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Authorship and Advocacy: The Native American Petitions Dataverse By **Alina Scott** An earlier version of this review was published on halperta.com.

Embedded in the (digital) archive are structures of power. [The Native American Petitions Dataverse](#) shifts those structures by attributing authorship to tribal and Native individuals in hundreds of colonial and early American era petitions and memorials. However, is attributing authorship the sole responsibility of those curating digital collections? And even more simply, how does one acknowledge Indigenous authorship in the colonial and early American archive? Jane Anderson addresses this in part by saying “wherein



colonialism is understood as a cultural project of control, archives function as the locus for the cultural technology of rule” (234). A “decolonial” project, then, would offer counter-narratives to the dominant methods of organizing, the hierarchy of archival sources, and the voices represented in the colonial archive.

Petition of Esther Anthony (via [Native American Petitions Dataverse](#))

By that definition, the digital structure and content of [The Native American Petitions Dataverse](#) provide a key example of gesturing towards a decolonial project. The eighteenth and nineteenth-century petition is critical to understanding the engagement of people of color with political institutions and individuals. Much like colonial-era church attendance logs can be used to understand religiosity, petitions (and their signatures) offer a way into the areas of tension between legislators and those frustrated with legislation in the early years of the Republic. For many people excluded from suffrage, petitioning provided an almost direct line to governing bodies. Native people, in particular, used petitioning intra-tribally and externally. In the northeast, Native peoples appealed to legislative bodies for equality long before petitioning’s popularization in the abolitionist and women’s suffrage movements in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Collective and individual petitioning efforts are essential to nuanced tellings of Native histories, and therefore, an important area of focus for digital humanists.

The Native American Petitions Dataverse offers users direct access to high resolution digitized petitions from the Massachusetts State Archive and the National Archives and Records Administration. This project is an extension of the digitization efforts of Harvard’s Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and is led by head investigator and Professor of Government, Daniel Carpenter, and Tribal Archivist for the Mashpee Wampanoag Community, Stephen R. Curley. This collection hosts digitized petitions by Native individuals, groups, towns, and nations (Abenaki, Chappaquiddick, Maliseet, Mohawk, Mohegan, Nipmuc, Penobscot, Pequot, Punkapoag, Wampanoag to name a few), to the Massachusetts colonial and state officials or the General Court. It also includes petitions from non-Native peoples on behalf of or that concern Native Americans.

With a format similar to the NEH funded [Antislavery Petitions Massachusetts Dataverse](#), of which Dr. Carpenter was also a part, this collection features 644 petitions from predominantly Indigenous townships in Massachusetts, from 1640-1870. This digitization initiative is in collaboration with the [Yale Papers Project](#) with the intention to have 4500 items digitized. More importantly, this project was planned in “consultation with and with the support of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), and the Mohegan tribe, including consultation with representatives and governments of other Northeastern tribes and native communities” ([Radcliffe Institute](#), 2016).

The interface is simple and clean, but it provides neither contextualization of individual documents nor an explanation of the significance of the practice of petitioning in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Researchers, educators, and students will find the expansive nature of this collection a welcome addition to the already vast number of nineteenth-century legislative documents available online. Its contents highlight more nuanced perspectives on issues such as Indigenous territorial claims, land rights, religion, the abolition of slavery, and ideas about

Indigenous communities in New England. And it puts Native voices and signatures, at the forefront.

Screenshot of [Native American Petitions Dataverse](#) (via author)

The labor of the archivist is on full display. The methodological priorities (tagging, keywords, citation, etc.) place signers and the groups involved in petitioning efforts at the forefront of the site. In both metadata and archivist notes, The Native American Petitions Dataverse highlights Indigenous voices, by allowing users to filter petitions by keyword term, publication year, production date (year petition was signed/submitted), and geographic coverage. This reveals opportunities to restructure classic periodization and overemphasized themes in the historiography. More significantly, chosen methods of tagging and consistent categorization increase the visibility of traditionally disenfranchised figures. I am thinking particularly about Native women's participation in petitioning campaigns and their advocacy about issues related to both individual and tribal rights.

