

Washington January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1851

Memorial of Daniel Bread, one of the Chiefs and headmen of the Oneida Indians at Green Bay, in the state of Wisconsin, to the Honorable Luke Lea, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The memorialists would respectfully represent, that in the commencement of the policy, under President Monroe, of removing the various Indian Tribes within the states, beyond their limits, he was one among others of the Indians of New York, who, at the instance and solicitation of the government, took an active part and cooperated with the government, in trying to carry out that policy with respect to the Indians. In advance of any permanent arrangement being adopted by the government, he and other prominent individuals, induced a considerable number of their brethren to remove and settle in the vicinity of Green Bay, when they had, at their own expense, secured from the Menominees the privilege of residing on their lands. Afterward, the government became anxious to purchase a large portion of the country owned by the Menominees, and early in the year 1831, a delegation of that tribe was brought to Washington City to be negotiated with for that purchase. The interests and welfare of the New York Indians who had purchased the right to reside on a portion of the Menominee lands, where they had made improvements being deeply involved in the contemplated measure, a delegation of those Indians came to Washington at the same time, to watch over and protect their rights. A treaty was made with the Menominees on the 8th day of February 1831 and laid before the Senate but not acted on at that Session. Notwithstanding the efforts of the delegation of the New York Indians to prevent such a result, the provisions of that treaty materially interfered with the just rights and interests of those Indians, as established together previous arrangements with the Menominees. It assigned them lands other than those they were entitled to, and which were unsuitable for them. They were therefore opposed to the ratification of the treaty, unless amended in such manner as to do them justice. In order to effect this end, the memorialist came to Washington as their delegate to represent their rights and claim before the Senate at the next session of that honorable body. He succeeded in his mission; the treaty being ratified with an amendment, requiring a new and different arrangement to be made for the New York Indians. The memorialist was thus subjected to heavy expenses, and in applying to having them paid by the government, as they had been on his previous visit, and as was customary in all similar cases at the time, he met with refusal, the reason of which, he clearly understood, was, that he had opposed the treaty and was instrumental in having it amended; and that President Jackson was angry with him therefore, and had directed that his expenses should not be paid. This decision subjected the memorialist to great hardship and embarrassment, as his brethren being poor he had to find the funds to meet his expenses, which exhausted all his own limited means as well as his credit in raising more. As stated, his expenses were very heavy: the journey was along one, traveling at the time expensive, and being in this city when he was compelled to remaining some four months very high. His necessary and unavoidable expenditures, up to the time of his return home, amounted to at least seven hundred dollars, and he conscientiously believes that sum would not indemnify him for his actual outlay, to say nothing of his lost time. He was unable to keep any account on paper of his expenses, and did not consider it necessary,

as the government always in such cases made a liberal estimate of such expenses, and a corresponding allowance therefore.

The amendment made to the treaty by the Senate, required a specific arrangement to be made for the benefit of the New York Indians and rendered further negotiations with the Menominees necessary; and hence the displeasure of President Jackson with Memorialist Governor Porter of Michigan was appointed to conduct those negotiations. Considerable difficulty ensued: The Menominees would not agree to the arrangement required by the amendment of the Senate, and the only one different from that originally provided for, to which they could be induced to consent, was not satisfactory to the New York Indians. The undersigned, however, and others, seeing that it was the only arrangement practical, and the best that could be made for their brethren, asserted themselves and succeeded in inducing their brethren to agree to it. It was thus consummated and afterward ratified by the Senate. At the final Council the undersigned brought to the notice of the United States Commissioners, Governor Porter, his claim for his expenses as delegate to Washington the previous Winter. It was distinctly recognized as valid and just by that officer, and he promised that it should be paid. He further promised that, for that purpose, he would make the necessary representations to the Department of Washington, but the undersigned has not been able to learn that he ever did so. In consequence of Governor Porter death, and the great distance of the undersigned from Washington, all their efforts heretofore to obtain payment of his claim have failed. He prays that the Commissioner will take it into consideration and cause justice to be extended to him.

Very respectfully  
Your obedient servant  
Daniel Bread

Washington January 23rd 1850