

Clements, H. and McFadden, S. "NATIVE AMERICAN RESOURCES-Review of Native American Archives." ANSS Currents. n.p., Fall 2012. Web. 18 October 2012.

<http://anssacrl.wordpress.com/publications/currents/currents-vol-27-no-2/>

pages 34-39 as published in ANSS Currents

NATIVE AMERICAN ARCHIVES

Reviewed August-September 2012

Publisher: EBSCO Publishing, 10 Estes Street, Ipswich, MA 01938, Phone (978) 356-6500, toll-free (800) 653-2726 (USA & Canada), Fax (978) 356-6565, Email information@ebscohost.com *URL:* <http://www.ebscohost.com/archives/history-genealogy/native-american>

Cost: Depends on the number of FTEs at an institution. Available as a one-time purchase with annual maintenance fee or as a subscription. *Publication*

Date: 2012 *Coverage Dates:* Varies by collection, 1722-present.

Introduction

EBSCO's presentation of the *Native American Archives* introduces eight separate collections of material describing interactions of the United States and Native Americans. These collections are made possible by a collaboration of the National Archives (NARA), the Allen County Public Library (Indiana), and EBSCO. The bulk of the work is related to the Five Civilized Tribes. Access to this collection complements the works in the *Bibliography of Native North Americans* and provides primary document details for genealogists, historians, family historians, anthropologists and sociologists. The archive is easy to search and provides immediate digital access to the collections. The individual records are detailed, with National Archive collection and catalog information and include names, document origination, and dates.

Publication Information

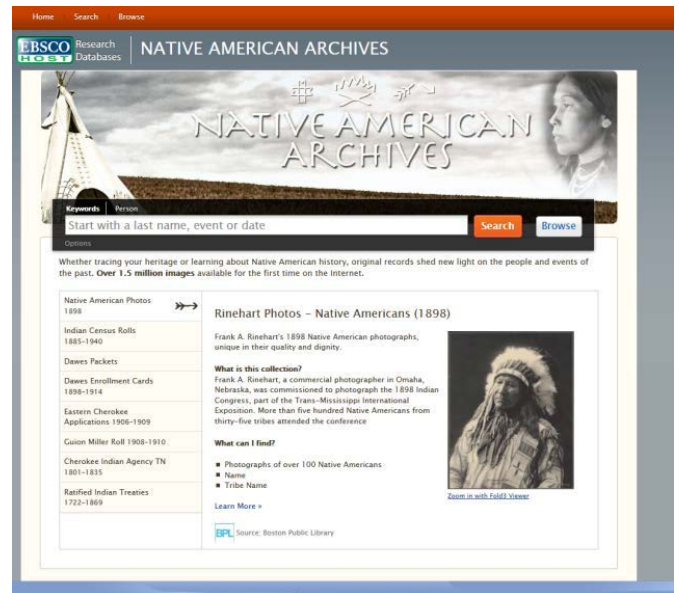
The collections provide access to more than 1.8 million pages of original, Native American related documents. The digital images are from NARA microform. The years covered in the eight collections of the Native American Archives are specific to each collection and are the complete holdings. The Treaty collection begins in the early 18th century, and includes those treaties and related conference writings approved by the government of United States. The Indian Census Roles collection includes the most recent data in the collections, through 1940. The collections shown in the search interface are:

- Dawes Packets containing original applications for tribal enrollments
- Eastern Cherokee Applications of the U.S. Court of Claims (1906-1909)
- The Guion Miller Rolls
- Indian Census Rolls (1885-1940)
- Ratified Indian Treaties dating back to 1722 Records of the Cherokee Indian Agency in Tennessee (1801-1835)
- Series of Enrollment Cards (1898-1910)

Access information

Institutional access to the *Native American Archives* is available through EBSCO Publishing. A yearly subscription or purchase of the archives with a yearly service fee is possible. EBSCO encourages institutions to use year-end funds in the vendor promotional materials (http://www.ebscohost.com/promoMaterials/One_Time_Purchase_Flyer.pdf). For more information about costs and access contact your EBSCO Publishing sales representative. Another, single-user access is available to the individual and may be purchased for a yearly fee of \$79.95 through the Fold3 organization see (<http://www.fold3.com/> and <http://www.fold3.com/choose-a-plan/>); membership provides access to all Fold3 subscription collections.

