

The Bethel Journals  
*Welcome*  
*to*  
*Bethel of 1894*



**The Brick School built – the creamery and corn shop busy – logging and mill operations grow at Hastings – Elms gets steam heat – Norway fire destroys 70 buildings – Rail from Rumford Falls to Rangeley Lakes planned**

**Photo: Bethel Grammar School** – the new brick school – as it was known in 1894. School kept here until 1951. After 1945 students from Sunday River attended grades 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> at BGS as well as students from Albany. Gould Academy's McLaughlin Science Building stands in its place since 2002.

**1894 Summary:** In 1893, the town had voted to build a new school in the village. 1894 was the year the new school was built. Horace Purington of Waterville was the contractor selected to do the job. Mr. F.A. Thompson of Portland was architect. Shortly after work started several people complained that the contractor was not following the plans. On meeting on site was called, a survey completed and the contractor was exonerated of the complaints.

The two schools that would become surplus were the village schools on Broad Street, District No. 15 and Mechanic Street, District No. 30. The District No. 15 School on Broad Street which later became the Pines guest house of the Bethel Inn. The District No. 30 School on Mechanic Street was repositioned on the same lot and became a privately owned house although at first it was remodeled into a two unit rent

The “liberals” of Gilead also hoped to see a graded school and town funded transportation for their students but they were not supported by voters.

However, 1894 began with a glum outlook for economic conditions due to the financial panic of 1893. County newspapers may have been guilty of suppressing bad news but some expressions of hard times came through anyway.

At the Chair Factory: “It has been found necessary due to the strained condition of business to cut down wages some ten percent, yet men feel themselves fortunate to get employment even at reduced wages, so many mills are shut down and the employees thrown out of work entirely. In Rumford Falls by mid year the business outlook here grows bright as the season opens. The steady growth of Rumford Falls which seems to have suffered something of a check when the financial cyclone swept over the country last year is evidently to be resumed this season. Several new enterprises are already assured and considerable new building is going on. In November it was announced that the Rumford Falls Trust Company bank would open by January 1st of 1895 or earlier. It had been chartered by the legislature in 1893. but the business depression of 1893 caused the delay until now.

Temperance please In January, a meeting was held at Odeon Hall to see if the citizens were willing to furnish a public reading room and gymnasium (in the Cole Block ?) to the young people of Bethel. The question was discussed by Mr. Merriman, Dr. Ge-

bring, Rev. Mr. Beem, Mr. Herrick and Rev. Fickett. Many others from the audience were called on and expressed favorable ideas. Several committees were chosen to take care of the matter. Mr. Merriman on behalf of the athletic association of the academy proposed to fit up the gymnasium if the people would give them a little help.

May 15th, Oxford Democrat headlines:

**Norway Fire:** Swept by Fire – Terrible Conflagration in Norway Village

It Destroyed Seventy of the Best Buildings – Loss \$239,000; Insurance \$139,000.  
Worst Fire Oxford County Ever Saw.

Between 2 o'clock and 6, Wednesday afternoon the fire mowed a wide swath a mile in length through the heart of Norway village, destroying the Opera House block, the large mill of C.B. Cummings & Sons, the tannery, the high school building, the Congregational church, a number of stores and shops, and over sixty of the finest residences in this place.

Twenty-five members of the Bethel Hose Company with 600 feet of hose responded to Norway's call for help. A sizable number of townspeople went too.

In May for the Gould commencement, the Academy published its first "Herald", not a booklet or magazine but a flyer which listed the commencement week program and advertisements for twenty Bethel businesses. (Up to this time, there was no regular printed media for local business advertising. The next year, Bethel News was published by A. D. Ellingwood. Prior to 1895, very few Bethel businesses advertised in the Oxford County weekly newspapers.)

1894's, Memorial Day observance was held at Evergreen Cemetery. Ceremonies at the cemetery were carried out by the G.A.R. Relief Corps, Sons of Veterans and the public. Later in the day – speaking in Odeon Hall

Also in May, Bethel readers learned that the Rickers, proprietors of Poland Spring, have bargained for the Maine world's fair building and will remove it to Poland Spring to be used as a library.

Another fire disaster occurred at Poland Spring, August 21st: the big stable at Poland Spring was burned Tuesday evening and thirty horses lost their lives. The Mansion House almost directly across the road from the stable had a narrow escape as did the cottage of Mr. H.W. Ricker. Light from the fire was seen as far away as Lewiston and Portland.

At Rumford Falls the economic outlook for 1894 had brightened after 1893's financial crisis: The business outlook here grows bright as the season opens. The steady growth of Rumford Falls which seems to have suffered something of a check when the financial cyclone swept over the country last year is evidently to be resumed this season. Several new enterprises are already assured and considerable new building is going on.

In Gilead and Hastings, the spread of lumbering and building in Hastings continued, but there was little news other than family visits that appeared in the Oxford Democrat - the same could be said for Locke's Mills activities.



Hastings, Maine – store and hotel of the Wild River lumber company town.

Gideon Hastings began the timber land acquisition in 1882 which led to the Hastings Lumber Company development. In 1894, his son David Robinson Hastings superintended the company's operations.

The two agricultural co-operatives in town—the Bethel Creamery or butter factory and the corn factory operated at a robust rate. And the selling of livestock for shipment to the Brighton livestock market through the agency of John M. Philbrook continued to make those farmers in the livestock market pleased.

In early September, work on a new (replacement), high dam on Mill Brook was begun by James Hodgdon with a large crew.

The Bethel Agricultural Fair was held September 11—13 in Mayville on the grounds which included the Riverside Trotting Association track. This was the fourth annual fair and it was considered very successful as the summer-fall season's largest public event.

In October, the Cole Block's heating system was changed from steam to hot air. No reason was reported. The building had only been open for three years. Other heating news read: A boiler and steam heating apparatus are being set up in the Elms Hotel. W.F. Lovejoy & Sons, of the Bethel House, will occupy the Elms, and close the Bethel House during the winter. (There was no information indicating that maybe the Lovejoys had bought the steam plant for the Elms from the Bethel Savings Bank / Cole Block.)

Also in October, preparations were underway in Rumford Falls for constructing the planned railway extension into the Rangeley Lakes—the Rumford Falls and Rangeley Lakes Railroad.

By year's end the Bethel Chair Company was back in full operation with a rush of orders for the Christmas season.

## The 1894 Journal

### January

Bethel: The chair factory is now running with about half crew. Mr. Barrows intends to have a large number of cords of birch sawed; all of the men will have employment with the lumber is hauled.

There was a Sunday school concert at the Universalist Church. It was held in the new chapel. A large number attended and enjoyed supper served in the new dining room in the basement of the chapel.

Gilead: Fifty horses from Lewiston will draw spruce from Success Valley to Staples' mill.

Mason: The sound of the whistle is again heard in town. Mr. A.S. Bean has commenced to saw birch.

Rumford Falls: The new toll bridge to Mexico has been completed. Congress Street is being used as a race course of late. Not just the place for it we think.

January 9, 1894 Democrat

West Bethel: Business is rather quiet due to sickness. Patrons of the butter factory seem well satisfied with the past year's experience. And they are talking of getting ice to be ready for the next season.

Newry: Slack times for business tell the story in reduced prices all around. "Those Province men who hurraed for Cleveland have now well earned a cut down of four or five dollars a month in the woods."

Rumford Falls: Persons unacquainted with the business done here, even in these hard times, would be surprised to see the teams continuously crossing the bridge below the new falls. The Light and Power Co. are running their lines into Ridlonville.

Bethel: A meeting was held at Odeon Hall to see if the citizens were willing to fur-

nish a public reading room and gymnasium (in the Cole Block ?) to the young people of Bethel. The question was discussed by Mr. Merriman, Dr. Gehring, Rev. Mr. Beem, Mr. Herrick and Rev. Mr. Fickett. Many others from the audience were called on and expressed favorable ideas. Several committees were chosen to take care of the matter. Mr. Merriman on behalf of the athletic association of the academy proposed to fit up the gymnasium if the people would give them a little help.

Debate at Gould Academy: resolved that the study of literature is more broadening than the study of science. Connie French spoke for the affirmative and Edwin Gehring spoke for the negative. The judges decided with a vote of 2 to 1 and the audience 15 to 5 for the negative.

The next meeting of the Northern Oxford County Teachers' Association will meet at Gould Academy; Supt. Stuart of Lewiston will also attend.

Bethel: A.W. Grover has bought the property of Mrs. Dr. Davis situated on Chapman Street.

Friday was cold and boisterous but the Northern Oxford County Teachers Assoc. met at Gould Academy. Four papers were presented: (1) Should algebra be taught in public schools, Fannie Carter; (2) Fractions, Class by Miss Lydia R. Smith; (3) Physiology, Dr J.G. Gehring; (4) Education, Mental Arithmetic, Supt. Stuart. Discussion followed each paper. (5) Question Box.

The annual meeting of The Chair Factory was held and the old officers were re-elected. The business last year had made a good showing; a dividend of six percent was voted the stockholders. The mill of the company has started again after two weeks shut down while inventory was taken and preparations made to manufacture long lumber. A large amount of birch will be sawed also. A shingle machine will be put in at once. It was explained that in this way the mill will better utilize power that would otherwise be wasted plus give employment to a number of men.

