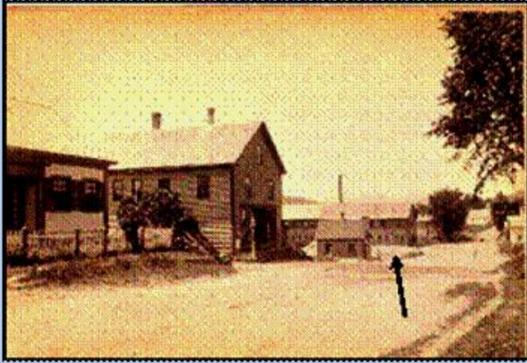


1891

The Bethel Journals

November 16, 2007

January 1891



Main Street, Locke Mills. Arrow points to the new E.L. Tibbetts mill—built to replace the one destroyed by a February 1891 fire.

The Bethel Journals

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Mason: The New Year is before us and we shall grope our way blindly on hoping, fearing, certain of nothing save the ever present now. If breaking roads is fun, we have had enough for one month.

North Albany: The snow is 3 feet deep, almost too much for lumbermen in the woods. There was a Christmas tree at the Town House on New Year's Eve but not many present on account of storm and bad roads.

1-6-1891: Democrat:

Bethel: The ball at the new Odd Fellows' Hall last Wednesday evening was largely attended. Some forty couples danced. Chases Orchestra of Dixfield furnished music very satisfactorily. Miss Alice Skillings left last week for Bridgton where she will have a large class in music. She has had a large class in Bethel during the last season. She has been under the instruction of Ketaschenar of Portland for some time and is one of the best musicians this section.

Master Ted Skillings, who is attending school in Boston, spent the holidays at his home in Bethel (in 2005, his home is known as the Chapman Inn). *J.G. Rich, Esq., who for the last two months has been living in this village in the Hammons house, has moved back to his home in Greenwood. City life did not agree with friend Rich, we think.* A.E. Herrick, Esq., representative elect, from this district, and family started Monday for Augusta. His family will spend part of the winter in Portland and Boston.

A most satisfactory change has been made in our mail service recently and much credit is due to our postmaster, Mr. G.P. Bean, for his efforts to bring it about in answer to the desires and wishes of the patrons of this office. By this change we now have a mail on the 3:30 express to Portland and places east. This greatly increases our mail facilities and will be much appreciated by all, and especially by the businessmen.

Mr. J. M. Bartlett has just finished hauling some 50,000 feet of pine timber for Eben S. Kilborn. This timber was cut on Mr. Kilborn's land and hauled to his mill in this village. Large quantities of wood are being hauled into the village but the weather and depth of the snow has caused some delay.

East Bethel: December's extremely cold weather continued right to the close but New Years Day brought a change and it is now warm and raining. C.C. Bean has sold his farm and is now boarding at H.H. Bean's. Mr. Charles White of New Hampshire has recently canvassed this community for White's Portable Sap Evaporator.

West Bethel: "Never saw such a cold December is a common remark of our oldest people." The New Year was ushered in with a reading of 12 degrees below zero. Three requisites for this winter – a good wood pile, a large haymow and a live highway surveyor. The offices of the Pleasant Valley Grange for the New Year will be installed next Saturday. The grange has lately been incorporated so it can now hold the title to its own property. Pleasant River Lodge I.O.G.T. is to enjoy an oyster supper next Wednesday evening. Shaw and Grover are to send a carload of apples to Boston next week.

Mason: The New Year is before us and we shall grope our way blindly on hoping, fearing, certain of nothing save the ever present now. If breaking roads is fun, we have had enough for one month.

North Albany: The snow is 3 feet deep, almost too much for lumbermen in the woods. There was a Christmas tree at the Town House on New Year's eve but not many present on account of storm and bad roads.

Newry: December has been a month of cold and snow, nearly four feet of snow, say the woodsmen. The breaking teams have been out in full force and have had a hard time of it lately. The school at Newry Corner commenced one week ago Monday, Rev. Mr. Bryant, the minister in charge of the circuit, is the teacher.

1-13-1891 Democrat:

Bethel: Miss Grace Ames who has been spending her vacation at her home in Bethel has returned to Smith College. Miss Ames completes her course this year. Sammy Gibson returned last week to Worcester, Mass., where is attending the Highland Military School. Judge Foster returned to Belfast where he still holds court. J.G. Rich has recently received an order for fifty rabbits from Nantucket, R.I. He raises rabbits as a pastime. Large quantities of ice are being put in by various parties in this village from the Androscoggin and other places.

The Brown Post G.A.R. and Ladies Relief held a reunion and sociable at the Bethel House last Tuesday. There was a supper and whist at the hotel in the early evening and afterwards dancing at Ideal Hall. Eben S. Kilborn has his house on Chapman Street nearly completed.

State Senator Nutting made a short visit here. Mr. Nutting, it will be remembered by some of the older residents of Bethel, published the "Bethel Courier" in this village before the war broke out and the Courier "went out" and Mr. Nutting after leaving Bethel went to Aroostook County, enlisted and served in the army.

William Jackson of Bridgton and family has recently moved into the Sanderson house in Kimball Park. He has worked at the Bethel Chair Factory for the past year but his family has just arrived. A.E. Morrison, insurance agent from Norway was in town last week. Mr. Morrison had a good business here. The Dixfield amateurs play "Neighbor Jackwood" at Ideal Hall on Friday.

South Bethel: C.E. Abbott closed a successful term of school on Chandler Hill last Friday. Lyceum at the school house Friday evening January 9th. Question: Resolved that the secret ballot system should be adopted by our present legislature. Affirmative: H. Hodsdon; negative: C.P. Kimball.

West Bethel: E.B. Shaw and A.W. Grover loaded a car of potatoes and apples this week and sent them to Boston.

Mason: Some of our people were hauling potatoes to West Bethel yesterday, price 75 cents a bushel, E.B. Shaw and A.W. Grover, buyers. N.G. Mills is hauling his peeled poplar from his land to the road. Mr. Mills is almost seventy years old but few younger men can compete with him at work. Asa Prescott has moved into A.S. Bean's boarding house in Mason.

