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1926 Dixfield History

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DIXFIELD HISTORY

(Written by Mrs. Ada Murch Smith)

Location

Dixfield is situated on the north side of the Androscoggin River, between this and the northeastern border of Oxford County. The length of the town, east west, is about seven miles; north and south, five miles. The surface is uneven, especially northwest of the center, where 3 large hills stand in a line, of which the southwestern one, consisting of two peaks known as the "Sugar Loaves", is the highest. Near the Androscoggin, a little west of the middle of the town is a little hill called "The Bluff." in the southeastern part of the town is a group of three mountains in a triangular position, of which the highest are, Burnt Mountain and Aunt Hepsy Brown's Mountain. Webb River forms the boundary line between this town and Mexico on the west. Newton Brook comes down from the north across the middle of the town, to the Androscoggin; and the Seven Mile Brook crosses the northeastern corner. Each of these streams has one or more powers.

Early History

The following statements regarding the early history of Dixfield are taken from D. West's History of Maine, and from the writings of the late Henry Park of Mexico, a farmer resident of the town who made the history of Dixfield a study for many years:

Proprietor's Record

Township No. 1, on the north side of the Androscoggin River, was purchased by Col. Jonathan Holman, of the Committee for the Sale of Eastern Lands, for himself and associates, A. D. 1789; which originated by a subscription dated at Sutton, Mass. June 36, 1789, as follows: We, the subscribers, agree to join in the purchase of the (ye) township or piece of land which Dr. Elijah Dix has obtained the refusal of until (tile) the 5th of July next, from the Court's Committee, according to their proposal, dated the 20th inst., wherein they say they will sell to Messrs. Holman and Waters of Sutton, a tract of land lying on the north side of the Androscoggin River, and we hereby agree and engage to pay for the quantity of land we severally and respectively annex to our names, provided we can have a title to the same, in the tract of land described in said proposals of the Court's Committee, according to said proposals. This tract of land was considered in the subscription for it, as divided into sixty (60) parts in rights, and the subscribers "annex to their name are, two or more 60ths (sixtieths)." After the first subscription there were alterations in the quantity of land to some of the subscribers, so that on the first day of Dec., 1787, when there was a general liquidation of all expenses and accounts up to that day, they stood as follows:

The following note was added: "N. B.,— Although said purchase is said to originate in the foregoing subscription, yet the matter was negotiated about two years before; and Col. Holman, Deacon Waters and Capt. Eliot spent considerable time and expense, in Aug. and Sept., 1787, in looking out a township, and picked on part of the same land now purchased and bespoke it of the Committee for the sale of Eastern Lands; and as a committee from their Association, in Oct. 1787, went to the Committee to contract for it, but could not obtain." The old Association was dissolved, and the above entered into. Col. Holman went to Boston and contracted for said tract of land, July 2, 1789, and paid earnest towards it, for himself and others, 991 pounds, 11 shillings, 9 pence in consolidated notes, — 1 which contract and receipt of said earnest, as also the receipts for 1,340 lbs., 6 shillings, 6 pence more paid the 17th of Dec., as paid the 1st of Nov., and 10 lbs., 6 shillings, 3 p. premium (s) may be seen under hand of Leonard Jarvis, Esq., which is on file," At the first proprietor's meeting, held Sept. 13,

1789, Eben Chaplin was chosen moderator and clerk. (Omission here (S.A.H.)... nine shillings on a right, was raised toward defraying the charges of laying out the township, and Jonathan Holman, Deacon Asa Waters and Jeremiah Robinson were chosen a committee to perform the work. On Nov. 16, 1789, three rights were sold, one to each Dr. Dix, Col. Holman and John Pierce. The plan for the township was made by one Mr. Titcomb, but the lots were laid out by the committee mentioned before, of which we find Col. Jonathan Holman and Mr. Robinson, in 1790 were directed to "continue to lay out the land in 100-acre lots, as far as the land will admit." The township, which then contained the present towns of Dixfield and Mexico, was variously called "Township No. 1", "Androscoggin Purchase NO. 1", and "Holmanstown," until the town of Mexico was incorporated, 15 years later. It is said that Dr. Dix, who was a heavy land-owner but not a resident, bought the privilege of naming the town by the promise of presenting to the town a library. After the incorporation, the settlers waited some length of time and, receiving no library, mentioned the subject to the busy Doctor; not long after, an old trunk of second-hand books came to the eastern part of the town, and constituted the "Doctor's Library." The meetings of the proprietors were generally held at Sutton, that being the home of the greater number of the body. Their meetings were continued until Nov. 13, 1809, when, their management being no longer needed, the proprietary was brought to a close.

Act of Incorporation

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and three. An Act to incorporate the easterly part of a tract of land in the County of Cumberland which was granted to Jonathan Holman and others on the north side of Androscoggin River, with the inhabitants thereon, into a town by the name of Dixfield.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same, that the hereafter described land within the following bounds (viz.): beginning at the westerly line of Jay on the north bank of the Androscoggin River; thence running north 40 degrees east by said Jay 6 miles, to a beach tree; thence running north 68 degrees west partly by Tyngtown (Wilton) and partly by land sold by this Commonwealth to Messrs. Phillips & Abbott and others (now Carthage) 8 miles, or until it comes to the center of said Webb's River about 6 miles, and until it comes to the Androscoggin River; thence running easterly by said Androscoggin River about 6 miles, or until it comes to the west line of Jay (now Canton), being the bounds first mentioned, with the inhabitants thereon be and the same hereby are incorporated into a town by the name of Dixfield.

Sec. II. And be it further enacted that the ministerial and school lands which were granted by this Commonwealth and that the aforesaid grant of land shall be divided between the said town of Dixfield and the remaining part of said tract lying westerly of said town in equal proportion, according to the quantity of land contained in said town, and the remaining tract lying westerly thereof. This Act was approved by the Governor, Caleb Strong, June 21, 1803, the day before the Act of Incorporating the town of Wilton was signed.

