

2-18-1840

Documents relating to the confirmation of the claim of Jonathan Carver to a tract of land

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DOCUMENTS

RELATING

To the confirmation of the claim of Jonathan Carver to a tract of land.

FEBRUARY 18, 1840.

Submitted by Mr. LINN, and ordered to be printed, and that one hundred additional copies be sent to the Senate.

WASHINGTON CITY, *December 23, 1839.*

GENTLEMEN: The celebrated traveller, Captain Jonathan Carver, laid claim to a very large body of land on the Upper Mississippi, on the ground of a grant from the Nodowesa tribe of Indians, in the year 1767, and the ratification of the grant by the British Government. This claim has been repeatedly reported against by the Committee on Private Land Claims. Notwithstanding these reports, the claim has been made the subject of speculation upon the unwary and ignorant.

Will you have the kindness to publish the accompanying correspondence, which will prove that the British authorities never ratified this grant.

Respectfully,

L. F. LINN.

To the PUBLISHERS OF THE GLOBE.

23 PORTLAND PLACE, *September 28, 1839.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, of the 23d instant, and hasten to reply to it. In relation to the information you seek as to the Carver grant having been confirmed by the crown of Great Britain, I beg to enclose to you copies of a correspondence between Lord Palmerston and Mr. Vail, and myself and Mr. J. A. Bolles, of Boston, which, it is presumed, will be satisfactory.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. STEVENSON.

Hon. L. F. LINN, *London.*

LONDON, *November 28, 1837.*

DEAR SIR: I received your letter of the 5th of October, on the subject of Indian grants to Jonathan Carver, for lands on the Mississippi.

On referring to the files of this legation, I find that in the year 1834, a similar application was made on behalf of Mr. McLean, of Ohio, by Mr.

Blair & Rives, printers.

Vail, the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States, at this court, to the British Government, for the information you now desire. To this application an answer was received from Lord Palmerston, stating that no trace could be found of any ratifications of these grants by his Majesty's Government. I enclose you an extract from Lord Palmerston's note, and deem another application wholly unnecessary.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. STEVENSON.

J. A. BOLLES, Esq., *Boston.*

FOREIGN OFFICE, *February 8, 1834.*

SIR: In answer to the note which I had the honor to receive from you on the 15th ultimo, requesting to be informed whether the grant of a tract of land situated on the Upper Mississippi, stated to have been made in 1767, by the Nodowesa Indians to Captain Carver, has ever been ratified and confirmed by the proper authorities of Great Britain, I have the honor to acquaint you that the necessary search has been made at the State paper office, but that no trace has been found of any ratification of the grant in question, by his Majesty's Government. I can, therefore, only express to you my regret, that it is not in my power to supply the information which you require.

I have the honor to be, with high consideration, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

PALMERSTON.

AARON VAIL, Esq., &c.