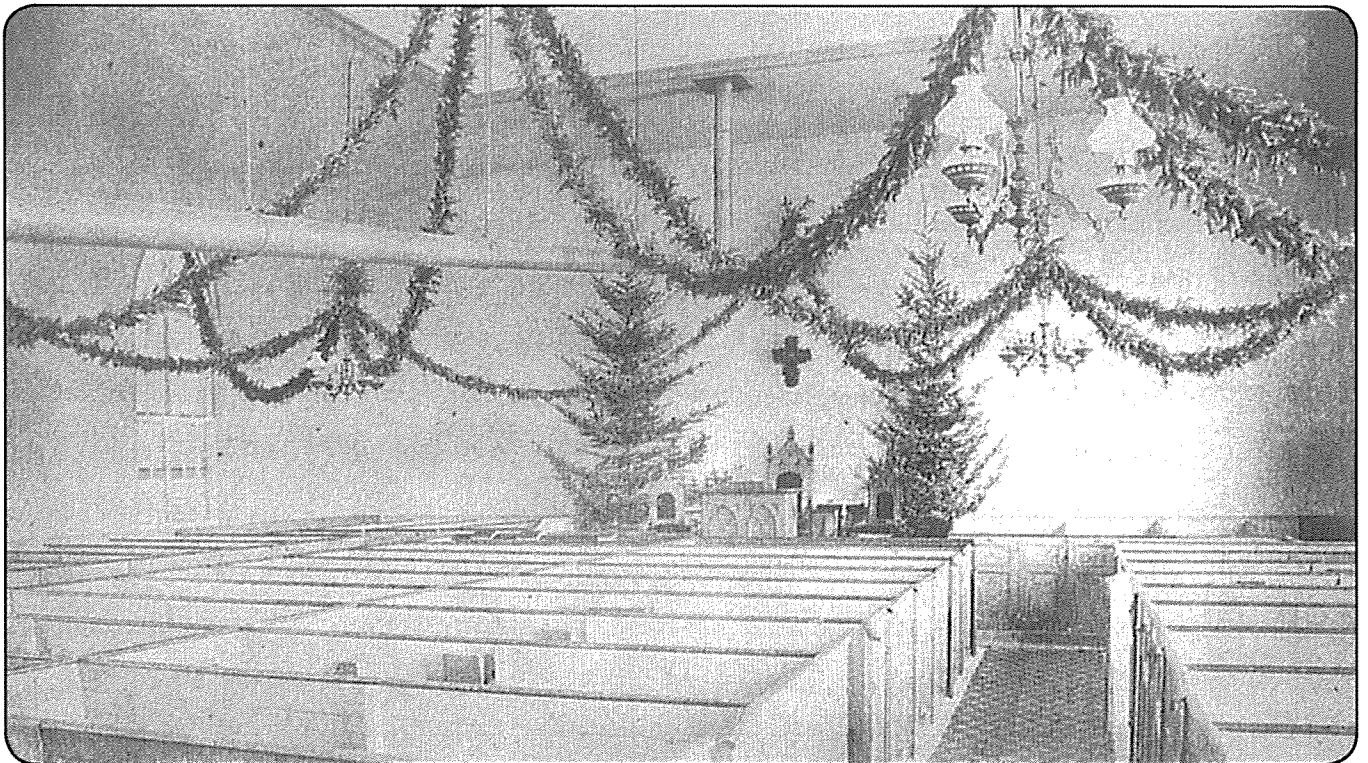


Dennys River Historical Society Newsletter

Volume Twenty-Five

Number One

February 2012



The sanctuary of the Meeting House decorated for Christmas services.

The chandeliers which were holding kerosene lamps, the long stovepipe, and the pews in the left front corner indicate this is not a recent picture.

The structure was wired for electricity in 1949. The old wood furnace and unsightly stovepipe were removed in 1966.

The date of the disappearance of the left front pews is not known.

DENNYS RIVER CURRENT NEWS



**BETH (FISHER)
GARDNER**

ELLSWORTH - Beth Fisher Gardner, 98, died Jan. 21, 2012, at an Ellsworth hospital. She was born Oct. 7, 1913, in Pembroke, daughter of Carroll E. and Esther J. (Wilder) Fisher. She attended schools in Pembroke, Machias Teachers College and the University of Maine, Orono. Beth married Ralph Allan Gardner Jr., Aug. 24, 1940. She taught at Pembroke High School, was a substitute teacher in the Ellsworth school system, and was assistant librarian at Ellsworth City Library. She was initiated into the Eastern Star membership in 1956. Beth was a member of Pennamaquan Chapter No. 146, W.M. - W.P. from 1963 to 1964; grand representative to Virginia, 1964-1967; grand chaplain of Maine, 1981-1982; associate grand cando, 1982-1983; worthy grand matron, 1985-1986; member of Adoption Committee of General Grand Chapter, 2000-2003; member of Ellsworth Rainbow Assembly No. 9 Advisory Board, president of Ellsworth Federation Women's Club and district president No. 8 of Maine Federation of Women's Clubs. Beth enjoyed golf, horseback riding and traveling. She is survived by her daughter, Arolyn Garrity and husband, Larry, of Otis; grandchildren, Reid Garrity and wife, Christine, of Castine and Ryan Garrity and wife, Briana, of Ellsworth; great-grandchildren, Sydney and Carter, both of Ellsworth, and Charlotte of Castine; also many nieces and nephews She was predeceased by her husband, Allan; and sisters, Evelyn Fisher Sturke and Dorothy Fisher Whitney.

Beth (Fisher) Gardner's husband, Ralph Allan Gardner, Jr., was the son of Ralph Allan, Sr., & Almeda (Johnson) Gardner; the grandson of Edwin R. & Ada (Allan) Gardner; and the great grandson of Aaron Leeman Raymond (A.L.R.) & Abigail (Reynolds) Gardner. Edwin R. and Fred L. Gardner were brothers.

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**MARY (SYLVIA)  
MILLETT**

BEVERLY, MASS. - Mary (Sylvia) Millett, 90, died on Friday, November 11, 2011, in the Kaplan Family Hospice House in Danvers, Mass., surrounded by her loving family, after a brief unexpected illness. She was the loving wife of the late Wilbur F. Millett, with whom she had shared 63 years of marriage before he died in 2001.

Born in Dennysville on December 10, 1920, she was the daughter of the late Harvey L. and Ada (Lamond) Sylvia. She resided in Dennysville for many years before moving to Beverly, Mass., in 1943. She was a graduate of Dennysville High School.

Mary worked for many years in the accounting department at R&K Precision Engineering in Middleton, Mass., until her retirement. Upon her retirement, Mary enjoyed her summers in Perry, where she spent many hours beachcombing. She had interests in activities that kept her busy, among them were doing crossword puzzles, writing poetry, taking trips to Foxwoods. She had a passion for country music, especially Willie Nelson. She will surely be remembered for her love of rides in her sporty convertibles, most of all her '68 green Camaro. Mary was most proud of her Downeast Maine heritage. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother. Her family will cherish all the good times and fond memories they have of her. She will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her daughter, Sharon A. Weir of Beverly; two grandchildren, Laurie J. Regan and husband Kenneth P. of Beverly, and John S. Weir III and wife Alison of Danvers, Mass.; six great-grandchildren, Kenneth P. Regan Jr. and fiancée Jacqueline Grelish and Molly S. Regan and companion Robert Sungy, all of Danvers, Cameron S., Aidan A. and Aibhlinn M. Regan, all of Beverly, and Emma M. Weir of Danvers; one great-great-granddaughter, Liliana R. Sungy of Danvers; three nieces, Nicole Johnson, Susan White and Judy Mawhinney, all of Maine; a brother-in-law, Calvin Sherrard, and a sister-in-law, Barbara Sylvia, both of Maine. She was predeceased by a son-in-law, John S. Weir Jr.; a sister, Nancy Sherrard; and her brother, Harvey Sylvia Jr.

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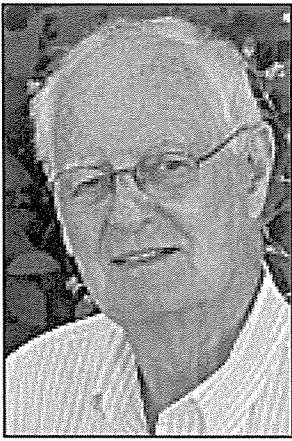
DENNYSVILLE

Congratulations to Jacqueline Robinson and Joseph Neece II on the birth of a son, Joseph Raymond Neece, who was born on November 10, 2011, at the Calais Regional Hospital.

