

University of Oklahoma College of Law

## University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons

---

American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899

---

1-23-1872

**Indian Reservations in the northern superintendency. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to the disposition of portions of Indian reservations in the northern superintendency.**

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>



Part of the [Indian and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

H.R. Exec. Doc. No. 84, 42nd Cong., 2nd Sess. (1872)

This House Executive Document is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [darinfox@ou.edu](mailto:darinfox@ou.edu).

INDIAN RESERVATIONS IN THE NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY.

---

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

*The disposition of portions of Indian reservations in the northern superintendency.*

---

JANUARY 23, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., January 19, 1872.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication, dated the 21st ultimo, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying papers from the Committee of Friends, in relation to the disposition of portions of Indian reservations in the northern superintendency, together with the draughts of bills which, in the opinion of the Department, will accomplish the objects contemplated.

Concurring with the committee of Friends and with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in their views, as contained in the papers submitted, I have the honor to commend the subject to the favorable consideration of Congress, and to request that the sum of \$100,000 be appropriated for the use of the various tribes, said amount to be refunded out of the first proceeds of the sales of the lands to be disposed of as contemplated by the proposed legislation.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
C. DELANO, *Secretary.*

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Office of Indian Affairs, December 21, 1871.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration a communication (with inclosures) addressed to the Department, under date of the 1st instant, by Samuel M. Janney, late superintendent of Indian affairs, and others, members of "a committee on Indian affairs to represent the six yearly meetings of Friends, to whose care were

committed, by the Government, the Indians" in the northern superintendency, representing—

1. That the necessary improvements for the Omahas, the Pawnees, and the Ottoes will require for their successful operation a much larger amount of funds than is now supplied by the annuities of said tribes.

2. That the reservation of the Omahas contains 205,000 acres, of which amount they petition Congress to make provision for the sale of 50,000 acres, for the purpose of establishing and supporting schools, &c.

3. That the Pawnee reservation contains 288,000 acres, of which amount the chiefs and headmen ask that provision be made for the sale of 50,000 acres, to enable the tribe to procure agricultural implements, &c.

4. That the reservation of the Ottoes and Missouriias contains 160,000 acres, and for the same reasons they request the sale of 80,000 acres.

5. That the Sac and Fox Indians have expressed a desire to remove to the Indian Territory, and dispose of their reservation, said to contain 16,000 acres.

The committee of Friends request the aid of this Department for the purpose of preparing a bill for submission to Congress, to carry out the objects in view, and inclose draughts of the same.

The committee add that it will be some months, and probably a year, before the funds from the sale of the lands they proposed to be sold can be realized, and they therefore suggest that Congress be asked to appropriate \$100,000 for the use of the tribes referred to, to be refunded out of the first proceeds of such sales.

The foregoing recommendations of the committee of Friends are approved.

I believe that the general idea of diminishing these reservations for the purpose of securing a higher cultivation of the remaining lands is consonant with sound policy, and that the amount indicated in each case to be sold is, as nearly as it is possible to determine, the amount which can advantageously be sold at the present time. I believe further that the particular portion of these lands thus to be disposed of have been carefully and judiciously selected with a view to the interests of the tribes themselves; and I have therefore the honor to recommend that Congress be asked to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to proceed to dispose of these lands for the benefit of the tribes to which they respectively belong, in substantial compliance with the plan proposed by the committee of Friends.

A draught of a bill calculated, in the view of this office, to accomplish the desired results most beneficially is inclosed herewith.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,  
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

---

AN ACT for the relief of certain tribes of Indians in the northern superintendency.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, with the consent and concurrence of the Omaha tribe of Indians, expressed in open council in the usual manner, the Secretary of the Interior be, and hereby is, authorized to cause to be surveyed, if necessary, a portion of their reservation in the State of Nebraska, not exceeding fifty thousand acres, to be taken from the western part thereof, and to be separated from the remaining portion of said reservation by a line running along the section lines from north to south. The said lands, so separated, shall be appraised by three competent commissioners, one of whom*

shall be the agent of the tribe to which said lands belong, and the other two shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. After the survey and appraisement of said lands as herein provided, the Secretary of the Interior shall be, and hereby is, authorized to offer the same for sale; and sealed proposals, duly invited by public advertisement, shall be received for the same, for tracts not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres each, and also for the entire body offered; and he shall be, and hereby is, authorized to accept the proposal for the entire tract, or the highest bids for separate tracts, whichever shall be deemed best for the interests of the Indians: *Provided*, That no bid for separate tracts shall be accepted which may be less than the appraised value of such tract, or for the entire tract which shall be less than the aggregate appraised value of the same. The proceeds of such sale shall be invested for the benefit of the Indians interested in such manner as the Secretary of the Interior may direct, except such portion thereof as he may deem necessary to be expended for their immediate use in improving and fencing farms, building houses, purchasing implements of agriculture and live stock, and in establishing and supporting schools.

