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Western History Collections

Lewis Cass Collection

Cass, Lewis. Papers, 1825–1839. .10 foot.

Army officer and statesman. Copies of letters (1825–1839) from Gen. Matthew Arbuckle, Montfort Stokes, and Jean Pierre Chouteau, written at military posts in Indian Territory to Secretary of War Lewis Cass, concerning the attempt to gather the plains Indian tribes at Camp Mason on the Canadian River for a peace conference, along with other detailed observations on Indian affairs.

Box C-32--45 Letters to Lewis Cass, 1835-1839

1. M. Stokes to Lewis Cass, Fort Gibson, May 5, 1835. Re: meeting with Comanches, Kiowas, and other Plains Indians.
2. M. Stokes to Lewis Cass, Fort Gibson, May 14, 1835. Re: plans to meet with Comanches and other Plains Indians bringing chiefs to Fort Gibson or to the post as the mouth of Little River.
3. M. Stokes to Lewis Cass, Fort Gibson, May 19, 1835. Re: Mexican government's intention to use all Indian forces against the Comanche Indians and associated tribes; Coffee's Trading House.
4. M. Stokes to Lewis Cass, Fort Gibson, July 14, 1835. Re: failure to get Western Indians to come to Fort Gibson and announcing the intention of commissioners to meet the at Major Mason's camp (Camp Holmes).
5. M. Stokes to Lewis Cass, Fort Gibson, September 15, 1835. Re: report of negotiations between US Commissioners and Comanche and Wichita Indians. Discussion of the absence of the Kiowas and the help of the Osage scouts.
6. M. Stoke to Lewis Cass, Fort Gibson, September 26, 1835. Re: the treaty made with the Comanches and Wichitas at Camp Holmes and Lt. Seawell's carrying the original to Washington.
7. M. Stokes to Lewis Cass, Fort Gibson, December 8, 1835. Re: efforts to make a treaty with Kiowas at Fort Gibson, engagement of Major P.L. Chouteau to visit Kiowas on behalf of the Commissioners.
8. M. Stokes to Lewis Cass, Fort Gibson, December 29, 1835. Re: Coffee's Trading House and Comanches supposed repudiation of the treaty made with them by Commissioners.

9. M. Stokes to Lewis Cass, Fort Gibson, March 6, 1836. Re: Commissioners' efforts to treaty the Kiowas, approved by Cass. A discussion of necessity of presents for the Kiowas during the negotiations.
10. P.L. Chouteau to Governor M. Stokes, Verdigris Western Creek Nation, April 19, 1836. Re: Chouteau's report of his expedition to meet with the Kiowas and arrange for their going to Fort Gibson to negotiate a treaty. Refers to Coffee's Trading House, Waco and Wichita Indians and the Comanches' grievance against the Delaware and the Choctaw.
11. P.L. Chouteau to Governor M. Stokes, Fort Gibson, April 25, 1836. Re: supplement to Chouteau's report concerning population of tribes he visited (Kiowas, Comanches, Wichitas) and additional information regarding Chouteau's negotiations with the tribes on the proposed conference.
12. M. Stokes to Lewis Cass, Fort Gibson, April 26, 1836. Re: Chouteau's reports and arrangements to obtain the funds set aside for gifts to the Indians when they come into negotiate.
13. Major William Armstrong, Acting Superintendent of Western Territory to Elbert Herring, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Choctaw Agency, April 29, 1836. Re: reporting that everything indicated peace on the frontier, but that everything indicates that there is some danger of reprisals between different tribes because of raids. Also mentions that the Indians (Choctaws, Cherokees, Creeks, Delaware and Shawnee) settled near Sabine River in Texas. They have generally favored the Mexicans over the Texans in fight for independence.
14. William Armstrong, Acting Superintendent of Western Territory (West Texas Territory), to Elbert Herring, Commission of Indian Affairs, Choctaw Agency, May 6, 1836. Re: concern over transferring troops from Fort Gibson to Fort Towson which would cause apprehension among the Indians, warning for Indians to refrain from participating in war between Texas and Mexico and to ignore pleas from the Mexican agents among them, and advice that Chouteau returned from the conference with the Kiowa.
15. William Clark, Superintendent of Indian Affairs to Elbert Herring, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, June 27, 1836. Re: Indian deputation case (possibly Kiowa) and referral to Superintendent of Western Territory.
16. M.B. Menard to Major General Gaines, July 21, 1836. Re: list of estimates of Indian warriors of Louisiana-Arkansas frontier, south of Red River.
17. William Armstrong, Acting Superintendent of Western Territory to C.A. Harris, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Choctaw Agency, October 1, 1836. Re: trade and trades, native traders, Indian cotton producers on Red River.

