

Dennys River Historical Society
Newsletter

Volume One

Number One

January 1988



Sidney Hobart, a resident of Edmunds, hauling firewood with his oxen about 100 years ago.

SOCIETY NEWS

Our first organizational meeting, held November 4, 1987, at the Lincoln Memorial Library, was attended by ages 23 to 77, people from away, and direct descendents of our town fathers! We were astonished and delighted at the turn out.

Officers elected were Ron Windhorst, President Pro Tem.; Beth Mills, Vice President; Rebecca Hobart, Secretary; and Mary Haggerty, Treasurer.

The following Committees were established:

Program: June Hallowell, Beth Mills
Housing: William Cook, Milton Lyons, Ray Robinson
Newsletter: William Cook, Mary Haggerty, Rebecca Hobart, Geneva and John Longmore

Regular Society meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of every month. The public is most welcome to attend these meetings; we are actively seeking new members and/or helpers.

Newsletters, with any luck, will be mailed quarterly to active members.

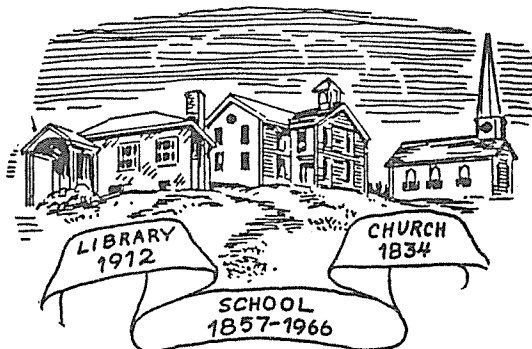
Please direct your inquiries to any of the above officers or chairpersons.

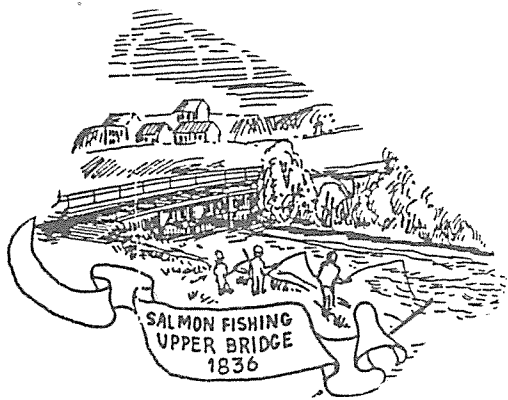
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Society members as of January 25, 1988:

Geneva and John Longmore
Rebecca Hobart
Bill Cook
Ray Robinson
June Hallowell
Barbara & Ron Windhorst
Colin Cruickshank
Mary & Jerry Haggerty
Martha Paull
Mina & Don Phinney
Harry Lingley

Jane & John Dudley
Ralph Preston
Fred Gralenski
I' Louise & Merrill Kilby
Eleanor Forsyth
Dwight Mahar
Beth Mills
Milton Lyons
Beverlee Beers
Albert Mahar





DENNYS RIVER CURRENT NEWS

First Woman Postmaster

An item of interest to folks in the Dennysville-Edmunds area was the appointment of Abigail Downes to the position of postmaster of Lubec. This was a historic moment for Lubec as she is the first woman postmaster in the town's history.

Mrs. Downes' son, Fletcher, held the Bible as Paul Davis of Bangor administered the oath of office.

Mr. Davis also presented her with a plaque for her many years of service in the postal department.

Party Held for Neil MacLauchlan

Neil MacLauchlan was the guest of honor at a surprise party held at the Lincoln House Jan. 8.

Those present included Mr. and Mrs. Keith Damon, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Windhorst, Mr. and Mrs. John Longmore, Miss Rebecca Hobart, Mr. Lewis Lyons, Mr. Colin Cruickshank, Mr. Harry Lingley, Mrs. Shirley Wilder, Mr. Robert Wilder, Mr. Milton Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Marsh, and the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Heggerty.

Several of those present were former students of Mr. MacLauchlan, and they enjoyed reminiscing about their school days.

