



Letter to the Quarterly Meeting of Friends at Hopewell

ID_TEI: SW_Letters_1794_00_00
TYPE_OF_MANUSCRIPT: letters (correspondence)
CALL_NO: Mss 004/ 1794 00 00
DATE: 1794
LOCATION: Swarthmore College
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.

How to cite: Accessed online Wed 10 Sep 2025 03:42 AM EST

This page is intentionally left as blank.

To the Quart. Meeting of Frds at Hopewell

Dear Friends

Having been lately ^{the exercise of relig. Endeavouring to} ~~religiously~~ ^{Business} engaged in a ~~series~~ of very interesting & 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 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 ancient "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, Conference 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 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 ^{Autumn} ~~Summer~~, Friends were informed that some of our Members Attendance would be acceptable both to Government & the Indians, and we the Subscribers ^{we, also 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 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 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

Transcription

yt f yt f To the Quarty Meeting of Frds at Hopewell

Dear Friendsyt f yt f Having been lately religiously engaged in the exercise of religious Endeavours, & extensive import both toyt f our Society & the Inhabitants of this Continent at large; in the Courseyt f of our Attention where to divers particular Matter have presented &yt f weightily impressed our Minds as Objects claiming the close & deep Attentionyt f of Friends agreeable to the equitable & peaceable Testimonies we professyt f to maintain & adhere to; and among others one material Concernyt f peculiarly affecting our christian Community throughout the United States weyt f apprehend maybe especially worthy of your very serious & importantyt f Consideration, which we are free & desirous, under a sense of Duty &yt f the Influence of an affectionate brotherly Freedom to communicate.yt f We believe it proper to premise that our year affectedyt f with the Calamities of War prevailing on the western Frontiers ofyt f these States, appointed a large Committee to deliberate on & pursue suchyt f means as under best direction might be instrumental to promote Peace &yt f prevent the further Effusion of human Blood; in Consequence whereof anyt f Address was prepared & presented to the President, Senate & House ofyt f Representatives of the United States, setting forth that, yt f yt f as it is consistent with our religious Principles, so it hasyt f been our uniform Care to admonish & caution our Membersyt f against settling on Lands which have not been fairly purchasedyt f of the original Owners; and as far as our Influence extends weyt f mean to maintain this our ansient Testimony inviolate, whichyt f from Experince has been found effectual to to the Preservationyt f of Peace with the Natives, who with great Hospitalityyt f cherished & assisted our fore Fathers in their earlyyt f Settlement of this Country.yt f being interested in the Welfare of this Country, & convincedyt f of the Expediency of further Endeavours being used to encourageyt f the Indians to come forward with a full Representation &yt f Statement of their Grievances, and that every just Causeyt f of Uneasiness in their Minds may be fully investigated &yt f removed, we apprehend it our Duty again to address you on thisyt f affecting & important Occasion; under a Belief that nothingyt f short of stict Jusitce will ever be a Basis of solid and lastingyt f Peace.yt f yt f This Address, of which the foregoing is an Extract was dulyyt f presented, after which, Confederacy being had with divers Indian Chiefs fromyt f different parts of the Continent, it appeared the People they representedyt f were solicious that some Frds might attend the Treaty intended to be held inyt f the year 1793; the Concern of our yearly Meeting for the exercise of christian Care in a matteryt f so interesting as improving all Opportunities of cultivating Friendship withyt f & promoting a disposition for Peace in & towards the Indians,yt f claiming the attentive Consideration of Friends both collectively &yt f individually, six Friends in the 4th:mo:1793 gave upyt f their Names as resigned to the arduous Service of visiting the Natives inyt f their own Country at the Time & Place of holding the aforesaid Treaty,yt f which, whith the Approbation of the President, they performed; and anotheryt f Treaty being agreed to be held in the last Summer Autumn, Friends were informed that some of our Members Attendanceyt f would be acceptable both to Government & the Indians, and we theyt f Subscribers two of us being of the number at and impressed with a degreeyt f of the weight of the thereto attended accordingly; andyt f frequent Interviews & Conferences with the Sachems and Chiefs or theyt f Six Nations, of whom upwards of 1600 wereyt f collected, in which great Confidence was by them expressed, in Friends as ayt f People religiously bound to the exercise of Justice & promotion ofyt f Peace, declaring that if we deceived them they could noyt f more place Confidence in Mankind -- and now Dear Friends, weyt f affectionately request your impartial Attention to the peculiar Occasionyt f & Design of this Communication, which we wish you to consider asyt f proceeding from a sincere brotherly Regard & a Desire to be found inyt f an upright discharge of Duty--Soon after the Indians were collected some ofyt f their principal Chiefs visited us & revived the Subject of Enquiry inyt f Time past made respecting the original Owner of the Lands about Hopewell in Virginia, expressing their Gladness thatyt f 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} ~~and~~ 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 ² 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 remains 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 assert their Right to the
Sands 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 Sands
of the Seneca, ~~Station~~ 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~~ ^{from our Religion}, 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 amongstytf themselves & with us relative to that Business, the Issue of which wasytf that we were all of Opinion the Tuscaroras were the People who formerly owned that Country; theyytf are now the sixth Nation in the Confederacy,ytf and some of their Chief Men appeared so confident of the Rectitude ofytf their Claim as to have entertained an Expectation that we came prepared toytf make them full Compensation for their land in the Premises.General Chapinytf Superintendant of the six Nation gave us his Judgement in writing in Confirmation of theytf Right of the Tuscaroras, which with the Account of that People given by T. Jefferson leaves apprehended, no Room toytf doubt of the reality of the Matter a copy of which is herewithytf Sent.ytf ytf And now frnds having laid ye Subject before you not as Dictators but asytf brethren Concerned in the Same Common Couse of Promoting Truth &ytf Righteousness, we trust you will take it into Serious & Solidytf Consideration & if anything appears to remain Due from you to theseytf greatly Injured people (which no doubt Some of you once thought) weytf hope you will chearfully Unite with us in Contributing a Small part of your Substance for their Reliefytf & Comfort. The Nation whoytf Now asserts their Right to the Lands which you have been a Long time inytf Possessing of in a peculiar manner Claims our Sympathy being theytf most Destitute of all the Six Nations, andytf only Live & hunt on the Lands of the Senecasytf Nation by their Indulgence; but are not considered as having any Rights in theytf Soil, & we believe the Testimony of truth will suffer ifytf someCompensation is not made them from our Religious Society, ytf With Desires that Brotherly Love may Continue & abound among us weytf remain your Affectionate frdsytf ytf ytf