

Wm. S. W. Boggs
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington

Dear Sir!

As a former resident of St Louis
and depositor with Boggs, Millender & Co., I have
had the honor of a personal acquaintance with
you, and as one of the pioneer settlers of this State
I take now the liberty to address you in a cause
which you as one of the pioneers in the frontier
life of the West, will more than any other person
in Washington understand to appreciate.

I am one of the settlers on the Shawnee Abandon
Lands; some ten or twelve families settled originally
on these lands in good faith believing it to be
Government land, we went to the Land Office then
located at the Territorial Capital; Leavenworth
filed our intention of preemption & received our
Certificate paying the required fees & naturally
supposed that we were all right, we went on
spending our last Cent in making improvements
for a future home, and when rumors, some years

afterwards became current, that our land
was Indian land, we bought Landwarrants
& went again to the Land office to locate them
& so pay for our land, it was then that we found
out that we were living on the Shawnee reserve.
This has been our situation ever since, the Shawnees
through their chiefs, men encouraged the settlers
of the reserve promising that they were willing to
sell their land to the settlers at \$1²⁵ per acre after the
time of their treaty would have expired & by these
means the whole reserve, with the exception of
perhaps half a dozen quarter sections is settled,
by actual settlers for years. As the Government is
about to make treaty & arrangement for the removal
of the Indians I am ordered by the settlers to present
these facts to you as we have the most implicit
confidence, that you will consider our claims and
protect the settlers as far as justice to all parties
will allow. All the land around us which
have been acquired by the Government were sold at
\$1²⁵ per acre and we think that we ask of the
generosity of the Government nothing unfair if
we beg to give us an equal chance in the acqui.

settlement of our homes. If these Lands are so worth
more to day, it is by reason of the hardships
& untiring energetic work of the pioneer
settlers and not the Shawano and prairie
would seem to dictate, that the Settlers should
be the ones to receive the benefit. —

A few lines in answer to the present will be
received with profound gratitude.

Remain, dear Sir, most respectfully yours

Obidicut Seanna

A. Thomas

References: Hon. S. C. Penney,
" E. G. Ross. } Senators from Kansas
" Lucie & Guye S. Lewis, my countrymen.