

# The Bethel Journals

## Welcome to Bethel of 1893



**New Post Office - Move County Seat - Chicago World's Fair - Money's Short -  
1893 Panic - Cole Block in Trouble**

## 1893 News Highlights

Oxford County will move its seat of government from Paris Hill to South Paris and erect new county buildings. The Chicago World's Fair and a new school building for Bethel village were other important happenings for 1893.

**January:** Debate on county buildings continued, R.J. Virgin had nearly finished his new saw mill in South Bethel. More news of Rumford Falls development.

**February:** Rebuilt Methodist Church was dedicated. Heavy snow storm covered the area during February 20, 21 and 22. **March:** Voters approved new county buildings. First town meeting in Odeon Hall was held. Voters approved a new school for Bethel village. **April:** Eber Clough passed away. New school lot on High Street purchased from John M. Philbrook.

**The Cole Block:** The Cole's two largest tenants closed their businesses and vacated the building. The building and nearby house was put up for sale. In August the property was put up for auction but did not sell. Elmer Cole married Emma Parker, went to Washington and then returned.

In October "Elmer D. Cole and wife will go to Washington this week to live. Some of their household goods will be moved to Portland for further shipment by boat. He has received a good offer to engage in the jewelry business there. His business reverses make it necessary for him to make this move, which he regrets. He and his brother Fred have dissolved their partnership."

In December, the Cole Block ownership was transferred to the Bethel Savings Bank. Less than robust economic times and no real increase in Bethel population may have caused the young men to fail in their enterprise.

Ironically, Dana Philbrook who had moved into his new house on Mechanic Street in November was burned out in mid-December. He moved his salvaged jewelry stock into one of the Cole Block's vacant stores.

**The Money Shortage:** Except for the chair factory, spool and dowel mills seemed to be running only infrequently or were shut down until they received more orders. News from Rumford Falls spoke of money stringencies and slowing of what had been a boom-time building experience. More than the usual number of stories of large numbers of tramps appeared in the news.

In September, this comment appeared: "The outlook in lumbering is gloomy and but little will be done in this vicinity unless the business outlook improves."

**Other Important News:** The corn canning factory, new butter factory and of course the trotting races and Bethel fair were high points of the year in town—the fair drew horsemen and trotters from all over western Maine.

In July 1893, Moses A. Mason sold his landmark Mayville farm to Charles Ryerson of Upton. Mason left Bethel for a trip to the world's fair.

## The 1893 Journal

### January 3, 1893, Democrat

**Roxbury:** Mr. Chapman has started sawing birch at his new mill. (See July 5, 1892, Bethel – James Chapman and Charles P Bartlett: new mill on Swift River).

**Mason:** Farmers here and all over the county are talking of the scarcity of hay. N. Mason of Albany has moved into town and is working for Mr. Bean. A.S. Bean has several teams in the woods now.

**Rumford Falls:** Two men died here from drinking wood alcohol. Iron for the bridge has arrived on the rail cars; it is being unloaded and hauled to the bridge site. The Power Co. has gotten the piers built for the wooden bridge that is to be constructed across the middle canal.

**West Bethel:** Temperature has been below zero. The aqueduct supplying Charles C. Merrill's buildings has frozen up. There was no Christmas entertainment at West Bethel but many presents were seen passing through the mails. A.S. Bean's mill has started up again; it had been shut down for repairs. N.W. Mason and son Otis are home for a few weeks; they have been working at Rumford Falls for the last six months.

**Bethel:** There was entertainment and an exhibition at Odeon Hall to benefit the Bethel Library. The wax works of Mrs. Jarley of Portland were on display. D.S.G.F.E. Thurlow of Poland installed the officers of Sudbury Colony, U.O.P.F. After the installation an oyster supper was served to the colony and friends. Howard Carter went to Portland where is employed by the Chapman Banking Co. The new pews for the Methodist church have arrived. A union of Methodist, Congregational and Universalist churches will observe a week of prayer with services held at 7:30 evenings.

### January 6, 1893, The Advertiser

**Locke Mills:** A.L. Green is doing quite a business at his grocery store plus he is buying wood and shipping it to Lewiston. Forty couples attended a ball at Mt Abram House last week. Bacon's Orchestra provided the music, four pieces. A number of couples from West Paris attended.

**Albany:** The storekeepers say they have an abundance of butter brought in by the farmers. Average price is 20 cents. Sunday gave us quite a snow storm topped with rain. The hay market is being talked up – "now is the time to sell as hay is going to be cheaper". What do other parts of the county have to say about the hay question?

**Mason:** J.H. Bean our representative to the Legislature (a different district from the one Bethel is in) went to Augusta Tuesday.

**Oxford County – County Government Buildings Debate for 1893:** (This debate

in the county newspapers will continue for most of the year.) "New buildings can be built several hundred dollars cheaper at South Paris than at Paris Hill. They can be kept in repair for less money than on the Hill."

"Now add the expenses of water works, electric lights, janitor, corporation taxes, etc., to the expense of the new county buildings and see where the county can best afford to do business."

### January 10, 1893: Democrat

**Bethel:** The third lecture of the Gould Academy course took place at the Opera House. Rev E.G. Thayer delivered the lecture: subject, "Uncle Remus and his nephews".

**Rumford Falls:** Water has been let into the middle canal. The chemical company started their large wheel at 2 A.M. Everything worked well. Hotel Rumford is full with 56 persons lodging there.

Bids were opened for the excavation and removal of 3,000 yards of ledge near the upper dam. A fire department organization has started. There was a meeting at George Bisbee's office, J.H. McKeeman was chose chief engineer to organize the company. A subscription paper will be started to raise money to buy 500 feet of hose and a hose carriage. J.A. Badger has made connections with the main pipe and now has city water in his store.

### January 13, 1893 Advertiser.

**Bethel:** The Colby University Glee, Banjo and Guitar Clubs gave a concert at Odeon Hall in Bethel. This concert was arranged by Gould Academy as part of the academy's lecture series.

Cold weather in Bethel: Hastings Bros., have kept two men thawing out and repairing water pipes for the last three weeks. Many have frozen a second or third time. It would be better for patrons to acquire the habit of shutting off the water in their home even when it is not freezing weather; changes in our latitude are so sudden.

The annual meeting of the Bethel Chair Company was held in their office Tuesday. J.H. Barrows remains president; J.U. Purington was elected secretary; F.H. Young, assistant secretary; Ellery C. Park, Treasurer; directors are: J.H. Barrows, H.G. Brown, J.U. Purington, Calvin Bisbee, W.W. Hastings, and E.C. Rowe. Net earnings were \$5,546.60. Gross earnings or sales, \$40,000; paid for labor about, \$17,000. The concern is in a flourishing condition with a healthy supply of orders.

**Gilead:** A box supper and social in the town hall to benefit the Good Templars is planned for the coming Thursday.

**Mason:** A.S. Bean's steam mill has started up and is sawing spool stock.

**West Bethel:** Bailey & Mason have dissolved partnership.

**The amount of freight sent from this station during the last six months of**

**1892 is 2,119 tons.**

**January 17, 1893: Democrat**

**Bethel:** The pews are now in and the carpet down at the Methodist church. John P. Coburn is operating with a large crew on the Faxon and Kimball land near this village. They are getting out all kinds of timber – delivering some to the station and some to the mills. Faxon and Kimball bought this land of the Chapman heirs last fall.

The Bethel Dairying Company is stocking up on ice. Large quantities of ice are being put in by private individuals.

**Newry:** J.S. Allen has gone to work for J.A. Thurston in his mill at Ketchum. If South Paris people want the county buildings why don't they offer to chip in something? We would like a new town house here in Newry, and some better school houses.

**Rumford Falls:** Bearce & Wilson, lumbermen of Lewiston, were here last week locating piers in the river for the Rumford Falls Power Co. The main water pipe which is laid on the east side of the river from the upper dam to the paper mill froze up last week. James McGregor has a large crew of men at work on the railroad embankment back of the paper mill. Bryant & Lander, hardware dealers, have started a foundation for a large store opposite the hotel. The Banner Clothing Co. has moved its stock of goods back to Lewiston. Mr. Ridlon of Portland has the contract for the construction of the Sulphite mill. Spofford & Mitchell are laying the ties for the branch track to the rear of the paper mill. The penstocks at the chemical mill leak so badly that they have sent for the boilermakers.

**February 7, 1893: Democrat**

**Newry:** The pump at (J.A.) Thurston's steam mill in Ketchum froze up recently, bursting the pipe and causing a three days shut down.

**Gilead:**

We are pained to record the death of Alger Chapman, son of William C. Chapman, who died at Hebron while attending school.

**North West Bethel:** "Died at Hebron, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, Alger Baldwin Chapman, second son of William C. and Martha Baldwin Chapman, of Gilead, aged 19 years. The remains were brought home and interred in the beautiful cemetery near (the Chapman Homestead farm) where he had spent so many happy days. The principal of Hebron Academy, accompanied by eleven students with the minister from that place, came to pay their last tribute of respect to him, who, by his uprightness and manly ways had ever endeared himself to all. The floral offerings were many. Noticeable among them was a broken lute given by the senior class and an anchor from his own class of '94. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman have the sympathy of a large circle, as Alger's death leaves a vacant plan in all hearts that ever knew him.

**Bethel:** The last lecture of the Gould Academy course took place at the Opera House last Thursday evening. It was a lecture by Rev. R.S. Williamson on Scotland.

**West Bethel:** Snow storms are light and the continued cold is freezing up the small streams to their beds, flowing the dooryards, roads and fields, in every direction but in many respects the season is favorable to lumbermen.

The Chapel Aid (dedicated to building a West Bethel church), composed of a half-dozen energetic women of this place, will have about \$200 in the bank at the end of their first year. *"Of course women ought to vote."*

A.W. Grover has sold much of his stock and now has hay to sell.

### February 10, 1893: Advertiser

**Bethel:** S.D. Philbrook is confined to his house this winter. He feels the "ennui" of his situation and is pleased to have his neighbors run in and have a talk.

There was a reception in the chapel of the Congregational church for Rev. Israel Jordan and the new Mrs. Jordan on Thursday. From the Advertiser, about 150 attended; there was singing, a speech by Judge Woodbury welcoming the couple and response by the pastor.

The supper given by the ladies of the Universalist society at Pattee's Hall last Saturday was a success and it is hoped that the next week's supper that is to be put on by the men of the society will be as well attended.

Dr. C. D. Hills is home from the South and ready to attend to his professional calls – and none to soon as many homes are made desolate by sickness. Mrs. (Enoch) Foster who is in Philadelphia now and plans travel soon to Baltimore also plans to be in Washington, D.C., at the Inauguration.

The ball planned for Odeon Hall on February 23 has an impressive program: Stearns and Norseworthy's Orchestra of Norway with six pieces; floor managers E.H. Young, E.M. Walker, and D.C. Philbrook. Committee on Introductions, J.C. Billings, S.N. Buck, Wm. Foley and F. M. Allen. The concert begins at 7:45 PM. Half-fare on the G.T.R.R. Berlin to South Paris inclusive.

**Attorney Frye in favor of new county buildings:** "I have always been in favor of new county buildings – For my part I would rather go to Lewiston or Portland after I once get aboard the train than to climb the hill."

Others from Bethel in favor of new county buildings: J.U. Purington, E.C. Rowe, Ceylon Rowe, and G.P. Bean all prominent business men of Bethel say "a convenient set of county buildings is what we need and must have, and have them located on the line of the railroad." They also say, "We would like to have them at Bethel but we know that is out of the question. South Paris is the next best place."

[To read the list of the 52 personalities attending the Columbian Club Title Party click here.](#) The list of names includes the book titles that each person represented. It is also Bethel Hill's "social register" of 1893.

### February 14, 1893: Democrat

**Judge Woodbury of Bethel, Letter to the Editor about County Buildings:** "I regret

that any ill feeling is engendered and that any appeal has been made to the farmers as a class. Arraying one occupation or profession against another is impolitic and unwarranted. The subject presents itself as a simple business transaction, and appeals to every taxpayer, whether he be a farmer, mechanic or professional man."

The letter continues to layout the financial situation at hand and as foreseen for a newly developed site of county buildings. He points out that 30 of the wealthiest men of South Paris and Norway have personally guaranteed that suitable buildings, purchase of grounds and grading shall not cost the county more that \$30,000 or that this group of guarantors will personally pay the deficiency. [Click here for the full letter.](#)

**Rumford Falls:** Petitions are in circulation for the discontinuance of the mail routes from Bryant's Pond to Mexico and from Bryant's Pond to Andover and the establishment of a new route from Rumford Falls to Andover via Rumford Center and along the east side of Ellis River. There is also another petition in circulation for a mail route from Hanover via Rumford Point connecting with the Andover route at Rumford Center.

Hon. George Bisbee has been in town looking after matters of the Light & Water Company. Men are expected to finish putting up the wires for the electric lights this week. One of the dynamos for the light plant has arrived and the others are expected by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Legislature has amended the charter of the Rumford Falls Light & Water Company so that it can issue bonds and extend its plant to the towns of Mexico and Peru.

