NATIVES OF THE KENNEBEC & THE COAST – THEIR WORDS AT CONFERENCES & MEETINGS WITH THE ENGLISH 1701, 1702, 1713, 1717, 1723, 1726, 1727, 1742 & 1753

THE ENGLISH AND MAINE’S NATIVES DANCE AROUND THE ISSUE

1701 – Statement by Sampson (orator for Indians gathered in Boston) (Baxter MSS)

“We are much beholding to your Honor for what you have of late considered us.” And then said Sampson took a pack of Beaver from another Indian, held the same in his hand and said “What we now say and do proceeds from our hearts… If there should happen to be War between England and France we would have all calm and quite in this Land. If there should be War between England and France we would not have it affect us.” Then laid down the pack of Beaver containing Ten Skins.

1702, June 20 – Statement by Gov. Dudley at the opening of a conference at New Casco (Falmouth). Quoted by Rasle and Penhallow.

“It is by command of our queen” he said to them, “that I come to see you: she desires that we should live in peace. If any Englishman should be imprudent enough to do you wrong, do not think of avenging yourselves upon him, but immediately address your complaint to me, and I will render you prompt justice. If we should happen to have war with the French, remain neutral, and do not take part in our differences; the French are as strong as we, therefore leave us to settle our quarrels with each other. We will supply you all your wants, we will take your pelters and we will give you our goods a reasonable price.”

AT THE PORTSMOUTH CONFERENCE:

1713:

http://www.1713treatyofportsmouth.com/baxter.cfm

Terranaguagos, orator of the sagamores of the Kennebec

“We should rejoice that all the English that dwell in the Eastern Parts return to their former Settlements.”

“We should be glad to see the English settling their ancient plantations and should never be disturbed in their rights and privileges by us. . .” And added that they would be very careful to
observe that article of keeping in the northerly side of the Saco River at a distance from the English plantations; but they hope the governor could in a little time give ‘em more liberty.

“When we heard it was peace between England and France we were very glad and hoped we would have a peace here. If the Queen at home makes the peace contained in these articles as strong and as durable as the earth, we for our parts shall endeavor to make it as strong and firm here. We are told that your Governor should say that the King of France had surrendered all the land on this side [of] Placentia [in Newfoundland] up to the Queen of Great Britain. We desire you should inform us how it is.”

Answer: The Queen of Great Britain’s arms were superior to those of the King of France and he has surrendered up Newfoundland and the land on this side.

Sagamore replied: “The French never said anything about it and we wonder how they would give it away without asking us, God having at first placed us there and they have nothing to do to give it away.”

During this discussion, according to Sebastian Rale, the Jesuit from Norridgewock, who was at the conference, one of the native orators gave this warning: “As for the rest of what you say, that the Frenchman has given you Plaisance, Port Royal, which is near here, and all the adjacent islands, he shall give you what he will. For myself, I have my land, which the Great Spirit gave me to live on. I have given it to no one, and I will never give it. I will defend it to the death, and as long as there remains one child of my nation, he will fight to preserve it.”

AT THE ARROWSIC CONFERENCE – 1717:

After a long welcome and opening speech by Governor Shute, Wiruna stood up, and said he was appointed to speak in the name of the rest.

*Governor, Go on.*

Wiruna,

We are very glad of this Opportunity, to see your Excellency, when the sun shines so bright upon us; and Hope the Angels in Heaven rejoice with us; We have been in Expectation of this favour ever since we received your Excellency’s Letter in the Winter. We are not now prepared to
answer what your Excellency has said to us: but shall wait upon your Excellency again to Morrow.

THE NEXT DAY:                        Wiruna, We have considered what his Excellency said Yesterday and the first thing was for Love and Unity; and we admire it exceedingly. And believe it pleases GOD. And hope your Excellency will endeavour it shall be so. We hope all hard thoughts will now be laid aside between the English and Us, and that the Amity will be hearty. Governor, Tell them if they behave themselves well, I shall use them kindly. Wiruna, We have had the same Discourse from other Governours, as from your Excellency: and we have said the same to them; Other Governors have said to us that we are under no other government but our own. Governor, How is that? Wiruna, We Pray leave to Speak out. Your Excellency was pleased to say that we must be Obedient to KING GEORGE, which we shall if we like the Offers made us. Governor, They must be Obedient to KING GEORGE, and all just Offers and Usage shall be given them.

Wiruna, We will be very Obedient to the KING, if we are nor Molested in the Improvement of our lands. Governor, They shall not be Interrupted in the Improvement of their Lands; and the English must not be Molested by them in theirs.

Wiruna, We are pleased with the liberty your Excellency gives us, of making Mention of any wrong we have suffered.
Governor, They must Desist from any Pretensions to Lands which the English own. . . . Wiruna, This Place was formerly Settled and is now Settling at our request; And we now return Thanks that the English afre come to Settle here, and will Imbrace them in our Bosoms that come to Settle on our Lands.

Governor, They must not call it their Land, for the English have bought it of them and their Ancestors.

