

present  
Henry Holland  
Peter van Brugh  
E. Branker  
Ph. Livingston  
John Blecker  
John Wondere  
E. Wondere

650

All meeting of the Com<sup>rs</sup> of the Ind.  
affair in Albany y<sup>e</sup> 21<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. 1723

Children

The Com<sup>rs</sup> having on the 30<sup>th</sup> ultimo desired  
the Indians Living at Schaakhook & places adjacent  
to come before them in pursuance whereof thirty two of  
appeared before this Board to whom was made the following  
speech

The Reason why we sent for you at this time is to  
Let you know that we are surpris'd to hear that your  
people have no settled place of abode. but go stragling &  
scatter one from another. and do not shelter yourselves  
under the tree of peace & friendship long since planted  
at Schaakhook under whose shadow you promised to Live &  
dye. this misfortune we impute to your having but  
few sachims, wherefore we thought proper that five or  
six of your wisest & leading men should be appointed  
as sachims over you to keep you together and that you do  
not straggle from under the shadow of y<sup>e</sup> tree of friendship

We are informed by Indians who we sent to  
Canada to observe y<sup>e</sup> motions of y<sup>e</sup> french & Indians there  
that they mett ten Indians and eight Squas of your nation  
in the Lake going thither we want to know what  
mord them to leave their native Country. we propose y<sup>t</sup> you  
do Joyn with us in sending for those & for those who are  
gone from you to Canada to come back to their Settlements

The Indians answerd

Fathers

As you said just now there has been a tree of friendship  
planted at Schaakhook which is there still. under whose  
shadow we intend to Live & dye. our v<sup>rs</sup> ancestors lived  
amicable together and did Eat of one meat when we had  
cut one slice we handed the knife over to them to Cut,  
we do still prefer to do the like with you and are Resolved

to stay in our native Country at Schaakhook those who are gone  
to Canada did not acquaint us with their design and do  
not know what reason they had to go thither. we desire you  
to believe that if the Gov<sup>r</sup> of Canada Invites us to go &  
Live there & would give us Land we should not go but  
stay here in this plentiful Country

our Nation that did Live & shelter themselves under  
the tree of friendship at Schaakhook were very numerous but  
are now few in number. we have brought you some  
vinifon the fruits of our plentiful Country as a present wh<sup>ch</sup>  
we desire you to accept from our hands as a token of our  
Loyalty.

What you have proposed of appointing some  
Sachims among us. and of sending messengers to Canada  
to fetch back those who are gone to Live thither we cant  
give you an answer to that present but defer it till  
to morrow morning.

Albany y<sup>e</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> novemb 1723

Fathers

The Schaakhook Indians answer to the Com<sup>rs</sup>  
Those Indians of our nation who went lately to Canada  
are gone thither with an intent to stay there for before  
their departure they committed Robberies at Sagaharogue  
and do think that it will be but fruitless to send for y<sup>m</sup>.

The tree that was planted at Schaakhook is grown  
to a vast height under whose shadow we have lived. plentifully  
but of late it has lost its principall nourishment  
so that the roots begin to be bare. for we have no but little  
Land to plant on and that is a very barren soil so y<sup>t</sup>  
the Ear of Corn grow very small and the inhabitants  
there do annoy us in our quiet & possession of y<sup>e</sup> Land  
and desire we may be Redressed give attiring of wampum