

1820
12 August

Letter from the Oneidas, Brandt, Cornelius, Daniel, and John, to Gov. Lewis Cass. DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY, DETROIT MICH., BURTON HISTORICAL COLLECTION, C.C. TROWBRIDGE MANUSCRIPTS.

To his Excellency Lewis Cass
Governor of The Michigan Territory

Father,

We the undesigned, Deputies of the Oneida nation of Indians, being a branch of the Six Nations, have a few things to say to you.

Our Great Father, the President of the United States gave to The Six Nations his consent that they should move to the west, if they could obtain lands from their brothers there. The Oneidas, have sent us to look out and procure a place for them from the Menominee Tribe in the neighborhood of Green Bay. Our Great Father the President, thro Secretary of War, advised us to go there, and instructed his Agents thro this country to afford us all necessary facilities for that purpose.

Father,

We have been in the vicinity of Detroit for some time past, not being able immediately obtain a passage up the Lakes. While remaining, we have been informed on good authority that the lands at Green Bay, which we hope to obtain, have been purchased by the Great Father's Agent at that place. Whether this Agent has been authorized to make such a treaty, we do not as yet know. But we are disappointed, because we cannot obtain from the Indians the land which we expected.

We think it altogether improper to procure at this time, but we should excite jealousy of trouble among our brothers to the west.

We shall expect that you Father, and our Great Father the President of the United States, will remove these obstacles out of the way, that your children may get quiet possession of the land which they have been encourage to expect.

Father,

In your letter to a certain gentleman, you approved of our plan, and declared, that there are none of your citizens, in that country to oppose the measure that there will be no political prejudice to encounter, and no misrepresentations to correct.

It seems then, that you are disappointed too, and we hope that you will set these matters right, and deal fairly with your children.

Father,

We wish peace - we wish to obtain a place to get our foot on peaceably, and to live in friendship with our brothers of the west and our Great Father the President.

Father,

We now return to our nation & will declare to them what we have done.

We hope that it will be explained to us how these obstacles, have been thrown in the way, and if there lands, can be still procured, and if we can be assured that our Great Father wishes us to have them, we expect to come back again & see these land, which we wish to purchase.

We hope, you, Father, will look into this matter, and, on your return to Detroit, to be so good as to inform us by a letter, whether we can still have the lands about he Green Bay.

With Sentiments of deepest respect, we are your
Dutiful Children,

His
John & Brandt, -----
Mark

His
Cornelius & -----
Mark

His
Daniel & -----
Mark

His
John & -----
Mark

Detroit August 12th 1820

Signed in the presence of
Eleazar Williams

To His Excellency
Lewis Cass