Dixfield's Henry O. Stanley, a Pioneer Conservation Leader

Nancy Drew McReynolds

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mainehistory

Part of the History Commons

Repository Citation

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine History Documents by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.librarytechnical.services@maine.edu.
Dixfield’s Henry O. Stanley ~
A Pioneer Conservation Leader

By Nancy Drew McReynolds
Bellevue, Washington
(Great Granddaughter of Henry O. Stanley)

Dixfield native Henry Orville Stanley, better known as “Henry O.,” was widely known throughout Maine and New England as a leader in the early struggles to better protect fisheries and wildlife. Despite the many controversies and political fights involved in creating and enforcing some of the first laws to conserve fish and game in the nation, Henry O. was re-appointed to serve as one of Maine’s two Commissioner of Fisheries and Game eleven times, serving 32 years from 1872 to 1904, initially appointed by Oxford County’s own Governor Sidney Perham from Woodstock. Today, unfortunately, few remember the man or his pioneering efforts, and it is my hope that this article will help to stir people to learn more about this early citizen of Dixfield.

Mr. Stanley was born in Dixfield on March 22, 1829. He was the oldest of seven children born to Isaac Newton Stanley (1804-1881) and Susan Trask (1809-1901). His interest in wildlife, particularly fishing, began at an early age. When he was twelve years old he accompanied his father for the first time on a fishing expedition to the Rangeley Lakes, a long and arduous trip from Dixfield in those days. There they caught numerous brook trout weighing five pounds each (exceptional by today’s standards) that were salted and packed in barrels for use during Maine’s long winters. Henry also enjoyed hunting and as a teenager shot the now extinct passenger pigeon.

On October 28, 1852, when 23 years old, Henry O. left Dixfield to seek his fortune in the California Gold Rush. According to his diary, he traveled by steamer in steerage class from New York south along the east coast. He describes his living conditions as “hardly fit for hogs. The air is damp, the births dirty and lousy.” He crossed the Isthmus of Panama on foot, opting to sell his reservation on a mule for $4. He then boarded another steamer which took him to San Francisco. He purchased a claim somewhere near Stockton, California. It doesn’t appear that his search for gold was particularly successful. He arrived back in New York nearly two years later on August 7, 1854.
Mr. Stanley’s first marriage was to Hellen Randall (1832-1861). There is little known of this marriage and no record of any children. On January 6, 1864, he married Mary Elizabeth Bennett of Gorham, New Hampshire. The story told is that Miss Bennett rode from Gorham to Boston and return on horse-back to purchase her wedding dress. Mary died in a Portland, Maine, hospital in 1881 at the age of thirty-nine. Henry did not marry again.

The wife of Henry O. Stanley, Esq., of Dixfield, one of the State Commissioners, died very suddenly of neuralgia of the heart on Friday, at the Maine General Hospital at Portland, where she had gone to have a tumor removed. Mr. Stanley had left her only the day before in her usual health, and was at Wiscasset attending to the duties of his position. Mrs. S. was an excellent woman, and her death is mourned by a large circle of relatives and friends. The Funeral took place on Sunday at Dixfield – Rev. Mr. Munson of Canton officiating. (From an unidentified newspaper, August 1881)

Mary Bennett Stanley, second wife of Henry O. Stanley of Dixfield, mother of George Page Stanley and Nellie Louise Stanley. — Photo courtesy of Nancy D. McReynolds

Henry O. Stanley and Mary Bennett had two children: Nellie Louise (1865 - 1953) and George Page (1869 - 1955). Nellie married Reuben H. Kimball and resided in Newtonville, Massachusetts. George married Netta Louise Marsh and remained in Dixfield. He was named for his Mr. Stanley’s cousin, George Shepard Page, an industrialist and conservationist who lived in Stanley, New Jersey. He was the son of Henry’s aunt Lydia, renamed Margaret Ann Page following her adoption by Samuel Page, Sr., of Readfield.

