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**Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Interior, transmitting several petitions from persons living in the Indian Territory requesting Congress to appropriate money to assist the "W. T. Whitaker Home" at Pryor Creek, in the Indian Territory.**

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S. Doc. No. 90, 55th Cong., 3rd Sess. (1899)

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“W. T. WHITAKER HOME.”

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LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

SEVERAL PETITIONS FROM PERSONS LIVING IN THE INDIAN TERRITORY REQUESTING CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE MONEY TO ASSIST THE “W. T. WHITAKER HOME” AT PRYOR CREEK, IN THE INDIAN TERRITORY.

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JANUARY 30, 1899.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, January 28, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith several petitions of persons living in the Indian Territory requesting Congress to appropriate money to assist the “W. T. Whitaker Home” at Pryor Creek, in the Indian Territory, for the education and care of orphan children of white citizens of the United States who live in said Territory. Two of said petitions have been referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for his consideration, report, and recommendation. In returning the same, he recommends “that the petitions in question be forwarded to the President of the Senate with the recommendation that they be laid before that body in which the Indian appropriation act is now pending, in order that, should it be deemed expedient and proper, a reasonable appropriation may be inserted in the Indian bill for the benefit of the Home.” A copy of said report is herewith inclosed.

The recommendation of the Commissioner is concurred in by the Department, and the petitions received by it in behalf of the W. T. Whitaker Home, being six in number, are submitted for consideration by the Senate, as above indicated.

Respectfully,

THOS. RYAN,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, January 26, 1899.

SIR: The office has received, by your reference for consideration, report, and recommendation, two petitions from persons in Cherokee Nation, asking that Congress make a reasonable appropriation to assist an institution in the Cherokee Nation called the W. T. Whitaker Orphan Home, an institution established through the efforts of Mr. Whitaker for the benefit of white orphans in the Cherokee Nation.

With respect to these petitions I have the honor to say that the office is without any information whatever as to this institution. An informal conference has been had with Inspector Wright on the subject, and he says that he has never visited the place and is not prepared to make any suggestions with reference to the matter.

The objects of this institution, however, are such as naturally appeal to the sympathy and interest of all good citizens, and I therefore have the honor to recommend that the petitions in question be forwarded to the President of the Senate, with the recommendation that they be laid before that body in which the Indian appropriation act is now pending, in order that, should it be deemed expedient and proper, a reasonable appropriation may be inserted in the Indian bill for the benefit of the Home.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. A. JONES, *Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

MAYHEW, IND. T.

*The honorable Secretary of the Interior and the Congress of the United States, Washington, D. C.:*

Three hundred thousand white citizens of the United States live in the Indian Territory, who come from nearly every State in the Union. Many of them have died and left numerous orphan children homeless and without school privilege; not even a poorhouse for their protection.

W. T. Whitaker, of Pryor Creek, Ind. T., through the aid and cooperation of others, has established an orphan home for the education and care of these children. Thirty-six children are now in the home, and there is room for 100.

We, the undersigned citizens of the Indian Territory, pray that the Congress of the United States will grant his request and give this worthy institution, known as the W. T. Whitaker Orphan Home, a reasonable appropriation to assist said institution to gather together, feed and clothe, and educate the white orphan children of the Indian Territory.

G. D. Duncan.  
Annie B. Duncan.  
Mary A. Duncan.  
Iona Curtis.  
J. J. Ruffin.  
G. W. Duncan.  
Eli Crowdey.  
Willie Herman.  
W. F. Wellcutt.  
John Troly.  
B. J. Clark.  
D. F. Wade.  
C. Bergan.  
W. M. Beckweltz.

R. F. Shaw.  
A. S. Bacon.  
James Guffy.  
R. C. Bills.  
G. H. Dinan.  
J. F. Clark.  
J. D. Turley.  
S. N. Behrin.  
J. D. Speed.  
J. B. Duncan.  
W. C. Curtis.  
L. T. Jackson.  
J. Moyandell.  
W. A. Glenn.

