

Descriptive Bibliography

King Philip's War

Contemporary sources:

Gookin, Daniel, *An Historical Account of the Doings and Sufferings of the Christian Indians in New England ...* Cambridge: Included in *Archaeologia Americana*, the Transactions of the American Antiquarian Society, Volume II (pages 423-534), 1836. (Deemed too controversial to publish, lost to history for 150 years until discovered and published in 1836).

Hubbard, Rev. William, *A Narrative of the Troubles with the Indians in New England ... [b]ut chiefly of the late Troubles in the two last years, 1675 and 1676*. Boston: Printed by John Foster, 1677. (The most comprehensive contemporary source. Includes the first American map made in this country).

Mather, Cotton, *Magnalia Christi Americana*. London: Printed for Thomas Parkhurst, at the Bible and Three Crowns in Cheapside, 1702. (This is the most famous 18th Century American book. It contains a brief discussion of King Philip's War in Book VII, Chapter VI, and is not nearly as comprehensive as either his father's narrative or that of Rev. William Hubbard).

Mather, Increase, *A Brief History of the War with the Indians in New England*. London: Printed for Richard Chiswell, at the Rose and Crown in St. Pauls Church-Yard, according to the original copy printed in New England, 1676.

Modern and pictorial histories:

Breen, Louise A., *Daniel Gookin, The Praying Indians, And King Philip's War, A Short History in Documents*. New York: Routledge, 2020. (Includes the full text of Gookin's *Doings and Sufferings*).

Brooks, Lisa, *Our Beloved Kin, A New History of King Philip's War*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2018. (Winner of the 2019 Bancroft prize; a comprehensive re-telling of the conflict from the perspective of Native Americans).

Kawashima, Yasuhide, *Igniting King Philip's War, The John Sassamon Murder Trial*. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2001. (Detailed coverage of Sassamon trial).

Leach, Douglas Edward, *Flintlock & Tomahawk, New England in King Philip's War*. Woodstock, Vermont: The Countryman Press, 2009. (A great general history of King Philip's War).

Lepore, Jill, *The Name of War, King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998. (Changing narrative of King Philip's War over time).

Strock, Daniel, *Pictorial History of King Philip's War* Boston: Horace Wentworth, 1851. (Contains twenty-five "pictorial embellishments" by artist W. Croome, Esq.).

Descriptive Bibliography (continued)¹

Local History

Biglow, William, *History of the Town of Natick, Mass. ...* Boston: Marsh, Capen & Lyon, 1830.

Biglow, William, *History of Sherburne, Mass. ... Including That of Framingham and Holliston ...* Milford, Massachusetts: Ballou & Stacy, 1830.

Morse, Rev. Abner, *Genealogical Register of the Inhabitants and History of the Towns of Sherborn and Holliston*. Boston: Damrell & Moore, 1856.

Shaughnessy, Anne Carr, *The History of Sherborn*. Sherborn: The 300th Anniversary Committee, Sherborn, Massachusetts, 1974.

Exercises at the Bi-centennial Commemoration of the Burning of Medfield by the Indians in King Philip's War (pamphlet). Medfield: George H. Ellis, February 21, 1876.

LaCroix, Paul Charles, *Bogastowe Farms Stone House, Archaeological Investigation, Millis, Massachusetts | 2009 - 2012*. Framingham: Damianos Publishing, 2021.

Swan, Bradford F., *An Indian's an Indian or, The Several Sources of Paul Revere's Engraved Portrait of King Philip (pamphlet)*. Providence: The Roger Williams Press, 1959. (Publication number 44 issued by the Society of Colonial Wars in Rhode Island and Providence Plantations).

Tilden, William S. (ed.), *History of the Town of Medfield, Massachusetts ...* Boston: George H. Ellis, 1887.

Winship, George Parker, *The First American Bible, A Leaf*. Boston: D. B. Updike at the Merrymount Press for Charles E. Goodspeed and Company, 1929.

The Natick Historical Society has an excellent website covering the history of Natick, John Sassamon, John Eliot and the Eliot Indian Bible, among other things. You can find it here: <https://www.natickhistoricalsociety.org/17th-centurynatick>

Look out over the next year for a new history of Sherborn by Sherborn Historian Betsy Johnson. Given Betsy's skill and attention to detail, it is sure to become the definitive source for history relating to our town.

¹ This material accompanies a talk entitled *Honoring Indigenous History: The Eliot Indian Bible, the Natick Praying Indians and King Philip's War*, given by Doug Brown on February 27, 2024 at the Sherborn Library, as part of Sherborn's 350th Anniversary Celebration.