Congratulations to Roxanne and Guy Meader of Readfield on the birth of a daughter, Leila Dawn, who was born on November 26, 2011, in Waterville. The proud maternal grandparents are Henry and Dawn Noonan of Dennysville.

EARNs DOCTORATE

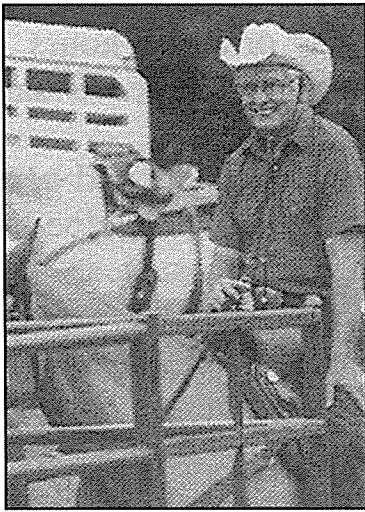
Fr. Alan Andraeas, rector of Holy Trinity Chapel in Dennysville, recently earned his doctor of theology from Biblical Life College & Seminary. He began his doctoral work while serving as an active duty Navy chaplain in Puerto Rico. The schooling isn't over, however. Rev. Dr. Andraeas has been accepted into the Doctor of Ministry program at Liberty University starting next month. He will be using his VA Post/9-11 GI education benefits for that program. Holy Trinity Chapel is a home mission parish of the United Anglican Church.



ROBERT H. FOSTER
*-the son of Ray S. and
Florence (Lund) Foster*

PORTLAND - Robert H. Foster, 77, passed away Dec. 8, 2011, in Portland. He founded R H Foster Energy and served as its president until retirement and continued to serve as chairman of the board. Bob was born July 27, 1934, in Dennysville, the son of Ray S. and Florence (Lund) Foster. He attended schools in Machias and graduated from the University of Maine with a degree in civil engineering in 1956. While at UMaine he was a member of Phi Mu Delta fraternity. He remained close with many of his fraternity brothers throughout his life and especially enjoyed their monthly luncheons. R H Foster, Inc. began its roots in Machias. The company, then called Foster Fuels, began in 1959 as a Gulf Heating Oil dealership with one truck and one employee, Robert H. Foster. The growth of the Retail Division began in 1967, Foster Fuels merged with E.G. MacLauchlan to become MacLauchlan & Foster Oil Co. Inc. The company also began selling Mainegas Propane as a dealer. The Gasoline Division began in 1965 when Bob became a Mobil consignee. This included operating the ocean terminal in Pembroke. In 1978, Bob as consignee, purchased the Pembroke terminal from Mobil Oil Corp. and R H Foster, Inc. became a full line Mobil distributorship. In 1979, R H Foster, Inc. constructed a new office building and warehouse in Marshfield, moved the wholesale/dispatch operation from Pembroke and merged MacLauchlan & Foster Oil Co. Inc., with R H Foster Inc. to become one company with commercial, wholesale and retail heating oil, diesel and gasoline accounts. Convenience store operations began with the Mobil Mart on High Street, Ellsworth. In 1987, Carter, Inc., a

Mobil subdistributorship in Caribou was purchased, bringing four company operated stations on line, as well as several wholesale gasoline dealers. This was the beginning of what has evolved into the C-Store operations. There are now more than 20 company operated locations throughout Maine. In 1984 Bob founded Maine Wild Blueberry Co., Machias, a blueberry processing plant. The company was sold in 1997 to Oxford Frozen Foods. Bob felt a deep and abiding loyalty to his employees, customers and partners. R H Foster employees felt his kind presence by just a simple walk-by. All was ok when Bob was in the room. Throughout his lifetime, Bob devoted countless hours to many organizations. He was a respected voice of Washington County. He served as a director of Maine Oil Dealers Association, a trustee of the University of Maine System, a director for Fleet Bank of Maine, charter member for Friends of Jackson Laboratory, a director for Bangor Hydro Electric Co., past president of Machias Rotary Club, a incorporator of Downeast Community Hospital, a member of Anah Temple Shrine, an associate member of Centre Street Congregational Church, Machias; a member of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, South Portland; and director for Katahdin Area Council, Inc. Bob was recognized for his many contributions and achievements. Bob was proud to be inducted as a Distinguished Member of the Francis Crowe Society of UMaine's College of Engineering. The Society was established to recognize professionals who have made considerable engineering contributions to the state, nation or world. He was truly deserving of this membership. He had previously been named as a Vernon P. McFadden Memorial Award given by Eastern Maine Development Corp., named as an Outstanding Contributions to the Economic and Social Development of Washington County given by the Washington County Development Corp., a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International Foundation, a Silver Beaver Award by the Boy Scouts of America and Outstanding Service Award by the University of Maine at Machias. Bob found great pleasure in enjoying all of the activities that the outdoors offered. He especially enjoyed fishing the Miramichi and Matapedia rivers in Canada. He relished his time outdoors and respected the nature around him. Bob had fond memories at special places including his "Ponderosa," and at Cathance Lake. "Boom" was known to take off on some extended "errands" to Las Vegas with his family and friends. Bob will be fondly remembered by those he touched so deeply. When you met Bob, you had a friend for life. He committed himself to those countless folks he considered friends. Bob was a tireless giver of patience, understanding and unconditional love. Bob loved his time following his grandchildren in various sporting activities and considered himself quite the Bangor Rams fan. Bob was a neighbor's neighbor and always had his front door open to all. He will be missed by all his friends on Hope Avenue. Bob is survived by his loving and caring wife of 25 years, Carolyn M. (Watson) Foster of Portland; daughter, Dorothy J. Vachon and husband, Nick, of Ellsworth, and their children, Gabriel, Rosehannah and Isabelle Vachon; son, Robert W. Foster and his wife, Renee, of Hampden, and their children, Robert "Jake," Katie, Benjamin and Isaac Foster; son, Daniel C. Foster and wife, Robin, of Orrington, and their children, Emma and Sherry Foster; son, Scott R. Stacey and wife, Joan Kennedy, of Portland, and their children, Grace and Charlie Stacey; son, Brett R. Stacey and wife, Julie, of Bangor, and their children, Jack and Carolyn Stacey; and daughter, Beth-Marie Stacey of Portland. Known as "Boom," "Boo" or "Grampy," Bob loved all his grandchildren greatly. He is also survived by nephews, Dana Foster and wife, Mary, and Ray Foster and wife, Sara; niece, Beverly Linnane and husband, Bill; niece, Florence Wood; many great-nieces and great-nephews. In addition to his parents, Bob was predeceased by a sister, Jeane Rutherford; and brothers, Carlton and Donald Foster. The family expresses gratitude to daughter-in-law, Joan Kennedy Stacey, for the special gift of life donated in 2004. Special thanks to the many professionals at Maine Medical Center; in particular, CTICU and R4.



CRAIG A. SMITH

DENNYSVILLE - Craig A. Smith, age 64, of Dennyville died at a Bangor hospital surrounded by family and friends on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. He was born September 2, 1947, in Lincoln.

Craig graduated from Mattanawcook Academy, Lincoln, in 1965. He furthered his education at a technical college in Presque Isle. Craig worked hard for many years for GE Goding Son Inc. He also was a self-employed truck driver and worked for Brown Brothers Trucking Inc. in Pembroke. His most important job was his family. Craig would spend 10 hour days at work and then travel to a ball game to sit on a pine plank for a few more hours, always supporting his kids' sports. On school breaks the family would all pack in the van and make a road to Florida, visit with his parents and go to Disney World, Sea World and Busch Gardens.

Craig was totally involved with his horses. He was a member for many years of the Maine Barrel Racing Association and the National Barrel Horse Association. He qualified many times to attend the World Show in Augusta, GA. He won numerous belt buckles, saddles, equipment and awards with his horses. All the friendships he made gave him great enjoyment and lasting memories.

