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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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(Area)

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HISTORICAL RESEARCH

ST. CROIX ISLAND

By

Paul G. Favour  
and  
H. E. Lamb

December 1956

**IMPORTANT**

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**FROM:**

**TO:**

In reply refer to:  
112215

Acadia National Park  
Bar Harbor, Maine

December 19, 1956

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five  
From: Superintendent, Acadia National Park  
Subject: Historical research - St. Croix Island

With reference to Dr. Nelligan's memorandum dated October 22 attached, in duplicate, is Park Naturalist Favur's report of his interview with Mr. H. E. Lamb. Attached to the report is an account by H. E. Lamb.

Also attached is one file of pictures, news clippings, etc. Since this is the only copy we believe it should be returned to Acadia after you have finished with it.

(SGD) FRANK R. GIVENS

Frank R. Givens  
Superintendent

Attachments

Acadia National Park  
Bar Harbor, Maine

December 16, 1956

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Acadia National Park  
From: Park Naturalist, Acadia National Park  
Subject: Interview with H. E. Lamb concerning St. Croix

In accordance with Dr. Nelligan's recommendation of October 22 and your travel authorization on December 12, I drove to Milltown, Maine, (on the outskirts of Calais) where I had a three-hour interview with Mr. H. E. Lamb on the subject of St. Croix Island. Mr. Lamb, an 81-year-old writer for the Calais Advertiser, is a student and great enthusiast of St. Croix Island history, and through his local newspaper articles has done much to bring the history and historical significance of St. Croix to the attention of the St. Croix River Valley people. The purpose of my visit with Mr. Lamb was to determine what data he has on St. Croix history and his knowledge as to the location and present ownership of any artifacts gathered at one time or another from the Island. Prior to going to Milltown I reviewed all St. Croix material in the files including the very complete 156-page Miley report of September 1949 and the Wendell Madiock archeological exploration report of December 1950.

In spite of his physical infirmity, I found Mr. Lamb living alone. Due to an affliction of his legs, he is practically a cripple, seldom leaving his one stove-heated room. His mind remains keen, however, and it was obvious that he enjoyed talking about the historical articles he had written.

I learned that Mr. Lamb is a native of Calais and has lived there most of his life. For the last 20 to 30 years he has been writing for the Calais Advertiser which he still does now, though less frequently of late. While his articles have covered a variety of subjects, he has followed his bent for local history in the writing of many of them.

When queried about his first effort to publicize St. Croix, Mr. Lamb said that he gave a talk on the Island history at the July 16, 1930 meeting of the Calais History Club at which time he mentioned the desirability of making the Island a public park. He named Mr. John Trindle, Calais merchant, as being in his opinion the number one proponent in the movement to establish St. Croix as a national monument. However, Mr. Lamb appeared to be more interested in the historical story itself than in the area's attainment of federal status.

Some years ago (he cannot remember just when) Mr. Lamb wrote an interpretation of the St. Croix Island story, copy of which is attached, which was published in the Gales Advertiser. Since Mr. Lamb thoughtfully mailed me a copy of this account prior to my visit with him, I was already familiar with it when I talked with him. Except for a few variations, the content seems to agree fairly closely with Dr. Miley's report. It appears that Mr. Lamb was familiar with certain of the more important bibliographical sources consulted by Dr. Miley, including the Canong monograph of 1902. In the course of our discussion, however, I got the impression that Mr. Lamb's retained familiarity with St. Croix history was mostly limited to what he had written in his published story. As nearly as I could gather, Mr. Lamb had no other historical data other than clippings and reprints of his own articles, the most comprehensive one of which accompanies this memorandum.

As to the location of artifacts from St. Croix Island, Mr. Lamb believes that very very few have been picked up. He named only two: a small piece of yellow brick and a bullet (musket ball). Both of these are deposited in the Gales Free Library.

Paul G. Favour, Jr.  
Park Naturalist

COPY  
12-11-56

ST. CROIX ISLAND

1492  
1542

In account by  
H. E. Lamb,  
Milltown, Maine

The discovery of America was due primarily to Mohammed. When the Turks had accepted the teachings of the Prophet and had started on their attempt to conquer the world with the battle cry of "Alah ilana illa--- Ilaha Mohammed Rasul allahi," and which object they so nearly attained, the first result was to cut off the commerce between the city states of the Western Mediterranean and Eastern Asia. Genoa, Venice and other cities lost their commanding positions and trade turned to other places. Printing by moveable types had just been developed and was carrying new thought to the mass of people, and preparing them for the great discoveries to come. Then came a revival of the idea that had been suggested centuries before and had lain dormant in the minds of thinking men, that the world was not flat but was a ball. The point was reached when men were no longer afraid of the idea. So the suggestion of Columbus that he sail westward on a voyage of discovery was not looked upon in the same light, as it would have been two-hundred years before. It is well to keep in mind that these voyages were made with the object of gain through trade and that the religious side was secondary.

