

This document combines reports from Boston and Halifax between the summer of 1724, the signing of the treaty in Boston in 1725, and its ratification in Nova Scotia in the spring of 1726.

Excerpts from *Documentary History of the State of Maine*, 2nd series, vol 23 (Portland, Tower, 1916).

<https://archive.org/details/documentaryhisto23main/page/186/mode/2up?view=theater>

and *Original minutes of His Majesty's Council at Annapolis Royal, 1720-1739*, Archibald MacMechan, ed., (Halifax, McAlpine, 1908), pp.114-21.

<https://archive.org/details/originalminutes00coungoog/page/n4/mode/2up?view=theater>

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Conference with the Delegates.

Nov. 27, 1725.

First Draft of Treaty with Delegates of Penobscot, Noridgwock, St Johns, Cape Sable and other Eastern Indians, drawn up to be signed Dec. 1725, after the Conference at Boston, begun Nov. 11, 1725 and described in the following document

At a Conference begun & held with the Indian Delegates
Nov. 11 1725

Present the Honble the L^t Govr and Council together with Majr Paul Mascarene

Lt. Gov: I am very Glad of your safe arrival and that you are all here in good health — Are you all of the Penobscot Tribe ?

Inds: Yes —

L. Govr: Is Your Sachem in Health ?

Ind: He is in good health

L^t Gov^r:- If you are Ready to give an Acct of your Negotiation I am ready to hear you.

Ind: It is now late and Dark, but if you are earnest, that it shall be Soon Deliver'd, we will do it this Night — or else we will defer it till to Morrow

L^t Govr:I approve of your Motion and desire you will be here to morrow at Eleven of the Clock, I wish you a good Night —

Novembr 15th Conference Continu'd Lt Govr I sent for you now to Acquaint you that the Government having a great Deal of Business upon their hands which requires Dispatch, I have Appointed a Number of Gentlemen to Treat with you, and J shall sometimes come among you

myself. The Gentlemen will meet you some time to morrow There are Seven Gentlemen in all, most of Them are here present and the other I believe will be here to morrow — I hope you are all very well —

Ind: We are all in good health and Return you thanks for the good care you have taken of us —

Lt Govr: I shall not detain you any longer this Evening —

Ind: It is pretty late in the year, We should be glad to get home but would not make too much hast, it being our Custom not to hurry things over —

Lt Govr: I wish you a Good Night —

Conference with ye Delegates

In Council, Nov. 12, 1725

Cpt. Loron, Alexis, Franswacksaveur & Moganumba, Delegates from the Eastern Indians attending. The Conference was as follows: Viz.

Lt. Govr:- How do you do this morning

Ind: We are in very good Health.

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Lt. Gov: I am now ready to hear what yon have to offer.

Loron: After I went from hence last Summer & upon my Arrival at Penobscot I related to the Tribe what pass'd in the conference here at Boston, Upon which sent me to Canada upon a Message to ye St. Francis Indians there. At my arrival, all those Tribes had a great meeting at Sagnntacook, At wch I have a full Relation of every Thing that pass'd between the Penobscot Tribe & this Governm¹ from the first discourse We had in the Spring, And informed those Indians That the Lt Govr would give no Answer to the Penobscot Indians as to what they offered till he knew the mind of the other Tribes. Whereupon the Tribes answered That as there is a Cessation of Arms with the English in your country So we will observe the Cessation in all our Tribes.

Lt Govr: What are the Names of those Tribes that were at this meeting.

Loron: The names of those Tribes are Arresaguntacook, Ahwenoh, Passanawack, Pamadniack, Norridgewock & Wessungawock with several other small Villages : And not only those Tribes but the Eastern Tribes so far as Cape Sables have join'd with us in this affair, And all these Tribes have left it to us to act for them in a Treaty of Peace, And they sd We desire you as being next Neighbours to ye English would go on heartily & with good Courage in making Peace And what ever you shall conclude upon We will agree to, For there is Nothing impossible for God to perform, And we wish there may be a good Conclusion of the Matter to all Parties concern'd.

Ll Gov: Did those Tribes give you any Pledges.

Loron: The Penobscot Tribe sent Belts to those Tribes, & they sent their Belts to the Penobscot Tribe for a Confirmation of their Agreeing to what shall be Concluded, wch Belts are lodged with our Chiefs wch is equivalent to a Writing or Articles under their Hands.

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Lt Gov: Have you brought any Token from your own Tribe.

Ind: In the spring of the year the first Talk was at St. Georges, and We recd no Belt from this Governm^t And as We treated upon Hon['], We thought it not necessary to bring Belts.

Lt Gov: It is Dinner Time, And I dismiss you for the present

Interpreters, Capt Gyles, Jordan Bane

[the next day] At a Conference with the Delegates of the Indian Tribes & managed by Comissioners appointed by the Honble Lieut Governour, on the 10th of Novemr 1725.

William Tailer
Edmund Quincey
Adam Winthrop
John Turner
William Dudley
Jona Remington
John Chandler

Loron
Alexus

Franswacksavea
Weguanumba

Capt. Jordan
Capt. Gylese
Capt. Bean

Indian Delegates

Interpreters

The Comissioners and Delegates being met The Comissioners began as follows —

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Comissioners: Gent. The Honble William Dinner Esq¹- Lieut. Governour and Cornander incbief of this His Majesty's Province, last night in Council acquainted you, that he

had commissioned several Gent, to treat with you in his Name concerning a Peace These are the Gentlemen whom you see present and the Commission shall be read to you

The Commission was read

Comissrs: Gent, you have heard our Commission by which you see our Power, But before We enter into this Treaty of Peace we have something to say

Comrs: Notwithstanding the Cessation which was agreed upon in August last, for that part of the Countrey which lyes Eastward of Kenebeck River You are not ignorant that several of His Majesty's Subjects have been surpris'd and slain at Damaris Cove and one carried away Captive. Now Wee are instructed to inquire how that came to pass

Indians: Before We arrived at Canada so as to give the Indians an Acco^t of the Cessation they were come out and according as We can reckon three days after Loron set out from the Penobscot Tribe for Canada that mischief was done.

