

Denmark Historical Society

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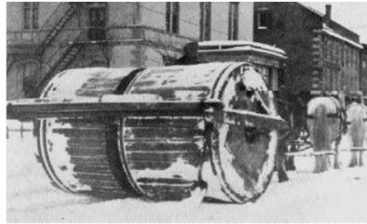
December 2011

Winter in Maine

Snow Rollers were used to pack down the snow to make it easier to travel by horse drawn-sleigh.

In the photo below, Arthur Sanborn is holding the reins and Leon Ingalls (both of Denmark)

is standing behind the roller (the man standing behind the team of horses is not identified). As other farmers of the day did, Sanborn and Ingalls would roll an assigned section of the road near their farms. The job would then be taken over by a neighbor with a fresh team of horses. Taxes were abated according to the amount of snow rolling each farmer did during a given winter.

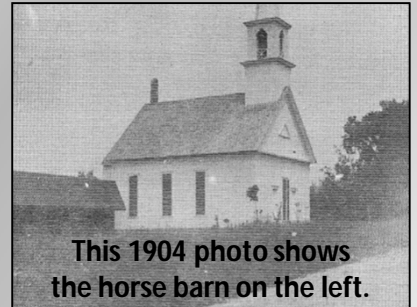


Highlight

Christmas Traditions in Denmark 54 Years and Counting

2011 marks the 54th year of the Annual Christmas Bazaar—brought to us by our local Congregational Church. The church was

founded in 1829 and met in private homes until the present chapel was built in 1834 by Joshua Osgood. Our records tell us that the Ladies'



This 1904 photo shows the horse barn on the left.

Circle, became the Ladies Guild, and then the Church Guild. In all its permeations it never fails to enchant with its delicious cookie walk, great local crafts, and wonderful raffle bargains. Do you have a favorite Denmark Christmas tradition—one specific to your family or to the town itself? If so, please write us at denmarkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or attend the December 12 workshop and share them with us. Pictures would be great too.

Message from the President

Stan Cohen's October presentation of Mainers in the American Civil War was a real hit. A large and responsive audience learned facts and interesting stories about both Maine and Denmark Soldiers who served in the war. Attendees representing Denmark, other Historical Society members, and surrounding towns enjoyed the seminar and sampling the Civil War desserts representing both the North and the South. Special thanks to Cohen for an excellent presentation and to those who provided the dessert choices. Email us with suggestions for seminars you would like to see. We look forward to many more successful future historical seminars. Daryl Kenison



Feature Article

Continued from the

September 2011 Newsletter

The Unknown Poet and the Unknown Soldier

By

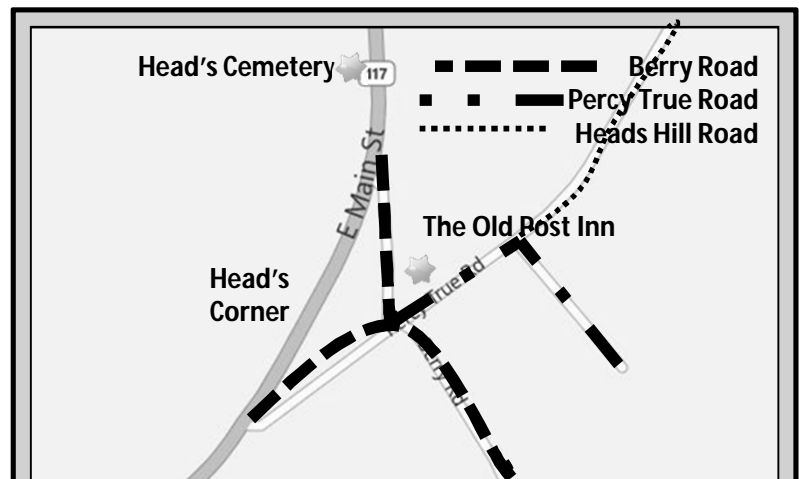
Alex MacGregor

Denmark and Chicago – August 7, 2011

As the story of the enigmatic poem on the Isaac Head tombstone continues, a few notes are in order about the Head Family. Isaac was the second-oldest surviving son of Colonel Nathaniel Head, Sr., who gave his name to “Head’s Corner” (now the intersection of the three legs of Berry Road with Percy True Road and the Old South Bridgton Road). The Colonel began his rise in the ranks as a private in the Massachusetts militia called out to defend Portland in 1814. He had seven children, of whom four survived to adulthood: Nathaniel Jr. (1812-1861), Isaac (1825-1850), James (1828-1921), and Andrew (1830-1866, d. Pennsylvania). James practiced medicine in Denmark, while his nephew Edwin (1860-1935), the son of Andrew, ran a mortuary across the road; they kept the town’s business “all in the family.” They were the last of the family to live in Denmark; on Dr. Head’s death Edwin removed to Portland.

