

NOTE: Ambrose "Var" should be Ambrose "Bear". The clerk mistakenly wrote the name as "Var".

Friday, July 19, 1776

Present in Council:

Honorable Benjamin Greenleaf	Honorable Eldred Taylor	Honorable Benjamin Austin
Caleb Cushing	Samuel Holton	Edwin Thayer
Nick Darby	Jabez Fisher	Daniel Davis
Theo Cushing	Morris Gill	Daniel Hopkins Esq.
John Whitcomb Esq.	John Taylor Esq.	

A conference with the St. John's & Micmack Tribes of Indians in Nova Scotia held at Watertown in the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay between the Honorable Council of the said Colony in behalf of the Colony and of all the United Colonies on the one first, and the delegates of the St. John's and Micmack Tribe of Indians in Nova Scotia on the other party.

In Council Wednesday July 10, 1776

The Honorable Board being informed that Major Shaw was desirous of speaking to them on business of importance, he was admitted into the council chamber when he acquainted their honor that a number of Indians of St. John's and Micmack Tribes in Nova Scotia were come to town and see and talk with the Council and General Washington, from both of whom they had received letters, and at the earnest request of the said Indians he had accompanied them, having brought them in his sloop from Machias to Salem, from whence they rode hither in carriage which were provided for them. Major Shaw was desired to introduce them, which he did. After salutations and their being seated and welcomed, The Honorable James Bowdoin Esq. as President to the council, was directed to hold the conference with them.

President: What tribes do you belong to and represent?
Indian: The St. John's and Micmack.
President: We would be glad to know your names and to what villages you belong.
Indian: We will answer each for himself.

Ambrose Var
Newell Wallis of St. John's River
Francis

Joseph Denaquara
Charles of Winsor Micmacks

Mattahu Ontrane
Nicholas of Meremichi & Rechibucto Micmacks

John Battis of Beausejour in Cumberland a Micmack

Peter Andre of Le Have a Micmack

Sebattis Netobcobwit of Gasper a Micmack

President: What number of men is there in your several villages and let each confirm with respect to his own village only.

Ambrose Var: There are sixty men belonging to the St. Johns tribes.

Joseph: There are sixty men belonging to my village, Winsor.

Mattahu: In my village are eighty men.

John Battis: In the village at Cumberland are forty men.
 Peter Andre: There are fifty men at La Have.
 Sabattis: At Gasper are fifty strong men.
 President: Are there any more villages of Indians in Nova Scotia?
 Indians: There are six more villages of Micmacks, but we do not know what number of men they have.
 President: As you want refreshment we will defer having what you have to say to us; and we will let you know when we are ready to hear you. We have ordered good lodgings and entertainment to be provided for you and Major Shaw will take care that the order be complied with.

Wine being brought, the president drinks their health and the health of the St. John's of Micmack Tribes, which was returned by the Indians drinking the health of the Council, they then retired with Major Shaw.

In Council Friday AM July 12th, 1776

A message went from the board to the Honorable House of Representatives then sitting in the Meeting House, to inform them that certain Indians from the St. John's of Micmack Tribes were in town, with whom the Board proposed to hold a conference at eleven o'clock and to invite the Honorable House to be present at it, and to propose to them that it should be held in the Meeting House.

A message was received from the House in answer that they would attend the conference at the Meeting House, which should be at the service of the Honorable Braid for that purpose.

The Council then proceeded to the Meeting House into which they were introduced by the speaker, being seated. Of the Indians, also came and seated, the conference was renewed.

President: Brothers of the St. John's of Micmack Tribes, we are glad to see you today and hope you are all well.
 Ambrose: We thank you.
 President: As some of you speak French, we have desired Mr. John Prince who speaks French also, to interpret what shall be said at the conference, and we have appointed Mr. John Avery as clerk to take minutes of it. They will be each sworn to the faithful discharge of their office respectively.

They were sworn by the President accordingly and Colonel Lithgow, who understands the Indian language was desired to assist as interpreter.

Ambrose: We like it well.
 President: In our first interview, you told me you came from and represented the St. John's and Micmack Tribes. What evidence do you give us of this?

Ambrose hereupon bore and delivered to the President a large parchment containing a treaty made between their Tribes and the government of Nova Scotia in 1760. Also a letter to them from General Washington, mailed in February last, and a letter to them from the General Court of Massachusetts Bay dated in October last, and said that their letter were the creation of them coming hither to see General Washington.

