

# HERRING POND WAMPANOAG TRIBE

Seeqanamâquhpâhqut



LISTENING TO OUR ANCESTORS  
PROTECTING OUR HOMELAND

# HERRING POND WAMPANOAG TRIBE TRIBAL COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## **OFFICERS:**

- MELISSA (HARDING) FERRETTI,  
CHAIRLADY/PRESIDENT – *PROGRAM DIRECTOR*
- RODNEY HUNT, VICE CHAIRMAN – *TRIBAL VETERANS  
ADVOCATE*
- KATHERINE HUNT, SECRETARY / TREASURER

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS/COUNCILORS:**

- JENNIFER (HARDING) MCKEITHAN - *ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT-TRIBAL NURSE (LPN) –WÔPANÂAK LINGUIST -*
- LORI (HARDING) WENTWORTH, TRIBAL  
COUNCILOR
- LISA (HARDING) TEDSTONE, TRIBAL COUNCILOR

## **MEDICINE MAN**

*Troy Currence*

## **ENROLLMENT/MEMBERSHIP:**

HAZEL CURRENCE, ELDER  
KATHY H., ELDER  
KATHLEEN GATELY  
JEANNINE RHONDA HUNT - Youth Mentor

## **HPWT LSYEP STEERING COMMITTEE**

DONNA FISH  
KATHLEEN GATELY - Youth Mentor  
LORI (HARDING) WENTWORTH  
JENNIFER (HARDING) MCKEITHAN  
LISA(HARDING )TEDSTONE

