Letter to the Quarterly Meeting of Friends at Hopewell

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<td>SUMMARY:</td>
<td>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.</td>
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Dear Friends,

Having been lately, engaged in a business of very interesting & extensive import both to our Society & the Inhabitants of this Continent among others, in the course of our attention whereof divers particular matters have presented themselves, & the objects of our care & concern to promote the general welfare of mankind & its peace & happiness. We have observed with much concern the state of the affairs of this country, & the proceedings of the British in the West Indies & elsewhere, & have been moved to express our sentiments on the subject.

We have, therefore, appointed a committee of five members, whose business it is to prepare a report & address to the President, Senate & House of Representatives, which is to be presented to the President, Senate & House of Representatives, setting forth the state of the country, and the measures we deem necessary for its welfare & prosperity.

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To the Quarterly Meeting of Friends at Hopewell

Dear Friends,

Having been lately religiously engaged in the exercise of religious Endeavours to promote a Business of very interest-ing & extensive import both to our Society & the Inhabitants of this Continent at large; in the Course of our Attention where to divers particular Matter 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 apprehend maybe especially worthy of your very serious & important 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 any 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 mean to maintain this our ansient Testimony inviolate, which from Experince has been found effectual to the Preservation of Peace with the Natives, who with great Hospitality cherished & assisted our fore Fathers in their early Settlement of this Country. 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 Jusitce will ever be a Basis of solid and lasting Peace. This Address, of which the foregoing is an Extract was duly presented, after which, Confederacy being had with divers Indian Chiefs from different parts of the Continent, it appeared the People they represented were solicious that some Friends might attend the Treaty intended to be held in the year 1793; the Concern of our yearly 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 collectively & 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, whith the Approbation of the President, they performed; and another Treaty being agreed to be held in the last Summer Autumn, Friends were informed that some of our Members Attendance would be acceptable both to Government & the Indians, and we they Subscribers two of us being of the number ascended to and impressed with a degree of the weight of the Concern thereto attended accordingly; and frequent Interviews & Conferences with the Sachems and Chiefs or they Six Nations, of whom upwards of 1600 were collected, in which great Confidence was by them expressed, in Friends as People religiously bound to the exercise of Justice & promotion of Peace, declaring that if we deceived them they could no more place Confidence in Mankind -- and now Dear Friends, affectionately request your impartial Attention to the peculiar Occasion & Design of this Communication, which we wish you to consider 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 the Time past made respecting the original Owner of the Lands about Hopewell in Virginia, expressing their Gladness that
were willing to be satisfied; divers Conferences were held amongst themselves with us relative to that Business, the Issue of which was that we were all of Opinion that the Indians were the People who formerly owned that Country; they are now the sixth Nation in the Confederacy, and some of their Old People appeared to consider of the Rights of their Claim as we have understood an Expectation that we came prepared to make them full Compensation in the Proceeds - General Chapman Superintendent of the said Nation gave us his Judgment in Writing in Confirmation of the Right of the六, which with the Account of that People given by T. Jefferson Lenses, and handwritten, no Room to doubt of the reality of the Matter. A Copy of which is here with.

And more, having lain before you not as Dictators, but as brother Congress in the Same Common Cause of maintaining truth and Rights properly, we trust you will take it into serious and Solid Consideration, & you may perhaps, be from you to those greatly employed People, which we doubt some of you once thought we hope you will be, cheerfully Unite with us in Contributing a small part of your Substance for their Relief of Comfort. The Nation who have, in part, theirs Right to the Lands which you have a long time in Possession of in a peculiar manner Claims our Sympathy being the most Disinterested of all the Six Nations, and only have their honor on the heads of their Senecas, by their Indulgences, but are not considered as having any Right in the Soil, if we do believe the Definacy of truth will suffer if some Compensation is not made.

With those that Greatly love me, Continue & abode among us we remain your Affectionate.

Settled from Canada, 1784. To Handas, 6th December.
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, Superintendant 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 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) 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 Possessing of in a peculiar manner Claims our Sympathy being they 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 the 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 frds