

THE GUN LAKE BAND OF GRAND RIVER OTTAWA INDIANS
c/o Mr. William L. Church, 5721 Grand River Drive
Grand Ledge, Michigan. 48837. FAX (517) 485-6222
Phone: (517) 627 3645.

June 4, 1992

Ms. Elizabeth Colliflower, Director
Midwest Region, Bureau of Acknowledgment Research,
U. S. Dept. of the Interior,
Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. Colliflower,

This is a follow up to our earlier letter to BAR and a response to your request for additional information. Please accept this as an official letter designating our intent to the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, that our tribe, known as **The Gun Lake Band of Grand River Ottawa Indians**, desires Federal Acknowledgment.

Our community is more commonly known as the Bradley Indian Community, and to historians as the Griswold Colony. We are located as a majority in Allegan and Barry Counties, below the Grand River, in southwest Michigan.

Our community governing or traditional decision making body is the community council made up of the heads and representatives of the same families who were situated here by Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, and the United States, in 1838. It is simply called the Council of Elders of the Gun Lake Band. I, Rev. Lewis White Eagle Church, serve as speaker, or Community Chief, for the community leaders who together desire to seek Federal Acknowledgment under 25 CFR and the IRA of 1934.

Our Nation status has been previously established on numerous occasions. Many of our Chiefs were signatories for us in treaties with the United States including 1795, 1805, 1807, 1815, 1821, 1828, 1833, and 1836. The 1836 Treaty ceded lands north of the Grand and situated our War Chiefs south of the Grand on lands reserved in trust through the Episcopal Church of America. Thus our rights and title to our lands below the Grand River near Bradley, Michigan, have never been extinguished by Treaty or an Act of Congress. President Van Buren assisted Henry Schoolcraft and Lewis Cass to develop and guarantee our land base. The Episcopalists later gave way to the Methodists.

Our Traditional council has created a non profit corporation chartered with the State of Michigan. It shall serve our tribe as point for liaison with the United States and is empowered to enter into agreements on our behalf following Gun Lake Band Elders Council approval. It is called the United Nation of Chippewa, Ottawa, and Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan, Inc (UNCOP). I have appointed, and the Elders Council has supported, Mr. D.K. Sprague to serve as the Chairman of that body. He is Chief of Tribal Government Operations for the tribe.

Our tribe has also established an official diplomatic envoy



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to the United States through UNCOP. The Elders Council has elected Mr. William L. Church to serve the Gun Lake Band as our Secretary of State. This office and he shall serve as the official point for contact by and with the United States, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and all other federal agencies. In essence he is official interpreter. Many previous interpreters from our tribe served Cass, Schoolcraft, and other Indian Nations to do business with the United States. Mr. Church carries on a long standing tradition of the Bradley Settlement.

We hope this has been helpful to you so you know how we wish to be called and whom you should use as a point for contact to officially address our Nation, The Gun Lake Band of Grand River Ottawa Indians.

Signed, Our Chiefs and Community leaders, this
4th day of June, 1992.

For the Tribe, Rev. Lewis White Eagle Church

Rev. Lewis White Eagle Church

For the Tribe and Community, Mr. D.K. Sprague

DK Sprague

For the Community:

Archie Badger

Anna Chelana

Harry Sprague

Luella Collins

Carol Barker

Roger L. Sprague

Charles C. Sprague

Joseph Sprague

Douglas M. Shagorah

Mary K. Grigsby

Margaret Shigoma

Lee F. Sprague

John Bush

In Witness Whereof:

William L. Church

Mr. William L. Church, Secretary of State,
Gun Lake Band of Grand River Ottawa Indians.