For many years, Stanley owned and operated the H. O. Stanley General Store on Weld Street in Dixfield. It is not known exactly when the store opened or when it went out of business but an 1866 letter-head reads:

Previously he had operated a general store with his first cousin Charles Wallace Eustis, who built the house that Dr. Dexter Elsemore bought from the Eustises in the 1940s. This partnership seems to have dissolved after 1858 as an H. F. Walling map of Dixfield village shows them on Main Street. The Dixfield Historical Society displays the pair’s Eustis & Stanley store sign with “Eustis &” painted over with “Henry O.” Mr. Stanley also built two grist mills, but few details have been uncovered about these businesses. However, we believe that he sold one of them to Albion Marsh, although the Stanleys continued to operate them. He may have retained one of them as his nephew Newton Stanley Stowell.
operated a grist mill around 1880 while he boarded with Henry O. Stanley.

In 1872, Henry O. Stanley and Elias M. Stilwell were named as Fisheries Commissioners for the State of Maine. While both men had the same title, in practice Stanley focused on issues dealing with freshwater fishes whereas Stilwell concentrated on matters dealing with game birds and mammals. Throughout his long public career, Stanley enjoyed wide public support. For example, a newspaper article published in 1888 stated that: “We know of no one in the United States better fitted for the position than he; a man of sterling character; rich in piscatorial wisdom, and with a fund of practical information rarely possessed by commissioners. He is eminently a fit person to conserve the great interest of fish and game, which is so important to the State of Maine. We congratulate Mr. Stanley, but still more do our congratulations go out to the citizens of Maine for this reappointment.”

Stanley was so esteemed by his colleagues that Federal fisheries biologist, William Converse Kendall, named a whitefish after Stanley, giving what was then thought to be a new species the scientific name, Coregonus Stanleyi. While this species is no longer recognized by science, it’s clear that many of his contemporaries thought highly of Mr. Stanley’s conservation work.

To supplement his meager compensation as Commissioner, Mr. Stanley started a business manufacturing fishing lures and flies. In 1898 son George joined the business, becoming known simply as “H. O. Stanley & Son, Dixfield, Maine.” After Henry’s death in 1913, his brother Frank ran the business for a few years before selling it. At one time this business employed up to a dozen women. Stanley obtained a number of patents for his products, and pioneered the use of aluminum in fishing lures. Although he designed and manufactured many spinners and lures that were extremely popular, the most famous being the “Rangeley Spinner” and the “Stanley smelt,” both
of which are today coveted by fishing tackle collectors. One of his business cards sold a year or so ago for over $150 on the internet.

Around 1885, a group of avid fishermen from the Dixfield area organized the East Oxford Angling Association. Mr. Stanley was elected Vice President. They built a lodge on the west side of Webb Lake (a.k.a. Weld Pond), near the West Brook. Later the lodge was owned by Mr. Stanley and became the “Stanley Camp.” Upon his death, Henry passed the camp to his children, George and Nellie. Later Nellie became the sole owner. When Nellie was widowed and her grandchildren were anxious to spend summers at Weld, she built her own camp next door. Both camps are still used. Nellie installed her own roof on the cabin when she was well into her eighties.

On 28 March 1912 the Stanley family came together with friends to celebrate Henry’s 83rd birthday. Mr. Stanley invited the participants to join him again on the occasion of his 84th birthday. That occasion never came because early in January 1913 Henry came down with a cold. After about a week of being ill, he died at his Dixfield home on Weld Street on January 11, 1913. He was buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in Dixfield, and his obituary reads: “He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Sophronia Stowell of Dixfield and Mrs. George D. Bisbee of Rumford; two brothers, John F., of Auburn and Frank of Kingfield; and two children, George P. of Dixfield and Mrs. Nellie Kimball of Newtonville.

**HIS 83RD BIRTHDAY**

Hon. H. O. Stanley of Dixfield Observes Event in Fitting Manner

(Special to the Franklin Journal)

