

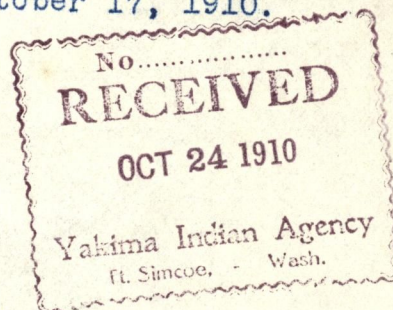
JTR WRL JFA

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

Land-
Records
19377-1910
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October 17, 1910.

Circular #480.



To Indian Agents, Superintendents,
and Special Allotting Agents:

There is transmitted herewith for your guidance a copy of the instructions prepared for the preparation of "individual Indian records," showing the family relationship, history, etc., of Indians. To the instructions are attached guide forms illustrating the manner in which they are to be prepared.

All "individual Indian records," formerly known as "family histories," made hereafter should be on these forms. You will observe that the new forms call for some information, very essential in determining relationships, for which no space was provided on the old forms. If your records do not show this information, it should be obtained and placed on the new form, together with such information as you have about the Indian. Where your present records are complete, there will be no need to transcribe them onto the new forms.

The matter of determining the rights of Indians who claim to be heirs is becoming one of great importance in the settlement of Indian estates, and every effort should be made to complete these records at the earliest practicable date, and keep them up to date hereafter. Every week's delay in the completion of this work means the loss of valuable information as a result of the death of old and well informed Indians who possess information which often can not be procured from any other source.

As the responsibility for determining the heirs of Indians is placed, by recent acts of Congress, on the Secretary of the Interior, and he must rely very much, in reaching his conclusions, on the information furnished him by the officials of this Bureau, no laxity or carelessness in keeping these records will be excused.

The preparation of these records was commenced under instructions issued from this Office April 24, 1908, and you are requested to advise the Office as to how nearly your part of it is completed. In case they can not be completed by January 1, 1911, please give a full statement of the reasons therefor.

Very respectfully,

Assistant Commissioner.