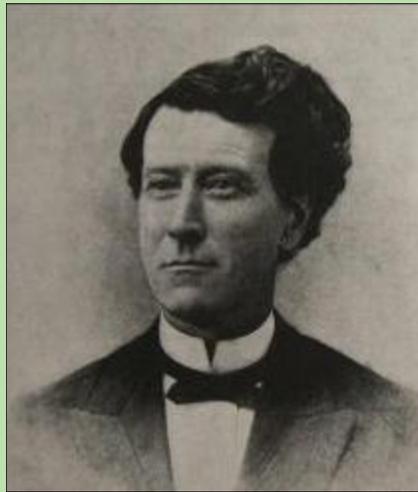


The Bethel Journals

Welcome to Bethel of 1890



1890 Judge Enoch Foster, Jr.
Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Court
President of the Bethel Water Company, Inc.

Public water system installed—Town school system saved—Corn factory moves to town financed new building—2d Congregational Church in Mayville closes

1890

The Bethel Journals

February 13, 2011

1890 LINKS

[Town Report](#)

[School Report](#)

[Gould Academy](#)

The 1890 News Summary

1890 Happenings: [Map](#)

Public Water System installed from Chapman Brook to Bethel Hill: This was Bethel's most complex engineering project of the 19th Century. Between June and the end of September over five miles of pipe was laid from the newly acquired Chapman Brook reservoir, crossing the Androscoggin River to 28 hydrants located in the village. Two hundred tons of pipes made up the first shipment sailing from Philadelphia to Portland, thence by rail to Bethel. These accomplishments brought

great credit to the Bethel Water Company, its investors, supervisors and workers. Once water was in Bethel, the Village Corporation members started work on organizing and equipping a village fire department. Funds were also appropriated to maintain street lighting in the village, although they chose to use oil fuel instead of attempting at this time an electrical lighting system.

Corn Factory Moves to New, Town Financed Building: Building a new corn canning factory near the Grand Trunk Railroad depot to be rented to the Wyman Brothers of Millbridge, Maine was yet another example of the town's willingness to raise public funds for economic development. Located just west of the Bethel Chair Factory building, town investment had taken advantage of placing new industry on property convenient for rail car loading. On Main Street, the **Odd Fellows society began construction of their new hall** and store building. The store would be leased to Calvin Bisbee. Near the West Bethel rail depot, a huge new **livestock and hay barn was started by A.S. Bean.**

Town School System Saved: In March Bethel voters turned down an attempt to dissolve the town school system in favor of the old district system. Dr. John G. Gehring spent all of 1890 investigating, analyzing and then reporting objectively on the condition of Bethel's schools. His very critical report led to creating the position of Supervisor of Schools in 1891. Gould Academy opened an enlarged library to its students and visitors that included two daily Boston newspapers, two county newspapers, and Harper's Weekly as well as educational, scientific and literary journals. Free high school for Bethel students still did not meet voter approval. Article 26: to establish and maintain a free high school using Gould Academy property failed to pass at the annual town meeting.

Take Me to the Fair: October's fair weather contributed to the success of an agricultural fair held in Mayville and at Pattee's Hall in Bethel village. (It would not be until the next year, that the Riverside Agricultural Fair was formed.) Moses A. Mason's trotting park was chosen for livestock exhibits while at the hall in the village a great variety of dairy, homemaker and artistic talent was displayed. The trotting park and weight drawing contests for horses and oxen was the center of male excitement.

Second Congregational society voted to disband, Mayville: “July 6, 1890, and closed the doors of the church edifice to the public as a resort for public worship and the descendants of the “prodigals” returned to the house of their father’s, less than a mile distant, a free bridge making the way more easy, though by vote of the town no toll was collected of persons passing to and from religious meetings.”*

The Boston market continued to be a center of commercial focus for Bethel merchants and livestock dealers. Customers shopping at Bethel stores benefited from merchants’ seasonal buying trips to the “Hub”. Much of the livestock trading in Bethel, Albany and Mason was connected to New England’s huge cattle market in Brighton, Mass (Alston, west of Boston) by premier Bethel livestock dealer John Philbrook. Bethel meat counters were supplied and local farm-raised livestock bought for market by Philbrook.

1890 Census—Population Changes

Towns	1880	1890	Change
Albany	693	645	(48)
Bethel	2207	2209	132
Gilead	293	336	43
Greenwood	838	727	(111)
Mason	N/A	N/A	
Newry	337	343	6

“The wisdom of Gilead and the news from Bethel did not appear in the Democrat last week and the readers will never know their great loss.” September 1890 – Bethel correspondent

The 1890 News

January

1-3-1890:

Bethel All the villages in Bethel and surrounding towns report on the Christmas holiday activities.

South Bethel: Lyceums will be held every Friday; admission is fifteen cents.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

Bethel: The Chinese Village Company under the auspices of the Ladies Circle of the Universalist Society will present an exhibition and entertainment at Ideal Hall on January 7th. Real Chinese people with their funny instruments, drums, fiddles, songs, horns, etc. These people come highly recommended by ministers of all denominations. The streets of Bethel are now well lighted and it makes a big improvement on a dark night. Much credit is due W.E. Skillings for his skillful arrangement and prompt setting of the lights.
1-10-1890:

East Bethel: New officers of the Alder River Grange are announced.

Gilead: W.E. and J.P. Skillings will commence sawing birch (at their Gilead mill) the middle of the week. They have a machinist repairing (the mill saw).

Bethel: We have had good sleighing ever since Thanksgiving. The studio of Mr. York, our photographer, was closed January 3rd for one week. They needed a rest after a busy holiday season.

WHITNEY BROS.

Manufacturers and Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Granite, Marble and Statuary and All Kinds of
CEMETERY WORK BethelMaine

Buyers of Barre, Vt and Scotch Granite, Italian Marble and Statuary Figures

YORK THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Special attention given to Groups and Class work.

BETHEL.....MAINE

OLD COMFORT SLEIGHS FOR SALE

I Have Ready for Sale

30 New Sleighs

Price from Thirty to Forty Dollars

Upholstered with Best Mohair Plush

J.C. BILLINGS

Bethel Maine

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

1-17-1890:

Albany: Albany Basin, business is good here this winter. W.H. and C.H. Morrison of Bridgton have contracts to cut the pine on lots owned by Hastings and Thomas this winter. They already have 500,000 feet cut and hauled. Their crew consists of 8 horses and 12 men. Mr. Hastings has a four horse team drawing lumber to Bethel and Norway. Hastings and Thomas have a brand new stable where all the horses are kept. F.L. Willis of West Paris has a good mill and has the contract to saw the lumber. Jacob Dresser has a contract to land 1,000 cords of poplar by the river for Hastings and Thomas.

Newry: J.A. Thurston jammed his foot quite badly last week by a falling shook. He is having large quantities of birch drawn this winter to his mill. Frank Russell and others are drawing to his mill across the Androscoggin River above the Corner though they have to drive some distance around the opening in the river. Mercury last Saturday: 42 above. Six inches of snow Saturday PM. Business is lively on Bear River drawing birch and poplar. Morton Thurston of North Newry is drawing part of his staves to the shop of his brother, J.A. Thurston, for manufacture. 1-24-1890: The Androscoggin River is now frozen at Bean's Ferry and teams have passed over a few days.

West Bethel: N. Bean of Gilead is at work in S.S. Bean's new blacksmith shop doing repairs in and around the mill as well as custom work.

Newry: J.A. Thurston's mill started up Monday. **Bethel:** The Bethel Choral Union began its second season's work. They are to sing Schubert's "Miriam" and some part-songs this winter.

Gould Academy: There will be a lecture on Volcanoes and Volcanic Phenomena given by the principal. The lecture will be followed by a chemical experiment depicting an active volcano eruption. The new reading room at the Academy is to be a fine thing – having leading periodicals and Boston daily papers. The library will also be furnished with a new card catalog. 1-31-1890:

Bethel: La Grippe (influenza?) has closed Gould Academy. The spring term will commence February 11th - one week earlier than was intended.

February

2-7-1890:

Bethel: Bethel can look forward to an opera by Gilbert & Sullivan, "Trial by Jury" directed by Dr. J.H. Johnson. After performances in Berlin, NH, he intends to come to Bethel with the opera. From the correspondent's report it seems that this production was presented by the Bethel Dramatic Club.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

NW Bethel: N.S. Stearns has sent away eight carloads of pulp this winter.

2-14-1890:

Newry: Mrs. J.A. Thurston has just purchased a nice Estey organ costing \$150. Now there will be music in the air.

North Newry: M.C. Thurston is rushing business at his mill. He manufactures annually about 1,000 cords of birch into dowel and spool stock besides using quite a large amount of oak and maple for shooch which he markets in Portland and elsewhere; such industries are important to our town by way of giving employment to large numbers.

Middle Intervale: Carter Bros. are getting out 75 to 100,000 pine, also 100 cords of birch for Morrill's mill. Buck & Kimball are getting 200 cords or more of birch from the Cummings place to the Thurston's mill at Newry Corner., also about 80 cords poplar into the river and about 100 cords pine pulp for Canton Pulp Mill and about 40,000 pine for Virgin at Hanover and 50,000 for Morrill's mill at North Bethel.

West Bethel: A number of our scholars are going to school at Bethel (Gould) Academy. Some board, others are taking advantage of the scholars reduced rates on the Grand Trunk and are home nights. The mill (A.S. Bean's new long board mill?) starts up to saw long lumber this week.

2/21/1890:

All villages report the "la grippe" going around.

Newry: The Branch circle met last week with Mrs. Jacob Littlehale – about 50 present. Mr. and Mrs. Littlehale know how to entertain their company royally.

West Bethel: Dance Saturday evening at the Grange Hall by Frank Goodnow and Charlie Merrill. Good music and reduced rates. 2/28/1890:

Newry: A foot of snow on Thursday night held up the stage to Upton; on Friday only as far as Ralph Kilgore's and made it to Upton by 4 o'clock; then came back as far as Newry and made the trip back to Bethel Sunday morning. **Gilead:** Mr. Hastings (Rob) has 16 teams in the woods this winter (at Wild River).