1-20-1891 Democrat:

Bethel: The Dixfield amateurs presented the popular drama "Neighbor Jackwood" at Ideal Hall. The hall was crowded with people from Bethel and adjoining towns. Chase Orchestra of Dixfield provided excellent music for the occasion. After the drama there was a dance and supper. The village schools have closed and due to the shortness of the winter term a private school has opened for those who wish to attend at the academy and taught by Miss Inez Stewart. A complimentary concert to Mrs. Florence P. King assisted by home talent will be given at Ideal Hall. The programme will consist of solos, duets, trios and quartets. The entertainment given at Ideal Hall for Brown Post, G.A.R. was well attended. S.D. Philbrook has just completed his new house on Church Street.

Newry: Walter Foster is hauling ash and maple to J.A. Thurston's mill at the Corner. Amos Frost has bought a stand in the village at Bethel Hill. Friday evening the Hanover Dramatic Club gave entertainment at Newry Corner. "Bread upon the Waters" and other pieces played to a full house. Virgil Foster had his finger crushed in a dowel lathe last week working at J.A. Thurston's mill.

West Bethel: The January thaw has flooded streams and stopped some hauling. Last Wednesday eleven two horse teams of A.S. Bean departed for Albany to haul pulpwood but returned due to an impassable road at the Ira Mason brook. Large quantities of pulpwood are now being shipped from West Bethel station; twenty loaded cars are now standing on the siding.

1-27-1891 (Democrat):

Bethel: Harry C. Chase has purchased a large lot on Vernon Street from Eben S. Kilborn. E. Richardson and Son have started up their steam mill for the manufacture of birch – a large amount of birch is on hand at the mill in this village. The Roberts snowplow is used for the breaking of the streets and is unequalled for treading or pressing the snow down and clearing a fine wide track. Harvey C. Philbrook brought in some fine horses last week. He bought them from a lot being taken through from the west on the (rail) cars. The second of the series of lectures being given at Gould Academy occurred January 19th. The subject was "Combustion" which was scientifically illustrated. The complimentary concert given to Mrs. King at Ideal Hall last Wednesday was a most pleasing affair to all lovers of music. Miss Ellen F. Gibson return to Bridgton Academy last week – she has been a teacher of elocution there for some time. She is a graduate of the Boston School of Oratory.

East Bethel: A private school is being talked about here. A heavy fall of rain on January 22nd has settled the snow somewhat.

West Bethel: A.S. Bean has put in two carloads of corn. It is selling for 78 cents a bushel. E. Clough, Jr., is canvassing the town for the sweet corn plant for the coming season in the interest of the Wyman Bros. Shaw & Grover lately sent a car of potatoes to the State Industrial School at Lancaster, Mass. J. Hastings Bean went with them. The large amount of snow on buildings needs looking after. G.H. Brown of Mason is distributing quite an amount of flour and feed among the farmers here, freighting it from Norway. The Good Templars are flourishing.

Mason: Our birch haulers report the snow three and a half feet deep in the vicinity of Caribou Mountain. L.H. Tyler is hauling green wood to West Bethel and N.G. Mills is hauling peeled poplar. D.E. Mills and S.O. Grover are hauling from the woods to the road, ready for a better time to get to the station. Don Bean is doing a good business hauling firewood with a pair of white-faced oxen. Newry: North Newry Sewing Society is to meet at Isaac Kilgore's Thursday night. Thurston's steam mill at the Corner is to be shut down for a month. Only a few are operating in the birch business this winter on account of the deep snow. Amos Frost and Walter Powers are hauling birch and oak to the Corner for J.S. Allen.

South Bethel: On January 30th the South Bethel dramatic club will play "Betsy Baker". School closes next Friday. R.J. Virgin is putting a new water wheel into his dowel mill. The old wheel did not furnish enough power to run his business.

Northwest Bethel: Will some one tell us in the columns of the Democrat what the population of the thirteen colonies at the beginning of the Revolutionary War was? John Arsenel came close to being killed while hauling birch down the mountain above J.L. Chapman's mill. His snub line broke but he pluckily held onto the reins and escaped without serious injury although one horse was cut.

Albany: Dexter A. Cummings has sold his blacksmith shop and tools to E.T. Judkins of Norway, who will give his personal attention to the business. Amos L. Bean has gone to North Bridgton to attend another term at Bridgton Academy.

February 1891

2-3-1891 (Democrat):

Bethel: A.T. Kelliher is shipping lumber from Shelburne, NH where he is getting it into the mill for manufacture. Mr. Kelliher will use the lumber in the erection of buildings on Church Street the coming spring on a lot previously purchased from S.D. Philbrook.

John M. Philbrook and Henry E. Bartlett have been drawn traverse jurors for our February term of court from this town. The Universalist Society met with Mr. and Mrs. S.D. Philbrook last Wednesday evening. The principal subject under consideration was Russia. The programme was most instructive and interesting. The subject of the next meeting will be Ireland. There will be papers upon its politics, religion, poets, education, sports, commerce, customs, etc., with music, recitations, etc.

Miss Grace Carter has been assisting in the post office during Miss Locke's absence. Judge Foster, W.E. Skillings and wife, Ceylon Rowe and G.A. Hastings were at Augusta last week. Col C.S. Edwards, one of the alternates on the Columbian Exposition Commission, and Katy Locke, a lady alternate were in Augusta last week to attend a meeting with the National Commissioner of Maine. Subject of the meeting was to arrange for a fitting Maine representation at the exposition. Miss Grace Carter has been assisting in the post office during Miss Locke's absence. Mrs. Martha Hammons has been sick with lung trouble but is getting better. Benjamin Kimball is hauling a lot of pine to Kilborn's mill in this village. The pine comes from a lot Kilborn purchased from Joseph Oliver. J.H. Carter is helping with the hauling.

Middle Intervale: A very interesting social meeting was held January 26th at Calvin Sanborn's home. Aunt Nancy with a large group of young people was present. Such assemblies should be more frequent at houses in this vicinity. The Ladies Aid met on January 29th with Mrs. H. Bean. A.M. (Gus) Carter is away at Augusta. Sleighing very good and business lively.

Newry: Amos Frost has taken unto himself a wife, a Paris lady, Miss Carrie Tuell. A number of people are reported ill.

East Bethel: Another heavy snowstorm. The last lyceum was well attended. The question: "Resolved: that women should be given the right of suffrage" was decided in the affirmative by a vote of 28 to 14. H.E. Bartlett has been drawn juror to attend court in Paris.

