

Department of the Interior,

Received June 8, 1869.

Dated June 5, 1869.

From W. G. McBride.

Lawrence

Subject.

Relative to issue of Patents
to the Seneca family on
the Absentee Shawnee
Reserve

Action.

Respectfully referred
to Commissioner and Affairs

Geo. H. Metcalf

June 8, 1869

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Laurence Run

Laurence June 5th 1869

Honr Sec Coy

Sir

I am informed that Pat-
-ents are about to be issued to the Somers
family for selections of land on the Abander
Shawnee Run and ~~the~~ would state that
their case was several times tried in the
department and in every instance the
decision was that they were not entitled
to land - in the war of 1812 the
Shawnee tribe divided part going with
the British and part with the Americans
the Somers family are descendants of
the former born raised and educated
in Canada the father of the family
was a Surgeon in the British service
until his death the husband of one
of them Miss Cox is now a Lieutenant
in the British service none of them
live or associate with the Shawnees

and have but little Indian blood in
them they are distant connections of Matthew
King and was brought here by him for
speculation they pay their attorneys one
half of all the land they get and made
selections of the best improved farms on
the reserve the evidence on file in the
department of former trials of the case
will I think satisfy your honour that
their claims are unjust and if allowed
to be carried out would ruin a number
of our best farmers will you have the
kindness to inform me if my information
in regard to their Patents is correct and
if they can be delayed until the settlers
can show cause why they should not be
issued

Very respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant
W. G. Melville