

July 12, 2001

Mr. Mike Chalfant
Jefferson City Soil Survey Office
1442 Aaron Ct., Suite G
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Mr Chalfant:

A belated thank you for sending the copy of your preliminary survey report on the Iowa, Sac & Fox Indian Agency site near Agency, MO.

I had no idea that my scribbling of local family history would some day be of some use or importance.. But then, maybe, we all should write down more of what we know of the past, especially when it concerns events or happenings that had to do with our own families in history.

Yes, you have my permission to use whatever you need from my family book OUR FAMILY: BRINTON-REECE-LAWLESS & McCRARY.

If we can be of any further assistance to you, please call on us.

We would appreciate any further information or writing on the site that you might want to share.

Please pardon our tardiness. Had a health problem. Back in the saddle now and gathering up loose ends.

Husband Don sends best regards..

Sincerely,

Maudie A Reynolds

Maudie A. Reynolds
3108 Edmond St.
St. Joseph, MO 64501

Phone 816 2792945

(See inclosure)

Corrections on your copy:

Page 3, third paragraph: "A bridge was then built in 1668" Should this have been 1868?

Page 3, third paragraph. "William Reynolds came up the Liberty-Blacksnake Hills Road". Should be James Reynolds . (William Reynolds was his son)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Don" followed by a stylized flourish.

Mike Chalfant

Soil Scientist/Cultural Resource Scientist
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Jefferson City Soil Survey Office

1442 Aaron Court Suite G Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 634-7979

internet address: mike@sjeffers2.fsc.usda.gov

Recycled Paper

11:30 AM

Fisher

Indian

agency - Agency, Mo.

Mike Chalfant

Has contacted Mike
Fisher for info on
Iowa Sac & Fox

agency. Some
effort to mark the
site

Told him of Ivel Agency
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a copy of which is in
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Mike Fisher will be there
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Jan 17-01 11:30 AM

Call from Mike Fisher

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↓

He and Marge will
come here to 3108 this
evening.

Soil Conservation Commission

They are training their
field people to
recognize possible
Indian sites.

They will contact
us.

We loaned Mike a copy
of Mandes genealogy
work since it has
info on the Iowa - Sac
& Fox agency site

Indian Land Sequence

Sen. Tidney Johnson purchased
the Beck farm N.E. of Agency

We learned of the transaction via
Public sale advertisement in
local news paper

Concern: Did the Sen. know
of the historical significance
of his new land purchase?

I (Munde R.) called him.
I reached his sister. She
did not know - I told
her. She was much im-
pressed. She would in-
form the Senator.

She did. The Senator,
and his wife came to
our home and spend the
evening. We told them
of the historical value
of their newly acquired
land. The Rees family
that sold the property
had not told them!

The property had, in our
historical post, figured
in our most impor-
tant pioneer history -
it had been the site of
the Iowa - Sac & Fox
Indian Agency - 1825
to 1836 - He did
not know!

I gave the Senator one
of my books My Family -
Brinton, Reese & McHenry
so that he can know
more about it.

Jefferson City Soil Survey Office
1442 Aaron Ct., Suite G
Jefferson City, MO 65101

D.J. Reynolds
3108 Edmond Rd.
St. Joseph, Mo
64506



64501+3314



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds:

I sincerely appreciate and thank you for spending the time and sharing your information with me. I enjoyed the talk and the Family/Agency paper.

I've enclosed my writeup of notes from my research and field visit. If its okay with you I would like to share and use the information I gained from you. I need to use it for NRCS/DNR records and I think it would be good to add some of the info. to a site report on the Indian Agency. A fair amount of interest has been expressed for more information on the former Indian agency.

If I don't hear any objections within a few weeks, I'll assume it is okay. If you want to communicate (e.g., agreement or not) feel free to cal me at Jeff. City (573-634-7979), or you can call (local) to Mary Beth Jungk or Rodney Saunders, NRCS Conservationists in St. Joe (ph: 364-3662 or 3997, Ext. 3).

