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Howard Inspr

Inspection of
Moquis Agency

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Moquis Pueblo Agency having been abolished
not action is taken on this report in Finance
transferred to A. April 6th 1883
" " C10 " 13/1883
Returned to Dept June 26/83
" " " Aug. 9/83

C 14/1870

Department of the Interior
April 3, 1883.

Respectfully referred to the Commr of Indian Affairs for his information, the report to be returned to the Rec of the Secretary's Office when its contents shall have been noted.

Geo. Ewing
Acting Chief Clerk

1-49

RG 75, M1070, Roll 27
Rpts of Inspection of Field
Jurisdictions of OIA
1873-1900
Navajo Agency

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Synopsis Of

And

Recommendations Contained

In

Report Of Moquis Inspection

By

Inspector Howard

July, 1882

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Report Of Moqui Inspection.

Synopsis.

In inspecting the Arizona or Western Navajos, some 8,000 or 10,000 of whom were found off their Reservation and occupying the same General region as the Moquis, though stretching far beyond them to the north and to the west, it was found that the interests of the two tribes were reciprocal and that any report having out the Moquis would not be complete. (pp. 1 and 21)

As the Moquis are a smaller people, (Pop 2,000) peaceable and occupying villages and cultivating the same farms their ancestors had for many years, the encroachments of the more nomadic Navajos were a constant source of trouble. In seeking a remedy, and looking carefully into their present condition, visiting each of the seven different villages, I came readily to the conclusion that the present Moqui Agency was sadly lacking in most of the appliances needed for the administration of justice, or the establishment and main

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of Reservation schools, or for any proper civilizing work for this people. (pp 2, 3 & 4)

Turning to the old Navajo Agency at Fort Defiance, the proper time given to an examination of its affairs and the evident need there of the most thorough work on an extended scale, led me to the conclusion that it would not be wise currently to consolidate the two Agencies, or in other words, to put all the responsibility of the management of the Moqui's upon that Agency in addition to its own work. Yes the more, when it was considered that there were not less than 1000 Arizona Navajos that were practically without an Agent, and literally outside of the old Reservation. These had been wholly neglected, and were so remote and inaccessible to be controlled from old Ft. Defiance. (pp. 4 & 5)

After careful overtaking of the whole situation, and the wants of the two peoples, and consultation with some of the best informed citizens, and Military Officers of the neighborhood, and with Governor Sheldon and the District Commander, I decided to recommend a new consolidated Agency, and a new Reservation

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(See pp. 6. 7. 8 and 17 and 18).

The boundaries of the proposed Reservation are stated, and the special reasons why the Moquis need it now more than ever before. (pp. 9 & 10).

The peculiar half-civilized habits of the Moquis are described - especially as looking to self-support and the danger of their becoming dependent, if not protected in their rights; (see pp. 8. 9. and 10).

Among the measures most needed for the welfare of the Moquis is their removal from the tops of the Mesas to the plains or valleys. (pp. 12 and 13). Advantages of this and the help the Agent might render. (pp. 14. 15. & 16.)

If they actually lived on their farms they would not be so likely to be crowded off by white settlers, who are flocking along the Atlantic and Pacific railroad. It is important that they soon be given some title to their lands. (see pp. 16 and 17).

There is absolutely no authority now vested in the Moquis Agent. He has no power to enforce orders. The Navajo Agent never attempts any control of the Arizona Navajos. The new Agency should have an efficient police (pp. 18 and 19.)

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The general lawlessness of this entire region for one hundred and fifty, by one hundred and twenty five miles, furnishes an argument both for the new Agency and new Reservation, and for a police force. (pp 21, 22, 23.). The misconduct and bad influence of whites, whom it is now impossible to get rid of, is another loud call for Government interference. Among these miscreants is an employee of the Ethnological Bureau (pp. 24 and 26).

There are few better places for an Industrial Boarding School in all the Indian country; the eligible site, the long neglect of all these 10000 to 12,000 Indians of both tribes, their inclination naturally to visit this place, and send their children, all these, and many other facts, point to the establishment here of an Industrial Boarding School to accommodate not less than one hundred to two hundred pupils (pp. 25, 26 and 27).

The proper places for a few local schools are described (pp. 28 and 29).

The Moques have lately been deprived of a physician. These Indians have need of one as much as any Indians. (pp. 30 and 31).

I have enumerated other civili-

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ging appliances, such as they specially need, and such as other Indians have. I have never found any tribe more deserving, whether we consider their good conduct for years and centuries, or their own progress and likelihood of showing the best results for money expended. (pp. 32, 33, and 34).

