

Interactions between Colonists and Native Americans: Petition of Thomas Garrett, 1706

Transcription

October the: 17: 1706

Hon[o]r[a]bl[e] S[i]r I thought to a beane the bearer
myself but not being well at present haveing
a could [cold] I thought going from home might increase
itt therrefore I send you my son to give the [Acounte]
A counte a boutte the Indianes [??? ???]
they weare gon to meakearin Towne, no men at
the Cabins uppon Lewis williames Land. I
tould them to gettogether all the Indianes and I
would tell them my besines.

Then I warned them
of Lewis williames his land and to be gon with
therre towne and Cabins outhewise they must
expeckt to be forced of if they did not be gon
in] by the twenty day of this instant making
them senceable the meaning plane of this
warning making them senceable the evill and
danger they would bring uppon them selves if
they did not hasten a way by the time limited.
And After a long consultation a mongst them-
selves, their Answer it would Ruin them
to Remove now all Indianes is a going a great
way of a hunting now is the time a yeare to gett
skins be sides they must shell their towne be-
for they can Remove it and bark will note
strip now. They cannot brek up their cabins
a gaine neather have they Anny land to goe

Reflect & Discuss

Who granted Lewis
Williames this land? How
might you find out more
about his land grant?

Note the reasons the Native
Americans use to justify their
use of the land. What do they
have in common?

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tow for the great towne is full they say [word blotted out]
but this winter they will provide them selves
with land and Remove all they have by the
spring clear of Lewis Williames land they desire
to have liberty till the spring but if they
cannot have that liberty the Inglis may
work this winter uppon the land only they are
verry dutfull they will [Recure? Receive?] great damidgis
by Reson there towne and cabins lieth all
openthey desired that we might make no
lise of them for they heare som doth make
a great many lise of them.

They did not give
a mis be have ing word to Anny body but wea[re]
verry civell and kinde.

More reseons then
I doe heare expres in excuse for there not
removeing this winter.

Your humble servant to command,
Tho[mas] Garrett

Why is it significant that Thomas Garrett notes that the interaction was “verry civell and kinde”?

Based on the record, it appears Thomas Garrett was called as a witness in this case. Who may have filed the case? How could you find out more?