

## The Treaty of Lancaster (1744)

In the COURT-HOUSE Chamber at Lancaster, June 30, 1744, A. M.

P R E S E N T,

The Honourable the Commissioners of Virginia.

The Deputies of the Six Nations.

Conrad Weiser, Interpreter.

*Gachradodow, Speaker for the Indians, in Answer to the Commissioners Speech at the last Meeting, with a strong Voice, and proper Action, spoke as follows:*

*Brother Assaroga,*<sup>\*</sup>

THE World at the first was made on the other side of the Great Water different from what it is on this side, as may be known from the different Colours of our Skin, and of our Flesh, and that which you call Justice may not be so amongst us; you have your Laws and Customs, and so have we. The Great King might send you over to conquer the Indians, but it looks to us that God did not approve of it; if he had, he would not have placed the Sea where it is, as the Limits between us and you. . . .

THO' great Things are well remembered among us, yet we don't remember that we were ever conquered by the Great King, or that we have been employed by that Great King to conquer others; if it was so, it is beyond our Memory. We do remember we were employed by Maryland to conquer the Conestogoes, and that the second time we were at War with them, we carried them all off. . . .

YOU charge as with not acting agreeable to our Peace with the Catawbas, we will repeat to you truly what was done. The Governor of New-York, at Albany, in Behalf of Assaroga, gave us several Belts of Wampum from the Cherikees and Catawbas, and we agreed to a Peace, if those Nations would send some of their great Men to us to confirm it Face to Face, and that they would trade with us; and desired that they would appoint a Time to meet at Albany for that Purpose, but they never came. . . .

WE then desired a Letter might be sent to the Catawbas and Cherikees, to desire them to come and confirm the Peace. It was long before an Answer came; but we met the Cherikees, and confirmed the Peace, and sent some of our People to take care of them, until they returned to their own Country.

THE Catawbas refused to come, and sent us word, That we were but Women, that they were Men, and double Men, for they had two P—s; that they could make Women of us, and would be always at War with us. They are a deceitful People. Our Brother Assarogais deceived by them; we don't blame him for it, but are sorry he is deceived. . . .

WE have confirmed the Peace with the Cherikees, but not with the Catawbas. They have been treacherous, and know it; so that the War must continue till one of us is destroyed.

---

<sup>\*</sup> The Iroquois name for the Governor of the Virginia Colony, Thomas Lee.

<sup>†</sup> Onondago leader.

## The Treaty of Lancaster (1744)

This we think proper to tell you, that you may not be troubled at what we do to the Catawbas. . . .

*The Commissioners of Virginia Spoke as follows: . . .*

ALTHO' we have been disappointed in our Endeavours to bring about a Peace between you and the *Catawbas*, yet we desire to speak to you something more about them. We believe they have been unfaithful to you, and Spoke of you with a foolish Contempt; but this may be only the Rashness of some of their young Men. In this Time of War with our common Enemies the *French* and *Spaniards*, it will be the wisest Way to be at Peace among ourselves. They, the *Catawbas*, are also Children of the Great King, and therefore we desire you will agree, that we may endeavour to make a Peace between you and them, that we may be all united by one common Chain of Friendship. We give you this String of Wampum.

*Which was received with the Usual Ceremony.*

In the COURT-HOUSE at *Lancaster*, July 4, 1744 A.M.

P R E S E N T,

The Honourable *GEORGE THOMAS*, Esq., Governor, &c.  
The Honourable the Commissioners of *Virginia*.  
The Honourable the Commissioners of *Maryland*.  
The Deputies of the *Six Nations*.  
*Conrad Weiser*, Interpreter.

*CANASSATEGO* <sup>†</sup> *Speaker*.

*Brother Onas*,<sup>‡</sup>

YESTERDAY, you expressed your Satisfaction in having been instrumental to our meeting with our Brethren of *Virginia and Maryland*. We, in return assure you that we have great Pleasure in this Meeting, and thank you for the Part you have had in bringing us together, in order to create a good Understanding, and to clear the Road; and, in Token of our Gratitude, we present you with this String of Wampum. . . .

YOU was pleased Yesterday to inform us, "That War had been declared between the *Great King of ENGLAND* and the *French King*; that two great Battles had been fought, one by Land, the other at Sea; with many Particulars." We are glad to hear the Arms of the King of *England* were successful, and take part with you in your Joy on this Occasion. You then came nearer Home, and told us, "You had left your House, and were come thus far on Behalf of the whole People of *Pennsylvania* to see us; to renew your

---

<sup>†</sup> Onondago leader.

