

# Indian Archives Microfilm Guide

## Series 5: Seminole National Records

Compiled by Katie Bush



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## Introduction

The Seminole Nation in Indian Territory maintained its own government and records for many years in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and in limited form after 1906 and Oklahoma Statehood. The Seminoles were removed from their Southeastern homeland to Indian Territory and began arriving in 1856. They were located on Creek lands north of the Canadian River in present Hughes County. In a treaty of Aug. 7, 1856 (Stat L, xi, 699) the Creeks ceded 2,169,080 acres of their territory to the Seminoles. On Mar. 21, 1866 (Stat. L. xiv, 755) the Seminole ceded a portion of this to the United States for the settlement of other tribes. They retained 200,000 acres to which were added 175,000 acres from Creek lands in the Treaty of Mar. 3, 1873 (Stat. L. xvii, 626) making their reservation a total of 375,851 acres.

Until the 1870s, the Seminole were governed by two Chiefs, one representing the Loyal or Norther Seminoles, and other the Southern group. After 1877 there was only one Principal Chief. There was also a second chief, and a General or National Council of 42 members, three each from each of the 14 Seminole bands or towns. This body comprised both legislative and judicial branches. The Lighthorsemen were responsible for law enforcement.

Although the Seminoles were expressly excepted from the 1887 General Allotment Act, in 1893 Congress provided for the creation of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes (Dawes Commission) and authorized this body to meet with representatives of each tribe, including the Seminoles. On Dec. 16, 1897 the tribe agreed to allotment and this agreement was ratified on July 1, 1898. The Curtis Act of this year provided the Seminole National government would be abolished on Mar. 4, 1906.

In order to carry out the responsibilities of the Dawes Commission, the records of the various tribal governments were transferred to Muskogee where they were later stored in the federal building. Dr. Grant Foremen believed that they were of great historical value and should be inventoried and placed in some order in a place where they would be accessible to historians and others. He gained the permission of the Indian Office to direct the calendaring of the documents in 1929. Later he and others were instrumental in having the collection placed in the Oklahoma Historical Building in Oklahoma City. An Act of Congress, Mar. 27, 1934 (H. R. 5631 Public No. 133) transferred the records to the Oklahoma Historical Society's care, although ownership remained with the federal government.

Of all the records of the Five Tribes in this collection, the Seminoles have the fewest surviving documents. There are 12 volumes and a few unbound documents covering acts of National Council, financial records and a volume containing lists of headrights paid to Seminoles by bands.

The extant records are considered valuable because they represent, along with the national tribal records of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Creek, the largest group of records of sovereign Indian nations known to exist to this date. As such they give a view of Indian history that is unknown and unavailable for other American Indian tribes who did not have constitutional governments and written records.



## SMN 1

### Seminole National Records: Laws and Acts of National Council, 1886-1905

- ◆ **Volume 1 – Laws of the Seminole Nation: 1887-1889**
  - This volume contains the laws of the Seminole Nation written in that language except for pages 108 and 109.
  - Pages 3 and 4 are missing.
- ◆ **Volume 5 – Laws and Acts of the National Council: 1897-1906**
  - This volume contains laws and acts of the General Council and National Council concerning the appointment of Townsite Commissioners, establishing Wewoka as the Capitol, allowing the leasing of allotments, and other matters.
  - One half of pages 69-70 are missing.
- ◆ **Volume 4 – Laws and Acts of the National Council: 1897-1906**
  - This is a typed copy of Seminole Volume 5 filmed previously.
- ◆ **Volume 12 – Seminole Law Book for Gov. John F. Brown: Apr. 20, 1906**
  - This volume is written in the Seminole language.
- ◆ **Federal Relations – Miscellaneous Papers, Document 39518**
  - This pamphlet is a brief argument addressed to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the United States Senate regarding the Loyal Seminole claim for property losses or injuries sustained during the Civil War.
- ◆ **Volume 6 – Per Capita Payments Ledger: 1898**
  - This payment roll gives the names of all individuals in a household and lists the families by bands.
- ◆ **Volume 7 – Per Capita Payments Ledger: 1901**
  - This volume is a roll of payment by bands listing all individuals within a household and giving names of band heads.
  - There is an index listing pages for each band named.
- ◆ **Volume 8 – Per Capita Payments Ledger: 1901-1905**
  - This volume lists the names of deceased tribal members and gives a description of their land and the total appraised value.
  - There is an index.
- ◆ **Volume 11 – Per Capita Payments Ledger: 1902-1904**
  - This volume is a payment list by bands showing all individuals in a household and the amount paid to them. The Band Chief or leader's name is included.