Comrs: — Of what Tribe were those Indians that did that Mischief.

Inds: They were of the Seguntacook and Noridgwalk Tribes.

Comrs: Did you give the Several Tribes Notice as soon as you could after your arrival.

Inds: — We did with all the Speed We could.

Comrs: Was there any of the Penobscot Tribe with those Indians when the Mischief was done

Inds No: It was done before they knew it.

Comrs: What Number of Indians were there. —

Indian.: About Twenty.

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Comrs: What were the Names of those Indians

Inds The Names of the Chief of them were Wiwurna, Wahaway & Job als Wausaumenis We not seeing them can remember no more of their names.

Comrs: Did you see any of those Indians after the mischief was done

Inds Some We did see and Some We did not see they were gone a hunting.

Comrs: Did you see the English Lad who was taken Captive.

Inds: We did not We understood he was carried directly to Canada.

Comrs: After the Cessation was entered into with Loron in August last This Government justly expected they might goe safe any where in those parts and that was the reason our People ventured so fan.

Inds When We told the Indians of the Cessation who came in the Cannoe to acquaint us they had killed some English, they said they knew nothing of it, if they had, they would not have done the Mischief.

Comrs What assurance can you give us that the like Damage shall not be done while We are upon this Treaty

Inds I have since been among all the Tribes and informed them and they have all engaged and seem to be sincere. If I thought they were not I should not have come

Comrs: It was proper this matter should be settled mid made up We shall represent it to the Govr and appoint another time to proceed in the Treaty.

Inds" We shall be very glad to come on with the Treaty.

Comrs: That mischief happening as it did gave Occasion for ns to inquire into it and now Wo shall report to the Gov1" and see you again as soon as we can We hope in the afternoon.

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In the House of Representatives Nov. 16th 1725

Tuesday Novem' 16th 1725 P: M:

Comrs: Since We saw you in the Morning We have reported to the L1 Govr what you. have offered in Order to clear the Penobscot Tribe from the mischief done at Damaris Cove and the Lieu' Govr relying upon your Integrity in the Acco1 given thereof, has directed us to acquaint you that he accepts your Excuse. However since that fact was committed within the Limits included in the Cessation of Arms, and inasmuch as you are impowered by those Tribes, who did the Mischief, to act in their behalf The Lieu1 Govr justly Expects that you doe your utmost Endeavour that Reparation be made and more Especially that you take effectual Care that the English Lad taken Prisoner be restored in a short time.

Inds: We can give no Answer as to the English Lad, being as We suppose at a great distance from us. In the Spring when We can talk with those Indians, We shall inquire into it, but can give no particular Answer relating to that matter at present Not knowing but he may by this time be in the hands of the French.

Comrs: We expect you promise that you will doe your utmost Endeavour.

Inds: We shall use our Utmost Endeavour that he may be restored. When We come to the Conclusion upon the making up of the Peace We expect no other but all Captives that are in being are to be delivered up.

Comrs: When you were here last, the Lieu¹ Governour acquainted you, that he insisted upon Jo: Nebon Return, being - suffered to goe to Penobscot upon his Parole, and he Expected you would have brought him with you, and now demands the Reason why he is not come.

Inds When Loron went to Canada, that Indian went to Cape Sables to look after his Family there, and promised to return, but not being returned, when Loron came back, he was no farther inquired after.

Comrs: We are further to acquaint you that Sacaristo the Hostage and an Indian Prisoner, notwithstanding the kind Usage they received here sometime since run away, but were soon taken and were far from being dealt with as some of our Prisoners were, who were put to Death, when they endeavoured an Escape from your Tribe, but were only confined in Prison, We find this in a Letter from your Jesuit to Father Ralle of Noridgwalk

Inds :— (Loron) I take God to Witness, I never saw any person burnt at Penobscot, and I have lived there from little Boy (nor ever heard of any)

— The Clause in the Jesuits Letter was read and interpreted to them. —

Inds⁹ We dont know of just three Vessels taken at any time, there was Seven taken at one time and two at another, but we know of no men that were killed after they were taken, but if there were any wounded they were always taken care of.

Comrs: It is late and We shall represent what has been now said to the Lieut Govr and at the next Interview proceed to the Treaty of Pacification.

Inds: We hope Jo: Nebons not returning, and our not being able to make particular Answer as to the restoring the English Lad, will be no Hindrance to the Treaty. If the Lad had been with our Tribe We should have brought him with us. —

Wednesday Novem^r 17th 1725

Comms: We have informed the Lieu* Govr of what pass'd last night, and he expects they will take care to comply with their promise

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Comrs:— We come now to the Treaty of Peace Then the Heads of Several Articles were read and Interpreted to them which are as follows Viz¹

Firstly — Acknowledgment of the Sovereignty of the Crown of Great Britain and their Subjection thereto.

Secondly. To forbear all Acts of Hostility and maintain a firm and Constant Friendship with the English.

Thirdly. All English Captives who have fallen into the hands of those Tribes to be delivered up — without Ransom.

Fourthly. His Majesty's Subjects of this Government peaceably to enjoy and possess all their Rights of Lands &c

Fifthly. That Commerce and Trade shall be regulated and carried on from time to time as shall be provided by an Act to be made.

Sixthly. No private Revenge shall be taken by the Indians, but proper Application shall be made to the Government in a due course of Justice for Redress.

