

HISTORY OF SWAN'S ISLAND

A HISTORY
Of the town of
SWAN'S ISLAND, MAINE

Second Edition



Revised and Enlarged, Together with a Genealogical Record of its
Settlers, and Subsequent Inhabitants



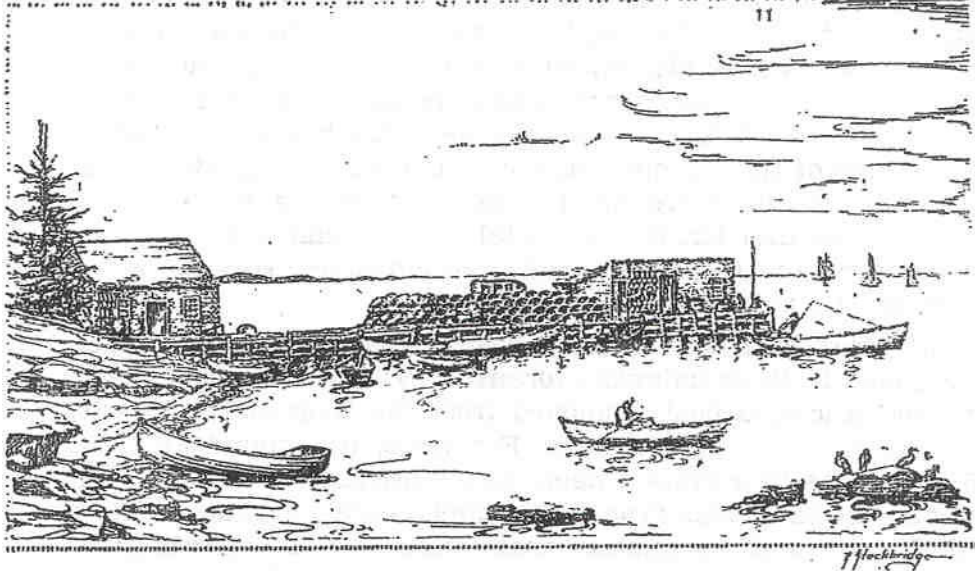
By
H. W. SMALL, M. D.

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Hermon Wesley Small, M. D.

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“Their life’s the sea. By following any street
Your feet will find the waves at either end.
Old fish nets serve for fences, the land is shaken
Like a ship’s deck by all the storms that waken,
Darkening from sky to sky. There’s a calm seat
Where captains sit who sail the sea no more –
Aged, but hale and oaken to the core;
To whom the ocean was a trusted friend.
About the long-wharfed huddled fisher town
Men’s talk assumes the ocean’s undertone,
Their motions go like gradual nets let down;
And each man stands as on a deck alone.
Even when they group in waiting idleness
The sea tang stays about them. They confess
In every mood, they are the ocean’s own.
Their girls who tread the walks go trim and neat
Like ships whose sails and pennants gleam complete,
Their wives, too, serve the sea, who stay at home
While the men’s dancing vessels urge the foam,
The very earth’s a ship, and they its crew!
Their life’s the sea’s. Sometimes their death is, too.”

Harry Kempt.

FOREWORD

Since the publication of the first edition of the History of Swan's Island thirty-five years ago, I have improved opportunities presented to me, to gather additional data, not then available, of the early history of this island town. I have also collected, from time to time, the genealogical record of the settlers, their ancestors and descendents, from their arrival in America to the present date. This has been no small task. The records of these people most of whom came from Massachusetts, were well recorded there, but for the period of many years after they had migrated into Maine, such vital records that are left to us were fragmentary, and mostly obtained from old bibles, some of which had been preserved, but more often lost.

When these first settlers came here, over uncharted seas, and made their settlements in these unbroken forests, they built a log house near the shore, constructed a boat fashioned from the trees of the forest, and there raised their large families. For years, it required all their skill and endurance to provide a home and subsistence from the field, the forest and the sea, which grudgingly supplied their livelihood. They moved from one locality to another that offered better opportunities. It is not surprising under these conditions, that their family records should have been neglected, or if they had been made, not preserved in their one room cabin, or perhaps left behind in their migrations.

I have visited some of these deserted settlements which were the temporary home of our ancestors. Some were partly overgrown by trees, others small level fields stretching backward from the sea shore. Partly filled cellars and rock doorsteps are the only ruins left from their occupancy.

During this temporary pilgrimage, many of these people died, mostly the children and the aged. Privations, exposure, and often the lack of proper food was hazardous for these extreme of age. They were buried on the hillside near the cabin, and surf-worn rocks were placed at the head and foot of the graves, the best markers their condition afforded. By the action of huge waves breaking on the shore, these rocks had been rolled back and forth over sand and other rocks until they were round and as smooth as glass. For hundreds of years this process had been in action, which had prepared them for this humble service. Boats sailing along the coast, reported seeing these white stones on the hillsides. These little hillocks with their markers have now sunken beneath the soil, and Mother Nature has covered them with a carpet of green. As years passed they were forgotten. The little wreath placed there by the sad hard-working mother, when she left that location for a new home, has withered and blown to the winds for more than a hundred years. The birds in the tree tops still sing their evening song. The only tears now shed, are the gentle rain drops, which moisten the soil, and cause sweet-smelling wild flowers to grow over the graves in springtime, showing that God, alone, has not forgotten them. But no records of these events are left to us.

Traveling ministers sometimes came along the coast, and occasionally visited these isolated settlements. They conducted religious services,

officiated at marriages, and baptized children. If they made any record of these events, they carried them away, and probably never recorded.

When this island was purchased, there was not an incorporated town in that part of Lincoln County afterwards formed into Hancock County, and for fifty years after the settlement of this town there were no public records kept. There has been more or less migration from this island to other towns and states, for more than a hundred years, often leaving little knowledge of their abode. The links of these departed families are easily broken, especially in the second and subsequent generations. Their mutual interests wane and indifference and forgetfulness often lead the historian to a blank wall. It required him, persistent effort through long years of research, to locate these lost links, and connect them into a chain to make their family history complete, and then only after correspondence to all parts of the country. Most of the parties consulted have shown cordial cooperation, but a few have failed to reply, which leaves regrettable omissions.

When I came to this island in 1891, and found this lack of records existed, I began at once to secure from the oldest inhabitants the interesting information of the past which they could give. There were then several of the second generation living, whose memory extended back to many of the primitive settlers, and were well informed by their parents of the traditions of the past, the people who came here as settlers, and the conditions which confronted them. Among those living and which I consulted were Mrs. Hannah (Hunt) Sadler, widow of pioneer Thomas Sadler. She lived more than ninety years, and retained all her mental faculties. She gave me much information concerning the Hunt, Cromwell and Sadler families both here and in her former home. James Sprague was three years old when his parents moved here from Union, and remembered well the events of their settlement here. Thomas Ross told me of his relatives, the Kench, Benson and Ross families. There were four of pioneer William Stanley's family living. Capt. Michael Stinson, the youngest and last of Benjamin Stinson's family. Two "Daughters of the Revolution" children of "King" David Smith. Mrs. Susan Torrey, daughter of Jacob S. Reed. She lived to within a few weeks of the century mark, the greatest age ever attained by any person on this island. Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart gave me the names and dates from memory of her large family of descendents, and her husband was a son of pioneer Cushing Stewart. Capt. Orlando Trask was the lone survivor of the children of Joshua Trask, Esq. Mrs. Harriet Barbour, who remembered all the names of the first settlers at Atlantic, together with many interesting traditions handed down by her grandfather, Moses Staples, sr. Many of these traditions often led the investigator to facts. I was particularly indebted to Benjamin Smith, Esq., grandson of "King" David. His memory extended over a long and eventful life. His memory of names, dates, and events were most trustworthy. He held town office nearly all his adult life. He, as a boy, attended the first meeting to organize a Plantation in 1833, and he attended all subsequent meeting until his death. He was a Justice of the Peace for more than fifty years, and united more people in marriage than all the other magistrates combined. Rev. Oliver

L. Fernald, D. D., gave me valuable and complete records of the early history of the Gott family to whom he was related. Also the charts of the surveys made by Champlain, who gave this island the name of Brule Cote. Hosmer's History of Deer Isle gave the ancestry of the families who came from that town, and B. Lake Noyes, M. D. furnished data concerning the Sadler and Joyce families after they left here and made their permanent homes at Deer Isle. There were many other people who furnished me with their family history, too many to mention. Of course, I knew nothing personally of these early settlers, and have only been the instrument which recorded the information which others gave me. If much of this data had not been secured at the time I collected it, it would have been lost beyond recovery.

The old family Bibles were chief source of information of the early vital record. Some of these were found in other towns. "King" David Smith's Bible containing the records of his twenty-four children, was found at Deer Isle, where it had been taken by his daughter, Eliza, wife of Johnson Billings. A son, William Smith, had his fathers' will and other interesting documents in the same town. In some of these books, the writing had become illegible, but by the use of chemicals, the color of the ink was restored for a few minutes, long enough to transcribe the record. Other means of information was inscriptions on grave stones, deeds, old documents found stowed in attics. The Registry of Deeds in Lincoln and Hancock counties, gave the land owner's records of lots conveyed to purchasers on Swan's Island. There were found several store books, as early as 1820, that are interesting, giving the names of customers, the goods they bought, and the prices paid. Also in them was a record of vessels owned here, and their transactions with the store keeper.

After the organization of a Plantation there were some vital records made, but they were recorded only occasionally, and were incomplete. At the present time all vital records are required by state law to be kept by the town clerk, and a duplicate sent to the state librarian. So the historian of the future will not encounter the difficulties which I found to exist. I have visited most towns where our ancestors came from, and procured from their town records the data concerning them. Also as a member of the Maine Historical Society, the use of their valuable collections of town histories of Maine and Massachusetts, were obtained, no doubt some errors of dates will occur, but I have verified them wherever possible, and I think they are correct and complete as can be made at this time.

I have purposely closed these records just one hundred years to a day, since the organization of a Plantation government, Sept. 30, 1833—Sept 30, 1933.

What wonderful changes and inventions have been made in the time covered by these records. More than all the other centuries combined since the world's history has been written. These inventions have taken from labor the drudgery that made man a slave to his employment, and have given to him many of the luxuries, and time to enjoy them, which in former years were absent. It is interesting to note a few of the improvements which have come

into the lives of even these small communities. Compare some of the conditions with what the pioneer settlers encountered here.

Without mails or newspapers, not knowing of outside events for months after it occurred. Now we have the wonderful facilities of the postoffice department which brings us the news and wire photos from every part of the world within a few hours of their occurrence. Pitch pine torches and candles have been replaced by the electric light. When Edison invented the incandescent bulb all dark places of the earth were made as light as day. Ox teams drawn hub deep through the mud of wood roads; we now have automobiles gliding over smooth permanently constructed highways. The primitive fishermen here laboriously rowed his clumsy "wherry" out to the fishing grounds, and caught his scanty supply of fish by hand line. In like manner he returned to the harbor, weary and tired by such back-breaking labor. Now he speeds out in his handsome motor boat or vessel, and a large quantity of fish is taken, managed by motor, as described later in this book. The overworked women carded the wool, spun it into yarn, and wove it on hand looms into cloth, which was made into clothing for the whole family to wear. Sewing machines relieved them of the burden of sewing by hand, the making of these garments. Travel was by wood coasters, often taking as many weeks as it does hours now by steamboat and seaplanes. The electric washer has relegated the tub and washboard into the discard. Electrical inventions have brought to this island local and long-distance telephone, which freed this island from isolation. There are also telegraph, victrolas, X-ray, talking movies, and the wireless. How little our forefathers knew that the voices of people from all parts of the world could be transmitted through the air, bringing to us the best entertainments from all lands, and brought to our fireside by the wonderful inventions of Marconi. The airplane will soon come into as general use as the automobile. Although the airplane seems to have been plainly described in a vision in the tenth chapter of Ezekiel, it was not until the World war that the Wright brothers demonstrated their practical use.

But invention is still in its infancy. What will the next century reveal? Perhaps even within the next decade new inventions will displace the ones we now consider so wonderful, and render them as obsolete as the tallow candles and ox team.

It is an old saying—and true, that "Islanders love their home." Of course this is not the exclusive virtue of islanders, but there are especial reasons why their home ties linger long in their memory. Because of their isolation different members of all the old families have intermarried to such an extent that they have become like one large family, having a mutual interest in each others affairs, that does not exist in towns differently situated. Their love of the sea—restless and beautiful, is a part of their existence, and speaks to them a language that only those who can interpret it can understand. The tang of the salt breezes wafted over the land, make different conditions uncongenial.

Many of our people have sailed away from their island home, and have made their abode in many states from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Coast. To them the reading of records of their associates of the long ago, may be like

a letter from home, and the means of renewing old friendships broken by long years of separation. Perhaps today, some aged mother on the Pacific Coast is reading the life history of her former friends and companions of her youth, from whom in long years she has received no tidings, yet she has never forgotten them. Age has now rendered her footsteps too feeble to retrace the long journey homeward. Today she sits in her rose garden and in the sunlight, looking out over the placid waters of the great Pacific ocean, she watches the sun go down, and remembers it is the self same sun which in former years she saw rise out of the ofttime turbulent waters of the Atlantic, at the other extreme of the continent, at Swan's Island. A river of gold from the sunset shines around her snow white hair like a halo. The purple twilight deepens. She lays aside the book she has been reading, and sits and thinks—thinks of her youth now gone forever.

She is contented and happy in her adopted home, surrounded by her family, but after reading of her former companions, her thoughts turn Eastward to the land of the rising sun. Although her sight has grown dim, yet she can plainly see across the vast expanse of three thousand miles, her home at Swan's Island. She sees the unpretentious house that was her birthplace. She can see her father and mother, and the large family of brothers and sisters as she left them. Every detail of those surroundings pass before her vision. She remembers the little playhouse which she and the other children built on the ledges in the summer time. She sees her father and brothers sailing into the harbor after their day's employment and the mother with the help of the girls busily preparing the evening meal. After supper the young people of the neighborhood trooping in for the evening's enjoyment, where before the roaring log fire in the fireplace, they play games, and sing the old familiar folk songs, which she has so often sang, in later years, to her grandchildren as she rocked them to sleep. They were happy then because they were young. All of these companions have visited her tonight in her imagination. Time and distance cannot rob her of the pleasant memories of the past. She realizes that most of these old friends have sailed on their last voyage. A tear rolls down her time-worn face. Yes, Islanders love their home.

HISTORY

Nature has placed Swan's Island in a sea of scenic beauty. It is located in the Atlantic ocean, the southern extremity of Hancock county, thirty-six miles from Ellsworth, the county seat, and is separated from Mt. Desert Island by four miles of water. To the north, across an inland bay, is seen Bluehill, on the mainland. Around this mountain clusters an attractive village, and beautiful residences of a summer colony. Northeastward stands Mt. Desert, with its thirteen mountains—grand and beautiful, the only location on the Atlantic coast where the mountains come down to the ocean. This noted summer resort is the summer home of the most cultured and wealthy people of the nation. Among these picturesque mountains the government has established the Acadia National Park. These mountains have been renamed in memory of her ancient explorers and proprietors who came here as early as 1615. Four miles to the eastward a chain of islands, the largest of which Whittier speaks of in his ballad, in describing the journey of the famous Indian chief Mogg Megone, as "Fair Placentia." While far out in the west Isle au Haut to which the early French voyagers gave its name, is outlined against the setting sun. Hancock county has three hundred islands, large and small. Some merely barren rocks where sea birds build their nests. Others low and level, covered with verdure—great evergreen trees that grow down to the pebbled beaches, and cast their deep dark shadows on the placid waters. Islands everywhere as far as the eye can see. On bold precipitous shores of the outer islands, which forms a bulwark against the ocean, the sea, always restless, sends its surf high among the rocky boulders, and its spray far into the treetops. Swan's Island is the center star in this constellation of islands. Standing on high land and looking seaward on a calm moonlight night, these other islands look like fragments of land broken off, and seem drifting outward toward the horizon. The bold water among these islands is covered by sail and motor boats, fishing crafts coming and going from their day's employment, coasting vessels with their burden of freight, steam and sail yachts on their way to Bar Harbor and nearby summer resorts.

The vast expanse of the ocean, ever changing, even in the calmest weather, is never still as it is sensitive to the winds and tides, and when a storm comes on, mountainous waves roll in from the broad Atlantic and break over the reefs and rocky promontories, the view of the surf is grand and terrible. At some future time a roadway, will be constructed around the southern shore of this island which would open to travel one of the most picturesque views on the coast of Maine.

The remote history of this island, like all America, is shrouded in darkness. We are not able to raise the curtain, and see the wild savages, whom we know by indisputable traces, made their homes here,—their summer camping grounds, from time immemorial. Here they came in their birch bark canoes, pitched their tents, reared their young, and carried on their ancient mode of hunting and fishing as a means of subsistence. When the pioneer

French explorers came, they found abundant ruins of savage occupancy. This was, undoubtedly, a favorite resort of the Indians. The cool bracing air in the summer tempted them to leave the seclusion of their forest home. They planted their crops of corn, beans and pumpkins, and left them growing, while they manned their canoes and paddled down to the sea. In the fall they returned and gathered their crops.

This island then furnished excellent hunting grounds. Seabirds came in great flocks, and could readily be killed or snared by their rude weapons. Besides the sea was rich in cod, haddock, and lobsters. The latter could be caught by hand in the shoal water when the tide went out. There were also clams in abundance, and they were a favorite article of food, as seen by the immense piles of shells left behind. Seabirds still come in from the sea every spring, as these islands are their natural breeding places and feeding grounds.

Severe winters with deep snow sometimes drove the Indians here when other means of subsistence was cut off; as here, at any time of the year, fish and birds and clams could readily be obtained. In some parts of the island when the white settlers came, and the primitive forests were cleared and the soil broken by the plow, mounds of clam shells of great depth were uncovered, the remains of Indian dinners of many generations.