The marriage of Ferdinand, Prince of Castile, and Isabella, Princess of Aragon, brought about the union of the largest states in the peninsula of Spain and the beginning of the mightiest empire of the world during the reigns of the emperors, Charles V, and Philip II. It was during the time when the new kingdom was engaged in the last struggle with the Moors, who held the south end of the peninsula under the name of the Kingdom of Granada, that Columbus brought to the rulers his idea and it was a wonder that amid all the press that he received any attention. But it was in the year he sailed that the last stronghold of the

Mohammedans was taken and that pressure on the Kingdom was relieved. It was soon after the voyage of Columbus that Pope Alexander VI in a papal Bull drew a line from pole to pole running several hundred leagues west of the Azore islands and gave to Spain all the pagan lands west of this line and to Portugal all the pagan lands east.

This seemed to leave nothing for other people. But the other nations were not to be denied. Although England, then not including Scotland, might not be called a close rival to Spain or France, she was doing things that were to give her a larger interest in the new world than either. In the southwestern part of England, in the town of Bristol, near the mouth of the Severn river, lived another Italian navigator by the name of Giovanni Coboto. This man was from Venice, for the breaking up of the Eastern Mediterranean trade had driven many to these more western countries. John Cabot's voyage followed quickly on the heels of the trips of Columbus. As Columbus sailed nearly west from Spain so Cabot sailed west from England and reached Newfoundland June 24, 1497. We do not know who furnished money for this expedition but on August 10 of the same year King Henry VII of England gave him ten pounds, the down payment that England made for Canada, which she was to purchase on the installment plan. In spite of the fact that this country was already divided between Spain and Portugal, France was well represented by James Cartier, who reached the mighty St. Lawrence in 1534.

1604

During the hundred years since Columbus discovered America, tremendous changes had taken place in the political situation in Europe. Spain had reached her zenith when the grandson of Isabella ruled over the most of the Peninsula, Germany, The Netherlands, parts of Italy, Mexico, and Central America, while Peru and the Western Coast of South America were dotted with Spanish monasteries. The Emperor drew

unbelievable revenues from the mines of Mexico and Peru and the plantations of the West Indies. But under the great grandson of Isabella the rapid decline had begun. The defeat of the Armada and the loss of the Netherlands were perhaps the two greatest wounds among many that were bleeding her white. In France the Huguenot, Henry IV, had forced himself to the throne and by accepting the Catholic faith had satisfied the Catholics, and by the Edict of Nantes had granted freedom of conscience to the Huguenots and all public offices were open to both, thus stopping the open war between them.

Within the Catholic Church the Company of Jesus, or the Jesuits, had been organized and was gaining power although a large section of the Church did not approve of the new organization and there was a bitter struggle between them. In England Queen Elizabeth had just died, bringing to an end the "Elizabethan Age" of glory, leaving the nation firmly Protestant and, having crushed the sea power of Spain in the defeat of the Armada, had placed the country in the front rank of nations to be a rival of France as a world power in Europe, America and India. A Scotchman, James IV, of Scotland, was now James the First of England. He was a Protestant but he liked only one kind of Protestantism and was to drive another kind to settle Plymouth sixteen years later. So now the French, the English and the Dutch were all ready to challenge the rights of Spain in the New World.

Spain claimed North America by the right of the gift of the Pope. England based her claims on the discoveries of Cabot, France on the discoveries of Cartier. The struggle between England and France, between the Catholics and the Huguenots in France, and between a large section of the Catholic Church and the Jesuits, were all destined to play their parts in making and breaking the little settlement on St. Croix Island.