In 1850 the widow of Colonel Head, along with her unmarried sons Isaac, James and Andrew, was presumably living on “Col. Head’s Old Farm,” as it was called in a deed of 1848. That

phrasing implies that Nathaniel Sr. was dead; by the same token, the son does not refer to himself as “Jr.” The house in question is commonly known as “The Old Post Inn,” at 26 Berry Road.



Current map showing the location of Head's Corner and the Head's Cemetery

The Old Post Inn



In any case, by 1850 the Head family between them owned well over 240 acres on the west side of the Bridgton Road at their corner. Nathaniel Jr. (1812-1861) was now the patriarch, and lived in what was once the Bean farm at 32 Percy True Road. The death of Isaac was a serious blow to the family. His younger brother Andrew (1830-1866) was already farming seventy-odd acres, but a fledgling doctor could hardly replace Isaac behind a plow.

Understandably, the family erected quite a lavish stone for Isaac. The workmanship is first-rate, and the expense must have been

Feature Article (Continued)

considerable. Isaac's three attributes are noteworthy for the one not mentioned – husband. The poem was workmanlike, though unoriginal, and in its way as generic as a greeting card. There are no personal touches whatsoever; it applied to anyone who was unmarried and died untimely young, or indeed before the biblical three-score-and-ten. Just as the heading begins with the conventional Latin for “of age,” the style and sentiment of the poem are conventional throughout.

Isaac Head
Died
Apr. 24, 1850
Aet <atis> 25 yrs.

*Brother and Son and Friend the loss we mourn,
A loss, alas! How grievous to be borne!
In thy young morn of life when all seemed fair,
Gone to the grave, to sleep forever there.
O, not forever, when a few more hours
Have dewed thy grave with tears and strewed with flowers.
The stricken hearts that weep thy early doom
Shall greet thee rising from thy ransomed tomb
And hope and life and love in heavenly beauty bloom.*

The Inscription on the Tombstone of Isaac Head (reprinted from the September 2011 Newsletter)

The good Christian, once ransomed from the Prison of Death by Christ's own suffering and death, will himself rise from the dead, sooner rather than later if we are to believe “a few more hours.” Poetic license tries to improve on Scripture with the novel idea that mourners at the graveside will be resurrected before Isaac,

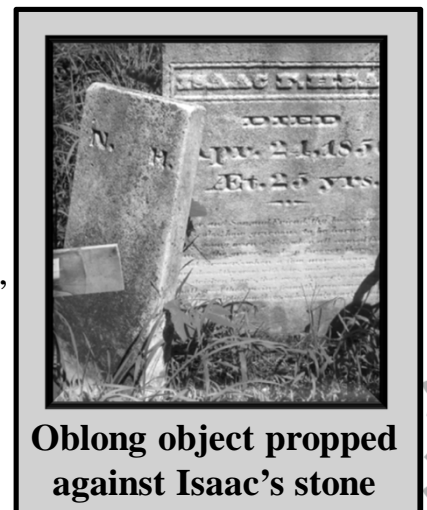
and will have to stand around waiting for him to be resurrected in his turn. “First in, last out.” But then such poems were not meant to be analyzed for their logic; the point of the strange image was that the Day of Resurrection reproduced the tableau of mourners at the graveside, and mirrored the burial in reverse.

To conclude with a fresh problem. Propped against Isaac's stone is a much smaller oblong, blank except for the initials “N.H.” at the top. Now, there is an elaborate tombstone from 1828 for the three children of Col. Head who died in infancy, but no tombstone for the Colonel himself. That is strange; he was, as noted above, dead by 1848, but the deed of that year mentions a transaction between Nathaniel Jr. and his father in 1835. The father is the only candidate for “N.H.”; his son, Nathaniel Jr., is buried elsewhere. Perhaps the Colonel died before his heirs could afford a proper stone. He certainly deserves his own epitaph, and better late than never:

*A lavish monument the FATHER gave;
Himself, he lies within a nameless grave.*

In any case, his son Isaac was the last Head buried in the Schoolhouse Cemetery; Nathaniel Jr. (1812-1861) was the first Head to be buried in the Head Cemetery on Route 117 just pass the east leg of Berry Road. The Head family monument there is much later in style; it was probably erected not long after the death of James in 1921.

