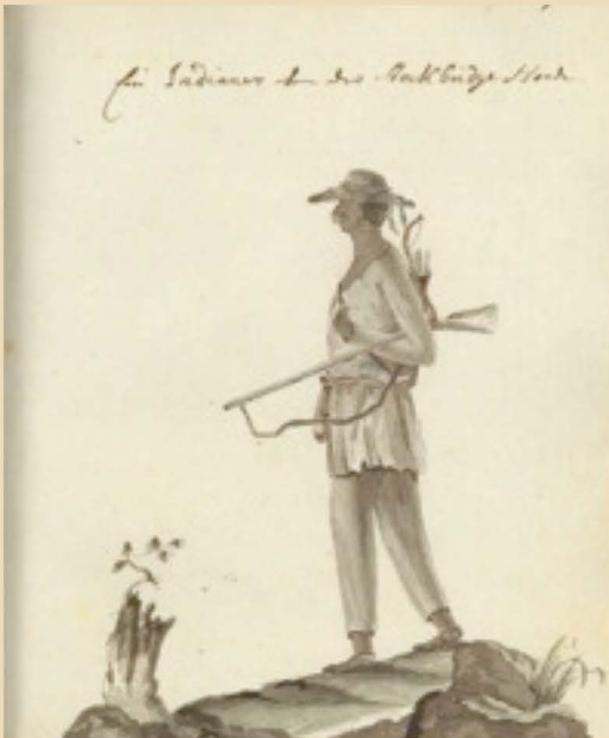


Deeds of our Past: Stockbridge Indian Lands and Colonial Bonds Exhibit Catalog



July 15, 2021 - January 8, 2022
46 Main Street, Stockbridge, MA 01262
www.stockbridgelibrary.org

***Deeds of our Past and Colonial Bonds 2021 Exhibit
July 15, 2021-January 8, 2022
Biographies
and
Transcriptions of Deeds***

Short biographies of English Colonists and Stockbridge Indians who signed the deeds and documents featured in this exhibit.

Colonists:

Samuel Brown, Sr. was a deacon in the church at Watertown, MA and a tailor by trade. Brown's father had been Ephraim Williams' guardian after his father died. That may have led to Brown being invited to Stockbridge as head of one of the four founding families. Around 1748, Brown acquired 800 acres from the Stockbridge Indians without General Court approval, hence it was illegal. During an investigation by a committee sent out from Boston, the Mohicans complained that Brown carved out an additional 19 acres of their land, which he added to the original 800. At an illegal 1763 town meeting, Brown and Ephraim Williams pushed through an article for a road that benefited only themselves.

Samuel Brown, Jr. son of Samuel Brown, Sr. He acquired a mile square of land west of Lake Mahkeenac and a number of other parcels, which apparently were never recorded at the Registry of Deeds. He was a deacon of the Congregational Society. Brown owned a mill on the outlet of Lake Mahkeenac. His house was on the north side of Larrywaug Cross Road at the North Church Street intersection. (Larrywaug Cross Road was called Brown's Hill Road.)

Timothy Dwight: (1727-1777). Dwight was married to Mary Edwards daughter of Reverend Jonathan Edwards. By order of the Colonial Great & General Court, he established the Indian Proprietorship in May 1750. Dwight also surveyed Stockbridge lots for the Indian Proprietorship between 1750-1752.

Timothy Edwards: (1738-1813). Born in Northampton, MA, Edwards was a judge and eldest son of Reverend Jonathan and Sarah (Pierpont) Edwards. A 1757 graduate of The College of New

Jersey (Princeton), he became a merchant in Elizabeth, N.J. He came to Stockbridge around 1770 and was a leading citizen for 43 years, and sat as judge of probate for Berkshire County. He and his wife, Rhoda Ogden, had 15 children. He died in Stockbridge.

William Goodrich: (1734-?). Born in Sheffield, MA, he moved to Stockbridge where he was a tavern keeper. In 1774-1775, Goodrich commanded a Stockbridge Unit of Indian Minute Men. By 1775, he enlisted Stockbridge Rangers into the Massachusetts regiment during the American Revolution. Between 1736-1786, Goodrich purchased many tracts of Stockbridge Indian lands through unscrupulous means, amounting to over a thousand acres of land. By 1788, many of Goodrich's ventures failed. He was married to Sybil Woodbridge, daughter of Timothy and Abigail Woodbridge; they had two children; Sybil died at age 39.

William Gregg: Both the Wappinger Tribe and the Mohicans had a common interest in protecting their claims to lands in New York and Massachusetts. William Gregg, Jr. a wealthy man was interested in acquiring land and betting that if he helped both tribes, he would gain possession of land in the traditional Wappinger homeland. (By 1700 the Wappingers merged with the Mohicans to become one tribe.) In May of 1766, a deal was struck with William Gregg, Daniel Nimham, Jacob Cheeksaunkun, Solomon Uhhaunauwaunmut and John Naunauphtaunk who agreed to serve as tribal delegates to King George II for all the New York claims. Gregg agreed to lay their claims before the king and other officials. Since they expected to spend a long time in England, Gregg drew up *The Articles of Agreement*, which agreed to fund the men for three years for "meat, drink, apparel, lodging and washing fitting gentlemen," and to pay for their return home. Gregg, in turn, would receive a deed or, for ten shillings a year, a 999-year lease to a twelve-mile square tract of land of his choosing. Solomon, John, and Jacob would also act as Gregg's servants while in England. The contract was signed on May 29th, effectively binding the four Mohicans to a penalty of £10,000 for default. Mohican Wisdom for a Life Well Lived:
<https://theberkshiredge.com/stockbridge-mohican-wisdom-on-a->

life-well-lived-a-conversation-with-mohican-delegation-in-london-1766/

Larry Lynch: Born in Ireland (date unknown) and died in Stockbridge in 1814, Lynch married Dorcas Root of Great Barrington and together they had 14 children. In 1766, Lynch purchased 50 acres from Solomon Uhhannauwaunmut for 30 pounds (English currency), on the site of the Berkshire Botanical Gardens (intersection of highways 102 and 183) also known as "Larrywaug."

Phinehas Morgan: (1741-1779). The son of Miles and Lydia (Day) Morgan, his name appears in a list of men mustered in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, to serve in Captain Chadwick's company, Colonel Brewer's regiment, by a return made by Truman Wheeler, muster master; term of enlistment, three years or during the war; mustered between January 30, 1777, and June 1, 1778; second, he appears with rank of corporal in the Continental army, pay accounts of Captain Mean's company, Colonel Sproset's regiment, for services from February 1, 1777, to June 6, 1779, credited to the town of Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Reported dead June 6, 1779, he appears with rank of corporal on a muster return of Captain Chadwick's company, Colonel Brewer's regiment, dated in camp, June 22, 1778, belonging to Stockbridge, enlisted for Stockbridge, mustered by Truman Wheeler, returned by order of council December 26, 1777, reported on furlough. (Massachusetts War Archives, vol. 10, p. 278.) He married, and had issue.