West Bethel: A large amount of pulpwood is being hauled to the station for shipment; at present much faster than it is carried away. Shaw & Grover ship another car of potatoes to Boston today making the fourth they have loaded this winter. Larger amounts of ice are being put in than usual. The selectmen have already started work on the town report; they remind townsmen that all bills and accounts coming before them should be passed in by February 10th. Nathan and Arthur Grover are at home but will be returning to Orono next week.

2-10-1891 Democrat:

Bethel: Through the efforts of C.C. Lovejoy we have signal service. The signals (are) being displayed from a staff on the cupola of the Bethel House. Reports are received daily from Washington. A.E. Herrick, Esq., is home for a week from Augusta. The Universalist Literary Club met last Wednesday at Mrs. G. R. Wiley's house. O.W.R. Hastings has returned from Boston with improved health.

Albany: Miss Anna K. Cummings, Miss Allen Wilbur, Miss Nettie Shedd and Fred Clark are at Portland attending the meeting of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor. Justice Aspinwall is on the sick list. He is 78 years old. As out mail carrier he has carried the mail from here to Bethel, nine miles, every other day and has lost but one trip until his illness. Mellie Wilbur is with Ceylon Rowe, Bethel Hill, for a few weeks. Ellery Wheeler of Shelburne, NH was in town last week with hay and lumber for sale.

Newry: The weather has been good enough lately to satisfy even the most inveterate grumbler. The snow has settled with these thaws in the open land but not in the woods. Amos Frost is about to move to Bethel Hill with his new bride. E.B. Knapp and his brother from Bethel have gone to Byron on hunting and fishing expedition.

East Bethel: A private school is now in session under the instruction of J.S. Hutchinson. The lyceum was again well attended. The question: Resolved that the farmer is competent to represent the Legislature of the State and the nation was decided in the negative. H.P. Bartlett of Waltham, Mass., was here on the Sabbath. C.H. Kimball has returned from a visit to Massachusetts. West Bethel: A little touch of December weather, the temperature changed 38 degrees in 24 hours. A.S. Bean is still sawing and hauling lumber into his new barn to complete its construction. Edmund Merrill is overseeing the work. Bean shows that it takes a lot of material to complete a large barn in modern style. Pleasant River Lodge I.O. of G.T. installed new officers. E.P. Grover was the installing officer.

Mason: Teaming is good on the main roads but hard breaking in the woods. R.K. Morrill of Norway went up to (passing through Mason) Wild River Monday with his horse team to work for D.R. Hastings & Company hauling sawed timber to Gilead station. A.G. Lovejoy is hauling birch and spruce to West Bethel.

West Bethel: The annual report of our town officers has gone to the printer and must prove generally a satisfactory document, as the summary of all town expenses is well within the appropriation for the same. A.M. Chase & Co., Bryant's Pond have the job again and our townsmen may look for an early and neat publication.

East Bethel: The lyceum Tuesday was very interesting. The question: Resolved that Money is more to be desired than Friends was decided in the affirmative. The next lyceum on February 17th will address the question that Women have more Cares than Men. E.S. Bartlett is attending the private school and boarding at G. Blake's. G.H. Hastings has been on a hunting trip up Wild River.

Albany: The Ladies Circle met with Mrs. D. Clark. Moses Seavey has sold his stand near the (Hunt's) Corner to Frank Stiles of Bethel. There is much sickness in this vicinity. The Kimball Brothers have five three horse teams hauling oak logs from Albany to Bethel chair factory.

Locke Mills: The spool mill was burned to the ground Sunday night, February 8th. It is supposed to have caught in the engine room. It is a loss to the company and throws about fifty men out of employment. All that saved the village was the quantity of snow on the buildings and around them.

going to Massachusetts for a year or more. The Methodist society is to have an entertainment and box supper at the Town House.

2-24-1891 Democrat

Bethel: W.E. Skillings has been chosen secretary of the American Bobbin, Spool and Shuttle Company and is to reside in Boston where the general office of the company is located. Mrs. Skillings left for Boston last Thursday. Mr. Skillings assumed his duties some days before.

The first annual ball of the Bethel Fire Department was held at the Bethel House last Friday evening.

Leslie H. Mason of Bethel Hill has put 600 cords of poplar on the banks of Stony Brook in Newry this winter. Curtis Abbott of Walker's Mills is at work for Whitney Bros. Marble Works at their shop in this place. **Oliver H. Mason a respected and prominent citizen of the village died Friday morning at nine o'clock; he was 60 years old. He was for many years president of the Bethel Savings Bank and has filled the office of town treasurer for a long time.** He was formerly in trade here.

Middle Intervale: Mrs. Clarke Caswell will entertain Ladies Aid. Mr. York, our excellent artist has a new camera for general viewing. D.M. Kimball is getting out material for a hen house and a hog house.

West Bethel: The Good Templars gave a Mother Goose performance at Grange Hall to a full attendance despite the prevailing storm. A number of White's evaporators are being put in here this season. The woman's suffrage bill got a black

eye before the committee but not by the effort of Representative Herrick, I am glad to see. The D.B. Grover farm is up for sale. He is in California and so much improved in health that he would probably remain there.

Mason: J.C. Bean has purchased a new evaporator for making maple syrup. Should it on trial make good the recommendations of the market it will be a boon to sugar makers. F.I. Bean is hauling spruce timber from his Murphy lot to I.A. Bean's mill. Gilead: We are on the last half of winter and the weather is growing milder. T.G. Lary has his contract filled and is cutting 100,000 a week. J.W. Bennett and his wife left on the 5:00 PM train today to visit relatives in Michigan.

Newry: The good sledding keeps everyone busy and the gossip is down to its lowest ebb. Potatoes are being freely marketed. They are shipped at Bethel from this section and the price is 75 cents (a bushel). Amos Frost and his bride gave a reception at Thurston Hall. There was a dance and treat with hundred guests present and the occasion was made very enjoyable.

March 1891

3-2-1891

Bethel town meeting minutes: In the annual town meeting, the position of Supervisor of Schools was made as a motion from the floor. Minutes of the meeting show the following: "On a motion of Dr. J.A. Twaddle voted to choose a supervisor of schools. Chose by ballot N.F. Brown Supervisor of Schools" (Nathaniel F. Brown) Town Meeting was moderated by Mr. E. G. Wheeler. Officers elected at the meeting were as follows: C.M. Kimball, first selectman; E.S. Kilborn, second selectman; Henry Farwell, third selectman.

