

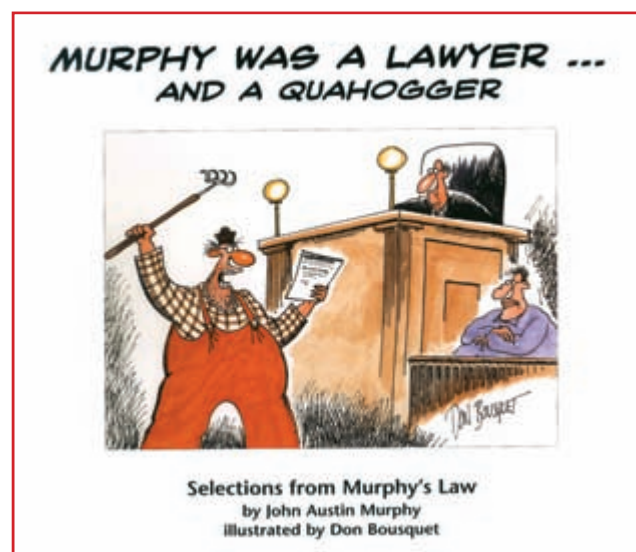
OVERALLS IN CHOWDER?

Murphy, the quahoggin' lawyer, says it's a calumny he's long resented that Mrs. Murphy put overalls in chowder: "The missus only uses the fresh quahogs gathered up by me in her chowdah. And don't go trying to get me to tell ya my secret clammin' spot."

"And she never puts milk or tomatoes into her chowder, either! Nothin' but quahogs, onions, potatoes, salt pork, black pepper and branch water."

And the rumor that Murphy gets a good long quahoggin' season because he frequents the warm waters off the end of a sewer outfall is nothing but a base lie: "My competitors will spout anything to drag me down. If I ketch one spreading that bilge slop, I'll put a writ of body attachment on him he'll never forget."

And that's the beauty of combining two of mankind's highest callings. Find out what all the talk is about: pick up your own copy of "Murphy was a Lawyer...and a Quahogger" at most Jamestown shops, including Jamestown Designs, Jamestown Hardware, Baker's Pharmacy, the Jamestown Press, and the Jamieson Salon. And if you want the book personally signed by the author, feel free to stop by his office at 77 Narragansett Avenue.



TASHTASSUC PRESS

Eldred's one-gun battery

In the 1770s, before the birth of this country, Narragansett Bay was the setting for many small confrontations between the British Navy and Rhode Islanders. Jamestowners were living in prosperity, with their main source of income coming from farming and agriculture. The Conanicut Island farmers raised sheep and cattle, produced cheese and vegetables, as well as established open trade with the islands of the West Indies. Jamestown's age of prosperity was short lived, however.

In 1772, Providence rebels captured a British Naval vessel, the HMS Gaspee, and burned her into the sea. In retaliation, the British launched raiding campaigns pillaging cattle for food and supplies. To protect its citizens, the Rhode Island General Assembly ordered Jamestown's livestock moved to South Kingstown, a safer haven at the time.

Many of the islanders fled, but one citizen, John Eldred, took matters into his own hands. Eldred's property was mostly farmland with a few trees, and this provided Eldred with a clear view of the East Passage of Narragansett Bay. And, it was here Eldred placed a single cannon placed two boulders, where he would often fire at passing British ships. The cannon sat 90-feet above sea level and only about five hundred feet from the shore, thus providing a direct line of fire at any passing vessel. Eldred's cannon could fire across the passage, although its accuracy was limited to half that distance.

After repeated shots fired, Eldred was successful, putting a cannonball through the mainsail of a British ship. The British responded by sending a company of marines to seize the cannon. In December of 1775 the British marines raided Jamestown, burning most of the houses on Narragansett Avenue, consequently driving away Jamestown's population. Many fled to Newport.

Eldred, however, was never seized by the British marines, although his cannon was found and spiked, so it could never be used again. Furthermore, the batteries (small forts) established by the colonials, Eldred Battery, as well as Fort Dumpling, were destroyed during the British occupation. But Eldred's legacy still lives on, as Jamestown's army of one. ▲

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