

To his Excellency William Shirley Esq^r Captain Gen^l and
Governour in Cheif in And Over his Maj:^s Province of Mafs
achusetts Bay in New England And To the Honourable his Maj.^s Coun
cill and House of Representatives in Gen^l Court Afsembled &c

Wee the Gaurdians of the Indians on Marthas Vinyard having
heard That Your Excellency and Hon.^{rs} Did not see fit to accept of
our Accounts Exhibited to Your Excel:^y & Hon.^{rs} and having of Late
through Considerable Difficulty obtained A Coppy of Your
proceedings in that Affair find that for as much as Sundry
Articles in Our Ac.^{ts} Appeared Very Extraordinary to your Excel:^y
and Hon.^{rs} and no Vouchers to Support Any part of the Acco
unt that it was Therefore Order^d on the Eighteenth of April
Last that wee the Gaurdians were Directed to Appear before
the Court on the Second Thursday of (the then) next may Sefion
and that the further Consideration of our s.^d Accounts were Referrd
to that time and for as much as the time wherin wee were to
make our appearance Before Your Excel:^y and Hon.^{rs} was
long past before we knew Any thing of Your Excel:^y & Hon.^{rs}
proceedings in the Affair so it was not Pofsible for us in Obed
ience therto to appear at the time and if that Affair is not
yet finished we Trust that we Can set the Matter in such a light
that your Excel:^y & Hon.^{rs} will Admit our Accounts and Approve
our Conduct in the Affair

What those Articles are that Appear Extraordinary to your Excel:^y
and Hon.^{rs} wee cannot tell but shall Mention Severall that seems to

most likely The first Article in our account is the Costs paid to the Vendue Mast[*torn*]
as to the Method of Letting the Indians land, in that Way wee Suppo[*torn*]
is Allowed by all to be best and that way Directing to a Vendue Master
wee Employed one whose Demand, was what[^] as we have been informed was Customary
and [*crossed out*] ~~wee thought just to pay~~ and Did Accordingly pay a Cop
py of the Receit wherof is herwith Exhibbitted

The next Considerable article is Cash paid for the Indians in Gen^l
this being a Large sum wee have [*crossed out*] Taken ^{^a} Receipt of the persons
to whom the Money was paid a coppy wherof is herwith sent
the Receit is for the whole article Exceptt a small Rate included
therin

as to the Distribution to the poor and the Money Paid out
Annually to the Indians we can Give no Better Proof therof than
our Accounts which are Ever Supposed to be all that was Necefsary
for although ^{^in} our Accounts Exhibited To Your Excel:^y and Honnours
those Sums are Annually Large yet the sums were paid out to the
Indians in small sums if You Consi[*torn*] their number according
to our Marginall Ac^t You may Easily [*torn*] that the payments were
small Especially Considering that Nu [*torn*] as at two payments
agreeable to the Lease moreover in the present Case Wee Could not
Do Any other than what wee have Done an [*torn*] Wee had put the Ind
ians to such charge as would perhaps bee Thought unreasonable
by Every one the Indians are a people that Cannot write and

indeed had wee Taken Receipts they must have been Witnessed other wise in the nature of things they Could not have Conveyed any Better Evidence than our Accounts and if we had taken the pains to git Witnesses: to Every payment (perhaps fifteen or Twenty shillings more or less) it would have Taken [*torn*]e Chief of their Money unless we had Done it for nothing which Wee think none can think Reasonable

[verso:

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One Article in our Account may perhaps Appear Extraordin ary and that is money Paid for the pasture of the Indians Creatures ~~The Land Reserved for the Indians use being tilled two Years the Remaining~~ the Ocation of which was the Indian Creatures Increas[*torn*] from the Time of Leasing and wonting fencing Stuff They Were under A Necefsity of Exchanging Pasture with the Tenants and Re ceive their feed in the summer and Give them feed in the fall and Winter accordingly their stock Increasing as afors their Fall and Winter feedage would not Answer for what was Borrowed in the summer therfore were Obligated to Reduct so much (as was Behind) out of the Rent which wee shall Take for Granted for [^]to be Wrig[^]

