

Excerpts from
At the Edge of Conflict
250th Anniversary of Thomas Means Massacre
Freeport Historical Society Exhibit
June – November 2006

When Thomas Means was killed by Native Americans on Sunday, May 10, 1756, he was thirty three years old and had come with his family to the Flying Point area of ancient North Yarmouth within the previous few years. He was married (ca. 1749) to Allis Finny of Brunswick. They had two young daughters, Jane and Alice, both of whom survived the attack, along with their mother. Their little brother, Robert, however, was killed.

Jonas Mason, selectman and deacon of First Congregational Church in North Yarmouth and Reverend Thomas Smith, Pastor of First Parish Church in Falmouth, both remark on the attack in their journals written in 1756. These accounts, recorded at the time of the incident, are the oldest known primary source descriptions of what occurred.

Perhaps the best known version of the “massacre” is offered by John McKeen, town clerk of Brunswick and founder of the Maine Historical Society, who in 1846 gave several lectures on the massacre’s history. McKeen indicated that on May 9th, 1756 a party of Indians arrived on the highlands of Topsham commanding a view of Fort George and divided into two parties. One group attacked some men in the New Meadows area and took Abijah Young captive. The second group attacked the house of Thomas Means at Flying Point the next morning. Means and his infant son were killed, his wife wounded, and one of the attacking Indians was also wounded. Miss Molly Finney, younger sister of Allis (Finny) Means, was taken captive and “disposed [sold] to a Gentleman Farmer in Quebec,” only to be rescued in 1762 by Captain William McClellan of Portland.

The facts of what happened on that May morning two hundred and fifty years ago are few. This exhibit provides an opportunity to re-examine the oral tradition which Ilsley used as the basis to write his romanticized narrative *The Canadian Captive* in 1852. It is this oral tradition which people have kept alive in their hearts and memories.

How does a historian meld an oral tradition with scholarly research? Certainly the oral tradition is a good place to start; storytelling is a sacred honor in many cultures where it is often the only means of transmitting history from one generation to another. However, the oral tradition can become distorted over time as pieces are omitted while other sections may be embellished.

We have used several research methodologies in creating this exhibit that will help you the viewer gain an understanding of how oral tradition and scholarly research intersect.

Primary written sources of the period including Thomas Mean’s estate inventory, Benjamin Morgareidge’s letters, and hand drawn maps are presented here. Archaeological evidence from four 18th century Freeport sites provides substantive clues which help us to further interpret the lives of these early settlers. Objects such as the flintlock rifle, the bedding, and pewter basins represent the material culture of the 18th century. These ordinary items are a record which can be studied to piece together patterns of everyday existence. Together, these fragments of historical evidence, along with secondary source materials, enable us to present a broader understanding of what life in coastal Maine’s wilderness was like.

Setting the Stage

Conflict between Europeans and Native Americans in North America dominated settlement patterns. Settlers brought diseases with them which decimated native populations, and they also plowed fields which denied Indians access to their traditional lands and resources. Finally, settlers tried to subject Indians to English law.

Between 1675 and 1763 a series of six Anglo-Wabanaki wars disrupted English settlements. The first of these conflicts was King Philip's War, which broke out in southern New England and rapidly engulfed even ancient North Yarmouth, where a mill on the Royal River was burned. During King William's War a series of forts and fortified garrisons was constructed from Pemaquid to Wells to try to protect the exposed settlers. Next followed Queen Anne's War (1701-1713) and then Dummer's or Lovewell's War (1721-1727). Between each of these wars treaties brought brief periods of uneasy peace.

Throughout this ninety year period of conflict, settlements along the coast of the Eastern District of Massachusetts, now known as Maine, which had been started through land grants issued by the British Crown, were periodically abandoned and resettled. Because some settlers were justifiably reluctant to resume life here under such hazardous circumstances, land proprietors scrambled to find additional settlers willing to risk their lives in the wilderness.

