

(4) Proposed Finding Documents

- May 23, 1995

PROPOSED FINDING

GOLDEN HILL PAUGUSSETT TRIBE

May 23, 1995

United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Branch of Acknowledgment and Research

(202) 208-3592

Summary under the Criteria and Evidence for
Proposed Finding Against Federal Acknowledgment
of the
Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe

Prepared in response to a petition
submitted to the Secretary of the
Interior for Federal Acknowledgment that
this group exists as an Indian tribe.

Approved ✓

Ada E. Deer
Ada E. Deer

Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs

GOLDEN HILL PAUGUSSETT TRIBE

PROPOSED FINDING

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INTRODUCTION

This finding has been prepared in response to the petition received by the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs from the Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe seeking Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe under Part 83 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations (25 CFR 83).

This Proposed Finding on the Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe's petition is prepared under the provisions of 25 CFR 83.10(e) of the revised acknowledgment regulations, which became effective March 18, 1994. The applicable section of the regulations provides for case review, prior to active consideration, to ascertain whether "the evidence clearly establishes that the group does not meet the mandatory criteria in paragraphs (e) . . . of Section 83.7 . . ." Paragraph 83.7(e) pertains to the descent of the petitioner from members of a historical American Indian tribe.

The revised regulations require that where there is "little or no evidence that the group can meet the mandatory criteria . . .," the Assistant Secretary shall decline to acknowledge that the petitioner is an Indian tribe (83.10(m)), and publish a proposed finding to that effect in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

The Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe's petition for Federal acknowledgment claims "The Golden Hill Paugussett tribe has existed in the State of Connecticut since time immemorial, and has maintained its autonomy and unity as an American Indian tribe while interacting with non-Indian populations since the colonial period" (Golden Hill Petition Historical Narrative, 5). The ancestry claimed was presented by the petitioner with a list of current members following the narrative, a volume of pedigree charts, a revised volume of pedigree charts, an electronic disk with a computer software program containing names and documentation of ancestry, a residence analysis through periods of time, and another membership list, including addresses.

Government researchers found that the claims of the Golden Hill petition to Indian tribal ancestry were not valid. The documents did not support the claims.

The problems with the tribal ancestry claimed by the petitioner fall into the following major categories:

- (1) The petitioner's single common ancestor, William Sherman, has not been documented conclusively to have Indian ancestry from the historic Golden Hill.

Paugussett Tribe or from any other historic Indian Tribe; and

- (2) Even if William Sherman were shown to have Indian ancestry from either the historic Golden Hill Paugussett or from any other historic Indian tribe, the present group would be descended from a single Indian individual. It, therefore, would not meet the requirements of criterion e, which requires ancestry as a tribe, not simply Indian ancestry.

A substantial body of documentation was available on the petitioning group and their individual ancestors. This extensive evidence does not demonstrate either the Indian tribal ancestry claimed in the petition or other Indian tribal ancestry.

Applicable Regulations

Part 83 establishes procedures by which unrecognized Indian groups may seek Federal acknowledgment of an existing government-to-government relationship with the United States. To be entitled to such a political relationship with the United States, the petitioner must submit documentary evidence that the group meets the seven criteria set forth in Section 83.7 of 25 CFR, "Procedures for Establishing That an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe; Final Rule," as published in the FEDERAL REGISTER February 25, 1994. The acknowledgment regulations require that all seven mandatory requirements under 83.7 be met in order for a petitioner to be acknowledged. Section 83.10 (m) states:

The Assistant Secretary shall acknowledge the existence of the petitioner as an Indian tribe when it is determined that the group satisfies all of the criteria in §83.7. The Assistant Secretary shall decline to acknowledge that a petitioner is an Indian tribe if it fails to satisfy any one of the criteria in §83.7. (emphases added)

This proposed finding on the Golden Hill Paugussett petition has been prepared under the provisions of 25 CFR 83.10(c) of the revised acknowledgment regulations, which became effective March 28, 1994. The applicable section of the regulations reads:

83.10(e) Prior to active consideration, the Assistant Secretary shall investigate any petitioner whose documented petition and response to the technical review letter indicates that

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there is little or no evidence that establishes that the group can meet the mandatory criteria in paragraphs (e), (f) or (g) of Section §83.7.

(1) If this review finds that the evidence clearly establishes that the group does not meet the mandatory criteria in paragraphs (e), (f) or (g) of Section §83.7, a full consideration of the documented petition under all seven of the mandatory criteria will not be undertaken pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section. Rather, the Assistant Secretary shall instead decline to acknowledge that the petitioner is an Indian tribe and publish a proposed finding to that effect in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The periods for receipt of comments on the proposed finding from petitioners, interested parties and informed parties, for consideration of comments received, and for publication of a final determination regarding the petitioner's status shall follow the timetables established in paragraphs (h) through (l) of this section.

(2) If the review cannot clearly demonstrate that the group does not meet one or more of the mandatory criteria in paragraphs (e), (f) or (g) of Section §83.7, a full evaluation of the documented petition under all seven of the mandatory criteria shall be undertaken during active consideration of the documented petition pursuant to paragraph (g) of this section (Federal Register, February 25, 1994, 9297).

The section requires evidence, apparent on a preliminary review, that clearly establishes one of the three named criteria is not met. The section further provides that, absent such evidence, the petition will be reviewed under the regular process. Several requirements are included to ensure fairness to the petitioner. First, the limited evaluation occurs only after the petitioner has had the opportunity to respond to the technical assistance review. Second, a proposed finding under this section will still be subject to the comment process before a final determination is issued. Finally, the petitioner will also have the opportunity to request reconsideration under §83.11.

This proposed finding is subject to the same deadlines and procedures as any other proposed finding. Commentors may

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comment on any aspect of the finding or the history and character of the Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe. In the event that comments submitted demonstrate that the petitioner meets the requirements of criterion 83.7(e), the Assistant Secretary has the authority under sections 83.10(a) and 83.10(1)(1) to conduct such additional research and request from the petitioner and commenting parties such information as is necessary to supplement the record concerning the other criteria and evaluate the petitioner under those criteria.

Publication of the Assistant Secretary's proposed finding in the FEDERAL REGISTER initiates a 180-day period for comments in response to the proposed finding (83.10(i)-(k)). During the response period, factual and/or legal arguments and evidence to rebut or support the arguments and evidence relied upon may be submitted by the petitioner and any interested or informed party. Such evidence should be submitted in writing to the Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240, Attention: Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, Mail Stop 2611-MIB. Third parties must simultaneously supply copies of their comments to the petitioner in order for the comments to be considered by the Department.

During the response period, the Assistant Secretary shall provide technical advice concerning the proposed finding and shall make available to the petitioner in a timely fashion any records used for the proposed finding not already held by the petitioner, to the extent allowable by Federal law (83.10(j)(1)).

In addition, the Assistant Secretary shall, if requested by the petitioner or any interested party, hold a formal meeting for the purpose of inquiring into the reasoning, analyses, and factual bases for the proposed finding. The proceedings of this meeting shall be on the record. The meeting record shall be available to any participating party and become part of the record considered by the Assistant Secretary in reaching a final determination (83.10(j)(2)).

If interested or informed party submissions are received during the regular response period, the petitioner shall have a minimum of 60 days to respond to these submissions. This period may be extended at the Assistant Secretary's discretion if warranted by the nature and extent of the comments (83.20(k)).

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The 180-day response period applies to the petitioner as well as interested or informed parties. However, if interested or informed party comments are received, the petitioner may opt to submit its comments on the proposed finding together with responses to interested or informed parties during the petitioner's response period.

At the end of the response periods for comment on a proposed finding, the Assistant Secretary shall consider the written arguments and evidence submitted during the response period and issue a final determination. The Assistant Secretary may conduct any necessary additional research and may request additional information from the petitioner and commenting parties. The Assistant Secretary shall consult with the petitioner and interested parties to determine an equitable timeframe for preparation of the final determination and notify the petitioner and interested parties of the date such consideration begins. A summary of the final determination will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER within 60 days from the date on which the consideration of the written arguments and evidence rebutting or supporting the proposed finding begins. This determination will become effective 90 days from its date of publication unless a request for reconsideration is filed pursuant to 83.11.

If the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs declines to acknowledge the petitioner, the Assistant Secretary will analyze and forward to the petitioner other options, if any, under which the petitioner might make application for services or other benefits.

Administrative History

The Golden Hill Paugussetts' letter of intent to petition for Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe was in the form of a letter signed by Aurelius Piper for the tribal council dated April 8, 1982. This letter was received by the Branch of Acknowledgment and Research (hereafter BAR) on April 13, 1982. In accordance with the regulations, notice was sent to the Governor of Connecticut and Attorney General of Connecticut on May 24, 1982. The petitioner was assigned priority #81. Notice was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on June 22, 1982, and in the Trumbull Times newspaper on August 5, 1982.

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The group submitted historical materials received by BAR on October 22, 1986, but the materials were not sufficient to be considered a documented petition. BAR received the group's documented petition on April 12, 1993. More documentation arrived on June 18, 1993, July 27, 1993, and August 12, 1993. After an initial review of all of the materials, BAR responded with an obvious deficiency review letter on August 26, 1993.

The group submitted responses to the obvious deficiency review letter. They were received by BAR on April 1, 1994; July 24, 1994; and July 27, 1994, with a request for a technical assistance review of the materials submitted. (The term "obvious deficiency" had been replaced by "technical assistance" review under the regulations effective March 1994 (83.10(b)(c).) BAR responded with a technical assistance review letter on October 19, 1994. The group submitted a documented response to the technical assistance review, received by BAR on November 15, 1994, with a letter requesting to be placed on active consideration. On November 21, 1994, the petition was declared "ready" and was placed on the waiting list for active consideration.

Petitioners are transferred to active consideration status on the basis of the date upon which their petition is declared by BAR to be ready for active consideration. At the time when the Golden Hill petition was placed on the waiting list, they were assigned #6, and have since moved to #5. The petitioner has continued to submit supplementary materials for the petition. All supplements have been accepted as part of the working file and included with the petition material.

Throughout this period, BAR received many letters and cards as the result of several letter-writing campaigns in support of the petition. The City of Waterbury submitted letters and signed petitions in favor of the Golden Hill petition. Signed petitions in support were also submitted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). BAR also received signed petitions in opposition to the Golden Hill petition from homeowners of Seymour, Connecticut. Connecticut Homeowners Held Hostage (CHHH) submitted documented historical and genealogical comments in opposition to the Golden Hill petition in April 1994, June 1994, and December 1994. Many technical assistance meetings were held with the Golden Hill petitioner's researchers and members at the Washington, D.C. offices of BAR.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND/OR ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT

- BAR = Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, Bureau of Indian Affairs (Evaluator of the Petition)
- CHHH = Connecticut Homeowners Held Hostage (A group of homeowners in opposition to the Golden Hill petition)
- Colony = Connecticut form of government prior to the establishment of statehood
- GHPet Resp = Golden Hill Petition Response to the obvious deficiency review
- NAACP = National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

SUMMARY UNDER THE CRITERIA

Summary Evaluation under Criterion 83.7(e)

Evidence submitted by the Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe, evidence submitted by Connecticut Homeowners Held Hostage (CHHH), as well as evidence obtained through independent research by BIA staff, demonstrate that the petitioner does not meet criterion 83.7(e) required for Federal acknowledgment. In accordance with the regulations set forth in 25 CFR 83, failure to meet any one of the seven criteria requires a determination that the group does not exist as an Indian tribe within the meaning of Federal law.

This proposed finding is based on available evidence, and, as such, does not preclude the submission of other evidence to the contrary during the 180-day comment period which follows publication of this finding. Such new evidence may result in a change in the conclusions reached in the proposed finding, resulting in a full review of the Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe's petition under all seven criteria prior to the final determination. The final determination, which will be published separately after the receipt of the comments, will be based on any new evidence submitted in response to the proposed finding and the original evidence used in formulating the proposed finding.

In the summary of evidence which follows, according to the procedures established under section 83.10(e) of the regulations, only criterion 83.7(e) is considered. A summary of the evidence relied upon follows the analysis under the criterion. The summary statement is followed by the Technical Report, which is not a full historical or anthropological analysis, but provides only enough historical and community background to permit the reader to understand the context of the genealogical discussion under criterion 83.10(e).

Requirements

Criterion 83.7(e) reads:

- 83.7(e)** The petitioner's membership consists of individuals who descend from a historical Indian tribe or from historical Indian tribes which combined and functioned as a single autonomous political entity.

Summary Under the Criteria -- Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe

The Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe's petition for Federal acknowledgment claims that "The Golden Hill Paugussett tribe has existed in the State of Connecticut since time immemorial, and has maintained its autonomy and unity as an American Indian tribe while interacting with non-Indian populations since the colonial period" (Golden Hill Petition Historical Narrative, 5). Based on an examination of the petition, this claim was found to be invalid. Though a once powerful Paugussett tribe existed in the Colony of Connecticut, by the time Connecticut became a State within the United States, the tribal entity had been dispersed and fragmented, with one family remaining on land set aside for the tribe. Because of this fact and the lack of documentation that the petitioner's membership descends from the one family that remained, this finding on the Golden Hill Paugussett petition has been prepared under the provisions of 25 CFR 83.10(e)(1). Based upon a review of all materials submitted from all sources, and especially those submitted by the petitioner, the following analysis presents the major conclusions.

In order to meet criterion 83.7(e), the petitioner must demonstrate Indian ancestry through descent from a historical tribe, or from tribes which combined and functioned as a single entity. When documenting descent from members of the historical tribe or tribes, the petitioner must show that:

- (1) the person claimed as an Indian ancestor was of Indian descent from a particular tribe; and
- (2) Indian descent must be derived from more than one Indian person. Ancestry from an individual Indian does not qualify as "single autonomous political entity" as required by 25 CFR 83.7(e)(1).

BASIC CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation of all materials found that:

- (1) the Golden Hill petitioner's ancestor in the 19th-century, from whom all present-day membership claim to descend, William Sherman, has not been conclusively documented to be a descendant of the historic Paugussett, Pequannock or any other Indian tribe; nor, more specifically, from the one Indian family that remained in 1769 upon the land set aside for the Golden Hill Indians; and

Summary Under the Criteria -- Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe

- (2) one ancestor does not meet the requirements of 25 CFR 83.7(e). Golden Hill petitioners claim descent from only one 19th-century ancestor, William Sherman.

In addition, the tribal entity of the claimed historic tribe presents a major problem concerning continuous existence because:

- (1) the claimed historic tribe that was living on land set aside for the tribe had only one family remaining as early as 1765, suggesting that the tribal entity had dissolved; and
- (2) a Paugussett/Pequanock reservation existed from 1659 until 1802 in the towns of Fairfield and Stratford, Connecticut, but was sold. The present reservation was not established until 1933, and has been used by only one person or family at any time since its establishment.

Methodology

In the evaluation of genealogical claims of the Golden Hill petition, primary source materials utilized were the same type as normally available: Federal census records, vital records from towns in New York and Connecticut, burial and cemetery records, and Connecticut State and Colonial records. Secondary source materials included county, city and family histories, and personal records. Personal records, such as a family Bible and a diary/account book submitted by the petitioner, were also considered.

Each source was examined carefully to identify individuals, and to acquire clues to help substantiate the petitioner's claims. No specific Indian records created by the Federal Government's Office of Indian Affairs were found that applied to the petitioner's family before the 20th century. Neither the petitioner's ancestor, William Sherman, nor his family, were ever listed on the special Indian Federal census schedules, nor listed with other Indians on a census identifying them as an Indian group. Vital records gave few clues pertaining to the Golden Hill ancestral family's claim to be Indian. This identity did not appear until 1886, when William Sherman was identified as a Golden Hill Indian, and then it was referenced to a secondary source.

Connecticut State and Colonial records, such as the collected and microfilmed "Indian Papers" were valuable

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resource materials on the historic Pequannock tribe and provided clues to petitioner's descendancy, but recorded events only prior to 1850. Overseer reports on Connecticut Indians added information, but were very incomplete.

The city, county, and personal histories that recorded incidents and genealogies of the petitioner's claimed ancestors tended to quote one another, sometimes inaccurately. Few contained cites for their sources, making it difficult to verify information. Those authors who did cite their sources were seen as more credible by evaluators when the source materials were available and verified.

The family Bible and diary/account book, both used as documentation by the petitioner, while useful, never identified anyone as Indian. In addition, while both were attributed to the ancestor, William Sherman, from whom all present-day membership descend, events that transpired years after his death were recorded in both books, which caused questions of their provenience. The diary/account book had many pages and partial pages cut out, causing many questions to arise in the minds of evaluators concerning its overall credibility.

Many surveys were completed of both the primary and secondary source materials, as well as the personal family documents. Documentation of the sources by BIA researchers provided a more complete picture of the petitioner's ancestors. The finding is based upon all of this documentation.

Specific Examples

Ancestor not documented as Indian. William Sherman (1825-1886) was the ancestor from whom all of the present-day Golden Hill membership descend. The first documents clearly identifying the William Sherman who was the Golden Hill petitioner's ancestor were seaman records that did not identify him as "Indian," even when the records identified other seamen as "Indian". His marriage record did not identify him as "Indian," and he was not married according to Indian custom, nor to another Indian. In the 1870 Federal census, the children listed with him were listed as Indian. His designation on the census was marked over, making even the original document at the National Archives illegible. His wife was always listed on documents as "black" or "negro." Though the children that were listed with him in the 1870 census were identified in birth

Summary Under the Criteria -- Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe records, the birth records do not list William Sherman as "Indian," but as "white," "colored," "Black," or "Negro," depending on the record.

