

1891 Bethel Journal continued

Methodist Church hit by cyclone

[Wild River Railroad](#)

July 1891

7-3-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: Milton Penley had a peck of green peas for dinner on June 25th and sold peas in the village on the 30th. Five men are in town making concrete walks. (It was not until 1895 that the sidewalk from the depot to the post office was completed; see the 1895 journal. Road Commissioner E. S. Kilborn, on his own initiative completed the sidewalk and granite curbing for a cost of \$944. Kilborn wrote a special report of the project in the 1896 Town Report.) They are to stay here two weeks. A sidewalk of this kind is much needed between the Hill and the depot. A.E. Herrick, Esq., and Dr. C.H. Hill returned from the Lake Richardson fishing trip with a nice string of trout. Bethel's 4th of July celebration has a full program of activities and will conclude with a band concert and fireworks. Pongee silks 32 inches wide and 11 cents a yard is on sale at Ceylon Rowe's store. Boston prices for the same silks are 18 cents.

North Bethel: Mrs. Martha V. Atherton died July 8th at age 55 years. Her funeral was attended by Rev. Mr. Barton of Bethel of whose church she was an attendant. Mrs. Atherton has been a lifelong resident of Newry (Sunday River) with the exception of a few months at the time of her marriage until the sad death of her husband, George, nearly two years ago. She sold her house and moved to North Bethel. (His death was reported November 2, 1889; he was 55 years old. They had no children.) Her remains were laid by the side of her husband's in Sunday River Valley.

7-10-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: The Cole Brothers of Washington D.C. contemplate erecting a three story building 100 by 80 feet on the lot on Main Street, near Broad, that they bought of the

Bethel Maine History—1891 Part Two

George H. Brown estate last spring. The lower floors are to accommodate the Bethel Savings Bank and a jewelry shop for themselves, the upper floor for offices.

In Eva Bean's book, "East Bethel Road", Elmer D. Cole and Frederick H. Cole are included in the Family History section. Both men were sons of Dennis Cole of East Bethel. The brothers were jewelers in Washington, DC. Somewhat surprisingly, Miss Bean does not connect the brothers to the building of the Cole Block.

The Ladies Circle of the Methodist Episcopal Society will hold a lawn festival near Calvin Bisbee's residence. The program includes supper, ice cream and music provided by Prof. White and others. Deputy Sheriff C. Wormell was thrown from his carriage last week and was severely injured when a dog suddenly appeared and barked at his young horse. Mrs. Hammons has a very nice top buggy for sale at a bargain. John Estes of Woodstock was fined three dollars and costs amounting to \$12.62 for intoxication on the 4th by Justice Rich.

Grover Hill: Charles Abbott has been purchasing wool here lately. School did not close as expected this week but will continue a few weeks longer.

7-17-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: At a meeting of the Maine Historical Society in Brunswick on June 24th, Judge Enoch Foster of Bethel was elected a "Resident" member. The Bethel Agricultural Society will hold their first annual fair on Riverside Trotting Park, Bethel, Me, on September 22nd and 23rd. Good liberal purses offered. Col. C.S. Edwards has returned from Gettysburg where he was sent by the State to see about the soldiers' monuments. The Women's Relief Corps has hired the late S. F. Gibson's office and have cut a wide door through into the back room. James Bartlett cut a "big hole" in the grass of Dr. Gehring's lot by mistake when he was hired by C.C. Farwell to mow for him in Albany. For promoting Bethel's beauty, fresh air and vacationing opportunities contact Gen. Charles P. Mattocks, executive commissioner, 31 Exchange Street, Portland who is in charge of the State of Maine book to be published for the World's Fair Commission. Orders for rubber stamps may be left with Frank Leach. The G.T.R. depot building has received much-needed repairs. The Bethel, Elms, Locke, Alpine and Grover Houses are filling up fast. Mr. Grover of West Bethel has picked and sold 1500 quarts of strawberries from his three-fourth acre patch for 18 cents a quart.

7-24-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: Forty-seven guests at the Locke House, Sunday River and other houses are filling fast. The Misses Locke are very popular and always have a full house. Arvilla Grover of Bethel closed her school at Greenwood District # 7. We esteem her as a fine teacher. Professor Chapman and family are spending the summer at their home in Mayville. Mr. Chapman has recently purchased Mrs. Harlow's stand and is making improvements on the house and will make it their home during the summer season. Our photographer, Mr. York, has taken a bird's eye view of our beautiful village from the cupola of the Alpine House. The picture takes in Mayville, hundreds of acres of Intervale land farms here and there on the hillside and several mountain views. Mr. York's business has grown so much in the two years that he has been here that he and his wife can barely keep up with orders. Charles H. Harris is salesman for White's Headache and Rheumatic Liniment.

Middle Intervale: Ladies Circle met July 16th with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Holt who have come to Bethel from Washington, DC. Supper and ice cream were served. A large number played Croquet. Cole Bros and wives of Washington, DC, were present. Mr. Cole invited Mr. York our photographer to take a view of guests and house. The school taught here by Miss C.W. Hastings closed July 17th with recitations and a picnic in the grove near the school.

7-28-1891 (Democrat)

Gilead:

GILEAD BOOMS - SHE WILL GET AHEAD OF RUMFORD FALLS

A Big Lumber Mill Going Up and Eight Miles of Railroad to be Built

*****The Sons of Italy already at work *****

[Special to the Democrat] Gilead, July 23, 1891.

Gilead Booms

“The parties who purchased the land tract of land in the Wild River Valley a year ago have formed themselves into a company called the Wild River Lumber Company with a capital of \$100,000, and their office at Gilead. The company is composed of S.D. Hobson as president, H. Fitzgerald, E.C. Robinson and Q.M. Mansur as directors, and A.K. Darling treasure, all of Island Pond, Vt.

They have bought of D.R. Hastings the mill privileges at “Nigger Town” and right of way to Gilead. They will build at once, a large long lumber mill and about eight miles of railroad to connect with the Grand Trunk here. They will run two engines on their branch, one for drawing logs to the mill, and the other to get the sawed lumber to the Grand Trunk. They expect to cut from twelve to fifteen million a year. About twenty five Italians have arrived already and are at work on the road bed and more are expected soon, as they want to get everything running by cold weather

P.B. Heath is putting up the foundation for the boarding house. D.R. Hastings will move his mill up the river some distance, which will more convene him, and will build a branch road to connect with the company’s.”

Bethel: Mrs. Caleb Rowe, mother of Ceylon and Edwin C. Rowe died at age 86. Judge Foster is attending Law Court in Portland; his family is with him. Rain has slowed haying but grain is looking good. The Cole Bros are breaking ground for their new Main St. building. Prof. William R. Chapman of New York has purchased thirty acres of intervalle land of Moses A. Mason. The Ladies Club had a pleasant gathering at Deacon T. Chapman’s with singing by Prof. W. Scott Wight, Mrs. Dr. J.G. Gehring and Mrs. C.S. York.

North West Bethel: Herman Skillings has a fine young colt, high blooded and black, reckons on it being a trotter. Saw two young men riding by on their bicycles.

Albany: Mrs. Lovejoy has enjoyed showing off her night blooming cereus whose blossoms are 10 to 11 inches in diameter.

