

agents of the Indian Department always advised him to collect together his people on the Sarnia Reserve, but those of Walpole Island have not for many years listened to him, preferring to lead a hunting life on and in the country adjacent the said Walpole Island. He (deponent) further says that his people on Walpole Island are not justly dealt with because they have been denied of receiving benefit from the lands so set apart for them from the cession aforesaid,

"F."

Affidavit of Joseph Wawanosh.

I believe myself to be about 45 years of age. Was born near Sarnia at Lake Wawanosh, and am the son of Chief Joshua Wawanosh. I remember when the Indians, calling themselves Saginaw Indians, arrived into Canada from the State of Michigan. They were destitute and had no place to make their home. I then understood that an aged man, a sort of leader among them, asked for a permission to make their temporary home on the lower part of the Sarnia Reserve, to plant and raise some Corn, Potatoes and Pumpkins. My father gave him a permission. It has been the custom and law of the Tribe, that whenever anything important is to be done the Chiefs and head men with their warriors, consult together upon the matter, and if my father intended to give the lands to the said Saginaw Indians this would have been the course taken by him and others of the Tribe, but to my personal knowledge such has never taken place. Upon the arrival of the said Saginaw Indians and thereafter they, too, received presents from the Crown, and there was always a distinction observed between the presents and the merchandise purchased by the annuity, for whilst the said Saginaw Indians received only the presents the Sarnia Tribe received both. Sometimes the annuity money was paid and distributed to the Indians in the shape of merchandise and sometimes in money. I remember that my father, to show good feelings and kindness, sometimes gave money and provisions to the Saginaw Indians out of the annuity. After sometime some returned to their own possessions in Michigan, but a few others have remained, and to my personal knowledge, no Council had ever been held to accept and admit them to become the joint proprietors of the Sarnia Reserve and the annuity moneys. I cannot say when, but I remember that houses were erected on the Sarnia Reserve, and that Wm. Jones was then Superintendent. The Indians were then to be collected and dwell in the houses. After having resided and lived in the said houses, many removed and settled on Walpole Island, because, as they stated, they could not work the stiff clay soil on the Sarnia Reserve; and that the Walpole Island and its surrounding waters containing fish in abundance, wild fowl and fur-bearing animals induced them to remove thither. The Tribe having thus become divided, to my personal knowledge, they have never divided between them of any of the lands so reserved within the cession of 1827, except the annuity, which was partitioned between them in 1848. How it was that the Moore Reserve was ceded by the Walpole Chippeways only, I do not know, except that my father used to tell Oshaogemaw, a late Chief, to watch and take care that no white man resides or occupies it, but this, telling him so, did not render a division of the lands.

Affidavit of Charles Gordon.

I think I am about forty-four (44) years of age. I am a Chippeway by birth and belong to the Chippeway Indians, who in the year 1827 ceded their lands to the Crown, I remember that it was a general talk among the Tribe that their Father wanted to consolidate them all in Sarnia Reserve and were promised that good houses would be built for their residence.

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