

From: Marjorie Smith <msmithpen@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 10:50 AM
To: emilyfriedrichs@gmail.com; Todd Selig <tselig@ci.durham.nh.us>
Cc: Amy.S.Dixon@dncr.nh.gov; thehowl@comcast.net;
luckychuck@comcast.net; jfgraf@earthlink.net; dkaro@comcast.net;
pamelalangley@comcast.net; jennifer.greatlakes@gmail.com;
rhlord@comcast.net; maggierlund@gmail.com; ancestral@comcast.net;
nancy.sandberg <nancy.sandberg@comcast.net>; Michael Behrendt
<mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>; revlarry77@gmail.com;
Nadine.M.Miller@dncr.nh.gov
Subject: Re: Oyster River Massacre Historical Marker - DHA Version
3/7/2023

I am a little confused by all the correspondence. Exactly who are "both parties"? Yes, history tends to be written by the "victors", but who are those? I hope you have a chance to dive into the primary sources that DHA used, including those of the French and the English. I don't feel comfortable with categorizing black hats and white hats, but the research that my colleagues did so diligently certainly indicates that, while a century later this country's allies were the French, and not the English, in the period of concern to us about this marker, it appears that it was the French who were our opponents and skillfully engaged the Indigenous people to act on behalf of the French.

It is not our role on an historical marker to establish blame or praise, it is not our role to demonstrate our current cultural values, but it is our role, to the best of our ability, to report the facts as can best be determined by contemporaneous sources. If we don't know the past, how can we know where we want to go in the future.

Margie

-----Original Message-----

From: Emily Friedrichs <emilyfriedrichs@gmail.com>
To: Todd Selig <tselig@ci.durham.nh.us>
Cc: Dixon, Amy <Amy.S.Dixon@dncr.nh.gov>; Janet Perkins-Howland <thehowl@comcast.net>; DAVID STRONG <luckychuck@comcast.net>; Graf, Joan <jfgraf@earthlink.net>; Karo, Doug <dkaro@comcast.net>; Langley, Pamela <pamelalangley@comcast.net>; Lee, Jennifer <jennifer.greatlakes@gmail.com>; Lord, Dick <rhlord@comcast.net>; Lund, Maggie <maggierlund@gmail.com>; Mackie, Janet

<ancestral@comcast.net>; nancy.sandberg
<nancy.sandberg@comcast.net>; Smith, Marjorie <msmithpen@aol.com>;
Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>; Larry Brickner-Wood
(revlarry77@gmail.com) <revlarry77@gmail.com>; Miller, Nadine
<Nadine.M.Miller@dncr.nh.gov>

Sent: Fri, Mar 10, 2023 10:37 am

Subject: Re: Oyster River Massacre Historical Marker - DHA Version
3/7/2023

I concur with Janet and worry that the DHC text does not quite align with what is appropriate for a welcoming community. While I applaud DHC's diligent research, one of the challenges of historical research is that history is written by the victors. Probably very little contemporaneous written record is available from the Cowasuck Band, but likely there is a strong oral history that they used as the basis of their text. Hopefully they can provide more explanation and work together with the DHC, but I think that any historical markers that are installed in Durham should be agreed upon by both parties.

El jue, 9 de mar. de 2023 5:57 p. m., Todd Selig <tselig@ci.durham.nh.us> escribió:

Thank you, Amy. Much appreciated. Both our Historic District Commission and Human Rights Commission will also have an interest in providing feedback concerning the final draft language.

Todd

Todd I. Selig, Administrator

Town of Durham, NH

a: 8 Newmarket Road, Durham, NH 03824 USA

t: 603.868.5571 | **m:** 603.817.0720 | **w:** www.ci.durham.nh.us

he/him pronouns

Everyone can tackle climate change. How can you reduce your carbon footprint?

