

Bucksport Historical Society

The 150th Anniversary

of

Bucksport, Maine

June 25, 1942



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## The Sesqui-centennial Celebration

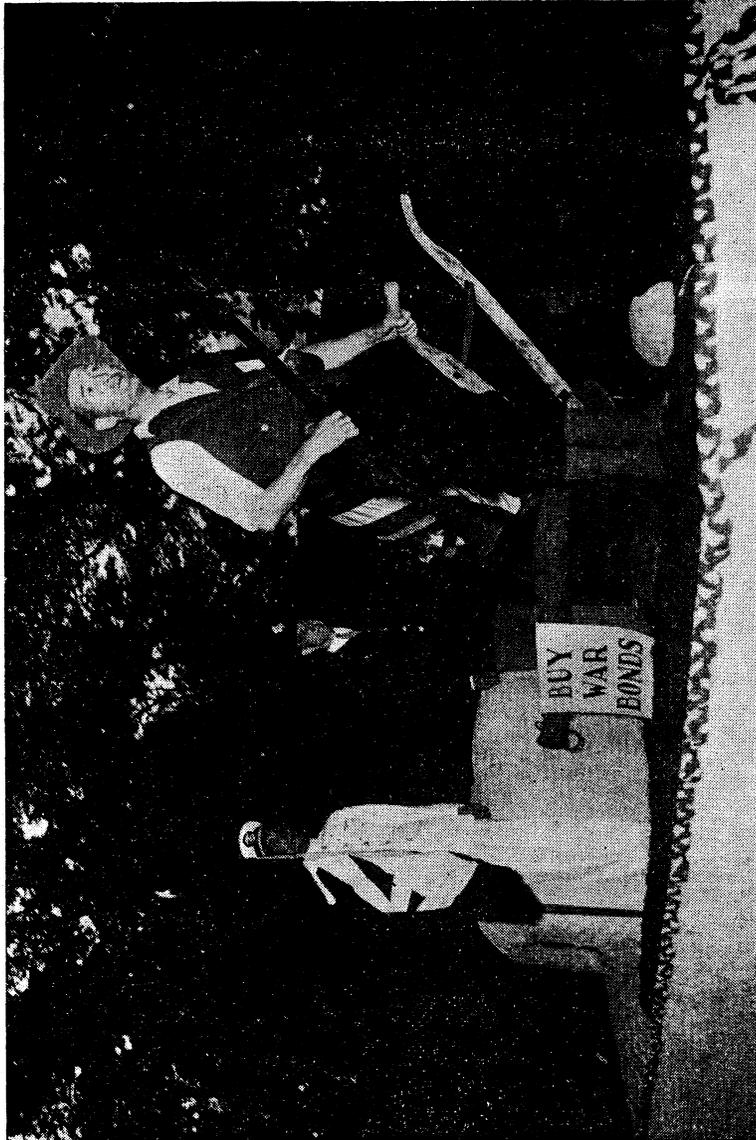
by Bernard Pooler

Thursday, June 25, 1942, was a memorable and a historical day for the citizens of Bucksport.

It was memorable because 150 years ago, June 25, 1792, what was then Township No. 1 was incorporated as Buckstown. (This name was changed to Bucksport in 1817.)

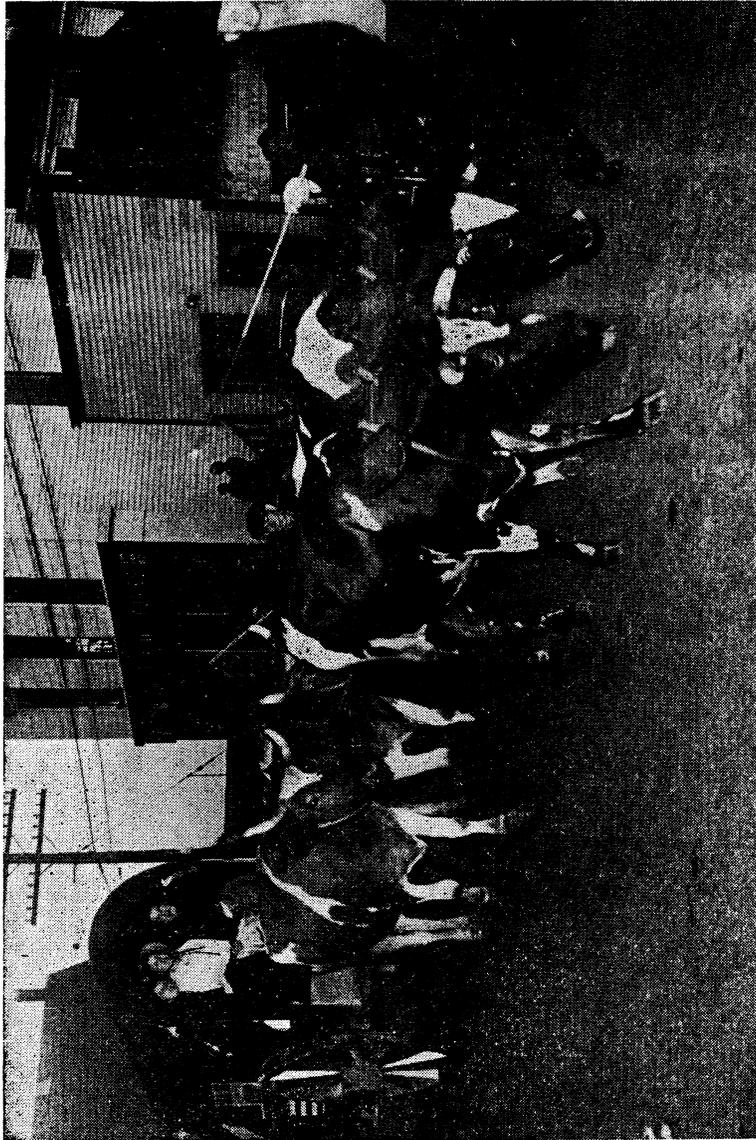
June 25, 1942, was historical because on this day the 150th anniversary of this incorporation was celebrated with a series of public events which added to an already long and colorful story of Bucksport. On this day more people gathered in the town than on any previous public celebration, which

in itself has never been exceeded, especially the interesting parade. It was the first time in the annals of the community that Maritime cadets paraded its streets and such can be said of the appearance of the mechanized war equipment. In the harbor of Bucksport was the Maine Maritime Academy training ship, which was the first appearance of such a type of vessel for such a public purpose. The dedication of the Pre-Revolutionary War era mill stones, which were used in the first mill of Bucksport in the 1700's, was another outstanding historical event. This



Some of today's folks in yesterday's costumes who rode in the old buggies of the 1800's. Left to right: Miss Ida Rosen, Gene Hufnagle, Alexander Davis, Second Lieut. Joshua Montgomery, Walter Brown and his two daughters Joan and Ruth.

The picture on the opposite page shows the winning float of the interesting parade. The entry was sponsored by the Maine Seaboard Paper Company and shows posed on the platform William Treacartin as the Minuteman, Ensign George Jewett, Jr. of the Navy air force. Second Lieut. Joshua Montgomery of the air corps in the right background. Red, white and blue was the color scheme of the beautifully decorated float.



anniversary was observed at a period in the world's history when the universe was battling the world's biggest conflict of aggression.

The 150th Anniversary program was planned and organized by the Bucksport Civic Club at the last meeting of the first year of the club. Committees were appointed and assigned a part of the program. The committee comprised the following local citizens:

Rev. Alfred Hempstead, Richard Nason, Arthur Kimball, Harold Cushing, Roland Harriman, Roy Stairs, Halvor Prescott, Robert Reynolds, Fred Forsyth, George D. Bearce, Paul Gay, Frederic W. Smith, Paul Brown, Mrs. Frank M. Pierce, Bernard Pooler, Hervey R. Emery, Mrs. Percy Sargent, Mrs. Arthur Buck, Mrs. Alexander Davis, Mrs. Harold Morse, Mrs. G. Lawrence Blodget, Mrs. Delia Wentworth and Mrs. Annie Gilkey.

Each member did his duty well, but special mention must be made of the excellent work of Roy Stairs who organized and promoted a program that goes down in Bucksport's history as the best one yet in the memories of the older inhabitants.

#### Many Excellent Exhibits

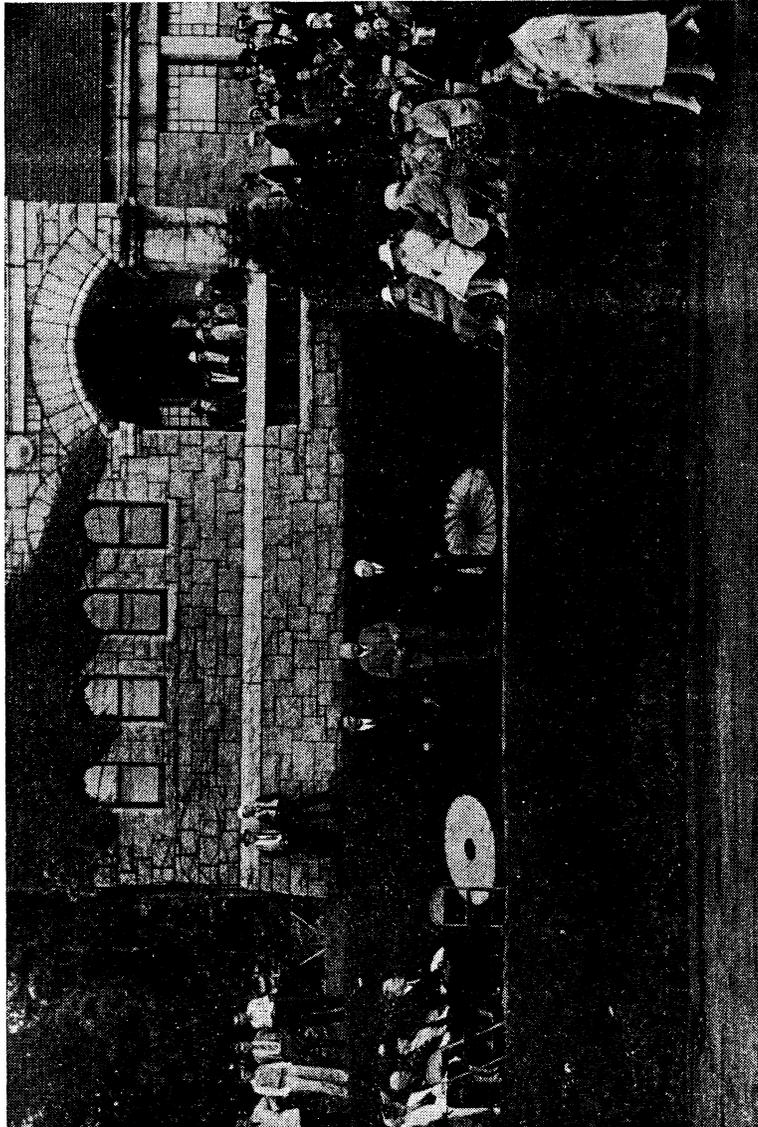
Throughout the day, (June 25, 1942) many people found the many exhibits in the store windows and at the Buck Memorial Library exceptionally interesting.

There were countless articles of the Revolutionary War period and of later years on exhibition. Some of these were priceless and were handed down directly from Jonathan Buck, the founder of Bucksport. Among the many things were the Memorandum Book of Jonathan Buck, the Penobscot Book Ledger, a copy of memorials to the General Court of Mass. in



The October Club float which won second prize.

The picture on the opposite page showing the covered wagon float sponsored by the Pulp and Sulphite Auxiliary drew much attention and praise. Even the oxen appear to enjoy their errand; and can they keep time? Just note the positions of their feet—plenty of unison.



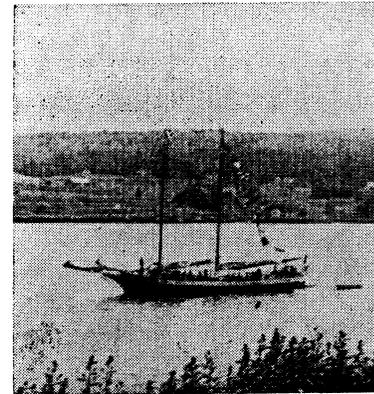
1775, begging for ammunition and food, the Town Record Book No. 1 containing the article of incorporation 1792, a report of the first town meeting, a window display of ancient firearms, a display of old handiwork and glassware, old prints of ships, buildings, and portraits of descendants of Jonathan Buck, old silverware, rugs, lamps, hand-made dolls, old kitchen ware, furniture, an old steeple clock, a music book written in ink, map of old Bucksport, old school books, a painting of Hannah Gale Buck, widow of Jonathan Buck, an excellent display of Admiral Peary's expedition to the North Pole, and hundreds of other interesting articles.

Previous to the evening program, the Ladies Canteen of the Civilian Defense served a buffet lunch at the Congregational Parish House to the visiting Cadets and Soldiers.

#### The Mill Stones

At seven o'clock the dedication of the old and first mill stones was witnessed by hundreds of people. These stones were used in the first mills of Bucksport; and in late years had become private property. The owners gave the stones which are now embedded in the lawn of the Buck Memorial Library. The presentation of the stones was made by Rev. Alfred Hempstead and they were accepted by Benjamin Blodget as a memorial to Jonathan Buck, the founder of Bucksport and erector of the first mill in the then township.

Participating in the dedication were descendants of Jonathan Buck, namely: Mrs. Arthur Buck, Frederick Forsyth, Mrs. Henry Buck, Joseph and Frank Buck, Mrs. Charles Homer, Mrs. Walter Gardner, Miss Evelyn Hall, Miss Nettie Swazey, Thomas Swazey, Emmett Swazey, Mrs. Albert Swazey, Mrs. Edward Bennett, Miss Winifred

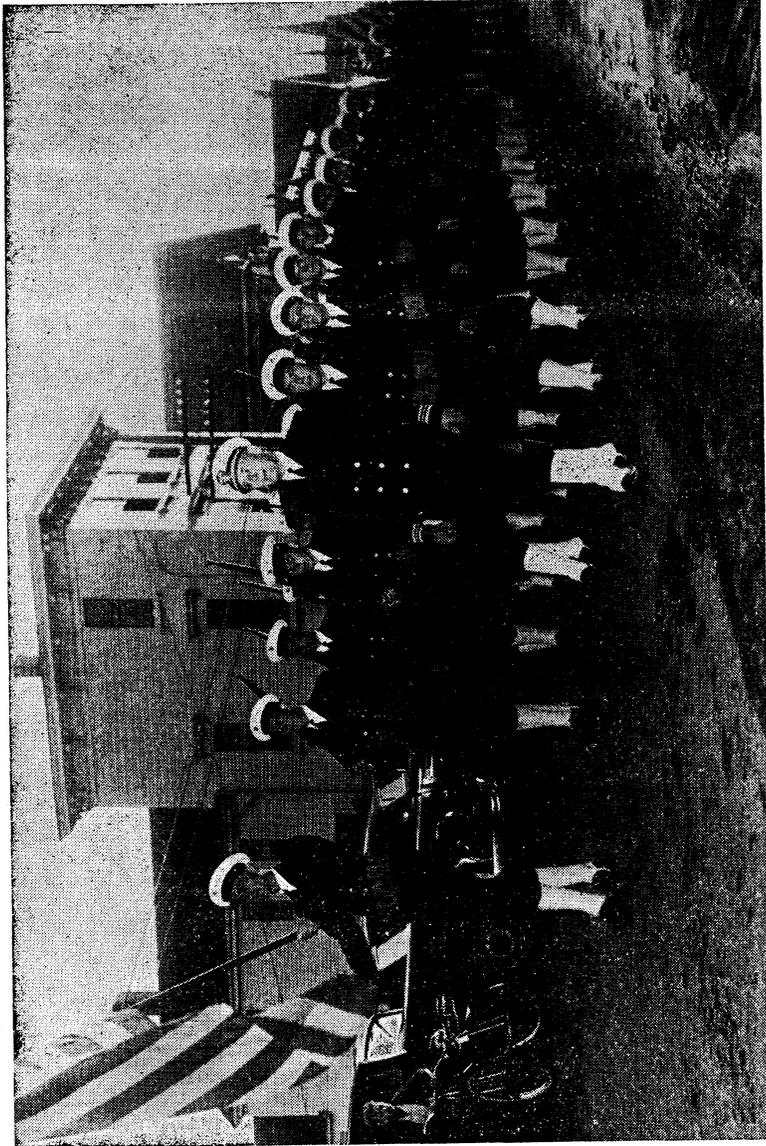


The training ship of the Maine Maritime Academy, Castine, shown in Bucksport's harbor was the first time that such a type of vessel anchored at the local port.



