

To his Excellency Thomas Hutchinson Esquire Comander
in Chief in & over his Majesties Province of the Mafsachu-
=setts Bay in New England and the Honorable his Majesties
Councill & Houfe of Reperentatives in General
Court Afsembled

The Humble Petition of the Indian Proprietors of the
Island of Chapaquidick in Dukes County humbly Sheweth
that notwithstanding the General Court of this Province
in Time past have Several Times (upon our Application)
interpofed in the Controverfies, betwixt us, and the English
Inhabitants, of Edgartown, relative to the Improvements
of said Chappaquiddick & have Endeavoured to redrefs
our Grievances & put a Stop to their Opprefion –
Yet notwithstanding all thats has been done, has hither
to proved ineffectual. And its with reluctance wee
again perfume to trouble Your Excellency & Honors
Yet as we have no other Refource from whence we
can Hope for Relief, and being unable, to obtain Re=
drefs our felves, are either obliged to take this Meathod
or Suffer as we have done.

We finds that an Award was made between the
English Inhabitants of Edgartown & the Sachem and
his People of said Island of Chapaquiddick & Approved
of by all the Branches of their General Court of
this Province about fifty years ago, by which we
find, that the Sachem & his People and there Pofterity
were jointly to hold & Enjoy the Soil of Chappaquiddick
aforesaid never to be Alienated Sold or Conveyed away
in whole or in Part without the confent of his Majesties
Government of the Mafsachufets Bay - and alfo that the
wood Should not be cut & carried off said Island. that
any Creatures put on by the English should be brought
off by the twenty fifth Day of March, & that the English
Should pay said Sachem & his Heirs for every fatt
Beaft one Shilling & Six pence and alfo one Shilling for
Each acre of Marfh that said English should improve

Yet the English have never paid Any Regard, to any
Part of the aforementioned Award, but have purchafed
great Part of the Island & pofsefs it Some without Liberty
from s^d General Court

turn over

[verso:

& keep the Creatures on Said Island till the middle
[*erasure*: or Time fill] of June and as we are not able all of us to inclofe

our planting Fields we are obliged either to omit planting
till its too Late or have it destroyed & they Dayly Cut
& Carry away the young wood & Brush of sd Island
and Indeed in a Short Time unless we Can prevent it
there will no stuff either for fireing or fencing
neither have they paid any thing since the award
for their fat Cattle or mowing the Marshes
We are sensible that the Great & General
Court not many years ago Sent a Committee
to inquire into our Difficulties, and as we
are informed there Report if put in Execution
would have [*erasure: Re*] afforded Relief, but as the
Possessors have still kept Possession of what they
then had, Others have thereby been Encouraged
to move on & if they Can Purchase a Right of
Any one Indian they immediately Erect a House
and Inclose a Tract of Land & get their wood [*illegible*]
off our Common Land & have even of Late disposed
Some of us of our ~~old~~ old improvements and
we are therefore pray that Your Excellency &
Honours would take our unhappy Case into
your Wife Consideration & afford us Such
Relief as you in your great wisdom Shall
See meet & we as in Duty Bound shall Ever pray
May 4 1773

[folio 2:

Ben Edick	585
x	
James Robbin	
x	
John Joen	
x	
John Joen Jun. ^r	
x	
Bennia Mofes	
x	
James Wamsbly	
x	
Isackia Joen	
x	

Indian Proprietors of Cha=
=paquidick Petition

June 3.^d Ord.^d to lye

447

All contents copyright © 2018 The Yale Indian Papers Project. All rights reserved.

Transcribed by the Yale Indian Papers Project.

Note: *These transcriptions are solely for educational or scholarly purposes. Under no circumstances are they to be republished, in part or in whole, without express permission. Copyright on all editorial transcriptions, introductions, textual and explanatory notes, identifications of people, places, events and dates found herein is held by the Yale Indian Papers Project, Yale University.*

If you have inquiries regarding copyright, please e-mail indianpapersproject@yale.edu