

The periphery of an island is the face it presents to the world by which it is remembered, and so ~~To us the true character of the Island is well~~ epitomized by its circumference, ^{well} for it is around its edges that we have distributed the names by which it became known to us. As children require an island to have an ~~easy~~ easily appreciated circumference, ^{around} ~~around~~ which, in the case of an island in the sea, the tides ebb and flow, so for grown people the perimeter of an island is their first concern. They first explore its shores by circumnavigation. Before any but the most obvious interior landmarks were visited every beach was named. Some names resulted automatically from their initial use. Thus, Harbor Beach was the natural name for the sheltered south side of the Island where the dock was built and off which our boats were moored; and Boathouse Beach, an evenly sloping, fine gravel extension of the harbor shore, above which on a ^{greased} low, grassy bank, with ways reaching down the beach to the low tide mark, a boathouse ~~stood~~ has stood from the first summer, could not escape this name. Progressing counter-clockwise around the Island the next beach beyond the rocky ^{headland on which} ~~stands~~ the Big House is Landing Beach where the lumber for its construction was brought ashore. Continuing on, the remaining features of the shore were named by father and mother during their first year of exploration, and so there never was a time in my memory when ~~these were not named~~ they were unnamed. North Beach at the foot of the Head was followed by North Point, a headland of bleached, flinty rock. Traveling around to the northwest side of the Island the Head drops precipitously into the bay. Along this steep part the path around the Island ^{winds} ~~leads~~ between the ~~outcrops~~ of mossy ~~and~~ outcrops and past cliffs wet cliffs draped with ferns in a cool forest of stunted spruce and birch.

~~XX~~ The steep bluff becomes more barren ~~as~~ towards the west; ~~and~~ dry lichens take the place of moss and ferns, and a vista opens onto a grassy peninsula formed by a wide dyke of intrusive basalt that transects the Island. On the end of a ~~narrow pt~~ ridge of ^{broken} ~~fragmented~~ rock where the dyke enters the sea ^{Many generations of} ~~a pair of~~ fish hawks have ^{built} ~~nest~~ ~~ed~~ for years in a huge stick nest, ~~accumulated by many generations of birds.~~ This is Fish Hawk Point.

In the shelter of the south side of Fish Hawk Point a small cove makes in at the point of contact between the basalt of the dyke and the hard serpentine rocks ~~that make up the~~ bulk of the Head. This protected cove ~~is~~ terminates at a coarse gravel beach and a steep bank surmounted by a dense ~~forest of~~ spruce forest of big trees. From a cleft in the bank water trickles constantly into a small basin surrounded by ^{a carpet of} ~~sun~~ sundew ~~and other water-loving plants.~~ This is the only spring on the Island. When father and mother first visited this spring they found nearby the bleached ^{skull} ~~skeleton~~ of a sheep and in a romantic mood named the place The Beach Where The Indian Killed The Sheep. The name stuck but has since been shortened to Indian Beach.

Continuing down the west side of the Island one comes to a series of beaches descriptively named Boulder Beach, Drift Wood Beach, Skokie Beach, and the Three Island Beaches. Skokie, an Illinois Indian name for marsh, was the name given to the beach having a small cattail bog behind its gravel ridge. ~~These~~ Three Island Beaches got their name from three tiny reefs off shore, two of which are connected to them at low tide. This beach area is the western termination of ~~the~~ low land that extends across the middle of the Island from the harbor ^{side}.

Around the Nubble⁶-the second hill on the Island that occupies part of its southern half⁶-the trail passes only two small beaches; the first is below a grave yard where several early settlers of the Island are buried, and is named Walton Beach after the predominant family name. The second even smaller beach has no name. As around the Head, the path around the Nubble is built on a nearly perpendicular cliff for more than a hundred yards before the land levels out again and joins the South Meadow— it cuts inland to more level ground and enters the South Meadow on its western side. The meadow slopes gently down to a beach facing Bear Island ~~at~~^{and}, to which it is connected ~~at~~ by a tidal bar ^{during} ~~at the time of~~ the lowest spring tides, ~~and~~ after which it is named.

This beach was a camp site for Penobscot Indians before White Men came. They left heaps of clam shells, ^{now covered by a sparse sod,} above the high tide line ^{as witness to their long occupation.} ^{of handwood + chains,} into

From here the shore turns north again ~~to the~~^{into} a half-mile-long, narrow, tidal inlet ~~at the~~^{ing} that we have always called The Cove. Near the mouth of The Cove on its western side a semi-circular sandy beach enclosed ^{ing} at high tide a small bay ^{ave} that we named Sheep Cove after the remains of sheep that died there before we came. From the head of The Cove the trail continues south along its eastern side to a small beach behind which, in the woods, fishermen from other islands had built a cabin to serve as a base for seining in The Cove and for scollopping ~~dredging~~ in the waters around ^{the} Great Spruce Head Island. This is Fisherman's Beach. South of this beach the land rises more abruptly again and the path follows the contours of a wooded bluff until at last it emerges onto the Double Beaches, a gravel bar

or tombolo, that connect the main island to a small wooded knoll ~~that the natives have always~~ called Pea Point, by the natives.

← To complete the circuit of the island the trail follows the eastern shore of the wooded peninsula - the South Woods - from its termination at the Double Beaches back to the Boathouse Beach and the harbor.

The periphery of an island is the face it presents to the world by which it is ^{remembered} ~~recognized and remembered~~ known, as in the case of our friends it is their features by which we ^{know} ~~remember~~ them.

Most of the essential interior places have already been named. The South Meadow correctly implied a North Meadow, and the South Woods a North Woods. There remains only Sunset Rock, a shoulder of the Head, where we often went after supper to watch the sun set behind the Camden Hills. But these features do not so clearly reveal the lines of time that the face of the Island, like the face of a man, shows engraved in its rocky shores and beaches. Much of its past is here recorded from ancient volcanism and metamorphic forces acting on its flinty ^{scouring} core to ~~the division~~ by the ice sheets from the north and the endless abrasion of the sea.