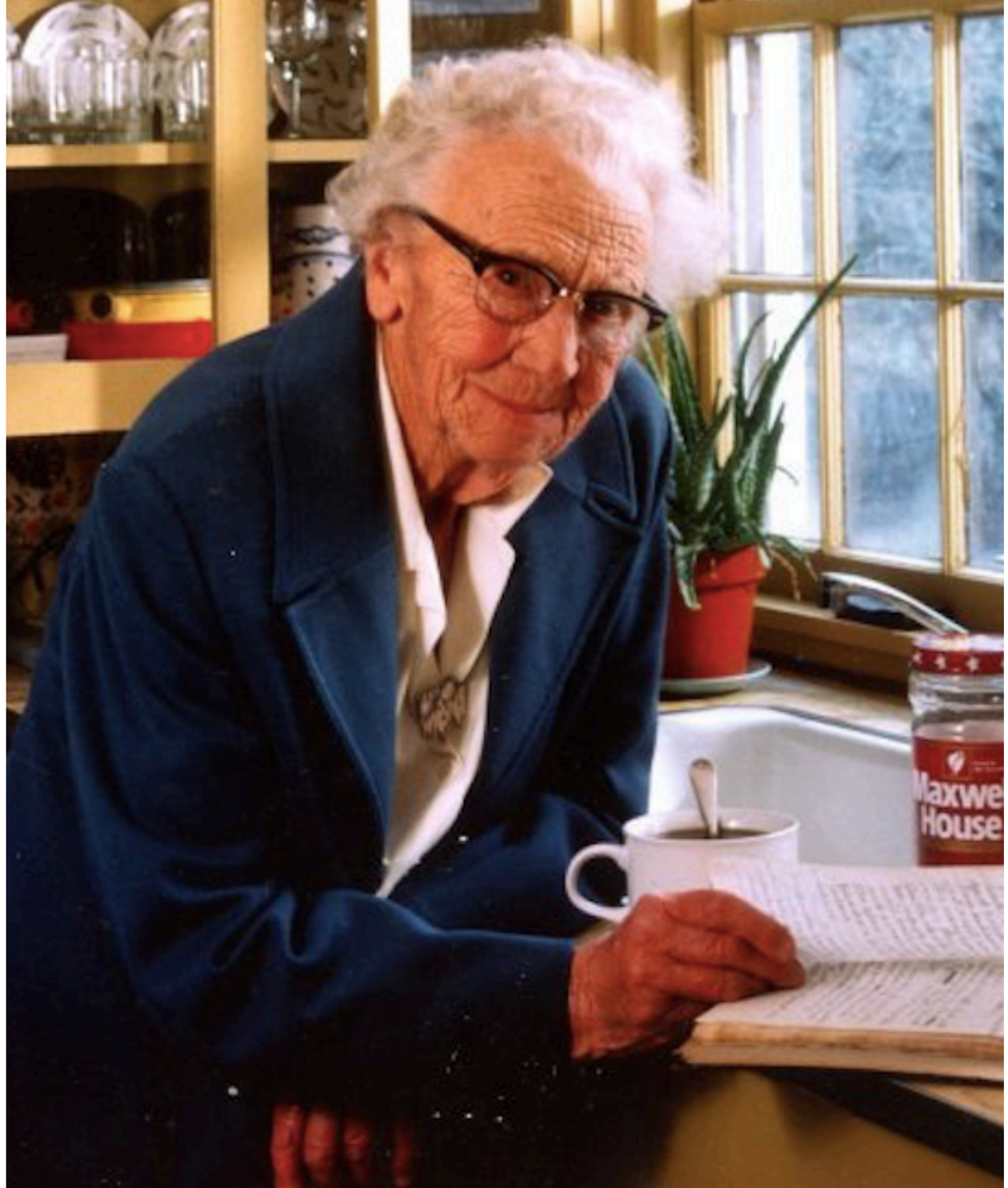
Battle of the Plains of Abraham, Quebec (September 13, 1759) Between the French and British





It’s Ruth Moore’s fault…

with her stories of Island life,
long before tourism and Rusticators hit the scene

Mills of Mount Desert Island

Water Power, an alternative energy

Starting with the first colonial settlements in 1761, free, renewable water power energy launched the mills of Mount Desert Island and allowed settlers to thrive



Lynam Mill

Schooner Head Rd

We begin our story of the frontier settlement of Mount Desert Island with this man:

Francis Bernard, “The Ultimate Real Estate Developer”

Royal Colonial governor of Massachusetts

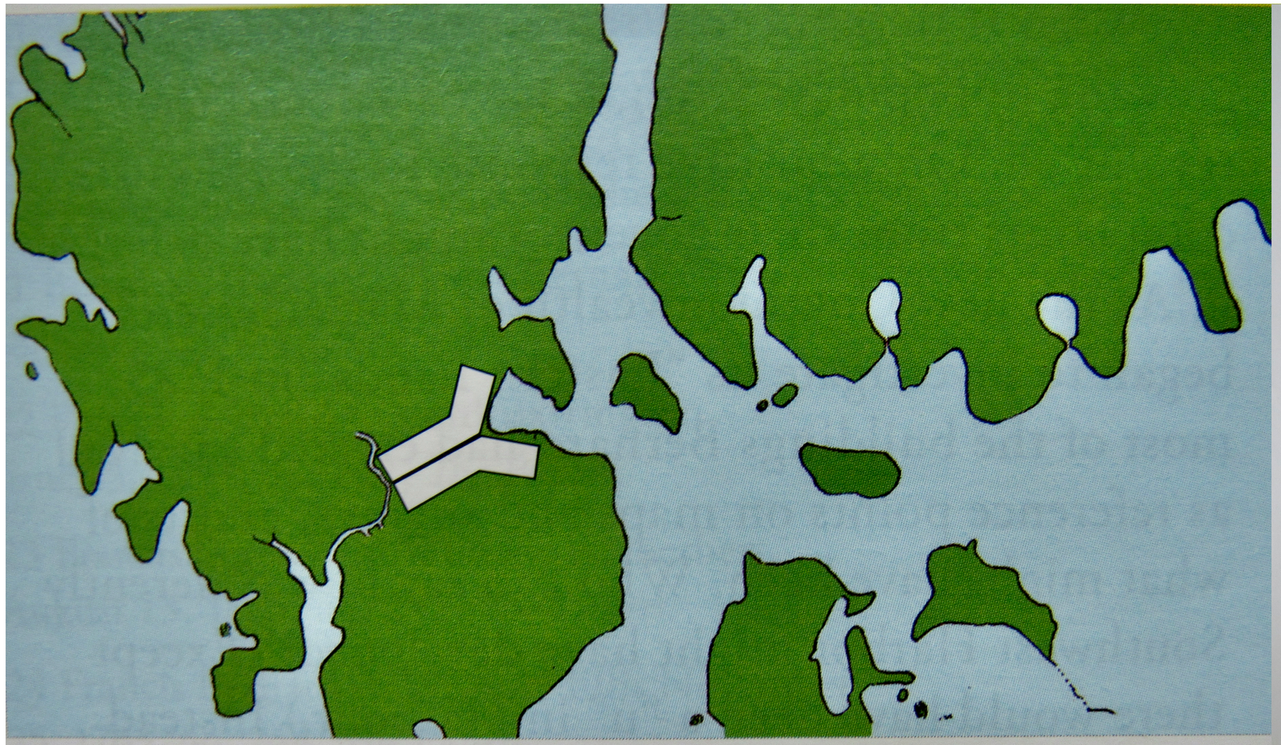


***In 1761 Bernard obtained a royal land grant of Mount Desert Island in lieu of payment for his services as governor.**

***He devised elaborate settlement plans for his ‘fiefdom’, that included three mills**

Bernard designed a subdivision in Southwest Harbor, built spec houses and the first mills to promote settlement. Bernard enlisted the services of surveyor Nathan Jones to build sawmills on the island, including a tide mill at Bass Harbor

The Revolutionary War put an end to those real estate plans!



Drawing of Southwest Harbor with Governor Bernard's settlement laid out at the head of the harbor, in Street's *Mt. Desert: A History*, 1905.

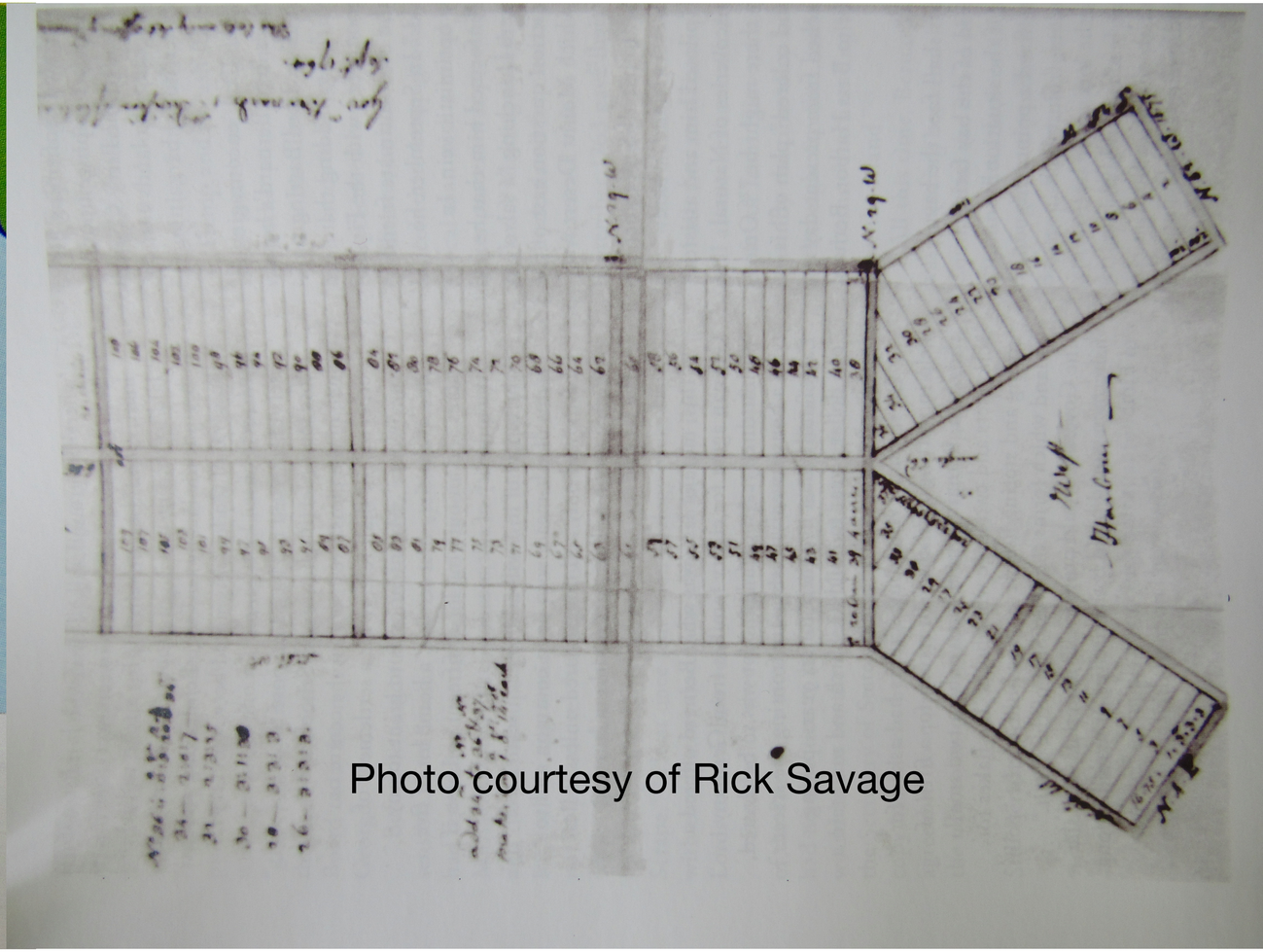


Photo courtesy of Rick Savage

Why did Francis Bernard focus on building mills?

Mills would provide his settlers the basic necessities for survival:

Food, Clothing, and Shelter



James Richardson Mill
Richardson Brook outlet into Somes Sound

Food

The grist mill allowed settlers to process their grains for consumption

The bottom stone was stationary. Sitting slightly above, the top stone was concave with an eye in the center for the axle gear where the grain was poured and channeled into grooves radiating from the center.



Somesville, Somes Brook behind old Higgins store

Clothing

The wool mill was improved to include dyeing and weaving.

Lyman Somes, as overseer of the poor, used the building to house transients.

*Fun fact:
The upper floor was used for dance classes too!

The carding and fulling mill prepared wool for clothing. The bark mill extracted the tannins necessary for tanning leather for shoe and boot manufacturing.



Wool mill Somesville 1850

Wool mill, Somesville, 1850

Near the Brookside Cemetery

Shelter And Transportation

The sawmill cut the timber for:

*__house__ construction,
*__shipbuilding__, used in transportation of the people and their goods,
*__container__ fabrication such as barrel making that allowed settlers to hold their products for transport and storage



James Richardson house, c1762



Somesville shipyard



Barrel, GCI

Many mill sites had **shipyards** nearby.

From 1810 to 1819, 20 ships were built; from 1820 to 1829, 84 ships!