Seventhly. That in case any of the Tribes of Indians intended to be included in this Treaty shall Notwithstanding continue or renew Acts of Hostility against the English or refuse to confirm this present Treaty entered into on their behalf, in such case the Penobscot Tribe to covenant and engage with us in reducing them to Reason.

Eighthly. Whereas there are only Delegates of the Penobscot Tribe It is agreed That the Treaty at present concluded on shall be further Ratified and confirmed in a publick and solemn manner by the Chiefs of the Several Tribes at Sometime in the Month of [June 1726]

Saturday Morning November 20th 1725

Comrs Since we saw you last We have been upon the article about Land, but have been hindered by the Lieu¹ Governour of New Hampshire and other Gent, of that Government [195] coming to Town, but now We shall propose something to you on that head. Then the following Article was read.

That His Majesty's Subjects the English shall and may peaceably and quietly enter upon improve and for ever enjoy all and singular their Rights of Land and former Settlements, Properties and Possessions within the Eastern parts of the said Province of the Massachusetts Bay Together with all Islands Islets, Shoars Beaches and Fishery within the Same, without any Molestation or Claims by us or any other Indians and be in no wise molested interrupted or disturbed I heroin. Saving unto the Penobscot Noridgwalk and other Tribes within His Majesty's Province aforesaid — and their Natural Descendents respectively all their Lands Liberties Properties and Privileges not disposed of Possessed or Improved by any of the British Subjects as aforesaid

By what has been read to you, you must be sensible That there is Care taken to secure to you your Lands, as well as the English Lands to them, and our Design therein is both to do Justice to you and also to prevent contention for the time to come. And in order thereunto We propose an Instrument to be Executed by the Lieu¹ Governour in the Name of this Government which shall be delivered unto von in & by which shall be distinguished and Secured all your Rights — And the next Thing to be considered, is the proper Method to effect it.

Indians We desire to be informed what is meant by the Words former Settlements, whether the English design to build Houses further than there are any Houses now built or Settlements made.

Comrs When We come to Settle the Bounds We shall neither build or settle any where but within our own Bounds so settled, without your Consent.

Inds We understand it well now It is best to understand well what is said.

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Comrs That is right and therefore that you may understand well what is said, We must take time to consider, and in the meantime you will your Selfes consider what has been said and of some method how it may be effected.

Tuesday Morning Nov^r - 23d 1725

Comrs The last time We saw you We acquainted and assured you of the Just Intention of this Government in Relation to our and your Lands. If you have thought of a Method to distinguish the one from the other We are ready to hear it, We propose that in the Instrum[ent] We told you of that the Governour will execute and deliver you It be inserted —

1 That a Committee of able faithfull and disinterested Persons be appointed by this Government to receive and adjust the Claims of Lands in the Parts Eastward of Sagadahock & amoroscogging Rivers and above Merrymeeting Bay which claims shall be laid before and made out to the said Committee sometime within Twelve Months from the Conclusion of the present Treaty of Pacification with the Eastern Indians.

2 That in order to the adjusting regulating and settling the said English Claims as aforesaid Comissioners of like ability and disinterested shall go down into those parts of this Province, Who with a Number of the Indian Chiefs appointed for that purpose shall show forth and ascertain the Bounds of such claims and challenges accordingly.

3 That in the mean time no Settlements shall be made by the English beyond Sagadahock and Amoroscogging Rivers and above Merrymeeting Bay within this Province before their just Right and Title hath been duly inquired into and made manifest and the Indians have had the full knowledge and Understanding of such Right and Title.

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In the House of Representatives Novemr 23d 1725 —
Read and Accepted

Voted that the three foregoing Articles be given as Instructions to the Commissioners Appointed to Confer with the Indian Delegates in Case the Indians make no other proposals for the distinguishing the Lands of the English from their own

Sent up for Concurrence. —

Wm Dudley, Speaker —

Wednesday Morning Novemr 21th 1725

Com^{rs} The last Time We saw you, We acquainted and assured you of the Just Intention of this Government in relation to our and your Lands If you have thought of a method to distinguish the one from the other We are ready to hear it.

Ind^s As you have read over to us several of the former Treaties with our Forefathers, We think it would be better to come wholly upon a new Footing, for all those former Treaties have been broke because they were not upon a good Footing and this is the Reason that Mention was made last Summer of the English removing as far as from Cape Elsibeth.

In case the English will quit St. Georges [southern shore of Penobscot Bay] and Richmond [Sagadahoc] It will show an Inclination to Peace, and as every thing which you have said is reasonable so it seems reasonable that We should insist upon those two Places only. We dont speak any ways flattering or from Pride, or Deceit but freely speak our Minds, that there may be no Misunderstanding when the Peace is concluded, by the English settling too nigh us. It is the Mind of all the Tribes That if those two Garrisons were removed, they would all think that the English were hearty and in earnest for a lasting Peace.

Com^{rs} Were you particularly instructed upon these Heads from the several Tribes.

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Inds Yes We were particularly instructed.

Com^{rs} We take Notice of what you have said and We must lay it before the Govr and as it is a matter of great Consequence and Importance and will require time, you will not be impatient.

Inds As to the two small articles which have been mentioned It is no great Matter the giving up them two only and We hope will not hinder our Proceeding in the present Treaty. As for our own parts We are not impatient but the Indians that we left waiting for our Return lye open to the Weather, and We are afraid they will be impatient, It being the Custom of the Indians to goe far up in the Country a hunting in the Winter time.

Friday November 26th 1725

Com^{rs} We have communicated what you said at our last meeting to the Lieu' Governour and now shall give you his answer which is — That the Lieu^t Governour is displeas'd with your Proposal of Quitting the Fort at Richmond and the Garrison'd House at S^t Georges, for that it belongs to him as the King's Governour to Judge of those Matters, and as for the Lands, they stand on, We have good deeds in our hands therefor which We are ready to show you And We are instructed to assure you, that if a Peace be concluded and a Trade agreed upon Those Houses at Richmond and St Georges, will not then be used for offence but may be used as Trading Houses for carrying on a good and safe comerce between us and you.