Mechanized war equipment in the parade was the first such appearance in Bucksport.

The picture on the opposite page shows the dedication of the mill stones, with the stones to the left and right of the standing representatives, who are left to right, George D. Bearce, Rev. Alfred Hempstead and Benjamin Blodget. The ceremony took place at the Buck Memorial Library which is the structure in the background. Descendants of Jonathan Buck, founder of the town, are seated.



Jones, Arthur Swazey, Mrs. Warren Kennedy, Mrs. John MacDon-ald, Gerard Kennedy, Mrs. Walter Brewster, and Mrs. Gerard Jilson.

Remarks were made by George D. Bearce, general manager of the Maine Seaboard Paper Company; and by Judge Raymond Fellows of Bangor, a native of Bucksport.

Congressman Frank Fellows at Washington, D. C., a native of Bucksport, sent this message of remembrance:

"Bucksport is home to me, and the word 'home' suggests every decent, fine, unselfish thing in a man's life. I recall Swazey's pasture: The ball team we called the Dandelion Diggers the old seminary and the steamboat wharf, the tannery whistle: the Robinson House porch with its summer visitors: my schoolmates who with me took part in celebrating the Fourth to the consternation of constituted authority: the swimming hole in Silver Lake meadow: mother's garden out back of the house on Franklin street, school teachers with great patience: long absent but still well remembered faces. I love its every rock, tree and bush. I congratulate myself that for more than fifty years I have known and loved Bucksport and its people. I honor those who in its one hundred fifty years have contributed to its history and helped to make it that landmark and depository of cherished memories for all who have known it and inevitably loved it. To reflect upon our home town is to hold an abiding faith in the ultimate triumph of the decency of this world. I sincerely regret I cannot be present at the celebration."

Frank Fellows.

#### Best Parade in History

Following the dedication thousands of people gathered to see the best parade in the history of the town. The parade was marshaled by James Spratt, first selectman of Bucksport, followed by the Le-

gion Color Bearers, Cadets from the Maine Maritime Academy of Castine, the Bucksport High School band, oxen and horse-drawn vehicles of the 1800's manned by ladies and gentlemen dressed in Colonial costumes, the Girls and Boys Scouts, Paper Makers Union and Auxiliary, Civilian Defense Units. Motor Corps unit from Bangor Air Base, Veterans of Foreign Wars Kiltie Band of Bangor, and beautiful floats.

The patriotic float sponsored by the Maine Seaboard Paper Company decorated in red, white and blue crepe paper won the first prize. Posed on the float as a Minuteman was William Trecartin, Ensign George Jewett, Jr., and Second Lieut. Joshua Montgomery of the air force representing their respective type of the armed forces. The October Club float won the second prize. Other beautiful floats were sponsored by the Cub Scouts, the Verona Grange, the Blodgett Tanning Co., and Pulp and Sulphite Auxiliary.

The judges of the parade were Mrs. Douglas Dismukes of Castine, and Judge and Mrs. Raymond Fellows of Bangor. In the reviewing stand were Rear Admiral Douglas Dismukes, superintendent of the Maine Maritime Academy, Rev. Alfred G. Hempstead and Roy Stairs.

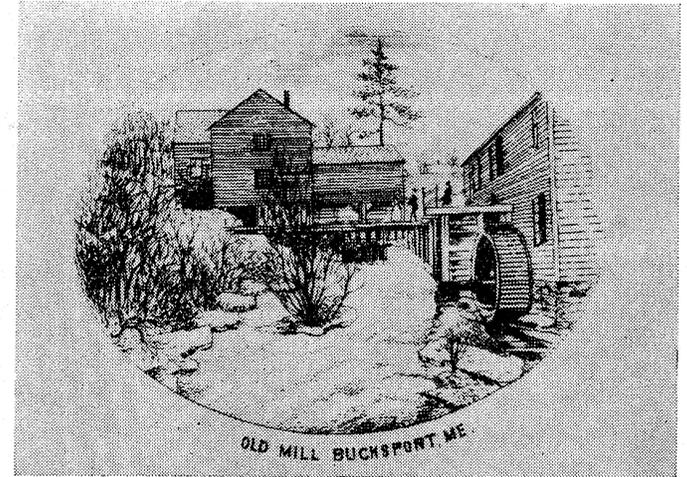
The climax of the celebration occurred in the late hours of the evening when a street dance was held in front of the Verona Grange building which was well patronized and watched by hundreds of people.

It was a late hour when the celebration came to an end. But the memorial and historical features of the event shall never die. They will live long in the memories of those who witnessed the occasion to be passed down to the grandchildren and theirs. June 25th, 1942 was a proud, a glorious, a happy day for every man, for every woman, for every child living in Bucksport.

The picture on the opposite page shows Cadets of the Maine Maritime Academy of Castine which added prestige and dignity to the line of march.

## Early History of Bucksport

by ALICE F. BUCK



Above shows the old grist mill on the left bank of the mill stream and on the right bank is the old carding mill. A board walk spans the stream to connect the two mills.

The most valuable of the documents exhibited at the library on June 25th in celebration of Bucksport's sesquicentennial was "Jonathan Buck his Memorandum Book", a tiny log of the Sloop Sally's first voyage up the Penobscot.

The first figure to emerge from the memorandum book is Deacon David Marsh of Haverhill, who, on the 14th of June 1762 "put in pay the Sloop Sally to go on the Penobscot to carry down the committee and stores in order to lay out the township."

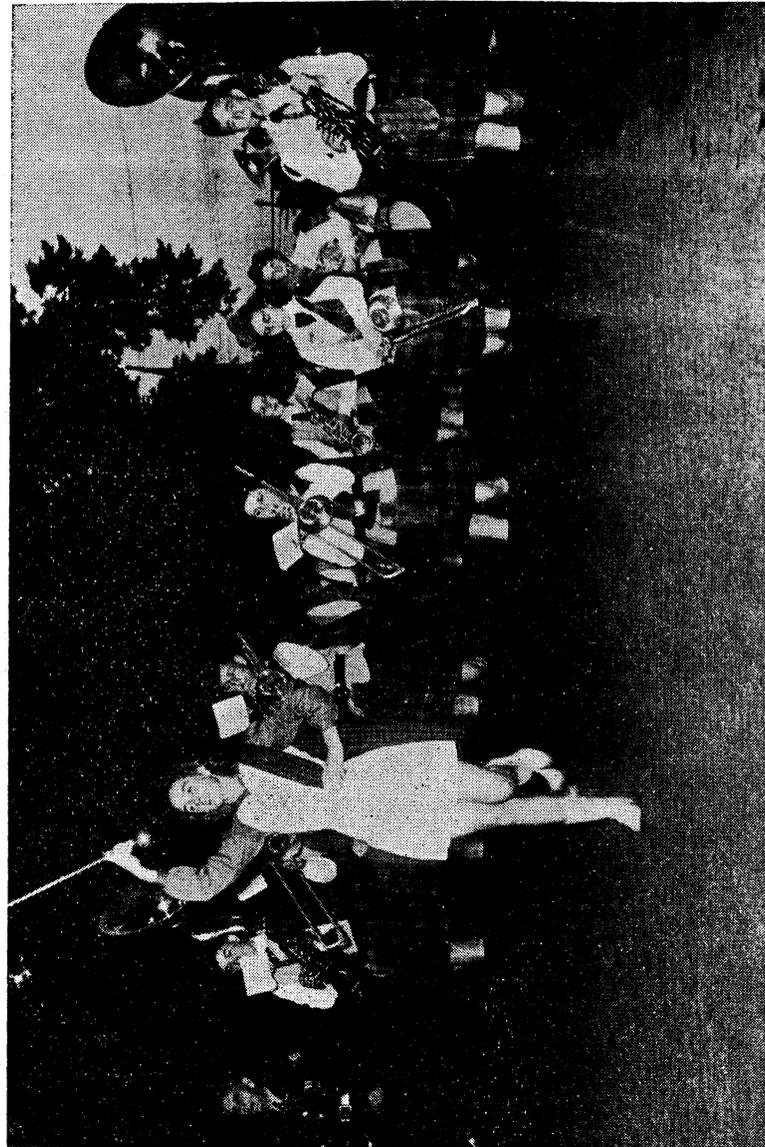
These townships, between the Penobscot and Nova Scotia, had been granted in February of the same year to David Marsh and 352 other citizens of Massachusetts and New Hampshire by the General Court of Massachusetts with the

subsequent approbation of King George III, and in April Samuel Livermore, Esq. had been chosen by a major part of the votes of the two houses to inspect the surveyors in laying out the several townships.

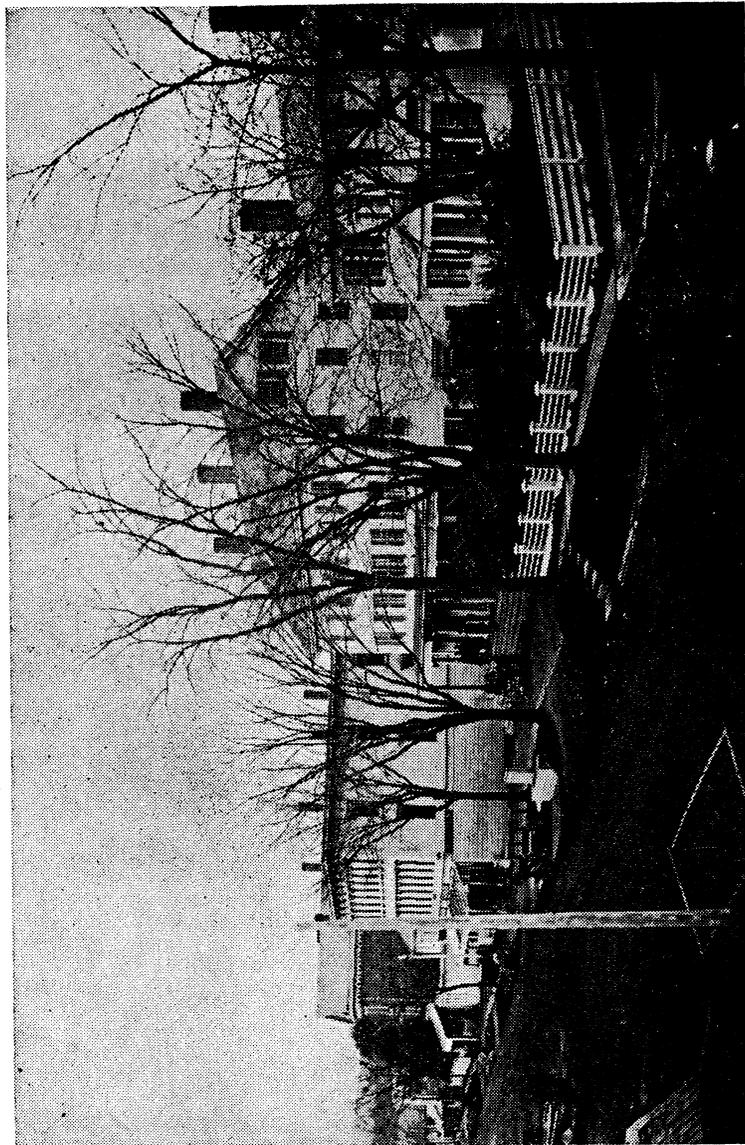
In accordance with the arrangement made with Deacon Marsh, the Sally was stored with "one cadg of tobacco, one barrel of bread, one-half barrel of powder, 3 water barrels, 2 flour barrels, 2 meat tubs, and 3 barrels to put fish in."

She sailed from Haverhill on the 16th of June carrying eight members of the committee of surveyors besides Jonathan Buck, her owner and navigator, and his fourteen year old son, Jonathan, Jr.

The next day she "got down to Newbury." Being a craft of only



The Veterans of Foreign Wars Kiltie Band of Bangor shown on page 10 and the Bucksport High School Band furnished the music for the marchers.



20 tons the Sally was obliged to cling close to the shore and to remain in some friendly harbor when weather conditions made her course difficult or dangerous. So now for two days she was held at Newbury by adverse winds and on the next day, by a superstition current among sea captains that no voyage could be successful if it were begun on the Sabbath. On the 21st she sailed again and got into Casco Bay at 9 o'clock in the forenoon of

mitteemen with Jonathan Buck "cast a lot for their six townships and the lot fell to the west of Mount Desert River."

#### Planning The Township

Sprague's Journal of Maine History says: "The plan for laying out the townships granted to David Marsh and his fellow petitioners was to erect six townships of the first class so called and six of the second. When Livermore and his surveyors came to run out the lines it was found that the "River of Mount Desert" was the dividing line between the two. With some little ceremony, which included the breaking of a bottle of "Old Medford" and other observances peculiar to past times, the river was christened the Union River. The townships of the first class included the present towns though not so divided, of Bucksport, Orland, Penobscot, Castine, Brooksville, Sedgwick, Brooklin, Bluehill, Surry, and a part of Ellsworth. As an indication of the extent of the townships of the second class it may be added that they comprised what are now Trenton, Lamoine, Hancock, Sullivan, Gouldsboro, Steuben, Cherryfield, Harrington, Millbridge and Addison."



The Old Dam on The Mill Stream

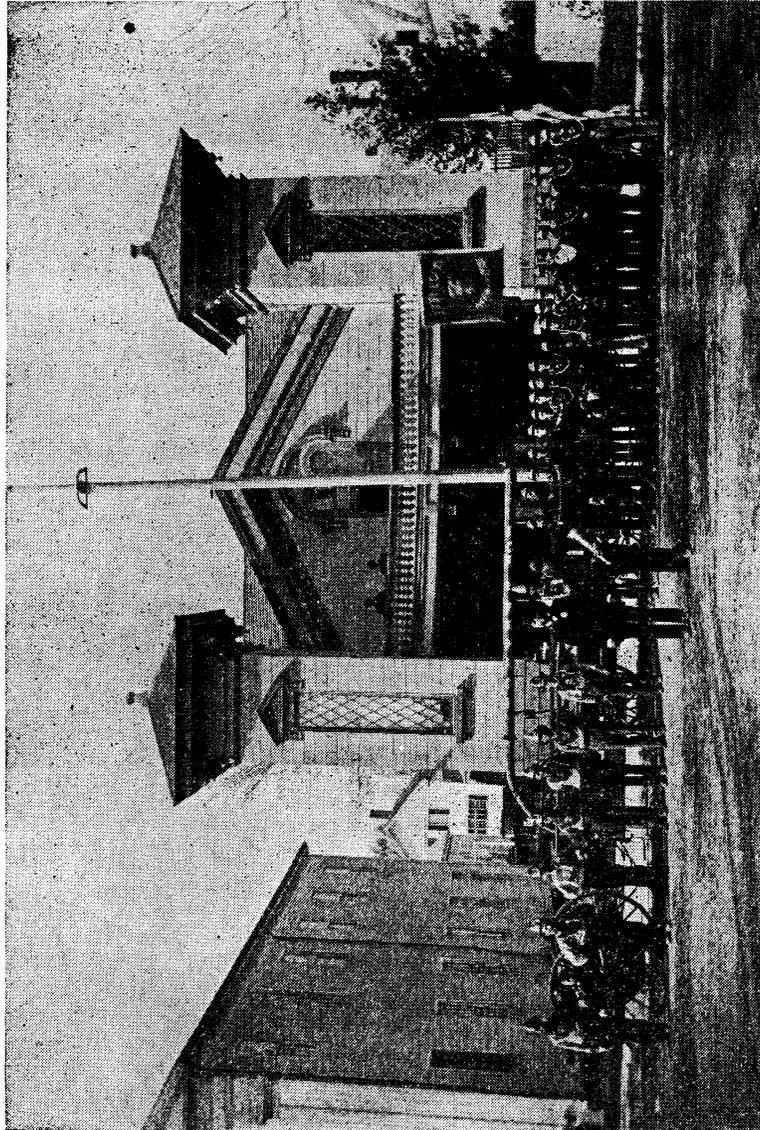
the 22nd, picked up a pilot, and sailed at 1 o'clock same day. In the morning of the 23rd she sailed by Monhegan and at midnight anchored above the Fox Islands (Vinalhaven and North Haven).

On June 24th, eight days out from Newbury, the Sally arrived at Fort Pownal (Fort Point) at 2 o'clock in the day. Esq. Livermore arrived at 4 o'clock and in the evening the whole committee met and agreed to send "12 men up the falls to review the land."

