

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996247904803316
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Titolo	People of the Wachusett : Greater New England in History and Memory, 1630-1860 // David P. Jaffee
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca, NY : , : Cornell University Press, , [2018] ©1999
ISBN	1-5017-2582-3
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 306 p.) : ill., maps ;
Disciplina	974/.02
Soggetti	Cities and towns - New England - History Land settlement - New England - History Frontier and pioneer life - History Cities and towns - History - New England Land settlement - History - New England Frontier and pioneer life - History - New England Regions & Countries - Americas History & Archaeology United States Local History New England History Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775 New England History 1775-1865 New England History, Local
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 291-295) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Illustrations and Tables -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- PART I. TOWN SETTLEMENT IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY -- r. Indians, English, and Missionaries: The Plantation of Nashaway -- 2. "Indian-Fighters" and Town Founders: The Resettlement of the Wachusett, 1675-1725 -- PART II. TOWN SETTLEMENT IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY -- 3. Lancaster and Its Offspring: Serial Town Formation Enters the New Century -- 4. Narragansett No.2: Reproducing Families and Farms -- PART III. THE CREATION OF GREATER NEW ENGLAND -- 5. New England Moves North: The South Shore of Nova Scotia -- 6. Town Founding and the Village

Sommario/riassunto

Nashaway became Lancaster, Wachusett became Princeton, and all of Nipmuck County became the county of Worcester. Town by town, New England grew-Watertown, Sudbury, Turkey Hills, Fitchburg, Westminster, Walpole-and with each new community the myth of America flourished. In *People of the Wachusett* the history of the New England town becomes the cultural history of America's first frontier. Integral to this history are the firsthand narratives of town founders and citizens, English, French, and Native American, whose accounts of trading and warring, relocating and putting down roots proved essential to the building of these communities. Town plans, local records, broadside ballads, vernacular house forms and furniture, festivals-all come into play in this innovative book, giving a rich picture of early Americans creating towns and crafting historical memory. Beginning with the Wachusett, in northern Worcester County, Massachusetts, David Jaffee traces the founding of towns through inland New England and Nova Scotia, from the mid-seventeenth century through the Revolutionary Era. His history of New England's settlement is one in which the replication of towns across the landscape is inextricable from the creation of a regional and national culture, with stories about colonization giving shape and meaning to New England life.
