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MONTPELIER

October 24, 1952

Charles J. Adams, Esq.  
Montpelier,  
Vermont

Dear Charles:

I enclose herewith a copy of extracts  
from the Vermont Assembly Journals of 1798 and 1799  
relative to the Indian claims. Perhaps you have already  
seen these; but if not, you will be interested in having  
them.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

*ac*

CONSULTANT

A message from the Governor by Mr. Whitney their secretary.

Mr. Speaker -- I am directed to lay before the House a communication from his Excellency, the Governor, relating to claims of the seven nation of Indians of Lower Canada; which he laid on the table and then he withdrew.

The communication was then read as followeth, to wit:

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

Herewith I do myself the honor to lay before you the result of the enquiries I have made, relative to the claims of the seven nations of Indians, of Lower Canada, in pursuance of the act of the Legislature, on this subject passed at their session in October last.

I cannot learn that the state of New-York were governed so much by a principle of justice, as policy, in the compensation made by them, in their late treaty with these people. The claims of the Indians to lands in the state of New-York, and for which they received a compensation from that government, I conceive to be somewhat variant from their claims to lands in this state. The greater part of our lands was granted by the King of England, without any express reservation of an Indian claim; while the lands in New-York were principally vacant, and the hunting ground of the claimants.

It has not been in my power to obtain any documents, that would give any accurate information of the ancient claim of these Indians, to the lands in question, but from the long and settled usage, principles which have governed nations in similar cases, I conceive their right, whatever it might have been, extinguished.

These Indians, the Cognawaghas, are anciently of the confederacy called the five nations; which confederacy, or some nation of that confederacy, might have once had a good right to the territory now claimed.

In the former wars, between the English and French, while the English king held the governments of this county, it is believed the Cognawaghas separated from the confederacy, removed into Canada, put themselves under the French, and joined their



fortunes with the French king, in his wars with the English: the latter being victorious conquered the French, and all their allies, in this country, and in Canada; upon which the whole country was yielded to the English, in right of conquest.

The treaty which terminated that was, <sup>(1763)?</sup> and which was made for all those who were united with the French, or were inhabitants or held rights in the province of Canada, reserved certain rights and privileges, to all the conquered people of that province. Their rights, so reserved were considered to extend beyond the limits of that province; in this the Indians acquiesced, for and during all the time the English were in the possession and government of this country. It is also believed that the Indians never caused the voice of their claims to be heard, respecting these lands, during the existence of this government, or at any period since the conquest, or since the grant of these lands, by his Britannic majesty.

I may also add, that in the year 1775, when the king of England, who had granted these lands, made war upon this country, these Indians were his allies, in that war, and thereby subjected themselves, and interest to its consequences. The people of the United States were victorious, and the king of England, by treaty, yielded to the United States all the lands to the south of Canada. Thus, in my view the claims of the Indians have been extinguished.

Although by the act submitting the examination of the Indian claims to me, it becomes my duty to make known the result of the investigation, to the Indians in the first instance, yet the importance of the subject induces me to lay my views of it before the legislature, and receive such further communications, as they may direct.

The present of one hundred dollars has been received by the chiefs, and their expences paid while at Vergennes. — No expence has been incurred, in the management of this business, except a small sum, given by judge Hathaway, to influence the chiefs, on their way to attend at this place, to return back. All which, with due

deference and respect, is submitted to the consideration of the Legislature.

ISAAC TICHENOR.

Journal of the General Assembly of the State of Vermont.

1798

pp 164 - 166.

The committee, to who was referred the consideration of the communications, from his excellency the governor, relative to certain Indian claims:

Made report,

That their chief claims, as their ancient hunting ground, as much land, within this State, as is contained within the following bounds, to wit: begining on the east side of Ticonderoga, from thence to the great falls on Otter creek and continuing the same course to the height of land that divides the streams, between Lake Champlain, and Connecticut river; thence along the height of land opposite Missisqui; and thence to the Bay.

And, that, while the committee are of opinion that they have had a claim to the above described land, by a title arising from an agreement, entered into with other nations, the aborigines of this country, they cannot ascertain whether that title has been extinguished, by purchase, conquest, direliction of occupancy, or in any other way whatever.

At all events the committee are clearly of opinion, that no settlement can be made with these Indians, respecting their said claim, by the legislature of this state, without permission of the United States; and they found their opinion on the fourth section of an act, entitled "An act regulating trade and intercourse with Indian tribes;" passed July, 22d, 1790; which declares that no sale of lands made by Indians, or any nation or tribe of Indians,

within the United States, shall be valid to any person or persons, or to any state, whether having the right of preemption, to such lands, or not, unless the same shall be made and duly executed, at some public treaty, held under the authority of the United States.

The committee, under all these circumstances, are of opinion, that his excellency the governor, be requested to inform the said Indians, that, when they shall exhibit clear and circumstantial proofs, that the claim they now make is founded on the unerring and unalterable rules of justice, and shall produce therewith the necessary documents, authorising this state to treat with them, they will find their brethren of Vermont ready and willing to maintain inviolable the most friendly intercourse, with the Indians of the seven nations and to do and perform all those acts of kindness and generosity, which their strong principles of justice cannot fail to inspire.

The committee therefore would advise, that his excellency, be further requested, to obtain from the state of New York, all the information he can, and shall deem necessary, respecting a similar claim, made by the same Indian tribes, on that state, and the nature and extent of the compensation allowed to them thereon: and that he cause to be presented to them, as soon as conveniently can be done, a token of friendship, and affection, from their brethren of Vermont, in such articles as he shall deem best, not exceeding in value the sum of one hundred dollars; and

that he cause their maintainance, while here, to be regularly paid for.

The committee further advise that his excellency be authorised to draw on the treasury of this state, for such sums as he shall deem necessary, for defraying the expences of the whole of this business, not exceeding the sum of        dollars, and that the treasurer be authorised to pay the same.

Paul Brigham, for committee.

Which report was read and accepted:



Committee

## RECORD OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date 24 April 1951

Members Present House, all except Ackert, Day, Mrs. Roy.  
Senate, All except Senator Peterson.

Persons heard

BILL, Etc., CONSIDERED Claim of Iroquois Indians. Joint Meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS CONSIDERED Three courses of action proposed. 1. By Attorney General, to appoint a commissioner to investigate. 2. (a) Introduction of a bill by Mr. Barney. (b) Introduction of a committee bill. 3. Refuse a bill. There was discussion of Champlains writings, as to whether the land was owned by Algonquins or Iroquois. Archaeological findings tend to show that Algonquins spent more time in the Vermont area than did the Iroquois.

Question arose as to who and how many people the Indians who appeared represented. They purported to represent three tribes - the St. Regis, Lake of the Two Mountains, Connahwagas, totaling a approximately 600 people.

Transcription of Attorney Generals statement at April 19th hearing read and discussed.

Mr. Dow moved that a joint resolution be introduced calling for appointment of a commissioner to investigate Indians Claim with view to final termination and report to 1953 Legislature. Seconded by Senator Fisher. Carried unanimously.

Resolution Committee appointed: Senator Fisher and Representatives Cahoon and Mounce.

Vote of combined committees for Resolution: 16 - 0. Favorable.

Transcription of hearing before the Joint Claims Committee  
of the House and Senate on Iroquois Indians Claim, on April 19,  
1951, in the House of Representatives, State House, Montpelier, Vermont.

Mr. Barney: This is a meeting of the joint House and Senate  
Claims Committee to consider the claim of the Cognahwagas who  
want a portion of the State of Vermont. I have been delegated  
the job of presiding by the senior member of the joint committee  
so I will give you a program of the procedure we intend to  
follow. After the clerk calls the roll of both committees to  
see how many are in attendance, I will attempt to give a  
short introduction of the nature of the claim and after that  
we will hear from the Attorney General as to the State's  
position and then the representatives of the Indian nation will  
be called upon to state their position and then the floor will  
be open to discussion.

(At this point the clerk called the roll and the following  
members were present;

Mr. Barney: On behalf of the joint assembly of the State of  
Vermont I would like to welcome here Chief James Sagogete Montour  
and Chief Philip Sagodensta Angus of the Lake of Two Mountains  
Reservation, Province of Quebec. They are the representatives  
of the Cognahwagas, St. Regis and Lake of Two Mountains Indians  
of the tribe of the Iroquois. It is the policy of this claims  
committee to give careful consideration to all matters presented  
to them and this will be no exception. A brief history of  
this claim might be helpful. In 1798 this claim was first laid  
before the General Assembly. The extent of the claim then as



now relates to land in the western part of Vermont between the Green Mountain divide and Lake Champlain from the Canadian border on the north to the Great Falls on Otter Creek in the south. The land comprises four million acres. The contention of the Cognahwagas is that this portion of the State was under the domination of the Iroquois prior to its occupation or settlement by our people and that this matter was not disposed of in any of the pertinent peace treaties between England and France in 1763 or between England and the United States in 1783. The pertinent considerations on this matter seem to be broadly these:

- (1) Were the Indians in possession of these lands at the time of the treaties so as to justify a claim.
- (2) Were they subject to the terms of the treaties as friends or as conquered enemies. Also what consideration should be given to a New York treaty made with the Iroquois Nation in 1796.

The history of this claim is a long one and has been investigated by many capable Vermonters. Among them Samuel Chipman, Signey Hay, Jonothan Robinson, Paul Brigham, Timothy P. Redfield, James M. Hotchkiss and B. B. Smalley. The Legislature of Vermont has never seen fit to sustain this claim. From time to time tokens of friendship and esteem have been voted but the claim itself has never been approved. This claim is a part of the history of the Iroquois and a part of the history of our State. We are here to add a chapter to that history. We will now hear from the Attorney General.

