

TITLE: San Carlos Agency Records

DATE RANGE: 1869-1930 (bulk 1880-1930)

CALL NUMBER: MS 0707

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 23 Boxes, 11 linear ft.

PROVENANCE: Gift of Ryder Ridgeway in 1966.

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CREDIT LINE: MS 707 – San Carlos Agency Records, Arizona Historical Society-Tucson

PROCESSED BY: The collection was processed in 1981 through an NHPRC grant.

HISTORICAL NOTE: The White Mountain Apache Reservation was established by executive order of President U.S. Grant on November 9, 1871. Located about 100 miles east of Phoenix, Arizona, it encompassed over two and a half million acres of land. Although unsurveyed, the boundaries of the reservation ran roughly from the Mogollon Rim on the north to the Gila River in the south; and from Globe, Arizona, on the west to the state line in the east. Due to agricultural and mining interests, parcels of the original reservation were withdrawn in 1873, 1877, 1893, and 1896 (although the last strip, known as the Deer Creek Coal Fields, was eventually returned to the reservation). In 1896, the reservation was split to facilitate administrative duties; the northern third was renamed Fort Apache while the remaining segment was called the San Carlos Reservation.

By 1878, the majority of the western Apaches (reportedly more than five thousand individuals,) were living on the reservation. The native groups ranged from the peaceful Coyoteris and Aravaipa Apaches to the more antagonistic Chiricahua and Warm Springs Apaches. Concentrated in a confined area, these Indians were confronted with the presence of both rival Apache groups and American military detachments.

Land on the reservation was allotted and supplies were issued to help the Indians practice an agrarian lifestyle. Irrigation ditches were carved to nurture the newly planted crops of corn, beans, hay, and wheat. A flour mill was also built and operated. At various times and with varying degrees of success, sheep, horses, and cattle were issued to the individuals residing on the reservation. However, from 1872-1902, a generation of Indians subsisted on government rationed supplies because of crop failures and lack of sufficient arable land.

The supply and distribution of goods to the Indians was hampered, especially in the first two decades of the reservation, by short-sighted management and constant conflict between Indian agent and military officers. Poor planning resulted in no supply issued to the Indians during the hard winter of 1884. Such mismanagement resulted in factional desertion of the reservation. Some Indians continued to live on the reservation but sought employment in nearby communities, working in mines or on the construction of roads and railroads.

The first administrators (1872-1885) of the San Carlos Reservation were civilians appointed by the Office of Indian Affairs. Military officers served as agents from 1885 until their withdrawal from San Carlos around 1900 when civilian agents were again appointed.

The remaining buildings of the original San Carlos Reservation were razed on February 16, 1930 to make way for the waters of the Coolidge Dam. Indians owning tracts of land in the reservoir area were relocated near Rice, a town that was the site of the Indian Boarding School.

The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 created economic incentives and political regeneration. Tribal councils were established in 1936, ending over a half century of paternalistic Anglo control of the reservation.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: This collection of the records of the San Carlos Reservation consists of 18 boxes and 4 oversized volumes (Items 242, 243, 250, 252) of archival material arranged in four series: (1) Correspondence, 1880-1930; (2) Vouchers and Invoices, 1888-1911; (3) Ledgers, 1869-1928; and (4) Miscellaneous Printed Matter and Memoranda, 1890-1917.

The bulk of this collection consists of correspondence and financial cashbooks, invoices, issues, and vouchers relating to the administration of the San Carlos Agency, 1880-1930. Sixty percent of the collection is correspondence; thirty-five percent is financial documents. The collection is particularly valuable for delineating the communications between reservationites, and the tremendous amount of management that constituted the daily direction of the reservation's physical plant and personnel.

The user should be aware of the gaps in the collection. For the correspondence series, no records are present for the years 1881-1886, 1918-1926, and 1928; however, the years 1892-1910 are richly documented. The user should note the relationship between the incoming and the outgoing correspondence. The unbound incoming correspondence, 1879-1930, is arranged chronologically and then alphabetically. The bound volumes of outgoing correspondence, 1879-1910, are arranged chronologically by the date of the first entry in the letterbook. Incoming correspondence from the Office of Indian Affairs is filed under the heading: United States. Office of Indian Affairs.

