

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
 - birth, death, marriage, etc.
- Church records
 - i.e. Cherokee: *Moravian Church Records*, Bethlehem, PA
- Military records
 - draft cards, enlistment, pension
- Personal records
 - 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

Doyle	Head	In M
Wife	W F	
Son	In M	
Daughter	In F	
Daughter	In F	
Niece	In F	

Heicks, George W	Heicks	m	W
Jane	daughter	f	W
Ruth	daughter	f	W
Grace	daughter	f	W

Same family, enumerated as "Indian" on 1900 & 1910 Census, but as "White" on the 1920 Census

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)
 - *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

STATE: New York DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
COUNTY: Greene THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910-INDIAN POPULATION
TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY: Albion NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE: Albion
NAME OF INSTITUTION: Albion ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 22 DAY OF April 1912. James H. Phelps ENUMERATOR.

WARD OF CITY: Albion

EDUCATION	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	RACE	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH OF FATHER	PLACE OF BIRTH OF MOTHER	EDUCATION	REMARKS
1	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
2	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
3	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
4	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
5	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
6	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
7	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
8	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
9	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
10	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
11	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
12	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
13	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
14	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
15	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
16	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
17	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
18	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
19	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
20	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
21	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
22	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
23	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
24	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
25	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
26	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
27	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
28	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
29	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
30	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
31	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
32	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
33	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
34	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
35	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
36	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
37	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
38	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
39	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
40	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
41	James H. Phelps	Owner	White	Male	30	Albion	Albion	Albion			

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

Tribe of this Indian	Tribe of Father of this Indian	Tribe of Mother of this Indian	Proportion of Indian and Other Blood			Number of Times Married	Whether now living in polygamy	If living in polygamy, whether the wives are sisters,	Graduated From What Educational Institution	Is this Indian taxed?	If Indian has received allotment, give year or allotment.	Residence and Dwelling	
			Indian	White	Negro							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

NUMBER	INDIAN NAME	ENGLISH NAME	SEX	RELATION	AGE
135		Brown Charles	M		29
139		Brown Charles	F		24
140		Myron	M	son	18
141		Brown George	F		25
142		Brown George	M	son	19
143		Brown Mary	F		27
144		Brown Mary	F	wife	25
145		Myron	F	bro	17
146		Myron	M	son	5
147		Brown William	M		22
148		Hatch Abbie	F		24
149		Brown Nora	F	daughter	1
150		Hatch George	M		24
151		Townsend	M		50
152		Charlotte	F	wife	50
153		Hatch Jacob	M		57
154		Hatch James	M		49
155		Hatch Sarah	F		34
156		John	F	daughter	14
157		Benjamin	M	son	11
158		Oliver	F	daughter	9
159		Myron	F	daughter	2

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

Hatch Abbie	F		24
Brown Nora	F	daughter	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

CENSUS of the Osage Indians of Osage Agency, Okla.					
on June 30, 1914, taken by James A. Carroll, Supt. & S. D. A.					
INDEX	NAME	RELATION	DATE OF BIRTH	SEX	AGE
1	Pah lu aah	Tom Big Chief	Head	1860	M
2	Ma to op pe		Wife	1873	F
3	Heh kah mon kah	Louise Big Chief	Daughter	1899	F
4	Ora to me	Baby Big Chief	Daughter	1903	F
5	A non to op pe	Lillie Big Chief	Daughter	1911	F
6					
6		Richard Rusk	Head	1882	M
425	Wah shah kah me	Elvie Big Eagle	Wife	1890	F
426	Ma tea he	Meta Bertha Big Eagle	Daughter	1906	F
9		May Rusk	Daughter	1903	F
10	Hla me tea he	Bessie Rusk	Daughter	1906	F
11		James F. Rusk	Son	1910	M
12		Myrtle H. Rusk	Daughter	1912	F
7	Wah tea ah tah	James McKinley	Orphan	1899	M
8	Wah Wah	Walter McKinley	Orphan	1898	M
11	Moie wah kon tah	Philip Carson	Orphan	1894	M
12	Num pah wah kon tah	Tom Carson	Head	1890	M
14	Hlu ah me	Eva Bean Carson	Wife	1892	F
13					
13	To sho ho	Charles Whitehorn	Orphan	1896	M
14	M nan min tea	Ralph Whitehorn	Orphan	1904	M