Atty. General: Mr. Chairman, committee members, I doubt that I should rise here in the forum which eventually may be called upon

to pass on this claim and state, as such, what the State's position is, as the state's position will be that position which this body may eventually determine. I think you should know that the chiefs of the 6 nations representing the 6 nations originally brought this claim before the Legislature in Vergennes in 1798. In 1799 after consultation, the Governor reported against the claim. The claim was further presented in 1800, 1812 and 1826. In each of those instances, as I recall, a token of gratitude to defray expenses was given to the representatives of the 6 nations with the express stipulation, however, that they should in no way prejudice the state to take legal notice of any claim. In 1854 there was a special commissioner appointed to the Indian communities who made quite an extensive report and incorporated in that many of the old documents which are now very difficult to trace. That report is available to the committee. It is referred to as Vt. 970.5 R 24 and one of the originals I have here. It is much too long to read. As a result of Legislative action in 1854 a further commissioner was appointed and made a report to the Legislature in November, 1855. That, so far as I can ascertain, is the last time that the representatives of the Indian Nations, except before a committee of claims, have come forward with any detailed extension of their claim. Now the files in my office indicate that we have periodically, nearly once every two years, heard from someone in behalf of the Indian Nations relative to this claim and, as you well know, it is not within the powers that are in my office to recognize such a claim and the representatives have in each instance been referred to this body. I suggest this to the committee and to the honorable representatives who are here from the Indian Nation. On the basis of what has gone before, it doesn't seem

necessary that the Legislature or its proper committee, go over the extended findings to have any further investigation into the factual picture. There are four or five very definite questions involved. There is a question essentially of abandonment by those tribes who are represented here. There is a question as to whether a treaty with New York prior to the settlement of Vermont includes the hunting land in Vermont and in like manner, there is a question as has been mentioned by your chairman, as to whether these nations whose representatives are now before us, are any of those tribes who never exercised any domination or control over the hunting grounds which are embodied in this area. I suggest, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, that in approaching this subject we hear from the representatives of the nations with particular reference as to whether they have any further or additional facts which they believe substantiate their claim and that if such appear, in the interest of the saving of time and money, that your committee seriously consider a resolution in this General Assembly which will authorize the governor or such other officer as you see fit to designate, to serve as a commissioner to consider such further evidence as these tribes may produce and make a report of necessity to the following General Assembly. I make this suggestion only after consideration of the program in the short time that now remains of trying to take evidence before this Claims Committee in what may be considered the closing days of the session and with the problems we have with the representatives and people who make up these Indian Nations which in some instances include maximum difficulties. I would urge the Committees before they take any final action on the allowance of any claim of this kind that in

view of the period of nearly 100 years which has elapsed, that an investigation of the facts as they now appear in the light of later acquired knowledge be made and I believe in the interests of the people of Vermont and particularly those who are within the area subjected to this claim, that I should rise in active opposition to any allowance of such a claim based on the facts as they now are known to have been established as a matter of record. Thank you.

Mr. Barney: Mr. Montour, do you wish to speak at this time?

Mr. Montour: The first I would say. I would thank the Father from Heaven that he gave us the the opportunity to come together again in this house. I have traveled a little bit since I arrived in Vermont and I have looked over the place. I would say it is a wonderful place you got. And I was think that we have hoped as much as you do, people that lives in Vermont nowadays, that we will get something for our claim made in the early days. So I haven't got much to say and I will excuse my English language. I make mistake sometimes but I hope not. Those treaties made we can't say any more. As we know, the first man in the United States it wan an Indian, so my dear brothers and sisters I have a hope to show the documents and the claims and I was very glad to here before the Senate have these documents looked into and have a meeting together. The Indian and the United States. That has been dragging for about 90 years now. We are trying to get back and I don't know why we couldn't get back to documents earlier than this but here we are today. I was thinking you all know the treaty of 1784 and I think all the treaties made in the U.S. between the Iroquois Indians is all brothers. Before the white man it was an Indian and if there was nothing left, no piece of paper or

writing left, that he belongs to the land, then they don't use no paper or anything like that. They go away from one place to the other. I guess the thing was dragging too long but here we are again and I hope the document and the words of the claim will love on to the end.

Mr. Barney: Could I ask you a few questions? In line with what the Attorney General said, do you have any additional or any new evidence other than what has been presented in the past?

Mr. Montrose: Well, my dear friend, I will tell you the truth. I didn't get it all, what the Attorney General said.

Mr. Barney: His question was, do you have any further evidence other than what has already been given to show your claim?

Mr. Montour: Not that I know of.

Mr. Barney: Have you placed any value upon your claim?

Attorney General: At the time it was 4¢ an acre. That amounts to \$89,600.00.

Mr. Barney: You mean it would be more than \$89,000?

Mr. Montour: No, I don't make the price yet. (Held conversation with other Indian)

Mr. Barney: Would it be of any help to you if we had someone here to speak French?

Mr. Montour: No, I don't speak French much. How it will be the price that was made 4¢ an acre?

Mr. Barney: That comes to \$89,600.00. That claim has been presented to this Legislature before and refused. I think it was done in 1855.

Attorney General: The report of the Legislature indicates that on October 15 & 17, 1855 the Commissioner of the Legislature and the agents of the Iroquois at that time met. The representatives



of the Iroquois tribe made the price of 4¢ per acre or \$89,600.00. There is no reference made that I found to any continuation. The length of the report would indicate at the time that the Iroquois tribes who had previously settled with New York for \$20,000.00, would take \$89,600.00 in settlement of the claims of the tribes.

Mr. Barney: I think what the proposition is, that if the claim of \$89,600.00 is honored, they would be content to take it in yearly installments. I think that is what he had in mind.

Mr. Montour: Nodded yes.

Mr. Barney: As a matter of record, I would like to read from the files of the Secretary of State in order that the position of the Federal Government on this question can be in the record.

Mr. Barney then read the following from a letter from the U.S. Dept. of the Interior dated May 29, 1940 and signed by John Herrick, Assist. to the Commissioner.

"In the report to the House of Representatives, the Committee decided that if the petitioners' claim was not extinguished by the treaty between France and Great Britain in 1763, it was of the opinion that all legal and equitable title to the property claimed was presented to the United States by the treaty with Great Britain in 1783 (8 Stat. 80)

"At the time the treaty of 1783 was entered into the United States was operating under the Articles of Confederation and each of the 13 States was sovereign. It is believed that any property that may have been ceded by Great Britain to the States along the border between what is now the United States and Canada inured to the benefit of the sovereign States along the border. Be that as it may, the State further apparently based its decision on the fact that the Indians had abandoned the territory as the Committee

stated that there was no evidence before it that the Indians had ever occupied or been in possession of the territory claimed from 1763 to the present time, although the Indians claim "that a party of their tribe came on to said territory on a hunting excursion in 1799 or thereabouts. It appears, therefore, that only one hunting trip over this territory between 1763 and 1880 would not be sufficient basis for a valid claim against the State of Vermont, or against the United States.

"Entirely aside from the treaty provisions above mentioned, and in respect of Indian titles generally, the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of *Minnesota v. Hitchcock* (185 U.S. 373-389), held, in effect, that the fee of the land was in the United States, subject to a right of occupancy by the Indians, and that whenever the Indian abandoned his right of occupancy or possession it attached itself to the fee without further grant. There is no question, therefore, as we see it, but that any right of occupancy was terminated by the Mohawk Indians by abandonment during early days; that is, if not in 1763 then certainly in 1799 when they made their last hunting trip over these lands and never thereafter returned.

"In view of the above, there appears now to be no valid claim either against the Federal Government or the State of Vermont that could be sustained in the courts, or in any other manner."

Mr. Barney: Is there any further discussion of the matter of this claim? Any members of the committee wish to be heard?

Mr. Angus: I want to speak just a few words. The treaty between the 6 nations and the King of England and the United States President, George Washington, that made it legal. George Washington got



for Indians - no boundary line for Indians from Canada to United States we have no boundary line. The treaty made in 1763 - the British in those early days. The war between French and the British, they made a treaty in 1763. France signed to give up the country to Canada. It belonged to the British. When the French King George told Indians to go back where they are. Make treaty to protect the Indians. U.S. President and British King. Here is our claim here in the United States and our claim in Canada. Did Vermont people give them back something? No.

I heard the man. "I give you back your country". I am not going to say I give up the claim. It is too bad I don't speak very much English but I do my best before the Senate. I am proud to hear from me. That is how I would say it today.

Mr. Barney; Thank you very much. I think if that is all the evidence to be heard from these representatives, that I would declare this joint meeting of the House and Senate Claims Committee adjourned.

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# WARNING

## SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Rockingham, County of Windham and State of Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet in the auditorium of the high school building in said town of Rockingham on the 19th day of August, 1953, at 8:00 in the evening, D. S. T. (7:00 E. S. T.) to act on the following article, to wit:

ARTICLE I: To see if the voters of the Town of Rockingham in celebrating the Bi-Centennial of the founding of the township, and recognizing that there may have been inequities practiced upon the inhabitants of the then township, to wit, the Iroquois Indians, as a gesture of friendship, will vote to deed to the said Iroquois Indians a parcel of land owned by the Town of Rockingham.

Dated at Rockingham, Vermont, this 29th day of July, 1953.

NATT L. DIVOLL, JR.

E. J. BENTON

Selectmen of the Town of  
Rockingham.

T-30-3t

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*CJA  
Indian  
file*

August 7, 1953

Mr. Charles J. Adams  
79 Main St.  
Montpelier, Vt.

Dear Charlie,

Enclosed is a copy of the warning referring to the Indians coming to Bellows Falls, Vt. All arrangements are being made through Roland Stevens, their attorney in White River Jct. I understand Chief Poking Fire and twenty others are coming here by bus.

I am sending the same information to Tom Dodd as he requested at Rotary the other evening.

Will see you the next time I am in Montpelier.

Sincerely,

*Hank*

J. Henry Snyder

JHS/drs  
Encl.

CJA  
Indian Claims  
file

April 8, 1953

Miss Emily Pearlstein  
22 Park Street  
Barre, Vermont

Dear Miss Pearlstein:

I am glad to learn of your interest in the claim being made by the Indians to a portion of the State of Vermont. It would be very difficult for me to sum up what I know of the matter in a letter, and I would therefore suggest that you make some effort to be in Montpelier this Thursday when the Indians are scheduled to appear before the legislature and at which time, I am sure, you will gain some interesting information.

You may have read in the paper an account about my finding the Indians had no legal or equitable jurisdiction to their claim on the basis of such evidence as had been presented to me. You may also have read that the Indians did not choose to appear before me and present evidence of this claim to me, and for that reason I am not very well versed in the actual history and basis of their claim other than having some knowledge through reading reports in the State Library pertaining to their appearances before the legislature in previous years.

Practically all that I know of the situation has been published at various times during the past three or four months in the newspapers, and I cannot give you much more information than has been presented there.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES J. ADAMS

CJA:amc



Indian  
Claim file  
22 Park Street

Barre, Vermont

April 6, 1953

The Hon. Charles Adams

Montpelier, Vermont

Dear sir,

As a writer for the Spaulding High School Sentinel, I am looking for information on the Indians' lands question soon to come before legislature. I understand you are on the Indian Claims Committee. Have you any information on the subject you could give me? Anything about the Indians, what they want and why, will interest our readers. How long have the Indians been petitioning for their claim? What are the tribes concerned and how and where are they living now?

If you are in a position to reply before the bill comes up for consideration, can you tell me when that will be. We should like to send a photographer over for some pictures and if possible interview someone "in the know" personally.

Enclosed is a stamped envelope for your reply. I appreciate your interest, knowing at least partly how busy you are and how valuable your time is. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

*Emily Pearlstein*

Emily Pearlstein

22 Park Street

Barre, Vermont

GORDON M. DAY  
CONTOOCOOK, N. H.  
28 Dec 52

Mr. Charles J. Adams  
Montpelier, Vermont

Dear Mr. Adams:

I have recently read about the claim of the St. Regis Iroquois to a piece of western Vermont and about your committee enjoined to study the matter. As a native Vermonter and an amateur dabbler in northeastern Indian history, I am interested in this problem and am taking the liberty of making some suggestions.

