

The narrative that follows is a description by Waterman Hatch of the time he worked for Capt. John Nichols at the Partridge House. The story appears to have been related to David Chamberlain, J.P. on August 23, 1871. The copy which is presented with this transcription was made by Dr. Peregrine Wroth at a date unknown. It is on 5"x7" foolscrap in pencil. It was donated by Dr. Wroth's granddaughter, Ms. Margaret Orrick.

1825 and 1826

Waterman Hatch, Bristol, Maine worked for Capt. John Nichols in Partridge House.

Cellars nearly all over peninsula, arranged in regular rows, on several streets.

Main Street, in good repair, extending from Fort on southern point of peninsula, by the place where the barn now stands, past the graveyard and [word indecipherable] or quite up to the northern end of the peninsula. This street was narrow and well paved with stones.

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I once ploughed over some eight rods of this street and abandoned the widest of them because there not being enough soil over it to make a farrow, and the pavement being so close and compact, it was found to be untractable to break it up. Some parts of it were then quite bare.

At right angles with this were two streets extending down to the western shore, one beginning at the middle of the graveyard fence as it now stands and running down to the old

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wharf. This street was paved. The other was about three rods north of Mr. Partridge's barn. I do not say whether it was paved or not. There were, besides these, two streets parallel to the main street and lying between it and the river bank, also two at right angles with the main street running easterly from it to the creek. I

do not say they were paved. All these streets with the exception of the one next the river

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bank had cellars on both sides which were plainly to be seen, most of them being well stoned and deep. On the east side of the main street there were cellars all the way from the graveyard to the road, and east as far as the creek. I have helped to fill up many of these. There were four cellars on the extreme northern point of the peninsula, also

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large numbers east and south of the road. I assisted in filling up some fourteen of these which have since been ploughed over. In the years in which I worked there the cellars were very plainly to be seen on both sides of the main road and cross streets down to the old wharf on the west, and south as far as the barn and the main road. East of Main Street there was

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a square, about six rods in extent on each of its sides which contained the remains of seven black-smith forges, and three on the south. These forges were built of brick and stone, were as perfect as though built yesterday. Within the square were large piles of cinders and other refuse such as is to be seen about a black-smith shop. I ploughed out a gun-lock from one

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of these heaps which I still have. I also ploughed out a fox-trap, one foot underground. It had two springs, was very large, and almost destroyed with rust. I also found an axe of very peculiar shape, to wit, triangular, with a bit six inches wide, and a round hold through it for an eye. It was badly rusted, and I do not know what became of it. There were quan-

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tities of nails and spikes and bushels of old iron scraps. I can point out the sites of eleven forges in all. I should judge that on the whole peninsula and Fish-point there must have been three hundred cellars.

The same year, 1825, William McIntyre and I dug p a heap of heavy cannon-shot. They were in a conical pile, entirely underground, within the old fort. There were forty-eight solid

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shot and fourteen bomb shells. Capt. Nichols sold them for old iron. In ploughing between the Fort and the River, I, together with Joel Sibley and Capt. Nichols turned out at least a cart-load of human bones, such as skulls, ribs, leg bones, arm bones, etc. There is a forge near, and a little to the south east of the street lately laid bare, a black-smith's forge, near

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which I dug up a large anchor, heavy enough for a schooner of one hundred tons. It was quite unlike those made now, having a shank twice as large. It was sold for old iron.

In digging for a foundation for a shed which Capt. Nichols built to the east side of his house (the same Mr. James Partridge now lives in) we dug down to brick pavement

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which was nicely laid. I also found a copper coin which I still have. In 1825 and 26 that part of the peninsula south of the main road was full of cellars. They were in regular rows north and south. Some of them were quite deep, others shallow as the ledge is so near the top of the ground. Some were stoned, others were only covered

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up with piles of stones laid in piers.

Some ten or twelve years since Robert Little and I dug out a cellar on the premises of Mr. Nathan Lewis on the west side of the Pemaquid River, a little distance N.E. from the mound, which was of a very peculiar character. It was stone on the sides very nicely with a dark colored stone. When we laid bare the

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cellar floor we found it to consist of a pavement laid in blue clay, which was perfectly dry. The paving stones which formed this floor were of a dark blue color, quite unlike any stone found here to my knowledge. They were about one foot square, very smooth, and closely jointed. We removed only one of them and put it back again. I do not remember finding any articles but a

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pewter spoon, which Mrs. Lewis now has.

I distinctly remember to have heard Capt. John Nichols often say that in a spot near the graveyard, which I can point out, the remains of Gen. Summer, sometime commander of the Fort, lie buried. He said he had heard this from his father and his grandfather. He has often pointed out to me the spot which he said he believed from tradition to be the entrance to the magazine to the Fort. He said he had heard his grandfather say that it was an open chamber, the entrance to which was covered with a heap of cobblestones nine feet thick. The spot he pointed out is about forty-five feet in front of Mr. Partridge's front door.

Waterman Hatch

Bristol, Maine
August 23, 1871

David Chamberlain
J.P.