INDIAN CENSUS ROLL									
Census of the Rosebud reservation of the Rosebud jurisdiction, as of APR 1 1934, 19									
NUMBER	SURNAME	GIVEN	SEX	AGE AT LAST BIRTH DAY	TRIBE	DEGREE OF BLOOD	MARITAL STATUS	RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF FAMILY	AT JURISDICTION WHERE ENROLLLED
1									
253	Beauvais	Benjamin	M	54	Sioux	1/8	M	Head	Yes
"	"	Lottie	F					Wife	Pine Ridge
254	"	Irvin	M	18	Sioux	7/16	S	Son	Yes
255	"	Margaret	F	16	Sioux	7/16	S	Daughter	Yes
256	"	Benjamin	F	14	Sioux	7/16	S	Son	Yes
257	"	Dorothy May	F	7	Sioux	7/16	S	Daughter	Yes

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

INDIAN CENSUS ROLL									
Census of the Pine Ridge reservation of the Pine Ridge jurisdiction, as of April 1 1934, taken									
NUMBER	SURNAME	GIVEN	SEX	AGE AT LAST BIRTH DAY	TRIBE	DEGREE OF BLOOD	MARITAL STATUS	RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF FAMILY	AT JURISDICTION WHERE ENROLLLED
1									
453	Beauvais (Hawkins, Lottie)		F	1897	Oglala Sioux	5/8	M	wife	444 yes
454	"	Mary M.	F	16	"	"	9/16	S	daughter 445 yes

INDIAN SCHOOL RECORDS

Intended to assimilate and convert, *forcibly if necessary*, typically located outside the reservation

- Carlisle Indian School, Pennsylvania, 1879
- Haskell Institute, Kansas, 1884
- Sherman Institute, California, 1903
- Chilocco School, Oklahoma, 1884

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 Nonreservation School.
(For a child not enrolled at an Agency.)

For and in consideration of the United States assuming the care, education, and maintenance in the United States Indian School at Carlisle, Pa., of Nora Ground, (Name of child.) female, (Sex.) young Charles, (Parent, guardian, or next-of-kin.) of Akron, P. O., State of New York, do hereby voluntarily consent and agree to her enrollment in said school for a period of five years, and also obligate and bind myself to abide by all the rules and regulations for Indian schools.

I further say that the said child was born at Tonawanda Reservation, Sept. 12, 1894, that the father, Alexander Ground, is a full Indian of the Seneca Tribe located at _____ Agency; that he left the tribe about _____; that the mother, Abbie Hatch, was a full Indian of the Seneca Tribe located at _____ Agency, and left the tribe about _____; that the said child was born and reared in the United States, and now actually resides therein; and that he has attended the following schools:

NAME OF SCHOOL—PUBLIC, GOVERNMENT, OR MISSION.	LOCATED AT—	DATE OF ENROLLMENT.	DATE OF DISCHARGE.	CARE OF DISCHARGE.	GRADE.
<u>Thomas Orphan (Growth)</u>	<u>Versailles New York</u>	<u>date unknown</u>	<u>to guardian</u>	<u>eyes and mother's illness</u>	<u>3rd</u>

This Application for Enrollment provides:

Name

Name/Address of Guardian

Place/Date of Birth

Father's Name/Degree/Tribe

Mother's Name/Degree/Tribe

Previous Schools Attended

This family medical history provides:

Status/Health of Father
(living, has hemoptysis)

Status/Health of Mother
(died of consumption)

Status/Health of Any Brothers
(3 died of consumption)

Status/Health of Any Sisters
(4 died of consumption)

Student's Personal Health History

Remarks/Ongoing Symptoms

FAMILY HISTORY:

	Living.	Condition of Health.	Dead.	Cause of death.
FATHER	yes	Hemoptysis		
MOTHER			yes	Consumption
BROTHERS			3	Consumption
SISTERS			4	Consumption

PERSONAL HISTORY:
Gives history of blood spitting - has cough at present

REMARKS:
attended mother's last illness. Had cough at that time & hemoptysis. Has had cough ever since & hemoptysis then & on other occasions since she came here.

(over)

Unrecorded Deaths and Burials at Indian Schools

We are currently learning more about undisclosed Indian children and young adults died and were buried at Indian schools

- Many children previously thought lost or fostered out or dead are now believed to be among these graves
- Hopefully, the current advocacy efforts will result in the creation of new records for identification so that hundreds of families may finally know where their loved one remains are located*

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
- 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

Department of the Interior,
Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes,
Vinita, I. T., September 22, 1900.

