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# History of Machias Maine 1

S. W. Hill

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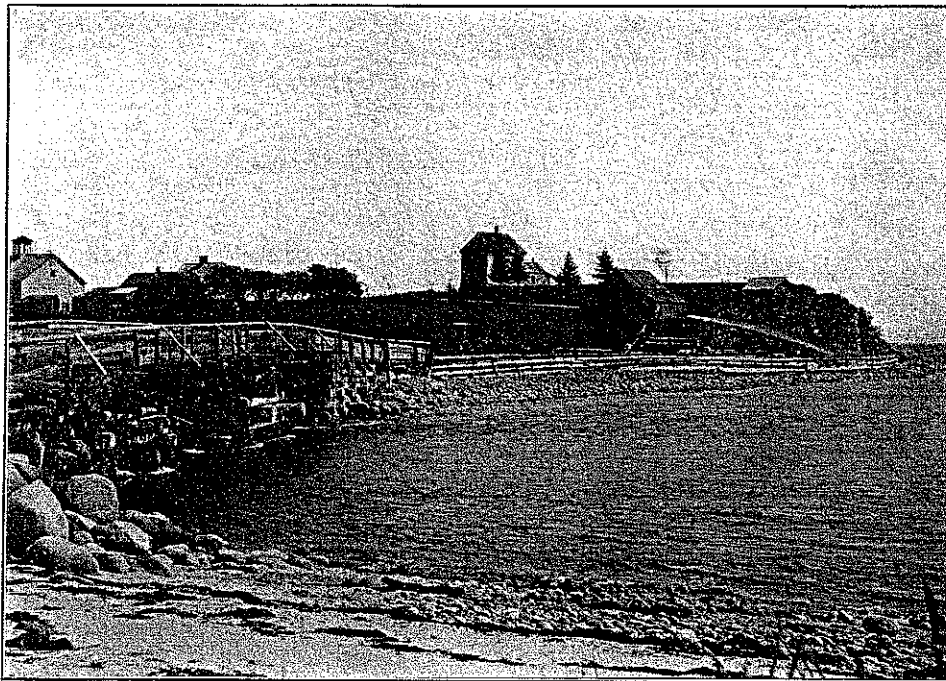
*The*  
**Washington County Magazine**

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY PUBLICATION  
Devoted to the Interests of the People of Washington County, Maine

VOL. 1

MAY, 1912

NO. 1



AT ROQUE BLUFFS, WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE

God Might Have Made a More Beautiful Spot than Washington County but  
**—HE DID NOT—**

# MACHIAS

## The Town, The People, The Industries, The Possibilities

By S. W. HILL

The Town of Machias is located at the head of navigation on the Machias River. The town seal gives the date of its discovery as 1644, but other records show that DeMontz first discovered this place and established a trading post at Clarks Point in Machiasport in 1604.

The first permanent settlement was made in 1763 by an association of sixteen persons who came from Scarborough in May of that year. These settlers landed at a point on lower Main Street now marked by a bronze tablet.

The first necessity was to provide shelter, and two double log houses were built near the place of landing. Next a double saw mill was built on the site where the Phoenix mill now stands, and, during the year 1764, more than one and one-half million feet of pine boards were sawed.

About this time there were laid out eighteen lots known as the "seven rod lots" extending north from the river and each containing seven acres. These lots took up the river front as far west as Broadway.

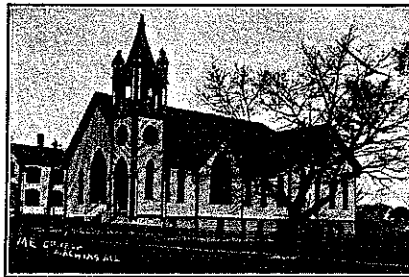
On April 26, 1770, the General Court of Massachusetts made a grant to the settlers of a tract of land ten miles by eight, the southeastern corner being located at what is now known as Town Rock in Holmes' Bay and containing the present towns of East Machias and Marshfield, and nearly all of Machias, Whitneyville and Machiasport.

The noble part taken by Machias in the Revolution is too well known to need repeating, but it is not so well known that our people took an active part in the War of

1812, at least one privateer, the schooner "Charles and John" being fitted out here and many of our young men enlisting in the army or navy. Sept. 11th, 1814, a British force under Lieutenant Col. Pilkington captured the town and held it until Sept. 15th, when they departed, to the great joy of the inhabitants.

During the bloodless Aroostook war this town raised a company known as the "Machias Rifle Grays" whose services were not required owing to the successful negotiations with Great Britain.

When the Rebellion broke out Machias, true to her old traditions, again responded nobly and during the entire four years furnished more than her quota of men and heartily supported the Government.



Methodist Church, Machias

For the Spanish War, Machias furnished one company of infantry, Company M, Second Regiment National Guards of the State of Maine, which was not sent to the front, and a large number of recruits to Battery B, First Maine Artillery, which was stationed at Havana.