"'Shipbuilding and sailing' was the biggest industry around MDI," Eben Hamor

Mills provide the lumber to build those ships





One of the five Shipyards in Somesville

Somes mill yard



Utilizing water power to turn machinery required harnessing the water with dams.



Remnants of tidal mill dam at Goose Marsh Pond in Pretty Marsh

Mill dams regulated the outflow of water and created ponds that held the logs being sent along to the mill



Mill pond at Seal Cove Stream for the Heath sawmill

Dams altered and shaped the landscape. Just think of the creation of the Great Meadow Lake!



Great Meadow flood of 2023 from a dammed culvert

When examining old maps for clues about mills, a hallmark of a mill site is the exaggerated swelling of stream beds formed by dams



Shingle Mill on Ripples Pond,
constructed by Abraham Somes III, last run by Edward Somes

The nucleus and predictor of village development was the mill: Corn Mill and Sawmill, Somesville, 1795



John Peters 1795



Somesville



1795 John Peters Map

1- Northeast Creek outlet DeGregoire, William Blunt

2-Stony Heath (near 'Hamiliton Pond'), Eben Higgins

3-Hulls Cove: Samuel Hull, E. Brewer

4-Duck Brook: Ezra Young, Wasgatt, Brewer

5-Cromwell Harbor: Jones, James Hamor

6-Schooner Head, Lynam

7-Wascott Cove, Hadlock Brook: James Richardson Jr., then Gilpatrick

8-Richardson Brook, James Richardson

9-Somesville, Somes family

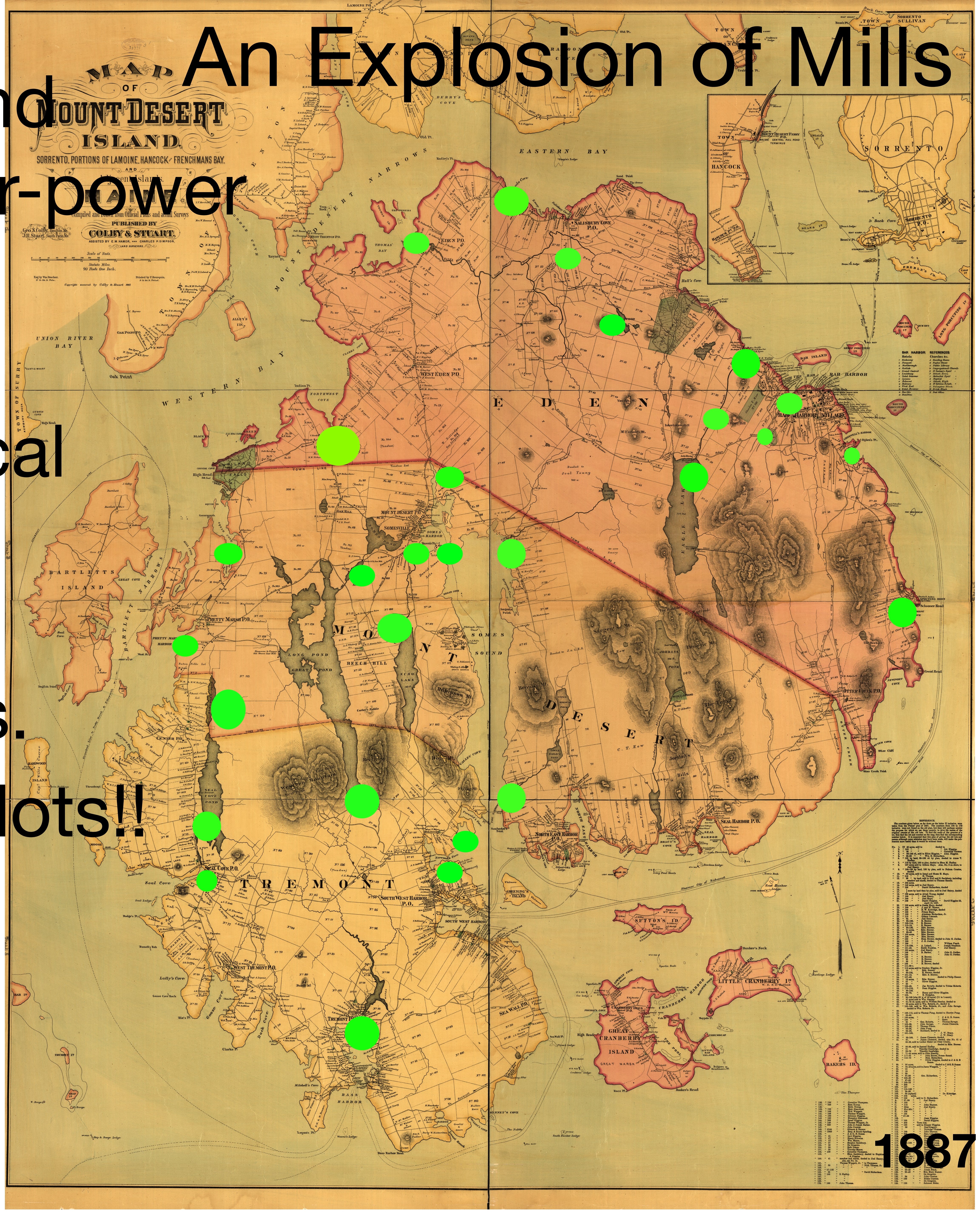
10-Echo Lake outlet, Job Denning

11-Seal Cove Stream outlet, Abraham Read, followed by William Heath

An Explosion of Mills

Between 1761 and 1900, small water-power mills were abundant and integral to the local economy. They changed owners over the decades.

That's 28 green dots!!



The means to wealth was the sawmill, and with it, the ability to construct ships to transport products.

1887 Map Colby and Stuart

One of the First of Bernard's Settlers on Mount Desert Island

Abraham Somes (1732-1819) and Hannah Herrick Somes (1735-1790)

Somes was a 'Cooper', or barrel maker, from Gloucester. In 1761, he built his homestead near Oak Hill for the oak trees used in making barrel staves.





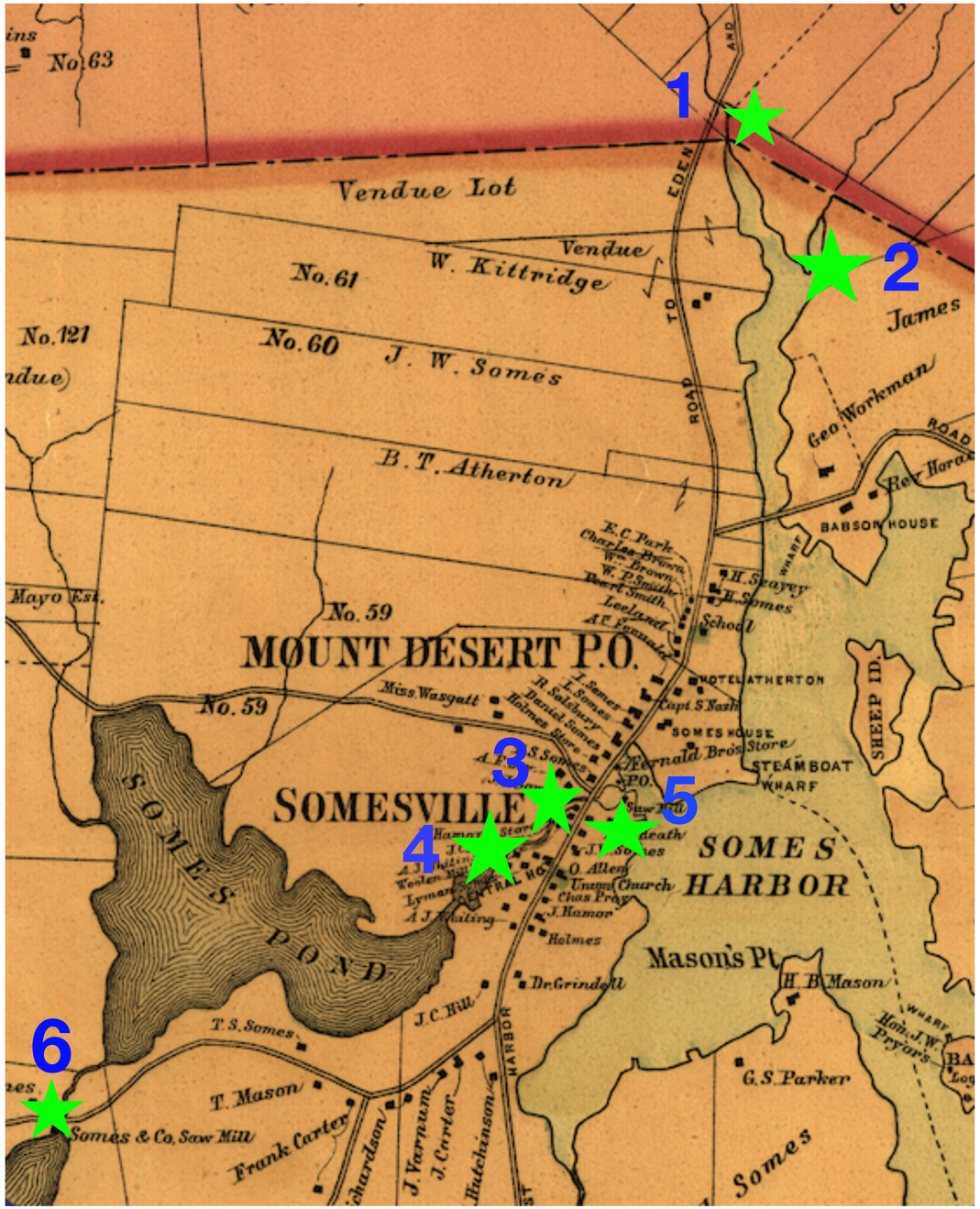
Abraham Somes sawmill erected in 1763, burned July 4 1933

When a couple of Somes teens set off holiday fireworks!

Initially operated with a single ‘sash’ blade, 500 board ft per day, it was replaced by a ‘gang’ sash with multiple blades and improvements to produce 5,000 ft of board per day.



Somesville Mills



1 Kittredge Brook, Benj. And Edwin Kittredge Samuel Reed, short lumber

2 Babson Creek, owned by George Hudson, bark mill for tanning

3 Somes Stream, Somes Grist mill

4 Somes Stream, Somes Woolen Mill

5 Somes Stream outlet, Somes Lumber mill

6 Ripples Pond stream, Ed Somes, Shingle mill

Somesville



By 1763, just 2 years after Somes arrival in Somesville there was a saw mill, a shingle mill, a lathe mill, and a grist mill!

By 1791, a most profitable woolen mill, a tan-yard, a bark mill for tanning, two ship yards were added.

By 1870 there had been added a stave mill, and five shipyards. To the woolen mill was added a fulling mill and a dye shop.

Remains of Old Somes Dam on Ripples Brook
For a Shingle Mill, run by various Somes family members
Last run by Ed Somes



The Influential Richardson Families
Another of Bernard's early settlers,1762
Neighbors of Abraham Somes in Gloucester

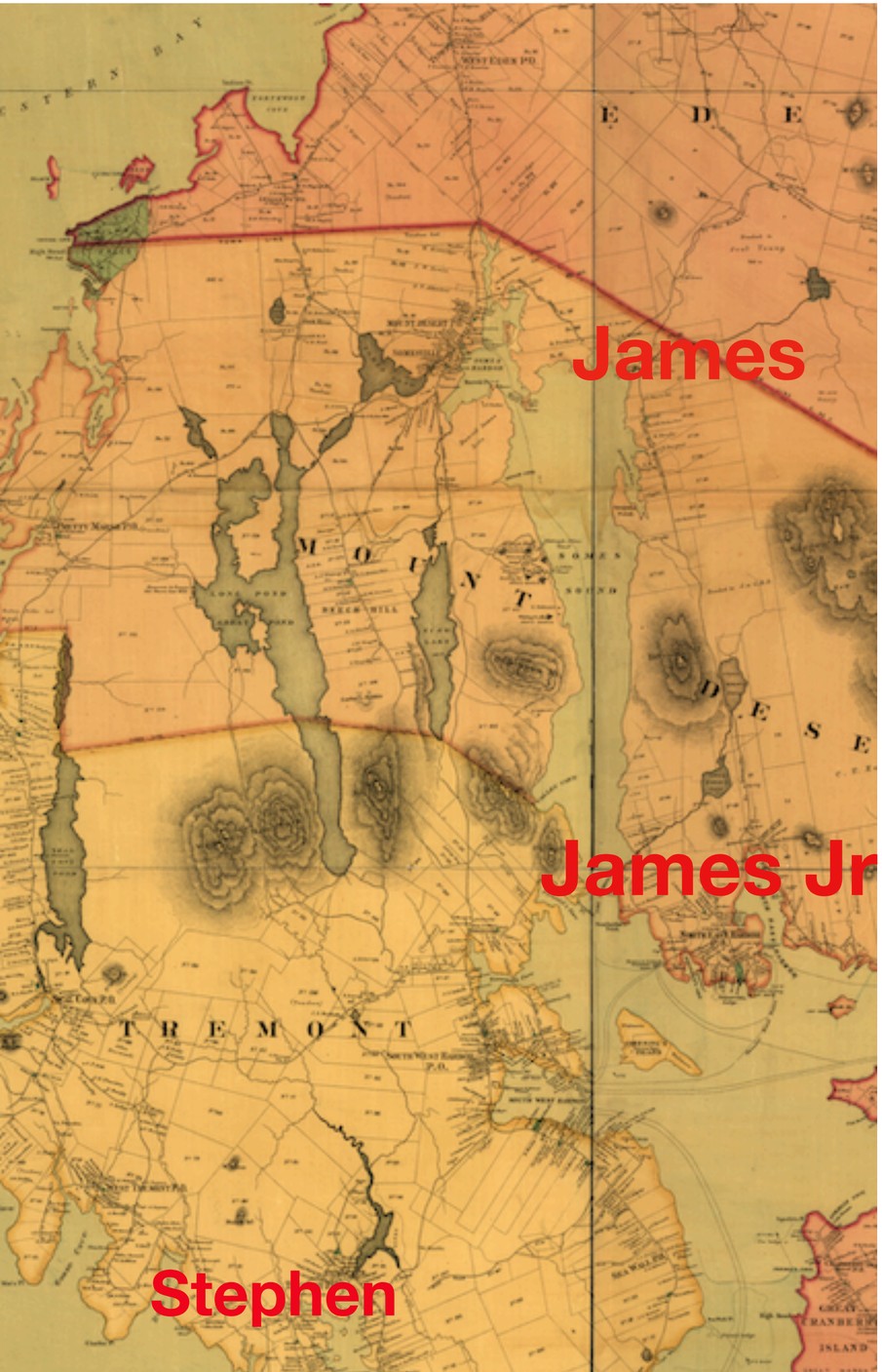
*James Richardson, (1730-1807) first Plantation Clerk of Mount Desert Island, 1776, and clerk of the Congregational church.

