

Black Jack Douglass Co Kan March 11/1867

Hon J. K. Moschend Dear Sir in order to
bring myself to your recollection and by way
of an apology for writing to you from this place
I state that I formerly lived in East Birmingham
I was Book Keeper in Chess Smyth & Co's Jack works
I came here in 1861 and settled on what is
known as the Shawnee Absentee Reserve these lands
were set apart for the Absentees of that tribe to select
from should they return they did not return at the
time stipulated in the treaty the land has been
occupied by homestead settlers for the last seven
years the Government is now about removing
the Indians and creating for these lands the Indians
claim that they are entitled to pay for the lands
with the improvements made by the settlers
Some of the settlers entered their lands under
the preemption law paid their money and received
their certificates thinking they were Government
lands the lands according to the terms of the
treaty made in 1854 should have been sold
in 1855 at which time they would not have
been sold for 125^{cts} per acre they would not have
been considered worth it

we hold that it would be a gross wrong for the Government to make an exception of us and allow these lands to be appraised and sold to the highest bidders thus subjecting the actual settlers to bid on his own labour hardships and sufferings all of which would go into the hands and pockets of Indians and Speculators many of the settlers have made valuable improvements built schoolhouses and churches laid out roads built bridges have regular organized Government Elect Distinct pay taxes just the same as if the land had been deeded this we have done for a period of seven to ten years we think the settler is fairly entitled to the benefit of all this and not the indian they had the right to select their four hundred Acres and have had their Annuitys while we have had to contend with the difficulties of emigrants to new country fight lawbreakers border ruffians and rebels these very settlers were the men that stood in the breach between the State of Kansas and the Missouri lawbreakers for two years I with many others served with the home guards without pay to watch these Miscreants we are now asking our representatives in Congress to

Secure us our homes at reasonable terms
we ought to get them under the homestead
law but we will be satisfied if we can
get them at the regular government price
of not \$1.25 per acre I have written to
Hon E. J. Ross Senator from Kansas I have
taken the liberty of raising your name
to him for reference as I am not personally
acquainted with him Any assistance you
may render him or us will be I think justly
deserved And very Greatfully received

your long services in Congress render you
familiar with the workings of all the different
departments of the Government and your
influence with the Commissioner of inland affairs
in our behalf of those who have sought to
make their future homes here would be
greatfully received we don't feel that we
should be getting any favour from the Government
to get our land at 125 ct per acre we claim it as
a matter of justice and good faith as the
part of the Government I hope you will
feel disposed to aid us in any way
you can to secure our homes

Yours Truly D. L. Kennedy
Hon J. N. Morehead