Series One; Correspondence, 1880-1930, consists of official correspondence between the agent at San Carlos and the individual and corporate bodies involved with the reservation. For the most part, official correspondence was issued between the Office of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., and the agent at the San Carlos Reservation. The topics of the

correspondence embraced a wide range of subjects – construction of new buildings; education and health of Indians; delivery and open-market purchases of supplies; mineral, transportation, and grazing rights to the reservation lands; personnel transfers and problems; relations with surrounding towns, and progress of Indian adaptation to life on the reservation.

One subject file entitled “Captain Chiquito Water Claims, 1897-1902” documents a unique series of correspondence about water claims on Arivaipa Creek, Pinal County, Arizona Territory, by an Indian, Captain Chiquito, against a black family, the Waldon’s. The letters contain testimony by various parties on the question of prior rights to water claims and trespasses on property rights.

Correspondence regarding the building and maintenance of the Gila Valley, Globe, and Northern Railroad is present for the years 1895-1901.

The holograph decisions of the tribal courts of the agency are recorded. These sixteen cases from May 21, 1909 to August 3, 1909 concern stealing, drunkenness, and disorderly conduct by individuals on the reservation and the sentences rendered in each case.

Series Two; Financial Vouchers and Invoices, 1888-1911, documents the various supplies issued by the San Carlos Agency to the Indians. The vouchers are filed by headings within the fiscal quarter of the year of issue. The main headings of the vouchers are Abstract of disbursements, Annuity goods and supplies, Articles expended, Articles issued to Indians, Articles sold to employees, Efficiency report of employees, Employees in service, Estimate of funds, Funds remitted, Property, and Weekly issue to Indians.

Series Three; Ledgers, 1869-1928, contains thirteen bound volumes of ledgers, receipt books, issues books, cash books, and accounts books documenting the operation of the reservation. There is also a cash book for the Globe and San Carlos Telegraph Company. There are no ledgers for the years 1903-1924.

Series Four; Miscellaneous Printed Matter and Memoranda, 1890-1917, consists of business cards, graduation announcements, stock solicitation forms, a book critique and Civil Service examination announcements, probably from the files of Indian agent Ernest Stecker; several official agency forms concerning appointees, receipts, affidavits, advertisements, warnings, and purchases; a list of Indian Scouts from the agency; and fragments of memorandums from the administration of Ernest Stecker.

The majority of the San Carlos Agency records were given to the Arizona Historical Society by Ryder Ridgeway in December 1966. Additional gifts of two agency books, one issues book, and one voucher book were donated by Mr. And Mrs. Max Millett and Don Pace in February 1975.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
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1	Series One	Correspondence	1879-1930
	1	Incoming Correspondence 1889-1930	1889-1890
	2	A – T	1891
	3	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jan-Apr 1891
	4	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	May-Aug 1891
	5	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Sep-Oct 1891
	6	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Nov-Dec 1891
	7	A – L	1892
	8	M – T	1892
	9	U.S. Army	Jan-Jun 1892
	10	U.S. Army	Jul-Dec 1892
	11	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jan-Feb 1892
	12	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Mar-Apr 1892
	13	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	May 1892
	14	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jun 1892
	15	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jul 1892
	16	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Aug 1892
	17	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Sep 1892
	18	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Oct 1892
	19	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Nov 1892
	20	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Dec 1892
	21	U.S. Treasury Department	1892
	22	V - W	1892
2	23	A – C	1893
	24	E – K	1893
	25	L – O	1893
	26	P – T	1893
	27	Union-United States Marshall	1893
	28	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jan 1893
	29	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Feb 1893
	30	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Mar 1893
	31	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Apr 1893
	32	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	May 1893
	33	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jun 1893
	34	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jul 1893
	35	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Aug 1893
	36	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Sep 1893
	37	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Oct 1893
	38	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Nov 1893
	39	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Dec 1893
	40	U.S. Treasury Department	1893
	41	V – W	1893