East Bethel: Haying is nearly done. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cole and Mrs. Elmer Cole return to their home in Washington D.C. Miss Leona Swan has returned to her position at a Waltham, Mass., and watch shop.

West Bethel: Haying weather has not been good but berrying is active.

Gilead: Harry Dixie has his house full of summer boarders and more are coming.

Mason: A.S. Bean has cut the hay on his two farms here and has moved on to Albany.

7-31-1891:

Bethel: On July 11th, the Mount Abram Lodge, No. 31 of the Odd Fellows installed 17 officers with visiting officers from the West Paris lodge. Seven new members have been installed during the past year. Dr. Frank I. Brown of Bethel has been house pupil at the Maine General Hospital. The public is requested not to take salmon trout from the pond in front of the Bethel railroad station. Kilborn Pond posts a "No Fishing Allowed" sign. We understand that Mr. Chamberlain of Mayville has a few more spare rooms for summer guests in his elegant home. Maps of Oxford County are available from The Advertiser, Norway, Me for 20 cents in one or two cent postage stamps.

Taxpayer Amount

A.S. Bean (West Bethel) 272.88
American Bobbin, Spool & Co 265.60
Ceylon Rowe 184.80
E. Rowe 150.56
T. H. Chapman 132.96
Woodbury and Purington 130.76
John M. Philbrook 120.02
Bethel Chair Co. 112.00
Pinckney Burnham 111.12
R.A. Chapman's Heirs 110.18
Eben Richardson 108.60
Enoch Foster 106.80
Moses A. Mason (Mayville) 105.10
E.S. Kilborn (Selectman) 102.72
Col C. S. Edwards 102.58
R.J. Virgin (South Bethel) 93.48
Dr. J.A. Twaddle 87.30
Major G.A. Hastings 78.98
G.R. Wiley 72.90
St. John Hastings 72.71

B.R. Bryant 59.17

A.E. Herrick 59.00

A.W. Grover (Selectman) 55.29

C.M. Kimball (Selectman) 50.41

On August 24, 1891, the Advertiser's Bethel column printed the names of 52 Bethel taxpayers who had paid over \$50 in 1891 town taxes; above is part of the list with all taxpayers who paid over \$100. American Bobbin, Spool and Shuttle Company is the former Bethel Steam Mill Company

August 1891

8-4-1891: (Democrat)

Bethel: A small steamboat arrived in Bethel depot on the railroad; it is destined for Lake Umbagog.

8-7-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: The Grand Opening Trot of the Riverside Trotting Association will be held at Bethel August 8th. The Bethel Cornet Band will play. The following horses will be entered:

Green horses; \$15.00 purse:

General Gideon owned by Dr. Twaddle

John F. owned by Charles Farrington

Lady Chapman owned by Prof. Chapman

George K. owned by George King

Sir Pryor owned by Smith Brothers

Butcher Boy owned by C.C. Bryant

2:55 Class Purse \$25.00

Ehrlacher owned by L.A. Hall

Tom P. owned by Prof. W.R. Chapman

Redwood owned by H.L. Hastings

Mollie owned by Smith Brothers

Victor C. owned by E. Howe

Free for All. Purse \$35.00

Owasso owned by G.P. Fernald

Fanny W. owned by Sheriff C. M. Wormell

Bell Boyd owned by H.L. Hastings

Wilder Patchen owned by Charles Farrington

The ladies of the Universalist society will hold their annual Fair at Ideal Hall in the evenings of August 12 and 13. Two silk quilts will be on sale, music and dramatic entertainment. The Locke Mountain House, S.B. Twitchell House, Valentine House, Grover House and Alpine House (has guests from Chelsea, Mass., Boston Highlands, New York, Boston, Augusta and Ohio) are all full with city guests. The Locke House has 50 guests. J.G. Rich will vacation at Billy Soul's camps at Cupsuptic Lake.

8-14-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: The Grand Opening Trot of the Riverside Park Association was a grand success last Saturday. A large crowd came and over \$100 was taken at the gate (at 25 cents per ticket, about 400 people came to the trot). The Congregational ladies Fair at the Riverside Park were also very successful with over \$100 being realized. New arrivals at the Bethel House have come from New York, Boston, Norwalk, Conn., Newtonville, Mass., and Portland. Middle Intervale: The missionary concert conducted under the auspices of the Baptist church was attended by a large group of residents and summer visitors. Over 25 singers and readers made up the afternoon program.

Gilead: H.F. Dixie went to Bethel with six of his boarders in his new boat, the Mayflower, Thursday. He made the time in 2 hours and 10 minutes. His hired man Walter Davis met them at the bridge with a big team and drove them back to Dixie's; all reported a good time. He and his boarders camped out Thursday night and all reported a good time.

8-21-1891 Advertiser.

Gilead: Business at Nigger Tom is very good with good prospects. The Wild River Lumber co. has their large boarding house nearly ready to plaster and several miles of the railroad are nearly ready for the ties and rails. D.R. Hastings, 2nd, is expected to erect a

Bethel Maine History—1891 Part Two

fine cottage at the opening (for the future Hastings town?) soon. D.O. Bennett is boss in the upper mill for the Wild River lumber Co. Joe Hurd has the job of building a carriage road to Nigger Tom. Herbert Cole christened the lock-up last Saturday, but Monday A.M. the window was up showing the bird had flown.

Bethel: There are some 800 guests in town this week and now they are coming everyday. Late arrivals the Bethel House are William H. Fullerton and wife, Windsor, VT; Dr. N. Mossman and wife, William K. Aston and wife, New York ; C.C. China and daughter, Mrs. H.F. Legurel, Chicago; H.H. Griffin and wife, E.W. Sheldon and wife, E.W. Foot and family, C.E. Warren, Boston; E.I. Millis and wife, Andover; H.G. Miller and wife, Providence, RI. Bears are making their appearance; two at West Bethel seen near the station. J.G. Rich is up among the lakes hunting deer and moose. Harvest prospects look very good for grain, corn and potatoes. The Alpine House is just blooming with young Boston ladies; recent arrivals came from Boston, Augusta and Cape Elizabeth. Others have just arrived from Boston, Ohio, Chelsea and Lynn. The ladies of the Universalist Society held their annual fair last week and realized over \$260.

Grover Hill: Miss E. A. Lyon is quite poorly. J.H. Millett of the Millett neighborhood sent to Ohio for two Guinea pigs.

8-28-1891 Advertiser:

Albany: The Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor held a neighborhood convention at Albany. There were about 150 present from several towns. The Grangers had an outing at Albany Basin.

Bethel: The residence of Mrs. John M. Philbrook was the scene of an unusually charming church lawn party. As in times past, the presence and aid of the summer visitors added fresh inspiration; some of them having been summer residents here for so many years as to entitle them to be called "Bethelites".

September 1891

9-1-1891 Democrat

Bethel: Thursday the workmen in the Bethel Chair factory and their families and friends mad an excursion to Portland and has a clam bake on one of the islands in the harbor. The Bethel Coronet Band joined the party which numbered one hundred and twenty along with others from West Paris. Cole Brothers have contracted with Mr. Cole of Ber-

lin, N.H. to erect and finish their block of stores and office on Main Street. They will have the largest hall in Oxford County and the building will be an ornament to Bethel village. The foundation will be ready for the superstructure September 5th. J.G. Rich, the veteran trapper and guide, has returned from his visit to the Rangeleys.