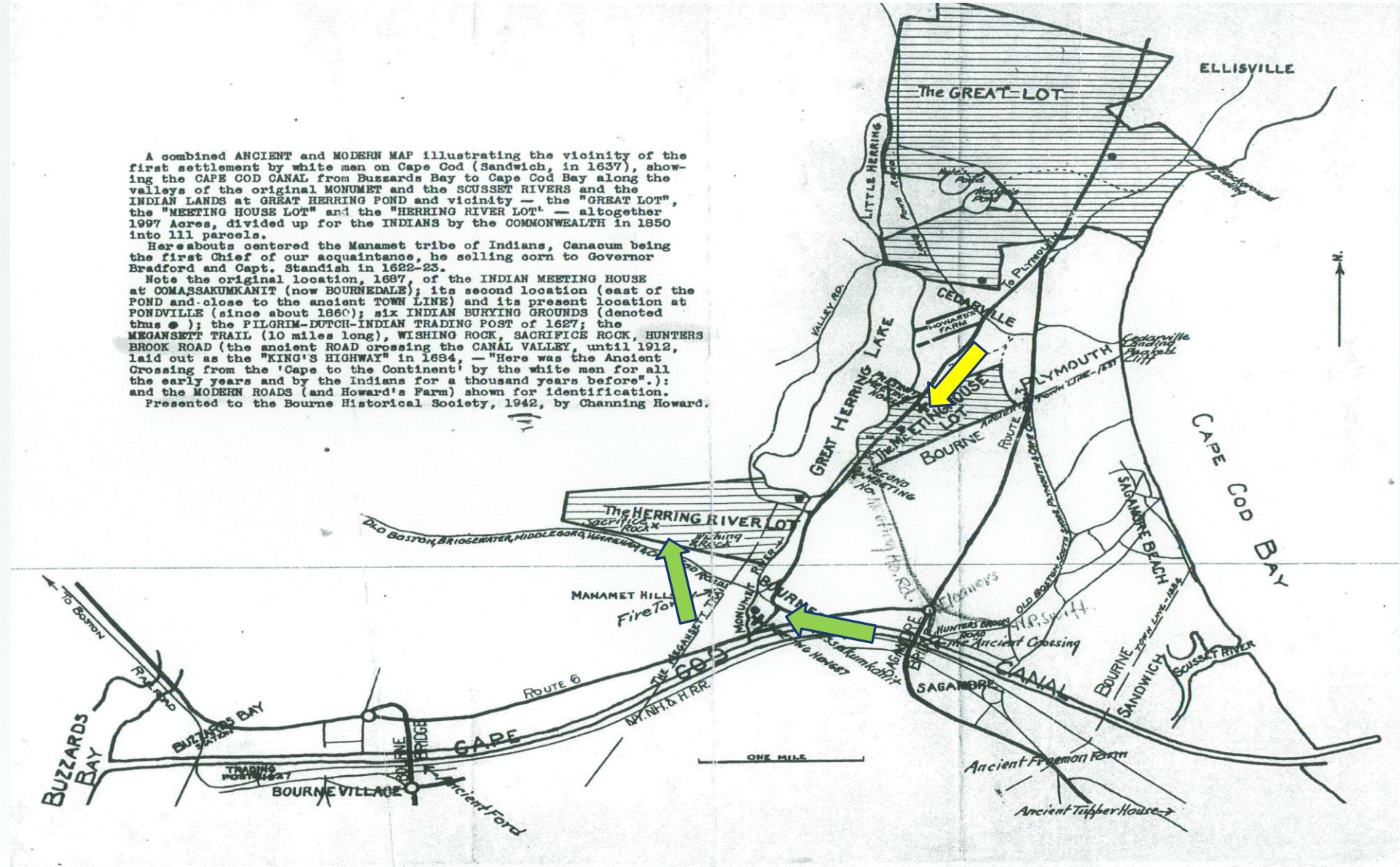
## **RESEARCHER**

Taylor Reis- Stasis

# MAP OF THE HERRING POND WAMPANOAG HISTORICAL RESERVATION

BY CHANNING HOWARD (1942)

We now face the challenge of preserving what remains of our historical reservation lands (post allotment) which previously contained three separate parcels, mostly in Plymouth but partly in Bourne which in total was about 3,000 acres, namely the Great Lot (about 2,600 acres), the Meetinghouse Lot (about 200 acres) and the Herring River Lot know to the tribe in the 21st Century as "The Valley" (about 400 acres) of which most of it was lost, stolen or conveyed (partitioned) for reasons unknown to the Tribe.



# BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HERRING POND RESERVATION “PLANTATION”

- Plymouth colony officials agreed to set aside lands for the Indian peoples; sole use. A “plantation” (reservation) for the “Praying Indians” was established at Herring Pond in 1685.
- There were several meetinghouses built over time, Manomet, Cedarville, 2 in Bournedale and the first Indian meetinghouse built on Cape Cod was in (1637), located in Bournedale at what is now called burial hill. Herring Pond and other Wampanoag communities attended religious services and ceremonies there.
- The population of the Herring Pond Wampanoag people living on the reservation in 1685 was recorded as 120 individuals. Other tribal members lived in areas near the reservation.
- In 1694, the Massachusetts Bay Government Places ALL native peoples on reservation lands under the authority of colonial officials, who were to be so-called “Guardians” of their reservations.
- In the 1700’s Herring Pond Wampanoag people began petitioning the colonial government to assert our rights to our reservation. In The 1800’s our tribal community was often under pressure to sell wood and parcels of our reservation lands in order to survive and pay debts imposed on us by the guardians, missionaries, etc.



# WHAT IS TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE?



- **'Indigenous knowledge' refers to ecological knowledge held by place-based Indigenous peoples, accumulated intergenerationally within their specific cultural context and belief system (traditional ecological knowledge), and often supplemented by contemporary observations on local-to-regional scales (local knowledge).**

Action on behalf of life transforms, because the relationship between self and the world is reciprocal...

As we work to heal the earth, the earth heals us ~ Robin Wall Kimmerer

## Herring Pond Wampanaog Tribe Land Stewardship and Youth Traditional Ecological Knowledge Program (HPWT LSYEP)

**Mission:** As an Indigenous people at the heart of Plymouth in southeastern Massachusetts, who have long worked to protect our homeland, the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe understands well the need to preserve and protect our land and resources. In order to do so now and in the future, we seek to establish a cultural and environmental educational program—particularly for youth—that will:

- (1) preserve tribal community-based knowledge of the land and its ecologically significant areas;
- (2) promote tribal values, especially concerning the cultural, historical, ecological and spiritual significance of the land, water, and wildlife in the region; and
- (3) (3) create opportunities for collaborations with other environmental and cultural organizations with related goals of land stewardship, conservation, and youth education.



