

Native Sovereignty in the Shatter Zone: The Norther Theater of King Philip's War **Phoebe Zipper, Class of 2019**

King Philip's War reshaped the political and diplomatic landscape of seventeenth century New England, but on the northern front of the conflict the violence did not solidify English hegemony. Scholars have approached King Philip's War from many angles: Jill Lepore telling a story of language and racial boundaries in *The Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity*, Lisa Brooks uncovering a narrative of Indian resistance in *Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip's War*, and many others who have examined the military and diplomatic dimensions of the conflict and its legacy.¹ Few, however, have examined the war's northern theater and its ambiguous resolution. In Maine and New Hampshire, the English pursued a military campaign that took on the character of an ethnic cleansing in its degree of violence. English attempts to either wipe the Indian presence off the map of New England or cripple the political sovereignty of Indian societies were fueled by the potent memory of the chapter of King Philip's War that occurred in the South, the presence of southern refugees in northern Indian communities, and an anxiety generated by the military and strategic strength of the Wabanaki nation.

My research focused on this understudied northern front of King Philip's War, bringing it from the peripheral role it plays in many historical accounts into the center of the narrative. In particular, I used the stories of two pivotal figures in the conflict, Major Richard Waldron and the Kennebec sagamore Moxos, as entry points into English and Wabanaki conflict in Maine. With funding from the Grua/O'Connell Research Award, I traveled to Boston for three days to view the correspondence of Waldron in the Massachusetts Archives and identified sources in the Massachusetts Historical Society as well. *Volume 30: Indian, 1603-1705* of the Massachusetts Archives Collection was particularly useful for the letters it contained detailing exchanges between Waldron and Wabanaki Indian leaders during King Philip's War.

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¹ See James D. Drake, *King Philip's War: Civil War in New England, 1675-1676* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1999), Julie A. Fisher and David J. Silverman, *Ninigret, Sachem of the Niantics and Narragansetts: Diplomacy, War, and the Balance of Power in Seventeenth Century New England and Indian Country* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2014), Christine DeLucia, "The Memory Frontier: Uncommon Pursuits of Past and Place in the Northeast after King Philip's War," *The Journal of American History* 89, no. 4 (March 2012): 975-97.