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John Eliot's
First Indian
Interpreter

Cockenoe-de-Long Island



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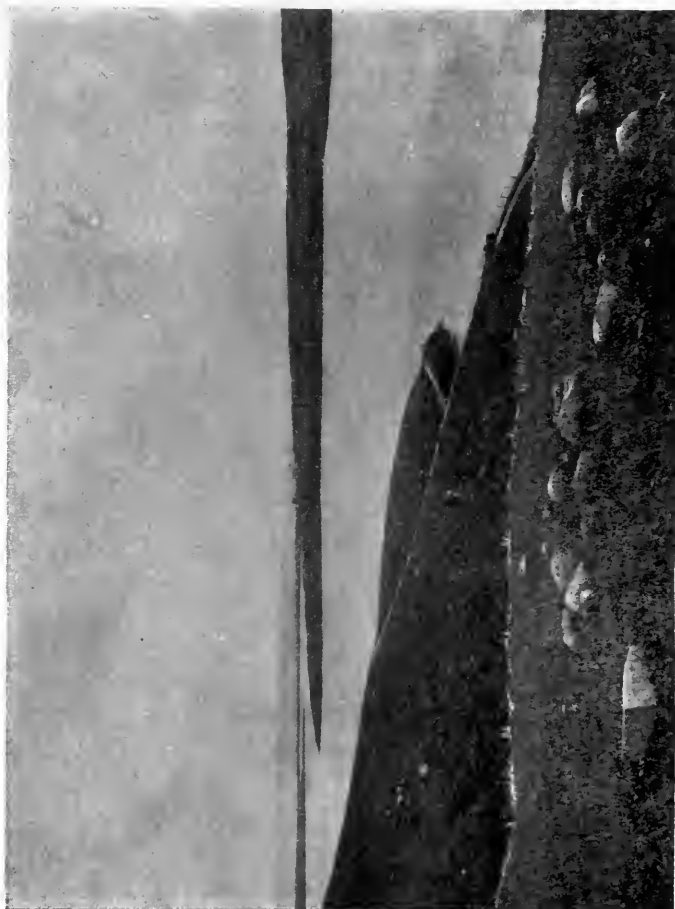
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COCKENOE-DE-LONG ISLAND

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No. 169.....



INDIAN GRAVES ON FORT HILL, MONTAUK

JOHN ELIOT'S

FIRST INDIAN TEACHER AND
INTERPRETER

COCKENOE-DE-LONG ISLAND

AND

The Story of His Career from the Early Records

BY

WILLIAM WALLACE TOOKER

*Member of the Long Island Historical Society, Anthropological
Society of Washington, etc., etc.*



"He was the first that I made use of to teach me words
and to be my interpreter."—*Eliot's Letter*, 2, 12, 1648.



LONDON:
HENRY STEVENS' SON AND STILES.

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RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY (N. Y.) HISTORICAL
SOCIETY BY YOUR FELLOW MEMBER
WILLIAM WALLACE TOOKER.

INTRODUCTION.

This little work is a brief résumé of the career of an Indian of Long Island, who, from his exceptional knowledge of the English language, his traits of character, and strong personality, was recognized as a valuable coadjutor and interpreter by many of our first English settlers. These personal attributes were also known and appreciated by the inhabitants of some parts of Connecticut and Massachusetts, by the Commissioners of the United Colonies of New England, and by the Governor of the Colony of New York, all of whom found occasion for his services in their transactions with the Indians. The facts which I shall present in their chronological order, and the strong circumstantial evidence adduced therefrom, will indicate the reasons why I have unraveled the

threads of this Indian's life from the weft of the past, and why the recital of his career should be the theme of a special essay, and worthy of a distinctive chapter in the aboriginal, as well as in the Colonial, history of Long Island.

WILLIAM WALLACE TOOKER.

SAG HARBOR, L. I., *March*, 1896.



C.A. Harper

COCKENOE-DE-LONG ISLAND.

THE victory of Captain John Mason and Captain John Underhill over the Pequots on the hills of Mystic, in 1637, in its results was far greater than that of Wellington on the field of Waterloo. This fact will impress itself in indelible characters on the minds of those who delve into the historical truths connected with the genesis of our settlements, so wide spreading were the fruits of this victory. As the native inhabitants of the eastern part of Long Island and the adjacent islands were subjects of, and under tribute to, these

dreaded Pequots,¹ they were more or less disturbed by the issues of the after conflicts which ensued in hunting out the fleeing survivors. But as two of the Long Island Sachems, Yoco, the Sachem of Shelter Island, and Wyandanch, the Sachem of Montauk, through the mediation of their friend Lion Gardiner came three days after the fight, and placed themselves under the protection of the victors,² and, as the latter with his men assisted Captain Stoughton during the finale at the "Great Swamp,"³ beyond New Haven, they did not feel the effects so severely as did the immediate allies of the Pequots.

¹ "The Pequots were a very warlike and potent people about forty years since, (1624) at which time they were in their meridian. Their chief Sachem held dominion over divers petty Sagamores, as over part of Long Island, over the Mohegans, and over the Sagamores of Quinapak, yea, over all the people that dwelt on Connecticut river, and over some of the most southerly inhabitants of the Nipmuk country about Quinabang."—Gookin's History.

Gardiner's Relation of the Pequot Wars (Lion Gardiner and his Descendants, by C. C. Gardiner, 1890): "Then said he, (Waiandance) I will go to my brother, for he is the great Sachem of Long Island, and if we may have peace and trade with you, we will give you tribute as we did the Pequits."

² Relation of the Pequot Wars (Lion Gardiner and his Descendants, by C. C. Gardiner, 1890), p. 17.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 17, 18.

Many of the younger Indians captured in this war, especially those taken in Connecticut, were carried to Boston, and there sold into slavery, or distributed around the country into a limited period of servitude⁴—a period generally terminating when the individual so bound had arrived at the age of twenty-five.

Among those so captured and allotted was a young Indian of Long Island, who became a servant in the family of a prominent citizen of Dorchester, Mass.,⁵ a sergeant in the same war, and therefore possibly his captor. This young Indian having been a native of Long Island, and on a visit, was perhaps a reason why he was detained in the colony, for the young male Pequots, we are told, were all expatriated.⁶

⁴ Morton's *New England's Memorial*, 1669, Reprint 1855, p. 131: "We send the male children to Bermuda by Mr. William Pierce, and the women and maid children are disposed about in the towns."

⁵ "Richard Collacot was a prominent man in Dorchester. He had been a sergeant in the Pequot War, and held also at various times the offices of Selectman and of Representative." In 1641, with two associates, he was licensed by the Governor of Massachusetts, to trade with the Indians, also to receive all wampum due for any tribute from Block Island, Long Island Pequots or any other Indians.—*Archæologia Americana*, vol. vii. pp. 67, 434.

⁶ *New England's Memorial*, 1669. Reprint 1855, p. 131.

In proof of these findings of fact we have the testimony of the Rev. John Eliot, than whom no one is better known for his labors in behalf of the spiritual welfare of the Indians of eastern Massachusetts, and for his works in their language, including that monumental work which went through two editions, Eliot's Indian Bible. It is thought that Eliot began his study of the Indian language about 1643, but it is possible that he began much earlier. In a letter dated February 12, 1649 (2-12-'48), he wrote:

“There is an Indian living with Mr. Richard Calicott of Dorchester, who was taken in the Pequott warres, though belonging to Long Island. This Indian is ingenious, can read, and I taught him to write, which he quickly learnt, though I know not what use he now maketh of it. He was the first that I made use of to teach me words, and to be my interpreter.”

At the end of his Indian grammar (printed at Cambridge in 1666) Mr. Eliot gives us an account of his method of learning the language and some more information in regard to this young Long Island Indian. He writes: “I

THE
Indian Primer;

O R,

The way of training up of our
Indian Youth in the good
knowledge of God, in the
knowledge of the Scriptures
and in an ability to Reade.

Composed by J. E.