Daniel Phelps: Born in Akron, NY in 1745. Since his siblings were reportedly born in Great Barrington or Salisbury, CT, so it's likely he was a native of the Connecticut River Valley. Phelps was part of the Stockbridge militia company that set out for the siege lines near Boston. According to reports published in Stockbridge: *Past and Present; Or, records of Old Mission Station* as published by Electa Fidelia Jones in 1845:

Daniel Phelps, being an officer, was asked one day by a company of his associated assembled...to give them the manual exercise. Accordingly, he took his seat, and, being first armed with guns which were standing by, they arranged themselves before him.

When an order was given to “take aim”, one man pointed his piece directly towards Captain Phelps. He was requested to turn it to one side, which he did, though probably one supposed it to be loaded. Yet, when Captain Phelps pronounced the word “fire”, Mr. Y. again pointed the gun directly towards him; and its contents, entering the right breast of the officer, took an oblique direction, boring the lungs, and lodging in the back bone. This was inferred at least from his appearance, a numbness in all parts below the ball taking place immediately. As soon as surgeons had searched the wound, he asked if it was mortal, and was answered “Yes.”

Records at that time note that Phelps was not an officer, much less a captain since Captain Thomas Williams commanded his company. Phelps may have been ranked as a corporal or sergeant, or his family might have assumed he was of a higher rank after learning about how he was wounded.

Ephraim Williams, Sr: Williams was the son of Isaac Williams. He lived in Newton, MA for forty-five years. His first wife was Elizabeth Jackson, daughter of Abraham and Elizabeth (Biscoe) Jackson. Their child, Ephraim, Jr. was born in 1714 or 1715. After Elizabeth died in 1718, Ephraim, Jr. was sent to live with his grandparents. In 1738, father and son were reunited after they came to Stockbridge when Ephraim Sr. married the sister of Josiah Jones, head of one of the four founding Colonial families in Stockbridge. He acquired much of his vast property holdings through numerous erroneous land deals with the Stockbridge Indians.

Ephraim Williams, Jr: (1715-1755) was the eldest son of Ephraim Sr. and Elizabeth Jackson Williams. He was born in Newton, Massachusetts and raised by his maternal grandparents after his mother died giving birth to a second child. A soldier and slave holder, Ephraim Jr. was from family of landowners in western Massachusetts. In his last will and testament, Ephraim, Jr, left funds to establish a school to serve as an academy for "the Promoting & propogating [sic] Christian knowledge amongst the Indians at

Stockbridge." However, this effort was thwarted by his political rivals after his death. The school was subsequently founded in 1791 and converted to Williams College by action of the state legislature in 1793.

Timothy Woodbridge: (1709–1774). Woodbridge served as a missionary, deacon, schoolteacher, judge and Superintendent of Indian Affairs. Woodbridge spent his adult life in Stockbridge teaching Native Americans to read and write, Christianity and English culture and customs. He was instrumental in the purchase of large land tracks in Western New England from Native Americans, including modern-day Lenox and Alford, MA.

Stockbridge Indians:

Several Stockbridge Indian leaders emerged, including members of the *Yokun* and *Mtohksin* families.

Hendrick Aupaumut: Hendrick Aupaumut (1757-1830) was a respected Mohican sachem, attorney, diplomat and historian. He was well-known for his diplomatic acumen in brokering peace between other indigenous tribal nations and an unstable United States in its infancy, shortly after the end of the Revolutionary War. Born in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, he was instrumental in the Mohican Nation's many trails from the East. His life is forever remembered for his fierce advocacy for protecting title to lands for us to live on to ensure the perseverance of our nationhood.

In the late 1770s, Aupaumut assumed a leadership role in the Stockbridge, Massachusetts mission with Peter Pohqunoppeet and John Konkapot and wrote a prolific amount of land agreements and petitions to protect the Tribe's interests. In the 1780s, he became close friends with Mohegan Reverend Samson Occom and would often host the preacher or translate his sermons when the latter visited New Stockbridge, NY to where the Stockbridge Mohicans moved in the mid-1780s. In the 1790s, Aupaumut was acting as a diplomatic emissary for the United States to mediate and secure peace with western tribal nations. He served under General Harrison in the War of 1812. In

the 1820s, Aupaumut led land deals with Wisconsin tribes, and he finally moved west in 1829 along with the remainder of the Stockbridge Indians tribe. His many writings, including those of our history, are among the earliest Native American written records and leave an astonishing legacy for us all.

During perhaps the most tumultuous perilous period of our Nation's history, faced with removal and extinction, Aupaumut dedicated his life to ensure our people's survival, through preservation of history and culture and through exercising his diplomatic skills.

From: *Magnificent Mohicans!* Hendrick Aupaumut

Text provided by Bonney Hartley on behalf of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

King Ben Kokhkewaunaunt, Sachem: "The man who would become head sachem arrived in the 1740s and began to hold office in Stockbridge," according to Patrick Frazier. Then in his 60s, he was Benjamin Kokhkewaunaunt, often called "King Ben", father of David Naunauneeakanuk, who was the grandfather of John W. Quinney. King Ben was also the father of Joseph Shauquethquet, also known as Joseph Pye.

During the 1740s-1750s, King Ben, John Konkapot and David Naunauneeakanuk, all in their 60s, allowed young Mohican men to volunteer with Roger's Rangers. They and Johannis Mtohksin, the tribe's interpreter, watched over affairs in Indian Town during that time.

In 1758, King Ben, John Naunauphtaunk, two Mohicans and an interpreter traveled to Upper Sheffield from Stockbridge to share a meal with British General Jeffery Amherst. They inquired about some of the tribesmen re-enlisting with the Rangers during the French & Indian War. King Ben with his wife and daughters visited again the next day.

On May 31, 1759, while the Stockbridge fighting men were at Fort Edwards, King Ben and his son, Nimham and others came upon Israel Williams surveying land along the Housatonic south of

Pittsfield. King Ben challenged this work, and Williams said it was part of a grant. "Very pretty," the Indians responded, "the government pretend to give the Indians a township if they will come and settle together, and pay the claimers with the Indians' own land," according to records in Massachusetts Archives. The Indians forbade further surveying.

King Ben, who lived a half mile west of the village on the plain (at what is now 2 Glendale Middle Road), died in 1781, reputedly at age 104 (according to David Dudley Field). His successor was Solomon Unhaunnuwaunnutt or "King Solomon", who died in 1777, and resided on the south side of the Housatonic River, opposite of Little Hill, now Laurel Hill.

John Konkapot, also known as John Pohpnehounuwoh: A highly regarded diplomat and community leader in the Mohican Nation's experience in "Indiantown," or the Stockbridge Massachusetts mission settlement. Reverend John Sergeant speaks glowingly of John Konkapot in his journals, observing that Konkapot is a "very modest, but intelligent man, of great integrity, and of a blameless conversation...with a serious and religious turn of mind."

