

## Letters to the editor

ers always put a big effort into making this paper the best, and it's things like this that make me feel our work is appreciated. Thank you.

Enthusiastically,  
*Rick Corey*  
General Manager  
Anchor Publishing, Inc.

### Land Trust

To the Editor;

is my considered opinion that February's front page story, "Land Trust accepts Crow Island gift", written by the Harpswell Heritage Trust, does little to enhance the public image of that organization or its much touted goals and ambitions.

It seems that those responsible for its direction and operation either know little of Harpswell's history or fail to understand that history is also a part of the town's heritage.

When the authors glibly state that Mr. Holmes "grew up in Pennellville amongst remnants of the old Pennell and Skolfield shipyards of the area", they clearly indicate, to me at least, that they do not know that the Pennell Shipyard was located at the head of Middle Bay and the Skolfield Shipyard in Harpswell Cove at the head of Harpswell Sound. They were, in fact, separat-

ed by a fair sized body of water and what is now Harpswell Neck.

That Crow Island has been "long rumored to belong in Brunswick" is yet another strong indication that history is of little significance.

A Substantial part of what was then Merriconeag and now Harpswell Neck was originally part of the Ancient Town of North Yarmouth. In our immediate area, the northerly boundary of North Yarmouth was a straight line beginning at the mouth of Bunganuc Stream, in Maquoit Bay, extending across Merepoint and continuing clear to the Kennebec River. As a result of that boundary, more than half of Merepoint was in North Yarmouth.

Brunswick's original description placed its southerly boundary at high water mark from The Indian Carrying Place, near what was to become the Skolfield Shipyard, around the shore, at high water mark, to the point where the North Yarmouth boundary crossed Merepoint. That is where it remained until Harpswell officials, officials supposedly elected to represent the town and its inhabitants, recently supported giving part of Harpswell and its

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heritage to the Town of Brunswick. In those early years, there was a substantial area between Brunswick and North Yarmouth that belonged to no town. That area contained Crow Island, a very significant portion of what is now Great Island and roughly a third of what is now Harpswell Neck.

In 1740, a group of residents of Merriconeag, one of my ancestors among them I'm sorry to say, petitioned the Massachusetts General Court to be annexed to Brunswick. The prime reason appears to have been the requirement to attend church each Sunday and the church being located in Yarmouth, a difficult trip in either summer or winter. A similar petition was also submitted from Brunswick.

Apparently due to bad weather, North Yarmouth was unable to arrive in time to attend that session of the Massachusetts General Court and Merriconeag was made part of Brunswick. Even then Crow Island was not within the bounds of Brunswick, for at that time it was still a part of the area which belonged to no town.

A year later, when North Yarmouth complained of not being represented at the 1740 meeting, the Massachusetts General Court, rescinded the decision, returning not only Merriconeag to North Yarmouth but also making the area that belonged to no town a part of North Yarmouth, clearing the way for Crow Island, the north-

ern part of Great Island and the northern part of Merriconeag all to become a part of Harpswell.

*George Barnes  
Harpswell Neck*