

Text for application for a name change for the Baker River, Grafton County, New Hampshire, to Asquamchumauke

Feature Description:

Wikipedia states:

The **Baker River**, or *Asquamchumauke*^[1] (an Abenaki word meaning "salmon spawning place")^[2] is a 36.4-mile-long (58.6 km)^[3] river in the White Mountains region of New Hampshire in the United States. It rises on the south side of Mount Moosilauke and runs south and east to empty into the Pemigewasset River in Plymouth. The river traverses the towns of Warren, Wentworth, and Rumney. It is part of the Merrimack River watershed.

The Baker River's name recalls Lt. Thomas Baker (1682–1753), whose company of 34 scouts from Northampton, Massachusetts, passed down the river's valley in 1712 and destroyed a Pemigewasset Indian village. Along this river on April 28, 1752, John Stark and Amos Eastman were captured by Abenaki warriors and taken to Saint-François-du-Lac, Quebec, near Montreal. John Stark's brother William Stark escaped, and David Stinson was killed during the ambush.

On the 1835 Thomas Bradford map of New Hampshire, the river is shown as "Bakers" River, originating on "Mooshillock Mtn."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baker_River_\(New_Hampshire\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baker_River_(New_Hampshire))

“The Baker River watershed lies in the heart of New Hampshire, and covers 136,581 acres or 214 square miles. It begins along the eastern slopes of Mt. Moosilauke in the White Mountain National Forest and travels 36.5 miles through the towns of Warren, Wentworth, Rumney, and Plymouth where it joins the Pemigewasset River. Starting as a steep mountain stream, the Baker gradually flattens, eventually meandering across a broad flood plain through Rumney and Plymouth. The Baker River is a 4th order river at its junction with Black Brook south of Warren village and becomes a 5th order river when the South Branch joins the Baker River. Though there are no dams on the main stem of the Baker River, there are numerous impoundments, tributaries, wetlands, and ponds (including fire ponds) located through the Baker River watershed.

The watershed contains a variety of resources that are important to the region. Over 90% of the Baker River watershed is forested, with a large diversity of vegetation species, and logging and timber provide a viable part of the local economy. Based on USDA soil inventory information, the Baker River watershed contains approximately 2100 acres of prime, unique farmland that is of national importance, 900 acres of state importance, and 8700 acres of local importance. A few dairy farms, produce truck farms, nurseries, and tree farms exist today along with an array of small farms raising beef cattle, poultry, and goats.

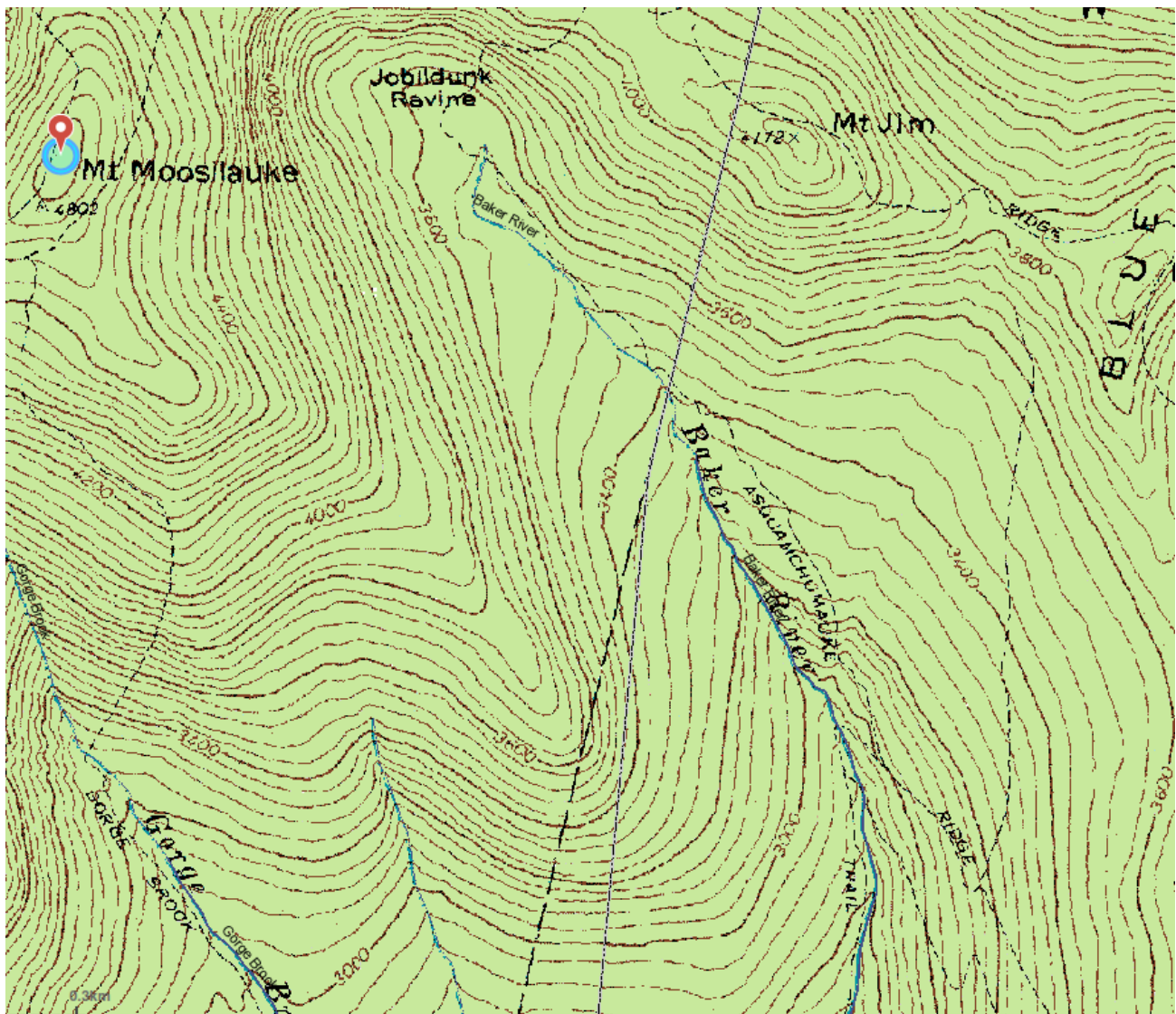
The Baker River and surrounding watershed support a diverse habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. The river provides a habitat for coldwater fisheries, including trout and salmon. Fish are

important to the Baker River watershed since sport fishing attracts many residents and visitors to the area, and is a large contributor to the economy.