Believed to have been born in 1690 and raised along the Hudson River, Konkapot was a courageous and cool-headed leader of the Mohican people at critical moments. He signed the earliest known land deed in the Berkshires in 1724.

Konkapot, along with Umpachenee, were instrumental in a 1735 meeting of the tribe held at Housatonic to advocate for the decision to accept the offer to consolidate in the Stockbridge, Massachusetts mission. Some 150-200 Mohicans gathered and debated this decision and it was not unanimous. Konkapot was a major force in the eventual acceptance of this option as the best mode of survival at the time, as well as to accept Christianity. In doing, he laid down a parcel of deer skins as a present while pleading to the Massachusetts Governor for protection of the Mohican people.

He served honorably as a Captain in King George's War and led 18 Stockbridge Mohicans. As a counsellor under sachem "King" Ben

Kokhkewaunaunt, Konkapot conducted numerous land negotiations and petitions for justice for Mohican people throughout the mid-1700s, speaking up against inadequacies with the Stockbridge Indian School, nonpayment for Mohican lands, and political disenfranchisement. In a 1763 petition to the Massachusetts General Court, Konkapot and other leading citizens stated, “That Elijah Williams...with others, has acted unreasonable” by calling a surprise vote with no advance notice to the Mohicans, many of whom were out of town. “They said Williams now pretends to be chosen a representative. I believe he is none...he brought in many strangers to vote for him and we always used to choose our own representative ourselves.”

Konkapot signed many documents by making a three-pronged mark of a turkey symbol, which is understood to be his clan. He has left his “mark” locally in other ways as well: Konkapot’s name is familiar in his homelands through place names such as Kampoosa (Konkapot’s Brook) Bog and Konkapot River. An image of him is featured above the offices to the Stockbridge Town Offices. Heartbreakingly, he is believed to have died suffering and in debt in 1764 or 1765, around age 74. A marker in the Stockbridge Town Cemetery reads “God be as good to you as he would be to you if he were God and you were John Konkapot.”

From: *Magnificent Mohicans! John Konkapot*

Text provided by Bonney Hartley on behalf of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community

David Naunaunekannuck: David Naunaunekannuck: Community leader, War Veteran, and Town Surveyor. Naunaunekannuck was a prominent leader of the Stockbridge Mohicans (now called the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohicans) in the eighteenth century. After he was baptized in the Stockbridge mission, Naunaunekannuck’s first name became “David,” and his last name became “Naunaunekannuck (Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians 2018).

Naunaunekannuck was born in the early eighteenth century as the elder son of “King” Benjamin Kokhkewenaunaunt, a Mohican sachem who made great efforts to protect the land of the

Stockbridge Mohican community after arriving in the 1740s (Stockbridge Town Book One). Naunaunecannuck played a key role in protecting the Stockbridge Mohicans by serving on committees, collaborating with other community leaders on petitions to protect the Stockbridge Mohicans, and surveying the town. He was also known for sweeping the house and blowing the conch shell, which was “of such immense size” that “no ordinary man could lift it” (Hopkins and Jones 1854, 59). Hence, both the white residents and the Mohican residents of Stockbridge viewed Naunaunecannuck as an extraordinary man. Using the conch, Naunaunecannuck carried out his responsibility to “call people to meetings and worship” (Cohen 2021). Naunaunecannuck owned property on the eastern half of what is currently the Town Cemetery, located across 4 Main Street in Stockbridge, Massachusetts (Naunaunecannuck Deed). There, Naunaunecannuck’s home lot lay on section one of the town cemetery on the east to about the west border of 15 Main Street.

The Stockbridge Mohicans entrusted Naunaunecannuck with working on petitions to protect their rights and allocating money to help people pay debts. For instance, in 1768, Stockbridge Mohican proprietors “appointed” Naunaunecannuck and other community leaders to “apportion money received from land sales to resolve debts” (Frazier 1975, 182). Clearly, the Stockbridge Mohicans thought highly enough of Naunaunecannuck to depend on him when it came to their debts. Naunaunecannuck had earned this trust by fighting for the wellbeing of the Stockbridge Mohican community throughout his life. He was particularly active in helping the community deal with debts to avoid imprisonment. Sometime before the House of Representatives resolved it on January 4, 1776, Naunaunecannuck and other community leaders created a petition to request that Stockbridge Mohicans be given two years to resolve their debts without being sued (Petition to Watertown). In that same petition, he also showed concern for the physical health of his communities and asked for a law to prohibit tavern owners and retailers from selling “spirituous liquors” to the Stockbridge Mohicans because said liquors “[destroyed]” and “[ruined]” their “souls and bodies” (Petition to Watertown).

In another effort to ensure the safety of his community, Naunaunecannuck and other leaders successfully used a petition to request that Stockbridge Mohicans be “[granted] [licenses]” to sell their lands in the western part of town to escape “[starvation],” dying from the cold, or “suffering in prison” (1765 Petition). Naunaunecannuck persistently spoke up for the Stockbridge Mohican community, whether that meant bringing attention to Ephraim Williams’s “unjust” appropriation of lands (1750 Complaint) or asking Williams Johnson to “intervene” on the “[displacement]” of Mohicans in west and northeast Stockbridge by John Van Rensseler and other settlers who had never “purchased the remaining tracts” (Frazier 1975, 155).

Not only did Naunaunecannuck dedicatedly serve the Stockbridge-Mohican community, but he also demonstrated loyalty to the colonies. Naunaunecannuck was one of at least sixty Stockbridge-Mohicans (including his father, “King” Ben Kokhkewenaunaunt) who had served in the Revolutionary War. Indeed, when Naunaunecannuck (along with John Pophnehonnuhwoh, John Naunukphtaunk, and other Stockbridge Mohican leaders) wrote a 1762 petition to receive compensation for the lands “in the western part of ye province of the Massachusetts Bay” that he had ties to as a descendant of the original land-owners, he cited that Stockbridge-Mohicans had “[faithfully]” fought in “all the [w]ars against the Enemies of the English” and “lost many of their men” in the French and Indian War (1762 Petition Regarding Land Issues). After many tough battles throughout his lifetime, Naunaunecannuck “sat [the French & Indian War] out” and performed various jobs around Stockbridge (Frazier 1975, 112). As “town surveyor” (Frazier 1975, 69), Naunaunecannuck at this time most likely continued conducting survey work similar to the job he and Josiah Jones had finished regarding the layout of the highways in 1745 (Stockbridge Town Book One).

Naunaunecannuck’s grandson and his descendants today carry on his legacy of community leadership. John Quinney,

Naunaunecannuck's grandson, is an important figure in the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican community who had served as a diplomat and sachem for the tribe in the nineteenth century. Aside from his treaty negotiations, Quinney was known for his 1854 Fourth of July Address at Reidsville, New York, in which he spoke on how white colonists and their governments had exploited Indigenous peoples. Over time, Naunaunecannuck's first name, "David," became a last name in the Stockbridge-Munsee tribe; "[t]herefore" the Davids family of today's tribe are Naunaunecannuck's "direct descendants" and have "direct cultural connection[s] to [his] land" (Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians 2018).