William Sherman did not associate with other known Indians either in or out of the State of Connecticut. He voted and owned land in the State of Connecticut, when other Indians could not without a special act of the Assembly. He was not known by the community as "Indian" until a county history recorded that William Sherman was "claimant" to the Golden Hill funds. No birth record was found to document his parentage, and no document generated by him listed familial relationships. A city history published prior to his death attempted a William Sherman genealogy. Though plagued with errors, the genealogy was often quoted for 100 years, perpetuating the errors.

BIA researchers located no conclusive documentation that William Sherman had Indian ancestry.

Descent from one ancestor. The Golden Hill Paugussett petitioners claim that their Indian ancestry derived from William Sherman. A few years prior to William Sherman's birth, a list of known Golden Hill living members was made by a committee of the General Assembly of Connecticut. Only nine members were identified. It was the last list of Golden Hill "heirs" made or requested by the State of Connecticut. Little interaction among those nine persons was evidenced in their lives. The researchers from Golden Hill traced as many of the nine as could be documented in the 19th century. The results illustrated individuals moving throughout the State, none in close proximity to each other nor to be associating with each other. No descendants of the nine people are documented to be in the present membership of the petitioning group.

Descent from one ancestor is insufficient to claim Indian tribal ancestry for Federal recognition purposes. There was no documentation nor claims made by the Golden Hill Paugussett petition to any other than one ancestor, William Sherman.

In addition to ancestry, the BIA researchers evaluated the Golden Hill Paugussett claims to being a tribal entity (descended from an historic tribe) and to having a continuous land base. Neither claim was documented to be valid.

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Tribal entity. The Paugussett/Pequanock tribe contained an estimated 300-400 persons in 1659 when land was set aside for them, but by 1763, only one family remained on this land. Several non-Indian persons tore down the one wigwam left and chased its inhabitants off the land. A petition of re-dress to the Colonial Assembly the following year initiated a committee to investigate the allegation. The 1769 report and petition are recorded in the Connecticut State Papers. They clearly show only one "Pequanock" family remaining on the land when the incident had occurred. No mention was made of associated individuals or where they might have been.

The Connecticut "Indian Papers" continued to document that the descendants of that one family sold their land in 1802 and moved into non-Indian communities. Some "guardian" documents exist to show that the proceeds of the land sale in 1802 set up funds from which necessities were provided to beneficiaries of the fund. The documents concerning the fund originated from the probate courts, unlike the county superior courts which were depositories for documents pertaining to other Connecticut Indian groups.

Individuals received a variety of services from the fund set up in 1802, and these services were recorded in State records sporadically throughout the first half of the 19th century. Some individuals requested their portion of the funds be put into individual land for them, and had to petition the Connecticut General Assembly for that purpose. Other individuals made no claims on the fund. The fund seemed to have remained in existence until at least 1876, when the petitioners' common ancestor, William Sherman, borrowed money from it to build a house. He signed a promissory note that included payment of interest on the loan. Only individuals, not groups, petitioned for use of the money from time to time for necessities. Only a few of those who would be considered "heirs" claimed rights to it. The fund was not used to meet the needs of a tribe, only individuals who requested money for their individual use.

There were other descendants of the original Paugussett/Pequanock tribe who lived in Connecticut. Both Golden Hill and BIA researchers have identified many individuals who were descended from the original Shoran family, who were the original heirs to the Paugussett/Pequanock tribe. (Eunice Shoran married Tom Sherman, Sr.) They have either assimilated into non-Indian society, or assimilated into other tribes. Thus, even if William Sherman had been documented to be a descendant of the Ruby Mansfield or Nancy Sharpe, alias Pease, this would not document that the

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petitioner has tribal ancestry from the original Paugussett/Pequanock tribe under 25 CFR 83.7(e).

Criterion e is one of the criteria which are intended to insure continuous existence as a tribal body. Descent from a single Indian ancestor does not meet this requirement. No record exists that the historic Paugussett/Pequanock tribe maintained tribal relations after 1764.

Sporadic land base. From 1659 until 1765, the plantations that would become the cities of Fairfield and Stratford set aside land for the Paugussett/Pequanock tribe. When citizens of those towns pulled down the wigwam and dispersed its inhabitants in or about 1763, the one family that was left was awarded two parcels of land. By 1797, only the "heirs" remained, and they were living on only one portion of the land. The land was in an enviable location for development. By 1802, the five remaining adult "heirs" petitioned the General Assembly to sell the land so they might live off the interest from the money. This was enacted, and sporadic documentation of disbursements to individuals was recorded within the probate courts of Fairfield County. No State reservation land existed after 1802.

In 1841, two women, Ruby Mansfield and Nancy Sharpe, alias Pease, petitioned the General Assembly for land upon which to live and raise their families, to be purchased from that fund. This was done, but the land was sold again in 1851. In 1876, William Sherman, the ancestor of the petitioner, borrowed money from the fund resulting from the 1802 sale of the land, as well as from the proceeds of the the sale of the Mansfield/Sharpe home in 1851. William Sherman borrowed money, using a promissory note that included payment of interest, to build a home on his land that he had purchased as an individual. Notes of persons not identified as Indians were also documented in the records of the fund. In 1886, after being identified by a very popular county history as an "heir" to the Golden Hill Indian fund, William Sherman transferred, by quit claim deed for a one dollar remuneration, his land and its buildings to the man who later became the overseer of the Golden Hill fund.

William Sherman died in 1886. One family, or sometimes one person, remained on the land hence. In 1933, a descendant of William Sherman petitioned the Superior Court of Fairfield County to have the William Sherman land taken into trust by the State of Connecticut as an Indian Reservation. Thus, there was no reservation or land base from 1802 until 1841, and from 1849 until 1933.

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Though Federal acknowledgment does not require a land base for the petitioners as part of the Federal Acknowledgment Process (FAP), the history of this particular piece of property shows that it was associated with a single family line, and not used by all of William Sherman's descendants.

Conclusions

The Golden Hill Paugussett petitioner has not conclusively documented Indian ancestry from the Paugussett, Pequanoek or any other Indian tribe. In addition, even if Indian ancestry had been documented, the petitioner's claimed ancestry from a single individual does not meet the mandatory criteria. The once numerous Paugussett/Pequanoek tribe had only one family on the land set aside for it in 1765, and no other tribal entity is associated with them after that date.

Prior to active consideration, Federal law requires the Assistant Secretary to investigate any petitioner whose documented petition and response to the technical assistance review letter indicates that there is little or no evidence that establishes that the group can meet the mandatory criteria in paragraphs (e), (f) or (g) of criterion 83.7 (25 CFR 83.10(e)). Federal law also requires that the "Assistant Secretary shall decline to acknowledge that a petitioner is an Indian tribe if it fails to satisfy any one of the criteria in §83.7" (25 CFR 83.10 (m)).

The available documentation concerning this group was extensive, and it failed to verify Indian ancestry. The documentation did show that the petitioners descend from a single individual who has not been conclusively documented to have Indian ancestry. We conclude from this documentation that the Golden Hill Paugussett petitioner clearly does not meet the requirements of criterion 83.7(e).

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GOLDEN HILL PAUGUSSETT TRIBE

INTRODUCTION

The Federal acknowledgment process (hereafter cited as FAP) was established in 1978 to acknowledge those Indian tribes which possess a government-to-government relationship with the United States. The regulations, found in 25 CFR Part 83, require that petitioning groups wishing acknowledgment of this government-to-government relationship meet seven mandatory criteria. One of those criteria is found in section 83.7(e):

- 83.7(e) The petitioner's membership consists of individuals who descend from a historical Indian tribe or from historical Indian tribes which combined and functioned as a single autonomous political entity.

Criterion "e" calls for descent from a historic tribe (or tribes which combined into a single political unit). This criterion is one of the criteria that together establish that a petitioner has continually existed as a tribe. The criterion requires descent of the petitioner from a historic tribal group(s), not simply "Indian" ancestry.

Descent from a single person, even if that individual was a member of a tribe, does not meet the requirements of criterion 83.7 (e). Descent from a single member generally means that the ancestor, or that ancestor's descendants, separated from the tribe. Thus, there is no continuity between the tribe of origin and those individual descendants.

The present petitioner rejects the requirement of descent from a continuous tribal group. The Golden Hill Paugussett Response to the Branch of Acknowledgment and Research (hereafter cited as BAR) obvious deficiency review claims that "as long as one inch of Paugussett land exists, as long as one Paugussett heart beats, the Golden Hill Paugussett tribe lives on" (Golden Hill Petition Response (hereafter cited as GHPet Response), Historical Narrative, Appendix II, 1994, 2). The Response goes on to state:

Since its first contact with Europeans, seventeenth century to this day, the Golden Hill

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Paugussett Tribe has been continuously identified as "American Indian" or "Aboriginal" ... There has never been a time when the Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe has not existed in what later became known as the State of Connecticut" (GHPet Response, Historical Narrative, Appendix II, 1994, 3).

However, the definition of a tribe presented in the above passage is not the definition of a tribe used for FAP purposes under 25 CFR Part 83. Available documents show that there was a Paugussett Indian tribe from the State of Connecticut in the seventeenth century until 1765. However, the Golden Hill petition documentation has failed to provide evidence to substantiate its claims that the Paugussett tribe continued to exist after the year 1765.

FAP is not intended to recognize individuals or even extended families of Indian descent, without ongoing tribal entity. The Golden Hill group has twice been reduced to one family, and there is little evidence to indicate that the second, later, single family grouping descends from the mid-18th century family.

The individuals listed on the membership rolls submitted to BAR have not been proven to descend from the historic Paugussett Indian Tribe or any other Indian tribe that has continued to exist from the period of first contact with non-Indian settlers.

The areas in which the petition has failed to provide conclusive evidence include:

(1) Descent

The present-day membership descends from one family, that of William Sherman and his wife, Nancy (Hopkins). Neither William nor Nancy Sherman has been proven to descend from the historic Paugussett Indian Tribe.

(2) Continuity

(a) Tribal relations require a functioning political entity in which there exists communication, leaders and followers. There are major periods of time (1803 to 1865; 1885 to 1933; and 1940 to 1974) in which no such entity has been shown to exist for the Golden Hill petitioners and their ancestors. As a result, the Golden Hill heirs were not a tribe.

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(b) The land base provided by the State of Connecticut for the Golden Hill Paugussett/Pequanock tribe was sold in 1802. No other tribal land base had been established until the Colchester reservation was established only a few years ago. Two individuals petitioned and received individual property until 1853 when it was sold. In 1933, the present-day 1/4 acre was declared Connecticut Indian trust land, and one family lived upon it. However, Connecticut did not necessarily consider them a tribe after 1765, nor was the land considered a state reservation until at least 1933.

The dispersed heirs of Golden Hill money derived from the 1802 sale of land, had no land base during the 19th century.

BAR has prepared this technical report based on the absence of positive evidence and the negative evidence presented concerning the Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe petition under provisions of 25 CFR 83.10 (e).¹

¹ Applicable section of the regulations.

Section 83.10(e)

(e) Prior to active consideration, the Assistant Secretary shall investigate any petitioner whose documented petition and response to the technical assistance review letter indicates that there is little or no evidence that establishes that the group can meet the mandatory criteria in paragraphs (e), (f) or (g) of Section 83.7.

(1) If the review finds that the evidence clearly establishes that the group does not meet the mandatory criteria in paragraphs (e), (f), or (g) of Section 83.7, a full consideration of the documented petition under all seven of the mandatory criteria will not be undertaken pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section. Rather, the Assistant Secretary shall instead decline to acknowledge that the petitioner is an Indian tribe and publish a proposed finding to that effect in the Federal Register. The periods for receipt of the comments on the proposed finding from petitioners, interested parties and informed parties, for consideration of comments received, and for publication of a final determination regarding the petitioner's status shall follow the timetables established in paragraphs (h) through (l) of this section.

(2) If the review cannot clearly demonstrate that the group does not meet one or more of the mandatory criteria in paragraphs (e), (f) or (g) of 83.7, a full evaluation of the documented petition under all seven of the mandatory criteria shall be undertaken during active consideration of the documented petition

TECHNICAL REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH

The State of Connecticut has an abundance of recorded dealings with its inhabitants, both Indian and non-Indian. At least three groups of researchers have scoured the repositories for records concerning members of the Golden Hill group. First, the Golden Hill petitioners have submitted the petition, a "Response to the Obvious Deficiency Letter," a response to a Technical Review letter², and several addenda to the petition. They have been extremely cooperative with BAR researchers in trying to locate specific documents. Second, the group called Connecticut Homeowners Held Hostage (hereafter cited as CHHH), who oppose Golden Hill recognition, have submitted "Points of Contention to the Petition by the Golden Hill Paugussett Indians for Federal Tribal Acknowledgment." CHHH also submitted a genealogical supplement. Then, in response to the Golden Hill responses, CHHH submitted another "Supplement B" and "Genealogical Supplement B." Lastly, a BAR researcher searched various Connecticut towns' records and the Connecticut State Archives.

In addition to the many vital records researched from Connecticut towns' archives and the U. S. Census returns, several other records were extensively used to evaluate the petitioner's claims:

- (1) Indian Papers, microfilmed by the Connecticut State Archives
- (2) Connecticut Guardian and Overseer Reports

pursuant to paragraph (g) of this section.

²In February of 1994, revised regulations for the FAP were adopted. Under the original regulations, reviews of the petition materials were called obvious deficiency letters, for the reports were sent by mail to the petitioners. According to the revised regulations, these reports were hereafter labeled technical assistance reviews. Golden Hill submitted the first response to the "obvious deficiency letter." By the time further submissions were made by them, the technical assistance review language was in place, and thus, when they received a second "obvious deficiency letter" at their request, it was called a "technical assistance review."

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- (3) History of the Indians of Connecticut by John W. DeForest (1851)
- (4) History of Fairfield County, Connecticut by D. Hamilton Hurd (1881)
- (5) The History of the Old Town of Derby, Connecticut by Samuel Orcutt and Dr. Ambrose Beardsley, M.D. (1880)
- (6) A History of the Old Town of Stratford and the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut by Rev. Samuel Orcutt (1886)
- (6) The diary/account book of William Sherman submitted by the petitioner

Extensive research has been conducted. The researchers located numerous documents. All materials from all sources were used by BAR researchers, who compiled the available information about the petitioner's claims, and analyzed their case.

CONNECTICUT

An explanation of Connecticut Indian Policy is helpful in understanding the total picture of the Golden Hill petitioners and their problems of familial descendency. In the seventeenth century, Connecticut accepted the common-law legal premise that land ownership was a right of all free, adult, male, British-born settlers in a British colony. Neither indentured servants nor aliens had this right to ownership. Limits concerning land ownership were also placed on minors and married women. The English settlers' desire for land created problems for the aboriginals.

The historic Paugussetts, as well as the other Connecticut Indians, found themselves subjugated to the colonial government. Treaty after treaty, followed by land transactions, signed by leaders of the Indian communities, show the dispersal of people and disbursement of lands. The first petition to the General Assembly of Connecticut by Indian groups was recorded in 1647. These treaties, documents and petitions are available on microfilm from the

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Connecticut State Archives, labeled "Indians," and are referenced as "Indian Papers" (hereafter cited as IP)³.

The Indian Papers illustrate the legal acts that resulted from petitions to the General Assembly, as well as the reports of persons appointed by the state to watch over the legal and financial affairs of Connecticut Indians. The Indian Papers also include Connecticut Indian policy during the 18th and 19th centuries, allowing researchers to view the State's relationship to the Paugussetts and other Connecticut Indians.

Although the following discussion concerns only the claimed ancestry of the Golden Hill petitioner, a similar picture could be drawn for all Connecticut Indians prior to 1800. Several tribes petitioned the General Assembly for redress of grievances, and requested honorable persons to manage their affairs. The Indian Papers' documentation during the seventeenth century contained many grievances by Indians concerning land rights or boundary disputes. In addition, many documents of the Indian Papers concerned plots, uprisings of the Indians, succession to deceased Indian leaders, and general Indian happenings. By the 18th century, the Indian Papers showed more specific details, gave population statistics, and at times, even named individuals or created census lists.

As early as 1714, the Colonial Assembly passed laws protecting Indian lands from encroachment. At the same time complaints increased in the records concerning the encroachments taking place. Committees were formed by colonial officials to investigate claims by the Indians, and the rights of the Indians were more clearly defined (IP Vol.I, 80-84). As early as 1722, persons were appointed to

³The Indian Papers consisting of two volumes, were bound and repaired in 1942. They contain legislative papers in several series. The original papers are found in the Forbes Library in the "Judd Collection" in Northampton, Massachusetts. Volume I has two parts so that reference is made Vol. I, 2nd, meaning that the item referenced can be located in the second part of volume 1. There are document numbers, with pages within the document listed as a,b,c, etc. (For example, a reference made to a specific phrase within document 4 on page 4b in the first part of volume I would be referenced as IP, Vol I, 4b). The volumes are indexed, and Volume I contains the original table of contents made in 1845.

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"take care of" some groups of Indians (IP Vol.I, 102-3)⁴. Both the colony and the Indian petitioners often mentioned education and Christianization in the records.