Ben Olsen.  
John Jones.  
Jim Jones.  
Henry Jones.  
Teat Ruffin.  
E. L. Turley.  
Dr. Baldin.  
Ned Curtis.  
John Reed.  
R. N. Ashby.  
Wilson Mosby.  
Simon Baker.  
J. J. Belvin.

HARTSHORNE, IND. T., *January 9, 1899.*

HONORABLE SIR: We beg to present this petition to you in behalf of the poor orphan children of the Indian Territory. There are doubtless thousands of them, and for the most part growing up in ignorance and immorality. Of course you

know all this after a moment's reflection. The citizens of the Territory have every thing provided for their comfort and development, but the poor white man who tills the soil must die and leave his posterity homeless and with no school advantages and too often with not even the bare necessities of life.

W. T. Whitaker, a citizen whose generous heart led him to establish a home for the white orphans, has sacrificed his business and his means to provide a home for them, but yet his means are too small for the demands. He now has 39 white orphans in the home and has 200 applications in his office of children who are homeless, but he can not, with the present accommodations, care for them. We beg you to consider the condition of the orphans in the Territory and grant us the request of our petition. We feel sure they can make as strong an appeal to your consideration and sympathy as has the citizens of the Territory. And if only a very small per cent of the money that is being used to settle this Territorial question was used to build a home, shops, and schools for the white orphan, we believe it would yield a more profitable and satisfactory return than all the rest of the money expended on the Territory, for instead of the hundreds of ignorant, immoral, dependent citizens, we would have honest, intelligent, self-supporting men, who would be an honor to the country.

We believe W. T. Whitaker has begun the work the Territory needs more than all else.

We hope that these petitions will find the consideration from you that we believe they merit. Trusting that they may, I beg to be, most sincerely, yours,

A friend to the orphan,

Mrs. DONE ALEXANDER.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

HARTSHORNE, IND. T., January 9, 1899.

*The honorable Secretary of the Interior and the Congress of the United States, Washington, D. C.:*

Three hundred thousand white citizens of the United States live in the Indian Territory, which come from nearly every State in the Union. Many of them have died and left numerous orphan children homeless and without school privilege; not even a poorhouse for their protection.

W. T. Whitaker, of Pryor Creek, Indian Territory, through the aid and cooperation of others has established an orphan home for the education and care of these children. Thirty-six children are now in the home, and there is room for 100.

We, the undersigned citizens of the Indian Territory, pray that the Congress of the United States will grant his request and give this worthy institution, known as the W. T. Whitaker Orphan Home, a reasonable appropriation to assist said institution to gather together, feed and clothe, and educate the white orphan children of the Indian Territory.

Wm. Ford.  
Sallie Ford.  
Lizzie Scott.  
A. W. Loden.  
A. Bair.  
Annie Bair.  
J. R. Crowder.  
F. Rice.  
Gracie Williams.  
Arkie Mitchell.  
Lela McCalister.  
R. L. Jackson.  
Susan A. Day.  
Eliza Whiting.  
M. S. Tyler.  
Kattie Walker.  
E. Wingo.  
Tho. O. Kelly.  
H. V. Rice.  
A. N. Jeffers.  
W. M. Parsons.  
J. J. Tyler.  
S. O. Sanders.  
R. W. Higgins.  
D. J. White.  
J. E. Day.

W. B. Steele.  
J. F. Scott.  
J. W. Vawter.  
Martha Vawter.  
Mande Scott.  
G. A. Carmichael.  
Mrs. Olive Carmichael.  
Edna M. Leake.  
H. Godfrey.  
Mrs. Emma Parsons.  
Mrs. Trecia Sanders.  
Mrs. M. C. Godfrey.  
W. G. Birdsong.  
J. P. Grady.  
Mary Walker.  
Annie Wallace.  
J. W. Mannan.  
Hettie Taylor.  
D. L. Wallace.  
Mattie Crabtree.  
James Crabtree.  
Thos. White.  
Mrs. Wm. Stroud.  
F. Smallwood.  
Hattie Carmack.  
A. H. Patterson.

