

Tribal Government Services - AR

7/30/88

Mrs. Lois Hammons
27 East Third Street
Peru, Indiana 46970

Dear Mrs. hammons:

This is to inform you that the Branch of Acknowledgment and Research has completed its preliminary review of the documented petition for Federal acknowledgment submitted by the ~~Miami nation~~ of Indians of the State of Indiana according to procedures outlined in 25 CFR 83.9(a). The preliminary review was conducted by a staff genealogist, anthropologist, and historian to determine if obvious deficiencies or significant omissions existed.

Generally speaking, all of our staff who reviewed the petition stated that it is an exceptionally well done document, and that you and all those who worked on its production, including Dr. Stewart Rafert, are to be congratulated for having done an outstanding job. Before we can begin active consideration of the petition, however, there are several questions which need to be addressed and certain documents which we will require in order to evaluate the petition adequately. The questions to be answered and identification of requisite documents to be submitted will follow, listed numerically.

1) Please provide a more detailed discussion of and evidence for social distinction of the group from the surrounding population after approximately 1900 and the maintenance of social cohesion as a distinct group through such means as informal social ties, kinship ties, or visiting patterns. Please provide more information and/or documentation, if available, concerning reunions, annual picnics, and the like. The petition describes an "urban" movement to nearby towns which occurred along the lines of existing subgroups (e.g., the Godfroys to Peru, etc.). Can additional information be provided concerning this movement, e.g., dates, locations and other relevant data about how the group functioned and was maintained within these particular urban areas?

2) As a supplement to the discussion of post-1898 political organization, please elaborate on the informal processes of leadership and decision-making. Important areas to include are how leaders gained support for their actions and agreement for decisions. Was there a process of internal settlement of disputes between family groups or on a smaller scale? Were leaders influential outside the context of seeking redress for claims (e.g., the way earlier leaders provided refuge, economic help, arranged or influenced guardianship, etc.)?

3) Please provide whatever additional data are available regarding the following points: the character and role of the pre-1900 Indian churches and schools; the degree and kind of contact maintained with the Miami Indians in Oklahoma in the

past fifty years; a list of council members, leaders, and committees, since 1970; and an explanation of the discrepancy between the narrative's statement that membership is based on two rolls (1889 and 1895) and the governing document, which cites only the 1895 roll.

4) In earlier conversations between Dr. Rafert and Mrs. Lynn McMillion of our staff, Dr. Rafert offered to provide the Branch of Acknowledgment and Research with his kinship charts showing the group's early ancestors and their immediate descendants. He also offered to share with us his modified version of the 1969 Miami roll which includes only the Miamis of Indiana. The charts and the modified roll are particularly important to the genealogist since we anticipate that they will save countless hours otherwise needed to identify the intermediate generations, which are not shown on your forms, between current members and their ancestor(s) on the 1889 and 1895 rolls. Upon your submission of these documents, we would be glad to reproduce them and return them, so as not to inconvenience any further research your group or Dr. Rafert may wish to do.

5) Several documents cited in the narrative text do not appear in the appendices where they are said to be. Please submit the group's bylaws approved July 7, 1937; the charter and bylaws (if different from above) which were sent to the Secretary of State for Indiana; the incorporation papers referred to in Petition Document No. 106; the minutes of the meeting in 1983 at which seven amendments were adopted (p. 115 of "Introduction, Certification and Criteria"); and, if available, the 1965 roll cited on page 297 of Bert Anson's book entitled The Miami Indians.

This letter will also serve to acknowledge our receipt of 29 pages of genealogical roll containing the names of 221 additional members to be added to the Indiana Miami roll as well as 105 additional census roll charts. These materials were hand delivered by Mrs. Lora Siders on January 14 when she and two other members of the group visited the Acknowledgment and Research office with Dr. Rafert. As Mrs. McMillion explained to the members of your delegation at that time, it is extremely important that the group's membership roll be complete since, if federally acknowledged, the list submitted for acknowledgment purposes will become the group's base roll for Bureau purposes. As such, the roll, except for minor additions and corrections, will be binding on the tribe for some time to come.

Enclosed is a list which includes a variety of documents and publications mentioned and/or cited in the petition. It would be extremely helpful to the staff to have these documents in hand during their evaluation of the Miami of Indiana petition. Also enclosed is a list of newspaper articles reproduced from the petition. Asterisks have been placed beside those which we would like to have. We would also like to know if there is additional useful testimony in the record of the many court suits involving the Miami; we will contact Dr. Rafert directly concerning this. While the submission of these documents and publications is not a requirement for proceeding with active consideration of your petition, we would greatly appreciate your submitting as much as this material to us as is feasible.

Should additional data be needed or questions arise in the future as a result of on-going research, we reserve the right to request this information from the council or

its representatives. If you have any questions about the procedure to this point, we would be glad to assist you in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Hazel E. Elbert

Deputy Director, Office of Indian Services

Enclosures

cc: Stewart J. Hafert

cc: LSurname:406:446:440B:Mailroom:
Rollup:QUH&:jey:1/25/85:3568:

April 22 The petition was forwarded and signed by Mr. Robert G. Owens. This is a notice of receipt of petition and does not constitute notice that the petition is under active consideration. Notice of active consideration will be by mail to the petitioner and other interested parties at the

(City) (County) of

aforsaid, and that the printed matter attached hereto is a true copy, which was duly

Documents and Publications which would be useful

1. John E. Voginness, Biography of Frances Slocum. Cited pages 134-89 and 212-229.
2. Thad Butler, The Story of the Miamis, in Huntington County. pp. 219-38.
3. Jacob P. Dunn, Indiana and the Indianans, Vol. 1, Ch. 2. pp. 43-67.
4. Warder Crow, "Indians of Wabash County, Indiana." unpublished ms.
5. Clarence Godfroy, Miami Indian Stories.
6. Wendell Lamb and Lawrence W. Schultz, Indian Lore.
7. Joseph Parsons, "Civilizing the Indians in the Old Northwest."
8. Copies of minutes of recent council meetings (last five years).
9. Copies of any grant applications submitted in the last five years.
10. If available, please provide copies of the following documents--copies of the primary documents, where possible (numbers refer to page numbers in the narrative): 1748 Treaty with the British, Lancaster, PA (15); Fr. Gabriel Dreuillette's writings on Miamis (6); Jules Tailhan's writings on the Miamis (6); Bacqueville de la Potherrie's writings on the Miamis (6); Nicolas Perrot's writings on the Miamis (6); Fr. Claude Allouez's writings on the Miamis (7); Monsier de Sabrevois's writings on the Miamis (10); Fr. Jean Mermet's writings on the Miamis (11); 1736 list of Canadian tribes (14); Christopher Gist's writings on the Miamis (19); George Croghan's writings on the Miamis (22 & 23); Joseph Valliere's writings on the Miamis (32); and Henry Ray's writings on the Miamis (33).
11. Any testimony taken in connection with the allotment of the Mesingomesia Reserve (see exhibit 38) and the map of the allotments.