SEC. 2. That, with the consent and concurrence of the Pawnee tribe of Indians, expressed in open council in the usual manner, the Secretary of the Interior be, and he hereby is, authorized to cause to be surveyed, if necessary, a portion of their reservation in the State of Nebraska, not exceeding fifty thousand acres, to be taken from that part of said reservation lying south of Loup Fork. The said lands so conveyed shall be appraised by three competent commissioners, one of whom shall be the agent of the tribe to which the land belongs, and the other two shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. After the survey and appraisement of said lands as herein provided, the Secretary of the Interior shall be, and hereby is, authorized to sell the same in the same manner and with the same restrictions as provided in the first section of this act relating to the Omaha lands, and the proceeds of such sale shall be invested for the benefit of the Pawnee tribe of Indians in such manner as the Secretary of the Interior may direct, except such portion thereof as he may deem necessary to be expended for their immediate use, as directed in the said first section of this act.

SEC. 3. That, with the consent and concurrence of the Otoe and Missouri tribe of Indians, expressed in open council in the usual manner, the Secretary of the Interior be, and hereby is, authorized to cause to be surveyed, if necessary, a portion of their reservation lying in the States of Nebraska and Kansas, not exceeding eighty thousand acres, to be taken from the western part thereof lying west of the Big Blue River; part of said tract lying in the State of Nebraska, and part lying in the State of Kansas. The said lands so surveyed shall be appraised by three competent commissioners, one of whom shall be the agent of the tribe to which the lands belong, and the other two shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. After the survey and appraisement of said lands as herein provided, the Secretary of the Interior shall be, and hereby is, authorized to sell the same in the same manner and with the same restrictions as provided in the first section of this act relating to the Omaha lands; and the proceeds of such sale shall be invested for the benefit of the Otoe and Missouri tribe of Indians in such manner as the Secretary of the Interior may direct, except such portion thereof as he may deem necessary to be expended for their immediate use, as directed in the said first section of this act.

SEC. 4. That with the consent and concurrence of the Sac and Fox of the Missouri tribe of Indians, expressed in open council in the usual manner, the Secretary of the Interior be, and hereby is, authorized to cause to be surveyed, if necessary, a portion or the whole of their reservation in the State of Nebraska, containing about sixteen thousand acres. The said lands so surveyed shall be appraised by three competent commissioners, one of whom shall be the agent of the tribe to which the lands belong, and the other two shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. After the survey and appraisement of said lands as herein provided, the Secretary of the Interior shall be, and hereby is, authorized to sell the same in the same manner and with the same restrictions as provided in the first section of this act relating to the Omaha lands, and the proceeds of such sale shall be invested for the benefit of the Sac and Fox of the Missouri tribe of Indians in such manner as the Secretary of the Interior may direct, except such portion thereof as he may deem necessary to be expended for their immediate use, as directed in the said first section of this act, or for their removal to the Indian Territory or elsewhere, in case they desire to remove.

SEC. 5. That in all patents of land sold under authority of this act there shall be inserted a clause forever prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors on said lands, under pain of forfeiture of title thereto, and due notice of this provision shall be given in the advertisement offering said lands for sale.

SEC. 6. That the commissioners to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior under the provisions of this act shall receive compensation for their services at the rate of eight dollars for each day actually engaged in the duties herein designated, in addition to the amount paid by them for actual traveling and other necessary expenses.

## AN ACT for the relief of certain tribes of Indians.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the following sums be, and they are hereby, appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the benefit of the several tribes of Indians as herein designated:

For the benefit of the Omaha tribe of Indians, thirty thousand dollars.

For the benefit of the Pawnee tribe of Indians, fifty-five thousand dollars.

For the benefit of the Ottoo and Missouriia tribe of Indians, twenty-five thousand dollars.

For the expense of the survey and sale of the reservation of the Sac and Fox of the Missouriia tribe of Indians, two thousand dollars.

The moneys herein appropriated for the benefit of the tribes mentioned shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, after defraying expense of the survey, appraisement, and sale of their lands, for the immediate use of the respective tribes, as specified in an act entitled "An act for the relief of certain tribes of Indians in the northern superintendency," and shall be reimbursed from the proceeds of the sales of lands of the Indians named.

SANDY SPRING, MARYLAND,  
*Twelfthmonth 1st, 1871.*

RESPECTED FRIEND: We, the undersigned, having been appointed a committee on Indian affairs to represent the six yearly meetings of Friends, to whose care were committed, by the Government, the Indians in the northern superintendency, respectfully represent that the improvements on the reservations of the Omahas, the Pawnees, and the Ottoes, already commenced with encouraging prospects, will require for successful prosecution a much larger amount of funds than is now supplied by their annuities. These tribes have always obtained their subsistence, in part, by hunting the buffalo, and at this time they continue the practice, which we believe has a tendency to retard their civilization, but their most sagacious chiefs and headmen are convinced that their hunting grounds will soon be occupied by white men, and therefore are turning their attention to the pursuits of agriculture and grazing as an imperative necessity.