It has been found necessary due to the strained condition of business to cut down wages some ten percent, yet men feel themselves fortunate to get employment even at reduced wages, so many mills are shut down and the employees thrown out of work entirely.

Gilead: I.B. Harriman and his wife of Lisbon are spending the winter in town. Mr. Harriman scales the timber of the Androscoggin Water Power Company here.

W.C. Chapman is hauling 200 cords of birch to West Bethel - also drawing 100,000 spruce to the river. The Littleton Lumber Company, the party that is carrying logs and rolling them into the river have already landed 1.5 million and intend to land six million.

West Bethel: A.S. Bean's teams are hauling cordwood, spool strips, edgings and shook from Mason and Albany to the station at West Bethel.

East Bethel: All of the farmers in this vicinity are hard at work improving this favor-

able winter; cutting and drawing birch and timber to the mills, harvesting their ice, preparing their wood and enjoying life as farmers do.

Newry: Richard Trask and Amy Atherton were united in marriage January 1st, at the residence of the bride's father, Mr. C. D. Atherton, of this town.

Bethel: A public meeting was held at Gould Academy to take decided action on the question shall Bethel have a reading room and gymnasium? The several committees chosen at the first meeting reported their work. A code of by-laws had been drawn up and was accepted with a few changes. The following were elected as trustees: A.E. Herrick, J.U. Purington, Rev. Beem, J.G. Gehring, Rev. Mr. Jordan, Archer Grover, Mrs. Ceylon Rowe, Mrs. John Philbrook, Mrs. Olive Mason, and Mrs. Littlehale. At the time of the meeting, \$150 had been raised by subscription for this cause.

The lyceum debate was on the question that "it is right to give money to street beggars". The disputants were Fred Merrill for the affirmative and Walter Chandler, negative. In the audience Miss Merriman and Edwin Gehring were strongly in favor and Mr. Merriman was against it. Judges chosen from the audience voted 2 to 1 in favor of giving. The vote of the house was 15 to 7 against giving.

Newry: The birch business is giving work to a good many in this town.

Gilead: Dr. Gehring of Bethel will give the same temperance address in Gilead that he presented to the W.C.T.U. in Bethel. D.R. Hastings has closed his house in Hastings and moved into the parsonage here where he is nicely situated.

Bethel: Milton Penley of Bethel has been appointed by the governor agent of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

North Albany: Quite large loads of birch go by here every day headed for Bethel. Same parties have just finished hauling rock maple to the same place.

Bethel: The chair factory yard is well filled with long lumber but the full amount of birch has not arrived yet.

Large quantities of ice are being taken from the Androscoggin River. The increased work of the butter factory requires the furnishers of cream to cut an extra amount of ice.

J.G. Gehring is raising poultry on a large scale. He has incubators capable of holding 700 eggs. From the eggs 350 chicks have hatched to date. About 35 guests were present at a reception Dr. and Mrs. Gehring gave at their home. Ice cream was served and a program of musical entertainment enjoyed.

## February

Bethel: Fred Edwards has started on a new milk route of about 20 customers.

Mason: A.W. Grover of Bethel tells me that his farm in this town is up for sale. The man to whom he had sold it failed to come up to his end of the agreement.

Wilson's Mills: Minnie Olson, who has been staying with her grandmother, Mrs. M. W. Fickett, is back home again.

Gilead: Dr. J. G. Gehring's address at the temperance meeting here presented the causes and prevention of intemperance in a clear and logical manner from the scientific stand point of a physician.

Newry: Frank Bisbee of this town has gone to Bethel to take care of his sick brother Calvin Bisbee.

Agricultural Society's Stipend: The state stipend for Oxford County agricultural societies has been announced as follows: Oxford County, \$360., Riverside Park, \$162, West Oxford, \$198, Androscoggin Valley, \$218, North Oxford, \$96.

West Bethel: C.L. Abbott, Jr., is to store ice preparatory to becoming a patron of the Bethel butter factory. Fertilizer agents are active here.

Newry: The new school law after March 1st. Won't there be hustling for places on that committee who are to serve without pay!

Mason: Our farmers are busy securing their ice. The mill pond is alive with men. Addison Bean has loaded a car of poplar.

Bethel: Large amounts of logs and birch are being hauled into this place. The chair factory and Isaac Morrill's take the whole.

Gilead: The Mountain Rills, a mission band connected with the church, met here. The ladies with the Mountain Rills and Christian Endeavor Society have prepared 21 "comfort bags" for surf men in life saving stations. They were forwarded to Rev. Wells in Jersey City (for distribution).

State Ranking in Products: Maine is fifth in buckwheat, eighth in hops and ninth in potatoes. New Hampshire is third in cotton goods and fifteenth in potatoes. West Virginia is fifth in coal, eighth in buckwheat and iron. California stands first in gold and grapes.

Bethel: The gymnasium apparatus is almost all in place (in the Cole Block) so the young fellows are enjoying the healthy exercise of the bar and chest weights.

The trustees of the Library Association will be on hand town meeting day to serve in the hall at noon, hot baked beans, hot coffee and everything else that goes to make up a good and appetizing dinner. Only 25 cents

West Bethel: Owing to extreme cold and snow blockades news from here was a minus last week. On Saturday the 17th, the shovelers succeeded in getting through the drifts and found themselves three miles from home at dark. A.S. Bean put a team of eight heavy horses with a big sled and triangle which made a road good enough for a king.

North Albany: Soon the time will come to test the townsmen in their vote on the new school system and building new school houses.

Mason: Alonzo Tyler of Bethel tells me that he will rent A.W. Grover's farm. He is moving his goods and family there this week.

Newry: The town report has come to hand in good time this year. The condition of our finances does not show very badly. Owing to the hard times a good deal of the taxes are still in the hands of the taxpayers, that is, has got to come through their hands though I fear there is not much there now.

## March

Bethel Town Meeting, March 5, 1894

The 1894 annual town meeting of Bethel was held in Odeon Hall. Election of town officers was completed as follows:

Selectmen: Henry Farwell, H.N. Upton, and J.C. Billings.

Clerk: L.T. Barker

Treasurer: J.U. Purington

School Committee (new law): N.F. Brown, E.C. Park, C.M. Kimball, Ellen F. Gibson and E.B. Shaw

Town Agent: A.E. Herrick

Tax Collector: S.B. Twitchell

Road Commissioner: I.G. Kimball

Auditor: G.P. Bean

Appropriations for 1894 came to a total of \$12,663.44. Highway expense was the largest appropriation in 1894. An extract of the 1894 Town Report is part of this journal.

Article 24 a proposal to build a sidewalk on Main Street was passed over.

Bethel: The Congregational chapel was crowded last Thursday to witness the "living pictures" tableaux program. Mrs. Herrick, President of the Ladies Club was in charge. Mrs. Gehring and members of her musical club served the refreshments.

Bethel: This week's Democrat carries a letter from C.E. Valentine about his lesson learned on filling his silo and the probable cause of spoilage of the silage. He concluded that his crew filled the silo too full too fast and the middle sank faster than the sides, causing the silage on the sides to spoil.

County: The Democrat devoted many column inches to covering the murder trial in South Paris of Abner D. Thorne. A number of Bethel citizens were called to sit on this jury. C.C. Bryant, W.W. Hastings, J.H. Carter and Calvin Sanborn were seated.

West Bethel: Hannibal Grover is preparing the filling for his hot bed. He is an expert in this line of farming.

One could not well forget that town meeting is at hand if he mingled with the people. The new school law is a great deal discussed and it is generally approved of.

Bethel: Dana Philbrook is making repairs to his jewelry shop which was damaged by fire several months since.

Our state has provided free vaccinations to all persons over two years of age.

Moses Mason's auction last week was well patronized and large sales made. The free dinner given by him was especially praised.

C.S. York recently bought the printing press and fixtures of A. L. Watson (printer of the town report dated Feb 14, 1894). Mr. Watson was obliged to sell on account of urgent business connected with the settlement of his father's estate.

Fred Roberts and William Gunther have started in the chicken business. They are running an incubator holding about 230 eggs. Most of the chickens will be raised for market.

E.S. Kilborn has bought the George Hapgood building opposite the Odd Fellows Block. Charles Benson will move his goods from the store he now occupies to this vacant stand.

The Bethel Reading Room and Athletic Association - after much delay and many committee meetings, much planning and considerable labor, this organization invites the people to come to the rooms in the Cole Block on March 12. The gymnasium committee will be in attendance to sign all applications for membership. The instructor, Mr. Merriman will be on hand to form classes and assign times for each. Young ladies as well as gentlemen can enter these classes and reap benefit from these drills. Expense for these classes is \$1.50 a year.

The reading room is free to everyone wishing to read the leading newspapers and magazines – political news for the elderly, illustrated and story papers for the young and scientific and literary magazines for the students. The ladies will serve hot coffee and sandwiches on Monday evening and the rooms will be open every afternoon and evening thereafter. Someone will be in attendance to preserve order.

