

**"THEY LIVE ON A ROCK IN
THE SEA!"
THE ISLES OF SHOALS IN
COLONIAL DAYS**

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"They Live on a Rock in the Sea!" The Isles of Shoals in Colonial Days by Jr. Penrose

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JR. PENROSE

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THE ISLES OF SHOALS IN
COLONIAL DAYS**

“They Live on a Rock
in the Sea!”

*The Isles of Shoals
in Colonial Days*

CHARLES PENROSE, JR.





*Within sight and sound
of the Sea!*

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On Star Island

“They Live on a Rock
in the Sea!”

*The Isles of Shoals
in Colonial Days*

CHARLES PENROSE, JR.

MEMBER OF THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY
PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK



THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY IN NORTH AMERICA
NEW YORK SAN FRANCISCO MONTREAL

1957



INTRODUCTION OF MR. PENROSE, AT PORTSMOUTH, ON
SEPTEMBER 17, 1957, BY CHARLES PENROSE, B.S.C., E.E.,
LL.D., D.ENG., LITT.D., L.H.D., F.R.S.A., THE SENIOR
VICE-PRESIDENT FOR NORTH AMERICA, IN THE SOCIETY.

My fellow members of Newcomen:

WE are met here at the historic seaport town of Portsmouth, whose prestige at one time rivalled that of Boston itself. We are met beside banks of a fast-flowing tidal Piscataqua, upon whose ebb and flow there journeyed during colonial days those many sails bound for the West Indies, for England, or for other coastwise towns in the British Colonies in North America. In short, we are met where early American Maritime history was made. John Paul Jones of Portsmouth added lustre to that history!



It was this same Piscataqua which furnished a salty channel to the Sea and for those hardy fishermen who dwelt at Gosport upon the rocky Isles of Shoals, which are within distant sight of where we meet this day.



And so it is appropriate that the present Newcomen Address, dealing with the lives and pursuits of those same fishermen, should be delivered at Portsmouth. And it was here, too, that His Majesty's Governor of the Royal Colony of New-Hampshire had his seat of government, centering in the Governor's Mansion which still stands. To these Colonial Governors did the people of the Isles of Shoals make their petitions upon occasion.

It would appear appropriate, likewise, that this narrative we are about to hear and the considerable research which it entailed should be undertaken by a younger member of the Society, who, although a Philadelphian, has been privileged to know coastwise New Hampshire and its adjacent Southern Maine since he was a small boy—and to become intrigued by the colorful and often romantic background of the Isles of Shoals. He comes naturally by an interest in the Sea and its lore, because his family during four generations were colonial shipbuilders in Pennsylvania.



As to our speaker's interest in the Society let it be said that, at the age of fourteen, he suggested the subject of what we made our "1935 Newcomen Pilgrimage." That was twenty-two years ago—and he still is interested.



And so I approach the happy task of introducing: CHARLES PENROSE, JR., our speaker.



His own active background centers in two directions: the United States Army and the pulp and paper industry.



At the age of 18, he enlisted as a private in the First Troop, Philadelphia City Cavalry, the so-called and famous "City Troop," which was General Washington's bodyguard throughout the American Revolution. Our speaker's ancestor, Samuel Penrose, was one of the seven founders of the Troop. Most of the Penroses, through the generations, have served in this same cavalry unit, including both of our speaker's brothers.



At the time of Charles Penrose, Jr.'s enlistment, the United States of America had not yet entered the Second World War, but the Nation was alerted to defense and Pearl Harbor was less than a year ahead.

Like many other units in the National Guard, the City Troop was destined ultimately to serve, both collectively and individually, in numerous branches of the Armed Forces. And so it resulted that our speaker saw military service in a quite extraordinary number of branches: Cavalry, Mechanized Cavalry, and the U.S. Air Corps (now the U.S. Air Force).



As a Captain in the Air Corps, he served in the Pacific theatre in New Guinea, the Halmaheras, the Philippines, and the Ryukyus, including Okinawa. He had contacts likewise with Australia and New Zealand.



The Second World War at an end, he returned to USA, and there followed some nine years' experience in the Paper Industry, successively with: Fitchburg Paper Company; the 100-year-old A. M. Collins Manufacturing Company, of which he was a Vice-President; and, later, when the latter was acquired by International Paper Company, he was connected with "I.P." headquarters at New York.



Early this year, he resigned from International Paper to become a needed Assistant to him who now introduces our speaker. In this, he made his own decision—and to great benefit both to his Father and to the Society.



His years of industrial experience were interrupted by the Korean War, in that he was called back into U.S. Army service, this time as a Captain in Field Artillery in Western Germany. In other words, our speaker has served in both the Pacific and European theatres.



At the end of this final tour of duty, he became an Honorary Member of the Philadelphia City Troop, having had 14 years of active or reserve military service.

And so, *Gentlemen*, I give you a younger member of this international Society: one upon whose efforts and intelligent interest and initiative the now 15,000 of you can rely with confidence—in future days.



I introduce a member of The Society of American Historians and of other bodies within the broad fields of history. I introduce: CHARLES PENROSE, JR., of Philadelphia and New York.

