



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL
FOLK ARTS & HERITAGE PROGRAM

FIELDNOTES

Fieldworker(s) [(Initials) Name]: (MH) Maggie Holtzberg. (RC) Russell Call

Accession Numbers:

MH-06-11-FN

Fieldnotes

MH-06-11-D

Audio recordings

MH-06-11-D

Photographic documentation

- - -M

Additional materials

Initial Contact: _____ Contact Date: 6/20/2006

Related Accession Numbers: _____

Individual/Group/Event: Apprenticeship in Wampanoag regalia with Anita Peters Little, aka Mother Bear and apprentice Michelle Fernandes

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ County: Barnstable

Phone: Daytime: _____ Evening: _____

E-mail: _____ Website: _____

Contact person: _____

Title: _____

Location of Interview: Living room of Mother Bear's home

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Special Needs (including translation): _____

Traditions documented on visit (traditional art/skills, occupational experience, ethnic or religious community): Wampanoag regalia making with deerskin made by Mother Bear, moccasins, leggings made by Michelle, quilts made by Mother bear; traditional designs in fringe and painting deerskin, wearing regalia at pow wows, the close knit Mashpee Wampanoag community

Traditions noted for follow-up: _____

Other Possible Contacts:

Summary Description: We made the trip to West Barnstable to meet with Mother Bear and her apprentice Michelle Fernandes, both of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe. They shared with u the regalia Michell had made under Mother Bear's guidance. Mother Bear described her background, learning from her great grandmother and from attending pow wows. She also learned the basics of construction by attending the School of Fashion Design in Boston. She spoke about working at Plimoth Plantation in the wardrobe department for the Wampanoag Program. We learn a bit about her extended family. Michelle spoke about learning to respect the leather, its texture and form, and how to fringe, and paint the deerskin using traditional design. She credits Mother Bear with keeping the regalia making tradition alive. They both speak of taking pride in their heritage and in the wearing regalias and moccasins at Pow Wow, although Mother Bear recalls being embarrassed as a youngster, when it "wasn't cool to be a Native American." They discuss changing attitudes toward Native Americans in this country since the days of John Wayne movies and more open prejudice, the culture shock of Wampanoags going to Falmouth High School, the ignorance of non-native visitors to Plimoth Plantation, land disputes, and the Massachusetts state flag - "a Native guy with an ominous sword over his head."