

~ Denmark Historical Society ~

~ Newsletter ~

Vol 1 No 8

October - November 1994

Denmark's Soldiers' Monument

The history of the Monument goes back to the call of our Country for troops in the days of the Civil War covering 1861-1865

One hundred and twenty-five brave men were represented in the quota of the little town of Denmark.

Someone remarked, looking at the figure of the private soldier ready for battle which is a part of our memorial to those boys in blue, "The figure looks young enough to be a soldier," and was answered, "There were no old men in the Civil War." None knew this better, or realize it more keenly than the wives and mothers who gave their dearest that the Union might be preserved.

There were brave hearts in those days, and we who are enjoying the peace of these days look with admiration on the fortitude displayed by these Spartan wives and mothers.

Husbands left wives and children, sons left homes and sweethearts at the bidding of their country. Denmark was not behind any town in enthusiasm and interest displayed.

Among those who gave four years to their country's service was John A Brackett, Denmark's youngest soldier, a boy of fifteen years, the only child in his home. He left home a boy, he came back four years later, a man. The world called him as it called so many of our youth, and Lawrence, Mass became his home. The little old town was never forgotten, and as the years passed bringing the inevitable changes, his heart turned with fond remembrance to the home of his boyhood, and a longing to see a memorial to the soldiers of Denmark became a strong desire.

In March, 1912, he came before the voters of the town and expressed this wish and a willingness to help generously toward a soldiers' monument. This proposition was enthusiastically received and by a unanimous vote, \$500, all that Mr Brackett asked for was gladly appropriated. This was supplemented by four hundred and eighteen dollars raised by subscription, and



one hundred and eighty-two dollars given by former residents.

Mr. Brackett has generously given over one-half of the entire cost, and has the sincere thanks and appreciation of a grateful town.

The result is seen today in the memorial of Westerly granite bearing the inscription, "To Patriotism and Valor" "Erected by the Town of Denmark in Grateful recognition of the services of her sons." 1861-1865

Written by Jennie Bennett Colby for the dedication of the monument, June 26, 1913

The Rest of the Story

Denmark soldiers served in the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 20th, 23rd, 25th and 29th Regiments. Some served with regiments from Massachusetts and New Hampshire. One man, Rufus Ingalls, of Denmark, held the rank of general and was one of General Grant's right hand men as quartermaster-general of the armies of the Potomac and the James. He rose to the rank of Brigadier-General.

When the monument was finished, there was some discussion about which way the soldier was to face. The traditional placement, according to government directive, was to have the soldier face south to honor the returning troops. As the monument was to be placed at the top of the hill at the end of South Road, it would stand directly in front of the Ingalls' house. Some townspeople thought it would be disrespectful to have the soldier's back facing the house of one of the town's most distinguished and high ranking veterans. Subsequently, at five successive meetings the town voted on the question. Each time the statue was turned around. Finally it was decided to leave the soldier facing north in the direction of the house to honor Rufus Ingalls and all the rest of Denmark sons who had served their country in the War between the States.

John Horrigan of Quincy, Mass. was the artist who designed the monument. It was carved in Westerly granite in his studio.

In a footnote to this story, the historical society's curator received an obituary notice this past summer of one Julia Anna Cook of Alfred, Maine, a "writer, poet and farm wife". Her immediate connection to Denmark's history was not understood until it was found that she was the daughter of John Horrigan, "sculptor of the Goodall Monument in Sanford, the Soldiers' Memorial in Denmark, and the Titanic Monument in Washington, D.C." She died October 12, 1993.

Early Industry

"An abundance of natural resources in Maine led to the development of numerous diversified industries. Some have continued to the present; others are in decline or no longer exist. Not unexpectedly, in a State that possessed immense stands of timber and was blessed with many waterways and harbors, lumbering, shipbuilding, and shipping were among the principal industries. After the Civil War most of the Nation's wooden seagoing merchant ships were built in the Pine Tree State.

Then, as now, fishing and agriculture were leading occupations. A principal product of the sea was lobster; of the land, potatoes from the fertile soil of Aroostook County. Other lesser occupations and industries included brickmaking, canning, quarrying, and the harvesting of ice.

With water the cheapest, most abundant, and most efficient source of power, Maine's industries centered for the most part along the larger rivers, notably the Penobscot, the Kennebec, and the Androscoggin, and their tributaries. Mills and manufacturies turned out sawed lumber, textiles, boots, shoes, leather, paper, and woodpulp. Other products included starch, lime, explosives, and articles of iron."

*Exerpt from MAINE, The Sesquecentennial of Statehood, An Exhibition in the Library of Congress

"The earliest mills in Denmark were built before 1800 by Cyrus Ingalls, Sr. They occupied the upper privilege on Moose Brook at Denmark Corner and consisted of an up-and-down saw for lumber, a set of stones for grinding corn, and probably a shingle machine. The mills came into the hands of Cyrus Ingalls, Jr., and later were operated by Barnabas Brackett and Sewall Fly. William Bean took the mills and put in a board machine while E. Sanborn ran the stave mill and grist mill. At the opening of the war these men owned undivided halves in the property. In 1872 it was sold to the Pepperell Manufacturing Company of Biddeford and is now owned by the Saco Water Power Co.

In 1872 the old wood dam and flume were taken out and a strong stone dam put in at an expense of \$27750. Bean sold his business in 1883, to Augustine Ingalls, who sold 10 years later to Fred Sanborn. Mr. Sanborn also succeeded to the business of his father, E. Sanborn, and carried on the entire plant until the fall of 1905, when he removed all his machinery and fixtures to a mill on the same stream below.