Dixfield, March 28. – A very enjoyable event was the birthday party given Friday, March 22, in honor of Hon. H. O. Stanley of this place. Mr. Stanley has been a life long resident of this place, and well known throughout the state, having been chairman of the state board of Commissioners of Inland Fisheries and Game. Mr. Stanley has a pleasant home on Weld Street, and is enjoying good health in his advanced years. His sister, Mrs. Sophronia Stowell, lives with him. He has a son, George P. Stanley, of this place, and a daughter, Mrs. Nellie Kimball of Boston. A brother, superintendent of the Auburn hatchery, was not present at the gathering. A sumptuous dinner was served at Hotel Stanley, Mrs. Kimball of Boston sending a fine turkey for the occasion. Two large birthday cakes graced the table, one made by his sister, Mrs. George D. Bisbee of Rumford, and the other by his niece, Miss Susie Stanley of Kingfield. Those present were: Hon. and Mrs. George D. Bisbee of Rumford, Frank Stanley of Kingfield, Mrs. Sophronia Stowell, Mrs. John S. Harlow, Newton S. Stowell, Mrs. Mary Greenleaf, Miss Ione Harlow, George P. Stanley and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Drew. Mr. Stanley was presented with 83 pinks. A cordial invitation was extended to the party by Mr. Stanley to meet him again on his 84th anniversary. [Franklin Journal, April 1912]
George Page Stanley, Henry’s only son, married Netta Louise Marsh from East Sullivan, Maine. They had one child, Josephine Mary, born in 1891. “Josie” met William H. Drew (Bill) in Portland, Maine, while they were both attending Westbrook Seminary.

Although Bill would not have had to enlist because he had a wife and two children, at the urging of George and Netta, he served in the U.S. Army during WWI in France. When the war ended, Bill was selected to serve in the president’s honor guard at Versailles and returned to the states on board the same ship as the president. Bill was discharged from the army at Camp Lewis in Washington State. Bill and Josie then made the decision to remain on the west coast in the Seattle area and raise their six children.

With their only child clear across the country on the west coast, George and Netta decided in 1922 to travel by automobile from Dixfield to Seattle, Washington, for a visit. On June 1, they tucked themselves into their Dodge car and left Dixfield and drove to Rumford Center where they were joined by Norman Marsh and his wife in their automobile. The two couples drove in tandem, camping in pastures, catching fish and cooking their own meals, over mostly unpaved roads, arriving in Seattle on July 6. They stayed with their daughter and family until the following spring and then drove back to Dixfield. George and Netta made 13 more automobile trips to Seattle, the last one was in 1953 when George was 85 and Netta was 84. They intended to repeat this 7,000-mile trip again in 1955 but George’s declining health prevented them from doing so. George died at his North Street home in Dixfield of lung cancer on June 4, 1955.

While Henry O. Stanley is gone, there is a way to rediscover the man. Mr. Stanley was a talented and prolific writer. He wrote more than a hundred articles and letters that were published in books, newspapers, and sporting journals during his lifetime. Many of these articles were about his fisheries work, but he also wrote about his passion for conserving natural resources and his love for the outdoors - particularly fishing and fox hunting. For anyone wanting to learn more about one of Maine’s first conservationist, the pages of Forest and Stream and Shooting and Fishing (both national sporting periodicals), Maine Sportsman’s and Carleton’s State of Maine Sportsman’s Journal (state sporting journals), and Phillips Phonograph and its successors (newspapers), contain hundreds of period pieces by and about the man, his accomplishments, and his times.
From the President

At the invitation of owner Larry Bisbee, two of our members spent the day at The Country Music Jamboree in East Dixfield on July 30. In keeping with the theme of the event we displayed music related items as well as artifacts, photographs, post cards and other memorabilia. Larry is to be commended for sponsoring this event which provides scholarships for budding Country Western musicians. This is our second year in attendance.

On August 21, The Historical Society was pleased to be a part of the annual Open Market Day. Our museum attracted many visitors, several of them from other states. Events such as this make us realize what a treasure we have in this museum. With more volunteers perhaps we will be able to open it to the public more often. Our used book offerings attracted many buyers and the food table was nearly all sold out by 2:00 P.M., attesting to the power of homemade food offerings. We wish to thank the several volunteers who contributed so generously of their time. You are what makes this organization successful.

The flower show was a big hit and several awards were presented. The First Place winners were: Charlotte Collins for Bouquet Cut Flowers, Deb Towle for Bouquet of Wild Flowers, Terry Holman for Single Flower or Stem. Sally Carey for Miniature Bouquet, Sally Carey for House Plant. Terry Holman also was the recipient of the award for Best in Show. The full slate of other winners will be presented in a separate listing by Charlotte Collins.

Due to scheduling conflicts there will be no Antique Road Show this year. At our September meeting we will be proposing a few changes to our by-laws. We will also appoint a nominating committee at this meeting and their nominees will be presented at our Annual Meeting in November.

