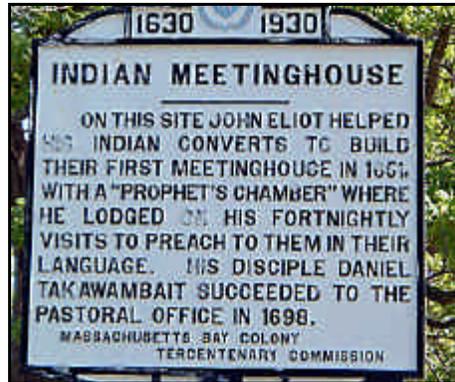


Chief Wompatuck, Reverend John Eliot and The Praying Indians (cont.)



Present day Eliot church in Natick where the first Native American meeting house, school and church were located.



Tricentenary sign at Eliot Church grounds.



Grave of our country's first Native American preacher Daniel Takawambait is located next to Eliot Church.

Wompanoag translates to "Eastern people" in Algonquin. Massachusetts translates to "People of the great hills (Blue Hills)." Nipmuc translates to "People of the freshwater pond."

Although involved in the Christian way of life, the Praying Indians occasionally resorted to warfare. After the Mohawk tribe attacked Praying Indians near Boston in 1665, Wompatuck led a retaliatory attack on the Mohawk village of Caughnawaga, New York in 1669. His raid failed and he was killed.

By 1675, 20 percent of New England Indians lived in Praying Towns. When the King Philip War swept New England that year, many of the Praying Indians joined King Philip, also called Metacomet, of the Wompanoag tribe. Puritan missionaries attempted to collect those remaining into praying villages, but only 500 could be found.

Despised by Philip's warriors, Praying Indians volunteered as scouts and guides for the English. Still suspect, many loyal natives were killed by the colonialists. The colonial militia transferred 550 of them to Deer Island in Boston Harbor, where half perished to disease and malnutrition.

Approximately 800 English died in battle during King Philip's War. Measured against a European population of around 52,000, this death rate was nearly seven times that of World War II.

Along the South Shore, King Philip's warriors attacked the towns of Weymouth, Hingham, Scituate, and Plymouth, killing 11 settlers at Clark's Garrison (now a parking lot of the present Plymouth Plantation).

The Native Americans suffered even worse. The English massacred natives at Turner Falls, Massachusetts and

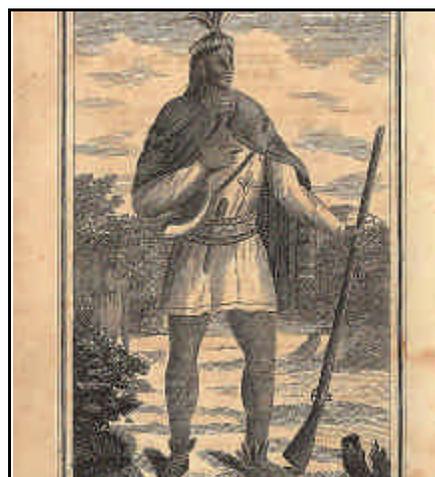
at the Great Swamp in South Kingston, Rhode Island, bringing the war's toll to over 3,000 Native Americans. Those who survived lost property rights and individual liberties, and many were sold into slavery. No organized groups of the Massachusetts tribe are known to have survived after 1800.

At the conclusion of the war in 1677, only seven of the original 14 praying villages and 300 Praying Indians survived. To this day, some of the descendants from the praying town at Punkapog are still living near the cities of Canton, Mattapan, and Mansfield. There are currently five organized bands of Wompanoags that have survived: Assonet, Gay Head, Herring Pond, Mashpee, and Namasket. Nipmucs primarily reside now in Webster and Grafton. ■

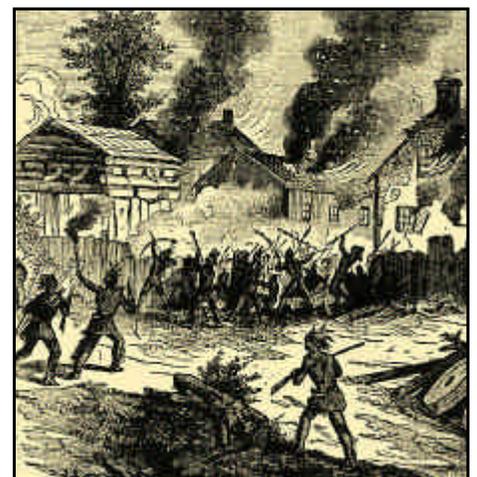
Photos and map on pages 3 and 4.



Copy of first Native American bible.



Engraving of King Philip.



Engraving of an Indian attack at Brookfield.

Chief Wompatuck, Reverend John Eliot and The Praying Indians (cont.)



Nipmuc ax head.



Nipmuc fish net weight.



Nipmuc spearhead.



Nipmuc scraper.



Wompanoag arrowhead.



Massachusetts spearhead.