2 Tim. 3 14, 15. *Qut ken nag-
wutcaush nish nahtunt. wani b
k: h pokkout. wani sh, wab: adt
nob nabrutawoade*

15, *Kab wutcb kummukki: sxi-
neat k wabteo wuancetupaca
canne wassakwborgash, &c.*

Cambridge, Printed 1669.



have now finished what I shall do at present ; and in a word or two to satisfie the prudent Enquirer how I found out these new ways of grammar, which no other Learned Language (so farre as I know) useth ; I thus inform him : God first put into my heart a compassion over their poor souls, and a desire to teach them to know Christ, and to bring them into his kingdome. Then presently I found out, (by Gods wise providence) a pregnant witted young man, who had been a servant in an English house, who pretty well understood our Language, better than he could speak it, and well understood his own Language, and hath a clear pronounciation ; Him I made my Interpreter. By his help I translated the Commandments, the Lords Prayer, and many Texts of Scripture : also I compiled both exhortations and prayers by his help, I diligently marked the difference of their grammar from ours ; when I found the way of them, I would pursue a Word, a Noun, a Verb, through all the variations I could think of. We must sit still and look for Miracles ; up, and be doing, and the Lord will be with thee.

Prayer and pains through Faith in Christ Jesus, will do anything."

In 1646 Mr. Eliot began to preach to the Indians in their own tongue. About the middle of September he addressed a company of the natives in the wigwam of Cutshamoquin, the Sachem of Neponset, within the limits of Dorchester. His next attempt was made among the Indians of another place, "those of Dorchester mill not regarding any such thing." On the 28th of October he delivered a sermon before a large number assembled in the principal wigwam of a chief named Waban, situated four or five miles from Roxbury, on the south side of the Charles river, near Watertown mill, now in the township of Newton. The services were commenced with prayer, which, as Mr. Shepard relates, "now was in English, being not so farre acquainted with the Indian language as to expresse our hearts herein before God or them." After Mr. Eliot had finished his discourse, which was in the Indian language, he "asked them if they understood all that which was already spoken, and whether all of them in

the wigwam did understand, or onely some few? and they answered to this question with multitude of voyces, that they all of them did understand all that which was then spoken to them." He then replied to a number of questions which they propounded to him, "*borrowing now and then some small helpe from the Interpreter whom wee brought with us, and who could oftentimes expresse our minds more distinctly than any of us could.*" Three more meetings were held at this place in November and December of the same year, accounts of which are given by the Rev. Thomas Shepard in the tract, entitled, *The Day-Breaking, if not the Sun-Rising of the Gospell with the Indians in New England*, London, 1647. I have quoted these letters and remarks from the interesting notes on John Eliot's life, contributed to Pilling's Algonquian Bibliography,⁷ by Mr. Wilberforce Eames of the Lenox Library, New York.

As Mr. Eliot in the foregoing letters has testified to what extent he was indebted to this young Indian, there can arise no question whatever as to the great influence which the

⁷ Pp. 176, 117.

instruction and information thus obtained must have had on his subsequent knowledge of the Indian language. It also indicates how close an affinity and how little dialectical difference existed between the language spoken by the eastern Long Island Indians and that of the Natick or Massachusetts Indians to which his works are credited. In fact, the identity between these two dialects is closer than exists between either of them and the Narragansett of Roger Williams, as can be easily proven by comparison. Again, Eliot, in his grammar twenty years afterward, as I have before quoted, by so confessing his obligation to his young teacher to the total exclusion of Job Nesutan, who took his place,⁸ shows how he appreciated the instruction first imparted. Eliot having written, in the winter of 1648-49, that he taught

⁸ Eliot wrote October 21, 1650: "I have one already who can write, so that I can read his writing well, and he (with some paines and teaching) can read mine." The native here referred to was, without doubt, Job Nesutan, who had taken the place of the Long Island Indian, Eliot's first instructor in the language. He is mentioned by Gookin in the History of the Christian Indians as follows: "In this expedition [July, 1675] one of our principal soldiers of the praying Indians was slain, a valiant and stout man named Job Nesutan; he was a very good

this Indian how to read and to write, which he quickly learned, though he knew not what use he then made of the knowledge, it becomes apparent to all that he had then departed, to Eliot's great regret, from the scene of Eliot's labors in Massachusetts; and, as seems to have been the case, had returned to the home of his ancestors on Long Island sometime between the fall of 1646, when he was with Eliot in Waban's wigwam, and the winter of 1649, when Eliot wrote.⁹ Whether his time as a servant had expired, or whether he longed for the country of his youth and childhood, we perhaps shall never learn.

At this point the interesting question arises, Can we identify any one of the Long Island Indians of this period with the "interpreter" or "pregnant witted young man" of John Eliot?

linguist in the English tongue, and was Mr. Eliot's assistant and interpreter in his translations of the Bible, and other books of the Indian language."—Bibliography of the Algonquian Language; Pilling (Eames's Notes, p. 127).

⁹ In the summer of 1647 Eliot visited some more remote Indians about Cape Cod and toward the Merrimack river, where he improved the opportunity by preaching to them. It is probable that about this time his interpreter left Dorchester.

Here it must be conceded that the evidence is entirely circumstantial and not direct; but withal so strong and so convincing as to make me a firm believer in its truth, as I shall set it forth before you.

I shall begin my exposition with the Indian deed of the East Hampton township, dated April 29, 1648,¹⁰ where we find, by the power acquired by the grantees from the Farrett mortgage of 1641,¹¹ that Thomas Stanton made a purchase from the Indians for Theophilus Eaton, Esq., Governor of the Colony of New Haven, and Edward Hopkins, Esq., Governor of the Colony of Connecticut, and their associates "for all that tract of land lying from the bounds of the Inhabitants of Southampton, unto the East side of *Napeak*, next unto *Meuntacut* high land, with the whole breadth from

¹⁰ East Hampton Records, vol. i. pp. 3, 45; Chronicles of East Hampton; p. 113.

¹¹ Thompson's History of Long Island, vol. ii. p. 311, 312, 313. The rights acquired by this mortgage are very explicit, and began as soon the same was sealed and delivered. Its bearing on the purchases from the Indians by the Colonies of Connecticut seems to have been overlooked by all our historians.

sea to sea, etc.," this conveyance is signed by the four Sachems of Eastern Long Island—to wit: *Poggatacut*,¹² the Sachem of *Munhansett*; *Wyandanch*,¹³ the Sachem of *Meuntacut*; *Momoweta*,¹⁴ the Sachem of *Corchake*; *Nowedonah*,¹⁵ the Sachem of *Shinecok*, and their marks are witnessed by *Cheekanoo*, who is thereon stated to have been "*their Interpreter*."¹⁶

¹² This is the only instance in the early records of Long Island where we find the old Sachem of Shelter Island called *Poggatacut*. I believe it to have been rather the name of a place where he lived, either at Cockles Harbor, or on Menantic Creek, Shelter Island. *Poggat-ac-ut* = *Pohquit-ack-ut*, "at the divided or double place." Cockles Harbor is protected on the north by two Islands, which during low tides are one Island. It was probably the sheltered condition of this harbor which gave the island its Indian name as well as its English. It was at this locality that Govert Loockmans purchased two geese from the chief Rochbou [Yoco] in 1647.—Colonial History of New York, vol. xiv. p. 94.

¹³ *Wyandanch* = *Wayan-taunche*, "the wise speaker or talker."

¹⁴ *Momoweta* = *Mohmō-wetud*, "he gathereth or brings together in his house."

¹⁵ *Nowedonah* = *N'owi-dónoh*, "I seek him," or "I go to seek him." This Sachem was formerly called *Witaneymen* or *Weenagamin*, and he probably changed his name when he went to spy out the enemies of the Dutch in 1645 (Colonial History of New York, vol. xiv. p. 60), see also Thompson's Long Island, vol. i. p. 365, Plymouth Colonial Records, vol. ix. p. 18, where he is called *Weenakamin, i. e.*, "bitter berry."

