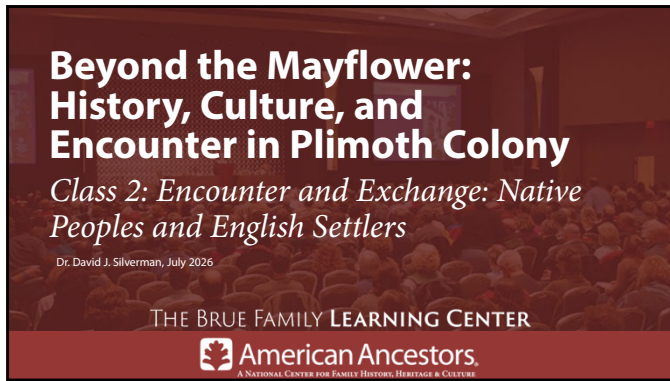




**Beyond the Mayflower:
History, Culture, and
Encounter in Plimoth Colony**

*Class 2: Encounter and Exchange: Native
Peoples and English Settlers*

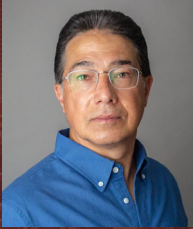
Dr. David J. Silverman, July 2026

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

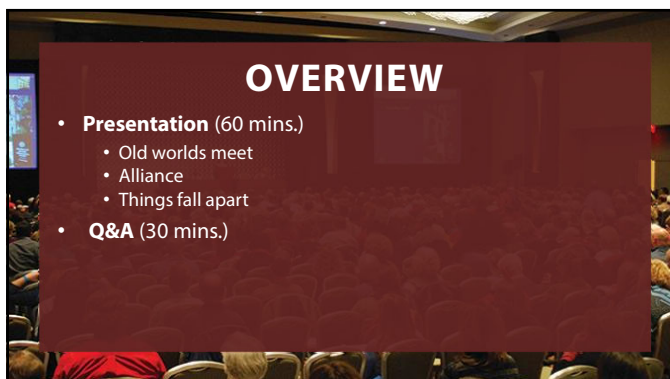
 **American Ancestors.**
A NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE



Meet today's presenter



Dr. David J. Silverman
George Washington University



OVERVIEW

- **Presentation** (60 mins.)
 - Old worlds meet
 - Alliance
 - Things fall apart
- **Q&A** (30 mins.)

The Wampanoags, Plymouth Colony, and History and Memory
In Three Acts



Act 1: Old Worlds Meet

"The First Thanksgiving"
Jennie Brownscombe (1914)



"The First Thanksgiving" Jean Leoc Gerome Ferris



Welcome
Englishman!



Enrico Causici,
Landing of the Pilgrims,
United States Capitol



Class 2: Beyond the Mayflower

Chestnut Street School Thanksgiving,
Portland, ME, 1924



Macy's
Thanksgiving Parade,
1935



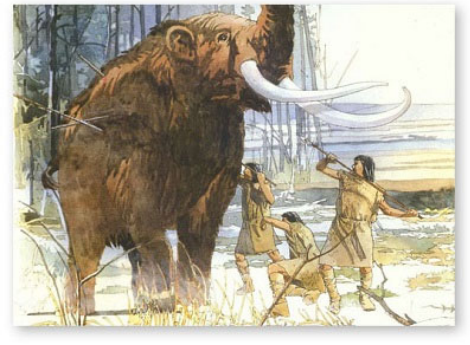
Thanksgiving Parade,
Detroit, 1974



Oldest archaeological site with human artifacts in
New England: Avon, CT. 12,500 years old.

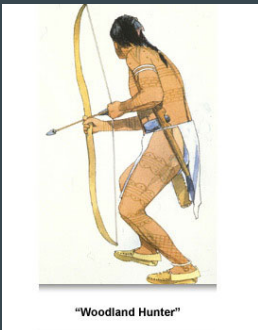


Class 2: Beyond the Mayflower



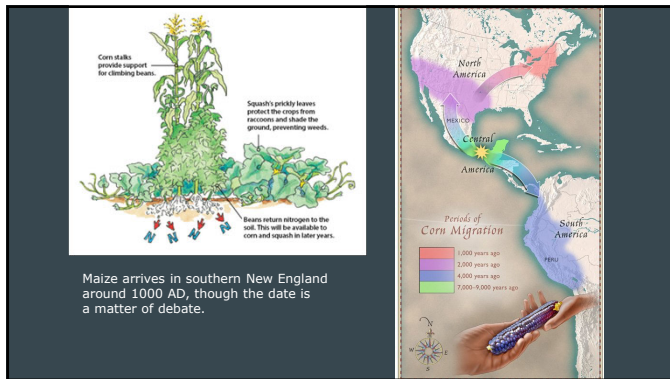
Boylston St. Fish Weir, Boston, 2,500 years old





The bow and arrow first appeared in the Eastern Woodlands about 1,400 years ago.