Delicious refreshments were served and enjoyed by everyone.

Clyde Lingley Honored

A large group of relatives and friends gathered Sunday, Jan. 10, in the E.D.M. Youth Center to pay tribute to Clyde Lingley upon the occasion of his retirement. He has owned and operated, with his son, Wayne, the local Texaco Garage, which will now be carried on by Wayne.

Roy Kilby served as M.C. He related several humorous episodes in Clyde's career, and instructed him in the rules and regulations of the "Loafers' Round Table", of which he said Clyde is now a member. He joins Raymond Burns, Roland Sadler, and Lewis Lyons at the "Round Table".

Roy read a letter to Clyde from Dr. Arthur West of Suffolk University, expressing his gratitude for efficient work done on University vehicles.

Bill Varney presented Clyde with a plaque in behalf of Varney's Auto Supplies.

A toast was then proposed to Clyde, all present wishing him many years of happy, well-deserved retirement.

Mural Installed at Edmunds School

A clay relief, made up of 100 tiles, has been installed in the Edmunds school, located by the door to the reading room, as an invitation to the pupils into the fantasy world of books.

The eight by four foot mural features a church and schoolhouse at the top, while the bottom shows an assortment of unusual books and fictional characters. The two sections are connected by a stone road. The Edmunds work was commissioned by the state's Percent for Art program, and the school has two more art works coming -- a landscape done in fabric by Jo Diggs of Portland, and a wrought-iron eagle by Douglas Wilson of Deer Isle.

Herbert Wilder

The entire community was greatly saddened by the untimely death of Herbert Wilder.

He met with a tragic accident en route to a fire, in his capacity as fireman.

In addition to being a member of the fire department and ambulance service, Mr. Wilder was an active member of the local church and library, and participated in many other local activities. He was well-known and admired for his unfeeling kindness and always being ready to "lend a helping hand". He will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his father, Robert Wilder, of Dennysville, one son, Roger A. Wilder of Harwich, Mass., one daughter, Margaret Wilder of South Yarmouth, Mass., 2 grandchildren, Michael and Rebecca, one close nephew, David, of Dennysville, and several nieces and nephews.

EVELYN D. BROWN

EDMUNDS — Evelyn D. Brown, 76, died Dec. 7, 1987, at a Bangor hospital after a brief illness. She was born in Edmunds, April 12, 1911, the daughter of Alvin and Diantha (Gardner) Cox. Mrs. Brown was a member of the Congregational Church and the Legion Auxiliary, both of Dennysville. She is survived by one sister, Bertha Finnerty of Goffstown, N.H.; one niece, Diane Clapp of Goffstown, N.H.; one nephew, Dexter Cox of Merrimac, N.H.; two stepsons, Thurland Brown of Cherryfield and Willard Brown of South Thomaston. She was predeceased by her first husband, Harland Foss and her second husband, Leroy W. Brown, both of Edmunds. Funeral services will be held at the convenience of the family in the South Edmunds Cemetery. Friends who wish may make donations in her memory to either the Dennysville Legion or the Dennysville Ambulance Corps. Funeral arrangements by Campbell Funeral Home, Cherryfield.

Wedding

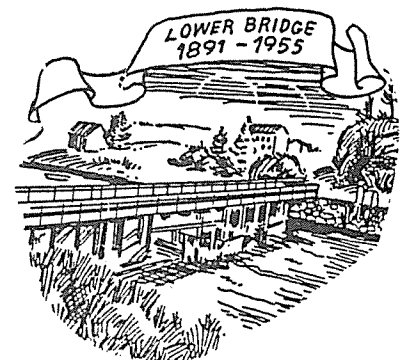
Curtis — York

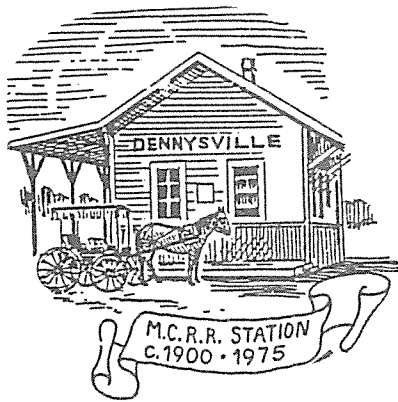
Diane Elizabeth Curtis, daughter of Raymond and Eleanor Curtis of Dennysville, and Robert John York, son of Richard and Joyce York of Skowhegan, were married on October 17, at the Centenary United Methodist Church of Skowhegan.

