

Bloody Point Gets its Name, 1630s

400 years ago, what is now Newington was an uncultivated forest. The Great Bay and the river, whose rapid current is now spanned by bridges and other works of man, they only rippled against the rocks and reflected back the wild and grotesque thickets, which overhung its banks. Its only commerce the canoe of the Red Man.

Here the first settlers of Newington trod. Here their energy and perseverance, their calm self-possession and practical vigor, were first called into action. Here they met and overcame difficulties, which would have overpowered the imagination or subdued the fortitude of ordinary men.

All that we see around us are memorials of their worth. It was their enterprise that opened

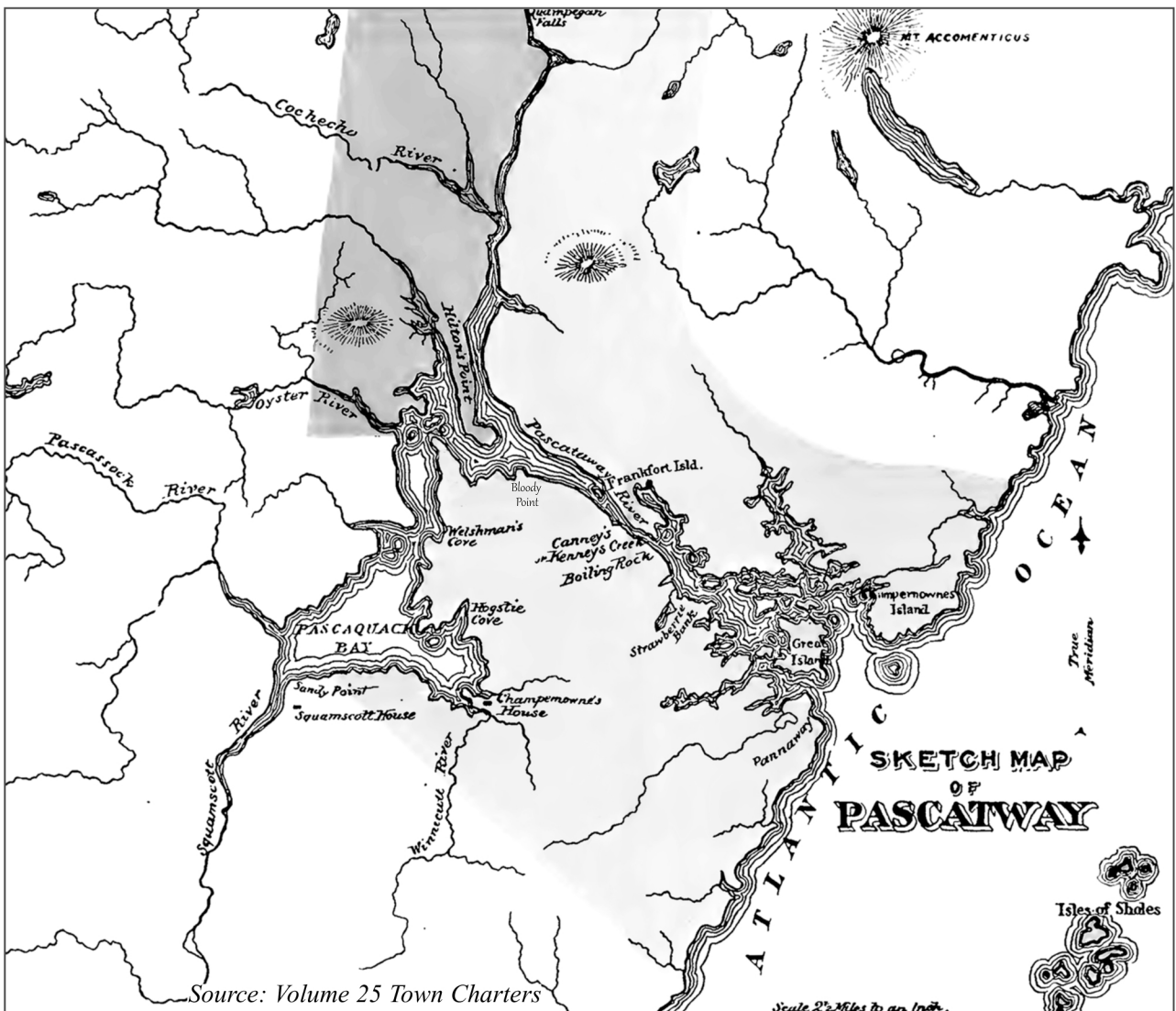
a path for us over the waters. It was their energy that cleared our fields and subdued the forest. They gave us the impulse that made us what we are. It cannot then be useless to live along the generations that have passed and endeavor to identify ourselves with those who have gone before us. Who and what were they, who thus fill our imaginations, and as they rise before us, bring to our minds so many recollections of sentiment, fortitude, enthusiasm and energy?

The New Hampshire Colonists were neither Pilgrims nor Puritans. There were satisfied with both the existence and the ceremonies of the Established Church and came here as bold and hardy pioneers in commercial enterprise, whose number of beaver skins bought of the

Indians, or fish caught and cured for the English market had none of the romance to attract a historian.

There were fisherman and traders but there were some very humble fishermen of the shore of Galilee who have played quite an important and respectable part in the history of the world.

[The above was adapted by Frederick Pickering (1899-1963) based on Nathaniel Appleton Haven's Oration Delivered at Portsmouth, May 21, 1823, Two Hundred Years From The Landing of the First Settlers. Haven was a lawyer and an editor of the *Portsmouth Journal*. Source: The Remains Nathaniel Appleton Haven. With a Memoir of His Life, by George Ticknor. MDCCCXXVII – 1827]



Source: Volume 25 Town Charters

Scale 2 1/2 Miles to an Inch.

The land later to become "Newington" was claimed by two competing patents: the Hilton (or Swampscot patent, top left shading) and the Laconia or Piscataqua patent (middle bottom shading). In the early 1630s, Capt. Neale of the Piscataqua group waged a bloody duel of words, not swords, with Capt. Wiggins of the Hilton group. The result was that "Newington" became aligned with the Hilton group in Dover and was called "Bloody Point" to reflect the spot where the confrontation of words took place.