

1917

# The Sieur de Monts National Monument

George B. Dorr

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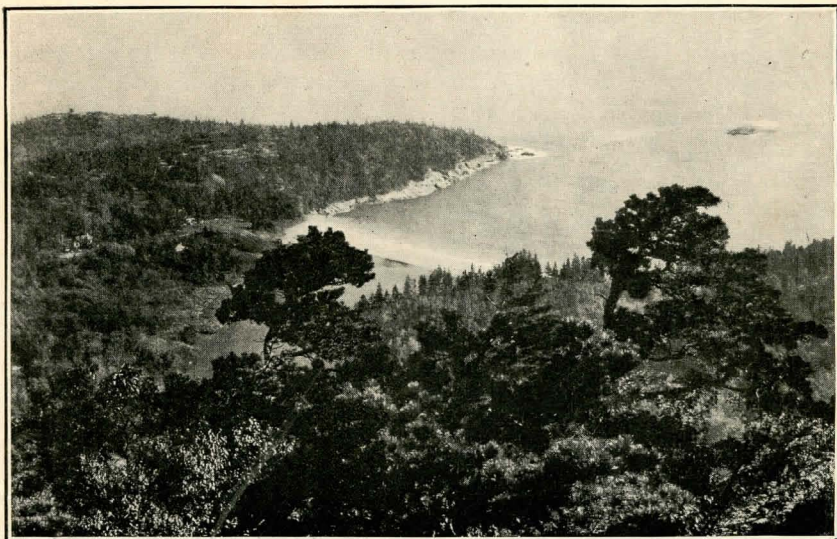
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Franklin K. Lane, Secretary.

## THE SIEUR DE MONTS NATIONAL MONUMENT.



Where Newport Mountain, the easternmost and boldest in the monument, comes down to meet the sea.

From National Geographic Magazine, Washington, D. C., copyright, 1916.

**T**HE Sieur de Monts National Monument was created by presidential proclamation July 8, 1916. It includes more than 5,000 acres on Mount Desert Island, Maine, directly south of Bar Harbor. In fact, its northern boundary lies within a mile of that famous resort. On the east it touches the Schoonerhead Road. On the south it approaches within a mile of Seal Harbor. It lies less than a mile northeast of Northeast Harbor. It is surrounded, in short, by a large summer population.

This superb area, for many years widely celebrated for its historical associations as well as its commanding beauty, includes four lakes and no less than 10 mountains. The lakes are Jordan Pond, Eagle Lake, Bubble Pond, and Sargent Mountain Pond. The Bowl lies just outside the boundary line. The mountains are Green Mountain, Dry Mountain, Pickett Mountain, White Cap, Newport Mountain, Pemetic Mountain, The Tryad, Jordan Mountain, The Bubbles, and Sargent Mountain.

The lands included in the Sieur de Monts National Monument have never formed a part of the public domain. Through the patriotism and generosity of the owners, known collectively as the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, they were presented to the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of the public. The creation of this monument extends the national parks service for the first time to the Atlantic coast.



Map of Sieur de Monts National Monument and surrounding region, Mount Desert Island, Maine.

### THE SIEUR DE MONTS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

BY GEORGE B. DORR.

*Executive of the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations.*

IN recommending for the President's acceptance the Sieur de Monts National Monument on the coast of Maine, Secretary Lane has widened importantly by a single stroke the scope and significance of the national parks development in America. For the first part the East, with its beautiful and varied scenery and crowded city population, takes an active part in that development and shares directly in its benefits. Ultimately every striking type of natural scenery in the country, east or west, should be represented in its most characteristic or inspiring form in the national parks system.

In illustration of this ideal, the new reservation on the Maine coast is singularly interesting. There is nothing like it elsewhere on the continent. A noble mass of ancient granite that once bore up a dominating Alpine height on its broad shoulders has been laid bare by time immeasurable and carved into forms of bold and striking

beauty by recent ice-sheet grinding. This granite mass, surrounded broadly by the ocean as the coast has sunk, constitutes with its ice-worn peaks and gorges and intervening lakes the national monument. The picturesque and broken lower lands between it and the sea, on which are the summer homes of men from the whole eastern country, form with the monument the island of Mount Desert, bearing still the name that Champlain gave it three centuries and more ago, when, exploring under De Monts's orders, he sailed into the shadow of its great eastern cliff on a September evening and beached his open boat on the Bar Harbor shore.

