# TRACING YOUR NATIVE AMERICAN ANCESTORS

Cass County Public Library - Genealogy Branch

## **GETTING STARTED**

### Research your Native American ancestors the same way you would research any ancestor:

- Start with yourself and *work backwards;* resist the urge to jump straight to Native American-specific record collections
- Look for clues in basic records (vital, military, census records, etc.)
- Determine the names, birth and death dates, and location of all *possible* Native American ancestors
- The goal is to narrow down to "Ancestor Zero" (*the most recent with some level of tribal affiliation*) you must know the name of your that ancestor in order to research their affiliation

## Things to keep in mind when making the jump to Native American-specific records

- Determine a formal or informal tribal affiliation to cut down on wasted time and frustration from guessing
- Determine which records that tribe would be included in (i.e. any treaty rolls, reservation censuses, etc.)
- Remember that not all record collections have been digitized
- Consider less obvious record sources, such as Indian school student records

## **Separating Fact from Fiction**

- Take family stories with a grain of salt
- Don't fall for the old "dark hair and skin, high cheekbones" trick
- Don't assume anything, be open to new leads
- Even history books can be inaccurate or unreliable informants

#### **Possible Limitations**

- There's a lack of (reliable) information in your family history
- You don't know their name or tribe, or cannot determine it
- Your family's oral history contradicts local history
- Your ancestor had no formal affiliation with the tribe
- "They hopped of the Trail of Tears and assimilated" if true, then you wouldn't find them enumerated as Native American or included in tribe-affiliated records

### Where to Look for Clues in Basic Records

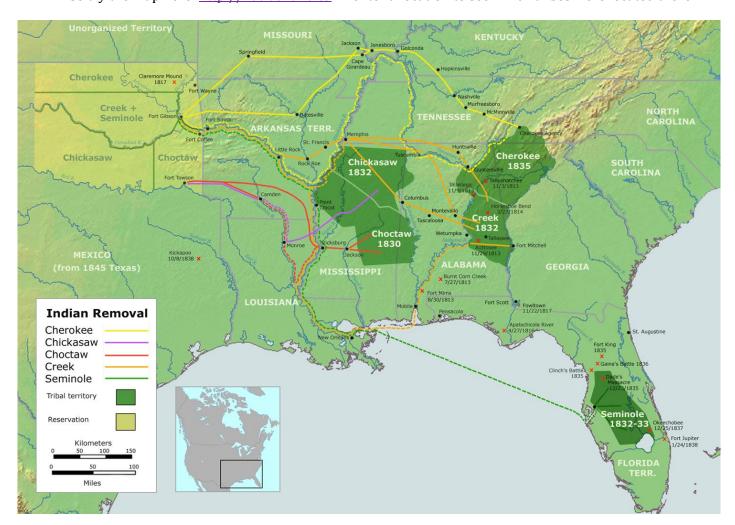
*Use the same records you are already using:* 

- Vital records
  - o birth, death, marriage, etc.
- Church records
  - o i.e. Cherokee: Moravian Church Records, Bethlehem, PA
- Military records
  - o draft cards, enlistment, pension
- Personal records
  - o anything you may have in a shoebox at home, i.e. family bibles

### **Using Maps**

- Use maps to determine the location of tribal lands in relation to where your ancestor lived
- If they're living in Oklahoma c. 1900 it's a strong indicator for Five Civilized Tribes and The Dawes Rolls

- Check map of *Southern Indian Removal Trails* (see below) to see the trajectory of trails (i.e. if a certain tribe was taken through a certain city in the south and that matches a family story)
- Also try the map here: http://native-land.ca enter a location to see which tribes were located there



# **CLUES IN FEDERAL CENSUS RECORDS**

### Things to Keep in Mind When Looking for Native Americans on the Federal Census

- "Indian Territory" was enumerated in 1860 Census, but not again until 1900
- Some reservations are identified starting in 1870 as the township or institution at the top of the page
- From 1900 on, Indians were enumerated on both Federal and Indian Census
- 1900 & 1910 Censuses had Special Indian Schedules (see below)