*Stephen Richardson, Jr., first meeting of the Plantation of Mount Desert Island held at his house on Crockett Point, Bass Harbor, March 30, 1776. Representative to the General Court of Massachusetts

*Thomas Richardson, first member of Committee of Correspondence and first selectman

Stephen Richardson and Jane Montgomery: Parents of the Richardson Brothers

Stephen Richardson was the gardener for the estate of Lord Montgomery of Ireland. His daughter, Jane, ran off and married the gardener, Stephen, much to her parents dismay. Needless to say, it was best that they left town and relocated to the colonies!



Sawmills of the Richardson family

“Three Brothers Married Three Sisters”

*James Richardson and Rachel Gott,
sawmill on Richardson Brook, east shore
Of Somes Sound

*Stephen Richardson and Elizabeth Gott
Sawmill on west shore of Bass Harbor

*Thomas Richardson and Margaret Gott,
Settled on east shore of Bass Harbor

James and Rachel Gott Richardson settled on MDI in 1762





James Richardson, (b.1730, d.1807) was the son of Stephen and Jane. He married Rachel Gott and built a mill at Richardson Brook on the east side of Somes Sound. With the family's horticultural background, he was responsible for bringing many of the cultivated fruit trees and ornamental shrubs to Mount Desert.



James Richardson Mill
Richardson Brook outlet into Somes Sound

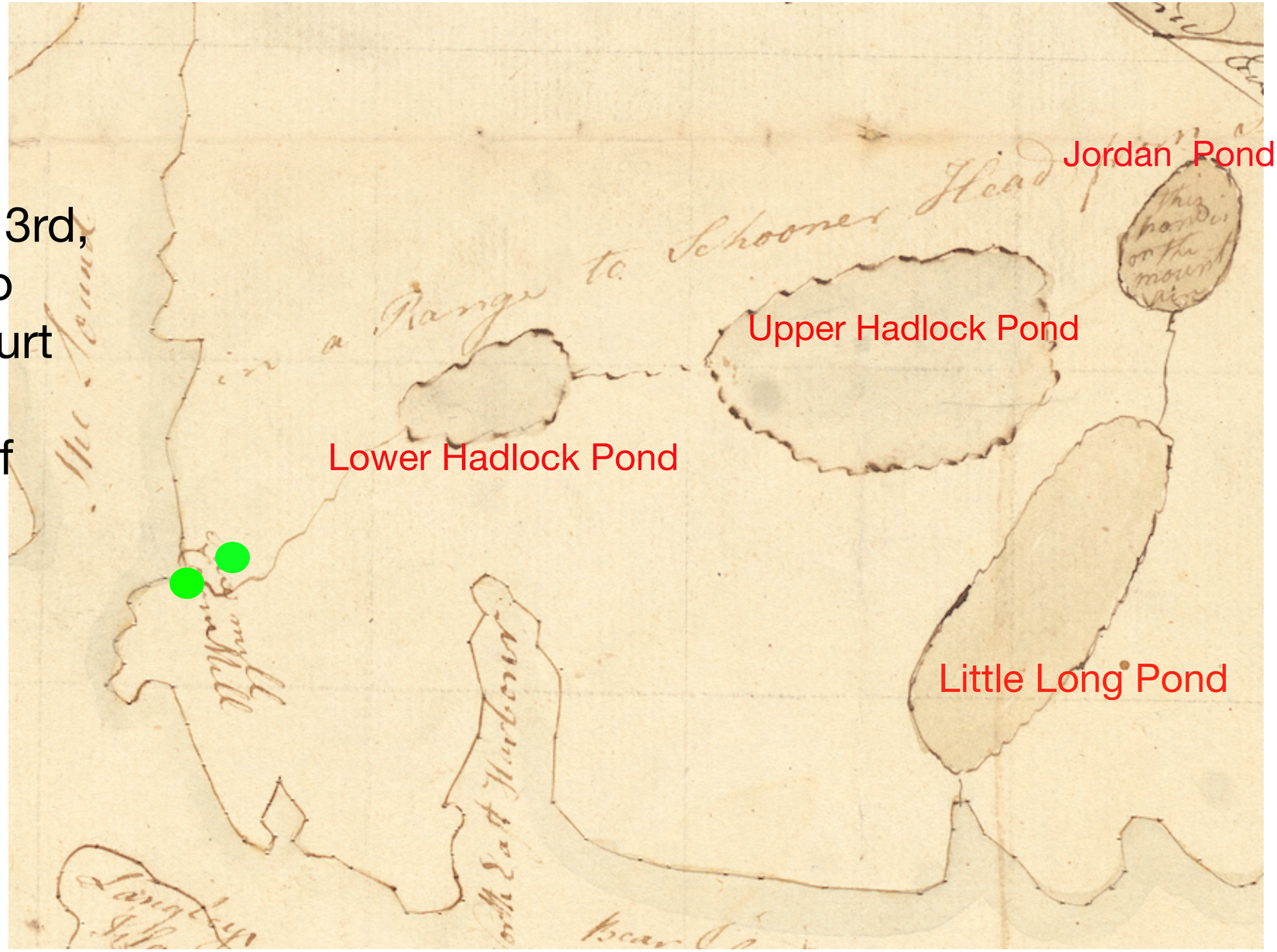


Richardson Brook flowing into ocean

In the later 1800s the mill was owned by Higgins family

Outlet of Lower Hadlock Brook, east entrance to Somes Sound
James Richardson Jr. had a sawmill and grist mill, later owned by Davis and Spencer

James' son, James the 3rd, drowned while sailing to East Bass Harbor to court his 2nd cousin, Esther Richardson, daughter of Thomas Richardson.



James Richardson Jr. mill site at Hadlock Brook outlet

Samuel Hadlock also had a mill on Hadlock Brook, 1780s, probably same site
Samuel was hung for murder in 1790





Champlain Society men of Harvard
Hadlock Brook sawmill site, 1890

Jordan Pond Sawmill



Samuel Gilpatrick had a sawmill at the outlet of Jordan Pond and sold it to the Jordan brothers in 1841. Samuel then worked a mill at Hadlock Brook
outlet into Wasgatt Cove, east shore Somes Sound.

George N. Jordan and J. S.Jordan had a lumbering camp. A great fire in 1864 burned the timber on the slopes of Jordan (Penobscot) Mtn and Pemetic Mtn and scorched the ground, ending their business.

Even Bartholemy Cadillac-DeGregoire ran a mill!!



Antoine De La Mothe Cadillac

In 1688, Antoine De La Mothe Cadillac, was granted Mount Desert Island by the King of France.

In 1787, Madame Marie Therese Cadillac DeGregoire and her husband Bartholemy petitioned the Massachusetts Court to grant them Mount Desert Island as heirs to her grandfather. She received half the island, excepting land already settled.

Bartholomew De Gregoire set up a tide sawmill at the mouth of Northeast Creek around 1790. He died in 1810.

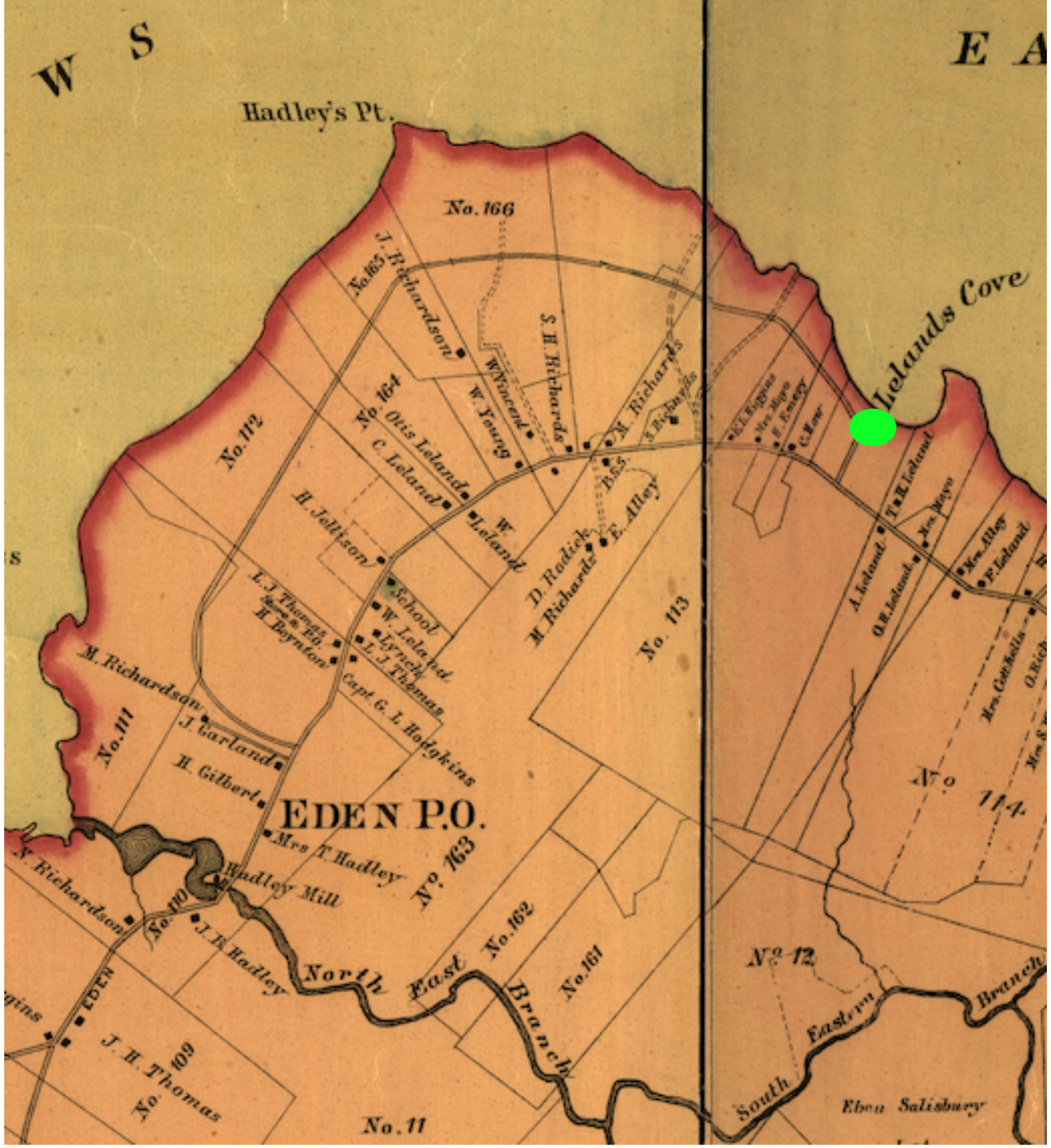
William Blunt arrived from Portsmouth, N.H. prior to 1803 and set up two tide mills and a grist mill on the westside of Northeast Creek. A prominent resident and Justice of the Peace

Josiah Hadley had a ‘up and down’ sawmill at Northeast Creek that made unplaned long timber and sheathing



