

Rebuttal of Mr. Wrigley's "Proofs" of an Indian Trading Station in 1629 at the site of present day North Andover and a village called Pentucket in 1634 along present day Central Street in Andover. As outlined in Mr. Wrigley's "The Hitherto Unknown Truth About the Primary Event in Our History" (1993).

Please note that rebuttals appear in blue.

Clifford Wrigley wrote that William Wood came to explore New England for his patron, Sir William Armine, but also with a "company" which included four ministers, John Wood (a brother?) and brothers Edmund and Francis Ingalls. During this expedition he contends that Wood also had time to establish a trading village, with the primary commodity being beaver pelt. According to Wrigley, due to the "War of the Charters" issued by King James and King Charles there was a state of chaos in the new unchartered world. Therefore when Wood returned to England to report his progress, John Winthrop was able to use his power as Governor to expunge the records of Wood's accomplishment's and claim the village of Pentucket as his own.

Proof #1: Historians of Andover (e.g. Abbot, Bailey, Fuess*) have "no account of the first 20 or 25 years of our history." They knew about this earlier period of settlement, but "chose not" to investigate, instead sticking with Abbot in saying that the 1646 settlement is the first.

Bailey's first chapter is "Memorials of the Early Settlers." In her first sentence she explains that from the early period of Andover's settlement historians are faced with "the scantiness of ancient relics." She goes on to say that however we do know something of this time, in particular from documents that have survived. She says the Andover area is frequently mentioned, but while coastal towns grew first "the forests of Andover remained uncleared by the white man's axe" (pg 3). It is her take that Andover's "narrative" begins in earnest in 1639 when the General Court is petitioned by men of "Newton" (Cambridge) for permission to settle.

Fuess pushes the timeline back to 1635, mentioning the order in the General Court records for the land about today's Lake Cochichewick to be set aside as a plantation. He says at this time while men had passed through, there was no permanent settlement.

Proof #2: The people who settled here in 1629 were from Lincolnshire with close associations with the Council for New England (which sent a scouting mission to Massachusetts in 1623-24). Eben Moody Boynton (1897) and John Currier (1909) were two previous writers who had supporting evidence to "Wood and Company's original 1629 land-grant of the 'Plantation of Merrimac', before it was move[d] upriver to its present location."

Indeed, Eben Moody Boynton wrote about William Wood and other proprietors who settled a 1629 grant at Pentucket (or Pentucket) on Merrimac which later was renamed West Newbury.

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Proof #3: William Wood's Maps (3 editions of his book 1634, 1635 and 1639)

William Wood's maps do not show any inland plantations. Wrigley asserts that Winthrop's map of 1634 shows the location of a settlement at Andover, called Pentucket, and while he concedes the map is accurate except for the location of Pentucket (it is not far enough along the Merrimack River) he says that can be explained by "art psychology." If the rest of the map is accurate, it makes sense that Pentucket, or West Newbury, is exactly in the same place as it is today.

Proof #4: Gov. Winthrop's Journal (1630 – 1649) "...acknowledges the existence of our 1629 settlement of 'Pentucket', also known as 'Pentucket or Cochichewick by Shawsheen' and acknowledges that it was formerly officially re-incorporated by the General Court..."

Winthrop's journal has no mention of "Pentucket". Wrigley does not cite the particular passage which he claims is one of his proofs.

Proof #5: A map created by Winthrop in 1634, discovered in the UK in 1884 at the British Museum "...the area of the original 1629 Andover is unmistakably indicated in the sensitive drawings of the little Cochichewick and Shawsheen Rivers (between which our 1st, 1629, settlement, first called 'Pentucket', was located..."

As noted in Proof # 3, the "Pentucket" on the map refers to the settlement of West Newbury MA. The area where Andover would be settled is clearly marked on the map as "a fall", meaning the Great Cascade (later Bodwell's Falls), now located in Lawrence MA. There is no settlement noted.

Proof #6: The names for the first 1629 settlement reveal its location (spelling Pentucket with an M).

17th century text had no standardized spelling, often words were phonetically spelled, and often a variety of spellings may be used in the same text by the same hand. Pentucket, Pentucket, Pantucket, are the same place, in 1629 it was used as Pentucket on Merrimack by the town that was later named West Newbury, and then Haverhill used Pentucket later in the late 1630s, as illustrated in the General Court Records in June of 1641 when a committee of four men were assigned to "...set out the bounds between Salsberry and Pantucket, ali: Haverell." Pentucket, "alias" or also known as, Haverhill.

Proof #7: The use of the names Cochichewick and Merrimack – and the importance of "the Neck" "...the Neck is a neck-like projection of the land along the southward side of the Merrimack directly connected to our first village of Cochichewick."

This area of land was in contention long after 1629. After Cochichewick Plantation was laid out by the General Court in 1635, and settlement started to pick up around 1640, coinciding with the formation of Rowley Plantation in 1639, disputes over the Neck are in the General court records from 1640.

Proof #8: "re. "Merrimac" Plantation, in which our 1629 village of 'Cochichewick' was located, we will ...[list] a few contemporaries who mentioned it and no doubt saw it and a few later observers."

Wrigley does not, in his slide lecture or “text-document” provide any contemporary sources of a 1629 village of Cochichewick. Using Cochichewick here is confusing, it is assumed he is still referring to Pentucket. If it was mentioned, he does not provide names, dates and sources.

Proof #9: A land grant which shows Simon Bradstreet’s “...purchase of the original site of this 1629 settlement” from Henry Ingalls.

Henry Ingalls was a very early settler of Newbury, and later came to Andover in the second wave around 1660. Wrigley did not produce any deeds dated from 1629.

Proof #10: The 1646 order that Roger the Indian have fishing rights on the Cochichewick River.

It is not clear how confirming in 1646 that Roger the Indian could continue to have fishing rights when it is documented that settlement around Cochichewick started as early as 1640. Not to mention that the Native people were fishing here long before 1629. It does not lend strength to an argument for European settlement.

Researched and compiled by

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* Please see Analysis Resources/Bibliography on the Clifford Wrigley Research website for citations.

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