

Document A: John Easton's Account (Excerpted from Original)

In the Winter in the Year 1674, an Indian was found dead, and by a Coroner's Inquest of Plimouth Colony judged murdered. He was found dead in a Hole thro Ice broken in a Pond with his Gun and sum Foulls by him. Sum English suposed him thrown in, sum Indians that I judged intelegabell and impartiall in the Case did think he fell in and was so drowned, and that the les did hurt his Throat, as the English said it was cut; but acnowledge that sumetimes naty Indians wold kill others but not as euer they herd to obscuer as if the dead Indian was not murdered. The dead Indian was caled Sansimun and a Christian that could read and write. Report was he was a bad Man, that King Philip got him to write his Will, and he made the Writing for a great Part of the Land to be his, but read as if it had bin as Philip wrote; But it came to be known, and then he run away from him.

Now one Indian informed that three Indians had murdered him, and sheued a Coate that he said they have him to conseall them. The Indians report that the Informer had playd away his Coate, and these Men sent him the Coate, and after demanded Pay, and he not to pay, so acused them, and knoing that it wold pleas the English so to think him a beter Christian, and the Reporte came that the three Indians had consesed and acused Philip so to imploy them, and that the English wold hang Philip; so the Indians wear afraid, and reported that the English had flatred them (or by threats) to bely Philip that thay might kill him to have his Land, and that if Philip had dun it, it was ther Law so to execute home ther Kings judged deserved it, that he had no Case to hide it.

So Philip kept his Men in Armes. Plimoth Governer required him to disband his Men, and informed him his Jealousy was falce. Philip answered he would do no Harm, and thanked the Governer for his Information.

The three Indians were hunge, to the last denied the Fact; but one broke the Halter as it is reported, then desired to be fayed, and so was a littell while, then confessed they three had dun the Fact; and then he was hanged. And it was reported Sausimun before his death had informed of the Indian Plot, and that if the Indians knew it they wold kill him, and that the Hethen might destroy the English for their Wickedness, as God had permitted the Heathen to destroy the Israellites of olde. So the English were afraid and Philip was afraid, and both increased in Armes. But for four Yeares Time, Reports and Jealosos of War had bin veri frequent, that we did not think that now a War was breaking forth; but about a Week before it did, we had Case to think it wold. Then to indever to prevent it, we sent a Man to Philip, that if he wold cum to the Fery we wold cum over to speke with him. About four Miles we had to cum; thither our Messenger cum to them; they not aware of it behaved themselves as furious, but sudingly appeased when they understood who he was and what he came for, he called his Counsell and agreed to come to us; came himself unarmed, and about 40 of his Men armed. Then 5 of us went over, 3 wear Magistrates. We sate veri friendly together. We told him our bisnes was to indever that they might not reseve or do Rong. They said that was well; they had dun no Rong, the English ronged them. We said we knew the English said the Indians ronged them, but our Desier was the Quarrell might rightly be desided, in the best Way, and not as Dogs desided their Quarrells. The Indians owned that fighting was the worst Way; then they propounded how Right might take Place. We

said, by Arbitration. They said that all English agreed against them, and so by Arbitration they had had much Rong; mani Miles square of Land so taken from them, for English wold have English Arbitrators; and once they were persuaded to give in their Armes, that thereby Jealousy might be removed, and the English having their Arms wold not deliver them as they had promised, until they consented to pay a 100L, and now they had not so much Sum or Muny; that thay wear as good be killed as leave all ther Liveflyhode.

We said they might chuse a Indian King and the English might chuse the Governor of New Yorke, that nether had Case to say either wear Parties in the Diferance. They said they had not heard of that Way, and said we onestly spoke, so we wear perswaded if that Way had bine tendered they would have acsepted. We did endeavor not to hear their Complaints, said it was not convenient for us now to consider of, but to indever to prevent War; said to them when in War against English, Blood was spilt, that ingaged all Englishmen, for we wear to be all under one King; we knew what their Complaints wold be, and in our Colony had removed some of them in fending for Indian Rulers in what the Crime concerned Indian Lives, which thay veri lovingly acsepted, and agreed with us to their Execution, and said so they were abell to satisfie their Subjects when they knew an Indian sufered duly, but said in what was only between their Indians and not in Townshipes, that we had purchased, they would not have us prosecute, and that they had a great Fear to have ani of their Indians should be caled or forced to be Christian Indians. Thay said that such wer in everi thing more mischievous, only Disemblers, and then the English made them not subject to their Kings, and by their lying ot rong ther Kings. We knew it to be true, and we promising them that however in Government to Indians all should be alike, and that we knew it was our King's will it should be so, that altho we wear weaker than other Colonies, they having submitted to our King to protect them, others dared not otherwise to molest them; expressed thay took that to be well, that we had littell Case to doute, but that to us under the King thay would have yielded to our Determinations in what ani should have complained to us against them.

But Philip charged it to be dionestly in us to put of the Hering in just Complaints, therefore we consented to hear them. Thay said thay had bine the first in doing Good to the English, and the English in the first in doing Rong; said when they English first came, their King's Father was as a great Man, and the English as a littell Child; he constrained other Indians from ronging the English, and gave them Corn and shewed them how to plant, and was free to do them ani Good, and had let them have a 100 Times more Land than now the King had for his own Peopell. But their King's Brother, when he was King, came miserably to dy by being forced to Court, as they judge poysoned. And another Greavance was, if 20 of there onest Indians testified that a Englishman had dun them Rong, it was as nothing; and if but one of their worst Indians testified against any Indian or ther King, when it pleased the English it was suffiant. Another Grievance was, when their King sold land, the English wold say, it was more than they agreed to, and a Writing must be prove against all them, and sum of their Kings had dun Rong to sell so much. He left his Peopell none, and sum being given to Drunknes the English made them drunk and then cheated them in Bargains, but now ther Kings wear forwarned not for to part with Land, for nothing in Cumparison to the Value thereof. Now home the English had owned for King or Queen, they wold

disinheret, and make another King that wold give or fell them these Lands; that now, they had no Hopes left to kepe ani Land. Another Grievance, the English Catell and Horses still increased; that when thay removed 30 Mill from where English had ani thing to do, thay could not kepe ther Corn from being spoyled, thay never being iused to fence, and thoft when the English boft Land of them thay wold have kept their Catell upon ther owne Land. Another Grievance, the English were so eager to sell the Indians Lickers, that most of the Indians spent all in Drynknes, and then raved upon the sober Indians, and thay did believe often did hurt the English Catell, and ther King could not prevent it.

We knew before, these were their grand Complaints, but then we only indevered to persuade that all Cumplaints might be righted without War, but could have no other Answer but that thay had not heard of that Way for the Governor of Yorke and an Indian King to have the Hearing of it. We had Case to think in that had bine tendered it wold have bine acsepted. We indevered that however thay should lay downe the War, for the English wear to strong for them; thay said, then the English should do to them as they did when thay were to strong for the English.

Source: *John Easton, "True Relation of what I know and of Reports and My Understanding Concerning the Beginning and Progress of the War now Between the English and the Indians," 1675.*