

EARLY RELIGION

There was religious worship in the old south part of the town from the time the first settlements were made. Worship was held in the homes until the first school house was built. In every home, no matter how humble, there was always a stand upon which rested the old family Bible. It was a treasure to the pioneers. They read it faithfully and interpreted it in different ways. The majority of the pioneers had grace said at their tables before every meal. They respected Sunday and did as little work as possible on this day. If they were at all musical, they sang hymns. Many of our forefathers memorized the greater part of the Bible and could recite it without error.

Mr. and Mrs. Azeriah Edwards and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Yelland were foremost as religious leaders. For many years, the community looked to them to lead the way.

Long meetings were held in the school house and were generally well attended. People living near the school building would try to get a seat by the window so that they could glance out occasionally to see that their buildings were not afire. Elder Graves and Johnson Neal preached on various occasions. They delivered their sermons in a straight-forward, loud-voiced manner and greatly impressed their listeners. They spoke of sin, its punishment and the Devil. They read and explained long chapters from the Bible. The congregations were urged to seek salvation by giving their lives to the Lord.

Andrew Edwards, Mrs. William Phinney and Mrs. Daniel Tibbets often led religious services in this community.

Stockbridge Lindsay is worthy of a high tribute of praise

for his religious activities. He walked two and three miles through all kinds of weather on Sundays in the summer and waded through high drifts of snow in the winter, in order to attend church and Sabbath school. His descendents may be justly proud of him.

Pleasant are the memories of Rev. William A. Morse who came from Lincoln Center to hold religious services in the old south part of the town. He performed many marriages in this community. In the summer of 1880 he baptized seven people at the Narrows, upper Cold Stream Pond. They were:

- Edward Yelland
- Nellie Rounds
- Lizzie Miles
- Hattie Ripley
- Matilda Ripley
- Villa Clifford
- Dorces Twombly

Various preachers came for a short period and then moved on to some other place. Among these, one who came very early, was a man known as the Blind Preacher. He held a baptism at the Narrows upper Cold Stream Pond. A large number of women were baptized at this early time and Nancy Jipson was one of them. Not being used to going into water, she became very much excited and accidentally plunged the Blind Preacher into the water and out of sight.

HERRING EATING MARATHON

One time, many years ago, at a function held in the school house, which now stands across the road from Lisle Littlefield's, there arose a heated argument between Earl Phinney and some of his school mates. Earl claimed that he could eat more salt herring than any fellow in the south part of the town. Some of the boys and girls doubted him and finally, to settle the matter, one or two of the larger boys went across the road and helped themselves to a small barrel of Mr. Luther Clay's choice salt herring. They returned to school with the fish and succeeded in getting Ancel Lowe to enter the contest with Earl. An even amount of herring was dealt out to each at the same time. Earl sat on the inside of the desk and Ancel sat on the outside.

Earl disposed of his herring very quickly and was fast winning over Ancel, who after a brief time, began feeling very ill. Some of the pupils of the school became a bit suspicious of Earl's abnormal appetite and decided to investigate to see if there was any trick connected with the contest. They found a large number of herring stacked under Earl's desk. He had eaten only a few of those handed him and hidden the rest.

It was a long, long time after this before poor Ancel could even look a herring in the face, let alone eating one.

EARLY SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

To my knowledge, there have been three school houses in Transalpine. The first was near Round's Brook; the second by Sam Dow's and the third or the so-called new school building, erected in 1850, stands across the road from Lisle Littlefield's place.

The Transalpine schools always had a longer term than any other schools in the town of Lincoln. The schools were well attended and there were often as many as sixty scholars at one time. Some of the scholars were kindergarten size, while others were very large and over grown. A great many times the large boys would prove very troublesome to their teacher and would torment the younger scholars at recess and on the way home. In the wintertime especially, some of the larger boys would pester the girls after school nights, by pushing them into the snow, putting their caps on the high limb of a tree and taking their dinner pails. These boys usually picked out a girl of whom they were particularly fond to torment. This was their way of showing affection for the girls of their choice. Many of these same girls grew up and married the very boys that tormented them in their youth.