All village correspondents comment on the fine weather. "Fine overhead, sloppy under foot"

Gilead: It is little wonder that admirers of our "American Switzerland" should protest against the wholesale destruction of the New Hampshire forests by the lumbermen, when one sees the immense quantity of logs that have been carried from Milan and unloaded here. For long distances along the railway track to the river bed is one massive wall of logs, looking very much like the fortifications around a beleaguered town.

Newry: Logging news: There is a good deal of timber yet to be handled in this vicinity. C.A. Baker and C.G. Moore have extra teams for hauling birch for J.A. Thurston on Sunday River. Others working their contracts are L.L. Searle, Frost and Powers, Baker

and Allen and J.J. Spinney.

Rumford Falls: The first indication of better times here is noticed at the west end of the lower dam where some 600 yards of rock will be blasted out to give more clearance in case of high water.

Supt. Lincoln of the Portland and Rumford Falls R.R. will build on his lot.

Citizens here are much pleased with the services of the American Express Co., who have an office here. Stanley Bisbee has charge of the office and is well liked.

Bethel: The reading room and gymnasium opened to the public. Some examined the magazines and papers; others watched the Gould Academy Athletic Assoc. work on the horizontal and parallel bars. A.E. Herrick and Mr. Merriman made appropriate opening remarks. The W.C.T. U. is in charge of the rooms.

Magazines include Scribner's, Monsey's Forum, Cosmopolitan, St. Nicholas, Review of Reviews, Atlantic and Harper's Monthly are among the magazines. The Youth's Companion, Harper's Weekly, Ladies Home Journal and Scientific American. Newspapers include: The Springfield Weekly Republican, Boston Globe, Herald and Traveler, Portland Press, National Tribune, Lewiston Evening Journal, Portland Transcript, Argus, Mountaineer, Oxford Democrat and Advertiser.

Dr. F. Austin Tenney, the oculist, will be at The Bethel House every third Wednesday of each month until further notice.

Monday the Village Corporation met in the Volunteer hose company house to elect officers and transact business. A large crowd attended. G.R. Wiley read the warrant. The following officers were chosen:

Moderator, R.A. Frye; Clerk, G.R. Wiley; Assessors, H.C. Andrews, J.U. Purington, and J.C. Billings; Treasurer, Ellery Park; Auditor, R.A. Frye; Collector ( 2 and ½ percent) Eli Barker; Engineers, J.C. Billings, S.N. Buck, and A.W. Grover. Twelve fire police were chosen.

The Congregational church has bought a Chickering piano for their chapel.

Over 100 attended Early and Often Club entertainment at Garland Chapel of the Congregational church. The program:

Plantation Melody: by the Club

Piano Duet, Spanish Dance - Edwin Gehring and Alice Chamberlain

Spinning Song – Mrs. Gehring, Mrs. Tuell land and Miss Carter

Piano Solo – Miss Chamberlain

Vocal Solo and Chorus – Mrs. Tuell

Piano Solo – Lillian True

Tableau “The Three Graces” - Misses Bartlett, Babcock and Hefnzal

Tableau "Trying America" – Dr. Gehring

Piano Solo – Edwin Gehring

The Ghost of Chestly Castle – Miss True

Plantation Song – Club

The entertainment closed with the famous Kinder-Symphony under the direction of Mrs. Gehring. The whole club had a part in this. Some played musical bells, tambourines and clappers, others kept time on triangles, drums, cocoa-nuts and cymbals. Misses True and Chamberlain presided at the piano and were aided by accompanists from the Bethel Orchestra.

East Bethel: News about the Bethel school committee. A meeting of the school committee was held March 17th. Terms of service was decided by lot.

N.F. Brown, one year

Ellen F. Gibson and B.R. Shaw, two years

Ellery C. Park and C.M. Kimball, three years

Those who have not worked up their wood are having it sawed by horse power.

Gilead: There is a lot of timber cut and peeled in the woods which will have to lie over until next winter on account of the snow leaving so early. One company has nearly one million feet of spruce. The ice is breaking up in the river and the logs are beginning to run.

Newry: The stage came up Bear River on wheels.

Bethel: Dr. Davis of South Paris was in town this week on dental business.

First spring social was held at Gould Academy: committee – Joan Stearns, Miss Merriman, Mark Allen and Archer Grover.

Village Corporation's lighting of street lights has been awarded to Algernon Chapman. Mr. Chapman has had charge since the lights were put in some four years ago.

Universalist church young ladies held a baked bean and pastry supper followed by entertainment.

George Ryerson, the man who shot Joseph Stevens at Milton Plantation was lodged in the Bethel lock-up by Sheriff Wormell.

The new Athletic Association has elected officers:

President, Mark Allen

1st Vice President and Secretary, A.C. Eames

2nd Vice President, Fanny Carter

Treasurer, Irving Kimball

## April

This week in Maine: The outlook for spring drives along Maine rivers is not most hopeful. The ground was very dry in the fall when the first snows came and there is very little frost in it. When the heavy snows melted gradually as they did much of the water was taken up by the ground. This in itself was a blessing otherwise much damage must have resulted from freshets. But the rivers and other streams have been raised comparatively little. The snow too has gone to an almost unprecedented extent in the Maine woods. If there are heavy rains this spring the drives will experience little difficulty. Otherwise many logs will be held up.

Real Estate Transfers: John F. Stanley, Register. Bethel: W.F. Walker to C.F. Chapman \$200. C.F. Chapman to A.L. Young, \$200.

Greenwood: E.C. Park to E.L. Tebbetts. Newry: J.S. Brown to M.A. Mason, M.A. Mason to J.S. Brown.

Bethel: Prof. W.R. Chapman of New York was here Friday looking after the affairs of his farm in Mayville. The W.C.T.U. meetings will be postponed for a few weeks on account of bad traveling.

The Bethel Creamery is attending strictly to business. 1800 pounds of butter is churned every week. Some of this is contracted to consumers in town and the rest is shipped immediately to the city.

Deputy Sheriff Wormell and Justice Rich were called to Gilead on account of trouble there caused by liquor.

Edwin Gehring and Herman Mason attended the Bowdoin Athletic exhibition at Brunswick. Bert I. Bryant, a former Bethel boy, now a student at the college, made their trip enjoyable.

The North Oxford Teachers' Association will meet at the Academy next Friday. The feature topic for discussion is; "Grading of the Schools".

Academy lyceum met last week. Recitation was given by Alonzo Chapman and a piano solo was played by Bertha Wiley. Debate question was: Strikes should be prohibited by law. Irving Kimball and Lizzie Grover presented the affirmative. Emma Jones and Howard Wiley took the negative. Judges decided 2 to 1 for the affirmative. The house vote was 16 to 14 for the affirmative. Other presenters were: Misses Moulton and Chamberlain played a piano duet. Fannie Carter read the lyceum paper. Joan Stearns gave a piano solo.

East Bethel: Mr. Dennis Cole is putting in new windows and making other improvements to his house.

West Bethel: Little episodes of ill feeling for one another.. A.S. Bean and one of his men had a little unpleasantness and Mr. Bean somehow got so near Mr. Robertson's hands that they brushed his face in a way that seemed unfriendly. Mr. Robertson was

fined as the court thought justice required.

Mason: Business rushing. The mill has been undergoing repairs, changing engines, etc. - is now running with plenty of power. There is more lumber in the mill yard than I have ever seen before.

Dr. Tuell of Bethel was called to this town to extract some teeth for Mrs. S.B. Mason. The doctor is very popular in this vicinity as a dentist.

Newry: Jobbers are about through in the woods here. Jotham Chapman has been painting for some time at Poplar Hotel.

"Strong drink has claimed more victims in old Oxford. Wouldn't it be well to hunt out and put the screws to rum-sellers. Gospel is good in its place, but gospel for the sinner, and law for the criminal are the reformers to go as yoke fellows to serve the ends of justice."

Gilead: Dr. Hill of Bethel went through town vaccinating all who wished to avail themselves of this wise precaution.

This Week in Maine: "The gambling slot machines have been ordered out by the city marshal of Portland."

It is reported that a new line of steamers will operate between Boston and points along the Maine coast. A boat will leave Boston on Tuesday and Friday mornings with stops at Portland, Bass Harbor, Bar Harbor, Millbridge, and Jonesport and terminate at Machiasport.

There are strong expectations that President Cleveland will come to Maine this summer for trout fishing in the Katahdin Iron Works area.

Bethel: Additions to the magazines and books at the Cole Block reading room are: Magazines: Bicycling World, St. Nicholas, Arena Forum; new papers: Union Signal, Industrial Journal, Star in the East, Boston Weekly, Maine Farmer, Berlin Independent, Household and Portland Herald; books: Black Beauty and Webster's Dictionary. There is a call for donations of any good reading matter.

The last Early and Often Club social of the season was held at the Congregational Church in Garland Chapel. The program included the following performers: Mrs. Tuell, Mrs. York, Misses Purington and Bartlett. Also Misses Chamberlain, Moulton and Leighton. Also Lillian F. True, Harry Carter, Emma Jones, Clyde Bartlett, Miriam Herick and Miss Babcock. Mrs. J.G. Gehring directed the Kinder-Symphony.