# “INDIAN POLICY” AND THE ALLOTMENT OF TRIBAL RESERVATION LANDS IN THE 19TH CENTURY



Herring Pond Wampanoag  
Little Sandy Pond Road Burial Ground

- 1850 – Some 37 years prior to the General Allotment Act, or Dawes Act the Massachusetts legislature’s “Act concerning the plantation at Herring Pond” was intended to divide the lands of the Herring Pond Wampanoag tribe, in order to impose individual ownership of small parcels of the reservation.
- The Divided land consisted of three separate parcels divided into 111 separate parcels. The reservation lands located mostly in Plymouth but partly in Bourne in total was about 3,000 acres, namely “the Great lot “ about (2600 acres), the meetinghouse lot (about 200 acres), and the Herring River lot (about 400 acres)
- 1887 - the U.S. Congress passed the General Allotment Act, or Dawes act (named after Massachusetts Senator Henry Dawes, its main promoter). As stated on the website of the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, the Dawes Act was “Perhaps the single most devastating federal policy” to be imposed on tribal nations in the United States. “during the allotment of many reservations, the most productive land was identified as ‘surplus to Indian needs’ and sold off to white settlers or business interests” (see the website of the Indianland tenure foundation at <https://iltf.org/land>). -issues/history/)

# JOHN MILTON EARLE

## REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL, CONCERNING THE INDIANS OF THE COMMONWEALTH (1861)

- BY an act of the MASSACHUSETTS legislature in April 1859, Earle was to write an accurate account of "the condition of the Indians in the Commonwealth"
- Earle counted 67 Tribal members, 45 who lived on the reservation and 22 living elsewhere. HE stated the median age of tribal members as 24, and LISTED A smaller number over 40 (EARLE 1861:67)
- Regarding the reservation lands retained by the Tribe after the Allotment, Earle wrote: "The territory of this tribe is mostly light and Sandy, and of little use for cultivation," and that the land remaining to the Tribe after the 1850 allotment was "UNPRODUCTIVE OF INCOME" (EARLE 1861:67-69)
- As Earle explained, the HERRING POND RESERVATION "was formerly covered with wood, which has all been cut off, and being pitch pine land, none of the new growth has attained sufficient size for cutting, nor will it for some time to come, as a fire ran over the portion of it on which was the largest growth, a few years since, and destroyed the wood which was large enough to cut" (Earle 1861:69)

	To amount over	\$ 92 30
	To paid for recording deed from Isaac Coombs to Proprietors of H. Pond	0 50
	do also from Sarah Utaquin	0 50
	" " J. W. Pope for coffin for R. Blackwell, & for child of S. Webquish	21 00
	" " Love Wood for the board of the child of J. A. Fletcher	10 00
	" " Cyrenius Hursch for wood to the meeting House, & taking care of Hursch & digging grave	15 00
	" " Theodore Hursch for cutting home wood for sundry poor persons.	15 00
1865	Jan. " " Doctor Runnels for services as physician one year from June 1864 to June 1865	80 00
	" " C. Bourne for school books	0 90
	" " Rufus Ellis bill of supplies to sundry poor in the years 1863 & 1864	68 29
Feb.	" " H. G. O. Ellis for supplies to Ralph Blackwell when sick	40 00
	" " Tim <sup>r</sup> Packnett for the board of the child of Wm <sup>r</sup> Conit 13 weeks	13 00
	" " Love Wood for the board of the child of J. A. Fletcher	8 00
Mar	" " Tim <sup>r</sup> Packnett for the board of the child of Wm <sup>r</sup> Conit	3 00
	" " S. F. Webquish for services & expense in procuring missionary	16 75
		<u>384 34</u>

## MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES: EXAMPLES OF RECORDS OF THE "GUARDIANS OF THE INDIANS"

### BOOKKEEPERS?

- Paid \$80.00 for Dr Runnels for services as a physician between June 1864 and June 1865
- Paid \$40.00 Ellis for supplies to Ralph Blackwell when sick
- Paid \$21.00 to J.W Pope for the coffin of Ralph Blackwell and child of S. Webquish (married to a HP member lived on the HP Plantation Earle 1861 (Lucy Anah buried at Dina Path 3 years old....))
- Paid .90 to J. Bourne for Books (Jonathan Bourne)