Northeast Creek Outlet, tide mills



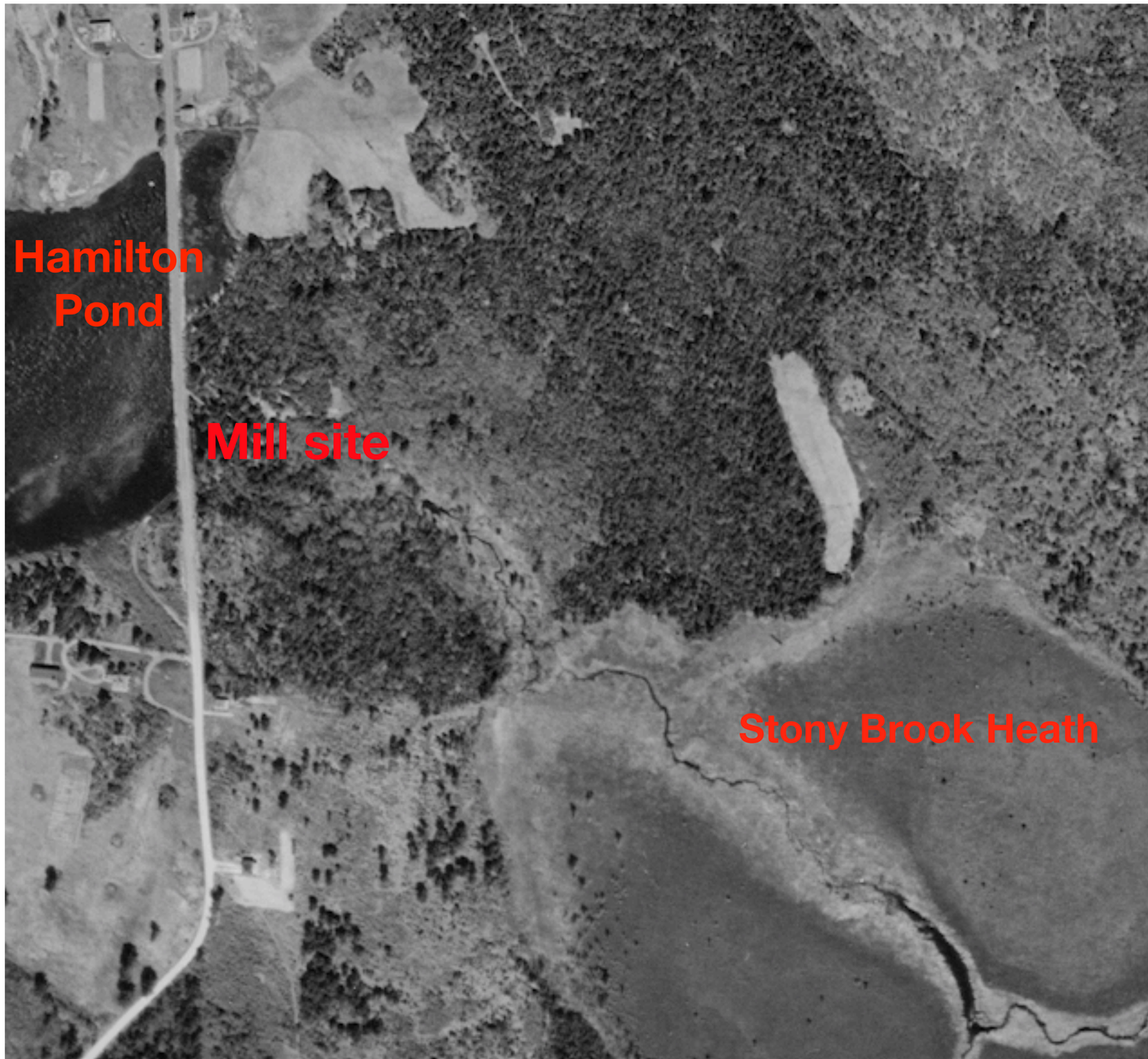


Ezra Leland came to MDI with his father, Amariah Leland in 1769. Ezra ran a grist mill near the shore at Lelands Cove in the fall and spring.
He was one of the best farmers in the north section of MDI and raised grain and corn.

Between 1812 to 1815, island residents were terrrorized by British privateers. Amariah Leland had to pay $500 or have his vessel burned.

Capt. Eben Higgins and John Emery Mill at Stony Brook Heath, opposite Hamilton Pond
Shingles, laths, clapboards, boxes, recorded in 1796

“Robert Hamor was driving his horse homeward one spring evening at that time when the waters in the meadow above the old mill were very high, and just before reaching the mill location, Mr. Hamor suddenly heard a crashing sound, and saw the whole structure, machinery and all coming toward him. Had he been a moment earlier, he and his horse would have been killed. It seems that a great body of ice above the mill had broken loose and drifted into the supporting timber of the mill, toppling it over.” A.L. Higgins



Mill on Old Mill Brook and The Barcelona

Lemuel Jordan built a mill on the brook that empties into the head of the Barcelona. He lived near the brook and operated the mill a number of years, then moved to Salsbury's Cove, built two or three vessels



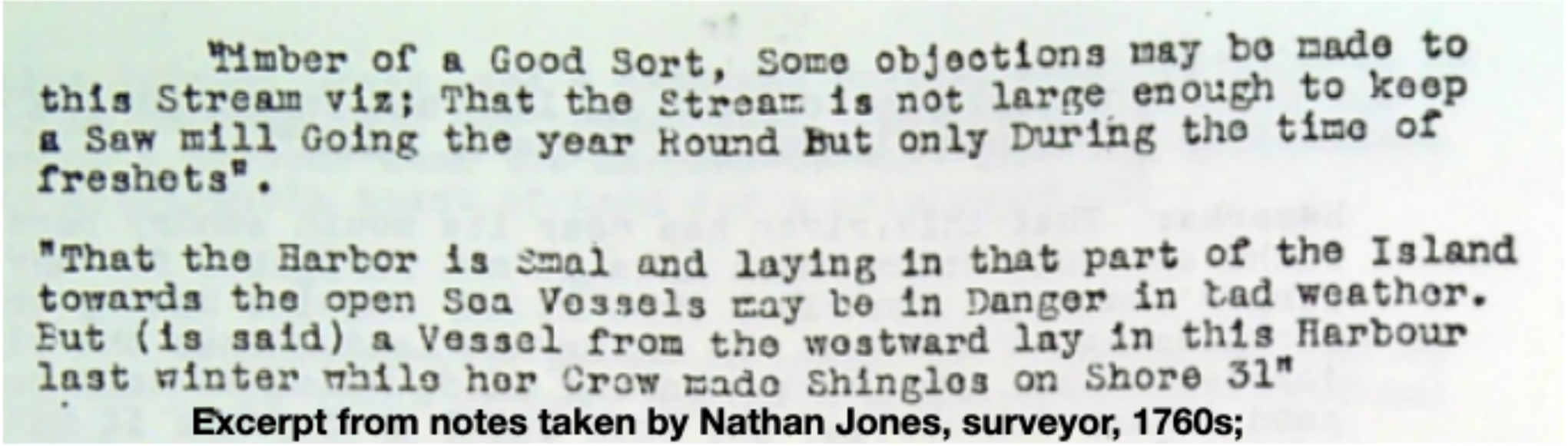
Early Bar Harbor Mills, prior to 1796



Cromwell Harbor Mill, Bar Harbor

A mill at Cromwell Harbor was first constructed in 1768 by Nathan Jones for Francis Bernard using the dismantled mill at Bass Harbor.

In 1815, Capt. James Hamor used the mill to manufacture shingles, laths and smoked herring boxes. The first ice ever used by any of the summer hotels was harvested in Capt. Hamor's mill pond. This pond also furnished a skating field for all the school boys of that period.



"Timber of a Good Sort, Some objections may be made to this Stream viz; That the Stream is not large enough to keep a Saw mill Going the year Round But only During the time of freshets".

"That the Harbor is Smal and laying in that part of the Island towards the open Sea Vessels may be in Danger in bad weather. But (is said) a Vessel from the westward lay in this Harbour last winter while her Crew made Shingles on Shore 31"

Excerpt from notes taken by Nathan Jones, surveyor, 1760s;
Included in Eben Hamor manuscript
Referring to Cromwell Harbor and Cromwell Brook

Mills provided lumber resources to construct boarding houses
As the local economy pivoted to tourism



Hamor House, corner of Cottage and Main St., Bar Harbor

Capt. Hamor was an influential citizen of Eden, a Justice of the Peace and a Postmaster.
He and his wife Clarissa were strong Abolitionists.

Capt. Hamor turned to the new tourist economy and enlarged his house to a small Hotel known as the Hamor House and took in boarders.



Bar Harbor Mills, by 1860

Sketched by Albert Higgins, Postmaster

1 Duck Brook, Thomas Wasgatt, grist

2 Duck Brook, Brewer sawmill, then Calvin Salisbury

3 Eddy Brook, sawmill, Jacob Suminsby

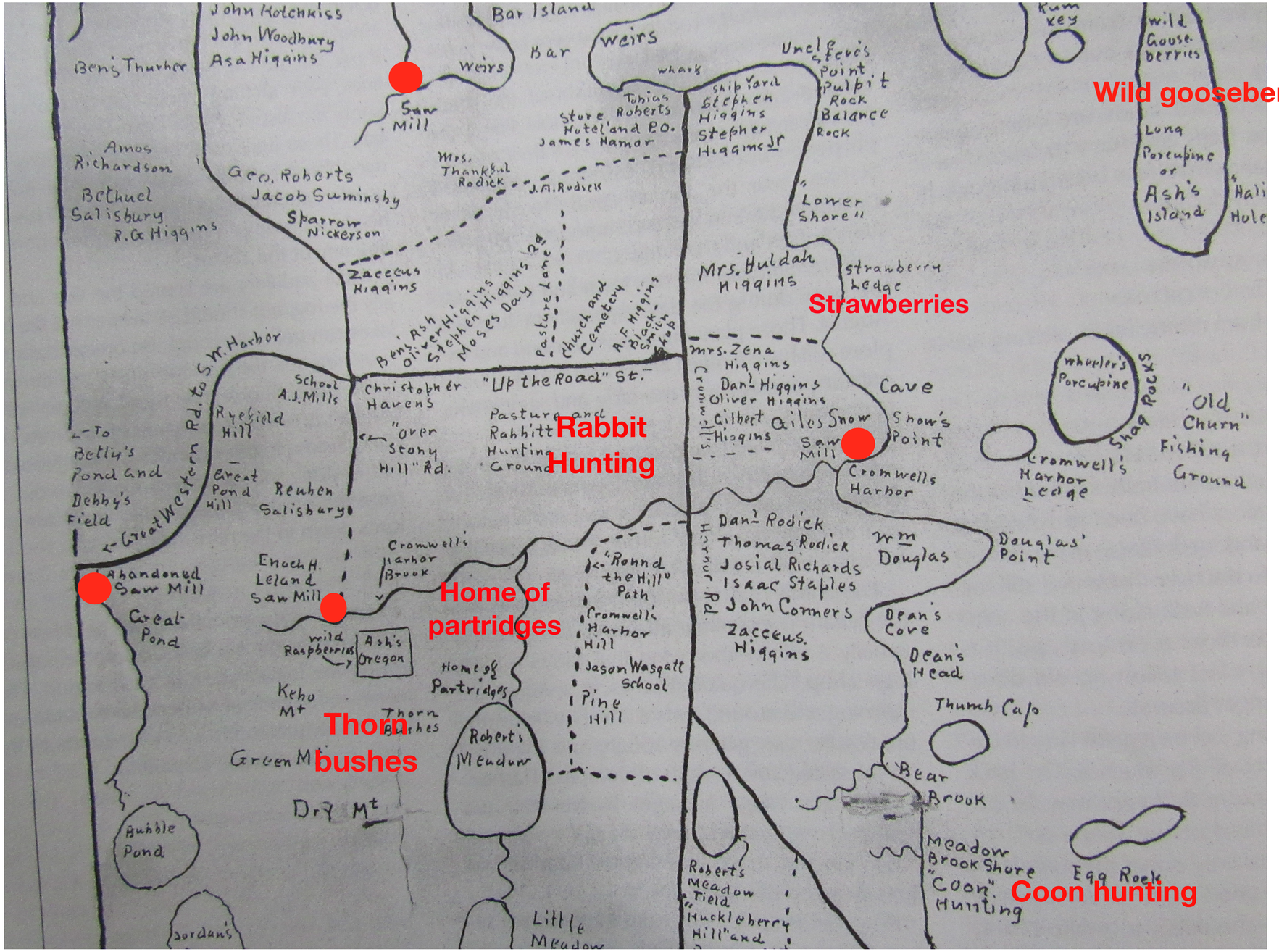
4 Cromwell Harbor, Capt. James Hamor, sawmill