March

3/2/1890 - Bethel Town Meeting:

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

Officers elected for 1890: Moderator: William E. Skillings; Selectmen: for one year, A.W. Grover, C.W. Kimball, E.S. Kilborn. Clerk: L.T. Barker. Treasurer: O.H. Mason for the Fiscal Year February 14, 1890 to February 15, 1891. Superintending School committee, J.G. Abbott, F.E. Barton, J.G. Gehring and H.N. Upton. Upton was appointed to fill a vacancy. Town Agent: A.E. Herrick. Tax Collector: T.H. Chapman. Auditor: G.P. Bean.

[Art. 25th. To see if the town will vote to permit the Bethel Water Company to lay its pipes across the Androscoggin River upon the Bethel Toll Bridge, so called, or to hang them upon or under said bridge, under the direction of the Selectmen.] This item was not approved.

3/7/1890:

Gilead: Sledding is nearly all gone on account of the mild and rainy weather of late.

Newry: Quite a number from this part of the town attended the festival at the Poplar Hotel, C.R. Bartlett, Prop., some 115 present including from Bethel, C.E. Bisbee and wife, the popular trader, and John Philbrook. A very nice oyster and pastry supper was served – there was plenty of it. Town meeting offices – N.S. Baker, moderator; clerk and treasurer: J.A. Thurston; selectmen: S.R. Widber, M.L. Thurston and J.B. Littlehale.

Bethel: Mr. Wyman, our sweet corn man, is taking down the old corn factory (located on or near the Eber Clough property west of Mill Brook) and having it moved together with the machinery to its new location near the depot, where the town owns about two acres of land and are to build on it a corn factory building with the \$2,500 raised for that purpose. Mr. Wyman will occupy it; the old factory building will become an annex to the new one. The Kickapoo Indian Company last Friday evening offered a bottle of “sagwa” to the homeliest man in the audience if he would come out boldly and claim it. There were about a hundred present and among them several not very picturesque faces. To our surprise Mr. Moses A. Mason, Esq., came forward and the Indians saw him; they ran and got the bottle of sagwa and gave it to him. Mr. Mason must have tried his medicine because at town meeting he never looked better in his life. Ladies Club meets this week on Saturday at 3 PM with Mrs. Dr. Gehring.

In 1890, the town sold the Eber Clough property at auction. In 1889, it had been valued at \$3,133.25. At auction the sale closed at \$1,125 - about equal to its insured value. Other expenses included \$3.00 to A.E. Herrick for making deeds, \$11.25 to Cyrus Wormell for auctioneer fees and \$2.25 to Atwood, Forbes & Co for printing auction bills.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

The Hasting Bros. are hauling lumber to the lower side of Kimball Park where they will erect two nice cottages this spring. The lumber is brought from the Hastings mills in Gilead. William Hastings has bought the Sanderson estate in Kimball Park. B.R. Bryant has hauled 200,000 feet of timber from E.S. Kilborn's mill on Mill Brook this winter. He hauled on pine log 14 feet long that measured 700 (board) feet. Mr. Abbott who does blacksmith work for F.C. Bartlett has invented an under spring buckboard which entirely does away with the ugly jar of that vehicle. Lectures will be held at the (Gould) Academy this week and a dumb bell class of 40 worked out. Teachers are invited to normal lectures at the Academy. Subjects will be Aids and Methods in teaching History, Reading, Arithmetic, Geography, and Grammar. An outline of psychology and its applications to teaching will also be given.

West Bethel: Oscar Grover, Grace, Eddie and Archie Grover, Otis and Maurice Mason, Henry Mills, Maude and Georgie Merrow, Daren Grover, and Alice Barker are all at school at Gould Academy, Bethel.

3/11/1890 (Oxford Democrat)

Bethel: The town voted at the annual meeting (at Ideal Hall) to return to the district highway system and \$3,500 was voted as a labor tax. Also: \$1,000 for repairs on bridges; \$2,000 for support of schools; \$2,500 for support of the poor and to pay town officers' bills; \$600 for text books; \$2,000 to reduce town debt; \$500 to repair school houses. The town voted to retain the town system of schools and to accept the appraisal of school houses made by the selectmen, March 1, 1888 and appropriated \$7,700 to pay for the same (district reimbursement and town assumed ownership?)

[Article 9th To see if the town will vote to revert to the district system for schools and re-establish the school districts as they existed March 1st, 1887 Art. 10th. To see if the town will accept of the appraisal of its school houses, as made by the Selectmen, March 1st, 1888 and grant and raise a sum of money for the whole or a part of the same.] Voted to take from the Bethel Water Company water to supply two public watering troughs to pay therefore a sum equal to the tax assessed on the Company's works and franchise for a term of 20 years. Voted to accept the building and other property now in the hands of the trustees of Gould Academy if the trustees will convey and \$1,000 was appropriated for a free high school to be run in conjunction with said Academy under the provisions of the State Law, providing satisfactory arrangements can be made. *[Art. 26th. To see if the town will vote to accept the building and other property now in the hands of the Trustees of Gould Academy, if said Trustees vote to surrender the said prop-*

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

erty to the town; and to establish and maintain said Academy as a free high school under the provisions of sections 36, 37,38 and 39 of the Schools Laws of Maine, and to appropriate such sum of money as may be necessary to support and maintain said Academy as a free high school.] Voted to tax dogs \$1.00. Voted to sell the Clough property (part of this property had been rented by the first corn factory owners and to sell the toll bridge property). Town officers are all Republicans.

Another article sought a vote on the approval to open the newly laid out road called Mason Street. *[Art, 17th To see if the town will vote to open the road as laid out by the County Commissioners, leading from Broad Street, between the houses of Daniel S. Hastings and Mrs. Cyrene S. Littlehale (the Moses Mason house), and connecting with the street open on to Chapman Street near the house of Josiah W. French, and raise money sufficient to pay damage and build the same.]*

And in other news: Several carloads of lumber from the Berlin Mills Company have been landed on the site of the new corn shop. Civil engineers were engaged last week in making levels for the Bethel Water Company. The annual meeting of the Bethel Village Corporation is called for Monday the 10th. The warrant has a number of articles but an important one is to define the exact limits of the village corporation. A commission will be appointed for this purpose. Although the corporation embraces two school districts, the exact limits are not accurately defined. A private school is in progress at the school house in the upper district (No 15, in 2005 this building was “The Pines” guest house of The Bethel Inn and Country Club) under the management of Mrs. Ellen P. Kimball. Mason: H.G. Mason, in a bad way; J.H. Bean, been quick sick; Mrs. Belle Brown, seen by Dr. Twaddle; Donald Bean, birthday party; Arthur Hutchinson, returned from Wild River; D.E. Mills, doctor’s care.

North West Bethel: S.W. Potter, pension papers; G.G. Chapman, quite ill; S.S. Bennett, bought barber shop in Gorham, NH.

East Bethel: East Bethel Library Association appreciates and thanks Bethel village citizens for their support of a \$50 appropriation to their library; C.C. Kimball and daughter Belle, visiting; H.D. Howe, returned to Butte, Montana; George K. Hastings, visit Mass.; Mrs. M. S. Kimball, returned from Paris (South Paris); A.M. Bean has cut and landed on the bank of the river 100 cords of poplar timber.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890



Alpheus S Bean

West Bethel: Pleasant Valley Grange taking new members, has paid for property and has surplus in the treasury and will paint the hall this spring. A.S. Bean reports that he has 55 men on his payroll at the mill on an teams hauling timber thereto.

Newry: C.M. Walker, lost a horse; C.B. Harlow, finished school; M.L. Thurston, quite sick.

3/14/1890: *Advertiser*

Bethel: W.A. Parker has left employment at the Bethel Chair Co. to take up the insurance business. The Bethel Chair factory is adding “some very pretty styles of chairs” to their list. Mary L. Abbott of Upton has been sworn in as Assistant Postmaster in the Bethel Post Office.

Albany: The town meeting on March 3rd was moderated by James A. Kimball; W.B. Cummings is clerk; J.H. Lovejoy is treasurer and the selectmen are: Freeman H. Bennett, Austin Hutchinson, and Charles A. Flint.

South Bethel: The dance at Charles Ester’s on March 4th was a great success when 23 couples joined in the grand march with others coming later, excellent music by Bacon’s Orchestra. Several exclaimed about the excellence of the oyster stew. D.A. Coffin made the stew.

3/14/1890:

Bethel: Village Corporation meeting March 10th, Officers chosen: Assessors: Charles Mason, Horace C. Andrews, Eben A. Kilborn. Clerk: G. R. Wiley. Treasurer: Edwin C. Rowe. Collector: N. F. Brown. Engineers: N.F. Brown, G.R. Wiley, J.C. Billings. Twelve fire police were chosen. A commission of G.A. Hastings, R.A. Frye and L.T. Barker will define the exact boundaries of Bethel Village Corporation. It was voted to raise \$200 to light the streets the ensuing years. The contract for supplying the village with water for fire protection purposes which had previously been executed with the Bethel Water Company was read before the meeting and ratified by its vote. It will be remembered that the water company agree to furnish 25 hydrants at \$32 a piece for 20 years which aggregates \$800 a year payable semi annually. The water is to be brought from Chapman Brook five miles and the pipes are to be 8 inches in diameter and will cross the river attached to the bridge. The work is to be done and the water running by the first day of next September. Geo J. Hapgood has a great variety of gentlemen’s ties for sale cheap. He also has received a case of the nicest smoked hams the market affords plus all kinds of meats, sau-

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

sage, tripe, etc. Hastings Bros. have just stocked in a full line of mixed paints of all kinds and white lead, turpentine, paint, oil, etc.

Advertisement – Page 3, Advertiser, March 14, 1890

NOT HOW CHEAP, BUT HOW GOOD

Are you going to have a new harness this season?

If so now is the time to order it.

Any style harness made to order and all Custom Work Warranted

I also have a stock of SALE HARNESSSES that

I am offering at bargains

Don't buy of a peddler before you see my goods and the worth of your money guaranteed.

