

Marshall R. Hastings

Marshall Robinson Hastings (1882-1958) was born in Bethel on August 29, 1882 the son of David R. and Josephine (Sanderson) Hastings. He was educated in the Bethel schools, Edward Little High School in Auburn and at Brown University.

In 1905 he married Miss Norma Linscott of Auburn and they have a daughter, Mrs. William Chapman, 2nd., of Bethel.

Mr. Hastings was associated with his father in Wild River from 1900 until 1914 in cutting pulp wood and in the manufacture of wood alcohol at their plant in Hastings Village.

Following this he operated on his own initiative and for 18 seasons he cut lumber for the Brown Company of Berlin, N.H.. His average winter's cut was 15,000 cords each year, and a few years ago (1928) he delivered 27,000 cords to the Brown Co., the largest contract ever fulfilled by a single individual. His lumbering operations were in the vicinities of Grafton, Oquossoc, Richardson Lake, Dead Diamond, Abbott Brook, Umbagog and Shelburne, N.H.

Mr. Hastings was elected twice to the Maine House of Representatives. He was a member of the Bethel Lions Club. Mrs. Hastings was a talented singer and they kept open house for their many friends and relatives.

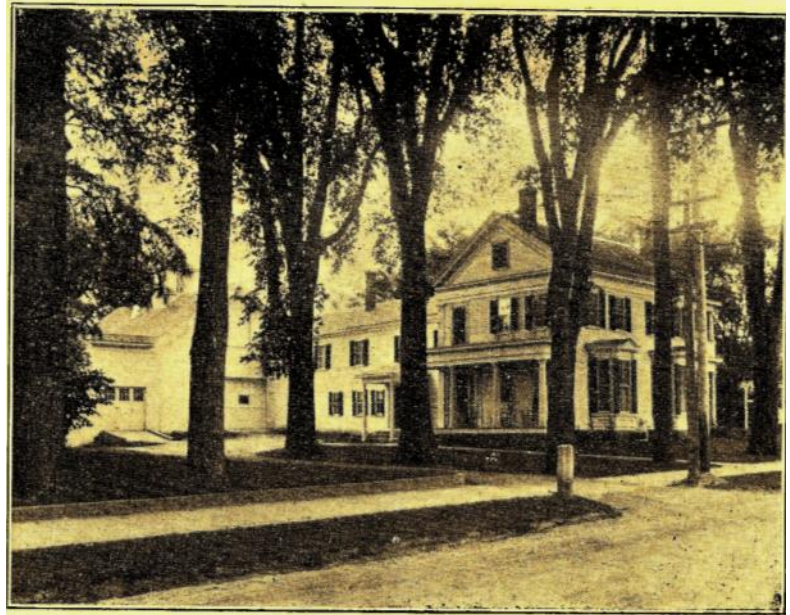
Mr. and Mrs. Hastings occupied the colonial style house on Broad Street, formerly the home of Hon. William W. Hastings and built for Major Gideon Hastings by his father in 1866 upon the return of the former from the Civil War.

Marshall Hastings had inherited the Gideon A. Hastings homestead from William W. Hastings, his uncle. This inheritance also included the Bill Lowe house and lot on Paradise Street, the island in the Androscoggin River below the toll bridge and the point of land at the mouth of Alder River, the pasture on Paradise Hill, and William Hastings' interest in wild lands. Included in William Hastings will was an assignment to Norma Hastings, wife of Marshall Hastings, of the little house and connected lot and the Coolidge lot including the house upon it on Paradise Street in Bethel Village.

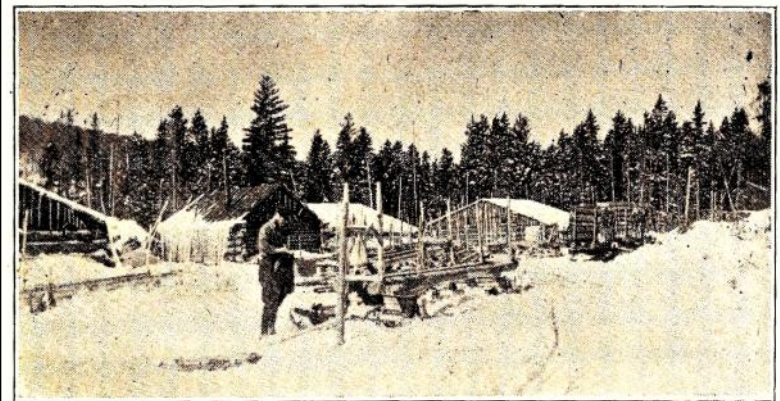
Marshall Hastings was one of few Bethel residents to have lived in one of the Hastings "Ten Commandants" - family housing units at the Hastings/Wild River Mill. In the early 1980's walking through the old mill area about all that remained of mill operations then mostly hidden by tree growth were the old alcohol vats. For more about Hastings see http://whitemountainhistory.org/Hastings_Maine.html

Mr. Hastings died April 22, 1958 at the Lewiston Central Maine General Hospital where he had been a patient several

weeks. He was survived by his wife, Norma Linscott Hastings of Bethel; a daughter, Mrs. Ruth Hastings Chapman of Bethel, two granddaughters and one great grandchild. Interment was at Riverside Cemetery.



The Marshall Hastings residence on Broad Street—Goddard Studio



METALLAK BROOK LUMBERING OPERATION OF M. R. HASTINGS

Ruth Hastings (1907-1996) married William C. (Bill) Chapman II (1907-1974). Mr. Chapman was born in Portland, Maine on April 3, 1907, the son of Granville and Jessie Sproat Chapman. He was a member of the class of 1929 at the University of Maine and a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. Mr. Chapman was a widely known breeder of shorthorn cattle. The Chapmans resided in the Broad Street home

Sources: 1931 Special Edition of the Oxford County Bethel Citizen and his obituary and copy of a part of the last will and testament of William W. Hastings property of Stephen and Rebecca Hastings.