In 1744, meetings began between Colonial Governor Clinton and the Indians. From the interactions of the two evolved what the Connecticut Indian Papers call a "Treaty" (IP Table of Contents, 265). The groups of Indians in Connecticut Colony were viewed as distinct groups and named. Sometimes tribes were called by the places they inhabited, while other times a place took the tribe's name. For instance, in 1744, the Indians living near Milford were called "Milford Indians," although they were also recorded as "Potatuck Indians." Another group on the borders of Woodbury were also called "Potatuck Indians" (IP Vol. I, 241). The treaty between Colonial Governor Clinton and the Indians in 1745 was a defining point in history. It began an era of peace with the Indians for the Colony, while the Indians lost or sold the land in favor of subjugation and reservation living. The Indian Papers record these events, and the second part of the Indian Papers begin with the year 1746.

By the mid-18th century, the grouping of the Indians by name or place name showed the land divisions, geographically placing Connecticut Indians in specific groups. In the early 1800's, the "Golden Hill Indians," as designated in documents, began to be treated differently by the State from other Connecticut Indian entities. Wording in the documents, courts in which they petitioned, and the existence of a land base differed for the Golden Hill group when compared with other Indian entities that would survive into the 20th century. The differences will be discussed later in the report.

HISTORICAL FACTS

DOCUMENTATION TO 1802

The documents show that the General Court at Stratford made an agreement with the Indians living in Stratford and Fairfield Plantations in 1658-59:

⁴In a petition from the Pequot tribe in Groton, "That whereas Cap^m James Avery & Cap^m John Morgan was formerly appointed overseers to take care of us:" (dated 10 May 1722)

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that those two Plantations aforementioned were engaged [sic] to afford [sic] and allow [sic] unto their Respective Indians pertaining to each Town sufficient Land to plant on for their Subsistence" (IP Vol. II, 147a).

The court added that each Plantation should exercise care to uphold that agreement so peace could be retained. The Indians would be allowed to "improve their ancient fishing Place which they desire" (IP Vol. II, 147a). According to the General Court, the Indian boundaries would be enlarged because the Indian population was numerous.

Because of failure of the plantations (which had then become the cities of Fairfield and Stratford) in 1660, the General Assembly records show that towns of Fairfield and Stratford had neglected to do:

anything pursuant to the aforesaid Acts of Assembly ... according to the Directions and Appointment ... about the Difference between Stratford, Fairfield, and the Indians - about Pequannock (IP Vol. II, 147a).

The General Assembly directed Fairfield to pay Stratford "for the 80 Acres of Land that the Indians do possess at Pequannock" (IP Vol. II, 147b). This was done, with an explanation:

the Indians who at that Time were in actual possession thereof (being the same Indians which the General Court had as aforesaid Judged to belong to Fairfield) continued ever after they and their Heirs peaceably to hold, use, and improve the 80 Acres of Land as they saw proper without any Disturbance from any persons whatever (IP Vol. II, 147b).

For 100 years, peace continued. During the 18th century, the tribe dispersed. Most moved and assimilated with other tribes such as the Oneida in New York, while others joined with other groups and formed new confederations, such as those in Litchfield County, Connecticut (Wojciechowski 1992, 79-80). About 1762, eight persons from Stratford and four from Fairfield had "without Law or Right gotten into the Possession of all the 80 Acres of Land (except about 6

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acres)" (IP Vol. II, 147b) upon which Tom Sherman, his wife, Eunice Shoran and Sarah Shoran lived. They:

(1)ately dwelt at the Northeasterly Corner of the said 80 Acres of Land and most unjustly and unlawfully ejected and put the said Tom Sarah and Eunice out of the possession thereof and then do yet hold out altho [sic] the said Eunice and Sarah are the surviving Heirs of the aforesaid Indians to whom said Lands were laid out in Manner aforesaid in May AD 1660 (IP Vol. II, 147b).

One of the men pulled down the wigwam where Tom, Eunice and Sarah lived and drove them from their ancient inheritance. The 6 acres of land were on the Pequanoek River (IP Vol. II, 147c).

In 1763, Tom Sherman, his wife Eunice Shoran, and Sarah Shoran responded by petitioning the court to regain their land. A committee was formed by the Colonial Assembly to look into the allegations of the Indians (IP Vol. II, 147d). The petition requested a person acceptable to the court:

to be in Nature of a Guardian over Us and our said Lands and to transact for us all things that shall be beneficiary with Respect to the Recovery of our said Lands and the future management and Improvement of the same and that he may be accountable therefore in some proper Manner and that such Guardian may be enabled to have and recover his necessary Expensés about us & our Affairs in the same Manner that Debts by Law are Recoverable of the English Inhabitants of this Colony (IP Vol. II, 147c).

Thomas Hill, Esq. was appointed "with full power and authority to do and transact all things relating to said Indians and the conduct and future management of their affairs" (Connecticut Public Record (hereafter cited as CPR), 12:212-13). The stated rationale was to protect the Indians. As a result of the petition signed by Tom Sherman, Eunice Sherman and Sarah Shoran, in October of 1765, the family was given a place called Golden Hill (or the Nimrod Lot) containing about 12 acres of land with a spring, and about eight acres of woodland at Rocky Hill (CPR, 12:433) upon which to live.

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In the defense documents concerning the men from Stratford and Fairfield who were ordered by the General Assembly to pay money to the Pequannock descendants, in 1764, the defendants offered the explanation that:

We saw only two persons viz Eunice Shoran and Sary Shoran that were said to be Descendants from the Pequannock Indians ... they both had Children (IP Vol. II, 149d).

In 1768, Daniel Morris was appointed overseer or "guardian" over the Persons and Estates of Tom Sherman and others the Golden Hill Indians so called" (IP Vol. II, 154). Tom Sherman and unice [sic] Sherman signed the "guardian" appointment. The documents contained no mention at that time of Sarah Shoran,⁵ nor was she mentioned in the reports of accounts submitted by Daniel Morris. From 1770 until 1775 no Sarah was mentioned (see Overseer reports in GHPet Response Appendix V, 8-1 through 8-45). In 1775, the Overseer report mentions a Sara Panheg, who received 4 lb.

⁵"The Shoran Family: More properly called the Montaugk/Shoran family, the history of this family can be traced back to May 25, 1671, when one of the Pequannock signatories to a deed at Stratford was Shoran (Wojciechowski 1992, 171-2). The family next surfaced in the form of sachem Montaugk who became tribal leader in 1724 and, according to Ezra Stiles, led the Gold[en] Hill Indians until his death in 1735 (Dexter 1916, p.133). Montaugk was succeeded by his brother, John who led the tribe until his death in October, 1761 (Dexter, loc. cit.)" (Golden Hill Additional Submission, November, 1994, *The First Families of Golden Hill*, 8).

In 1793, the descendants of "Sarah Wampey alias Sarah Montaugh Late of said Oneida Deced ... [who] was One of the Tribe of Natives resident at a place called Golden Hill in the Town of Stratford [stated] that None of the Ancient Tribe of Indians formerly resident at that place are remaining on the Lands there and that the same is a Valuable Estate which together with the Rents due thereon ought to be Appropriated to the Use of the proper Owners thereof" (IP Vol. II, 153). Sarah had moved to Oneida, New York. Eunice Meesock testified for Sarah Wampey's descendants, that she was well acquainted with "Sarah Wampey Late of Farmington an Indian Squaw Now decd ... the said Sarah and A number of her other Relations were often at Farmington and a Man by the Name of Wampecon ... Sarah called him 'Unkle ...'" (IP Vol. II, 154). Eunice Meesock also testified for the General Assembly in 1793, that she was once in Kent with Sarah. They saw some Pequannock Indian men and women who were very fond of Sarah "and said they were her Relatives ... [Eunice Meesock] says she frequently saw an Indian Woman that Came from Pequannock by the Name of Sucsqhoounschsqua that was Sarahs Mother .. Sarah Wampey had two sisters that lived at Farmington One by the Name of Hannah ..." (IP Vol. II, 154).

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flower [sic] (GHPet Response Appendix V, 8-46), but no explanation was offered as to who this Sara was. Sara Panheg has no known descendants in the modern-day community of Golden Hill.

On the eve of the Revolution, in 1774, there was only one family left at Golden Hill:

Tom & Eunice his wife who are the Heads of all the famely [sic] that Now Lives on the Land...there has been know [sic] Pains in Schooling any of there [sic] Children tho [sic] they have a Considerable famely [sic] (IP Vol. II, 156). (emphasis added)

According to a 1780 petition by Aaron Hawley to the Connecticut General Assembly, Daniel Morris, the "guardian" appointed by the General Assembly, had imprisoned Tom and Eunice, whipped their daughter and used their land. The General Assembly found that the Indians "have been severely used" and:

Guardian's Accounts have been exhibited to the Judge of Probate and allowed: that we have mostly over charged; and that the Credits for the use of their Lands fall much short of their real Value: That upon examination and Liquidating the whole of said Accounts, we are of the Opinion that for a full settlement of all affairs of said Indeans [sic], said Guardian [Daniel Morris] ought to pay to said Indians the Sum of thirty six pounds fifteen (IP Vol. II, 160).

By the end of the Revolution, in 1782, Aaron Hawley of Statford who had previously petitioned in their defense, became "guardian" over what was called the "remainder" of a tribe. He had the same duties and powers as the previous guardians.

In 1797, the town of Stratford petitioned the General Assembly to dispose of the land. That petition reiterated facts about the Golden Hill history, including the wording of the original land agreement which had said:

in case those Indians should at any time wholly relinquish and desert Golden Hill that their s^d eighty acres of land should remain And be the

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property of the Inhabitants of s^d Stratford, --
And in process of time the s^d Indians had all
relinquished and deserted s^d eighty acres of land
at Golden hill except Tom Sherman, Eunice Shoran &
Sarah Shoran, who brot [sic] their petition to the
General assembly held at New Haven in October 1763
... the s^d Indians would and should relinquish all
claim to s^d eighty acres of land on Golden Hill,
except about twelve acres of land part of s^d
eighty acres called Nimrod lot with the Spring at
the point of Golden Hill ... And that also the sd
Petitioners should purchase for the use and
improvement of s^d Indian Petitioners eight acres
of wood land in s^d Stratford at Rocky Hill (IP
Vol. I, 2nd, 139b).

The Stratford petition went on to say that:

s^d Sarah and Eunice are dead and have left a few
of their posterity but that neither they or the s^d
Tom have used or occupied or improved the s^d
twelve acres called Nimrod lot nor the s^d Spring,
for some years past & have not pretended to live
on or near the same nor for many years have they
had thereon any kind of house, hut or wigwam, but
have lived and resided on and near s^d eight acres
of wood land so purchased for their use ... Rocky
hill in s^d Stratford about three miles distant
from s^d Nimrod lot (IP Vol. I, 2nd, 139c).

Tom was very old:

well stricken in years and unable to do anything
for his support and he and the surviving posterity
of s^d Sarah and Eunice have become expensive and
burdensome to your petitioners [Town of Stratford]
are likely to be more and more so (IP Vol. I, 2nd,
139c).

In November of 1801, Aaron Hawley petitioned to be released
of his "guardianship". He had:

acted as guardian to the remainder of a tribe of
Indians residing in said Stratford, commonly
called, "Golden Hill Indians"-- That he has
exercised the duty aforesaid; for about seventeen

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years, last past- (IP, Vol. I, 2nd, 148).
(emphasis added)

At that time an examination of the accounts of Hawley's tenure concluded that:

after having examined said Accounts we adjusted the same and find due from said Hawley to said Indians the sum of Six shillings and six pence Lawful Money--and we also find that on the 14th of instant [A]pril said Hawley paid Daniel Smith Seven dollars for expenses accrued in the last Sickness & of funeral Charges of old Tom one of the tribe of said Indians - which we did not allow as a Credit to Said Hawley...said Tom died sometime in the Month of last November which was after the acceptance of the resignation of s^d Hawley -- We also find that there are now remaining of said tribe about twenty persons old and young - who have no fixed residence - but are generally travelling from place to place. We also find there are two pieces of Land now belonging to said tribe - one of which lies about half a mile north of the principal Settlement of and within the limits of said Borough ... contains about Ten Acres ... We also find that the other piece of land belonging to said tribe ... lies about three miles & an half north of said Borough- in quantity about Eight Acres and an half ... (IP Vol. II, 1).

The records of Indian transactions with the State and Colony of Connecticut as recorded in the Indian Papers show the population of the historic Pequannock/Paugussett Tribe had dwindled to a very few persons. Eunice and Sarah Shoran were descended from the historic Pequannock/Paugussett Tribe, but by the turn of the 19th century, both were dead. The land that had begun as eighty acres was in two parcels, one of eight acres and the other of twelve. One family remained, living only on the eight acre lot. The town of Stratford, which had been given the responsibility of caring for them, was apprehensive that they would become a burden. The land the Indians were inhabiting looked advantageous to the building up of Statford:

s^d Nimrod lot lies adjoining a navigable arm of the Sea or Saltwater river commonly called

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Poquonock [sic] river at the village of Newfield and contains several very eligent [sic] and convenient building lots, and is advantageously [sic] situated for several ship:yards [sic] and would now sell to good advantage but under its present circumstances it is a great hindrance to the growth and population of that flourishing Village (IP Vol. I, 2nd, 139d).

DOCUMENTATION FROM 1802 THROUGH 1854

In late 1801, Josiah Lacy of Statford was appointed as "Guardian of the remainder of a tribe" (CPR Vol X, 374) (emphasis added). One year later, in October 1802, "Thomas Sherman, Eunice Sherman,⁶ Tabetha Sherman, Anne Sherman and John Chops comonly [sic] called Golden Hill Indians," with the approval of Josiah Lacy, Esq. petitioned the General Assembly. The petition stated:

many years ago your Honours saw fit to appoint an Agent for the better management of said lands for the benefit of your Pitioners [sic] and that new Agents have from time to time for the same purpose been in like manner appointed And that experience has fully evinced that no real advantage can be derived to your Petitioners ... [we] humbly pray your Honours to order and decree that said lands or all the right & Title of the Petitioners in and to them may without further delay be sold and the avails thereof be placed in some sure & stable funds under the care of a proper person or persons that the Interest thereof may be annually applied to the necessities conveniences and benefit of your Petitioners ... (IP Vol. II, 3).

This document underlay the relationship of the State of Connecticut and the Golden Hill "heirs" throughout the 19th-century. The sale of the land set aside for the posterity of Eunice and Sarah Shoran heirs provided a monetary fund. The administration of the fund generated all the subsequent state documents concerning the heirs.

PETITION CLAIMS

⁶This "Eunice" must have been the daughter of Eunice Shoran Sherman, for Eunice Shoran Sherman was already dead. (See page 12.)

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The Golden Hill group claims that their membership is based on descent from the historic tribe through Tom Sherman and his wife, Eunice Shoran, who both died prior to 1802. Evidence indicates that Eunice Shoran was a descendant of the historic Pequannock/Paugussett Tribe. The ancestry of Tom Sherman has not been established.

SORTING OUT THE SHERMANS

The Thomas Sherman included with the other petitioners to the General Assembly in 1802, must have been Tom, Jr., for "old Tom" was dead. The document (IP Vol. II, 3) gave no explanation as to who Tabetha Sherman and Anne Sherman were, nor John Chops. This 1802 document mentioned Eunice Sherman, but not Sarah Sherman, who the Golden Hill petition claimed was the daughter of Tom Sherman, Sr. and Eunice Shoran Sherman. The Golden Hill petition claimed that Eunice and Sarah Sherman were sisters of Tom Sherman, Jr. (GHPet Response Appendix X). BAR researchers attempted to identify the Shermans mentioned in early petitions.

The 20 acres that had been set aside as residence for the Golden Hill heirs in Stratford had become a part of the Borough of Bridgeport. Bridgeport was the first borough in the State of Connecticut, established in 1800 (Orcutt 1887, 31). In 1802, the General Assembly of Connecticut ordered the land upon which the heirs lived to be sold. At that time, the records show few descendants of the Golden Hill tribe remaining. Tom Sherman, Sr., his wife, Eunice Shoran, and Sarah Shoran had all died. Few of the once numerous tribe inhabited the land.

From 1801 to 1807, Josiah Lacy of Stratford was "Guardian of the remainder of a tribe" (CPR, Vol X, 374) (emphasis added). That "remainder of a tribe" did not include Eunice Sherman, claimed as ancestress of the petitioner, for she had her own agent (see discussion below).

The \$1,175.00 received from selling the land resulted from splitting the land into lots and selling them, mostly in cash to a variety of persons (IP Vol. II, 5). By 1803, the financial reports show that the money had increased to \$1576.00 by selling remaining unsold land, and by the interest earned on the remaining money. The needs of some of the descendants of Eunice (Shoran) Sherman and Sarah Shoran were paid from this fund, as requested.

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In May of 1803, the General Assembly records show that a woman named Eunice Sherman petitioned for her own home. The records identify her as a Golden Hill Indian, but do not give her relationship to Tom and Eunice (Shoran) Sherman and Sarah Shoran. She was living in Woodbridge, and stated that she:

endeavored to live an honest sober life and to gain her sustenance by industry and labor agreeable to regular modes of Civilized people. And a few years since she lost her husband by whom she has three children, all she has and is educating in a manner agreeable [sic] to practice of the steady white people of this State and that she flatters herself that her children tho' Indians may be useful members of Society And that she is desirous of obtaining a few Acres of land whereon to keep a Cow & raise some granin [sic] and there by not only more convenient support her family but also the more easily habituate two sons to industry and daily labor which may also prevent them entering into those vicious & idle courses so common to Indians (IP Vol. II, 8).

