

# TIMELINE

## Of things that effect the Casco Bay region

An epidemic between 1616-19 claimed the lives of upwards of 90% of New England's indigenous population. When the English began settling Casco Bay in the 1630s, only remnants of the Algonquian-speaking Almouchiquois remained in the area.

**1620**

Pilgrims land and settle at Plymouth.

**1623**

Christopher Leavitt came to Casco Bay and establishes the first colonial settlement in Casco Bay was that of Captain Christopher Levett, who built a house on House Island in 1623–24. The settlement failed.

The first permanent settlement on the bay was named Casco. Despite changing names throughout history, that settlement is now called Portland, Maine.

**1629**

The Pilgrims at Plymouth secured a grant of land on both sides of the Kennebec, which enabled them to control the Indian trade of the river, and which later, having been sold by them, was known as the "Kennebec Purchase.

Christopher Leavitt, after his return to England in 1724, returned to his settlement in 1629, where he gave deed of his property to a man named George Cleaves. Leavitt died at sea in 1631.

**1636**

Gorges leased to George Cleeve and Richard Tucker "a neck of land called Machegonne," now Portland Neck.

**1639**

Nicholas Shapleigh of Berwick, engages Francis Small to purchase a certain great Island called "Sebasco Diggin, lying against a Necke of land called Merriconeag." He built a house there "by order of Major **Shapleigh** and possessed the Island in his behalf." It was referred to as Small's Island and Shapleigh's Island interchangeably.

**1647**

Piscataqua Plantation is incorporated into the **Town of Kittery**. This includes modern day Eliot and Berwick.

**1650**

**Black Will of Berwick** is born. (best guess)

There are three William Black/Black Will's in this timeline. The first is a slave living in Berwick, Maine belonging to Nichols Shapleigh b. about 1650 died about 1727.

He had a son, also called William Black, who later in life moved to Bailey Island, Maine. When he lived in Maine he was also referred to as Black Will and Uncle Will. He was born about 1690 and died on Bailey Island about 1756. (best guess)

Will Jr. Of Bailey Island had a son Will Black III who, after his parents died, moved to Orr's Island. He was born about 1718 and died about 1790. (best guess)

**1652**

**York County, District of Massachusetts** was established in 1652 when the Massachusetts Bay Colony first asserted territorial claims over the settlements of southern Maine, extending from the Piscataqua River to just east of the mouth of the Presumpscot River in Casco Bay.

**1675**

1<sup>ST</sup> Indian War - **King Phillips War Begins 1675 – 1676** with attacks on Cape Neddick, Sheepscot, Scarborough, Casco, Arrowsic, Pemiquid and homesteads in between.

Nicholas Shapleigh in Kittery, buys the slave named Coffe.

Thomas Purchase at Middle Bay, Brunswick is attacked and his trading post is burned by two dozen Natives. Purchase had been accused of cheating the natives on the prices of furs and trade goods.

**1676**

### **King Phillips War Ends**

Phillip (Metacom) is killed in August at Mount Hope, Rhode Island ending the conflict soon after.

**1680**

The General Court proceeded to reorganize civil administration in Maine with Thomas Danforth as President of the Province of Maine.

**1682**

Although the first house on Portland Neck built by Europeans (in 1632) was located on what is now the corner of Hancock and Pore Streets, Europeans did not settle in any concentrated numbers in the area until 1680 when Fort Loyal was constructed at the foot of current day India Street. Prior to this time, the settlers, about forty families, had been widely scattered around the Portland area known as Falmouth.

Massive destruction of property and the killing or capture of thirty-four Europeans during King Philip's War (1674-75) put an end to this decentralized pattern of settlement. The protection afforded by the fort, however, was short-lived, as the community was again obliterated by a Wabanaki attack in 1690.