Thanks,

Mike Chalfant

"agency notes" MLC

The government Indian agency for the Iowa and Sac and Fox Indians existed from about 1825 until the time of the Platte Purchase in 1836 (Also referred to by Reynolds' paper as the "Platte Purchase of Indian Lands of Missouri"). This land treaty was signed at Fort Leavenworth by Gen. William Clark and was promoted by Gen. Andrew Hughes, the Indian agent. 27 Indian chiefs, headed by Chief Mo-hos-ca (White Cloud, of the Ioway) signed the Platte Purchase. It would include the counties of Platte, Buchanan, Andrew, Holt, Nodaway, and Atchison and was ratified and 1st settled in 1837. During 1836 the Indians were moved to the mouth of the Nemaha River, near the town of Reserve, along the boundary of now-a-day's Kansas and Nebraska border, in Doniphan and Brown counties in Kansas. In the treaty the Indians were given a small parcel of land (400 sections) on the south [west?] side of the Missouri River, plus \$7,500 in cash. There they were given a reservation-which they still have.

The Indian Agency was at first for the Ioway Indians. Later in 1829 the Missouri band of Fox and Sac asked to be included in Gen. Hughes' Agency. Gen. Hughes was the Indian agent, but made his headquarters with Joseph Robidoux at Robidoux's landing, called Blacksnake Hills in 1826 and Robidoux was the founder of St. Joseph. Hughes only came to the agency on issue days, to distribute articles of clothing, medicine, salt, seed, some food, etc. to the Indians (?Sunday News - Press January 29, 1956 and May 22 1960--incomplete copies, and *Maudie Reynolds' Our Family...).

According to Hagan's *The Sac and Fox Indians*:

A band of the Fox and Sac in Missouri had allied themselves with the Americans during the War of 1812--a treaty and/or agreement worked out by William Clark, of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804. Most of the other Fox and Sac Indians (e.g., in Illinois/Rock Island area) had allied themselves with the British and had then had hard feelings towards the "Missouri" band who had remained in Missouri with the Americans. They then maintained a separate identity and stayed in Missouri until the Platte Purchase of 1836.

Site 23BN3 south in Section 19 has a sketch map that included locations for the Agency and a "early cemetery" on a bench, or spur ridge just west of the Indian Agency building. This building was on a higher ridge point near a N-S gravel road. Reportedly (*Reynolds), the agency was a log cabin building with other outbuildings and a burial ground with scaffolds was in the hills north of the agency. The agency also had a government blacksmith shop operated by James Gilmore ("a Methodist professor") that served the Indians at the agency with forged tools. It stood in the flats to the south of the agency building. Reportedly, it was in the bottoms below the agency and closer to Pigeon Creek. It was just west of the old Ridge Road that continued southeast across the creek and around the bluff to the ford of the Platte River. Mr. Reynolds ((pers. commun.)) thought it was just west [within a few hundred feet?] of the northern turn of the modern gravel road. This road cut through what would later be Reeces' farm, and now hardly any traces of the old road can be seen today (ibid).

*From, "Our Family, Brinton-Reece-Lawless & McCrary: Some Biographical & Anecdotal History" by Maudie A. (Brinton) Reynolds 1987-93:

FIELD VISIT

The Indian agency in Buchanan County, MO is in Sec. 18, southern 1/2, of the SW 1/4 of T56N, R34W, St. Joseph, South 7.5 Topographic Quad.

A pedestrian field survey was conducted at the farm on the two ridges that extend south into the valley. (Current owner and operator, Sidney and Rick Johnson.) Behind and north (~100 ft) of the existing farm buildings several weathered (yellowish) limestone flagstones (flat) were found on the ridgetop/shoulder in a small area (~25 by 20 ft, ocular estimates) of the plowed field. A piece of rusty (unidentified) iron was also associated with the stones. Reportedly (Rick Johnson, pers. commun. during the survey) this area had been recently cleared of brush etc. and then added to the cultivated ridgetop field. Unknowingly, the prior spot probably had been somewhat preserved/undisturbed when in brush, at least for a time. The location was right where Maudie and her husband Don Reynolds said it should be (pers. commun., day before survey) and the flagstones are probably foundation remains from the Indian Agency building. At the base of the ridge to the west there was a wet drainage draw, or gully, with brush and other standing vegetation. It's possible that remains of the agency might (e.g., unwanted/cluttered debris) have been (e.g., mechanically) pushed down into the draw at some time. Slope wash and colluvial movements of objects may also have relocated materials from the agency into the draw. Therefore, it's possible that there may be artifacts buried in an accumulating soil deposit in the (non-surveyed) draw.