Take, for example, the 1762 petition of Esther Anthony, a Native woman of color from the tribe of Mashpee, but living in the town of Middleborough, Massachusetts. The [informational page](#) includes several identifiers, including the total number of signatures, the extent of legislative action, the number of signatures by women of color, tribal affiliation, and additional archivist notes (i.e., widow, Jeremiah Anthony, sale, lands, payments). At the top of the page is a full citation of the original primary source along with the petition subject (which, in this case, is property) and a link to a [high-resolution photograph](#) of the petition. In the Harvard Library viewer, users can “flip” through the selected petition or browse related petitions (left of the screen) either submitted on the same date, on similar topics, or by the same petitioners as they would be organized in an archival folder. This user-friendly layout provides ample room for researchers interested in larger historical trends, genealogical networks, or public history projects. The latter opens the door to the telling of more nuanced narratives, powerful stories, specific individuals' names, and the movement of ideas. Dr. Carpenter demonstrates one such application in a data visualization project based on the Massachusetts Antislavery Petitioning Dataverse called [“Your Humble Petitioners.”](#) This interactive map associates geographic coordinates with the locations inscribed in the metadata of the antislavery petitions. This could very easily be replicated with the Native American petitions.

Esther Anthony's Mark (via [Native American Petitions Dataverse](#))

The priority to distinguish Native petitions, or petitions about Native issues, commits to a partial restructuring of the power balance of the colonial archive. However, one is forced to ask whether it goes far enough. Is attribution enough? “Authorship is foundational to the organizational framework because it operates as a core node in the classification of all materials within the modern archive”(Anderson, 230). How is authorship determined? Is that the role of the archivist or the researcher? While this archive does not answer those questions, it does open up a world of research into key figures and names in the history of Indigenous petitioning efforts in the northeast and is a valuable resource to an interdisciplinary and intertribal pool of scholars. This project shows how prioritizing authorship can make room for Native voices and advocacy in the digital humanities but leaves unresolved key contextualizing details that would further illuminate the importance of this collection.

References:

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[*Photographer Captures The Perfect Shot Of Stunning Bald Eagle*](#)
healthyholisticliving.com

[**Trespass near a pipeline, go to prison for 6 years? It could happen in Wisconsin.**](#) NAVEENA SADASIVAM

Process to approve Enbridge's proposed \$2.9B Minnesota pipeline back in motion <http://strib.mn/2p4cMDZ>

[**Google searches for 'climate change' finally beat out Game of Thrones**](#)
KATE YODER

Federal Water Tap

"We do not have the data necessary to evaluate the cleanups that would be required by this bill."
— Andrew Wheeler, the EPA administrator, [objecting to a House bill](#) that requires the agency to designate all PFAS chemicals as hazardous substances under the federal law that guides Superfund cleanups.

\$144 million: Loans and grants to rural communities for drinking water and sewer projects. Headland, Alabama, will receive a \$592,000 loan to replace old water meters. Potsdam, New York, will receive \$5.5 million in grants and loans to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant and install new sewer lines. ([U.S. Department of Agriculture](#))

\$1.3 million: Funding that the Air Force will provide Westfield, Massachusetts for PFAS treatment. The town's drinking water was contaminated by firefighting foam used at Barnes Air National Guard Base. The Air Force already agreed to give the Suffolk County Water Authority, on Long Island, \$4 million for PFAS treatment. ([MassLive](#))

\$6 million: Research funding for eight institutions to study PFAS in landfills and sewage sludge. ([U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#))

In context: [EPA Watchdog Flags Unregulated Pollutants in Treated Sewage Sludge](#)

EPA Raises Water Concerns with California

Citing drinking water contaminants, sewage overflows in San Francisco, and unsanitary conditions due to homelessness, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency warned [in a letter](#) to California Gov. Gavin Newsom, that the state was failing to implement federal clean water and drinking water laws.

The letter, from Andrew Wheeler, the EPA administrator, is the latest front in an ongoing political showdown between the left-leaning state and the Trump administration over environmental regulations and their enforcement. That showdown ranges from air quality standards and vehicle emissions to wetlands protections.

City and state officials questioned the links the agency tried to make between homelessness and water quality. A former EPA drinking water official who retired in 2014 called it “[remarkably silly.](#)”

Asked whether the letter was an escalation in the administration’s battle with the state, a senior agency official dodged the question. “The letter speaks for itself,” the official told reporters on a conference call.

