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Ratified treaty no. 126, Documents relating to the negotiation of the treaty of June 2, 1825, with the Osage Indians. June 2, 1825

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RATIFIED TREATY NO. 126

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATION OF THE
TREATY OF JUNE 2, 1825, WITH THE OSAGE INDIANS

St. Louis

June 8th 1825

Gov. W. Clarke

Informs that he has concluded
Treaties with the Osages & Cherokees
by which they have ceded the
whole of their country to the U.
States, reserving to the former a
front of fifty miles & the latter a
front of thirty miles stretching
back through the country ceded.
Incloses a map of the country,
of which the sum which
will be wanting will amount
to about 20.00 \$ & 0

6/2-3/25

Superintendency of Indian Affairs
St. Louis June the 8; 1825.

W^r

In accordance with the views
of Government and pursuant to the
instructions received from your
department, treaties have been
concluded with Osages and Kansas,
by which they have respectively ceded
the whole of their country to the
United States: reserving to the former,
a front of fifty miles (to commence
upon a line running twenty five
miles west of the western boundary
line of the state of Missouri) and
stretching back through the country
ceded; and to the latter, a front of
thirty miles, running back in like
manner, through the country ceded
by them. The country purchased
from them is at present & was
indispensable under the policy proposed

of locating the Indians west of the Mississippi.
The several sums of money which
it was found necessary to advance to them
& for & on this account, together with the
expenses incurred in negotiating with
them, will amount to about twenty thousand
dollars, for which I shall draw upon
you. — Peace has been also effected
between the Osages, Delawares & Kansas.

The several treaties that have been
concluded, with a particular account of
the expenses incurred shall be forwarded
without delay to your Department.

I have the honor to be

Your Mo. Ob^d Serv^t

Wm Clark

Th^o Donib^l
James Barbour
Secretary of War

St. Louis June 12th 1825

Wm Clark

Relative to the late Treaty
with the Osage & Kansas
Indians, the quantity and
quality of the land pur-
chased; time & mode of
payment &c &c

C/2-3/25

Saint Louis June 11th 1825

Sir

I have the honor to forward you an original & triplicate of a Treaty, signed at this place on the 2nd Instant with the Chiefs and Warriors of the Great & Little Osage Indians, & another signed on the 3rd with the Chiefs and Warriors of the Shawnee Nation.

At the negotiation of these treaties the negotiations were fully represented, the Chief with a party of Warriors from every village being present & fully authorized before they left home to act according to their discretion.

Of the Country ceded to the United States, a small portion, consisting of a breadth of twenty four miles running South from the Missouri river along the Western boundary of the State some distance into the Territory of Arkansas, & amounting to three or four millions of acres, lies within the limits of the State and that Territory. The acquisition of this portion of our territory.

has been an object ardently desired by the Citizens
of Missouri, and the Legislature have several
times addressed memorials to Congress, praying
for the extinction of the Indian title; It comprises
some of the richest and most beautiful land in
this State, and will meet with a ready sale when
it is brought into Market.

But the great body of the Indians live west of
Missouri and Arkansas, and is so extensive that
after leaving the Kansas & Osage a district
sufficient for their permanent residence, and
after furnishing homes for the Tribes, whose ac-
commodation was the immediate object of your
instructions, it will still leave the Government
enough to enable them to comply with the stip-
ulations of the treaty made with the Creek Indians
last Winter, and also to furnish permanent
residence to other Tribes in different States, who
may be willing to remove to the West, in pursuance
of the System for the gradual removal and
Collocation of the Indians.

I find from information derived from persons to be relied upon, that the Country embraced in these cessions, is wonderfully adapted to an Indian population in the first stages of Civilization; Grass is universally abundant, & the Winter in a great portion of the Cessions mild enough, to winter Cattle, Horses and other domestic animals, to subsist themselves without care from their owners. On all Creeks and rivers there are bottoms of rich land easily prepared for Cultivation. The country is divided into woodlands & prairie, but mostly prairie & is well watered by springs and running streams & is convenient to the Salt Plains and springs of strong salt water, from which an inexhaustible supply of Salt can be obtained, and also to the Great Buffalo range, from which supplies can be obtained until they can be supplied from their own flocks.]