Class 2: Beyond the Mayflower





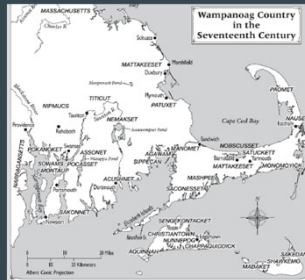


Class 2: Beyond the Mayflower

Wampanoag Country, 1600-1700

Sachemship: A local community of extended kin led by a chief (or sachem) from an elite lineage; usually male, but sometimes female (called sunksquaw). Sachem advised by a council of family representatives.

Paramount sachemship: A regional network of sachemships under the leadership of a particularly influential sachem who collects tribute from outlying communities in exchange for military protection and diplomacy. Sometimes these relationships rely on force. Paramount sachems contended for tributaries.



Portrait of anonymous sachem, ca. 1690

sachem=he that goes in front

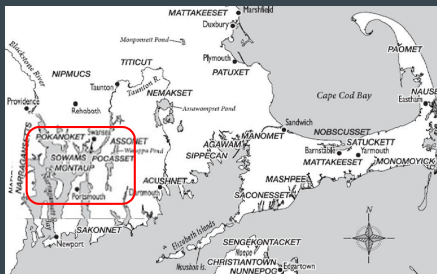
sunksquaw=titled woman

sachemong=sachemship

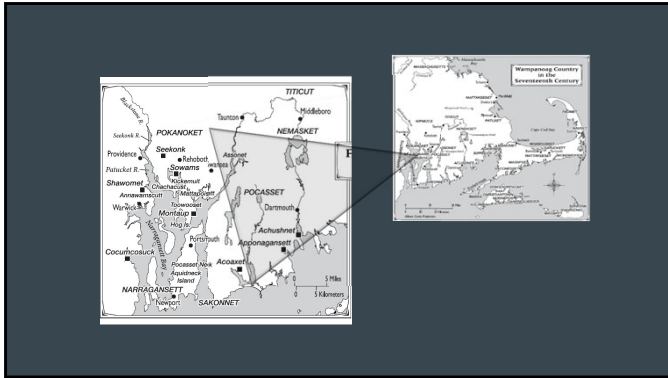
ketassachemog=great sachem

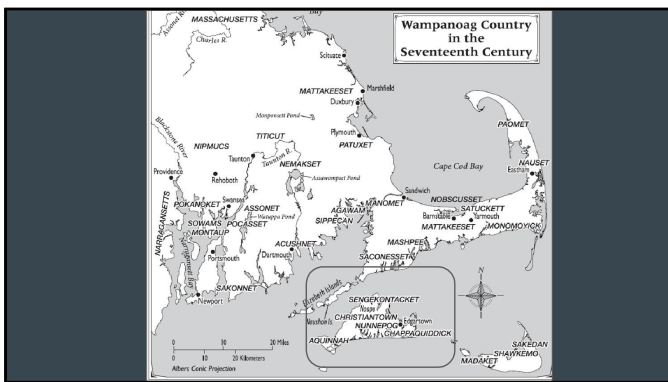
Ousamequin= highest chief that speaks on behalf