In 1717-1718 five ships carrying approximately 2,600 Ulster Scots arrived in Boston. These immigrants, who had already fled their native Scotland to Northern Ireland, were again fleeing religious persecution, unbearably high land rents, famine, and smallpox. They brought with them the Irish potato, a desire to own land, and fierce ambition. Because they were not willing to embrace Puritan beliefs, however, they were forced out of Boston. A large contingent of these Ulster Scots moved to Londonderry, NH, while others settled in the Saco area of Maine. Among them was Robert Means (ca. 1688 -1764), who is said to have spent the winter of 1717-1718 at Flying Point, now Freeport, ME. He then moved to the Saco area, where he married, had eight children, and spent the rest of his life.

During the 1740s "massive timber blockhouses" were built in Brunswick and Topsham, plus another at Maquoit, for the protection of the settlers. Although King George's War ended in 1748, conflict continued between the settlers and the Native Americans, who were coming down the Androscoggin and Kennebec rivers.

The Ulster Scots who came to the Brunswick area in this period included several families from Saco. Robert Means' son Thomas (1723 - 1756) was among them. With the Mann and Anderson families he was able to acquire land on Flying Point, and together they cleared the wilderness for planting, built their shelters, and attempted to create a new community during what was ultimately only a temporary lull in this series of violent conflicts.

By 1755 the sixth and final Anglo-Wabanaki war was underway. Also known as the French and Indian War, it lasted seven years, until the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1763. Benjamin Morgareidge, a militia scout for the town of ancient North Yarmouth, wrote to headquarters in Boston in the summer of 1755 for more supplies and permission to take scouting parties "...to the head of our Rivers & over on the Streams that Leads into Canada..." before the Indians' fall onslaught as he calls it, for "they Generally Do the most Mischief Spring & fall..."

NorthYarmouth Feb.^{ry} 28.1755

Sir

I have wanted for Some Time to write a few Lines to you—to
Let you know how affairs Stands with me Concerning the Independt—
Company that I was orderd to raise in NorthYarmouth—That
as you being there at Boston & in favour with the Govenour
you may be Likely to Favour me & the Town of NorthYarmouth
where the greatest part of Your Interst at Present Lies—& as
you have Shone your Self my Friend in many respets alredy
in times Past I hope you will not fail for time to Come
and I Shall Endeavour all that Lies in my Power to reward
you accordingly in Defending your Interest & all other affairs that I can
I am very much concern'd at present for fear of Meeting with
Blame from the Govenour about my not Sending Some of my
men from NorthYarmouth to Fourt Hallifax on Kenebeck River
to help keep that Fourt which was not in my Power to Do—as I
Shall further Inform you—on Saterdag January 18th: 1755
I Re^d—a Warrant from His Excellency Govenour to have
my Company in rediness to march Immediatly to fourt Hallifax
upon any Advice of an Attack from the Enemy against that Place
Which orders I Stand ready to obey in the Best manner I Can
and the men Seems to be Willing to go with me if I will go & not
Without which the Govenour orders me to Do by his Warrant
And on Munday January 20: 1755 which is but Two Days after
I Re^d—an order from Collo· Cushing to Send Eight of my
Men to Fourt Hallifax under an other officer that he Should
appoint—which Seems to me to be quite Contrary to what
the men Listed for and not according to my Commission nor
any orders that I ever yet Re^d—from the Govenour—for
the men Inlisted under me to go upon an Alarm or any advice
of the Enemy Doing any mischief whatsoever on any
Part of the Frontiers on order to Cutt of their Retreat & Do
them what Spoile we could & after they were Drawn of to
return to the protection of our own Families in which
Service the Men Seem to be ready to obey—and I Inlisted
the Men that I did Inlist according to the Govenours orders for
Scouting men & not to be Stationed in any Garrison or
to be turned over to any other officer to keep Gerrison—& as
it is not according to my Commission nor any orders that ever
I Re^d—as yet from the Govenour nor what the Men Listed too
and the Men Declares that they will not go without I go
I Cannot Carry them by mere force—the Collo^s Directions to me
was to Inlist or Impress 8 men out of my Company & they
wholy Deny to Inlist—to Impress the few Listed Men
I have that Does not Seem to be according to any orders that
ever I heard off—and to Impress any out of Cap^{tn} Souls
Company or out of Cap^{tn} Baileys Company I Don't find
that I have any Rite to Do that by any orders that I have
Re^d —as yet Except it is when any Place is in Immediate
Distress for that the Govenour Wrote was the meaning of
his first press Warrant for he ordered me to Dismiss all
that I had prest & not to press no more Till I had Some advice

