

William Goyens 1838 Land Petition

From: William Goyens, Nacogdoches County, to Texas Legislature, 1838

To the Hon: the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republick of Texas in Congress Assembled :

The Petition of William Goyens of the County of Nacogdoches and Republick aforesaid would most respectfully show and represent unto your Honorable Body, that he is unfortunately a man of colour—And consequently his rights and interests have not in his humble opinion, been so reserved and protected by the general Laws of the Republick in relation to the interests herein after mentioned, as the rights of others whose colour is different from his.—That he emigrated to this Republick in the year 1820. That from peculiar circumstances which it is now too tedious to mention, notwithstanding he was born free, he has all most been compelled, twice to purchase that freedom by his hard & honest labour—That from the date of his emigration he has ever been identified with the feelings and interest of the Anglo American population And has born his humble part in their struggles—

That he has had the honour to obtain some what the confidence of his superiors and has to the best of his feeble ability for the last five years, been more or less engaged in publick services connected with the Indians and for the last two yea[r]s he has had the honour to have been appointed a regular Indian Agent—for the Cherokee Tribe—And trusts that he has discharged that agency with satisfaction to those who have employed him and benefit to his cuntry—That during the war he has the satisfaction to know that he contributed to its support, by furnishing horses provisions and money—Small as may have been these services they were at least equal to his ability—That he has a family of children & a wife whom he has endeavoured to support with respectability and having also some servants, he certainly fills the requisitions of the law in being the head of a family—And as he thinks consequently under the Colonization Law entitled to Land—He has however made no application therfor since he has reason to fear from the peculiar provisions of the late land law his application would be rejected—He has never at any previous period, obtained Land as a Colonist or other wise except by fair purchase for a valuable consideration—

Under all the circumstances he ventures therefore to make this his first application before your Honorable Body that a League & Labor of Land may be granted him as a Head Right and that a Law may be passed to that effect in his favour—And in duty he would ever pray &c. [signed] William Goyens