## 1851-12-29 Report of Smallpox Outbreak Among Passamaquoddy in Calais

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Transcription:

Calais, Dec. 29th 1851

In consequence of some apprehension that smallpox had broken out among the Indians encamped on Gordon's Island, Big Lake, Mr. Avery requested me to visit the place and report the facts to him together with such measures as were necessary to be adopted in the circumstances.

I accordingly visited the Island on the inst., where I found seven camps in all inhabited by about thirty Indians. One camp had been alloted to the sick in which I found two suffering from smallpox.

Three were reported to have died and one to have recovered. The face of the latter bore ample testimony to his having had the disease.

The Indians seemed destitute and from the alarm existing through the county around, were unable to pursue their usual route for food. Having vaccinated and rendered them such other medical assistance as the circumstances admitted of, I returned and recommended Mr. Avery to station some intelligent man, who had had smallpox, upon the island, with instructions to confine the sick to the camp already occupied by them with a nurse to prevent all others of the community from visiting this camp, to keep all on the island who had been exposed to infection and also to prevent others approaching it from abroad.

He of course would supply them on the island with all necessary food, clothing, and medicine. In this course alone could I see any hope of avoiding a general prevalence of the disease among the tribe.

I also recommended that the Indians, in that neighborhood at least, should be generally vaccinated.

These measures I understand he has carried out as far as possible and with the good result of at least confining the disease so far to the original spot. I understand that three more have died since my visit to them making six in all. One remains sick at the present time.

Chas E. Swan, MD

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