

By the Kansas Historical Society

## Reading Primers Used at Haskell

Haskell Indian Nations University is located in Lawrence, Kansas. It was opened in 1884 as the United States Indian Industrial Training School. It was an off-reservation boarding school for American Indian youth from across the country. Initially serving students younger than 14 years of age, Haskell soon served as a high school as well. By the 1970s the school dropped all lower grades and provided two-year associates degrees as a junior college. In 1993 it was renamed Haskell Indian Nations University in recognition of the school's four-year college degree programs.

Haskell's history reflects changes in American Indian educational policy and racial relations between American Indians and the government. The following primary documents are provided as evidence to explore those issues.

### Document D

These pages are from a schoolbook that children used to learn how to read.



The Blacksmith made a big fire.  
He took his big hammer.  
And he made a good shoe  
for the little gray pony.  
Then the Boy got on the pony.  
And he went for a ride  
down the street.

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I have a little pony,  
And it is dapple gray;  
Its head is made of straw;  
Its tail is made of hay.

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## Document E

These pages are from a schoolbook that children used to learn how to read.



sometimes mother herds the sheep.  
mother does not play.  
mother spins when she herds  
the sheep.

łahda bimá dibé neiniłkaad łeh.  
bimá 'éi doo naanéé da łeh.  
bimá 'éi na'niłkaadgo 'adiz łeh.

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father has two horses.  
the horses are pretty.  
one horse is black.  
one horse is bay.  
they are fat horses.  
father likes pretty, fat horses.

bizhé'é bilíí' naaki hółó.  
'éi łí'ígíí nizhóní.  
łá' t'éiyá łizhin.  
łá' t'éiyá łichíí'.  
'éi łí'ígíí neesk'ah.  
bizhé'é łíí' daneesk'ahígíí dóó danizhóní  
yígíí t'éiyá bił yá'át'ééh.

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*Navajo Life Series: Primer, 1949.*