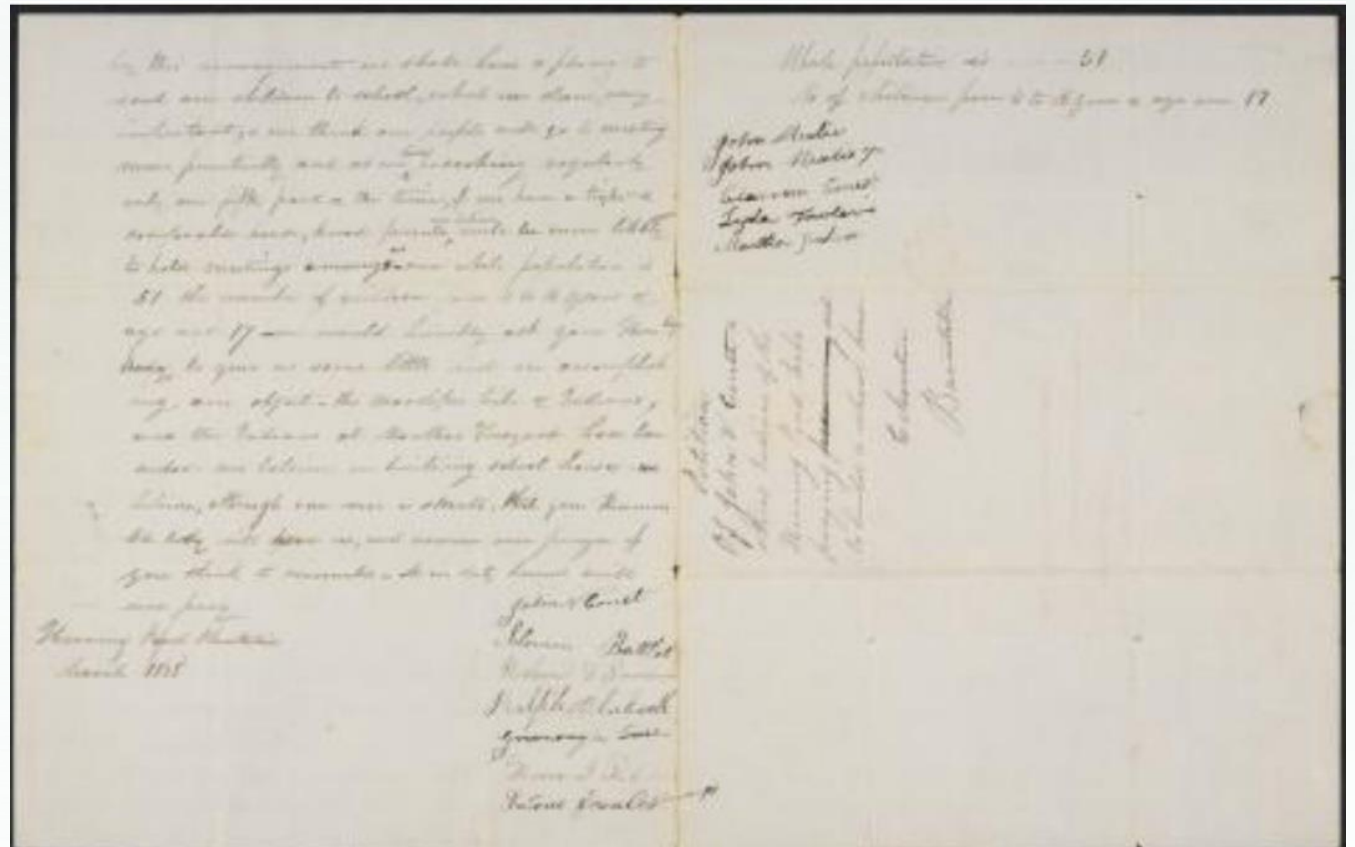
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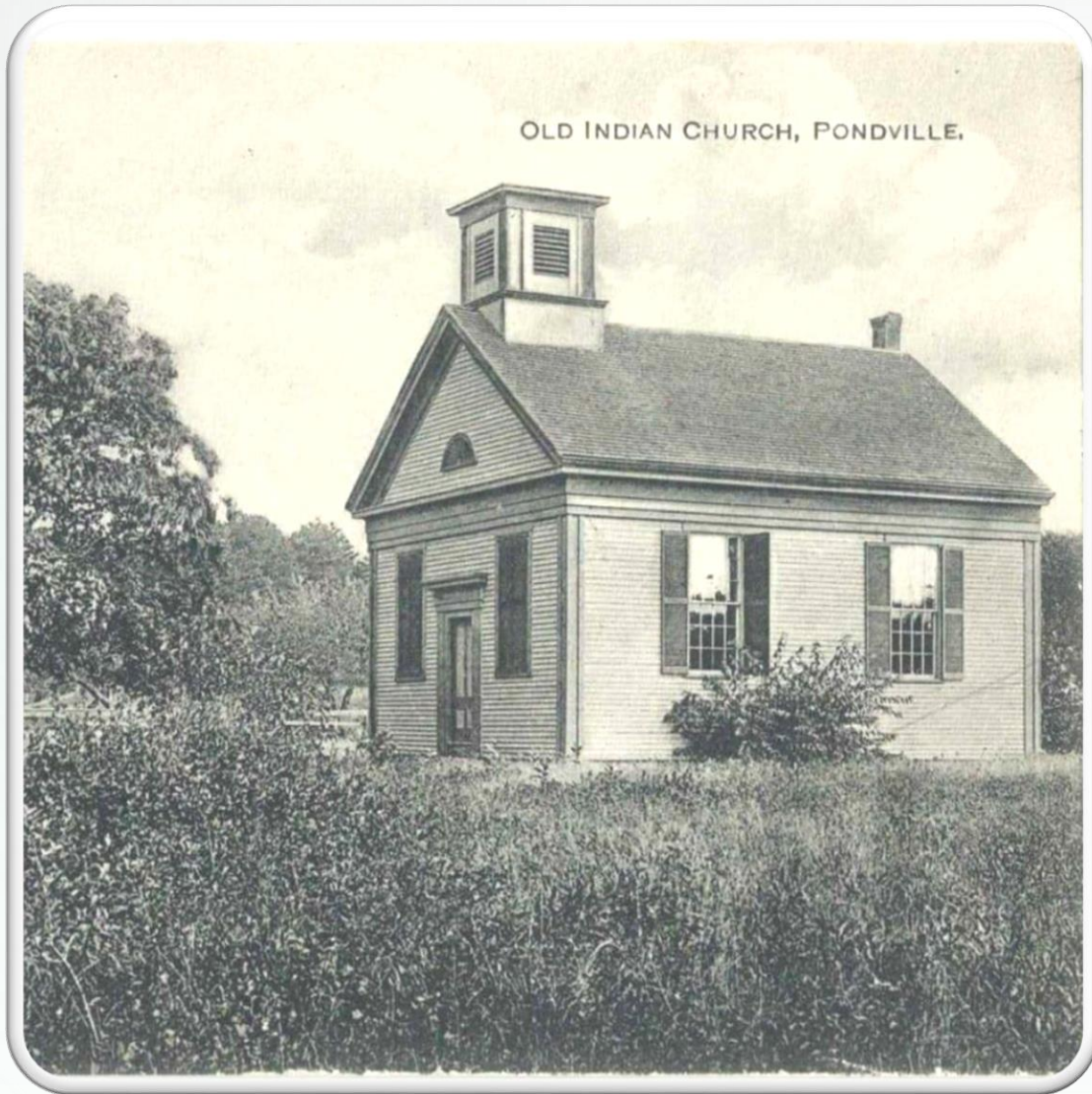
## “ JOHN CONET AND OTHER HERRING POND INDIANS ”

