

Kyandoh Indians

1. Letter from Commissioner of Indian Affairs giving history of Lands of Kyandoh and Shawnee Indians in Kansas.

in reply to the following:

Land
32013-1896.

407
Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

WASHINGTON, October 24, 1896.

William E. Connolley, Esq.,
No. 640 Washington Ave.,
Kansas City, Kansas.

Sir:

I am in receipt, by Department reference, of your letter of August 17, 1896, stating that you have been requested by the Historical Society of Wyandotte County, Kansas, to write the "Indian Occupancy" of that country, and to that end wish to obtain official information respecting the following, viz.:

1. The date of the treaty with the Shawnees, assigning them lands in Kansas.

(a) Give the bounds of the land so assigned.

(b) Describe the different tracts definitely bounded which they disposed of, and when and to whom sold, until all the land was disposed of.

2. The date of sale and description of land to Wyandottes of a tract of land south of the Kansas River and adjoining Missouri, with reasons why said sale was not consummated.

3. The date of the treaty with the Delawares assigning them lands in Kansas.

(a) Give the bounds of the land so assigned.

(b) Describe the different tracts, definitely bounded, which

they disposed of, and when and to whom sold.

In reply to your interrogatories I would state that:

1. The Shawnee Indians formerly inhabited great parts of the States of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, whence they removed to Ohio and Indiana. There were other Indians in Missouri, who by treaty of November 7, 1825 (7 Stats., p. 284), ceded their lands in Missouri for a certain described tract of land, fifty miles square, west of the State of Missouri, or, if that tract was not acceptable to the Indians, there should be assigned to them an equal quantity of land, to be selected on the Kansas River, and laid off either north or south of that river and west of Missouri.

Certain Shawnees residing at W a p a g h k o n n e t t a and on Hog Creek in Ohio, by treaty of August 8, 1831 (7 Stats., p. 355), ceded their lands in Ohio, for which they were given a grant of land of 100,000 acres within the fifty mile square tract for such of their tribe as should thereafter emigrate thereto.

This fifty mile square tract, however, not proving acceptable, Superintendent William Clark, of St. Louis, was instructed, January 10, 1828, to select a proper location for the Shawnees. He was informed June 6, 1828 that the site selected on the south side of the Kansas River in Kansas, was satisfactory to the Secretary of War.

(a) The description of this tract of land is given in a deed to the tribe by President John Tyler, dated May 11, 1844
(See 10 Stats., p. 1053), and is as follows:

Beginning at a point in the western boundary of the State of Missouri, three miles south of where said boundary crosses the mouth of Kansas River, thence continuing south and coinciding with said boundary for twenty-five miles; thence due west one hundred and twenty miles; thence due north, until said line shall intersect the southern boundary of the Kansas reservation; thence due east, coinciding with the southern boundary of said reservation, to the termination thereof; thence due north, coinciding with the eastern boundary of said reservation, to the southern shore of the Kansas River, thence along said southern shore of said river, to where a line from the place of beginning drawn due west, shall intersect the same-estimated to contain sixteen hundred thousand acres, more or less."

- (b) By the 1st article of the treaty of May 10, 1854 (10 Stat., p. 1053), the Shawnees cede all of the foregoing tract of land, and by the amended second article of said treaty the United States cede 200,000 acres of land "to be selected between the Missouri State line, and a line parallel thereto, and west of the same, thirty miles distant; which parallel shall be drawn for the Kansas River, to the southern boundary line of the country herein ceded, provided: x x x" etc. This tract (200,000 acres) was subsequently allotted to the several members of the tribe and to parties named in said second article, and patents issued for the respective allotments.

2. By the 2nd article of the treaty of March 17, 1842, with the Wyandottes (11 Stats., p. 581), the United States granted to the said Wyandottes, in consideration of the cession of land in Ohio and Michigan, a tract of land west of the Mississippi River, to contain

148,000 acres, to be located upon any lands owned by the United States then set apart or that might be in the future set apart for Indian use and not already assigned to any other tribe or nation.

On the 29th of April, 1844, Supt. Thomas H. Harvey reported (copy herewith) that the Wyandotte chiefs, in council April 11, 1844, had selected for their home the following described tract of land, containing 148,000 acres, lying and situated as follows:

"Beginning three miles south of where the western line of the State of Missouri crosses the Great Osage River, thence running due west fifteen miles, thence north fifteen miles or as far north as will include the 148,000 acres, thence east to the aforesaid State line."

On the 11th of May, 1844, Supt. Harvey was advised that this tract of land had already been assigned and set apart to the Miami Indians and to the New York Indians, by their treaties of 1838 and 1840. He was further advised that there were vacant lands between the Delawares and the Ottos and west of the Kickapoes, not then set apart to any Indian tribe, unless the Sac and Fox Indians had in the mean time made selection of a portion thereof. He was also advised that there were lands west of the New York Indian lands, and north of the Osage lands and west of the Pottawatomies of Osage River, unoccupied and set apart for Indian use and occupancy.

Owing to the uncertainty as to the final settlement of the

Sac and Fox Indians (three tracts having been selected by them), the Wyandottes determined to ask for the purchase of lands from the Delawares where they were then located.

In the 2nd article of the treaty of 1842 herein referred to, three sections of land of 640 acres each, within the Shawnee territory, immediately below the junction of the Kansas River with the Missouri, reserved by the United States for the purpose of erecting a fort thereon, but being no longer necessary to be retained for that use, was ceded to the Wyandotte nation, but the Senate struck this item out of the treaty, which was subsequently assented to by the Indians.

3. The date of the agreement made with the Delawares for the purchase of the 39 sections of land was December 14, 1843, which was sanctioned by Resolution of Congress, approved July 25, 1848 (9 Stats., p. 337).

- (a) The boundaries of this tract of land are defined in the said resolution, viz.: "Commencing at the point at the junction of the aforesaid Missouri and Kansas rivers, running west along the Kansas river sufficiently far to include the aforesaid thirty-nine sections; thence running north to the Missouri river; thence down the said river with its meanders to the place of beginning."
- (b) By the treaty of April 1, 1850 (9 Stats., p. 987), the Wyandottes ceded to the United States all their right and title in and to all lands then in their possession, upon

payment of \$185,000.00 for the 148,000 acres (at \$1.25 per acre), assigned them under the treaty, of which they never got. Under the 5th article of said treaty, the United States retroceded in fee simple all the lands conveyed to them by the Delawares, which were subsequently apportioned to members of the tribe, with right to alienate the same five years after the ratification of the treaty.

Very respectfully,

D.M. Brown
Commissioner.

(R.F.T.)
McQ.