Then several Deeds of Lands in the Eastern parts were shown to them and the Indians Names who signed those Deeds were read to them and they acknowledged that they had heard of those Sachems and that there was some of them now alive, then they were told how long agoe those deeds were made and that the Grantors did acknowledge that the [199] Tract of Land which they sold to Mr Wharton was a great many years before sold by their Forefathers to Mr Purchase and Mr. Shapleigh,

and that Purchase lived on the Land several years, that Warumbo an Indian Sachem acknowledged the Deed before a Justice of Peace, and Possession was given to Purchases Daughter Forty years agoe, by Turf and taking- Water out of the River That Agebedosset and Kenebga likewise sold the very Spot of Land on which Richmond Fort now stands, to Mr Lake, then they were told, that some of those Deeds were shown to the Sachems at Arrowsick at the Conference between Govr Shute and their Tribes and that Twenty of their Chiefs confirmed the Same accordingly then a Deed of Land at St Georges from Madockawando to Sr. William Phips thirty one years agoe was shown to them and they were told, that Sr William gave a great quantity of Silver Money and a Number of Blankets and other things for the Same, and that the Fort at St Georges stands upon this Land, that we know of no Deeds of Lands to the Eastward of this, but a great many of Lands to the Westward of it, Notwithstanding they are not to be debarred, but shall have free Liberty to hunt and fish &c any where but where the Lands are inclosed

Comrs We hope We have now made out to your Satisfaction, that We have Deeds for the Lands on which those Houses stand, and that you were in the wrong to demand those Houses to be removed, they will never be used to annoy or hurt you while the Peace lasts which we hope will be for ever.

Inds We desire to goe out and consult upon what has been said.

[later in the] P. M.

Comrs We are ready to hear what you have to offer

Inds We desire to know the right meaning and Understanding of two words, — as to the Deeds of Land as far as [200] St Georges Fort whether Houses will be built and Settlements made as far as the English have purchas'd.

We are free and plain in our Discourse that there may be no Misunderstanding afterward. And as to the Lands that have not been purchased that lye vacant in Spaces between what has been purchased, whether when the English come to Settle, there shall not be a Consideration for that Land — and whether We shall not have a further Gratuity or Acknowledgement made to us for what has been purchased of our Forefathers. The Reason of our Inquiring into this is that we may be able to tell it right when We come home to the tribes.

We are well pleased to see the old Deeds for the Lands, and they are to our satisfaction and we shall satisfy the Tribes when We come home We have nothing further at present We are ready to hear what you have further to say — By what you have said you seem well inclined to Peace. If We should proceed further as to the Boundaries of Lands we should goe beyond our Instructions. It seems to us that the Peace is so far made that every one may goe about his lawfull Occasions in hunting fishing &c till the Spring when the Boundaries may be further settled in a General meeting.

Comr^s We shall repeat what you have said to the Gov^r and we hope to see you again in the morning to perfect what we have begun.

Ind^s We desire to know when we have concluded upon every thing, when We shall goe home not that We are Impatient for We live well and are well provided for, but the Indians We left are every day expecting and looking out for us and will be impatient till We return.

Com^{rs} When We have finished We shall not detain you but you shall goe with the first fair Wind [201]

Saturday Nov^r 27th 1725.

Com^{rs} We have reported to the Lieu^t Govr what was said at the last meeting and he has considered your three Questions propounded yesterday and has directed us to give you the follow in a Answer. As to your first Question —

Whether the Land about St Georges must be settled with Houses as far as the English have purchased — We answer — Those Lands are the Property of particular Persons who have the Indian Right by fair Purchase as you are sensible by the Deeds which have been shown you, and you cannot reasonably expect that the said Proprietors should be hindred of making Improvement of what is their own, however Care will be taken by the Government That no Encroachment shall be made on you and that they do not any wise Injure you but treat you as Friends and good Neighbours

To the Second

As to the Lands that have not been purchased which lye vacant in Spaces between what hath been purchased, whether if the English should have a mind to purchase any of it when they come to settle you shall have a Consideration for it.

We answer — you will certainly be paid for such Lands as you shall hereafter dispose of to the English and therefore when ever you sell any Land It will be best for you to acquaint the Governm^t there of and they will take care that you be not wronged therein.

To the Third

Whether you shall not have a further Gratuity or Acknowledgment made to you for what has been purchased of your Forefathers — We answer —

Your Ancestors have been paid for those Lands to their Satisfaction as has been proved to you and there is no reason to expect the Lands should be paid for over again.

Comrs Notwithstanding what We have now said in Answer to your Questions The Governm^t will take due Care [202] that you shall not be wronged and you shall have free Liberty of hunting and fishing &c any where but in the Inclosures, or Lands that are fenced in.

Comrs We have done if they have anything to offer We are ready to hear them

Inds We have nothing to offer at present

Comrs The next time We shall goe upon the Article about Trade, but this will not be till Tuesday next. Several of the Gent, being going to their houses in the Country.

Wednesday Decem^r 1st 1725.

Comrs If you have anything to offer in answer to what We said to you last meeting We are ready to hear you

Inds We have nothing to offer.

Com^{rs} The Government are making an Act for the Regulating Trade with you (that not belonging to us) and It will be doubtless be of Advantage to you and when It is finished It shall be read and interpreter to you.

Com^{rs} Whereas We have agreed that this present Treaty shall be more publickly and solemnly ratified by your Tribes We would know at what time they may be assembled for that end.

