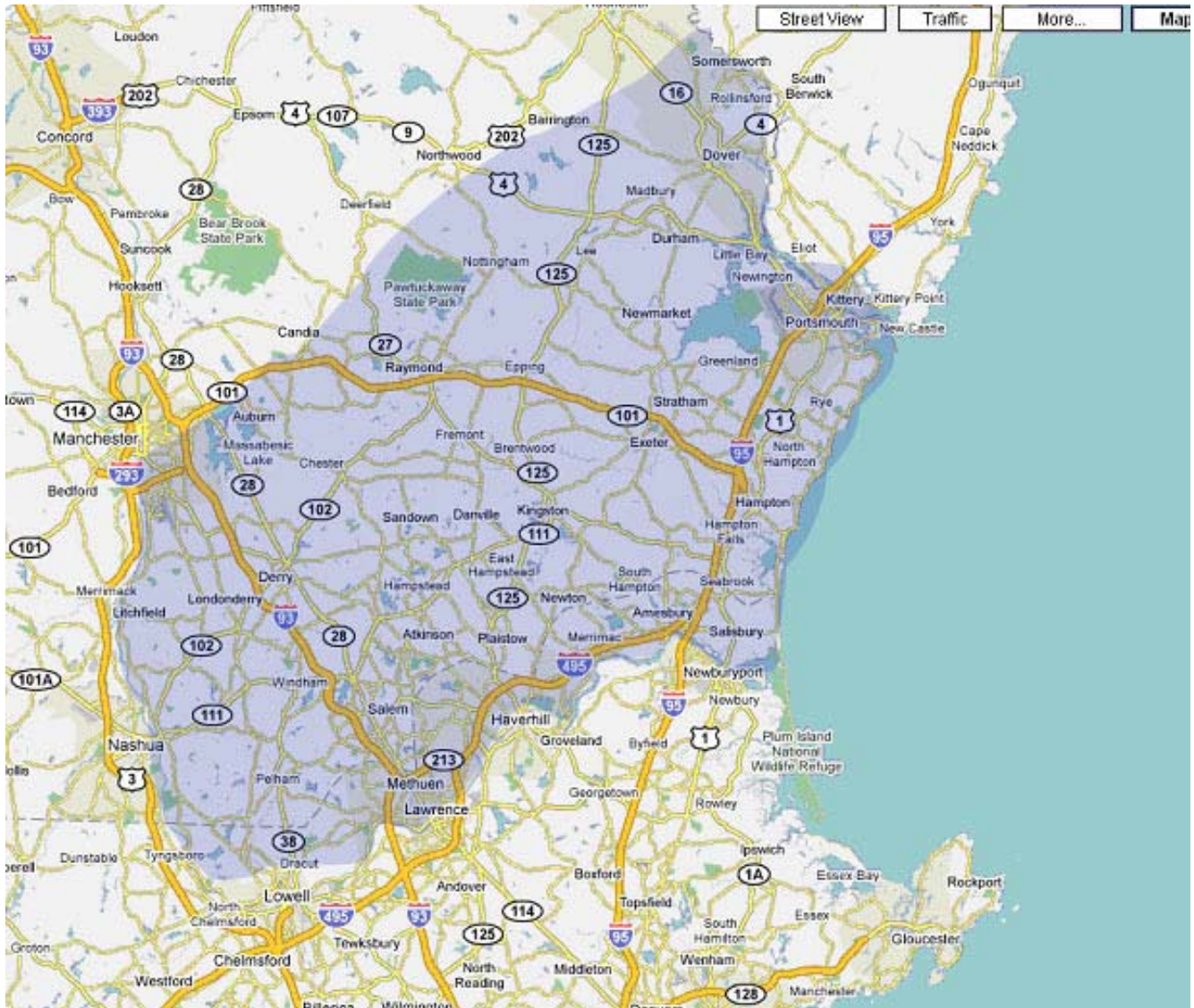


Middlesex North Registry of Deeds

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“Wheelwright Grant”

A 1629 deed from Native Americans to Rev. John Wheelwright for a tract of land “from the Piscataqua to the Merrimack and 20 English miles northward.” (see shaded area below)



Native Americans signed documents with “pictographs”

On left, Passaconaway, Sagamore of Penecook”

