

Memorial of John W. Quinney

*To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives
of the United States, in Congress assembled:*

FATHERS: I pray your listening ear. I am a true Native American, descended from one of those characters, whose memory every true American reveres. My grandfather, David Nau-nau-neek-nuk, was a warrior, and he assisted your fathers in their struggle for liberty. (See paper marked A, hereto appended).

I was born in the year 1797, and, while yet a lad (I gratefully acknowledge it), received a common English education under the patronage of the United States. The papers hereto annexed, marked B and C, show that there were two other lads educated with me; but I am left alone to tell the story of their death, a few years after their return from school. The great Sovereign of the Universe has showed great mercy, and enabled me to answer some purpose of my education. My lot was cast among an interesting people, the old friends of the United States, the Stockbridge Nation, who were just emerging from a state of barbarism into civilization, and I was employed by them to impart that instruction I had received, to their youth. By a constant and unwearied attention in this business, I gained the confidence and good will of all, so that when I arrived to years of manhood, I was immediately transferred to attend to the affairs of the nation. Here I would frankly acknowledge, that although but poorly qualified for public employment, yet, as the tribe lacked educated men, I being young and aspiring for usefulness, consented to undertake and do what I could. I moreover felt under great obligations to my benefactors, who gave me education, and animated