

Journal Entry for Thursday, 18th October 1820

Examine an image of the actual journal entry and map drawing found here

<https://mainestatemuseum.org/treat-journal/> and then find marker #6/Bark Wigwam Pond and click on “View Treat’s Journal Entry for This Site” before continuing with this activity.

Now let’s analyze the text:

We proceed down this Pond 7 ½ miles to the foot then 1 ½ mile Bog or meadow & Small Pond, to a Strait about 4 rods wide – Thence down N. Easterly –

Through a wide stream grassy shores about 2 ½ miles (in which distance there comes in a small stream from the East, and a large one from the West) to the Wal,la,gas,quec,ga,mook, or Bark Wigwam Pond, which is 3 miles long and 1 ½ to 2 in width – the growth around it is various- but much good pine – all this day having been rainy and foggy we got no view of land distant from the shores of the Pond – we proceed down to the foot of the Pond, and camp on the N.E. side at a strait about 4 rods wide – there are three considerable streams come into this Pond that in the N.E. Bay is a large Stream – has several ponds – as many as seven on all its branches.-

Note on Grammar and Vocabulary: This entry is choppy to read as are no complete sentences, just phrases separated by dashes. It does tell us a lot about Treat’s journey, so the challenge is worth the effort!

Treat’s Observations:

Remember, one of Treat’s goals is to create better maps of this uncharted territory, so he makes lots of notes containing measurements both in miles and rods. A **rod** is a unit of measure that equals 5.0292 meters or 16.5 feet. **What other land features does he note?**

Treat writes about “a strait about 4 rods wide,” a **strait** is a narrow passage of water connecting two other large areas of water. If a rod equals 16.4 feet, how wide is the strait? $16.5 \times 4 =$

_____ feet wide

His second goal is to record timber (wood) resources, what does Treat say about the quality of the timber in this journal entry?

Notes on Native Place Names:

Throughout the journal, Treat uses Native peoples' names for places like rivers and streams. Treat learned of these names from Penobscot guide John Neptune. Sometimes Treat tried to spell these words as they sounded, but that was very challenging! The Native names used unfamiliar sounds that do not exist in English. The commas included in *Wal,la,gas,quec,ga,mook* may indicate different syllables – as you can see, Treat tried really hard to get it right!

Frequently, the names we give to streets or towns contain clues about where they are located. Main Streets is located in the centers of towns. Portland is a city centered around a port or harbor where ships load or unload. Native names for places refer to what kind of activity they did at that location, what the area looks like, and may even be connected to stories or memories. Perhaps Bark Wigwam Pond was a location where the bark was collected to make wigwams, or perhaps this was a location of a Native community.

Some Native names for places in Maine are still being used today! **Take a look at the map of Maine on google <https://goo.gl/maps/P1r6ZqE9VNkwC4jt9> zoom in and see if you can list five towns, cities, rivers, streams, or ponds that you think have Native names.**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Want to learn more? Check out this website: <http://androscoggin.bates.edu/home/culture-history/wabanki-place-names-of-western-maine--introduction>

Now let's analyze the map drawing:

Again, this map is drawn with South at the top; most maps have North at the top. Use the map interactive found here <https://mainestatemuseum.org/treat-journal/> and then find marker #6/Bark Wigwam Pond and click on "View Treat's Journal Entry for This Site" to examine the map closer. If you want you can flip the map upside down and compare it to a modern map.

Treat's Observations:

Treat notes areas of "Pine," "Maple," "Juniper," and "Mixed," referring to the types of trees growing in the area around Bark Wigwam Pond. Reading old documents with cursive writing can be tricky, but challenge yourself and count how many time Treat notes each type of tree.

How many areas of Pine?

Pine

How many areas of Maple?

Maple

How many areas of Juniper?


Juniper

How many areas of Mixed trees?

Mixed

Treat also notes the type of land around the pond as "Low" or "Lo," "Highlands," and "Intervale," which is another term for low lying lands. Highlands refers to areas containing low mountains. **Is the land around the pond mostly low or highlands?**

If you are an early settler building a house and starting a farm, would you prefer lowland or highland?

At the bottom of the map, Treat writes: *Called by the St. John Indians [possibly Maliseets] Wal,la,ges,que,og,am by which name the River is called from this down to its union with Walloostook or good River the Main St. John.* More evidence of how careful Treat is to note the Wabanaki people's names for land features like rivers, ponds, and streams. This knowledge is passed on to him by Penobscot guide John Neptune. The Wabanaki used the waterways as natural highways to reach hunting and fishing sites. **Find the triangle  on this map indicating a wigwam. A wigwam is a dome-shaped shelter, covered in bark or hides, built and used by the Wabanaki people. Look closely! They are tiny!**