¹⁶ The original of this deed has been stolen from the Town Clerk's office at East Hampton; consequently, I am unable to verify the spelling of these names. On some copies of this deed this name is printed

Here we find confronting us, not only a remarkable, but a very unusual circumstance, in the fact that an Indian of Long Island, who is called "*Cheekanoo*," is acting as an interpreter for these four Sachems, together with Thomas Stanton,¹⁷ another well-known interpreter of the Colonies, as an intermediary in making the purchase. It is very clear to me, and I think it will be to all, that if this Indian was sufficiently learned to speak English, and so intelligent as to act as an interpreter, with all such a qualification would indicate, in 1648, the year before Eliot commended his ingenious teacher, and within the time he seems to have returned to Long Island, he must have acquired his knowledge from someone who had taken great pains in bestowing it, and that one must have been John Eliot. We have found that Eliot does not mention him by name in existing letters; but, as before quoted, simply calls him his "In-

Chectanoo; an evident error, for in no other instance do I find the *k* in his name replaced by a *t*.

¹⁷ See Pilling's *Algonquian Bibliography* (pp. 396, 397), for a brief sketch of Thos. Stanton's career as an Interpreter to the Commissioners of the United Colonies of New England.

terpreter"; therefore, let us learn how a translation of his Long Island appellation will bear on this question.

This name, *Cheekanoo*, *Cockenoe*, *Chickino*, *Chekkonnow*, or *Cockoo*,—no matter how varied in the records of Long Island and elsewhere, for every Town Clerk or Recorder, with but a limited or no knowledge of the Indian tongue and its true sounds, wrote down the name as it suited him, and seldom twice alike even on the same page,—finds its parallel sounds in the Massachusetts of both Eliot and Cotton, in the verb *kuhkinneau*, or *kehkinnoo*, "he marks, observes, takes knowledge, instructs, or imitates";¹⁸ hence, "he interprets," and therefore indicating by a free translation "an interpreter or teacher"; this word in its primitive form occurs in all dialects of the same linguistic family—that is, the Algonquian—in an infinite number of com-

¹⁸ The root *kuhkoo* or *kehkoo*, has simply the idea of "mark" or a "sign," which in Algonquian polysynthesis is modified according to its grammatical affixes, and the sense of the passage used, when translated into an alien tongue. But it must be remembered, however, that its primary meaning was never lost to an Indian—a fact well known to all students of Indian linguistics.

pounds, denoting "a scholar ; teacher ; a thing signified ; I say what he says, *i. e.*, repeat after him," etc.¹⁹

These I may call inferential marks by the wayside, and with what is to follow are surely corroborative evidence strong enough to enable me to assume that I am on the right trail, and that "*Cheekanoo*" and John Eliot's young man were one and the same individual. In its acceptance it becomes obvious that he must have been so termed before the date of the East Hampton conveyance, while still with Eliot in Massachusetts. Indian personal names were employed to denote some remarkable event in their lives, and having been a teacher and an interpreter of Eliot's, and continuing in the same line afterward, which gave him greater celebrity, it was natural that he should retain the name throughout his life.

A little over two weeks after the East Hampton transaction, by a deed dated May 16, 1648²⁰

¹⁹ Compare the various derivatives from the Nipissing (Cuoq) *kikina* and *kikino* ; Otchipwe (Baraga) *kikino* ; Cree (Lacomb) *okiskino* ; Delaware (Zeisberger) *kikino*, etc.

²⁰ Book of Deeds, vol. ii. p. 210, office of the Secretary of State, Albany,

(O. S.), *Mammawetough*, the Sachem of *Corcharge*, with the possible assistance of our interpreter, who, it seems to me, could not have been dispensed with on such an occasion, conveys *Hashamomuck* neck—which included all the land to the eastward of Pipe's Neck creek, in South-old town, on which the villages of Greenport, East Marion, and Orient are located, together with Plum Island—to Theophilus Eaton, Stephen Goodyear, and Captain Malbow of New Haven. This is known as the Indian deed for the "Oyster Ponds," and while *Cheekanoo's* name does not appear on this copy of a copy, for the original has long been lost, it is possible that it may be disguised in the name of one of the witnesses, *Pitchamock*.

While we may infer from the foregoing documents that his services must have been necessarily in constant demand by the colonists in their interviews with the natives, during the four years following the making of these deeds,

N. Y. A copy of this deed, from a contemporary copy made by Richard Terry, then on sale at Dodd & Mead's, New York, was contributed to the Greenport Watchman by Wm. S. Pelletreau, June 6, 1891.

we do not find him again on record until February 25, 1652²¹ (O. S., February 15, 1651), when he is identically employed as at East Hampton, by the proprietors of Norwalk, Conn., probably on the recommendation of the authorities at New Haven; and his name appears among the grantors, in two places on the Indian deed for the Norwalk plantation as "*Cockenoe-de-Long Island.*" But, as he did not sign the conveyance, it shows that he had no vested rights therein, but simply acted for the whites and Indians as their interpreter. From the possible fact that he perhaps erected his wigwam there during this winter and spring of 1651-52, thus giving it a distinctive appellation, an island in the Long Island sound off Westport, Conn., near the mouth of the Saugatuck river, bears his name in the possessive as "*Cockenoe's Island*" to this day, as will be noted by consulting a Coast Survey chart. That the name was bestowed in his time is proven by the record "that it was agreed (in 1672) that the said Island called Cockenoe is to

²¹ Hall's Norwalk, p. 35.

lie common for the use of the town as all the other Islands are.”²² This island is one of the largest and most easterly of the group known as the “Norwalk Islands,” or as they were designated by the early Dutch navigators, the Archipelago.²³ The fact that his name is displayed on this deed for Norwalk, and as the name for this island, has been a puzzle to many historians; but that it does so appear is easily accounted for, when we know what his abilities were, and why he was there.

On September 2, 1652,²⁴ the fall of the year that he was at Norwalk, he appeared before the Commissioners of the United Colonies of New England, then assembled at Hartford, as their records bear witness in the following language: “Whereas we were informed by *Checkanoe* an Indian of *Menhansick* Island, on behalf of the

²² Hall's Norwalk, p. 62.

²³ Another island of this group bears the personal name of an Indian who was called *Mamachimin* (Hall's Norwalk, pp. 30, 93, 97. He joined in the Indian deed to Roger Ludlow of Norwalk, February 26, 1640, corresponding to March 8, 1641). The name still survives, abbreviated to “*Chimons* Island.”

²⁴ Colonial Records of Connecticut, vol. iv. p. 476.

Indian inhabitants of said island, that they are disturbed in their possession by Captain Middleton and his agents, upon pretense of a purchase from Mr. Goodyear of New Haven, who bought the same of one Mr. Forrett, a scotchman, and by vertue thereof the said Indians are threatened to be forced off the said island and to seek an habitation where they can get it; the said Indians deny that they sold the said island to the said Forrett; and that the said Forrett was a poor man, not able to purchase it, but the said Indians gave to the said Forrett some part of the said Island and marked it out by some trees; yet never, that themselves be deprived of their habitation there, and therefore they desired that the Commissioners (they being their tributaries) to see they have justice in the premises, the Commissioners therefore, in regard the said Mr. Goodyear is not present, and that he is of New Haven jurisdiction, and at their Court, to hear to complaint of the said Indians, and to satisfy the said Indians if they can, if not to certify the Commissioners at the next meeting, the truth of

the premises; that some further order may be taken therein as shall be meet."

As the result of this emphatic protest by *Checkanoë*, and in evidence of its truth and fairness, we find that on the 27th of December following,²⁵ Captain Middleton and associates were obliged to satisfy the Indians, by purchasing Shelter Island, or as it was called by the Indians *Manhansick ahaquazuwamuck*,²⁶ from the Sachem *Yoco*, formerly called *Unkenchie*, and other of his chief men, among whom we find one called *Actoncocween*,²⁷ which I believe to be simply another descriptive term for our hero, for the word signifies "an interpreter," or "he who repeats," *i. e.*, "the repeat man."

This sale was certified to at Southold the

²⁵ East Hampton Records, vol. i. pp. 96-97.

²⁶ *Manhansick ahaquazuwamuck* = *Manhan-es-et-ahaquazuwamuck*, "at or about the island sheltered their fishing-place," or "their sheltered fishing-place at or about the island," see Brooklyn Eagle Almanac, 1895, p. 55, "Some Indian Fishing Stations upon Long Island."

