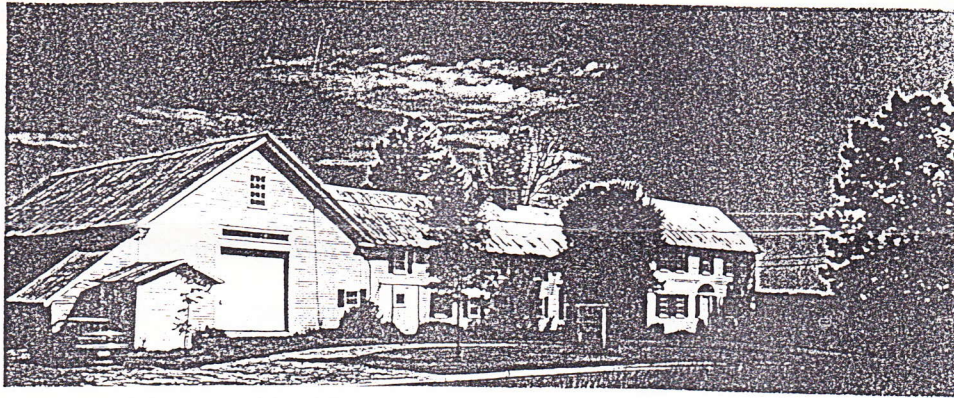


~ Denmark Historical Society ~

~ Newsletter ~

Vol. 1. No. 5.

May 10, 1994



The property known to some as the "Gordon Richardson place" and to others as the Denmark Equine Center is now called Netherfield Farm. Back in 1791 when it was first sold to George Thomes of Gorham it was part of a tract known as Foster's Grant. Thomes bought two lots for 31 pounds, 16 shillings. In 1812 he sold both lots to his brother Amos of Harrison. Two days later Amos sold lot #3 in the 4th range consisting of 106 acres to John Pike Smith of Cornish, Me. It appears that Smith was the first to build on the property and farm there. At the time, the area was called "Jordan's Corner". Smith, who also taught school and engaged in lumbering operations, became quite wealthy for the time and held many positions of trust in the town. In 1834 he gave the "farm in Denmark and the buildings thereon" to his son Oliver who farmed there before removing to Belvidere, Illinois. After Oliver's death, his widow Elizabeth sold the farm to Moses Wentworth. It stayed in the Wentworth family until 1929 when it was sold to Gordon Richardson who moved in with his wife and two young daughters. He raised cows and had chickens and workhorses. People used to stop out front to pick up their milk often leaving their money in a jar if no one was there to collect payment. A corner of the kitchen was utilized for a time as Denmark's first telephone exchange. After Richardson's death, the farm was sold in 1977 to the Hennings who raised sheep and later boarded horses. In 1992 it was sold to its present owners, Daniel Eaton and Linda Whiting.

The main house has two parlors and a central hall and staircase, two second floor bedrooms, two attic rooms and four fireplaces. The ell connecting the house and barn has two rooms, one being a large kitchen, the other a family room. A door from the kitchen leads into a workshop that in Richardson's time was used as a woodshed. Five unfinished rooms on the second level of the ell once housed summer farm workers during the Wentworth ownership. The large barn has housed cows, hogs, horses and sheep at one time or another and is now home to several goats and lambs and a collection of boats. There is a small red garage with a shed to one side that was used as an ice house. Until 1977 the main house sported a wrap around porch and four large elm trees graced the front yard. Behind the barn was a large sugarbush. Some of those maples were lost in a hurricane in the mid-1950's, but there are enough left to tap for syrup today.

There have been many changes over the two hundred years of documented ownership. Today the farm has sixty-six of the original hundred and six acres and it no longer supports a herd of cows. About half the land is wooded, half is fields and the hay is being harvested once again. A large garden has been plowed and tilled in the former pasture behind the house. Dan and Linda are growing organic vegetables for sale and planting fruit trees, berries and flowers. The farm has seen its first goat babies born this spring and will see lambs born next year. Life on the farm continues and it is good.

