

## SOME POINTS IN INDIAN HISTORY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
 OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
 WASHINGTON, JULY 24, 1896. }

SIR:—I am in receipt of your letter of July 9, 1896, stating that you are anxious to receive whatever printed history there may be extant of the Sac and Fox Indians, after their removal from the state of Iowa, to the present time, and asking if such printed documents can be sent to you, or you referred to any data bearing upon the subject? You also ask who were the Kiowas, and what became of them.

In reply to your first inquiry, I would state that the Sacs, Sauks, or Saukies, as it has been variously written—a word meaning “White Clay”—and the Foxes, or Outagamies, or more properly, the Musquakkink, (Red Clay), are now united into one tribe. They were first discovered settled about Green Bay, Wisconsin, but their possessions extended westward, so that the larger part was beyond the Mississippi. In 1804 they ceded all their lands east of the Mississippi and settled on the Des Moines river.

During the period from 1808 to 1814, many of the Indian tribes of the northwest, under the leadership of the Shawnee Prophet, became restless and gave evidence of warlike intentions. This was encouraged by British emissaries, and subsequently led to the Indian war in behalf of the British. During the early part of this period, about 1810, about 150 Sacs made a visit to the British Agent of Indian Affairs, it being the design of the Prophet and the British Agent to work all possible injury to the government through them. In 1811, when actual hostilities began, a party of peacefully inclined Sac and Foxes removed to the Missouri river, out of danger from whites and warlike Indians. These Indians forever after remained separate and apart from the rest of the nation. They are known as “the Sacs and Foxes of the Missouri,” with whom a treaty was made September 13,

1815, while the rest of the nation are known as "the Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi."

By the treaty of July 19, 1825, a boundary line between the Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi and the Sioux was established.

By the treaty of Prairie du Chien, dated July 15, 1830, the Sacs and Foxes, with other tribes of Indians, ceded and relinquished to the United States all their right to a tract of country twenty miles in width, from the Mississippi to the Des Moines—situate south, and adjoining the boundary line between them and the Sioux. They, with other Indian tribes, ceded other lands partly east and west of the Mississippi.

It subsequently appeared that a portion of the Sac and Fox tribe of Indians did not understand that in their cession of lands in 1804 they were ceding their lands north of Rock Island, so that when the cession of 1830, relinquishing all their lands east of the Mississippi, was ratified and steps taken to remove them to their land west of the Mississippi, a band of Sac Indians, known as "the British band of Rock river," headed by Black Hawk, a Sac brave, determined to resist all attempts at removal, which led up to the Black Hawk war.

Such was the state of affairs with these Indians when the first attempt was made to remove the Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi from the then territory of Iowa.

By the treaty of September 21, 1832 (7 Stats. p. 374), the Sac and Fox tribe of Indians ceded to the United States the following described tract of land, viz.:

Beginning on the Mississippi river, at the point where the Sac and Fox northern boundary line, as established by the second article of the treaty of Prairie du Chien, of the 15th of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty, strikes said river; thence, up said boundary line to a point fifty miles from the Mississippi, measured on said line; thence, in a right line to the nearest point on the Red Cedar of the Ioway, forty miles from the Mississippi river; thence in a right line to a point in the northern boundary line of the state of Missouri, fifty miles, measured on said boundary, from the Mississippi river; thence, by the last mentioned boundary to the Mississippi river, and by the western shore of said river to the place of beginning.

And the Indians agreed to remove therefrom on or before June 1, 1833, and that no band or party of said tribe should reside, plant, fish or hunt on any portion of said ceded country after June 1, 1833, reserving, however, a reservation of 400 square miles lying on both sides of the Iowa river, and extending downwards so as to include Keokuk's principal village, about twelve miles from the Mississippi river.

By the treaty of September 28, 1836 (7 Stats., pp. 517 and 520), these Indians ceded to the United States the whole of said 400 square miles, and they agreed to remove from the land by the 1st day of November, 1836.

By the treaty of October 21, 1837 (7 Stats., p. 540), the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States a tract of country containing 1,250,000 acres lying west of and adjoining the tract reserved by them by the treaty of September 21, 1832, and furthermore, they ceded all their lands held by them under the treaty of July 15, 1830. They agreed to remove from this tract within eight months from the ratification of the treaty, with the exception of Keokuk's village, possession of which might be retained for two years.

By the final treaty of October 11, 1842 (7 Stats., p. 596), the Sacs and Foxes in the then Territory of Iowa, ceded to the United States all their lands west of the Mississippi to which they had any claim whatever, reserving the right to occupy for three years all that part of said tract lying west of a line running due north and south from the painted or red rocks on the White Breast fork of the Des Moines river, which rocks are about eight miles in a direct line from the Junction of the White Breast with the Des Moines. The President, as soon after the treaty was ratified as might be convenient, was to assign the Sacs and Foxes a permanent home on the Missouri or some of its waters, and as soon as the chiefs should consent thereto, after the assignment of the lands, the Indians were to remove thither, and if not removed within three years they were to remove themselves.

