

GEORGE B. SCHWABE
1ST DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

HOME ADDRESS:
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

COMMITTEES:
INDIAN AFFAIRS
MINES AND MINING
PATENTS



July 13, 1946

Mr. Freddie Washington
R.F.D. 1
Wann, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

I am just in receipt of your letter of June 25, 1946, in which you tell me that you Delaware Cherokee Indians have a deed to 2.7 acres of land located north of Dewey, known as the Williams Cemetery or burial ground for the Delaware Indians.

You also state that Mr. A. Langford of Dewey, Oklahoma, has purchased the land all around this cemetery and has fenced your right-of-way and you do not have access to this cemetery; that he has built a strong fence around your land and closed your cemetery and you cannot get to the cemetery. Of course, I don't know anything about the situation except what you have told me. You say that you have contacted the County Attorney of Washington County as well as the County Commissioners of that county and that they have not afforded you any relief. You asked me to write to the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee. I am doing this today and am herewith enclosing a carbon copy of my letter to the Superintendent, sending your letter along with mine and requesting him to make an investigation of the situation and seeing that your rights are protected.

When I hear anything further on the subject from official sources, I shall be glad to pass this information on to you. I do not know of anything else that I can do for you at this time, but I want you to feel free to call upon me anytime I can render you service.

With all good wishes, I beg to remain

Your friend,

Geo. B. Schwabe
George B. Schwabe, M.C.

GBS:e

GEORGE B. SCHWABE
WEST DIST. OKLAHOMA

COMMITTEES:
INDIAN AFFAIRS
MINES AND MINING
PATENTS

HOME ADDRESS:
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

July 13, 1946

Mr. A. M. Landman
Superintendent, Five Civilized Tribes
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

I am just in receipt of the enclosed letter from Freddie Washington of R.F.D. 1, Wann, Oklahoma, dated June 25, 1946, which I think will be self-explanatory.

You will observe that Mr. Washington states that his people, the Delaware Cherokee Indians of northeastern Oklahoma have a deed to 2.7 acres of land for burial purposes, located north of Dewey, Oklahoma, and that they have been using it for some seventy-five years until recently. They say that Mr. A. Langford of Dewey, Oklahoma, has built a strong fence around the cemetery and prevented their having access to the burial grounds.

They have requested that I write you and I sincerely trust that you will have this matter investigated and afford these people all the relief to which they are entitled.

Kindly let me hear from you in the premises at your early convenience, returning Mr. Washington's letter when it shall have served its purpose.

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

GES:e

REFER IN REPLY TO
THE FOLLOWING

UNITED STATES

ADDRESS ONLY THE
SUPERINTENDENT

PROBATE DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GRD:LF 7-18-46

FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

Re: Cherokee-Delaware Burial
Grounds north of Dewey, Okla.

MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA

July 18, 1946

Mr. Freddie Washington
Wann, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

This office is in receipt of letter from Honorable George B. Schwabe enclosing a letter to him relative to the obstruction of right-of-way into a Cherokee-Delaware Burial Grounds located north of Dewey, Oklahoma.

The matter has been referred to Mr. T. V. Williams, United States District Indian Agent for Washington County, with the request that he investigate the matter and attempt to secure a solution and it is requested that you contact him at the County Court House in Bartlesville in the afternoon of Thursday, July 25, and give him the facts of the case.

If you have a copy of the original deed you referred to, setting aside this land for burial purposes, please bring that deed with you when you talk with Mr. Williams. A copy of our letter to Mr. Williams is enclosed herewith for your information.

Yours very truly,

A. M. Landman
Superintendent

PROBATE DIVISION

GRD:LF 7-18-46

Re: Cherokee-Delaware Burial

Grounds North of Dewey, Oklahoma July 18, 1946

Mr. T. V. Williams
District Agent
436 Mayo Building
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

This office is in receipt of a letter, dated July 13, 1946, from Hon. George B. Schwabe, Member of Congress, First District of Oklahoma, enclosing a letter from Freddie Washington, Cherokee-Delaware Indian, of Wann, Oklahoma.

