

# MEMORIAL

OF THE

**Chippeway, Pottawatomy,**

AND OTTAWA INDIANS,

OF

# WALPOLE ISLAND!

TOUCHING THEIR CLAIM OF THE

Huron Reserve, Fighting, Bois Blanc, Turkey, and Point au Pelee Islands.

---

To His Excellency the Governor General in Council.

---

SARNIA:

PRINTED AT THE "CANADIAN" BOOK & JOB OFFICE

1869.

## MEMORIAL

To His Excellency, The Right Honorable Sir John Young, Baronet,  
K. C. B., G. C. M. G., and Governor General of the Dominion of  
Canada, &c., &c., &c.

---

The Memorial of the Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Indians of Walpole Island, touching their claim of the Huron Reserve, Fighting, Bois Blanc, Turkey and Point au Pelee Islands.

GREAT CHIEF,—

Your memorialists most respectfully present and pray—

1st.—That they are the descendants of the three Indian Nations, Chippeways, Pottawatomes and Ottawas, who formerly displayed their loyalty to the British Government.

2d.—That according to the best information that can be obtained, and upon reference to the various Deeds of Cessions, Grants and Leases of Lands, it will appear that the said three Nations were the rightful proprietors of the Peninsula between Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie.

3rd.—That many years ago the Wyandotts emigrated from the North, (somewhere in or near Lake Superior), and it appears that they first settled opposite Malden, on the Michigan shore, afterwards they removed and were allowed to settle on, what was then known as the Hunting Ground, now called the Huron Reserve, which constitutes the Township of Anderdon, in the County of Essex, Province of Ontario, where they now reside; and by permission of the said three Nations, became the joint owners of the said Hunting Ground.

4th.—That on the 19th day of May, A.D., 1790, to please the Government, the said three Nations ceded to His Majesty George the Third, a large portion of the said Peninsula. On that day they, with the said Wyandotts, and by the concurrence of the Government, reserved the said Huron Reserve to be held and owned in common by them and their posterity, as will appear upon reference to the Deed marked P. accompanying this Memorial.

5th.—That many years ago, the said three Nations left that part (Huron Reserve and its vicinity) of their possessions—not with any intention of forever abandoning the land and the Islands by them reserved. The Chippeways, with few of the Pottawatomes and Ottawas, removed and became permanent settlers on other Tracts of Land situate and lying, some in the interior parts of the said Peninsula, and others on the borders of the River St. Clair. But the main body of the said Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations emigrated over, and for many years, led a wandering and hunting life in the Territory and State of Michigan, where they lost many of their numbers by death and removals beyond the great Mississippi.

6th.—That the said Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations returned to Canada, and settled on Walpole Island, some in the year 1837, and others in 1841. The Pottawatomy Nation, during their sojourn in Michigan, received some land through "Mick-sa-ba," their then Head Chief—said land was, however, ceded back to the United States Government, but they never received any annuity in consequence.

7th.—That the said Ottawa Nation, during their sojourn in Michigan, never received any land, nor anything whatsoever from the said United States Government; and they would especially call your Excellency's attention to the fact, that being natives of America, their rights, titles and interests must exist in some land or money representing land which their ancestors once called their own; and they venture to state that they feel confident that they are the joint proprietors of the Huron Reserve, Bois Blanc, Fighting, Turkey and Point au Pelee Islands.

8th.—That your Memorialists, the said three Nations, have from time to time, inquired respecting the said Huron Reserve and the Islands, but have been told by their Agents, that since these portions of land have, by them, been so long neglected no action can be taken. Your Memorialists beg to inform Your Excellency that they have not so neglected the said lands, but in or about the years of 1830 and 1840 held Councils at Amherstburgh with the said Wyandotts for the purpose of entering into an agreement as to the proper disposal of the said Huron Reserve, and in both Councils, the said Wyandotts being anxious to have the whole Tract under their own control, on the ground of their having it in their possession for many years, applied to white men of influence for assistance, and especially in the Council of 1840, the late George Ironside, Indian Superintendent then, instead of performing his duty to investigate carefully the case in question, interfered and assisted the said Wyandotts. Your Memorialists were over-ruled, and, in consequence, no agreement was made.

9th.—That the Islands, respectively called, Fighting, Turkey, and Bois Blanc, situate and being in the River Detroit, in the vicinity of the said Huron Reserve, but not wholly in front of that Reserve, and the Point au Pelee Island, in Lake Erie, were owned and held in common at an earlier period by the said three Nations, the Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations only. The said lands were not included in the large cession of land in the year 1790.

