

Samson
Occom

DARTMOUTH
AND BEYOND

Me and Samson Occom: My Slow Enlightenment

- ▶ 1960s—at Dartmouth (BA in English)
- ▶ 1970s—at Brown (PhD in American Studies)
- ▶ 1980s—at Connecticut College (teaching American Lit and American studies)
- ▶ 1982: publication of Occom's "Short Narrative" by Bernd Peyer
- ▶ 1989: publication of Peyer's "Betrayal of Samson Occom" in *DAM*
- ▶ 1990s—at Hofstra (teaching American Lit, American Studies, and Native American Lit)
- ▶ 1997—Alumni Club meeting in Norwich, CT

Mohegan Sun Casino



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Bloomberg

DARTMOUTH





BAKER LIBRARY WINDVANE 1928
Dismounted 2020



Walter Beach Humphrey
MURAL OF ELEAZAR WHEELLOCK, 1938
Basement of Thayer (removed 2018)



Occom/Wheelock/Dartmouth timeline

1711: Eleazar Wheelock born in Windham CT

1723: Samson Occom born in Mohegan

1733: EW graduates Yale

1734: Becomes pastor at 2nd Congo in Lebanon CT

1730s and 1740s: First Great Awakening

1743: Wheelock becomes involved in Great Awakening

1740: Occom converts

1745-48: **Occom studies with Wheelock**

1751: Occom to Montauk, marries

1753: Wheelock founds Moor's Indian Charity School in Lebanon Crank, CT

1750s: Occom to Oneidas

1759: Occom ordained

1763: Occom moves back to Mohegan

1766-67: **Occom in Britain raising funds for Wheelock's project**

1768: Occom writes short narrative

1769: Occom intoxicated in public

1769: Wheelock "founds" Dartmouth

1771: Occom's angry letter to Wheelock

1779: Wheelock dies in Hanover

1780s: Occom helps found Brotherton

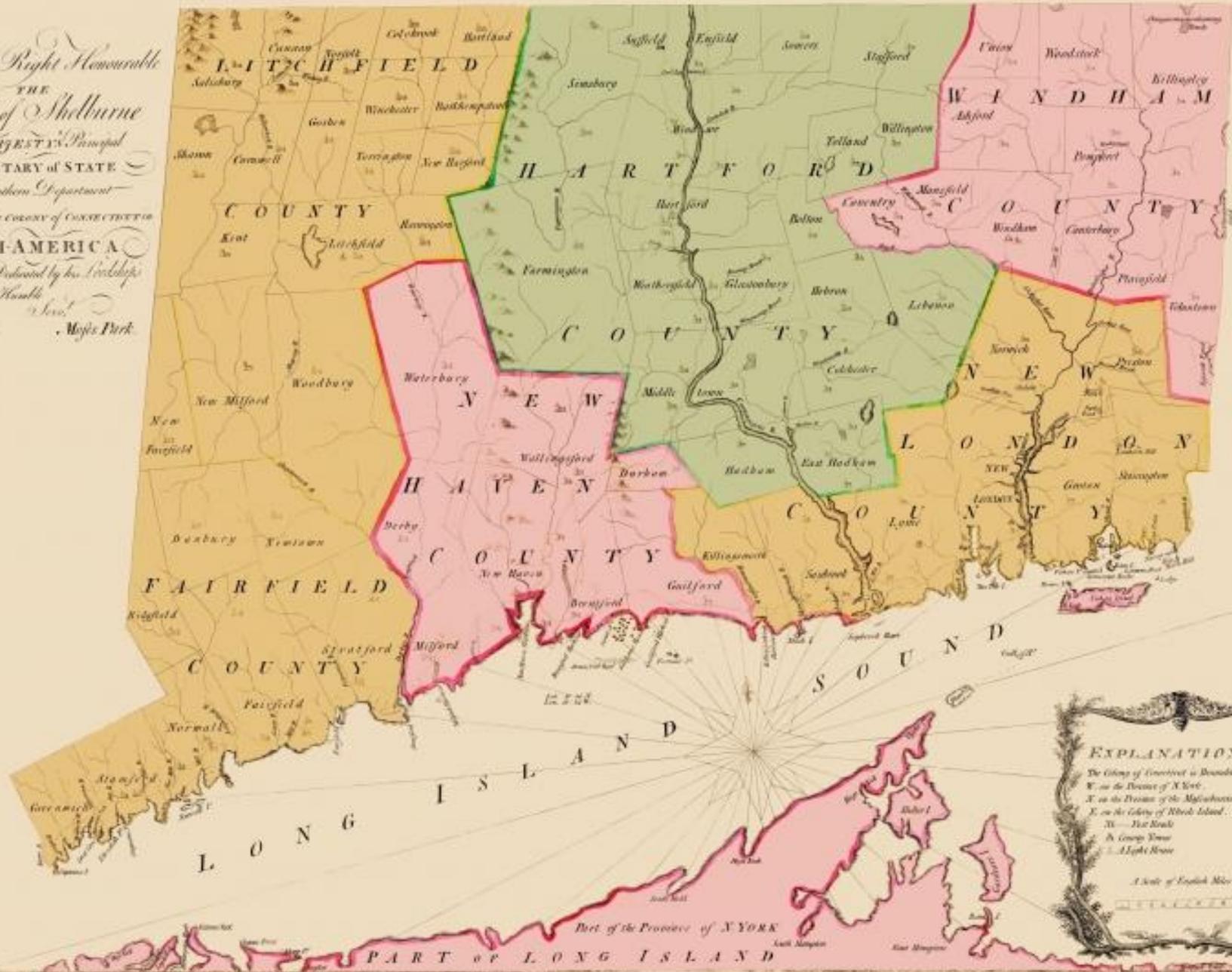
1789: Occom moves family to Brotherton NY