E.H. YOUNG _ _ _ _ **Bethel, Me**

3/18/190 Oxford Democrat:

Bethel: The foundations of the new corn shop are ready and framing has begun – pushing as hard as weather permits. Messrs. Kimball and Westcott have just finished hauling oak to the Bethel Chair Company from Albany to the factory here. About 300,000 feet of varied lumber is stored around the factory. Arthur S. Merrill, severely cut at Bethel Chair Co.; Universalist Society ladies gave a rainbow party at Ideal Hall. Arthur Merrill has bargained with G.A. Hasting for a stand upon Paradise Street.

West Bethel: A.W. Grover loaded a second car with cedar posts and poles for rustic work; they will be shipped to A.K. Aston, Shelburne, NH. Mr. and Mrs. J. Pike, benefit surprise; many roads broken in March; Mrs. Francis Barker, fell, poor condition; George Granville Chapman, died; several parties are storing ice.

Mason: A.G. Lovejoy family sick; H.G. Mason, weak; Arthur H. Morrill, sick; Sarah W. Tyler, poorly; H. Hutchinson and sons are cutting and hauling birch for D.E. Mills; Rev. Davis, will leave town soon.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

Albany: A.S. Bean started his birch mill; Harry Inman, to return to Natick, Mass.; a list of the mill: Mrs. Hiram Robbins, Mrs. Roscoe Emery; the Thomas Kimball's and Charles Eames families. Louisa Cummings died suddenly.

North West Bethel: Gus Chapman, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is at William Chapman's; Arvilla Grover, working for Mrs. Hiram Wilson.

Newry: Samuel Eames, at 95 years old made the trip to attend town meeting.

Gilead: Mr. Staples of Canton, logging up Wild River, has 500,000 spruce yarded and has 12 two-horse teams drawing to the river. Frank Farwell, died in Boston; George G. Chapman, died.

3/21/1890: Advertiser.

Albany: D.A. Cummings has a crew hauling timber for a barn frame which he contemplates building on his pine hill farm before haying.

South Bethel: The next meeting of the Ladies Circle will be held in the school house March 27th. A box supper will be served. There will be a programme for the evening consisting of music, readings and declamations, etc.

Gilead: Mrs. Georgie Bennett started a private school with a subscription list of nearly 25 scholars but for some reason only a few attend so I hear. We wish she might have good attendance to keep the young urchins out of idleness. J.M. Bartlett took from Hastings mill at three trips ten thousand of sawn lumber with one pair of small horses.

Bethel: At the annual town meeting in Bethel, the town voted to give H.C. Barker the care of the lock-up and he will be responsible for all money paid for use of the room. It is now to be used for the convenience of any persons who wish to occupy a room for a day's business, such as referees, committees, etc. as well as holding court for criminal cases.

Why don't the Bethel selectmen occupy the room for their meetings instead of hiring a room elsewhere?

News from traders and merchants follows: Hasting Bros. received new lots of Campbell's varnish in varied colors. C.E. Benson has a good stock of fresh meats constantly on hand. The Whitney Bros. are doing nice work on tablets and monuments at their shop near the station. The Town of Bethel has a strong crew at work putting in the foundation of the new corn factory near

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

the chair factory. Messrs. W.E. and J.P. Skillings at one time the past winter received orders for spool, 39,000 gross, in 30 days and one-half of this skilled help were sick with the grip. They worried through however and held their orders. Mrs. Gehring will read for the benefit of the Ladies Club at the vestry of the First Congregational church, March 25th at 8 PM. The programme will be as follows:

“The Sleeping Car” – a farce.

Song – rendered by Bertha Grover

“The Legend of the Organ Builder”

Trio – Mrs. Snell, Mrs. Skillings and Miss York.

“The Origin of the Grippe”

Closing with a new version of

“Listen to My Tale of Woe”

3/25/1890: The Oxford Democrat.

Bethel: W.E. Skillings left on a business trip last week to New York, Philadelphia and other cities. Bethel Corn shop work is progressing; the Wyman’s are building an ice house and are filling it with large quantities of ice. Eli Merriman of Readfield, merchant tailor, was at Bethel House taking measurements and orders. W.F. Lovejoy of the Bethel House attended his nephew’s funeral in Augusta; Judge Foster is at court in Skowhegan.

Newry: J.A. Thurston at Newry Corner began running his steam mill nights; he employs seven men to complete the night shift; J.S. Allen runs the boiler at night for two months; Mr. Thurston has about 1,000 cords of timber in his mill yard to turn into dowels, spool strips and staves.

3/28/1890: Advertiser.

Newry: The snow is going; the river is rising and the ice is breaking. A number of residents are recovering from the grip. John Philbrook bought quite a number of oxen at Upton and they were drive down Saturday. We understand J.A. Thurston is soon to run his mill nights as well as days. All of his children are sick with la grippe.

East Bethel: Sugar makers are preparing for the sugar season.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

West Bethel: Mellen Mason's blacksmith shop was burned Monday morning with tools, ice and meat packed below, farming tools stored above. Loss: \$400. It had been newly built last fall. A.S. Bean's teams are again hauling from the Bog.

Mason: School began last Monday, Mollie Barker teacher. She boards at J. Hastings Bean's where she will enjoy all the comforts of home.

Bethel: Molly Gill our Bethel dressmaker is in New York studying the spring fashions.

April

4/1/1890 Democrat:

Bethel: Ladies Club Benefit at Congregational Church vestry – readings, music, etc.

Gould Academy: The new library and reading room at the academy is now open. Pupils and visitors had two Boston daily newspapers, two Oxford County newspapers, Harper's Weekly, education, literary and scientific journals. Students will give another "crazy supper" and entertainment to benefit the library on April 10th.

West Bethel: Mr. and Mrs. Francis Barker, both ill. The pine grove near the rail depot has been purchased by Mr. T.A. Chapman of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; the grove will be preserved from the lumberman's ax. Our farmers have purchased over 300 bushels of feed from C.B. Cummings and Sons, Norway. It is landed at our depot. Mellon Mason in Gilead lost his blacksmith shop and tool shed to a fire.

Newry: Joe Ramsey at work in Riley as a teamster for George Ramsey was severely injured or fatally injured. Mrs. A.N. Stowe died; M.L. Thurston, mill shaft broke closing mill.

East Bethel: J.S. Hutchins closed a private school with a public examination. Mrs. Emily Newell, Kennebunk, now here with mother, Mrs. Maria Stiles. Mrs. Irene Needham is visiting from West Bethel; Mrs. Sophia Swan caring for sick at Eugene Bean's; Miss Helen Bartlett is dressmaking in Hanover; Mrs. M. S. Kimball, returned from Paris; D.B. Grant sick.

Mason: Names in this week's news: A.G. Love, Miss Nellie Bean, S.O. Grover, and N.G. Mills. Bert Littlefield and Mrs. M.M. Barker. 4/4/1890: Advertiser:

Newry: Report that the Bethel town farm superintendent, T. Jewett, and family will be leaving and Charles Bryant from Greenwood will take the farm this year. (Part of the Bethel town farm lies in Newry. In Bethel's 1890 town report listed T.H. Jewett as having served as superintendent from April 6, 1889 to February 15, 1890. He received \$279.63.)

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

4/8/1890 Democrat:

Bethel: Postmaster George H. Brown died. He was buried with the rites of the Odd Fellows and Masons. J.G. Rich was employed by the Forestry Commissioners of New York to take four deer purchased on Hastings in Bethel and to be taken and placed in New York state parks. Other mentioned: Eben S. Kilborn and Hiram Wiles.

West Bethel: News names: Arthur Mason and A.W. Grover.

Newry: Still good sledding on Bear River. Other people mentioned: Mrs. J.A. Thurston, A.W. Powers wants to sell farm; A.L. Farrar, A. Tyler and C.A. Baker.

South Bethel: L.A. Cushman making fine syrup using an evaporator. Names: C.E. Abbott, R.J. Virgin, E.F. Cushman.

Albany: Names: Henry P. Coolidge, Joseph Rand, A.G. Bean & Son, Hiram Robbins and Deacon Lovejoy.

4/11/1890

Albany: Today, April 8th, we hear of the misfortune of Isaac Morrill of Bethel, formerly of Albany, in the loss of his steam mill at Swan's Corner by fire on Sunday night, a loss of between \$2,000 and \$3,000 – no insurance.

Bethel: Gould Academy. Last week the students celebrated 'all fools day' by a sugar party at one of the sugar camps near the village. All enjoyed the fine coasting and the fun of stirring of the wax. The boys have adorned the 'sky parlor' with flags and bunting for the crazy supper. Committee on arrangements wish to extend thanks in this effort to raise money for our library. Edward P. Lyon is at present engaged in G.P. Bean's store. Isaac Morrill's mill was burned April 5th; about 200,000 feet of lung and 300 cords of birch, etc., remained unsawed.

4/11/1890:



Ceylon Rowe

Bethel: Our photographer, York, is branching out. He will spend the first week of every month in West Paris and his wife will manage the Bethel office. Misses Abbot and Locke conduct the Bethel Post Office now and business is correctly and promptly done.

Ceylon Rowe has returned from Boston with lots of ladies new goods. He says he has found the place to buy after so long a time. Ice left the Androscoggin April 14th.

Gould Academy: Interest in athletics has increased at the Academy. This week they organized the Gould Academy Athletic Association.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

Albany: They are surveying poplar pulp wood today to go down the Crooked River. Between two-thousand and three-thousand cords will go out of Albany. J.J. McAlister and 380 cords, Hasting and Thomas has a thousand cords, D.A. Cummings has about 300 cords besides 1,500 cords gone by rail (via Bethel depot). C. Bryant of Bethel was in town April 14th looking for beef and veal calves. John P. Mason has brought in 17 crow heads for the state bounty.

Newry: The water is up at good pitch in the river and they are putting in their poplar and also starting their long lumber. The church at the Corner is being shingled by the society and friends. Mrs. J.A. Thurston's mother from Colebrook, N.H. is visiting her but she is having a sick spell. Celia Thurston and her husband have been visiting at J.B. Littlehale's also at Howard Thurston's.

West Bethel: A.S. Bean's teams are still hauling long lumber from the bog. Sledding is very thin.

Friends and members of the Methodist church had done a good thing in shingling the church (at the Corner) and it looks better. Cold weather has checked the flow of water and the drive is waiting for rain or the snow to melt.