## THE REASON

The immediate effect of John Cabot's voyage and a direct cause of the settling of Canada, was not so much the finding of land on this side of the sea, as when he returned home he brought news of the great fishing grounds of the Grand Banks. The voyagers repeated that they found cod so plentiful that they dipped them up in buckets. This led to the fishermen of the Basque provinces of Spain and France, and in fact, many of the fishermen of Spain, France and England pushing their stout little vessels over to the new fishing grounds and seeking to gather in the harvest from these new fields. Before the end of the century between Cabot and de Monts there were hundreds of fishing vessels making their way to the new fishing grounds every year. Not only did they come over as far as the Grand Banks but they came to the mainland and opened trade with the natives along the shore, exchanging hatchets, blankets, trinkets and above all, French brandy, for valuable furs. These furs were smuggled into the different countries but in spite of the fact that they were probably sold at a low price they proved good profit-getters for the traders. In those days furs were not only worn for warmth, for which they must have proved very useful in the poorly constructed and heatless buildings, but they were worn for trimmings of the dress of men as well as women, and fine furs brought very high prices.

When Henry of Navarre had, in four years, fought his way to the throne of France and became Henry the Fourth, and put a temporary stop to the war between the Catholics and the Protestants, he opened a new era of progress for the kingdom. The ambitious men turned from war to be leaders in business and the arts of peace. The cities of Dieppe, St. Malo, Bayeux de Grace and Brest were the centers of this fisherman fur trade, for they were centers of the importing business of France and the headquarters of many great merchants of the day. So, many of these

merchants conceived the idea that if this fur business could be carried on in a lawful way and if they had a monopoly of the business there would be huge profits in it for themselves and they would be willing to pay the government well for this monopoly.

There had been attempts to plant settlements along the St. Lawrence. Cartier stayed two winters over here. Roberval brought over a colony of men, women and children and built a large building to house them all, from officers to convicts, near Quebec. They built two grist mills although they had no grist to grind in them. They had a big oven but very little bread. They lost one third of their number from disease and all went back to France. On Sable Island 40 men were abandoned for five years and when the rescuing vessel came in 1603 there were fourteen of them to be taken back home. How many of the fishermen turned squaw-men with the Indians we have no means of knowing. But now the time was at hand to make a lasting settlement, although the progress was to be slow.

#### THE MEN

The men, for there were to be no women for some time, were a strange mixture. The leaders were of the best, many of them prominent in the long wars. There were some artisans who were skilled in their trades but the majority were of the poorest type for founding settlements in a new country. Thieves and other criminals were taken from jails! Sometimes murderers were freed if they would go on these expeditions. De Monts had a clause in his commission that enabled him to impress vagabonds and idlers. The city of Dieppe once put the whole ship's company in the jail until it was time to sail, in order to keep peace in the town. The 40 men whom LaRoche landed on Sable Island were all convicts taken from prisons. Roberval, on his expedition, hanged one of his men for stealing and set up a whipping post for both men and women and "By this means lived in peace."

## THE FIRST TWO COMPANIES

Two men, Pontgrave, a merchant of St. Malo and Chauvin, a navy captain, secured the first patent of monopoly of the fur trade from the King of France. Twice they tried to start a trading post on the St. Lawrence but at last Chauvin died and the company broke up. The next patent was given to Aymar De Chastes, an aide to King Henry and now governor of Dieppe, to whom Henry owed much. But in his old age he wanted to do something more for France. To avoid criticism from other merchants he organized them into a large company and they sent Pontgrave with two vessels to try again to establish a trading post. Pontgrave, as he was most often called, his name was Francois Grave, Sieur du Pont, was a man who did much for the settling of the new country and he has not had as much notice as he deserves. On this voyage he had with him Samuel Champlain. Champlain was born in the town of Brouage in Southwestern France, then a seaport but now two miles inland, as the harbor has been filled up with silt. Champlain was a versatile man, not ~~o~~y a sailor but a "navigator," a keen observer of things wherever he might be, a fine map drawer, a writer of no mean ability, and while he might not be called an artist his drawings are accurate and painstaking and give a wonderful idea of things as they then were. Above all he had that voice that Kipling describes, "Something lost behind the ranges. Lost and waiting for you. Go." Although a Frenchman, and Spain tried to keep all foreigners away from her colonies in America, he, through the influence of his uncle, had made a trip to the West Indies and Panama as commander of a Spanish vessel; and had written and illustrated an account of the trip and for this had secured a pension from King Henry. He was now 35 years of age. Pontgrave's vessels sailed up the St. Lawrence passing the mouth of the Saguenay River where most of the trading in furs had

been carried on and went up the river as far as Montreal. Having accomplished their object of buying furs and exploring the country they returned to France to find de Chastes dead and this second company broken up.

