



On November 17, 1881, Daniel Wing Jr., a birthright Quaker, the First Yarmouth Librarian, School Teacher, Principal and Local Historian, arranged the building of a stone cairn along the south slope of Long Pond with the inscription:

**ON THIS SLOPE LIE BURIED  
THE LAST NATIVE INDIANS  
OF YARMOUTH**

The location of the memorial was on Wing's property which was part of the former Yarmouth Indian Reservation (1713 – 1779). Wing presented this cemetery lot to the South Yarmouth Cemetery Association in 1905. Then on January 6, 1918, Daniel Wing conveyed a 2 ½ acre parcel of land to the Town to be called Wings Grove Park.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....

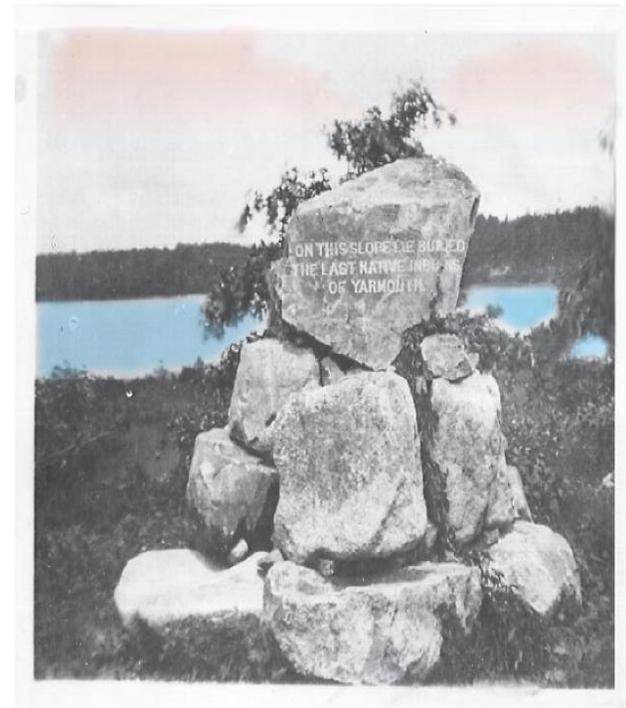
*Caring for our history is the goal of the Town's Historical Commission and nonprofit groups like the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth and the Taylor-Bray Farm Preservation Association. This work, such as the Restoration of the Yarmouth Indian Memorial, is supported by the people of Yarmouth whose tax dollars fund the Community Preservation Act (CPA) grants which protect historic resources and contribute to the quality of life for those who live in Yarmouth.*

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YARMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

# Yarmouth's Indian Memorial History 1881 - 2019



Courtesy of the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth

## Early Mid-Cape Native Settlements



S.L.Deyo

The Mid-Cape Native peoples consider the Memorial land to be particularly sacred because it was the burial place of tribal members. Archaeological discoveries in Yarmouth indicate that Native peoples were on this land as early as 10,000 years ago. In the Wôpanâak language, the Yarmouth area was called “Mattacheese” which translated means “old lands by the border of water.”

Early in our history there were significant Native settlements in what is now Barnstable County in Mashpee, Monomoyick, Potanumaquut (Eastham). During the early to mid-17th century, English apostles led by the Rev. John Eliot began to Christianize the Plymouth Colony Natives. In the late seventeenth-century, English style native meetinghouses were erected at these settlements to accommodate the

religious needs of those Christianized natives. Yarmouth was a half-way point between the Mashpee and Potanumaquut settlements. There were smaller settlements of declining tribes in the Mid-Cape area, namely; the Mattakeese, the NobsCUSset, the Pawkunnawkut, and the Sauquatucket. At the time of the Yarmouth Division of Common Lands in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Pawkunnawkuts, who were one of the South Sea Tribes, occupied the vicinity of Yarmouth on both sides of the lower Bass River. There were freshwater ponds, woodlands, and planting fields in this area that afforded ample subsistence.

In 1713, during Yarmouth’s third division of common lands, a planned 160-acre Native reservation was voted upon and surveyed by the selectmen, on the south side of town, located in the area of the settlement of the Pawkunnawkuts between Long Pond and Bass River. The Natives who lived within the borders of old Yarmouth were directed to live upon the reservation.

### Historian Daniel Wing Jr.

Daniel Wing Jr. a birthright Yarmouth Friend (Quaker) and local historian wrote about the history of Yarmouth. An adaption from Wing’s diary states: During the last small-pox epidemic at the reservation in the late 1770s, Friends John & Elizabeth Killey and Silas & Rachael Baker who had previously contracted and survived small-pox and were immune to the disease, cared for the Natives stricken with the disease in their homes. The last of the Indians were buried near Long Pond around 1777 or 1778.

## Indian Memorial Rededication Ceremony

Spring 2020



Courtesy of George Slama YHC

The Indian Memorial Restoration Committee was created by concerned citizens to address the deteriorating condition of the memorial, and in 2017 requested Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to re-set the stone cairn and refurbish the memorial site. Yarmouth voters approved the funds in May 2017.

The Town, the Yarmouth Historical Commission and the Indian Memorial Restoration Committee will rededicate the Indian Memorial (located on Indian Memorial Drive) in the Spring of 2020.