

Wright, Asher

Author: [Ute Ferrier](#)

Editors: Peter R. Eisenstadt and Laura-Eve Moss

Date: 2005

From: [Encyclopedia of New York State](#)

Publisher: Syracuse University Press

Document Type: Brief article

Length: 222 words

Lexile Measure:1170L

(b Hanover, NH, 1803; d Cattaraugus Indian Reservation [loc in Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Erie Cos], 13 Apr 1875). Missionary to the Seneca Indians. Attending first Dartmouth College and then Andover Theological Seminary, Wright graduated in 1831 and was ordained the same year. He began his missionary work for the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and moved to the Buffalo Creek Reservation [now in Erie Co], where he translated biblical texts and hymns into Seneca. In 1833 he married Laura Sheldon, who joined him at the mission. The Wrights produced language-teaching materials, including the Spelling Book in the Seneca Language with English Definitions (1842), and later translated the Gospels into Seneca. Wright opposed the Treaty of Buffalo Creek of 1838 in which the Seneca lost all of their major New York State reservations. Together with the Society of Friends he helped secure the Compromise Treaty of 1842. Under this treaty the Seneca retained ownership of the Allegany and Cattaraugus Reservations but were displaced from the Buffalo Creek and Tonawanda reservations. In 1845 the Wrights relocated to the Cattaraugus Reservation and in 1855 established the Thomas Indian School.

Fenton, William N. "Toward the Gradual Civilization of the Indian Natives: The Missionary and Linguistic Work of Asher Wright (1803-1875) among the Senecas of Western New York," *American Philosophical Society Proceedings* 100 (1956): 567-81

Ferrier, Ute



Source Citation

Ferrier, Ute. "Wright, Asher." *Encyclopedia of New York State*, edited by Peter R. Eisenstadt and Laura-Eve Moss, Syracuse UP, 2005, p. 1728+. *Gale Academic OneFile*, link-gale-ca.orc.scoolaid.net/apps/doc/A194199232/AONE?u=nysl_we_caew&sid=sru&xid=bc106e92. Accessed 9 Jan. 2024. (Ferrier).