One can but deprecate the mistake of sending to these far off regions men without families. (p. 35).

I have endeavored faithfully to state the good qualities and the lack of the present Agent. He has not the force and experience requisite for the new Agency. (pp. 36 & 37.)

There are no funds available for the Moquis except by appropriation; but the Arizona Navajos have some funds due them from former appropriations. The new Agency should of course share these called! Nor can I see any good reason why appropriations should be denied both tribes for civilizing purposes, if appropriations to this end are ever justifiable. (see 37 and 38).

The Snake and other dances of the Moquis and Western Navajos are the worst possible in their debasing effects. I urge their abo-

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lition the Department order. (see pp 39 + 40)

Respectfully Submitted
C. H. Howard
U. S. Indian Inspector.

Dec. 19 1882.

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Report of

Inspection of Moline Agency

By

Inspector Howard

July, 1882.

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Inspector's Office
Chicago, Illinois, Nov. 29, 1882

Hon. H. M. Teller
Secretary Of Interior.

Sir,

As stated in my letter from the Moqui Agency, July 14, 1882, my investigations of the Navajos made it necessary for me to visit the Moquis. I saw at once that there ought to be some combination of the two Agencies. But on careful examination concluded a mere consolidation would not be advisable. I would refer, therefore, in this connection, to my recommendations for a new Reservation for the Arizona Navajos and Moquis combined, set forth in my Navajo Report, dated Oct. 25 ultimo; also to my letter of July 14, above mentioned, stating the relations of the two Agencies, and the need of better postal facilities; also to my Special Report, dated Oct. 14, as to affidavit of Philip Goeller, referred to me for examination, July 5. The latter related particularly to Mr. J. V. Keam who lives near the Moqui Agency, but not on any Indian Reservation. In pursuing this investigation, especially as the murder of two miners,

Mitchell and Myrick, off to the west of the Reservation, was involved, I took care to see in person some of the chiefs and leading Navajos living far beyond the western limits of their Reservation. I soon ascertained that these Western or Arizona Navajos, (for they are all in Arizona) were in many ways related to the Moquis, that their interests were identical, and that any effective civilizing work for the one should embrace the other tribe; and especially in the administration of justice.

Relations of the Moquis to the Navajos.

A few facts which came under my observation will best illustrate the necessity of some combination of the two Agencies. A council was held the very next day after my arrival, to settle a difficulty of horse stealing and sheep killing between the members of the two tribes. The Moqui Agent was in her debility for want of an interpreter, and from his utter lack of authority over the Navajos. A few days after, a Navajo robbed the house of a Moqui family situated in plain sight of the Moqui Agency. He roughly handled a very old woman who dar-

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sitting at the door, seized the blankets, clothing, and all the food they had, and with his confederates, succeeded in getting away on horseback before the alarm could be given. I learned that these depredations and cruelties were of frequent occurrence. As the Moquis have so far advanced in civilization as to live in houses and to gather about them many conveniences and comforts, such incursions, often accompanied by violent treatment, are very discouraging. The Moqui Agent was ready enough to redress such wrongs, but the Navajos do not recognize his authority, and he has no power to enforce it. Whatever control he might properly exercise over the Moquis, his right to interfere with the Navajos would be denied.

The Crippled Condition of Moqui Agency. — There is no Indian police, and indeed at the time of my visit there were no employees whatsoever. Congress had just deprived the Agent of his clerk and teacher, and he had been ordered by the Department to attend to these duties himself. The appropriation for a physician was also cut off. The Agency is seventy-five miles from the railroad at the nearest station. There were three heavy wagons but no teams for them. There was

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one horse, nearly useless for any purposes of the Agency. There was no interpreter for either Moquis or Navajos. This Agency is distant seventy miles from old Fort-Defiance, the Navajo Agency. The seven Moqui villages are situated still further to the west, the nearest fourteen miles, the farthest forty-five miles. Their population is about 2000. There are a few families near the Agency and these at have small patches of land, in the Agency inclosure, which they cultivate.

From this brief outline, I think it will be apparent, that the Moqui Agency as now regulated, and furnished, is inadequate to deal with the great body of the Navajos, who live in that region and whose flocks and herds are constantly overrunning the cultivated land of the Moquis, and who as the larger tribe, and less civilized, are always infringing upon their rights.

