from Leslie Feinberg August 2011 transgenderwarrior.org
my research notes on the medical politics driving the "Lyme Wars"

Part 29:
The center of the epidemic bullseye: Plum Island

Medical literature describes the modern Lyme/+ disease epidemic in the United States as first reported in 1975 in Old Lyme, Connecticut.

A 1989 American Journal of Public Health editorial described the outbreak of the epidemic: "The story of Lyme disease is a fascinating account of modern medical science. It begins in 1975 when two mothers in the town of Old Lyme, Connecticut became concerned over the large number of cases of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis occurring in their small community."

That outbreak reportedly affected a cluster of 39 children and 12 adults who lived in close proximity.

Googling the phrase "Montauk knee," however, turns up reports of another outbreak, much earlier. Referring to the 1975 Lyme cluster in Old Lyme, Time Magazine stated, "But it is unlikely that the disease really was newly hatched in that area. Decades earlier, on Long Island in New York, a pesky swelling called Montauk knee was causing trouble." (June 24, 1991)
Just six miles from Old Lyme, Connecticut, and less than two miles offshore from Montauk in the Long Island Sound, is an infectious-diseases biological warfare research lab on Plum Island.

Researchers on Plum Island reportedly experimented with tick colonies as disease delivery systems.

Author Michael Christopher Carroll, who spent seven years researching Plum Island and visited the bio-warfare lab complex, pointed to the geography of the modern Lyme epidemic in the U.S. He observed, "You can pinpoint cases of Lyme disease on a map of the United States by drawing a circle around the area of largest infection. Now you can tighten that circle until a single point is reached.

"That point? Plum Island. Spokes radiate outward from this point and pass through neighborhoods boasting the highest rates of Lyme disease contamination in the nation." ("Lab 257," Harper: 2005, p. 18)

The possible vectors of transmission from the island?

Carroll used maps to make his point: "Plum Island, an untrammeled plot of wild nature, lies in the middle of the Atlantic flyway, the bird migration highway that runs between breeding grounds and winter homes from the Caribbean to the Florida coast, up the East Coast to the icy reaches of Greenland." (pp. 18-19)

Carroll continued, “When biological security was taken seriously in the early 1950s, deer were shot on sight by trained snipers. Even puppies and dogs, fatefully setting their paws on the island’s beaches with their owners, would be euthanized. By 1975, germs on Plum Island increased in both numbers and virulence—but safety and security measures moved in the opposite direction.”

Carroll reported, “Tests were supposed to be held in airtight laboratory rooms. Instead, internal government documents prove there were gaping holes in the lab roofs where air currents and insects freely came and went, depending upon the direction of the wind.” (p. 21)

Carroll described test animals, injected with virus vaccines, held in outdoor pens, fed from open-air feeding troughs. He said Plum Island workers reported birds flying in and out of the pens to feed from the same troughs. “One eyewitness reported seeing deer entering the animal pens to feed.” (p. 21)

Carroll provides source material from the seven years of research data in his book, “Lab 257.” He concluded a possible connection between Plum Island and the outbreaks of three geographically nearby infectious disease epidemics: Dutch duck plague in 1967, Lyme disease in 1975 and West Nile virus in 1999.

Next: Why would Lyme be useful as a biowarfare agent?