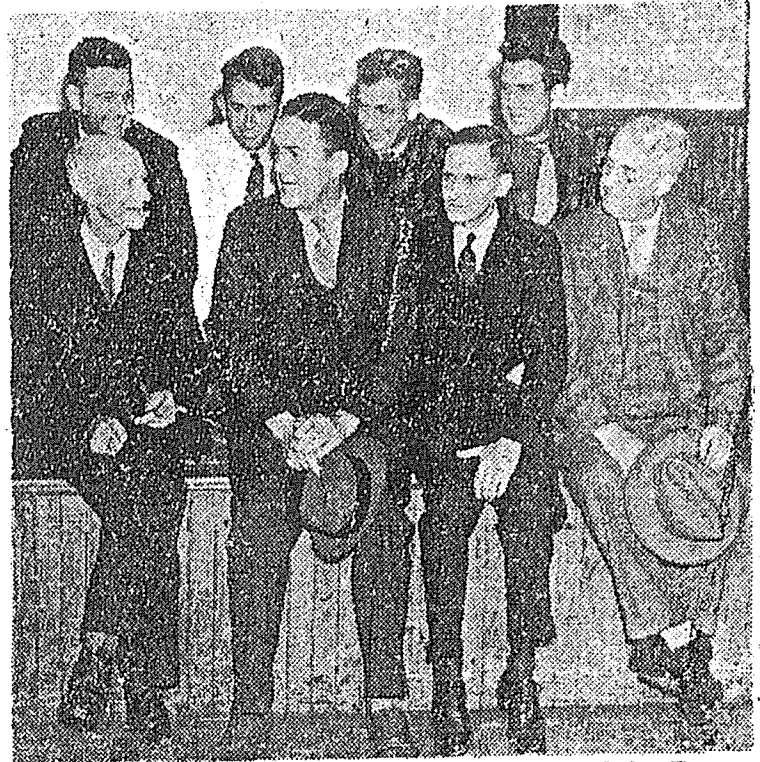
Maggie, his Boston terrier, was the highlight of his day. She could do no wrong. His dog Sparky was one-of-a-kind and loved to travel with him to horse shows, and they will carry on in heaven.

He is survived by his wife, Colleen; four children, Amy Beckett and son Zach, Troy Smith, Corey Smith and wife Jessica and sons Amos and Ben, and Eric Smith and wife Alesia; brother, Kenyon Smith and companion Carol Sawyer; sister, Marikay McGinty and husband David; mother, Peggy Smith; several nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles. He was predeceased by his father, George A. Smith.

OLD NEWS

The June 29, 1939, issue of the Portland Press Herald contained this item.

Jessie B. Crosby Elected President Of Denny's River Salmon Club



New officers and Advisory Board members of the Denny's River Salmon Club conferring with Arthur R. Greenleaf, commissioner of the Maine Sea and Shore Fisheries.

Left to right, front—President Jesse B. Crosby, Commissioner Greenleaf, Secretary-Treasurer Chester McPhee, Retiring President Herbert H. Allan.

Back row, left to right—Members of committee, R. Forest Higgins, G. Raymond Robinson, John Hallowell and Louis Gardner, all of Dennyville.

Special Dispatch to The Press Herald
Dennyville, June 28—Jesse B. Crosby was elected president of the Denny's River Salmon Club at the third annual meeting Tuesday evening at Dennyville. Agor Pike of Lubec was chosen vice president, and Chester I. McPhee, secretary and treasurer.

The Board of Directors includes Herbert H. Allan, retiring president, Raymond Robinson, Forrest Higgins, Carroll E. Fisher, James Bovard and Kinsman Corthell. The Nominating Committee comprised Ray D. Higgus,

Frank Miner, Don Phinney, T. Earle Prouty and Albert Mahar.

Speakers were George Anderson and Mr. Shepherd of New York State, Arthur Greenleaf, Commissioner of the Maine Sea and Shore Fisheries and Walter C. Shaefer of the Biological Survey. Motion pictures of salmon fishing on Denny's River were shown, and also included pictures taken in other sections of the Quoddy area.

A 14-pound salmon was taken from Denny's River a few days ago, the arrest caught to date.

CORRECTIONS

In the identification of the folks in the Mystery Photo in the October, 2011, issue there was an error in the description of Bernard Gardner. It was said that he is not a relative but a friend of the Mahars. However, he is a distant relative. The mother of the pictured Mahars was Roberta (Bert) Gardner, the daughter of Peter B. and Helena (Sprague, Libby) Gardner. Peter was the son of Abner, Jr. and Jane (Ball) Gardner and the grandson of Abner, Sr., and Submit (Wilder). Abner, Sr., was born in Hingham, Mass., and eventually moved to Dennysville, Me. Peter was a distant cousin of the grandmother of Bernard's grandmother, May (Philbrook) Gardner.

Fred L. Gardner, May's husband and Bernard's grandfather, was a member of a different Gardner family. Fred L. was the son of Aaron Leeman Raymond (A.L.R.) and Abigail (Reynolds) Gardner; the grandson of Ebenezer, Jr. and Sarah (Albee) Gardner; the great grandson of Ebenezer, Sr., and Damaris (Merrill) Gardner; and the great great grandson of Thomas and Eunice (Walters) Gardner of Salem, Mass. Thus, Bernard's grandmother, May (Philbrook) Gardner (1865-1951) was a 6th cousin to Roberta (Gardner) Mahar. Hence Bernard is distantly related to Albert and Vivian Mahar whom he was visiting.

In the "Gala Event" in the October, 2011 issue, the 50th Anniversary of Robert, Sr., and Doris (Page) Wilder, there was an omission. In addition to their two sons, Herbert and Robert, Jr., they had a daughter, Margaret Jeannette. She was born about 1920 in New Hampshire. Since she predeceased the rest of the family, she was not familiar in Dennysville.

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## NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

for the Period November 11, 2011 through January 25, 2012

Attick, Mr. & Mrs. William  
Atwood, Valdine C.  
Avery, Hazel  
Bayreuther, Priscilla  
Benner, John H.  
Bodenburg, Mr. & Mrs. Rolf  
Brown, Janet  
Cambridge, Leon  
Cantwell, Pauline  
Carter, Ernie  
Carter, Richard  
Caswell, Priscilla J.  
Chatterton, Leslie A.  
Clemens, Col. Jay  
Cook, Guy H.  
Cook, Lorene Jones  
Cox, John L.  
Cox, Peter  
Curtis, Donald R.  
Dickey, Joan Clark  
Dell, Helen  
Downs, Joan D.  
Dutko, Jacqueline  
Enright, Maxine  
Fife, Ann Joy  
Ford, Allison  
Frady, Mr. & Mrs. Terry

Frost, Brenda  
Gilbert, Agnes L.  
Grundstrom, Frank  
Gulford, Ms Dorothy  
Hallowell, Mr. & Mrs. Brian  
Hayward, Mr. & Mrs. Eldon  
Heier, Sheryl  
Higgins, Kenneth R.  
Hill, Mrs. Adaline F.  
Hobart, Charles  
Hobart, Mr. & Mrs. Richard  
Hobart, Rebecca  
Hodgdon, Kenneth L.  
Huckins, Beverly  
Jones, Ernest O.  
Jones, Mae M.  
Kilby, Joan G.  
Kilby, Leroy A.  
Knobil, Julane H.  
Kuhn/Luhn, Eric/Suanne  
Lancisi, Jean Higgins  
Lane, Grace  
Lapointe, Gerald J.  
Leach, Bernice  
Leighton, Sherman  
Lewis, Arthur

Lingley, Clyde  
Lingley, Mr. & Mrs. Harry  
Livingstone, Brand  
Luxner, Mr. & Mrs. Michael  
MacLauchlan, Neil S.  
MacLauchlan, Robert  
Maggs, Mr. & Mrs. Richard  
Mattheson, Mrs. Bertha  
Mattheson, Priscilla  
Menzel, Ferolyn C.  
Morrison, Barbara  
Newman, Roger  
Parker, Mr. & Mrs. Ray  
Paysant, George L.  
Pembroke, Mr. & Mrs. George  
Plotts, Randall  
Poppo, Patricia  
Rees, Mr. & Mrs. Fred  
Severance, Diane M.  
Spear, Frances  
Sprague, Phyllis  
Stearns, Marion Sheahan  
Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. Perry  
Voit, Gail Longmore  
Welch, Mr. & Mrs. William  
Whorley, Avis  
Windhorst, Colin  
Windhorst, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald

# SOCIETY NEWS

## Flowers

Memorial Day flowers can be planted on your loved ones' graves in the village cemetery. As a service to our members and friends, the Historical Society is willing to plant an attractive geranium and maintain it throughout the summer. The cost will be twelve dollars, total, for each flower, its planting, and summer-long maintenance. If this is of interest to you, please send a note to Colin Windhorst, P.O. Box 11, Dennysville, Maine 04628. Please include your check, the name of your loved one, and the general location of the grave in the cemetery. Be sure to include your address and telephone number. We hope this will be of help to some of you.

