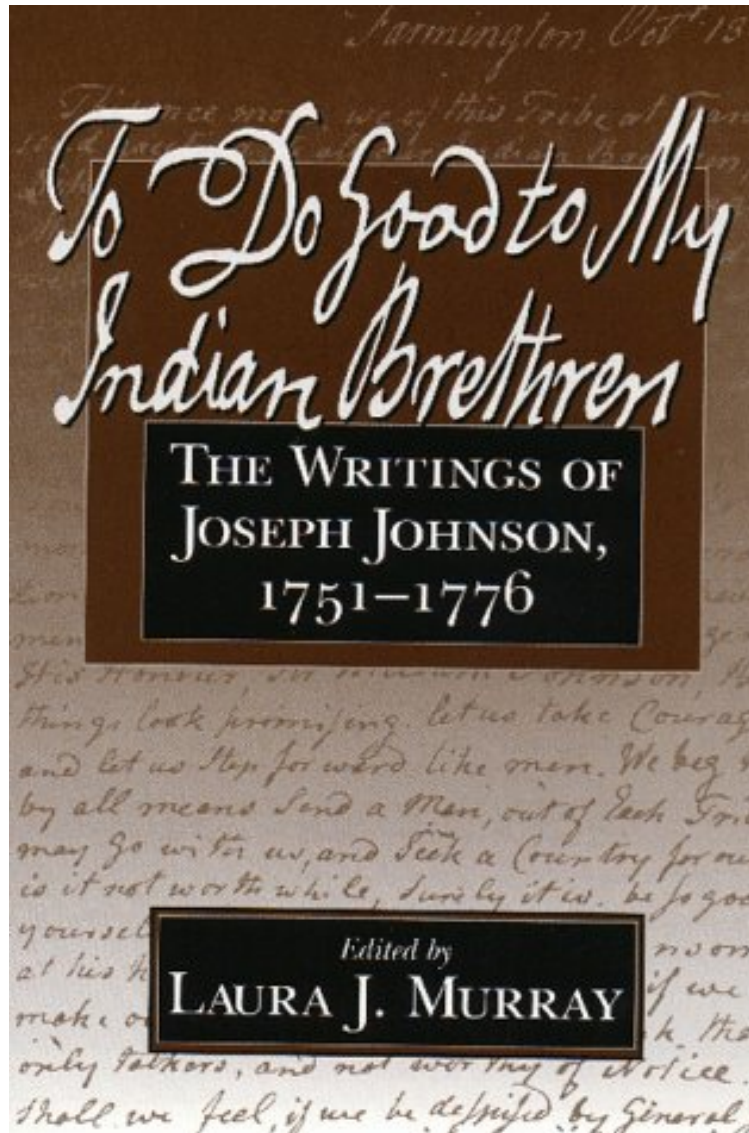


[Download] To Do Good to My Indian Brethren: The Writings of Joseph Johnson, 1751-1776 (Native Americans of the Northeast)

## To Do Good to My Indian Brethren: The Writings of Joseph Johnson, 1751-1776 (Native Americans of the Northeast)

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From Brand: Univ of Massachusetts Pr : To Do Good to My Indian Brethren: The Writings of Joseph Johnson, 1751-1776 (Native Americans of the Northeast) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To Do Good to My Indian Brethren: The Writings of Joseph Johnson, 1751-1776 (Native Americans of the Northeast):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. To Do Good To My Indian BrethrenBy DBThe book arrived on time and in good condition. I bought the book since I can trace ancestors to Farmington, Connecticut and since my family used to live on the land of the Brothertown Reservation. I have paged through the book briefly enough to determine that I will find no information directly related to my family's history. I will wait until late fall when I have more time to sit down and read this book with intensity. I thoroughly enjoyed reading "Red Bretheren" [about the Brothertown and Stockbridge Indians] so I am certain that this book will broaden my appreciation.Added later: It is a slow read but worth the time. The author successfully allows the reader to traverse time explaining the cultural mindset behind these writings of the mid 1770's. I learned how to free my mind from interpretations based on modern day culture and logic. There is one quote I found especially interesting but I could not locate it again to state the page. It was from a convert expressing anger about his introduction to religion. This convert said he before he would have no remorse for his actions (as killing, etc) but now he could no longer do these things. Perhaps that is what civilization is about.The book appears to be published without pages 173 to 204. I hope I did not miss interesting details on these pages.

This book brings together the writings of Joseph Johnson, a Mohegan Indian preacher, schoolteacher, and leader of the movement to relocate eastern Christian Indians to "Brotherton" in upper New York state. Johnson's diaries, written between 1771 and 1773, document daily life in the Indian Christian communities of Mohegan and Farmington, Connecticut, with a remarkable richness and intimacy. His letters to his teacher, Eleazar Wheelock, and other white benefactors, as well as to his fellow Native Americans reveal both an uncommon talent for diplomacy and a powerful vision of Indian solidarity. Commentary by Laura J. Murray illuminates the meaning of Johnson's writings in their historical context. One essay traces the cultural changes and political conflicts at Mohegan in the generations before Johnson's; other essays illuminate the rhetorical challenges Johnson faced as a literate Indian in the eighteenth century.

From Library JournalThese transcriptions of diaries, letters, and sermons of Johnson, a Mohegan (Mohican) teacher and visionary leader, break stereotypes. With prominent ancestors and literate parents, Johnson lived in a community that valued both Mohegan and European cultures. His writing style, learned under the tutelage of Eleazer Wheelock, founder of Dartmouth College, is indistinguishable from that of other writers (Indian or white) trained in prerevolutionary missionary schools, but attention to editor/author Murray's interpretation reveals issues and facts about Mohegan life, including plans for "Brotherton," a Christian Indian town, realized only after the Revolution and Johnson's death. Murray (English, Queen's Univ., Kingston, Ontario) emphasizes the individual writer, following such examples as James Axtell's *The Invasion Within* (1985). Johnson's humility is striking, as is his commitment to his people. This book makes another Indian "voice" more accessible and gives helpful instruction in the genres and forms of early American writing. Recommended for all Native American collections and for academic libraries.?Margaret W. Norton, IHM High Sch. Lib., Westchester, Ill. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. "An impressive piece of work. The writings themselves are carefully transcribed and thoughtfully and thoroughly annotated. In addition, there are quite lengthy introductory sections on aspects of Mohegan history and on the general context of Indian writing. All in all, Murray does a very good job of indicating the various contexts in which Johnson's writings can be seen as both interesting and significant. . . . A valuable addition to the scholarly material available on Indian writers."David Murray, University of NottinghamAbout the AuthorLaura J. Murray is assistant professor in the English department at Queen's University.