Nicholas Shapleigh died. John Shapleigh, his nephew, **inherits the slave Black Will** and 5 other slaves as well as an interest in Great Sebascodegan Island. These slaves are Black Will, Coffe, Primas, Prince, ????? (said to be a woman)

**Harvard College** receives a grant for 1000 acres on Merriconeagan Neck (Harpwell Neck) from the Massachusetts General Court. (Unsure if this includes the islands or not) I thought Shapleigh owned the Neck? The General Court sometimes made overlapping grants.

Black Will is living on 3 acres in Berwick.

1683

John Shapleigh **sells Great Sebascodegan Island (and his land on the neck) to Richard Wharton.**

**Richard Wharton**, A Boston merchant, an Englishman by birth and education, conceived the plan of establishing a “manor” after the style of English gentlemen, and for that purpose bought, July 4, 1683, of the heirs of **Purchase and Way** the land covered by their patent of 1632, as well as lands bought by Purchase of the Indian sagamores. **In this purchase of Whartons was included, the claim of John Shapleigh.** The price paid to the **Purchase heirs** was one hundred and fifty pounds, thirty of which was paid down and the remainder was to be paid when the heirs furnished a copy of the patent given to Purchase and Way. There can be no doubt but that the copy of the patent was produced, for we find him in 1687, making payments on account of his purchase, satisfied with the “conformation he had obtained in right of said Purchase and Way for said patent.” **Wharton’s claim includes the whole of Harpswell, except a few islands**, the greater part of Brunswick, and a part of Topsham. But this tract of land, extensive as it was, did not satisfy the Englishman’s manorial ideas, for he sought and obtained from Worombe and five other sagamores of the Androscoggin tribe, a large tract of land on both sides of the Androscoggin river and extending to the “uppermost falls in said Androscoggin river.” ...

#### **THE SIX INDIAN SAGAMORE’S DEED TO RICHARD WHARTON –**

.... "And we the said Warumbee, Darumkin, Wehikermett, Wedon Dombegon, Neonongassett, and Nimbanewett Do covenant and grant to and with the said Richard Wharton that we have in ourselves good Right & full power thus to confirm and Defend the Richard Wharton his heirs and assigns forever in the Peaceable Enjoyment of the claim any Rights, title Interest of Property in the Premises by from or under us the above named Sagamores, or any of our Ancestors. Provided nevertheless that Nothing in this Deed be construed to Deprive us the said Sagamores Successors or People from improving our Ancient Planting Grounds ... Sworn before me this 21 July 1684 **Edward Tyng** Justice O’Peace [n.b. Wharton's 1st wife's uncle]

Shortly after this transfer **Wharton sailed for England** for the purpose of securing from the crown a recognition of his claim and the authority to establish a manor in the then “Province of Mayne.” But this magnificent enterprise failed, **Wharton having died** before the proper authority could be obtained.

## 1684

The Charter of Massachusetts was annulled in 1684, and the government of the colony reverted to the crown.

The Massachusetts General Court grants Sebascodegan Island (Great Island) to **Thomas Danforth** (President of Maine) and **Sumner Newell** in payment of services rendered to Massachusetts. (How can they do that if Shapleigh sold it to Richard Wharton in 1683?)

## 1685

James II appointed Andros Governor of New England.

## 1686

**The slave Black Will earns his own money - He is paid for opening the grave for the funeral James Chadbourne of Berwick (1655-1686)**

**William Dudley**, Born: October 20, 1686

The French and Indian Wars were actually a series of conflicts that occurred in North America between 1688 and 1763.

## 1688

**King Williams War Begins 1688-1697**

## 1690

**Will “Bailey Island” Black Jr. is born** in Berwick to Black Will and Alice Hanscom. William may thereafter be in the care of Magistrate **Frances Hook** and wife of Kittery. Alice, a white woman, abandons the child and removes herself from the area.

## 1691

William and Mary, who succeeded King James, issued October 7, 1691, a charter, which incorporated, under the title of the "**Province of Massachusetts Bay**," the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, the Colony of Plymouth, the Province of Maine and the territory of Nova Scotia.