So much then for the epitaph of Isaac Head. It has at least been published for the first time, and a good deal can be said about it just on the basis of internal evidence. Still a reader familiar with research on New England tombstones (as I am not) may well unearth other examples of this epitaph, and perhaps even identify the author. Then again, it would be interesting to find out how much a tombstone that elaborate would have cost. As usual, answering one question – “What does that say?” – raises more questions in its turn.



**Oblong object propped
against Isaac's stone**

History Quiz*

Current Contest



Who was the speaker at Denmark's 175th Anniversary and 4th of July celebration in 1982?

Previous Newsletter Contest Winner

The previous question was: What was the exact dedication date (mm/dd/yy) for the "Honor Roll" commemorating Denmark citizens who served their country in time of war? The answer is October 10th, 1943. We did not have a winner for this question. Answers to History Quiz questions can always be found at the Denmark Historical Society.

* Winner receives

Winners receive one year membership to DHS. A \$10 donation will be made to the DHS in the name of a Lifetime member who wins. Winners must wait one year before entering the contest again.

Do You Remember When *The Watkins Wagon* Plied the Streets of Denmark?



There was a time when the citizens of Denmark anxiously awaited the arrival of *The Watkins Wagon*. Watkins was incorporated in 1868 by Mr.



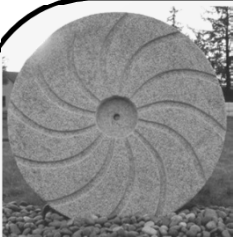
Joseph Ray Watkins, selling its highly successful first product—Watkins Red Liniment. The active ingredient in Red Liniment, camphor, when rubbed on muscle aches and pains brought warming relief. Denmark records do not confirm that Watkins first appeared in town during its horse and buggy days, but those living in Denmark during the 1940-1960s would certainly have seen a Watkins Wagon or car around town

from time-to-time. By then, Watkins had expanded



its all-natural product line to include: medicinal, cleaning products, spices, and body lotions. Watkins products were, and still are, marketed by part-time work-from-home entrepreneurs.

Gristmill Stone??



Do you have any information about the gristmill stone that is located at the Denmark Public Library? The only information we have is that someone donated it to the library for display purposes. Currently it is covered by a foot of dirt and weeds. The Denmark Historical Society would like to clean it up and display it at the lower level door of the library. However, we would love to have the provenance and history that goes along with it. If you can you help, please write to: denmarkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Business in Denmark: Then and Now

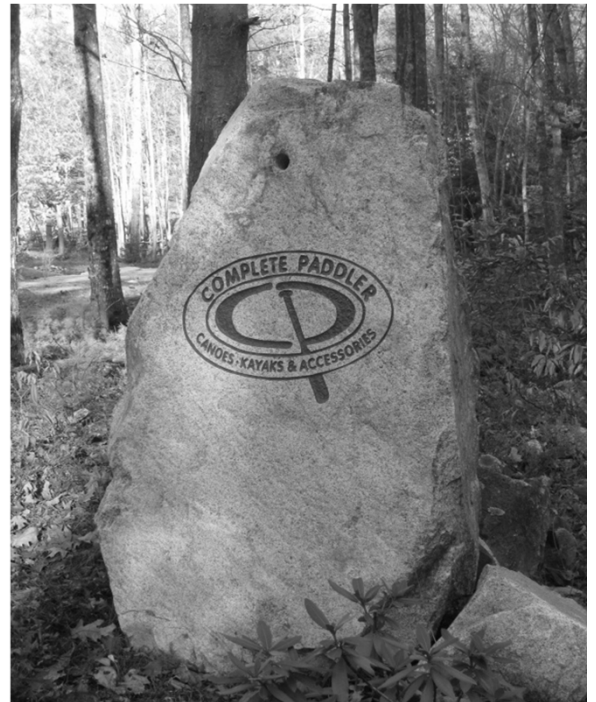
The Complete Paddler, owned by Jim and Leslie Stanicki, was founded in 2004. The Complete Paddler offered kayaks, canoes, related equipment, rentals, lessons, and sound advice. The Stanicki's had a small pond blasted from the solid rock on their property. Blasting day was yet another reason for Jim and Leslie to celebrate life with friends. The picturesque pond was the perfect place