—Albert Spaulding

Lesmore D. Kidder

Lesmore D. Kidder was born in Dixfield about 1837. At some point before the Civil War broke out, he had migrated to Illinois. He joined the Eighth Illinois Infantry, Company K on April 18, 1861, less than a week after Fort Sumter was attacked. He was discharged three months later not having been called to battle. Then the news of the Battle of Bull Run so aroused the company members that they decided to re-enlist, Kidder among them. The old Company K became the nucleus of Company B of the Thirty-Ninth Illinois Volunteers. They were mustered into the service of the United States Army on October 11, 1861.

Company B fought in all the battles of the regiment and earned a reputation for being good soldiers. At the Battle of Drury’s Bluff in Virginia on May 16, 1864, the Confederate General Beauregard had pinned the Union General into a defensive retreat. Company B’s Sergeant Hallett said, “There is no orders to retreat; hold your ground.” Nonetheless, Beauregard’s circling assault was withering, causing General Alfred H. Terry to say, “In the name of God what troops are engaged on our left.”

First Lieutenant Kidder “had command of the ambulance train at the Battle of Drury’s Bluff and was wounded in the leg while busy getting the wounded off the field, and came very near taken prisoner; but being mounted on a good horse he managed to elude his would-be captors, and escaped with a badly fractured and shattered limb.”

Many years later, on May 3rd, 1885, Chief Inspecting Officer D. Horace Holman organized a Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post at Dixfield, to be called the L. D. Kidder Post, which had the following officers: John O. Kidder, commander; Frank Stanley, Frank B. Walton, Charles G. Delano, O. P. Tucker, Lamont C. Willoughby, A. K. P. Berry, Isaacher L. Stockbridge, Daniel G. Turner, and O. H. Eastman.

The L. D. Kidder Post existed for many years until the number of Civil War veterans in Dixfield dwindled to a point where it could no longer be supported.
Dixfield Stage Driver Talks

From “Trails and Taverns,” D.A.R., Maine Chapter, 1932

[Byron. W. Tuttle drove the Bryant Pond-Dixfield-Andover stage for 23 years. In 1931 he was asked by Mary B. Lander, secretary of the Col. Asa Whitcomb Chapter, Kingfield D.A.R., to describe his experiences for a typescript the Maine D.A.R was gathering for a two-volume work called “Trails and Taverns.” The one hundred and fiftieth anniversary Tuttle refers to in Bethel is the August 3, 1931 sesquicentennial of the last Indian Raid. – Ye Editor]

“This is a copy of a letter written to Mrs. Lander in answer to her inquiry on stage coaches that we are practically taking it in full.

“Yours of the 27th at hand, in regards to stage coach will say that I have the coach here [South Paris] and it is in nice shape, have had it all repaired up and painted, so that it looks as good as used to when we was stageing it to Andover, I had the paint left on it just as it used to be. It is painted yellow, and is what we call a 14 passenger coach, seating nine on the inside and five out. We carried the mail on the foot board under the drivers seat, and express and baggage on top and so that gave us room for six more people. This coach that I have was about the last that they built and was built in 1875.

I use it some now in parades and times that they have round here. I was up to Bethel at their one hundred and fiftieth anniversary this year. I noticed that some of the writers in speaking of it said it was driven by an old fashioned driver, I did not know just what they meant by that as I have never heard of any new fashioned drivers, as that seems to be a thing of the past.

“The coach is on exhibition all the time, we have a lot of people come here to see it. We did not always drive white horses on it, some of the time we had black and some bays, and some of the time they were not matched at all.

“My father, Azel S. Tuttle used to drive from Andover to Portland before the railroad was built for Grosvenor Waterhouse, which was in the forties. When the road was built they took the old drivers and put them on as conductors on the road, and he went on the road at that time and was there until he went stageing from Bryant Pond to Andover and Dixfield. We used to change horses at Rumford Corner and the passengers ate supper at the hotel, which before our day was run by P. Cummings and then Price run it, then Jackson ran it for about two years.

“When it burnt, which I think was in the year 1876, I can just remember it, it was before I went up there to drive, but used to go up and play around in the summer time and drive extra some of the time.

