

Nov. 30. 1930

Dear Mrs Eckstorm

Sunday being Injun day with me, I proceed accordingly. I have a hill - in York. It is one of the few places in the town that still bear the remnant of a good Algonkian word. The modernized version of it - or rather the clipped version of it for two centuries - is Tonneny Hill - in various spellings. The lazy men called it that, but fortunately some meticulous persons saved what seems to be the whole of it - Wannametonname - which strikes me as a decent thing to do. It rises 220 ft above sea level. Near by it are three fair sized ponds, one of which had the name of Tonneny Pond - in various spellings - now called Scituate Pond from the Scituate man men who settled in York 1640. about a half dozen of them. As far as I can see this word

Wannam | atan | amy
 | eton |

has nothing in it to connote a pond - and does have the generic term for a hill.

I suppose the prefix Wannam or Wannam gives the suggestion of Wanne - signifying beautiful, good, though I fail to see why a hill should be either good or beautiful to do. in the abstract sense. Roger Williams gives Wannam as meaning the use of red paint by the natives, but I am not aware that such material was indigenous on or near that hill. I do not know what they used for decorating themselves - possibly some sort of ferruginous clay or an iron oxide.

It is rather singular that there are so few Indian place names in York. Reddick, Aquamentes, Patrick comprises them all. The real mountain, Aquamentous, did not leave its name for us to wangle its remains, and some names of ~~the~~ rivers were tagged with the name of a rock (Reddick)