

Journal
of
Survey from Fort Pownal
to Canada in

1764

Mass. Archives,
Vol. 243 page 85.

Passages from Fort Pownal to Canada
taken by order of Government 1764.

Passages to the principal places from Fort Pownall
on Penobscot River

	Miles	Miles			
Salmon point	6 1/2	6 1/2			
Sewardbseok	12 1/2	19			
Condeskeeg	4	23			
Falls	3	26			
Penobscut Island	15	41			
Persadonkesk Island	29	70	from Penobscut to	Miles	Miles
Persscateques River	3	73	Persscateques River	73	73
Meddewamearge	34	107	Looback	42	115
Rahseme	35	142	Oberneetsombeck	23	138
Bemmeduncok & Lake	23	165	over Sebem to		
Satinhunemoss Hull	19	184	Penobscot River	68	206
Gesoncook & Lake	39	223	from thence		
To the passage to Lake Sebem	40	263	to Quebec	150	356
by the River	40	303			
To the Long Carrying place	16	319			
Carrying place	12	331			
Assabahadonat River	26	357			
On the Country Road	56	413			
to Quebec					

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The Distance from Fort Cornwall	}	413 Miles
by Penobscot River is		
And by Lake Sebem		356
So much further by penobscot River		57
And 238 Miles Computed		

Memorandum

The Indians are so jealous of their Country being Exposed by this Survey: as made it impracticable for us to perform the work with Acquiesce. Altho they waer Engaged in the service by the Large wages of £ 3. 10 - pr Month & Conos &c yet (at penobscot Island) three of the party Refused to go forward. and the desput betwen our party & the other Indians was so Great as to Com to a fray. Which after two days dispute. The Result was. That I should proceed with this Restriction That I should take no Draughts of any Lands but Only wrightings. And saying that when they waer among English Men they Obayed their Commands & now best way you do obey Indians Orders.

Journal
Of a Survey thro the intere parts of the Countrey
from Penobscot to Quebec
By Order of the Government of the Massachusetts
Bay

The Object of this Survey was.
first To Explore the Countrey
Secot^y To View if it were practable to make a
Road from Fort Pownall on Penobscot River to
Quebec

In Obedence to the 1th Order — Returned Jan^y 1th 1765
Three Plans.

the first directed To Lord Halifax &c &c By Order of
His Excellency Francis Bernard &c &c.

The 2th plan for the Secer^y Office,
and a 3th plan for the Governour.

That the two last had no direction (that thes plans were
afterwards delineated by Mr^r Miller a regular Officer)
To the 2th Order — Reported that it was not practable
to make any Road.

The Commete did not order a measure of the whol
by a Chain. but to be preformed in the most.

Expeditious method. Which was performed,
Computing Courses & Distances as the Usual method
in plain Sailing — as we pass in Birch
Canoe, the distance is found — from a fishing
Rod Suspend a fine Silk Cord of 8 feet & 3 Inches
in length to a Small pece of brass Latten of the
bigness of a 6 pence being properly ballanced
which may be Cast forward at plesure & Shews
the number of Rods Run in one minut &c but in
Raped water and on Land by Estimation.

Since the above Returns Mr
ordered me to make a
Seccont plan of the Survey to Canade — Saying
that the former plan that was lodged in the Secet^y
office is not to be found — answard as I have
returned the papers it is not in my power

1777 Finding that the Returns maed at Quebec & other Sketches
were omited being returned. By which thes plans are
plotted, one by a Scale of two miles and the other by
25 Miles to an Inch. with sum additions

A Return of the party at Quebec June 20th 1764

John Preble	Capt & Interpreter
Joseph Chadwick	Surveyor
Doct ^r Will ^m Crawford	2 th Surveyor
Philop Norton	Assistant