The first warrant for a town meeting in Dixfield was issued by William Livermore, one of the leading men of that part of Jay what afterwards became Canton. This warrant was issued, March 1, 1804, directed by Capt. John Holland*, summoning the legal voters of the town to meet at Levi Newton's dwelling-house on the 12th of the month. At the first town meeting, held in accordance with this warrant, Capt. Holland was chosen moderator of the meeting, and Capt. Amos Trask was chosen town clerk. Five selectmen were elected, viz: Lieut. Caleb Park; Capt. John Holland; Lieut. John

Stockbridge; Lieut. Solomon Leland, and Mr. Gardner Brown. Joseph Wheeler was made constable and chosen tax collector, collection to be made at 5%. At a special meeting held the following Sept., the road leading from the Jay line to "Dr. Dix's Mills" was accepted as a town road; this is now the "River road" leading to Canton village. For several years after the incorporation of this town, proper returns of the warrants for the meetings were not made or recorded, and it was discovered that all transactions of the town up to 1815 were illegal; but by special Act of Legislature, passed that year, they were rendered valid, with the records thereof.

[* The first two selectmen elected, – Lieut. Caleb Park and Capt. John Holland – were my ancestors, Caleb Park, my great Grandfather, a Revolutionary soldier, and Capt. John Holland my great Uncle, son of General Samuel Holland, who was chairman, of the Canton selectmen, as was my brother, Elliott Howe, later.
S. A. H.]

Dixfield War Record

The military record of this Town begins with the War of 1812, although a few of its pioneers were veterans of the Revolution, Col. Jonathan Holman having served as a Captain in the French and Indian wars, and as Colonel in the Revolution. In the War of the Rebellion the part taken by the citizens of this Town was a credit to the fathers of the pioneer stock and a glory to the men who so nobly went to the front to fight, and die, if need be, for the preservation of the Union.

World War Record

Lieutenant Erland C. Torrey, sheriff of Oxford County in 1926, has a varied military career. He first saw service in the Regular Army and was in Cuba three years. During the World War he was at Plattsburg and Camp Devens, in the 76th Division. As an instructor in small arms he was considered an expert.

George P. Stowell was in the 101st French Mortar Battery, starting from Lewiston with Milliken regiment. He was "over seas" 18 months.

Dr. James M. Sturtevant, now of N. Y., was in the medical branch and saw much activity during the conflict "over seas".

Among the Dixfield boys who served in the Navy during the World War, F. Burley Smith, now employed in the Maine Savings Bank, Portland, and President of the Portland Chapter, American Banking Institute (1926), enlisted in the Navy in 1915 and was Chief Yeoman on the "Battleship Thatcher", which gave service cruising among the islands in the Atlantic Ocean.

Others who served in the Navy were William Whittemore and Kenneth Hawkes. Harold Marsh, now a practicing lawyer in Washington, D. C., served his Country during the World War in the anti-aircraft Division, living "over seas" for several months.

Lyman K. Swasey Post, American Legion

The Town of Dixfield may well be proud of its military record, as it has ever rallied to the Colors when the Country needed men. Today, the Lyman K. Swasey Post, American Legion, stands in foreground for the service and valor of its members, many of whom saw overseas action. Several of them bear wounds received at St. Mehiel and other front lines. Friday, July 1, 1921, the body of Lyman K. Swasey, for whom the Post was named, was buried here with military honors. His sacrifice was made in a French hospital, in the summer of 1918, his body arriving from that country,

Thursday, June 30. Between 80 and 40 men responded from the Town when the World War call came. These, augmented by men from Peru, Carthage and Weld, increased the number to 65, or more, who are members of the Post. The present officers (1926) are: Commander Donald J. Collins; Vice Commander Wm, Eustis; Adjutant Burton Estes; Treasurer Samuel E. Knowlton; Sergeant-at-arms Elwin Woodman. The roll call as follows; Erland C. Torrey, Carl E. Towle, Elisha C. Berry, Dr. James M. Sturtevant, Leon McIntire, Leland Austin, Elwin Woodman, Ralph M. Williams, George Eastman, Leslie Gordon, Geo. P. Stowell, Carl B. Skofield, Frank Kittredge, Lester Child, Guy B. Andrews, A. Lawton Hutchinson, Lewis Wood, Cecil I. Putnam, Elmer Child, A. H. Grasse, Hillary Harlow, Maynard Harlow, Henry Barlow, Neil Harlow, Elbridge Harlow, John S. Cushman, Bruce Kittredge, Carroll Brown, Harold Hutchinson, Linwood Hutchinson, Harold V. Watson, Frank Mardin, Rodney Haynes, Walter Hodge, Skelton Dymont, Erwin Payne, Wm. Drew, Harlan Howe, Percy Welch, John Clemens, Hector Wood, Archie A. Burgess, Bernard L. Judkins, Leon Winter, Sidney Hazelton, Floyd S. Holt, Wm. Flagg, Ralph Master-man, Harold S, Staples, Celand T. Newell, Robert E. Ames, Philip Hutchinson, Harold Payne, J. Carroll Marble – Mr. Marble was in active service overseas for 18 months.

Two veterans of the Spanish War from Dixfield were Orlando Bisbee and Joseph Littlefield.

Civil War Veterans

Frank Stanley, one of the two Civil War veterans now living in Dixfield, was born May 20, 1848. He enlisted as a "Drummer Boy" at the age of 15, and served until he was mustered out of service after the surrender of General Lee. Mr. Stanley was in the 31st and 32d Maine regiments during the War. He was in a number of engagements, including Cold Harbor, North Anna River, The Wilderness, Green Oak Cemetery; and was near Petersburg during the great mine explosion. Mr. Stanley was first Commander of the L. D. Kidder Post, G. A. R., which was organized in Dixfield soon after the Civil War ended. W. W. Abbott was the last Commander before its ranks became so thinned that it was disbanded.

The other Civil War veteran now living is Edmund V. Greenlaw, who has made Dixfield his home for many years. Mr. Greenlaw enlisted from Deer Isle, and saw active service for many months, being in Company A. Mr. Greenlaw was born January 14, 1846. He spent the past winter at the Soldiers' Home, Togus.