President: We are now ready to hear what you have to say to us and shall give great attention to it.
 Ambrose: The St. John's and Micmack Tribes are all one people and of one tongue and one heart. We are very thankful to the Almighty to see all the Council. The Almighty has given the English and Indians one heart. General Washington sent us something, the letter aforesaid, last fall of this spring, and that is the reason of our coming here now to speak. The Captains that are come up with me, and all our people are all one as Boston. Our eyes and our ears will not turn to the other side of the water to see or hear what they do. We want a father or a French priest. Jesus we pray to, and we shall not hear any prayer that

come from England. We shall have nothing to do with Old England. And all that we shall worship or obey will be Jesus Christ and General Washington.

Here Ambrose delivered to the President a silver ingot and heart with the King's Arms, and the bust of the King and Queen engraved on them.

Ambrose: General Washington advised us to pray to Jesus for aid and assistance and to be thankful for the lands that God had given us. All our old men and women pray that the Almighty would enable us to walk in the right way. General Washington wrote us a letter desiring us to pray that he and his brethren may be master of this country. We are both one country. We are of their country and they are of our country. There are Boston's people down with us and we esteem them there as our own people and heal them as such. There are a number of French people upon our land who disturb us in hunting, and we want to remove them a little further from us, near the sea coast.

Here, Ambrose presented and delivered a sword and pistol which he said had been offered them by one Anderson, and which they afterwards took from him and he then proceeded.

Ambrose: Mr. Anderson told us if we would be for England, as he intended to be, we might have that sword and pistol. He told us that if we took any money by the Boston people, the King of Old England would make it good. After we received General Washington's letter, we took the sword from Anderson, and told him we would have nothing to do with him, and set him as a mark and despised him. We told Anderson when we took the sword from him we would deliver it up to General Washington if he would receive it. We have now said what we had to say concerning this matter and would again mention that we want a truck house and a priest.

President: You mentioned there were some Frenchmen in your country whom you wanted to have removed. Are they in opposition to the interest of this country?

Ambrose: They were all for you.

President: For what purpose did Anderson give you the sword?

Indians: As Mr. Anderson would not be for the people of Boston, we took it from him.

President: Did Mr. Anderson appear as an agent for the Government of Nova Scotia or only as a private individual?

Indians: Mr. Anderson told us in the winter and in the spring not to go to Boston but to Halifax. He said it would not signify to go to Boston but if we would go to the Governor of Halifax we should have a hatfull of money given to us by the Governor. We did not want money, but we wanted to lay our hearts open to the people of Boston.

President: Was Anderson a public agent or employed by the Governor of Halifax?

Indians: We believe he was...

President: What is the disposition of the English people in Nova Scotia with regard to the disputes between England and America?

Indians: We do not know.

President: What is the disposition of the Micmack and St. John's Tribes in general? Would they all enter heartily and with resolution into the war on our side?

Indians: Both the Micmack or Cape Sable Indians, and the St. John's Indians are all for helping Boston. We know their hearts for we had a talk with them.

The President then delivered a speech to them which was as follows:

President: Brothers, what you have said we like well. It makes a strong impression on our hearts, and at our next conference with you, we will give you a full and particular answer. We will now open our minds to you. You have heard that the English people beyond the great water have taken up the hatchet and made war against the English United Colonies in America. We once looked upon them as our brothers, as children of the same family with

our selves, and not only loved them as brothers, but loved and respected them as our elder brother. But they have grown old and covetous. Many of their great men have wasted and squandered not only their own money, but the money of the public; and because they cannot obtain in their own country a sufficiency to support their excessive luxury, and satiate their desire they want to take from us our money and our lands for their purposes. And at the same time to deprive us of our liberties and make us slaves. They have already taken away a great deal of our money, and many of our privileges, and we have borne it with patience, having only told them that their doing it was unbrotherly and unkind, and most earnestly prayed them again and again to desist from their unfriendly and cruel treatment of us. But all our petitions have been disregarded. And they have trodden them as waste paper under their feet. After this ill usage, and repeated insults, we have refused to part with any more of our money and privileges and this refusal has brought upon us the war in which we are engaged. Our enemies, before they openly declared themselves to be such, were received as friendly and admitted them into our towns and sea ports, taking advantage of this peaceable disposition of ours. They sent troops and ships and took possession of Boston, and strongly fortified it, expecting we should permit them to do the same with other places, till they had secured the whole country. But they found themselves mistaken. For when a large body of them went from Boston secretly by night into our country, in the month of April last year, and killed some of our people, burnt or damaged many of their homes, stole and destroyed much of their property and committed other acts of cruelty, a number of our warriors assembled and drove them back and killed a great many of them. And a little while after, killed a greater number of them at Charlestown, with comparatively little loss of lives on our side, the war being thus began.