### ***Coming This Summer at the Academy/Vestry Museum!*** **The Civil War Scene at Dennys River**

Plans are afoot to rediscover the experience of the Civil War in the Dennys River area this summer at the Academy/Vestry Museum in Dennysville. The Historical Society is asking its members and friends to help us remember and tell this story, as we begin to prepare for this important exhibit. We know that wars are always fought on many levels, and the struggles involve those at home as well as the soldiers at the field. The intimate connection between the soldier's heart and his family is revealed in this letter from John P. Sheahan, in Company K of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maine Cavalry Regiment, to his father at home in Edmunds, Maine. Written from the Union camp across the River from Fredericksburg, Virginia, in early 1863, scene of a disastrous defeat in December, he describes his contacts with Confederate pickets across the river, and his desire to see his brother, William Sheahan, stationed with the army at Belle Plain, about nine miles away.

Camp near Bell Plain Va Jan 16/62

My dear father  
I received  
your letter and I was  
most happy to hear from  
you and to hear that you  
and all the folks at home  
were well I am well at  
present and hope that  
these few lines will find  
you the same I was  
on picket when I got  
your letter and can  
see plenty of them just  
across the Rappahannock  
they stand on one bank  
and we on the other  
they some times talk  
with our men I tried

to make them talk the  
other day but it was  
against their orders and  
they would not answer  
they do not think of such a thing as firing  
upon our pickets if they had a  
mind to they could shoot every one of us  
and we could not hurt them but they told  
our men the other day that shooting  
pickets did not amount to much I never  
was so healthy and feel so well as I do  
now I am going to see William this  
afternoon so I must close

John Sheh

Camp near Bell Plain Va Jan  
16/62 [3]

My Dear Father

I received your letter and I was most happy to hear from you and to hear that you and all the folks at home were well, I am well at present and hope that these few lines will find you the same. I was on picket when I got your letter one can see plenty of them just across the Rappahannock they stand on one bank and we are on the other they some times talk with our men, I tried to make them talk the other day but it was against their orders and they would not answer they do not think of such a thing as firing upon our pickets if they had a

mind to they could shoot every one of us and we could not hurt them but they told our men the other day that shooting pickets did not amount to much I never was so healthy and feel so well as I do now, I am going to see William this afternoon so I must close.

John Sheh [Sheahan]

We will be exploring this connection between the soldier's heart and his family at home at this summer's exhibit, The Civil War Scene at Dennys River. To this end, the Society is gathering photographs, letters, clothing, equipment, furnishings and other memorabilia that will help to tell the story of how the war for the Union was fought from the perspective of the people of the Dennys River area. In his recently published *Washington County, Maine in the Civil War* (2011), author Ken Ross records the names of 65 men from Dennysville, 63 from Edmunds, 14 from Marion and 11 from Plantation 14 (now Cathance Township), who joined up and served in a variety of regiments, and at sea, during the conflict.

What led these men to leave home and risk all they held dear? D.R.H.S. Archivist and Editor Rebecca Hobart has written:

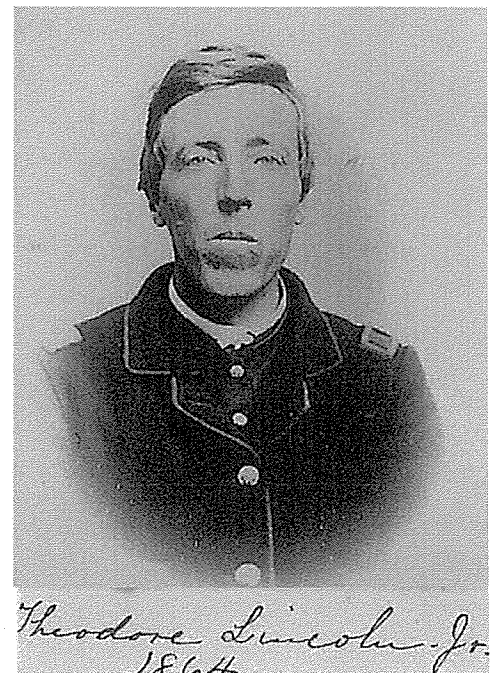
In 1838, the members of the Dennysville Lyceum debated the question "Is it expedient to discuss the slave question in the free states at the present time?" with a strongly negative decision. In less than twenty-five years the change of circumstances and opinion was so great that the May 12, 1861 St. Croix Herald presented the following article:

"On Tuesday evening, may 8, 1861 a military company was formed in the quiet village of Dennysville, composed of twenty-five young men. On the following evening eighteen of the number took the required oath and enlisted in defense of the stars and stripes. The names were: Theodore Lincoln III, E. Payson Eastman, Bela R. Reynolds, Benjmain R. Jones, Thomas Mattheson, N. Sawyer, James R. Hayward, David J. Finney, Washington Benner, Freeman Dudley, Edward Preston, Edward Bridges, Wm. Henry Shaw, William Sheahan, John Shaw, Isaac Shaw, Edward Cambridge, and Henry Owen. On Saturday evening a meeting of the citizens was called. John Kilby was chosen chairman and C.H. Kilby, Secretary. The following persons were appointed a committee to solicit funds to aid the families of the volunteers during their absence from home: D.K. Hobart, Thomas Eastman, Jr., Dr. A.R. Lincoln, and Theodore Lincoln Jr. The following ladies constituted an auxiliary committee for the same purpose: Mrs. P.E. Vose, Mrs. D.K. Hobart, and Mrs. Benjamin Lincoln. \$120 was pledged at the meeting.

"On Monday, prior to the volunteers leaving town for Eastport, Dea. John Kilby presented each person with a copy of the New Testament and Psalms. The company was stationed at Fort Sullivan until ordered to Washington."

These volunteers, with others from the Dennysville and Pembroke area, formed Company F in the Sixth Maine Volunteer Regiment, all of which was drawn from Eastern Maine. Among them, Theodore Lincoln, the grandson of Theodore and Hannah Lincoln of Dennysville, who had recently returned from engineering work on the railroads out west, was appointed Sergeant, and, for distinguished service, promoted to Lieutenant and later Captain. Of William Sheahan, (brother of John Sheahan, above), who was killed at the Battle of Rappahannock Station, November 7, 1863, Theodore Lincoln said: "He was the bravest man I ever saw."

If you have items of interest relating to the experience of the Civil War, its antecedents and its aftermath, that you would be willing to share or lend for this exhibit, please contact Society President Ronald A. Windhorst at (207) 726-3905 or e-mail [philanthorpe@pioneerwireless.net](mailto:philanthorpe@pioneerwireless.net) , or Curator Melinda Jaques at [linoclnhouse@roadrunner.com](mailto:linoclnhouse@roadrunner.com). The Exhibit is expected to open this summer on Memorial Day, and all items on loan will be carefully returned following the Columbus Day weekend. Your participation will help to make this a success!



## MAIL BAG

A recent letter from Marion (Sheahan) Stearns of Livermore, California, told of the November 10, 2011, death of her husband, Robert Stearns. The memorial service was there on November 19. Two of their grandchildren, Erica and Michael, sang a duet, accompanied by their mother (Marion's daughter), Cherry Westerman. There will be a graveside service in the spring in Hancock, N.H., where Robert grew up. The arrangements are being made by his niece, who lives in Hancock, and Marion's daughter, Hallie, who lives in Springfield, Vermont.

Marion (Sheahan) Stearns is a descendant of Peter E. Vose, whose journal entries are now being presented in each edition of the D.R.H.S. Newsletter. His oldest child, Mary Matilda, who was a young child at the time of the entries appearing currently, married Edmund B. Sheahan of Dennysville December 14, 1870. Edmund and Mary (Vose) Sheahan's second child was Harold Vose Sheahan, who was born July 16, 1881. He married Marion D. Corbett. Harold and Marions children were Edmund, "Ned", and Marion D.

Although Harold and Marion lived out-of-state during their adult years, they and their children often came to Dennysville for a visit with his parents, Edmund and Mary (Vose) Sheahan.

When the local congregational Church had its 175th Anniversary in 1980, Edmund, "Ned", and his wife, Ruth, were role players in the historic program "To Tell the Truth." Ned represented Dea. John Kilby and Ruth was Mrs. Ida Vose Woodbury.

When the Dennys River Historical Society had "Peter E. Vose Day" on September 22, 1990, Marion (Sheahan) Stearns and her husband, Robert Stearns, were among the Vose descendants who attended. Marion was one of the guest speakers. After the program, the group enjoyed a luncheon at the Lincoln House, then operated by Jerry and Mary Carol Haggerty. There Marion sang to the attendants, accompanied by Colin Windhorst.

Edmund is now deceased but Marion keeps in touch with Dennysville and enjoys the Dennys River Historical Society Newsletter.

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DENNYSVILLE'S THOMAS LINCOLN

Theodore Lincoln, Sr., son of Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, came to Plantation II, now Dennysville, in 1786. He and his wife, Hannah (Mayhew), later had nine children, five sons - Theodore, Jr., Benjamin, Bela, Edmund, and Thomas - and four daughters - Hannah, Mary, Sarah, and Mary. (The second Mary was named for her older sister who died at the age of seven.)