In the interest of fairness to the people of Vermont who are asked to pay for the claim and to rightful Indian claimants, if any, no action should be taken without thorough research into the history of Indian land titles generally in Vermont. The true story is not contained in legal documents alone or in ordinary histories or casual historical commentary. It exists in fragments in the writings and minds of a few research archeologists and ethnologists who are not well known outside their own circles. I believe your committee should have the benefit of the opinions of:

Dr. William N. Fenton, Bureau of American Ethnology,  
Washington, D. C.

Dr. Arthur C. Parker, Naples, New York

Dr. William A. Ritchie, Rochester Museum of Arts and  
Sciences, Rochester, N. Y.

Dr. A. Irving Hallowell, Department of Anthropology,  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

I should like to call the attention of your committee to the following observations which can be documented if you desire:

1. Early references to Vermont as Iroquoisia and to the Champlain Valley as the residence of the Iroquois are probably the result of language difficulties between Champlain and his Indian interpreters.

2. Whatever the status of Vermont in pre-history, the only Indians whom white settlers found actually living in Vermont were Abnakis, whose descendants now live at Odanak, near Pierreville, Quebec. More aggressive claims by Iroquoian groups should not be allowed to prejudice any claim which the St. Francis Abnakis may have.

3. Even though a valid claim to Vermont soil should be established by the Five or Six Nations of Iroquois, the descendants of this Confederacy reside near Brantford, Ontario, and on reserva-

tions in central New York, not at St. Regis.

4. The Iroquois of St. Regis and Caughnawaga broke away from the Confederacy and were officially outlawed by it in 1684. They never appear to have resided in Vermont; their claim must be based on hunting usage, which is proper enough; but it must be demonstrated that they had clear title to territory which was actually occupied by Abnakis from 1676 until after 1760.

I hope the above may be helpful, and I shall be happy to be of further help if I am able.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gordon M. Day".

Gordon M. Day



GORDON M. DAY  
CONTOOCOOK, N. H.



Mr. Charles J. Adams  
Montpelier  
Vermont

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER TO INVESTIGATE CLAIM  
TO CERTAIN LANDS LOCATED IN VERMONT BY  
CERTAIN TRIBES OF THE IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY

TO: His Excellency, Lee E. Emerson, Governor  
of the State of Vermont

The Commissioner authorized by Joint Resolution (H)49  
(No. 368) of the Acts and Resolves of the Legislature of  
1951 and appointed by your Excellency on the 18th day of  
April, A.D. 1952 submits to you for transmission to the  
1953 session of the General Assembly a report in accordance  
with said Joint Resolution:--

REPORT

The Joint Resolution, above referred to, directed the  
Commissioner to review the evidence on record together  
with any new evidence that might be available pertaining  
to the claim by certain tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy  
to a portion of the lands within the State of Vermont.

The evidence on record in the Secretary of State's  
Office and in the State Library which has come to the  
attention of your Commissioner discloses that the claim  
hereunder consideration has either been presented before

or referred to by the Vermont General Assembly at the sessions of 1798, 1799, 1812, 1826, 1851, 1854, 1855, 1874, 1880, 1896, and 1951. In 1798, 1799, 1854 and 1855, the claim was apparently studied very thoroughly by the then Governor in one instance and a Commissioner in another. However, each time that this claim has come to the attention of the Legislature, it has, either by inaction or positive expression, decided against making any financial settlement with the Indians whereby the claim would be finally disposed of. Some of the reasons assigned for this have been; abandonment of the disputed area by the claimant tribes; extinguishment of the claim through the terms of the Treaties between France and England in 1763 and between England and the United States in 1783; the restrictions imposed upon negotiations of this type with Indian Tribes by the provisions of our Federal Constitution and Federal enactments; and conquest of the French and English forces to which the claimant Tribes had been allied. Nothing more of record substantiating the claim has been brought to the attention of your Commissioner.

There apparently have been some instances of settlements being made by some of the States of this Union with some Indian Tribes whereby the Indians' right of occupancy or their title was acquired from them and merged with the title now held by the present owners of the fee to the premises. However, the legal basis and justification for such measures, as they might apply to the instant situation, have not been submitted to your Commissioner for his consideration; and therefore he has no legal grounds, if there be such, upon which to base any recommendation by him of a financial settlement directed toward finally and completely disposing of the claim hereunder consideration.

Since 1880 the Indian Claimants have apparently presented no new factual evidence of their claim, no basis in law for it and nothing to rebut the stand taken by various sessions of the Vermont General Assembly. In order that they might have an opportunity for doing so, your Commissioner scheduled a hearing for November 13, 1952 to be held in the Franklin County Court House at St. Albans. Notices of this hearing were sent by registered mail on October 14, 1952 to Chief Mose Thompson of the St. Regis Tribe, Chief Philip Sagodensta Angus, Chief James Sagogete Montour, and Matthew Lazare,

Secretary of the Indian Council of the Iroquois Confederacy, all of whom appeared to your Commissioner to be those entitled to such notice according to the files in the office of the Secretary of State. The same notice was sent to the Attorney General of Vermont and also to Mr. Roland E. Stevens of White River Junction, Vermont who had indicated he was Counsel for the claimant Tribes and who was later acknowledged by the Indians mentioned above to be such.

A period of time spent in corresponding and conferring with Mr. Stevens by reason of his request that the hearing be held at a later date and different place ended on November 7, 1952 when Mr. Stevens as Counsel for the three Tribes who had had notice of the hearing signed a stipulation in which he expressed a desire to forego presenting evidence of the claim before this Commissioner in order that he might bring it to the attention of the 1953 session of the General Assembly. He also indicated his willingness to release your Commissioner from any obligation he may have had to the claimants to hold this hearing for the purposes aforementioned. A copy of this stipulation is attached hereto.

Because the Indians so declined to appear before him when given the opportunity, your Commissioner has no more factual evidence or law before him to substantiate this claim than did the Committee on Federal Relations of the House of Representatives in 1880 when it made a report and recommendation in part as follows:

"And whereas, the same claim has been before the Legislature of the State in the years 1798, 1812, 1854, 1855 and 1874 and fully examined by competent committees on all these occasions, and said committees reported adversely on every occasion:

And whereas, the committee to whom was referred the claims presented at this session find no new evidence of the validity of said claims, therefore

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, that the Governor be requested to notify the petitioners that the Legislature of the State of Vermont have examined their claims, and are of the opinion that the Petitioners have not at this time, any legal or equitable claim or interest in or to any of the lands described in their petition."

Thus your Commissioner makes substantially the same recommendation as was made in 1880; namely, that the Tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy be informed that they have shown no legal or equitable justification for their claim to a portion of the lands within the State of Vermont and that because of this, the General Assembly must decline making any financial settlement therefor with these claimants.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Charles J. Adams  
Commissioner



COPY

In re Claims of Tribes		Before Charles J. Adams,
of the Iroquois Confederacy		Commissioner

STIPULATION

After notice of hearing on tentative claims to be presented by the Tribes of the Lake of Two Mountains, Caughnawaga and St. Regis Indians and pending the introduction of any evidence in support of such claims, it is stipulated and agreed by and between the claimants and Clifton G. Parker, as Attorney General for the State of Vermont, that further proceedings before said Commissioner be terminated and that said Commissioner be relieved of any further duties in said Commission other than to report the substance of this stipulation to the General Assembly of 1953;

Said claimants before said Commissioner asserting their preference, by their counsel, Roland Stevens, Esq., for a hearing on said claim before the proper claims committee of the 1953 General Assembly or its special committee of commission which it may, in its determination, provide in the matter.

Dated at City of Montpelier, in the County of Washington, and State of Vermont, this 7th day of November, A.D. 1952.

TRIBES OF THE IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY  
Lake of Two Mountains  
Caughnawaga  
St. Regis

By /s/ Roland E. Stevens  
Their Attorney

STATE OF VERMONT

By /s/ Clifton G. Parker  
Its Attorney General

April 29, 1952

Mr. Roland E. Stevens  
Attorney at Law  
White River Junction  
Vermont

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 25th pertaining to the claim made by the Iroquois Confederacy against the State of Vermont and am pleased to know that I will be able to deal with American Counsel rather than the chiefs themselves.

I do not contemplate doing anything concrete with regards to the claim for probably a month anyway and expect to be busy on some other details for the next two weeks. However, I will be pleased to see you at any time but would suggest you delay your call on me until I am more nearly prepared to assemble the information preparatory to making my report. If I do not hear from you shortly, I will be pleased to inform you when that time arrives.

I gather from your letter that you have me confused with my father in that you addressed your letter to Judge Adams.

Very truly yours,

CJA:js



ROLAND E. STEVENS  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VT.

April 25, 1952

Hon. Charles J. Adams,  
Waterbury, Vermont.

Dear Judge Adams:

I note that Governor Emerson has appointed you to investigate the claim by the Iroquois Indians to 22,250 acres of land in Vermont.

At a meeting of several chiefs representing the Iroquois Confederacy, I was retained as Counsel. I should like very much to have a conference with you as soon as we can arrange for such, and review the whole situation with you.

May I ask if you are likely to be in Montpelier within the next week or ten days? If so, I will appreciate it if we can arrange to meet there for the conference.

With personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

RES:fs

*Roland E. Stevens*  
Roland E. Stevens.



Commissioner for State

#368 page 484 ad of 1951



ROLAND E. STEVENS  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VT.

May 1, 1952

Charles J. Adams, Esq.,  
79 Main Street,  
Montpelier, Vermont.

Dear Mr. Adams:

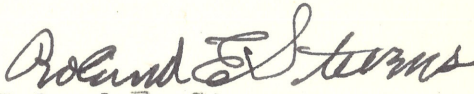
I thank you for your letter of April  
29th.

Yes I was a bit confused about the Charles  
J. Adams appointed by the Governor to investigate  
the claim of the Iroquois Confederacy. I have  
known your father for many years.

Acting on your suggestion, I will postpone  
calling on you for a conference, in relation to  
the Indian claims, until I am informed that you  
are ready to take the matter up with me.

RES:fs

Very truly yours,

  
Roland E. Stevens.



September 10, 1952

Mr. Roland E. Stevens, Esq.  
White River Junction,  
Vermont

Dear Sir:

I am about to commence work on the report to the 1953 Legislature regarding the claim made by certain Indian tribes against the State of Vermont. You indicated by a letter written my on April 25th that you wished to see me as counsel for the Iriquois Confederacy regarding their interest in the matter. I will be glad to have you call on me here at my office sometime within the next two weeks regarding this matter, and I would appreciate your advising me of the day and time when I may expect to see you so that I can make arrangements to be here.

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc



September 12, 1952

Mr. Roland F. Stevens, Esq.  
White River Junction  
Vermont

Dear Sir:

I am now at the point where it is possible for me to commence proceedings whereby I can make up my report for the next session of the legislature regarding the claim made by certain Indian tribes against the State of Vermont.

The Attorney General is anxious that I handle this so that the Legislature has sufficient material and information before them to make a final disposition of the claim.

I would be interested in learning from you; what procedure you have in mind for presenting your side of the case, whether you expect to have authorized representatives of the Tribes as witnesses, whether you are going to rely on documentary evidence only, your desires as to the location of the hearing, your estimate as to the probable length of time to be consumed by a hearing, how much notice you want before the hearing, and any other related and pertinent information.

