

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

CHICAGO, ILL.

Buffalo, N.Y.

7/19/27

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Edward J. Peede.

HENRY DOKTATEK

INDIAN RESERVATION MATTER.

Buffalo File #70-51.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
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William H. Rockwell, Chief of the Onondaga Indian Tribe, was interviewed on the Onondaga Indian Reservation at Onondaga, N.Y. and stated that he, Rockwell, made a trip to Green Bay, Wis. over two years ago, going at the solicitation of F.P. Silverwood, Attorney for Mr. F.L. Goethe, and acted as an interpreter for the subject Henry Doktatek, Onondaga Indian, and witnessed at the time a certain document signed by the subject. At the time according to Rockwell there was no mention of a promissory note nor did the subject ever receive any money from Goethe, the document in question being an agreement, whereby the subject would be allowed to remain on subject's land at Green Bay, Wis. in consideration of acknowledging certain taxes paid by Goethe on land in the name of the subject which was sold by the State of Wisconsin for taxes and supposed to have been purchased by F.L. Goethe. Chief Rockwell further stated that any other claims by Goethe and the latter's Attorney were false and apparently Goethe and Silverwood are endeavoring to acquire the land of the subject through fraud. As the subject is known to have refused to accept a patent from the U.S. Government and on account of subject's incapacity cannot be forced to accept U.S. citizenship.
R.M.O.

REFERENCE - Report of Agent SIMS E. LHRKO, Chicago, Ill., dated June 22, 1927.

At Onondaga, N.Y. WILLIAM H. ROCKWELL, referred to in Agent LHRKO'S report, is well known at Onondaga, N.Y. being the Chief of the

E.O. Strickland Acting

Att. Div. #2 Washington-6 Buffalo-2
Chicago-5 (1 U.S. Atty. Milwaukee)
Washington Local-1 Buffalo

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Oneida Indian Tribe. Agent interviewed Chief ROCKWELL on the Oneida Indian Reservation with respect to ROCKWELL'S signing as a witness on an alleged mortgage in favor of F.L. GORTHE. In this connection, CHIEF ROCKWELL stated that over two years ago at the solicitation of T.F. SILVERWOOD an Attorney for one F.L. GORTHE, he, ROCKWELL, made a trip to Green Bay, Wisconsin and acted in the capacity of interpreter for the subject; that at the time there was a certain agreement drawn up by T.F. SILVERWOOD for his client F.L. GORTHE, whereby it was agreed that in consideration of the subject signing this agreement subject acknowledged payment of prior liens for taxes on subject's land which were acquired through sale by the State of Wisconsin to F.L. GORTHE, that the subject would be allowed to remain on subject's premises, the agreement in question being merely an acknowledgment of the payment of such taxes by GORTHE. At the time Chief ROCKWELL stated that SILVERWOOD informed him that the amount of taxes was about \$714.00 but after a secret conference with GORTHE the demand for taxes was then increased to over \$900.00.

According to Chief ROCKWELL there was no mention of a promissory note made by the subject nor the receipt of any money by the subject from F.L. GORTHE. CHIEF ROCKWELL informed this agent that he merely witnessed the document as a matter of fact knowing that the subject's land could not have been sold for taxes by the State of Wisconsin inasmuch as the subject refused to accept a patent from the Government and because of subject's incompetency subject could not be forced to accept U.S. citizenship. Chief ROCKWELL appears to be a brilliant Indian working constantly in behalf of the Oneida Indians. According to CHIEF ROCKWELL, he has already contested and has been successful in a certain litigation in the Federal court, entitled U.S. vs BRYAN, which is similar in every respect to the conditions now confronting the subject.

In concluding interview with CHIEF ROCKWELL the latter volunteered information that SILVERWOOD and GORTHE do not bear a good reputation among the Indians at Green Bay, Wisconsin, and that GORTHE and SILVERWOOD are probably endeavoring to acquire the land of the subject through fraudulent measures.

CASE REFERRED BACK TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN, no further action here.