Ind^s A little after Planting time, for now as soon as We return, the Indians will goe a hunting for the Winter, and in the Spring they will be employed in Planting so that after Plant will be the most proper time which will be about the Tenth of May next

Com^{rs} What Place do you think will be the most proper to meet at.

Ind^s We can't answer till We speak with the Tribes.

Com^{rs} The Governour will appoint a Place wch will be convenient both for us and you

Conference with the Delegates — Nov. 27, 1725

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Committee on English Claims to Eastern Lands.

Pursuant to an Order of the General Court in their Session in November & May last appointing a Committee to receive the Several Claims or Titles that may be had or obtained of the English to the Lands in the Eastern parts of this province and to repair to ffalmouth at the time proposed for the Ratification of the late Treaty and to produce the said Claims or Titles and take care as far as possible to make out the same to the Satisfaction of the Indians and to distinguish and ascertain what Lands belong to the English in order to the Effectual prevention of any Contention or Misunderstanding on that for the ffuture.

The Committee accordingly repaired to the place at the Time appointed given public notice to all persons concerned which was done by posting up the same in the Words following Province of the Massachusetts Bay

Public notice is hereby given to all persons concerned that the Committee appointed by the Great and General Court to receive the Claims or Titles of the English to the Lands in the Eastern parts of this Province, will attend that Service at the House of Cap Richard Cotter from nine to Eleven of the Clock in the forenoon pursuant to the Direction of the General Court to receive any Claims that may be made in

order to ascertain and distinguish what Lands belong to the English for preventing any Contention or Misunderstanding on that head for the ffuture and all persons concerned are desired forthwith to bring in their Deeds or Claims to the Committee.

By order of the Comte

John Wainwright

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[six months later - deeds]

Nova Scotia section:

Original minutes of His Majesty's Council at Annapolis Royal, 1720-1739, Archibald MacMechan, ed., (Halifax, McAlpine, 1908), pp.114-21.

This begins November 1723 (they receive a communication from Mi'kmaq desiring peace).

Minutes of H, M, Council, 1723

At a Council held at the Honourable Lt Governor John Doucett's house in his Majesty's Garrison of Annapolis Royal on Wednesday the 13th of November 1723

Present the Honourable L.^t Governor Presidt
Major Paul Mascarene William Skeen Esqr
John Adams Esqr
Hibbert Newton Esqr William Shirreff

The Honourable Lt Governor Acquainted the Board that he had Received by Mr. James Bline a letter from the Chiefs of the Indians at 14Marimishitt, the Bay of Challour, Richibuctou, Shadowitt, and Shickanecto which was Read, and Containing Several promisses of their peaceable behaviour towards the English and Desireing an Answer.

Resolved that a Civil Letter be sent to Amusse them till farther Instructions from Britain [72]

At a Council held at the Honottrable Lt Governor John Doucett's house in his Majesty's Garrison of Annapolis Royal on Wednesday the 8th of July 1724

Present the Honourable Lt Governor Presidt
Major Paul Mascarene William Skeen Esqr
John Adams Esq*
Hibbert Newton Esqr William Shirreff

Whereas the Salvages of this his Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia Committed Sevl Roberys & Murders against his Majesty's Subjects in the year 1722 and since have Committed in Open Enmity & Rebellion and Whereas to fence (?) against such Barbaritys, several of their people were Seiz'd & Detained Prisoners which Induced Several of the Salvages of this River to Submitt to the Governmt and promise to Demean themselves peaceably & to Informe the Governmt of any Insult that should be Intended against it (as appears by the Instrument Signed by them) Upon which promise [p.57] the Indian Prisoners here were treated with all Humanity & Kindness till by Some Articles of Peace with the Salvages in General they might with Security be releas'd being made to Understand at the Same time That if any of his Majesty's Subjects were Murdred near this Garrison or any Shott fired against it, without giving [sic] timely Notice of it Reprisals should be Made upon the Prisoners in our Keeping; And Whereas Notwithstanding the promises made by them & the Threats Made here of Reprisalls; Some of the Very Indians who had Signed the Instrument above Mentioned were Guides and Actors Amongst those who on the 14th of this Month Barbarously Murthered a Sergt of this Garrison and then Openly Attacked our Partys and the Garrison itself and

were the Means of Another Man's being killed and An Officer & three private Men Dangerously Wounded & of the firing of two English houses & the taking of two men of this Garrison with a woman & two Children who have been Since Releas'd out of their hands by the French Inhabitants.

It is our Opinion that Since all the kind Usages this Barbarous people have Receiv'd Seams Rather to Render them more Inhuman and Treacherous. It will be for his Majestys Service the Security of this Garrison and English Subjects Inhabiting about it to make Reprisals by the Death of One of the Salvage prisoners in Custody, to Deter them from any farther Outrage when they will Ly Under the fear of Loosing Nine more Still left in our possession.

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At a Council held at the Place aforesaid on Munday they 21st of March 1725/6

Present The Honourable Lievt Governor John Doucett President
John Adams Esq William Skene Esq William Shirreff Esq

The Honourable Lt Governor Acquainted the Board that he had Advice from Major Paul Mascarene [147] Mascarene the Commissioner Appointed by this Government to Treat in Conjunction. with the Government of New England about the Peace with the Indians And that he had also transmitted him Attested Coppys of the Articles Agreed upon by the Indian Deligates in behalf of their Sev.e Tribes of this Province their Constituants and of these which he had Signed to them in behalf of this His Majestys Province (as upon file) which were Read, as also the Articles Agreed. upon by this Board the 3.d of November 1724 & a Coppy of the Honourable Lawence Armstrong the Lt Governor of the Province his Instructions to the Said Major Mascarene for his Transacting Said Peace as aforesaid

Wherupon Resolved that the Deputees of this River be forthwith Sent for that they may be ordered to be here Wednesday Next, And that they May Acquaint Such Indians as are in the River, of Said Peace being Concluded at Boston; And bring Such Indians Allong with them And then Adjourned to the Governors farther pleasure

Saturday the 26th of March 1726

The Honourable Presidt and the Members that were present on Munday last Mett at the Same place Acoording to the Adjournment of that Day; And the Deputees being come The Instruments of agreemt Made at Boston the 15th [p.111] Day of December 1725 by Major Paul Mascarene & the Deligates Appointed by the Indian Tribes for Ratifying the Peace with them and this His Majestys Province Were Read to them and Interpreted.