5 Schooner Head, William Lynam, sawmill

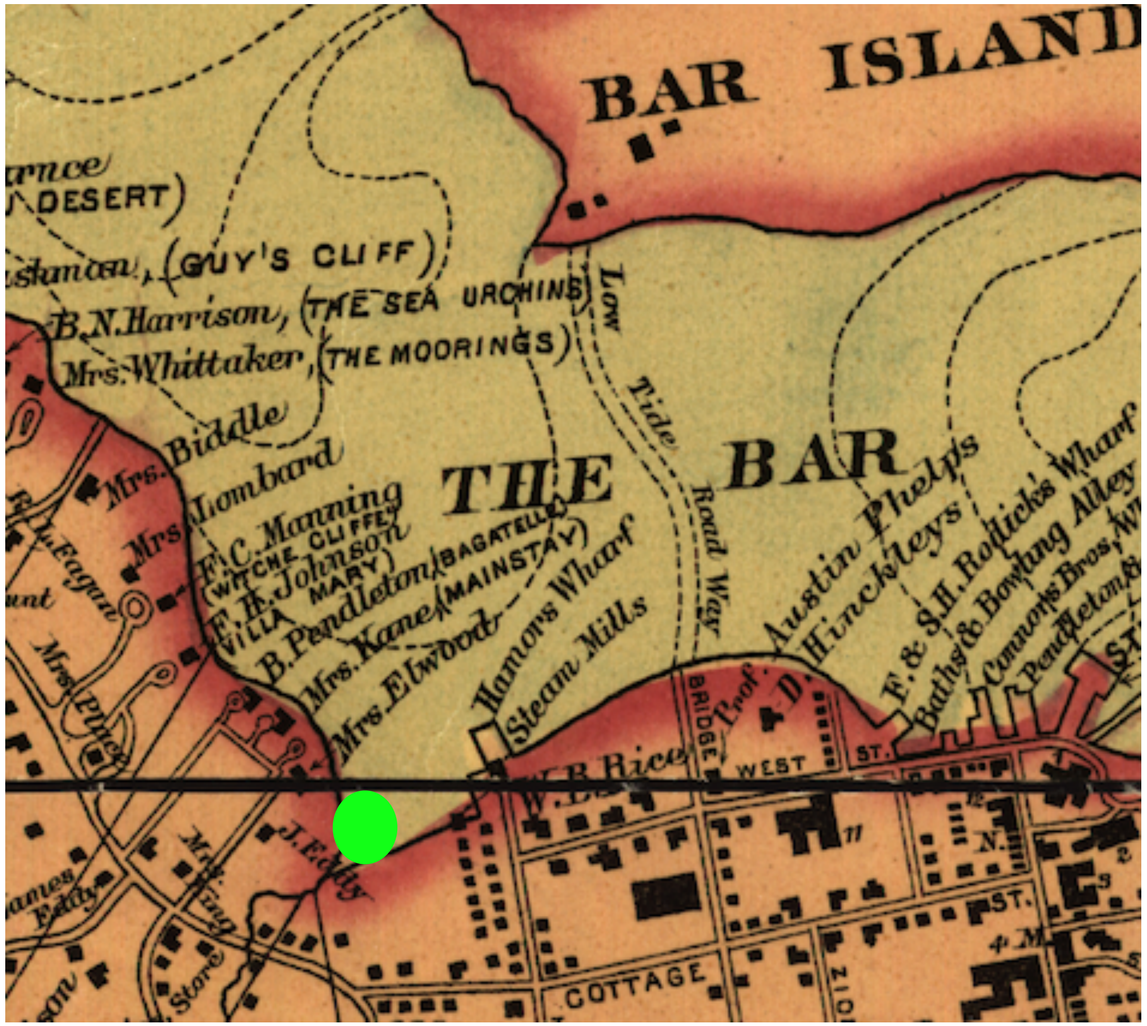
6 Kebo Brook, Enoch Leland, sawmill

7 Otter Creek outlet, Edward Brewer, sawmill

Albert Higgin's postmaster map, Bar Harbor, 1850s
Sawmills and More!



“A little mill of Jacob Suminsby at the little creek or Eddy’s Brook above the Bar. Mr. Suminsby was all around mechanic, and
In his day could saw, plane and otherwise turn out as fine a ship
Or row boat as any one ever wished to lay eyes on.” A. Higgins



William Lynam Mill at Schooner Head

William Lynam's father was an officer in the French army, his mother was a Prussian. They moved from St. Augustine, Florida in about 1790 and settled at Schooner Head.



Lynam mill with side-wheel



The sawmill manufactured spools, blocks and other products.

William Lynam was injured while sawing, the effects from which he died April 14, 1857.

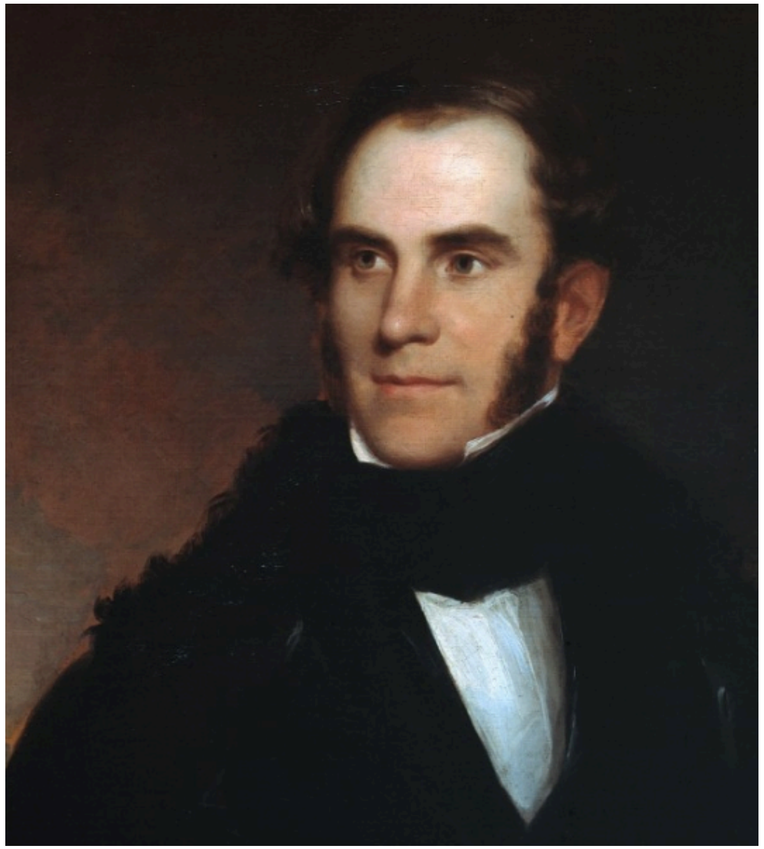
Lynam homestead with
pogie oil press, was typical of multiple family industry activities



“A Turning Point” Away from the Lumber Industry and towards Tourism

In 1844, Thomas Cole, founder of the Hudson River School of Art came to Mt Desert and stayed with the Lynam family. Lynam’s homestead and mill became the homebase of the Hudson River artists including Frederic Church.

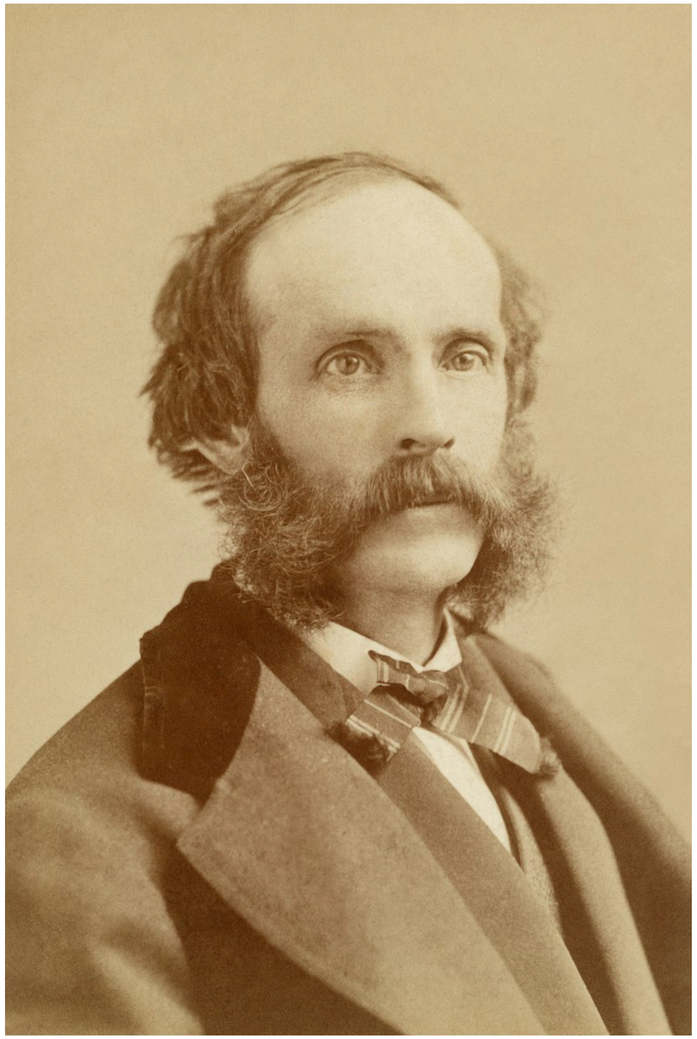




Thomas Cole, artist

Church brought his friends, the Charles Tracy family, including daughter Fanny Tracy, to visit the Lynam's in 1850.

John Lynam named his son after Frederich Church, Frederic Church Lynam known as Fred C. Lynam!



Frederic Church, artist



Fanny Tracy, the future Mrs. J. P. Morgan

Just in the nick of time…as most of the best trees had been harvested and mills became obsolete, artists and rusticators began arriving.

Suddenly mills became the artistic subject of a bucolic landscape



Hudson River artist William Haseltine’s sketch of the sluice at Lynam’s sawmill

Sluice directing water to the wheel on Lynam Sawmill near Schooner Head



Lynam home with mill pond



John Lynam traded the sawmill operation for tourism, sold the homestead in 1862, which was acquired by lawyer George S. Hale of Boston, and opened the Mount Desert Inn on Mt. Desert St in Bar Harbor to accomodate the new Rusticators…

Sawmill unidentified location on MDI, 1850s sketch by Frederic Church



Unknown Location, possibly at head of Somes Sound and Babson Creek?



Fig. 4: Frederic Edwin Church (1826–1900), *Lumber Mill, Mount Desert Island*, ca. 1850. Oil on canvas, 14 x 20 inches. Private collection. Image courtesy David Stansbury.

“Hull’s Cove”, by Harrison Bird Brown, 1862

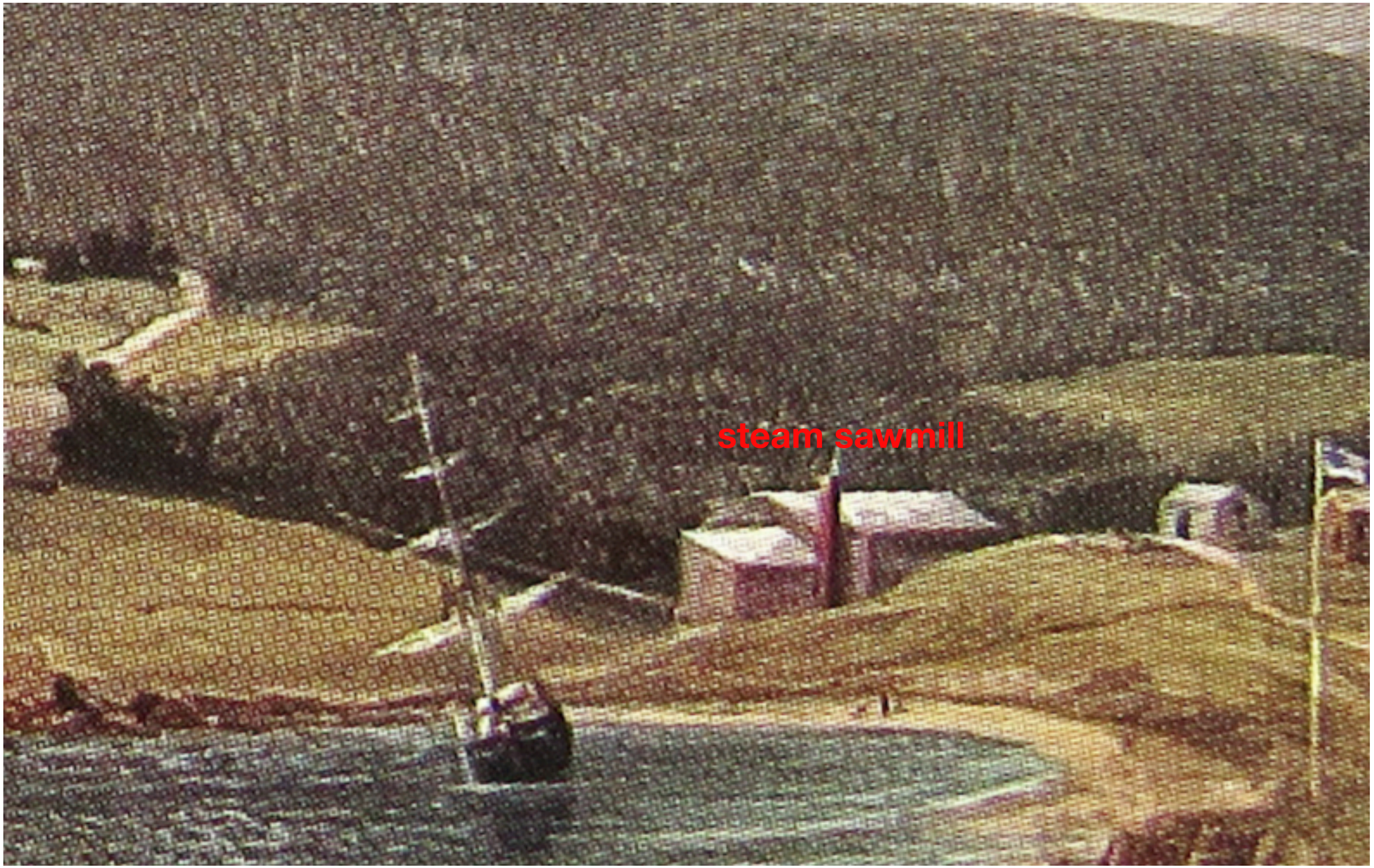
Samuel Hull had 2 sawmills operating here in 1796.

