The 150th Anniversary
of
Bucksport, Maine
June 25, 1942

Published and Printed by
The Bucksport Free Press, Bucksport, Maine
Bernard Pooler, Publisher
August, 1942
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 millstones, which were used in the first mill of Bucksport in the 1700's, was another outstanding historical event. This


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 Trecartin 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:


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 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 Gardiner, Miss Evelyn Hall, Miss Nettie Swazey, Thomas Swazey, Emmett Swazey, Mrs. Albert Swazey, Mrs. Edward Bennett, Miss Winifred

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 Swazeys, Mrs. Warren Kennedy, Mrs. John MacDonalld, Gerard Kennedy, Mrs. Walter Brewster; and Mrs. Gerard Jilson. Remarks were made by George D. Bearce, general manager of the Maine Seaboard Paper Company; by Judge Raymond Fellows and by Judge and Mrs. Walter 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 Swazeys' pasture: The ball team we called the Dandelion Diggers the old academy 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: 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 Legion 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 Corp. 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 Bledgett 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.
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 cag 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...
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

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 from Newbury, the Sally arrived at Fort Pownal (Fort Point) at 2 o'clock in the day. Esq. Livermore arrived at 4 o'clock 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 25th 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 committee 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, Brookville, 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."

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 committee met with Jonathan Buck "reviewed" the Mount Desert River, Surry Bay, Blue Bay, and "Magibugyduce." 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 re-
view of this particular land and re-
sulted 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 row-
ing 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
committee men to settle the bounds
between the townships, and began
the survey of the lots in each town-
ship. Each boundary when settled
was marked by the first letters of
the committee's names on a con-
vienient 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 amaz-
ingly complete story of their daily
lives.
Activity in the settlement natu-
 rally 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, show-
ing 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 owners' fleets were all made up of boats to meet the settler's varied needs, gondolas, schooners, boats for fishing, boats for traps, boats for oiling, barns, a trading house near the mill, 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 the Penobscot 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 poppe". 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 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.
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 reserved 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 ciphering only to the boys.

The first record of raising money for the schools was in 1764 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, each district being required to build its own schoolhouse. The expense of the school was paid by sums of money raised at town meetings.

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.

The West and North Sections of Bucksport as it looks today.
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 select 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 increment 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, 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 Littile. The school became very popular and students came from Bangor, Boston and other places as well as Bucksport to attend it. Mr. Littile 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, surrounded 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
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 seaport. 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 1872, Oak Hall was erected. Unfortunately this building with its equipment and many valuable papers were completely destroyed by fire in 1927. 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. The school has 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, 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 an end 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 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 150 feet from McDonald street to the Spoford 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 purchased 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 Maine Seaboard Paper Co.

Industrially, Bucksport has been up and down. For many years shipping, ship-building, 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 under 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. Beare, 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 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 45,000 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 points 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," 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 detail. Nothing was incorrect or exaggerated. Desk, chairs, registers, 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 antique latch bolts the doors in place. The same antique hand wrought iron hinges hold the doors in place. The same has been lifted by uncontended 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, Hermilage," 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 proud mark 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 1898, and took a fling at selling papers on New York Bowery before settling down in his native town to become one of its oldest businessmen.

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.
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 the town’s 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 Buckstow. 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 great-grandchildren of Jonathan Buck, feeling that the 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. Tristram 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. Swazey 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 pooh-pooh 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
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" (1938). 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 drifted by?

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

Then the sun breaks thru the clouds
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 canoeing ground.
On we sail thru sparkly waters,
Fort Point lighthouse just around.

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

Old Fort Knox stands at the bend,
Across, Vernon's lovely shore.
Today a bridge of beautious 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
Rugged shores and piney slopes,
Little towns and smaller hamlets,
Pure white yachts and little boats.

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. 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 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-
Bucksport’s Sesqui-centennial, 1942

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 superintendent 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 Mechanic streets for some distance burning dwelling houses of Mrs. Rilla Greenleafe, 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. 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. G. Swazey, one was occupied by Esther Graham, 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.

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 buildings 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.

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.
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 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.

Sketch of Bucksport's Railroads

By William A. Wheeler

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 8 1/2 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.

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).

1788 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.
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 hembark 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.