that Some English Fourt Garrison or place on the Frontier was in Immediate Distress by the Enemy & then I have a Rite to put that Warrant into Execution & not tell them And if I had under took to have prest 8 of the Men that I Listed I had not So many in Town for I listed but [1?] Men besides my Two Commission officers in all that I listed and 2 of them are gone to Sea & 7 more was to work at New Boston [Gray, ME] with Mr. Parker helping build a Fourt for the Dutch People that are gone up there to live—therefore it was not in my Power to obey the Collonals orders as I informed him by a few Lines that I Sent to him a copy of which I will Send herewith that you may under stand how I proceeded that if the Govenor Should Blame me you will know the Better how to Excuse the matter if you be so good as to Stand my Friend in the Case And Likewise when I Re^d— the Collonals order to Send away 8 of my men I went to Captⁿ Berry to See what he was about to doo for he was appointed head Cap^{tn} over all the Independant Companies by the Govenor & we had all orders to obey him as our head Cap^{tn} & when I Came to talk with him he told me he Should not Lend any of his men Till he had Sent to the Govenor & had an answer from him what to Do If I Dont hear that he has had any Answer yet Neither has he Sent any men as yet—and And it seems a Very Great Hard Ship upon the Men Especialy those that has Families to be taken away from their Families that Lives on the outside Roe as most the Men Do that I have Listed & to Send them to keep fourts at Such a Distanc Seeing they Listed under the Expectation of only going on any Sudden Alarm & when ever the Enemy was Defeated & Beat off from the Particular Place that was attacked that the men was to return to the Protection of their own families which Ly as Much Exposed as fourt Hallifax Does for you Know as Well as I Can Tell you that NorthYarmouth is a Very Exposed Town & Did meet with as Much Trouble by the Enemy Last Was as any Town on this Frontier So it seems very hard to Leave our Interest & Families to be a Sacrafice to the Enemies Crelty & go to keep other Places—Pray use all the Interest you Can possible to prevent the hardship The Poor Duch People and New Boston want to be Guarded as much as Fourt Hallifax & that would be Some thing too our own Fourt for New Boston Very much in the way of the Indians that Comes Down Amerscogin [Androscoggin] River the way that they Carried all our Captives Last War and there is nothing to prevent their Coming no more than there was than—& if the Govenor will Consent that I Shall have my Bounds from Amerescogin River to the Westward as far as Pesumscott [Presumpscott] River & as far Back as half way to Canada if he Pleases I Should be Content to have the Care of a Company Well fitted to Scout within them Limmits but I am Very Loth to go any farther East if I must take

all my men out of NorthYarmouth but if he Sees Cause
to assine me a Company of other men if it Should Come
War that I must move of from my own Place I Dont Care
if it is to go to Cannada it Self I will go if I Can Possible
I am not So much Consern'd for my Self if I must move
of from my own Place—I will turn my wife home to
her father & go & Seek my fortin where I Can find it—but
if I Can live on my own Place I had Rather work for
my Bread there than the Country Should find me Bread if was ever
Ever So good if it was the Best Bread that Could be Bakd in
Boston or New York even if it was Milk Biskitt that
the Country would find me to Eat So if you See that it is
Raly Like to be Trouble Some time So as you think I must
Leave my Place I should be glad if you would speek
a Good word or too for me if there is any Business Presents
that you think will be of any Servic to me So that I Can
Live by it & not spend my time for nothing as I have the
Year Past about Raised the Independant Company which
has been a great Dammage to me in time and Expençe
that I never have Rec^d—a farthing for nor Do not See that
I am Likely too—with out I Can have Some Chance to
get into Better Business this year—I have Spent a great Deal
of time in the war at Cape Briton & here on these Frontiers
that I may have had but Little Satisfaction for it & it Seems
hard that I must Still go on & now have no pay—I think
I ought to be Excused without the govenor will be So good
as to give me some Betts that I can have Something for
what I Do—for ever Sinc I Livd on this fontier
I have been always ready to go out on all occasions
and have Exposd my Life Very much at Sundry
Times & never refused going on any occasion when I
had no pay for it nor Expected none and it will Seem
hard if others Should Jump in over my head when there
is any pay to Come—I would not have you be angry
at my noncence for out of the abendance of the
Heart the Mouth will Speak & Likewise the Pen will
Scrabble if you are not a Coming Directly Down I
Should be Very Glad to hear from you how Matters is Like
to be & whether it will be worthwhile for me to Come up too
Boston—we have no News here at Present it is but a few
Days Since I heard from fourt Hallifax & fourt Weston [Western]
& all things was Quiet there then if I Should hear any
Disturbance I Stand ready to Start Immediately according
to the Governors orders & so I would have you Inform the Govenor
To Jer Powell Esqr
Yr Obt St—Benj-Morgareidge