Agreed that Circular Letters be issued out to give Notice to the Indians that the Peace is Concluded at Boston, that they May According to the Articles there Agreed. upon by their Said Deligates Come or Send Their Chiefs to Ratify the Same here Conforme to Agreement, the 4th Day of May Next old Stile on the 15th New Stile being Wednesday, and That John Adams and William Shirreff Esquires prepare the Same in Order to be Sent to the Deputies of Minas Cobaquitt & Shicannecto to be by them Communicated Acoordingly

At a Council held at the Honourable L.t Governour John Doucetts house on Wednesday the 20th of Apr 1726

Present The Honourable Lieut Governor John Doucett President
John Adams Esq
William Skene Esq
William Shirreff Esq

The Honourable Presid.t Acquainted the Board that he had. Rec.d a Letter from the Deputies of Cobaquit in Answer to what was Sent to them about the Indians, Acquainting him that they had Explained the Letter, Sent to the Indians of these parts to Such of them as were present, and that they had Used all possible Means to Communicate the Same to those who were Absent in order that they may be here at the Time Appointed And that they would also Come Along with them Then the Honourable L.t Governor Acquainted the Board that Pere Ignace and Some of the Inhabitants of Beaubassin (or Shickanecto) were Arrived here, and that he had. Rec.d a Letter from Some of the Inhabitants in Relation to Some Difference between them and the Said Pere Ignace about the Tyths as upon [p.112] The Said Letter being Read and Pere Ignace and the Said Inhabitants from Shickanecto being Called before the Board

The Honourable Presid.t Desired Pere Ignace to Informe the Board of his Complaint and Allegations against Said Inhabitants.

The Said Pere Acquainted the Board that he Complain'd Only Against Some of said Inhabitants who in Opposition to his Honour's Orders Refused not Only to pay him Accustomary Tyths, but even So far not to Acknowledge him as their Priest that they had in Contradiction to the Governor's Orders, Signed for a Nother, and therefore had Judged. Necessary to Come and Complain of them both upon his Own Accot And the Disrespect they therby shew'd to the Governmt

Piere Dueron and Claude Godet who brought the Letter in behalf of the Inhabitants Offering Nothing in Contradiction to Pere Ignace's Affirmations but Acknowledging the ffact, And the Subject of Said Letter and their Treatment of Said Ignace being both Insolent and Groundless, they were Severely Check'd and So Dismiss'd.

Then the Honourable Presid.t with the Advice of the Board Ordered that the Inhabitants of Shicanecto Should Pay the Tyths (as Customary To their former Priests) to Pere Ignace from the Date of his Orders for Officiating there as their Missionary and not to Any Other At their Peril, without possitive Orders for their So doing from this Government; And that these Inhabitants who had the Insolence to Signe Said Letter in Name of the Rest And to Send for another Priest, Should Pay Pere Ignace for his Trouble and Expense in Coming here

Then was Read a Petition from Mary D'Aigre Wife to James Gonsile against Beausoleil (alias Joseph Brosard) for Committing fornication with her Daughter Mary who being brought to bed of a Daughter had laid the Same to the Said Brosard, and he Refusing the Child Mentainance and Denying himself to be the father Prayed Relief [p.113] The Said Brosard being come to Ansr in his Own Defence, Replied that he was very Innocent And not the father having Never had any Carnall Deallings with her.

The Midwife being put to her Oath Declared That the Said Mary Daughter to the Said Mary D' Aiger Did Declare when She was in her most Violent Pains That the said Joseph Brosard was the Real father of her Said Child.

The Governor with the Advice of the Board Ordered That the Said Brosard Should Pay to the Mother of Said Child for its Mentainance three Shillings and Ninepence every Week Until that the Child Arrive to the Age of Eight Years Old, And that he Shall Immediately Give good Security for his performing the Same, or go to Prison Untill that he Shall find Such Security.

Abram Bourg one of the Deputees and William Bourgeway Inhabitant Engaged themselves each in An hundred pounds Security for the Said Joseph Brosards punctuall Compliance And Due Observation Said Orders to be by them punctually Paid Upon the first Complaint [151] Complaint of his the Said Joseph Brosards not Obying or his Refusing to pay the Above Ordered Weekly Allowance of three shillings And Ninepence for the Childs Mentainance as AforeSaid.

