

Interactions between Colonists and Native Americans: Complaint Against John Allen, 1769

Transcription

North Carolina ss. April Sup[erio]r Court 1769

Edenton

On Motion of the Attorney General

Ordered that he be permitted to file an Information against John Allen of Bertie County Planter for occupying certain Lands within the Bounds of the Lands of the Tuskarora Indians ascertained by Act of Assembly passed in the twenty second year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Second, contrary to the said Act unless he shew sufficient cause at the next Superior Court to the Contrary.

Copy Test.

C. Bondfield D[eputy] C[lerk of the] C[ourt]

Bertie County

Robert Butterton D[eputy] Sheriff for this county maketh oath that he hath Served John Allen with a Copy of the above.

Sworn before me this 11th. Day of aug[us]t 1769, Rob[er]t Butterton

D[eputy] S[heriff]

[Ed? Raiford?] [J. P.]

Reflect & Discuss

The document refers to a 1747 act to ascertain lands owned by the Tuscarora ([source](#)). However, encroachment by English colonists continued. In 1757, the Tuscarora entered this plea: “We the Tuskarora Indians Petition Your Excely and Counsel to Grant a Patten or some Better Title for Our Land for the White folks tells this is good for Nothing and they Come and Settle Without leave fall Our Timber and Drive Stocks of all sorts: We hope Care will be Taken to protect us in Quiet Possession of Our Lands and from the White People Abusing us” ([source](#)).

How can the indigenous people live among English colonists when those colonists encroach upon their ancestral lands, even after the British legal system imposed upon them is supposed to protect them? What options do the Tuscarora have for protecting their land?

How might you conduct more research to determine the verdict of John Allen’s case? What about the fate of the Tuscarora lands after the ruling?