SWEDES SETTLED ALONG MAURICE RIVER, NEAR MILLVILLE, DURING 1638

Old Store Book Shows Prices

And There Appears to Be Little Difference Between the Figures of 1876 and Those of Today.

Millville, January 12—Prices in 1876 and 1876 were not far different. An old store book possessed by Bert Kent displays some interesting figures. The book itself is in “account with Whitall Tatum & Co., Dealers in dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, provisions, etc.”

The book shows that Mr. Kent was paying 50 cents for butter; raisins, 35 cents; eggs, 35 cents; sugar, 12 cents a pound; quarts of honey, 20 cents; potatoes, 12 cents; peashoots, 12 cents; one-half gallon of vinegar, 20 cents; and 11 cents a quart of milk.

In 1876, butter dropped to 42 cents a pound. Sausage cost 18 cents; coffee 12 cents.

A pecan tree, the only tree that the gravel bank of the Maurice River is, is a steep incline leading to the eastern shore. At low tide one finds plenty of crabs on the rocks. The bank is a favorite watering place for ducks. The homes of these Swedes might have been upon the exact spot where the water of the river is now flowing.

But, anyway, in the absence of any positive evidence that there was an earlier settlement in the county, the declaration that the Swedes did establish a little colony below Millville on the lands of Prince Maurice River, can be accepted as a tradition, if not in fact, and it can also be said that the white folk to reach Cumberland County.