



Prouts

Neck

Association

Prouts Neck

Maine

HISTORY

THOMAS CAMMOCK, nephew of the Earl of Warwick, was granted fifteen hundred acres between the Black Point and Spurwink Rivers in 1631 by the Council of Plymouth. Although John Stratton had come to the islands off Prouts Neck in 1630 to trade with the English and Indians and one of the islands still bears his name, Cammock was the first legal proprietor of this territory and settled on the shore opposite the present Yacht Club. Later, his friend Henry Josselyn married Cammock's widow and under his management "Black Point," as it was then known, with its ferrys and fifty-some dwellings became one of the most important trading and fishing centers on the coast.

In 1671 Josselyn sold his interests to Joshua Scottow who built a fort at Garrison Cove (between the Cammock and the Willows). Trouble with the French and Indians was growing and in 1690 the colonists were expelled from all the coastal settlements. For twelve years Scarborough (as the area which included Black Point and the islands had been designated in 1658) reverted to the wilderness.

The second settlement was started in 1702 by John Larrabee, Charles Pine (for whom Pine Point is named), and four members of the Libby family. Beavers were plentiful and furs, fish, and lumber were traded profitably. Although relations with the Indians were more friendly, nine-

1703
teen men were ambushed and killed by them in 1703 at the southern end of Massacre Pond—across the road from the golf course.

After Scottow's death, his son-in-law, Samuel Checkley, conveyed the entire Cammock Patent for £500 to Timothy Prout, Merchant, of Boston, who had married Scottow's grand-daughter. Part of the property became known as Prouts Neck. After his death in 1768 the estate was divided among his heirs. The Neck was eventually sold to the Libbys of Scarborough and was sometimes called Libby's Neck.

Thomas Libby lived in a double one-story farmhouse and provided accommodation for fishermen and later summer boarders. His house, known as the Prouts Neck or Middle House, was subsequently bought by Charles E. Morgan, Jr., who converted part of it into a summer cottage now occupied by his daughter, Mrs. Walter Perry; the rest is incorporated in the Post Office building. Silas Libby built a small boarding-house, the original of the present Cammock. Benaiah Libby constructed the Willows. The Neck was becoming popular as a summer resort. Other hotels followed—the West Point House, the Southgate (now the site of the Black Point Inn), and the Checkley.

By 1886 there were five or six summer cottages, one occupied by Charles Savage Homer. His son, Winslow Homer, one of America's best known painters, spent most of the last twenty-five years of his life at Prouts Neck, more or less a hermit. Some of his finest oil paintings—the Fox Hunt, Fog Warning, Eight Bells, Cannon Rock, the Wreck, and the Northeaster, to mention only a few—were inspired by his studies there of the coast and seas, summer and winter.

COVER: "Eight Bells," by Winslow Homer.

*Courtesy of the Addison Gallery of American Art,
Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts.*

He died in 1910 and his grave, overlooking the sea, is on the lawn of his studio on Winslow Homer Road, which is open to visitors by appointment.

As more summer residents discovered the charms of Prouts Neck, tennis courts, golf links, and, finally, the present Country and Yacht Clubs were established.

THE PROUTS NECK ASSOCIATION

The Prouts Neck Association was organized by the summer residents in 1887 and was incorporated in 1910 under the laws of Maine as a Village Improvement Society. Its first interest was the bathing beach and a lifeboat and boatman were provided. It later built roads, acquired bath-houses, arranged for a better water supply, a sanitation system, and summer and winter police protection. Unlike many summer colonies Prouts has been able to preserve a large degree of privacy and quiet because it maintains many of its own services, independent of the Town of Scarborough; it may be said to be a village within a town. The Prouts Neck Association assumes responsibility for the upkeep of roads, regulation of traffic, control of parking spaces, and protection of the natural beauties of the woods, the marginal way, and the beach. One of its assets is an excellent small library established in 1898 in a cottage bequeathed to Prouts Neck for the purpose by Charles E. Thomas, an artist and former summer resident. In 1960 a special room will be added for the large collection of children's books.

The Women's Auxiliary Association of Prouts Neck through its membership dues and public

entertainments supplements the work of the Association and undertakes extensive care of the woods, shrubbery, and paths. The Auxiliary contributes as well to the expenses of the Library, Country Club, and Yacht Club.

Prouts Neck is a summer community of approximately one hundred cottages, and about one thousand persons—many of whom (from cities such as Boston, Kansas City, Montreal, New York, Philadelphia, and St. Louis) have come not for a matter of years but for generations. There are four hotels—the Black Point Inn, the Cammock, the Lodges, and the Willows—and several small apartments in the Post Office building. Another hotel, the Atlantic House, is at the Scarborough end of the beach. There is an Episcopal and also a Roman Catholic church. In addition, Prouts Neck has the advantage of being only twenty minutes distant by automobile from the doctors, hospitals, and shops of Portland. Its location and private roads keep it free of transient summer traffic. The beautiful beach, with its double crescent of hard white sand and lifeguard protection, is a safe place for children of all ages. There is activity from morning till night at the Country Club where facilities now include eight good tennis courts (the tennis interest has always been high), and a well-designed seaside golf course. At the Yacht Club young people sail, race, and picnic, and the whole community gathers frequently during the season for chowder parties. Prouts Neck has been a bird sanctuary since 1917, and in 1959 was authorized to establish its own chapter of the National Audubon Society for the adminis-

tration of the Phineas W. Sprague Sanctuary, on the nearby Stratton and Hogg Islands. As the woods and bay with its extensive sand flats attract bird lovers, so the high rocks attract those who wish to paint, read, or watch the surf.