To
Jeremiah Powell Esq
In
Boston
c/o Cap^{tn} Bebbidge

North Yarmouth July 10th 1755

Sir

Notwithstanding I hear that Cap^{tn} Cargill Meets
with Trouble about his killing Indians I have a
Mind to try what I Can Do I find there is Men
a nough for a Good Scout Stands ready to go if
I will go with them up to the head of our Rivers
& over on the Streams that Leads into Canada
as Soon as the flies are Somthing abated & then we
have Some Expectation of the Indians Coming out
to make their fall Slaut on our English for
they Generally Do the most Mischief Spring & fall
Pray get a Commission for me if the Govenour
Sees fit to Grant it & Two Blank Commisions
for a Leiu^t & Ensign I Desire them for Jacob
Brown jr & Sam^l Worthley for I call them the
Two Best woods men we have any where amongst
us they know the woods the Best & are Good Active Men
who knows but that we may find Some Cripled
Indian that want to Die or to be Brot in among
the English & if we Can find one we will help
him a Long Either Dead or a Live I have writ
a few Lines to Mr. WheelRight to Desire him to
Send Down Some more Provision than what he
[new page]

thinks the Ranging Companies will want at Present that
I may have a Supply out of your Store & pray
try to get Good Provision for our March will
be a Gret ways Back before we have any Expectation
of meeting with Indians for if the Pork is Lean it
will not only be heavier but no ways So Suitable
as fatt Pork will be Especially for Such Long
Marches when we Must take out all the Bone to
make it Lite Y^r Hum^{bl} S^t

Benj^a Morgareidge

To Je^r Powell Esq

PS Let the Commisions Come Blank all but
Mine

BM

Inventory of Thomas Means Estate

Even in the 18th century an estate inventory was a required legal document which had to be probated at the county court house. These inventories of rural properties provide a written description which is valuable in the study of the lives of every day settlers.

We know from Thomas Means' estate inventory, completed in September, 1756, that he had 50 acres of land, 42 classed as "Wilderness", and the other 8 cleared and fenced for "Tilage Land". He had "A Small House or the walls of a House." This cryptic terminology suggests that he may have been in the process of building another, or adding on to a dwelling. Although he had farm animals, no barn or shed is listed, which suggests that they may have been sheltered in a simple structure or shed of no value. We may clearly assume that his "Small House" had a fireplace, as such tools as a "frying Pan, an Iron Slice and Tramil" are listed, along with two "Iron Potts". Other household goods, pewter "Basons", plates and dishes, a "Linen Wheel", and basic furniture—a bed and bedding, a desk, two tables and three chests, would just furnish a small house of one or two rooms typical for the time.

Neighbors Samuel Graffam and James Anderson were appointed by the court to make the inventory of Thomas Means' estate. His widow Allis was appointed administratrix of her late husband's estate which was valued at nearly £1,000—a considerable sum for 1756.

It is interesting to note that obvious items seem to be missing from Means' inventory. Where is his gun? Why are there no chairs or benches listed? What became of his clothing? What did they eat with?

Not a single object listed in Thomas Means' inventory is known to exist today. The objects which you see in this room were gathered to provide a visual interpretation of his inventory. Some objects are antiques, while others are reproductions. Still others are representations—the "Yearlin heafer," "3 Spring Piggs," and "10 Cord of wood."