#### **Notes on Enumeration**

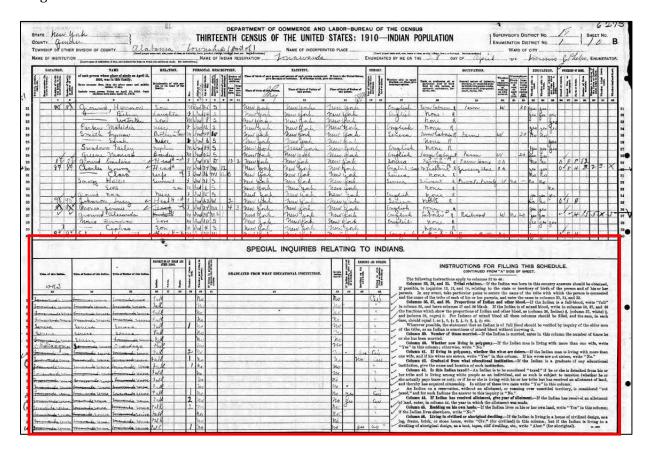
- Prior to 1870, "Indian" was not an official identifier in the race or color column (options were: W, B, M)
  - o This was seen in rare instances on 1850 & 1860 Censuses
- *Caution*: "Mulatto" was sometimes a catch-all designation that could have included Native Americans, but it does not *necessarily* mean the individual was Native American
- Compare various years of the U.S. Federal Census, specifically the *Race* column, for those who assimilated and were enumerated later as "white"
- Native Americans may be identified in Race column as "I," "In," or "Indian"

Hiches Jeargenis	3CIRIS28 Head	In	m	Same family, enumerated as "Indian" on 1900 & 1910 Census, but as "White" on the 1920 Census
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- almang	Danston	The Q	14	Hicks George W House m W
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- Lucy	New	gn	FV	Grace day aling W

### **Special Indian Schedules**

1900 - 1910

- Top half of sheet asks identical questions to Federal Census, only shortened
- Bottom half asks questions specific to Indians (see below)
  - o tribe, blood quantum, type of house, etc.
- "Ration Indian" listed as occupation meant they were an individual who was financially dependent on the U.S. government



# THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910 SPECIAL INQUIRIES RELATING TO INDIANS

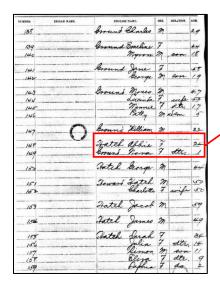
			Proportion of Indian and Other Blood		se	es ng in		my,		ved ar	Residence and Dwelling		
Tribe of this Indian	Tribe of Father of this Indian	Tribe of Mother of this Indian	Indian	White	Negro	Number of Time Married	Whether now livin polygamy	If living in polygar whether the wive are sisters.	Graduated From What Educational Institution	Is this Indian taxed	If Indian has receir allotment, give yea of allotment.	Residing on his own lands	Living in civilized or aboriginal dwelling
*33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46

## **INDIAN CENSUS ROLLS**

### "Reservation Census"

1885-1940

- Enumerated by agent of Bureau of Indian Affairs, usually the reservation superintendent
- Only those who maintained a formal affiliation with a federally-recognized tribe were enumerated
- Depending on when and where it was taken, varying degrees of detailed information and legibility
- Intermarried non-Indians typically not included
- Families of mixed tribal affiliation were not always enumerated together, check "at another jurisdiction" column



Reservation Census for Tonawanda Band of Seneca, New York; taken June 1897

Hatch applie 7 dtr. 1

Reservation Census for the Osage, Oklahoma; taken June 1914, *includes Indian name* 

Moie wah kon tah	Philip Carson	Orphan	1894	M
	•			
Num pah wah kon tah	Tom Carson	Head	1890	M
Hlu ah me	Eva Bean Carson	Wife	1892	F