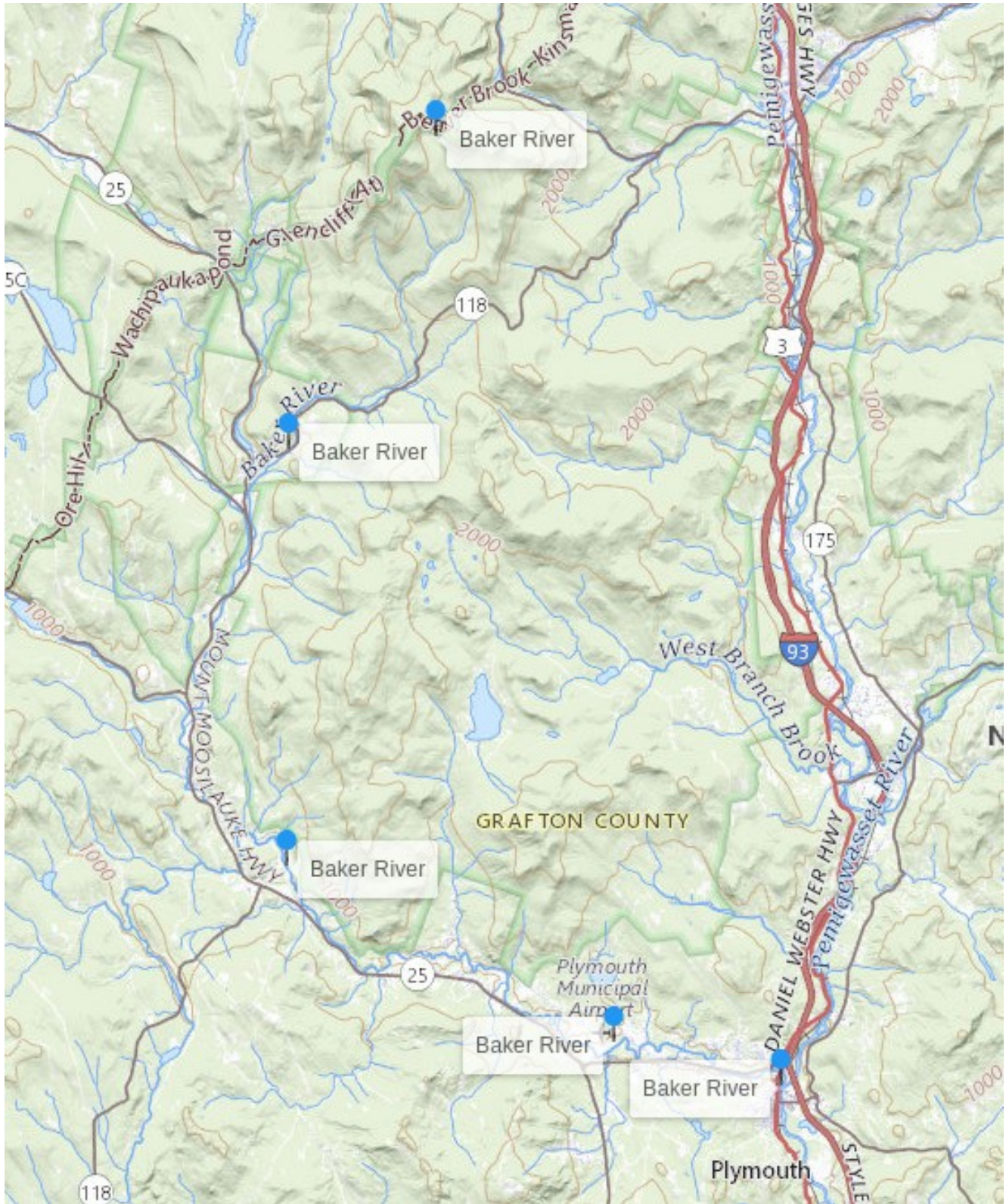
The Baker River watershed's general hilly topography provides residents and tourists with unique scenic resources. Scenic vistas abound throughout the Baker River corridor, both from the river itself and from the roads and trails along the river valley and watershed.

The wide flood plains and adjoining slopes contain millions of yards of glacially deposited sands and gravels in the Baker River watershed, particularly in the towns of Wentworth, Rumney, and Plymouth. There are several active gravel pits where excavation of sand and gravel provide materials and aggregates for development and construction.

Water quality has improved in the Baker River since its low point in degradation during the 1950's when raw sewerage, chicken waste products and feces, sawdust and bark, and chemicals from plants such as the creamery, entered the river on a daily basis. Today, the Baker is classified as a class B river: swimmable, fishable, and potentially acceptable as a drinking water source after full treatment.”



http://www.bakerriverwatershed.org/watershed_info/index.html



<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/search/names>

Earlier accounts locate the headwaters of Asquachumaukee at Deer Lake:

“The River Baker, or as modern civilians delight to call it, Baker's river rises in Deer lake a little sheet of water about as large as your hand in a meadow between Moosilauke and its north dome, Mt Blue. It is a foot wide where it easily glides (a man has to cut his way through with an ax) under the fir belt or scrub, otherwise called by the Indian, as Dr. Belknap says, *hakmantaks*, which surrounds like an *abatis*, the high crest of the mountain; it is a hundred feet wide at its mouth. Half a mile from the lake it slides and hisses down a precipice 500 feet into Jobildunc ravine”

The Granite Monthly, Volume 10, 1887

Name Details: *Name information: Please provide relevant information about the proposed name, such as origin, meaning, how long it has been in current use, as well as current or historical significance. Also include why you believe the feature requires a name or name change and why the proposed name is appropriate. Describe any documents that you will be submitting (separately by email) to support your proposal.*

The proposed name, Asquamchumaukee, is the name most commonly stated to be the name given to the river by the earliest documented inhabitants of the terrain in which the river flows.

Terrain features must not be named after people because this perpetuates a destructive cultural assumption of human centrality and rights over the rest of the planet.

Terrain features must especially not be named after people who have committed genocide.

“In 1944, THE EMINENT Jurist Raphaël Lemkin minted a new word for an ancient crime: “genocide.” Four years later, the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which included the following definition:

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;

(e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

The Genocide Convention thus provides an internationally recognized, though restricted, rubric for evaluating possible instances of genocide. First, perpetrators must evince “intent to destroy” a group “as such.” Second, perpetrators must commit at least one of the five genocidal acts against one of the four protected groups. The Convention does not allow for the prosecution of crimes committed before 1948, but it does provide a useful analytical tool: a frame for evaluating the past and comparing similar events across time.”