10th.—That your Memorialists have been lately informed that the said Fighting and Turkey Islands had been disposed of, and the reason why the said Fighting Island has been neglected so long by your Memorialists is, that on the third day of July, A. D., 1829, Chief "Wau-wau-som," with other Indians belonging to Walpole Island, but who at that time were living in Miamies, Ohio, with a band of Ottawa Indians belonging to the United States, delivered the said Island to one Thomas Paxton for a lease of nine hundred and ninety-nine (999) years. That the Commissioners appointed in the year A. D., 1856, to inquire into the Indian Affairs reported to the Government then, that "after a most careful investigation, it appears to us that the Wyandotts alone among the Indian Tribes have any title to it." Your Memorialists, who claim the Island, beg to inform Your Excellency that they never knew nor heard of any "careful investigation" being made in 1856, or at any other time by any of the Indian Commissioners; for if they, your Memorialists, had known it, they would have asserted their title to it.

A true copy of the Lease of Fighting Island accompanies this Memorial, as shewing and proving that the said three Nations exercised the rights of ownership over it. Said Lease

was executed, signed and sealed in the presence of the late George Ironside, Supt. Indian Department, and several others, who did not entertain any doubt of the Island belonging to the said three Nations only. Respecting the said Copy of the Lease, refer to the Affidavits of Widow Mary Fisher and Wm. N. Fisher, accompanying this Memorial.

11th.—That the said Bois Blanc Island was specially reserved to be a place of landing, camping and holding Councils thereon. It was never surrendered nor leased to the Government, or to any other person or persons. Therefore, your Memorialists now offer its surrender to the Government to be sold for their own benefit.

12th.—That the said Point au Pelee Island, which is in Lake Erie, was many years ago delivered by a Deed of lease to Thomas McKee, or in the Indian, Wah-be-me-sha-wa, for the purpose of him keeping live stock thereon. This Island also was never ceded to the Government by any of the Indians.

It is set forth in the Memorial of the McCormick Family, that the Bands of Indians who so owned the Island have become extinct. Your Memorialists respectfully call and direct your attention to the Affidavits accompanying this Memorial as shewing and proving that the Heirs and Successors of these Bands who owned the Island have not become extinct.

A true copy of the lease of the Point au Pelee Island accompanies this Memorial, shewing and proving that the Chippeways and Ottawas had the rights of ownership over it.

13th.—That, impressed as your Memorialists are, with the rightfulness and justice of their claim to the said Fighting, Bois Blanc, Turkey, and Point au Pelee Islands, and their joint claim of the said Huron Reserve, they humbly pray that a proper hearing be granted to them by the Government.

And in connection with this Memorial, your Memorialists beg to call and direct your attention to the Affidavits accompanying this Memorial.

#### GREAT CHIEF,—

Always unhesitatingly loyal and ever ready to support Her Majesty's Flag, your Excellency's Memorialists venture to assert that they are deserving of the proper hearing and favorable consideration of the Government, in this, their expectation, and they feel that they can, with confidence, approach your Excellency, submitting their case, and praying that you may cause an order to be passed in the Council of your Great and Honorable Councillors:

FIRSTLY.—That the annuity realized by the sale of the said Fighting, Bois Blanc and Turkey Islands, may be transferred so as to be hereafter payable to your Memorialists only.

SECONDLY.—That payment may be granted to your Memorialists by the Government for the said Point au Pelee Island, which has been confirmed to the said McCormick family, by Deed, thereby effecting a loss to your Memorialists; and

THIRDLY.—That your Memorialists may obtain their equal share of the said Huron Reserve, which they lost under the Treaty of the 20th day of September, A. D., 1836.

A true Copy of said Treaty accompanies this Memorial.

And as in duty bound your Memorialists will ever pray.

(Signed)

WM. N. FISHER,  
In behalf of the Memorialists.

[ P. ]

## COPY OF THE DEED OF CESSION.

LA ASSUMPTION, DISTRICT HESSE, 22ND JUNE, 1790.