C. Glass.  
N. H. Shipley.  
Minnie Patterson.  
R. W. Edgell.  
D. L. Wood.  
H. E. Wood.  
Nellie Wood.  
A. V. McAulay.  
J. D. Chastain.  
W. A. Polk.  
A. G. Cochran.  
A. J. Bateman.  
F. M. Savage.  
W. C. A. Waldly.  
J. W. Slaughter.  
J. H. Baker.  
Lee Bery.  
James Mathews.  
A. C. Chisholm.  
E. E. Scott.  
W. F. Scott.  
Daniel Alexander.  
M. Clemens.  
Osker Clemens.  
Walter Clemens.  
Ben Clemens.

|                      |                       |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Luther Clemens.      | Mr. Will Griffie.     | Mrs. W. L. McCluskey. |
| Mattie Hanner.       | Alford Mitchel.       | L. H. Lewis.          |
| John Hanner.         | B. Nickles.           | W. W. Wright.         |
| Frank Hanner.        | Alford Calwell.       | Maggie Norman.        |
| Eva McKee.           | Mrs. Calwell.         | Dora Neal.            |
| John McKee.          | Mrs. J. A. Parks.     | Mrs. E. Green.        |
| Tom McKee.           | Joe Parks.            | Mrs. David Stark.     |
| Mrs. Browning.       | Mrs. Warn.            | Miss Nellie Green.    |
| Mr. Browning.        | S. L. Scott.          | Miss Lize Evans.      |
| Mrs. Shiply.         | M. E. Scott.          | Miss Hattie Green.    |
| Mrs. Combs.          | W. A. Scott.          | Mrs. Agie Green.      |
| Mr. Combs.           | H. D. Scott.          | Mrs. Leo Eidschun.    |
| Mrs. Hardy.          | Lela Scott.           | Mrs. T. R. Whittock.  |
| Mrs. Balm Parsons.   | John Scott.           | John Roderick.        |
| Frank Parsons.       | J. F. Scott.          | S. J. Roderick.       |
| Mrs. Bessie Griffie. | Nancie Harner.        | Mrs. Hattie Withers.  |
| J. H. Neal.          | Mrs. Minnie Lewis.    | Lillie Withers.       |
| L. O. Neal.          | Mrs. J. Patterson.    | Wm. Rice.             |
| Sarah A. Cooper.     | John Patterson.       | Mary Rice.            |
| M. Scott.            | Mrs. Tompson.         | Ellen Fields.         |
| Fannie Cook.         | Elva Tompson.         | Henry Fields.         |
| George Cook.         | Mrs. Cole.            | J. Fields.            |
| Ethel Cook.          | Clemie Whithead.      | Grover Fields.        |
| J. Cook.             | Joe Whithead.         | Mrs. Jas. Storie.     |
| S. Bryant.           | May Whithead.         | Mrs. Henry Fields.    |
| John Bryant.         | Fannie Whithead.      | Annie Welch.          |
| Allie Bryant.        | J. Woolingburge.      | Ida Ranney.           |
| Osker Bryant.        | Mrs. J. Woolingburge. | Martin Welch.         |
| Edna Cook.           | Mary Woolingburge.    | James Welch.          |
| Myrtle Shul.         | Minnie Woolingburge.  | John Ramey.           |
| Annie Shul.          | M. A. Ramie.          | Laran King.           |
| Tom Shul.            | Mrs. Mollie Willson.  | L. P. King.           |
| Osker Shul.          | Annie Largen.         | Ed. Barrowman.        |
| Dora Lovejoy.        | Dr. J. S. Scoville.   | Pat McCasel.          |
| Carrie Mahan.        | Mrs. J. S. Scoville.  | D. J. Williams.       |
| Joe Mahan.           | Kattie Mannan.        | Rose Shirlock.        |
| John Coffee.         | Cora Manan.           | I. J. Cantrell.       |
| Anna Coffee.         | Allie Manan.          | L. J. Spillman.       |
| Mrs. Lucy Bolem.     | Sarah Mitchel.        | E. W. Francis.        |
| Mrs. Harrit Bolen.   | F. R. Mitchel.        | Joe Francis.          |
| Mrs. Mattie Bolem.   | J. H. Wilkins.        | A. Braidwood.         |
| John Bolem.          | Sam Willis.           | Mrs. Braidwood.       |
| Joe Bolem.           | Kizziah Willis.       | R. B. Braidwood.      |
| Mrs. Hattie Wooly.   | Martha Bone.          | Mrs. R. B. Braidwood. |
| Ida Wooly.           | Frank Bone.           | Mrs. R. Rodgers.      |
| Mrs. Mollie Easly.   | George Drumright.     | Mr. Ruben Rodgers.    |
| Mrs. A. J. Hunt.     | Alice Drumright.      | Miss A. Rodgers.      |
| Della Hunt.          | W. L. McCluskey.      |                       |

