

Deed for the Susquehanna, 1700

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This deed granted the English rights to the Susquehanna River. Having different understandings of property and human relationships to the land, the Indian leaders who signed this deed likely assumed they were granting use rights to the river, not selling the river itself. Such misunderstandings were common in Native-European land and property negotiations.

We Widaagh alias Orytyagh and Andaggy-junkguagh, Kings or Sachems of the Sasguehannah Indians and of the River under that name and Lands lying on back sides thereof do Declare That for and in consideration of a Parcel of English Goods unto us given by our friend and Brother William Penn, Proprietary and Governour of Pennsylvania and also in consideration of the former much greater costs and charges the said W^m Penn hath been at in treating about and purchasing the Same We do hereby give grant and confirm unto the said Wm Penn all the said River Sasquehannah and all the Islands therein and all the Lands Situate lying and being upon both Sides of the said River and next adjoining to the Same extending to the utmost confines of the Lands which are or formerly were the Right of the People or Nation called the Sasquehannah Indians or by what name soever they were called or known, and also all Lakes, Rivers, Rivulets, Fountains, Streams, Trees, Woods, Underwoods, Mines, Royals, and other Mines, Minerals, Quarries, Hawkings, Huntings, Fishings, Fowlings, and other Royalties, Priviledges and Powers whatsoever to them or any of them belonging or by them enjoyed as fully and amply in all Respects as we or any of our Ancestors have could might or ought to have held or enjoyed. And also al the Right, Title, Interest Possession, Claim and Demand which we or any of us or the said nation or any in Eights of the same have or hereafter can or may claim to have in the Same. And we do hereby Notify and Confirm unto the said W^m Penn ye bargain and Sale of the said Lands made unto the [coll?] Thos Dougan now Earl of Limerick and formerly Governour of New York whose Deed of Sale to the Governour Penn we have seen To have & to hold the Sd River Lands and Premisses hereby granted and confirmed with their and every of their Rights, Members, and Appurtenances unto the s^d W^m Penn his heirs and assigns. To the only proper use and behoof of the S^d Wm Penn his heirs and assigns for forever. In Witness whereof we have for our Selves and Nation herewith Sett our Hands and Seals the Thirteenth Day of Sept. 1700.

His Widaagh X als Orytyagh Mark His Andaagy X Junquaagh Mark