



**CHEROENHAKA (NOTTOWAY) INDIAN TRIBE,
SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

**P.O. Box 397
Courtland, Virginia 23837**



"PEOPLE AT THE FORK OF THE STREAM"

*Recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia in The Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery
for the County of Southampton County On March 3, 1851 In the 75th Year of the Commonwealth,
Witness, Littleton R. Edwards, Clerk of Said Court
-Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe Vs Jeremiah Cobb-*

August 19, 2008

Subject: Recognition "petitioning" status of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe,
Southampton County Virginia – Concern: VCI Bias, Due Process and Fairness. Letter received
from Her Majesty the Queen of England's Senior Correspondence Officer

Virginia Council on Indians
Office of the Governor
ATTN: The Honorable Chief William P. "Bill" Miles
P. O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Chief Miles and Virginia Council on Indians (VCI) Council Members:


Reference(s):

- A. Negative Emails reference Chief Walt "Red Hawk" Brown and the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe – Helen Roundtree; Deanna Beacham, Karenne Wood, Linda Updyke, Felice Hancock, Sheila Stover Spencer, ect.**
 - B. Negative Letter sent of Chief Walt "Red Hawk" Brown from Chief Barry Bass, Nansemond Indian Tribe.**
 - C. Letter received from Her Majesty the Queen's Senior Correspondence Office.**
 - D. Letter of endorsement from the governing body of Southampton County Virginia to meet with the Queen to present three "symbolic Indian Arrows" – symbolic of an annual tribute paid by the tribe to the British Crown – Spotswood Treaty 1713.**
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- 1. Birth Certificate of Chief Walt "Red Hawk" Brown, Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe – certified by Commonwealth of VA as "Indian"
 - 2. Birth Certificate of Vice Chief Ellis "Soaring Eagle" Wright, Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe – certified by the Commonwealth of VA as "Indian."
 - 3. 'Letter of regret' Correspondence from VCI Chair Karenne Wood November 28, 2006.
 - 4. Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian letter to VCI addressing non response regarding revision of petitioning procedures for state recognition – November 20, 2006..

5. Letter from Tribal Attorney germane to improper handling of Letter of Intent to petition the VCI for State recognition, of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County, VA- February 28, 2006
6. Email to Senator L. Louise Lucas, info Senator Norment, Wipple and Dovolites Davis
7. Letter from Senator Tomas K. Norment, Jr. addressed to Chief Walt Brown, Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County VA recommending recourse through Office of the Attorney General – February 12, 2006..
8. Letter of Intent of file for State Recognition – February 9, 2006.
9. Board of Supervisors, Southampton County, Joint Resolution 0106-14-C, dated January 23, 2006, in support of Senate Joint Resolution No. 152 (SJ152), Extending State Recognition to the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe.
10. Copy of SJ152, offered January 18, 2006, General Assembly Session, tracking # 068223752.
11. Point Paper provided to Senator Lucas, Senator Quayle, and Delegate Tyler
12. Thank you letter from the Southampton County Assistant County Administrator reference the visit and viewing of the Hand Site Skeletal Remains at the NMNH, Washington DC.
13. Board Appointment by the Southampton County Board of Supervisors of Walt Brown to represent the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe as a Director to the STOP Organization.
14. Proclamation of recognition of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County by the Southampton, Sussex, Surry, Isle of Wight and Nottoway County Board of Supervisors – Peake Belt and Pipe Ceremony.
15. Southampton County Virginia Court authorization of Chief Walt David “Red Hawk” Brown III, effective February 2002, to perform the Rites of Matrimony IAW the customs and traditions of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe –certified as Chief of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County VA.
16. Joint Resolution of recognition by the WACCAMAW Tribal Government, recognizing the sovereignty of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County, Virginia.
17. Letter of Invitation to view the Hand Site Skeletal Remains at the NMNH, Washington, DC; to include email correspondence between Chief Brown and Dr. Lippert, Ph.D, Case Officer, Repatriation Program, NMNH..
18. Copy of letter from Kenneth E. Stuck, Cultural Resource Coordinator (Archaeologist), Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Transportation address to the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County, VA.
19. Letter of recognition and support from SC State Recognized Tribes: Chief James Caulder, Pee Dee Indian Tribe and Chief Louie Chavis, Beaver Creek Indians.
20. News Paper Clip, Tribal Member inducted in Sigma Theta International Honor Society of Nursing.
21. VCI Meeting Minutes November 15, 2005
22. VCI Minutes November 15, 2005, Appendix C: Motions brought to Council by At-Large Member Buck Woodard to have VCI acknowledged that the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe has a current acknowledged, recognized relationship with the county of Southampton, Virginia.
23. VCI Minutes of August 12, 2003 – Response Letter

