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History 101

January 24, 2019

**Summary**

This is a report by Samuel Waldo, penned in November 1735 about his meeting with the Indians around St. George’s in Maine, where he had purchased a large tract of land that he had invited himself and several other families onto. A large group of the Penobscot people, including men, women, and children came down wishing to see the new settlers and were invited in to meet Waldo. They expressed concerns with the settlers moving into what they considered to be their land and wanted to learn of their intentions in doing so. Their former Sachem, Madockawando, though thirty-seven years dead by this time, had sold their land, which the current natives believed was not his right in the first place. Chief Loron now said that they spoke not on behalf of a few, but on behalf of all the tribes in the area when they said they did not consent to have the English there. Samuel Waldo informed them that the sale that their former chief made with Lieutenant Governor William Dummer was lawful and showed them the deed, which he owned, and requested a good friendship with them before taking his leave.

They visited again after a short while looking for another session with them. Loron stated that they had never authorized in the beginning that the English go further east than the Mill River, to which Samuel agreed, assuring them that the settlement would stay to the west of the river. Waldo, however, knew that it was in his rights to go all the way up the land that he had purchased, and he intended someday to do just that. He had also invited many families to settle the area but knew that for the sake of peace he would remain on the west side of the river for the time being. He determined that he would not allow his rights as a land owner to be limited, but rather hoped that he and the Penobscot could be kindly and cooperative when the time came. At this time, they also made some practical agreements to how their coexistence would be executed including the agreement on the construction of a grist mill. Before parting, the Penobscot people who were gathered seemed to prefer this to be their last meeting and to never see another English person again, but Waldo informed them before he parted that he hoped there would be many more such meetings in the future.

**Evaluation**

This reading clues modern readers in to the fact that the Penobscot people were concerned about this invasion of their land by the English settlers. They seemed keenly aware of what their new neighbors meant for the future when they requested they stay on different sides of the river. The concessions made on both sides described by this document suggests that the settlers, though not wanted, were tolerated, and the peace agreements here speak to their willingness to coexist—at least near the beginning. It can be concluded from this document that Samuel Waldo intended peace and friendship with his neighbors, but he didn’t intend that their initial negotiation should be their last. He owned the land and saw it as his right to take it, but he was careful when making peace with the natives of the area. They also made practical agreements, including that if an Indian’s dog crossed into the settlers’ lands and killed any number of sheep the owner would pay for them unless the owner could not be found in which case the dog would be put down.

Through this and other readings about that area in the 1700’s a reader can gauge the testy relationship once warring states can have, as this document was written during a short period of peace between the English and Penobscots. We know now that the Penobscot people were not to keep their way of life for long. During the French and Indian War, where the Penobscot sided with the French, the British, in 1755, put a bounty on the scalps of Penobscots—a mere twenty years after this interview was documented. The Penobscots had very few rights in the coming two centuries as they tried and failed to hold onto the land where they lived. Just as Waldo had intended, the English, and then the American people, continued to move further into the Penobscots’ land.