Ratified treaty no. 123, Documents relating to the negotiation of the treaty of November 15, 1824, with the Quapaw Indians. November 15, 1824

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RATIFIED TREATY NO. 123

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATION OF THE

TREATY OF NOVEMBER 15, 1824, WITH THE QUAPAW INDIANS

Robt. Crittenden
Letter 24th Novr. 1824
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Respecting Treaty
with the Indians
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Little Rock
24th Nov. 1824

Sir

Mr Thomas H. Newton the secretary of the Quapaw Treaty will present to you the result of my negotiations on the subject. I have deemed it improper to trust a paper of its importance to our precarious mails. I have stipulated nothing with him as to compensation. He carries it on, relying solely upon your adjudication of his claim.

I have the honor to inform you that the entire wishes of your department have been met in the Treaty which has been concluded. I regret the impracticability of a compliance with a part of your letter of instructions, as to a designation of the No. of Indians rationed each day. the number upon the Treaty grounds fluctuated hourly from fifty to one hundred and fifty.

An Indian will eat two Ration rations each day. for ten days, and if I had limited them to one, I have no hesitation in saying they would have deserted the Treaty ground. they are much averse to a cession of their entire claim and I was constrained to resort to every honorable means to gain upon their feelings, and obtain their confidence. You will perceive by my accounts, that to effect this object I was not only compelled to give them as much as they would eat, but that I presented them with

One blanket each, and the chiefs each a uniform coat. I flatter myself however that if I have exceeded your estimate of the probable expence of holding this treaty - it will in your estimation be more than counterbalanced by the reduced price for which I have obtained their Land -

The Indians, insisted from the earliest stage of the treaty, on receiving as a prompt payment, in case of sale the same amount as paid (by Gov Clark,) to them on a similar occasion - I found it necessary to comply with this request - and obtained for them the articles they wished, to the amount of four thousand Dollars - for which their Receipts are forwarded to be credited as you will perceive by the Treaty as a payment of that amount out of the $15.000 - the consideration money for the land ceded.

I have been constrained to allow them a few reserves, or donations to half breeds resident in the nation, you will find them few and very limited - with the exception of James Sculls - he is a white man, the treaty itself presents a fair statement of his case - I would barely remark that, he is poor with a numerous family - that the benevolence of his disposition tempted him to credit them for the specified amount - and that almost abject poverty will be the consequence of his failure to obtain remuneration

The Indians will join the Caddos

for which purpose they will immediately set on foot negotiations, their allowance of provisions is estimated, as barely sufficient to enable them to reach their new homes.

I have been in much pain at my inability to comply sooner with your wishes in holding this Treaty - but the want of the essential articles for doing so, may bring compelled to send to the banks of the Ohio for them - the indisposition of my family during the summer - will I hope be deemed sufficient apologies -

I have had no precedents to guide me in this treaty - never having been at one previous - I apprehend therefore inaccuracies in the accounts, and possibly in the Treaty - I am conscious that I praise the four thousand dollars - on my own responsibility the residue of the disbursement I designed to be strictly within the limits of your instructions - in their spirit at least, where an obedience to the letter was impossible - For any further information relative to the disbursements or to the accounts forwarded I refer you to Mr. Stanton -

I have the honor to be very Respectfully Your Ob Serv.

Robt. Crittenden

Hon. John C. Calhoun
Secy. War.

(over)

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N.B. I omitted to remark in the body of my communication, that as I had received $6.400 only, out of the $7.500 appropriated and as the surplus on the account rendered is a drain on my limited means I would be much obliged to you to forward the money if consistently you can from the residuum of the contingent appropriation.

Robt. Cutterbuck

Robt. Cutterbuck
Letter dt Nov. 24 1824
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Respecting Deficiency
with the Drafting
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