The survey of the other ridge (a relatively lower bench form) 500-600 ft west failed to find any grave-like disturbances or marking on the ridgetop soil. This cultivated landform has been farmed hard over the years and most of the topsoil appeared to have been eroded off exposing the subsoil layer. According to Keith Rumpf, who farmed and/or operated the farm for the previous owner, the bench had been deeply chiseled, over a foot deep, some years ago and much of the soil had been severely deflated soon after this activity (pers. commun. during the survey). A couple of limestone flagstones were located on the northern end of the bench, along side of the field/road fenceline. Their source is unknown, but I suspect they were moved/ported there to clear the field of farming obstructions, i.e., rocks, from the loessial, fine grained soil. (Loess, is a wind-blown soil deposit that should not have any natural rocks on summit positions.) (Visibility February 21/01 was very good on both ridgetops.) It seems most likely that any grave on the bench would have been exposed during the farming activities. However, the side slopes and interfacing bottomland was not examined, and thus, there remains a chance for burial exposures (MLC).

"agency notes" continued MLC

From, "Our Family, Brinton-Reece-Lawless & McCrary: Some Biographical & Anecdotal History" by Maudie A. (Brinton) Reynolds 1987-93:

Reverend Parker, after arriving at Blacksnake Hills, mentioned having seen "a new mode" of disposing Indian dead. "A scaffold is raised about eight feet high upon which the dead are placed in rudely constructed coffins overspread with skins." (Reynolds: 47).

South of the old Indian Agency is "Agency Ford" which crossed the Platte River and connected the road from Clay County to the "Blacksnake Hills" (later, St. Joseph). The Agency Ford area crossed a shallow part of the Platte River near the current town of Agency, about one-mile northwest of the town. Robert Gilmore installed a ferry there in 1839 and operated it to 1865. A bridge was then built in 1668* (Newspaper, May 22, 1960 and Reynolds). This ford and a few shacks were about one mile SE of the old Indian Agency. William Reynolds* came up the Liberty Landing-Blacksnake Hills road to the new Indian lands in 1838 to the Sparta area (Reynolds). * JAMES REYNOLDS
* 1868?

The Indian Agency land is said to be the oldest farm in the county, having been opened up ten to twelve years before the settlement of the county by the whites and used as the site for the Indian agency." (newspaper article, ?Sunday News-Press May 22, 1960). The agency area was on what was later referred to as the Ed Reece Farm. The farm was occupied, or established, by Jacob Reece. He completed the transactions (purchased from Avery and Sarah Ballard, who had obtained it as a grant) and moved in 1847. Ballard had been the missionary to the Indians at the agency and after the Indians were moved to Kansas, the U.S. Government no longer needed the property (Reynolds 1987-93: 39-48). It still had the agency log building and some out building. Grt. Grandpa Jacob built on to the agency building to make it larger for his family. It was a 203-acre farm. ((Reynolds, citing "Buchanan county History of 1881)).

The Indian Agency was there well before the town of Agency, which was platted and established in 1865 (Reynolds: 42).

"When the Reece family arrived on Pigeon Creek in 1847, there was still remnants of Indian burials in the trees on the hill to the north of the Indian Agency site, along the west side of the old Ridge road which lead to Robidoux's." "Platforms of poles could still be seen with bits of cloth and skins blowing in the wind." "For years it was a hallowed place, regarded with some fear and no little superstition." "It was avoided by most." By around 1930, it was said some of the poles still clung to the old trees. According to uncle, Ed Reece there was also graves that were visible (many years ago) on the hill to the west of the old Indian Agency. "It is assumed that they were the burials of people that in one way had been connected with the agency or, possibly, from passing traffic on the Liberty-Blacksnake Hills Road." Or, possibly graves of Indians converted to Christianity by Mr. Ballard and given a Christian burial?" (Reynolds: 41 and 42).

Riley Wilson bought and moved to the farm in 1882 after Jacob and Elizabeth died. Riley had married their daughter Elizabeth. They also lived in the original (log building) agency building, old Jacob had lived there 32 years. After Riley's death in 1896 uncle Ed Reece and his wife Josie bought the farm and lived in the agency building, until 1917. They then built a new house close by

(just north of the current buildings on the ridgetop ((pers. commun with Reynolds)). Their daughter remembered the logs and gun portholes and that their living room had a hard packed earthen floor with a layer of straw and a rug on top. She said, the walls were white washed and it was a cozy room, but out of date. Some of the better logs of the agency were used for other purposes and the rest of it was torn down. "The old log Indian Agency building is gone forever." Grandpa Bennett Reece, son of Jacob, grew up on pigeon Creek and was sheltered with the rest of the family in the former Indian agency house that had been expanded to accommodate the growing family. The house built in 1917 by the Ed Reece family burned down a few years ago but some farm buildings remain.