24. Email from Danielle Moretti-Langholtz expressing concerns that the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe correspondence sent to the VCI Chair and Staff person was not treated with equal respect and IAW proper procedures.
25. Letter from Howard A. MacCord, Sr, Archelologist-retired, 27 July, 2005
26. Certificate of incorporation of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribal heritage Foundation – June 13, 2005
27. Thank you letter and Certificate of Appreciation from the Archeological Society of Virginia, Nansemond Chapter.
28. Certificate of Registration with the US Copyright Office, of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe's Shield & Heraldry – VA 1-256-506.
29. Email to Ms. Wood reference VCI Council Meeting on August 12, 2003
30. Email to Ms. Tilley reference request for meeting germane to incorporating Native American History into the SOLs – 4/2/2003.
31. Letter of Intent To File For Federal Recognition – December 7, 2002
32. Thank you letter to the VCI – September 20, 2002
33. Letter of Support From Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee – July 25, 2002
34. Issue I thru V, Waskehee – Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribal Journal archived in the collection of the Library of Virginia..
35. House Joint Resolution No 54 – State Recognition of six tribes – no VCI involvement.
36. **News Paper Feature Story** – Cheroenhaka Indian Tribe reconnects with remains of ancestors removed by 1960 archaeological dig – December 1, 2005
37. **News Paper Feature Story** - Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe elected Southampton County Native as Chief – Tidewater News May 9, 2002

Ah-ho Wa-Kos-te E-ni-ha Teerhee Miles, Tat-chi-wa wi-he Dur-tan-ha-ra – Greeting “Strong Man” Chief Miles and to this honorable council,

We greet you in the name of the Great Spirit,  the one true God, “Quaker – Hun-te,” our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

On behalf of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe we thank you and your honorable council for allowing us the time to speak regarding our concerns addressed in the subject of this letter that we shall read before the VCI.

First of all I would be remiss if I did not introduce my Vice Chief, Ellis “Soaring Eagle” Wright, who is as direct descendant of John and Rebecca Britt in that they were the recipients of their fair share of the last division of 575 acres of tribal reservation land in Southampton County in 1877. I also have with me my War Chief William Lamb Howell, grandson of William Lamb – the same William Lamb referenced in the writings of Floyd Paniter and the history of Southampton County by Parramore. I stand before you as Walt “Red Hawk” Brown, the elected Chief of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County Virginia and as a documented direct descendant of Mary Polly Woodson AKA Mary Turner and Pearson Turner. I am their 4th Great Grandson and the 5th Forster Great Grandson of Chief Edy Turner who raised Mary Polly Woodson and John Woodson. See 1850 Southampton County Census – Artis Town.

Since first standing before the VCI in 2002 we have looked forward to working with **"All"** VCI Members regarding the petitioning process as mandated by the code of Virginia; however, this does not change the fact, nor our claim, that we have a documented recognized relationship with the Commonwealth of Virginia, based upon supporting ethno historic and current documents. However, since that time we have been perplexed with what we perceived as Bias, an aborted Due Process and fairness when it comes to the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County, Virginia. This Bias and aborted Due Process and Fairness is clearly reflected in References A through D and in References 3 through 30.

We as the "Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County Virginia; to include, a personal attack on the undersigned, have been the blunt of Negative Emails and Letters generated by individual(s) selected as members of the VCI Recognition Committee, namely Dr. Helen Roundtree and Assistance Chief Earl Bass of the Nansemond Indian Tribe. Since the Negative emails are so great in number and since the time allotted will not permit us to read them at this meeting, we have attached them as enclosures to this letter for you review and action. We would remind you that according to the Tribal Recognition Criteria, any individual having a Bias against or for a petitioning organization, that the committee member must resign or may be removed by the Chair or a majority of the council. Bottomline, due to the documented Bias against the undersigned and the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County VA as a whole from these two members of the recognition committee we, the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County Virginia have ceased to present to this council our petition – knowing that as long as Dr. Roundtree sits on the recognition committee we will not receive fair justice; as such, we have chosen to present our case, per the advice of Senator Thomas Norment, to the Office of the Attorney General.