Know all men by these presents, that we, the principal Village and War Chiefs of the Ottawa, Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Huron Indian Nations, of Detroit, for and in consideration of the sum of £1,200, currency, of the Province of Quebec, at five Shillings per Spanish Dollar, for valuable wares and merchandise to us delivered by the hand of Alexander McKee, Esq., Deputy Agent of Indian Affairs; the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, have, by and with the consent of the whole of our said Nation, given, granted, enfeoffed, alienated and confirmed, and by those presents, do give, grant and enfeoff, alien and confirm unto His Majesty, George the third, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c., a certain tract of land beginning at the mouth of the Catfish Creek, commonly called River au Chaudiere, on the north side of Lake Erie, being the Western extremity of a Tract purchased by His said Majesty from Message Indians in the year 1784, and from thence running westward along the border of Lake Erie, and up the strait to the mouth of the River known by the name of Chenail e Cartie, and up the main branch of the said Chenail e Cartie to the first fork on the side South; then a due east line until it intersects the River La Franche, and up the River La Franche to the North West corner of the said cession granted to His said Majesty in the year 1784; then following the western boundry of said Tract, being a due south direction, until it strikes the mouth of Catfish Creek, or otherwise River au Chaudiere, being the first offset; reserving a Tract beginning at the Indian Officers' Land at a small Run or Gully near the head of the Island of Bois Blanc, and running upwards along the border of the Strait to the beginning of the French settlement, above the head of the Petite Isle Dinde; then a due east line 7 miles, and then south so many miles as will intersect another east line running from the north of said Run or Gully near the head of said Island of Bois Blanc; and another Tract beginning at the mouth of Rivirie au Jarrais, commonly called Knagg's Creek, running up along the border of the Strait to the Huron Church, and one hundred and twenty arpents in depth; with all and singular the appurtenances unto the said Tract of land, belonging, or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder or remainders, rents and services of the said premises, and all the estate, right, title, interest, property, claim or demand whatsoever of us, the said Chiefs or any other person or persons whatsoever of our said Nations, of, in and to the said Tract of land, or of, in and to every part and parcel thereof, excepting the Reserves aforesaid; to have and to hold the said land and premises hereby given and granted unto His said Majesty, George the Third, his heirs and successors forever; and we, the said Chiefs for ourselves and the whole of our said Nations, our and their heirs, executors, and administrators, do covenant, promise and grant to, and with his said Majesty, George the Third, his heirs and successors, by these presents, that his said Majesty, his heirs and successors, shall and lawfully may, from henceforth and forever after, peaceably and quietly have, hold, occupy, possess, and enjoy, the said Tract of land hereby given and granted, mentioned or intended to be given and granted, with all and every of the appurtenances, free, clear and discharged, or well and sufficiently saved, kept harmless and indemnified of,

from  
aguir  
or su  
ever  
prese  
have  
the p  
have  
Detro  
year  
and I

W  
Tribes  
ed as  
Cana  
Huro  
and a  
sovere  
surre  
third  
north  
fore s  
provi  
India

Th  
Nati  
with  
and  
on th  
are,

from and against all former and other gifts, grants, bargains and sales, and of, from and against all former and other titles, troubles, charges or incumbrances whatever, had done or suffered to be had, or suffered by any of us, the said Chiefs, or by any one whatsoever of the said Nations, our and their heirs, executors or administrators, and by these presents do make this our Act an l Deed, irrevocable under any pretence whatever, and have put His said Majesty in full possession and seizin by allowing houses to be built upon the premises. In witness whereof we, the said Chiefs, for ourselves, and the said Nations, have unto these presents made the marks of our different Tribes, and affixed our seals, at Detroit, District of Hesse, in the Province of Quebec, the 19th day of May, in the 13th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, George the Third, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c., and in the year of our Lord 1790.

---

(COPY OF THE DEED OF SURRENDER.)

---

AMHERSTBURGH, SEPTEMBER 20TH, 1836.

We, the undersigned Chiefs and Warriors, in the name and in behalf of the Wyandott Tribe of Indians, inhabiting the Tract of Hunting Ground, commonly known and described as the Huron Reserve, in the Township of Malden, in the County of Essex, in Upper Canada, being desirous to be permitted to sell a portion of our said Hunting Ground or Huron Reserve, which, from the industry of the whites, has now become highly valuable, and annually to receive the interest of the proceeds thereof without any deductions whatsoever, do hereby, this day, in Council at Amherstburgh, propose to our Great Father to surrender to him for the general expenses of the Indians in Upper Canada, the south third part (C.) of the said Huron Reserve, provided our Great Father will sell for us the north third part (A.) of the said Reserve, paying to us and to our Tribe annually, as before stated, the interest of the proceeds thereof, without any deduction whatsoever, and provided the Stone Quarry, which we at present occupy, for the use of the Wyandott Indians only—

---

(COPY OF THE LEASE OF POINT AU PELEE ISLAND.)

---

This Indenture, made between the Chiefs and Sachems of the Chippeway and Ottawa Nations of Indians, on the one part, and Thomas McKee, of Detroit, of the other part, witnesseth that the said Chiefs and Sachems of the Chippeway and Ottawa Nations, for, and in consideration of, the rent and covenant hereinafter mentioned and contained, which, on the part and in behalf of the said Thomas McKee, his heirs, executors, administrators, are, and ought to be paid and performed, hath demised, and to farm letten, granted, and

by these presents, to demise, grant and to farm let unto the said Thomas McKee, his executors or assigns, for, and during the term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years, and fully to be completed and ended. To parcel out the said Island into such lots or parcels as he may think proper, and tenant the same with whatsoever and whomsoever they please to put thereon. Yielding and paying therefor yearly and every year during the said term unto the said Chiefs and Sachems of the Chippeway and Ottawa Nations, their heirs and assigns, three bushels of Indian Corn or the value thereof, if demanded, annually, to and for the use of the said Chiefs and Sachems, their Nations, heirs and assigns, do hereby covenant that the said Thomas McKee's heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, may demise, grant or sell any part or parcel of the said Island for the term herein specified.