### THE THIRD MONOPOLY

Another remarkable man came forward to secure the next patent of monopoly. Pierre du Guast (or Gua) or as we know him better, Sieur de Monts, had fought on the side of Henry during his struggle for the throne of France and was his personal friend. Now he was a wealthy merchant, a gentlemen in ordinary of the King's bedchamber and the governor of Pons. He was a Huguenot and although destined to be crushed, Canada owes much to this man, for it was he who was the head of this expedition that in the end settled Port Royal (Annapolis) which can claim to be the earliest settlement in Canada and four years later it was his money that enabled Champlain to settle Quebec. De Monts had made one voyage to the St. Lawrence region and saw in the fur trade an opportunity for big business. So he asked and secured from his friend, Henry, the third charter or patent of monopoly. De Monts' patent made him Lord of Acadie, the first use of the word. The word Acadie was an Indian term meaning "place" and was often used with other words to make names as in Passamaquoddy, "the place of the big fish." The Indians do not appear to have had proper nouns but, like most primitive people, used descriptive terms which afterwards became place names. In the later years, because of the similarity of sound and because Longfellow drew such a beautiful picture of pastoral contentment in his poem of Evangeline, the word has taken on more and more the meaning of the Greek Arcadia. The limits of Acadie then were from the fortieth to the forty-sixth degree of north latitude, or from Philadelphia to above Montreal; the very territory which King James of England gave to the Plymouth company sixteen years later. De Monts was to settle this territory, to Christianize

the natives according to the Catholic faith, and in fact to make a new France in the New World. The basis of this was to be the monopoly of the fur trade; to which end notices were posted in the seaports forbidding all others engaging in the fur business; and to help him carry out these objects he was empowered to impress all the idlers and vagabonds he needed. When De Monts was about ready to leave he asked Champlain to go with the expedition and having secured permission from King Henry, from whom he was receiving a pension, on the condition that he should write an account of the voyage, Champlain joined the venture.

There was Pontgrave, now very familiar with these trips. There was also Baron de Poutrincourt, looking for a new home. There were a number of other "gentlemen," D'Orville, Boulay, Beaumont, Fougeray, Saurin, La Motte. There was the Catholic priest and the Huguenot minister. There were some Swiss. There were some skilled workers and underneath all these were those who had been forced to go. The total number was one hundred and twenty, not one, probably, with the exception of Poutrincourt, who did not expect to return to France.

#### THE VOYAGE

Two vessels of good size for those days had been hired, one of one hundred and fifty tons and the other of one hundred and twenty. They sailed early in March, 1604 from Havre. The voyage over was speedy compared with many others of the times and uneventful except that on de Monts' vessel the minister and the priest got into arguments, and when Latin texts and quotations from the Fathers were not powerful enough, they went at each other with their fists, fighting all over the deck, with the sailors joining in as their religion told them to. When a party was exploring around St. Mary's Bay the priest, Nicholas Aubry, while hunting for his sword which he had laid down, got lost and the members of the party thought that he was dead and suspected that the

minister had killed him. He was found safe but exhausted when Chomedore, the pilot, went back to that region a few weeks later to look for some copper mines thought to be there. But the quarrel was not ended when they reached their destination but was continued on land with the Indians adding their whoops to the arguments. The story is that the priest and the minister died at the same time and the sailors buried them in the same grave to see if they then would be at peace. When the two vessels reached this side of the ocean they separated, Pontgrave who was in command of one ship, was to look after the fur business, seizing any which were unlawfully engaged in the trade, according to the commands of the King. This meant especially the Basques, who were very actively engaged in this business and did not intend to give it up. Pontgrave took four vessels at Gansau, and having transferred some supplies to de Monts' vessel, sailed for Tadoussac, which had become the trading center on the St. Lawrence, to look after the smugglers there and to trade with the Indians. De Monts continued his explorations along the coast, using a small boat of eight tons to enter the small bays. They sailed along the coast of Nova Scotia, giving names to many places. They called one Port Mouton because a sheep leaped overboard there. They rounded Cape Sable and entered the Bay of Fundy. They went into Annapolis harbor which was so pleasing to Pouyncourt that he secured from de Monts the deed to a large amount of land and named it Port Royal.