PRYOR CREEK, IND. T., *January 5, 1899.*

DEAR SIR: You will find inclosed three petitions, one from McMillan, Ark., one from Austin, Ind. T., one from Marlow, Ind. T. These petitions were mailed to me. I will be in Washington about the 15th of this month and pay you a visit in regard to my orphan home.

Yours, a friend to the orphans,

W. T. WHITAKER, *Manager W. O. H.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C.*

*The honorable Secretary of the Interior, and the Congress of the United States, Washington, D. C.:*

Three hundred thousand white citizens of the United States live in the Indian Territory, who come from nearly every State in the Union. Many of them have died and left numerous orphan children homeless and without school privileges; not even a poorhouse for their protection.

W. T. Whitaker, of Pryor Creek, Ind. T., through the aid and cooperation of others, has established an "orphan home" for the education and care of these children. Thirty-six children are now in the home, and there is room for 100.

We, the undersigned citizens of the State of Arkansas, pray that the Congress of the United States will grant his request and give this worthy institution, known as the "W. T. Whitaker Orphan Home," a reasonable appropriation to assist said institution to gather together, feed, and clothe, and educate the white orphan children of the Indian Territory.

J. G. Smith.  
R. A. Medearis.  
M. O'Brien.  
R. A. E. Medearis.  
Lillian Medearis.  
J. S. Tunnell.  
S. E. Dodson.  
Mattie Reed.  
Grace Reed.  
Barbara Smith.  
Maggie Norwood.  
Dean Parks.

Ida Wolford.  
Bessie Rhue.  
Lulu Wolford.  
Lizzie Jones.  
Jessie Lemon.  
A. Ellis.  
J. H. Parks.  
A. B. Smith.  
John Jones.  
Mary Smith.  
Taska Gibson.  
E. A. Carr.

G. M. File.  
P. V. Craig.  
George Gibson.  
Lee Barnes.  
A. A. Waite.  
Mamie Burkett.  
J. A. Dodson.  
Ellen Gibson.  
J. N. Dodson.  
A. V. Rhea.  
W. J. Jones.  
John Reed.

AUSTIN, IND. T.

*The honorable Secretary of the Interior, and the Congress of the United States, Washington, D. C.:*

Three hundred thousand white citizens of the United States live in the Indian Territory, who come from nearly every State in the Union. Many of them have died and left numerous orphan children homeless and without school privileges; not even a poorhouse for their protection.

W. T. Whitaker, of Pryor Creek, Ind. T., through the aid and cooperation of others, has established an "orphan home" for the education and care of these children. Thirty-six children are now in the home, and there is room for 100.

