

Office Capt. Indian Affairs

Fort Smith, Arkansas.

January 29th, 1857.

A woman named Messie Foster, who claims to have a Choctaw family, and to possess the rights of a Choctaw citizen, has been to-day to complain of one Dr. Hays, a citizen of Fort Smith, but who has a Choctaw wife, and numerous other citizens of the Choctaw Nation, whom she says has been trespassing on her lands. Hays claims for his wife, Mrs. Foster also claims the land. This is a matter of controversy affecting the rights of Choctaws only; such I believe they all claim to be; - hence it is a subject over which I have no control. Agent Cooper probably leaves Doakville for Mississippi on the 1st prox, and will be unable to investigate the matter; hence I advise Mrs. Foster to go to you for justice and protection, if she be entitled to them. Having no power to act in such cases I have not presumed the faculty to see where justice lies - inasmuch as I could not enforce it. Mrs. Foster wants you to write her advising her of her rights. I do not doubt you will try to do justice in the case.

Very Respectfully,

Wm. H. C. C. Lt.
S. W. Moore
Capt. &c.

Peter Polam, Esq.,
Chief Choctaw Nation,
Old Agency.