I want to draw your attention to the fact that I am authorized to make my investigation and prepare the report with an appropriation of only one hundred dollars for doing so. That precludes me from conducting the matter in such a manner and at such a place as will entail a great deal of expense, and it is something for you to consider in giving me your suggestions.

Very truly yours,



ROLAND E. STEVENS  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VT.

September 19, 1952.

Charles J. Adams, Esq.,  
79 Main Street,  
Montpelier, Vermont.

Dear Mr. Adams:

In reply to your letter of September 12th, relative to a hearing on the Iroquois Six Nations Claim, will say that what I have in mind is a hearing such as is usual in matters referred to a Commissioner, namely the introduction of such evidence, oral and written, as is available and is germane to the matter under consideration.

You doubtless know that there have been various so-called hearings on this matter during the past years but I understand there never was a real hearing such as would be held in a Court of Equity for instance before a commission appointed to take evidence. This is the first time that the Iroquois Indian Nations has undertaken to be represented by legal counsel. Heretofore- as I understand it, a few Indian chiefs have appeared at different times and simply made oral statements without any legal evidence being offered. In other words they have never been represented by counsel.

I am quite disturbed about what you mention in the last paragraph of your letter. It is not possible to conduct such a hearing as the case really deserves and demands where the Commissioner is limited to the pitiful sum of one hundred dollars.

I would like to discuss the whole matter with you as soon as may be convenient to us. Will you please let me know when I can have the conference with you?

I have spent time enough in examining the situation to convince me that it all boils down to the question of title. There are one or two Supreme Court decisions covering this matter that convinces me that the State of Vermont never had title to the land claimed by the Indians.

I think we shall find this an interesting case and I shall be glad to talk ~~with~~ you as soon as it is convenient.

RES:fs

Very truly yours,

*Roland E. Stevens*  
Roland E. Stevens.



September 22, 1952

Mr. Roland Stevens  
White River Junction,  
Vermont

Dear Mr. Stevens:

I have your letter of September 19, in which you ask for a conference with me regarding the Indian Claim. I will be glad to see you at my office at any time you wish during the morning of Friday September 26th. If this is not a convenient time for you, you may write me setting a date for such conference at any time you wish during the next week excepting Thursday P. M. September 25th and all day Tuesday September 30th.

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc



FREDERICK G. MEHLMAN  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL  
GREGORY E. L'ECUYER  
CHIEF STATE INVESTIGATOR

MADELINE G. GOULD  
SECRETARY



STATE OF VERMONT

CLIFTON G. PARKER

ATTORNEY GENERAL

MONTPELIER

September 30, 1952

Charles J. Adams, Esq.,  
Attorney at Law,  
Montpelier, Vermont.

Roland Stevens, Esq.,  
Attorney at Law,  
White River Junction, Vt.

Gentlemen:

I have had inquiry from Attorney Adams as to a date for hearing on the Indian claims and understand that Attorney Stevens desires three or four weeks notice. I am avoiding any date early in November because of probable State matters which are involved in county courts.

I have tentatively set aside the dates of Thursday, October 23, through Saturday, October 25, inclusive, as a date for hearings on the so-called Indian claims.

Will you please advise me right away if the hearings are to be scheduled for such dates in order that I may find a reporter and arrange for any other witnesses we may desire to call?

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clifton G. Parker".

Attorney General

CGP:G



October 1, 1952

Mr. Roland E. Stevens, Esq.  
White River Junction,  
Vermont

Dear Mr. Stevens:

By the time you receive this, you no doubt will have received a letter from the Attorney General dated September 30th in which he states he is tentatively setting aside the dates of October 23-25 inclusive as dates for the hearing concerning the Indian Claim. Apparently he is unable to devote any part of the early portion of November to such hearings and I am most anxious that the hearing be held prior to November 15th. For that reason I would like to have the matter heard on the dates he has tentatively set and I am arranging my schedule accordingly.

I am writing the Franklin County Clerk to see if we can have the use of the County Court House and as soon as I hear from him I will let you know.

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc



October 1, 1952

Mr. Howard E. Armstrong  
Secretary of State  
Montpelier, Vermont

Dear Sir:

I am in the process of making arrangements for the investigation of claims made upon the State of Vermont by certain Indian tribes in pursuance of my duties as Commissioner under an appointment of the Governor as authorized by No. 368 of the Acts and Resolves of the 1951 Legislature. Would you please furnish me with the names and addresses of the Chiefs of the tribes of the lake of two mountains, Caughnawagas and St. Regis Indians who you believe are properly accredited and authorized to represent and speak for their tribe at a hearing concerning their claims?

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc



October 1, 1952

Mr. W. J. Chaffee, County Clerk  
St. Albans, Vermont

Dear Sir:

I have been named by the Governor as Commissioner to investigate certain claims made against the State of Vermont by tribes of the Iriquois Indians Confederacy pursuant to authority of No. 368 of the Acts and Resolves of the 1951 Legislature. These tribes live very close to Montreal, Quebec and I feel that St. Albans is the logical place at which to conduct a hearing in the matter. The dates of October 23-25 have been tentatively set for that purpose and I would like to use the Franklin County Court room for such a hearing if it is possible to do so on those dates. Would you please let me know as promptly as possible if that might be done?

If the Courtroom is not available on those dates, I would appreciate your suggestions of some other suitable place in St. Albans.

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc



October 1, 1952

Hon. Clifton G. Parker  
Attorney for the State of Vermont  
Montpelier, Vermont

Dear Sir:

Re: Iriquois Indian Claim

Following receipt of your letter of September 30, I am also tentatively setting aside the dates of October 23-25 inclusive for the purpose of conducting the hearing involving claims made upon the State of Vermont by the Iriquois Indian Tribes. It appears to me that the hearing should be conducted at St. Albans inasmuch as the Tribes to be heard reside very close to Montreal, Quebec.

Accordingly I am writing the Clerk of Franklin County to see if we can conduct our hearing in the County Court House at St. Albans. If we can do so and if Mr. Roland Stevens has no good grounds for objecting to the dates and place as now tentatively set, I will set them as the definite time and place for the hearing.

I want to make sure that the Indian Tribes involved have adequate and proper notice and for that reason I am today writing the Secretary of State for the purpose of obtaining from him the names and addresses of the Chiefs of the Tribes of the lake of two mountains, Caughnawagas and St. Regis Indians so that I may send them notice of the hearing in addition to the notice which will go forward to Mr. Stevens.

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc



ROLAND E. STEVENS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VT.

October 2nd, 1952.

In re;

Iroquois Confederacy

vs

The State of Vermont.

Charles J. Adams Esq,  
Commissioner.

Dear Mr. Adams:-

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date relative to the claim of the Iroquois Confederacy against the State of Vermont.

The Iroquois Confederacy has heretofore filed a similar claim against our State many times, but has never been granted an adequate and proper hearing. I think the claim as now presented deserves as dignified and painstaking a hearing as you and I would be entitled to were we the petitioners. I regret to say therefore that no definite day or place should be named until we are assured the facilities of the Franklin County Court House or similar space and accommodations in a Federal Building near the Canadian border.

I shall endeavor to make personal inquiry as to these matters very soon and will let you and the Attorney General know the result of my search.

I am mailing a duplicate of this letter to  
Mr. Parker.

With personal regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

*Roland E. Stevens*

CC:Atty Gen'l.  
RES:cw





STATE OF VERMONT  
FRANKLIN COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE  
ST. ALBANS, VT.

Oct 2, 1952

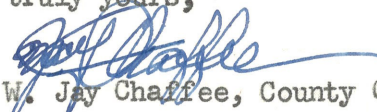
Charles J. Adams, Esq.  
Attorney at Law  
79 Main Street  
Montpelier, Vermont

Dear Mr. Adams:

In reply to your inquiry of the 1st, I regret to advise that present indications are that the Franklin County Court Room would not be available to you for conducting hearings upon the claims of Iroquois Indians October 23-25 for the reason that our September Term of Franklin County Court is still active; and there are several cases scheduled for hearing the week of October 19th which might well last through the 24th .

But in response to your request for suggestions as to some other suitable place - though without knowing that it would be available on the dates mentioned - I would suggest the town hall in Swanton which is ten miles nearer the Canadian border, and on U.S. 7, a main route to Montreal. Inquiry might be addressed to :  
J. Leo Loiselle, Town Clerk, Swanton, Vermont .

Very truly yours,

  
W. Jay Chaffee, County Clerk.



STATE OF VERMONT  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
MONTPELIER

October 2, 1952

Mr. Charles J. Adams  
Attorney at Law  
79 Main Street  
Montpelier, Vermont

Dear Charles:

I have your letter of October 1, 1952.

According to our information, the Secretary of the Indian Council of the Iroquois Confederacy, Inc. at Caughnawaga, is Mr. Matthew Lazare, % O. Phillips, Chateauguay Basin, Province of Quebec, Canada.

Following the Session of 1951, I sent certified copies of Joint Resolution, being No. 368 of the Acts of 1951, and a Record of Committee Meetings, to Chief James Sagogete Montour and Chief Philip Sagodensta Angus, *Chateauguay, Quebec*

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Howard E. Armstrong".  
HOWARD E. ARMSTRONG  
Secretary of State

HEA:lw

*Chief Mose Thompson, St. Regis Tribe  
Glen Walters, Ontario  
Canada*

*c/o Mr. Lapierre Grocery Store*

October 15, 1952

Hon. Clifton G. Parker, Attorney General  
State Library Building  
Montpelier, Vermont

C  
Dear Mr. Parker:

O  
This is official notice of the hearing I am holding as Commissioner to investigate the claim to certain lands made against the State of Vermont by certain tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy. The hearing will be had at the Franklin County Court House in the City of St. Albans, Vermont commencing at 10:00 EST in the forenoon on November 13, 1952. I am sending similar notices to Roland E. Stevens, Esq., White River Junction, Vermont, Matthew Lazare, Chateauguay Basin, P. Q., Chief Philip Sagodensta Angus, Oka, P.Q., Chief Mose Thompson, Glenn Walters, P. Q., Chief James Sagogete Montour, Oka, P. Q., and a copy of your letter is going forward to the Clerk of Franklin County who in conjunction with Judge Holden has assured me that the Court House will be available on November 13-14-15, 1952.

P  
Would you please let me know whether you want me to procure a reporter or whether you will do so?

Y  
Very truly yours,

CJA:yc  
CC: Mr. W. Jay Chaffee, County Clerk



FREDERICK G. MEHLMAN  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL  
GREGORY E. L'ECUYER  
CHIEF STATE INVESTIGATOR

MADELINE G. GOULD  
SECRETARY



STATE OF VERMONT

CLIFTON G. PARKER

ATTORNEY GENERAL

MONTPELIER

October 17, 1952

Charles J. Adams, Esq.,  
Attorney at Law,  
79 Main Street,  
Montpelier, Vt.

