

*A meeting of the Governor and Councill held at Newport, July 12th, 1669, to consider of Letters lately received from the Governor of New Yorke, which much concern the peace and safety of the Collony.*

It is ordered, that there bee a meeting of the Generall Councill of the Colony, on Tuesday, the 20th of this instant month, att the house of Capt. Richard Morrice, in Newport, and the Governor is desired to giue notice thereof to the Magistrates of the other townes that they meet at time and place aboue expressed.

Order for  
the meeting  
of the Govr  
and Coun-  
cill.

Whereas, complaints hath been made, that Ninicraft, the Indian Sachem, doth detaine six Indians servants [belonging] vnto Mr. Thomas Torrey, of Block Island :

It is ordered, that the said Ninecraft bee sent vnto, to require him to deliver them vp forthwith, and the Governor is hereby desired to write vnto Mr. Richard Smith, or some other of the Conservators of his Majesties peace in the King's Province, to desire them to give the said Sachem notice of this Order.

*Letter from Francis Lovelace, Governor of New York, to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Sir ; This opportunity presenting, I was willing to give you notice of the apprehension some persons at that east end of Long Island, have of commotions like to arise by their Indians and yours of the Narraganset, sett on by their Sachem Ninecraft, against the English. A copy of some passages in a letter sent expresse from thence to

1669. mee, I hereinclosed send you. For my part, I can not  
thinke them in a condition strong enough to make any  
such bould attempt, whatsoever their will may bee ; how-  
ever, its good to bee circumspect, and to prouide against  
the worst. I shall desire you would make enquiry into  
the matter, and send mee your opinion of it by the first.  
It seems Ninecraft hath beene an old enemy to the Eng-  
lish, so to bee suspected. Mr. Thomas Ferry, of Block  
Island, informs mee that hee hath had six Indyans ser-  
vants run away from him, which Ninecraft protects and  
keepees, though none of his Indians. I thinke you may do  
well to admonish him of it, and that hee ought not to doe  
the least injury to the English, under whose protection he  
liues, without giving satisfaction for it. It may be by  
his answer, you may judge of his intent. I have not fur-  
ther, but to desire a neighbourly and friendly correspond-  
ence between us, which shall be cherished upon all occa-  
sions, by

Your affectionate friend and servant,

FRANCIS LOVELACE.


New Yorke, this 5th July, 1669.\*

TO MR. BENEDICT ARNOLD, Governor of Rhode Island.

*At a meeting of the Governor, Deputy Governor and As-  
sistants, at Newport, Tuesday, July 20th, 1669.*

Warrant to  
apprehend  
Ninecraft.

It is ordered, that forthwith a warrant bee issued out, directed to the Generall Sargant of this Colony to apprehend the body of the Indian Sachem called Ninicraft, and to bring him speedily before the Governor and Council, at Newport, to answer such matters as shall be objected against him, touching a plot or combination among the Indians to cut of the English, of which there is information from divers parts of the country, viz. : New Yoke,

and Conecticot, of which plott, the said Sachem is said to 1669.  
bee a chiefe contrivor, and that the said warrant bee   
placed on record.

To James Rogers, Generall Sargent for his Majesties  
Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Planta-  
tions, &c. :

You are heerby, in his Majesty's name required to ap-  
prehend the body of the Indian Sachem, called Nenicraft,  
residing at or about Nahanticut, in the King's Province,  
within the jurisdiction of this Colony, and to bring him  
before the Governor and Councill at Newport, on Thursday  
next, at eight of the clock in the morning, then and there  
to answer such matters as shall bee objected against him  
touching a plott or combination among the Indians to cut  
of the English ; you are alsoe heerby impowered to re-  
quire the assistance of a boate and two men for your  
transportation ; and alsoe two men and three horses in the  
King's Province, aforesaid, to bee assistant to you in the  
execution of this warrant.

Given under our hands at Newport, in the said Colony,  
July the 20th, 1669.

BENEDICT ARNOLD, Governor,  
JOHN CLARKE, Dep'y Gov'r,  
JOHN CRANSTON, Assistant,  
PELEG SANFORD,        “  
WM. HARRIS,            “  
BENJAMIN SMITH,       “

It is ordered, that the Generall Councill meet on Thurs-  
day next, at eight of the clock in the morning, at Capt.  
Morrice's house, at Newport.

*At a meeting of the Governor and Council, at Newport,  
Thursday, July 22, 1669.*

Whereas, by reason of the extremity of the weather,  
the warrant issued forth by the Governor and Assistants,  
on the 20th instant, to apprehend the Indian Sachem  
called Ninicraft, is not yet executed, it is ordered, that  
the said warrant bee renewed ; and that the Generall Sar-  
gant bee required to apprehend the said Sachem, and to  
bring him before the Governor and Council, on Saturday  
next in the morning, or as soon as possibly hee can ; and  
that the said order to the Generall Serjant bee placed to  
record.