They entered a large river and Champlain named it St. John, as it was the twenty-fourth of June, St. John the Baptist's Day. If the dates are correct there was no time lost in sailing direct to the St. Croix river, for the date is given as the twenty-sixth of June that they landed on St. Croix Island. The reason that de Monts explored this

region was that as he had made one voyage to the St. Lawrence, he was acquainted with the severe winters there and, not knowing of the large bend of the coast to the west, thought that by going south he might find a milder climate.

### THE ISLAND

Passing the large islands in the bay and coming up the river in June it must have looked like a grand spot for a trading post, as that was to be the start of the settlement. Champlain described the island as follows: "Going west northwest, three leagues past the islands, one enters a river, almost half a league wide at its mouth, in which there are two islands one or two leagues further up; one very small, near the mainland on the west; and the other in the middle. The latter has a circumference of eight or nine hundred paces and rises out of the water three or four fathoms high, with rocky sides, except in one small place where there is a point of sand and clayey soil, useful for making bricks and other necessary things. There is another sheltered place for ships of from eighty to a hundred tons, but it is dry a low tide. The island is covered with firs, birches, maples and oaks. It is in itself a very good site, and there is but one stretch of about forty paces where its sides are lower, and that is easy to fortify."

There were three things that de Monts was looking for. First, a trading place convenient for the natives. Second, that this place should be easily protected. Third, that there should be some chance to plant and provide food for the settlers. Some writers have given the idea that the bareness was one reason for abandoning the island. The account of Champlain was not written until later and was not published for some time.

This is what he says about the island: "The shores of the mainland being distant from each other on both sides from about nine hundred to a thousand paces, ships could not pass up the river without being at the mercy of the cannon from the island, which is the place that we believe to be the best, whether for situation, the excellence of soil,

12

or for such intercourse as it is proposed to have with the savages of these shores and inland."

Here was a place easily defended against the Basque fishermen who were a menace, as well as against the savages; yet it was in the heart of what appeared to be a fine fur country; and the settlers could not be surprised or attacked from the forest.

#### THE SETTLEMENT

So de Monts decided to make his settlement here. Just above the island the bays and the river seem to form a cross and de Monts, as was customary in those days, gave the island a religious name and called it "The Island of the Holy Cross." The shallop was sent back for the larger vessel and soon everyone was busy. A part of the ground was cleared and the settlement was laid out. Some houses, or at least timber for houses, had been brought from France. Champlain's house was the first to be completed and here de Monts lived until his own was ready. Other buildings were quickly erected, most of them on the upper half of the island. There was a large building for use on stormy days and for a dining room. There were houses for different groups. There was a well, a kitchen, an ovenplace for baking and a blacksmith shop. Toward the lower end of the island, on the American side, was the cemetery and a small chapel. This was on a part that has been washed away and that is one reason that there are so few remains of the settlement. The island was fortified by cannon at the very lowest end to command the approach up the river and another battery was placed at the upper end. There were places for Indian camps, while some of the Swiss had their houses on the main shore near Wilson's Point. Although the season was late, gardens were planted on the island and on open places on the mainland. They were not sure that European grains would thrive in this country and they could not have known enough about the Indian maize to plan in Europe for mills.

For further protection the buildings on the island were placed in the form of a triangle, and connected with a palisade, forming a very good fort. Such was the first real settlement~~s~~ of Europeans north of the Spanish possessions. In August not more than eight weeks from the time they came to the island, Poutrincourt sailed for home with the two large vessels, taking with him the furs seized and bought to help pay expenses. He planned to return in the spring and take possession of the land to which he had received the title from de Monts at Port Royal.

#### CHAMPLAIN EXPLORING

Champlain had already explored the river for some ways above the island. He often speaks of the abundance of oak trees in this region. Of the river he says: "Going further up, one sees a large bay, in which there are two islands - one high and the other flat - and three rivers, two of medium size, of which one flows in from the east and the other from the north, and the third, a large one, flowing in from the west, that is the river of the Etechemins. Two leagues up there is a rapid, where the savages carry their canoes on the land about 500 paces. Then they enter the river again." Of this place at the Salmon Falls he says that "in May and June there are such big catches of herring and bass that one could load boats there with them. The soil is of the finest, and there are 15 or 20 acres of cleared land. The savages sometimes go there five or six weeks during the fishing season." When he describes what he learns from the Indians he is accurate but a bit more vague. He tells how by going up the river and "crossing a bit of land" one comes to the Norembegue (the Penobscot) and the St. John. In September, in a small vessel he made a trip along the coast as far as the Kennebec. He describes the country very minutely especially up the Penobscot, or Norembegue, as he calls it. He says: "I went near an island about four or five leagues long. The distance from the island to the mainland on the north is not a hundred paces.

