

A



ALEXANDER WAMSUTTA

OF THE WAMPANOAG (THOSE OF THE DAWN)¹

**“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY**

“Stack of the Artist of Kouroo” Project

Alexander

1. In period documents the name assigned by the English was spelled “Alexander,” as the name assigned to his brother was spelled “Phillip,” with two l’s.



ALLEXANDER

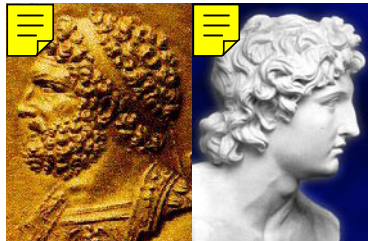
WAMSUTTA

1637

Birth of a 2nd son to *Ousamequin* Yellow Feather the [Massasoit](#), whom he named [Metacom](#), the brother who would be nicknamed “Phillip” by the amused whites.²



Att the ernest request of Wamsitta, desiring that in regard his father is lately deceased, and hee being desirouse, according to the custome of the natives, to change his name, that the Court would confer an English name upon him, which accordingly they did, and therefore ordered, that for the future hee shalbee called by the name of Allexander Pokanokett; and desiringe the same in the behalfe of his brother, they have named him Phillip.



In this year of [Metacom](#)'s birth there was a major battle between two groups of Nipmuc at Louisquisset (Loquasuck), which possibly indicates the fork of the Branch River and the [Pawtucket](#) or [Blackstone River](#) in what is now [Rhode Island](#), or may indicate the vicinity of the villages of Albion and Manville, or may indicate some area farther to the west. Ownership of the territory in question was also in dispute between the Nipmuc and the [Narragansett](#).

2. The brothers [Wamsutta](#) and [Metacom](#) were nicknamed Allexander (*sic*) and Phillip (*sic*) because the whites were into supplying Native American leaders with offensively grandiloquent and therefore implicitly derogatory names, more or less in the mode in which they were in the habit of condescending to their black [slaves](#): such ostentatious names (in the case of black men, names such as “Pompey” or “Caesar”) implicitly gestured toward their low standing in the eyes of the whites, marking them as pretenders, as con artists, warning whites not to take them seriously as human beings or as leaders.

Actually, as might be expected, [Wamsutta](#) and [Metacom](#) had a number of brothers and sisters. One sister, called by the English name “Amie,” was the wife of Tuspaquin, headman of the Namaskets. Mention is also made of another son, and also another daughter, of *Ousamequin* Yellow Feather.



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NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT





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1639

Philip Taber (1605-1672) became a freeman of [Plymouth](#).

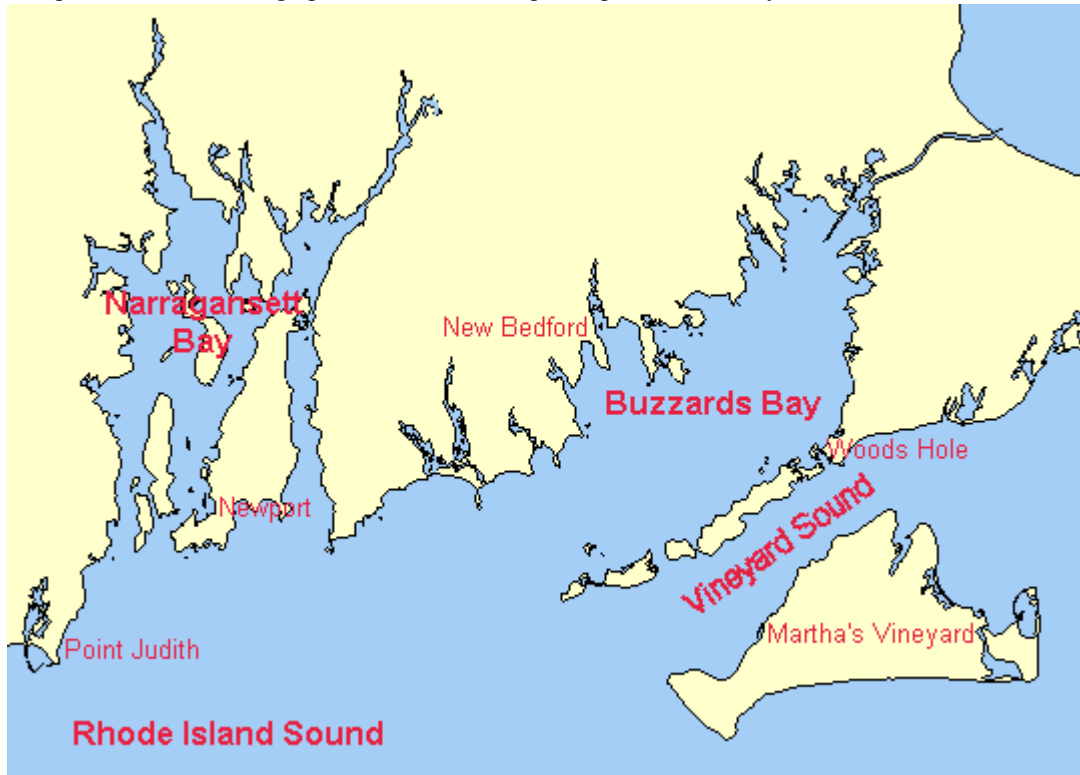
Ousamequin Yellow Feather (the [Massasoit](#)) and his son Sachem Mooanam ([Wamsutta](#)) reaffirmed their treaty relations with [Plymouth](#), agreeing not to cause any “unjust” wars and also not to sell any more land without the prior consent of that colony’s government.

