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Ratified treaty no. 186, Documents relating to the negotiation of the treaty of May 13, 1833, with the Quapaw Indians. May 13, 1833

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RATIFIED TREATY NO. 186
DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATION OF THE
TREATY OF MAY 13, 1833, WITH THE QUAPAW INDIANS

St Louis, Mo. May 22^d 1833

Hon. Robert Herring
Gov. Mo. Affairs

Dear Sir

You have been informed
before this by the arrival of Col Stambaugh at
Washington, that we left Fort Gibson for the purpose
of holding a treaty with the Indians; but that the
state of his health would not permit him to await
the result of the Council with them. I have the
pleasure now to inform you that I have entered
into a treaty with them on the part of the U. States, and
that in a few days I will forward an abstract
of the treaty & the talk &c. The treaty itself I wish
to retain to give the other Commissioners an
opportunity to add their signatures to it, if they
approve of it. For the expenses of the Council
& presents on board I have drawn a draft on the
Sec. of War for \$179.87 $\frac{1}{2}$ in favour of Mr Baird
or order. Had I however known as much as I
do now of the difficulties of accepting the individual
drafts of one of the Commissioners, I should at least

have hesitated before I did it; although I think that the public business ought not to suffer, for the want of any nice formalities in these matters. I may however be under the necessity of doing the like again, as I am here now alone & I think it doubtful whether Gov. Stokes will be able at this season of the year, first on account of the high water & next on account of the flies to meet me at Fort Leavenworth as he contemplated when Col. Stambaugh left him.

I arrived here yesterday and had the pleasure of receiving your communication both official & unofficial, and I assure they gave me much satisfaction to find that you had interested yourself so much in our affairs. Gov. Clark the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, received me very kindly, and informed that the Potawatamies have not yet gone on to explore the country. I shall delay here for ten days & then proceed up the Neipowin to do what I can to expedite our business, which I know the President has much at heart. I am fully persuaded, it was indispensably necessary that the Commissioners or some of them should have a personal interview with the Department of Indian Affairs; & I have therefore that the visit of Messrs. Ellsworth & Stambaugh will be productive of much good.

With great Respect
J. F. Schermerhorn
Comdr. West Co.

Westn. Suppt.
Lafayette Nov 23. 1833

from Mr. H. Schermerhorn

concerning Tuscarora Treaty

Indian Office

St. Louis Mo

5-13-33

Safayette Ind. Nov 23^d 1833

Honorable

Elbert Herring

Commissioner

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure
to transmit to you by Mr M. C. Douglas
a treaty concluded with the Indians
the talks at the council, and a
Report on the whole. I trust they
will prove satisfactory, and meet
the approbation of the Department.
It was my intention, to have met
with my fellow commissioners
to day, before this, I have submitted
the treaty to them for their ap-
probation & signature. The season
is now so far advanced, that I

I know not where we shall meet. I
have therefore deemed it necessary to
transmit ^{these papers} to the Department by a special
messenger Mr Dougherty, whom I have
assured shall be paid the usual allow-
ances in such cases. I presume it is
necessary to have these documents to
lay before Congress as early in the
Session as possible.

I leave here this morning for
St Louis where I hope to arrive
in ten days. The Miami Treaty has
failed. It was a public treaty and
not a private negotiation as I recom-
mended, and as was contemplated in
the ^{private} instructions to Gov. Porter. You
will soon receive the Report of the
Commissioners.

With Great Respect
Yours Truly
J. J. Meromshov
Commissioner

Minutes of a Council

with the
Suapany

June May 10 & 13 1833

January 1834

Indian Office

Minutes of a Council held with
the Quagua Indians at New Gascony
A. T. May 10th & 13th inclusive 1833.

My Father.

There are many red that have spilt the blood of white men. The Quapaws have never done it. We pray therefore for our great Father to take pity on us. We want to remain here on the land which was formerly ours and our bones to be buried by the side of our ancestors. If we are permitted to stay here we shall not trouble our white Brothers.

My Father

We are afraid to leave here again and go among other nations more powerful than we, where we cannot defend ourselves. The Caddos when we were on Red River killed four of our men and we were too weak to resent the injury.

