

Indian Deed of 1710

from the Collections of the New Jersey Historical Society

Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society

Vol. IX New Series, No. 3 (July 1924)

Digital Antiquaria

PDF © 2004

Morristown, NJ

www.digitalantiquaria.com

Indian Deed of 1710

from the Collections of the New Jersey Historical Society

Some attention has been given in the Newark press recently to an ancient Indian deed, which, through the generosity of Mr. Wallace M. Scudder, owner of the "Newark Evening News" and a Trustee of the New Jersey Historical Society, has become the property of the Society. The full text of the deed has not been published, so we present it herewith. It will be noticed that one of the signatures to the deed was an Indian squaw, named Ayamanugh. How or why she came to sign - an unusual occurrence in Indian conveyances - is, of course, unknown. She is named nowhere else in history, so far as we can recall, except in connection with this deed in William Nelson's (now rare) pamphlet upon "Indians in New Jersey." A recent writer upon this acquisition wonders if there was any significance to the fact "that her totem was the Christian cross." We should say possible, but doubtful. Ex-Senator William M. Johnson, of Hackensack, in examining the deed has noted that there is a clause in it asserting that when the Indians sold the land it was to be understood that they were not drunk (as it is claimed so many were in conveying lands to white men), the language being "they being all entirely sober."

The lands conveyed embraced a large tract in the northern and northwestern portions of Bergen and Passaic counties, and there are mentioned the Remopuck (Ramapo), Pasqueek (Passaic), Hackensack, Tapaan (Tappan) and (Sadle) Saddle rivers. But the deed speaks for itself, and is given below just as it reads. It only remains at present to say that Elisha Boudinot, one of the grantees, was the grandfather of the more famous Elias and Elisha Boudinot of Revolutionary days, and that the orthography of the deed, by whomsoever written, is clearly not that of A.D. 1924.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PEESENTS shall come, or may any wise concerne; WE MEMERESCUM SOLE SACHEM of all the Nations of Indians on Romopuck River, and on the West and East Branches thereof, on Sadle River, Pasqueek River, Navashunk River, Hackinsack River, and Tapaan, - Taphome, Waparent, Siphome, Rawantaquas, Maskainapulig, - Right, Sole and Entire Native Owners and Proprietors of a certain Tract of Land, Scituate, Lyeing and being about Thirty miles on ye Northward of Newark, for ourselves and for the Rest of our Tribes and Relations, send Greeting, KNOW YEE, That we the said Memerescum, Taphome, Waparent, Siphome, Rawantaquas, Maskainapulig, for several just causes Us thereunto moveing, but more especially for and in consideration of Fifty ounces of good and Lawful Silver money of New York and of the just like value thereof in hand bills long before this and now to us in hand delivered and paid before the ensealing of this presents, the recete whereof WE do hereby acknowledge, and to be therewith fully satisfied, contented and paid, have granted, bargained, sold, alliened, enfeofed, transferred, and forever confirmed unto Elias Boudinot, John Auboyneau, and Peter Fauconnier, and by these presents doe grant, Bargain, Sell, alliene, enfeofe, transferr, and forever confirm all together, all that Tract of Land, which by another private Deed past the Seventh Day of June last Seventeen hundred and nine, we had all ready actually sold Them by the above said Memerescum, as per the said privat Deed which we doe confirme by these presents, may more fully appear, scituate, lyeing and being in the county of Berghen in the Eastern Division of the Province of Newjersey, beginning at a young Sapling Nutt Tree markt with a W Standing on the north side of a Brook called by the Christians Haverstraws Creek, being the North East most branch of the River that runs down to Romopuck, Pumpton, etc., and to Ye