Gilead: The work on the railroad is progressing finely, they have it graded to where the mill is building. Charles Milton of Lewiston will have charge of building and running the mill. There is about one hundred men at work on the railroad and about the mill. Dexter Mills of West Bethel is doing the blacksmith work for the Wild River Lumber Co. Three men were arrested at Gammon boarding house for drunkenness and disturbance and tried at the Town Hall before Justice Emery of Norway. The men worked on the new railroad here but were discharged immediately and have left town. William Chapman has harvested about fifteen acres of grain with a self binding reaper. He will run the ensilage cutter this year by steam power and will begin cutting his 18 acres of corn this week.

9-4-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: There was a large attendance at Ideal Hall to listen to the Lyceum Theatre Co, the greatest of all military dramas, The Blue and the Gray. All the town schools in Bethel will open next Monday. Mr. Sanborn and wife and two sons, who have been spending the summer at the residence of W.E. Skillings, esq., on Broad Street left for their home at Winchester, Mass. Mr. Skillings and wife left Boston last week for Scotland to spend several months traveling. Mrs. Burleigh, wife of the Governor of Maine, and Mrs. Stevens, delegates to the World's Fair were on the train Tuesday noon bound for Chicago. Col C.S. Edwards joined the party.

South Bethel: The most charming social event of the season occurred with the marriage of Miss Kate Locke to Mr. Stephen Abbot of Denver, CO at the home of the bride's uncle, Lyman Russell, of South Bethel. Mr. Abbot, formerly of Bethel is a rising young lawyer, now assistant district attorney in Denver.

Grover Hill: A party from here will attend the State Fair next week. Several of the young men from here are at work at the corn shop. Elmer and Harry Lyon each have a bicycle.

Albany: Stephen Libby has just put a threshing machine into his mill and is shelling out the grain to the farmers, which is much convenience to them. William Grover and Eben Barker have formed a partnership to carry on the meat business.

North West Bethel: Frank A. Pollard from Mass. came to visit his friend Herman Skillings. The fields of corn at the (Chapman) Homestead have mammoth stalks. R.G. Lane successfully moved the house he bought of H.B. Chapman to the spot where the old

house of Andrew Twitchell once stood. Charles Murphy is tying strips at the mill on Chapman Brook. (Anasagunticook House) “Seth Mason has been making some improvements at the once famous mineral spring on his farm. The waters of this spring have been analyzed by Prof. Jackson, a chemist of reliability in Boston and found to contain iron, sulphur, silica and magnesia in large amounts. Some thirty years ago this spring was a great resort for city people. A fine hotel accommodating fifty guests, bathing house, bowling alley, etc, were situated near the spring, but the war came and fortune’s wheel turned swiftly bringing reverses of luck and the business went down. The buildings were sold and moved away and now the spring is merely looked on as a curious freak of nature by those visit the green mound, on top of which gushes forth this ice cold water varied not by the drought nor abundant rains, neither having effect on this spring with its wonderful curative powers which some people say will be the means of bringing a fortune to some one in the future.”

East Bethel: Reports of visitors from a variety of places.

Newry: Quite a number from this place are working at the corn shop in Bethel: Mrs. Lucretia Bartlett of Sunday River, Dan Smith and Mr. and Mrs. W.N. Powers. The corn is quite early this year. A.H. Powers has a small piece of corn which he will haul to Bethel next week. A party of four went blueberrying on Puzzle Mountain and returned with four bushels of berries, the best we have seen this year.

Gilead: W.S. Hodgman has vacated the boarding house over Bennett’s store. “Whilst the gravel train about one mile west of this station last Monday, brakeman B.F. Merrill of Portland slipped and fell between the cars which ran over his head and killed him instantly. Coroner Goddard of Bethel was notified and a juror impaneled their decision was rendered that Merrill came to his death accidentally by having his head cut off and mangled. No blame to any party.”

Wild River R.R. news from Gilead: “The Wild River railway which extends some ten miles in the great lumber regions, where the new mills are being built, and for the transporting of lumber to Gilead station, is being pushed forward with all possible dispatch under the direction of the contractor, Mr. Gallup of western Vermont, who has had twenty-eight years of experience in the business. Eighty Italians and a like number of mixed foreigners mostly are employed. The work has been impeded of late by drunken rows and riots. On the evening of August 26th a most disgraceful row occurred at the boarding house of Hannah R. Gammon and quite a number of arrests were made. Trial Justice Emery of Norway was telegraphed and promptly responded. A large number of warrants were issued. The news flew like wild-fire causing a stampede of some guilty parties to New Hampshire, John Collins, Harry Traverse and Patrick Down were found guilty of drunkenness and disturbance, paid fines and costs and were discharged. ...

Bethel Maine History—1891 Part Two

Henry Donahue was found guilty of keeping a drinking house and tippling shop and given \$100 (fine) and sixty days in jail. Felix Vanes, an Italian, is charged with the same offense but fled to the woods. Several (additional) warrants were issued to parties who had fled to parts unknown. The community is fully aroused and determined to put a stop to rum and riot at all hazards.”

9-8-1891 Democrat

Bethel: Thursday the Ladies' Union Circle held a lawn festival upon the lawn of Deacon J.U. Purington. They have now in their treasury \$1000 toward building the Garland Memorial Chapel. The social event of the season was the marriage of S.S. Abbot, Esq., to Miss Katie Locke at Lyman Russell's house in South Bethel. Many of the summer boarders are leaving for their homes. O.A. Buck is sending hard wood to the Portland market. Lumber for the Cole Brothers' block has arrived from Berlin, N.H. and the foundation is all ready for the sills. John M. Philbrook is shipping cattle to the Brighton market. Last week he brought 75 calves from Brighton to Bethel. The dollar party proposed for the benefit of Bethel Library Association will be held at the Bethel House September 15th.

In West Bethel George Grover received \$250 for strawberries raised on one-half acre of land. The soil is a gravelly loam.

West Bethel: Several scholars attending Gould Academy from West Bethel are boarding at home. Farmers have begun digging potatoes because they are rotting badly. Sweet corn is advancing rapidly with prospects for a good crop. No. 1 early apples are sent to Berlin, N.H. for \$1.50 per barrel delivered at the depot. Winter apples are light and of inferior quality.

Newry: Howard Thurston and wife, J.S. Allen and wife, C.A. Baker and O.E. Baker have gone to the lakes to spend the week camping, hunting and fishing. Rust has taken over potato tops here.

9-11-1891 (Advertiser)

Bethel: Gould Academy has opened with every indication of a prosperous term. The Senior Class has showed great energy and tact in the management of the school ride and picnic Monday. The outing's description covers its trip to "Peake's Hill" at sundown, a corn roast and marvelous views of the river valley and mountains. Mrs. W.E. Skillings (Kate) and daughter left here for her new home in Boston Highlands, Wednesday. Delia goes with them as servant. Tuesday night there was a hard frost on some pieces (lots) of corn. Ira Cushman had five acres of sweet corn. Corn factory folks told him that if he gathered it that day they would take it but not after Wednesday. Ira employed all the

help he could get and secured most of it. However, many pieces of corn are late and cannot become fit for market. Farmers of Bethel miss it this year if they planted late pieces of sweet corn.