**1692**

Indian Massacre at York Maine. **Francis Hooke** of Kittery, in a letter to the Governor, said "in generall ther is 137 men, wemen and children kild and caryed away captive; about 100 of them captivated are gone eastward." The inference from this statement is that thirty-seven were killed.

**1693**

**Richard Wharton** dies in England. His administrator in Maine, Ephraim Savage sells his holdings in Maine to the **Pejepscot Proprietors**. (I was under the impression the Pejepscot Proprietors were not established until 1714?)

**1695**

**Will "Bailey Island" Black Jr.** is "in the care" of **Mrs. Francis (Mary) Hooke**, Francis being the Kittery Magistrate.

**1696**

While still a slave, **Black Will** was able to save £20 to buy 100 acres of land in present-day Eliot, from John Gowan (1668-1732) where he established a farmstead. [York Deeds book VI Fol. 43, pg 110 of 744, 1696, John Gowen aka Smith for the sum of 20 pounds do sell to Black Will, formerly belonging to Nicholasa Shapleigh, 100 acres being 2 grants of the town, 50 acres to John Gowan (possibly son of William) and 50 acres to William Gowan (Scots Prisoner, Dunbar)from 1685. ]

**1697**

**King Williams War Ends**

**1700**

John Shapleigh signs papers **freeing Black Will**. [Possibly at this time Will Jr. may be reunited with his father Black Will]

**1703**

### **Queen Ann's War Begins 1703-1713**

**1708**

**Slave Tony Freeman** released by Charles Frost, to live on Black Will's land in Berwick. Will posts bond to assure Tony will not be a burden to the town

**1709**

**Timothy Bailey** is born in Hanover, Mass

**1712**

Will "Bailey Island" Black Jr. – taken to court by **Elizabeth brooks** (for bastardy) Will is acquitted.

**1713**

### **Queen Ann's War ends.**

In 1713, the General Court of Massachusetts revived the old "Committee of Eastern Claims and Settlements". The committee was now enlarged from seven to nine members and empowered to examine all claims to the abandoned lands and confirm those it found valid. At the same time, the Court designated five towns for resettlement: Saco, Scarborough, Falmouth, North Yarmouth, and Arrowsick. The legislators required that the abandoned towns be replanted by groups of twenty to thirty families. Each family was to live on a small home lot of three or four acres, and each settlement was to take the form of an easily defensible cluster of houses located near the seacoast.

**1714**

The Pejepscott Proprietors were established. The Pejepscot Proprietors were one of the largest companies of elite land speculators that played an outsized role in colonizing the lands in the Casco Bay Region. Particularly the Brunswick and Topsham area. In the early eighteenth century, a handful of wealthy Boston

families acquired the deed to a tract of land encompassing much of the state. The original proprietors and their descendants spent the next century luring colonists onto company towns in order to improve the value of their claim. At the same time, the proprietors struggled to convince Indigenous Wabanakis, rival land companies, and even many of their own colonists to conform to their vision for mid-Maine. In their quest to amass a fortune from their enterprise, the Pejepscot Proprietors left a rich trove of documents now held in the Maine Historical Society. Historians and other scholars from a wide range of disciplines have since made use of this collection to learn more about not only the proprietors themselves, but also Wabanaki people and colonists from all backgrounds.

### 1715

Will Black Jr of Berwick and Elizabeth Turbot - birth of dau. Elizabeth Turbot is white and not married. Both are taken to court.

Pejepscot Company founds several towns on the Sagadahoc Peninsula, including Georgetown

### 1716

Yorkshire County is established in the “Dist. Of Maine, separate from Suffolk Co. Massachusetts. This includes all lands east of the Piscataqua to the St. Croix River. (All of what is now the State of Maine)

Will Jr. – court (default on bonds)

### 1717

Robert Temple arrives in Boston and makes his way to Georgetown, (Maine) where he's invited to join the proprietors in founding new settlements; he receives 1,000 acres at the mouth of the Kennebec River, establishes the settlement of Cork (Merrymeeting Bay) and begins chartering ships the following year.