1792: Occom dies in New Stockbridge NY

1831: Mohegan Cong. Church founded

1839: B-town Indians accept US citizenship

To the Right Honourable
THE
Earl of Shelburne
His Majesty's Principal
SECRETARY of STATE
for the Southern Department
 This PLAN of the COUNTY of CONNECTICUT in
NORTH-AMERICA
As Humbly Dedicated by his Lordship's
Most Obedient Servant
Wm. Mason *Major Park*



EXPLANATION.
The County of Connecticut is bounded
W. on the Province of N. York
E. on the Province of the Massachusetts Bay and
N. on the City of New York Island.
 W. — Wet Lands
 G. — Gravelly Soils
 L. — Light Soils

A Scale of English Miles

Model of traditional wigwam dwelling
Tantaquidgeon Museum, Uncasville



WHEELOCK HOMESTEAD, Columbia Green, c. 1735



The Shepherd's Tent
Truman Street, New London, c.1730



MOOR'S INDIAN CHARITY SCHOOL

Columbia Green, 19th Century



John Warner Barber, Panorama of Columbia, CT, 1835

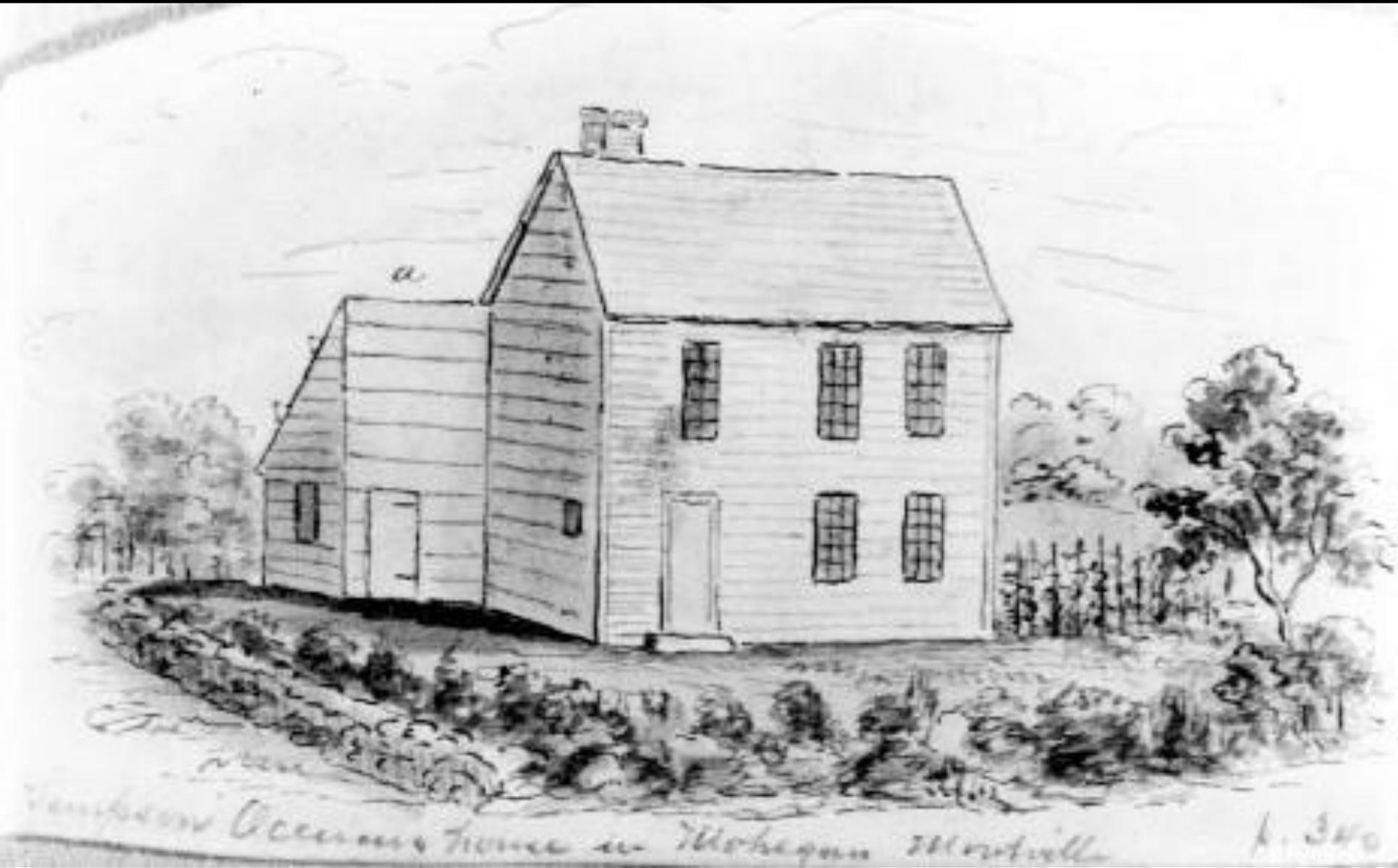


South view Columbia
Columbia.

The Landmark Building, Columbia
incorporating 1720s meeting house



OCCOM HOMESTEAD
Mohegan (Montville, CT) 1760s



Samuel Occom's home in Mohegan Montville



Samson Occom
"An Indian priest" 1750s
by Nathaniel Smibert

Jonathan Silbury
Samson Occom
Mezzotint after Mason Chamberlin, 1768



M. Chamberlin pinxit
The Reverend M^r. SAMSON OCCOM, *Effigies post.*
The first Indian Minister that ever was in Europe, & who accompanied the Rev^d. Nathan Whitaker D.D. in an application to Great Britain for Charities to support of Rev^d. D^r. Wheelock's Indian Academy, & Missionaries among the Native Savages of N^o. America.
Published according to Act of Parliament, Sept: 20. 1768. by Henry Parker, at N^o. 82. in Cornhill. L. O. S. D. 032.

Joseph Steward
Eleazar Wheelock
1790s



Adna Tenney, American (1810 – 1900)

