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Relation of a Voyage to Sagadahoc, 1607-1608

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Relation of a Voyage to Sagadahoc, 1607-1608

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INTRODUCTION

ON April 10, 1606, James I. affixed his signature to a charter for two colonies in America. The promoters of the northern colony — “knights, gentlemen and merchants” in the west of England, prominent among whom were Sir Ferdinando Gorges and Sir John Popham, Chief Justice of England — sent out two vessels for exploration in the summer following the issuance of the charter. One of these vessels, commanded by Captain Henry Challoung, and in which Sir Ferdinando Gorges was especially interested, was captured by a Spanish fleet. The other, of which Thomas Hanham was the nominal commander, with Captain Martin Pring as navigator (Gorges, in his account of the voyage, makes no mention of Hanham), reached the coast of Maine, and was so successful in his exploration of it — his report bringing to Gorges and others full and satisfactory information — that it was decided to establish the northern colony there; and in May, 1607, two vessels, the *Gift of God* and the *Mary and John*, were despatched to the coast of Maine with colonists. Prominent in the expedition were George Popham, a nephew of Sir John Popham, and Raleigh Gilbert, a son of Sir Humphrey Gilbert. The manuscript of the following *Relation of a Voyage to Sagadahoc* was discovered in 1875 in the library of Lambeth Palace, London, by the late Rev. B. F. De Costa, D.D., and was first printed in 1880 by John Wilson and Son, University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, being reprinted in advance from the *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Vol. XVIII. (1880–1881). In 1892, under title *The Sagadahoc Colony*, and with introductions, notes, and appendices,

by Rev. Henry O. Thayer, A.M., it was reprinted by the Gorges Society of Portland, Maine, from an exact transcription of the Lambeth Palace manuscript. The manuscript does not give its author's name. It contains statements, however, that afford strong support to the conjecture that it was written by James Davies, probably the navigator of Gilbert's vessel, the *Mary and John* (Thayer's *Sagadahoc Colony*, pp. 17-20).

The manuscript ends abruptly at the foot of a page, leaving the narrative unfinished. But it happens that William Strachey, when writing his *Historie of Travaile into Virginia Britannia*, used this narrative before it was mutilated; and as he followed it closely in the parts of it which have been preserved, we may assume that he did the same in the parts now lost. Therefore in this present volume, after the reprint of the *Relation* (from the Gorges Society's text), Strachey's version of the rest of the story is added, being reprinted from the volume of the Hakluyt Society in which it was first printed, in 1849.

H. S. B.

RELATION OF A VOYAGE TO SAGADAHOC 1607-1608

In the nam of God, Amen.

The Relation of a Voyage, unto New England. Began from the Lizard, the first of June 1607, By Captⁿ. Popham in the ship the Gift, and Captⁿ. Gilbert in the Mary and John:

Written by.....and found amongst the Papers of the truly Wor^{shull}:¹ S^r. Ferdinando Gorges, K^{nt}. by me William Griffith.²

DEPARTED from the Lyzard the firste daye of June Ano Domi³ 1607,⁴ beinge Mundaye about 6 of the Cloke in the afternoon and ytt bore of⁵ me then Northeeste and by North eyght Leags of.

from thence Directed our Course for the Illands of flowers and Corve⁶ in the w^{ch} we wear 24 dayes attaynynge of ytt. All w^{ch} time we still kept the Sea and never Saw but on Saill beinge a ship of Salcom⁷ bound for the New Foundland whearin was on⁸ tosser of Dartmoth M^r.⁹ in her.

The 25th daye of June we fell wth the Illand of Gersea¹⁰ on of The Illands of the Assores and ytt bore of us then South and by est ten Leags of, our M^r. and his matts makeinge ytt to be flowers but my Selffe wth stood them and reprooved them

¹ Worshipful.

² Gorges died in 1647, and the manuscript of the *Relation* did not come into Mr. Griffith's hand until after that date — possibly not until many years after.

³ Anno Domini.

⁴ According to Gorges the vessels left the harbor of Plymouth the day before.

⁵ Off.

⁶ Flores and Corvo, islands of the Azores group.

⁷ Salcombe, a village on the Devon coast.

⁸ One.

⁹ Master.

¹⁰ Terceira, or Graciosa?

in thear errour as afterward ytt appeared manyfestly and then stood Roome¹ for flowers.

The 26th of June we had Seight of flowers and Corvo and the 27th in the mornynge early we wear hard aboard flowers and stod in for to fynd a good rod for to anker Whearby to take in wood and watter. the 28th we Descryed to Sailles, standinge in for flowers Whearby we presently Wayed Anker and stood towards the rod of Santa Cruse² beinge near three Leags from the place. Whear we wattered. thear Cap^t popham ankered to take in wood and watt^r but ytt was So calme that we Could nott recover or gett unto hem beffor the daye cam on.

The 29th of June beinge Mundaye early in the morning those to Sailles we had seen the nyght beffore Wear neare unto us and beinge Calme they Sent thear bots beinge full of men towards us. And after the orders of the Sea they hailed us demandynge us of whense we wear the w^{ch} we told them: and found them to be flemens³ and the stats shipes.⁴ on of our Company named John Goyett of plymoth knew the Cap^t. of on of the shipes for that he had ben att Sea wth hem. haveinge acquainted Cap^t. Gilbert of this and beinge all frinds he desyered the Cap^t. of the Dutch to com near and take a can of bear the w^{ch} hee thankfully excepted we still keepinge our Selves in a redynesse both of our small shott and greatt; the Dutch Cap^t. beinge Com to our ships syde Cap^t. Gilbert desyered hem to com aboard hem and entertand hem in the beste Sort he Could. this don they to requytt his kind entertainment desyered hem that he wold go aboard wth them. And uppon thear earnest intreaty he went wth them takinge three or 4 gentell wth hem, but when they had hem aboard of them they thear kept hem per Forse charginge him that he was a pyratt and still threatnyng himselfe and his gentellmen wth hem to throw them all overbord and to take our ship from us. in this Sort they kept them from ten of the Clok mornynge untill eyght of the Clok

¹ An old nautical term, meaning to come about before the wind.