“My father drove the same kind of a coach as the one that I have now, I think that the first Concord coach was built about the year 1823 and I do not think that they ever built one anywhere else. The coaches that they use round the mountains are built the same way only they have seats on top and a Dicky seat on the rack, and they call them Tally Ho. I do not know where they got the name, unless it was because they

(Continued on page 10)
From the Old Mill Whistle ~ Readers, Writing and Chatter

The whereabouts of the former Henry O. Stanley store on Weld Street was quickly settled through thorough documentation by Towle’s Hardware. It was indeed incorporated into a redesigned store decades ago. When that store was finally razed in 2008, the Stanley store came down with it, as did Isaac Randall’s law office which had also been part of the old store. The good news is that we have discovered a previously unidentified photo as that of Henry O.’s store with the owner himself sitting on the front steps. We have also discovered an image of Isaac Randall who was a major source of legal training for many of Oxford County’s lawyers, including George D. Bisbee, William W. Bolster, James S. Wright, and many others. The Star plans to feature articles on Dixfield’s attorneys in the near future, as well as its early doctors. We encourage anyone having knowledge of early practitioners to please contact us.

CHARLES LYMAN EUSTIS DESCENDANT EXPLORES HER DIXFIELD ROOTS

It isn’t often that one can assist another in discovering nearly 200 of family history, but that’s exactly the privilege ye Ed. was accorded recently by Helen Fredell of Ojai, California. Following up on a four-year correspondence, Helen accepted ye Ed.’s invitation to visit Dixfield where her great-great grandfather, Charles Lyman Eustis, gave so much to the town. The Phoebe Stowell house was built by Eustis, as was the former chapel nearby and a “dry house,” and a still surviving double tenement house.

Helen Fredell of Ojai CA standing next to the centennial memorial to her ancestor Charles Lyman Eustis in Eustis ME. — Ye Ed. photo

It was Helen’s first trip to New England, having been on her “to do” list for many years. Charles Lyman Eustis was cited as a man who “defined a region’s character” in a February 2005 article in the Boston Globe. One of the oddities discovered during Helen’s visit was the large number of Dixfield citizens who migrated to Minneapolis. Perhaps the Star can prevail on her to pen an article on this subject. She speculated that Dixfield’s Silas Barnard, who surveyed that area, served as the catalyst, bringing back news of opportunities out west.

NEW WEBB RIVER BRIDGE LEADS TO HISTORY ON CURRENT BRIDGE

There have been several bridges over Webb River, connecting Dixfield with Mexico, including the wooden bridge pictured below.

Notice the man standing between the two chasms, each requiring its separate bridge. The chasm was on the right was filled in at some point, perhaps when the latest bridge was built in 1931 by the H. J. Cyr company of Waterville. Made of concrete, this bridge holds the distinction of lasting 80 years. The span over the Androscoggin River connecting Mexico and Peru was also built the same year by the Edmond Cyr Company, also of Waterville. There had been at least two metal bridges over the Webb River, including a box girder bridge prior to the concrete bridge. The first metal bridge was replaced and moved to East Dixfield. Each time the Webb River bridge has been replaced, the approach has either been moved north or south, sometimes upsetting property owners. During the 1970s, Henry O. Stanley operated a fish hatchery near the upper dam of the Webb River. Many were used to stock nearby lakes and streams.

— Photo from Dixfield Historical Society Archives
Sunday, June 5th: Cold & cloudy—only being a ray of the day was having Greeley's New York Tribune to read. John Kelsey, Benj. Thomas, Joseph Edmonds, George Cox & Frank Stanley were here during the day. I picked ripe Strawberries.

Monday, June 6th: Heavy frost, killed beans & cucumbers. Fixed fence around pasture - oxen being hookers.

Tuesday, June 7th: Fixed fence all day. Oxen plagued me badly.

Wednesday, June 7th: Fixed fence all day. Oxen all out of pasture. Got up once last night & put them In. I yoked them together and turned them so into the pasture.

Thursday, June 8th: Oxen went to the Corner to the hearing before Co. Corn's, about the Swift River bridge matter. Sent a piece to the Oxford Democrat by David Knapp.

Friday, June 9th: Went to Corner again. A great number of people there from adjoining towns to attend this road & bridge case. When I came home I found Ben Thomas' whole drove of cattle in my field.

