

Palermo

266

29
P16 G6
copy 1

A HISTORY
OF THE
EARLY SETTLEMENT
OF
PALERMO, ME.,

BY

ALLEN GOODWIN.

BELFAST, ME. :
THE AGE PUBLISHING COMPANY,
1896.

F29
P1666

1103 D2
27 Jan 45

PREFACE.

Who is there that does not wish to know what has passed among his ancestors in early days. In preparing this brief record of Palermo, it has been my aim to present to the reader what has long past, and I have endeavored to insert only facts, based upon good authority and wish the readers to remember in reading these old names that they long ago passed away and many of these old names have been handed down to the second and third generation. Many thanks are due those who have in any way assisted in preparing this work and it is my desire that it may be of interest to those of the present day and to the rising generation.

ALLEN GOODWIN.

CHAPTER I.

I have in my possession an account of the early settlement of Palermo, written forty years ago by my grandfather, Deacon John Marden. Thinking it may be of interest to some of the residents as well as former residents of the town, I have concluded to have it published, together with other facts concerning the early history of Palermo.

My grandfather came to Palermo, Maine, in 1793, with his brother, Deacon Stephen Marden, who took up a farm on what is now known as Marden Hill. He made his home with him for eight years. Then he settled on the farm joining, and their brother Benjamin on one joining theirs on the west. He was a deacon of the First Baptist Church for many years. He died August 25, 1860, at the age of eighty-one years. The only one of his children now living is a son, Nathan L. Marden of Veazie, Maine. I remember my dear old grandfather, as his presence adorned the home of my childhood, and I think of him as the good old Elijah who sat by the brook side.

Listen to what he has to say :

Palermo, June 7, 1855.

“ I, John Marden, was born in the Town of Chester, in the County of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire, Feb. 18, 1779. When I was in my third year my father was killed by the falling of a tree in the Town of New Hampton, and County of Strafford, N. H., on the nineteenth day of June, 1781. He was forty-four years of age. My mother was left a widow in poor circumstances, with the care of eight children, and one added to that number on the twenty-ninth of September following.

It being in the time of the Revolutionary war she had many hardships to encounter, having but little but her hands and good economy to support her family, yet she bore her trouble with a good degree of christian patience. In the year 1783 a treaty of peace was signed between the United States and Great Britain, which gave her some relief.

In the year 1790 my eldest brother moved her and the younger part of the family to the town of Canterbury, where she spent the remainder of her life in comfortable circumstances to the day of her death, which was on the third day of November, 1830, aged about ninety-one years.

January, 1793, I came into the District of Maine, at the age of fourteen years,—in the County of Lincoln (now Waldo) and took up my residence at a place called the Great Pond Settlement at the extremity of the Sheepscot Pond.

I had many hardships to encounter being the only youth in the place. The nearest mill was twelve miles, through a lonely wood, with but little better than a foot-path and spotted trees. Yet with pleasing prospects I looked forward to the time when this good land would be settled. When school houses and mills would be built and roads made, and this wilderness would become a fruitful field. I took great pleasure in visiting my friends in N. H. once in every three years, although I had to travel the distance of two hundred and twenty miles on the frozen ground in the month of November or December. I worked with my brother, Stephen Marden, until I was twenty-two years of age, when I bought the farm on which I now live, with the barn then built and a log house thereon. April 23, 1801, I was united in marriage with Mary Bagley of Liberty, and moved on to the farm that spring with a pleasing prospect of enjoying happiness. For three or four years we were favored with good health and our crops came in bountifully and all things bespoke prosperity.

Jan. 22, 1805, I was severely wounded by the falling of a tree. Then my sufferings were very great. Yet my mind was happy in the Lord, and I could truly say, 'Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him.'

