

Chapter XII.

ODDS AND ENDS OF HISTORY.

A Sad Tragedy.

THE following tale is told by Pliny B. Soule of Lagrange, Maine, in the History of Penobscot County. The man referred to in the story was Jeremiah McIntosh, of Massachusetts, who was on his way to Maxfield and Lee to visit relatives. He was a great uncle to Everett W. Houghton and Mrs. James Currie. When the body of Mr. McIntosh was found, he was standing erect, with both arms encircling a tree.

“Any one standing where the Dirigo House now stands at Lagrange Corner, casting his eye southward along the spotted line which was the only guide the traveler had at that distant day might have seen a wayfarer with a heavy pack upon his back, slowly beating his way against a cold, driving, northeast snow-storm. The cold was intense and the wind blew a gale. The State road had not been located. Perhaps three or four families had settled in the intervalles in Howland and Maxfield. A line had been spotted from what is now known as the State road, on the south line of the Hammond tract easterly to the Piscataquis river. A line had also been spotted from what is now Lagrange Corner in a northeasterly direction to intersect the line above referred to. The anxious traveler reaches the corner, pauses a moment evidently to decide upon what course to take, turns to the right, and with all his strength and energy urges his way onward.

“It was evident that his objective point was some one of the settlers' homes east on the river. It was late in the afternoon, the storm and cold increasing; and such a fearful night as it must be soon closed in about him, in the darkness of which it would be impossible to follow the spotted line. No wonder that under such circumstances he should put forth all the

strength and energy he possessed. He had not traveled more than four or five miles before darkness closed around him, and it was impossible to follow the trail. He pauses a few moments, evidently to rest, hangs his pack to the limb of a tree, and starts on again, unencumbered, on his journey. He travels but a short distance when he deviates from the line, goes in a zig-zag direction a short distance, falling over logs that lie in his course, until, entirely exhausted, he sits down in the snow and leans against a tree, evidently to rest and recuperate his exhausted energy and strength. Again he starts, but in the few minutes respite he had taken, the intense cold had been doing its fearful work. A numbness pervaded the entire system; his joints grew clumsy and almost stiff, causing him to fall at almost every step, till he can proceed no further. With his body inclined against a tree, there in mid-night's darkest hour, there with wind and storm chanting his dying requiem in the trees above his head, with no kind friend to speak words of comfort in this trying hour and direct his thoughts to that fair land of which the poet sang:

“‘On Jordan’s stormy bank I stand,
And cast a wishful eye
To Caanan’s fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie.’

“There with no eye, save that Eye that never slumbers, to witness his fruitless efforts to reach the settlements on the river, no tongue to tell the story of physical and mental suffering he endured in view of the terrible death that awaited him, his spirit took its flight.”

As soon as it became known that he had not reached the settlement on the river, search was made, and the body found as stated above.

The Silent Prisoner,

In the early spring of 1901, a Polish-Jew, by the name of Angie Mert, had been hanging around Kingman and other up-river towns, for some time, begging his living and sleeping out

of doors. About the sixth of March he appeared in Lee and began a daily house to house canvass of the village, begging for food. He had no difficulty in talking and making his wants known. At night he would go to a nearby woodlot, (this spot was in the pasture of E. C. Cobb, lying between the residence of Mr. Cobb and that of C. M. Gray), where he would sleep on a bed of boughs with no other covering than his clothes, exposed to the wind and storms of winter. To help keep himself warm he would kindle a fire from dry limbs and this habit nearly cost him his life.

On a particularly cold night he arranged his open air bunk beside the foot of a dead pine tree and kindled his fire at the base of the tree. This was a great scheme for a while, as the dead pine made a hot fire. But the fire eventually burned through the shell of the tree and over the tree toppled. It fell on the sleeping tramp, and before he could get from beneath it a large portion of his coat, vest and trousers were burned off. Fortunately for him he escaped with but slight burns.

It was this occurrence that brought about his arrest. Some of the people decided that there was a safer place for the man than sleeping out of doors in the woods. The Selectmen were notified. Constable Haskell arrested him and after a hearing before trial justice Averill, he was sent to Bangor jail for thirty days for vagrancy.

