

Penobscots in the Military Panel Guide

Curricular Links

-  Bagaduce/Castine Region
-  Early Contact/Early Settlements
-  World War I/World War II
-  English Relations
-  French Relations
-  Native American Relations
-  Civil War Era
-  Gulf War Eras
-  Korean/Vietnam Eras
-  Colonial Wars
-  Revolutionary War
-  Social Status

 This denotes an event

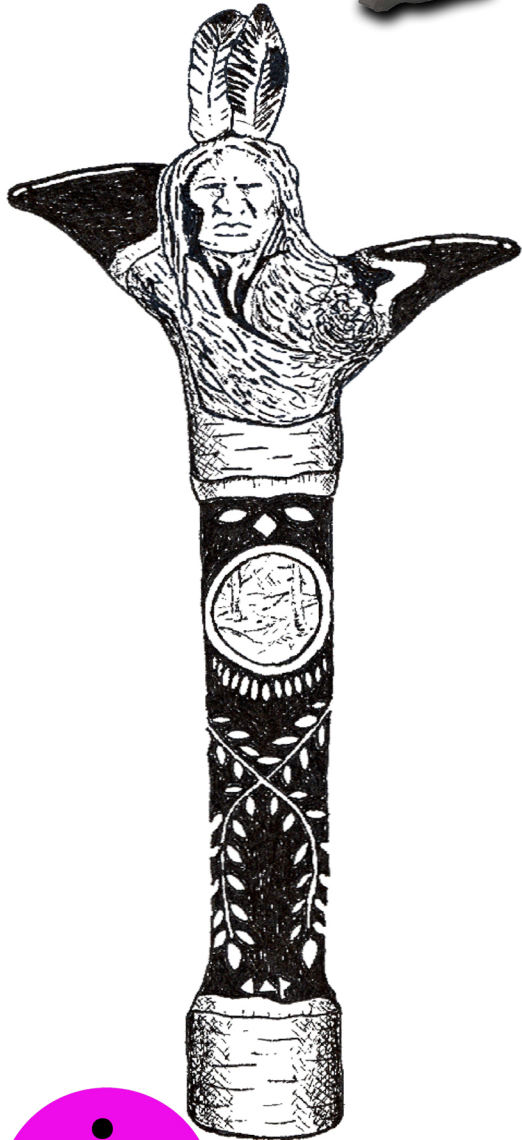
 This denotes item(s)

