

ATTACHMENT 2

*Supt. Walker letter*

9-1142

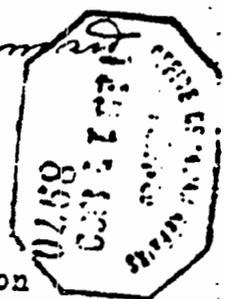
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INDIAN FIELD SERVICE

Western Navajo Indian Agency,  
Tuba City, Arizona,  
February 5, 1930.

*Washington  
2/16/30.*

*Referred to the Commissioner with  
the recommendation that if possible the district  
around Moencopi to be leased with used by the  
Hopi be definitely and clearly defined  
H. J. Hagerman*

Hon. W. J. Hagerman,  
Special Commissioner,  
Santa Fe, New Mexico.



My dear Mr. Hagerman:

While in your office the other day the question of squabbles and contentions between Navajos and Hopis was mentioned by one of the other superintendents or Mr. Johnston, and I made a note in my book that a report of the situation here should be made.

We have but 350 Hopis and approximately 5,000 Navajos, but the small number of Hopis caused us three times as much trouble as all the Navajos put together. The bunch we have here are descendants in many instances of those who have been exiled or banished from the villages on the Hopi Reservation. Some, however, are here simply because farm land is better and they have had better treatment here than they have elsewhere by way of employment. Reference to our police records will show that the more serious offenses have always been committed by Hopis; in fact, innumerable instances of immorality, adultery, stealing and trouble making can be cited. On the other hand we have not had an Indian Court for Navajos more than once every six months; in fact, we seldom ever have any Navajo troubles to speak of. The Hopi is very aggressive and is a great schemer. They are farmers naturally, and have pushed their way into this Reservation because of the springs and farm land lying in a large body in what is known as the Moencopi Wash. The Navajos naturally resent this encroachment, and the enmity between the two tribes reaches quite a high pitch.

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#2--E.J.H.

When I came here there was so much strife between Navajos and Hopis that we held a meeting on our lawn of Navajos and Hopis at which time certain boundaries were agreed upon for use of the stockmen of both tribes. The Hopis were to graze that section of the Reservation out of the Moencopi Wash as far as their stock would naturally graze from the Village. The western edge of the mesa on that side was agreed upon as the western boundary, but since the Hopi Reservation lies to the east it was not deemed necessary to consider that side of the range since they were informed that they might graze at will on that side. There were some Navajos who were not present at the meeting and who did not know of this agreement, and after the agreement was made they drifted at times across on to the Hopi grounds. They were never allowed to remain any length of time for the reason that as soon as one was found within Hopi territory the Hopis rushed to my office with a report and demanded that the Navajos be driven off immediately. In every instance we explained the situation to the Navajos, who withdrew with reasonable promptness. Notwithstanding the agreement and the assistance we gave them in keeping the Navajos off their territory I found the other day that a Hopi had moved to a place north of Tuba City early this fall with his sheep and had remained there right along all this winter. No protest was made by Navajos until a few days ago and I did not know that the Hopi was there with his sheep, but on investigating I found that his sheep were lambing and that they could not be moved immediately. They will have to remain where they now are for several days or weeks. In addition to this I found a few days ago that a Hopi had moved west from the Hopi territory a distance of five or ten miles, and with a cheap grade of new lumber had built a small house down in the back of a wash at a place where it was pretty well concealed from view, and where he could look over the range and herd his cattle and sheep. Apparently more than one Hopi has been using this house for about two years, though we did not discover it until a short time ago. At the time I discovered the house I found that about twenty-eight head of cattle had been grazing in the vicinity of the house for a.

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#3--H.J.E.

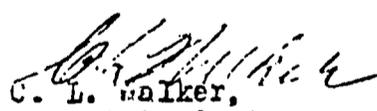
long time. Just how long I could not say.

The above instances are cited to show how impossible it is for Navajos and Hopis to get along together. They must be kept separate or no one in charge will have any peace. The Hopis claim that all land lying between the Colorado Rivers was intended for them. I have showed maps, land tracts and proclamations to them by the hour, but it does little good. I find that they have had the same explanations made to them many times by my predecessors, but that each time a new man comes these old claims and complaints are brought up again.

In as much as the Reservation proper is composed chiefly of Treaty lands or Executive Order Lands, it seems to me that a certain portion of it could be set aside for use of Hopis and leave the rest to Navajos. The Hopis of this Reservation should either be removed or put back on their own lands, or should be definitely informed as to what their boundaries are, and that they must remain therein. I believe that the only satisfactory solution will be to put the Hopis all together, but if the Office wishes to allow those we have here to remain and occupy a designated area, we would be pleased to make every effort possible to settle the controversy along this line.

I would like to suggest that if this matter should be taken up a committee be appointed to investigate conditions and recommend the action to be taken. The Superintendents of the Hopi, Western Navajo and Leupp Reservations should be allowed to co-operate with the committee and render such assistance as possible.

Very respectfully,

  
C. L. Walker,  
Superintendent.

CLW-m

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