NO-ONE’S LIFE IS EVER NOT DRIVEN PRIMARILY BY HAPPENSTANCE



1652

Joseph Russell, in starting up an offshore whaling enterprise, effectively founded the town of [New Bedford](#).



What happened was that 36 whites joined together in the purchase of a parcel of land –encompassing what is now New Bedford, Acushnet, Fairhaven, Dartmouth and [Westport](#)– from *Ousamequin* Yellow Feather (the *Massasoit*) and his son Sachem Mooanam (*Wamsutta*). They agreed to remove the native inhabitants within one year. That entire area would be incorporated as “Dartmouth” in 1654.

**LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?
— NO, THAT’S GIVING TOO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN’S STORIES.
LIFE ISN’T TO BE UNDERSTOOD EITHER FORWARD OR BACKWARD.**

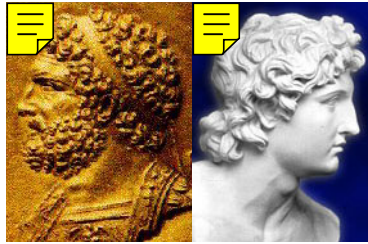


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1660

Ousamequin Yellow Feather (the *Massasoit*) died early in the year, and his eldest son *Wamsutta* received the name Allexander (*sic*) Pokanokett (*sic*) from the whites of the *Plymouth* colony. His younger brother *Metacom* was designated Phillip (*sic*) by the whites of the Plymouth colony. (The implication of this joke naming system was “See, here’s a colored man with bad attitude: he acts with dignity and poise and obviously supposes he’s going to conquer the world, or dominate us or something, like the famous historical white man Alexander the Great — but he’s not nothing but a woods savage and he isn’t ever going to get any respect from us.”)



THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT

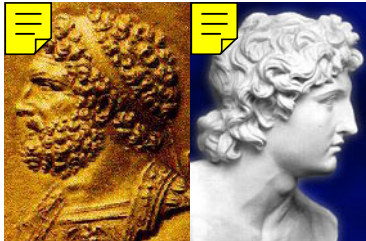


1661

Massasoit died and was succeeded by his 1st son, Wamsutta, the one who had been nicknamed “Alexander” (sic) by the whites.³



Att the ernest request of Wamsitta, desiring that in regard his father is lately deceased, and hee being desirouse, according to the custome of the natives, to change his name, that the Court would confer an English name upon him, which accordingly they did, and therefore ordered, that for the future hee shalbee called by the name of Allexander Pokanokett; and desiring the same in the behalfe of his brother, they have named him Phillip.



Alexander Wamsutta was married to Squaw Sachem Weetamoo of Pocasset. He sold Attleboro lands to the Plymouth colony. This sachem would be signing the land sale documents presented to him by the English sometimes with

an **A** sometimes with a **W** and sometimes with a **M**

(these things are complex, for in fact he had in addition another name beginning with the letter M) as his younger brother Metacom, when he would in his turn become the sachem of the Wampanoag, would be signing these ubiquitous documents with