At the Universalist Church, Mrs. O.M. Mason's Sunday School nine helped with an evening entertainment program. Names of participants were: Gladis Wiley, George French, Charlie Telton, and Jamie Finney. A farce was presented by Bertha Wiley, Joan Stearns, Florence and Barbara Carter, Alice Perkins, Vivian and Beatrice Kelliher.

The program of the Northern Oxford Teachers Association included papers and discussion as follows: Grading Our Schools by N.F. Brown and Mr. Merriman; How to Best

Secure Attention of Pupils, Ethel Hammons. Talk on Written Work, Lydia R. Smith; Written Work for Reading Classes, Lizzie Grover.

Hiram Perkins opens a barbershop this week in the Packard Building near E.B. Goddard's. Calvin Bisbee has closed his lower store (in the Odd Fellows Hall) but is still running the upper one. Clarence Fox and Fred Roberts are in charge.

Newry and Mason: "Don't touch my arm," that's what they say now. Never mind, a sore arm is better than to have small pox.

The widow of Alonzo Fifield of Riley died quite suddenly last week. Her son Roscoe of Methuen, Mass., were in attendance at her funeral. Deceased was 82 years old.

Gilead: Mr. and Mrs. D.R. Hastings hosted a sugar party for members of the Golden Cross at their home. Sweets were followed by musical and literary numbers.

George Staples of the Success Lumber Company purchased Albert Bennett's place. He will fix it up as a boarding house for his men.

A tragedy almost occurred as a result of men recklessly crossing the river on ice after warm weather. Eben Chapman broke through the ice near West Bethel and Edward Skillings did the same trying to rescue Chapman. Their cries for help were eventually answered; prominent among the rescuers were: Dan Matherson and Arthur Grover. Milton Evans had a similar experience the same day and George Leighton nearly lost a team of horses trying to cross near Staples Mill.

Democrat reporter says that it is glad news to learn T.G. Lary has decided to remain in Gilead. In the summer he will build a fine residence on the site of the old Lary homestead.

### **Boston Police on Bicycles**

The (Boston) Park Commissioners have voted to equip the park police with bicycles, and positions on that force are now at a premium. Park police have often been at a great disadvantage. They have had to listen to the mocking laughter of the reckless driver who simply whipped up his horse and escaped when ordered to stop. The unruly pedestrian has given them a hard run and sometimes disorderly bicyclists have wheeled away in open defiance. But mounted on bicycles of the latest and most approved pattern, the park police are masters of the situation. They can overtake horseman and bicycle riders without difficulty, and with the pneumatic tires can follow a man successfully over almost any sort of ground.

The recent accomplishment of a patrolman from Station 1, who borrowed a bicycle and ran down an escaping thief, may have shown the Park Commissioners how the usefulness of their men would be doubled by wheel. At any rate, their order has been placed with the Pope Manufacturing Company for improved Columbia Bicycles to equip the police in Back Bay and Franklin Parks.

Bethel: Five men commenced on the brick work of the New Cross block. When the

lumber arrives, carpenters will be kept busy.

L.F. Grover of West Bethel has a tin-knockers' shop in the rear of N.F. Brown's hardware store. Mr. Grover has worked some time for several firms in Norway so he has the trade well learned.

Ed Coburn has leased for the summer the famous hotel, "Anglers' Retreat" at Middle Dam. The house will be opened for sportsmen about the first of May. Ed and Charles Coburn are up at the place getting in ice and making repairs.

The Academy lyceum discussion was on the topic, American negroes have too much liberty. Orne Douglass spoke in the affirmative. Claude Abbott and A.C. Eames spoke for the negative side. All stormy weather limited the size of the audience, both judges and the house decided in the negative. Herbert Rowe, Joan Stearns and Theodore Gould Recitations were presented by Ethel Richardson and Eva Twaddle. A paper was presented by Edwin Gehring and Alice Chamberlain.

Newry: "The best run of sap in twenty five years", so said H.S. Hastings of Newry Corner to me one day this week. Hastings was in J.A. Thurston's store at the time packing eggs. "There's a lot of eggs I've sold for a cent apiece," said the merchant. "How's that for eggs in April? Some of those eggs cost me eighteen cents per dozen, too."

West Bethel: Our cream collector, Mr. Clough, voted the 13th of April the most disagreeable day of the year for his business. The topic of conversation in this town is the syrup season and the question is do trees yielding very sweet sap live longer than trees with less sweet sap?

Mason: Several from this town carried veal calves to Bethel Monday for J.M. Philbrook who ships them to Brighton. Mr. Philbrook is one that is willing to live and let live. A. S. Bean is going to run his mill nights.

Bethel: Athletic interest has not abated. The gymnasium is open afternoons and evenings to those who desire exercise. Mr. Merriman continues to give classes in bell and club work for young ladies and bar, bell, chest weights and boxing for the gentlemen.

R.E.L. Farwell is soon to move his stock of confectionary, fruits, etc. to the store recently vacated by Charles Benson. (This probably the store on Church Street next to "Honest Corner". Bethel Library leased the second floor.)

West Bethel: A.S. Bean is about ready to get his drive started. H.E. Grover has a fine lot of hot bed plants in a good state of forwardness.

Rumford Falls: Congress Street is receiving a coat of coal waste (cinders?) from the paper mill. No bicycles on the sidewalks or ball playing in the streets, by order of the selectmen.

## May

Gilead: The position of school superintendent in our little town during this transition period is no sinecure. The combined wisdom and efforts of three men cannot arrange the schools to the satisfaction of everybody. Some think the old ways are best, cling to the “district” system.

The more intelligent and progressive wish to have a graded school established at the village – grammar and primary grades – that will accommodate all the scholars in town.

The best thing possible for the town would be the erection of a building at the village center, suitable for a graded school, and don't let us be satisfied with anything less than the best.

The conveyance of the scholars to and from the school is provided, or paid for, by the town, and they secure the advantage of much longer terms, superior teachers, better classification, and the added discipline and mental stimulus, which is always the result of grouping pupils in large classes.

Mason: A.S. Bean had good luck with his drive this year with a pitch of water just high enough. He made quick work of it. Another batch of veal calves last Monday morning from this town for J.M. Philbrook. What shall we do for cattle if people sell all the calves?

May Term of Supreme Judicial Court: Willard R. Wight, Newry, is Foreman of the Grand Jury. H.R. Godwin of Bethel is a Juror.

West Bethel: The entertainment at A.S. Bean's Hall Saturday was well managed and a success. Miss Rose Bean played a banjo solo. After the entertainment, all enjoyed a hulled corn supper served in the hall below.

In forty years, I have not turned my cattle to pasture as early as this year.

Newry: J.A. Thurston's mill in Riley burned. About 125 cords of timber remain unsawed. H.S. Hastings paid 55 cents for the potatoes he shipped. Mrs. John Danforth is at home now. She expects to join her husband at Parmachenee as soon as traveling will permit.

Bethel: The Methodist Church welcomed the return of their pastor, Rev. B.F. Fickett for a third year. Rev. F. K. Beem of the Universalist Church has read his resignation; he will be missed in the village as he and his wife have been earnest workers in the temperance cause. At the Congregational Church Rev. Jordan has received nine new members.

Northwest Bethel: Voters in the Northwest Bethel school districts, 5 and 29, met with the school committee to decide on the location for the combined school. After discussion and presentation of evidence, the committee decided that No. 29 should have the case.

Bethel: The Academy social was well attended. The social committee was Joan

Stearns, Herbert Rowe, and Fred Merrill.

Bicycles are beginning to monopolize the highway. No riding is allowed on the sidewalks for a vote was passed at the last corporation meeting prohibiting it.



### John M. Philbrook

In April 1893, the school committee had purchased a lot of land on High Street from John M. Philbrook for \$800. Mr. Philbrook was a livestock dealer whose name was in the news probably more than any other person in the Bethel area. Particularly during summer months he made weekly trips to the Brighton livestock market with one or more rail carloads of cattle and calves that he had bought from farmers in and around Bethel.

Architect, F.A. Thompson	\$375.
Land (J.M. Philbrook)	800.
Contractor, H. Purington	10,400.
Additions /building	500.
Grading	82.
Plumbing	523.
Furnaces*	326.
Cementing cellar	315.
Desks**	610.
Concrete walks	120.
Steps	20.
Misc. expenses	25.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,096.</b>

**Construction of the new Bethel brick school house begins.** Horace Purington, the school (new brick grammar school) house contractor and two workmen arrived Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Several men were put to work on the stone work and the brick layers will start next week.

Table showing the details of new school's overall building cost: Desks for the school were purchased from Paris Manufacturing Company. Mr. Charles Davis freighted them to Bethel. Furnace for the school heating system was purchased from Mr. N.F. Brown who was also the Supervisor of Schools in Bethel.