 This denotes people/person

 This denotes a place

 Can be used in Penobscot Biography Unit

Weapons of War

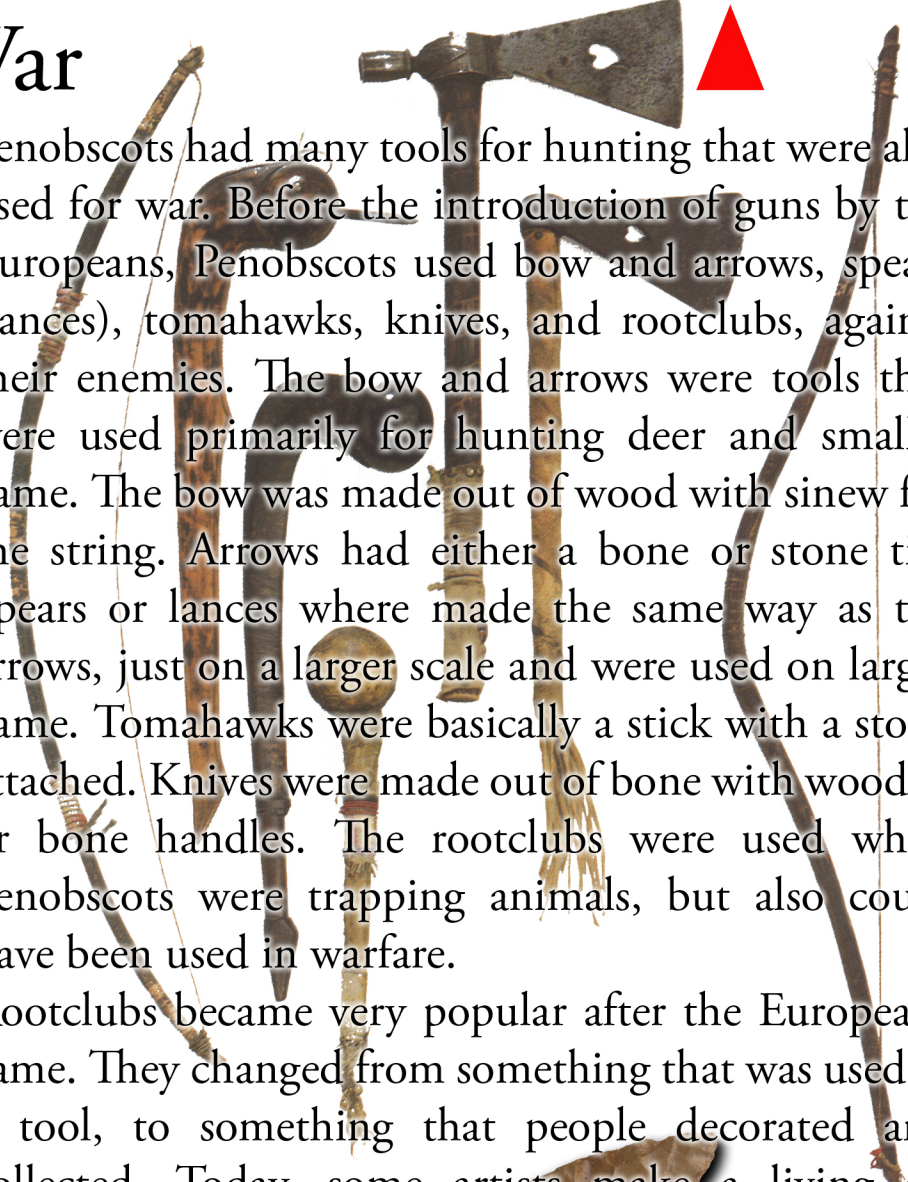


Penobscots had many tools for hunting that were also used for war. Before the introduction of guns by the Europeans, Penobscots used bow and arrows, spears (lances), tomahawks, knives, and rootclubs, against their enemies. The bow and arrows were tools that were used primarily for hunting deer and smaller game. The bow was made out of wood with sinew for the string. Arrows had either a bone or stone tip. Spears or lances were made the same way as the arrows, just on a larger scale and were used on larger game. Tomahawks were basically a stick with a stone attached. Knives were made out of bone with wooden or bone handles. The rootclubs were used when Penobscots were trapping animals, but also could have been used in warfare.

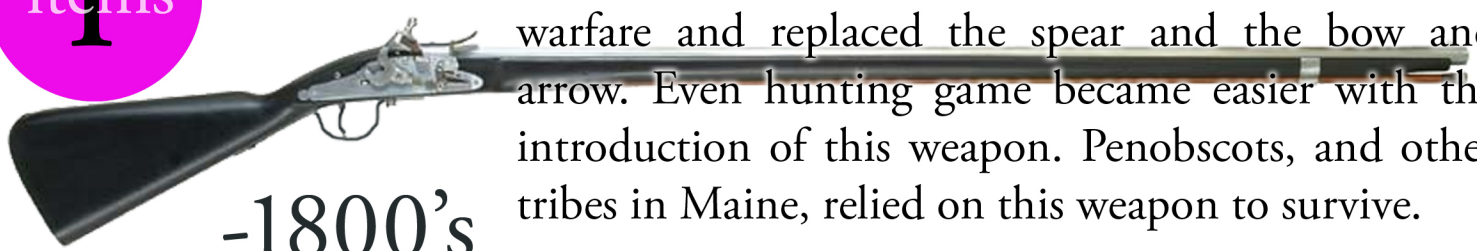
Rootclubs became very popular after the Europeans came. They changed from something that was used as a tool, to something that people decorated and collected. Today, some artists make a living on carving rootclubs.

When the Europeans came many of the stone and bone tools were replaced by metal. Metal axes replaced the tomahawk. Arrows and spears started to have metal tips on them.

The biggest change in weapons came with the introduction of the musket. This rifle was used for warfare and replaced the spear and the bow and arrow. Even hunting game became easier with the introduction of this weapon. Penobscots, and other tribes in Maine, relied on this weapon to survive.



items



-1800's

100 years of War

King Philips War (1675-1678) English expanded into Indian territory, child of Squando was killed, and Penobscots face food shortage.

King Williams War (1688-1699) French aided the Indians in Maine. English raid Fort Pentagoet. Madockawando led a raid of the town of York. English fled to the south.

Queen Anne's War (1703-1713) English settlements spread north and east from Boston. French encouraged Indians to fight. English captured **Port Royal**, and France gave up Acadia to England. The English put bounties on Indian scalps.

