

Shawno Co. N.Y.
J. L. Thrie
Quincy, Ill.
Nov 18. 68

Submits Statement,
regarding, Fraud
practiced by Mat-
thias King, as Mar-
shal of Robert Wm
Crompton, a Thairnee,
in the sale of his land
- Also in the case of
Land sold by Jas.
Wheeler as Merchant
of Joseph Wheeler

See Letter to Supt
Mungell
Nov 27. 68

/ Land. 75

Quindaro, Kansas, Nov. 18, 1868.

Hon. N. G. Taylor, Commr. of Indian Affairs.

Sir,

The following is a true copy of a paper in the hands of the Robert McCannick, ^(a Shawnee) for whom Matthew King is guardian. I was requested to read it by his uncle, Jim Bst, with whom he lives. The boy says this paper was handed to him by King with the injunction that he should not show it to any one except his uncle Jim Bst, neither of whom can read. The boy says no other paper but this was handed to him by King. (Yet this King makes oath before the Probate Judge that he delivered the notice and the petition referred to in it, to the boy. Now it is manifest that King intended to defraud the boy or he would not have enjoined secrecy when he delivered the notice, nor did he explain the purport of the notice; Had his intentions been honest he would not have withheld the copy of the petition which should have been delivered with the notice, still less would he have committed a perjury to get this power to sell the land. It appears from the files of the Probate Court that King obtained authority to sell three hundred and twenty 320, acres of this boy's land, but as yet he has made no return of the sale to the court but it is known that he did sell the land and it is probable the deed is already in your Department for confirmation. The land is worth ten dollars an acre and no sale should be approved for a less sum. Nor is King a safe custodian of the money as he is charged with having defrauded other orphans.

in the same way, and his bond given for Jones sake is worth just nothing at all. The Probate Judge of Johnson County admitted to me that he did not regard any of these Indian guardian bonds of any value as their conditions cannot be enforced in the courts. This is manifest enough under the late decision of the Supreme Court in reference to taxing the Shawnee lands. What a farce then is this of taking securities from guardians of Indian orphans! The most enormous frauds I am assured are being constantly perpetrated on these poor ignorant people by their sharper brother members of the tribe, assisted by the U.S. Agent.

Col. Benton, thirty years a Senator from Missouri, often said the worst enemies the Indians had are the so called educated members of their own tribes; and all my observations confirm the truth of this remark.

I hope the sale of this Mc Cammick land will not be confirmed. The notice above referred to is as follows;

"Olathe, Johnson County
State of Kansas, D.S.

"To Robert Mc Cammick, You are hereby notified that on the 10th day of October A.D. 1868, I shall apply to the Probate Court of Johnson County State of Kansas as your guardian by petition a copy of which is hereto attached for an order to sell all of your interest right and title in and to the land in said petition described when and where you can attend if think proper.

Matthew Waig

Specimen of Robert Mc Cammick

Another case illustrative of these rascalties and stated on reliable authority is this; James Wheeler sold as guardian of Joseph Wheeler

one hundred acres worth fifteen hundred dollars to J. C. Swain. The consideration in the deed was three hundred (\$300) dollars, yet the two heirs, Joseph and Samuel Whelan, received but twenty seven dollars and some cents each, making one hundred and fifty four dollars and some cents, leaving one hundred and forty five dollars in the hands of some other party; yet the Agent certifies officially to the payment of the money. I have no personal knowledge of this case but the deed has doubtless already been forwarded to you and an examination of it will show to a considerable extent, whether the facts as above stated are true or not.

I hear of so many shameful frauds on these Indians through the instrumentality of Agent Taylor and his partner Abbott that I am forced to believe that no further sales should be allowed or approved until that Agency shall undergo an investigation. It is here universally considered a new machine for swindling the Indians. It is as disgraceful to the government as it is ruinous to the Indians.

Very respectfully

Geo. W. T. Desvaut.

Abelard Guthrie