² A town on Flores.

³ People of Flanders.

⁴ Ships of the States, *i.e.*, of the United Provinces of the Netherlands.

nyght ussinge Som of his gent in most wild maner as Settinge Som of them in the bibowes¹ and buffettinge of others and other most wyld and shamffull abuses but in the end havinge Seene our Comission the w^{ch} was proffered unto them att the firste but they reffused to See yt and the greatest Cause doutinge of the Inglyshe men beinge of thear owne Company who had promist Cap^t. Gilbert that yf they proffered to performe that w^{ch} they still threatned hem that then they all woold Rysse wth hem and either end thear Lyves in his defence or Suppress the shipe, the w^{ch} the Dutch perseavinge presently Sett them att Lyberty and Sent them aboard unto us aggain to our no small Joye. Cap^t. popham all this tyme beinge in the Wind of us never woold Com roome unto us not withstandinge we makeinge all the Seignes that possybell we myght by strykinge on topsaill and hoissinge ytt aggain three tymes and makeinge towards hem all that ever we possybell could. so hear we lost Company of hem beinge the 29th daye of June about 8 of the Clok att nyght beinge 6 Leags from flowers West norwest wee standinge our Course for Vyrzenia the 30th wee laye in Seight of the Illand.

The firste Daye of Jully beinge Wesdaye wee depted² from the Illand of flowers beinge ten Leags South weste from ytt.

From hence we allwayes kept our Course to the Westward as much as wind and weather woold permytt untill the 27th daye of Jully duringe w^{ch} time wee often times Sounded but could never fynd grounde. this 27th early in the mornynge we Sounded and had ground³ but 18 fetham beinge then in the Lattitud of 43 degrees and $\frac{2}{3}$ hear w . . . fysht three howers and tooke near to hundred of Cods very great and large fyshe bigger and larger fyshe then that w^{ch} coms from the bancke of the New Found Land. hear wee myght have loddene our shipe in Lesse time then a moneth.

From hence the Wynd beinge att South west wee sett our Sails and stood by the wind west nor west towards the Land

¹ Bilboes or stocks.

² Departed.

³ Sable Island Bank, about twenty miles southwest of Sable Island.

allwayes Soundinge for our better knowledg as we ran towarde the main Land from this bancke.

From this bancke we kept our Course west nor west 36 Leags w^{ch} ys from the 27th of July untill the 30th of July in w^{ch} tyme we ran 36 L as ys beffore sayed and then we Saw the Land ¹ about 10 of the Clok in the mornynge bearinge norweste from us About 10 Leags and then we Sounded and had a hundred fethams blacke oze. hear as we Cam in towards the Land from this bancke we still found deepe watt^r. the deepest within the bancke ys 160 fethams and in 100 fetham you shall See the Land yf ytt be Clear weather after you passe the bancke the ground ys still black oze untill yo Com near the shore. this daye wee stood in for the Land but Could nott recover ytt beffor the night tooke us so we stood a Lyttell from ytt and thear strok a hull ² untill the next daye beinge the Laste of July. hear Lyeinge at hull we tooke great stor of cod fyshes the bigeste and largest that I ever Saw or any man in our ship. this daye beinge the Last of July about 3 of the Clok in the after noon we recovered the shor and cam to an anker under an Illand ³ for all this Cost ys full of Illands and broken Land but very Sound and good for shipinge to go by them the watt^r deepe. 18 and 20 fetham hard aboard them.

This Illand standeth in the lattitud of 44 d and $\frac{1}{2}$ and hear we had nott ben att an anker past to howers beffore we espyed a bisen ⁴ shallop Cominge towards us havinge in her eyght Sallvages and a Lyttell salvage boye they cam near unto us and spoke unto us in thear Language. and we makeinge Seignes to them that they should com aboard of us showinge unto them knyves glasses beads and throwinge into thear bott Som basket

¹ Aspotogeon, a conspicuous mountain, or the steep cliffs of Cape La Hève.

² Struck a hull, *i.e.*, lay to with all sails furled.

³ Thayer (*The Sagadahoc Colony*, p. 42, note) says that while Macnab Island, at the entrance of Halifax harbor, Tancook and Green Islands, guarding Mahone Bay, and Cross Island, at Lunenburg Bay, clearly meet the requirements of latitude, he thinks Ironbound Island, from its proximity to the harbor of La Hève, has the preference.

⁴ Biscayan.

but for all this they wold nott com aboard of us but makinge show to go from us, we suffered them. So when they wear a Lyttell from us and Seeinge we proffered them no wronge of thear owne accord retorned and cam aboard of us and three of them stayed all that nyght wth us the rest depted in the shallope to the shore makinge Seignes unto us that they wold retorn unto us aggain the next daye.

The next daye the Sam Salvages wth three Salvage wemen beinge the fryst daye of Auguste retorned unto us bringinge wth them Som feow skines of bever in an other bisken shallop and propheringe thear skines to trook wth us but they demanded over muche for them and we Seemed to make Lyght of them So then the other three w^{ch} had stayed wth us all ngyht went into the shallop and So they depted. ytt Seemth that the french hath trad wth them for they use many french words. the Cheeff Comander of these p^{ts} ys called Messamott and the ryver or harbor ys called emannett.¹ we take these peopell to be the tarentyns ² and these peopell as we have Learned sence do make wars wth Sasanoa ³ the Cheeffe Comander to the westward whea . . . we have planted and this Somer they kild his Sonne. So the Salvages depted from us and cam no mor unto us. After they wear depted from us we hoyssed out our bot whearin my Selffe was wth 12 others and rowed to the shore and landed on this Illand that we rod under the w^{ch} we found to be a gallant Illand full of heigh and myghty trees of Sundry Sorts. hear we allso found aboundance of gusberyes, strawberyes, rasberyes and whorts. So we retorned and Cam aboard.

Sondaye beinge the second of Auguste after dyner our bott went to the shore again to fille freshe watt^r whear after they had filled thear watt^r thear cam fower Salvages unto them havinge thear bowes and arowes in thear hands makinge show unto them to have them Com to the shore but our

¹ Afterward called Cape La Hève, from a bluff in Normandy which bears that name.

