

3-24-27

INDIAN OFFICE

FILES

CAUTION!

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By order of

E. B. MERITT,
Asst. Commissioner.

NEW YORK

File No.

050

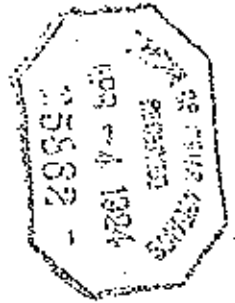


STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

CARL SHERMAN
ATTORNEY-GENERAL

ALBANY

April 2, 1924



21720-24

Department of the Interior,
Office of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:- Attention of Mr. E. B. Merett

Handwritten: J. C. ...
Beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of March 31, 1924 which relates to the claim of the Six Nations of New York Indians against the State of New York, and in reply I feel that I should report that Mr. Everett, who claims that he is now retained by the Six Nations to present their claim, called upon me today and stated that he is very anxious to have the State take up with him the matter of the claim or at least enter into a conference with him respecting the same. In the course of the conversation he said that the Indians' claim was really against the Federal government and that he intended to proceed by filing a lien or claim against some fifteen million acres of land in this State and then enter into a treaty conference with the representatives of the United States government respecting the matter. He claims that the United States government is the one really obligated to the Indians and that he intends to follow or at least pursue the course here outlined.

He also informed me that the claim which he has in charge for the Indians arises under the Treaty of 1784.

So I take it that the Six Nations of New York Indians intend to pursue the Federal and not the State government and collect their claim from it.

Very truly yours,
CARL SHERMAN,
Attorney General,

Handwritten: E. B. Merett

For

Handwritten signature
First Deputy.

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15-11-21

Minneapolis, Ontario, Canada, June 27th 1924

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The Honourable,
The Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Sir,

Referring to your letter of the 19th. ultimo, I beg to inform you that the Onidas residing in Canada, by reason of the fact that we are direct descendants of the Onidas of New York, are still a part of the five Confederate Iroquois Nations of New York, better known as the Six Nations, so acknowledged in accordance with the readings of the Wagon.

The reference made in your letter to the Iroquois Nations, leads me to believe that there is a misapprehension on your part, whereas it is the five Iroquois Nations of New York, instead of Canada.

Re-Indian Claim, I beg to call your attention to the fact that there is a body of Indians called Six Nations Club, the members of which pretend to be investigating into the alleged claims against the state of New York. The said Club profess to be the Six Nations Self Government and emphatically deny the powers and rights of the Indian Bureau or any Government in the United States to participate in the prosecution of any Indian Claim.

The five (six) Iroquois Nations do not recognize the said Six Nations Club to be any more than a spurious representative.

Should the said Club seek to deal with you through its Attorneys, viz. Whitney, Tice and Parker of New York, you will have a good idea of the client's attitude.

Hoping for the favour of an early reply.

I am, your obedient servant.

RECEIVED JUN 27 1924

P. P. Schuyler

P. P. Schuyler,
Secretary of the Confederate Tribes

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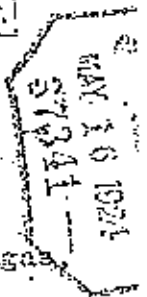
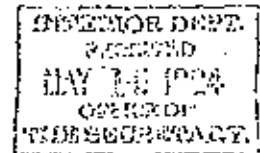
Muncey, Ontario, Canada, May 12, 1924.

The Honourable,

The Secretary of the Interior,

Washington, D. C.,

U. S. A.



Sir:

At a Council of the five (Six) Confederated Nations of Iroquois Mohonshonin, Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas, held on the Oneida Indian Reserve, Canada, on the 22nd and 23rd days of April last, the head sachem chiefs of the five confederate nations both from Canada and from the State of New York in the United States of America, were present.

The five Iroquois nations of the Confederacy were duly called for and duly assembled at the Oneida Long House to transact business, of which the following is a summary;

1. The sachem chiefs of the Iroquois nations unanimously resolved and declared that the Oneidas of Canada can only be recognized and authorized as chiefs by the five confederate nations through the Long-house chiefs where the head Oneida fire keeper William D. Cannellus, O-tats-he-teh is located.
2. The Five Iroquois Nations of the Confederacy unanimously resolved and declared that the position of Ta-Too-Da-Hoo is vacant which is the head chief of the five Iroquois nations; the former occupant having been deposed (Be-horned) on the 8th day of March last past. The said position had been occupied by one George E. Thomas until his deposition as aforesaid on the said 8th day of March last by the Women of the Mother Clan. The position will remain vacant until a new chief is chosen by the said Women of the Clan.

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U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

3. The five Iroquois nations of the Confederacy unanimously resolved and declared that they have never engaged anyone to prosecute their alleged land claims in the State of New York in the United States of America and any claims that have been presented or any attempts to prosecute in their behalf have not had their sanction or authority..

I, the undersigned, as the Secretary of the said Confederate Nations, have been instructed to communicate with you in connection with the alleged land claims in the said State of New York and I will esteem it a favor to receive your reply that this communication has reached you.

Yours truly,

P. P. Schuyler
Secy of Confederated Tribes
Muncie,
Ind., Conn.

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JUN 18 1924

ONONDAGA CHIEFS DENY AID IN IROQUOIS SUIT

Refuse Help in Litigation Over
Onondaga Indians' Claim to Land
in New York.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., July 3.—Chiefs of the Onondaga, the head tribe of the six national Indians, at a council meeting at their reservation here, refused to join the proposed litigation between the Iroquois Confederacy and the government in connection with the movement started by leaders of the Onondaga Indians of Wisconsin to recover land in New York State.

Filed by Mrs. Laura C. Kellogg, an Onondaga, several sachems and former Head Chief George Thomas, advocates of the legal battle pleaded in vain with the Onondagas to lend their support to the Iroquois Confederacy.

All the advocates of litigation gained was a promise from temporary Head Chief Gibson that he would call a general assembly of the Iroquois Confederacy and place the matter before the confederacy.

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The Indians
of the
Six Nations

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JUL 18 1924

ONONDAGA CHIEFS DENY AID IN IROQUOIS SUIT

Refuse Help in Litigation Over
Onondaga Indians' Claim to Land
in New York

SYRACUSE, N. Y., July 18.—Chiefs of the Onondaga, the head tribe of the six nations' Indians, at a council meeting at their reservation here, refused to join the proposed litigation between the Iroquois Confederacy and the government, in connection with the movement started by leaders of the Onondaga Indians of Wisconsin to recover land in New York State. Led by Mrs. Laura C. Kellogg, an Onondaga, several sachems and former Head Chief George Thomas, advocates of the legal battle pleaded in vain with the Onondagas to lend their support to the Iroquois Confederacy. All the advocates of litigation gained was a promise from temporary Head Chief Gibson that he would call a general assembly of the Iroquois Confederacy and place the matter before the confederacy.