

Conditions

INDIAN OFFICE

FILES

CAUTION!

Positively no papers to be added to or taken from this file, except by an employee of the Mails and Files Division.

Standard Party

SUB-MARGINAL

863 1934

KESHENA

File No.

310

21
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FIELD SERVICE

Koshena Indian Agency

Koshena, Wisconsin

April 18, 1935

APR 23 1935
21113

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

It is desired to again call the attention of the Office to the need of providing land for the Oneida Indians located in the State of Wisconsin and in the neighborhood of Green Bay. For the information of the Office considerable effort was made to obtain sub-marginal land within the area which originally comprised the Oneida Indian Reservation, but inasmuch as this property is possibly the highest type of agricultural land in the State it was impossible to obtain any that might possibly be classed as sub-marginal. The value of this land averages about thirty to fifty dollars per acre.

N.B.
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(Conditions among the Oneida people are extremely bad, with practically every Indian on relief, and very little land held in Indian ownership. In the Village of Oneida, where the agency was originally located, as many as four and five houses can be found grouped on one small lot of land with no garden room and several families occupying each house.)

I am bringing this matter again to the attention of the Office for the express purpose of obtaining some land if money is made available in this Congress for the rehabilitation of landless Indians. At this time, the enrolled Oneidas desiring relief will amount to approximately eight hundred individuals with possibly three hundred families. If a sizable purchase could be made through funds under the Wheeler-Howard Act my impression is that the property could be obtained within the original Oneida reservation, through such proceedings as the Office might work out under the provisions of the bill.

The Oneida people are very well organized and have been holding meetings regularly, enthusiastically waiting for land relief of some character. A considerable number of them have been employed from time to time on the Menominee Reservation. They are energetic, hard-working people. I know of no condition within this area that is in such dire need of assistance.

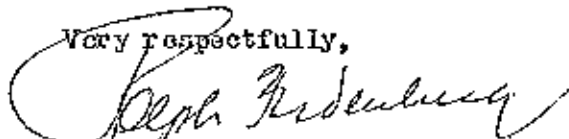
In the matter of the Stockbridge Indians who are located adjoining the Menominee reservation ample provisions are being made to take care of their land requirements through the sub-marginal land program. At this writing we have under option approximately fifteen thousand acres

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

- 2 -

of land and possibly will be able to obtain close to eighteen thousand acres within the prescribed period of option. I am looking forward with interest to the action of the Office on this matter in the case of the Oneida Indians.

Very respectfully,



Ralph Fredenberg
Superintendent

RF/ef

cc - Morris Wheelock
Oneida, Wis.

L-Sub.
66129-34
C S R

Mr. Wm. Ekenandore,
c/o Supt., Koshena Agency,
Keshena, Wisconsin.

JAN 22 1935

*Stewart
Fairbairn*

My dear Mr. Ekenandore:

The undated statement and petition signed by you and eight others, with reference to the land needs and desires of the Oneida Indians, has been received.

The contents have been noted and every effort will be made to secure some land which will be suitable and satisfactory for your use. It will be impossible, however, to secure the original Oneida reservation in its entirety for your use.

The Act of April 16, 1934, referred to in your petition authorizes cooperative agreements between the Federal and State governments for the welfare of Indians within the States, and the consummation of such agreements is being given earnest consideration in this Office.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) John Collier

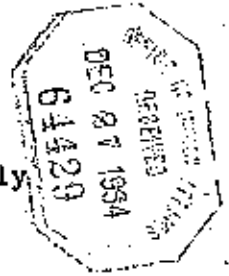
Commissioner.

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cc -- Supt. Koshena Agency, Keshena, Wisconsin

James W. Balser, Project Director, Ashland, Wisconsin.

To: Indian Bureau at Washington, D. C.,
and
To: Honorable John Collier,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.



We, the Oneida Indians of Wisconsin, respectfully
represent:

(1) That the original acreage composing the Oneida
Reservation, and all the lands immediately adjacent thereto
for many miles distant, are agricultural and now highly developed
as such;

(2) That there are no sub-marginal lands, such as
described in the letter of the Department of December 6th, 1934,
adjoining said Reservation, or anywhere within many miles of it;

(3) No provision can meet our situation except the
restoration of our original Reservation, under the Treaty of
January 15th, 1838;

(4) In the meantime, pending the determination of all
our matters, we request the assistances provided by the Act of
April ¹⁶ 12th, 1934 and request that immediate action be taken
thereunder. (April 16, 1934, c. 147, Sec. 4, 48 STAT.)

11/3/34
Rec'd
Lancaster
Illinois

Wm. Skerandore, Presiding Chief Oneida Indian Council
Wallace House, Chief
Walter R. House, Chief
Martin J. Whelan, Chief
Andrew Baetzee, Chief
Hyson John Chief

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(1) That the original acreage composing the Oneida Reservation, and all the lands immediately adjacent thereto for many miles distant, are agricultural and now highly developed as such;

(2) That there are no sub-marginal lands, such as described in the letter of the Department of December 6th, 1934, adjoining said Reservation, or anywhere within many miles of it;

(3) No provision can meet our situation except the restoration of our original Reservation, under the Treaty of January 15th, 1838;

(4) In the meantime, pending the determination of all our matters, we request the assistances provided by the Act of April 1⁶th, 1934 and request that immediate action be taken thereunder. (April 16, 1934, p. 147, Sec. 4, 48 STAT.)

Wm. Skerandore, Presiding Chief Oneida Indian Council

Wallace House, Chief

Walter R. House, Chief

Martin F. Wheeler, Chief

Andrew Beattie, Chief

Hyson John, Chief

Charles Conklin, Chief

Nelson Skerandore, Chief

James O. Snyder, Chief