

Man Says Indian Family's Land Made Into Minnesota State Park

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I wish you people would be able to help Indians who were treated unjustly in the past and are still living, like for instance, Mrs. Mary Woodenfrog. She is now is a sanitarium at Nopeming, Minn.

Her father, Jim Woodenfrog and her brother, John Woodenfrog (Wa-she-ga-mi-gish-gung) had allotments in Kabetogoma Lake. Her father and brother died a number of years ago.

The Indian agent induced them to trade their properties of 80 acres each for allotments

in the Bois Fort Reservation in northern Minnesota. Jim's 80 acres was at that time worth at least \$10,000 and John's was worth \$5,000 as both allotments had virgin timber on them while the 80-acre tracts in the reservation were rocky, cut over land worth at most \$5 dollars per acre.

According to the Treaty of 1854, any Indian leaving the reservation immediately was recognized as an American citizen. So the agent should have advised them to prove up their properties under the Homestead, or Stone and Timber Laws, and they would still have a right to allotments in the reservation.

The federal government traded land with the State of Minnesota, so that is the way Jim's property became a state park. It is known as Woodenfrog State Park.

Even without the improvements, Jim's land would be worth \$40,000 now.

I knew those Indians since 1910.