Letter to the Quarterly Meeting of Friends at Hopewell

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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Dear Friends,

Having been lately engaged in a business of very interesting & extensive import both to our Society & the Inhabitants of this Continental Congress in the course of our attention whereof divers particular matters have presented I weighedly impressed our Minds as objects claiming the close side of attention from us agreeable to the equitable & peaceful Testimony we profess to maintain & adhere to the concede to a material censure peculiarly affecting our christian community throughout the United States we apprehend may be especially worthy of your serious & impartial consideration, which we are free & universal, under the influence of an affectionate brotherly freedom to communicate

We believe it proper to premise that our yearly Meeting in 1792, greatly affected with the calamities of war prevailing on the western frontier of those 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 on an Address prepared & presented to the President, Senate & House of Representatives of the United States, setting forth that 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 & as far as our influence extends we mean to maintain in this our nation's testimony inviolate which from experience has been found essential to the preservation of peace with the Nations who with great hopefulness hoped to found a settlement in this their early settlement of this country and that being interested in the welfare of this Country, we convinced of the Expediency of the endeavours being used to encourage the Indians to come forward with a full representation of their grievances, & that every just cause of their resentment in their minds might be fairly investigated 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 Conference being held with divers Indian Chiefs from different parts of the Continent, it appeared the People they represented were desirous that some treaty 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 & preserving peace in towards the Indians, claiming the attentive consideration of Friends both collectively & individually to friends in the spring 1793 gave up their names as required by the oracular Service visiting the Nations in their own country at the time the Treaty of the present Treaty, which with the approbation of the President they performed, another Treaty being agreed to be held in the last summer Friends were informed that some of our Members attendance was to be acceptable both to Government & Indians and we the Subscribers impressed with a degree of the weight of the concerns, giving us the opportunity to attend accordingly, had frequent attention to the conferences with the Indian Chiefs of the Six Nations to 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 Judicature & promotion of peace, declaring that if we proceeded they could no more have confidence in men than in ourselves. And now Dear Friends, we affectionately request your impartial attention to the peculiar occasion & Design of this communication which would you consider a 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 went to & received the subject of inquiry in time past made respecting the original Owners of the lands about 36 1/2 miles in Virginia, expressing their Gladness that Council was
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 we 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 Experience has been found effectual to 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 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, Confederacy being had with divers Indian Chiefs from different parts of the Continent, it appeared the People they represented were solicous 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 & 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, with 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 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 noy more place Confidence 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 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 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 

were the People who formerly owned that Country; they are now the sixth Nation in the 

and some of their old men appeared to confirm of the Right of their 

Claim as he have expressed an Expectation thot we came prepared to make them 

full Compensation in the Produce — General Eaton Superintendent of the six 

Nation gave us his Judgment in Writing in Confirmation of the Right of the 

Democrats, which with the Account of that People given by J. Jefferson Lewis, are 

in front of no Room to doubt of the reality of the Matter. A Copy of which is 

herein with Secret.

And more for having laid to subject before you not as Dictator, 

in the Spann Common Council of 

the Right thereof, we must have you take it into 

serious & Solid Consideration & if your thoughts remain far from you, 

to their greatly Ignored people. Which we doubt some of you 

once thought we hope you will be thankfully mine with us in 

contributing a small part of your Subsistence for their Relief 

& Comfort. The Nation who Now assert their Right to the 

lands which you have been a long time in Occupation of 

in a peculiar manner Claims ours Sympathy being the most 

Defendant of all the Six Nations; and only have it built on the belief 

of the Seneca Nation by their Indulgences but are not considered 

as having any Right in the Soil, & we do believe the Definacy 

of truth will suffer if compensation is not made. 

Therefor it is a question, With Deprive that Ben 

they love may continue & abound among us we re 

main your affectionate f. d.
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 Chapiny Superintendant of the six Nation gave us his Judgment 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 frnds having laid ye Subject before you not as Dictators but as brethren Concerned in the Same Common Couse 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 most Destitute of all the Six Nations, and only Live & hunt on the Lands of the Senecas Nation by their Indulgence; but are not considerd 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