### **February 17, 1893: Advertiser**

**Bethel:** The Dixfield Amateur Club who played Thursday and Friday evenings at Bethel was highly appreciated. They make a better appearance than most of the city theater companies who visit our village.

The gentlemen of the Universalist Society did themselves great credit in entertaining last Saturday. "They say" that Mr. Park worked so hard cooking, etc., that he looked "all jagged out" and they used so much buttermilk from the (butter) factory that the farmers' pigs went dry for a day. Mr. Ames tested all the coffee in town to get the best and when he had served the two hundred guests with coffee that pronounced by all "delicious" is it any wonder he was nearly "tuckered"? Musical entertainment followed supper and the ladies extended a vote of thanks. Do it again, sometime. It netted the Society \$50.

Judge Frye and the whole delegation of Lawyers and Sheriffs left Bethel Tuesday for the seat of war at Paris.

Frank Leach has not bought out the Bethel Telegram as reported last week.

**Newry:** George Spinney and his two sons are getting one hundred cords of birch to the J.A. Thurston mill; Herbert Kendall will haul about forty of the one hundred cords. May Powers was ill and could not teach last Friday; school has only a few more days in the term and Miss Powers is a fine teacher.

### **February 21, 1893: Democrat**

**HEAVY SNOW STORM COVERS AREA:** Monday, February 20, 18 inches of snow, February 21, wind and cold, Wednesday, February 22, another 12 inches of snow reported from Albany. Thursday the roads were impassable and no mail could be delivered. Newry reported the same conditions and no mail. Locke Mills: "We have had the most severe

storm and blow in years. The snow is piled up in every direction. West Bethel: "A blizzard week has nearly passed but the blizzard? Doubtful. The snow storms of Monday and Wednesday were 12 and 9 inches respectively, with a slight one on Friday - The northwest wind has been a gale, the snow has drifted hugely everywhere except where it is wanted - the road from West Bethel to Bethel was not opened for teams to pass until Friday (February 24). The Bethel doctors having patients in this (West Bethel) vicinity, come and go on the (rail) cars."

**Middle Interval:** Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Cole have been the guests of Joseph Holt and his wife. Mr. Cole has returned sooner than he expected. The ladies will be entertained Thursday morning, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Holt, and their daughter, Mrs. Fred Cole.

**Methodist Church Dedication:** The new Methodist church in Bethel was dedicated last Wednesday afternoon and evening, February 15th. Rev. Mr. Jordan of the Congregationalist church and Rev. Mr. Beem of the Universalist church assisted in the services. Presiding Elder Ladd was present and also Mrs. Ladd, who sang. The filled church witnessed an impressive and interesting programme of service. Also it was announced that a special subscription of collections would enable the church to clear its debt incurred for the rebuilding.

"The history of the rebuilding of this church (after it was struck by a tornado September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1891) has been but one continual narrative of energy, enterprise and perseverance for the attainment of the end now reached. The church has men who have the energy and will to do when required and in this case they have shown their strength. They and others have given of their means liberally to rebuild this edifice. Members of both the Universalist and the Congregationalist societies of the place have contributed and their gifts are appreciated by the people of the church. And today the M.E. society here have as fine a church edifice as can be found in this section and are free from debt."

**Bethel:** Rev. A.S. Ladd delivered his lecture, "Life, some of the follies of life," at the Methodist church last Tuesday evening to a goodly audience. And Harry Laman was here last Tuesday night at the Opera House with the comedy play, "The New England Home."

A grand ball at Odeon Hall and the popular drama, "Millie, the Quadroon" scheduled for the Opera House on that week were postponed due to the snow storm.

Judge Enoch Foster was the Presiding Judge of the Oxford County Supreme Judicial Court for the February 1893 term held at Paris Hill. Henry Farwell, Bethel, was a grand jury member.

### February 24, 1893: Advertiser

**Gilead: Quoted as in favor of new county buildings:** John W. Bennett, a prominent lumber manufacturer in conversation the other day said, "Yes I am in favor new county buildings as the old ones are in constant need of repair, and from a business standpoint (I) should consider new buildings the cheapest in the end."

David R. Hastings, 2<sup>nd</sup>, of Hastings, Me., another lumber manufacturer says whatever the county puts out in repairs on the old buildings is thrown away as the county don't own one cent in them now and would be no better off should the commissioners spend



six or eight thousand dollars in repairs; the more we put into repairs the more we lose.

About 18 inches of snow here on the level and the worst wind of the season. Wild River train was blocked Monday between here and Hastings so it could get to neither place.

**North West Bethel:** "We are glad to know that we are going to have new county buildings instead of **repairing those old shacks** on Paris Hill."

Who says we haven't enough snow now? Monday we witnessed one of the biggest snow storms since '83'.

**For all town meeting voters:** "Yes" means new and modern buildings at South Paris not to cost the county over \$30,000. Fire proof vaults, new jail, court house, etc. The cost will be 23 cents on \$1,000 valuation. "No" means to expend a similar amount on Paris Hill. Which is the best location?

**Gould Academy:** Addison R. Saunders who fitted for college at Gould has been recently elected President of the Washington State College.

The academy's winter term closed Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Examinations were held Thursday (oral and written) and Friday (oral). Although it was stormy a number of visitors showed their interest by attending the oral exams.

For various reasons, the calendar has been changed to allow for two weeks vacation between the end of the winter term and beginning of the spring term. Spring term begins February 28<sup>th</sup> for 13 weeks.

A prize of \$5 has been offered by a friend of the academy to the one who does the best in declamation at the end of the spring term.

County Commissioners Court of Oxford County: To the Municipal Officers of the Town of \_\_\_\_\_ said County: February 14, 1893.

Abstract – "You are hereby notified that it is our intention to erect new County Buildings including Court House, Offices for the several County Officers, Jury Rooms, Library Rooms and Fire Proof Vaults for the records of the Probate Office, Register of Deeds, Clerk of Courts, and County Treasurer; also Jail and Jailer's House at a cost not to exceed thirty-thousand dollars on the following described lot, situated in the village of South Paris near the railroad station and in the shire town of Paris but more than half a mile from the location of the present County buildings, to wit –

And you are hereby directed to insert the following article in the warrant for the Town Meeting and the next annual election, to be holden March next:

"To see if the County Commissioners shall be authorized to erect new County buildings, etc., (as stated above). All in favor to give in their votes with the word "Yes" printed or written thereon, and all opposed with the word "No" printed on written thereon."

**February 28, 1893: Democrat**

**Bethel: James H Barrows (President of the Bethel Chair Company) Letter to the Editor of the Oxford Democrat concerning the proposed relocation of county seat.**

**Bethel, ME., Feb. 23, 1893.**

Mr. Barrows made different arguments than almost all other Bethel advocates writing for the newspapers:

"What is to be saved to the county in the new and expensive undertaking? The only thing I have been able to discover, from the arguments put forth, is that those who attend court and go by the way of South Paris will save their hack fare from South Paris to Paris Hill."

"When the court is once convened at Paris Hill, every one knows that the accommodations, not only so far as the court building is concerned, are good, but that the hotel accommodations are unsurpassed by any village in Oxford County – and besides at Paris Hill the hotels are within one minute's walk of the court room."

"the geographical center of Oxford County is a good way north of South Paris, and that the center of population is tending that way, I think to build new county buildings there, would be a great mistake which three-fourths of the people would in time discover and regret – Bethel Hill is a much more central and convenient place to locate county buildings, when the time comes that they are really needed, than any other point on the line of railroad."

"When the growing place of Rumford Falls becomes a city, which it will before many years..... any one can see that there is no point on the line of any railroad in Oxford County where the county would be so well accommodated as at Bethel Hill."

**Bethel:** A farmer's institute will be held at Pattee's Hall, Bethel, Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The programme will be of interest to all.

**Wilsons Mills:** John Olson fell in the woods Saturday morning, breaking some ribs and injuring his stomach. Dr. Hazelton was called for.

**Newry:** We are in the midst of a snow blockade. The mail carrier has not made a complete trip for a week. The constable has just gone over the mountain road on snowshoes to post the warrant for town meeting.

**Albany:** Chimney fire at Luther Abbott's put out by their son as both parents were sick. Eighteen inches of snow on Wednesday, roads impassable, mail carrier had to leave his team and carry the mail part of the way on his back.

**Locke Mills:** Snow is piled up in every direction. The Milton crew from R.D. Rand's mill commenced sawing the birch last Monday. There is about a week's sawing. C.S. Carter, our first selectmen, is in town settling up town business

This was the **first annual town meeting to be held in Odeon Hall**. Voted Enoch Foster to be moderator. L.T. Barker was elected Clerk; Selectmen were: Henry Farwell, Horatio N. Upton and John B. Chapman; Treasurer, J.U. Purington; (town) Agent A.E. Herrick; Supervisor of Schools, N. F. Brown; Tax Collector, S. B. Twitchell and Road Commissioner, I.G. Kimball.

For appropriations it was voted to raise \$2,000 for schools, \$3,000 for roads, \$1,200 for care of the poor, \$800 for town expenses and \$1,500 to pay interest and indebtedness. For Article 26., it was voted to authorize selectmen to sell buildings at the toll bridge. For Article 28., the town **voted to build a new school building in the**

**village** to accommodate a graded school and merge five original school districts. Under Article 29., it was voted to appoint a committee on the location of a school in the village and to move or dispose the present ones as they see fit. Committee for this purpose: N.F. Brown, E.S. Kilborn and J.U. Purington. These men will also be the building committee. The committee will select a lot, procure plans and superintend the building activity.

Ladies of the Library Association furnished dinner at Odeon Hall for the town meeting on Monday night with proceeds from the dinner going to benefit the library.

### March 7, 1893, Democrat

**Bethel:** On February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Opera House, "Millie, the Quadroon" was presented to a good house. A six piece orchestra of Bethel talent provided the music along with some fine vocal and instrumental pieces.

Work on the Universalist church addition is progressing well under the supervision of C.H. Adams. The addition will be used as a vestry on the upper level and as a kitchen and dining room on the basement level.

**Gould Academy** opened its spring term on February 28<sup>th</sup> with 80 scholars. Mr. Merriman is the principal and is rated with good satisfaction. *"-there is no reason why Gould Academy should not grow to be one of the largest and best of all the schools of its kind in the state. The school needs an endowment and when some friend of education sees fit to bestow upon it a good sized fund, we shall be best prepared to make the school what it should be and what it could be."*

Last Saturday, Lucier's minstrels performed at the Opera House in one of their first class entertainments. "While people of this village are not given to patronizing traveling troupes to any great extent, Lucier is usually give a large house."

**Odeon Hall:** The (postponed) ball given last Thursday evening at Odeon Hall was a success. Music was furnished by Norseworthy and Stearns of Norway. Refreshments were served by ladies of the Universalist society.

**Newry:** Storm and wind about all the time for the last two weeks. The roads were never in worse condition, despite the constant efforts to make them passable.

J.S. Brown, our first selectman, was round with the town reports. He tells me he did not receive order of notice for voting on country buildings in time to insert in the warrant and was obliged to snowshoe it to Bethel and copy from theirs. Was not that a little oversight somewhere?

C. W. Godwin has moved from the Poplar Hotel in this town to Bethel. Howard Thurston is preparing to move to Berlin Falls, NH, where he intends going into the jewelry business.

**East Bethel:** Irving and Lillian Kimball, Albert and Walter Bartlett and Charles Young are attending the spring term of school at Gould Academy.

The roads have been almost impassable the last two weeks. Mr. and Mrs. A.M. Bean

left Cocoa, Florida, on March 1<sup>st</sup> on their return trip home.

**Albany:** Randall Cummings of Bethel is in town selling steam cookers and plate holders. Ladies circle of 43 women met Thursday with Mrs. J. H. Lovejoy.

Charles Grover has engaged to cut 200 cakes of ice for Abel Andrews.

Theron Cummings is now hauling his hard wood lumber to Bethel chair factory instead of Willis's steam mill in Greenwood.

**West Bethel:** Grover & Shaw sent a car of nice potatoes to Lewiston Thursday paying 70 cents. A.S. Bean is handling more wood and timber this winter than ever before.

**Locke Mills:** A majority of the voters were for the removal of the county buildings to South Paris.

Harry LaMarr Comedy Company will present "Is Marriage a Failure" at the Mt. Abram Hall Saturday evening. Dancing will take place from 10 - 12; 25 cents per couple.

**March 14, 1893, Democrat**

**Other election results: Newry:** Moderator, N.S. Baker, Clerk, J.A. Thurston; Selectmen, J.S. Brown, M.L. Thurston, and W.B. Wight; Treasurer, J.A. Thurston; Tax Collector, N.S. Baker and Supervisor of schools, N. S. Baker.

**Grafton:** A.F. Brooks was elected Moderator, Clerk and Tax Collector. Selectmen elected were: Charles H. Davis, Joseph W. Chapman and Julian H Farrar. Treasure elected was G.A. Otis and Rufus Farrar was elected Supervisor of schools.

Votes on the county seat relocation article.