The President on the 5th of April, 1843, appointed William Morrison, of Lock Haven, Clinton county, Pennsylvania,

a commissioner to select a suitable site for the Indians, suggesting two locations in Kansas, one north of the Delaware Indians, the other west of the Iowa Indians. November 15, 1843, Mr. Morrison reported that having found neither location desirable nor suitable for the Indians, he had negotiated a treaty with the Kickapoos whereby he had secured an eligible site for them. This matter was reported to the Secretary of War November 20, 1843, with the recommendation that the treaty, being unauthorized, be rejected. Coming to Washington, he submitted another upon December 14, 1843, selecting a tract of country, about 400,000 acres, in conformity with his instructions. Nothing having been settled by Mr. Morrison, U. S. Indian Agent R. W. Cummins was instructed, April 2, 1844, to make a selection of a tract of country for their home as provided by the treaty of 1842. Supt. Harvey, on the first of August, filed Agent Cummins' report of July 19, 1844, selecting two tracts to which the President could assign these Indians. A copy of this report was sent to Governor John Chambers of Iowa, who laid the matter before Indian Agent John Beach with instructions that the two tracts had been selected for them to determine which to accept.

Governor Chambers, on the 4th of June, 1845, forwarded the report of Agent Beach in which he stated that the Sacs were ready and willing to remove, but the body of the Foxes, led by Powshick, hesitated, and nothing was then accomplished or settled. On the 23rd of May, 1846, however, Supt. Harvey reported that Agent Beach had notified him on the 11th of May that a majority of Sacs and Foxes had fixed upon the selection at the head of Osage river as their future home under the treaty of 1842.

In the annual report of this office for the year 1846, p. 299, Agent Beach reported that (with the exception of about 100, many of whom were sick and infirm) the Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi had passed out of their former country within the period prescribed by the treaty; they however did not continue their emigratory march with equal perseverance.

Before the last day of September the Sacs had departed from Iowa, and on the 8th of October, 1845, the Foxes began their march, so that by the 11th of October, 1845, the entire nation, except 100 sick and infirm, had actually left their former home.

These Indians settled upon their new lands, and by the treaty of October 1, 1859, they indicated a certain portion of their new home which should be set apart for them in severalty as their diminished reserve, and all that part of their land not reserved, it was stipulated, should be sold by the Secretary of the Interior on sealed bids for cash for the use of the tribe. Provision was made in this treaty for all members then separated, to rejoin and reunite with them within one year.

Their next and last treaty, executed February 18, 1867 (15 Stats., p. 495), provided for the cession and sale of all their unsold lands in trust, in Kansas, and for their removal to lands to be selected for them in the Indian Territory, south of Kansas and south of the Cherokee lands, not exceeding 750 square miles. Five hundred and forty of these Indians are now residing on these lands in Indian, now Oklahoma, Territory, having taken allotments under the General Allotment Act of 1887, to the extent of 87,683.64 acres, and the remainder of said lands have been purchased by the government and were opened to public settlement by President's Proclamation September 18, 1891 (27 Stats., p. 989), in accordance with an agreement made with said Indians June 12, 1890, ratified by Act of Congress, approved February 13, 1891 (26 Stats., p. 749).

There are 511 Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi living in Oklahoma, 398 living in the state of Iowa, Tama county, having purchased with their own funds from 2,800 to 3,000 acres of land which they hold in common. The Sacs and Foxes of the Missouri (81 in number) are living upon a reservation in Kansas and Nebraska, 6,407.63 acres having been allotted to 76 Indians, and the remainder (1,616 acres) held in common by them.

This office does not have, nor can it refer you to any

printed documents relating to the removal of these Indians from Iowa, and can only refer you for a detailed sketch of their history to "The Illinois and Indiana Indians," by Hiram W. Beckwith, Fergus Historical Series, No. 27, Chicago, Ill., Fergus Printing Co., 1884; and to "The Red Men of Iowa," by A. R. Fulton, 1882.

The Kiowas or prairie men, are one of the tribes of Indians that compose the Shoshone family. They were originally a wild and roving people, occupying the country about the head waters of the Arkansas, formerly ranging all over the country between the Platte and the Rio Grande. Our first knowledge of them was through Lewis and Clark, who found them on the Paducah. Little intercourse was had with them until 1853, when they made a treaty and agreed to go on a reservation, but soon broke it and went raiding into Texas. The citizens drove them out, and in revenge for stopping their annuities, they retaliated upon the Texans. They made subsequent treaties in 1865 and 1867. In 1869 they were placed on a reservation in the then Indian Territory (now Oklahoma Territory) with Comanches and Apaches. In 1871, under their great chief Satanta, they again raided Texas, resulting in the capture of Satanta and Big Tree, and their imprisonment. They were subsequently pardoned by the government through interposition at Washington, and restored to their tribe.

The Kiowas (1,037 in number) have settled upon individual tracts on their reservation in Oklahoma, and are living thereon although said land has not been allotted them under the Act of 1887. They have entered into an agreement for the sale of their surplus lands, but this agreement has not been ratified by Congress.

I enclose for your information a schedule of Indian treaties, showing where the same may be found.

Very respectfully,

D. M. BROWNING, *Commissioner*.

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