SURFACE

Surface. The surface of Lincoln may be described as generally hilly. The elevation of land in the town does not exceed 950 feet. A hill not named, in the extreme northeastern section, is the highest. Bagley Mountain, near the north line, is 850 feet, and four farther south and near the eastern border are of about the same height. Fish Hill, one mile south of Lincoln village, is about the same, and from near this point is a continuation of high land through the settlements along the Enfield road. Small hills are found near the river throughout nearly the whole extent, while at some places are low lands with intervales and alluvial lands. The soil of Lincoln seems to be as good as that of other river townships, and better than some, with occasionally a heavy clay loam and in other places a too light sandy loam. Farther back the land is often rocky. Sand and clay deposits of good quality for building purposes are frequent. Near the center of the town and not far from Lincoln village, granite occurs in large quantities and of good quality where quarries were opened many years ago which were worked more or less continuously. In addition to these mentioned, the mineral resources do not seem to be important.

Flora. The many ferns and flowering plants of the town are of much interest but they cannot be described here.

Some of the important trees that grew on Mattanawcook land may be mentioned, and nearly all of these may still be found within the limits.

The most notable is the white pine (Pinus Strobus). This was distributed over the entire region and supplied to the settlers the finest lumber in great abundance for their buildings. This has mostly disappeared, but small trees are growing. The pitch pine is much less useful. Other trees are the oaks, principally the red and yellow and some white oak, several birches, the yellow (Betula lutea) which

is close-grained, hard and strong, and the white (B. alba). The latter is a lighter wood and is specially adapted for the manufacture of spools, an enterprise that has been conspicuously successful at South Lincoln for more than fifty years. The species of spruce (Picea) yield valuable timber. The American elm (Ulmus Americana) is valued as a shade tree. The maples are noble trees. Rock maple is the source of maple syrup and sugar, the white and the red afford excellent fuel, and several other species are common. Two species of hornbeam (Ostrya and Carpinus) have very hard and strong wood. There is also ash, white, red and black, the last very much used by the Indians as basket-stuff for all kinds of baskets. Ash was also formerly much valued for making hoops for barrels. Basswood (Tilia) becomes a large tree, the wood soft and yielding, suitable for some parts of carriages. The fir supplies the valuable fir balsam, and the most desirable Christmas trees. The beech (Fagus) gives us beech-nuts and a wood very useful for certain purposes. And we must not forget the hemlock (Tsuga), a stately tree which supplied the many tanneries with the immense quantities of bark required for tanning, nor the willows which grow by the banks of river and streams, or on wet lands; these often bind the soil and prevent the washing away of banks. The species are numerous.

Fauna. To describe, or even to mention, all the birds that have winged their flight overhead, either as permanent residents or as birds of passage, all the animals that have roamed the forests and the fishes that swim the waters, is clearly impracticable. We shall mention some that have, or have had, some economic or commercial importance, and a few of interest from other points of view.

It may be stated that the animals (as well as the plants) of Lincoln are, for the most part, the same that are common to central Maine. These may be seen in collections at the University of Maine in Orono, at the State House in Augusta or at the rooms of the Society of Natural History in Portland.

The most dreaded and destructive of the wild animals were the wolf (Canis lupus) and the black bear (Ursus americana). The number of sheep as well as wild deer destroyed by the wolf was very large. A single instance will illustrate the ferocious habits of this animal. The following is from a Bangor paper of January, 1843: "Mr. Mick of Lincoln was going up the Penobscot River near Mattawamkeag Point with a load of hay, when there came out of the woods upon the smooth ice, a deer pursued by two fierce wolves. On reaching the ice the deer could make no headway on account of his constant slipping, and the wolves seized his hind quarters, tearing off the hair and then seizing and devouring the flesh. The deer struggled in vain to escape, and rent the air with his mournful bleat. Mr. Mick jumped from his load, pulled off his boots that he might not slip upon the ice, seized his hatchet and hastened to the scene. As he approached the wolves growled their disapproval but left their prey, which though about six pounds of flesh had been torn from it, was not yet prostrate. The deer was slain, dressed and suspended to the load. The late rains have caused so much of a crust to the snow that the wolves, which are quite numerous, find the deer an easy prey, and in this way a great many are destroyed in our forests."

How late the wolf persisted in this region we do not know, but probably they disappeared many years ago. The hunters apparently found none later than 1860. No records appear of loss of human life from any wild animals in Lincoln.