Rev Samuel Parker (27) traveled through in 1835 and wrote: "Saw many Indians of the Ioway, Sioux and Fox tribes. Among these a Fox Indian and his wife were noble-looking persons, having their faces painted; the man's entirely, and his wife's in strips, with unmixed vermilion. He noted "nothing discouraging for the ministry station, except the contaminating influence of vicious white men." The Indians wish to cultivate their land, probably more from necessity than any other account; for the game is mostly gone. They came to Mr. Gilmore to get ploughs, remarking 'it is hard work to dig up our ground for corn by hand" (Reynolds).

Mike Chalfant, NRCS/DNR-SWCP Cultural Resources Specialist

Buchanan Co. Ioway and, Fox and Sac Agency

Other sources of info: in paper referred to as "*Old Indian Agency Farm*"
About 1825-1836, to Platte Co. Purchase, which was, finalized n 1836.

(pers. commun., Don ((and Maudie)) Reynolds), his Grandfather, Ed Reynolds used to tell him about the history of the Indians and their agency

-Jacob and Elizabeth and their family moved to the Indian Agency site in 1847

-Buchanan County History, uses History of Clay Co. but not Buchanan

Assessor and Tax

-A 1877 map of Agency Township, older ones (DGLS "out of prints" etc.) may show approximate location(s) Footnoted as 26

Samuel Parker once visited the Agency:

-Rev Samuel Parker No. 27 (my copy had no attached bibliography etc.), Steamboat travel, had a journal, and stayed at the Agency (p. 44 and 45 46)...didn't mention Indian Agent, Gen. Andrew S. Hughes or Avery Ballard, Missionary to the Indians (from Reyonlds'.paper)

Paxton's Platte County Annuals

St. Joseph Historical Society

National Archives

The St. Joe Museum, microfilm: "Iowa superintendency 1824-1881, Roll 362" - Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs - 1825-1837

(From Hagan's "Sac and Fox Indians"): Joseph Street to William Clark, Oct. 7, 1835: Sac and Fox Agency File, National Archives; and Annual Report of the Sac and Fox agents, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, The Secretary of War, and the Secretary of Interior: Indian Affairs (American State Papers, Vols. VII and VIII) Washington, 1832-1834.

(The State archives or Missouri Historical Society may also have some info.

James Smith of 211 S. Hwy. 169, Gower, Mo. 64454; has property adjacent to the Old Agency and he has found artifacts and has communicate an interest to DNR-HPP of the Indian Agency. May have more info.

Check Land Office Records (GLO?)

NARA Central Plains Region (816-926-6920)

?Bureau of Indian Affairs

In 1992, U.S. Congress adopted amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act (P.L. 102-575) that allows federally recognized Indian tribes to take on more formal responsibilities for the preservation of significant historic properties on tribal land

Indian Tribes expressing interest in lands in Buchanan CO,: Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma; Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma Sac and Fox of Missouri in KS and Ok, Sac and Fox of Miss. In Iowa, and Omaha Tribe of NE, Otoe-Missouri Tribe of Okl, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs)

2-26-81

Dear Mike

We enjoyed meeting and talking with you when you were here last week.

Hope that you found your way around the old Indian agency from O.K. Keith (who) called to report that you got to see the "Hilmore Stone" I also suppose that it must have been mentioned by the more recent historic Indians according

to the writing of Samuel Parker, at the time he visited the agency, James Hilmore, the blacksmith for the Indians there, was helping them with their agriculture. Being a blacksmith and working with iron I doubt that he would have needed stone to fashion an implement. I remember Jeff Hilmore who was a trial (I'm now 82) He lived just up the hill from us a quarter of a mile west

of Agency, Mo. Jeff
descended from James
the blacksmith and
kept the stone till his
death. It then passed
to my uncle Prexies
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then to me and then
from me to the Agency
Museum. So much for
that.

My grandfather, Ed
Reynolds, used to tell
us about early history
etc. of the area and
about the Indians. I
once thought that he
might be spoofing

since he also said
that the world was
flat. He liked to kid.
Wish I had listened. Well,
I guess I did - some.

Yes, I would like a
copy of your report
if not a lot of trouble.

Sincerely

Ulen Reynolds
3108 E. Diamond St
St. Joseph, Mo
64501

2-26-81

Dear Mike

We enjoyed meeting and talking with you when you were here last week.

Hope that you found your way around the old Indian agency farm O.K. Keith & Mrs.) called to report. And you got to see the "Gilmore Stone" I do suppose that it must have been invented by the more recent historic Indians. According

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3108 E. Diamond St

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