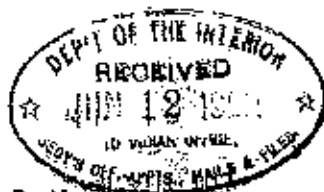


The Indian Party



ONEIDA, WIS. *March 27* 1922

The Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We, the undersigned, Oneida Indians of Wisconsin, respectfully represent as follows: We have been allotted under the Act of February 8, 1887, and under another Act of Congress it allowed the Indians to procure fee patents to their allotments if they applied for it and were recommended by the Agent to be competent to handle their own affairs. Through this channel fee patents were issued indiscriminately and which appear to have been with utter disregard as to the competency of the Indian who made the application as evidenced by his mode of living at the time and prior to the time that he entered his application and the manner in which he was parted from his allotment after he received his fee patent and in many cases before he received it, it appears that the Act allowing the issuance of fee patents prior to the twenty-five year period

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of the Competency Commission and excessive taxes are levied so that we are not able to pay them and apparently we will lose our holdings entirely through our inability to pay taxes. We are assessed for taxes although it appears that Indians who receive annuities are not citizens.

We respectfully petition your honor to cause a relief from our lands being taxed as we do not feel capable at the present time of meeting the responsibilities of full citizenship and we feel that we have been dragged into our present deplorable condition through mismanagement of our affairs at a critical period. We believe that the spirit of your Office has always been to care and protect our interests but that those in the field who are or have been entrusted with our affairs either betrayed the trust or were incompetent.

There has been many acres of our lands sold for taxes and there is a large list to be sold next June and we could not raise the money to pay the taxes and redeem them. We therefore appeal to your Office to save us from taxation for a time at least and thus save us from losing what little we have left.

Very truly yours,

A S Baird
Jones Hill
Joniah Baird
Martin Williams x es
H. H. P.

Wilson Skendall x c
Issiah Schuyler x c
Thomas Baird x es
Sam J. Skendall