

PEST ISLAND

PJ 20 June 1885 -- John Wood claimed \$160 for sheep killed on Pest Island. Referred.

PJ 28 March 1891 -- Aldermen: Annual communication from New Castle claiming Pest Island laid on table.

PJ 10 February 1894 - Dr. Benjamin Cheever informed aldermen that Pest House was in a delapidated condition and was in wrong location, being on an island, with no means of access except by open boat. He recommended purchase of a suitable building on city outskirts.

PJ 2 January 1897 -

—The hearing to decide whether Pest island belongs to the city of Portsmouth or the town of Newcastle was begun in this city on Saturday before Commissioners Young of Exeter, Drake of Hampton and deRochmont of Newington. City Solicitor Marvin appeared for the city and W. E. Marvin represented the town of Newcastle. A certified copy of the agreement between the selectmen of the two towns in 1824, was offered by Col. Marvin, but was not accepted by the commissioners as evidence and a continuence was granted to enable Portsmouth to produce the original, which is on file in the office of secretary of state in Concord. Records of the perambulation of 1873 and 1887 were also introduced in behalf of Portsmouth and several references in historical works and citations from New Hampshire reports by both sides.

PJ 5 June 1897 -

—It seems that the long-standing dispute between this city and Newcastle as to the location of Pest island is not settled yet, Judge Carpenter of the Supreme court having recommitted to the referees their report in the case, on the ground that there is no evidence to show that the island is in Portsmouth, but on the contrary, that it is in the town of Newcastle.

PJ 27 November 1897 --

—An amended report of the commission in the Newcastle-Portsmouth Pest island controversy was made last week to Judge Chase, and the case was taken into consideration by the judge on the prayer of the counsel for Newcastle. The result has been that Judge Chase and Chief Justice Carpenter have rendered judgment in favor of Portsmouth, which will end the long dispute, unless Newcastle should take the matter to the law term on exceptions.

PJ 18 March 1899 - City Solicitor report: Town of New Castle vs. City of P -- New castle's claim to Pest Island finally disposed in January term, 1898, report by commission including Pest Island within city's bounds was confirmed by the court

PJ 9 November 01 - David Urch filed perambulation report, and "for the first time in 50 years, the selectmen of New Castle signed the report accepting the boundary lines obtained by the city."

PJ 4 Jan 1902

The following resolution was presented by Dr Pickering, and unanimously adopted:

Whereas: It having been publicly charged by one member of the board of mayor and aldermen that large quantities of "gravel, rocks and boulders have been removed without permission" from the shores of Pest island, and subsequently, as publicly asserted and freely admitted, that permission for said removal was formally asked for and unanimously granted by His Honor, the mayor, and the last and present committee on city lands and buildings of said aldermanic board, and

Whereas: One of the two of the committee appointed by said board to investigate said charges was and now is a member of the said lands and buildings committee who admittedly granted the said permission, and

Whereas: Section 5 and 6 of Chapter 50 of the Public Statutes gives the city councils the care and custody of all city property, and commands that they shall secure a just and prompt accountability from all persons entrusted with the care of the same, therefore be it

Resolved: That a committee of five, of whom the president shall be one, be appointed by the president to investigate and report at the earliest practical date, as follows:

1st. By what legal right or authority permission was given by the mayor and the said committee on city lands and buildings for the removal of material from the shores of said island, and to what extent they are liable therefor. Also whether any consideration was received therefor, and if so to whom same was paid or delivered.

2nd. What damage, if any, in dollars and cents, or otherwise, the said island has suffered by the removal of any material therefrom.

Portsmouth, N. H., Dec 31, 1901.

PJ 11 January 1902

Committees of Investigation.

Neither the aldermanic nor the common council committee of investigation appointed to look into the alleged removal of rocks from Pest island have yet visited the scene nor is it very probable that they will do so.

A member of the committee calls attention to the fact that it would be impossible to determine whether or not any removal of rocks or sand had taken place, owing to sea action. If this is true it is very evident that the alleged removal of material could scarcely warrant the trouble of an "investigation."

An attempt was made to get the council committee together in this city Wednesday evening, but as this was a failure another attempt will be made during the coming week.

PJ 15 Feb 1902 -

Ald Phinney asked for the report of the special committee on Pest island. Ald Vaughan asked for further time as there had been no good weather to go to the island.

Ald Phinney then thought that it was about time to stop this farce, and he accused the committee of shielding a man, who was the object of the investigation. He suggested that the committee be discharged and when this was not done he offered to row the committee down to the island. The committee was finely given further time.

