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Petition of a number of citizens of Illinois, praying the establishment of a land office at "Kishwaukee," in that state

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PETITION

OF

A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF ILLINOIS,

PRAYING

The establishment of a land office at "Kishwaukee," in that State.

JANUARY 14, 1839.

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

We, your petitioners, citizens of the northern interior section of the State of Illinois, aware of the inconvenience which we, in common with a large number of citizens in this part of the State, are liable, in living remote from a land office, most respectfully desire of your honorable bodies your attention to the subject, and the causes, hereinafter stated, which induce us to make this application.

The section of country within eighty miles square, called the Rock river district, lying south of the northern Illinois State line, and adjoining the southerly line of the Wisconsin Territory, is owned by the United States. This tract of country was nearly uninhabited, except by savages, at the close of the Black Hawk war of 1833; since that period it has settled, and is fast becoming the most populous part of the great State of which it forms about one-quarter; and a large proportion of this district, particularly on Rock river and its tributaries, is densely settled by *actual cultivators of the soil*, who are expecting to obtain titles to the lands improved by them under the act of Congress of February 22, 1838.

With these views, your petitioners would respectfully represent to your honorable bodies that the nearest land offices are at Chicago and Galena, each a distance of about ninety miles east and west from the centre of this district by direct lines, and about one hundred miles by roads usually travelled. The expenses of travelling to, and attending at, these offices in populous towns, either to attend the public sales or prove pre-emption rights, will be severely felt by the citizens and residents of northern Illinois in the loss of time and money, as well as in the inconveniences consequent upon making long journeys in a new country, and many will scarcely find themselves able to furnish the purchase money for the farms they have improved. A large portion of the early settlers here already have encountered great difficulties and expenses in emigrating from the more eastern States, and the cash expense of attending the nearest land office would be

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equal to one-fourth or one-fifth of the cost of a pre-emptive farm of eighty acres, and a protracted sale would increase it considerably.

These are some of the causes important to the citizens of Rock river; but there are other considerations which may be considered advantageous to the United States by the establishing a land office in a district favored by superior local advantages, to wit: a healthy climate, a good soil for cultivation, a navigable river with abundant tributaries, affording ample water power, &c.

The most central point on Rock river, in this district, is at the junction of the Kishwaukee river with Rock river, which is equally distant from each of the above named land offices; therefore, we pray that your honorable bodies may enact a law for the establishment of a land office in the town of "*Kishwaukee*," (which town is at the confluence of the river of the same name, and Rock river,) in the county of Winnebago, and State of Illinois.

And, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

ILLINOIS, November, 1838.

Warner Earle

Simeon Towle

Francis A. Stowell

George W. Lee

Benjamin Harris

H. Kimball

John J. Parker

Isaiah Cortright

Daniel E. Cortright

Anthony T. Cortright

Alexander B. Putament

John Zaleski

Francis Jasenski

Anthony Turck

William Jones

D. S. Shumway

Benjamin Arnold

John Hartson

Lewis Shumway

William Patterson

Egbert Worden

Abel Hogaboom

Leonard Wells

H. T. Buil

William R. Morley

P. H. Buel

N. S. Bishop

Wm. Bishop

David Hartson

H. H. Hartson

Grover E. Hartson

H. Moore

George Tomson

William Glendening

Orville W. Turk

Ira Douglass

William Brown

Thomas Thatcher

M. Baubine

Charles Brown

Elchen Tuffts

George Watson

Samuel Crampton

Sprigh Hartshorn

Erastus Norton

Hugh Hartshorn

John Foster

William Spencer

John Tomkins

Nathaniel Cornell, jr.

Samuel J. Jones

A. E. Clark

William Clark

Robert F. Watson

Simeon C. Swened

Dwight Brinsmade

Samuel Brown

Wm. R. Wheeler

William Clark

John H. Wheeler

David Jones

James Keeler

Truman Keeler

Thomas Jones

Perley J. Shumway

Erastus Shumway

Benjamin H. Bodwell

Phin. Johnson

A. Chapman

A. Andrus

Charles Eastman

David Hemstock

William H. Johnson
 Isaac M. Johnson
 Daniel Baker
 Edmund Braintree
 Elias Scott
 Horatio Hartson
 Michael Gibson
 Joseph D. Morris
 Albert Morris
 Orin B. Smith
 John F. Smith
 Phineas M. Johnson
 Ebenezer St. John
 Aaron B. Davis
 E. A. Mulford
 Aaron Butterfield
 Benona Burch
 S. R. Phinney
 R. Hogeboom
 John F. Osgood
 Wm. Coulson
 H. A. Warren
 John McCoy
 Ephraim Sield
 Edward Warren
 Wm. Emerson
 John Emerson
 David A. Holt
 Washington Moore
 S. B. Hoadley
 James Bunker
 Charles M. Blake
 Oliver Leonard
 Regal S. Merryfield
 J. C. Merryfield
 Josiah Merryfield
 John Merryfield
 Hugh Hartshorn, jr.
 Andrew Shepard
 Isaac Norton
 G. G. Norton
 A. F. Brown
 Dauphin Brown
 James M. Clayton
 Theron P. Parker
 Ebenezer Brown
 J. S. Knowlton

Aaron Peterson
 Thomas Downes
 Isaac Blakely
 Robert Bell
 Ephraim Crocker
 Robert Smith
 Henry P. Williams
 Abel Atwater
 O. C. Magoon
 John Briggs
 Richard Briggs
 William Briggs
 Cyrus A. Kingsly
 Samuel B. Hall
 S. L. Hall
 Nelson S. Bishop
 Thomas Jones
 John Jones
 Nathan Wison
 Levi Moulthrop
 E. P. Moulthrop
 Edward Murphy
 Bradford James
 Elbridge G. James
 Charles Shumway
 Francis Wisson
 William S. Griggs
 Orins Bottom
 John Seymour
 John G. Cornell
 John Alree
 L. Regby
 George Randal
 William Randal
 John Randal, jr.
 John Randal
 Riley Hoadley
 Seth Nobles
 Paul D. Taylor
 George Taylor
 Jared Hecox
 John McColester
 Samuel Hoadley
 Robert Rothwell
 Ephraim Allen
 Daniel Goodhue