



Ratified treaty no. 107, Documents relating to the negotiation of the treaty of July 30, 1819, with the Kickapoo Indians. July 30, 1819

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RATIFIED TREATY NO. 107
DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATION OF THE
TREATY OF JULY 30, 1819, WITH THE KICKAPOO INDIANS

St Louis 20th Aug 1819.

Aug: Chouteau &
Brig: Stevenson,
concluding a treaty with
the Kickapoo Indians.
also their accounts -

Kickapoos 1819

34th

Oct 1819.

S^t. Louis the 20th August 1819,

Sir

We are happy to inform you, that we have at length been fortunate enough, to bring to a successfull issue, the negotiations that have been so long depending with the Kickapoo Tribe of Indians, by a treaty, which we have the honor herewith to transmit to you, and which we flatter ourselves will meet with the Presidents entire approbation.

None could regret more than we ourselves have done, the delays that have prevented an earlier consummation of so desirable, and important an object. But it is but justice to ourselves to state, that

they have been unavoidably the result of the artifices, intrigues, and false reports of certain Indian traders, who left no effort untried—
with either the Kickapoos themselves, or
with the neighbouring Tribes, to dissuade, &
deter, the former, from treating with us, which
added to a repugnance that they very strongly
manifested, to leaving the place of their
nativity, for a distant land; kept them almost
to the last moment, in a constant state of
oscillation upon the subject. The chiefs them-
selves, when made willing to accede to the terms
we proposed, hesitated to consummate a treaty,
till the apprehensions, prejudices, and predi-
lections of their Tribe could be overcome, and
several times, when we thought we were
upon the point of concluding the negotiation
successfully; occurrences presented themselves,
that rendered it necessary to suspend the

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business, and vary our propositions, particularly
with regard to the limits of the land pro-
posed to be given them in exchange. And
even at the moment of signing the treaty; we
were compelled to promise an equivalent in
lieu of one of the stipulations, which previous to
that time, they had seemed to make a sine-
qua non, which we preferred doing, rather than
risk the further delay, that would have been
necessary in preparing a new treaty.

The stipulation alluded to, is that
which provided, that they should be furnished
with two boats well manned, for the transpor-
tation of their property, from their present, to their
intended residence. The subsequent agreement
upon that subject, which is herewith trans-
mitted, is however much to the advantage of
the United States, as the amount given as an
equivalent for that stipulation, is less than it
would have cost, to have furnished the transpor-

tation agreed upon. And we have no doubt that the exchange was insisted upon, by the chiefs merely, for the purpose of enabling them by an additional quantity of goods, to give more satisfaction to a portion of their Tribe.

By the Treaty it will be seen that they have relinquished all their lands on the south east of the Wabash river, where it is known to one of the Undersigned, they many years ago, held undisputed possession, and he believes, from the best information which his long residence in this country, and his intimate knowledge of the Indians thereof, have enabled him to obtain, that they had an incontestable right to a large extent of Country on both sides of the Wabash river, which they heretofore, had neither abandoned, or relinquished.

Claiming the most, if not the whole of the land which was ceded by the Pottawatomies, by the Treaty of St. Mary's, on the second October 1798, they

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have relinquished all their right to the same, and have released the United States from all obligations imposed upon them, by virtue of the second article of that treaty.

They have also ceded & relinquished a tract of land especially described in the treaty, which contains between thirteen and fourteen millions of acres, including the whole of their claim to the Sangamo Country (a large portion of which they have long claimed and inhabited) and all the land lying between the eastern boundary of the Cession made by the Illinois nation; and the line that divides the states of Illinois & Indiana. And that no pretense of right except what was given them in exchange might remain to them, they have expressly relinquished their right & title to all lands on the east side of the Mississippi River. And thus is settled, some very important, and embarrassing disputes in adverse Indian titles, completing the extinguishment of all Indian claims

west of the dividing line between the States of Illinois & Indiana, and south of the Kankakee and Illinois Rivers, thereby placing at the disposal of our government, a vast extent of land of unrivalled fertility, which seemed to be necessary for the purpose of connecting the different settlements in the State of Illinois, & particularly those now formed, with those which are commencing on the military bounty lands.

They have also relinquished their right to a perpetual annuity of one thousand dollars, & their proportion of 150 bushels of salt per annum which they were entitled to in consideration of their former cessions, and by virtue of former treaties.

And they have agreed to take in lieu of all former stipulations, and for the cessions made by the present treaty, the merchandise which we paid them, an annuity of two thousand dollars, for fifteen years; and the tract of land described in the treaty, which is greatly

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inferior in quality, and less in quantity than that portion of the lands which they have ceded, to which, their right was exclusive and indisputable.

It was our intentions to have transmitted to you a map of the lands ceded by the Kickapoos, taken from a map of the State of Illinois, that Mr. Daniel D. Smith is now preparing to publish which will be infinitely more correct than any that has yet been given to the public, but after having made out the map for us, he became apprehensive that copies of it might be taken to his injury, and therefore he refused to let us have it, but has sent it on to Washington City as a present to the Cabinet, where you of course will have an opportunity of referring to it.

We believe we hazard nothing in saying that a more important, and advantageous Indian treaty, has never been concluded on the Northwest side of the Ohio river. None

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could have been more ardently desired, or more highly approved by the State of Illinois, whose interest & prosperity will be greatly promoted by it, not only as it affords the means of bringing into market the most desirable portion of the State, and of connecting its different settlements, but in removing from its borders one of the most warlike and enterprising tribes of Indians in North America; whose incursions during the late war (exceeding those of any other tribe) will be long remembered, and deeply deplored.

In fulfilling the duty assigned to us, we assure you, that we have not for one moment, lost sight of your injunction, to observe as much economy as possible, and for an object as important, and at the same time so difficult as we have found it, requiring several formal councils, at different times, we do not expect that

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less expense has ever been incurred under similar circumstances.

In a few days we shall transmit our account and shall draw upon you for the amount of the expenditures, dividing that amount into different bills, so as to enable us to negotiate them with the greatest facility.

A report of our proceedings would have been made at an earlier day, but for the necessary attendance of Mr. Stephenson on the public sales at Edwardsville, which allowed him no time, since the conclusion of the treaty, to devote to this subject.

We flatter ourselves, that the measures we have adopted, for that purpose, will prevent any further attempt on the part of the Pottawatomies of Illinois, to oppose the removal of the Kickapoos; And we have now little doubt, but that the Pottawatomies themselves could be easily prevailed upon to remove to the West

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side of the Mississippi river, whereby the Indian title to the whole of the lands in Illinois could be extinguished, and the government obtain possession of a vast extent of Mineral Country, pretty accurately described by Mr Jefferson in his Notes on Virginia, and of great value.

We have the honor to be very
respectfully

Sir,

Your most Obedient
Humble Servt to
Aug. T. Whittley
Ben. Stephenson

The honorable J. C. Calhoun
Secretary of War