

Thompson
Shepherd 1-17

**Tribal Government Services**

JAN 16 1981

Mr. Eric Thomas  
 Narragansett Tribe of Indians  
 Route 2  
 Charlestown, Rhode Island 02813

Dear Mr. Thomas:

It was a pleasure for the Federal Acknowledgment staff to meet with you, Ella Thomas and Ethel "Sis" Brown on December 22, 1980, and to discuss the problems you have encountered in preparing Ancestry and Individual History Charts and in completing the current membership list for the Narragansett Tribe.

It appears that Ancestry Charts have been furnished for all of the major Narragansett family lines. Therefore, it will not be necessary to provide Ancestry Charts for tribal members who can establish eligibility for enrollment through one of the major family lines. For those members who cannot establish eligibility through one of the major family lines, however, it will be necessary to provide Ancestry Charts.

As we discussed, though many Narragansett tribal members can trace their Indian ancestry through several family lines, it will only be necessary for Federal acknowledgment purposes for you to trace and document an individual's Indian ancestry back to the detribalization rolls through one family line. It should be your decision as to which family line you will trace and document for the individual tribal members.

It is extremely important that the Individual History Charts for all adults and for minors not living with their parents be completed to the fullest extent possible. They are, as we told you, our way of tying the families together and tracing them generation by generation back to one ancestor on the detribalization rolls. Separate Individual History Charts are not necessary for minors living with their parents.

We have now had an opportunity to check the documents you left with us more thoroughly and have found we still need the following:

1. For Alberta Stanton Wilcox, we need a document to show her father was Albert Stanton, Sr., and a document to show that Albert Stanton, Sr., was the son of Cora Daisy Thomas Stanton. - *red 3-31-81 - doc*
2. For George Rupert Watson, we need a document to show his mother was Mary E. Michel and a document to show that Mary E. Michel was the daughter of Brister Michel. *12-9-81 - no documentation has been received*
3. For Russell N. Noka, Jr., we need a document to show that Russell N. Noka, Sr., is his father. *red 3-31-81 - doc*

As you know, documents which may contain the needed information include birth, baptismal, marriage and death certificates. The same type of documents you submitted to establish your relationship to Benjamin F. Thomas would be sufficient to prove this relationship for the three lines requested above.

We would appreciate having the mailing lists which you indicated you could furnish as soon as possible. They will give us some indication of your previous membership.

We also need the complete roll containing the names of the remaining tribal members and we would appreciate your using the same format with the same information as was used for the list which appears on pages 191 through 213 of Volume I of your petition.

It is not necessary for you to send documents (birth certificates, death certificates, etc.) for any of the remaining tribal members at this time. We will, however, in all probability request this type of documentation for some of the remaining tribal members at a later date.

The names of the council members elected on September 6, 1980, have been placed in the Narragansett petition file.

As we mentioned to you, in a December 15, 1980, opinion, the Acting Associate Solicitor determined that the membership list submitted before a decision has been made concerning a petitioning group may become the base roll of the group, and the membership criteria in force at that time may affect the group for some time to come. That portion of the opinion concerning the base roll is in line with our policy letter of May 16, 1979, which you have. Therefore, every effort should be made to include the names of all current tribal members on the list you are now preparing.

If you have any questions, please call us.

Sincerely,

**PATRICK A. HAYES**

Chief, Division of Tribal  
Government Services

cc: George R. Watson, Chief Sachem  
Ethel "Sis" Brown, Council Member

BIA/Surname1440:Chron 1&2:Mailroom  
Holdup:D.S:ERWOOD:kln:l/12/8t:Corres D-1