



Letter to the Quarterly Meeting of Friends at Hopewell

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AUTHOR:
SUMMARY: Letter to Friends at Hopewell encouraging them to compensate the Tuscarora for land and not to settle on land that had not been fairly purchased.

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To the Quart. Meeting of Frds at Hopewell

Dear Friends

Having been lately ^{the exercise of relig: Endeavouring to} ~~religiously~~ engaged in a ^{Business} ~~course~~ of very interest-
ing & extensive import both to our Society & the Inhabitants of this Continent at large;
in the Course of our Attention whereunto divers particular Matters have presented
& weightily impressed our Minds as Objects claiming the close & deep Attention of Friends;
agreeable to the equitable & peaceable Testimonies we profess to maintain & adhere to;
and among others one material Concern peculiarly affecting our Christian Community
throughout the United States we apprehend may be especially worthy of your
very serious & impartial Consideration, which we are free & desirous, under ^{a Sense of Duty} the
Influence of an affectionate brotherly Freedom to communicate

We believe it proper to premise that our Yearly Meeting in 1792, sensibly
affected with the Calamities of War prevailing on the western Frontiers of these
States, appointed a large Committee to deliberate on & pursue such Means as
under best direction might be instrumental to promote Peace & prevent the
further Effusion of human Blood; in Consequence whereof an Address was
prepared & presented to the President, Senate & House of Representatives of the
United States, setting forth that, "as it is consistent with our religious Principles,
"so it has been our uniform Care to admonish & caution our Members against
"settling on Lands which have not been fairly purchased of the original Owners;
"and as far as our Influence extends we mean to maintain this our antient
"Testimony inviolate, which from Experience has been found effectual to
"to the Preservation of Peace with the Natives, who with great Hospitality cherished
" & assisted our forefathers in their early Settlement of this Country" and that, "being
"interested in the Welfare of this Country, & convinced of the Expediency of further
"Endeavours being used to encourage the Indians to come forward with a full
"Representation & Statement of their Grievances, and that every just Cause of
"Uneasiness in their Minds may be fully investigated & removed, we apprehend
"it our Duty again to address you on this affecting & important Occasion; under
"a Belief that nothing short of strict Justice will ever be a Basis of solid and
"lasting Peace." This Address, of which the foregoing is an Extract was duly presented,
after which, Conferences being had with divers Indian Chiefs from different parts of
the Continent, it appeared the People they represented were solicitous that some Frds
might attend the Treaty intended to be held in the year 1793; the Concern of our Year
Meeting for the exercise of Christian Care in a matter so interesting as improving
all Opportunities of cultivating Friendship with & promoting a disposition for Peace
in & towards the Indians, claiming the attentive Consideration of Friends, both collect-
ively & individually, six Friends, in the 4th mo: 1793 gave up their Names as resigned to
the arduous Service of visiting the Natives in their own Country at the Time & Place of holding
the aforesaid Treaty, which, with the Approbation of the President, they performed; and
another Treaty being agreed to be held in the last ^{Autumn} ~~Summer~~, Friends were informed that
some of our Members Attendance would be acceptable both to Government & the Indians,
and we the Subscribers, ^{less of us being of the number} impressed with a degree of the weight of the Concern, giving up
thereto attended accordingly; had frequent Interviews & Conferences with the Sachems & Chiefs
of the Six Nations, of whom upwards of 1600 were collected, in which great Confidence was
by them expressed, in Friends as a People religiously bound to the exercise of Justice &
promotion of Peace, declaring that if we deceived them they could no more place Con-
"fidence in Mankind" — And now Dear Friends, we affectionately request your
impartial Attention to the peculiar Occasion & Design of this Communication, which we wish
you to consider as proceeding from a sincere brotherly Regard & a Desire to be found in an
upright discharge of Duty — Soon after the Indians were collected some of their principal
Chiefs visited us & revived the Subject of Enquiry in Time past made respecting the original
Owners of the Lands about Hopewell in Virginia, expressing their Gladness that Friends
were