² An Indian tribe occupying the country east of the Penobscot.

³ A Kennebec sachem.

Saillers havinge filled thear watt^r wold nott go to the shore unto them but retorned and cam aboard beinge about 5 of the Clock in the afternoon. So the bott went presently from the ship unto a point of an Illand and thear att Lo watt^r in on hower kild near .50. great Lopsters. you shall See them Whear they Ly in shold¹ Watt^r nott past a yeard deep and wth a great hooke mad faste to a staffe you shall hitch them up. thear ar great store of them you may near Lad a Ship wth them, and they are of greatt bignesse. I have nott Seen the Lyke in Ingland. So the bott retorned a bord and wee toke our bott in and about myd nyght the wynd cam faier att northest we Sett Saill and depted from thence keepinge our Course South west for So the Cost Lyeth.

Mundaye being the third of Auguste in the morninge we wear faier by the shore and So Sailed alongste the Coste. we Saw many Illands all alonge the Cost and great Sounds, goinge betwyxt them. but We could make prooffe of non for want of a penysh.² hear we found fyshe still all alonge the Cost as we Sailed.

Tuesdaye being the 4th of Auguste in the morninge 5 of the Clok we wear theawart of a Cape or head Land³ Lyeing in the Latitud of 43 degrees and cam very near unto ytt. ytt ys very Low Land showinge Whytt Lyke sand but ytt ys Whytt Rocks and very stronge tides goeth hear from the place we stopt att beinge in 44 de and $\frac{1}{2}$. untill this Cape or head land ytt ys all broken Land and full of Illands and Large Sounds betwixt them and hear we found fyshe aboundance so large and great as I never Saw the Lyke Cods beffor nether any man in our shipe.

After we paste this Cape or head Land the Land falleth awaye and Lyeth in norwest and by north into a greatt deep baye.⁴ We kept our course from this head Land West and Weste and by South 7 Leags and cam to thre Illands⁵ whear cominge near unto them we found on the Southwest Syd of

¹ Shoal.

² A pinnacle.

³ Cape Sable.

⁴ Bay of Fundy.

⁵ Seal Island and Mud Islands, five in all, but appearing from the position of the observer, as one.

them a great Leadge of Rocks Lyeinge near a Leage into the Sea the w^{ch} we perseavinge tackt our ship and the wynde being Large att northest Cleared our Selves of them kepinge still our course to the westward west and by South and west Southwest untill mydnyght. then after we hald in more northerly.

Wensdaye being the 5th of Auguste from after mydnyght we hald in West norwest untill 3 of the Clok afternoon of the Sam and then we Saw the Land aggain bearinge from us north weste and by north and ytt Risseth in this forme hear under.¹ ten or 12 Leags from yo they ar three heigh mountains² that Lye in upon the main Land near unto the ryver of penobskot in w^{ch} ryver the bashabe makes his abod the cheeffe Comander of those pts and streatcheth unto the ryver of Sagadehock³ under his Comand. yo shall see theise heigh mountains when yo shall not perseave the main Land under ytt they ar of shutch an exceedinge heygts: And note, that from the Cape or head Land beffor spoken of untill these heigh mountains we never Saw any Land except those three Illands also beffor mensyoned. We stood in Right wth these mountains untill the next daye.

Thursdaye beinge the 6th of Auguste we stood in wth this heigh Land untill 12 of the Cloke noon and then I found the shipe to be in 43 d and $\frac{1}{2}$ by my observatio⁴ from thence we Sett our Course and stood awaye dew weste and Saw three other Illands⁵ Lyenge together beinge Lo and flatt by the watt^r showinge whytt as yff ytt wear Sand but ytt ys whytt Rocks makinge show a far of allmoste Lyke unto Dover Cleeves⁶ and these three Illands Lye dew est and west on of the other. so we Cam faier by them and as we Cam to the Westward the heygh Land beffor spoken of shewed ytt selffe in this form as followith.⁷

¹ The reference is to sketches in the manuscript.

² The Camden Hills.

³ Kennebec.

⁴ An indication of the official position of the writer of the *Relation*. He was the pilot of the vessel.

⁵ Ragged, Wooden Ball and Seal Islands of the Matinicus group. Matinicus itself was hidden from view by the islands mentioned.

⁶ Cliffs.

⁷ Sketches in the manuscript.

From hence we kept still our Course West and Weste by North towards three other Illands¹ that we Sawe Lyenge from these Illands beffor spoken of 8 Leags and about ten of the Clok att nyght we recovered them and havinge Sent in our bott beffor nyght to vew ytt for that ytt was Calme a[nd] to Sound ytt and See whatt good ankoringe was under ytt we bor in wth on of them the w^{ch} as we cam in by we still sounded and founde very deep watt^r 40 fetham hard aboard of yt. So we stood in into a Cove In ytt and had 12 fetham watt^r and thear we ankored untill the mornynge. And when the daye appeared We Saw we weare environed Round about with Illands. yo myght have told neare thirty Illands round about us from aboard our shipe. this Illand we Call S^t. Georges Illand for that we hear found a Crosse Sett up the w^{ch} we Suposse was Sett up by George Wayman.²

Frydaye beinge the 7th of Auguste we wayed our Ankor whereby to bringe our shipe in mor bett^r Safty how Soever the wynd should happen to blow and about ten of the Cloke in the mornynge as we weare standinge of a Lyttell from the Illand we descried a sail standinge in towards this Illand and we presently mad towards her and found ytt to be the *gyfte* our Consort So beinge all Joye full of our happy meetinge we both stood in again for the Illand we ryd under beffor and theare anckored both together.³

This night followinge about myd nyght Cap^t. Gilbert caussed his ships bott to be maned and took to hemselffe 13 other my Selffe beinge on, beinge 14 persons in all, and tooke the Indyan skidwarres wth us⁴ the weather beinge faier and

¹ Of the St. George's group.

