

**AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE
TOWN OF DEER ISLE, MAINE;
WITH NOTICES OF ITS SETTLERS
AND EARLY INHABITANTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649603176

An Historical Sketch of the Town of Deer Isle, Maine; With Notices of Its Settlers and Early Inhabitants by George L. Hosmer

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GEORGE L. HOSMER

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Geo. L. Brown

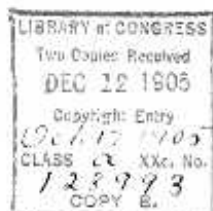
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BY
GEORGE L. HOSMER



The Fort Hill Press
SAMUEL USHER
176 TO 184 HIGH STREET
BOSTON, MASS.



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AN HISTORICAL SKETCH
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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION. — DISCOVERY. — SETTLEMENTS. —
MILLS. — MARRIAGES.

FOR some years past it has been my purpose to write an historical sketch of this town, with notices of its settlers and early inhabitants. When I came here a young man, nearly half a century ago, there were but few of the early settlers remaining, the last of whom, Mr. Joseph Sellers, died in 1844 at the age of ninety-two years. My information has been derived from those who were contemporary with them, and they in their turn have passed away. Although the means I have had for such a work were scanty, yet it was all that could be obtained, as I had nothing but verbal information: but I may reasonably judge that it is in the main correct. I have thought it best to preserve it, in order that those who are now living, and those who may come hereafter, may have some knowledge of the hardships endured by their ancestors. The history of the early settlement of any country is a history of toil, privations, and suffering, and of these the persons noticed here have had their full share. It

was with them a hard struggle for a subsistence, and had it not been for the seafowl, sea and shellfish, it could not have been obtained by them, and had those means been wanting elsewhere, the seacoast could never have been settled where it was in this State. I have hopes that what is here written may prove of interest to the descendants of those whose notices are here recorded. It is, or should be, a matter of interest to every one, to have some knowledge of the history of his native place, or of the town in which he resides. In too many cases it is not felt until the sources from which such information might have been obtained no longer exist, and I wish to improve this opportunity for its preservation, for otherwise it will soon have passed from memory and be lost beyond recovery.

DISCOVERY.

We have no authentic information by whom, and at what time, the islands on which this town is situated were discovered. It has been stated that, in 1556, André Thevit, a Catholic priest, sailed in a French ship along the entire coast; that he entered Penobscot Bay, where he spent five days and had numerous conferences with the natives. The first Englishman who visited this locality was Martin Pring, who sailed from Bristol in 1603, and visited Penobscot Bay and islands. Seeing some foxes on the shore of one island, he named it Fox Island, and that was the name by which those islands, on which the towns of North Haven and Vinalhaven are situated, were formerly known; one as the North, and the other as the South, Fox Island. He was well pleased with the scenery of the bay, with the excellence of the fisheries, and with what animals were seen by them. When he returned to England, he carried an Indian canoe with