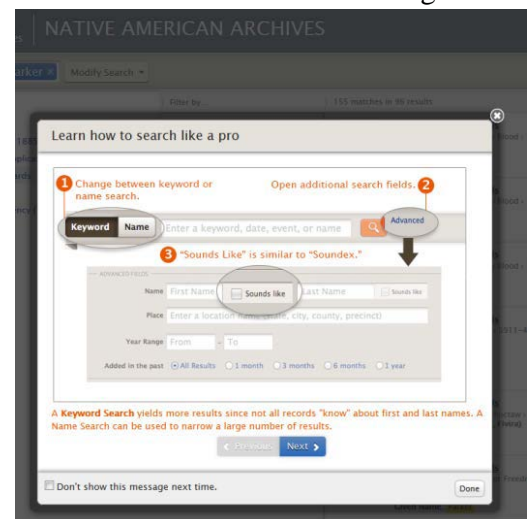
The *Native American Archives* is included in WorldCat and has two points of access for more information about the archive. If you select “Show libraries” in the “Find a copy online” section, the option shows a link to Fold3 with the explanation that it is a subscription source. If you look at the “Find a copy in the library” link you can see that two libraries have cataloged the resource in this record. From this information it is difficult to assess how widely the archive is used. In a brief search in several databases there did not seem to be a recent review article of the collections as offered by EBSCO Publishing. The Fold3 resource is currently a product of Ancestry.com and the materials found there are a part of the resources in the *Native American Archives*. I have not searched extensively for reviews of Ancestry.com as the inclusive resource.



Searching the Archives

The home page screen of the *Native American Archives* has a simple search box allowing the user to browse or search by keyword or person (Figure 1). The initial search finds resources from all eight collections, giving a broad view of the subject or person. The interface includes context sensitive help that pop-up to aid the researcher (Figure 2). The initial search may be further limited by applying date, document type and state filters.

Each collection may be searched independently. After selecting a collection from the left of screen more information is available. The user sees content information, definitions of the collection, and an option to search within each collection further. For example, the Dawes Enrollment Cards offer information about the Five Civilized Tribes: Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw, and Seminole nations (Figure 3). Many characteristics are recorded and



include family relationships, tribal affiliation, and the degree of Native American ancestry. When looking at the archive materials you may wish to discover more background information about Native American references. As an example the archive records refer to the Creek nation and now the people refer to themselves as Muscogee (Creek).



Figure 3

The results screens contain a hits list along with options to limit the query or change collections. Each hit in the list includes brief title, number of pages of the record, description and information about the record's origin (Figure 4). You can then look at a small image with the hits list (Figure 5) or jump to a large image with just the record's content (Figure 6).

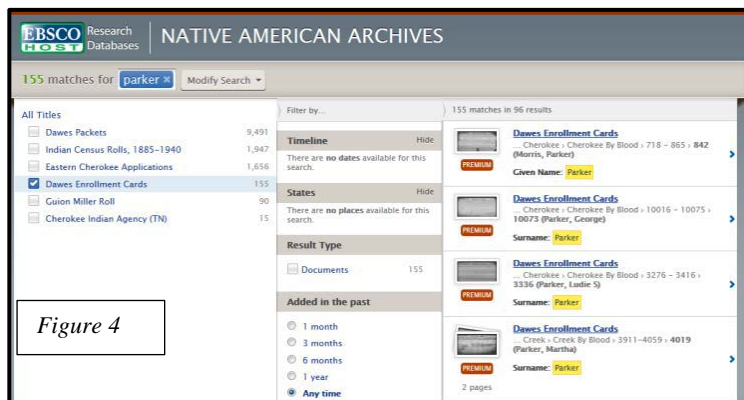


Figure 4

(Figure 5) or jump to a large image with just the record's content (Figure 6). The images can be downloaded and printed. There is an additional viewer that looks at one and two-times magnification; it works like a small, square magnifying glass. This aids in closer inspection to interpret the handwritten and lighter ink areas of the microform images. While the resource tools in the archive are helpful there are times when the images are difficult to read because of size, inks coming through from the other side of the page, and script style. Contemporary researchers will need to take into account these historical differences inherent in the archive materials.

