Beyond Penn's Treaty

Letter to the Shawanese, Delawares & others from Quakers of Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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SUMMARY: Letter from Philadelphia Friends inquiring whether the Indians have received their address and accompanying present from Colonel McKee.

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The People called Quakers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey &c.
By their Representatives assembled at Philadelphia 5th No. 22
1795
To our Brethren the Shawnee, Delaware, other Nations of Indians
who propose building a Council fire at
peace between them & the United States.

Brothers, When a time was agreed on two years since for kindling
Council fire at Sandusky, our hearts were made to rejoice, in hope the
good work of peace would go forward; six of our Brothers took a long journey
to see you at that time, under a desire of affording their attendance
upon the Council; but by the working of that bad Spirit
which so often prevails, that Treaty was frustrated, and our
friends were under the painful necessity of returning home with the
surrounding tribes. War, the one destroyer of mankind, was likely to be
continued; since which the accounts received from your Country of so much
Blood being shed on both sides have occasioned our lamentation and mourning.

Brothers, we then sent you an Address, accompanied with a small present
as a token of our love and remembrance of you, which our said Address
was committed to the care of Col. McHie's; but as we had no
information of your having received it, we hereewith send you a Copy. It
shall serve as a token of our love and remembrance of you, was also sent by our Brethren above.

Brothers, it affords us much comfort that a step is put to the further
effusion of Blood, and we earnestly desire that in the Council fire
now about to be kindled, your trust and dependance may be on the Great
Ruler of Men, whereby he may be pleased to influence and direct
your Councils, so that the sound of War may no more be heard in your
land.

Brothers, we have often been grieved at beholding the sad effects, which
the excessive use of strong drink, particularly amongst the Indian
people, even when deliberating on the solemn Business of Treaties which are to bind them and
their posterity to future Generations, and are amply evidence that it
is now the time you may take up a firm resolution of abstaining.
The People called Quakers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey & other neighbouring Governments By their Representatives assembled at Philadelphia 5th. Mo. 22 1795 Toy our Brothers the Shawanese, Delawares Wyandots, Miamis & other Nations of Indians who prepose holding kindling a Counsil fire at for establishing peace between them & the United States. Brothers When a time was agreed on two years since, for kindling Council fire at Sandusky, our hearts were made to rejoice, in hope the good work of peace would go forward; Six of our Brothers took a long journey to see you at that time, under a desire of affording their assistance to make the Council fire burn bright, but by the working of that bad Spirit which theyf happiness of all Men, that the intended Treaty was frustrated, and our said friends were under the painful necessity of returning home with the sorrowful tidings, that War, the sad destroyer of Mankind, was likely to be continued; since which the accounts received from your Country of as much Blood being shed on both sides have occasioned our lamentation & mourning, our Brothers We then sent you an Address, accompanied with a small present as a Token of our Love and remembrance of you, which our said six friends entrusted with committed directed by our 6 Frnds to the care of Col. McKeey but as we have had no information of your having received it, we herewith send you a Copy. A small present, as a Token of our love & remembrance of you, was also sent by our Brethren above which they had not the satisfaction of delivering to you. Our Brothers It affords us much Comfort that a stop is so far put to the further effusion of Blood, and we earnestly desire that in the Council fire now about to be kindled, your trust & dependance may be on the Great over ruling Spirit of Peace & Love, whereby he may be pleased to influence & direct your Councils as that the sound of War may no more be heard in your Land. Brothers We have often been grieved at beholding the sad effects experienced by produced in unguarded Men of what the excessive use of strong drink produce particularly on the Red Indian people, even when deliberating on the solemn Business of Treaties which are intended to bind them and their posterity to future Generations, and are anxiously solicitous that in the present Treaty it may be you may be wisely determined to take up a pious resolution to abstain-
from that evil practice. Brothers
We continue sincerely desirous that your Trust & Dependence Confidence may be placed on the Great & Good Spirit, & that by a state of inward watchfulness & daily prayer your kinds may become illuminated more clearly to see the impropriety of men shedding the Blood of their fellow men, thus might you gradually be redeemed from that unjust & revengeful Spirit from which Wars originate. We much desire your further acquaintance with the pure & peaceable Spirit of the Gospel, and apprehend you would experience many benefits by having your Children taught to read and write; or in interest and that they might be instructed in our manner of tilling the Earth; if you can devise any eligible Mode, wherein we particulars, we will cheerfully contribute towards your Aide & relief as expressed in the abovement. Copy of our former Letter to which we refer and remain your Friends & Brethren. James Pemberton John Parrish David Bacon Geo. Churchman Samuel Emleny Henry Owen Biddley James Emleny Amos Harvey Jesse Foulke Stephen Mendenhall John Wistary Jon. Evans