²⁷ Compare Delaware (Zeisberger) *Anhuktonheen*, "interpreter, *Ekhikuweet*, "talker"; Lenâpé (Brinton) *Anhoktonhen*, "to interpret"; Otchipwe (Baraga) *Anikanotagewin*, "interpreter," or "his work as an interpreter," *Anikanotage*, "I repeat what another says."

following spring,²⁸ but the deeds themselves have long been lost, and the pages of the volume on which they were entered despoiled of their contents by some vandal years ago. These items of record, however, point to one conclusion, that if the owners of Shelter Island were unable to produce Forrett's deed from the Indians in 1652, which they seem to have been unable to do, it is not at all likely that it will ever be discovered. It also indicates that Forrett's title, as well as that of Mr. Good-year, rested on a frail foundation as far as the whole island was concerned, and that the Indians were right in their protest.

In this year according to tradition, or what is more in accordance with facts, in the spring of 1653,²⁹ *Yoco Unkenchie* or *Poggatacut*, as he is

²⁸ Southold Records, vol. i. p. 158.

²⁹ The late David Gardiner in his *Chronicles of East Hampton*, p. 33, and other Long Island historians following him, place this event in the year 1651; but as *Yoco*, as he is more often called, united with the chief men of his tribe in the deed to Captain Middleton and associates on the 27th of December, 1652, a date which was, in accordance with our present mode of computing time, January 6, 1653, would indicate beyond question the error of our historians in assigning his death previous.

variously named, passed away. The tribe, now without a head, and weak in tribal organization, migrated from Shelter Island. Some went to Montauk and to Shinnecock, while a few united with the Cutchogues. During the following three or four years much alarm was created from the rumor that the Dutch were endeavoring to incite the Indians against the English.³⁰ The conduct of the Montauks and Shinnecoeks was such that they were particularly distrusted, and they were forbidden without special leave to come into the settlements.³¹ It was forbidden to furnish them with powder, shot, or

³⁰ East Hampton Records, vol. i. p. 31: "It is ordered noe Indian shall Come to the Towne unles it be upon special occasion and none to come armed because that the Dutch hath hired Indians agst the English and we not knowing Indians by face and because the Indians hath cast of their sachem, and if any of the Indians or other by night will come in to the towne in despit of eyther watch or ward upon the third stand to shoote him or if thay rune away to shoote him" (April 26, 1653).

³¹ Southampton Records, vol. i. p. 90 (April 25, 1653): "At a generall court Liberty is given to any Inhabitant to sell unto ye Sachem any manner of vituals for the supply of his family for a month's time from the date hereof, Mr. Odell haveing promised to use his best endeavors to see that the said Sachem buy not for other Indians but for his particular use as aforesaid." It is probable from the following note that this Sachem was Cockenoe.

rum ; nence we find but little recorded. Again, the war carried on between the Montauks and Narragansetts began in this year, and continued for some years with great loss on both sides. It is very doubtful if *Cockenoe* took any active part in this war, or at least in its earliest stages ; for, according to the fragmentary depositions by the Rev. Thomas James and others,³² in the celebrated *Occabog* meadows suit of 1667,—a quarrel over a tract of salt meadow located almost within sight of the village of Riverhead, between the neighboring towns of Southampton and Southold,—*Cockenoe* was then residing at Shinnecock with his first wife, the sister of the four Sachems of Eastern Long Island, who united in the East Hampton con-

³² East Hampton Records, vol. i. p. 261 (Munsill's History of Suffolk County, East Hampton Town, see Facsimile, p. 13), Extract : " and the Shinokut Indians had the drowned Deere as theirs one this side the sayd River and one Beare Some years since ; And the old squaw Said by the token shee eat some of it Poynting to her teeth ; And that the skin and flesh was brought to *Shinnocut* as acknowledging their right to it to a saunk squaw then living there who was the old *Mantaukut* Sachems sister ; And first wife to *Chekkanoow*." In the trial November 1, 1667 (Colonial History of New York, vol. xiv. p. 601), an Indian testified : " It was about fourteen yeares agoe since the beare was kill'd," which indicates the year 1653 as the time the Saunk Squaw was living at Shinnecock.

veyance. She was at this date, in consequence of the death of her brother *Nowedonah*, the *Sunck Squaw*, that is, the woman Sachem, of the Shinnecock tribe—a fact which proves that by marriage he came into the house of the Sachems, and was entitled to be designated as a Sagamore, as we find him sometimes called.

In the latter part of August, 1656,³³ *Wyan-*

³³ Hazard's State Papers, vol. ii. p. 359. As this record has never been quoted in full in our Long Island histories, and Hazard's work is quite rare, it would be well to print it at this time, viz.: "Upon a complaint made by *Ninnegrates* messenger to the Generall Court of the Massachusetts in May last against the *Montackett* Sachem for murdering Mr Drake and some other Englishmen upon ours near the Long Island shore and seiseing their goods many years since and for Trecherously assaulting *Ninnegett* upon block Island and killing many of his men after a peace concluded betwixt them certified to Newhaven by the Massachusetts Commissioners by a Complaints made by *Awsuntawney* the Indian Sagamore near Milford and two other western Indians against the said *Montackett* Sachem for hiering a witch to kill *Uncas* with the said Milford Sachem and his son giving eight fathom of wampam in hand promising a hundred or a hundred and twenty more when the said murders were committed; Notice whereof being given to the said *Montackett* Sachem and hee Required to attend the Commissioners att this meeting att Plymouth The said Sachem with five of his men came over from longe Island towards the latter part of August in Captaine Younges Barque whoe was to carry the Newhave Commissioners to Plymouth but the Wind being contrary they first putt in att Milford. The Sachem then desiring to Improve the season sent to speake with *Awsuntawey* or any of the western Indians to see whoe or what Could bee charged upon

danch, the Sachem of Montauk, with five of his men, on complaint entered against him by the Narragansett Sachem *Ninnegrate*, presented himself before the Commissioners, then in session at Plymouth, Mass. *Ninnegrate*, how-

him but none came but such as professed they had nothing against him; The Commissioners being mett att Plymouth; The said Sachem presented himselfe to answare but neither *Ninnegratt* nor *Uncas* nor the Milford Sachem appeared, only *Newcom* a cunning and bould Narragansett Indian sent by *Ninnegratt* as his Messinger or deputy charged the long Island Sachem first with the murther of Mr Drake and other Englishmen affirming that one Wampeag had before severall Indians confessed that hee hiering under the *Montackett* Sachem did it being thereunto hiered by the said Sachem which said Sachem absolutly denyinge and Capt Young professing that both English and Indians in those partes thought him Innocent : *Necom* was asked why himselfe from *Ninnegratt* haveing layed such charges upon the long Island Sachem before the Massachusetts Court hee had not brought his Proffe ; hee answered that Wampeag was absent but some other Indians were present whoe Could speak to the case ; wherupon an Indian afeirmed that hee had heard the said Wampeag confesse that being hiered as above hee had murdered the said Englishmen ; though after the said murther with himselfe that now spake the *Muntackett* Sachem and some other Indians being att Newhaven hee denyed itt to Mr Goodyer and one hundred fathome of Wampam being tendered and delivered to Mr Eaton the matter ended ; Mr Eaton professed as in the presence of God hee Remembered not that hee had seen Wampeag nor that hee had Received soe much as one fathom of wampam, Nor did hee believe that any at all was tendered him ; wherupon the Commissioners caled to the Indian for Proffe Mr Eaton being present and denyeing it the Indian answered there were two other Indians present that could speak to it ; they were called forth but both of them professed

ever, not appearing or submitting any proof of his allegations, *Wyandanch* was acquitted of the charges with much honor. At the same time he was relieved from the payment of the tribute, then four years in arrears, owing to his