All the Colonies on the continent from New Hampshire to Georgia, included them, determined in a great Council, held by some of their wise men at Philadelphia, to unite together for their mutual defense. And their army, under the command of that great warrior General Washington, have lately driven away the British army from Boston. Wherefore many months they were held as prisoner, not daring to march out of the town to fight General Washington and we doubt not through the favor of divine Providence, that although the British troops have gained some advantages in Canada, the armies of the United Colonies will be able to drive them out of all other parts of America within the limit of the said Colonies, and out of Canada also, if the Canadians are not blind with regard to their own interest and liberty.

We have given you this information that you might know the true state of things, and we would inform you further that as we and the St. John's and Micmack Tribes of Indians are countrymen and not very distant from each other, we ought to be and it is our interest to be mutual friends and as brothers and we are glad to find by what you have now said, that you are of the same mind. Accordingly, we, the Governor of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, in behalf of the Colony and of all the Colonies in North America, receive you to our friendship. Your acceptance of it entitles you to be considered by us as brothers, and your enemies over shall deem our enemies, and will do all in our power to protect you from them. We do not, however, ask you to join with us in the war unless it is your free choice to do so. If you choose to join with the United Colonies in the war, and shall tell us so clearly, we will immediately take the matter into consideration and let you know our minds at the next conference. In the meantime are glad to see you do not intend to join our enemies against us. It is probable that the Governor of Nova Scotia, the Governor of Canada, and other enemies of these Colonies will endeavor to deceive you, and by presents of threats, try to make you join with them against the United Colonies. But be not deceived by them. Our love for you obliges us to forewarn you of their acts and earnestly to caution you against being deceived if they should engage you in the war against us. You will be undone, and will be a ruined people. We do not mention this as supposing you will join them, but only as a friendly caution to you, that you do not suffer them to deceive you to your own ruin.

When you have considered what we have now said, and are ready to give an answer to it, we will hear you.

Ambrose: We will consider it and speak to you again.

President: You told us the sword and pistol you took from Anderson was at our disposal. We thank you and now return you them again, in confidence that they will be employed by you only against your won and our enemies.

The silver ingot and heart with the Kings Arms and bust engraved on them were delivered to the interpreter to be returned to the Indians. He presented them to their speaker, but with great vehemence and displeasure he refused to take them, saying they had nothing to do with King George and England, whereupon the President told them they should have a new ingot and that with a bust of General Washington and proper devices to represent the United Colonies. The conference was then adjourned to tomorrow after drinking mutual health.

In Council July 12th, 1776

A message went from the Honorable Board to inform the Honorable House that the conference with the Indians would be renewed at three 'clock P.M. to which the House returned an answer that they would then attend. Accordingly at three o'clock the Council attended and proceeded to the Meeting House, and the Indians being come, the conference was renewed.

President: Brothers of the St. John's and Micmack Tribes, it gives us pleasure to see you today. in health. We hope you have been well entertained at our lodgings, agreeable to our cider. We shall now give you an answer to what you said to us yesterday. You told us you prayed to one savior, Jesus Christ, and wanted a French priest to assist you in your prayers. We are glad to see you have such a regard for religion, and are ready to furnish you with a priest to assist you in your prayer, and teach you the true religion. But we do not know that we can get a French priest. If one of our priests would be agreeable to you, we will endeavor to get you one and will take care he be a good man.

You told us you wanted a French priest. According to your desire last year, we sent to our truck master at Penobscot, money to purchase ammunition, provisions and goods. So much of each as we thought sufficient to supply you the last winter, and we wrote you so in our letter to you last October. We hope the truck master supplied you according to our order, which was to supply you with what you wanted, and take your skins and furs in payment, and that you might be the better accommodated. We also sent a quantity of the same articles to Machias, with orders to our truck master there to supply you. We shall send a further quantity and order him to let you have the things you want at the same rate they cost us, and allow you, from your skins and furs, the same price they will fetch in Boston. We hope this will be satisfactory to you.