Thomas Means Inventory Transcribed

A valuation of the Estate of Thomas Means of Northyarmouth
Deceasd taiken Sept.^m 1756

Real Estate	£ +. d
8 Acres of Tilage Land at £ 20:0.0 fencd	160:0:0
42 Acres of Wilderness Land a. ^t £6 pr Acre	252:0:0
A Small House or the walls of a House	10:0:0
Personal Estate	£:s: .
1/6 part of the Sloop Judah of 77 Tons Burthen Valued at as She is now Found	266:13:4
10 Cord of wood at 35/pr Cord in Mat thews hands to be accounted forr	
1 frying Pan 25/ 1 Iron Slice & Tramil 60/	4:5:0
2 Iron Potts	6:0:0
1 Pece of Gold a Johanas	18:0:0
1 Desk with Drawers	10:0:0
1 Tea Pot and Canistors	1:10:0
2 Pewter Quart Basons at 4/1 Pewt. ^{er} Quart-12/	1:0:0
1 Doz. ⁿ Plates 100/ Pewt. ^{er} 4 Smal Pewt. ^{er} Dishes a. ^t 30	11:0:0

2 Tables at 30/1 Linen Wheel 45/	5:15:0
3 Chests at 40/1 Case Bottles 80/	10:0:0
5 Blankets £ 7:10/ 5 Sheets 125/	13:15:0
1 Bed and Beding	16:0:0
1 Sow £ 8:0:0 3 Spring Piggs at 40/	14:0:0
2 Yearlin Steers at £ 9:0:0 1 Yearlin heafer £ 8	26:0:0
2 Milk Cows & this year Calves. at £20	40:0:0
1 Yoke of Oxen	£ 75:0:0
Sundrey Iron Toolls as Scyth Ax, ads &c	7:0:0
1 Chain and 2 Peices 80/ Yoke Irons & Clevis 20/	5:0:0
5 Merch. ^t Boards	4:0:0
3 Dry Hh.d. ^s	1:10:0
4 Cord wood at 12/ 3. ^c Rales at. 30/	6:18:0
1 Sled £ 2. 1 Plow £ 6:0:0	<u>8:0:0</u>
Samuel Graffam	old Tenn ^r
James Anderson	£

York Sc. Northyarm. Sept.^b 20th 1756

The. Above Jam.^s Anderson and Sam^l Graffam being
Chosen apprizar to the above Estate. Appeared & gave Oath to the
Valuation of the Above Articles according to the best of their
Judgment

John Minot Just. Peace

York Sc. Falm. Oct.^o 27. 1756

Alice Means Admin.^x of the Estate
of Thomas Means within named Dec.^d made
Oath that the Several Articles mentioned in
the within Inventory are all the Estate
belonging to the Said Dec.^d that has come
to her Hands and that if any thing
more hereafter appear after She will give it
into the Registers Office. The apprizers
being Sworn

Jer Moulton Judg Prob

Recorded Lib.^o q. Fol^o

Solomon Frost Reg.st

42 Acres of Wilderness Land

Thomas Means was one of a group of Ulster Scots immigrants, several of whom came together to settle in the wilderness on “Dummer’s Claim” at Flying Point. This grant of land included about 900 acres stretching along the shores of Maquoit Bay from Flying Point towards the Brunswick line. The property had been inherited by a proprietor, Jeremiah Dummer Powell, who moved to North Yarmouth from Boston and lived at his family’s great house in present day Yarmouth. The Proprietors of North Yarmouth had set up “home lots” in 1733 on land west of the mouth of the Royal River and across to the Broad Cove section of the resettled town. These “home lots” were of ten acres each—otherwise, the lands in what is now Cumberland, North Yarmouth, Yarmouth, Freeport, and Pownal were laid out in much larger

pieces ranging from 100 to 120 acres.

However, lots in the Dummer Claim were 50 acres and would have been most attractive to new settlers, being shorefront and allowing for the creation of woodlots as well as clearings for farms. We do not know what Mr. Powell's arrangements were for acquiring these lots. As he only issued deeds in 1757 after the death of Thomas Means, it can be assumed that lands had been surveyed, and the new settlers were allowed to come in to cut timber, clear and fence their farmlands, and build at least their first houses.