<b>Town</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Bethel	295	38
Albany	64	23
Newry	37	14
Gilead	44	23
Mason	5	8
Greenwood	86	54
Hanover	30	17
Rumford	104	140
Andover	55	105
Grafton	2	6
Woodstock	37	138

**Vote on moving the count seat:** Thirty seven towns and plantations had voted on the question by March 7<sup>th</sup>. Hartford and Roxbury voted on March 13<sup>th</sup> and were against moving the count seat but their vote did not change the majority.

**Yes votes = 3289. No votes = 2934.** A majority of 355

**Albany:** The Oxford war is ended. – It is hoped that all will accept the verdict submissively and even cheerfully. I am informed that our town meeting was rather noisy and somewhat “rifferous” on the question of an agent to sell liquor. If we are compelled to have an agent. It is to be hoped that he will be a law-abiding man.

Hastings and Thomas have sold \$50 worth of manure at their stable at Albany mills to parties in Bethel who sent a four horse team for a load. But the snow was so deep that they returned empty.

**Mason:** Our town meeting was a live one but very pleasant. Our people were not in the swim for new county buildings but then we have to help pay the taxes

George D Mason and Ernest Morrill have already delivered on the river and at A.S. Bean’s mill in Mason 760 cords of spruce pulpwood, birch for spool strips and cord wood for market. The latter will be hauled to West Bethel by teams and the spruce will be run down the river and the birch sawed here.

**West Bethel:** A.W. Grover will have an auction on March 18<sup>th</sup> when he will sell all his farming tools, stock and household furniture. Our new road commissioner, I.G. Kimball, is around on big official labors.

On the railroad: The engine on the Lewiston “scoot” burst the tire on the drive wheel directly under the engineer, George Buck, and some of the fragments were forced upward, raising the seat and engineer so high his head struck the top of the cab stunning him for some time.

**Bethel:** Pomona Grange met in Pattee’s Hall. A large number from Paris and other near towns attended.

The Universalist church has held a week of meetings with other churches participating.

Newry where 24 inches was reported. As a result roads were blocked and mail delivery suspended.

**Gilead:** Mail from Hastings had to be brought out by team as the engine that runs on the Gilead end of the line is laid up for repairs. The engine assigned to logging comes out in the night with what lumber is sawed through the day – some ten car loads.

### **Gould Academy students in 1857.**

Abiel Chandler, Jr. wrote:

“The spring term of 1857 was the last term I attended Gould’s Academy. From a list written on one of the fly leaves of my chemistry, I find that the following other students attended during that term, under the instruction of the late Dr. N. T. True, to who is due much of the honor of building up Gould’s Academy and making it what it should be:”

Chandler named 45 classmates, 15 were girls. Selected names from this list follow:

A.S. Twitchell, now residing at Gorham, NH, one of the leading lawyers of the state. Mr. Twitchell served three years in the late war and when he returned home was ranked as Gen. Twitchell.

Sarah Chapman daughter of the late Timothy Chapman of Milwaukee.

John S. Locke, of North Bethel, now lives in Biddeford but for many years resided in the west where he accumulated a fortune.

Samuel B. Locke, Jr., owner of the Locke mills resides in West Paris.

Henry C. Locke, Bethel, went west and was murdered in his own home by a man who worked for him. The murderer paid the penalty of his crime by being hanged to the limb of a tree by a mob.

Abiel Chandler, Jr., now resides at Bethel, proprietor of the Alpine House. Served three years in the late war, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Maine Battery, Light Artillery. Went in as a private; came home as quartermaster sergeant, Ambulance Corps, Artillery Brigade, 6<sup>th</sup> Corps.

A.M. True son of Dr. N.T. True now in Bethel.

Miss Mary True, daughter of Dr. N.T. True, now a teacher in a deaf and dumb school in Boston.

L. Holden of Sweden now resides in the west. Is worth three millions.

V.V. Twitchell, late editor of the Gorham Mountaineer.

**H.P. Brown, Bethel, served in the 7<sup>th</sup> Maine Regiment, Company I; killed at Antietam, Sept 17, 1862. He fell while leading his regiment. The writer was present and helped to bury him, near where he fell with a bullet through his head. Brown Post, G.A. R. is named after this noble and brave soldier.**

G.A. Hastings, Bethel, served three years in the war, as major in the 12<sup>th</sup> Maine Regiment. Now resides at his home in Bethel. (In 1893, Gideon Hastings was President of the Board of Trustees of Gould Academy.)

Enoch Foster, Jr., Bethel, served in the 13<sup>th</sup> Maine Regiment as captain. Now resides in Bethel; is one of the justices of the Supreme Court of Maine. (Also a trustee of Gould Academy.)

A.M. Carter, Bethel, served three years in the war, as sergeant in the 7<sup>th</sup> Maine Battery. Now resides in Bethel. (Carter was superintendent of the corn canning factory in Bethel for several years.)

O'Neil W. Robinson, Bethel, was captain of the 4<sup>th</sup> Maine Battery, Light Artillery. Died in 1869 at his (father's?) house (in Waterford?) from disease contracted in the army.

C.S. Edwards, Bethel, served three years in the 5<sup>th</sup> Maine Regiment. Went out as captain; came home ranking as general. Now lives at his house in Bethel. Is a successful farmer, cuts about 100 tons of hay, and keeps fifty head of cattle.

### March 28, 1893, Democrat

**Population of Grafton:** A canvass of the town's inhabitants would find only 64 men, women and children and part of them are of foreign birth. Only eight of the town's sixteen voters attended town meeting.

Rufus Farrar, Jr. (Supervisor of schools in Grafton).

**West Bethel:** The roads are first class now and teams are improving them – anxious to get in "six weeks of sledding this month". Not a large turnout at Albert W. Grover's auction – most of the advertised property was sold, however, except for the brood mare, and ox and horse sleds.

**Wilson's Mills:** At the town meeting John Olson was elected School Agent.

The **J.S. Danforth** has reached her destination at New Smyrna, Florida and has

gone up Indian River with plenty of sportsmen as passengers.

### **Odeon Hall seated its first Bethel town meeting in March 1893.**

#### **April 4, 1893 Democrat**

**West Bethel:** Prof. W. S. Wight will open singing school in the village on the 31st. Will give 12 lessons. E.B. Shaw lately had a car of phosphate and sold most of it to his customers who took it directly from the car. Leon Tyler is moving to his farm lately purchased of A.W. Grover and the latter is moving to Bethel village. The highway begins to show bare ground in places but teaming continues.

**Newry:** J.S. Allen is moving from Mayville to Newry. He intends to start his meat cart route about the 1st of May. Howard Thurston has moved back to Newry from New Hampshire. He will have his old place (job) at Thurston's steam mill at the Corner. Logging teams seem to be on the road homeward bound every day now.

**East Bethel:** Elbridge Crooker has resigned as postmaster at East Bethel and will close his store the first of April. Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hastings and Mrs. E.S. Bartlett attended the wedding of Miss Mabel Hastings, the 29th. Dennis Cole is having his house built over new with work done by N.F. Swan. Mrs E.S. Bartlett is visiting her daughter, Mrs. W.S. Wight at Bethel Hill. Charles Bryant has moved from the town farm to his farm in this place.

**Locke Mills:** The Current Events Club held its first meeting at Mrs. E. L. Tebbetts' last Wednesday. Mrs. Tebbetts was chosen president. Program included singing and the recital of Barbara Frietchie by Mrs. Clara Brown. All parts were taken from Whittier and the next meeting's question will be Hawthorne.

**Albany:** The Congregational society of Albany held their annual election Wednesday, and elected the following officers: A.G. Bean, Clerk; Mrs. Nancy C. Andrews, Treasurer; Daniel Clark, James E. Bird and Wallace E. Cummings, Trustees. The public library association held their elections Wednesday and the following were elected: J.H. Lovejoy, President; Howard Allen, Vice President; Mrs. Hattie C. Wilbur Treasurer and Librarian. The library has lately received new books. Logging in this vicinity is good yet, and from here to Bethel has not been better this winter.

#### **April 11, 1893 Democrat**

**Bethel:** Saturday, April 1st, Mr. Eber Clough of Bethel died. Mr. Clough was one of the oldest citizens of Bethel and highly respected. He has held many offices in town and represented his district in the legislature. He leaves a wife and eleven living children. March 29th, Wednesday, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel S. Hastings was married to Ernest Skinner of Boston by Rev. Mr. Beem. The Hastings then left Bethel the following Monday to spend spring and summer on their ranch in Judith Basins, Montana. At churches in Bethel Easter services were held with "unusual interest".

The lumber and hotel men have taken large quantities of grain and feed from Bethel the past week. One of Thurston's teams took 6,000 pounds to Errol, N.H., and Porter

& Thomas and Charles E. Cushman of Andover, each loaded two four-horse teams. Mrs. L.M.N. Stevens lectured at Garland Memorial Chapel Thursday on the work of the W.C.T.U. A branch was organized with about fifty members. E.W. Woodbury started for Pottsville, PA where he will stay for the month of April.

The school house committee has purchased a lot on High Street of John M. Philbrook, on which the town intend to erect a new brick building to accommodate 250 scholars. Price paid was \$800. And last Tuesday evening the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor held a sociable at the Congregational Church

The Gould Academy Lyceum League held its second lyceum of the spring term and the following question was debated: "Resolved that the prohibitory law of Maine should be repealed." The judges ruled 2 to 1 in favor of the affirmative. The vote of the house was 13 to 10 in favor of the affirmative.

**Newry:** Loggers are pretty generally through for the season. Baker Thurston and Bros. at Ketchum came out last week. J.H. Farrar in Grafton finished one week ago and Clifford's crew have a few days longer to work. The butter factory at Bethel wants to take in Bear River. Some have signed but a good many are holding back.

**West Bethel:** John Stiles is going to move from G.P. Bean's farm to Mayville and take charge of Prof. Chapman's stable. I am happy to introduce E. G. Wheeler, Esq., to your readers as the future correspondent from this place. He will make an honest member of the Brigade and an interesting writer and will improve on the former character of the items from this place. In taking leave of the Brigade (of Oxford Democrat correspondents) I would inform them and all my friends that my address at present will be A.W. Grover, Bethel.

**Locke Mills:** Mr. E.L. Tebbetts has gone to Minnesota on a business trip to be gone about two weeks. The spool mill is closed up for want of orders. G.C. Woodsum has returned to this place and is going to build a barber shop.

#### April 18, 1893 Democrat

**State of Maine News:** The board of state assessors have assessed the tax against the railroads of this state. It amounts to \$150,440.84, besides \$10,000 for the railroad commissioners. The increase over last year amounts to \$37,209.95, which is occasioned by the new law. The Atlantic and St. Lawrence pays \$13,259; the Portland and Rumford Falls \$274.

**Bethel:** Gould Academy lyceum program: Debate— resolved that women's influence is greater than man's. Affirmative Eva Twaddle and Bertha Wiley. Negative: Alonzo Chapman and Fred Merrill. Judges gave a decision of 2 to 1 in favor of the negative but the house gave a vote of 24 to 14 in favor of the affirmative.

Dana C. Philbrook has taken an agency for bicycles and sells them on easy installments. Streets in the village are very bad—mud and water in abundance. Prof. Dennett, the elocutionist will be at the Opera House next Thursday, admission 15 and 25 cents, tickets on sale at E.C. Rowe's store.

**Albany:** Bethel butter factory is extending their route to the south part of Albany. Abel Andrews gathers the cream; he carried two loads today on runners, April 14th. Charles Grover has taken the mail route from Albany to Bethel commencing July 1st.



**Rumford Falls:** The new passenger station is nearing completion. A tower surmounts the center in which is to be placed a clock which is visible from almost any part of the city. The contest for one-half mile plank sidewalk, five feet wide, was awarded to Murch & Arnold. It is to extend on both sides of Congress Street and the west side of Canal Street. The Light & Water Co has completed the wiring on Congress and Canal Streets and about all the stores and quite a number of dwellings have put in the incandescent.

The People's Clothing Co. of New York has leased the store in Lander Block; Maurice Rosen of Waterville is manager. The cellar and foundation for the Hotel Rumford addition are done. It is much needed as they are obliged to set up cot beds almost every night.

**East Bethel:** Z.W. Bartlett is agent for the Sagadahoc superphosphate and the Dirigo fertilizer. F.Q. Haines has a cow that gives 36 pounds of milk daily and she can be bought for \$50.

**Mason:** There seems to be quite a call for oxen and cattle fit for beef. J.M. Philbrook was in town and bought a sheep from Don Bean for which he paid \$11.00.

#### April 25, 1893 Democrat

**Maine News:** World's Fair rates announced by the Maine Central Railroad from Portland are \$33.00 for a season ticket or \$32.00 for a 30 day ticket.

**Albany:** Abel Andrews is all equipped for gathering cream for the Bethel butter factory. He purchased a horse to match his black mare, a pair of double harnesses and a wagon.

**Newry:** This is Fast Day. I presume that there will be more feasting than fasting. How times have changed! I can remember when the fast was observed both in the spirit and the letter. J.S. Allen and O.E. Baker are at work in the birch mill at the Branch, which started up last Monday.

**West Bethel:** Rufus Skillings runs G.P. Bean's farm. Henry Verrill has taken himself a wife and moved on to the farm lately bought of Addison Bean.

