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Ottawa Kansas

May 24 1869

Statement of the Origin, History & Financial condition of Ottawa University.

In the year 1834 the Baptist Denomination commenced a mission among the Ottawa Indians who had just moved to this state and by the blessing of God upon the untiring and self, denying labors of Rev J Meeker the missionary (see Art 6 of the Treaty of 1862) the tribe was lifted to a high state of civilization and Christianity nearly 7/8 of all the mails were brought ~~into the church~~ to embrace ~~al~~  religion and become members of a church.

By the labors and influence of this missionary aided by the Rev John T Jones (a member of the tribe and present pastor of the Indian church of this place) a desire for education was created among this people and in 1860 the nation took steps (as shown below) to secure such educational privilages as they deemed would be most to their advantage.

The Baptist Denomination in this state had befor this time taken steps to found a School of learning. ~~And on the 27 of Feb, 1860 they had received a charter from the Territorial Legislature to~~

By virtue of an Act of the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Kansas approved February 27th 1860 a number of Gentlemen (15)

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were incorporated under the name and style of the Trustees of Roger Williams University” All of these Gentlemen were Baptists and the Institution was projected and ~~designed~~ organized by this Denomination.

The Ottawa Indians being allmost all Baptists (this being the only denomination that ever had a mission among them) and hearing of organization of this Institution ~~organized~~ by their, White brethren, sent an invitation to the Trustees of the Rodger Williams University to meet them through a committee for the purpose of making some arrangement whereby the Indians might be able to have their children educated in this Institution. A meeting accordingly took place at the school house of the nation on the 5th day of Dec, 1860, there were present eight Indians(Chiefs & counsel men) and four whites, a committee of Trustees) ~~when an agreement was made and entered into in writing which plan see as presented to you by Rev D Taylor.~~

The Indians expressed its desire that when their children should grow up they would assume the habits and customs and be able to discharge the duties of American citizens, and as they believed this good object could be best accomplished through the aid of the Rodger Williams University proposed to give to that University 20,000 acres of their average lands with a fair portion of water and timber, if the Trustees would aid in erection of school buildings and educate the children to its no of 50 from 4 to 14 for 30 years afterwards to give ten scholarships forever.