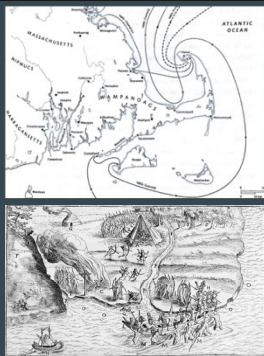
Class 2: Beyond the Mayflower



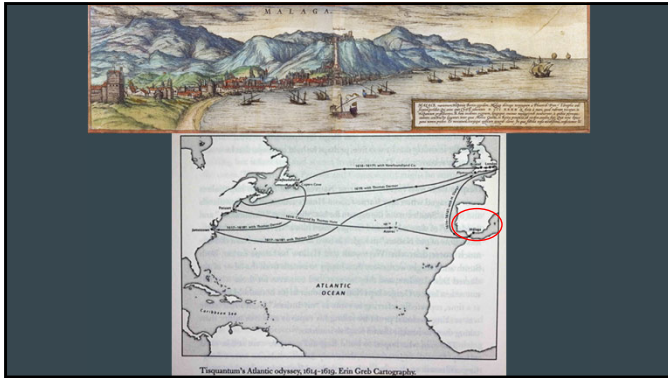


Documented Contacts

- 1524:** Verrazano encounters Wampanoags at Narragansett Bay.
- 1602:** Gosnold clashes with Wampanoags at Elizabeth Islands.
- 1603:** Pring clashes with Wampanoags at Patuxet.
- 1605:** Mons/Champlain clash with Wampanoags at Nauset.
- 1605:** Waymouth seizes Abenakis captive in Maine.
- 1606:** Poutrincourt/ Champlain clash with Wampanoags at Monomoy.
- 1611:** Harlow takes two Maine Abenakis captive, then seizes Wampanoags Epenow from MV and Sakaweston from Nantucket.
- 1614:** Hobson returns Epenow. MV Wampanoags attack crew.
- 1614:** Smith/Hunt, Hunt takes 24 Wampanoags captive at Patuxet, including Squanto.
- 1616:** Unnamed voyage results in French captives among Wampanoags.
- 1619:** Dermer returns Squanto. MV Wampanoags kill most of crew.



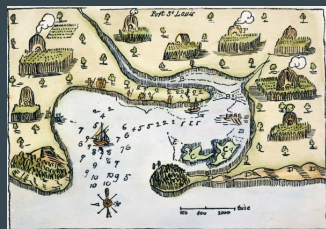
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Englishman John Guy in Newfoundland,
trading with Beothuks, early 1600s

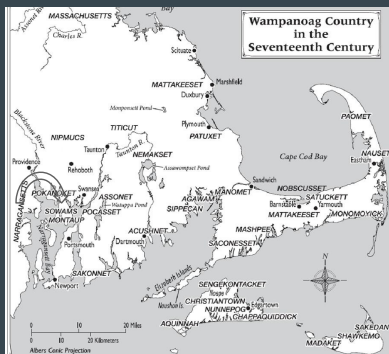


The Wampanoag
community of Patuxet,
(later site of
Plymouth),
1605, as drawn by
Samuel de Champlain



Class 2: Beyond the Mayflower

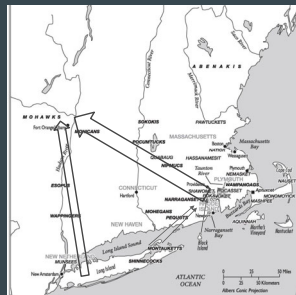




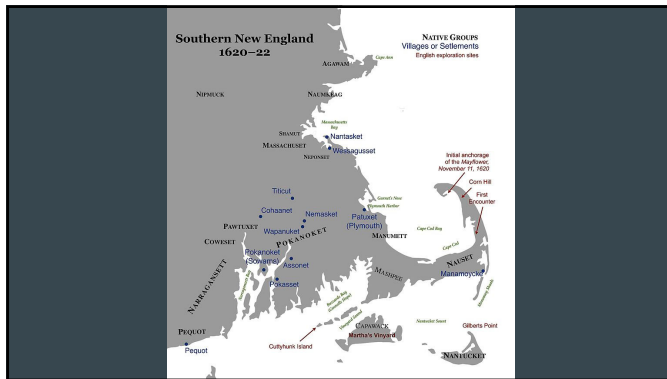
The flows of wampum tribute,
ca. 1600–1620