**Norway Fire: Swept by Fire – Terrible Conflagration in Norway Village – It Destroyed Seventy of the Best Buildings – Loss \$239,000; Insurance \$139,000 Worst Fire Oxford County Ever Saw.**

Between 2 o'clock and 6, Wednesday afternoon the fire mowed a wide swath a mile in length through the heart of Norway village, destroying the Opera House block, the large mill of C.B. Cummings & Sons, the tannery, the high school building, the Congregational church, a number of stores and shops, and over sixty of the finest residences in this place.

It was about 2 o'clock when a little blaze started in the factory C.B. Cummings & Sons. The fire jumped to the Opera House block. A strong easterly wind was blowing at first but that later veered and blew directly down the street. The Norway fire department responded promptly to the first alarm but the fire traveled too fast for them. The South Paris and Bethel hose companies were sent for and they responded promptly. Then help was summoned from Lewiston and Portland and they responded promptly. It was about 4 o'clock when first the Lewiston steamer and company arrived then the Portland engine arrived.

Over seventy buildings and sets of buildings were lost and something like five hundred people were made homeless.

Bethel: Library association elected officers: President, Mrs. Ceylon Rowe; Vice President, Mrs. A.E. Herrick; Secretary, Annie Frye; Treasurer, Cora Burnham; Librarian, Mrs. Cloudman; Trustees, Mrs. O.M. Mason, Miss Burnham, Alfred True, Fannie Merrill, Mrs. F.B. Chandler.

One hundred new books have been added to the library holdings during the year bringing the total to 1,476 volumes in all. 3407 were taken out on the regular list and 333 were taken out by transients.

Twenty fire department members and 600 feet of hose went to the Norway fire plus a large number of townspeople. Over 25 from the village visited the ruins in Norway on the next day, Thursday.

Bearce and Wilson's drive had their headquarters at the toll bridge on Friday night. Forty-two men were employed by the company including a cook and assistant. Only five boats are required to transport the whole crew.

Twelve men are at work on the school building (on High Street). New planks have been put down on the Mechanic Street sidewalk.

Bethel: Gould Academy has published "The Herald", a paper printed for the commencement week program. The ads of twenty Bethel traders appear in the columns.

The water company is putting a water supply pipe into the chair finishing shop (the former Rialto Hall on Main Street).

John B. Chapman has bought the Grover buildings of the academy trustees, paying \$150. He will tear down the old barn and shed and will move the house down High Street to a lot between Coburn's shoe shop and the chair factory finishing shop on Main Street. George Hapgood has rented the house.

Wilson's Mills: John Olson started for Camp Caribou May 13th. He has parties engaged (to guide) for May 21st and May 29th.

West Bethel: A.S. Bean is raising his boarding house one story to put a new story under it – making the building two and one-half stories instead of one and one-half.

All villages and farmers: The weather has been very dry and farmers are calling for rain.

East Bethel: The Bearce and Wilson drive crew is clearing logs from the river with horses.

The Week In Maine: The Rickers, proprietors of Poland Spring, have bargained for the Maine world's fair building and will remove it to Poland Spring to be used as a library.

Rumford Falls: The business outlook here grows bright as the season opens. The steady growth of Rumford Falls which seems to have suffered something of a check when the financial cyclone swept over the country last year is evidently to be resumed this season. Several new enterprises are already assured and considerable new building is going on.

The Rumford Falls Woolen Company has been organized with a capital of \$50,000. A new mill will be erected at the lower end of the middle level canal. The building will be of brick, 100 by 54 feet and three stories high. A picker house will be 32 by 40 feet. It is expected to employ 60 men to make felt for the paper mill.

The chemical mill is to be enlarged about four times of its present capacity. New brick buildings will be built including a dynamo building 50 by 70 feet and two stories high. When completed about 60 men will be employed and the mill will produce about ten to twelve tons of chloride of lime and caustic soda daily. These works will be the only one of its kind in American; heretofore these chemicals were imported.

The frame is up for the new \$7,000 school house and the \$4,000 school house at Ridlonville has had its contract let.

Bethel area correspondents reported that they had received a nice rain during the past week.

Bethel: Several persons made a complaint to the selectmen that the new brick schoolhouse now being built by Horace Purington of Waterville was not put together according to the specifications – especially the granite foundations. The architect, Mr. Thompson of Portland, met with the complainants at the building spot. After a careful survey of the work the architect decided that the contract was being faithfully carried

out. So Mr. Purington was exonerated of the charges.

The Gould Academy nine were to play the Fryeburg Academy nine last week at North Bridgton but due to illnesses the game was postponed.

For Memorial Day observances, Brown Post #84 will visit the outlying cemeteries and decorate the soldiers' graves in the forenoon. In the afternoon the post will form at the G.A.R. Hall and march to Evergreen Cemetery where devotional services will be led by Rev. Beem, followed by a response, "Muffle their Drums" by a chorus of young ladies. After the graves are decorated, their comrades will offer appropriate remarks. A chorus of school children will sing "America". The evening program will be at Odeon Hall and Hon E.W. Woodbury will preside. The program will open with an overture of "National Aires" by the orchestra directed by Mrs. Gehring. Devotional services will be led by Rev. Israel Jordan. A response "Heroes Beloved" will be given by the chorus. Other speakers will be Hon. Woodbury, Ellery Parks, A.E. Herrick and Maud Pratt.

Fred Clark and Eli Stearns will open a meat and vegetable market in the room back of Hiram Perkins barber shop. They expect most of their business to be carried on with the out of town summer hotels.

## June

Maine News - Lewiston Daily Sun: One half interest in the Lewiston Daily Sun has been sold to Mr. J.T. Cannon, for a number of years connected with the Boston Traveler, and that gentleman will be business manager of the paper, while Mr. Wing continues as editor.

Bethel: Meetings, observances, church and social events: Gould Academy declamations and judging: Young ladies, Eva Twaddle, Honorable Mention, Joan Stearns. Young men: Mark Allen, and honorable mention was Robert Foster.

Memorial Day observance was held at Evergreen Cemetery. Those units who participated in the ceremonies were the G.A.R. Relief Corps, Sons of Veterans and the public. Later there was speaking in Odeon Hall.

The Bethel and North Norway baseball teams met on the Common. Bethel was the winner.

Bethel: Elmer and Martin Stowell are putting in a foundation for J.B. Chapman's house between the chair finishing room and Coburn's shoe shop. The old Grover building near the academy is to be moved to this place when the stone work is completed.

Organizations and their news: Strawberry festival was put on by the Methodist Society in the ladies relief corps rooms. The volunteer fire department and the hook and ladder company were out for practice. The large extension ladders were put up on Bean's store and a stream of water was thrown from the roof to the top and sides of

neighboring buildings.

East Bethel: Eugene Bean is raising his house one story and putting on a new roof.

Wilson's Mills: H.P. Wells, president of the Parmachenee Club, came up Sunday, John Olson guide; a friend of Wells, a Mr. Dickerson, the middle of the week, D.C. Bennett, guide. The rear of the Berlin Mills drive went past here Wednesday.

West Bethel: A.W. Grover's daughter, Grace, was married to Herman A. Skillings of Harvard, Mass.

Oxford County Convention at Paris Hill: Augustus M. Carter of Bethel was a candidate for register of deeds as was J. Hastings Bean of Mason. After three ballots, Bean was chosen as nominee.

Bethel: Photographer York of Bethel took the class pictures of the Gould Academy graduating class.

A new iron watering trough four feet in diameter has been placed in the main road between the depot and Ira Jordan's store.

Principal Merriman conducted the college exams in the academy on the weekend. Nearly all of the ten graduates took the test.

Bethel and Gilead baseball teams played on the Common with a large number of spectators.

Bethel: The Women's Christian Temperance Union has voted to take decided steps towards the giving and sale of cigarettes to young boys. A good many copies of the law have been printed and distributed to parents and dealers. Cigarettes are not to be sold to any person under 18. Only parents may give a cigarette to a person under 18.

Bethel Water Company stockholders met on June 25, 1894 at Attorney Herrick's office to elect officers and conduct business. Judge Enoch Foster was elected president for 1894 and A.E. Herrick was elected treasurer. Directors elected were: Elias Thomas, Ceylon Rowe, G.A. Hastings, Enoch W. Woodbury, and Fred W. Sanborn (owner and publisher of the Oxford Advertiser). It was voted to pay a dividend of one dollar per share to stockholders by August 20, 1894. Directors also voted to pay the treasurer a salary of \$100 per year for the year ending May 1, 1894; and that G.A. Hastings act as the superintendent for the ensuing year (Hastings had the same responsibility in 1893). The superintendent was directed to inspect the water service of patrons for the purpose of deciding their assessments.



**Gideon A. Hastings, 73, an original incorporator of the Bethel Water Company, was the first to take on the job of superintendent.**

Butter factory business ranges from 2,600 to 3,100 pounds of butter each week. It is all sold as fast as it is made. Twenty to thirty gallons of fresh cream are also disposed of in Berlin, NH, each week.

About 160 dogs are recorded in this section of town. All but two are licensed. "Slayer Clinton" will be unable to bring in many scalps this year.

The Bethel Hose Company practice this week was from the roofs of the I.O.O.F. building and from C. Bisbee's store and Frank Needham's house.

Northwest Bethel: River drivers camped at the ferry on the 21st.