In witness whereof, &c., at Detroit, the first day of May, in the year, &c., 1783

(COPY OF THE LEASE OF FIGHTING ISLAND.)

This Indenture, made the third day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine, between the Head Chiefs of the Ottawas, Chippeways and Pottawatomies Nations, residing at the Miamies River, of the one part, and Thomas Paxton, of the Town of Sandwich, in the Western District, and Province of Upper Canada, gentleman, of the other part; witnesseth that the said Head Chiefs, in consideration of five shillings to them paid at and before the sealing and delivery hereof, by the said Thomas Paxton, as of the rents, covenants and agreements hereinafter contained, on the part and behalf of the said Thomas Paxton, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, all that parcel of land situate in the River Detroit, in the County of Essex, and Province aforesaid, about midway between the Town of Sandwich and the Town of Amherstburgh, commonly called and known by the name of Fighting Island, or Isle aux Dindes, (called by the French, Grosse Isle aux Dindes), containing by computation about twelve hundred acres; together with all and singular, the appurtenances, either of woods, fisheries or other privileges of whatsoever nature belonging to, and connected with, the said Island. To have and to hold all and singular the said premises above mentioned, with the appurtenances thereunto belonging, unto the said Thomas Paxton, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, from the day of the date hereof, for, and during the term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years, thence next and immediately ensuing, and fully to be completed and ended. Yielding and paying therefor, from and immediately after the commencement of the said term, and during the continuance thereof, unto the said Head Chiefs, or their representatives; or assigns, the sum of Twelve Pounds Ten Shillings, currency, of the Province aforesaid, at the Town of Amherstburgh, in said Province, on and upon the first day of December in each year. And the said Head Chiefs, for themselves and their representatives, do hereby covenant and do hereby cancel all former leases that may have been made by them or other Chiefs of the said Ottawas, Chippeways and Pottawatomies Nations to all and every other person or persons whomsoever, and they do further covenant with the said Thomas Paxton, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns by these presents, that the said Thomas Paxton, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns shall, and may at all times during the said term hereby granted, by and under the

Kee, his ex-  
years, and  
or parcels as  
they please  
he said term  
eir heirs and  
ally, to and  
do hereby  
ssigns, may  
specified.

728

yearly rents, covenants and agreements herein contained, peaceably and quietly have, hold, occupy, possess, and enjoy, all and singular the said premises hereby devised, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances, without the least trouble, hindrance, interruption and denial of them, the said Head Chiefs or their representatives, or any other Indian, Indians, person or persons, whatsoever, claiming or to claim the same or any part or parcel thereof. In witness whereof the parties have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and seals the day and year above mentioned.

### Affidavit of Oshahwahnoo, made the 10th Day of August, 1867.

*States*,—That he believes himself to be about ninety three years of age. Has had a great deal of experience in the affairs of the Indians and attended many of their Councils. That he took an active part in the spirit of 1812, under the celebrated Warrior, "Tecumseh." That he was well acquainted with many of the Chiefs, whose names appear in the Instrument marked P. That the said Chiefs were the head Chiefs of the Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations, whose descendants now reside on Walpole Island. Wasson lived and died in the neighborhood of Walpole Island, about seventy years ago. Eesebance, a principal messenger, has a son now living in Muncey Town, lived and died in what is now Chatham, about fifty four years ago. Ouitanisa lived and died in the neighborhood of Walpole Island about fifty two years ago. Nangie was his (deponent's) father; lived opposite St. Ann's Island shortly before 1812; removed to what is now Sandnsky, Ohio, where he died about a year and a half after his arrival there. Meshquigaboui died in his extreme old age, about the year 1816, near the River Thames. Tie-came-go-se and Wahbaud-gais lived and died in the neighborhood of what is now Florence, Bear Creek. That he was always told by the said and above named Chiefs that the Wyandotts, being emigrants from the north, were not the rightful owners of the Huron Reservation, but were only permitted to settle on it by the real and original proprietors—the Chippaway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations. That the above was as far back as he can remember, considered and regarded as an indisputable fact. That he also learned from the said Chiefs that the said Huron Reservation was reserved by the said Chippeway, Pottawatomy, Ottawa and Wyandott Nations, to be owned and held in common by them; but that all the Islands in the River Detroit and some in Lake Erie were owned and held in common by the said Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations only. That Thomas Paxton, about thirty eight years ago, went to Miamies, Ohio, and obtained a long lease of the Fighting Island from Chief Wawasum and other Indians, belonging to the Indians, the said Nations of Walpole Island, but who at that time were living in Miamies with Chief Wa-san-an-quot and Band Indians, then and still belonging to the United States. That he never knew nor heard of the Bois Blanc Island, which was used for landing and camping ground and place of Council, being ever ceded or leased to the government, or to any person. That he never knew nor heard of any inquiry or investigation being made by any of the Indian Agents concerning the said Fighting Island. That he was present and attended both Councils held at Amherstburgh in the years of 1830 and 1840, when the Chippeways, Pottawatomes and Ottawas endeavored to enter into an agreement with the said Wyandotts, (who being anxious to have the whole Tract under their control) applied to Wah-



