

David Folsom to Thomas Loraine McKenney

Choctaw Nation March 4th. 1830—

Friend & Brother

In the exertion which I have made for the promotion of education among the Choctaws, I have discharged a duty which I thought incumbent on me as a ruler among them. As the father of a family, also I have indeavoured to discharge my duty by giving my children, such opportunities of education & such moral, & Religious instuction, as my situation and abilities would allow. It has occurred to me, in reflecting on this subject, that it would not be improper for me; to apply to the War Department, to allow, out of the Choctaw school fund, a sum, sufficient to inable two other of my Children to attend school six months or one year with the vew of finishing their education. I have just placed two of my Daughters who are nearly ~~growing~~ grown, at school, at Columbus, in Mississpi, but with a large family, depending on me, for support with the expences which I am necessarilly put to as a ruler among my people, and without any salary I find I cannot in justice to my other children, keep them at school, on my own expenses, so long as I could wish. I find I shall be obliged to withdraw them, at the end of the first quarter.

Will the state of the Choctaw school fund admitt of a small appropriation being made to me; in their behalf? I do not want it exceeding one year, & even for six months I should be thankful. I am now paying for the board of each of my Children Eight dollars, per month, & ~~from~~ four dollars a quarter for their tuition. Their tuition for subsequent quarters would probably be something higher. But for their boarding, clothing, tuition &c. I should be well satisfied with \$150 a year for each. Can this be allowed me for one year or six months. If so I shall be gratified, for I think it no more than justice; but if not I shall endeavour to bear my disappointment with patience.

I would remark that no females have as yet derved any benefit from the chool fund set apart in our last Treaty, and I hope, you will not deem it altogeather a fathers partiality, when I say that my Daughters are already sufficiently advanced to appriciate and profit by an appropriation in their favour.

I should be glad to recive an early reply from you. Respectfull Yr. friend
& Brother

David Folsom