

To his Excelency William Shirley Esq.^r the Hon.^{ble} his Majestys Council and house of Representatives in general Court Afsembled~~
 The Memorial of Pain Mayhew, John Sumner and William Hunt humbly Sheweth ~~ that --
 Whereas being served with the Coppys of Two Petitions by way of Complaint from the Indians of Gayhead, to which we make Answer: that we as Guardians to the Indians in Duke's County pursuant to the Power and Trust Reposed in us ^{^by an Act of the general Court} Met and Sett off to the Indians belonging to s.^d Gayhead (being in number about ^{^one hundred & twelve} ~~Ninety Two~~ men, women and Children &) about Thirteen hundred Acres of Land, and then sett up Publick Notifications thro'out the s.^d County that (on a Certain Day in them prefixt) the Remainder of s.^d Neck of Land belonging to the Indians was to be Lett to such Person as would Give most for the same p. year during the Term of six years from and after the twentieth day of October then next ensuing: Reserving to the s.^d Indians the English-built Houses thereon, One Acre of Land adjoining each House, and the priviedge of taking off all the fencingstuff of Posts, Rails and Stakes thereon, also liberty for the s.^d Indians to ^{^go} a Cross s.^d Land a Fishing, and the Tenant or Tenants to maintain all the Fences between the Leased Premises and that Reserved for the s.^d Indians. As to the Article of pulling down the Indians Fence we Suppose it is true that the Tenants did so, for being bounded by the place where the Indian fence stood the could not put up their own fence without pulling up the other upon which it is [*illegible*] d. [*hole*] s to observe to ^{^the} ~~your~~ hon.^{ble} Court it is so obvius, that this was entirely for the Indians benefit, they having their own Fence to Improve for their own use elsewhere. We Leased s.^d Land for Four hundred and Sixty five Pounds Old Tenor p. Annum the One half thereof to be paid at the End of every Six Months. as to their Indian built houses to be taken off s.^d Land, it is no more than what they commonly practice themselves. As to their Fire-wood ther is enough for their use on that part of s.^d Neck which is sett off to them which is as good wood as is generally growing on any part of s.^d Neck of Land; and the wood that is growing on the Leased Land is very Small, Scarcely a Stick large enough for a hedge Stake. as to the Article of Complaint viz: our turning off their Catle and not Reserving Feed enough for them it is utterly false, for there is a great deal more Grafs growing on the Land sett off to the s.^d Indians than their Catle can Eat before the Winter will ^{^ordinarily} spoil the grafs, as will appear by the Evidence herewith Exhibited. and as to the Objection made against the Persons to whom the Lease was made we answer it being Sett up at a Publick Vendue every person present had a Right to bid for it; and they themselves had but a litle time before Let the priviedge of Feeding the whole Neck to several of the same persons as appears by a writeing and the hands of their Com.^{tee} herewith presented. and we doubt not but that the hon.^{ble} Court will Dismfs s.^d Petition as groundless and vexatious as we humbly apprehend they realy are, we having acted in the s.^d affairs with integrity, and with no other view than to Serve their Interest, and that we have used the likeliest methods therefor we doubt not but that we could procure the Testimony of every unprejudiced Judicious person in the County and your memorialifts as in duty bound shall ever pray &c.

M*N.B: the number of houses at Gayhead is 28 we compute four Persons to a house which is 112 and of them about 19 Labouring men

agreable to the Directions of the hon.^{ble} Court we have
herewith sent an account of our proceedings as Guardians

Pain Mayhew

John Sumner

Will.^m Hunt

Guardians for
the Indians
in Duke's County

Chilmark November 25th 1747

[verso:

Payne Mayhew Esq.^r &c.
Anfwer to Gay head
Indians Complaine
1747

the anfwer to ye
Indians Complaint

[folio 2:

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as to ye article Leasing of Land for Six years it was for ye Indians
advantage for we suppose if it had bin Leased for ashort time it would
not bin Leased for so much by ye year by one one hundred pounds

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