The Wabanaki were forced to go to war time and again during a century of conflict that saw the French and English jockey for control of North America. The Wabanaki made war in an effort to stop the invasion of their homelands. They also supported their French and American Revolutionary allies against the English. Many treaties were signed, but broken or never enforced.

1796, 1794
Separate treaties between the Passamaquoddy (1794) and Penobscot (1796) with Massachusetts relinquished vast tracts of Native homelands and established small Indian reservations in Maine.

**Read the Treaty (Appendix A)**

In 1790, the U.S. Congress had passed the Non-Intercourse Act that declared the federal government must ratify all treaties between the States and Indian Nations. Because Congress never ratified the 1794 and 1796 treaties with the Maine tribes, the tribes successfully negotiated the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act in 1980.

1780
Joseph Orono, Penobscot chief, travels to Boston and Newport, RI to offer the aid of the Penobscots to the American Revolutionaries.

**Powder horn attributed to Chief Joseph Orono. Abbe Museum Collections**

1779
Pledge of Loyalty and Request for Support, Conference at Machias.
Wabanaki pledge their loyalty to the Revolutionary Army. In return, they request support and safety for their people.

“Our white brothers (the Americans) tell us that they come to our land to enjoy liberty and life. But their king (of England) is coming to bind them in chains and kill them. We must fight him. We will stand on the same ground with our brothers (the Americans).” - Joseph Orono, Chief of the Penobscots, 1775

1777
British attack Machias; the Wabanaki join the Revolutionaries. Captain Sopiel Soctoma, Passamaquoddy, and 50 men of his tribe capture an armed schooner off Passamaquoddy Bay and deliver it to Colonel John Allan in Machias.

1763 – Treaty of Paris
At the end of the French and Indian Wars, France cedes Canada to Great Britain. The French-Wabanaki alliance ends.

Mid-1700s
The Wabanaki Confederacy established an alliance of the Wabanaki Nations. This alliance provided individual Wabanaki Nations with greater political power with which to negotiate with European Nations and potentially threatening neighboring Native alliances like the Iroquois Confederacy. In addition to political power, the Wabanaki Confederacy also provided individual Wabanaki nations with a broader sense of community—although they were individual nations, they could choose to unite under the confederacy to address issues that affected them all. At the Grand Council Fires of the Seven Nations, Confederacy members met, made decisions and settled disputes.

The records of these meetings were kept on the wampum belts, symbolic objects that commemorated events.

Wampum Belts
Native people sent and received Wampum woven into belts as a form of communication. Through the geometric patterns of the purple and white beads, Native people wove wampum designs to remember and recall important events like oral histories, treaties and agreements. These belts were brought back and forth from important events, and passed down from generation to generation.

This belt is a reproduction of a historic wampum belt and represents the union of the Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot in their local alliance. The four white triangles are tribal "wigwams." In the center is the pipe, the symbol of the peace ceremony by
which the allies are joined.

**Mid-1700s**

As the English and French fought for control of the continent, the Wabanaki, caught in the middle, struggled to maintain their territory.

This English map dated February 13, 1755, shows the territories claimed by England and France. The large territory to the west below the St. Lawrence River is all claimed as part of the colonies of New England. French lands are to the north and east. Remaining Wabanaki tribal lands are sandwiched between them. After England defeated France in 1759, England claimed all of the lands known as the Province of Maine.

**1755-1759: French and Indian Wars**

After defeating France, in 1759 Great Britain takes control of all French holdings, including traditional Wabanaki territories.

Lewis Lolar, a direct descendent of the famous Penobscot war-chief Loron, bequeathed this hatchet to linguist Frank Siebert in 1935. The hatchet, manufactured in France in 1695, is one of only 200 such hatchets given to the Penobscots by French naval officer Simon-Pierre Denys de Bonaventure, during the French and Indian Wars. "The hatchet is a genuine relic of seventeenth century warfare in northeastern North America and perhaps the only one for which a detailed history can be sketched." The image features the Bonaventure Hatchet, French manufacture, 1695. Iron, wood, buckskin; handle is not original. Image courtesy Stephanie M. Finger, Frank T. Siebert Collection, Abbe Museum

**1755**

The Phips Proclamation posts a bounty on the scalps of Penobscots:
"And I do hereby require his Majesty's Subjects of this Province to Embrace all opportunities of pursuing, captivating, killing and Destroying all and every of the aforesaid Indians."

Read the Proclamation (Appendix B)

1744: King George's War
England places a bounty on all Wabanaki after some participate in French raids against English settlements in Nova Scotia.

1739: Dams on the Presumpscot River
The following is a statement of Polin, Sagamore of the Presumpscot River, 1739

"We are most aggrieved that the River Presumpscot is dammed up so that the passage of fish, which is our food, is obstructed, and what Col. Westbrook did promise about two years ago that he would leave a place open in the dam and that the fish should have free passages up said river into the pond in proper season, but he has not done so, and we are therefore deprived of our proper food. It was agreed that the bounds of the settlement made by the English should be known, but the English are encroaching upon our land, which we never knew or understood was lawfully purchased, and we move that the English may not be allowed to settle any further as yet... and that English improvements caused the hunting to be very difficult so that we cannot get our trade as usual..."