Chronology

- 8,000 B.C.** Evidence of first Native American inhabitants in Sherborn
- 1650** Harvard College Charter adopted to further “the education of the English and Indian youth of this country in knowledge and godliness.”
- 1651** Natick established as first Praying Indian Town.
- 1652** First English settlers arrive in Sherborn (then called “Bogastowe Farms”) in area around Bullard Street.
- 1663** Eliot Indian Bible first printed
- 1674** Town of Sherborn incorporated

King Philip’s War

- 1675**
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| January | John Sassamon dies on Assawampsett Pond (1/29) |
| June | Sassamon Trial. Accused executed. (6/6) |
| | King Philip’s War begins with raids on Swansea (6/24) |
| August | Attack on Lancaster (8/22) |
| | Praying Indians ordered confined to Praying Towns (8/30) |
| | Captain Samuel Moseley arrests Praying Indians at Hassanamesit, including James Printer (8/30) |
| October | Natick Praying Indians removed to Deer Island |
| November | Wamesit slaughter (11/15) |
| December | Gookin and Eliot visit Deer Island |
| | Gookin recruits two Praying Indians as spies |
- 1676**
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| February | Raid on Lancaster. Mary Rowlandson taken hostage (2/10) |
| | Howling of wolves in Medfield. Is it a sign? (2/14) |
| | Raid on Medfield (2/21) |
| | Gookin death threat (2/28) |
| May | Mary Rowlandson released with help of James Printer |
| | Gookin voted out of office |
| | Praying Indians released from Deer Island |
| August | “Philipus exit” (8/12) |

Chronology (continued)²

After the War

- 1682** Mary Rowlandson publishes her immensely popular captivity narrative *Sovereignty & Goodness of God*. James Printer sets the type.
- 1684** Eliot writes to sponsors in London telling them of Daniel Gookin, Jr. serving as minister in “Sherburne, a small village near Natick, whose meeting-house is about three miles, more or less, from Natick,” and preaching to Praying Indians “which many English, especially of Sherburne, do frequent.” (4/22)
- 1685** First Parish at Sherborn established.
Gookin, Jr. ordination; Father, Samuel Sewall and others attend (3/26)
Second Edition of Eliot Indian Bible is printed
- 1686** Samuel Sewall goes to “Natick Lecture ... Mr. Daniel Gookin preached; were about 40 or 50 men at most ... and a pretty many women and children [at the Indian Meeting House].” (9/1)
- 1687** Daniel Gookin dies (3/19). “A right, good man.” Native Americans “lament[] his death with unfeigned sorrow.”
- 1690** John Eliot dies (5/21)
- 1690+/-** Daniel Takawampbait takes over as first indigenous “Praying Indian” minister in New England.

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Brief Summary of Key Characters in our Drama³

John Eliot. Minister at the First Church in Roxbury, where he served for 40 years. Founded Roxbury Latin School in 1645 to teach English and Native men literature, moral citizenship and Christianity. It still exists today. Considered “Apostle to the Indians” for his life work teaching Christianity to the Native Americans. Along with Daniel Gookin, created “Praying Towns” for the Praying Indians, the first and most famous of which was in Natick. Translated the bible into Algonquin, which was printed in 1663, and became the first bible printed in America and the first to be translated into a Native American language.

Daniel Gookin. Magistrate in Massachusetts Bay Colony government and Superintendent of Praying Indians. Lived in Cambridge and was one of the busiest men in the Colony. Attended legislative sessions, served on committees, was active in his church, tended to his farm, and helped found the city of Worcester. Passionately and courageously defended the Praying Indians through King Philip’s War and contemporaneously wrote about their plight. Manuscript was lost for 150 years until it was found and published by AAS in Worcester in 1836. Advised his son to become minister at “Sherburne” and continue to preach to the Praying Indians.

Wassausmon (“John Sassamon”). From the Massachusett tribe, he was orphaned at 13 and raised by an English family in Dorchester, where he was taught to read and write English. Attended Harvard College in 1653 and became one of the few bilingual people in the colonies (English and Algonquin). Worked closely with John Eliot as translator and was among the first leaders to settle Natick as a Praying Indian Town in 1651, the year before Sherborn was settled. His mysterious death sparked King Philip’s War.

Wawaus (“James Printer”). Nipmuk Indian who grew up in Praying Town of Hassanamesit (Grafton). Attended Roxbury Latin School. Apprenticed in print shop of Samuel Green. Instrumental in printing the Eliot Indian Bible in 1663. Caught up in King Philip’s War and was horribly treated. Helped negotiate for release of captive Mary Rowlandson. Author of infamous note left by warriors at Medfield. Returned to printing after the war and set type for Rowlandson’s wildly popular captivity narrative.

The Original 7 Praying Indian Towns

Natick; Wamesit (Chelmsford); Okkanamesit (Marlborough); Hassanamesit (Grafton)
Punkapog (Stoughton); Nashobah (Littleton); and Megunko (Hopkinton)

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