Freddie Washington states that the Cherokee-Delaware Indians have a burial ground consisting of 2.7 acres located north of Dewey, known as Williams Cemetery, which has been used by the Cherokee-Delaware Indians for the past seventy-five years for burial purposes and that the tribe has a deed to said land. A man, whose name was not stated, purchased land all around the cemetery and constructed a fence around all of the land, thus fencing in the burial ground and obstructing the right-of-way for the use of the burial ground.

Mr. Washington further stated in his letter to the Congressman that he had taken the matter up with the County Attorney, County Commissioners and other officials of Washington County and had received no satisfaction.

It is requested that you contact Mr. Freddie Washington and secure the facts and then take up the matter with officials of Washington County and see if an amicable solution of the problem can be secured.

If, after your investigation and conference with the officials of Washington County, you feel that an amicable solution cannot be secured, please report the matter to this office setting forth the facts in detail, together with your recommendations as to whether or not suit should be instituted by the government to recover the right-of-way and continued use of the cemetery by the Cherokee-Delaware Indians.

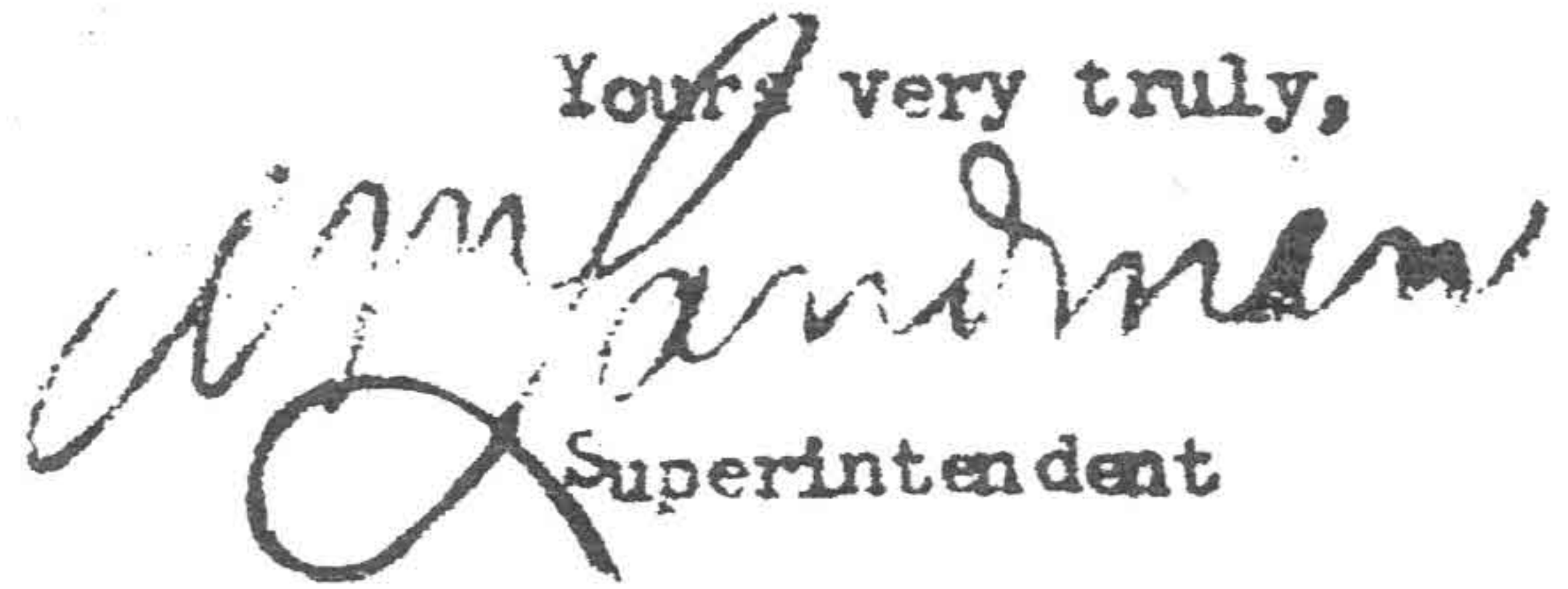
Mr. T. V. Williams

7-18-46

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A copy of this letter is being sent to Mr. Freddie Washington, Wann, Oklahoma, with the request that he contact you at the court house in Bartlesville on Thursday, July 25th, your next regular day in Washington County.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. M. Landman".

