



AN ENTRY POINT INTO THE

KOUROO CONTEXTURE

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“Stack of the Artist of Kouroo” Project

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1643

September 7: The authorities at Boston, frightened that Gortonite views would take hold among the population at large, sent soldiers to arrest [SAMUELL GORTON](#) and six of his companions at Conimicut. These Massachusetts soldiers ignored [ROGER WILLIAMS](#) when he asked them to respect the boundaries of [PROVIDENCE](#). [SAMUELL GORTON](#) and some of his followers would serve a term of imprisonment for heresy, in leg irons at Charlestown. As a result of this encroachment by Massachusetts soldiers, the leaders in [PROVIDENCE](#) would get together with the leaders in [NEWPORT](#) and [PORTSMOUTH](#) to formally create a united colony of [RHODE ISLAND](#) and Providence Plantations. This illustration is a piece of raw imagination out of SCRIBNER'S POPULAR HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES (1897):



7th Day 7th M^r.

7 September.

Samu: Gorton & his comp^s had a safe conduct offered them, & were writ unto about div^{er}se iniuries offered by them to us, (& the people und^r our iurisdiction, both English & Indians,) to come to o^r Co^t, & there make answer to the p^{ar}ticulars, to w^{ch} they returned no other but contemptuous & disdainfull answers; whereupon 3 comission^s were resolved to bee sent to requir & see satisfaction made wth security, or to bring their p^{er}sons, wth reference to their instructions. 12 writings were deliv^{er}ed my bro: Tyng, w^{ch} came fro^m M^r Peters & M^r Wells.

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READ EDWARD FIELD TEXT

The white settlers at Concord had been sadly disappointed in their choice of terrain. The lowlands, such as the Great Meadows, had turned out to be far too inundated with water to farm, while the nearby highlands, such as the Walden Woods in which Henry David Thoreau would fail to establish a beanfield, had turned out to consist of an unexpectedly sterile sandy loam that could neither adequately be fertilized nor irrigated. They therefore sought the permission of the government authorities in Boston, to resettle elsewhere.

It appears that the inhabitants [of Concord] were not well satisfied with their situation; and that other places, either adjoining the town or at a distance from it, were sought, to which they might remove. In a Petition on this subject to the General Court, it is said:

"Whereas your humble petitioners came into this country about 4 years agoe, and have since then lived at Concord, where we were forced to buy what now we have, or the most of it, the convenience of the town being before given out; your petitioners having been brought up in husbandry, of children, finding the lands about the town very barren, and the meadows very wet and unuseful, especially those we now have interest in; and knowing it is your desire the lands might be subdued, have taken pains to search out a place on the north-west of our town, where we do desire some reasonable quantitie of land may be granted unto us, which we hope may in time be joined to the farms already laid out there to make a village. And so desiring God to guide you in this and all other your weighty occasions, we rest your humble petitioners."

This petition is signed by
Thomas Wheeler,
Timothy Wheeler,
Ephraim Wheeler,
Thomas Wheeler, Jr.,
Roger Draper,
Richard Lettin,

is dated September 7, 1643; and endorsed by the Court:

"We think some quantitie of land may be granted them provided that within two years they make some good improvement of it."¹

1. [LEMUEL SHATTUCK](#)'s 1835 [A HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF CONCORD;](#) Boston MA: Russell, Odiorne, and Company; Concord MA: John Stacy, 1835

(On or about November 11, 1837 Henry David Thoreau would indicate a familiarity with the contents of at least pages 2-3 and 6-9 of this historical study. This material is on page 15.)