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2	2	Me to op pe		Wife	1873	F
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. 6	-6	and the second	Richard Rusk	Head	1882	М
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9	9		May Rusk	Daut	1903	F
10	10	Hla me tea he	Bessie Rusk	Dant	1906	B
	11		James F. Rusk	Bon	1910	М
	12		Myrtle H. Rusk	Daut	1912	F.
7 8	13	Wah tsa ah tah		rphan		М
6	14	Mah Sah	Walter McKinley	rphan	1898	М
11	15	Moie wah kon tah	Philip Carson	rphan	1894	М
12	10	Num pah wah kon tah	Tom Carson	Head	1890	M
4	17	Hlu ah me	Eva Bean Carson	Wife	1892	P
13						
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INDIAN CENSUS ROLL sus of the Rosebud OF TAL STATUS 254 14 18 Sioux 7/15 S Son 255 7/18 S F 16 Sioux Daughter Benjamin F M 14 Sloux 7/18 8 Son 7/18 S Dorothy May F 7

Same family, partially enumerated on two different reservation censuses, taken on the same day in 1934

S-128

Census of the Pine Ridge reservation of the Pine Ridge jurisdiction, as of April 1 (Droy), 19 34, tak

NAME

NAME

NAME

SEX PINETE DESTRICT
DAY

OTHER DAY

CONTINUED

3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

453

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1 Golala Sioux

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# INDIAN SCHOOL RECORDS

## Intended to assimilate and convert, typically located outside the reservation, include:

- Carlisle Indian School, Pennsylvania, 1879
- Haskell Institute, Kansas, 1884
- Sherman Institute, California, 1903
- Chilocco School, Oklahoma, 1884
- Chemawa Indian School, Oregon, 1880
- Intermountain Indian School, Utah, 1949

## **Types of School Records**

Varies from school to school

- Census of pupils
- Applications for Enrollment (non-reservation schools)
- Medical/Physical Records
- Outing Records
- Progress Records

Application for Enrollment in a N		School.				
For and in consideration of the United States assuming	the care, education,	and mainte	nance in	This Appl	icatio	on for Enrollment provides:
the United States Indian School at Darles  Nora Ground, Gemak I.	young &	harles	, of			- Name
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I further say that the said child was born at Jouann that the father, Alexander Jound is (Name of father.)	a JullIndian of	(Date)	eca +	Fatl	ner's	Name/Degree/Tribe
Tribe located at Agency; that he left the	ne tribe about	approximate date.	,;			, ,
Tribe located at	(Degree.)	the XLA	; that	Mot	ner s	Name/Degree/Tribe
the said child was born and reared in the United States, and he has attended the following schools:			and that	Pro	eviou	s Schools Attended
NAME OF SCHOOL-PUBLIC, COVERNMENT. LOCATED AT Thomas Orphan Versailley You for the	DATE OF DATE OF ENROLLMENT DISCHARGE. date unknown to guardian	CAUSE OF DISCHARGE.	GRADE.			
	FAMILY H	ISTORY:				
This family medical history provides:	FATHER		Living.	Condition of Health.	Dead.	Cause of death.
Status/Health of Father (living, has hemoptysis)	MOTHER	(	U	7.00	yeo	Consumption
Status/Health of Mother (died of consumption)	BROTHERS	(			3	Consumption
Status/Health of Any Brothers (3 died of consumption)	SISTERS	{			4	Consumplion
Status/Health of Any Sisters (4 died of consumption)	PERSONAL Give	1 -	tory of	blood spit	vig	-has cough
Student's Personal Health History	REMARKS:	artene	ed moth	es lastillner	o. Ha	I cough at that time
Remarks/Ongoing Symptoms	ton oute	Jocka	Sions Ru	had cough they id she came h	eu /	(over)

## THE DAWES ROLLS

### What are they?

- "Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes" or "The Dawes Rolls"
- Undertaken by the Dawes Commission, first try in 1893 failed, a second attempt in 1898 was successful
- The goal was to determine who was eligible to receive an allotment of land in Indian Territory
- Over 250,000 individuals applied between 1898 and 1907
- All applicants from first attempt in 1893 had to reapply
- If you can't find who you're looking for, check the *applications* for individuals who applied but were later rejected after the vetting process

