

Gift of Head of the Lake  
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THE EXODUS OF THE LOYALISTS FROM PENOBSCOT  
AND THE LOYALIST SETTLEMENTS AT  
PASSAMAQUODDY.

In September, 1778, the British government ordered General Clinton at New York to secure post on the Penobscot River in Maine, for the purpose of erecting a province to which loyal adherents of the Crown might repair.\* An earlier post, Fort Pownall, which had occupied the bold, rocky promontory at Cape Jellison, at the mouth of the Penobscot, was no longer in existence, having been dismantled and burned by the militia under Colonel James Cargill, in July, 1774. For eleven years previous to its destruction, the old colonial fort had been under the command of Colonel Thomas Goldthwait, who by his compliance with an order from General Gage permitted a detachment greatly outnumbering his own meagre garrison to carry off the cannon and spare arms of the fort, and thus incurred the censure of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts Bay, the loss of his command, and virtual banishment. Colonel Goldthwait deserves a word of more extended notice on account of the important part he took in settling and developing the Penobscot Valley. While in command of Fort Pownall, he was appointed agent for a vast tract of land belonging to the Waldo heirs in that region. Later in conjunction with Sir Francis Bernard, then governor of the province of Massachusetts Bay, he purchased a part of the Waldo Patent from General Jedediah Preble, and appears to have been chiefly instrumental in settling the Penobscot country with a population which he estimated at "more than 2,400 able men."†

Colonel Goldthwait did not participate in establishing the new post at Penobscot, but remained in retirement there, or at Castine, until July, 1779, when he went aboard one

\*Report on the Am. Mss. in the Roy. Inst. of G. Brit., I, 284. Dorchester. Collect. 1, No. 7.

†Mc. Hist. Magazine, IX, 23, 188, 254, 258, 273, 363. X, 94, 96.