a big inky **P**

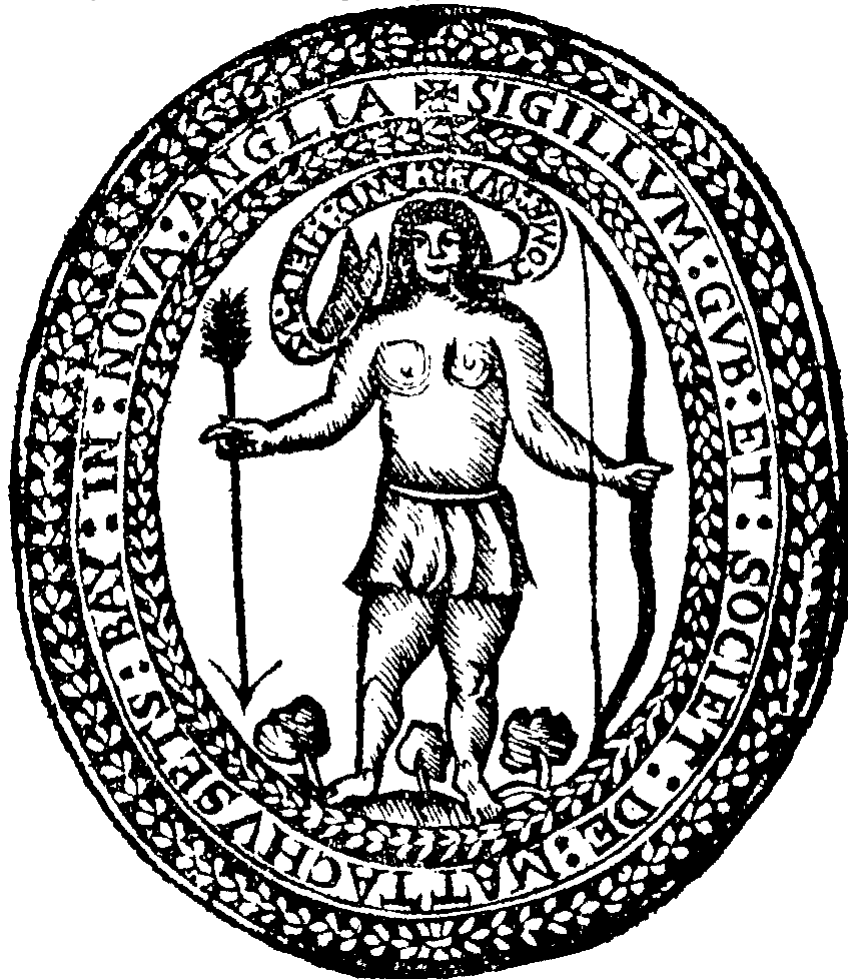
*Phillip alias metacomo
his P marks*

(it all was made to seem so legitimate and respectful and congenial).

This was the year of the property transaction known as the “Northern Purchase.” The English of Rehoboth

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3. When the seal of the Massachusetts Bay Colony depicted an American native with a cartoon bubble coming out of his mouth, going “Come over and help us,” the reference of course was to the Book of the Acts of the Apostles in the Christian Bible, which has the Apostle Paul dreaming of a Macedonian who is pleading that he “Come over into Macedonia, and help us.”



On that basis, for the whites to have assigned to two Native American sachems the names “Phillip” (*sic*) and “Alexander” (*sic*) two well-known kings of ancient Macedonia, would seem rather innocent. However, bear in mind that it was the naming convention of the period, to refer to persons of color by the deployment of offensively grandiloquent and therefore implicitly derogatory nicknames. The dusky brothers *Wamsutta* and *Metacom* were therefore nicknamed Alexander and Phillip more or less in the mode in which masterly whites were in the habit of condescending magisterially to their black slaves: such ostentatious names (in the case of black slaves, master-assigned names such as those which Dr. LeBaron of *Plymouth* tried to enforce upon his house slaves, such as Pompey and Julius Caesar — starving one of his slaves, Quasho Quando, as punishment when the man absolutely refused to respond to such a name) implicitly gestured toward their low standing in the eyes of the righteous, marking them as pretenders, as con artists, implicitly warning fellow whites not to take them seriously as human beings or as leaders.

In what significant manner does this differ from the period in Central Europe during which Jews were being required to register and to receive family names and were being assigned names, by a sympathetic constabulary, which translate into the ordinary English as “gold-grubber” and as “money-bags”?



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(chartered in 1643 by the [Plymouth](#) Colony, and the birthplace of public education in North America) hired



Thomas Willett to negotiate for them with [Wampanoag](#) sachems for what is now Attleboro and North Attleboro. This 1661 deed still exists and very clearly is signed by Willett and by [Wamsutta](#).⁴ The land in question has clearly belonged to the white man since way back. One of the terms and conditions of this deed document, however, is that part of the property in question had been set aside for perpetual use by the natives. Since there aren't any natives there any longer, and since continuous occupancy is normally taken by our courts to be the signal of native title, this clause would seem to be ancient history — but as of the Year of Our Lord 2003 there is a case pending in the [Rhode Island](#) courts which alleges that legal title to the land district that had been set aside, that seems to amount to [Cumberland](#) and east [Woonsocket](#), is open to challenge.



The bite in this antique document comes from the fact that since the early 1660s, colonial law, and the federal law that followed after this colonial law upon our national independence, has consistently held that no native tribal land could be validly conveyed to another unless that conveyance had the blessing of a federal court, or of the US Congress. Since there exists no federal legislative or judicial record whatever, that these lands which had been formally set aside for native use in this Wamsutta/Willett title document have subsequently legitimately been conveyed to anyone else, and since the tribe in question, the Seaconke [Wampanoag](#), happens to be still in existence, it is abundantly clear that the land in question —whatever that land amounts to and

4. [Metacom](#) had such a high regard for Captain Thomas Willett that during the race war he ordered that the Willett family not be harmed. When someone who had not heard of this brought the head of Hezekiah Willett to Metacom, thinking that he would be pleased, Metacom did what he could: he adorned the head of Willett's son with wampum, and combed its hair.