### 1718

birth of William “Orr’s Island” Black (III) to William Black and Elizabeth Turbot

Will Jr. – granted 10A land in Berwick



**1 Sep 1718:** the ship *Maccallum* arrives in Boston Harbor from Londonderry, Capt. James Law, bringing 20 families; the ship was meant to dock in New London but "having a long Passage the Master perswaded them to putt in here, so the poor Creatures are left in the Lurch."

**8 Sep 1718:** the *Maccallum* sets sail for Merrymeeting Bay, persuaded by Capt. Robert Temple

**Autumn 1718:** Gov. Shute tells a large group of Presbyterian Scotch-Irish immigrants that they can either stay in Boston and convert to or go to the frontier and create their own township, thus (presumably) affording them some religious freedom; ~300 settlers leave for Casco Bay on the ship *Robert*.

**Winter 1718 - Spring 1719:** conditions in Falmouth are appalling due to harsh weather and lack of food and supplies, and many families choose to leave. Less than 60 families remained

## 1719-1722

**Johnson Harmon** is at Merriconeag Neck (Harpwell) by permission of the **Pejepscott Proprietors** to cut timber. Harvard College discovers the challenge to their ownership (they were granted the land in 1682) and sues to have the squatters removed. General Court says.....Harvard waited too long to object to the Proprietors actions. They find for the defendant. Harvard tries again and then again to no avail. Harvard backs down.

## 1722

In 1722, a "Committee for the Resettlement of North Yarmouth" was formed in Boston, Province of Massachusetts Bay.

Lovewell's War/Dummers War Begins 1722-1725

**Will Black Jr.**, after acquiring 25 acres of land in Berwick along Blackberry Hill, and 30 other acres in that area and then an additional 10 acres near his father's farm in upper Kittery, takes out a one year mortgage on all but 10 acres.

He fails to make payment and mortgage holders William Leighton and John Furbish take control of the property.

**1724**

**Richard Jaques** kills father Sebastian Reale at Norridgewock. His father-in-law **Johnson Harmon** and Harmon's father in-law **Jeremiah Moulton** are in command of the expedition.

Will Jr. of Berwick. – court by Richard Ward (debt)

1725

Lovewell's War/Dummers War Ends

**1727**

English settlers eventually returned to the Portland/Falmouth peninsula. By 1727, about forty families lived near lower King Street (present day India Street).

"Flotsom and Jetsom" By Meriam Stover Thomas 1973; page 30 for an alternate scenario of Richard Jaques on the Neck and on Orr's Island.

**Will Jr. of Kittery - brought into court by Mary Brown (debt)**

**Black Will the freed slave dies in Berwick**

**Will Jr. moves to Capenewagon Island in Casco Bay.**

Everett Stackpole in "Old Kittery and Their Families" speaks of **Will Black [Jr] (age about 37) and wife Elizabeth [Turbot] with son (Will III) and daughter (Elizabeth)** living in Maine. This would indicate **Will III was born 1727** or before.

**1728**

Will Jr. of Kittery brought into court by Elizabeth Alcock (debt). Does he appear? He has gone to Casco Bay by then.

**1730**

**Michael Sinnett** is born in County Wexford, Ireland

**1731**

**Timothy Bailey** marries first wife Sarah Buck.

**1733**

**Joshua Black, (another son of Black Will), Mary Black (possibly the wife of Joshua), et. al brought into court for not attending church in Berwick.**

**1736**

**William Dudley**, one of the “Committee to Resettle North Yarmouth”, receives a quit claim deed to Capenewagon Island from the town of North Yarmouth. He specifies that he wants “The Island whereon the said **Black Will** doth reside.” (Will has been on Capenewagon for 9 years)

Tony Freeman dies (**probate**)

**1737**

Joshua Black– taken to court by John and Charles Frost (ejectment)

Pejepscot Proprietors authorize John Booker on Sebascodegan Island (Great Island)/Col. Johnson Harmon on Merriconeag (Harpwell)Neck to keep squatters off those lands and to seize any wood, timber, or hay they had cut. The hay would be used locally, the wood shipped to Boston for sale.