Middle Intervale: Quite a company went from this place to the Baptist Convention in Sumner where they received a warm welcome. Several from this vicinity are at work in the "corn shop". Grover Hill: A number from here have gone to the State Fair this week. School has commenced here this week with Lizzie Grover as instructress. D.M. Grover and the Lyon Brothers are repairing the cider mill a little. S.O. and A.B. Grover will soon start their threshing machine. Some of our young people are attending the dancing school at West Bethel. Mrs. Ella Lyon has sold her oxen to Mr. Morrill of Mason. Newry: Quite a party went to the lake (Umbagog [?]) to rusticate and camp out last week. They have returned but have not reported yet.

Mason reports a number of local neighborhood happenings with some visitors from out of town.

Albany: During the month of August some five hundred people have visited the Albany Basins.

Gilead: We have an expert "bicycler" in town but it is not generally known. Tax collector has given us the names or taxpayers who have paid \$40 or more this year:

J.W. Bennett \$255.89
American Bobbin, Spool & Shuttle Co. 108.09
William C. Chapman 107.82
E.T. Peabody 87.09
Mrs. D.C. Lary 81.06
E.E. Chapman... 72.43
George Burnham 69.20
T.G. Lary... 67.01
H.P. Wheeler... 59.96
Milton Evans... 57.72
AD. & F. Wright... 52.91
.....5 others of slightly less amounts

9-15-1891 Democrat

Bethel Maine History—1891 Part Two

Bethel: About one hundred Bethel people attended the state fair in Lewiston Wednesday morning the thermometer registered 34 degrees at the Bethel Station. Col C. S. Edwards returned from his official visit to Chicago having gone as a commissioner of the Columbian Exposition. Cole Brothers have sills in place for their new "Block" building. The corn factory has about one hundred and fifty hands employed. Officials of the Grand Trunk Railroad passed over the road Thursday and stopped for an hour in Bethel where they visited the corn factory and chair factory. The sale of chairs was very large during August. (Mr. H. G. Brown, Treasurer of the Bethel Chair Co., paid the town \$595 for one year's rent of the factory for 1891.) The water company has a number of men putting in service pipes for families. New applications come in so fast that the number employed has been increased. The selectmen have been making great improvements in the road around Bethel station by "turnpiking" and putting down drain tile.

Newry: Some unknown person entered the school house in District No. 4 and carried off a map belonging to the district. It was found later stuck into the fence in a back pasture.

9-18-1891 (Advertiser)

Bethel: Two tramps who broke into the steam mill store ten days ago were arrested in Boston. Justice J.G. Rich drove from his Greenwood house to Bethel, four miles in 18 minutes, to sign a warrant for their arrest so that Sheriff could get the 9 AM train to Boston to take them to Bethel. One hundred-fifty railroad tickets were sold at Bethel station for the trip to the Oxford County Fair on Wednesday. Mrs. Fred Edwards will open her fall dress making business at her mother's house on High Street. Ceylon Rowe has his Fall line of ladies jackets from New York ready for sale. There was a "dollar party" at the Bethel House to benefit the Bethel Library; a net income of \$101 was realized. Dr. Gehring has some pure bred barred Plymouth Rocks for sale.

9-22-1891 Democrat

Bethel: **CYCLONE STRIKES METHODIST CHURCH.** About four o'clock Friday afternoon, September 18th, a cyclone struck Bethel and demolished the Methodist Episcopal church lifting the roof bodily and dropping it in the audience room. The bell was in the pulpit, and the furniture, together with the organ, was ruined. Window in the cupola of the store of Woodbury & Purington were blown in, and the large panes of glass broken. Windows in the houses of G.R. Wiley and Mrs. T.C. Carter were blown in. The skylights in the house of E.W. Woodbury occupied by N.S. Bean were blown from their fastenings and the doors on the stables of Charles Mason, J.S. Swan and Mrs. T.C. Carter were

Bethel Maine History—1891 Part Two

blown from the tracks. Shade trees and fences were prostrated, and roads between Bethel and Greenwood are impassable. Telegraph poles were blown down, and the trains were delayed several hours.



Methodist Church that was destroyed in the September 18, 1891 cyclone. Note the two gable roofed buildings to right of church – in 2009 they are (after remodeling) Brooks Bros hardware store. Photo: Bethel Historical Society

The Wyman Bros., corn-canning company is putting up 33,000 cans of first quality corn daily.

Dr. J. G. Gehring, wife and son will sail for Bremen the middle of November. They will spend the winter in Berlin, tour Europe in the summer and return to Berlin for another winter.

Sheriff Wormell brought two young men who had broken into the store of the American Bobbin, Spool and Shuttle Company to town. They plead guilty but were unable to make the \$200 bail and were committed to jail in Paris. Over a hundred people gathered at the Bethel House to hear the ladies of the Bethel Library Association tell their stories of how each one earned their pledged dollar in support of the library fund. Recounting the stories covered nearly a full column of weekly news.

West Bethel: The farmers who worried all summer about the condition of their sweet

corn are getting it out to the corn shop in good order. Corn canning is due to close down next Tuesday. A dancing school is in progress here.

9-25-1891 (Advertiser)

Bethel: Two children of J.G. Rich are enrolled in college, George Rich has enrolled in law school at Ann Arbor, Michigan and Jennie Rich has entered LaSalle Seminary at Auburndale, Mass. On Monday, Ceylon Rowe caught a partridge in his hands in W.E. Skillings dooryard. The Universalist Literary Society of Bethel have planned a course of lectures and entertainment for the fall and winter months. Judge Foster is holding court in Dover, Piscataquis County.). Dr. Gehring, his wife and son, plus Mrs. Gehring's mother and sister will sail for Europe in November and close their house for a year and one-half. Mrs. Martha Hammons will sell her household goods at auction this week. She is preparing to leave for the west to live with her sons. Charles Ryerson of Upton has bought her house for \$2,100.

Mr. Barrows of our chair company has reported that July just past was the best month ever made since the company was organized (1887

The Cole Brothers new block is progressing nicely. It will cost eight to ten thousand dollars; the foundation has already cost \$1,000. Work has begun on the Garland Chapel adjoining the Congregational Church on Church Street.

Names in Grover Hill community news include: Mrs. Ella Lyon, D.M. Grover, J.B. Peaslee, O. Pingree, Emma Stearns, Thomas Mayberry and N. A. Stearns.

9-29-1891 Democrat:

Newry Bear River Grange: At "Children's night" for 1891 the vestry was decorated with "jack o'lanterns" made from pumpkins. After music by organ and violin, recitations were given by the following children: Chester Howe Bean, Lon Edison Wight, Maud Russell, Everett Brown, Carrie Wight, Sanford Brown, Miller Roberts, Teasel Powers, Grover Brown, then some delicious pumpkin pies were served accompanied by pears and lemonade; a "Jack Horner" pie completed the repast, and each little one found a mammoth plum.

Bethel: The Bethel corn factory closed its season with having put up 300,000 cans of first quality corn. It is the best season of any since the company started operations in Bethel. The potato crop is being harvested in good condition and abundance with little sign of rot. Cole Brothers have their building up and covered in. The Congregationalist church has the foundation in for the Garland Memorial Chapel. They have tendered the

Bethel Maine History—1891 Part Two

use of their church Sunday afternoons and the use of their vestry Tuesday and Friday evenings to the Methodist church, while they are rebuilding their house. The past week has been the warmest of the season with temperatures several days in succession in the 90's in the shade. Streams are very low.

