

Copy of  
Letter from C. Seth  
L. Dewey & G. Gray  
32 Onidas  
S. S. St. Regis

W. G. B. S.  
July 26 1859

Commissioner of Ind. Affairs  
Sir

We,  
Cornelius Seth a Chief of The Stockbridges  
and Lewis Dewey of The Onidas  
and Michael Gray of the St. Regis  
~~of the bands~~ in Kansas Secretary respect-  
fully and earnestly call your atten-  
tion to the following statements and  
petitions and statements.

It is, perhaps, well known  
to you that the Indians known as  
"New York Indians" to whom certain  
lands in the <sup>then now Kansas</sup> Indian Territory were  
granted by the Treaty <sup>made on the</sup> of January fif-  
teenth, <sup>say, in the year</sup> eighteen hundred and thirty eight  
~~near~~ Buffalo Creek, State of New York;  
are composed of the remnants of several  
tribes or Nations in accordance  
with <sup>the stipulations of said</sup> treaty stipulations the  
bands <sup>"</sup> whom we represent came to this  
territory within the time specified  
in the treaty but have not as yet

found the government so ready to fulfil  
Treaty stipulations in that, that we have not yet  
had the three hundred and twenty  
of land per head secured to us as the Treaty provides  
acres, <sup>and petition</sup> We are  
very desirous that this should speedily  
be done for the following reasons.

1<sup>st</sup> The White people are continually  
intreuding upon us by settling upon  
our lands and by taking our timber  
and committing other depredations,

2<sup>nd</sup> Some of the Indians who  
are entitled to the lands are becoming  
fearful that the promises of the  
Government <sup>will</sup> are not going to be fulfilled  
~~unless they have employed~~ <sup>and</sup> Speculators (some of them) Agents  
of the gov't) are taking advantage  
of those fears and <sup>have</sup> promised to pro-  
-cure the lands for them provided  
that these Indians will give them  
twenty acres of each share for their  
services while these Indians are  
entitled to the lands <sup>free</sup> and should  
have them without <sup>paying</sup> any fee of the Paoli Agent  
offered <sup>an agreement for one of us</sup> <sup>(Comptrol's letter)</sup> to get him  
3 <sup>to sign it</sup> She longer they delay, the more  
claimants there will be for the lands;  
for persons who are not N. Y. Indians  
at all are influencing some of  
the proper Claimants to get them allow  
shares promising a certain amount  
of money per acre if they succeed

in getting them admitted. This  
invalidating & endangering the rights of the legal  
claimants by ~~attempting~~ <sup>practising</sup> fraud,  
upon the Gov't - and they are encouraged to do so  
by ~~the Gov't Agents~~ <sup>the Gov't Agents</sup>  
Again; the petition that the Stock  
bridges of Hanson, The Oneidas & St Regis  
have their lands assigned together in  
one compact body on the Little Osage river  
for the reasons  
1<sup>st</sup> That we may if we so  
choose, govern ourselves independently of  
the Menesees and others who have al-  
ready been persuaded <sup>to make arrangements</sup> for selling the  
entire claims of the N. Y. Indians  
to their same Speculators and that  
without consulting <sup>us or</sup> those whom we represent;  
and we wish our right to be so situated  
that they can't interfere with us.

2<sup>nd</sup> That - by ~~covering~~ <sup>having</sup> the lands in  
a compact form we may not be  
surrounded by white people settling in  
among ~~or between~~ us, swailing themselves  
of the privileges specially granted to us  
by said Treaty of Jan 15 1838.

We also earnestly ask that our  
proportion of the four hundred thousand  
dollars promised to us by said Treaty

for school purposes  
of 1838, may soon be given to  
us. Our children have had no  
opportunities for instruction for several  
years, and are growing up ignorant  
which are very much lamented.

In addition to this we petition  
that all the other stipulations of  
the said Treaty be fulfilled. By  
referring to that Treaty you Hon. Sir  
will see that we were promised farming  
implements, a grist & saw mill  
a church, a doctor and a blacksmith.  
We hope that you will believe with us  
that it is time that that Treaty with  
all its stipulations should be fulfilled.  
Some of us have again & again begged  
for our homes to be secured to us  
and now when almost all our men  
are dead we begin to have some little  
hope ~~that~~ <sup>that will be done</sup> we are ~~now~~ <sup>to</sup> have ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> rights.  
We desire that the lands should be secured to us  
in such a manner as that it can not be sold  
to any but the President of the United States

We would here state that we are the chiefs by birthright of the <sup>43 bands</sup> Tribes we represent and that we and the persons whose names are given in the lists herewith enclosed came to this Territory between the years 1838 and 1846. See Lists of Ouedas, Stockbridge and St. Regis. Our bands acknowledge as <sup>our</sup> return to the action of the Special Agent ~~we wish to state~~ Chiefs.

This we stated to the Special Agent - (A. S. Stevens) and he seemed inclined when we met him at <sup>St. Paul</sup> to recognise us as Chiefs. ~~and~~ but when we met him at Quindaro he seemed to set us aside and recognise <sup>as such</sup> a set of men elected by persons who are <sup>mostly</sup> citizens of the United States and Indians who ~~came from the States~~ <sup>are not New York Indians</sup> and other States. ~~than~~ <sup>such</sup> ~~of~~ our bands do not own <sup>as</sup> Chiefs <sup>to</sup> ~~discover us~~. It seems to us that he does so because we will not be made tools in his hands to cheat our <sup>not</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~speculators~~ <sup>speculators</sup> people <sup>as</sup> some others have done. ~~He will~~ <sup>He will</sup> be astonished <sup>to</sup> learn that some of those who are claiming of the New York Indian lands have sold their <sup>entire</sup> shares at <sup>very low prices</sup> ~~one dollar per acre~~ receiving in <sup>part</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>pay</sup> goods <sup>from</sup> ~~the man to whom they sold~~ <sup>it</sup> a merchant at Quindaro. We must believe