A Small House or walls of a House

18th century settlers in northern New England, including the Ulster Scots immigrants in Maine and New Hampshire, are known to have erected log houses for their initial shelter. These buildings were made of hewn logs cut by ax and trimmed by adz as the land was cleared.

Log houses could be built relatively quickly by a settler using an adz to square off his felled timber, and then, with a little help, he could stack the hewn logs on top of each other for the walls, with dovetails to hold the logs together. The breadth of the logs provided a measure of protection against bullets, a worthwhile consideration with the threat of Indian raids very real in outlying districts prior to 1763 and the Treaty of Paris, which ended the series of Anglo-Wabanaki wars. Garrison houses were built in the same fashion, some being constructed as two-story buildings.

Log houses should not be confused with the so-called "log cabin" which was famously connected with Abraham Lincoln. These originated in the Delaware area, and from there spread to the south and west across the country, but not to New England.

Log houses, also termed "log camps" and "log huts," were truly temporary dwellings, and few exist today in Maine. We know of none in Freeport or the other towns in ancient North Yarmouth. A 1771 tax list of real estate in the whole town of North Yarmouth (which then included present day Freeport) counted a total of 105 dwelling houses which were taxable and 53 which "are log camps and poor buildings and mostly without clapboards and shingles and many of them without chimneys and are not set anything in any of our assessments." Of these "poor buildings" 20 of the 53 seem to have been in the Freeport area.

The largest building of hewn logs in Maine is the building built as a barracks and "truckhouse" in 1754 at Fort Western, now a museum in Augusta. It has two blockhouses, both reconstructed in the 1920s. An original 1754 blockhouse of log construction still stands upriver at Fort Halifax in Winslow. No sawmill existed at this time in the Kennebec region, so the timbers at these forts were made of hewn logs.

Further evidence of the existence of log houses in Maine in the mid-18th century appears in the tax list of real estate made in 1766 for the then west side of the Town of Pownalborough, now known as Dresden. (Pownalborough then comprised Wiscasset, Dresden, Alna, and Swan Island.) This was an even more detailed inventory than the North Yarmouth list, citing: 17 framed Houses inhabited, 7 small Log Houses not inhabited, 54 one-story Houses, 8 two-story Houses, and 1 three-story House (the Court House). There were 33 Brick Chimneys and 111 rooms with fireplaces. Finally, as to dwellings, there were 2 Framed Houses and 2 Log Houses "not finished so as to be habitable." These log houses were each

intended to be of one room “not partitioned off,” and the framed houses were to have two rooms each.

The foregoing clearly shows that the “Log Houses” were sometimes just of one room, but this list also includes at least three two story log houses, one of which had three brick chimneys.

Having provided initial shelter for his family in a log house, a settler could then move on to build a more comfortable timber frame dwelling of post and beam construction. This would most likely have been a story and a half house of “Cape Cod” design. In Freeport today one can see the old Anderson and Joseph Mann houses on Flying Point as examples of this style, although we cannot know if they were preceded by an earlier dwelling such as a log house. One reason the log houses did not last and ended up termed “rotten down,” is that they lacked foundations and often were laid directly on the ground. It was only the larger, more substantial log buildings that survived more than a few decades. Some of the small log buildings were also later incorporated into new dwellings as a shed or annex, and have been so rehabilitated with shingles or clapboards on the exterior, and reconstruction on the interior, that they can only be rediscovered by realizing that a window is much deeper than normal.

Garrison is another term which is often misunderstood. In the 17th century a garrison referred to a house that was used for refuge or a base for the local militia. The Jacob Mitchell, Jr. garrison in Yarmouth, ME was built as a two story “stockaded” house or garrison. It was erected ca. 1729 and demolished ca. 1900.

According to oral tradition, following the attack, Mrs. Means and her daughters fled to the nearby Anderson garrison to live with her sister Agnis who was married to Jacob Anderson. It was there that the widow Allis Means gave birth to her son Thomas Means, Jr. in December, 1756.

