

sat down a while and cried tears for them. Indians think white men who kill for sport are murderers.

Tell your children of the friendly acts of Indians to the white people who first settled this country--of Squanto, Somesett and Massasoit and the tribes that kept them from starving. Tell them of Indians such as Black Partridge, Shob-bo-na and others who many times saved the people of Chicago at a great danger to themselves.

Tell of the Indians part in the past world wars, that the larger percent volunteered and was not drafted; that many Indian fought for a country of which they, at the time, were not citizens; for a flag to which they had no claim and for a people that had treated them unjustly.

The Indian has long been hurt by these cruel injustices yet we do not wish to forever relive the bitterness of the past. We ask only that our story be told fairly. We do not ask your historians to overlook nor condone our deeds; but we do ask that they try to understand them. Only then may an impartial picture be presented.

The aboriginal of no other nations has a more picturesque history or stronger characteristic background than the North American Indian.

Our historians have been almost, exclusively concerned with influence emanating from Europe. A comprehensive study of the impact of Indian culture on American society would reveal some important insight into the contributing cultural elements that make America what it is today.

The material and institutional impact of Indian culture remains inadequately understood and largely underestimated.

Space permits only a few of such contributions:

The changes that American Indians wrought in the lives of our pioneers were far more impressive and less destructive than any change white teachers have yet brought to Indian life. Indian modes and methods were functionally adapted to their physical environment. Those who did not had a hard time surviving the rigors of a new country.

Four-sevenths of our national farm produce consists of plants domesticated by Indian botanists of pre-Columbian times. Indian agricultural products also had a tremendous impact on the European economy. Methods of planting, irrigation, cultivation, storage, and utilization were also acquired from the Indians by the pioneers.

In medicine as in the production of food and textiles, the conventional picture of the Indian as an ignorant savage is far removed from the truth. Cocaine, Quinine, cascara, sagra, ipecac, arnica and other drugs were developed and used by the Indian before Columbus landed. In the 400 years that physicians have been examining and analyzing the flora of America they have not yet discovered a medicinal herb unknown to the Indians. The social significance of such material contribution is impressive.