

AMCL to WHMCL

Bangor January 15, 1896

Mr. W. H. McLaughlin
Dear Sir:

I have seen several notices recently emanating from yourself, in regard to the neglected grave of Hon. William King - first Governor of Maine. As I think you have been misinformed relative to the facts, will you permit me to give a different view. A late Lewiston paper says, "The people of Bath are well satisfied that his remains are quietly resting in the Cemetery of that City where he lived so many years of his useful life and that a handsome monument marks its locality". If that is a correct statement is at once decided. Mr. William King went in early life to Bath, became a large landholder in that vicinity and never returned to Scarborough to reside. His brother Richard built a good sized house at Scottow's Hill, which he occupied till his death at an advanced age, The last survivor of the King family. Dr. Robert Southgate (afterward Judge) in 1805 built and occupied the large brick house on the main road near the beginning of the "Turnpike" to Portland. Mrs. Southgate was Miss King, a sister of W. and Richard King.

This property after the decease of the parents and children was purchased by Mr. Scammon of Saco. The impression may have obtained that William King built one of these two houses; but his only connection with either was, as a residence of a brother or sister. Mr. Richard King, sen. (the father of this large family - one of which was Rufus King, one of the greatest statesmen our country ever had, and for some time its Minister to Great Britain) died at his homestead near Dunstan Landing in 1775 and was buried at his request on a beautiful mound on his own extensive grounds west of "Dunstan Corner" a short distance in from line of road leading to Broad Turn and not far above "Phillips Brook" which did then cross that road and running the extreme breadth of the "Pasture".

Some years later his widow went to reside with a daughter in a distant part of the state and when she died in 1816 the remains were brought to Scarborough and laid beside those of husband. I have a clear recollection of seeing the long procession of children and grandchildren that followed to the grave. A high board fence was then built around the mound which after its decay was not replaced. Judge and Mrs. Southgate with three of their children were buried in the Dunstan Cemetery, and Richard K. and his family rest at Scottow's Hill probably so that I doubt if there are any graves than the two I mention in that "pasture" of later date than when the Red men held it in possession.

There was a close intimacy between our families. My father was the minister of the Second Parish and near neighbor for long time at the "Landing" where the Southgates also lived till the brick house was built a short distance off. From my own acquaintance and legendary reports from older members of my family probably my statement is as accurate as can be obtained at present.

A. McL.