Joseph Aspequeunt	} Indians
Sack Tomah	
Assong Neptune	
Messer Edeweit	
Sac Alexes	
Joseph Marey	
Sabates	
Frances	

end of copy 3

There is no Page 4
the sheet is numbered
page blank —

7

Page 5

Persageewokeeg now an Incorporated Town by
the name of Belfast. Contains 15000 acres of Land
which the Settlers purchas^d of the Heirs of Bugd^r
Waldo at 2/ ϕ^r acre

Frank Fort

A Township of Land belonging to the Heirs of Bugd^r
Waldo $\frac{3}{5}$ — To Sir Francis Bernard $\frac{1}{5}$ and the
other $\frac{1}{5}$ to Thomas Goulthwait Esq^r.

Original Proprietors of Muscongus Lands a Tract
of Land containing 90000 Acres

That the above Tracts of Land are all Bound^d
Westerly & Northerly on Lands belonging to the
Heirs of Bugd^r Waldo — as ϕ^r plan

Letter A N^o 1

One of the first Six Townships Granted in 1763

the other Six Townships — May be Not^d by Letter
B.

end of Page 5

and the other Range by Letter C. &c.

1764

Page 6

Indians Lands so Called

Since they had a Conference with Governor Bernard at Fort Pownall. At which the Indians Ple was. first in the Last War they were in an Alliance with the French - by which they supposed themselves to have a Right to enjoy there Lands in Common with the inhabetence of Cannad by the Capetation

That there hunting Ground & Streames were all paseled out to Certen famelys, time out of mind. That it was their Rule to hunt every third year & Kill $2/3$ of the Bevier Leaving the other third part to breed; and that their Beviers were as much their Stock for a Living as Englishmens Cattel was his Living. That since the late War English hunters Kill all the Bevier they find on said Streames. Which had not only Empoverished many Indine famelys but Destroyed the bred of Bevier &c.

The Governor Answer was That the English should not Extend there Settlements above the Falls - at Letter **D**. and ordered me to go up & mark out a Line and acquaint the people that they were not to make any Settlements

above s^d falls - In Obedience to the above Orders.
I mark out a Line & acquainted the people &
End of Page 6 gave the Indians a Sketch

D

Page 7 - On sum part of this Ground Governor Pownall
buried a writing on a Sheet of Lead agreeable to
Ancient Custom of taking possession of Islands
& Countres for the King

Penobscut or Ile of penobscut

The Indine Settlements are on the Sutherly end of an
Island about $1\frac{1}{2}$ Miles in length they have Seven
Buildings of about 50 feet in Length & 20 in Breadth
Covered with Spruce Bark and Lined with Birch
Bark in which are / as they say / 50 famelys - Sum
remains of the Sells & Serol Iron of a Mass House and
one Sevel Gun.

The Soil a very Yallo loam and rocky. Bears good
Indin Corn &c - Trees are of a smal growth the
Chefe Value of this place is hunting & fishery
At 7 Miles up the River it opens like a Bay con-
taining sundre Islands and a good Tract of Land

about 12 miles in Length. The banks of the River about 6 feet high and appears by the surf to be overflowed in a freshet.

Soil about 2 feet deep & appears as a mixture of Yalo loam and mud. Some large Rocks at about 6 or 8 Rods asunder but little or no Small Stones

End of Page 7

Page 8

bears a Rank jointed Grass & Sundry Herbs
Trees Large high Maples Black & Gray Oaks
Black Birchs. Little or no Under brush. At about
4 or 6 furlongs from the River is a good Growth of
white pine Timber & Masts & Continues a level
Land to the Mountains which appear blue — Note
that Mountains do seldom appear blue at a less
distance than 10 miles

On the Northerly end of this Bay Lays the Indian
Town of Persadonk

The Land Continues a Fertile Soil and a pleasant
place Good Timber of Sundry Sorts in particular
large Gray Oak Trees — hear the Indians make
Maple Sugar here Equal to single Refined —
in Sundry Wiegums they have 3 or 400 wats which
they say is only a Stock for one year in their families —

11

That persadonk may be Called one of the mos
Valuable tracts of Land.

