

There are seven islands in all, the principle one being called Coffin Island. Having been granted by the French Crown, in 1693, to Sieur Doublett to be used by him and his associates as a fishing station, they were held under feudal tenure as a feif of the Royal Company of Miscou. After the Conquest they were given to Richard Gridley of Massachusetts. This is the same Gridley who, under Pepperel, was present at the capture of Louisbourg in 1745. He also planned the works at Bunker Hill, thus losing as a participant in the revolution, his northern Canadian possessions. The islands were granted a second time by the King; Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin being the grantee, by whom they were held until his death, when they were bequeathed to his son Captain John Townsend Coffin and his male heirs under strict entail.

Sir Isaac only once visited his Canadian possessions, or kingdom as he called it, and it was during this visit he put the coin under consideration into circulation. The visit and the striking of the coinage is so well described by Sir Edward Thomason, the medallist, that I cannot do better than quote it in full. It is from his "Memoirs during half a century."

1815. "I had manufactured this year a large quantity of tokens for Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin, Bart., who is the sole possessor and king, as he calls himself, of the Magdalen Islands, situated in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in North America. They were principally of copper, pence and half-pence. The obverse was a seal, and the legend round the edge, 'Magdalen Island Token 1815' The reverse a split codfish the legend 'Success to the Fishery One Penny.' As soon as a large quantity of these were struck off Sir Isaac sailed off with them, packed up in casks, and took with him a powerful coining press and machinery, and dies ready engraved, to establish what he called a little mint for his subjects to manufacture their coin for the future, on receiving the rolled copper from England and disposing of the scrap part to the