that through themselves and from other Indians where then att Newhaven yett the former afermined Indian was not there and that there was noe wawpam att all either Received or tendered soe that the long Island Sachem for what yett appeered stood free from this foule Charge ; 2 Cond, The said *Newcome* charged the *Montackett* Sachem with breach of Covenant in asaulting *Ninnegrett* and killing divers of his men att Block Island after a conclusion of peace, the Treaty whereof was begun by a Squaw sent by *Ninnigrett* to the said Sachem to tender him peace and the Prisoners which the said *Ninnigrett* had taken from the long Island sachem upon condition the said sachem did wholly submitt the said message, but afeirmed hee Refused to accept the Conditions which hee said hee could not without advising with the English whereupon the Squaw Returned and came backe from *Ninnigrett* with an offer of the prisoners for Ransom of wampam which hee saith hee sent and had his prisoners Relieved, *Newcome* afeirmed the agreement between the said Sachems was made att *Pesacus* his house by two long Island Indians deligates to the *Montackett* Sachem in presence of *Pesacus* and his brother and others, two Englishmen being present one whereof was Robert Westcott ; *Pesacus* his brother testified the agreement as aforesaid. The *Muntackett* acknowlidged hee sent the said Delligatts but never heard of any such agreement and denyed hee gave any such commission to his men, *Newcome* afeirming Robert Wescott would Testify the agreement aforesaid and desiring a writing from the commissioners to Lycence the said Wescott to come and give in his Testimony which was granted and *Newcome* departed pretending to fetch Wescott but Returned Not : The Commissioners finding much Difficulty to bring their thoughts

distressed condition. It is probable that *Cockenoe* was one of the five men accompanying him on this occasion.

He again makes his appearance on record in 1657,³⁴ when he laid out and marked the bounds of Hempstead in Queens County, by order of *Wyandanch*, who had then acquired jurisdiction as Sachem in chief over the Indians of Long Island, as far west as Canarsie.³⁵ "*Chegonoe*"

to a certaine Determination on Satisfying grounds yett considering how Proudly *Ninnigrett* and how peaceably the *Montackett* Sachem hath carryed it towards the English ordered that a message the contents whereof heerafter followeth bee by Tho Stanton delivered to *Ninnigrett* and that for the securitie of the English plantations on long Island and for an Incurragement to the *Montackett* Sachem the two first particulars of the order to hinder *Ninnigretts* attempts on long Island ; made last year att New Haven bee continued ; Notwithstanding the said English are Required to Improve those orders with all moderation and not by any Rashness or unadvisednes to begin a broil unless they bee Nessesitated thereunto ; The *Montackett* Sachem being questioned by the Commissioners concerning the Painment of his Tribute Professed that hee had Pay^d it att hartford for ten yeares but acknowledged there was four yeares behind which the Commissioners thought meet to respekt in respect of his present Troubles ; Plymouth Sept 17th 1656."

³⁴ Thompson's Long Island, vol. ii. p. 9.

³⁵ This protectorship was agreed upon and confirmed May 29, 1645, by *Rochkouw* [*Yoco*] the greatest Sachem of *Cotsjewaminck* (= *Ahaquazuwamuck*). See Colonial History of New York, vol. xiv. p. 60. See also Plymouth Colonial Records, vol. ix. p. 18.

witnesses the sign manual of his Sachem, who was present, on the confirmation deed of July 4, 1657.³⁶ This deed is dated 1647, as given in Thompson's History of Long Island.³⁷ The mistake is again repeated in Munsill's History of Queens County,³⁸ and has been often quoted by others quite recently; but the date will be found correctly given in the Colonial History of New York.³⁹

The records of Hempstead under date of March 28, 1658, read: "This day ordered Mr Gildersleeve, John Hick, John Seaman, Robert Jackson and William Foster, are to go with *Cheknow* sent and authorized by the *Montake* Sachem, to marck and lay out the generall bounds of y^e lands, belonging to y^e towne of Hempstead according to y^e extent of y^e limits and jurisdiction of y^e s^d towne to be known by y^e markt trees and other places of note to continue forever." These boundaries are named in the release of the following May, which "*Checknow*" witnesses. The appearance of his name

³⁶ Thompson's Long Island, vol. ii. p. 10.

³⁸ P. 145.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

³⁹ Pp. 416, 417.

on the records of Hempstead, and on these deeds, has led some writers to assume that he was a Sachem of the Rockaways,⁴⁰ an error which I find persistently quoted.

The year 1658 was a busy one for our Indian. The settlements are rapidly spreading and land is in demand by incoming colonists. On June 10 he laid out the beach to the westward of the Southampton settlement, giving Lion Gardiner the right to all whales cast up by the sea, and he witnesses the grant by his Sachem.⁴¹

On August 17⁴² he marked out, by blazing trees, three necks of meadow for the inhabitants of Huntington, on the south side, in the western part of the present town of Babylon, which necks were afterward in controversy. The village of Amityville now occupies part of the upland bordered by the meadow. It states in the deed "that *Choconoe* for his wages, and going to marke out the Land shall have for

⁴⁰ Indian Tribes of Hudson's River, Rutenber, p. 73 ; Munsill's History of Queens County, p. 19.

⁴¹ East Hampton Records, vol. i. p. 48.

⁴² Huntington Records, vol. i. pp. 16, 17.

himselfe, one coat, foure pounds of poudar six pounds of led, one dutch hatchet, as also seventeen shillings in wampum," which, together with pay for the land, "they must send by *Chockanoe*." Our early settlers were always behindhand in their payments, and in this case, as evidenced by a receipt attached, pay was not received until May 23 of the next year, when Wyandance refers to "the meadow I sould last to them which my man *Chockenoe* marked out for them."

On April 19, 1659,⁴³ eleven years after the purchase, at an annual town meeting of the inhabitants of East Hampton, held probably in the first church that stood at the south end of the street,⁴⁴ "*It was agreed that Checanoe shall have 10^s for his assistance in the purchase of the plantacon.*" Seemingly a dilatory and inadequate reward for such a service. Money, however, was very scarce and worth something in those days, and we cannot gauge it by the light of the present period. In comparison we can only

⁴³ East Hampton Records, vol I. p. 156.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 66.

refer to the fact that Thomas Talmadge at the same period was only paid 20^s, or double the amount, for a year's salary as Town Clerk. The record, however, is a valuable one, and is one of the straws indicating the esteem and favor in which *Cockenoe* was regarded by the townspeople of East Hampton.

That *Cockenoe* took an active part in marking the bounds of the tract of land between Huntington and Setauket, now comprised in the town of Smithtown, presented to Lion Gardiner by *Wyandanch* on July 14, 1659,⁴⁵ as a token of love and esteem in ransoming his captive daughter and friends from the Narragansetts,

⁴⁵ Book of Deeds, vol. ii. pp. 118-19, Office of the Secretary of State, Albany. The original is now in the possession of the Long Island Historical Society: "Bee it knowne unto all men, both English and Indians, especially the inhabitants of Long Island: that I *Wyandance* Sachame, of *Pamanack*, with my wife and son *Wiancombone*, my only sonn and heire, haveinge delyberately considered how this twenty-foure years wee have bene not only acquainted with Lion: Gardiner, but from time to time have reseived much kindness of him and from him, not onely by counsell and advise in our prosperitie, but in our great extremytie, when wee were almost swallowed upp of our enemies, then wee say he apeared to us not onely as a friend, but as a father, in giveinge us his monie and goods, wherby wee defended ourselves, and ransomd my daughter and friends, and wee say and know that by his meanes we had great comfort

is worthy of note, for it is evident that the Sachem had no one else so capable. In confirmation of this surmise and my belief that he had a prominent part in all the land transactions of Wyandanch, my friend William S. Pelletreau, who is preparing the early records of the town of Smithtown for publication, has lately found recorded, in a dispute over the lands of Smithtown, a deposition taken down by John Mulford of East Hampton, dated October 18, 1667, which reads: "*Pauquatoun*, formerly Chiefe Councillor to the Old Sachem *Wyandance* testifieth that the Old Sachem *Wyandance* appointed *Sakkatakka* and

and reliefe from the most honorable of the English nation heare about us ; soe that seinge wee yet live, and both of us beinge now ould, and not that wee at any time have given him any thinge to gratifie his fatherly love, care and charge, we haveinge nothing left that is worth his acceptance but a small tract of land which we desire him to Accept of for himselfe, his heires, executors and assignes forever ; now that it may bee knowne how and where that land lieth on Long Island, we say it lieth betwene Huntington and Seatacut, the westerne bounds being Cowharbor, easterly Arhata-a-munt, and southerly crosse the Island to the end of the great hollow or valley, or more, then half through the Island southerly, and that this gift is our free act and deede, doth appeare by our hand martcs under writ." Wayandance's mark represents an Indian and a white shaking hands.

