



**State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives**

**Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs
Records, 1984-2001
RG 331**

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:

Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs

Inclusive Dates:

1984-2001

Scope & Content:

This record group consists primarily of the papers of the executive director, Teye Heape, from 1998 up to the time the Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs (TCIA) lost funding from the General Assembly in 2001. Material from 1984 to 1998 is limited due to the destruction of records during that time.

All minutes, notes, and announcements for meetings held from 1984 to 2000 are present. Also included are annual reports, newsletters, and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation memos and documents. Among these papers is information related to TCIA's attempt to create a special Native American license plate; the effort failed due to lack of support. Documents relevant to this issue include forms and receipts. Additional official commission materials consist of budgetary documents, travel forms, compensation forms, and accounting reports.

In August and October 2000, the Tennessee General Assembly held sunset hearings to determine the future of the commission. The record group contains public comments, letters, and official documents relating to the meetings.

The TCIA was given the authority to recognize individuals and tribes as Native Americans. Applications and public comments about the process are included in this record group. Also present are applications for open commission positions, documents related to legislative bills sponsored by the TCIA, newspaper articles,

comments, letters, and documents regarding conservation of Native American historical sites.

The Commission of Indian Affairs was heavily involved with Native American organizations. Information about these organizations and the events they sponsored are included in this record group. In addition, the Commission engaged in outreach with the Native American community. Case files and records germane to assistance programs document this.

The Commission took part in Section 106 reviews created by the National Historic Preservation Act (1966). Included here are records related to these reviews.

Physical Description/Extent:

7 cubic feet

Accession/Record Group Number:

RG 331

Language:

English

Permanent Location:

RG 331 (available only on microfilm)

Repository:

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

Administrative/Biographical History

The Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs (TCIA) was created in 1984 to serve the needs of the state's Native American community. The Commission on Indian Affairs was attached administratively to the Department of Environment and Conservation, and was authorized under TCA 1 4-34-101-1991 edition. In 1998, the Commission hired Toyé Heape as executive director; he was to administer the Commission's daily operations.

An important part of the Commission's mission was the conservation and preservation of Tennessee's Native American cultural resources. In addition to typical conservation efforts, the Commission took part in Section 106 reviews created by the National Historic Preservation Act (1966). In accordance with this federal mandate, TCIA acted as a consultant to construction companies and organizations whose proposed projects might interfere with Native American cultural resources, particularly burial grounds.

The TCIA was given the authority to recognize individuals and tribes as genuine Native Americans. Because of the disagreements between groups seeking recognition and the individuals and groups who protested state recognition of Native American tribes, the commission was often the subject of controversy.

In August and October 2000, the Tennessee General Assembly held sunset hearings to determine the future of the commission. The Commission and the Native American communities were given the intervening months to reach a consensus about the future of the controversial agency. Because no agreement was made, the commission was terminated through lack of legislative funding in the fiscal year 2001-2002, disallowing the traditional wind-down year. The commission was revived in 2003 and sunset on July 1, 2010.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Series List

I.	Administration	Boxes 1-2
II.	Native American Organizations	Box 3
III.	Preservation, Section 106 Reviews	Boxes 4-7

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:

Collection is open for public use.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

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Index Terms

Personal Names:

Heape, Toye

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:

American Indian Association of Millington
Aniyunwiya Nation
Beaver Creek Native American Tribe
Bledsoe Advisory Board
Cherokee Unity Association
Cherokees of Lawrence County
Etowah Cherokee Nation
Indian Education Association
Inter-Tribal Community, Cultural, and Educational Center
Nashville and Davidson County (Tenn.). Human Relations Commission
Native American Indian Association
Overhill Indian Nation
Scarritt-Bennett Center
Tennessee Band of Cherokees Earth Clan
Tennessee. Dept. of Environment and Conservation. Commission of
Indian Affairs
Tennessee. Dept. of Environment and Conservation. Tennessee Historical
Commission
Tennessee Indian Heritage Council
Tennessee Native American Indian Council
Trail of Tears Association

Subjects:

Indians of North America -- Antiquities -- Collection and preservation.
Indians of North America -- Cultural assimilation -- Southern States.
Indians of North America -- Material culture -- Southern States.
Indians of North America -- Mixed descent -- Tennessee, East.
Indians of North America Race identity
Indians of North America -- Relocation -- Southern States.
Indians of North America -- Southern States -- Government relations.
Indians of North America -- Tennessee
Indians of North America -- Tennessee -- History
Melungeons

Document Types:

Agendas (administrative records)
Annual reports
Application forms
Correspondence
Leaflets (printed works)
Minutes
Photographs
Surveys (documents)

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:

Record Group 331 came to the Tennessee State Library and Archives directly from the agency in March 2010.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs, 1984-2001, Record Group 331, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Kate Williams according to state-approved procedures and completed on March 30, 2012. Office documents and material not pertinent to the record group were removed. Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs, Record Group 331, was microfilmed and the originals destroyed according to state-approved methods.

Electronic Location and Access:

<http://www.tn.gov/tsla/history/state/findingaids/rg331.pdf>

DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

SERIES I – ADMINISTRATION

Series Scope and Content: This series details the administration of the Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs, including official documents and documents relating to the basic functions the commission.

Series Arrangement: The series is arranged with meeting minutes and annual reports first, followed by Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation documents. Financial records, information regarding the Government Operations Sunset Hearings, and applications for open positions follow. The series concludes with preservation documents not related to Section 106 consulting.

CONTAINER LIST

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SERIES II – NATIVE AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

Series Scope and Content: This series details the outreach of the Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs, including official documents and documents relating to the basic functions the commission.

Series Arrangement: This series is arranged with individual Native American-related organizations listed in alphabetical order. Following is information about different forms of outreach with the Native American community through assistance programs.

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Series Scope and Content: Section 106 reviews are the documents relating to the Commission of Indian Affairs consulting with companies and organizations. As a part of a construction project, a company or organization must verify that any construction would minimize any effects to Native American cultural resources such as burial grounds.

Series Arrangement: This series is arranged in original order as much as possible. Some of the material is separated by location, and this material is sorted by county. The rest of the information is, for the most part, sorted by companies which are listed alphabetically.

CONTAINER LIST

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