**Wilson's Mills:** The bridge at John Olson's was taken out Wednesday.

**East Bethel:** Mayflowers are found in the bud. Fast Day passed quietly. Crossing (the Androscoggin) on the ice yet.

**Gilead:** The Grand Trunk has begun work on the new depot just below the old one. Wild River Lumber Company is doing a large business this year—they expect to cut twelve million of spruce.

#### April 21, 1893 Advertiser

**Bethel:** The Burnham heirs will sell their house, furniture, etc., this week Saturday, April 22. They will board with Mrs. Cloudman in L.T. Barker's house this summer.

We understand W.S. Parker (located in the new Cole Block) is closing out his entire stock of furniture and carpets at a bargain.

Col. C S Edwards will start for Chicago this week to attend the meeting of the National Board of Managers of the World's Columbian Exposition on April 25th. The party from Maine will start from Portland and go by the Mountain Division of the Maine Central and the C.P.R.

Grand Athletic Exhibition at Odeon Hall, April 25, by Gould's Academy Athletic Association. Events include horizontal and parallel bars, tumbling, special fencing and sparring, immense pyramids of human beings, new features of juggling and balancing. Tickets at Wiley's, reserved 35 cents, general seats, 25 cents.

**West Bethel:** Daniel Freeman Bean, father of our trader, A.S. Bean died April 15th. He was 83 years old. Three of his four living children were present. Mrs. Morrill of Boston and Mrs. Perkins of Worcester, Mass came to the funeral.

There is a singing school in progress here with W.S. Wright as teacher. S N Buck of Bethel was in this village with a nice Victoria Bicycle. Arthur Robertson is again in charge of A S Bean's stable.

**Grover Hill:** Mr. Clough, the cream collector, went with wheels today. George Ames is at work for Morrill in the mill instead of having employment at Rumford Falls. Olin F. Pingree is at work at Morrill's mill.

**West Paris:** The Fryeburg purchasers of our chair factory take possession and charge of the business here this week. Correspondent has learned that they have bought all of the manufactured and unmanufactured stock of the old company and will continue the business here until their factory is completed and ready for business. They have some ten thousand finished chairs stored here.

**Gilead:** Work commenced Monday on the foundation for the new depot. The snow storm of Saturday made the roads very muddy.

**Hastings:** The Wild River Lumber Co. is hauling from 18 to 20 cars of logs daily now. A new hotel is going up in Hastings. A smash-up now and then on the Wild River railroad. The Wild River Lumber Co. will run one or two camps this coming summer.

#### **April 28, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel:** Miss Phila D. Locke died April 21 in Maine General Hospital, aged 63 years. Miss Locke had hosts of friends all over the country being the business manager of the Locke boarding house for summer company.

Three of the workmen of the Wild River Lumber Co. at Hastings were arrested by Sheriff Wormel this week and tried before Trial Justice Rich at Bethel for intoxication and disturbance. Two of them settled up and were discharged, the other, William H Black went to jail.

There was much praise for Prof. Merriman and the Gould's Academy Athletic Exhibition for the fine performance Tuesday night at Odeon Hall. Molly Gill our stylish dressmaker has put on the new ladies' dress wings and flown away—to Roxbury, Mass to set up her business.

Birds are arriving from the south. C.H. Barker's martin house which has remained empty for 13 years has been taken possession of. Half of the surface of open country is covered with snow

Miss E E Burnham will exhibit her spring stock of millinery goods in Odeon Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday. Miss Boothby has been to Portland, Boston and New York and made critical selections from the best styles of spring wear. Her exhibit will be in the large Hall of the Cole Block.

**Wilsons Mills:** The winter bridge at John Olson's was taken out Wednesday. It is built each fall by the lumber companies for the use of tote teams, etc., but is not strong enough to stand the spring freshet.

**South Bethel:** H. Hodsdon has returned from Frye. We have a blacksmith at this place now—said to be a first class worker and is liked very much.

#### May 2, 1893 Democrat

**Bethel:** The Bethel Creamery reported that 1,400 pounds of butter is churned each week.

Elmer H. Cole wishes to sell his property known as the Cole Block together with the adjoining house. Reason given is that business calls Mr. Cole out of state. The can (corn?) shop opens about the first of May under the management of Herbert Lord of Waterford. Thomas of Andover came with twelve horses to carry a boiler (from the depot) to Rangeley Lakes, to be used on a passenger steamer.

A traveling company will present the Hoodlum, at the Opera House, Thursday, May 4th. The academy's sociable called out fifty-two with the committee on entertainment being H.C. Rowe, Irving Kimball, and Misses Smith and Jones. Schools in town commenced May 1st.

**West Bethel:** The Grand Trunk is building a coal shed near the station. J.E. Pike has bought Sewell Walker's stable and had it moved to this place. Another snow storm since my last (weekly news) card was written.

**Wilson's Mills:** School commences at Magalloway Plantation on April 24th and is to be taught by Mrs. E.P. Kimball of Bethel, a teacher of experience and ability.

**Newry:** Next Monday is May Day but I guess it will be minus the Mayflowers in these parts. The streams are free of ice but there can be no driving until we have a few warm days or a rain storm.

Elder Joseph Knapp died at the residence of his son, E. B. Knapp, of Newry, aged 89 years. Long a resident of Byron, he was for many years a preacher of the Freewill Baptist denomination.

#### May 5, 1893 Advertiser

**Bethel:** J.G. Rich declared "Something much needed in Bethel is a sidewalk from the Hill to the station. We trust our village fathers will not think it beneath them to undertake the job. We are sure the present generations will bless the man that starts it."

Ceylon Rowe is in Boston and New York this week purchasing his spring stock of men's and

boy's clothing, ladies' wear and dry goods.

### **Bethel Millinery Opening**

The millinery opening at Odeon Hall Tuesday and Wednesday was a success in spite of the dubious weather that has prevailed the last few days. The so-called "Eminence" and "Evaque" - the shades most in vogue this season were becomingly displayed. One hat is particular displayed a real art in the trimming—black lace foundation, fancy jewel-studded crown and loops of Evaque ribbon intertwined with a rose Monture of the same shade finished an elegant hat.

The millinery corner was especially pretty with furniture kindly loaned by Mr. Parker (from his store on the Cole Block's main floor).

The presence of so many of our ladies testified to the popularity of the Misses Burnham and Boothby.

**Gilead:** Rand & Tibbetts' mill are done sawing birch for a week or more when they expect two car loads from Wild River way to finish. J.W. Bennett's mill is running on birch and will finish about June 1st.

The G.T.R. men are putting in the foundation for the new depot. It is to be 19x39 with a cellar and furnace heating. Carpenters are here unloading lumber and tearing down the old woodshed and car house. It will be a great treat to Gilead to have all these improvements, for which we are very thankful that the G.T.R. after so long a time has concluded to grant us better accommodations.

May Ball was originally on for May 1st but due to rain was postponed to May 3rd.

School starts in District No. 4 May 8. We earnestly hope we may have a good school and all the scholars will go and work with their teacher who will be Amy Atherton of Bethel.

West Bethel: A.S. Bean has a new crew driving spruce on Pleasant River. Village school commenced last Monday.

"I would like to know if the ones that so much favor this ridiculous dog law ever owned a dog. The idea that a person cannot keep a little pet dog about as big as a cat without paying \$1.15. I think it is very wrong such a privilege be taken from a little girl or boy and have to kill it or pay license.

### **May 9, 1893 – Democrat**

**Oxford County Supreme Judicial Court:** Jury – D.R. Hastings, Gilead, foreman; George A. Grover, Bethel.

**Bethel:** Entertainment news:

The May Day ball was not very well attended on account of the rain but those who came had good time. Excellent music by the Norway orchestra. A social and sugar party was held at Pattee's Hall. Games, etc., entertained all evening. Lyceum League entertainment at Gould Academy set for May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Huse Bros. (a Cole Block tenant business) is going out of business and their whole stock of dry goods will be sold at once regardless of cost. The Cabinet shop of Sylvester Robertson on Main Street will be sold at public auction May 16 – all tools and a large stock of furniture.

The E.C. Parks have moved into the house on Church Street recently purchased of the Burnham heirs.

**West Bethel:** There is quite an interest in bicycling in the village. A number of ladies as well as gentlemen are purchasing wheels of Mr. Philbrook of Bethel on the installment plan.

Village school: Teacher is a graduate of the Gorham Normal School. A new organ was put into the school for the use of religious meetings – a gift of E.P. Grover's summer boarders.

Weather: fourth wet day in succession and raining hardest today.

**Spring drives: A.S. Bean is having a nice run of water to drive his pulp wood out from Mason and is employing all the help he can get.**

Very seldom is there so much changing in real estate. E.B. Shaw has just bought two oxen and is the first to start his spring work.

**Gilead:** Your correspondent visited the new town of Hastings last week and found everything in a prosperous condition. The mill is cutting fifty thousand feet of lumber a day.

Real estate: A.S. Hodgman has begun to build a house on his lot near his store. J.E. and G.N. Richardson have bought the T.G. Lary farm.

**Newry:** If there is any news in these parts it is mud-bound. The roads were never in worse condition. "We need a better system of road-making – benefit to the farmers and the community." "By the way how about the law in regard to confiscated liquors? Isn't it taking back tracks to set up the counties in the business of liquor selling? That is how it looks to me."

**Mason:** Driving water: The last few days the water has been high enough so that river driving has been possible.

Real estate: Herbert Whitman has bought the N.H. Tyler farm and is to move in a few days. Charles Coffin and Bert Woodsum were in town last week looking for a farm. Ernest Morrill has bought H.G. Mason's farm

Names: C.F. Brown being seen by Dr. Twaddle; Artemas Mason is very feeble; George H. Brown in poor health; Miss Bessey is teaching her second term of school here.

**Albany:** People: N.G. Mills of Mason called Monday; Carter Grover and his new bridge, Amelia, have returned from Hyde Park, Mass.; F.P. Stanley of N. Waterford and Mr. Eastman of Stoneham were at the Corner; our blacksmith E.T. Judkins is in his shop again.

**East Bethel:** People: Miss Pearl Elliott of Rumford is teacher this term; Emma Brown

teaches at Middle Interval; William Ormando Holt died, age 63, buried at Middle Interval church.

Post office: Elbridge Crooker has closed his store and moved the post office to his house where it awaits the new postmaster.

**Rumford Falls:** The main sewer pipe on Canal Street is being put in – employing about 50 Italians. The Cates block is up and boarded in – also the hotel addition.

Two lead chambers exploded at the chemical works. It completely demolished the chambers 30 feet square and six feet deep.

The Androscoggin Beef Co. will open under the management of F.C. Pearson of West Falmouth, Maine. Paper company office is being plastered by Simpson & Powers.

New rail station plan has several more changes added to it.

The falls were a great spectacle last Friday due to the heavy rain, river was up six feet. The flow created an eddy where a 75 foot diameter mass of logs circled like a merry-go-round.

#### May 12, 1893 Advertiser

**Bethel:** Grover Hill: Edward P. Lyon has been assisting in G.P. Bean's store for a few days but has returned to Auburn to resume his work in the shoe shop.

The Grand Trunk Railroad has paid its back state taxes amounting to \$182,797.

**West Paris:** The Fryeburg parties cleared up the machinery work in the chair factory and are making arrangements to move the machinery and leather works to Fryeburg at once.

**Newry:** School in District No. 4 began last Monday, Miss Carter of Bethel is the teacher. J.S. Allen is on the road with his meat cart.

#### May 19, 1893 Advertiser

**Bethel:** The school in District 4 (Mayville) commences next Monday taught by Ida Hazelton (one of the Bethel areas most experienced teachers. However, the Mayville school would be closed and the students would attend school in Bethel village.)

Graduation at Gould Academy: May 21, Sunday, baccalaureate sermon at Congregational Church. Monday at 8 PM, prize speaking; May 25th P.M. and May 26th, A.M., public examination; May 25th, Thursday, 8 P.M., concert, Odeon Hall; Friday, May 26th, 3 P.M., at the Academy, alumni reunion, at 8. P.M., Graduation at Odeon Hall.

On Monday more than 20 ladies of the Congregational Church filled a bushel and started on a stealthy march toward the parsonage to surprise the parson, Rev. Jordan and his good (and new) wife. " That silent march and surprise to the parson and his good wife will not soon be forgotten in Bethel."

Milton Penley supplies his customers with meat this week from his new artistic cart, neatly and freshly ornamented at the factory of J.C. Billings.

Milton Penley and H. C. Barker have been commissioned to kill dogs that are not licensed. They have the right to enter any house and shoot the dog, if the door is not locked.

At Odeon Hall, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde will be played on May 22. William Fairbanks and May Standish are in a clever company of players. The electric dance is a wonderful performance; lights in the hall will be turned off and the maiden's person is lightened with electricity as she performs the dance. You may reserve seats at W.S. Parker's furniture rooms.

The Trustees of Gould Academy have purchased the Grover property situated near their academy. (The C.H. Grover house and lot lay between the academy school house and High Street on the corner of Church and High Streets.) Ellery C. Park has moved into his new purchase, the Pinkney Burnham house (on Church Street). Rev. Mr. Jordan has moved into the house vacated by Mr. Park.

Peter S. Bean—The Bean Families of Bethel.