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/43696337?seq=6>

“Warfare was total, a savage struggle for the survival not just of individuals but of entire cultures.”

A Wilderness of Miseries: War and Warriors in Early America, John E. Ferling, 1980.

Thomas Baker committed genocide:

“It seems that early in the year 1709 one Thomas Baker was taken captive from Deerfield Mass by the Indians and carried up Connecticut River to Lake Memphremagog and thence to Canada. The next year he was ransomed and returned by the same route to his home in Northampton Mass., thus having gained a knowledge of the route and of some of the haunts of the Indians. In 1712 he raised a company of 34 men including one friendly Indian as a guide. His object was to ferret out and destroy if possible the Indians having their encampment somewhere upon the waters of the Pemigewasset River. He then held the title of Lieutenant and went directly by the old carrying place with which he was familiar to the Coos or Cowass intervalles in Haverhill and Newbury. There he halted and following the lead of the Indian guide up the Oliverian Brook to the height of land south of and in plain sight of Moosilauke and then followed a small brook down to the Indian Asquamchumauke in Warren and thence through Wentworth, Rumney and Plymouth to the mouth of the river .

When Baker and his men who had kept on the west and south side of the river came near its mouth the guide signified that it was now time for every man to be on the lookout and so every one moved with the utmost circumspection, and when near the junction of this river with the Pemigewasset they discovered the Indians on the north bank of the Asquamchumauke sporting among their wigwams in great numbers, secure as they supposed from the muskets and the gaze of all pale faces. This was in fact their principal village or settlement where they deposited their booty and stored their furs.

Baker and his men chose their positions and opened a tremendous fire upon the Indians which was as sudden to them as an earthquake. Many of the sons of the forest fell in death in the midst of their sports, but the living disappeared in an instant and ran to call in their hunters. Baker and his men lost no time in crossing the river in search of booty. They found a rich store of furs deposited in holes dug in the bank of the river horizontally, in the same manner that bank swallows dig their holes.

Having destroyed their wigwams and captured their furs, Baker ordered a retreat fearing that they would soon return in too large numbers to be resisted by his single company. And it seems that the Indians were fully up to his expectations or apprehensions for not withstanding Baker retreated with all expedition the Indians collected and were up with them when they had reached a poplar plain in Bridgewater a little south of where Walter Webster formerly kept tavern. Here a severe skirmish ensued, but the Indians were repulsed and many of them killed; several skulls have been since found on this plain by the early settlers, some of which had been perforated by bullets which were supposed to have belonged to those who fell in this engagement.

The leader of the Indians in these engagements was Walturnumus [Waternomee] a distinguished sachem and warrior and in one of these engagements, and possibly in this one at Bridgewater, he was slain. It is said that he and Baker fired at each other the same instant, the ball of the Indian grazing Baker's left eyebrow, while his passing through the Indian's heart he leaped in the air and fell dead. The Indian warrior was royally attired and Baker, hastily seizing his blanket which was richly ornamented with silver, his powder horn and other ornaments, hastened on with his men.

But notwithstanding the Indians had been repulsed, the friendly Indian advised Baker and his men to use all possible diligence in their retreat, for he assured them that the number of the Indians would increase every hour and that they would surely return to the attack. Accordingly, Baker pushed on the retreat with all possible dispatch and did not wait for any refreshment after the battle. But when they had reached New Chester, now Hill, having crossed a stream, his men were exhausted through abstinence forced marches and hard fighting and they concluded to stop and refresh themselves at whatever risk, concluding that they might as well perish by the tomahawk as by famine.

But here again was a call for Indian strategem. The friendly Indian told every man to build as many fires as he could in a given time, as the pursuing Indians would judge of their numbers by the number of their fires. He told them also that each man should make him four or five forks of crotched sticks, and use them all in roasting a single piece of pork, then leave an equal number of forks round each fire, and the Indians would infer if they came back, that there were as many of the English as there were forks, and this might turn them.

The Indian's counsel was followed to the letter and the company moved on with fresh speed. But before they were out of hearing, and while the fires they had left were still burning, the pursuing Indians with additional reinforcements came up, and counting the fires and the forks the warriors whooped a retreat, for they were alarmed at the numbers of the English. Baker and his men were no longer annoyed by these troublesome attendents, but were allowed peacefully to return to their homes, owing their preservation no doubt to the counsel of the friendly Indian who acted as their guide. Baker's River is supposed to have been so named to perpetuate the remembrance of this brilliant affair of Lieut .Baker at its mouth.

This is the first party of whites that we have any authentic account of having passed along the course of this winding river, which was from that time forth to take the name of their illustrious leader. The date of this expedition of Baker is stated by Whiton in his history of New Hampshire to have been 1724, but this is evidently an error as the journal of the Massachusetts Legislature shows that Lieutenant Thomas Baker, as commander of a company in a late expedition to Coos and over to Merrimack River and so to Dunstable, brought in his claim for Indian scalps which was allowed and paid in May, 1712 and an additional allowance made for the same June 11, 1712 which would seem to fix the time beyond question. In addition to other pay Baker was promoted to the rank Captain by which title he is generally known .

Gazetteer of Grafton County, N. H. 1709-1886, Hamilton Childs, 1886

“Baker’s fame was long preserved in the valley, and, as Rogers quaintly says: “We used to think so much of *Captain Baker*, I remember, as we now do of Bonaparte or the Duke of Marlborough, and *do still, for the matter of that*””

The White Mountains: A Handbook for Travellers, Moses Foster Sweetser, 1876

“In 1703, Wattanummon [Walturnummus, Waternomee] and the Pequawket sagamore Atiwaneto attended a peace conference with Massachusetts Governor Thomas Dudley in Casco Bay at the outbreak of the Third Anglo-Abenaki War. Demonstrating their allegiance, Wattanummon’s sister in Pequawket and other Wabanaki warned the English of multiple pending attacks, which nevertheless resulted in the death or capture of over 130 English by French and allied Native forces between Wells and Casco. As a show of indiscriminate retaliation, Massachusetts Governor Dudley increased existing scalp bounties targeting Wabanaki to £40 and then £200. These betrayals caused irreparable damage to the many diplomatic efforts made by Wattanummon, Wannalancet, and their Wabanaki kin. In the winter of 1704, Captain John Tyng and his “snow shoe scouts,” were rewarded the first cash bounty of the Third Anglo-Abenaki War, £200, for the scalps of five Wabanaki people. Among the victims from Pequawket were several women, likely including Wattanummon's sister and wife...In January 1704, Wattanummon and allied Native and French raiders attacked Deerfield, Massachusetts, killing and capturing dozens of English colonial settlers. From the home of Reverend John Williams, they took him, his children, and other captives to what is now known as Quebec. While most were ransomed and exchanged for Native prisoners held by the English, and eventually returned home, others were adopted into Native and French communities. Williams’ daughter married a Native man and remained in Canada.