The black bear was abundant in Mattanawcook in early days, and probably it may still be found not far away. The bear is carnivorous and likes a lamb, but he will eat corn and other products of the farmer's field.

We introduce here some notes in regard to bounties on wild animals. These pertain to the wolf, the bear and the loupcervier, or Canada lynx. The crow was the only bird put under ban, and for this bird a bounty of eight cents was offered as a punishment to his tribe for pulling up the

farmers' corn. In 1832 and 1833 a total of $10,269.00 was paid by the State, of which apparently only $1.52 came to Lincoln.

In 1834 the existing law for paying bounty on wild animals was repealed but on the 6 March 1835, an Act was approved by Gov. Dunlap giving $8.00 on the wolf, $2.00 on the bear and $1.00 on the loupcervier. This remained in force many years, in fact until 1869, when it was increased to $5.00 on bears. In 1837 it was made $15.00 on wolves, but the records of the amounts paid in Lincoln during a few years are uncertain. The bounty of $1.00 on the Canada lynx remained through all the years till 1917, when it was placed at $4.00, and in 1919 at $10.00. Apparently this animal has always been scarce in the region about Lincoln as records are found of only three killed since 1832.

All bounties were paid by the Treasurer of the town on sworn statements and proof of the amount due from the State, and the town was reimbursed. In 1832 the Treasurer of Lincoln paid $123.00 on forty-one bears.

To give the number of animals brought in each year during a long period seems superfluous and general statements will be given: From 1836 to 1864 four hundred and eighty-eight bears were brought to Lincoln for bounty at $2.00 each, and during this time ninety wolves were killed. From 1870 to 1892 forty-one bears were received on which bounty was paid at the rate of $5.00 each. Apparently no wolves were killed.

The red fox (Vulpes), the mink and the weasel are all carnivorous and are prone to make raids on the poultry house and for this reason as well as for their fur, they were much hunted in the early days. All these were common within the writer's memory and it may be that they persist in many places. The otter has probably disappeared but in former years it was not rare along the river and streams, living largely on fish. It has a valuable fur. The woodchuck, the hedgehog and the skunk, as well as the red and striped squirrels, and the flying squirrel, were rather common and perhaps they are well known at the present time.

About 1860 the wild pigeon was flying over the northern portion of the United States in flocks of thousands and tens of thousands. They came to Maine in immense numbers, and the writer remembers that when he was a boy a certain resident of South Lincoln, for one or more seasons, caught in his nets and sent to the Bangor market one or more express loads of these birds almost daily in their season. This bird is now entirely extinct, not one having been seen in any part of the country for many years. In our childhood days the whip-poor-will sang for all, and by the river we listened with delight, not unmixed with awe, to the cries of the loon. As game birds we have the grouse, or partridge, and species of ducks. A great many birds of passage tarry at Lincoln for a while, spring and fall. The wild goose passes in large numbers but no suitable resting place is found.

QUARRYING IN EARLY DAYS

EARLY SETTLERS

The early settlers of Mattanawcook were men of strong and hardy stock, as men must be who succeed in making homes in the wilderness. The great majority of them were men of Massachusetts families whose ancestors had come from England in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and who had helped to make the farms and the factories of New England. Many of these men had come to Maine in the previous century, especially to Oxford County, and from the towns of this county, that is, from Paris, Buckfield, Norway, Woodstock and Sumner they had come to seek new homes on the virgin soil along the banks of the Penobscot River. A few came from other parts of Maine, and some from New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

No road ran along the upper reaches of the Penobscot in these early days of which we write, farther than the mouth of the Piscataquis River, and those who came in the first six or eight years came by that great highway, the Penobscot River. Some came by boats or canoes, some made their way along its shores or by the Indian trails through the woods, and some on the ice in winter. In any of these modes of travel there were many hardships and many delays. When the earliest settlers came to Mattanawcook, Bangor was a small village, there were some houses at Old Town, a few settlers had begun at Howland, and a few at Passadumkeag; otherwise the shores of upper Penobscot presented an unbroken wilderness.

Records of these early days are few and indefinite and tradition, as it comes down through the generations, is becoming dim and sometimes distorted. None of these pioneers, as far as known, kept a diary or record of events, and so from what is known, probabilities must be carefully considered, but the writer has made no statement as fact unless he has been fully convinced of its accuracy.

