Hadley Deed, 1660 (Hatfield and Williamsburg)
Hampden County Records, Liber A, Folio 6

Here followeth a Copy of a deed of sale whereby Umpanchala an Indian Sachem formerlie of Nolwotogg did sell & Alienate his Right & Interest in Certaine persells of lands on ye West side of Quinecticott River unto Majr Jno Pynchon of Springfd for & in ye Behalfe of ye Inhabitants of Hadley, as alsoe his ye sd Major Jno Pynchons assignment of ye same to ye sd Inhabitants & acknowledgmt of it Likewise.

Bee it Known unto all men by these presents yt Umpanchala alias Womscom a Sachem of Nolwotogg on ye one partie being ye Cheifee proper owner of ye land on ye West side of Quinecctot River from Cappowoungonuck to ye upper side of Mincomonk viz to Quonquants ground) Doe give grant Bargaine & Sell to John Pynchon of Springfeild on ye other partie to him his Assignes & Successors for ever, All ye Grounds, woods, pond waters, trees, stones, meadowes, uplands &c lying & being at Nolwotogg on ye west side of Quinecticott River from ye meadow on ye South called Capowouk formerlie sold by Umpanchala to ye Inhabitants of Northampton) upon ye great River of Quinecticott Northward to ye upperside of Mincomunck yt is to say ye Brooke or Riverett called Cappowong alias Mataoolanick wch partie Cappowonganick & Wequetayyag & ye meadow & upland called Wequetayyag & soe Northward to Yowunckhomuck & Natocouse & ye Brooke called Wunckompss wch comes out of ye Pond & over ye sd Brook Nattacows or Wonckcompass still Northward viz all the ground & meddow called Mincomucken to a Marked Walnut Tree at ye greate River side & soe of from ye River to a great White oake marked & thence to run out into ye Woodes Westward from ye greate River nine miles & soe down Southward till it Come to Cappowoung Riveret wch is to Northampton Bounds, The aforesaid tract of ground called Wequetayyag yowunckhommuck Wonckcompass, Nat- [38] tacows, Mincomuck & from Quenecticott River to run Westward nine miles into ye woods both at ye Southward Bound up along ye Riverett Cappowoung as well as ye Northward Bounds of itt. The sd Umpanchala alias Womsconm on ye one partie for & in Consideration of ye sum of three Hundered flatham of Wampam in hand pd Besides severall other small gifts And for other good causes & Considerations, Doe sell give grant And have sold given & granted to John Pynchon of Springfield aforesaid on ye other partie And to his Assignes & Successors for ever & to their heirs, All and singular ye aforesamned land, or by what ever other names it is or may be called, Queitlie to possess have & injoy ye aforesaid Tract of Ground ffree from all molestation or Incumbrance of any Indians & yt for Ever; Only ye sd Umpanchala doth reserve ye Chickons alias Cottinyakies wch is to say there Planteing Ground togetheather with libertie to Hunt Deere or other Wild Creatures to take fish & to sett Wigwoms on ye Comons, & take wood & trees for use Butt otherwise all ye Premises And ye whole Tract of land Before mentioned wth all ye Appurtenances & Previdelges thereof, The sd John Pynchon his Assignes and Successors & their heirs, shall for ever enjoy Absalutelie & Clearelie free from all molestation by any Indians; And ffurther Umpanchala Doth ingage & Covenant And it is ye intent of these Presents, yt all ye Indian Corne ffelds or old planted Ground above Wequetayyage shall come to ye English after his Death, And yn ye Indians to have & injoy, only ye old planted Ground in Wequetayyage and Down to ye Brook Cappowong seate alias Mattoolani

In Witness hereof ye sd Umpanchala hath set to his hand and marke this tenth day of July 1660

The mark of * Umpanchala

The marke of Etowomp Bro to Umpanchee owningier & approveing of ye sale of ye land & is a Witness to it, Subscribed in ye Presence of John Russell Jnr, Andrew Bacon, Rechard Church, Richard Mountague

The Marke of Woassomehuc * alias Skejask an Ind Witness

The abovesd was here Entered Dec:25:78 By me Saml Partrigg Recordrd

JOHN PYNCHON'S ACCOUNT BOOK

John Pynchon (1626-1703) was the son of William Pynchon, who founded the town of Springfield, Massachusetts in 1636. Springfield was a frontier town and a major center of the regional fur trade. Jown Pynchon took over the business at the age of 26. He negotiated many of the seventeenth century “Indian deeds” signed in the middle Connecticut River valley during this period. At the time of his death, he was the wealthiest and most powerful landowner in Massachusetts.

This excerpt is taken from Pynchon’s fur trade account books. It demonstrates the importance of debt in land transactions. Massachusetts law regulated the sale and purchase of Indian lands, but said nothing about the practice of giving trade goods on credit. When Indians could not pay their debts, and especially after the local beaver population declined in the late 1650s, English fur traders such as John Pynchon acquired their lands, not by purchase, but as payment for unpaid debt.

Umpanchela was the Sachem, or leader, of the Native people who lived in an area centered on present-day Hadley, Massachusetts. They are known as Norwottucks or Nolwottogs, which reflects two different dialects spoken in the region.

The transactions are recorded in pounds, shillings and pence. Among the English, account books kept a running account that generally was not reconciled until a person died. With little cash in the colonies, people mostly bartered, although the goods are always assigned a cash equivalent for purposes of accounting. Note that here the equivalent values are also given in fathoms [fad or fadam] and hands [h] of strung wampum beads. Wampum was a valuable commodity because it played a key role in intertribal diplomacy, tributary relationships and gift-giving.

One pound (£) = 20 shillings (s) One fathom of wampum = 6 feet
One shilling (s) = 12 pence (d) One hand of wampum = 3 inches


Questions about the Hadley deed

- Who is buying and who is selling this land? (list names)
- What evidence is there to support the idea that the Indians were cheated or didn’t know what it meant to sell the land?
- What evidence is there to support the idea that the Indians understood what they were doing?

Questions about the Pynchon account book

- What type of goods does Umpanchela buy?
- Is he using them himself?
- Does the nature of these transactions change over time?
Umpanchela the Indian Sachem
& owner of the Land at Norwotog
hath taken up of me towards pay for his land
which he promises to Sell

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>d</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 23 1659</td>
<td>Impmis 2 yds of Bilboe rug 40s, red shag Cotton 6s, blew Trad cloth 6s, wampam 2 fad 6 h</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a short</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>all is 14 fadam</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in wampum</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 13 1659</td>
<td>in wampum</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>more a Coate</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 12 1660</td>
<td>14 fadam viz a coate Sha Cotton wampam</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>more Apr 13th</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 14th</td>
<td>more 10 fadam in two blew Coates</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more Apr 16th</td>
<td>16 fad in a Coate 1 pr of breeches &amp; 10 fad of wampum</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in all 100 fadam is the Sum off 24 li</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>more dld the 16th of April 1660</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in shag Cotton 1 fad</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 24th 1660</td>
<td>In wampum 7 fad</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 25th 60</td>
<td>red shag 15 h &amp; wampam 8 fad 5 h is</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 27th</td>
<td>red shag 12 h wampam 3 fad 8 h</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By Coate 5 fad 10 fad
wampam 01 fad ½
May 9 59
In wampam 08 fad ½
2 Coates 10 fad
May 17
In wampam 03
May 19
In wampam 01
In wampam 00 05 00
June 1 60
In wampam 04 6 h
In wampam 01
June 7 60
a Coate 5 fad wampa 5 fad 10 h
June 19
In wampam 10
1 coate 5 fad sh cot bb &
red 3 f 6 h & wampa 4 h is
& above 100 fadam is in the
whole 200 fad
June 20th 1660
Blew shag Cotton 1 fad 8 hands
red shag cot 12 h & 8 h wamp
2 2 h a knife
July 4 60
2 Coates, shag, & wampam 20
In wampam 02
To Joseph Parsons his Sum at 14
July 10th 1660
a coate & wampam dldr you at
Joseph Parsons howse 10
To paymt Mr. Goodwin 02 8 h
To wampam 07 2 h
July 30th 1660
To more wampam 5 fad 10 fad 02 10 00
& a Coate 5 fad is
Aug 23 60
To black wampam wt & shag 07
To a Red Coate 05
To 2 fadam for your being drunk
Sept 6 60
To wampam 4 fad & your wife 4 fad
Sept 14
To wampam 4 fad but by your 00 15 00
Importunity I give one 03 00 15 00
To a kettle 6 fad 2 Reed 05 01 05 00
12 h so it is 100 fad 25 00 00
100 fad & Above is 200 fad all which is 300 fad which I make the Sume of 75 00 00
12 h so it is 100 fad 25 00 00

Sept 1660
This Act Set off with Hadley Towne it being pd for the Purchase of their land I have Reckned it with them

Sept 29
Trusted Umpancheal one Coate at 5 fadam of wampa for which he ingages to me his land which is at Natta Couss that is to say 4 or 5 little Indian feilds: or [thes of]* Else I am to have some of his old Indian Corne feilds at Wequittay by ag 5 fad also for red shag Cotton & c he owes 2 fad 6 h
Sum is 1 li 18 s 00

Octobr 11 1660
Trusted him (but it is his Brothr) 1 Coat 5 fadam of wampa for which he ingages to me his land which is at Natta Couss that is to say 4 or 5 little Indian feilds: or [thes of]* Else I am to have some of his old Indian Corne feilds at Wequittay by ag 5 fad also for red shag Cotton & c he owes 2 fad 6 h
Sum is 1 li 18 s 00

Decembr 3d 60
Trusted his Broth & Red & bl Coate (to pay Bevr) 10 fad 5 h
1 pr stockens 1 fad 2 h
amt due 1661 Recd in wampam 8 fad
Recd all this

Decembr 17th 1660
Umpanchee desired to be trusted as