1838 Petition to the senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to build a “schoolhouse and meeting place” she still sits pretty today our beloved “Pondville Meeting House/Church”

To the Honorable Senate and the House of Representatives in General Court

The undersigned inhabitants of the Plantation of Herring Pond and Indians proprietors, and people of colour beg leave to represent that they are destitute of a school house, and not where to send our children to school, formerly we sent them to a school house owned by white people, we paying therefor, supporting the school in part we are now deprived that privilege in part - although we have but a small number of children to send to school yet we feel anxious about them & wish to give them some education, that they may be useful citizens and not a burden - we have an old meeting house very much out of repair, and standing in an inconvenient place, it is not fit to hold meetings in during winter it was built we believe nearly a century ago, it was repaired by the state nearly thirty years ago, and now must be abandoned or much repairs put upon it - we ~~now~~ propose and wish to take down the meeting house, and build a small school house, which will much better accomodate us for a place to hold our meetings, and





## **HERRING POND WAMPANOAG PONDVILLE MEETINGHOUSE**

- ❖ BUILT FROM AN 1838 TRIBAL PETITION TO THE COMMONWEALTH
- ❖ THE PONDVILLE INDIAN MEETINGHOUSE AND CHURCH WAS THE CENTER OF TRIBAL EXISTENCE AND CHRISTIANITY THROUGHOUT THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, AND REMAINS SO TODAY

