

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

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Name of collection:

Gookin, Daniel, "An Historical Account of the Doings and Sufferings of the Christian Indians in New England," 1677

Location:

Octavo volumes "G"

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Size of collection:

1 octavo volume (104 leaves)

N.U.C.M.C. number:

RLIN id:

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Sources of information on collection:

For biographical information see, *Dictionary of American Biography*, vol. 8, p. 417. See also, *Transactions and Collection of AAS*, vol. II, (1836). For information about the original manuscript see, Charles F. Heartman, *Americana: Printed and in Manuscript* (Metuchen, N.J., 1932), p. 35.

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Source of collection:

Gift of Jared Sparks, 1830

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Collection description:

Daniel Gookin (1612-1686/87) emigrated to America from England in 1641, and settled in Cambridge, Mass., in 1648, where he was probably engaged in the inter-colonial coasting trade. He was greatly interested in the welfare of the Indians and in 1656 and again in 1661, he was appointed superintendent of the "praying Indians," (i.e., Christian Indians). His defense of them during the King Philip's War made him extremely unpopular in Massachusetts. In 1681, Gookin was appointed major general of all the militia of the colony. He wrote three books, none of which were published until after his death: "An Historical Account ... of the Christian Indians of New England," *Transactions and Collections of AAS*, vol. II, 1836; "Historical Collections of the Indians in New England," *Massachusetts Historical Society Collections*, I. ser., I, 1792; and a history of New England which has been lost.

This volume is a copy of Gookin's 1677 manuscript, "An Historical Account ... of the Christian Indians in New England," made by Jared Sparks (1789-1866) in 1830. (The original manuscript essay cannot be located.) Gookin writes extensively of the movements and sufferings of the Christian Indians during the King Philip's War, 1675 to 1676. He describes, in great detail, Indian tribes and individuals, the captivity of both Indians and colonists, the savage attacks, verbal and physical, against the Christian Indians, and the efforts made by John Eliot (1604-1690) and Gookin to defend them. He also includes copies of orders of various councils in regard to the fate of the Christian Indians, who were finally exiled to Deer Island. Gookin also includes a copy of a 1677 letter from John Eliot, praising this account, and copies of three 1677 certificates, signed by an army officer and two government officials, praising the loyal efforts of the Christian Indians during the war.

26 February 1976  
revised 2 June 1999