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whoever now resides upon it— still belongs to them and to them alone. (After the natives lost in this race war known as “[King Phillip’s War](#)”, we understand that very naturally the victorious white colonists simply moved in and took over by eminent domain, selling the red survivors of the war into slavery or packing them off to other lands. However, that makes the situation of these native inheritors similar to, say, the situation of an Israeli Jew who is holding a WWII-era title document to a family home in the Polish town of Oswicum, the German form of the name being “Auschwitz” — a family home now inhabited and defended by non-Jewish Poles who definitely have some sort of piece of paper asserting their invalid title. It seems clear that the legal implications of World War II for its survivors, and the implications of King Phillip’s War for its survivors, have yet to be fully worked out.)

But you can’t please everybody all the time. Soon [Wamsutta](#) fell under suspicion of not favoring one English colony over another, but instead, of the evil practice of selling merely to the highest bidder, favoring his own interest and the interest of his band over the interest of others. He was therefore taken captive by an indignant Major Josiah Winslow and marched rapidly to Duxbury at gunpoint, as part of a strategy to put the arm on him and to induce him to favor the [Plymouth](#) colony over the [Rhode Island](#) colony. They needed for him to pledge to sell no more native American territory to settlers out of the [Rhode Island](#) group, even if those white people were to offer his people a better deal.

Did he not understand who his real friends were? However, while being held under guard in Duxbury, Alexander [Wamsutta](#) became seriously ill, so ill that the guards feared to be blamed for his death and released him to hike home — and in his fever he didn’t make it all the way back.

[Metacom](#), the second son of the *Massasoit*, the one who had been nicknamed “Phillip” by the whites, was at that time 24 years of age, and suspected or professed to suspect that the whites had poisoned his brother, or had caused his illness because of the overexertion of being force-marched at gunpoint, or at the very least had sadly neglected his brother during his fever. That suspicion, well or poorly grounded, was going to cause one hell of a lot of trouble.

[Weetamoo](#), a Pocasset, had been the consort of [Metacom](#)’s older brother [Wamsutta](#). With his death, as his younger brother became Sachem, she became not merely a widow but the Squaw Sachem.

The Reverend [Roger Williams](#), William Field, the Reverend Thomas Olney, Jr., Joseph Torrey, Philip Taber (1605-1672), and John Anthony were associated together in [Providence](#), Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT



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**Inauthentic representation of Metacom
by Paul Revere, for whom an Indian was
an Indian was an Indian, at the Library
of Congress. Done in 1772.**



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1662

July: Sachem *Wamsutta* of the *Wampanoag*, known to the English as “Alexander,” the older son of *Ousamequin* Yellow Feather the *Massasoit*, had hired the Harvard-educated Reverend John *Sassamon* to interface with the English –and with their written word– on his behalf. Major Josiah Winslow with a body of eight or ten well-armed colonial soldiers arrested the sachem and the colonists required him to appear before them at Duxbury to answer charges concerning his supposed plot to attack them. After dealing with these accusations and eating a meal, the sachem was visiting Josiah Winslow at Marshfield when he was taken suddenly ill and was treated by a Dr. Fuller by the administration of a “working physic,” or what today we would describe as a strong laxative. Some, including his wife Weetamoo, believed him to have been poisoned, but there is no great amount of evidence to indicate this and the accounts indicated that he had been well received by the Winslows. It was not uncommon in this era for people to die of sudden illness, and it is hard to imagine what advantage a poisoner might have hoped for. If what was causing Alexander’s stomach pain was appendicitis, then it would have been this “working physic” that would have ruptured his appendix, filled his body cavity with toxins, and killed him while on his journey back home. (On the other hand there are records of the Plymouth Council having taken note of an expense at the time for poison “to rid ourselves of a pest,” although it is possible that these records were entirely innocent and routine and dealt merely with agriculture or sanitation.) He would be succeeded during the following year by his brother *Metacom* (or *Pometacon*, or *Tasomacon*, or *Wewesawant*), known to the English as *Phillip*. Phillip would reaffirm all previous agreements with the Plymouth colony, but joined in the general suspicion that the white people had caused his brother’s death.

This plaque is mounted on a boulder near the shore of Monponsett Lakes, inland from Cape Cod.



“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY



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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"
in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST



Prepared: April 10, 2015



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ARRGH AUTOMATED RESEARCH REPORT

GENERATION HOTLINE



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.



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Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.