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 in presence of

# NEW HAMPSHIRE'S STRUGGLE FOR RECOGNITION

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The 1713 Treaty of Portsmouth marks a watershed in the long struggle of the merchant faction in New Hampshire to achieve independence from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The 1713 Treaty was the first to name New Hampshire as an equal party to a treaty and is signed by the full Provincial Council. The treaties were negotiated by the provinces on behalf of the Queen and copies were returned to the colonial office in London. The inclusion of the New Hampshire Council is a bold assertion of provincial sovereignty.

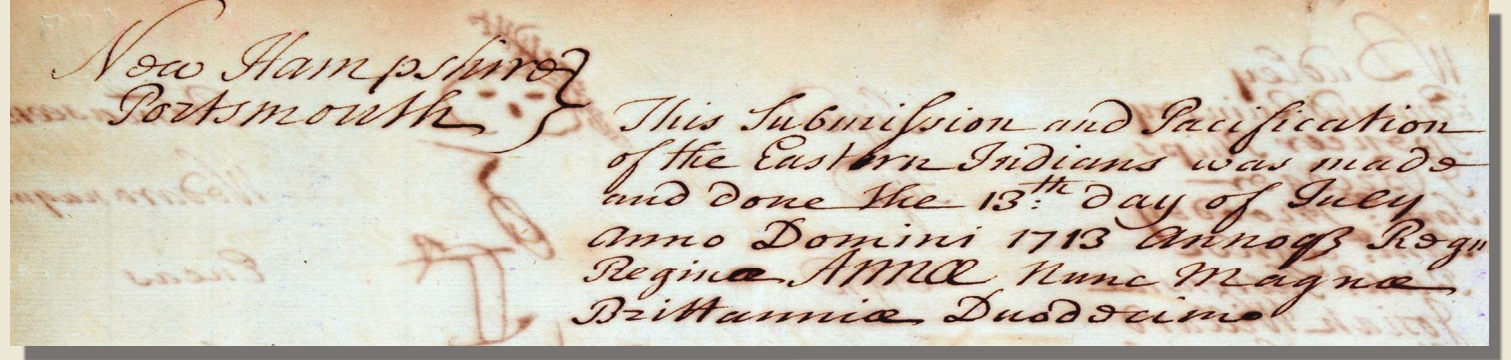


Image of the 1713 Treaty of Portsmouth (Courtesy: Library of Congress, Levi Woodbury family papers, 1638-1914)

## THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

**Richard Waldron** -- Had successfully defended the provincial government against the proprietary claims of Governor Allen. The son of Col. Richard Waldron (killed 1689); Secretary and Collector for New Hampshire. His portrait hangs in the Council Room of the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion. Richard Waldron III married the daughter of Col. Thomas Westbrook, Portsmouth Plains resident and owner of 1716 Globe Tavern.

**William and George Vaughn** and John Newman's brother Henry had each been previously hired by the Province of NH as agents to represent its interests with the Board of Trade in London, to offer policy views that contrasted with the reports of Governor Dudley. William, a political ally of Richard Waldron and Portsmouth resident, would become Lt. Governor

**Peter Coffin** -- A Dover trader and partner with Captain Richard Waldron in the trading post at Pennacook. Signed the 1689 petition to raise taxes to pay for defense and military officers.

**Robert Elliott** -- A Great Island (New Castle) resident who has signed a petition in 1682 that Great Island needed its own minister.

**Nathaniel Weare** -- Political ally of Richard Waldron. Lt. Gov Wentworth dropped a libel suit against Weare in 1717 to reconcile the factions.

**Samuel Penhallow** -- Author of *The History of the Wars of New England with the Eastern Indians*. A judge, magistrate, chief justice and Treasurer of the colony. Married Mary Cutt, daughter of Ursula Cutt who was killed in an Indian attack in 1694. Signed 1689 petition to raise taxes for defense and military officers.

**John Plaisted** -- York, Maine resident. Signed the 1689 petition to raise taxes to pay for defense and military officers.

**Mark Hunking, Jr.** -- Owned eleven acres on Little Harbor that would become the estate of Royal Governor Wentworth.

**John Wentworth** -- Named Lt. Governor in 1716. Married Sarah Hunking. Their son, Benning Wentworth was New Hampshire's first Royal Governor. Three days after the treaty was signed, the New Hampshire Council appointed signers John Plaisted, Mark Hunking, and John Wentworth to a commission to settle the boundary of the province. Massachusetts had agreed to authorize the commission in May. It took nearly thirty years, but the children of these signers ultimately prevailed in getting an extraordinarily favorable judgment on the boundary that doubled the size of the province and installed a fully independent government with New Hampshire's first Royal Governor



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