Matron of honor was Julie Webber of Vienna. Best man was Larry Bonneau of Dexter.

Robert is a graduate of Skowhegan High School and is a manager of Motor Supply Co.

Diane is a graduate of the School of Radiologic Technology of Portland and is employed by Redington-Fairview General Hospital in Skowhegan.





MAIL BAG

11/15/87: I would like to join the Dennys River Historical Society. It is good to hear from others and to read in the papers about the progress the group is making. Best wishes for future success. I am looking forward to the first newsletter.

Harry Lingley
Whitneyville, ME

11/23/87: We would like to become members of the Dennys River Historical Society. Enclosed is a check for our dues.

Ralph Preston
Roseburg, OR

12/2/87: We are new to the area but very interested in the history of the area. Hope to make the meeting.

Fred Gralenski
Pembroke, ME

12/11/87: We've been meaning to send the enclosed check since we saw in Quoddy Tides that you all were forming the Historical Society. Such a good idea. Merrill and I want to join although we may never get to a meeting. Please remind us when dues are due.

I' Louise & Merrill Kilby
Jenkintown, PA

12/15/87: Congratulations on the new Dennys River Historical Society.

Helengrace L. Brown
Seattle, WA

12/18/87: Congratulations on the Historical Society. It's a big job, I know. Do you let descendants from Washington State belong? If so, please send an application.

Ruth Curtis
Edmonds, WA

1/22/88: I'm enclosing my membership fee for the Historical Society. I want to be sure to receive the Newsletter. Bet you've been busy working on it.

Beverlee Beers
Ellsworth, ME



FRED L. GARDNER'S JOURNALS 1878-1944

Frederick L. Gardner was born in Dennysville April 3, 1862, the fourth son and youngest child of Aaron Leeman Raymond (A.L.R.) and Abigail (Reynolds) Gardner. His parents' home, in which he lived until after his 1888 marriage, was located on King Street at the head of The Lane on the site now occupied by the dwelling of Edward Leighton. Those were the days of schooners and wharves; horses and oxen; buggies and sleighs; saw mills and woods camps; and oyster suppers, evangelists and excursions "down river".

On January 1, 1878, three months before his 16th birthday, Fred Gardner started making daily entries in a journal, a custom which he followed almost without interruption during the rest of his long and busy life.

At the age of 15 he was a 150-pound high school student who "swept out" the schoolhouse for 75¢ a week. He worked in the store as "counter jumper and operator (telegraph)" for 75¢ a day or for ten cents an evening. He assisted his father in replacing shoes on horses, oxen, wagon wheels, and sled runners. He helped with plowing, harrowing, hauling manure, weeding, hoeing, picking potato bugs, digging potatoes, mowing hay and grain (by hand with a scythe), slaughtering hogs and cattle, and the cutting and manufacturing of firewood.

With a team of horses and a cart he hauled freight for the store from the schooners tied up at the Allen's wharf in Edmunds or, when the river was frozen, from Eastport. He was a regular attendant at the worship service Sunday morning, at Sabbath School in the afternoon, and at a Praise Service or Sabbath School concert in the evening.

As a member of the Dennysville Brass Band, he played his cornet for special occasions. He was Secretary of the Lyceum and attended the Circle of the Congregational Church. From his meager earnings he purchased his own clothing, paying 60¢ for a pair of rubbers, \$8.00 for a suit of clothes, \$1.50 for a pair of pants, 33¢ for suspenders, and \$8.50 for an overcoat.