There is an additional viewer that looks at one and two-times magnification; it works like a small, square magnifying glass. This aids in closer inspection to interpret the handwritten and lighter ink areas of the microform images. While the resource tools in the archive are helpful there are times when the images are difficult to read because of size, inks coming through from the other side of the page, and script style. Contemporary researchers will need to take into account these historical differences inherent in the archive materials.

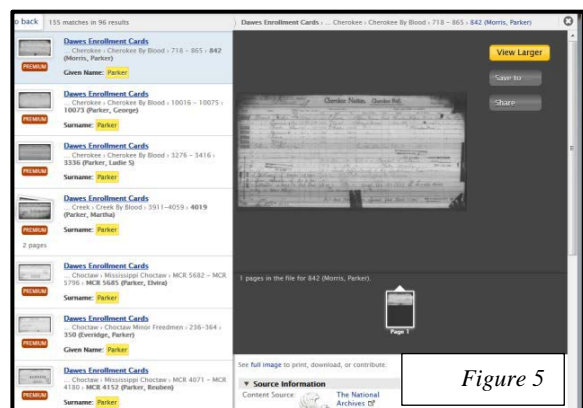


Figure 5

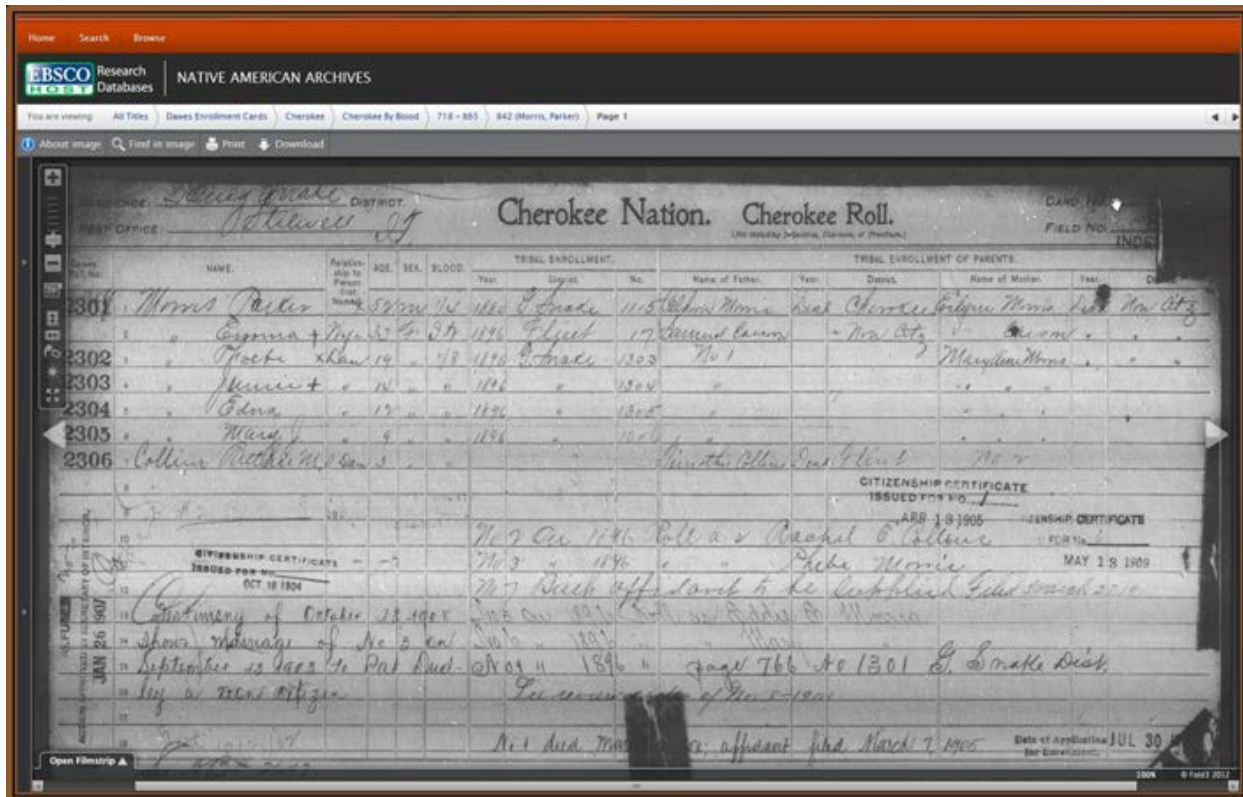


Figure 6

Archival Content

The large images allow the researcher a view of demographic information about people of the past and also insight into the bureaucratic practices of the times. The enlarged image of the document, *Cherokee Nation, Cherokee Roll*, is the example shown in Figure 6. These collected demographics are similar to the categories collected by the U.S. Census: name, age and sex, names of parents, birth year and birth district. Additionally, the example includes the fraction of blood relationship to the Nation and records the dates of some citizenship certificates. These differences in the information collected from Native American Rolls and U.S. Census records offer a glimpse of how people are viewed. Another distinction is the numbers recorded for each person in the Native Americans census records.

The text of treaties accepted or approved by U.S. government processes can be read from the images of the treaties. Additionally, the text of amendments, additions and the conferences are included with the treaties. The language in the treaty shown (Figure 7) is extensive and detailed. The value found in EBSCO's *Native American Archives* is the ability to search all the treaties and the other collections at one time. The NARA online catalog offers the same search-ability online, but lacks the digital text of the documents

