

Indian Land Sales in Fairfield, Connecticut Colony, Late 17th Century

Compiled by Jenny Hale Pulsipher for John Wompas Digital Archive, 2014.

Sachem involved in sale (if recorded)

Woman involved in sale

Year and land description	Seller (S) / buyer (B)	Rights reserved to Indians	Signed (S), witnessed (W), acknowledged (A), recorded (R)	Price	Source
<p>20 March 1656/57</p> <p>“Whereas there have beene Severall Indians have made claime to much of ye Land yt ye Towne of ffairefeild have & Doe possesse,” the town appointed a committee to treat with the Poquanuck Indians, who agreed they had sold the land “yt ye Town is built upon from ye Creeke yt ye Tide mill of ffairefeild South Westward is called Sasqua.” Indians also grant all the tract of land called Unceway [Uncaway] from Sasqua creek eastward unto the bounds between Fairfield and Stratford, from the sea to seven or eight miles into the country.</p>	<p>S: Poquanuck Indians</p> <p>B: Inhabitants of Fairfield</p>	<p>Indians retain propriety in the Indian Field, retain the privilege of killing deer within the land granted to the English, and agree not to set any traps on that land.</p> <p>The English engage, upon sufficient notice, to provide carts to carry the Indians' goods and to build a fort for them in exchange for the Indians acknowledging this grant of land.</p>	<p>S: Umpeter Nosset, Nimrod or Pocannoe, Matamuck, Anthoney alias Lotashan, Wes[ren]</p> <p>W: Alexander Knowles, Nathan Gold, Tho Pell, George Hull, Henry Jackson</p> <p>R: 25 Jan. 1685 by Nathan Gold, rec.</p>		FLR, 671

<p>11 Sept. 1660</p> <p>“all that parcel of land comonly called By the name of Aspitock”</p>	<p>S: Romanock</p> <p>B: His daughter Prask, called by the English Ann</p>		<p>S: Romanock</p> <p>R: "True copy of original being examined & compared therewith this 14 of October 1667 by me John Allyn Secretry"</p>	<p>Gift</p>	<p>CCR, 3:281-282</p>
<p>20 March 1660/61</p> <p>“all that Tract of Land Commonly Called Sasqua bounded on ye North East with ye Land Called Uncaway on ye Southwest with ye Land at Maximus . . . this tract of Land is [to] run from ye Sea streight up into ye Country Six miles.” Indians also acknowledge previous gift of 8 acres in the Indian field to James Beers.</p>	<p>S: "Poquanack Indians as per a writing made under their hands Dated ye 20th Mayrch 1656"</p> <p>B: Inhabitants of Fairfield</p>	<p>Indians reserve liberty of hunting in the woods, agree to set no traps within the six-mile grant.</p> <p>"It is also provided yt If in future time Sasqua ... if they Should want Some Land to plan on ye Towne of ffairefeild is to allow them Some Land to plant on for their Livelyhood within their bounds in Such a place as they shall appoint & ye sd Indians Doe also Sell liberty to ye Towne of ffairefeild to bee Commoners in all their Land beyond the abovesd Six Miles: ye Indians are to fence That Land Sufficently:"</p>	<p>S: Musquot, Panuncar, James alias Wotustum, Solamortens, poppoos</p> <p>W: Nimrod, Anthony</p> <p>S: 4 more names subscribed after witnesses signed: Tospee, Witteron, Cramheags Squaw, Solamortens Suster Wissashoes</p> <p>S: 16 Oct. 1679: “Wee whose names are underwritten being undr age when this Sale was made doe fully consent to ye abovesd Sale.” Crocones and Chickens</p> <p>W: Willm Hill, Rec, Robt Bisham, John Jones</p> <p>R: by Nathan Gold 25 Jan 16[8]5</p>		<p>FLR, 673</p>