Wiruna, We Pray leave to Proceed in our Answer, and to talk that matter afterward. We desire that no further Settlements made. We shan’t be able to hold them all in our Bosoms, and to take care to Shelter them, if it be like to be bad Weather and Mischief be Threatened… As to Ministers Instructing us: [Earlier, Gov. Shute had shown bibles in English and the Native language and introduced Rev. Joseph Baxter, indicating that he would settle there for their instruction] All People have a love for their Ministers, and it would be strange if we should not love them, that come from GOD. And as to the Bibles your Excellency mentioned, We desire to be Excused on that Point. God has given us Teaching already, and if we should go from that, we should displease God. We are not capable to make any Judgment about Religion…

Governor, Tell them they must be sensible and satisfied that the English own this Land and have Deeds that shew and set forth their Purchase from their Ancestors. And
we will not be molested in our Improvement of them, and they shall not be molested in the Improvement of the Lands that belong to ‘em.

Wiruna. We desire time to consult. Governor, They shall have it, but tell them I expect to see them again at Three a Clock, with a positive Answer. Wiruna, We are very thankful that your Excellency gives us leave to consider, and shall attend your Excellency at the time appointed with our Answers, for it is not a jesting matter we are now upon.

3 a Clock in the afternoon

Wiruna, We are willing to cut off our Lands as far as the Mills, and the Coasts to Pemaquid. Governor, Tell them we desire only what is our own, and that we will have, We will not wrong them, but what is our own we will be Masters of... .

Wiruna, We can’t understand how our Lands have been purchased, what has been Alienated was by our Gift.

His Excellency hereupon ordered a Deed of Sale of Lands on Kennebeck River, made by Six Indian Sagamores, to Richard Wharton, should be opened and exhibited to them, which was done and partly Read and Interpreted to them.

Wiruna, As for the West side of the Kennebeck River I have nothing to say, but am sure nothing has been Sold on the East side. Governor, I expect their positive Answer and Compliance in this matter, that the English may be quiet in the Possession of the Lands they have purchased.

(From the Baxter Mss)

AT A MEETING IN GEORGETOWN – JULY 1720

Present Capt. Moses or Govr. Taxous
Capt. Sam
Capt. Nathanl.
Wooromett
IND: It’s now the time of finishing the hil ling our Corn and as usual we are come down to the Sea Side but when we came to Swan Island or Merry meeting Bay we found Some of the people were Come down on the river Upon a Surprize and we made the More hast to hear the reason.

PENHW: About 10 or 12 days ago, Mr. Edgu and the People at Cork were threatened by the Indians if they did not go Away immediately, they would Come and knock ‘em in the head, Upon which they thot, proper to Come here, the said Indians nNOT being in any ways in Drink when they SO threatened.

IND: We desire to know what Indians or French Made you so Uneasy.

P: Our English don’t know the Names of all the Indians. Jno Colbertson an Englishman or Irishman being present told ‘em About 3 weeks ago, Mr. Lefabure came to His House in Merrymeeting and told him he Sat in the Council in Narrigewalk, where it was said that in three years time the English would Settle as high as Narrigewalk if they went on as they had begun and the fryer Desired the English might produce their Deeds if they had Any and if they had a Title to the Land they might Settle there without being Disturbed, n if they did Not produce their Deeds they would only Spare their Lives, but Kill their Creatures, Upon which the [said] Colbertson told ‘em they had Deeds for their Lands as also that Colo. Hutchinson ould not be so imprudent as to uld a House worth so Much Money Unless he had a right to the Land. Jno. Hegen an Indian also told me that Col. Hutchinson had no right there that the Land belonged to his Wife, That Capt. Nathl., an Indian also told him they had fought three times for that Land and they would fight again for it, for it was Never Sold to the English, Upon which Nathl. Replyed you Are AN Irishman, and had no business in this Country then the whole of ‘em being Disgusted Said Let us Walk.

P: Again Demanded further what have you to say of business.

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1 Young Prosway was one of the more troublesome Indians. On 20 June 1719 came the report from Falmouth that a stark naked Indian named Prosway had come to Capt. Lewis Bane saying that he and here oher Indians had bought three gallons of rum from a brigantine (Robert Peat of Salem, captain), got drunk in their canoe, and overset it on the way to Pejepscot, drowning the other three. Doc. History of Maine 9:448.

2 Col. Adam Winthrop of Boston was one of the Pejepscot Proprietors and from them received the grant of Swan Island, in the Kennebec River, near Merrymeeting Bay. Some of the Scotch-Irish settlers recruited by Robert Temple in 1716 became his tenants; others settled in Topsham and upriver at Somerset (so called) [in Bowdoinham on the Cathance] on the west side, and some at Cork (Sometimes called Ireland), on the east side in what is now the northern part of Bath. This area extended from Merrymeeting Bay to the Androscoggin River. It was to these settlements and those at St. Georges tat the Indians chiefly objected; they were reasonably reconciled to the planned tonws of Brunswick and Topsham, largely because of the opportunities for trade provided.