Early Settlement

This township was granted by Massachusetts to Col. Jonathan Holman and others. Colonel Holman and two other men were here in Aug. and Sept., 1787. The distinction of being the first permanent settler in Dixfield is accorded to Col. Jonathan Holman. Ezra Noyes, with his wife and sister, spent the winter of 1783 here. They were the first White people who made their habitation in town, but they left on the return of Spring. John Marble came in during the season, with a yoke of oxen, but no permanent settlement was made until 1795, when Holman, Marble, Gardner Brown, Amos Trask, Levi Newton, David Torrey and John Gould came, accompanied by their families. They built log-houses, where they lived until they procured lumber for framed houses.

Peter, Jonathan and Ebenezer Holman were sons of Col. Jonathan Holman. These sons all came early to this township, of which their father had purchased 7 of the 60 rights, and others were in the possession of the family. These brothers built their own saw-mill, and got out the lumber for their homes. Two built large square-frame houses, with a fireplace in each room, and the other brothers the same style house, but of brick.

The two frame houses are standing today, in good condition. The brick one was burned several years ago, by lighting. It was so well built that the walls and 11 great fireplaces stood in good condition after the entire inside had burned out. Peter, settled at the Center, Jonathan made his clearing one mile to E. Dixfield; Ebenezer, a mile away toward Dixfield Village; Nathan, a nephew of the Colonel, settled early in Dixfield; Elisha, a brother of Nathan, came in 1801 and settled at Weld, Maine. Col. Jonathan's brother Daniel settled at Livermore, Maine.

For many years the Holmans were the most influential family in the township, their combined ownership of lands exceeding even that of Dr. Elijah Dix, who owned large tracts here but never lived long in town. Dr. Dix erected the first frame house at Dixfield Village, which was a portion of the building now used for a library, formerly used as a hotel known as the "National House", and in earlier years as the "Old Yellow House." Colonel Holman was a Major in the English Army during the French and Indian Wars, and a Col. of the 5th Mass. Regiment of Militia during the Revolution. His father, Solomon Holman, was a Captain during the French and Indian War. That Col. Holman and his regiment acquitted themselves bravely may be justly inferred from the fact that after the Battle of Saratoga, this regiment was designated to take possession of Ft. Edwards and to hold it until the dispersion of Burgoyne's Army, which they did.

After returning from his campaign in N. Y., which ended with the surrender of Burgoyne, though not in the regular service, he continued active in the same by raising troops from time to time, for coast alarms, forwarding supplies, and in various ways contributing to the grand result; and after the War, when Shay's rebellion rose, he promptly, of his own accord, raised a body of men and marched to Petersham, to aid in suppressing it. He happened to be in Boston on his way to Dixfield, when the news of peace arrived, 1776. An express was started to carry the news to Portland, and as the city lay on his route, he joined the express and left at the same time. He had a powerful, high-spirited horse, which he called his "War Horse." It was never broken to the harness, could be managed by no one but himself, and him only under the saddle. He did not stop to change horses, or look back, but rode straight on, arrived in Portland some time before the express, and first proclaimed to the citizens of Portland the news of peace and independence. The express was a stagecoach.

Col. Holman gave the land he owned in Township No. 1 on the north side of the Androscoggin River, now the towns of Dixfield and Mexico, formerly called Holman town, to these 3 sons, Peter, Jonathan and Ebenezer. The first Holman reunion, which has become an annual event, was held in the Town House at Dixfield center, Thursday, Aug. 15, 1901. About 260 were present, most of them descendants of these three brothers who were sons of Col. Jonathan Holman, and Hannah Sibley, his wife.

From Pilgrim days of our Country's birth, stalwart and honorable men by the name of Holman have cast their lives and energies into the fabric of this great Republic. Ex-President Wm. Howard Taft came of this family, through his most noble and gracious mother. Among the noted characters of this family, and a life-long resident of Dixfield, was that of Col. John Jacob Holman, son of Peter and Mercy (Knight) Holman, born in Dixfield, June 25, 1801; died, July 23, 1889. He married, July 4, 1836, Nancy Barber Newton, daughter of Jacob and Fannie M. (Park) Newton, who was born Jan. 13, 1816, and died Mar. 11, 1897. Col. Holman was named for his uncle, John Jacobs, of Millbury, Mass. He was a prominent figure in this locality for many years, always taking an active part in affairs of town and State. For years he was Town Clerk and first selectman. He served many times as Representative to the Legislature, and several times in the Senate. Two children were born of this union, only one of whom is living at this date (March 1926), the youngest son, Eugene Holman, who

was born Dec. 23, 1855 and is living near the location of his early ancestors. There are many descendants of the sixth and seventh generations of Dixfield's early pioneers scattered throughout this and other States. The two oldest in this locality now living are Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Foster, born Sept. 21, 1839, widow of the late Dr. Victor M, Abbott of Mexico; and her sister, Mrs. Margaret A. Waite widow of the late Wm. W. Waite, of Dixfield.

John Stockbridge was one of the first to build his cabin in the town. He lived on the Plains north of the Village, was a selectman and one of the leading spirits for several years, before removing to Byron, where he settled what became known as "Stockbridge Hill." His son Wm. erected the second framed house in Dixfield Village. The Severys were among the first to settle at E. Dixfield and vicinity. Warren Severy has said that his father, Archibald Severy, felled the first trees that were cut on Severy Hill, within a mile and a half of E. Dixfield Village.

The earliest comers generally settled the hills and ridges for their first clearings. Warren Severy, the last of his generation of Severys, died on Apr. 10, 1908, at the age of 80 years. His grandfather, Jacob Severy, was a soldier in Washington's Army, enlisting from Sutton, Mass. Four of his sons, Aaron, Archibald and Samuel, settled in Dixfield in 1795, and a daughter, Ruth, who came with the boys, married Henry King, from which union came the Severy Hill Kings. A unique way of sending dunning letters, by Mr. Asa Severy, who was a business man in his day, is often told by friends of the family, as follows: "Money for me, Or writ for thee. Asa Save-er-y."

