

*Signed sealed & delivered  
in presence of*  
**THE MEETINGS AT PORTSMOUTH**

*Redknapp Nathl Rogers Signum Quale beonewes*

**“Throughout treaty literature, Indians insist on acts of commitment from their treaty partners... Smoking the pipe of peace, taking hold of a treaty partner by the hand, exchanging hostages and presenting valuable gifts were just some of the ways human beings could demonstrate their steadfast commitment to upholding their treaty relationships.” -- Robert A. Williams, Jr., *Linking Arms Together: American Indian Treaty Visions of Law and Peace 1600-1880***

**JULY 13-14, 1713 IN PORTSMOUTH**

ENGLISH ROYAL GOVERNOR JOSEPH DUDLEY: “Your having given me in a list of your names and places from whence you came assured me that you were delegated by your several tribes. I shall treat you as such and proceed accordingly... They know how equally and justly they have been treated by the English in their trade, having had goods at cheap prices. If they proceed with me to conclude this Treaty I shall order trading houses for whence where I shall order such persons of credit to reside and I will answer for their friendship and capacity at all times.”

When the First Nations then opened their own diplomacy, they presented a letter saying they had sent the Governor eight beaver pelts. They then “danced and sang two songs taking several of the gentlemen by the hand, one after another in the time of dancing and when they left off they said they had expressed their love and joy to his Excellency and all the honorable gentlemen as her Majesty Queen Anne’s servants.”

DUDLEY “There shall be all things needful at Casco and Saco. It is not to stir them to any displeasure but to quiet the English people... nor is it to restrain them from coming on this side of the Saco to the hunting places but that they keep at a distance from the English at present.”

INTERPRETER GYLES FOR THE WABANAKI: “They hope they shall within a few months have repose and quietness between us and their Allies and the kind people will bring them to quietness and kind affections one to another. It must have time to cool when the iron doth lye a great while in the fire.”



*Both Wabanaki and English wanted fair trade in convenient locations.*



*Image from the 1713 Treaty of Portsmouth (Courtesy: Library of Congress)*

**The attending English and Wabanaki signed the Treaty on July 14, 1713.**

**“What we have heard, we will keep it in our hearts to spread it abroad among our people.”  
-- Wabanaki at Portsmouth, July 1713, through interpreter John Gyles**



*“Typical Wabanaki Encampment Of the Late 1700s,” watercolor by Hibbert Newton Binney, 1791. (Source: CowasuckAbenaki.com)*

**SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1713 AT CASCO BAY**

The Governor and the interpreter then discussed the next step: The English agreed to take the eight delegates back to Casco Bay where the Nations would gather.

The Treaty Articles were presented to the assembled First Nations at Casco Bay on July 18. There were 180 men present with 450 women and children watching from a distance. The English told the Wabanaki they “would in a little Time come to resettle their Plantations.” The Wabanaki answered “[We] should be glad to see the English settling their antient Plantations ...they should never be disturbed in their Rights and Privileges there.” They added, “they would be very careful to observe that Article of their Keeping in the Northerly side of Saco River at a Distance from the English Plantations.”