

The First Purchase (April 2, 1653)

On April 2nd, 1653, Richard Holbrook, Robert Williams and Daniel Whitehead bought from Raseokan, Sachem of the Matinecock tribe, a parcel of land that is now known as "the First Purchase," thereby establishing the Town of Huntington. These three men from Oyster Bay then turned over ownership of this property to English families who had already settled in the area.

The boundaries of the premises were about six miles square. They are understood to include the premises between Cold Spring Harbor, on the west, to Northport Harbor on the east and from the Long Island Sound on the north to where Old Country Road now exists on the south. The items the Indians received in return were: 6 coats, 6 kettles, 6 hatchets, 6 hoes, 6 shirts, 10 knives, 6 fathom of wampum (wampum was made of shells, one fathom equals 6 feet), 30 muxes (an awl-like tool), 30 needles. The deed was signed by 24 Indians and three settlers. The original document is preserved in the Town Clerk's Archives. Following is a transcription made by Town Archivist Antonia S. Mattheou, which preserves the original spelling:

Articles of agreement betwixt Resaokon Sagamore of Matinnicoke of the one partie and Richard Houlbrock Robart Williams and Daniell Whithead of the other party witnesseth as followeth

Know all men whome these present writing may any way concerne that I Raseokan Doe sell& make over unto the aforesaid parties fidelitat Rich Houlbrock Robart Williams & Daniell Whithead theyir eyeres executors or assines A certaine quantitie of land lying & beeing upon long Island bounded upon the west side with a River commonly called by the Indianes Nachaquatacke & on the North side wyth the sea & going eastward to a River caled Opeatkontycke & on th south side of the utmost part of my bounds promising & by virtue heare of I doe promise to free the aforesaid land from all tittell and claime that shall be made unto it by Reson of any former actt In consideration of which land the aforesaid Rich Houlbrocke Robart Williams & Daniell Whitehead doth promise to pay unto the sayd Rasaokan as followeth 6 cottes 6 kettels 6 hatchits 6 howes 6 sherts 10 knives 6 fathome of wampom 30 muxes 30 needles further the said Rasaokan doth promise to goe or send sumtime in twentie dayes to show & marke out the boundes & in case it prove not according to expectation then this writting to be voyde & of none efectt but in case it be then this Writting to stand in full force power and vertue Witness our hands the 2th of Aprill 1653"

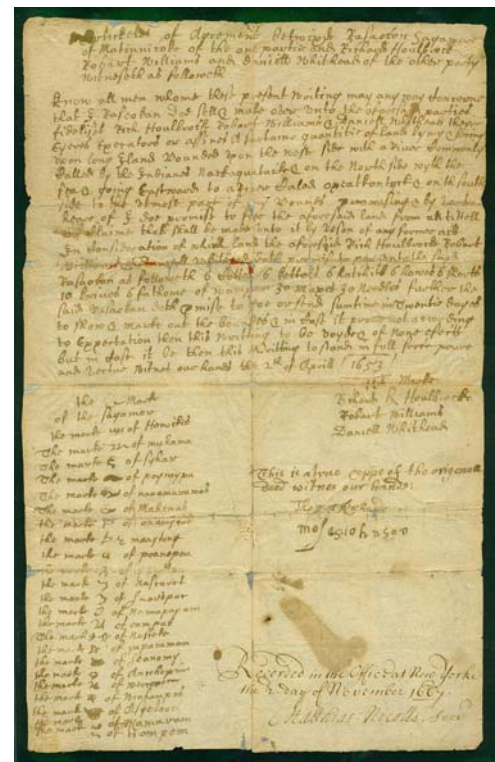
the Mark
of the Sagamore
the mark of Henockes
The mark of muhama
The mark of Syhar
The mark of poyneyppa
The mark of nauamawawas
The mark of Mahenas
the mark of onamytas
the mark of manytony
the mark of poanepou
the mark of penetun
the mark of nasrores
the mark of Suawspar
the mark of Nemapapam
the mark of rampas
The mark of Nasrehe
the mark of yapacaman
the mark of Scanomy
the mark of Anrrhepin
the mark of Wercoaccu
the mark of Winhampas
the mark of Asyeloues
the mark of Mamaram
the mark of Hempom

the Marks
Richard R Houldrock
Robart Williams
Daniell Whithead

This is a true coppe of the origenall
deed witness our hands:
Thomas Richards
Moses:Johnson

Recorded in the Office at New Yorke
the 2d day of November 1667

Matthias: Nicolls. Secr



For more information contact the
Town Clerk's Archives, Town of Huntington
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