West Bethel: A.S. Bean is having his new houses painted by Bert Bean and Frank Goodnow.

Mason: The steam mill of A.S. Bean has shut down for the present and the crews have gone to North Albany where Mr. Bean has a water mill.

May

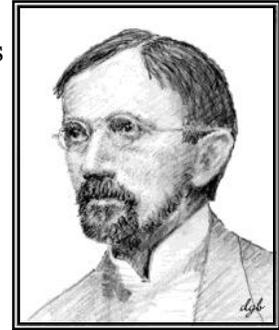
5/2/1890:

West Bethel: Two fires in the past week set by the engine of the Grand Trunk Railroad. Both came near doing much damage. The first blistered paint on the Needham place and the other caught near the depot – ran over the graveyard smoking stones and burning fences and would have burned the hearse house if not for the mill boys. The drought was broken on April 26th with five inches of snow.

Advertisement – Display Ad in the Advertiser
Whitney Bros.
Granite Marble and Statuary
(Etching of a large obelisk style of monument)
Home Office and Marble Works
BETHEL – MAINE

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

Bethel: Tuesday evening at a gathering in the Congregational Church vestry the Sunday School Superintendent, Mr. Purington, received a comfortable easy chair for his eleven years of faithful service. Dr. Gehring made the presentation speech. Lawn tennis is a popular game in Bethel this season. The Gould academy Athletic Association has just received \$18 worth of tennis good from Boston. The club court is marked out and ready for use. The Athletic Exhibition Friday evening is for the benefit of the Academy library. The dumb bell drills by 24 girls and boys is costume is a pretty sight. Dancing will follow the exhibition. G.P. Bean takes possession of the Post Office today. Miss E.E. Burnham is ready to pen her stock of spring millinery. Miss Willard, Miss Burnham's trimmer, has just returned and is full of new ideas and city styles.



Dr. John G. Gehring

Harnesses

Not how cheap but how good

E H YOUNG

BETHEL MAINE

5/9/1890:

Bethel: Mr. Young's harness shop is one of the best arranged shops. His harnesses range in price from \$7.50 to \$50.00. Many ornamental trees were set out in the village on Arbor Day. J.S. Bartlett, A.E. Herrick and J. Rich set Cut Leaf Birch trees from New York.

Gilead: Hastings poplar drive is out. Mr. H has two dowel machines cutting 16,000 a day. Skillings mill will start up in a few days. C.D. Manny was in Boston last week. J.P. Skillings came up (from Bethel) to superintend in his absence. Prospects are very good that the Grand Trunk Railroad will build a new depot at this place this summer.

Upton: Ice is out at Lake Umbagog

5/23/1890: Democrat

Albany: Sarah A. Marshall died.

West Bethel: (Democrat) Bean and Mason have been to Boston to purchase goods for their store. A.S. Bean has begun his new barn foundation. Village school has commenced with J.S. Hutchins, teacher. Geneva Conner, returned home; Mrs. L. Ordway, much troubled; Miss Mollie Barker, teaching Dist #6 in Gilead; W.H. Farwell, caring for wife; Fred Ordway, riding hobby team; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Mason, baby; D.A. Farwell, lost cow; A.L. Whitman, from Grover Hill; B.K. Bean, Jr., improve hen yard; Fred Eastman, to Vermont; Linda Bennett, visiting;

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

Millard Mason, home from ; Sewall Walker, moved Needham; Albion Mason, bought; Everett Dresser, moved; Cora Mason, to Boston; Bert Bean, Berlin; Mrs. Gilbert Mills, being visited.

Mason: (Democrat) S.O. Mason, stock to pasture; J.C. Bean, sick cow; Rev. Davis, mentioned; George H. Brown, quite feeble; Mrs. Sarah Mason, sick; Albert Davis, hired by; Fritz Tyler, pony; Mr. Williams, head trouble; Miss Barker, teacher; Horace Hutchinson, to Bethel; Nellie Bean, at Bethel; F.I. Bean, appointed census enumerator for Mason, Stoneham, Gilead, Fryeburg Academy Grant.

Bethel: Thursday May 22nd at Ideal Hall the Gould Academy graduation and exhibition will take place. Graduating class: Cora Walton Hastings, Maude Everett Kimball and Bert Lewis Bryant, all were in the classical course.

5/30/1890:

West Bethel: (Democrat) Mrs. Frank Goodnow , visited by; L. Ordway, visited by; W.A. Farwell,— wife's illness; Gracie Farwell, to Bethel; W.D. Mills-busy blacksmith; Mr. and Mrs. David Holt-poor health; G.B. Mills, road surveyor; Georgie Merrow, selling papers; rain, a backward spring. Prof. Hall of Gould Academy was in the village calling on his pupils. Lawrence Allen, new organ; Alice Billings, to teach music in West Bethel and Mason. Sadie Scribner is working; Charles Eastman, visit; Mrs. Herbert Mason. Twelve years ago A.E. Herrick now of Bethel taught a high school here and after a town school he commenced teaching Latin, French and Greek; he gave his scholars his whole time. We have been fortunate to have college students that were willing to teach whatever the scholars wanted in advanced studies since that time we have sent out students to college and graduates from Gould Academy. Seven from this district passed the town teacher's examination and two from the Flat making nine from this vicinity with three in college at present.

June

6/6/1890 (Democrat):

Bethel: A village corporation has been organized at Bethel to supply the village with water from "Uncle Ed's Brook" getting a fall of 180 feet. Eight inch pipe to be used has already been ordered. The estimated cost is \$30,000 but it is hoped to get the work done inside that estimate possibly for \$20,000. The Grand Trunk Railroad offers to pay \$600 for water for their use and the village corporation is to pay \$800 for hydrants. The estimated cost will require a net income or \$1,800 to meet interest. The remainder will be easily raised from private service and also from maintaining the service. A portion of the funds are to be raised by subscription to stock and the balance by issuing bonds. The water will be brought a distance of four miles. Mrs.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

C.S. Littlehale, Brown Relief Corps tea; Judge R.A. Frye, to Democratic State Convention; Mrs. Ernest Cross bought William Clark place; J.G. Rich, makes pension application; Andrew Richardson, cancer removed; Fannie Rich Holt, poor health; Frank Rich, gone gold digging; Dr. Tuell (dentist), handsome Boston squash. Holman S. Melcher, mayor of Portland, delivered the Memorial Day address in the Congregational Church. Choirs from the different churches under the direction of Deacon E.P. Grover assisted by the Choral Club presented excellent music – Laura Hall at the organ.

Benjamin Bryant is putting in the new foundation for the Odd Fellows Hall opposite G.J. Hapgood's store.

6/13/1890 (Democrat):

Bethel: The Bethel Water Company is hard at work. They have surveyed and located the line of pipe also located the dam which gives a head of 200 feet above Bethel Common and 300 feet at the (Bethel) station. The superintendent, John J. Moore of Hingham, Mass., who has complete charge of construction of the works, is already here in the employ of the Water Company. The men will be sent for as soon as the pipe arrives. Teams have also been engaged to distribute the pipe along the whole length of the line, 4 and one-half miles. One vessel load of 200 tons of pipe has sailed from Philadelphia for Portland and is expected there daily. It will require 80 car loads of pipe (to move the shipload to Bethel). The plan of the location has been drafted by A.M. Carter and will be placed on file with the County Commissioners agreeable to the law. The hydrants have already been located. The trustees of **Gould Academy** have engaged Prof. Hall to take charge of the academy for another year.

West Bethel: The stone masons are doing a good job on the foundation of A.S. Bean's new barn and have it nearly ready to receive the timbers. The Grangers had a good turnout in Bethel at Pattee's Hall; farmers are increasing their interest in the Grange due to its principles are "so pleasingly adapted to their calling". Mrs. W. A. Farwell, home from Twitchell's at Bethel Hill after illness.

Mason: F.I. Bean, our census enumerator tried his prentice hand on Gilead. He spent all week in Gilead and Fryeburg Academy's Grant. J.H. Bean is being visited by his mother, Mrs. Cyrene J. Bean. Daniel Morrill is repairing his barn. June 9th was a fearfully windy day; there was much wind damage to trees and buildings.

Albany: William Robbins and wife of Birmingham, Conn., visiting relatives; Lyman Johnson visited by George A. Foster of Boxford, Mass. Wind storm of June 9th also hit here.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

Newry: Heavy frost June 9th – on account of the wind no crop damage. The night crew at Thurston's mill at the Corner finished last Friday. Selectmen are to meet Saturday at J.B. Smith's to receive proposals for building the road from Smith's to the county road.

East Bethel: All the crops except grass are looking backward. Patrols of Alder River Grange attended the rally at Bethel June 12th. Misses Katie and Lucretia Howe visited Mrs. H.H. Bean. Eli Swan and wife returned from visiting. Rev. T.S. Records will preach on June 22nd.

North West Bethel: Herman Skillings is building a line fence; Amy Bean to A.S. Bean; Other names: S.S. Bennett, Sam Perkins; road work A.P. Chapman to T.M. Chapman; Warner Kendall discovered a petrified pine knot at Sylvanus Mason's farm.

South Bethel: Circle met at Mrs. R.J. Virgin's; Edwin Smith and crew are camping on the Ripley meadow peeling an estimated 200 cords of poplar for R.J. Virgin. A Grange delegation from here attended the lectures in Bethel at Pattee's Hall.

6-17-1890 (Democrat):

Bethel: An invoice of pipe has been received and is expected arrive by June 20th. As soon as the pipe is distributed work on the ditches will begin. The plans and survey have been under the direction of Mr. Morse, the superintendent, and the actual survey was made by A. M. "Gus" Carter, Esq. The most powerful rain storm of the season occurred last Thursday and Friday. Much of the low land is under water. J.M. Philbrook has sold several valuable horses this week. Reuben Foster of Boston visited T.J. Foster. Pinckney Burnham had a collision with J.B. Smith of Newry in Bethel.

West Bethel: The stone masons are doing a good job on the foundation of A.S. Bean's new barn and have it nearly ready to receive the timbers. The Grangers had a food turn out in Bethel at Pattee's Hall. Farmers are increasing their interest in the Grange due to its principles are "so pleasingly adapted to their calling". Mrs. W.A. Farwell is home from Twitchell's at Bethel Hill after illnesses.