The reservation of the Omaha Indians contains 205,000 acres, a part of which has been allotted in severalty to families and to individuals, who are now engaged in improving their farms and building houses. To forward this work, as well as to supply them with implements of agriculture and live stock, and to establish and support an industrial boarding school and other preparatory schools, a large amount of funds will be required. They have accordingly petitioned Congress to make provision at as early a day as practicable for the sale of 50,000 acres of their land.

The Pawnee Indians, whose reservation contains 288,000 acres, being desirous of opening farms and building houses, procuring implements of agriculture and live stock, and promoting their general welfare, have, through their chiefs and headmen, requested that 50,000 acres of their land may be sold at their fair market value.

The Ottoo and Missouriia tribe of Indians, whose reservation contains 160,000 acres, have, for the same reasons, requested the sale of 80,000 of their lands.

At a council of the Sac and Fox of Missouriia tribe of Indians, held on the 31st of the 10th month last, they informed Superintendent Barclay White that they were willing to sell their reservation and remove near the Sac and Fox Indians in the Indian Territory. They number about eighty persons, and their reservation is said to contain 16,000 acres.

As they are dissatisfied with their present condition, we recommend that their wishes be complied with, and measures taken to obtain full market value for their lands.

As an act of Congress will be required authorizing the sale of the lands aforesaid, and the appointment of commissioners by the President to effect the same, we respectfully request thy aid in preparing a bill for that purpose, and submitting it to act of Congress.

The improvements commenced on the Omaha, Pawnee, and Ottoe reservations are now nearly at a stand for want of funds, and in case the bill providing for the sale of part of their lands should be passed by Congress it will be some months, and probably a year, before funds from that source can be realized. We therefore suggest that Congress be asked to appropriate \$100,000 for the use of these three tribes, to be refunded out of the first proceeds of sales of their lands.

Very respectfully, thy friends,

SAMUEL M. JANNEY.  
BENJ'N HALLOWELL.  
B. RUSH ROBERTS.  
RICH. T. BENTLEY.

C. DELANO,  
*Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.*

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :*

We, the undersigned, chiefs, police, and headmen of the Omaha tribe of Indians, respectfully represent, that our people are desirous of improving in civilization, and of adopting the pursuits of agriculture as a means of subsistence; and having recently received allotments of our lands in severalty, with a view of establishing thereon permanent homes for our people, our present annuity of \$20,000 is found insufficient for the purposes of building houses, opening farms, and providing stock, farming-implements, and other appliances necessary for agricultural pursuits. We, therefore, earnestly renew the petition presented to Congress at its last session, to make provision at as early a day as practicable for the sale of as near 50,000 acres of the most western portion of our reservation as can be separated from the remainder by a line running along the section-lines from north to south, and that the proceeds of the said sales may be appropriated for the building of houses, opening farms, and other beneficial purposes as aforesaid.

We earnestly represent that the advancement of our people in civilization is much retarded by the want of means to settle them in permanent homes, and respectfully petition that funds for that purpose be made available at as early a day as is consistent with the wisdom of Congress.

STANDING HAWK, *Chief*, his + mark.  
FUI, *Chief*, his + mark.  
YELLOW SMOKE, *Chief*, his + mark.  
HARD WALKER, *Chief*, his + mark.  
MA-HA-NERLJA, *Chief*, his + mark.  
SHON-GA-SKAH, *Chief*, his + mark.  
EBA-HOMBA, *Chief*, his + mark.  
LION, *Chief*, his + mark.  
GI-HE-GA, *Chief*, his + mark.  
L. SANN SOCI, *United States Interpreter*, his + mark.  
H. FONTENELLE, *ex-Interpreter*, his + mark.  
JIM DICK, his + mark.

WAH-SHA-SHA, his + mark.  
 TA-NOO-GA, his + mark.  
 TA-NOO-GA-NOMBA, his + mark.  
 ECO-HABBEE, his + mark.  
 MA-HA-WALKA, his + mark.  
 ISH-OGGA-WA-HERA, his + mark.  
 ZHINGA-SI-HE-GA, his + mark.  
 AES-NA-HUNGA, his + mark.  
 LE-MICCA-SEE, his + mark.  
 O-HUNGA-MO-NI, his + mark.  
 WAH-MAH-ZHE-KE-UBBE, his + mark.  
 MAH-A-GA-HE, his + mark.  
 WAH-TON-AH-ZHE, his + mark.  
 PE-ZE-MIN-GA, his + mark.  
 PAW-NEE-NUM-PA-ZHE, his + mark.  
 NA-HOGGA, his + mark.  
 MEIHOPPA ZHINGA, his + mark.  
 WAH-NAH-SANDA, his + mark.  
 L. SANNSOCI, *United States Interpreter*, his + mark.  
 H. FONTENELLE, *Ex-Interpreter*, his + mark.  
 L. H. FELT, *Citizen*.  
 E. PAINTER, *United States Indian Agent*.

OMAHA AGENCY, *Tenthmonth* 27, 1871.