It is very high with notches here and there, so that it appears, when one is at sea, like seven or eight mountains close together. The tops of most of these are without trees - I called it the "Island of the Desert Mountains." With some Indians he went as far as the falls at Bangor. There was a legend current that there was a wonderful city somewhere in this country either on the Penobscot or the Hudson named Norembega. Champlain says that he found only one or two cabins of the natives near Bangor. After going as far as the Kennebec he turns back to St. Croix settlement, arriving there early in October.

When the ships sailed for France they left seventy-nine men in the colony. Every one had been busy and the life had been pleasant up to this time. There was hunting with the Indians and game was plentiful, and the fishing was of the best. These were not just for pleasure for the supplies were needed for the colony. But in October one of the earliest winters, if not the earliest, of which we have any record, set in. The snow soon was three or four feet deep. The cold grew worse. The ice ran by the island making trips to the shore difficult. Of course these French were not used or prepared for such weather. It grew so cold that their wine froze and their cider had to be served out by weight. To keep up their morale there was the minister and the priest. So here was the first organized religious service, both Catholic and Protestant, north of the Spanish possessions, called Florida. Some of the young men went hunting in spite of the cold weather and brought down rabbits with snow balls. They went skating on some of the ponds. But in spite of the good times some fell sick and the dread "disease of the country" as Champlain called the scurvy, spread rapidly. Fifty-nine of the seventy-nine were stricken and thirty-five were laid away in the little cemetery, among them the minister and the priest. But the long winter passed at last and the spring came and they began to look for the

return of the vessels from France. Pontgrave came June 16 with 40 men. The decision was made to try another place. De Monts still held to a place further south where the winters would not be so severe. This time de Monts and Champlain went with twenty men and an Indian and his squaw. They sailed as far as Massachusetts and named the Charles River the "Riviere du Guast" in honor of de Monts, but they found not a place to suit them. They returned to St. Croix and decided to move to Port Royal. Some of the houses were taken down and the goods loaded on the vessels and St. Croix abandoned. The information brought to de Monts showed the need of his presence in France and he went there that summer and found that his monopoly of the fur trade had been cancelled by Sully, the Prime Minister, with a strong hint of bribery. De Monts had spent \$100,000 on the enterprise and all he got out of it was the privilege of collecting \$6,000 from the traders, if he could. But this did not discourage de Monts entirely for he helped to keep the settlement going at Port Royal and in 1608 was the means of sending Champlain on the voyage that resulted in the settlement of Quebec. De Monts, a little later, sold his interest at Port Royal to the Jesuits.

1613

St. Croix Island was not wholly forgotten. Two years later some of the people from Port Royal visited the place and found vegetables growing in the gardens that 'de Monts' men had planted, and it seems that the Indians had not visited the place as they also found some casks of wine that had not been disturbed. Another time some others landed on the island and there is a record that another expedition spent another winter there, probably using some of the buildings of De Monts. Port Royal had a hard struggle for life, but the French continued to go back there until it was a fairly well settled place and some Indians located

there permanently. In France the Jesuits were fighting for the privilege of converting all the savages in America. Henry IV was killed in 1610 and Louis XIII favored the society and by purchase they secured de Monts' rights in Port Royal. But the people of Port Royal were not partial to the Jesuits and the priest there baptised a number of Indians and gave them the names of some of the Royal House of France and sent the names back to the King as proof that there was not the need of the Jesuits' work. But, backed by the money of three leading women of France, the Society fitted out ~~by the money of three leading women of France, the~~ Society fitted out an expedition of its own with a vessel named Jonas. They were well fitted out and when the inhabitants of Port Royal received them very coldly they decided to form a settlement wholly their own. So the Jonas sailed along the coast of Maine until it came to Mount Desert Island and there the company decided to settle at Somes Sound and they set up their new tents and called the place St. Sauveur.