In 1891, the selectmen also held positions as road commissioners which were a new town organization. G.P. Bean was elected Auditor of Bethel. J.U. Purington was elected Treasurer. L.T. Barker was elected town clerk. The new position of supervisor of schools replaced the previous superintending school committee. (See the 1890 School Report which was pointedly critical of Bethel's public school conditions. The school report for 1891 was submitted by the new supervisor at the end of the school year. This report follows the December news.) The town meeting warrants that laid out new business for 1891 included these articles:

Art. 17th. To see if the town will grant and raise a sum of money for the benefit of West Bethel Public Library Association.

Art. 18th. To see if the town will vote to buy a road machine, and raise a sum of money to pay for the same.

Art. 19th. To see if the town will vote to make any change in system of text books, especially Wheeler's Arithmetic, purchased and introduced by the school committee the past season.

Art. 20th. To see if the town will vote to raise money for repairs on school-houses, and how much.

Art. 21st. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise for the purchase of school text-books.

Art. 22d. To see if the town will vote to raise a sum of money to procure the writing and publication of the history of the town in accordance with Ch. 3, section 47, Revised Statutes. Voted to appropriate \$300.

Art. 23d. To see if the town will vote to grant and raise a sum of money, estimated at \$500, to pay the expense of re-shing-ling the toll bridge, so called.

Art. 27th. To see if the town will vote to exempt a mill or factory and the machinery therein, for the term of ten years which may be built at West Bethel, within one year from this date.

Note: the full warrant for the 1891 town meeting can be found in the town reports section following December news.

3-3-1891 Democrat:

Bethel: Friday evening A.O. Babel, the cowboy pianist, and Miss Babel, the great cornetist, gave an entertainment at Ideal Hall. The couple gave a highly lauded, artistic performance. The winter term of Gould Academy opened last Tuesday. Washington's Birthday was celebrated at Bethel House. A fair and entertainment at Ideal Hall on March 5th will be held to benefit and thank our volunteer fire department. The fair will have a variety of fancy items on sale and in the evening dancing will follow the entertainment program.

East Bethel: The last lyceum was interesting and well attended. The question: "Resolved. The 'west' offers more inducements to the young man than the east was well discussed and decided in the negative. The next lyceum will be held Tuesday, March 10th. Question to be discussed will be: "Resolved that a college education is better for a young man at 21 than a common school education and \$1000."

Newry: New officers are: Moderator of Town Meeting: N.S. Baker; Clerk and Treasurer: Jacob A. Thurston; Selectmen: S.R. Widber, J.S. Brown, M.L. Thurston; Collector and Constable: T.S. Littlehale; Supervisor of Schools: J.S. Brown. Appropriations: Schools: \$200; Support of Poor: \$200, town charges: \$200, road machine: \$250, labor on highway: \$500.

3/10/1891: (Democrat):

Bethel: The \$300 voted for town history is to be added to the \$300 generously given or guaranteed by T. A. Chapman of Milwaukee, for the purpose of procuring the writing and publication of a town history. (As noted earlier, Chapman had been in Bethel visiting during the previous summer and fall. William Lapham of Augusta published the history in 1891 using this financial support.)

3-10-1891 Democrat:

Bethel: Annual Town meeting votes on key appropriations: Schools, \$2000. ; West Bethel Public Library Association, \$50. To buy a road machine: \$250. For town history: \$300. Re-shingle covered bridges: \$500. Brown Post, G.A.R. to spend on Memorial Day: \$50. Voted that the town highway tax be paid in money and that the selectmen be road commissioners. Hon. Judge Foster is in Farmington holding court. On account of the storm the firemen's' benefit will be held next Thursday evening. A.O. Babel and Miss Babel who recently pleased us greatly with a fine concert will present a return concert with an entirely new programme. Those who missed the earlier concert will have another chance to hear them.

Newry: C.A. Baker has taken out a part of his teams and will break camp now before many days. The heavy rains of last week followed by the cold snap have made it tedious and difficult getting about in the woods with teams.

Albany: Snowbound. Mr. Fisher who carries garden seeds for Dunlap is blocked in here at the Corner. No mail today. Town meeting passed off quietly. Shoveling snow and breaking roads is the main business of the day.

West Bethel: "The last but not the least" a snow storm of 18 inches last Wednesday. It looks encouraging for six weeks of sledding in March. The spare room (loading area) around the depot is filling faster with poplar pulp than the shipping can take it away. C.B. Kimball and E.S. Kilborn were re-elected selectmen along with a new selectman, Henry Farwell.

The West Bethel Public Library got a donation of \$50. The town also voted to exempt a mill or factory from ten years taxation that might be built here within one year. We received news of the death of Alonzo J. Grover of Muscoda, Kansas; he was a native of Bethel.

Mason: Thanks is due to your West Bethel correspondent who gave me a copy of the Bethel town report. It is a valuable document and gives a clear understanding of the town's financial affairs. Last year the Town of Mason chose road commissioners instead of road surveyors and raised money instead of the usual highway tax. It proved to be a financial success and will be continued another year. H.G. Mason and Leon G. Tyler were chosen commissioners.

3-17-1891 Democrat:

East Bethel: The last lyceum of the season was held Tuesday, March 10th. The question: "Resolved: That a college education is better for a young man of twenty-one than a common school education and \$1000," was well discussed and decided in the affirmative. J.S. Hutchins closed a term of school here. This is his tenth year and parents and scholars hope that he will continue for another year.

Albany: Many of our people are sick embracing the old and young. Dr. Twaddle was at the Corner Wednesday. Ladies Circle met with Mrs. Wallace Cummings, Thursday. Simon Grover who has been at work in Berlin, NH this winter has come home. Two of his boys remain there; they report wages are very good. J.J. McAllister had one of his oxen cut very badly in the woods. The ox was put in a sling at a blacksmith shop where A.G. Bean sewed up the wound. Lumbermen are doing a good business in the woods. March came in with bluster.

North West Bethel: Leon Verrill and John Tyler are at Burlington, VT attending medical college -here's to their success. George Stearns and Charlie Verrill went to New Hampshire looking to work in a birch mill there. When almost there they met the crew coming out because the mill was in ashes.

West Bethel: Mild weather of late hinders lumbering interests. As an authority on the matter, A.S. Bean says this has been that this has been the hardest winter for lumbering in fifteen years. Only about half of our Gould Academy students could attend school this week due to prevalent coughs and bad colds. Henry Judkins has moved to Albany. G.H. Brown, Esq., of Mason is handling a large amount of feed and flour from his storeroom in the lower part of the Grange Hall.