**1738**

Joshua Black– court by John Morrell (ejectment)

North Yarmouth Resettlement Committee draws lots for ownership of the islands.

**1739**

Will Jr. of North Yarmouth (Newaggon Island) brought into court by William Phipps (debt)

Joshua Black, Kittery– court by Tobias Leighton (debt)

Wm. Leighton sells 32 ½ at Berwick to Patrick Gowen near dwelling of E. Andrews 21 ½ acres near Loves Brook.

## 1742

Timothy Bailey and second wife, **Hannah Curtis**, are married in Hanover, Massachusetts.

Timothy Bailey and his second wife Hannah Curtis move to North Yarmouth and became interested in residing on Bailey Island. The North Yarmouth Proprietor's records say that Timothy Bailey settled at the Island in 1742 although he did not purchase the Island until 1758 (17 more years).

## 1743

Both Will Jr and Will III **make their mark** on a petition to Wm. Shirley for exemption of taxes and for money to build a local meeting house. Their location is not given. It is supposed they are **both on Capenewagon**. (found in the Baxter Manuscripts vol. XI, (maine historical soc)

**Richard Jaques** purchases 100 acres on Little Sebascodegan Island in Sept. 1743 by Indian Deed.

## 1744

**Apr. 16<sup>th</sup>, the town of North Yarmouth excuses the inhabitants of Merriconeag Neck from paying the ministers rate for that year.**

## 1745

About this time **Richard Jaques** moves to Little Sebascodegan from the Neck. *Or did he go there around 1728/29*

King Georges War 1745-1749

**Richard Jaques** commands a militia of Casco Bay men part of the Army sent against Louisburg on Cape Breton Isl. Canada.

**“Bailey Island” Will Black Jr** takes a 30 pound mortgage on his remaining 10 acres in Berwick and pays it off in 2 years (1748). (He apparently is

making money in some fashion. My suspicion is by cutting timber on Harpswell Neck.

**“Bailey Island” Will Jr. (s) living N. Yarmouth (Capenewaggon Island) (court case against Jonathan Black)**

William “Orr’s Island” Black III marries his 1<sup>st</sup> cousin Mary, dau. of Joshua (probate)

**1746**

**Will Black III and Mary are married** by this time as they both sign off on her father's estate, having been paid her share by her brother Henry.

**Joshua Black’s death in Eliot.**

**“Bailey Island” Will Jr. (s), brought into court by Jonathan Black (son of Joshua Black and Wills first cousin)**

**1747**

**William Dudley [North Yarmouth Committee for Resettlement] dies. He has 9 children. (Why do they not inherit Wills Island?)**

**1748**

**“Bailey Island” Will Jr. and Timothy Bailey** both sign a petition to North Yarmouth asking to allow the Neck and Islands to become a separate precinct within North Yarmouth and to have their own church and minister.

[Will and Timothy are said to be on Capenewagon Island. But **Will III, who is listed as Will Jr., also signs the petition and is identified as being on Little Sebascodegan (Orr’s Island).**

[This is the same year as when the Orr brothers buy the island. The Orrs do not sign the petition.....so, do they either not agree with it or are they not yet in residence. That would indicate Will was already living on Little Sebascodegan before the Orr’s and long before Timothy Bailey was in a position to have him removed as a squatter from Capenewagon Island as we were always told he did. As a matter of fact, if Timothy didn’t purchase the Island until 1758, then he himself was a squatter just like Will and Elizabeth So we can surmise that **Will III (Orr’s Island Will) comes to Little Sebascodegan between 1743 and 1748 when he is about 28 to 33 years old.]**

**Joseph Orr** buys Little Sebascodegan Island and moves there with his brother Clement Orr and Clements wife Deborah Ward.