A long rain storm interrupted progress at this point, but on the 28th the 12 men, among them Jonathan Buck and his son, sailed to Naskeag, 10 leagues. They got there at 2 o'clock to find 7 sail in the harbor. The next day the com-

To return to the memorandum book—On June 30th the Sally sailed for Mount Desert River, about five leagues, and anchored in the bay on the west side, "12 fathom, oozy bottom, small current." On following days the committeemen with Jonathan Buck "reviewed" the Mount Desert River, Surry Bay, Blue Bay, and "Magibiguyduce". It was on July 21st that the Sally got down to the real business of sailing up the Penobscot "to the fishing place" (off Indian Point where the paper mill now stands) and six miles above. "Going ashore at the fishing place through the woods as we walked there is a pond bears about N. E.—Fine fishing for salmon and good lands."

On the opposite page shows Bucksport in 1850, with the residence of Dr. Pond (right) which is now the site of the Merrill Trust Building, next building is the Jed Prouty Tavern. The two larger buildings were built by the Bradley brothers. These business blocks are still prominent on the Main Street.



Three days were given to the review of this particular land and resulted in its selection as the site of Township No. 1, now Bucksport.

On her return voyage to Newbury the Sally was becalmed off Mussel Ridge and her luckless passengers were forced to the hot work of rowing all one afternoon. "A small wind" rewarded them and they came safe to port on August 1 at 8 o'clock in the forenoon, all in health."

In June 1763 the Sally again came up the Penobscot bringing committeemen to settle the bounds between the townships, and begin the survey of the lots in each township. Each boundry when settled was marked by the first letters of the committee's names on a convenient tree and a heap of stones piled for a monument at the foot

of the tree. The survey of No. 1 began on July 6th.

#### The Memorandum Book

Hardly less interesting than the "Memorandum Book" is "The Penobscott Book", an account book kept by Jonathan Buck from 1763 to 1775. In it appear the names of the men and women who, by their courage, industry, and perseverance, made the settlement of Township No. 1 a success, and through its pages runs an amazingly complete story of their daily lives.

Activity in the settlement naturally centered at first in the sawmill built in 1764 on the river's edge at the foot of the mill stream. There were turned out boards, staves, shingles, clapboards—everything needed for the settlers'

Pictured on the opposite page is the old fire engine house dedicated July 4, 1856 and destroyed by fire in the early 1900's and which was replaced in 1911 by the present engine house. The building on the left is the old meeting house erected on Oak Hill in 1813 from which location it was moved minus the steeple and the front entry to Franklin street. This building also was burned. This old structure served various purposes. In front of the building was the town jail, a hall upstairs and town office down stairs.



The old wooden bridge which connected Bucksport and Verona, showing fish camp, draw bridge in the center with the pier. This bridge was replaced by the State with another wooden bridge, which in turn was later replaced by a concrete structure. The sign on the post read "No faster than a walk." Verona in the background.

building and much for sale in Boston and more distant ports.

Activity about the mill soon began to hum as busily as did the mill itself with work on the upper dam, the middle dam, the lower dam, and on a bridge at the sawmill, with the building of houses, barns, a trading house near the river, a house for smoking fish, and a blacksmith shop across the stream from the sawmill, where shoes for oxen, irons for plows, and springs for traps were fashioned over a fire fed from a "chaldron of sea coals".

The year 1770-71 saw the building of the 60-ton schooner Hannah, the first of many vessels to be built in Bucksport shipyards.

The shore of the township was dotted with landings near which the owners' fleets were moored—fleets made up of boats to meet the settlers' varied needs, gondolas, bateaux, whale boats and wherries, hay boats and logging boats, floats and canoes. Hay boats were kept busy all the year round bringing in hay from the meadow at Duck Cove and the Winterport Marsh, both boons to the settlers because they needed no clearing and were

easily accessible by water. Beside hay the land along Orland River furnished an abundance of fine oak which was either rafted down the river and around the thoroughfare to the mill landing or brought around on logging boats.

Beyond the landings anchored the sloops coming in from Newbury to discharge passengers and unload cargoes. Occasionally they brought new settlers with their families and household goods—now and then a cow and a swine, a coop of hens or ducks, once a horse and twice "dogge poppes". Supplies they always brought, clothing sometimes, and sometimes such luxuries as snuff and pigtail tobacco.

#### The Penobscot Book

All the accounts in the Penobscot Book are rich in good things to eat and drink, a surfeit of moose meat, bear meat, salmon and shad, pigeons and ducks, a constantly increasing crop of grains and vegetables, such an abundance that it is difficult to realize that 1775 was to bring the settlers close to starvation. (The last entries in the book were made in 1775.)

The first year of the Revolution found the settlers along the Penobscot doubly distressed by failure of crops and a British blockade at the mouth of the river. Before the summer was over it had become all too apparent that, if the settlements were to survive, they must have help from the outside. Accordingly the Committees of Safety from the different settlements met and framed the following petition:

"To the Honorable the Council of the House of Representatives of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay in General Court assembled:

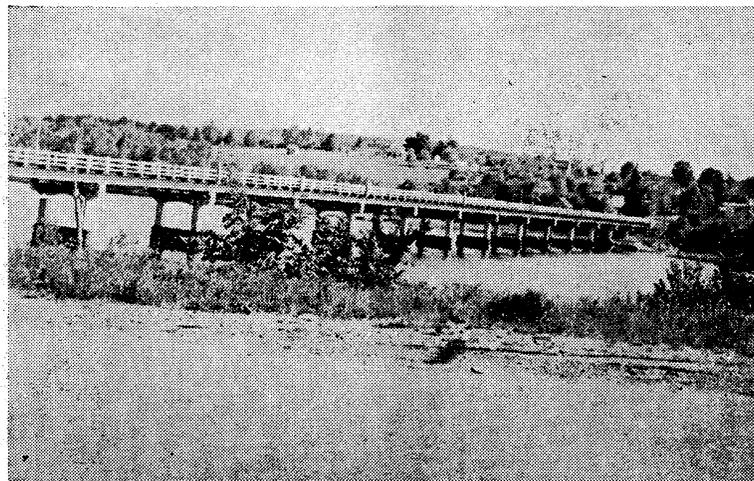
"The humble petition of us the committee of Safety for Penobscot River for and in behalf of our constituents the settlers and inhabitants of said Penobscot River which contains one hundred and fifty families and upwards being the eastward parts of your said province and a young and infant settlement. Sensible that winter is approaching and that we have been deprived of any succor from the Western Towns for near three months past occasioned by the present distressed situation the

whole colony is in and we your Petitioners more especially from a number of vessels now lying in the Bay at Long Island (Ilesboro) the mouth of the Penobscot River who have made prizes of numbers of vessels bound in here for our relief and if said vessels continue there our distress will be increased. And that your petitioners are in a very defenseless state respecting ammunition—your petitioners humbly pray that your honours would take our case into your consideration and in your great wisdom would point out and direct us in a method that we may be supplied with ammunition and provisions of bread. And your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray ——— Penobscot River, October 31, 1775

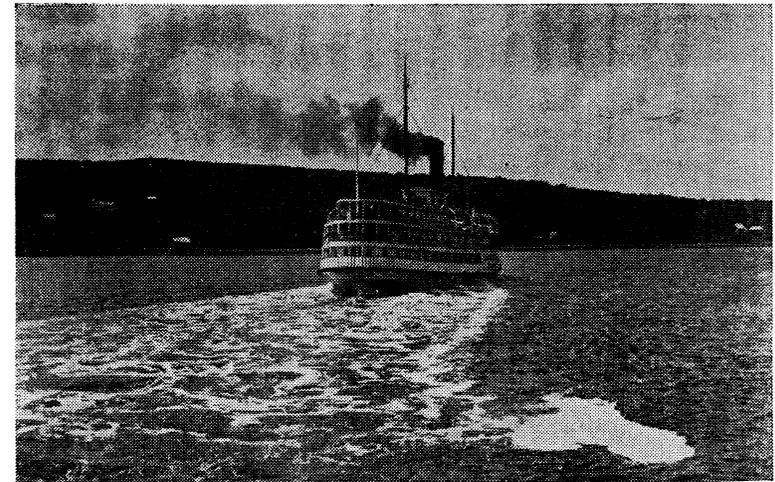
Signed: Jonathan Buck  
Joshua Treat  
Jonathan Lowder  
Josiah Brewer  
Eben Haynes  
Henry McLasky  
Samuel Hays  
Samuel Keyes

Jonathan Lowder, Clerk"

A copy of this memorial together



The present bridge connecting Bucksport and Verona Island. This structure was built by the State and completed in 1932.



Bucksport was a thriving river port for many years and shipping was a profitable business. Shown above is the Ransom B. Fuller in early 1900, leaving the Bucksport wharf for Bangor, on its regular Boston to Bangor run.

with instructions given to William Crawford, Esq. with the request that he prefer the petition to the General Court were among the documents exhibited at the library on June 25th.

Evidently William Crawford succeeded in sailing safely past his

Majesty's ships lying in the harbor, for Williamson in his history of Maine says that the assembly recommended that 200 or 300 bushels of corn be sent to Penobscot and sold to the inhabitants at a moderate price taking wood and lumber for pay.

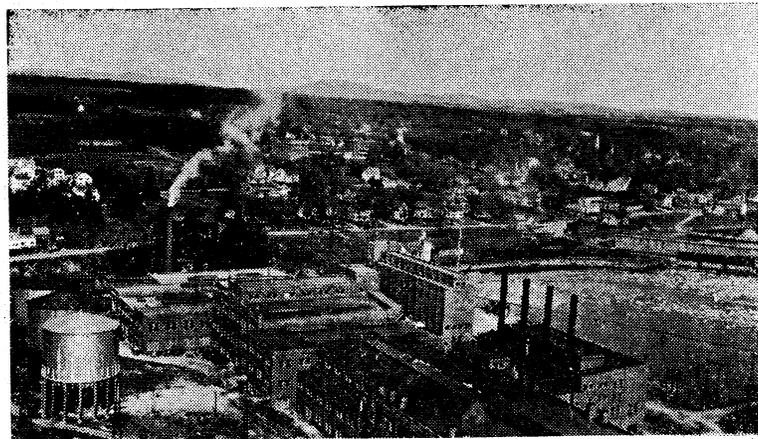
## Early Education In Bucksport

By Miss Abbie Reed

The early settlers thought that educational training was next in importance to religious training. As early as 1642 the General Court of Massachusetts passed an act which required every child to receive the benefits of an education. This was Massachusetts' and Maine's first compulsory education law. Five years later in 1647 a new law was enacted which became the basis of the common school system in Massachusetts and Maine, and it remained almost unchanged for nearly one hundred years. Not until after the Revolutionary War was much attention given to schools. In 1788 a law was enacted providing that there should be a lot of 320 acres re-

served in each township for the support of schools, and the following year another law was enacted requiring that every town having fifty families must furnish annually six months schooling which might be in one or more schools. In 1780 the power of taxing people for support of schools was given and authority granted for buying land and building schoolhouses at public expense. Towns were then divided into districts.

The first school in Buckstown as it was then called was held in a log cabin near the river not far from the Orland town line. This school consisted of six boys and three girls. The tuition was 2/6 d per week. Eliakim Darling was the teacher. He taught reading and writing to the boys and girls but



The West and North Sections of Bucksport as it looks today.

ciphering only to the boys.

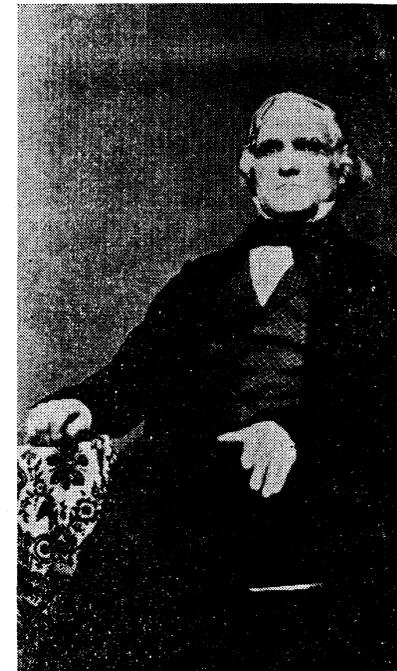
The first record of raising money for the schools was in 1794 when 30 L was raised and the selectmen were delegated to see that the money was properly expended. In this year a school was held in a building at the foot of the hill (now known as First Street) near the river. This school was taught by Mrs. Putney, wife of Jonathan Putney. She had fourteen scholars which were all the children in the First District.

In 1799 the selectmen were given authority "to divide the town in as many districts as they think proper." The town was divided into four districts by the river, each district being required to build its own schoolhouse. The expense of the school was paid by sums of money raised at town meetings.



Mrs. Richard Buck, who with her daughter Emeline, gave in 1887 the Buck Memorial Library in memory of her husband, Richard.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century the New England Primer was used for exercises in reading and writing. In addition to these the boys were taught ciphering. All pupils read from the Bible and Psalter after completing work in primer. Arithmetic was restricted by law to reasonable computations only. The pupils were obliged to learn three hundred and sixty-two rules which were needed in ordinary business transactions.



RUFUS BUCK

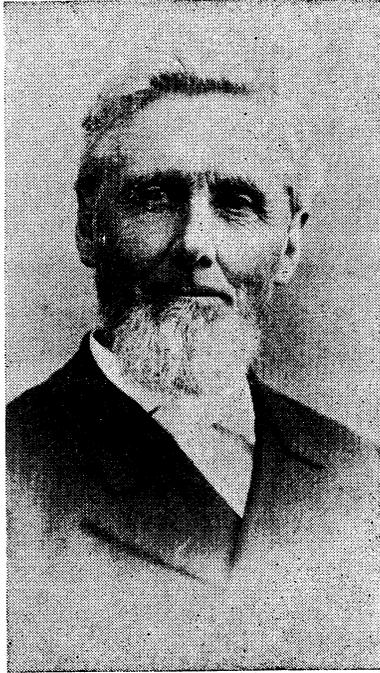
Rufus Buck was a descendant of Col. Jonathan Buck and was born in Bucksport, January 22, 1797, and died here May 12, 1878. He was a man prominent in public affairs, at one time being collector of customs and a representative at the Legislature. He was a member of the church for more than 60 years, and was superintendent of the Sunday School for 20 years. Being very fond of singing he led the church choir for 30 years.

At the first district meeting held January twenty-fifth 1802 at the house of Jonathan Buck, Esq. the sum of \$370 was voted to build a schoolhouse, and the following year it was voted that the second school district be given the liberty to set their school on the parsonage lot, and later it was voted that each district in the town provide their own school masters with the appropriation of the selectmen. In 1811 it was voted that money raised for the support of schools be divided equally among the districts according to the number of children in each district. The following year it was voted that the interest arising from the school land be added to the principal (if the legislature will permit it) annually for the present and that the trustees of the Buckstown school petition the General Court for liberty to appropriate it for the further increase of said fund.

A school was held in a two story building on what is now known as the corner of Franklin and School streets where the Barnard house (now owned by Mr. Bearce) now stands. The Proprietor's Hall where the Masons held their meetings was on the second floor. Later the town bought the hall. After the building was moved to the corner of Buck and Mill streets and made into a two family house now known as the Estes house.

Eight years after Maine was separated from Massachusetts and became a separate state, an important law was enacted directing that twenty townships of the public land be sold and the proceeds go to form a permanent school fund, the interest from which to be distributed among the several towns for the support of common schools. This was the beginning of the state school fund now available for towns.

The school code adopted by the first legislature provided that every town raise and expend for the support of schools not less than 40c annually for each inhabitant and the money to be divided among the school districts according to the number of persons between ages of 4 and 21 years. It also provided for the elections of a superintending school committee,



REV. EDWIN AUGUSTUS BUCK

A descendant of Col. Jonathan Buck, was born in Bucksport, May 31, 1824. He graduated from Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., in 1845, and from Yale College in 1849, also graduated from the Bangor Theological Seminary in 1852. Was ordained and settled over the Congregational Church at Bethel, Maine. In 1859 called to the Congregational Church at Slatersville, R. I. and in 1867 was called to take charge of the missionary work connected with the Central Church of Fall River, Mass. This work covered a period of more than 30 years. Throughout the city he was beloved and known as Father Buck. When he resigned the church made him Missionary Emeritus and continued his salary. He died March 9, 1903 at Fall River.

defined the qualifications of those employed as teachers and enumerated the subjects to be taught including morality, sobriety and industry.

In 1831, the town voted to adopt the following "Resolve, Viz. That it be the duty of the Superintending School Committee to prepare blanks for the several instructors, each to represent the state of his school to be reported at the next annual meeting. 2nd, That it be the duty of each Agent to notify the Parents in his district at the beginning and close of the school term to visit the same.