*Chekanno*⁴⁶ to mark out the said *Rattaconeck* [*Cattaconeck*] lands, and after that y^e s^d *Pauquatoun* saw the trees marked all along the bounds and the Sachem being with him, he heard him [the Sachem] say it was marked right. And there is a Fresh pond called *Ashamaumuk*⁴⁷ which is the parting of the bounds of the foregoing lands from where the trees were marked to y^e pathway." This "Fresh pond" was at the northwest bounds of the town of Smithtown.

At the same time and year, probably, as it bears no date, he witnessed the sale of "Old Field" by *Wyandance* to the inhabitants of Setauket in the town of Brookhaven.⁴⁸ Also about the same time the sale of "Great Neck or *Cattaconocke*,"⁴⁹ bounding Smithtown on the east as referred to by *Pauquatoun*.

⁴⁶ These two chief men of the Montauk tribe were frequently sent together by *Wyandanch*, and were possibly the Delegates sent to *Pesacus* at Rhode Island as stated in Note 33. *Sakkataka* or *Sasachatoko* was at one time chief counselor of the Sachem of the tribe. He was still living in 1702-03, as the Montauk conveyance of that date bears witness.

⁴⁷ See Brooklyn Eagle Almanac, 1895, p. 55.

⁴⁸ Brookhaven Records, vol. i. p. 16.

⁴⁹ "The Name of the Neck aboves'd ; *Cattaconocke*, March 8 1666 "

On February 10, 1660,⁵⁰ he marked out, and also witnessed the confirmation of the sale of Lloyd's Neck, in the town of Huntington, by *Wyancombone*, the son and heir of the late Sachem *Wyandanch*, who had passed away, and whose son was then acknowledged by both the Indians and whites as the chief Sachem of Long Island. His name on this copy of a copy is misspelled as *Chacanico*.

In the confirmation deed for Smithtown, dated April 6, 1660,⁵¹ by *Wyancombone*, the land is stated to have been laid out by some of the chief men of the tribe; these men are named in *Pauquatoun's* testimony. In the copy recorded in the office of the Secretary of State at Albany, N. Y., *Cockenoe* is named as a witness in the corrupt form of *Achemano*. He united on August 16, 1660,⁵² with the rest of his tribe (Brookhaven Records, vol. i. p. 16). The Indian name, of which "great neck" is probably a popular translation, signifies "a great field," *Kehle-Konuk*.

⁵⁰ Huntington Records, vol. i. p. 20.

⁵¹ Book of Deeds, vol. ii. p. 118, office of the Secretary of State, Albany, N. Y.; George R. Howell in Southside Signal, Babylon, June 30, 1883.

⁵² East Hampton Records, vol. i. 172.

at Montauk, in the first Indian deed to the inhabitants of East Hampton for "all the afore^{sd} Necke of land called *Meantaquit*,⁵³ with all and every parte thereof from sea to sea."

About this time the *Meantaquit* Indians petitioned the Commissioners of the United Colonies of New England for protection from the cruelty of the Narragansetts⁵⁴ with the result that the latter were ordered not to come within six miles of the English plantations, and the former not to begin any new quarrels, but to behave themselves quietly, without provocation. The fact that *Cockenoe* was then living at Montauk is proof that he must have been one of the petitioners.

Thomas Revell, a merchant of Barbadoes, and a resident of Oyster Bay, L. I., was engaged with Constant Sylvester, one of the owners of Shelter Island, together with James Mills of Virginia,⁵⁵ and John Budd of Southold, in the

⁵³ "The Signification of the name Montauk," Brooklyn Eagle Almanac, 1896, pp. 54, 55.

⁵⁴ East Hampton Records, vol. i. p. 175; Southold Records, vol. i. p. 363.

⁵⁵ Southampton Records, vol. ii. pp. 14, 20, 209.

West India trade. Through his partners, or otherwise, he became well acquainted with our friend *Cockenoe*, and employed him as an interpreter in buying some land from the Indians in Westchester County, N. Y. We find that *Cockenoe* was with him at *Manussing Island*, at the head of the *Long Island* sound, where he gave *Revell* a deed, witnessed by *John Budd* and others, dated *October 27, 1661*, which reads: "*I Cockoo Sagamore* by vertue of a full and absolute power and order unto him and intrusted by *Mahamequeet Sagamore* & *Meamekett Sagamore* & *Mamamettchoack* & *Capt. Wappequairan* all *Ingines* living up *Hudson River* on the *Main land* for me to bargain & absolutely sell unto *Thos Revell* . . . And fardder more I doe promise and ingauge myself in behalf of the prenamed *Ingaines* & y^e rest of those *Ingains* which I now sell this land for and them to bring suddenly after y^e date hereof, for to give unto *Thomas Revels* or his order quiet and peacable possession," etc., etc. This tract of land thus conveyed was in the present township of

Mamaroneck, Westchester County, N. Y. The power of attorney given to *Cockenoe* by these Indians reads: "One of our Councill *Cockoo* by name an Ingaine the which we do approve of and do confirm whatsoever the said *Cockoo* shall doe in bargaining and selling unto Thos Revell of Barbadoes," etc. This power of attorney by some means was dated two weeks after the execution of the deed, and in the litigation which ensued over the purchase this fact ruined the case for Revell. This deed and the power of attorney were both recorded at Southampton, L. I.,⁵⁶ and are quoted in full, with particulars of the suit, in Sharf's History of Westchester County, N. Y.,⁵⁷ and are too lengthy to dwell upon at this time.

Cockoo, *Cokoo*, *Cockoe*, or *Cakoe*, as his name is variously given in the papers relating to this affair, is evidently an abbreviated form of *Cockenoe*.⁵⁸ All the facts recorded in connection with it point to him and to no one else. From

⁵⁶ Southampton Records, vol. ii. pp. 15, 16.

⁵⁷ See Mamaroneck, by Edward Floyd DeLancey, Esq.; chap. 23, pp. 850, 851.

⁵⁸ See Note 18.

the context of the papers, he was a strange Indian, not living up the Hudson river, where it is stated all the other Indians dwelt. That he was acting as an interpreter is evident—a fact which, as I have before observed, was a very rare qualification for an Indian of that period. Humphrey Hughes, whose name appears as one of the witnesses on Cockoo's power of attorney, was a seaman in the employ of Revell, and in his various capacities as a sailor, trader, fisherman, or an inhabitant, is frequently mentioned in the records of both South⁵⁹ and East Hampton towns;⁶⁰ hence *Cockenoe* was no stranger to him. Two years afterward Hughes witnessed the renewal of the Montauk Squaw Sachem's whaling grant to John Cooper; therefore, taking all these items of fact into consideration, it is not at all strange that *Cockenoe* should have been employed by Thomas Revell in buying land from the Indians in Westchester County.

On February 21, 1662⁶¹ (February 11, 1661)

⁵⁹ Southampton Records, vol. ii. pp. 14, 15, *et seq.*

⁶⁰ East Hampton Records, vol. i. pp. 159, 160, *et seq.*

⁶¹ From the original in possession of the owner of Montauk, Frank Sherman Benson, Esq.

Chekkonnow again united with his tribe in the deed known as the "Hither Woods" purchase, "for all the piece or neck of land belonging to *Muntauket* land westward to a fresh pond in a beach, on this side westward to the place where the old Indian fort stood, on the other side eastward to the new fort that is yet standing, the name of the pond (Fort Pond) is *Quaunontowounk* on the north, and *Konkhonganik* on the south,"⁶² etc. At this date, as is proven by the above wording of this deed, the Montauks were encamped at the southern part of East Hampton village⁶³ under the pro-

⁶² *Quaunontowounk* = *Quaneuntowounk* (Eliot), "where the fence is," and refers to the "sufficient fence upon the north side of the pond." Compare "the Indian fence at *Quahquetong*," Trumbull's Names in Connecticut, p. 58; *Konkhonganik* "at the boundary place," *Kuhknhunganash*, "bounds" (Eliot), Acts xvii. 26. The agreement, Book of Deeds, vol. ii. p. 123, office of Secretary of State, Albany, N. Y., dated October 4, 1665, says: "That the bounds of East Hampton to the East shall be ffort Pond, the North fence from the pond to the sea shall be kept by the Towne. The South fence to the sea by the Indyans." *Askikotantup*, daughter of the Sachem Wyandanch, was Sachem Squaw of Montauk at the date of this agreement.