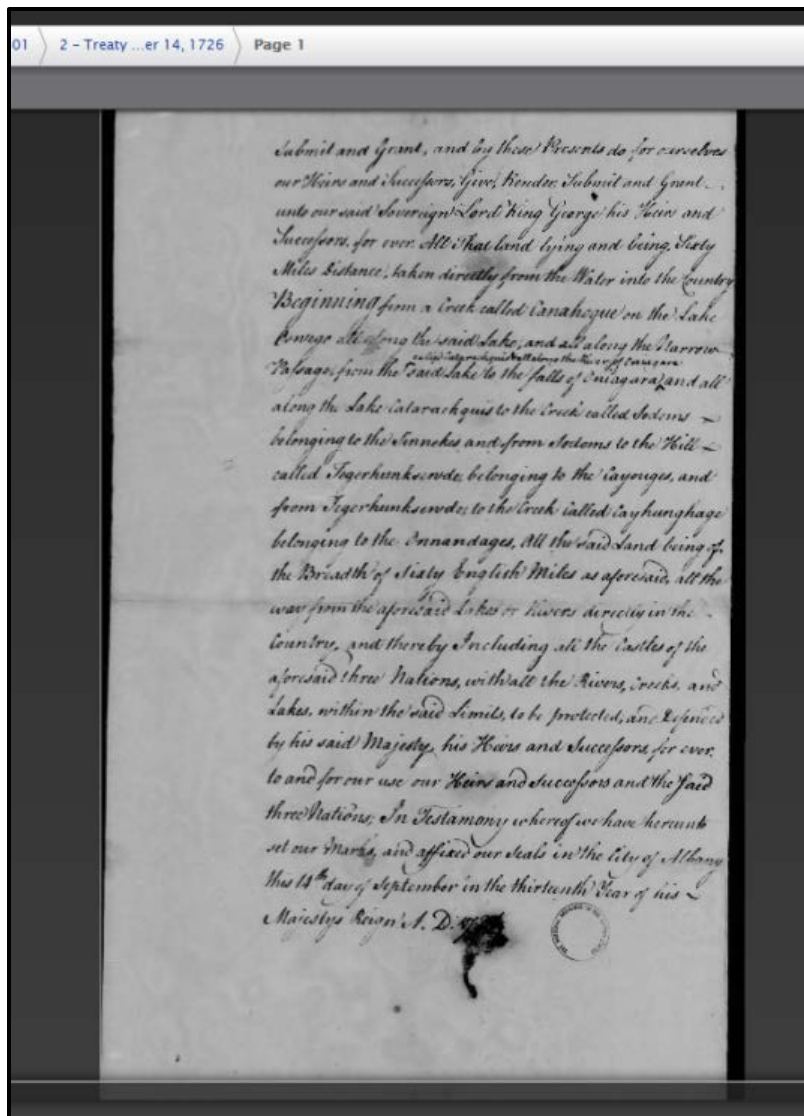


Figure 7

Access to treaty texts is available to researchers who travel to the National Archives and other institutions. Many of the treaties appear in various books and other print resources. The three volumes of *Treaties with American Indians: An Encyclopedia of Rights, Conflicts, and Sovereignty* review the treaties, the peoples and historic events.

Other access is through web portals and digital collections. *Kappler's Project* at the Oklahoma State University Library provides digital access to the seven volumes of *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*. Kappler's work refers to the treaties concluded with the U.S. government. A third source provided by the University of Nebraska complements the *Kappler Project* by providing the text and printed images of the British and Native American treaties that predate those with the U.S. government. This source, *The Early Recognized Treaties with American Indian Nations* provides a second search interface to identify the terms of the treaties.

The image illustrates a key issue in treaty negotiations: English language literacy. The treaties flow with language of the times, the treaties are written in the language of the United States Government. Included in the images are the signatures of Native Americans signed as a symbol of their names (Figure 8). Some treaties have an "X" as the mark of the person(s) agreeing to the treaty. Many of the treaties include a written record of the negotiations and meetings, the U.S. Senate's debate, amendments and approval, and record of the President's signature.

President Cleveland established the Dawes Commission to encourage the Five Tribes and others to give up their tribal governments and take individual land allotments. The Dawes collections offer deeper insights into the lives of Native Americans. Through letters, requests for membership, and answers to the Dawes Commission's request for information, the Dawes collections are rich with family histories and hidden insights about how people lived.

Images of the Dawes packets offer insight into family and friend relationships (Figure 9). Many of the items in the collection include Indian as well as English naming conventions. The Dawes records demonstrate the interconnectedness of Native Americans and their contemporaries. The full record of the image shown in Figure 9 includes the names of friends and relatives of Docker Hogo or Docker Davis, both are the names for the same person.



