

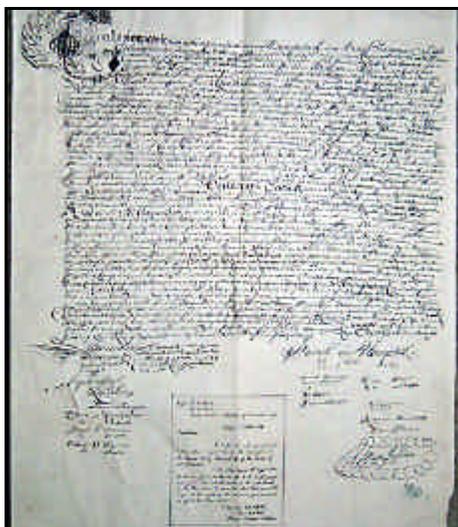


WOMPATUCK NEWS

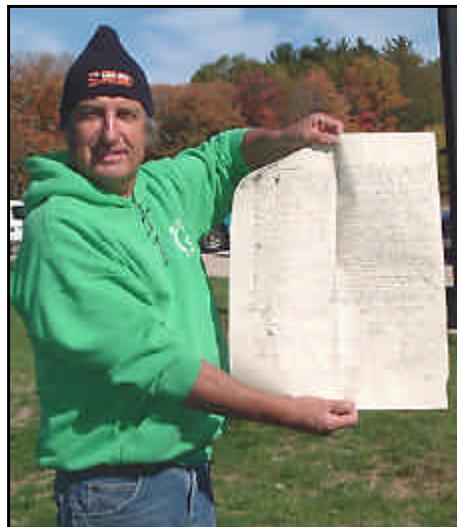
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Friends of Wompatuck State Park

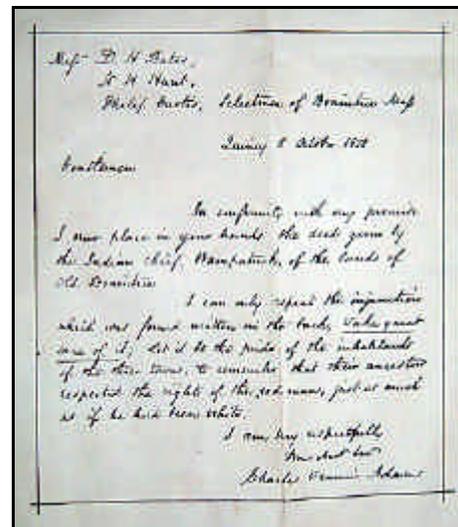
Fall Edition, 2016



Indian deed creating "Old Braintree."



Former park supervisor Steve Gammon displays Wompatuck deed.



Charles Francis Adams' note.

Chief Wompatuck and a Small World

By Jim Rose, FOW News Editor and Historian

Wompatuck State Park received a rare treasure this summer. Andrea Engelmann of Germany donated a copy of a Wompatuck deed to the park for duplication. The copy represents a deed of land transfer from Chief Wompatuck and other Native Americans to the town of Old Braintree, now comprising Quincy, Braintree, Holbrook and Randolph.

Wompatuck's signature and mark can be seen on the treaty as well as the signatures and marks of other tribal members. It is dated 1665.

Also, President John Quincy Adams' son, Charles Francis Adams, inscribed a note at the bottom of the deed written in 1858. It is addressed to the Selectmen of Old Braintree and reads:

"Gentlemen,

In conformity with my promise, I now place in your hands the deed given by the Indian Chief Wompatuck of the lands of Old Braintree.

I can only repeat the injunction

which was found written on the back, Take great care of it! Let it be the pride of the inhabitants of the three towns, to remember that their ancestors respected the rights of the red men, just as much as if he had been white."

A copy of the deed can now be seen at the Visitor's Center.

Andrea Engelmann was born and raised in Germany. Her late grandmother Margarete Putz immigrated to the United States in the late 1960s when she married a GI stationed in Germany, John T. McRae of Braintree.

Andrea spent many summer vacations with them in Abington. She loved going for swims at a park called "Island Grove." She still visits her grandparents' grave at the Saint Patrick Cemetery in Rockland.

Her uncle ran for mayor of Braintree in the 1970s and may have something to do with the deed. The original copy is locked in a vault at

the Braintree Town Hall.

Coincidentally, I lived six years as a boy across from the Saint Patrick Cemetery where Andrea's grandparents are buried.

As kids in the 1950s, we use to play ball in the cemetery fields. Now they are full of headstones. Some mark the graves of friends I hung around with.

Back then, there was a chicken farm near the cemetery and a diary behind our house. Sometimes the cows would escape and run through our backyard. Both farms are long gone now.

Our family and friends also loved swimming at Island Grove. Like my parents, most of the families we went swimming with had a parent or two who worked at the Hingham Naval Ammunition Depot.

Great memories. Small world. Thanks Andrea. The park is a lot richer with your donation.