⁶³ This passage reads: "The cruel opposition and violence of our deadly enemy Ninecraft Sachem of Narragansett, whose cruelty hath proceeded so far as to take away the lives of many of our dear friends and relations, so that we were forced to flee from the said Montauk for

tection of the settlers, in order to escape the invasions of the Narragansetts, and Montauk was temporarily abandoned.

In the same year *Checkanow* was sent with *Tobis*, another Indian, by order of the *Sachem Squaw*, widow of *Wyandanch*, to mark out John Cooper's whaling limits on the beach to the westward of Southampton.⁶⁴

Some of the boundaries of Huntington, laid out in 1658, being disputed by their neighbors of Oyster Bay, it became necessary to send for *Cockenoe* that he might identify his former marks. At a town meeting held at Huntington March 8, 1664⁶⁵ (26-12-1663). "It was voted that when *Chiskanoli* come that Mr Wood shall have power to agree with him, and the town to gratifie him to show the boundaries of the necks of meadow at the south bought by the town."

shelter to our beloved friends and neighbors of East Hampton, whom we found to be friendly in our distress, and whom we must ever own and acknowledge as instruments under God, for the preservation of our lives and the lives of our wives and children to this day."

⁶⁴ East Hampton Records, vol. i. p. 199.

⁶⁵ Huntington Records, vol. i. p. 58.

In the following spring⁶⁶ "Att a Generall meeting of y^e Deputyes of Long Island held before y^e Governor at Hempstedd, March 6th 1664 (March 16, 1665), It is this day ordered y^t y^e Towne of Huntington shall possesse & enjoye three necks of meadow land in Controversy between y^m and Oyster bay as of Right belonging to them, they haveing y^e more annient Grant for them, but in as much as it is prentented that *Chickano* marked out fouer Necks for Huntington instedd of three, if upon a joynt view of them it shall appeare to be soe, then Huntington shall make over the outmost neck to Oyster bay," etc.

In the affirmation by John Ketchum and townsmen, who went with Cockenoe to these meadows according to the foregoing order of the assembly, we find the following interesting record:⁶⁷ "When wee came to the south to our meadows wee went ovar too neckes to our naybours who had called *massapeege* Indians, About the number of twentie, whoe opoased us About the space of an ower and would not

⁶⁶ Huntington Records, vol. i. p. 58.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 90.

suffer the Indian [*Cockenoe*] to goe and shew us the marked tree, then we show the Sachem [*Tackapousha*] the writing to which hee had set his hand which was our acquittance, and yet hee would not suffer the Indian to goe, when wee see nothing would prevaile, wee took our leave of them and said wee would carry backe this anser to them that sent us; but they not willing that wee should, tooke up the matter as wee did apprihend spake to the Indians whoe after gave leave to the Indian who was *Chickemo* to goe and shew us the tree, many off *massapauge* Indians went with us. Thomas Brush went before and not taking notice off the tree went past it then a *massapauge* Indian called him backe and shewed him the tree before *Chickenoe* came neare it, when *Chickenoe* came to the tree hee said that was the tree hee marked, as his master Comanded him. *Massapauge* Sachem said by his Interpreter that hee told *muntaulke* Sachem that hee was grived at his hart that hee had sould that necke upon which then wee was, but *muntalket* Sachem tould him that it was sould and it could not bee

helped and therefore bid him goe and Receive his paye and so hee said hee did: and alsoe *massapauge* sachem owned his Land and that he had Received the goods."

Thomas Topping of Southampton and William Wells of Southold, two of the Deputies, who were in Huntington at this time by order of the Assembly,⁶⁸ "touchinge three necks of meadowe, wh^{ch} Huntington had formerly purchased of *Muntaukatt* Sarchem, and he informs true properiet^y as also in responsion to Oyster Bay inhabitants, who lay a claime to part of the said three Necks, saying thare are fouer necks & one thereof belongs to them, the said *Chickinoe* now did playnly and cleerly demonstrate before them that the Tree he first marked by his Master *Muntakett* Sachems order, and hath a second tyme denied according to order, is noe other but that wh^{ch} ought justly to be owned by him and soe marked as aforesaid, and comprehends only Huntingtons just Purchase of three Necks of Medow and in truth is three necks of medowe & not four according

⁶⁸ Huntington Records, vol. i. pp. 91, 92.

to the present relation of *Chickinoe*." The Huntington men, it seems, were rather greedy, and *Cockenoe*, true to their interest, and having been "gratified," was trying to give them all they claimed.

The *Massapeag* Sachem *Tackapousha*, who has put on record "that it grived his hart" to make this sale, was a thorn in the flesh of the settlers of these two towns as long as he lived. It was utterly impossible to satisfy his demands, The records show that both the English and Dutch were obliged to buy him off time and time again.⁶⁹ He is one of the most selfish and turbulent characters we find in the whole aboriginal history of Long Island. Had he and his tribe been more powerful than they were, they would have left a bloody page on the annals of Long Island; as it was, it was his weakness alone that prevented it.

On November 3, 1669, at East Hampton, before the Rev. Thomas James and others,⁷⁰ "*Checkannoo*," with other chief men of the

⁶⁹ Colonial History of New York, vol. xiv. Index, under Tackapousha.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 627.

Montauk tribe, made an acknowledgment in "utterly disclayming any such vassalage as *Ninecraft* did declare to the Governor at Rhoad Island & doe protest against it in our owne names & in the name of y^e rest of y^e Indians at Montaukett & doe further declare that he shall have no more wampom of us without approbation of y^e Governour of this place & that we acknowledge y^e Governour at New Yorke as our chiefest Sachem."

The same year, with his associates, *Cockenoe*⁷¹ gave a certificate that many years before they heard the old Sachem Wyandanch declare, in a meeting of the Indians, that he gave to Lion Gardiner and Thomas James all the whales which should come ashore, at any time, on Montauk.⁷²

On December 1, 1670,⁷³ together with *Pon-iuts*, alias *Mousup*, grandson of *Wyandanch*, and other chief men of the tribe, "*Chekonnnow*"

⁷¹ East Hampton Records, vol. ii. p. 33.

⁷² The date of this gift to Gardiner and James was November 13, 1658. See East Hampton Records, vol. i. p. 150.

⁷³ From the original deed in possession of Frank Sherman Benson, Esq. There is an imperfect copy in Ranger's Deeds of Montauk, 1851.

joined in the Indian deed for the land between the ponds, to John Mulford, Thomas James, and Jeremiah Conkling. This conveyance took in all the land to the southward of Fort Hill between the "Ditch plain" and the "Great plain," and is remarkable for its Indian names of boundary places.⁷⁴

By an entry of July 4, 1675,⁷⁵ *Cockenoe* was one of the crew engaged by James Schellinger and James Loper of East Hampton, as the record states, "uppon the Designe of whalleing . . . During y^e whole season next ensuing," then a growing industry on the south side. This service included the carting and trying out of

⁷⁴ These boundaries are as follows: "bounded by us, the aforesaid parties [*i. e.*, the Indians] *Wuchebehsuck*, a place by the Fort pond, being a valley southward from the fort hills pond, *Shahchippitchuge* being on the north side, the said land, midway between the great pond and fort, so on a straight line to *Chabiakinnauhsuk* from thence to a swamp where the haystacks stood called *Mahchongitchuge*, and so through the swampe to the great pond, then straight from the haystacks to the great pond, so along by the said pond to a place called *Manunkquiaug*, on furthest side the woods, growing on the end of the great pond eastward, and so along to the sea side southward, to a place called *Coppauhshapaugausuk*, so straight from thence to the south sea," etc. See Indian Names in the Town of East Hampton, Tooker, East Hampton Records, vol. iv. p. i-x.