Figure 8

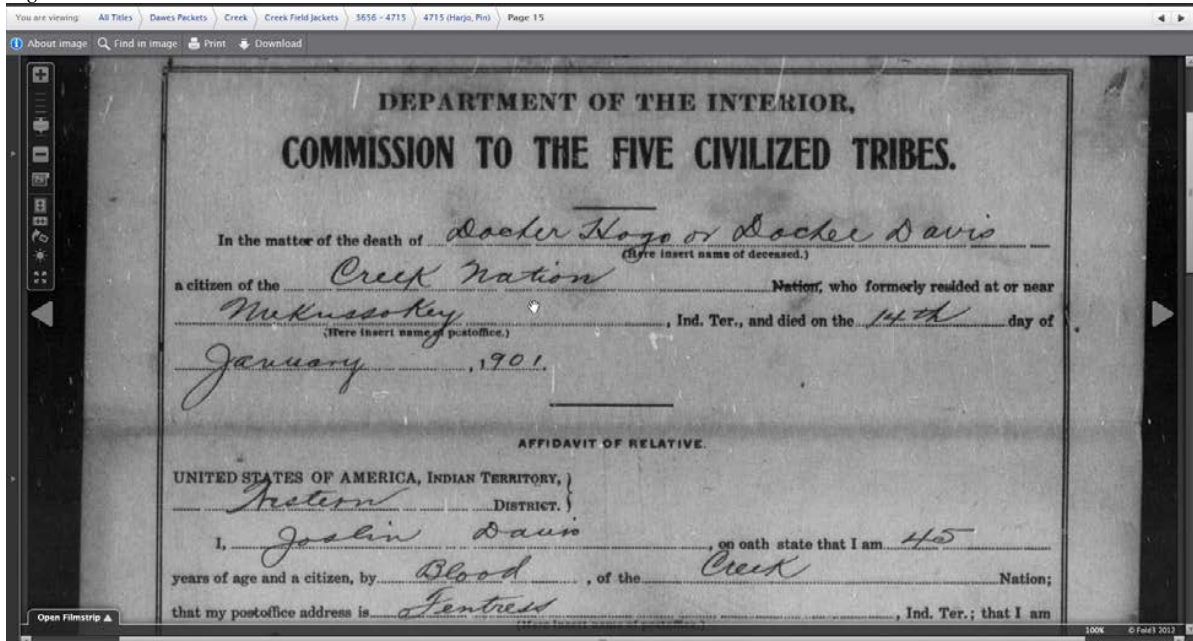


Figure 9

Conclusion

As a tool for the humanities, social sciences and family historians, EBSCO's *Native American Archives* provides broad access to important primary documents for Native Americans and a window into the history of the times and the interactions with the U.S. government. Digital presentation of these materials provides opportunities for family and scholarly researchers to easily access the collections. The collections are available in physical collections, books and online services as separate entities. EBSCO's *Native American Archives* enables institutions to offer combined searches and the opportunity to view the images. These capabilities help convey historical context for the researcher. For institutional use I recommend EBSCO's *Native American Archives* as a resource to complement humanities, social science, and related subject indexing tools. The primary documents will enhance research opportunities for undergraduates, provide solid genealogy sources, and expand options for scholars. This resource is recommended to individuals working or interested in the subject through the Fold3 organization's membership.

References

- EBSCO Publishing. (2012). *Own a piece of history: Native American Archives*. Retrieved from <http://www.ebscohost.com/archives/history-genealogy/native-american>
- Fixico, D. L. (Ed.). (2008). *Treaties with American Indians: An encyclopedia of rights, conflicts, and sovereignty*. (Vols. 1-3). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.
- Kappler, C.J. (Ed.). (1904). *Indian affairs: Laws and treaties*. (Vols. 1-7) Washington, DC: Government Printing Office. Retrieved from [http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kappler/Early Recognized Treaties with American Indian Nations](http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kappler/Early_Recognized_Treaties_with_American_Indian_Nations). (n.d.). Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Libraries, Electronic Text Center. Retrieved from <http://earlytreaties.unl.edu/>

The *ANSS Currents* (ISSN 0888-5559) newsletter is a biannual electronic publication of the Anthropology and Sociology Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, (800) 545-2433, Ext. 2523, <http://www.acrl.org>. © American Library Association, 2012.

Editor: Hailey Mooney, Michigan State University, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing, MI 48824, (517) 884-0847, mooneyh@msu.edu.

Assistant Editor: Kathleen Pickens-French, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, 3520 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45223, (513) 569-1611, kathleen.french@cincinnatiastate.edu.

Chair, 2012-2013: Jennifer Darragh, Johns Hopkins University, Sheridan Libraries, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218, (410) 516-4368, jendarragh@jhu.edu.

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, 2012-2013: Pauline Manaka, University of California-Irvine, Langson Library, PO Box 19577, Irvine, CA 92623, (949) 824-4969, pdmanaka@uci.edu.

ANSSWeb: <http://anssacrl.wordpress.com/>

ANSS Currents on ANSSWeb: <http://anssacrl.wordpress.com/publications/currents/>