

Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Navajo Agency.

Fort Defiance, Arizona, July 5, 1895.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.,

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the authorities of Coconino county, Arizona, have called upon me to turn over to them a Navajo Indian named Chat-chose, for trial under an indictment for murder.

I have had Mr. Shoemaker, the Tuba City farmer, make a full investigation into the circumstances of this case, and it is my opinion, formed after a careful examination of many statements in writing obtained by Mr. Shoemaker, that a fair and impartial trial will result in the acquittal of the accused, who is charged with the murder, two years ago, of one Lot Smith, a Mormon residing in the vicinity of Tuba City at the time of his death. The disputes between the Indians and Mormons over land on the Moen-cool Wash probably have something to do with the prosecution in this case, for at the time of the killing the Mormons are reported to have expressed great satisfaction at the taking-off of one of their number who was feared by all the rest on account of his violent temper and quarrelsome disposition. It is very desirable, in my

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opinion, that this case should be settled according to its true merits; but Chat-chose not unreasonably is apprehensive of the result of a trial in a Mormon stronghold like Flagstaff, the county seat. He expresses a willingness to stand trial if the Agent and Mr. Shoemaker will accompany him and look after his interests. The court meets next month, and I respectfully ask that I be permitted to go to Flagstaff to see that Chat-chose is properly defended and that he receives a fair trial; and also that I be permitted to take Mr. Shoemaker and an interpreter with me. If payment can possibly be made for the services of a competent lawyer I request authority to employ one, rather than to have to rely upon some inexperienced young man appointed by the court.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Constant Williams

Captain 7th Infantry,

Acting Agent.