18. P.L. Chouteau, Sub-Agent for Osages to Major William Armstrong, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Camp Mason, February 1, 1837. Re: Comanche Chief She-ce-ney's threat to destroy Chouteau trading house and the Comanches attitudes towards the whites, Wichitas, and Delawares. Chouteau's report of his son's trip into the Comanche's country, accounts of white captives held by various tribes, and the Delawares' fear of the Comanche.
19. Sam Houston to Lt. Peter Harper, Columbia, Texas, February 9, 1837. Re: concerns efforts of some Creek Indians in acquiring land in Texas.
20. William Armstrong, Acting Superintendent of Western Territory to P.L. Chouteau, Sub-Agent for the Osage, Choctaw Agency, February 13, 1837. Re: concern for danger of war between the Comanches and the Osages, Delaware and the Choctaw losses.
21. William Armstrong, acting Superintendent of Western Territory to C.A. Harris, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Choctaw Agency, February 13, 1837. RE: concerns threat of a general war between the Comanches and the Delaware, Shawnees, Osages et al. and Indians claim to the prairie lands.
22. J.R. Poinsett to Colonel A.P. Chouteau, War Department, April 7, 1837. Re: Colonel A.P. Chouteau's appointment and instructions to meet and negotiate with the various tribes and if possible prevent outbreak of war between the Indians. Contains information in regard to the situation on white captives among the Comanches, Kiowas, and Wichitas, depredations.
23. D. Smith, Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs to William Armstrong, War Department, April 10, 1837. Re: concerns A.P. Chouteau's appointment to go among the plains Indians; instructions to give him a trading license.
24. William Armstrong, acting Superintendent of Western Territory to C.A. Harris, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Choctaw Agency, May 10, 1837. Re: concerns disposition of Creeks and Cherokees to engage in Texas Revolution.
25. William Armstrong, acting Superintendent of Western Territory to Samuel Wall, Choctaw Agency, May 10, 1837. Re: concerns letter from Sam Houston to Lt. Peter Harper regarding Harper's attempt to influence the Cherokees and Creeks to enter into the Texas Revolution.
26. P.L. Chouteau, Sub-Agent for Osage to William Armstrong, Superintendent of Indian Affairs West, Fort Gibson, May 22, 1837. Re: concerns reports of Mexican officer instigating Comanches, Wacos et al. to fight Texans and measures suggested to pacify the Indians; depredations by and against plains tribes, white captives; Chouteau's accompanying of Kiowas et al. to Fort Gibson for negotiations; urging steps be taken to pacify Indians on Western Frontier.