In agreeing upon the amount & mode of payment, I have preferred a limited, to a permanent annuity; I conceive the former to be more valuable to the Indians & to the Federal Government.

An annuity forever, must of course be small, & the dividends to each individual become so inconsiderable that the Government confer no favor by bestowing it, and the Indians enjoy no benefit by receiving it, it is in fact received with contempt, instead of gratitude, and the Government is burdened with a perpetual debt, the annual payment of which is doing more harm than good. And if the tribes become extinct as has already happened in some cases of permanent annuities, there are evil of the opposite extreme is experienced, for a few individuals receive the whole and become pensioners on government without rendering any service in return. In the treaties concluded with the Kanzas and Osages, the annuities are limited to twenty years, in the course of which time the humane experiments now making by Government to teach them to subsist themselves by the arts of civilized life, will have had a fair trial & if it succeeds, they will need no further aid from the Federal Government. The two annuities amount to \$10,500 per annum. The payment of which of course

^{carry}
other expense, attendant upon the negotiation & the
execution of these treaties, can be made from the sales of one
fifth of the lands ceded by them within the limits of this
State, leaving nearly one hundred millions of acres
West of Missouri and Arkansas, to be exchanged with
tribes in the different States which may be willing to remove
to the West. You will perceive that a part of the considera-
tions for these cessions is payable in domestic animals, of
which the Kanzas and Osage are entirely destitute.
They now possess no other animals than those necessary in
a hunting state, to wit: horses and dogs. By adding
a stock of cattle, hogs and fowls, their advance to the
farming or at least to the pastoral state will be great-
ly facilitated. Each of the treaties contains sev-
eral reservations of a mile square in favor of
half breed Indians & their children. Reserves of this
kind have been heretofore made in behalf of such
persons, and in my opinion have a good effect in
promoting civilization, as their attachment is created
for a fixed residence & an idea of separate property
is imparted, without which it is vain to think of im-
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improving the minds or morals of the Indians, or making any progress in the work of civilization. As a treaty with the Indians should always be a complete settlement, & leave no cause of future complaint or negotiation nor any difference unadjusted; I have as a part of the considerations for the Osage cession agreed to relinquish a debt of about \$4,000 due from them to the United States for goods bought at the public trading houses before the abolition of the factory system, which would never have been paid; also I have agreed that the United States should make indemnification to a certain amount for houses and property taken or stolen by those Indians from the frontier white people (a measure necessary to prevent self redress on the part of the sufferers) and I have also agreed to pay a few small debts to the traders to whom these Indians were indebted. On the other hand the Osage have released the United States from the stipulation of a former treaty, for keeping up a military post; Blacksmiths & delivery of goods at Fire Prairie; These stipulations being now burdensome to the

United States without producing any goods to the
Indians. Yet by treaty our Government was bound to
keep ^{them} up.

The missionary establishments in the state and in the
Arkansas territory for the benefit of the Osage Indians, are
to be sold out and established at the principal
villages occupied by these Indians; It belongs to the
President under the Treaty to give the necessary orders to
direct the mode of sale. Those missionaries may have
objection to the removal, but their establishments were built
upon individual and public contributions for the special
benefit of the Indians, & to answer the purpose of their insti-
-tutions they must be located amongst Indians. The mills which
they have built would be serviceable at the Indian villages
in saving the squaws from the laborious process of pounding
the Grams into meal and the example of the missionaries might
be serviceable in teaching a knowledge of farming and of
the useful Arts, & with this view the treaty stipulates for
the removal of their establishments to the principal villages of
the Indians.

Experience having convinced me of the necessity of preven-
ting a white and Indian population from remaining

in immediate contact with each other, and the Indians themselves being fully sensible of the inconveniences of such neighborhoods; It has been stipulated in the ~~new~~ treaties now made, that the Osage reservations shall commence twenty five miles west of the Missouri line, & the Kansas about double that distance. This distance will be sufficient to prevent the stocks of the two parties from ~~intermingling~~ rendering the access to ardent spirits more difficult and to prevent collisions of property and persons. It may not be amiss to observe that more than half of the Reservations for individuals are out of the State & Territorial limits.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Very Respectfully

Yr. Obedt. Servt.

Wm. Clark

To the Honble James Garbour
Secy of War.

June 11, 1825
St Louis.

Wm. Clark