The Navajo Agency Inadequate. — It is scarcely less apparent that the Navajo Agent, seventy miles distant, can do little to remedy these evils. He has a vast domain when we consider the scattered condition of his Indians and the lack of roads. A Reservation nearly one hundred miles square, well covered with some 8,000 or 10,000 Navajos, is

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enough for one man to attend to, especially if he undertake to help them on to permanent self-support in the manner I have indicated in my Navajo Report. He has many roving bands outside the Reservation in Colorado, and far to the east in New Mexico, and to the south in New Mexico and Arizona, which he should exert himself to bring back upon the Reservation. A glance at the duties marked out for him, supported by the reports of Governor Sheldon, and by those of various military officers, and the petitions of citizens accompanying my Navajo Report, will show that he would be utterly unable to attend either to the needs of the Moquis, or properly to regulate and control the Navajos situated in that distant and inaccessible region. The latter who could be best managed from the Moqui Agency or by an Agent in that vicinity, number some 8,000 or more, and extend more than one hundred miles to the west and north. It must be borne in mind that this extensive tract of country is occupied for pasture by the Navajos on the north and west, and for tillage and pasture by the Moquis on the south.

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A New Agency Required. — While, therefore, neither the Moqui Agency as now constituted, nor the Navajo Agency in any event, can well meet the wants of these Arizona Navajos and Moquis, I believe that a new Agency which should embrace them both, and located where the Moqui Agency now is, might be so constituted as to do this.

I have already demonstrated (see Navajo Report) the impracticability of crowding back these 8,000 Arizona Navajos upon their present Reservation. It is barely sufficient for the flocks and herds of those already located upon it, and these will naturally increase as they have for ten years past. Besides, there are several large bands and many smaller ones that must be brought in upon the Reservation from the south, east, and north. It would be fatal to self-support to force the Indians in Arizona in upon this already scanty pasture land. Another fact, the greater part of these people have lived where they now do, or in this general region, for many years.

Goodwatch (a Cosina) now resides about twenty-five miles west of the Moqui Agency. He told me he

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had lived there for six years; that it was a good place for sheep and cattle; that he had one hundred cattle and each of his families a flock of sheep and goats; that he had a good crop of corn, beans, pumpkins, and melons; that he and his people never went to the Navajo Agency, it being about one hundred miles distant; said he had never lived on the Reservation, that even before the Navajos were carried off as prisoners to Fort Sumner, he lived in this region, (meaning near where the Moqui Agency now is.) When asked if he had any children to send to school, he replied that his band had plenty of children, and he would like to send them to school if there were one near. He was accustomed to come often to the Moqui Agency near which there is a trader's store where he sells his wool and does all his trading for supplies, clothing &c. If there was a school there, open to Navajo children, it would be much more available for him, and for other western and northwestern bands.

The New Reservation.

Assuming, therefore, that it would be

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economical and in all respects advisable for the Moquis, and Arizona or Western Navajos to have a combined Agency and that this new Agency ought to be located in the general region of the Moquis, the next question is, whether a new Reservation is necessary. What has already been said and indicated as to the need of better control, and better adjudication of difficulties between the two tribes, and especially as to the unredressed wrongs of the weaker tribe, has a direct bearing upon the answer. Not only a competent umpire is needed, but his authority must be defined, and his jurisdiction clearly understood by both tribes.

There is just as much need of well defined Reservation limits here as for Indians in any other part of the country. Otherwise with their wandering habits these Arizona Navajos will come to a source of trouble along the Atlantic and Pacific railroad. There is already complaint of them in the corner of Colorado in the north, and in the corner of Utah. And they are mixing with the Mormons on the west, from whom I had good reason to believe they received not only legitimate supplies, but more or less of arms and ammunition. The Moquis were also in

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Communication with these Mormons. I met one Moqui woman who had lived in a Mormon family and could speak some English; she had a pass from Jacob Hamblin, Mormon Bishop. In the most remote village (Oraibi) I met also some Apache Indians who claimed to be there for purposes of trade; said they had come by way of Moancopie, a Mormon village. This indiscriminate mixing of Mormons and Indians on this extreme frontier, the sale of arms and ammunition, and the sale of intoxicating liquors — perhaps the most crying evil of all — cannot be regulated without a Reservation.