Two of Fred's older brothers, George and Edwin (Ned) were married in 1877. His older sister, Julia, had died in infancy. In 1878 Fred was living at home with his parents, his 20-year old sister, Eva, and his 22-year old brother, Charles.

The following entries from Fred's journal provide invaluable insight into not only his life but also that of his family and the community in which they lived.

Jan. 1, 1878 Pleasant all day. Went to school in a. m. and half the p. m. Went skating in the evening up to Milwaukee. No snow on the ground.

Mar. 1, 1878 School all day. We all went to Lyceum in the eve. Dr. Sheahan told a story about his capture and escape (Civil War). Band played several times during evening.

(An evangelist held daily meetings, often morning, afternoon, and evening, in either Dennysville or Edmunds, Mar. 11 - 24)

Mar. 24, 1878 Meetings all day, no Sabbath School in p. m. Great interest in the meetings. About one hundred and seventy converts, myself included, for the past two weeks. Our last meeting of the series.

May 30, 1878 Decoration. Pleasant all day. Went after flowers in morning for p.m. Then played baseball with Hardscrabble. Beat them. Band played in p. m. and went up to graveyard. Went to entertainment in the Hall in the evening.

June 20, 1878 Stayed in store for Ned in a. m. School in p. m. Mercury stood at 94 in shade.

July 2, 1878 Been awful hot all day. Think if we have much more such weather we shall all depart. In the store a.m. To school in p.m. School closed glad to say. Father hoed potatoes a.m. and p.m.

July 4, 1878 Calathumpian in the mng. (morning). Got breakfast at the Hotel. At the Hall p. m. and eve.

July 10, 1878 Went down river with Charles Whittier in eve. Camped on Wilbur's Neck all night.

July 24, 1878 Grand Excursion. Very beautiful all day. Went down river in the mng. in the sloop on a pleasure trip. C. T. Estebrooke and son, Charles Kilby, Mr. Tower, Mr. Whittier and two sons, Dr. Sheahan, L. K. Gardner and two sons, Father and myself went to Q. T. (Eastport), then toward White Horse but came back and stopped at Fairhaven (Deer Island) over night.

July 25, 1878 Beautiful all day. Started about 8:30 a. m. and went to Pendleton's Isle then went and looked through Petit Passage, then went to St. Croix River and went to Docies Isle (Dochet) then to Red Beach. An excursion from Calais was there. Then went back to Q. T. and spent the night.

July 26, 1878 Cloudy all day. Rained all p.m. We went to Welch Pool in the a.m. With a light wind we started for home and arrived about seven. Father and Mr. Easterbrooke got a suit of clothes at Bradfords. We were all pleased with our trip.

Aug. 10, 1878 Got our Band Stand done today.

Sept. 18, 1878 Led heifer over to fair (Pembroke) in a. m. and got second premium.

Sept. 25, 1878 Was digging ditches and rocks in a. m. Pulled and shelled beans and yoked calves in p. m. Father and Charles plowed all day. Went to meeting in eve.

Oct. 14, 1878 Began to dig a well. At school in a. m. and dug in p. m.

Oct. 15, 1878 Helped dig in morn., school in a.m., helped dig in p.m. Went to "husking" at A.R. Lincoln's (Albert) in eve.

Nov. 28, 1878 Thanksgiving. Went to meeting in a. m. on other side (Edmunds). Band played. Methodist house looked first rate.

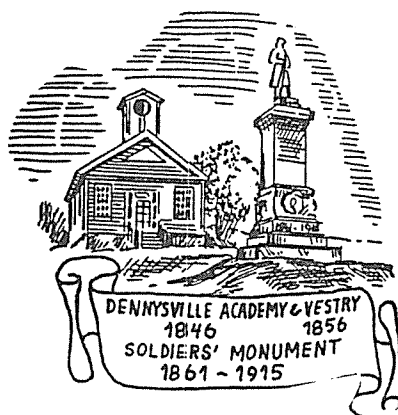
Dec. 23, 1878 Went to Hall in eve. Band played. Had great time. Money was for painting the church.