Newry: We have had a snow blockade and a rainstorm but the roads are now in good condition. Anyone with teaming to do is on the road. Foster and Stearns's teams are hauling hardwood to the Corner for dowels. The "toters" are hurrying supplies toward the lake region in anticipation of the spring breakup. Men are seen on the road daily heading home from the logging camps.

Bethel: The firemen's benefit at Ideal Hall was well attended and \$75 was raised from the sale of fancy articles. Hon. E.W. Woodbury is home from his work on the Valuation Commission in Augusta. At the annual meeting of the Village Corporation, the old board of officers was re-elected. The Universalist literary club met last week at the home of Mrs. A.B. Godwin.

Middle Intervale: Miss Minnie Kimball entertained Ladies Aid. Dinner was pork and beans, brown bread and doughnuts. A series of meetings was at the village by Jones and Allen. Several from here attended.

3-24-1891 Democrat:

Bethel: There is much sickness in Bethel of the grippe type. The Bailey praying hand have been holding meetings afternoons and evenings for the last ten days. Sledding is excellent and much wood, bark and long lumber are being hauled to the depot for shipment.

Judge Foster has returned from court at Farmington and will go the Bangor court in April. A.M. Carter remains in Augusta overseeing printing and proofreading the recently finished Valuation Commission Report. He was a valuable addition to the State's clerical force. Bethel people are looking forward to another evening's entertainment at Ideal Hall by Texas cowboy pianist, A.O. Babel and Miss Babel. Next Friday we look forward to the operetta "The Seven Old Ladies of Lavender" to be presented at Ideal Hall.

A.T. Kelliher has a large supply of lumber on his Church Street lot in readiness for erecting his house. Eben S. Kilborn has started his sawmill and is manufacturing a large amount of lumber. Thomas & Hastings are shipping lumber from our depot.

Mason: Instead of the prophesized early spring we have grand winter weather with solid roads; teams are busy hauling lumber. Maple sap has run very little yet.

Gilead: Six weeks of sledding in March. T.G. Lary and the Richardson boys have nearly one million of spruce on the river. Wild River Lumber Co. is sending away large amounts of long lumber. Saw them loading six cars at the depot in one day. William Chapman has sixty-two young lambs. J. Bragdon will break camp Friday having cut almost 600,000 of spruce. Newry: North Newry Sewing Society met at E.F. Stearns with a large company present. The young folks stayed until the wee hours.

East Bethel: Mr. And Mrs. Z.W Bartlett celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at their home. Gifts included a handsome rocking chair. Emery W. Bartlett, night editor of the Pittsburgh, PA daily paper is visiting his father Asa Bartlett. F.Q. Haines has sold his farm to Charles Bryant and purchased the homestead farm of F.B. Howe. H.D. Howe returned from Paris with his new bride Wednesday, March 18th. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bryant are to have charge of the Bethel town farm for another year.

April 1891

4-17-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: Rev. Benjamin Foster of Bethel had a paralytic shock Thursday and is in critical condition. He has filled some of the best appointments of the Methodist Episcopal Church but retired 15 years ago.

Mason: A foot of damp snow came on Friday. S.O. Grover loaded a car of poplar Saturday. Mr. Witham has managed to make 38 gallons of maple honey in spite of having a bad cold.

Gilead: C.W. Whitman has closed his work with T.G. Lary and is visiting Greenwood, Woodstock and the "City". A subscription paper is being circulated to build a lock-up since our constable got a black eye and signs are favorable. N.B. Bean has leased the Harriman Shop. Mrs. E. Harriman is braiding palm leaf hats for the spring trade. Charles Whittier has broken up housekeeping. His wife has gone to Bethel.

South Bethel: Katy Locke is home taking a vacation. She has been first assistant Post Master at the Bethel Post Office for several years and has had the entire supervision of the post office for a long time since the death of Postmaster Brown. J.G. Abbott is intending to start for Denver next Monday. His family will accompany him. Norris Kennerson has shaken the sawdust from his locks and will now be a farmer.

Albany: There is a great call for oxen in this community and several pairs have changed hands. Flora Grover has gone to Bethel to work for Major Hastings and Emma Bird has gone to Norway to work for Sarah Holt. Round Mountain Grange worked the initiatory degree on three candidates last Friday. Dexter A. Cummings has just driven in a new pair of oxen which he found in Gilead.

4-24-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: A butter factory is being talked up in Bethel. It seems possible to secure at least 200 cows among the farmers in this vicinity. It will be looked into to see if it will benefit the farmers about here to make gilt edge butter and get top market prices. Mr. Chandler the R.R. Station agent is taking steps to secure improvements for the station. We also need a concrete walk from the station to the post-office. If you want to see a carriage mart, call into J.C. Billings' shop. His carriage house is filled from bottom to top -three stories-and many carriages hang on the walls. Every kind of carriage ever wanted in a country town. George Smith has moved from Portland into Marcus Swans house.

A business college course of exercises is introduced into Gould Academy by Mr. (Prof.) Hall. Ceylon Rowe has given ten dollars towards a replenishment of books in Gould Academy Library. Funds are being raised for that purpose. Elmer H. Young has hired the room over his harness shop and moved his work shop up above and will made sales rooms below. He is overhauling things in general and has added backstairs.

A very pretty silk crazy quilt is on display in George Hapgood's store and will be given away to the best guesser on beans. Students of Gould Academy had a surprise sugar party and sociable Thursday. First event of the evening surprised the principal. Misses Farwell, Pride and Grover had taken a paper through the village and raised over \$50 for the (Academy's) library. The reading room "promised well last year" reaching above expectations. All the magazines and papers promised for this year have been received except the "Atlantic" and Youth's Companion. "For these and this last token of good will we are indebted to the kindly interest of Bethel people and their generosity. We thank our friends for their interest and their money."

Newry: J.A. Thurston has just bought a nice three year old colt of Warren Small. Don Smith came home from sugaring last Saturday. He reports less snow in Bethel than here. The road is full of drivers going on to the drive.

Grover Hill: We understand that (School) Districts 24 and 28 are to unite this coming summer at District 28. True Brown is working for L. Ordway of Gilead.