She requested that the proceeds of the sale of the lands of the Golden Hill tribe be used for that purpose. In 1803, Samuel Osborne of Woodbridge was appointed as "trustee & agent" for Eunice and her heirs, to select an appropriate place and take the deed in "his own name in trust," allowing reasonable charges for those services (IP Vol. II, 9). In 1804, Josiah Lacy, Guardian of the "Golden Hill Indians so called" (GHPet Response Appendix V, 8-58), paid \$10.00 to S. Osborn for serving as guardian to Eunice. In summing up of accounts, the following was recorded in the same report:

To Samuel Osborn Guardian to Eunice one of the Gold [sic] Hill Indians now at Woodbridge by order of the Assembly as her portion of the above Estate ... (Connecticut Guardian Report, Josiah Lacy Acct of the monies and Estate, 1803).

The 1806 accounts of Josiah Lacy listed entries concerning the recording of Eunice's land in the Fairfield Probate office listing S. Osborn as guardian (Connecticut Guardian Josiah Lacy accounts, Sept 8, 1806). Again in 1810, Eunice Sherman was mentioned in the guardian report to the Probate Judge:

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1810 February 10-15 Paid Eunice Shermon for keepin
[sic] Ann Shermon [sic] when sick
(Connecticut Guardian Report, Josiah Lacy accounts,
Sept 8, 1806).

This may indicate that Eunice Sherman of Woodbridge was interacting with the remainder of the Golden Hill heirs at that time. Both Anne and Eunice Sherman had been mentioned in the 1802 petition to sell the land.

In October 1816, John Riggs Esquire was "appointed to care for the property of Eunice Mack, an indian [sic] woman, instead of Samuel Osborne Esquire, dec^d" (IP II, 266) (emphasis added). There were no entries in the Golden Hill guardian reports for John Riggs, nor did John Riggs file any reports that can be located in New Haven County, Connecticut.

It appears that Eunice Sherman, originally an heir to the Golden Hill funds, took her portion of the estate for a home in Woodbridge in 1803, and by 1816, she was listed in documents as Eunice Mack. The petitioner claims that Eunice Sherman Mack was the mother of Jim Mack, who the petitioner claims was the grandfather of William Sherman (GHPet Response Appendix X). William Sherman was the common ancestor for all the present-day Golden Hill membership.

From 1807 until 1823, Elijah Burritt was the "overseer" in succession to Josiah Lacy, "guardian" for the Golden Hill heirs other than Eunice Sherman. Burritt was the first to use the term, "overseer". Prior to 1807, the term "guardian" was used by those persons assigned to care for the money of and welfare for the Golden Hill heirs. In 1819 the General Assembly of Connecticut passed

An Act reporting the property of certain Indian Tribes. - Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened that the board of Overseers of the respective tribes of Indians in this State shall annually state and settle their accounts of the overseers of said tribes with the respective County Courts in the Counties of which said tribes are situated. May Session 1819 (IP Vol. II, 167a).

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Elijah Burritt dispensed food, medical and lodging expenses to those persons he deemed needy, and to the heirs of the monies held in Burritt's name as overseer. In 1811, Burritt dispensed food and/or clothing to James Sherman, Wheeler Sherman, Charles Sherman, Phebe Sherman, Nat'l Sherman and Ruby Sherman.⁷ Also included were John Towsey and John Chops (GHPet Response, Appendix V, 8-84-5).

In 1818, Nathaniel Sherman died (Connecticut Guardian Report, April 19, 1818, Entry Oct. 15).⁸

A Dolly Sherman was listed in many reports. According to the 1823 report, she was the daughter of Ann Sherman, who was also listed in many reports (Connecticut Overseer Report 1823). Dolly died in October 1825 (Connecticut Overseer Report 1826).⁹

In 1817, Charles Sherman was mentioned in more detail than others because he broke his leg while in the City of Newtown (IP Vol. II, 15). Newtown would have been responsible for Sherman's expenses, either as an Indian or a pauper, had he been a resident. Since the only information regarding residence associated with Sherman was that he was born as a "Golden Hill Indian," jurisdictional transfer was attempted from Newtown to Stratford. When Stratford refused to pay for Sherman's expenses, the Selectmen of Newtown petitioned the State of Connecticut, stating:

that said Indian is not by the Laws of this State an settled inhabitant of any Town therein, in such manner as to render such Town liable for his support, but is to all intents & purposes a State pauper ... (IP Vol. II, 16).

⁷ The petition listed the birthdate of Nancy (claimed mother of William Sherman) as circa 1811, that Nancy was a daughter of Ruby Mansfield, and that Ruby Mansfield and Ruby Sherman were the same person. According to Burritt's Overseer reports, Burritt supplied shoes and dinner and flannel for a Ruby Sherman in 1811; "victuals" in 1813 (see Connecticut Overseer's reports, Burritt, 1811, 1813).

⁸ "1818 October 15 ... to Half a Pint of Spirites [sic] to Nat. Sherman ... funeral [sic] Expenses for Nat. Sherman to Coffin"

⁹ Entry "Oct 17, 1825 Shroud for Dolly ---\$1.50"; Entry Jan 4, 1826 paid David Mills for attending funeral of Dolly with Hearse---\$2.00"

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The decision for the State to pay the expenses of Sherman out of the Golden Hill funds was a new concept for the State. Prior to 1817, towns were responsible for the Indians among them. However, the funds for the Indians were being held by the overseers, who also acted as selectmen from their respective towns. They reported to the towns in which they inhabited. Indians were not legal residents of a town, so expenses were to be paid out of the state pauper general funds if Indian funds for that particular Indian group were not available. The towns would not be liable for the expenses of the Indians.

1821 CONNECTICUT STATUTE

In 1821, Connecticut enacted *Title 50. Indians*, a state law "enacted for the protection of Indians, and the preservation of their property" (CPR 1821, 278). It provided specific regulations:

- > Each tribe of Indians living within Connecticut would be assigned an overseer to care and manage its tribal lands in the best interest of the Indians.
- > The overseer was to annually settle his accounts in the county court where the tribe assigned to him resided.
- > The overseer was not to bargain or convey the land, or receive profit from the land.
- > Indians were not to be liable for contracts.
- > If land was obtained from Indians, title was not to be given for fifteen years (CPR 1821, 278).

In 1821, the heirs of the Golden Hill monies were landless except for Eunice Sherman/Mack. In 1823, Robert Fairchild, who had been selected by the General Assembly, made a special report on the Golden Hill Indians. He wrote, "the whole number of persons properly belonging to the Golden Hill tribe is nine; -five less than it was in the year 1808." In the same report, Fairchild reported that the committee had decided that the costs of the sick and dying amounted to more than "their several proportions" of the income from the interest of the money set aside for that purpose. When the land that had been set aside for them was sold in 1802, the Golden Hill heirs were to live on the interest earned yearly from the monetary fund. In 1823, any expenses incurred over and above the interest acquired would be charged to the State treasury, "the Court of errors

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having decided that such Indians when reduced to necessitous circumstances are State Paupers" (Connecticut State Assembly Papers 1823, Fairchild Report). In Connecticut, this marked a significant change in the legal status of the Golden Hill group.

In general, state paupers were assigned to the selectmen of each town, who would act as overseers to ensure they had food, clothing, firewood, and that their needs were met. The selectmen were authorized to draw on the town treasury for their benefit. If the pauper were an inhabitant of another town, the selectmen could bill the town to which he belonged. If the pauper were Indian, the state would now be responsible for their expenses if their money should be insufficient to meet their expenses..

Thus, the nine people who were considered heirs of the Golden Hill tribe were landless (except for Eunice Sherman/Mack), and, after 1823, would be considered state paupers if the money set aside in 1802 should run out.

If the agent for Eunice Sherman/Mack made any reports, none have been found. In the early 19th-century, the other Indians in Connecticut continued to be represented by overseers who reported to a county court as the law required. However, the guardian for the remainder of the Golden Hill heirs reported to the probate court in Bridgeport.

In 1836, Smith Tweedy, as Selectman of Bridgeport, was overseer of the poor for Bridgeport, and overseer of the Golden Hill accounts. He reported one report in 1839 to cover 1836-39. It is the only report that appears to have survived. The report noted that cash was paid out for Ruby & Nancy & children since "Jan'y 13, 1836 to this time" [Connecticut Overseer Report 1839]. It did not state to whom or to what city this money was paid, or if he paid the money for their benefit directly to them. No other mention was made of Nancy or Ruby in the records of Smith Tweedy, nor did he mention their surname. In 1839, the fund for the Golden Hill heirs remained fairly stable at \$1,179.00, but it was no longer in the bank. Instead, notes made out to various individuals were listed, showing unpaid interest (Connecticut Overseer Report 1839, Accounts). These notes may have been for the land sold in 1802, and resold as time progressed.

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No documents exist to show the basis of eligibility for loans from the money set aside for the Indians from land sales. The 1836 report shows one note against the ex-overseer, Burritt, among the several other notes (Connecticut Overseer Report 1839, Accounts).

The records of Bridgeport listed Smith Tweedy as a Selectman. The records showed him serving on several committees, including overseer of the poor. The Bridgeport records did not record the names of the poor; only amounts of monies spent. Whenever a committee met to investigate a situation, only the results of the committee meetings were recorded. The committee meeting records themselves have not survived (Bridgeport, Common Council Records, Volume I). It is clear that some persons of Indian descent were under Tweedy's care,¹⁰ but unclear whether they were considered as state paupers or as Indians. The designation was clarified in the following transactions.

In 1841, a Ruby Mansfield and a Nancy Sharp, alias Nancy Pease, of Bridgeport in the County of Fairfield, petitioned the General Assembly as "sole surviving heirs" (GHPet Response, Appendix IV, 119) of the Golden Hill monies. Neither of these family surnames appear in earlier Golden Hill records. They wished to use the income of "all the monies belonging to said tribe, and that the same was now under the care of their Overseer, Smith Tweedy, Esq. of said Bridgeport" (GHPet Response, Appendix IV, 119). They petitioned for a place with land to live on, and were granted land and a house in Bridgeport. The Probate Court had jurisdiction over this request and the land was recorded under the "Estates" portion of the Probate Court (GHPet Response, Appendix IV, 119). Smith Tweedy put the land in his name as overseer, as prescribed under the State Act of 1821.

Ruby and Nancy petitioned to have a barn built upon the land in 1843 (General Assembly Papers 1846). Smith Tweedy, Overseer, wrote to the probate judge in 1843, stating that a number of inhabitants of the town thought the request made to build a barn should not be granted. In the same correspondence, Tweedy said that he had "application from

¹⁰Entry September 20, 1843: "Bill in favor of Smith Tweedy for services at City Court, \$15.00." This entry recorded the property of Ruby and Nancy. (See text, p.21)

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another branch of that Tribe from Litchfield or Hartford County for a share in that fund." The "other branch" is not named.¹¹ Tweedy stated that he felt that "Ruby and Nancy have had there [sic] share" (General Assembly Papers 1846). Despite the objections, the court directed Smith Tweedy, Esq. to oversee the building of a barn, not to exceed \$75.00.

In 1848, Smith Tweedy reported to the County Court of Fairfield County that \$213.02 was received as interest on the money held in the Golden Hill account since the settlement in 1843. The reports went on to list the property which belonged to the heirs:

Real Estate B ⁿ in Town of Trumbull in 1842 as per Deed on File.....	\$597.03
Cash paid toward erecting a barn in 1847....	52.68
June 15, 1848 Cash paid for Bridgeport City Bond in 1846.....	500.00
Cash paid for Daniel Hachick [sic] Note....	100.00

\$1249.71

(Connecticut, Fairfield County Court files 1848-49)

According to a petition to the Connecticut Assembly by Overseer Tweedy in 1849, Ruby Mansfield was

¹¹The "other branch" may have been Sarah Sherman, of whom Orcutt said: "Tom Sherman ... married ... Eunice Shoran, and had children: I, Tom; II, Eunice; III, Sarah. ... III Sarah, m. Ben Roberts, a negro, and lived at the Eagles' Nest at Stratford Tide Mill. Some of their descendants still reside in Orange, Conn., but are not claimants on the Indian funds of Stratford" (Orcutt 1886, 42,43). According to the 1850 Mortality Index of Connecticut, Benjamin Roberts died in Litchfield County, Connecticut in March 1850. He was 79 years old. A Sarah Roberts age 74, was listed in the 1850 census living with Garaders Roberts and Hannah Lines (age 76) in Litchfield County, Connecticut. In the History of Orange: "Families of Africans and Descendants of the native Indians: ... Benjamin Roberts: Patty Sharp; Benjamin; Samuel; Levi; Elijah; Hannah, married J. Bagden; Sylvester." On the 1850 Census, a Levi Roberts, 60, male, black was living in Orange, New Haven County, Ct. with his wife Abigail (nee Hatchet) and son, John. (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1850b, p. 413, dwelling and family #42.) Hannah Roberts married James Brayden, November 11, 1806. Samuel Roberts died May 21, 1811 at age 21; Sylvester Roberts, colored, died September 11, 1813 at age 18; Levi Roberts died September 5, 1854 (Records of the Congregational Church of Orange, Ct. (formerly N. Milford), 1805-1910, 56,72,73,78.)

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old and infirm and now resides in the town of Oxford in New Haven County with her husband, a collored [sic] man; and...Nancy [Sharp] the late incumbent of said property is now under arrest for the crime of arson. & that said barn has lately burned as Supposed by some one of said Indian ... we hereby recommend that the Assembly pass a resolution authorizing the Overseer for the time being at his discretion to sell said property and to invest the avails ... (General Assembly Papers 1849).

Smith Tweedy would be allowed to sell the property, provided that he acquire approval from the judge of probate for the district of Bridgeport (GHPet Response Appendix IV, 123-4).

From 1803 to 1849, the transactions concerning the Golden Hill heirs were handled in the **probate court**, while other Connecticut Indian transactions were being handled by overseers under the **county courts** in the counties in which the Indians resided. Golden Hill heirs' transactions were representing **individuals**, while other Connecticut Indian transactions were handled, with few exceptions, on behalf of **groups**. For a summary of some of the documents and the differences in the way Connecticut was viewing Golden Hill as compared to other Connecticut Indians, see Appendix A.

Deeds concerning the Golden Hill land transactions have relevance to the Acknowledgment process to the extent that a land sale meant that the individuals no longer lived in a settlement. Land deeds for the Golden Hill heirs' land concerned the trustee and purchasers only. The land transactions are not included in Appendix A. Indians could not own land unless given that right by special Assembly Act, and no individual deeds of ownership were found for the Golden Hill heirs, nor did the General Assembly pass any acts to allow the heirs to own land as Indians.

Prior to 1854, Dwight Morris became the trustee for the Golden Hill funds. In both 1854 and 1855, "Dwight Morris of Bridgeport, Fairfield County, Connecticut, as owner [of the land] or Trustee of the Golden Hill Tribe of Indians" (GHPet Response Appendix IV, 131-4) recorded a land transaction in probate court, concerned with the Bridgeport property for Ruby and Nancy. He did not use the term overseer as his predecessor, Smith Tweedy had. Though some of the land deeds did use the term overseer, such as the one in 1862

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(GHPet Addendum, January 1995),¹² most of the Golden Hill documents used the terminology, "trustee" or "guardian".

The Petition Response states that the list of overseers is well documented and poses the question, "If there was no tribe, who were these 'Overseers' over-seeing?" (GHPet Response, Narrative, 31) Many times, the town overseers were over-seeing state paupers, as well as over-seeing the money held in the bank from which they were to disburse funds for necessities, as well as land transactions that required agent or trustee signatures.

CLAIMED DESCENT OF THE PETITIONER FROM KNOWN 19TH-CENTURY GOLDEN HILL INDIANS

EUNICE SHERMAN MACK

The petition states that Eunice Shoran Sherman, wife of Tom Sherman, had a daughter Eunice, who married a Mack/Mansfield; another daughter Sarah, who married Ben Roberts; and a son, Tom, Jr. who married a Sarah [no surname]. This information seems to have been derived from Rev. Samuel Orcutt's book published in 1886, A History of the Old Town of Stratford and the City of Bridgeport (Orcutt 1886). Since the genealogy of William Sherman, from whom all the present-day Golden Hill membership derives, was detailed in his book, an in-depth analysis of each of the major Golden Hill heirs according to Orcutt follows (Orcutt 1886).

Early historical documents of the Connecticut General Assembly indicate that Tom Sherman, Sr. and Eunice Shoran were heads of the Golden Hill family as late as 1776. Tom Sherman served for a short time in the Army in 1761 from New Haven (Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society,

¹² Dated October 4, 1862 "Russell Tomlinson of Bridgeport in Fairfield County, State of Connecticut, Trustee & Overseer of the Golden Hill Tribe of Indians" sold to Eliakim Hough of said Bridgeport for one dollar, "that certain parcel of land with the Buildings ... and is the same premises mortgaged by said Wheeler dec'd to Smith Tweedy as overseer aforesaid Aug. 1, 1840" (GHPet Addendum, January, 1995, Deed #526).