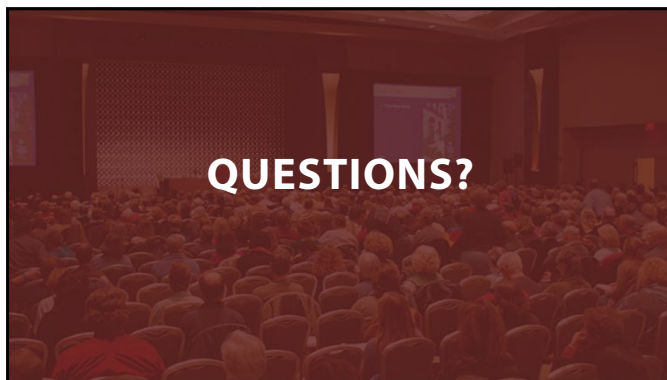
→ Local flow

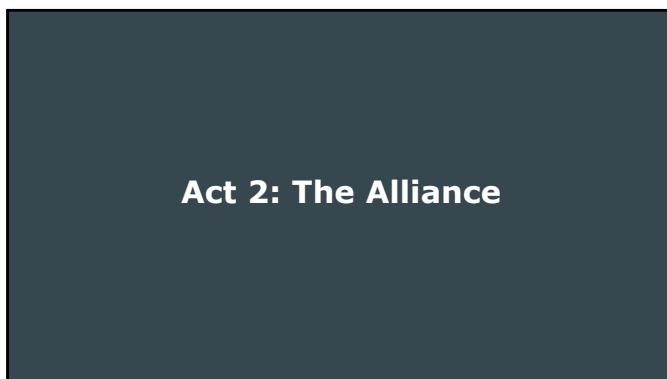
→ Regional flows



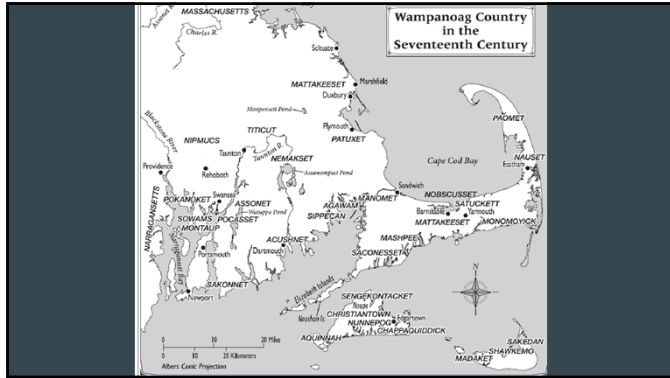
Class 2: Beyond the Mayflower

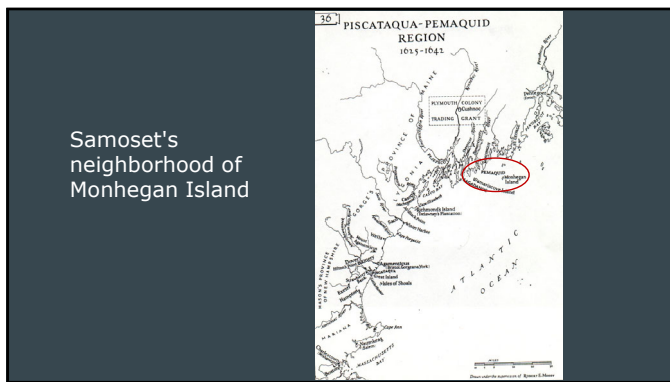




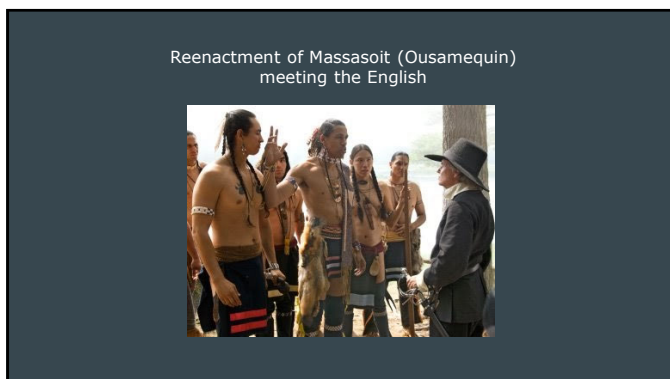


Class 2: Beyond the Mayflower



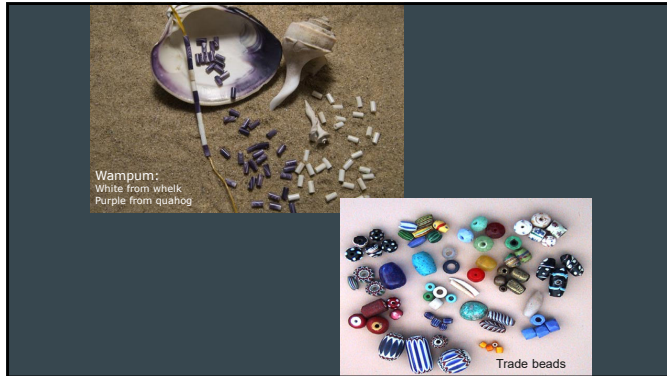


Samoset's
neighborhood of
Monhegan Island



Reenactment of Massasoit (Ousamequin)
meeting the English

Class 2: Beyond the Mayflower



Wampanoag reenactment of Tisquantum (in green shirt) speaking with Ousamequin (in wampum head band).



One of the two primary source accounts of Plymouth's feast with the Wampanoags, co-authored by William Bradford, Edward Winslow, and William Brewster. It was published in this form in 1841. Footnote 3 by editor Alexander Young is the first assertion that the historic feast was the precedent for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The famous footnote

Our harvest being gotten in, our governor³ sent four men on fowling, that so we might, after a special manner, rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors.² They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king, Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted; and they went out and killed five deer,⁴ which they brought to the plantation, and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God we are so

³ Or rather alive. Morton, in his New English Canaan, b. ii. ch. 7, says, "There is a fish, by some called shude, by some allures, that Indians used to put two or three at the spring of the year, and up the river to spawn in the ponds; and are taken in such multitudes in every river that hath a pond at the end, that the inhabitants dung them together and eat with them fat, every acre taking a thousand of them."