Saturday, June 10th: Ground white with frost. Went to Dixfield. Came home with Joseph Foster who came up to put a calf in my pasture. It rained most of afternoon.

Saturday, June 11th: Found cattle out of pasture. Drove them back, fixed fence and started for Rumford Center. Took dinner on the way at D. D. W. Abbot's. Rode then to the Center with a caught ride, from there to East Rumford With Gen. Bolster and footed it from there home.

Sunday, June 12th: Ellen had a severe spell of cramp in her stomach which by application of hot flannel we finally drove off. There was a heavy frost around the farm wherever I visited it. Picked quite a lot of strawberries. Albert fell down stairs and bruised himself some considerable. Uncle Wm. Wait & wife were up to tea. The pleasantest day for a long time.

Monday, June 13th: I took away banking from house. Planted over cucumbers, churned etc. Rained nearly all afternoon. Oxen got out of pasture.

Tuesday, June 14th: Mother, Mell & Helena were up. I worked around the house. Pleasant day.

Wednesday, June 15th: My oxen were in my garden - rye field and grassland nearly all last night. Split & piled up wood, fixed fence, etc. Pleasant.

Thursday, June 16th: Oxen all out of pasture. Got up once last night & put them In. I yoked them together and turned them so into the pasture. Went to the Corner to the hearing before Co. Corn's, about the Swift River bridge matter. Sent a piece to the Oxford Democrat by David Knapp.

Friday, June 17th: Went to Corner again. A great number of people there from adjoining towns to attend this road & bridge case. When I came home I found Ben Thomas' whole drove of cattle in my field.

Saturday, June 18th: Went to the Corner for papers & from there with Wm. Porter & Benj. Simpson I went to Dixfield. Got home about five o'clock and found Ellen sick with a severe head ache and everything in a state of perfect disorder - she having been sick since noon. I put things to rights and did my chores and now at nine o'clock am writing this. Ellen continuing sick.

Sunday, June 19th: Ellen somewhat better. I took hold and helped do up the housework and went out & picked two quarts of strawberies. Don Marble, George Cox & Paris Abbott were up. After they left I went to Leander Howard's' and engaged him & his wife to work for me. After I got back wife and I went & picked a lot of strawberries. Scott Mitchell and Mrs. Rand from Weld came up to engage me to play for a ball at Weld the 4th of July. I told them I could not go. Cattle out twice in the course of the day.

Monday, June 20th: Hoeing & building fence, setting out turnip plants, etc.

Tuesday, June 21st: Getting ready for haying. Albert has been as cross as a wild hyena all day.

Wednesday, June 22nd: Worked on road in the woods till noon. Hoed in afternoon. Billy left without giving any reason for so doing.

Thursday, June 23rd: Hoed all day, went to Ayers' at night. They said Billy said He was a damn fool— that I was cross & found fault with him etc. Hosea Austin & Rev. Mr. Johnson were up

Friday, June 24th: Hoed corn & potatoes.

Saturday, June 25th: Went to the Corner for papers & from there with Wm. Porter & Benj. Simpson I went to Dixfield. Got home about five o'clock and found Ellen sick with a severe head ache and everything in a state of perfect disorder - she having been sick since noon. I put things to rights and did my chores and now at nine o'clock am writing this. Ellen continuing sick.

Sunday, June 26th: Ellen something better. I took hold and helped do up the housework and went out & picked two quarts of strawberries. Don Marble, George Cox & Paris Abbott were up. After they left I went to Leander Howard's' and engaged him & his wife to work for me. After I got back wife and I went & picked a lot of strawberries. Scott Mitchell and Mrs. Rand from Weld came up to engage me to play for a ball at Weld the 4th of July. I told them I could not go. Cattle out twice in the course of the day.

Monday, June 27th: Went down & borrowed Thomas' cultivator. Rose came up and hauled it onto the hill and Rose, with his horse, helped me cultivate my beans & corn. Rose's wife came up with him and they remained until after tea.
used to have a man that used to ride on the Dicky seat and blow a bugle when they were coming to a town.

“The last time we run this coach was in 1910. I personally drove it from ’87 to 1910.” Byron W. Tuttle in Bryant Pond in 1905 with six white horses pulling his stage coach. This real photo postcard often sells for $75.00.