² Probably Allen's Island. Waymouth, when on the coast in 1605, gave the name St. George to Monhegan. Finding here, on one of the islands forming Pentecost Harbor, Waymouth's cross, the Popham colonists transferred to the island on which the cross was erected the name St. George, and so we find in the *Relation* the words, "We Call St. Georges Illand."

³ Evidently here was the rendezvous that had been agreed upon before leaving England. The *Mary* and *John* preceded the *Gift* only about twelve hours.

⁴ Skicowaros (so Rosier wrote the name), one of the Indians captured by Waymouth.

the wynd Calme we rowed to the Weste in amongst many gallant Illands and found the ryver of pemaquyd to be but 4 Leags weste from the Illand we Call S^t. Georges whear our ships remained still att ankor. hear we Landed in a Lyttell Cove¹ by skyd warres Direction and marched over a necke of the Land near three mills. So the Indyan skidwarres brought us to the Salvages housses whear they did inhabitt although much against his will for that he told us that they wear all removed and gon from the place they wear wont to inhabitt. but we answered hem again that we wold nott retorn backe untill shutch time as we had spoken with Som of them. At Length he brought us whear they did inhabytt whear we found near a hundreth of them men wemen and Children. And the Cheeffe Comander of them ys Nahanada.² att our fryste Seight of them uppon a howlinge or Cry that they mad they all presently Isued forth towards us wth thear bowes and arrows and we presently mad a stand and Suffered them to Com near unto us. then our Indyan skidwarres spoke unto them in thear language showinge them what we wear w^{ch} when nahanada thear Comander perseaved what we wear he Caussed them all to laye assyd thear bowes and arrowes and cam unto us and imbrassed us and we did the lyke to them aggain. So we remained wth them near to howers and wear in thear housses. Then we tooke our Leave of them and returned wth our Indyan skidwarres wth us towards our ships the 8th Daye of August being Satterdaye in the after noon.

Sondaye being the 9th of Auguste in the morninge the most p^t of our holl company of both our shipes Landed on this Illand the w^{ch} we call S^t. Georges Illand whear the Crosse standeth and thear we heard a Sermon delyvred unto us by our preacher³ gyvinge god thanks for our happy metinge and Saffe aryvall into the Contry and So returned aboard aggain.

¹ The landing was probably at New Harbor.

² Another of the Indians captured by Waymouth. He returned the previous year with Pring. Rosier says, "Tahanedo, a Sagamo or Com-mander."

³ Rev. Richard Seymour. Bishop Burgess identifies him as a great-grandson of the Protector Somerset.

Mundaye beinge the Xth of Auguste early in the morninge Cap^t. popham in his shallope wth thirty others and Cap^t. Gilbert in his ships bott wth twenty others Acompanede Depted from thear shipes and sailed towards the ryver of pemaquyd¹ and Caryed wth us the Indyan skidwarres and Cam to the ryver ryght beffore thear housses whear they no Sooner espyed us but presently Nahanada wth all his Indians wth thear bowes and arrows in thear hands Cam forth upon the Sands. So we Caussed skidwarres to speak unto hem and we our Selves spok unto hem in Inglyshe givinge hem to understand our Cominge tended to no yvell towards hem Selffe nor any of his peopell. he told us again he wold nott thatt all our peopell should Land. So beccause we woud in no sort offend them, hearuppon Som ten or twelffe of the Cheeff gent Landed and had Some parle together and then afterward they wear well contented that all should Land. So all landed we ussinge them with all the kindnesse that possibell we Could. neverthesse after an hower or to they all Soddainly withdrew them Selves from us into the woods and Lefte us. we perseavinge this presently imbarked our Selves all except skidwarres who was nott Desyerous to retorn with us. We Seeinge this woud in no Sort proffer any Violence unto hem by drawing hem perfforce Suffered hem to remain, and staye behinde us, he promysinge to retorn unto us the next Daye followinge but he heald not his promysse. So we imbarked our Selves and went unto the other Syd of the ryver and thear remained uppon the shore the nyght followinge.

Tuesdaye beinge the xith of Auguste we retorned and cam to our ships whear they still remained att ankor under the Illand we call S^t. Georges.

Wensdaye beinge the xiith of Auguste we wayed our ankors and Sett our sails to go for the ryver of Sagadehock. we kept our Course from thence dew Weste until 12 of the Clok mydnyght of the Sam. then we stroke our Sails and layed a hull untill the mornynge Doutinge for to over shoot ytt.

¹ The boats passed around Pemaquid Point.

Thursdays in the mornynge breacke of the daye beinge the xiiith of Auguste the Illand of Sutquin ¹ bore north of us nott past halff a leage from us and ytt rysseth in this form hear under followinge ² the w^{ch} Illand Lyeth ryght beffore the mouth of the ryver of Sagadehocke South from ytt near 2 Leags but we did not make ytt to be Sutquin so we Sett our saills and stood to the westward for to Seeke ytt 2 Leags farther and nott fyndinge the ryver of Sagadehocke we knew that we had overshott the place. then we wold have retorned but Could nott and the nyght in hand the *gifte* Sent in her shallop and mad ytt and went into the ryver this nyght but we wear constrained to remain att Sea all this nyght and about mydnight thear arosse a great storme and tempest uppon us the w^{ch} putt us in great daunger and hassard of castinge awaye of our ship and our Lyves by reason we wear so near the shore. the wynd blew very hard att South right in uppon the shore so that by no means we could nott gett of. hear we sought all means and did what possybell was to be don for that our Lyves depended on ytt. hear we plyed ytt wth our ship of and on all the nyght often times espyeing many soonken rocks and breatches hard by us enforsynge us to put our ship about and stand from them bearinge saill when ytt was mor fyttter to have taken ytt in but that ytt stood uppon our Lyves to do ytt and our bott Soonk att our stern yet wold we nott cut her from us in hope of the appearinge of the daye. thus we Contynued untill the daye cam. then we perseaved our Selves to be hard aboard the Lee shore and no waye to escape ytt but by Seekinge the Shore. then we espyed 2 Lyttell Illands ³ Lyeinge under our lee. So we bore up the healme and steerd in our shipe in betwyxt them whear the Lord be praised for ytt we found good and sauffe ankkoringe and thear anckored the storme still contynuinge untill the next daye followynge.