Whereas, by reason of extremity of weather, this war-  
rant is not yet executed, it is ordered by the Governor  
and Council, that it bee and remaine in full force, and  
is heerby renewed, and the Serjeant is required to bring  
the said Sachem before the Governor and Council, on  
Saturday next, in the morning, or as soon as possibly hee  
can ; at the place abouesaid.


Given under our hands, this 22d of July, 1669.

BENEDICT ARNOLD, Governor,  
JOHN CLARKE, Dep'y Gov'r,  
WM. BAULSTON, Assistant,  
JOHN CRANSTON, "  
PELEG SANFORD, "  
JOHN EASTON, "  
WM. HARRIS, "  
BENJAMIN SMITH, "

Richard Baily, chosen Secretary to the Council, and  
engaged.

Ordered, that the Governor bee desired to draw vp a  
a letter to bee sent to the Governor of Plymoth.

A continua-  
tion of the  
warrant ap-  
prehend  
Nenicraft.

*Letter from the Governor of the Colony of New Plymouth.* 

Sir: These coming in safety to your hands, will informe you that whereas, wee haue had information of a plot of the Indians to cut of the English, which wee doubt not but you haue alsoe had the full report of; and wee haueing vsed indeavors to search out the thing, haue sent some discreet persons ouer too see if they could find Nencrafts temper at this juncture; and in examination they received indifferent answers by way of excusing himselfe, and denying any knowledge of such a plot; only when hee was asked why and to what end, seauen of Phillip the Sachems ancient men had been with him the said Nencraft for nine or ten days, then together; some of them being of Phillips's Councill hee gaue noe satisfactory answer to that point, but put it of with a laugh, and very slight returne which gives vs some further cause of suspicion; and therefore haue sent for him to be examined before vs, and dealt with as wee may finde cause therevpon; and doe represent thus much to your selues, that you may if you thinke fitt, question Phillip of Mount Hope, vpon the premises. And whereas, Major Mason writes that it is too apparent there is a plot contriving or contrived between the ffrench and almost all the Indians in the country; it doth the more allarum vs, to take notice of it, seeing such an eminent person doth soe represent it; and doe intreate if any thing appeare to your selues, you will bee pleased to communicate it to, (Sir),

Your affectionate friends and servants,

RICHARD BAILY, Secretary.

In the name and by the order of the Governor and  
Councill of the Colony of Rhode Island and Provi-  
dence Plantations.

To the worshipfull Thomas Prince, Esq., Governor of  
New Plymoth Colony. These with speede and trust,  
for his Majesties speciall service.

Newport, July 22, 1669.

1669. It is ordered, that the Letter drawne vp, bee sent to the  
Governor of New Plymouth.

Military of-  
ficers at  
Portsmouth

Whereas, Mr. William Baulston, Generall Assistant, hath informed the Governor and Council that there are noe military officers chosen for the towne of Portsmouth, by reason of the decease of the late Captain before the yeare expired, the Council doe agree to take it into consideration at their next meeting.

The Council adjourned till Satterday next at eight of the clock in the morning.

*Saturday, July 24th, 1669, in the morning.*

The Governor and Deputy Governor and Mr. William Harris, being mett according to the adjournment of the 22d instant, and noe more of the Council appearing, the Council is adjourned till one of the clock in the afternoon.

*Saturday, July 24th, 1669, in the morning.*

The Governor and Deputy Governor and Mr. William Harris, being mett according to the adjournment of the 22d instant, and noe more of the Councill appearing, the Councill is adjourned till one of the clock in the afternoon.

*Saturday, July the 24th, 1669, in the afternoon.*

The Governor, Deputy Governor, Capt. Cranston, Capt. Peleg Sanford and Mr. William Harris, being mett according to the adjournment in the morning, Mr. Peleg Sanford delivered a letter to the Governor to bee communicated to the Councill, dated July 20th, 1669, subscribed Edmund Calverly, which being read, Mr. Harris desired a cobby thereof, which was granted ; provided, hee would leave a cobby of his proposalls vnto which the said letter seems to refer ; which hee did accordingly. And two other papers relateing thereto, the one subscribed Edmund Calverly, dated 2d day of July, 1669, the other subscribed William Harris, dated the 4th of July, 1669.