#### Who will be on the Rolls?

- Citizens of the Five Civilized Tribes living in Indian Territory from 1898 1907
- Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Seminole
- Only those who chose to enroll for an allotment and were approved
- Freedmen and *some* Intermarried Whites (IW)

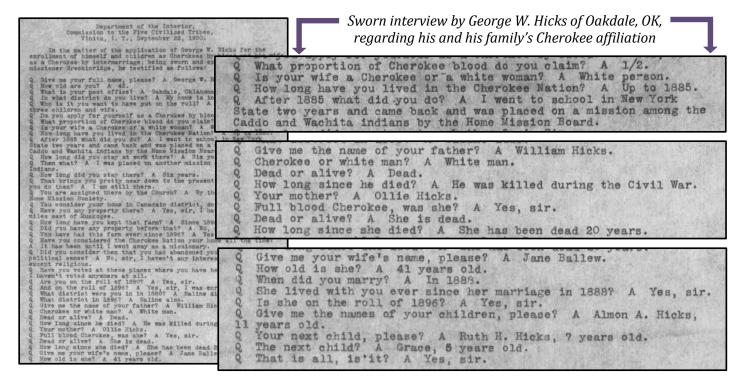
### Information provided includes an individual's:

- Name, age, sex
- o Tribe affiliation & blood quantum
- Census card number & page
- Enrollment number

*Note:* The age given is the age of the individual around 1902; those listed as "newborns" and "minors" were born after 1898, but before March 1907

### Application packets included:

- Sworn interviews
- Supplementary forms and records
- Letters from individuals corroborating information



# OTHER ROLLS & TREATIES

## Enrollment records were generated in relation to:

- Treaties & official trade agreements with the US government
- Land claims & allotments
- Removal
- Military service
- Government trust funds

### These rolls include:

- Guion Miller Roll, 1906 (Eastern Cherokee)
- Armstrong Roll, 1830 (Choctaw)
- Shawnee Census Roll of Cherokee Territory, 1871 (Shawnee)
- 1887 Land Allotment in Kansas (Potawatomie)

	mud.	CHAPMAN	## **	dinas ja	
	NO.	NAME	AGE	RELATION-	
	1 2 3 4 5	HAYWOOD COUNTY.  Paint Town.  Ah-yee-kih Ah-lee-kih Wal-suh Sou-wut-chee Wakee	26 24 5 3	W. D D	
**************************************	6 7 8 9	Au-soo-kil-leh 5790 Che-no-kih 5790 Ah-kim-nih Ta-tos-kih	40 26 5 1	W D S	
1	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Ah-nee-cheh (Blacksmith) 1/65 Jinny Uh-hee-lee Le-how-wih Al-seh Ma-lee or Mary Wee-lee-wes-tee 4998	40 24 18 15 5 3	D D D D	
	17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Au-yu-wee or Isaac Davis /00/ Coc-ti-yeh Stacy /00/ Cho-co-he Wee-lec-toe-wee-see Wee-loc-stee Tau-nee John	42 32 13 11 8 5 3	W D S S D	1
<mark>-</mark>	25 26 27 28	As-stoo-ge-out-to-keh Ne-ohil-leh 4441 Tan-se-ki-ya-kel Me-oel-line-ih	27 28 4 1	W S of W D	

NOTE: Individuals may appear on multiple rolls

Chapman Roll, 1851

Paint Town, Haywood County, NC

Stacy, 13; daughter of Au-yu-wee or Isaac Davis

Na-chil-leh, 28; wife of As-stoo-ge-cut-to-keh

Hester Roll, 1884

Cherokee, Swain County, NC

Stacey, 44;

now married with one child recorded, father's name "Isaac Davis" provided

Na-chil-leh ("Rachel"), 59; now widowed, recorded with her daughter and grand-daughter, her father's name (Teh-tal-leh-eh/"Borrower") provided; also provides a new spelling variation for hers