Thomas, the youngest son, was the one who made his home in the Lincoln homestead after the death of his father, Theodore, Sr.. Dr. Arthur Lincoln, son of Thomas, was the last family member to reside there.

Portland's Maine Sunday Telegram of May 4, 1969, featured La Rue Spiker's article "Maine's Lincoln" with the heading "Chance, and Audubon, Added His Name to natural History Books." The interesting and informative account of Thomas Lincoln's experiences follows.

Maine's Lincoln

Chance, And Audubon, Added His Name To Natural History Books

By LA RUE SPIKER

DENNYSVILLE — Thomas Lincoln was a modest man who sought no monument other than that which comes to each at the end of his days. And his life probably would have passed without special note, aside from his connection with the famous old house on the Dennys River, had not John James Audubon decided he needed to add the birds of Labrador to his paintings.

As events developed, Lincoln earned a living memorial which might be envied by men who are remembered only in stone. Tom was one of the five young men who accompanied the artist to Labrador in 1833. While there, he discovered a new species of sparrow and Audubon named it for him — *Fringilla lincolni*. Today the bird is listed as *Melospiza, lincolni lincolni*, but it is still known to the layman as the Lincoln's sparrow.

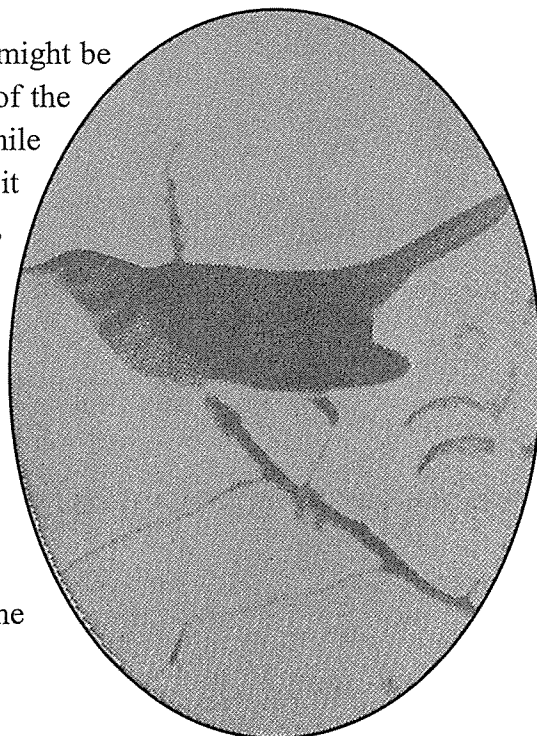
Audubon stayed at the Lincoln homestead in Dennysville in 1832 when he made a preliminary trip down to Eastport to arrange for the next year's voyage. Lucy, his wife, accompanied him downeast the following year and stayed at the fine old mansion, which is still a landmark in this part of Maine, until the men's return from Labrador.

An excerpt from Lincoln's journal, found among the papers of the late Charles Washburn of Perry, describes the first days of the trip:

"June 6, 1833. J. J. Audubon, Esq., left Eastport on an expedition to Labrador and the country around it, his son accompanying him and at his kind invitation G. C. Shattuck, J. Coolidge, W. Ingalls and myself also. We sailed on the Schooner Ripley of a hundred tons commanded by Capt. Emery of Eastport. The wind being ahead we got no further than Little River (near Yarmouth, N.S.) that night where we anchored until noon of the next day. We left with a good wind and at noon of the 8th doubled Cape Sable, and at one o'clock on the 10th we found ourselves in the harbor of the Conseau Strait after a very fine passage of only sixty hours from Grand Manan. Nothing of interest occurred in the time except that we were most of us abominably sick.

"In the afternoon we went ashore but found the barren looking country almost destitute of animals or plants. The soil is so thin and poor that the trees are all sickly dwarfs and grass, except on a few patches, cannot grow.

"11th. This day with a fair wind we proceeded on our passage through the straits — passed a great number of little fishing vessels bound to Labrador. In the afternoon we went on shore to a little island



LINCOLN'S SPARROW — In Audubon's words, "Chance placed my young companion, Thomas Lincoln, in a situation where he saw it alight, and, with his usual unerring aim, he cut short its career. . . Three cheers were given him (Lincoln) when, proud of the prize, I returned to the vessel to draw it." This photograph is a detail from an original Audubon print in the collection of Bowdoin College library.

called Jestico (Festico?) covered as almost all the land in this section is with deep moss and a very low growth of trees. Some of the party in the boat rowed so close to a seal lying upon the rocks as to strike him with an oar. Shot a Redstart, a Tawny Thrush, and a White-bellied Swallow and saw quite a number of the little Warblers, proceeding probably on their way north."

THE YOUNG MEN in the party were assigned to specimen collecting so that Audubon could spend the daylight hours at his drawing table on the schooner. By the morning of June 12 they reached the Magdalen Islands and anchored off Saunders Island.

"We found the climate much cooler here than at Eastport," Lincoln wrote, "and actually found a bank of snow under a cliff upon the shore. Indeed when we were at Conseau which is but little farther North than Eastport it actually snowed on the tenth of June.

"The next day we went on shore and found the woods almost impenetrable and on some knolls we could actually crawl upon the tops of the trees, that is of trees two or three feet high and the limbs so matted as to support a person easily; underneath the sheep upon the island could walk in many places as under an awning receiving a fine shelter in storm."

The party walked to a small French settlement some two or three miles from their anchorage where they purchased some black fox skins at the "moderate" price of five pounds each.

"We succeeded in finding the nests of the sea pigeon on a high cliff of sandstone in holes from within ten feet of the water to the height of three hundred feet. They lay just at the entrance of the hole in a little hollow (whether scooped out by themselves or not I do not know) one egg of a dirty white with large blotches of black scattered over it, and form no sort of nest. They did not appear to betray much anxiety about their nests when we were near. We found also a Raven's nest with full grown young at the height of 200 feet on a perpendicular cliff — it was merely stuck on a projecting edge of rock, built apparently of the same materials and in the manner as the crows. . .

"June 14th. This morning we set sail for the east end of Anticosti, about noon came in sight of the 'gannet rocks,' which presented an appearance that astonished us. We could scarcely trust our own senses. The rocks, the larger a quarter of a mile broad, looked as if covered with a bank of snow; the surface was literally covered with gannets and above them a swarm of bees. As we neared the island they sailed round us by the thousands. Four or five of us took a boat and rowed toward it but found to our great disappointment that the surf ran so high on the S. E. side (which is the only point whence the cliff can be ascended and that with extreme difficulty) that we could not land there and so were obliged to put in to the leeward side which was sufficiently dangerous. The cliff is about 300 feet high and very steep, in many places over-hanging with scarcely room for a boat at the bottom at low water. We found that there was a gannet's nest wherever there was a point that it could be placed upon the sides of the cliff, and every other little projecting point of ledge."

Lincoln collected the new sparrow June 27 on the Esquimaux Islands at the mouth of the Natashquan River. It was the only new bird discovered on the trip.

On July 4 Audubon wrote in his journal: ". . . have drawn all day, and have finished the plate of the *Fringilla Lincolnii*, to which I have put three plants of the country, all new to me and probably never before figured; to us they were fitting for the purpose, as Lincoln gathered them."

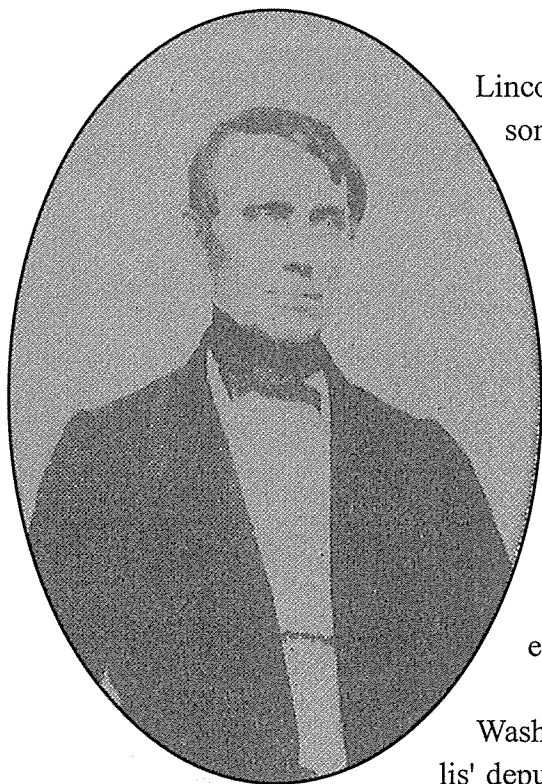
The plants were the northern bunchberry, the baked apple berry, and the pale laurel.

