



Long Island Native American Museum & Research Institute [LINAM&RI]

In honor of the life of Chief Mongotucksee (1551-1636), a Grand Sachem of Long Island

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THE MONTAUK INDIAN BILL

February 19, 1902 -- Special to The New York Times

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ALBANY, Feb. 19 – The Senate Committee on Judiciary to-day listened to arguments upon the bill introduced by Senator Cocks to enable the Montauk tribe of Indians (so called) in the name of their chief to maintain action in the courts of the State to establish and protect their rights in real and personal property.

Alexander T. Mason, who appeared as the representative of property owners in Montauk Point to protest against the passage of the bill, said that the effect of its passage would be to give the Montauks the right to bring suits of ejectment against the property owners on the point, including the Long Island Railroad Company. The tribe, Mr. Mason said, now consisted of but six persons, and the proposed legislation was designed to rehabilitate these six as a tribe. The land known as Montauk Point, he said had been acquired from the Montauk Indians in 1703 by John Mulford and other

Please see *Indian Bill News* on page 2

Montauk Indians in Litigation

More litigation on behalf of the Montauk Indians was begun yesterday in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn. It is another effort to establish the claim of the tribe to a tract of land on Long Island. The present suit was brought by EUGENE A. JOHNSON against the Long Island Railroad, which controls the property. Mr. Johnson is a clergyman and one of the handful of full-blooded Montauks who are left. The action is brought in his name because of the decision in a prior case that the Montauks have no legal status as a tribe.

[SOURCE: *New York Times*
Jun. 21, 1898, page 7]

Long Island Items

THE MONTAUK INDIANS – The bill for incorporating the Montauk Indians, introduced in the Legislature by Assemblyman Murphy, is strongly opposed by the citizens of South Hampton and East Hampton. It is claimed that the act is in the interest of a man named Dominic, who has been purchasing the rights of the Indians for the use of the land illegally, as it is claimed that if the tribe is an incorporated body it legalizes his claims. The land was purchased by the people of these towns two hundred years ago from the Indians for pasturage for their cattle, the Indians reserving the right to use what they wished for tillage, the right not transferable, and also to have the right of pasturing fifty head of cattle. Of late the tribes have dwindled to about a dozen souls, and the two hundred descendants of the original purchasers are waiting for the time when the tribe will be extinct and there will be no lien on the land. The remaining Indians are a lazy set with the single exception of PHARAOH, THEIR KING. They cultivate barely sufficient to keep them through the winter, and generally beg the rest.

*Indians' Claim for
Montauk Point*
RIVERHEAD, L. I., June 5. –

Justice Wilmot M. Smith of the supreme court has fixed June 19 at Patchogue as the time and place to hear arguments in the demurrer in the suit of the Montauk Indians, through their CHIEF, KING WYANDANK PHARAOH, against the Long Island Railroad to recover the Peninsula of Montauk, the end of Long Island.

[SOURCE: *New York Times* – June 6, 1897, pg. 2]

The Mid-Island news

In addition to its work among white girls the Suffolk County Y. M.C.A. is the only organization working with negro women and girls in the country, having colored units in Amityville, Bay shore, Setauket, Sayville and Huntington.

[SOURCE: *The Mid-Island news* – Sept. 23, 1936, page 2]



Indian Bill from page 1 residents of East Hampton. The title had rested in the citizens of East Hampton and their grantees from that day to this, and had never been disputed until a few years ago.

Bruce Lynn, who appeared for the Montauks, said that a few years ago Arthur Benson found some Montauk Indians in Montauk Point and induced them to vacate and give him a deed of sale for a consideration of \$150,000. Since that time Mr. Benson, Mr. Lynn said, had sold 5,000 acres of the land he acquired from the Indians to the Long Island Railroad Company for \$600,000. Mr. Lynn contended that the deed of sale made to Mr. Benson by the individual members of the tribe was not valid because it had been proved that the Montauks still retained their tribal relations, and that therefore the property could not be disposed of except by action of the tribe and the approval of the United States Government. At present, the Indians were out of possession, and all the Cocks bill did, he said, was give to these Indians standing in court.

The Montauk Indians

Albany, February 7, 1871

The following is the bill introduced by assemblyman Murphy, of Albany, and not senator Murphy, of Kings.

An Act to incorporate the Montauk Tribe of Indians residing on Montauk Point, in the State of New York.

The people of the state of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1., It is hereby enacted that the Montauk Indians, residing on Montauk Point, at the eastern most extremity of Long island, in this state, be, and they are hereby made and constituted a body corporate and politic in and by the name of "The Montauk Indians," and by such name may institute, prosecute and maintain in all courts of law and equity in this state, any action, suit or proceeding which may be proper or necessary to protect the rights or interests of the said Indians, or any of them.

Sec. 2. Such suits may be brought in the corporate name aforesaid, by the chief and his counselors, elected, or appointed according to the customs of said tribe.

Sec. 3. The chief and counselors of said tribe as now existing, or hereafter elected, or appointed according to the custom of the tribe, shall manage the affairs of the tribe in like manner as trustees or directors of ordinary incorporations manage their affairs.