A translation of the deed script can be found at the Visitor's Center and also on pages two and three. ■

Chief Wompatuck's 1665 Deed

The following is an authentic copy of the Indian Deed of Transfer creating "Old Braintree" (Quincy, Braintree, Holbrook and Randolph). The original is still preserved, and to be seen in the Braintree Town Hall. President John Quincy Adams's son, Charles Francis Adams, signed a 1858 dedication in the box at the bottom. Chief Wompatuck's mark and signature is on lower right with other Indians. On the back of it is the following:

"It the 17th reign of Charles II, Brantry Indian Deede, given 1665, Aug. 10th. Take great care of it,"

INDIAN DEED:

"To all Indian people to whom these presents shall come: -Wompatuck alias, Josiah Sagamore, of Massachusetts in Newengland, the son of Chickatabut, deceased, sendeth greeting: Know yoo that the said Wompatuck, being of full age and power. according to the order and custom of the natives, hath with the consent of his wise men, viz.: Squamog, his brother Daniel, and old Hahatum, and William Macaniomott, Job Nassott, Manuntago, William Nahsnton. The abovesaid Wompatuck Sagamore, for divers good and valuable reasons thereunto, and in special for, and in consideration of twenty-one pounds, ten shillings in hand, payd by Samuel Basse, Thomas Faxon, Francis Eliot, William Needham, and William Savill, Henry Neale, Richard Thayer, Christopher Webb, all of Braintrey, in the County of Suffolk in behalf of the inhabitants of the Town of Braintrey, above said, within themselves; whereof and wherewith the said Wompatuck doth acknowledge himself fully satisfied, contented and payd; thereof and of every part thereof doth exonerate, acquit and discharge the abovesaid Samuel Basse, Thomas Faxon, &c., with all the inhabitants of the Town of Braintrey, them, their heirs, executors, administrators, and assignes, and every of them. And by these presents have given, granted, bargained, sold, enfeoffed and confirmed, and by these presents do give, grant, bargain, sell, enfeoff, and confirm unto the said Samuel Basse, Thomas Faxon, &c., and with themselves, in the behalf of all the inhabitants of the Town of Braintree, them, their heirs and assignes, forever, all the East of lands within the boands of Braintrey, above-said, be there more or lesse, being bounded on the sea side with the North East, and with Dorchester line on the North West, and by Waymouth line by the South East, and by Dorchester line on the South West. Excepting Mr. Wilson's farms, Mr. Coddington's farme, Mr. Hough's Neck of land, Mr. Quinsey's farme, which lands were purchased by the abovesaid men of his predecessors, which the said Wompatuck doth hereby confirm, being all the lands within the bounds of Braintrey, abovesald, with all the trees, timber, wood, underwood, standing, lying, growing thereon, together with all the meadow lands, swamps, ponds, rivers, and brooks, lying between

the bounds of Dorchester and Weymouth, together with all privileges and appurtenances belonging or anyways appertaining to the same, to the said Samuel Basse, Thomas Faxon, &c., in the behalf and for the use of the inhabitants, of Braintree, to them, their heirs and assignes, forever. To have and to hold the said bargained premises, as before buttellad and bounded, together with all deeds, evidences, writings and monuments, that concern the same, in particular, fair and uncanceled unto the said Samuel Basse, Thomas Faxon, &c., to the only and proper use of the inhabitants of the Town of Braintree, to them and to their heirs and assignes, forever. And the said Wampatuck, for himself, and for his heirs, and executors, administrators and assignes, doth covenant and grant with the full consent of his wise men, abovesaid, and with Samuel Bass, Thomas Faxon, &c., and with them, in the behalf of the inhabitants of the Town of Braintree, aforesaid, to them, their heirs and assignes, by these presents, that the said Wampatuck is the right owner of the said bargained premises, and to every part thereof, unto the day of the date thereof, and hath himself full power and lawfull authority to bargain, sell, convey, and assure the same, in manner and form, abovesaid. And that the said Samuel Basse, Thomas Faxon, &c., with the inhabitants of the Town of Braintree, shall forever, hereafter, peaceably and quietly enjoy, have and hold the said bargained, with the appurtenances thereof, as abovesaid, free and clear, and clearly acquitted from all former bargains, sales, gifts and grants, Joynture's tytes, dowrys, tytes, dowrys, estates, mortgages, forfeitures, judgements, executions, and any other incumbrances, whatever; as, also, from all titles of any person or persons, claiming any right or tytle, interest or property to the same, or any part of the same, in, from, or under him, the said Wampatuck, or any of his predecessors. Excepting some lands abovesaid; whereby the said inhabitants of the Town of Braintree, their heirs or assignes, shall, or may be, hereafter, molested by either English or Indian person, or persons, or Unlawfully hunted oat of the possession, by, from or under him. And that the said Samuel Basse, Thomas Faxon, &c., or any other in the behalf of the inhabitants of Braintrty, aforesaid, shall have free liberty to record and enroll the said bargained premises, or cause it to be enrolled according to the usual custom of recording tytes in such a case. Also the said Wampatuck reserveth liberty to hunt and fish, provided he do the English no harm. In the fifth day of August, one thousand, six hundred and sixty-five, and in the seventeenth year of the reign of our Lord and Sovereign, King Charles the second, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c.

Signed, sealed and delivered
by turf and twig.

{ With some words in the original
but here inserted in their proper
places, vis. men in the 3d line,
Mr. Quinsey's farm, line 13th

In the presence of

Roger Billings, | Daniel Squamog Benjamin Thompson | his 7 marke and a seale | Old
Nahatun Thomas Keyahgunsson | his X marke and a seale his C marke | William
Manduxion Joseph Manunion | his W marke and a seale his () marke | Job Noietenne
Thomas Weymoub | and a seale his O marke | Robert, alias Mamuntago Josias, alias
Wampatuck | his 8 marke and a seale his IO marke and O seale | William Hahatun | and his
seale