West Bethel: A family in this village has a large number of old people in it: Joseph Tyler, 94; D.O. Bennett, 70; Jane Bennett, 56; Rhoda Stiles, 57; Almira Prescott, 78. D.O. Bennett has made 400 pounds of maple sugar besides quite a lot of syrup. Mrs. Irene Needham is having her house re-shingled. E.B. Shaw has newly painted his buildings on the outside. Bertha Grover is teaching at the village school scheduled to commence next Monday. Frank Goodnow lost his bees; they died in the winter. Mrs. Ida Rollins is selling medicine for parties in New York that is reputed to be good for kidney and liver troubles. Mrs. L.C. Bean has some of the prettiest house plants in this vicinity.

Bethel: Rev. Benjamin Foster died in Bethel April 14th, age about 85. We got a taste of maple honey from D.M. Grover's lately. It is the best, thickest and lightest we ever saw and his sister Amelia makes it.

Gilead: At the town meeting last Saturday it was voted to build a lock-up in the rear of the town hall. J.W. Bennett has returned from his trip west.

East Bethel: E.S. Bartlett has gone to Berlin Mills to work for this summer. Elbridge Crooker is painting the inside of his store and having some counters put in.

Mason: Nellie Mills has gone home to Waterford. She has hired out to work at Bethel Hill this summer. Sugar weather came to a sudden stop Saturday the 11th. Mr. Witham has made 71 gallons, has sold quite a part of it and put 200 pounds into sugar.

Albany: The selectmen are at work on the highway tax. Austin Hutchinson, S.A. Cummings and Lewis Sawin are still handling (dealing in) oxen. Hutchinson says he has handled about 40 oxen this spring. Herbert I. Bean and Lucien Andrews has gone to Andover, Mass., to look for carpenter work. E.T. Judkins has returned and is opening his blacksmith shop.

4-24-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: On April 27th, Charles P. Bartlett of Hanover married Martha Bartlett, daughter of the late Cyrus Bartlett of Bethel. Rev. D.W. Hardy officiated. Mr. Bartlett who has waited over 50 years as gained a jewel. Charles P. Bartlett gave a treat in honor of his marriage at the Hall in Newry as a liberal ovation to all his friends.

May 1891

5-1-1891 Advertiser:

West Bethel: E.S. Smith has a large lot of chickens. He intends to build a large hen house this summer and "carry on the biddy business".

Mason: F.I. Bean is cutting lots of lumber at his mill. Farmers are planting and plowing their gardens. H.G. Mason has sold his oxen to H. Hutchinson. Our roads are getting quite passable. Meadows, roads and intervals have been flooded.

North Newry: Nearly every house on the Branch has someone sick. Snow is disappearing fast, the mud is drying up and the wheeling is getting quite good. There is a good supply of water and we understand that the river drivers are getting along splendidly. The maple sugar season has closed some report harvests of 200 to 400 pounds of sugar besides large quantities of syrup. Frank Kilgore and Mason Bartlett went to Portland to attend the famous Gilmore concert.

Newry: Two of J.A. Thurston's men start next Monday for Prince Edward Island. Don Smith has traded his nice colt with John Philbrook (of Bethel) for a horse to work on the farm.

Gilead: Skillings mill is shut down for a few days. Walter Davis is running a bolter at J.W. Bennett's mill.

East Bethel: Lillian Cole has an elegant new organ manufactured by Cornish & Co., Washington, D.C. Fred Bean is painting his buildings. Farmers are having their sheep sheared and are taking care of lambs.

5-8-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: The citizens of Bethel met Tuesday and formed an organization known as The Riverside Park Trotting Association and chose the following officers: C.M. Wormell, president; J.A. Twaddle, vice president; E.M. Walker, secretary; E.S. Kilborn, treasurer; trustees, G.P. Bean, chairman; J.M. Philbrook, H.M. Hastings, Moses A. Mason, O.P. Farrington, E.C. Rowe. The trustees have leased the land for ten years and intend to have one of the best tracks in the state. The location and land are all that could be asked for the trustees mean business and will spare no pains or money. J.G. Rich and his wife left on a three weeks vacation in Massachusetts. G.J. Hapgood is building a fine addition to his store. Sheriff Wormell on Main Street has been beautifying his house with a coat of paint. All interested in establishing a Cooperative Creamery Association in Bethel are requested to call on J.F. Young at Bisbee's New Store. Articles of Association and other papers necessary in organizing the enterprise have been headed and are open for subscription at E.C. Rowe's, I.C. Jordan and also with Mr. Young. WE want solicitors for stock and cows in every neighborhood within fifteen miles of Bethel station. Help us form the largest Creamery Association in the State of Maine. Schools in this village commenced last Monday. Cold wave is passing through, ground freezing every night.

Bryants Pond: Mr. Fernald has got the stones placed to build the corn shop on and is waiting for his lumber.

Gilead: H.F. Dixie is expected soon and work will commence at once on the old place to rebuild and fir it for a grand summer resort for Mr. Dixie and his friends. Mrs. Lola Lary was at Locke's Mills recently on business. J.W. Bennett has had some eaves spouts put on his dwelling; A.W. Fuller of Gorham workman. B.I. Burbank is clerking for the Wild River Lumber Co. The Good Templars are flourishing and new members are coming in at every meeting. Tramps are plenty.

Mason: School commenced the 5th, taught by Vesta Bessey of Kent's Hill. Alonzo Tyler and family have moved to South Paris. Arthur Hutchinson is at work for A.W. Grover. J.C. Bean bought a new riding wagon of J.C. Billings of Bethel. F.I. Bean attends court at Paris as juryman; J.H. Bean runs the saw mill during his absence. Our new minister, Rev. Henry A. Pease will preach the 10th and probably at West Bethel in the P.M...

South Bethel: The Ripley repair shop owned by R.J. Virgin and used as a store house for dowels gave away last Monday evening and both upper and under floors with two car loads of dowels went into the cellar making a complete wreck of the inside of the building.

West Bethel: On April 27th Mr. A.S. Bean suffered a serious accident in his store. His feet slipped, his head hit the counter and fell through the doorway to stairs leading to his cellar; he fell down the stairs to the basement floor. Weighing nearly 300 pounds, his good luck held up however; no bruised spots showed after the fall but he was pretty lame for several days. "His good luck is a blessing to this vicinity as far as the business interest is concerned. Rev. B.V. Davis who has been with us for two years now goes to Naples as his field of labor. John Murphy has newly shingled his stable. It appears as though Mary F. Holt don't believe in the butter factory in Bethel because she has just bought a new churn. Since Moses Libby has moved back to his farm he has fixed up everything to it looks nice and neat. Nahum Mason and son are at work at Bethel shingling the toll bridge. Eugene Mills has commenced to work on the railroad.

