

C. T. Walcott Esq.

J. C. Sarrau

Aug^y 7. 1861

Sir

In obedience to your order of reference on the petition of Joseph Wornas for a member of the Wyandott Band complaining that his title have decided, that Sol Hunt sh^d occupy a certain point let on the Huron Reserve, for some time past in possession of the petitioner. I have the honor to report, that concerning the Reserve, to be the common property of the bands occupying I have always left it to the Chiefs in council to decide which of the members sh^d occupy particular lots, and the present is the first occasion where their decision has been objected to.

When I heard of the present difficulty, I desired the band to meet in Council and carefully consider the claims of both parties. This was done and the decision was made in favor of Hunt, on the following grounds.

1st That Solomon's mother when first admitted into the band purchased the improvements on the disputed lot previous to her marriage with P. Hunt.
2nd That all Peter Hunt's children being dead, his step son Solomon, who has never been allotted any land, and has no means to clear up a new farm has a greater right to this lot on which his mother and step father lived for so many years, than the petitioner who is husband of his step father's sister, and who now occupies two of the front lots on the reserve.

From a child, Solomon has been considered one of the band, and I have repeatedly, paid him a share of the money coming to them, as a member of the late Peter Hunt's family.

Unfortunately on this Reserve the former Supt^r has sanctioned a system of buying & selling each other's clearings, so that many have acquired 2 or 3 farms - which are in some cases occupied & worked by colored & white people. This state of things has existed for many years, and I have been unable entirely to prevent it.

From all the information I have been able to obtain. I am inclined to consider

the decision of the chiefs just. What Wornas legal right may be I am unable to say. - Joseph White the head chief professes to have a claim himself to the lot, on the ground of having made the first clearing on it.

I have

Yours faithfully
J. C. Sarrau

Indian Office Sarrau

Aug^y 14. 1861

C. T. Walcott Esq.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, enclosing Rev^d General's Cheque No 8169 for \$7⁵⁰ in favor of A. Fisher, being the postage account for the quarter ending 30th June.

I have

Yours faithfully
J. C. Sarrau