Dear Mr. Adams:

I acknowledge receipt of notice of hearing in the matter of the Indians' claim dated October 15th, 1952. I have arranged for Mrs. Laura Charron, of St. Albans, whose telephone number is 1703-W, to act as reporter in the matter and she will report for work on the morning of November 13th at the County Courthouse in St. Albans.

Very truly yours,

*Clifton G. Parker*  
Attorney General

CGP:reh

*Indian file*

ROLAND E. STEVENS  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VT.

October 20, 1952.

Charles J. Adams, Esq.,  
79 Main Street,  
Montpelier, Vermont.

Dear Mr. Adams:

I am rather puzzled at your change of attitude in regard to the hearing of the Indian case. In your first letter to me, many weeks ago, you expressed your satisfaction that American Counsel had been employed to conduct the hearing on the Indian claims.

You will recall, I think, that I tried to arrange for an early hearing but on learning that you were running for State's Attorney, the hearing was postponed.

I am somewhat disturbed by the peculiar letter you sent to me by registered mail. I am wondering if this is an implication by you that you have entirely lost confidence in me and now propose to take the whole matter into your own hands and notify certain Indians that a hearing will be held on November 13th, at St. Albans. This, I think, is discourteous.

The result of your notice to Indian Chiefs has created confusion and I have been called on the telephone to listen to excited exclamations.

If we are not to have an orderly and proper hearing, I shall feel that it may be necessary to lay the whole matter before the public in the newspapers.

I am hoping that you did not mean to question my veracity and professional courtesy by doing what you have recently done.

Will you please send me copies of the notices which you sent to chiefs of the Indian tribes?

RES:fs

Very truly yours,

*Roland E. Stevens*

Roland E. Stevens.



October 23, 1952

Mr. Roland E. Stevens, Esq.  
White River Junction,  
Vermont

C  
O  
P  
Y  
Dear Mr. Stevens:

Your letter of October 20th has been received. I certainly had no intention of being discourteous to you in sending notices of the proposed hearing to the Indians. More than that, I have lost no confidence in you and remain willing to deal with you as the representative of the Tribes which have authorized you to so represent them.

My purpose in sending them out as I did was to be absolutely certain that all parties were informed of their opportunity to appear at the hearing. As matters stand now, I have no means of determining with certainty that you represent all of the Tribes involved or whether each Tribe interested in this claim feels that you represent them. To care for that contingency and to guard against the possibility of one or more of the Tribes claiming after the hearing that they had had no notice of it, I acted as I did. If there was an overlapping of notices by my sending them both to you and to your clients and if there was an overabundance of notice, both of which you feel objectionable, I am sorry for the indiscretion. However, I cannot see how any real harm has been done which would affect the hearing and presentation of evidence.

The ones to whom I sent notices were those who appeared to me by the records in the Secretary of State's Office to be those who the State and the last Legislature, when it convened, felt were the ones who should be given this opportunity to further present their claim. If they are all represented by you, they will be given their opportunity to present their claim through you, but I shall have to allow such Tribes as are not represented by you to present their case themselves.

Very truly yours,



October 24, 1952

Mr. Roland E. Stevens, Esq.  
White River Junction,  
Vermont

Dear Mr. Stevens:

Since writing my last letter to you, I have received a letter from Mr. Matthew Lazare, a copy of which we have made and are enclosing. Inasmuch as he indicates you represent the Tribes with which he is connected, I will refrain from further correspondence with him without first consulting you.

The remark he makes in his letter regarding the appearance of the Indians at the hearing leads me to say that I cannot ~~exceed~~ <sup>accord</sup> to any request for postponement of this hearing or to continuations of it to a later date than is already set. In other words I am relying on the fact that you informed me in my office on September 26th that the early part of November would be suitable for the hearing and that ~~these~~ days would be adequate time in which to present your claim. I must insist that the hearing be held on these dates because my Commission expires when the 1953 Legislature convenes on January 7th, and I would not be authorized to do any work under this Commission, after that date. Therefore I need to get all the facts together and make up my report before that date.

It does not seem to me that this should work any hardship on you or the Indian Tribes because you have known since last May that a hearing would be held sometime before the next legislature met, you indicated your willingness to have the hearing as set, and certainly four weeks notice to the Indians themselves should be adequate for them to arrange for their attendance if desired.

In view of your letter to me dated October 20th in which you claim discourtesy on my part, I want to say here that my views as expressed above on the whole matter are not intended as a discourtesy or a lack of confidence in you but I sincerely feel that my duties require me to continue this ~~hearing~~ <sup>MATTER</sup> as already planned and outlined.

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc



October 24, 1952

Mr. Roland E. Stevens, Esq.  
White River Junction,  
Vermont

Dear Mr. Stevens:

C  
O  
P  
Y  
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MATTER

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc

October 24, 1952

Mr. Matthew Lazare, Secretary  
Indian Council of Iroquois Confederacy, Inc.  
c/o O. Phillips  
Chateauguay Basin P. Q.  
Dominion of Canada

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of October 21, 1952. I am sending a copy of this to your attorney, Mr. Roland E. Stevens for such use as he cares to make of it.

Inasmuch as you inform me by this letter that Mr. Stevens is your attorney, I shall carry on any further correspondence with him.

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc  
CC: Roland E. Stevens, Esq.

C  
O  
P  
Y

ROLAND E. STEVENS  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VT.

October 27, 1952

Charles J. Adams, Esq.,  
79 Main Street,  
Montpelier, Vermont.

Dear Mr. Adams:

I am still puzzled about your recent correspondence.

Several of the chiefs of the Iroquois Indians came down from Canada to my home recently to inquire about the situation. They too felt puzzled.

These men have to work every day except on Saturday and Sunday so have little time to look up such evidence as they have had in the past proving their right to compensation. They tell me they cannot be ready for a hearing on November 13th. I am wondering why you, and the Attorney General, are insisting on that date and place for the hearing.

If it is really impossible for us three to come to a reasonable agreement the only thing left will be the newspapers and I will try my best to give authentic information to the newspapers if we cannot have a real hearing.

RES:fs

Very truly yours,

*Roland E. Stevens*

Roland E. Stevens.



Oka On

Oct 28/52

Dear Sir.

I am very sorry that I was so late in replying your letter. but I was very sick and now I am better and what you ask me if I am to attend the hearing at the Court house of Nov 13 1952 I will be there. and as you ask whose interest that I am there for, I have been working in the interest of the Injuns Indians of Lake of two mts for the past 24 years.

If there is any change in the plans of Nov 13 / will you please let me know, as you can be informed I am the life chief at the Lake of two mts Indian Reservation.

Yours Truly.  
Chief Jones Sagoyte Mountain

Charles-g, Adams

29 Main St, Montpelier Vt.,

Dear Sir.

OKa Quee

Oct 28/52

In regards to your letter of Oct 14 1952, I wish to ask your forgiveness in not answering your letter any sooner, but I am the life chief of the Iroquois six Nations Confederacy. I wish to have you inform me whether the Court house will be open at all hours as your letter indicates, also if the date of Nov 13 1952 is correct I shall be there in the interest of this case.

Yours Truly,

Chief,

Philip Sankster Etta

Angus

Oct 6.  
November 3, 1952

Chief Philip Sagodensta Angus  
Oka, Province of Quebec  
Dominion of Canada

C  
Dear Chief Philip Sagodensta Angus:

O  
Thank you for your letter of October 28, 1952 in which you state that you will be at the hearing I have scheduled at the Franklin County Court House in St. Albans, Vermont at 10:00 EST in the forenoon on November 13, 1952.

P  
I am also glad to have the information that you are the Life Chief of the Iroquois Indian Confederacy. However, I have learned from Matthew Lazarre, Secretary of the Iroquois Confederacy that Roland E. Stevens, Esq. of White River Junction, Vermont is authorized to represent the Iroquois Confederacy and the three Tribes. I would like to know either from correspondence before the hearing or by your statement at the hearing whether you consider that Mr. Stevens represents you and your Tribes.

Y  
If there are any changes in the plans for this hearing I will so inform you.

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc



October 31, 1952

Mr. Roland E. Stevens, Esq.  
White River Junction,  
Vermont

C Dear Mr. Stevens:

I have received your letter of the 27th, and am at a loss to understand, why you and your clients are puzzled as you indicated in your communication. I have made all matters pertaining to the hearing on this claim as clear as possible, and to the best of my knowledge have not used any obscure language.

O I certainly know of no reason for you to think that there will not be a real hearing on this claim. I can only reiterate what has already been communicated to you which is that you indicated your willingness to have this hearing held the early part of November in the Franklin County Court House, and I have scheduled the hearing in accordance with those desires which you expressed. In addition to this fact, there certainly should have been adequate time for you and your clients to make preparations for this hearing inasmuch as you have had one month's official notice of it, about six weeks since you agreed to the approximate time set for the hearing and about six months since knowing that I was Commissioner and that I would be performing the duties accorded me by that Commission and the resolution of the last Legislature of which your clients have had copies furnished them by the Secretary of State. I have also indicated to you that my duties must be terminated by January 7, 1953 and in fairness to myself, the State and the claimants, I should have all the time between November 15, and January 7 for the preparation of my report to be submitted to the Legislature.

I cannot help but get an impression from your recent correspondence that you may have in mind not appearing at the scheduled hearing. This impression may be wrong and not justified, but it leads me to say that my report to the Legislature will take into consideration such evidence as is or is not presented at the scheduled hearing. Thus, if the claimants present no evidence either through their failure to appear or for some other reason, such a fact would be considered by me in making my report.

I have had an inquiry from Chief Montour and Chief Angus,



Mr. Roland E. Stevens, Esq.

-2-

October 31, 1952

both of Oka, Quebec regarding the hearing, and I am corresponding directly with them inasmuch as they do not indicate that you represent them even though my notice to them made that inquiry.

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc

C  
O  
P  
Y

October 31, 1952

Chief James Sagogete Montour  
Oka, Province of Quebec,  
Dominion of Canada,

C  
Dear Chief James Sagogete Montour:

O  
Thank you for your letter of October 28, 1952 in which you state that you will be at the hearing I have scheduled at the Franklin County Court House in St. Albans, Vermont at 10:00 EST in the forenoon on November 13, 1952.

P  
I am also glad to have the information that you are the Life Chief of the Lake of Two Mountains Reservation. However, I have learned from Matthew Lazarre, Secretary of the Iroquois Confederacy that either Martin Martin and Simon Simon is a Chief in the same Tribe and that Roland E. Stevens, Esq. of White River Junction, Vermont is authorized to represent the Iroquois Confederacy and the three Tribes. I would like to know either from correspondence before the hearing or by your statement at the hearing whether you consider that Mr. Stevens represents you and your Tribe or whether you are making a claim which is not included in that claim he is making in behalf of Matthew Lazarre, Simon Simon and Martin Martin.

Y  
If there are any changes in the plans for this hearing I will so inform you.