Bethel: Ceylon Rowe has returned from Boston with a large stock of new goods. He says he has the largest stock of new goods and best line of clothing, dry goods and ladies' garments he has ever had and the lowest prices, too.

Bethel: Mrs. Jacob Horton of Bethel who is about to leave for California has made a valuable contribution to the zoological collection at Gould Academy. It is a collection of over 750 different kinds of eggs including those of turtles, snakes and even a humming bird's egg. Her fine collection of specimens is now in the cabinet and opens for viewing. The Gould Academy Athletic Association has just finished grading and fixing a nice lawn for croquet. The popular Newport game will be a favorite with the ladies. The association's new flying rings have been in use this week; good hard muscle is expected as a result of their use. Rev. Mr. Barton preaches the baccalaureate sermon to the graduating class next Sunday. Brown Post and citizens will hold a union service at the Congregational church on memorial Sunday. Memorial Day, May 30th, will be observed by visiting and decorating graves of fallen comrades in the morning. In the afternoon there will be services at Evergreen Cemetery. Music, speakers and supper will be at the G.A.R. Hall from 5 - 7 PM. An address by Comrade A.A. Nickerson of Portland is scheduled for 7:30 PM at the Congregational Church with songs by a select quartet and music by the Bethel Band.

Grover Hill: Several farmers in this section have improved their orchards by grafting this spring. School in District 28 commenced this week; Maud Merrow of West Bethel is the teacher.

Mason: Our new minister came to the charge Thursday. He moved his goods into the rental house owned by Charles Abbott. They are arranging to set up housekeeping. F.I. Bean has returned from attending court. Herbert Whitman and Viola Bennett joined lives and are keeping house in Bethel Hill. Sewall Walker has a span of horses and a sulky plow and is doing a lot of plowing for farmers. Selectman Farwell has been in this part of town looking after road repairs. A.S. Bean is having his store painted on the outside. G.H. Brown of Mason is in town almost daily supplying farmers with grain, corn and feed. Octavia Grover is again at work in the lathe rooms of the mill.

5-22-1891 Advertiser.

Bethel: The rain Saturday and Monday gave a good driving pitch to the Androscoggin River. Mr. Allen foreman of the Bearce & Wilson drives pitched his tents near the mouth of the Alder River, Monday night. The water froze as thick as glass Monday night. Rev. Mr. Barton of the Universalist society announced the late Oliver H. Mason had left one thousand dollars in the hands of the trustees for the support of preaching, the Sabbath school and the organist. Ira c. Jordan has put hay scales near the depot. Charles Bickford of Milan, NH moved a house for H.B. Chapman almost one half mile upon the land of Roscoe Lane who has purchased it.

South Bethel: Tramps are plenty. R.J. Virgin is getting his lumber sawed out at both of his mills except for shingles on which he will start soon. School commenced last Monday with Miss Abbott of Swan's Hill as teacher. J.G. Abbott has his furniture all packed for his move to the West and will leave soon. Mason: D.E. and N.G. Mills have been doing a good job of grafting apple trees.

5-29-1891 Advertiser:

North West Bethel: A fine monument has been erected in Mayville cemetery in memory of Mr. and Mrs. George Granville Chapman and there six children. Charles Valentine lost a colt a few days ago. Don Matherson has been having lots of fun hanging May baskets up in Gilead. Irving Bean of Oxford has bought a fine colt of C. Valentine and hired Herman Skillings to pasture it. Districts 29 and 5 will unite so that Miss Bartlett has a fine school of 17 pupils. Last Saturday night, Alger Chapman and Seth Mason finished planting over seven acres of corn using 2900 pounds of fertilizer. There will be over forty acres under cultivation at the (Chapman) Homestead this season.

Gould Academy: A successful term closed Thursday with an examination in the morning and graduation exercises in the evening.

Bethel: James L. Chapman of Berlin Mills, NH, has sold his farm, reserving the mill, to George Chapman. Mr. Chapman has also settled with the Bethel Water Company for damage to his property. Judge Enoch Foster received a large Penobscot River salmon by express from Messrs F.H.C. Reynolds and Co., bankers in Bangor. And a party from Norway caught 85 nice trout in York River, Grafton. Our old townsman, S.S. Abbott is enjoying a lucrative business in Denver, CO, as assistant district attorney. Mr. Abbott read law in the offices of Herrick and Foster and for some time was Supervisor of Schools here.

A.T. Kelliher as received a patent on a device for moving logs with a wire rope and one horse, which does the work of four horses. Work can be done in summer as well as in winter. Commissioners for the World Columbian Exposition at Chicago met in Augusta last week. Col. C. S. Edwards and Miss Kate Locke were present.

The Bethel Water Company has voted to give water to the two public schools in town and to Gould Academy. As soon as the town furnishes a suitable tank, they are ready to give water for the convenience of man and beast on the Common. A union service was held at the Congregational church on Sunday. About 30 comrades attended as a like number of the Ladies Aid with eight cadets. Brown Post G.A.R. attended in a body.

Newry: J.A. Thurston and family will visit Colebrook, NH, in a few days. W.N. Powers will build a fifteen-foot extension on his shed to be used for a workshop.

Albany: At the cemetery at the Corner, Whitney Bros of Bethel have set a nice stone for the graves of John Marshall and his wife.

June 1891

6-2-1891 Democrat:

Bethel: The widow of Hon. David Skillings and her daughter from Winchester, Mass., are moving into the house vacated by her son, William E., for the summer.

6-5-1891 Advertiser:

Gould Academy Alumni Association.

[Written for the Advertiser.]

For some time it has been thought by the students of Gould Academy, that it would be an excellent plan to form an alumni association, in order that at least once a year, a reunion might be held of those scholars and classmates, who have gone out from the Academy from year to year.

But heretofore, no steps have been taken to carry out this plan, until at the close of the last term, when through the efforts of Prof. Hall, the two classes of '90 and '91 met at the Elms House and formed such an association, electing the following officers: President, B.L. Bryant; vice President, Maude Kimball; secretary, Alice Pride; treasurer, Arthur Wiley. But we find that no accurate account has been kept for the last twenty years, of the various classes. Partly because of the frequent changes of teachers, and partly because there has been no organization upon whom this duty would fall.

