

Conclusion

On 25 June 1761 various British officials, ‘principal inhabitants of Halifax,’ and Mi’kmaq leaders assembled at Lieutenant-Governor Jonathan’s Belcher’s farm to formally ratify a treaty of peace and friendship. Present at the ceremony were many of Nova Scotia’s most influential politicians and military officers. Representing the colony were Belcher and four members of his council: Richard Bulkley, John Collier, Joseph Gerrish, and Alexander Grant. Also present were Lord Alexander Colville, commander-in-chief of British naval forces in North America, Major-General John Bastide, the chief engineer in Nova Scotia, and Colonel William Forster, the commander of Nova Scotia’s army regiments. These three men were accompanied by a detachment of soldiers. Each man in both groups was clothed in a manner befitting his status and position – Belcher and his fellow councillors in their finest linens, the three military officers in their most formal uniforms, and the soldiers in the red tunics that had become emblematic of the British Army.

There is much less information regarding the Mi’kmaq who were present. At least four ‘chiefs’ signed the treaty: Jeannot Peguidalouet from Cape Breton, Claude Atouach from Shediac, Joseph Sabecholouet from Miramichi, and Aikon Ashabuc from Pokemouche.¹ All four represented villages some distance from Halifax. Representatives from other villages were also present at the treaty signing,² but we don’t know who they were or how many.

The Mi’kmaq were dressed much less elaborately than their British counterparts. Many Mi’kmaq wrapped themselves in woollen blankets and furs in the winter, but this was summer. Also present at the treaty signing was Pierre-Antoine Maillard, a French missionary who would