3	42	A – N	1894
	43	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jan-Feb 1894
	44	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Mar 1894
	45	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Apr 1894
	46	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	May 1894
	47	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jun 1894
	48	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jul 1894
	49	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Aug 1894
	50	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Sep 1894
	51	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Oct 1894
	52	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Nov 1894
	53	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Dec 1894
	54	U.S. Treasury Department	1894
	55	A – S	1895
	56	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jan 1895
	57	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Feb 1895
	58	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Mar 1895
	59	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Apr 1895
	60	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	May 1895
	61	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jun-Dec 1895
	62	U.S. Treasury Department	1895
4	63	A – S	1896
	64	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jan-Mar 1896
	65	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	May-Jul 1896
	66	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Aug-Sep 1896
	67	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Oct 1896
	68	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Nov 1896
	69	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Dec 1896
	70	U.S. Treasury Department	1896
	71	A – T	1897
	72	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jan-Apr 1897
	73	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	May-Jun 1897
	74	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jul 1897
	75	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Aug-Sep 1897
	76	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Oct-Dec 1897
	77	United States Treasury Department	1897
	78	United States War Department	1897
	79	W	1897
	80	A – F	1898
	81	G – M	1898
	82	N – T	1898
	83	United States Attorney	1898
	84	United States Marshall	1898

	85	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jan-Feb 1898
	86	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Mar-May 1898
	87	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jun-Aug 1898
	88	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Sep-Oct 1898
	89	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Nov-Dec 1898
	90	U.S. Treasury Department	1898
	91	V – Z	1898
5	92	A – G	1899
	93	I – O	1899
	94	P – Union	1899
	95	U.S. Civil Service Commission	1899
	96	United States Marshall	1899
	97	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jan-Mar 1899
	98	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Apr-Jun 1899
	99	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jul-Aug 1899
	100	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Sep-Oct 1899
	101	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Nov-Dec 1899
	102	United States Treasury Department	1899
	103	W – Y	1899
	104	A – E	1900
	105	F – L	1900
	106	M – N	1900
	107	P – S	1900
	108	United States Army	1900
	109	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jan-Feb 1900
	110	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Mar-Apr 1900
	111	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	May-Jun 1900
	112	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jul-Aug 1900
	113	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Sep-Oct 1900
	114	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Nov 1900
	115	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Dec 1900
	116	United States Signal Corps	1900
	117	United States Treasury Department	1900
	118	V – W	1900
6	119	A – G	1901
	120	M – R	1901
	121	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jan-Feb 1901
	122	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Mar-Apr 1901
	123	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	May 1901
	124	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jun-Jul 1901
	125	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Aug 1901
	126	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Sep 1901
	127	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Oct 1901

	128	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Nov 1901
	129	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Dec 1901
	130	United States Treasury Department	1901
	131	W	1901
	132	A	1902
	133	Captain Chiquito	1897-1899
	134	Captain Chiquito	1900-1902
	135	F – S	1902
	136	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jan-Feb 1902
	137	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Mar-May 1902
	138	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	Jun-Dec 1902
	139	United States Treasury Department	1902
	140	Z	1902
	141	F – S	1903
	142	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	1903
	143	United States Treasury Department	1903
	144	Z	1903
	145	Correspondence	1904
	146	Correspondence	1905
	147	Correspondence	1906
	148	Correspondence	1907
	149	Correspondence	1908
	150	Correspondence	1909
	151	San Carlos Agency, Tribal Court Decisions	1909
	152	Correspondence	1911
	153	A – D	1916
	154	G – M	1916
	155	N – S	1916
	156	U.S. Office of Indian Affairs	1916
	157	V – W	1916
	158	Correspondence	1917
	159	Correspondence	1927, 1929, 1930
7		Outgoing Correspondence 1880-1910	
	160	Letterbook	Jul 19, 1879- Mar 4, 1880
	161	Letterbook	Feb-Apr 1882-Aug 29, 1889
	162	Letterbook	Jan 3, 1891-Sep 23, 1891