IMAGE COURTESY OF NATIVE NORTHEAST PORTAL

# 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY PONDVILLE MEETINGHOUSE THEN AND NOW!!



# SELF-DETERMINATION AND PRESERVATION OF LAND AND CULTURAL HERITAGE TODAY

- The Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe now takes on the challenge of preserving what remains of our historical reservation lands. After the 1850 and 1870, 1887 allotment(s), our reservation lands were GREATLY diminished. Of the three separate parcels of reservation land (a total of 3,000 acres), much of it has been lost, taken, or sold, for reasons unknown to the Tribe.
- The places of exceptional cultural, spiritual, and historical significance to us—our sacred places—include our ancient burial grounds, such as the Dina Path Tribal cemetery in the Cedarville area of Plymouth, on a 6-acre parcel of land that was restored to the Herring Pond Wampanoag tribe in 2019. In addition, our historical pondville meeting house and church--which remains under our authority--is a sacred center of tribal community life.



**Verna May Harding**

January 28, 1905 – September 6, 1994

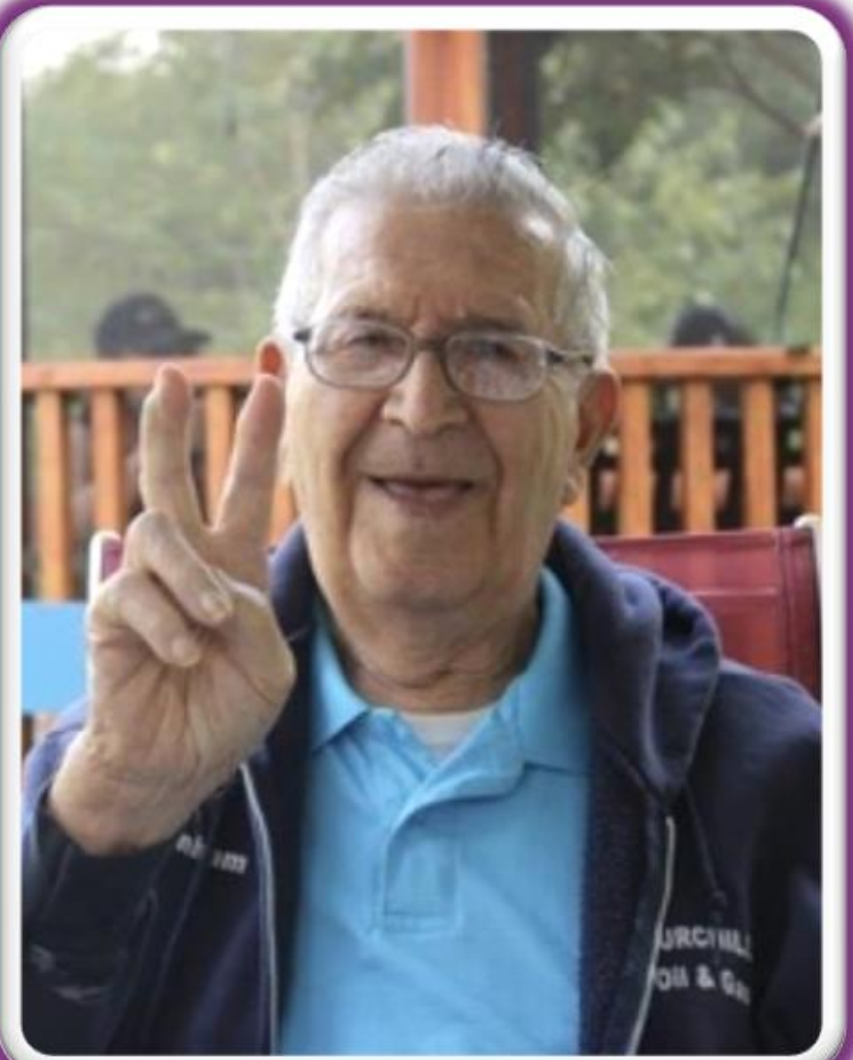
AGED 89 YEARS



**Phyllis (Harding) Hunt-Nixon**

July 9, 1919 – September 1, 2019

AGED 100 YEARS



**Warren E. (Tunney) Harding**

September 27, 1926 – February 13, 2020

Aged 93 Years

# CONNECTING OUR HISTORY TO THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE TRIBAL COMMUNITY

*THE STORY OF TRIBAL LAND AND THE WAYS THAT OUR COMMUNITY HAS WORKED TO PRESERVE THE LAND AND ITS PROFOUND IMPORTANCE TO THE LIVES OF TRIBAL MEMBERS.*

