

Respected Sir

Green Bay 26 Nov. 1828.

Since my departure from New York ill health has prevented my writing before this - Now I take the liberty to address you a line and inform you that all was done possible in my power among the Consider, Sameson and others to reconcile them to the proceedings at Green Bay in 1827, by holding forth that it was hoped the Government would not be friendly to any thing against their Interest

New claims are however going forward this season from the Settlers for various pieces of land - many of which are of wild lands, such as Sugar Camps, and which much discourage the New York Indians - It is supposed that they are about instructing their Delegate (Mr. Wray) to get a new law passed to give them such claims as have been occupied since 1820 -

If any movement of this kind should take place in Congress the ensuing session it is hoped the friends of the New York Indians will make every effort to defeat it. Their Deputies have already had two acts passed in their favor, one of 1820 and one of 1822, under which about eighty thousand acres have been confirmed to them which have been surveyed the past summer, and I think they ought to set that office for the present & settle the claims of the New York Indians before any new laws are passed -

The New York Indians will present a memorial accompanied with an appeal to Congress this winter in which they ask the Government to appoint Commissioners to come here next season to settle their limits and also locate the different Tribes of the Six Nations, which I think is a measure to be desired

I am Dear Sir  
Eliaser Williams

TO THE HONORABLE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE IN  
CONGRESS CONVENED:

Fathers,

The Chiefs and Warriors of the several Tribes hereunto subscribed formerly from the State of New York but now resident at Green Bay in Michigan Territory respectfully showeth:

That it is well known to your Honorable Body that those called New York Indians by the permission of the General Government purchased a tract of land at Green Bay from Menominees and Winnebagoes in two Treaties in 1821 and 1822 which were also sanctioned by the same.

That accordingly we comprising a small proportion of the aforementioned Tribes emigrated hither in the anticipation of finding a permanent peace, of which we were long deprived in the places where we resided. It also pleased our Brethren to see us come and take possession of the Country they had ceded to us, and as we considered our title to the same government acquired in good faith. So it greatly revived our drooping hearts and all our powers by which we were enabled to adopt more freely and put in practice experimentally the good ways of the civilized people, in which we are pleased to say we have been greatly benefitted. We also hoped to be materially advantage to our Brethren in this Country by setting forth to them examples of this kind and by maintaining and keeping a pacific and friendly intercourse with them to be instrumental of preserving a continued peace between them and the United States. But we regret extremely to say that we have been much troubled by a few Americans who have come into this distant country for no other purpose (as appeared to us) than to spy out the Land and speculate of poor Indians. We do not hesitate to say that to this description of men, we attribute all the difficulties with which we have met since we came to this Country. That by their intriguing machinations they greatly injured the peace and good understanding which subsisted between the New York Indians and the Menominees and Winnebagoes by insinuating to them that we the New York Indians have cheated them of their Country, which led some of them to a denial of our purchases of lands aforesaid, and we believe did also so deceive the Honorable Commissioners of the United States as led them to treat with the Menominees and Winnebagoes in the year 1827, for those very lands we had previously purchased and owned, not that they (the aforesaid Americans) cared anything for the Indians but that they might get the lands afterwards to themselves. That they have also, as we have been credibly informed in connection with several unprincipled Frenchmen at Green Bay made out several claims to lands (within our said purchases) in the vicinity of Green Bay, in many cases where they have occupied as sugar camps or mowed wild grapes for one or two seasons; and that under these circumstances, in the view of the U.S. Laws they are trespassers, and the Horrible Judge Doty had volunteered his services to get them confirmed in the present session of Congress, for a liberal share of all the lands he may so obtain. We are led to believe this, as he has ever manifested much zeal in counteracting the views of Government in regard to the establishment of the New York Indians in this Quarter.

We are constrained to mention further that we are destructively annoyed by the unlicensed practices of citizens (in this vicinity) of selling to us ardent spirits, and in taking from our ignorant and poor people, in exchange therefor, the very necessities of life. The last mentioned evil, is in our view, one of enormous magnitude, and if not checked by some interposition of Government will forever preclude of our arriving to an honorable degree of advancement in civilization and the Mechanick Arts to which we laudably aspire. The influence in favor of these iniquitous practices, is so overwhelming, that the authority who should ever be vigilant to suppress these evils, are so

overawed that no notice is taken of the most flagrant violations of Law and Equity: And as various expediencies have often been proposed by good men for the suppression of this evil, but have as often been abandoned as being useless. We have thought of one expedient, by which we would abide, if it would meet the views of your Honorable Body to have a Law passed punishing both the seller and buyer of ardent spirits in a summary way by flogging. We think that a measure of this kind, if put in force would arrest the progress of said evil. We think in this way both parties would soon agree to desist. These evils, in connection with others, together with the unsettled limits of our Country tend greatly to retard the industry of our people here and check the emigration hither of those from the East. That it is not only the wish of your memorialists hereunto subscribed but it is also the wish and prayer of the several thousands of your red children to the East residing within or near the latitude of this Country, that Congress would be pleased to establish this Country for their permanent abiding place to them and their heirs forever, so that they need not be disturbed for ages and ages to come; that besides the vast sacrifices your memorialists have made in purchasing and opening settlements so they feel confident that your Honorable Body are not sensible to the fidelity and attachment they have ever manifested towards the U.S., for whenever they were called upon by Government to aid, in the support of its rights and liberties they have never refused a prompt compliance. That our bones mingled with yours upon the Battle grounds of our Country are witnesses of the truth to this day. This is indeed the very Country which we were encouraged to hope should be our secure resting place. But how has it grieved our hearts for these few years past to be constantly in jeopardy concerning our residence. Our faith however to the integrity, magnanimity, justice and goodness of the U.S. Government towards the aborigines of the Country continues steadfast and unshaken and we have the utmost confidence that the Government only need information respecting us in order to do us justice and give us every necessary assistance to promote our welfare and happiness. And since objections have been made against the extent of our purchases aforementioned, in the manner we have stated (i.e. through the insinuations of evil designing men) and if it should appear in the opinion of your Honorable Body that our interests and future happiness require that we should give up some portion of our lands we had acquired as above stated. We thereupon ask leave to designate to your Honorable Body the smallest extent of Territory with which we can be satisfied and which may suffice for the maintenance of us and subsequent heirs (viz). Beginning at the outlet of Winnebago Lake and on the upper or Southwesterly boundary line of our first purchase, Twenty five miles on each side of Fox River and extending in length down Fox River and Green Bay to Sturgeon Bay, excepting only all the lands the Indian title of which has heretofore been extinguished by the Government within the same. We would then relinquish all our claims of the remainder of the lands to the original proprietors. It is a consideration that deserves to be noticed here that a considerable portion of the above described Territory is low and swampy and unfit for cultivation. We wish also to be distinctly understood that although we are firmly impressed with the justice and fairness of our claims to all the lands we have purchased yet for the sake of permanent peace only we would consent to the sacrifice above mentioned.

Father, this is all we have to say. We have been particular to acquaint you with some of our principal troubles and wants; as you are wise and able to help us. We pray the great spirit may assist you in your deliberations for the red children to do them good. We subscribe ourselves your dutiful friends and children.

Done in General Council held at Green Bay, Michigan Territory, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1829.

John Metoxen

Austin Quinney