Ser. 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

[SOURCE: *Brooklyn Eagle* - Feb. 9, 1871, page 3]

Trouble with the Montauk Indians

Captain Edwards, an extensive fisherman of Amagansett, hired from the Trustees of Montauk the right to fish Great Pond, which the Indians claim to own. The Indians objected, and a few nights ago dug a hole from the beach to the bay, and set all the Captain's fishing paraphernalia a float. Considerable trouble is apprehended.

[SOURCE: *Brooklyn Eagle* – May 3, 1871, page 3]

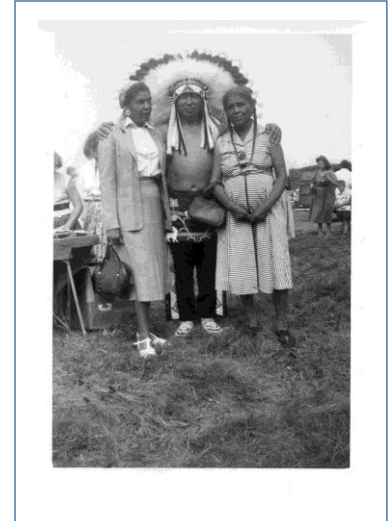
Our Albany Correspondence

[SOURCE: *Brooklyn Eagle* – Mar. 22, 1871, page 2]

The Montauk tribe of Indians

Albany, March 22,

The bill introduced by Assemblyman Murphy, of Albany, incorporating the Montauk tribe of Indians of Long Island, providing that the chief and counselors of said tribe as now existing, or hereafter elected or appointed according to the custom of the tribe, shall manage the affairs of the tribe in like manner as trustees or directors of ordinary incorporations manage their affairs. This bill was reported favorably by the Committee on Indian Affairs, and was one of the first bills placed on the printed file. It has not since been “moved,” because, I am told, that the people of Suffolk County are opposing its passage. Assemblyman Murphy says that he knows nothing about the bill, and that he introduced it at the request of some person employed in the State House.



Roxanna Green Brewster –
Morg Brewster – Mary Bunn Green
[Submitted by Linda Greene Darden]

The Indians Too Much for the Captain

[SOURCE: *Brooklyn Eagle* – May 18, 1871, page 4]

Near Amagansett is a pond located on the Indian reservation called Great Pond. It has been the custom of the trustees of Montauk to hire the right to fish this pond each year. This year Captain Edwards purchased this right. This leasing of the pond the Indians have always claimed to belong to them and have resisted every attempt of the purchaser to take peaceable possession. Captain Edwards determined to maintain his rights. A night or two since the Indians assembled in a body, and after great exertion, cut a channel from the pond to the beach, releasing all the fish, and at the same time setting a float all the Captain’s fishing paraphernalia. There is great excitement in Montauk in consequence.

Letter from Amityville

Thinking that some of your readers would like to hear from this part of the moral vineyard, I send you a short account of our doings.

The Sunday-school at SETAUKET is in a healthy condition. It was reorganized on July 24th. It is the only school in this part of my circuit, and I am pleased to say, that it is governed by the “new Constitution,” as laid down in our Discipline, as is also the one at AMITYVILLE. There seems to be a desire to do the best in all parts of my charge.

On the 11th inst., the elder in charge arrived, and preached a sermon from John 21:17: “Lovest thou me?” I need not say anything concerning the discourse, as all are ready to acknowledge the elder as an able speaker. He also administered the sacrament, and the moved on to HUNTINGTON. There be baptized twenty persons on the 12th inst. One of these, named ELOMANIA CAER (Ceasar), I am sorry to say, died on Monday.

Our revival has been going on for three weeks. We have held meetings three times a week, going from one house to another. While the lady mentioned above was dying, there was a crowd in the same house dancing. Oh, shame on such infidels! God will pay them well at the Day of Judgment! – J. S. LEEKINGS [SOURCE: *Christian Recorder*, November 12, 1864]

A Grand Reopening

Philadelphia, PA., May 10, 1900 – Bethel A. M. E. Church in Amityville, L. I. was dedicated on Sunday. The interior of the building was not thoroughly completed. Hence the dedication was postponed for a later period. However a grand reopening took place. The day was clear and bright. It appeared as if the Omnipotent Being said to each one, open your hearts and let a little sunshine in. The presiding elder preached in the morning. The Bishop spoke in the afternoon, subject, “consider the lilies how they grow.” All who are acquainted with the Bishop knows how fatherly he takes pains to instruct his audience pertaining to the hidden truths concealed, which only a true servant of God can do. Well may the Scriptures declare many are called, but few are chosen. At night REV. E. M. HARPER, D. D., was present to fulfill his duty. His text was “If God be for us, who can be against us.” Amityville, N. Y. [SOURCE: *The Christian Recorder*, May 10, 1900]

Publisher’s Notes

NEW CHARTER MEMBERS

- Butch Devine, Waukee, Iowa
- Three Village Historical Society, E. Setauket, NY

CORRECTION(S)

- Submitted by Ralph Bunn [Vol 5, No. 2, Page 4]

1699	1753	? Ceaser	Caleb	65
		? Ceaser	Hannah	55

Newsletter available at: <http://longislandgenealogy.com/LINandBNewsletter/LI.html>

LI Native & Black genealogies available at:

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=sbrewsterw>

Long Island News -- [SOURCE: *Amsterdam News* – Sept. 2, 1939, page 13]

AMITYVILLE, L. I. – MRS. RUFUS DEVINE entertained the Independent Community Aid club at its last meeting.

