

PETITION

OF THE

SAINT REGIS INDIANS, OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, NEW YORK,

PRAYING

To be allowed to remain upon their reservation.

JANUARY 6, 1880.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

SAINT REGIS INDIAN RESERVATION,
County of Franklin, State of New York, December 5, 1879.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, greeting :

We, the Saint Regis Indians, residing in Franklin County, State of New York, hereby declare that it is the sincere desire among our people to remain at our home so long as our generation shall exist. Our personal observation leads to the experience that it is not beneficial for our people to emigrate far west. It is unreasonable, unjust, to lay the foundation, to make it appear that it is necessary that our people should seek a new home on the ground of the rapid increase of the white settlements around us. The population among the whites is increasing continually, and seeking a new home far west. We had a long deliberation upon this subject, and we have come to the conclusion that we had better remain at our home permanently which our heavenly Father, who created all things, and whose wisdom is unsurpassed, has given us to be our home. The duty devolved upon us is to follow the example of our white neighbors; to cultivate our land, and encourage our people to educate their children how to be industrious.

Here is a general provision :

ARTICLE 1. The several tribes of the New York Indians, the names of whose chiefs, headmen, warriors, and representatives are hereunto annexed, in consideration of the premises above recited, and the covenants hereinafter contained to be performed on the part of the United States, hereby cede and relinquish to the United States all their right, title, and interest to the lands secured to them at Green Bay by the Menomonee treaty of 1831, excepting the following tract, on which a part of the New York Indians now reside: Beginning at the southwesterly corner of the French grants, at Green Bay, and running thence southwardly to a point on a line to be run from the Little Cocaclin, parallel to a line of the French grants, and six miles from Fox River; from thence

on said parallel line northwardly six miles; from thence eastwardly to a point on the northeast line of the Indian lands, and being at right angles to the same.

ARTICLE 2. In consideration of the above cession and relinquishment on the part of the tribes of the New York Indians, and in order to manifest the deep interest of the United States in the future peace and prosperity of the New York Indians, the United States agree to set apart the following tract of country, situated directly west of the State of Missouri, as a permanent home for all the New York Indians residing in the State of New York, or in Wisconsin, or elsewhere in the United States, as follows, to wit: Beginning on the west line of the State of Missouri, at the northeast corner of the Cherokee tract, and running thence north along the west line of the State of Missouri twenty-seven miles to the southerly line of the Miami land; thence west so far as shall be necessary by running a line at right angles and parallel to the west line aforesaid to the Osage lands; and thence easterly along the Osage and Cherokee lands to the place of beginning, to include 1,824,000 acres of land, being 320 acres for each soul of said Indians as their numbers are at present computed, to have and to hold the same in fee-simple to the said tribes or nations of Indians, by patent from the President of the United States, issued in conformity with the provisions of the third section of the act entitled "An act to provide for an exchange of lands with the Indians residing in any of the States or Territories, and for their removal west of the Mississippi," approved on the 28th day of May, 1830, with full power and authority in the said Indians to divide said lands among the different tribes, nations, or bands, in severalty, with the right to sell and convey to and from each other, under such laws and regulations as may be adopted by the respective tribes acting by themselves, or by a general council of the said New York Indians acting for all the tribes collectively. It is understood and agreed that the above-described country is intended as a future home for the following tribes, to wit: The Senecas, Onondagas, Cayugas, Tuscaroras, Oneidas, Saint Regis, Stockbridges, Munsees, and Brothertowns, residing in the State of New York; and the same to be divided equally among them according to their respective numbers as mentioned in a schedule hereunto annexed.

ARTICLE 3. It is further agreed that such of the tribes of New York Indians as do not accept and agree to remove to the country set apart for their new homes within five years, or such other time as the President may from time to time appoint, shall forfeit all interest in the lands so set apart to the United States.

Supplemental article to the treaty concluded at Buffalo Creek, in the State of New York, dated January 15, 1839.