[Page 6, 2d paragraph, contains a reference to my father and mother, who moved here from Canton, 7 miles below here, my birthplace, in 1892. If you wish, the following can be added in regard to them: John Ward Howe was 9th in line from John Howe who came from England to Watertown, Mass., in 1639. The Wayside Inn Howe family were relatives, Clara C. (Marsh) Howe, wife of John Ward Howe, was the daughter of Caleb Marsh, born in Dixfield, and great-granddaughter of Caleb Park (Lieut.), also of Capt. John Holland, who were respectively the 1st and 2d selectmen of the first Dixfield Board of Selectmen John Ward Howe's grandfather, Gen'l Samuel Holland, was chairman of the Canton Board of selectmen, of which John Ward Howe's son (Elliott Ward) was a later chairman. Children of John Ward Howe and Clara (Marsh) Howe were: Elliott Ward; Sybil, Cora, Carroll, and Abbie. Elliott, who passed away at Rumford in 1922, was in the furniture and undertaking business at Rumford many years, later holding a position with the Oxford Paper Co., where he hired all of the help, He had formerly served in the Legislature. He married Mary Wright of Canton. Carroll was in the grain business in Dixfield, also coal and wood. He married Grace Colcord, a lineal descendant of John Carver of the Mayflower. Children: Harlan Colcord and Ada Carver. Harlan married Mary Harvey of Springfield, and is associated with Fillmore Farms at Bennington, Vt. Their children are Grace, Jacqueline and Richard Ward. Ada married Roland Winters and they reside in New York. Cora Howe is living at the Howe homestead on Weld Street. Abbie married George C. Gray of Portland, who died in 1918. Children: Henry, Robert and Clare, the latter married to Thomas L. Maynard and living at Middleboro, Mass. Abbie Gray and her two sons have been living in Portland several winters, spending the summers at their Weld summer home. They still own their home here on Weld Street. Sybil Howe, who formerly lived at Portland and Augusta, is at present living in Dixfield.

[NOTE: The above is a long "spiel" about nothing, but perhaps you may like to use some of it. It will be all right, though, so far as I am concerned, or the others, I'm sure, if none of it is included. S. A. H.]

Lieut. Solomon Leland was one of the early settlers at E. Dixfield. He was for several years town selectman, and was sent to Portland as a delegate to help form the Constitution for the new State, in 1819. Isaac Park, father of the late Henry Park and grandfather of Albert D. Park, Register of Probate, So. Paris, settled on Severy Hill, but in 1834 he "moved to Dixfield Village." Moses Park located near the center of the Town. He was an early mill man and lived for a few years in the Village. Lieut. Caleb Park was another early settler here. Wm. Eddy settled on Severy Hill, near the Leland settlement, General Samuel Holland settled on the River road, 3 miles toward Canton Village, on the farm known as the Robert Reed place, now occupied by Mrs. Reed and her son Milford. General Holland served as town clerk for many years, also had been chairman of the Canton Selectmen. He was grandfather of the late J. M. Holland, who moved from Canton to Dixfield in 1888 and died at the Rumford Hospital on March 14, 1924. General Holland was also grandfather of the late John Ward Howe (husband of Clara C. Marsh), who moved from Canton to Dixfield in 1892 and died here in 1904. Capt. Amos Trask settled the Frank White place. He operated the "Old Yellow House" as a tavern for several years. Daniel Torrey settled on the River road, two miles below general Holland's; Antipas Holland lived on the same farm as General Holland. Simeon Newton lived 4 miles from the Village, on the Newton Brook meadow. Levi and Jacob Newton both lived near the center of the town. Joseph Mitchell's home was two miles north of the Village, on the Weld road. Asa Axtel, who was an important man in the early town, settled near the Jay (now Canton) line. The Howards lived 4 miles below the Village. Joseph Wheeler settled at the lower end of the Village, on the site now occupied by Wm. Paul. Mr. Wheeler was an early constable and Trial Justice. The following are names of men who were among the early settlers, and to whom is due the credit of helping to establish and form a flourishing township in the midst of the wilds of Maine during the days when this locality was only approachable by water or by spotted lines through an unbroken forest, and when the hardships of pioneer life were borne with patience and fortitude, by the noble men and women who have labored that the succeeding generations might inherit homes and liberties in a free land: Oliver Putnam, Jonathan Morse, John Gould, Aaron Barton, Andrew Elliott, Elijah Daisy, John Marble, John Moore, Wm. Waite, Israel Richmond, Esq. Holmes, Bartholomew Hutchinson, Job Hathaway and Elisha Park were doubtless the first mill owners. Silas Leonard, Chas. L. Eustis and Samuel Parks were other early mill men. Col. Samuel Morrill opened the first tavern, in 1827. Gen. Henry Farwell was the first lawyer, and Drs. Chaplin and White the first practicing physicians located in town. Hezediah Taylor, who came from H. H. when a young man, settled at the Village. He and Sylvanus Eaton were among the early carpenters, and built many of the first houses in Dixfield Village* Two sons of the late Hezediah and Belinda (Hutchison) Taylor are now living in the Village. Eugene F. and Zenas W. Taylor, also a grandson, Erwin L., son of the late Daniel G. and Addie (Lovejoy) Taylor. Charles Eaton, a son of the late Sylvanus Eaton, is now living at Berry Mills.