Portrait of Samson Occom

after Jonathan Spilsbury, English

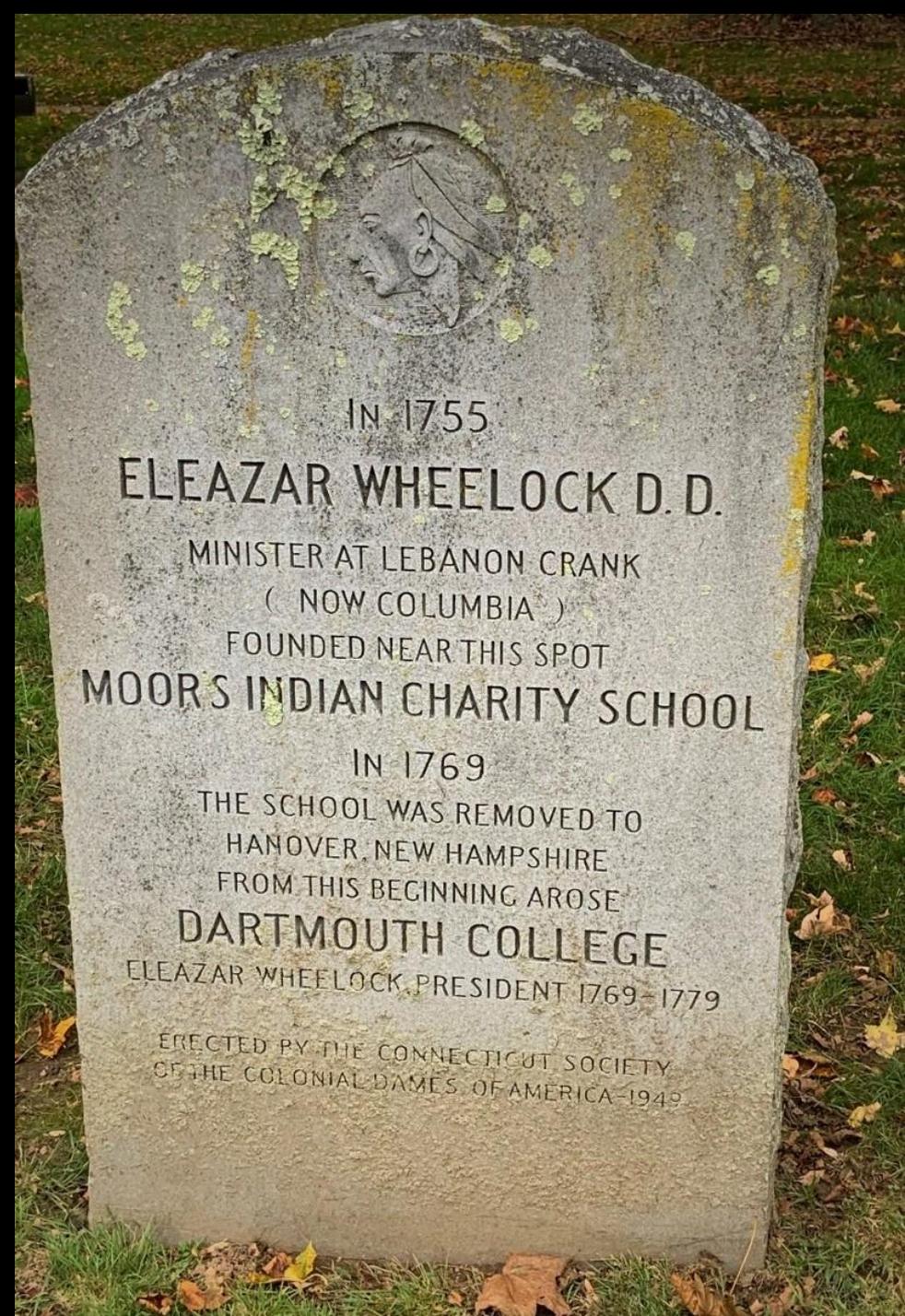
(c. 1739 – 1807)

after Mason Chamberlin, English

(1727 – 1787)



WHEELOCK MONUMENT
Columbia Green
CT Colonial Dames, 1949



IN 1755

ELEAZAR WHEELOCK D. D.

MINISTER AT LEBANON CRANK
(NOW COLUMBIA)

FOUNDED NEAR THIS SPOT

MOOR'S INDIAN CHARITY SCHOOL

IN 1769

THE SCHOOL WAS REMOVED TO
HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
FROM THIS BEGINNING AROSE

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

ELEAZAR WHEELOCK, PRESIDENT 1769-1779

ERECTED BY THE CONNECTICUT SOCIETY
OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA-1949

MOOR'S CHARITY SCHOOL

1755 - 1769

COLUMBIA, CONNECTICUT

PROUDLY REMEMBERED FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS
BY GENERATIONS OF DARTMOUTH MEN
AS SEEDING GROUND OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
AND FAITHFUL STEWARD OF ELEAZAR WHEELLOCK'S
GENEROUS AND CRUSADING SPIRIT.

MAY 17, 1969

SAMSON OCCOM (1723-1792)

Commemorating and honoring Samson Occom
for his contributions to the education of Native Americans
and the founding of Dartmouth College.

The Reverend Samson Occom was a member of the Mohegan nation
and a student of Eleazar Wheelock in Columbia, CT.
From 1766-1767, Occom raised more than 12,000 pounds in Britain
as donations for Wheelock's "Indian school." The funds were used
to establish Dartmouth College for the education of Englishmen, rather
than Native Americans as promised and set forth in its
original charter. In 1970, President John Kemeny recommitted
Dartmouth to its original mission.

The Native American Alumni Association,
on the 250th Anniversary of the founding of Dartmouth College.

