



# News Release

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## **Bloodless Aroostook War topic of presentation by Winslow at NMCC September 16**

**Aroostook County** - The border conflict that resulted in the treaty that determined the international border between Maine and New Brunswick will be the topic of a public presentation on Wednesday, September 16 at 12:00 noon in the Edmunds Library on the Northern Maine Community College campus.

Dr. Dena Winslow will lead the lunch hour discussion on the so-called “Bloodless Aroostook War” and the little known facts about the squirmish that settled the location of the border in 1842. Winslow was given access to the original papers, letters and documents of Commander Isaac Hodsdon, who was in charge during the conflict and prior to the signing of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty.

“Included in these documents was a lot of information not previously known about this war that I plan to discuss on September 16. I will also look at what sort of a man the commander was, and some of the myths surrounding this ‘bloodless war’,” said Winslow.

Discussion on the topic is especially timely as the 167<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty, on August 9, was the same date the announcement was made that the 2014 World Acadian Congress would be held in the St. John Valley region of Maine and the neighboring regions of the provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec.

The Acadian settlers of that region were among the most profoundly impacted by the border conflict as families living on both sides of the St. John River, once one community, suddenly found themselves living in two different countries. The unique story of the people, including the war and the resulting impact of the border treaty, were instrumental in the region’s successful bid to host the event.

Winslow is a County native with a great deal of interest in the region’s history. She was born in Caribou in 1953, and raised on a dairy and potato farm in Mapleton, where she lived with her parents Carl and Wilma Tompkins Winslow and two brothers, Jeff and Willie Winslow.

A 1971 graduate of Presque Isle High School, Winslow attended the University of Maine at Presque Isle and graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree in English, speech and theatre. In 1988 she completed her Master of Education degree in educational leadership at the University of Southern Maine. In 2000 she earned her Ph.D. in history at the University of Maine.

Winslow taught high school for many years and was named Maine Teacher of the Year in 1989 by the IBM Corporation. In 1998 she was selected for membership in Phi Alpha Theta at the University of Maine in honor of her academic achievements.

She has taught at the university level for many years, as well as served as the center preparation supervisor at Loring Job Corps in Limestone. She is currently the executive director of the Workforce Investment Board for Aroostook and Washington Counties.

Winslow is the author of two publications *They Lynched Jim Cullen: New England's Only Lynching* and *1880-1980: Mapleton, Maine*. She now resides in Presque Isle and is the mother of three sons, Christopher, Thomas and Eric York.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the presentation on the "Bloodless Aroostook War" at noontime on September 16. For more information on the event, contact Gail Roy in the Edmunds Library at NMCC at 768-2734 or by email at [groy@nmcc.edu](mailto:groy@nmcc.edu).

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