In "Birds Of America" Audubon wrote: "The plants represented along with a pair of these birds grew

in the little valley in which the first individual seen by us was procured. They were taken up with a spade from the midst of a broad bed of mosses, and may serve to convey an idea of the nature of the vegetation of those places."

The Lincoln's sparrow is definitely a bird of the north but breeds as far south as Maine. Shy by nature, it is hard to find and other species are frequently mistaken for it. It is about the size, of a song sparrow but with a shorter tail. The underparts are finely streaked and there is a buffy band across the breast. Its song is a sort of cross between those of the purple finch and the house wren.

An original print of Audubon's painting of the bird — engraved, printed and colored by R. Haven in 1834 — hung in the Lincoln home at Dennysville for many years. Shortly before her death Mrs. Arthur Lincoln, wife of Tom's son, gave it to the Maine Audubon Society. It now hangs in the Alfred O. Gross Ornithological Library in the biology building at Bowdoin College.



THOMAS LINCOLN

CHARLES TOWNSEND, an ornithologist, interviewed Arthur Lincoln in Dennysville in the early 1920's. While in the home he saw some of Lincoln's own sketches and part of the journal.

"A few of his water color sketches of shells and of birds show that his artistic talents and regard for accuracy and detail were of superior quality," he wrote. "These characteristics of the man are generally unknown and they fully justify Audubon in honoring him in naming the new sparrow.

"Dr. Lincoln told me that his father was extremely modest about his own attainments and that he had destroyed many of his sketches and had cut from the book the pages of his journal, intending to burn it, but, fortunately, part of it was saved."

Business and the anti-slavery movement absorbed much of Lincoln's energies during his manhood, but he never lost his interest in nature, although he seldom used a gun in his later years.

He was the grandson of Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, the member of Washington's staff who received the sword of surrender from Cornwallis' deputy at Yorktown. After the war he bought in association with two other Boston men about 10,000 acres in the Dennysville area. Later the entire tract became the Lincoln estate.

His son, Theodore, headed a party of Massachusetts artisans and farmers who came downeast to develop the holdings in 1786. They built the fine old house on a knoll overlooking the tidal waters of the river which was occupied by members of the Lincoln family until shortly before Mrs. Arthur's death in 1951. It is presently owned by Mrs. Thomas Casey and is considered one of the best examples of colonial architecture in Maine.

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## GALA EVENT

As Millie Marshall of Edmunds, Maine, approached her 92nd birthday in 1982, she had two visitors from "Quoddy Tides." The next issue of that Eastport newspaper contained the following letter writ-

ten to Millie by Susan Esposito, one of those visitors.

## *An open letter to a Special Lady*

Dear Millie,

When I left your home the other day I promised that I would write an article worthy of you. I was very inspired but when I sat down at my typewriter prepared to pour out all of my enthusiasm onto paper, I found myself unexpectedly at a loss for ideas.

Oh, sure. I could've tossed off cliches and descriptions of you like "unflagging zest for life" or "indefatigable sense of humor" but such phrases tended to make you seem more like a character out of a novel than a real flesh-and-blood person.

Or I could have started off a la David, Copperfield and written "Millie Marshall of Edmunds will be 92 'years young' on February 19. She was born in 1890 just down the road from her present home on Rt. No. 86, one of eleven Robinson children, etc. etc." Well, I didn't like that approach either because too many statistics just seemed to make you boring which you are not.

So I thought that I might as well just relate my visit with you to the *Quoddy Tides* readers. How you greeted me and photographer Edward French at the door with a smile even though you later confessed with a chuckle that you'd spent the time between my introductory telephone call and our visit wondering why, the heck we'd be interested in you.

How you struck me as very grandmotherly looking which I was able to attribute to years of practice when (after counting a couple of times) you told me you had 32 grandchildren, some greats and even a great-great grandchild!

You did not fit my stereo-typed image of a person living her tenth decade of life, beginning with your early announcement that Edward and I had missed you dancing the day before (albeit you accomplished that act by holding onto the kitchen table.) You were not sprouting hearing aid devices, you weren't confined to a piece of furniture, and your memory was excellent—except for that misplaced grandchild!

I enjoyed listening to you lovingly describe your six daughters and two sons, especially when you paused to answer your daughter Carolyn's prediction that "you'll outlive us all" with "I probably will".

It was fun hearing you recall the good time you had as a child on your family's farm and comparing your youth with today's.

"When the dinner bell rang, my brothers and sisters would scramble for the table because if

you weren't at the table then you didn't eat. It's not like that now but I guess it's not just the kids fault."

Your eyebrow arched knowingly and you let the subject rest.

I'm still embarrassed that I didn't realize you were Irish until you told me that your father was born in Belfast (Northern) Ireland. "Can't you see the Irish in me," you laughed and I found myself bending to peer through your glasses to see that Irish twinkle in your eyes. Your candid wit must be attributed to heredity.

When I asked you for your secret to longevity, you answered soberly "Just keeping busy. I crochet, knit, read and do chores. It's awful when you can't do much--it's boring." Then you grinned mischievously and uttered this bit of advice. "I don't smoke. I don't drink. And I don't chase the men." Well, Millie, you may not chase men but I would bet money that you're a terrible flirt!

You did have a final word on the subject of a long and happy life, though, that I will always try



**MRS. MILLIE MARSHALL**

to remember. You didn't pretend to be a sage but they are true words of wisdom.

"If you give, the Lord will give back."

I feel very fortunate to have met you and I hope I have conveyed this to the *Tides* readers along with the strength of your personality and charisma. My best wishes for a happy 92nd birthday.

Your new friend,  
Susan Esposito

P.S.

Don't eat too much of that homemade ice cream.

Five of Millie's daughters and her two sons graduated from Dennysville High School - Ada and Robert, 1937; Pauline, 1941; Leroy, 1942; Mildred, 1944; Mae, 1947; and Caroline, 1948. By the time of her birthday visit she had a great-great grandchild, as well as some greats, and many grandchildren.

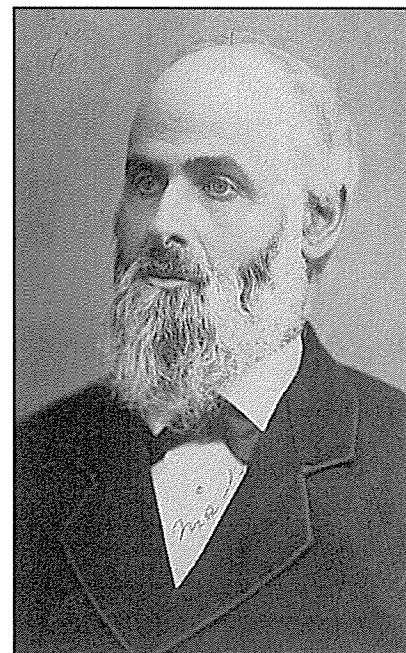
Among her ten brothers and sisters were two sisters who lived in Dennysville as adults. Frances who lived on the Lane, was the wife of William Malloch, who carried mail by horse and buggy or sleigh between the post office and railroad station. Grace, who resided on King Street, married Jesse Crosby, who for many years was the Dennysville postmaster. Millie's brother, William, who was her neighbor on the Robinson family property, married Shirley Crane, who taught the Dennysville Primary School for a long period of time.

Millie's Irish ancestor, Thomas Robinson, Sr., was born in Belfast, Ireland, about 1829. He died in Dennysville in 1905. His wife, Jane Close, was born in 1827 in Dundonald, Ireland and died in 1901. Their son, James<sup>I</sup>, and his wife, Jane Murray, were born in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada. In 1874 their son, James<sup>II</sup>, married Angeline "Annie" S. Grant, who was born in Hingham, Massachusetts. They had eight children among whom were Millie, Frances, Grace, and William. Millie's nephew, G. Raymond Robinson, son of William, inherited the family trait of longevity and celebrated his 97th birthday January 31, 2012. Millie's 92nd birthday, February 19, 1982, was her last one. She died September 12, 1982. Her husband, Frank Marshall, had predeceased her in 1979, Several of their descendants are now residents of the Dennysville-Edmunds community.

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PETER E. VOSE'S JOURNALS

Only three journal entries appear in this February issue which ends with stanzas of Peter E. Vose's poetry. In the article "Dedication of Soldiers Monument" in the October, 2011, edition, there is evidence that his daughter, Ida Vose Woodbury, and granddaughter, Ruth Woodbury Draper, inherited their father's poetic ability.