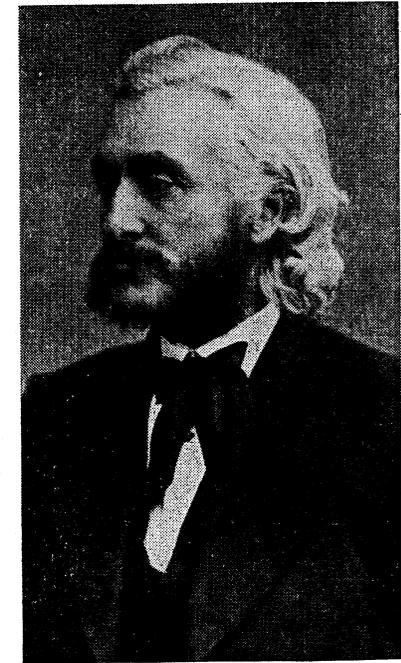
About this time a fashionable boarding and day school for girls was opened by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Little. The school became very popular and students came from Bangor, Boston and other places as well as Bucksport to attend it. Mr. Little was a quiet man highly respected and evidently exerted an excellent influence in the school and community.

In 1825 "The Universal Preceptor" was used as a text. This small book contained lessons in thirty different subjects. Passages from "Paradise Lost" was used for parsing. This year Bucksport established its first two teacher school in a large two-story wooden building, surmounted by a belfry and heated by fire places.

The first high school was kept in the Methodist parsonage and taught by a Mr. Wakefield. Only ordinary studies were taught here but many of the boys received a higher education by clubbing and hiring at their own expense a teacher "who was versed in the higher studies." In the Fall of 1835 Mr. Stephen Allen came to the village of Bucksport for a year's residence having been engaged to take charge of the Bucksport high school an institution sustained without aid from the state by the people of the village. The school was held in the house built for that purpose, later used for the Grammar school. One teacher only was employed. He was expected to give instruction in all branches usually taught in high schools, including French and the studies preparatory for college. About thirty pupils attended this school, mostly village pupils. Eldridge Carpenter followed Mr. Allen as principal. His school consisted of 20 males and 15 females. The

course of study offered had now increased and in 1838, included writing, history of Commerce, Astronomy, Philosophy, History, Geography, Grammar, Arithmetic, Surveying and Bookkeeping.

In the following years schoolhouses were built in the different districts. In District #10, \$25 was raised for the fencing in land around the schoolhouse and repairs on same. The paying to William Simpson 11 shillings for a cord of wood to be housed by September is recorded and Nehemiah Bassett boards the mistress for 75c a week. In 1845, \$250 was raised for the



FREDERICK R. SWAZEY

Frederick R. Swazey was born in Bucksport August 10, 1831, the son of John N. and Sarah Buck Swazey. He graduated from Yale in 1855 and practiced medicine in Ellsworth one year, returned to Bucksport and continued his practice until his death in May, 1875 at the age of only 44 years.

building of a schoolhouse on the lot where James Eldridge's house is. It was voted that the agents of the school districts were to ascertain and report to the town clerk all strangers that may move into Town within their respective districts and that compensation to the agents for such services be 2 cents for each person reported and the clerk

be allowed 1 cent each.

In 1853 the town appropriated \$2000 for the support of schools, and in 1854 it voted that a sum of not exceeding \$300 be appropriated from the money voted to be raised for the support of schools for purchasing of outline maps and globes for the use of public schools.

## Brief History of E. M. C. S.

by Bernard Pooler

In 1845 a group of Methodists considered the need of an educational institution for their children, and as a result of this conference the East Maine Conference Seminary was founded as an institution in 1848. Bucksport was chosen as the seat because it was a busy seafaring port. The sum of \$2,500 was donated that year by the citizens of Bucksport as was the land known as Zion's Hill. In 1850 the charter was obtained. In 1851 the first building, Wilson Hall, was erected and the first class held with 13 males and 14 females as members of E. M. C. S. with the Rev. Loren L. Knox as president.

During 1853-54 Chase Hall was built, and so named for Professor Chase. In 1912, Oak Hall was erected. Unfortunately this building with its equipment and many valuable papers were completely destroyed by fire in 1923. In the fall of that year, Morris Hall, at a cost of \$80,000 was erected. Morris Hall was so named for Professor Morris.

Oak Hall so called because the building was located on Oak Hill formerly known as Zion's Hill. This location commands a striking view of the beautiful Penobscot river.

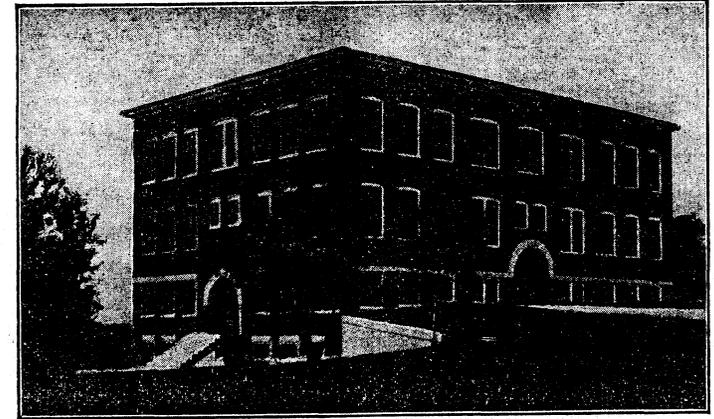
Thus after years of labor E. M. C. S. grew to an institution with a financial value of \$300,000, which comprised three large buildings, an athletic field, grounds, an artesian well and a caretaker's home. The well cost \$10,000 and it is said to be 300 feet deep.

The school was co-educational and at pre-civil war days was the leading fitting school in Eastern Maine.

E. M. C. S. was governed by leading educators, and mention is made of the splendid leadership of Frederick Bragdon during the early nineteen hundred. E. M. C. S. grew from an annual enrollment of 27 pupils to over 300. However, as all good things come to a sad ending so did the existence of this 82 year-old school; and in June, 1933 the doors of E. M. C. S. were closed forever as East Maine Conference Seminary under the direction of the Maine Conference of Methodist Episcopal Churches. Outstanding obligations of over \$90,000 and threats of foreclosure forced the abandonment of the school.

On July 1, 1933, the town of Bucksport leased the administration building to house the town high school students while a new High School building was being built. In September 1936 this new town school was occupied. Thus the E. M. C. S. property on December 16, 1937 was sold at auction by order of the Supreme Court. The highest bid of \$5,850 by Mrs. E. M. Chase purchased the property, which included the three seminary buildings, the grounds, athletic field, caretaker's house, an artesian well and a lot extending 130 feet from McDonald street to the Spofford lot.

Several parcels of this property had been sold separately before November, 1940, when the grounds and buildings of the East Maine Conference Seminary were pur-



Chase Hall of The Former E. M. C. S.

chased by the Franco-American Oblate Fathers of Lowell, Mass. to train young men for priests in the missionary field.

Much renovation was done by the Oblate Fathers and the interior of the old buildings completely rebuilt. Classes began in September 1941; and plans for next season are expected to call for 100 young men to study at this private junior college.

The faculty for the first year at the Oblate Seminary was as follows: Rev. Gaston LeHoullier Superior, Rev. Arthur Salvas, Rev. Leo Desmarais, Rev. Armand Tremblay, Rev. Louis Desruisseaux, Rev. Armand Morissette, Rev. Paul Cote, Rev. Real Labrie, Rev. Marcel Geureux, Rev. Leo Monette, Bro. J. Violette and Bro. R. Beliveau.

## The Maine Seaboard Paper Co.

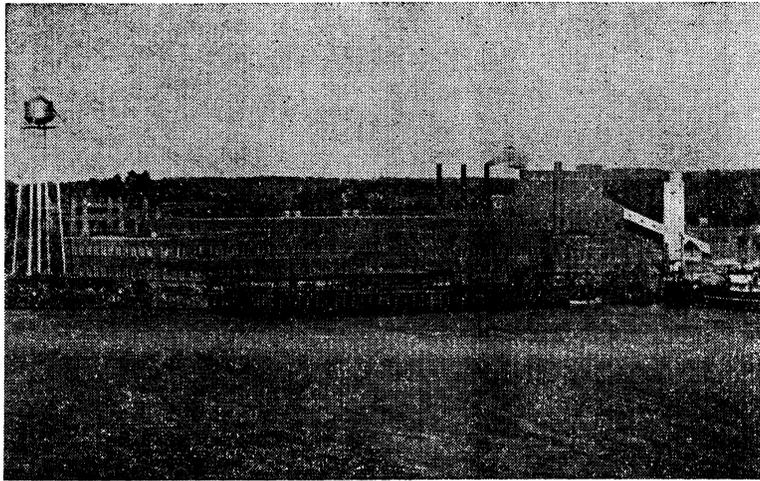
Industrially, Bucksport has been up and down. For many years shipping, ship-building, the Salmon Point Tannery, fishing and lumbering kept the town very active. But time and these activities passed on, and the town felt the downward trend from the loss of these industries.

However, in 1929 things turned for the better. In this year the construction of the Maine Seaboard Paper Co. newsprint mill began on the site formerly occupied by the Salmon Point Tannery mill. This new construction brought to the town much aid in many ways.

It was on Nov. 24, 1930, that the construction of the new mill was completed and operation started un-

der the management of Fred Bagley with Frank Silver as superintendent. In 1933-34 Arthur Hastings replaced Mr. Bagley, and Mr. Hastings was replaced in 1934 by George D. Bearce, who is general manager of the Maine Seaboard Paper Co. Theodore Kloss was appointed superintendent, the position held by Frank Silver. Mr. Kloss is still with the company.

The annual output of the Maine Seaboard Paper mill is 100,000 tons of newsprint, 5,000 tons of specialty products and wrapping, and 7,000 tons of sulphite pulp. This output requires the help of approximately 425 people in the mill and about 175 others in various capacities.



THE MILL OF THE MAINE SEABOARD PAPER COMPANY

The Seaboard mill is one of the most modern on the North American continent and is constantly kept to the highest efficiency. It is Bucksport's largest industry and one of the largest in New England. Along with the mill the company built and operates what is known as "The Townsite" which comprises about 45 houses and acreage. It also controls the Chapin athletic field which once was a part of the E. M. C. S. property. The company also operates a club house for its employees, supports its sporting organizations; and its employees are affiliated with three labor unions.

The annual consumption of pulpwood is approximately 125,000 cords (about 400 cords per day)

which is cut according to exacting specifications and transported to Bucksport by rail, truck and boat. Ample wood is assured since the company owns almost 500,000 acres of timber lands in Eastern Maine.

Fresh water, aggregating more than fifteen million gallons per day, or enough to supply a city of approximately 20,000 people, is taken from Silver Lake which is a natural storage basin.

Electricity furnished for power comes from Wyman Dam on the Kennebec River at high voltage and is then transformed to 2300 and lower voltages for individual motors. The daily consumption averages 450,000 KW hours, or a quantity sufficient to light a city of 70,000 people.



## The Jed Prouty Tavern

By Bernard Pooler

The history of Bucksport would not be complete without the history of Jed Prouty Tavern, originally known and called the Robinson House—a name which still piacards the structure. In relating the story of Jed Prouty Tavern considerable light is brought out on the town's history.

Built in 1783, there have been little if any changes in the physical appearance of this historic hotel while much history centers about the place.

In the above two cuts, one can note only minor changes; also noticeable are the two trees which still stand, like perpetual sentinels. In the old picture the building at the right of the tavern was the home of Dr. Pond, now site of the Merrill Trust Company. However, the history of the tavern reveals its own story.

### How Building Was Named

In the Memorable epoch of Denman Thompson, "The Old Homestead" and bucolic drama generally, Richard Golden, with his "Old Jed Prouty," was a fixture on the American stage. In "Old Jed

Prouty" he created something almost as classical as Thompson's New England farmer of "The Old Homestead" and Neil Burgess' female impersonation in the "Country Fair". The difference was that Golden founded the character on an actual person and reproduced for his setting a real down-East tavern in a real town. For Prouty was the proprietor of an old hotel on the Penobscot river in Bucksport, Maine.

Originally known as the Robinson House, it was rechristened after the actor Richard Golden wrote the play, "Old Jed Prouty," based on the tavern and its history. A part time resident of Bucksport, Golden married a girl from the town, Dora Wiley.

Upon the completion of his play he set to work making up scenery for it, copying the tavern office in great deal. Nothing was incorrect or exxagerated. Desk, chairs, register, and even the doors and latches were reproduced faithfully. Characters in the play wore even the same brand of clothing as residents of Bucksport, and smoked the same brand of cigars. Hay used in certain scenes was cut in Bucksport. Even a Bucksport

pump and 500 gallons of Bucksport water was carried around the country, as was a Bucksport fire engine.

The play netted Golden \$75,000, a huge sum of money in those days, and in honor of Golden, the Robinson House, proprietor, Rufus Googins, rechristened his house. When you come to Bucksport this same Rufus Googins will greet you and tell you fascinating stories of the early days.

The tavern itself has changed but little. Certain facilities naturally have been added, but in general the house is unchanged. The same beautiful hand finished stairway, its banister held in place by wooden pegs, still is there. The same ancient hand wrought iron hinges hold the doors in place. The same antique latch bolts the door as has been lifted by uncounted thousands of travelers seeking a lodging for the night. The tables in the dining room are equipped in part with utensils that were old when the Civil War was young.

#### Housed Five Presidents

In fact, the Prouty tavern, is one of perhaps a half dozen lingering coaching houses throughout the whole New England and it is the most famous of them all because on the yellow pages of its old registers you may come across a

number of names notable in American history. Among these are included five Presidents who tarried here while in office. The Presidents who stayed here were William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Martin Van Buren, Andrew Jackson, and Millard Fillmore, in Maine, not for pleasure but on occasions in connection with the Maine-New Brunswick boundary dispute, and it was the threat of war over that which really caused the erection of Fort Knox.

Besides these were other notables. You find Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, Stephen L. Douglas, Ben Butler, Robert Ingersoll, and curiously enough Jefferson Davis, who was here in the 'forties. Anna Louise Carey also spent a summer here and in later years Peary (Admiral Peary) made the tavern his home while his arctic vessel the Roosevelt was being built on the riverside.

#### Relics

The Prouty Tavern is not without its relics. Moreover, the old oak flooring, the winding staircases, with their deep worn steps and the hand-hewn rafters, are in themselves relics of the early days of the last century, as are the fine old fan-lights of the doorways. The entire house is of hand-hewn timber construction and is said to



have required five years for its completion.

#### Daniel Webster Here

Daniel Webster was at Bucksport frequently before the final consummation of the Webster-Ashburton treaty, which settled a long and threatening dispute. One of the dates on which his name appears in the old guest book is August 4, 1842. On November 2, 1840, William Henry Harrison is registered, and appended to his name is this legend: "Entertained by 46,000 freemen." They had evidently gathered from all over New England to greet "Old Tippecanoe" on the eve of election. December 29, 1842, records simply "General Jackson, Hermitage," while "Tyler too" was here on the tenth of the following month.

Somewhere about that time a small steamer, the T. F. Secor, operated between Boston and Bangor, about the only means of transportation. There is, today on the wall of the office of the Tavern, a vivid oil painting of her. Her decks are crowded with dignified persons in tall hats and frock coats, and it is surprising to discover that the sailors themselves of those days were similarly garbed.

#### Planks for Flooring

The very planks of the main floor of the tavern, worn and polished to a dark sheen, silently offer their own story. For about 1875 a tall square-rigger was launched at Bucksport. Her decks were of honest two-inch hard pine planks, and when the "Jabez Snow" had been decked over, some planks there were unused. These were laid in the Jed Prouty tavern where they remain today.

The "Jabez Snow", a glory of the towering white sails, passed down the Penobscot to the ocean and set her prow for the distant China. She arrived safely, discharged her cargo and took on another. From that day to this no word has been heard of her.

The tavern offers no frills, but good food, hospitality, good rooms, some with bath and some without, companionship and conversation if you wish it, and privacy if that be your desire. There is friendship

without interference, ease, comfort, rest and enjoyment, whether you come to the tavern for a day, a week, a month, or a year.

#### Rufus Googins

The history of the tavern would not be complete without reference to its genial proprietor, H. Rufus Googins. Mr. Googins was born in Bucksport, May 12, 1875, the son of Fred and Martha Googins. He graduated from the old East Maine Conference Seminary in 1893, and took a fling at selling papers on New York Bowery before settling down in his native town to become one of its oldest business men.