⁴ This was the first Thanksgiving, the harvest festival of New England. On this occasion they no doubt feasted on the wild turkey as well as venison. See note ² on page 320. ⁵ See note ⁴ on page 173.

Class 2: Beyond the Mayflower

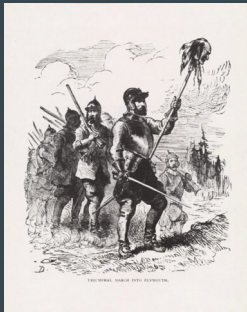
Edward Winslow

Plymouth's first diplomat to the Wampanoags. Began to learn the Wampanoag language. Slept over at Massasoit's home several times. Doctored Massasoit and many of the Wampanoags of Pokanoket in spring 1623. Afterward, Massasoit revealed a Wampanoag-Massachusetts plot to wipe out Plymouth and the trading post of Wessagusset on Massachusetts Bay.



Purported plotters





Celebratory imagery
of 1621 Wampanoag-
English treaty



QUESTIONS?

Act 3: Things Fall Apart

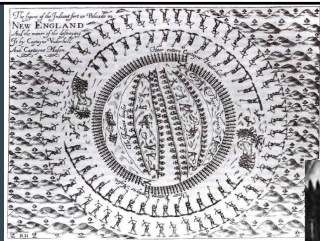
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Mark of Ousamequin, 1649



Great Migration, 1629–40

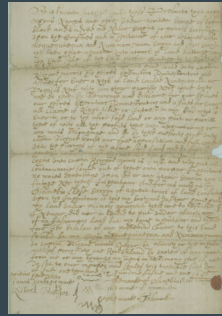




Mystic Massacre, 1637:
CT and MA English, backed by
Mohegans and Narragansetts,
slaughter hundreds of Pequots,
then hunt down and kill or
enslave the survivors.



Class 2: Beyond the Mayflower

1651 Wampanoag Land Deed
& Map of Plymouth

Praying towns—some Indian towns were primarily Christian without being officially designated as such.



War scares before
King Philip's War

1640–42: The Narragansett sachem Miantonomo attempts to rally Long Island Sound tribes against the English and Dutch.

1653: Niantic/Narragansett sachem Ninigret rumored to be rallying various tribes and Dutch against the English and Mohegans.

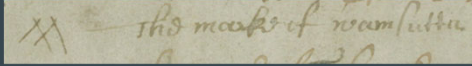
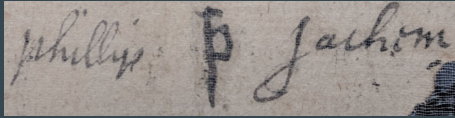
1662: Rumors that Wampanoag sachem Wamsutta is plotting with the Narragansetts against the English.

1667: Rumors that Wampanoag sachem Pumetacom is fomenting a multiracial resistance to the English.