By Jayden Jogue, Williams College Student, June 2021

Rhoda Quonpunwos: It appears that she was the wife of Mossheenaumack who owned the land around what is known today as the Red Lion Inn. She later sold the property to Phineas Morgan of Stockbridge, MA. Morgan, a shoemaker, was married to Silvia Woodbridge, daughter of Timothy & Abigail Woodbridge. They had a son named, Miles.

"King" Solomon Uhhaunauwaunmut: (1727-1777): Solomon Uhhaunauwaunmut was a chief sachem of the Stockbridge Mohicans, serving as a widely-respected community leader, diplomat, military captain, and orator. His name is spelled with many variations, such as Auh-haun-nnu-wau-noniut.

He is the son of "King" Ben Kokkewenaunaut, and assumed the position of sachem after King Ben resigned from this position in 1771 at age 94. King Solomon Uhhaunauwaunmut is the father to Solomon Hendricks and the famous Hendrick Aupaumut.

Fluent in English, King Solomon served in a diplomatic envoy with Daniel Nimham, Jacob Cheeksaunkun, and John Naunauphtaunk, who, along with three of their wives, sailed to London in 1766. There, they met with British authorities regarding colonial encroachments on their lands. They were ultimately not successful.

This experience was perhaps a motivator in siding with the Americans in the Revolutionary War.

When the Revolution broke out, in a speech at the Treaty at Albany in 1775, Solomon famously said, “Wherever you go, we will be by your sides. Our bones shall die with yours. We are determined never to be at peace with the red coats, while they are at variance with you...If we are conquered our Lands go with yours, but if we are victorious we hope you will help us to recover our just rights.” He became the captain of a company of Mohican soldiers, and served as a leader in the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775.

Solomon undertook diplomatic missions to meet with the Oneida and establish continued friendly relations, as other Mohican diplomats traveled throughout New York, Pennsylvania, and Canada to parlay with other tribes. He made it clear in these discussions in the early days of the Revolution that he was willing to fight but that he would do so in his own Indian way, saying “I am not used to fight English fashion, and you must not expect me to train like your men. Only point out to me where your enemies keep, and that is all I shall want to know.”

Upon his death in February 1777, at age 50, Solomon Uhhaunauwaunmut’s replacement was Joseph Shauquethqueat, aka, Joe Pye, as head sachem.

The house of Captain Solomon Uhhaunnuhwannuhmut is described as being located opposite Little Hill, today more familiarly known as Laurel Hill in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Records are unclear when Solomon’s house was erected, but it was likely sometime in the 1740s when the Mohicans at Stockbridge began building English-style houses with more frequency. Solomon’s homesite is a subject of study of our [2021] historic preservation program to survey and document this location in recognition of this Magnificent Mohican’s importance to our cultural heritage.

From: *Magnificent Mohicans!* Solomon Uhhaunauwaunmut
Text provided by Bonney Hartley on behalf of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

TRANSCRIPTIONS of Deeds, by Rick Wilcox

1739 Interval Plat Map Transcription (1973.001 73-6.1)

North twenty degrees west

Yocun 10^a : $\frac{3}{4}$

[hole in map]

Naubanhoss 3^a : 0 : 0

James 4^a : 0 : 0

Naunaueekanuck

Sister 2^a : 2 : 0

Cauconusquah

2 : 2 : 0

Naunaueekanuck

3^a : 0 : 8

Naunaueekanuck

5^a : 0^r : 0^p

Pahquanapeet

5^a : 0² : 0^p

Running along the right border:

A scale of 16P^E to an inch

1	2	3	4	5	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

Also, a line for North and a line indicating: "North twenty degrees west"

(Northwest to Southeast:)

Isaac Mowposneed

5^a : 0 : 0 [illegible]

Bocchu

3^a : 0 : 0

Mosehose 4^a : 0^r : 0

Peter 4^a : 0^r : 0^{per}

Weequiheegomeek

5^a : 0^r : 0^{per}

Umpachenee 5^a : 0^r : 0^{per}

Wanounpee 5^a : 0^r : 0

Cauconusqua 3^a : 0^r

Weenkeene 3^a

Watunkameet
6^a : 1^r : 0 including
Swamp

Peter 2^a : 2^r : 0^{per}

Rhoda 1 /2 acres (Island) Ompeethaw
6^a : 0 : 0

Moses 2 : 2: 0 Including Swamp

Wanompey 2^a : 0 : 0

Thomas Sherman Papanahanway
4^a : 0 : 0 Concopot

Concopot
In the meadow Concopot is to have 5 ½ acres Purchased of Jochkim Van ValkenBurgh
Pausote 5 ½ acres Lands to be divided or afterward shall
The last 5 ½ acres being Francis Clough's right be consentient

A Plat of the Interval Lands in the Town of Stockbridge
in the County of Hampshire divided & Set out to the Indians
by a Committee of the Hon^{ble} John Stoddard Eph^m
Williams Esq^r. A Committee Appointed by the Genl Court for
that purpose Surveyed by the Needle of the Instrument &
[torn page] [illegible] Jack Nov^{br} 1739
[large hole in page] Tim^o Dwight Surveyo^r
The above Platt contains all the interval land in Stockbridge that we
thought would be of any advantage to the Indians,
Except the Upper Meadow (as tis called) which was formerly laid for two rights,
and by the agreement of the Indians ~~and~~ is now Challenged by Cap^t Conkapott
and partner, in Lieu of the part of the land quitted at Green River
and the division as above described map made by us the Subscribers (many of
the Indians being Present John Stoddard}
Eph^m Williams} Committee

In the Meadow Concopot is to have 5 ½ acres
Panna?te 5 ½ acres & Wequaqums Heirs 5 ½ acres
The Last 4 ½ acres being Francis Clough's right Purchased of Joachim Van Valkenburgh