Superintendent

cc: Mr. Freddie Washington
Wann, Oklahoma

Tulsa, Okla., July 19, 1946

Mr. J.H. Hamilton
Board of County Commissioners
Court House
Bartlesville, Okla.

Dear Sir:

On June 28th I discussed with you the matter of having the County Commissioners of Washington County keep open and maintain a right-of-way to which Washington County has title, in the SE SE of section 7-28N-15E, leading from the section line on the south of section 7, north to a cemetery which has been used by the Delaware and Cherokee Tribes of Indians for a great many years, and to which they possess title. You will recall that Mr. O.L. Langford owns the surrounding land, and that he has fenced off your right-of-way, thus forcing the Indians to detour around his land by a circuitous and sometimes impassable route whenever they wish to go to the cemetery. The county attorney advised you in my presence that the county commissioners could open up the road without the necessity of legal process, and you advised me that you would see that it was opened at once. You also talked to Mr. Langford by phone, advising him to open up his fence, either leaving it open at all times or building a cattleguard. When we discussed the matter I advised you that I could see no objection to a cattleguard from the Indians' standpoint, providing the county was willing to have it there, but that a gate was objectionable.

This letter is to make our conversation a matter of record, and to reiterate my position as a representative of the Indians that action, if not already taken, be taken at once to secure and maintain access to this cemetery along the deeded right-of-way. Formal complaint has been made by members of the tribes interested.

I will discuss this matter with you again when I am in Bartlesville next week, but I am hoping that action will have been taken in the meantime.

Very truly yours,



T.V. Williams-District Agent

TVE

CC: Muskogee office.

O.L. Langford, Dewey, Okla,
Freddie Washington, Warr, Okla

Dewey, Oklahoma.
August 9, 1946.

Mr. T. V. Williams
District Agent
436 Mayo Building
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Dear Sir: Re: Cemetery in 7-28-13, Washington County.

This is to advise you that the original right of way to this cemetery has not yet been opened. Mr. Langford seems to have made some sort of agreement with the County Commissioners, whereby he is to open a gate on the west side of the cemetery. This is an awful place to get in, and not at all what the deed calls for.

I wish it would be possible for you to come out here personally and see just what the situation is. This is an urgent matter and should be attended at once. The Tribe is to meet at my home on August 17, and we hope that it will be possible for you to be here before that time.

Mr. Langford has recently built a pond near this cemetery, in such a place that any time there is highwater the water would back up and cover a large part of this cemetery. This too should be inspected by you, so that you can see exactly what the situation is. We feel that this will ruin our cemetery, and that Mr. Langford should not be allowed to maintain a pond at this place.

I am sorry to have to trouble you further with this matter, but I do not feel that this will be settled until you see for yourself exactly what the situation is, and until some definite order is made and enforced.

Yours very truly,

MINNIE FOUTS.

P. S. I will appreciate it if you will let me know at once when you can come.

Dewey, Oklahoma.
August 19, 1946.

Superintendent
Five Civilized Tribes
Muskogee, Oklahoma.

In Re: Delaware Cemetery in Sec.
7, T. 28, R. 13, Washington County.

Dear Sir:

For sometime we have been having trouble and controversy over the road to the tract deeded to the Delaware for Cemetery purposes in the land above described.

We have had this matter up with Mr. Williams, the agent, several times, and he apparently thought he had the matter settled, but this did not prove true.

On Saturday, August 17, 1946, the Tribe held a meeting concerning this matter, and we now ask that you appoint a special day for the Field Agent to come to the home of Minnie Fouts, three miles North of Dewey, and notify us, that members of the tribe may be present and go to the Cemetery and let him view the situation there.

According to our deed the road is to adjoin the cemetery on the south. Now Mr. Tyler has sold the land and the present owner refuses to permit a road in from the south and has changed it to the west end of the cemetery, which makes a very bad and difficult entrance at any time and in wet weather is impassable.

We sincerely trust that you will be able to find a day soon, that the Field Agent may come and that you will notify Mrs. Fouts in time for members of the Tribe to be present. We feel that this matter will not be settled until something definite is done by the Department.

Yours very truly,

Minnie Fouts

John Falleaf

Freddie Washington.

MEMBERS OF DELAWARE TRIBE.

cc to T. V. Williams
District Agent
436 Mayo Bldg.
Tulsa, Okla.