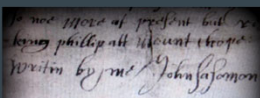
1671: Rumors that Pumetacom is plotting with the Narragansetts against the English.



Marks of Wamsutta (1651) and Pumetacom or Philip (1668)

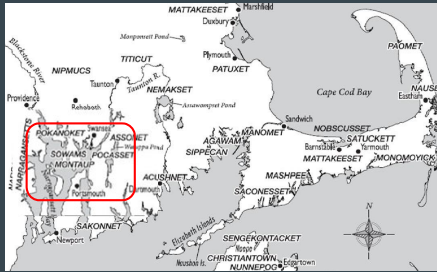
Assawompsett Pond: site of the death of John Sassamon

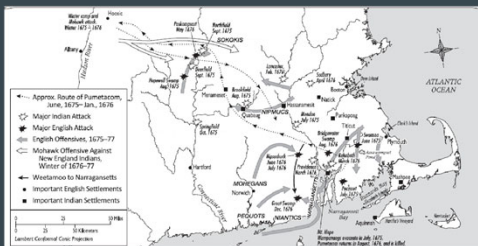


Josiah Winslow

Class 2: Beyond the Mayflower



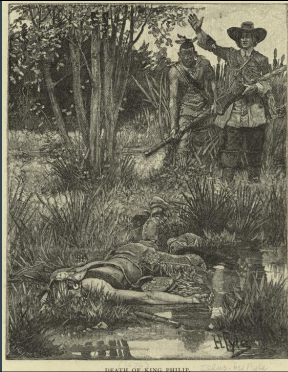
Geographies of King Philip's War



Uncas, Mohegan sachem



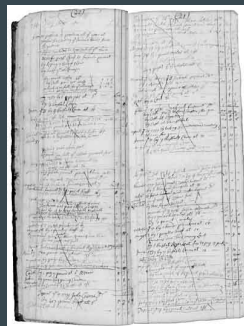
Death of
Pumetacom,
August 1676



The Gates of Plymouth



John Account Book,
Martha's Vineyard,
containing dozens of
Wampanoag accounts

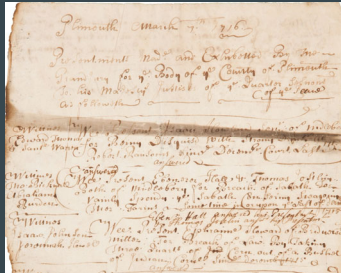


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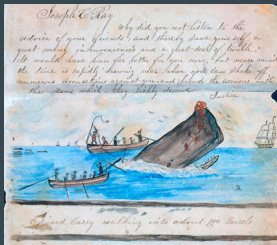
Old Indian Meeting House, Mashpee,
where Apses preached



Plymouth County
court docket, 1716

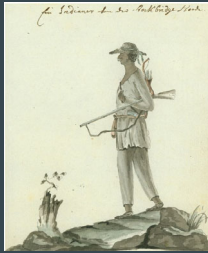


Whaling journal and photo Stephen Pharoah,
a Montaukett whaler from Long Island

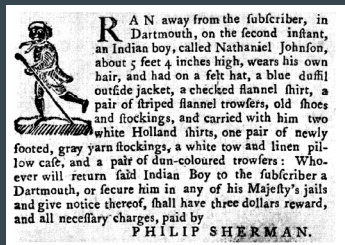


Class 2: Beyond the Mayflower

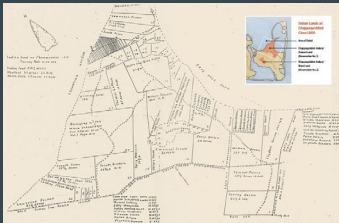
Stockbridge Mohican (western Mass.)
during the Revolution



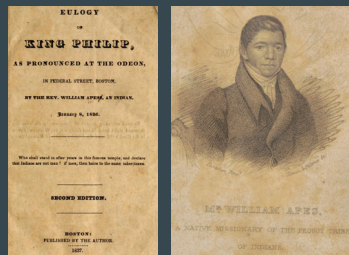
Run-away ad from the
Newport Mercury, 1772



Division of Wampanoag land, Chappaquiddick,
Martha's Vineyard



Class 2: Beyond the Mayflower

William
Apess

Frank (Wamsutta) James



Frank James at a
later National Day
of Mourning