When he arrived at the jail he presented a picturesque, dilapidated and pitiful appearance. His clothes were in tatters from rents and burns; his shoes, what there was left of them, were held on his feet by strings. On his hands were a pair of heavy mittens of the kind known in the country as poverty mittens, while on his head was a heavy plush cap. He would not speak in answer to questions by Turnkey Coville. He was given a bath, his long whiskers shaved and his hair cut, all of which he took as a matter of form. His only word was spoken when a fellow prisoner accidentally jostled him, and after that did not speak a single word. Photographs were taken of him in the jail, but he appeared to take but little interest in the proceedings, and it was with

difficulty that he was made to keep still while they were being made.

Turnkey Coville called him his mascot, and he certainly should have been, for by all odds he was the most curious prisoner that the jail had held for many a day. He worked in the heel shop.

A Great and Mighty Hunter.

IN June, 1826, Mr. Samuel Parker came to Lee from Lowell. Mr. Parker was by occupation a hunter, and made sad havoc among the wild animals, such as the otter, fox, sable, raccoon and last but not least, the bear, which wrought great destruction with the sheep and corn. Mr. Parker seemed to make some impression upon the small animals, but the bear seemed to be determined to stand his ground, and was not so ready to yield. At times, indeed, he contended earnestly for his rights, and would have his portion of corn and mutton; and when he could get neither, he would take lambs, rather than be crowded off with half his rights.

Mr. Parker began to hunt here in the fall of 1827. The sable and mink were the first animals he sought for; and as the sable had undisputed range of the forest, it had the most of his attention the first few years. His mode of trapping them was to make a circuit some ten or twelve miles around by a spotted line, dragging a piece of muskrat for the sable to follow from trap to trap. In this manner he caught large numbers of these animals which he sold for about twenty cents each.

Tradition goes that Mr. Parker in one fall caught 300 sables, 25 mink, 7 otter, 150 muskrats, 9 foxes and 2 beaver; and reports fail to tell how many partridge and duck he shot but the number was very large. According to records in an historical sketch of the town of Etna, by Hon. John C. Friend, Mr. Parker caught two foxes in one trap the same night, a story of which he was always fond of telling to the end of his life. After thinning out the game so as to make hunting and trapping unprofitable, in after years he would take a pack of traps and a little salt, and go down the Passadumkeag Stream to hunt for the same animals as he had been taking in Lee.

The town records show that he received bounty on six bears in 1859.

His home in Lee later became known as the Kneeland place, on the ridge. The old Parker bars are still spoken of to this day.

There is a story of Mr. Parker's finding a nest of young bear cubs in a hollow stub. Whether true or not, it has never been denied; but the story is too good to be doubted here, as it never has been. In one of his hunting rambles he came to a stub very much scratched; and to know the cause of it he ascended the stub and took a view into the hollow. Not being exactly satisfied as to what it contained, he thought he would fathom the hole, and not liking to go down head first, he put his feet in first, and attempting to hold himself up on the sides of the stub, in swinging his feet around to ascertain what he could find, the shell of the stub gave way and let Mr. Parker down upon a nest of young cubs. Not liking this newcomer, they set up a loud howling, which soon brought the old dame bear to their rescue. She was heard scratching up, and then about to descend she had to turn and come down tail first. The hunter quick as thought took out his long, sharp knife and opened it. By this time old bruin was down to his head, when he seized her by the tail with his left hand and used his knife with his right. She, not exactly liking such a reception in her own home, began to make her exit to the top of the stub, when Mr. Parker with a life struggle, threw his formidable enemy to the ground, and the fall and the loss of blood made her too weak for her to ascend the stub again. She walked off, evidently not much liking her intruder, as she seemed to consider him. She soon disappeared from sight, and when everything appeared to be safe, Mr. Parker came down, seized his axe, cut a hole into the stub, and took out four young bears, who never before saw much daylight. This was another exploit the hunter had to tell to the end of his long life, with much pride, which usually brought a laugh.

Four Murders in a Single Night.

The most revolting murders in the annals of crime were committed April 7, 1859. A school teacher was boarding at the home of Marshall Potter, on the shore of Silver Lake. She drew her pay on the last day of school and went out on the main road to call. For some reason she decided to remain all night and return to the Potter residence next morning.