## SMN 2

### Seminole National Records: Financial Records, 1893-1907; Financial Records Concerning Schools, 1906; Miscellaneous Records

- ◆ **Volume 3 – Treasurer's Record, Cash Journal: 1893-1906**

- This volume lists amounts paid as salaries to national officers and employees for head rights, schools, and so on.
- ◆ **Volume 2 – Cash Journal: 1893-1907**
  - This volume lists amounts paid as head rights, salaries to national officers and employees, for school expenses, and so on.
  - Pages 25-26 and parts of 299-300 are missing.
- ◆ **Volume 9 – Cancelled Certificates: 1901**
  - This is a list of 46 tribal members giving the number and date of the cancelled certificates and the number of reissued certificates.
- ◆ **Volume 10 – Warrant Payments Ledger: 1902-1906**
  - This volume lists names of persons, including tribal officers, to whom warrants were issued with the amount paid.
  - Pages 67-68 are missing.
- ◆ **Seminole-Miscellaneous Financial Documents, Documents 39511-39522: 1897-1906**
  - This file contains warrants (some in the Seminole language), sight drafts, accounts with the Wewoka Trading Company, orders from the Principal Chief, and so on.
  - Document 39518 was filmed on roll SMN 1.
- ◆ **Seminole-Schools-Miscellaneous Financial Records Concerning Schools, Documents 39523-39542: 1906**
  - This file contains letters from the Superintendent of Schools in Indian Territory regarding salaries.
- ◆ **Section X-Seminole-Miscellaneous: 1866-1923**
  - The majority of the items in this file were typed from original documents in the Union Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Muskogee, Oklahoma by Rella Watts Looney, Archivist, Indian Archives Division, Oklahoma Historical Society.

### SMN 3

Seminole National Records: Mekusukey Academy, 1910-1918

- ◆ **Mekusukey Academy Records: 1910-1918**
  - These files contain rosters of students, applications for admittance to the school, medical records, letters sent on and received by the Superintendent of the academy and so on. The records are of special value, because the student's age is frequently noted. This has been accepted as a means of establishing a birth year for individuals who have no official birth certificate.
  - A two page 1917 list of students appears on a 1920 volume filmed on roll SMN 4.

## SMN 4

Seminole National Records: Mekusukey Academy, 1917-1920

- ◆ **Mekusukey Academy Records: 1917-1920**
  - These files contain rosters of students, applications for admittance, student progress cards, certificates of promotion, letters of the superintendent of the school, medical records, and so on.
  - The roster in the volume dated 1919-1920 appears only on pages 75, 77, and 94. Pages 1-74 are missing. Also in the roster volume for 1920 there are two pages of 1917 students.

## SMN 5

Seminole National Records: Mekusukey Academy, 1920-1922

- ◆ **Mekusukey Academy Records: 1920-1922**
  - These files contain rosters of students, applications for admittance, medical records, student progress reports, lists of Seminole children who were not attending the academy nor public school in violation of Oklahoma Statutes regarding compulsory school attendance, letters sent and received by the Superintendent and so on.

## SMN 6

Seminole National Records: Mekusukey Academy, 1923-1929

- ◆ **Mekusukey Academy Students: 1923-1929**
  - These files contain student class rosters, applications for enrollment, case records, reports on applications, certificates of promotions, daily programs, vocational records, student tests, health records, and letters sent and received by the school superintendent and other records.



# Seminole National Archives Microfilm

## National Archives 7RA Series

### National Archives Roll 7RA20

Federal Archives and Records Center – Fort Worth, Texas – Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Group 75 – Records of the Commissioner to the Five Civilized Tribes: Seminole Rolls

- ◆ **Seminole Payment Roll: 1868**
  - Arranged by band.
  - A negative photostatic copy of a receipt roll for a payment of \$50,000.00 which was made to “Loyal Seminoles” for losses sustained during the Civil War.
  - The roll contains each payee’s name, amount received, and mark.
- ◆ **Seminole Payment Roll: 1895-1896**
  - Arranged by band and thereunder by family group.
  - Manuscript copies of an 1895 and 1896 “Head Right” payment roll.
  - The roll contains each payee’s name and amounts of money listed under columns labeled “Wewoka,” “Sasakwa,” and “Balance.” Wewoka was the capitol of the Seminole Nation and Sasakwa was the place of business of the Principal Chief. The 1895 roll is on pages 1-108 and the 1896 roll is on pages 109-226.
- ◆ **Seminole Payment Roll: 1895-1897**
  - Arranged by band and thereunder by family group.
  - Manuscript copies of an 1895 and 1896 “Head Right” payment roll. The 1895 payment roll in this volume is not an exact duplicate of the 1895 payment roll in volume 1000594, but contains most of the same names and amounts.
  - The roll contains each payee’s name and amounts of money listed under columns labeled “Wewoka,” “Sasakwa,” and “Balance.” Wewoka was the capitol of the Seminole Nation and Sasakwa was the place of business of the Principal Chief. The 1895 roll is on pages 1-111 and the 1897 roll is on pages 112-236. The 1897 payment roll has been annotated in blue pencil with Dawes enrollment card numbers.
- ◆ **Seminole Census Roll: 1897**
  - Arranged by band and thereunder by family group.
  - The roll contains only an individual’s name. Each family group has been assigned a number. The roll lists 2,856 people arranged into 724 family groups.
- ◆ **Seminole Allotment Schedules**