### May 23, 1893 – Democrat

**Bethel:** Heavy rains have raised the Androscoggin River so that water completely covers the intervals on both side of the railroad and was over the carriage road near the toll bridge.

Goodwin R. Wiley has started on the foundation for a **new post office building** that will be 20 x 55 feet. C.H. Adams will construct the building. Goodwin Wiley, photo right



Memorial Day program: J.H. Barrows, Commander, Brown Post G.A.R. has made the following announcement: The post members and the Ladies Relief Corps will meet at the post room at 10 A.M. The post and other associations will proceed to the Congregational Church for Memorial Day services. Village schools are invited to attend. Members of Brown Post detailed for the purpose of cemetery visits will visit each cemetery in town to decorate graves of those who served in the war for the preservation of the Union. At 2 P.M. Brown Post, the L.R.C., citizens and several schools will march to Evergreen Cemetery where services will be held. At 7:30 P.M. the memorial address will be given at Odeon Hall by Col. Thompson of Cambridge, Mass.

Rev. Mr. Jordan was surprised with a May basket at his door with about two bushels of groceries left by the Congregationalist society. An interesting lecture was given at the Universalist church by W. Scott Robinson on the Keeley Institute – description of cures made there.

A griddle cake party was given at Pattee's Hall by the Universalist society to help raise funds for their new chapel which is almost ready to be occupied. Other entertainment: the U.O.G.C. gave an audience at Odeon Hall an entertaining evening where elocutionist, Prof. Dennett and music by local talent please all.

**Newry:** It has been a good week for river drivers and it is raining now. Farmers are in a hurry to be ready for planting. M.L. Thurston has put his mill crew on the river (Bear?) driving out pulp wood left over from last year.

Schools: Miss May Powers is teaching in District 1, Maria Russell in District 2, Fannie Carter in District 4 and Siona Willard in District 6. Names in the news: Mrs. E. H. Stearns ill, Arthur Farrar at work for N.S. Baker.

**East Bethel:** Rivers and brooks are overflowed; intervals are flooded. Names in the news this week: Mr. and Mrs. Z.C. Estes of Boston are at their place tending to business. Mrs. Z.C. Perry is away visiting.

### May 26, 1893 Advertiser

**Bethel:** William Hastings went out West last week to look after landed property purchased several years ago. G.R. Wiley is putting in a foundation for a post-office building next to his drug store, and knowing the man we prophesy that Bethel will soon be the owner of a post-office to be proud of.

The Cross heirs are contemplating building a new block near Honest Corner.

We would like to see some large mill go up in this village that would give employment to the idle men and boys here so as to give them encouragement to stay at home instead of leaving in hopes of work elsewhere.

D.C. Philbrook is pushing his new house on Mechanic Street. It is most ready for the carpenters.

**Work has begun on the new post-office in our village. It is to stand between the Cross Block and G.R. Wiley's drug store.**

A. A. Parker and wife are working at the Chapman homestead in Gilead this summer.

The road machine has been working in the village lately.. They could do a better job on Railroad and lower Church Streets. They are not as good as when they were kept in repair by the use of the shovel and the hoe.

The Bethel Chair Company is having a large number of orders from all over the U.S.

E.D. Cole and Emma Parker were married last week at the house of J.G. Rich on Spring Street. They immediately took the 3.37 train for Boston and from there they will go to the Fair at Chicago.

Anyone needing phosphate can find all they want at Fred Edwards.

**Rumford Falls:** The annex to the Hotel Rumford, four stories containing forty rooms, is ready for plasterers.

The first train will run to the new passenger depot next Saturday afternoon. Murch & Arnold have the Hartford Street bridge across the canal (which will connect to the new rail station) nearly completed.

### July 7, 1893 Advertiser



**Oxford County:** An injunction has been filed against the building of new county buildings and there must be a sixty days wait until construction can begin.

**Bethel:** The new post office building is receiving its finishing touches.

The Fourth of July passed quietly with no drunken rows. There was a large gathering at the races at Riverside Park.

In a special article about the Fourth of July Races at Bethel, it was reported that a goodly number of people from Norway and South Paris came on the train to watch the races. Also, the bicycle races were a big attraction and each race was well filled. Ed Thayer was behind Griffin, the Andover favorite; Charles Crosby, the Norway trainer, was guiding H.P.E. while Dr. G. W. Fernald tried to get Owoissa under the wire first. Judges were W.H. Warren, Norway, starter; Dr. J. A. Twaddle and H.S. Hastings, Bethel, timers, and timers: W.T. Abbott, Prof. W.R. Chapman and H.L. Horne. Only one large wheeled sulky was used in the race.

The Universalist Society furnished dinner in the dining rooms on the grounds and it is understood they made a good number of dollars—a number of hundred dollars.

**Sunday River:** The checks for cream received by farmers in this place from the Bethel butter factory are very satisfactory.

**Rumford Falls:** A baggage room and awning over the platform have been completed at the new passenger station. The Paper Company is having ells built on eleven of their cottages on Washington Street.



State of Maine building at the Chicago Worlds Fair

### July 14, 1893 Advertiser

**Bethel:** W.S. Parker has engaged with the So. Waterford chair factory at a salary of \$880. a year. He will close out his furniture stock in the Cole Block with a special sale.

Summer boarders: 22 are reported at the Locke Mountain House; E.C. Chamberlain of Mayville has a large fine house and his house will be full of boarders; the grand modern home of S.B. Twitchell will be filled this week with summer company.

**Gould Academy:** Academy advertised its fall term as beginning August 29, 1893, for twelve weeks. D. Merriman, Principle. Four Courses: College Preparatory, Commercial, Literary and Scientific. Healthful location, light expenses. Contact for further information or catalogue, G.R. Wiley, Bethel, Maine.

Above is an extract of the 1893 table of Oxford County town student census and mill tax. The mill tax amounted to \$2.43 per student.

**Locke's Mills:** The spool mill has been shut down for the last week for lack of orders but I understand it will start up again this week. E. L. Tebbetts and family start for the lakes for two weeks vacation at the fishing ground.

**West Bethel Concert:** Evening concert at Bean's Hall on July 1st under the management of W.S. Wight. An "outsider" reported the event and described the entertainment as a rare musical treat. The proceeds of \$25. were given to the Chapel Aid towards building a union church at the Corner.

**Rumford Falls:** There have been rumors afloat that the whole Rumford Falls enterprise was to be suspended on account of the money stringency. They are not correct. There will be temporary contractions of work and the sulphide pulp mill, till money is easier. The crew will be gradually reduced. That is all there is to it.

Work on the boarding house to be built by the Paper Company at the corner of Hartford, Canal and Lowell Streets has commenced.

**South Bethel:** The house on the Elijah Brown Farm on Chandler Hill that was owned and occupied by Mr. Herrick was burned to the ground.

**July 21, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel:** Special G.T.R. rates for a Masonic excursion—\$1.45 to Portland and return from Bethel and West Bethel depots, Saturday, July 29th.

Katie (Abbott) Locke arrived in Bethel last week from Denver, Colo., for a visit until September 1st. Her husband, S.S. Abbott, will visit Maine later and return with his wife. (S. Abbott was a former town clerk of Bethel).

Fire department: G.R. Wiley has provided a key box for our hose door so that any person can break the glass in the box and get the key to ring the fire alarm bell. The box is on the hose room door.

The Advertiser's editor was in town last week. Also there was an incident on the Common caused by a traveling salesman selling his wares from a wagon. When he insulted the crowd for not buying from him several fellows started pelting him with a supply of eggs—inducing the salesman to leave.

Uncle Tom's Cabin Company: Production of Witherell & Doud with 25 people and 25 horses will put on their show under the mammoth new pavilion opera house with elevated seats at Bethel on July 21st. Grand street parade by their mounted brass band, pony, donkey, dogs, etc. This is claimed to be the largest and best Uncle Tom's Cabin Company ever organized.

**Locke's Mills:** The Advertiser's editor sent a correspondent to the village to help the regular correspondent. "Your regular correspondent, we think, is excusable for he is haying and has just received notice of his appointment as Post Master of Locke's Mills to supersede W. B. Rand, so we think the prospects of sudden wealth and official honors will occupy his mind for some time."

**Sale of the Mason Farm:** The sale of the Mason farm, Bethel, on which is the Riverside Trotting Park has been made. Three years ago a company was organized in this village and leased of Mr. Mason the right to build a track on his land. The conditions were that the company should build the track and give him 25 per cent of all the gate money and all he could make outside, and at the end of ten years the track should revert to him or the owner of the farm.

Saturday Mr. Mason sold his entire farm and track to Charles Ryerson of Upton for \$10,000. Mr. Ryerson of Upton is a large lumber operator and has bought this for his future home. He will continue his lumbering during the winter season. He intends to convert the large two-story house into a hotel.

### July 28, 1893 Advertiser

**Bethel:** Cole Bros. block containing Bethel Savings Bank and Odeon Hall will be sold at auction in Bethel, Tuesday August 1. (The Cole brothers say) that they have a nice jewelry business in Washington and it needs all their attention. J.T. Small of Lewiston will be the auctioneer.

July 26 the Bethel post office changed masters and the mails were delivered to our new office. Postmaster, G.R. Wiley, says the same box number is retained to each person as in the former office as near as possible. Calvin Bisbee will reopen his old store in the Odd Fellow Block opposite Hapgood's, August 1st. It will be a general store with family groceries.

The Women's Relief Corps and the Brown Post serve supper every Saturday night this season at their rooms for the benefit of a G.A.R. monument. Supper is 15 cents.

There is a log jam against the middle pier of the toll bridge filling the Androscoggin back to the old cemetery.

A new church organization was formed on July 16th in connection with the First Universalist Parish of Bethel—nineteen members. The unfinished work to this end started by Rev. F.E. Barton has been completed by Rev. F.K. Beem. July 31, Grand Musicales at Odeon Hall for the benefit of the Universalist Society.

Asa Stowell has a very large and handsome two year old heifer for sale. She is part Jersey and part Durham. Mr. Stowell has no pasture and has to keep her up to hay and that is his reason for selling.

**Grover Hill:** Edward P. Lyon was home from (his employment) in Auburn last week—went fishing with his brother and they caught 19 nice pickerel.

**West Bethel:** A.S. Bean had a wood pile 85 rods long (1,402.5 feet) just west of this village. July 20th, sparks from the engine set fire to drifted grass and set the wood pile on fire. About one hundred cords were burned.

Bear River Grange: An account of a meeting was published in this issue. Worthy Mater: H.H. Bean.

**South Bethel:** (R.J.) Virgin has finished bolting and sawing birch for a time.

#### **August 4, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel Trot:** There will be a trot and base ball tournament on the Riverside Driving Park Tuesday and Wednesday, August 22 and 23. Arrangements will be made with the Grand Trunk so passengers can go east after the race. E.M. Walker, Sec., says: Owoissa and Griffin will be matched for a race to ascertain which is the speediest and the gamiest horse.

Bethel: Albert Brooks and Charles Davis of Grafton have taken the contract to carry the lake mail the next four years at \$500 a year. So James Lane is relieved. Mr. Lane has carried this mail for the last sixteen years and has lost only one trip. In Grafton Notch snow in the fall requires sleighing on the upper end of the route for two weeks while it is good wheeling on the lower end.

Lieut. Peary who started lately on his second exploration voyage through Greenland toward the North Pole is an own cousin of G.R. Wiley our postmaster.

Dana C. Philbrook has put into his jewelry shop a fine line of guns and rifle of the latest styles.

#### **August 11, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel:** Elmer D. Cole who has been in Bethel more or less the last week or two will return to Washington this week. He did not succeed in selling Cole Block.

Reports have been circulated that some of the leading operators at Rumford Falls want

to hire ten thousand dollars at seven per cent. We understand Ceylon Rowe has loaned them several thousand dollars.

On August 9th Owoissa trotted a mile in 2:29 3/4 at Riverside Trotting Park.

Milton Penley is one of our most enterprising townsmen. He runs two meat and fish wagons and employs two men besides himself, making ten trips a week. He wagons go to Gorham, Shelburne, West Bethel, Hanover, Rumford and covers Bethel village area. Last week he sold six quarters of Chicago beef, 215 pounds of fish and killed two cattle, 15 lambs and a lot of poultry. So it appears people have to eat if it is hard times.

**Train Accident at Rumford Falls:** A special freight train over the Grand Trunk left Portland for Mechanic Falls at 6 a. m. on Friday under the charge of Conductor Tryon. At Mechanic Falls it ran onto the Rumford Falls railway. At Rumford Falls there is a branch that runs off to a turn table where the engine is turned to take its place at the other end of the train for the return trip. The accident: a horse scared by the engine overturned a wagon injuring one of two women in the wagon.

**Sunday River:** Fred Atherton has come from Portland to spend the month of August at his home. Amy Atherton has just finished a term of 12 weeks school at Gilead Station and will return there in September. Richard Williamson is progressing finely on his new house. Haskell & Rolfe have contracted to saw a thousand cords of birch a year for ten years near Rumford Falls where they will soon move their birch mill.

#### **August 18, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel:** Fund raising for the Soldiers Monument— concert and entertainment at Odeon Hall. Admission 20 cents. "A handsome sum is already in the bank."