April Meeting Notes:

Mr. Ted Greene of Sebago gave a very informative talk about Maple Sugarmaking at our April 12th meeting. As a fifth generation sugarmaker, he had much to tell us of the history, equipment and process of sugarmaking. He brought with him several examples of sap buckets and many types of taps utilized over the years. Using pictures and slides he took us through the process from beginning to end, from simple wooden spouts and buckets to plastic piping and sophisticated collection systems, from boiling sap over an open fire to expansive evaporators and fancy sugarhouses. He spoke of the maple belt and the top producers of syrup, maple grading and ratios of sap to syrup. When the talk was done Mr. Greene answered many questions from the group, some of whom were amateur sugarmakers eager to improve their skills.

May Meeting:

On Tuesday evening May 10th Mr. Theodore Ingalls Lowell will be introduced at the meeting of the Denmark Historical Society. Mr. Lowell, locally known as "Tiddley-F", was a sign and wagon painter who also played fiddle for local dances. A bachelor, who lived all his life in East Denmark, Mr. Lowell kept a journal commencing in July 1854 when he was twenty years of age until December of 1907, three years before his death. In the twenty volumes he recorded the weather, letters received and written, his comings and goings and those of other people. Some record was kept of local births, deaths and marriages. It seems that he was related to numerous residents of Denmark as well as some of Bridgton, the Stone family in particular. Entries tell of seasonal activities and his daily affairs in relation to his work which took him as far afield as Farmington, So. Paris and the greater Portland area.

These journals, given to the Denmark Historical Society by Lawrence Dunn, came from the estate of Richard Dunn.

June Meeting:

On Tuesday June 14th all interested persons will meet at the Library at 9:00 am to drive to Portland to do genealogical research at the Maine Historical Society on Congress Street. We will break for lunch at the Victory Deli. This would be a good time to track down that elusive ancestor with the help of the good people at the Society.

Your Opinion Needed:

Should the Historical Society charge \$5.00 per year to mail the newsletter? Are there other options for funding the postage?

Please call or write with your opinion to:

Sue MacDonald 452-2196 or
Winnie Moore 452-2352

~ So You Think You Know Denmark? ~

1. What farm animal did the town allow to run wild?
2. What did the town build that was of stone, 4 feet thick at the bottom and 6 feet tall with a lock on it?
3. Why did the town treasurer have to cut the head off a crow and return the body?

Answers to last month's questions:

1. If you did not have money or own land you could not vote in Denmark.
2. The first school was located between the present town hall and the church
3. Denmark had Minutemen who were paid \$12.00 per month if called to duty.

For Membership Application Information:		- Yearly Dues -	
Sent to:	Denmark Historical Society: Denmark, Maine 04022	Single	\$ 5.00
		Couple	7.50
		Life	100.00

DENMARK

Rev. Earle B. Pleasant preached the Mother's Day sermon, Sunday morning.

The Council meeting of the Larger Parish was held in Community House, Friday evening. Supper was held at 6.30 followed by community singing and the business meeting.

The Ladies' Aid Fellowship meeting will be held in Denmark, May 24.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pingree from Boston, spent the week end with relatives in town.

Miss Marion Skillins, from Portland, spent the past week with Mrs. Elwood Pingree. *13 May 1938*

DENMARK *5/1938*

The Denmark Extension Group is sponsoring an Open House and Tea honoring the Charter members May 14 at 1:30 pm.

The following committees have been chosen: Displays, Imogene Wentworth and Alice Thomes; refreshments, Etta Emery and Bertha Valley; dining room, Etta Dunn and Jane Schrader; hospitality, the leaders, Eugenia Parker, Bertha Valley, Etta Dunn, Imogene Wentworth.

Demonstrating the following: decorating candles, Alice Thomes; mending, Bertha Valley; shirt-making, felt bags, Imogene Wentworth; broiler meals, Etta Emery; collars and cuffs, Etta Dunn; copper jewelry, Irene Schmidt; tole painting, Jane Schrader; right color for you, Verna Moulton; leather, Beryl Bean.

Irene Schmidt, Shirley Lord and Marianne Bempkin have returned from a trip to Pennsylvania.

Ora Brine and Barbara Barton have gone to Columbus, O, where they are visiting Mr and Mrs Gerald Keller and Mr and Mrs Harry Keller.