On the third day of February I had my left leg amputated above the knee, which was very expensive at that time; so that my future prospects of happiness in this world began to decay. In April following we chose our town officers for the first time. I took a part with them in collecting taxes and serving precepts, etc. This year with the past will long be remembered as a season of great religious excitement in this town and

vicinity. A Baptist Church was organized that season and many were added thereto. I was baptized and added to the church at the next August conference. On the tenth day of September my companion was taken sick and died on the sixteenth—with rash and putrid fever—aged about twenty-two. My little son died on the twenty-first, aged three and a half years. I had two children left to the mercies of the people. A daughter, Eliza, two years old and a little son, Hiram, six days old. Then was my house left to me desolate and everything of this world's was clothed in gloom. All my future prospects gone and the lonely graveyard was the pleasantest place that I could visit. I could truly say with the Psalmist :

‘Had not thy word been my delight
When earthly joys were fled,
My soul oppressed with sorrows’ weight
Had sunk among the dead.’

I was then led to put my trust in the Lord and since that time I have witnessed much of his goodness.

I disposed of my children where they were nursed with tenderness and care. I left my house and attended to my business in Town that fall. In the winter I went to New Hampshire to visit my friends. I returned in the spring and finished my collecting and engaged in Town business again. In the year 1805 I let out my farm to Elder Robinson and Dr. Pratt with but little expectation to pay the bills and save the farm. I earned what I could. I found I had many friends to encourage me and made me some presents. I was encouraged to try and pay the bills and save the farm. This season I formed an acquaintance with Mrs. Eunice Ward of Harlem (now China) which was left a widow about the same time—and near the same age, with three children, two daughters and a son, the eldest six years and the youngest seventeen months, with about seven or eight hundred dollars worth of property for their support. She a professor of religion and a member of the Baptist Church in Harlem. We were united in marriage on the twenty-fourth day of August, 1806, and moved home and commenced keeping house that fall. She assisted me to pay the bills and stock the farm. I

was encouraged to pursue a course of farming for a living and attend to Town business and such labor as I could do. Soon after this I was chosen Town Clerk and kept the records, which was continued about twenty years. In the year 1816 I was appointed Post Master in Palermo, which was continued about seven years. Having the company and assistance of a prudent and industrious companion I have enjoyed much peace of mind for many years and have witnessed much of the goodness of the Lord. We were members of the First Baptist Church in Palermo forty-five years. We took much satisfaction with our christian friends both in prosperity and in adversity. In the year 1850 my companion was sick, and died Feb. 28, 1851, aged seventy years and four months. We had nine children. For a few years past I have witnessed much what I read in the twelfth chapter of Ecclesiastes of the aged. 'Yet God is the strength of my heart. Although He cause grief yet He will have compassion according to the multitude of His mercies.' He has been my friend and protector in youth and middle age, and I trust He will not forsake me when my strength fails. 'Therefore will I trust in Him as long as I live.'

Where I reside is about twenty miles north-easterly of Augusta, then called (Fort Weston). The inhabitants east and north of my residence were but few at that time. Several small settlements were made in the woods, and generally called after the name of the first settler or by the old Indian name of ponds and streams. The land was very good for crops of corn and rye. Each settler made their choice for a farm. No taxes were called for at that time. There were no framed buildings east or north of my residence for the space of twelve or fifteen miles, and three or four miles to the south and west until the next April, 1793, when two barn frames were put up, to the great joy of the settlers, but more so to the owners. After about ten years Townships were laid out, and petitions were sent to Massachusetts for incorporation, which were readily granted. Then school houses were built and roads were made. Then this wilderness began to bud and blossom like a rose and soon became a fruitful field. In the year 1820, this district was admitted into

the Union with the other States, by the name of Maine, to the great joy of the inhabitants. Now while I am writing, the increasing wealth and population of Maine leads my mind back to the days of my youth, when these settlers were all laboring men, engaged in their several occupations, such as clearing land, raising crops, putting up buildings and fences in the summer and fall. In the winter and spring all engaged in lumbering, hunting and sugar making, which was much of it done in the forest at that time. These settlers were all very poor, but as 'happy as clams' and as friendly to each other as monkeys.