The Waites formed a prominent part in the early history of Dixfield, and descendants of the early settlers have held responsible positions throughout the succeeding years, in town, county and state. Isaac Waite came from Sutton, Mass., in 1804, and settled at center of town, clearing the farm now occupied by Alphonso and Bertha (Waite) Whitman. Mr. Waite married Sally Goodnow, Oct. 1, 1818. Children: George, Eleanor, Elvira, Warren, Granville, Lorenzo, Parazina, Emerson. The youngest son, Emerson Waite, held many responsible positions in town. He acted as Town Clerk for 22 years in succession. Wm. W. Waite, son of Tyler Waite, was a successful lumber merchant. He was two terms in the House of Representatives, and 3 terms in the State Senate. Willis W. Waite, son of Lorenzo and Sarah (Newman) Waite, now living at the Wm. Abbott place on Abbott Hill, has been one of the Board of Selectmen for 20 years, holding the office of chairman for several years in succession. He is now (Apr., 1926) a candidate for County commissioner. His wife is Nellie (Abbott), daughter of Wm. and Lucinda (Doble) Abbott. Isaac, Tyler, Aaron and, Sylvester Waite

were sons of Wm. Wallace Waite, who came from Sutton, Mass. Aaron Waite married Charlotte Chesley. Children, 1) Arvilla, who married Luther H. Ludden, one of the early and influential lawyers of Dixfield. A daughter survives, Miss Verdurina Ludden, who is the present Treasurer of Dixfield, which position she has held for several years. 2) Charlotte Waite married Henry Abbott and settled in Rumford. 3) Catherine married Warren Severy of Severy Hill. 4) Byron Waite married Louise Treat and settled in Canton. 5) Charles Waite married Rosamond Holman, who remained residents of Dixfield for many years. 6) A son, Alvah Waite, married Esther H. Ellis and now resides at No. Jay. [Alvah Waite recently died, 1939]. A daughter of Chas. Waite, Minnie, married Philip E. Nickerson, and with her family resides in Canada. Wm. W. Waite, Jr., son of Wm. and Margaret (Foster) Waite, resides in Portland; his wife, Winifred (Bridden). Leroy L. Waite, youngest son of Lorenzo and Sarah (Newman) Waite, with his family resides at Livermore Palls. Harvey Waite, son of Harvey Waite, Sr., married Lucy Eustis, a sister of John Eustis, among the early settlers.

The Barnard family and their descendants have been prominent throughout Dixfield's history. Wm. and Stephen Barnard (son of Joel, the son of Capt. Barnard) came from Marlboro, Mass. to Maine. Wm. located in Dixfield in 1805; Stephen located in Mexico a little later. Wm. worked in a saw-mill erected by Dr. Dix. He was drowned in the rapids below Canton Point, while running a raft down River, in 1813. Wm. married Annie Wheeler. The fruits of the marriage were 6 children, all born in Marlboro, viz: Joel, Eliza, Simon, Nancy, Silas, and Harriet. Silas followed his father to Dixfield, in 1805, and found his first employment in cutting down the pine trees which grew on the land where the village is now located, and in sawing them into material for the use of the pioneer settlers of the village. Major Silas Barnard was a conspicuous figure for many years. He cast an electoral vote for Jackson, in 1832; was for several terms in the Legislature of Maine as Representative; was a State Senator in 1842; a member of the Board of County Commissioners of Oxford Co, in 1857; and filled many other offices of public trust. He surveyed land for the U. S. and for the State of Maine; was frequently engaged in surveying lands for lumber companies and for private individuals. He led a busy life and performed valuable services. In later years he was at home the greater part of the time, and had to a great extent outgrown a habit of "absent-mindedness" over which his neighbors as well as he had many a hearty laugh. He was heard to remark many times that he had left clothing enough in the wilds of eastern Maine, when surveying, to clothe all Dixfield Village a full year. The story was often told of him, that one evening he took his horse to his brother-in-law Carpenter's, in Mexico, hitched the horse in the shed there, remained through the evening, and returned home on foot, not thinking of the horse until feeding time the next morning.

Silas Barnard was born, Sept. 16, 1795, came to Dixfield and married Lucy Trask, May 8, 1819; died, March 21, 1873. His wife, Lucy Trask Barnard, born Dec. 16, 1800, died Sept. 5, 1896. Children of the marriage were: Mahala, who married Wm. H. Wheeler of Rumford; Albion K., who was a minister and a practicing physician; Lucy A, married Geo. Dillingham; Geo, M., who went to California in early manhood, then later to Montana; Delphine, born June 5, 1835, married Daniel Root, April 9, 1855. One son, Albert B. Root, born June 15, 1858, married Miss Nellie Leach. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Root were located in Boston for several years where Mr. Root was engaged in a large horse-shoeing establishment. He was also a cabinet-maker and upholsterer, which business he is conducting since coming to Dixfield, in 1924. Mr. Root has remodeled and added modern improvements to the old homestead of his grandfather, Silas Barnard, where he and his wife now reside with his aunt, Mrs. Emily Knight. The youngest of the Barnard family, Mrs. Knight is widow of the late Edwin K. Knight, who with his father was engaged in the stove and tinware business for many years in Dixfield.

Harriet, daughter of William and Anna (Wheeler) Barnard, married Baldwin Marble, who owned the farm on the River road, later occupied by his two sons, Dinsmore and Denison, followed by William S., son of Denison, and now by William's daughter, Marian (Marble) Holman, and family.

Sebastian Marble, son of Ephraim and Hannah Marble, was a Dixfield boy, and was Acting Governor of Maine at time of Gov. Joseph R. Bodwell's death in 1887.

Amos Trask and his wife, Lucy Park Trask, came from Button, Mass., and are considered the pioneers of Dixfield Village. They lived in what was known for years as the "Old Yellow House," where later the National House stood, and now the Harlow building containing the library, club rooms, dentist's office, and dwelling apartments. There were 6 children, who all married and settled in homes of their own in the village. Lucina married, 1st, Dr. Joseph White; 2d, Philip Abbott. First children (White) Rosella, Amos, Hiram, Melissa, Augustus. Second children (Abbott) Chandler, Augustine, Joseph, Susan.

Lucy Trask married Silas Barnard; names of children given in previous notes of Barnard family.

Louisa Trask married Charles T. Chase, who at one time owned all the land on East side of Weld St., and where the two spool mills now stand; also where Third Street is laid out, and residences on either side. Their children were: Scott, DeWitt, and Charles. The descendants now living are 2 sons of Scott and Viola (Austin) Chase; Wilder K. Chase, who lives at the old Chase homestead. His wife was Clara Hooper of Portland. They have one daughter, Mrs. Annie Chase Woodward of Birmingham, Alabama. Fred S. Chase, brother of Wilder, married Lena Lane. They have one son living in the Village, Walter Chase, who has one son, Conrad Chase.