1725: Dummer’s Treaty
English settlements built before the war would remain, but Wabanaki retain rights to all other lands.

1724
The English raid the village of Norridgewock, on the Kennebec River, scalping and killing French missionary Father Sebastian Rale and 30 Wabanaki. Image courtesy National Archives of Canada /C7219.
**1722: Dummer’s War**
The English attempt to assert control over Wabanaki territories ceded to England by France in the Treaty of Utrecht, 1713.

**1721**
Wabanaki leaders send a letter to Massachusetts Governor Shute, signing it with their signatures:

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, Freyeburg, Maine

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


15. Les Micmaks, Micmacs

16. Ceux de K8upahag, Ekpahak or Savage Island near Fredrickton

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.

**1675-1677: King Phillip's War**

The war is begun by the Wampanoag leader Metacom, or King Philip, as an attempt to remove the English from Indian territory. In the Province of Maine, English settlers on the lower Kennebec, fearing attacks from the Wabanaki, demand that they surrender their guns and cut off sales of ammunition. Many Wabanaki, unable to hunt for food, starve. Bounties are placed on the heads of Wabanaki and trade is cut off. Many Wabanaki seek refuge in Canada or on the eastern frontier.

The extraordinary contempt in which (the English) held these peoples, whom they have ever treated very harshly, led them to believe that it would be very easy, either to destroy them utterly, or to reduce them to such a condition that
they would never again have to fear a similar revolt among many of them. - 1676, The Jesuit Relations
APPENDIX A

Treaty between the Passamaquoddy Tribe & The Commonwealth of Massachusetts 1794

RESOLVE on the report of Alexander Campbell and others, a committee in behalf of this Commonwealth, to negotiate and settle any misunderstanding or difference with the Passamaquoddy Indians and those of the other tribes connected with them.

February 10, 1795

Whereas, by a resolve of the general court passed on the 26th day of June last, Alexander Campbell, John Allan and George Stillman were appointed a committee, in behalf of this Commonwealth, to negotiate and settle any misunderstanding, dispute or difference which may subsist between this Commonwealth and the Passamaquoddy Indians and those of other tribes connected with them, with full power and authority to lay out and assign to the said Indians, any track of unlocated land belonging to this Commonwealth, in the County of Washington, not exceeding ten thousand acres, and also to purchase any particular spot of ground or tract of land for the use and convenience of said Indians, provided, however, that such purchase shall not exceed the sum of five hundred pounds.

And whereas, the said committee have exhibited to the general court, in their present session, an agreement made and signed on the 29th day of September last, by and between them in behalf of this Commonwealth, and the chiefs of the Passamaquoddy tribe of Indians and others connected with them, which agreement is in the words following, to wit:

To all people to whom this present agreement shall be made known, we Alexander Campbell, John Allan and George Stillman, Esquires, a committee appointed and authorized by the general court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to treat with and assign certain lands to the Passamaquoddy Indians and others connected with them, agreeable to a resolve of said general court, on the twenty-sixth of June, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, of the one part, and the subscribing chiefs and others for themselves, and in behalf of said Passamaquoddy tribe and others, connected with them, of the other part: witnesseth, that the said committee, in the behalf of the Commonwealth aforesaid, and in consideration of the said Indians relinquishing all their right, title, interest, claim or demand, on any land or lands lying and being within the said Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and also engaging to be peaceable and quiet inhabitants of said Commonwealth, without molesting any other of the settlers of the Commonwealth aforesaid in any way or means whatever: in consideration of all which, the committee aforesaid for and in behalf of the Commonwealth aforesaid, do hereby assign and set off to the aforesaid Indians, the following tract or parcel of land lying and being within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, viz: all those islands lying and being in Schoodic River, between the falls at the head of the tide, and the falls below the forks of said river where the north branch and west branch parts; being fifteen in number, containing one hundred acres more or less: also
Township No. 2 in the first range surveyed by Mr. Samuel Titcomb, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, containing about twenty-three thousand acres more or less; being bounded as follows, easterly by Tomer's River and Township No. One first range: northerly by Township No. Two second Range: westerly by Township No. Three first range; southerly by the west branch of Schoodic River and Lake; and also Lire's Island lying in front of said township, containing ten acres more or less; together with one hundred acres of land lying on Nemcass Point adjoining the west side of said township; also Pine Island lying to the westward of said Nemcass Point, containing one hundred and fifty acres, more or less; also assign and set off to John Baptist Locote, a French gentleman, now settled amongst the said Indians, one hundred acres of land, as a settler in Township No. One first range, lying at the falls at the carrying place on the north branch of Schoodic River, to be entitled to have said land laid out to him in the same manner as settlers in new townships are entitled; also assign to said Indians the privilege of fishing on both branches of the river Schoodic without hinderance or molestation and the privilege of passing the said river over the different carrying places thereon; all which islands, townships, tracts or parcels of land and privileges being marked with a cross, thus X, on the plan taken by Mr. Samuel Titcomb, with the reservation of all pine trees fit for masts on said tract of land to government; they making said Indians a reasonable compensation therefor; also assign and set off to said Indians ten acres of land more or less at Pleasant Point, purchased by said committee in behalf of said Commonwealth, of John Frost, being bounded as follows, viz: beginning at a stake to eastward of the dwelling house, and running north twenty-five degrees west fifty-four rods; from thence running north fifty-six degrees east thirty-eight rods to the bay; from thence by the shore to the first bound; also a privilege of setting down at the carrying place at West Quoddy between the Bay of West Quoddy and the bay of Fundy, to contain fifty acres. The said islands, tracts of land and privileges to be confirmed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the said Indians and their heirs forever. In testimony of all which, we, the said Alexander Campbell, John Allan and George Stillman, the committee aforesaid, and in behalf of the Commonwealth aforesaid, and the chiefs and other Indians aforesaid, in behalf of themselves and those connected with them as aforesaid, have hereunto set our hands and seals at Passamaquoddy, the twenty-ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four.