Joseph Orr makes a token payment to Richard Jacques to clear Jacques Indian deed to Little Sebascodegan

**1749**

Richard Jaques dies.

In June of 1749, the General Court of Massachusetts passed an order that the Neck and Northeast part of Sebascodegan Island as well as other specified islands should be a separate and distinct precinct.

**1750 ish**

**Speculation Alert!** Guesstimate of the birth of **Will Black IV** son of Will Black and Mary (Black) Black on Orr's Island. This "Will" may possibly have married **Ruth Welch** and had a child **John Black**.....maybe....but maybe not. There is no definitive evidence that Will and Mary Black had any children. They were first cousins. There is some speculation that Will and Mary may have returned to Kittery/Berwick and that John Black and his descendants are not part of the Black Will family line but instead may be descended from Daniel Black of Boxford, Massachusetts.

Sept.- Indian attacks at Swans Island and Richmond Natives take 14 prisoners.

**About 1750**

Jacob Hatheway/Johnson is said to have been born in England in about 1715 and made his way to the American Colony of Virginia. He may have been related to the Lee family of the Jamestown area. At some point he may have been pressed into the British Navy and been a sailor on a British man-o-war. He deserted the ship while it was in port and changed his name to Johnson to escape discovery. He eventually made his way to Casco Bay where he met and married Abigail Bibber. At Harpswell Neck they lived in the area of South Harpswell on which, in 1835, "The Mansion House" was built abutting the old Pinkham Cemetery north of the causeway. [Lending some support to this Virginia connection is a story about Jacobs son David having been sent five slaves from Virginia as his share of a family estate sometime around 1804. David sent them back as he stated he had nothing of an oppressive spirit in him. One slave, a woman, begged to be able to

stay and was not sent back. The story says she remained on Bailey Island , however, her name and future are not recorded. ]

## 1751

May – Indian attacks at North Yarmouth. 3 children taken prisoner, a blacksmith at Presumpscot killed. July – Seven men cutting hay along the New Meadows River taken captive.

Joseph Orr buys **Michael Sinnett's** indenture and brings him to Little Sebascodegan to help cut cord wood and spars for sale in Boston and other southern New England ports.

## 1753

Elisha Eaton is installed as the Congregational minister.

January 13, 1753 **Timothy Bailey** is made a **Deacon** of the Second Church of Christ in North Yarmouth, Maine on . This is 11 years after he supposedly takes residency on Will's Island but 5 years before he purchases the Island. Deacons are appointed or elected in Protestant denominations, though this is less commonly seen as a step towards the clerical ministry. The role of deacon in these denominations varies greatly from denomination to denomination; often, there will be more emphasis on administrative duties than on pastoral or liturgical duties. In some denominations, **deacons' duties are only financial management and practical aid and relief**. Elders handle pastoral and other administrative duties.

October 2, 1753 The second parish of North Yarmouth is established on Merriconeag Neck.

## 1754

Will "Bailey Island" Black Jr., laborer, of Merriconeag, appoints Samuel Fernald, Jr. of Kittery, power of attorney to "grant, bargain, sell and convey" his lands in Kittery and Berwick. William, laborer, of North Yarmouth mortgages 10A land in Kittery to Simon Frost. This must be some of the property he bought before leaving for Casco Bay. Perhaps he has been getting rents from this property?)

Will Black of N. Yarmouth – court (debt)

**Estimated** death of Elizabeth Black (Will “Bailey Island” Black’s wife) on Bailey’s Island.

**1755**

French and Indian War 1755-1760

Micah Sinnett finishes his indenture and marries Molly Ward on Orr’s Island. They buy a farm on Southport Island near Boothbay and move there. **The indenture only seems to have been for four years. The fact that Michael marries his masters niece may have played a factor in the seeming early release.**

**1757**

The Harpswell Meeting House is erected and services are begun. However the building was not completed for many years. Prior to this services were held in various homes.