Transcription

ytf ytf To the Quarty Meeting of Frds at Hopewell

Dear Friendsytf ytf Having been lately religiously engaged in the exercise of religious Endeavours & extensive import both toytf our Society & the Inhabitants of this Continent at large; in the Courseytf of our Attention where to divers particular Matter have presented & ytf weightily impressed our Minds as Objects claiming the close & deep Attentionytf of Friends agreeable to the equitable & peaceable Testimonies we professytf to maintain & adhere to; and among others one material Concernytf peculiarly affecting our christian Community throughout the United States weytf apprehend maybe especially worthy of your very serious & importantytf Consideration, which we are free & desirous, under a sense of Duty & ytf the Influence of an affectionate brotherly Freedom to communicate.ytf We believe it proper to premise that our year affectedytf with the Calamities of War prevailing on the western Frontiers ofytf these States, appointed a large Committee to deliberate on & pursue suchytf means as under best direction might be instrumental to promote Peace & ytf prevent the further Effusion of human Blood; in Consequence whereof anytf Address was prepared & presented to the President, Senate & House ofytf Representatives of the United States, setting forth that, ytf ytf as it is consistent with our religious Principles, so it hasytf been our uniform Care to admonish & caution our Membersytf against settling on Lands which have not been fairly purchasedytf of the original Owners; and as far as our Influence extends weytf mean to maintain this our ansient Testimony inviolate, whichytf from Experince has been found effectual to to the Preservationytf of Peace with the Natives, who with great Hospitalityytf cherished & assisted our fore Fathers in their earlyytf Settlement of this Country.ytf being interested in the Welfare of this Country, & convincedytf of the Expediency of further Endeavours being used to encourageytf the Indians to come forward with a full Representation & ytf Statement of their Grievances, and that every just Causeytf of Uneasiness in their Minds may be fully investigated & ytf removed, we apprehend it our Duty again to address you on thisytf affecting & important Occasion; under a Belief that nothingytf short of stict Jusitce will ever be a Basis of solid and lastingytf Peace.ytf ytf This Address, of which the foregoing is an Extract was dulyytf presented, after which, Confederacy being had with divers Indian Chiefs fromytf different parts of the Continent, it appeared the People they representedytf were solicious that some Frds might attend the Treaty intended to be held inytf the year 1793; the Concern of our yearly Meeting for the exercise of christian Care in a matterytf so interesting as improving all Opportunities of cultivating Friendship withytf & promoting a disposition for Peace in & towards the Indians,ytf claiming the attentive Consideration of Friends both collectively & ytf individually, six Friends in the 4th:mo:1793 gave upytf their Names as resigned to the arduous Service of visiting the Natives inytf their own Country at the Time & Place of holding the aforesaid Treaty,ytf which, whith the Approbation of the President, they performed; and anotherytf Treaty being agreed to be held in the last Summer Autumn, Friends were informed that some of our Members Attendanceytf would be acceptable both to Government & the Indians, and we theytf Subscribers two of us being of the number at and impressed with a degreeytf of the weight of the thereto attended accordingly; andytf frequent Interviews & Conferences with the Sachems and Chiefs or theytf Six Nations, of whom upwards of 1600 wereytf collected, in which great Confidence was by them expressed, in Friends as aytf People religiously bound to the exercise of Justice & promotion ofytf Peace, declaring that if we deceived them they could noytf more place Confidence in Mankind -- and now Dear Friends, weytf affectionately request your impartial Attention to the peculiar Occasionytf & Design of this Communication, which we wish you to consider asytf proceeding from a sincere brotherly Regard & a Desire to be found inytf an upright discharge of Duty--Soon after the Indians were collected some ofytf their principal Chiefs visited us & revived the Subject of Enquiry inytf Time past made respecting the original Owner of the Lands about Hopewell in Virginia, expressing their Gladness thatytf Friends

were willing to do Justice; divers Conferences were held amongst themselves, & with us
relative to that Business, the Issue of which was that we were all of Opinion the Tuscaroras
were the People who formerly owned that Country; they are now the sixth Nation in the
Confederacy, and some of their ^{Chief Men} ~~old~~ appeared so confident of the Rectitude of their
Claim as to have entertained an Expectation that we came prepared to make them
full Compensation in the Premises - General Chapin Superintendant of the six
Nation gave us his Judgement in Writing in Confirmation of the Right of the
Tuscaroras, which with the Account of that People given by J. Jefferson leaves us
apprehend, no Room to doubt of the reality of the Matter. a Copy of which is
herewith Sent -

And more for having laid ^{the} Subject before you not as Dictators
but as brethren concerned in the same Common Cause of Pro-
moting truth & Righteousness, we trust you will take it into
Serious & Solid Consideration & if any thing remain due from you
to these greatly Injured people (which no doubt some of you
once thought) we hope you will cheerfully unite with us in
Contributing a Small part of your Substance for their Relief
& Comfort - The Nation who now asserts their Right to the
Lands which you have been a Long time in Possession of
in a peculiar manner claim our Sympathy being the most
Destitute of all the Six Nations, and only live & hunt on the Lands
of the Senecas, ~~to whom~~ by their Indulgence; but are not considered
as having any Right in the Soil, & we do believe the Testimony
of truth will suffer if ~~some~~ Compensation is not made
them ~~from our Religion Society~~, With Desires that Bro-
therly Love may continue & abound among us we re-
main your Affectionate fr^d

1794
Letter from Friends
who attended the Indian
Treaty 1794, to Friends
at Hopewell

Transcription

were willing to do Justice; divers Conferences were held amongst themselves & with us relative to that Business, the Issue of which was that we were all of Opinion the Tuscaroras were the People who formerly owned that Country; they are now the sixth Nation in the Confederacy, and some of their Chief Men appeared so confident of the Rectitude of their Claim as to have entertained an Expectation that we came prepared to make them full Compensation for their land in the Premises. General Chapin Superintendent of the six Nation gave us his Judgement in writing in Confirmation of their Right of the Tuscaroras, which with the Account of that People given by T. Jefferson leaves apprehended, no Room to doubt of the reality of the Matter a copy of which is herewith Sent. And now friends having laid ye Subject before you not as Dictators but as brethren Concerned in the Same Common Cause of Promoting Truth & Righteousness, we trust you will take it into Serious & Solid Consideration & if anything appears to remain Due from you to these greatly Injured people (which no doubt Some of you once thought) we hope you will chearfully Unite with us in Contributing a Small part of your Substance for their Relief & Comfort. The Nation who now asserts their Right to the Lands which you have been a Long time Possessing of in a peculiar manner Claims our Sympathy being most Destitute of all the Six Nations, and only Live & hunt on the Lands of the Seneca Nation by their Indulgence; but are not considered as having any Rights in their Soil, & we believe the Testimony of truth will suffer if some Compensation is not made them from our Religious Society, With Desires that Brotherly Love may Continue & abound among us remain your Affectionate friends