

Indian Old Town

March 16, 1830.

My dear Sir,

After reaching home, I concluded it best to obtain the enclosed paper, & forwarded on to Portland, presuming it might be satisfactory to the Governor & Council, & also to other gentlemen who take an interest in the welfare of the Indians. The names attached to this document are those of the most respectable citizens of this place. — I also take the liberty to direct a newspaper to yourself for the same purpose. The author of the piece contained in it concerning the Indians, is unknown to me. Please to communicate these things to those who have shown themselves so friendly towards the Indians of this Tribe. All of this poor people at present on the Ist. and, express the highest satisfaction, & the warmest gratitude with regard to the provisions for furnishing them with a bee.

With very high respect,
your most obedient servant
Virgil H. Barber

Oldtown March 16

His Excellency

Jonathan G. Huntton

Portland

Maine

~~16~~
16

Communication from
Wm. H. Barber
in. Old town March 16
1830

To the Hon. Governor & Council of the State of Maine -

The undersigned citizens of Oldtown, & vicinity, have been informed that representations have been made to you, unfavourable to the fidelity of Mr Ebenezer Pope, who has acted as Under Agent for the Penobscot Indians, during the last year, & also setting forth that the Rev. W. H. Barker who has resided among said Tribe, in the capacity of Priest & Instructor, has been obliged to assume the duties properly belonging to said Pope, on account of his neglect of them; to instruct the Indians in farming & superintend their affairs, & been thereby compelled to abandon the school he had commenced & prevented from pursuing their literary instruction. - Believing that these representations are essentially incorrect & unjust, we conceive it our duty to state our opinions on the matters above referred to, & also some of the facts relative to the subject, in order to correct errors & do justice. - It is within the knowledge of most of us that Mr Pope came here early in the Spring, that he procured the necessary seeds for planting the Indian lands, that he employed different individuals to plough as much of the lands as is usual, that the said land was ploughed & planted, under his direction & superintendence, that he made several visits to the Island during the Summer & that he attended ~~for the~~ to the gathering of the crops -

Some of us know & all believe that Mr Barker was not necessarily occupied by the agricultural affairs of the Indians a single day, & that there was at no time any necessity of his relinquishing their literary instruction, arising out of any neglect of the said

Pope, or because he was obliged to attend in person to
their other interests - We further say that we believe
the residence of the Priest among the Indians, has had
the effect of keeping them together upon the Island a
large portion of the year thus has been usual with
them, & thereby prevented more from paying the usual
attention to the cultivation of their lands up the
River, who had been accustomed to spend most of
the Summer for some years preceding in cultivating small
spots of land among the upper Islands. & that generally
the increased idleness & poverty of the Indians is to be
attributed more to the same cause than to any other
cause -

Done March 13. 1830 -

Daniel Davis
Wm H Heywood
John S Davis
Abraham Puttignill
Thomas Pratt
Frederic Scammon
Austin Stupp

Oldtown N.H.
March 15-

12 1/2

Samuel F. Hussey Esq
Portland
me

Communication
from San Davis & others
Oromo March 13. 1830
on Indian affairs.