

# MESKWAKI PROCLAMATION DAY

A Historical Perspective



July 13, 1857

After the passage of the Act, the Mesquaki went out to buy some land. David Butler penned a letter telling how the bargain was made.

#### OLD INDIAN TOWN

This was a temporary village or lodgment of the Musquakies in the NE 1/4 of Sec. 17 of what is now Indian Village township. The region is since known as Butlerville, because of its being the location of the several Butler Families from whom these Indians first bought land. The Musquakies had lodged here before the Butlers came in 185-. At the time the Butlers settled here the Musquakies had gone. In the spring of 1857 an Indian came on horseback and talked with Isaac Butler about the purchase of some land. He went away and came again, in all about three times. Finally, a bargain was made for 80 acres in township -- of Sec. 30-83, 15. Isaac Butler and his sons Philip and David went to Toledo and made out the deed on July 13, 1857. The consideration paid was \$1,000 in cash. The money was taken to Iowa City by the Indians and paid to Gov. Jas. W. Grimes. It was brought back to the Butlers by Ebenezer Coffin, a farmer in Tama Co. The money was in the form of gold and Mr. Coffin carried it in a rough sack in his lumber wagon. There were no ponies in the payment, as has been so often reported.

from David Butler  
August 18, 1905

The following is the land deed that the Bulters made at Toledo in 1857:

This Deed of Bargain and Sale made and executed the thirteenth day of July A.D. 1857 by and between Philip Butler, David Butler, and Isaac Buler Guardian for William Butler and Ozias Bulter Minors, all of Tama County and State of Iowa, parties of the first part and James W. Grimes Governor of the State of Iowa and his successors in office in trust for the following named persons Indians and their heirs forever viz. Math a Nuh, Wau ka no, Chalk kal a Mah, Mat au a quah, Pat a ca to of the Second part. Witnesseth that the said parties of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of One Thousand Dollars to them paid by the said party of the Second part the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged has granted and sold and do by these presents Grant Bargain Sell Convey and Confirm unto the said Party of the Second part and to his Successors in office in trust for the said Indians their heirs forever the certain tract or parcel of Real Estate Situated in the County of Tama and State of Iowa, to wit The West half of the South East fourth of Section number thirty (30) Township number Eighty-three (83) North of Range fifteen (15) West of the 5th P.M. containing Eighty Acres according to Government Survey, and the said Isaac Butler sells the interest of his wards the said William Butler and Ozias Butler Infants aforesaid, in and to the said tract or Parcel of Land by virtue and authority of an order of County Court of Tama County, aforesaid made granted and decreed and adjudged to him as guardian of the property of Said Infants upon an application to said Court made by said Isaac Butler as Guardian aforesaid, Notice of the copy of the petition of such sale having first been legally served on all the parties interested, and the said Isaac Butler having given a Bond as required by law conditioned for the faithful performance of his duty and the just and true application of, and accounting for all monies by him received, which said order was made by the County Court at the May term thereof, held on the first Monday in May, 1857 and duly recorded in the Book of Records of Said Court. To have and to hold the premises above described with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging unto him the said party of the Second part and to his successors in office forever. The said Philip Butler, David Butler and Isaac Butler as guardian for said minors hereby covenanting for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrator, that the above described premises are free from all incumbrances that they have full right power and authority to sell the same and they will warrant and defend the title unto the said party of the second part their Successors, Heirs and Assigns against the claims of all persons whomsoever lawfully claiming the same. In witness whereof the said parties of the first part have thereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Philip Butler, L.S.  
David Butler, L.S.  
Isaac Butler, L.S

In presence of  
Allen Dingee.

Guardian of William and  
Ozias Butler, minors.