April 27, 2019

OCCOM BARK BOX
Tantaquidgeon Museum
Uncasville CT



Tantaquidgeon Museum, Uncasville, CT





HOME OF
BROTHERTOWN INDIANS
1783-1860
AMONG WHOM LIVED, 1786-1782,
SAMSON OCCOM
INDIAN PRESBYTERIAN PREACHER

STATE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT 1933

HISTORICAL MARKER

SAMSON OCCOM
INDIAN PREACHER OF THE
BROTHERTOWN INDIANS, BELIEVED
TO BE BURIED IN CEMETERY
 $\frac{1}{4}$ MILE SOUTH OF HERE.

OREIDA COUNTY
D.P.W. 1969

POSTED
PRIVATE PROPERTY
HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING OR
TRESPASSING FOR ANY PURPOSE
IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN
VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED

Only Those given
Permission Can
Enter property
Contact: Larry Ames
(315) 841-4363

Mohegan Congregational
Church, 1831 Restored 2003



BROTHERTON PROCLAMATION
Samson Occom Day
July 14 (2020)



Brothertown Indian Nation
Eeyamquittoowauconnuck

**Resolution Declaring the Annual Observance of
July 14th as Samson Occom Day**

- WHEREAS the Brothertown Indian Nation Council is the governing body for the Brothertown Indians, elected in accordance with the Brothertown Indian Nation Constitution; and
- WHEREAS it is the duty and privilege of the Brothertown Indian Nation Council to act as guardian of the Nation's sovereignty and advocate for the welfare of its people; and
- WHEREAS it is critical to the Brothertown Indian Nation Council to honor those generations that have come before us, and to ensure our history and teachings are shared with future generations in a good way; and
- WHEREAS the celebration of our Tribal anniversaries is an important expression and preservation of our Tribal memory and sovereignty; and
- WHEREAS Reverend Samson Occom (1723- July 14, 1792) lived among us and did cooperate with The Creator to greatly assist in the organization, propagation, and commemoration of the Brothertown Indians.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BROTHERTOWN INDIAN NATION COUNCIL that the Reverend Samson Occom be remembered annually by the Brothertown people on the anniversary of his death, July 14th, and that this date be ever after known by them as Samson Occom Day.



Commemorative
Occom Doll
Brotherton, WI

THE COLLECTED WRITINGS
OF SAMSON OCCOM,
MOHEGAN

Leadership and Literature in
Eighteenth-Century Native America

Edited by
JOANNA BROOKS
Foreword by
ROBERT WARRIOR

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS
2006

Book of Hymns by Occom
Published in New London 1774

D. J. 17. +

A CHOICE
COLLECTION
OF
HYMNS
AND

Spiritual SONGS;

Intended for the Edification
of sincere Christians, of all
Denominations.



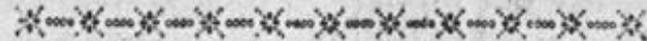
By

SAMSON OCCOM,
MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.



BOTH young Men and Maidens, old Men and
Children—Praise the LORD.

PSAL. CXLVIII. 12, 14.



NEW - L O N D O N :

PRINTED and SOLD by TIMOTHY GREEN,
a few Rods West of the COURT-HOUSE.

M, DCC, LXXIV.

Timothy Green Building
State Street, New London, CT, 18c.



Having Seen and heard Several
representations, in England and Scotland,
made by Some gentlemen in America,
Concerning me, and Finding many gross
mistakes in their Accounts, I thought it my
Duty to give a Short Plain and honest Account
of myself, that those who may hereafter See
it, may Know the Truth Concerning me. — —
Though it is against my mind to give a
history of myself and publish it whilst I am
alive, Yet to do Justice to myself and to those
who may desire to know some thing
concerning me— and for the Honor
of Religion I will venture to give a Short
Narrative of my Life. — —

Some sources

- ▶ Bernd Peyer, "The Betrayal of Samson Occom." *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine*. 1998.
<https://www.watervillepl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/SamsonOccom.pdf>
- ▶ Joanna Brooks, "'This Indian World': Samson Occom, Mohegan. An Introduction to the Writings of Samson Occom." *The Collected Writings of Samson Occom, Mohegan*. Oxford UP, 2006.
- ▶ Samson Occom. "A Short Narrative of My Life." 1765.
<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5788>
- ▶ Contact: g.t.couser@hofstra.edu