Mrs. Curatio Bartlett has presented the town a stone watering trough at a cost of \$200. The work was done by Solomon Widber of Newry. It is located near the house of Moses A. Mason, on the line of the Bethel water Company's pipes and is supplied from them.

The Bethel Horse Breeders' Association has put water into their grounds and is making extensive preparations for the fair to be held on their grounds October 6th and 7th. G.A. Plaisted will run a barge from the post office to the ground hourly, - distance of one mile.

West Bethel: The hurricane a week ago did no material damage besides laying down old fences and corn shocks.

Mason: The tornado of last week blew many apples from trees and even split trees plus some roads were made impassable.

Newry: Blackberries are plentiful but apples are very wormy, many are on the ground.

October 1891

10-2-1891 Advertiser

Bethel: An alarm of fire on the roof of O.D. Clough's house at 6:30 AM brought the Volunteer Hose Company on hand at once and the extinguished the fire which had burned through the roof. We think that it is a shame that the hose company does not have a suitable building furnished to keep their hose and tools in. Rats have been at work on the hose.

Mrs. Bartlett has had a granite public watering trough put in at Moses Mason's corner, engraved on which are the words "In memory of C. T. Bartlett, 1891." (Note: this is the same news item that appeared in the Democrat, above.)

The store of C.E. Benson & Co. will have a four horse barge running between their store and the Fair Grounds and carry passengers for 10 cents. Tickets can be purchased at the store.

Bethel Maine History—1891 Part Two

Moses A. Mason has prepared a one-half acre bed to raise cranberries, which he will set next spring. He will water the bed by water from a spring running through hollow logs. Widow Martha Hammons will leave her home and board at a hotel until she leaves for the West.

Fifteen men are now employed on the new (Cole) building on Main Street. Tuesday and Wednesday our Universalist church hosted the Universalist Convention with a good delegation attending.

Gilead: Willie Kimball and Fred Bemis are working at Bethel Steam Mills.

The Wild River Lumber Company's mill up the river burned last week with considerable loss.

The iron is being laid on the Wild River R.R. and the engine is expected immediately.

A.S. Bean is in this place occasionally looking for 33 ft boxcars to load, shorter cars are too small for his capacity.

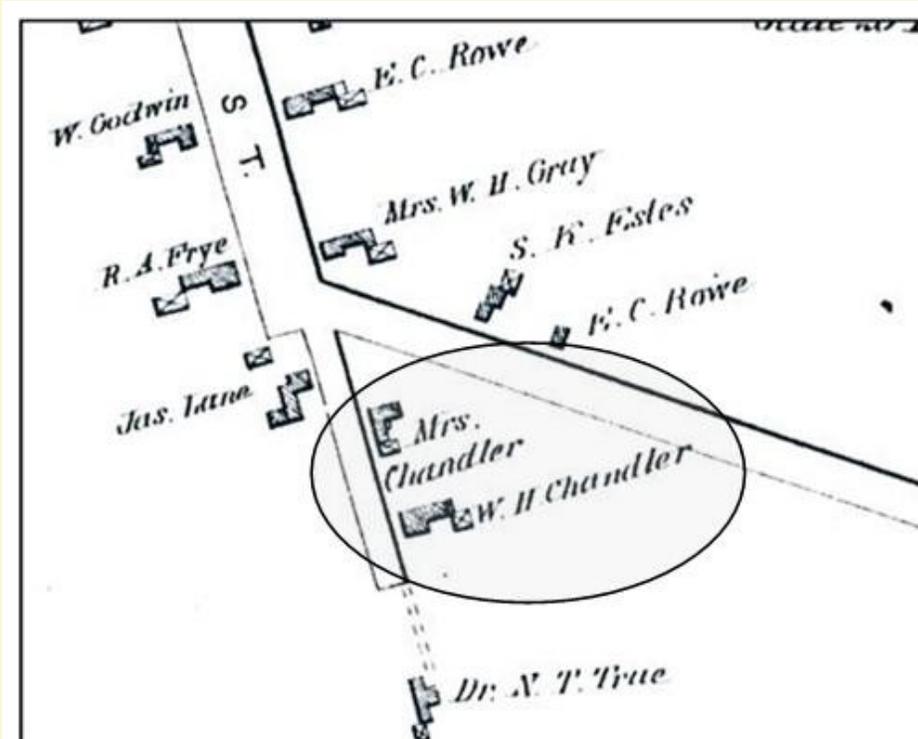
Train number 16 had the misfortune to run over a cow one mile east wrecking one car and derailing two others, delaying down express about on and on-half hours.

North West Bethel: School in District No. 5 is progressing well; Clyde L. Bartlett of Mayville is the teacher. Mrs. S.D. Bean went to her home in Boston Highlands last week.

10-6-1891 Democrat

Bethel: The first test of the Bethel Volunteer Hose company since the Bethel Water Company brought water to the village showed the value of the fire department. It saved thousands of dollars in loss by fire at the home of O.D. Clough. On the scene within three minutes of the first alarm the hose company brought water on the roof fire that prevented it from spreading.

Dr. Gehring has bought the Chandler property at the head of Broad Street in Bethel. It contains about one acre of land, two dwelling houses and a stable. (See map below.)



Broad Street Map of 1880 showing Chandler properties.

George A. Plaisted is erecting a double tenement house two stories high on Chapman Street.

Cole Brothers will heat their block with steam. Whitney Brothers are driven with orders in their marble shop. They employ five men. Wyman Brothers are shipping their pack of sweet corn as fast as they can label and pack in boxes.

Thomas & Hastings from their mill in Albany furnish the boxes for Bethel, North Waterford, Norway and South Paris. The Bethel Chair company is running evenings to keep up with orders.

J.M. Philbrook deals weekly with the cattle market at Brighton returning with store calves and yearlings.

West Bethel: The first killing frost of the season came this week. A.S. Bean is running his mill nights for a while to get out an especially large order. The Good Templars plan an antiquarian supper and entertainment for their next meeting in about two week.

10-9-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: The new building (Cole Block) on Main Street is being pushed along. The Bethel Chair Company is running at night to fill their orders. In July 1891 they had \$8,000 in

sales compared to \$5,000 in July 1890 sales. The Bethel (Wyman Bros) corn factory finished up last week. They canned 300,000 26 oz cans of sweet corn this year. Their best one-day effort was 32,000 cans. (J & E.A. Wyman paid the town treasurer \$150. for one year's rent of the corn factory.) Bethel's correspondent visited Fryeburg Fair last week and saw on display a plow that had been used for 115 years. George Plaisted has his new house on Chapman Street up. John Russell from Grafton was at the Bethel station Monday when a locomotive released steam and scared his horse. The horse took off and at the incline at the end of Mechanic Street there was a complete upset. However, Mr. Russell came out of the accident quite well although his carriage was pretty much smashed up. The Advertiser is on sale at G.R. Wiley's Drug Store for 4 cents each. We noticed many people from the Lakes at our Fair Grounds.