Indian Deed of 1710

from the Collections of the New Jersey Historical Society

Northward of a little Hill called Mainaiburg, between the said Hill and the mountain, being the Northwest most corner of the Land by us sold to John Auboyneau, Elias Boudinot and others the above said seventh day of June last, since surveyed as well as the above said Tract here within mentioned, by Captain William Bond, by virtue of Two Warrants to Him Directed one by the Hon.ble Richard Ingoldesby, Esq. Lieutenant Governor of New York in Council, & the other by Peter Sonmans, Esq. Proprietor, Agent, Superintendent & Sole General Attorney & Receiver General of (?) for the Rest of the Proprietors of said Eastern Division of Newjersey & wholly & Lawfully representing the Four and Twenty Proprietors thereof, thence running along the Top of the Mountains North Easterly to a Small White Oak Tree markt on all Four Sides just by a small Run of water called Cawainetink that runs from the Mountain South Easterly down into said North East Branch of Romopuck River, being about Three miles distant from the abovesaid Sapling, thence cross Ye River Easterly from markt Tree to markt Trees, to an Indian Field called Magahkbyako lyeing on ye East Side of the River called Pasqueek, being above Five miles distant from the aforementioned small oak Tree, thence along the East Side of Said Pasqueek creek, Brook or River, down to a place just over again a small Yew Tree other wise an Ipen Boome (?) Standing on the west side of said River markt on two sides, standing within a chaine to the Eastward of a Black oak Tree markt likewise on two sides, Including said River, and running along ye same to ye Eastward thereof at the same Distance, as there is from said River to a young Walnut Tree markt on ye west & South side thereof with the letter A. Standing on the midle of the above said Indian Field called Magahbbyako, or Mawayhewekgho (?) being the North East corner of ye Tract & Parcel of Land entended to be hereby confirmed unto Them the said Boudinot, Auboyneau, & Fauconnier, and from the place where ye last mentioned line doth determine on ye East Side of said River, & at the Distance thereof here above specified, over again ye above said Yew tree, North westerly to a white oak tree that stands at the head of a large meadow called wissawektenes (?) markt on Four sides, being ye north east corner of the Land Sold the said Day to john Auboyneau, etc., as is afforesaid just by the Head of Parampseapus otherwise Sadle River called Assenmaykapuck, & from thence continueing to run from markt Tree to markt Trees Northwesterly, to a young Sapling Nutt Tree markt with a W. Standing to ye Northward of the little Red Hill mainaiting (?) as is afforesaid, where the first course began: together with all woods, underwoods, Trees, Timber, Mountains, Hills, Rocks and Stones either comon or Precious, Quaries, Feeding, Pastures, Meadows, Marshes, Swamps, Ponds, Pools, waters, watercourses, Springs, Rivers, Rivulets, Runs of Streams of waters, Brooks, creeks, Fishing, Fowling, Hawking, Hunting, Mines & Minerals, Standing, lyeing & being, or to be had, found used & enjoyed within the bounds & limits afforesaid and all other Profits, Benefits, Priviledges, Liberties, advantages, Hereditaments, & appertenances whatsoever, unto the said Tract of Land & Premisses, or to any Part or Parcell thereof belonging or in any wise, appartaining, and the Reversion & Reversions, Remainder & Remainders, thereof, and all the Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Property claime & Demand whatsoever of Us Memereskum, Tophome, Wapparent, Siphome, Rawantagwas, Maskainapulig, Native Indians, Right Sole Entire & absolute owners and Proprietors thereof, of, in & to the abovesaid long before sold & now confirmed Premisses, or any Part or Parcell thereof, to have and to hold, the above said, Tract of Land, and all and singular the Premisses long before bargained & sold & hereby confirmed, meant mentioned & intended to be

Indian Deed of 1710

from the Collections of the New Jersey Historical Society

absolutely bargained, & sold with Their & every of Their appertenances, unto Him the said Elias Boudinot, John Auboyneau, & Peter Fauconnier, Their Heirs & Assignes for ever, without any trouble, Hindrance, or Molestation of us, or any of us the said Memerescum, Tophome, Waparent, Siphome, Rawantagwas, Maskainapulig, or any Person or Persons, Christian or Indian whatsoever claiming or to claime, or that right pretend to have any cause, right, or title to claime, by Himself or by, from and under Us, or any of Us. The said Elias Boudinot, John Aubonyneau, & Peter Fauconnier, being Lawfully authorized to Purchase the Same:

In witness whereof We the above named Indians, Natives, Right, Sole Entire & absolute owners, Possessors & Proprietors of the above said Bargained & now confirmed Premisses as above said have hereunto sett our hands and Seals at New York this Nineth Day of May in the Nineth year of the Reign of our Sovereign lady Anne over Great Britain etc. Queen etc. anno domini one Thousand Seven hundred and Ten.

Ayamanugh	+	her mark
Wapparent	S	his mark
Rawantaquas	X	his mark
Maskainapulig	X	his mark
Sipham	X	his mark
Memerescum	M	his mark

Then appeared before me David Provoost Esq. one of Her Majesty's Hon'ble Council for This Province and justice of the Peace, the within named Indians, Who did acknowledge the within Specified Sale and conditions made the Days within mentioned and now confirmed to be Their voluntary act and Deed, and the whole sume agreed for. They have actually & wholly Received, and are therefore therewith fully contented, Satisfyed and Paid. They being all entirely sober and They have further freely declared and acknowledged that the Boundaries within Specified are the Bounds of the Tract and Parcel of Land by them sold long before, and by Them hereby more particularly sold & confirmed, witness my hand, coram me at New York This Nineth Day of May Seventeen hundred and Ten.

D. PROVOOST

Entered in the publique Records of her Majesty province of New Jersey on Lib. I folio 317-318-319 by Mr. J. E. Bass, Jr.

Signed Sealed and Delivered in the presence of us

Jn. Stephen
Sie Chardavoyne (?)
Jo. Boudinot
Manito X his mark
panaway X her mark
hamenish (?) X his mark

The X used in the above reprint simply indicates where the peculiar mark of each Indian signer appears, but in the original are characters, which cannot be reproduced in type; in

Indian Deed of 1710

from the Collections of the New Jersey Historical Society

some cases time has made them nearly indistinguishable; but the squaw's mark is, in fact, a +, and that of two other Indians are *S* and *M*.