

SARAH ONEPENNY (Wumpane)
1640-1713

Sarah Onepenny the Elder was the daughter of Nquittomaug(Onepenny) and Sepunnamo and the granddaughter of Sowheag, the sachem of Hartford (and the Glastonbury area). Sarah married Pewampskin and had several children: Siana, Nanamaroos, Kickemus, Alice Onepenny, Sarah Onepenny II, and Cushoy. A leader of the Wangunk community, she owned land in Windsor, Middletown, Hartford, and Wetherfield, of which Glastonbury was a part at this time.

In the fall of 1673, Sarah, her father, and sister Hannah conveyed hundreds of acres to authorities in Wethersfield, Connecticut in a transaction known as the “Eastbury Deed”. Native Americans looked at land ownership differently than the Europeans, they did not see it as exclusive but as communal. They allowed other tribes, for example, to hunt on their lands when the deer population was diminished on the other tribe’s lands due to natural circumstances. They saw allowing the use to be a short term arrangement that ran parallel to their own tribe’s use. In the view of the Wangunk’s, land could not be bought or sold. This created controversy when deeds were executed pursuant to the European legal system.

Toward the end of the King Philip's War, Connecticut authorities sent Sarah and her family to Shetucket where they were held for a decade. When they returned to their homeland, she sold land in Windsor in 1686. Six years later, when her cousin, Mary Mcumpas, had a child with an African slave named Mingoe who was the property of Thomas Olmstead, Mary requested to have the child given to Sarah rather than go to Olmstead. Sarah did take on her cousin’s child despite that child being the son of an enslaved person. Upon her death, Sarah instructed her children how to settle her debts by selling off land she owned in Middletown and left her land and personal estate in the South End of Hartford to her grandson, Scipio Two Shoes.

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