The letter gives the state 30 days to respond with a plan for addressing the issues.

Water Bills in Congress

- The Senate Appropriations Committee approved a [fiscal year 2020 budget bill](#) for the Interior Department and EPA. The Interior budget of \$13.7 billion is nearly 17 percent higher than the Trump administration’s proposal. The EPA budget of just over \$9 billion is nearly 2 percent higher than last year’s enacted level and some 45 percent higher than the Trump administration’s budget proposal. The budget bill includes \$25 million earmarked for PFAS response: \$20 million for grants to communities to assist with cleanup, \$4 million for health studies, and \$1 million for agency actions.
- The House Energy and Commerce Committee, meanwhile, [approved 13 PFAS-related bills](#), including [a measure to require the EPA](#) to set a national drinking water standard for total PFAS, not just for PFOA and PFOS, the two most-studied chemicals. The next step is consideration by the full House.
- The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee was busy as well, approving a [handful of water-related bills](#). Among them: [authorizing construction](#) of a rural water system in eastern Montana and western North Dakota, [allowing Bureau of Reclamation facilities](#) to transport water for aquifer recharge, [allowing Reclamation reservoirs](#) to be used for pumped storage projects, and [greenlighting a pilot project](#) to adapt the management of Reclamation reservoirs to a changing climate by adjusting the “rule curves” that guide water releases.

- The House passed the [South Florida Clean Coastal Waters Act](#), a bill that requires a federal interagency task force to assess the causes of harmful algal blooms in that part of the state and submit to Congress a plan for controlling and reducing them.

USAID Water Coordinator

The U.S. Agency for International Development named Jennifer Mack the new global water coordinator, with the responsibility for implementing the agency's [water and sanitation strategy](#).

Mack is currently the deputy assistant to the administrator in the Bureau of Food Security, where she works on food issues.

John Oldfield, principal with Global Water 2020, a group that advocates for water, sanitation, and hygiene in U.S. foreign policy, said he has "high hopes" for Mack's tenure.

"She knows U.S. government, and how things work," Oldfield told Circle of Blue. "She knows how partnerships work."

Desalination Research Hub

The Department of Energy [awarded](#) a desalination research center to the National Alliance for Water Innovation, a consortium of national laboratories, universities, and industry groups.

The center will look for inexpensive, energy-efficient technologies to treat salt water, brackish water, and wastewater from the oil and gas industry.

Oil Wastewater Taints California Groundwater

Underground and above-ground disposal of salty wastewater from oil production in California has worsened water quality in an aquifer in Kern County that could be used as a drinking water source, according to a [U.S. Geological Survey study](#).

The study looked at water quality impacts of so-called "produced" water. Some of the produced water is dumped into above-ground pits. This resulted in saltier water in the shallow alluvial aquifer, according to the study.

Underground disposal, via injection wells, was "more subtle," the researchers wrote, owing to variations in the deeper geology. Still, an increase in salt levels was noticeable when compared with data from the 1980s and before.

In context: [Wastewater in California's Oilfields](#)

Saltwater Intrusion in Miami-Dade County

Underground salt water continues to move farther inland in Florida's Miami-Dade County, putting drinking water supplies at risk, according to new [U.S. Geological Survey mapping](#).

The leading edge in one section of the saltwater layer moved inland at a pace of 102 meters per year between 2014 and 2018.

The freshwater aquifer in the area is called the Biscayne. Salt water moves inland because of rising seas and groundwater pumping that lowers the level of fresh water. Because it is less

dense, freshwater sits on top of the saltwater wedge, which is thickness near the coast and thinner inland.

The study mapped the salt water where it met the base of the freshwater layer.

PFAS Study Sites Selected

A federal health agency [selected the research partners for a national study of PFAS exposure and health outcomes](#). The study will examine individuals at seven sites. Those sites are in California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

The study will assess the relationship between PFAS exposure and certain diseases, including immune response, lipid metabolism, kidney function, thyroid disease, liver disease, and diabetes. Cancer is not an outcome that will be assessed because the sample size of 8,000 people total is too small to draw those conclusions.

