

ALLENVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH
(BAPTIST)

H. E. MANSFIELD, MINISTER

ALLENVILLE, WISCONSIN

July 28, 1934.

Mr. Otto E. Heller,
Chilton, Wisc. Route 3.

My dear Mr. Heller:-

In accordance with my promise, I am handing you herewith the original copy of my little play prepared for the pilgrimage to Brothertown on Aug. 5.

I cannot pretend that I am satisfied with it. I was limited to only 20 or 25 minutes for the presentation. I am to have but four days to prepare a cast to present it from the Young People at the Green Lake Assembly. And these young people are going to be plenty busy with other matters during the early days of the assembly. Costumes had to be provided for blindly before I knew what types would appear in the cast.

Of course, a playwright, even though dealing with historical material, cannot be bound to present it in strict history. A play is after all a matter of the imagination, whatever the foundation of the action may be.

I simply assume that when the Brothertown Indians came to the land of their purchase, there would probably be some consultation with the former owners of the land.

I must assume that there would in nature be some opposition to the proposal that a strange tribe of Indians should be settled in the heart of the hunting grounds of the original possessors of the land.

Particularly, I am warranted in assuming that since these were Christian Indians coming into a community of pagan Indians, the man most threatened by their coming would be the tribal medicine man, for reasons of religion if not for social and economic reasons. So I have presented a council, with a clash of interest in the field of social and economic values represented by Three Suns and with a more intense and bitter clash in the field of religion where the opposition is symbolized by Black Panther, the medicine man.

I do not offer the play, no man can offer any play, saying "this is the way it was". The best one can do is to say, "It might have been this way". That is what I have tried to do.

It is not good dramatic writing. The speeches are too long and it is deficient, necessarily in action. On the other hand there is a dramatic moment when things hang in the balance and I hope there may be a certain picturesqueness in the scene to overcome the deficiencies in action.

It lives and dies for just the brief moment it occupies in a little spot of woods on the lake-side in Brothertown. It has no future. But I thought you might care to preserve the original copy with your historical material and so such as it is, I have given myself the honor and pleasure of dedicating it to you, who have so assiduously gathered up the scanty remnants of an unobtrusive but significant page of the red man's history in Wisconsin. More power to you. I look forward with much interest to meeting you again on August 5th, and meanwhile if you find some detail in my play which is just too obviously anachronistical to be borne if you will write me at the following address at once, I'll see what can be done about it.

Yours very sincerely,

H. E. Mansfield,

H. E. Mansfield
Green Lake Baptist Assembly
Green Lake,
Wisconsin.