The Governor and Councill, thinking it needfull that some certaine place bee appointed to entertaine the Sachem Ninicraft, when the Serjeant shall bring him over, it is therefore ordered, that the said Sachem and two of his followers, shall bee entertained with victualls and lodging, by Thomas Watterman, of Newport, for two or

Letter read,  
subscribed  
Edmund  
Calverly.

An order to  
Thos. Wat-  
terman to  
entertaine  
Ninicraft.

three days at the most ; and that the charge shall bee paid to the said Thomas Watterman out of the Generall Treasury ; and a cobby of this order shall bee the Serjeant's warrant in that behalf.

Mr. Joshuah Coggeshall is to haue notice from the Secretary, that the Councill are to meet on Monday next, at one of the clock, and hee is desired to attend, and to giue Mr. Baulston notice thereof, who is desired to bee there alsoe.

The Councill adjourned till Monday next, at one of the clock, in the afternoone.

*Att a meeting at Newport, on Monday, July 26th, 1669.*

The Generall Serjeant haueing nott as yett brought over the Sachem Ninicraft, the Councill is adjourned till to morrow, being Tuesday, at one of the clock in the afternoone.

*Att a meeting att Newport, July 27th, 1669.*

The Generall Serjeant haueing not as yet brought over the Sachem Nenecraft, and the Councill not being full, soe as to proceed to other matters that are before them, the Councill is adjourned till to morrow six of the clock in the morning.

*Att a meeting of the Generall Councill, viz.: the Governor, Deputy Governor, Capt. Cranston, Capt. Sanford, Mr. John Easton, Mr. Wm. Harris and Mr. Joshua Coggeshall, at Newport, July 28th, 1669.*

Nenecraft's  
appearance  
before the  
Council.

The Sachem Nenecraft being brought before the Council, the Governor did require his interpreter to tell him, the said Sachem, that there was information to the Governor heer, from the Governor of New Yorke and Connec-ticott, and alsoe from Major Mason, that the said Sachem was contriueing to cut of all the English ; and that hee, the said Ninicraft, had reported hee would draw as many Indians as hee could into the combination.

1669. To which the said Sachem replied, hee desired to know  
who it was that did first raise such a report of him.

The Governor ordered his interpreter to tell him, that it was an Indian of Long Island that did soe report to the Englishmen at Southhold or thereabouts, as the Governor of New Yorke did intimate ; but that the matter was not soe much who it was that did report it ; but the Governor and Councill, did expect to heare what hee could say for himselfe, as to the matter laid to his charge, whither it were soe, as it is reported, or not.

To which the said Sachem replied (by his interpreter), that the wondered there should bee any such report raised, considering his owne innocency, and that ever since himselfe heard the words by the Commissioners, spoken as from King Charles his mouth, and hath since laid it vp in his heart that the King did looke vpon himselfe and Sucquansh and their Indians as his subjects, together with the English ; and said hee vnderstood that the English of this Colony were to help them, if any should bee too mighty for them, and they to doe the like to the English if any should invade or make war vpon the Colony. To the other part, hee replied that since you cannot informe mee who raised this report, I will tell you who it was ; it was one Nonaconapoonog ; the reason why hee did it was this, that in their former warr with the Long Island Indians, they haueing taken the daughter of the Sachem of Long

Island with divers more vpon condition that hee released his daughter, that the said Sachem did submit himselfe vnto him, and engaged to pay him yearly tribute, even as the Pequits did the like, who paid tribute to the English, being overcome of them ; that the said Sachem and his daughter being dead, the tribute hath not been paid for some yeares ; but lately the Long Island Indians sent him as an acknowledgment by way of tribute five pounds in peague, at the account of six white peague per penny, with a promise that they would bee subject vnto him for the future ; and that alsoe at the same time they sent

him as a present, the barrell of the deceased Sachem's 1669.  
gun without either lock or stock to it, and that these presents and messages were sent vnto him by an Indian called Manecopungun ; who alsoe coming to him a second time vpon the same message, the Sachem told him that hee did forgiue them all their offences, and gaue them their liues alsoe, and would looke vpon them as his friends and subjects ; and that now hee was makeing a great dance, and if they would, they might send some women, and some ancient men to see it and to bee partakers thereof ; and that now hee is informed that Nonaconapoonog is forsaken of all his kindred, and is in a very sad condition, laying his hand over his face ; and that the said Nonaconapoonog's friends say vnto him, it is justly befallen him for the lyes hee hath made, and for his disturbing the country ; and Ninicraft in his present dance, alsoe telling him that now his condition was such, there was noe place left where hee might goe to secure himselfe, for that all people that did heareof his baseness would hate him, and that hee desired to dye.