Marshall Potter, thinking she was in her room, took a large maul and entered with the intentions of robbing her. Foiled in his attempt, he entered the other rooms and with the maul, murdered his mother, his brothers, Oliver and Alexander, and a nephew, Albert, a cripple. He then burned the house, but the mutilated bodies of his victims were proof against him, though in the excitement of the moment he was allowed to escape.

Joseph W. Burke and Simon Norton found him just as he was crossing the line into New Brunswick. Realizing that they were not allowed to enter Canada to bring back a fugitive from justice, they stood near the boundary line and persuaded Potter to come back and talk with them. When he came within reaching distance they seized him and pulled him onto the American side. He strongly declared his innocence. They placed him in the carriage and started the journey home. Arriving at a fair sized brook, the two men took their prisoner to the water's edge and told him if he didn't confess they would drown him. Again he declared he was innocent. They held his head under water. He soon realized that they meant what they had said and confessed.

He was brought back to Lee and given a trial. The town hall at that time was the second story of the Academy. Owing to the immense crowd on hand for the trial, the authorities feared the floor might not hold so the trial was held out of doors. In his confession to the court, he is said to have pointed to the bloody maul and said, "With this maul I took the lives of them all." He was sentenced to life imprisonment at Thomaston. It is said that he died in 1876.

The Miramachi Fire, Oct. 7, 1825

POSSIBLY many readers of this little book will criticise the writer for including here a brief sketch of the Miramachi fire. While this fire did not reach the limits of Lee yet it was very close to it as it burned on the opposite side of the Penobscot river. But the main reason for the space devoted to the subject here is that three brothers came from Blackville, one of the towns destroyed by the fire, to Lee. They settled here and today have two score descendants living within the boundaries of Lee. And there is yet another reason, for as the writer types this brief sketch he is reminded that today is the 100th anniversary of this great fire. One hundred years ago today a great pall of smoke hung over the province of New Brunswick far out to sea, penetrating well down into Maine and far north of Quebec. A forest fire had swept down the Miramachi valley to the sea and far back from the river on both sides, laying waste to more than six thousand square miles of virgin spruce, pine and birch forests, wiping out half a dozen villages with six hundred buildings, many vessels at the river docks, but worst of all 160 lives were lost. It had been an unusually dry summer and the woodlands were like tinder. On Oct. 7, 1825, forest fires had worked into the city of Fredericton and burned eighty buildings, including the residence of the Governor-General.

Then a fire started to the east in the woods of the Miramachi Valley and fanned by gales swept to the sea with such incredible velocity that the people unable to reach the river were surrounded by the flames, and men, women, and children perished.

The tragedies of those days were never known until months afterwards when there was something of a checking up of the people in the sparsely settled region. It is known that whole families lost their lives although there was hardly a trace. The path of the flames was through a number of villages. Newcastle, with ten thousand people and two hundred and sixty dwellings; Douglastown, Ludlow, Bartlebog, Blackville and other settlements were licked up, with hardly build-

ings enough left standing to mark the sites. Stories of narrow escapes are yet lore in the province.

Scores saved their lives by wading up to their necks in the river and covering their heads with blankets to escape the falling embers, while thousands of fur-bearing animals fled to the same protection and many must have perished. The smaller streams were almost obliterated with fish literally boiled in some of the pools.

Many well-to-do people were reduced to poverty, losing everything they had in the world. Some saved a few valuables by burying them. Relief funds poured in from all over the Dominion, from the United States and His Majesty the king sent a personal contribution of \$10,000.

The writer derived his meager knowledge of this great conflagration from his grandfather, Thomas Corbett, a former resident of Black River, in the Miramachi Valley.

Lee "Town Meeting" 1847.

THE following poem is taken from "The Barge," a publication issued by the students of Lee Academy in 1847. It will be better understood if the reader will first turn to the chapter on "Civil List" and read the list of town officers for the year 1847.

