming year. Much credit is due to Capt Harmon for his intelligent management of his Agency and for the comfort content and prosperity which his efforts have secured to the people under his charge.

The remaining six Bands properly belonging to the Reserve are wanderers but it is not known that they have assumed a hostile attitude, or consorted with hostile hordes.

The *Osages* and associated Bands numbering 241, are situated near Fort Arbuckle, and are furnished with rations by the contractors Messrs Johnson and Grimes.

To conduct the arduous business of feeding this multitude, it has been found necessary to appoint several officers: to wit: a superintendent of Issues an Inspector of Refugee Camps and an Issuing Agent for each Depot. The first Superintends the enrollment of Indigents, controls the procuring of supplies and their distribution, and has the general immediate supervision of the entire process of subsisting the Indigent Indians.

The Inspector visits the several camps monthly or oftener if necessary, ascertains their condition, inquires into the wants of the occupants, and the manner in which these wants are supplied, and in general has the immediate care of the comfort and welfare of the Indigents and guardianship over the interests of the Government.

These officers are indispensable and their duties constant. In addition to their pay which should be liberal, they should be allowed mileage or travelling expenses, and as they belong to the Staff of the Commander of the District, might also be allowed quarters and fuel and commutation therefor. Whether or not they are allowed these payments has been a matter of doubt with the incumbents, and it is therefore mentioned.

The Issuing Agents attend to the details of receiving and issuing provisions. Their duties are arduous, and they deserve suitable recompense.

The duties required of the Superintendent of Issues are too exacting and diversified, and it is respectfully suggested that he be relieved of a portion of his burden, by the appointment of a *Supervisor of Rolls* whose attention should be exclusively devoted to procuring perfecting and certifying, the Rolls of Indians, for the subsequent approval of the Superintendent of Issues.

Experience has also shown that the transportation for this service will ever be uncertain and ineffective, without a chief to arrange and control the whole. It is therefore recommended that a *Transportation Master* be appointed to manage all the trains and teams connected with this particular service.

A grave difficulty is presented in this service, by the frequent withdrawal of men detailed, or a failure on the part of commanders to furnish the men when detailed. By these measures trains are often idle, for want of teamsters and the operations in the workshop cease.

The deficiency in the number of employers, is inconveniently great, and it should be made up immediately, by the employment or detail of a sufficient number of reliable hands, whose services should be sure and of determined duration.

The order authorizing the payment of one half the amount due for hauling in provisions, has proven the sole inducement in the employment of teams for the subordinate depots, and if the General Order recently promulgated on this subject does not apply and prohibits here, the practice should be continued. In this way alone can any transportation be obtained.

I concur with the Supert. of Issues in the opinion, that for the ensuing two months, the absolute necessities of the Indians will not require the issuing of more than half rations allowing the same to all adults and children. This amount of provisions supplied with regularity and certainty will satisfy the Indians better than the promise of full rations, and that promise not complied with, they must have what is promised them or they will loudly complain. By this means also will we be better enabled to accumulate supplies for subsequent months.

A schedule of pay and wages for all officers and employees in this department should be established on a liberal scale and definite provision made for the payment by the Indian Bureau.

Physicians for the Refugee camps being an indispensable concomitant of this service, and as none could be spared from their appropriate positions in the army of the District, it has been necessary to appoint a moderate number, who are disconnected with the Army. It is presumed that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, will appreciate this necessity, and make suitable provision for the compensation of the Physicians employed.

The contingent expenses of this department are necessarily considerable, but from the peculiar and novel character of the service, they cannot be anticipated and estimated for. A contingent fund much larger than required for pay, stationery, should be placed at the disposal of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

It is especially desirable that arrangements should be speedily made for procuring a supply of stationery.

Efforts have been made to establish schools in the different camps of the Refugee Indians, but they have hitherto met little encouragement.

The beneficial influence of schools among the Indians, has long been realized, and under propitious circumstances, these nurseries cannot be too extended or too generously fostered, but at the present time, and so long as these people shall be houseless and unsettled it is much doubted whether any attempt to establish schools, which will be of any appreciable advantage would be successful, however desirable the project may be.

The following is a list of Officers engaged in the Subsistence Department for Indigent Indians in this Superintendency.

- L. C. Elason Supert of Issues
- J. S. Stewart Insptr of Refugee Camps
- O. L. Graham Issuing Agent for Creeks
- F. R. Young Issuing Agent for Creeks
- Joe L. Martin Issuing Agent for Cherokees
- W. Crump Issuing Agent for Cherokees
- G. W. Gunter Issuing Agent for Cherokees
- J. M. Adair Issuing Agent for Cherokees
- J. C. Robinson Issuing Agent for Chickasaws
- Basll Leflore Issuing Agent for Choctaws
- J. P. Kingsbury Issuing Agent for Choctaws
- Mitchell McCurtain Issuing Agent for Choctaws
- Chas. P. Ricketts Issuing Agent for Seminoles
- J. J. Staton Issuing Agent for Reserves
- Thos. Drennen Issuing Agent for Osages
- A. C. Elason Clerk of Superintendency

Recapitulation of number of Indians, subsisted by the Government.