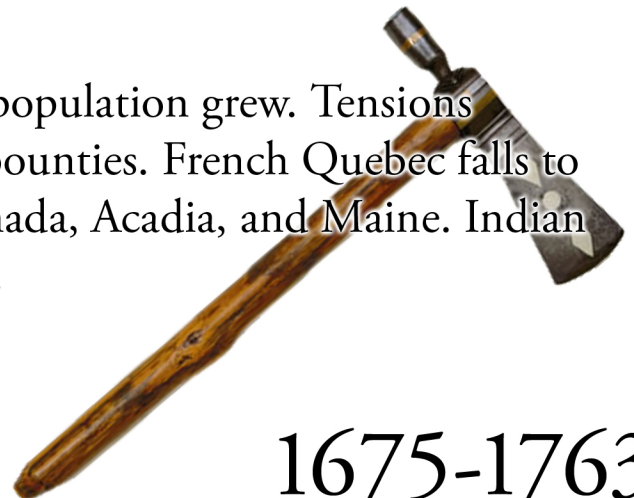
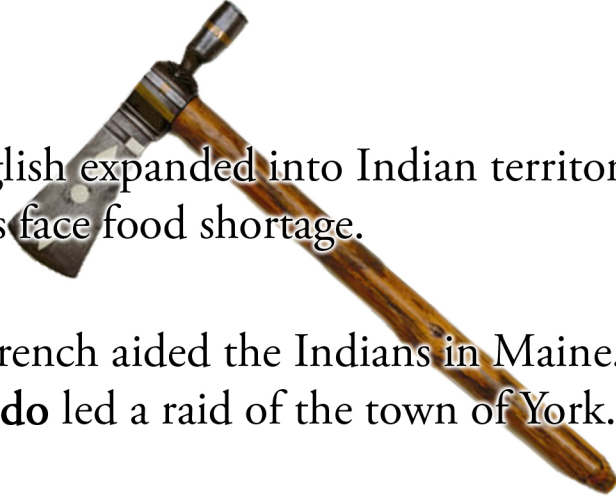
Dummers War or Lovewells War (1721-1727) At this time the English moved up the Kennebec River Valley. Four Indian Chiefs were taken captive by the English. The Penobscot Village at Old Town was destroyed (1723). The English then attacked Norridgewock, which we know as the **Norridgewock Massacre**, (1724). Most Indians fled to Canada, some moved to Indian Island in Old Town. The English issue more bounties on Indian's scalps.

King George's War (1744-1749) The English population reached 12,000 people in Maine. More bounties are issued, this time more specifically Penobscot scalps. Indians tried to stay neutral.

French and Indian War (1755-1763) English population grew. Tensions increased between French and English. More bounties. French Quebec falls to English, 1759. The English won control of Canada, Acadia, and Maine. Indian and French alliance ended, as they lost the war.



1675-1763



Baron St. Castine

In the 17th century the Penobscot River Valley was a disputed territory. On the eastern shore of Penobscot Bay the French constructed **Fort Pentagoet** (1635). The fort was then taken by the English in 1654. The French obtained the fort back in 1670 and sent an eighteen(18) year old named Jean Vincent de Abbadie to oversee the fort. The young man, from a noble family in France, was a skilled woodsman and didn't keep himself walled up in the fort. He chose to live in a nearby Indian village that was occupied by Penobscot Chief **Madockawando** and his family. Unlike the English in the area who wanted to reshape the land to fit their needs, Jean Vincent lived like the Indians. He lived in the Indian village, eating the same foods, and speaking the same language.

Jean Vincent was a businessman who set up a trading post near **Fort Pentagoet**. He traded with the English Colonists, French Colonists, and the Indians. He had abandoned the site of the fort to erect two European style structures in the Penobscot Village. One of these structures was his home. The other was the trading post. These were surrounded by 16 birch wigwam structures.



From the collections of Maine Historical Society

Jean Vincent received a bit of ridicule from his French colleagues. They considered it scandalous and unbecoming of the heir to the title “Baron de St. Castin.”

Even more scandalous, he married the daughter of the great Chief **Madockawando**. Her name was Pidiwamiska until she got baptized as Marie Mathilde. Her people knew her as **Molly Mathilde**. Jean Vincent and Molly had children and raised them in the small village near modern day Castine Maine, on the Bagaduce River. Jean Vincent returned to France in 1701 and left the region in the hands of his sons, who like their father, fought in support of the French and Penobscot cause.