I PROPOSE to send you a cargo this time
 Of doubtful yet truthful, sophistical rhyme,
 Which bears in its meshes a general report
 Of intrigues, and triumphs, of danger and sport
 Which came to our notice, when last at "The Hall,"
 Our townsmen there answered the annual call.
 The week which preceded was passed at the stores;
 In praising new nostrums and probing old sores;
 When each had his man with whom none could compete,
 And would bet on his talents, "the cash" or "the treat."
 When duly assembled, forthwith was called on, "Squire John"—
 This caused no emotion, no struggle or strife,—
 By common consent, John's term is for life.
 Then came a report of the state of the town;
 And poor luckless teachers were smartly rubbed down.
 Now, for him of the pen, (though no blood was spilt)
 Came war to the knife and knife to the hilt.
 Some shouted a "Shepard" and others "A Dan;"

These last by their numbers were soon in the van,
 And John, hardly causing a moment's delay,
 Brought Shepard in vanquished and gave Dan the day.
 Then, canvassed for Godfathers, they through the hall,
 When some voted twice, and once voted all. —
 From these that were mentioned elected at last
 Were Shepard "the ex-scribe" — Nat Gerrish and Frost.
 Who were same as the old, save Gerrish for Hale
 Who quivering stood, holding on to a rail;
 But whether from joy or from grief I wot not.
 But still there he stood though nailed to the spot.
 For keeper of script, they through effort or luck,
 Removed Dr. Abner and put in a Tuck. —
 For seizer of culprits, one Boober they took.
 From the grit of his chest and the size of his foot. —
 Inspectors of schools, 'mong the last and the least,
 They called to their bidding, two Beans and a Priest. —
 Then highway surveyors, not less than a score,
 Were chosen and brought up, and oh, how they swore!
 As also did others that, that they would fulfill,
 God helping — their duties with judgment and skill;
 And yet, though 'twere urged with all feeling and heat,
 Not one of the honored would bring on a treat.
 And thus they stand perjured, like Gilman and Hunt,
 For treating is duty, and do it they won't. —
 'Pon other transactions, 'twere needless to dwell,
 And now, if you know it, my name don't you tell.

The Days Before Prohibition Came to Maine.

A PRACTICE of almost universal prevalence among the early settlers was the use of ardent spirits as a beverage. The hay crop could not be secured without its aid, while a "leettle drop" never came amiss during the busy harvest season. At the old fashioned log-rollings it was regarded as a necessary article. The early settlers used to make a great account of barn-raising and for many years it was claimed that the frame of no building could be raised without "plenty of rum," which was often drank too freely. On holidays, grog in large quantities was also drank, while no one could properly entertain company if the supply of liquor was low. It was customary for the grocers to sell spirits, which was by no means a small item of their trade.

One of the older citizens of the town who remembers actual

conditions tells me that one of the store-keepers of Lee always kept a barrel of best Medford rum in his store. A large pint dipper was suspended from a string beside the barrel. One could drink what they wanted for a nickel or if he chanced to be a customer of this particular store, he could have his drink free.

A story is told of one man who imbibed too freely of this trader's kind hospitality. He soon became in such a condition that his friends thought it advisable to take him to an adjoining building to sober off. As his friends were about to leave him, he revived enough to say, "Thank you, boys, now close the windows and lock the door so I won't be disturbed." And my informant tells me that the deserted building had not contained a window or door for twenty years.

In 1832, a law was enacted requiring retailers to obtain a license from the municipal officers and leaving each town free to decide, by a vote, whether or not such persons should be so licensed. On Dec. 24, 1832, the selectmen of Lee granted the first license to Isaac Hacker, who kept store on the Springfield side of the stream. The following is a copy of his license as recorded on the town books.

Lee, Maine, Dec. 24, 1832.

This day the selectmen of this town granted license to Isaac Hacker authorizing him to retail spiritous liquors to the first Monday of September next, by his paying six dollars into the treasury of said town.

Attest: Abial Cushman, *Town Clerk.*

In 1855 the town appointed an agent to retail spiritous liquors. The agent was paid a salary and the profits given to the town. When closing the books of the town the selectmen would list under assets, the amount of liquor on hand. One year, the town records show that the town was credited with forty-five dollars from this source, and best brandy was retailing for eighty cents per gallon.

The following is a true copy of the appointment of a town agent in 1855 as shown on the town records for that year.

Lee, June 1, 1855.

Appointment of an Agent for the Sale of Spirits

By the virtue of an act entitled "an act for the suppression of drinking houses and tippling shops" approved March 16, 1855, we hereby appoint Benjamin Whitten, agent for this town to sell intoxicating liquors for medical and mechanical purposes for the term of one year from the first day of May last unless sooner removed.

Joseph Mallett,
C. M. Tuck,

Selectmen of Lee.

A True Copy. Attest: J. W. Perkins, *Town Clerk.*

The first temperance society organized in Lee was the Independent Order of Good Templars. A full account of their organization and work will be found in the chapter on fraternal organizations.

The Caterpillar Plague.

THE great scourge from the forest tent-caterpillar was witnessed in the summer of 1875. So numerous were they that whole orchards were completely stripped of their foliage. These pests were so ravenous that shade trees were attacked when the fruit trees failed to supply the demands of their appetites. Any orchard which failed to be attacked in 1875 had to suffer in 1876. It was no uncommon sight to see, at evening, large windrows of these insects piled along fences and on buildings and trees. The statement has been made to me by one who witnessed this scourge, that railroad travel, in neighboring towns, was seriously impeded by these insects gathering on the rails in such numbers as to cause the wheels to slip.

The Tornado of 1920.

MEMORY with unerring exactitude carries me back to a never-to-be-forgotten day, the second of June, 1920. It was Sunday and a very hot day. During a large part of the season the weather had been cool and agreeable, but on the day in

question the mercury rose steadily until it ranged from 85 to 90 degrees in the shade, varying according to the locality. To add to the discomfort of the sweltering humanity scarcely a breath of air was stirring to relieve the terrible intensity of the heat.

It was Baccalaureate Sunday and when services began the sun shone brightly. Soon dark and threatening clouds were seen rising over the western horizon; as this was no uncommon occurrence during the hottest days of summer no notice was taken of the matter. These huge masses of sullen clouds remained almost motionless for an hour. Then, as if having gained motive power from their own inactivity, they began to rise, towering higher and higher into the heavens. On and on came the storm, the leaden black clouds rolling volume on volume, driven by some unperceived power. The sight was truly grand and appalling. A twilight gloom settled over the town, and the little birds ceased their singing and sought shelter from the coming storm. Remembering that I had several hundred small chickens out in small colony houses, I left the church and hastened home.

Driven by an irresistible wind, thick clouds of dust, mingled with leaves and branches of trees, and even small gravel stones, filled the air and added to the gloom which enshrouded the land. Hailstones as large as marbles fell, suddenly changing to rain, which fell in torrents, while the roar of the wind, the incessant flashing of the lightning and the pealing thunder presented a scene of weird and striking grandeur. The tornado began at 11.15 A. M. and lasted about an hour, but in that brief period many valuable shade trees, field and forest trees were uprooted, while others were seriously injured by having large branches twisted from their trunks. The roads in many places were rendered impassable, so thickly were they strewn with fallen trees. The telephone lines were damaged in many places. But aside from these damages buildings in Lee escaped with but slight injury. Other towns were less fortunate in this respect, and great damage done to property, such as farm buildings and fences, as well as to fruit and shade trees.

The Drouth of 1921.

A DROUTH occurred in the summer of 1921, claimed by many to be fully equal in severity to any since 1880. During the month of June the amount of rainfall was small, and this soon evaporated beneath the rays of the hot summer sun. The roads became dry and oppressively dusty, while brooks and rills furnished only a limited supply of water. As time passed on, streams of considerable size began to get low, and at length became completely dry and wells began to fail. Wells in which the utmost confidence had heretofore been placed, failed, and as the drouth grew more and more intense, many residents of Lee found it necessary to drive their stock long distances to water, while for culinary and drinking purposes water was sometimes hauled a distance of two miles. For a short time the family of Horace Maxwell got their drinking water from Mrs. Bishop's watering tub beyond the bridge in the village, a distance of more than two miles. Fortunately no fires occurred in town during this protracted drouth, which did not end until late in the fall.

Destructive Fire of 1907.

It was seldom that an alarm of fire disturbed the quiet of the village of Lee, but on one unfortunate afternoon, the church bell pealed out a warning the meaning of which could not be mistaken. The alarm spread rapidly, as did also the fire. The fire was in the attic of the town hall and was discovered about 3.30 o'clock. It caught, presumably from a defective chimney and the building was doomed when the fire was discovered. The townspeople gave their attention to saving the surrounding buildings, forming bucket brigades and fighting desperately for their homes. That the roofs were covered with snow no doubt saved a more extensive conflagration.

The hall was burned to the ground, also the residence and stable of G. W. Coffin. The store of Mrs. G. B. Weatherbee and other buildings caught fire but were not seriously damaged.

The lower floor of the hall was used for town meetings and general ensembles and the upper floor as a dance hall. The

latter was leased to Charles Rich, who lost a piano. The hall was valued at \$4,000 and insured for \$1,500, in the agency of Blake, Barrows and Brown, of Bangor. Mr. Coffin's loss was about \$1,500 insured for \$1,000.

At one time the fire threatened to wipe out the entire village and a call for help was sent to Lincoln and the lumber camps of Houghton and Thurlow in No. 3 but the fire was under control before help arrived.

The Diphtheria Epidemic.

A WIDE-SPREAD epidemic of diphtheria visited Lee in the fall of 1860, and prevailed for over a year, with alarming mortality. This was a new disease to the physician and its treatment was not fully understood. The people were ignorant of its highly contagious character, thus the disease was carried from family to family by the attendants of the sick. Many declared the disease was non-contagious, yet these same persons would hesitate and often decline assistance in caring for those ill with this disease. Others considered the disease highly contagious and would not enter a house where a case was known to exist under any consideration. Thus was this terrible disease carried from home to home, leaving sorrowing families and desolate homes in its track.

The family of George and Henriette Rollins lost eight children from this disease between the fourth and nineteenth of June, 1862.

Burning the Kaiser.

ON the seventh of November, 1918, word reached Lee that Germany had surrendered. It was not until the eleventh, however, that word came that Germany would sign the armistice. The long and bloody war was at an end. At once the people who had anxiously watched while the destiny of Democracy seemed poised and trembling in the balance, began to feel that buoyancy of spirit which is but natural after any prolonged period of suspense. The news spread from house to house, and rejoicing was heard on every hand. An event of such magnitude had to be commemorated in some public demonstration. Consequently many of the citizens gathered in

the village early in the evening. A huge bonfire was built in the street, bells were rung, flags raised, and as a climax an effigy of Kaiser Wilhelm was burned at the stake.

Temperature Table.

THE following table gives a partial record of the extremes in temperature from 1868 to 1923 inclusive. The sign minus signifies below zero.

| DATE | TEMPERATURE | REMARKS |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| July 5, 1868 | 101 | In the shade |
| July 12, 1868 | 123 | In the shade |
| July 15, 1868 | 102 | In the shade |
| Dec. 20, 1868 | 20— | |
| March 1, 1869 | 24— | |
| July 23, 1870 | 107 | In the shade |
| July 24, 1870 | 99 | In the shade |
| August 16, 1884 | 98 | (Whole week nearly as warm) |
| Dec. 20, 1884 | 27— | |
| Jan. 27, 1886 | 24— | |
| August 27, 1886 | 110 | In the shade |
| Dec. 29, 1886 | 31— | |
| Jan. 1, 1887 | 0 | Rain |
| Jan. 5, 1887 | 28— | 41— at Mattawankeag |
| Jan. 9, 1887 | 28— | |
| Feb. 14, 1887 | 31— | |
| April 12, 1889 | 85 | |
| Dec. 30, 1891 | 33— | |
| Feb. 11, 1911 | 38— | |
| Jan. 10, 1920 | 45— | |

May 25, 1834— Snow fell to the depth of sixteen inches.

Spring of 1841— Very early season. Farmers nearly complete their planting by May 10.

April 21, 1852— About two feet of snow fell. Nearly all fences hidden from view.

Feb. 5, 1869— Great snowstorm.

Oct. 22, 1869— An earthquake of half a minute's duration.

Oct. 30, 1869— Two feet of snow fell.

The month of Feb., 1875— People suffered from severe and protracted cold. Extremely hard on shipping.