for customers to take a test paddle. Jim once said, "Paddling is important and a business would be successful if it was respectful of customers." The heart of the lakes region is the perfect spot for such a business and Jim and Leslie's expertise and friendliness soon made *The Complete Paddler* a popular resource for Denmark and Lake Region residents and summer vacationers alike. The Stanicki's choice of the name *The Complete Paddler* was representative of their desire to provide paddlers of all skill

levels with the appropriate equipment and gear; and how to get great enjoyment from their paddling experiences. The name certainly was representative of how the Stanicki's ran their business. Jim loved the water and paddling. He wanted everyone to know the serenity and pleasure that came with "take time to paddle."

Businesses in Denmark come and go for various reasons. Some just don't make it, some lose their natural resources or their customer base. But, for others, bad things happen to good people. In 2007, Jim was diagnosed with lung cancer. His life became filled with cancer treatments, fatigue, and treatment-related illnesses. Between Jim's illness and Leslie's responsibilities as an RN, the business became too much. In 2009, they closed *The Complete Paddler* and sold the name and website domain to a Canadian Company. Denmark lost a successful business where customers knew they could always find Jim with great equipment and advice, fair treatment, and a great sense of fun. Jim lost his battle to cancer this past August. He was known for his love for family and for his ability to live fully and joyfully in the here and now—he did so until the very end. Jim was "The Complete Paddler."



Historical Society Calendar of Events

- Monday, December 12, 2011 – 7:00 PM – DHS Workshop (Christmas Traditions in Denmark and continuing work on reorganizing the collection)
- Monday, January 9, 2011 – 7:00 PM – DHS Business Meeting

Denmark Doings

200 Years Ago

The year 1811 culminated a ten-year population boon to the town of Denmark. The population during that period nearly tripled—with newcomers bearing sir names of people whom we still recognize around town—both as respected forefathers, and now as descendants and great neighbors who still make Denmark proud. No doubt town incorporation helped provide a sense of security that one would find some help when they arrived in town. However, it was still an arduous task to relocate from even relatively close Massachusetts or New Hampshire towns. Overland trails were rarely more than one horse-width wide and wound through dense forests and bog lands; and travel by waterways was expensive. Some of the new immigrants already had family in Denmark, but many an intrepid soul packed their meager belongings and headed into the Maine wilderness on faith that Denmark would provide a better life for their families.



150 Years Ago

On February 1, 1861, Kate Florence Ingalls was born here in Denmark. All of her life she was a faithful daughter of her birthright town. She worked tirelessly as an important civic leader, married Fred Sanborn in 1901 and continued to be an active participant in community activities. In 1940 Kate bequeathed land behind the Municipal Building to the town and stipulated that it must be used for the benefit of the children of Denmark. From 1940 on—the land was used as a game field, of sorts, by Denmark's kids. In 1974 the Lions Club, along with many Denmark volunteers, built a true ball field, and dedicated it as the *Kate Sanford Memorial Field*.



100 Years Ago

An advertisement for H. B. Foster clothing store. It features a central illustration of a man in a suit and hat, standing with his hands in his pockets. To the right of the illustration is text describing the quality of their suits. Below the illustration is the store's name and address.

No maker of men's clothes equals the style and finish which Hart Schaffner & Marx get into a suit such as we illustrate here: there's a dignity and distinction in it that stamps it as different from the usual make of men's clothes. H. S. & M. Suits \$18 and up.

We'd like to have you know how good our furnishings are: the best shirts we have ever had; underwear that fits and lasts; the newest in neckwear. They're all here.