be-bau-toonce, a white man of considerable influence, and Ironside, Indian Agent then, for assistance; the said Ironside took side and interfered in behalf of the Wyandotts and in consequence no agreement was made.

### Supplementary Affidavit of Oshahwahnoo made the 18th Day of September, 1867.

*States*,—That he himself lived at Malden for many years when a youth. That he very well remembers when the Wyandotts had a settlement on the opposite shore of the Hunting Ground, and that when the Wyandotts sent their Head Chief, a very stout and tall man, to the Chiefs and Sachens of the Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations to seek admission and to settle on the Hunting Ground, the said Chiefs and Sachens addressed him, "Brother," and allowed him and his people to settle and occupy a small block on the northern part of the Hunting Ground. That to his own knowledge, one Wah-be-bau-toonce, as he was known by the Indians, a white man, married one of the Wyandott women, and always lived among the Indians afterwards. That to his own knowledge, instead of Wah-be-bau-toonce keeping to that portion of the Land set apart for his wife's people, went and settled upon the portion belonging to the said three Nations, and the Wyandotts followed his example. That on the departure of the said three Nations, they left a large string of Waumpums to the care of the Wyandott Chiefs, with the instructions, "to keep the Indian fire on the Hunting Ground." That the Ottawa Chiefs, Ottawakie and Ke-wish-owan died at or near what is now Sandusky, and Eudashin at Miamies. That a part of the Wyandotts left and removed West, taking with them the said Waumpums. That he himself often saw the said Waumpums.

### Affidavit of Kiyoshk. made the Tenth Day of August 1837.

*States*,—That he is about eighty two years of age. Was well acquainted with many of the Chippeway and Ottawa Chiefs, whose names appear in the Instrument marked P. That Ouitanisa and Mesh-qui-ga-boui were his uncles. That the said Chiefs, whose names appear in the Instrument aforesaid, were the Head Chiefs of the Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Indians; whose descendants now live and reside on Walpole Island. That he learned and heard from the said Chiefs the following statement:—That the Wyandotts were driven from the north by the Ojebwas and landed on the Hunting Ground, (Huron Reservation,) and formed a settlement on it by permission of the said Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations, who were the rightful and original owners of the said Huron Reservation, which formed a part of the Territory ceded in the year 1700. That as far back as he can remember, the above statement was regarded and considered as an indisputable fact. That at an earlier date the Bois Blanc and Fighting Islands were considered as belonging to the said Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations only. That to

his own knowledge, one white man named Paxton, obtained a long lease of the said Fighting Island from the Chief Wawasum and other Indians belonging to the Indians of Walpole Island, but who were living in Miamias, about thirty eight years ago, with Chief Wasanaunquot and Band Indians belonging to the United States.

—•—•—•—

**Supplementary Affidavit of Kiyoshk, made the 13th day of September, 1867.**

*States.*—That he himself lived at Malden for many years when a youth, and to his own knowledge, the Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations did live and reside in and in the neighborhood of the Hunting Grounds. That he was acquainted with the following Ottawa Chiefs, as also other Chiefs and principal men:—Wanishquy and Onagan died in the vicinity of Sandusky, Egouichway on Walpole Island, Maugichway at Miamias. That he remembers when the Wyandotts acknowledged that they were not the rightful owners of the said Hunting Ground, by keeping themselves strictly to a small block on the Northern part of the said Hunting Ground, being, as he always understood, the portion of the land they were allowed to occupy by the above named three Nations. That Wah-be-bau-toonce, a white man, who married one of the Wyandott Indian women, was the first who disobeyed the Chiefs of the said three Nations by not keeping himself to the said small Block, but settling on the portion claimed by the said three Nations, and his inviting the Wyandotts, they followed his example. Hence the whole of the said Hunting Ground was subsequently claimed by them.