Bessabez d.1616

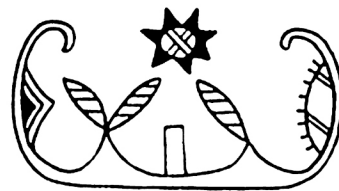
Bessabez (Behss-ah-BAY) was the Penobscot Nation's first recorded leader. He was first mentioned from the report of David Ingram (1568), a shipwrecked English sailor, who speaks of him as being the Head Chief of "Norumbega," a confederation of seven or eight Indian Nations with its capital or chief town at "arembee," which was probably where the city of Bangor now is. This confederation of tribes occupied the area from the Machias River in the East to Cape Ann in Massachusetts to the South. **Champlain** met Bessabez at this same place in 1604. Bessabez was killed in the war with the Micmacs which started in 1606 and raged on until after his death in 1616.

The **Micmac Wars** (1606-1616) began because of the death of Panounias, a Micmac killed by a Saco Indian. The Saco Indians were upset because the Micmacs had taken prisoners and killed them near present day Mt. Desert Island. In response they captured a Micmac, Panounias, and killed him. Membertou, the Micmac leader wanted revenge and waged war on the area of Southern Maine.

Bessabez apologized to Membertou because the death had taken place in his territory. However, Membertou never trusted nor forgave Bessabez. In 1616, following an epidemic that killed many Penobscots, Bessabez was killed by the Micmac.

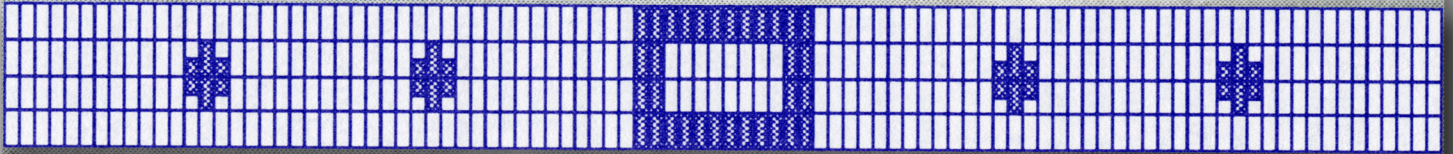


National Library of Canada, L-3127



There are no known images of Bessabez. This map was drawn by **Samuel de Champlain** who met Bessabez in 1604.

Caughnawaga, site of the Great Council Fire



The Penobscots, along with the other tribes in Maine, were confederated with other tribes of the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada. After a long conflict with the **Mohawks**, the Penobscots along with the other tribes, who would later become the **Wabanaki Confederacy**, joined the Great Council Fire at Caughnawaga. Caughnawaga is a Mohawk Village near Montreal, Canada. Penobscots would send delegates to Caughnawaga to meet with Native American leaders throughout the Northeastern portion of the “New World.” By 1868, the relationship had become strained and the Wabanaki members left this confederation and rekindled a council fire at Old Town, home of the Penobscot Nation.



1700-1868

Charles Norman Shay



Charles Norman Shay was born in Connecticut in 1924. At the age of 6, his family moved home to Indian Island. He attended schools across the river in Old Town and graduated from Old Town High School in 1942.

In 1943 he was drafted in the United States Army and trained as a medical technician, a “medic.” He was assigned to the 1st infantry division, 16th infantry regiment, 2nd battalion and had his first taste of combat at Omaha Beach on 6th of June 1944, when thousands of US and Allied Troops stormed the beaches of Normandy now remembered as “D-Day.” Units participating in the first waves of the invasion suffered 50% casualties. Charles was able to save the lives of many of his comrades who had been critically wounded by pulling them from the treacherous seas to dry land to keep them from drowning. The Army honored him with the Silver Star for his unselfish heroism on that day on Omaha Beach.

The following spring in March of 1945 the squadron that Charles was attached to was assigned the mission of securing a beach-head following the crossing of the Rhine River at Remagen, Germany. During this action the Squadron became separated from other units and were cut off by German forces. On March 25th Charles and other members of the Squadron became prisoners of war. He was released on 12 April 1945.

Learn more about Charles in the Biography section.

person

Charles spent much of his life in the military. He served in both the Army and the Air Force, and lived in Austria until he retired and moved home to Indian Island. In addition to WWII he also served in the Korean War.

