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Photo of Joseph Attien with Description - undated

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Joseph Attien, last hereditary chief of the Penobscot Nation and first elected governor of the tribe, around 1862, when he was 33 years old. As a young man, Attien worked as a lumberman and in 1853 he acted as guide for Henry David Thoreau during the writer's hikes through the Maine Woods. Thoreau described Attien as "a good-looking Indian, twenty-four years old, apparently of unmixed blood, short and stout, with a broad face and reddish complexion, ..."