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Washington, D. C.  
Aug 31 - 1877.

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

We have the honor to report that in the course of our investigations as to the competency of allottees, on the Oneida Reservation in Wisconsin to receive patents in fee to their allotments, we found a large number of allotments, about 125 in all, and comprising about 4500 acres, belonged to Oneidas who are now dead, and whose heirs in nearly all cases, have been determined by the Department.

Many of these estates are large, containing 90 acres each, and, with improvements thereon, are valuable. In many instances, these estates are occupied as homes by one or more of the heirs, but owing to conflicting interests and to the irregular shape of the tracts involved, the lands can not be satisfactorily partitioned, and on account of the minority of some of the heirs, fee patents can not be granted to the heirs under existing laws.

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The number of minor heirs is large, and increases yearly by the death of adult heirs. Many of the heirs would like to sell their interests, but are unable to do so because others interested refuse. It has been suggested that the trust period on these allotments be allowed to expire on June 12, 1918, and that fee patents be issued, to the heirs as determined by the Department, and thus permit the division of these estates to be effected under the State Laws.

We find that the Judges of the County Courts of Brown and Outagamie Counties, Wisconsin, in which these lands are situated, are men of high character, who will undoubtedly, see that the rights of widows and minor heirs are properly protected.

The settlement of these estates becomes more complex from year to year and some means should be provided by which each heir may secure possession of his interest in an estate and to retain his share of the land if he wishes to do so. Present laws provide for the sale of estates on petition of one or more heirs, but since many may have their only homes on such land and it is desirable that each should retain his home, where possible, such sales do not serve the purpose. Our information is that the expense of division by the local courts would be moderate.

We commend this matter to Departmental consideration.

(Sgd) J. H. Hoart  
Superintendent.

(Sgd) James W. Langdon  
Inspector

(Sgd) Frank E. Brandon  
Supervisor.

As reported by the Superintendent under date of June 14, 1917, the numbers and descriptions of the allotments are as follows:

- #1358. Cyrenus Smith. Lot 21 of Sec. 31, T. 24 N. R. 19 E., 27 A.
- #1388. Dana Hill. SW/4 of SW/4 of Sec. 16, and Lot 32 of Sec. 20, T. 24 N. R. 19 E. 45 A.
- #1393. Henry Metoxen. Lots 21 & 29 of Sec. 16, T. 24 N. R. 19 E. of the 4th P. M., 44 A.
- #1405. Margaret Cooper. NW/4 of SW/4 and Lot 21 of Sec. 20, T. 24 N. R. 19 E. 46 A.
- #1415. Daniel Denny. SW/4 of SW/4 and Lot 24 of Sec. 21, T. 24 N. R. 19 E. 47.
- #1459. Philip Cornelius. Lot B of Sec. 26, T. 24 N. R. 19, 24.
- #1464. Martin Powloss. Lots 2 & 30 of Sec. 12, T. 23 N. R. 19 E of the 4th P. M. 24.
- #1465. William Peters. Lot 26, Sec. 9, T. 24 N. R. 19 E 25.
- #1479. Josiah Metoxen. Lot 9 & SW/4 of NE/4 of Sec. 9, T. 22 N. R. 19 E. 45.
- #1480. Jonas Metoxen. Lot 12 of Sec. 29, T. 24 N. R. 20, 25.
- #1496. Daniel House. Lot 7 of Sec. 28, Lot 37 of Sec. 30, and Lot 7 of Sec. 32, T. 24 N. R. 19, 26.
- #1512. Elizabeth Johnson. Lot F of Sec. 28 and NE/4 of SE/4 Sec. 29, T. 24 N. R. 19 45.
- #1513. Thomas Cornelius. Lot G of Sec. 28 and Lot 13 of Sec. 29, T. 24 N. R. 19 45.

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The Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

Under Indian Office instructions of July 24, 1917, approved by the Department July 27, directing us "to make a thorough investigation of the conditions upon the Oneida Reservation, Wisconsin, with particular reference to the necessity for a further extension of the period of trust covering allotments made to the Oneida Indians" and in connection therewith, we have the honor to report that while engaged in said work, our attention was invited to certain unclaimed or duplicate allotments that were evidently erroneously made on that reservation. The records of the Oneida agency show 13 such allotments, some of which are shown to be duplicates and others in the names of persons, who, if they ever existed, were not enrolled at the time of the allotment, have not been on the Oneida rolls since the allotment, and are unknown to any living members of the Oneida tribe of Wisconsin.

The total area of these 13 unclaimed and duplicate allotments is 467 acres, and since these lands were a part of the common property of the Wisconsin Oneidas, set apart for them by the treaty of Buffalo Creek in 1838, and since all claims were passed upon by the proper authorities at the time of the allotment, and after the lapse of 25 years no persons have claimed them as original allottees, or heirs of such allottees, we recommend that the necessary action be taken to secure the cancellation of the allotments and the sale of the land for the benefit of the tribe.

The Superintendent also reports the following five numbers are duplicates of lands that have been patented in fee or sold:

- 1358, Cyrus Smith, of 1463, Syrenus Powless, fee pat. issued.  
 1393, Henry Metoxen, of 911, Henry Metoxen, fee pat. issued.  
 1459, Philip Cornelius, of 761, same name, fee pat. issued.  
 1464, Martin Powless, of 593, same name, fee pat. issued.  
 1465, William Peters, of 1193, Wm. Webster, sold by heir.

No. 1496, Daniel House, is a duplicate of 1449, Daniel Jordan, held for his heirs.

Numbers 1388, Dana Hill; 1406, Margaret Cooper; 1415, Daniel Denny; 1479, Josiah Metoxen; 1480, Jonas Metoxen; 1512, Elizabeth Johnson, and 1513, Thomas Cornelius, are reported as unclaimed by owners or heirs and the Superintendent states that no persons of such names have been on the Oneida rolls since the allotment.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd) James W. Langlin  
Inspector.

(Sgd) Frank E. Brandon  
Supervisor.

(Sgd) J. B. Hart  
Superintendent.

JCH/ELM