He started his business career with his father who conducted a thriving livery stable, adjoining the Jed Prouty tavern. In 1908, Rufus Googins purchased the hotel from the estate of James F. Moses, and to this day has conducted the hotel in the hospitable manner typical of Mr. Googins.



Dr. Alpheus Page who came to Bucksport from Orland and died here about 1880.

## Legends of The Buck Monument

by Rev. A. G. Hempstead, B. D., M. A.

Pastor of the Franklin Street Methodist Church, Bucksport,

May 1, 1936 - June 15, 1942.

The legends of a witch's curse that is connected with the markings on the Buck monument in the oldest cemetery in Bucksport bring many curious people to pause in wonder before the monument that honors the memory of the founder of the town. Unfortunately the monument has cast a shadow upon the good name of the founder of the town.

The grave of the founder of the town is visited by the caretaker and once a year a representative of the American Legion decorates the grave with flowers and an American flag just before Memorial Day. The gravestone of Colonel Buck has no marking upon it that can be made into legends. Few people who have heard about the witch's curse know that the grave and gravestone of the town's founder are within fifteen feet of them as they look upon the Buck Monument.

Over the grave of Jonathan Buck is a modest slate gravestone with the following inscription:

In Memory of  
the Hon. Jonathan Buck, Esq.  
who died March 18, 1795  
in the 77 year  
of his age

He was a worthy Citizen &  
first settler in Buckstown

No mortal flesh can e'er withstand  
The power of Death's impartial  
hand

But each without resistance must  
Receive the stroke and turn to  
dust.

Beside the grave of Jonathan Buck is that of his wife who died in 1789.

In 1852 the greatgrandchildren of Jonathan Buck, feeling that the



The gravestone of Col. Jonathan Buck, beside that of his wife, is within fifteen feet of the monument to his memory. No "leg" is to be found on his gravestone.

gravestone of their noble ancestor was too inconspicuous, erected a sizeable granite monument in his memory. Their purpose was good but the result, as it worked out, was unfortunate. A "fault" appeared in the stone that was a disfigurement. This marking might resemble anything, an icicle with the bottom bent to one side, until someone saw in it the possibility of a stocking or a leg. Stories started. Explanations were given, based upon fancy not upon fact. These still persist. In his book, "Kennebec", Prof. Robert P. Tris-

tram Coffin wrote of the time when witches and pirates had to be cleared out of Maine and that a witch was burned in Bucksport. Judge Raymond Fellows of the Supreme Court of Maine a native of Bucksport, and interested in the history of this region, says emphatically that no witch was ever executed in Buckstown.

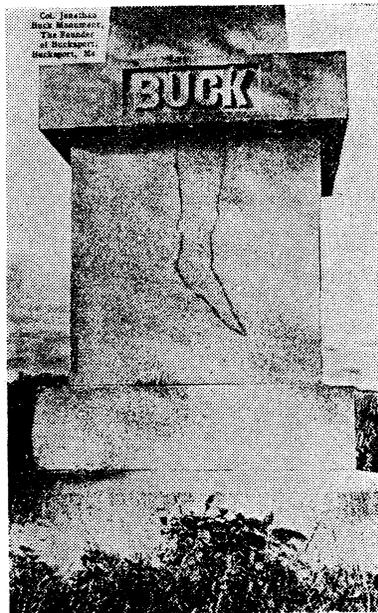
In the September, 1902, issue of the New England Magazine, was printed "The Witch's Curse, A legend of an old Maine town" by J. O. Whittemore. This was the first time that the loose talk about the monument got into print. How shocked were the townsfolk who read the article! Mrs. Frederick Swazey was indignant and Mr. Whittemore was informed by her that he was guilty of slandering the name of a good man; that, for fifty dollars, the reputed price that he got for the article, he had started something which he could not stop and that no one knew how far the tale would go. Mrs. Swaz-

ey had prophetic vision as well as the courage of her convictions. Her indignation about the matter is still remembered by the older people of the town.

According to the Whittemore version of the legend, Colonel Buck was Judge and condemned a witch to be hung. She pronounced a curse and prophesied that her foot would appear upon his gravestone. Mr. Whittemore's article closed with a paragraph worthy of always being attached to the legend.

"More practical and matter-of-fact people poochoo the legend and call attention to the historical discrepancy between the date of the witchcraft era and the regime of Colonel Buck. They say that the tracing is entirely accidental, a fault in the granite which was either hidden by the makers or developed after the monument was in place, and that the legend was made to fit the foot and not the foot to fulfill the witch's curse."

The legend became vivid when the imaginative mind of Oscar Morrill Heath got to work on it. Mr. Heath published a book in 1913, "Composts of Traditions: A Book of Short Stories dealing with Traditional Sex and Domestic Situations" and "Dedicated to Hygienic Motherhood." In this book was the story, "Jonathan Buck, His Curse." It is a thriller to be read on Halloween by those with steady nerves! Mr. Heath liked to shock people and to make money. He wrote a genealogy of Jesus Christ that was suppressed in Chicago where he lived. He boasted that he made money on the book as soon as its sale became illegal. In his wild tale about the monument, the witch's fate was that of being burned alive. Her son snatched her burning leg from the fire and hit Colonel Buck with it, then ran into the woods. Later the Colonel, unwittingly adopted the boy. The leg was miraculously preserved for ten years and after the death of the colonel, the boy put the leg in the casket with the dead man. It brought the colonel out of the



The Leg on Buck's Monument

casket, and empowered him to go down to his monument and with his own blood draw the leg upon it. On returning to his home, he climbed into the casket and uttered his last words. "Close the lid, boy!"

No doubt the poem of Prof. Coffin "The Foot of Tucksport" which was published in 1939 in "Collected Poems" was inspired by the Heath version of the legend. Colonel Jonathan Jetro Tuck of Tucksport was a distorted Colonel Buck. The new element was that of introducing the bride of the colonel and investing her with luxuries which the good woman never was privileged to possess.

Another version of the legend comes from the pen of A. Hyatt Verrill in his book, "Romantic and Historic Maine" (1933). It would appear to be the romantic phase of his writing rather than the historic. In this account, a new character is introduced. A woman

was murdered; one leg was missing from her mutilated body. The authorities could not find the murderer but needed a victim to satisfy the aroused populace. They picked upon a half-witted fellow who lived in a shack on the edge of the town and who had neither family or friends to aid him. He was convicted of the murder and hanged. He pronounced the curse upon the Judge and prophesied that the marking would appear upon the stone.

The leg on the Buck monument will last as long as the monument itself, and the legends that have been built around it will be told and retold for generations to come. A few will recall the prophecy of Mrs. Swazey that the reputation of a good man was sold for the price of a magazine article but more will remember only the witch's curse. Only the discerning will separate the fiction from the facts.

## Old Penobscot Bay

(Dedicated to the days that will never return.)

Did you ever go a'sailing  
Up old Penobscot Bay,  
When the morn was just a'breaking,  
And the fog like snow drifts lay?

With the salt tang in your nostrils,  
And the gulls ascreaming high.  
With fog horns all around you  
Warning ships of danger nigh?

Then the sun breaks thru the cloud  
banks  
Shedding beauty far and wide.  
Unveiling Camden Mountains,  
Like a curtain drawn aside.

Up the river in the sun light  
Rugged shores and piney slopes,  
Little towns and smaller hamlets,  
Pure white yachts and little boats.

Come we now to dear old Belfast,  
Searsport, Northport camping  
ground.

On we sail thru sparkling waters,  
Fort Point lighthouse just around.

Up the Narrows with wooded banks  
Gorgeous in the morning light.  
Smell the pines and spruces green,  
Covering every hill in sight.

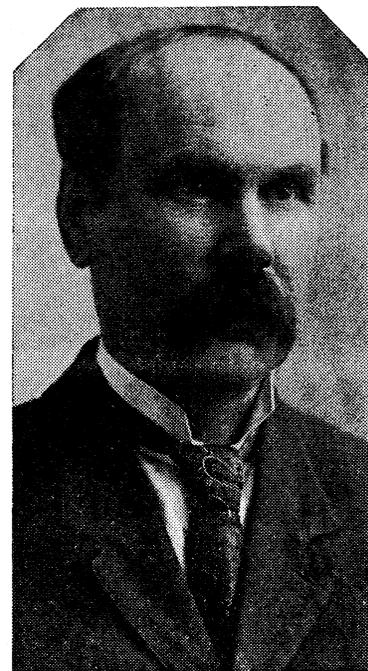
Old Fort Knox stands at the bend,  
Across, Verona's lovely shore.  
Today a bridge of beautiful lines,  
Spans the swift tide-water o'er.

Bucksport, old Jed Prouty's town,  
Winterport, Hampden Heights, and  
now,  
We pause for just one long, long look,  
Backward o'er the steamer's bow.

Green the meadows with marshy grass  
Wooded hills and cedars tall,  
Rugged rocks and towering cliffs,  
And Heaven's blue dome over all.

Oh, there's nothing to ease a homesick  
heart,  
Like a sail up old Penobscot Bay.  
When the sun breaks o'er the world  
like gold,  
And cares are a hundred miles away.

Florence Parker Brown.

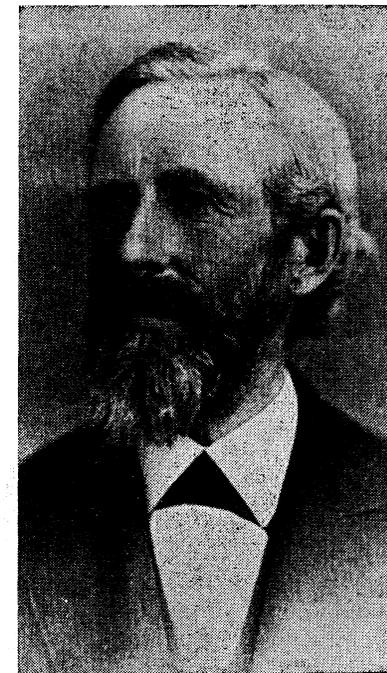


DR. GEORGE H. EMERSON

Dr. Emerson was born in Hampden, Maine, and graduated from Hampden Academy. He studied two years at the University of Michigan, and graduated from the Bowdoin Medical College in 1874. For a few months he practiced in Brooks and Penobscot, Maine. He came to Bucksport in 1875 and practiced here for 56 years. He was noted throughout the state as a specialist in eyes, ear, nose and throat.

He also was an optometrist and studied at the New York Polytechnic Institute. He served on the State Board of Medical Examiners for several years, and for many years was a United States Pension Examiner, and also an examiner for numerous insurance companies. He served for many years as chairman of the Bucksport School Board when the duties of that office constituted those now performed by

superintendents. For several years he was president of the Bucksport Board of Trade. He established the first creamery in Bucksport prior to 1900. He was interested in horticulture. He died here in 1932.



REV. ALFRED LORING SKINNER

Rev. Alfred Skinner was a descendant of Col. Jonathan Buck. He was born in Bucksport, Nov. 22, 1824. He prepared for college at Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., and graduated from Yale College in 1849 after which he studied three years at Bangor Theological Seminary and one year at Andover Seminary. Because of ill health he was unable to accept a settled pastorate, but for a short period supplied pulpits in various parts of the State until 1859. He was for some time in government's employ as clerk at Fort Knox and the en-

gineer's office in Portland. In 1861 he received the appointment of Postmaster at Bucksport, a position he ably filled for 26 years. Then for three years he was superintendent and librarian of the Buck Memorial Library at Bucksport, and one of the trustees until his death in 1899. He was superin-

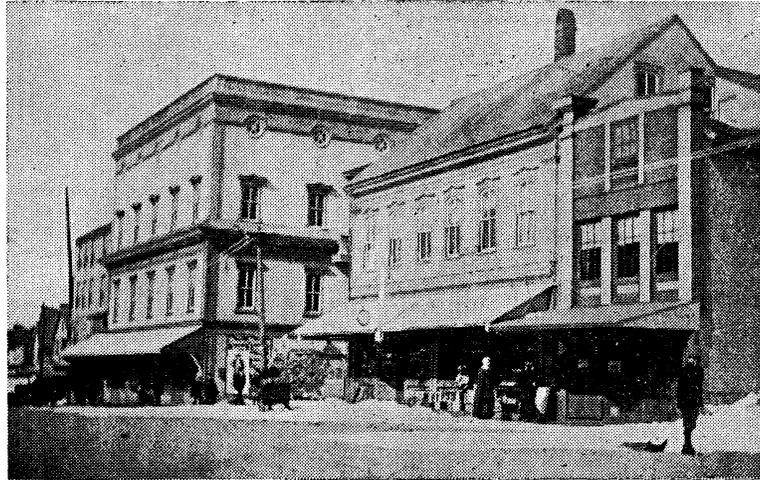
tendent of schools at one time. He was a constant attendant at the Elm street Congregational Church after he returned to Bucksport and was devoted to its interests. He was superintendent of the Sunday School for a period of years. He always had a kindly smile and a friendly greeting for all.

## Bucksport's Biggest Fire

The biggest fire in Bucksport's history was on August 25, 1915, when Emery Hall and surrounding buildings were levelled to the ground in a \$75,000 blaze which started in the Old Tillock livery stable, burning the Emery Hall building, the store of Emery & Co., store of C. B. Richards and several residences, making a clean sweep from Mechanic street to the lawn of the old Darling homestead on Main street, and also up Elm and Merhanic streets for some distance

burning dwelling houses of Mrs. Rilla Greenleaf, The Tillock house, the Costello house and the Perry House.

The Emery Hall building which was owned by H. O. Hussey and C. A. Terrill, included the Patten House, the boot and shoe store of P. E. Dinsmore, drug store of Albert F. Page, millinery store of Mrs. Mabel Robbins, barber shop of T. E. McInnis, Emery Hall with all its furnishings, a printing office recently established by W. B.



Emery Hall built in 1876 and destroyed by fire, Aug. 25, 1915. These buildings occupied the site of land now running two stores this side of Elm street to Harriman's Garage. Shown in the picture is Emery Hall, next is the Emery General Store. The building on the extreme right housed the Frank Grindle store downstairs, and the offices of Dr. Farnham, Wiley Conary law office, custom house and insurance office of E. L. Warren upstairs.

Jones.

The building occupied by the Emery & Co. also housed on the second floor the dental offices of Dr. W. H. Farnham and the law offices of W. C. Conary. The building was owned by J. Robert Emery. The store occupied by C. B. Richards was owned by the Heywood estate. The family of John Carpenter occupied the second floor.

Between the livery stable and Emery Hall were two smaller buildings owned by A. C. Swazey, one was occupied by Esther Gorham, fruit and confectionery, with apartments on the second floor. The other building was that of Crosby's shoe repairing shop. The building on the corner of Main and Mechanic formerly occupied as the selectmen's office was vacant on the first floor while the second floor was occupied by Mrs. Nancy Witham. A large stable owned by

T. M. Nicholson in the rear of Emery Hall went with the rest.

The fire made a clean sweep of everything as shown in the accompanying picture. Help was summoned from Bangor and a steamer and auto truck responded.

Although not all of these buildings were replaced some have been built on the site. Where Emery Hall stood there is now a brick-constructed theatre opened in February 1916 by H. O. Hussey. A drug store was built, also several other buildings have been erected but the loss in bulidings has never been completely replaced.

Another large fire in the town was in April, 1923, when Oak Hall of the East Maine Conference Seminary was completely destroyed and much valuable contents lost. The brick building was erected in 1912-1913 at a cost of \$40,000. The total damage by fire was over \$50,000.



All that was left after the Emery Hall fire.

## The Fire of 1922

This fire occurred March 14, 1922, and caused a loss of \$35,000. Help was called from Bangor and Brewer. Lack of wind was a big factor in saving the town much greater damage.

The buildings destroyed by fire were built before 1870.

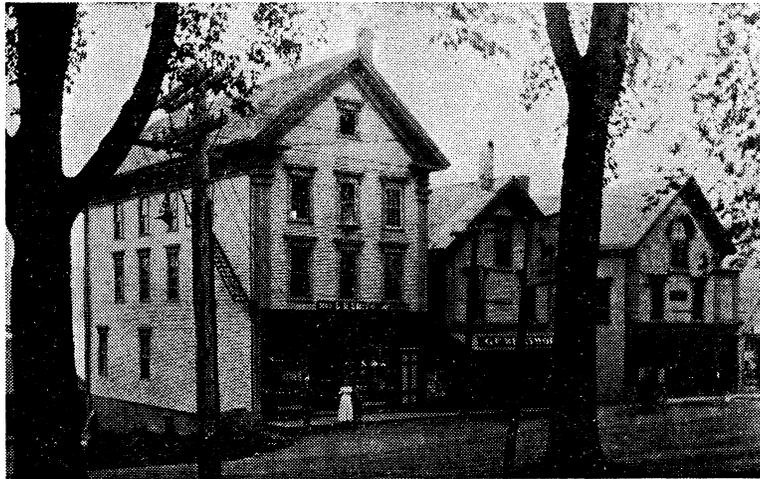
The four story building on the left was occupied on the lower floor by the Smith Dry Goods store and the three floors above by Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Smith. Nothing was saved and the loss placed at \$15,000.