## **National Archives Roll 7RA287**

Federal Archives and Records Center – Fort Worth, Texas – Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Group 75 – Records of the Commissioner to the Five Civilized Tribes: Seminole Payment and Census Rolls, 1868, 185-1897, and 1900-1901

- ◆ **Seminole Payment Roll: 1868**
- ◆ **Seminole Census Roll: 1895-1896**
- ◆ **Seminole Census Roll: 1897**
- ◆ **Seminole Miscellaneous Roll: 1900**
- ◆ **Seminole \$14.00 Payment Roll: 1901**

## **National Archives M234 Series**

### **National Archives Roll M234.801**

Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1881-Roll 801, Seminole Agency, 1824-1876

- ◆ **Letters Received from Seminole Agency: 1846-1855**

### **National Archives Roll M234.802**

Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1881-Roll 802, Seminole Agency, 1824-1876

- ◆ **Letters Received from Seminole Agency: 1856-1858**

### **National Archives Roll M234.803**

Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1881-Roll 803, Seminole Agency, 1824-1876

- ◆ **Letters Received from Seminole Agency: 1859-1867**

### **National Archives Roll M234.806**

Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1881-Roll 806, Seminole Agency, 1824-1876

- ◆ **Letters Received from Seminole Agency – Emigration: 1826-1846**

### **National Archives Roll M234.807**

Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1881-Roll 807, Seminole Agency, 1824-1876

- ◆ **Letters Received from Seminole Agency – Emigration: 1848-1859**



# Florida Seminoles National Archives Microfilm

## National Archives Roll M595.486

The National Archives – National Archives and Records Service – General Services Administration – Washington – Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940: Florida Seminoles Census Rolls, 1913-1929

- ♦ Florida Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: July 1913
- ♦ Florida Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: July 1914
- ♦ Miami Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: July 1915
- ♦ Miami Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: July 1916
- ♦ Miami Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: June 30, 1917
- ♦ Florida Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: June 30, 1918
- ♦ Florida Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: June 30, 1919
- ♦ Florida Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: June 30, 1920
- ♦ Florida Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: June 30, 1921
- ♦ Florida Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: June 30, 1922
- ♦ Florida Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: June 30, 1923
- ♦ Florida Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: June 30, 1924
- ♦ Florida Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: June 30, 1925
- ♦ Florida Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: June 30, 1926
- ♦ Florida Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: June 30, 1927
- ♦ Florida Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: June 30, 1928
- ♦ Florida Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: June 30, 1929

## National Archives Roll M595.487

The National Archives – National Archives and Records Service – General Services Administration – Washington – Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940: Florida Seminoles Census Rolls, 1930-1940

- ♦ Instructions for BIA Agents taking a census
- ♦ Seminole Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: April 1, 1930
- ♦ Seminole Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: April 1, 1931
- ♦ Seminole Births: 1924-1931
- ♦ Seminole Deaths: 1924-1931
- ♦ Seminole Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: April 1, 1932
- ♦ Seminole Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: April 1, 1933
- ♦ Seminole Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: April 1, 1934

- ♦ **Seminole Additions (births) and Deductions (deaths) from the Census Roll: 1934**
- ♦ **Seminole Births: Apr. 1, 1927-Mar. 31, 1934**
- ♦ **Seminole Deaths: Apr. 1, 1933-Mar. 31, 1934**
- ♦ **Seminole Supplemental Census Roll: Jan. 1, 1934-Apr. 1, 1934**
- ♦ **Seminole Supplemental Census Roll: Apr. 2, 1934-Jan. 1, 1935**
- ♦ **Seminole Births: Apr. 1, 1934-Jan. 1, 1935**
- ♦ **Seminole Deaths: Apr. 1, 1934-Jan. 1, 1935**
- ♦ **Seminole Supplemental Census Roll: 1936**
- ♦ **Seminole Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: 1936**
- ♦ **Seminole Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: 1937**
- ♦ **Seminole Births: 1937**
- ♦ **Seminole Deaths: 1937**
- ♦ **Seminole Supplemental Census Roll: 1939**
- ♦ **Seminole Deaths: 1938**
- ♦ **Seminole Agency, Florida – Census of Seminoles: Jan. 1, 1940**