The undersigned chiefs and headmen of the Saint Regis Indians, residing in the State of New York, having heard a copy of said treaty read by Ransom H. Gillet, the commissioner who concluded the treaty on the part of the United States, and he having fully and publicly explained the same, and believing the provisions of the said treaty to be very liberal on the part of the United States, and calculated to be highly beneficial to the New York Indians, including the Saint Regis, who are embraced in its provisions, do hereby assent to every part of the said treaty, and approve the same. And it is further agreed that any of the Saint Regis Indians who wish to do so shall be at liberty to remove to the same country at any time hereafter within the time specified in this

treaty; but under it the government shall not compel them to remove. The United States will, within one year after the ratification of this treaty, pay over to the American party of said Indians \$1,000, part of the sum of \$5,000 mentioned in the special provisions for the Saint Regis Indians, anything in the article contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Done at the council of Saint Regis this thirteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight.

Witness our hands and twenty-two names.

The foregoing was executed in our presence.

A. K. WILLIAMS,

Agent on the part of New York for the Saint Regis Indians.

W. L. GRAY, *Interpreter.*

OWEN + DONNELLY.

his
mark.

SAY SAREE.

Pay over to the American party of said Indians \$1,000, part of the sum of \$5,000 mentioned in the special provisions for the Saint Regis Indians, anything in the article contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Done at the council house of Saint Regis, this thirteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight.

Witness our hands and seals.

Twenty-two names.

The United States of America paid to the Tonawanda band of Indians some years ago, relinquishing their rights and title of lands now in the State of Kansas.

We, the Saint Regis Indians residing in the State of New York, do hereby declare that it is the wish among our people to remain where we are, and to be our permanent home so long as shall exist the name of Saint Regis Indians. We are fully contented with our home which our heavenly Father has given us.

TREATY 1838.

We, the undersigned sachem, chiefs, and headmen of the American party of the Saint Regis Indians residing in the State of New York, do hereby give our free and voluntary assent to the foregoing treaty as amended by the Senate of the United States on the 11th day of June, 1838, the same having been submitted to us by Ransom H. Gillet, a commissioner on the part of the United States, and fully and fairly explained by him to our tribe in council assembled. The Saint Regis Indians shall not be compelled to remain under the treaty or amendment.

Dated October 9, 1838.

Thirty names.

We, the undersigned chiefs and headmen of the American party of the Saint Regis Indians residing in the State of New York, do hereby surrender all our rights and title of lands now in the State of Kansas to the United States, for 320 acres for each soul, for \$1 per acre. And the

United States shall pay the interest to the American party of the Saint Regis Indians annually, so long as the waters shall continually run.

Your petitioners will ever pray.

(Signed:)

CHIEFS.

Lewey Gray, his x mark.
 Phillip Tarble, his x mark.
 Lewey Tarble, his x mark.
 Thomas Ransom, his x mark.
 Thomas Terance, his x mark.
 John Ransom, 2d, his x mark.
 John Bruce, his x mark.
 Chich John, his x mark.
 Isaac White, his x mark.
 Joseph Wood, his x mark.
 Martin Chub, his x mark.
 Roren Chub, his x mark.
 Peter Jacob, his x mark.
 Charley Cook, his x mark.
 John Cook, his x mark.
 Alex. Chub, his x mark.
 Lewey Cook, his x mark.
 Peter Terence, his x mark.
 Charley White, his x mark.
 John Billing, his x mark.
 John Ransom, his x mark.
 Jacob Elkwood, his x mark.
 Lewey Jacob, his x mark.
 Francas Thomas, his x mark.
 Royan Garlow, his x mark.
 Aleck William, his x mark.
 Lazarus Terance, his x mark.

CHIEFS.

Lewey Garlow, his x mark.
 Thomas Green, his x mark.
 Lewey Back, his x mark.
 Thomas Hill, his x mark.
 Joseph Cornel, his x mark.
 Peter Loran, his x mark.
 Thomas Gray, his x mark.
 Phillip White, his x mark.
 Alick Jacob, his x mark.
 Peter White, his x mark.
 Lewey Ransom, his x mark.
 Phillip Garlow, his x mark.
 Roran Garlow, his x mark.
 Peter Gray, his x mark.
 Peter S. Wamb, his x mark.
 Paul Grey, his x mark.
 Charley Tarble, his x mark.
 Rorren Chub, his x mark.
 Thomas Tionatokwente, his x mark.
 Joseph Okonnienstha, his x mark.
 Alex. Ransom, his x mark.
 George Wood, his x mark.
 Peter Garlow, his x mark.
 Peter Wood, his x mark.
 Michel Gareauty, his x mark.
 Peter Inontanarren, his x mark.
 Mitch Onierkoton, his x mark.