Dec. 24, 1878 Went to Capt. Geo. Dudley's with a message (telegram) horseback. Christmas eve. Had Bible from Ned, book from Eva, gloves from Mother. Thankful.

Dec. 25, 1878 Christmas. Went skating in a. m. Was at store part of p. m. Got diary from Charles.

At the end of the year Fred L. Gardner made a special entry:
Schooner Mary - Dennysville. Was run into July, 1877, by a steamer in Long Island Sound. Henry Hooper, Capt. Hallowell, and Charles Lewton were drowned. Ed Preston alone saved. Schooner was loaded with coal and sunk. It was foggy and in the night.

Bernard Gardner of Gorham, Maine has given permission for excerpts from his grandfather's journals to be used in this and future D. R. H. S. newsletters.



GENEALOGICAL QUERIES and ANSWERS

Query #1 Mayhew

William Mayhew died in Dennysville in 1827. Where was he born and who were his parents?

Russell Mann, M.D.
9001 Olney Park Dr.
Redding, Ca. 96001

Answer to Query #1 Mayhew

Captain Elisha Mayhew of Scituate and Newburyport Mass., came to Machias, Me. in 1774 and moved to Bucks Harbor, Me. in 1790. He was lost at sea. He married about 1762 Priscilla; Webber of Plymouth, Mass. Their children were Thomas; John; Zebedee; Priscilla, m. Oct. 7, 1798 William Sanborn; Hannah, b. 1775, d. May 25, 1882 at Dennysville, m. May 6, 1799, Judge Theodore Lincoln; and William C., b. 1778, Machias, Me., d. Nov. 16, 1827 at Dennysville, m. abt. 1800 Deborah Wilder (1782-1832), daughter of Capt. Theophilus and Lydia (Cushing) Wilder.

Send queries and/or information for answers to Rebecca W. Hobart, Rte. 1, Box 201, Dennysville, ME. 04628

Dennysville, Maine
January 22, 1988

Dear Reader:

We hope you will enjoy our first issue of the D.R.H.S. Newsletter. We invite your comments, suggestions, genealogical queries, helpful information, and interesting pictures. We urge you to enroll as a member and support our endeavor.

Sincerely,
The Newsletter Committee

I want to become a member of the Dennys River Historical Society and receive quarterly issues of the D.R.H.S. Newsletter.

Name _____

Address _____

Birthday _____

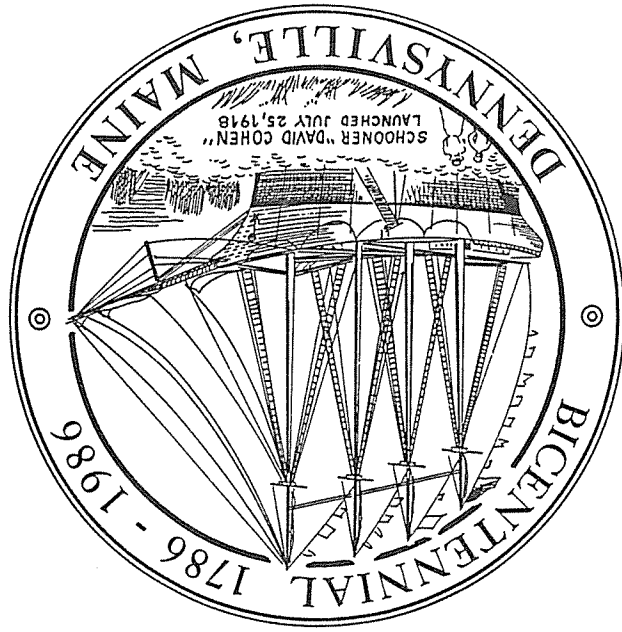
Month

Day

Year

(Optional)

Send the above form and \$5.00 membership dues per person to Mary Haggerty, Treasurer, Lincoln House, Dennysville, ME 04628.



Denny River
Historical Society

Pushcart 1880s
12.5



Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Eschweiler
2659 No. Terrace Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53211