Mason: F.I. Bean our census enumerator tried his prentice hand on Gilead - all week in Gilead and Fryeburg Academy Grant. Names: J.H. Bean visited by mother, Mrs. Cyrene J. Bean. Daniel Morrill is repairing his barn. On June 9th a fearful wind damaged trees and buildings.

Albany: William Robbins and wife of Birmingham, Conn., visited relatives. Lyman Johnson visited by George A. Foster of Boxford, Mass. The June 9th windstorm also hit Albany severely.

Gould Academy: The trustees of Gould Academy have engaged Prof. A.D. Hall to take charge of the academy for another year.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

Newry: Heavy frost on June 9th – on account of the wind no crop damage. The night crew at Thurston's mill at the Corner finished last Friday. Selectmen here to meet Saturday at J.B. Smith's to receive proposals for building the road from Smith's to the county road.

East Bethel: All the crops except grass are looking backward. Patrons of Alder River Grange attended the rally at Bethel June 12th. Misses Katie and Lucretia Howe visited Mrs. H.H. Bean. Eli Swan and wife returned from visiting. Preaching at the church – Rev. R.S. Records, June 22nd.

North West Bethel: Herman Skillings – building a line fence – Amy Bean to A.S. Bean. Warner Kendall discovered a petrified pine knot at Sylvanus Mason's farm.

6/24/1890 (Democrat)

Bethel: The Water Company has received 24 carloads of pipe that is being distributed all its line. Each piece of eight inch main weighs about 570 pounds. They will use 600 tons of iron. Calvin Bisbee is building a stable in connection with his house near the depot. The Water Company has rented barracks near the bridge across the Androscoggin River to accommodate the workmen. They expect to employ one hundred men in ditching. Ayers Mason was buried Thursday; he died at age 89. Rev. Webster Woodbury of Milford, Mass., is visiting his father. Ordination service for Frank Eugene Barton at the Universalist Church is planned for June 25th. Marjorie Skillings, 11 year old daughter of W.E. Skillings fell from the upper piazza of The Elms Hotel 15 feet to the ground. She apparently suffered no serious harm.

Mason: In the news: J.H. Bean, at the county Republican convention; J.H. Bean, Charles F. Brown and H.G. Mason chosen town committee Republicans in the caucus. N.G. and D.E. Mills peeling poplar; A.S. Bean: hauling strips and edgings.

East Bethel: The road machine is in the village. Rev. G.B. Hannaford is to preach at the church June 29th; C.H. Kimball and wife entertain Alder River Grange on June 28th.

Gilead: Good corn weather this week. The Canton Drive (to mills at Canton) passed here Friday with 45 men and ten horses. A young man drowned in Gorham a week ago; his body was found above the mouth of Wild River; he was buried here. E.E. Kimball and Co. has been adding a stock of dry goods to their store.

Albany: The Oxford Pomona Grange met with the Round Mountain Grange Tuesday. George M. Twitchell and other prominent speakers were present. There was plenty of food and good cheer; the Grange hall was too strait so the vestry of the Congregational Church next door was thrown open to them and more than 200 enjoyed a picnic supper. Albany people furnished

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

baked beans and coffee. Monday night J.F. French's barn and house were completely burned; cause is unknown. D.A. Cummings has started the cellar hole for his new barn.

July

7/1/1890 (Democrat)

Bethel: A.P. Jenness, Superintendent of the Fryeburg Water Company was in Bethel Thursday to consult on building the dam at the head waters of Chapman Brook. Benjamin R. Bryant (a former owner of the Thurston farm, now the River View Motel) will put in a stone dam for the company. There is a natural basin of solid rock so that the dam 60 feet long and 10 feet high will afford all the water requirements and it will be held in a natural stone basin. The Company has asked for a meeting with the Village Corporation to seek a thirty day extension for completing the hydrants because of a delay in receiving pipe. Twenty car loads were received last week (of June) and the balance is expected this week. Fifty men arrived in Bethel Wednesday employed by the Bethel Water Company in ditching and laying pipe. Work is progressing rapidly. A.E. Herrick, W.E. Skillings and Dr. C.D. Hill started Friday last for the Lakes on a fishing trip.

Wilson's Mills: John Olson has been to Bethel.

South Bethel: There will be a 4th of July celebration here – “horrible” races, antiques and a basket dinner in the grove – baseball and fireworks in the evening. Schools close Thursday of this week. George Lunn is repairing his house. R.J. Virgin getting along on his house – signs of thrift evident.

West Bethel: Cool weather helps our grass growth. E.P. Grover's summer accommodations are well engaged for the season.

Bethel: Benson & Lovejoy have moved their meat and livery business to the post office building. Hon. Albert Burbank of Portland was in Bethel making arrangements to build a house on his farm near the Bethel Steam Mill. Whitney Bros. has completed a \$500 granite monument assignment in Dixfield. The Bethel Brass Band has reorganized – regular meetings on Thursday evenings. E.H. Young was chosen leader. Work on the trotting track in Mayville is going well. When finished it will be one of the best one-half mile tracks in this vicinity. Master Teddy Skillings returned from Roxbury, Mass., where he has been fitting for Roxbury Latin School. He has placed first of the 30 students. Mrs. Ella Carter has purchased the Kimball stand in Kimball Park from S.D. Philbrook. Rev. D.W. Hardy occupies it now.

Albany: Names in the news, visiting, etc. George Farnham, A.G. Bean, W.W. Bird, and J.J. Bird, George E. Grover, Daniel Clark. Amos L. Bean, Daniel Clark. Peeling poplar and hemlock is all the rage now.

Newry: Names – Mrs. Will Frost, Mrs. Howard Thurston, Mrs. J.S. Allen, G.B. Knapp.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

North West Bethel: Schools in Districts 5, 6 and 29 will close July 3rd. S. Mason began haying – M. Penley and Mrs. W.S. Wright.

East Bethel: The dance on the pavilion Thursday evening was well attended. D.B. Grant has a well filled store of dry goods, groceries, etc. and all kinds of house and farm utensils. Farmers are offered 22 cents a pound for wool. Names: Mrs. M.S. Kimball, C.M. Brown, Mrs. W. F. Brown and J.D. Hastings.

North Albany: Charles Eames, A.S. Bean, George W. Kimball who have been in Maryland and Virginia the last two months set sail from New York for Europe.

Mason: Corn is small; haying will come early. F.I Bean has finished his job as census enumerator. Names: E.T. Mains, Mrs. Charles F. Brown, J.H. Bean.

7-6-1890

Mayville: “July 6, 1890, the Second Congregational society voted to disband and closed the doors of the church edifice to the public as a resort for public worship and the descendants of the “prodigals” returned to the house of their father’s, less than a mile distant, a free bridge making the way more easy, though by vote of the town no toll was collected of persons passing to and from religious meetings.”*

* “While the “Town Cattle Show and Fair” with race course attached was kept intact the meeting house was used as an EXHIBITION HALL but when all this (fair) became defunct there was no further use for the structure and it was sold during the month of May, 1909, demolished, some of the timber going into an addition to the Novelty Works (in the 1940’s, Hanover Dowel) building.” (Leonard B. Chapman):

7-8-1890 (Democrat): **Bethel:** The last invoice of 300 tons of pipe was shipped from Philadelphia June 27 and is expected in Bethel on July 7th. 4th of July – if patriotism is to be measured by the amount of noise, Bethel must be very patriotic. Some older people were gloriously drunk.

Our village has five billboards 60 feet long and 8 feet high with bills of Forepaugh’s great (wild west) show to be here August 12th. One mile of pipe has been laid in the past week. Ward K. Swan and Albion Holt are putting in a foundation for a house on Railroad Street.

East Bethel: Flora Wheeler closed school District No. 8 on July 3rd. District 10 and 26 closed also. Names: Miss Leona Swan. J.D. Hastings recently visited D.R. Hastings, Fryeburg. Lamonte C9le has returned from his trip down the river.

West Bethel: A.S. Bean’s barn foundation is finished and framing has started.

Newry: Names – Mrs. C.C. Harlow, J.H. Baker - Frank Bisbee shingled his barn; A.H. Powers has painted his house.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

Mason: Names – Henry W. Judkins, Deacon J.H. Lovejoy of Albany executed his one hundred and sixteenth quarterly return as postmaster. He was first appointed in 1841 by Pres. Harrison – was removed by Pres. Pierce and re-appointed by A. Lincoln in 1861 and holds the office at the present time.

7-15-1890 (Democrat): **Bethel:** Tuesday at 6 PM a very heavy storm of high wind, thunder and lightning passed through Bethel – upturning trees, unroofing buildings and damaging crops. The chair factory trembled like a leaf – belts and machines all had to be rearranged. Water Company: Eight two horse teams are distributing pipe along the line of the water works. Our boarding houses are fast filling – S.B. Twitchell has his house full – click of the mowing machine is heard – barns fast being filled with hay.

The largest freight bill ever paid to the Grand Trunk Railroad (at Bethel?) at one time was \$1,500 paid by the Bethel Water Company Saturday morning, July 12, 1890.

Gilead: S.D. Hebron (or is it Hobson?) of Island Pond, Vermont, has bought of Charles E. Dole of Portland, 38,000 acres of wild land situated in Coos County, New Hampshire, and joining the Gilead line. Price paid was \$100,000. Hebron intends to build a lumber mill here if suitable arrangements can be made. Such an enterprise would be well received – Hebron is highly regarded.

Mr. Edwin Elliot, engineer in Mr. J.W. Bennett's steam mill in Gilead committed suicide by taking laudanum Wednesday.

