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Native People & Enslaved Africans Acknowledgement and Recognition in Massachusetts		
County, Town, Venue	Native People Information	Enslaved People Information
Bristol County, Fall River, Heritage State Park	<p>Bristol County was home to the Wampanoag, Nemasket and Pocasset people. The Wampanoag people were the first contact with English Colonists, and made treaties with the Pilgrims. Once the Chief Massasoit died, the colonists fought with the Wampanoags, resulting in the death of 40% of the surviving tribe. Women and children were enslaved or sold into slavery to Bermuda/West Indies. The Namasket (or Nemasket) Pokanoket Band was organized in 2000. It is one of the Pokanoket royal family clans of the Watuppa Reservation State Park in Freetown and Fall River, Massachusetts. The Pocasset Wampanoag band has held lands in Fall River, Massachusetts since colonial times. They manage a 201.2 acre reservation in Fall River recognized under international law. In 1869, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed the "enfranchisement act", which dissolved reservation status for lands held by the tribes. In the late 20th century, the Pocasset resisted an attempt to have their lands put into federal trust, managing to keep them intact. The tribe has members living throughout Southeastern Massachusetts. They applied for federal recognition in 1995 but were turned down.</p>	<p>In the 1830s, a group of New England Quakers began advocating for the end of slavery. Enslaved people coming to Fall River would be fed and kept overnight before moving on. Many slave catchers tried to come into Fall River, but there were safe houses all along the border of Fall River. Two well-known safe houses were the Slade Double House and the 1833 Wright-Fiske-Dean House. The Fall River Historical Society's building was the best known safe house in the city.</p>
Bristol County, Easton, Borderland State Park	<p>Bristol County was home to the Wampanoag, Nemasket and Pocasset people. The Wampanoag people were the first contact with English Colonists, and made treaties with the Pilgrims. Once the Chief Massasoit died, the colonists fought with the Wampanoags, resulting in the death of 40% of the surviving tribe. Women and children were enslaved or sold into slavery to Bermuda/West Indies.</p>	<p>Easton had 3 documented enslaved people over the age of 16 in 1754. According to our research, Borderland State Park was not a site that had enslaved people.</p>

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<p>Chelmsford County, Chelmsford, Chelmsford Town Common</p>	<p>Chelmsford is located on Pawtucket and Wabanaki Confederacy Land. They lived in the most Northwestern part of Chelmsford and were eventually removed and fled to St. Francis in Canada.</p>	<p>Chelmsford had 8 documented enslaved people over the age of 16 in 1754. Although Chelmsford doesn't have any information available regarding their town, slavery played a large role in the county's economic, political, and social rise of individuals and families in the town during the colonial period. There is a current research group working to publish documents about Chelmsford and as they do, we will update this section.</p>
<p>Middlesex County, Wilmington, Yentille park</p>	<p>This land was once inhabited by the Pawtucket tribe.</p>	<p>At the time of the 1754 Massachusetts Slave Census, there were at least 2 enslaved people over the age of 16 in Wilmington. The Gravestones of enslaved people are found in Wilmington. Massachusetts was the first colony to legalize slavery and enslaved members of the indigenous population long before that. Slavery played an important role in the economic, political, and social rise of individuals and families in the town during the colonial period. The County had the largest number of slaves in the colony in the 1750s. The Royall House's Slave Quarters have been turned into a museum in the county in Medford.</p>
<p>Middlesex County, Newton, Hyde Community Center</p>	<p>Newton was home to the Massachusetts Tribe.</p>	<p>Newton is home to the Jackson Homestead and Museum. While the Jackson family eventually became abolitionists and the house itself was a stop on the Underground railroad, the family patriarch, Edward Jackson, left two slaves at the time of his death. An exhibit at the museum called "Confronting our Legacy: Slavery and Anti-Slavery in the North" sheds light on the history of slavery in Massachusetts. At the time of the 1754 Massachusetts Slave Census, there were 8 enslaved people over the age of 16 living in Newton.</p>

