



THE EDWARDS HOMESTEAD IN TRANS ALPINE  
Still in possession of the family.

History of  
**TRANS ALPINE**

*The Southernmost Part of the Town of*

*Lincoln, Maine*

*Beyond the Alps*



By MAY EDWARDS BAILEY

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Lincoln, Maine

THIS BOOK  
IS LOVINGLY DEDICATED TO  
MY FAMILY  
AND TO  
OUR OLD FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS  
IN TRANS ALPINE

## PREFACE

This History of Trans Alpine was written for the Lincoln Historical Society in 1935, the first year of its organization. It was read in the society by the author as a paper on April 8, 1935, and it was re-written and passed in to the society on December 14, 1936.

There have been many calls for copies of this history, but I have refrained from getting it published because of Dr. Dana Fellows' History of Lincoln, which contains the genealogy of several families who came from Trans Alpine. But I have avoided using his material as much as possible in giving the origin of these families and I have endeavored to bring the genealogy of all families up to date.

There were no roads when Trans Alpine was first settled and many of the emigrants came up across Cold Stream Lake from Enfield, and it is probable that some came over across from the river, as there is an old road across from Cole Hill to the Enfield road. Therefore all the first settlements were made in the southern part of the neighborhood, many of them down by the mill at the extreme north end of the lake.

I have drawn a map of the roads as they were laid out, and I have put all the houses on the map by number as far as I could determine, and I have given a sketch of each of the different families that lived in each house as far as I know, and their genealogy is given alphabetically in the back of the book.

There are now only nine families living in, or connected with Trans Alpine, who are descendants of the old settlers: The Cummings family, Lowe, Phinney, Clay, Delano, Lowell, Ripley, Cole and Edwards. Fifteen of the original houses are still in use, and one of the old schoolhouses is still standing.

I wish to express my appreciation to all who have helped with this work by furnishing material for the family records, etc.

MAY EDWARDS BAILEY

## SITUATION

**T**RANS ALPINE is situated in the southern part of Lincoln, on the Burlington road, beyond Fish Hill. It comprises four other hills: one at Bruce Corner, one farther along on the Burlington road, and one at each end of the neighborhood. There is a very fine view from the Cole Hill, and also from the Burlington road. That is the best view of Mt. Katahdin that I have ever seen, set off by other hills on either side.

To reach Trans Alpine from the village the road goes over the side of Fish Hill, which was a very hard haul for horses before the time of automobiles and trucks, hence the effort of the people to get a road through the valley; and they did, by their own efforts, build a winter road from Rounds Brook through to Mattanawcook Lake and down back of the lake to Taylor Street, a distance of about three miles. This road was well laid out, with only three turns in it, and it was used for driving as well as hauling, through the winter, as the road over the hill was not broken out.

But now that the automobile has come the hill is no longer a menace, and the road has to be kept open for the bus to convey the pupils to the village to school.

## CUSTOMS OF THE EARLY SETTLERS OF TRANS ALPINE

**W**HEN the people first came to this neighborhood to settle, which was, according to the History of Penobscot County, in March, 1819, they had to endure many hardships before they could construct suitable shelter, as they had very few tools with which to work.

Many came here in the spring before the ice went out of the river and lakes, as the ice gave them a means of travel which they needed as there were no roads.

The first houses were made of logs, and they hewed out boards with their axes for floors, etc., and they used rocks for chimneys before there were any brick.

The trees of the forest then were large, as they had never been cut over; now the woods as we see it is nearly all second growth. In our dining room, on the farm, there are some very wide boards which form the wainscoting. This dining room is the oldest part of the house, and it was built in about 1830.

They had a fireplace in the dining room; we have the frame yet, as also the shovel and thongs, kettles and baker. The baker is made of tin and set up on legs with one side open where they set the tin of biscuit in to bake, and then set it up to the fire. They baked their potatoes in the hot ashes.

When they built the kitchen on they built a brick oven; these ovens were in nearly all of the old houses. They used them to bake in before they had stoves. They would build a hot fire in the oven and heat the bricks; they let the fire down into the place below, and then put the food into the oven to bake. They also used these ovens for smoking hams.

They had all homemade furniture at first. They made the bed-

steads, tied them together with rope, then made a straw or husk tick and a featherbed, which was nice and warm for winter, but not so nice for summer.

We had a Bird's Eye Maple bureau in our dining room which was made by hand for my mother, for a wedding present, in 1865. (See cut).

My grandfather had a corn house, which I can remember, where they put the corn to dry before shelling.

They also had several hives of bees. My father never got stung by the bees, they seemed to know him.

For amusements in our neighborhood, in the early days, they had a lot of meetings and sings that I have heard them tell about. Josiah Perkins, with others, used to go around in the winter evenings in a little house on runners to different homes and have a sing. There were no less than four Lay Preachers there, so I doubt if the young people were allowed to dance and play cards. But later on, at least, they had paring bees, quiltings, huskings, wood-cutting bees and barn-raising. In House No. 47 there was a very good hall in the shed chamber, where they had parties and some dances later on.

Very few of the farmers had horses, as they did their work mostly with oxen, so they could not get about very much and were dependent upon the neighborhood, principally, for their social life. One or two of the neighbors had stores, where people could buy some things without going to the village, which must have been a great convenience.





The Bird's Eye Maple, hand-made bureau, referred to, as restored by its present owner, Frederick W. Pinkham of Bangor, Maine.