Later, Master Edward Brewer ran a sawmill at Hull’s Cove.

With his sons, Otis, Daniel, Porter, Perry and Elmer the mill turned out spool blocks, staves, built vessels, and rowboats”



Close-up of Sawmill in Hull's Cove, 1862, by Harrison Bird Brown



Mills were featured as romantic destinations in guidebooks such as the 1867 Clara Barnes Martin, *“Mount Desert on the Coast of Maine”*

Martin described the hike up Kebo Mtn beginning at the charming old “Mill in the Meadow” which belonged to Enoch Leland and was located on the present day Kebo golf course along Kebo Brook.

Enoch Leland Mill

Used for sawing laths, shingles, clapboards, and joists



Eagle Lake

Clara Barnes Martin in her guidebook of Mount Desert, 1867, referred to this ‘half-built’ mill as the “Mill on the Floss”. Samuel Drake also mentioned it in his guidebook, 1875.
“The large old mill frame, erected by Messrs. Goodwin and Severance, and which stood unused on the “Great Pond” stream near Eagle Lake. It was abandoned as a failure because there was not sufficient fall to the water. It was a very large two story affair of hewn timber, pinned and bolted but its walls or roof were never boarded in, or any machinery ever installed in it.” A. Higgins



Duck Brook Outlet Mill, former Sonogee location changed hands often!

*Ezra Young, in 1774 built the first sawmill in Eden at Duck Brook-
most influential man on the island, captain of the island militia
*In 1775 Thomas Wasgatt and Job Stanwood, lumber mill and grist mill
*By 1843 John Hotchkiss, son-in-law of Thomas Wasgatt had built a new mill at the same location,
*In 1848 the mill was purchased by Edward Brewer
*In 1861 Calvin Salsbury bought the mill
*In 1866 the mill was sold to Richard Hamor.



Hamor Mill, Duck Brook Outlet, 1890s

The Hamor's operated the mill until mid 1890s. Largest mill used for long and short lumber





Hamor’s Sawmill, Duck Brook Outlet



In 1896, the Hamor's were forced to close the Duck Brook mill and move the saw machinery to West St. in Bar Harbor when the Bar Harbor Water Company dammed Duck Brook and stopped the flow to the mill



Edward Brewer
Settled at Hull's Cove prior to 1817

"Master Brewer probably built more vessels than any other man in Eden. He was also concerned for many years in the lumber business,owning and operating saw mills on Hull's Cove Brook, on Duck Brook at its outlet and mid stream near the Meadows, also at Otter Creek."

"He built a sluice from their mills on Duck Brook near the meadows down the brook to salt water, in which they ran their lumber instead of hauling it."



Mill on Duck Brook

Two Views of one of the Mills at Duck Brook





Two Views of Mill on New Mill Meadow Duck Brook, Near Duck Brook Carriage Road Bridge





Another View, New Mill Meadow Sawmill, 1870s, near present Duck Brook carriage road bridge
In 1827, Edward Brewer and John O. Hotchkiss constructed the first mill in this area





Edward Brewer owned huge tracts of land on Cadillac And Dorr Mtns. Lumber was brought down to Otter Creek where his son Perry Brewer ran a sawmill at the outlet of Otter Creek into Otter Cove

Sawmills gave way to the growth of summer estates.

Robert Abbe bought the Hamor Mill property and built his estate and constructed a new dam and pond at the mill site.





Old Duck Brook Mill Pond



BROOK END, BAR HARBOR

Mill Pond transformed into Dr. Abbe's estate landscape, featuring swans!

Westside of the Island, Mill at the Causeway, Southwest Harbor





Leonard Holmes and John (‘Major’) Manchester 3rd had a tide mill at Norwood Cove in 1826, the remnants of the dam became the base of the Causeway.

Ships were built on the shores of the millpond at Norwood’s Cove

*A grist mill was also at Norwood’s Cove

Norwood Cove, 1900, before Causeway construction by Summer Residents

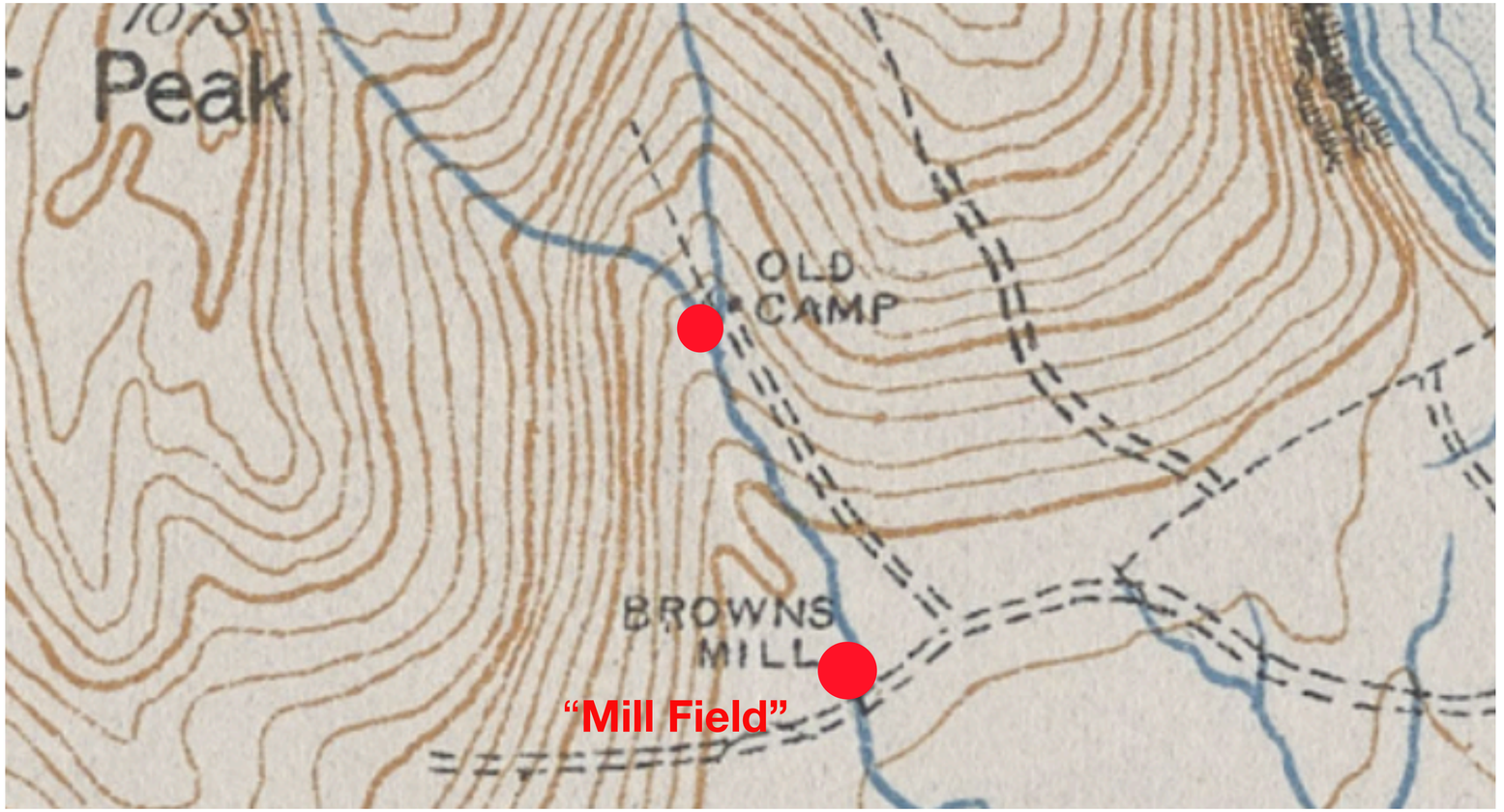


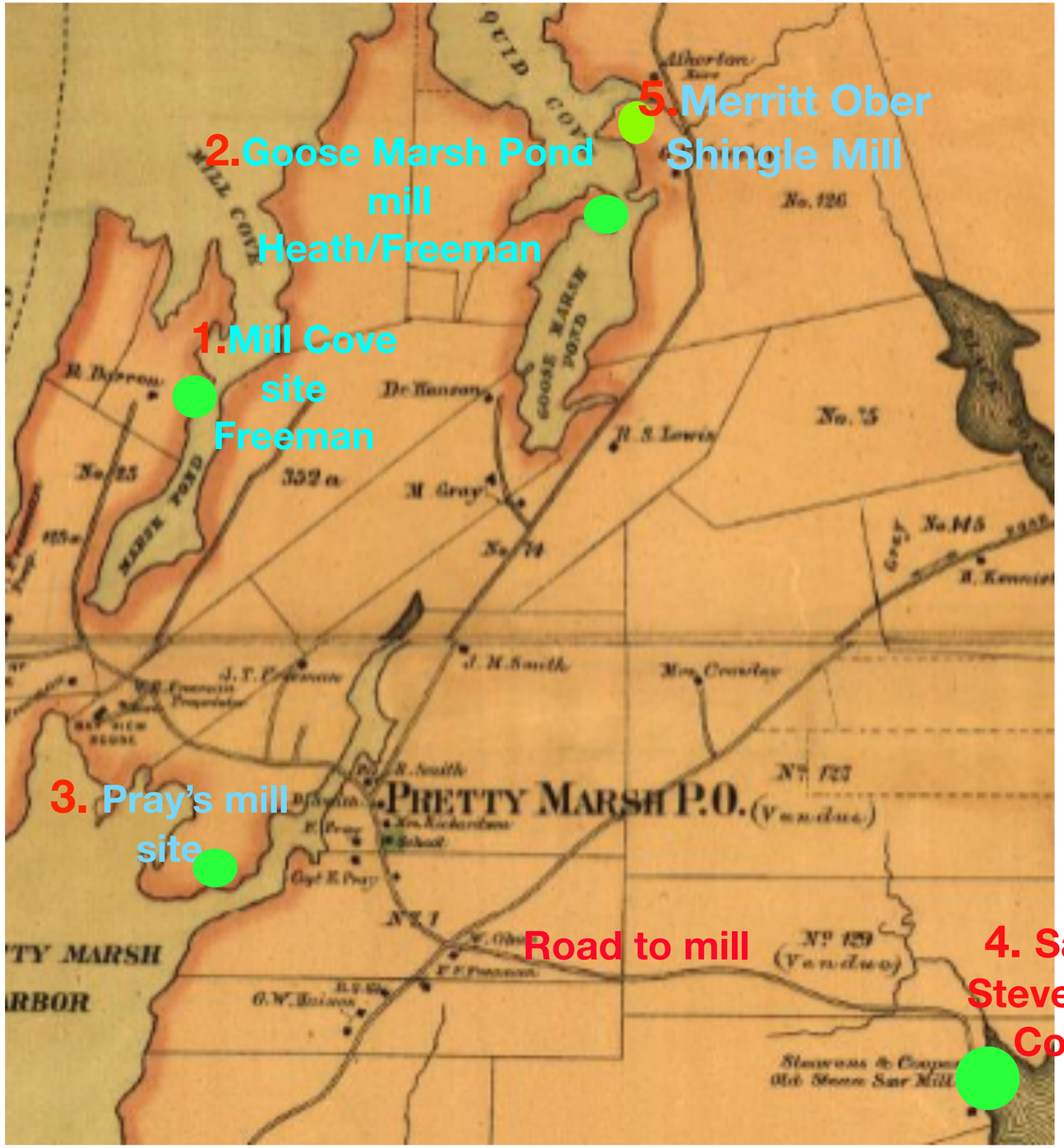


Nathan Clark kept a lumber camp on Western Mtn; logs were sent down the mountain via a sluiceway, the origin of the current Sluiceway Trail.

A crew stayed in the camp each winter cutting logs and hauling them to Norwood's Cove where they piled them on the ice. In the spring the logs were floated to the mill where they were sawed into lumber.
Nathan's son Henry owned schooners employed in carrying the lumber to markets.

