Sr.

My humble, & hearty respects presented with humble, & hearty desires of yo:' present, 
& eternall felicitie: Haveing heard of a late confederacy amongst great numbers of 
those Barbarians to afsist Pumham &c. I thought it my duty to wait upon your 
Hono': with these humble salutaçõns, & apprecaçõns of the safety of your person, not 
to be easily hazarded amongst such a Barbarous scum, & offscouring of mankinde. 
Besides, S'. this is an old ulcerous busines, wherein I have been many yeares ingaged, 
& have (in the behalf of my loveing ffriends of Warwicke) pleaded & this cause, with 
the whole Gen:all Court of the Mafsachusets Magistrates, & Deputies; and prevailed with 
them to yeild, that if I, & Pumham could agree, they would ratifie our agreement: 
But Pumham would not part with that Neck, on any termes.  I crave leave to add 
(for the excuse of this boldnees) that the Natives in this Bay doe (by my promise to them, 
at my first breaking of the yce amongst them) expect my endeavors of preserving 
the publike peace, which it hath pleased God, mercifully to help me to doe many 
times (with my great hazard, & charge) when all the Colonies & the Mafsachusets, in 
especiall, have meditated, prepared, & been (some times many hundreds) upon the marcht 
for warr against the Natives in this Colony: Of this my promise, & duty, & constant 
practise, mine owne heart, & conscience before God; as also some Natives put me 
in mind at present.

1.  ffirst then (although I know an other claime laid to this land, Yet) Pumham 
being the ancient po$essor of this Lordship, I humbly querie, whether it be just 
to dispo$ses him (not only without consent, which feare may extort, but without some 
satisfying consideration.)  I had a Commis$ion from my friends of Warwicke to 
promise a good round value, and I know some of them have desired the Natives I though 
it cost them some hundreds of Pounds.

2.  Your Hono:' will never effect by force a safe, & lasting conclusion, untill you first 
have reduced the Mafsachusets to the obedience of his Ma:tie and then these appendants 
towed at their stern) will easily (and not before) wind about also.

3.  The businen$s as circumstantiated will not be effected without bloudshed: bara= 
=barians are Barbarians.  There be old grudges betwixt our country men of Warwick, 
(& them, 

(292) 
87 

& them: They are a Melancholy people, & judg themselves, (By the former Sachim 
& these English) oppre$ed, & wronged: you may knock out their braines, & yet not 
make them peaceably to surrender; even as some oxen will die before they will 
rise; yet with patience, & gentle meanes will rise, & draw, & doe good service.

4.  These Barbarians know that it is but one partie in Warwick, which claim this 
Neck, The greatest part of the Towne cry out against the other, /to my knowledg & the Natives also.
5. The Natives know that this party in Warwick are not onely destitute of help, from their owne Townesmen, but of the other townes of this Colony also.

6. They know it would please the Mafsachusets, & most of the other Colonies, that Mf. Gorton, & his friends had been long ere this destroyed.

7. They know that Ninicroft, & Peſsicus are Barbarians, & if it come to blows, and that at the first, the worst be to the English (in my appearance) they will joyne to further the prey: How ever if Kng. Phillip keepe his promise, they will be too great a party against those two Sachims.

8. Lastly Sr. We profeſs Christianity, which commends a little with Peace: a diner of green herbes with quietneſs: and if it be poſsible, commandes peace with all men. I therefore humbly offer, if it be not adviseable (in this juncture of time) to lay all the blame on me, & on my interceſion, & mediation, for a little further breathing to the Barbarians untill Harvest, in which tence a peaceable & loveing agreement may be wrought, to mutuall content, & satisfaction. Sr. I humbly crave your Hono.rs. gracious pardon to this great boldneſs of
Your most humble, & bounden Servant
Roger Williams.

Providence 1. March
1665 (ut vulg.)

Endorsed

87
Letters to & from The Commissioners concerning Rhode Island & The King's Province

7 April 1665 to 1 March 1666