The Need of a Reservation for the Moquis — Their Habits. — It should be noted that the Moquis have never had a Reservation; they have always lived quietly in this region; have never made war upon the whites. As early as 1541 a detachment from the Spanish Conquieror, Coronado, visited this region, and from the description in his journal, seems to have found the ancestors of the Moquis living in villages, and on the summits of these high rocks or Mesas, the same as now. The Moquis were then peaceable and friendly, furnishing guides to the "great river",

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doubtless the Colorado of the West. In the next century, November, 1692, there is the record of the visit of another Spanish Officer, Don Diego De Vargas. He mentions meeting 700 or 800 of the Moquis, and describes the location of the villages so particularly that some of them can be identified with the villages of to-day. There was no fighting.

I find the Moquis in several respects further advanced in civilization than the Navajos. They live in houses made of stone and mud, two, three, and sometimes four stories high. They cultivate the soil in the valleys contiguous to the villages, raising fine crops of corn, beans, pumpkins &c. They are accustomed to keep at least one year's supply of corn on hand. They know little of irrigation and occasionally lose almost an entire crop from drouth; the seed is planted deep in the sand, sometimes as deep as a foot and a half, or two feet in the bottom of the arroyas. They also have planted peach orchards and often have large crops of peaches from the little trees which were half buried in the deep sand on the sides of the mesas; they have their flocks

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of sheep and goats, but never allow them to roam any great distance from the village, always driving them back at night to the little folds up under the cliffs. They have hens and pigs, often bringing eggs to the trader. The men are not only industrious in the cultivation of the soil, but some of them can weave blankets and scarfs. I saw some quite intricate and tasteful designs on their primitive looms. The women also engage in weaving though not so generally as with the Navajos. Knitting is practised. The women seem to be occupied rather with grinding corn, making bread, and attending to other household matters; they are much more skilled in bread making than any other Indians I have met. The women usually bring the water, though sometimes I saw an old man or boy with the ollas upon the head, bringing the water up the precipitous slopes from the springs which are at the foot of the Mesa. Another occupation of the women is to repair the walls of the houses when they need it, or to build new houses. I saw a party of fifteen women and

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girls kneading the mud with their hands; others were gathering the small flat stones, and still others brought the water from a distance. They now sometimes make a thatched roof of sage brush. The women and children still make pottery of all kinds and shapes, as their ancestors have done for centuries. I saw a company of men going out on horseback to hunt rabbits with a long wooden boomerang which they call "pichico." All the crops showed evidence of industry and care, so that I think both men and women, if slightly encouraged and directed, would soon become remarkable for industrious habits.

Should he moved down upon the Plain.—

The original selection of the tops of the Mesas, from three hundred to one thousand feet high, and accessible only at one or two points up the steep sides of the rock, where a winding path is necessary to the ascent, often so narrow that only one person can pass at a time, — was doubtless, owing to the fear of their more powerful and savage neighbors, the Navajos and Apaches. Now that these have ceased to make open war upon them,

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It would be much better if the Moquis could be induced to settle in the valleys and nearer to their farms. They waste much time in going one, two, three, five and even ten and fifteen miles to their farms. The carrying of water to their cliff-dwellings is incalculable labor. It can scarcely be wondered at that they make so small use of water for purposes of cleanliness, whether of the house, of the dishes from which they eat, or of their persons. Each village has a meagre supply of water from one or two springs near the base of the mountain. Usually their flocks, and often their ponies, must be watered from these same springs. They know nothing of pumps, or even of well curbs and buckets. The water is almost always oily from the shallowness of the spring, and the constant dipping, and is often filthy and totally unfit to drink from the crowding into it of the animals, and from indraining surface water. The people and especially the children looked unhealthy. No doubt the race is becoming tainted by the constant use of this bad water, as well as from the bad ventilation of the houses and their filthy condition, and the close

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proximity of the sheep folds. There was a stench like carrion in each of the villages.

One of the first duties of an Agent would seem to be to enforce some sanitary regulations. The next would be to give them instruction about caring for the water supply; but, best of all I would recommend that some inducement be offered the younger and more promising heads of families to build houses in conformity with sanitary principles, upon the plain, or at least upon some more accessible hill, near to tillable land. If only one or two could be induced to change their abode, and live more comfortably, in this way, others would soon follow. And if lumber, and some assistance of a carpenter, with good doors and windows were provided, the rest of the work would be most cheerfully done by the Indians themselves. ~~Besides the advantages of~~ such a change already indicated, they could take much better care of their crops. I frequently saw where horses or their flocks had eaten down large patches of corn. They have no fences, and they complained to me of frequent incursions of the horses

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and flocks of the Navajos. The latter seemed to think it only a good joke to destroy the property of the Moquis.

