

- This is the language on the old plaque:

OYSTER RIVER MASSACRE

On July 18, 1694, a force of about 250 Indians under command of the French soldier, de Villieu, attacked settlements in this area on both sides of the Oyster River, killing or capturing approximately 100 settlers, destroying five garrison houses and numerous dwellings.

It was the most devastating French and Indian raid in New Hampshire during King William's War.

- The NH Commission on Native American Affairs voted last year to endorse this revised language for the plaque. This language was developed by Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki People:

RAID ON OYSTER RIVER

On July 18, 1694, the English settlement of Oyster River was attacked by a large party of Indigenous men with their French allies. One-third of the residents were captured or died, livestock, crops, and half the buildings were destroyed. The raid was retribution for the kidnapping and enslavement of 350 Natives, frustration over the 1693 Treaty of Pemaquid, the loss of unceded tribal lands and ongoing harm to Indigenous life ways. This is thought to be one of the most devastating conflicts during King William's War.

- The Durham Historic Association sent this proposed revised text to the NH Division of Historic Resources on March 7, 2023:

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.

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