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Inn Keeper, Upper Town (Warren, Me.) 1764-1796

John McIntyre, son of William McIntyre, was born in 1724 in Boston, Mass., and died 30 November 1796 in Warren, Maine. He married about 1747 Mrs. Jane Lamb of Cushing, Mass., who died at Warren on 29 June 1800.

John McIntyre was the first licensed inn keeper in Upper Town which later became Warren, Maine, located on the St. Georges River. He was a son of William McIntyre, an Irish immigrant who arrived in Boston in 1720. William moved with his family prior to 1729 when he was listed as one of a group of twenty to thirty families, probably all Scotch-Irish, who were "of Pennaquid" in that year. Lots were drawn for settlement at St. Georges Fort 18 April 1735. Each settler received about 100 acres of land with 40 rods fronting on the river, at least 10 acres of good marsh or meadow, and the balance in unbroken forest.

Growing up on this river-front land, John was not unmindful of the advantages of such a location, and being a young man of vigorous industry, he soon noticed the suitability of the location for both an Inn and a Ferry. From the river, sea and forest came the travelers and much of the food served at the inn. There were heaping platters of venison, bear, wild goose and the favorite roasted alewives (herring). Native berries and acorns were also used. Corn, molasses and New England rum came in sloops from Boston such as the one operated by John's father, William.

The first written record of John McIntyre is dated 1752. With his father he signed the renewed Dummer Treaty with the Indians. This treaty specified that the white settlers could occupy the land below the point where salt water flowed, commonly called "head of tide". The Indians were to have all land above this point. John's name is found again on the list of the St. Georges Garrison in 1752 and in 1775. In 1775 he had attained the rank of Captain.

In 1758 John, administrator of his father's estate, stated that he spent eleven days in the woods searching for his father's

cattle. A license to operate a ferry across the river was given to John in 1763, allowing him to charge a fare of 2 coppers for each person and 2 for each horse. The following year he was issued a license to operate an inn, which became known as McIntyre's Inn. It was located in the large, one storey frame house that John had built for his family. The combination inn and family home was painted on the outside with red ochre. The main room's board floor was scrubbed and sprinkled with white sand arranged in patterns by the use of a broom of hemlock and spruce twigs. Along the walls were the cupboards on which stood the pewter flagons and platters used to serve the inn's guests. John, as a proper host, was dressed in petticoat trousers, his shoes of deerskin and his hair dressed in a club or queue.

John McIntyre seems to have been a direct and outspoken man as well as a forceful one. If asked by travelers whether they should settle in this area, he would reply in his "guttural" voice that they would need "to work or starve." At one Town Meeting he said of the incumbent, "This man's name we have heard too long! I will fill this office now."

Regardless of this forceful approach, John was greatly respected by his friends and neighbors. He set the tune for the singing at the church services. He also held several town offices, as tax assessor and constable and was the first Town Treasurer in 1775 when Warren became incorporated as a town. At this meeting it was voted that John McIntyre "is not adspected as a Tory." He was appointed to receive the ammunition for St. Georges. When the Committee of Safety was formed in 1782 to see that no Tories returned to Warren, it included the name of Captain John McIntyre. In 1790 he was still "keeping his tavern."

In John's will written five years later and proved in May of 1796, he deeded his lands to his three sons and sums of money to his daughters; the balance of his worldly goods to his beloved wife Jane, and at her death these to be divided equally between his daughters Jane, Mary and Catherine, "our children", and Elizabeth,

child of his wife. Thus ended the life of the genial host of McIntyre's Inn at age 72, a valued member of the community of Warren, Maine.

- Jane Logie Webster  
77-18

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