The Volunteer Hose Company. The hose company is still on the move. First they sheltered their hose in E.C. Rowe's stable back of his store. Rats tried to eat up the whole thing. Then they got into the Carter wagon house, from there to the Skillings barn and now they must move again nobody knows where. It would be an honor for the Village Corporation to build them a decent place, they deserve it. "You can visit Norway next Saturday to witness the Athletic Contest for half fare on the railway. All the schools in the town of Bethel had holidays for two days of the fair. North Newry: M.L. Thurston is ready to begin logging in Andover. He has a big job of cutting and hauling several millions for a Lisbon Falls buyer. Whitney Bros of Bethel were in town last week to get a granite base for a monument, which was quarried by H.R. Widber.

10-13-1891 Democrat

Bethel's Agricultural Fair: "THE BETHEL FAIR" SUCCESSFUL INAUGURATION OF THE NEW SHOW [Reported for the Democrat, (and most likely written by Abial Chandler, Jr.)] Tuesday morning (October 6th) as the sun gilded the hills in early morning at Bethel, the air was cool and invigorating, and the hearts of the trustees of the horse-breeders' association and the agricultural fair beat quicker, and more hopefully. The fair excited, pleased and fulfilled all expectations of Bethel fair-goers. It was the first time in Bethel that a fall fair could be held within one area and with the added attraction of trotting races and the church fair to interest the ladies.

10-13-1891 Democrat.

Gould Academy: The second annual field day of the Interscholastic Athletic League was held at the (Oxford) county fair grounds Saturday afternoon. The schools represented in

the league are Bridgton Academy, Gould Academy, Hebron Academy and Norway High School. The program consisted of track and field events.

10-16-1891 Advertiser:

North West Bethel: Milton Penley has purchased a nice organ and intends his daughter, Blanche, to begin taking music lessons. T.A. Chapman of Milwaukee, Wisconsin is at the "Homestead". Webster Pratt has sold his farm to William Chapman. H.B. Chapman has raised the frame of his new barn.

Albany has only the regular family news to report.

East Bethel: John Swan has moved his family to Bethel Hill. A.M. Bean and wife have gone to Florida for the winter.

Bethel: Mr. T.A. Chapman, a wealthy merchant of Milwaukee, Wis., brother of A.F. Chapman of Bethel, is visiting his old home in Bethel. His brother told him about the disaster of the Methodist church when he immediately drew out his check book and gave a check for \$200 towards rebuilding again. Also, we understand that Judge Foster and his wife gave \$100 each to rebuild the M.E. Church. There will be a well-matched horse trot at Riverside Park next Saturday, October 17th. There will be a purse of \$50 for all 2:40 horses. General admittance is 25 cents.

Wilson's Mills: John Olson came down from Camp Caribou on Tuesday. He has been away a greater part of the season guiding.

West Bethel: D.R. Hastings 2nd and his wife from Gilead visited the dancing school last Saturday. A visit to the dancing school found twenty couples having a generally good time all around.

Gilead: Cars for the Wild River R.R. have arrived. The second locomotive is expected daily, she is a new one from the west.

10-23-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: A letter from William E. Skillings informs us that the trip home from Europe this month was a stormy one. It took 17 days to sail from Scotland to New York instead of the usual seven or eight days. About 600 miles out from Cape Race, the first land on this side, a large eagle flew on board and alighted on the fore mast and being exhausted the sailors easily captured him. It encouraged all hands as a good omen. They think the bird was lost and must have flown 1000 miles.

Dr. Hill plans to go south shooting in November. He and W.E. Skillings are members of the Currietuck Inlet Club, a group of about 30 mostly southern men. The race at

Riverside Park was a very close one and the most exciting ever witnessed in these parts. We have new undertakers in town, the Goddard Brothers.

Dr. C.D. Hill has moved into the W.E. Skillings house at the foot of Broad Street. Dr. Hill is one of our leading surgeons.

A new millinery shop will open in the Rowe's Block on October 27th. E.C. Rowe returned from Boston last week with a large stock of goods for his new store.

The Methodist Episcopal society will hold their meetings at Pattee's Hall. Donors Swan, Bisbee and Godwin have given a \$100 each and others have contributed as well.

The Cole Building on Main Street is about completed on the outside and the inside is ready for the masons.

Middle Intervale: Ladies and friends of the Baptist society gave a well-received pumpkin festival on October 15th.

Gilead: R.L. Bennett has received the job of firing on the Wild River R.R. The fee on the Wild River R.R. to Nigger Tom's is 15 cents and return is 25 cents.

North West Bethel: William Chapman, of the "Homestead", was in Mass. on business this week. Rumor has it that another large barn will be built at the "Homestead".

10-30-1891 Advertiser:

Bethel: Prof. Wight will close his singing school with a grand concert at Pattee's Hall. Concert proceeds will go toward rebuilding the Methodist Episcopal church. Dr. Gehring and wife left for Cleveland, Ohio, last week. Architect Thomas of Lewiston has presented a plan for a reconstructed church edifice for the Methodist church. The plan was accepted last Monday evening at a special meeting of the trustees; the cost of the new construction is close to \$3,500. The plan includes a vestry opening into the audience room, a bell tower and a large circular stained glass window occupying the center of the main gable. A cluster of memorial gables will occupy the side gable. Sheriff Wormell, H.C. Barker, R.E. Whitman and G.J. Hapgood have returned from a hunting trip to Magalloway River. Work has begun on the new Methodist church; it will be a free church that means free pews. The Odd Fellows are building a shed on the back of their hall. Mrs. Hammons is closing up a sale of her house to A.T. Rowe, esq., of Boston. Our correspondent carries on at length about the horses and owners who compete at the Riverside Trotting Park.

Grover Hill: Mrs. Ella Lyon has bought a pair of oxen. Orrin Foster of Newry came to buy some winter fruit of N.A. Stearns. A number of other residents report sales and purchases of livestock.

Bethel Maine History—1891 Part Two

Mason: A.S. Bean of West Bethel is building a new barn at the Morrill place to replace one that burned last year. J.H. and A.S. Bean have loaded a car of potatoes. Other farming news is also reported.

West Bethel: A.S. Bean has completed the aqueduct to carry water to his mill. Our blacksmith W.D. Mills will close his shop and go to work for A.S. Bean in the shop at the mill. On November 5th, there will be a dance at A.S. Bean's Hall. Chase's Orchestra will provide music. For the occasion, Grand Trunk offers half fare for travel from Gorham and Bryant's Pond.

Fryeburg Academy Grant: La Forest Corner finished digging 225 bushels of potatoes and has exchanged horses with H. Skillings. North West Bethel: Buildings on the Rowe farm just purchased by T.A. Chapman will be repaired, a new shed built, and the house shingled and clapboarded. Herman Skillings has traded the mare "Nell" with a Mr. Corner, for a horse known as "Bonnie, the Frenchman". Skillings now drives the span that Seth Mason did two years ago. The Penley's entertained neighbors with their new organ. Miss Clyde Bartlett "made it talk" for the company's benefit.