What a change has been made since my acquaintance no further abroad than even within the County of Waldo. Then, what is now Palermo had twenty-six families; Montville and Liberty both had about twenty families and Freedom had none. Belfast village was but thinly inhabited. Some parts of it was like a forest of evergreen. There was no wharf at that time. Coasting vessels were loaded with cordwood by wheeling on a partly hewed stick of timber from the shore to the ship. There were but two traders in the village at my first acquaintance, namely, NaSmith and Creamer. The road from Montville to Belfast was through a forest of swamps without any bridges. The horses had to all go in one track through the swamps, with a ridge between their stepping places, to give a foot person a chance to walk over the wet places without wading through the mud and water.

Now from here to Belfast is one of the best of stage roads, passing through among wealthy farmers, merchants and mechanics. And now Belfast is one of the pleasantest cities in the State, with one of the best, safest and pleasantest harbors that can be found on the Eastern shore. In plain view of all the shipping which sails on the Penobscot Bay, and in view of the Castine light-house, also of the level, rich and beautiful country bordering on the north-eastern shore of that beautiful bay, together with a partial view of Islesboro and Castine on the south and east, to a distance of twelve miles, which adds much to the beauty of the place. With a regular line of Steam-ships from Bangor to Boston, coming to and going from the wharves daily."

I rejoice in the prosperity of Maine, but I cannot repress the rising sigh; nor withhold the falling tear. I look around for my old contemporaries and find so few of them left. The enquiry is, where are they? Answer, they are cut down by the scythe of time, and housed in the silent grave. And the few that are left are worn down with age and infirmities too numerous for me to name. Some with the loss of sight and hearing: some with the loss of their limbs; some with palsied hands; and others with general debilities, etc. And but very few, if any, are able to take care of themselves, but have mostly given themselves up to the care of their children, or grandchildren, or the town to provide for them. And very soon the last will be gone the way of all the earth, their bodies turned to dust, and their names forgotten, and Maine will be inhabited by entire strangers to what has passed in my day.

Now a telegraph line is erected the whole width of the State of Maine, from city to city, from New Brunswick to New Hampshire, to the length of four or five hundred miles. Again, look at the railroads that are already completed, and those that are now under way. All the above has been done in about twenty years.

Who would have thought that the stream of intemperance could have been turned and dried up by the art of man, when its width and depth was sufficient to run a mill to saw lumber to build a village as large as Unity or Freedom, so that the stream now can be forded and soon I trust will be like a rill, running under ground, and the bed of the river will soon become like a fruitful field.

Written at Palermo, June 8, 1855, at the age of 76 years.

Signed, JOHN MARDEN.

CHAPTER II.

This town of Palermo was first called Great Pond Settlement from the fact that the first settlement was near the Sheepscott Great Pond.

The first settlers of Palermo were principally persons from New Hampshire. Some of those persons which my grandfather referred to as the first settlers were Stephen Belden, Christopher Erskines, David Turner, Benjamin Turner, Jonathan Greeley, Jacob Greeley, Jacob Worthing, John Johnson, John Bradstreet, Jonathan Bartlett, Joseph Rust, Stephen Marden and James Marden.

The first settler in Palermo was Stephen Belden, who came here on horseback, bringing his Bible under his arm, about 1778. He was married to Abigail Godfrey and had a son, Aaron, prior to coming to Palermo. They took up the farm where Van Ransalaer Turner now lives. He died June 15, 1822. Aaron lived here and married. To his wife Charity, was born a daughter, Sabrina, March 25, 1805. They moved out west and he became a minister of the gospel.

The first male child born in Palermo was a son of Stephen, who was born in the spring of 1779, who he named Stephen. The first female child was his daughter, born in the fall of 1780, who was named Sally. Stephen Jr. married Miss Mary Harvey and settled on Level Hill. The buildings are now gone, but the farm is owned by Fred Norton. He died Dec. 21, 1857. The sons born to them were Stephen, James and John, from whom sprang children and grandchildren too numerous to mention. James is still living at the age of eighty-two. Sally married David Linscott and settled on Level Hill, where their son James Linscott now lives.