June 14, 1884— Very heavy frost. Ice formed. Much damage to crops.

Summer of 1884— Very rainy and generally unfavorable for farmers.

Sept. 14, 1884 — Farm crops killed by heavy frost. Potatoes, too, badly. Many farmers report over fifty per cent.

Dec. 7 — Farmers engage in plowing.

Jan., 1885 — Wagons in use.

Feb. 10, 1885 — Thunder shower.

March 1, 1886 — Heavy storm. Mails delayed several days.

Feb. 1, 1888 — A shock of earthquake felt.

April 19, 1888 — Good sleighing.

Jan. 20, 1889 — Some people using wagons.

The Fall of 1891 — Extreme drouth occurs. Practically no frost in the ground until the 20th of Dec.

The Spring of 1890 was cold and backward. Many farmers did not complete their planting until the first of July. Re-planting in some instances was necessary.

The Winter of 1868-69 was notable for its frequent and heavy storms and the unusual depth of snow. Storm followed storm until roads were blockaded, fences buried from sight, and in some instances dwelling-houses were nearly buried in huge drifts.

A List of Bounties Paid from 1757 to 1861.

| DATE | NAME | NO. OF BEAR | AMOUNT |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------|---------|
| July, 1857 | — W. G. Jackson | 1 | \$ 2 00 |
| Feb. 6, 1858 | — Isaac O. Ware | 1 | 2 00 |
| Feb. 15, 1857 | — David Philbrook | 1 | 2 00 |
| Mar. 20, 1858 | — James Hanscom | 1 | 2 00 |
| Mar. 22, 1858 | — J. G. Ames | 1 | 2 00 |
| April 24, 1858 | — Daniel Dodge | 1 | 2 00 |
| April 24, 1858 | — Edwin Ludden | 1 | 2 00 |
| April 29, 1858 | — James Burke | 1 | 2 00 |
| April 29, 1858 | — Willard Houghton | 1 | 2 00 |
| June 21, 1858 | — Jeremiah Patterson | 1 | 2 00 |
| July 12, 1858 | — Jeremiah Patterson | 2 | 4 00 |
| March 25, 1859 | — Isaac O. Ware | 1 | 2 00 |
| March 25, 1859 | — James Hanscom | 1 | 2 00 |
| Nov. 4, 1859 | — Jeremiah Kaeeland | 1 | 1 75 |
| Dec. 3, 1859 | — Isaac O. Ware | 2 | 4 00 |
| March 24, 1860 | — T. M. Jordan | 1 | 1 75 |
| July 14, 1860 | — Samuel Patterson | 2 | 4 00 |
| Dec. 23, 1860 | — John C. Varney | 8 | 16 00 |
| Jan. 11, 1861 | — Isaac O. Ware | 8 | 16 00 |
| Dec. 28, 1861 | — Isaac O. Ware | 1 | 2 00 |

From this time on an occasional bounty was paid. Whether the hunters were busy fighting in the south or the bears were scarce, I do not know.

Chapter XIII.

FIRST THINGS.

FOR want of a better name the writer has called this chapter "First Things". Much time has been spent in ferreting out these facts and it is hoped that they may prove of value as well as of interest.

The first woman to penetrate the wilderness of Lee was Mrs. Lucy Fifield, wife of Jeremiah Fifield.

The first white child born in Lee was Mary Lucy Tucker, in 1827. Later became the wife of David Varney.

The first settlers in Lee were — Jeremiah and Lucy Fifield of Howland; Thomas Lindsay of Lowell; and Enoch Stone.

The first marriage was in 1826, when Lucy Fifield became the wife of Thomas Lindsay.

The first death of a child was that of Edith Parker.

The first death of an adult was that of a Mr. Robinson of Sydney, Maine.

The first school house was built by Jeremiah Fifield.

The first teacher was Lucy Fifield.

The first sawmill was built in 1827; the first grist-mill in 1828. Both were owned by Samuel Mallett and James Merrill.

The first hotel in Lee was known as the Elm House and was owned by Arthur Prentiss.

The first blacksmith was Arthur Prentiss.

The first store was owned by Arthur and Addison Prentiss.

The first resident physician was Dr. Godfrey Jackson.

