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

Transcription

October the 17: 1706

Hon[oor]abl[e] Sir 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 [Accounte]
A counte a boute the Indianes [??? ???]
they weare gon to meake in 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 otherwise 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, theire 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 theire towne be- for they can Remove it and bark will note strip now. They cannot brek up theire cabins a gaine neather have they Anny land to goe

Reflect & Discuss

Who granted Lewis Williams 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?

Source: Colonial Court Record 194, Box 1, Folder 12, Concerning Native Americans. State Archives of North Carolina. Call no. SR-401.6. Digital ID CCR_194_B1F12_Concerning_Native_Americans_1697_1769_051.
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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 Williams 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 damdgis by Reson theire towne and cabins lieth all openthey desired that we might make no lise of them for they heare som doth make a great manny 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 theire 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?