Years later, many of these captives and their captors would gather in Deerfield. Reverend John

Williams welcomed former captors and raiders into his Deerfield home and wrote *The Redeemed Captive*, one of the best-known captivity narratives of this popular genre, including an account by Stephen Williams, his young son, who had been taken by Wattanummon as his personal captive and was kept by Wattanummon's kin. After being redeemed, Williams graduated from Harvard with a graduate degree in theology and later served as an interpreter between Governor Belcher and members of several Native nations during treaty negotiations in Deerfield in 1735[133]. Later in the century, Benjamin Franklin wrote about Europeans who lived among Indigenous people. Perhaps this quote, which sheds light on what some of them experienced, helps explain the complexity of the relationship between former captives and captors: "Happiness is more generally and equally diffus'd among Savages than in civilized societies. No European who has tasted savage life can afterwards bear to live in our societies. [134]"

Following their military campaigns, Wattanummon and others sought to live peacefully in their former Dawnland homes. In 1712, toward the end of the Third Anglo-Abenaki War, a volunteer raiding party, led by former Deerfield captives Thomas Baker, Lieutenant Samuel Williams (Stephen's brother), and Martin Kellog, attacked an isolated encampment of Wabanaki families on the Pemigawasset River, which they judged to have been occupied for several years, based on the many furs they plundered. The raiders killed eight or nine Wabanaki people, taking several scalps, including that of Wattanummon. Baker was made a Captain and his party was paid a bounty of £40 and a bonus of £20 for these scalps, the last official bounty claims made during the twilight of Queen Anne's War. [135]

In a brazen testament to erasure, the river Asquamchumauke, where Wattanummon and his kin were killed, was renamed the Baker River. Today an historical marker stands as a bleak and disturbing testament to the erasure of Wattanummon's legacy as a Wabanaki peacemaker and fierce protector of the Dawnland."

<https://www.bountyfilm.org/lesson-three/the-third-anglo-abenaki-war>

History of the name 'Asquamchumauke':

Asquamchumauke has been acknowledged, for many years, as the original name of what is now called the Baker, or Baker's, River:

1870: William Little, in his 1870 *History of Warren*, wrote: "Reader let us go on to Moosehillock. Indians called it Moosilauke from mosi bald and auke a place; Bald place. There are three paths leading to the top of the mountain, one from North Benton one from Warren Summit and one from the East parte region, last one will answer our purpose best.

Let us start early on the East parte road. There has been a great storm but it has cleared off now the moon is the full and the air is clear as a bell. We cross Berry brook where Knight had a fight with a bear, keep Silver rill upon our left, and come to the Sawtelle school house.

Crossing the bridge over the Asquamchumauke or Baker river we pass a remarkable flume in the rocks which the waters for ages have been wearing out leave the “pot holes” where McCarter was said to be hid when he was murdered, to our left and listening to the white throated finch, our mountain whistler, as he sings the prelude to the “Wrecker’s Daughter” in the fir woods we reach East parte school house by Moosilauke falls on the Asquamchumauke ...

Soon we are out on the bald mountain ridge that connects the two peaks; on either hand are wild and hideous gorges three thousand feet down into the depths below. Beyond to the west is the bright valley of the Connecticut garden land with silver river, to the east the dark ravine of the Asquamchumauke filled with the old primitive woods, where the trees for thousands of years, like the generations of men, have grown ripened and died...

No clearer and more sparkling rivers could be found in the world than the Asquamchumauke and Pemigewasset...”

History of Warren, New Hampshire, William Little, 1870

1879: The Indian name of Baker’s River was “Asquamchumauke,” which means “the place of the mountain waters.” This name was given to it by the natives, because of the place where it rises, and also perhaps, because all the streams that flow into it, have their source in the mountains that lie on either side as it descends to the Pemigewasset.’

Granite State Monthly, Volume 2, 1879, Hon. J. Everett Sargent, LL. D.

1879: “Just to the north of us is Deer lake as large as your hand in the spruce dale. From it flows the Asq. We call it is Asq for short, the red men said its name was the Asquamchumauke, that is. The swift stream from the mt. In the same way, says Jim, we call the Pemi-gewasset, the Pem. for short. Just so, says I. The Asq. Leaps down from a cliff 500 feet high, says Jim, then runs in the deep glen twixt the great east ridge and Mt. Blue.”

Daniel Clement’s Moosilauke Journal, 1879, Robert W. Averill, 2020

“*Baker River* rises N. of Warren in the ravines E. of Moosilauke. “At first a wild torrent, then a bright pebbly-bottomed stream, and lastly a deep blue, river it empties into the Pemigewasset.” Its Indian name was Asquamchumauke, from *asquam-wadchu-m-auke*, meaning “Water of the Mountain Place.” The present name was given in honor of Capt. Baker, a soldier of the Indian wars...”

The White Mountains, a Handbook for Travellers, Moses Foster Sweetser, 1887

1899: “Stillness and solitude were there hill and ravine sky and valley every where magnificent the outline every where bold grand and sublime but it was all Divine handiwork. The stillness was something to be felt. Absolutely there was not a sound to be heard from the animate world while I waited, not even a car whistle to reverberate among the hills, nothing to be heard but the laughing brook at my feet as it leaped forward, sometimes above and sometimes under ground, to plunge at last over the precipice and join its waters with other rivulets to make what is now called Baker's river, but in Indian times was named Asquamchumauke, mountain water place.”

A Tip-Top Experience on Moosilauke, The Granite Monthly, Volume 26, 1899

1909: “**Asquamchumauke**, former name of Baker's River in Grafton Co.”

Dictionary of American-Indian Place and Proper Names in New England, Robert Alexander Douglas-Lithgow, 1909

1913: “When several months had elapsed, John Page and his associates, with Benjamin Leavitt as surveyor, made an expedition into this region, and after many adventures – some laughable, some tragic – succeeded in drawing the lines. In the spring of 1767, after nearly half of the specified time had expired, a road was put through and lots of eighty acres each were laid out. This road was the old original Indian trail and followed through the main part of this section, along valley of the Asquamchumauke River.”

The Granite Monthly, Volume 45, 1913 The Settlement of Warren, Address by Frank C. Clement.