27. William Armstrong, Acting Superintendent of Western Territory to C.A. Harris, Chickasaw Agency, May 28, 1837. Re: concerns report of P.L. Chouteau; Kiowas, Wichita and Towoash treaty negotiations at Fort Gibson; Chouteau's meeting with wild tribes at Camp Mason, and suggestion to take some of chiefs to eastern cities.
28. M. Stokes to J.R. Poinsett, Secretary of War, Fort Gibson, May 30, 1837. Re: concerns appointment of Colonel A.P. Chouteau and praise of his ability; negotiations and treaty made with the Kiowas at Fort Gibson; alleged depredations by Comanches were false.
29. A.P. Chouteau to C.A. Harris, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Fort Gibson, September 8, 1837. Re: Chouteau's acceptance of appointment and mission work with western tribes; plans for Indians' visit to Washington.
30. A.P. Chouteau, Commissioner and M. Stokes, Commissioner to J.R. Poinsett, Secretary of War, Fort Gibson, September 8, 1837. Re: treaty made by Stokes and Chouteau with the Kiowas at Fort Gibson, May 23, 1837; depredations of the Pawnees of Platte River against the Comanches, Kiowas and Osages.
31. A.P. Chouteau to J.R. Poinsett, Secretary of War, Fort Gibson, September 18, 1837. Re: concerns alleged treaty violation by Comanches, Wichitas, and Kiowas and white captives among the western tribes.
32. William Armstrong, Acting Superintendent Western Territory to C.A. Harris, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, October 26, 1837. Re: concerning his trip to Florida with Choctaws and arrangements for transfer to Chickasaws; and arrangements for Indian delegation to Washington.
33. William Armstrong, Acting Superintendent Western Territory to C.A. Harris, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Choctaw Agency, November 23, 1837. Re: Osage depredations in Missouri; Major Chouteau's resignation; need for additional agents to superintend payments.
34. A.P. Chouteau, Commissioner to C.A. Harris, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Camp Mason, November 25, 1837. Re: report of Chouteau concerning the Plains Indians and a proposed conference with them at Camp Mason, disturbances caused by Mexican and Texan agents among the Indians; arrangements made to winter at Camp Mason and arrange future parleys; Indians visit to Washington discussed; depredations of Pawnee Mohaws against Indians of the Southwest and Osage and threat of war against Pawnee.
35. A.P. Chouteau, Commissioner to C.A. Harris, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Fort Mason, December 8, 1837. Re: concerns Pawnee Mohaw and Caddo raids against Wichitas; discussion on Wichitas; Caddo depredations against Wichitas; Indian delegation to Washington; military escort for visit to various tribes.

36. A.P. Chouteau, Commissioner to C.A. Harris, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Fort Mason, December 10, 1837. Re: concerns complaints of Delawares against Osage; complaints of Comanches against Osages and negotiations of agent with Osage. Chiefs in effort to stop the protested raids which threatened Indian wars; request for medals from Comanche and Kiowa chiefs.
37. A.P. Chouteau, Commissioner to C.A. Harris, Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Re: concerns project Washington trip for Comanche and Kiowa chiefs; requests for medals and flags; Pawnee Mohaw raids against other Indians--Comanche, Kiowa, Osage, and Delaware; efforts to prevent retaliation; appointment of interpreter for the prairie tribes; Indian proposed Washington trip.
38. L.B. Northrop, Lt, 1st Dragoons, to J.R. Poinsett, Secretary of War, Washington City, February 14, 1838. Re: concerns death of Colonel A.P. Chouteau and Northrop's assignment to escort chiefs to Washington and discussion to complete arrangements for the trip, etc.
39. Simon Elias, Colonel of Mexican Army, Gov. and Commandant General of Department of Chihuahua, to --- Re: passport to Henry Connelly, US citizen, and c. 100 armed men to travel and engage in commercial speculation in Chihuahua. Translation.
40. John Rogers, principle chief of Cherokees to General M. Arbuckle, Grand Saline, May 3, 1839. Re: concerns introduction of friendly Indians and suggestions to meet with a band of Comanches coming in for council.
41. General M. Arbuckle to T. Hartley Crawford, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Fort Smith, May 8, 1939. Re: concerns letter #40 and notifying tribes of A.P. Chouteau's death.
42. A.J. Raines to J.R. Poinsett, Secretary of War, and H. Crawford, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Choctaw Agency, June 8, 1839. Re: concerns fraud by contractors who held contract to supply and feed Creeks and Cherokees; requests investigation and threat of congressional investigation; identity of accuser, A.J. Raines.
43. William Armstrong, Acting Superintendent Western Territory to T. Hartley Crawford, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Choctaw Agency, June 8, 1839. Re: concerns Comanche and Kiowa chiefs who came to Fort Gibson ready to go to Washington. Due to Colonel Chouteau's death, trip was postponed and explanation in regard to trip; affairs of Colonel Chouteau.
44. -----to-----, Fort Gibson, June 23, 1939 (1st page only). Re: concerns the passport of Henry Connelly issued by Simon Elias, Governor General of State of

Chihuahua in Mexico, and Connelly's arrival in Fort Gibson with large party and much bullion. Incomplete letter.

45. William Armstrong, Acting Superintendent Western Territory. Statement of goods and provisions furnished for Comanches, Kiowas, et al. who came to Fort Gibson and the Choctaw Agency in order to go to Washington. See letter #43. 1839.