

In Our Own Words – The Beginning

Bomgiizhik-

We have something called the Doctrine of Discovery. And basically, what happened was the religious community, you know, specifically the Pope, gave those that followed the Catholic way of life permission to conquer, to kill, to destroy indigenous peoples and get their lands if they were not Christians. And to declare that land theirs. And so, they set off across the oceans and that's exactly what they did. The very first person to declare our land was the Spanish, then it was the French, then French came, and of course they declared all of the Great Lakes theirs.

Dave Mowat –

When the British came in and defeated the French they assumed sovereignty over this piece of Eastern North America. That's how arrogant the British are right, they just assumed "we have sovereignty over this of piece land, over New France, and over the thirteen colonies."

Jeffery Amherst, you know we are hearing about that right now, the statues to Amherst, and Jeffery Amherst. Yeah, he was a racist. He became the chief, the commander-in-chief of British forces after

1760's/'59. And Amherst thought that he captured Quebec, and Louisburg in Montreal, it broke the back of the French empire and he thought he would be hailed as a hero, but then what happens? Pontiac.

Bomgiizhik –

So, Pontiac was an incredible warrior, his whole body was covered with tattoos, and he was known to like the French, he did not like the British.

Dave Mowat -

Pontiac attacks Fort Detroit and unleashes his fury on the British forts and that becomes the yoke around Jeffery Amherst neck

Bomgiizhik –

So, during the Plains of Abraham that's when the British defeated the French and were able to claim title over this land which was Crown Land, of course the indigenous people weren't having it. They were fighting the British at the time.