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Report : Petition of J. Campau

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 9, 1844.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WOODBRIDGE made the following

REPORT :

[To accompany bill S. 79.]

The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the petition of Joseph Campau, assignee of Angelique Coutant, praying the confirmation of his title to a tract of land, respectfully submit the following report :

By the treaty of Saginaw, made and concluded at Saginaw, in the Territory of Michigan, on the 24th day of September, 1819, (see Laws U. S., vol. 6, p. 755,) there was secured to Taw-cum-e-go-qua, an Indian woman of the Chippewa nation, and her heirs, forever, a section of land situated on the Flint river, in Michigan, at a place called the Grand Rapids. This is one of eleven sections of land, to contain 640 acres each, which were reserved for the use of the Indians therein named, by the third article of said treaty. Of these different sections, five of them (viz : sections numbered 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6) appear to have been patented to the reservees, or their assigns, in virtue of the act of Congress of the 23d of June, 1836 ; and no objection is perceived to the issuing of a patent to the petitioner for the section claimed by him, provided he exhibit, at the office of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, satisfactory proof that he has purchased said land of the children and heirs of Taw-cum-e-go-qua, and that he paid therefor, at the time when said purchase was made, a fair and equitable consideration. Upon a full consideration of the documentary proof accompanying the petition, and of the report made to the Senate on the same petition, at the 3d session of the 25th Congress, your committee, concurring in the views therein expressed, respectfully present, herewith, the same bill, which, with the last-mentioned report, was presented, and recommend that the same do pass.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States :

The petition of Joseph Campau, a citizen of Detroit, in the State of Michigan, respectfully represents :

That, under the Indian treaty concluded at Saginaw, on the 24th day of September, 1819, a tract of land, at the Grand Traverse of Flint river, No.

1, as per diagram herewith, was granted to Taw-cum-e-go-qua, otherwise called Angelique Coutant, a half-breed Indian; that your petitioner purchased, as per evidence herewith, said section of land from the children and heirs of said Taw-cum-e-go-qua; and whereas it appears that no patent has heretofore been granted to the said Taw-cum-e-go-qua, or her heirs, by the United States, your petitioner respectfully solicits that an act may be passed, authorizing the President of the United States to grant a patent to your petitioner for said section No. 1, upon the Indian reservation, so called, at the Grand Traverse at Flint river, in the State of Michigan, as the assignee of the heirs of said Taw-cum-e-go-qua, containing six hundred and forty acres.

And your petitioner will ever pray, &c.

JOSEPH CAMPAU.

DETROIT, May 17, 1838.

LAND OFFICE, DETROIT, October 15, 1833.

By the treaty of Saginaw, a section of land at the Grand Traverse of the Flint river was granted to Taw-cum-e-go-qua. Section No. 1 was assigned to her, and a certificate was issued from this office, in the year 1824, in favor of Taw-cum-e-go-qua, or the heirs of Angelique St. Aubin, for which no patent has ever been received.

JOHN BIDDLE, *Register.*

The treaty at Saginaw was concluded on the 24th day of September, 1819.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, *County of Wayne, ss :*

I, Charles Peltier, clerk of said county, do hereby certify, that David E. Harbaugh, whose name appears to the jurat of the annexed deposition, purporting to have been taken before him, was, at the date thereof, a justice of the peace, acting in and for said county, duly elected and qualified, according to law; and that the signature thereto, purporting to be his, I verily believe to be true and genuine.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed the seal of said county
 [L. s.] and subscribed my name, at the city of Detroit, this twenty-sixth day of November, A. D. 1839.

CHARLES PELTIER, *Clerk,*
 Per ROBT. ANDREWS,
Deputy Clerk of Wayne County, Michigan.

I, Henry Connor, of Wayne county, State of Michigan, do solemnly swear that I was an Indian interpreter at the treaty held with the Indians, at Saginaw, in the year 1819, and that Taw-cum-e-go-qua, a half-breed Indian woman, was present at said treaty; that I acted as interpreter for her in the matter of her claim to a section of land at or near the Grand Traverse of Flint river, in the then Territory of Michigan. I was well acquainted with said Taw-cum-e-go-qua during a period of more than thirty years; and I know that she was the identical woman to whom the Indians then

granted, and intended to grant, a section of land situated near the Grand Traverse of Flint river aforesaid. I do also know that said Taw-cum-e-go-qua was married to a Frenchman called ——— Coutant, and was called by the French inhabitants Angelique Coutant; that she had two children by said Coutant, called Simon Coutant and Angelique Coutant; and that these two children are the only heirs of said Taw-cum-e-go-qua. Said Taw-cum-e-go-qua was again married, after the death of Coutant, to Jean Baptiste St. Aubin, but had no children by him. A plat of the Indian reservations at the Grand Traverse on Flint river has been shown to me, and I do verily believe that the section No. 1, marked with the name of Taw-cum-e-go-qua, is the section granted to the above-described half Indian woman and to her heirs.

HENRY CÒNNOR.

Sworn and subscribed before me, this 20th of February, 1839.

DAVID E. HARBAUGH, *J. P., W. C.*

STATE OF MICHIGAN, *County of Wayne, ss :*

Be it remembered, that on this second day of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight, personally appeared Pierre Griffard, and Jean Baptiste Chovin, and Robert H. McNiff, who, being duly sworn, depose and say, that they were well acquainted with Taw-cum-e-go-qua, otherwise called Angelique Coutant, a half-breed Indian, and that she was the same person to whom a section of land at the Grand Traverse at Flint river was granted, by the treaty with the Indians concluded at Saginaw on the twenty-fourth day of September, 1819; that the said Taw-cum-e-go-qua is since dead; that she left two children, Simon Coutant and Angelique Coutant, who were her only heirs, who were one-fourth breed Indians. Deponents further swear, that said last-named Angelique Coutant is now married to Nicholas Chovin; that both Simon Coutant and Angelique Chovin, his sister, and heirs as aforesaid, are fully acquainted with the value of said section of land, and are capable of making any bargain for the sale of the same; and said deponents are further informed that the said heirs have sold said section of land, numbered one on the official plat of said reservation at Flint river, to Joseph Campau, for nine hundred and sixty dollars, which, deponents are of opinion, was a full and fair consideration for said section of land, at the time of said sale to said Campau, which was in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three. Deponents further swear, that said Taw-cum-e-go-qua was married, after the decease of her first husband, Coutant, to a second husband, named St. Aubin, but by whom she had no children.

PIERRE GRIFFARD.

his

JEAN BTE. X CHOVIN.

mark.

ROBERT. H. McNIFF.

Sworn and subscribed before me, this second day of May, 1838.

THEO. WILLIAMS, *J. P., W. C., M.*

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *June 21, 1842.*

SIR: I had to-day the honor to receive your communication of the 20th instant, accompanied by a bill and report of a committee of the Senate, providing for the issuing of a patent to Joseph Campau, as assignee of the children and heirs of "Taw-cum-e-go-qua," a reservee under the treaty (3d article) concluded on the 24th September, 1819, with the Chippewas at Saginaw. In answer to the inquiry in your communication, I have to state that, as the treaty makes no provision for the transfer of the reserve, I am of opinion that this office would not be authorized, *under the terms* of said treaty, in issuing a patent to the assignee of the children and heirs of said reservee.

The papers above mentioned are respectfully returned herewith.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

THOS. H. BLAKE, *Commissioner.*

Hon. WILLIAM WOODBRIDGE,
Senate of the United States.