

Extracts

From the Proceedings of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs, volume 2, pages 278-280

Kirkland had been employed as a messenger to the Indians of the Cayuga country September 22, 1788, and returned to Albany December 15, making a verbal report to the Commissioners. They desired him to reduce his report to writing. The substance of his information, taken from his Journal, was as follows:

That he arrived at Kanadasagea the 30th of September; that he met a number of the Seneca and Cayuga nations, some approving and others being jealous of the Treaty held at Fort Schuyler. That they had been kept in a continual state of intoxication and dissipation for three weeks to prevent their going on to the Treaty. That Dr. B. (Benton) and Colo. M. (Mackinster) had between twenty and thirty riflemen in arms for twenty-four hours, and gave out severe threats against P. Ryckman and Col. Reed for being enemies to their party and friends to the Government, in persuading the Indians to attend the Treaty at Fort Schuyler, and they were ordered off the ground or to abide the consequences. That he communicated to a number of the Seneca and Cayuga nations the Treaties made with the Onondagoes and Oneidas at Fort Schuyler which the Governess of Genesee confirmed.

Oct. 13

That on the 13th he set off for Genesee where he arrived the next day², and visited the Big Tree at his village and fixed the stake for the southern line of Mr. Phelps' purchase at the Forks of the Genesee, set on by the Surveyors (being previously requested thereto by the Indians).

Oct. 18

That on the 18th, found that threats had been given out against the Onondaga chiefs Black Cap and Kagaghtoffen, by the Onondagoes residing at Buffalo Creek, on a supposition of their having no part in the consideration for the sale of the Onondagoes lands at the late Treaty, and blamed the Governor in the said charges.

a formal address he vindicated the conduct of the Governor and Commissioners, explained to them fully the principles of the Treaty, and that their jealousies had arisen from misrepresentation. This speech, for which they thanked him, produced the desired effect, the Indians being perfectly convinced and satisfied.

Oct. 22 Then he found it necessary to proceed further westward, and on the 22d arrived at Niagara, where he found the Infant with his company, and waiting on Col. Butler, from whom he received every necessary information respecting the disposition of the Indians. That Col^o Butler advised that if the intended Treaty at Albany should not succeed, it would be best to have one at Canadasaga or Buffalo Creek, and that two or three Commissioners might answer the purpose.

Oct. 25 That on the 25th he left Niagara and travelled on foot to meet a chief called Shendyoughwatte, the second man of influence among the Senecas of Buffalo, and had a conversation with him to good purpose as he supposes.

The next morning he reached the capital village on the Buffalo, where the Chief Sachem, called the Farmer's Brother, alias Oghewirewas², Assembled the Onondagoes and Cayugas, to whom he delivered the message and held a council, which was again opened the next morning; when, to remove their difficulties and reflections respecting the late Treaty as partial, he made an addition to the Governor's invitation belt by informing them that it was the Governor's intention to have had a general Treaty; that they had timely notice of it; that it was equally concerned for their good; and in case their Chiefs did not return from Muskingum by January, he would meet them at any place they should chuse from Albany to Buffalo Creek the next spring or summer. The Onondagoes were soon united in favour of the State and had the ascendancy in the Council. The Cayugas there had no voice in the Council, but expressed their

¹Arrived at the capital Oct. 31(K's Journal)

²Oghwaizewas (Journal)

approbation (by reason of the late death of their Chief Tegakager), all matters being adjusted with great peace and unanimity. The Farmer's Brother delivered three strings for the Governor, approving of his message.

The next day, at the Governesses' village in both places he informed the chiefs and warriors present of all that had passed at Buffalo Creek. He then went to the Big Tree, by whom he was addressed in the presence of the warriors in a speech favourable to the views of the State, and mentioned that there was a general expectation of the Indians holding a Treaty the ensuing spring if the same should not take place in the winter.

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(On October 29th, at Niagara, Kirkland received a pass from the British officer in charge, permitting him to go from Fort Erie to Buffalo Creek. The pass is with the Kirkland papers.)