Mr. Edmund Black was born in 1736. He died in Palermo, Feb. 6, 1809 aged seventy-two years. Mrs. Molly Black, his wife, was born in 1733 and died in Palermo April 23, 1812, aged 79 years. Eleven children were born to them in Chester, N. H., and were among the early settlers coming to Palermo about 1798. They had passed the meridian of life

ere they started on their long horseback journey into the wilderness to their log house, with their four sons James, John, Edmund Jr. and Benjamin, and their wives. James, the oldest son was born in Chester, N. H., Sept. 15, 1764, and married his wife Molly, born in Newmarket, N. H., March 15, 1768. They first settled in Meredith, N. H. They had eight children. They settled in Palermo on the farm now known as the Studley place. Among his children were Edmund 3rd., Joshua, Olive and James. Edmund 3rd. was born in Meredith, N. H., Jan. 6, 1788, and married Comfort Wiggins. He was chosen Town Clerk in 1811 and continued three years. He drove the stages for quite a number of years. Their children were quite numerous. Joshua was born at Meredith, N. H., June 3, 1796. He married Mary Briant. He was called the veteran stage-driver, having driven the stage twenty-eight years.

John Black was born June 22, 1766, and with his wife Betsey, settled first on the farm where Ira Black now lives. Among their children are Berley Black, now living in his 91st year, and Nancy Black Sanford, now living at the age of 86 years.

Edmund Black Jr. was born June 16, 1772, and with his wife Betsey settled on the Ira Black place with his brother. Among their children were Betsey, Celinda, John, Abigail and Susan. As they moved to Readfield, and finally to N. Y., and their children were mostly girls, but little is known of their descendants, though Betsey married Jose Greeley of China, for her last husband.

Benjamin Black was born April 6, 1780 and with his wife Mary first settled on the Peleg Sanford place. Among their children were Clarendon and Benjamin Jr. now living at the age of 78 years.

Levi Rowe was born at Ipswich, N. H., Aug. 1, 1765. Lucy Nelson was born at Ipswich, N. H., Sept. 7, 1766. When he was twenty-three years of age they were married and settled in Alna, Maine. Seven children were born to them: Jeremiah Rowe, born Aug. 17, 1789 and died at the age of four months; James, born Feb. 20, 1791; Levi, Jr., born June 20, 1795; Rufus, born May 15, 1796; Annie, born July 27, —; Jeremiah, born June 25, 1799; Mary E. born Sept. 29, 1806. Mr. Rowe

was an early settler who came to Palermo and settled on the farm which has been handed down as the Rowe farm.

James Rowe married Martha Noyes of Jefferson and settled with his father in Palermo and finally moved to Morrill; Levi, Jr., was killed on the farm by a tree, May 25, 1811, at the age of sixteen. Rufus lived at Alna until a young man. He married Lydia Noyes of Jefferson for his first wife and settled in Palermo and finally settled on the old Rowe farm. His second wife was Sally Marden, then the widow Cunningham. They were the parents of George and Rufus Rowe, Jr., of Palermo and Mrs. Frances Sylvester and Thomas Rowe of Newton Centre, Mass. Annie was drowned, Nov. 2, 1832, at the age of thirty-six years, while drawing a pail of water at the spring, where Bennie Colby now lives.

Jeremiah married Miss Noyes of Jefferson, a sister of his brothers' wives,* for his first wife and settled in Newcastle. His second wife was Mary Andros of Palermo. They settled in Carr's corner in 1825. He worked there at the blacksmith's trade and later moved to Bradford, Me. Mary E. married John W. Marden and settled in Palermo.

Benjamin Young was born in Chester N. H., 1775. He learned the blacksmith's trade of a smith in Hallowell, Me. His first work after learning his trade was on the first bridge across the Kennebec river at Auguste in 1797. He then went to Belfast and worked at his trade about four years. In 1802 he married Miss Abigail Whittier, daughter of Joseph and Priscilla Whittier of this place, who was fourteen years of age. They settled on the farm where his grandson Fred Young now lives, and as he did not have slings in those days as now for shoeing oxen, their legs were tied and turned them over on their backs while nailing on the shoes. They had eleven children, Joseph and Page, now living in Freedom. He died March 3, 1848 at the age of seventy-three. His wife died April 23, 1872, aged eighty-four years.