[p.114]

At a Council held at the Honourable Lt Governour John Doucetts house in his Majestys Garrison of Annapolis Royall on Tewsday the 31stof May 1726

Present The Honourable Lievt Governor President
John Adams Esq
William Skene Esq William Shirreff Esq

The Honourable Lt Governor Informed the Board that the Chief of the Cape Sable Indians, and Others of Some of the Tribes of this province were, Conforme to His Circular Letters & the Articles Stipulated on their behalf by their Deligates at Boston the 15th of December 1725 Come to Ratifie the Said Articles and having Desired the Advice and Oppinion of the Board what Should be done therein the Honourable Lt Govr Lawence Armstrong of the Province not being Arrived here from Canso

The Board having Considered the Same, Are of Oppinion (from what Major Paul Mascarene had Wrote to his Honour on that Subject the 9th and 15th of March 1725/6 That it might prove Detrimentall to the Major's further proceedings and put a Stop to the Other Tribes Ratifying their Their Said Deligates Articles either with this Government or that of New England, of which by those of New England Seam Very much to Doubt, if they Should now be Rejected; and therefore to Disappoint the Endeavours of the french therein and to prevent any Hindrance from this Governmt to the Negotiations of that of New England

Agreed (it being the Oppinion of the Board That Major Mascarene had Certainly Inform'd the Honourable Lawr Armstrong the Lt Govr of the Province, of the Same Advice, and that the Articles According to Agreemt were to be Ratified [p.115] here) That they Should be Admitted Saturday next in Order to Ratifie the same to prevent their being prepossessed with any ill Oppinion of His Majesty and this Government, if the Same Should be Refused

At a Council held at the Honourable Lt Governour John Doucett's house in his Majestys Garrison of Annapolis Royall on Saturday the 4th of June 1726

Present The Honourable Lievt Governor President
John Adams Esq
William Skene Esq William Shirreff

The Honourable Presidt Acquainted the Board that Indians with the Deputees of the Inhabitants of this River were Come According to Appointment the 31st of May Last in order to make their Submission to his Majesty and this His Government, and to Confirme and Ratifie ye Articles Ratified and Agreed upon by their Deligates at Boston as aforesaid; and Desireing to know whether, upon their So doing, he Should Release the Indian Priseners

The oppinion of the Board is, That as those in prison are not worthy to be kept as Hostages, they being but of Little Esteam, & Some old and Decriped, and that whereas they have allreeay been a Very Great Expencc to His Majesty, That they Should be Released, in order also to Show them Such a Sincerity of friendship as may the more Effectually Engage them to his Majestys Intrest

Then the Board Moved that it was Customary on Such Occasions to Give them Some Entertainments and presents as Tockens of friendship.

To which The Honourable Presid.t Making Answer that he had no Presents; it was again Moved That His Majesty had (as hath been Reported) Some years Agoe Sent presents to a Considerable Value, and that it would be proper at this Juncture to Distribute part thereof amongst them to prevent any further Expencc that Way.

To Which His Honour Replyed that he had heard as Much, but that they were Never in his possession, Neither [p.116] had he any. Other knowledge Thereof but by Report; And that if his Excellency had any Such presents, he had them at Canso; And again Desired the Advice of the Board what he Should now Do, there being no Such presents at this Time here.

The Oppinion of the Board is that as it is Very Necessary as aforesaid to Give them Such Tockens of friendship as aforesaid.

That his Honour the Lt Governor of Annapolis Royall, in absence of the Honourable Lawrence Armstrong the Lt Governour of the Province, Should Use Such proper Means in So doing as may be to the Honour of this His Majestys Province.

Then His Honour Acquainted the Board That he had Conformed to the Articles Agreed Upon by Major Paul Mascarene, and y.e Indian Deligates, Prepared Articles for His and the Indians Ratifying the Same, which he Laid before the Board.

Which being Read & Compared with those Stipulated at Boston as aforesaid, Were Approv'd of; And Accordingly Judged proper to adjourn to the fflag Bastion to have them Ratified in as publick and Solemn a Manner as possible; Where the Indians being Present, the Said Articles were again Read before all the Officers, Soldiers, and the Deputees first in English, And His Honour the L.t Governor having Administred an Oath to Abram Abram Bourg one of the Said Deputees and to Prudane Robichau Senior Faithfully to Interpret the Same to the Indians; They Were again Distinctly Read in french, Paragraph by Paragraph which being Accordingly Interpreted to them,

They to each thereof Gave their Assent, and Signed Sealed and Delivered the Same to his Honour the L.t Governor of Annapolis Royall.

Then the Honourable Presidt in absence of the Honourable L.t Governor of the Province as aforesaid Signed, Sealed, and for and in His Majestys Name Delivered those in behalf of this Government to the Chief of Said Indians; And they [p.117] having Moreover Swore fidelity The Governor gave then Orders That the Indian prisoners Should be Released, And gave them an Entertainment and Sev.l presents as Tockens of His Majestys Protection.

At a Council held at John Adams Esq house in his Majestys Garrison of Annapolis Royall on Wednesday the 8th of June 1726

Present The Honourable Lieut Governor President
John Adams Esq
William Skene Esq William Shirreff Esq

The Honourable Presidt Communicated to the Board that he had Recd a Letter from the Honourable Lawence Armstrong the L.t Governor of the province, In which he Seams to be Dissatisfied with our Proceedings in Sending Circular Letters So Soon to the Deputees of the Inhabitants and to the Indians, in order to Ratifie what had been Agreed on between Major Mascarene (Sent by His Honour the L.t Governor of the Province to Boston to Treat about the Peace in conjunction with the Government of New England, with the Indians) and the Said Indian Deligates; And Desireing the Advice of the Board what was to be Done in this Affair We having before the Receipt of the Governor's Letter Admitted the Tribe of Cape Sable Indians and Some Others to Ratifie the Articlres that their Said Deligates had Signed on their Part to Major Mascarene, And as he al1so (the Presidt had Ratified the Same to them According to the Purport of Majr Mascarenes Agreement with them and had thereupon Delivered up the Prisoners.

The Board having Considered (as by the former Minutes) That upon Accot of the Instruments Signed by Major Mascarene and the Deligates as aforesaid, and the Major's said Letters to the Honourable L.t Governnor of Annapolis Royall on the Same Subject, they had then Concluded from thence, that the Sooner Such were Ratified by the Sev1 Tribes in [p.118] this Province, it would the more Effectually prevent the Designes of the french Priests; And did therefore then Advise His Honour ye Presidt to Send forthwith for Said Tribes; Who having Embraced the Said Invitation, & the Cape Sable, Indians and those Others who were with them, having allready Ratified What their Said Deligates had Engaged and Signed to Major Mascarene, And As his Honour the Presidt as aforesaid, in absence of the Honourable L.t Governor of the Province, had allso Ratified what was promised and Signed by Major Mascarene to the Said Indian Deligates; Andl the Saiu Ratification having been performed in as Solemn and Strick a manner as possible.