Radioactive Waste Storage Assessment

The EPA [will assess](#) whether a radioactive waste disposal facility in southeastern New Mexico is meeting environmental protection standards.

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, near Carlsbad, stores protective gear, sludge, rags, and other contaminated garbage from defense-related activities. Disposal regulations limit radioactivity in nearby groundwater.

The Department of Energy submits compliance paperwork that the EPA must certify, The EPA is seeking public comment on the DOE's [review application](#). Email comments to a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov with EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0534 in the subject line.



[Archaeologists Unearthed Easter Island Mystery](#)

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1836 treaty puts Michigan tribes at center of Nestle water bid

Updated

Jan 19, 2019; Posted Jun 06, 2017

By [Garret Ellison | gellison@mlive.com](#)

TRAVERSE CITY, MI -- Native American tribes with treaty rights to natural resources north of Grand Rapids are quietly coordinating with Michigan officials who are deciding whether to let Nestle Waters North America extract more spring water from trout stream headwaters where the tribes have inland fishing rights.

According to state officials, tribes in the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority ([CORA](#)) have met with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, other regulatory agencies and Gov. Rick Snyder's liaison three times since MLive [revealed](#) in October that Nestle was asking permission to pump more water.

The tribes are getting monthly briefings on the application review as a government-to-government courtesy and are asking to get an early look at technical and scientific documentation in support of a final permitting decision.

The tribes are concerned that allowing a 400 gallons-per-minute (gpm) withdrawal on Nestle's White Pine Springs production well in Osceola Township might affect the wetlands, streams, flora and fauna in an area where the state of Michigan has a legal duty under a 181-year-old treaty to protect wildlife habitat for tribal use.

If the pumping were to harm the environment, the tribes say the law considers that tantamount to an unallowable "taking" of property. In a Feb. 27 letter to the DEQ, CORA director Jane TenEyck argued the state "may not lawfully permit any diminishment whatsoever of these treaty-reserved resources."

Tribal treaty rights add another legal dimension to a controversial application that has generated significant opposition among the general public, which has flooded the DEQ with negative feedback about Nestle's request to increase pumping from a spring aquifer near Ewart to bottle under the Ice Mountain water brand.

Nestle says the pumping won't substantially harm the local environment, a claim that public opponents dispute and of which the tribes are skeptical.

"Nestle certainly did not address this issue in its initial application, and, to my knowledge, hasn't addressed the issue since then," said Bill Rastetter, a Traverse City attorney representing the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians.

Rastetter notified the state of a tribal interest in early November. He said the 1836 Treaty of Washington gives five Native American tribes a paramount right to protect natural resources in a 14-million-acre swath of Michigan that includes much of the northern Lower Peninsula and the eastern Upper Peninsula.

Tribal rights to fish inland of the Great Lakes were confirmed in a [2007 agreement](#) with the state that acknowledged tribal rights to hunt, fish and forage on land that Ottawa and Chippewa ancestors ceded to the federal government prior to Michigan gaining statehood in 1837.

Modern day successors to the treaty include the Grand Traverse Band, the Bay Mills Indian Community, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

Rastetter, an attorney at the Traverse City law firm co-founded by longtime Nestle foe Jim Olson, said the agreement gives the tribes standing to join any potential lawsuit that might arise from a DEQ decision on whether to give Nestle its permit.

The five tribes have met with officials from the DEQ, Department of Natural Resources, the Attorney General's and governor's office three times; on December 14, February 7 and April 18. There have also been monthly conference calls with tribal leaders and different state departments hosted by Snyder's tribal liaison David Nyberg where the Nestle permit has been discussed, according to the DEQ.

The February meeting involved all federally recognized tribes in Michigan.

Tribal questions about the proposed withdrawal were added to a list of supplemental information the [DEQ requested from Nestle on February 14](#).

James Goodheart, DEQ tribal liaison, said tribal concerns closely mirror those raised by the general public, but tribal feedback is being tabulated separately. Formal public comment on the application ended on April 21.

The DEQ Office of Drinking Water & Municipal Assistance and the Water Resources Division are overseeing the application review, which the DEQ is not under a deadline to complete. Presently, the DNR is helping evaluate potential habitat impacts.

