

John T. Jones to James W. Denver

John T. Jones, an interpreter for the Ottawa Indians, wrote from Washington urging Governor James W. Denver to support ratification of a treaty between the U.S. government and the Ottawas. Jones reported that the Secretary of the Interior was not inclined to support ratification and he believed Denver, who had negotiated the treaty with the Ottawas during his tenure as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, could influence the decision.

Creator: Jones, John Tecumseh (Taui)

Date: January 16, 1858

Callnumber: James W. Denver Coll. #328 Box 1 Folder 3

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 90185

Item Identifier: 90185

www.kansasmemory.org/item/90185



John T. Jones to James W. Denver



Washington City Jan 16th 1848
Hon S W Denver

Dear Sir permit me to address you a few lines by way of reminding you of our treaty which you made with us the Ottomias of Kansas. The treaty was submitted to them and explained to them minutely that there might not be any misunderstanding about it, and approved it in full, desiring no alteration to be made in it. They authorized me while here to act in favor of its being ratified by the President and Senate. I have had an interview with the Secretary of Interior about it in order that he might favorably act upon it, but he seems to doubt the propriety of doing so until he has further information with regard to the capacity of the Ottomias being able to take care of so much money and land as the treaty calls for. I might call to your attention to several things which the Ottomias ^{have} adopted in endeavoring to make advances in the arts of civilization. They are universally desirous to do as the treaty says, in every sense of the word. By delaying the treaty, it will put them back very much in their improvements. I wish therefore that you would visit the Ottomias if you can and see with your own eyes the people and learn all you can about what they are doing and hear them with your own ears, from their own mouths, and be satisfied with regard to what I have said about them ^{whether it} is true or false. If you cannot do this conveniently, I take the liberty of referring you to Mr W F M Army who is acquainted as extensively with us as any other man I know of in Kansas, or for further information, respecting the Ottomias. I want you and all the officials with you to be satisfied and hear testimony accordingly.

John T. Jones to James W. Denver

to the Secretary of Interior that he may be satisfied touching this matter. The people are anxiously waiting and expecting the treaty to be approved by Congress this winter. I request your attention to it and do all you can for us. The Ottawas depend on it altogether to give them a start in their work. They have been maturing this plan for several years past, that they might be able to get hold of means to cultivate the soil to a greater extent than they have ^{ever} done, not only for their immediate benefit, but for the good of their children in coming times. If ever the Ottawas were convinced of the importance of going to work for a livelihood, now is the time. And if ever they appreciated ^{the} advice of Government now is the time. And if ever they make a commencement to emerge from ignorance to learning, from laziness to industry, from depredation to elevation, from poverty to wealth and from darkness to light, now is the time. If Government is sincere with us in advising us to go to work in order we may get something to live on, Government must not muzzle the one that is trying to head out the corn. All the members of Congress with whom I have conversed, about our treaty, are well pleased with it and they say that they will do all they can to have it approved by Congress. Sir, I close by saying, do your diligence to help us and we shall gratefully appreciate your favor.

Very respectfully your obedient servant
John T. Jones