News source for 1894 was for the most part the Oxford County Democrat. The Bethel Historical Society collections include microfilm copies of these 19<sup>th</sup> Century newspapers.

## JULY

Bethel: New Orleans Jubilee Singers gave a popular concert at Odeon Hall. "This troupe consists of seven genuine darkies who are pronounced the finest colored singers in the country".

Fourth of July activities: The G.A. R. and Ladies' Relief Corps held a social and informal reception at Odeon Hall. Judge Foster was the principal speaker.

“The Fourth of July was duly celebrated in the village but nothing of importance occurred so Riverside Park received the masses. Horse racing was the attraction of the day. Other events included a baseball game and bicycle race.

At the Congregational Church a “living pictures” program was given and Dr. J.G. Gehring gave a lecture entitled “Walking about Rome” which he illustrated.

**SOCIAL:** George Bourne Farnsworth’s Tennis and Croquet Club held a picnic on Paradise Hill. The club is in a flourishing condition and is made up of the following young people: president, Fred B. Merrill, vice president, Bertha Wiley; patronesses, Mrs. Gehring; Eva Twaddle, Alice Russell, Alice Andrews, Florence and Barbara Carter, Ethel Richardson, Sadie Mason, Joan Stearns, Robert Foster, Walter Lawrence, Mr. Deering and George Farnsworth. Among the invited guests to the picnic were Mrs. Rich and daughters, Mrs. Fannie Merrill of the Bethel House, Mrs. Prof. Chapman and daughter, Edwin Gehring and Alice B. Chamberlain. After the picnic and entertainment, the party rode through the village in a hayrack singing college songs. (The Gould Academy field house is named for this Farnsworth.)

**SPORTS:** Bethel played Gilead in baseball again. The Gilead team was made up of players from Gilead, Gorham and Island Pond. Bethel won (14-5) making it three wins in succession over Gilead. Bethel also played West Paris in a close game—Bethel won 6-4.

**Wilson’s Mills:** Leonard York is captain and Charles Blodgett engineer on the steamboat above the falls that is now running in the interests of the Parmachenee Club.

**Bethel:** The directors of the Bethel Reading Room and Athletic Association have made a summer schedule of two afternoons and evenings a week on Tuesdays and Saturdays. They also decided to open the reading room Sunday afternoons. (W.C.T.U. organized this program to keep people busy and away from drinking.)

**Bethel:** At the new school building, the “slaters” have finished and rooms are now being plastered.

At Odeon Hall an attractive gold lettered sign has been placed at the entrance to the reading and gymnasium room doors. Mr. James Barrows has announced that the chair factory summer picnic excursion to Portland and the Islands will take place on July 28th.

**Gilead:** A meeting was called July 11th to see if the town would vote for a new school building to be a graded school. The vote was tied at 34 for and 34 against the new building. The correspondent noted that the motion showed a lamentable lack of progressive spirit.

On July 31st, another school meeting was held with the same results as the first. We regret to know that the intelligent, broad-minded, far-sighted men in town are in the minority.

Bethel: The Bethel House is filling up fast with city boarders. Twelve arrived last week.

At the chair factory work started up two weeks earlier than planned due to a wave of new orders. There was not enough stock on hand to fill the orders.

Bethel: The government Weather Bureau has a flag staff on the Bethel House from which it can display weather signals. The boom at the spool mill (Steam Mill ?) that held several hundred cords of Milan (NH) poplar broke Wednesday afternoon about two o'clock. The Androscoggin River was full of floating wood for some time. Ten cars of Bob Hunting's circus came to Bethel from Berlin, NH on July 28th. There was the parade, big tent and side shows.

Gilead, July 31, 1894: There will be a grand concert at the church with solos, duets, trios, quartets and readings. Ice cream and cake will be served after the concert.

## AUGUST

Bethel: The special town meeting at Odeon Hall last Monday forenoon voted to raise the sum of \$3,100 to furnish the new school building with seats, desks, and heating apparatus. The Grand Trunk painters have painted the outside of the station with a coat of dark red paint with yellow trim. The Ladies Club of the Congregational Church held its mid-summer fair at the Garland Chapel. Participants included: Mrs. Frank Tuell and Mrs. Ceylon Rowe. Also: Mrs. Enoch Foster, Mrs. Fannie Merrill, Mrs. Gehring and Mrs. Gilbert Tuell. Also: Ethel Richardson and Eva Twaddle, Miss Mollie Chapman and Miss Angie Chapman. Plus helpers: George Farnsworth and Walter Lawrence. Photographer C.S. York placed a large collection of Bethel views on exhibition

Gilead: August 14, Concert and recital at the Gilead village church with an orchestra from Berlin, NH.

Bethel: A large crew of men is building a dam across Sunday River at Swan's Corner, so as to change the course of the stream. For several years the force of the waters has been gradually wearing away the bank till the main road (from the Swan's Corner to the bridge over Sunday River) was in danger. This dam will no doubt save the town's property. At Garland Memorial Chapel, on August 20, the famous baritone Dr. Carl E. Dufft will sing for the benefit of the Ladies Club of the Congregational Church. The program includes piano recitals by Mrs. Dufft and Mr. William R. Chapman of New York.

Gould Academy: Advertisement for Gould Academy run in the Oxford Democrat announced that E.M. Simpson was the Principal. Fall Term would begin Tuesday, August 26th and run for 12 weeks. Four courses were scheduled: College Preparatory, Commercial, Library and Scientific. Healthful location and expenses light For particulars and

catalog contact G.R. Wiley, Bethel, Maine.

Poland Spring—The big stable at Poland Spring was burned Tuesday evening and thirty horses lost their lives. The Mansion House almost directly across the road from the stable had a narrow escape as did the cottage of Mr. H.W. Ricker. Light from the fire was seen as far away as Lewiston and Portland.

The Bath Iron Works has been compelled to exclude visitors owing to the large number who have been coming, many of them in large parties.

West Bethel: The Chapel Aid Society is about organizing preparatory to buying a lot and erecting a new church.

Bethel: The several thousand (first report said hundreds) cords of poplar that was boomed near Skillings spool mill is being loaded onto cars with a portable engine and an elevator made of a belt carrying sharp spikes that runs into the river, catches the floating wood and lifts it into the cars forty feet above the water. Three men can easily load ten cars a day.

The 16 page book advertising the fourth annual meeting of the Riverside Park Association and the Bethel Agricultural Fair to be held September 11, 12 and 13 is out. Copies may be obtained free of cost from Mr. Ernest Walker or C.M. Wormell. This little book gives valuable information to horsemen and exhibitors.

SPORTS: August 28 Bethel's baseball team players list in a game against Rumford Falls. Rumford Falls won 24—10. Bethel lineup included: Willis, Chapman and Adams, rf., H. Hastings, 1 b, Twitchell, 2 b, H. Wiley pitcher and fielder, H. Clough, 2d b, A. Wiley, 3d b, T. Hastings, lf.

## SEPTEMBER

Wilson's Mills: Steamboat inspectors have been here to look over the steamboat used in the interests of the Parmachenee Club.

West Bethel: A.S. Bean's crew has finished sawing about one thousand cords of hardwood into staves. The Chapel Aid Society of West Bethel has completed the legal steps required and is now incorporated and ready to transact any business a corporate body may do.

Newry: H.S. Hastings came from the lake country with a drove of lambs. He says he can't buy any more lambs in Canada since the new tariff law was passed. They are expecting a rise in prices.

Bethel: The corn factory started operations on Wednesday. The toll bridge abutment on the south side of the Androscoggin River has been undergoing repairs during

the past week.

Mill brook dam—Bethel: James Hodsdon has a large crew men building a dam across the “mill brook” on the old Clough place. This dam is all stone, 280 feet long and 19 feet high and tapers to 8 feet at the top. Mr. Hodgdon expects to get a head of 20 feet when it is completed. A mill to work up small lumber will be run in a portion of the former corn shop.



**Above: photo shows the completed large upper dam on Mill Brook. To the right of the gates/slucie way is the large building - the former Clough mill which had housed the corn canning factory (1880-1890) and was converted by Hodsdon to manufacture lumber. Bethel Historical Society photo.**

Bethel: Managers of the corn shop are rushing things along with a large crew in all departments.

Rumford Falls: “NEW \$10,000 SCHOOL AT RUMFORD FALLS” Rumford has thrown open the doors to her fine new building to her sons and daughters. For the ceremony, the procession formed on Canal Street, marched through Congress Street, across the bridge to the junction of Somerset and Knox and Rumford Avenue headed by the Ellis River Band.

Bethel: At the toll bridge work of strengthening the end pier goes on. It is feared that the middle support will also need repairing. The Chair Co had a large stock of their goods on exhibition at the state fair and the manager Mr. Frank Young had the pleasure of bringing home a first prize medal from Lewiston.

Bethel's Fourth Annual Fair— "A Most Successful Exhibition at Bethel - Fast Trotting, Good Weather and Big Crowd Owners of horses in the trot and pace race on the 1st day were from Bethel, Canton, Windham, East Sumner, Bryant's Pond, Gorham, NH, and Hanover. An unusual number of fakers had their tents and stands scattered about the track. The Bryant's Pond band was in attendance and furnished excellent music. The exhibits in the hall were fewer than expected. Exhibits included rugs, oil painting, quilts, fancy items, and hand painted china. C.S. York had a display of photographs in a case and one enlarged portrait photograph.