1920: “In the spring of 1712 Captain Thomas Baker of Northampton led a force of thirty four men up the Connecticut Valley to Coasset, Newbury Vt . From there he crossed the height of land to the Pemigewasset, where he surprised a party of Indians at the mouth of the Asquamchumauke, since known as Baker's River, near the site of Plymouth. They killed several including the sachem Waternomee (Wattanummon,) plundered the village of its stock of beaver skins and burned the wigwams. Baker then proceeded down the Merrimack to Dunstable and thence to Boston, where he and his men received a grant from the General Court of forty pounds.”

Appalachia, Volume 15, 1920

1921: “After entering the Pemigewasset valley on the west side of the highway south of the Webster farmhouse is the place where Capt .Baker and party had a fight with the Indians on his retreat from Plymouth in 1712. Capt. Baker with 34 men and a friendly Indian as guide, had scouted up the

Connecticut river as far as Haverhill, thence up the Oliverian brook and down the Asquamchumauke river, now Bakers river to Plymouth. Here they found an Indian encampment and a large quantity of beaver skins, but most of the Indian warriors were absent hunting. Some of those in camp were killed and the rest dispersed, upon which Capt Baker and his party took as many beaver skins as they could carry and started towards home going down the Pemigewasset valley. (Note the classic distancing: “Some of those in camp were killed” rather than ‘Baker and his men killed...’ “the rest dispersed” rather than ‘women and children fled in terror’, ‘took...beaver skins’ rather than ‘stole beaver skins.’)

A Guide to Pasquaney Lake, Or Newfound Lake, and the Towns Upon Its Borders, Richard Watson Musgrove, 1921.

1938: “The earliest recorded evidence of white men in Plymouth dates back to about 1712 at which time Colonel Samuel Partridge wrote from Hatfield, Massachusetts to Governor Joseph Dudley in Boston suggesting the sending of an expedition of about 40 men to Coasset, or Coos. Captain Thomas Baker, an adventurous soldier of Northampton, Mass., was elected as commander of 32 men who set out to explore Coos County. Baker and his men followed the course of the Connecticut River to Haverhill, and turning east to Warren Summit, proceeded down the Asquamchumauke River to Plymouth. Just above the junction of this river with the Pemigewasset at what is now known as the Ox Bow, the expedition encountered Indians. A brief Skirmish followed, without loss of life to the explores, but several Indians were reported killed. Captain Baker acquired the blanket, powder-horn, and various trinkets of Waternomee, the chief, and the Asquamchumauke River was named Baker River (*see Tour 10, sec. b*).

New Hampshire: A Guide to the Granite State, Federal Writers’ Project (N.H.) 1938

1959: “Though William R. Park, Jr., acquired the Benton portion of Jobildunc Ravine in 1891, he was not at first in a position to commence operations there because he lacked sawmill facilities. In 1896 the Mead and Mason steam mill in Warren burned down. This gave Park an opening. He bought the site, the mill was rebuilt, and a new and higher dam installed to enlarge the pond. Logging commenced immediately after Camp 1 had been constructed on Big Brook, a mile and a half beyond Merrill’s Mountain home. Logging conditions were comparatively easy. The slopes were moderate and the Carriage Road furnished an excellent two-sled road right past the camp.

Park soon expanded his scope with the construction of two additional camps — No. 2, at the junction of Gorge Brook with the Asquamchumauke, and No. 3, somewhere near the Hubbard Brook notch. Operations at Camp 2 confronted Park with the old problem of excessive transportation distances. The camp could be reached only by a trip of two miles up the steep-sided gorge of the Asquamchumauke above the high iron bridge farthest out in East Warren. A roadway was carved up the gorge and logs were sledged down during the first winter of operations. But Park was not a man to let obstacles bar his path. He decided to build a railroad from the high bridge up the gorge to Camp 2. The purpose was to

increase the cut of the mill by keeping the log supply coming in all year round. The chief merit of the location selected was that on the short, steep run gravity furnished more than enough power to move the loads.”

The Forest History of Mount Moosilauke, by J. Willcox Brown, 1959

19??: “Known to Indians as Asquamchumauke, the nearby river was renamed for Lt. Thomas Baker (1682-1753) whose company of 34 scouts from Northhampton, Mass. passed down this valley in 1712. A few miles south his men destroyed a Pemigewasset Indian village. Massachusetts rewarded the expedition with a scalp bounty of £40 and made Baker a captain.” (Marker)

<https://waymarking.com/gallery/image.aspx?f=1&guid=b330829d-bf1a-46d0-abd8-e8ac635b676c&gid=3>“

1967: “The name of the Asquamchumaukee River was changed to “Baker River,” in honor of Captain Baker, who led a detachment of militia to this region in search of Indians. They surprised and killed nearly all of a band of Indians from Canada who were hunting and trapping in this locality. Historians record that the furs collected by the Indians were taken to Haverhill, Massachusetts, where they fetched a good price.”

The New Hampshire Archeologist, Issues 14-21, Volumes 22-23, 1967

https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_New_Hampshire_Archeologist/inAjAQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0

1968: Marker #55 erected;

‘ASQUAMCHUMAUKE WAS THE NAME OF THE BAKER RIVER IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE PEMIGEWASSET INDIANS MEANING "CROOKED WATER FROM HIGH PLACES"

HERE WAS THE SITE OF THEIR INDIAN VILLAGE ON THESE MEADOWS THEY CULTIVATED CORN IN THE SANDY BANKS OF THE RIVER THEY STORED THEIR FURS.

IN MARCH, 1712, LIEUTENANT THOMAS BAKER AND THIRTY SCOUTS DESTROYED THE VILLAGE AND KILLED MANY INDIANS INCLUDING THE CHIEF WATERNUMMUS

ERECTED BY THE ASQUAMCHUMAUKE CHAPTER DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION IN 1940”

2009: This year on father’s Day, we started hiking Mount Moosilauke, 4802 feet high in the southwest region of New Hampshire’s White Mountains.

Ashley was still carrying (seven months and counting) the LG. So, I carried the LB., whom we both expected to tire quickly of riding on my back, what with so many rocks, and tree, and rivers, and puddles, and enticing muck all around.

A hundred yards up the trail, he started pleading, “Jump da puddles! Jump da puuuuuuuddles!’
As we crossed, and crossed the old log bridges that crisscrossed the Asquamchumakee River, he strained to get out, insisting, I want to swim!”