**1758**

4 January 1758, **Town of Harpswell is incorporated.**

Capenewagon Island is referred to as “**Wills Island**”. **(This does NOT constitute ownership. It’s just a place name!)**

**Timothy Bailey buys Capenewagon Island** from The Proprietors of North Yarmouth. **[How is that possible if it is now part of Harpswell. Or...does he in fact buy it from the heirs of William Dudley (who had been a “Proprietor” in North Yarmouth?)]**

Micah Sinnett is “pressed” by a passing British vessel from his home in Sheepscot Bay and is taken away to fight for the English forces in the “Siege of Quebec” by way of the Great Lakes.

**1759**

Quebec falls and Micah Sinnett remains in the British army until discharged in 1763. (five years)!

**1760**

**Cumberland County** and Lincoln County were incorporated from a portion of York County, Massachusetts



**William “Orr’s Island Will” Black III** of Harpswell, sells his half of the **100 acres in Kittery** formerly owned by his paternal grandfather, Black Will “the Slave” to Samuel Fernald (50A)

**Estimated death of “Bailey Island” Will on Bailey’s Island\*\*\*** Sinnett Genealogy records James Sinnett of Bailey Island as saying Will and Elizabeth were the first people to die on and be buried on Bailey Island. **Burial site unknown.** Some speculation suggests that Will Black may be the same person as Chief Mingo who is said to have been buried on the slope above the Black homestead. Will was sometimes referred to as an Indian. He was of mixed race but what kind of mix is not known.

**1761**

**Jacob Johnson** of Harpswell Neck sells 26 acres on New Damrais Cove Island to William Haskell.

**1762**

**“Orr’s Island” Will Black** buys from **Joseph Orr**, most of the south end of Little Sebascodegan (Orr's) Island consisting of one hundred forty four acres, for one hundred and seventy two pounds. In September 1762 he purchases all of Beal's Cove Point (which is later known as Johnson's Point) (nineteen acres) for thirty five pounds, nine shillings, four pence. **Timothy Bailey** signs as a witness. (It has been 14 years, since Will signed the petition to North Yarmouth which seems to establish that he is on Orr’s Island, before he buys land. Where has he been living? Between 1748 and 1762 I believe Will has been working for the Orr’ brothers cutting trees on the southern end of the island and living there with the consent of the Orrs. Probably near the present area of “the Dock” at Lowells Cove.) My opinion is that Will has sold the Berwick property he inherited from “Black Will” and uses this money to purchase the Orr’s Island property.

**1763**

Micah Sinnett returns home from fighting for the British against French forces. He finds his farm-holding abandoned and makes his way to Orr’s Island to his in laws where he is reunited with his wife.

**1764**

A 1764 census of the Colonies by the Lords of Trade of Great Britain, counted 836 white and **14 black inhabitants** in Harpswell.

Micah Sinnett buys 30 acres on Orr's Island from Joseph Orr on which he is said to have built eight houses including his own which still exists (2022).

## 1765

April, **William Black** fined for not attending the Sabbath.

October, **William Black** pays a fine to the King of ten shilling and one pound, five shilling, four pence

## 1771

**William Black** buys from Joseph Orr, 19 acres, all of Beal's Cove point on Little Sebascodegan Island.

## 1775, April

British forces march on Lexington and Concord. Revolution begins.

## 1777

**Michael Sinnett** is a member of Capt. Jonathan Doyle's militia company during the Revolution.

**Will Black III** purchased, for eighteen pounds, sixteen shillings, six pence, (This pound was probably the kind then in use in New England and was equivalent to 33 and one third cents.) in partnership with **Josiah Clark** (see bio for Josiah Clarke), "...equal parts the two islands in or near Casco Bay called ...Capt. Parkers Island (now called Ragged Island) and Sagwin Island". Josiah Clark was born February 20, 1704 in Kittery, York County, Maine the son of **Elisha Clarke** and Sarah.