Ever since the first settlement the lumber industry has been the main business and millions of feet of spruce, pine and hemlock have been shipped yearly to foreign and domestic ports and cargoes of merchandise have come back, thus making Machias as it is today, the business and distributing center of this section. As a consequence, the stores here are in number and equipment superior to those of other places of its size.

Until 1897 Machias had no connection by rail with the out-side

world, but the road opened that year and now having become a part of the Maine Central road, is being constantly improved by liberal expenditures and will soon be as fine a road as any in the state.

Among the business houses the Machias Lumber Co., stands first, with its large modern saw mills and one hundred and fifty men on its pay roll, while the daily output from its big supply store represents hundreds of dollars worth of goods. This Company is a distinctly Machias enterprise, its general manager, treasurer and nearly all its employees being natives of the town.

One of the prominent citizens of Machias is P. H. Longfellow, insurance agent, who has been in the business for a longer time than any other man in Maine. He also holds a record of having served the county for forty-four years as Clerk of Courts.

In speaking of our doctors, we should not forget Dr. S. B. Hunter who, after nearly fifty years of labor, has retired from active practice. Dr. Hunter saw service during the Rebellion as surgeon of the 11th Maine Volunteers. During the later years of his practice his daughter, Dr. Sarah L. Hunter, was associated with him.

Dr. F. L. Shaw is at present the senior physician here. He is considered a man of unusually sound judgment and his practice is limited only by the time that he has to devote to it. He has for a number of years been collector of customs at this port. Dr. A. L. Smith came here in 1896, when a comparatively young man, and has built up a large and lucrative practice.



Residence of J. H. Merrill, Machias



Residence of Mrs. Joseph Coffin  
Machias

Dr. J. W. Longfellow began practice here in 1906 and has been very successful in his chosen profession. He has a host of friends in Machias and the surrounding country.

Dr. H. O. Johnson, like Drs. Shaw and Longfellow, is a Machias boy. He worked his way through college, earning the money with which to defray his expenses.

After graduation he settled in New Haven and was quite successful, but, having an ambition to practice among his old friends who knew him as a boy, he established himself here in 1908 and by his skill and good judgment has gained a large practice.

Machias, though it is the county seat, has never maintained a large number of lawyers.



A. L. SMITH, M. D.  
One of Washington County's Leading Physicians, and Member of the School Board, Machias

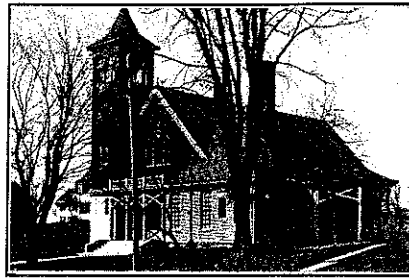
At present there are located here some of the most prominent attorneys of Washington County, among whom are: Hon. John F. Lynch, C. B. and E. C. Donworth, A. D. McFaul and P. B. Gardner.

The town has two newspapers: The Machias Republican, established in 1854, and now published by A. I. Babb, and the Machias Union which was established in 1852 and is published by E. B. Sanborn.

Sylvan Park, owned by W. H. Phinney, is one of the sightly spots. The Central Washington Fair is conducted here yearly, the fine track making it very popular with owners of fast horses.

The largest store in town is Allen & Co. Department store

with its immense stock of goods of all sorts from a steam pump to a steel pen and a trade that is county wide. Among the other merchants may be mentioned I. M. Sargent, books and stationery; W. D. Whitney and S. M. Rose, boots and shoes; C. W. Beverly,



First Methodist Church, Machias

ladies' furnishing goods of all sorts; Chandler & Company's large bakery; and numerous grocery, millinery and hardware stores. Among these we would mention the large clothing stores of the Machias Clothing Co., and Curtis & Kane; the fine, modern pharmacies of R. T. Crane and D. A. Curtis & Co.; and the hardware firms of Crane Bros. and Bailey & Field, all of which are owned by native Machias business men. Also the large furniture store of R. E. McKenzie; and H. N. Sanborn, crockery, glass and tinware of all kinds.

Our fine streets and the superior condition of our country roads have induced a large investment in automobiles which are cared for by a number of garages managed by Crane Bros., F. P. Gilson, R. H. Glover, and Jordan & Laffin. This latter firm also operate a large foundry and machine shop.



Catholic Church and Parsonage  
Machias

One of the great incentives to business in the town is the reasonable rates of our local banks of which there are three: The Machias Savings Bank, The Machias Branch of the Eastern Trust and

Banking Company, and the Machias Banking Company. These banks are among the best managed and most financially sound in the state and are the backbone of our business life.