On the second site on Moose Brook Cyrus Ingalls, Jr. built a saw mill in 1852 where he sawed boards, staves and shingles. In 1867 his son, A. Ingalls, bought the property but the mill burned October 21 of the following year. It was rebuilt during the winter and the stave and shingle machinery was installed. Mr. Ingalls made corn boxes here for twenty-five years. He now operates it as a planing mill.

On the opposite side of the stream a mill was built by John W. Gilmore, whose deed to the right was issued in 1840. He sold to Jos. B. Watson. The mill was burned at the same time as the above but was soon rebuilt as a planing mill and for cabinet and casket work. In 1875 the business was sold to Potter & Ordway and removed to Cornish. After Potter's decease Mr. Ordway

sold the mill to Isaac H. Berry, the present owner. Mr. Berry operates another mill located some 50 feet away by means of an endless wire belt.

On the lower site Leonard A. Berry built a mill about 1862. This he operated for the manufacture of oak staves and shook, mackerel kits and salt boxes, bed slats, clothes pins and other goods. This was owned by Jos. Bennett at one time during which the business was carried on under Eliphlet McKeen, supt. It was sold to A.C. Drury, in 1871, and soon after to the Pepperell Mfg. Co. Stave, shingle and spool stock sawing has since been carried on by L.A. Bradbury and Ahbin F. Bradbury, brothers. The latter sold to Fred Sanborn in 1903. Mr. Sanborn has repaired the mills and removed hither his machinery from the upper mill.

Berry's mill on the canal was built by Leonard A. Berry. This was sold by George W. Gray to the present owner, I.H. Berry, about 1900.

The first mill on the site at West Denmark, sometimes called "Nig Corner", was erected by James Harnden. This was later burned, and rebuilt by Robert Harriman. Joseph Holt was the next owner. He rebuilt the mill, and together with his sons, operated here until 1890, when he sold to William H. Haseltine. The present owner is Guy Haseltine who turns out ax-handles, staves, dowels and spool stock.

"Perley's mill" was built about 1870 by John F. Perley and Wallace W. Berry for the manufacture of shook principally. The water wheel has recently been removed so the mill is not in condition for operating.

A large corn packing factory was erected at Denmark Corner in 1881 by Burnham & Morrill Co. This shop has been open every year since it was established and has provided an opportunity for the farmers of the town and vicinity to raise large areas of corn for its use. George T. Dealy was superintendent of this shop from 1881 until 1903 when he was succeeded by W.F. Greeley, now in charge.

The corn packing shop near East Fryeburg is located in this town. This was erected by Charles and William Warren and H.D. Harnden about 1893 and operated under the name of Warren Brothers and others until sold to H.C. Baxter & Brother ten years later. It is now operated as one of the Snow Flake Canning Co.'s plants with G.T. Cook, foreman. It has a capacity of 300,000 cans annually, or 25,000 daily. 125 acres of corn are required.

*Excerpt from THE TOWN REGISTER - 1907

September Meeting

On a blustery Saturday afternoon a group of DHS members traveled to the Bolsters Mills home of

George Stilphen to learn about old apple varieties. Mr. Stilphen is the author of The Apples of Maine and had much to tell us as we stood out next to his orchard. We learned which apples he has had the best luck growing, which have better characteristics for Maine weather conditions, where different apple strains were developed and how they were propagated. Prompted by many questions, he explained root stocks, different grafting techniques, fertilizer needs, histories of certain apples and gave us names of good suppliers of old-fashioned apple varieties.

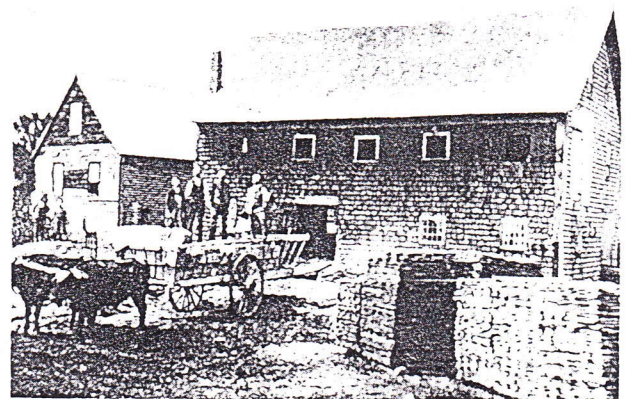
Liverpool, England was once the fruit distribution center of Europe and he said Denmark use to grow and ship apples to the European market via the narrow gauge railway. Some of the varieties most likely would have been Baldwin, Russet, Bellflower, Black Gilleyflower, R.I. Greening, Blue Pearmain, Black Oxford, Newtown Pippin, Tolman Sweet and Chestnut.

October Meeting

Due to complications in schedules the October meeting was canceled. Bob Linnell who was to speak about Denmark in the Civil War will present his talk for our January meeting instead. Hopefully the weather will not hinder the presentation and all will go as planned. Don't miss it!

December Meeting

Netherfield Farm will host the DHS Christmas gathering once again. Don your reds and greens and come for an enjoyable evening and, no doubt, some special holiday treats. Tentative date is Dec. 13th.



Ingalls' Mill, below the bridge



The "Lower Mill" -looking upstream
August, 1898



"Slipping logs" through the sluiceway in the old dam, for
the use by mills downstream

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