Lands to be divided as Afterwards
Shall to that {illegible}

Meddow Upland

Wanompee 5a: 0: 0

Caucmmqua 3a: 0'
Weenkeese – 3

Wannekaunqus

1740 Paul Ompeatkhow, Nicholas alias Tautuhpuseet Mekmeech,
Shekaunenuty of Shouanoos (98.122 or 73-1-24.1)

Paul Ompeatkhow, Nicholas alias Tautuhpuseet Mekmeech, Shekaunenuty of Shouanoos

To all people to whom these presents Shall come Greeting Know Ye that we Paul Ompeatkhow,¹ Nicholas alias Tautuhpuseet Mehmech, Shekaunenuty of Shouanoos but now residents of Stockbridge for and inconsideration of the full and just Sum of forty five pounds to us paid in hand before the Ensealing hereof by Timothy Woodbridge of Stockbridge in the County of Hampshire and province of the Massachusetts Bay inn New England School Master the receipt whereof we do acknowledge ourselves full Satisfied and contented have given granted Bargained, Sold Released conveyed and Confirmed unto him the said Timothy Woodbridge one certain tract or parcel of Land being and lying about one mile and an half from Housatonnock River it being a tract of land being Surveyed and granted as an Equivalent for Jehoiakim Meadow purchased by Ephraim Williams Esq. Mr. John Sergeant and others and do freely give grant bargain sell convey and confirm unto Timothy Woodbridge all the land Included in the following butts and Bounds (viz) Southerly and Westerly on Stockbridge Township lines and all other sides joyns to unappropriated Lands it being four thousand acres as an Equivalent Laid out and granted by the General Court for the use above all which Land or Lands We the Said Paul Ompeatkhow, Nicholas alias Tautuhpuseet Mekmeech, Shekaunenuty do for ourselves and for our heirs quit Claim all our Right and Title of Sd Land forever to him the said Timothy Woodbridge and his heirs and assigns forever to Have and to hold with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging without any hinderance molestation or Disturbance from us our heirs or any other person or persons Whatsoever We have full right and authority to act and do accordingly to the above granted and Bargained premises and for the full Confirmation of the Same we have Set our hands and Seals this Eighteenth Day of october Anno Domini 1740 and in the thirteenth year of his Majesty's Reign George the Second King &C

Signed Sealed and
Delivered in presence of
Eprm Williams
Aaron (his mark) Sonkewenaukheek²

Paul pew (his mark) ompeethow
Mehmeech (her mark)
Shekaunenuty (her mark)
Tautuh (his mark) pusseet

folio
Hampshire SS October ye 23 1740
Personally appeared before me
The Subscriber the within [^] named Paul Ompeatkhow
Mehmeech Shepannenuty Nicholas alias
Tautuhpusseetes acknowledged the within
Instrument to be their act and Deed Eph^m Williams Justice Peace

¹ Paul Ompeatkhow had an early leadership role in Stockbridge. He was deceased by 1765. Margaret Ompeatkhow his wife sold land to Larry Lynch near the Berkshire Botanical Gardens in 1765 and was a widow at that time.

² Alias Aaron Umpachenee

1750 Proprietors List 1 & 2 (73-1.30 3)

On May the 26th: 1750 at the Town of Stockbridge in the County of Hampshire in Obendience to an Order of the Gen Court of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay ^ December the 13th 1749 Posted up a notification in writing on the foreside of the Meeting House in Sd Town appointing A proprietors Meeting to be Assembled & Hold at Sd Meeting House on Monday the Eleventh day of June Next at nine of the Clock in the forenoon then & there by a Major Vote to Ascertain the number of proprietors of the Lands in the Town & Also what each proprietor proportion Shall be & to Choose A Clerk to be under Oath to record All Votes, Grants, & Orders of the Sd Proprietors as Also All Lands laid out by order of the Committee formerly Appointed by the Genl Court for that purpose Attst Timothy Dwight³

Monday June 11th: 1750 at nine of the Clock in the forenoon the Prop Instant the Meeting House According to the above Notification & proceeded to the Consideration of the Several Articles therein Mentioned & ordered by the Great & Genl Court to be determined & Sati'd the following Votes (Viz) 1. That the Meeting Should be Adjorned to two of the Clock Afternoon The Meeting Accordingly was Adjorned to two of the Clock of this Afternoon

Attest Timothy Dwight Esqr.

Two of the Clock Afternoon the Proprietors Met, & Proceeded as follows on A list of the Names of the Indians, of the Housatonnuck Tribe, who are & have been Settlers or proprietors of Lands within the Town of Stock bridge, was drawn and read, & presented to be considered Corrected & compleated & Voted to be a List to Acertain the Numbers of the Proprietors, the persons of which the Said number Should consist, & what each Proprietor proportion or Share in Sd propriety Shall be & after A full deliberate & Accurate Examination, the following persons were Admitted by Major Vote, to be proprietors; & the Shares or proportions Affixed to their names respectively by A like Vote, was voted to be Each Mans (viz) proportion or Share with others to be Admitted at this Meeting viz

Nauhmuhhkuuquountauen fifty Acres	Benjamin Kaukewenoknaunt Eighty Acres ⁴
Adam Wautaunkummoot Eighty Acres	Jacob Naunuhptaung Eighty Acres
Jehoiakim Shauwunnuhqhuk fifty Acres	Aaron Wauwauwus fifty Acres
Paul Waumpeetkhawu fifty Acres	Mtauwaumpey fifty Acres
Ebenezer Poopoonuk fifty Acres ⁵	Jacob Wnohhkummun fifty Acres
John Shkusaump Sixty Acres	Moses Nukhhihnausoequun fifty Acres

³ Timothy Dwight was from the Connecticut River Valley Dwight family, part of the River Gods, who controlled politics and religion in Western Mass (Stoddard, Partridge, Williams, etc.)

⁴ Head sachem for the Stockbridge Mohicans, the English called him King Ben

⁵ An early interpreter for the tribe

Abraham Mohschooks Sixty Acres	John Wauwampequunnaunt fifty Acres ⁶
Neshoonuhhuck Ten Acres	Johannes Mtohksin Eighty Acres
Muttuhkummun fifty Acres	Jacob Cheeksaunkun fifty Acres
Ephraim Wnaunnuqueen fifty Acres	Josiah Mukthuttauway fifty Acres
Nicholas Wauwoosauwuh fifty Acres	Josiah Waumohkowy fifty Acres
Thomas Mauntauwum Eighty Acres	Hendrick Waumpohqsoot fifty Acres

Verte⁷

Page Two

Jonas Etowukkaum fifty Acres ⁸	Bartholomew Auquukhannit
James Chenequun fifty Acres ⁹	Chaupewaeu fifty Acres
Jonas Naumoukummeh fifty Acres	Jonas Kehtaunkoos fifty Acres
Francis Pohkennauwaunt fifty Acres	Notaungshin fifty Acres
Landert Pauquasmookthah fifty Acres	Quunnukaunt fifty Acres
Wepooqshuh fifty Acres	Jehoiakim Shouwunnun fifty Acres
Muttauwaum fifty Acres	Thomas Wauwootumhttey fifty Acres*

Paunenaunit fifty Acres
Waumpaunkaus fifty Acres

*This last is Admitted in Case & for Condition to recovers of his present Sickness being now very dangerously Ill its feared will dye by it.

Att^t Tim Dwight Mod^{er}

& then the Meeting was Adjorned to tuesday at Eight of the Clock in the Morning

Att^t Tim Dwight, Mod^r

Tuesday at Eight of the Clock in the [^] morning the Proprietors Met & proceeded on business & Considering that Whereas John Pohpunnahanuwuh Al^{is}Cap^tConcopot, Mau=
= shonummaug, Annawwampomookseet, Patowahcowot & Robert Nungkawaut¹⁰
are Supposed to be Owners of A Tract of [^] land within the Town of Stockbridge Aforesaid Already Ordered to Them of About Eight Hundred & Eighty Acres Voted that the Said five last Mentioned persons by Admitted to A right or propriety of Sixty Acres Each always provided & it is upon Condition that if they have A right to Sd Land it shall be Accompted as Such part of their Shares as the number of Acres it gives them, being Equally divided & what if falls Short of giving them an Equal number of Acres with Other proprietors that have Sixty Acre Rights is to be made up to them in

⁶ A later interpreter for the tribe

⁷ Latin for turn, as in turn the page

⁸ Son of Aaron Umpachenee, aka Sonkenewenaukheek (various spellings)

⁹ Son of Aaron Umpachnee

¹⁰ Son of John Konkapot, aka Pohpnehounuwuh

their proper turns, in After divisions, Provided Also that John Poh
=punnahhunnuwuh Al^s Capt Concopot Accompts or Accepts as A further
Part of his Right his Equal Share with Others Sold & rec^d the [illegible]
=fitof particularly to themselves Att^t Timothy Dwight Mod^r

and also considering that Whereas Aaron Saunkewenaukhkeek, David Naunaunee
=kunnuk¹¹ Peter Pohquunnuppeet,¹² Johoikim Youkun¹³, Isaac Wnaumpey, Mount
=howawweet, James Wohhtquauhekummeeq, & Solomon Wnaumpaukus have
heretofore made Sale of A Tract of Land of Seven Hundred & ninety Acres &
within the Town of Stockbridge & taken the benefit of it particularly to
themselves & Aaron Saunkewehaukhkeek Agree for Share of its benefit that
any Other of his Companions in S^d Sale Voted that the Said Aaron be Admitt
=ed to A right of propriety of forty Acres & the Other Seven to A right of Sixty
Acres Each Always provided & it is upon Condition that they accept the
Seven Hundred & ninety Acres to be Accompted as part of their Share &
What that falls short of making them Equal with Others Admitted to an
Equal Right with them as proprietors it is to be made up to them in the
following Manner viz: that Aaron is to have A lot in in the first
division

¹¹ David Naunaunee kunnuk was a son of King Ben. The family later used his first name as their last name, Davids. There are a number of Davids family members in Wisconsin today. Bonney Hartley descends from the "Davids" line.

¹² Peter Pohquunnuppeet, Sr. Peter Pohquunnuppeet, Jr. attended Dartmouth and was a deacon of the church

¹³ Jehoiakim Yokun owned land outside of Indian Town which was sold and became part of Richmond and Yokun Town or Lenox

1767 Jonas Etowaukaum to Samuel Brown Deed 3 Tracts
(98.122 or 73.1.23.2)

Jonas Etoaukaum to Samuel Brown Deed 1767 3 Tracts

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS,
That I Jonas Etowaukaum¹⁴ of Stockbridge in the
County of Berkshire in the Province of Massachusetts
Bay in New England Hunter
In Consideration of the Sum of fifty Two Pounds York money
~~Lawful~~ Money, paid me by Samuel Brown of Stockbridge in the
County and Province afore Said Gentleman

The Receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give,
grant, Sell and convey unto the Said Samuel Brown his

Heirs

Three Certain Parcels or Tracts of Land lying and Being in Stockbridge afore Said
one Tract or Lot Lying west of the pond Brook¹⁵ (So-Called & Bounding Easterly by Sd Brook
road
by Land belonging to the heirs of Paul Ompeatkhow Dec^d West by Common Land¹⁶ according
to the Survey on Record of ^{^ the Indian} proprietors Book of Records & to Run So far South from sd
north line
as to make fifty acres. Also one other Lot of Land lying west of Enoch Slossons Land Beginning
at the Southwest Corner of Sd Slossons ^{^ land} thence Running west 7 degrees 3 minutes north 44
Rods then Turning
& Running north 11 degrees west 109 Rods to a Stake & stones by the Road Leading to
Richmont¹⁷
then Turning and Running East 10 degrees South 40 Rods to a Black Birch Tree Marked thence
north
40 degrees East to a Stake & Stones thence East 9 degrees South 30 Rods to the west Bounds
of Said
Slossons Land thence Running South 11 degrees west 44 Rods to the North East Corner of Land
Granted to Stephen Nash Sd Tract of land Contains Thirty Two Acres with allowance
for Swag of Chain & the Road that Runs Thro Sd Land. also one other Lot of Land
Lying Northwesterly of the Last Described Lot on the Road afore Sd bounded as followeth begin
at a Witch Hazel Tree standing a Little East of the Road a going Down the mountain that
Leads to Richmont thence Running West 79 degrees South 83 Rods to a Beach Tree Marked
thence

¹⁴ The son of Aaron Umpachenee, alias Aaron Sonkenewenaukheek and grandson of Etowaukaum, alias Nicholas
one of "Four Indian Kings" to visit Queen Anne in 1710

¹⁵ Lake Mahkeenac outlet called Chochechokeseepoo Brook, Brown's Mill Brook and currently Larrywaug Brook

¹⁶ Land that has not yet been granted to anyone

¹⁷ Later Richmont. Route 183 to Old Colonial Road

South 3 degrees East 81 Rods to a Stake & Stones thence East [torn page] degrees North 43 Rods to a Stake

& Stones thence North 22 degrees West 41 Rods thence North 120 Rods to a Ledge of Rock thence

20 Rods to the Bound first Begun at this last Tract Contains 28 acres of Land with Allowance for Swag in the Chain¹⁸ and 4 Rods for the Road that Runs Thro Sd Land¹⁹

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the same to the Said Samuel Brown his Heirs, to his and their only Use and Behoof forever.

And I do Covenant with the Said Samuel Brown his Heirs and Assigns, That I am lawfully Seized in Fee of the Premises, That they are free of all Incumbrances, That I have good Right to Sell and convey the Same to the Said Samuel Brown & his heirs And that I will warrant and defend the same to the Said Samuel Brown his Heirs

and Assigns forever, against the Lawful Claims and Demands of all Persons.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal this Thirtyeth Day of may A.D. 1767 in the Seventh Year of his majesties Reign King George the Third &C Signed Sealed & Delivered

in the Presence of

Benjamin Willard

Jonas Etowaukaum

Nathaniel Palmer

Berkshire

Folio

Berkshire SS May 30th 1767

Personally Appeared The within Named Jonas Etuakaum Signer and Sealer of the within Instrument and acknowledged the same To be his free act and Deed Cor^m Tim^o Woodbridge

Berkshire SS Sept 9th 1767

By virtue of the order of the great and general court At Their Sessions held In Octo^{br} 1765 granting liberty To The Stockbridge Indians To make sale of So much of Their Lands as to pay their Just Debts and That the same sales Should be allowed and approved by us the Subscribers

¹⁸ A surveying chain was four rods or 66 feet long, made up of 100 links, each 8 inches in length. To compensate for the sag in the chain (and other factors such as the steepness of land, etc) when measuring - called "swag of the chain" -- the surveyor would reduce the measured length of the line. As a rule of thumb, surveyors might subtract in the ratio of about 1 chain in 30; i.e. if the surveyor recorded pulling 30 chains along the line, the distance he reported on the survey would be 29 chains. (Rob Hoogs, Monterey)

¹⁹ Probably west of current Route 183 north of Route 102. NOT recorded at Registry of Deeds

We Do Therefore approve of the Sale of the within
conveyed Tract for the payment of So much of the
grantors Debts as the consideration of within deed.