## 1786

**Michael Sinnett** purchases 10 acres on Orr's Island from John Blake. This may be the John Blake/Black married to Lettice Gilliam and the ancestor from which all the Black descendants on Orr's and Bailey Islands trace back to. It is the connection from John Black to the "William Blacks" that has no documentation. Where John Blake/Black comes from is not known.

**1790**

**John Black** born about 1790. This is **John** married in about 1814 to **Mary Goodrow**. He is the first ancestor we can verify in the present day **Black family line**.

**1787**

**Lemual Turner** to **William Black**, for 13 shillings, nine and one half acres of **Lowell's Cove Point**. (Who was Lowell??) This is about the time of death I have for **Orr's Island Will**. So, Is this possibly **William IV, husband of Ruth??**

**1788**

The home of **David Johnson** is built on land at the south end of **Bailey Island**. [A piece of this building is said to be part of **George Johnsons workshop** and a new house stands on the old foundation near the head of **Little Harbor**.]

**1795**

**William Black** buys from **John Blake**, nine and one half acres, for ten pounds, two shillings, eight pence. This land bordered on land owned by **David Wheeler**, **Michael Sinnett** and **William Black**. (Unsure which land this is). **David Wheeler is the son-in-law of Elisha Clarke**. [This date really seems very late to be **William Black husband of Mary**.]

**1781**

Siege of **Yorktown**. **Cornwallis** surrendered his army of more than 7,000 men on October 19, 1781.

**1783**

September 3, Treaty of **Paris** ends the **American Revolution**.

**1795**

**Samuel Alexander** sells ten acres of land on the south end **Bailey Island** to **Jacob Johnson Jr**. Land to include the point of **Sea Cove**. [Lands End]

**Dec. 1805**

**Elizabeth Meyer**, calling herself the **daughter of William Black** (probably the dau. of Orr's Island Will), sells 23 acres on Orr's Island to Stephen Sinnett for one hundred twenty-six dollars and fifty cents, and all interest in an island in Casco Bay called Parkers Island or Ragged Arse Island containing about 70 acres to James Sinnett for fifteen dollars and twenty-five cents. [note the difference in land area verses payment for these two pieces].

Samuel Alexander sells to David **Johnson** land on Capenewagon Island. 18 acres.

**1813**

Henry Black, Sr. dies [son of Joshua] of Berwick

**1818**

Olive Black to John Black (alias Blake) property on Lowell's Cove

**1820**

**Maine Becomes the 23<sup>rd</sup> State**

**1832**

Olive Black and James Sinnett sell to Henry Waterman, one quarter of a third part of an Island in Casco Bay called Capt. Parkers Island. 132/126

Deed 131/60, Thomas Forsaith of Portland sells to Henry Waterman, one undivided third part of Parkers Island laying in Harpswell commonly called Ragged Arse part of the same land purchased from David Johnson in 1816. 76/252

**1839**

Henry Black, Jr. (gg-gs) dies (owns remaining 3 acres) Last of Black Will's land, in Eliot, passes out of the family.

**1843**

The Harpswell Center Parish of the Congregational Church is dedicated in September and begins services with Elijah Kellogg as the first pastor. After his death in 1901 the church was renamed for Kellogg.

## 1856

The Town of Harpswell takes the Old Meeting House for offices of Selectmen.

## 1866

**The great fire** of Portland, Maine, occurred on July 4, 1866—the first Independence Day after the end of the American Civil War. It started on Commercial Street and spread to a lumber yard and on to a sugar house, then across the city, eventually burning out on Munjoy Hill in the city's east end. Two died in the fire. Ten thousand people were made homeless and 1,800 buildings were burned to the ground. This included the federal Exchange Building by which was replaced with the custom house.

## 1865

Prince and Smullen Grocery store is open at the south end of Orr's Island.

Smullen and Prince is renamed Prince and Daniels

Prince and Daniels is renamed S.C. Prince and Sons

## 1897

Merritt House is built at the steamboat landing Orr's Island for Georgie Prince Fides.

