1-14-1839

Petition of a number of citizens of Illinois, praying the establishment of a land office at "Kishwaukee," in that state
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
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. Putnam
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 Tuffs
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. Sweney
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 McColeston
Samuel Hoadley
Robert Rothwell
Ephraim Allen
Daniel Goodhue