Before moving into their present location the Odd Fellows had made their home in this building before Mr. and Mrs. Smith occupied the upstairs floors after 1911—the year the Odd Fellows moved across the street.

The two and one-half story building was occupied by the Central Maine Power Co., where the fire caught on the lower floor; and the second floor by the office of A. C. Swasey and E. L. Warren.

There was nothing saved. This building was owned by A. C. Swasey. In previous years this building housed the telephone office upstairs, and the grocery store of George Wentworth downstairs (as shown in picture). The grocery store had previously been run by Ed Marks and previously by Finson and Brown.

The next building, which was of three stories was owned by the East Maine Conference Seminary and was occupied on the lower floor by the post office, and on the second floor by the Bucksport Printing Co., Walter A. Smith, proprietor, and the third floor by quarters of the Bucksport band and the Modern Woodmen of America. All the mail and fixtures of the post office were saved. Mr. Smith's loss was about \$3,000. The Bucksport band and the Modern Woodmen saved their fixtures. About eight years previous to the fire the second floor was the home



Early buildings on south side of Main street which were burned in 1922, and now the sites of Leach's Garage, the small Swasey building and the vacant lot to the Tribou Block, now occupied by the Ben Franklin store.

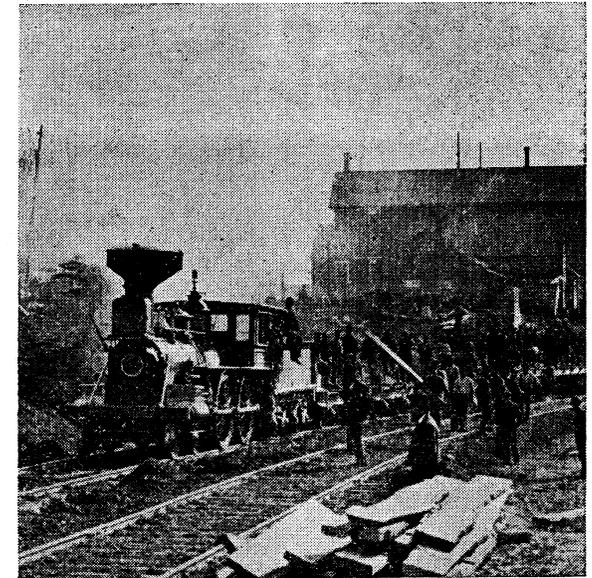
of the Bucksport National Bank.

The building partly showing on the extreme right was owned by A. C. Swasey and occupied by Mrs. A. A. Kerst as a millinery store. The building was totally destroyed. For many previous years this building housed the millinery store of Betty Trott.

In the rear of the four story building was the blacksmith shop

owned by Havener Webster. This was totally destroyed; also a storehouse owned by A. C. Swasey, which was a total loss.

The fire also did minor damage to the Grange building to the extent of about \$500, and also to the Tribou building for a like amount of damage. These buildings are not shown in the above picture.



The First Train In Bucksport

## Sketch of Bucksport's Railroads

By William A. Wheeler

From the day its first settler cleared a piece of land and built a homestead, Bucksport has been a maritime town. For many years its trade was water-borne; and communication with Bangor, 20 miles away, was by horse-drawn vehicle and ox-cart.

The first railroad in the United States was built in 1828, and at first, the primitive little coaches were drawn by horses. In 1829, the first steam locomotive was imported from England, and the Iron Horse came into its own.

New England's first railroad was built 6 years later, in 1835; and the first rail line in Maine, and the second in New England, was the Bangor & Oldtown road, established in 1836. It was about this time that the project of a railroad between Bangor and Bucksport was first proposed; and the plan called for a line connecting the two towns and extending to Milford, principally to provide a means for the shipment of lumber in the winter, when the river was closed above Bucksport.

It was not until a number of years later that a charter was ob-

tained, however, and the plan then called for a railroad from Bangor to Bucksport, thence through Penobscot and Surry to Ellsworth, under the name of the "Penobscot and Union River Railroad." Later the name was changed to the Bucksport and Bangor Railroad, and a line was actually constructed between those points. This was a "broad gauge" line, one of several such railroads in the State. In those early days there was no attempt at standardization; track was built according to the whim of the builders, and every little railroad was necessarily self-sufficient—its locomotives and cars were confined to its own rails. It was not until some years later that the American railroads adopted standard gauge, 4 feet 8½ inches, and commenced standardizing equipment, so that locomotives and cars could pass freely from one line to another.

The Bucksport road had, for some years, rather a checkered existence. In 1874, it was leased to the European and North American, with the idea that the expansion of the territory first envisioned would be carried out by that company; but because of financial difficulties the plan was abandoned. The lease was terminated in 1876.

About this time, the gauge of the Bucksport road was narrowed to 3 feet—still not standard.

At the termination of the lease to the European and North American, the Bucksport road passed into the hands of the bond-holders, and

the name was changed to "Eastern Maine Railway." In 1883, the road was leased to the Maine Central, and again the gauge was changed, this time to standard gauge.

The Bucksport branch of the Maine Central, so-called, was a busy piece of track. With the port active, many vessels tying up at its busy wharves, the rail connection was important. With the advent of motor vehicles, however, and the gradual passing of water-borne traffic, the picture changed. Passenger service between the two towns became thin; so thin that in 1934 highway bus service was inaugurated and passenger train service reduced. Twenty years ago, two round trips of passenger trains were operated daily and were well patronized; today there are no passenger trains between the two points. The bus service, however, is so scheduled as to provide connection at Bangor with important main line trains.

One of the old-time station agents on the Maine Central, George D. Crane, was as much a part of Bucksport as he was of the railroad, and he will be remembered by older residents of the town. Mr. Crane commenced his railroad career in 1872, and in 1875 he went to Bucksport as agent. With the exception of a short period when he worked in Bangor as a train dispatcher, he served the railroad and the townspeople as the Bucksport agent until his retirement from active life in 1922. He died in September, 1930.

## Historical Dates of Interest

From the Town Register of 1907 we find the following leading events of the town. (We have amended in one or two instances)

1762, David Marsh of Haverhill granted plantation and the Sloop Sally sailed for the Penobscot.

1764, Jonathan Buck built saw mill, the first on the Penobscot; also several small homes built.

1770-71, The 60-ton schooner, Hannah, built, was the first of many vessels built in Bucksport yards.

1775, Great suffering for want of provisions.

Aug. 1779, British fleet attacks and burns the township (now Bucksport)

1786 or 87, Col. Buck rebuilds saw mill and dwelling houses.

June 25, 1792, Township was incorporated as Buckstown, and organized Sept 6 of that year.

1793, Strong resolutions passed against the formation of Maine into a State.

1795, Rev. John Kenney, first preacher in town.

1799, Buckstown post office established.

1803, Rev. Mighill Blood settled pastor.

1804, Gazette of Maine published here.

1806, Penobscot Bank established, continued six years.

1817, Name of town changed to Bucksport.

1819, voted on separation of Maine from Massachusetts, 8 in favor; 93 against.

1821, Portion of Bucksport set off to Orrington.

1854, Bucksport Bank organized Sept. 18, chartered a National Bank April 8, 1865. The National Bank was consolidated with the Merrill Trust Company in 1920.

1887, Buck Memorial Library erected to the memory of Richard P. Buck, late of N. Y.

1900, March, Parker Spofford Grammar School accepted by the town, a gift from Mr. Spofford.

1904-05, "The Roosevelt" built at Verona. This is the ship which carried Admiral Peary to the North Pole.



REV. HENRY K. CRAIG

pastor of the Elm Street Congregational Church, 1855-1866

## The Blodgett Tanning Company

The Blodgett Tanning Company, which is Bucksport's oldest industry now operating for 75 years, had its first mill, The Salmon Point Tannery, on the river bank, now the site of the present Maine Seaboard Paper Company.

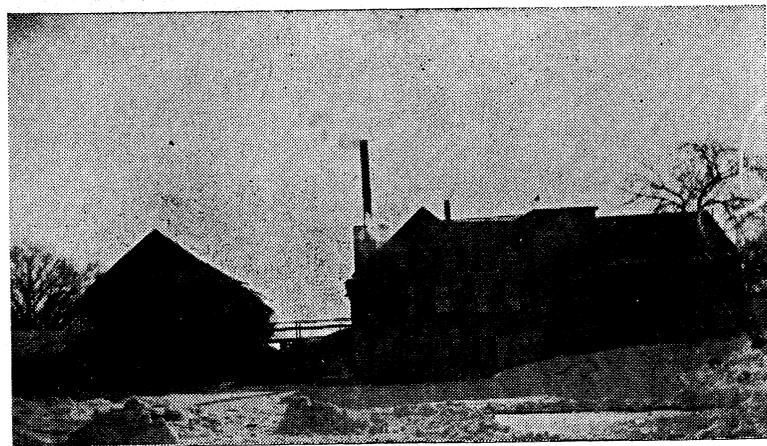
Mr. George Blodgett (father of Benjamin P. and Frederic S.) purchased same in 1890 from Alfred Swazey. The first and smaller buildings had originally been used as a steel mill, and had been sold to Alfred Swazey for ice storage, but had never been used for that purpose. This tannery started operations as a sheepskin tannery in 1891. Mr. Charles Homer who lives on Buck Street went to work as mechanic in 1894.

This tannery was sold to the Maine Seaboard Paper Co. in Nov. 1929 and stopped operation in April 1930 under the name of The George Blodgett Company.

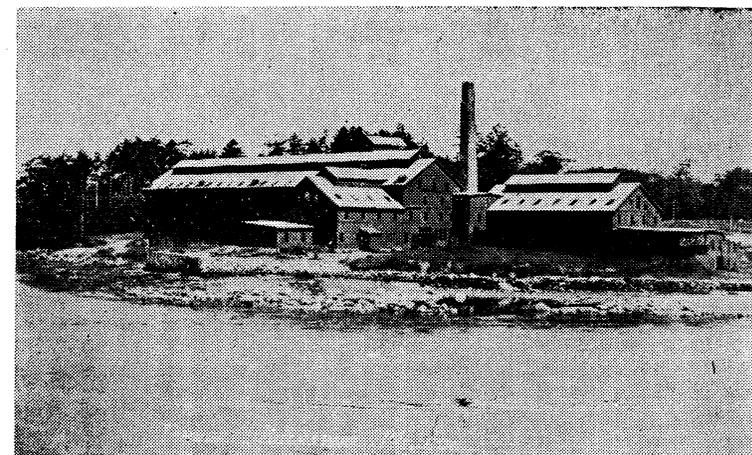
The Blodgett Tanning Company

was formed in April 1930 with Frederic S. Blodgett as President. This Company moved back into the Franklin Street Tannery, and is carrying on the business as a sheepskin Tannery at the present time. Pickled skins are received from all parts of the world and converted into finished leather for the cotton mills of the South, shoe lining trade, Colors, and Skivers. The older, slower process of hemlock bark tanning is still used on certain lines, but has largely been supplanted by the faster extract tannages which speeds the process.

The Franklin Street Tannery (or Darling Tannery) was purchased by Mr. George Blodgett (father of Benjamin and Frederic S. Blodgett) in 1872 from Ambrose Harriman, being operated at that time as a sole-leather tannery. It was completely destroyed by fire in 1876 and re-built by Mr. Blodgett as a sheepskin tannery, which it has remained ever since.



THE FRANKLIN STREET TANNERY



THE SALMON POINT TANNERY

## Bucksport Boys In World War I

The following men from Bucksport were in World War I: Clarence L. Applebee, Jesse T. Atwood, Raymond A. Atwood, Richard E. Atwood, Earle P. Baldwin, Rodney M. Beals, Edward C. Bennett, Hilary C. Bennett, Arthur G. Blaisdel, George L. Blodgett, Hugh Y. Blodgett, Thurston P. Blodgett, \*Harvey W. Bowden, Raymond A. Bowden, Archie Hilbert Bray, Raymond J. Bray, Eugene F. Bridges, George F. Bridges, Harry A. Bridges, Robert L. Bridges, Ralph I. Brown, Ivory A. Carey, \*Herbert L. Carley, Vasco E. Carter, Walter I. Chapman, Stephen V. Chipman, Arthur M. Clay, Raymond H. Cohoon, Basil J. Coombs, Frank O. Cornell, Vincent Courcy, Pearl A. Crosby, Joseph L. Curtis, Arthur E. Cushing, Ronald Dakin, Reginald P. Davis, James H. Decourcy, Paul Decourcy, Thomas H. Delano, \*Lawrence Doiron, Joseph Downey, Leon V. Eastman, Russell C. Foster, Russell B. Frey, Emmons P. Gray, Freeman Gray, Ivor Grindle, Arth-

ur E. Gross, Ivory L. Gross, Frank R. Harriman, Parker W. Harriman, Horace Z. Homer, Lester E. Homer, Matthew L. Hooper, \*Melvin W. Hoxie, Chester L. Hutchins, Oren L. Hutchins, Reginald M. Jocylen, \*Clarence L. Jones, Parker S. Kennedy, Leslie G. Kenney, Eugene P. Lawrence, Adelbert Leach, Paul A. Leland, Harry A. Little, Antonio Lobata, Elmer C. Lord, Edwin S. Lowell, HERNON H. LOWELL, Alexis B. Luce, George E. McFarland, Jr., Robert O. McKinnon, Ray V. Maddocks, Willis D. Moore, Walter W. Mulliss, Foster Newcomb, Frederick B. Norris, Emerson D. Nye, Edwin Geo. Partridge, Lester S. Perkins, Warren Philbrook, Arthur S. Phillips, Stephen C. Rankin, Elmer W. Rideout, John A. Robshaw, Walter Sabine, Rodney P. Saunders, James M. Sheehan, Thomas F. Sheehan, Albert W. Smith, Roy E. Smith, Edwin F. Snow, \*Frank R. Snow, Charles E. Starkie, Fred C. Turner, William J. Turner, George Tweedie, Andrew J. Watson,

\*Richard D. Webb, John B. Wells, John Whitmore and Arthur L. Woodbridge.

\*Died in the service. (seven)

There were 102 men from Bucksport who were in the Federal Service during World War One, while 240 Bucksport men served in the Civil War. A few facts on the census will explain why twice as

many went to the Civil War than to the World War. In 1860, Bucksport had 3554 people, which was the largest in the history of Bucksport; while the 1920 census lists Bucksport as 1906. The 1940 census finds Bucksport with 2927 people a gain of one thousand during the past 20 years. This rise is due to Bucksport's latest industry—the Maine Seaboard Paper Co., which began operations Nov., 1930.

