

McLaughlin's Copy
Oneida Reservation, Wis.

Washington, D. C.

August 31, 1917.

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:-

Complying with instructions contained in Indian Office letter dated July 24, 1917, approved by the Department July 27, 1917, we have the honor to report that we made a careful investigation of the condition of the Oneida Indians of the Oneida Indian Reservation, Wisconsin, who hold trust patents to their allotments at this time.

The trust period on all allotments on said reservation was to expire June 12, 1917, under the act of February 8, 1887, but, Executive Order No. 2623, dated May 19, 1917, extended the trust period for one year from June 12, 1917, on allotments then remaining restricted, which we found to number 106, exclusive of heirship lands, and our report on each of the said restricted allottees is transmitted herewith as follows:

NAME	AGE	ALLOTMENT NO.	RESERVATION	RECOMMENDATION FEE-PAT.	EXTENSION OF TRUST PERIOD
Archiquette, John	72	4	Oneida, Wis.	90 A.	
Archiquette, Josiah	28 D.	6	" "	25 "	
Archiquette, Isaac	62	1199	" "	15 "	



NAME	AGE	ALLOTMENT No.	RESERVATION	RECOMMENDATION	
				FEE-PAY.	EXTENSION OF TRUST PERIOD
Adams, John Quincy	66	37	Onida, Wis.	90 A.	
Adams, Julia	17 D.	42	" "	26 "	
Baird, Sophia	39	39	" "	26 "	
Baird, Samuel	40	500	" "	26 "	
Baird, Electa	35	616	" "	--	26 A.
Baird, Eliza	33	846	" "	26 "	
Baird, Elijah	39	501	" "	26 "	
Baird, Abram	81	550	" "	90 "	
Baird, Thomas	49	553	" "	45 "	
Baird, Cornelius, Jr.	56	1158	" "	16 "	
Cornelius, Sampson W.	68	95	" "	39.43	
Cornelius, Sampson J.	69	321	" "	60.	
Cornelius, Isaac	57	759	" "	90.	
Cornelius, Wilson	33	760	" "	26.	
Cornelius, Henry	28	798	" "	26.	
Cornelius, James	65	862	" "	90.	
Cornelius, Thomas G.	63	868	" "	90.	
Christjohn, David	71	1050	" "	26.	
Cooper, Filmore	62	1311	" "	20.	
Cooper, Martin	51	1313	" "	40.	
Dick, Lydia	35	1485	" "	19.	
Danforth, Peter	50	914	" "	48.	
Danforth, William	39	953	" "	26.	
Denny, Joshua	70	298	" "	90.	
Denny, Lewis	78	527	" "	--	34 A.
Denny, Adam	29	726	" "	26.	
Denny, Thomas	68	1379	" "	89.50	
Denny, Aaron	50	822	" "	35.	
Doxtater, Abram Powless	60	458	" "	56.	
Doxtater, Henry	63	620	" "	89.85	
Doxtater, Chauncey	32	625	" "	26.	
Doxtater, Anthony	88	997	" "	--	36 A.
Doxtater, Leonard	31	825	" "	26.	
Doxtater, Franklin	29	826	" "	26.	
Doxtater, Paul	75	1086	" "	89.90	
Doxtater, Lewis (John)	34	1091	" "	-- --	26 A.
Doxtater, Joseph	29	1093	" "	-- --	26.40
Doxtater, Levi	46	1094	" "	-- --	45.
Doxtater, Isaac	40	1089	" "	25.	
Doxtater, Jacob H.	27	1080	" "	25.24	
Doxtater, Martha	32	611	" "	20.	

