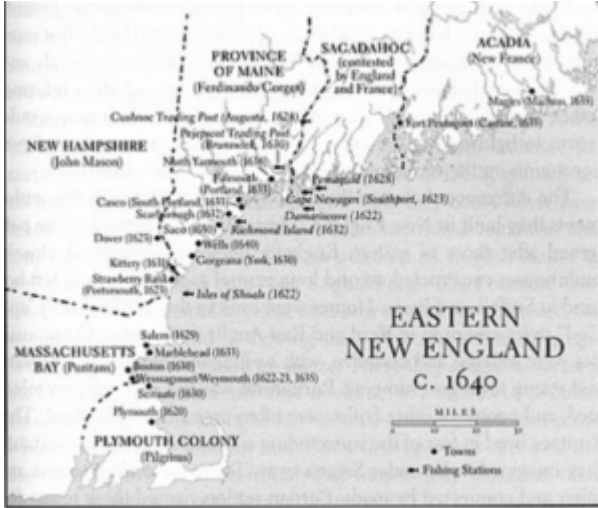


# Samoset and John Brown (Maine)



On July 15, 1625, my 10<sup>th</sup> great paternal grandfather, John Brown of New Harbor, Maine, was the beneficiary of what was likely the first land sale transaction between the Native Americans and the colonists. John Brown was deeded 12,000 acres land on what is known as Pemaquid Point by Samoset, an Eastern Abenaki

([Wabenaki](#)) tribal leader. Questions remain unanswered as to the true authenticity and propriety of the deed.

In 1625, Samoset was at Pemaquid, and sold land to one John Brown, as appears by the following deed :

“To all people whom it may concern, Know ye, that I, Capt. John Somerset and Unangoit, Indian Sagamores, being proper heirs to all the lands on both sides of Muscongus river, have bargained and sold to John Brown, of New Harbor, this certain tract or parcel of land as followeth : that is to say, beginning at Pemaquid Falls and so running a direct course to the head of New Harbour, from thence to the south end of Muscongus Island, taking in the Island, and so running 25 miles into the country north and by east ; and thence 8 miles north west and by west, to Pemaquid where first begun. In witness whereof, I the said Capt. John Somerset, have set our hands and seals July 15, 1625.

Signed and sealed in presence of us,  
MATTHEW NEWMAN,  
Wm. Cox.

CAPT. JOHN SOMERSET, Seal.  
UNANGOIT, Seal.

July 24, 1626, Capt. John Somerset and Unangoit, Indian Sagamores, personally appeared and acknowledged this instrument to be their act and deed, at Pemaquid. Before me,

ABRAHAM SHURT.”

Remarkably, Samoset is believed to be the first Native American to make contact with the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony. According to numerous accounts, on March 16, 1621, Samoset walked into the encampment of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Colony,

saluted them, and announced, “Welcome! Welcome, Englishmen” in English! Samoset had acquired a rudimentary understanding of English from English fishermen and traders along the Maine coast.



Days later Samoset returned with Squanto (Tisquantum), who along with [Massasoit](#), are credited with providing the Pilgrim's knowledge of agricultural and other skills that allowed for their survival.

Additional Resources:

[1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus](#)

[Samoset Biography](#)

[\(John Brown\) The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, Volume 51](#)

***Comments/Reviews Appreciated!***

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