—•—•—•—

**Affidavit of Thomas Buckwheat, made on the 13th day of August, 1867.**

*States.*—That he belongs to the Chippeway Nation. Is about fifty-four years of age, and does not remember of ever seeing any of the Chiefs whose names appear in the Instrument marked P, but that he was acquainted with many of the Chiefs, and from them he learned that the Huron Reservation was reserved to be owned and held in common by the Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations endeavored to enter into an agreement with the Wyandotts as to the disposal of the Huron Reservation, but the said Wyandotts, being anxious to have the whole Tract under their control, applied to Wah-be-bau-toonce, a white man of considerable influence, for assistance, who took sides and interfered in their behalf, and in consequence no agreement was made. To his own knowledge, Chief Wawasum and Wawishquy, his deponent's Brother, with other Indians belonging to the Indians of Walpole Island, but who at that time were living in Miamias, Ohio, with Chief Wasanaunquot, delivered, about thirty-eight years ago, to Thomas Paxton, a long lease of the Fighting Island. That he never knew nor heard of the Bois Blanc Island being ever surrendered or leased to the Government, or to any other individual. That he never knew nor heard of any inquiry being made by any of the Indian Agents in year 1856 or at any other time respecting the Fighting Island.

**Affidavit of Shobodese, made the 10th day of August, 1867.**

*States*,—That he belongs to the Pottawatomy Nation, and is about sixty-nine years of age. That he saw and was well acquainted with the following named Chiefs; whose names appear in the Instrument marked P:—Shebence died at School Cap, Southern part of Michigan, about forty-five years ago; Ke-wa-te-naw removed west, and considerable numbers of the Pottawatomy Nation went with him; Skonesque died in or near the neighborhood of Detroit, about forty-two years ago; Mettegochin, Esha-ha and Pe-nash died in the neighborhood of Washtenaw. That he was especially acquainted with Pe-nash and Shebence; and in his daily intercourse with them and other Chiefs, he was always told by them that the Huron Reservation was reserved for the Chippeway, Pottawatomy, Ottawa and Wyandott Nations. That the latter were aliens, being emigrants from the North, and became joint proprietors of the said Huron Reservation by permission of the real and original owners of the Territory ceded in the year 1790, of which the Huron Reservation formed a part. That he frequented and sometimes did live in the neighborhood of Amherstburgh, and formerly the above statement was undisputed. That, to his knowledge, the Bois Blanc and Fighting Islands were regarded as belonging to the said Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations only. That for many years he and said Band or Nation, (Pottawatomy), lived in different parts of Michigan, losing many of their number by death and removals beyond the Mississippi. That, to his knowledge, attempts were made about the years 1830 and 1840 by the Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations to obtain their share of the Huron Reservation, but the Wyandotts wishing to retain the whole Tract under their control, applied to Ironside, Agent of Indian affairs, for assistance. He at once interfered in behalf of the said Wyandotts. No agreement was entered into. That he and said Pottawatomy Nation never as yet received any thing from the Government accruing from the said Huron Reservation and Fighting Island.

**Affidavit of A. Johnson, made the Tenth Day of August, 1867.**

*States*,—That he is over fifty three years of age; for many years acted as a Messenger, and attended many Indian Councils. That he attended the Council held at Amherstburgh about the year 1830, in which the Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations attempted to obtain their claim or to divide the Huron Reservation equally in proportion to the number in each of the four Nations. The Wyandotts applied to Wah-be-ban-toonce, a white man of influence for help, who interfered in their behalf, in their endeavor to retain the whole Tract under their own control. That another Council was held about the year 1840 at the same place, by the same parties, and for the same purpose, and at the request and solicitations of the Wyandotts Captain Ironside, Indian Agent, assisted the Wyandotts, who were anxious to have the whole Land in their power. That, to his own knowledge, the Bois Blanc and Fighting Islands were held in common by the Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations only. That about thirty-eight years ago, Tetushgwagwan, Wawishquy, Anscushé, Autowacche, Renswabai and Penneswanquot, with Chief Wawansum executed a Deed of long lease of Fighting Island to Thomas Paxton. That the above.

named Chief and Indians were living in Miami, Ohio, at that time with Chief Wasan-  
 aunquot and Band Indians belonging to the United States. That as far as he can remem-  
 ber the Bois Blanc and Fighting Islands were held in common by the Chippeway, Pot-  
 tawatomy and Ottawa Nations only.

**Affidavit of Wamtegoosheence, made the Tenth Day of August 1867.**

*States.*—That he is about sixty years of age. A Pottawatomy and Chippeway by birth.  
 That Pe-nash was his uncle, and lived with him for some time. That he sometimes lived  
 in Malden, and as far back as he can remember the Huron Reservation was regarded  
 as belonging to the Chippeway, Pottawatomy, Ottawa and Wyandott Nations; but of all  
 the Islands in the River Detroit and some of those in Lake Erie, were held in common by  
 the Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations only. That he never knew nor heard  
 of any inquiry or investigation being made by any of the Indian Agents respecting the  
 Bois Blanc and Fighting Islands.