In these shell heaps have been found by men of the present day, flint arrow heads, tomahawks, fishhooks shaped from the bones of fish, hatchet made like adze, with a groove on either side of the smaller head in which a split stick could be inserted as a handle. There were also other implements, the use of which to us is unknown. No doubt they were used in hunting or in warfare. These implements must have required much skill and practice in making. Many of relics of the past were collected and carried away by summer visitors. This collection should have remained in the locality where they were left by the savages. They would have been an interesting collection of souvenirs of the past, implements of a lost race which would be of increasing interest to future generations. No doubt other mounds await the explorer of the future.

When Capt. John Smith visited Maine, in 1614, he estimated there were 30,000 Indians within the present limits of the state. War with the Mohawks, among rival tribes, followed by a destructive pestilence in 1616-17, reduced their numbers to about 12,000. The Tarratines were the tribe that came to this island. They had their headquarters at Orono on the Penobscot, until the advent of Baron de Castine, as their chieftain when they changed their settlement to Pentagoet (Castine). When the white settlers came, there were several localities on the island which could be plainly seen, and which had recently been abandoned, where the Indians had their "set downs" or villages. One was at middle head, another at Garden Point, near a beautiful secluded inlet, where large oak trees still grow near, at Sandy beach. Across a narrow strait called the "Golden Gate," and sheltering this locality from storms, is Orono Island, to which the Indians gave the name of their distinguished chief. Orono was chieftain of the Tarratine or Penobscot tribe, and was living, an aged man, at the time of the Revolution and rendered patriotic service to the

American cause. He is reported to have been an illegitimate son of Baron Castine. The name given to this island by the Indians is still retained. There was another settlement near the eastern shore where many ancient relics were discovered, and several around Old Harbor. The largest of these was on Harbor Island. This was not only an attractive location, but furnished better means of defense from hostile attack. Directly opposite this settlement, separated by a narrow channel, is a high promontory where stands the lighthouse which they call Hocomock—a name still retained. I tried to find the meaning of this word from the Penobscot Indians, while they were encamped here, but as, no doubt, we pronounce the name differently from the Indians, they could not give me the information. I wrote to Father O'Brien, a catholic priest, whose life has been spent as missionary among these people, and who knows their language, and is said to have the best collection of Indian books in the country. He wrote me the following interesting letter which I give in full:

Bangor, Nov. 23, 1899.

H. M. Small, M. D.

Dear Sir: Hocomock is the form in which the English settlers pronounced and wrote an Indian word which is written Ananiek and Aganmek in dictionaries of our Catholic missionaries. I think the word occurs as a place name in several towns in New England. I remember having noticed last summer a time table of a steamboat line running from Bath to the islands on the coast. (The ferry boat that carried the train across the river from Bath to Woolwich, called Hocomock, is probably the boat he has in mind). The word means across or over the water. It is the inflection called the "locative", and in the Indian language, not to the spot or place itself, but to the point opposite. You will understand from an illustration. The Old Town Indians, as you may know, live on an island—Indian island—in the Penobscot river, at the upper end of the city of Old Town. The Indian agent, however, lives in the city across from Indian island, near the landing for boats that cross to and from the island. Now it is quite common to hear the Indians speaking on the island of the landing and vicinity of the store as Aganmec (Hocomock). On the other hand, if the Indian found himself at the landing, he would not speak of the place as Aganmek, for it would be no longer the other side, but Amaga, this side. I infer, therefore, that the head land you refer to having the name of Hocomock, has opposite it, across some body of water, a place where the Indians crossed to head land in their canoes.

Hoping this will satisfy your inquiry, I am

Respectfully yours,
C. M. O'Brien.

I was informed, by one of the early settlers, that a large number of Indian skeletons was unearthed by the plow at the level tract of land just north of the carrying place. He saw them, and said they seemed much larger size than the

average Indian of today. Perhaps this may have been a battleground between rival tribes, as the skeletons were only adults.

Father Baird, in 1616, recorded a description of the savages he found in this vicinity. "They are," says he, "nomads, hunting the woods, and are much scattered because they live by the chase, by the fruits of the earth, and by fishing. They are almost beardless, and in general, are a little bit smaller and more slender than we are; without, however, lacking in grace and dignity. Their complexion is slightly tanned. They generally paint their faces, and in mourning blacken them." The most noteworthy of their chieftains was Madockawando, both on account of his disposition and personal character, and influence exerted over other chieftains, but still more as being the father-in-law of Baron de Saint Castine.

We can still visit these known locations, where these ancient people erected their tented villages, under the shelter of the great evergreens, and facing the restless waves of the ocean. —

"This is the place—stand still, my steed!
Let me review the scene
And summon from the shadowy past
The forms that once had been."

We can see in our imagination, the large number of grandly bedecked canoes being paddled into the shelter of the harbor, by the feathered warriors, with their squaws, papooses, and camp supplies. They land at the place where in former years they and their ancestors had pitched their tents. The same tribe occupied the same location, year after year, and if a rival tribe encroached upon what they considered their rightful domain, there was war. The victor established the right of his tribe forever, unless forcibly dispossessed.

These primitive savages, dressed in their gaudy trappings, and all their followers would disembark upon the beach, and pitch their tents near the shore. Just below, on the beach, the canoes are drawn up, side by side. The flint and steel are gotten out, the fire is struck, and the driftwood gathered, and piled on high, and the light would illuminate the darkness of the forest. Fish and wild game would be roasted, or perhaps a bushel of clams would constitute their evening meal, which was prepared by the women. After their frugal meal, they squat on the grass and smoke their pipes, "watching the twilight darken into night, and the stars one by one come out in the heavens above them." The grandmother is pressing a papoose to her side. He is looking upward with open-eyed wonder, as she tells him the Great Spirit is making holes in the sky to let the light through, so her little papoose will not be afraid of the dark. Soon all is still except the birds in the tree tops, and the murmur of the sea on the shore. These children of nature wrap themselves in their blankets, and sleep, with never a care of the morrow.

Sunrise, and the warriors at the chase with bows and arrows, others catching fish from their canoes. The hooks were fashioned from fish bones, and the lines from grass fibre, which they alone knew how to manufacture.

The squaws sitting on bear skins or at the door of the tent, while the bright-eyed dew-drops glide along the sunbeams to the heavens above. They are braiding mats of multi-colored fibre, stringing bright-tinted seashells into strings for wampum and fashioning feathered headgear for their warriors. They gather portions of the ash tree, which they pound and strip into suitable material for making baskets, after they had colored them into green, blue, red and yellow by the juices of bark and roots. The old men sit within the tent making bows and arrows, shaping from flint, with much patience and skill, spearheads, arrow points, and hatchets. The children, half naked, sport on the beach, fleeing from the incoming surf, and chasing it back, as it receded. All around, everywhere, is the forest primeval, the wild flowers and fruits. This setting, prepared by nature for these wild dusky, simple and savage people, remained unchanged through all the countless years of time. This was their happy hunting grounds. They knew nothing of the outside world, or its people, or its customs. They were free and happy.

And then, the white man came! In 1613, a colony of French Catholics settled at Mt. Desert, nearby, where they built a fort, erected a cross, celebrated mass, and founded a convent.

We can see at evening time, when the sea was calm, and the air had the stillness of Autumn, these warriors assembled on the high head of land in front of their tents, smoking their pipes, and watching with emotionless expression, the children in mock battle on the beach below. They listen—a sound—the chimes of a sweet-toned bell, softened by the sea, strikes upon their astonished ears. It is the Angelus at prayer time, as the pious Catholics assemble at their convent at Saint Saveur, just across the bay at Mt. Desert. The warriors, alarmed, gather in groups. The sound is new and terrifying to them. We see those chieftains standing on the cliff, grim and straight, with their faces lighted up by the setting sun, where its rays form a pathway through the Golden Gate to where the sun is setting behind Mount Megunticook. The music of the chimes is sweet to his ear, yet on his heart comes a heavy weight, as he instinctively feels that the advent of this strange, new white man is tolling of the death knell to his freedom, his race, and to his nation.

The Indian continues to come to this island after the white people made their permanent settlement. They were always unwelcome visitors, although this tribe was reputed to be much more humane and peaceable, under the guidance of Baron Castine. Over them he had great influence and they regarded him in the light of a divinity. The effects of his instructions were discernable long years after his death. However, they were Indians, and the atrocities of their race were too fresh in the minds of the settlers to warrant any degree of confidence, and their departure in the fall was always a welcome event. But there is no record that they were other than peaceable while located on this island.

After adopting the white man's mode of living in houses, tuberculosis rapidly disseminated their ranks. This once powerful tribe is now reduced to two settlements, one at Old Town, on the Penobscot river, and the other at

Passamaquoddy, in the extreme eastern part of the State, together numbering about a thousand people. They are now wards of the State.

In decreasing numbers, they annually visited this island until a few years ago. Among themselves they still use the ancient language of the Tarratines. Their general appearance, and their mode of living of olden times have been carefully preserved by these proud people.

In summer time, catching the commercial spirit of age, they launch their canoes and go down to the sea, as of yore, but now they camp near the summer resorts, such as Bar Harbor. Here they don their ancient garb, with their feathered headgear, pitch their tents, and live the life of their forest homes. They are objects of much interest and curiosity to our summer people, the Tarratines of the Penobscot. They bring down such articles as they have made during the winter months. They continue to make their baskets in their camping place, where their skill in working by hand fancy designs, adds much to their attraction. A ready market is found for these baskets, made of many colored strips of ash wood, and sweet grass, bows and arrows, miniature tomahawks made of wood, and canoes which are now used by summer people on the bays and rivers, a popular pastime, but not without its dangers in unskilled hands. The ranks of the Redmen are slowly thinning, and it can be but a few decades before this ill-fated race shall have disappeared. They, who have been the theme of story and song—one of the most interesting people in history, will have become a tradition of the past.

WHO WAS THE FIRST WHITE SETTLER?

“What was his name? I do not know his name,
I only know he heard God's voice and came;
Brought all he loved across the sea,
To live and work for God—and me,
Felled the ungracious oak,
With horrid toll
The thrice gnarled roots and stubborn rock,
With plenty piled the haggard mountainside.
And when his work was done, without memorial died.
No blaring trumpet sounded out his fame;
He lived and died; I do not know his name.”

The French were the first white settlers that came to this vicinity. They were in pursuit of commercial gain and religious zeal, which in that age, created a great deal of rivalry among the different nations, in spreading their respective faiths in this new country. The French had established a chain of settlements from Montreal, Quebec, Louisburg, around through the St. Lawrence river to the Atlantic coast. The land from the St. Croix to the Penobscot river they called Acadia. There was quite a large settlement at Pentagoet, later called Major Bagaduce, and now Castine. The station was the western boundary of their claims. Here they built a substantial fort, with garrison, and this was also the headquarters of the Catholic missionary adventurers, and for over a century the flag of France floated uncontested over

all this coastal region. There were also smaller settlements at Naskeag Point, Surry, Mt. Desert, Gott's Island, and other localities to the Eastward.

The first record of their coming was in 1556, when Andrew Trevit, a Catholic priest, sailed along the coast in a French ship. He landed, and had many conferences with the Indians, among whom he tried to establish the Roman Catholic religion, but he did not meet with any success. These strange white people with their new religion did not appeal to the savages, and they looked upon their proposals with suspicion.

The French government next sent De Monts, in 1602. They explored the Maine coast and islands, and forthwith took possession of all their discoveries in the name of France, and in true Catholic style, set up a cross, and called this whole region Acadia, by which name it was known until after the capture of Quebec by the English in 1759. The name of Acadia means a pleasant place or location. The English, later, called the same word Quoddy, which is perpetuated in Passamaquoddy, and other settlements in eastern part of the State.

The French again visited this locality in 1604, and made a settlement at Mt. Desert, only a few miles from Swan's Island. Here they established the first Jesuit Mission in America. It was related in their records that this mission was bound for the Penobscot river region, from whence former explorers brought the rumor that the fabled city of Norombega, rich in treasure and castles, was located. As the ship approached the coast, the hills of Mt. Desert, which can be seen many miles at sea, was the first land sighted, and towards which they directed their ship. When near this island, a dense fog was encountered, and they were obliged to anchor in a harbor, and remained there for several days. The fog was so thick the crew was in superstitious fear. But on the third morning, the weather cleared, and revealed the beauty of the green mountains almost enclosing the harbor, in which they were anchored, the picturesque natives peering at them from among the evergreen trees. The surroundings were so attractive, that they decided to establish their mission at that place.

The patent to De Monts was, two years later, surrendered to Madam Guercheville. This lady was a zealous Catholic, and wished to convert the savages to that faith. She sent out a colony, later, which landed at Mt. Desert, May 16, 1613, where they built a fort, erected a cross, founded a convent, and celebrated mass. They called the settlement Saint Saveur. In 1668, the French king gave the same property to a nobleman named Cadillac, this land in Acadia, embracing the whole of Mt. Desert, and several townships on the mainland, together with all the islands on the ocean front, which included Swan's Island. He claimed all this vast territory until 1713, styling himself Lord of Donaquia, and Mt. Desert.

After the revolution, one Gregoire claimed this property in the name of his wife Maria, granddaughter of Cadillac. In consideration of a request made by Lafayette in favor of the Gregoire claim, Massachusetts recognized the claim as valid. This was the only French claim sustained on the coast of Maine. The heirs of Cadillac, therefore were given a quit-claim deed of 60,000 acres

of land, including the present towns of Mt. Desert, Trenton, Lamoine, Sullivan and Ellsworth, together with all the islands off this coast.

During the occupation of Mt. Desert by the French, they obtained their living by farming and fishing, mostly by the latter occupation, as most of these peasants came from the seacoast towns of their native country. During the spring of 1688, Sir John Andros, governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, sent a whaleboat down the coast to ascertain the number in the French settlement, with a view of checking their advance. This enumeration, as recorded in the Massachusetts Historical Society, dated May 11, 1688, gave the name of the French settlers at different stations from Penobscot river eastward. They found at Petit Plaisance (Gott's Island) the following French families: Lowrey, wife and child; Hinds, wife and four children. Traces of where Lowrey and Hinds lived on Gott's Island can still be seen. One is in the Charles Welch field; another nearby, in the field of the late Samuel Gott. Ancient thorn trees, alien to this locality, still grow where these French sojourners planted them. They were still in a flourishing condition when Daniel Gott came to this island in 1789. The thorn tree in Gott field stands near what is called the fore-shore. This bank is made up mostly of clamshells, and has gradually washed away by the action of the sea, so that only a part of the cellar over which one of the settlers lived is visible. The rest is washed away, and the thorn tree is partly over the bank

No doubt these French settlers at Gott's Island and Mt. Desert, only a few miles away, came to Swan's Island, as at the former place there was little shelter for their fishing boats, while Old Harbor is a safe shelter at all seasons of the year, and nearer the fishing grounds. Probably they came here from these different settlements, built their huts, dried their fish, and cultivated some crops, as tracts of level land had been cleared, before the permanent settlers came a century later.

Another reason for our belief that they had resided here, at least during the summer months, was the fact that a forest fire had burned over a part of the island, even before Champlain gave to it a name, which in their language was Burnt Hill. It is a well-known fact that the Indians were never the cause of a conflagration, as they always carefully covered their fires. So French carelessness, no doubt, was responsible for giving to this island its first name.

In 1604, Champlain who had been commissioned Royal Geographer by the King of France in the De Monts expedition, explored all the coast of Maine, and made a rough survey, charted the coast islands, and landmarks, and gave names to many localities on the map. Indian names for these localities were, in many instances, displaced by French names, except in such localities where the Indian names, by long usage, had become landmarks. In after years, in like manner, many of the French names were changed by their English conquerors, or perhaps anglicized. The few remaining French names are all that is left of the century's occupancy by those hardy peasants, who first settled the rockbound coast of Maine.

In cleared, sunny spots where their villages stood, there still bloom strange herbs, flowers, and trees, aliens to our soil, brought to the new world from

Sunny France by these picturesque peasants, whose home life was here for many generations, and whose lives and customs have been so interestingly described in Longfellow's *Evangeline*.

Champlain gave the following names to the islands in this vicinity: L'isle des Monts Desert (the isle of the Desert Mountain) Isle au Haut (Lofty Island), La Petite Plaisance and Grand Plaisance (the small and large beautiful islands). Champlain gave this island on his charts as Brule Cote (Burnt Hill). This designation was given because a part of the island had recently been burned over. Some later discoverer translated Brule, but did not translate Cote, so on his chart it was called as Burnt Cote island, until, sometime after its purchase by Col. Swan, a mistake in spelling, so on his map had it Burn Coat. By the latter name it was used in a deed given October 28, 1790, and recorded in Hancock Registry of Deeds, Book 1, Page 28. Later it was generally known Burnt Coat Island, until, some time after its purchase by Col. Swan its name was changed to Swan's Island.

No doubt the French at Pentagoet also visited this island, as they were in alliance with the Penobscot Indians, who made their annual pilgrimage here. This is confirmed by the discovery of European pottery and coins in shell heaps here.

Baron Jean Vincent de Castine became the chieftain of this tribe. He was a nobleman from the province of Oleron, and had a military training, and at one time was a colonel in the king's bodyguard. He was sent to America as commander of the celebrated regiment called the "Caragan Saliers," to Quebec to conquer the Mohawk Indians about the year 1665. Afterwards the regiment was disbanded, and Castine discharged. This action may have been resented by Castine, as he chose to remain in this country, and take up his abode with the Indians. He became a famous leader of the Tarratines for many years and, no doubt, planned and led many of the depredations against the early English settlements. His brilliant and romantic career has been the theme of many ballads. He came to the vicinity of Pentagoet (Castine) where he erected a substantial fort, and built for himself a commodious dwelling. About the year 1687, he married a daughter of Madockawando, the famous chieftain of the Tarratines.