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From: Dixon, Amy <Amy.S.Dixon@dncr.nh.gov>

Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 1:06 PM

To: Janet Perkins-Howland <thehowl@comcast.net>, Todd Selig <tselig@ci.durham.nh.us>

Cc: DAVID STRONG <luckychuck@comcast.net>, Graf, Joan

<jfgraf@earthlink.net>, Karo, Doug <dkaro@comcast.net>, Langley, Pamela <pamelalangley@comcast.net>, Lee, Jennifer <jennifer.greatlakes@gmail.com>, Lord, Dick <rhlord@comcast.net>, Lund, Maggie <maggierlund@gmail.com>, Mackie, Janet <ancestral@comcast.net>, nancy.sandberg <nancy.sandberg@comcast.net>, Smith, Marjorie <msmithpen@aol.com>, Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>, Larry Brickner-Wood (revlarry77@gmail.com) <revlarry77@gmail.com>, Miller, Nadine <Nadine.M.Miller@dncr.nh.gov>

Subject: RE: Oyster River Massacre Historical Marker - DHA Version 3/7/2023

As the administrator of the NH Historical Highway Marker Program, the Division of Historical Resources has the final approval over all marker text. That said, it is very important to us to make sure all stakeholders have an opportunity to share their input. As the staff person who oversees the program, I am going to spend some time reviewing the research provided by the DHA (thank you for sharing your resources). After I spend some more time with the various drafts and versions proposed so far, I will let everyone know how we should proceed with coming to consensus on the marker language.

I appreciate the time and careful consideration everyone has put into this topic.

With thanks,

Amy Dixon (she/her)
Community Preservation Coordinator
New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources,
Department of Natural & Cultural Resources
19 Pillsbury St.
Concord, NH 03301
amy.s.dixon@dncr.nh.gov
603-271-3485

From: Janet Perkins-Howland <thehowl@comcast.net>

Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 6:52 PM

To: Todd Selig <tselig@ci.durham.nh.us>

Cc: DAVID STRONG <luckychuck@comcast.net>; Dixon, Amy <amy.s.dixon@dncr.nh.gov>; Graf, Joan <jfgraf@earthlink.net>; Karo, Doug <dkaro@comcast.net>; Langley, Pamela

<pamelalangley@comcast.net>; Lee, Jennifer
<jennifer.greatlakes@gmail.com>; Lord, Dick <rhlord@comcast.net>;
Lund, Maggie <maggierlund@gmail.com>; Mackie, Janet
<ancestral@comcast.net>; nancy.sandberg
<nancy.sandberg@comcast.net>; Smith, Marjorie <msmithpen@aol.com>;
Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>; Larry Brickner-Wood
(revlarry77@gmail.com) <revlarry77@gmail.com>; Miller, Nadine
<nadine.m.miller@dncr.nh.gov>

Subject: Re: Oyster River Massacre Historical Marker - DHA Version
3/7/2023

EXTERNAL: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I have serious concerns about the wording put forward by the DHA. To me, at the end of the day, it reads as “The Natives were the bad guys here.” I think that the wording that the Cowasuck Band has crafted seems more balanced.

How is this going to be resolved? Who has final authority?
Janet Perkins-Howland
Durham HRC

On Mar 8, 2023, at 4:55 PM, Todd Selig <tselig@ci.durham.nh.us> wrote:

Dear David,

Thank you and the Durham Historic Association (DHA) for this most recent proposed draft language and the detailed historical record accompanying it. I know it took a great deal of work and effort on the part of DHA members to research and pull together. It will be interesting to see whether there is additional information the NH Commission on Native American Affairs or the NH Division of Historic Resources might offer to ensure the brief narrative (which must be confined to only several lines of text) is complete associated with this finite period of time culminating in the tragic and unfortunate attack upon the Oyster River settlements on July 18, 1694,

as referenced on the prior state marker and identified in the current DHA proposal, as the “Oyster River Massacre.”

If the draft language put forward by the DHA is complete and ready to be utilized for the new state marker targeting a finite site, time period, and event, we may also want to look to other sites and time periods in Durham as well to highlight additional aspects of the complex and nuanced history of Native American life here, first colonial contact, and subsequent implications of the intersection of these cultures in Durham and across the Oyster River watershed and the state as a whole.

All my very best,

Todd

Todd I. Selig, Administrator

Town of Durham, NH

a: 8 Newmarket Rd., Durham, NH 03824 USA

t: 603.868.5571 | **m:** 603.817.0720 | **w:** www.ci.durham.nh.us

He/him/his pronouns

Everyone can tackle climate change. How can you reduce your carbon footprint?