With respect to the war, we told you yesterday how it began and mentioned to you some of the cruelties our enemies committed on our people. We shall now mention some more of these cruelties.

After the British ships and troops were admitted into Boston as friends, they stopped all the trades of the town, and would not suffer our vessels to come in, or go out, to supply the town and country as usual. They then, fearing the people of Boston after such provocation, would rise upon them, told them that if they would deliver up their arms, the inhabitants would be all safe. And no injury offered to them or their property, and that such as inclined to go out of Boston should have free liberty to go with all their efforts.

The town, unarming themselves to be in the power of the troops, and being cut off from all communication with the territory, agreed to the proposal, and accordingly delivered up their arms, relying on the promise of the British General, Mr. Gage, that he would perform his part of the agreement. But as soon as he had got their arms, he broke his faith

and would permit only a part of the people to go and would not suffer them to take their effects with them. These that were obliged to remain, in the town, were insulted and abused by the soldiers, who burn and destroyed many of their houses, stole a great quantity of their goods,, and subjected them to great difficulty and hardships all directly contrary to the plighted faith of the British General. And afterwards, when the British troops found that General Washington was determined to drive them out of town, they broke open dwelling houses and store houses and took away and destroyed a prodigious quantity of goods, and then with great precipitation, retreated to their ships and quitted the town.

Sometime before this, they burnt the large town of Charlestown, consisting of seven hundred houses, taking away everything valuable they could find there, and several of their ships of war went and destroyed a great part of the town of Falmouth in Casco Bay, burning near two hundred houses there, with many things of value in them. Much other damage they have done and many other cruelties they have committed. This unjust, inhuman and cruel treatment has compelled us to take up arms in our defense and in earnest to engage in a war with them. And all the colonies on the continent, through fifteen hundred miles extent, have joined us in the war and are determined to carry it on till we can obtain a peace on just and honorable terms. We know our cause to be just, we can therefore place our confidence in that being who is the great dispenser of justice, and who will not suffer such inhumanity and breach of faith to go unpunished. We trust that by his favors, we shall be able to defend ourselves and we do not desire you, as we told you yesterday, to enter into the war unless you choose it. You then are justified a disposition to engage in it but we desired you to weigh and consider the matter well before you engaged and to let us know your mind about it fully and plainly after you had considered it. We shall now attend to what you have to say on this head, and to everything else you gave to say.

Ambrose: We have the same to say today that we said yesterday, that we are your friends and brothers, and will join in the war on your side. You may depend upon it that we will not break our words. We will allow all that are here present hear us and the God of Heaven hear us, and we will engage in the war, for we are brothers. We would not lie to save our right hands. We pledge our faith that we will do what we promise. We love Boston. It gives us a great deal of concern they were so ill used. We should have been glad to have had the arms of Boston to keep. If we had had the Boston arms, we should have been able to defend ourselves. In case the people of England should come to drive us out of our country, we will give you the information of it immediately. We shall be very glad to have proper goods for our furs and skins, and we want them up St. John's River. We are not capable of writing. We cannot convey our mind as we would wish to do. We will pledge our right hands in faith of what we have promised. There are some of us here that are willing to go to war now and would go to General Washington immediately.

Upon this three of them went from their seats into the broad aisle and manifested a great desire to go.

Ambrose: These three are Chiefs of different villages and are willing to go together.

President: We thank them and will let them know our minds. By what you said yesterday and what you say now, it appears to be your disposition and intention to join in the war with us.

Ambrose: Yes, we are with our hearts, ready to join you.

President: You mean not only your selves particularly, but your Tribes in general?

Ambrose: It is not in our power to answer now for the whole of our Tribes, but when we go home, we will all together, all the young men, and see how many will go to war.

President: How many men do your Tribes consist of?

Ambrose: It is not in our power to tell.

President: You, Ambrose, are of St. John's. How many men are there in you tribe?

Ambrose: Sixty men that are able to do duty.

President: How many of your men would be willing to engage in the war?
 Ambrose: It is impossible to tell certain before we go home and call our men together.
 President: Do you think they would engage?
 Ambrose: We can get thirty men to go and three Captains for certain This man that is next to me will make one of the thirty that will go with me.