⁷⁵ East Hampton Records, vol. i. p. 379.

the oil at some convenient place, for which the crew were to receive, "one halfe of one share of all profit what shall bee by us gotten or obtained During y^e said terme of time."

The Indians of Long Island were disarmed in this year on account of King Philip's war, and on October 5⁷⁶ *Mosup* the Sachem, grandson of *Wyandanch*, with *Pekonnoo* [an error for *Chekonno*], Counselor, and others, made supplication by a letter written by Rev. Thomas James to Governor Andros at New York, "Alledging the fact that they had always been friends to the English and their forefathers before them, and this time of war fighting with the English Captains, desired that their guns might be returned, as it was the usual time of hunting." Owing to an indorsement on the back of this letter, written a week after by James, on mature consideration, the request in its entirety was not granted.⁷⁷

⁷⁶ Colonial History of New York, vol. xiv. pp. 699, 700.

⁷⁷ James wrote: "The lines upon the other side I wrote upon the desire of the Sachem & his men, they were their owne words & the substance thereof they also had expressed before Mr Backer, but since my writeing of them w^{ch} was almost a week since, I perceive that

On June 23, 1677,⁷⁸ *Cockenoe* appeared before Governor Andros and Council at New York, in behalf of the inhabitants of Hampstead, who were having trouble with the Indians in their neighborhood, regarding land laid out by him in 1657, twenty years before, to which I have previously referred. At the same council he interpreted the speech of *Weamsko*, the Sachem of *Seacotauk* in Islip, who claimed the *Nesquak* [*Nissequogue*] lands; also the speech of *Swaneme*, who pretended to own the land called *Unchemau* [Fresh Pond] near Huntington. In the copy from which this has been taken he is called *Checkoamaug*, an evident error of some transcriber.

We find him occasionally employed by the

delivering up the armes to the Indians doth not relish well with the English, especially since of late we heard of the great slaughter, they haue made upon the English in other parts of the country; I perceiue att Southampton ye English are much troubled ye Indians haue their armes & I thinke it doth much disturbe ye spirits of these haue them not; as for these Indians for my owne part I doe thinke they are as Cordiale freinds to the English as any in ye Country & what is written by y^m is knowne to many to be ye truth, though God knows their hearts," etc.

⁷⁸ Colonial History of New York, vol. xiv. p. 728.

proprietors of Montauk, especially in the year 1682, when he is "*paid 9^s for keeping the Indian corne,*"⁷⁹ and as much "*for burneing Meautauk,*"⁸⁰ which was done every spring to free the land from underbrush and weeds.

The years are now rapidly fleeting, and *Cockenoe* is advancing in years with the settlements. The power of the Montauks is a thing of the past; they exercise no control over the rest of the Long Island Indians, who convey land without the assent of the Montauk Sachem. As most of the younger generation of the natives can speak English, probably as well as he, there is no necessity for him to interpret. He is now about the last of his generation still exercising the right as a member of the house of the Sachems, in the councils of the clan; and, on August 3, 1687,⁸¹ he unites once more with the members of his tribe in the Montauk conveyance to the inhabitants of East Hampton: "For all our tract of land at Man-

⁷⁹ East Hampton Records, vol. ii. p. 109.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 111.

⁸¹ The originals of the Montauk Indian deeds are in the possession of Frank Sherman Benson of Brooklyn.

tauket, bounded by part of the Fort Pond, and Fort Pond Bay west; the English land south by a line from the Fort Pond to the Great Pond . . . to the utmost extent of the Island from sea to sea," etc., and then he retires from our view forever on the records of the past.

At the time of making this deed, half a century had elapsed since the conflict on the hills of Mystic—fifty eventful years in the history of our Colonies. If he was twenty-five years of age when he parted from Eliot in 1646 or 1647, he had then reached threescore years and five; not by any means an aged man, but, for all we know, he may have lived for some years afterward.⁸²

There may be other recorded facts relating to his life which I have overlooked, or they may lie buried in the time-stained archives of other Long Island and New England towns—

⁸² As his name does not appear among the grantors on the confirmation deed for Montauk, dated March 3, 1702-03, we must accept it as sufficient evidence that he had passed away before that date; although his associate and companion *Sasachatoko* was still living, an aged man. Rev. Thomas James died June 16, 1696, after a ministry of about forty-five years.

inaccessible, undecipherable, and unpublished—which some future historian may unfold and bring to light.⁸⁸ The seeds of knowledge planted by Eliot on the fertile field of this native's mind bore good fruit, even if his preceptor did write at an early day he knew not what use he then made of it. For the part he took in the rise

⁸⁸ It is to be regretted that we have left us so little relating to the Rev. Thomas James and his knowledge of the Indians of Montauk. The few depositions and letters he left show that his knowledge of Indian traditions and customs must have been quite extensive. In September, 1660, he informed the Commissioners of the United Colonies, then in session at New Haven, that he was "willing to apply himself, to instruct the Indians" of Long Island, "in the knowledge of the true God." An allowance of £10 was therefore made for him "towards the hiering of an Interpreter and other Charges." In 1662 he was paid £20 "for Instructing the Indians on Long Island," and the same allowance was continued for the two following years. In a letter from Governor Lovelace to Mr. James (Colonial History of New York, vol. xiv. pp. 610-11, we find: "I very much approve of yor composure of a Catechisme. . . That wch I shall desire from you at p'sent is the Catachisme with some few select chapters & Lauditory Psalms fairly transcribed in the Indian Language wch I will send over to England & have quantityes of them printed & if you thinke it necessary I conceive a small book such as shal only seme to the instructing ye Indians to read may likewise be compiled & sent with them," etc. The Catechism referred to above was probably never printed (Pilling's Algonquian Bibliography, p. 569). It cannot be possible that James neglected to avail himself of *Cockenoe's* knowledge. The facts presented in this paper would indicate, from James' reference to him, that he found him a valuable assistant for many years.

and development of our settlements—a life work, unparalleled by that of any other Long Island or New England Indian—he deserves to be enrolled upon the page of honor.

And now, amid the rolling hills of Montauk, which he loved so well, and within sound of the everlasting murmur of the mighty ocean, which he so often heard, in a grave unmarked and unknown,⁸⁴ he sleeps to await the resurrec-

⁸⁴ The numerous valleys and hilly slopes of the “North Neck,” to the northeast of Fort Pond, are dotted in many places by Indian graves. The pedestrian will meet with them in the most isolated spots; but generally near swamps and ponds in proximity to wigwam or cabin sites. The two principal are located at “Burial Place Point,” on the eastern shore of Great Pond, and on the top of Fort Hill. The outlines of the Fort still visible (which was yet standing in 1662) now inclose forty graves, each marked by cobblestones laid thickly along the tops. The tramping of cattle has obliterated all traces of mounds, and the stones are generally on a level with the surface. On the outside, in close proximity to the others, are ten more, while on the slope of the hill to the northwest—the hill not being so abrupt in its descent at this point—are eighty-six more graves; making a total of one hundred and thirty-six buried on this hill. All are marked in the same manner, the last being covered by a thick growth of blackberry vines and bayberry bushes, and would not be noticed by the careless observer. One of the graves, inside the outlines of the Fort, has an irregular fragment of granite for a headstone; on it is carved very rudely $\frac{1817}{BR}$. This is evidence that the graves on this hill were all subsequent to the erection of the Fort, and

tion morn. A scarred and battered fragment from nature's world—a glacial boulder, typical of the past—should be his monument⁸⁵—on one side a sculptured entablature, inscribed :

“ To the Memory of a Captive in the Pequot War, the first Indian Teacher of John Eliot ; A firm friend of the English Colonists ; Cockenoe-de-Long Island.”

are not very ancient. Those at “ Burial Place Point ” look much older, and some of the graves there are simply depressions not marked by any stones. In the “ Indian Field,” to the northwest of Great Pond, are many more.

⁸⁵ I would suggest placing this at the top of Fort Hill, and thus preserving the hill and graves forever as a memorial.

THE END.



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HOOKER, JOHN ELIOTS FIRST
AUTHOR