Bucksport Boys In World War I

Bucksport Boys In The Civil War

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


Bucksport's Sesqui-centennial, 1942


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 Tientsin being the first Protestant Missionary in that Province of China. 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 Buckport’s Churches

First Meeting House erected on Oak Hill in 1813

Congregationalism In Bucksport

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 Congregational 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 Fodsyt, 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.
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 Poolder. Peter O'Dette, Joseph Deyray, 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 catechism, 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. 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 White'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 Canadians. Catholic olicies were also added to the number, and the names of Walter and Peter Clary, John McCarthy, John Hall, James Clark, Jerry Suinean, Matthew Cahill, James and Michael Doherty, Henry McCly, Michael Hurley, Wm. O'Brien, Thomas Prew, John March, John Bearer, 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 McNiel, James Sheehan, Alphonso Jules, Charles Healey, John Clish, Pete Mulligan, George Post, John Donovan, John and Daniel Lyons, Daniel Costello, Thomas Wakely, Thomas Faircloth, Michael Pahey, Wm. Miller, Hugh and Duncan McDon ald, 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 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, were the former of these three. Rev. Fr. Bapst, had the care of this portion of the mission; he was building the present St. Joseph'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. Virgilius, in 1855 Rev. Fr. John Murphy, in 1856 Rev. Fr. Eugene Vetromile, in 1860 Rev. Fr. Michael Galigher, and in 1861 Rev. Frs. Cullen and John Welch of the Old Town and Eastport missions 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. D. Dunbar was placed in charge, attending to the spiritual wants of the people for four years and in 1866 was succeeded by Rev. Fr. James Dur in who remained three years, or until 1869. when Rev. Fr. L. Smas so 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 1875, who stayed there.

About this time 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, Franklin, 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, Franklin, Searsport and Belfast. Rev. Fr. Jeremiah McCarthy was appointed by the Bishop first resident priest. The erection of churches for his people throughout his charge, meeting with opposition and dis cussed by Rev. Fr. James Dur in who determined a less determined man.

The earliest place of worship of which there is any account was 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 strong enough to hire a hall for worship, and what was known as the Charles Swazeys 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 Swazeys's hall, near the junction of Elm and School streets, and in 1855, 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 1855 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 until continued down the years; and during the past half-century the following priests have ministered to a small congregation: Father P. A. Garrity, Madden, Dunham, Masso, Herbert, Coffe, Garrity, O'Connor, Flannagan, Gorman, Crowe, George Dulae, 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 redecorated 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 197; and the rectory was occupied in January, 1938.

Although the history of Catholics 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 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 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, Hampden, 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 wrote the following description of the church (1913):

“A building committee consisting of Wm. G. Chase, Joseph Bradley and Trueworthy Swazey engaged Jabez Buck for building 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 $4850, 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 church) at the expense of $1000. The church building was satisfactory but the vestry was uninviting and inconvenient, being a small cellar, ill lit, and tight, 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 papered 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 1881 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 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 $148. In 1871 half of the double house (Pierce house) on the corner of Franklin and McDonald Streets was purchased and used as a parsonage until 1894. 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 McDonald Streets. The first half, a total of over $1800, was purchased through the liberality of Captain Snow.

In 1889 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.” It was separated from the church 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.” It was separated from the church by the church with trust funds in 1894.

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, rewiring and new lighting problem was solved in 1929.

The church building was satisfactory, but the vestry was uninviting and inconvenient, being a small cellar, ill lit, and tight, 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.

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 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 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, rewiring and new lighting were made by taxing the owners or renters of pews. In 1876 such an assessment was made that ranged from $2.83 to $.81.

The church building was satisfactory but the vestry was uninviting and inconvenient, being a small cellar, ill lit, and tight, 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.

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 $148. In 1871 half of the double house (Pierce house) on the corner of Franklin and McDonald Streets was purchased and used as a parsonage until 1894. 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 McDonald Streets. The first half, a total of over $1800, was purchased through the liberality of Captain Snow.

In 1889 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.” It was separated from the church by the church with trust funds in 1894.

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, rewiring and new lighting were made by taxing the owners or renters of pews. In 1876 such an assessment was made that ranged from $2.83 to $.81.

The church building was satisfactory but the vestry was uninviting and inconvenient, being a small cellar, ill lit, and tight, 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.

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.