	163	Letterbook	Feb 23, 1892-Jun 30, 1893
	164	Letterbook	Jul 7, 1893-May 1, 1897
	165	Letterbook	Jul 23, 1893-Jul 20, 1894
8	166	Letterbook	May 1, 1894-Jun 5, 1895
	167	Letterbook	Jun 6, 1895-Apr 2, 1896
	168	Letterbook	Jul 1, 1895-Oct 15, 1901
	169	Letterbook	Apr 3, 1896-Mar 2, 1897
9	170	Letterbook	Mar 2, 1897-May 2, 1898
	171	Letterbook	Apr 15, 1897-Jun 27, 1898
	172	Letterbook	May 4, 1898-May 29, 1899
	173	Letterbook	May 30, 1899-Oct 3, 1899
10	174	Letterbook	Nov 10, 1901-Sep 27, 1902
	175	Letterbook in Box 10A	Mar 19, 1904-Jan 5, 1909
	176	Letterbook	Jun 18, 1909-Sep 29, 1910
11	177	Letterbook	Sep 17, 1909-Sep 6, 1910
	178	Letterbook	No date legible

12	Series Two	Vouchers and Invoices	1888-1911
	179	Vouchers	1888
	180	A – E	1890
	181	W	1890
	182	W	1890
	183	A – F	1891
	184	H – I	1891
	185	O – S	1891
	186	A – G	1892
	187	I – P	1892
	188	R – S	1892
	189	Invoices	1892
	190	Invoices	1892
	191	A – G	1893
	192	I – R	1893
	193	S – T	1893
	194	D – G	1894
	195	I	1894
	196	D – P	1894
13	197	Vouchers	1895
	198	Invoices	Jul-Aug1895
	199	Invoices	Sep-Oct1895
	200	Invoices	Nov 1895
	201	Vouchers, A	1895
	202	Vouchers, I – S	1896
	203	Invoices	1896
	204	Vouchers, A	1897
	205	Vouchers, B – L	1897
	206	Vouchers, P – S	1897
	207	Invoice	1897
	208	Vouchers, A – F	1898
	209	Vouchers, G	1898
	210	Vouchers, I – T	1898
14	211	Vouchers, A	1899
	212	Vouchers, Em	1899
	213	Vouchers, Es	1899
	214	Vouchers, I	1899
	215	Vouchers, O – S	1899
	216	Invoices	1899
	217	Vouchers, A – G	1900
	218	Vouchers, I – W	1900
	219	Invoices	1900

	220	Vouchers, E – F	1901
	221	Vouchers, I – T	1901
	222	Vouchers, C – E	1902
	223	Vouchers, G – S	1902
	224	Vouchers, A	1903
	225	Vouchers, G – P	1903
	226	Invoices	1903
15	227	Vouchers, A – G	1904
	228	Vouchers, I – R	1904
	229	Vouchers, S	1904
	230	Vouchers	1905
	231	Vouchers	1906
	232	Invoices	1906
	233	Vouchers	1907
	234	Vouchers	1908
	235	Vouchers, A – D	1909
	236	Vouchers, G – R	1909
	237	Invoices	1909
	238	Vouchers	1910
	239	Vouchers	1911
	Series Three	Ledgers	1869-1928
16	240	Ledger	Jan 15, 1869-Dec 1, 1882
	241	Issues Book	Oct 16, 1874-Jun 23, 1882
	242	Receipt Book	Jan 4, 1887-Oct 29, 1889
	243	Cash Book (oversize)	Jun 1, 1880-Oct 29, 1880
	244	Cash Book (oversize)	Jul 14, 1883-Feb 14, 1887
17	245	Ledger	Oct 1, 1888-May 8, 1890
	246	Ledger	Jun 30, 1894-Jan 21, 1895
	248	Ledger	Jul 1, 1897-Jan 20, 1898

18	250	Ledger	Jan 25, 1925-Aug 31, 1928
	251	Record of Employees (oversize)	Jul 1, 1898-Feb 17, 1903
	252	Issues (oversize, on shelf next to Box 18)	No date
	Series Four	Miscellaneous Printed Matter and Memoranda	1890-1917
	253	Miscellany	1890-1916
	254	Fragments of memoranda, San Carlos Agency	1916
	255	Fragments of memoranda, San Carlos Agency	1916
	256	Fragments of memoranda, San Carlos Agency	1916
	257	Fragments of memoranda, San Carlos Agency	1916
	258	Fragments of memoranda, San Carlos Agency	1917