Officers of the association during the 1894 fair: C.S. Wormell, president ; Dr. Twaddle, vice-president; Ernest Walker, secretary and treasurer; Grounds Supt., D.A. Coffin; Stock Supt, J.M. Philbrook and H.S. Hastings; Horses, O.P. Farrington and Frank R. Merrill, Hall Supt., Dr. Tuell, Maria Robertson, Fannie Mason; Committees: E.S. Kilborn, A.W. Grover and Gilbert Tuell. Members of the hall committee at Riverside Park are Dr. F.B. Tuell, Fannie Mason and Ann Maria Robertson.

Newry: For the first time in thirty years, the Republicans would have had a majority in this town if it had not been for two defective ballots thrown out.

West Bethel: Repairs and additions to A.S. Bean's hotel are nearly complete.

Gilead: Only 60 of the 125 voters were at the town meeting to vote. Democrats were in the minority.

Newry: Bears are killing sheep in Sunday River—almost every farm has lost some.

Bethel: The corn factory has stopped canning until more cans are procured; they are expected within a week. Pulp wood is still being loaded on cars in the Skillings mill yard. The side tracks have been full of loaded and empty cars for the last three weeks. Lyle's Players appeared before large audiences at Odeon Hall for three nights. Three dramas presented were "Unjustly Accused", "The Wanderer's Return" and "American Rose". And Prof. W.H. Gould gave clever slight of hand performances on two of the nights.

Mason: About 10 PM September 12th, A.G. Lovejoy's farm buildings were burned to the ground. Peter Chaisong, 27, of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia was arrested on suspicion of setting the fire by Detective Wormell and Officer Barker. Justice Rich found probable cause to keep the prisoner; he was held over without bail until the October term of the Supreme Court.

Maine Election Results Voting on September 18th								
TOWN	GOVERNOR		CONGRESSMAN		SENATOR		SENATOR	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
Albany	54	24	54	24	54	24	54	24
Bethel	227	60	228	59	227	60	227	60
Gilead	39	17	40	16	39	17	39	17
Newry	26	27	26	27	26	27	26	27

Cleaves, Republican, was re-elected governor.  
 Dingley, Republican, was re-elected to Congress.  
 Republicans elected every county officer in every county in the state.  
 The Maine Senate is all (31) Republicans.  
 The Maine House is 145 Republicans and 6 Democrats.

### Maine's September Election Results

#### OCTOBER

Wilson's Mills Mrs. M.H. Fickett died at Wentworth's Location September 18th at age 88. The burial was from her old home on Sept. 21st. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. S.S. York with singing by the Errol choir, Ina Akers, organist. (She was my great, great grandmother. DGB)

Mason F.I. and J.H. Bean sold quite a load of hogs to Philbrook. Two weighed 440 and 415 pounds besides several smaller ones.

Gilead - The school houses have been undergoing repairs and the schools opened Monday. Miss Mollie Barker of Bethel is in charge of the school in the village. Districts 2 and 3 united under the charge of Miss Celia Leighton of Gilead. Marshall Hastings is attending the grammar school at Bethel. "Jack" Chapman is at Hebron Academy. Miss Marion Chapman entered Smith College. Mr. Han C. Chapman returned to Colby College.

Bethel: The Broad Street and Mechanic Street school houses and lots were sold at public auction on Friday afternoon (10/19/1894). The Broad Street lot is about 2 1/2 by 5 rods and was sold to Eben Kilborn for \$450. The Mechanic Street lot is about 4 by 7 rods and was sold to Ira Jordan for \$400. Both purchases included the buildings on each piece of land. The sale was held at the school house on Broad Street.

A boiler and steam heating apparatus are being set up in the Elms Hotel. W.F. Lovejoy & Sons, of the Bethel House, will occupy the Elms, and close the other hotel during the winter.



The Elms was operated by W.F. Lovejoy & Sons along with The Bethel House. Combined, the two hotels claimed flagship status for Bethel's lodgings. When the owners installed steam heat in The Elms in 1894 Bethel could offer comfortable year round lodging accommodations.

Gilead : October 1st, Mr. D.R. Hastings the new postmaster appointed by the government, opened his new office, which is neatly fitted up in the Hodgeman store. The retiring postmaster, Mr. J.W. Kimball, has served in this capacity for thirty-eight years. Mrs. D.L. Austin who is quite ill is under the treatment of a Faith Science doctor of Portland and Mr. Eugene Green of Providence who is also a Faith Science practitioner. There are two or three cases of typhoid fever at the village.

Rumford Falls—Huts are being erected up along the Swift River valley to accommodate the railroad men. The Paper Co is putting in a sulphite plant of their own near the mill and is employing a large number of men. The Fletcher sulphite mills, which were obliged to delay their completion owing to the stringency of the money market, are now

busy building again. Rumford Falls is in the same situation as two years ago with no place to accommodate those who are coming here to work. Every house is filled and it looks like new workers will have to find board outside of town.

Bethel - The cider mill near the corn factory is running full blast. A hydraulic press capable of exerting a pressure of 200,000 pounds is now used in the business. Piping is completed for the evaporator that will handle over forty bushels of apples a day. Lightning struck the iron stack on Wyman's corn factory. Part of the lightning bolt ran down a guy wire and tore up several lengths of the Grand Trunk fence. Another branch of the same lightning strike ran down the stack into the engine room, thence through the whole set of buildings following the water and steam pipes. Curtis Abbott, bookkeeper, Mr. Wyman and C.L. McGoon were in the office and not more than ten feet from the place where the current left a pipe and leaped through the floor. Mr. Wyman was paralyzed for a few seconds but soon recovered. The event occurred on a day when the full crew was not working.

West Bethel—Bean's Hotel in this village is nearly completed and is to be run as a public house of the first order as well as a boarding house for Mr. Bean's many workmen. In the Flat Road cemetery, D.B. Grover has had a substantial and elegant granite monument place in his family lot. It will mark the burial place of one of the most prominent families in town. Mr. Grover is preparing to leave for his California home. A.S. Bean has also had placed a monument of about the same size and proportions over the grave of his father and other members of his family. Also, John Bean has placed a substantial marble monument on his lot.

Bethel—Four large hot air furnaces, Portland portable furnaces, have been installed in the basement in the Cole Block. They are set and in working condition. Mr. L.F. Grover did the job of putting together and piping. The steam heating apparatus has been removed from the Cole Block, owned by the Bethel Savings Bank. Rev. Mr. Jordan and Hon. E.W. Woodbury attended the Congregational conference at Berlin, NH. Gould Academy competed in field day events at the Norway fair grounds. Gould lost their cup. The Broad Street and Mechanic Street school houses and lots were sold at public auction. The Broad Street lot is about 2 and 1/2 by 5 rods and was sold to Eben Kilborn for \$450. The Mechanic Street lot is about 4 by 7 rods and was sold to Ira Jordan for \$400. Both purchases included the buildings on each lot.

Milton Penley has moved his family from Northwest Bethel to this village. His meat business will now be carried on in the store under the Bethel Library. (In 2008, this building stands at 9 Church Street.) The Methodist society ladies held a successful harvest fair in Pattee's Hall. More than 100 tickets were sold for the supper. Items sold included artificial and cut flowers, vegetables, ice cream, fancy articles.

West Bethel: On October 11th, there was a grand opening ball at the new Bean's Hall. The supper was highly praised. "When 'Alph' undertakes to do a good thing he al-

ways does it. To Mr. Bean's credit no intoxicating drinks were seen about the place. Mr. Milliken has taken possession of the farm he just purchased from D.B. Grover. Grover will soon move to his California home. E.B. Shaw had three sheep attacked by dogs. The sheep had to be killed. Selectman H. N. Upton has been investigating the matter. The dogs are still at large.

Bethel: The Bethel Chair Co. has purchased a large amount of stumpage of birch, spruce and hard wood of Elias Thomas near Bethel and will operate this winter. Lumber taken from this land will be manufactured at the Bethel mill. Accounting for the new Bethel Grammar School: In the town report for 1894, the expenses were broken down as follows:

## NOVEMBER

East Bethel: W.H. Tracy of Locke Mills has opened the store at this place and moved his family into Miss Helen Bartlett's rent. There was a thunderstorm November 1st.

North Newry: Dennis Kilgore has moved the post office to Poplar Tavern. He is to run the house for the ensuing year. S.A. Eames (probably the manager) has moved out.

Newry: The cider mills are about ready to close up operations after running full blast for a number of weeks.

Bethel—Advertisement in the Democrat: Gould Academy, Bethel, Maine.