<p>11 April 1661</p> <p>Acknowledgement of right of Norwalk Indians to some of Sasqua land, their consent to sale: "ye sd Norwake Indians ... acknowledge yt all ye sd land as fa[r] as ye sd Muddy ^Creeke shall for ye future ptaine to ye Inhabita[nts] of ffairefeild & to their heires for Ever"</p>			<p>S: Momechemen, Weenam, Tolpee, Quanumscoe, Aucan</p> <p>A: 11 April 1661, Panoucamus, Muskot, James</p> <p>W: Mamachim, Weenam</p> <p>R: by Nathan Gold 25 Jan. 1685</p>	<p>13 coats 2 yards each, and the rest in Wampum "which is all yt Uncaway English men were to pay them for ye Sasqua Land & as farre as ye Muddy Creeke"</p>	<p>FLR, 672</p>
<p>14 June 1680</p> <p>Confirmation of Fairfield Lands</p>	<p>S: Indians of Sascoe</p> <p>B: Town of Fairfield</p>	<p>Indians reserve several parcels of land, with Indians promising not to sell any without the permission of the town of Fairfield.</p>	<p>S: Nauwassacomb, Sascoe James, Yeerrensquaw, CoxeCro, Nanaskero, Yeedowro, Wayarrnots, Warongogan, Chickinns, Capt Weetetrore</p> <p>W: Wunneesside sir</p> <p>Interpreters: John Minor, John Sherwood</p> <p>R: in the 3 book of the Records of the Inhabitants of the County of Fairfield, William Hill, Clerk</p>	<p>Deed mentions money already paid, land already reserved, declares that no more is to be demanded.</p>	<p>Trumbull Papers, CT State Archives, 135a (also in <i>MHSC</i>, 5:9:108)</p>
<p>6 Oct. 1680</p> <p>Confirmation of deeds of sale dated 20 March 1656, 21</p>	<p>S: "Wee ye Surviveing Indian Inhabitants</p>	<p>"Onely it is to bee noted yt ye Lands yt are provided for Sasquau Indians & ye Lands at ye Wolfepit plaine yt ye Courte</p>	<p>S: old Anthoney, Nimrod, Wogregun noshque, Yeernsqua, Wushaqunnasuik, Kewop, Correco, Wesquequambe,</p>	<p>"For a valuable consideration to us already</p>	<p>FLR, 670-669</p>

<p>March 1660/61, 19 Jan 1670</p> <p>“and whatever of Aspatuck Lands is within ye sd boundaryes was Sold in ye sd Bills of Sale”</p> <p>Indians also sell a part of Poquanuck Lands that falls within bounds of Fairfield.</p>	<p>of Poquonuck Unceway Sasquau & Aspetuck”</p> <p>B: Town of Fairfield</p>	<p>Granted us & at ye old feild provided for us ... for or use to plant on shall remaine for ever for ye sd Respective Indians to plant on both for themSelves their heires and successours for ever”</p> <p>Indians allow a highway for Fairfield inhabitants to access their meadows, "as by a Committee appointed by ye English is already Staked & bounded out"</p> <p>"Reserving to or selves Liberty of hunting & getting firewood in any part of ye sd Towne bound being unfenced & ye Liberty of fishing & fowling in any Rivers or Streames within ye sd Towne bounds: And wee also grant ye sd Inhabitants of ffairefeild liberty to pasture upon or Lands Sequestred as abovesd for or use soe Soone as or Crop is off & this to Continue for ever"</p>	<p>Ponerc, Youyowwhy, Patchcock, Sasapeqaun, Aquonke, Panumscut, Papurah, Mamarashock, Sasqua James, Neesenpawes, Norwake James, Capt Witeree, Heterow, Naseroe, Quattark, Saicus</p> <p>W and Interp: John Minor</p> <p>A: at same time (6 Oct 1680) by John Minor Commissr</p>	<p>paid.”</p>	
<p>18 May 1681</p> <p>Old Indian Field</p>	<p>S: Indian proprietors</p>	<p>"Also ye sd Indian proprietors hereto Subscribing doe reserve liberty of a</p>	<p>S: Mamerushee Umperenosets Son, Ponees, old Anthony, Washeganesser, Wissawahem</p>	<p>Valuable consideration</p>	<p>FLR, 667</p>

	B: Fairfield inhabitants	convenient foot path yt ye English shall Settle for ye Indians of a Convenient highway foot path free egress and regress to come at their fishing in any of ye Creekes both for themselves & Successours"	Squa, Robin, Aquanck, Cape, Sowwahose Squa, Nanswas Squa, Chororomokes W: John Mansfeild, Thomas William, Sasqua James, Crocrecoe, Roroeway, Runshsqua, Pasco Interpreter: "Trustee an Indian which Speakes very good English" R: 25 Feb 1685 by Nathan Gold Rec		
27 May 1686			S: John Burr, commissioner, John Burr, townsman, Nathan Gold, Recorder; William Curtes, commissioner; Joseph Ha[?]ely, commissioner; Jeremy Judson, townsman R: General Court grant recorded 31 May 1686 by Nathan Gold, recorder		FLR, 662
English declaration of the longstanding peaceable possession of the town of Fairfield, granted by General Court. Town bounds stated as "seven mils in breadth from ye sea or sound twelve mils into ye contry as also a neck of land on ye eastside of sasatuck" General Court grant made 21 May 1650, quoted here:					

<p>"A session of ye general Court held at Hartford ye 21 May 1650 this court considering ye return of daniell retarton[?] and John Hurd[?] about a parsell of land lying[?] ye town of fayrefeild according to thes order from ye general Court of election in may 1647 do grant to ye town of Fayrfeild ye sayd parsell of land to sascatuck River prov[id]ed yt sayd Sascatuck doe not exseed two miles from ye bounds of sayd fayerfeild"</p>					
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Sources:

- CCR J. Hammond Trumbull, ed., *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut*, 3 vols. (Hartford: F.A. Brown, 1852).
- FLR Fairfield Land Records, Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Connecticut.
- MHSC *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*