"Mill Field" on the Western Mtn Road Showed up as a Shingle Mill on a 1860 map, and as Browns Mill on this 1896 map





Pretty Marsh Mills

1. Reuben Freeman-Mill Cove
2. Richard Heath-Goose Marsh Pond
3. Ephraim Pray-Pretty Marsh harbor

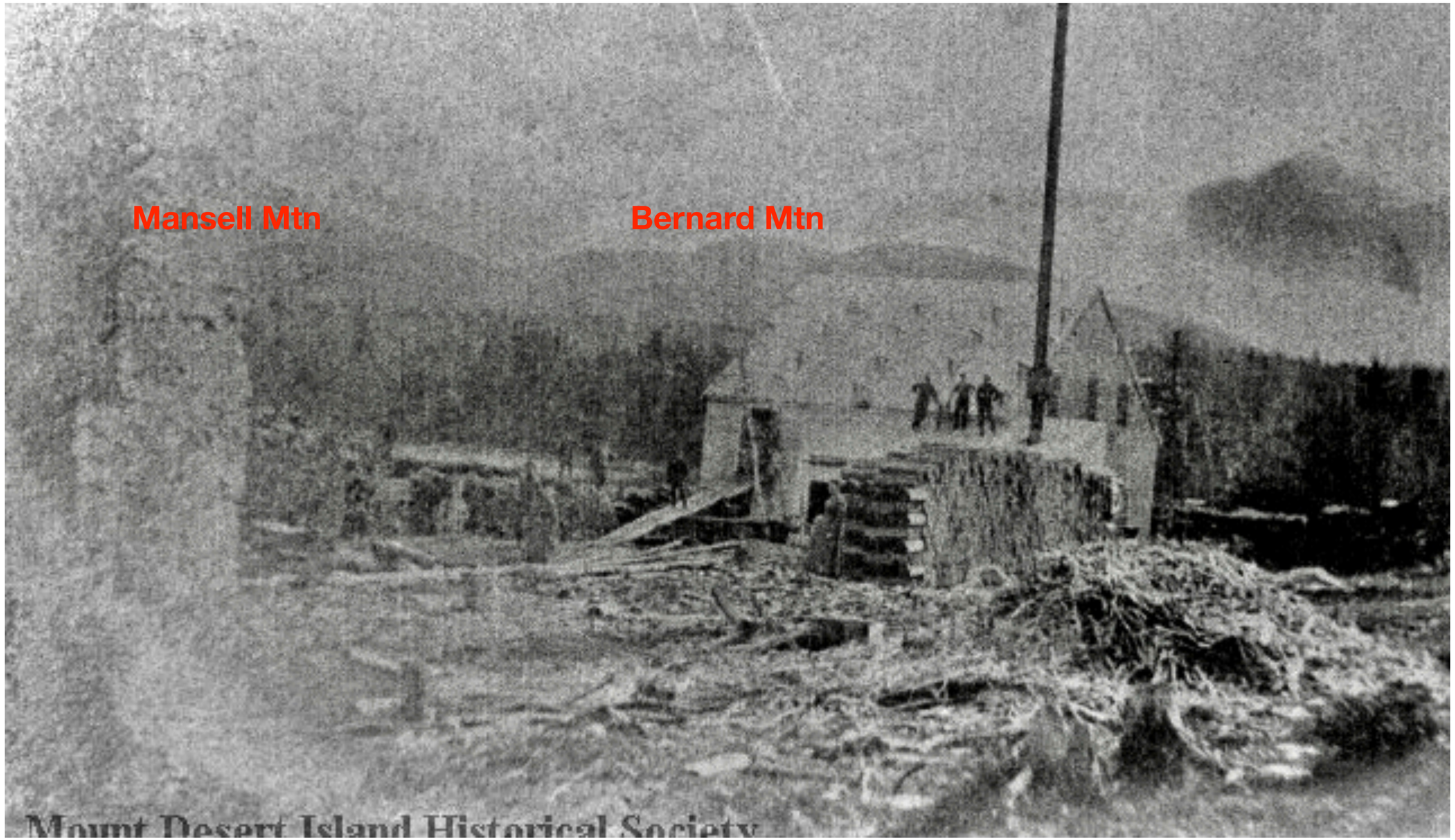
4. Stevens and Cooper- steam sawmill on west shore, Long Pond, Barrels and staves

5. Merritt T. Ober ran a steam sawmill near Goose Marsh Pond and Squid Cove starting in 1915

Ephraim Pray Grist Mill and Sawmill,c. 1780s at Pretty Marsh, Shown on 1808 Salem Towne Map
Pray died of small pox shortly after building these mills



Stevens and Cooper steam sawmill, Long Pond, 1900



Merritt Ober examplified the successful and industrious business man of the Island. Like others, he used his lumber resources to enter the tourist industry.
Born in 1864 on Bartlett's Island he started a sawmill and hotel business in Sorrento. He lived with his family in Northeast Harbor where he also ran a meat market and owned a large estate at Harborside that he rented to a wealthy summer family.

Along with his son Merritt Ober Jr., he produced laths and shingles at his mill in Pretty Marsh, using his schooner the Frank Brainerd to transport the shingles to various markets.





Merritt Ober schooner, the **Frank Brainerd**, in Pretty Marsh at Squid Cove



Dam Remnants at Goose Marsh Pond, mill owned by Reuben Freeman and Richard Heath





William Freeman, descendent, followed other local business men when he traded mill operations and opened the popular tourist hotel Bay View House

Sawmills in the Tremont Area



1 Frank Hodgdon Grist mill, east Hodgdon Pond

2 Heath Mill, midstream, Seal Cove Stream

3 Heath Sawmill, next to Seal Cove bridge

4 Cushman steam sawmill, North shore Seal Cove,

5 Dodge sawmill, next to Bridge at Bass Harbor head

6 Stephen Richardson sawmill Crockett Point, Bernard?, 1763

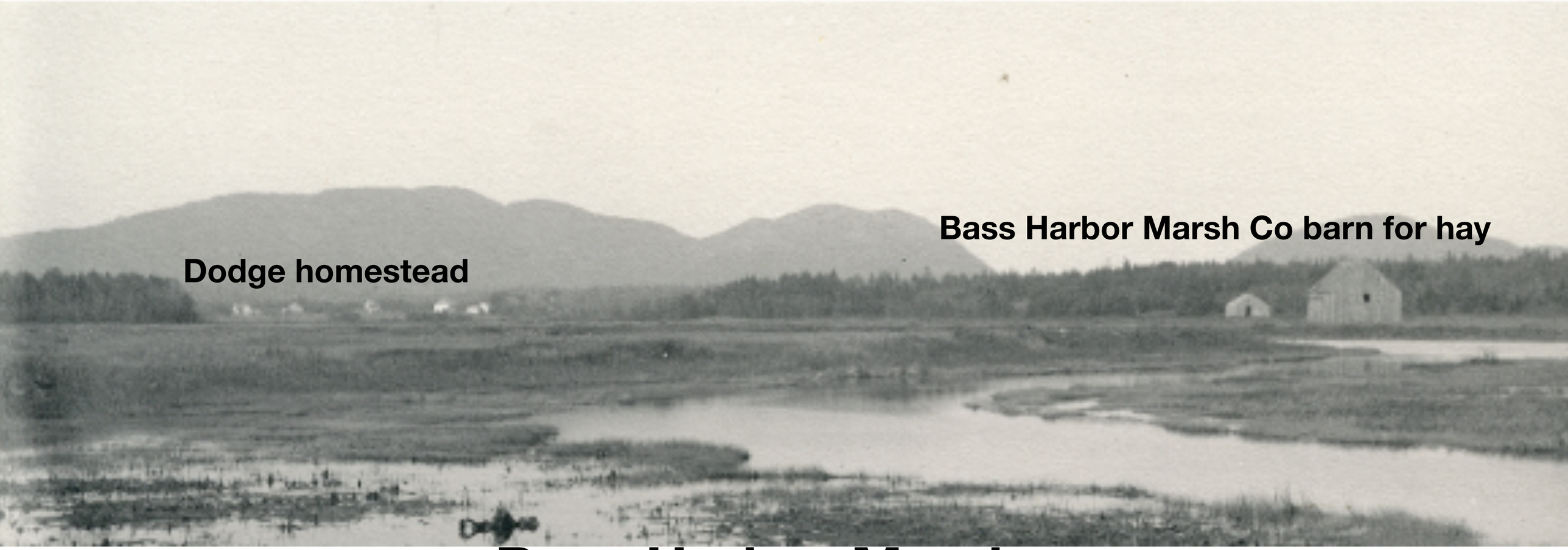
The first mill built at Bass Harbor Marsh outlet was constructed in 1764 by Nathan Jones for Francis Bernard but was dismantled in 1768 and moved to Cromwell Harbor





John S. Dodge, son of Ezra H. and Mary Richardson Dodge (daughter of James Richardson), ran a sawmill and shingle mill at the outlet of Bass Harbor.

When John died in 1854, he left his wife Elizabeth with much debt. The mill was sold to Eaton Clark



Bass Harbor Marsh

Eaton Clark ran the mill at Bass Harbor but then ended the mill operation in order to form the Bass Harbor Marsh Co. along with other residents. The marsh was dammed and drained to create hay fields.

Dam at Bass Harbor Creek outlet for diking and draining marsh,
built in 1866 by the Bass Harbor Marsh Company at the location of the old Dodge mill dam



Logs Under Bass Harbor Marsh bridge, 1920s
Logs were sent to Bucksport mill



Logs in Bass Harbor Marsh heading to bridge, 1920s



Logs carried to the Bass Harbor Head shore, 1920



A Closer Look at One Family…

Heath Family of Seal Cove: “From Rags to Riches to Rags Again”

And An End to the Water-powered Mill

The Heath family were important community members throughout their 4 generations. The Heath family presence on MDI started with a William Heath born in 1764 in Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

He joined the New Hampshire regiment in the Revolutionary war in 1779 at age 15 serving as a drum and fife boy. He was a soldier for 4 years and then discharged in 1783.

He went to Sedgwick Maine where other members of his community had settled. There he met and married Hannah Allen in 1786.

They moved to Seal Cove, MDI in 1789 and had 2 sons and 4 daughters.

William bought land in 1789 which was owned by Abraham Read who had constructed a sawmill on the stream in 1785. Abraham sold the property to William who went on to manage the mill which was located about midstream.



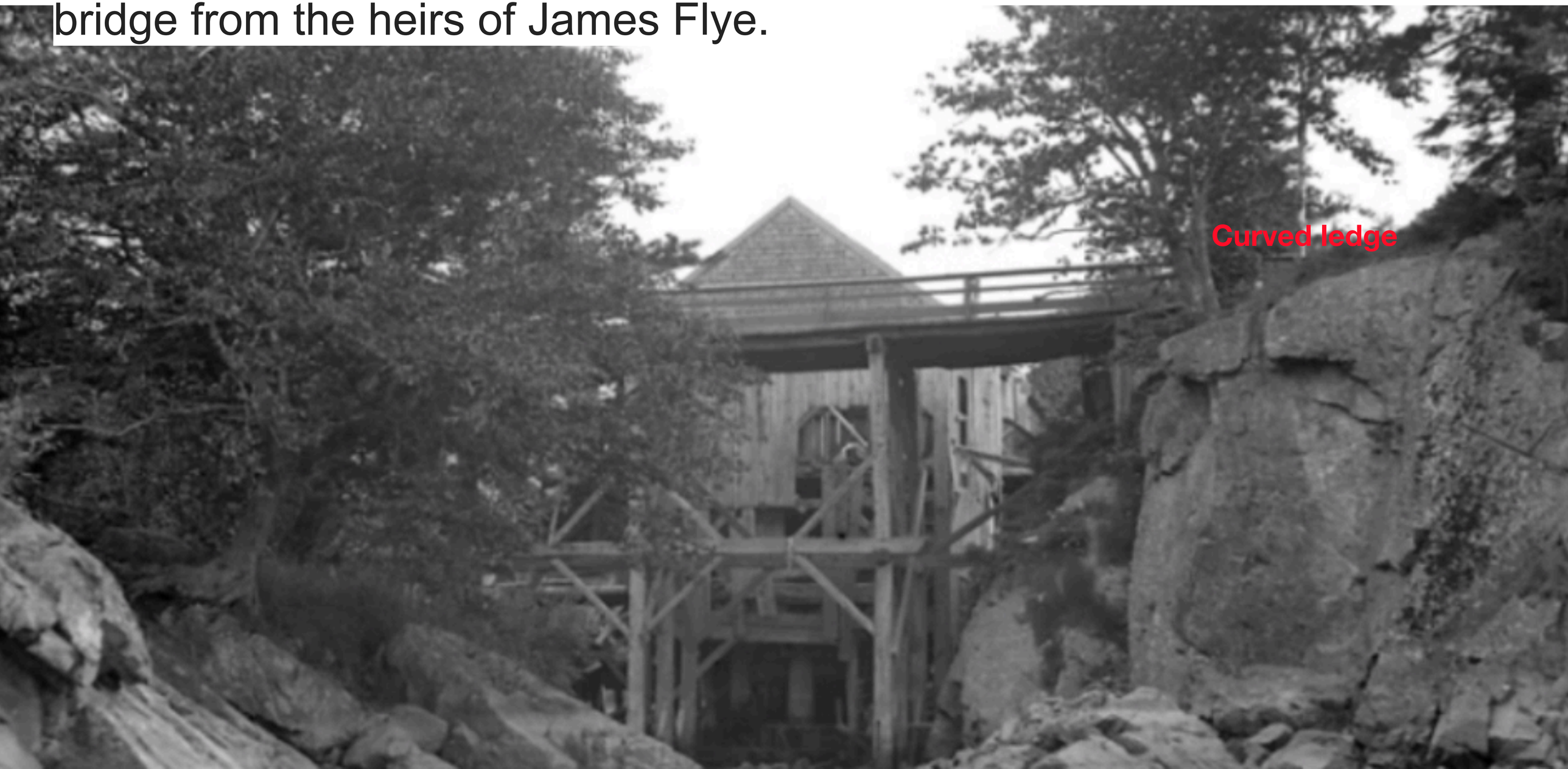


William Heath Sawmill, 1808 Salem Towne Map

William Heath expanded his Mill operations in 1810 when he purchased land from Richard Heath and set up a carding mill near the Seal Cove Pond.

Heath Sawmill

In 1835, William's son, William Jr., bought the James Flye sawmill at the bridge from the heirs of James Flye.