Another clear case of Bias on the part of the VCI Staff is the letter of concern germane to the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe meeting with the Queen of England, Jamestown 2007, as endorsed by the governing body of Southampton County Virginia (see reference C and D above). It has come to our attention that our request and the response that came from the office of Her Majesty the Queen came to the VCI Staff and that is where it stopped – our question is Why were we not informed?

It is somewhat perplexing, and perhaps even discriminatory, or even perceived as an "Act of Genocide" when "American Indians" as a race of people have been relegated to a place in our society and as controlled by the enacted laws of the Commonwealth, requiring an American Indian descendant to prove their ethnicity and / or "who you are" because of a "material error" by certain author(s). Such is the case with the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe. Even renown author Lewis R. Binford, see "Ethnohistory" Volume 14, Numbers 3-4, Summer-Fall 1967, in Articles: An Ethnohistory of the Nottoway, Meherrin Indians of Southeastern Virginia, Lewis Binford pg 103, imply that Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indians existed in 1940s and as a people were never terminated; however, within the Commonwealth, especially the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County, Virginia racial apartheid was practiced against my people came about as early as 1705 when our people were referred to as Mulatto. It is clear that this law was designed to include Virginia's American Indian Population among what the colonials referred to as "Colored" or Colored Population.

This is the case of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe here in Southampton County Virginia where our last known reservations lands were and even after a tribal group relocated to what became known in Southampton County as "Artis Town – Albert Artis and Caroline Bozeman; Pearson Turner and Mary Woodson Turner; Anderson Artis and Patcy Turner; Beadie Artis and Archie Brown, Eliza Brown Artis – cousins intermarrying within the group. Smiths, Boone (s). ect.

The fact remains that in searching the "Archives" in Richmond, Virginia for information germane to the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County, Virginia, one must look under to topic "Free Negro and Mulatto." Even key names as listed on the July 1808 Special Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Census as mandated in a letter by the Commonwealth of Virginia one will discover some of the same names, as listed by Southampton County Officials, on the "Free Negro and Mulatto List, St. Luke's Parish, 1819; 1822 -1850; to include the names of one William Bozeman, sometimes spelled Bozeman AKA Billy Woodson and Henry Turner.

As a final plea to all VCI Council Members, we would ask that based upon past and most recent negative correspondence and emails, which we have in our possession, as generated by Dr. Helen Rountree to certain VCI leadership, and one particular VCI Council Member, other state recognized tribal leaders; to include, select members of the Virginia General Assembly and the Archeological Society of Virginia, Nansemond Chapter, stating that there is a non-genealogical link of our tribal citizens with any of the 19th Century Nottoway that lodged in Southampton County, and the untruths she stated germane to the goals of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, including personal attacks on the name of the undersigned. As such, we respectfully request that Dr. Rountree be excluded from having any input germane to the petitioning process of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe Southampton County Virginia quest for State Recognition. Our request is further justified by the statements in her thesis of May 1977, *The Termination and Dispersal of The Nottoway Indians of Virginia*, Old Dominion University; wherein Dr. Rountree writes that the "*genealogical ties to the Nottoway tribe can no longer be readily traced.*" This statement makes clear, coupled with said negative emails that we as Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribal Citizens do not exist – question, as Native People, would you consider this an "Act of Genocide?"

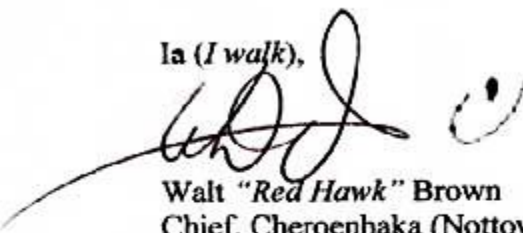
We also respectfully request that the VCI seriously entertain and consider the recognition that the five counties mentioned have documented under their respective county seal for the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County; to include, the Circuit Court of Southampton County Virginia along with three State Recognized Tribes in South Carolina. In doing so we further respectfully request per reference 20 and 21 that the VCI entertain a motion to recognize the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County Virginia as a "legal" and "documented" recognized Tribe in the County of Southampton County Virginia.

Again, we thank you for you time and in advance for the expeditious action your council will take germane to the request in this letter. We would like to take our remaining to time to address any questions you may have.

Quaker-Hun-te, EE Sun-ke Was-we-kr (Creator, My Heart Speaks)

"May your walk in this sacred circle of life make better the walk of another"

Ia (I walk),



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Cc:

- Office of the Attorney General
- All Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe Council Members & The Board of Directors of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribal Heritage Foundation, Inc..