3 Probably Henry Edgar. He and four other men were captured near Pleasant Point, Merrymeeting Bay on 13 June 1722 and kept as hostages for the return of four Indians in the hands of the English in Boston.
IND: Being stopt, we desire to know that News.

P: All is well, we of Nothing but what is well, if any to the Contrary it’s among th Indians, and they that made it.

IND: All is well, our Hearts are Easey it’s best for you Not to mind all, in Many Words Much is false and little true.

P. IF all is well what is the Matter? Young Proseway Came to the English two Nights ago and told us three hundred Men would come in one or two Sleeps and take this Garrison and make a good Fire with it, that it was good for Nothing else.

IND: We Can’t tell he is a Penopscott Man. Let him Answer for himself. Said Proseway Deneyed everything, only that Garrison would do well for a good fire, that by and by his Council or Penopscut men would Speak. But two or three English Confirm’s what he said.

P: When the English came down from the Bay they Came in a fright and the Next day they lost three Calves and a Heiffeer, and the Indians Broke Open Colbertsons House and Montgomerys and Robb’d ‘em of their Provisions, &ca.

IND: We can’t tell we Never heard it before Now, we don’t know what Indians and we are sorry for all these Disturbances done the English.

P: You are sorry for it but how will you Make Sattisfaction to the English in killing of their Cattle &ca? Upon which they replyed they did not Come in Council for Such Business. No. Osborn an Irishman Having Something to Say being Called, said 10 days ago, Thoma and Indian Came to him in the Bay and asked him for Rum, who toll’d him he had None, he then Asked him what he did there, if they did not remove he should come and Kill their Cattle and put ‘em all into Barrils.

P: I again tell you if the Indians are sorry for what they have done I hope they will Make Sattisfaction for the Damage.

IND: We Can give No Answer to it, we know Nothing of it, we did Not come about it.

Jno. Colberson again said the Indian Came into my House when I was absent and took my Wife by the ears, then taking out a knife, threatened he would Cut off her Ear if she did Not go away.

IND: We don’t know anything of it, it’s the first time we heard of it.

P: It’s all peace and quiet among the English and we Desire it may be So, we hope it is So among the Indians. The question being asked ‘em three or four times they Debating among ‘emseleves.

THEN IND: We Can’t answer to what you say, we shall tell the Indians Our Youngmen, for we have not Yet Determined.
July 1721 – An Abenaki letter to the Governor delivered to Capt. Samuel Penhallow at Watts Garrison Arrowsic Island by a flotilla of approximately 90 canoes,

Great Chief of the English. You see by the peace treaty, of which I send you a copy, that you must live peaceably with me. Is it to live in peace with me to take my land against my wishes? My land that I have received from God alone, my land of which no king nor any foreign power could or can dispose of in spite of me, that which you have nevertheless done for several years, in establishing yourself therin against my will, as you have done in my river of Anmirkangan [Androscooggin] at Kennebekki, in that of Matsshian8wassis [?] and elsewhere and most recently in my river of Anm8an8wassis [?], where I have been surprised to see a fort which they tell me is built by your orders. Consider Great Chief, that I have often told you to retire from my land, and I repeat it to you now for the last time. My land is not yours, neither by right of conquest, not by gift, nor by purchase… I await then your reply within three Sundays;

if within this time you do not write me that you are retiring from my land, I shall not tell you again to withdraw, and I shall believe that you wish to make yourself master of it in spite of me. As for the rest, this is not the word of four or five Indians whom by your presents, your lies and your tricks you can easily make fall in with your sentiments; this is the word of all the Abenaki nation spread over this continent and in Canada, and of all the other Christian Indians, their allies who … all together summon you to retire from off the land of the Abenakisthat you wish to usurp unjustly… If some particular Indians, addicted to strong drink, tell you to settle where you settled at other times, know that all the nation disavows this permission, and that I shall come burn these houses after pillaging them … last winter . . . you made [six Indian representatives] enter a house and then surrounded it with nearly 200 Englishmen armed with pistols and swords, and compelled four of them to remain for the cattle that had been killed. You have conducted these four men as prisoners to Boston. You had promised to return these four men upon receiving 200 beavers. The beavers have been given, and now you retaining these men. By what right? . . . . Unless you remove from Merrymeeting Bay in 3 weeks we will kill them all, destroy their cattle and burn their houses . . . You Englishmen have taken away the lads which the Great God has given to our fathers and us…

An English report of this event: After this, they [the Indians] became tolerably quiet, but in the Spring grew as insolent as before; especially in Kenebeck, where some time in July they came with ninety Canoos on Padishals Island [Lee Island] which lies opposite to Arowsick, and sent to speak with Capt Penhallow, who fearing an intreague, refused. Upon which one hundred and fifty of them went over to him, with whom he had a Conference; especially with Mounsieur
Delachase, and Sebastian Ralle who were Jesuits; Mousieur Crooizen from Caada, and St. Casteen from Penobscot came also along with them, who brought a Letter for Governour Shute in behalf of ghe several Tribes, importing, That if the English did not remove and quit their Land in three weeks, they would burn their Houses and kill them as also their Cattle.  