As to the Lessening of the Rent after three Years it was Ocationed by the Indians wanting Tillage Ground which was Ocationed partly by their Imprudence and partly by their want of fencing stuff how Ever it Became necefsary to make an Exchange with the Tennants upon which the Rent was Necefsarily Lessen^d as by our Ac^{ts}

as to our Charge in the affair wee Can Think [^]no other but it must be Esteemed to be M[*faded*] it Appears unreasonable that wee should be paid for so [*faded*] Lab^r and Commifsions for paying out the Money Beside: how eVer if it be Considered that the money was not paid on tho[*faded*] Days (as wee Don't Remember that any Ever was) it may Perhaps be thought Reasonable in that article

as to the sum Charged for Each Days service if Any Common Lab^r can have two or three shillings a Day and his Diet found him and Horse hir[*torn*] at two shillings p^r Day wee think Your Excelleny and Honnours [*torn*] not think our Charge in this Article unreasonable Especially Considering wee ware many Times obliged to Wride Twenty or thirty miles in A Day and upon Expences and as to the number of Days spent in their service it is large Indeed But if Your Excellen^y & Honnours Consider that they were spent in the Run of six Years [^]the circumstances of the Lands and the Nature of the people for whom we were Engag^d such that they Ever Appear to Court Earnestly those Ways and things

as are most apt to Destroy them and shy of those ways which
in the nature of t[*torn*]gs appear most fit to Render them Happy
and Indeed to help [*torn*] who will not help themselves in an Arduous
affair and such [*torn*]th[*torn*] to be the Nature of the Indians as may
appear to Your Excell^y & Hon.^{rs} from the Many Laws of ~~our~~^{^this} Province
on their Ac^t: Finally wee think we have Discharged our Duty in this
affair and Pray that Your Excellency and Hon^{rs} would Admit our
Accounts that so we may have the Ballance therof and as to attesting
to our Ac^{ts} if Your Excell^y & Hon^{rs} Desire it wee are Ready to Do it

Marthas Vineyard Feb^y 13th: 1755 Paine Mayhew
W.^m Hunt
John Sumner

In Council April 23. 1755 Read and sent down

[folio 2:

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In the House of Representatives June 14.1755.

Read together with the Acco.^{ts} exhibited by the Guardians of the Indi-
ans of Martha's-Vineyard & the other Papers : And whereas the Vouchers
for the faid Acco.^{ts} are very imperfect ; Therefore Ordered that the
following Sums be deducted from ~~their Accounts~~^{^the fame} Viz.^t

For a [*illegible*]ise on their Time £113,,5,,0
the [*torn*] Comifs.^{rs} at 27[*torn*]C:53,,2,,6
the Coming to Gen:^l Court to } 22,, 10,,
Anfwer Ind.^{ns} Compl.^t agst y.^m }
for a Vendue Mafter 20,,0,,0

For an Omifion of Cred:^t to ye Ind:^{ns} in their Acc^o: 1748: 2,,0,,0 is[^]amounting to £210,, 17,,6 which being
deducted from the Ball.^a of their Acc.^o as exhibited of £235,, 15,, 9,
leaves a Balance of £24,, 18,, 3 Old Ten:^r equal to three pounds
fix Shillings and five pence three farthings lawfull Money
in the faid Guardians favour.

Sent up for Concurrence
T Hubbard Spk^r

In Council June 16. 1755 Read & Concur'd

Tho.^s Clarke Dp^{ty} Secry

Consented to

W Shirley.

[overwritten: To the Hon.^{:bl}
Josiah Willard
Sec^{ty} at Boston]

[verso:

Guardians of the Marthas
Vineyard Indians ~~Petition~~
Representation

June 16

Entrd

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