"Lo, the Baron of St. Castine,
Swift as the wind is, and as wild,
Has married a dusky Tarratine,
Has married Madockwando's child."

Her name was Mathildie. He had two sons and a daughter, whom he recognized as legitimate—Anselim, Joseph Dabidis and Amastasie. Castine was loved and respected by the Indians, but was feared and hated by the English. Anselim Castine succeeded his father as chief, and ruled many years. He had a fine French uniform, but usually dressed like the Indians. His rule was firm but just, and he had a restraining influence over the savages, and taught them many of the arts of civilization.

The French, with Indians for their guides, went in their canoes out to the fishing grounds, and also visited other settlements of their countrymen along the coast. At the Convent at Saint Saveur, they attended mass, and in joining in the songs and services, they forgot for the time being, that they were wanderers in a wild, desolate country far away from their beloved France. Priests visited all these settlements during the summer months, and looked after the spiritual needs as well as instruction of the children in the church creed. These peasants were illiterate and were under the absolute dictation of the priests. The Catholics established missions among the Indians, and won their friendship. They were captivated by the pomp and show of their religious ceremonies, and were steadfast allies of the French through all the years of the occupancy of this region.

During the Maine centennial celebration at Portland in 1920, one of the interesting exhibitions was a delegation of Indians brought there from Old Town and Passamaquoddy tribes, with their wives and children—in all, about one hundred people. They pitched their tents around the pond in the “Oaks.” They dressed in their ancient garb, paddled canoes in the pond in the park, gave their war dances, sang their battle songs, and re-enacted a battle on the same site, where some two centuries ago, the Indians attacked the white settlers of Falmouth (Portland), burned the town, and massacred the inhabitants. These people created a great deal of interest, and from morning to night thousands of visitors from far and near flocked to see them at their picturesque settlement, and the Indians entertained them with the stories of the long ago, and incidentally sold to eager buyers many of the multi-colored baskets which they were skilful in making, and which added quite a bit to their income.

To me, the most interesting event was on a beautiful Sunday morning, when, by previous arrangement, they visited a catholic church. Having dressed in all their trappings, feather headgear, many-colored blankets and wearing strings of wampum, a priest came with his attendants to their camp ground, and escorted them to their splendid Cathedral, where mass was said for their benefit. This array, with their feather-bedecked warriors, squaws and papooses, all wearing the garb as used by them in the forest missions age, wending their way through the city streets, was a pathetic reminder of the last scene of this once noble race. During all these years, they have remained faithful to those early French missionaries who first taught them in their forest homes more than three centuries ago.

The French, the first settlers along this coast, and who held possession more than a hundred years, based the claims to this country on the discovery of this region by Verrazzano, in 1524, the discovery and occupation of Canada by Cartier in 1535, the grant of Henry IV to De Monts, and of the survey of this new land by Champlain.

The English, especially the settlers of Massachusetts Bay Colony, looked with apprehension on these strongholds of the French, who were their traditional enemies. Clashes between them sometimes occurred and the

constant fear of French and Indian attacks upon their settlements caused the English to explore this region with a view of determining their strength.

Weymouth made a voyage along the Maine coast in 1605, and his historian has left an interesting record of these explorations. He claimed this country in the name of their King, James I. He reported in detail the strength of various French settlements east of the Penobscot river. He also held conferences with Indians, with whom he carried on a brisk trade, receiving rich furs in exchange for worthless baubles which pleased the savage mind. Weymouth was treated with kindness by the Indians, but this friendship was rewarded by kidnapping five of their people, who were carried to England, and three of them delivered to Sir Ferdinand Gorges, who in 1639 received a Royal charter of the District of Maine.

The next Englishman who visited this coast was Capt. John Smith of Virginia, in 1614. He explored the coast of Maine with the intention of forming a settlement. He found French settlements at Pentagoet, Mt. Desert, Gott's Island, Naskeag and Pemaquid. Smith's carpenters built boats during the summer, thus becoming the pioneer shipbuilders in Maine. Some of his men were engaged in the fisheries, others explored the coast and its rivers. That fall, Smith returned to England, leaving his expedition in charge of Thomas Hunt, who captured thirty of the Indians, who were carried to Malaga, and sold into slavery. Thus we see, in many instances, the English rewarded the childlike simplicity of the Indians with some act of treachery. This, no doubt, caused much of the hatred which the Indians had against the English settlers, who for long years thereafter were attacked by the savages, who burned their dwellings and massacred their people. The French, on the other hand, held out the olive branch to the simple natives. They established missionaries among them, and treated them with kindness. The Indians took kindly to the catholic faith, and were ever after the faithful allies of the French.

The English based their claims in Maine, on the discoveries of Cabot, the occupation of Newfoundland by Gilbert in 1553, the voyages of Gosnold, Smith, Pring and Weymouth, by the Royal charter of 1616, and the occupancy of this region by Popham, and subsequently by Georges and others.

In 1675, an expedition of 2000 men was sent out from Massachusetts by the English to drive the French out of Canada. This action was demanded by Gov. Lawrence. When an army arrived from England to cooperate, they were placed under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Monkton, who added to this army 270 regulars and a small train of artillery. This expedition sailed in May, and before September every stronghold in Acadia was in the hands of the British. There were 18,000 inhabitants of French extraction, extending from the Penobscot along the coast to Nova Scotia, who by treaty between England and France were considered neutral, yet in war times they were indissolubly attached to the nation from which they sprang. They took no active part in the wars, but they secretly afforded aid, harbor and recruits to the enemy. So the resident authority demanded that these settlements be broken up, especially about the Basin of Minas and Cumberland county adjoining. Accordingly,

nearly two thousand of these people were captured, and transported along the coast from Maine to Florida. Some of the Acadians escaped the soldiers, and followed the St. John's river up to the northern border of Maine, and there settled near the river and carved out homes in this unsettled wilderness, where they could start life anew, free from hostile attacks, and near their nationals in Canada. There they live today in this isolated northeast of Maine, behind the great forest. Their home life is the same as that of the ancient Acadians; their homes, manner of dress, and their dialect remain unchanged. The village priest is their friend, and teacher of the young. Their town and postoffice is still called Acadia. These quaint people, as from another age, are most interestingly portrayed in Holman Day's "Red Lane."

In 1754, Spain joined France in declaration of War against England. As soon as the news reached America, their respective countrymen took up the quarrel here. The Indians of Maine and Canada aided the French, and for long years, this sparsely-settled country claimed by both nations, was the scene of bloodshed and distress. This war was the final struggle in America between the French Catholics and the English Protestants, in which the latter were the victors.

The claims of these warring nations to this region, of which Swan's Island was a part, kept this locality from being settled, and what few settlements were made were broken up. There were only a small colony here and there, protected by a fort in which they lived, and here they defied the dangers to which they were exposed.

The surrender of Quebec in 1759 marked the downfall of French authority in America. Baron Castine and his son, who had been active in leading the Indians against the British, abandoned their stronghold at Pentagoet, and retired back into the forest near the Canadian border. After these events these shores did not seem to offer much inducement to settlers until after the Revolution.

The extinction of French authority brought peace to these people on the coast. This constant warfare between nations and religions had kept all this region a barren wilderness. After the French were driven out, there were no settlers to take their places for several decades. During this interval there is no record of any inhabitants on Swan's Island. No doubt fishermen, who in increasing numbers, sailed along this coast, made our harbor their temporary shelter. If so, no record of them exists.

In 1655 there were thirteen towns and plantations in Maine, most of which were in the southern part, with a population of five or six thousand. These settlements were on the coast or bordering on the rivers. The settlers who came at that early period were inured to hardships. Many of them had served as soldiers in European wars; some were plain adventurers seeking novelty and conquest; still others, more ambitious, were looking for fabled wealth which former explorers had reported as existing in this new country. These rough, brave, adventurous men were well fitted to meet the hardships and dangers of subduing these new lands, beset by hostile savages. Their possessions at these settlements were a log cabin of little value, and a boat.

Changes of location were frequent, as they had little to leave behind when a more promising location presented itself. This roving life made dependence on crops impracticable, and for their subsistence, they depended upon the fisheries, game, and such grain as could be purchased of the Indians.

In 1740, there were twenty-five settlements, with a population of 12,000. These settlements were extended eastward, every year, along the coast. In 1760, Maine was divided into two counties. The western section was called Cumberland county, and all these vast unexplored forests, north and east to the Canadian border, was called Lincoln county. In the latter county, at Wiscasset, its shiretown, is found the first records of Swan's Island.

Most of these settlements along the coast were made by people who had previously come to Massachusetts from several European countries. These occupants were called "squatters". They had no title to the land they occupied, but nobody was interested enough in this region to dispute their claims, except as occasional clash with the Indians, whom they displaced.

As these people sailed eastward along this immediate coast, looking for a promising location, they found deserted sites of former French settlements. Quite large tracts had been cleared by these former occupants, and the green fields stretching back from the seashore smiled invitingly to these newcomers. Remains of cellars and houses were found. Rose bushes and other flowers still bloomed in summer time, near the old stone door-step. Fruit trees, apple, quince and thorn trees still yielded their fruits at autumn time.

These clearings became the location of the first English settlers in this vicinity. Each of these coastal settlements was separated from others, with little communication between them, and with their relatives left behind in Massachusetts. With no mails and little other means of communication, families separated would not hear from each other for years, and seldom would hear from the outside world they had left behind. Any fisherman who chanced to sail along the coast and brought news of their former homes, was eagerly received, and the traveler received the best hospitality their condition afforded.

After the French had been dispossessed, Massachusetts took possession of the "District of Maine," as it was then called, and began to take an interest in its development. She had three objects in view in encouraging citizens to purchase and settle this territory—first to obtain income from the sale of this vast tract of woodland in order to meet her obligations assumed during the Revolutionary War; second, to extend her colonizing scheme to enlarge the state, as nearly all the public lands in the commonwealth had already been claimed by settlers, and third, and most important to them, that only Protestants of their own denomination should become landholders within the state. The French Catholics for long years as their nearest neighbors on the east, had excited their apprehension, as they were considered not only the political but the religious enemy of all Englishmen.

The first grant of land east of the Penobscot river was made about the year 1762, when six townships, each six miles square, were sold. These were the present towns of Bucksport, Orland, Penobscot, Sedgwick, Bluehill and Surry.

These sales were in what is now Hancock county, but then Lincoln county. These townships extended from the Penobscot to the Union river. East of this tract, six other townships were sold on the same terms. Trenton was granted to David Bean et al, Mt. Desert to Governor Renard. The grantee furnished bonds of \$50 each, agreeing to lay out a township of not more than six miles square, to build sixty dwellings at least eighteen feet square, to prepare for tillage 300 acres of land, and erect a meeting house and settle a Protestant (Congregational) minister. One lot was reserved for schools, one for Harvard College, and one for a parsonage. This made a total of 1200 acres in each township reserved for public use.

Massachusetts attempted to sell fifty townships in 1786, between Mt. Desert and Passamaquoddy, by the means of lottery tickets, these lots to be exempt from taxation for fifteen years. A total of 2720 lottery tickets were to be sold for \$2 each. All were prize tickets. The smallest prize was a tract of land half a mile square, and the largest six miles square, or the size of an original township. On drawing the lottery, only 437 tickets were sold, 165,000 acres. This left 943,000 acres unsold. The commonwealth realized about fifty-two cents an acre. Many of these other lots were subsequently bought by William Bingham of Philadelphia, one of the wealthiest men of Colonial times. It is interesting to note that this Mr. Bingham had a daughter who married Alexander Baring of London, who later received the title of Lord Ashburton, and as ambassador to the United States from Great Britain, together with Daniel Webster, secretary of state, negotiated the treaty known as the Webster-Ashburn treaty, which established the long-disputed boundary line between Maine and Canada.

The first census taken of the District of Maine was in 1798, and showed a population of 96,540. In 1800 there were 151,719. The next decade gave 228,334 people. The colonizing plan had become successful and settlements had been made along the entire coast. On rivers, hunters and trappers had established trading posts, which gradually extended back to the Canadian border.

In 1783, the district of Maine became a political part of the Commonwealth, and thereafter had its representation in the General court at Boston. Shortly after the Revolution, efforts were made to erect Maine into a separate state. Several towns voted on the matter, but as most of the settlers came from Massachusetts, their attachment for the old Commonwealth was not weakened. In 1787 another effort was made, and carried by so small a majority and the whole vote so small, it was decided to abandon the project for the present.

The position that Massachusetts took in the war of 1812 in opposing the measures of Congress and the President was highly distasteful to the patriotic citizens of Maine, and undoubtedly influenced the next vote, which was so overwhelmingly strong that Maine was admitted into the Union as a separate state in 1820.

Hancock county, formerly a part of Lincoln, was organized in 1789, with Penobscot (Castine) as its shire town, which was later moved to Ellsworth.

This county has more numerous harbors and more extensive seaboard, tracing its inlets, harbors and bays, as well as its numerous islands, than any equal extent on the Atlantic coast. Within the civic limits of this county are three hundred islands, of which Mount Desert is the largest. Others are Deer Isle, Swan's Island, and many of lesser size, all of which form a segment of a circle oceanward.

When Massachusetts came into possession of Maine, a survey was made and the mainland was divided into townships, and the islands into groups, convenient for classifying, such as the Mt. Desert group, Deer Isle group, and Burnt Coat group. The Burnt Coat group of islands as recorded on their Plan Book, extended from Jericho Bay, east of Isle au Haut to Naskeag Point on the north, Mt. Desert on the east, and the Atlantic ocean on the south. The Burnt Coat group of twenty-five islands was purchased by Col. James Swan, a wealthy merchant, statesman and soldier, of Boston, in 1786. Unlike the former purchases made for investment, Col. Swan's plans were to make this his summer home. He was followed by his friend, Gen. Henry Knox, who came to Thomaston a few years later, and there purchased a vast estate, erected a mansion, and was for some years landlord over the largest estate ever owned by one man in Maine. These two men were pioneers of the many thousands of this and other countries, who later caused Maine to be called "The Playground of the Nation." Swan had chosen these island possessions instead of the mainland for his home. Here he brought, in his own ships, materials for building, workmen of different crafts, and proceeded to erect a fine mansion, which was said to have been the model for General Knox's mansion, "Montpelier", built a few years later in Thomaston.

These islands were then covered with a dense forest of evergreen trees, broken here and there by cleared patches of land, where former occupants had tilled the soil. He at once erected a saw and a grist mill. The timber cut by the woodsmen was rafted to the mill and manufactured into excellent wide pine boards and timber, which were used in the building of his mansion. The waste wood was disposed of as fuel, which was burned in their fireplaces. The surplus lumber found a ready market in the new settlements growing up along the coast. The vessels that carried away the lumber returned laden with all kinds of supplies for the workmen, and the other settlers.

The beauty of this group of islands, with its harbors and inlets, with the noble pines and hemlocks bordering the water's edge, no doubt appealed to the well known artistic taste of Col. Swan, and induced him to add this purchase to the already extensive properties he owned in Boston and elsewhere. This was to be his summer residence, where, amid attractive settings, he planned to erect a mansion unsurpassed in the commonwealth, where his aristocratic family could entertain their wealthy and cultured friends, of which the Swans and Knoxs were leaders.

This group of islands contains 9625 acres. Its surface contains no great elevations, but is generally hilly. The ocean has made great indentations into the land, cutting it into peninsulas, which in some instances nearly unite, the enclosures forming excellent harbors. Old Harbor is one of the largest and

safest on the whole Atlantic coast. The lighthouse on a high promontory marks the entrance to a narrow but deep channel, where ships find within this enclosure, like a great lake, safe and commodious harbor.

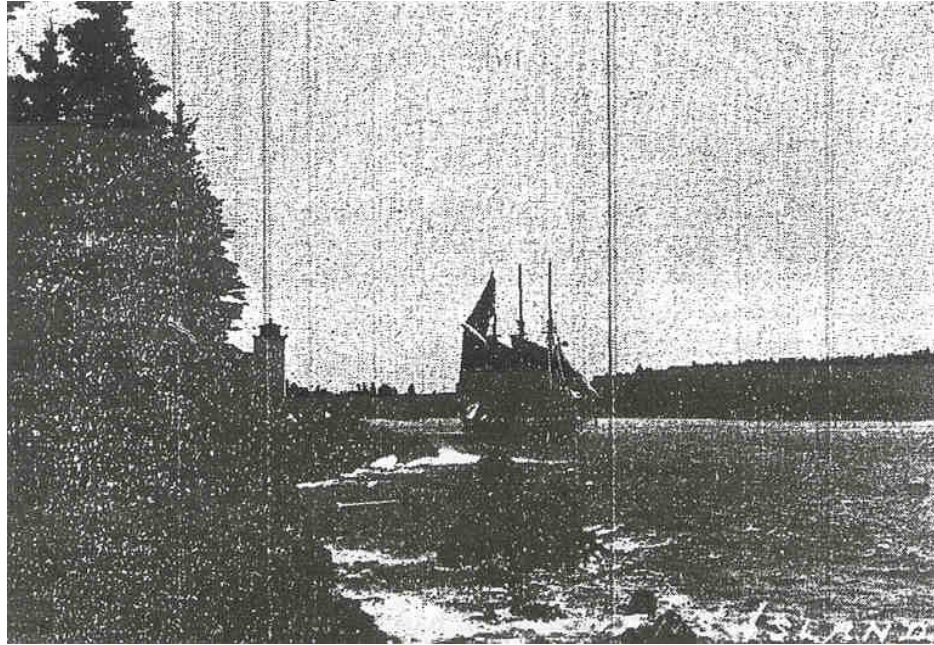


Figure 1: ENTRANCE TO OLD HARBOR

It has afforded anchorage, in past times, to hundreds of vessels. Excellent crops were raised in early times, as the soil was then fertile, but other occupations furnished more profitable employment. Fishing, coasting, and later yachting, were their chief occupations. In fact, this opportunity was of the cause of settlement here, as many of them had formerly followed the same occupation in the seacoast towns of Massachusetts. Fish of all kinds were then in great demand, not only for home use, but much was shipped to southern states and to the West Indies.