The first lumbermen doing business on a large scale were Oaks and Cowan.

The first resident minister was Parson Sawyer.

The first postmaster was Samuel T. Mallett.

The first lawyer was Addison Prentiss.

Lee was incorporated Feb. 2, 1832.

The first Town Meeting was held April 11, 1832.

The first Town Meeting was held in James Merrill's barn.

The voters of Lee at the first Town Meeting appropriated one thousand dollars for roads; one hundred and fifty dollars for schools; and seventy-five dollars for town charges.

The first Town Hall was the upper story of the Academy building.

The first church was organized in 1831 by Rev. Mr. Dexter.

The first and only murders were committed April 7th, 1859.

Lee Academy was incorporated March 14th, 1845.

The first principal of Lee Academy was Joseph M. True.

The first agent elected to sell liquors in Lee was Isaac Hacker in 1832.

The Springfield line highway was first accepted in 1845.

The first geographical survey showed that Lee Village was exactly 400 feet above sea level and that the peak of Mt. Jefferson was 708 feet above sea level.

The first Academy building was started near the present residence of Harold L. Haskell.

The bridge in Lee Village was first built in 1848 by Edward Bowler under the direction of the Selectmen.

The Town purchased the hearse in 1867, paying \$100 for same.

The first steps toward erecting a building especially for a Town Hall were taken on Oct. 12, 1867, when the citizens of Lee voted to construct a hall 36 x 54 feet and to be two stories high. At a special meeting held three days later it was voted to make this vote void.

The Town Farm was purchased April 25, 1871, and sold in 1886.

The first vote taken to see if the town would buy the Congregational Church to be used as a Town Hall, was on May 28, 1883. The Church was purchased almost immediately.

The skating rink in the Buffalo House was shut down in 1887.

James Mallett built the Mt. Jefferson House in 1889. It was exempt from taxation for ten years.

The Town purchased the first road machine in 1889.

The first printed Town Report appeared in 1899.

The first woman to vote in Lee was Mrs. Gerrish Mallett, at a State Election.

The first woman to vote in town affairs was Miss Mae Hanson.

The first call for troops for service in the Civil War from Lee was made in 1861.

The first soldier to enlist from Lee in the Civil War was Horace Hanson.

The first to enlist in the service of their Country in the World War were — Willard C. Houghton and Leon Rideout. Both enlisted the same day, in the same company, and the same regiment.

The first Lee soldier to receive a discharge from the army, after the signing of the Armistice was Raleigh Boober.

The first soldier from Lee to make the supreme sacrifice in the World War was Willard C. Houghton.

The first sailor from Lee to make the supreme sacrifice was Vance Lowell.

The first Fair held in Lee was known as the Lee-Union Fair and was held in 1894. The first President of the association was Ira Barnes.

The first creamery was built in 1900 by Haskell and Riggs.

The first motor vehicle owned in town was a Ford, being the property of Leroy Brown.

The streets of Lee were first lighted by electricity in 1916.

Electric lights were first installed in Lee Academy in December, 1919.

The R. F. D. service first started in Lee on Sept. 15, 1903.

The first R. F. D. driver was Lee Weatherbee.

The course in agriculture was first introduced in Lee Academy by Roy Thomas in the fall of 1919.

The first residence in Lee to have a home lighting plant was that of Charles A. Lowell.

The first aeroplane to land in Lee was piloted by Horace Lowell of Lincoln. It landed on the farm of Veral Moors in October, 1922. The price for passengers was five dollars for a fifteen-minute ride.

The first radio set in Lee was installed in Elmwood Hall by Mr. Wilder of Lincoln. It did not work successfully.

The first successful radio messages received were on a set owned and operated by William S. Foss.

The first farmer to install a radio set was Alfred R. Lowell.

The first poultry show was held in Lee at the Grange Hall in October, 1923.

The first public exhibition wrestling bout to be held in Lee took place in Elmwood Hall, August 1, 1925. The contestants were Farmer Barnes of Enfield and Young Reynolds.

The precedent of holding the annual town meeting in Lee on the third Monday in March was established in March, 1841.

The first two copies of this History of Lee were sold to Kenneth Weatherbee of Lincoln, Maine.