The Oppinion of the Board is, That what has been transacted with the Indians as aforesaid, Cannot be Recinded from, without a Manifest Violation of what has been So Solemnly promised in His Majestys name, and so confirming the Prejudice and Hatred Instill'd into them by their Missionarys Against His Majesty and his British Subjects, as Heriticks and people without faith or Principles of Honour .

And is also of Oppinion That when his Honour the Lt Governor of the Province Shall See the Major's Said Letters, He will not have Cause to find fault with the Transactions of this Board, who have So Great a Veneration for his Authority & Person & having no Other Views than his Majestys Service in facilitating their Ratification of the Same with the Government of New England as aforesaid.

Then the Honourable Presidt Acquainted the Board that by the Last News papers there is Advice that His Majesty was in Great Danger and Narrowly Escap'd being Cast away in a great Storm as he was Returning from Hannover to his Kingdom of Great Britain And therefore Moved Whether (upon the Advice of His Safe Arrivall) We ought not to Observe a Day for Offering up our Praise & Thanksgiving to Almighty God for his Daily Repeated Mercys & Loving-kindness to us his Unworthy Servants, and particularly [p.119] on this Occasion for his Heavenly Protection and Providential Deliverance Vouchsafed to His Majesty.

To which the Board Unanimously Agreed, and that Thursday Next Should be Accordingly Sett a part from all Servile Labour, and Observed as a Day of Publick Thanksgiving .

By order of his Honour the Lt Governor by and with the Advice of the Council

At a Council held at John Adams Esqe's house on thursday the 23dof June 1726

Present The Honourable Lieut Governor John Doucett President

John Adams Esq

William Skene Esq William Shirreff Esq

The Honourable Presid.t Acquainted the Board That Charles Robichau one of the Deputees of Cobaquit was Arriv'd who told him that he had Explain'd and Communicated his Honour's Letter to the Indians and that he Expected that they of those parts would have Come along with him, he having Appointed to Meet them at Mines: who being there before his Arrivall, were Again Dispers'd through the Report of One Sheegau a Cape Sable Indian; who told them that his Honour the Lt Governor would not Ratify the Articles of Peace with them unless the Chiefs of every Tribe were all present together And that therefore they had Resolved Amongst themselves to wait for some Other Advice.

Which being Considered the Board was of Oppinion that it was Rather a Contrivance of the Priest in Opposition to the Peace, to put a Stop to and hinder if possible their Submitting themselves to and Acknowledgeing His Majesty King George and therefore Agreed that it was highly Necessary that his Honour Should Send them Advice; And Signify to them that the aforesaid Report was false, and that he was Ready to Ratify Said Articles According to the Advice [p.120] Formerly Sent them & that upon their Coming to Ratify what hath been promised on their part they should be friendly Recd.

Then was Read a Letter from the Inhabitants of the Neather Cobaquit Signifying that the Indians after whom they had been in Search, not having Return'd from Hunting till the 7th of June N.S. Was the Cause that their Deputy the Said Charles Robichaux Did not come According to the Time Appointed.

Read Also a Letter from Abram Bourg One of the Deputys of the Upper Cabaquit Signifying that he had been for Some time Lame, and that through Infirmitys he was not Able to Officiate nor to Execute the Governmts orders And therefore Prayed to be Excused, and Desired Liberty to Come to Annapolis Royall Agreed.

Agreed that he might Come if he pleas'd Then the Honourable Presid.t laid before the Board a Letter from Alex.r Bourg one of the Deputees of Mines (as upon file) Signifying that he was Engaged for the Savages of the River S.t Johns So far up as to the Meductock and some of those of Passamaquady (Having Interpreted to them his Honour's Letter Delivered them by Aimable) to Signify to his Honour their Contentedness and Good Disposition to Comply with Said Letter and their Readiness to Ratifie the Peace, &.ca and Whereas it was Dangerous for them to Cross the Bay in their Canoos they therefore pray'd his Honr would be pleased to Aid them So farr as to, send a Samall Vessell for their Transportation.

Which being taken into Consideration the Board is of oppinion that it would be Necessary Could there a Vessell be gott, to Send it for them, And whereas Jacque Leblanc of Mines with his Vessell being here, it was Judged proper to propose to him Said Voyage; and being sent for Made Ans.r that he was Willing, Only that being in Mr William Winnietts Service he must therefore have his Consent, And he being also Ask'd, Made Ans.r that he would thereby be a [p.121] Considerable Looser And therefore proposed to the Governor to permitt Said Jacques Leblanc to performe his Agreemt with him and whereas they were both bound up the Bay to Mines he Would Engage to find a Vessell to go to the River St Johns and to bring the Indians from Thence hither

Which being Approven of and the Aforesaid Alexander Bourg proposed to be the person Employed for that purpose

The Honourable President Mov'd that the Said Alexr Bourg having Acted Several things in Opposition to Repeated Orders of this Government and that therefore if he Should Come he must be Obliged to Use him According to his Merit Unless upon his very Ample Submission and Good Security for his future behaviour.

Whereupon Mr William Winniett & the Said Jacque Leblanc Offerr'd them Selves Securtys.

Who being Accepted of, they Enter'd into Bond Accordingly

And the Honourable Presidt by the Advice of the Board sent An Order to the Deputees of Menis to furnish the Said Alex.r Bourg with a Vessell and Equipage to go for Said S.t ohns Indians.