

Sassacus & Uncas

A prelude to the Pequot War

A. The Pequots and the Mohegans

- Two of many tribes in Southeastern New England
- Both interacted with English and Dutch colonizers
- Principal sachems:
 - Mohegan: Owaneco
 - Pequot: Tatobem
- Other key players:
 - Mohegan: Uncas, son of Owaneco
 - Pequot: Sassacus, son of Tatobem

B. Pequot Authority

1626:

- Owaneco arranges for Uncas to marry Tatobem's daughter
- Owaneco dies shortly after
- Balance of power tips toward Pequots

1633: Tatobem captured & killed by Dutch

- Sassacus becomes his successor
- Uncas feels he should be sachem

C. The Rebellion

1634: Uncas rebels against Sassacus

- Has Narragansett support
- Defeated; exiled

1635: Uncas allies with Puritans

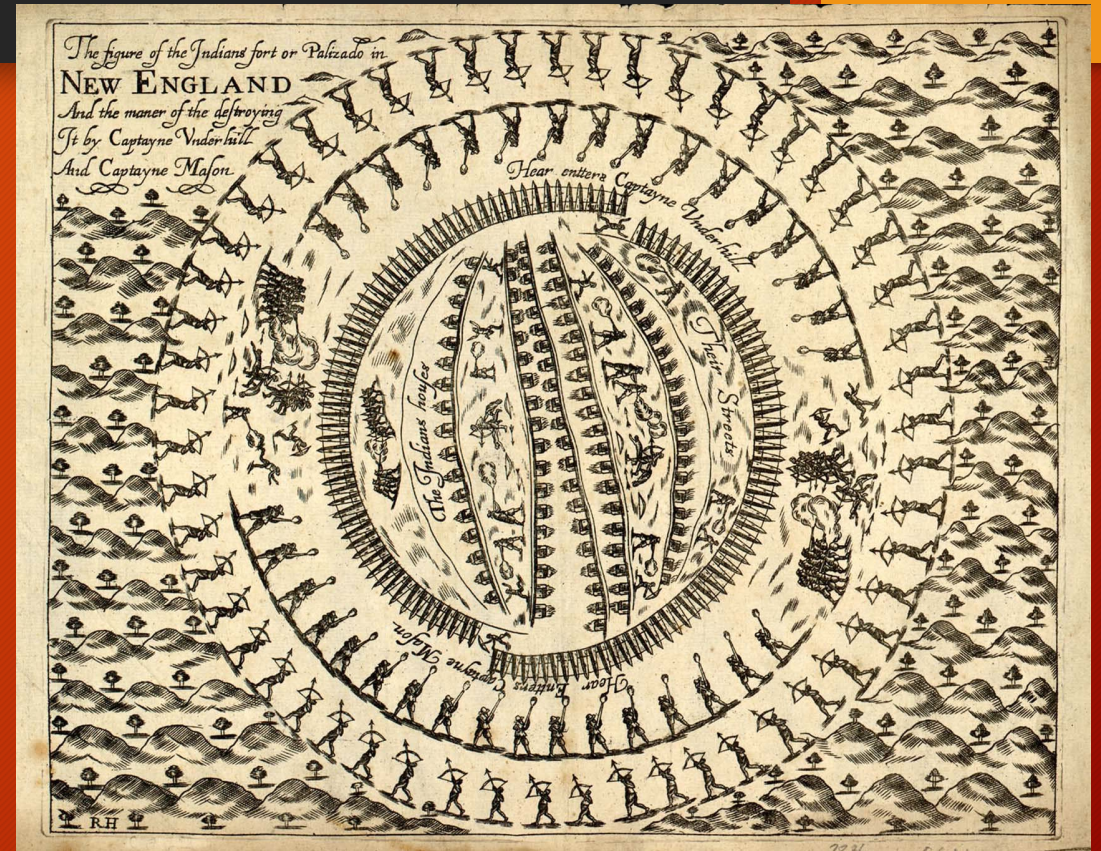
- Relationship with John Mason
- Tells Jonathan Brewster of Sassacus's plans to attack colonists on CT River



Sassacus

D. The Pequot War (1636-1638)

- Uncas allies with New England colonists against the Pequots
- Mohegans participate in British attack against the Pequots near Saybrook and massacre at Mystic
- The result is the genocide of the Pequot people



John Underhill's engraving depicting the Mystic Massacre of 1637

Turn and Talk

Summarize inter-tribal divisions that led to the Pequot War