(History of the Indian Wars, pp.84-85)
Signature de la part des aborigènes et des voyageurs de la mission.

Ceux du Navarrette.
Ceux de Protasino.
Ceux de la mission.
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Leurs amis
Les Indiens du pays.
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Wabanaki leaders send a letter to Massachusetts Governor Shute, signing it with their signatures. Note the geographical breadth of the connections.

1. Ceux de Narrants8uk, Norridgewock *
2. Ceux d’Arsikanteg8, St. Francis Abenaki near Pierreville, Quebec.
3. Ceux de Pentug8uet, Pentaguet or Castine
4. Ceux d’8an8iak Wawenocs of Becancour, Quebec, originally from Maine.

5. Ceux de Narakamig8, Canton or Jay’s Point on the River Androscoggin

7. Les Iroquis de sante Iroquis of Coughnawaga (Montreal).
8. Ceux d’Anmiss8kanti, Farmington Falls on the Sandy River

9. Les Iroquis de la Montagne, Iroquis of Oka
10. Ceux de Muanbissek, Missiquoi Bay near Santon, Vermont

11. Les Algonquis, Algonquins north of the St. Lawrence River
12. Ceux de Peg8akki, Freyburg, Maine

13. Les Hurons, Hurons (near Quebec City).

15. Les Micmaks, Micmacs
16. Ceux de K8upahag, Ekpahak or Savage Island near Fredrickton

17.  
18.  
19.
17. Les Montagnez du cote du nord Montagnais north of the St. Lawrence River

18. Ceux de Pesamokanti, Passamaquoddy


*"8" is a common colonial-era shorthand standing for an "oo" or "w" sound.

1723 - Native response to a later request that they remain neutral

Quoted in a letter by Fr. Sebastian Raslee, who tells of being at one of the several conferences between Indians and the English he met Governor Shute and was talking with him privately (and perhaps heatedly). A number of Rales ’parishioners attending the meeting from Norridgewock, fearing that Rasles was about to be seized, gathered around the two excitedly, and one of them said the following to Shute.

Great Captain, you tell us not to join ourselves with the Frenchman, in case you declare war upon him; know you that the Frenchman is my brother. We have the same prayer, he and I; and we are in the same wigwam with two fires; he has one fire and I have the other. If I see you enter the wigwam on the side of the fire where my brother the Frenchman is seated, I watch you from my mat, where I am seated by the other fire. I perceive that you carry a hatchet, I shall think, “What does the Englishman intend to do with that hatchet?” Then I stand on up on my mat, to behold what he will do. If he raise the hatchet to strike my brother the Frenchman, I take my own and I run toward the Englishman to strike him. Could I see my brother struck in my wigwam and I remain quiet on my mat? No, no, I love my brother too well not to defend him. Therefore I say to you, great captain, do nothing to my brother, and I shall do nothing to you remain quiet on your mat, and I shall remain at rest on mine.

From Calvert, Mary R, Black Robe on the Kennebec

AT A CONFERENCE IN FALMOUTH – 1726

July 30, 1726

Indians. It is the desire of our Ancient men that the Governour would give Orders that all the Vessels in the Harbour, and Taverns on the Shore, may be restrained from Selling our Young men any Strong Liquor, which may prevent Mischief.

Lt. Gov. We approve very much of that, and shall give Orders accordingly.
Indians. We also desire that any Vessels that come in be restrained from Selling Drink to our Young men, we want very much to get home, and desire the Business may be done. . . .

Lt. Gov. (to the Interpreters) Interpreters, you are now to Acquaint the Indians, that you have been Sworn well and truly and faithfully to Interpreter in the Negociation now depending Indians. We desire that Capt. Jordan may Interpret to us, because we understand him plainest, and the other two will stand by. . . .

Loron (The native orator), As to the first Motions of Peace when we heard of it from the Governour we were very glad of it, and were ready to join in the Peace, and made Proposals in order to effect ito, and particularly about the Lands, and the English quitting the two Houses, viz. Richmond & St. George’s which the Government did not see cause to come into; if they had we with the other Indians should all have come into a Peace before now, and there would be no Difficulty wit the others; not that the Houses should be removed at a great distance, but that the House at St. George should be removed to Pemaquid and that at Richmond to Arrowsic, for the Trading. Houses. . . .

Lt. Gov. There are Gentlemen here present from the Government of te Province of the Massachusetts-Bay, to Prove the English rights to the Land Eastward, pursuant to the aforesaid Treaty, so that you may perceive that we are come fully provided to make good the Treaty on Our Part, according to the Articles Agreed on. That is all I have to say.

Loron. We have no more to say to Night
Lt. Gov. To Morrow is the Lord’s Day, upon which we do no Business. On Monday we will give you an Answer to what you have said; and we will Order the same Signal when we are ready as we did to Day.

Loron. To Morrow is our Sabbath-day and we also keep the Day’

Lt. Gov. We will take a Glass of Wine and Drink the King’s Health, and then you may Retire.

