Healing Vs. Jones, Def. Ex. 371

NATIONAL ARCHIVES. Bureau of Indian Affairs. Record Group 75.
New Mexico Superintendency. Letters Received. File Mark I-1099/1876 encl.

[Agent Irvine to Com. Ind. Affs.]

Navajoe Indian Agency
Fort Defiance A. T.
November 14th 1876

Hon. J. Q. Smith
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington D. C.

Sir:

In compliance with verbal instructions received upon my late visit to Washington D. C. with regard to the Moqui Pueblo Indians, I submit the following report of a visit that I made to their Agency and village, returning on the 11th inst. I took a private conveyance, the Agency ambulance being to heavy and the mules and horses slow. In two days arived at the Moqui Agency buildings which I found in good condition. The nearest village is twelve miles from the Agency and situated upon a sandstone cliff and the supply of water for all purposes brought a distance of two miles in native pottery ware and carried upon the backs of the women to the village. The men were all engaged in bringing in corn from their fields and upon enquiring I found that they have an abundance of corn for all purposes and all look well fed but poorly clad, children to the age of ten and twelve years going naked. I held an interview with two of the chiefs or head men and made particular inquiries as to their wants during the coming winter and what they desired concerning their school. In regard to their school they informed me that if a day school was established they would send twelve children and be very glad to have them attend. They also stated that they wanted nothing in the way of provisions and that they were poorly clouthed and they had no way to get clothing but depended upon the generosity of the Government to keep them from suffering for the want of that article. I enclose an estimate for clothing and agricultural impliments needed by them.

I would recomend first and as the most important that a Reservation of fifty (50) miles square be set apart for them and that it be made to include the Agency buildings. The reason I would recomend so large a reservation is that the land is destitute of water, unfit for agricultural purposes, as for instance the Moquis raised wheat at the Agency twelve miles by the trail from the nearest village. The most of it can be used for grazing sheep and in time they must depend almost entirely upon their flocks for their subsistance. Now is the time to provide for these people, for the Mormons have large settlements to the west

NAIRG279
Docket 229
Plaintets Ex. 801

Docket 229 (Navajo)

80 / INDEXED

and south already and the Mormons can make the most of what they have of any frontiersman and soon they will crowd the Indians out of their homes. And another fact must be taken into consideration, with regard to both the Moquis and the Navajoes--they are and have been at peace during the last few years and their numbers are increasing while the wilder tribes are decreasing. Thereupon I can not urge upon your consideration to strongly the land question, for in a few years it will be a question of life or death to these Indians. Next would be that of clothing. I have estimated for what would answer and the condition of the funds available must control the quantity given.

The school question is the most difficult of all and I will state facts at the risk of being thought lukewarm. I do not believe that the best method has been tried for educating the Indians and at the same time I know of no better unless it be to take a few Indians east, educate them and return them to their several tribes as teachers. The reasons for failure are these, first the Indians do not place any value upon an education. At present it is of no use to them, they have no imediate need of it and the future is to them unknown. Next they are surounded by both Americans and Mexicans as ignorant as themselves who adopt the Indian modes of living and to all intents and purposes become Indians instead of white men. One comes who speaks English--the next does not understand a word of it but speaks Spanish--the Indian sees nothing but confusion and it is not to be wondered at that he thinks that his own way is as good as any and when he does send his children to a school it is in order that they may get a reward or rather pay in the shape of clothing and provisions which they get by attending school. If their own language was used the case would be quite different. Money and time enough have been spent to make several good readers and I am unable to find but one who knows the alphabet correctly. A school at the Agency is not practable and one at the nearest village might be of some use as they have promised to send twelve children, but I doubt unless calico and manta were supplied quite liberaly if the attendance would continue.

The late Teacher Mr. E. S. Merritt is at the Agency and he estimates the cost of maintaining a school at the village would [be] one hundred and twenty five dollars per month which I consider high. I think a school can be maintained for sixty five dollars per month viz: one teacher fifty dollars and fuel fifteen dollars per month. While at the village I found four horses which had been picked up probably estrayed from citizens on the Prescott road which I ordered them to take and return where found and endevor to find the owners and I believe they will do so. I also found Ganado Mucho, one of the principal Chiefs of the Navajoes, endeavoring to settle an old grievance of about six

Docket 229 (Navajo)
Plaintiff's Exhibit No. 001
SRP000040

years standing, and found an old grievance the Moquis had against the Navajoes of about the same date. I assisted Ganado Mucho to settle both. The establishment of good feeling between the two tribes will amply compensate for all the trouble and expense of the trip.

I would respectfully recomend that William Keam be appointed interpreter who can keep me advised at all times of the condition of the Moquis and reside at the Agency and if considered advisable by your Office to start a day school that Edward S. Merritt, late Moqui Teacher, be appointed: both to commence January 1st 1877. I will cheerfully endeavor to carry out your views in any manner to benefit these people and when I can see no progress will so report.

Very Respectfully, Your Obt. Servant

ALEX G. IRVINE

U. S. Indian Agent

To Hon. J. Q. Smith,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington D. C.

Docket 229 (Navajo)
Plaintiff's Exhibit No. 807
SRP000041