## Bucksport Boys In The Civil War

The following from Bucksport saw active service during the Civil War:

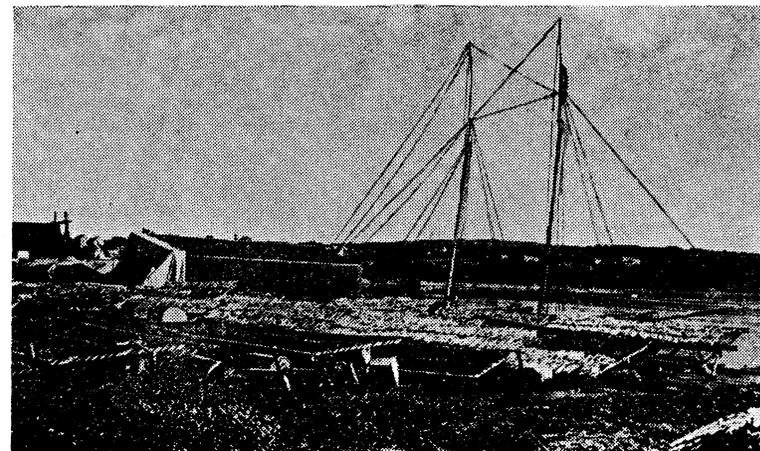
Geo. S. Abbott, Lewis P. Abbott, Orson Abbott, Washington Abbott, John Angus, Augustus E. Aiken, Geo. W. Ames, S. P. Lagros, Chas. B. Bonzey, Jos. S. Bonzey, Freeman P. Bridges, Arthur Bridges, Everett Bridges, John H. Bridges, Francis W. Bridges, Geo. F. Bridges, Chas. G. Bridges, John C. Blagdon, Geo. Blodgett, Benj. Buck, Dennis Burkley, Elliot F. Blood, Hiram L. Burton, Nathan E. Burton, Hiram Burton, Zeba W. Burrill, John A. Burrill, Thos. A. Bennett, Chester D. Bennett, Loring B. Bennett, John Bulduck, Thos. Bulduc, Chas. Barnard, Jas. Bennette, Theo. J. Batchelder, Jos. H. Barnes, Jos. H. Beale, John Beasley, Joshua Bowden, Schuyler A. Cobb, Jos. F. Chadman, Frederick S. Conant, F. W. Colson, Edw. L. Colson, Seth H. Cole, John B. Craig, Stephen R. Crosby, Dr. Willard Collins, J. F. Chadbourne, Jos. F. Chadbourne, Wm. Carl, John Carroll, Sam'l A. Colby, Geo. W. Carr, Doane B. Colcord, Abner A. Clements, Jos. N. Curtis, Jarvis Clair, Edw. A. Crocker, Geo. D. Crane, Chas. V. Dorr, Reuben S. Dorr, Chas. P. Dorr, Kenney Depray, Jos. B. Doane, Hillery Dailey, Augustus Eastman, Frank Emerson, Chas. H. Emerson, Roscoe G. Emerson, Levi Eldridge, Jr., Harry L. Eldridge, Stephen D. Eldridge, Wilber H. Eldridge, Geo. E. Fisher,

Dan'l B. Friend, Wm. L. Fogg, Chas. W. Fogg, Hiram E. Fogg, Jas. S. Floyd, Jos. P. French, Geo. W. Frost, Hiram E. Flagg, Frederick E. Furbish, Horace A. Furbish, Thos. C. J. Furbish, John J. Frazier, Benj. P. Grover, Stover P. Gross, Alfred N. Gross, Wm. H. Gardiner, Haskell H. Gray, Alfred B. Gray, Jas. E. Gray, Alfred R. Gray, P. P. Gilmore, Joel K. Grant, B. F. Goodwin, Horatio N. Greene, Greenleaf A. Goodale, Amos S. Goodale, John H. Gill, John M. Houston, Jos. E. Houston, Albert N. Huston, Geo. P. Hooper, Benj. F. Harriman Luxford S. Harriman, Wm. P. Harriman, Reuben Harriman, W. Parker Harriman, Benj. F. Harriman, Wm. H. Haines, John F. Haynes, Edwin P. Hill, Sewall L. Heywood, Chas. L. Heywood, Jas. E. Hall, Freeman S. Hancock, General Edw. Winslow Hinks of Mass., a native of Bucksport, said to have been the first volunteer to the Civil War, Jas. C. Hammond, Hiram C. Holmes, Chas. A. Humphrey, Elisha Irvin, Geo. C. Irvin, Jos. James, Rufus Johnson, Emery H. Johnson, Artemus H. Johnson, Wm. W. Johnson, Chas. F. Jordan, Chas. A. Jackson, Irving C. Jackson, Geo. W. Kenney, John Kennedy, Chas. P. Kendall, Edw. F. Kendall, Josiah A. Lowell.

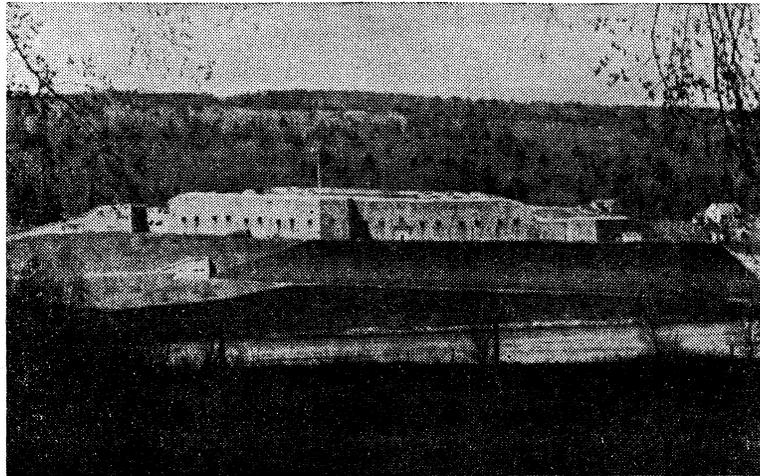
Sam'l Lowell, Edwin Lowell, Richard I. Lowell, Kenney C. Lowell, Jos. H. Lawrence, Jas. G. Lamprey, Edw. D. Lanpher, Henry G. Lane, Richard F. Lovell, Wm.

Montgomery, Alex'r Montgomery, Dennis C. McCabe, Frank B. Miller, Edw. W. Moore, Eben S. Moore, Dan'l Moore, Amos Moulton, John Marsh, Aaron D. Marsh, Arthur McGlauthry, John Murphy, Nash McKay, Benj. McKay, Walter Murch, Andrew McNeal, Edw. C. Miners, John McCarthy, Jas. B. McKinely, Geo. Milton, Levi Newell, Wm. F. Osgood, Wm. H. Orne, Hiram F. Page, John J. Page, Silas Page, Lewis M. Page, Rob't Page, Paris Parker, David A. Patten, Amos Pinkham, Preston P. Preble, Anthony Prew, Witham Plummer, Major Frank Pierce, Leander H. Pierce, Chas. E. Pillsbury, Wm. A. Quimby, Alfred D. Rand, Thaddeus A. Rice, Patrick Ragin, Wm. Robinson, Josiah P. Robinson, Leander Robinson, Edwin Reed, Geo. A.

Rogers, John H. Richardson, Henry J. Smith, Jas. G. Smith, Jas. A. Smith, Chas. Smart, Thos. Smart, Fred Swett, Amasa P. Sherman, John E. Sherman, Sam'l D. Small, Geo. L. Stover, Wellington Sprague, Leander Simpson, John H. Simpson, Wm. H. Stevens, Jas. C. Sawyer, Geo. Snowman, Jos. Snowman, Jas. Stubbs, Jr., Frederick S. Snow, Chas. True, Lewis M. Thompson, Wm. Thompson, Jeremy Towle, Jr., Henry Tapley, Alfred Treat, Jesse Treat, Moses S. Verrill, Greenleaf Webster, Miron Webster, Adelbert G. Webster, Francis E. Wardwell, Emery S. Wardwell, Virgil P. Wardwell, John Webb, Eph'm B. Woodbridge, Hiram E. Woodbridge, Chas. E. Wood, Fred'k Wood, Asa G. Wiggin, Sam'l H. West, Freeman York.



Bucksport was once a thriving fishing port. And drying fish on Nicholson's Wharf was a daily occurrence.



## Fort Knox Was Built In 1846

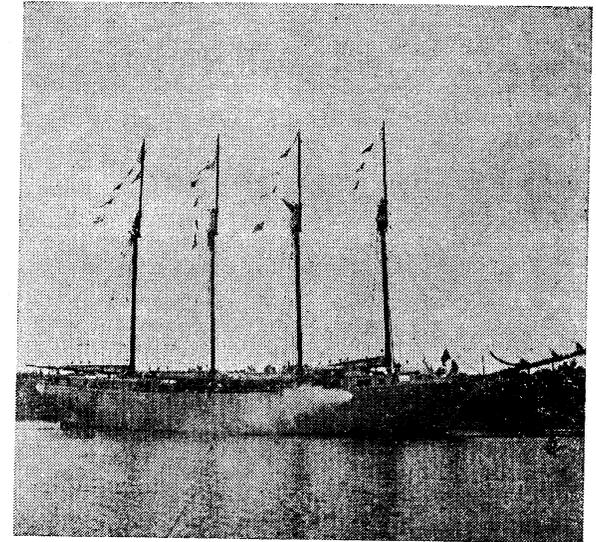
Less than a mile from Bucksport's business section is Fort Knox, a veritable treasure trove for the explorer. A massive and extensive structure of gray granite it was built in 1846 as a result of the so-called Aroostook War, in which no shot ever was fired. Costing nearly a million dollars to build, the fort never was garrisoned, and there it stands today for all who wish to venture into its damp underground passages.

There are long sloping corridors leading to the river bank from the interior of the fort many rods away; there are narrow passageways leading to little known recesses far under the bank into which the fort is built; and there are still

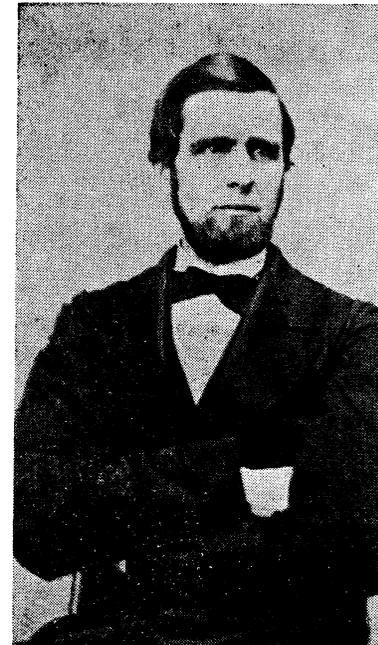
more remote dungeons absolutely devoid of light and containing but little air. No sensible visitor ever ventures within them without a good flashlight.

On the regular green slopes of the banks protecting the underground masonry one may rest, philosophize a bit, or just dream. No noise of the city penetrates this drowsy retreat, no clouds of dust pollute the pine-laden air, and nobody presents a bill for the use of the place. It's open, free of charge to all who wish to visit.

In late years, outdoor fireplaces and picnic tables have been added for the comfort of all visitors. A visit to Bucksport is never complete without venturing through the gray walls of Fort Knox.



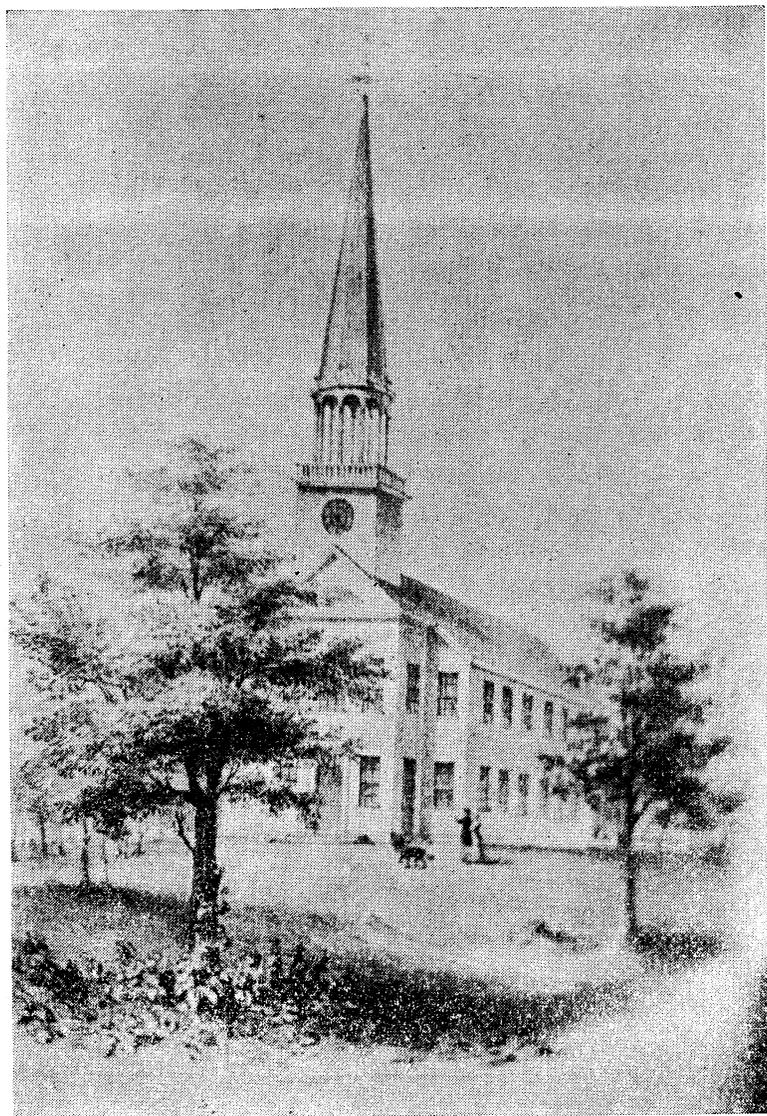
The Lynwood built on Verona Island was one of many boats launched in the busy ship-building days.



### REV. HENRY BLODGET

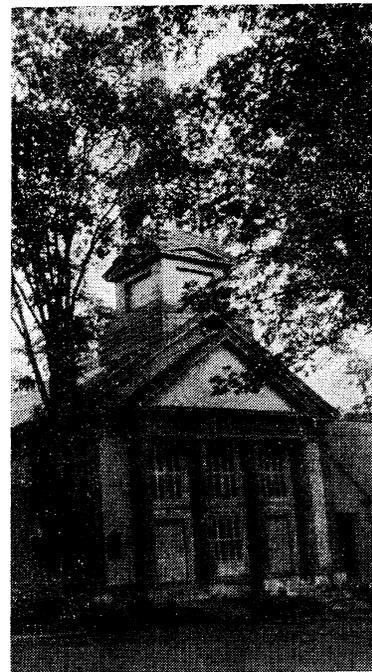
He was the eldest son of Deacon Bliss Blodget and Mary (Thurston) Blodget and was born in Bucksport July 13, 1825. He was a Yale graduate and received the degree of D. D. from his Alma Mater. He studied at the Bangor Theological Seminary and was appointed tutor in Yale. He was ordained as a missionary to China; was in Shanghai then went to Teintsin being the first Protestant Missionary in the Province of Chihi. In 1864 he went to Peking. He was one of the committee to translate the new testament into the Mandarin and he prepared a hymn-book for the use of the native Christians. He died in Bridgeport, Conn.

## Histories of Bucksport's Churches



First Meeting House erected on Oak Hill in 1813

## Congregationalism In Bucksport



The Elm Street Congregational Church As It Looks Today

In 1793, at the second town meeting after the incorporation of Buckstown, it was voted to raise 18 pounds for the support of the gospel. Rev. Abraham Cummings was hired to preach in different parts of the town for six months. For the next ten years missionaries from the Massachusetts Missionary Society visited the town for occasional preaching. Most famous of these was Rev. Jotham Sewall who was influential in organizing many of the early Con-

gregational churches.

In 1803 the Congregational Church in Buckstown was "embodied into a church state" and Rev. Mighill Blood was called to become its pastor. The six original members of the church were Rev. Mighill Blood, Jonathan Buck, Esq., Mr. Josiah Colson, Capt. Daniel Buck, Dr. Jotham Moulton, and Mrs. Lydia Harriman. Mr. Blood was ordained in a large house then building by Capt. James Ginn (on the lot where Capt. Harrison's house now stands) where a temporary pulpit and seats were fitted up for the occasion. His parish was the whole town and for a number of years he preached alternately at Mr. James Higgins' house in the upper part of the town, at a schoolhouse in what was called the back settlement, and at the schoolhouse in this village every third Sunday. When the village schoolhouse burned the only church property saved was the pulpit Bible, which is still preserved by the society and was used in the sesqui-centennial service on June 21st.

In 1813 the First Congregational Meeting House was erected on Oak Hill. There Rev. Mighill Blood continued his pastorate until 1838, when the present Congregational Church on the corner of Elm and Franklin streets was dedicated. Mr. Blood concluded his pastorate in 1840. In the century since, he has been succeeded by eleven pastors, William Breed, James Walker, Henry Craig, William Fodsyth, Frederick Brown, Edwin Klock, Henry Webb, William Riddough, Frederic Charrier, Emerson Blodgett, and Charles Richmond, the present pastor. Of these men only one has rivaled Mr. Blood in the length of his pastorate. Rev. William Forsyth was ordained in 1870 and resigned in 1906.



This picture taken half a century ago from Oak Hill shows the Catholic Church on First street, a sidewheeler just leaving the local port and a number of fishing schooners tied up at local wharfs.

## The Catholics of Bucksport

In endeavoring to trace the history of the Catholics of Bucksport and vicinity from the first arrival to the present day, we find ourselves hampered in many ways. Those who first settled here, being not only of a poor class of people but compared with the present age, their education was limited and all of them have long since passed away, leaving no written record; therefore we are obliged to trust to the memory of their descendants, and to Protestants, from whom we have been able to gather some facts. From what has thus been gathered, we conclude that about 1835 a small party of emigrants came from Canada on foot and were known as "French Canadians." Among them were Zacariah Bulduc, Jos. L. Ronco, Philip Dyer, John, Joseph and Charles Pooler. Peter O'Dette, Joseph Depray, Peter Newell and "Judge" Bushnow, the latter so named because of his better education, having a fair

knowledge of English and for many years was the interpreter for the rest, and thus his given name is forgotten.