August 1, 1726

. . .Lt. Gov. As to the Two Houses you except against, you may Remember you were told at Boston, that King GEORGE had a right to build Houses where he pleased within his Dominions, and we have not built any Houses on Lands in the IEastern Parts but what we have Purchased, and are ready to prove the Title, and that the Houses mentioned were not kept for Offence after the Ratification, but as they were most Conveniently Scituated in the Judgment of the Government of the Massachusetts for Supplying the Indians, which we then concluded you had rested satisfied with, and you may depend that we shall not depart from that or any other of our Engagements; This is all we have to say to you at Present, if you desire it, it shall be repeated to you over again.

Indians. We desire time to consider of what has been said and we will make an Answer.
Lt. Gov. It shall be allowed you. . .

Loron. Now we proceed to make Answer to the Second Part of Yesterday’s Discourse. Everything of the Treaty is very plain to us, and there is nothing in the way excepting the Two Houses; in case they could be removed a little further in, as we mentioned Yesterday, The Governour was mentioning that he would Settle no Lands, but what good Rights & Titles might be set forth to, & in case the Lands were Sold, we have a Number of Young People growing up who never were Acquainted with the Lands being Sold, The Government is a Great and Rich Government, and if the lands were Sold, they were Sold for a small matter, and it would be but a small matter for the Government to Make Allowance for them, and give them up.

Lt. Gov. What do you mean by making Allowance for the lands.

Loron. We desire that no Houses or Settlement may be made to the Eastward of Pemaquid or above Arrowsic, as for the Penobscott Tribe in particular, we don’t know that ever they Sold any Lands, That’s all we have to say.

Lt. Gov. We shall be ready to make you an Answer to Morrow Morning at Nine a Clock, and shall Order the Signal to be made for you.

August 3, 1726

Lt. Gov. We have Considered your Motion, That we would remove those two Houses on the Kennebeck and St. Georces Rivers a little further in, to which we Answer, That those houses are on Lands Purchased by His Majesty’s Subjects, which we are ready by Commissioners appointed by the Government of the Massachusetts-Bay for that Affair, to make evident to you, (altho’ the Narridgwocks are not present) by producing fair Deeds under the Hands of the Sachems of those Countrys for the same, as well as divers Treaties wherein you Allow’d and Confirm’d to the English all the Lands formerly Possessed by them, which Commissioners are here present for that Service, Those Lands being for a long time since Purchased by his Majesty’s Subjects (and the Property Vested in them;) And now as you have assred us, that you very well know all the Articles of the pEace which was made at Boston, and that you are ready to come hither to Ratify them, so we are also ready to receive the said Ratification, and now expect that it shall be done accordingly We have no more to say but to demand of you what English captives you have ready to Exchange, Pursuant to an Article of the Treaty on that behalf.

We have said what we have to say now, and will take a Walk out for a little time if you desire it, and give you an Opportunity of advising one with another here.

Indians. We thank the Governour, We are the smallest in Number and we will walk out, we can best bear the heat of the Sun and the Indians accordingly retired.

POST MERIDIEM.
Loron. We have been tho’tful of, and Consultd hat was said to Day and now will give Answer to it. . . . We insist upon the removal of those two Houses which was mentioned last Winter, weagain make mention of them now, and if they were removed there wold be no difficulty among the tribes. We can’t find any Record in our Memory, nor in the Memory of our Grand Fathers that the Penobscutt Tribe have sold any Land, As to the Deeds mentioned last Winter, made by Medoccewanda and Sheepscut John they were not Penobscutt Indians, one belonging to Mechias Medockewondo, the other towards Boston. If we could find in reality that the Lands were Purchased of the right Owners, we should not have insisted upon it, nor opened our Mouths, we would not pretend to tell a Lye about it, for we know that God will be angry with the Man that tells a Lye, We do not remember of any Settlements at St. George’s, we remember a pretty while, and as long as we remember, the Place where the Garrison stands was filled with Great Long Grown Trees. . . . All the Controversy now is about a small Tract of Land, which is but a Trifle, and all is finished excepting that, which is a Trifle We have nothing further to offer now.

Lt. Gov. The Committee for Claims are here, ready in the Presence of all the Governments here Assembled to set forth the Titles of the English to the Lands in the Eastern Parts of this Government.

Then the Committee made a Beginning to shew the Deeds of the Sagamore’s to the Lands about St. Georges River, and after some time spent therein, the Indians desired to refer the further Proceedings of that matter to some other time, when they would take an Opportunity to consider it.

August 4, 1726

The Committee for Claims per the Lietu. Governour’s Permission, had a Conference in the fore part of the Day with the Tibe, wen they sat forth the English Titles & Claims to the Lands in the Eastern Country, which maymore particularly appear by the said Committee’s Report. After which the Conference was proceeded in, Viz.

Lt. Gov. of the Massachusetts. You have been with the Committee this Morning, and I trust they have given you Satisfaction concerning the Lands in Dispute, and may be assured that you shall always have equal Justice with His Majesty’s English Subjects in all Points, whenever any Difficulty shall arise concerning the Property of Lands or any other Matters. . .