Earliest Settlement. The earliest settlement on the river at this colony was made on number four which became the town of Winn. The settlement was near the river and near the south line. Joseph Snow was the earliest comer. His father, Benjamin Snow, was living in Orrington in 1780 and died there in 1818, his will having been proved the 7 Dec. of that year. Joseph was probably a son of his father's second wife and was b. May 1782. He m. Rebecca Paine, dau. of his father's first wife, and had four sons and four daughters.

Joseph Snow was followed within two or three years by Ephraim Kyle and Samuel Briggs from Great Works, and Elijah Brackett from Yarmouth. Across the river were two families, Moses Babcock and John Weston. Joseph Snow came probably in 1820.

The following inscriptions are copied from stones in the cemetery in South Winn:

Betsey, wife of Jesse Babcock, d. 15 April 1825, aged 33 years.

Miss Elizabeth Snow, dau. of Joseph Snow, d. 6 Sept. 1825, aged 20 years.

Dea. John O. Kyle, d. 23 April 1843, aged 36 years.

Mrs. Sarah, wife of Ephraim Kyle, d. 26 June 1862, aged 82 y., 6 m., 26 d.

Joseph Snow, d. 15 Aug. 1862, aged 80 y., 3 m.

Rebecca, wife of Joseph Snow, d. 3 June 1856, aged 75 y., 7 m.

Ann, wife of Michael Foley, d. 11 Feb. 1893, aged 69 years.

This settlement in number four was permanent and fairly prosperous for nearly a hundred years. In this vicinity took place the activities of Col. Cyrus J. Fay and the Cottage House kept for many years by Thomas S. Ranney.

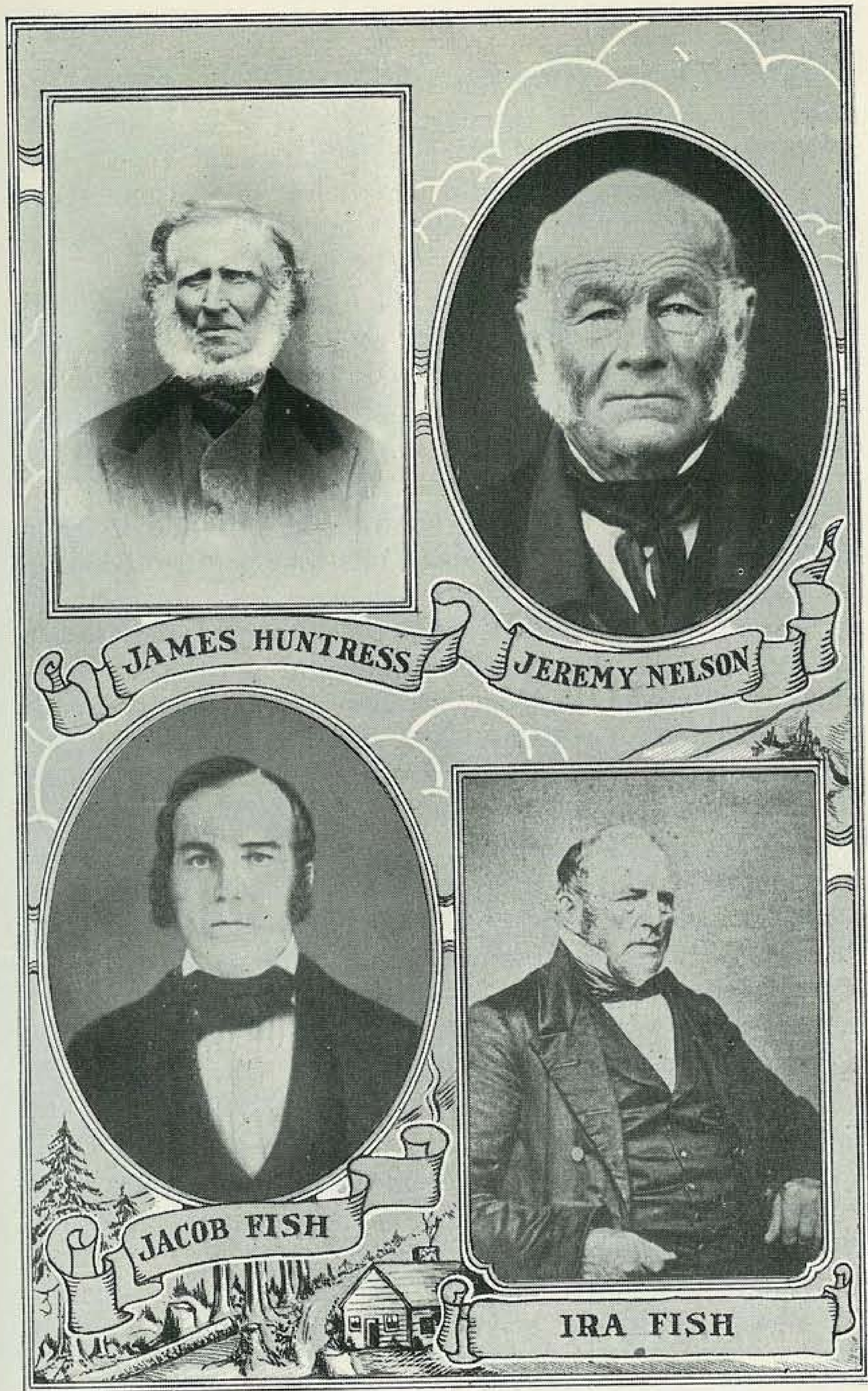
Aaron Woodbury was the first to settle on lands now embraced in the town of Lincoln. He was from the town of Orrington and took from the proprietors two lots next the

