

from Colin G. Calloway, comp., Revolution and Confederation
(v. 18 of Early American Indian Documents: Treaties
and Laws, 1607-1789 Alden T. Vaughan, general ed.
[Wash., D.C.: Univ. Press of Am., 1979 -])

Document 1

[ONEIDA DECLARATION OF NEUTRALITY]

[Correspondence of Samuel Kirkland, Hamilton College, 57b]

Kanonharoghare, June, 1775.

These may Certify all whom it may concern. That we the Chiefs, head men, councilors warriors, and youngmen of the Onoida nation, this day assembled together considng of affairs of importance, we say that these may certify all whom it may concern that we are altogether for Peace, and not only we of the Onoida nation. But other nations with whom we ar connected. Our desire is to be nutrail in these critical times—in these times of great confusion: we desire not to meddle with any disputers that are now in agitation. Let our English Brethren be assured of this truth that if we were called to assist them against any other Power that would not find us Backward in the Least. But we would Evidence to the world our regards for the English nation by fighting for their defence as in time past altho at the expence of our own lives, and Let all our New England Brethren be fully assured by these lines and the token of friendship we send with lines, that no one shall prevail with us, or persuade to take up arms against you our English Brethren. We will not give you the least disturbance—and we will exert our uttmost Endeavours to keep our Brethren the Six nations and others further Back from distrubing you in the Present difficult times. So Let all be easy in their minds we are for Paece; ye are Brethren that are at varience and this is the reason we desire to be nutrails. We are in sincerity your very dear and true-friends Indian of the Onoida nation and we hope that peace may be restored soon between Great Britain and her Colony.

Wrote by Jacob Reed,¹² an Onoida Indian, the Interpreter.

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