

Pl. Ex. 360 Docket 229 (Navajo)

SRPDOC003

39th Congress, 1st Session, House Executive Document 1 (Serial 1248), pp. 355-357.

[Ward to Steck]

Pueblo Agency, New Mexico,  
Peña Blanco, New Mexico,  
April [21], 1865.

Sir

\* \* \* \* \*

Although the Moquis do not now properly appertain to this superintendency, yet they seem to know no other rallying point in time of distress than our settlements. This is owing to their mutual relations and extensive acquaintance with our Pueblo Indians, and the fact that they consider themselves as belonging to this country. I have endeavored by every possible means to explain to them that they no longer appertain to this superintendency, but to that of Arizona, to which they must go hereafter to transact all their business and make their wants known. They cannot comprehend the reason of this transfer, and think strange that we should try to put them off.

\* \* \* \* \*

The very fact that most of them, men, women, and children, have come on foot a distance of at least three hundred miles, through deep snow, during one of the most severe winters for many years, for the purpose of procuring something to eat, and what little they can pack to their homes, is of itself sufficient evidence of their deplorable condition, and fully warrants the charity which has been extended to them.

In connexion with the foregoing, it may not be out of place to state, for your information, that one of my first official acts, after receiving the appointment of Indian agent in 1861, was to make a trip to the Moqui pueblos, (villages,) at which time I visited every one of the seven pueblos. I found them very poor and badly in need of assistance; they had scarcely any implements worthy of the name; they had no hoes, no spades, that I could see; the corn, which is usually their main crop, they planted by the aid of sticks, by digging holes in the ground, into which they dropped the seed. They principally depend on the rain for their crops, having no permanent running water in their vicinity; thus they are, comparatively speaking, at the mercy of the seasons. A short time previous to my visit to them they had been attacked and robbed by the hostile Navajos; and to make their condition worse, the independent campaigns from this Territory against the Navajoes had also gone to their village and taken from them even the very corn they had in store for their subsistence. This was done, as I afterwards learned, under the plea that the Moquis were in league with the Navajoes against us.

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From personal observation and the best of my judgment, the aggregate population of these Indians does not exceed three thousand souls. Their location and circumstances make them an easy prey for their more formidable and warlike foes, Navajoes and southern Apaches, by which they are surrounded. As these Indians no longer appertain to this superintendency, I would respectfully suggest (through you to the department) that the Arizona superintendency be instructed to take the entire charge of the same, and to extend to them the relief and protection to which they may be entitled, and thereby free this superintendency from a burden for which no allowance whatever is made. The responsibility, care, and expense should be attached wherever they properly belong.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN WARD,

Indian Agent.

Dr. M. Steck,  
Sup't of Indian Affairs,  
Santa Fé, N. M.

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Pl. Ex. 359 Docket 229 (Navajo)

39th Congress, 1st Session, House Executive Document 1 (Serial 1248), pp. 354-355.

[Steck to Dole]

Office Superintendency,  
Santa Fe, N. M.,  
April 21, 1865.

Sir

\* \* \* \* \*

John Ward, under instructions from my predecessor, Colonel Collins, visited these villages in 1861, and reports the names and population of each, viz.:

Oraiva [Oraibi] . . . . .	800
Sho-mon-pa-vi [Shongopovi]. . . . .	600
Tano [Hano] . . . . .	250
Ci-cho-mo-oi [Sichomovi]. . . . .	100
O-pi-ji-que [Walpi] . . . . .	300
Mi-shan-qu-na-vi [Mishongnovi]. . . . .	250
Sha-pan-la-vi [Shipaulovi] . . . . .	<u>200</u>
Total population . . . . .	2,500

Total population of the seven villages, according to his estimate and that of Major Kendrick, who visited them previously, is about two thousand five hundred souls.

The towns are all within an area of about fifteen miles, and built upon an elevated plateau or table land.

\* \* \* \* \*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. STECK,

Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

Hon. W. P. Dole,  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

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