Loron. We have been tho’tful of what has been said to us this Morning respecting the Lands, as well as what the Governour has spoken to us at this time concerning the Articles. We suppose you can’t bring to pass what we have been proposing concerning giving way. We reckon the Governour was the first mover in bringing forward to Peace, and having a good Settlement among us, now we think we shall go beyond and further than ordinary to effect a good Understanding, as to the House at St. George’s which lies at our Door, as it were, we submit that it shall be a Truck-House, and that no other Houses built there or thereabouts, but that tat
House remain as a Truck-House for the Penobscutt Tribe. We desire Brothers as we have so
good an Understanding together that there be no oter Houses built there, unless it be by Purchase
or Agreement, The Neighboring Tribes have already told us that we should go on with the Treaty
with Good Understanding and Courage, and settle everything, That if a Line should happen to be
Run, the English may hereafter be apt to stepover it, so that every thing they desire may now be
Settled Strong. We are in Hopes, Brothers, that what we have offered is to your Acceptance, This
is all we have to say now... 

Lt. Gov. I shall then put you in mind of what I told you just now respecting the Settling the
Lands at St. George’s-River, and that is, that you shall have equal Justice in all Points with the
Subjects of His Majesty King GEORGE, either in Controversies respecting the Prperty of Lands,
or any other Matter whatsoever, we don’t suppose that any Gentlemen that come to produce of
offer Claims of Lands there shall be their own Judges, but it shall be determined by Lawful
Authority, wherein the Indians shall have the Benefit of te Law, equal with any Englishman
whatsoever, and this you may be assured of, for we don’t expect a Peace to last on any other
footing that that of Justice.

Indians. We are very well pleased with what is said. (All this from Baxter MSS)

AT THE CONFERENCE IN FALMOUTH 1727

July 7, 1727 - Letter to Gov. Dummer from Norridgewocks at Richmond Fort - The Sun shines
bright this Day, we fear God that made it and Salute you with a Friendly Heart: You and the
Penobscot Indians sent for us and we come to Teuconick in the Spring, the Penobscots
afterwards sent to have us come to them, but we did not hear them. We cannot come to
Falmouth, having come thus far with great Difficulty, we hope you will let us see you at
Sagadahock or Arrowsic, where we expect our Bretheren of Penobscot will also meet. This
Message we send by Lapt. John, Quinoise, and Squaduck.

(Signed: TOXAS, JUMMAWAY, ETSERRABOONET)

MONDAY - July 17, 1727 - Lt. Governor William Dummer of Massachusetts Bay in New
England opened the conference, saying: I am glad to see you all here, you are Welcome to
Casco, I would have you all look cheerfully, for we are all Friends. To the Interpreters:
Interpreters, Tell the Indians you are now to be Sworn to Interpret truly and faithfully during the
Conference between us, And then the Interpreters were Sworn accordingly.

Wiworna of the Norridgawock As your Honour was pleased to say, you were glad to see us all
here, so we say to you, we are very glad to see you here. It is God’s pleasure that we should see
one another and we rejoice at it. . . .
Lt. Gov. I desire to know how many of your Two Tribes there are here, that I may make the necessary Provisions for supplies.

Wiworna. Of the Nerridgawocks there are Forty in all, and of the Wowenocks Fifteen.

Lt. Gov. I’ll take care of Provisions for you, and I would have each Tribe choose a Man to receive the Provisions, and let me have their names, so that there maybe no mistake.
Wiworna. We desire there may be two Seals on Paper, one for each Tribe to be sent by the persons who receive the Provisions, which will prevent Mistakes. Mistakes.
Lt. Gov. I like it well and it shall be so Ordered.

POST MERIDIEM

Lt. Governor John Wentworth of New Hampshire chaired the afternoon session, another tribe, the Auyaummowett (Arresaguntacook) having arrived, he began: Interpreters, Tell the Arrsaguntacook\hs they are all welcome here, and bid them come forth and I’ll shake hands with them.

Auyaummowett (A Chief). We are come to wait on your Honore to day, abeing the first day of our Arrival, which is according to our custom, we are not all got together yet, only some of our Elderly Men, the Young Men are not as yet come, we are glad to see your Honour here and the rest of the Gentlemen of Boston and Piscataqua have to say to day, we come now only to pay our Respects to your Honour.
Lt. Gov. We are very glad to see you

Capt. Nathaniel (Indian). We desire the Interpreters wold be very careful in Interpreting that they would not lean to one side nor the other during the Conference.

Lt. Gov. The Interpreters were Sworn in the Morning before us and the Tribes that were here then, that they should well and truly, and faithfully Interpret what should be said to them on either side during the Treaty.
How do your wives and children do, are they all well?

Indians. We thank your Honour, they are very well.

Lt. Gov. I am glad to hear it, you are all welcome into this Country.
Indians. We had one man taken Sick Yesterday.