August

8-5-1890 (Democrat):

Bethel: Rev. D.W. Hardy closed his labors at Bethel after five years of faithful service. The Church and Parish had a meeting to pass appreciative resolutions and request him to withdraw his resignation. Sunday evening Neal Dow of Portland addressed a temperance union meeting at the Congregational Church. The large house was crowded and hundreds were turned away for want of room. Dow attacked the utterances of Dr. Howard Crosby of New York that moderate drinking of wine and beer were beneficial. Dow declared that nothing good ever came from drinking but evil and only evil. Heavy showers passed through Bethel Wednesday night and Thursday coming so suddenly that large quantities of hay were wet. Then Friday and Saturday were two of the best hay days of the season. The Water Company is stretching the pipe across

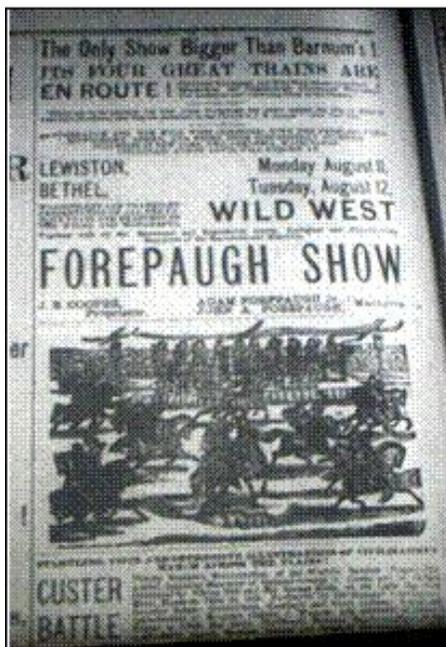
The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

the Androscoggin River where it is deeply embedded in the sand under the water. Lumber for the new Odd Fellows Hall has arrived and Cummings of West Paris has the contract to build it. T.H. Kendall and C.H.B. Powers did the brick work on the foundation and Benjamin Bryant did the stone work.

East Bethel: Most of the farmers have finished their haying and report a good hay season. The dance last Thursday evening was attended by a large crowd. Over fifty couples enjoyed the novelty of springboard dancing. A number are going on the excursion next week and everyone is going to the circus (Forepaugh's Circus and Wild West Show, Bethel, August 12, 1890)

Mason: A.S. Bean has finished haying on both of his farms in Mason. The dreaded drought was averted and vegetables are growing well: peas, string beans and potatoes are plentiful.

Newry: Thurston's steam mill at Newry Corner is down with a broken shaft. We are expecting a minister to occupy the Newry parsonage before long. A good deal of hay has been gotten in this week in fine condition. **Gilead:** Hay is better than expected; blueberries seem scarce on the mountains; weekly temperance meetings are being held by the Rev. Messrs. More and McLucas in the town hall.



The town paid four men \$2.00 each to perform police duties at the circus.

8/12/1890 Democrat:

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

Bethel: The Odd Fellows hall is taking shape rapidly. Mr. Cummings of West Paris has a number of men pushing work ahead and will have it finished this week. Rev. Daniel Evans is supplying the pulpit of the Congregational Church during August. Roscoe Cross of Bethel was returning from Berlin, NH, where he had gone to sell meat and vegetables when he and his rig were hit by the Grand Trunk Train No. 1 by the Lead Mine Bridge in Shelburne. The horses were killed and he may have been fatally injured. Spinal injuries have let the man paralyzed. Mrs. J.C. Brown and Mrs. Sylvanus Bennett of Albany had driven to town to sell eggs and berries when their horse was frightened by two young men, one on a bicycle and one on a bronco. One of the ladies was thrown from the carriage. Eggs and berries were destroyed. The two men secured the horse, repaired the damage and paid the ladies for the loss or so it was reported.

Mason: A fire at George D. Morrill's house that had caused great alarm in the neighborhood when first discovered has caused less damage than originally thought. Mrs. Morrill lost many clothes and the writer hopes that neighbors can help her in this regard. The heat on Monday and Tuesday was the greatest of the season and unbearable for man and beast.

Newry: Henry Ryerson of Lowell, Mass., has come to cut the hay on his farm at Newry Corner. Crops need a steady rain instead of the showers followed by a dry wind. E.B. Knapp and his wife and Horace Foster and his wife have gone to Parmachenee for a week's visit.

West Bethel: A.S. Bean is raised the frame of his new barn this week. When completed it will be the biggest barn in Bethel. George A. Grover has harvested 1,150 quarts of strawberries this season. The assessor's report of livestock in Bethel on April 1, 1890 shows the following: horses, 559; oxen, 165, cows, 646, young cattle, 938 and sheep, 1460.

Albany: Several men from Otisfield are in town to help with haying. S.W. Libby has returned from employment at a mill in Newry. Several families are enjoying summer visits from other friends and family who live away.

North West Bethel: Herman Skillings rides in a fine looking top buggy. M. Penley has sold his meat cart. S.L. Mason works at Bethel Hill.

8/19/1890 Democrat:

Bethel: Friday the 13th, the Italians that work for the Bethel Water Company celebrated the anniversary of one of their patron saints. About night they became hilarious and some of them became pugnacious. Pistols and knives were frequently used with one man shot through the neck and another badly cut. Sheriff Wormell made several arrests. Fred Leach a long time freight agent at the Grand Trunk station died Saturday morning. The grain crop is ripening but with the prospects of a light yield, potatoes are also adversely affected due to the lack of rain. The blueberry crop is a failure. Gilbert Tuell is pushing his work on Albert Burbank's house. Mr.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

Cummings has the Odd Fellows hall covered; he employs six men who are pushing their work. In the last twenty years there has not been as much building activity in Bethel as is seen now. The boarding houses are full of guests and the Chair Company is driven with orders.

“The Ladies Circle (of the Congregational Church) has the great pleasure of announcing to the public that a midsummer benefit concert in aid of the proposed Garland Memorial Chapel will be given at the Congregational Church Monday evening, August 18th, by Miss Alice Stoddard, soprano, Miss Emily Lawler, contralto, Mr. Charles E. Dufft, baritone, Mr. William E. Reiger, tenor, Mr. J.C. Read, tenor, and members of Dr. Kittredge’s church choir on Madison Avenue and the 5th Avenue Baptist choir, New York. **The concert is to be under the direction of Prof. William R. Chapman of New York**, formerly of Bethel. Mr. Chapman as organist, pianist and director will arrange a programme sure to give great pleasure to his many friends who are justly proud of his musical abilities and remarkable success as leader of the Rubenstein Club of New York and leader of other musical clubs of the highest artistic excellence. The generous offer of these talented artists spending the summer among us will bestow the greatest pleasure upon many in our community whose tastes are in harmony with what these accomplished visitors will offer for an evening’s rare enjoyment.”

Mason: The circus Tuesday drew most of our people to Bethel Hill. Hardly a corporal’s guard were left at home and those were gray haired grandfathers and grandmothers to care for the grand children who were left at home. J.C. Bean and daughter and H.G. Mason have gone to Boston for the Grand Army encampment.

Newry: C.A. Baker, W.N. Powers, Amos Frost and Sam Frost went to Boston last Monday to attend the Grand Army reunion. Everybody and everybody’s boys and girls went to the circus Tuesday.

Gilead: Many of the farmers are not yet through with their haying and many are getting more than they expected. Corn is making rapid growth in this weather and potato bugs are not so plentiful. T.H. Chapman of Milwaukee is stopping with William Chapman. Most everybody went to Bethel to see 4-Paw and the Wild West.

8/26/1890 Democrat:

Bethel: Gilbert Tuell with eight men has A.L. Burbank’s house about ready for the plasters. Fritz Goddard is putting in the foundation for a house on the corner of Elm and Railroad Streets. A. Holt and Ward Swan have their houses on Elm Street nearly ready for the masons.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

The corn factory is ready for packing and some pieces of corn will be ready for picking by September 1st. The Water Company will have water into the village by September 1st. While out riding with his wife and three children, Dr. Tuell was thrown from the carriage. The horse ran out of control for more than a mile before Mr. William Kendall was able to leap aboard and rein in the animal. Fortunately no one was seriously injured.

Mason: Our army veterans have returned from Boston and report the grandest time of their lives. They will always remember it as the one great event of a lifetime. John Philbrook of Bethel has been in town buying cows for the Brighton market. Cows are in good demand and bring a fair price. Leon H. Tyler has commenced butchering; he will drive as far as Bethel Hill.

September

9/2/1890 Democrat:

Bethel: A very severe rainstorm on Wednesday saturated Bethel; the Androscoggin River rose four feet. Several pieces of sweet corn are ready for picking but most will need another two weeks of warm weather. The Water Company workmen are at work in the village now; they are pushing to be done by October 1st. The Chair factory is driven with orders. Summer boarders are on their way home but most boarding houses have the rooms re-engaged for September.

North West Bethel: T. H. Chapman of Milwaukee is at the Homestead Farm where he is having stumps blasted. Ned Skillings of the Grand Trunk R. R. is on vacation but will soon be back on his brakeman's job. Ned Stearns is building a 20 x 40 foot ell.

West Bethel: A.S. Bean will use 250,000 feet of lumber in the construction of his large barn. Potatoes are being dug to avoid the ravages of the muck worm which is also damaging other crops. Although the corn crop is late the weather has been favorable recently and farmers hope that the rains will hold off early frost.

9/9/1890 Democrat:

Newry: The canning of sweet corn is to begin next Monday in Bethel so I am told but there is little planted in this town. E.B. Knapp is on the war path setting his bear traps.

North West Bethel: Mr. and Mrs. W.S. Wright have closed their house and gone to join the Harrington Concert Company. **Mason:** Corn here is maturing rapidly and will be ready for the shop if we have no frost. **North Albany:** The Bean brothers are hauling their hemlock bark to Bethel.

Gilead: The people are building a parsonage here at the village. William Chapman is filling his silo at the rate of 30 tons a day. He has 16 acres to cut and he has a crew blowing out stumps. The Temperance Revival which has been going on here has done a lot of good. A lodge of Good Templars is to be instituted here soon.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

West Bethel: The Grand Trunk fence crew has been working near here for the past week. Our Sabbath school is well attended this summer. Mr. and Mrs. O.J. Pierce of Chicago have been staying with C.C. Merrill where Mrs. P. could visit the scene of her childhood on the homestead farm of the late Col. Eli Twitchell.