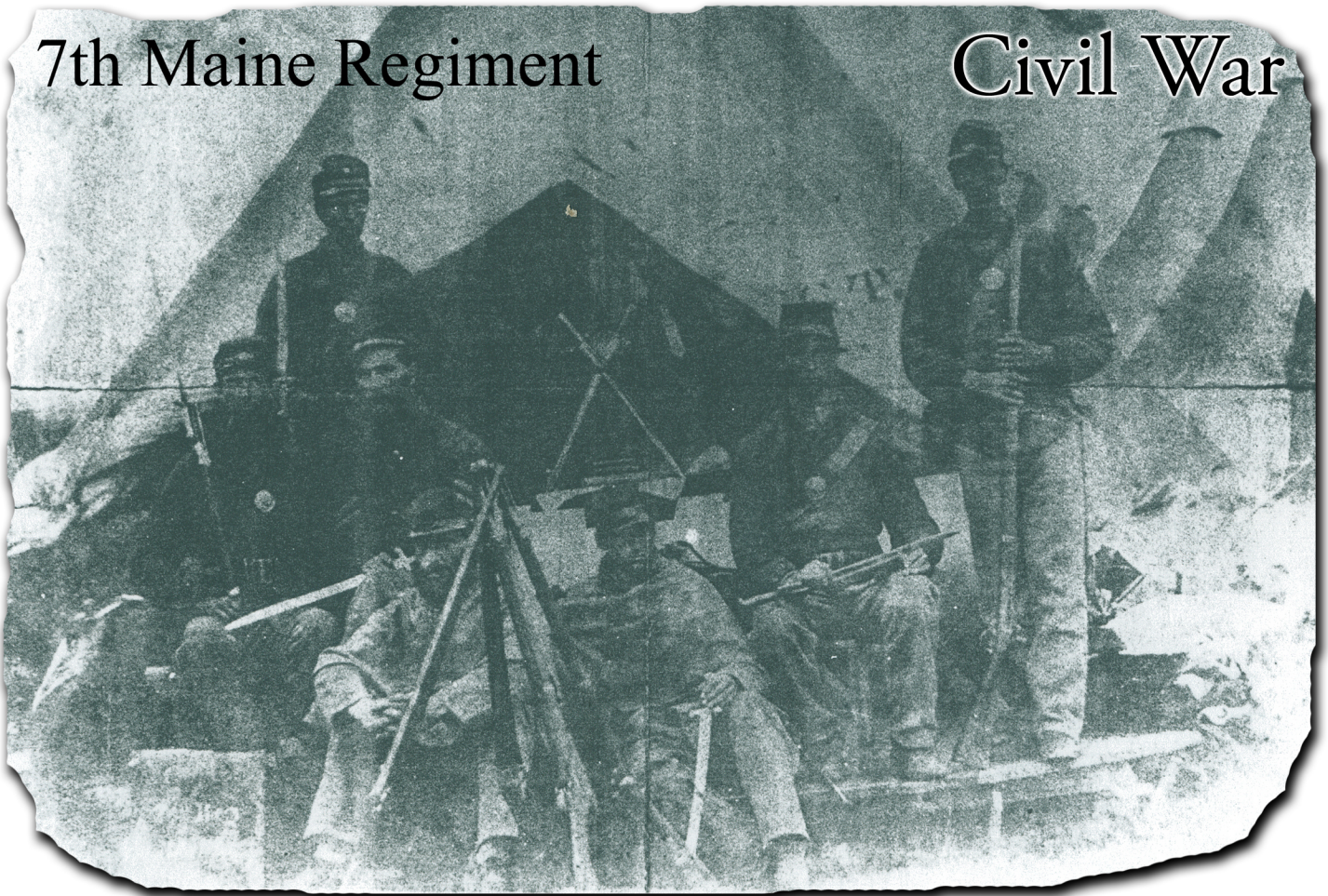
Today, Charles has established a small Family Museum in the “Teepee” on Indian Island to honor members of his family that includes Francis Nicolar, Florence Shay, Lucy Poolaw Shay, and Leo Shay.

World War II



7th Maine Regiment

Civil War



In this photo of the 7th Maine Regiment, there are some Penobscot members. This Regiment performed bravely in a desperate situation at the battle of Antietam. The regiment was ordered to clear out some confederate sharpshooters on Piper's farm. They found themselves surrounded by confederate soldiers, Sixty-eight out of the 240 soldiers survived that battle. Below is a list of known Penobscots who fought in the Civil War.



