



AT A  
COUNCIL  
Held in Boston August the thirtieth 1675.

**T**HE COUNCIL Judging it of Absolute necessity for the Security of the English and the Indians that are in Amity with us, that they be Restrained their usual Commerce with the English, and hunting in the Woods, during the time of Hostility with those that are our Enemies;

Do Order, that all those Indians that are desirous to Approve themselves Faithfull to the English, be confined to their several Plantations under written, untill the Council shall take further Order; and that they so order the setting of their Wigwams that they may stand Compact in some one part of their Plantations respectively, where it may be best for their own Profits and Defence; and that none of them do presume to Travaille above one mile from the Center of such their dwellings, unless in Company of some English, or in their Service near their dwellings, and excepting for gathering and fetching in their Corn with one English man, on peril of being taken as our enemies, or their Abettours: And in case that any of them shall be taken without the Limits above said, except as above said, and do loose their Lives or be otherwise dammish'd; by English or Indians: The COUNCIL do hereby Declare that they shall account themselves wholly Innocent, and their Blood or other damage (by them sustained) will be upon their own heads.

Also it shall not be lawfull for any Indians that are in Amity with us, to entertain any strange Indians, or receive any of our Enemies Plunder, but shall from time to time make discovery thereof to some English that shall be appointed for that end to sojourn among them, on penalty of being reputed our Enemies, and of being liable to be proceeded against as such.

Also whereas it is the manner of the Heathen that are now in Hostility with us, contrary to the practice of the Civil Nations, to execute their bloody Insolencies by stealth and sku'king in small parties, declining all open decision of their controversie, either by Treaty or by the Sword,

The Council do therefore Order; That after the Publication of the Provision aforesaid, It shall be lawfull for any person whether English or Indian, that shall finde any Indian travelling or sku'king in any of our Towns or Woods, contrary to the limits abovenamed, to command them under their Guard, and Examination, or to kill and destroy them as they best may or can. The Council hereby declaring, that it will be most acceptable to them that none be killed or wounded that are willing to surrender themselves into custody.

The places of the Indians Residencies are Natick, Panquapaug, Nashoba, Wamefit and Hassanamissett. And if there be any that belong to any other Plantations, they are to repair to some one of these.

By the Council Edward Rawson Secretary



These Transactions may be computed to end with July. Before any further Progress be made in this Relation, it may not be amiss to give you some Account of what concerns our Neighbour Indians at Peace with us.

There are two Potent Sagamores, that are in Amity with us: The one is Ninnicroft,<sup>1</sup> his Territories border on Connecticut Colony; the other is Unkus, the only Christian Sagamore among them.

This Unkus, and all his Subjects professing Christianity, are called Praying Indians. In the first Week in August, the Authority of Boston sent an Express to him, to require him to come in and Surrender himself, Men, and Arms, to the English; Whereupon, he sent along with the Messenger his three Sons, and about Sixty of his Men, with his Arms, to be thus disposed of, *viz.* His two youngest Sons, (about thirty Years old) to remain as Hostages (as now they do at Cambridg) and his Eldest Son to go Captain of the Men as Assistants to the English against the Heathens, which accordingly they did. And the English not thinking themselves yet secure enough, because they cannot know a Heathen from a Christian by his Visage, nor Apparel: The Authority of Boston, at a Council held there the 30th of August, Published this following Order.

*At a Council held in Boston, August 30, 1675.*

The Council judging it of absolute Necessity for the Security of the English, and the Indians that are in Amity with us, that they be Restrained their usual Commerce with the English, and Hunting in the Woods, during the Time of Hostility with those that are our Enemies,

Do Order, that all those Indians that are desirous to Approve themselves Faithful to the English, be Confined to their several Plantations under-written, until the Council shall take further Order; and that they so order the setting of their Wigwams, that

<sup>1</sup> Ninnicroft or Ninigret was chief of the Eastern Niantic Indians, seated between the Pawcatuck River and Point Judith; their chief town was Wekapaug, now Westerly, Rhode Island. The Niantics are considered a division of the Narragansetts and Ninigret professed friendship for Rhode Island. For Unkus see *ante*, p. 24. His best-known sons were Oneko (Owaneco) and Attawamhood or Joshua.

they may stand Compact in some one Part of their Plantations respectively, where it may be best for their own Provision and Defence. And that none of them do presume to Travel above one Mile from the Center of such their Dwelling, unless in Company with some English, or in their Service near their Dwellings; and excepting for gathering and fetching in their Corn with one Englishman, on peril of being taken as our Enemies, or their Abettors: And in Case that any of them shall be taken without the Limits abovesaid, except as abovesaid, and do lose their Lives, or be otherwise damnified, by English or Indians; The Council do hereby Declare, that they shall account themselves wholly Innocent, and their Blood or other Damage (by them sustained) will be upon their own Heads. Also it shall not be lawful for any Indians that are in Amity with us, to entertain any strange Indians, or receive any of our Enemies Plunder, but shall from Time to Time make Discovery thereof to some English, that shall be Appointed for that End to sojourn among them, on Penalty of being reputed our Enemies, and of being liable to be proceeded against as such.

Also, whereas it is the Manner of the Heathen that are now in Hostility with us, contrary to the Practice of all Civil Nations, to Execute their bloody Insolencies by Stealth, and Sculking in small Parties, declining all open Decision of their Controversie, either by Treaty or by the Sword,

The Council do therefore Order, That after the Publication of the Provision aforesaid, It shall be lawful for any Person, whether English or Indian, that shall find any Indians Travelling or Sculking in any of our Towns or Woods, contrary to the Limits above-named, to command them under their Guard and Examination, or to Kill and destroy them as they best may or can. The Council hereby declaring, That it will be most acceptable to them that none be Killed or Wounded that are Willing to surrender themselves into Custody.

The Places of the Indians Residences are, Natick, Puncquaesog, Nashoba, Wamesit, and Hassanemesit: And if there be any that belong to any other Plantations, they are to Repair to some one of these.

By the Council.

EDWARD RAWSON. *Secr.*

<sup>1</sup> These "Indian Residences" correspond to the modern Natick (Natchick), "The First Praying Town"; Puncapog or Puncquaesog, now Canton, called by Gookin "The Second Praying Town"; Nashoba, later Lancaster, now Littleton; Wamesit, included in old Chelmsford, now in Lowell, and Hassanemesit, now Grafton. All these refugees were in the Massachusetts Bay colony. See Mrs. Rowlandson on Praying Indians, *post*, pp. 140, 152.