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NOTE: This document lists various Cree bands and has excerpts  
from annual reports for the period 1881 to 1916.

#### File Hills

1881 - (p. 44) A map of this reserve shows 4 bands  
and divisions as follows. Little Black Bear, Star Blanket,

Okanesse, Peepeekissi.

1883 - (p. 70) These Indians listed as Cree.

(p. 72) The Peepeekissi band began farming, the others did not settle on their reserves until 1880 and made little progress. Land marshy and full of lakes. Some good farming last [land?] on the east side of the hill where the agent hopes to settle in.

1885 - (p. 62) The File Hill Indians made raids on white settlements leaving their reserves in large bodies. Cattle were killed, houses broken into, but a number of Indians arrested and jailed. These Indians and those at Duck Lake disturbed over the rebellion, but did not take active part.

1886 - (p. 252) Little Black Bear - 122; Star Blanket - 74; Okanesse - 69; Peepee[kissii] - 121; total 386.

(p. 122) The first separate report on this agency. Farming begun though many live by hunting. Persuaded to abandon the Sundance, but many attend dances at other reserves. Agent considers the Sundance a harmless ceremony, but causes the Indians to neglect their work. One day school operating.

1887 - (p. 77) Crops fail. Indians depend upon rations. No outside employment. Star Blanket, Okanesse and Peepee[kissii] united on a single reserve in a single settlement. Cattle doing well. Fresh beef issued. School poorly attended. Wild rice sown. Sanitary condition of the Indians not good. 28 deaths mostly from tuberculosis.

1888 - (p. 64) Houses cleaned and white washed. Busy cutting fire wood. Clothing, house furnishings, etc. received from the ladies of foreign mission. Building rail fences. One Indian woman commits suicide by hanging. Sundance held in June lasting 4 days; largely attended from Indians of other reserves. Agent reports it as milder in form than those he witnessed 16 years ago at Prince Albert.

1889 - (p. 59) Indians working well. Annuities spent chiefly for blankets, clothing and other useful articles. A smaller amount than usual for beads, paints and trinkets. 2,100 bushels of wheat; 500 bushels of potatoes. After the harvest in October, the Indians assemble for Thanksgiving dinner. Wild rice planted again, but no prospect. Crops poor.

(p. 60) Sundance held in June attended by 179 lodges of Indians from other reserves. One Indian makes contract to build the government building of stone. School attendance poor.

1890 - (p. 43) Hay crop a failure. Indians sent off the reservation to cut hay. Some resided at Beaver Hills all winter. Crops fail. Many die of the grippe and measles. Some houses with two rooms. Average school attendance - 5. Indians

make tool handles.

1891 - (p. 56) New agent appointed. Each band plants its crop in common. Cattle doing well. Some Indians market cream and milk. Some smallpox and chickenpox.

1892 - (p. 153) 559 cattle. Market for milk fails. Indians earned \$887.50.

(p. 272) Total population - 286.

1893 - (p. 57) A table of Indian income given. Star Blanket band refuses to send children to school.

1894 - (p. 68) 91 horses.

1895 - (p. 101) Many Indians entirely self-supporting. Cattle raising the chief industry. A few Indians live like white people. Good houses, well furnished.

1896 - (p. 178) 700 cattle. Supply their own beef. Band not adapted to farming. Population 274. Butter making, poultry, snake root, tanning hides, hunting and work for white settlers their occupations. Boarding school and day school, but attendance small. Majority of the Indians pagans. Many cling to their old habits. Last spring they decided to have a Sundance and invited Indians from many reserves. Several weeks were spent in preparation, but agent refused to permit the dance. They were allowed to substitute a horse dance.

1897 - (p. 153) Many of the children speak English. 98 pagans.

1898 - (p. 184) Black Bear Band - houses comfortable with open fireplaces. Old people wore scanty clothing; young people well-dressed. Indians contented and happy. Star Blanket Band - houses have wooden floors. Okanesse - many new houses; one with shingled roof - upstairs. School attendance fair. Peepeek[issi] - houses smaller than others. Indians raising cattle.

(p. 147) These Indians all Cree. Cattle raising the chief occupation. 17 children in boarding school. Some Indians drinking. Very little dancing during the year. Indians industrious and happy.

1899 - (p. 152) The first annual affair in June. \$175.00 in cash prizes. Many Indian women exhibit knitting, etc.

1903 - (p. 185) 1050 cattle; many horses. Take more interest in education. Most children in school.

1904 - (p. 176) A colony started for graduates of the Industrial school. Each receives 80 acres of land. 7 members. Population of the reservation 245. Tuberculosis still common. Every child of school age attending. Railway now reaches the reserve. Indians find market for produce. The

majority are pagans.

1905 - (p. 148) Cattle, hay and wood chief products. Many houses with sod roofs. Take good care of their stock. No arrests for drinking. A boarding school is near this reserve, hence well attended.

1906 - (p. 144) Indians all Cree. All the young Indians engaged in farming. Industrial school colony doing well.

(p. 362) Boarding school has room for 25 children.

1907 - (p. 156) The Industrial school colony established 6 years ago is now flourishing. 20 farms. Population - 55. Full report given. Some difficulty in marketing their produce. This is the only such colony in Canada.

1908 - (p. 151) Population. Black Bear - 57; Star Blanket - 39; Peepee[kissil] - 112; Okanesse - 58.

(p. 338) 38 children in boarding school.

1910 - (p. 416) Full report on the Industrial school colony. 25 farms at present. Poor crops in 1907 and 1908, but Indians now readjusted. Good log houses; some two rooms. Most of the men married to graduates of the school. Houses furnished with clocks, sewing machines, lace curtains, etc.

(p. 133) Population - 279. Many cattle sold. Old people still receive rations.

1911 - (p. 519) Industrial school colony. Individual holdings have increased from 80 acres to 160 acres. Some employ white farm labor.

(p. 151) No report for these bands, but now listed under Qu'Appelle.

1912 - (p. 159) No separate report.

1914 - (p. 229) Report on the Industrial colony, but no report for the reserve.

1915 - (p. 63) Farming successful. Some young men have never attended the school. A few houses with mud roofs, but many frame houses. Indians employed in road work. Hospital established. A few individuals subscribe for newspapers. Several enlisted in the army.

1916 - (p. 72) Crops destroyed by hail. 50% of the young men have gone to war, 8 are told.