Colonization of the Massachusetts
Native Sense of Place

The Land as “Archive” (Brooks)

- “mapping subsistence and survival”
- oral tradition plus literate recorded knowledge

“Topophilia”: attachment to place (DeLucia)

A place-based approach restores the multidimensional quality of remembrance overlooked in histories reliant primarily on written records.

Localisation” is crucial to understanding historical and memorial events.

Remembrance of historical violence takes place: understanding of pasts take shape in relation to particular landscapes, features of the world, and politically defined territories.”

Native cairns (memory places), Harwinton, Conn.
“Topophilia”: attachment to place (DeLucia)

“A place-based approach restores the multidimensional quality of remembrance overlooked in histories reliant primarily on written records.”

- “localization” is crucial to understanding historical and memorial developments.

“[R]emembrance of historical violence takes place: understanding of contested pasts take shape in relation to particular, landscape, material features of the world, and politically defined territories.”

Remains of a native weir, Harwinton, Conn.
European Visions of “New England” as Landscape

- Land (domicilium vacuum)
- Wilderness
- Natives as “ruined” white people
  - Traces of nobility
  - Thralls to Satan
- Natives providentially removed
- Eradication of enemies justified in post-Reformation context

Persuasion & Propaganda

- 1500-1680: 120+ accounts of North America published
- Fascination with foreign lands/peoples
- Encouragement of financing and emigration
- Christianization of natives

[Smith, Generall Historie]
Mythological & Religious Overlays

The Land Flowing with Milk & Honey
- El Dorado, Norumbega, etc.
- belief in easy wealth (Jamestown)

The New Eden
- biblical primitivism
- millennialism
- identification of the New World with Paradise ("topographical idealism" - Hutchins)
- "Instauration": recover lost Adamic knowledge
- euhemerism, alchemy
- New World as place of better health, stronger bodies
- variety of animals and plants hearkened to Eden
- Hebrew as pure language (Lost Tribes Theory)
  - Bradford’s Hebrew glossaries
  - Ezra Stiles, JE Jr.
New England as New Heaven

Natural elements
- fecundity of land & waters
- temperate climate (?)

Religious elements
- refuge for the elect (Woman in the Wilderness)
  - city on a hill ideal
  - Bible Commonwealth

[Bradford, OPP, Bradstreet, “Dialogue”]
A Native Perspective on the Immigrant Problem