

Delaware Indians to T. Hartley Crawford

This is a copy of a letter that Isaac McCoy sent on behalf of the Delaware Indians. McCoy was a missionary in Indian Territory (present-day Kansas), and Crawford was Commissioner of Indian Affairs. In the letter, the Delaware asked for government patents that would prove their ownership of their new lands in Indian Territory. Apparently, some of their lands had also been claimed by Kansa Indians. The Delaware refer in this letter to a treaty signed on September 24, 1829, and express their desire to be permanently settled in this new territory. However, the Delaware did not enjoy a permanent home in Kansas--treaties in 1854 and 1860 diminished Delaware lands and, in 1867, the Delaware were moved to present-day Oklahoma. In sum, this letter highlights the difficulties that Native Americans faced during the 19th century with regard to retaining control over the land that they occupied.

Creator: Delaware Indians

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Copy

Westport, Jackson County, Mo.
Jan'y. 6. th 1840.

T. Hartley Crawford Esq.
Cammings Ind. Twp.

Dear Father

We have been informed by Isaac M. Cady that the survey of our lands have been completed, and that all is now in readiness for you to give us a patent for our land. This strong paper which will secure us in the possession of our lands, we request may soon be given us. The Kawgans claim twenty three sections of the land which was conveyed to us by our treaty with Capt. Vashon of Sept. 24, 1829. These twenty three sections extend from the Kawgans line nearly twenty three miles towards the heart of our country. They adjoin the Kawgans river, and include nearly all the wood on that side the whole distance, which renders the adjoining prairie lands of little value.

Now, we earnestly request that when a patent shall be given us, it may be for the whole amount of the land ceded to us by the treaty aforesaid treaty. We have applied to our Agent in this case, whose letter you will receive, and we now send you this by I. M. Cady, to whom we refer you for further information on this subject.

We are faithfully

Your friends

(Signed)

Capt. Nakkoman	His	X	mark
Netchum	"	X	"
Nonondogun	"	X	"
Swannuk	"	X	"
Sakemdi	"	X	"
Okatohwa	"	X	"

over

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