August 9, 1853 Pleasant & warm. Mr. Kilby went to East Machias. Mr. Lincoln raised his new sawmill - size 80 by 34 feet. The stream on which it stands, Dennys River, takes its rise in Meddybemps Lake and is not more than 25 miles in length, but lumbering operations have been carried on along its banks, annually, for the last 60 years. The amount sawed yearly on the river (including Cathance, a stream which empties into it) is of long lumber 4 to 5 ,millions of feet & 4 to 5 of laths, with some shingles and pickets. Value of _____ long lumber this season in Boston \$12 to 12.50, Hemlock \$10. Expense of transportation, say 2.50 to 2.75.

Laths worth 1.25. Hardwood long lumber 13.00 _____. There is still lumber enough in the woods with the annual growth to last for years in the vicinity of the two streams, if fire does not destroy it.

Aug. 10, 1853 Pleasant & warm. Mr. Whaiff (?) & his friend Mr. Monroe F ___?___ called to see us. Mr. F. seems to be quite an agreeable man - He is a clerk at Oliver Ditson's, Boston. My wife has been unwell with a cold for several days but is better today.

Aug. 11, 1853 Pleasant. Mr. & Mrs Kilby have gone to Eastport. Toward the latter part of my school-going days I attended a school taught by Cornelius Austin, an old bachelor of about _____. Mr. Austin had a

great passion for rhyme making (though not very poetical) and being under his influence, he soon inspired me with a desire to follow in his footsteps (to some extent). And I made rhymes for a while but latterly have not spent much time in that occupation. As several short articles of the kind have been published, whether on account of my poetic merit or for want of something better to fill up the papers, (I cannot say) perhaps it will be worthwhile to make a record of them so that I may be able to refer to them if I should wish to do so.

Published in "American Cabinet"

What earnest longings oft we feel, who dwell on Earth below,
To view the great Creator's works & all their wonders know.
To soar on angel-wings away 'yon the remotest star
That lightens up the evening gloom with radiance from afar.

To visit planets, systems, suns - their glories to rehearse,
And measure, if man can, the boundaries of the universe,
And more - to climb to heaven, back to our world, from thence to bring
The knowledge of its holiness and Glory of its King.

Philosophy & science with telescopic eye
To us reveal the hidden wonders of immensity, -
Bring unknown worlds in all their beauty and their grandeur nigh,
Measure their orbits vast - and track their courses through the sky.

But science & philosophy can ne'er reveal to man,
All the glories and the mysteries of the great Creator's plan, -
Can never measure boundless space - nor learn from distant spheres
What beings do inhabit them, (throughout probative years).

To be continued. . .

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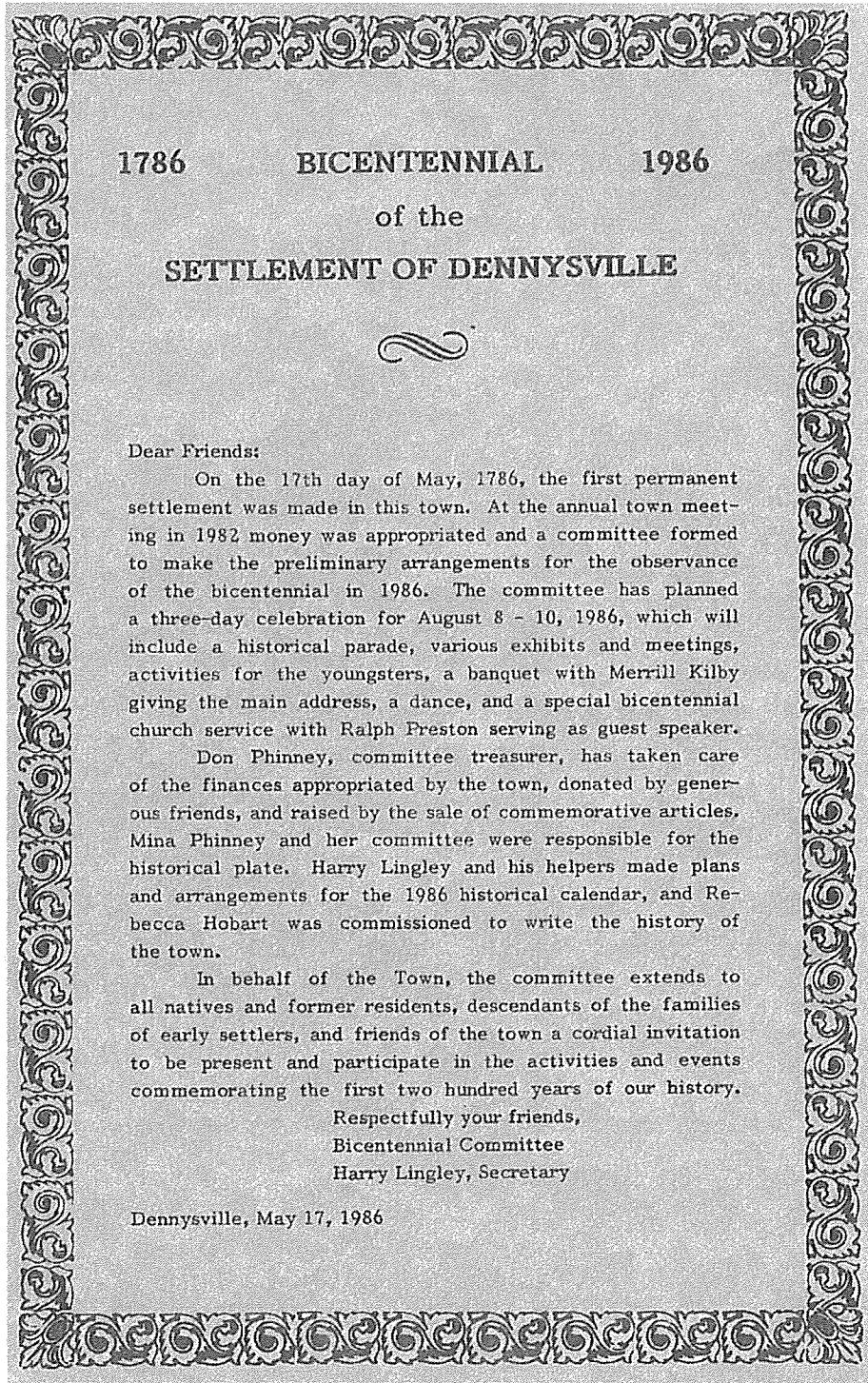


**MYSTERY**  
**PHOTO**

The Mystery Photo features a group of buildings rather than people in this edition. What structures are they and where are they located? Send identifications to Rebecca Hobart, 46 The Lane, Dennysville, ME 04628

## DID YOU KNOW....?

Did you know that 25 years have passed since Dennysville celebrated its Bicentennial? It was a wonderful occasion, attended not only by local folks but also by returned natives, relatives, and friends. The Bicentennial Committee, which was formed at the annual Town Meeting in 1982, carefully made plans and preparations for the events which would occur in 1986. Following are the invitation which was sent to a large number of people on May 17, 1986, the newspaper edition of programs and activities, Ralph Preston's song, "The Town of Dennysville," and pictures which will revive memories.



## The Town of Dennysville

*From Meddybemps to Cobscook Bay  
Dennys River makes its way  
Past Hurley Point, the Reversing Falls  
And right out to the sea.  
It flows through Edmunds on its way  
And takes in Hobart Stream,  
The beauty God has planted here  
Fulfills your fondest dream.*

*Seventeen brave pioneers  
Two hundred years ago  
Set foot upon this fertile land  
Through rain, and ice and snow;  
It was the Indians' hunting ground  
Before the white men came  
Soon one became their loyal friend  
And Denny was his name.*

*Life was hard for the pioneers  
But courage saw them through;  
They cleared the land and built their  
homes  
And lived the Golden Rule.  
They built homes and churches, schools  
and mills,  
These people of renown  
Then in the year 1818  
Dennysville became a town.*

*Theodore Lincoln led them here—  
To him our hats we raise,  
And our loved ones of the past  
For them we give praise.  
With meager means through blood and  
tears*

*Thank God, they had the will  
To keep America's spirit free  
In the town of Dennysville.*

*We too, must keep that spirit free  
Right here in Dennysville.*

*Words and music by Ralph Preston  
OF Roseburg, Oregon*

## DENNYVILLE Bicentennial Celebration

**AUGUST 8 — 10, 1986**

Registration: Friday and Saturday, Aug. 8 and 9  
9:30 AM — 5 PM at E.D.M. Youth Center

Tickets and Commemorative Articles on Sale

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Bicentennial Parade** — Friday, 7:00 P.M., along Main St. from Rte. 1  
to Upper Bridge, followed by mini-concerts on Store Hill.

