

In 1773 Messrs. Abiel Sprague, James Sprague, Moses Sprague, and Joel Bonny moved from Machias to this Island, probably with a view of continuing here; but in 1774 they were ordered to move off the Island by the Indians, on account, it is said, of the injury the Indians supposed they did to their hunting; though I have had different accounts of the cause of their removal, but they complied with the order of the Indians and moved over to Passamaquoddy, instead of returning to Machias.

The only survivor of the four men before mentioned is Joel Bonny, who now lives on Magaugadavic River, whose testimony I recommend your obtaining, if possible. Mr. Bonny is an old man, but would doubtless wait on you by the first of April or sooner at your request.

It is not impossible but that Mr. Bonny or one of the Spragues, during their residence here, might have attended a Justice's Court either as plaintiff, defendant, or witness, at Campobello — a material point in proof of the exercise of an act of Jurisdiction over Grand Manan from the Government of Nova Scotia.

As I am arrived so near the close of life it would be a serious mortification to lose Grand Manan and be compelled by my Countrymen to move again, or live under their Government, merely because we are not able to prove some act of Jurisdiction from the Government of Nova Scotia has not been exercised over the Island before the peace of 1783.

The American claims being admitted, they will not only hold Grand Manan but several other Islands in this Bay; but relinquish our claims to this Island only, and they will be satisfied, on account of the fishery about it; for it is that they covet more than the Island.

Any further commands you may have respecting this Island, I shall be happy to execute; and regret that it is not in my power to prove that Grand Manan was under the Jurisdiction of Nova Scotia before the peace of 1783.

I have the honor to be

Sir, with great respect,

Your most obd't Serv't,

MOSES GERRISH.

Hon. Ward Chipman, Esquire, St. John.  
Favor'd by Mr. Jackson.

#### INTERROGATORIES TO MOSES GERRISH AND HIS ANSWERS.

1. How long have you been acquainted with the Island of Grand Manan?

*Ans.* I had no knowledge of Grand Manan only by sight and report previous to our landing here to make a permanent settlement on the 6th day of May, 1784.

2. Did you reside there at any time and how long before you procured the licence of occupation of that Island for yourself and others from the Government of Nova Scotia in the year 1783?