

The following biographical text is courtesy of sculptor Michael Keropian

Sachem Daniel Nimham (1726-1778) was the last sachem of the Wappinger People of the Hudson River Valley.

Most historians suggest Daniel Nimham was born in the Fishkill Creek region near the town of Wiccopee, N. Y. It is very possible that Daniel learned to speak English from his continental neighbors and may have taken part in the French and Indian War. He was made sachem of the Wappinger People in the mid 1700's following two Nimham sachems before him. Land grabbers had taken tribal ancestral lands in eastern New York during the French and Indian War when many of the native people were relocated to Stockbridge Massachusetts while the men were fighting the war. Daniel took the matter to court to reclaim the stolen lands back for his people, and even traveled to England in 1766 to plead his case before King George. Unfortunately, his case was dropped when he returned back to the colonies. Daniel, his son Abraham (1745-1778) and a large group of the Stockbridge Militia died at the Battle of Kingsbridge in the Bronx, N. Y. on August 31, 1778.

This sculptural tribute to Daniel Nimham symbolizes his dual role as a dedicated sachem for his people in court and as an American hero on the battlefield. The sculpture depicts Nimham holding deeds in one hand and a musket in the other.

Visit Michael Keropian's webpage for more information.

http://www.keropiansculpture.com/daniel_nimham.html

Wappingers Falls, Past and Present 1871-1971

The following history of Daniel Nimham was written by Carroll Moon. This article appears on page 7 of a booklet created for the celebration of the Centennial of the Village of Wappingers Falls. The booklet, made available to local residents, is titled Wappingers Falls, Past and Present 1871-1971 and is a part of the Wappingers Historical Society Ephemera collection.

Daniel Nimham, sachem of the Wappingers Indians, led a small scouting party for his tribe to aid George Washington in the years of the Revolutionary War. Washington had green troops at Fishkill for training and Nimham's group made many forays into the lower Hudson Valley to prevent the British advance up the river. The Wappingers sachem was killed in the battle of Cortland's Ridge, in August 1778.

There is a monument to Daniel Nimham at the intersection of present day Routes 52 and 82, in the Hamlet of Brinkerhoff. It was erected by the State of New York in 1937.

Historians relate that Washington always wanted to help the Wappingers tribe for assistance, but the Continental Congress would never go along with his suggestions. The remnants of the Wappingers lived in the Wiccopee valley until the 1790's when they migrated to Stockbridge, Massachusetts and later on to Stockbridge New York, which they founded and named, where they became a part of the Oneida Indian reservations

It is said in later years the few remaining members of the tribe went west and became a part of a large conglomeration of tribes near Green Bay, Wisconsin.