Gilead: There was strike among the Italians working for the Wild River R.R.; it was settled by part of the crew has gone to New York. Mr. A.M. Whitman, who has been the correspondent for this paper, writes that J.W. Kimball who has worked for the Grand Trunk at Gilead for nearly forty years has resigned and will be sadly missed. Whitman has worked with Kimball for eight years. Whitman, who apparently is the telegraph operator, will also leave Gilead for Gorham. Also anyone wishing to act as Gilead correspondent for the Advertiser should contact the editor. W.E. Ladd from Coaticook, Quebec Province will be the new station agent. In closing his column, Whitman writes "In writing these my last items for the present I wish the Editor and my fellow correspondents of the ADVERTISER a hearty good by and longevity, and my readers happy future. Those of the past who may have felt slighted and wronged, I beg to be forgiven. Very truly, A.M. Whitman. "

November 1891

11-6-1891

Bethel: The Free Masons call for full attendance for the annual meeting on November 12th when officers will be chosen and reports of committees rendered. GAR Post 84 meets the first and third Tuesday at their hall in the Brick Block on the corner of Main and Broad Streets. The Women's Relief Corp meets in the hall of the floor under the Grand Army. Asa Stowell left a sprig of trailing arbutus (Mayflower) with a cluster of

buds ready to blossom. J.G. Rich has moved into Bethel for the winter; his house is the third one above Major Hastings on Broad Street. Prof. Wight's singing school closed Thursday evening with a grand concert at Pattee's Hall. Prof. Wight plans to give singing conventions this winter in Maine, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Benjamin Bryant has taken the job of putting in a stone foundation for the new Methodist Episcopal church plans to complete it in a few days and then the work on the will begin.

Gilead news reported in Bethel: The new railroad in Gilead is up and running as far as Nigger Tom's Opening.

The story of this man (Nigger Tom) is that during the war of rebellion, he was a Negro living in Tennessee who escaped from his master made his way north and hid in the Wild River and cleared a small farm. After the war he returned south and is now the owner of a successful farm. His name was Tom, hence the name, Nigger Tom's Opening.

Locke Mills: A new spool mill will be ready to operate by early January 1892. The main building is 136 feet long and 40 ft wide of two stories with a brick house for boiler, engine and dry house. Work has begun on numbering the streets and we hope that everyone will cooperate. The Cole Brothers are pushing their new building, which can be seen, from most any part of town. The Women's Relief Corps meeting will include entertainment and an oyster and pastry supper - November 11th in their hall in the Brick Block.

Grover Hill: Ida Hazelton is home now but will teach in Bethel village this winter.

Mason: A.S. Bean of West Bethel is clearing the meadow brook so that he can drive pulp down the brook and Pleasant River in the spring.

West Bethel: Eddie Wheeler, a 22 years old Bates College student, has died of consumption. W.A. Farwell has bought a new range stove.

North West Bethel: Fred Chapman is at work for Herman Skillings. Marion Chapman will soon go to New York to attend school.

11-13-1891:

Bethel: "Last week we visited the Farwell brothers farm on the west side of Waterspout Mountain (the 1965 U.S. Geologic Survey map of Bethel calls this range of three peaks

that included Waterspout Mt. and Swan Hill, simply Farwell Mountain) The boys milk seventeen cows and keep an army of pigs and fat hogs. The milk from the cows is put into (cans which are then stored in) a large tank of (cold) spring water, the cream made into butter, which they supply, to their numerous customers. The boys know how to farm for profit. The Bethel Volunteer Hose Company held its annual meeting and elected officers: Elmer H. Young, foreman; L.A. Hall, 1st Assistant; Charles Russell, 2nd assistant; Thomas F. Hastings, clerk; F.A. Allen, assistant clerk. There are ten members in the company. A vagrant broke the lock on the Bethel Water Company reservoir recently and there is a \$25 reward offered for detection and conviction of the individual. The Universalist society will offer a series of lectures this winter led by visiting presenters from Portland, Auburn and Melrose, Mass. There is severe drought. The Androscoggin River is lower than even the oldest residents remember. The Methodists will hold their services at Pattee's Hall. The Western Union Telegraph Co. has a crew of men finishing and setting over the poles at the station.

Paradise Rd.

Gilead: A.M. Whitman has returned as telegraph operator for a few days. One of the Wild River engines was off the track Friday. Walter Davis has quit running H.F. Dixie's scraper to braking on the W.R.R.R. The Wild River Lumber Co. is putting in a telephone line from Gilead Station to Nigger Tom's Opening.

North West Bethel: Six sheep have arrived at the Chapman homestead directly from England. They were accompanied in their journey across the big water by a finely trained dog, which will remain at the homestead. The man who saw them safe to their new home stopped one night and started on his return home.

11-20-1891 Advertiser

Bethel: L.W. Bartlett has returned from the West where he went with A.T. Kelliher to assist him in distributing his patented logging apparatus. Mr. Kelliher has now gone to Dixie with his machine.

Miss Clyde L. Bartlett will teach in District No. 5 in North West Bethel starting November 23rd.

“It has been nothing but moving in Bethel this past week.”

Correspondent to the Democrat.

11-27-1891 Advertiser

Bethel Maine History—1891 Part Two

Bethel: The Chapman Homestead Stock Farm had six sheep arrive from England last week costing \$1,200.

Mr. Virgin of South Bethel intends to put in several hundred cords of birch to his mill to be worked into spool strips and he is also sending away large quantities of cedar posts.

Rebuilding of the Methodist Episcopal Church on Main Street is progressing rapidly with stone work for the vestry completed and most of the lumber on the ground.

At the Congregational church, the Garland chapel is nearly completed on the outside. Dr. C.D. Hill left for North Carolina last week where he will spend several weeks hunting.

Gould Academy students entertained the village people in A.S. Bean's Hall with a mock trial and other presentations. Addison Bean is making some repairs on his barn.

Gilead's District #6 school closed after an eleven-week's successful term taught by Amy Atherton of Newry. A.M. Whitman (former Advertiser correspondent and Gilead station telegraph operator) and family have moved to Gorham, NH. W.E. Ladd is both station agent and telegraph operator now. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hilton have moved up Wild River.

North West Bethel: Mrs. E. S. Skillings and baby will go to Portland to live. At the Chapman Homestead farm 575 cedar posts have been set; they believe in good board fences. The schoolhouse in our District #5 is in wretched condition; we have fifteen scholars with no schoolhouse. Who has got spunk enough to stop it?

December 1891

12-4-1891 Advertiser

Bethel: M.E. Young of Locke Mills has secured a foreman's job at the spool mill in Bethel. He has will move his family to Bethel into a rent owned by S.D. Philbrook on Church Street. The East Oxford Local Union Christian Endeavor will hold its annual convention at the Congregational Church on December 8th. The Grand Trunk is offering half fare for travel of group members to Bethel on this occasion. Judge Foster met with the full bench of Supreme Justices of Maine at Augusta this week. On December 10th a full attendance of members of the Bethel Lodge, F&A Masons when an installation of officers will take place. Schools in Bethel commenced last Monday. Ed Holt starts for Florida this week – all the way by rail. On December 1st, the Brown Post of the G.A.R officers were elected. On the evening of the first Tuesday in January officers of the Women's Relief Corps will take place in the GAR Hall of the Chapman block. The Cole

Block is to be heated by steam. The boiler and pipes are being set. Goddard Bros have a very fine line of picture frame molding. "We should think that the Corporation would make a change in the streets, Mason and Chapman. Where is the end of each? The matter should be attended to.

On Grover Hill J.T. Lewis, a dry and fancy goods peddler was in the neighborhood during the week. And A.J. Peaslee, Frank Ordway and Henry Stiles have returned from deer hunting.