CIVIL WAR

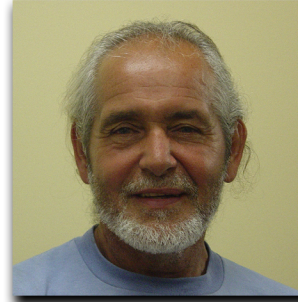
DANA THOMAS
DENNIS PETER
FRANCIS JOSEPH
GLOSSIAN CHARLES
HAMILTON ROBERT
LOLA COLY
MOHAWK SABATTIS

NEWELL CHARLES
NEWELL PETER
NEWELL SAMUEL
PEAL FRANKLIN
POLLIS JOHN
PORUS JOHN
SAPIEL JOHN

SAPIEL ORSON
SAUL JOHN S
STANISLAUS FRANK
SUSEP FRANK
THIBODEAU ENOS
TOMAR JOHN

▲ 1861-1865

Eugene Loring Jr.



Eugene Loring Jr. was 18 years old when he volunteered for the U.S. Army. In September of 1966 he was so determined to fight for his county that he made the recruitment officer guarantee that he would go into the Airborne Infantry.

Eugene became a part of the 173rd Airborne Infantry in March of 1967, became a squad leader, and within 7 months had achieved the rank of Sergeant (E-5) while fighting in Vietnam.

While with the 173rd Airborne Infantry, Eugene received 8 decorations. He earned 3 Bronze Stars and 5 Army Accommodation medals. His tour ended when he was wounded and was sent back to the United States with a Purple Heart medal.

At the end of 1968, Eugene went back for a second tour and volunteered for the Airborne Rangers. He received 2 more Bronze Stars while in that unit.

In 1986, Eugene started to compete in triathlons. In his first triathlon, in Old Town, Maine he achieved first place. In the early 1990's he started to compete in the Minnesota Border to Border triathlon. This 500 mile triathlon includes biking, running and canoeing.

Eugene, like many Penobscots, has been a national champion in white water canoeing a dozen times.

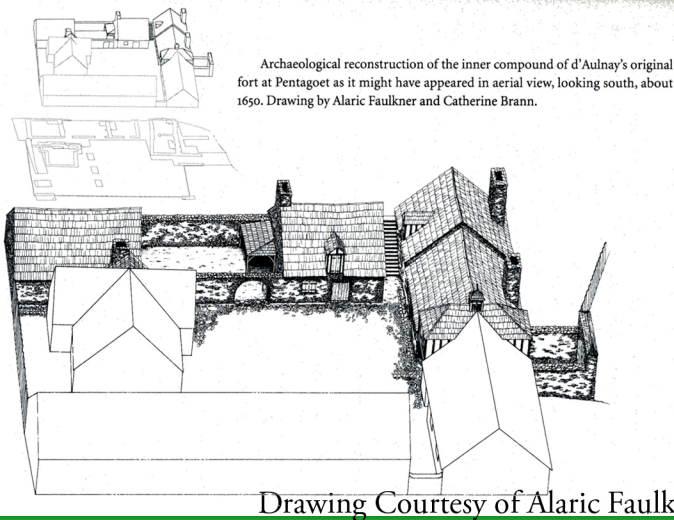


Purple Hearts are given to soldiers wounded in combat.

Eugene is a roofing contractor who, after retirement, wants to move to Hawaii to train for the prestigious Ironman Triathlon.



Fort Pentagoet was located on a peninsula near a sheltered harbor on the eastern shores of Penobscot Bay. This region was disputed land. Although this was Penobscot Indian territory, the French considered it the southern-most area of Acadia and the English considered it the northern end of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. This area which is near modern-day Castine, Maine changed hands often. The site was originally established by the Plymouth Colony as a trading post. The Frenchman, Charles d' Aulnay, took over the post and constructed Fort Pentagoet in 1635. The French wanted to protect their colonial interest in the region. In 1674, the fort was captured by the English and in 1689 it was taken by Governor Andros. Finally in 1722 or 1723 it was burned by Thomas Westbrook. The post and the fort at Pentagoet was an important location for the **fur trade** and the site served as a place where the Indian and the French cultures mingled. **Madockawando**, a Penobscot Chief and his family lived near Fort Pentagoet on the Bagaduce River. In 1670, the French sent a young Baron named Jean Vincent d' Abbadie to supervise the area. He was the son of the first **Baron of St. Castine**. The relationship between the Baron and the Chief was one of respect. They conducted trade and Jean Vincent even learned the local Wabanaki language. The name Pentagoet is actually the same word as Penobscot. So the name is associated with the area around Castine and also to the whole of the Penobscot River.



Strategic Location

16 different fortifications were built on the peninsula, of which Fort George and Fort Madison are still recognizable today. During the Revolutionary War the English constructed Fort George.