The following list will show some of the old teachers who have taught in Transalpine Schools:

- Adaline Huntress
- E. Huntress
- Seville Sinclair Moore, Burlington
- Alice Huntress
- M. E. Wakefield
- Fred Edwards
- Core Pinkham
- Dana Fellows
- Mr. Burgess
- Anne Heath
- Frank Bullard
- Matilde Smith

Mary Cole, Winterport, Maine
 May Bradbury, Burlington, Maine
 Dora Hall, Lincoln, Maine
 Nellie Ferrar, Lincolnville, Maine
 May Hawes, Mattawamkeag, Maine
 Evie Clements
 Adria Buck
 Lizzie Crane
 Ella Pickering
 Clyde Brown
 Gertie Edwards Pinkham
 May Edwards
 Eve Edwards
 Hattie Lowe

Annie Carrington
 Edna Bruce
 Ethel House
 June Savage
 Margaret Phillips

Mr. A. W. Huntress and Rev. James H. Crosby, members of the school committee made a printed report of the schools of the town of Lincoln for years 1874-1875-1876. These reports were based on their visits to the schools in the various districts. Some of the criticisms were very kind while others were frank and plain spoken. I quote from these reports as follows:

DISTRICT NO 5

The summer term (of 1874) was taught by Miss Hattie Lowe, for the term of 14 weeks. Wages, \$5. per week. Board, \$1.75. Miss Lowe, had 74 scholars enrolled, average attendance 27. 35 Reading, 22 Arithmetic, 12 English Grammar, 13 Geography. Miss Lowe, has taught eight schools. In this school she succeeded admirably. She possesses a happy faculty in managing small children, interest them in their lessons, keeps them quiet without scolding, - instructs correctly, and successfully, - and her services were profitable.

The winter term was taught by Miss Annie Heath, for 14 weeks, then, being sick she left the school, and it is expected the term will be finished by Miss. H. M. Huntress, four weeks

her work well in the school-room, follows the direction and suggestions of the Committee, and succeeds in rendering her services useful to her pupils. Miss Heath, 44 enrolled, average 37 - 44 Reading, 28 Arithmetic, 4 Algebra, 10 English Grammar, 12 Geography, 2 Book-keeping. 22 Attended in winter, not in summer. \$6.00 wages \$3.00 board.

REPORTS FOR 1875-1876

DISTRICT NO 5

The winter term is now being taught by Miss Dora Hall. Miss Hall is well qualified to instruct, has had considerable experience in teaching; seems to take much interest in her work; deportment of the school was good, and her pupils made good advancement in their several branches of studies. Miss Hall labored under a great disadvantage for the want of blackboards suitable to use; they are so glazed that the school had no use of them this term, which is a great loss to the school; this school needs an unabridged dictionary, outline maps, and a small globe, and surely a chair in the school room for the teacher to sit in. Miss Hall had 39 scholars enrolled, average 33. Arithmetic 22, Algebra 3, Reading 39, Geography 15, Physiology 2, History 5, \$6.00 week wages \$2.00 board.

DISTRICT NO 5

The winter term of the previous year was not finished at the time of the last report. It was kept for the last four weeks by Miss Hannah M. Huntress, well known as a good teacher. This school is kept for more weeks than any other school in town. The district contains a large number of school children, and of

course has a large amount of money at its disposal. I somewhat question the wisdom of appropriating it all with a view to lengthening the schools. I would rather take a part to increase the needful apparatus of the school, and keep it in good order, and with the remainder make sure of a teacher of real excellence, even if it be necessary to pay higher wages, giving her their hearty support for the whole term which can be had. Her teaching for ten weeks, will be worth more than inferior teaching for fifteen and perhaps a term of eleven or twelve weeks, is as long as is generally profitable, even with the best teacher. It is better to stop before the teacher is worn out, and before the scholars are worn out, than to drag on for weeks of weariness and inefficiency.

