



Indigenous Lives in America

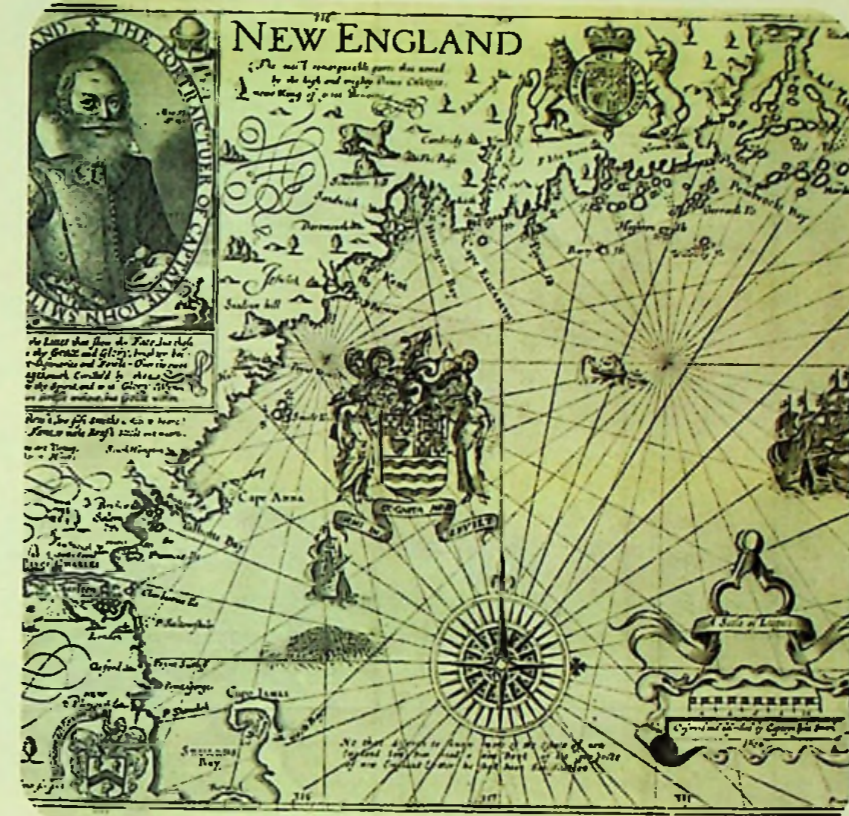
Lydia Vogel

INTRODUCTION

Indigenous lives in America have been threatened since the day Christopher Columbus sailed to this land. From erasure to complete genocide, the colonists that have tainted this country have and continue to steal from the Native Americans. Throughout these cultural products you will see the abuse and neglect Native Americans have gone through since the beginning, and the ways we as a community can help give back to them. With the "Smith Maps" you will see the erasure of native names and land, with the "Landing Pilgrims" you will see the not glamorized point of view of the Natives, the peaceful life before the colonists showed up is displayed in the Wampanaog Village video. On the "Indigenous Peoples' Day" website you will see the harmful existence of Christopher Columbus day, the sharing of Indigenous stories and fighting for equality is shown through the "Warrior Women Project" website. Websites like the Native American Law Blog help keep people up to date on native legal issues, and projects like Living Nations, Living Words give Native Americans the voice they deserve.