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1905, 10:261, 283).¹³ By 1802, Tom, Sr., his wife Eunice, and Sarah were dead (see discussion under historical facts). In 1802 Thomas, Tabetha, Ann, and Eunice Sherman and John Chops petitioned the General Assembly. The Eunice Sherman referred to in this petition may have been the daughter of Tom Sherman and Eunice Shoran Sherman. As discussed in the historical portion, Eunice Sherman appeared in records as Eunice Mack by 1817 (see page 16). There was a Eunice Mack on the 1840 census, living in Derby, Connecticut (US Bureau of the Census 1840, 319, line 16).¹⁴ A death record from Woodbridge recorded: "1841 May 20, Mack, Eunice, Indian woman, 85 or more" (Woodbridge Church Records 1934, 89).

Reverend Samuel Orcutt wrote several county/city histories in Connecticut in the early 1880's. Two are of particular interest for this technical report. The first, written in 1880, was The History of the Old Town of Derby, Connecticut (Orcutt 1880) written in conjunction with Dr. Ambrose Beardsley. Dr. Beardsley, "having some personal knowledge of the family" (Orcutt 1880, xlix), was a better source than the later book written by Orcutt alone (Orcutt 1886). In the second book, The History of the Old Town of Stratford and the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut, written in 1886, Orcutt recorded: "Eunice, m. Mack or Mansfield, formerly of Kent¹⁵ [Litchfield County] and had ... Jim, Garry, and Eunice" (Orcutt 1886, 42). Orcutt added: "The tradition is that he [William Sherman] is a descendant of Molly Hatchet of Derby" (Orcutt 1886, 43). Dr. Beardsley had personal knowledge of the Hatchet family and may have known the Mack family as well. The 1880 book contains the most information about the Mack family:

¹³Thomas Sherman enlisted in the Second Company of Lt. Col. Smedley's Company on May 13, 1761, and deserted July 16, 1761 with Thomas Warrops, John Afternoon, and Jn. Nickerman. John Hatchettowsey enlisted on April 22 with Warrops Chickens and they, too, deserted in August in the same Company (Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society 1905, 10:261, 283). Thomas Sherman, John Hatchettowsey, and Warrops Chickens have all been on either a deed with other Indians or, in particular, with the Golden Hill ancestors.

¹⁴ Line 16: Eunice Mack listed under Free Colored Persons: 1 male 36-55 years old; 1 female 36-55 years old; 1 female 55-100 years old.

¹⁵Kent is in Litchfield County and about 40 miles from Trumbull. See map, Appendix B.

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There were James and Eunice Mack, who lived by themselves near the turnpike that leads from Seymour to New Haven. Jerry Mack and four other Indian men, two squaws and three children lived over the hill south of James Mack's about eighty rods. For a long time the place was called the Indian settlement (Orcutt 1880, liv).

From the 1803 petition of Eunice Sherman [who later became Eunice Mack], Eunice said she had two sons and one daughter. If these were the same Macks, Orcutt said they were named Garry, Eunice, and Jim (Orcutt 1886, 42). Garry may have been the Jerry Mack mentioned by Orcutt [or probably Beardsley] in 1880. Orcutt continued his narrative by telling of an Indian woman from Milford who came to visit, became ill and returned to Milford where she died of smallpox.

In due time these ten [Jerry Mack, 4 other Indian men, 2 women and 3 children add up to ten, excluding Eunice and James' Mack] Indians sickened with the same disease, and all died except the three children. These children were run down into the woods, and vaccinated by Dr. Kendall, and thus saved from the terrible scourge. The Indians were buried ... in the garden near their huts ... and to make sure that no more Indians should become paupers from that settlement, the torch was applied in the night season by order of the selectmen to these modern wigwams, and thus they were reduced to the ashes (Orcutt 1880, liv).

Orcutt continued by quoting History of the Indians of Connecticut written in 1851 by John W. DeForest:

One of the women, old Eunice as she was commonly called, died a number of years since. Her two children, Jim and Ruby,¹⁶ I have often seen coming into my native village to sell parti-colored baskets and buy provisions and rum ... At present I believe they are all in their graves (Orcutt 1880, liv, lv).

¹⁶Ruby may have been a daughter-in-law; see discussion below.

He did not quote it accurately, however. DeForest recorded:

One of the women, Old Eunice, as she was commonly called, died a number of years since. Her two children, Jim and Ruby, I have often seen coming into my native village to sell parti-colored baskets and purchase provisions, the greater part, if not the whole, of which was usually rum ... At present, I believe, they are all in their graves; at least it is years since I have seen them, or heard any one speak of them (DeForest 1851, 357).

Orcutt reported that ten of the Mack community sickened with smallpox and only the three children survived. DeForest's book, in 1851, did not state that only the children remained. In fact, just before the quoted portion of DeForest's book, DeForest recorded:

The Woodbridge Indians, known as the Mack family, were from the Paugussetts, and moved many years ago to their rocky and thorny patch of territory in that township. Some were carried off by the smallpox, and for ten or twelve years back none have remained except one man and two women (DeForest 1851, 357).

In any case, it appears from available information that at least Jim and a Ruby survived. A James Mack was listed on the 1850 census as James Mack, 50, B, born in Conn (US Bureau of the Census 1850c, 301, Poor House, Line 6). If this was the Jim, son of Eunice Sherman Mack, he would have been a young child in 1803 when she petitioned for land in Woodbridge. Garry, or Jerry Mack was not mentioned further, nor was he found on any census in Connecticut. Orcutt's listing in 1886 of Eunice Sherman Mack's daughter's name as Eunice does not correlate with the quote from DeForest's book. He listed the children of "Old Eunice" as Jim and Ruby (see discussion of Ruby, daughter of Tom Sherman, Jr., below).

The Eunice Sherman of the 1802 petition was recorded as Eunice Mack by 1817. Her children were possibly Jerry or Garry, James or Jim, and Eunice or Ruby. She had three children: two of them were sons. From the age and place of death, the Golden Hill descendant, Eunice Sherman Mack probably died in Woodbridge, Connecticut in 1841. She had a home away from other members of the Golden Hill heirs, and

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used her share of the Golden Hill monies for that purpose.

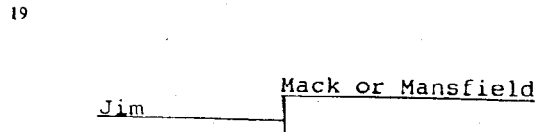
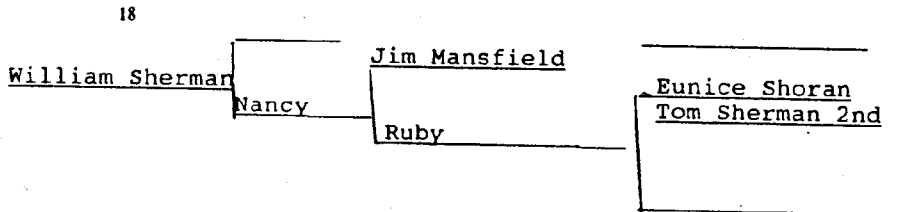
TOM SHERMAN, JR.

According to Orcutt's 1886 genealogy of William Sherman and the Golden Hill petition, Tom Sherman, Jr. married a woman named Sarah and they had a daughter named Ruby. Documents submitted and found indicate that Tom Sherman had a wife, but she was never named on any of the documents. "Tom's daughter" was mentioned on several of the pre-1823 overseer reports,¹⁷ but never by name.

Tom Sherman, Jr. died before 1823. He was the only Tom Sherman mentioned in the guardian's reports prior to 1823, and was not listed afterwards. Ruby Sherman was listed on the 1823 Report of the Committee to the General Assembly as Tom Sherman's daughter. The same report stated that he (Tom Sherman) was deceased (Connecticut General Assembly 1823, Fairchild Report).

Orcutt claimed that, "Jim Mansfield, son of Eunice Shoran [sic], m. his cousin, Ruby, dau. of Tom 2nd, and had Nancy, who had VI, William Sherman ... " (Orcutt 1886, 43).¹⁸ On the previous page, Orcutt recorded "Eunice, m. Mack or Mansfield, formerly of Kent, and had V, Jim, Garry and Eunice" (Orcutt 1886, 42).¹⁹ The Golden Hill petition varied

¹⁷ "to p^d for nursing & necessaries for Tom's daughter" (May 4, 1806); "to keeping Tom's family of 5 in number" (September 30, 1806); "To p^d & furnished provisions for Tom & children various times " (May 4, 1806); "To lodging Tom & wife & son and sider" [sic] (April 23, 1808); "Tom Sherman and wife and Daughter, 3 meals" (April 28, 1808) (Connecticut Guardian Reports of Josiah Lacy, 1806-1808).



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as to names. The submission in June, 1994, gave Jim's name as Jim Mack/Mansfield, with his marriage date to Ruby in 1841. The response to the obvious deficiency letter listed him as Jim Mansfield (GHPet Response Appendix X). Since a marriage date of 1841 would make it impossible for him to be the legitimate father of Nancy (reportedly born circa 1811). Nancy was an adult at the time the marriage date would indicate (see 1841 Petition of Ruby Mansfield and Nancy Sharpe, alias Pease, to the General Assembly). BAR researchers assumed that the petitioner meant they were married prior to the petition of Nancy Sharpe, alias Pease, and Ruby Mansfield, in 1841.

From the documentation submitted and found, Jim Mack was age 11 years at the time of the reported birth of Nancy. No evidence was submitted or found to document that Jim Mack was alias Jim Mack/Mansfield or that this Jim, or was the father of Nancy, other than the Orcutt genealogy of William Sherman. Nor has any document been submitted or discovered to verify that the father of Nancy was Indian.

RUBY SHERMAN

Orcutt's William Sherman genealogy claims "Tom 2^d m. Sarah (?) and had IV Ruby" (Orcutt 1886, 42). Although Orcutt assigned the generational "IV" to Ruby, in his discussion, he went directly from III to V, and little else was mentioned about her. In the original petition and the Golden Hill response to the obvious deficiency letter, Appendix X, the genealogy is so confusing²⁰ that BAR researchers have used the genealogical response to the technical assistance review as the one to examine.

Garry	
Eunice	
	Eunice

²⁰William Sherman's parents are listed as Tom Sherman and Eunice Shoran on one page [there are no page numbers] while the page just prior to it lists Nancy Sherman Mansfield - Sharp as mother to William Sherman. Four pages prior to that, Ruby Sherman (Mansfield) is listed as married to Jim Mansfield first and secondly to John Sharp with children as Nancy Sherman Mansfield Sharp, Beecher Sharp and Charles Sharp. Two pages prior to that entry, Eunice Sherman with parents as Tom Sherman and Eunice Shoran married to Mansfield with children Jim Mansfield, Garry Mansfield, and Eunice Mansfield as in Orcutt (GHPet Response Appendix X, various pages).

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The only clear window through which researchers have been able to view members of the Golden Hill tribe after the 1802 land sale was the report of the 1823 Committee, appointed by

the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut. Their report stated that "the whole number of persons properly belonging to the Golden Hill tribe is nine; - five less than it was in the year 1808" (Connecticut General Assembly Papers 1823, Fairchild Report). Those nine included:

1. Ann Sherman - aged about-----67 years
2. John Hatchet Towsey, (who says he has two children by a squaw not of this tribe, from whom he has finally parted, leaving the children with their mother in
Massachusetts-----35 years
3. Ruby Sherman, daughter of Tom Sherman, deceased---33 years
4. Harriet Sherman, daughter of said Ann-----32 years
5. Adonijah Chops, son of John Chops-----32 years
6. Dolly Sherman, daughter of said Ann-----30 years
7. A daughter of said Ruby, name unknown, about-----12 years
8. A daughter of said Dolly, name unknow-----11 years
9. A daughter of said Harriet, name unknown-----2 years
(Connecticut General Assembly 1823, Fairchild Report)
(emphasis added)

Golden Hill researchers submitted documentation of many of the persons on this list. According to the documentation presented, they lived and died in various towns, but seemingly, did not interact with one another. The present-day petitioners claimed descent from Ruby Sherman only.

The Golden Hill response to the technical review listed Ruby Sherman as born about 1789 in Derby, Connecticut, died 11 October 1849 in Derby. It further stated that in 1841, she married Jim Mack/Mansfield, born in 1800.

As discussed previously, a Ruby Sherman was listed on the early "guardian" reports. In the 1823 Fairchild report, a Ruby Sherman was listed as age 33 years, making her birth year around 1790. The death record of a Ruby Mack in the Derby Town records stated: "1849 Oct. 11.:Ruby Mack, female: Age: 60; Color: Black (Indian); Place of Birth: Newtown; Residence: Derby; Reported Cause: Fits" (Derby Vital Records, Vol 4, 1849). This person's age would be consistent with the 1823 Fairchild report as well as the Golden Hill response to the technical review claim. The surname on the death record is consistent with the assertion that by 1841, Ruby Sherman had married James Mack, son of Eunice Sherman Mack. No data has been offered to account

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for Ruby's supposed surname change from Mack to Mansfield, which was not consistent in the records. Evidence was neither found nor submitted to show that Ruby Mack and Ruby Mansfield were, in fact, the same person.

In 1849, the overseer, Smith Tweedy reported that Ruby Mansfield was old and living with her husband in Oxford, New Haven County, Connecticut and that he was a "colored man." Oxford is only a few miles from Derby (see map, Appendix B). If the Ruby Mack who died in 1849 in Derby, Connecticut, was the petitioning Ruby Mansfield in 1841 and 1846, then her husband, Mansfield, given name unknown, was a "colored man" (Connecticut Overseer Report 1849).

James Mack was still alive in 1850, residing in the Poor House (US Bureau of the Census 1850c, 301, line 6). In 1845:

a certain pauper in and of said town of Derby, an Indian, named James Mack, is the owner of certain lands and other real estate in said town of Derby, which estate being fully described in their [town of Derby] said petition, reference is had therein; - praying this Assembly for leave to sell and convey said real estate and to appropriate the avails thereof to the support of the said Mack: Resolved by this Assembly, that Samuel French ... is authorized to sell and convey said real estate, and to cause the avails thereof to be appropriated to the support of the said James Mack. And in case the entire avails of said sale shall not be needed for said Mack's future support, then, the excess thereof to descend in the same manner and for the same purposes as though said sale had not been made (Resolutions and Private Acts 1845, 39,40).

There is no compelling reason to believe that James Mack and James Mansfield were the same person. The records indicate that James Mack was a pauper in Derby while Ruby Mansfield was living with her husband in Oxford. The overseer reported the latter, as a "colored man," not Indian as would have been expected if he were James Mack.

Assertions concerning Ruby Sherman's parentage were made by several different historians, none documented. The first

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historian who listed Shermans as Golden Hill Indians was John W. DeForest, in 1851. He stated

The tribe [Golden Hill] now numbers two squaws, who live in an irregular connection with negroes, and six half breed children, all of whom are grown up but one. They are all intemperate, but have been of about the same number for many years. Their family name is Sherman (DeForest 1851, 357).

The guardian reports listed a Ruby Sherman as the daughter of Tom. In 1839, "Ruby and Nancy and children" received funds, but no surnames were listed. In 1841, Ruby Mansfield and Nancy Sharp, alias Pease, petitioned the General Assembly as sole heirs to the Golden Hill Estate. Perhaps these were the two females to whom DeForest referred in the passage cited above, but no documentation was presented or found to validate that the Ruby or Nancy of 1839 were Shermans.

Another narrative was D. Hamilton Hurd's History of Fairfield County, published in 1880 (Hurd 1880). Hurd's book may have been the source of Orcutt's information for his second book containing information on the Golden Hill Indians, which was published only a few years later (Orcutt 1886). Hurd used primary sources for much of the material in his historical narrative. He quoted both from the Connecticut Indian Papers and from documents that are no longer available in the repositories today. He did not attempt a genealogy of William Sherman, but stated

In 1841, Ruby Mansfield and Nancy Sharp, *alias* Nancy Pease, petitioned the Legislature, alleging that they were the sole survivors of the tribe, and asking that a portion of the money in care of their agent, Smith Tweedy, be used to purchase a dwelling-house and sufficient land for their use and benefit. The Legislature by vote authorized Mr. Tweedy, with the advice and consent of the judge of Probate for the District of Bridgeport, to expend a sum not exceeding six hundred dollars for this object, and in November he purchased from Samuel Edwards about twenty acres of land, with a small house upon it, situated in Trumbull, at a place called Turkey Hill Meadow, where Ruby and Nancy took up their abode. Their statement, however, that they were the sole survivors of the

tribe was not strictly accurate.

