

Interactions between Colonists and Native Americans: Articles of Agreement, 1699

Transcription

Pamlico the 23th of 9ber [September] 1699

Articles of agreement made & concluded

on by & between Daniel Akehurst Caleb

Calloway Thomas Blount & Henry Slade

of on parte in behalfe of the Government of

North Carolina & Sothell King of the Bear

River Indians [~~of th~~] with his Great men on

behalfe of the s[ai]d nation of the other [???

[???] Part as followeth

1ly The s[ai]d Indians shall at all times if they are

accused by any English men or Indians of

Murdering any of the Kings Subjects they

shall send the said Indians soe accused

in to the English Government or to sum office

or to answer the s[ai]d Accusation.

2ly If any shipp or vessell shall be Cast away on

any shore & any of the men shall be found

that have esscaped the seae they shall

releve them with Provisions & Cunduct them

to sum English Plantation for which they shall

[h]ave a matchcoat reward for each man soe

[page torn con]ducted & what Goods they find on the Sea Shore.

[torn they] shall deliver to the English Government & they

[torn shall a]llow them reasonable salvage for the same.

[torn 3rdly. As to the]goods they can take up that are ruin &

[torn for all they] shall bring into the English as aleged the

Reflect & Discuss

There are multiple versions of this document online, which may help in deciphering the missing portions of text from this damaged copy. How might you find a full transcription from a reliable source?

A matchcoat is rectangular piece of cloth or animal skin wrapped around the body and usually fastened with a belt ([image](#)).

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[torn] or vessell in which they are & Goods

[torn] shall have a Match Coat for each

[torn man] taken up.

[torn 4thly. The In]dians shall at all times assist the

[torn English in all trouble w]ith all Indians as shall ofer,

[torn are not to fight a]gainst the English or any Indians

[torn who fight wi]th them.

5ly. The s[ai]d king or sum of his Great men shall

yearly & every year make their appearance

at the Genirall Corte to be holden in July & then

& their pay to pair of skins as a tribute to the [E]

English Government

King Sothell

Signum

Mathews

Signum

Edmund Welly

Signum

Capt[ain] Gibbs

signum

This document lists many benefits for the English. What benefits did the Indians receive? Why might they have made this agreement?

According to part 4 of this agreement, the Bear River Indians must fight any other tribe that opposes the English. What could be the effect of the English pitting different tribes against one another?

Consider that Native Americans had no written language before contact with European colonists. What might it mean for King Sothell to sign this document?

What do you think the penalty might be if either the Indians or the English broke this agreement?