

PETITION

OF

A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF ILLINOIS,

PRAYING

*The establishment of a land office at "Kishwaukee," in that State.*

JANUARY 14, 1839.

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:*

We, your petitioners, citizens of the northern interior section of the State of Illinois, aware of the inconvenience which we, in common with a large number of citizens in this part of the State, are liable, in living remote from a land office, most respectfully desire of your honorable bodies your attention to the subject, and the causes, hereinafter stated, which induce us to make this application.

The section of country within eighty miles square, called the Rock river district, lying south of the northern Illinois State line, and adjoining the southerly line of the Wisconsin Territory, is owned by the United States. This tract of country was nearly uninhabited, except by savages, at the close of the Black Hawk war of 1833; since that period it has settled, and is fast becoming the most populous part of the great State of which it forms about one-quarter; and, a large proportion of this district, particularly on Rock river and its tributaries, is densely settled by *actual cultivators of the soil*, who are expecting to obtain titles to the lands improved by them under the act of Congress of February 22, 1838.

With these views, your petitioners would respectfully represent to your honorable bodies that the nearest land offices are at Chicago and Galena, each a distance of about ninety miles east and west from the centre of this district by direct lines, and about one hundred miles by roads usually travelled. The expenses of travelling to, and attending at, these offices in populous towns, either to attend the public sales or prove pre-emption rights, will be severely felt by the citizens and residents of northern Illinois in the loss of time and money, as well as in the inconveniences consequent upon making long journeys in a new country, and many will scarcely find themselves able to furnish the purchase money for the farms they have improved. A large portion of the early settlers here already have encountered great difficulties and expenses in emigrating from the more eastern States, and the cash expense of attending the nearest land office would be

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equal to one-fourth or one-fifth of the cost of a pre-emptive farm of eighty acres, and a protracted sale would increase it considerably.

These are some of the causes important to the citizens of Rock river; but there are other considerations which may be considered advantageous to the United States by the establishing a land office in a district favored by superior local advantages, to wit: a healthy climate, a good soil for cultivation, a navigable river with abundant tributaries, affording ample water power, &c.

The most central point on Rock river, in this district, is at the junction of the Kishwaukee river with Rock river, which is equally distant from each of the above named land offices; therefore, we pray that your honorable bodies may enact a law for the establishment of a land office in the town of "*Kishwaukee*," (which town is at the confluence of the river of the same name, and Rock river,) in the county of Winnebago, and State of Illinois.

And, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

ILLINOIS, November, 1838.

Warner Earle	William Brown
Simeon Towle	Thomas Thatcher
Francis A. Stowell	M. Baubine
George W. Lee	Charles Brown
Benjamin Harris	Elchen Tuffts
H. Kimball	George Watson
John J. Parker	Samuel Crampton
Isaiah Cortright	Sprigh Hartshorn
Daniel E. Cortright	Erastus Norton
Anthony T. Cortright	Hugh Hartshorn
Alexander B. Putament	John Foster
John Zaleski	William Spencer
Francis Jasenski	John Tomkins
Anthony Turck	Nathaniel Cornell, jr.
William Jones	Samuel J. Jones
D. S. Shumway	A. E. Clark
Benjamin Arnold	William Clark
John Hartson	Robert F. Watson
Lewis Shumway	Simeon C. Swened
William Patterson	Dwight Brinsmade
Egbert Worden	Samuel Brown
Abel Hogaboom	Wm. R. Wheeler
Leonard Wells	William Clark
H. T. Buil	John H. Wheeler
William R. Morley	David Jones
P. H. Buel	James Keeler
N. S. Bishop	Truman Keeler
Wm. Bishop	Thomas Jones
David Hartson	Perley J. Shumway
H. H. Hartson	Erastus Shumway
Grover E. Hartson	Benjamin H. Bodwell
H. Moore	Phin. Johnson
George Tomson	A. Chapman
William Glendenig	A. Andrus
Orville W. Turk	Charles Eastman
Ira Douglass	David Hemstock

William H. Johnson  
 Isaac M. Johnson  
 Daniel Baker  
 Edmund Braintree  
 Elias Scott  
 Horatio Hartson  
 Michael Gibson  
 Joseph D. Morris  
 Albert Morris  
 Orin B. Smith  
 John F. Smith  
 Phineas M. Johnson  
 Ebenezer St. John  
 Aaron B. Davis  
 E. A. Mulford  
 Aaron Butterfield  
 Benona Burch  
 S. R. Phinney  
 R. Hogeboom  
 John F. Osgood  
 Wm. Coulson  
 H. A. Warren  
 John McCoy  
 Ephraim Sield  
 Edward Warren  
 Wm. Emerson  
 John Emerson  
 David A. Holt  
 Washington Moore  
 S. B. Hoadley  
 James Bunker  
 Charles M. Blake  
 Oliver Leonard  
 Regal S. Merryfield  
 J. C. Merryfield  
 Josiah Merryfield  
 John Merryfield  
 Hugh Hartshorn, jr.  
 Andrew Shepard  
 Isaac Norton  
 G. G. Norton  
 A. F. Brown  
 Dauphin Brown  
 James M. Clayton  
 Theron P. Parker  
 Ebenezer Brown  
 J. S. Knowlton

Aaron Peterson  
 Thomas Downes  
 Isaac Blakely  
 Robert Bell  
 Ephraim Crocker  
 Robert Smith  
 Henry P. Williams  
 Abel Atwater  
 O. C. Magoon  
 John Briggs  
 Richard Briggs  
 William Briggs  
 Cyrus A. Kingsly  
 Samuel B. Hall  
 S. L. Hall  
 Nelson S. Bishop  
 Thomas Jones  
 John Jones  
 Nathan Wison  
 Levi Moulthrop  
 E. P. Moulthrop  
 Edward Murphy  
 Bradford James  
 Elbridge G. James  
 Charles Shumway  
 Francis Wisson  
 William S. Griggs  
 Orins Bottom  
 John Seymour  
 John G. Cornell  
 John Alree  
 L. Regby  
 George Randal  
 William Randal  
 John Randal, jr.  
 John Randal  
 Riley Hoadley  
 Seth Nobles  
 Paul D. Taylor  
 George Taylor  
 Jared Hecox  
 John McColester  
 Samuel Hoadley  
 Robert Rothwell  
 Ephraim Allen  
 Daniel Goodhue