From: DAVID STRONG <luckychuck@comcast.net>

Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 11:42 AM

To: amy.s.dixon@dncr.nh.gov <amy.s.dixon@dncr.nh.gov>

Cc: Graf, Joan <jfgraf@earthlink.net>, Karo, Doug <dkaro@comcast.net>,

Langley, Pamela <pamelalangley@comcast.net>, Lee, Jennifer

<jennifer.greatlakes@gmail.com>, Lord, Dick <rhlord@comcast.net>,

Lund, Maggie <maggierlund@gmail.com>, Mackie, Janet

<ancestral@comcast.net>, nancy.sandberg

<nancy.sandberg@comcast.net>, Smith, Marjorie <msmithpen@aol.com>,

Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>, Todd Selig

<tselig@ci.durham.nh.us>

Subject: Oyster River Massacre Historical Marker - DHA Version 3/7/2023

Dear Amy,

Attached is a letter dated March 7, 2023 that was voted on and approved by the DHA Executive Board yesterday evening. Within the body of the

letter is our proposed new version of the Oyster River Massacre Historical Highway Marker.

Also attached is a zipped file of Oyster River Massacre research materials for your review.

Respectfully,

David Strong
DHA President
<image001.jpg>Durham Historic Association
8 Newmarket Road
Durham, New Hampshire 03824

March 7, 2023

To: Amy Dixon, NH Division of Historical Resources
Re: Oyster River Massacre Historical Highway Marker

The promotion of accurate historic facts founded on primary sources is the purpose of the government sanctioned historic event highway markers in New Hampshire. The Durham Historic Association (DHA) has researched Indigenous, French, and English primary sources* for the period 1689 through 1697, the time of war when the Oyster River Massacre occurred. DHA has found no contemporaneous sources that support the following statements in the historic marker draft proposed by the NHCNAA:

The raid was retribution for

- 1. the kidnapping and enslavement of 350 Natives;**
- 2. frustration over the 1693 Treaty of Pemaquid;**
- 3. the loss of unceded tribal lands;**
- 4. ongoing harm to Indigenous life ways.**

Unrelated historical events that occurred more than 300 years ago can easily be conflated, and interpretations can also be colored by the biases of contemporary social discourse. We are not interested in talking about history in an accusatory way, assigning blame or painting all of one people or nationality with the same brush. History is very complex, and an honest reflection of the past allows honest dialogue about the present.

The following material is a summary of our findings and culminates in our proposed text for the highway marker.

- 1. The 1694 Oyster River Massacre was a great success for the French because it broke the 1693 Peace Treaty of Pemaquid between sixteen Native American chiefs and the English.**
- 2. The Peace Treaty of Pemaquid was sought by Indigenous chiefs and was signed in 1693, in the middle of the Nine Years' War. This war, also known as the War of the Grand Alliance, was fought in Europe from 1688 to 1697. The Grand Alliance was the Dutch Republic, England, the Archduchy of Austria, the Holy Roman Empire, and later Spain and Savoy, who declared war on the Sun King, Louis XIV of France. Grievances included France's expansionist policies, the Sun King's support of the Ottoman Turks against Christian Austria, and attacks against Protestants within France (the Catholic counter-reformation). The war started when King Louis XIV invaded the Rhineland in 1688.**
- 3. This war known as King William's War in New England was fought from mid-1689 to 1697 between New France and the New England and New York colonies. England had joined the Grand Alliance and declared war on France in April 1689. This news reached Boston, Piscataqua and Quebec City in June 1689.**

4. **The 1693 Pemaquid Peace Treaty was signed by sixteen chiefs; ten chiefs are identified with the ‘tribes’ of the Kennebec and Penobscot rivers, the locales of six chiefs have not been determined. The ‘tribes’ of the Kennebec and Penobscot rivers lived in the French-claimed territory of Acadia (in northern Maine), the French capital of Acadia was at Fort Nashwaak (in New Brunswick). This 1693 Indigenous peace treaty with the English meant those Indigenous people would no longer be involved in hostilities with the English. This would enable them to trade their furs once again with the English, a favorable outcome because the English paid higher prices for the pelts than the French. The English trade goods (iron items, cloth, etc.) were said to be of higher quality than French trade goods and to be available at lower prices.**