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc



November 3, 1952

Professor F. E. Austin  
602 South Lakemont Avenue  
Winter Park, Florida

C  
Dear Sir:

The Secretary of State of Vermont has referred to me your letter of October 27th, 1952 in which you make an inquiry regarding the claim of the Iroquois Indians to a purchase of the lands within this State.

O  
I have been appointed a Commissioner to receive evidence of this claim and make a report to the next session of our Legislature together with such recommendations as I see fit with regard to a final disposition of the claim. It would not be proper for me to comment on the plausibility or soundness of the claim being made until such time as I am discharged of my duties as such Commissioner. I therefore must refrain from giving an answer to your inquiry.

P  
Y  
My only suggestion to you is that you might possibly get some of the information desired by requesting that portion of the 1953 Legislature's proceedings as pertained to this claim by writing the Secretary of State sometime after the Legislature adjourns which should be about May 1st, 1953. If this is of sufficient importance to you, you could of course consult an attorney in your area who should advise you on the law involved as it pertains to the Seminole Indian and Iroquois claims.

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc

Charles -

I have written this party that his  
letter has been referred to you for attention  
as "Commissioner" of Indian Affairs. Thanks.

H.E.Burbank

10-30-52



From Prof. F. B. Austin,  
Winter Park,  
Florida.



Secretary of State,  
Montpelier,  
Vermont.

State House.

# NATURE STUDIOS

602 South Lakemont Ave.,

Winter Park, Florida

Exhibiting

Prof. F. E. Austin,

DIRECTOR

Originator of the world-famous

"ANT PALACE"

"The Antville Coal Mine"

Doodle Cage and

"Cricketville"

A non-profit PUBLIC SERVICE Institution  
dedicated to Wholesome Hobbies and  
Interesting Thoughts

"HONEYVILLE"

The only exhibit in the world like it. A day and night movie demonstrating the marvelous performances and life history of the world's most valuable economic asset.

Oct. 27, 1952 RECEIVED  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
OF VERMONT

US2 OCT 30 AM 2:22

Dear Sir:

The writer is interested in the land claims of the Iroquois Indians to portions of New York State and the State of Vermont, on general principles.

There is a feature of the claims that it would please me to have explained by some one, maybe you, which is: Where, or from whom, did the Iroquois Indians get their title to the lands?

If the properties of certain inhabitants or land owners of Vermont are to be attached to show title it would appear to be up to the Iroquois to show title.

Maybe Vermont has a 20 year possession law that secures title to land.

We have here in Florida a similar condition involving the Seminole Indians, with whom however there was never any treaty because they were never conquered. They now occupy land in Southern Florida.

Yours truly,

602 South Lakemont Ave. F. E. Austin,  
Winter Park, Florida



100-310/952  
Charles J Adams.

78 main st

Montpelier

Vermont.

Dear Mr. Adams

I have just received  
your letter last week  
what delayed your letter  
was a mistake in the  
address. first thing I  
will tell you that it is  
true that I am one of  
the representatives of  
this Iroquois Tribe

2  
here in this reserve  
at St. Regis. and  
we are together  
with the Caughnawagas  
and the Lake of Two  
Mountains. and we are  
all working with  
our attorney Mr. Roland  
E Stevens. on our claim  
I have heard from our  
brother. Lake of Two Mountains  
that your call for Nov-13  
at St Albans is postponed  
for we are not quite ready



our attorney Rolland E  
Stevens will notify you  
when we will be ready.

Very Truly yours

Chief Mose Thompson

% St Regis Tribe

% Mr Laperle Store

Glen Walter

ont

via Cornwall

November 4, 1952

Mr. Roland E. Stevens, Esq.  
White River Junction,  
Vermont

Dear Mr. Stevens:

I am sorry that I was not in the office when you called yesterday afternoon. The message I had on my return was that you wish to confer with the Attorney General and me with regard to the hearing on the Indian claims. I would suggest that you make your arrangements for such a conference with the Attorney General first, and that as soon as you have the date and time set with him, you let me know so that I may be there if it is necessary. My schedule for the following week is such that if there is a conference among us, I can arrange to be there at about any time you and the Attorney General agree upon.

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc

C  
O  
P  
Y



## Indian Claims

"© competency necessary to establish  
aboriginal possession of land by an Indian  
tribe is a question of fact." 53 Am Jur 211  
citing:

US v Santa Fe P.R. Co. 314 US 339

314 US 716

In re Claims of Tribes  
of the Iroquois Confederacy

X  
X  
X

Before Charles J. Adams,  
Commissioner

STIPULATION

After notice of hearing on tentative claims to be presented by the tribes of the Lake of Two Mountains, Caughnawaga and St. Regis Indians and pending the introduction of any evidence in support of such claims, it is stipulated and agreed by and between the claimants and Clifton G. Parker, as Attorney General for the State of Vermont, that further proceedings before said Commissioner be terminated and that said Commissioner be relieved of any further duties in said Commission other than to report the substance of this stipulation to the General Assembly of 1953;

Said claimants before said Commissioner asserting their preference, by their counsel, Roland Stevens, Esq., for a hearing on said claim before the proper claims committee of the 1953 General Assembly or its special committee or commission which it may, in its determination, provide in the matter.

Dated at City of Montpelier, in the County of Washington, and State of Vermont, this 7th day of November, A.D. 1952.

TRIBES OF THE IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY  
Lake of Two Mountains  
Caughnawaga  
St. Regis

By Roland E. Stevens  
Their Attorney

STATE OF VERMONT

By Clifton G. Parker  
Its Attorney General



CHARLES J. ADAMS

CAUGHNAWAGA QUE.

79 MAIN STREET

MONTPELIER, VERMONT.

DEAR SIR:

IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> INSTANT, IN WHICH YOU INFORM ME, THAT YOU HAVE BEEN APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AS COMMISSIONER.

WELL SIR! I HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE CONFEDERATE INDIAN COUNCIL, TO INFORM YOU, THAT WE CAN NOT BE PRESENT AT THE HEARING ON NOVEMBER 13, 1952.

ALSO ADVISE YOU TO TAKE THIS MATTER UP WITH OUR ATTORNEY, MR ROHARD E. STEVENS, ESQ, AS HE REPRESENT THE THREE TRIBES.

WE CANNOT BE PRESENT AT HEARING ON ACCOUNT OF SUCH SHORT NOTICE, BUT RESPECTFULLY REQUEST HEARING BE SET AT A LATER DATE.

ALSO RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOU ADDRESS FURTHER NOTICES TO OKA, TO CHIEF SIMON K. SIMON AND CHIEF MARTIN MARTIN AND NOT TO JAMES MONTGOMERY AND PHILIP ANGUS, AS THEY ARE NOT CHIEFS BUT MESSANGERS OF OKA COUNCIL.

CORRECT ADDRESS FOR ST REGIS CHIEF MOSE THOMPSON IS  
% LEPEARLE GROCERY STORE, GLEN WATERS, ONTARIO.

YOUR NOTICES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY ALL THREE TRIBES. I HOPE THIS ANSWERS ALL YOUR REQUESTS, ALSO FEEL FREE TO REQUEST ANY FURTHER YOU MAY REQUIRE.

I REMAIN  
VERY TRULY YOURS  
MATTHEW LAZARE.

My Corresponding Address

Matthew HAZARE  
% O. Phillips  
Chateaugay Basin  
Prov., QWE.

CANADA.

Matthew HAZARE  
Very Truly Yours  
I Remain



November 7, 1952

Mr. W. Jay Chaffee  
County Clerk  
St. Albans, Vermont

C  
Dear Sir:

O  
The arrangements I made with you for having a hearing in the Franklin County Court House on November 13, 14, 15 in the matter of the Iroquois Indian claims are changed in that Mr. Roland E. Stevens of White River Junction, Vermont who is representing the Indians has consented to my canceling this hearing inasmuch as he has expressed his preference of presenting the claims to the 1953 Legislature.

P  
I hope that these arrangements and this cancelation have not caused you any inconvenience.

Very truly yours,

Y CJA:yc

November 7, 1952

Matthew Lazare  
Roland E. Stevens, Esq.  
Chief James Sagogete Montour  
Chief Philip Sagodensta Angus  
Chief Mose Thompson

C  
O  
P  
Y  
Dear Sir:

I wish to inform you that Roland E. Stevens, Esq. of White River Junction, Vermont has, as counsel and attorney for the Tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy as regards their claim against the State of Vermont, this date signed a stipulation whereby he has released me from any duty I may have to the Tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy to hold a hearing for the presentation of new evidence of their claim against the state of Vermont.

For that reason the hearing which was scheduled to be held on November 13, 1952 at 10:00 EST in the forenoon in the City of St. Albans, is canceled and as far as I am concerned, you should take up all further matters regarding this claim with Mr. Stevens.

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc



Okla. Jan  
Nov 12 / 52

Dear Mr. Adams.

I have received your two letters and am very thankful for all your trouble concerning my claim against the State of Montana. I was just about to answer and send some facts when I received your notice of postponement of the hearing. dated Nov 7 / 1952

I wish to thank you again for all your trouble

Chief James Sagoyewok Montrose.

Nov. 21, 1952

Mrs. Elvira Royce } Full blooded Abenaki  
40 Baure St.  
Montpelier

She seems to think that the Abenakis could  
repute claim of Iroquois.

Odanak, Quebec. address of Abenaki  
reservation in Canada. does not know name  
of chief.

Parliament of Indian affairs in Ottawa.  
may have some pertinent information.



Claims made:

7798 ✓ Conant's material

~~1812~~ ✓

1854

1855

1874 14 J 1874

1880

~~1826~~ ✓

~~1851~~ ✓

1896 - HJ p 257 - governor sent petition to House, nothing further record

~~1853~~

~~1800~~?

✓ Committee on Federal Relations on Progress of St. Regis Indians in 1880

✓ Resolution of Legislature about 1880

House Journal 1880  
Appendix.

✓ House Journal 1874 Appendix A

✓ State Senate Journal 1853 - 102, 181, 182, 248, (426) ?

✓ House Journal 1854 - 180, 181, 423, 424, 441, 454, 605, 614-18  
624-634

Senate Journal 1855 - 191, 197, 224, ~~454, 432~~ 255 et seq.

House Journal 1856 - 375, 377, ~~485~~, 737, 740

turned down

House Journal 1857 - 124, 125, 137, 485

turned down

Ut. 970.5 R 24 (at State Library)

Misc. State Papers of Vermont. Vol. 30 p 348 nothing new  
here

25  
33  
425  
170  
21.25



From

Appendix A, Vermont House Journal 1880

Report of Committee on Federal Relations on  
Wagons or St. Regis Indians

To the House of Representatives:

The Committee on Federal Relations to whom was referred a communication from His Excellency the Governor, with a claim from the Wagons, respectfully report, that they have considered the same and recommend

whereas, the representatives of the descendants of the Wagons Indians, called also the Sen Nations, and now calling themselves the St. Regis Indians, have presented to the Governor, which has by him been communicated to the Legislature, their petition and memorial claiming title to a portion of the State of Vermont and proposing that some compromise be made in relation to said title and compensation therefor:

And whereas, the same claim has been before the Legislature of the State in the years 1798, 1812, 1854, 1855 and 1874 and fully examined by competent committees on all of those occasions, and said committees reported adversely on every occasion:

And whereas, the Committee to whom was referred the claims presented at this session find no new evidence of the validity of said claims, therefore

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, that the Governor be requested to notify the petitioners that the Legislature of the State of



Committee have examined their claims, and are of the opinion that the Petitioners have not, at this time, any legal or equitable claim or interest in or to any of the lands described in their petition.