WEDNESDAY - July 19, 1727 – Lt. Gov. Dummer chaired the meeting. Good Friends. It is very Acceptable to me and the Gentlemen of the several English Governments now Assembled to see so good an Appearance of the respective Tribes of the Nerridgawocks, Arresaguntacooks and Wowenocks, and I make no doubt but you are come with honest Hearts and Firm Resolutions Personally, and in a Publick Manner to Ratifie and Confirm the Peace which the
Penobscots not only for themselves but as Authorized by you, have with much Industry and Faithfulness made and concluded. Since which the several Articles thereof have been communicated to you by the said Tribe, so that there now remains nothing but that you Personally manifest your consent by setting your Hands and Seals thereto (as the Penobscots have already done) and for that end, the said Articles shall be distinctly Read over and faithfully Interpreted to you.

Auyaumwommett. We have heard several Time of the Treaty, and we desire to hear it again.

Lt. Gov. It is very well, You shall hear it, I brought the Articles for that purpose.

The articles were accordingly read and Interpreted.....

THURSDAY – July 20, 1727 -

Auyaummowett. I Remember yesterday I mentioned to Your Honour it was a good Day with us, and we should endeavour to hearken to one another, and I now shall Answer to what your Honour said, I have considered of it and shall now speak ….. Yesterday I heard what your Honour had to say…., and what your Honour has said to us I like very well it is all pleasing to me, Everything that lay in the way as a Stumbling Block we find was all cleared away …. I now declare to your Honour, as the hearts of my Bretheren are with you (making a Motion towards the Penobscots) so is my heart also with you, As my Brothers hearts who are here now are all with you, so is my Heart and the Hearts of all the Indian Tribes round about us.

Lt. Gov. It is very agreeable to me and the several Gentlemen of the English Governments now here to see yu so Universally inclined to Peace. Are you ready to Sign the Articles of Peace to Night, or would you stay ‘till to morrow.

Auyaummowett. Our Hearts and Hands are feady now, but we choose to stay ‘till to Morrow before we sign.

Loron. Good Friends & Brothers, I have one thing to say: Yesterday was an expression that all former Injuries should be covered and done away, now it is concluded and done indeed, Now we have heard our Bretheren say what we have been thoughtful about for a Twelve Month. I have done.

Lt. Gov. I hope GOD will enable us and you to keep this Peace for ever, and to Morrow we will bury the hatchet with a Dance.

Loron. Since the Articles won’t be Signed this Day, it won’t be a Day of much Business, and if your Honour pleases some of the Young Men shall entertain us with a dance.

Lt. Gov. Inasumuch as the Weighty Affairs are concluded upon, I shall order the Signal to be made early on the Morning that you may Sign the Articles, it will take you up a great deal of Time to Sign and the Witnesses that must Sign also, and when that is done we will consider of the more minute affairs and the remaining part of the day I’ll spend in Diversion with you.
FRIDAY – July 21, 1727 – The Articles of Pace being laid open at the Conference, were signed by those present.

ON TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY July 25, 26, & 27, the Conference continued, with discussions about many other subjects of importance to the Indians and the English: Captives, conflict between Indians and English of other areas, Indians keeping their dogs muzzled when visiting English settlements, the quantity, quality and prices of trade goods and beaver skins, the character of truckmasters, about a certain truckmaster (Mr. Woodside at Peepscot Falls Bruswick) having cheated the Indians and his having to recompense them for that action, the importance of having gunsmiths available to the Indians, about Indians supplying fighters in conflicts among the tribes, about the English dong something to prevent Mohicans and other Indians from attacking New England Indians, etc. (All this from Baxter MSS)

MESSAGE FROM NORRIDGEWOCK INDIANS AT FORT RICHMOND - 1742

“One thing we don’t like (which we agreed upon with Gov. Dummer) we apprehend is not comply’d with that if any goods rise, our furs were to rise with them. We Sollelmly agreed with Govr. Dummer that we should have our furrs at Georges Truckhouse as they then sold for at Boston. Your Excel⁷ may please to inquiere of Govern’ Dumer The Treasurer and other Mercht‘whether we have justice done to us on this hear – The Truckmaster here gives us 8/ for Saples 16/ for Spring bever 18/ for Otters 20/ for Catvaims we are now kept much in the dark as to our trade the man that manages it understands very little as to our Language or trade his being a Minester we a little wonder as to his coming to trade here…. …. and through a mistake we have kild three horses at Sacadahoc on Small Point side we understood they were wild and free for any body accordingly we dryd the flesh openly two days after we kild them six men came to us with their guns cockt demanding Satisfaction upon their appearing in such a hostile manner we flew to our guns one of our men being wise told us we had better surrender our armes then to begin a quarrel which might be attended with such ill consequences and not well understanding what these men said to us we delivered to them four guns and two hatchets as a pledge for pay for the horse they insisting (as we understood the) to take them by violence if we did not resign them we promise pay for the horses in the Spring upon the delivery of our guns.”