Heath's Mills, Seal Cove

"The Water-Power of Maine" by Walter Wells, superintendent of Hydrographic Survey of Maine, 1869

First and Second, on "Heath's Stream," the outlet of Seal Cove pond, and emptying into Seal Cove, a convenient and safe harbor. Upon one a saw mill; upon the other a grist mill. The productions of these mills can be shipped without the expense and inconvenience of trucking. Annual lumber produced about 250,000; several hundred thousand staves; with proper machinery much more could be done. Total fall, 40 feet in one-fourth of a mile; two dams; mills work about three-fourths of the year, but with proper improvements could be run the whole season. Heath's stream connected with two ponds. Formerly a carding and fulling will on this stream, working successfully, but was worn out and suffered to go to ruin by the owner.



Map by Larue Spiker

him. Later the Heath family had two mills on the outlet of Seal Cove Pond shown above. There was a saw mill in addition to the grist mill, both powered by the fall from the pond into the cove. The saw mill stood near the bridge shown in the background. The other was located farther in toward the pond. (Spiker Photo)

Heath Grist Mill Stone

Located at the former Eugenia Ketterlinus house on Rumill Road



Dam on Heath Stream, aka Seal Cove Stream

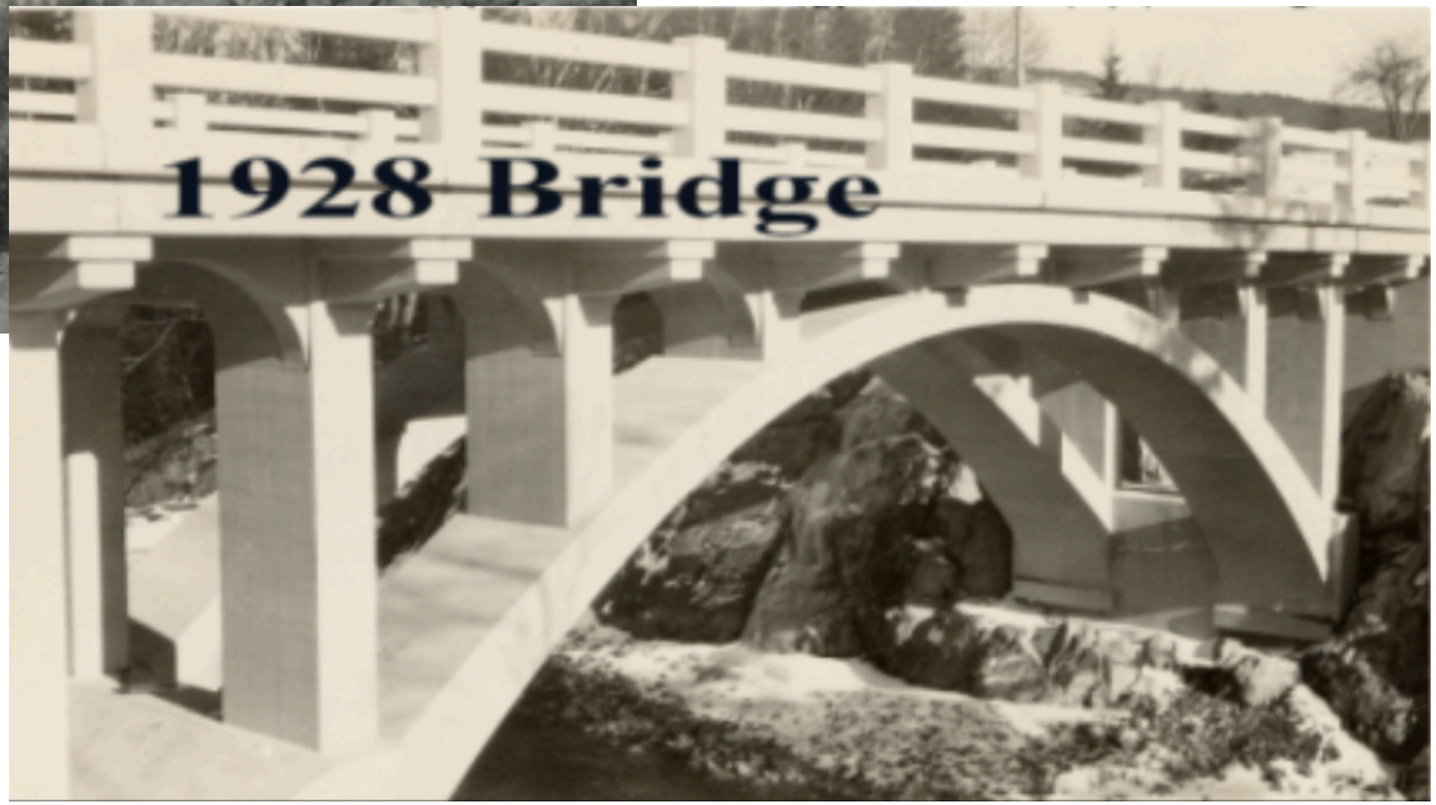


Construction of new “Bridge” obliterates the old mill site



1928 Seal Cove Bridge, built over the old Heath sawmill site





Ships Built for William Heath, Jr. allowed him to carry his mill products to markets

Heath operated the shipyard with John Flye at Seal Cove outlet near the mill

William Heath, Jr was Master of three and part owner of the following vessels:

Schooner ‘Orator’ 145 tons, built 1824

Brig ‘Atlas’. 165 tons, built 1833

Brig ‘Etrurian’, 246 tons, built 1842

Schooner ‘J. W. Heath’ 104 tons, built 1849

Brig ‘William Heath’. 220 tons, built 1854

Construction of the ‘Etrurian’ brig at Seal Cove: 40 people contributed work or furnished materials for the vessel. Some were paid cash but most were paid by credit at the Heath’s Store. Work started on the vessel in late 1839, launched Feb. 10, 1842. Ralph Stanley from Heath account book, Maine Martime Museum

A Letter from William Heath, Jr to his wife Catherine, 1833

The letter illustrates the uncertainty in the shipping industry and the financial pressures

Dear and Affectionate Wife

Tis with the greatest pleasure I set down to talk with you with my pen. We arrived here on the 2d Inst. We had a very pleasant passage - yesterday I received a Letter from you and think I felt thankful to hear that you were all so well. O! what Consolation to hear that Mary Jane was getting so nicely and that all the rest was pretty well. When I read your Letter and in my Imagination see Judson mending your pens and Mary Jane and Herschell Sleeping sweetly and John Wm. asking you to write papa to get him a Box and Louisa and Isabel singing like Nightingales! O if I had wings I would fly and be with you. O Catharine, I long to see you. Tell all the little dears I long to see them. I do not know yet whether I shall go to N.Y. or Boston (likely Boston). I shall be Ready to Sail in three days - as I have made but very little this trip. If I can find anything to do. I do not know as I shall come direct home unless I can meet Capt. Isaac Bartlett and let him take the Brig - my greatest desire is that I may Return home in God's own time and find you all well and Enjoying the Gift the Grace and the Presents of the Blessed Redeemer - Your Loving Husband

William Heath Jr.

Remember me to my Father and Mother and all my Relatives. I hope you have written to Boston and N.Y.

The Demise of Shipping with the development of railroads, the consequential end of Shipbuilding, and the shuttering of Sawmills

1810 to 1819:	20 vessels
1820 to 1829:	84 vessels
1830 to 1839:	57 vessels
1840 to 1849:	54 vessels
1850 to 1859:	79 vessels
1860 to 1869:	24 vessels
1870to 1879:	26 vessels
1880 to 1889:	8 vessels
1890 to 1899:	2 vessels



Fishing Schooners off Manset shore, 1892

The Financial Difficulties of William Heath, Jr.

Costly ship accidents plus the downturn in the shipping industry with the advent of rail transportation post Civil War forced William Heath Jr. to sell off his property holdings

1856 William Heath Jr. sold one half of sawmill, lath, stave and shingle mill attached to sawmill to Ezra Reed

1857 William Heath Jr took out mortgage with Hinckley C. of Bangor for ¼ part of mill operation

1857 William Heath Jr sold for $1000 his house lot and mill privilege to WWA Heath



William Webster Allen Heath
Son of William Heath, Jr.

Bought one half mill rights from his father.
W. W. A. Heath was the last Heath to operate the sawmill,
He sold the stumpage rights for the last bit of timber on the Heath Mountain Lot, and closed the mill.

W.W. A. held many town offices, served as chairman of the selectmen, deputy collector of customs, and was a respected high school teacher
He was educated as a civil engineer and worked as a land surveyor

His children found limited economic opportunities
Fred Heath- painter for S.R. Tracy
Louisa Heath-grammar school teacher
J. Julian Heath- ran store
Victor Heath-farmed the homestead

Heath Homestead and Store at Bridge
Julian Heath, son of W.W.A. Heath ran the store



A Changing Local Economy and the Depression

In Seal Cove, the mill industry did not transform into the tourist industry as it did in other areas of the Island. With the phasing out of traditional means of economic growth, families struggled for cash. The inability to pay property taxes caused many families in Tremont to lose their land.



1927 the Heath family lost the family homestead by a tax lien.
1938 the Heath family sold land to Acadia National Park, and bought back the homestead from the Town.
1944 another lien was placed on the Heath homestead for failure to pay town tax.
The property was auctioned and Eugenia Ketterlinus, a summer resident, purchased the home.
The deed from the Town of Tremont stipulated that she would be obliged to give life tenancy to the Heath family. The



George Dorr and Charles Eliot, founders
Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservation, the conservation movement

Haynes Sawmill, 1974





Steve Haynes

Local Historians

Nellie Carroll Thornton-westside



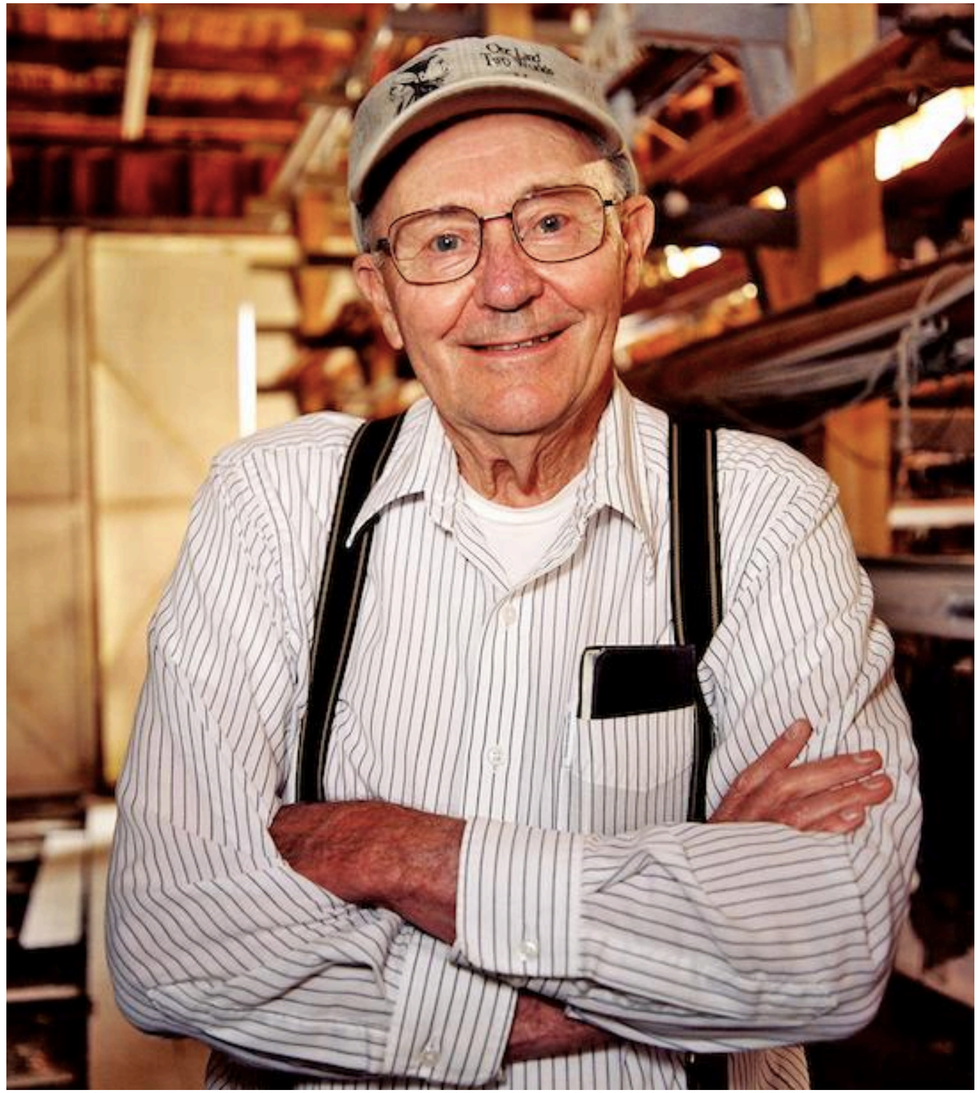
Nellie Carroll Thornton, author of Traditions and Records, at the site of the Causeway Dam, 1905

Eben Hamor -eastside



EBEN M. HAMOR.

Ralph Stanley



Virginia Somes Sanderson



Albert Higgins

Robert L. Smallidge





LaRue Spiker