Bethel: The corn shop opened Wednesday and it is getting some fine corn. They (the new shop near the depot) are supplied with water by the Bethel Water Company. Ira Jordan of Locke Mills has bought the store formerly occupied by Woodbury and Purington of the heirs of R.A. Chapman. They will immediately repair the building and occupy it for a general store and dwelling. Deacon J. U. Purington has raised his house eleven feet and put a new story under it in the past week. Mr. Roberts of Hanover has charge of the work. Gilbert Tuell has charge of the joiner work. Fassett and Thompson of Portland made the plans. S.D. Philbrook has sold three lots on Church Street and the parties plan to build immediately.

9/16/1890 Democrat:

Bethel: The rain last week has retarded work of all kinds around town. The water company has their pipes laid on Main, High, Chapman and Broad Streets and it is ready to supply the Grand Trunk R. R. with water. The corn factory is busying with the annual canning and the chair factory has many orders to fill. Ira Jordan has moved into the Chapman store and tenement. J.M. Philbrook is sending more cattle to the Brighton market. Bethel people are attending the state fair in Lewiston.

Newry: State election passed off very quietly in Newry. The vote for Governor ended with two more votes for the Democrat. The vote for Representative was a tie, not bad for Newry. The Widow Harlow is selling her crops and preparing to move to Buckfield. Corn is rising and pigs are cheap, a dollar with buy a good one four weeks old.

East Bethel: The farmers are picking and drawing their (sweet) corn to the factories.

West Bethel: A wet spell is not very agreeable to farmers who want to dig their potatoes to avoid further muck worm damage and rot. It also has prevented some from attending the state fair in Lewiston.

Albany: Our farmers are picking their Lima beans but the crop is not as good as last year; some of the corn taken to the corn factory has been rejected because it was deemed to be too ripe. The corn canners have draped themselves with more authority in the fall than in the spring. Our farmers must look at their contracts more carefully. 9/30/1890 Democrat:

East Bethel: Our first frost occurred on Thursday, September 25th, but the farmers were prepared for it. Potatoes are rotting in the ground and beans are very much damaged by the wet

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

weather. William E. Swan of Massachusetts has sold his residence and land to James M. Bartlett.



West Bethel: A new floor has been put into our village school house by our enterprising school committee. This week will close the harvesting of sweet corn. Fall apples find a ready market at \$2 and \$2.30 per barrel.

North West Bethel: School began September 15th. Miss Florence Twitchell teaches in District #3 and Miss Arvilla Grover teaches in District #29. There are busy times at the Chapman Homestead Farm – plowing, etc.

Mason: The first frost of the season and kills high and low but everyone had fair warning. The last loads of sweet corn were picked yesterday.

Bethel: Corn canning at Bethel closed Friday; 275,000 cans were packed and mostly #1 corn. The Grand Trunk R.R. is laying its pipes from the Water Company's pipes to their stand pipe. Mr. York our photographer received four chairs on Thursday from the West Paris chair factory; he returned the finished photographs to them the next day by 3 P.M. **The Water Company let the water into the village Friday, September 26th, and attached a hose to one of their hydrants. It threw water 150 feet into the air and would cover any building for a long distance.**

Our schools opened Monday the 15th of September. **Dr. John G. Gehring is giving much time to their organization under the new system.**

Gould Academy opened with about 50 scholars under the supervision of Prof. Hall. Miss Johnson who assisted him last year was obliged to give up the school on account of her health. His sister and another competent teacher assist him.

9-19-1890 Advertiser

Bethel: Dr. Gehring is putting in a hennery 100 feet long and 16 feet wide.

October

10/7/1890 Democrat:

Albany: W.W. Bird and Abel Andrews report a big crop of "White Elephant" potatoes. Andrews says four hundred bushels per acre. The coons have troubled Mr. Bird's corn very much. His



Bethel Grand Trunk Rail depot showing water tower—stand pipe and Bethel Chair Company factory building
Photo Arlan Jodrey collection.

dog recently engaged with a large coon and the coon won. But the boy gave him a charge of cold lead and laid him out. It seemed to be an old veteran coon because he had lost one leg. Some people from here are attending the fair in Lovell. Abel Andrews has sold \$400 worth of meat stock and horses from his farm this season.

North Albany: War, peace or famine, what? At least half a dozen girl babies have come to claim residence in this

place during the past few months. Potatoes not taken by the grub worm are rotting badly. School in District 7 is being taught by Alma Johnson.

Mason's correspondent also reported on rotting potatoes.

Bethel: A week of fair weather at Bethel has decided the farmers and horsemen to hold an exhibition and fair on Tuesday, October 7th. They have an excellent track on the land of Moses A. Mason where the horses, sheep and cattle were exhibited; the dairy and fancy work will be exhibited in Pattee's Hall. The Grand Trunk R.R. started taking water from the Bethel Water Company, Friday. A meeting of the village corporation is called for Saturday afternoon, to provide for horses, carriages and implements for fire purposes. The water company has the hydrants all in place and a few more days all of the mains will be completed.

Grand Trunk officials visited the reservoir and examined the works. They pronounce the system the best they have ever seen and the water incomparable.

Farmers are now bringing in their common apples to Wyman's (canning factory). Wyman Bros. proposes to can all that are brought in. E.S. Kilborn is putting in the foundation for a dwelling house on Chapman Street. He purchased eight acres from the Chapman heirs which he is offering for house lots. Ira Jordan has put a plaza on the front of his store and treated the building to a coat of paint. He is putting in stock of general merchandise. The Universalist Society presented the popular drama "The Woven Web" at Ideal Hall. The house was well filled and actors sustained their parts.

Gilead: The party (from Island Pond, Vermont) that bought the large tract of land in Wild River valley are making preparation to build a steam mill; they expect to cut seven million (board

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

feet) this winter and spring. The new parsonage is up and boarded in. John Wight is attending the academy in Bethel.

Newry: A good many Newryites have gone to the fair in Andover. The weather is fine for it.

West Bethel: The schools in town and the Flat started last Monday. Bert Bryant of Bethel teaches in the village and Miss Day of Lewiston teaches at the Flat school. A religious meeting at the church on Saturday was disrupted by three drunken men. They assaulted to at the meeting; according to the reporter the three men were foreigners in the employ of A.S. Bean. The sheriff was away at the time and no arrests were made.

10/14/1890 Democrat:

Bethel: The cattle show and fair at Bethel Tuesday was a grand success.

Pattee's Hall was well filled with products from the farm and dairy, and the walls were filled with paintings that would do credit to an art gallery. Quilts, comfortables and stockings showed that wives and daughters had not neglected their useful duties of the household although they did find time to cultivate the ornamental.

The trotting park of M.A. Mason was the men's center of attention. Fine cattle, horses, sheep and swine were on exhibit. The drawing matches were creditable to the oxen and horses and the trotting park drew much excitement. Some potatoes were still in the ground and apples on the trees when the season's first snow came on Wednesday.

Some farmers have abandoned potato digging because they are so rotten. But James L. Chapman is sending away apples in bulk by the car load. The Wyman Bros. are canning apples at their factory. There is considerable nice winter fruit raised in the village. All the merchants have some land connected with their business and have not neglected orcharding and the small fruits.

Mason: Snow October 8th and many have not finished picking apples or even started picking winter fruit.

West Bethel: A Good Templars Lodge was formed here with 41 charter member and five applications for the next meeting. Sheriff Wormell arrested the three who disrupted the religious meeting two weeks ago and they will be tried before Justice Rich.

Newry: The fair at Bethel drew a good attendance from this town.

10/21/1890 Democrat:

Bethel: Bethel was excited last week over common apples. Competition from three buyers resulted in farmers getting rid of their cider apples at a very fair price. Mr. Foye of Sumner is buying for the Libby's of Portland paying twenty cents a bushel for cider apples and \$2.00 to \$2.30 per barrel for winter fruit. He has loaded three cars and thinks that he will get as many more. Farmers are holding back their Spyes and Kings for a better price. Twelve teams loaded with apples were gathered at the station at one time waiting to be unloaded.

Newry: This is the season of the old fashioned "husking" and "apple bee" but the universal raising of sugar corn has nearly done away with the former and I have heard of only one apple bee and that is in Hanover.

West Bethel: Justice Rich fined the three who disturbed the religious meeting \$10. each plus costs, \$19.50. A few sales of winter apples have been made at \$3.50 per barrel. Canning apples are selling at the car for 40 to 45 cents per hundred (weight?).

Gilead: S.D. Hobson who has bought the land in the Wild River valley has formed a company with G.H. Fitzgerald and S.S. Robertson of Island Pond and will take the name of Wild River Lumber Company. They have some fifty men at work clearing land for a mill site.

10/28/1890 Democrat:

Bethel: The Bethel Water Company has practically completed their works and is installing service pipes to individual customers. They have 50 orders for new service on file and more orders arrive daily. At the corn factory the employees are very busy sorting and labeling, packing in boxes and shipping to New York, Chicago and the Pacific states. They are also busy canning apples. (This is the latest date in the fall season that the corn factory has continued canning operations in the last several years.) House carpenters are busy covering buildings to enable them to work inside during the winter months. J.U. Purington is approaching completion on his remodeled home on Main Street. He is currently installing new conveniences after having added a new first story to his home.

West Bethel: Rufus K. Morrill of Norway bought and drove ten head of cattle from here and Mason last Tuesday. Hannah Watson has sold her stand to Hewall Walkey and moved to Bethel Hill. No more disturbance since McFee and friends have been lodging in the county stone house.

November

11/4/1890 Democrat:

Newry: The C.C. Harlow place was sold at auction last week. Squads of men are now seen daily on the road bound for the logging woods. Orrin Foster is hauling his apples to Bethel. He has sold 100 barrels to parties in Gorham and Berlin for \$3.25 a barrel and a Mr. Cummings has bought several lots in Bear River for the same price.

Gilead: T.G. Lary will move into the woods next Monday. He will put in one million of spruce for the Androscoggin Water Power Company. Good No. 1 apples are selling for \$3.50 a barrel and potatoes are selling at 50 cents a bushel. West Bethel: The Good Templars are flourishing finely for a new lodge. A.S. Bean has treated them to an oyster supper at their last meeting. E.B. Shaw and A.W. Grover are loading a car of potatoes bound for Hebron. Apple buyers are busy and seem anxious to buy all the stock at fair prices. White of Vermont has taken a number of orders here for his sap evaporator for delivery in February. Stock in fine condition are coming in from back pastures to their winter quarters.

