



Historical Documents

JOSEPH JOHNSON, LETTER, TO THE INDIANS AT NIANTIC, MOHEGAN, GROTON, STONINGTON, NARRAGANSETT AND MONTAUK, 1773 DECEMBER 24

Source: Original documents w/transcription – Occom Circle, Dartmouth College

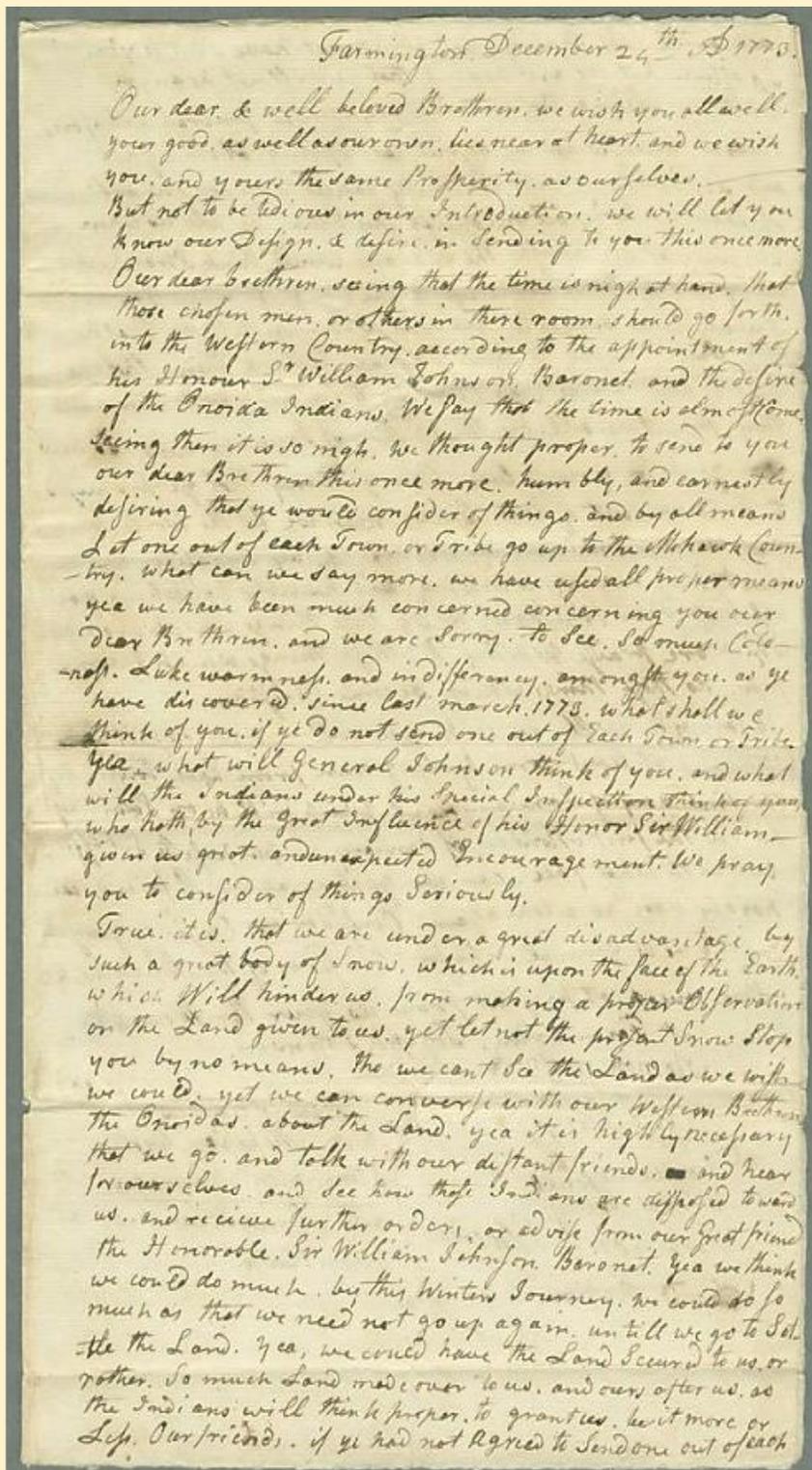
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Heading: Farmington[place0074.ocp]. December
[24th | 24th] AD 1773[1773-12-24].

Our dear. [& | and] well beloved Brethren. we wish you all well. your good. as well as our own. lies near at heart and we wish you and yours the same [Prosperity | prosperity]. as [ourfelves | ourselves]. — But not to be tedious in our Introduction. we will let you know our [Defign | design]. [& | and] [defire | desire]. in Sending to you this once more. Our dear brethren. seeing that the time is nigh at hand. that those [chofen | chosen] men. or others in [there | their] room. should go forth. into the [Weftern | Western] Country. according to the appointment of his Honour [Sr | Sir] William Johnson. Baronet. and the [defire | desire] of the [Onoida | Oneida] Indians. We [fay | say] that the time is [almoft | almost] Come. seeing then it is so nigh. we thought proper. to send to you our dear Brethren this once more. humbly, and earnestly [defiring | desiring] that ye would [confider | consider] of things. and by all means Let one out of each Town. or Tribe go up to the Mohawk Coun-try. what can we say more. we have [ufed | used] all proper means yea we have been much concerned concerning you our dear Brethren. and we are Sorry. to See. So much [Cold-ness | coldness]. [Luke warmness | lukewarmness]. and [indifferency | indifference]. [amongft | amongst] you. as ye have discovered. since last march. 1773[1773-03]. what shall we [illegible] think of you. if ye do not send one out of Each Town. or Tribe. Yea. what will General Johnson think of you. and what will the Indians under his Special [Inpection | inspection] think of you, who hath, by the Great Influence of his Honor Sir William — given us great. and unexpected Encouragement. We pray you to [confider | consider] of things Seriously.