In subsequent years, other occupations have furnished employment. A silver mine was operated for a few years, but it did not prove profitable. An inexhaustible supply of granite forms the southern part of the island, and quarries have been successfully operated there for half a century, and are still furnishing excellent building material and paving blocks. But the fishing industry, now as ever in the past, is the general occupation of the people. Nearly every adult male person on the island is, or has been, employed in the fisheries, yachting, or in shipping.

Col. Swan was a man of great energy, with abundant means to carry out his plans. He proceeded to finish his mansion in a most extravagant manner. He built a store, and his ships brought from Boston dry goods and groceries, and many luxuries to which the natives had not been accustomed. There were also building materials, tools needed by his workmen, and other settlers to enable them to build up a town.

They began operation at the two mills, where great logs were converted into handsome lumber, loaded aboard ships lying at the newly constructed wharves, and carried to market. The grist mill ground corn and barley, first brought in ships, and later raised on the land that had been cultivated. The axe of the woodsmen, and the carpenter's hammer were heard on every hand, and everything for building the new settlement was in vigorous operation. Settlers with their families were constantly arriving to accept the lucrative wages, which to them seemed like riches, and all indications promised this to be one of the most thriving towns on the coast.

Just at this juncture, Col. Swan left Boston for Paris, where he entered upon a most ambitious business career, and in which, as noted later, he met with reverses, and for debts he was alleged to have owed the French government, he was confined in a debtor's prison twenty-two years. He never returned to this country, neither is it recorded that any of his family was interested in the estate which he left here. His business here was continued for several years by his agents, but later abandoned.

The settlers had to adjust themselves to this new condition, but the great expectations which they had justly conceived had come to an end. Some of the people remained, and worked out their subsistence in the manner of other coast settlements which had never had the promise of much alluring inducements.

PURCHASE, SETTLEMENT AND LAND TITLES

Following is the agreement, deed and receipt of payment for Burnt Coat group of islands between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and James Swan. These interesting records, which show what islands were included in the original purchase, were found in the Lincoln County Records of Deeds, in which county these islands were there included.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

This agreement made this twenty-fifth day of February, A. D. 1785, between the committee appointed by a Resolve of the General Court of the twenty-eighth of October, A. D. 1783, on the subject of unappropriated lands in the County of Lincoln, in behalf of the Commonwealth, on the one part, and James Swan of Dorchester on the other part.

Witnesseth, that the said Commonwealth Committee do agree to sell and convey to the said James Swan, to hold in fee, a certain island, commonly known by the name of Burnt Coat Island in said County of Lincoln, and all the islands the center thereof are within three miles of any part of the said Burnt Coat Island, and a good Deed thereof to be given to the said James Swan as soon as the same islands can be conveniently surveyed, and a return thereof had.

And the said James Swan agrees, on his part, to pay on the nineteenth Day of March next the sum of nineteen hundred and twenty pounds, in the consolidated securities of this Commonwealth to said committee, to the use of

said Commonwealth, and the further sum of three shillings, in the securities per acre, for every acre that shall be found to be contained in said Islands, over and above the number of twelve thousand eight hundred acres (to be paid for by the first said payment) on an accurate survey thereof in one year from this date.

Any island, the whole thereof is a barren rock, to be excepted, but no allowance to be made for bogs, ponds or waste lands, and on delivery of said deed to give satisfactory securities for the said last mentioned payment.

In witness thereof the parties aforesaid set their hands, the day and year first mentioned.

S. Phillips, Jr.,
Nathan Dane,
James Swan,
Samuel Page,
Committee.

Receipt of Payment

Received of James Swan, Esq., the first within mentioned sum of nineteen hundred and twenty pounds.

Nathan Dane.

Jan. 19, 1786

Received of the hon'ble Samuel Phillips, Esq., the above sum which was overpaid on the within Land purchased of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, say one hundred and twenty pounds.

James Swan.

DEED

Know all Men by these Presents, That we, Samuel Phillips, Jr., Nathaniel Wells and John Brooks, Esquires, a committee appointed by two resolves of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of the 28th of October, 1783, and 30th of November, 1785, on the subject of unappropriated Lands in the county of Lincoln, and by these and other Resolves of said Court, empowered to sell and convey the unappropriated Lands in said Commonwealth, in said County, for and in consideration of the sum of one thousand four hundred and fifty three Pounds, nine shillings, in the consolidated securities of said Commonwealth, to us paid by James Swan of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, and commonwealth aforesaid, Esquires, have given, granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents in behalf of said Commonwealth, do give, grant, bargain, sell, and convey unto the said James Swan, his heirs and assigns, the following Islands, lying and being in the County of Lincoln, and Commonwealth aforesaid, and situated southerly and southeasterly of a Point of N IV Township between the Penobscot River and Union River, granted by the General court of late Province of Massachusetts Bay to David Marsh and

others on the second Day of March one thousand seven hundred and sixty-two, and Southerly of the island called Mount Desert, viz: —

Burnt-Coat or Burnt Coal Island containing five thousand eight hundred and seventy-five acres, Island P, sixteen acres; Island I, six acres, 57 Rods; Island K, five acres, 136 Rods; John's island, twenty Acres, 10 Rods; Island N, twenty-three acres, 64 Rods; Island B, four acres; Hatt Island, twenty-four Acres; Harbor Island, one hundred forty-four Acres, 16 Rods; Marshall Island, eight hundred fifty-three Acres, 80 Rods; Little Marshall Island, forty-two Acres, 40 Rods; Island W. ten Acres; Island A, twenty-one Acres; Island C, forty-four Acres, 60 Rods, Island D, sixteen Acres; Island F, twenty Acres; Island G, thirty-three Acres; Long Island, one thousand one hundred thirty-two Acres, 30 Rods; Pond Island, two hundred and seven Acres; Island U, seventeen Acres, 100 Rods; Islands V, three Acres; Westly Calf Island, two hundred fifty-six Acres, 140 Rods; Eastern Calf Island, one hundred sixty-two Acres, 80 Rods; all of which islands belong and comprise the division of Islands called the Burnt Coat division, surveyed for the Commonwealth aforesaid, Anno Domini 1785 according to a plan thereof, returned unto the aforesaid Committee's office by Rufus Putnam, and entered in Plan Book, page 118, in which Plan the several Islands aforesaid with their Magnitude, Bearings and distances from each other, as well as from Naskeag Point, are laid down, which Division of the Islands are Separated from other Islands, and bounded as follows, viz: —

Southerly by the Atlantic Ocean, Westerly by Jericho Bay, which separates them from the Island of Holt and the Deer Island division, Northerly by a line drawn due East from the southern extreme of Naskeag Point into Placentia Bay, which divides them from Great Placentia Island, and other Islands lying Southerly of Mount Desert.

Also two other Islands lying Easterly of Placentia Bay, aforesaid, surveyed and included in the Mount Desert Division of Islands, entered in the aforesaid Plan Book, Page 132, viz: —Great Placentia Island containing four hundred forty-seven Acres, 155 Rods; and is Situated northeasterly of said Burnt Coat Island, about three hundred and seventy rods; and Black Island containing two hundred ninety-two Acres, 55 Rods, lying southerly of Great Placentia Island, distance there from about two hundred and forty rods. Both of these as well as all other Islands before described, being within three miles of some part or other of the Great Island before mentioned.

The before described Islands containing in the whole nine thousand six hundred twenty-three Acres and three rods by Measure, according to the Several Plans of the same in the aforesaid committee's office.

Together with the Rights, Members, Profits, Privileges and Appurtenances whatever thereto belonging, or in any wise appertaining. To have and to hold the said bargained and granted Premises with appurtenances unto him, the said Swan, His heirs and Assigns to his and their proper use, and behoof forever. And the said Committee, in behalf of said Commonwealth, covenant and agree with said Swan, his Heirs and Assigns, that at the time of ensealing thereof, the said Commonwealth of Massachusetts is seized and possessed of

said granted Premises in fe, and that they the said Samuel Phillips, Jun., Nathaniel Wells and John Brooks, have good right in their said Capacities, and in behalf of said Commonwealth to sell and convey the same in the manner aforesaid, the Premises being free of all Incumbrances, and the said Commonwealth shall warrant and defend the same granted Premises to the said James Swan, his Heirs and Assigns forever against the lawful claims and Demands of all Persons.

In witness whereof, the said Committee hereunto set their hands and Seals this seventh Day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six.

Samuel Phillips, Jun.	[Seal]
Nath'l Wells	[Seal]
J. Brooks	[Seal]

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
In the presence of

Leonard Jarvis
George R. Minot

Suffolk ss. July 7, 1786

Then the within named Samuel Phillips, Junr, Nath'l Wells, and John Brooks personally appeared and acknowledged the before Written Instrument by each of them signed, to be their free Act and Deed, before me.

Samuel Metcalf,
Justice of the Peace.

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF COLONEL JAMES SWAN

Col. Swan was the original purchaser of the twenty-five islands included in the Burnt Coat group. The largest of these islands, which contains this town, was named for him—Swan's Island.

He was born in Fifeshire, Scotland, in 1754, and came to this country about the year 1765. Although a small boy, this young Scotchman was unusually active and intelligent, and soon found employment in Boston. As a boy, he was studious, and devoted all his spare time to his books, and in this way secured an excellent education. While yet a young man, he had a varied experience. Before his twenty-second year, while yet a clerk in a counting house opposite the East End of Faneuil Hall, he had written and published a work on the African slave trade. This book was published in 1772, and was entitled, "A Discussion of Great Britain and Her Colonies from the Slave Trade." A copy of this work is said to be in the Boston public library.

He served several years as apprentice with Thaxter & Son, and while there formed intimate acquaintance with several other clerks who, in after years, became widely known. Among these were Benjamin Thompson, afterwards made Count Rufford by the King of Bavaria, and Henry Knox, a life-long

friend, who became a book binder on Cornhill, and later a noted general in the Continental army.

While Swan was thus employed, he boarded with other clerks on Hanover street. This was at the time of the birth of the Boston Tea Party. Swan had taken a great interest in the stirring events which were transpiring just previous to the Revolutionary war, and all his sympathies were awakened in behalf of the Americans, who were struggling against great odds to resist the tyrannical laws by which the British were trying to enslave the colonies. Under protest, Great Britain had repealed most of these obnoxious taxes, but as a matter of principle they retained the tax on tea. An immense meeting was held in Faneuil Hall to discuss the matter, and it was there decided that the tea in the ships at the wharf should not be brought ashore. Accordingly a party of the "Sons of Liberty," who has been trained as a local militia, disguised as Indians, went aboard of the ship, and emptied three hundred and forty-two chests of tea into the harbor. History relates that while these young men were on their way home from the Tea Party, they passed a house at which Admiral Montague, a British officer, was spending the evening. This officer raised the window and cried out, "Well boys, you had a fine night for your Indian caper, but mind, you have got to pay the fiddler yet." "O, never mind," replied one of the leaders, "never mind, Squire! Just come on out here, if you please, and we will settle the bill in two minutes." The admiral thought best to let the bill stand, and quickly shut down the window. When Swan and his companions returned to their boarding house, with tea in their shoes and smooched faces, they ran the gauntlet of other boarders at the next morning's breakfast.

Among others who were in the Tea Party was Samuel Gore, who lived to the advanced age of ninety-eight years; George Robert, who lived to the age of ninety-two, and Samuel Sprague, father of the poet.

Swan, although he had been trained for some months in the local militia, saw his first actual engagement at the Battle of Bunker Hill, where he was twice wounded. It was said he was voluntary aid to General Warren, but that is improbable, as all accounts of that battle showed that Warren declined command, and was killed while fighting in the ranks, so it is not probable that he would have had an aid-de-camp. Swan was soon promoted to captain in Craft's artillery, and as such was constantly drilling recruits in towns near Boston. He was present at the evacuation of Boston by the British, March 17, 1776. The next day, he was present and witnessed the entrance of Washington into Boston amid great rejoicing, as the inhabitants had been besieged for eleven months. Swan next became secretary of Massachusetts Board of War. During the time he held that office, he drew heavily on his private funds to aid the Continental army, which was then in dire need of funds to arm and equip the soldiers who were arriving in Boston from all parts of New England. He was elected to the General Court, where he took an active part in the stirring debates, in which Massachusetts and Virginia were the leading colonies, and in which plans were being made for future action.

Swan was promoted to adjutant general of the state. At the close of the war, he was a major of a cavalry corps. Throughout the war he occupied

positions of trust, often requiring great courage and cool judgment, and the fidelity with which these duties were performed was shown by the honors conferred upon him after his return to civil life. He was an intimate personal friend of Knox, Lafayette and Washington, and was in constant communication with those leaders. They depended upon his energetic efforts in raising funds, and recruiting men, but his advice was followed by his own and other states.

It seems peculiar, that of a man of Col. Swan's position as a soldier and financier, as well as the distinguished position socially of his family and the honored connections of his children in marriage, so little has been written concerning him in the Boston records. I was fortunate to get in touch with a relative, Samuel G. Clarke of Marietta, Georgia. He was a well-known writer, and was at that time in his eighty-eighth year. He was well acquainted with the Swan family history. His letter was as follows:

Marietta, Georgia, Nov. 10, 1894.

H. W. Small, M. D.

Dear Sir: — Mr. B. F. Stevens of Boston has forwarded me your letter asking for information respecting Col. Swan and his family. I can give more information about the colonel's family than himself, as he was living in France in my early days—that is from 1806 and before. I think he went abroad soon after the Revolution.

James Swan was born in Scotland, and came to this country probably from 1760 to 1770. As a young man, he was a clerk in a book store, as I have heard, perhaps in the same store in which Henry Knox was a clerk, as they were always intimate. My great grandfather, Barnaby Clarke, was a merchant and ship owner in Boston before the Revolution. He had two children, Samuel and Hepzebah. Col. Swan, in 1776, married Hepzebah. There was a wealthy Scot, and old bachelor, named William Dennie, living in Boston at the time, who was connected in business with Barnaby Clarke, and in whose employ Samuel Clarke, my grandfather, sailed as shipmaster. A strong friendship existed between Barnaby Clarke and William Dennie, and the latter having no relatives in America, often said he should divide his entire property between the two children of the former. When he died, however, he left his entire fortune to Mrs. Swan, being instigated thereto, it was believed, by the influence of Swan.

Both my grandfather and James Swan entered the army of the Revolution. The latter became colonel of artillery, and my grandfather, Samuel Clarke, was a major in one of the Boston regiments that took part in the Rhode Island campaign under General Sullivan, which failed on account of a great storm which prevented the cooperation of the French fleet. In this storm grandfather contracted a disease of which he died in Boston at the age of twenty-six years, leaving a widow, and an infant son, also Samuel Clarke. By his will he divided his property between his widow and son and made his brother-in-law, James Swan, one of the executors of the will, and the guardian of his child. His will gave directions as to the investments and care of the estate, none of

which was observed by Col. Swan, and when my father came of age, twenty years after, he was only able to obtain his property by a law suit with Col. Swan. Swan was a land speculator on a large scale, and brought the confiscated property of the Torries in Boston. Among others was an estate belonging to Governor Hutchinson, lying on Tremont street, between West and Boylston streets, which became very valuable property.

Col. Swan was in Paris at the time of the first Revolution. Whether he returned to Boston, I do not know, but if he did, he went back, and spent the remainder of his life in France. He became a heavy contractor for the supply of the French army. Mrs. Swan was with him for a time, but returned home, leaving her husband to follow. She built a fine house at Dorchester, on her estate, near Boston, furnished it with furniture and paintings from France. She also owned three handsome houses on Chestnut street, Boston, for her three daughters, who married Dr. John C. Howard, William Sullivan and John T. Sargent, all of Boston.

Col. Swan had a son named James, born in 1783, who married a daughter of Gen. Henry Knox, and resided at Thomaston, Maine, and died childless. He was educated at Harvard College. Mrs. Swan's daughters had large families; many of their descendents lived in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, and were highly respectable people.

Col. Swan transposed his property from Paris to his wife in Boston, intending to return home, but was arrested by the French government on a charge of heavy debt to it. This he denied, declaring the government owed him, but was confined in St. Pelagie, where he lived in luxury on funds sent him by his wife. There he remained until the ascension of Louis Phillipe, when he was released, but died before he could return to America.

Although eighty-eight years of age, I never saw Col. Swan, he having, as I said, gone abroad before my time, but my father's aunt, Mrs. Swan, and her family, I was intimate with. What I have written, I received from my grandmother, Mrs. Freeman, wife of Rev. James Freeman, whom she married some years after her first husband's death; and from letters in my possession, from Col. Swan to my father, in which he acknowledged his debt, and promised payment.

Yours,
Samuel G. Clarke.

At the beginning of the Revolution, Swan was said to have owned two and one-half million acres of land in Mingo, Wyoming, and McDowal counties in Western Virginia, Pike county in Kentucky, and Tazwell county, Virginia. He sold what he could of this property, and devoted the proceeds to furthering the cause of American independence. In return for this service, the state of Virginia reeded to him all the property on which he had a claim, and gave to him much more lying west of the Alleghenies. This property, like that at Swan's Island and elsewhere, was neglected after his departure for France. Towns and cities grew up on his lands, and not until after his death did his heirs make a claim for these now valuable lands in the courts of that state.

