

OLD ROCKAWAY'S CURIOUS HISTORY.

It is a Tale of Early Indian Grants, Shifting Sands and Endless Litigation.

A little over two hundred years ago the low lying rock of land, that portion of the south side of Long Island, known as Rockaway Neck, and the small-point of beach to the south and west east of it, known as Rockaway Beach, was solely the habitat of the red man...

duced a number of wealthy New York men, Governor John A. King, R. Howe and others, to buy a tract of this land in 1685...

The earliest record concerning the property is an old Indian deed, drawn up October 8, 1685, and acknowledged October 8, two days afterward, wherein Tackpovaha of Madnan's Neck...

The mark of Indian L. S. Sealed and delivered in the presence of Gov. Baxter, Brodway Johnson, S. Worland

The mark of Tackpovaha L. S. The mark of Tackpovaha's Oppassum. The mark of the horse. The mark of the Rappahannock. The mark of the Lottor.

This deed was also recorded, October 27, 1685, in the office of the secretary of the province of New York, signed by J. Sprague, Secretary of the council of New York. The Indian title was merely for occupancy.

was afterward by him cut up into building lots, which are now occupied by the residences of the most fashionable residents of the city...

The whole property remained tranquil in the possession of the Cornwall family until 1829, or for exactly one hundred years after Richard. Then the heirs of the four sons partitioned the property by order of the court of common pleas of Queens county...

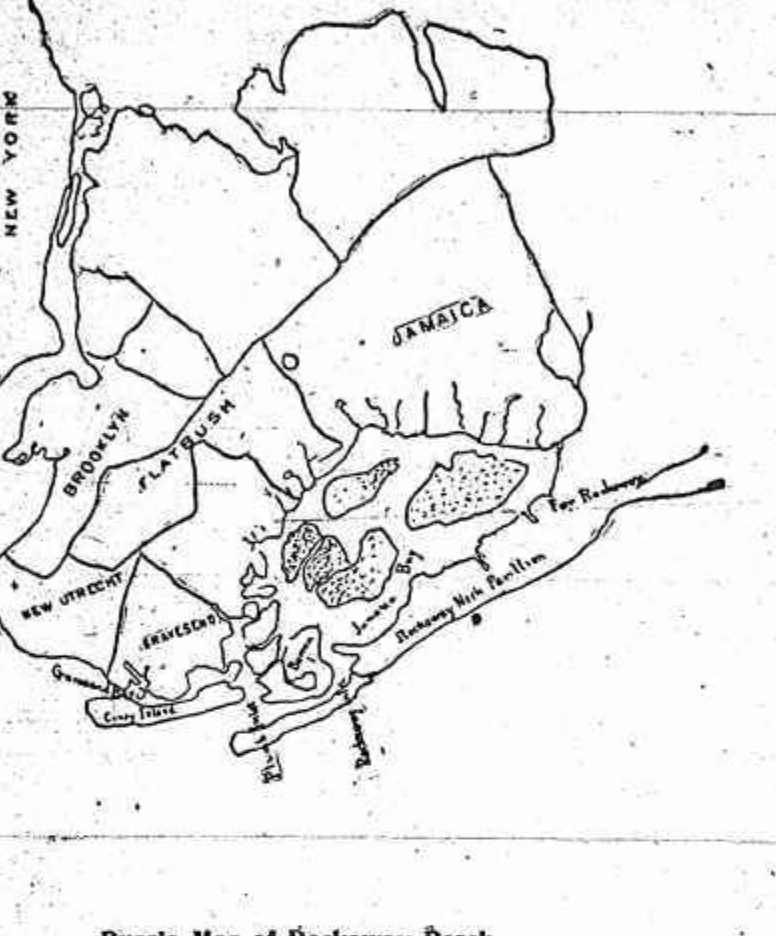
still claim all of lot No. 8 and of lots Nos. 10 and 11, except the portions they have sold to the Lancaster company, which built the Edgemoor hotel, and a few other parcels, which were purchased by wealthy private owners...

and expended \$30 for carriage-hire, etc.; first deed, release mortgage, searching records, acknowledgment, etc. The bill of Adam and Noah Brown for building the block house was \$2,261.65; Benjamin Corriell was \$119.14 for transportation by boat and carrying by carts the gun over the beach...

landed at the pier at the foot of First street and sometimes on the beach, if the tide or wind were too strong to make the other landing. Dr. Thompson also purchased other small pieces, one from Caffray, known as the Stringer tract, and others lying to the eastward of the pier...

veyed on August 15, 1879, the whole tract of 610 acres, except two small tracts sold to Aaron A. DeGrauw, for a site for a United States life saving station for \$200,000. Smith executed back to Aaron A. DeGrauw, who was Wright's financial backer, a purchase money mortgage for \$100,000.

Twenty-one ways of getting to and from the island, and West Brighton is tapped by the line of the whole number. More money is being invested in amusement enterprises this season than in any preceding three seasons put together...



Burr's Map of Rockaway Beach. Published by the State in 1840, With an Addition to Point of Beach, Showing Its Recent Growth to the West.

In 1853 Nello Lewis and Abraham Howlett sold a part of their father's claim to Samuel J. Soper and Samuel J. Soper's interest was conveyed through subsequent grantees to Michael J. Holland.

at public auction and was bought by Southard Bros., dealers in second hand materials, for \$20,000. It was torn down and carried away to the old lumber pier. The land was afterward conveyed to the Rockaway Beach Improvement company.

conveyed to the company, or Mr. Corbin as representative thereof, for \$2,000. At the time of the purchase the tract was bounded further into the ocean than where Brighton and Manhattan beach both stand.



A ATLANTIC OCEAN. SKETCH OF ROCKAWAY BEACH AND MARSH, Showing the Division Made by the Cornwall Heirs, in the 1809 Partition and the Extensions Showing the Extent of the Beach in 1840 and Its Present Area.

CONEY ISLAND OF TO-DAY

With the season of 1896 Coney Island enters upon a new era. Five cent fares are making the resort of multitudes compared with the crowds of former years dwindle into modest proportions.

View of Unimproved Section of Newer Made Portion of Beach Showing Sand Ridges and Cedars.