¹ Seguin. It was known on the *Mary and John* that Seguin was opposite the entrance to the river. But as the Kennebec is not discernible from the ocean, the officers of the *Gift*, who evidently had not been on the coast before, sought the entrance to the river farther to the westward.

² Sketches in the manuscript.

³ Cape Small Point (which from the vessel seemed to be an island) and Seal Island.

Frydaye beinge the xiiiith of August that we anckored under these Illands thear we repaired our bott being very muche torren and spoiled. then after we Landed on this Illand and found 4 salvages and an old woman. this Illand ys full of pyne trees and ocke and abundance of whorts of fower Sorts of them.

Satterdaye beinge the 15th of Auguste the storme ended and the wind Cam faier for us to go for Sagadehock. so we wayed our ankors and Sett Saill and stood to the estward and cam to the Illand of Sutquin w^{ch} was 2 Leags from those Illands we rod att anker beffor, and hear we anckored under the Illand of Sutqin in the estersyd of ytt for that the wynd was of the shore that wee could no gett into the ryver of Sagadehock and hear Cap^t. pophams ships bott cam aboard of us and gave us xx freshe Cods that they had taken beinge Sent out a fyshinge.

Sondaye beinge the 16th of Auguste Cap^t. popham Sent his Shallop unto us for to healp us in. So we wayed our ankors and beinge Calme we towed in our ship and Cam into the Ryver of Sagadehocke and anckored by the *gyfts* Syd about xi of the Cloke the Same daye.

Mundaye beinge the 17th Auguste Cap^t. popham in his shallop wth 30 others and Cap^t. Gilbert in his shipes bott accompanied wth 18 other persons depted early in the morninge from thear ships and sailed up the Ryver of Sagadehock for to vew the Ryver and allso to See whear they myght fynd the most Convenyent place for thear plantation my Selffe beinge wth Cap^t. Gilbert. So we Sailed up into this ryver near 14 Leags and found ytt to be a most gallant ryver very brod and of a good depth. we never had Lesse Watt^r then 3 fetham when we had Least and abundance of greatt fyshe ¹ in ytt Leaping above the Watt^r on eatch Syd of us as we Sailed. So the nyght aprochinge after a whill we had refreshed our Selves uppon the shore about 9 of the Cloke we sett backward to return and Cam aboard our shipes the next day followinge about 2 of the Clok in the afternoon. We fynd this ryver to be very

¹ Sturgeon.

pleasant wth many goodly Illands in ytt and to be both Large and deepe Watt^r havinge many branches in ytt. that w^{ch} we tooke bendeth ytt Selffe towards the northest.

Tuesdaye beinge the 18th after our retorn we all went to the shore and thear mad Choies of a place for our plantation¹ wh^{ch} ys at the very mouth or entry of the Ryver of Sagadehocke on the West Syd of the Ryver beinge almoste an Illand of a good bygness. whylst we wear uppon the shore thear Cam in three Cannoos by us but they wold not Com near us but rowed up the Ryver and so past away.

Wensday beinge the 19th Auguste we all went to the shore whear we mad Choise for our plantation and thear we had a Sermon delyvred unto us by our precher and after the Sermon our pattent was red wth the orders and Lawes thearin prescribbed and then we returned aboard our ships again.

Thursdaye beinge the 20th of Auguste all our Companies Landed and thear began to fortefye. our presedent Cap^t. popham Sett the fryst spytt of ground unto ytt and after hem all the rest followed and Labored hard in the trenches about ytt.

Frydaye the 21th of Auguste all hands Labored hard about the fort Som in the trench Som for fagetts and our ship Carpenters about the buildinge of a small penis² or shallop.

Satterdaye the 22th Auguste Cap^t. popham early in the morninge depted in his shallop to go for the ryver of paship-skoke.³ thear they had parle wth the Salvages again who delyvred unto them that they had ben att wars wth Sasanoa and had slain his Soone in fyght. skidwares and Dehanada wear in this fyght.

Sondaye the 23th our presedent Cap^t. popham returned unto us from the ryver of paship-skoke.

The 24th all Labored about the fort.

¹ Strachey gives the Indian name of the place as Sabino. A plan of the fort erected by the Popham colonists (discovered in the royal archives of Spain at Simancas, by the Hon. J. L. M. Curry, United States Minister to Spain, and reproduced in Brown's *Genesis of the United States*, I. 190) makes the location of the fort certain. A better copy of the plan will be found in Thayer's *Sagadahoc Colony*, p. 186. It is reproduced in the present volume.

² Pinnacle.

³ The Pejepscoot or Androscoggin.

Tuesdaye the 25th Cap^t. Gilbert imbarked hem Selffe wth 15 other wth hem to go to the Westward uppon Som Discovery but the Wynd was contrary and forsed hem backe again the Sam daye.

The 26th and 27th all Labored hard about the fort.

Frydaye the 28th Cap^t. Gilbert wth 14 others my Selffe beinge on Imbarked hem to go to the westward again. So the wynd Servinge we Sailed by many gallant Illands¹ and towards nyght the winde Cam Contrary against us So that we wear Constrained to remain that nyght under the head Land called Semeamis² whear we found the Land to be most fertill. the trees growinge thear doth exceed for goodnesse and Length being the most p^t of them ocke and wallnutt growinge a greatt space assoonder on from the other as our parks in England and no thickett growinge under them. hear wee also found a gallant place to fortifye whom Nattuer ytt Selffe hath already framed wth out the hand of man wth a runyng stream of watt^r hard adjoyninge under the foott of ytt.

Satterdaye the 29th Auguste early in the mornynge we depted from thence and rowed to the westward for that the wind was againste us. but the wynd blew so hard that forsed us to remain under an Illand³ 2 Leags from the place we remayned the night beffore. whilst we remayned under this Illand thear passed to Cannoos by us but they wold nott Com neare us. after mydnyght we put from this Illand in hope to have gotten the place we dessyered but the wind arose and blew so hard at Southwest Contrary for us that forsed us to return.

Sondaye beinge the 30th Auguste retornynge beffore the wynd we sailed by many goo[d]ly Illands for betwixt this head Land called Semeamis and the ryver of Sagadehock ys a great baye in the wth Lyeth So many Illands and so thicke and neare together that yo Cannott well desern to Nomber them. yet may yo go in betwixt them in a good ship for yo shall have never Lesse Watt^r the[n] 8 fethams. these Illands ar all over-

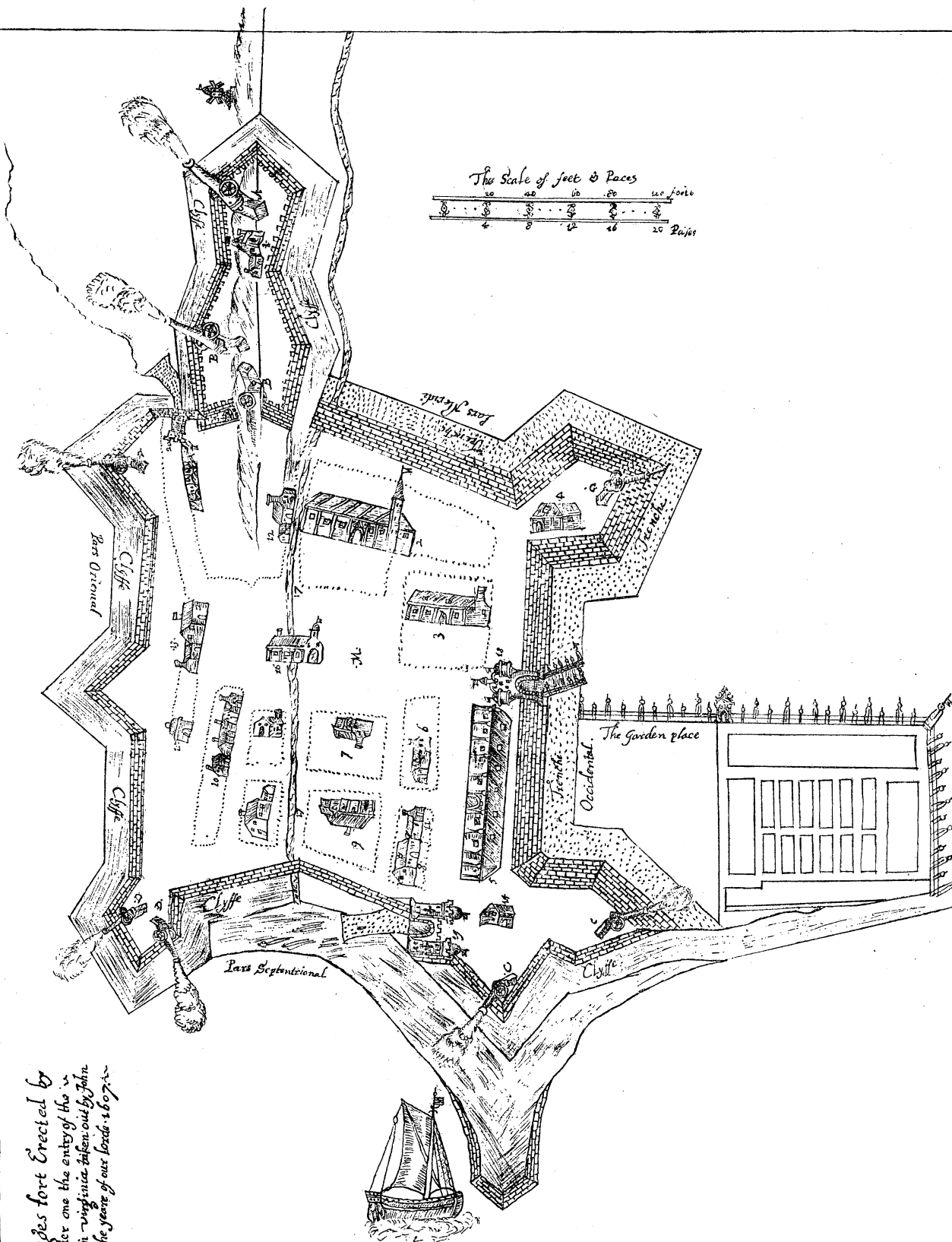
¹ Islands of Casco Bay.

³ Richmond's Island.

² Evidently some headland on Cape Elizabeth.

The draught of ^s Georges fort Erected by
 Capteyne George Popham Esquier one the entry of the
 famous Bay of Sagadahock, in Virginia taken out by John
 Smith the viij day of October in the year of our Lord. 1607.

- A. a derry Culvering
- B. Baker
- C. M. rions
- D. M. rions
- 1. the Presidents house
- 2. the Chapell
- 3. the Admirals house
- 4. the Munition house
- 5. the store house
- 6. the Martion M. house
- 7. the Vice Admirals house
- 8. the Buttery General.
- 9. the Sargent Majors house
- 10. the Corporals house
- 11. the kitchen
- 12. the Smiths house
- 13. the Cooks house
- 14. the Bake house
- 15. the Court of Justice
- 16. the water gate
- 17. the Land gate
- 18. the water gate
- 19. the western gate
- 20. the western gate
- M. the M. rions house
- the best and Erud Ladys



Plan of St. George's Fort, on the Kennebec River, sent in 1608 to King Philip III. of Spain by his Ambassador in London. From the Gorges Society's reproduction of the original in the Spanish archives at Simancas.

growen wth woods very thicke as ocks walnut pyne trees and many other things growinge as Sarsaperilla hassell nuts and whorts in aboundance. So this day we retorned to our fort att Sagadehock.

Munday being the Last of Auguste nothinge hapened but all Labored for the buildinge of the fort and for the storhouse to reseave our vyttuall.

Tuesday the first of September thear Cam a Canooa unto us in the w^{ch} was 2 greatt kettells of brasse. Som of our Company did parle wth them but they did rest very doutfull of us and wold nott Suffer mor then on att a tyme to Com near unto them. So he depted. The Second daye third and 4th nothinge hapened worth the wryttinge but that each man did his beste endeavour for the buildinge of the fort.

