

**Shelter Island Historical Society  
Indigenous People Collection  
Subject Collection - 1697 (facsimile) - 2012**

**FINDING AID AUTHOR**

Natalie Hurwitz & Rachel Lucas-Beruan

**ACQUISITION INFORMATION**

Over time

**PROCESSING INFORMATION**

N/A

**EXTENT**

Number of containers: 2 Boxes

Linear feet of shelf space: n/a

**ABSTRACT**

History and language of L.I. Native American / Indigenous Tribes

**BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY**

It is evident based on archeological reports that Native People held continuous presence on Shelter Island for a profoundly long time, potentially some 12,000 years. Nathaniel Sylvester purchased the Manhansetts' ancestral land in 1652 after an arduously disputed first attempt. The Manhansetts were overwhelmingly displaced and eradicated under the perils of Colonization, both passively (disease pathogens) and by direct intention (forced acquisition of un-ceded territory). Their Sachem (chief) Pogatticut died in 1652. The Manhansetts worked alongside the European settlers and made up to 18% of the population of Shelter Island as late as 1776. Names of Manhanset people can be found in the Havens Store Ledger and the Giles Sylvester Account book. In 1834, there is a note in the Presbyterian Records that Betty Tobs passed away and was one of “the last remnants of the Manhanset tribe”, although this cannot be confirmed. (John Pagliaro’s exhibit *Witness and Manhansett* and John Charles Witek’s archeological report (1992) were used to create this history)

**COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection contains books, articles, documents, clippings, research.

**ARRANGEMENT**

Item level.

**SEPARATED MATERIAL**

n/a

**SUBJECTS**

Burial Sites, archeology, indigenous language, Manhasset, Shinnecock, and Montaukett Tribes.

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS**

This collection is open and available for research use. Copyright restrictions apply.

**PREFERRED CITATION**

The suggested citation for the collection is:

*“Obtained from the collection of the Shelter Island Historical Society, all rights reserved”*

**RELATED MATERIAL**

n/a

**LOCATION NOTE**

Rolling Bin 4A (History → Native Americans)

**LANGUAGES**

English

**CONTAINER LIST**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>ID #</b>
1		Intertribal Historic Preservation Task Force Documents	2004 – 2005	(not accessioned)
2	1	Misc. ephemera about Steven Pharoah Talkhouse, Montaukett	-	1989.70 a,b,c,d
2		Booklet: “The Indiands of Long Island, New York and Coastal Connecticut” by Ben Werner Jr.	1973	1976.55.4
2		Book: “The History and Archaeology of the Montauk Indians” <i>Suffolk Country Archaeological Association</i>	1979	1997.18

2		Book: "John Eliot's first Indian Interpreter - Cockenoe-de-Long Island"	1896	2002.21
2		Book" The Indian Place-Names of Long Island" by William W. Tooker	1911	2005.80
2		Book: "Maid of Montauk" by Forest Monroe	1902	2020.44
2		Photocopy and Transcription of document between Nathaniel Sylvester & Chegono	1666	1972.24.13
2		Periodical: <i>The Organ of the National Indian Association</i> "The Indian's Friend" 3	July, 1911 August, 1911 May, 1912	1975.45.4
2		Letter: Roy Latham (naturalist) to Helen Wortis about indigenous grave sites on SI	March, 1974	1976.55.3 dup. of 1974.19
2		Article: "Montauks' Long March: To Wisconsin and Back?" (Newsday)	January 14, 1979	1979.6.5
2		Article: <i>American Antiquity</i> " Regional Surveys in the Easter United States: The Strengths and Weaknesses of Implementing Subsurface Testing Programs" by Kent G. Lightfoot	1986	1988.132
2		Articles: "King of the Montauks" from the LI Forum (Vol. XLIII, No. 9) by Edith Shephard  "The Funeral of a Pharaoh"	1980	1989.70d  (dup. 1989.70d)
2		Map: Shelter Island Native American Grave Sites	1981	2004.135

2		Report: "A Preliminary Report Concerning a Unique Tangency of Susquehanna Tradition and Wading River Traits at a Buried Multi-Component Site on Shelter Island, N.Y." by John Charles Witek NYSAA	1985	2008.219
2		Article: "Tribes Threaten Board with Suit" (East Hampton Star)	2004	2008.255
2		Article: "Sacred Burial Ground's Fate to be Determined" (Suffolk Life)	2004	2008.258
2		Notes: Location of "Indian Villages" by Norman Sandwald	2001	2008.401
3		Letter: Roy Latham (naturalist) to Helen Wortis about indigenous grave sites on SI	March, 1974	1974.19 dup. of 1976.55.3
3		Article: "The Montauks' Long March" (Newsday) [includes photos of Novella Pharoah & William Walter Fowler]	January, 1979	1979.6.5
3		Note: about the death of woman (Betty) who was the "last remnant" of the Manhasset tribe from Presbyterian Church records in 1834	1834	1984.25
3		Article: Anthropology 8:14-40 "Interior Resources Exploitation: A Woodland Settlement Model for Long Island, New York"	1985	1988.131
3		Article: Man in the Northeast 30:59-82 "Coastal New York Settlement Patterns: A Perspective from Shelter Island" by Ken Lightfoot, Robert Kalin, Owen Lindauer, & Linda Wicks	1985	1988.133
3		"Thesis on Shelter Island Indians" by Mary Cronin	Unknown	1990.240

3		Article: "Historic Lore: North Haven" (Peconic Newsletter)	1993	1993.199
3		Transcription of Contract between Hanable & Mercy Sylvester (original at John Jermain Library)	1697 – 1698	1994.66
3		Book: "Language & Lore of the LI Indians" Suffolk County Archaeological Association	1980	1997.17
3		Study: "An Outline of the Aboriginal Archeology of S.I. NY by Charles Witek	n.d.	2003.2
3		Article: "The Lives and Identities of the Indians of Shelter Is. 1652 – 1835" by J.C. Witek (SI Reporter)	May-92	2008.402
3		Article: "50 Years Ago" SI School visit to Shinnecock School (Southampton Press)	1949 1999	2009.254
3		Map/Policy: "Shelter Island Colonial and Native American Graves Protection Policy"	April 1st, 2005	2009.383
3		Article: "Shinnecoeks Implore Town to Protect Island Burial Site"(Southampton Press)	January, 2004	2009.45
3		Article: "Treading on Sacred Ground/Barn built on American Indian burial fuels tensions on Shelter Island" (Newsday)	January, 2004	2009.46
3		Handwritten story "Two Indian Princes" of "Isaac's Grotto" by Cornelia Horsford (Transcribed version)		2009.383 1970.18
3		Transcription: "Montauk Vocabulary recorded from George Pharoah by John Lyon Gardiner on March 25, 1798"	1798	2015.96

3		Articles: "King of the Montauks" from the LI Forum (Vol. XLIII, No. 9) by Edith Shephard  "The Funeral of a Pharaoh" "The Peripatetic Mr. Talkhouse"	1980/1981	2012.280
3		Photograph & Drawing of grave marker of Steven Pharaoh (Talkhouse) (a member of the Montaukett tribe)		not accessioned.