The Faith of a Child, Stefan Lanfer 2009

2015: “7. *Asquamchumaukee Trail*

The Msquam-chum-aki (“salmon spawning place”) Trail led from Lake Winnepesaukee at what is now Meredith Neck northwestward to the southern shore of Msquam-nebit (“salmon lake,” shown in Father Aubry’s (Joseph Aubery’s) 1715 map as “Msquam-nebis”), now Squam Lake, thence along the northern shore of Little Squam Lake, and thence to the Pemigewasset Indian village at what is now Plymouth. From this point the trail led along the banks of the Asquamchumaukee River, now the Baker River, to what is now Wentworth, where it turned northward along the branch river to what is now Glencliff. Thence through the Oliverian Notch to a point north of the present Haverhill, to where it crossed the Connecticut River to the Coosuck village at what is now Newbury, Vermont.”

The Indian Heritage of New Hampshire and Northern New England, edited by Thaddeus Piotrowski, 2015.

https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Indian_Heritage_of_New_Hampshire_and/n3cwCgAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0

2015: “The Indian name of Baker’s River was “Asquamchumauke,” which means “the place of the mountain waters.” This name was given to it by the natives, because of the place where it rises, and also perhaps, because all the streams that flow into it, have their source in the mountains that lie on either side as it descends to the Pemigewasset.”

The American Historical Review, Vol. 120, No. 1 (FEBRUARY 2015), pp. 98-139 (42 pages)
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/43696337>

2020: “Immediately outside the boundaries of the town forest, the Baker River flows through the White Mountain National Forest, where you can pan for gold as well, but there are no maintained trails. Additional gold panning sites on the Baker River and located along NH 118 in Warren; these have been known for many years to be productive...”

The Baker River was originally called *Asquamchumauke* by the local Pemigewasset tribe, a name that has been variously translated as “crooked river from high places” and “salmon-spawning place.””

Rockhounding New England; A Guide to 100 of the Region's Best Rockhounding Sites, Peter Cristofono, 2020

2021: Town of Warren Town Meeting minutes:

“Article 25 Baker River Name Change

To see if the Town will vote to approve changing the name of the Baker River in Warren to the Asquamchumauke River.

Moved by: Charles Chandler

Second: Lesa Romano

Discussion: A brief history of the origin of the Asquamchumauke name and the 11,000 years of Abenaki history in our area. Suggestion of a By-/way interest sign being erected with a historical notation of the Asquamchumakee River name.

Disposition of Article: Failed (Motion failed on a tie with a show of hands.)”

<http://www.warren-nh.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-Town-Meeting-Minutes-compressed.pdf>

White Mountains, Upper Asquamchumakee

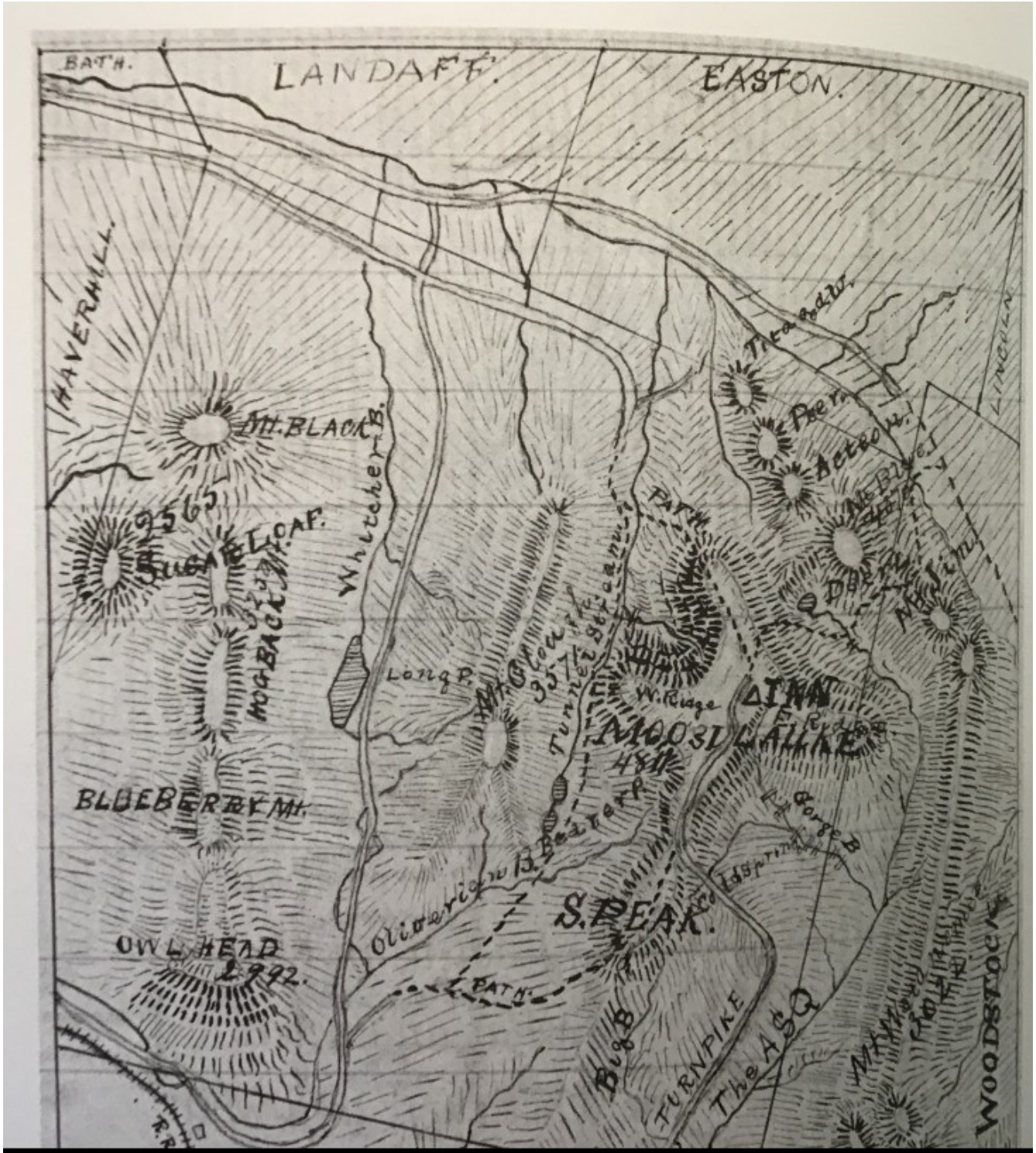
3 miles of class 4

Draining the steep southern slopes of the great Mount Moosilauke, the Asquam is a delightful treat for creek boaters. At medium levels, the upper Asquam is perhaps the best class 4 creek run around. The reaches upstream and downstream of the normal whitewater run consist of an unconsolidated bouldery cobbly mess. BUT! About a quarter mile upstream of the Breezy Point Road bridge, at the confluence of two branches of the Asquam and one major tributary, the river cleans up beautifully to smoothly sculpted granitic ledges and continues in this vein until the take out three miles later. Put in wherever you can near this confluence or just upstream; try to be discrete as the adjacent land is privately owned.

https://outdoors.dartmouth.edu/activities/paddling/trips/white_mountains.html



“Asquamchumaque or Baker R.” Map from William Little’s History of Warren, N.H.



