



Beyond Penn's Treaty

Letter to the Cherokee Nation from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

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DATE: 1792

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AUTHOR:

SUMMARY: Philadelphia Yearly Meeting encouraged peace between the Cherokees and United States

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17
Brothers of the Cherokee Nation or Red People ~

We who have spoken with you are glad to see you here, and rejoice that you are come as messengers of Peace ~

We wish you to know, that there are many of our brethren called Quakers settled in ~~most~~ of the United States who are lovers of Peace, and do not meddle with war, and we are very sorry, that there hath been ~~any~~ wars & bloodshed between you and the people of the United States, for we believe, that we are all the children of the same Great Creator who intended that, we should live in love and peace with each other; but when any of his children get drunk, cheat, steal or hurt & kill one another, he is displeased with them, and when they will not regard his good Spirit placed in their hearts, then they go into all kind of wickedness, which brings misery upon them, and they are not afraid even to destroy the lives which came from the hands of the Great Creator ~

But

Transcription

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But if we pray to him for the help of his good Spirit and feel it in our hearts, and attend to it, we learn to pity those that the Evil Spirit makes unhappy, and we can do good even to our Enemies.

We therefore much desire that, our brothers of the Cherokee Nation may be brought more and more to the knowledge of the Great Creator ~~who is the Father of all men~~, and that, as his Children they may live in love and peace ^{& with all Men} with each other. And ^{then} we believe the Red People would not live so much by hunting, but employ themselves in tilling the ground, learning useful trades, and get proper Schoolmasters to teach their Children, that they might be brought up to love & obey the Great & Good Spirit who made them.

These Things we wish our brothers of the Cherokee Nation to think of, and above all to pray in their hearts to the Great and Good Spirit for his help in all their honest undertakings, that they ^{may} be happy in this life, and after death, in an everlasting Eternity.

We desire these words from us your brothers may take deep hold in your minds, and warm your hearts, that, so you may be strengthened to tell them to the people
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of your nation,

We also pray, that the Great & Good Spirit may conduct
you home in safety, and make you the messengers of
Good tidings from the Government of the United States.

Farewell,

Philadelphia,

The 19 day of the Second month

1792

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1792
In substance of the Occasional
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communicated to them by
their Interpreter,
18. March. 1792 & a copy thereof
delivered to them by their
friends. & in presence of
several others at the house
of John Pemberton on the
evening where they took a
separate leave of us & their
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Transcription

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