

Just issued, 1933

The CORRESPONDENCE *of* ESEK HOPKINS

First Commander-in-Chief of the United States Navy

THE correspondence of the first commander-in-chief of the United States Navy throws much light on the very beginning of our navy, and contains letters from many persons prominent in public life in those times.

Every student of naval affairs, and every person interested in the United States Navy will find much of interest and value in this volume. As a source reference book on American history, and on the development of our navy, this book deserves a place on the shelves of all American historical libraries.

It is published by the Rhode Island Historical Society from the original manuscripts in its library, as a volume of 101 pages with an introduction by William Davis Miller, in a limited edition of 200 copies. The price is \$2.50 post paid. This volume completes the series.

SPECIAL PRICE TO MEMBERS \$2.00

ROGER WILLIAMS PRESS



PROVIDENCE

E. A. JOHNSON CO.

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

Vol. XXVII

APRIL, 1934

No. 2



SADDLE AND PILLION ON WHICH LAFAYETTE RODE IN COMPANY WITH MISS ABIGAIL HAZARD WHEN ON A VISIT TO THE HOME OF HER FAMILY IN THE SOUTH COUNTY.

Now in the Society's Museum.

Issued Quarterly

68 WATERMAN STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

reluctance was recently expressed by an antiquarian, a New Englander living in Virginia, when after careful research being unable to prove what he wished, he wrote: "They must have used guns after all!"

The Dee River of 1583 (Now called Narragansett Bay) and Its Relation to Norumbega

By WILLIAM B. GOODWIN

In a paper read before the December 12, 1933, meeting of the Rhode Island Historical Society entitled "The Truth Concerning Norumbega" as to both its meaning and its actual location, a part of the proof as to where the river, the cape, the country and the Indian trading town were all actually located is taken from a document preserved in the British Record Office, excerpts from which follow hereafter. This document is a grant by indenture from Sir Humphrey Gilbert to Sir George Peckham and his son, George Peckham, dated the last day of February 1583, and acknowledged before Queen Elizabeth, March 1, of the same year and enrolled July 1st.

There is a still further agreement¹ between Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Thomas Gerrard and Sir George Peckham, excerpts from which follow. In these two documents there is a definite description of land, of a river, of islands within that river, and a section of land amounting to fifteen hundred thousand acres, lying next west to the five islands within the bay and river along the sea coast.

¹Through the courtesy of Mr. Goodwin, a copy of this document is on file in the library of the Rhode Island Historical Society.

Inasmuch as there has been no attempt to properly locate the River of Norumbega—although there have been some writers who have suggested that the Cape of Norumbega is no other than Cape Cod—the casual reader of these two documents had no means of knowing where this distinct allotment of land to Sir George Peckham, his son George and to Sir Thomas Gerrard actually lay along our sea coast. However, all the information that Sir Humphrey and his fellow adventurers or in fact anybody in England knew in the year 1583 concerning our coast between Cape Breton and Spanish Florida, was obtained for them at the behest of Queen Elizabeth and at her expense through Dr. John Dee who went to Europe for that purpose, travelling extensively, and who also was to himself receive a very broad grant above a certain parallel of latitude in payment for his services.

In these documents there are references which give us the key as to where this land actually was to be set off to the backers of Sir Humphrey Gilbert for their money in advance to fit out his expeditions, for it distinctly speaks of the John Dee Bay and River with five islands in it. John Dee made two maps—one of them for Queen Elizabeth, and one of them for Sir Humphrey Gilbert—and his map of North America does not contain on it any reference to the John Dee Bay and River, nor to the five islands, but the scribe who wrote this indenture between Sir Humphrey Gilbert and his backers shows that Sir Humphrey grants—"all that ryver or porte called, by Master John Dee, Dee Ryver which Ryver by the discripcon of John Verarzanus, a Florentyne, lyeth in Septontrionall latitude about fortye twoo degrees and has his mouth lying open to the south halfe a league broade . . . conteyneth in it selfe five small Islandes newlie named the Cinque Isles."

By means of this description we know that Narragansett Bay containing its five islands is intended, for we know that Verrazano described but two rivers in all his journey from South Carolina to Labrador—the one the Hudson and the

other the Bay of Refuge, where he had refitted his ships and made friends with the natives and which Bay of Refuge lay a little to the North and East of the triangular island of Louisa or Claudia, named for the Queen Mother and Queen of Francis I of France, Verrazano's patron.