Scribner and Smith's circus, here on the 15th, drew a large audience in the afternoon and evening. A big show for 25 cents.

Elmer D. Cole and wife will come from Washington to Bethel to live next week and have engaged the upstairs rent in the Frank Rich house on Broad Street.

**West Bethel:** The fair at Bean's Hall raised \$40. for the Chapel Aid's union church fund.

#### **August 25, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel:** The big race day came and the match between Griffin and Owoissa ended with Griffin winning three straight heats.

**Middle Interval:** A good rain last Monday and some damage was done by lightning to Carter Bros. barn.

**Gilead:** Entertainment at the town hall on August 28 with Burnham & Barnett's Orchestra of Berlin Falls, N.H. Proceeds for building a new platform in front of church and other repairs.

**Locke's Mills:** The new post office is being built and will soon be ready for occupancy.

The spool mill which has been shut down for a few days for lack of orders starts up today, Monday, with a fair prospect of work ahead.

**Mason:** Mr. Tilton, superintendent of the Bethel butter factory, was in town the past week calling on the farmers. Herbert Clough of Boston, son of the late Eber Clough of Bethel was in town the past week with his brother Orville on the cream wagon.

**South Bethel:** Rain has been very welcome as the drought has been very severe in this part of town. The apple crop here is a failure—potatoes will be scarce.

### September 1, 1893 Advertiser

**Bethel:** Bethel correspondent invited to tour the grounds of Dr. Gehring's estate. Dr. Gehring is developing an extensive garden. He is attempting to capture the look and substance of gardens he viewed in Europe. The Dr. is collecting and transplanting many rare shrubs and plants from our native woods, besides rare and beautiful things from other countries. He will intersperse throughout his elegant lawn of several acres, masses of many varieties of valuable flowering plants. Also a large rockery, which will be covered with varieties of clematis and flowers.

The outlook in lumbering is gloomy and but little will be done in this vicinity unless the business outlook improves.

Calvin Bisbee has now two stores in full blast and he is making arrangements to build a house on Clark Street.

Bethel corn factory will commence operations the last of this week. Yield expected to be quite heavy despite the drought.

Miss E.E. Burnham has moved her millinery store in the Cole Block from the second floor down into the room recently occupied by the Huse Bros.

Bethel Coronet Band make their appearance on the band stand last Friday.

**Albany:** The Y.P.S.C. Endeavor celebrated the 4th Anniversary of the formation of the society on Thursday by holding a meeting in Cole's grove at the Corner. About 60 were present.

**Rumford Falls:** "The new city" is to have a church and a sewing circle. Work has begun on the foundations of both.

Oxford Avenue is to be built through the pine grove from Knox Street to the Swain Road this fall

Haskell & Rolfe (of Sunday River ?) have contracted to saw a thousand cords of birch a year for ten years.

The river drivers are having a pretty serious time getting that six million of logs over Rumford Falls. Flush boards have been placed on both dams in trying to raise a head of water sufficient to float them and dynamite is being used.

**West Bethel:** The ladies' chapel aid society has purchased the building spot for the new church. It is on the east side of the road between Milton Holt's and Mary F. Holt's land. It is considered by all a fine location.

**Hastings:** A number went to Portland and Peak's Island, Sunday.

**Mason:** Thermometer was 90 in the shade at 10:00 AM Monday, August 28.

**September 8, 1893 Advertiser.**

**Bethel:** We have seen the plan of our new brick school house on High Street and believe it will be an honor to the town.

Extensive changes are being made to the interior of the Universalist Church. The addition recently erected at the rear of the church opens into the main body. It is finished above for a vestry and ladies parlor and below there is a large dining room and kitchen. A recess has been made back of the pulpit for the pipe organ recently purchased and the organ is now in place. A new furnace is to be put into the basement of the church this fall.

The corn factory is now running and employing a large number of hands. Prospects are good for a large yield.

Harvey Philbrook now has his new house on Mechanic Street nearly completed. Eben Kilborn is making arrangements to put up a stable to his house on Chapman Street.

**Albany:** Herbert I. Bean is at home for a vacation as there is no work for carpenters in the cities.

**Hastings:** The Wild River Lumber Co. mill is soon to shut down for two weeks or more.

**September 15, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel Cattle Show and Fair:**

Arrangements have been made to carry passengers from Lewiston and Portland and from Island Pond to Bethel for one fare round trip. There will be a special car attached to a train going east each day after the races so people down the line can get home that night.

Entries registered for the first race were from Acton (York County), Auburn, Bethel, Cornish, Locke's Mills, Newry, Paris, South Paris, and Rumford. Bethel owners registered: H.S. Hastings, and C.M. Wormell.

Towns from which owners brought their racers for other races were: Fairfield, North Stratford, NH, Gorham, Norway, and Waterville.

**September 22, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel Fair:** Extensive coverage of the Bethel Fair was a front page column of the Advertiser. Special items: The Bethel Butter Company was exhibiting its product this year.

Busy Officers At Work.

President C.M. Wormell is driving about talking weather, horses, etc. Secretary E. M. Walker is everywhere and more, to. I.W. Mason sells tickets at the entrance gate. H.C. Barker takes pasteboards at the gate. F.L. Edwards is entry clerk and is kept busy with cattle, sheep, swine, etc.

There is an excellent police force. Their duties are light as the people who visit here are mostly law abiding. The force consists of Gerrard Smith, Caleb Wight, Milton Penley and Will Lowe.

Newton E. Richardson sell tickets for the Grand Stand and Gilbert Tuell takes them in. In the hall you meet Dr. F. Be. Tuell, Ann M. Robertson and Fannie Mason. They have lots to do. The ladies of the Universalist Society are busy in their dining room—nice location and do a thriving business.

The Advertiser reporter traveled in a special car Tuesday night from Bethel home. He was the only passenger in the coach attached to the Berlin lumber train. Through train, no stops or changes until South Paris was reached.

**Bethel News:** Col Edwards reports to parties headed for the World's Fair that good board and room can be obtained for \$1.00 per day and single meals at 25 cents.

The corn canning factory has employed 150 hands. At the close of the week last Saturday, 250,000 cans have been put up. One day last week 32,000 cans were put up.

#### September 22, 1893 Advertiser

##### **Special Feature: The Androscoggin (Rangeley) Lakes**

For nature lovers, a tour of the Rangeley Lake system whether for angling or not cannot fail to be interesting.

There are now three routes by which the lakes can be reached, and excursion tickets by either route can be purchased in Boston, or if the tourist prefers, he can purchase a ticket to go by one rout and return by another.

Completion of the narrow gauge railroad from Phillips to Rangeley provided an all rail route for those who prefer to travel that way.

To those who prefer to travel a portion of the way by teams, the old route by Bryant's Pond still remains, and a new way by rail to Rumford Falls, thence by stage or team to Andover and the South Arm of the lower Richardson Lake is a very pleasant route.

It was our fortune to go in by way of the narrow gauge railroad and come by way of Andover and Rumford Falls.

The article goes on to relate what good fishing the lakes provide since the ice went out on May 23 and that tons of trout have been carried out this season. "The law is too liberal by one-half and the time is coming when the limit will have to be placed at 25 pounds.

The Rangeley Lake House , J.B. Marble, proprietor, is situated in the pretty village of Rangeley, and a fine hotel it is. Here nearly all tourists tarry at least one night, and make this magnificent hotel their headquarters during the trip.

#### September 29, 1893 Advertiser

**Mason:** Our farmers are getting interested in the poultry business, some will keep large



flocks the coming winter. Several farmers are named as keeping 75 to 100 or more.

**Bethel Steam Mill:** The spool mill is down yet for orders.

**Bethel:** The Women's Relief Corps will serve an oyster supper and pastry next Saturday evening to raising funds for purchasing an organ.

The Universalist Church is completed. The pipe organ has been placed in its permanent position and a number of changes in the church have been made.

Hastings: The Wild River Lumber Company mill is soon to start up again. David R. Hastings, 2nd, is soon to start up his birch mill and N.B. Bean will take charge for him.

### October 6, 1893 Advertiser

**Bethel:** Calvin Bisbee is making arrangements to build a house on his Clark Street lot.

Gilman Bean has taken out the post office boxes within his store and replaced them with new shelves and has filled them with new goods.

The street sewer of 13 inch pipe is being laid on the east side of Main Street from the outlet brook near Brown's hardware store to the Common.

D.M. Grover has bargained for the Pinckney Burnham place down Mill Hill.

The spool mill of the Bethel Steam Mill has started up for a short run.

### October 13, 1893 Advertiser

**Bethel:** Bethel station agent M.W. Chandler and his wife will leave for the World's Fair next week. Chandler has not had a vacation in 13 years and has been a Grand Trunk employee for 23 years.

Bethel Chair factory has been running evenings for the past two weeks to fill orders and the prospects for the winter are very flattering.

John B. Chapman, one of the selectmen of Bethel is overseeing the work of putting in a sewer system on Main and High Streets.

Calvin Bisbee has spent several hundred dollars on the lot just east of his house lot; he will make it into a small farm.

At a special meeting of the Women's Relief Corps, the visiting inspector, Mrs. Howe of Lewiston spoke on the subject of a State home for disabled soldiers and their wives. Skowhegan is now talked of as the location for this home.

The foundation for the new brick school house on High Street is being put in.

At the Gould Academy Lyceum the debate question was: That a trade or profession is as important for a young lady as a young man.

A Chapman National Bank has been organized in Portland with Cullen C. Chapman president. Mr. Chapman is a Bethel boy and son of the late R.A. Chapman. He is also a brother-in-law of Judge Foster.

Elmer D. Cole and wife will go to Washington this week to live. Some of their household goods will be moved to Portland for further shipment by boat. He has received a good offer to engage in the jewelry business there. His business reverses make it necessary for him to make this move, which he regrets. He and his brother Fred have dissolved their partnership.

Mail closing schedule at the Bethel Post Office is as follows: Down train going east, early morning, 9 P.M. evening before. Late morning train—9:15 A.M. Afternoon express—3:15 P.M. Up trains going west 9:50 A.M., 4:15 P.M. Morning mail open at 7 A.M.

We were permitted to read a letter from the Hastings and Straws of Montana. They have about six thousand sheep and are cutting all the hay they can as they cannot sell to any advantage. Wool and sheep are a defunct industry and it is dreary times in the West. Forty families near them are now helped by the town. We in Bethel ought to be thankful for the good and prosperous times here with good wages and enough to do.

Wilson's Mills: John Olson returned Saturday from Parmachenee where he has been guiding for a month past.

#### **October 20, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel:** The fall term of Gould Academy is one of the most successful in many years. About 80 students in attendance.

The Bethel House is now run by Clinton Lovejoy.

Mr. Wyman (Bethel corn factory) has put up 250,000 cans of sweet corn in Bethel this year. The best day's work was 32,000 cans. Mr. Wyman said that in the state this year the corn crop was about one-half but in the Bethel area there was three-quarters of a crop.

Gould Academy won the athletic field competition held at the South Paris fair grounds. Gould competed against Hebron, Norway High School and Bridgton. Gould will hold the gold cup for a year.

**North Newry:** The Poplar Hotel has been purchased by Portland parties and is now undergoing extensive repairs.

#### **October 27, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel:** It is feared that M. O'Riley, station agent at West Bethel was killed the railroad accident near Chicago last week as he has not been heard from. (In the November 3rd paper, we find he returned safe and sound as he was on a train 20 minutes behind the one that was wrecked.)

E.W. Barker has bought Bond Island of H.B. Chapman.

The Methodist held their annual harvest fair with good success.

**Wilson's Mills:** Mrs. John Olson is at the lower town helping to care for her mother, Mrs. M. W. Fickett who is growing more feeble.

**Hastings:** The Wild River Lumber Company's mill started full blast Monday.

**North Newry:** Workmen are making a big improvement at Poplar Hotel.

### **November 3, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel:** John M. Philbrook sent off a car load of steers and cows to Brighton this week.

Seventy five tramps visited Berlin, NH and Gorham last Friday. Being booted out of town they left down the railroad Saturday and Sunday A.M. They made their appearance in Bethel Sunday night. Bethel lockup was overrun with them. Some of them occupied box cars and many took possession of barns laying on the hay in many cases. After a cool reception and being directed to the lockup when they called at private homes, they took up their beds and left Monday and Tuesday down the tracks, thanking Bethel people for their kind reception.

We learn the Cross store on Main Street near Gilman Bean's store is to be taken down and a new building is soon to be erected on the same spot, two stories high. The old store is over 100 years old.

Mr. (Dana) Philbrook has moved into his new house on Mechanic Street.

The foundation for the new school is finished but the main building will not be erected until spring.

Mr. C.C. Bryant lives a mile from the village on Middle Interval road. He owns a good farm which is kept in fine condition and owns a store on the Hill where he keeps groceries and Chicago beef. He also runs a meat cart and ice cart. Near his house he has fenced off a pasture for keeping fat sheep and lambs. Everybody knows Chauncey. Twenty years ago he was a poor boy. He worked several years for the late William W. Mason; now he is worth \$5,000; he owns several houses in the village.