True. it is. that we are under a great disadvantage by such a great body of Snow. which is upon the face of the Earth. which Will hinder us. from making a proper [Obfervation | observation] on the Land given to us. yet let not the [prefent | present] Snow Stop you by no means. [tho | though] we cant See the Land as we [wifh | wish] we could. yet we can [converfe | converse] with our [Weftern | Western] Brethren the [Onoidas | Oneidas]. about the Land. yea it is highly [necefsary | necessary] that we go. and talk with our [diftant | distant] friends. [illegible] and hear for ourselves. and See how [thofe | those] Indians are [difpofed | disposed] [to ward | toward] us. and [recieve | receive] further orders or [advife | advise] from our Great friend the Honorable. Sir William [Johnson | Johnson]. Baronet. Yea we think we could do much. by this Winters Journey. we could do [fo | so] much as that we need not go up again. [untill | until] we go to Set-tle the Land. Yea. we could have the Land Secured to us. or grant us. be it more or [Lefs | less]. Our friends. if ye had not Agreed to Send one out of each



Each Tribe last Spring. we would not have Sent to you So often. but we are hoping that ye will not be angry with us. Seeing that we have acquainted **General [Johnfon | Johnson]**, Several times. what we agreed last Spring. at **Mohegan**. and **Sir William** doth certainly expect you. or one out of Each Tribe by all means at this time. he told us when we were at his **[houfe | house]**. the Indians would think Strange if only two or three come up to the **[Congrefs | Congress]**. when Six, or Seven were expected. **General [Johnfon | Johnson]** told us. that he had Sent a word to them Indians telling them. that one out of Each Tribe was Coming to **[Converfe | converse]** with them. And they Expect us. all. by the **[10.th. | 10th]** Day of January next **[1774-01-10]**. So how can ye help **[yourfelves | yourselves]**. Can ye deny that ye **[promifed | promised]** to Send one out of Each Tribe. must we let the World know that we are Indians by Nature. **[& | and]** by Practice. but we must End. **[beging. | begging]**. **[intreating | entreating]**. and humbly **[befeeching | beseeching]** you all Our dear Brethren to do **[thofe | those]** things which are right. which are **[praise Worthy | praiseworthy]**. Do **[thofe | those]** things which become men. do **[thofe | those]** things which become **[Christians | Christians]**. So fare you well. we **[wifh | wish]** you well. and We expect **[illegible][guess (h-dawnd): Ind]** Indians at least Some young men from Each town. By the first day of January next **[1774-01-01]**. Which will be on Saturday.

So on the first Monday. of January **[1774-01-03]** we **[purpofe | propose]** to Set off. but with what face. can we go alone again. O friends we hardly dare [^][above] to [^]go alone again. **[Confider | Consider]** us. **[Confider | Consider]** your **[felves | selves]** **[confider | consider]** of **General [Johnfon | Johnson]**. **[Confider | Consider]** of the **Mohawks** **[&c | etc.]**:

[Closer]
thus much at **[prefent | present]** from us your Brethren at Farmington **[Jofeph | Joseph] Johnson**.

Solomon [Mafsuck | Massuck]
Elijah [Wimpy | Wympy]
Daniel [Mafsuck | Massuck]
Andrew Co[illegible]Comp
Solomon Adam
David Robin

Farmington December 24th 1773.

Our dear & well beloved Brethren. we wish you all well. your good as well as our own. lies near at heart. and we wish you. and yours the same Prosperity. as our selves. But not to be tedious in our Introduction. we will let you know our Design. & design. in sending to you this once more. Our dear Brethren. seeing that the time is nigh at hand. that those chosen men. or others in their room. should go forth. into the Western Country. according to the appointment of his Honour S^r William Johnson. Baronet. and the desire of the Onondaga Indians. We say that the time is almost gone. seeing then it is so nigh. we thought proper. to send to you our dear Brethren this once more. humbly. and earnestly desiring that ye would consider of things. and by all means let one out of each Town. or Tribe go up to the Mohawk Country. what can we say more. we have used all proper means yea we have been much concerned concerning you our dear Brethren. and we are sorry. to see. so much coldness. Like warmness. and indifference. amongst you. as ye have discovered. since last March. 1773. what shall we think of you. if ye do not send one out of each Town. or Tribe. yea. what will General Johnson think of you. and what will the Indians under his special Inspection think of you who both by the great Influence of his Honour Sir William. give us great. and unexpected Encouragement. We pray you to consider of things seriously.

True. it is. that we are under a great disadvantage by such a great body of Snow. which is upon the face of the Earth. which will hinder us. from making a proper Observation on the Land given to us. yet let not the present Snow stop you by no means. tho we cant see the Land as we wish we could. yet we can converse with our Western Brethren the Onondagas. about the Land. yea it is highly necessary that we go. and talk with our distant friends. and hear for our selves. and see how the Indians are disposed towards us. and receive further orders. or advice from our great friend the Honourable. Sir William Johnson. Baronet. yea we think we could do much. by this Winters Journey. we could do so much as that we need not go up again. untill we go to settle the Land. yea. we could have the Land secured to us. or rather. so much Land made over to us. and ours after us. as the Indians will think proper. to grant us. be it more or less. Our friends. if ye had not agreed to send one out of each

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Letter header

To the Indians
Concerning Oneida
Lands —
Dec, 1773
From Farmington

To—

All, Who are [truely](#) | [truly](#) Engaged in the Mohawk
Affair.

