

(Marshall-Indians)

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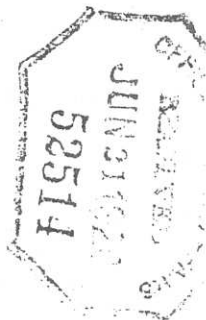
C.S.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

Sacramento, Calif., June 14, 1920.

Commissioner Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.



Dear Sir:

Herewith I have the honor to inclose "Proposal For Sale Of Lands" by Mr. Joseph Corda and his wife, Mrs. Louisa Corda, and attached rough sketch, wherein it will be observed they propose to convey to the United States for the use and occupangy of the "Marshall & Sebastopol Indians", their 15.45 acres of land for the sum of \$2100.00, being a small fraction less than \$136.00 per acre.

This land is situated about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles northwest from the rich and fast growing town of Sebastopol, Sonoma County, California, in the heart of the fruit and berry industry of the county. The population of this modern and thriving little city is about 2000.

That the Office may the better understand why lands in the fruit and berry parts of said County are so high in prices; therefore, difficult to secure lands for the village homes of the landless Indians, also have inclosed some news papers' clippings, among them Mr. Corda's add to sell the said 15.45 acres, which I happened to note on yesterday morning, also "The Home Of The Gravenstein Apple!"

This 15.45 acres are entirely surrounded by fruit orchards and berry farms, same being in the very heart of "The Gold Ridge Fruit Belt". Every inch of this tract, except a very small part taken up by a small spring branch that runs through same near its northern boundary and near the public highway, is just such land when improved by being put in fruit or berrys, when offered for sale, brings from \$350 to \$1000.00 per acre; in fact when highly developed and improved with good homes, even as high as \$1200.00 to \$1500.00 per acre.

Mr. Corda informed me that he sold 7 acres adjoining this 15.45 acres about two years ago, unimproved, at \$200.00 per acre. This spring branch runs the year round, being excellent water. The tract is fenced with a 4 stran barbed wire; has between 50 and 75 beautiful pine trees of from 6 in. to 18 in. at stump, besides quite a quantity

persuaded her husband to sell, in event persuasion was necessary. This land is only 1½ miles west on the public highway from the nearest station on the Electric Ry. Line running out for several miles from Sebastopol.

At first I offered \$2000.00 for the land, which they virtually agreed to accept, but when I explained that they would be required to furnish at their expense an abstract of title, the old man balked, insisting that likely an abstract would cost not much less than \$100.00. Realizing, comparing the land with all other lands of like quality to be found in said "Fruit Belt", was very cheap, and being every way excellently suited for the location of an Indian village, had to say to him that I would raise my offer from \$2000.00 to \$2100.00 so as to cover the probable outside cost of the abstract.

While the inclosed proposal to sell by Mr. Corda and wife designates the "Marshall & Sebastopol Indians", really I have in mind that this 15.45 acre tract should be set aside, in event of purchase, for the village home of the Marshall, Bogeda and Tomales Bay Indians.

I do not have with me my original files wherein early in my services, beginning in the summer of 1915, I furnished the Office with census of these three remnant bands of Indians. As I now recall the census of the Marshall band, being considerably the larger, consisted of over 100, counting $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and full bloods.

I spent day-before yesterday and following night at Marshall and find that quite a number of the Indians of that locality have left there and have secured employment within "The Gold Ridge Fruit Belt" that most, if not all, of those remaining desire to leave the coast country and desire that their village homes be secured in said "Fruit Belt". They informed me that they have been unable to earn their living out of the waters of Bay as formerly, in that the white people, mostly foreigners, come out from the "City", San Francisco, and materially interfere with their former industry; besides they claim that clams, their main source of a living, have grown so scarce as that they are unable longer maintain themselves on the Bay.

I have been assured by the leading Indians met that they all will be much pleased to be located most anywhere within the "Fruit Belt".

From this proposed purchase the Indians will always be able to secure employment sufficiently close to always live at home, have good gardens, chickens, turkeys, etc. Most of these Marshall Indians are bright, energetic, speak good English and far above the average, especially in their desire to have nice little homes and helpful environments.

It will be noted that only my name appears as a subscribing witness to the signatures of Mr. and Mrs. Corda: This the result of the fact that only the three named were present at the home of the proposed seller.

Noting the add to sell this land I answered same on Sunday morning, taking the electric car to nearest station-Barlow- and from there walked out through a very heavy mist and rain $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles finding only the two at home. Inasmuch as both Mr. and Mrs. Corda are quite anxious to sell, suppose that it is not absolutely necessary for further witness to their signatures?

I should have further stated in connection with the location of the Bogeda, Tomales and Marshall Indians that, have been unable to find available land any where along the bay. The lands up and down the coast country are owned in large bodies and by comparatively few, who will not sell, except their entire holdings, being entirely out of the reach of the Government under any appropriation heretofore made: Also another reason assigned, and a most essential one, for their desire to leave the waters of the Bay, is that they have found the almost constant heavy fogs and dews, most of the year very cold, is that most all of them suffer more or less with rheumatism and kindred troubles.

The Office should have no hesitancy in asking the Department of the Interior to approve of Mr. and Mrs. Corda's proposal to sell.

There will never be a time, in my judgment, when this land would sell at quite an advance over the proposed purchase price.

John J. Terrell
Respectfully submitted.

307.3
AIR MAIL

Sacramento Indian Agency
California

June 9, 1937

To: Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Attention Land Division

Subject: Sebastopol Rancheria, Sonoma County, California

Sir:-

In 1921 there was purchased a tract of 15.46 Acres in Sonoma County from the fund "Purchase of land for landless Indians in California, 1921".

The purchase was intended "for use and occupancy by the Marshall and Sebastopol Bands of homeless California Indians"; but said bands never occupied the tract, nor has any Indian ever lived on the tract from date of purchase up to now.

It is, however, a swell homsite with many fine redwoods and a small perennial trickle of water, located in the heart of a fine fruit district and with a hard-surface road along one boundary. I have several families eager to locate.

The question I want settled is: Am I limited to Indians of the Marshall and Sebastopol bands, or their descendants? I think decision should be that any landless Indians may be located on these unused California tracts.

Sincerely,

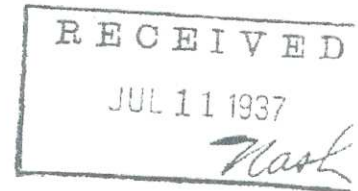
Roy Nash, Superintendent

REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

ADDRESS ONLY
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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Pt. 21

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON



Mr. Roy Nash

JUL-37

Supt. Sacramento Agency

My dear Mr. Nash:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of June 9, with regard to a tract of 15.45 acres in Sonoma County, California, purchased in 1921 for the occupancy and use of the Marshall and Sebastopol Bands of homeless Indians in California.

You state that the above named bands have never occupied the tract since its purchase. You therefore raise the question as to whether Indians other than these bands or their descendants, may be settled thereon.

The records show that the deed conveying the property to the United States does not contain any limitation or provision as to what Indians should be settled thereon. The land was paid for out of an appropriation made by Congress for the purchase of lands for landless Indians of California. While the land was purchased primarily for the occupancy and use of the Marshall and Sebastopol Bands, there is no limitation or reason why other landless Indians may not be located thereon.

Sincerely yours,

William Zimmerman, Jr.
ASSISTANT Commissioner