## **CURRENT INITIATIVES AND PROJECT OF THE HERRING POND WAMPANOAG TRIBE:**

- Digitizing historical records of our 1838 Pondville Indian Meetinghouse / Baptist Church (held by Herring Pond Wampanoag tribe)
- Digitizing historical records , INCLUDING TRIBAL PETITIONS and reports of “Guardians of the Indians” housed at Massachusetts Archives
- Assessing resources held by local repositories (Pilgrim Hall Museum; Plymouth Antiquarian Society; Plymouth public library, Bourne historical Society, other (APS, Harvard, Yale)
- Creation of the Herring Pond Wampanoag Land Stewardship and Youth Ecological Knowledge Program with a grant received from the Sheehan Family Companies in December 2019
- Dr Den Ouden, recipient of the Andrew W. Mellon Native American Initiative-Digital Knowledge Sharing Fellow at the American Philosophical Society (APS), 2019-2020, to support the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe digital Archival Project as well as the Land Stewardship and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Youth Education Program
- Stewardship of our 19th century Dina Path Tribal cemetery, recently deeded back to the Tribe located within a 6-acre parcel of our original reservation lands known as “the Great Lot”
- Stewardship of other burial grounds and sacred sites
- Ongoing collaborations with local municipalities, ecological and environmental organizations, scholars and state/federal governments.
- Training and technical assistance Award received 2018 – from C4 innovations through a grant from the substance abuse and mental health services administration (SAMHSA) and Plymouth HEALing Communities Coalition-Boston Medical Center
- The Nellie Mae Education Foundation – Supporting Organizations of People of Color
- Much MORE!

# HERRING POND WAMPANOAG TRIBE

## Memberships, Partnerships, Collaborations

- Wôpanâak Language reclamation project (WLRP) – Partner
- Massachusetts Mascot Steering Committee – Member
- State Seal and Flag Commission – Participant Member
- Plymouth Antiquarian Society - Member
- Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition – Member
- University of Massachusetts Boston Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy - External Advisory Board Member
- Plymouth Area League of Women's Voters- Member
- Herring Pond Watershed Association - Board of Directors, Member at Large
- Jones River Watershed – Board Member
- Watershed Action Alliance of Southern New England – Friends Member
- Plymouth HEAL Coalition, MA-HEALing Communities Study with Boston Medical Center - Partner
- Suffolk Law School Human Rights and Indigenous People Clinic - Collaboration
- C4 Innovations and New England Mental Health Technology Training Transfer Center Network (MHTCC) - Collaboration – Technical Assistance Provider
- Plymouth Public Schools Diversity Committee – Member (Sub Committee – Hiring and Retention)
- Sustainable Plymouth – Guest

# HERRING POND RESERVATION



# HERRING POND WAMPANOAG

## SEPTEMBER SOCIAL

### 2017

## HERRING RIVER LOT



### OUR DONORS

- Sheehan Family Companies – 3 Year capacity building grant to establish the HPWT Land Stewardship and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Education Program
- The Nellie Mae Education Foundation – 1 Year Operating Support Grant

The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

# CONTACT US

WWW.HERRINGPONDTRIBE.ORG

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# CITATIONS

- Massachusetts Archives, Resolves 1838, c.64, passed April 17, 1838 - Petition of John V. Conet and others, Indians of the Herring Pond Tribe, praying aid to build a schoolhouse. Charles Marston of Barnstable / Petition of Sundry Herring Pond Indians for aid to build a schoolhouse. Senate. March 29, 1838. Referred to the Committee on Education. Charles Calhoun, Clerk
- Massachusetts Archives, Resolves 1850, C. 186, passed December 31, 1850, 1850 chapter 186” of the Private and special statutes of the commonwealth of Massachusetts for the years 1849, 50, 51, 52 , 53.
- Public Archaeological Laboratory PAL - Report No. 677
- Herring pond Wampanoag Tribe, Pondville collection
- Native Northeast Portal - Herring Pond Wampanoag - *Petition of John Conet and other Herring Pond Indians to the senate and house of Representatives Of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*
- Indigenous knowledge and ecological science have complementary differences that can be fruitfully combined to better understand the past and predict the future of social-ecological systems. Cooperation among scientific and Indigenous perspectives can improve conservation and resource management policies. Natalie C. Ban, Alejandro Frid, Mike Reid, Barry Edgar, Danielle Shaw and Peter Siwallace
- Lyver et al., 2016, Winter and McClatchy, 2008
- Other online and interoffice sources