<sup>‡</sup> The Iroquois name for the Governor of the Pennsylvania Colony, George Thomas

## The Treaty of Lancaster (1744)

Treaties; to brighten the Covenant Chain, and to confirm your Friendship with us.” We approve this Proposition; we thank you for it. We own, with pleasure, that the Covenant Chain between us and Pennsylvania is of old Standing, and has never contracted any Rust; we wish it may always continue as bright as it has done hitherto; and, in Token of the Sincerity of our Wishes, we present you with this Belt of Wampum. . . .

YOU was pleased Yesterday to remind us of our mutual Obligation to assist each other in case of a War with the *French*, and to repeat the Substance of what we ought to do by our Treaties with you; and that as a war had been already entered into with the *French*, you called upon us to assist you, and not to suffer the *French* to march through our Country to disturb any of your Settlements.

IN answer, We assure you that we have all these Particulars in our Hearts; they are fresh in our Memory. We shall never forget that you and we have but one Heart, one Head, one Eye, one Ear, and one Hand. We shall have all your Country under our Eye, and take all the Care we can to prevent any Enemy from coming into it; and, in Proof of our Care, we must inform you, that before we came here, we told *Onantio*, our Father [the governor of Canada], as he is called, that neither he, nor any of his People, should come through our Country, to hurt our Brethren, the *English*, or any of the settlements belonging to them; there was room enough at sea to fight, there he might do as he pleased, but he should not come upon our Land to do any Damage to our Brethren. And you may depend upon us using our utmost Care to see this effectively done; and, in Token of our Sincerity, we present you with this Belt of Wampum. . . .

*Brother Assaroga;*

YOU told us Yesterday that all Disputes with you being now at an End; you desired to confirm all former Treaties between *Virginia* and us, and to make our Chain of Union as bright as the Sun.

WE agree very heartily with you in these Propositions; we thank you for your good Inclinations; we desire you will pay no Regard to any idle stories that may be told to our Prejudice. And, as the dispute about the Land is now intirely [*sic*] over, and we perfectly reconciled, we hope, for the future, we shall not act towards each other but as becomes Brethren and hearty Friends.

WE are very willing to renew the Friendship with you, and to make it as firm as possible, for us and our Children with you and your Children to the last Generation, and we desire you will imprint these Engagements on your Hearts in the strongest Manner; and, in Confirmation that we shall do the same, we give you this Belt of Wampum. . . .

YOU did let us know yesterday, that tho’ you had been disappointed in your Endeavors to bring about a Peace between us and *Catawbas*, yet you would still do the best to bring such a Thing about. We are well pleased with your Design, and the more so, as we hear you know what sort of People the *Catawbas* are, that they are spiteful and offensive, and

## The Treaty of Lancaster (1744)

have treated us contemptuously. We are glad you know these things of the *Catawbas*; we believe what you say to be true, that there are, notwithstanding, some amongst them who are wiser and better; and, as you say, they are your Brethren, and belong to the Great King over the Water, we shall not be against a Peace on reasonable Terms, provided they will come to the Northward to treat about it. In Confirmation of what we say, and to encourage you in your Undertaking, we give you this String of Wampum. . . .

We mentioned to you Yesterday the Booty you had taken from the *French*, and asked you for some of the Rum which we supposed to be Part of it, and you gave us some, but it turned out unfortunately that you gave us it in *French* Glasses, we now desire that you give us some in *English* Glasses.

THE Governor [of Virginia] made answer, We are glad to hear that you have such a Dislike for what is *French*. They cheat you in your Glasses, as well as in everything else. You must consider we are at a Distance from *Williamsburg*, *Annapolis*, and *Philadelphia*, where our Rum Stores are, and that altho' we brought up a good Quantity with us, you have almost drunk it out, but notwithstanding this, we have enough left to fill our *English* Glasses, and will shew the Difference between the Narrowness of the *French*, and the Generosity of your Brethren the *English* towards you.

THE Indians gave, in their Order, five *Yo-hahs*; and the honorable Governor and Commissioners calling for some Rum, and some middle-sized Wine Glasses, drank health to the *Great King of ENGLAND* and the *Six Nations*, and put an end to the Treaty by three loud Huzza's, in which all the Company joined. . . .