Some of these Canadians were accompanied by their wives and one of them, Mrs. Pooler, wife of Joseph Pooler and known by tradition as "Blind Pooler", took faithful care that all the children should learn the catchism, and to this end, for years, she had them come to her house often for that purpose. A number of years passed, and no priest came near them. Pilgrimages were made to Canada for religious purposes, and at such times, the children frequently accompanied them for baptism. Among them were Messrs. Thomas and John Bulduc, who at the age of four and two years respectively went to Canada with their parents and received the sacrament of baptism.

About this time we find that one Patrick Hurley settled in Orland and Dennis Collins upon Whit-

more's Island, now Verona, and a few years later Roger Kerrigan came to the same place, and Patrick McConnell settled in Bucksport. The negotiations by the U. S. government in 1840, for what is now Fort Knox, and the subsequent building of the same, caused a large force of laborers to collect at this point, and among them were many Irish Catholics and a few more French Canadian Catholics were also added to the number, and the names of Walter and Peter Clary, John McCarthy, John Hall, James Clark, Jerry Sullivan, Matthew Cahill, James and Michael Doherty, Henry McClay, Michael Hurley, Wm. O'Brien, Thomas Prew, John March, John Bearor, Robert Kelly, John and Timothy Collins, John Whalen, Martin Ball, Thomas and Cornelius Murphy, John Carroll, John Griffin, Laughlin, John and Charles McInnis, Charles and Alden McNeil, James Sheehan, Alphonso Jules, Charles Healey, John Clish, Pete Mulligan, George Foster, John Donovan, John and Daniel Lyons, Daniel Costello, Thomas Wakely, Thomas Faircloth, Michael Fahey, Wm. Miller, Hugh and Duncan McDonald, Michael, John, and Thomas Cullity, James Harrigan and Thomas Cavanaugh, are given as settling here during the next twenty years.

Before the year 1850 we can learn of but two priests who ministered to these people, and these not at all regularly, there being months at a time that no service was held, except as some of the better educated would call the people together, and repeat what had been taught them in their earlier homes. These priests were Rev. Fr. O'Sullivan of St. Michael's church, Bangor, and Rev. Fr. Moore, also of Bangor. From 1850 to 1854, Rev. Frs. John Bapst, Dunacre and John Force, (while the former of these three, Rev. Fr. Bapst, had the care of this portion of the mission, he was building the present St. John's church of Bangor, and the members of the Bucksport society helped very materially by the large contributions which they freely made

for this object). In 1854 Rev. Fr. Virgillinto, in 1855 Rev. Fr. John Murphy, in 1856 Rev. Fr. Eugene Vetromile, in 1860 Rev. Fr. Michael Galligher, and in 1861 Rev. Frs. Cullen and John Welch of the Old Town and Eastport mission were more regular in their attendance upon the flock gathered here; and in 1862 the Ellsworth parish was formed with Bucksport as a part of it, and Rev. Fr. John Madden was placed in charge, attending to the spiritual wants of the people for four years and in 1866 was superseded by Rev. Fr. James Durnin who remained three years, or until 1869, when Rev. Fr. I. Smasso was the pastor one year, and the Rev. Fr. Eugene Keefe and Wm. Herbert divided the year 1870, the latter remaining until relieved by Rev. Fr. John Coffe in 1873, who stayed three years.

About this time Rt. Rev. James A. Healey, D. D., Bishop of Portland, in his piety, zeal and anxiety for the spiritual welfare of those under his charge, decided to form a new parish of the towns on this side of the Penobscot, Bucksport, Winterport, Frankfort, were cut off from the parish of Ellsworth, Belfast and Searsport, were taken from Rockland, and all formed the present parish of Winterport; namely, Bucksport, Winterport, Frankfort, Searsport and Belfast. Rev. Fr. Jeremiah McCarthy was appointed by the Bishop first resident priest of Winterport. August 4th, 1877.

Rev. Fr. John Duddy succeeded him in the fall of 1879, and purchased the present parochial residence at Winterport. In November, 1882, Rev. Fr. R. W. Phelan was placed in charge of this parish and during his ministry erected the church at Frankfort. Rev. Fr. P. J. Garrity, was appointed to the charge, June 11th, 1888, who at once began to form plans for the erection of churches for his people throughout his charge, meeting with opposition and discouragements that would have deterred a less determined man.

The earliest place of worship of which there is any account was at the house of "Judge" Bushnow,

and the next at Joseph Pooler's, then upon Verona at the home of Roger Kerrigan. At this time the society became wrong enough to hire a hall for worship, and what was known as the Charles Swazey Hall was used for that purpose until 1850, when Roger Kerrigan moved from Verona and built a large house near the eastern end of the village, in which he fitted up a room, which was used for worship for a number of years. Then they moved to William Swazey's hall, near the junction of Elm and School streets, and in 1863, the building was burned and the contents consumed in the flames. Mass was then held for the next two years in the house of Daniel Murphy, corner of Main and Third streets, and in 1865 the society moved to Bradley's hall, continuing there four years, and in 1870 began holding mass at the residence of Martin Ball, from there to the Town Hall, then DeLuge Engine Hall, and the residence of Thomas Bulduc. In 1875 they moved to Colby's hall where they remained until Christmas, 1890, when their beautiful place of worship on First Street, which by the united effort of themselves and friends and the untiring zeal and energy of their pastor, Rev. Fr. Garrity, had been built and equipped in less than two years from the time the subject was publicly spoken of, ground being broken for the same upon the 14th day of July previous. Christmas was celebrated by a tree on Christmas eve and holding mass the next morning in the new church, Dec. 25, 1890.

On May 26, 1891, the church was dedicated as Saint Vincent de Paul by the Rt. Rev. J. A. Healey, D. D. Bishop of Portland.

The struggle for existence of the small parish has continued down the years; and during the past half-century the following priests have ministered to a small congregation: Fathers P. A. Garrity, Madden, Dunham, Masso, Herbert, Coffe, Garrity, O'Connor, Flannagan, Gorman, Crowe, George Dulac, Peter Hamil and Thomas M. Nelligan served as missionaries until

Father George E. Dandaneau was assigned to the pastorate in May, 1930.

The Church building erected on First Street in 1890 is still the home of the Bucksport Catholics and throughout the past fifty-two years the maintenance of the church was sadly neglected until Fr. Dandaneau took personal interest in the property and in 1940 the interior of the edifice was re-decorated to command admiration. This same year marked the 50th anniversary of the erection of the building.

Of the faithful work rendered by the many pastors, that which was done and continues to be by Fr. George Dandaneau stands out in the church's history as the most progressive.

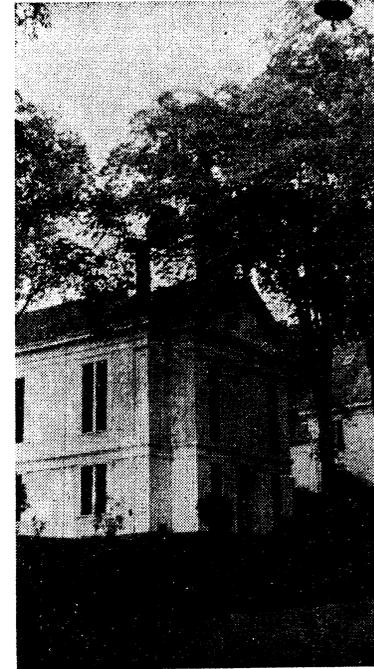
In May, 1930, when Fr. Dandaneau came to Bucksport he did not land in a bed of roses and the struggle and discouragements did not end, but continued. However, the pastor's efforts have not been in vain for in twelve years he has been directly responsible for the growth of the church property from a valuation of \$3,000 to \$30,000; and which comprises the church building, the cemetery and the rectory.

The parish rectory was added to the church property in the fall of 1937 through money willed by the late John Bulduc (the same John Bulduc who years ago went to Canada to be baptised,) to be used by the church as seen fit. Father Dandaneau saw the need of a rectory and with this money purchased for the church the property and house situated on the south side of Franklin street, between Federal and Central streets. This building was repaired by money left in the will, during the winter of 1937; and the rectory was occupied in January, 1938.

Although the history of the Catholic church has been more or less years of hard work, discouragement and a long continuous financial struggle for its pastors, the impressive pages of its life's history have nevertheless been fruitful.

## Methodism In Bucksport

by Alfred G. Hempstead



The Franklin Street Methodist Church As It Looks Today

Methodism came to Bucksport on horseback, brought by the great circuit rider Jesse Lee, the founder of New England Methodism. At the New England Conference which was held in Lynn, Mass., August 1, 1793, Rev. Jesse Lee was appointed to the "Province of Maine and Lynn." On September 1 he started on a preaching tour which brought him to Bucksport a month later. He visited, and preached in most of the following towns: Saco, Portland, Freeport, Bath, Newcastle, Thomaston, Union, Penobscot, Baggaduce Neck, Penobscot (again), Buckstown, Orrington, Hamp-

den, Frankfort, Unity, Hallowell and on through the western part of the Province.

### I. NORTH BUCKSPORT METHODIST CHURCH

At North Bucksport, the first Methodist meeting house east of the Penobscot River was erected in 1809. It had a double entrance, a box pulpit, galleries on three sides and doors to the pews. It was repaired and re-dedicated in 1864, and destroyed by fire on March 29, 1879. The Maine Conference of the Methodist Church was organized at Gardiner in 1825 and the following year the Conference met at Bucksport in this church which was then a part of the Orrington Circuit. Six years later this church was again host to the annual conference. Following the destruction of the church by fire, there was controversy as to the location of the new building. The first church was on the old road, east of the present river road, directly opposite the churches in Winterport. The new church was built further north where it is now. Though Sunday School has been maintained most of the time, there have been no regular preaching services in this church for the last half dozen years.

### II. FRANKLIN STREET METHODIST CHURCH

There had been Methodist preaching in the village and at Duck Cove and Cross's (now Leach's) Point, yet no organization was made until 1834. In 1828 Reverend Charles Baker, the presiding elder, lived in the village. Some of the Methodists traveled to the church at North Bucksport and others worshipped with the Congregationalists in the village. The first pastor was appointed to Bucksport Village in 1838. The following year the church was built and dedicated

November 13, 1839. Chaplain David Howard Tribou wrote the following description of the church (1913):

"A building committee consisting of Wm. G. Chase, Joseph Bradley and Trueworthy Swazey engaged James Goodale as master builder and on the 13th of November, 1839, the church was dedicated. It was sixty-four feet long, forty-four feet wide and twenty feet from the sills to the eaves; surmounted by a steeple ninety-six feet in height. The total cost was about \$4650, including the cost of the lot (\$500). Four years later a clock was placed in the steeple through the liberality of Captain Jabez Snow and other citizens of Bucksport.

"The growth of the society was such that in 1856 the building was enlarged by adding twenty-two pews (addition of 17 feet made on rear of the church) at an expense of \$1000. The church building was satisfactory but the vestry was uninviting and inconvenient, being a small cellar, ill lighted, ill ventilated, so that in 1864 the building was raised ten feet, and the vestry was extended under the whole space, divided into three rooms, two for meetings and one for a parlor, at a cost of about \$3500."

In 1876 the presiding elder reported that the "audience room" had been rearranged, newly furnished and beautified at an expense of more than \$1600. In 1892-3 while Reverend Elton H. Boynton was pastor, new windows were put in the church, the organ which had been installed in 1831 in the rear of the church, was moved to the present position at the front of the church, the building was completely redecorated, a kitchen was built under the new organ loft, and a new church bell received as a gift from James H. Moses, to replace the old bell which was cracked at that time. All pews were made free at this time. Most of the old pew deeds were given to the church but a few had to be purchased.

Electric lights were installed in 1908, first in the vestry and the following year in the auditorium. The organ blower problem was solved in 1929 by the installation of the electric blower.

The first piano was purchased for the church in 1889 and was replaced in 1922 by the Cable piano now in the vestry. The piano in the auditorium was received as a gift in 1935.

Extensive repairs, redecorating, re-wiring and new lights were installed in the church in 1938-39 in preparation for the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the church. Two rooms were made, one for the Church School and one for the Epworth League, about this time; they replaced the old kitchen which had been vacated in 1931 and established in its present location together with toilet facilities.

The Conference Minutes of 1862-67 reported a parsonage for Bucksport, valued first at \$1800 and later at \$2000. This was the house built by John Buck and now owned and occupied by Maurice Ames. The parsonage was only partially paid for and owned for a short time only. Individuals owned \$450 and the Sewing Circle \$146. In 1871 half of the double house (Noah Sparhawk house) on the corner of Franklin and McDonald Streets was purchased and used as a parsonage until 1934. Since that time the "old parsonage," as it is called, has been rented and the church has provided the use of a modern house for the minister at 4 Silver Street, one of the houses of the Maine Seaboard Paper Company. The second half of the double house (Pierce house) of which the old parsonage was a part, was purchased by the church with trust funds in 1894.

The corporate name of the church has been changed from time to time. It was organized November 30, 1839 as "Franklin Street Church" and on March 25, 1848, the proprietors voted to change the name to "Franklin Street Chapel", which gave way to the name "Franklin Street Meeting House" on June 16, 1863. In 1904 the church was incorporated as "Franklin Street Methodist Episcopal Church". The unification of Methodism in 1939 deleted the word "Episcopal" from the name of the church.

A Sabbath School was organized when the church was built in 1839 and according to the history of the

Sunday School of the Congregational Church, one-third of their school left at that time. A record book started 10 years later and inscribed, "S. S. Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Bucksport, Organized April 8th A. D. 1847", indicates some change of organization. The Sunday School library for many years was an important element in the life of the church.

The average membership of the church for ten year periods was 118 in the 1850s, 129 in the 1860s, 119 in the 1870s, 105 in the 1880s, 104 in the 1890s, 112 in the 1900s, 144 in the 1910s, 119 in the 1920s, 118 in the 1930s, or an average membership since 1850 of 118.

The list of Methodist ministers in Bucksport is a long one. From the time the first church in this town was organized until 1864 a Methodist pastor could not remain more than two consecutive years in a church. From 1864 to 1888, the limit was raised to three years, from 1888 to 1900 the limit was five years, and since 1900 there has been no limit upon the length of pastorates. There have been too many pastors with short pastorates, since the limitations have been removed. Only once has a pastor stayed more than four years.

### III. EAST BUCKSPORT METHODIST CHURCH

In 1855 the "East Bucksport Methodist Meeting House Corporation" was organized and the building committee elected as follows: Doane Brown, Joab Harriman and William Farnham to which committee were later added M. W. Hewey and Reuben Rider. The building was completed and dedicated in November of that year. The record of the proprietors' meeting held on October 20, 1855, shows that they intended to have the church dedicated on November 22 and that they invited Rev. F. S. Soule to preach the dedication sermon. Doane Brown provided half of the cost of building the church and the society provided the other half, a total of over \$3000. Pews were sold or rented. A report dated January 17, 1859, indicates that 30

pews had been sold, nine rented, 11 neither sold nor rented and one returned to the trustees. The repairs were made by taxing the owners or renters of pews. In 1876 such an assessment was made that ranged from \$2.83 to \$.81, apparently on the location of the pew.

Shortly after the building of the church, the parsonage was acquired, and again Doane Brown paid half. The pastor secured at the time of the building of the church and for some years afterward was pastor of a Methodist Society at Dedham. Sometimes a student for the ministry at the East Maine Conference Seminary supplied the church, occasionally a teacher did. At other times the pastor of the church at North Bucksport served the church. The parsonage was not always occupied and was sometimes rented. The parsonage was sold sometime between 1927 and 1932. No pastor has been appointed for several years. Eleven members still belong to this church but six of them are non-resident.

Methodism in Bucksport Village in the past had two factors that were great assets. First, the Presiding Elder of the Bucksport District from 1842 to 1918 made his home in Bucksport. Second, the East Maine Conference Seminary was there from 1851 to 1933. Faculty and students at the Seminary made a real contribution to the life of the church. Many of the students entered the ministry. Trustees' meetings and other special occasions brought outstanding Methodists to the town. The annual conference met in Bucksport in 1849, 1856, 1864, 1895 and 1913. The Bucksport District is gone, the Seminary is no longer a Methodist Institution and the town is not large enough to entertain the annual conference. However, the membership of the church is larger than it has ever been before. It has met the changes as they have come with courage and looks toward the future with confidence.