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Widespread membership in the Prouts Neck Association, which is open to all, creates the community interest vital to the maintenance of the essential character and attractiveness of Prouts Neck.

## FINANCES

Other than the bathing beach facilities, and the garbage and trash collection—both of which projects are run on a self-supporting basis—the cost of operating the Prouts Neck Association for a year is about \$15,500.00.

This money is expended for the following items:

|                                                |                    |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Taxes (town, social security, and withholding) | \$ 700.00          |
| Insurance                                      | 800.00             |
| Roads                                          | 2,000.00           |
| Mosquito control                               | 2,000.00           |
| Police                                         | 7,000.00           |
| Salaries                                       | 1,500.00           |
| Utilities                                      | 200.00             |
| Repairs and maintenance                        | 600.00             |
| Printing                                       | 200.00             |
| Miscellaneous                                  | 500.00             |
|                                                | <u>\$15,500.00</u> |

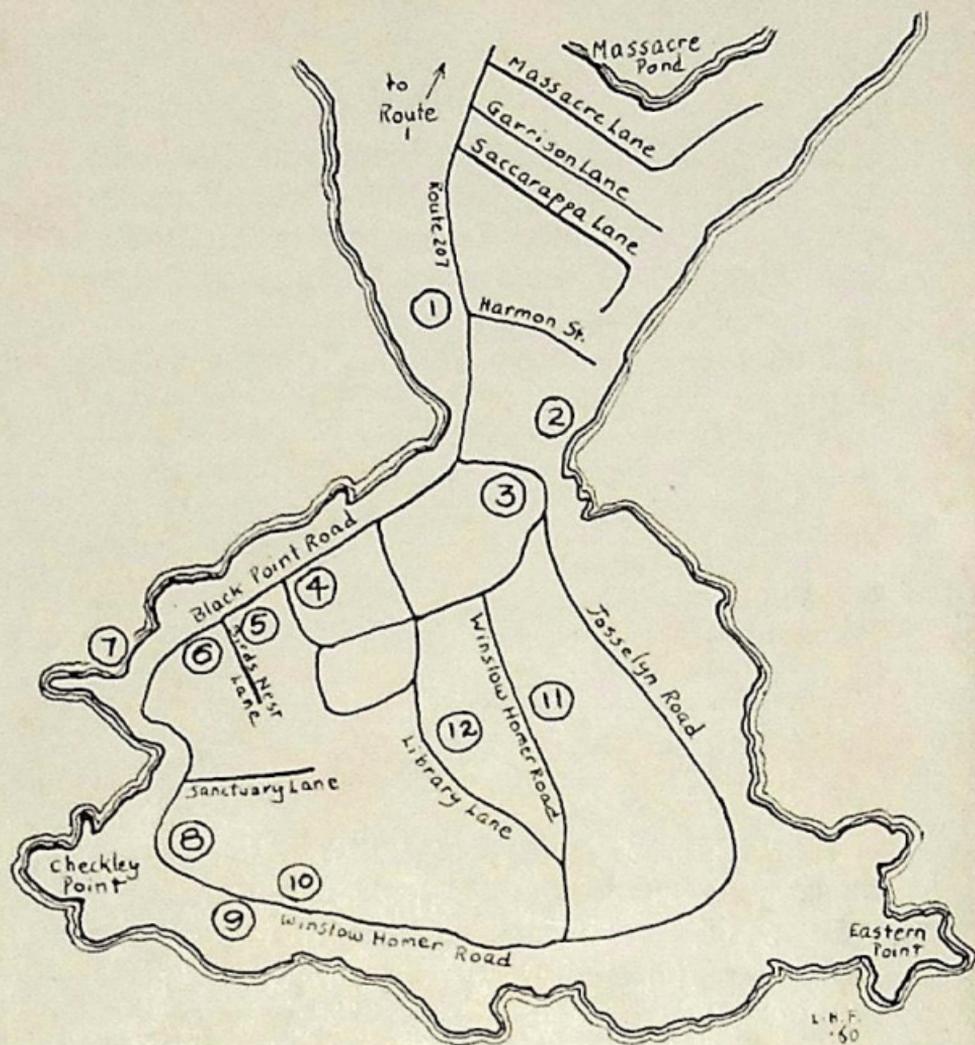
Of this amount, more than half is subscribed by the property owners whose contributions have recently of necessity been increased to meet the rising costs inherent in the current general price inflation. The balance must come from the Association members who enjoy the amenities of Prouts Neck, either as hotel guests or cottage tenants. Will you do your part to help maintain the essential services which keep Prouts Neck as you like to have it, by joining the Association?

Contributions, which are deductible for Federal income tax purposes, provide membership in the Association and a car sticker for beach parking privileges. The classes are:

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Active member*      | \$65.00 and up |
| Associate member*   | \$25.00 and up |
| Contributing member | \$ 5.00 and up |

\* With voting rights at meetings.

April 1960



1. The Country Club
2. The Bathing Beach
3. The Black Point Inn
4. The Post Office
5. The Willows
6. The Cammock House
7. The Yacht Club
8. The Lodges
9. The Winslow Homer Studio
10. St. James Church (Episcopal)
11. St. James Church (Catholic)
12. The Charles E. Thomas Memorial Library