

## Interactions between Colonists and Native Americans: Deposition of Richard Nixson, c. 1722

### Transcription

North Carolina S[cilicet]s:

The Depo[si]tion of Richard Nixson being of full aoge  
& Sworne on the Holy Evangelist before us  
Gyles Shute & Joshua Porter Esq[ui]r[e]s Two of his  
Maj[es]ties Justices of the peace of the Precinct of  
Beufort & Hyde, & Saith that four or five  
Indians came up to his house and th[a]t Mr. Dudley was at his house  
when they came. So when they came up he asked them where  
are you agoeing & the Indians Satt down without Giveing him  
any Answer. Then one old Indian, Named Sighacka Blount Came  
up after the Rest, & when he came up he asked what is the matter  
and Replyd, Englishmen here allwayes Scold. Then Mr. Dudley said  
you shall not hunt here, for this Land is all mine. Then old  
Sighacka said, that he would goe hunt, & Catch Beavers, with  
that Mr. Dudley, Caught up a board, and said will you goe, and  
struck him upon the head, and caused the Blood to Run, and then  
the afor[e]s[ai]d Sighacka held up his arm to Defend the Blow. And  
Rec[eive]d the  
Blow upon his arm and Mr. John Gardiner stept in Between them  
and parted them. And the Indian Satt down on a block, and said  
th[a]t Mr. Dudley had broake his arm and w[i]th that I went to the Indian  
and took hold of his arm and felt on it and to the best of my under  
standing that there was one bone Broak Bettwen the Elbow & wrist.  
Two dayes after I see the Indian again and his hand & arm  
was very swelld & the Indian told me th[a]t the Bone was Broak  
& nine or tenn dayes ^after^ I see the Indian Goeing home and his arm was  
Splintered; And he said he would Goe tell King Blount; for

### Reflect & Discuss

What could Sighacka's connection be to King Blount (mentioned below)?

It is rare to see a statement (or paraphrase) from an indigenous person in these records. Reflect on the significance of this statement, "Englishmen here always scold." How might it shed light on the relationships between Sighacka and the English colonists?

Consider that Native American communities hunted on these lands for millennia before English colonists arrived and claimed it for themselves. How do you think the indigenous communities felt about this?

Richard Nixson seems to know both Sighacka and Mr. Dudley equally well. What kind of relationships could he have had with both parties?

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King Blount he said would Goe to Capt[ain] West & peace make it  
and further saith not.

Rich[ar]d [his "R" mark] Nixson

Jurat Corum Nobis

Gyles Shute

Joshua Porter

King Blount is Tom Blount, whom the English appointed chief of all Indians south of the Pamlico River. His role as liaison between the English colonists and indigenous people was likely a complicated one (source: [NCpedia](#)).

In related records, Sighacka is identified as a Tuscarora Indian, whose community waged war with the English between 1711 and 1715. By this date, c. 1722, few Tuscarora remained in the colony (source: [N.C. Museum of History](#)).