Satterdaye beinge the 5th of Septemb^r thear Cam into the entraunce of the ryver of Sagadehocke nine Canooos in the w^{ch} was Dehanada and skidwarres wth many others in the wholl near fortye persons men women and Children. they Cam and parled wth us and we aggain ussed them in all frindly maner We Could and gave them vyttails for to eatt. So skidwarres and on more of them stayed wth us untill nyght the rest of them withdrew them in thear Canooas to the farther Syd of the ryver. but when nyght Cam for that skidwares would needs go to the rest of his Company Cap^t. Gilbert acompaned wth James Davis and Cap^t. ellis best took them into our bott and Caryed them to thear Company on the farther syd the ryver and thear remained amongst them all the nyght and early in the mornynge the Sallvages depted in thear Canooas for the ryver of pemaquid promysinge Cap^t. Gilbert to accompani hem in thear Canooas to the ryver of penobskott whear the bashabe remayneth.

The 6th nothinge happened. the 7th our ship the *Mary and John* began to discharge her vyttualls.

Tuesday beinge the 8th Septemb^r Cap^t. Gilbert acompaned wth xxii others my Selffe beinge on of them depted from the fort to go for the ryver of penobskott takinge wth hem divers Sorts of M^rchandise for to trad wth the Bashabe who ys the

Cheeffe Comander of those p^{ts} but the wind was Contrary againste hem so that he could nott Com to dehanada and skid-wares at the time apointed for ytt was the xith daye beffor he Could gett to the ryver of pemaquid Whear they do make thear abbod.

Frydaye beinge the xith in the mornynge early we Cam into the ryver of pemaquyd thear to Call nahanada and skid-wares as we had promyste them. but beinge thear aryved we found no Lyvinge Creatuer. they all wear gon from thence. the w^{ch} we perseavinge presently depted towards the ryver of penobskott Saillinge all this daye and the xiith and xiiith the Lyke yett by no means Could we fynd ytt. So our vitall beinge spent we hasted to retorn. So the wynd Cam faier for us and we Sailed all the 14th and 15th dayes in retornynge the Wind blowinge very hard att north and this mornynge the 15th daye we pseaved ¹ a blassing star in the northeast of us.

The 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21th 22th nothings hapened but all Labored hard about the fort and the store house for to Land our wyttaills.

The 23th beinge Wensdaye Cap^t. Gilbert accompaned wth 19 others my Selffe on of them depted from the fort to go for the head of the ryver of Sagadehock. we Sailed all this daye. So did we the Lyke the 24th untill the evenynge. then we Landed thear to remain that Nyght. hear we found a gallant Champion Land and exceeddinge fertill. So hear we remayned all nyght.

The 25th beinge frydaye early in the mornynge we depted from hence and sailed up the ryver about eyght Leags farther untill we Cam unto an Illand ² beinge Lo Land and flatt. att this Illand ys a great down Fall of watt^r the w^{ch} runeth by both Sydes of this Illand very swyfte and shallow. in this Illand we found greatt store of grapes exceedinge good and sweett of to Sorts both red butt the on of them ys a mervellous deepe red.

¹ Perceived.

² At Augusta. There was formerly an island, near the eastern bank of the river just below the falls, known as Cushnoc Island. This island is so marked on the 1750 survey of the Plymouth Company. It was just below the present dam.

by both the syds of this ryver the grapes grow in aboundance and allso very good Hoppes and also Chebolls¹ and garleck. and for the goodnesse of the Land ytt doth so far abound that I Cannott allmost expresse the Sam. hear we all went ashore and wth a stronge Rope made fast to our bott and on man in her to gyde her aggainst the Swyfte stream we pluckt her up throwe ytt pforce.² after we had past this down-Fall we all went into our bott again and rowed near a Leage farther up into the ryver and nyght beinge att hand we hear stayed all nyght, and in the fryst of the night about ten of the Cloke thear Cam on the farther syd of the ryver sartain Salvages Callinge unto us in broken inglyshe. we answered them aggain. So for this time they depted.

The 26th beinge Satterdaye thear Cam a Canooa unto us and in hear fower salvages those that had spoken unto us in the nyght beffore. his name that Came unto us ys Sabenoa. he macks hemselffe unto us to be Lord of the ryver of Sagadehock.

End: The relation of Whole Voyage to Virginia,
New England,
1607.³

[The remainder of the narration is taken from Chapter X. of the "Historie of Travaile into Virginia," by William Strachey.]

They entertayned him friendly, and tooke him into their boat and presented him with some triffling things, which he accepted; howbeyt, he desired some one of our men to be put into his canoa as a pawne of his safety, whereupon Captain Gilbert sent in a man of his, when presently the canoa rowed away from them with all the speed they could make up the

¹ Onions.

² Perforce.

³ This subscription must have been added at the end of the manuscript by a later hand, perhaps by Griffith, who wrote the title.

river. They followed with the shallop, having great care that the Sagamo should not leape overboard. The canoa quickly rowed from them and landed, and the men made to their howses, being neere a league on the land from the river's side, and carried our man with them. The shallop making good waye, at length came to another downefall,¹ which was so shallowe and soe swift, that by noe meanes they could passe any further, for which, Captain Gilbert, with nine others, landed and tooke their fare, the salvadge Sagamo, with them, and went in search after those other salvages, whose howses, the Sagamo told Captain Gilbert, were not farr off; and after a good tedious march, they came indeed at length unto those salvages' howses where found neere fifty able men very strong and tall, such as their like before they had not seene; all newly painted and armed with their bowes and arrowes. Howbeyt, after that the Sagamo had talked with them, they delivered back again the man, and used all the rest very friendly, as did ours the like by them, who shewed them their comodities of beads, knives, and some copper, of which they seemed very fond; and by waye of trade, made shew that they would come downe to the boat and there bring such things as they had to exchange them for ours. Soe Captain Gilbert departed from them, and within half an howre after he had gotten to his boat, there came three canoas down unto them, and in them some sixteen salvages, and brought with them some tobacco and certayne small skynes, which where of no value; which Captain Gilbert perceaving, and that they had nothing ells wherewith to trade, he caused all his men to come aboard, and as he would have putt from the shore; the salvages perceiving so much, subtilly devised how they might put out the fier in the shallop, by which meanes they sawe they should be free from the danger of our men's pieces, and to performe the same, one of the salvages came into the shallop and taking the fier brand which one of our company held in his hand thereby to light the matches, as if he would