The last attempt was made in 1894, and the following account of that event is taken from the Abington, Virginia, paper, and is as follows: —

“A case involving the ownership of over 500,000 acres of valuable land in the counties of Mingo, McDowell and Logan, West Virginia, and Buchanan county, Virginia, is now on trial in the United States court at Abington. The site of the entire town of Williamson, W. V., is involved in the suit, and thousands of acres of land are occupied by descendents of the original settlers or innocent purchasers. A small part of the land is across the line, over the Kentucky border.

The case is the fifth which has been brought for the possession of this land, and the entire story of the litigation is a romantic one. The importance of the case may be estimated by the array of legal talent engaged in its prosecution. The list includes Judge Maynard Stiles of Boston, Col. Daniel King of Abington, Hon. H. A. Shepherd of West Virginia, W. K. Belnap of Philadelphia, and J. A. Henry of Lynchburg, Va., besides a number of lawyers of more local reputation.

This suit is of historical interest, through the romantic story connected with Col. Swan's ownership of the original tract of land, which was granted to him by the house of Burgesses of Virginia after the close of the Revolution, in consideration of his having placed his entire fortune at the service of the patriotic army. The original tract embraced a vast domain containing 2,500,000 acres, in that part of the territory which now forms part of Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky.

Col. Swan was a man who delighted in large projects. He had formed a close friendship with Gen. Washington in the Continental army, and he had conceived the idea to form a great French colony of the proscribed nobility and their supporters on his possessions here. He went to Paris with this new idea in view. There he met a number of former army officers, among them Lafayette, who at that time was the head of the Revolutionary French army. Here Swan entered into the fast life of the French court, and borrowed vast sums of money on his western possessions.

The crisis in France was at hand, and with the overthrow of the monarchy, came the end of his colonizing scheme. His debts were pressing, and his creditors finally had him confined in a debtor's prison, where he remained twenty-two years. He was finally released, but his friends had fled, or suffered death. He was a bankrupt, and soon after his release, he died.

The Virginia legislature appointed Pierre Dumas of Paris, trustee for the French heirs, for Col. Swan had married while abroad, and had several children. Years afterwards, the trusteeship was transferred to the United States, and was held successively by Josiah Randall, by John Reed, both of Philadelphia, by A. J. Lemoyney of Baltimore, and now by Mr. King of Boston. There are several hundred claimants in this country as well as in France, and the testimony is voluminous, and may consume four or five weeks.”

Col. Swan owned a great deal of valuable property in Boston. There was on the southern side of Dudley street, near Dorchester, an estate of one Col.

Estes Hatch, who died, leaving it to his son, Nathaniel, who was a Tory, and went with other Loyalists to Halifax in 1776. This property consisted of sixty acres of the most valuable part of Boston. It was purchased by Col. Swan, in 1780, for 18,000 pounds, and was afterwards offered to Governor Hancock for 40,000 pounds, but he would not pay the price Swan demanded.

After the war, Col. Swan lived on the corner of West and Tremont streets. This place was afterwards sold and converted into a garden theatre. The house he owned on Dudley street was one of the old pre-war mansions in the fashionable part of the city. In Dorchester, Mrs. Swan later built an elegant summer residence, a part of which is now standing in good condition.

During Swan's residence in Boston, he gave liberal entertainment. Among those who accepted his hospitality were the Marquis de Viomeuil, Gen. Lafayette, Gen. Knox, and others of the most distinguished people of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia.

Later, Col. Swan became deeply involved in debt, due to speculations that turned out badly. Previous to this he was considered one of the wealthiest men of Boston. To retrieve his fortune, he went to France in 1787, three years after the purchase of these islands, and entered into business in Paris, and through the influence of Lafayette, and other men in control of the affairs of the nation, he made a fortune through government contracts to supply their army. Here he lived through all the dark days and turmoil of the Revolution. He seemed to have retained a most influential position in the French capital during those years of upheaval, when one popular idol would gain ascendancy while it had the unstoppable support of the mob, when he would lose his head on the guillotine, to be succeeded by another more radical still.

During this time of persecutions and debauchery, Col. Swan conceived the humane plan of colonizing the proscribed nobility with whom he had been intimately associated, to his lands in America. He had interested a number of immigrants in this project, and received on board his ships vast quantities of fabulously rich furniture, paintings, tapestries and personal belongings, but before the owners could follow their property, the relentless guillotine had caught them in its hungry jaws. The laden ships put to sea with this treasure, and arrived safely in Boston, where these furnishings adorned the handsome Dorchester mansion of Mrs. Swan, and some of it found its way to Gen. Henry Knox's mansion in Thomaston when Swan's son married the former's youngest daughter and took up his residence in Thomaston, Maine.

One of these ships was commanded by Capt. Stephen Clough of Wiscasset. He was an eye witness of the execution of the French queen, and this fiendish act was indelibly impressed upon his mind. He gave to his youngest daughter the name Marie Antoinette, in memory of her.

Of these ship loads of valuable cargos which found their way into the homes of Mrs. Swan and her daughters, some are still in the possession of their descendents, and others were disposed of in Boston and elsewhere. A massive soup tureen was bought of this family by a gentleman of Boston. If its mate could have been procured, it would readily have sold for a thousand dollars. Comparatively useless of itself, it was eventually sold in the East

Indies. At a period long subsequent, its companion was found in Boston. A pair of andirons of elegant and elaborate workmanship was brought from Paris, and for a long enjoyed a "golden" reputation. Later they became the property of the late George Blake, and after his death, they were discovered to be of brass gilt.

Among the furnishings going to the Knox mansion were three handsome sideboards to be disposed of, and still remain as relics in Knox county. One of these is still in Thomaston, as the property of the late Hezekiah Prince, Knox's agent, and was purchased by him in 1813, when he resided at Mill river, in a house built and furnished by Knox for his son Henry. This house, at that time, as well as much of the general's other property, had passed into the hands of his creditors, and was sold, and bought by Prince. It remained in the hands of the Prince family for twenty-five years, and was then sold to Charles S. Coombs. Another of the sideboards was purchased by Samuel Fuller of Thomaston, and sold to Boston parties.

Prince Tallyrand was conveyed to Boston in one of Swan's ships in 1794, from which place he visited many places in Maine. Among them was Mt. Desert, where tradition says he was born, the son of a French navel commander. Tradition has painted a romance interestingly described by Prof. O. W. Sawtelle in his published records of Mt. Desert.

Mrs. Swan accompanied her husband to France, where she shared his hospitality among the French aristocracy, but in those perilous days she preferred the safety and luxury of her Boston home. On his second trip, Col. Swan came to grief. It was claimed he had contracted a debt of 2,000,000 francs. This indebtedness he denied, and refused to pay. He was caused to be arrested by the French government, then in temporary power, and confined for twenty-two years in St. Pelagie, a debtor's prison, from the year 1808 to 1830. Swan proposed to remain a prisoner rather than secure his liberty on an unjust plea. He proposed by a life-long captivity, if necessary, to protest against his pretended creditor's injustice. He gave up his wife, children, friends, and the comforts of his Parisian and New England homes for a principle. He made preparations for a long stay in prison.

Swan's sincere friend, Lafayette, in vain tried to prevail upon him to forego his designs of living and dying in St. Pelegie; but, no, he was stubborn to the last. He lived in a little cell in the prison, and was treated with great respect by the other prisoners, they putting aside their little furnaces on which they cooked their food, that he might have more room for exercise. Not a day passed without some kind act on his part, and he was known to have been cause of the liberation of many poor debtors.

When a jailer would introduce his pretended creditor, Col. Swan would salute him politely, and say to the former, "My friend, return me to my chamber." Here for long years he remained in prison, until on July 28, 1830, on the ascension of Louis Phillipe to the throne, he was discharged from prison with all other debtors, at the age of seventy-six years. This St. Pelagie was the prison where Madam Roland, of whom Thiers speaks so beautifully, and the infamous Du Barry, mistress of Louis XV, were taken to execution,

and where Josephine experienced her first vicissitude of fortune, as related in the story of her life by Imbert de St. Amand.

With funds sent him by his wife in America, Swan hired apartments in the Rue de la Clif, opposite St. Pelagie, which he caused to be outfitted up at great expense, with dining room, drawing room, stables, coaches and outhouses. Here he invited his friends and lodged his servants, putting at the disposal of the former his carriages, in which they drove to the promenade, the ball, the theatre, everywhere in his name. At this Parisian home, he gave great dinners to his guests, at which there was always a place left for the absent one at the table.

Swan seemed happy in braving his creditors. He allowed his beard to grow, dressed a la mode, and was cheerful to the last day of his confinement. When the Revolution of 1830 discharged these prisoners from St. Pelagie, this brave old man, who had passed through our own Revolution with honor, as well as through the horrors of the French Revolution, one of the bravest of our heroes went with them.

Three day later, July 31, he returned to St. Pelagie to reinstate himself a prisoner, for what could this old man do, who had passed nearly a third of his life in prison? He found his former friends missing, his wife was dead, and conditions had all changed. His long confinement had robbed him of any desire to enter again the world outside, which was strange to him. His health was broken and his fortune gone.

After his freedom, his one desire was to embrace his friend, Lafayette. This he did on the steps of the hotel de Ville. The next morning, Col. Swan was dead. He was seized with a hemorrhage, and died suddenly on the steps of the Rue d'Echiquier, near where Jordan Marsh Co. have their foreign office. No doubt he was buried in Paris, as he was not buried beside Mrs. Swan. He was said to have been a fine looking old gentleman, greatly resembling the great philosopher and statesman, Benjamin Franklin.

Col. Swan's career seems to have had many elements of greatness, which was especially shown by his sacrifices and heroism, and the placing of his fortune at the disposal of the Continental army during the dark days of uncertainty of our Revolution, as well as many deeds of charity and hospitality which characterized his whole life. It is to be regretted that his otherwise noble and generous character should at times have been blemished by his financial transactions. From humble surroundings, he rose to an empire builder, with dreams of luxury and power of feudal times. It is an interesting fact that many great men have vulnerable spots in their armor, and Col. Swan, with his ambitious projects and daring undertakings, his mistakes and shortcomings, must be reckoned from the good he did.

During Swan's stay in Paris, he and Gen. Knox co-operated in their business transactions. On Knox vast domain, he had saw mills, which cut into splendid boards and timber the primitive growth of pine, and this lumber was shipped to France to be disposed of by Col. Swan. Their ships returned laden with rich gleanings of French treasure. Capt. Clough commanded the ship which carried on this valuable commerce.

The following article written by the "Saunterer" and published in the Evening Express, which he gleaned on a trip to Wiscasset, tells in an interesting manner of a tradition of those times, of which Col. Swan was an active participant.

"While in Wiscasset lately, I called to mind a venture of a the long, long ago, which had its location in this sleepy little village, and which savors of romance as strongly as the ocean breezes tang with the salt of the sea. It is a story that the old residents like to tell, and which never grows old in their affection. It is woven into the sad and thrilling life story of Marie Antoinette, the beautiful, illfated queen of France, and is filled with the spirit of adventure.

"Against the town of Wiscasset lies Edgecomb island, which in days long gone was historic ground. For many years it was in possession of the French, and on the neighboring shores clustered a great community for the eighteenth century. Wiscasset was a shipping point of considerable importance. Its broad harbor sheltered many vessels, and other settlements around made it their port of entry. In those days, over on Edgecomb island, which the natives called Folly island, and sometimes Jeremy Squam, old Capt. Decker built a fine and spacious mansion, regarded in those times as a palace. It was really a plain two-story structure, clapboarded, and square, with one huge chimney rising from the center of the building. Until his death, Capt. Decker lived there. He left it to his partner in shipbuilding business, one Capt. Stephen Clough, who found things well laid out for his succession in 1792. Among other things to which he became heir, Capt. Clough received the tight little bark Sally of Wiscasset, whose speed has sent her down in history as a racer and formidable adversary.

"Now the Sally was engaged in carrying lumber under contract from Wiscasset to Paris, and in the dreadful period of the Revolution, Capt. Clough became well acquainted with the French spirit. Over his door on Edgecomb island, and on his saucy bark, the tri-colors waved, and there he dined many a French officer in his handsome home. So it was not strange that the sad and sorrowful arrest of the queen he had learned to honor, should have made a strong impression upon him.

"Capt. Clough was hand in hand with Bennete Claud de St. Pyr, a trusted officer of Lyons, and between them it was known, they hatched up the pretty plot to rescue the imprisoned queen. The Sally lay at anchor in Paris harbor waiting for a return cargo, and the master, filled with youthful enthusiasm and love of adventure, loitered about the city waiting for a chance. Trusties, disguised as longshoremen, conferred with him at discrete intervals and the bold plan was completed.

"Marie Antoinette was to be rescued from prison, and with few of her trusted friends, was to be bourne swiftly aboard the good bark Sally, and then if God were good, Capt. Clough was to take her and her companions safely to his home on the Squam. The captain was eager to begin the work, and not to be discouraged by any mishap. Day by day goods came aboard the Sally, and if those bundles had been unwrapped, they would have disclosed royal

furniture, clothing of the costliest design, all designated for the future use of the queen. When everything was aboard, there was little room for further cargo on the Sally.

“At last all was ready. The signal, the method, the hour, all were agreed upon. Only the arrival of the queen delayed the departure of the bark. For days Capt. Clough waited for the signal. It never came. One day he heard the queen had been removed to another and deeper dungeon. Then, on October 15, 1793, he jammed into the crowd and saw her led, in pure white robe which she herself had made, to the knife to be murdered for the pleasure of the Jacobins. Then Capt. Clough gave up his mission of saving the queen, but his work was not ended.

“During his waiting in the harbor of Paris, he had been in consultation with the queen’s best friend, Prince Tallyrand, to whom she was greatly attached. It was said, with much evidence of truth, that when the Sally came home to Wiscasset, in 1794, that Tallyrand was one, at least, of the passengers. No other ship, as far as known, was in the service of the French commerce at that time, and it is certain that Tallyrand arrived at Wiscasset on that date. From that town he traveled to Augusta, not far away, where he called upon Capt. North, a famous man of that period. Then the Prince went to Dresden, Hallowell and Thomaston. At the later place he was the guest, for some time, of Gen. Knox, and from there he went to the National capitol in Philadelphia.

“For many years the old sailors of Woolwich and of Sheepscot Bay had strange tales to tell of this attempted rescue of the French queen, and of the possession at Edgecomb island of royal furnishings and clothing brought there by Capt. Clough while they were in his employ as seamen.

“The owner of the lumber trade in which Capt. Clough and other captains of this district were employed was one Col. Swan of Boston town. He seemed to have had a hand in the proposed rescue of the ill-starred queen, for at any rate, after the arrival of the bark Sally in 1794, and a declaration of failure of the rescue plan, Mrs. Swan built a fine mansion in Dorchester, and in it the astonished neighbors found such fine furnishings and draperies as they had never dreamed of. Not only were there many pieces of comfortable rich furniture, but there was one bed which Col. Swan’s family always called the Marie Antoinette bed, and many beautiful court gowns, foreign to anything the natives of Boston had ever seen, were at times displayed for their admiration.

“One of the relics of that expedition is in this city (Portland) or has been in years not long past. The late Hon. James P. Baxter, father of the present governor of Maine, and several times mayor of Portland, owned a sideboard of ancient French marquetry, semi-circular in form, and supporting an elegant urn. This sideboard was known to have been brought over in the Sally. When Col. Swan’s son, James, married a daughter of Gen. Knox, this sideboard was contributed by Mrs. Swan to the furnishings of “Montpelier,” Knox’s mansion in Thomaston. It was on exhibition here in 1881, and was bought by Mayor

Baxter. The urn was traced to Chelsea, Mass., and there bought by Mrs. Baxter, and brought back to this city, once more to rest upon he sideboard.”

Col. Swan's wife, Hepzibah Clarke Swan, together with Hon. Jonathan Mason, who died in 1831, owned the Mount Vernon place which Mrs. Swan occupied during her husband's stay abroad. She was a woman of great wealth, and aristocratic breeding, of great personal beauty, of strong impulses—a most marked and decided character. Col. Swan remitted large sums of money to his wife, which were invested for her use, and were subject to her power of appointment. Besides this, she received two-tenths of all the income from her Dorchester estates, and numerous other properties in Boston. She loaned considerable money to Gen. Knox in furthering the extravagant expenditures on his estate in Thomaston. Repeated attempts were made by creditors of Col. Swan to attach her property in Boston, which they claimed was purchased by the creditor's funds in the hands of Swan, but their claims were not successful.

Mrs. Swan lived for a number of years in an elegant mansion later purchased by Benjamin Wells, on Chestnut street, but as stated, her summer home was at Dorchester, where she entertained many of the distinguished and fashionable people in public life in this country, and many from foreign lands. In these beautiful grounds, Mrs. Swan, who died in 1826, was buried, as also was Col. Henry Jackson, the lifelong friend of the family and their attorney. The march of civilization, and the horse railroads in Dorchester ran through this tomb, so the bodies of Mrs. Swan and Gen. Jackson were removed to Mount Auburn cemetery.

Col. and Hepzibah (Clarke) Swan were the parents of four children, viz:

Hepzibah Clark Swan.

Christine Keadie Swan.

Sarah Webb Swan.

James Keadie Swan.

All these children were connected in marriage with the most distinguished families of those times in Boston and elsewhere.

Hepzibah C. Swan married John Clark Howard of Boston, who died, leaving several children, two of whom married in Boston—one to Rev. Francis Wayland, D. D., late president of Brown University, and the other to Rev. C. A. Bartol, the noted divine of West church, Boston.