John Chops, who died in North Bridgeport in 1818, and whose name is perpetuated by the appellation of a hill upon which his wigwam stood, and William Sharp, a seafaring man, who is believed to have been sold into slavery at a South American port by his rascally captain, probably left no issue, but at the present writing (1880) there are still several families of these Indians remaining. William Sherman, the most intelligent of their number, lives in the town of Trumbull. He has for many years been in the employ of the Ambler family, by whom he is held in very high esteem for his many good qualities. His wife is a negro woman, and they have three or four children. Henry Pease, a nephew of William Sherman, is also a resident of Trumbull; he lost his hand a year or two since by the accidental discharge of a gun. There is also a family named Jackson, whose home is in North Stratford. So far as known to the writer, these are all the survivors of the Golden Hill branch of the once numerous Paugussett tribe. At the present time their funds amount to about two thousand dollars, divided as follows:

Amount over to town of Trumbull for the support of Henry Pease, per Act of Legislature.....	\$900
Lent William Sherman to build a house.....	800
Balance in City Savings Bank, Bridgeport.....	321
Total.....	\$2021

(Hurd 1881, 68)

Orcutt is the latest historical report found mentioning the origins of Ruby (Orcutt 1886). Much validity has been attributed to Orcutt's genealogical account of William Sherman. He did not discuss Ruby, who he claimed was daughter of Tom Sherman, 2^d. However, he recorded:

VI. *William Sherman*, son of Nancy and grand-son of Tom 2^d and Ruby, was born in 1825 in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and is still living at Nichols Farms in Trumbull, Conn. being the sole claimant on the

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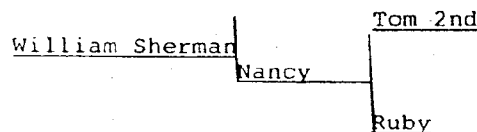
Indian money from the sale of Golden Hill (Orcutt 1886, 43).²¹

Based on the above-mentioned quote, one would assume that William Sherman's mother was Nancy and that Nancy's parents were Tom 2^d and Ruby. However, in the preceding paragraph, Orcutt said that Ruby was the daughter of Tom 2^d (Orcutt 1886, 43).

As a result of Orcutt's inconsistency, the petitioner's presentation of the group's genealogy was also confused. Both the original petition and the response to the obvious deficiency letter reported that not only did Ruby marry her first cousin, James Mack/Mansfield, but that William was the product of Ruby and her father, which is chronologically improbable (Tom Jr. died before 1823, while William was not born until after 1825). Neither is such a relationship supported by the contemporary records.

Despite much research and document analysis, BAR researchers are uncertain who Ruby's parents were. The Ruby Sherman in the guardian and overseer reports was undoubtedly the daughter of Tom Sherman II, son of Tom Sherman I and Eunice Shoran. It is probable that this Ruby Sherman did marry James/Jim Mack, and thus became the daughter-in-law (not daughter) of Eunice Sherman/Mack. No direct documentation exists to validate claims that the "Ruby Mansfield" of the petition response the General Assembly in 1841 of Ruby Mansfield and Nancy Sharp, alias Pease, was the "Ruby Sherman" in the overseers' reports, or the same person as Ruby Mack in Derby. The Ruby Mack who died in Derby in 1849 could possibly have been the same person as the Ruby Sherman recorded in the reports, but no documentation was found to confirm claims that she was the same person as "Ruby Mansfield." Documented proof that Ruby Sherman was the mother of Nancy Sharp, alias Pease, and grandmother of William Sherman, has not been discovered. Thus, descent from the Golden Hill Paugussett or Pequanock tribe through Ruby Sherman has not been documented.

²¹



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NANCY SHARP, ALIAS PEASE

According to the petition, Nancy Sherman/Mansfield²² was born circa 1811, and was the un-named, 12-year old daughter of the "Ruby Sherman" listed on the 1823 list of the Golden Hill heirs (Connecticut General Assembly Papers 1823). If Ruby retained her Sherman name, and if Nancy was born with the Sherman name, then William, if born prior to Nancy's subsequent marriages, could possibly have carried the Sherman surname. No documented source was submitted or has been found to validate the petitioner's assumption. It is recorded here only as a possible explanation of how William Sherman could have carried that surname.

The first document that mentioned Ruby and Nancy together did not list surnames, and only stated that monies for the years 1836-1839 were spent on necessities for Ruby and Nancy (Connecticut Overseer Report 1838). It was not until 1841 when "Ruby Mansfield and Nancy Sharpe, alias Pease" (Connecticut General Assembly Papers 1841, #53) petitioned the General Assembly of Connecticut that surnames were used. No familial relationships were recorded.

The General Assembly stated that Nancy was arrested for suspicion of arson (General Assembly Papers 1849, #68). State prison records did not record her as a prisoner under either name, nor did they show a John Sharpe, concerning whom Orcutt stated in 1886, that Sharpe went to prison (Connecticut State Prison Records 1848-1854). Wethersfield Vital Records indicate that a 51 year old man listed as John Sharp, Black, died in state prison in Wethersfield on June 20, 1851. His birthplace was listed as Milford (Wethersfield Vital Records Vol. 4, 1932, 1933). A relationship has not been documented between this John Sharp and Nancy.

BAR researchers searched for other clues pertaining to Nancy Sharp(e), alias Pease. Molly Hatchet was reportedly an ancestor of William Sherman (Orcutt 1996, 43). The Records of the Congregational Church of Orange, Connecticut list a Nancy, born January 4, 1810, as the daughter of Joseph Richardson, son of Molly Hatchet (Orange Connecticut Church Records 1970, 107). The date is comparable to the date of

²²The petitioner claims both surnames (GHPet Response Appendix X).

birth approximated by the Golden Hill researchers for Nancy Sharpe, alias Pease.

To further verify the Sharpe connection, Benjamin Roberts, who married Sarah Sherman of the Golden Hill heirs, was reported as having a daughter named Patty Sharp, or was married to a Patty Sharp²³ (Orange, Connecticut Church Records, 107). Only the children of Benjamin Roberts were listed, and data was verified by the Records of the Congregational Church. There was no more information on Patty Sharp. However, a Levi Roberts, probable son of Benjamin and Sarah (Sherman) Roberts, married Abigail Hatchet of Woodbridge in 1809 (Orange, Connecticut Church Records 1970, 57).

There was no evidence found or presented to support the petitioner's contention that Nancy Sharpe, alias Pease, was both the mother of William Sherman and the daughter of Ruby Sherman Mansfield. While there is circumstantial evidence for the former claim (see discussion below), the parentage of Nancy remains unproven. Nonetheless, whatever her exact ancestry, she was regarded, in her lifetime, as being a claimant to the Golden Hill monies.

CHILDREN OF NANCY SHARPE, ALIAS PEASE

Available records tie William Sherman closely to the other known children of Nancy Sharp, alias Nancy Pease.

According to Orcutt

Nancy ... had William Sherman; after which she m. John Sharpe, and had Beecher, Nancy and Charles, and Sharpe being sent to State's Prison, she lived with a man Rensler [no surname], and had Olive (Orcutt 1886, 43).

The 1850 Connecticut census listed a Levi Peas, 45, M (male), B (black), born in Connecticut, with Henry, age 5, M, M (mulatto); Nancy age 19, F (female), M, and Charles Sharp, 17, M, M (US Bureau of the Census 1850a, 320, Dwelling and Family #5). On the same census in the city of

²³ From the records, it was difficult to ascertain if she was a wife or daughter, for she was merely listed after a semi-colon after the name of Benjamin Roberts.

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Bridgeport, a Rensellar Peas was listed as age 43, M, M, with Caroline Jackson,²⁴ 35, Female, Mulatto and Olivette Peas, age 7, F, M (US Bureau of the Census 1850a, 281, Dwelling #972, Family #1287).

A Levi Pease and George Sherman, son of William Sherman, are buried in the same lot in the cemetery, but no relationship is listed (Additional Submission 1994, Section 6, Burial Records).

The Sherman Family Bible listed, along with the children of William Sherman, a "Mary Olive Jackson, born Feb. 27, 1842" and "Mary Olive Jackson died Sep 13, 1864" (Golden Hill Petition, Sherman Family Bible). The entry was out of chronological order, on a consecutive line in the Bible. For some time the aforementioned entry was a puzzle. However, when the Bible entry was coupled with the information from Hurd's history in 1880 that listed the Jackson family as heirs to the Golden Hill monies (see p.32), and with the Rensellar Peas family which had an Olivette (see above), it made more sense. Olivette Peas may have been the Mary Olive Jackson listed in the Bible, and the half sister of William Sherman. Olive apparently became a Jackson prior to her death in 1864, or used the Jackson surname (US Bureau of the Census 1860a, 489, Dwelling #2238, Family #2522).²⁵

No records have been found concerning Beecher Sharpe. Nancy Sharpe was listed on the 1850 census. On October 20, 1850, Trumbull Vital Records stated: Charles Sharp, male, 20, black, born in Trumbull and died of consumption (Trumbull Vital Records 1851, Deaths).

²⁴ A Caroline Pease was on the 1860 Census in the Poor House in Litchfield, who would have been the correct age to be the same as the Caroline Jackson listed on the 1850 Census report (also see marriage record of Rensellar Pease to Caroline Jackson (Litchfield Vital Records 1850, Marriage of Caroline Jackson to Rensellaer Pease, October 10)).

²⁵ Dwelling #2238, Family #2522: Edward Hubbill 30/M/M Day laborer 4000 property/100 personal property, b. Conn.; Catherine Hubbill 28 F/M b. Conn.; and children Edward, Francis and William as well as Olive Jackson 18/F/M and Hamilton Jackson 23/M/M Steamboat Clerk. The census was taken on 6 August 1860 making her 18 years old according to the birth date of February 1842 listed in the Sherman Bible.

WILLIAM SHERMAN

According to Orcutt, William Sherman was the son of Nancy Sharpe/Pease (Orcutt 1886, 43). Orcutt's claim concerning William Sherman's Indian descent was recorded on the church record that listed his death.²⁶ Though Orcutt did not document his sources, he has been quoted many times since in numerous histories. However, one of the major difficulties in trying to identify the petitioner's ancestor, William Sherman in other documents has been the fact that there were several William Shermans in the State of Connecticut at that time. In an effort to identify the Golden Hill petitioner's William Sherman, BAR researchers, the petitioner, and CHHH have collected many "William Sherman" documents.

The earliest document that identified a William H. Sherman who could have been William Sherman, ancestor to the present-day Golden Hill membership, in 1842 was a seaman's certification upon which William would have been 17 years old (Seaman Certification #571, District of New Bedford, May 12, 1842). Since it listed this particular William Sherman's birthplace as Tioga, Pennsylvania, BAR researchers have not included it in the surveys that follow.

The 1848 document that listed William Sherman on the whaling vessel, Montezuma, age 23 years, appears to pertain to the William Sherman claimed by the present-day Golden Hill membership. This conclusion was based on the stated age at the time of the document and the birthplace of Pow Keepsie [sic] [New York], as well as his residence of Bridgeport [Connecticut] at the time (National Archives Record Administration 1984, Records of the Collector of Customs for the Collection District New London, Connecticut 1789-1938, Roll 56). In 1851 and 1853, the master of the ship Clematis also listed his birthplace as Poughkeepsie, N. Y. His age and physical description remained accurate, as well (National Archives Regional Center 1984, Records of the Collector of Customs for the Collection District New London, Connecticut 1789-1938, Roll 56).

²⁶ "May 18. William Sherman died, aged - 61 years - He was from the Golden Hill tribe of Indians - See Orcutts - History of Stratford - page 43" (Trumbull Connecticut (Formerly North Stratford) Congregational Church Records, 1730-1931 Vol III, 1886)

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The petition, the death record of William Sherman, and most of the census returns, indicate that William Sherman was born in Poughkeepsie, New York. Though census returns tend to inflate or deflate his age, BAR researchers have agreed that the petitioner's claim of circa 1825 for the year of birth of William Sherman is as accurate as possible.

In an effort to establish William Sherman's parentage, BAR researchers searched the Poughkeepsie area for surnames similar to those found in the genealogy of William Sherman. There were only two records of anyone named Nancy Sherman/Mack/Mansfield in New York State in 1830. One was Nancy Mansfield, listed in New York City without children (US Bureau of the Census 1830d, 434). The other was a Nancy Mack, listed in Ulyses Town, Tompkins County, New York. She was listed as age 40-50, in a household with other free white females ages one under 5, one 5-10 and one 15-20, with a free white male, aged 5-10 (US Bureau of the Census 1830d, 382). *No other Macks, Shermans or Mansfields were found in New York living with a male child in their home under the age of 5 years, or between 5 and 10 years. None lived anywhere near Poughkeepsie.*

In 1825, around the year William Sherman was born, a census was taken in the town of Ulysses, Tompkins County, New York. There was one Sherman listed, a Peter Sherman 2nd. A John Mack and a Nathaniel H. Mack were listed, but no Mansfields. They were not described as Indians (New York State Census 1825 for Tompkins County 1991, 152, 155). BAR researchers did not examine these leads further because Tompkins County is located half way across the State of New York from Poughkeepsie, where William Sherman was reported to have been born. This information is added at this point to illustrate the difficulty in determining the parents of William Sherman.

William Sherman appears to have been listed twice on the 1850 census. First he was listed on the ship Montezuma as a crew member, age 33 born NY²⁷, and second in the household of

²⁷At end of ship Montezuma enumeration, the census taker wrote: In the enumeration of the Mariners, I have endeavored carefully to follow the "Instructions" omitting from the crew lists all persons known to be registered in families. The original copy has been carefully revised with the aid of an old ship Master, and again with the aid of a native

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Nancy Hopkins, age 72, with Jim S. Hopkins, a mariner. In this household a William T. Sherman was listed as age 30, birthplace England, a mariner, followed by Nancy M. Sherman, age 15, born in Connecticut (US Bureau of the Census 1850d, 106, Dwelling #395, Family #13). Because of the birthplace as England, no further consideration would have been given to this William Sherman. However, the 1860 Census of Trumbull, Connecticut, listed William Sherman's age as 40, born in New York, and Nancy Sherman, his wife, as age 25, born in Massachusetts, exactly the same age as the 1850 census, just 10 years later (US Bureau of the Census 1860a, 903, Dwelling #55, Family #65). A Nancy Hopkins married a William Sherman in 1853, and the record stated that Nancy was from Norwich (Vital Records of Norwich, 1659-1848 II, 983). William and Nancy Sherman were listed with three sons in 1860 (US Bureau of the Census 1860a, 903, Dwelling # 55, Family #65). The same three sons were verified in the Sherman Bible as well (GH Response to the Technical Report 1994, Section 7).

It is less clear what transpired in the William Sherman household after 1850. The petitioner provided an extremely old Bible for BAR's inspection in 1994, with claims that it was the William Sherman Bible. In the center of the book were pages listing births and deaths, as was the custom in old Bibles. The births were

William Sherman.....	May 7th	1825
Nancy his wife	Oct 21	1832
William Sherman, Jr.....	Sep 22	1857
Henry.....	Oct 21	1858
Mason.....	March 10	1860
George.....	Feb 27	1862
Mary Olive.....	Dec 27	1863
Caroline Elizy.....	March 10	1865
Harrit [sic] Huldah....	March 25	1867
Mary Olive.....	June 21	1869
Charles.....	Oct 27	1870
Mary Olive Jackson.....	Feb 27	1842
Harriet L. Sherman..	November 27	1870
Edward Lewis Sherman....	May 26	1888
Walter S. Sherman.....	March 24	1891

resident ship Agent. Whole of the mariners reported at
Customs House.

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Ethel L. Sherman.....April 2 1893
Marsha Ann Nelson.....March 1 1941

Deaths listed were

Mary Olive Jackson.....Sep 13 1864
Mary Olive Sherman.....July 27 1867
Mason Sherman.....Jan 13 1875
Henry Sherman.....Dec 23 1876
Willem [sic] Sherman.....May 11 1886
Nancy Sherman.....February 1st 1903
Harrit [sic] Sherman.....November 27 1904
Mary Olive Sherman...November 27 1905
George Sherman.....December 28 1938
Walter S. Sherman.....[no date listed]

There was more than one handwriting in the Bible. The handwriting remained uniform until after William Sherman's death date, and may have been that of William Sherman. There were at least two different styles of writing after his death date. Because of the later dates of births and deaths, not all entries could have been made by William Sherman, who died in 1886. No explanation was offered as to who recorded the information after William Sherman died.

In 1857, records recorded in the vital records books of Trumbull, Connecticut were listed by recorder of that year. From a survey of various pages, BAR researchers concluded that the birth and death records were recorded all at the same time, after the incidents occurred, recorded by a third party. On a page dated first of January, 1858, the birth of a male child, son of a William Sharpe and Nancy Sharp was recorded. The birth record date of September 22, 1857, and sex of the child correspond with the birth date recorded in the Sherman Family Bible as that of William Sherman, Jr., the oldest son of William and Nancy (Hopkins) Sherman. The ages of the parents on the birth record, William and Nancy Sharpe, were 30 years and 24 years respectively; they were listed as white; the occupation for the father was "Sailor" (Trumbull Vital Records, Les Bena, Registrar, First of Janry 1858).²⁸ This birth record is the only document that may

²⁸In the Trumbull Vital records, the date at the top of some of the pages denotes the date that all of the records on that page were recorded into the Trumbull Vital Records books. Thus, the "Janry 1858" denotes that they were brought into the Town Clerk's office and recorded

suggest a relationship of William Sherman, Sr. to Nancy Sharpe. The Golden Hill petition claims that Nancy Sharpe was the mother of William Sherman, Sr. This document by itself would be insufficient to conclude that William Sherman was the son of Nancy Sharp. His association with her other children as listed in Orcutt, implies the existence of a possible familial relationship. (See discussion below.) Although there are many documents concerning William Sherman, he was seldom referred to as "Indian" until 1870 and later, and then they are varied. If the birth document is a record of the birth of William Sherman's son, it is the only one to record the "William Sherman" of Golden Hill ancestry, as "white." All the remaining records that identify race or color identify William Sherman state other designations.