¹ Bacon's Rips, five miles above Cushnoc.

light a pipe of tobacco, as sone as he had gotten yt into his hand he presently threw it into the water and leapt out of the shallop. Captain Gilbert seeing that, suddenly commanded his men to betake them to their musketts and the targettiers too, from the head of the boat, and bad one of the men before, with his targett on his arme, to stepp on the shore for more fier; the salvages resisted him and would not suffer him to take any, and some others holding fast the boat roap that the shallop could not pott off. Captain Gilbert caused the musquettiers to present their peeces, the which, the salvages seeing, presently let go the boatroap and betooke them to their bowes and arrowes, and ran into the bushes, knocking their arrowes,¹ but did not shoot, neither did ours at them. So the shallop departed from them to the further side of the river, where one of the canoas came unto them, and would have excused the fault of the others. Captain Gilbert made shew as if he were still friends, and entertayned them kindlye and soe left them, returning to the place where he had lodged the night before, and there came to an anchor for that night. The head of the river standeth in 45 degrees and odd mynutts. Upon the continent they found aboundance of spruse trees such as are able to maast the greatest ship his majestie hath, and many other trees, oake, walnutt, pine-apple;² fish, aboundance; great store of grapes, hopps, chiballs, also they found certaine codd³ in which they supposed the cotton wooll to grow, and also upon the bancks many shells of pearle.

27. Here they sett up a crosse and then returned homeward, in the way seeking the by river of some note called Sasanoa.⁴ This daye and the next they sought yt, when the weather turned fowle and full of fog and raine, they made all hast to the fort before which, the 29th, they arrived.

30. and 1 and 2 of October, all busye about the fort.

¹ *I.e.*, laying the arrow to the bowstring.

² A variety of pine with cones.

³ Pods.

⁴ The tidal river opening from the Kennebec opposite Bath, and connecting the waters of the Kennebec with those of Sheepscot Bay.

3. There came a canoa unto some of the people of the fort as they were fishing on the sand, in which was Skidwares, who badd them tell their president that Nahanada, with the Basha-baes brother, and others, were on the further side of the river, and the next daie would come and visitt him.

4. There came two canoas to the fort, in which were Nahanada and his wife, and Skidwares, and the Basshabaes brother, and one other called Amenquin, a Sagamo; all whome the president feasted and entertayned with all kindnes, both that day and the next, which being Sondaye, the president carried them with him to the place of publike prayers, which they were at both morning and evening, attending yt with great reverence and silence.

6. The salvadges departed all except Amenquin the Sagamo, who would needes staye amongst our people a longer tyme. Upon the departure of the others, the president gave unto every one of them copper beades, or knives, which contented them not a little, as also delivered a present unto the Basshabae's brother, and another for his wife, giving him to understand that he would come unto his court in the river of Penobscot, and see him very shortly, bringing many such like of his country commodities with him.

You maie please to understand how, whilst this busines was thus followed here, soone after their first arrivall, that had dispatch't away Capt. Robert Davies, in the *Mary and John*,¹ to advertise of their safe arrival and forwardness of their plantacion within this river of Sachadehoc, with letters to the Lord Chief Justice, ymportuninge a supply for the most necessary wants to the subsisting of a colony, to be sent unto them betymes the next yeare.

After Capt. Davies' departure they fully finished the fort, trencht and fortified yt with twelve pieces of ordinaunce, and built fifty howses,² therein, besides a church and a storehowse; and the carpenters framed a pretty Pynnace of about some

¹ A letter written by Sir Ferdinando Gorges records the sailing of one of the vessels in October. This would indicate that the first vessel to return was the *Mary and John*.

² Evidently an error.

thirty tonne, which they called the *Virginia*; the chief shipwright being one Digby of London.

Many discoveries likewise had been made both to the mayne and unto the neighbour rivers, and the frontier nations fully discovered by the diligence of Capt. Gilbert, had not the wynter proved soe extreame unseasonable and frosty; for yt being in the yeare 1607, when the extraordinary frost was felt in most parts of Europe, yt was here likewise as vehement, by which noe boat could stir upon any busines. Howbeyt, as tyme and occasyon gave leave, there was nothing omitted which could add unto the benefitt or knowledg of the planters, for which when Capt. Davies arrived there in the yeare following (sett out from Topsam, the port towne of Exciter,¹ with a shipp laden full of virtualls, armes, instruments and tooles, etc.,) albeyt he found Mr. George Popham, the president, and some other dead, yet he found all things in good forwardness, and many kinds of fursr obteyned from the Indians by way of trade; good store of sarsaparilla gathered,² and the new pynnace all finished. But by reason that Capt. Gilbert received letters that his brother was newly dead,³ and a faire portion of land fallen unto his share, which required his repaier home, and noe mynes discovered, nor hope thereof, being the mayne intended benefit expected to uphold the charge of this plantacion, and the feare that all other wynters would prove like the first, the company by no means would stay any longer in the country, especyally Capt. Gilbert being to leave them, and Mr. Popham, as aforesaid, dead; wherefore they all ⁴ ymbarqued in this new arrived shipp, and in the new pynnace, the *Virginia*, and sett saile for England.⁵ And this was the end of that northerne colony uppon the river Sachadehoc.

¹ Exeter.

² For medicinal uses.

³ Sir John Gilbert, who died July 8, 1608.

⁴ None of the colonists were left behind. It has erroneously been claimed that some of them remained on the coast.

⁵ The *Virginia* was built by the colonists. In the following year this vessel was in the fleet that sailed from England for Virginia. A letter from Jamestown, Virginia, written August 31, 1609, says, "In the boat of Sir George Somers, called the *Virginia*, which was built in the North Colony, went one Captain Davies and one Master Davies."