

The Second Fall upstream is Ammoncongin Fall at Cumberland Mills in Westbrook, at or near the S.D. Warren/Sappi (South African Pulp and Paper Industry) papermill's dam. It is over six miles upstream from First Fall, and over eight and one-half miles upstream from seaside at Martins Point Bridge—well away from the sea-going Tarentines. Also, it is only around one mile downstream from the Third Fall, Saccarappa, at the old Dana Warp Mill on Bridge Street in Westbrook.

In my estimation, this is a wise locale to look for A-Towne: a mile-wide ribbon on each side along the river, starting at the Portland-Westbrook boundary below Second Fall (an area relatively “undeveloped” today) and extending upstream to above Third Fall. No luck? Extend yet more easterly to the Westbrook-Falmouth boundary (also a less-developed area). My reasoning comes from reading several nineteenth- and twentieth-century comments about local historical and geological events—comments that may seem less than best today but nonetheless emerge from old-time field experiences and folk knowledge largely overlooked today, if remembered at all. Let's consider one such historical comment.

In his 1623-1624 explorations, Christopher Levett states that he “went about three miles” up the Presumpscot. (From seaside at US 1 to First Fall, I measure two and one-half miles.) Yet he also states, regarding First Fall, “further a boat cannot go, but above the fall the river runs smooth again.”¹⁸ Earlier, Levett may have been farther up the Presumpscot by another route, as Charles S. Forbes suggests in “The Story of the Presumpscot,” namely, via the Fore and/or Capisic and/or Stroudwater Rivers.¹⁹ Levett states that he went “six miles up” the Fore River, which probably means inclusive of its Capisic or Stroudwater neighbors. Forbes wrote:

When Levett explored the [Fore] river . . . he must have found the *Indian planting ground which was a short distance below the [Presumpscot Second] falls at Cumberland Mills [by walking to it from the south-west]. . . .* George Munjoy . . . had found his way to that part of the Presumpscot and in 1666 bought of the sagamores Nunateconett and Warabitta the land which was “to begin on the other side of the Ammoncongin [Presumpscot] river at the great falls, and go down the riverside to the *lowermost planting ground*,” etc. This was the deed of the famous *mile square*.²⁰

An Indian planting ground may or may not mean that an Indian village was nearby. It may have been important both to hide the corn from raiders and to keep the village nearer the coast for traders. However, even if A-Towne