'The ASQ'

Map from *Daniel Clement's Moosilauke Journal 1879*, transcribed by Robert W. Averill, 2020

Asquamchumauke Waltz

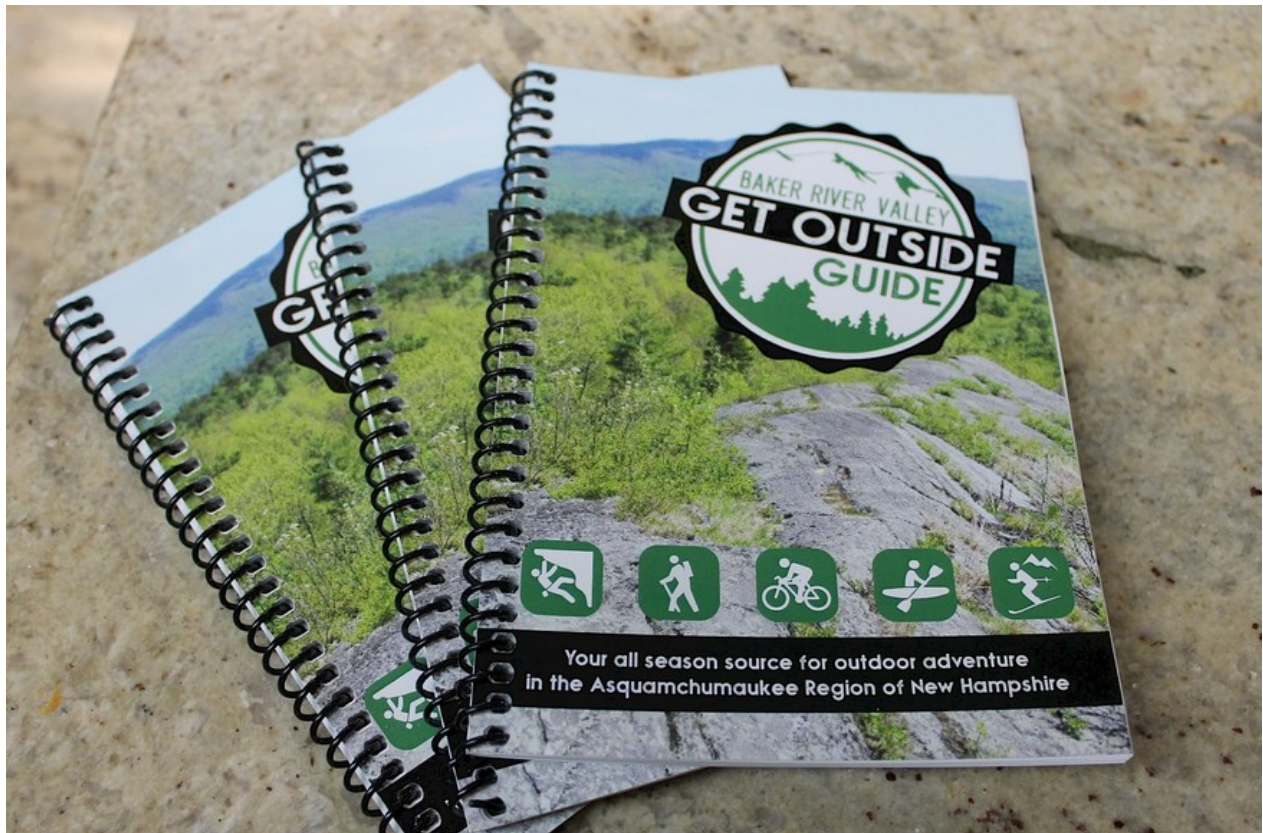
Bernie Waugh

♩ = 160

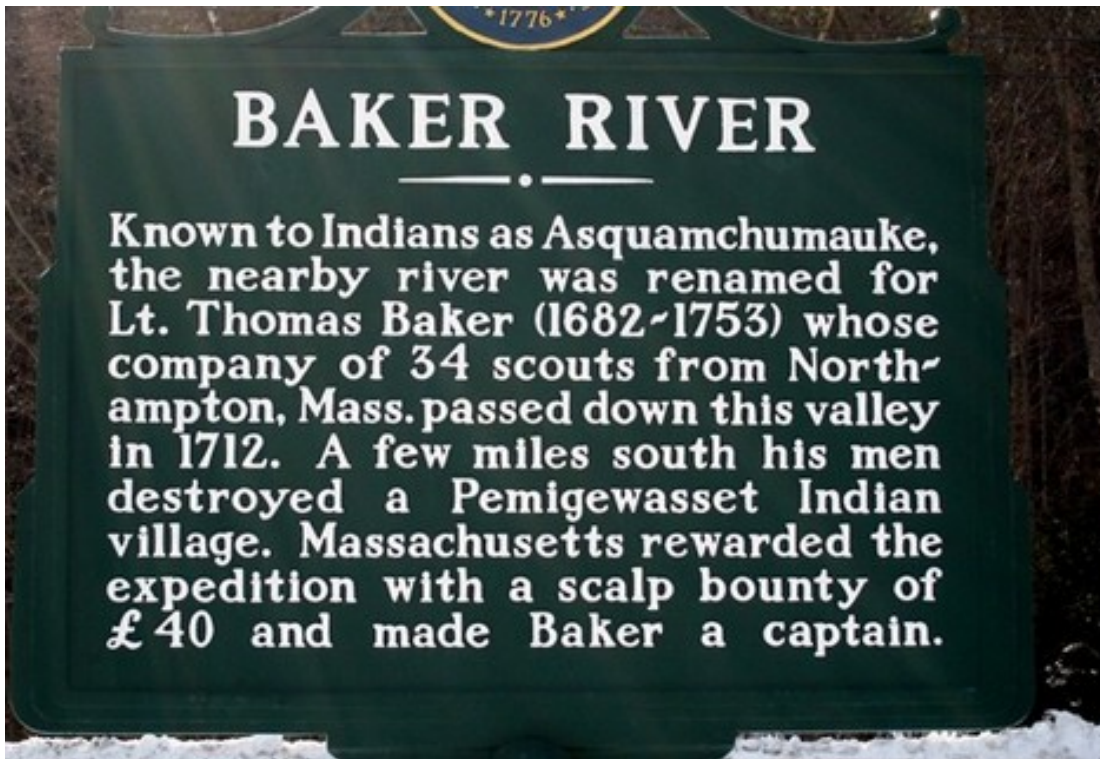
Musical score for Asquamchumauke Waltz, 3/4 time signature, key of G major. The score consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are the melody, and the last two are the accompaniment. Chords are indicated above the notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

