

ONEIDA HISTORY #26714 DEPT OF INT/ BIA NOV 6 1885

Hon. Secretary of Interior

By order of the Council I herewith transmit you; the Oneida Indians, Constitution , for your recognition and approval, you will notice in the 6th Article of the Constitution requires provision be made , or compensation for services of our Officers. But we receiving no pay for our time and services , and we think it wise and just to appropriate a portion of the Annuity for the support of our laws and officers, if our Annuity is used thus, it would be for the best interest of the Tribe, and we could also use a portion of this money for building a jail house . The way we are paid now there is nothing to show for these few cents we receive from the General Government annually , besides many person spent more than 3 times the worth of 65 cents before they are paid. This is what each individual share, some has to wait 3 days before getting their money and many of them do not get their pay at all. And now in view of our circumstances most earnestly ask your Hon. to take this matter or proposition into consideration and arrange our Annuity in such away to be for the interest of the public generally

Signed by Cornelius Hill, Sachem
John D. Cornelius Councillors
Thomas John
Jonas James
James A. Wheelock
Joseph M. Smith
William Cornelius
Henry K. Cooper Secretary

P. S. Proposed amendment of the Constitution; Officers elected after this, Sachem shall hold his office 3 years, and Councillors 2 years. This will not be out of place to inform you at our election we have two justices of the Peace appointed at the same time and also we appoint a sheriff , a constable all appointed the same day.

please inform us the receipt of this our letter. Direct the same to Henry K. Cooper

Request to use
Annuity for
Jail signed
By Sachem
& Councillors