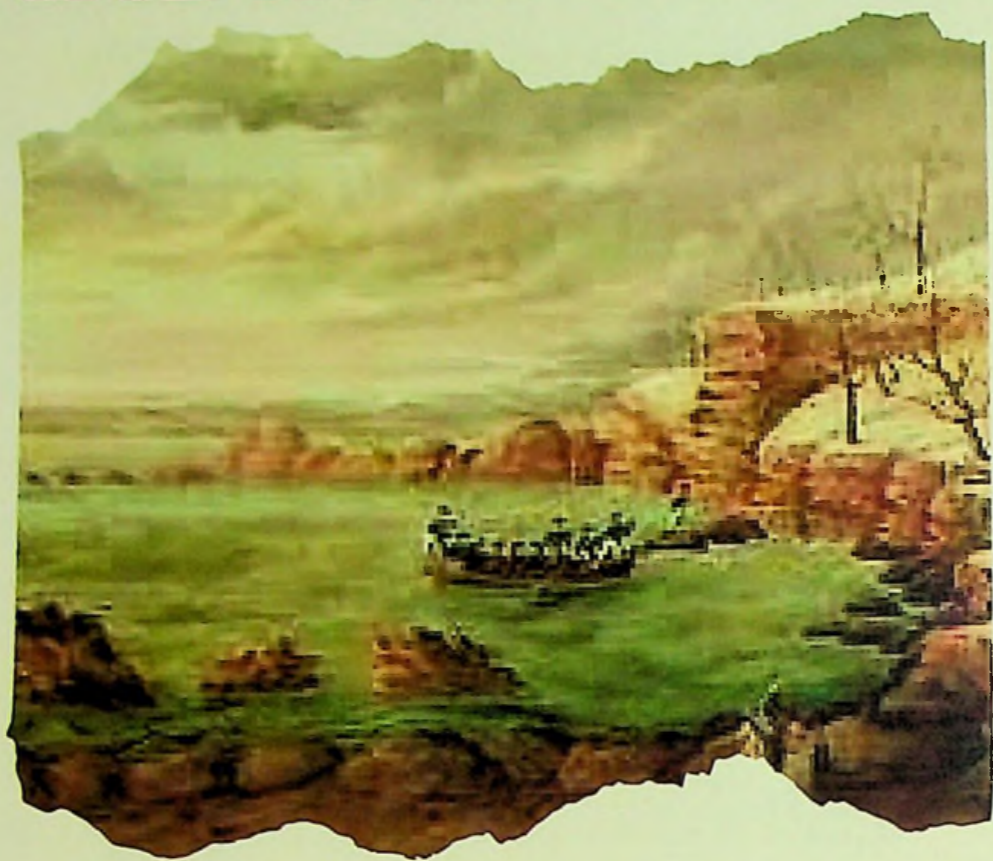


MAPS SMITH



This map shows how much John Smith and the other Englishmen colonized the area. The map shows all the new names for the towns that he enforced, many of which are still seen today in the Boston area. The changing of names took away the original names that the Native Americans have given the areas, completely erasing any trace of them from before the colonists. John Smith had the power, and that is even more obvious since his whole face is drawn onto the corner of the map. This all just further proves that the colonists had the power and the upper hand in this situation.

LANDING PILGRIMS



The fireboard represents America being a new place for white people. I did notice a few things that might suggest that the artist was not trying to glamorize the pilgrims landing. I noticed that the clouds were much darker and storm-like near on the side where the Native Americans are. They also, to me, look frightened when looking at the pilgrims coming in on the boat. This could show us the two perspectives of each side. The pilgrims thinking it is them just building a new life for themselves and discovering 'new' land, and then the reality which is Natives being massacred and pushed from their land, which is depicted in the change from dark to light sky, the barren trees, and the scared look of the Native Americans.

WAMPANAOG VILLAGE

The Wampanaog video showed how Natives lived their day to day lives, what they slept in, how they made it, what the kids did for fun, etc etc. It talked about how the children would learn how to do tasks they would need as adults by practicing with their toys. The girls practicing making clothes and the boys making little boats. However the opposing video on the English village was much more 'war' based. They talked about how to load the guns, and went through the different weapons and armor the men had to use. They also talked about how at the young age of sixteen the men were made to join the militia, it seemed that everything revolved around battle. I believe this is a perfect representation of what the colonists brought to the Natives' land, war and destruction.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

This website goes through changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People's day, and the many reasons why this existing holiday is racist. It is harmful and just plain wrong to have a holiday named after a man who erases the history of the Native Americans who were in America much much longer. Not only that but to have a day to basically celebrate the colonization and genocide of Indigenous people is disrespectful. The website gives different resources and columns that answer common questions people may have regarding the switch, as well as ways to support Native Americans now.

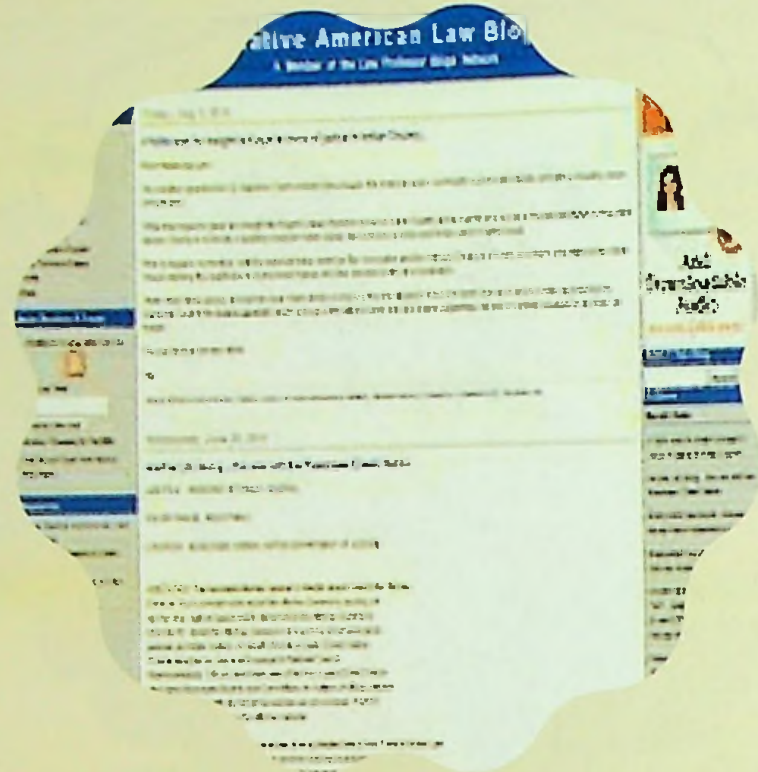


WARRIOR WOMEN PROJECT



The Warrior Women Project is an innovative collaboration of scholarship, media, and grassroots activism that provides a safe place for Indigenous women to tell their stories in their own words for the benefit of the future generations. They recognize women as history makers in their own right and as keepers of their rich cultural traditions. They are committed to ensuring that the stories of these relatives, organizers, activists, thinkers, and community leaders cannot be left absent from the modern history of indigenous peoples. This organization hopes to empower people to fight for liberation as well as to educate their allies.

