Transcription

To the Honorable Robert Daniell Esq[uir: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 destroyng our hoggs and beating our afor[sai]d neighbours
for endeavouring to prevent the same as Likewise the threatening
to take our lives away for discovery of these three villanies, 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 note since w[hi]ch and to this Instant they continue unpardonable [torn]
both in there speeches 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 Wildernesse whereupon the least intim[torn]
they can easily repair w[i]thout being pursued. Wherefore these thing[torn]
being taken for truthfe, 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

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

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

and unfeighnd thanks to the Honorable Governore for his kind and affectitone 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.

Nicholas Daw
Charles Smith
John Brett
Richard Batchlore
Simon Foster
Henry Slaid
Richard Jasper
Robert Palmer [?]
Roger [Monnteang?]  
William Wirr

James Welch
Henry Eborn

Source: Colonial Court Record 194, Box 1, Folder 12, Concerning Native Americans 1697-1769. State Archives of North Carolina. Call no. SR.401.6. Digital ID CCR_194_B1F12_Concerning_Native_Americans_1697_1769_027.