In addition, moreover, we have another proof that the John Dee Bay and River is actually Narragansett Bay because the articles of indenture go on to grant, in addition to the river and bay, "Fyftene hundred thousande acres of ground extende next alongst the sea coaste Westwarde towarde the ryver of Norumbage".

The description of this amount of land from Point Judith carries us 60 miles along the coast and 38 miles inland and is equal to 2356 square miles and would extend about 16 miles west of the Connecticut River, namely to the present Guilford Harbor. This is the first grant of land in North America.

Immediately following these indentures, Sir Humphrey sailed from England and in due course reached St. John's, Newfoundland, and there started to found a colony among the fishing vessels, twenty-six of which were in the harbor when he arrived.

In the end, after a turbulent stay, Sir Humphrey put to sea and lost still another ship, making his way towards the John Dee Bay and River, and the Cape and the River of Norumbega, which had been described by Verrazano. Eight days out of St. John's he lost another ship and he turned back with two remaining vessels. Sir Humphrey in the little "Squirrel", but eight tons, went down, off within striking distance of the Azores, and the "Golden Hind", the last of a fine fleet, struggled home to tell the story of misadventure and defeat. So thus the great intended settlement of part of what is now Rhode Island and Connecticut, granted with definite bounds, never came to consummation.

The Deed of 1583

WRITING BETWEEN GILBERT KNT. & PECKHAM KNT.

Articles Indented of agremente made concluded and agreed upon the laste days of Februarie in the fyve and twentieth yere of the raigne of oure soveraigne ladye Elizabeth by the grace of god Queene of Englande Fraunce and Irelande defendor of the faithe &c. Betwene Syr Humfrey Gilbert of Compton in the Countie of Devon knighte on the one partie and Sir George Peckham of Denham in the Countie of Bucks knighte and George Peckham his second sonne on the other partie as followeth viz. Imprimis Whereas oure saide Soveraigne ladye the Queenes majestie by her graces lettres Patents under the greate seale of England bearing date at Westminster the eleventh daye of June in the twentieth yere of her majesties raigne hath geven and granted unto the said Syr Humfrey Gilberte his heires and assignes for ever free libertye from tyme to tyme and at all tymes hereafter forever to discover searche finde owte and vewe such remote heathen and barbarous landes countries and territories not actuallie possessed of any Christian Prince or people as to him his heires or assignes and to every or any of them shall seme good and the same to have holde occupie and enjoye to him and his heires forever with all commodities Jurisdicions and rialties both by sea and lande and did likewise by the said lettres patents for her majestie her heires and Successors geve full power and authoritie to the saide Sir Humfrey his heires and assignes and every of them that he and they and every or any of them shall or maye at every time and tymes hereafter have take and leade in the said voyage to travel thitherwardes or to inhabit there with him or them and every or any of them suche and so many of her majestyes subjectes as shall willinglie accompanye him and them and every or any of them with sufficiente shippinge and furniture for