The tribes are asking for early access to technical information supporting a permit decision prior to any issuance. Rastetter said tribal leaders want their own natural resources staff to scrutinize the data before taking a formal position.

Some tribal staff expressed skepticism that Nestle could show the increased water withdrawal wouldn't harm wildlife habitat.

Mike Ripley, environmental coordinator for CORA, said the tribes are concerned not only about Nestle's withdrawal, but a major water withdrawal proposed by a potash mine under development near Hersey, as well as other agricultural, industrial and municipal water withdrawals from the Muskegon River watershed.

Ripley said Nestle has not reached out or adequately assured the tribes that the company's proposed pumping increase won't harm the environment. He's reviewed Nestle's application documents on the DEQ website and is skeptical that pumping water from the headwaters of a spring-fed coldwater trout stream won't affect flow and temperature, and thus impact fish habitat.

Ripley said Nestle is "not being forthright" with real-time pumping data from the well and has relied on estimates based on computer models to support its application.

Although the state did not inform the tribes about Nestle's application prior to its disclosure in news reports on Oct. 31, Ripley said he's been satisfied with the state's efforts to keep the tribes in the loop since then. In early 2016, DEQ water resources staff [gave Nestle a go-ahead](#) to increase the pumping rate, but the company needs a second level of permit review before it can actually twist the dial.

"We hope (DEQ) will continue to be diligent in making sure all the information is given and there won't be any impacts -- or that the permit will be denied for 400-gallons-per-minute," Ripley said. "I think it's becoming clear that 400-gpm is too much of an extraction from that area."

In a statement, Ice Mountain natural resources manager Arlene Anderson-Vincent said that Nestle was not aware of the tribal interest until just recently.

"We respect and recognize the tribes' sovereign status in Michigan as we do all Native American groups across the country," she said.

"We recently learned that the tribes had filed comments about our application, but have not seen those comments nor have we received a request from the tribes to discuss their position. While as far as we know, the tribes do not have land or water claims on the areas in which Nestle Waters operates, we welcome the opportunity to meet with the tribes and listen to their concerns."



[A Broken Trust: Sexual Assault And Justice On Tribal Lands \(Trailer\)](#)

[newsy.com](#)

Where Animals and Plants Might Survive Climate Change

By KQED, 9/30/19

Scientists are searching for pockets of ecological resistance in the face of climate change, places that seem to be warming less quickly than others due to unique natural conditions. The hope is that as the earth continues to get hotter, these "climate refugia" could serve as strongholds for plants and animals. For a decade, scientists have been studying this phenomenon in a steep mountain valley in the Sierra Nevada. Devils Postpile National Monument is known for its distinct geologic formations, where the crumbling columns of rock from an ancient lava bed resemble, well, a pile of posts.

Today (Oct 1) is the birthday of social historian and former Librarian of Congress [Daniel Boorstin](#) ([books by this author](#)), born in Atlanta, Georgia (1914). He wasn't a historian by training; he studied law at Harvard, Oxford, and Yale, and was admitted to the Massachusetts bar. He didn't write about major battles and political events, but about social and intellectual history, and the daily experiences of ordinary people. His personal and professional hero was Edward Gibbon, another amateur historian who had published *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* in the late 18th century. Boorstin was quite proud of his own lack of formal education in history, because he wasn't constricted by rules. His only qualification, he said, was his love of the subject.

When he was appointed Librarian of Congress in 1975, several senators asked him to give up his writing. He refused, but assured them that he wouldn't write "on the job." So he wrote in the evenings, and on weekends, and got up every morning at 4:30 and wrote until he went to the library at 9 a.m. One of his first acts as Librarian of Congress was to demand that the library's imposing bronze doors be left standing wide open. "They said it would create a draft," he recalled later, "and I replied, 'Great — that's just what we need.'"



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In Loving Memory



George New Moon Sr.

Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather, Brother, Uncle, Son, Coach

Entered into life: November 11, 1946

Entered into eternal life: September 25, 2019

Services: Sunday, October 6, 2019 - 11:00 am

Wadsworth Gym

Burial | Wadsworth Cemetery

Dinner to follow | Wadsworth Community
Building

Food Donations Appreciated

Monika New Moon (775) 224-2964