Alex. Campbell.
J. Allan
George Stillman
Francis Joseph X Neptune
John X Neptune
Piel X Neptune
Joseph X Neptune
Piel X Denny
Jonale X Denny
Joseph X Thomas
Signed and sealed in presence of:
Samuel Titcomb,
Jno. Frost, Jun'r.

Be it therefore Resolved, That the said agreement be and it is hereby ratified and confirmed, on the part of the Commonwealth, and that there be allowed and paid out of the treasury of this Commonwealth, to the said committee, the sum of two hundred pounds, being the consideration paid to the above named John Frost, for a tract of land on Pleasant Point, purchased by the said committee, ten acres of which more or less, as in the before recited agreement, is hereby appropriated for the accommodation of the said Indians, said sum to be paid to the said committee, on their depositing in the secretary's office a deed from the said John Frost, of the said tract of land on Pleasant Point, duly executed and acknowledged: and, whereas, there now remains for the disposition of government, ninety acres more or less of the above mentioned lot of land, on Pleasant Point.

Resolved, that the treasurer of this Commonwealth be and he is hereby authorized and empowered, to lease the said remaining ninety acres for one year or for term of years, in such manner and on such consideration, as he may judge will be most for the advantage of the Commonwealth.
APPENDIX B

Phips Proclamation

1755

A PROCLAMATION

Whereas the Tribe of Penobscot Indians have repeatedly in a perfidious manner acted contrary to their Solemn Submission unto his Majesty long since mad and frequently renewed. I have therefore at the desire of the House of Representatives with the Advice of his Majesty's Council thought fit to issue the Proclamation and to declare the Penobscot tribe of Indians to be Enemies, Rebells, and Traitors to his Majesty King George the Second.

And I do hereby require his Majesty's Subjects of this Province to Embrace all opportunities of pursuing, captivating, killing and Destroying all and every of the aforesaid Indians.

And whereas the General Court of the Province have Voted that a bounty or Incouragement be granted and allowed to be paid out of the public Treasury to the Marching Forces that shall have been employed for the Defence of the Eastern and Western Frontiers from the first of the twenty-fifth of this Instant November — I have thought fit to publish the same and I do hereby Promis that there shall be paid out of the Province Treasury to all and any of the said Forces over and above their Bounty upon inlistment, their Wages and Subsistance the Premiums or Bounty following viz.

For every Male Penobscot Indian above the Age of twelve years that shall be taken within the Time aforesaid and brought to Boston Fifty Pounds.

For every Female Penobscot Indian taken and brought in as aforesaid and for Every Male Indian Prisoner under the age of twelve Years taken and brought in as aforesaid Twenty five Pounds.

For every Scalp of such Female Indian or Male Indian under the Age of twelve years that Shall be killed and brought in as Evidence of their being killed as aforesaid, Twenty pounds.

Given at the Council Chamber in Boston this third day of November 1755 and in the twenty ninth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith.

S. PHIPS
By his Honour's Command,
J. WILLARD, Secry.
God save the King.
Resolved That there shall be allowed and paid out of the Public Treasury to any Number of the Inhabitants of this province, not in the pay of the Government, Who shall be disposed to go in quest of the Indian enemy, & shall before they go signify in Writing to the Chief Military Officer of Yt. part of the Province from which they shall go, their Intentions, with their names the following Bounty Vizt. For every Indian Enemy that they shall kill and produce the Scalp to the Gov. & Council in Evidence, the Sum of three hundred Pounds.

For Every Indian Enemy that shall Captivate & deliver to the Governor & Council, the Sum of Three hundred and Twenty pounds.
Also, --Voted, That the same allowance be made to private Persons who shall captivate or kill any of the Indian Enemy which is made to soldiers on the Frontiers of the Province.

From Documentary History of Maine (Baxter Mss. Vol. 24, p. 63)
(1) Spencer Phips was then Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Mass. Bay and was acting governor at this time.
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