

Name _____ Date _____

History Mystery Answer Key

A Place Called Moshassuck

How did geography influence settlement at Moshassuck?

The geography of Moshassuck made it an ideal place to gather and settle. It had three rivers that came together, a tidal area connected to the ocean, and hills. The most important feature was a spring that provided fresh, clean water. This water was a major reason why people chose to build their homes here. It was also easy to travel in this area, making it a popular spot for many different nations to meet and gather the resources they needed from nature.

“I Call the Place Providence”

What made Providence a “refuge of conscience”?

At that time, many people were being punished or told what to believe by their government. Roger Williams wanted Providence to be a safe place where people had religious freedom and could believe whatever they wanted without fear of harm or being forced to leave. Providence became a “refuge of conscience” because Roger Williams and his followers created a place where people’s beliefs were respected and protected. They did not allow any rules about religion, which gave people the freedom to worship however they chose.

The Hahns Arrive in Providence

What factors likely led the Hahn family to leave their homeland and ultimately reside in Providence?

The Hahn family had to leave their home to escape European wars and religious persecution, which caused people to mistreat them because of their faith. They moved to Providence because it was a busy city with good jobs and businesses that gave them a chance for a new life.

“Everybody Knows Hahn!”

How did Isaac Hahn’s success as a businessman enable him to serve and support his community?

Isaac Hahn was a very successful businessman who owned several stores and

companies, which made him an important leader in Providence's Jewish community. Because of his good reputation, he was chosen for important jobs like president and treasurer. His success also helped him support his community in big ways, such as getting a bank loan to help build a new synagogue and buying land for the Hebrew school.

5. Isaac Hahn Runs for Office

Why was Isaac Hahn's election to office in Rhode Island important?

Isaac Hahn's election in 1884 was important because he was the first Jewish person to be elected to office in Rhode Island. This showed everyone that people of different faiths and backgrounds could work together for the good of their community and state.

6. J. Jerome Hahn, Esq., Fighting Injustice

What role did Jerome and Isaac Hahn play in the case of the Chinese immigrants on the Frolic, and what does this reveal about their beliefs and the challenges of the Chinese Exclusion Act?

Jerome and Isaac Hahn played a brave and important role in defending Chinese immigrants. Jerome was the lawyer who defended the 21 men. The judge set a very high bail of \$1,500 for each person, which was a large amount of money at the time. Jerome argued that it was too high, and he succeeded in getting the judge to lower it to \$500 per person. Isaac showed incredible generosity by paying the bail for all 21 men. Jerome and Isaac's actions demonstrate their willingness to stand up for people, even when those individuals were being treated unfairly under the Chinese Exclusion Act, which unjustly prevented Chinese people from coming to the United States.

7. Under God and Law

Did the person who chose that quote in the Providence courthouse see the connection to Roger Williams?

Although no one knows for sure, it is possible that the person who chose that quote in the Providence courthouse saw the connection to Roger Williams.

Sir Edward Coke was a mentor to a young Roger Williams. He recognized Williams's intelligence and talent for shorthand. Coke hired Williams as his secretary or assistant. This job taught Williams about law and government by

letting him see how things worked behind the scenes. Coke paid for Williams's education, allowing him to attend Charterhouse School and later Pembroke College at Cambridge University. Sir Edward Coke strongly believed in the idea that everyone, even a king, must follow the law. By helping Roger Williams with his job and his schooling, Coke's ideas about justice and freedom likely inspired Williams. Years later, Roger Williams took these ideas and used them to create a new colony called Providence, which was founded on the principles of liberty and justice for all.

8. A Hallowed Spot

Why do you think J. Jerome Hahn was so interested in Roger Williams?

It is likely that J. Jerome Hahn was interested in Roger Williams because Williams also believed in religious freedom, just like Hahn's family and community. Hahn was Jewish, and the Jewish people settled in Rhode Island in the 1600s because of the religious freedoms guaranteed by Roger Williams. Hahn probably felt a personal connection to Williams's ideas because they made it possible for his own community to live, work, and succeed in Rhode Island. By honoring the spot where Williams landed and building the memorial, Hahn celebrated the person who created a safe place for people like him to practice their religion freely.

9. Community and Philanthropy

What can J. Jerome Hahn's commitment to his community teach us about the importance of giving back and supporting the places we belong to?

J. Jerome Hahn's commitment to his community teaches us that giving back is a powerful way to show your appreciation for your community. He used his time and money to support important causes. He helped his synagogue, gave legal advice, and donated a huge amount of money to start a hospital. His actions show that the best way to support the places you belong to—like your school, town, or club—is to take action and help build something that will last, making your community stronger for everyone.

10. Love is Better than Abundance

Nearly 400 years after Williams wrote this letter, his call to action still resonates. How can you use your skills to help someone in your community who is suffering today? What does "love is better than abundance" mean to

you?

I can use my skills to help other children at school and volunteer to support my community. To me, “love is better than abundance” means that being a good and kind person is more important than owning a lot of things. Sharing what you have, even if it’s just your time or kindness, is more valuable than keeping everything for yourself. The Hahns and Roger Williams demonstrated this by helping people even when it was difficult to do so.