



COLLEGE STRUGGLES TO ATTRACT NATIVES, DISEASE TAKES ITS TOLL

THE ONLY Native student to graduate from the Harvard Indian College died yesterday, writes our obituaries editor, 1666.

Caleb Cheeshateaumuck lost his young life to consumption, a disease of the lungs that causes serious bleeding and difficulty with breathing. Caleb had become ill from his poor living conditions at the College.

The Indian College was established at Harvard in 1655 as a way for Harvard to continue receiving funding.

Its goal was effectively to turn Native youth into whites. However, in ten years, only five Native students have ever attended.

There were three Nipmuc men, brothers Benjamin and Eleazar Larnell, and James

Printer; and two Wampanoag from Martha's Vineyard, Joel Hiacoomes and Caleb.

The Larnell brothers died from malnutrition and their living conditions. Meanwhile, Joel died in a shipwreck one month before graduation, and never received his degree.

The only living student, James Printer, whose Native name is Wowaus, works at the college's printing press as a printer. He has already helped produce more than 1,000 copies of the Eliot Bible, a translation of the Christian text into Wampanoag.

The Harvard Indian College closed in 1693. Harvard eventually granted Joel Hiacoomes his degree in 2011.