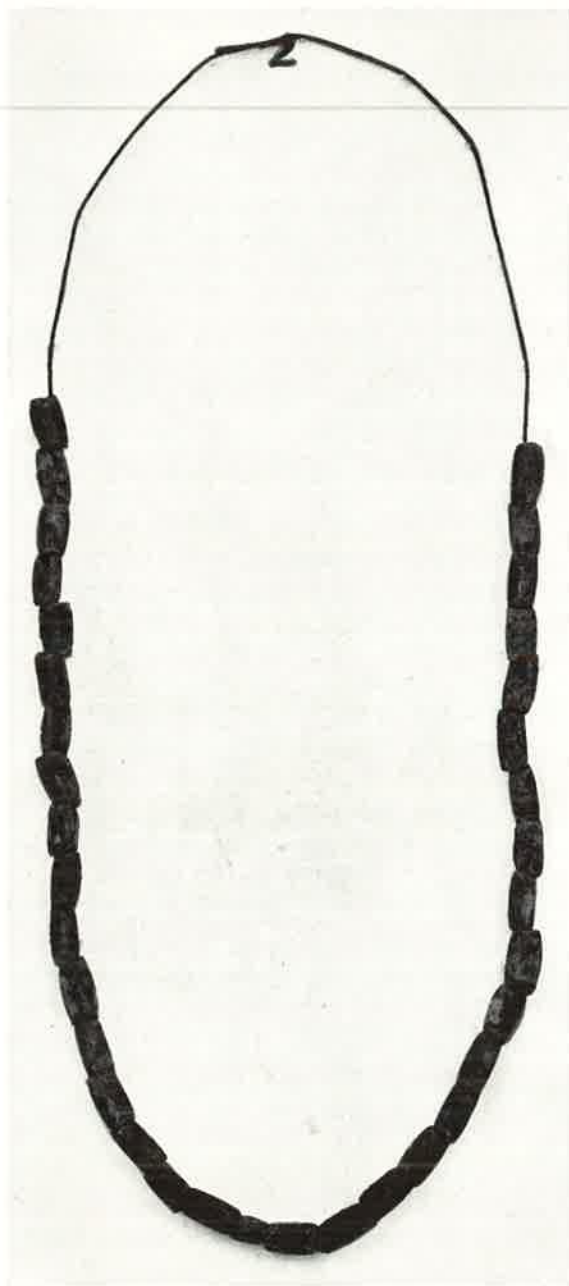
their transportacions so that none of the saide persons or any of them be suche as after the makinge of the said lettres patents shoulde be speciallie restrayned by our saide soveraigne her heires or successors the statutes or actes of Parliamente made againste fugitives or against such as shall departe remaine or contynue oute of her majesties realme of Englande withoute licence or any other acte statute lawe or matter whatsoever to the contrarie in anywise notwithstandinge as by the saide lettres patentes amongeste other grauntes articles and libertyes therein conteyned more at large appeareth. Nowe the saide Sir Humfrey Gilberte as well for the more spedye execucion of her majesties saide grauntes and then largmente of her majesties Domyinions and govermente and also for the better encouragemente of the saide Sir George Peckham and George hys sonne and their associates in so worthie and comendable an enterprise as also for his and their sure warrante to prosecute the same orderlie accordinge to the lawes and statutes of this realme. And in consideracon that the saide Sir George hath disbursed diverse sommes of money and adventured the same as a principall adventurer with the saide Sir Humfrey as also for divers other weightie and good consideracions him the saide Sir Humfrey speciallie movinge for hym his heires executors administrators and assignes and every of them doth covenante premise and graunte to and with the saide George Peckham knighte and George hys sonne their heires executors administrators and assignes by theis presentes that the said Sir George Peckham and George his sonne his and their assignes and associates adventurers and people and every of them shall and may at all tymes hereafter and from tyme to tyme forever have and enjoy full power and free libertie and authoritie by vertue of the saide lettres patentes to discover searche fynde oute and vewe any landes Countries or Islandes heretofore not discovered searched and inhabited by any Christian Prince or people by the assignement of the saide Sir Humfrye his heires and successors and allso to enjoye to his and their owne use all

that ryver or porte called, by Master John Dee, Dee Ryver which Ryver by the discripcion of John Verarzanus a Florentyne lyeth in Septontrionall latitude about fortye two degrees and has his mouth lyinge open to the South halfe a league brode or there aboute and enteringe Within the saide Baye betweene the Easte and the Northe increaseth his breadith and contynueth twelve leagues or there abouts and then maketh a gulfe of twentic leagues compasse or thereabouts and conteyneth in it selfe five small Islandes newlie named the Cinque Isles. And the saide gulfe and the fyve Isles therein and all other Isles lyinge within the saide Ryver or gulfe together with fyfteene hundred thousande acres or grounde within the supposed contynent lyinge nexte adjoininge upon the saide ryver gulfe and fyve Isles at the choyce of the saide Sir George and George his yongeste sonne their heires deputies or assignes or any of them. To have holde and enjoye the saide Isle and Islande together with the saide fyfteene hundred thousande acres of landes. [blank to end of line]

to the saide Sir George Peckham and George Peckham their heires and assignes to hys and their onlie uses forever by Soccage tenure of the same Sir Humfrye his heyres and assignes so as the uttermoste parts or lymytts of the saide Fyftene hundred thousande acres of grounde extende next alongst the sea coaste Westwarde towards the ryver of Norumbeage* above threescore englishe myles in length at the moste with full powre and auctoritie to inhabite people and manure the said Islandes landes countries and territories with all Jurisdiccions priviledges liberties and royallties both by lande and by sea alongest all the costes of the saide countries and territories as is aforesaid yeldinge and payinge unto the saide Sir Humfrye his heires succes-

*In Norumbeage, the "u" is written "v," as is common through the document. It is followed by four minims, instead of three, and these could read "un" or "im," though none are dotted. It is, however, probably an error on the part of the scribe.

