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Testimony on H.3 before the VT Senate Committee on Education
Chair Philip Baruth, February 7, 2019

Given by Richard Holschuh, VT Commission on Native American Affairs

A partial list of sources historically used in Vermont social education curricula

1. A History of Vermont, from its First Settlement to the Present Time. With a Geographical Account of the Country, and a View of its Original Inhabitants *“For the Use of Schools”*
Francis Eastman, 1828, pub. Holbrook and Fessenden, Brattleboro

“The native inhabitants were the Coos Indians, a race unimproved in the arts of life, and wild and unpolished as the animals of their chase. They afford an example of man in his primitive state, fresh from the hand of nature: untamed by civilization and unaccustomed to restraint, with all his passions free and uncontrolled.”

“1798: An application was laid before the Legislature at their session this year, from some of the Indian Chiefs in Canada, claiming a large tract of land in the northwest part of the State...

A committee was appointed to investigate the grounds of the claim. They reported that ‘they had had a claim to the said land, but that in the former wars between the English and the French, the Indians had removed to Canada and joined their fortunes with the latter; that the English being victorious, had gained these lands by right of conquest. ‘That in the late war between England and her colonies they had united themselves with the former, and thereby involved their interests with them. The United States proving victorious, and the lands south of Canada being surrendered to them, the Indian claim became entirely extinguished, and the right to the lands in question was vested in Vermont.”

2. History of Vermont, Natural, Civil, and Statistical Reference
Zadock Thompson, 1842, pub. Chauncey Goodrich, Burlington

“...before this country became the residence of any civilized inhabitants, it was, during this period, and long after, the theatre of war, and a scene of Indian havoc and cruelty of the most appalling character. But these wars were wholly carried on by the Canada Indians and the French... on one part, and by the confederated nations of the Iroquois on the other...”

3. Vermont Historical Reader *a school text*
Edward Conant, 1907, pub. Tuttle Co., Rutland

“Very few Indians actually lived in Vermont, though hunting parties and war parties often passed through, and sometimes a party would camp all summer in a good place.”

4. Vermont A History Of the Green Mountain State
Edmund Fuller, 1952, Vermont State Board of Education

“So it was that, for at least the years just before the white men came, there was no permanent Indian population. But in earlier times, before the tribes that we know as Iroquois and Algonquin, Indians lived on this land and had villages. ...Who these Indians were and when they lived here we do not know, yet.”

And then, at last...

5. Vermont, The State with the Storybook Past *textbook*
Cora Cheney, 1976, pub. New England Press, Shelburne

“Some of the Algonquin tribes were the Coos, who lived along the upper Connecticut River, and the Mohicans, who lived in the SW part of the state. But the ones we know best in Vermont are the Abnaki, who roamed the land between the CT River and Lake Champlain and left at least two hundred sites, some in each of Vermont’s 14 counties to show where they had been...When Europeans came, probably more than 120,000 Indians were living in Vermont.”