**Evidence of how early settlers lived:
18th century archeological artifacts from the
Means-Rogers, Grant, Lambert, and Soule
sites in Freeport**

1. Cooking kettle
iron fragment (conserved)
2. Westerwald (German) stoneware
fragment of mug bottom
20th century reproduction mug
3. Cutlery
pewter spoons: child’s and rattail
iron 2-tined forks (would have had bone handles)
iron knife blades (would have had bone handles; one has been conserved)
4. Evidence of food consumed
Bos taurus (cow) tooth, leg bone, and hip bone
Mya areanaria (white soft shell clam)
Sus scrola (pig) incisors and molar

Gadus marhua (cod) vertebrae

- 5.** English salt glaze
edge of a plate produced 1755-1763 to commemorate an alliance
between the English and Prussians against the French
pieces of 3 different bowls
- 6.** English Queen's Ware or creamware
base of a teacup
- 7.** English Delft ware
fragment of a tile
piece of a bowl
20th century reproduction tile
- 8.** Chinese export porcelain
pieces of 2 different Canton tea bowls
ca. 1740 Imari tea bowl
- 9.** Barley pattern English saltglaze
edge of a plate
- 10.** English combed slipware
piece of a plate
- 11.** English (Staffordshire) dot ware
2 pieces of a plate
20th century reproduction dot pattern pitcher
- 12.** Redware
pieces of 2 milk pans
storage jar and a reassembled section of same jar
- 13.** Furniture
brass drawer pull
brass furniture tack
- 14.** Buttons
1 bone
2 large brass
1 pewter
- 15.** Medicine bottle
glass kick or pontil
- 16.** Shoe buckles
brass with iron tang
brass
sketch of a leather shoe showing buckle
- 17.** Coins
1741 George II penny
George II or George III penny
1775 George III halfpenny
- 18.** Thimble
brass, possibly English
- 19.** Mouth harp

brass, probably English

- 20.** Clay pipes
pieces of English pipes
20th century reproduction clay pipes
- 21.** Tobacco or snuff bottle
glass, English

The Oral Tradition: the 1932 pageant

In August of 1932 the descendantw of the Means, Mann and Anderson families and their Flying Point neighbors staged a pageant depicting the events of Sunday, May 10, 1756. The pageant, based on oral tradition of what is know as the “Thomas Means Massacre,” was attended by nearly 1,000 people. It was a gala affair with the ttendees coming long distcances by car and boat. Local hisotiran Harmon S. Cross directed the production which reproduced the “atmosphere and action of the tragedy.”

It is the oral traedition of the Thomas Means Massacre which has continued to keep this story so very much alive in the hearts of native Freeporters.

The Aftermath

1756 Thomas Means and his 16 month old son Robert were buried in Maquoit Cemetery, Brunswick, next to Robert and Allis Finny, his wife’s parents.

1762 Allis Means, widow of Thomas, and George Rogers of Georgetown married. They lived on Flying Point.

1762 Mary (Molly) Finney married Capt. William McLellan on May 6. They lived in Portland. Molly died February 24, 1764, age 24.

1807 Allis (Finny) Means Rogers died at age 80.

Thomas and Allis Means’ children

Jane (1751-1826) married Joseph Anderson (1743-1811).

Alice (1753-1822) married Clement Skolfield (1740-1796).

Robert (1755-1756)

Thomas, Jr. (1756-1828) married first, Martha Campbell, and second, Mrs. Eleanor (Stanwood) Rogers (1758-1837). He served in the Continental Army, rising to the rank of major. He also ran a tavern at the corner of Bow and Main Streets, Freeport.

Flying Point has remained a close-knit neighborhood over the two hundred and fifty years following the massacre. The descendants of the Andersons, Means, Manns and others of the Ulster Scots settlers, many of whom still live in Freeport today, saw Freeport become a town in 1789, when it separated from ancient North Yarmouth. They watched and

participated as the town grew over the years. Today, we all salute the courage and resilience manifested by those pioneers and the families they founded.

Through the years Flying Point has remained much as it had been in the 18th and 19th centuries—a series of saltwater farms—keeping its special historic character. Even with the changes which have occurred on the land over the years, there would be instant recognition by those pioneers of the unchanging seascape of Maquoit and Casco Bay. They would know they were home again.

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