We, the undersigned citizens of the Indian Territory, pray that the Congress of the United States will grant his request and give this worthy institution, known as the "W. T. Whitaker Orphan Home," a reasonable appropriation to assist said institution to gather together, feed, and clothe, and educate the white orphan children of the Indian Territory.

Dr. Griffith.  
W. J. McGath.  
Rex Parks.  
Allen Dickey.  
John McCoy.  
Chas. Parks.  
Frank McCoy.  
F. S. Hale.  
J. H. Hartley.  
J. H. Simcoe.  
Frank Smith.  
H. Sears.  
A. S. Johnson.  
Hugh Onstott.  
John Woods.  
H. S. Russell.  
John W. Hydrick.  
Antice Hamaker.  
W. O. Haskins.  
J. K. McGraw.

G. R. Parks.  
W. D. Smith.  
G. E. Tyner.  
Thomas Blair.  
W. D. Sears.  
J. J. Hammond.  
James Dickey.  
J. H. Baggett.  
W. S. Greenwood.  
J. W. West.  
A. J. Anderson.  
Wils. Parks.  
James Rowlen.  
W. R. Perkins.  
Jas. L. Greenwood.  
Clinton Tyner.  
Emma Jackson.  
Nancy E. Parks.  
Ed McCoy.  
William I. Hughes.

Charley Houston.  
Charley Dyer.  
Thos. Lemon.  
John Roberts.  
Nate Beals.  
James Baker.  
A. E. Bailey.  
Rich. Brown.  
Christ. Goningier.  
L. A. Prince.  
E. M. Belson.  
W. A. Kirby.  
Harry Kirby.  
W. J. Smith.  
S. C. Davis.  
J. B. Deyerle.  
J. H. Spann.  
W. V. Brown.  
J. S. Perrier.  
E. F. Arnold.

MARLOW, IND. T.

*The honorable Secretary of the Interior and the Congress of the United States, Washington, D. C.:*

Three hundred thousand white citizens of the United States live in the Indian Territory, who come from nearly every State in the Union. Many of them have died and left numerous orphan children homeless and without school privileges; not even a poorhouse for their protection.

W. T. Whitaker, of Pryor Creek, Ind. T., through the aid and cooperation of others, has established an "orphan home" for the education and care of these children. Thirty-six children are now in the home, and there is room for 100.

We, the undersigned citizens of the Indian Territory, pray that the Congress of the United States will grant his request and give this worthy institution known as the "W. T. Whitaker Orphan Home," a reasonable appropriation to assist said institution to gather together, feed, and clothe, and educate the white orphan children of the Indian Territory.

Wm. G. McNeas, druggist.

J. L. Wills, farmer.

T. J. Chapel, hotel.

M. M. Rams, blacksmith.

J. G. Woods, jr., printer.

O. K. Nabors, jr., miller.

J. S. Lee, blacksmith.

J. S. Davis, physician.

W. M. Stolz, postmaster.

F. Christie, calciner, Royal Cement & P. Co. mill.

J. S. Hamilton, miller, Royal Cement & P. Co.

M. D. Flow, cattleman.

G. W. Gadsey, ginman.

A. G. Davis, butcher.

J. J. Parchman, farmer.

C. E. Crouch, cattleman.

F. L. Rankin, jeweler.

E. B. Stolz, assistant postmaster.

Tom Foreman, traveling salesman.

Otto Somers, confectioner.

J. T. Dawson, press stand.

F. G. Fuller, C., R. I. & P. R. R.

R. F. Avery, engineer.

W. C. Thompson, merchant.

T. A. Baxley, C., R. I. & P. R. R.

J. R. Jennings, clerk.

Chas. Atkins, blacksmith.