Christine Keadie Swan married first John Turner Sargent, esq. He died in 1814. They were the parents of Rev. John Turner Sargent, jr., who died in Boston, May 26, 1877. She married, second, Rev. Dr. Richardson. After the death of the latter, she, by the permission of the General Court, resumed the family name of her first husband. For several years she occupied the family mansion of her mother in Dorchester. In early life she was eminently distinguished for her beauty. Her real name was Christine Keadie, but she was always called “Kittie” Swan. She was the mother of three distinguished sons, one of whom, Rev. John T. Sargent, before mentioned, was one of the leading preachers in Boston for many years. Another was a musician of

considerable talent, and also a poet of some reputation. He published a volume of his poems.

Sarah Webb Swan married William Sullivan, a noted lawyer in Boston. She was a most refined, amiable and ladylike person, and her husband was equally distinguished. His elegant manners, kind disposition, and considerate notice of the young, made his acquaintance most agreeable in the refined circles in which they moved, and in their home, where the charming hospitality of this beautiful and accomplished family, made their acquaintance a delight to their many friends and visitors. One of Sullivan's daughters married the talented artist, Stewart Newton, and after his death she became the wife of a Mr. O'Key of New York. Sullivan was a man of education and refinement. He published an interesting volume entitled "Familiar Letters on Public Characters." At the bar he was a pleasing speaker and took high rank in his profession.

James Keadie Swan was born in 1783, and was graduated from Harvard college in 1802. He was described as "A spoiled child of wealth and dissipation, with no business, no capacity, little taste, and no means of earning a livelihood, but for a yearly allowance from his mother." He married, as was said at that time through the influence of "two scheming mothers" Caroline F., the youngest daughter of General Henry Knox of Thomaston, in 1808. She was sixteen years of age, and a most charming and amiable person. After their marriage, Swan took up residence in Thomaston, where he lived "in and on" the old Knox estate, and where his wife endured him for twenty-eight years. For many years before his death, debauchery and drunkenness had left him an idiot. He died March 22, 1836, over fifty years of age.

Mrs. Swan married, second Hon. John Holmes of Alfred, Maine. He moved to Thomaston, where he repaired and occupied the Knox mansion. The second marriage of Mrs. Swan was as happy as the first had been unhappy and humiliating. Mr. Holmes' mansion at Alfred is still standing. It was built in 1802, soon after his first marriage, and was one of the most beautiful of the Colonial period. He was the son of Melatiah Holmes, of Kingston, Mass. At the age of seventeen he felt the need of an education, but his parents were of limited means. He taught school to pay his expenses. After years of labor, he was graduated from Brown University in 1796. He entered the law office of B. Whitman, and opened a law office in the old Webber Tavern. About the year 1800, Mr. Holmes' talent as a lawyer began to be recognized, and from that time until his death, he continuously served in public office. He was elected to the General Court as a representative, and later as senator, and while in the Massachusetts senate, his speeches attracted the attention, not only of the State, but also the nation, especially during the War of 1812, in which he vigorously opposed the position that Massachusetts took in opposing the action of the President and congress, while the country was at war with a foreign country. In 1818 he was active in his efforts to have Maine set off as a separate State, and his support contributed in no small degree, when this was accomplished in 1820. At the first session of the Maine legislature, he was chosen one of the two United States Senators from this

State, and held that office for eleven years. At the close of the war, President Monroe appointed him as commissioner to settle the boundary dispute between Maine and Canada. He also served his state in the legislature and as District Attorney. Mr. Holmes died suddenly, July 7, 1843, in Portland, while attending court at that place. Mrs. Holmes died in Thomaston, Oct. 17, 1851, aged sixty-one years. She was buried in the family lot at Thomaston. She had no children.

After Swan purchased the Burnt Coat group of islands in 1786, he proceeded at once to get this property settled with tenants, and proceeded to erect a mansion, which he intended to use for a summer home, where his family could entertain at their "Island Empire," as they called it, their aristocratic guests, as the Knox family did at Thomaston. But by the time the mansion was completed, he had left this country for France, never to return. His property here was left in the hands of his agent, Joseph Prince, whose wife's name was Joanna, of Beverly, Mass. He came here soon after Swan's purchase, and managed his business, for which he received \$500 a year, and his family supported. He managed the store and mills until his departure, about 1800. After Prince's departure, Swan's business was managed by various agents, and later by different attorneys. There is no record that Mrs. Swan, or any of her children was interested in the property here, and one of Swan's grandchildren, who resided in Chicago, wrote me she never heard of Swan's Island or knew of his connection therewith until she came into possession of a history of Swan's Island.

In Hancock County Registry of Deeds, volume 14, page 485, is recorded the will of Colonel Swan. I make the following abstract from that document: "James Swan, of Dorchester, U. S. A., now in Paris, made in prison, Sept. 9, 1824, proved May 7, 1831. He willed property to his wife, Hepzibah Clark Swan; his sister, Margaret, widow of David Swan of Leith, Scotland; brother Cowper Swan, for services in France; brother-in-law John Nixson, who is employed in the N. E. Glass Works in Boston, for loss he met in removing from Nova Scotia to Boston; oldest daughter, Hepzibah Clark, Widow of John Howard Clark, of Boston; Christina Keadie, widow of John Turner Sargent of Boston; Sally or Sarah Webb, wife of William Sullivan, and son James Keadie, "who has a bad description." Mrs. Swan and Mrs. Sullivan were named executors."

In his will he donated large sums of money to his children, and to the city of Boston to found an institution called the Swan Orphan Academy. Charles P. Ross was appointed administrator, but the estate was declared insolvent. Joseph May and William Minot were appointed commissioners, and they reported the claims against the estate to be:

Joseph Prince, Judgment	\$19,749.60
William Sullivan, trustee	28,866.01
William Sullivan	10,106.95
Jean Claude Piquet	5,841.90
Antonio Furey Piquet, administrator of the estate of Jean Claude Piquet, judgment in the Present circuit Court	126,997.76

William Sullivan's judgment in Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts	547.34
	<hr/> 197,055.56
Sullivan's claim disallowed	38,972.95
	<hr/> \$158,082.61

Amount Swan owed

His estate was hopelessly insolvent, for but little property in Swan's name was found.

SKETCH OF GENERAL HENRY KNOX

As General Knox and Colonel Swan were intimate friends from the days of their boyhood, when they were employed in a book-binding establishment in Boston, and continued so through the eventful and romantic life of each, and their wives were intimately associated as leaders in the social life of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, as well as the fact that the only son of Colonel Swan married the youngest daughter of the General, where he made his home in Thomaston until his death, together with the financial transactions between the two families, it seems fitting to give a sketch of the General in connection with the Swan history.

Both of these men began life in poverty, but by their own efforts arose to positions of authority during the Revolutionary War, and in later years, their life history reads like a romance. They were two of the most interesting characters in the Colonial life of Massachusetts. Each married a wealthy, aristocratic wife, extravagant in tastes, and devoted to the frivolous life of the highest social circles of those times. With their inherited wealth, they speculated and gambled to a degree hitherto unknown in the colonies. Their families lived like wealthy Barons in medieval times. They entertained the most distinguished people in this country, and visitors from foreign lands, and the extent of their hospitality was the wonder and pleasure of those fortunate enough to belong to their circle. The Knox's fall in after years was as great as the height they attained. Mrs. Swan was more wealthy than her friend, and by shrewd investments, retained much of her valuable income. Both of these friends came to Maine to establish magnificent summer homes where they could entertain their distinguished friends, returning to their city estates in the winter. Swan came here nine years before General Knox came to Thomaston. It is noted that each had a son chiefly remembered because of entire worthlessness and debauchery—spoiled by indulgences and every indiscretion that wealth and leisure could suggest.

Henry Knox was born of Scotch family, July 25, 1750. He lost his father while yet a small boy. He was educated in the public schools, and then found employment as a stationer and bookbinder on Corn Hill, and from his income supported his widowed mother. He married Lucy Flucker of Boston and Philadelphia in June 1774. She was a member of the noted Waldo family, granddaughter of Gen. Samuel Waldo, who owned vast tracts of land in

Maine, called the "Waldo Patent," which had been conferred upon him by the King of England for distinguished service to that country. All of this family, except Mrs. Knox, remained Royalist at the beginning of the war, and departed for England.

General and Mrs. Knox were the parents of twelve children, only three of whom reached adult life. These were Henry Jackson Knox, born in 1780, at Mt. Vernon, where Mrs. Knox was a guest of Lady Washington, and where she remained until after the surrender at Yorktown. His father built for him a fine house at Mill river, connected with the Knox mansion by an arched driveway through the pine forest. He died October 9, 1832, after a most dissipated and useless existence. Another of his children was Lucy Flucker Knox, who married Ebenezer Thaxter, a noted local lawyer. He died October 12, 1854, leaving several children. The General also built a house for her which was not completed at the time of the latter's death. His third child was Caroline Flucker Knox, born in 1791, and married in 1808 to James Keadie Swan, only son of Colonel Swan of Boston and Swan's Island. They lived in the old Knox mansion at Thomaston until his death, March 22, 1836. All these connections of the Knox family were buried in Thomaston, near the old white church on the hill, which still stands, and built chiefly by General Knox. The bell in the tower was cast by Paul Revere. Mrs. Swan married, second, Hon. John Holmes of Alfred, July 20, 1837. He died in Portland October 1851. Mrs. Holmes died June 20, 1844, aged sixty-eight years. Mr. Holmes was a most distinguished lawyer and statesman, and was chosen the first United States senator, after Maine was admitted into the Union in 1820.

In 1793, General Knox came to Thomaston to make his home for the remainder of his life. He came into possession of the whole of the Waldo Patent through inheritance of his wife, and purchase from other heirs. This vast domain included the present towns of Thomaston, Camden, Rockland, Pownalborough, Newcastle, Nobleboro, Waldoboro, Warren, Cushing, Union, Penobscot and Hope—in all, over 70,000 acres. He thus became the largest land owner ever in Maine. Settlers were here before he came. With these tenants he made satisfactory settlements for the land they had occupied. To those who could not pay, he gave title to their lots without cost. Here Knox was lord of all the country round about, and the settlers expected lucrative employment from such a wealthy and influential landlord.

In 1795, Knox sent Wm. Kuren from Boston, under superintendence of Ebenezer Duncan, architect, to prepare grounds and erect a mansion of three stories and a brick basement. Also, by his directions, they erected stables, and farmhouses, with outbuildings to match. The work was completed in about a year at a cost of \$50,000—a fortune in those days—and in style, symmetry and magnificence seldom excelled, and at the time said to have been unequalled in any part of the Commonwealth. Tradition says this mansion, in size and general plans, was practically the same as the mansion of his friend, Col. James Swan, at Swan's Island, erected nine years previously.

Knox had selected a location for his mansion, or chatteau, as his French visitors delighted to call it, on the site of an old abandoned fort, near the banks

of the Georges river, with a delightful view extending ten miles down the river and sheltered on the north by pine forest primeval. The cool breezes of the ocean came in with the tide to fan and refresh the balconies, corridors, arbors and alcoves of this tasteful and noble mansion. On either side, and back from the mansion, was range or wings of outhouses, extending east and west from the main house, inclining backwards from the river in a crescent or segment of a circle, nine buildings in each wing, commencing on one side with the cookhouse and ending with the mews or stables. The grounds about the mansion were terraced, and arbors, trees and flowers were arranged in an artistic manner. A splendid gate, surmounted by an American eagle carved in wood, with flowing vines trailed over all, opened into his spacious grounds. Walks, vine-covered summerhouses, gardens, orchards, lawns and forest-openings, made a picture of rare beauty.

Beautifully situated near the water's edge, sat this sumptuous villa, as it first caught the eye of Mrs. Knox, as she, with her husband, children and servants, sat on the deck of a vessel which was conveying her here for the first time. As they sailed up the river, between somber forests of evergreens that lined either bank, suddenly they came in view of the mansion. In her delight she named it "Montpelier." This voyage was made in 1795 in a sloop, commanded by Capt. Andrew Malcolm of Warren.

The ordinary style of living which they adopted was not less magnificent than the buildings, resembling more the lord in his castle, than a private citizen. It was said that a hundred beds were made, and an ox and twenty sheep were slaughtered in a week. Twenty saddle-horses and corresponding carriages were kept to accommodate visitors and sojourners. At one time, he invited the Penobscot tribe of Indians to visit him. He feasted them, and gave them presents, but still they stayed on. After a week, having, as the General said, eaten him out of house and home, he was obliged to tell them "Now you have had a good visit, you had better go home."

Knox began business on his estate on a large scale, and borrowed large sums of money, with the exception of paying by the sale of lumber, bricks and various parts of the land that he owned, but he was a poor business man, and many of his visionary undertakings ended in failure. He built two wharfs, had numerous lime kilns, brickyards, lumber mills. These lots he occupied are now the site of the Maine State prison. His orchards, gardens and farms were cultivated with neatness and skill. He built two large stores for supplies to his workmen of every craft that had accepted the lucrative wages he offered, and made permanent settlement on his lands. On Brigadier island he had a large sheep range. The stock was imported from England, a large course-wool breed. He stocked his forests with quail.

The General was a large man, weighing about 280 pounds, and was of commanding presence. He was agreeable and democratic, using the same courtesy in dealing with rich and poor. He was very popular with his tenants, and all who came in contact with him. Mrs. Knox, on the other hand, was proud, haughty and aristocratic. She was never known but once to have visited any house in her adopted town. She was not well liked by the

townspeople. It was her delight to lavishly entertain distinguished people of this and foreign countries at her summer home at Thomaston, and to return to the gay life of the capital in the winter.

Among some of the foreign people of distinction who visited her at Montpelier were General Lafayette, Prince Tallyrand, Louis Philippe and the Duke of Rochefoucault. Mrs. Knox was fitted by education and training to grace the higher circles of wealth and fashion, where it was good policy for those enjoying her friendship to consider her a general favorite. President and Mrs. Washington always treated her with great homage, and she was considered by them as a person of superior intellectual attainments. She was described as a fine looking lady, and even when over sixty, she was said to have retained the brilliancy of her black eyes, and blooming complexion. In her intercourse with others she was lively, meddling, but an amiable leader in society, without whose co-operation it was believed by many, nothing could be done in the drawing-room, ball-room, or any place, indeed, where fashionable men and women met for enjoyment.

After closing her summer home in Thomaston, Mrs. Knox returned to Boston to spend the winter in gay amusement, and splendid parties, and the excitement of the gambling table. She delighted in playing deep, and risking extravagant sums. These return trips to the city were often made in a sailing vessel, when the roads were bad, or the accommodations on the road not suitable to her taste. But even the proverbial leveling exigencies of a wood coaster could not overcome her repugnance to mingling with the ignoble vulgar. A daughter of Captain Malcolm, who sailed the vessel on which Mrs. Knox took passage and who accompanied her father on this trip, said Mrs. Knox, with her children and servants, were on board, but the lady remained in her coach which she took with her, neither speaking or having any intercourse with any except her servants during the voyage.

General Knox had launched into a wide variety of ventures in saw mills, dams, limekilns, brickyards and vessels, but his ability in military matters did not extend to business, and after eleven years he was a bankrupt. With the vast outlay in the development of his property, as well as the extravagance and losses sustained by his wife, he found his debts exceedingly pressing, and his income wholly inadequate to keep up the establishment he had erected. Mrs. Swan, their life-long associate, was one of his largest creditors. The following letter written to Gen. Henry Jackson, the attorney and friend of both General Knox and Colonel Swan, gives the condition which presented itself at that time:

Thomaston, 22 June, 1800.

My dear Friend:

I received your favor by post respecting Hismer's, and also by a preceding post respecting Mrs. Swan's interest. It must be confessed that the demands are so numerous and pressing that it will be difficult enough to struggle with all of them. Thorndyke and Pickman's interest expires the 3rd of next month, and they will have to sue for their interest of 840 dollars, if not paid, and

above all, Gen. Elliot's solemn obligations or debts which are exceedingly pressing.

I believe I may visit Boston at the beginning of next month, and endeavor to make some arrangement whereby to make the means which are accruing from the lime business to satisfy the most eager for the time being, and yet, such a step to meet clamorous creditors is taking an unpleasant position. Although surrounded by many complexities, I flatter myself, I shall rise superior to all demands, but it must be in consequence of indulgences. I shall make every effort to pour something considerable into the lap of Mrs. Swan. Our coasters detest taking bricks, but at a price that would reduce them to nothing. I have made ten attempts, but I have hopes of getting a hold full this week. I am infinitely anxious on this subject on your account as well as my own, and shall therefore use all my exertions to pay as much as possible. I expect to be able to effect 2000 dollars in the course of the two succeeding months, by parcel, and perhaps more.

I suppose Henry (his son) will be here this week, perhaps, unless the devil should continue him in New York, but he has promised to be here immediately. This subject, however, is a sore one, perhaps as a single object, the most so of any one I have to endure.

Your friend, whose rose is not without a thorn,

H. Knox.

Eleven years after coming to Thomaston, Gen. Knox died, Oct. 25, 1806, at the age of 56. His death was occasioned by swallowing a small chicken bone, which lodged in his stomach, "producing an inflammation that could not be controlled." On the 28th, his funeral was conducted, with many honors. The assembly was numerous, and the services impressive. The eulogy was delivered by Hon. Samuel Thaxter of Warren. An imposing procession was formed, preceded by a company of militia marching with arms reversed; then a company of artillery, followed by a company of cavalry, these preceding the coffin, on which lay the General's hat and sword. Behind was the hero's favorite horse, with boots of the late rider reversed in the stirrups. Then followed relatives, domestics, citizens and strangers. This long procession, under command of Capt. Fales, marshal of the day, marched to the music of a solemn dirge, accompanied by muffled drums, tolling of bells and minute guns fired from the height. Thus General Knox was conducted to his resting place at the old cemetery in Thomaston.