H. B. FOSTER
One Price Clothier
NORWAY MAINE
This store is the home of Hart Schaffner and Marx Clothes

Copyright Hart Schaffner & Marx

Advertisement from the back of the 1911 Town of Denmark Annual Report

50 Years Ago

Many of us vividly remember the "Duck and Cover" exercises we were taught in school to protect ourselves from a nuclear blast. In 1961, The U.S. was locked in a cold war of political conflict and military tension with the Communist world. Is it any wonder that the Denmark Civilian Defense Director, Frank Schmidt, would insist that Denmark join a civil defense radio network! Part of his annual report reads: *The County CD Control Center at South Paris is now planning to establish a radio network with all towns in Oxford County in the 27 megacycle AM citizens radio band. To become a part of this network would cost the Town approximately \$150 for equipment, which would be installed at our CD control center in the school house basement...*



2011: History Under Development

That little piece of land adjacent to the Moose Pond Dam, between Island and Diamond Drive certainly has seen a fair piece of Denmark History. Likely the land was part of the original *Ingalls Saw Mill* built at the dam site in the earliest days of town settlement; became part of the *Denmark Inn* and *Tea House* property; then supported the Marina buildings that were burned and cleared in 2005 to make room for what is now a jewel in our Denmark Village, "The Bicentennial Park." The park was gifted to the town and dedicated in 2007 in celebration of Denmark's 200-year anniversary, and is well on its way to making its own history. All of Denmark truly made this park possible with their donations and hard work. Denmark citizens use the park as a spot of respite, family reunions, and weekend picnics. The *annual Concert in the Park and Fireworks* makes the park come alive in July, *Tai Chi Maine* uses it from June to August for its "Tai Chi in the Park program," and hundreds of Denmark kids and summer grandchildren use the playground equipment. Thank you Denmark for an historic addition to our town!

Denmark Families

Recall that in our last newsletter, we discussed the Ames families in Denmark. The question posed was how one of our first selectmen Joshua Ames was related to the families of Joshua and William Ames listed in the 1850 U.S. census. With the help of ancestry.com we have been able to confirm the relationship and quickly provide more family information. Selectman Joshua Ames was born in Wilmington, Massachusetts on June 27, 1743 to Joshua and Sarah Tay Ames (then spelled Eames). Our Joshua married Lydia Snow on August 25, 1793, and migrated to Brownfield near the turn of the century. Two of the ten children they produced were: Joshua Ames Jr.* (1801-1877) and William (1805-1886). Both men raised their children in Denmark.

Joshua married Jane Berry 1802-1856): the following children were born to them. Juliett (1834), Sarah J. (1836), Cordelia P. (1841), Francina B. (1844), Stephen H. (1847), Adaline (1849). Joshua's second wife was Sarah Alexander (1831-1905).

William married Betsy Leavitt (1805--1859): the following children were born to them: Clarisa E. (1838), Roxana M. (1840), Algenon S. (1844), William A. (1849).

It required about three hours of time to collect all this information. If you would like help with a family genealogy issue please email us. We will try to help.

* A Joshua Ames was born to Joshua and Sarah Eames in 1798 and died in 1799. It was common for parents to name another baby using the same name.

New Sponsor

The Denmark Historical Society is pleased to welcome a new sponsor: *The Granger Pond Camping Area*, owned by Paul and Susan Cady. Granger Pond is yet another "Beautiful by Nature" spot in Denmark and Paul and Susan know how to make their guests feel at home. Check out their business card on our sponsor page and let your friends and family know about a great vacation spot in Denmark.

The Cost of Living

\$\$ How Things Have Changed \$\$

The Village store was built in 1850 and served Denmark as the store "On the Hill" until 1980. Since 1980 it has lived many lives. But more about that in future newsletter issues. As we head into winter and Christmas with concerns for the cost of necessities like food and fuel; and the added expense of celebrating the holidays—we bring you a list of prices from the accounts of Joseph Bennett, proprietor of the store, dated 1863-1886.

- 1 pair of boys boots – 2.62
- 1 fig [pkg] tobacco - .16
- 7 yds stripe shirting material – 2.33
- 1 quart kerosene - .20
- 1 # nails - .06
- 4 quarts salt and matches - .25
- 2 ½ yds sheeting material - .50
- ½ oz thread - .05
- ¼ # tea - .38
- 2# pork - .50
- 1 pint lamp oil - .25
- 1 # sugar - .25
- 1 hat – 2.00
- 1 doz buttons - .12
- 1 doz crackers - .08
- 1 lamp chimney - .10
- 1 bar soap - .15
- 1# coffee - .13
- 1 pair mittens - .50
- 1 corset – 1.50
- 1 bottle Hales Hair Restorer - .90
- 1 bean pot - .25
- 1 writing book - .10



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**We wish each of you a
wonderful Holiday Season**