Francis, of
 the same tribe: I can go and fetch from St. John's twenty myself, I will return and bring twenty men with me.

President: How many men, Joseph, will go from your village and how many does it consist of?
 Joseph Denaquara: Twenty-five men would go, and there are fifty in the whole.
 President: How many men in your village, Mattahu, and how many would go?
 Mattahu Ontrane: I can bring ten men and could bring more if I want, afraid of the English coming to attack our villages while we were gone. We have eighty men.

President: How many in your village and how many would go, John Battis?
 John Battis: We can produce fourteen, but must leave some to take care of the women and children. We have forty men in our village.

President: I want to know how many men there are in your village, Peter.
 Peter Andre: Sixty men.
 President: How many men can your village furnish?
 Peter Andre: It is not in my power to answer with certainty as I am going myself to General Washington directly.

President: Do you think twenty?
 Peter Andre: Thirty.
 President: How many are there in you village, Sabattis?
 Sabattis Netobcobwit: Fifty men.
 President: How many men would go to war?
 Sabattis Netobcobwit: Twenty-five men.
 President: How many villages are there of the Micmacks are not represented here?

Several of them consulted together, and then the answer was given.

Ambrose: Six.
 President: How many villages are there represented here?
 Ambrose: Six
 President: Are the other villages as big as these six?
 Ambrose: Some much bigger.
 President: What is the reason the other six villages did not send delegates as well as these that have sent?
 Ambrose: The reason is that General Washington's letter had not reached them. Some of our people went after them, but we have not heard from them.

President: Do you think that the other villages have as friendly a disposition towards us as you have?
 Ambrose: The same. We are all brothers and cousins. We are of the same flesh and blood and cannot make war or be attacked separately.

President: Would your warriors form a body in conjunction with a number of our people?
 Ambrose: Yes, we are brothers now and for that reason, we would join our hands with yours.
 President: From what you now say, we depend that you are ready to enter into war with us.
 Ambrose: Yes we are.

Hereupon, all the Indians cam from their seats and shook hands with the President, in token of their heartiness and sincerity.

President: We look upon this as an expression of your readiness to join with us in the war, and accordingly, I shall immediately consult my brothers of both Houses, here present, and let you know presently what our determination is.

After consultation with the Council, and with the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, the President then proceeded.

President: Brothers, I would now inform you what the General Court have agreed to. Upon your having signified your readiness to enter with us into the war, they have agreed that a Regiment be employed in the Continental Service under the command of General Washington to consist of five hundred of the Micmack and St. John's Tribes, and two hundred and fifty of your people with them. These are to form one Regiment to act together. The Field Officer, or the Chief Officer are to be English. The other Officers of the Regiment are to be one half English and the other half Indian. With respect to the pay of the Officers, it will be determined the next time the Court meets. With respect to the soldiers, both Indians and English, they will have the like pay of forty shillings per month, equal to six dollars and two thirds, and each of the Indians to be allowed a rifle shirt, such as the rifle men have, a blanket, shoes and buckles or moccasins. You will also have provisions supplied you while in the service.

Do you understand perfectly what has been said?

Ambrose: We understand it exceeding well.

President: Do you approve of the establishment of such a Regiment consisting of English and Indians?

Ambrose: We are very glad of it and we repeat it again. We are very well contented and pleased with it.

President: Brothers, are you all well equipped with guns and all things necessary belonging to a gun?

Ambrose: We have few or none, nor can we find any knives to buy.

President: How do you hunt without guns?

Ambrose: We have got guns but possessed them for our children to hunt with in our absence from home.

President: Those that engage in the service must bring their guns with them. Have you anything further to say at this time?

Ambrose: We have nothing further to say, all we have said we consider as an oath.

President: The next time we meet together, we will let you know how the Regiments are to be regulated.

Then the President drank prosperity to the Indians of the Micmack Tribes and St. John's Tribes, and wished that the friendship now established might continue, so long as the sun and moon shall endure, which was pledged by the Indians.

President: We will bid you farewell tonight, and will see you again next Tuesday.

In the Meeting House, Tuesday, July 16th, 1776, P.M.

The conference was continued.

President: Brothers, we hope we now see you well. At our last meeting, you desired that the goods we should send to the truck house at Machias might be such as you most wanted. We should be glad you would now inform us what goods you most want and like best and we will endeavor the truck house shall be supplied with them, being desirous to accommodate you in the best manner in our power.

