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ORONDAGA

Albany, New York  
April 15, 1943.

Charles H. Berry, Supt.  
807 Stock Exchange Building,  
Buffalo, New York.

Dear Sir:

I am writing in behalf of the Oneidas  
of the Onondaga Indian Reservation. We as  
a tribe of Oneidas have come to the conclusion  
that if we must live as other Indians do, we  
must act now. We as a people of Oneidas,  
have by the kindness of the Onondagas, shared  
their land as far as to have a shelter over  
~~our heads and a shelter from the storm.~~

But we are realizing at this time, when  
our boys that have worked for our living are  
being taken away to serve our country - that  
we as a people must have lands to plant and  
raise our own meat. I am sure you would  
know more of the situation of our tribe of  
Oneidas on this Reservation. So we have decided  
as a tribe of more than forty families, and  
about two hundred adults and children, that  
we must plead to the Governor of New York  
State to aid us in settling on the lands that

we know are ours. Our Treaty at Fort Schuyler, formerly called Fort Stanwix in 1788, the Onondaga people reserved lands for their posterity forever. I have seen the map in a Surveyors office some time ago. The map outlines half mile squares at the distance of every six miles along the northern shore of Onondaga Lake also one half mile in breadth on each side of Fish Creek, the length of forty miles, beginning at Sylvan Beach now, so called State lands today. We as a people are tired of being called intruders and would like to live, and own, more than just hand to mouth. Our tribe of Onondagas have always proved loyal Americans in peace time and in war time. We feel privileged to ask this favor at this critical time for our people. If this indenture is beyond you, please forward it to the right person. We shall be waiting and holding our breaths hoping there will be justice done in our behalf.

The Onondaga of the Onondaga Reservation  
c/o Mrs. Mary Winder  
Tidwell, New York 7