



### Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge the long history of Nipmuc peoples and their bonds of kinship on the land where the Strassler Center community teaches, learns, and researches about genocide and mass violence. The Nipmuc Nation, or “fresh water people,” are the original inhabitants of the land where Clark University is situated. They called the region Quinsigamond (“pickerel fishing place”) and settled in the Nipmuc villages of Packachoag (College hill), Tataasset (currently known as Tatnuck), and Wigwam Hill (currently known as North Lake Avenue), where they created rich and vibrant lives. We recognize the past, present, and future Nipmuc stewardship of the land, air, and water of these places that we now call home and pay our respects to those elders who maintain their connection to these ancestral lands.

With deep respect, we formally acknowledge the painful history of genocide and attempted cultural erasure of the Indigenous population. Colonial settlers who invaded and still occupy this land disrupted Indigenous societies and deployed all forms of violence to eliminate the first peoples to call this place home. Enslavement of Indigenous peoples, indentured servitude, land dispossession, spreading of disease, scalping of Native women, children, and men, coerced assimilation, and military conflict, such as Pometacomet’s Resistance (King Philip’s War), unfolded in this region. Clark University is thus well situated for the study of this critically important history, including the sustained resistance of Native peoples to the many ways settler society has attempted to undermine and destroy them.

Dedicated to critical research about a range of genocide cases, the Strassler Center values efforts to study the processes that resulted in the near annihilation of Native Americans and the range of

responses by Native Americans to that multi-faceted assault. Many research questions can guide our process of inquiry of the place we now inhabit, for example, intent to commit genocide; how victims were chosen and targeted; what constitutes a victim group; expropriation of land and property; processes of destruction of lifeways; psychology and behavior of victims, perpetrators, bystanders; and, contemporary efforts to memorialize; and strategies to transform the systems that reinforce the erasure of Indigenous peoples. While this statement cannot reverse four hundred years of genocidal violations of territory and sovereignty we can pledge to learn about the Indigenous population in partnership with those who continue to live here.

Resources:

[Home - Nipmuc Nation](#)

[Nipmuc Nation | History \(umass.edu\)](#)

[Hassanamisco Reservation -- National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month--  
National Register of Historic Places Official Website--Part of the National Park Service  
\(nps.gov\)](#)

[CentralMA.pdf \(state.ma.us\)](#)

<https://usdac.us/nativeland>