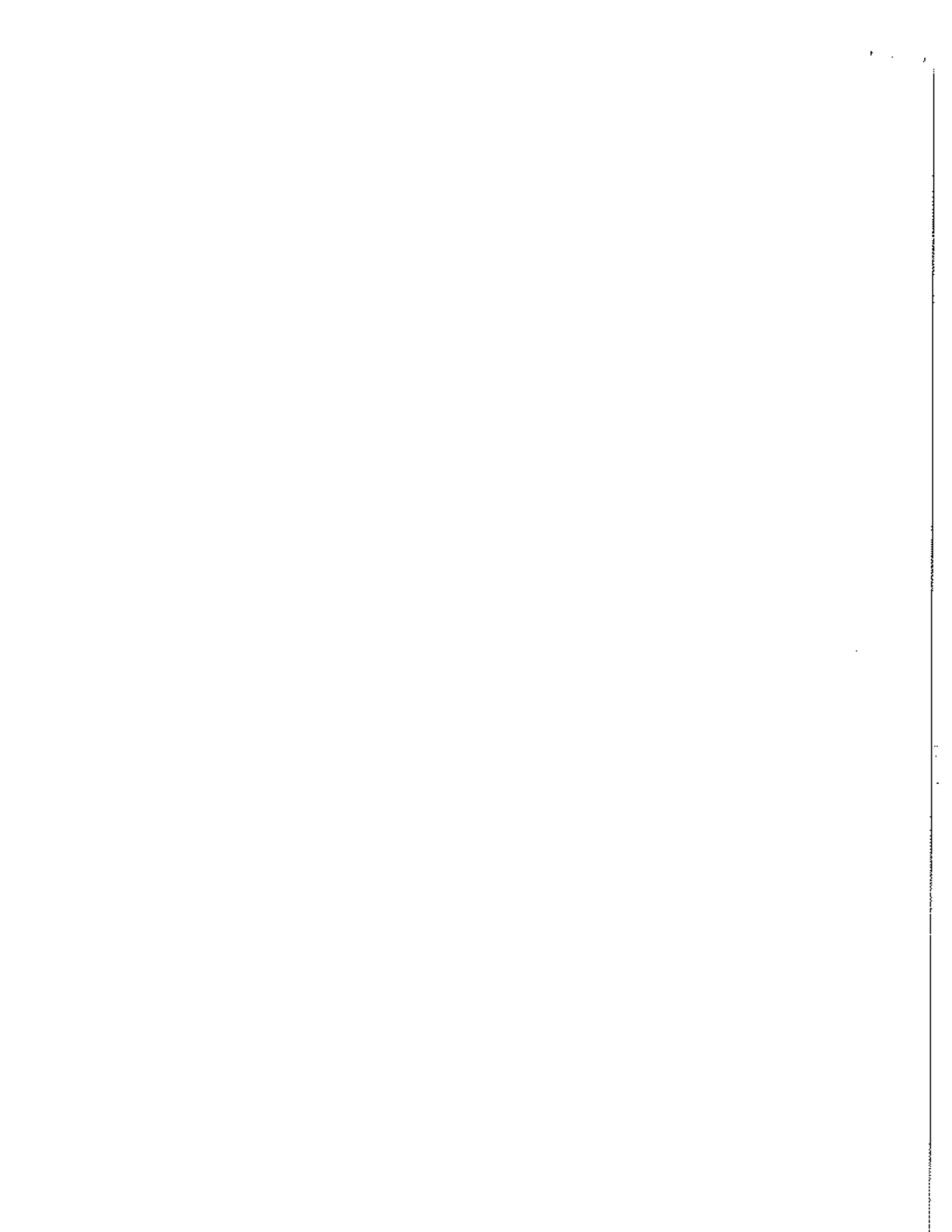
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NAME	AGE	ALLOTMENT NO.	RESERVATION	RECOMMENDATION FEE-PAT.	EXTENSION OF TRUST PERIOD
Elm, John	49	377	Oneida, Wis.	45. A	
Elm, Nicholas	66	350	" "	90.	
Haas, Melinda	41	24	" "	26.	
Hill, Edward G.	52	1301	" "	40.	
House, William	43	389	" "	28.57	
House, Aaron	65	606	" "	50.	
Hill, Louisa	43	1388	" "	52.	
Henderson, Ella	43	960	" "	26.	
Jourdan, Lucy	29	1040	" "	26.	
Johnson, Elizabeth	73	1165	" "	86.	
Jourdan, David	68	838	" "	57.	
King, Antone	82	431	" "	--	46 A.
King, Solomon	58	613	" "	20.	
Kelly, William (Webster)	51	810	" "	44.69	
King, Henry	46	202	" "	-- --	13.
King, Joshua	30	617	" "	-- --	12.
Metoxen, James	32	562	" "	22.	
Metoxen, Jones	53	643	" "	40.	
Metoxen, Jonas	57	1015	" "	--	23.
Metoxen, Peter	23	1451	" "	25.43	
Metoxen, Joseph	70	142	" "	20.	
Powless, Hyson	43	105	" "	28.18	
Powless, John K.	66	254	" "	60.	
Powless, Abram	62	1002	" "	90.	
Schuyler, Isaiah	55	213	" "	10.	
Schuyler, William Thomas	74	945	" "	40.	
Silas, William	66	1295	" "	80.	
Skenandore, Loomis	54	87	" "	90.	
Skenandore, Elijah, Jr.	62	449	" "	75.	
Skenandore, John L. W.	72	597	" "	--	10.
Skenandore, Alice	31	604	" "	26.	
Skenandore, Solomon	76	632	" "	40.	20.
Skenandore, Lyman	65	685	" "	40.55	
Skenandore, Charles (Absalam)	34	852	" "	28.	
Skenandore, Adam	51	1117	" "	30.	
Skenandore, Joshua	63	1245	" "	80.	
Smith, Joseph M.	64	72	" "	90.	
Smith, Adam	87	330	" "	18.	
Smith, Leonard	60	738	" "	53.	
Smith, Henry	53	989	" "	45.	

