

Pequots, and he helped to bring about the raid on Wethersfield, Conn., which left nine settlers dead. He was later exonerated for his actions by the General Court of Connecticut. See Alden T. Vaughan, "A Test of Puritan Justice," *NEQ*, XXXVIII (1965), 331-339.

The sachem who visited Winthrop in 1634 has not been identified. In fact, Winthrop's account of the visit makes no mention of a sachem actually coming to Boston, only his messenger and two ambassadors. See Winthrop, *History*, I, 176.

To John Winthrop, 31 July 1637

New Providence the 2nd of present weeke¹

Much honoured Sir

I am bold to interpose (in all humble respect) a word or 2 concerning the bearer Mr Greene.² Being at Salem this last weeke to take order about the sale of his howse etc. comming away an ancient acquaintance meetes him (Ed. Batter)³ and questions whether he would come and live there againe unto wch he answered: how could he unles he might enjoy the freedome of his soule and conscience. Ed Batter replied he might so[,] to wch he again replied, he knew that could not be for the power of the Lord Jesus was in the hand of Civill authoritie. Upon this came by Mr Endicot, calls Ed. Batter and questions him (as himselfe related to Mr Greene) what was their Conference: the summe whereof being told Mr Endicot warnd Mr Greene to appeare at this generall Court.

Sir For my selfe I have no partiall respect to Mr Greene nor relation, but of neighbours together. Only for the better following of peace, (even when it flies from us) I am bold to acquaint with passages of Truth (as I can not but hope) before hand. I shall grieve much that any molestation or troubles should arise unto you from hence, or that there be the appearance of any further Jarr. Sir I know to whome I speake, Mr Endicot had neede have a true Compassee for he makes great way etc. The Father of Lights and Spirits mercifully be pleased to guide all our steerings.

Mr Greene here is peaceable, a peacemaker, and a lover of all English that visits us. I Conceave he would not disturbe peace in relating his Judgment to his friend (if I may so call him) demaunding it first allso of him: or els [else] I presume he should not have heard a word of such matters, if I know Mr Greene.⁴

Sir I here yet not of any of the runaway Captives at amongst

our neighbours. Yesterday I heard that a scapt from them to the Pequot. If any be or doe come amongst them I suppose they shall be speedily returned, or I shall certifie where the default is.

Sir I desire to be truely thanckfull for the Boy intended.⁵ His Father was of Sasquaukit where the last fight was:⁶ and fought not with the English as his mother (who is with you and 2 children more) certied [certified] me. I shall endeavour his good, and the common [good], in him. I shall appoint some to fetch him: only I request that you would please to give a name to him.

Sir concerning Captives (pardon my wonted boldnes) the Scripture is full of mysterie, and the Old Testament of Types.

If they have deserved Death, tis Sinn to spare.

If they have not deserved Death then what punishment? Whether perpetuall slaverie.

I doubt not but the Enemie may lawfully be weakned and despoild of all comfort of wife and children etc.: but I beseech you well weigh if after a due time of trayning up to labour, and restraint, they ought not to be set free: yet so as without danger of adjoyning to the Enemie. Thus earnestly looking up to heaven for you and all yours I rest your Worps [Worship's] unfained

Roger Williams

My best respect to Mrs Wintrop Mr Deputie [Thomas Dudley] Mr Bellingham etc.

ALS, Winthrop Papers, Mass. Hist. Soc. Transcribed from a photostat of the original in "Letters and Papers" (1924).

1. That is, Monday, 31 July 1637. John Greene, who probably carried this letter with him, appeared before the General Court of Massachusetts Bay on 1 Aug.

2. John Greene (1590?-1659), a surgeon from Salisbury, England, arrived in New England aboard the ship *James* in June 1635. He settled at Salem but removed to Providence, probably sometime during or after the summer of 1636. Greene later became a follower of Samuel Gorton; he moved from Providence to Warwick (Shawomet) in 1643. See Louise Brownell Clarke, comp., *The Greenes of Rhode Island* (New York, 1903), 52-58.

3. Edmund Batter (1609-1685), a maltster from Salisbury, England, arrived in New England aboard the same ship that carried John Greene and his family. See Savage, ed., *Genealogical Dictionary*, I, 141.

4. Greene appeared before the General Court on 1 Aug. The court freed him under bonds of one hundred marks and ordered him to appear at a September court to face charges for "haveing spoken against the magistrates contemptuously." On 19 Sept., he was fined twenty pounds and committed to jail until the fine was paid. He was also ordered to stay out of "this jurisdiction upon the paine of fine or imprisonment." Greene apparently apologized to the court for his actions, for on

26 Sept., "upon a new petition to satisfaction," he was dismissed. Once safely out of Massachusetts Bay, however, Greene renewed his attack on the colony's "usurping the powr of Christ over the churches and mens consciences" in a letter to the General Court. The court reacted by reiterating its banishment of Greene and by extending that banishment to include residents of the plantation at Providence who refused to disclaim similar opinions before a magistrate. See Shurtleff, ed., *Mass. Bay Recs.*, I, 200, 203-204, 224. In April 1638, RW claimed that Greene's letter to the General Court had been sent without his knowledge. See RW to Winthrop, 16 Apr. 1638.

5. On the Indian boy, whom RW had requested from Winthrop, see RW to Winthrop, 30 June 1637. He may have been the same Indian named Will, who was RW's servant in 1638. See RW to Winthrop, ca. 1 Aug. 1638. One obscure source, probably written in the early 1660s, referred to "that memorable storie of that yong Indian Prince or Sagemores sonne whome Mr Williams educated and over whome two of ther witches weere assured by the Devill they had noe power over him as long as hee was in his custodie." See *Mass. Hist. Soc., Procs.*, X (1867-1869), 393. It is possible the Indian boy was actually the son of a Pequot sachem.

6. Probably the same place (also called Sasco swamp) near modern Fairfield, Conn., where the last major battle between the Pequot and the English took place on 14 July 1637. For a brief account of this engagement see Vaughan, *New England Frontier*, 149.

To John Winthrop, ca. 12 August 1637

New Providence this last of the weeke¹

Sir

I am much desired by Yotaash, (the bearer hereof Miantunnomues brother),² to interprete his Message to you viz: that Miantunnomu requests you to bestow a Pequot squaw upon him.

I object, he had his share sent him. He answeres that Caunounicus receaved but a few women and keepes them: and yet he sayth his brother hath more right: for, himselfe and his brothers men first laid hold upon that Company.³

I object, that all are disposed of. He answeres, if so, he desires to buy one or 2 of some English man.

I object that here are many runn away, wch I have desired himselfe to⁴ might convey home to you. He replies, they have bene this fortnight busie that is keeping of a kind of Christmas:⁵ and 2ndly at present Miantunnomues father in law [i.e., stepfather]⁶ lyes a dying:^[a] as also that some of the Runnawayes perished in the woods. 3 are at the Nanhighonsick and 3 within 10 mile of this place: wch I thinck may best be fetcht by 2 or 3 Massachuset In-