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Middlesex County, Boxborough, Sargentt Memorial Library	Boxborough was home to both the Pawtucket and Nipmuck (Nipmuc) Tribes.	Slavery did exist in Boxborough, but the information is still being updated by a research group. The graves of enslaved people have been found in Boxborough, specifically of a woman named Cate, who was enslaved in Boxborough from 1750-1772.
Plymouth County, Plymouth, Pilgrim Memorial State Park	<p>The Patuxet were a Native American band of the Wampanoag. They lived primarily in and around modern-day Plymouth, Massachusetts. The Patuxet have been extinct since 1622, after being wiped out by infections of measles and Smallpox that were brought to the Americas via the slave trade. Plimouth Plantation is a living history museum on historical land that attempts to replicate the original settlement of the Plymouth Colony established in the 17th century by the English colonists who became known as the Pilgrims. Alongside the settlement is a re-creation of a Wampanoag home site, where modern Native Americans from a variety of tribes explain and demonstrate how the Wampanoag's ancestors lived and interacted with the settlers.</p> <p><u>VENUE:</u> Cole's Hill, which is directly across from where we perform, is a burial ground of where Pilgrims buried bodies during the rampant infections and during fights with Patuxet.</p>	Plymouth's History of slavery, began with indentured servants that arrived on the Mayflower. The harbor then became an arrival area for the first ships of captured africans sold into slavery. The first record of an African in Plymouth was in 1643. Massachusetts Bay Colony was the first British colony to legalize slavery. That law extended to the Plymouth Colony in 1691, when the two colonies merged. In the Plymouth Court Records there is only one instance of a person being sold into slavery.

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Suffolk County, Allston, Christian Herter Park	Allston is on Massachusetts and Pawtucket land. Many Natives died here due to their immune systems not being able to combat against European diseases and illnesses.	The 1753 Census stated that Suffolk County had roughly 1,270 enslaved people. During the colonial era, numerous laws were passed regulating movement and marriage among slaves, and Massachusetts residents actively participated in the slave trade.
Suffolk County, Fort Point, Atlantic Wharf	Boston is on Massachusetts and Pawtucket land. Venue: Fort Point was the site of the Boston Tea Party. During the Tea Party, white sons of liberty donned racist disguises, dressing up in what they believed to be native costume.	According to the 1754 Massachusetts Slave Census, there were 989 enslaved people living in Boston in that year. It is generally agreed that African slaves first arrived in Massachusetts in the 1630's, and slavery was legally sanctioned in 1641. During the colonial era, numerous laws were passed regulating movement and marriage among slaves, and Massachusetts residents actively participated in the slave trade. Massachusetts and Rhode Island were the principal slave trading colonies in New England, and Boston was on the primary ports of departure for slave ships." "Slavery, often recast as indentured servitude, was not unheard of in Massachusetts through the end of the eighteenth century
Worcester County, Uxbridge, Blackstone River Heritage Park	Uxbridge is located on Nipmuck land. Many were killed by smallpox brought by the European's and others were forced to convert to Christianity. The passage of the Massachusetts Enfranchisement Act of 1869 effectively 'detrribalised' the Nipmuc, and the last of the remaining Indian plantation lands were sold. Nipmuc communities continued to survive, and the tribe received state recognition in 1979, but efforts at federal recognition have not yet met with success. VENUE: Nipmuck trails are still in the park. Blackstone River was known to the Nipuc as the village Wacentug "bend the river."	According to the 1754 census, there were 7 Enslaved people over the age of 16 in Uxbridge. A enslaved woman named Nancy Adams who escaped slavery three times is honored and buried in Uxbridge cemetery and is part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, operated by the National Park Service. Uxbridge is still compiling their history with enslaved people and we will be updating as they release their documents.
Worcester County, Webster, French River Park	Webster is located on Nipmuck Land. Webster borders Thompson, CT, where there is the Chaubunagungamaug Reservation, known as a "praying town" for the Nipmuck. VENUE: French River Park is by the French River which runs into Lake Chaubunagungamaug which insulates Native presence in this part of the town.	Webster was home to the Freedom Suits. Between 1764 and 1774, seventeen enslaved people appeared in Massachusetts courts to sue their owners for freedom. In 1766, John Adams' colleague Benjamin Kent won the first trial in the United States (and Massachusetts) to free a slave (Slew vs. Whipple).

Native People & Enslaved Africans Acknowledgement and Recognition in Massachusetts Sources

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