Captain and Mrs. Elijah Grant, senior, were probably the oldest

*NOTE. The three brothers married three sisters.

couple that made the horseback journey in those early days, as the record of their births date back to 1721.

John Cain, senior, probably had the largest number of children, which numbered eighteen.

GENEALOGY OF WILLIAM JONES AND ABIGAIL BENNETT JONES.

Capt. Miles Standish came in the "Mayflower" in 1620. He married for his second wife Barbara Standish, who came in the "Ann" in 1623.

Their son, Alexander, married Sarah Alden, second daughter of John and Priscilla (Mullen) Alden, who both came in the "Mayflower."

Lydia, daughter of Alexander and Sarah (Alden) Standish, married Isaac Sampson, born 1660.

Ephraim, born 1698, son of Isaac and Lydia (Standish) Sampson, married Abigail Horrell, daughter of Humphrey Horrell of Beverly. Mary, born in Plimpton, April 10, 1745, daughter of Ephraim and Abigail (Horrell) Sampson, married Nov. 1st, 1764, in Middleboro, Mass., Bachelor Bennett, born in 1736, son of Cornelas Bennett, Physician of Middleborough, and Ruth, his wife. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war§. Abigail, born in May, 1777, daughter of Bachelor and Mary (Sampson) Bennett, married in 1798 William Jones, who was born in Bristol, Me., in 1774, and died in Palermo, February, 1834. He was a son of Richard Jones of Bristol, a soldier of the Revolution*, and committee of correspondence and safety in 1782. Richard Jones was a son of Wm. Jones, who came to this country in 1725 and settled in Bristol in 1730. He was a man much respected in his town, and was the first chosen to the Provincial Congress in 1775†. He was a brother of Colonel Wm. Jones, who was a member of the Convention of Massachusetts, by which the Constitution of the United States was adopted.

§See Vol. 13, Page 51; Vol. 24, Page 57; Vol. 3, Page 225, Rev. Archives, State House, Boston.

*See Vol. 19, Page 181, Rev. Archives, State House, Boston.

†See History of Bristol.

The descendants of William and Abigail (Bennett) Jones are numerous. Their children were: Nelson, married Hannah Bowler. They had three sons and four daughters. Abigail, married Samuel Brown. Left a son and several daughters. Harriet, married Warren Cooper. They had one son and five daughters. Sylvanus, died young. Eliza Maloon, married Lot Rust. They had four sons and four daughters. William, married Mary Ann Marr. They had four sons and three daughters; several of them died young. Cathlena, married Benjamin Marr. They had one son who died in youth, and one daughter who married a Turner. She left three children. Mrs. Marr is the only one of the family now living. She resides at Branch Mills. Sylvanus, son of Wm. Jones, is living at Branch Mills. He married Olive Erskin. They have one son in college. Lot Rust, Jr., married Marcia Cooper, and Hattie Rust married Abiel Erskin. Both families live at Moro, Oregon. Cathlena Cooper married Joseph Grant. They have one son and five daughters. Their home is in Portland. Abbie Bennett Cooper married James E. Shepard of Union. He was Adj. of the 9th Maine V. M. during the war of the Rebellion.

Nelson W. Jones, son of Nelson and Hannah Jones, enlisted in the 3rd Maine Reg. V. M. June 4th, 1861, and was killed July 2, 1863. He was a very promising young man and was a sergeant with a promise of a commission. An honor to his native town. West W. Cooper, only son of Warren and Harriet Cooper, enlisted in the 4th Maine Regt. V. M. May 8th, 1861, and was killed in action, July 21st, 1861, at the battle of Bull Run. The G. A. R. of Union have named their Post for him, and his name stands first upon the Roll of Honor, on the Soldiers' Monument at Union Common.