In addition to the mills of the Lumber Company, the Phoenix mill, operated by the venerable C. Sullivan of Whitneyville, employs quite a number of men and turns out some five million feet of lumber annually; while the extensive plant of the Machias Manufacturing Company, located on Whites Point, and consisting of steam-sawmills, shingle and lath mills and box factory employs a large force of help. The sash and blind factory and the works of the Machias Granite Company are only two among the



E. C. DONWORTH, ESQ.  
Lawyer and Chairman of School Board  
Machias

minor industries conducted here.

Also another one of the busiest places in town is the grist-mill of D. C. Getchell & Co., wholesale and retail dealers in grain and feed. This firm does a very large business, buying directly in the west and having customers in nearly all of the towns reached by the Washington County R. R.

Machias is justly proud of her schools, the celebrated Arthur Hill Gilmore being one of our earlier teachers. Mr. Gilmore came here in 1786 and taught in the building that now forms a part of the annex to the Donworth building on Main street. Washington Academy was established in 1817 at the eastern village and today ranks well among



F. T. CRANE  
Member of the State Board of  
Pharmacy, Machias

the educational institutions of the state. Machias was also one of the first towns to take advantage of the free high school law and today more than one hundred of her high school graduates have entered the different colleges and universities of New England.

As early as 1898 the public spirited citizens of the town began to agitate the question of having a state normal school situated here and a bill to that effect was introduced in the legislature by our representative, Hon. A. D. McFaul. This measure was handed down from one legislature to the next, each time meeting with less opposition, until, in 1909, it was enacted and in September of the same year the school was

opened. A splendid school building with all modern equipment for its use was erected on a sightly lot on what is known as Dublin hill, Machias showing her hearty co-operation with the educational interests and well being of this section by the substantial contribution of some seventeen thousand dollars in a building lot, money and incidentals. This school has been a success from the start and although it has been in operation less than two years there are now eighty students in attendance and the total number who have registered is one hundred and thirty three. The Trustees have been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. W. L. Powers as Principal and Mr. T. C. Chaffee as Sub-master, with an able corps of assistant teachers,



HON. A. D. McFAUL  
The Brilliant Author of "Ike Gliddon"

church building on Centre street was at the time of its erection, in 1836, the best framed church building in the state.

The Methodist Church, at present under the pastorate of Rev. F. K. Conant, had its inception under Rev. C. C. Cone, a class of nine persons being formed at that time. Its first church building was completed in 1851 at a cost of \$4000. In 1893 the present church was built at a cost of \$9000, the old building forming a wing of the new edifice. The report of the church for 1912 showed a total of one hundred and forty members.



H. O. JOHNSON M. D.  
One of Machias' Leading Physicians and  
Secretary of Board of Health

and it is largely owing to the ability of this group of instructors that the growth of the Washington Normal School has been unprecedented among the normal schools of the state.

The original settlers of Machias were mostly of old Puritan descent and one of the first important acts as a community was the employing of a minister, and the Rev. James Lyon of Revolutionary fame, who came here about that time, was chosen. In 1771 he organized the first Congregational Church which is today one of the strongest societies of the town, the present Rev. J. M. Bieler having occupied its pulpit since Jan., 1907. The present



E. H. BRYANT  
Postmaster of Machias



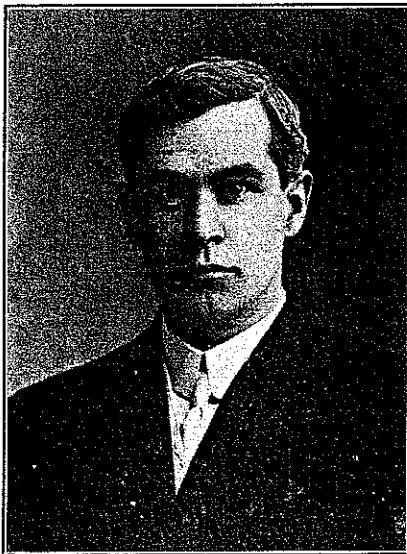
W. D. WHITNEY  
Merchant of Machias



REV. C. O'SULLIVAN  
Catholic Church, Machias

Until 1859 the Catholic Church at Machias was a part of the charge of the Priest at Eastport, although a church building was erected here in 1845. Rev. Henry O'Neil was settled here in 1859 and the church has never since been without a resident pastor. Rev. C. O'Sullivan, the present Father, having ministered to it since 1875. Twenty seven years in charge of the parish, being loved and respected by the entire community.

During the pastorate of Rev. William O'Donnell in 1875 the church and parsonage were destroyed by fire but were immediately rebuilt, being enlarged and improved in appearance.