In the matter of the application of George W. Hicks for the enrollment of himself and children as Cherokees by blood as a Cherokee by intermarriage; being sworn and examined by Commissioner Breckinridge, he testified as follows:

Q Give me your full name, please? A George W. Hicks.
Q How old are you? A 42.
Q What is your post office? A Oakdale, Oklahoma.
Q In what district do you live? A My home is in the Saline district.
Q Who is it you want to have put on the roll? A I want to have myself and my three children and wife.
Q Do you apply for yourself as a Cherokee by blood? A Yes.
Q What proportion of Cherokee blood do you claim? A 1/2.
Q Is your wife a Cherokee or a white woman? A A white woman.
Q How long have you lived in the Cherokee Nation? A Up to 1885.
Q After 1885 what did you do? A I went to school in New York State two years and came back and was placed on a mission among the Caddo and Wacha Indians by the Home Mission Board.
Q Give me the name of your father? A William Hicks.
Q Cherokee or white man? A White man.
Q Dead or alive? A Dead.
Q How long since he died? A He was killed during the Civil War.
Q Your mother? A Ollie Hicks.
Q Full blood Cherokee, was she? A Yes, sir.
Q Dead or alive? A She is dead.
Q How long since she died? A She has been dead 20 years.

Q Give me your wife's name, please? A Jane Ballew.
Q How old is she? A 41 years old.
Q When did you marry? A In 1888.
Q She lived with you ever since her marriage in 1888? A Yes, sir.
Q Is she on the roll of 1896? A Yes, sir.
Q Give me the names of your children, please? A Almon A. Hicks, 11 years old.
Q Your next child, please? A Ruth H. Hicks, 7 years old.
Q The next child? A Grace, 5 years old.
Q That is all, is it? A Yes, sir.

Sworn interview by George W. Hicks of Oakdale, OK,
regarding his and his family's Cherokee affiliation

OTHER ROLLS AND 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)

NOTE: Individuals may appear on multiple rolls

CHAPMAN				
	NO.	NAME	AGE	RELATIONSHIP
		<u>HAYWOOD COUNTY.</u> <u>Paint Town.</u>		
	1	Ah-yee-kih	26	
	2	Ah-lee-kih	24	W.
	3	Wal-suh	5	D
	4	Sou-wut-chee	3	D
	5	Wakee	1	D
	6	Au-soo-kih-leh ¹⁷⁹⁰	40	
	7	Che-no-kih ¹⁷⁹⁰	26	W
	8	Ah-kim-nih	5	D
	9	Ta-tee-kih	1	S
	10	Ah-nee-cheh (Blacksmith) ¹⁶⁶⁵	40	
	11	Jinny	24	W
	12	Uh-hea-lee	18	D
	13	Lo-how-wih	15	D
	14	Al-seh	5	D
	15	Ma-lee or Mary	3	D
	16	Wee-lee-wee-tee ¹⁷⁹⁵	1	S
	17	Au-yu-wee or Isaac Davis ¹⁰⁰⁷	42	
	18	Coo-ti-yeh	52	W
	19	Stacy ¹⁰⁰⁷	15	D
	20	Cho-co-he	11	D
	21	Wee-lee-tee-wee-see	8	S
	22	Wee-lee-tee	5	S
	23	Tah-nee	3	D
	24	John	1	S
	25	As-stoo-ge-out-to-keh	27	
	26	Na-chil-leh ¹⁷⁹⁸	28	W
	27	Tah-se-ki-ya-keh	4	S or W
	28	Ma-cel-line-ih	1	D

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 1884	No. CHAPMAN 1851	INDIAN NAME	ENGLISH NAME	RELATIONSHIP	AGE	ANCESTOR ON PREVIOUS ROLLS	LATEST SPELLING	RESIDENCE
70	1230	Tee-ah-sah-skih	George Bushyhead	H (2)	65	Wah-te-yo-ih 1229 of R.	George Bushyhead	Cherokee, Swain Co., N.C.
71	863	Wat-ta-yah		W	67		Wah-te-yah	
72	866	Nancy	Nancey	Dep. W	30	Sam Owl and Wat-ta-yah	Nancy Welch	" " "
73		Sal-sah		D	9	Isaac Welch	Sal-sah Welch	" " "
74		Sal-tah-yih		D	5			
75		T-wih	Eve	D	3			
76		Ta-kih		D	7/12			
77	1146	John Saluh	John Shell	Wid.	36	Yona-ka-lee-kih	John Shell	" " "
78		Uleh		S	5			
79	289	Tots-sah-leh-nah		H	42	Kut-ti-gee-kih	Tots-tan-oh-nah	" " "
80	19	Stacey		W	44	Isaac Davis		
81		Kah-su-ge-tuh		S	8			
82	633	Y-too-wih		Wid.	46	Big-ku-lowk-suh 629 C.R.	John E-see-wih	" " "
83	26	Na-chil-leh	Rachel	"	59	Teh-tal-leh-eh or Borrower	Kache-lih	" " "
84		Ah-le-na	D	D	28	As-tu-ga-tah-gih	Ah-le-na-kih	" " "
85		Ain-sih		G.D.	8	Ah-le-na	Ain-sih	