5. **News of the 1693 Pemaquid Peace Treaty alarmed the French because, after fish exports, the fur trade was the major source of wealth for individuals in positions of authority at Quebec City, the capital of New France and for the officials of the French provinces, including Acadia. Louis de Buade, Comte de Frontenac et de Palluau, the Governor General of New France, immediately initiated a campaign to undermine the 1693 Indigenous-English peace treaty. De Villebon, the governor of Acadia, enlisted the assistance of Taxous, an Indigenous chief living in the French province of Acadia who was not a signatory to the 1693 peace treaty. The French hosted several great gatherings at Fort Nashwaak (now Fredericton, New Brunswick) where Indigenous men enjoyed feasts of dog provided by the French. During the feasts, the Indigenous men who had signed the peace treaty with the English were heckled by Taxous and others. Joseph Robinau de Villebon, the French governor of Acadia, ceremoniously adopted Taxous as his brother and gifted him with his best laced suit. The other Indigenous men received lavish French gifts of guns, gunpowder, bullets, steel-headed tomahawks, tobacco, vermilion red pigment and brandy, specifically directed to the Indigenous men of Acadia by King Louis XIV of France. As a result of this campaign, by the winter of 1693-1694, Chief Madokawando of the Penobscot, and others**

who had signed the 1693 Peace Treaty of Pemaquid, had been prevailed upon to break the 1693 Peace Treaty of Pemaquid and to ally themselves with the French.

6. Thus, in July of 1694, the residents of Oyster River were not prepared for an attack because they believed the Indigenous people would honor the treaty they had sought from the English the year before. The result of the attack was a massacre, at least twenty percent of the residents were killed or taken away as captives to be enslaved by the Indigenous people or to be sold to the French. Houses, barns and crops were burnt and livestock slaughtered. The village of Oyster River, inhabited for more than sixty years was “layd waste” as the dispatch from acting Governor Usher notified officials in Boston.

7. A letter** from the Acadian Governor Villebon to Count Pontchartrain at Versailles, dated August 20, 1694 about a future planned attack on the English fort at Pemaquid (Bristol, Maine), referred to the Oyster River Massacre July 18, 1694 (O.S.) – excerpt, translated:

“Circumstances could not be more favorable than at present for an attack on Fort Pemaquid, since the Indians are now resolved on warfare more fierce and cruel than in the past, as was shown in their recent raid during which they spared neither women nor children.”

8. Seen as a great success by the Indigenous men, French soldiers and the French Jesuit priests who accompanied them, the Oyster River Massacre ultimately had a disastrous outcome for the Indigenous people. Local civilians, the residents who had seen their families killed before their eyes, their wives and children taken away as captive slaves, formed bands of ‘Indian hunters’. Their purpose was to rescue family and neighbors taken away as captives, and to scout for groups of Indigenous

men that might signal further attacks on their families. After the Indigenous men allied themselves with the French, attacks on English villages continued and the bands of 'Indian hunters' continued to scout far inland from the four towns in New Hampshire. King William's War was followed by more wars between France and England. The Indigenous chiefs had chosen the wrong ally; after the defeat of the French at Quebec, in 1760 New France ceased to exist while the Indigenous people had been decimated by warfare at the behest of the French.

Therefore, based on the evidence in primary sources, the Durham Historic Association proposes the following text for the highway marker:

Oyster River
Massacre

On July 18, 1694 (O.S.) during King William's War between England and France, Indigenous groups from Acadia allied with the French broke the 1693 Treaty of Pemaquid by attacking on both shores of the Oyster River. Nearly 20% of the residents, over 100, were killed or captured to be enslaved or sold to the French. Houses, crops and livestock were destroyed. "Oyster River...is layd waste," read the dispatch from acting NH Governor Usher to authorities in Boston. Hostilities continued until England and France signed the Peace Treaty of Ryswick in 1697.

Furthermore, the original marker's title, "Oyster River Massacre" should remain as this is the well-known and accepted name of the historical event.

Respectfully,

David Strong
DHA President, on behalf of the DHA Executive Board

cc: DHA Executive Board
cc: Michael Behrendt, Durham Historic District
Commission/Heritage Commission
cc: Todd Selig, Durham Town Administrator

***Primary sources:**

Rev. John Pike, Journal of the Rev. John Pike, of Dover, N.H., ed. Rev. A.H. Quint (Cambridge: Press of John Wilson and Son, 1876)

Deposition of Damson Drew, 23 May 1698, Massachusetts Historical Society, file VIII. 41, Boston.