Peter Trask married, first, Betsey Pitts; second, Betsey Rolfe. First children: Amos, Oscar, Henry, Albert, Hiram; Second children, Louisa, John. of this number is now living, John R. Trask, a lawyer, who resides at the Trask Homestead, where his father and grandfather once resided. Bessie Trask Home, a daughter of Oscar and Jane (Edmunds) Trask, lives just across Webb River from Dixfield, on the Oscar Trask farm. Another daughter of Oscar (Hattie Trask Hall) lives in Cleveland, Ohio. A son, Wade Trask, lives at Mechanic Falls.

Anna Trask, the fifth child of Amos & Lucy Park Trask, married John M. Eustis, who was a noted figure in the early days of Dixfield Village. There were 10 children: Sarah, Isabella, Mason, Wallace, George, Albert, Susan, William S., Humphrey and Mary. Sarah married Wallace Eustis and lived in the Village for many years. Mason married Christine Glynn. Wallace married Mandana Griffeth and lived at Colebrook, N. H. until late in life, when they returned to Dixfield and spent the remainder of their lives in the Hiram Cox house so called, on Upper Main Street.

[NOTE:

The reference to the National House (hotel) seems misleading, indicating that the present building on that site replaced it, whereas it is really the same building. S. A. H.]

Albert Eustis married Evelena Knight, and in early life went to Cambridge, Mass, where he amassed a large fortune in the starch industry, owning and controlling several large factories. Humphrey Eustis married Julia Wilson and lived in the West. Mary Eustis, the youngest daughter, married Charles Greenleaf, and is the only one living of the large family. She has a home here in the Village.

William T. Eustis, familiarly known as "Colonel", married Elizabeth Stowell, and resided in the Village the latter part of his life. Colonel Eustis was a familiar figure on the streets of Dixfield for many years. He was a remarkable man, one of keen intellect, a very able speaker and well known throughout the State. He held many responsible positions in town, county and State. Was born at Rumford, August 19, 1837; was an ardent worker in the temperance movement in the 70's; candidate for Governor of Maine at that time. He was a commissioned adjutant officer for over a year and that of colonel for over 2 years, by which title he was known and recognized by his many friends. Colonel Eustis was elected 1st president of the 5th Mass. Regiment Veterans Association, which was organized in 1872, and while his health permitted was faithful in attendance at each annual gathering. Mr. Eustis died, Aug. 14, 1925.

He was survived by his widow and five children. The oldest son, William, enlisted October 1916, in the U. S. Marines, and was at the officers training station at Quantico, Virginia until he was sent to France, where he served during the World War, The 2d son, Albert Mason, enlisted, February 22, 1918, in the Quartermasters' Corps as stenographer for the 19th Field Artillery. He was stationed at Waco, Texas for a long time before going overseas where he served until the close of the World War. He held a government position for two years at in Guatemala City, South America and two years in New York City before going to Mexico City, Mexico, where he with his family and youngest brother, Stowell Eustis, reside. Two daughters of Colonel and Mrs. Eustis, Miss Ann Eustis and Mrs. Wilfred Kimball, reside at the Colonel Eustis homestead.

Susan Trask, daughter of Amos and Lucy (Park) Trask, married Newton Stanley, from which union sprang the Stanleys, Harlows and Stowells of this town. The oldest son, Henry, married first, Helen Sawtelle; second, Mary Bennett. Two children of this union are living, George Stanley, Dixfield, and Mrs. Nellie Kimball, Dorchester, Massachusetts.

Rosella Stanley married Elbridge Gerry Harlow; eight children: John S., who died June 7, 1924. He was a lawyer, and held many responsible positions in town, county and State. He is survived by his widow (Agnes Doe Harlow), who resides in Boston; a son, Dr. John S. Harlow; a daughter, Marion Harlow, also of Boston; a daughter, Mrs. Carroll Marble, Dixfield. Mrs. George Atwood of South Paris is the oldest daughter of Elbridge and Rosella (Stanley) Harlow. Frank S. Harlow of Cambridge, Mass., Miss Ione Harlow, Mrs. Gertrude Owen, Dixfield, and Mrs. Grace Thayer, Cambridge, are the remaining children now living.

John Stanley married Rachel Berry, and was superintendent of the Fish Hatchery in Auburn for many years. Louise Stanley married first, Ezra Barden; second George D. Bisbee. Mrs. Bisbee has a summer home in Dixfield, and winters she, in company with her daughter, Mrs. Mary Josselyn, goes south.

Frank Stanley, a Civil War veteran, enlisted at the age of 17 as a drummer boy, and served in the War until its close. He, with his sister, Mrs. Bisbee, above mentioned, is the only two surviving children of Newton and Susan (Trask) Stanley.

Mr. Stanley has held important positions in town, and served two terms as representative in the Legislature. He was one of the owners in the first spool mill built in town, and built several dwelling houses in the Village. He has a summer home in the Village, and for several years has spent winters in Florida. His wife, Mary (Reynolds) Stanley, is living, also a daughter, Susie (Mrs. Willis Bailey), who resides in the Village.

Sophronia Stanley, second child of Newton and Susan (Trask) Stanley, Carried Porter Stowell, a lawyer, and resided in Canton for several years before coming to Dixfield. Their children were Herbert, Mary, Newton, Edith, Elizabeth. Herbert Stowell married Josephine Carver; Mary married Frank Dexter; Newton married, first, Edith A. Gates; second, Ruth Austin; Edith married Will Edwards; Elizabeth married Col. Wm. T. Eustis. Newton S. Stowell is the leading business man of the town. He is a prosperous mill-owner, conducting several spool and lumber mills in this and Franklin County. Four of his children are married and reside in the Village. The two older ones, Arthur N. and George P., are members of the N. S. Stowell Co. and are interested in the mill business with their father. Two daughters are Mrs. Charles M. Russell and Mrs. Thomas P. Holt. The youngest son, Kirk Stowell, who graduated in the branch of Forestry at University of Maine in 1924, is employed at the Andover spool mill.

Mrs. [Mary] Dexter and Mrs. [Lizzie] Eustis (sisters of N. S. Stowell) reside in the Village. There are many descendants of this pioneer Trask family scattered throughout this and other States, filling many important posts, characterized by that early type of manhood and womanhood.

