

D. I. o. I. a. Jan'y 8th 1869

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt by reference from you of a letter, dated Dec. 30th 1868, addressed to Hon. Sidney Clarke by Paul P. Brooks and referred by Mr. Clarke to the Department. The letter encloses a deed, dated September 18th 1867, from General Jackson Rogers, a Shawnee Indian to J. J. McShee, which deed bears the approval of Hon. O. H. Browning Secretary of the Interior dated August 1st 1868. Mr. Brooks states in his letter that the approval "not being in the usual form he (Mr. McShee) fears it is a forgery and as he paid for obtaining the approval, wants to know whether it is all right"; in reference to which you direct a report from this office.

I respectfully state that this deed was inclined to this office by H. L. Taylor, Esq., United States Agent for the Shawnee Indians, with communication dated Mch. 26 1868 (copy herewith marked "A"); it was transmitted to you with report dated July 30th 1868, (copy herewith marked "B"); - was returned, approved by you in letter to this office, dated August 1st 1868, (copy herewith marked "C") and was delivered to Agent Taylor and his receipt taken therefor August 14th 1868.

The recommendation of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and form of approval to be signed by the Secretary were not indorsed upon the deed

when it was submitted, because to approve it, required
a relaxation of the rules, and it was not known
what the decision of the Department would be.

The appraisal in the present form is ample and
as binding as if it were in the usual form.

This is all the information I am able to give
relative to the approval of this deed.

Mr Brooks letter and the deed are
herewith returned.

Very respectfully
J. Mott Smith.
A. G. Taylor
Clerk.

Wm O H Browning,
Secretary of the Interior.