Almon Shepherd

For the Committee

Report embodying a joint resolution adopted p. 463  
H.J. of 1880

(I can find no evidence that this was  
messaged to or passed by Senate.)

Appendix A - H.J. 1874

Memorial of delegates of the Grosvenor Indians  
at Congowawaga, St. Regis and of the Lake of Two  
Mountains.

Refers to proposition made to Legislature in 1855

15/ Francis Aterhaishon } caught.  
John A. Dione } delegates

Archais Aikoon Solomon

Trustee State here

Mathias Karemehison

Chief Canadian

St. Regis  
delegates

1874 H.J. 89, 96, 113,

page 326 report of committee on above memorial

says claims made in 1798, 1812, 1826, 1854, 1855  
allowance of  
no claim reported page 327



3  
1853 S J 102

from page 181 - Report of Committee -

State Legislatures of 1798, 1800, 1812, 1826  
and 1851 received applications for adjustment of claim.

Recommended governor take steps to look into  
claim and report to next legislature. Passed by Senate

from page 248 - Indians Memorial.

Says Legislature of 1798 recognized the right  
of the Indians to this land.

15/ A. George De Lorimier  
For the Chiefs Iroquois

1854 H J

from page 441 - Resolution asking that Commission  
be appointed to look into claim was  
adopted.

from page 454 Senate concurred in resolution

from page 605 et seq. - Commissioners Report

Governor reported against claim in 1799

Claim presented in 1800, 1812 and 1826.

Contains: Indians Memorial of 1798

Resolution and act of legislature 1798

Report of Governor in 1799 turning down claim

Resolution 1799 directing no payment of claim.

Gov's report of telling Indians no claim

Indians Memorial of 1812



4

Act of 1812 turning down claim and generous  
remarks when he told chiefs

1826 Indians memorial

1826 Legislature turned down claim



Claim of

~~1776~~

1. Made by:
2. Action of legislature:
3. Disposition
4. Reason for so disposing of it.

1798

1. Chiefs & Councillors of the Seneca Nation, Lower Canada Indians
2. Committee recommended <sup>that</sup> Governor Tichenor look into manner in which he settled claim w/ Indians in 1796; that Indians
3. Governor reported in 1799 that Indian claims had been extinguished in his opinion because of treaties and conquest of England of whom Indians were allies.
4. Legislature turned down claim on basis of Governor's report.

1800 (no report)

1812

1. Chiefs and Councillors of the Iroquois or Cognah-wagah Nation
2. Committee who considered claim reported ~~it was~~ that they should get \$100 and expenses. No action on claim itself
3. No action
4. No reason given

1826

1. Fourteen chiefs of the Iroquois
2. Committee reported no valid claim
3. Apparently no action
4. Claim extinguished by Treaty of 1763 between France and England and that of 1783 between U.S. and England.



(2)

1851

1. Chiefs of St Regis & Coughnawaga Indian Tribes

2, 3, 4. no action reported in H.T.

1853

nothing reported at all

1854



1 orig and  
3 copies  
letter size

caps. →

Report of Commissioner to Investigate Claim  
To Certain Lands Located In Vermont By  
Certain Tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy

To: His Excellency, Lee E. Emerson, Governor  
of the State of Vermont:

The Commissioner authorized by Joint Resolution  
(H) 49 (No. 368) of the Acts and Resolves of  
the Legislature of 1951 and appointed by your  
Excellency on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, A.D. 1952  
submits to you for transmission to the 1953  
session of the General Assembly a report in  
accordance with said Joint Resolution:—

caps. →

Report

The Joint Resolution, above referred to,  
directed the Commissioner to review the evidence  
on record together with any new evidence that  
might be available pertaining to the claim by  
certain tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy to a portion  
of the lands within the State of Vermont.

The evidence on record in the Secretary of  
State's Office and in the State Library which has  
come to the attention of your Commissioner discloses  
that the claim here under consideration has either



been presented before or referred to by the Vermont General Assembly at the sessions of 1798, 1799, 1812, 1826, 1851, 1854, 1855, 1874, 1880, 1896, and 1951. In 1798, 1799, 1854 and 1855, the claim was apparently studied very thoroughly by the then Governor in one instance and a Commissioner in another. However, each time that this claim has come to the attention of the Legislature, it has, either by inaction or positive expression, decided against making any financial settlement with the Indians whereby the claim would be finally disposed of. Some of the reasons assigned for this have been; abandonment of the disputed area by the claimant tribes; extinguishment of the claim through the terms of the Treaties between France and England in 1763 and between England and the United States in 1783; the restrictions imposed upon negotiations of this type with Indian Tribes by the provisions of our Federal Constitution and Federal enactments; and conquest of the French and English forces to which the claimant Tribes had been allied. Nothing more of record substantiating the claim has been brought to the attention of your Commissioner.

But — There apparently have been some instances of settlements being made by some of the States of this Union with some Indian Tribes whereby the Indians' right of occupancy or their title was



3  
acquired from them and merged with the title now held by the present owners of the fee to the premises. However, the legal basis and justification for such measures as they might apply to the instant situation have not been submitted to your Commissioner for <sup>his</sup> consideration, and therefore he has no legal grounds, if there be such, upon which to base any recommendation by him of a financial settlement directed toward finally and completely disposing of the claim here under consideration.

Since 1880 the Indian Claimants have apparently presented no new factual evidence of their claim, no basis in law for it and nothing to rebut the stand taken by various sessions of the Vermont General Assembly. In order that they might have an opportunity for doing so, your Commissioner scheduled a hearing for November 13, 1952 to be held in the Franklin County Court House at St. Albans. Notices of this hearing were sent by registered mail on October 14, 1952 to Chief Moose Thompson of the St. Regis Tribe, Chief Philip Sagodensta Angus, Chief James Sagogete Montour, and Matthew Lazare, Secretary of the Indian Council of the Iroquois Confederacy, all of whom appeared to your Commissioner to be those entitled to such notice according to the files in the office of the Secretary of State. The same notice was ~~also~~ sent <sup>to the Attorney General of Vermont and also</sup> to Mr. Roland E.



(4)  
Stevens of White River Junction, Vermont who had indicated he was Counsel for the claimant Tribes and who was later acknowledged by the <sup>Indians</sup> ~~individuals~~ mentioned above to be such.

A period of time spent in corresponding and conferring with Mr. Stevens by reason of his request that the hearing be held at a later date and different place ended on November 7, 1952 when Mr. Stevens as Counsel for the three Tribes who had <sup>had</sup> notice of the hearing signed a stipulation in which he expressed a desire to forego presenting evidence of the claim before this Commissioner in order that he might bring it to the attention of the 1953 session of the General Assembly. He also indicated his willingness to release your Commissioner from any obligation he may have had to the claimants to hold the hearing for the purposes aforesaid. A copy of this stipulation is attached hereto.

Because the Indians so declined to appear before him when given the opportunity, your Commissioner has no more factual evidence or law before him to substantiate this claim than did the Committee on Federal Relations of the House of Representatives in 1880 when it made a report and recommendation in part as follows:

"And - - -



~~is to judge in~~  
~~make any recommendations for a final disposition~~  
~~of the claim.~~ # Because the Indians so declined to  
 appear before him when given the opportunity, <sup>presently</sup> your Commissioner has  
 no <sup>factual</sup> <sup>or law</sup> more evidence before him to substantiate this  
 claim than did the Committee on Federal Relations  
 of the House of Representatives of 1880 which  
 reported and recommended in part as follows:

And whereas, the same claim has been  
 before the Legislature of the State in the  
 years 1798, 1812, 1854, 1855 and 1874 and  
 fully examined by competent Committees on  
 all these occasions, and said Committees  
 reported adversely on every occasion:

and whereas, the Committee to whom was  
 referred the claims presented at this session  
 find no new evidence of the validity of  
 said claims, therefore

Be it resolved by the Senate and  
 House of Representatives, that the Governor be  
 requested to notify the petitioners that the  
 Legislature of the State of Vermont have  
 examined their claims, and are of the opinion  
 that the Petitioners have not at this time,  
 any legal or equitable claim or interest  
 in or to any of the lands described in  
 their petition."



# Thus ~~from a~~ ~~existing~~ ~~staff~~ ~~at present~~ ~~then~~,  
your Commissioner makes substantially the same  
recommendation as was made in 1880;

namely, that the Tribes of the Gros Ventre  
Confederacy be informed that they have shown no  
legal or equitable justification for their claim to a  
portion of the lands within the State of Montana  
and that because of this, the General Assembly  
must decline making any financial settlement <sup>therefor</sup> with  
these claimants.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Charles J. Adams  
Commissioner



# RETURN RECEIPT

*Received from the Postmaster the Registered or Insured Article, the original number of which appears on the face of this Card.*

1 *Mrs. Thompson*  
(Signature or name of addressee)

2 *Wm. S. Lee*  
(Signature of addressee's agent—Agent should enter addressee's name on line ONE above)

Date of delivery *Oct 20, 1945*

Post Office Department  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300

(GPO)

POSTMARK OF DELIVERING

OFFICE

Return to Charles J. Adams

(NAME OF SENDER)

Street and Number,  
or Post Office Box,

Lawyer

REGISTERED ARTICLE

No.

945

Post Office

Montpelier, Vt.

INSURED PARCEL

No.

16-12421

State



October 14, 1952

C Chief Mose Thompson  
St. Regis Tribe  
c/o Mr. Lapierle Grocery Store  
Glenn Walters, Province of Ontario  
Dominion of Canada

Dear Chief Mose Thompson:

O The Governor of the State of Vermont has appointed me Commissioner to investigate the claim made to certain lands located in the State of Vermont by the Caughnawaga, the St. Regis, and the Lake of Two Mountains Tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy. In pursuance of my duties as such Commissioner I shall hold a hearing at the Franklin County Court House in the City of St. Albans, Vermont on November 13, 1952 at 10:00 EST in the forenoon for the purpose of hearing evidence on record together with any new evidence pertaining to this claim. I shall be glad to hear you or any other representative of your tribe present such evidence of your claim at that time.

P Would you please acknowledge receipt of this letter by return mail and also inform me which tribe you represent, whether Mr. Roland E. Stevens, Esq. of White River Junction, Vermont is authorized to act as your attorney with respect to this claim and whether you plan to attend this hearing?

Y  
Very truly yours,

CJA:yc

**Post Office Department**  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300  
(GPO)

POSTMARK OF DELIVERING  
OFFICE

16 OCT 1952

P. O.

Return to

*Charles J. Tolano*

(NAME OF SENDER)

Street and Number,  
or Post Office Box,

*Lawyer*

REGISTERED ARTICLE

Montpelier, VT

No.