Tim^o Woodbridge
John Ashley

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

January 6 1790

We the Subscribers

By Virtue of the Powers and Authority vested
in us by an act of the general court of
the Commonwealth Do approve of the sale
of the Land Descried in the within the
foregoing Deed as Witness our hands
In Presence of us

Moses Ashley

Horatio Jones

Jahleel Woodbridge

John Bacon

Berkshire SS Gt Barrington Sept.9.1767

Rec'd and Recorded in Libre No 6, fol^o 54

Per Mark Hopkins Reg

Jonas Etawkaum Deed

To Sam Brown

Stock

2/2

Rhoda Quonpunwos to Phinehas Morgan

Know all men by These presents That I Rhoda Quonpunwos of Stockbridge In the county of Berkshire and Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England In consideration of five pounds To me well and Truly paid In hand before the ensealing hereof To my full Satisfaction By Phinehas Morgan of the Town, county and Province afore-said Shoemaker Have sold Bargained released conveyed and confirmed and Do by these presents for myself my heirs Executors and Administrators Sell Bargain give grant aliene enfeeose²⁰ convey and confirm unto The said Phinehas Morgan his heirs and Assigns forever one certain Tract or parcel of Land lying and being situate in The said Town of Stockbridge and lies on the southwardly side of the highway that crosses the plain by the meeting house and lies opposite To Matthew cadwells home Lot²¹ upon the other side of the road and bounded northwardly upon Said road crossing the plain Westwardly upon the road that goes thro the Meadow²² Eastwardly on the Land of Johannis Wautuauoaumnehs and Southwardly upon the land of Joseph Woodbridge has now in possession It being all That Land that lies on the East side of the road upon The plain That was originally Laid out To Muhskenaunauk²³ Refference allways To be had To the record Thereof for the More Certain boundaries of Said Tract containing five acres be estimation More or less.²⁴

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD The said granted and Bargained premises with all the privileges and appurtenances Thereto belonging or Appertaining To him the Said Phineas Morgan his heirs and Assigns for ever to his, and their own proper Use benefit and behoof forever I the Said Rhoda Quonpunwos for myself my heirs & Executors and administrators covenanting To and with the said Phineas Morgan his heirs That before and until The ensealing of these presents I am the True Sole and Lawfull owner of the Bargained premises and That I have good right and Lawfull authority To sell and convey in manner as above Said and That free and clear clearly acquitted and exonerated of and from all

²⁰ Enfeoff: (under the feudal system) give (someone) freehold property or land in exchange for their pledged service

²¹ Area of 39 Main Street, directly across from the library

²² South Street

²³ Husband or father of Rhoda

²⁴ Book 15, Page 434 Berkshire Middle Registry of Deeds

and all manner of former Sales Leases releases bargains Mortgages Jointures Dowries Judgments Executions or any manner of other conveyance That can obstruct or make void This present Deed. Furthermore I the said Rhoda Quonpunwos for myself and heirs promise To warrant and Defend the above granted and Bargained premises To him the said Phineas Morgan against The Lawfull claims and Demands of all persons claiming the Said premises. As Witness my hand and Seal this Second Day of July In the eighth year of his Majesties Reign Annoque Dom 1768

Signed Sealed and Delivered Rhoda (her mark) Quonpunwos
Jahleel Woodbridge
John Naunauhpktau Berkshire SS

Berkshire SS July 7th 1768

Personally appeared The within Named Rhoda Quonpunwos Signer and Sealer of the foregoing Instrument and acknowledged the same To be her free act and Deed Cor^m Tim^o Woodbridge Justice Peace

Berkshire SS Great Barrington January 5th 1780
Received & Recorded in Book No 15: Page 434
By Moses Hopkins, Reg

Deed Jany 5:th 1780

Reversion and Reversions, Remainder and Remainders thereof, or any Part or Parcel thereof for ever: So that neither we the said David Nor Elizabeth nor our Heirs, nor any other Person or Persons claiming from, or under us or them, or in the Name, Right or Stead of us or them, Shall or will by any Way of Means, Have, Claim, Challenge or Demand any Estate, Right, Title or Interest of, in, and to the aforesaid Premises, with the Appurtenances, or any Part or Parcel thereof for ever: But we the said David Naunaoneekauhuck and Elizabeth do for our selves our Heirs, Executors and Administrators, Covenant to and with the said Daniel Phelps His Heirs and Assigns, the said Granted and Released Premises, with the Profits, Privileges and Appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said Daniel Phelps his Heirs and Assigns for ever, to Warrant, Secure and Defend against the Lawful Claims and Demands of any Person or Persons claiming under us or our Heirs as aforesaid, for ever by these Presents, In Witness whereof of the said David and Elizabeth have hereunto set Their Hands and Seals this Seventeenth Day of December Anno Domini, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy one and in the Twelfth Year of His Majesty's Reign.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered David (his DN mark) Naunaoneekaunuck
In Presence of Elizabeth (her EN mark) Nauwohtokhonnuhwoh
Tim^o Woodbridge
Wm Woodbridge}

Berkshire SS December 17th 1771
Personally appeared the above named
David Naunaoneekaunuck and Elizabeth Nowwok-
Tokehonnuhwoh the wife of said David Signers
and Sealers of the foregoing Instrument and
acknowledged the Same to be their free act and
Deed Cor^m Tim^o Woodbridge Justice Peace³⁰³¹

³⁰ The deed was not recorded at the Registry of Deeds

³¹ Same land sold by Phelps to Abner Carpenter in 1773 for 92 pounds. See Book 13, page 472