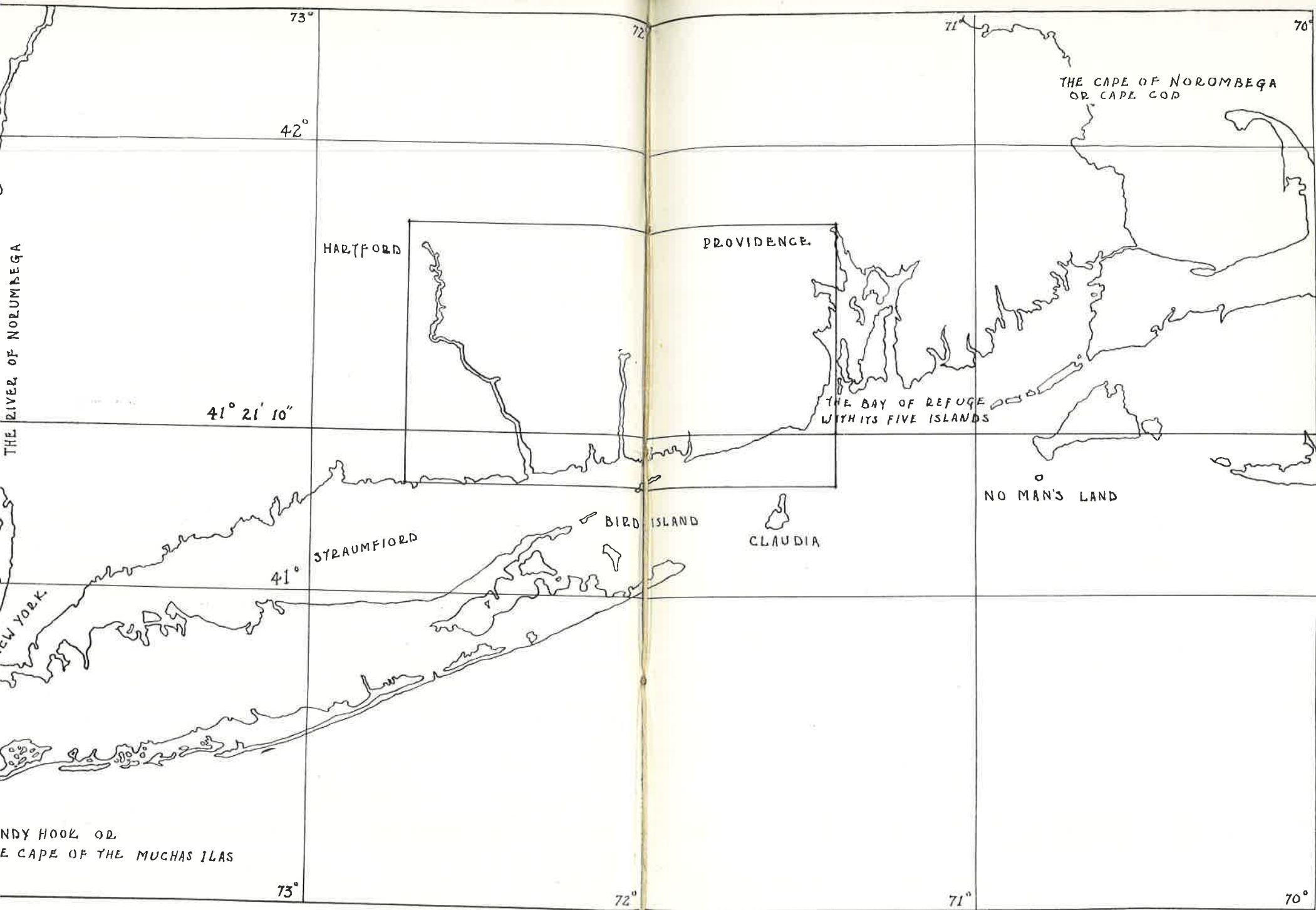
sors or assignes for every thousande acres of grounde of the saide fiftene hundred thousande acres of grounde after the firste seaven yeres proporcionallie which the same shalbe actuallie possessed and manured by the said Sir George Peckham or George his sonne their heires or assignes five shillinges and twoo fyfte partes of all the golde silver pearle and precious stones there growinge founde had and gotten oute of the which twoo fyfte partes the Queenes majesties parte reserved by the lettres patentes ys to be allowed and deduced. Item that they the saide Sir George nor George his sonne their heires nor assignes shalbe charged with any contribucion towards any Warres other then defencis and that onlie by acte of Parliamente of whiche assemblee the saide Sir George and all those which shall beare the name of an Associate with hym shalbe as principall members in every suche Sessions and assemblee. Item the saide Sir Humfrye for the consideracions aforesaide doth covenante and graunte for him selfe his heires successors and assignes and every of them to and with the saide Sir George Peckham and George his sonne their heires and assignes and every of them by theis presentes that he the saide Sir George and George his sonne their heires assignes and people and every of them shall and maye have and enjoye free liberties to trade and traffique into all suche Countries Islandes Isles and territories and into every and any parte of them which the saide Sir Humfrye his heires successors or assignes shall possesse by vertue of the Queene majesties saide lettres patents and his graunte thereof and also that he the saide Sir George and George hys sonne their heires and assignes and every of them shall have the execution of all lawes Ecclesiasticall temporall politique marshall and Civill both marine and others and every of them aswell within the precincte of the said fyfteene hundred thousande acres of grounde as also uppon the sea coste thereof so farr as the saide landes shall extende it selfe as aforesaide Item the saide Sir Humfrye Gilberte for him his heires successors and assignes doth covenante from tyme to tyme upon