Creeks	4823
Cherokees	2908
Chickasaws	785
Choctaws	4488
Seminoles	1915
Reserves	532
Osages	241
	14,790

Total
Fourteen Thousand
Seven Hundred
and Ninety

Sometime in May last the Northern Osages signified to the Confederate Indian tribes their desire to "make peace and live in friendship" with them, and having proposed a meeting, it was agreed that a Council should be held at "Chouteau Trading House" on Canadian, on the 20th July ult. at which, the five Confederated Nations, were to be represented, and the Northern Osages and other disaffected or unreconciled tribes. Arrangements were made for the protection and subsistence of the parties, when last heard from, the Council was in session, but its proceedings have not been communicated, to this office.

The following are the names of the Confederate States Agents in this Superintendency.

For the Creeks—Maj. J. G. Vore
 For the Cherokees—Col. Crawford
 For the Chickasaws—Brig. Gen. D. H. Cooper
 For the Choctaws—Brig. Gen. D. H. Cooper
 For the Seminoles—Rev. J. S. Murrow
 For the Reserves—Capt. J. L. Harmon
 For the Osages—Maj. A. J. Dorn

Of these, the first three are in the field and render only occasionally service, in their capacity as Agents.

The Agent for the Seminoles resides at Ft. Wachita [sic]. Were this Agent present with the people, whose interest he has in charge, he would perhaps have had less occasion to complain of his late Commissary of Issues and the Contractors for supplying the Indians of his Agency.

The Agent for the "Reserves" resides generally with his people, but this office is informed that his absence is of frequent occurrence and sometimes protracted. The condition of his Agency however indicates anything but negligence on the part of this officer.

The Agent for the Osages resides at Bonham, Texas, recent difficulties at the Osage camp might have been prevented by the presence of the Agent, and if it were not already obvious, this occurrence would serve to demonstrate the propriety of the law, requiring Agents to reside with or near the people of their charge.

Reference is made to the accompanying reports of the Superintendant of Issues and Inspector of Camps, for more minute details of the Subsistence Department for the Indigent Indians.

Presuming that it will not be expected that I should enter upon a discussion of the peculiar and extraordinary considerations involved in the preservation and occupation of the Indian Territory, I only allude to them and close this report, by adding that the loyalty and fidelity of the Indians in this superintendency,

is sufficiently manifested by the fact, that nearly all the men of every tribe are in the service of the Confederate States, by the promptness and alacrity with which they discharge their duties, beyond as well as within the limits of the territory, and by their patience under privations, and forbearance under disappointed expectations.

/Signed / R. W. Lee Col &
Asst Supert Indian Affairs
Ark. & Red River Supery ¹¹

P. S.

General

August 22d 1864

Since closing the foregoing Report a communication has been received at this office, from the Confederate States Agent of the Treasury (Hon P. W. Gray ¹²) in which the exemption of Indians in friendly relations with the Confederate Government from taxation of any kind is recognized.

Information is also given that the authorities of Texas, have been instructed in accordance with this decision. This will therefore relieve the Cherokees from the burden complained of, which is noticed at the commencement of this Report.

Intelligence has also since been received that the Council spoken of in this report was held at Cherokee Town, west of Ft Arbuckle, commencing its session on the 8th Inst. The Northern Osages and eight friendly tribes were represented. The record of the proceedings of the Council, show that their deliberations were characterized by great harmony and good feeling. The Northern Osages seem very desirous of establishing friendly relation with their Red Brethren of the South, and represent the Cherokees and Creeks, who are now associated with them in the ranks of our enemy, as being very much dissatisfied and discontented, in consequence of the promises of the Federal Government to them, not having been complied with. They as well as many other tribes have manifested a desire to meet their former associates, and become friendly.

¹¹ Captain Roswell W. Lee (Native of Massachusetts, graduate U.S. Military Academy July 1, 1829, enlisted in Confederate Army from Texas) had commanded "Lee's Light Artillery" in General D. H. Cooper's Indian Brigade. Captain Lee served as "Acting Assistant Adjutant General" in Cooper's command of the Indian Department, C.S.A., in the campaign against the Union Creeks under the leadership of the noted Opothecynahala in 1861, during which three battles saw the first bloodshed of the American Civil War in the Indian Territory. R. W. Lee returned to line of duty with his promotion to colonel, and assumed command of the Confederate troops at Fort Arbuckle in the spring of 1865.

¹² Hon. P. W. Gray was the Confederate Treasury agent in the Trans-Mississippi Department West.

A talk was sent to these several Tribes by the Council, and it is presumed from present indications, that at no very distant day, a large and interesting Council will be held, which will be productive of favorable results.

/Signed/ R. W. Lee
Asst Supert Ind Affairs

Official Copy
A. C. Eliason
Clerk Superintendency