

New London now is. Others will occur to you. I think of others containing the same destructive idea. Nobska (Woods Hole) and Pe-Nobsk-ut (Penobscot). One is a river - another a headland. Why the difference? We have to deal with many sources of error such as the ignorance of the Explorers in understanding the language of the ~~set~~ Indian. By putting yourself in the shoes of Capt John Smith, as an example, you can see how difficult it would be to know what a red-skin meant by a word, or place name, whether it applied to a limited area or its most prominent attribute. Many of the translations are simply silly. I saw one for Kennebec = he gives thanks! For Portland's early name, Machigonne = clay land! As if clay were destructive of that locality. The Indian had some intelligence and certainly gave names to places that identified them for his purposes.

Many names were given after the whites