

In the midst of our daily concerns, we would like to take the time to acknowledge that we live on the land of the Massachusett People and Nation, however, all the sister nations including the Wampanoag, Pokanoket, Nipmuck, Narragansett, Massachusett, and Pequot people have inhabited freely the lands in which we stand upon today. We acknowledge that the land we stand upon today is large parts of which were never ceded to be used by settlers and which remain sacred to our Massachusett People. We are reminded of this every day by the continued use of the original names of some of these places, such as Scituate, Nonantum, Natick, Ponkapoag, Neponset, Nashoba, and Mattakeeset, besides the many places whose current names have been changed but not forgotten, such as Mystic Lake, the Mystic River, the Alewife Brook, and the town of Boston itself, whose original name is Shawmut. The land of the Massachusett People extended from the northern part of Plymouth through Marshfield, Scituate, and farther north to well beyond Boston, and from the seacoast westward to Namasket, Titicut, and the head of the Charles River. We cannot overlook the fact that these people and their land give us the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In 1617, the Indigenous Peoples of the Massachusett, Patuxet, Pokanoket, and Nauset lands were devastated by a disease that was spread by contact with European fishermen active off the coast of Maine. The English have reported that the mortality rates among the people whose land they were visiting reached as high as 90%. Hoping for trade, instead, they brought death.

The traditional leader of the Massachusett Nation at the time when the English colonists arrived was the "Squaw Sachem of Mistick." To her people, she was known as "Sunk Sqa." As leader, she succeeded her late husband Nanepashemet who was the Grand Sachem of the Massachusett Nation, but who was killed in 1619

Today many descendants of the Massachusett Nation honor their ancestors by keeping the traditions of their tribal communities alive. Some of them are today fighting for their traditional lands that were to be kept in perpetual control by the Massachusetts People and never ceded to the English or to the settlers' descendants.

Present-day stands only a few of the tribes within the Massachusett Nation left, the Massachusett Tribe at Ponkapoag, the Mattakeeset Massachusett Tribe, the Natick Praying Indians, and the Nemasket tribe.

Several tribes of the Massachusetts Nation continue to be active in maintaining their heritage and traditions today

For more information about the Massachusett Nation, their culture and their respective tribes within the Nation please visit:

<https://mattakeeset.com/>

<http://massachusetttribe.org/the-t>

<https://natickprayingindians.org/history.html>