STRING OF COPPER BEADS MADE IN IMITATION OF WAMPUM BEADS
(Unearthed in an Indian Grave at Burr Hill, Warren, R. I.)

performance of the covenantes in this booke conteyned to exonerate discharge and sufficientlie to save harmeles the saide Sir George and George his sonne their heires and assignes and everie of them of and from the Quenes majestie her heyres successors and assignes for and concernynge the payment of the Ewer of golde and silver and other duties services and demaundes to her majestie her heires and successors by the saide lettres patents payeble and reserved and likewise shall and will fynishe suche further and better assuraunce and assuraunce of the premysses unto the saide Sir George and George hys sonne their heyres and assignes forever. Within three monethes nexte after the firste and nexte retorne of the saide Sir Humfrye or hys assignes consortes adventurers or associates from the saide voyage of discoverye by the saide Sir Humfrye nowe intended in suche manner and sorte as by the saide Sir George and George hys sonne their heyres or assignes or any of them or the learned counsell of them or any of them shalbe reasonable and lawfullye devised and required And the same Sir George and George hys sonne for them selfs their heires and assignes and every of them doe covenant premyse and graunt to and with the saide Sir Humfrye his heires successors and assignes and every of them by theise presents that they the said Sir George and George hys sonne shall doe their best indevor to procure and obteyne her majesties leave and good lykeinge that all those whoe have or shall adventure with the saide Sir Humfrye Sir George or George hys sonne or eyther of them into the saide Countries and whose names shalbe entered into a register booke for that purpose to be made and kepte and shalbe Willinge to travaile into anye of the saide remote Countries maye freelye passe into those Countries there to remayne or to retorne, backe at hys or their, or any of their Will and Pleasure. And the said Sir George Peckham and George hys sonne doe further covenant and graunte for them selves their heires executors and assignes to and with the said Sir Humfrye Gilbert hys heyres successors and assignes by