Ambrose: We want shrouds and blankets for winter and summer. Our children and families are always in want of these articles. We want powder, shot, flints, knives, combs, hatchets, small axes of two different sizes, paint, some steel traps to catch beaver, and we want guns too to go a hunting with.

President: Major Shaw has delivered us a memorandum for a number of articles. We will order our commissary to supply the truck house with them if they can be procured.

Ambrose: We are much obliged to you.
 President: One of you desired yesterday that a Truckmaster with Goods might be sent to St. Johns.
 Ambrose: There is one Adderton who lives a ligue from our Village, who we should be glad might be appointed.
 President: We should be glad to send a Truckmaster there, but as St. John's is not within the bounds of this Colony, we have no right to do it.
 Ambrose: We are much obliged to you.
 President: Since we last talked together we have received a letter from General Washington, in which he mentions his brothers the St. John's and Micmack Indians as he thinks you are strong men and his good friends, and as you have satisfied great inclination to take part with him in the war, he desires you to come and join him at New York with all possible expedition. He wants five or six hundred of you, but if you cannot spare so many, desires you to speak to your brothers of Penobscot, Passamaquody, and other places to come along with you so as to make up that number in the whole. The pay and encouragement will be the same we mentioned to you last Saturday. We now desire your answer, that we may write it to General Washington.
 Ambrose: My brother, it is not in our power to tell how many men we can raise. We will get as many as we can. We cannot say anything further. We will endeavor to furnish all we can.
 President: You all promise to use your endeavors to engage all the warriors you can. They are to come here, and then go to New Your to join General Washington.
 Ambrose: Yes, we have said it already, that we will go and get all that we can.
 President: You told us the other day how many you thought your several villages would furnish. We should be glad you would mention the number again, according to the list of your judgement, that General Washington may know what to depend on.
 Ambrose: St. John's consists of 60 men and will furnish 30.
 Jos & Charles: Winsor consists of 50 men and will furnish 20 or 25.
 Mattahu: Meremichi and Rechibucto consists of 80 men and will furnish 10.
 John Battis: Cumberland Beausejour consists of 40 men and will furnish 15, perhaps 25,
 Peter Andre: La Have consists of 60 men and will furnish 15.
 Sebattis Netobcobwit: Gaspee consists of 50 men and will furnish 25 or 30.

340 men

115 men

President: How many can the other six villages furnish?
 Ambrose: We cannot tell. We would let you know it is not in our power to come this fall, except three, who are willing to go now. The rest say they cannot come this fall.
 President: If you cannot come yourselves this fall, perhaps some others of your Tribes can.
 Ambrose: When we get home we will call all our people together and advise with them and we will certainly come in the spring.
 President: General Washington writes he wants them now, as they are strong men and his good brothers.
 Ambrose: We will endeavor to get them and if it is possible, we will come this fall. We will get our men together and come up if it is possible.
 President: Would the other six villages furnish any men?
 Ambrose: We are so far distant from each other that it would bring it to Christmas before we could get together.
 President: How long would it be before your people could get together?
 Ambrose: We are certain that we can all be here in the spring. It will be late before we can get home, and it will be winter before our people will be able to get together.
 President: Major Shaw can carry you to Machias or St. John's quick and you can be in your own country in a few days after.
 Ambrose: Some of us, after we get to St. John's River, have a great way to go, near two hundred leagues.
 President: Those of St. John's Tribe are near, they can come in a short time.

Ambrose: When we came from home, our Captain of the St. John's Tribe was gone to Quebec to hear what news. He went to see the people of Boston, not the King's troops. Perhaps when we get home our Captain may be returned and may bring the same tidings we get here. If not, as soon as he does return, we will endeavor to get the men here as quick as possible.

President: Do you think you neighbors, the Passamaquoddy Indians, can furnish any men? They are near.

Ambrose: We will send people to inform them and endeavor to get as many of them as we can

President: Do you think the Cape Sable Indians can furnish any men?

Ambrose: They are too far off to send to from St. John's.

President: Not if you can go across the Bay of Fundy to Cape Sable.

Ambrose: We deep along the coast, except when we come across rivers that are not too wide.

President: General Washington will depend upon thirty men from St. John's to come up soon.

Ambrose: Yes, all we can get.

President: Who lives next to St. John's?