The summer and fall terms in this district, were taught by Miss Ellen R. Hawes. They were her first terms of work as a school teacher. She seemed to work for the school, honestly and patiently, laboring, I judge, under considerable discouragement. Miss Hawes had 74 scholars, average attendance 33. 33 Reading, 14 Arithmetic 5 Grammar, 4 Geography. Length of school, 20 weeks. Wages \$4.00 per week. Board \$1.70.

A BRIEF ADDRESS

(By A. W. Huntress)

-1875-

Fellow Townsmen:

Since our last annual meeting, we have made another revolution around the sun, and have entered upon the centennial year of our national independence, and I still live to make one more annual report of the progress and condition of our schools for

of perplexities, embarrassments and onerous duties to perform. I think, perhaps the most intricate and delicate duty we have to discharge, is the examination and granting certificates to candidates applying as teachers for our schools. We find some of them not qualified to instruct any school correctly; - others who are qualified to instruct some of our small schools, and perhaps have taught such schools a number of terms with good success, and then apply for schools which have scholars farther advanced in their studies than the applicants; - others who are well qualified to instruct and have been successful with small scholars, who fail to succeed with more advanced and older scholars, on account of their not being possessed with an amiable disposition to gain the affection and respect of their pupils.

Then, when the committee withholds a certificate for any of the above reasons, it incurs the displeasure of the applicants, and some of their friends, and draws out their ill feelings and abuse.

Yet I think your committee have acted according to their best judgment for the welfare of the youth in this town, regardless of censure. In some instances your committee have not fulfilled all the requirements of the law in regard to their duties; - for instance there is the compulsory law making it the duty of the committee to prosecute all persons who neglect to send their children at certain ages to school for the term of twelve weeks in each year.

At the commencement of the summer terms of our schools, the committee posted the law in public places in town, and at every school house, so that the people might generally understand what the law is in regard to sending their children to school. We have examined the returns of the scholars, by the school agents, and the

school registers, and found a few cases, where, according to the law, it became our duty to prosecute; but considering those cases, and the families to which those neglected children belong, we thought it better to neglect our duty, than distress those parents.

Then there are the school agents, many of whom have neglected their duties for many years in regard to notifying the committee of the commencement of their schools, and how long it is expected they will continue; - this neglect makes the agent liable to a fine of one dollar a day for each day the school keeps before such notice is given - some agents neglected to notify in any way; others will sometimes send word by a neighbor; three agents the past year have given the lawful notice. The agents have no such excuse for neglecting their duties, as some of the parents have for neglecting to send their children to school - ignorance of the law and inability to clothe their children comfortable to attend school.

In making this report, I desire to have it understood, that so far as I have been able to scrutinize my own feelings and motives, I have not mentioned anything through unkindness or prejudice. I have no friends to favor, no enemies to punish. If anything that may have been said in our report, bears hard upon any individual, whether teacher, scholar or parent, let no one attribute it to an unkind spirit but to the law, which requires the committee at the close of each year to make a faithful report of their views concerning the success or failure of the teachers, concerning the good or bad conduct of the scholars, and concerning any other matter, which in their opinion has had a tendency to increase or injure the usefulness of the schools.

A. W. Huntress

THE OLD ALBUM

Note: The following autographs were taken from an old album belonging to Mrs. Dorcas Twombly Scott, now of Bangor, Maine, who once lived at William Gowen's and attended the Transalpine School.

Homeward bound, with deep emotion
We remember, Lord, that life
Is a voyage upon an ocean
Heaved by many a tempest's strife.

Feb. 17, 1880 Mrs. Abbie H. Bruce
Lincoln, Maine

Remember me.

Jan. 14, 1880 George Lowe
Transalpine, Maine

Dear Dorcas, may thy life be blessed
With fortune, health and happiness,
May all thy chosen friends prove true
And guide thee all, life's journey through.

1880 E. F. Buzzell

Oh not the smile of other lands,
Though far and wide our feet may roam.
Can e'er untie the genial bands
That knit our hearts to home.

Aug. 26, 1877 Ida M. Twombly

Heaven but tries our virtues by affliction's hour
And oft the cloud which wraps the present hour,
serves but to brighten all our future days.

1877 Maria L. Emery