

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN FIELD SERVICE
 203 Federal Building,
 Green Bay, Wisconsin,
 March 4, 1926.

Mr. William Skenandore,
 Oneida, Wisconsin.

My dear William:

As requested by you, I am pleased to enclose a type-written copy of a letter which you desire, together with a carbon copy for your file, and trust all is satisfactory.

Will you now do me a favor which is to enclose a note to Mr. Harrison with this letter asking him to send to you two (2) copies each of the Resolutions No's. 2 and 3 pertaining to the Six Nations Confederacy and when you get them mail them in to me in the addressed, franked envelope which I enclose, and oblige.

Yours very truly,

S. A. Bell
 S. A. Bell

*the type-written
 made for you.*

Mr. W. K. Harrison.

Forwarding above request as it came to me. The Kellogg party are now to be apprehended.

Respectfully, Wm. Skenandore.

Oneida, Wisconsin,
R. F. D. 1,
March 5, 1926.

Mr. W. K. Harrison,
Special Agent,
Salamanca, New York.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of December 9, 1925, came to hand duly in regards to the beneficiaries of a tract of unallotted land lying at Oneida, Madison county, New York, which has been under litigation for some years between the people of the State of New York and the Oneida's also of New York. The case being finally decided in the United States Court in favor of the Oneida's, the case being entitled "United States and Boylen, et al"

In the decision of the court the tract of land involved was awarded to twenty three (23) Oneida's who remained in New York after the treaty of 1842 known as the Home Party.

The stipulation in that treaty of 1842 between, the United States, the State of New York and the Oneida's.

Under Article six (6) the treaty provides: "the migrating party referred to in schedule "A" quit-claimed and renounced to the Home Party named in schedule "B" and to those who might succeed them in interest, all of the rights in the lots reserved to them. The treaty provides for the succession in interest of their successors, and not "heirs and assigns".

The state of New York had allotted the land in severalty under the state enactment of laws authorized in 1843, it is this enactment of law of 1843 authorizing the allotment of the lands in severalty of the Home Party claim that enabled some of the Oneida's to later on dispose of their property and rights, which was recently set aside by the United States Court of having no effect. The Court said "A tribe could not sell, nor could the individual members, for they have not an undivided interest in tribal lands, nor alienable interest in any particular tract. "Franklin & Lynch, 233 U. S. 269, 34 Sup. Ct. 505, 582, Ed. 954; Gritts & Fisher, 224 U. S. 640, 32 Sup. Ct. 580, 562, Ed. 928". The record here shows clearly that the Oneida Indians hold as tenants in common. Even under the State enactment, they were subject to the restrictions as to mode and manner of making conveyances, and these conditions have not been complied with in the attempted conveyance here in question.

Among the parties to dispose of the Home Party claim under the authority of the State enactment of 1843 was my father, John Schandoah, known as such, at the time of his death, February 29, 1920, and known here as John L. W. Skenandore, leaving a wife, Charlotte Skenandore and three (3) children, Elias, William and Ida, also five (5) grand children, Reginald, Thelma, Dell, Lawrence and Woodrow Peters, children of Alice, Woodrow having died since.

We, the children left being the grand-children of Daniel Schandoah who was born on the Home Party lands and died there some time in 1880. The name of the wife of Daniel Schandoah, our grand-mother, is unknown to us. The children of Daniel Schandoah were Abraham, Thomas, John, Daniel Jr., Catherine and Melinda, the last two are daughters still alive and are named as beneficiaries to their parents Home Party claim.

We, the children and grand-children of John, wish to establish our rights to the Home Party claim on the grounds that if our aunt's Catherine Burning and Melinda John, sisters to our father, John, are named as successors, we, the children of John, are of the opinion that our father, John, had a claim in the Home Party lands and that since he has died, the legacy descends to his children and grand-children as successors.

We, having consulted the Commissioner of Indian Affairs about the matter, which was referred to you as Special Agent for the New York Indians to get for us the necessary information sought.

Under date of December 9, 1925, you stated as follows for matter of discussion, 1st., "After receiving your letter of November 9th., making inquiries about some of the members of the Oneida Tribe of Indians, I wrote to one of the well known and informed members of that Tribe and he tells me that it appears that the land of Daniel Schandoah and his mother's was sold to the State of New York with others what is known as the Second Christian Party. I am informed that he has two (2) daughters living at Oneida Reservation who are his heirs".

2nd., "I am told that Anthony Antone has relatives living at Oneida and Onondaga Reservation, William, George and Mary Jacobs are her nephew and niece".