347

Post Office

INSURED PARCEL

State

No.

16-12421



# RETURN RECEIPT

Received from the Postmaster the Registered or Insured Article, the original number of which appears on the face of this Card.

1 Philip Angus  
(Signature or name of addressee)

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of addressee's agent—Agent should enter addressee's name on line ONE above)

Date of delivery 16 Oct, 1957

October 14, 1952

Chief Philip Sagodensta Angus  
Oka, Province of Quebec  
Dominion of Canada

C  
Dear Chief Philip Sagodensta Angus:

O  
The Governor of the State of Vermont has appointed me Commissioner to investigate the claim made to certain lands located in the State of Vermont by the Caughnawaga, the St. Regis and the Lake of Two Mountains Tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy. In pursuance of my duties as such Commissioner I shall hold a hearing at the Franklin County Court House in the City of St. Albans, Vermont on November 13, 1952 at 10:00 EST in the forenoon for the purpose of hearing evidence on record together with any new evidence pertaining to this claim. I shall be glad to hear you or any other proper representative of your tribe present such evidence of your claim at that time.

P  
Would you please acknowledge receipt of this letter by return mail and also inform me which tribe you represent, whether Mr. Roland E. Stevens, Esq. of White River Junction, Vermont is authorized to act as your attorney with respect to this claim and whether you plan to attend this hearing?

Y  
Very truly yours,

CJA:yc



October 14, 1952

Chief James Sagogete Montour  
Oka, Province of Quebec,  
Dominion of Canada

C  
O  
P  
Y  
Dear Chief James Sagogete Montour:

The Governor of the State of Vermont has appointed me Commissioner to investigate the claim made to certain lands located in the State of Vermont by the Caughnawaga, the St. Regis and the Lake of Two Mountains Tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy. In pursuance of my duties as such Commissioner I shall hold a hearing at the Franklin County Court House in the City of St. Albans, Vermont on November 13, 1952 at 10:00 EST in the forenoon for the purpose of hearing evidence on record together with any new evidence pertaining to this claim. I shall be glad to hear you or any other proper representative of your tribe present such evidence of your claim at that time.

P  
Y  
Would you please acknowledge receipt of this letter by return mail and also inform me which tribe you represent, whether Mr. Roland E. Stevens, Esq. of White River Junction, Vermont is authorized to act as your attorney with respect to this claim and whether you plan to attend this hearing?

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc

# RETURN RECEIPT

*Received from the Postmaster the Registered or Insured Article, the original number of which appears on the face of this Card.*

1. *Rolund E. Stern*

(Signature or name of addressee)

2. \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of addressee's agent—Agent should enter addressee's name on line ONE above)

OCT 15 1952

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REGISTERED ARTICLE

Post Office

Montpelier, Vt.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

INSURED PARCEL

No. \_\_\_\_\_

16-12421

State \_\_\_\_\_

October 14, 1952

Mr. Roland E. Stevens, Esq.  
White River Junction,  
Vermont

C  
Dear Mr. Stevens:

O  
This is to inform you that I have been appointed Commissioner to investigate the claim made to certain lands located in the State of Vermont by certain tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy, namely the Caughnawaga, the St. Regis and the Lake of Two Mountains, and that in pursuance of my duties as such a Commissioner I shall hold a hearing for the receipt of evidence on record and any new evidence pertaining to this claim at the Franklin County Court House in the City of St. Albans, Vermont on November 13, 1952 at 10:00 in the forenoon.

P  
I am also sending notices of this scheduled hearing to the Attorney General of the State of Vermont, the Secretary of the Iroquois Confederacy, Inc. and the Chiefs of the tribes involved.

Y  
Very truly yours,

CJA:yc



**Post Office Department**  
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Lawyer

**REGISTERED ARTICLE**

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**Montpelier, Vt.**

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## RETURN RECEIPT

Received from the Postmaster the Registered or Insured Article, the original number of which appears on the face of this Card.

1 Mr. Matthew Lazare By \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of name of addressee)

2 Mr. Ovide Phelps  
(Signature of addressee's agent—Agent should enter addressee's name on line ONE above)

Date of delivery Oct 15, 1942



October 14, 1952

Mr. Matthew Lazare, Secretary  
Indian Council of the Iroquois Confederacy Inc.  
c/o O. Phillips  
Chateauguay Basin, Province of Quebec  
Dominion of Canada

C  
Dear Sir:

O  
P  
This is to inform you that I have been appointed Commissioner by the Governor of the State of Vermont pursuant to the joint resolution passed by the legislature of the State of Vermont during its 1951 session; and that as such Commissioner I shall hold a hearing at the Franklin County Court House in the City of St. Albans, Vermont on November 13, 1952 at 10:00 EST in the forenoon for the purpose of receiving evidence on record together with any new evidence pertaining to the claim made to certain lands located in the State of Vermont by certain tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy, namely the Caughnawaga, the St. Regis and the Lake of Two Mountains, Tribes. I am also sending notice of this hearing to Chief James Sagogete Montour and Chief Philip Sagodensta Angus both of Oka, Province of Quebec and to Chief Mose Thompson of Glenn Walters, Province of Ontario.

Y  
Would you please acknowledge receipt of this letter by return mail and also inform me as to whether I have properly notified a representative of each tribe, namely the Caughnawaga, the St. Regis and the Lake of Two Mountains, by sending notices as I have to the three Chiefs named: If one or more of these three tribes have not been notified by letters to the Chiefs named, would you please immediately inform me of the name or names and addresses of the proper representative of the tribes who should be informed of this hearing?

I have been informed by Mr. Roland E. Stevens, Esq. of White River Junction, Vermont that he is representing these tribes as their attorney with respect to the claim mentioned. Would you please also let me know whether Mr. Stevens does in fact represent each of the three tribes who are making this claim?

Very truly yours,

CJA:yc

In re Claims of Tribes  
of the Iroquois Confederacy

I  
I  
I  
Before Charles J. Adams,  
Commissioner

STIPULATION

After notice of hearing on tentative claims to be presented by the tribes of the Lake of Two Mountains, Caughnawaga and St. Regis Indians and pending the introduction of any evidence in support of such claims, it is stipulated and agreed by and between the claimants and Clifton G. Parker, as Attorney General for the State of Vermont, that further proceedings before said Commissioner be terminated and that said Commissioner be relieved of any further duties in said Commission other than to report the substance of this stipulation to the General Assembly of 1953;

Said claimants before said Commissioner asserting their preference, by their counsel, Roland Stevens, Esq., for a hearing on said claim before the proper claims committee of the 1953 General Assembly or its special committee or commission which it may, in its determination, provide in the matter.

Dated at City of Montpelier, in the County of Washington, and State of Vermont, this 7th day of November, A.D. 1952.

TRIBES OF THE IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY  
Lake of Two Mountains  
Caughnawaga  
St. Regis

By

Roland E. Stevens  
Their Attorney

STATE OF VERMONT

By

Clifton G. Parker  
Its Attorney General



DEC. 22, 1952

Itemize all expenses as per  
INSTRUCTIONS  
ON BACK OF THIS FORM

CHARLES J. ADAMS

Street Address SWASEY COURT

City or Town WATERBURY, VT.

DEPARTMENT, INSTITUTION, OR AGENCY

INDIAN  
COMMISSIONER TO INVESTIGATE CLAIMS

OFFICE OR HEADQUARTERS

SEC. 10482 V. 5.

DATE	BE SURE EACH ITEM BELOW IS CLEAR, AND VOUCHER, if required, is attached hereto.	SALARY OR PER DIEM	MILES TRAVELED	MILEAGE EXPENSE	OTHER EXPENSES
APRIL 29- DEC. 19, 1952	Research in State Library and Sec. of State's Office 14 hours Letters to Indian Chiefs, Sec. of State, Roland Stevens (23) Conferences with Roland Stevens, Secretary of State and Attorney General (4) Telephone conferences with Roland Stevens, Franklin County Court, and Attorney General (6) Preparing and submitting final report in 3 copies to the Governor Paid U.S. Post office for registered mail Paid N.E.T. & T. Co. for telephone toll calls Paid Capital City Stationers for report Covers  APPROVED:  GOVERNOR OF VERMONT	\$93.35			2.40 3.80 45
		\$93.35			6.65

I declare under the pains and penalties of perjury  
that the foregoing is a true and correct statement

of the time actually spent, and the money necessarily paid out in

the discharge of my official duties as INDIAN COMMISSIONER

from APRIL 29, 1952, to DEC. 19, 1952

Signature of Employee



DATE Dec. 25, 1925		AUTHORIZATION NUMBER		EMPLOYEE NO.		STATE OF VERMONT		Form C-10 PER DIEM AND EXPENSE ACCOUNT	
DEPARTMENT, INSTITUTION OR AGENCY Commissioner to Investigate Crime		STREET ADDRESS Charles J. Adams		CITY OR TOWN WATERBURY VT		IN ACCOUNT WITH Charles J. Adams		INSTRUCTIONS Itemize all expenses as per ON BACK OF THIS FORM	
OFFICE OR HEADQUARTERS SEC. 10482 V. 2		SALARY OR PER DIEM		MILEAGE EXPENSE		TRAVELING EXPENSE		OTHER EXPENSES	

Submit expense accounts at least once a month covering the expenses for the calendar period. Submitted for a less period than a month, the semi-monthly periods from the 1st to the 15th and from the 16th to the end of the month should be the rule, unless lesser periods should need to be covered. Such accounts should show only ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES of the periods covered and should state the territory traveled and the distance between points traveled. All charges including mileage should be entered on the reverse side of the expense sheet in order and upon the day which such expenses are incurred.

VOUCHERS. Furnish supporting vouchers for all expense, except railroad tickets, single telephone and telegraph messages, single meals and use of personally-owned automobiles where mileage is allowed. Hotel vouchers should show the town or city where hotel is located, the dates and days covered, the cost of lodging and the cost of each meal, if meals are separately charged as part of the bill. Single meals should be charged as such and the account should show where each meal is obtained and actual cost thereof. Do not include in your expense account the expenses of another person.

The fare on any common carrier paid in connection with travel on state business is exempt from the federal tax thereon if the carrier is furnished with an exemption certificate, of which you can obtain a supply from the Sergeant-at-Arms, Montpelier. You will not be reimbursed for such taxes paid. The amount of tax should be excluded from the fare when making up your expense account. Similarly the state is exempt from the tax on telephone toll calls and the tax should be excluded from the expense account.

THE MODE OF TRAVEL selected should be based upon the necessity of such travel. Automobile should not be used in case public conveyance is available and where results would be the same in time and service to the State. When it is found necessary to use the automobile on out of the state trips or other long trips the expense account should make clear that such trips were made as economically as they would have been had public conveyance been used.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Governor of Vermont

I declare under the pains and penalties of perjury that the foregoing is a true and correct statement of the time actually spent, and the money necessarily paid out in the discharge of my official duties as Investigator from April 25, 1925 to Dec. 15, 1925

Signature of Employee