**Wilson's Mills:** J.S. Danforth and family with E. Rogers came down from Camp Caribou last week en route to Florida.

**Gould Academy:** The Oxford County Teachers' Convention was held Friday and Saturday at the academy and was well attended—about 120 teachers from the different towns in the county. Norway sent the greatest number of teachers. Prof. (State Superintendent of Schools) Luce presided and Prof. Robertson of Bowdoin was present to make it one of the most successful conventions ever held in Bethel. Prof. Hanscom gave an interesting paper on school government. (This was three years before Hanscom took over as principal at Gould Academy.)

Prof. Merriman of Bethel had prepared an excellent program. Prof. G.C. Purington of Farmington Normal School and Prof. W.W. Stetson of Auburn came from outside the county. Judge Woodbury of Bethel gave the welcoming address.

**Bethel:** Seventy-five tramps made an appearance in Berlin, New Hampshire and Gorham on Thursday. Friday night after they were booted out of town they made their way down the railroad tracks to Bethel where they appeared Sunday night. Bethel lockup was overrun

with them. Two called on L.T. Barker for food; he told them the place for them was on High Street known as the lockup. The turnkey at the lockup, H.C. Barker worked like a tiger caring for their wants.

Some them occupied box cars on side track and others took up residence in barns and slept in the hay. After being treated so coolly by the citizens they thought it best to take up their beds and walk. Monday and Tuesday they left down the railroad tracks thanking Bethel people for their kind reception.

The Cross store on Main Street near Gilman Bean's is to be taken down. A new building of two stories will be erected on the same lot soon. The old store is some 100 years old and not fit for use.

**Magalloway Plantation:** Mrs. John Olson was with her mother M. W. Fickett on Sunday, October 20. H.W. Fickett has sent to Colebrook, N.H., for his sick mother. W.L. Fickett and W.W. Linnell have taken a trip to Colebrook, N.H. Miss H.W. Fickett has had to give up her Sabbath school care in order to care for her mother. Mrs. A.W. Fickett of Errol is with her mother.

**Rumford Falls:** Five car loads of coal for the paper company arrived. Engineer Davis of the Portland and Rumford Falls Railway has moved into his new house.

A break in the water main last week caused great inconvenience to the water takers. Arrangements have been made so that the fire pumps of the paper company will be attached to the pipes of the water company. Thus able to keep up the supply in the event of another future accident to the main.

The Auburn Electric Company has put in a five horsepower motor for the Rumford Falls Publishing Co.

**Bethel:** The Wild River Lumber Co. will sell at public auction at the Grand Trunk depot in Bethel on November 4 at 1 P.M. twelve work horses suitable for lumber or farm use. They have contracted for about one-half of their logging this winter and have no use for the horses.

**Hastings:** We notice that the lockup at Gilead comes in rather handy at times and think it would be a good thing to have one at Hastings. And see if we could not stop so much of that horrid stuff from coming into the place.

The Wild River Lumber Co mill is running on full time now.

#### **November 10, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel:** Henry Grisie of Hastings who had just served a sentence of 30 days in jail for malicious mischief was again arrested by Sheriff Wormel on a charge of assault on a young girl and tried before Justice J.G. Rich on November 6. By agreement of the father of the girl, Grisie is to marry her and the sentence was suspended for the present. The defendant had to pay costs.

The yearly communication of Bethel Lodge F & AM occurs November 9 along with election of officers.

**Bethel Steam Mill:** The spool mill will start Monday for a few days.

**Bethel:** Arrangements are being made for an illustrated lecture on the World's Fair.

W.C.T.U have been making arrangements for a series of meetings to be held in the Bethel churches with the first one to be at the Universalist Church.

**Mason:** John Philbrook of Bethel was in town last week buying oxen and cows for the Brighton market.

There is a new disease broken out in this place which is quite an epidemic. We call it the poultry fever as several of our farmers are building hen houses. (News from West Bethel also mentions interest in raising poultry.)

Addison Bean is going to start a lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. It is a beneficiary order which gives the widow the snug little sum of \$2,000 at death. They must have 20 names of charter members. The lodge will be at West Bethel. All interested address A.S. Bean, Box 22, West Bethel.

**Rumford Falls:** A small steam launch arrived here on the (railroad) cars here recently and was taken to the Rangeley Lakes where it will run another season.

Superintendent L.L. Lincoln of the Portland and Rumford Falls Railway has purchased a fine lot 92 x 160, corner Franklin Street and Plymouth Avenue, where he will soon erect a fine house.

#### **November 17, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel:** Last Sabbath was a grand time for our churches. The occasion was a rally for temperance by the Women's Christian Temperance Union advocates. Speeches made and stories told. Temperance meetings will be held in several churches on Sunday evenings.

The Editor of the Advertiser made a visit to Bethel.

Your correspondent (Abiel Chandler, Jr.) made a trip to West Bethel and to Pleasant brook in the (Fryeburg) Academy Grant. He reports on his trip and visits.

"The Frenchmen who recently came from Lewiston are cutting wood and birch for Mr. Bean, wood 90 cents a cord, birch 50 cents. They even make \$2 a day at that. Nothing can stand beside a Frenchman cutting wood. The wood and lumber is hauled five miles where Mr. Bean works up the birch into spools and they are sent off to all parts of the world. Mr. Bean will work up at his mill 4,000 cords this coming season. He has 100 horses working in the woods. His business is immense. Next the tramp writer will visit up Wild River into Hastings town where an immense business is done.

For the past year some 10 cars (a day) of lumber have been manufactured and sent out the new railroad to Gilead and shipped down the Grand Trunk line. Berlin Falls, N.H., is nowhere compared with the business town of Hastings."

#### **November 24, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel:** Mr. (J.A.) Thurston is about to put up a steam mill for short lumber at Swan's Corner on the site where Morrill's mill burned.

Gilead and Bethel report their first snow storm on November 15th.

**Rumford Falls:** The town is soon to have a town hall. John Somers has the contract. The building will be on Canal Street, 30 x 78 feet and one story.

**South Bethel:** The ladies circle met at Mrs. R.J. Virgin's home, supper was served and ten cents collected to go towards a circulating library.

R. J. Virgin is shingling the wall of his mill. Lewis Glidden has moved to the R.J. Virgin place near the mill to be closer to his work.

### December 1, 1893 Advertiser

**Rumford Falls:** "The Paper Mill", New York Illustrates the Rumford Falls Paper Co. as one of the "Big Four" paper manufacturers of the country in the race to secure the contract to furnish white paper to the New York World for 1894. The 1893 contract was about 15,000 tons.

**Hastings:** The Wild River Lumber Co has extended its track to the station at Gilead which makes it much more convenient for the passengers.

**South Bethel:** R.J. Virgin has bought the R.C. Lawrence farm in Albany and has let the job of cutting and hauling birch to his mill. And, William Clark is building a large hen house.

**Bethel:** The house owned by C.V. Stowell near the Mayville Cemetery was burnt last Friday P.M. Three children were sleeping in the chambers while the mother was out on an errand. When she returned she found the house on fire but she saved the children.

### Spool Business Near Bethel:

(This article was written by Abial Chandler, Jr. as a continuation of his reports from a visit to the Fryeburg Academy Grant and Hastings.)

Starting at the " Fryeburg Academy Grant, this is the smallest in acres of any town or plantation in Oxford County. The people are mostly well to do and live in good houses. North west lies a large tract of timber land mostly owned by A.S. Bean of West Bethel, from which lots of timber and birch is cut and manufactured into spool strips every year and shipped to all parts of the world. Several car loads are sent away every week. Mr. Bean will saw up some 4,000 cords of birch the coming year.

Bethel steam mill two miles down the line Grand Trunk line is run by J.P. and W.E. Skillings, and is another mill where many spools are manufactured and sent away.

Three miles further down the line at South Bethel is another mill owned by R.J. Virgin, where some 300 cords of birch are worked up into spools and dowels. Mr. Virgin owns a saw mill, where he saws out several hundred thousand lumber yearly.

Two miles further down is the extensive spool mill of Tibbetts at Locke's Mills. The amount of spools shipped from this mill is very large.

At Newry Corner is another mill where several hundred cords of birch are manufactured into spools and dowels.

Three miles up from Newry Corner on Sunday River is another spool and dowel mill, where they work up 500 cords of birch.

Still further up in Ketchum is a spool strip mill where they cut up 2,000 cords of birch into spool strips.

While in Bethel village is the birch mill of E. Richardson & Son where for many years past from 1,000 to 1,050 cords have been cut into spool strips and dowels.

We challenge any place in the State of Maine within the limits of six miles where there are so many mills working up so much birch into spool strips and spools ready to be shipped."

#### **December 8, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel:** Ceylon Rowe has returned from Boston with a large stock of seasonal goods. He is a cash buyer and if any goods are cheap in the market he is bound to have them. We noticed him selling a nice black fur coat for \$10.

**Magalloway Plantation:** Minnie Olson of Wilson's Mills is with her sick grandmother for a while.

**Rumford Falls:** The new town hall is up and boarded.

**East Bethel:** Irving Kimball, Walter Bartlett, Charles Young and Albert Bartlett of this place are attending the winter term of Gould Academy.

#### **December 15, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel Steam Mill:** The mill is running now for a short time.

**Bethel:** A fire at Dana Philbrook's home on Mechanic Street resulted in the loss of all his valuable stock but the shell of the building was saved. The fire department turned out quickly. Some of the hydrants were frozen but the boys soon had a strong stream playing on the fire. Mr. Philbrook has moved his damaged stock into the Cole Block and resumed business.

Huse Bros. have moved their families and goods from Bethel (Cole Block) to Kingfield.

J.M. Philbrook took a car load of cattle from Bethel to Brighton Market on Monday.

**Gould Academy:** Chandler reports that the academy opened its winter term with the largest attendance in 35 years. Number of students present is about 60.

#### **December 22, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel:** J.M. Philbrook has sent about one thousand calves to the Brighton Market this past season.

Eastern (Oxford County) Land Conveyances: E.D. Cole (owner of the Cole Block building and the Odeon Hall), et al, to Bethel Savings Bank, \$1.

#### **December 29, 1893 Advertiser**

**Bethel:** The Grand Trunk now runs two warm freight cars Tuesday and Thursday from Portland to Island Pond for the accommodation of shipment of articles likely to freeze.

### **Names in the News for 1893**

James H. Barrows, president and general manager of The Bethel Chair Company; letter to editor about the proposed relocation of the county seat; Commander of Brown Post, G.A.R.

Gilman P. Bean: Elected Auditor for the town accounts in 1893.

A.S. Bean: Large land owner, industrialist and merchant in West Bethel and Mason.

John W. Bennett: Mill owner, lumberman and post master of Gilead—views on move of county seat.

Calvin Bisbee: Merchant in Bethel, building new house and farm on Clark Street .

Nathanial F. Brown: Re-elected Supervisor of Schools; appointed to building committee for new school planned on High Street.

Miss E.E. Burnham: Milliner in Bethel who had moved her retail store to the new Cole Block from the Kimball Block.

Abiel Chandler, Jr.: Correspondent for both the Oxford Democrat and Advertiser.

John B. Chapman: Elected third selectman of Bethel in 1893; undertook job of superintendent of sewer construction works on Main and High Streets in Bethel village.

Eber Clough: of Bethel died. Mr. Clough was one of the oldest citizens of Bethel and highly respected. He had held many offices in town and represented his district in the legislature.

Elmer D. Cole: In partnership with his brother, Fred, had built the Cole Block which during 1893 it had become apparent was not going to succeed financially; placed on auction but not sold; eventually surrender the building to Bethel Savings Bank in lieu of foreclosure.

Fred H. Cole: brother of Elmer D. Cole—see above.

Col. Clark S. Edwards: On Maine Board of Managers for the World's Fair in Chicago—World's Columbian Exposition; Col Edwards was quoted or mentioned in the news continually during the summer and fall of 1893 in connection with the fair.

Henry Farwell: Elected first selectman of Bethel.

Judge Enoch Foster: As a judge on the Maine circuit he was mentioned often throughout the year as he presided over various Maine court sessions.

Albert W. Grover: Sold his farm in West Bethel and moved to Bethel village; correspondent to the Advertiser.

David R. Hastings 2nd: In partnership with other members of the Hastings family who were engaged in lumbering, mill operations and administration of the town of Hastings.



Addison E. Herrick, Esq.: In 1893 elected to slate of town officers as town (legal) agent.

Huse Bros.: The Huse Bros. were tenants in the Cole Block and operated a dry goods business in the front rooms of the main floor; in 1893, they closed their business and left their rent.

Eben S. Kilborn: Appointed to the building committee for the new town school to be built on High Street; well known mill operator, land owner, lumberman.

Israel G. Kimball: Elected Road Commissioner in 1893; had been selectman and tax collector.

Miss Phila G. Locke died: she and her sister operated the Locke Mountain House which was a well known summer boarding house farm.

Moses A. Mason: Grandson of Moses Mason, Jr., who had come to Bethel in 1799 and established the Mason homestead farm at the gateway to Mayville, the lakes district and point north sold his farm and left to visit the World's Fair. Mason sold his farm to Charles Ryerson of Upton. The Mason farm included the holdings of both the Riverside Trotting Park and the Bethel Agricultural Fair.

