

THE SUTTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUTTON, MASSACHUSETTS



— BULLETIN —

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300 YEAR OLD LAND DEED OF SUTTON AREA, 1681 Indians to Stoughton and Dudley

PREFACE

This issue of the BULLETIN consists of two sections: the DEED and the Indian Signatures.

More than three decades before Sutton was incorporated as a Township, two White men, William Stoughton and Joseph Dudley, were commissioned in 1681 by the General Court (then a Province of England) to investigate lands west of the "Kuttauck" (Kuttutu in the Deed), viz: the Blackstone River.

As a reward for their services, the General Court granted to each man 1000 acres of land. In the Spring of 1685, John Gore was dispatched to establish the boundaries described in the 1681 Deed which, on resurvey, proved to be quite accurate. Gore's report included a tract of 1800 acres and later 200 acres were added to the original. Thus, 2000 acres were owned by Stoughton and Dudley or their heirs. In 1712, the parcel was again surveyed by Josiah Chapin and John Chandler. Maps drawn from the survey indicated a tract 755 rods long by 424 wide.

The 2000 acres were divided equally in 1712 into two separate tracts of 1000 acres each; westerly plot to Joseph Dudley, and the easterly one to the William Stoughton (who had died in 1701) heirs. The original 2000 acres became known as the "Manchaug Farm." The singular Stoughton heir, William Trailer of Cambridge, on December 8, 1720, sold his share to Richard Waters of Salem and Samuel Rich of Bellingham for £600.

In 1722, Richard Waters retained two-thirds of the 1000 acre tract and the other third he sold to Samuel Rich. The "Manchaug Farm" was not located in an incorporated township. However, in 1723 both the Waters and Rich Farms were annexed to Oxford until 1726 when the Waters Farm was annexed to Sutton, and in 1728 the Rich Farm followed likewise.

Part two of the BULLETIN (December 1980 issue) is a reprint as it interfaces with the Deed in part one.

Dr. Barry Fell, author of AMERICA, BC, SAGA AMERICA, BRONZE AGE AMERICA, the Epigraphic Society publication, etc., is an epigraphist (one who studies ancient languages) of international reputation. He believes that certain symbolic signatures may relate to BC Cypriot script. A copy of the 1681 Deed signatures were presented to Dr. Fell for analysis. His reproduced report is appended to the Deed section to expand the most comprehensive information about the document that is currently available to date.