DIARY/ACCOUNT BOOK

The petitioner submitted a diary/account book attributed to William Sherman, Sr. It contained daily entries for the years of 1873 to 1877. The diary/account book also recorded accounts with persons for whom William Sherman and others worked for the periods from 1857 until 1877. Many pages were cut out, and half pages were also cut out. Though alterations to portions of the book put doubt on its validity, BAR researchers have analyzed it as a document allowing a window through which to view the community surrounding William Sherman.

In William Sherman's diary/account book, the people with whom William Sherman associated on a non-working basis were analyzed. Many were identified on the corresponding census records. On those census records, some may have been of Indian descent, but in nearly every case, were recorded as black or mulatto, never as Indian, at the same time periods that William Sherman identified as Indian. Appendix B shows the persons with whom William Sherman socialized on Sundays as taken from entries in his diary/account book and the corresponding census data for those persons.

The exception to the socialization pattern was Henry Pease, who Hurd claimed, was William Sherman's nephew (Hurd 1881, 68). There were many instances in the Sherman diary/account book that mentioned Henry. In October and November of 1860,

in January of 1858.

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Henry worked for Franklin Ambler; and William Sherman kept track of his wages. Sherman recorded, "November the 2th [sic] Give Henry \$200" (Note: no decimals were used, but \$200 was in reality, \$2.00) (GHPet Response Appendix XI, 101). Another page stated

Henry O. Peas a Count 1860
With William Sherman in 1860
March the 24th O. E. Plumb Paid for
Work 3 Days \$125
Sawing 2 loads of Wood 125
April the 6th receive Cash for 200
Sawing Wood to William
Uffords 535
Receive Henry O. Peas
Bank Book April the 15th
in 1860 and hed [sic] in it
April the 14th 1860 \$850
received from William Uffords
Cash for Sawing Wood \$535
Cloth Cuting [sic] and Makeing [sic]
two pair of overhauls 150
[on the same page in the left margin] Henry O.
Peas Left Mrs. Jutson March the 17th 1860.
(GHPet Response Appendix XI, 103)

Another entry for Henry Peas occurred

April 16th 1860
Henry went to Abil Stiles Beachis
October the 14th Henry O. Peas
Left Abil S. Beachis
and was Paid in
Full up to this Date
he Work for five
Dollars a month
Henrys Bills Paid for Bord [sic] 1860
Paid Bord March the 24th \$150
to Sidney Nichols
Washing 1 shart [sic] 6
April the 6th Paid Cash 200
Turnd [sic] to O. E. Plumbs March 24 125
Paid for Board 275

With Abil S. Beach in 1860
and Henry O. Peas

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Jun 10	one pair of Shoes to O. E. Plumbs	125
July 4	went to Bridgeport Cash	200
July 5	went to Burmingham [sic]	
	one pair of Shoes to O. E. Plumbs	130
Aug 6	went to Burmingham [sic]	200
	11	
Sep 3	one pair of Boots to O. E. Plumb	275
Oct 14	Paid Cash to Henry	\$21.00

(GH Pet Response Appendix XI, 108)

From an analysis of page 108 (above), it appears that Henry Peas worked for Abil Stiles Beach for five dollars per month from April through October, bringing in a total wage of \$30. If the deductions for "Bord" were excluded from the balance, \$9.30 would total the expenses. Henry would be left with a total of \$20.70, or perhaps the \$21.00 as his wages. William Sherman paid him \$21.00 on October 14, 1860. On the 1860 census, Abel S. Beach, Jr. was listed with his [Beach's] family. His household included "Henry B. Pease, 16, M/M working as a domestic, born in Connecticut" (US Bureau of the Census 1860a, 910-11, Dwelling #126, Family #145).

In 1857, another entry in the diary/account book listed

Turnd [sic] to Levi Peas	
April 29th in 1859 Cash --	200
the cutting and makeing [sic]	
2 pair of overhaul --	75
June 28th turnd [sic] to O.E.Plumb	400
November the 13th Cash	75
Jen [sic] 9th went to Burmingham [sic]	
to see Henry Peas and hors [sic]	\$125
Toll to gate	5
Bridge toll	4

1.44

538

Last trad [sic] with
 Levi Peas 1865
 (GHPet Response Appendix XI, 92)

Henry Peas turned 21 years of age in 1865. It is unclear why William Sherman "trad[ed]" with Levi Peas, but it was connected with Henry Peas. BAR researchers have been unable to identify the birth parents of Henry O. Peas, but

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Hurd's assessment that Henry was the nephew of William Sherman (Hurd 1881) may be correct. Available information suggests there may have been a familial connection. Henry Peas was not identified as "Indian," however. Closer study of the Pease and Jackson families would be necessary to determine the exact relationships involved.

Familial connections were not apparent for other persons mentioned in the William Sherman diary/account book. George Purdy, in 1877, "Wed [sic] onions 1/2 Day" and "hoed potatoes all Day" on June 24 and 26, is off set by "Work for Purdy: 2 Candle Pinchers; 1/2 Bushel Potatoes" (GHPet Response Appendix XI, 12). There were also accounts of William Sherman's children:

David Worner Cold Spring Ct
Whare [sic] Gerge [sic] Lives
Went to Worners April 13th 1871

Bill Went to Henry Welses, [sic]
for 8 Dollars April 17 1871
Amonth hed [sic] cash 75
10.00
5.00

Work to Charles Nichols
1 Day Diging [sic] 7 hours stoneing
1 Day Stoneing Cash 3 dolar [sic]
(GHPet Response Appendix XI, 21)

Gerge [sic] and Bill can be substantiated as the children of William Sherman by census records that show them as Shermans living with these families.

Page 22 of the diary/account book listed both George and Bill's work activities and rates of pay for August, September and October of 1870. Page 28 contained an interesting entry:

September 1861
Charles Bengaman [sic] begun to bord [sic]
October th [sic] 11 Paid \$6.00
November 9 Paid \$17.00
(GHPet Response Appendix XI, 28)

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Another entry listed another person:

August 7, 1865
Jo Hawley Boy Begun to Bord
for two Dollar and a hlf [sic] a Weak [sic]
Sep 10 Paid \$5.00
Oc [sic] 1 Paid 6.00
15 Paid 5.00

16.00

28 Jo Hawley Move his goods and Boy
Boy boarded [sic] 12 weeks 2.50 a weak
Boys board 30.00
Paid 16.00

14.00

Paid by GBA Paid 5.00

9.00

(GHPet Response Appendix XI, 37, 39)

The above entries raise the question whether or not William Sherman was an agent for children who were boarded out, as was the custom of the times. From the 1860 census returns, identification of the boys mentioned above in the diary/account book was uncertain. The surnames of the boys mentioned include many of the persons listed as "Mu" or "B" in the census returns. One census entry in Bridgeport includes not only the Purdy name, but the Freeman and Roberts surnames as well.²⁹ Most of the surnames in the two households listed in the footnote are surnames found in the William Sherman diary/account book.

In 1872, an Act was passed to enable children of Indians to be indentured by the signature of two justices of the peace if those children were exposed to want, or if they lived in idleness (GHPet Response Appendix IV, 152). The placement

²⁹ Dwelling #2056, Family #2331: "Samuel Stuart 70/M/B Day laborer b. Conn.; Matilda Stuart 60/F/B b. Virginia; Sally Roberts 55/F/B b. Conn.; Serena Freeman 45/F/B b. Conn.; Catherine Purdy 50/F/B b. Conn.; Sarah Freeman 58/F/B b. Conn.; Eliza Freeman 55/F/B" (US Bureau of the Census 1860a Roll 74, p.463). Next door is "Frederick Hawley 33/M/M Coachman, b. Conn.; Harriet Hawley 43 F/M b. Conn.; Joseph Johnson 13 M/M b. Conn.; Harriet Johnson 10 F/M b. Conn.; Charles Hawley 5 M/M b. Conn." (US Bureau of the Census 1860a Roll 74, p.463 Dwelling #2055, Family #2330).

of the children that were mentioned in the diary/account book was prior to this time, however.

The diary/account book contained a detailed list dated 1875, of expenses of "Work on the House," from "Well Diging [sic]" to bricks, and "Sullar [sic] Work" (GHPet Response Appendix XI, 16). Many pages also include 1 Boy, or 2 boys connected with work in which William Sherman appeared to be directing the work (see pages 71 and 72 as examples).

On page 81 of the William Sherman diary/account book:

Jan 13 1876 Went to Bridgeport got money to Pay
for house (GHPet Response Appendix XI, 81).

Hurd recorded that amount to have been \$800.00. It was borrowed from the money in the account set aside from the sale of Golden Hill lands in 1802 (Hurd 1881, 68). On January 22, 1876, William Sherman signed a usual note of mortgage for the use of this money, agreeing to pay interest semi-annually. The note was to the man who was overseeing the Golden Hill funds, Russell Tomlinson (Trumbull Land Records, 11:324). Three months prior to his death in 1876, William Sherman quit claimed the mortgaged land. The quit claim was in favor of "Rowland Lacey, Agent, of the Golden Hill tribe of Indians of the town of Bridgeport in the County of Fairfield and State aforesaid" (Trumbull Land Records, 12:659). The monetary consideration was recorded as one dollar and other valuable consideration, and was the same land as "Mortgaged by me [William Sherman] to Russell Tomlinson then Agent of the said Fund, dated Jan. 13th 1876 ..." (Trumbull Land Records, 12:659) (emphasis added). The wording of this deed was used in the decision of the Superior Court of Fairfield County, Connecticut in 1933 to establish that the land occupied by individual descendants of William Sherman should be designated as a Connecticut Indian Reservation.

Connecticut had many Indians who were identified as such in state records and on Federal census returns. Even though William Sherman was claimant to money in an account from Indian sources, he was not identified as Indian until 1870 (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1870a, 223, Dwelling #81, Family

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#84).³⁰ He worked in the non-Indian community and voted (Trumbull Town Records, 1871-1876) at a time when other Indians could vote only by special acts of the Connecticut Assembly (Act of 1872 and 1874 for Mohegans see General Statutes of the State of Connecticut 1875, 653; Act of 1876 for Niantics see Public Acts Passed by the General Assembly 1876, 93-4).

Though documents produced during his lifetime show only that William Sherman borrowed money from the Golden Hill account (Hurd 1881, 789), he was also said to be an heir to the monies of the Golden Hill account. Orcutt claimed that William Sherman "was the only claimant to the Golden Hill monies" (Orcutt 1886, 43) (emphasis added). The Golden Hill tribe had been dispersed as a tribal entity many years before his birth. Socially and politically, Sherman did not identify as Indian. William Sherman may have had Golden Hill Indian ancestry, although no adequate acceptable documentation of that has been presented to BAR. Even if such ancestry had been demonstrated, Indian ancestry would not have qualified as an Indian tribe. At best, William Sherman may have been an individual Golden Hill heir. Few documents exist to show that William Sherman ever identified as Indian, Paugussett, or Golden Hill.

SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS

The present-day Golden Hill membership is composed entirely of descendants of only two of William Sherman's nine children.³¹ Of those two, a daughter, Caroline, had only one daughter. The rest of the members descend from George Sherman, through the two of his three children who survived childhood, Ethel and Edward. An analysis of the makeup of the present-day community shows that the present membership is actually a single family line, and only a part of that line.

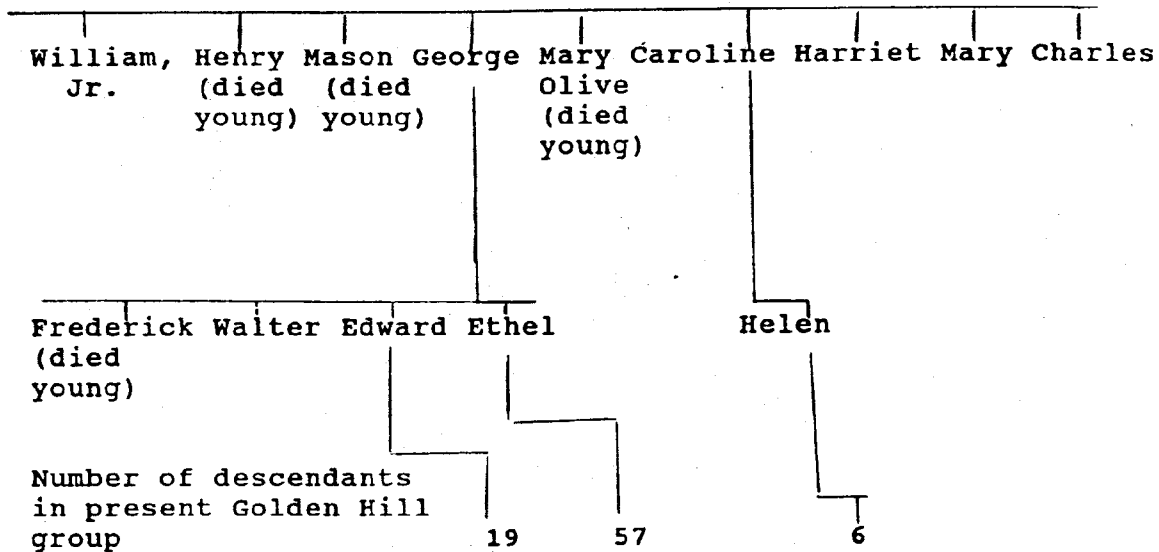
³⁰The 1870 Microform copy of the 1870 Census showed a mark over the initial "Color" designation. BAR researchers requested and examined the original book of 1870 Census at the National Archives in Washington, DC. The original copy was as difficult to determine the "color" designation as the microform copy. The children were listed as "I", with the mother as "B", however.

³¹ Of the nine children, six lived to adulthood.

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SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS

WILLIAM SHERMAN



Total membership: 82

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

From 1802 to 1860; documentation concerning the Golden Hill heirs included guardian and overseer reports, General Assembly petitions, and one Connecticut Indian history book.

In 1860, the Connecticut General Assembly wanted more documentation from the Indian overseers. They approved the following

That the overseer of each tribe of Indians living within the limits of this state, in addition to his report to the superior court, as now by law provided, shall file in the town clerk's office a copy of his report, so allowed by said court, in the town or towns in which such tribe statedly resides; and said duplicate shall be kept on file by said town clerk (GHPet Response Appendix IV, 151).

If, in fact, Connecticut treated the Golden Hill heirs as a tribe, then logically, overseer reports should be found either in the Town Clerk's office in Trumbull or Bridgeport, and in the Superior Court records after 1860. None were found by the petitioner, CHHH or BAR researchers.

In 1872, an Act was passed to enable children of Indians to be indentured by the signature of two justices of the peace if those children were exposed to want, or if they lived in idleness (GHPet Response Appendix IV, 152). No evidence could be found that this had happened to the children of William Sherman. Based on his own diary/account book, William Sherman appears to have voluntarily placed his own children with other families (GHPet Response, Appendix XI).³² No documentation of signatures of any justices of the peace that would allow Indian children to be indentured were found in the case of the children of William Sherman.

³²"Came home Sep 27, 1877. Huldy Went to Mrs. B [illegible] May 25 [illegible]." (p. 6); "Huldy Went to Peats Oct. 1, 1877" (p.9); "David Worner, Cold Spring, Ct. Whare [sic] Gerge [sic] Lives. Went to Worners Apr 13 in 1871. Bill Went to Henry Wels's for 8 dollars Amonth [sic] April 17, 1871." (p.21)

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In 1876, a special act was passed for the "Golden Hill Tribe" enabling the overseer to use money set aside for the tribe or lands owned by the tribe for the use of members of the tribe that have become or may become paupers (Public Acts Passed by the General Assembly 1876, 102). The petitioner speculates that

It does not seem likely that the above statute was enacted specifically to allow the sale of the Quarter-acre Trumbull Reservation. Perhaps there were other lands or property of the tribe ... (GHPet Response Appendix VI, 50).

There is a more direct explanation for the passage of this act in 1876. Because Henry Pease had lost his hand, the Golden Hill funds were quickly dwindling due to the medical expenses incurred (Hurd 1881, 68). To protect the City of Trumbull should the Golden Hill money be entirely used, any property held in trust for heirs of the Golden Hill funds could be used to pay debts incurred. If the money held in the bank account for the Golden Hill heirs were to be depleted, the state would have been responsible for the expenses as state paupers. At the time of the Act, there was no reservation in Trumbull, but a loan for a barn had been issued to William Sherman (Hurd 1881, 68). As collateral for that loan, William Sherman deeded over his land to the person who would have been in charge of paupers and Indians (Trumbull Land Deed, 1876, Sherman to Lacey). In 1823, the General Assembly had enacted a law giving the overseer the right to sell property maintained by an Indian tribe to cover expenses of the group.

Documents submitted by the petitioner and CHHH, and documents researched by BAR staff, do not prove a relationship between William Sherman to Nancy Sharpe/Pease, although they may imply one. Nancy Sharpe/Pease received funds and a home from the Golden Hill account, which listed her and Ruby Mansfield as the sole heirs of the Golden Hill monies in 1841. They were not the sole surviving heirs, as evidenced by the application of another heir for use of the Golden Hill fund (letter of Smith Tweedy) and Hurd's book (Hurd 1881, 68). William Sherman's use of the Golden Hill monies did not prove that he was the son of Nancy, or the grandson of Ruby or that he was in any way related to Eunice Shoran or Sarah Shoran, who were, from 1774, the "only 2 persons [seen] viz Eunice Shoran and Sary [sic] Shoran that were said to be [d]escendants from the Pequannock Indians"

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(IP II, 149d). William Sherman's use of the Golden Hill monies may imply that during his lifetime, he was perceived by contemporaries to be a Golden Hill heir.