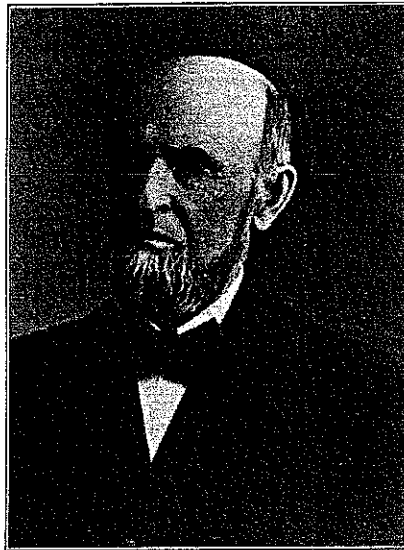
REV. F. K. CONANT  
Pastor of the M. E. Church, Machias

The first Universalist society here was organized in 1841 and secured the services of Rev. James A. Milliken who preached here for over ten years. Mr. Milliken later became very well known in this section as he was for many years the Judge of Probate for Washington County. He was succeeded by Rev. Amos Hitchings and others, but no regularly organized society was formed until 1896, during the ministry of Dr. Selden Gilbert. About that same time the present modern church was built at a cost of \$11,000. Rev. A. N. Blackford the present pastor has been here since 1910 and is extremely popular with the church and community.

There are flourishing lodges of many of the secret orders here in-



REV. J. M. BIELER  
Pastor of the Congregationalist Church  
Machias



W. H. PHINNEY  
U. S. Deputy Collector and Proprietor  
of Sylvan Park, Machias

cluding the different Masonic bodies, the K. of P., A. O. U. W., N. E. O. P., and a flourishing Grange.

We are proud of our lighting system, the Machias Electric Company, which has one of the finest plants in eastern Maine by which our streets are lighted with nearly one hundred lamps, and all our public buildings, stores, and most of the dwelling houses, lighted with electricity.

Protection against fire is afforded by our well-equipped fire department with excellent hydrant service and an abundant water supply both for municipal and domestic purposes.

With good hotel accommodations and facilities for transportation with the present reasonable price of real estate here and with four idle water powers in the centre of the village, while farther up the Machias River, within a distance of fourteen miles, are three immense powers to be developed, each of which carries the entire volume of the Machias River; while at Marshfield and East Machias are a number of smaller powers, business must come this way. In fact the local Board of Trade is even now in receipt of inquiries as to the business opportunities of this vicinity, which may be the portends of larger things to come.



S. W. HILL  
Chairman of the Board of Assessors  
Machias



WILLIAM T. HAINES  
Treasurer Machias Water Co.



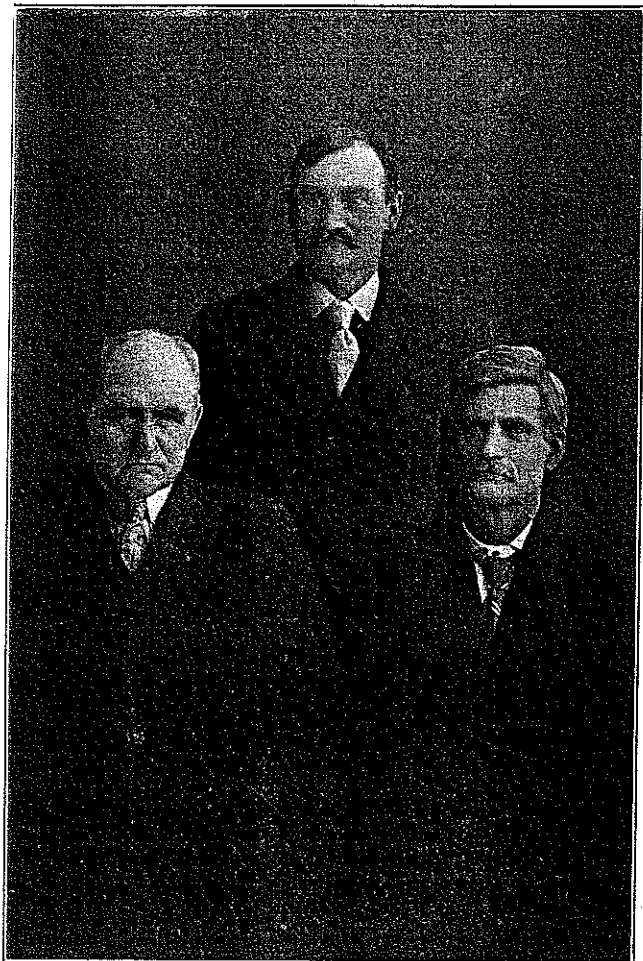
SHERIFF S. E. WOODMAN  
of Washington County, Who Has  
Enforced the Law



C. W. DINSMORE  
Manager Eastern Trust and Banking  
Company, Machias Branch



HON. JOHN F. LYNCH  
One of Washington County's Oldest and Most  
Prominent Attorneys



JOHN SCHOPPE, A. R. GILSON, J. E. MCEACHARN  
Board of Selectmen of Machias that served for three years