1681 Indian Deed to Stoughton and Dudley

A DECIPHERMENT

To all Christian people to whome this (con)sent Deed of Sale shall come greeting Know Yee that wee Black Jame(s) alias Walamachin, Benjamin, James, Simon, Wolomp, Tascom, Sasequejasuck, Pomponechum, Wolowononck, Papomsham, Pepegous, John Awag(l)won, So-roquaw, Aquitaquash, James Wiser, James Acojoct, Walumpaw, Papeunquana(n), Waumfht, Indian Natives & natural Descendants of the Ancient proprietors and Inhabitants of the Nipmug Country (comonly so called and Lands a(d)jacent within the Colony of this Mattachusetts in New England for and in consideration of the Summe of twenty pounds in current money of New England to us in hand at and befor(e) the Ensealing and delivery of these presents well and truely paid by William Stoughton, Esqr. of the town of Dorchester and Joseph Dudley of setts, the receipt of which valuable Summe wee d(o) hereby acknowledge, and our Selves there with fully Satisfied contented and paid, and thereof and of every part and parcel thereof wee and every of us respectively do exonerate acquit and discharge the sett William Stoughton and Joseph Dudley and either of them, their each and every of their heirs Executo Administrato & Afsigns for ever by these presents Have given granted bargained sold alien(e)d afsigns enfeaffed convayed and confirmed and by these presents DOE freely fully absolutly give grant bargain Sell alien Afsign enfeoffe convay afsure and confirme unto the sett William Stoughton and Joseph Dudley their heirs and afsignos for ever all that part of the sett Nipmug Country, or their tract of Land scituated lying and being on the South part of the sett Colony of this Mattachusetts beyond the great River called Kuttutu, Nipmug or Providence bounded with the Mattachusetts pattent Line as the Fame is now stated on the South, and certain marked trees begining at sett Rive and running South East----- till it strike upon the sett pattent Line on the North, the set great River on the East and coming to a point on the West, all the Lands lying within the sett Limits or bounds bee the contents there of more or lefs TOGETHER with all (a)nd (si)ngular the rights members jurisdi(ctio)ns, waies, Rivers, waters watercour fes, Springs ponds pooles, pasturage, herbage, feedings (com---) (---)taments and appurte(n)ances whatsoever in or upon the sai(d) tract of Land or any part or parcel thereof or thereunto in anywise belonging or appertaining with (a)ll woods underwoods timber & trees whatsoever now standing growing lying or being or which hereafter that stands grow lye or bee upon sett bargained premifes or any part or parcel thereof, and all ffishings ffowlings huntings, hereditaments profits and priviledges whatsoever thereto belonging or with the Same now or at at anytime hereafter to bee that used occupied and injoyed And all the Estate right title interest use propriety possefsion claim and demand whatsoever of us the sett Black James ats (W)al(a)machin, Benjamin James, Si(m)on, Wolomp, Tascomp, Sasequejasuc(k), Pomponechum, Wolowononck, Paponsham, Pepegous, John Awagwon, Sosoquaw Aquetaquash, James Wiser, James Acojoct, Walumpau Papeunquanant and Waumst and of every of us in or to the sett (tr)act(t) of Land or any part or parcel thereof and priviledges & appurtenances therewith granted TO HAVE & TO HOLD the above granted track of Land being part of the Nipmug Country (comonly so called) as above limited and bounded bee the contents thereof more o(r) lefs, and all other the above gra)nted promises & appurtenances unto them the sett William Stoughton and Joseph Dudley their heirs and afsigns and to their onely, (p)roper use benefit and behoofs from henceforth for ever And wee the Black James ats Walam(a)c(h)in, Benjamin, James, Simon Wolomp, Tascomp, Sasequejasuck, Pomponechum, Wolowononck, Pampomsham, Pepegous, John Awagwon, So-soquaw, Aquetaquash, James Wiser, James Acojoct, Walumpau, Papeunquanant and Waumst, Indian Natives present possefsors and inhabitants of the sett Nipmug Country and naturall Descendants of the Ancient Proprietors and Inhabitants thereof do for our Selves our heirs Exec. and Adm. covenant promifs and grant to and with the sett William Stoughton and Joseph Dudley their heirs and afsigns in manner following (V)IZ that at the

A Reprint of April 1980 Historical Society BULLETIN

THE NIPMUQ SIGNATURES

About a dozen different alphabets were in use among the North American Indians at the time when the colonies were established three hundred years ago. Unfortunately the Founding Fathers paid no attention to these matters, and regarded the true native scripts that were used on the early Deeds as no more than illiterate "marks." Later on, in the early eighteen-hundreds, missionaries such as James Evans became aware of some of the Algonquian scripts, and then adopted them for teaching Christian religion. Because of this, Evans has been wrongly credited with "inventing" Cree script; what he really did was something much more praiseworthy, he made it the official method of printing the Cree language, including the entire Cree Bible - and thereby he preserved an ancient alphabet. In 1978 some stone tablets in the museums in San Sebastian and San Telmo, in the Basque provinces of Spain, were referred to me for study by Spanish scholars. I noticed that some of them, including stones known to have been engraved before the time of Columbus, carried lines of letters that appeared to be identical with the Cree letters. When I substituted the sound values of the Cree letters for these signs on the Basque tablets, the resultant language that emerged proved to be Basque. I then sent translations back to Spain, and these were in turn studied by the leading Basque linguist, Imanol Agire, who is the author of major works on ancient Iberian inscriptions and on the Basque language. After Dr. Agire had studied the matter, he wrote back to me this year (1980) congratulating me on the decipherment, and confirming that it was correct. Thus now, we are able to read and translate ancient Spanish inscriptions, by using the Algonquian alphabets. In the new edition of the Grand Basque Encyclopedia these important links with ancient America are stressed.

The Sutton Deed is signed by Indian owners of the land, and they used two different alphabets. Those who had attended the schools for Indians, such as the pre-college level school in Cambridge, set up by Harvard, signed their names in English letters, either the whole name or the first few letters of the name (see Figure 1). Those who preferred to use the ancient Algonquian writing system signed their names in a form of script sometimes called mamalohikan, in which the individual letters stand for separate syllables, and the letters themselves are those of the ancient alphabet of Cyprus. The Cypriot inscriptions, in the island of Cyprus, remained undecipherable until 1871, when an English linguist named George Smith discovered inscriptions in Greek and Cypriot on the same stone, and was able to use this bilingual key to discover the sound values of the mysterious signs. In Table 2, I have set out a series of the Nipmauq signatures, side by side with the corresponding letters of the Cypriot alphabet which, like the Cree, is also syllabic. If Smith had only known, he could have summoned Algonquians to aid him!

The Cypriot alphabet, or syllabary as it is more correctly called, was in use at least until 1727, in northern Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, for a treaty signed at Annapolis Royal, N.S., in that year carries 32 Cypriot signatures. It has since died out in North America, though the Cree Syllabary on the other hand has flourished, and is used today by newspapers and magazines published in the Cree tribal lands. In recent years it has been adapted for use by the Eskimo, and some Ojibways still use it also.

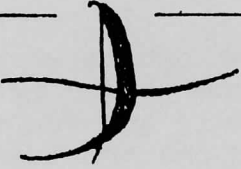


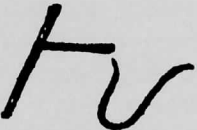
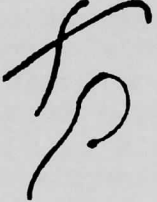


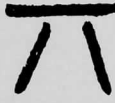


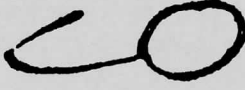







Name of signatory as written in Colonial English spelling	Actual Nipmaug	Equivalent signs of the ancient Cypriot script
<u>Na</u> ontock		 - N1
Tascomp		 - Ta-Sa
Papomsham		 - Pa-Po
<u>To</u> bi Alatoquish		 - To
<u>Ja</u> mes Acojock		 - Ja, Me [superimposed]
<u>Si</u> mon Wolomp		 - Sa-Mo
<u>Ja</u> n Awagwon		 - Ja, Ne [superimposed]
Cook <u>Ro</u> bin		 - Ro
<u>Si</u> ean Jasco		 - Si

Figure 2: Nine signatures showing the correspondence between the initial syllables of the names [left, underlined letters] with the equivalent syllabic signs of the ancient Cypriot script, that died out in Europe at the time of Alexander the Great, but survived in America.

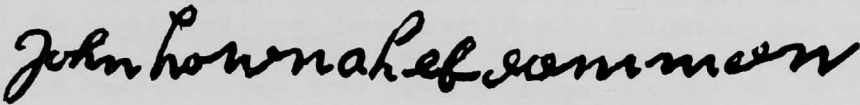
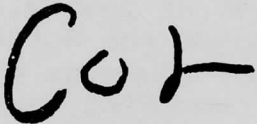

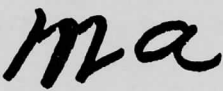
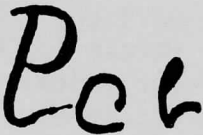
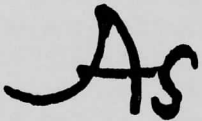
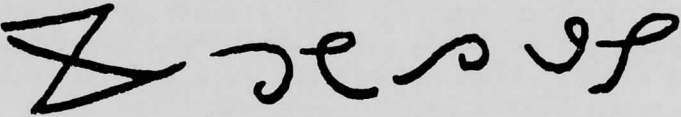

Name of signatory as written in Colonial English spelling	Actual signature as it appears on the Deed
John Hownaheteámmen	
Cotoosok	
Sebquat	
Matteomp	
Pacataw	
Aspenaw	
Pamphosit the signature	
read as Cypriot	
sounds of signs	Pi _____ ma ____ po __sa __ta

Figure 1: The Indian signatures on the Nipmuq Deed of 1681/2 can be classified into four groups. Group 1, illustrated by the uppermost example, are signatures written out in full, in English, evidently by alumni of the schools established by the colonists. Group 2, comprise signatures that render only the first syllable or letter, in English script. Group 3, lowermost, signatures written in full in the ancient script of Cyprus. Group 4, shown in Figure 2, are abbreviated Cypriot signatures. The name rendered as Pamphosit is erroneous; there was no F (ph) sound in the Algonquian tongues. The Cypriot rendering omits the h.

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In Europe, on the other hand, the Cypriot syllabary was no longer used after the third century B.C., for Greek letters replaced it during the administration of Alexander the Great. Thus, in order for it to have been brought into use in America, the alphabet must have been transmitted here before the time of Alexander. These new discoveries have, needless to say, called forth the condemnation of some archaeologists. They are, however, now firmly established and have already been incorporated into the learned publications by European linguists. For further information readers may consult the Occasional Publications of the Epigraphic Society especially volumes 8 and 9 [1980-81], and my popularized versions in book form; or, if they read Spanish, the much larger works issued by the Grand Basque Encyclopedia in Madrid and Bilbao, Spain.

It is clear that a great deal of lost history remains to be discovered, and colonial Deeds, such as the Sutton document, are playing an important role. The rocks of Massachusetts also carry ancient inscriptions in the Cypriot syllabary, rendering names of Algonquians and also Algonquian proverbs. The ancient people of Cyprus were great sailors, and worked in copper. After the mines of Cyprus were exhausted they imported copper. Perhaps the copper mines of Michigan attracted them here. The finest examples of inscriptions in Cypriot are found on the gold and bronze tablets of the National Treasure of Ecuador, comprising works of art plowed up by farmers in the Cuenca region. Other varieties occur as rock inscriptions in the Carolinas and in various Caribbean islands. -

AND IN CONCLUSION.....

Dr. Barry Fell

This BULLETIN issue is intended to publish a decipherment of a document which has lain dormant for three hundred years. We are familiar historically speaking of the existence of a 1681 DEED of land from the Indians to William Stoughton and Joseph Dudley (the first such DEED in this area). Preliminary speculation to read the document became a motivation to determine its contents.

The original DEED is in the Massachusetts Archives and is woefully in poor condition. Intelligible duplication is almost impossible. However, with patience and clairvoyance a substantial percentage of its information is presented in this issue.

The Sutton Historical Society has a copy of the 1715 map drawn by John Chandler of the 1712 survey of land described in the 1681 Indian, Stoughton and Dudley DEED

The main thrust of the 1681 DEED article intentionally foregoes detailed reference to the purchase of lands from John Wampas and Company by a group of Bostonians interested in establishing a township, i. e., SUTTON. See Histories, Vol. I and II for information on this subject.

Dr. Barry Fell's report on the Indian signs (signatures) that appeared in the December 1980 BULLETIN is purposely presented to complete the DEED story. Shortly after the issue was published, Dr. Fell requested permission to reprint it in the Epigraphic Journal which is circulated to universities, libraries and museums, in twenty-seven countries around the world. The BULLETIN DOES TRAVEL !!

--EDITOR--



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