He reached the island, drawn by the beacon of its sharp-cut peaks against the western sky, in a single, long day's sail from where is now the boundary between the United States and Canada; he left it, guided by Indians whom he found cooking their dinner in a cavern by the sea, to enter, as he conceived it, the mouth of the Penobscot River, which he ascended, by island-sheltered waterways at first and the true river afterwards, to the head of tidal water at Bangor. This tells well the story of where the new national monument lies. It is readily accessible; boat or motor will take one there by pleasant, easy ways, and through trains run down to Bar Harbor, at its northern base, from New York and Boston.

It is a unique and splendid landscape, revealing the ocean in its majesty as no lesser or more distant height can do, and exhibiting wonderfully the interest and beauty of the northern vegetation.

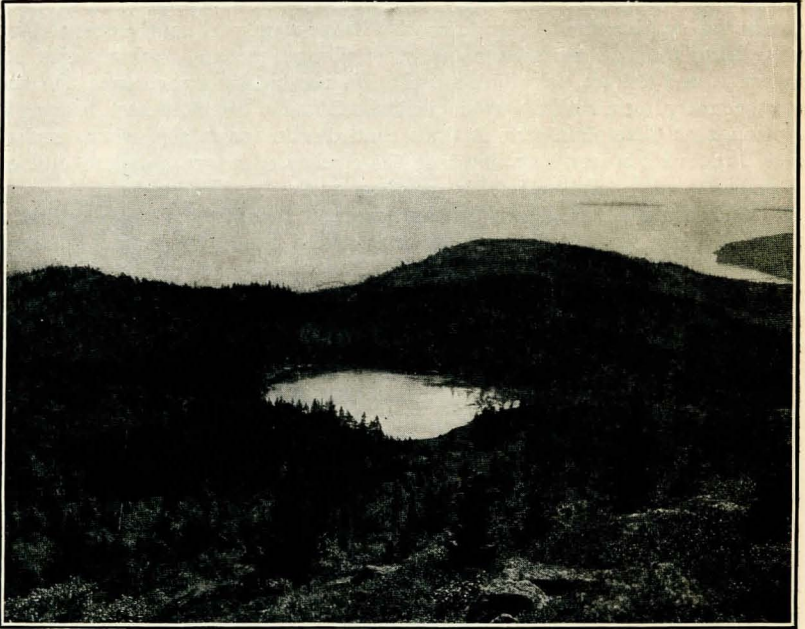
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Further papers on the Sieur de Monts National Monument may be obtained, with other information, from the custodian, Sieur de Monts National Monument, Park Road and Main Street, Bar Harbor, Maine.

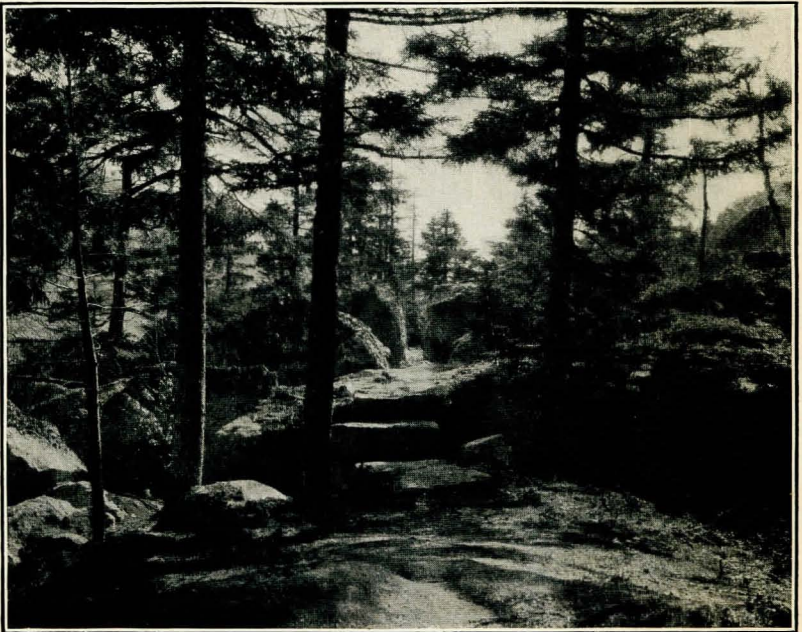


Sieur de Monts Tarn from the entrance to the Kane and Diedrich paths. Fringing it are seen the Schermerhorn and Eliot Woods.

From National Geographic Magazine, Washington, D. C., copyright 1916.



Sieur de Monts Arboretum and Wild Gardens. The Bowl, a little mountain lake, 400 feet above the sea and deep in woods, that makes the foreground to a great ocean view.



A narrow passage on the Kane Memorial Path built along the Tarn side between the Gates of Eden.