After Knox's death, his creditors became clamorous. His family was reduced almost to poverty. The mansion continued to be occupied by Mrs. Knox, James K. son of Col. Swan, and his wife. James was reduced to almost complete imbecility by debauchery, but his most amiable wife endured him, and gave every care to her mother until the latter's death. Mrs. Knox never lost her haughty bearing, even in her poverty. She made no visits, and finding it inconvenient to keep an equine establishment, she refused to leave the house until she could go in her former style and in her own carriage. She is said never to have left the mansion until she was carried out for burial.

The following correspondence, relates to the Swan family. Col. Swan's wife, the intimate friend of the Knoxs, in their days of their prosperity, thought it necessary to demand payment of the large loan she had advanced to the General. Her son, who had married the accomplished and lovely Caroline Knox at the age of 16, had now become so debauched he was unable even to care for himself. His mother had provided an allowance for his support from his marriage to the present time, but the care of both him and Mrs. Knox fell upon this faithful woman, and in addition she was confronted with poverty.

Mrs. Caroline Swan, in writing to her husband's niece, Elizabeth Howard, granddaughter of Col. Swan, Aug. 16, 1822, says: "I had thought you and John intended making a visit to Thomaston. It is selfish to ask you to change your destination from so desirable a place to one which offers so few attractions as a retired country village, but I should, indeed, rejoice to meet you. So would your uncle, (James Swan). My mother would likewise be happy to see you here. If you will keep in mind that the Glory of Israel has departed, and the days of show and parade and profusion have all gone by, and we are a plain retired country family.

"I suppose your grandmother (Mrs. James Swan, sr.,) has removed to town. Uncle James (Swan) seems pretty much resolved to go to Boston when his mother removes. I wish he could be gratified by seeing you all, but I anticipate no good from his going to town under present circumstances. He would have to encounter too much mortification and vexation, and I greatly fear the consequences would not be advantageous to himself or pleasing to his friends.

"But at the same time, he is so painfully situated here that I am at a loss to advise. There is oppression at my heart. Silence, still enables me to present much of this appearance on the surface, but this very restraint is unnatural, and helps to wear me out, and I forcibly feel it cannot last much longer."

The estate of the General was administered upon by his widow, and proved to be insolvent. The debts allowed by the commissioners amounted to \$165,170.19, while an inventory of his real estate amounted to \$105,388, and the personal property \$15,758.81. The widow was allowed \$9,299.10 from the personal property, and in addition her dower in the estate, and one-fifth part of the "Waldo Patent" held in her own right. Col. James Swan's wife, the largest creditor, pressed her claim. Whether she continued to contribute to her son's support is not recorded. Mrs. Knox's only son, who, as the General said, had cost him his weight in gold, was now separated from his wife, was penniless, depraved and dependent upon his mother's bounty. Her elder daughter had a large family, and was not by any means in affluent circumstances, and her only other daughter, Caroline Swan, amiable, affectionate and self-sacrificing, lived in the family mansion, and cared for her mother and helpless husband. In 1823, she wrote a most appealing, but dignified letter to Hon. James Sullivan of Boston, her husband's brother-in-law, in answer to demands made by Col. Swan's wife, as follows:—

"Dear Sir:

It was the wish and intention of my mother to have answered your letter respecting Mrs. Swan's business herself, but illness has rendered her incapable of the exertion of writing, and she has therefore desired me to address you in her behalf. My mother was in hopes that the security already given was sufficient; but it would seem that the very person, who selected the property, and considered it ample, has thought proper to say very different elsewhere. This, however, was to be expected.

"But as a greater security is to be required, my mother is perfectly willing to give any in her power. What this shall be, however, is to be determined. She has several large sums to be raised within a short time, and she can only raise them by great sacrifice of what little property, mistaken views and faithless agents have left in her possession.

"Under existing circumstances, would it not be better for Mrs. Swan to pay off the incumbrance now existing upon the property, namely, the house and twenty acres of land adjoining, and take a new mortgage of the same, herself? As a mere matter of speculation, I should think it an advisable step. The estate is now valuable, and must every year become more so. It includes as far as the most important water lots in the town, and as yet my mother has not disposed of one foot bordering on the water. It also includes a new wharf, and two stores, and three excellent lime kilns, all of which had lately cost more than \$5000. I do not mention the mansion as an inducement, but \$800 was expended for repairs last summer. The wharf, store and kilns rent for \$400 per annum. The amount for which the estate is mortgaged is exactly \$2000, and no more. I have observed that for those who have money, it would be a good speculation to employ it in this way.

"But Mrs. Swan would be interested in it by purer and higher motives. Could she see things as they are, she would be disposed to recollect that General Knox was her valued and esteemed friend, and could she see my mother at this moment, she would discard all prejudice and resentment, and see in her only the intimate companion of former days—the widow of her former friend, and I repeat it with anguish of heart. It is the conclusion of her children, and, indeed, all who behold her.

"At such a moment as this, it is our first wish that her mind should be at peace, and that she should be undisturbed by business cares of any kind, but it seems to be our sad fate that the very reverse of this should be the case. There is scarce a possibility that my mother's heirs would have it in their power to redeem the property, and she, foreseeing this, would much rather that it would be the possession of Mrs. Swan than a stranger, under the idea, as I frankly tell you, that it might eventually prove to be of benefit to one of her family. James (Swan) is attached to the place, and if he ever obtains a respectable station in life, it will be as a country gentleman, and in no other way. Should Mrs. Swan, however, refuse to listen to this proposition, it only remains to endeavor to find her satisfactory security in some other form.

"I feel strongly tempted to address myself directly to Mrs. Swan, but the fear of giving offense deters me. The sign of heart and feeling which, when

last in Boston, I observed in her, induces me to think that she will regret to see the family mansion of my dear father pass into hands of strangers.

Sincerely yours,
Caroline F. K. Swan.”

Again, September 15, 1828, she writes Mr. Sullivan that the debt due December 1st is unprovided for, and the property has been appraised at \$9,500. “Is it utterly impossible to prevail with Mrs. Swan to assume the mortgage? By so doing she would provide a home for her unfortunate son, which would be the most likely means of preserving him from error and, even if he persists in his present course, his mother and family will at least be spared the pain of witnessing it.”

James K. Swan died March 22, 1836.

These records have been given more in detail to show the methods of high life in those times, of which the Swan and Knox families were leaders. We wonder what Swan would have done at this, his “Island Empire,” if changes of fate had not taken him to France, from which he never returned. He was a much more wealthy man than General Knox, and no doubt would have built at Swan’s Island an estate worthy of his position in finance, and spurred on by his ambitious wife, the rivalry of display and entertainment, ever present among the aristocratic families of Colonial times. Like Knox’s dream of empire, would it have been of any permanent value to this island? At least the romance of the undertakings would have appealed to the imagination of all succeeding generations.

LAND TITLES

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts was the owner of the District of Maine at the close of the Revolution, and had, as been recorded, sold the twenty-five islands included in the Burnt Coat group to Col. James Swan. He was the first private owner of this property. It was estimated to contain 12,800 acres, at the price of three shillings an acre, which would have amounted to 1920 pounds. This sum Swan paid March 19, 1785, and was to receive a deed as soon as the islands could be surveyed. By Putnam’s survey, it was found to contain only 9,625 acres, and the difference which was overpaid between the estimated and exact measurements, was returned to Swan January 19, 1786.

His deed of this group of islands was dated July 7, 1786. On October 28, 1790, the records show that James Swan of Boston, by his attorneys Henry Jackson and Benjamin Hitchborn, sold to Joseph Prince, resident of Burnt Coat, for the sum of 300 pounds, and “divers other good causes.” Burnt Coat island, and all other islands within three miles of said Burnt Coat, (vol. 1, page 28, Hancock Reg. Deeds).

After Prince’s purchase, he carried out Swan’s agreement with the settlers by giving a bond to each occupant of the land he had cultivated, and if occupied for seven years, agreed to give a deed at the end of that period. To

Joseph Toothaker he gave a bond in the sum of \$100 to convey to him one hundred acres of land, extending from the Carrying Place, westward around Toothaker's Cove to include that amount, dated April 26, 1792 (3-208). Joshua Grindle's lot from the Carrying Place southward to Moses Staples' lot containing 100 acres, dated May 1, 1794 (3-245).

On June 29, 1785, Joseph Prince and wife Joanna, sold to Henry Jackson of Boston, for 300 pounds, the same purchase that he had made of Swan. On July 16, 1795, Jackson also bought of Bartolomy De Gregoire, land on Mt. Desert for which he paid 1247 pounds. He also bought Bartlett's island, Cranberry and Duck island, also a tract near Stinson's Neck, Deer Isle (3-256).

On Sept 28, 1796, Henry Jackson conveyed Burnt Coat islands back to Colonel Swan, in consideration of 300 pounds. He also gave to Swan a quitclaim deed of the island and all improvements made thereon, also land in Suffolk and Norfolk counties, for 5000 pounds (4-207). On December 12, 1796, again mortgaged this property to Henry Jackson to secure payment of a loan of 2333 pounds (4-203). On July 13, 1798, Swan gave this same security to Stephen Higginson and Samuel G. Perkins of Boston to secure a loan from them of \$30,000. These various transactions and conveyances were thought he made to his friends to prevent it being attached by his creditors.

On February 28, 1798, Swan gave to Joseph Prince of Swan's Island (formerly Burnt Coat) a power of attorney to sell and convey to the settlers the land which they had occupied, and other fishermen who might settle there, on the conditions stated elsewhere. He also gave power to Prince to sell a lot of land on the "Island of Holt", which he had purchased of Nathaniel Shelden in 1796 (5-481 Hancock Reg.)

There is no further record that any of this island was bought or sold for fifteen years. During all this period new arrivals had taken up land on which they built their houses, and no one disputed their claim to the land. The promise which Swan made with the settlers to give them a deed of the land when they should have occupied it for seven years was not carried out, probably because Swan had already gone to France, never to return, and the agents and attorneys did not see fit to carry out his agreement. However the settlers did not care much about title to the land they occupied, which at that time was of little value. The log cabin and boat were the greater part of their possessions, and if ousted their loss would not be great.

On October 3, 1812, James Swan of Boston, "at present residing in Paris," mortgaged to Michael O'Maley, a merchant of Baltimore, a part of this group of islands. Swan was indebted to O'Maley for the sum of 43080 francs, as appears on a bill of exchange drawn at Harve, in 1808. Swan paid on this account 6663 francs, with interest, leaving a balance due on Sept 1, 1818, of 3641 francs. For security, Swan had mortgaged to O'Maley thirteen islands of this group, viz: Swan's Marshall, Black, Hat, Great and Little Placentia, Long island and five others, the names of which are not recollected, containing about 12,000 acres, together with grist and saw mills, farms, stores, mansion house, timberlands, waters and fisheries. The mortgage was executed in Paris

in the Greffe of the prison of St. Pelagie, where Swan was there imprisoned, and acknowledged, before David Bailey Warden, U. S. consul at Paris, October 3, 1812 (33-226)

After this time there seems to have been no claimants for any of this property, either mortgager or mortgagee, until 1817. On March 10, 1817, Rufus B. Allyn of Belfast, attorney for O'Maley, entered and took peaceable possession, for the purpose of foreclosing all mortgages which had been previously given to settlers. He notified the people that in O'Maley's name he should take possession of all land on Swan's Island. He brought with him as witnesses Jesse Holbrook and Paul Giles.

On August 29, 1821, a power of attorney was given by O'Maley to Daniel Webster to transact necessary conveyance of the thirteen islands of the Burnt Coat group, as well as other transactions with Swan. This was signed in Boston. Swan and O'Maley had been connected in business in France, but this last transaction seems to have been a bona fide one, as O'Maley actually claimed possession here for many years.

On June 13, 1823, Daniel Webster, attorney for O'Maley and William Sullivan, son-in-law of Swan, substituted Rufus B. Allyn to act jointly for both parties (43-168) and whatever deeds that were given after that date, were given to both parties jointly. Considerable of Swan's property in and around Boston, was conveyed at that time by the same parties.

Allyn came here again and demanded payment from all the land owners, and many of the settlers had occupied the land they had taken for more than thirty years, during which time they had made a great many improvements on their property, and had erected substantial buildings. These demands brought consternation to the people, many of whom were now in old age. They did not anticipate, after all these long years of silence, that their homes would be imperiled. He gave a deed to each land holder, and secured payment by taking a mortgage, requiring annual payment on principal and interest. Both the deeds and mortgages are recorded in Hancock Registry of Deeds, executed between 1823 and 1839. The following are some of those there recorded:

Moses Bridges of Sedgwick bought Eastern Calf island, containing 162 acres, for \$400, May 24, 1823 (43-509).

Peter Powers bought the Western Calf island, containing 256 acres, for \$750, September 21, 1822 (43-521)

John Finney bought the place on which he lived, October 1, 1823, for \$147 (44-238).

Ebenezer Joyce gave a mortgage for his lot for \$130.27—68 acres of land on which he lived, Oct. 3, 1822.

Abel E. Staples gave a mortgage for the land he occupied near Mackerel Cove in 1823.

James Joyce lot was appraised at \$146.51 on May 27, 1824.

Francis Gilley of Placentia was valued at \$237. This mortgage was paid Oct. 27, 1839.

Robert Mitchell land on Placentia, May 24, 1824. This mortgage was paid Dec. 25, 1828.

Benjamin Smith lot was valued at \$365.50, the farm on which he lived, on May 18, 1824.

Moses Staples land was listed at \$83.37; recorded May 20, 1824.

Benjamin Stinson lot valued at \$200.

Franklin B. Staples lot near Mackerel Cove was \$42.13; dated May 18, 1824.

Moses Staples, jr., lot was \$158.16; May 17, 1824.

Daniel Hamblin, for a part of the island of Placentia, containing 93 acres; dated 1825.

Israel B. Lunt, unincorporated place called Long Island, 1123 acres, for which he was to pay \$600; dated June 30, 1835.

Michael O'Maley, at present residing in Paris, Kingdom of France, sold to Thomas Colomy for \$200, a lot near Seal Cove; deed executed by Rufus B. Allyn, July 1, 1835 (60-424).

Few paid anything on these mortgages, and no action was taken by Allyn to enforce payment. Afterward O'Maley or his heirs employed Ex-governor Kent to prosecute these claims on all these islands, and he made several attempts to collect these bills at court, but the settlers were informed that they had a legal claim to the property they occupied by Swan's recorded agreement with the settlers, and also that they could hold their land by reason of more than thirty years of quiet possession. Anyhow, no further claims were ever made by Allyn or Kent. The latter had collected some money from a few of the owners, but he could not locate his clients, so he returned what he had collected to the islanders. No doubt that Swan and O'Maley had taken this method to collect something from the settlers, but finding that the matter was likely to be hotly contested, concluded the results would not justify the expenditures. No further claim was made by O'Maley or his heirs.

After Col. Swan's death, his heirs had Charles J. Abbott, attorney at Castine, appointed as administrator of Swan's estate in Maine, on April 6, 1837. He appointed Thomas Cobb, John B. Redman and Benjamin Rea, in December 1837, to make an appraisal of some of the islands in the group, as follows:

—Islands—

Little Marshall	42 acres,	valued \$63
W	10	10
A	21	21
B	4	4
D	44	66
F	16	80
G	33	49
K	5	6
N	23	46
P	16	16
T	6	5
John's	20	50
U	17	17

 \$466

This took fifteen of the smaller islands included in Swan's original purchase, and were those islands that had no settlers upon them. How Mr. Abbott settled with Swan's heirs, I do not know. He afterwards claimed title to some of these islands, probably for legal services.

Up to 1833, the settlers on Swan's Island had no legal title to their land except such as acquired by possession of twenty years or more of occupancy. Neither the heirs of Swan or O'Maley ever made any further claim after Mr. Abbott's efforts were unproductive of results. I do not know what became of O'Maley. He was last reported in Paris in 1837, and it is said that he died there. He was connected with Swan there in speculation, but to what extent, or under what circumstances I do not know. A diligent search of the records at Baltimore reveals no account of him or of his heirs.

In 1833, Swan's Island was organized as a Plantation, after which records of taxable property were made. In 1839, the following lands are taxed to Michael O'Maley; Seven hundred acres in the southeastern part of the island, and a lot on one hundred and fifty acres, bounded by the land of Benjamin Smith and Benjamin Stinson. O'Maley's tax remained unpaid, and in Hancock Registry (85-33) is the following:

"Benjamin F. Staples, treasurer of the Plantation of Swan's Island, hereby certifies, that the real estate assessed in the year 1843 to Michael O'Maley, or unknown, on which a tax of \$13.44 remains unpaid at the end of five years, the said property was taken possession of by said Plantation of Swan's Island. Dated July 7, 1848."

As they were never dispossessed, and all claim by pretended owners was abandoned, the settlers considered their squatters claim as good as if deeded to them in the usual way. Since that time, land has been sold and conveyed, through several generations, to other owners, and these titles have never been disputed.

In the year 1847, John Dodge made a survey of all unappropriated lands on Swan's Island, and it was divided into lots of fifty acres each, which were numbered and staked off, and were appraised as first, second and third class, according to their value as pasture lands or wood lots. Some of the more valuable lots were sold at auction. The remainder were used in common as pasturage for sheep, and any citizen could cut wood on these wild lands, for fuel, or to be shipped to Rockland to burn in the lime kilns, free of charge.

Later these lots, which were of no direct income to the Plantation, were given to settlers who chose to own them, and were thereafter taxed. There is no record that a deed was given to the owners by the Plantation, but as each lot was duly marked, there has never been any disputed claims. All of these lots are now the property of private individuals.