NAME	AGE	ALLOTMENT NO.	RESERVATION	RECOMMENDATION	
				FEE-PAT.	EXTENSION OF TRUST PERIOD
Smith, John (Ball)	51	1333	Oneida, Wis.	45.94 A.	
Smith, Electa	53	287	" "	45.	
Stevens, Mary	75	347	" "	--	48 A.
Stevens, Isaac	58	472	" "	29.	
Stevens, Sampson C.	51	476	" "	45.	
Stevens, Edward	44	1447	" "	45.	
Summers, Nicholas	54	203	" "	40.	
Summers, Lewis	56	894	" "	--	30 A.
Summers, John	54	1027	" "	43.	
Summers, Electa	39	519	" "	--	20 A.
Swamp, Jacob	60	206	" "	--	30."
Swamp, Noah	55	429	" "	35.	
Swamp, Antone	54	893	" "	17.	
Swamp, Simon	49	1069	" "	45.	
Swamp, Minnie	28	152	" "	25.	
Swamp, Paul	51	1072	" "	40.	
Swamp, Cornelius	59	1375	" "	80.55	
Thomas, Wilson	50	1378	" "	-- --	20."
Webster, Daniel	69	510	" "	-- --	19."
Webster, Jacob	52	1272	" "	50.	
Webster, Peter	43	1291	" "	46.	
Webster, Noah	54	1349	" "	44.73.	

After traveling over a considerable portion of the reservation, visiting the homes of the Indians, we met the Indians in conference, by appointment, on August 7th, which meeting was well attended, there being over one hundred Indians present, and at which the object of our visit to the reservation was fully explained to them, and the question of patents in fee was freely discussed, as may be seen by transcript of the stenographic notes of the meeting transmitted herewith, marked "Exhibit A".

At the request of the restricted Indians we attended another meeting on August 14th, called by them for the purpose of continuing the discussion of the subject referred to in the first meeting.