The Indians Notifying us to met them in Counsel
and the next morning 50 Indians Escoted us to there
Governours apartment

There Cheefs — are Tomah Odohando and
Orano who ware Richly dress^d Seeting on three packs
of Beaver & the whol Room lined with Beaver On the
other Lied of the Room 3 pack placed for us
there first spech was nerly as follows

The Sun rises faer & Clear to Opon the Day We Rejoice
to mete you as friends in peace & helth — But what
we want is to dessire you to carry our petition to the
Governour of Cannada — he then proceded
— humbly sheweth that during the time of the French
Government in Cannada they Surplied the Indians
with a Frier free of Expence and sence the English
Govern^d they had no benefet of any Techer by which
ther Old men had forgot there Religion the young men
could learn non nor have proper Mariages &
Crisenings &c by all which it was not in there
power to Live as Cristen people ought to do

Governour Mury's answer was
 Governour Mury wishes peace & prosperity to his
 Good Brother Gov^r Tomah but as for sending him
 a frier he has nither power or inclination — but
 as the penobscot tribe are under the Jurisdiction of
 Governour Bernard they should apply to him.

end of page 9

Sum time after our return the Indians had a
 Conference with Governour Bernard at Fort
 Pownall and there made all the above pleas &c
 To which the Governour Answered I can not send
 you a frier. But I will lay your case before my Marster

Page 10

Persscatequess River
 is mostly a rapid Stream & Rocky ruff Land but
 in sum parts (as p^r marks in the plan) are good
 tracts of Land on which grows pine & other Timber
 Loback pond

Land is Rocky rising with an easy ascent at
 sum distance appers to grow hard wood. But the
 most Valuable Timber is a large forest of White
 Ceders — many trees are more then 18 Inches in
 in diameter & 20 or 30 feet without any apperence of

of him

Obernecksombeck pond
has a Very Remarkable Mountain the which
Serves to Rectifie our Reckenning about 50 miles
Each way

On the Northly Side of this Hill Lays a Good
Tract of Land larg anouf for a Township -
being like Enterval Land the Soil is a Brown
Loom with sum Sand at 2 or 3 feet depe
Trees Large Elms & Mapels on the higher
Land Beech & black Birch Trees &c
Lays in the Lattitude of $45^{\circ} 13''$

End of Page 10

and 86 miles Computed from Fort Pownall

Lake Sebem or Moose Hills

Page 11

So called by being Environd^d with large Mountins
& Rocks. So high as the water Splays up thes rocks
are of the Colles of Rusty Iron. & upward a Gray
Ston and the tope of the Hills are white - all
which appers as a fine prospect. but the Land
may be called waist Land.

Thes parts of the Countrey apper to be the hightest of
Land As the land from the Sea to this place is
asending and from thence Decending to the River

St Larence.

From the North end of this Lake by a Carrying
place & small pond six miles. We Came into
penobscot River

end of Page 11

Mederwomkeeg

Page 12

As we pass up the River to this place are many
Islands which contain many Valuble Tracts of
Land & appears to be a pleasant place
Trees a few large Elms & Maples.

A Vary rank Growth of Grass.

the Shore appears the Same But by sum hunters
Acct the Land some fales into a Spruce Swamp
Mederwomkeeg is an Indine Town & a place of
resedence in time of War. but now mothy Vacated.
In the Mass hous are Sundrey large Books &
other things. On the Hous hangs a Smal Bell
al which the Indiens take Care to presarve
Land high Ground & stoney. large tracts of old
fields & as thay say — have raised good Indien
Corn

The Easterly branch is the River Medortrester in
which thay pass to pasemiguode & St Johns &c

end of Page 12

Page 13 -

Satinbungemoss Hill

Lays in the Latitude of $45^{\circ} 43''$ and from Fort
pownall 184 Miles as we travel ^a and 116 miles by
Computation.