For this reason we would ask, that all those who can give us information regard to any of the se classes, of who they were composed, and as far as possible their business and address at the present time, not only would confer a great favor upon the present officers, but would help to carry out a work, which we hope will be of some use to the institution., and productive of many pleasant gatherings in the future.

Let each one, for the moment, lay aside their many busy cares, and, in your thoughts wander back to the many pleasant and profitable hours spend at the Old Academy, and consider, whether or not, it would be pleasant to meet again, the same boys and the same girls, only of "older growth," with whom you enjoyed so many happy days.

This is what we are striving to do, and we trust that we shall not be disappointed, but shall receive the cordial aid of all the former students. Kindly address all communications to the president at Bethel.

6-5-1891 Advertiser:

West Bethel: The glass gauge broke at Bean's Mill. A new man on was frightened and blew the whistle. A crowd gathered thinking a fire had started but were relieved to find there was no fire. Mrs. E.H. Scribner has made several pretty May baskets that she sells for 50 cents. I.G. Kimball and Frank Kendall have run the road machine from Nelson's Mills house to the Albany line, "a fine piece of road, which was very much needed".

Gilead: Memorial Day was observed by J.E. Willis Post of Gorham, our boys are members. Hoisted flags, decorated graves, speeches and a dinner at the Hall. D. Fleet has moved to Newry on a farm. George Morrison is soon to move from Nigger Town. N.B. Bean is doing a rushing business in his new shop. Constable Bemis ordered George Larabee to leave town Saturday or he would get taken care of. He chose the former.

Albany: James Flint who had an extra flock of sheep has gone out of the business, selling to B. Skillings of Harrison. The change was caused by a visit from wolves one day last week.

Bethel: C.C. Bryant is putting an addition on his shop at the corner of Main and High Streets. Fred Farwell is talking of putting in a new vulcanizer for the manufacture of rubber stamps.

Number of scholars in Bethel: 550; number in the village corporation: 150.

The best place in town to buy all kinds of fresh meat is at C.E. Benson & Co Also he has choice groceries and fruit. The National Tribune printed in Washington DC is a soldier's newspaper, war stories and pension news. J.G. Rich agent, Bethel, Maine. A pension was allowed Ira A. Clark this week of \$10.00 a month through the pension agency of J.G. Rich. The pension was originally applied for in 1881; Clark was dying when it was received. Ira A. Clark died on May 28th; he had served as a private in Co I, 29th Regt of the Mass. Volunteers. Clark was honored during Memorial Day ceremonies; services for Clark were held in the Congregational church. Brown Post G.A.R and the Ladies Relief Corps will host a reunion of the Fourth Maine Battery Association on the 24th of this month. South Bethel: Virgin's mill is running overtime. Charles Frost has moved to Albany with work as a cook for a crew of bark peelers. V.A. Dunn has sold his farm and timberlands to R.J. Virgin and moved to Sumner. He sold his blacksmith shop and unfinished house to G.L. Blake.

6-12-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: There were 21 baptized at the Methodist Church last Sabbath. F.C. Bartlett has three custom made first class top buggies for sale, two open buggies and two springboards. These carriages must and will be sold - cheap. Milton Penley has peas in blossom June 5th. He had to dig away snow to plant them in April. Colonel C. S. Edwards has invited the officers and men of the old Bethel Company known as Co I, 5th Maine Regiment to meet with the 4th Maine Battery in Bethel as his guests. The opening of the Bethel Race Course will occur on June 13th. The stallion Owoissa, from Mass., with a record of 2:29 on a heavy track will be shown. George Hapgood's store was broken into Sunday night. Two tramps were arrested near the station and put into the lock-up but after searching them later they were released. The annual meeting of the Bethel Savings Bank occurred this week. S.D. Philbrook: president; A.E. Herrick: treasurer. The board of trustees was re-elected. The bank has about \$190,000 on deposit.

East Bethel: Double teams loaded with sportsmen heading for the Lakes are passing daily. John and Charlie Swan are home from their work at Berlin Falls for a few days. A springboard dance is announced for June 16th; music by the Dixfield Orchestra. Mason: Mrs. Cyrene Bean is home on vacation from her job as house matron at the Industrial School for girls at Lancaster, Mass.

North West Bethel: Sylvanus and E.S. Mason trimmed apple trees for George Chapman last week. The ferryboat has been painted light blue; it was launched last week.

North Newry: Hattie Littlehale is teaching at District School #6. The Poplar Hotel is being painted, papered and repaired. It has begun its summer thriving business. Early guests include five from Boston. One guest, O.B. Dodge continues to be the champion fisherman of this region.

Newry: Fred Bartlett from Sunday River is at work in the mill and boards with W.N. Powers. Mrs. Lucretia Bartlett from Sunday River works at the Poplar Hotel in North Newry.

West Bethel: A.S. Bean has begun laying an aqueduct to his new barn and mill and to his boarding house. It will require about 250 rods of pipe. He uses galvanized pipe in three sizes: two inch, one and one-half inch and one inch in diameter. A.S. Bean's new hall is nearly done. It is 50 x 25 feet and 13 feet high. It is finished with hardwood and has two anti-rooms with a gallery. Bean also has some men painting his new barn. **Albany:** Nina Brooks from Norway is teaching school at District #1 at the Corner, which commenced Monday

6-19-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: C.E. Benson & Co. has received a shipment of fireworks for the 4th of July. District 30 (Mechanic Street) is building a fine bandstand in front of the late Benjamin Foster house.

6-26-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: The great and happy reunion of comrades from the war of rebellion took place at Colonel Edwards' house. C.C. Bryant has discontinued his meat business for two months due to the shortage of ice.

Lucier's Minstrels will perform June 29th at Ideal Hall. They have a full Russian uniformed band, comic varieties and solo orchestra. West Bethel and Bethel people can go to Portland for the K of P excursion and return for \$1.45.

C.E. Benson has twelve varieties of plug tobacco and Blackstone cigars for five and ten cents. Our selectman, E.S. Kilborn, is making a fine improvement by curbing the west end of the Common with granite. Grover Hill: Several boarders have arrived at D.M. Grover's.

[Click here to continue 1891](#)