Another Bethel column in the same week reports that Dr. J.G. Gehring with Mrs. Gehring, her son, mother and sister will leave Bethel for Europe this week Thursday on the 3:38 PM Express. They will sail from New York, next Tuesday morning, December 1st, at six o'clock on the steamer Havel of the North German Lloyd Line. Fred and Scott Robinson have painted and papered Judge Foster's office. Mr. and Mrs. A.M. Bean left Bethel for Florida last October. They have reported from Merritt, Florida of killing two alligators and also catching a five-pound trout. They are delighted with the climate and "if we had Chapman Brook water we would feel perfectly contented." In the village, Judge Foster has thoroughly renovated his offices since the Bethel Savings Bank moved into their newly rented office in the Cole Block. A furnace in the basement heats it. (Now we know that the bank office was located in the judge's office on Main Street.) From Grover Hill we learn that Orrin Stiles has moved his family into L.W. Pingree's house but Pingree will board there this winter. The Pingree brothers will work at Wild River this winter.

Mason reports that Rev. Mr. Peare married George Richardson of Gilead and Martha Cummings of Bethel in the Mason parsonage. Sleighing is here.

North Newry has these items: Snow came on November 24th, about two inches. A Mr. Bailey has moved to the Corner into the Ryerson house and will work for J.A. Thurston in his mill. Genie Littlehale is to return with Maenette to Bethel to attend Gould's Academy. M.L. Thurston has started for Andover with his logging sleds where he is engaged quite extensively. Eli Stearns has a large egg business besides dealing in sheep and cattle; he has at present on hand 30,000 eggs.

12-11-1891 Advertiser

Bethel: Eli Foster of Newry has bought the Rev. Benjamin Foster place on the corner of Main and Mechanic Streets and intends to move into it in the spring. It is understood that he paid \$1,800 for it. John M. Philbrook, esq., has purchased the late Gilman Chapman place. Mr. Philbrook will occupy it next fall after renovations are completed. George Hapgood and wife have gone to New York to purchase goods for his store that

include the newest and latest novelties from Europe. When a man is enterprising enough to go to New York in person for his Christmas goods he deserves our patronage. The sudden death of David Bridge, only 48 years old, cast a deep shadow over our village. He had been manager of the Bethel spool mills for many years, an upright and energetic man. He belonged to the fraternity of Masons, was Master of Bethel Lodge two successive years and was its secretary for the last six years and was buried under Masonic rites. William E. Skillings, esq., was in town over last Sabbath on the occasion of the funeral of David Bridge. Mr. Skillings is secretary of the American Bobbin, Spool and Shuttle Co, 90 Kilby Street, Boston. Dr. C.D. Hill has returned from his southern hunting trip and is ready for professional practice. Work is progressing finely on the Methodist Church. The architecture is of the Queen Anne style and will be an ornament to our village.

12-18-1891 Advertiser

Bethel: The first real snow storm came on December 16th. Bethel Typography has published a Christmas newspaper, only one issue still it shows a spirit of enterprise worthy of the son of York. There will be a private hearing of the Methodist church people on December 16th in regard to a scandal that has filled the air for the last two months in connection with Rev. Mr. Record. C.E. Benson & Co. have whole barrels full of Christmas candles.

The Masons of Bethel Lodge No. 97 installed new officers on December 10th. D.G. Lovejoy as Warden Master and N.F. Brown as Senior Warden and Charles Mason as Junior Warden. W.L. Whitney has sold his entire partnership of the marble and granite business and will move away. His partner, L.L. Whitney will run the business by himself for a while. Numbering of houses began Wednesday. F.A. Goddard and Fred Farwell are doing the job. The Bethel Chair Company have extra help in the upholstering department to keep up with their orders.

Grover Hill: Some of the young people will attend the next term of dancing school in West Bethel. Seven inches of snow fell here Tuesday. A.J. Peaslee is hauling some cord wood for E.S. Kilborn. North West Bethel: Some from this place attended the Y.P.S.C.E. at Bethel on the 8th. All speak highly of Miss Imogene Burnham's paper on "Looking Out".

Mason: Mrs. Addison Bean and Anna Stiles of West Bethel, visited in town last week. F.I. Bean is doing much-needed repairs on the mill he bought recently. J.H. Bean has bought one-half of the Weston lot of N.H. Tyler. J.H. Bean has sold one-half of the Bisbee lot to A.S. Bean of West Bethel. Mrs. Ida Bean killed a mink that had raided her hen

house; it had killed a hen and was trying to get away.

East Bethel: The winter term of school has started with J.S. Hutchins instructor. A Christmas tree and entertainment will be held at the schoolhouse on December 24th. Mary Hutchins is teaching in District No. 26. Emma Brown is teaching at South Bethel.

West Bethel: A crowd gathered in one of our stores to witness the trapping of a white rat that had been stealing raisins. The trap caught the rat by one toe and the crowd showed sympathy by allowing the rat to be set free. A new hard wood floor has been laid in the boarding house. Another term of dancing school is scheduled to begin next Saturday at Bean's Hall.

Albany: D.A. Cummings has hired J.P. and George Kimball and E.F. Wheeler to haul birch strips to the Bethel steam mill. Alice Wilbur has gone to Massachusetts to do housework for the winter. E.T. Judkins our village blacksmith has just returned from Portland where he was able to buy new stock for his shop. Mr. Aspinwall went for a ride wearing his tall shiny beaver hat and kid gloves, without his fur coat on we think he did not intend to occupy his phaeton alone for a long ride.

Marriages and Deaths: In Newry: Frank Bennett and Amy Vail on November 24th. On September 29th, Ebenezer Chapman of Gilead married Susie Stowell of Newry. Deaths: Newry: Viola, wife of Richard Williamson died in Augusta on December 10th, on December 7th Otis Baker, age 84. In Bethel on December 5, Mrs. Lydia Bean aged about 84 years.

12-25-1891 Advertiser

Bethel: Mary, the wife of Mr. J.H. Barrows of the Bethel Chair Co. died at age 53 in Augusta. Her funeral will be in Bethel on December 24th with interment in West Paris. Christmas tree ceremonies will be enjoyed at the Congregational church this Thursday evening. Supper will be at 6 P.M. in the vestry with the tree in the body of the house at 7 o'clock. A Christmas concert was given at the Universalist Church by the Sunday School last Sunday. The correspondent for the Advertiser had written a death notice ready for the paper about the death of widow Mrs. Timothy Hastings of Swan's Corner when it was found that she had only fainted and was revived. Work on the (Methodist) church is going rapidly. The train from Montreal was two hours late on Monday due to heavy fog. G.T.R. workmen came last Saturday to repair the iron bridge one-quarter mile below Bethel Station. But on Sunday the work crew could not get "right of track" on account of steamer passengers.

Albany: There will be entertainment at the church on New Year's night to raise money for a new carpet for the church.

Bethel Maine History—1891 Part Two

Mason: Preparations for a Christmas festival at the church on the 25th are going on. Drawing wood is the order of the day.

West Bethel: C.E. Valentine married Bertha Grover both of Bethel. The ceremony took place at the home of the bride's father, E.P. Grover. Mr. and Mrs. Valentine went to Boston on their wedding tour. A.S. Bean has started his teams and is hauling wood from the bog and lumber from his other mills.

[Back to 1891 Home Page](#)