

SACHEMS MEET AFTER DISAPPEARANCES

Time of Green Corn, 1614

EARLIER IN THE summer, runners reported that after another ship came to trade, 20 men from communities on the narrow land simply disappeared. Families are frantic over the loss of their loved ones. Now Tisquantum and six others have gone missing from Patuxet.

It is unimaginable that sailors would so brazenly take even more people. Ships have been coming to our country for 100 years. What manner of people steal others from their homes?

Parents are left without sons, wives without husbands, children without fathers, and siblings without brothers that only a day ago were here. All communities are in shock.

Massipee will host the sachems of all coastal villages to examine these horrific incidents. Before this conference, they will consult their elders' and warriors' councils, and also nations up the coast with experience of ships coming into their territory. Sachems will establish new protocols for exchange with these strangers from afar to secure our people's safety in the homeland.

TISQUANTUM (also known as Squanto) spoke English because he and 26 others had been kidnapped in 1614, taken to England, and sold into slavery. After five years, he made it back home, only to find his village of Patuxet wiped out by plague. Consider his state of mind: suffering the trauma of kidnap and slavery, finally getting home only to find his entire village wiped out by disease. The Pilgrims viewed him as their aide and translator, while some of his own saw him as a traitor. Squanto died of a fever in 1622.