A certified transcript of the proceedings is transmitted herewith, marked "Exhibit B".

While the second meeting was in session, the Indians took advantage of the opportunity to present an informal petition, with the request that we submit it with our report.

It covers several subjects, but takes the general form of a request for an indiscriminate extension of the trust period on lands held in trust by the Oneida Indians. It is transmitted herewith marked "Exhibit C".

While the first meeting of August 7th was in session, a resolution was presented and passed by unanimous vote, in which the Indians ask that some disposition be made of what is called "Duplicate Allotments" on that reservation. They ask that such allotments be sold and the proceeds distributed to the Oneida Indians, and we are submitting a special report with reference thereto of even date herewith.

On May 7, 1917, a hearing was held before Mr. C. F. Hauke, Chief Clerk, Office of Indian Affairs, with a committee from the Oneida Reservation, claiming to represent the Oneida Indians, during which hearing several pictures and a map of the reservation were used to illustrate conditions on the reservation, which map and pictures were furnished us by members of said committee to be filed with our report, and which we transmit herewith marked "Exhibit D".

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This band of Oneida Indians left their former home and tribesmen in the state of New York about eighty years ago and moved to the locality of the reservation they now occupy in Wisconsin.

Many built permanent homes in the beginning, and the succeeding generation, in many instances, still make their homes on the land originally claimed from the forest by their fathers. In one instance, we visited the home of Thomas C. Cornelius who is 64 years of age. He lives with his family in a large four-room frame house, in which he was born, that was built seventy-five years ago for his grandmother.

The close association with white people which these Oneida Indians have had for so many years has made its impression upon them. They have adopted white methods and profited thereby, and in some instances prospered equal to their white neighbors.

As a community, they are intelligent, law abiding, peaceable citizens. They take their place in the religious, educational, industrial and political activities of the community, and while some have outdistanced others, taken as a whole, they are further advanced in civilized ways than any other of the northeastern Indian tribes.

The original settlements were made upon the ranges of



hills on both sides of Duck Creek which traverses the reservation from North to South. As the population increased the settlement spread East toward DePere and West toward Seymour. At the time of the treaty of Buffalo Creek in 1838, the population was 554, and at that time the present reservation of 65,400 acres was established on the basis of 100 acres for each person enrolled. Under the act of February 6, 1867, the entire reservation was allotted to 1520 persons then found to be entitled to share in the land, on the basis of 90 acres each to heads of families, 45 acres each to single persons over 21 years of age and orphans under 21 years of age, and 20 acres each to other minors. Various tracts were reserved for cemeteries, churches, day schools and a boarding school.

A very considerable portion of the reservation was swamp and low land, inaccessible the greater part of the year, and for that reason unused by the Oneidas until the sale of lands to white people and the establishment of township government made possible the opening and building of roads and the construction of bridges.

The largest area reported under cultivation by the Oneidas, only, was 10,000 acres. A large part of this acreage is still in the hands of the original owners or their heirs, who still own most of the early improvements. The remainder, of over

50,000 acres, has passed to white ownership and is being improved by white settlers.

Public improvements, since the two townships were organized on the reservation, consist of the opening and grading of many miles of good roads, the building of a large number of concrete or steel bridges, and the erection of seven modern public school buildings, open to whites and Oneidas on equal terms.

The present enrollment of the tribe in Wisconsin is 2850, showing a substantial increase in numbers since the allotment. Fully one-half of the present adult population have attended training or other Government schools for periods of from one to ten years, so that, in the matter of education they may be considered as equal to their white neighbors.

In conclusion we submit that we have carefully considered the various phases of this question and our conclusions are set forth in our report on each of the restricted Oneida allottees of Wisconsin now living.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd) Amey W. Laughlin
Inspector.

(Sgd) Frank E. Brandow
Special Supervisor.

(Sgd) J. C. Hart
Superintendent.

James McLaughlin MSS

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Location

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