theis presents that he nor they nor any of them their heires or assignes shall deferre the execucon of Justice within their liberties beinge thereunto required by the saide Sir Humfrye hys heyres successors or assignes against any suche as shall conspire against the person of the saide Sir Humfrye hys heyres successors or principall assignee or commytt any capitall offence or shall deteyne or protecte from Justice any person hys landes or goodes contrarie to the lawes to be established in the before mencioned remote countries and territories nowe ment to be discovered Which the saide Sir Humfrye Gilbert hys heyres successors or assignes shall have holde occupie or enjoye by right or tytyle under or by vertue of the Quenes majesties lettres patents to hym graunted as before is mencioned provided allwaies and nevertheles yt is concluded condiscended and agreed by and betwene the saide proties that yf the saide Sir George or George hys sonne their heyres or assignes shall at any tyme or tymes hereafter Willinglye Wittinglye and maliciouslye pretend doe or goe about to doe or willinglye suffer to be done any manner of acte thinge or things Whatsoever tendinge to the distruction or subvercion of the said Sir Humfrye hys heyres successors or chief assigne or principall governor or doe or willinglye commytt any acte Whereby the saide Sir Humfrye hys heyres successors or assignes shall lose the benefitt of the graunt of the said lettres patents or he or hys heyres successors or assignes to be by the Quenes Majestic or her or her successors dissavowed forever or yf he or they doe publicquelye or notoriouslye maynteyne any suche person or persones as shall publicquelye or openlye goe about to distroye or overthrowe the right tytyle or person of the said Sir Humfrye hys heyres successors or hys chief and principall assigne in princypall government or the subversion of the common wealth of the said Sir Humfrye hys heyres or successors their Countreys or Territoryes that then and from thensfourth this present graunte and all covenants therein conteyned to be come voide and of none effecte to all entents and purposes as yf



NDY HOOK OR
E CAPE OF THE MUCHAS ILAS

MAP SHOWING TRACT OF LAND MENTIONED IN DEED OF 1583

the same hadd never ben had nor made any thinge in these presents conteyned to the contrarye hereof in any wise notwithstandinge

In wittnes whereof the parties abovesaid to theise present articles Indented Interchaungable have hereunto putt their hands and seals yeoven the daye and yere first above written

[At the foot in Latin] And know ye that the first day of March the year abovesaid the said Humfrey Gylberte, knight, came before the said Lady the Queen in her chancery and acknowledged the writing aforesaid and all and singular in the same contained and specified in form abovesaid.

Enrolled the first day of July the year abovesaid.
(Close Roll 1154)

Counterfeiting in Colonial Days

Communicated by EDWARD H. WEST

The Examination of Nicholas Camp of Rehoboth
taken at Newport 14 August 1723.

Being at John Butterworths house in Rehoboth on or about two yeras Past & Said Butterworths wife Lett me have one three Pound bill which was a counterfitt bill of ye Provence of the Massochusets Bay She Showed me the bill when it was about halfe made & She told me She would Give me one ten Pound for five Pounds if I would take Such bills & Pass them which was the Cause of my Being Concerned in the uttering or Passing of a considerable Sum of Counterfitt Bills which I had of Said Butterworths Wife which three Pound Bill my wife passed to James Dexter at Providence & I never heard of itt Since butt according to

our agreement I Returned thirty Shillings in good bills afterward in Lue of the three Pound bill the Second bill I Received of Sd Butterworths wife was a five Pound Counterfitt bill of the Collony of Rhoad Island I Received itt about a month after I Received Said three Pound Bill & I gott one John Stevens to pass the five Pound bill unto William Turpin of Providence & he gave him in Lue thereof two forty Shilling bills & Some Small bills & I Returned in Lue thereof unto Sd Butterworths wife fifty Shillings or thereabouts but Said Stevens Did not know that itt was a bad bill for I told him I owed Some money to Sd Turpin and could not well Pay him that therefore would Desire him to change itt, I passed away at John Hawses an other five Pound bill to a Providence man & another five Pound bill to Thomas Rolton and had a three Pound bill & a ten Shilling and Some oather Small bills in Change and the two Last bills was of the Collony of Rhoad Island and I received them of John Butterworths wife and Gave one halfe the Sume when Changed according to our agreement unto her the Said Butterworths wife I having some Discous with Sd Butterworths wife I asked her how She Made the bills which She Gave me She told me She Layed a peas of fine watter starched musoline upon them & So Pucked out the Letters upon Said musoline & then Layed the musoline upon a clean Peas of Paper and so made ye Impresion of the Letters by the Letters Pucked out on the musoline with a fine Pen She afterward went over the Letters again as She told me to finish them and I Saw Israel Peck make a pair of Crows quill and understood itt was for that Service and Sea the musoline att the Same time and itt was Pricked out Said Butterworths wife told me that Daniel Hunt of Rehoboth was Concerned in Passing Sd Counterfitt bills of her making and that Her brother Israel Peck came unto her about the time Sd Hunt was Carryed to Bristall and Examined by Coll Byffield about Passing a counterfitt bill and he the Sd Israel Peck then Desired her to Lett him have what Good bills she had in