**Affidavit of David Kowgomoo, made the Tenth Day of August 1867.**

*States.*—That he is the second Chief of the Pottawatomy Band or Nation of Walpole  
 Island. That he is about fifty three years of age. That he was well acquainted with  
 Pe-nash and Ke-wa-te-naw, Pottawatomy Chiefs, whose names appear in the Instrument  
 marked P. That the said Ke-wa-te-naw was the grand father of Peway, deceased, late  
 Head Chief of the said Pottawatomy Nation. That he learned from the above named  
 Chiefs, that the Chiefs whose names appear in the Instrument aforesaid, were the Head  
 Chiefs of the Pottawatomy Nation, whose descendants now reside on Walpole Island. That  
 for many years led a hunting life in the Territory and State of Michigan, during which  
 time they lost many of their number by death and removals to the far west beyond the  
 Mississippi. That he was always told by the above named Chiefs that the Huron Reser-  
 vation was reserved to be owned and held in common by the Chippeway, Pottawatomy, Ot-  
 tawa and Wyandott Nations. That he very often went to Malden. And at an earlier  
 date the Bois Blanc and Fighting Islands were held in common by the said Chippeway,  
 Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations only. That during their sojourn in said State of Mi-  
 chigan, one of their Chiefs, Mix-sa-be applied to the United States Government for land,  
 and accordingly received a Tract in or near what is now Coldwater, said land was however,  
 surrendered to the said Government and no annuity was received for the same. That in the  
 year of 1837 he and said Band numbering about nine hundred and ninety seven, returned  
 to Canada to avoid of being forced to remove beyond the Mississippi, and by permission  
 of the Chippeways they settled on Walpole Island, where they have since resided. That  
 the Treaty of the 20th day of September 1836, entered into between the said Wyandotts  
 and the British Government, deprived them of their joint claim of the said Huron Reser-  
 vation. That they never received any benefit accruing from the Bois Blanc and Fighting  
 Islands.

### Affidavit of Me-nah-quot

*States*,—That he is about sixty-one years of age. That he is an Ottawa and belongs to the Ottawa Nation now residing on Walpole Island. That said nation or Band for many years led a wandering life in various parts of the Territory and state of Michigan, during which time they lost many of their number by deaths and removals beyond the great Mississippi. That during their sojourn in the said State, they never received any grants from the U. States Government, either of land, money or anything whatsoever. That he was well acquainted with Nianego, a chief of the Ottawa Nation, being his grandfather. Lived in the same wigwam with him up to his (Nianego's) death. That he does not remember of ever seeing any of the Chiefs whose names appear in the Instrument marked P, except the said Nianego, from whom he was always told the said Chiefs were the Chiefs of the Ottawa Nation, whose descendants now reside on Walpole Island. That he and Band frequented the Town of Amherstburgh and received presents from the British Government. Was well acquainted with many of the principal Chiefs, and was always told by them, and especially by the said Nianego, that the Wyandotts were strangers to the three Nations. That they were driven by the Ojebwar of the North from their homes and sought asylum in the land of the Three Nations, who permitted them to have a share for the Huron Reservation. That this was an indisputable fact at an earlier date. That, to his own knowledge, attempts were made on the part of the Chippeway, Pottawatomy, and Ottawa Nations in or about the years of 1830 and 1840, to enter into an agreement with the said Wyandotts as to the proper disposal of the said Huron Reservation; but the said Wyandotts wishing to have the whole Tract under their own control, applied to white men, of considerable influence, for assistance, and through the interference of the said white men, the three Nations were unsuccessful and returned home. That, to his own knowledge, the Bois Blanc Island was for many years used for landing and campmeeting purposes, and was held in common, as also the other Islands in the River Detroit and Lake Erie, by the three Nations only. That he never knew nor heard the Bois Blanc Island being ever surrendered to the Government. That about thirty-eight years ago, some Indians, among whom was Chief Wawasum, delivered to Thomas Paxton a lease of the Fighting Island for many years. That he lived for some years in the neighborhood of Malden, at Point au Pelee, a distance of between thirty and forty miles. That the said Ottawa Band came over, and by special permission of the Chippeways, settled on Walpole Island about the year 1837.