north line of number three. It is said that Mr. Woodbury had, at this time, seven sons and that four sons came with him, namely, Asa, Tyler, John and Hiram. This was in 1822. They cleared land and in a very few years had a prosperous farm. Mr. Jeremy Nelson states that he helped Mr. Woodbury cut hay in 1825. Mr. Woodbury built a large log house, which he afterwards took down and built the house in which, later, Michael Foley lived.

The next year, 1823, it appears that three men came to make their homes in this section of the Mattanawcook. They were John Carpenter, Alfred Gates and Benjamin Chesley. John Carpenter was from Paris and his wife, Joanna Ford, was the first woman that came into the new country. Mr. Carpenter lived in Lincoln several years and went to Lee where he was elected State senator in 1834. He afterwards moved to Patten where his wife died. He then went to Minnesota to live with his son and died there.

Alfred Gates was also from Paris and his oldest son, Zadoc, came with him. It is said that they brought a hand mill with which they ground corn and wheat. This was undoubtedly the first grist mill in the colony. Alfred Gates' younger son, Solon, came a year later, making his way as others did, by the roads, through the woods and by the Indian trails one hundred and sixty miles. It is recorded that on the seventh day he reached the mouth of Cumbolassee stream, where his father and brother had already erected a log house just north of the stream and between that and the present location of the ferry. The other members of this family came later.

Benjamin Chesley, who was born in New Gloucester but had resided in Paris, came in 1823 or in the spring of 1824. It is said that he reached the place with an axe on his shoulder and four-and-sixpence in his pocket. He was detained at Old Town and made the journey up the river by the Indian trail which was difficult and tedious, but he reached the settlement safely and lived for a time in Mr. Woodbury's house. Mr. Chesley's name will appear in other connections.



EARLY SETTLERS OF LINCOLN

In 1824 William Wyman arrived from Woodstock. He made a good farm in the northerly part of number three, and after a residence of nearly forty years he moved, with his family, to Bangor, California, where he lived more than thirty years, and where he died 11 May 1893, at the age of ninety years.

Humphrey Merrill came in the winter of the same year from Paris. It is said that Mr. Merrill received ten shillings by will of his father, and this was his entire capital for starting in life. It is reported that he raised a good crop of corn in 1825, and that in the fall of this year he built the first framed barn in the place.

Jeremy Nelson took river lots numbers six and seven on the present Military Road about one mile south of Cumbolassee Stream in June, 1824. He made here a fine, large farm on which he lived till his death, a period of nearly sixty years. Mr. Nelson's deed is one of the few, and possibly the only one, that bears the seven signatures and seals of the proprietors. Their agent had not yet been authorized to sell. Mr. Nelson states that his nearest neighbor on the south was David Bryant at Enfield.

Thus at the beginning of the year 1825 we find seven men, five of whom had families; Nelson and Wyman were not yet married. In addition to these, Woodbury, Gates and Chesley had sons who had nearly or quite attained the age of manhood.

The colony was firmly established and from this date we find a rapid increase in population. Several men arrived at this period and soon after who by their character and influence not only sustained the efforts of their predecessors, but continued in a still broader way all those activities which tend to make a community strong and permanent. We are reaching a point at which it is difficult to mention individuals without seeming to discriminate, but we note a few who were life-long residents, or who remained for many years: