

To His Excellency Thomas Hutchinson
Esq.^r Captain General & Governor in Cheif & The Hon^{ble}
his Majesties Council & Houfe of Representatives in
General Court Afsembled, on y.^e 5th. day of March 1774~

Samuel Welles & others Freeholders and
Inhabitants of the District of Natick, in the County of
Middlesex, Beg leave to Respond and make Answer
to Isaac Underwood & nine others. Inhabitants of the
West part of the town of Needham in the county of Suf=
folk in manner Following. Viz.

That the said Isaac Underwood & others Petitioned to this
Court, for the fame Favour and nearly in the same Words
about seven years Ago - and after a full Hearing their
said Petition was Dismifsed, and with that Propriety
the said Isaac and Only Nine others, have now Applied
to this Court and Projected a line of Partitions, including
about Twenty nine Families besides themselves, that
have not even Signified their Consent to be annexed to
Natick, is not easily to be accounted for on rational Prin=
ciples, for the twenty nine that are silent have no doubt
as great an aversion, to their being Taxed at Needham
(or anywhere elfe) as the said Isaac & nine others ~

But to Answer their Petitions - Your Refpondents wou'd
Observe to this Hon.^{ble} Court, that the said Petitioners im=
port, that they are Remote from the Centre of their Town,
To which we Reply that they are no further from their Cen=
tre than they were when they Purchased their Lands where

[Verso:

799

where they now dwell at a very low Rate, becaufe Remote;
They also mean to Intimate that their being Annexed to Na=
tick wou'd bring Natick into a more uniform State - To this
your Respondents wou'd say, that if the lands of the Petition=
ners do not discommode the form of Natick - But their being
Annexed Wou'd be productive of the most fatal Consequences
to Natick - having heretofore been greatly Afflicted and Per=
plexed, by those discontented, uneasy & unhappy Neighbours,
who were Connected with us from 1743. to June 19. 1761. at which
time they were in Mercy to themselves & us, Set back to Need=
ham in Consequence of a Report of a Committee of both Houfes
of Afsembly, who came to Natick & heard the Parties, which
Report we Beg leave of this Hon.^{ble} Court to Rehearse -
„That A.D: 1748, a number of the Respondents, then living in
„Needham in the County of Suffolk, were Set off from Needham
„to Natick in the County of Middlesex, Needham ^{^thenbeing} against
„parting with them and Natick against receiving them, that

„the Pretence of the Respondents in desiring to be Set off was,
„their being much nearer to the MeetingHouse in Natick &
„their desire to attend the Public Worship of God there, but
„they soon discovered another Sentiment Viz.t that of Remov=
„=ing the meetinghouse very far from the Indians & nearer
„to themselves, which early Introduced an unhappy Contem=
„=tion in said Parish and which has Continued ever since
„and we have the Melancholy Prospect of its being Conti=
„=nued so long as they Remain a Part of said Natick. The
„Committee wou'd further Observe that the Respondents do not
„attend the Public Worship of God at Natick and therefore
„Frustrate the very Design of the General Court in their being set

[Folio 2:

800

„set off to Natick and the Co^mittee are Unanimously of
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„Opinion that the Peace of Natick make it necessary that
„they return to Needham again & therefore Report that the
„serveral Inhabitants of Natick with their Eftates, which by the
„Order of the General Court in 1743 was set from Needham to
„Natick, be Returned to Needham in the County of Suffolk there
„to do Duty & Receive Privilege, anything in the order afore=
„=said notwithstanding. —

and your Respondents wou'd further Observe to
this Hon.^{ble} Court, that when the Inhabitants of the West of
Needham were of Natick, they Retarded & greatly hindred &
Discouraged the Stated Public Worship of God in Natick -
and from that time to this day not of Necefsity but of choice
the most of them Uphold, Encourage & Countenance a Seperate
Meeting, Constantly on Lords days and Employ a Lay=man
one Child of Watertown to Exhibit to them in Needham, at
a greater Distance for the said Isaac and the other
Nine then it is to Natick Meetinghouse, which is an Un=
=deniable Evidence of the State of their minds, - that
by far the greatest part of the Inhabitants of the West of
Needham, included in the Proposed Line, are the number
of those that have Lay-Teachers to Admiration - and some
of them have already Taken the benefit of the Law relating
to Baptists — your Respondents further
Beg leave to Observe that by Granting the Prayer of the said
Isaac & the County Line would be Altered, which more
properly Concerns the Honor of the Several Branches
of this Court, then of your Refpondents —

And with Respect to the Petition of Sundry
from Natick, desiring that the Prayer of Isaac Underwood
& others may be Granted, your Respondents wou'd Observe —
That a very considerable Part of those Natick Petitioners are of

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[Verso:

801

the same stamp with these Described in the West of Needham - upon the whole, as the Meetinghouse in Natick as it now stands, was mostly Built by the Charitable Assistance of the Commissioners of the Corporation for Propagating the Gospel &c and the Corporation of Harvard ^{College} with the Subscription of a Considerable number of Welldisposed Persons in & near to Natick, on the Place where the Public Worship of God has been Upheld more than 120 years past, when it could not be Built by District vote there nor anywhere else, by Reason of the Opposition of these Petitioners or their Predecessors ~ Your Respondents therefore humbly Pray that as this Honorable Court would not be willing eventually to lay a Foundation for the Ruin of the District of Natick and of your Respondents in Particular, that the Prayer of the said Isaac Underwood & others may be Dismissed out of your great Goodness Wisdom, and that they may Continue to belong to Needham where they can be Controuled and your Humble Remonstrants as in Duty Bound shall ever Pray &c

John Winn	William Hill	Samuel Welles
Abiel Smith	Joseph Morfe	Nathaniel Battle
Josiah Parker	William Bacon	Jonathan Car
Ephraim Whitney	Ebenezer Warren	Thomas Sawin
Nathaniel Smith	Joseph Fisher	Daniel Morfe
Thomas Sawin S. ^r	Daniel Stratton	Abijah Stratton
	Eleazer Perry	Samuel Perry
	Thomas Emes	Richard Kimble
	Pelatah Morse	William Rider
	Ephraim Dana	John Sawin
	Michard Bacon	Jefse Hill
	Elijah Efty	John Reed
	Jeremiah Fisher	Hezekiah Broad
	Ezekiel Sawin	Oliver Whitney
		Joel Sawin

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