Solomon Uhhaunauwaunaumot to William Goodrich Deed 1772

Know All Men by these Presents That I Solomon Uhhaunauwaunaumot of Stockbridge in the County of Berkshire Gent^m In Consideration of Twenty Pounds Lawful Money Paid me by William Goodrich of the Same Stockbridge Yeoman The Receipt Whereof I do Hereby Acknowled have Given, Granted Bargained, & Sold & by these Presents Do Give, Grant Bargain Sell Convey & Confirm unto him the Said William His Heirs & Assigns forever A Certain Tract or Parcel of Interval³² or Meadow Land Lying in Said Stockbridge Containing four Acres by Estimation be the Same More or Less is Bounded thus viz Easterly & Westerly on the River North on Sarah Waumpeenoksquoh' Land & South ^ on Daniel Pochos⁵ Land³³ TO Have & To Hold the Above Granted & Bargained Premises with the Appurtenances To the Same Belonging to Him the Said Williams ^ his Heirs & Assigns that at & until The Ensealing hereof I am the True Sole & Lawful Owner Of the Above Bargained Premises & that they are free of all Incumbrances & that I will warrant Secure & Defend the Same to Him the Said William His Heirs & Assigns forever Against the Lawful Claims & Demands of all Persons Whatsoever, In Witness Whereof I Have Hereunto Set My Hand & Seal This Twenty first Day of Aug^t in the Twelfth year of His Majestys Reign George the Third King & C A.D. 1772
Signed Sealed & D Solomon Uhhaunauwaunmut
In Presence of
Sam Brown
Johannis Mtohksin³⁴

³² Often spelled Intervale

³³ The Land is on the east side of the river at the end of Park Street. Also see BMRD Book 19, Page 209 James Waukusk and Sarah Waupenosquoh for more information.

³⁴ This deed **not** recorded at the Berkshire Middle Registry of Deeds

1775 Hendrick Aupaumut letter to Timothy Edwards transcription (73-1)

Hendrick Aupaumut letter to Timothy Edwards³⁵ (date unknown)

My friend. I wish you would be so kind
as to find the letters – to whom it be directed –
and I forgot one thing I should be thankful
if you would lent me a Book the Author of your
father³⁶ Concerning [illegible] or if you hant
[page torn] Such – wish to have other – mention the Will-³⁷
[page torn] you cloud do it – send it by Mr. Sergeant.³⁸ I shall take good
[page torn] of them - & send them to you Such time as may please
[page torn] Sat

Aupaumut

Obverse side

Hon^{bl}

Timothy Edwards Esq^r
Stockbridge or Wunnughquukok

Letter from Capt
Hendrick Aupaumut
To Tim^o Edwards Esqr
1775 & 17M -

³⁵ Eldest son on of the Rev. Jonathan Edwards

³⁶ Rev. Jonathan Edwards

³⁷ Possibly Rev. Jonathan Edwards paper Freedom of the Will

³⁸ Rev. John Sergeant, Jr.

Town Meeting Warrant for Indian Inhabitants to choose a Representative for the
Great and General Court May 18th ,1780 (72.189)

Stockbridge SS

To John Kunkapot¹ one of the Constables of
the Town of Stockbridge in the County of Berk
shire Greeting –

In the name of the government and People of
the State of Massachusetts Bay you are herein
required to warn all the freeholders and other
inhabitants of Sd Town Being Indians, qualified
according to Law to Vote for representatives
to Meet at the Meeting house in Sd Stockbridge
on Monday the twenty second Day of ^May current
at Eight of the Clock AM then and there
to Elect or Depute one of more Persons if
qualified according to Law agreeable to the Precept
of the Sheriff of this County stated the ninth
Day of this instant May To serve for
and Represent this Town in the Great
and General Court of this State the
year ensuing –

here of Fail not to Make Due Returne
of this warrant with your Damage there
on to Sum one of us Before the
Said day for Sd Meeting Given under our
hand and Seal this Eighteenth Day of
May AD 1780 –

Asa Bement² [Selectmen of the Town of Stockbridge]

David Pixley³

Josiah Jones⁴

¹ Probably a grandson of sachem John Konkapot who died c. 1765. At a Town Meeting 21 March 1780 voted and chose Joe Pye, Selectmen, aka, Joseph Shauquethqueat, who the English called the Chief of the tribe. Voted and chose Jehoiakim Mhtocksins, Selectman. Voted and chose John Konkapot, Constable. After the creation of the English Precinct in 1750 the Mohicans only had a symbolic role in town government. Fourth day of March 1783 was the last time there was Mohican involvement in town government: Voted and chose Hendrick Ompaumet (Aupaumut) Indian Selectman. Voted and chose Jehoiakim Naunampetonk, Selectman.

Obverse Page

Indian Warrant⁵

for May Meeting 1780

Berkshire SS to May

There are a number of figures at the bottom of the document, which might be vote tallies

² Lived at what is now 5 North Church Street and was a blacksmith

³ David Pixley, Jr. his father was one of the early settlers of Stockbridge

⁴ Josiah Jones, Jr. His father was head of one of the first four families to “settle” in Stockbridge

⁵ The warrant would have been posted on the 1739 meeting house, now 4-6 Main Street

1783 Petition to the Senators and Wise Men (73-1)

To the Senators and Wise Men of the Commonwealth of the Massachusetts who are about to smoke their Pipes together in doing the great Business of the State –

We the Chief of the Moheakonnuk Tribe of Indians residing in Stockbridge this day met together beg you to listen to us a few Words. Brothers. We remember when we were once great and you were Small when you first came on this Island but afterwards We became Small as you became great. We also remember that our Forefathers have often looked to you for protection, Advise and Assistance. We with Pleasure look back and consider you have always heard us when we have spoken to you. Now Brothers Since we are Small We look to you as Children to their Fathers We wish you would always remember as Parents do their Children Brothers, We will put you in mind that ever since We first See You, we were always but Friends to you in all the Wars, until this present Day. In this last War we have Suffered much, our Blood has been Spilled with yours and many of our young Men have fallen by tho Side of your Warriors, almost all those Places where your Warriors have left their Bones, there our Bones are seen also – Now We who remain are become very poor Now Brothers. We will let you know we have been invited By our Brothers the Oniadas, to go and live with them. We have accepted their invitation - -Brothers. We will now tell you what we desire of You, We wish you in your Wisdom, to make some Laws that Will protect and guide us while we ^{^may} remain or hereafter have.

Occasion to come into your Government. We wish to appoint a few our Neighbors, who we believe to be our Friends to have Power to take Care of the little Interest of Land We have in this Town, that has been appropriated to a public or private Use, either to sell or lease it out for us as they and We shall think best, directing them also to confirm all such Lands as we have honestly sold. We wish to have them directed, carefully to examine into all our Bargains for Land that the White People have made with us and See that We have been cheated and endeavour to do Justly by us and by those

We have bought of us and have not as yet had their Lands confirmed to them, that when we are ready to remove, We may feel well towards our Neighbors, We wish only to reserve Power to ourselves to do a little Business as Proprietors with Regard to Some unappropriated Lands. We wish that the Purchases of our Land might pay these our Friends for their Trouble –

Brothers We will only ask one Thing more, that we might Not be sued in the Law for any further Debts we may hereafter Contract - -Stockbridge Sept 2^d. 1783 Johoiakim Matcksin

Joseph Sauquehqueat
Hendrick Aupaumut
Jehoiakim Nannuphtonk
Joseph Quonmikaut

Copy of a Petition from Stockbridge Indians



Housatonic Heritage



***Today, the Stockbridge Indians identify themselves as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians**