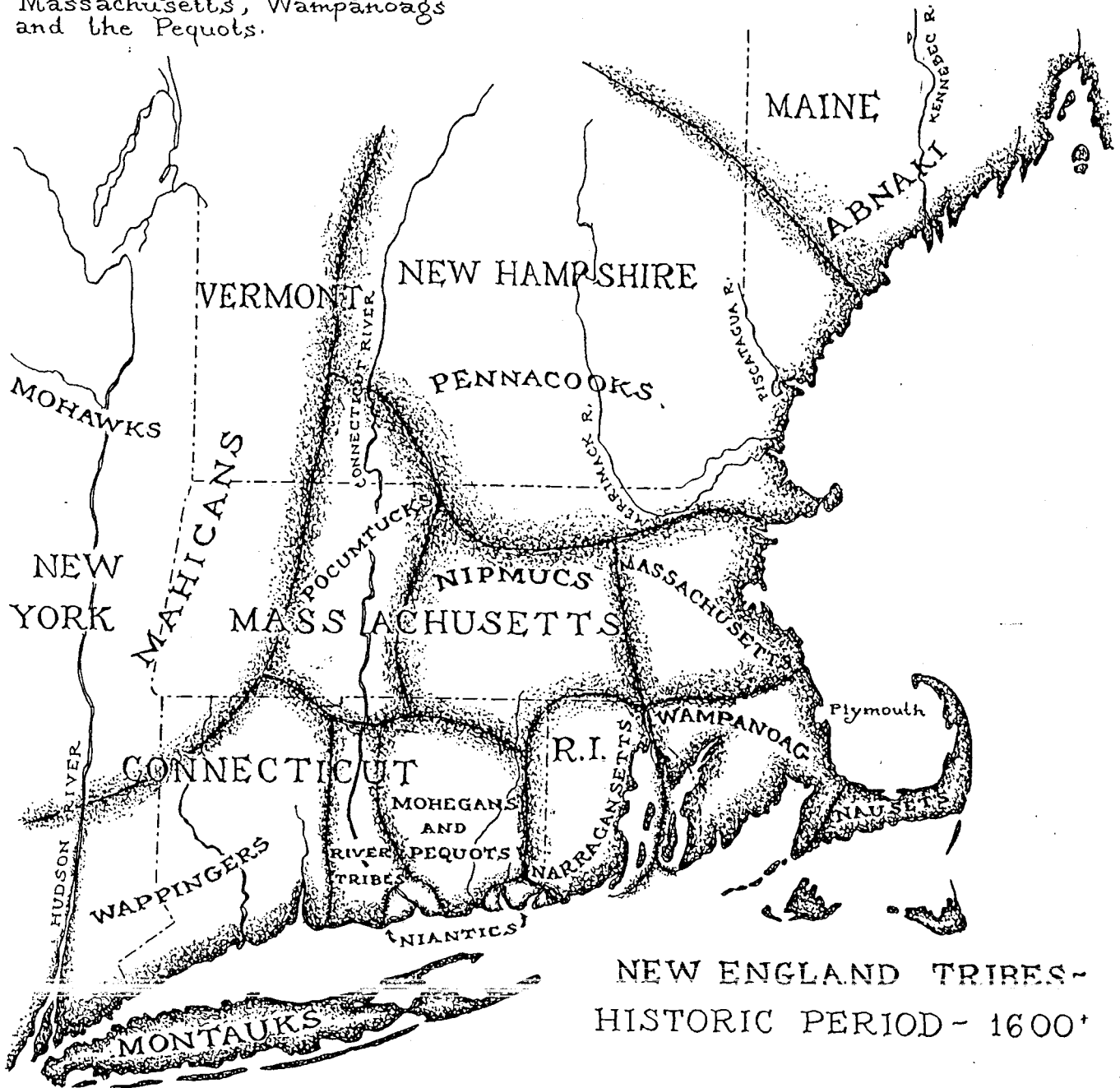


River Indians - Small tribes, scattered along the lower Connecticut River, were related to the Wappinger tribes of lower New York. They were easily overpowered by the Pequots.