A GATHERING OF NORRIDGEWOCK INDIANS AT FORT RICHMOND – 1753

From William Lithgow to Honble Spencer Phipps Esq’ “Thare came in herer ths Day all the Heads of the Norridewack Tribe of Indians, and Desired me to wrote your Hon’ the following Letter viz’–

Brother we seluite you & and all te Council, and we are all well, we wrote to you last Spring, or the last of the winter, now we are going to talk to you, weould each other att the Treaty that If we ware Dissatisfied we would let each other know, If aney people gos above this garrison or the one that as built Last year Stop them, if aney people goas farther up this River it will Hinder
our Hunting. Do you kno this string of Wampum (Holding it out at the same time) this was gave to us at Georges [Fort George in Thomaston] to make the Land smooth, and we Do not want to Brack it; We are going to Carrie it to Arassaguntook, we are In grat hast for an answer to this Letter, it is hard we have not a smith here to mend our guns, we Desire you will Send one, that Can Do our Work well.

Brother this is all we have to say at this time

**Sept. 1753** – Commissioners from Boston first went to St. George and dealt with Penobscots, then to Richmond for a conference with Canabis from Norridgewock The following account of that conference, given in Allen’s *History of Dresden* was taken from Rev. Jacob Bailey, an Anglican missionary to the area.

On the 28th the principal Indians from Norridgewock appeared with their attendants. After a few ceremonies on both sides, Sir William acquainted the Indians with their authority to act as if the Governor himself were present; and made complaint that the French by their influence of their missionaries endeavored to create jealousies and misunderstandings and mentioned in particular the attempts of Father Gounon, priest of the Penobscot tribe, to prevent their coming to the present interview. He applauded the conduct of the Penobscot Indians upon this occasion, assured them that all the truckmasters should be subject to the exact regulations of the government, reminded them of their solemn engagements to release all thes, and assured them the English claimed the lands in Kennebec by a legal conveyance from their ancestors.

“The Indians desired that time might be allowed them to make a reply, which was readily granted, and in the afternoon, Quenois appeared as principal speaker, accompanied by a multitude of his nation, and silence being enjoined, he delivered himself as follows:

“Bretheren: We have reflected upon the words spoken to us in the morning, and regard what you then offered as if the Governor too was present and spoke himself. We thank you for reading and interpreting us the Jesuit’s letter. We know the hearts of all the Indians here abouts and of some now preent who are lately arrived from Canada; and all ou hearts are goo. We know the Penobscot’s love, and we as well as they will love peace and hold it fast. All of the leaders of the Norridgewock tribe are here except Toxus, now an ancient man. He we believe will never be here.

“Do not regard anything the Jesuit [Gounon] says. We are sensible it is peace all the world over. We want no Jesuits to meddle with treaties. All we require of them is to pray with us, and take care of our souls. If any of our Jesuits should write of anything concerning us, or peace or war, if you will inform us of it, we will let you know whether it is true or false. What the Penobscot Jesuit wrote is a lye. We have no inclination for war, but desire to live in peace, and all that he said is false.”
After offering some apology for the detention of captives, the Indians entered with spirit upon the affairs of the land, and insisted that the English should be confined to the country below Frankfort [now Dresden]. “There have been a great many Governors at Boston. We believe them to be very good. We never heard that any of the Governors desired that the English might settle higher up than Richmond, altho’ we have heard it from other people. It would greatly injure us for you to settle higher up the river than Frankfort. We consent that you should go so far up, but are unwilling you should proceed any farther. We have wrote twice upon this matter to Boston, and now you hear it from our own mouths.

We hope you will consider what we have proposed with regard to the land. We are willing you should settle all the lands below Frankfort and hope you will go on in settling them with courage and a good spirit. You have land enough below that fort without going any further up.

“We have told you our hearts. We hope you will not settle any further up the river. The Indians hunt on both sides of us; we have but a little space; we desire to live as brothers; but this country is necessary for our subsistence.”

The Commissioners assured them that the English had no design by their settlements to disturb the Indians in their hunting and fishing. The latter replied: Your improvements will drive away our game, which is the case between Richmond and the sea.” The English answered that their forefathers had already conveyed away the land, “and it is expected that you will forbear to give us any disturbance.” They then exhibited a number of deeds to the Indians, which looking upon, they expressed themselves as satisfied. “We do not pretend that these deeds are false, but we apprehended you got the Indians drunk and so took the advantage of them when you purchased the land.”

The Commissioners assured them that the English had formerly settled in the view of their ancestors, with their allowance, and that trade was carried on at Taconnick [Waterville] above an hundred years ago. The Indians acknowledged that a truck house was formerly erected at Taconnick with the consent of their forefathers, for the convenience of trade but that connivance gave the English no title to the land, and besides, added they, “there was no religion in those times among the Indians; as you insist upon a purchase of the lands from our ancestors, of which we are entirely ignorant, we desire to know what sums of money have been paid for these lands, and why are not the sums expressed in the several deeds?” In short, the Indian orators (especially Quenois) almost reduced the English Commissioners to silence, and the latter were so pressed with solid reasonings and weighty arguments that they could only repeat what they had often mentioned before. A treaty, however, was concluded with the Norridgewocks, but none of the Arragoniticook tribe [Penobscot/St. George?] made their appearance, and a ratification of the articles was left with Captain Lithgow for further consideration.