

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled.

The Subscriber, a descendant from the Hafsanamisco tribe of Indians, residing in the City of Worcester, would respectfully represent, -- That his ancestors were a powerful and wealthy tribe of Indians, who owned and occupied the whole town of Hafsanamisco, (now Grafton.) By reason of the constant encroachments and duplicity of the English planters, the tribe became reduced in numbers and in resources. Massachusetts Subsequently by an act of her General Court, assumed guardianship over them by appointing Trustees, and transferring all their property into their hands, to be held for the benefit of them and their descendants forever. But through the negligence and want of fidelity of Some of the Trustees, over whom your petitioner or his ancestors could have no control, their lands were all Sold, and a large amount of the money lost and wasted without any fault of the petitioner or his ancestors; thereby leaving him penniless and powerless. The truth of the above will be verified by reference to the ancient records of the Commonwealth.

Your petitioner would further represent, -- that he is sole heir to a relative who died Several years ago, leaving ninety acres of land in New Hampshire, which is now in the occupancy of persons unknown, and to which no claim has ever been made by your petitioner or by any one on his behalf. -- That an estate in Worcester formerly belonging to the deceased relative aforesaid, and which your petitioner legally inherited, was sold in the year 1850, and the avails distributed among persons who were not entitled to them. -- That he has a just and equitable claim upon a valuable estate in Paxton that formerly belonged to another deceased relative to whom he is sole heir, which claim will not be recognized unless legal proceedings are instituted. -- That he is now aged and infirm, destitute of the necessaries of life, with a family dependent upon him for Support. -- That he is entitled to valuable rights, but has no power nor means to secure them. Finally your petitioner believes that inasmuch as he has been reduced to his present condition mainly by the fault and neglect of Trustees appointed by

[verso:

the General Court, that this appeal for Some Slight remuneration on his own behalf and on behalf of his family will not be made in vain.

Your petitioner therefore hereby prays that the commonwealth may appropriate Such Sum of money as may be necessary to Secure to him and his family a comfortable home and Support, and may also employ Some Suitable Agent to ascertain the nature and value of all property or claims thereto ^{^ which should enure to his benefit} with power to sell and dispose of the Same or otherwise, as may best Secure the just rights of your petitioner and all others concerned.

John hecktor

[folio 2:

Petition of John Hector.
a descendant of the Hafsanamiscoe tribe
of Indians asking remuneration for
property lost & wasted by former Trustees of the
tribe who were appointed by the State. --
And also for the appointments of an Agent
to investigate & prosecute his claims to other
property.

Mr. Rogers
of Worcester.

~~Joint Special Committee.~~

Com. on Claims
House of Reps. March 7. 1855
Refd to Com on Claims
Sent up to for Concurrence
HA Marsh clerk,
45
In Senate, Mar. 9, 1855.
Concurred.
P.L.Cox, Clerk

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