

To the Hon<sup>a</sup> the Senate, & the Hon<sup>l</sup> the House of  
Representative of the Commonwealth of Mafsachusitts,  
in General Court afsembled.

The subscribers, Natives of the Island of Chapoquidick  
on Marthas Vineyard, respectfully represent, that by a  
division of the Indian Lands on the Island of Chapoquidick  
by the Commifsioners, lately appointed for that purpose  
manifest injustice has been done; some who for a long  
course of years have lived on the Land, cultivated and  
subdued it, have been deprived of their pofsefsory right,  
while Strangers, not belonging to the Island or Tribe  
(but by marriages)-have become pofsefsd of the Land  
under this late division – to the most manifest prejudice  
of the Natives of the soil, who by labour & industry have  
have cultivated the soil, & rendered it productive -- .

Your Memorialists are at a lofs,  
and cannot conceive, by what Rule, or on what  
principle, this late division was made\_: They cannot  
believe the Hon<sup>le</sup> General Court, would take from those  
who have spent the best of their ~~lives~~ <sup>days</sup> – in reclaiming  
their Lands from a state of nature, to a state of cultivation  
and give it to Strangers – or divide it with those who had  
been at no labour or expence, to render it productive.

They have believed, that the same  
principle, by which settlers on the Commonwealths Land  
have been quieted, would apply at least to your Petitioners,  
who own the soil on which they live, and they have  
understood such settlers allways have been allowed  
their improvments -- ; but we the Petitioners in the  
present case – though owners of the soil, have been as  
we believe -- denied this justice, and in several  
instances, where lands has been pofsefsd occupied  
and improved, for nearly half a century, has been  
by this division taken from us and given to those  
who have no connexion with us, except they may  
have intermarried with some Native, who may have  
some interst with us, but who refuse to bear any public  
burthens with us, such as supporting our Poor &c. ~

The whole property on the Island  
of Chapoquideck, except a Common field, has been  
apportioned among the residents on the Land; and yet  
no provision has been made, for the payment of the  
outstanding Debts due from us, for the support of our  
Poor of former years -who have never been paid, &  
as we understand no funds <sup>are</sup> left from which they can be paid.

[verso:

The Line of Fence <sup>so called</sup> between the Indian Land, and

the Land, owned by the White Proprietors on Chapaquidek ordered long since to be built by the latter – and to be supported by them, is not maintained & kept up-but lies prostrate - and though repeated remonstrations have been made by the natives, that it should be repaired by the Owners, and application on application has been made, to the present Guardian whose duty it is to compel these Repairs-yet nothing has been done & the lands of the Natives lie exposed to the inroads of cattle - and the little property left to the Natives, is daily exposed to [ ~~crossout~~ ] ~~their~~ their depredations, and the result will be, that without some remedy - we must soon become Paupers of the Commonwealth – and must look to the Government for our support.

The mode of supporting our Poor, has been for some years last pased, by taking them among ourselves and removing them from family to family, without any tax; & yet these Strangers, who by marriage have connected themselves with us, have refused to afsist us in these burthens – and the expence has been unequally been by us, from this refusal .

Claims for the support of Poor, of former years, to an amount of more than two hundred Dollars – still remain unpaid to a Native - though said Poor were put out to the Natives, by a former Guardian with afsurance of payment, yet said Guardian for the want of funds did not pay the same, & could not do it, during his life time – and the same accounts still remain unpaid, & for the same reason that there are no funds, from which to pay them.

We regret the mode adopted, of appointing Constables & Pounds – and think them unnecesary – if the White Inhabitants were compelled to [ ~~crossout~~ ] make the fence they were directed to make & maintain, to separate their improvments from ours, & we are told that the present Guardian – refuses to enforce this Law – respectg ~~this~~ the repairs of this fence, which if done, there would be no need of Constables or Pounds, & without which, our improvments, will be as they have been imposed.

[folio 2:

We exceedingly regret, that the Law respecting this ~~regulations~~ Island of Chapaquidick has been altered, and are compelled to believe, our situation is now worse than it was before - & we pray that your Honours

would appoint, some suitable person or persons, in no way interested for us or against us, to visit our Island to whom we may freely impart our situation & from whom the Hon<sup>le</sup> Legislature may learn the facts that may be proved - & from whom the truth of our complaints may be substantiated - and as in duty bound will ever pray -

Attests  
John Huxford  
Assisting the Signatures,  
In this Paper  
Peter Cattalin

Mary Cooke  
Mary Cooke Betesy Peters  
Mary Cooke for my son  
Thadeus Cooke  
Mary Cooke for  
Thadeus Cooke Jun  
Hannah R Simpson  
Hannah R Simpson for my Sons  
Zadoc Simpson  
Ramant Simpson  
Lwis Simpson  
Joseph Simpson  
Blmiah Simpson  
Simmon Simpson  
Jonson Simpson  
William Janson for  
My daughters, Mary Jonson  
Hapsey Jonson  
Hannah Jonson  
Elihue Jonson  
Clarsa Jonson  
Neley Joseph for  
My Sons,  
Francis Goodrege  
Samuel P Goodrege  
Simon Goodrege  
Phillip Goodrege  
my Grand Child Jerode Samons  
daughter marthar Tucker  
Abuguil Lathon  
Margrat Peters,  
Jane Lathan

[ verso:

Petition  
Sundry Natives of Chapequiddic

H Rep<sup>s</sup> June 9. 1829

Com.<sup>d</sup> to Mess<sup>r</sup>. Whitman P.  
Butler E  
Norton T.  
~~Spencer~~  
Draper B.  
PW Warren Clerk

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