### Affidavit of Wilow Mary Fisher, made the 6th July, 1869.

*States*,—I believe myself to be about seventy-one years of age. Immediately after the conclusion of the war of 1812, went, and for many years did live and reside in and in the vicinity of Amherstburgh. My late husband, the said John Fisher, was for many years Interpreter, and assisted in distributing and issuing Presents to the Indians. He had a great deal to do with the Indian Affairs. I remember well when the Chief Wawasum,

about  
Island  
also c  
husband  
my p  
period  
viz:—  
the C  
the s  
burgh  
au Pe  
was r  
aliens  
occup

Affid  
Fis  
Ha

Stat  
peny  
Mary  
ample

Stat  
name  
Messe  
in my  
I saw  
To my  
Figh  
which  
Nation  
Reser  
died a  
presen

about forty years ago, held a Council in which he and other Chiefs conveyed the Fighting Island by Deed of Lease to Thomas Paxton. Was present in the Council, as was also other women. Saw the Deed executed, the Copy of the same was given to my late husband, the said John Fisher. Said Deed has been, and up to this date, and is now in my possession. Wawasum was a Head Chief of the Chippeways at Amherstburgh at that period, and the other Chiefs, whose names appear in the Deed, were living in Miamies, viz:—Wa-san au-quot, Wai-wes-quai, Te-tush-qua-gw. n and Wa-taich-we-naw. The rest of the Chiefs whose names appear in the Deed of Lease and who attended the Council when the said Island was delivered to the said Thomas Paxton, did live and belong to Amherstburgh. To my personal knowledge the said Fighting, and Bois Blanc, Turkey and Point au Pelee Islands were owned by the Ottawas, Chippeways and Pottawatomes only. It was regarded as an indisputable fact that the Wyandotts came from the North, and being aliens, were not the rightful or original owners of the Huron Reserve, which they now occupy, but were simply allowed to occupy it by the said three Nations.

---

**Affidavit of Wm. N. Fisher, Interpreter, Respecting the Copy of the Lease of Fighting Island, Sworn and Subscribed on the 6th July, 1869 before Edward Handy.**

*States*,—That the Copy of the Indian Lease of Fighting Island, referred to and accompanying the Memorial, is a true Copy of the said Lease which is now in the possession of Mary Fisher, widow and relict of the late John Fisher. The old Copy of said lease bears ample evidence of its authenticity.

---

**Affidavit of John Jake made the 10th day of July, 1869.**

*States*,—I believe myself to be about one hundred years of age. Essebence, whose name appears in the Deed, bearing date A. D. 1790, was my Father. He was a Principal Messenger for many years, and myself have acted and served my people as Messenger for many years. The names of the Chiefs appearing in the said Deed have been read to me. I saw many of them. They, some of them, were Ottawas, Chippeways and Pottawatomes. To my personal knowledge the Ottawa, Chippeway and Pottawatomy Indians owned the Fighting, Bois Blanc, Turkey and Point au Pelee Islands, and also the Huron Reserve, which now the Wyandotts occupy. My late father always told me that the said three Nations showed mercy and allowed the said Wyandotts to occupy a part of the said Huron Reserve, when, by being driven, they came from the North. My late father, Essebence, died at or near Chatham, County of Kent, about between fifty and sixty years ago. I was present at his funeral.

**Certificate of William Caldwell, made the 20th day of May, 1869.**

*States*.—I, William Caldwell, do hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, to wit:— That I believe myself to be about eighty seven years of age. Was born at what is now Detroit. Was in former years well acquainted with many Indians and attended some of their Councils. As far back as I could remember, it was a prevailing belief, and also every body considered it as an indisputable fact, that the Wyandotts were aliens to that part of the country in which lies the Huron Reserve; and that they were not the original owners thereof. It was a well known fact that the Pottawatomes, Chippeways and Ottawas were the rightful proprietors of the said Huron Reserve. I always understood that the Wyandotts came from Lower Canada, went towards Lake Superior, and subsequently came down, and being allowed by the said Pottawatomes, Chippeways and Ottawas, they settled on and now reside on the said Huron Reserve.

(Signed),

WM. CALDWELL.

Signed in my presence, at the Township of Malden, in the County of Essex, the 20th day of May, A. D. 1869.

(Signed),

THOMAS HAWKINS, J. P.

**Affidavit of Francis Meloche, made the 21st day of May, 1869, and sworn before James Kevill, at the Town of Amherstburgh.**

*States*.—That he believes himself to be about eighty eight years of age, and has lived in the vicinity of Amherstburgh upwards of sixty years, and has been well acquainted with many Indians of the Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Indian Nations; and during the period of sixty years he always understood that the above mentioned Indian Nations were the rightful and original proprietors of the Anderdon or Huron Reserve. That the following was at an earlier date considered and regarded as an indisputable fact, viz:—That the Wyandotts were driven from the North by some tribe of Indians, came down and found protection from the said Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations, and also were permitted to settle on the said Anderdon Reserve, where they now reside. That he speaks and understands the Chippeway dialect, and has been intimately acquainted with some of the Principal Chiefs of the said Chippeway, Pottawatomy and Ottawa Nations, and in his intercourse with them, he always heard them complain of the unlawful claim of the Wyandotts to the said Anderdon or Huron Reserve.