Chords: G, Bm, Em, D, G, Bm, Em, D, G, Bm, Em, C, G, D, G, Bm, Em, F#m, Bm, Em, A, D, Bm, F#m, Bm, A, D, G, A, D, D7.

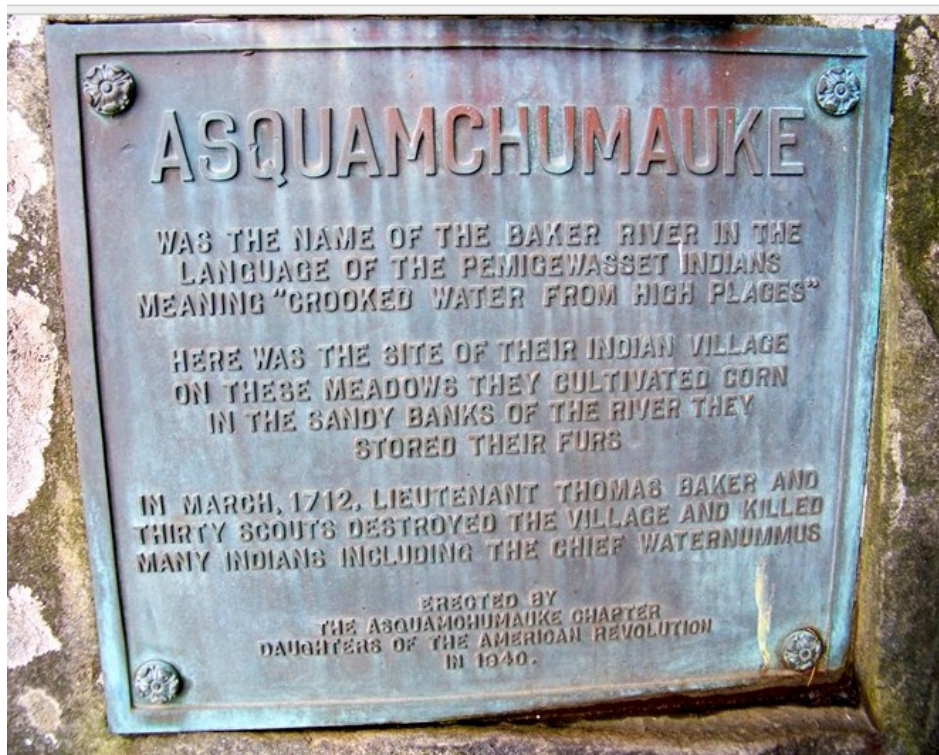
<https://math.dartmouth.edu/~doyle/docs/waugh/w5.pdf>



<https://dacres.org/get-outside-guide/>



State of New Hampshire historical marker #55



<https://waymarking.com/gallery/image.aspx?f=1&guid=b330829d-bf1a-46d0-abd8-e8ac635b676c&gid=3>

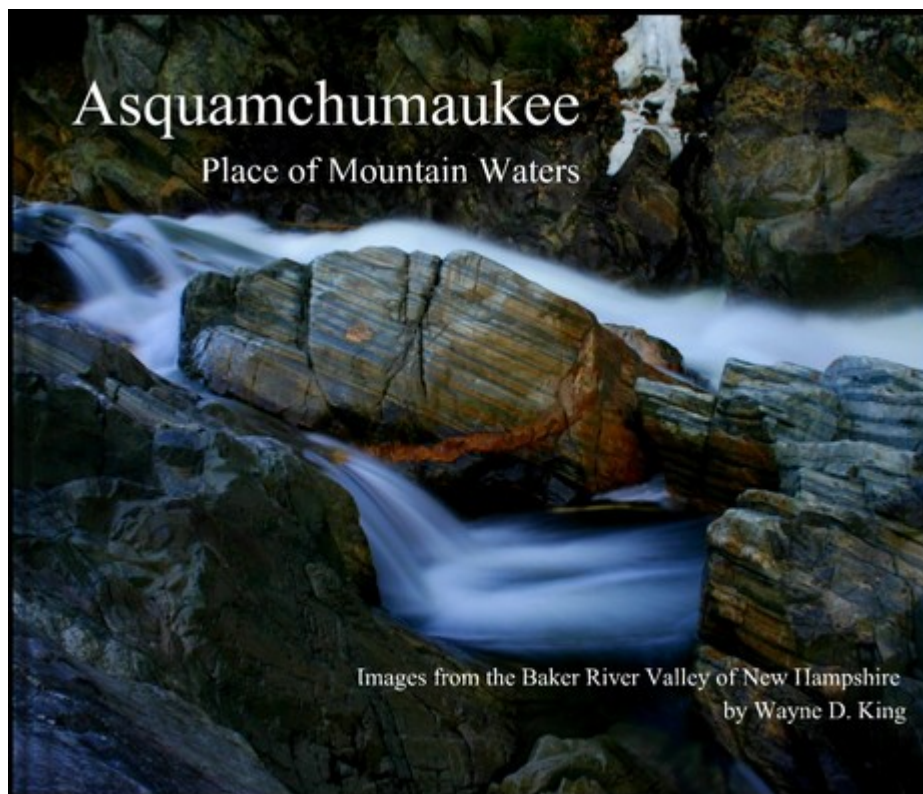
ASQUAMCHUMAUKE

Was the name of the Baker River in the language of the Pemigewasset Indians meaning "crooked water from high places"

Here was the site of their Indian village on these meadows they cultivated corn in the sandy banks of the river they stored their furs.

In March, 1712, Lieutenant Thomas Baker and thirty scouts destroyed the village and killed many Indians including the chief, Waternummus.

Erected by the Asquamchumauke Chapter of the DAR



<https://www.blurb.com/b/7631420-asquamchumauke-place-of-mountain-waters>