3d., "Should you desire further information in this matter, by writing to Mr. William H. Rockwell, Oneida, New York, R. F. D., I think he will be able to give you more details as I understand that he has or expects to prepare a genealogy which will include these people".

Now I wish to discuss the first paragraph of your statement.

1st., Daniel Schanandoah was one of the parties I had inquired about in my letter to you on November 9th., I had not inquired to Daniel Schanandoah's mother, but the name of his first wife, the mother of Catherine Buring and Melinda John who are named heirs to Daniel Schanandoah's interests.

2nd. As to Anthony Antone who had never sold his interest of the Home Party claim, also as one of the Original twenty three (23) Oneida's named in the treaty of 1842 in schedule "B" known as the Home Party, came here later on, on a visit to the Oneida Reservation in Wisconsin. Anthony Antone died here in 1885, leaving two (2) daughters and a son. The daughters having married and each raised a family who are living to-day.

The names of the daughters of Anthony Antone are Mary Antone and Jerusha Lucy Antone and by marriage Mary Antone Danforth to Daniel Danforth. The other daughter, Jerusha Lucy Antone Doxtater to Cornelius Doxtater.

The children of Mary Antone Danforth who are still living are:-

Celicia Metoxen, born January 12, 1873.
William Danforth, born February 4, 1877.
Alfred Danforth, born - - - - - 1879.
Thomas Danforth, born January 25, 1881.
Herman Danforth, born September 8, 1884.
Mary Hill, - - - born February 1, 1895.

Those that are dead, Jane Danforth Webster, having married and left two (2) boys, Isaac and George Webster. Neddie, Emma, Lucinda, Edward A., Susan and Margaret Danforth all having died without leaving any children.

The children left by the other daughter, Jerusha Lucy Doxtater who are living as claimants of the interests of Anthony Antone's Home Party claim are:-

Those living,
Chauncey Doxtater, born, September 15, 1882.
Jane Lafayette Webster, born, February 28, 1884.
Nancy Ira Cornelius, born, April 30, 1887.
Mary Doxtater, born, April 30, 1889.
Elizabeth Doxtater, born, January 26, 1897.

Those dead but leaving children:-

Abraham Doxtater, born, September 15, 1875, died April 1, 1923, left a wife, Eliza and six (6) children.

Josephine Frank Carroll, born, January 24, 1892, died, June, 1923, left one (1) child, Howard. Those that are dead without leaving any children: Peter Jonah Doxtater, born, December 25, 1880. Hannah Doxtater, born, April, 1894, died when about seven (7) months old.

In discussing the relations of Anthony Antone as to where his interests should descend, it is a confirmed fact that the grand-children of Anthony Antone are successors to his interests before it descends to the nephew and niece *as* by Rockwell, as heirs to the interests of Anthony Antone.

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3rd., In consideration of the suggestion of getting in touch with Mr. William H. Rockwell of Oneida, New York, who is preparing a genealogy which will include only those that live in New York, it would be contrary to the human instincts if we the Oneida's of Wisconsin who are so closely related to some of the original twenty three (23) Oneida's named in schedule "B" the Home Party of 1842 treaty without contesting for our rights.

We have abandoned our correspondence with Mr. William H. Rockwell as you have suggested for the reason that we have been in touch with him on these matters for the last three (3) years. We have forwarded to him something like three hundred (\$300.00) dollars for the preparation of the genealogy which he states he is preparing, so far we have not received any satisfactory service from him for the money expended ~~for~~ a settlement or reaching an understanding about the Home Party claim, therefore we are seeking elsewhere for information on these matters.

The specific information desired in this case and the purpose of this letter is as follows:-

1st., We the grand-children of Daniel Schanandoah wish to know how the daughters of Daniel Schanandoah, namely, Catherine Burning and Melinda John, our aunts, become heirs to the Home Party claim under the protection of the treaty of 1842 that we may likewise claim the same.

2nd., Both for the grand-children of Daniel Schanandoah and Anthony Antone living here at Oneida, Wisconsin, wish to have it understood that there are descendants living here to-day that are entitled to the benefits of the Home Party claim ~~of~~ Oneida, New York, through our grand-parents, Daniel Schanandoah and his wife, and Anthony Antone, and further more to have our names entered into the records as claimants of the Home Party lands located at Oneida, Madison County, New York, according to the decision of the United States Courts.

We wish to have ^{you} secure the genealogy from Mr. Rockwell when ready and pass it on to me in concrete form. We further wish to have our case thoroughly investigated.

Let me hear from you as soon as convenient.

Respectfully yours,

William Skenandore. *Wm. Skenandore*