

never could understand the need of fencing his cornfield although he was angry when the white man's cattle broke through and destroyed his corn.

About the year 1653, Pogattacut died and Wyandanch became Grand Sachem in his place.

Wyandanch was the strongest and wisest ruler the Long Island Indians ever had. He was the last of the really Grand Sachems.

He lived with his tribe on Montauk Point and with him was his wife, Wichikittawbut and his son Wyancombone and a daughter, Quashawam also called Momone or Heather Flower.

The first white man to settle within what is now the town of Easthampton was an Englishman, Lion Gardiner. He was an engineer and a soldier and came from Saybrook, Connecticut where he had built a fort.

In 1639, he bought the island we now know as Gardiner's Island from the Indians.

Lion Gardiner named his island the Isle of Wight. Later its name was changed to Gardiner's Island. Here on the 14th of September, 1641, his daughter, Elizabeth, was born. She was the first English child to be born in this part of the country.

Before settling on his island Lion Gardiner made friends with the Montauk Chief, Wyandanch. It was

a friendship that lasted all their lifetime and kept peace between the natives and the white men.

The early settlers had much to thank Lion Gardiner for.

So great was the faith of Wyandanch in his friend that when he died he appointed Lion Gardiner guardian of his son, Wyancombone, until he should come of age.

Remember Lion Gardiner as a fine gentleman and a brave soldier and when you go to East Hampton pay your respect to his monument in the old burying ground between the windmill and the pond.

In the early days the Montauk Indians were allied with the Pequot Indians of Connecticut. This tribe was often in trouble with the other tribes on the mainland, especially the Narragansets. When this happened they promptly called on the Montauks for help.

In 1653, Ninnigrate, chief of the Narragansets, waged a war with the Long Island tribes which lasted off and on for several years. During this time had it not been for the wisdom of Wyandanch and the help of the people of East Hampton the Montauk Indians would probably have all been wiped out.

In one of these raids led by Ninnigrate, the Narraganset Indians surprised Wyandanch and his family in the midst of a marriage feast for his daughter. Their wigwam was set on fire, their food was stolen and destroyed

and many young Indians killed. Among them was the bridegroom. Worst of all the bride was captured and carried away.

Once again Lion Gardiner proved himself a true friend for he arranged to ransom the daughter of Wyandanch and had her brought back to her people.

In gratitude for this Wyandanch later gave to Lion Gardiner all the land we now know as Smithtown.

On April 10, 1655, Wyandanch gave the people of East Hampton the right to pasture their cattle on Montauk Point for seven years. He also said should the Montauk Indians ever want to sell their precious land they might sell it to East Hampton. This was about 9000 acres, mostly thick woods of white and black oaks with fine springs and fresh ponds.

During the years 1658-59 many Indians died of plague. Wyandanch died at this time, too. It is said he was poisoned. With him went the glory of his tribe. No one knows where Wyandanch lies buried.

His son, Wyancombone, was then nineteen, not old enough to succeed his father as Grand Sachem, so he and his mother, Wichikittawbut, ruled together and she was known as the Sunq Squaw. Lion Gardiner was his guardian and advisor.

In 1662 another and worse plague came among the Indians. The people of East Hampton feared the disease

might spread among them so for a time all Indians were forbidden to enter the town and any white man who went among them was whipped and fined.

In this plague Wyancombone died. He was then 22.

His mother and sister, Quashawam, lived after him. Later Quashawam married a Pequot Chief and had a son whom she named Wyandanch. Shortly after this the old enemy of the Montauks, the Narragansets, began making trouble again. Knowing how weak they had become, the Montauks put themselves under the protection of the people of East Hampton, as they had done more than once since Wyandanch's death and finally sold them their land. The land was dear to them, so dear that it was sold with the agreement that they might one day buy it back.

Long before the white men came, Indians had gone after whales off the South Shore beaches in their dug-out canoes with huge wooden harpoons so they were able to show the newcomers many things about whaling.

At first the white settlers were afraid to trust them with whaling tools.

We read in 1643, Robert Bond, who was a blacksmith in Southampton, was ordered "not to make for Indians any harping irons (harpoons) or fishing irons which are known to be dangerous," however, the white people got bravely over that and the Indians were part of almost every group of whalers and were very skillful.