Deposition of Ann Jenkins, ii June 1695, Massachusetts Historical Society
The Captivity of John Gyles 1689-1698, published Boston 1726

Webster, J. C. (1934). Acadia at the End of the 17th Century: Letters, Journals and Memoirs of Joseph Robineau de Villebon, Commandant in Acadia 1690-1700 and Other Contemporary Documents.

Bouton, N., D.D. (1867). Provincial Papers relating to the Province of New Hampshire 1623-1686: Volume 1. George E Jenks, State Printer, Concord, NH.

Bouton, N., D.D. (1868). Provincial Papers relating to the Province of New Hampshire 1686-1722 Part 1: Volume 2. John B. Clarke, State Printer, Manchester, NH.

Bouton, N., D.D. (1869). Provincial Papers relating to the Province of New Hampshire 1686-1722 Part 2: Volume 3. John B. Clarke, State Printer, Manchester, NH.

Cotton Mather, Decennium Luctuosum (Boston, 1699); reprinted in Magnalia Christi Americana (London, 1702)

**** (A translated excerpt from Webster, J. C. (1934). Acadia at the End of the 17th Century: Letters, Journals and Memoirs of Joseph Robineau de Villebon, Commandant in Acadia 1690-1700 and Other Contemporary Documents follows for the convenience of those without easy access to this collection.)**

[explanatory note] Letter about the future attack on the English Fort at Pemaquid, written August 20, 1694, one month after the 1693 Peace Treaty was broken by the Oyster River Massacre of 1694 – Acadian Governor Villebon to Count Pontchartrain at Versailles:

“Circumstances could not be more favorable than at present for an attack on Fort Pemaquid, since the Indians are now resolved on warfare more fierce and cruel than in the past, as was shown in their recent raid during which they spared neither women nor children [Oyster River Massacre].

For the Pemaquid expedition, and, at the same time, to command the New England coast, three vessels are needed: one of 46 to 48 guns, a frigate of 36 guns, and a flyboat suitable for transporting all that is required for the garrison and for their use during the attack. It is indispensable, if they come direct from France to the St. John River, that a hundred good picked soldiers should be brought out in the ships as a landing party to make the attack. They would be supplemented by a hundred of the crew, whom I would replace by an equal number of Indians, who are much better marksmen with the musket than any of our soldiers, although they are less obedient and cannot be depended upon to stand their ground in case of a sortie, but association with 200 Frenchmen will surely deter them from deserting.

If all the Indians go to war next year, it is certain to be a bloody campaign for our enemies. The Indians of Cape Breton cannot be summoned easily owing to the distance, but, as these were the Indians who embarked on the warship Bretonne [to attack Newfoundland] and as M. de Bonaventure has told me he was very well satisfied with them, they could be called for on the way here. For this the ships need only enter

Spanish Bay, where some of them will be found awaiting news from France, with a colonist who is to settle there this autumn.

Two months' provisions to be brought out for the maintenance of the Indians, estimated at 200, to be divided equally among the three vessels.

2,000 lbs. of flour
2 tierces of molasses, to flavor their sagamité [cornmeal mixed with animal fat]
200 lbs. of butter, for the same purpose
10 kegs of brandy, without which it will be impossible to make them fight efficiently.

Memorandum of presents to the value of 3,640 livres, accorded by His Majesty to the Indians of Acadia, for their warfare against the English. These presents will be distributed among the Indians when they assemble at the appointed rendezvous. [annual presents delivered by ship from France to Fort Nashwaak, capital of Acadia]

2,000 lbs. of powder
40 kegs of bullets
10 kegs of swan shot
400 lbs. of Brazilian tobacco
200 tomahawks, for which M. de Bonaventure will provide a model.
[hand forged metal blade with wood handle; the French trade axe, below]

60 selected muskets like those sent this year
200 Mulaix shirts, averaging 30 sous each
8 lbs. of fine vermilion [red pigment]
200 tufts of white feathers to be given to the Indians as a distinguishing mark in case of night attack, which should not cost more than 6 to 7 sous a piece; to be selected in Paris by M. de Bonaventure."