Another gain from coming down upon the plain would be far better care of their flocks. These now start back from their feeding places early in the afternoon, so as to reach the folds, up under the cliff, before dark. They are often left there until long after sunrise. The result is, that they are thin, small and sickly, compared with the flocks of the Navajos. The wool is always dirty, and consequently brings a less price. The fact is that they keep the sheep in the same pens where they have been kept for years and perhaps centuries. To be sure they make use of the accumulated manure for fuel in baking their pottery, but they evidently have an ample supply for years for this purpose. The crowding together in the old villages, is in every way bad for them, not only physically, but socially and morally. The old heathen and most corrupting dances could be more easily broken up by a separation and new settlement. Other social evils could be more easily checked. Their habit of exclusive-

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ness as a people, which has given prevented contact with whites, and with civilizing influences in general, would soon be modified. This, together with more friendly relations established between them and the Navajos, such as would arise from a Reservation and Agency in common, would tend to diminish the unhealthy and destructive practice of intermarriage.

In short, an inspection of the present condition of this people shows that there is much for a vigorous and capable Agent to do, and much that would be facilitated by bringing them within the bounds of a Reservation.

No Sure Title to their Lands. — Another consideration is a title to their lands. They are liable to be crowded out by the influx of settlers from the Atlantic and Pacific railroad, as well as constantly imposed upon by the Navajos. Although in their seclusion they have cultivated these same patches all their lives, and their forefathers have cultivated them for at least three hundred years, there is a strong probability that they will soon be forced to leave them by the incoming homesteaders, unless the United States

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Government shall interfere in their behalf. The surest and the quickest remedy is to establish a Reservation by Executive Proclamation. I have outlined its boundaries in my former Report (Navajo, Oct. 25.)

Boundaries of New Reservation.— It would not be necessary to wait for an appropriation for survey. Its general description would be as follows: Eastern boundary identical with the Western boundary of the present Navajo Reservation; its Northern boundary identical with the line between Arizona and Utah; its Western boundary a line parallel with the Eastern, one hundred miles to the West; and running from the Utah line southward to a point far enough south to include the southernmost Moqui village and its contiguous farms, cultivated by the Moquis; its southern boundary an east and west line to conform to the surveys of the Territory, and to connect the point of Southern terminus of the Western boundary with the southwestern corner of the present Navajo Reservation.

This area would not be far from one hundred miles square. The only measurements required would

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be such as would locate its south-western corner and so establish the southern boundary line.

I should recommend that each Moqui farmer and each Navajo who has for some years had possession of a particular tract, should be furnished with a Certificate of his title to the same. With some show of title of this kind there are individuals of both tribes who would gladly construct permanent homes.

A Police Force.

It would be easy to organize an efficient police force to consist one half of Moquis, and one half ~~of the tribe~~ of Navajos. The practice of employing different tribes has proved satisfactory and advantagous at other Agencies. A judicious Agent would thus soon be able to make his authority felt, and to maintain order. The encroachments, depredations, and, not infrequently, ~~the~~ cruel wrongs by the Navajos upon their more peaceable neighbors are truly pitiful. If allowed to go on unrestrained it must result in constant demoralization to the ag-

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and most other Indians, applies still more strictly, and with greater cogency to the Moquis.

Snake Dances And Other Dances.

Some of the most objectionable dances, that exist among Indians, are practised by both the Navajos and Moquis. The obscenity and riotous conduct, often continuing for days and nights together, were described to me by an eye witness. They can but be demoralizing to the last degree.

In the Snake Dance of the Moquis there is great danger to the life of the participants, if not indeed, to many who are mere witnesses. The excitement of them, kept up without intermission, day and night, and after long fasting, is at times perfectly crazing. I recommend without qualification, that all such corrupting dances, which are attended by a numerous catalogue of evil consequences, be abolished by orders from the Department. Such dances readily counteract all the good that can be done by schools, and other civilizing work of the Agency. With a defi-

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mile Reservation and police force any efficient Agent could carry out such a Department order with little difficulty. The benefits to the Indians would be incalculable.

Notes.

Note A. (page 23).

See my Navajo Report, page 57, in which I recommended the disarming of all Navajos. The rule should, of course, apply to their Hopi or Moqui Navajos. But the Moquis have very few arms, and are invariably so peaceable that no hostilities need be feared from them.

Completed Dec. 19. 1882

Respectfully submitted

C. A. Howard

U. S. Indian Inspector.

USPRI000420

Oversized Map