Marsh

Asenath, daughter of Caleb and Ruth (Woodward) Park, married David Marsh, and they were the parents and grandparents of large families. Among the children and their descendants were many well known citizens of Dixfield and other places. One of the sons of David and Asenath (Park) Marsh was Munroe Marsh of Cleveland, Ohio, who amassed a large property in the chemical business which, as he had no children, went in part to his brothers and sisters, some of whom, at the time of his death, were residing in Dixfield. Descendants of this family now residents in town are: Mrs. Matilda Marsh, widow of Albion Marsh, who was a brother of Munroe.

[NOTE: Aunt Till (Matilda Marsh) was not a descendant of Uncle Munroe Marsh. She was the third wife of his brother, Albion, but certainly could not be termed properly a descendant of the Marsh family. My mother (Clara Marsh Howe), was a niece of Munroe and Albion Marsh; her father (Caleb Marsh) having been a brother to them who died in 1859. S. A. H.]

Two nieces and two nephews, with their families, are prominent, among the village citizens: Chestina Marsh Gilkey, widow of Rev. Ransom E. Gilkey and Lutie M., wife of Guy O. Gardner, Dixfield's druggist, and Norman A., painter, Harry B., undertaker and funeral director. Annette, daughter of Harry B. and Bessie (Thompson) Marsh, a graduate nurse of Saranac Hospital, New York. Their son, Jno. A., is a student at Colby College (1926).

[NOTE: I think it might be interesting to have a sketch of Uncle Munroe and Uncle Ellis Newman (my great-uncle, but Fred Weld's own uncle), who started out at about 21 years of age, with only about a dollar apiece, I believe, and an ax, to make their fortunes. Fred Weld could and would write it. S. A. H.]

Brackett

Seth, the eighth son of Maj. Wm. Brackett, was born in 1810; died in 1875; married Nancy Starbird. Four children: Elmira, Dwinal, Leonard and Henry Willis all settled in Dixfield. Survivors of their families living in Dixfield are: Herbert, son of Dwinal; George, son of Leonard, and Klaus K., son of H. Willis.

Babb

Moses and John Babb, twin brothers, were sons of Moses and Clara (Brown) Babb, who were early settlers in town. These twin brothers married sisters, Louisa and Ada Jones. Children of Moses and Louisa Babb were: Diantha, William, Louisa, Ira Orlando. The last of this family, Ira Orlando, died on April 5, 1926, at the age of 76. Two sons survive, Wm. O. Babb, a spool maker, and Jno. A. Babb, the present postmaster of Dixfield (1926). Children of Jno. and Ada (Jones) Babb were: Marian, Lizzie, Monsello, Dora and Dunarvan. Three are now living; Lizzie married Jesse Jeffrey and lives at Monmouth. Monsello lives at Rumford. Dora married Eugene F. Taylor, and they are residents of Dixfield. They have one daughter, Miss Leona Taylor, a teacher in Greenwich, Conn.

Kidder

Jacob and Esther (Waite) Kidder, both born in Mass., came early to Dixfield and settled near the center of the Town. Jacob died February 18, 1817. There were 10 children: Fannie, Lydia, Dana, Jacob, John, Estiza, Leonard, Sylvester, Augustus, and Tyler. Many descendants of these several families are scattered throughout the State. Jacob married Sabrina Davis and settled near the Kidder homestead at the Center. Estiza married Fairbanks Newton and settled a mile from the old home. Tyler, the youngest, was born on April 4, 1817, and died on April 24, 1900; married first, Louise Marrow, daughter of Jno. B. and Lydia (Lambert) Marrow, who was the Proprietor of the Androscoggin House at the Village for many years. Mr. Kidder moved into the "Kidder" house, so called, on Main Street in 1856. This house remained in the Kidder family until January 26, 1925 when it was sold to Arthur Frost and Jno. M. Steele. This house was built by Lyman Eustis near 1825 and was considered at that time one of the best in the Village. Two sons of Tyler Kidder survive: Wm. M., an influential townsman, has served on the board of selectmen for several terms, also has held other responsible town offices; was a representative to the Legislature for two terms. He has a daughter and son who reside at Rumford: Archie P. Kidder and Mrs. C. E. Britton. Dewitt C. Kidder, the youngest son of Tyler and Louise (Marrow) Kidder, is a successful farmer in Holmquist, South Dakota, owning large tracts of land and doing an extensive business in agricultural pursuits. He has 7 children living in the West. Ralph Kidder, the oldest son of Tyler Kidder, lived at Hale and died in 1924. He is survived by four children: Louise, wife of Jno. Cripps, at Bemis; John Kidder at Weld, Delia, wife of Winfield Heald, at Oquossoc; and Wirt Kidder at Hale. Tyler Kidder's second wife was Melissa (Jackson) Brackett, who died at West Peru, August 25, 1924, aged 86 years and four months. The other children of Jacob and Esther (Waite) Kidder married as follows: Fannie married Jesse Potter; Lydia married Abram Howland; Dana married Tamer White; Jno. married Sarah G. Ferris; Leonard married Maria Sutherland; Sylvester married Ruth Hutchinson, Augustus married Jane Townsend. There are several grand-children and great-grandchildren of these early settlers now located at Rumford, Mexico, Peru and other towns throughout this and other States.

Dillingham

Meletiah and Elizabeth (Chandler) Dillingham came from Freeport in the early days of Dixfield and settled on the farm occupied in recent years by Harrison White, on Torrey Hill, now owned by his daughter and husband, Clarence and Florence (White) Danforth. It is said that Mr. Dillingham came inland so that his sons would not create a desire to be seafaring men. Enos, son of Meletiah and Elizabeth Dillingham, lived for several years on the farm owned by his father. Later he moved to Mexico, on what is known as Leavitt Hill. Enos married Clarissa Virgin, first wife; nine children of this union: second wife – Elizabeth Benjamin. Children: Charles Lee Dillingham and Adelle (Dillingham) Leavitt. Both are residents of Dixfield. C.L. Dillingham was Dixfield's hardware dealer for several years. His wife was Sybil Gates, daughter of the late George G. and Daty (Cole) Gates. Mrs. Dillingham's death occurred in 1917. One daughter, Daty (Dillingham) Torrey, is the

wife of Sheriff Erland F. Torrey, and resides at South Paris (1926). Two children: Frances and Rupert Torrey.

