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## **Special Report on Death of a Horse, August 21, 1889**

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## Special Report on Death of a Horse, August 21, 1889

### About

Native American settlements, Government Relations with Native Americans, Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

### Identified Persons

John J. Sheehan; Major Edmond Mallet; Sam Gayton

### Identified Places

Ponca, Pawnee, Otoe, and Oakland Agency

### Recipient

Secretary of the Interior

( Duplicate. )

UNITED STATES INDIAN INSPECTION SERVICE,  
Ponca, Indian Territory,  
August 21, 1889.

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

In compliance with Department instructions dated August 16th 1889, "N. R. C.," I have investigated the matter of the death of a Government horse belonging to the Ponca, Pawnee, Otoe and Oakland Agency, Indian Territory, and I now submit my report on the subject. The details on the circumstances under which the animal was drowned are fully related in the Depositions of Assistant Clerk John J. Sheehan, and Sam Gayton, an Indian, herewith inclosed and marked respectively Inclosures "A" and "B."

From other sources of information I find that Chickaskia creek is a large stream - the Indians call it a river - very dangerous at high water, which rises suddenly when it rains far north of this locality. I also find that Mr. Sheehan acted with coolness and discretion under the trying circumstances in which he was suddenly placed, and barely escaped with his life. I am of the opinion that neither Mr. Sheehan nor the agent are chargeable with neglect in the death of the horse, but that the loss was caused by accident, such as are not uncommon in this country.

The Indian Sam Gayton, formerly agency assistant carpenter and a worthy man, behaved with great gallantry and as appears by Mr. Sheehan's statement to me saved the rescued horse and his (Sheehan's) life. If it can be done the Indian Office should reward him in some substantial manner.

The two inclosures referred to me with Department Letter dated August 16th are herewith returned.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Very respectfully yours,

*Edmond Mallot*  
Indian Inspector.



Ponca, Pawnee Otac + Oatsh

Special Report on  
Death of Horse.

July 10, 1889.