The Governor bid his interpreter signifie to him that the Governor of New York was informed hee did detaine English men's servants, and that hee kept six servants belonging to a man of Block Island, although Mr. Brenton, the late Governor, had sent twice to him to deliver them vp, and the present Governor once ; and that hee would not deliver them ; and therefore, notwithstanding his affirmation, yet it did not seeme that hee had such regard as hee said hee had to the King's words.

To which hee replied that hee had had a great deal of trouble about these servants, and that hee did receive an order about them from Mr. Brenton in the winter time, when the snow was knee deep ; and that then hee did send out to looke, but could not finde them, and that hee did order them oftentimes to return to their master ; but they did run away, some to Connecticott, and some to the Massachusetts. That Thomas Torrey had done very badly

1669. with him in the business, and caused him a greate deale  
of trouble ; that once an old man, one of his Indians, did  
complain to him that Thomas Torrey had taken two chil-  
dren out of his house by force, which were now growne  
young men, and were two of the six that Thomas Torrey  
did now demand ; and that hee did advise the said Indian  
to complaine to the Governor against him ; that hee  
might heare them both ; further, hee saith that yesterday  
hee met one of the four Indians that were brought to  
Thomas Torrey vpon Quononicutt, and did intend to haue  
brought him over with him, and did bring him some part of  
the way ; but hee run from him, and that hee would haue  
had the English there to haue gott on horseback and rid  
after him, but they said it was noe matter. Hee alsoe  
said if Thomas Torrey had not intended to haue taken  
away my life, hee might as well haue informed you that I  
being at a dance on Block Island about three or four  
yeares since, I seeing a servant of his there, sent him  
home to him, to his house ; but the next morning the said  
servant came again, and I sent him to his house againe ;  
and hee returning, I sent him back again the third time.  
This I believe he did not acquaint you with, although  
there are severall witnesses that can testifie to the truth  
thereof.

The Governor bid his interpreter to ask him, if there  
were noe plot among the Indians, what did seuen of Phil-  
lip, the Sachem of Mount Hope's ancient men doe with  
him ten days together.

Hee says hee sent for two Indians named Cajawottore, a Narragansett Indian, that now liues at Pocasset, and Nat-tawhahore, formerly a Cononicut Indian, now at Pocasset, because hee knew they were formerly his Indians, and had skill to bark cedar trees and to make bark houses, which his men had not good skill in, and that they had gott the barks, but being disturbed by these troubles had not vsed them.

And that another Indian named Pumechecamuck, a bold

fellow, that liued formerly on Rhode Island, now about Puncatusett, came to complain to him against one of his Indians, that had taken a white blankett from him and spent it in drink; and that two young men came with him to see the dance; and alsoe saith that there was never a Mount Hope Indian there; but that Phillip did send to Cocumscusett for an old man to teach or informe his men in a certaine dance, and hee wonders that it is not taken for a plot.

Hee being demanded what was the reason of this great dance, replied; it is knowne to you it is noe vnusuall thing for vs soe to doe; but that it is often vsed from the time after the weeding of our corne till such time as wee doe eat of it; and farther said it was a kind of invocation vsed among them, that they might haue a plentifull harvest.

The Governour did further advise him that if the Long Island Indians would pay him his tribute freely, it would bee well; but if they should refuse, and hee should goe to take any thing from them by force, it would bee as much as his life was worth; it being under the government of New Yorke; which advice hee ingaged to follow and obserue, as hee had allready done in the time of Governour Nicolls.

The Councill adjourned till four of the clock in the afternoon, to give way for the Quarter Meeting.

The Governor and Council having been long in the consideration of the weighty affaires relateing to the severall feares and jealousies of the neighbor Colonies, as to the plot of the Indians against the English, and haueing already spent much time and paines in the examination of Ninicraft, yet being desirous of all further information that may bee, haue therefore ordered, that hee shall appeare before the Governor and Council on the last Wednesday in August next, at Newport, or sooner if any thing shall bee objected against him; and that notice heerof bee sent vnto the Honored the Governor of New Yorke and Conecticot, signifying vnto them, that the said

Order for  
another ap-  
pearance of  
Ninicraft.

1669. Sachem hath been examined, and the time and place appointed for his appearance, that soe if any thing can bee laid to his charge in this behalfe, hee may then bee further examined and brought to answer at the next Generall Court of Tryalls, to bee held for the Colony, by due process of law.

The Sachem Ninicraft being made acquainted with this order, hath ingaged that hee will appeare at the time and place aboue expressed.

The Governor is desired by the Councill to draw vp the letters to the said Governors of New Yorke and Conecticott.

The Councill adjourned to the last Wednesday in August next.