Edmunds

Eli Edmunds, son of Benjamin and Alice (Porter) Edmunds, was one of the first blacksmiths of Dixfield. He was first in business with Amos Gardner, a cabinet-maker and an ax-maker. The firm was Gardner & Edmunds. Their shop was located just across Webb River, on the site of the Forster Toothpick mill (later removed to Oakland). Mr. Edmunds married Harriet Stockbridge, daughter of William and Sarah (Eustis) Stockbridge, who lived in the Levi Abbott house so called, now owned and occupied by Charles Brown and family, on upper Weld Street. There were two sons and five daughters in this Stockbridge family: Joseph, Granville, Harriet, Amarilla, Hannah, Mary Jane and Azuba. Harriett married Eli Edmunds, Amarilla married Nathaniel Mayberry; Hannah married John Whitten; Mary Jane married Mr. Bacon, and Azuba married Amos W. Griffeth. There were six children in the Eli Edmunds family: Monticello, Joseph, Sarah, Jane, Abbie, and Lucy. Two are now living (1926): Joseph P., who was the village blacksmith for over 50 years, following the business of his father and working in the same shop which was built by Eli Edmunds about 80 years ago. This shop was sold to Ralph Walton in 1919 and remodeled into a garage, now owned by K. K. Brackett. It is situated on Main Street, near the Congregational chapel. Joseph P. Edmunds was born December 1, 1844, and is the present tax collector of Dixfield, an office he has held for 20 years in succession. His wife, Emma (Brown) Edmunds, died in 1901. Two daughters now living: Mrs. Edna Edmunds Rowe, who, with her husband resides with her Father at his home on upper Main Street; Miss Ina Edmunds is a teacher of health education in Detroit, Michigan.

Frank Carlos Griffith, son of Amos and Azuba (Stockbridge) Griffith, has been a noted theatrical manager for years. Mr. Griffith is now librarian at Poland Spring Hotel. Mrs. A. R. Brown (nee Lucy Edmunds) resides in Roxbury, Massachusetts. Mr. Joseph P. Edmunds' Grandfather, William Stockbridge, son of John Stockbridge, built the second frame house in Dixfield Village, which is now used as a garage by Dr. W. M. Pease. He was born in 1789, died in 1847; was familiarly known as "Judge" Stockbridge.

Alexis Burnham was one of the first cabinet and casket makers. He was located on Weld Street. His house, now owned by Norman Marsh, has been remodeled into a comfortable and modern residence. The Burnham shop is also owned by Mr. Marsh, the lower part used for a paint shop, the upper part rented by the Dixfield Band.

White

Darius White, born September 20, 1782, died December 22, 1854. Elizabeth (Brown) White, born January 19, 1876. They were parents of Caroline, Rosaline, Harrison, Jefferson, Ira, and Samuel. Two daughters of Harrison and Cyrene (Berry) White are the only living children in the locality to represent that large family. Mrs. Matilda White Kidder of Peru and Florence White Danforth of this town. James White and Hannah (Richmond) White were the grandparents of Dr. V. O. White, now located at East Dixfield. Mrs. Augusta White, who lives near the Jeff White bridge on the Mexico side, is the widow of Thaddeus White, who was a son of Jefferson and Eliza (Mitchell) White. Henry White, born September 10, 1844, was Dixfield's sexton for over 40 years. He was the son of Jefferson and Eliza (Mitchell) White, early settlers.

Gould

Enos and Elias Gould, sons of Robert and Louis Gould, were among the early settlers in town. Enos

married Mary A. McIntire. Children: Winnie A., wife of Will S. Holman, Dixfield's rural mail carrier; Lula A., wife of George Chase, Dixfield Center; Charles S., who lives at Wilton. Elias Gould married Clara A. Holman. Children: Everett F., of Portland; Orman O., who resides in the Village and is a successful grocer, continuing the business his father started in 1890 on Main Street.

Gates

George Goodnough Gates, born in Plainfield, New Hampshire, February 6, 1831, died at Dixfield, April 1, 1926. Mr. Gates was the oldest person in Dixfield at the time of his death and held the gold-headed (Post) cane for several years. He moved to Dixfield from Milan, New Hampshire, July 10, 1872. His first wife was Dady Cole of Milan, New Hampshire. One daughter, Sybil, who married C. L. Dillingham. Mr. Gates' second wife was Dorcas Evans of Milan, New Hampshire. Children: Edith A. Gates, who married Newton S. Stowell; Don A. Gates, who married Alice V. Davis, Ethel C. who married Fred H. Keene. These families are now residents of Dixfield Village.

Newton

Simeon and Polly (Fairbanks) Newton came from Sutton, Massachusetts and settled at the Newton Brook meadow. One of their sons, Jno. Burley Newton, married Sarah B. Thomas and resided on his father's farm. Three children of this union: Mary Ella, who married, first, Jno. T. Kidder, son of Tyler and Louisa (Marrow) Kidder; second, James P. Johnston, Dixfield's druggist for many years; Daniel P. Newton, who married Flora A. Turner. Four children: Floyd A., Mexico; Lacy A., Waltham, Mass., Elsie M. Newton, Dixfield, Mertie P. McIntire, Weld.

Matilda A. Newton, daughter of J. B. and Sarah (Thomas) Newton, married Albion P. Marsh.

[Written in 1926 by Ada Murch Smith, assisted at some point by Sybil A. Howe. Further revisions appear to have been made in 1939 or later. Some minor changes have been made from the original, namely spelling out some names, and expanding abbreviations into complete words. Typed from an original copy on October 30, 2007 by Peter R. Stowell. Editorial comments added by S.A.H. are in brackets and are clearly identified. Other additions in [] were added by PRS.]