

May 20 1869  
J. H. H. H.  
Dundee, N. Y.  
May 29, '69

Reply to office  
Letter of 19th inst.  
respecting approval  
of lease to Wm.  
Hughes of the M-  
sage Block (Haw-  
mo Indian) land

by decision of the Commr.

Land G. 56

Quindaro, Kansas, July 29, 1869.

Hon. B. S. Parker, Comm. of Indian Affairs.

Sir, I have received your letter of the 17th inst. in reference to the approval of the deed to William Hughes of the Susan Buck land. There are no more readily inferred facts connected with this transaction which I thought it well to mention. As these facts are being brought into legal view and will soon be presented to you I have to suggest <sup>in what I think Campbell</sup> that you will instruct Agent Roberts to be particularly diligent to receive the deed from Hughes and hold it in abeyance until the matter can be investigated. I am informed that the purchase of this land by Glen & Johnson was for a proper consideration and that the usual forms are observed throughout, and the deed left with Agent Abbott to be forwarded to your department for approval and that the Agent subsequently informed the parties interested that the deed had been approved and returned to him. And further that the Hughes were paid a dollar for the land, that the original deed to Glen and Johnson has been suppressed for the purpose of dishonest speculation by the said Agents Payne and Abbott who have long run up.

habit of extending large sums of money from purchasers  
by withholding their deeds until the balance was paid.  
The Campbell himself on one occasion after buying  
and paying for his lands and waiting a long time  
for the approval of his deed had to pay <sup>in advance, perhaps</sup> ~~Abbott~~ <sup>several</sup>  
hundred dollars to get his deed approved. And I  
understand there are a great many similar cases.  
The late Agents Taylor and Abbott who appear to have  
been partners in this chicanery business are said  
to have practiced these extortions systematically for a  
long time. Affidavits from a number of the persons thus  
victimized fully sustaining these allegations will be  
forwarded to you at an early day. The view then of the strong  
probability that there was official corruption and fraud  
in the obtaining and perfecting the title of the land in  
question to William Hughes, I trust the Agent or  
Superintendent will be instructed to review the deed in  
to take such other steps as may be deemed advisable  
to this end that should the facts above stated be sustained  
by proper evidence, the approval of the deed to Hughes  
may be cancelled.

Very respectfully, your obt. servant  
Richard Guthrie