Every Thursday afternoon on the RUFUS DEVINE lawn, a lawn party will be held for the benefit of the 1940 Fair Fund of the Bethel A. M. E. Church. Mrs Devine is president of the Fair committee.

MRS. GEORGE JOHNSON of Banbury Court, and her cousin, MISS. KATHLEEN JENKINS spent the week in Philadelphia visiting friends and relatives. They report a delightful trip.

MRS. EDITH HUNTER OF Philadelphia is visiting her cousin, MISS HANNAH HUNTER of Amityville.

The Vatoidis are still delighted over their trip to Asbury Park last week, and all members feel that it was the “best trip ever”. While in Asbury Park, they made the Wright cottage, 1405 Bangs Avenue, heir headquarters. Mrs. Wright proved a most gracious hostess, and expressed a desire to visit Valtoldis this winter, provided they serve their famous fried chicken.

MISS IRMA SCURLOCK, who was recently injured in an auto accident, is now doing nicely, and is visiting MRS. JOHN CLARK of E. New York. Miss Scurlock is accompanied by MISS JEAN WOODS, and both are having a delightful visit.

Amityville friends are sorry to hear of the illness of MRS. ROSA POTTS of New York City, and wish her a speedy recovery.

The Women’s Auxiliary of the North Amityville Republican social club, Inc., held a very successful carnival last Saturday afternoon and evening on the MORTIMORE FINLAY lawn, Banbury Court.

The members have expressed appreciation to all who helped to make the affair a success.

On September 23, the Hunter, Squires, Jackson American Legion Post 1218, will hold a barbeque, THOMAS GREENE, SR., is commander.

MISSES ROSALIND, ALICE and MARY CALDWELL have returned home after a pleasant vacation with their aunt and uncle, MR and MRS J. T. TALBOT, Morningside Ave, N. Y. C.

MISSES RITA and LOUISA CRICHLow of Brooklyn are visiting the FRED CALDWELLS, and will remain until Labor Day

MR and MRS JAMES KING, Banbury court, gave a joint party for their children, JANET and JAMES. MRS. L. CARROLL, maternal grandmother, and MRS ELVITA KING, paternal grandmother, were guest of honor.

JANET is three years old, and JAMES is one year old. Both were born on the same date.

MISS FRANCES WRIGHT of Brooklyn, spent a few days with the WILLIAM MILLERS of Columbus Boulevard. MRS EARLINE TURNER, Roanoke, VA; MISS FRANCES COLEMAN, Bro(o)oklyn, N. Y.; MR and MRS ARTHUR SCARS, and MRS VIRGINIA RICHARDSON were guest for the afternoon tea.

MRS. WILLIAM TERRELL, Hunter Court, has submitted two songs, “Echo”, and “What A Dream”, to “My Lucky Break” program on Station WLW. She has received a request for more songs.

Eight-year old JEAN JACKSON, who resides with MR. and MRS. J. P. JACKSON, was hostess to a group of her friends at a birthday celebration last Thursday.

JOSEPH COLLYMORE of New York City was a visitor of the R. EUGENE BELLINGERS last Monday.

The Vatolis meet at “Watervliet” this week with MRS. M. COLEMAN as hostess. The North Amityville Republican Social club, Inc. of which WILLIAM DAVIS is president, is contemplating a meeting at the same time in the annex.

The next Sunday afternoon tea for the Benjamin Bannaker Association Building Fund, will be held on September 10, at:”Watervliet”. A program has been arranged, but will be presented one hour later, because of the fact that Men’s Day is being celebrated at Bethel church. SAMUEL MURPHY and MRS MORTIMER FINLAY will be hosts.

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In honor of the life of Chief Mongotucksee (1551-1636), a Grand Sachem of Long Island

2010 Charter Membership

By becoming a charter member of the Long Island Native American Museum & Research Institute (LINAM&RI), you will provide direct support to LINAM&RI. Our mission is to collect, preserve and interpret the history and genealogies of the Long Island (NY) Native American People. We have already submitted our paperwork for a New York State Charter to operate a museum and historical society on Long Island, N. Y. Our *vision* is to secure a physical location for LINAM&RI over the next 2-years at a site on Long Island, NY. At that time, our *mission* will be to create and present innovative public programs, provide outreach, resources, and raise money for an endowment. In the meantime, enjoy our monthly newsletter, which is delivered electronically over the internet!

Our benefits will change as we grow, as well as they will vary according to the level of your support. **Until May 1st, we will offer only one 2010 Charter Membership for \$15.00 with the benefit being our e-newsletter full of local history and genealogies.**

Please join today.

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address (1): _____

Address (2): _____

City: _____ **State:** _____

Email Address: _____

Your research: _____

Send form with check or money order to:

Sandi Brewster-walker

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