We want to continue here, any where even in

the swamps where the whites will never settle.

If our Great Father will grant our request, he may keep our money, we will give it all up to him.

To which the Commissioner answered
Brothers

Your Great Father cannot grant your request. His great Council have set apart a country for all his red children, and it is best they should live by themselves, where the bad white men shall not be permitted to disturb and trouble them. The people of Arkansas will not consent to have you stay here, and you had better remove to a land where you will rest in peace. Think of this matter well and let me know your answer on Monday. Tomorrow is the Lords day on which we worship the Great Spirit. We cannot counsel to morrow.

Council Monday May 13th 1833

Heickatton addressed the Commissioner as follows

Father

The place to which we went on Red River was not good. A great many of our people died there, our crops of corn were destroyed by the high water. We suffered very much with sickness & hunger. We are glad our Great Father will now give us a good land. I know I have to die it matters not where it is here or on Red River or at the new home promised us. In the direction where we are now to be sent we used to hunt and we have ^{been} robbed of our furs. It may be so again. If the white people trouble us in the country to which we are to remove we hope our Great Father will send them from us.

to assist you in building houses, and give you women wheels and looms and learn them to spin and weave and make cloth to clothe you & your children. You will have here a permanent home. your father will never ask you to remove again. Open your ears to the counsel of your Great Father and you will find him ever your friend & protector.

The following reply was made by the principal Chief Heickatton.

My Father. We have heard what you have said to us. When we started to Red River we had provisions enough for part of the way only we suffered for want of it before we got there.

My Father you say we shall be provided with good land. we are afraid to go there. It is a cold country we are afraid our cattle will die in the winter.

We wish Mr Barraque and our agent to remove us, and an interpreter to accompany us on our removal and to continue with us so long as our Great Father may think proper to let him stay. We want Bernard Boon for an interpreter we are now ready to take heed of the pen.

The Commissioner replied

Brothers It will rejoice the heart of your Great Father to hear that you have hearkened to his counsel & advice. I will say further you ask for a great deal from your Great Father. He wishes to do all he can for you and he is willing to comply with all you ask. If you see fit to exchange your permanent annuity for one of twenty years, he will agree to give you \$1000

Present J. F. Schermerhorn Comr of West on the part of the U States and the following Chiefs Kichatton Sarapin, Tonnonjinka & Hahk-hatteda and the warriors of said Tribe

The Commissioner on the part of the U States delivered to them the following talk

Brothers of the Quapaw Nation We thank the Great Spirit that he has permitted us to meet to day in Council to take into consideration your peculiar situation and to make known to you the views and wishes of your Great Father the President of the U States. He knows all the difficulties

that have attended your removal to Red River and the peculiar trials through which you have passed. He has heard of your return to your old homes, and the troubles that attend you here. He wants you to take counsel from him, and remove to the lands set apart by the Congress of the U States as the permanent home of the Indians west of the State of Missouri and Arkansas Territory. You know the country is a good one. He will there take care of you & protect you from all harm from the white men or his red children. He will give you as much land as is necessary for your comfortable subsistence. He will furnish you with agricultural implements, ploughs, axes, hoes, cattle and a farmer to teach you how to farm and cultivate your fields. He will also send men

Saraffin the second chief said
Father. What the head Chief has said I also say. I have always listened to the advice of my white Brethren, and will do so again. our old chiefs always told us to listen to our white Brethren. We have done so.

Hickatton asked when they ^{should go to the country} they were told in the fall.

My Father. Now we have taken hold of the Council of our Great Father we want you to furnish us with 100 bushells of corn in the course of the summer for the poor of our nation. We wish you to give us 100 blankets before we move

We want our four chiefs ^{each} to have fifty Dollars a year out of our annuity. They have all the business of the nation to attend unto.

We want also some guns and powder and all our just debts paid.

Minutes of a Council held with the Luauquaw
Indians at New Gascony A. S. May 10th & 13th
inclusive 1833.

a year to establish a School in your nation
so that your children may learn to read and
write and work like white men.

To which the Chief replied we are
all agreed to do what our great Father thinks
is best for us to do.