

1-7-1873

Letter from the Secretary of the Interior,
transmitting a draught of a bill to enable the united
bands of Swan Creek and Black River Chippewas
and Munsee or Christian-Indians to become
citizens of the United States

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Exec. Doc. No. 67, 42nd Congress, 3rd Sess. (1873)

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CHRISTIAN INDIANS TO BECOME CITIZENS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

A draught of a bill to enable the united bands of Swan Creek and Black River Chippewas and Munsee or Christian Indians to become citizens of the United States.

JANUARY 7, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 6, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report dated the 24th ultimo, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, together with a draught of a bill, embodying the substance of a petition received from the united bands of Swan Creek and Black River Chippewas, and Munsee or Christian Indians, residing in Kansas, praying for legislation enabling them to become citizens of the United States within a certain period.

The subject is commended to the favorable consideration of Congress.
Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary.

HON. JAMES G. BLAINE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., December 24, 1872.

SIR: This office is in receipt of a petition from the united bands of Swan Creek and Black River Chippewas, and Munsee or Christian Indians, residing in the State of Kansas, presented by Edward McCoonse and Ignatius Caleb, members of the chief council of the tribe, praying for legislation enabling them to become citizens of the United States within a certain period.

The progress made by these Indians in civilization, enabling them, in my opinion, fully to manage and control their own affairs and guard their interests, induces me to favorably recommend their petition. I

have, therefore, caused to be prepared, and submit the same herewith, a draught of a bill embodying the substance of the said petition, which, in my opinion, will, if the same should become a law, carry out in a proper manner the wishes of the petitioners. I respectfully recommend that the same be laid before Congress for the favorable action of that body.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

AN ACT for the relief of the united bands of Swan Creek and Black River Chippewas and Munsee or Christian Indians, in the State of Kansas.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of July, eighteen hundred and seventy-six, the members of the united bands of Swan Creek and Black River Chippewas and Munsee or Christian Indians, who were parties to the treaty between the United States and said bands, concluded July sixteenth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, and their descendants, shall become citizens of the United States, and be entitled to all the rights and privileges of such.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary of the Interior shall set apart from any funds held by the United States in trust for said Indians, the sum of three thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, out of which he shall pay their tribal indebtedness, upon the presentation to him of properly authenticated accounts, approved by the council of said united bands. And the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to issue patents in fee-simple, with power of alienation on their becoming citizens of the United States, as hereinbefore provided, to the legal holders of certificates issued for land in accordance with the provisions of the first article of the treaty concluded with the said united bands of Swan Creek and Black River Chippewas and Munsee or Christian Indians, on the nineteenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, and to cause to be paid to them, per capita, in six semi-annual installments, the cash value of the credits of the tribe, principal and interest, held in trust by the United States, after deducting the three thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, as hereinbefore provided, such patents to be delivered to the parties entitled to receive the same at the last semi-annual payment, hereinbefore provided for: *Provided,* That in the case of the death of the legal holder of any such certificate, the Secretary of the Interior shall cause to be patented to such person as the council of said Indians may designate, the lands described in such certificate, and shall also cause to be paid to such person the pro rata share of the deceased of the cash value of the credits of the tribe, principal and interest.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That immediately after the passage of this act it shall be competent for the proper courts of the State of Kansas to appoint in the usual manner proper guardians for all minor children of said united bands, over the age of fourteen years, and for such minors under fourteen years it shall be competent for the council of said united bands to appoint suitable and proper persons as their guardians. And the Secretary of the Interior shall cause to be delivered and paid over to such guardians the patents and the moneys belonging to their wards, which guardians shall hold the same for the sole use and benefit of their wards.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary of the Interior shall cause to be advertised and sold at public auction for cash, after thirty days' public notice, the quarter-section of land reserved for school purposes by the first article of the treaty of July nineteenth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, the net proceeds thereof, after defraying expenses of sale, to go to the credit of the said bands for distribution to the members thereof per capita.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary of the Interior shall cause a patent in fee-simple to be issued to Rev. Levi Ricksecker, the missionary of said Indians, in trust for the board of missions of the Moravian or United Brethren Church, of the northern diocese in the United States of America, for the forty acres of land upon which the mission-house and chapel are located, together with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, for the sole use of the aforesaid board of missions.