I think that the coach that you speak of in 1820 was more of the English type and built more like a dry goods box, which was square with two seats on the inside and one out and was hung up on a shoe that went on to the thorough-braces same as they hang up their mountain wagons, and they date back in the 1780’s and were used in York state. There are a few old Concord coaches left up round the mountains now, there is one at the Crawford House that is a mate to the one Henry Ford has, which is a size larger and has four seats on the inside. If I am correctly informed there was never but six of them built, and three of them went to South America, they have one at the Crawford House, Henry Ford has one and the other one they are using for a hen house up in Errol, N. H.

“Inclosed I am sending picture on postal card that was taken when we was leaving Bryant Pond, you will note that I had the two extra seats on top. We have had papers with write-ups of the coach which I have tried to find, to send you but cannot seem to find them just now. The last time we run this coach was in 1910, I personally drove it from ’87 to 1910.

“We have one of the old Taverns in this town [South Paris] where they used to change horses, but it has been built over some and is now used as a farm house. The house that I run [the Andrews House] is over 130 years old [sic] but do not think it was used as a stage place.

The house that I run is over 130 years old [sic] but do not think it was used as a stage place.” — Byron W. Tuttle in 1931, referring to the Andrews House. Originally built in 1819 by Abizier Andrews for Elias Stowell in Market Square, South Paris, Maine. Elias was ye Ed.’s great-great-great grandfather.

“There are two places between here and Rumford where they used to change horses, or at least I should have said the cellar holes are there, the buildings have long been gone.’

“B. W. Tuttle”

From Andover: The First 175 Years — “At first — before 1824 — mail was carried by men on horseback....Then, after the roads were made, the mail came and went by stagecoach.” The Tuttle coach in Andover in 1929.

From a posed photo postcard, Byron W. Tuttle (with reins in hand) and the Trumball Players, a theatrical group, in front of the Andrews House in South Paris in 1930.

(All photos from ye Editor’s collection)
Henry O. Stanley’s store on Weld Street, once located where Michelle Comeau’s house is now, behind the Bangor Savings Bank Building. Henry O. Stanley is seated on the steps. Ye Ed. believes that his son, George P. Stanley, is in the doorway, and that his first cousin, Emily Barnard Knight, is on the steps.

— From the Dixfield Historical Society Archives

The Stanley Camp on Lake Webb in Weld, originally built in 1885 for the East Oxford Angling Association, and later owned by Henry O. Stanley and his descendents. Still in use today, the camp is kept in excellent shape. Ye Ed. visited there briefly in July. This photo was taken in 1893.

— From Ye Editor’s collection
DIXFIELD HISTORY — TRUE OR FALSE, YES OR NO

1. Was the Dixfield Citizen was first published on April 21, 1887, ending in December 1892?
2. The Rumford Falls Echo, the Canton Telephone and the Dixfield Citizen ended simultaneously?
3. As a boy, did Henry O. Stanley hunt passenger pigeons with a flintlock muzzle-loader?
4. Was Frank Stanley elected to the Maine legislature from both Dixfield and Kingfield?
5. Did Col. Jonathan Holman fight for Lord Geoffrey Amherst at Fort Edward in New York in 1759?
6. After Dixfield was incorporated in 1803, did the name Holmantown disappear?
7. Did Dr. Elijah Dix found Dixfield, Dixmont, and Mexico, Maine?
8. In the mid 1800s, was Dixfield noted for its exceptional attorneys?
9. Did Maine ever have a governor born in Dixfield?
10. Were there at least three attorneys who practiced in Dixfield elected to Congress?
11. Is there a former member of Congress buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Dixfield?
12. Henry O. Stanley operated the fish hatchery in Auburn in the late 1800s?
13. Henry O. Stanley, John F. Stanley and Oscar Trask all sought their fortune in California’s gold fields?
14. At one time Dixfield had 19 mills operating simultaneously?
15. Dixfield’s Henry W. Park gave Mount Zircon in Milton and Rumford its name?

ANSWERS: 1 - yes, 2 - true, 3 - true, 4 - true, 5 - true, 6 - no, 7 - yes, 8 - yes, 9 - yes, 10 - yes, 11 - yes, 12 - no, 13 - true, 14 - true, 15 - true.