

Interactions between Colonists and Native Americans: Town Petition for Aid Against Potential Attack, c. 1716

Transcription

To the Honorable Robert Daniell Esq[ui]r[e] Deputy Governor
and the rest of the Honorable memb[e]rs in Counsel

The humble petition of the Inhabitants of Matchapengo

May it please yo[u]r honours

We whose names are hereunto subscribed do humbly adresse
yo[u]r honours not only in behalfe of ourselves the subscribers but
of all the Inhabitants of this place most humbly praying that
some speedy and effectual method may be taken for restraining
the insolency and continued abuses of the Matchapengo Indians
by killing and distroying our hoggs and beating our afor[sai]d neighbours
for endeavouring to prevent the same as Likewise the threatning
to take our lives away for discovery of these three villainies, to
prevent w[hi]ch King Charles¹ in his own person (whether out of policy
to see how wee would report it or out of Local <kindn[ess]...> to us wee
know not) came down in the night to give us no[torn]
since w[hi]ch and to this Instant they continue unpardonable [torn]
both in there speches and actions. In all things rather [torn]
desire to a War w[i]th us than a peace, and have accordingly [torn]
themselves nigh a Willdernesse whereupon the least intim[torn]
they can easily repair w[i]thout being pursued. Wherefore these thing[torn]
being taken for truthes, as we are ready to prove, & do therefore
hope and Confidently believe that yo[u]r honours will find it
part of yo[u]r Christian duty to see us defended from these
barbarous heathen, and that wee may not live in such dayly
Jeopardy of our lives. Wee likewise return our most humble

Reflect & Discuss

The Matchapengo, or Mattamuskeet, community inhabited present-day Hyde County. By 1701, the tribe was reduced to one single village through European conflict and illness. They fought against English colonists in the Tuscarora War between 1711 and 1715 (source: [NCpedia](#))

Consider how, in petitioning the colonial court, the English colonists used a legal system foreign to the Matchapengo, whose land they were inhabiting, to request assistance against the Native American tribe.

The townspeople display their religiocentrism when they solicit the governor's "Christian duty to see us defended from these barbarous heathen." Consider how this idea will continue to develop in American history.

¹ It seems like the petitioners are talking about a King Charles that they met in person, maybe a leader of the Mattamuskeet.

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and unfeighnd thanks to the Honorable Governore for his
kind and affectitonate Lett[e]r by w[hi]ch encouragem[en]t wee are
emboldend
to give yo[u]r honours this further Information not doubting but
to obtain reliefe by such ways as yo[u]r honours shall think
fitt to prescribe and yo[u]r petitioners as in duty bound will
ever pray.

N[i]cholas Daw

Charles Smith

John Brett

Richard Batchlore

Simon Foster

Henry Slaid

Richard Jasper

Robert Palmer [?]

Roger [Monnteang?]

William Wirr

James Welch

Henry Eborn