SETTLEMENT

When this group of islands was purchased, they were mostly covered by a dense forest of evergreen trees—pine, hemlock, spruce and fir. Sometime before its discovery by Champlain, a part of the island had been burned over, but in the century and more to the time of the arrival of English settlers, a new and better growth had covered the burnt area. The trees in this primeval forest attained great size. This luxurious growth was due to a large amount of decayed foliage, which enriched the soil. After this growth was cut off and manufactured into lumber, the underbrush was burned to clear farms, and large flocks of sheep were turned loose in the wild lands. The richness, where it covered rocky land, was washed into the sea. On this impoverished soil, a smaller growth of spruce and fir now covers the back lots.

When Swan came, in 1786, to take possession of his "Island Empire," of twenty-five islands included in his purchase, he found a number of settlers who had for some years made their homes here. Ten of these islands had previously been given names by those who had occupied them, namely—Burnt Coat, Marshall, John's, Harbor, Black, Placentia, Loud (Long), Eastern Calf and Western Calf islands. The other fifteen islands had not become of sufficient importance to have been given names, so on the first survey they had been designated by letters. The inhabitants, who had made a temporary or permanent settlement on most of these islands, were pioneer adventurers who had strayed here from different coastal towns and foreign countries. They were a rough hardy people, and their conditions of living most primitive.

Col. Swan came down from Boston with a party of friends in his ship to look over his purchase, and make plans for the future. He was a man of great energy and wealth, and the extent and extravagance of his plans gave the poor and primitive settlers the same impression as would the arrival of some great and powerful king.

Soon after this visit, his ships began to arrive with a large number of craftsmen—carpenters, masons, shipbuilders, millwrights, wharf builders, and a goodly number of common laborers. He also sent supplies and workmen's tools, oxen, cows and sheep.

His first work was to erect saw and grist mills, to manufacture the large amount of lumber needed in his building. He selected for the location of his mansion a level tract of land on the eastern side of Old Harbor, which had been cleared by some former occupant. Workmen leveled the land, removed the stumps and rocks, and graded it down to the shore of the harbor. The cellar was dug, and a high brick basement built, and carpenters started on the erection of his mansion. The people of the island always spoke of this mansion as the "Big House." It was built on the level tract of land near the residence of the late Harvey C. Bridges, facing Old Harbor, and with a fine view of the harbor, and beyond, the numerous islands extending to the horizon.

The house was a large square house of two stories, of colonial style of architecture, with long pillars running up to the coping, surmounted by a cupola, with ornamental railing around the roof. The high brick basement

supported the structure, and wide steps led to the piazzas on three sides of the building. There were huge chimneys such as were used when fireplaces were used for heating. There was a long ell at the back for servants' quarters, and several outbuildings and stables. It is said that "Montpelier," the home of Gen. Henry Knox, of Thomaston, built nine years later, very much resembled Col. Swan's mansion at Swan's Island. His lawns were terraced in gradual descent to the harbor; trees, flowers and shrubs were planted.

The first History of Maine, written by Williamson and published in 1833, speaks of it, as a splendid mansion built by Col. Swan, but adds, that it is fast falling into decay. After Swan's sudden departure to France, his agents managed his affairs for some years, but finally the mansion was abandoned, and without any caretaker, began to deteriorate. Settlers arriving used it as a temporary home while their own house was in the process of erection. Several of the older people told me of the house which they remembered when it was in good repair, but for the want of paint and other repairs, it was in a poor condition when it was destroyed by fire in 1840, after it had stood more than fifty years.

After the mansion was burned, the bricks and other material were taken away by the incoming people for use in building chimneys in the houses they were erecting. One of the old settlers told me that when his father came here in 1820, they made their temporary home in the Big House, which at that time sheltered thirteen families. Where this mansion stood, the grass still grows green, and for some years flowers and shrubs bloomed each year.

Swan's saw and grist mills were erected at the same time as the mansion. They were built on either side of a small island, now called Hen island, where a substantial dam had been built, which enclosed a body of water which furnished abundant power by ebb and flow of the tide. The masonry of this dam can still be seen. The saw mill was over the southern mill stream, and the grist mill at the northern side. From each mill a broad roadway ran to the shore. These mills were operated for more than twenty years by Swan's agents, and other parties. Finally, Swan abandoned this property. The serviceable lumber having been cut off, and better and cheaper facilities for obtaining bread food, made these mills unprofitable. The old water wheel still stood, and the tide flowed over the dam. The buildings and their foundations gradually crumbled away and fell into the pond.

Swan built a large store on the Point, which is still called "Store Point," where he kept a good stock of such materials as was needed by his workmen, as well as the other settlers. After Prince left, the store was taken over by Silas Hardy, where he traded, built vessels, and in the same store kept the first post office on the island.

During the operation of these mills, a large amount of excellent lumber was shipped from the wharfs he had erected. Quite a number of the early settlers came here on Swan's vessels. A colony of Irishmen, as laborers, cut off all the timber on that part of the island, since called "Irish Point."

The stones used in Swan's grist mill had an interesting history. After the mills had decayed and fallen into the pond, the two larger stones used to crush

the grain were purchased by a man named Bovden, of Brooklin, moved to that place, and installed in a mill that he operated for many years at Benjamin river. Later this mill came into the possession of Abraham Reed, and when his son, Jacob Reed, came to Swan's Island and built a mill near the eastern shore, he brought these same stones with him. After he had operated his grist mill several years, they were bought by a Silver Mining Company to crush ore in their quarry, operated for a few years near the residence of Arthur Torrey. When this enterprise failed, these stones were left in the building, which finally fell to the ground, and gradually disappeared. Trees grew and obliterated its location.

Herbert Joyce, having been informed by his father of their last location, attempted to explore the region and rescue them. With crowbar and pickaxe, he at last located them, among the trees, well under ground. He dug them up and used them for a base for his flag pole in front of his house on the west side of Old Harbor where, no doubt, they will be preserved for a time as a relic of the past.

Another interesting relic, was a log found submerged in Swan's Mill pond, where it had lain for more than a hundred years. The heart of the log was found in good state of preservation, and Llewellyn Joyce made some interesting articles fashioned from that log.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts agreed to exempt Swan's property here from taxation for a period of twenty-five years, provided he settled within seven years, twenty-two Protestant families, built or caused to be built twenty-two houses at least twenty-two feet square, to build a church, and establish a grammar school. In order to get the required number of families for permanent residents, Swan offered to people of the surrounding towns one hundred acres of land free, either on Burnt Coat or the other islands in his possession, if they came, built a house, and occupied their property for a term of seven years; at the expiration of that period he would give them a deed of the land so occupied.

Besides the men who came here on Swan's ships, mostly unmarried, families came from Deer Isle, Sedgwick, Mt. Desert and other towns. Most of the young men who came from Massachusetts married among the incoming families, and settled here as permanent inhabitants. There was a demand for common laborers, and the wages offered were most attractive. Some chopped wood in the forest, others, with ox-teams, hauled the logs to the mills, worked at the grist mill, and loaded lumber on vessels that took it to market. There was work building wharves, carpenters for house building, and an urgent call for boat builders, as many of the native population had been fishermen in their former homes. The extensive fisheries, under Swan's plan, were not to be neglected, as was noted particularly in a subsequent conveyance of property. This industry, however, was not regularly adopted at first, as other lines of employment promised better income, but in after years, it became the chief occupation of the whole town. The church and schoolhouse had not been built at the time of Swan's departure and the agents by whom his property was managed later did not fulfill Swan's agreement with the state.

Swan had a confidential agent, Joseph Prince, of Beverly, Mass., who came with him, and superintended all the business during the early years of settlement. Prince received \$500 a year and his family supported. He managed the saw and grist mills, employed the workmen and paid them their wages, and managed the store.

In Hancock Registry of Deeds, vol. 5, page 481, is the following agreement which Swan made with the settlers, dated Feb. 28, 1798:

“James Swan of Dorchester appointed Joseph Prince of Swan’s Island, formerly Burnt Coat (This is the first time Swan’s Island was recorded) with power of attorney to sell and convey to David Smith, Joshua Grindle and Moses Staples, one hundred acres of land. To John Rich, William Davis, David Bickmore, Isaac Sawyer and —— Knowlton, thirty acres each, all to be taken from the Great island, and sixty acres of land on Marshall island to Samuel Emerson; and to any other fishermen, who owns a fishing boat, and may settle on the Great island, ten acres each. To be theirs on the following conditions, viz.: They shall live on said land seven years, counting the actual settlement with their families and stock. They shall pay all taxes assessed by the town, state or general government. They shall cut no more wood or timber than to make good and farmer-like improvements, and shall pay the expense of surveying. Each shall lay out through his land such roads as my agent shall direct, and keep it in repair for seven years. As far as the case may admit, the cordwood and lumber cut on these lands shall be carried to market in vessels belonging to said Swan or his heirs. In like manner the logs felled on this land shall be carried to the saw mills now erected on said island. If the conditions are not complied with, at the end of seven years these lands, with all improvements thereon, shall return to said Swan.”

This agreement was acknowledged before John Vinal, a justice of the peace at Boston. Soon after 1800, Joseph Prince returned to Beverly, but continued in Swan’s employ in Boston, which required all his attention. Prince no doubt acted in this capacity for many years, as in the final settlement of Swan’s estate, when his will was probated, May 7, 1831, Joseph Prince’s claim against the estate, which was allowed, amounted to \$19,749.50.

After Swan’s departure for France, his business here was transacted by different agents. Often there was no agent at all, and his property was neglected. His fine mansion began to deteriorate for want of care; the mills closed, and the store was occupied by Silas Hardy. Although Swan’s son was living in Thomaston at that time, there is no record that he or any other member of the family interested themselves in their property here.

With Swan’s departure, and the abandonment of his extensive operations, the people, who had had promise of employment and wages which at that time seemed like riches, were exceedingly depressed. Some of them returned to their former homes, but most of them remained and adapted themselves to the new conditions which did not offer a very flattering prospect for the future. For several years the island’s growth and prosperity remained stationary, while the people were adjusting themselves to new modes of earning a livelihood. The fisheries were the only promise of the future.

The first settler to remain permanently was David Smith, who came here in 1791. He first lived on Harbor Island, where his daughter, Sarah, afterward the wife of Benjamin Stinson, was born. He then moved to the Big House while building a house for himself, and while there his son, Benjamin Smith, was born in 1795, said to be the first white child born on Swan's Island. Moses Staples came soon after Smith. Both these men had large families, and the descendents of each are numbered in the thousands. Of all the early settlers, these two families are represented by the largest number of descendents in this town at the present time.

The manner in which the people lived here in those early times, may be of interest to future generations. The people met and conquered conditions which in this day would be considered impossible. Their condition was not much different from other frontier settlements, except that their isolation on an island, made them more dependent on their own resources. When winter came, they were surrounded by the turbulent ocean, so that stores had to be provided for and their wants anticipated while their boats could reach the mainland. Many of the events, which follow, were related to me in detail by the aged people living when I came to this island. Many of the conditions described have extended down to within my own recollection, in another town. I have personally seen many of the events similar to those described to me by these early residents.

Although there were saw mills here, most of the first houses were built of logs. Perhaps the expense was less, or they could construct better to keep out the cold. The chimney and fireplaces were built of surf-worn rocks from the beaches, and plastered with cement made from burned clam shells and sand. The men who built these cabins were a rough, hardy people, used to hard work and unknown to luxuries. Some of these had been Revolutionary soldiers—adventurous, used to hardship and exposure, restless, as is usual after war's experience, not willing to return to the peaceful conditions they had left, eager for new adventures in these unoccupied lands now open for settlement. Some left their past behind and sought shelter at this island retreat, where at that time there was no communication with the outside world—a haven where they could start life anew.

For some years thereafter any communication, even with relatives and friends they had left behind in their former homes, covered long periods of time. A chance traveler, or vessel seeking shelter in the harbor, sometimes brought news of the outside world which was eagerly received.

It is interesting how these people, dependent upon their own resources, met and conquered the difficulties they encountered. They built their cabins in the shelter of the forest, constructed their own boats from the material that grew on the bank, made their nails and other ironwork in the blacksmith shop. Their sleds, carts, and household furniture were mostly constructed of the same material, and made by hand.

The first houses were small, usually twenty-two feet square, with a lean-to attached. The whole lower part of the house was in one room, called the "kitchen." This was used as cook room, dining room, sleeping quarters and

general work shop. It was the family home, and in them were raised large families of children, the largest of which was that of David Smith, who had sixteen children by his first marriage and eight by his second wife—twenty-four in all. Many other families were nearly as large.

In this kitchen was a broad fireplace, wherein swung the crane, and there were pendent hooks of various lengths on which the pots and kettles were suspended. There was a wide, neatly-swept hearth, upon which was a roaring fire, where the bright tin baker was placed to bake the bread or roast the lamb. When a bannock was to be baked, the dough of corn meal and water was spread about an inch thick upon the baker of sheet iron about eight-by-eighteen inches, and placed upon the hearth, with a brick at its back to turn it to the fire. When its face side was cooked, which with a winter's fire required but a few minutes, it was removed from the tin, turned upside down, and again presented to the fire. This gave a hard, brittle crust on both sides. These bannocks of corn meal or barley were the only bread used, as these grains could be readily raised on the cleared land, and ground at the mill. Wheat flour was too expensive to come within their means.

At one side of the fireplace, and quite near thereto, was a cavernous oven, which each Sunday was heated very hot by burning in it hard wood. When the stones or bricks of the oven were steaming hot, the ashes were scraped away, and the Sunday beans and brown bread, pumpkin pies, and a quarter of lamb were placed therein to cook. This process gave to the food a delicious flavor, and it came out steaming hot for breakfast. Under the oven was an ash hole with a capacity of several barrels, into which the ashes, from time to time, were shoveled. High above the fireplace was a mantelpiece, where was kept candlesticks, paper pipe-lighters, and the few ornaments which they possessed. By the side of the fireplace stood tongs, bellows, shovel, and a variety of pots, kettles and skillets.

In the fall, after the house had been banked high with fir boughs and the cracks and crannies between the logs caulked to keep out Jack Frost, the correct thing was to lay in a supply of pitch wood for winter evening lights. This was not only used within the cabin, but to light the path when making night trips through the forest.

Nearly all these people raised large, stalwart families, each member of which assumed his or her share of work as soon as they were old enough. Cattle and sheep were brought here at an early date. The latter were raised in large flocks at little expense, as no feeding was necessary, as the pastureland was extensive. In winter, seaweed and brouse furnished most of the feed required. Each owner marked his sheep, and turned them out together in the unoccupied lands. In shearing time they were all driven in, and each man's flock was separated.

After wool was sheared, it was washed and dried, then "picked" to clear it of foreign substances. It was then laboriously carded into rolls by hand. These hand cards were made of wood, 8 x 18 inches, with a handle to each, and the two inner sides were covered by leather through which protruded bent wires. Carding of rolls of wool was the task of the girls and women in their

odd moments. Then the old spinning wheel was gotten out, and the rolls spun into yarn, reeled into skeins, put on a "swift," and finally wound into balls of suitable size. The knitting of woolen stockings and mittens, scarfs and wristers, was no small task for these large families. Then, by the hand loom, they wove the yarn into cloth for blankets and underclothing. Some of this cloth was dyed and pressed, which made a comfortable, if not an elegant wardrobe for both men's and women's wear. Only one of these ancient looms is left in this town at present time, although in earlier days they were found in nearly every household.

The house furnishings in those early days, were of the most primitive character. Most of it was home-made. Chairs, tables, bedsteads were fashioned from trees of the forest. The walls on the inside of the cabin were hewn square, and the crevices caulked with moss, and plastered over to keep out the cold. Sometimes, if newspapers were available, they were used as paper on the walls. An old lady told me she learned the alphabet, when a child, from the newspapers on their cabin walls.

From the beams overhead were suspended bundles of herbs, strings of dried apples and newly-made sausages. The chairs had tall, straight backs, and they were arranged around the wall. Candles for lighting were made of tallow in moulds. A wick was placed in each of the twelve moulds, the bottom closed, and melted tallow poured in. When cooled, they were ready for use. Some had brought candlesticks of brass or glass from their former homes. The fishing vessels that visited Canadian waters often brought home candlesticks and chinaware, which had been imported from Europe, and were of fancy designs. Shoes and leather boots for both men and women, were made and repaired by the local cobbler out of skins he had tanned. The beds were high-posted, and often covered by a canopy top, and were corded up with rope, and covered by a sack filled with straw or fragrant meadow grass. On top of this was a thick feather bed, made from the feathers of the seabirds that came in large flocks every fall. There were blankets made of wool, and quilts; the latter a marvel in combinations of colored material worked in fancy designs by needle, was the outside cover.

As all space had to be utilized in those small houses, there was a trundle bed for the children, made to fit under the outer bed. This was out of sight in the daytime, but was drawn out at bedtime and made a sleeping place for two or more children.

A settee with rockers was near the chimney corner. This was six feet long. A part of the front had a rack behind, which made a convenient receptacle for the ever-present baby, and still room for another person to set. There was an open cupboard, in which the polished pewter and brass dishes reflected the light from the fireplace. Chinaware, carefully preserved during their pilgrimage here, was highly prized, and only used on special occasions. Plates, steele knives and spoons, colored bowls and platters, with yellow mugs for their tea made up their culinary necessities.

The floor, made of logs planed smooth, was unpainted, and sometimes covered with a coating of sand, which on Saturday was swept up, leaving the

wood clean and white. Two of the settlers had long clocks, but these were luxuries. Sun marks on the side of the cabin or windowsill, or the hourglass marked the passage of the hours. The first brooms were homemade, with a handle like an ordinary broom, with the lower end flattened on either side, and pierced by a peg. Fir boughs of the

HERE THE MANUSCRIPT ENDS.

- Was this a printers proof of which the remaining pages were separated?
- Was this an actual printed copy?
- Will anyone ever find the remainder of Dr. Small's valuable work? If not, what a terrible loss. No one can ever fill in the remainder of his work without his notes, or the remainder of this document. 2005