O. K. Nabors, merchant.

W. M. Wolverton, U. S. commissioner.

A. W. Jones, section foreman.

W. J. Wilson, insurance.

J. W. Watkins, carpenter.

W. H. Carson, farmer.

J. J. Adkins, cowboy.

H. L. Jarboe, jr., cowboy.

C. Harris, carpenter.

R. W. Cogswell, salesman.

A. M. Thompson, merchant.

R. Anderson, dentist.

J. D. Baleman, drayman.

S. H. Jones, C., R. I. & P. R. R.

J. W. Farmer, farmer.

Hugh Rogers, snipe.

Buford McCoy.

I. H. Ables, hay seed.

G. F. Chapel, C., R. I. & P. R. R.

C. F. Compton.

C. T. Somers.

J. M. Applegate.

W. T. Atkins.

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FORT GIBSON, IND. T., *January 12, 1899.*

*The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, Washington, D. C.:*

Allow me to say a word in the interest of the Whitaker Orphan Home (mentioned in the inclosed petition). I have been in the home, and can say, from personal knowledge, that it is a complete and happy home; the children are being instructed intellectually, morally, and spiritually; they are clothed and fed by small donations from the public and the liberality of the manager, W. T. Whitaker. It is sincerely hoped that Congress will be moved to grant the desired appropriation.

Respectfully,

FLORA THORNTON, *Fort Gibson, C. N., I. T.*

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*The honorable Secretary of the Interior and the Congress of the United States, Washington, D. C.:*

Three hundred thousand white citizens of the United States live in the Indian Territory, who come from nearly every State in the Union. Many of them have died and left numerous orphan children homeless and without school privilege; not even a poorhouse for their protection.

W. T. Whitaker, of Pryor Creek, Indian Territory, through the aid and cooperation of others, has established an "Orphan home" for the education and care of these children. Thirty-six children are now in the home, and there is room for 100.

We, the undersigned citizens of the Indian Territory, pray that the Congress of the United States will grant his request and give this worthy institution, known as the "W. T. Whitaker Orphan Home," a reasonable appropriation, to assist said institution to gather together, feed, and clothe, and educate the white orphan children of the Indian Territory.

John M. Adair.  
 Alexander Bengel.  
 M. B. Milley.  
 Belle Ross.  
 Sarah Hart.  
 Emma I. Hicks.  
 J. C. Early.  
 Mollie Thornton.  
 T. Jay Thornton.  
 A. T. Huber.  
 Mrs. A. T. Huber.  
 Percy M. Thornton.  
 Mrs. M. Vann.  
 Mrs. A. E. Howard.  
 Bessie Howard.  
 C. E. Milley.  
 W. S. Nash.  
 M. D. L. Dowell.  
 G. W. Henry.  
 Albert Lewis.  
 H. C. Meigs.  
 E. M. Warner.

J. F. Haas, councilman.  
 J. C. Beard, councilman.  
 A. R. Matheson, recorder.  
 Henry Eiffert.  
 Maud Matheson.  
 P. E. Butler.  
 E. M. Butterfield, councilman.  
 J. T. Blake.  
 J. S. Fuller, M. D.  
 G. A. McBride, M. D.  
 Mrs. G. A. McBride.  
 Ira H. Lewis.  
 Hubbard Ross, postmaster.  
 Mrs. Hattie B. Ross, assistant postmaster.  
 Lewis R. Nash.  
 F. H. Nash.  
 P. W. Hicks.  
 O. H. Shaffer, mayor, Fort Gibson, Ind. T.  
 M. K. Trent.

G. T. Pope.  
 A. M. Pope.  
 S. E. Lewis.  
 Mrs. C. L. Bowden.  
 George B. McDonald.  
 Lura A. Rowland.  
 Cora Rowland.  
 Mrs. L. Rowland.  
 Jessie Parks.  
 Mamie Graham.  
 Lina Henry.  
 Mrs. T. M. Walker.  
 Yookah T. Nash.  
 Lora M. Fuller.  
 Mrs. L. A. Sanders.  
 Minnie Coleman.  
 J. G. Holden, editor "Post."  
 Mrs. Flora Thornton.  
 D. M. Ingram.