

Richard W. Cummins to William Clark

Richard Cummins, an agent to the Shawnee Indians, wrote this letter to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, William Clark. Cummins informed Clark that the Kickapoo Indians, under the leadership of Chief Patsachehoy, were prepared to move from Missouri to Indian Territory (present-day Kansas). The Kickapoo had given several reasons for why they supported removal, including the fact that white settlers were encroaching on Kickapoo Territory and selling the Indians large quantities of whiskey.

Creator: Cummins, Richard W.

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as well as the United States, competent to enter into and make treaties of Peace and cession for their entire nations, that they surely ought to be trusted to divide the annuities among their own people, especially when a different course would humiliate and destroy their influence over their nations. I do hope to hear from the Department on this subject before it becomes necessary to pay the annuities for 1832.

With considerations of the highest respect,

I am, Your ob^d. Serv^t.

Don: S. Bean, U.S. Insag^r
for Upper Missouri

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Shawano agency, 9<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1832

Ser<sup>l</sup>. Wm. Clark,  
Capt. Ind. Affs

Sir, - In answer to your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1831, in which you instruct me to sound the Kickapoos on the subject of exchanging their lands in this State for lands on the Missouri, West of the State, I can state to you that for the last nine months, Patoacheho, the Principal Chief of the Kickapoos has frequently told me through the Int. Capt. Anthony Shane, that he wished to make the exchange, and that he believed all the Kickapoos were in favour of making the exchange except one man, and that he wished the Government would appoint commissioners, to treat with them upon equitable terms. The reasons which he gave, I think were good ones; - he stated that the white people were settling near their villages, and were in the habit of furnishing his people with large quantities of whiskey, that they were giving everything they could get for whiskey, - that they were destroying themselves, drinking nothing to live on; that he wanted to get them out of the State, where they could not get whiskey so easy, and where he thought they would do better.

I have the honor to be,

Yr. ob<sup>d</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

(Signed)

Richard W. Cummins,  
Ind. agent