Being a remarkable Hill for height & fig^r. The
Indians say that this Hill is the highest in the
Country. That they can ascend so high as any
Greens Grow & no higher. That one Indian
attempted to go higher but he never returned.
the height of Vegetation is as a Horizontal Line
about halfe the perpendicular height of the Hill ^a
& intersects the tops of sundrey other mountains.
The height of this Hill was vary apperent to us as
we had a sight of it at sundre places Easterly
& Westerly at 60 or 70 Miles Distance

It is Curious to see — Elevated above a rude
mass of rock large Mountains — So Lofty a
pyramid — On which is another Rarity
From ^a Decendes a Stream of water. —

If the observer places himselfe at such a place
that the Rays of Light are Diverging with the falls
then the Splay of water as it falls from the hill will
appear in as Grate a Variety of Colours as may be

end of Page 13

View^d in a prism Glass.

Gesoncook Lake

Page 14

Very Shole Water & a Mude bottom.

In most parts of this Lake our Canoes could not pass within a 100 Rods of the Shore by which we had not a good View of the Shore & Land. but the Ground appears to be a dead Level: Large tracts of Grass Land and at some distance backwards Rising with any easy ascent Grows a thick Growth of young Trees.

Soil is a brown Loam mixt sum large round Sand but clear of Stones.

On the Northerly branches of this Lake are sundre Tracts of Entwail Lands. and upwards in the River for two miles are Sundre smal Islands all which with the Shore are good tracts of land for a Settlement

Upwards on the River for 20 or 30 miles the Land is broken. Only sum smal tracts of Good Land

end of Page 14

Page 15

Oberneitsombeek pond & Hill

A Remarkable Hill which served to Rectify our Courses about 50 Miles.

On a Brook which comes into this pond from the North - Weas Lays a Good Tract of Land for a Township.

Soil a brown Loun-mext with a round Sand about a yard depe & Clear of Stones.

Trees Large Elms Maples & large Alder bushes at about a 100 Rods from the Stream the Land Rises bearing a good Growth of Large Black Birch & Bech &c

Lays in the Latitude of $45^{\circ}13''$ and 86 miles Computed

at Letter **F** Lays Sundrey Large Tracts of Good Entwail Lands — for 2 or 3 Townships

The Carrying place at letter **E** which Crosses a Long turn of the River Said to be a Days journey which apperes to be as Entwail Land

end of 15

Page 16 -

The Letters in the Annex^{to} plan from **G** to **H** & to **X** are Taken from Indians Draught &c The Westerly branch of Chaudier River from **G** up stream to the Anegunk Lake at **H**. and from thence to the Head of Connecticut River & Cohors. is the Indians passage to Connecticut.

At Quebec sum of the Gentlemen being desirous of forwarding so good a designe of opening a Road to New-England — They began an inquiry of there Hunters & Indian Traders. Who all Advis^d That the above Passage is the niest way and most practicable part of the Country for Opening a Road from Quebec to New-England &c

On the Southerly branch of Chaudier River from **G** to a line of ponds at **I K L M** is there passage to Norrigew-walk. And from **M** to **N**. To Kennebeck River.

R. River St John's said to be the Stratest & most Navigable to the Sea

U a Lake being the head of Passemaquady River

end of p-16

p-17

T. Lake pomegenegaumock & four ponds.
at letters **S** is a passage from Jesoncook to St
John's

V Macehias River.

W Narragansus River.

X Appeumock River on Mount Dessert River
Commonly Called Union River

Memorandum

Sir Francis Bernard said That he had now
affected what he had taken a Great trouble to
Settle.

viz The Bounde Line between this province and the
Government of Halifax. and the Dividing Line is
the River St Croix. Called by the French Pete St
Croye and by the Indians Magawdawa. Which
falls into the Grand Bay of Passamaquady.

end of 17

