



I should be glad to converse with You on this interesting and difficult subject, but I feel confident that You will <sup>not</sup> recommend any thing that you do not think conducive to the welfare of the Indians.

Very respectfully,  
Your Friend,

Leavitt Thaxter,

Hon. John Milton Earle,  
Indian Commissioner.

P.S. <sup>Elango</sup> Aunt Kelly Joseph of Chappaquiddic wishes me  
state to You her claims against her two sisters, deceased,  
viz. Against Betsey Carter, for services &c \$ 36.00  
" Peggy Letters, for board &c 3 06.00

Altho you have no authority to settle the above, yet  
such a case shows that some provision should be made  
by the State, that she should perform all her obligations.

The Indians have been and are quasi minors and  
wards of the State, who has voluntarily assumed  
Guardianship over them.

\* Formerly Aunt Kelly Goodrich now Aunt Kelly Joseph

3 I am not surprised that You was not prepared for  
the statement of the Guardian of the Chép. and Christian Missions  
Indians. My answer to Question 1<sup>st</sup> on p. 72 of the Report  
of the Indian Commissioners in 1848 was true then,  
and is equally true now, especially of the Gaspéquidic  
Indians. Mr Marchant, to say the least, has  
done them a grievous wrong.

Levitt Shattler.

Learwith Thapton

Edgartown, Jan. 28, 1860

My Dear Sir,

Deacon Simon Johnson of Gay Head is now with me, and expresses some anxiety for the interests of his people. He thinks that some one has written you, to the purpose that the people of Gay Head desire a division of the lands.

The Deacon thinks a division of the land will not promote the best interests of the people, but will be injurious to them, and this I think is the opinion of most of the people there, who are not foreigners.

The Committee on the Indians in Duke's County in 1827 reported a Bill which was ordered to be printed and distributed among the Indians for whose benefit the Bill was intended – March 10, 1827.

I trust that no final action will be taken on any bill relative to the Indians, till they shall have an opportunity to examine its provisions.

I fear the consequences of any material change, especially relative to the Indians of Gay Head, who are differently situated than any others, especially, from their isolated position.

I should be glad to converse with you on this interesting and difficult subject, but I feel confident that You will not recommend any thing that you do not think conducive to the welfare of the Indians.

Very respectfully,

Your Friend,

Leavitt Thaxter

Hon. John Milton Earle  
Indian Commissioner

P.S. \*Aunt Eleanor Nelly Joseph of Chappequiddic wishes me [to] state to You her claims against her two sisters, deceased,

\_\_\_\_\_ Against Betsey Carter, for services. \$36.00

“ Peggy Peters, for board. \$306.00

Altho You have no authority to settle the above, yet such a case shows that some provision should be made by the State, that she should perform all her obligations.

The Indians have been and are quasi minors and wards of the State, who has voluntarily assumed Guardianship too them.

I am not surprised that You w[ere] not prepared for the Guardian of the Chap. and (Christiantown Indians. My answer to Question 1 on p. 72 of the Report of the Indian Commissioners in 1848 was true then and is equally true now, especially of the Chappequiddic Indians. Mr. Merchant, to say the least has done them a grievous wrong.

Leavitt Thaxter

\* Formerly Aunt Nelly Goodrich, now Aunt Nelly Joseph