

Buffalo Creek Reservation

January 1838.

To the Hon R. H. Gillet

Comdr &c

Sir:

I will answer in a few words your inquiry respecting the character of the names to the Treaty, which you are about concluding as between the United States and the Six Nations.

I am now seventy seven years old, and have been Head Chief of the Tuscarora Nation fifty years. I have attended all the treaties between the United States and the Six Nations - [my name is to the treaty of 1794] and I can safely affirm that I have never before seen so many influential and respectable names to any treaty as to the present one.

I am told that the opposition party among the Senecas have undertaken in reference to this treaty to make some young men recently into Chiefs - I do not consider this a regular proceeding - It has not been the Indian practice to recognise Chiefs made for such a purpose or by a faction.

The Chiefs who have signed on the part of the Senecas are those who have been known to the Government ever since its first negotiations with the Indians - & with them are most of the active, influential and educated men among them.

I think therefore you may safely represent to the Government under whose orders & authority you are acting, that this is a good & valid treaty and ought to be ratified

respectfully yr friend
Nicholas Cusick

(Copy)

Buffalo Creek August 29th 1838

My friends,
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I have just received the communication you have addressed to me, dated to day. You desire me to answer several distinct questions.

1st Whether in case the Senecas should assent to these Senate amendments to the Treaty made with ~~them~~ by me as Commissioner on the part of the Government, your people would be permitted to accompany the Surveyors in laying out the country assigned to the New York Senecas at the West?

I will here state that the Government has not authorized me to make any arrangements on this, or any other subject about which you inquire, but I have no hesitation in expressing my belief that your people would be permitted to be present. Further, I think it obviously proper, that they should be present, and well I know what Country is set off for you & I am certain that it corresponds ^{very} the Treaty. You are parties to the Compact, I as much entitled to be present as the representative of the Government. Your suggestions, in such matters as are the subjects of discussion on the part of the Government might advantageously aid its Agents in meeting your wishes.

2^d You express you desire that the Country should be so laid off as to enable you to have timber sufficient for your accommodation, & as convenient as possible, for this reasonable request. I have no doubt the Government will gratify you to the fullest extent. I am fully authorized to say to you, that there is sufficient timber land there for you use, and that you shall have as much as you need, more than this you cannot desire.

3^d You desire to be informed whether the Expenses of your attending to the Survey of your Lands would be borne by the United States?

I answer, that it is my opinion the United States will bear the Expenses necessarily incurred in the Survey, but whether the Amount will be charged over, as a part of the \$400,000, fund, I am unable to advise you.

4th You wish to be informed whether this Survey can take place next winter or earlier? I cannot inform you, as it will doubtless be made as early as Congress makes an appropriation therefor. It is not impossible that the Department may have the money now at its disposal so as to do it earlier than the meeting of Congress.

5th You enquire whether in case the Appointment should be tendered me by the Government, I would accept the Superintendency of the Survey? I answer that I know of nothing in my business that would prevent me from accepting - having become attached to your people in my intercourse with them, I should much like to be of service to them. I should also like to see the Western Country feeling some disposition to locate myself where there is a milder climate, than that in which I now reside. Such a duty would afford me a good opportunity of seeing that part of our Country.

Yours
Capt Pollard
& others
Seneca
Chiefs

Wm O. Lest
A. H. Hill