

**From:** Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2023 5:26 PM

**Subject:** Oyster River plaque text \*

To the HDC (and DHA),

Here is a comparison of different text for the plaque on the Oyster River that we are discussing next Thursday. A process suggested by Larry and a memo from DHA are attached.

- The NH Commission on Native American Affairs voted 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.

- This is the new language proposed by the Durham Historic Association (From March 7):

#### 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.

- This OLD language was proposed earlier by the Durham Historic Association, just for refernece:

#### OYSTER RIVER MASSACRE

Oyster River...is layd waste," read the dispatch from acting NH Governor Usher to authorities in Boston.

On July 18, 1694 (O.S.) during King William's war between England and France, Native Americans allied with the French broke the 1693 Treaty of Pemaquid by attacking on both shores of the Oyster River killing civilian men, women, and children, burning houses and barns, and destroying crops and livestock. Nearly 20% of the residents, over 100 victims, were killed or captured to be enslaved or sold to the French. It was the most devastating of a series of attacks in New Hampshire during the war.

- 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.

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