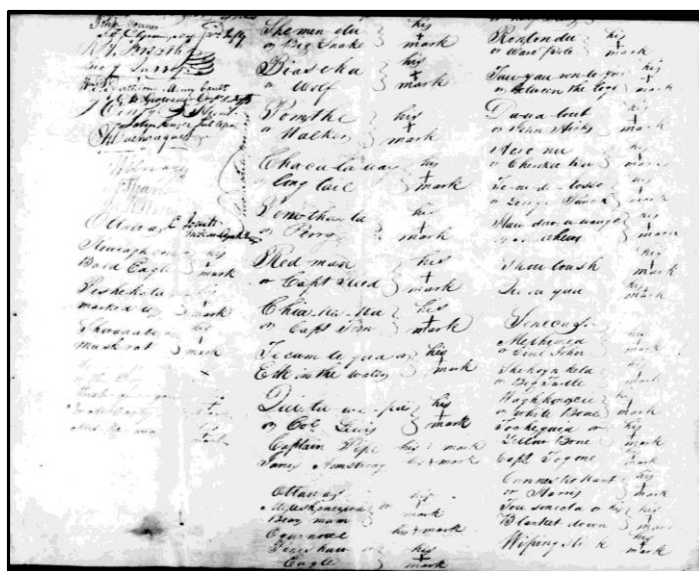
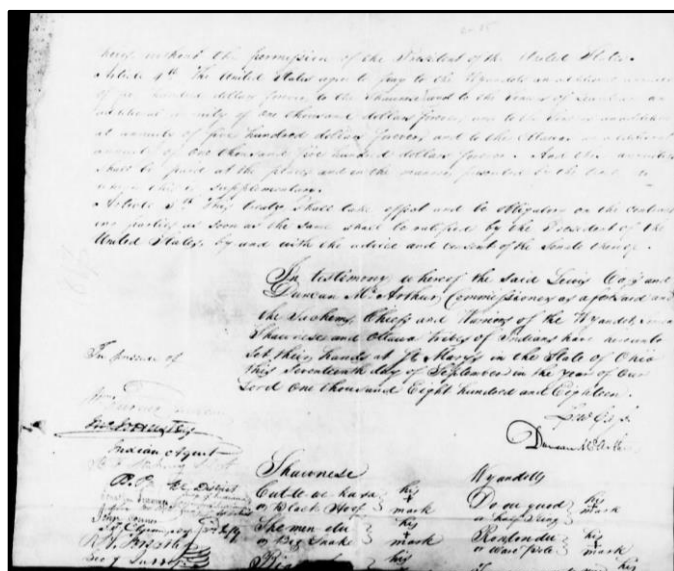
Where to Find Native American Rolls:

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 www.accessgenealogy.com/native/native-american-indian-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*
 - 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*
 - 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
 - Probate records, major land records, etc.
- *Does not* handle general record requests or assist in genealogy research
 - 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
 - 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:*
 - Prove ancestry, meeting requisite blood quantum
 - 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
 - Apply for formal citizenship through tribe, often online

DATABASES AND 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: www.okhistory.org/research/genealogy

AccessGenealogy

Home Page: www.accessgenealogy.com/america

Native American Resources: www.accessgenealogy.com/native-american
Indian Census Rolls: www.accessgenealogy.com/native/free-us-indian-census-rolls.htm
Native American Rolls: www.accessgenealogy.com/native/native-american-indian-rolls.htm
Tribal Resources and History: www.accessgenealogy.com/native/indian-tribes-of-the-united-states.htm
Indian Schools Resources: www.accessgenealogy.com/native/indian-schools-seminaries-asylums.htm

National Archives and Records Administration

Home Page for Genealogists: www.archives.gov/research/genealogy
Native American Research: www.archives.gov/research/native-americans
Bureau of Indian Affairs Records (still under construction at this time): www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/bia

Visit the library's locations page (www.casscolibrary.org/locations) 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: www.casscolibrary.org/genealogy

Send Research Inquiries to:
askgenealogy@casscolibrary.org

Cass County Public Library – Genealogy Branch
400 E. Mechanic St. Harrisonville, MO – 816.884.6285