E.M. Simpson, A.B., Prin., Latin, Greek and Mathematics — Miss Lucia H. Morrill, History, English and Modern Languages — Miss Jennie M. Wood, Science, Free-Hand Drawing and Book-keeping This school offers a thorough English education and fits for the various New England college and technical schools. Fall term closes Friday, November 16th. Winter term of twelve weeks opens Tuesday, December 4th. For particulars, address: G.R. Wiley, Sec., Bethel, Maine

West Bethel: A bear story. Mr. Charles L. Abbott found a bear actually eating one of his sheep but did not have his firearm. He attacked the bear vigorously with stones hoping to drive him up a tree but with a full meal in his belly the bear decided to just leave. A.S. Bean's mill is not running this week.

Mr. Moses Mason of Albany was on his way to the Bethel Hill cider mill with a load of apples and cider barrels when he tried to secure a loose barrel without stopping his team. He fell from his wagon and the wheels passed over both of his legs below the knees breaking one and badly bruising the other. He was found, taken to his home and a surgeon telegraphed for.

Bethel: A large order was received at the corn factory, the labeling crew are again busy. The cans are packed in cases only as needed. Ira Jordan is making preparations to

move the Mechanic Street school house to a different location on the same lot. The building is to be fitted into a cozy rent. He will convert the school house into a double tenement. J.C. Billings' blacksmith and carriage shop has been undergoing repairs recently. Mr. E. C. Rowe bought the house of Alvan Godwin at auction sale. A small amount of personal property was sold to other bidders. At a recent meeting of the Bethel Library Association it was voted to spend \$15 for the latest books on the market.

Rumford Falls: The Rumford Falls Trust Company chartered by the legislature of 1893, will open for business on January 1, 1895 and possibly as early as December 1, 1894. The business depression of 1893 caused the delay until now. Monthly payrolls of corporations and firms here now amount to more than \$20,000. There are thirteen manufacturing establishments, five contractors, thirty stores, eleven professional offices and twenty other business places. The Swift River Railroad (Rumford Falls and Rangeley Lakes Railroad) insure additional business at Rumford Falls.

## PARIS AND NORWAY RAILWAY

The article of association of the Paris and Norway Railway have been approved by the railroad commissioners, and the following subscribers have chosen directors: George L. Beal, Norway; John F. Hill, Augusta; H.L. Shepherd, Rockport; George E. Macomber, Augusta. The company expects to begin the construction of an electric road between South Paris and Norway villages in the spring.

Newry: Jim Spinney is getting out dowel and stave timber for J.A. Thurston.

Mason: D.E. Mills has a small job drawing ship knees to West Bethel.

West Bethel: Business is quite lively at this place. Thirteen cars were counted standing on the sidings loaded and being loaded. E.G. Wheeler has sold his apples to Philbrook & Howe of Berlin, N.H. Messrs Shaw and Tyler are holding theirs for higher prices.

Bethel: Charles L. Davis has been delivering a large amount of coal in the village for \$6.50. We have eleven inches of snow here to insure good sleighing. The senior class at Gould Academy chose bottle-green and pink as their class color. All are busy at the chair factory and the finishing shop has been opened every evening for several weeks past. Fred L. Edwards has been buying large quantities of apples this fall. They are now stored in the cellar under the I.O.O.F block. At the corn factory, the last case of corn has been labeled.

Niagara Falls News—New Turbines: Front page of the Democrat reported that the falls WILL SOON BE TAMED, The great turbine wheels set up—one hundred thousand horsepower to be developed soon—probable effect upon the falls—the great tunnel. The

illustration for this article shows a plane of the dynamo being lowered into its concrete housing. Four years have been spent laboring to get ready for the turbines to be installed.

Maine News: How much do you estimate is the amount that sportsmen bring into Maine in a year? Game Commissioner Stanley said about \$3,000,000. A conference of game commissioners from around New England was held at the State House.

Bethel: Miss Mary True and her pupil have gone to Baddeck, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia to visit Prof. Alexander Graham Bell and family at their country estate. They have recently returned from Boston where they attended the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the Horace Mann school for deaf mutes.

The Ladies Club will re-open the “Sanding-Brook” school in Odeon Hall on December 11th. A union service of Bethel churches will be held Thanksgiving evening.

For the past week our court room (in the lock-up) has been the liveliest place in the village. One case involved stealing a harness and was tried before Justice Rich. While awaiting a decision, the prisoner went home on bail. Mr. Cotton, overseer of the town farm, will appear on the charge of abusive treatment of one of the farm’s inmates. Cases are set for Monday and Tuesday.

West Bethel: E.B. Shaw is repairing the heating apparatus in the school house. A.S. Bean has arrive home from New York and business is lively at the mill.

Gilead: The much talked of long awaited horse sheds have materialized in the back of the church building—very useful, but not ornamental, they are comfortable for the horses and convenient for the drivers.

Mr. Fairbrother who was so badly scalded in the Wild River railroad accident is recovering and will soon be able to return to his home in Portland.

Newry: J.S. Allen has bought stumpage of N.S. Baker and is cutting dowel and stave timber for J.A. Thurston. O.E. Baker is sawing timber for J.S. Allen. Our selectmen have spent some days endeavoring to establish the line between Andover West Surplus and Newry.

## DECEMBER

Bethel: C.E. Bisbee has bought the Clark Street house of Mrs. Harding and is currently remodeling it. Davis Lovejoy will clerk for Mr. Bisbee replacing Fred Roberts who is leaving for China, Maine. Some of the young men home from college are: Edwin Gehring, Boston School of Technology; and Herbert Rowe from Harvard. Dr. Tenney, oculist, will be at Bethel House for two days, December 5th and 6th. It will be his last visit here for a year.

Grafton: Reports say that M.L. and J.A. Thurston will put into the streams two million feet of spruce. A part of the timber will be landed on the Bear River in Newry and part on the West Branch in Andover Surplus.

Bethel: Gould Academy opened its winter term with the same corps of teachers as the fall term. Mr. F.E. Young of the Bethel Chair Company was in Boston looking after holiday business.

Notice was posted as follows: Concerning the Sanding Brook School in Odeon Hall. "The Deestrick Skule in the Sanding Brook District will begin Tuesday, December 11, '94" And continue for thirteen weeks under the charge of Mrs. Cyrene S. Littlehale. Skule will commence at 7 1-2 o'clock P.M. (This was apparently a W.C.T.U. program which would be supervised by a male committee—part of the effort by the W.C.T.U. to use Odeon Hall facilities to keep young people away from drinking.)

West Bethel: E.B. Shaw is moving potatoes at 40 c. a bushel. Farmers seem anxious to sell at that price and there are quite a good many for sale. Apples are also in greater supply than demand.

East Bethel: Mr. and Mrs. Moses A. Kimball celebrated their Golden Wedding on December 10th. Moses had married Miss Catherine Young of Greenwood. Their three daughters and only son live in Massachusetts.

Bethel: Mr. Wiley from Milford, NH, has been here shipping apples. He has started for the West with 10 car loads purchased in Bethel and vicinity. He will return later and ship another lot. There have been frequent fire alarms this week. Most fires were quickly extinguished but in the case of a fire at Miss Sarah Hall's Drug Store she lost new stock just received for Christmas. Harvey C. Philbrook is loading wood on cars at West Bethel to send 1,200 cords to Lewiston.

Mrs. Laura A. Bartlett, widow of Curatio T. Bartlett, died in Bethel on December 14th. She was 78. Funeral service was held at the home of her son Leland Bartlett (Eli Twitchell homestead in Mayville.)

West Bethel: Charles Dunham has improved his dairy herd by adding a new strain of Jersey blood and is going to breed for quantity as well as quality.

East Bethel: Mrs. Daniel S. Hastings of Ubet, Montana, visited J.D. Hastings and other relatives here last week. She will visit her daughter, Mrs. Ernest Skinner, at Dorchester, Mass. Her son Harold is at Wesleyan University, Conn., and will join her in Dorchester.

Newry: Charles Douglass is moving the steamer North Star lately purchased in Hanover, to the lakes. It takes a strong team and lots of time. E.B. Knapp spent Thanksgiving in Boston. He took his firs along with him to sell. Everything a farmer has to sell is way down, but taxes have not fallen.

Bethel: The past week has chiefly been devoted to Christmas preparations. There is

very little snow on the ground in the village but some large logs are being hauled from the Abbott lot to Morrill's mill. W.C.T. U. meetings are continuing—two petitions are in circulation: one, for the legislature to grant municipal suffrage to women and, two, the other is in the interest of temperance— in effect that the selling of liquor shall be brought to harmonized with the constitution. After returning from Boston recently, Dr. John G. Gehring is arranging to expand his poultry business. Bethel Chair Company has been rushing for the past week getting off holiday orders.

Gilead: There was a masquerade ball at the hall—a pleasant affair for the dancers. Music was furnished by the Gorham orchestra—and a large party from Gorham attended.

East Bethel: C.R. Kimball, D.W. Cole and C.C. Swan are riding in handsome new sleighs.

West Bethel: Our school supervisor has not been able to hire a teacher for the school in the village.

Mason: S.O. Grover took the scholars of our school for a ride to Bethel where they visited the old “Deestrick Skule” at Odeon Hall.

End of the 1894 Journal

Source of this information is based largely on the Oxford County Democrat; micro-film copy of the newspaper is part of the Bethel Historical Society collections.

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