



Vinalhaven Dec<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>, 1819

Dear Sir,

Agreeable to your request I have sent you the best answer to your letter that I could possibly obtain

The town of Vinalhaven was first settled in the year 1765, was incorporated in June 1789 it was named Vinalhaven in Honor of John Vinal Esq<sup>r</sup> of Boston though not by the request of the inhabitants nor has the name ever been agreeable to them it was formerly known by the name of the North and South Fox Islands, it lies at the mouth of Penobscot Bay, about 30 miles from Castine and surrounded by the sea on every side - it contains 17000 acres of land one fourth part of which is not fit for improvement about half the remainder is under improvement the rest is either wild or woods the soil is hard and Stony for the most part. The town records commenced in the year 1789 as it lies so far from the main land it has no County roads, about 400 dollars is annually raised for the repair of town roads — — — —

Lands, The inhabitants hold their lands by a grant from the General Court of Massachusetts and have the fee simple in themselves, it was generally surveyed in the year 1785 the price of lands is from one to twenty dollars per acre Wealth, There are three Stores about seven hundred tons of Vessels from 10 to 100 tons burthen mostly fishing Vessels three Saw mills two Grist mills, - the land produces from 15 to 20 bushels of wheat to the acre, or from 10 to 40 bushels of Indian Corn or from 150 to 300 bushels of potatoes and about one ton of hay to the Acre, No part of the State produces better Beef parts mutton butter and Cheese there are ten paupers supported by the town

Religion There is one Meeting The baptist Church contains one hundred and twenty five members the Methodist

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Date: Dec. 20, 1819  
Description: History of Vinalhaven

Society thirty members which are <sup>the</sup> most part of professors of religion in the town there not being more than five of any other denomination who are professors of religion, No money is raised by the town for the support of the Ministry they are supported by voluntary subscription — there is no settled Minister, they are employed from year to year M<sup>r</sup> Samuel Macomber is their present Minister — Literature The town is divided into eight School Districts and contains about three hundred Scholars from four to sixteen years of age, four hundred dollars is annually raised to support Schools — — three Newspapers taken Political State There are one hundred and ninety voters and 230 rateable polls it has been occasionally represented by William Vinall Esq<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>r</sup> Cyril Brown Character. The inhabitants are mostly farmers and fishermen, The inhabitants manufacture most part of their Clothing, there is one tanner with a stock of about 500 dollars, the town has many good harbors, and considerable fisheries are carried on both in the Cod and Herring fisheries —

Your Obedient Servant

Benjamin Beverage

You need not use my name as an authority

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