No. HESTER	Ne. CHAPMAN 1861	INDIAN NAME	ENGLISH NAME	RELATIONSHIP	YUE	ANCESTOR ON PREVIOUS	LATEST SPELLING	RESIDENCE
70 71	1230 863	Te-ca-sah-skih Wat-ta-yah	George Bushyhead	n (s)	65 67	Wah-te-yo-1h 1829 31. R.	George Bushyhead	Cherokee, Swain Co., N.C.
72 73 74 75 76	866	Nency Tal-sah Sal-tah-yih F-wih Ta-kih	Hancey /	Bep. F	30 9 -5 3 7/12	Sam Owl and Wat-ta-yah Isaac Welch	Rency Telch cal-sub elch	
78	1146	John Saluh	John Shell	mid.	36 5	Yona-ka-len-kih	with Shell	
79 80	289	Totz-sah-lah-nah Stacey	A to the second	H T	42	Kut-ti-gee-skih Isaac Davis	Tots-tsa-cluh-nah	
81		Esh-su-ge-tuh		S	8		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	AND AND SELECTION OF SELECTION
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83	26	Na-chil-leh	Raghel		. 59	Teh-tal-leh-eh or Borrowe		
84 85		Ah-le-na Ain-sih	D	g.n.	28	As-tu-ga-tah-gih Ah-le-na	Ah-la-na-kih Ain-aih	Falls was a second of the second

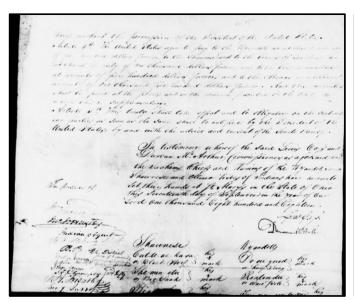
#### Where to Find Native American Rolls:

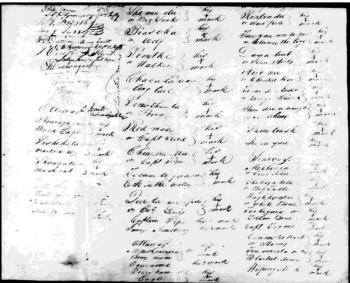
**Ancestry Library Edition;** *U.S., Records Related to Enrollment of Eastern Cherokee by Guion Miller, 1908-1910* Collection (*Can be located and searched directly by using the Card Catalog Search feature*) **AccessGenealogy;** Native American Rolls Collection <a href="https://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/native-american-indian-native-america

rolls.htm

#### **Treaties**

- Tribes were treated as foreign governments in colonial America
- Treaties between the US government and a tribe (or tribes) were signed by significant individuals
- Digital copies are often available online through tribal websites or state and federal archives
  - Legibility and quality of the scan may vary
- e.g. U.S. Treaty with the Wyandot, 1815
  - o signed individually (often by mark) by "the warriors and chiefs" of certain bands of *Wyandot*, *Delaware, Seneca, Shawanoe, Miami, Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomie tribes, residing within the limits of the State of Ohio, and the Territories of Indiana and Michigan*





**Note:** Most treaty documents will look similar to this one; handwritten with varying legibility and not all have been transcribed.

## FREEDMEN RECORDS

### Who are they?

- Freedmen (and women) were former black slaves of the Five Civilized Tribes
- Typically Cherokee, but not all
- Often also intermarried into various tribes
- Ongoing conflict between descendants of Freedmen and the Cherokee Nation over tribal status and citizenship based on blood quantum

#### **Freedmen Rolls**

- *Wallace Roll*, 1890-93
  - Cherokee; includes "authenticated freedmen, admitted freedmen, those who died between 1883-1890, and 'Free Negroes' associated with the tribe"
- Kern-Clifton Roll, 1896-97
  - o Intended to correct discrepancies and fill omissions in the Wallace Roll

## Freedmen are present on the Dawes Rolls

Beyond the information all Dawes applications included, Freedmen also provided:

- Name(s) of previous owner(s)
- If parents were slaves, names of their owners
- Previous residences during period of slavery

## **BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA)**

## The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

### www.bia.gov

- Has limited involvement in past records
  - o Probate records, major land records, etc.
- Does not handle general record requests or assist in genealogy research
  - o But does provide a guide: www.bia.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/text/idc-002619.pdf
- When contacting a BIA field office, be prepared:
  - Determine that you are contacting the correct office for that jurisdiction, check here: www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/RegionalOffices/index.htm
  - o Know the tribe, name & birth date of individual(s), relatives, etc. of the individual

## **Tribal Citizenship**

- Some tribes provide in-house genealogy resources
- Each tribe has its own qualifying blood quantum
- To establish citizenship:
  - o Prove ancestry, meeting requisite blood quantum
  - o Obtain a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) Card, provided by the BIA
    - The form and further information is available here: www.bia.gov/FOIA/Genealogy
  - o Apply for formal citizenship through tribe, often online

# DATABASES & REPOSITORIES

## Ancestry Library Edition (free access through CCPL; also subscription)

*Collections include:* 

U.S., Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940

U.S., Native American Applications for Enrollment in Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914 (Dawes Rolls)

*U.S.*, *Native American Citizens and Freedmen of Five Civilized Tribes*, 1895-1914 (Dawes Rolls)

U.S., Schedules of Special Census of Indians, 1880

U.S., Ratified Indian Treaties and Chiefs, 1722-1869

Oklahoma, Indian Land Allotment Sales, 1908-1927

U.S., Wallace Roll of Cherokee Freedmen, 1890-1893

U.S., Records Related to Enrollment of Eastern Cherokee by Guion Miller, 1908-1910

### **Fold3** (free access with Mid-Continent Public Library card; also subscription)

Native American Archives, all digitized: Dawes Rolls enrollment packets and application documents, Indian Census Rolls, historical image collections, etc.

### **Oklahoma State Historical Society**

Home Page: www.okhistory.org

Genealogy Resources/American Indian Ancestry: <a href="https://www.okhistory.org/research/genealogy">www.okhistory.org/research/genealogy</a>

## AccessGenealogy

Home Page: www.accessgenealogy.com/america

*Native American Resources:* www.accessgenealogy.com/native-american

Indian Census Rolls: <a href="https://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/free-us-indian-census-rolls.htm">www.accessgenealogy.com/native/free-us-indian-census-rolls.htm</a>
<a href="https://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/native-american-indian-rolls.htm">www.accessgenealogy.com/native/native-american-indian-rolls.htm</a>

*Tribal Resources and History:* <a href="www.accessgenealogy.com/native/indian-tribes-of-the-united-states.htm">www.accessgenealogy.com/native/indian-tribes-of-the-united-states.htm</a> <a href="mailto:Indian-schools-seminaries-asylums.htm">Indian Schools Resources:</a> <a href="www.accessgenealogy.com/native/indian-schools-seminaries-asylums.htm">www.accessgenealogy.com/native/indian-schools-seminaries-asylums.htm</a>

### **National Archives and Records Administration**

Home Page for Genealogists: <a href="https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy">www.archives.gov/research/genealogy</a>
Native American Research: <a href="https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans">www.archives.gov/research/native-americans</a>

 $\textit{Bureau of Indian Affairs Records (still under construction at this time)}: \underline{\text{www.archives.gov/research/native-}}$ 

americans/bia

 $\textit{Visit the library's locations page (} \underline{www.cass colibrary.org/locations} \textit{) for CCPL Genealogy's location, contact information, and hours of operation.} \\$ 

Information regarding our digital collections, access to online databases, submitting inquiries, and more, can be found on Cass County Public Library's Genealogy Resources page, located here: <a href="www.casscolibrary.org/genealogy">www.casscolibrary.org/genealogy</a>

**Chelsea Clarke**, Branch Manager askgenealogy@casscolibrary.org

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