Conflict and Community in Colonial New England: A Genealogist's Guide

Class 2: Diplomacy, Alliance, and Conflict: Indigenous Nations and Colonial New England

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Timeline

c. 1480-1510s Basque and other Euro cod fishing fleets engage in trade off Newfoundland.

Trade increases over 1500s

1524 European voyages to Narragansett and Casco Bay

1580s French presence in St. Lawrence intensifies

1600-1615 Mi'kmaq wars on maritime coast

1616-19 coastal pandemic

1630 large scale English colonization begins

1633-6 Smallpox pandemic in American northeast

1636-1638 Pequot War

1643 United Colonies of New England formed

c. 1640-1675 rise in Indigenous conversions to Christianity, formation of "Praying Towns" totaling 15% of southern New England Native population by 1675

1660s decline of both wampum and fur trades, rise in Native land sales for debt

1663 Publication of "John Eliot Bible"

1669 Algonquian alliance decisively defeated by Mohawks (also recent allies of the English)

1671 Praying Town of Natick granted livestock brand

1671 Wampanoag sachem Metacom forced to submit to Plymouth, turn over nation's firearms

Metacom's War/King Philip's War

Feb 1675 John Sassamon's body found

June 1675, three Wampanoags tried and executed for murder in Swansea. Some Wampanoags retaliate and attack the town.

July 1675 More Wampanoag attacks on Plymouth towns, Metacom & followers escape Plymouth attack on Mt. Hope

August-October 1675 fighting spreads northwest to central and western MA as Nipmuc, Pocumtuc, and "River Indians" join allies

Nov 1675 Algonquian allies force some "Praying Indians to join them

Dec 1675 Great Swamp Fight, Narragansetts join allies

Dec 1675/January 1676 Metacom and Wampanaogs winter camp attacked by Mohawks near

Hudson River while seeking assistance from Schaghticoke Indians

February-April 1676 Allied victories, destruction or abandonment of Pawtuxet, Providence, Warwick, Groton, Lancaster, Chelmsford, and Marlborough

April 1676 turning points: killing of Canonchet, Narragansett sachem, and Native morale decline after their Sudbury victory

May 1676 Colonial forces destroy allied headquarters at Great Falls (aka Turner Falls)

June-July Colonial victories and rise in surrender of Algonquian allies

August 1676 Metacom killed, final surrenders of Algonquians

Post Metacom's War in Northern New England

1st Anglo-Wabanaki War (1675-1678) ended by treaties of Pemaquid (1677) and Casco Bay (1678). Wabanakis permit English colonists to reoccupy Maine coast, but each returning family required to pay 20 bushels of corn in annual tribute (seldom if ever fulfilled)

2nd Anglo-Wabanaki War [& French] (1688-1699)

1693/4 truce, English insert language of Wabanaki "submission" into the written treaty

1699 Casco Bay Treaty ceasefire, status quo *ante bellum*

3rd Anglo Wabanaki War [& French] (1703-1713) Most Wabanaki spend war years along the St. Lawrence River

1713 Treaty of Portsmouth ends war, Wabanaki allow English (now British) to recolonize "all lands formerly settled." British interpret this to mean "all lands covered by any 17th century land deed," proceed to build new towns.

1717 Arrowsic Treaty Wabanakis complain, talks go nowhere

4th Anglo Wabanaki War (1722-1727) military stalemate ending in mutual exhaustion

1726 Penobscots negotiate first treaty of Casco Bay

1727 most other Wabanaki nations attend and agree upon second treaty of Casco Bay

Further Reading

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