In 1607 the English settled Jamestown, Virginia, under a charter of James the First of England. He divided the country up into two parts, South Virginia and North Virginia. North Virginia covered the same territory that Henry IV had granted to de Monts, while Louis XIII in turn granted all the land between the St. Lawrence and Florida to Madam de Guerchville, who was acting for the Jesuits. But the English held on and in 1611 Sir Thomas Dale became governor of Jamestown. He heard that some Frenchmen were encroaching on "English territory" so in the summer of 1613 he commissioned a captain named Thomas Argall to sail north along the coast to engage in fishing and incidentally to look after the King of England's rights. On the way he learned from some Indians that there was a new settlement and from the way they mimicked the actions of the settlers he knew that they were French. So Captain Argall sailed into the Sound and ranging his vessel along side of the

Jonas with few preliminaries opened fire. He killed one of the priests and several of the men and the colony had to surrender. Argall put the leader to the expedition, La Sussaye, one of the priests, and thirteen other men into an open boat and left them to their fate. However, they were picked up within a day or two by a French vessel and taken back to France. The other thirteen Frenchmen and the Jesuit Argall took with him to Virginia. On the way down the coast the priest told Argall of the old settlement on St. Croix Island and the newer one at Port Royal. Argall came north again and coming up the river he burned what houses were on the Island and sailing east almost destroyed the struggling colony at Port Royal. This was really the opening of the hostilities in the long struggle between England and France for the possession of North America, which was only to end 146 years later when Wolfe and his soldiers scrambled up the bluff at Quebec. So St. Croix Island had its part in that event.

1783

At the close of the Revolutionary War the treaty of peace fixed the boundary between the Colonies and Great Britain "up the middle of the St. Croix River to its source and then directly north from there." But then there was a dispute about which river was the St. Croix. A commission was appointed of one Englishman and two Americans. At last a copy of Champlain's map and records were obtained from France and a citizen of St. Andrews went to the island and found remains of the old settlement and the dispute was settled although it took some time to decide which branch, the East or the West, was the main river. So our Island fixed the boundary line between the two great nations.

I have tried to write the story of St. Croix Island and hope that you have enjoyed reading it. If you go to Annapolis, the land of Evangeline, they will show you Evangeline's statue, they will show you

Evangeline's well and if you press some of them hard enough they might be persuaded to show you some of the horseshoes that Basil, the blacksmith, made while Evangeline and Gabriel watched him. They have made much, and it is to their credit they did, of the beautiful legend that Nathaniel Hawthorne picked up and gave to Longfellow for his wonderful poem. If you go to Bar Harbor they will show you the de Monts Spring, and they make much of Champlain's visit and his naming the island, but they dismiss St. Croix Island with words like this: "With de Monts' attempts at colonization the next year at the mouth of the St. Croix River we are not concerned." Have not we, too, a great claim to historical values and interest? Was not this settlement the real beginning of the colonization of Canada? The settlement was simply transferred, houses and all, to Port Royal where, although there were many ups and downs, the settlement was continued until it has grown into Annapolis. Here was the first church services north of Florida. Yes, if you are looking for first things, here were the first "ready cut" houses, anticipating some of the concerns in the U.S. several hundred years. The Island had its part in the opening of the long struggle between France and England and again in shaping the United States at the close of the Revolutionary War.

If you want a real thrill, sail up the river in a motor boat some warm moonlight night and when you get above the Island throttle the engine down until the put-put can scarcely be heard, then turn around and look at the magnificent blue green panorama behind you. The moon rising back of the Canadian Hills. The Island in that broad pathway of silver up the dark river. The white tower of the lighthouse with its revolving beacon that dims, then brightens, then goes out entirely only to spring up again brighter than ever and making its own reflection along the water.

Let your imagination play. There, close to your left is the shore of the great Dominion of Canada. On your right the shore of the United States, and you are sailing along a boundary line that runs, without fort or armed force against each other, until it drops into the Pacific more than three thousand miles away, a marvelous romantic fact.

Here are some suggestions that would help to advertise this section and prove valuable in inducing people to travel along this way and often stop. Name the road from Calais to Eastport, the de Monts Highway and have it so marked. If our friends across the river wish to so name the road to St. Andrews so much the better. This would cover the view the French saw as they passed up and down the river. Opposite the Island there should be some markers calling attention to the Island. If money could be made available it would be a fine thing to rebuild as far as possible the settlement on the Island and that would induce many to visit there. A museum, on the mainland, probably in the city, where could be kept some of the relics of the Island, and there are some in existence, and also many things of historical value, which now are being scattered because there is no place available to keep them.