W.S. Parker: Parker's furniture store in the Cole Block was one of the Coles major tenants. Parker sold his stock or turned it over to Elmer Cole and left for work in a chair factory at South Waterford.

John M. Philbrook: Bethel's most active dealer in livestock sold the land on High Street to the town for its planned new brick school. Philbrook was in the process of establishing his home on Main Street while leaving his North Bethel farm to the management of his son. Philbrook made the news almost weekly due to his shipping cattle and hogs to the Brighton market in Boston.

Dana C. Philbrook: Son of Samuel D. Philbrook; in 1893 Dana built a new home on Mechanic Street in Bethel; he was a jeweler and bicycle sales agent. A major setback occurred in December when his new house burned and he opened a new jewelry store in the Cole building.

Josiah U. Purington: Elected town treasurer in 1893; appointed to the school building committee with N.F. Brown and Eben S. Kilborn; elected Secretary of the board of directors for The Bethel Chair factory. Previously, Purington was a partner of Enoch Woodbury in business at the rail depot.

Joshua G. Rich: Correspondent for the Oxford Advertiser; Justice of the Peace; Rich was called on frequently in Bethel to hear and rule on cases of breaking the law; Rich was an avid bear hunter who also raised rabbits for sale.

John Stiles: Made the 1893 news when he left his employment as farm manager for Gilman P. Bean in West Bethel and took over managing the stable of Prof. William Rogers Chapman in Mayville.

Jacob A. Thurston: Along with John W. Bennett in Gilead and Alpheus Bean in West Bethel, Thurston was one of the area's Captains of Industry; his family lived at Newry Corner.

Thurston in 1893 setup and operated a steam saw mill at Swan's Corner in North Bethel. Also in 1893 Thurston was elected Clerk of the Town of Newry.

E. L. Tibbetts: Owner and president of the spool and dowel mill as Locke Mills; Tibbetts had just recovered his mill from ownership by the American Spool, Shuttle and Bobbin Company when the 1893 "depression" in the markets occurred. He was in the news as out seeking new business.

Samuel B. Twitchell: In 1893 Twitchell was elected Bethel's tax collector and he was also president of the Bethel Dairy Association which owned the butter and creamery factory. Twitchell, at age 64, due to his years of public service in many positions, was likely considered the most experienced, wise and competent public official in the town. He had been a member of the 1868 bridge committee for the great covered (toll) bridge and a member of the chair factory building committee.

Horatio N. Upton: Elected second selectman in Bethel; related to the main stem of Bethel's Chapman family, Upton had first served with distinction on the school committee of 1890.

Goodwin R. Wiley: In 1893 Wiley was in the news for building a new post office next to his store on Main Street. He was Bethel's pharmacist and one of the directors of Gould Academy. He was Superintendent of the Academy and Grounds and Secretary to the Board of Directors.

Judge Enoch Woodbury: In his retirement, Woodbury was in the news for his letter to the editor of the Democrat on moving the county seat, master of ceremonies at various functions, going on vacation to Pennsylvania.

Cyrus M. Wormell: As deputy sheriff, he was in the news for making arrests in cases of rowdiness, etc., and for his role as president of the Riverside Trotting Park Association.

### **End of Names in the News for 1893**

#### SCHOOL REPORT.

(1891 was first, 1892 was second, 1893, was third)

Report below is for School Year 1893.

In accordance with the requirement of the statute, I submit my third annual report as supervisor of schools.

I have endeavored to conduct the schools of Bethel as recommended in previous reports. I have tried to get along with as few small schools as possible, as they are expensive and unsatisfactory. Expensive because you have to pay a teacher to instruct four or five scholars almost as much as you would to teach thirty or forty; besides the repairs and taking care of the schoolhouse and furnishing fuel are about the same in all cases. Unsatisfactory, because the progress is not so good; there is not the stimulus and interest that comes from competition. Then in the larger school there is a recitation going on most of the time, and the small scholars can listen to the older ones and learn something. This keeps the school from

becoming monotonous and tiresome.

I find that those who want their children to do well, after trying the larger school, even at considerable inconvenience to themselves in carrying their children, are satisfied and do not wish to go back to the small school. Some who flatly refused to go to the larger school, even if their children were carried at no expense to themselves, after being persuaded to try this plan for one term, have acknowledged that they were satisfied and thought it the best way, and that they did not wish to go back to the small school. Probably after the people get used to the change, and suitable conveyance for the children is provided, there will be less trouble than there is at present; People are generally conservative and do not like to change, unless they are reasonably sure it is the best way ; and the best method to convince people that this plan is for their interest is to get them to try it for one or two terms. When they find that the children like it better, learn more, and have longer and better schools they will take hold of the matter without urging.

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One strong argument in favor of having fewer schools is, that with as little as has been done in this direction in Bethel, we are having from six to nine weeks more school in the year, with the same appropriation, than we had before anything was done in this direction, without serious inconvenience to anyone. The Journal of Education says that where this plan has been tried it has added fifty per cent, to the efficiency of the schools, and added materially to the value of farm property by giving the people the advantage of the village schools without expense to them.

The very cheapest that a school can be run is from six to ten dollars per week, when we take into account the repairs, taking care of the schoolhouse and furnishing fuel, and the scholars can be carried in nearly every case for half of that amount. But leaving out the matter of expense, the benefit to the town from having better schools can hardly be overestimated. It has better schools, better schoolhouses, and the scholars have less exposure. Bethel is considerably in advance, in this respect, of many other towns. We abolished the school districts quite a number of years ago, and so are well on the way toward having fewer and better schools; while those towns that clung to the old district system will have the same trouble that we have had to consolidate the schools.

I recommend a liberal policy in the matter of carrying scholars. The idea that people have rights must not be lost sight of. The people away from the village pay their share of the taxes to support the schools and they have a right to the benefit of them, either by having a school within a reasonable distance or having fair pay for carrying their children.

Our thirty school districts, which we had under the district system, have now been reduced under the town system to about fifteen, and they can be accommodated by fewer schools than we now have by nearly one-half, without serious inconvenience, and at a saving of expense. When the new school

building in the village is completed, it will do away with two schools at least, and I have no doubt that after a little time, more will wish to come to the village schools.

I recommend that the schoolhouse at East Bethel have an addition put on for a corridor and take the corridors

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they now have into the school room, and raise the building up so they can have a furnace in the basement. I also recommend that the schoolhouse in the Foster neighborhood, the one near Bean's Ferry, the one in the Pine Woods, the one near L. N. Bartlett's, and the one near John Barker's be disposed of.

My estimate of the teachers of Bethel has been discussed in previous reports and is well known, and I will only add that they are better teachers than last year and have done good, faithful work. Through the efforts of Mr. Merriman, Principal of the Academy, a teacher's association for Bethel and neighboring towns was organized. This meets once a month to discuss school affairs and methods.

No serious trouble about discipline has occurred in the schools the past year. There has been much improvement in methods of school government from that which formerly prevailed; as methods of government at home become more reasonable and less harsh and severe, there is less occasion for using severe methods at school. The single seat has done much for good government in school, and then more care is exercised in selecting teachers who have the governing faculty. This is, undoubtedly, a natural gift, and the ones who have this gift are the ones who are wanted in the school room. An ugly, unreasonable teacher should never be put in charge of children. Children have rights, among which is the right to be heard and to have reasonable methods used in the matter of government. Teachers have been instructed not to use severe punishment until all other methods fail, and where large boys are disposed to make trouble to send them home. The proper place for them is at the Reform School, not only for their own good, but for the good of the school where they make trouble.

Something has been done toward a better grading of the village schools, and when the school building in the village is completed, we can have a second grammar grade, which will be a great improvement.

I have endeavored to get the schools outside the village into fewer classes, for there are so many studies required in school now that unless this is looked after carefully the teacher has but little time with each class. I have discouraged the study of algebra beyond one or two terms. I think the study of English or some other of the common

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school studies is of more practical use. The statute calls for the study of book-keeping in the common schools, but I think the time can be more profitably spent on something else, as the arithmetic furnishes

book-keeping enough for most kinds of business, and to be quick and correct at figures is the best part of book-keeping.

The schools at Middle Interval and Bird Hill had longer spring and fall terms with no winter terms, as the people in those neighborhoods thought this the best way. The school on the Flat had a spring and fall term, but as the school is small and irregular in attendance, as can be seen from the annexed tabular statement, and as those who were regular in attendance wished to go to West Bethel, it was thought best to have no winter term. The school at Swan's Corner was closed during the fall term, as there were but two scholars in attendance. The school on Grover Hill was closed after keeping a few weeks of the spring term, as there were but three or four scholars and some of the time not any.

The next year comes under the new school law, which obliges towns to elect a school committee of not less than three. If consisting of three, one holds office one year, one two years and one three years; if of five, one will hold office one year, two, two years, and two, three years; if consisting of seven, two will hold office one year, two, two years, and three, three years. I recommend a committee of five, three from the central part of the town, one from East Bethel and one from West Bethel.

N.F. Brown, Supervisor of Schools

#### WARRANT FOR TOWN MEETING.

*To T. H. Chapman, a Constable in the town of Bethel, in the County of Oxford,*

#### GREETING

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby requested to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town of Bethel, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at Odeon Hall, in said town, on the sixth day of March, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to act on the following articles, to wit:

*Article 1st.* To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

*Art. 2cl.* To choose a clerk for the ensuing year.

*Art. 3d.* To hear and act upon the report of the several town' officers.

*Art. 4th.* To choose selectmen for the ensuing year.

*Art. 5th.* To choose assessors for the ensuing year.

*Art. 6th.* To choose overseers of the poor for the ensuing year.

*Art. 7th.* To choose a treasurer for the ensuing year.

*Art. 8th.* To establish the rate per cent, for collecting taxes, and choose a collector for the ensuing year.

*Art. 9th.* To choose road commissioners for the ensuing year.

*Art. 10th.* To choose all other necessary town officers.

*Art. 11th.* To see if the town will vote and raise such sums of money as may be necessary to repair roads and bridges for the ensuing year, and whether it shall be assessed wholly in money, or part in labor tax.

*Art. 12th.* To see if the town will vote and raise such sums of money as may be necessary for the support of schools for the ensuing year.

*Art. 13th.* To see what sums of money the town will vote and raise for the support of the poor, and to defray all other town charges for the ensuing year.

*Art. 14th.* To see what sums of money the town will vote and raise for town officers.

*Art. 15th.* To see what sums of money the town will vote and raise for miscellaneous expenses.

*Art. 16th.* To see what sums of money the town will vote to grant and raise towards paying the town debt, and interest on outstanding notes and bonds.

*Art. 17th.* To see if the town will vote to authorize its Treasurer to renew outstanding notes, or hire money to pay the same.

*Art. 18th.* To see if the town will instruct its Selectmen to license a liquor agent.

*Art. 19th.* To receive and allow accounts.

*Art. 20th.* To see what discount the town will vote to make on taxes assessed for 1893, paid on or before November 1, 1893.

*Art. 21st.* To see if the town will vote to raise money for the repair of school-houses, and how much.

*Art. 22d.* To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise for the purchase of school text-books.

*Art. 23d.* To see what sum of money the town will vote to Brown Post, No. 84, G. A. II., for the proper observance of Memorial Day.

*Art. 24th.* To see if the town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to petition to the County Commissioners to lay out a road from a point near where the Joseph Merrill house stood to a point near St. John Hastings' house.

*Art. 25th.* To see if the town will vote to instruct its Selectmen to sell what law books are on hand and not needed by the town.

***Art. 26th. To see if the town will vote to sell the buildings at the toll bridge; and choose a committee to dispose of the same.***

*Art. 27th.* To see if the town will vote to make any change in text-books.

***Art. 28th. To see if the town will vote to build a new School building in the village.***

*Art. 29th.* To see if the town will vote to appoint a committee to decide upon the location of School-houses, and to move or dispose of the same as they may see fit.

*Art. 30th.* To see if the town will vote to grant and raise the sum of fifty dollars, for the benefit of the Bethel Public Library Association.

(Special article on county seat.)

*Art. 31st.* To see if the County Commissioners shall be authorized to erect new County buildings, including Court Rooms, Offices for the several County Officers, Jury Rooms, Library Rooms, and Fire Proof Vaults for the records of the Probate Office, Register of Deeds, Clerk of Courts and County Treasurer; also Jail and Jailer's House, on the lot selected by them at South Paris, and described as follows, viz.: Beginning on the westerly side of Western Avenue, at a point one hundred and ten feet southerly from the northerly corner of land belonging to the heirs of Ira Cleasby; thence north eighty degrees west, four hundred and twenty-nine feet; thence north four degrees east, two hundred and forty feet; thence south eighty degrees east, four hundred and twenty-nine feet, to said Western Avenue; thence southerly by said Western Avenue, two hundred and forty feet, to the point begun at; at a cost not to exceed thirty thousand dollars, and to obtain a loan for the use of the County for said sum of thirty thousand dollars, or such a part thereof as they may need, and issue therefore the notes or obligations of the County, with coupons for lawful interest.

**1893 was the first time an annual town meeting was held in the new Odeon Hall.**