Pocumtucks - These loosely knit tribes along the Massachusetts portion of the Connecticut River were fair game for the most fierce and aggressive tribes of all, the Mohawks. All Algonquins feared their ruthless invasions - and especially their cannibalism.

Nipmucs - This group of weak tribes were periodically mauled by the Pennacooks, Massachusetts, Wampanoags and the Pequots.



NEW ENGLAND TRIBES - HISTORIC PERIOD - 1600+

NIPMUCS

"The Fresh Water People"



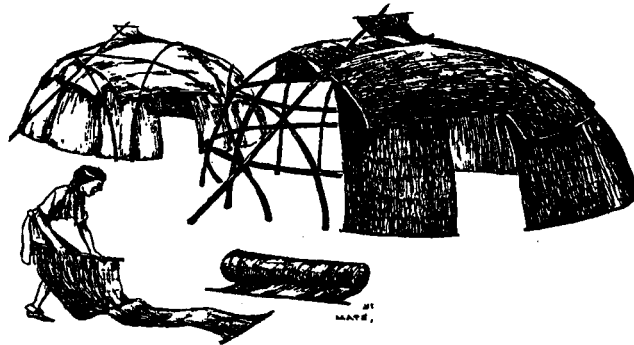
Who are Nipmuc Indians?

Nipmuc Indians are the original or aboriginal Indian people of Central New England who occupied a territory called 'Nipnet'. The land of the Nipmucs extended from the New Hampshire and Vermont borders through Worcester County into northern Connecticut and Rhode Island. Prior to the arrival of English people at Plymouth Rock in 1620, an estimated 3,000 Nipmuc people lived in 39 band encampments or 'villages' scattered throughout the lands of Nipnet.

Today, approximately 2,000 people of Nipmuc heritage still live mostly in parts of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, where Nipmuc Indians have lived for 10,000-years.

Where do they live today?

There are two active Nipmuc tribal groups in Worcester County: one at Grafton, MA which is called the Hassanamesit Band whose leader is Chief Natchamin, and the other at Webster, MA, which is called the Chaubunagungamaug Band, and whose leader is Chief Wise Owl. Both of these groups sponsor pow-wows, gatherings, and activities throughout the year. Each group has a relationship with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Nipmucs are currently reviving an inter-band tribal organization to represent all of the Nipmucs of the three states.



Some notes on the early Nipmuc way of life...

Diet:

Succatash, baked beans, fish chowder, cranberry, corn and pumpkin bread, corn, snow taffy, game, berrys, and fish.

The Home:

Everything in the home had a function. The Nipmucs were ecology-minded people who had a close, sensitive relationship with their environment. They used the shores of the Shenipsic Lake for summer camping grounds, as it was the boundry for three territories, and also favored the Connecticut shores.

Way-of-Life

Nipmucs were reportedly exceptionally skillful at basketry. Hillside and hilltop cultivation were common among the Nipmuc in areas near ponds and streams. They were skilled hunters and fishermen.

Feasts of thanksgiving were many, and they had a wide variety of amusements for all ages, from public exhibitions and contests, to small quiet games playable in or around the wigwam. Some gatherings would bring together scores, even hundreds of contestants, others amused only a few. The gambling spirit was alive and well.

Times of Hardship

During the King Phillips War, in 1676, all of the Indians on the Connecticut River, and most of the Nipmucs who survived, fled to Canada. A few hundred took refuge in New York.

The village and everything in it constructed for today's occasion is as authentic as we could reasonably make it. Historians please forgive us our errors and ommissions. We tried our best!

THE SPOKEN WORD -

The Algonquin language is very much with us today. Such words as sagem, squaw, papoose, quahog, hominy, succotash and tomahawk are but a few in our vocabulary. But there were many other single words that confounded English translation. Take "beaver", for example. Each tribe had its own version. To the north, the Abnaki called it "tmakwa" (cuts wood), while the neighboring Malecite and Passamaquoddy named it "kwabit" (ugly teeth) or "Ketaaag-a-naoloss" (rough tailed one). To the south, Roger Williams wrote that the Narragansetts used "Tummock quahog", "Noosup" and "Sumhup" to represent that single English word "beaver".

In spite of such differences in tribal words and dialects, the sentence structure and some words were like enough for understanding between tribes. Positioning of descriptive adverbs and adjectives was familiar to all the New England natives. The speech might be different but the thought the same.

If all this was confusing to the European newcomers, the compounding of Indian words was a real head-scratcher. By joining the sounds that best expressed each individual word, a new word was created. Sometimes lengthy enough to fill a full sentence, the compound word was actually a description. Place-names were typical. It was a word picture that could be used as a road map by the forest-wise native. "Mattawamkeag" (at the mouth of the bar) was born of such parents as "Madaweik" (mouth of a stream) and "amkeag" (gravel bar or sand beach). According to Cotton Mather, these compound words made up nearly a half of the Algonquin language.

PLACE NAMES of New England - representative samples of these picture words.

ACADIA = THE EARTH.

AGAWAM = LOWLAND.

ALAMOOSUC = LITTLE DOG PLACE.

ALGONQUIN = PEOPLE OF THE OTHER SHORE.

ANDROSCOGGIN = FISH-CURING PLACE.

APPALACHIAN = PEOPLE OF THE OTHER SIDE.

APPONAUG = OYSTER OR SHELL-FISH.

AQUIDNECK = THE ISLAND.

AROOSTOOK = SHINING RIVER.

ASCUTNEY = AT THE END OF THE RIVER FORK.

ASSINIPPI = ROCKY WATER.

ASSONET = AT THE ROCK.

CARIBOU = DIGGER.

CASCO = MUDDY.

CHAPPAQUIDDICK = SEPARATED ISLAND.

CHEPACHET = RIVER FORK.

CHICOPEE = RUSHING WATER.

COCHITUATE = SWIFT RIVER.

COHASSET = YOUNG PINE LAND.

CONNECTICUT = AT THE LONG ESTUARY.

CONTOOCOOK = PINE RIVER BANK.

COOS = PINE TREE.

CUMMAQUID = HARBOR.

CUTTYHUNK = THING THAT LIES OUT IN THE SEA.

DAMARISCOTTA = RIVER OF LITTLE FISHES.

HAMMONASSETT = SANDBAR.

HOOSAC = MOUNTAIN ROCK.

HOUSATONIC = OVER THE MOUNTAIN.

IROQUOIS = REAL ADDERS (NO LOVE LOST HERE BY ALGONQUINS!)

KENNEBEC = LONG WATER LAND.

KENNEBUNK = LONG SANDBAR.

LASHAWAY = BETWEEN.

MANHASSET = SHELTERED PLACE.

MANITOOK = GOD'S COUNTRY.

MASHPOAG = BAD WATER.

MASSACHUSETTS = PEOPLE OF THE GREAT HILL COUNTRY.

MASSAPOAG = GREAT WATER.

WATERBORO = BADLANDS.

MERIDEN = PLEASANT VALLEY.

MERRIMAC = RAPIDS.

MINGO = TREACHEROUS (ANOTHER TERM FOR IROQUOIS.)

MINNECHAUG = BERRY-LAND.

MISHAWUM = GREAT NECK.

MISQUAMICUT = WELL WOODED COUNTRY.

MOHAWK = CANNIBALS OR COWARDS.

MONAHEGAN = GRAND ISLAND.
 MONOMONACK = LOOKOUT POINT.
 MONTAUK = IN THE ISLAND COUNTRY.
 MYSTIC = GREAT TIDAL RIVER.
 NANTUCKET = FAR OFF AMONG THE WAVES.
 NARRAGANSETT = PEOPLE OF THE POINT.
 NASHUA = THE LAND BETWEEN.
 NATICK = MY HOME.
 NAUGATUCK = ONE TREE.
 NIAN TIC = TIDAL LAND.
 NOANK = IT IS A POINT.
 NONOTUCK = MIDDLE OF THE RIVER.
 OSSIPPEE = ROCKY RIVER.
 PASCOAG = RIVER FORK.
 PASSUMPSIC = FLOWING OVER CLEAR SANDY BOTTOM.
 PAWTUXET = LITTLE FALLS.
 PEMAQUID = LONG POINT.
 PEMIGEWASSET = LONG RAPIDS.
 PENACOOK = WHERE THE PATH IS NARROW.
 PENOBSCOT = ROCKY SLOPE.
 PEQUOT = THE DESTROYERS.
 PISQUATAQUIS = AT THE RIVER FORKS.
 PODUNK = PLACE WHERE THE FOOT SINKS.
 QUECHEE = QUICK, WHIRLING FALLS.
 QUIDNECK = BEYOND THE HILL.
 QUINEBAUG = LONG POND.
 QUINNIPIAC = LONG WATER LAND.
 (NAME FOR NEW HAVEN.)
 QUONSET = BOUNDARY.
 SACO = OUTFLOWING.
 SAGADAHOE = SWIFT WATER FLOWING NEAR THE SEA.
 SAKONNET = PLACE OF BLACK GEESÉ.
 SARANAC = RIVER OF SUMAC TREES.
 SASCO = MARSH.
 SAUGATUCK = TIDAL RIVER OUTLET.
 SAUGUS = SWAMP.
 SAWQUID = PLEASANT POINT.
 SCANTIC = WHERE THE RIVER BRANCHES.
 SCITUATE = COLD BROOK.
 SEBAGO = BIG LAKE.
 SEEKONK = WILD GOOSE.
 SHAWOMET = A SPRING, OR PLACE TO WHICH BOATS GO.
 SHETUCKET = LAND BETWEEN RIVERS.
 SKOWEGAN = A PLACE FOR WAITING AND WATCHING.
 SQUAM = PLEASANT WATER PLACE.
 SUNAPEE = ROCKY POND.
 SUNCOOK = ROCKY POINT.
 TACONIC = WILDERNESS.
 TITICUT = AT THE GREAT RIVER.
 TUCKERNUCK = LOAF OF BREAD.
 UMBAGOG = CLEAR LAKE.
 WEATAUG = AT THE VILLAGE.
 WEEKAPAUG = AT THE END OF THE POND.
 WEEPOWAUG = NARROW CROSSING.
 WEYBOSSETT = AT THE CROSSING PLACE.
 WINNIPESAUKEE = LAKELAND.
 WINNISQUAM = SALMON-FISHING WATERS.
 WINOOSKI = WILD ONIONS.
 WISCASSET = AT THE HIDDEN OUTLET.
 WOONSOCKET = A PLACE OF DEEP DESCENT.
 WORONOCO = WINDING ABOUT.
 YANKEE = INDIAN PRONUNCIATION OF "ENGLISH" ("YENGUESE").

PERSONAL NAMES - There were no family names - only individual. An infant was usually named by a prominent tribesman, matron or grandmother. Boys were honored with the name of a deceased Indian, an object or a phenomenon of the heavens. "Little Thunderer," "Returning Cloud," or "A Bird In Continued Flight In The Highest Air" were common. If named after a living warrior, the name was changed slightly, as "Great Eagle" from "White Eagle." Girls were named from the surface of the earth, the vegetable kingdom or the waters. "The Woman Of The Passing Stream," "The Woman Of The Green Valley" or "The Woman Of The Rock" were frequently used. However, these were secret and sacred names and not to be revealed. Instead, the mother gave them common nicknames such as "Little Fox," "Bad Boy," "Bird," and such terms of endearment. Therefore, the child was always known by these secondary names.

P:

MARK OF KING PHILIP.



MARK OF MIANTONOMO.



MARK OF THE SQUAW SACHEM AWASHONKS.