At a recent meeting of Mt Moriah Chapter OES, degrees were conferred on Bernard Willey and Jean Pingree.

Eugenia Parker went to Washington, DC, Wednesday to attend a campers' association meeting. She is taking a plane from Portland for the trip.

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DENMARK

The freshman and sophomore classes of the high school will present their annual prize speaking contest on May 22 in the Community House.

Miss Mildred Day returned on Monday from the Maine General Hospital, Portland, where she has recovered from an appendectomy.

Miss Eunice Libby graduated from the Maine General Hospital on Wednesday evening. Her father attended the exercises, also Mrs Rachel McNally and Miss Olive Kenison, from Bridgeton.

Miss Edith Drownes, of Peaks Island, sister of Mrs Angie Colby and Mrs Julia Pingree, passed away on Monday after a long illness.

Mrs George Trumbull has been visiting with relatives in Portland.

The OES put on a supper at the Community House on Wednesday evening for a group of Grain Association men. They cleared about \$20.00.

The Farm Bureau sponsored a Rummage Sale at the Library on Wednesday realizing about \$40.00. The committee in charge was Mrs Lily Keller, chairman; Mrs Imogene Wentworth, Mrs Verna Moulton, and Mrs Abbie Potter.

Mrs Mary S. Richardson and her son, Robert, went to Portland on the train Thursday night, staying at the Columbia Hotel, shopping the following day and returning by bus.

From eight to eighteen inches of snow fell Thursday night and Friday.

Kenneth Lord, President of the Denmark Telephone Co., reports greater damage to the telephone lines than during the hurricane. He has a crew working that we may have phone service as soon as possible.

Mr and Mrs Norman Hale, Miss Hazel Ingalls, Arthur Merrill and Frank Jack attended Blue Lodge (Ladies) Night at the Shrine Temple, Lewiston, on Friday evening.

Rev C R Duncan combined Mothers' Day and Day of Prayer services at Sunday morning worship. Rev and Mrs Duncan played a trumpet-trombone duet, the junior choir sang "A Mother's Love", accompanied by the organ.

Mrs Marion Clark, Miss Pauline Ward, Miss Beatrice Pendexter and Miss Ruth Bean were at home for the week end from their employment in Westbrook.

Mrs Mildred Day, of Parsonsfield, was in town one day this week, calling on her sisters, Mrs B A Sawyer and Mrs R W Day and her Mother, Mrs Susie Blake. *18 May 1945*

WEST DENMARK

13 May 1938

Henry Meader, of Brownfield, has bought of E. G. Giles, the so called John Roberts place.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gould and friends, from Portland, spent the week end at their place here.

Walker & Kelley's mill is being moved to the Pike lot and small camps have been moved in. They expect to begin work this week.

H. H. Warren has 600 Rhode Island Red chickens.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Tibbetts and his two children, Sylvia and Allan, of Fryeburg, called at S. F. Tibbetts' Sunday.

ton. 6 May 1938

A local motorist, who claims that he doesn't drink, and that his eyesight is good, tells of an interesting experience which he had over East Denmark way recently. He says that as he rounded a curve in the road he was confronted by a big "Billy" goat, which disputed his right of way. He brought the car to a full stop, and the goat charged, striking the front bumper with his head and then calmly walked away. The motorist is at somewhat of a loss to understand just why the goat acted that way, but some of his friends are suggesting that perhaps the goat thought the car was a tin can. *Bridgeton News*

May **DENMARK 1939**

Freshmen and Sophomore prize speaking was held at Community House Friday evening. Prizes were given to Gladys Osgood, Winifred Richardson and Olive Kenison.

The literary club was held at the Library Friday afternoon when Mrs. Bertha Colesworthy gave a talk on flowers and gardening.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Colby from Mass., spent a few days last week with Wm. Allen.

Mrs. Hattie Higgins from Blaine, spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Errol Higgins.

Miss Eugenia Parker and a friend of Wellesley Hills, Mass., spent the past week in town.

Harry Jordan from Eddington is at camp Blazing Trail, also Edward Buck, from town.

The Ladies of the Farm Bureau held an all-day meeting Tuesday at Community House, on fish cookery and dress finishing.