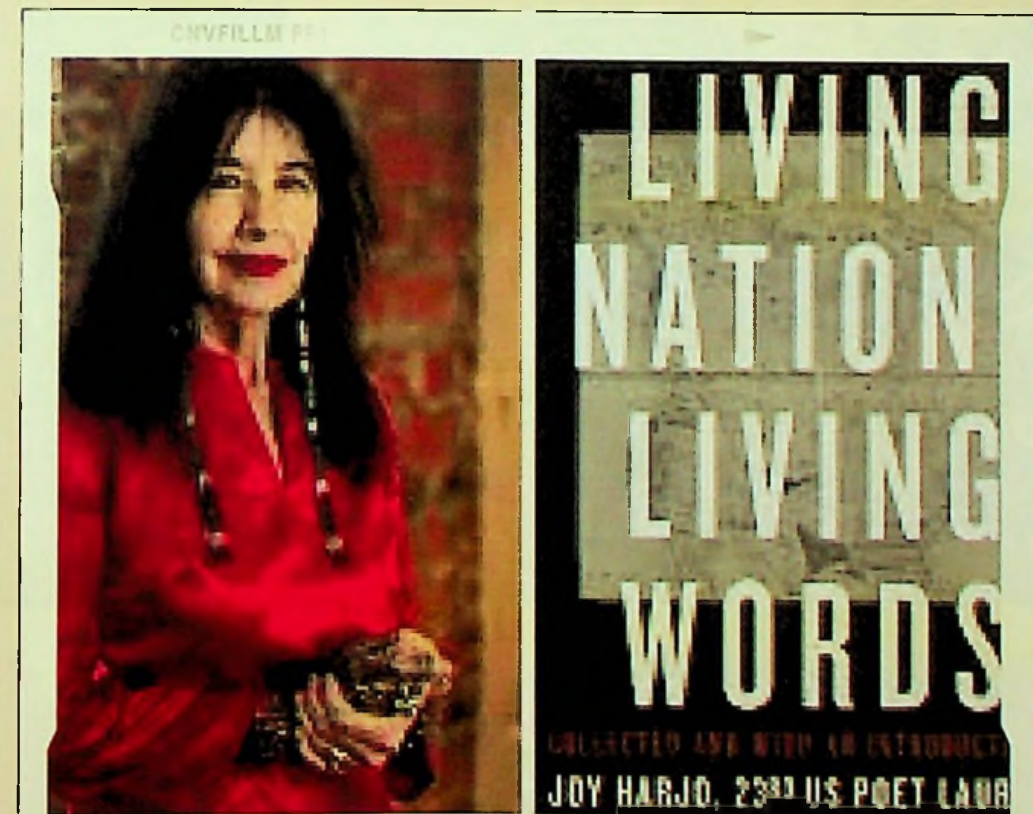
NATIVE AMERICAN LAW BLOG



The Holland & Knight's Native American Law Blog gives detailed understanding as well as an analysis on issues involving the Native American governments and its organizations. This includes Indian tribes, tribal entities, Alaska Native Corporations as well as nonprofits. It is an organized website that makes it easy to stay up to date with the legal issues Native Americans are facing and the unfair treatment they receive. The articles and stories listed in this website give a good understanding to the injustices Indigenous people face on a daily basis.

LIVING NATIONS, LIVING WORDS

This collection contains audio recordings of forty seven contemporary Native American poets reading and discussing an original poem. This collection is part of a much larger project created by the poet Laureate Joy Harjo. The project was just recently created in 2020, and its purpose is to showcase the important and vital voices that Native Americans have within United States poetry. Harjo states that this project shows "poetry [that] emerges from the soul of a community, the heart and lands of the people. In this country, poetry is rooted in the more than 500 living indigenous nations. 'Living Nations, Living Words' is a representative offering."



HOW TO HELP

1. Donate

- https://secure.narf.org/page/64457/donate/1?_ga=2.215186576.627354145.1601584720-1572519401.1601584720
- <https://www.nativewellness.com/>
- <https://www.warriorwomen.org/>

2. Do your research

3. Join Organizations

4. TALK ABOUT IT

5. Write letters to government officials



RESOURCES

- <https://www.loc.gov/collections/living-nations-living-words/about-this-collection/>
- <https://www.warriorwomen.org/>
- <http://www.indigenouspeoplesdayma.org/>
- <https://www.loc.gov/item/lcwaN0004849/>
- <https://www.hklaw.com/en/insights/blogs/native-american-law-blog>