On right, Runaawitt, Sagamore of Pentuckitt



1629 Indian Deed

Spelling consistent with original hand-written document

Whereas we the Sagamores of Penecook Penacket Squamsquot and Nuchawanack are inclined to have the English inhabit amongst us as they are amongst our County men in the Massachusetts Bay by which means we hope in time to be strengthened against our enemies the Tareteens who yearly doth us damage likewise being persuaded that it will be for the good of us and our posterity, etc. To that end have at a general meeting at Squamsquot on Pinataqua River we the aforesaid Sagamores with a universal consent of our subjects do covenant and agree with the English as folloith – Now know all men by these presents that we, Passaconaway, Sagamore of Penecook, Runaawitt, Sagamore of Pentuckitt, Uahanqnonawitt, Sagamore of Squomsquot and Rowes, Sagamore of Nuchawanack **for a competent valuation in goods already received in coats, shirts and vituals** and also for the consideration aforesaid do according to the limits and bounds hereafter granted give grant bargain sell release ratify and confirm unto John Wheelwright of the Massachusetts Bay late of England a minister of the Gospel Augustine Glory, Thomas Wite, William Wentworth and Thomas Levet all of the Massachusetts Bay in New England to them their heirs and assigns forever **all that Part of the Main Land bounded by the River of Piscataqua and the River of Merrimack that is to say to begin at Nuchawanack Falls in Piscataqua River aforesaid and so down said River to the Sea and so alongst the seashore to Merrimack River and so up along said river to the falls at Pentucket aforesaid and from said Pentucket Falls upon a Northwest line twenty English miles into the woods and from thence to run on a strit line northeast and southwest till meet with the main rivers that runs down to Pentucket Falls and Nuchawanack Falls and the Rivers to be the Bounds of the said lands from the straight line or head line of the aforesaid falls and the main channel of each river from Pentucket and Nuchwanack Falls to the main sea to be the side bounds and the main sea between Piscataqua River and Merrimack River to be the lower bounds and the thwart line that runs from river to river to be the upper bounds together with all islands within said bounds as also the Isles of Sholes so called by the English together with all profits advantages and appurtances whatsoever to the said tract of land** belonging or in any ways appertaining reserving to our selves liberty of making use of our won planting land as also free liberty of hunting, fishing and fowling and it is likewise with these presents following first that the said John Wheelwright shall within ten years after the date hereof set down with a company of English and being a plantation at Squomsquot Falls in Piscataqua River aforesaid – secondly that what other inhabitants shall come and live on said tract of land amongst them from time to time and at all times shall have and enjoy the same beefits as the said

Wheelwright aforesaid [thirdly] that if at anytime there be a number of people amongst them that have a mind to begin a new plantation that they be encouraged so to do and that no plantation exceed in lands above ten English miles square or such a proportion as amounts to ten square miles. Fourthly that the aforesaid granted lands are to be divided into townships as people increase and appear to inhabit them and that no lands shall be granted to any particular persons but what shall be for a township and what lands within township is granted to any particular persons to be by vote of the major part of the inhabitants legally and orderly settled in said township – fifthly for managing and regulating and for avoiding contentions amongst them they are to be under the Government of the colony of Massachusetts their neighbours and to observe their laws and orders until they have a settled government amongst themselves. Sixthly we the aforesaid Sagamores and our Subjects are to have free liberty within the aforesaid granted tract of land of fishing fowling hunting and planting etc. Seventhly and lastly every township within the aforesaid limits or tract of land that hereafter shall pay to Passaconaway our chief Sagamore that now is and to his Successors forever if lawfully demanded one coat of trucking cloth a year and every year for an acknowledgement and also shall pay to Mr John Wheelwright aforesaid his heirs and successors forever if lawfully demanded two bushels of Indian corn a year for and in consideration of said Wheelwright's great pains and care as also for the charges he hath been at to obtain this our grant for himself and those aforementioned and the inhabitants that shall hereafter settle in townships on the afore granted premises and we the aforesaid sagamores Passaconaway Sagamore of Penecook, Runaawitt, Sagamore of Pentuckitt, Wahangnonawitt, Sagamore of Squomquot and Rowles, Sagamore of Nuchawanack do by these presents ratifie and confirm all the afore granted and bargained premises and tract of land aforeseaid excepting and reserving as afore excepted and reserved and provisos aforesaid fulfilled with all the meadow and marsh ground therein. Together with all the mines minerals of what kind or nature so ever with all the woods, limbs and timber trees ponds rivers lakes runs of water or water courses thereunto belonging with all the freedom of fishing fowling and hunting as ourselves with all other benefits profits privileges and appurtenances thereunto of all and any part of the said tract of land belonging or in any ways appertaining unto him the said John Wheelwright, Augustine Storer, Thomas Wight, William Wentworth, and Thomass Levet and their heirs forever as aforesaid.

17th day of May 1629 in the fifth year of the King Charles' Reign over England.

Recorded according to the original found on the ancient files for the County of York this 28th day of January 1713/4

Recorded at Cambridge October 31, 1729.