**Meeting of Students of Dennysville Schools**  
Saturday, 2:00 P.M., Congregational Church.

**Bicentennial Banquet** — Saturday, 5:30 P.M., Edmunds School Gym.

**Bicentennial Church Service**  
Sunday, 10:30 AM, Congregational Church.

### EXHIBITS

Friday and Saturday — 9:30 — 11:30 AM; 1:00 — 5:00 PM

**Historical Display** — Mill House (Ray Higgins')

**Local Artists** — Vestry

**Church Display** — Parish Hall

### BUILDINGS OPEN TO PUBLIC

Friday and Saturday: 9:30 — 11:30 AM; 1:00 — 5:00 PM

**John Kilby House** — Harrison Avenue

**Lincoln Memorial Library** — King Street

**Congregational Church** — King Street

**Fire Station** — King Street

### TOURS

**Auto Tour of Town** — At any time — Use Map and Key

**Tour of Lincoln House** — Fri. and Sat. — Designated times

**Alton Curtis Shingle Mill** — Saturday, 9:00 AM — 2:00 PM

### FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS

**Street Dance** — Friday, 8:00 — 10:00 PM; Edmunds School

**Fun and Games** — Sat., 9 — 11:30 AM & 1 — 3 PM, Edmunds School

### CRAFT FAIR AND FLEA MARKET

At the Home and Yard of Alton and Bessie Curtis

Route 1 — Lower Dennysville — Saturday, 9:00 AM — 2:00 PM

Shingle Mill Tour — Lunches

— Compliments of —

Brown Brothers

Brown's Country Store

Clyde Lingley & Son — Texaco

C & M Fuels

Curtis Shingle Mill

Griffin's Crabmeat

Hallowell Lumber

Lincoln House Country Inn

Motorsmith's

Robinson's Cottages

Griffin Brothers Logging Co.



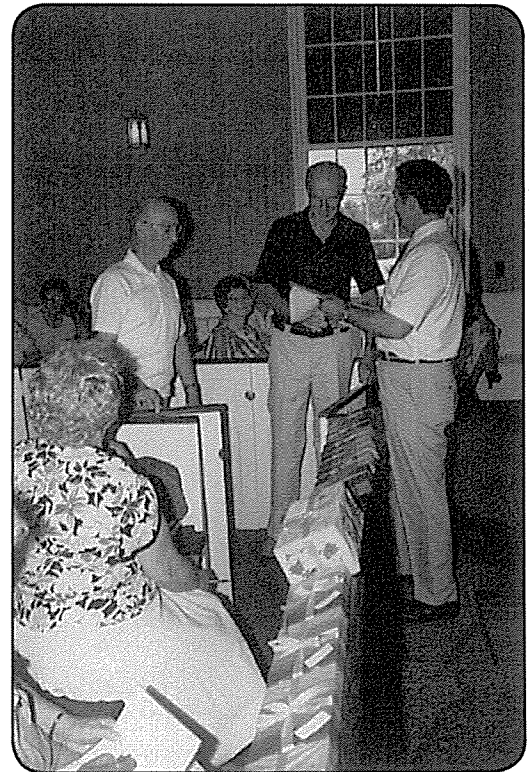


*Albert Mahar, local postmaster for 51 years, was the Grand Marshall of the bicentennial Parade*

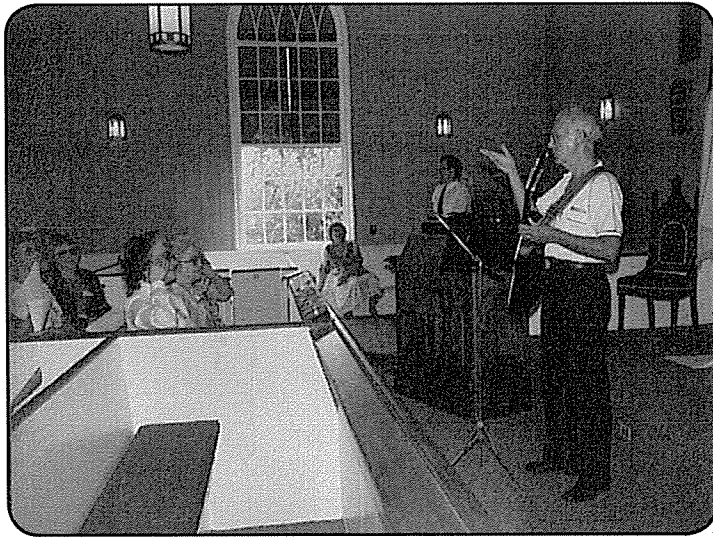
*Lewis Lyons, clad as an old-time undertaker, rode on the horse-drawn hearse in the Parade, assisted by Cecil Jones and his horse.*



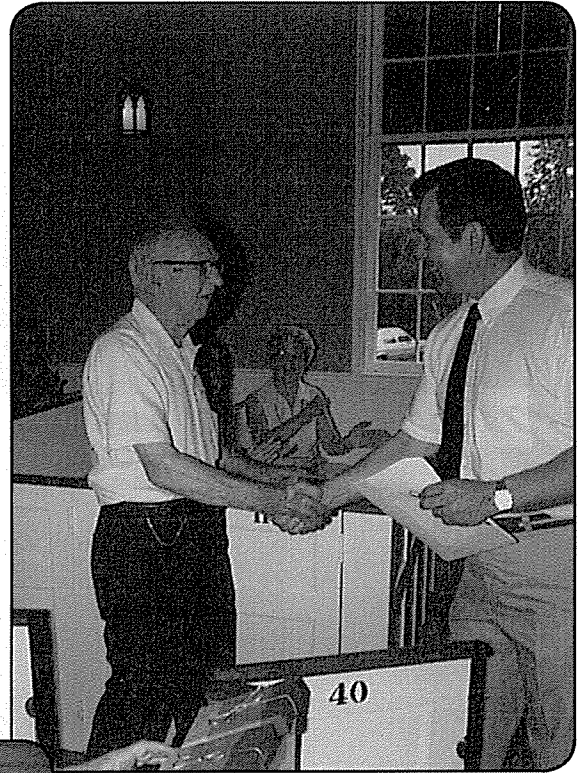
*One of our features of the Arts and Crafts Display at the former Vestry showed the handiwork of Phillip Zeller, a local bird-carver.*



*Peter Higgins honoring Lee Hallowell who walked the longest distance to attend Dennyville High School. In the foreground, watching the ceremony, was Mina Phinney, a D.H.S. teacher for many years.*



*Ralph Preston singing the song he wrote especially for the Dennysville Centennial at the meeting of Dennysville High School Alumni, which was held at the neighboring Congregational Meeting House.*



*Peter Higgins, master of ceremonies, presenting a token of remembrance to Philip Lincoln, the eldest graduate present.*

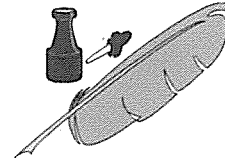


*Paul Mahar receiving the hooked rug, made by Robert Wilder, Sr., for which he had purchased the lucky ticket. Ralph Preston was on the left and Louise Kilby, wife of Merrill, on the right.*

*Marion Hair, a Lincoln descendant, was one of the several guest speakers at the banquet. On the left were Pastor Ronald (partly hidden) and Barbara Windhorst and right were Ralph and Alberta Preston.*



## EDITOR'S NOTE



Dear Readers,

Thus far our winter has brought us less snow than is typical of Down East Maine, as well as milder temperatures. Some shrubs are showing signs of spring and robins have been seen. Old Man Winter is confused! Some other parts of our country are unexpected experiencing the kind of winter we usually have.

The D.R.H.S. monthly meetings are now being held at the Lincoln House. Much interest is being shown in the Civil War and its effect on our area.

Since time passes quickly, spring will soon be here. It will be very welcome!

Sincerely,

*Rebecca Hobart*

Rebecca Hobart, Editor

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D.R.H.S. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

I am enclosing my/our membership dues for 2012. This membership entitles me/us to the D.R.H.S. Newsletter, February, June and October issues.

Single Membership \$15.00

Couple Membership \$20.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Please enclose this form with your dues, payable to Dennys River Historical Society. Send to Richard O. Hobart, Jr., 80 Belyea Road, Edmunds, ME 04628 <rhobart0@gmail.comr > 0 before @ is zero

ALL MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, ANNUALLY



Dennyss River Historical Society

Dennyssville, Maine 04628