Ambrose: The Micmacks are the nearest. They can't come this fall for want of provisions for their families, who will starve if they come away.

President: Tell Ambrose that we thank him for his readiness to engage his people to come here as soon as he can, and we shall be glad the rest of them will get these people together as soon as may be and come to Boston with as many as they can get.

Indians: We will do all that we can.

President: When you get home, inform your Tribes, and the other Indian Tribes what has been agreed between us. Such as the Indian warriors as incline to engage must come to this place, and General Washington says they must bring their own guns, and General Washington depends upon it.

Ambrose: Those who have two guns will bring one with them and those who have but one must leave it at home.

President: Besides their wages, they will have a dollar for the use of each gun, and if their guns should be lost in the service, they will be paid for them. Every other thing that is necessary will be supplied them when they come here. They must be very expeditious in coming. General Washington wants them immediately. Now you know what will be paid for your guns. You must prevail with your people to bring guns with them.

Ambrose: Yes, we will all bring our guns, all that have any. We have all got guns, but they are not in very good order.

President: Bring the best you have got. You must come as quick as you can. We shall desire Major Shaw to procure you a passage up to Boston from Machias.

Ambrose: If there was a vessel at St. John's we could come much quicker. We want to know who will carry us to St. John's now, for the sooner we can get home, the sooner we can get together.

President: We shall desire Major Shaw to carry you to Machias certain, and if he can carry you to St. John's he will. When Major Shaw carries you to Machias, you must let him know when he must go there again to bring you up.

Ambrose: We will let him know.

President: Your pay will commence on the day you sail from Machias to come to Boston. Our commissary will send provisions for your passage up. The Companies will be formed when you come here. You must engage and enlist for so long a time as General Washington shall want you, not exceeding two or three years, unless General Washington and you agree for a longer time. And from hence, you will proceed to General Washington.

Ambrose: We are willing.

President: Several of you; Joseph Denaquara, Sabattis Netobcobwit and Peter Andre, offered themselves to engage in the war immediately. We thank them. We are much pleased they show so hearty a disposition to engage. We accept of their offer and according to their desire, will send them to General Washington, who will inform them what to do. The St. John's and Micmack Tribes are now our brothers and become one people with the United

Colonies. These Colonies have lately, by their great Council at Philadelphia, declared themselves free and independent states, by the name of the United States of America. The certain news of it and the Declaration itself are just come to us and we are glad of this opportunity to inform you, our brothers, of it This said Great Council, the representatives of the United States of America in General Congress, assembled appealing to the superior judges of the world for the fortitude of their intentions, do in the name and by the authority of the good people of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare that these United Colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved, and that as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and thins which independent states may of right do, and for the support of this declaration with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, they mutually pledge to each other their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.

Here, the printed Declaration at large was produced to the Indians and the interpreter, Mr. Prince, fully explained it to them.

Ambrose: We like it well

President: This is the Declaration of the United States of America. You and we, therefore, have now nothing to do with Great Britain. We are wholly separated form her and all the former friendship and connection with her are now dissolved. The United States now form a long and strong chain, and it is made longer and stronger by our brothers of the St. John's and Micmack Tribes joining with us, and may Almighty God never suffer this chain to be broken. In pursuance and in full confirmation of what has in these conferences been agreed upon between us, we now lay before you certain articles of alliance and friendship which if you approve of them, we propose shall be mutually signed by you in behalf of the St. John's and Micmack Tribes on the one part, and by us in behalf of the United States of America on the other part.

The President, then holding out to them the Treaty, said:

President: This is the Treaty to be read to you. If you approve of it, it will be fairly written and brought here again to be signed by you and us. I shall desire one of any brother to send it to you, being myself obliged to go to Boston.

Upon which the President, after shaking hands with the Indians and bidding them farewell,

retired. The Honorable Benjamin Greenleaf Esq. Than read the Treaty to the Indians which was fully and clearly interpreted to them, and of which they expressed their entire approbation, and said they were ready to sign it. After mutual healths were drank, the conference was adjourned to the next day.

Wednesday, July 17th, 1776

The Council and the Indians Delegates being met, duplicates of the Treaty fairly written were

Produced and signed and exchanged.

Then the Honorable Benjamin Greenleaf Esq. Told them that the presents ordered them by the

Government would be delivered them as soon as they were ready. The conference being ended, the Indians took leave of the Council and departed.