

June 5 1757

Hadley 2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct

To His Excellency Thomas Pownall Esqr  
Gov<sup>r</sup> & Comd<sup>r</sup> in Chief and over His Mag<sup>ty</sup> Provinces  
of the Mass<sup>ts</sup> Bay in New England.

May it please yr Excell<sup>cy</sup>

We ~~are~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~ten~~ <sup>two</sup> persons  
of the town of Hadley in the 2<sup>d</sup> Precinct  
would for sundry reasons wh<sup>ch</sup> hereinafter will  
appear ~~to~~ with serious & entreaty pray for  
yr attention in filling the blank wh<sup>ch</sup> appears  
in the act of the Genl Court for erecting the  
second precinct<sup>s</sup> in the town of Hadley in  
the County of Hampshire in an independent  
District.

Since it is the custom for the Genl Court to  
establish new ~~precincts~~ <sup>Districts</sup> in the several  
provinces, leaving the naming of the ~~precincts~~  
thus erected to the choice and wisdom of  
yr excell<sup>cy</sup> & together with the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Council,  
and since in form<sup>al</sup> has come to the  
number of inhabitants of the  
District about to be erected, which grows etiam  
concerns to the name wh<sup>ch</sup> yr excell<sup>cy</sup> may be induc<sup>d</sup>  
to affix we humbly pray to be consider<sup>d</sup>

I<sup>st</sup> yr excell<sup>cy</sup> cannot be uninform<sup>d</sup> of the services  
which Sir Jeffery Amherst R. B. has render<sup>d</sup> the  
colony in the attack on the town of Louisburgh, nor  
of the fact that a main part in that attack was borne  
by troops enlisted from the County of Hampshire in wh<sup>ch</sup>  
the new District is to be erected. Nor are we on our  
part forgetful of the distinguished friendship wh<sup>ch</sup>  
has existed between yr self and Sir Jeffery wh<sup>ch</sup> of  
itself brings his name to our most kindly liking.  
We do therefore pray that the blank now existing  
in the act just passed may be filled with the name  
of Amherst in token of our regard for the worthy  
Knight and of yr own admirable friendship for  
the same.

And we are the more earnest in our petition from  
the information above refer<sup>d</sup> to wh<sup>ch</sup> make us  
fear that a part of our inhabitants, with  
designs ag<sup>st</sup> the reputation of our new  
District, may persuade yr excell<sup>cy</sup> to give us  
a name wh<sup>ch</sup> is as sounding brass and  
trinkling cymbals.

These men be it under stood by yr excellency are  
not payers of parish rates in the Town of Hadley  
but have estates in the Town beyond the River now  
called Northampton and they lie in wait to induce you <sup>to</sup> give us the name refused <sup>by them</sup>

This Town of Northampton in the early part of the  
colony was called Northwattock or North-  
wootock, wh. doth appear from the records of  
the Genl Court in 1636. <sup>This name they wish for yr</sup> While we would not  
with melancholy ray ought against these worthy <sup>persons</sup>  
yet it does seem to some of our simple-minded people  
that the inhabitants of Northampton are trying  
to put on us a name wh. they cast off from themselves  
to prevent our hopes for prosperity, and we  
humbly pray yr excellency to protect the people  
of this District in the independence of their own choice.  
~~a matter wh. we have to recently consulted with~~  
~~Her Majesty's Government to be was lightly esteemed.~~

And moreover in answer respect <sup>to</sup> direct yr  
attention to the name wh. which is no danger  
of being wrong like a millstone about the neck  
of this new and struggling District.

It is known here among us that the name  
Northwattock is not even the name as it stands in the  
Indian tongue. It is either Northwootock. Yet yr  
petitioners do beg that even the ~~true~~ original name  
be not given us but ~~Amherst~~ instead. Yr Excellency  
may be attracted by the sound of the Indian name  
and we confess it has a goodly sound in the  
ears of those who have not known the user both  
it has been put. These men of Northampton  
will also tell you of its meaning wh. is in our  
language "extensiveness" or wide spreading  
and is well suited to the far reaching valley wh.  
we behold from our estates in the new District.

This name wh<sup>ch</sup> has so goodly a sound and so  
amiable a meaning was refused by the aforesaid  
people of Annapolis and is used ~~in~~ offensive to  
us because of certain purposes to wh<sup>ch</sup> it sh<sup>ould</sup> have been  
put, which we will now inform you exactly  
of. It is a thing quite common among the  
Indians inhabitants of this Province to speak  
of their burial places as Norwotuck. The  
reason of this we have not been able more  
fully to find, than this: that as the name  
means wide reaching or far extending, and as  
the ignorant and savage notions of the soul  
are mainly that it is wide reaching after the  
air, so they have come to the place where the  
body lies with out the soul, by the name of  
the thing which is not there. This method of  
naming is exactly of wide reaching as common  
among savage people.

This usage of the word would not be offensive  
to your petitioners were it the only one, for we regard  
our chief concern to be with death and it might  
be not wanting in edification that the name  
of our new Town sh<sup>ould</sup> add to the solemn nature  
of our pilgrim days.

But we have one more way to describe to  
you what we will be yet more pertinent against its being  
imposed on us.

When your petitioners first came out with the colony  
of this Province we did often hear young Indians  
boys of the age of 10 or 12 yrs call Norwotuck  
and that by the older Indian youths in a  
tone of contempt. It drew little attention  
from us till we were troubled by the rumor that  
the same name sh<sup>ould</sup> be given our new Town.  
Then we diligently inquired, and for some time

were wanting in success, for it seems to be  
a private usage of the Indians when they come  
morning to Sunday to the white man. At length  
one of our number of great intercourse with the  
tribe found the reason for this usage. An  
old Indian told him that it was only given to  
Indian boys when they began to shoot with the bow and  
arrow, and as their arrows then reached wide of  
the mark they were called korwotucke or wide  
reachers. Moreover he said, all Indian boys try  
hard to become good shooters that they may, as  
quidly, as possible escape this name, and all  
these names Hoodelucke. This usage of the name  
korwotucke we have confirmed by assiduous toil  
and investigation and do now present it by  
excellency to the chief reason why it is not given  
to new settlers erected from the year previous  
of the Young Hadley.

Your petitioners humbly supplicate your Excellency  
& Honor to take the case under consideration,  
and grant us the name of Indian in such  
manner as in your wisdom and justice you  
shall see meet.

John Nash

Isaac Ward

Nehemiah Dickinson

} Petitioners