In addition, although Nancy Sharpe/Pease and Ruby Mansfield applied for funds together and were treated as heirs to the Golden Hill funds, there is no documented proof that Nancy Sharpe/Pease was the daughter of Ruby Mansfield. Further, although Ruby Mansfield may have been the same person as the Ruby Sherman whose name appeared on guardian rolls, and/or may be the same person as Ruby Mack, there are nonetheless, no documents to prove these assumptions. Although all of them used funds set aside for the heirs of the Golden Hill Indians, no documentation has been provided or found to show how they proved their entitlement. Thus, no descent has been proven for Ruby or Nancy or William.

Far more significantly, the petitioner has failed to prove a continuous connection between the Golden Hill heirs and the historic Paugussett tribe or any other Indian tribe. The tribal entity, be it Paugussett or Pequanonok is immaterial, since from as early as 1765 there was only one family left. Throughout the remaining times, the people who descended from this remaining family were called Golden Hill heirs,. The Paugussett/Pequanock Tribe was in reality, scattered, dissolved and disbanded as early as 1765, when only one wigwam and one family remained. Their resiliency in petitioning the General Assembly for redress allows present-day researchers at least some view into their lives. However, in the present context those petitions illustrate the absence of any entity which could be considered tribal.

Connecticut enacted laws that stated "The overseer of each tribe of Indians shall, annually, state and settle his account of the concerns of such tribe, with the county court, in the county within which such tribe resides" (Statutes of Laws of Connecticut 1823 Title 50, 278-279). The "guardians," "trustees," "agents" and "overseers" for the Golden Hill reported to the respective county courts only when it concerned intermittent land transactions. They settled their accounts in probate courts, and far less than annually. Records created by other Connecticut groups have survived and permit researchers to see the different way in which the state viewed the Golden Hill. Although the surviving documents for other Connecticut tribes skip one or two years, the almost complete absence of documents over decades sometimes distinguishes the Golden Hill group from

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the Connecticut Indian entities. (See Appendix A.) Without either a settlement or continuous documentation to show relationships among members in the 19th century, the Golden Hill heirs appear to be a small family of scattered individuals with some Indian descent. This family had few documented interactions with other Indians in Connecticut (See Appendix C).

Indian reservations were established and maintained for each of Connecticut's remaining Indian tribes in the early 1800's, if not earlier. In the case of the Golden Hill, the five adults of the Golden Hill petitioned to sell the land. From the date of that sale in 1802, though the guardian provided for the needs of individuals out of funds from the interest earned on the money derived from the sale of the lands, no member of the Golden Hill other than Eunice Sherman/Mack lived on Connecticut Trust land.

In 1841, land was acquired for two persons as heirs of the Golden Hill monies. With few exceptions, no other Connecticut tribal entity referred to in the Indian Papers during the same period was actually a single individual. The majority of the other Connecticut groups petitioned as a group, or received land as a group. The Trust land upon which Nancy Sharpe, alias Pease, and Ruby Mansfield lived for about 8 years, was not considered a reservation. This stands in sharp contrast to the treatment by the State of other Indian lands, which were called "reservations," and held in trust by the State for groups.

William Sherman did not live on a reservation. The land which he purchased in 1876 was purchased by him as an individual. He then borrowed money on that land to build a house. The money he borrowed was from the account designated for the heirs of the Golden Hill. Later, he gave title to the land to the overseer to hold as collateral. He turned the property over to the man who subsequently became the last overseer. The overseer had not yet been appointed to the post at that time: there was no record that an overseer had served for some years.

Thus, from 1803 until at least 1885, there was no "reservation": only individual persons using the interest on the money set aside for the heirs of Golden Hill. In reality, there was no reservation until 1933 when Ethel Sherman petitioned the Superior Court to designate the land that William Sherman had turned over to the last overseer as

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a reservation. So, unlike the other Connecticut groups who had maintained a land base throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, the Golden Hill individuals had no land base.

The Golden Hill petitioners have failed to prove that their membership represents the continuation of a historic tribe.

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Appendix A

CONNECTICUT OVERSEERS
ANALYSIS

TIME PERIOD	GOLDEN HILL	E. PEQUOT	SCHAGHTI-COKE	MOHEGAN	W. PEQUOT
1800-1809	1806/7 Josiah Lacy, guardian report for 4 years and 4 months. Pd. S. Osborn, guardian reports to Probate Court. 1807-1809. Elijah Burritt, guardian reports to Probate Court.			1802/4 petition to General Assembly as "Mohegan Tribe of Indians" to sell land. 1806 app't of Overseer of "Mohegan Indians", signed by members of tribe.	

TIME PERIOD	GOLDEN HILL	E. PEQUOT	SCHAGHTI-COKE	MOHEGAN	W. PEQUOT
	1811-12 Elihu Burritt Guardian reports to Probate Court			1817. to General Assembly. "consid- ered a separate and distinct tribe" request changes in land distribu- tion for "preser- vation of the identity of the tribe." signed by 2 overseers of the Mohegan Tribe.	1817 County Court. overseer appoint- ed. signed by tribal members

TIME PERIOD	GOLDEN HILL	E. PEQUOT	SCHAGHTI-COKE	MOHEGAN	W. PEQUOT
1827-29	1823 Committee to look into Hawley accounts lists remaining members	1827-29 Overseer report for "Pequot Indians of Stonington" Rented Indian town Pasture.			1817-19 Overseer Reports two overseers No break in time 1824 tribal list 25 members.
1830-39	1836 Smith Tweedy bond, "overseer of the Tribe" in County Court. 1839 report for previous 3 years.	1830-36 Overseer reports for "Pequot Indians" of N. Stonington. 1835, General Assembly protects wood of the "lands of the Pequot tribe of Indians." in Groton		1834, General Assembly protects wood on the lands of "the Mohegan tribe of Indians." 1837-39: "Mohegan Tribe of Indians" Overseer report.	1830-36 Overseer Reports: land rental of Pequot tribe and "funds... belonging to said Tribe"

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TIME PERIOD	GOLDEN HILL	E. PEQUOT	SCHAGHTI-COKE	MOHEGAN	W. PEQUOT
1840-1849	1841 petition of Eunice Mansfield and Nancy Sharpe using Smith Tweedy as overseer Petition for barn in 1843, in probate court. 1849 petition to sell property in probate court.	1842-5 Pequot Indians in N. Stonington Overseer Reports. 1844 gives "names of the Pequot Tribe of Indians of North Stonington." (25 persons; 9 different surnames) deposited with the town clerk and Superior Court in County.	1847 in County Court, "Conservator of the Scaticook Tribe of Indians" filed an account..	1846 certain members of Mohegan Tribe sold tract of land with supervision of overseer 1848 Assembly authorized overseer of the tribe of Mohegan Indians" to negotiate with RR. 1849 "Mohegan Tribe of Indians" Overseer Report	1841 County Court, overseer appointed signed by tribal members 1849 County Court, overseer appointed signed by tribal members.

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TIME PERIOD	GOLDEN HILL	E. PEQUOT	SCHAGHTI-COKE	MOHEGAN	W. PEQUOT
1850-1859	1854 land deeds only, showing individual deeds from the overseer as agent of the lands once lived on by the heirs.		1854 Report of "Scatacook tribe of Indians" 1859 Superior Court in County: "Overseer of the Scatacook Tribe of Indians.. of Kent" for years of 1858/9.		1855 County Court, overseer appointed Tribal member signature 1854-60 Overseer reports 1856 Report on sale of "Pequot Indian Land" 1856 petition of member to be listed on Pequot roll (Superior Court in County) 1856: members Inventory of holdings

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TIME PERIOD	GOLDEN HILL	E. PEQUOT	SCHAGHTI-COKE	MOHEGAN	W. PEQUOT
1860-1869	1862 land deeds only	1865-70 Overseer report [s] of "Pequot Tribe of North Stonington" reported to Superior Court in County of New London. 1869 gives list of tribal members. Also deposited with Town Clerk.	1861-69 "Scatacook Indians Report [s] of the Overseer"		1861: Allotment of Mohegan reservation by overseer commission; new "Overseer of the Pequot Tribe of Indians" (Superior Court, New Haven County) Overseer reports: 1860-1868.

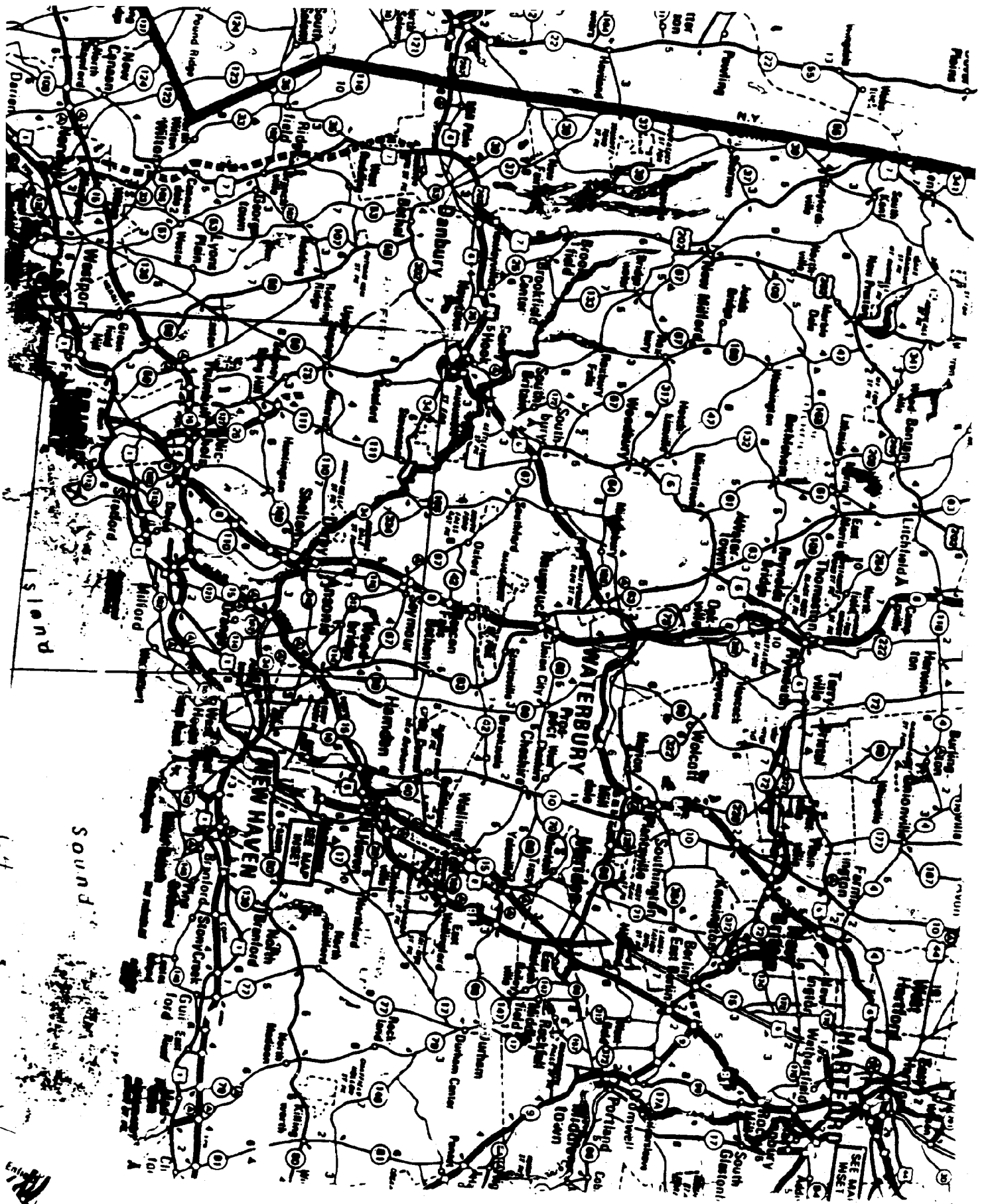
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TIME PERIOD	GOLDEN HILL	E. PEQUOT	SCHAGHTI-COKE	MOHEGAN	W. PEQUOT
1870-1879	no reports. Historian says paid for expenses of Henry Pease. Loans money to William Sherman for house.	1870-5 "Overseer report [s] of the Pequot Tribe of Indians of North Stonington" filed with Town Clerk and Superior Court of County of New London. 1874 petition Superior Court not to sell their lands, signed by 29 tribal members.	1870 "Scatacook Indians Report of the Overseer"	1871 Private funds deposited in bank for "benefit of the Mohegan tribe of Indians." Trustee is tribal member.	1870 "Overseer of said Tribe" lists names of Pequot Indians, Ledyard Tribe Overseer Reports 1870-75 Special Act, 1873 "overseer of said Pequot tribe of Indians." 1872 granted citizenship.

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TIME PERIOD	GOLDEN HILL	E. PEQUOT	SCHAGHTI-COKE	MOHEGAN	W. PEQUOT
1880-1889	No reports. takes land as collateral for loan.	1881 "Report of Overseer of Pequot listing tribal members.	1881-1884 "Report of Overseer of Schaticoke Indians"		1886-87 Overseer Report listed expenditure by tribal member 1884 Overseer Report listing tribal members
1890-1899	nothing.	1890-91 Overseer report of "Pequot Tribe of North Stonington" 1891 lists members of tribe.			1890-91 Overseer report: "Ledyard Tribe of Indians"

Some petitioners used other than overseer reports to fill in the time gaps. This chart uses only the Overseer reports filed with the petitioners, or special petitions made by the groups. Information was taken from petitions of Connecticut groups in files of Branch of Acknowledgment and Research (BAR).



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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release: May 23, 1995

Thomas W. Sweeney

(202) 219-4152

BIA Declines Recognition to Connecticut Group; Golden Hill Paugusett Fail to Meet Criteria

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Ada E. Deer (the head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior) today signed a preliminary decision in which she proposed denying Federal recognition of the Golden Hill Paugusett group of Trumbull and Colchester, CT.

Assistant Secretary Deer said the petitioners failed to meet one of the fundamental criteria contained in the Code of Regulations, Title 25, Section 83.7(e). The preliminary decision means the Connecticut group would not be eligible for certain rights and benefits accorded tribes that are granted "Federal recognition" or "acknowledgment" and therefore have a special "government-to-government relationship" with the United States.

Currently there are 554 Federally recognized American Indian tribes. The most recent addition is the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians of Jena, LA, which was recognized on May 18, 1995. The Huron Pottawatomi, Inc. of Fulton, MI, received on May 11 a proposed finding that would grant Federal recognition.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch of Acknowledgment and Research (BAR) determined that the Golden Hill group was descended from one ancestor, who could not be documented to be of Indian descent. BIA regulations are not intended to acknowledge tribal status to an individual Indian's descendants, even if that ancestor could have documented Indian ancestry. BIA researchers also found that the historic Paugusett/Pequonock tribe that inhabited the environs of Connecticut had been reduced to one family as early as 1756. Additionally, the land base that formed the Paugusett/Pequonock reservation existed until 1802 in the towns of Fairfield and Stratford, CT, but was sold. The present reservation was not established until 1933, and has been used by only one person or family at any time since its establishment.

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The BIA's proposed finding was the second expedited finding issued since the revised regulations governing the acknowledgment of Indian tribes were published in February, 1994. The revised regulations allow the government to issue negative findings if the petitioner cannot show Indian ancestry, one of seven criteria the BIA uses to recognize tribes. Before the regulations were revised, every case was evaluated under all seven criteria, which lengthened the process considerably. The new regulations have reduced the amount of time and work needed to complete a petition evaluation in cases with little merit. The Golden Hill case failed on the genealogy requirement.

The BIA employs historians, anthropologists, and genealogists who research the claims of groups seeking recognition as Indian tribes. Each case is evaluated individually. Genealogists and historians found the problems with the American Indian ancestry claimed by the Golden Hill group fell into two major categories:

1) the Golden Hill petitioner's ancestor in the 19th century, from whom all present-day membership claim to descend, William Sherman, has not been conclusively documented to be a descendant of the historic Paugussett, Pequanock, or any other Indian tribe; nor, more specifically, from the one Indian family that remained in 1769 upon the land set aside for the Golden Hill Indians.

2) the single ancestor claimed by the Golden Hill group does not meet the requirements of 25 CFR 83.7(e). Golden Hill petitioners claim descent from only one 19th-century ancestor, William Sherman.

The Golden Hill group submitted a letter of intent to petition for Federal acknowledgment on April 8, 1982. Historical materials were submitted on October 22, 1986 by the group, but the materials were not sufficient to be considered a documented petition. A documented petition was received on April 12, 1993. Additional documentation was received on three separate dates that year. On November 21, 1994 the petition was declared "ready" and was placed on the waiting list for active consideration.

Under current regulations, interested parties, including the Golden Hill group, have 180 days to comment on the BIA's proposed finding that would deny Federal recognition. All comments must be in writing and should be addressed to the Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1849 C St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

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