

George B. Postes to Lewis Cass Feb. 3, 1832
[Sec. of War]

setting
boundaries

T. L. Ogden proposals - representing
St. Regis Mohawks

NY Indians = 9 tribes

"The deputies of the New York Indians are constrained to decline the proposals submitted to them last evening by the commissioners. Their claims being founded on contracts which they knew to have been fairly made on their part faithfully executed, they believe them to be of binding obligation. Standing upon this ground it will be readily perceived that they cannot yield to the force of objections which in conformity with the late treaty, assumes the nonexistence of these contracts, or in accordance with the earlier pretensions of the Menominees, assume their invalidity on the ground of want of authority in the chiefs who negotiated them

"spirit of compromise & concession" →

"they have consented to abandon their favorite positions & valuable improvements on the South side of the Fox River & to limit their claims to what they deem to be the essential wants of their peoples."

Washington
D.C.

Order involved
in negotiations

Dec. 1830 1831
26-30

"The Six Nations & St. Regis
Tribe were represented by
Daniel Beard & Antoine John ..."

"Daniel Beard then rose & addressed the
President, quite intelligibly in the English
Language - stated that he was very anxious to
have this settled - that he did not deny but
what there was land enough & more than enough

of good land ~~and~~ and wished to know whether
a piece of land could not be given to them
~~located~~ along the South side of that
Treat [describing it as has been done in a
former part of this report]. To this the
President replied that this could ~~be~~ not be
done; that the Commissioner had told him
the truth, when they stated that this
land ~~belonged~~ belonged to the Menominees, &
was expressly reserved to them for
agricultural purposes in the Treaty of last
Year; and that it was not his to give:—
His emphatic remark, you must remember—
"I never told a red man a lie in my life;
nor do I speak to you with a forked tongue

- If I were to promise to give you this land I would tell you a lie - I could not do it - I cannot deceive you." -

Dec. 30, 1831

"Daniel Beard then asked this question. "If we can make a bargain with the Menominees for an exchange of lands, giving them a piece on the north of the 500,000 acres, for a small piece on the south of the Tract, will you sanction it?" The answer of the President was "certainly - If they will agree to do this, we can have no obligations" - Daniel Beard remarked "we are afraid Father, that some of the white men will interfere & that the Menominees will not do this, unless the Great Father will advise them -" the Menominees have a

high respect for what their Great Father says, &
if he will advise them we are sure they will
make this exchange." - To this the
President answered - "You were last year
told, if you would accept the land set
apart for you by the Treaty, & it should be
ascertained ~~on~~ or examination, that it
was not sufficient in quality or quantity
for your accommodation, the Government would
use their endeavors to get you more land;
A person was appointed to examine this Tract
of Country & make report - And I now tell
you in answer to your question that if there
is not sufficient good land in this Tract,
we will advise the Menominees to make

, and as his Great Father had now said that he
would ~~not~~ send good advice to the Menominees,
he would agree to the settlement; and he
thought that they could make an exchange
sometime with the Menominees, & ~~get~~ get
~~what they wanted~~ what they wanted, & they could
live in peace. — Having nothing more to
say they took leave & retired, apparently
much pleased & not more so than the rest
of us, who were present, at the prospect
of having brought so near to a close, this
long & unprofitable controversy."

Elexzer Williams then arrives
representing St. Regis

↓ then sudden change

"At this meeting Daniel Beard (for the first time in my presence) spoken in his native language & Mr. Williams was his Interpreter, To our great astonishment & in the face of his voluntary agreement when before the President, he refused absolutely to consent to any arrangements unless the Government would guarantee & assure to them two hundred thousand acres on the South side of the tract of 500,000 acres set apart by the Treaty of last year; In vain did I remind him of his own voluntary agreement, & of the

consequences which must inevitably result if his present course were persisted in; - A repetition of all former arguments was used; - that the Government had no claim to this land; that it ~~belonged~~ belonged to the Meronines -; that I have assured him of this two weeks before, and that the Government could not undertake to grant to them what they did not possess -; That he had remarked himself that he no doubt, they could make an exchange with the Meronines if the President would advise them to do so; that he had agreed to do so; & that from all I could learn there would be no difficulty in accomplishing it: To

all that I could say, we heard little or nothing
more by way of answer than ~~that~~ that he had
no faith in the Government; that they had
made promises time after time; and he
was determined to submit their claims to
the justice of the Senate of the United
States. The stand here taken & the
language, as interpreted, being so
different from any thing previously used."

"I requested Mr. Williams to see him in the
meantime."

was compromise - if Bread remained recalcitrant
"there was no necessity for another meeting ... I
was really sorry that he pushed this unfortunate

this exchange you speak of. Let us see how many families there are in your tribes, who are to go on this land. The numbers as ~~was~~ taken from them a our mouths being given: - and it appearing that there were less than one thousand; - the President remarked "well, set apart 200 acres for each family, which is more than you will ever cultivate, there will be 200,000 acres & upwards left; - can it be supposed that there is not 200,000 acres of good land in this large tract of country?" - Some conversation then took place among the Indians themselves. After which Daniel Beard remarked that he wished to have an end to ~~these~~^{these} disputes, &

course ... ; ~~the~~ ~~he~~ ~~could~~

Breed → "made no other reply"

"He understood the President to say that the lands, should be exchanged as desired - thereby pledging the faith of the Government to him, to effect the exchange with the Menominees. With this the undersigned was satisfied; - His imperfect knowledge of the English language & his almost entire inability to express himself intelligibly ... produced this misunderstanding"

~~"was apprehended"~~
~~the faith of the~~
~~Government~~

Signed
David Breed

Jan
14,
1832