Bethel: The Water Company of Bethel has notified the village corporation that it is prepared to provide water for fire protection as per contract. They are busy putting in service pipes and many are rejoicing in having the luxury of having Chapman Brook water in their homes. The Odd Fellows hall is nearly complete and they have leased their elegant store to Calvin Bisbee for two years. Bisbee intends to put in lines of fancy and dry goods while he will continue to run his general store as before. S.D. Philbrook and Son have a sale stable where they are doing a good business in selling horses. J.M. Philbrook is sending cattle to the Brighton market.

11/11/1890 Democrat:

Bethel: A.M. Carter, Esq. of Bethel is elected one of the four clerks to the valuation commission. E.W. Woodbury one of the Oxford County Commissioners left Bethel Tuesday for Augusta. Deacon J.U. Purington has the outside of his house completed and will be ready for the plasters next week. A.E. Herrick, Esq., Representative elect from Bethel will visit Augusta next week. Prof. G.A. Robertson has filed application with the Bethel Water Company for water service connections to his houses in Bethel.

Newry: Mrs. C.R. Bartlett of the Poplar Hotel is quite ill this week. Orrin Foster has gone to Berlin, NH to look after the apples that he has already shipped there.

West Bethel: Pleasant Valley Grange has just purchased 50 hardwood chairs for its hall and will also add a chandelier. Pleasant River Lodge of Good Templars occupies the hall ever Wednesday evening and attracts an attendance now of seventy. A.S. Bean's new barn is nearing

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

completion. He will build a tenement in the new barn for a hostler and his family. Our village school term has been cut short due to whooping cough.

East Bethel: J.S. Hutchins closed his eighth term of school in East Bethel, November 7th. On his invitation parents and others visited the school to witness the closing exams and exercises; the audience expressed satisfaction on a thorough advance in all studies despite the threat of whooping cough that could have closed the school.

11/18/1890 Democrat:

Bethel: A.E. Herrick who was recently elected as the Bethel District representative to the legislature has gone to Augusta to find temporary lodging there. The Water Company is overrun with applications for laying service pipes. Lumbermen are getting ready for a busy winter of logging. The Androscoggin Water Power Co. of Lisbon and the Bearce and Wilson Co. of Lewiston plan to greatly increase the amount of timber put into the river this year over last winter.

North West Bethel: A crew of men from the Chapman homestead was at work in the Mayville Cemetery on the 12th. The bridge over Mill Brook has been newly planked.

Albany: J.P. Kimball has taken a job of hauling oak from Albany to the Bethel Chair factory.

West Bethel: There are still many good winter apples that are unsold. Cummings Brothers of Portland are buying in large quantities and shipping. Asa Prescott has bought the Francis Barker place on the Flat. The migratory birds, even the crows, have disappeared indicating a cold winter is coming. Frost in the ground has hindered plowing here.

Newry: C.A. Baker has taken a job to haul birch for J.A. Thurston. Fred Howard has moved into town and will work for C.A. Baker. Heavy oxen for working in the woods are scarce and sell for better prices than last year. Sheep are in good demand at high prices; H.S. Hastings is buying all he can find. Eli Stearns has gone to Brighton with cattle to sell. School in District 4 closed. The teacher reports that the books have not been damaged but that some parents prefer to buy their own.

East Bethel: Mary Estes Bean has had a very handsome monument from the Whitney Bros. erected on her lot in the cemetery. Dana Grant has sold his store and stock to Mr. E. Crooker who has taken possession. The Crooker's are boarding with E.W. Bartlett. Mr. Grant intends to spend the winter in Florida. Mrs. S.E. Folsom visited this place with a full line of millinery

11/25/1890 Democrat:

Bethel: The Gould Academy Athletic Association gave an exhibition at Ideal Hall on November 14th. The program consisted of a variety of gymnastic events including the parallel bars and the

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

high kick. The high kick was won by Archie Grover with a kick that reached 7 feet and 10 inches. Young ladies presented a dumb bell drill - all of this from the careful coaching of Prof Hall.

Newry: C.A. Baker is at work on his roads and camps. He will be moving into his (logging) camps soon. J.S. Allen has bought stumpage of A.W. Powers and will be cutting oak, birch and pulpwood. Roads are very muddy. Different parties are still hauling apples and potatoes but the potatoes are rotting badly. South Bethel: Hiram Hodsdon has his stable nearly completed. O.P. Chandler has taken J.G. Abbott's farm for one year.

Mason: The mountain tops are covered with snow and the ground is freezing at mid-day. Some cattle remain unsold but sheep are selling well.

Gilead: Members of the G.A.R. from Gorham and Bethel held a campfire at the Gilead town hall on November 18th. After supper there was music and speeches by the G.A.R. boys. Judge Foster of Bethel was in attendance.

West Bethel: The Cummings Bros. (of Portland) shipped a carload of apples from the depot last Thursday but have many lots to pack yet. The Templars number about 70 members but are still adding new members at every meeting.

East Bethel: After a short vacation J.S. Hutchins commenced school's winter term on November 24th. School in District 26 will not open until December 8th on account of whooping cough.

December

12/2/1890 Democrat:

Newry: Today is Thanksgiving and there is good sleighing above Grafton Notch. The Nahum Frost and Frank Bisbee families have left here for work in the Albany Basin.

West Bethel: The temperature on Thanksgiving morning was 14 degrees. Buyers of apples and potatoes are busy and anxious to trade. The Templars initiated three last evening and received applications from eleven.

12/9/1890 Democrat:

East Bethel: There was a heavy snowstorm Wednesday night followed by wind on Thursday. Loaded teams crossed the river on ice December 3rd.

West Bethel: J.M. Philbrook took a number of cattle from this vicinity in his car sent from Bethel. A.W. Grover sent a fine three-year old colt to Mrs. J.A. Torrey of Rockland, Mass., in the same car. The Good Templars had a good turnout last evening in spite of the cold weather.

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

South Bethel: Lyceum met Friday evening.

North West Bethel: Marion and Alger Chapman are home on vacation from Bridgton Academy. They are feeding silage at the Chapman Homestead farm and the stock seems to take to it with the same avidity that a hungry boy takes to sweet cake. Some cattle prefer the chopped corn to their grain. Miss Brownie Stearns picked some clusters of lovely full blown Mayflowers on the 20th of November.

12-16-1890 Democrat:

Albany: Rev. W. C. Wood visited the Albany Basins this week with the snow six inches deep. It was pretty good for a Boston minister. A good time for yarding timber and our people are improving it. Many sheep fell of coming to the barns. Whether they fell due to being snowbound or fell to dogs and bears is not known. W.W. Bird purchased about sixty hens and chickens from J.H. Lovejoy. It looks like a *fowl deed* to me.

East Bethel: H.A. Packard and wife have moved to Bethel Hill for the winter.

West Bethel: Fritz Tyler is learning the blacksmith trade with A.C. Frost at Bethel. A.S. Bean has a contract for 500 cords of pulp delivered yearly for three years to the West Bethel depot. He has lately completed a three mile road ranging from the Ira Mason place in North Albany three miles to Stoneham Mountain, where it opens up a large tract of timber of all kinds. The terrible cough that is so prevalent does not seem to be the common whooping cough. Zero weather is not uncommon this winter and 20 degrees below is not a stranger. Hay is going fast and fresh meat is keeping well.

South Bethel: School begins December 15th with Miss Vertie Cushman teacher. There was an oyster supper at A.S. King's last Monday night and everyone had a good time. Lyceums are well attended.

Newry: E.F. Stearns is butchering cattle, sheep and hogs. He has bought a number of lots of hay around here and has a crew pressing it. C.O. Moore is hauling underpinning stone from L.W. Kilgore's for J.M. Philbrook who intends building next summer.

North West Bethel: Miss Isabel Dry of Lewiston is teaching District No. 5. Charles and Will Stearns are working for George Chapman.

12-23-1890 Democrat:

Bethel: C. Dana Philbrook who for some time past has been away learning the jeweler's trade has returned and opened a shop on Main Street. He has put in a stock of watches and jewelry and does general repairing. Mr. C. Bisbee has stocked his new store in the Odd Fellows Hall building; it is one of the best stocked, commodious and largest stores in the village. The new

The Bethel Journals—Bethel Maine History—1890

firm of Roberts and Caper has opened its new store on Main Street to the public. They offer clean groceries of all kinds and a clean and carefully selected stock. Kilborn's sawmill started up last week and much timber is being hauled to it. Large quantities of wood are being hauled to the village from outside. Eben S. Kilborn is pushing work on his house on Chapman Street. On December 11th, the popular drama "Anita's Trial" was presented at Ideal Hall under the auspices of the Universalist ladies society. A large audience enjoyed the performance in every way.

Middle Intervale: Ladies Aid met December 11th with Mrs. A. Bean.

12-30-1890 Democrat:

Newry: Wednesday evening a Christmas entertainment at Newry Corner with Christmas tree and the usual accompaniments. This is the last (Democrat's correspondent) card of the old year, 1890 will soon be of the past. As it draws to a close like an old friend we will regret its going. It has given rain and sunshine, days of sorrow and days of joy. As we look back on it we are conscious that it has fared with us as well or better than we deserved.

Albany: Plenty of snow and teams are very busy. Rev. W.C. Wood has closed his labor here and we are sorry to see him go. Eugene Andrews expects to start Monday for Andover, Mass to ply his trade there with B. Cummings.

West Bethel: A.S. Bean recently purchased four horses in Boston for teaming purposes. One pair of fine grays tipped the beam at 3000 pounds. Several of the farmers and lumberman save money by buying provender in South Paris and Norway and freighting it here. Not right. A late letter from a friend in Kansas reports the ill health of Alonzo J. Grover, a native of Bethel. He owns a large stock farm containing one square mile of land; he is breeding fine cattle assisted by his sons. The present seekers are out in full force despite the zero weather. Sleighing is first class and the nags move briskly bringing the driver to some of our many shops where he can puzzle his brain over deciding what to buy for the baby and friends.

End of 1890 Journal

[Return to Journal Home](#)