William Jones moved his family from Bristol to Palermo in 1815, having previously prepared their home. The old house which was large and roomy, stood on the spot where the house of Silas Bowler now stands. It was in the old days surrounded by orchards, an ideal country farm house. It was torn down in 1859. William Jones' children were at one time all settled around him on farms which were a part of the

original grant in the lower part of the town. He died in middle life from the effects of a fever contracted in New Orleans, while on a voyage as captain of a merchant ship. Abigail (Bennett) Jones was a woman of strong character. She was a widow for twenty-seven years. She kept her farm and managed her affairs until she was very old. She died in March, 1861, aged 83 years and 10 months.

Palermo has the honor of being the nativity of a millionaire. James H. Bowler, son of Rev. William Bowler, was born at the foot of John Ayer's hill, April 23, 1814, and died in Bangor, Maine, April 4, 1893.

CHAPTER III.

Settlements in the various places, now incorporated into towns, were formed before any surveying was done, of which I will give a brief account. To make a long story short I will omit the lines bounding Palermo on the north, east and south, which were marked by trees, stakes and stumps, and speak of the line between Palermo and Harlem, name which was changed to China in 1818. The first survey was made in 1800, when this township was laid out. The northerly corner of the line between the two towns was a beech tree, marked No. 11, 1800 (A). The southerly corner between the two towns was a hemlock tree, marked as the first. In 1805 it became necessary to perambulate the said line. The survey was made by William Davis of Palermo, a sworn surveyor, Ichabod Chadwick and Edwin Fairfield, selectmen of Harlem, and Elijah Grant and Nathan Coburn, selectmen of Palermo. They commenced at the first mentioned tree and marked it 1805, thence southerly 30° west, until it struck the hemlock tree at the southerly corner. This line they well spotted and frequently marked with a marking iron; thus:—(A) and at Johnson's Mills, (now Branch Mills) a cedar post, marked on the west (H), on the east (P), and north and south marked 1805. At the county road near Deer Hill a beech tree was marked on the west side (W. D.) (1805), (H.), (I. C.), (E. F.). On the east side (1805), (P.). (W. D.), (F. G.), (N. C). On the north and south sides, (A). The survey was finished March 14, 1805. As time rolled on and passed away, the cedar post had been removed and trees cleared away and the line was in dispute for seven years. Palermo and China both claimed the valuation and tax of those farms along the line. At the town meeting March 12, 1827, a vote was passed that those inhabitants along the west line of the town should be held blameless and shielded from all harm by paying their taxes in Palermo, and refusing to pay to the town of China. The selectmen were authorized to go and see the selectmen of China about

running the line, and if they could not agree to petition the Legislature to establish the same. The next season the line was perambulated, and a stone monument was set at Branch Mills, which forever settled the matter at that place, and marked 1828. Thus they were continually perplexed from the other sides of the town, by disputed lines. On Jan. 1, 1838, the selectmen were instructed by the town to petition the Legislature to pass an act to set stone monuments at all the corners and angles of the town lines, so that they would not be liable, as the then existing law required of them. Their petition was granted, and thus you will see that the credit is due Palermo for the stone posts now seen throughout the State of Maine. Sept. 10 of the same year, the selectmen set about perambulating the town lines, and setting the stone monuments according to the new law. Oct. 13, Joseph Stewart of China, a sworn surveyor, Joseph White and Enos Greely, selectmen of Palermo, Coridon Chadwick and Joseph Stewart, selectmen of China, met at the southerly corners of the two towns and surveyed the lines northerly, to the road where David Whitten then lived, and erected a stake and stone; thence to the old county road near Deer Hill, where was a beech stump, which was formerly a line tree; thence to the stone monument near Joseph Hacker's at Branch Mills; thence to the height of land to the road where Reuel Balcom now lives; thence to the new county road, then in building; thence to the northerly end of the line between Palermo and China, at the southerly line of Albion. They ordered stone monuments erected at each of the given points, to be marked thus: (P. & C. 1838). On this line were found repeated marks of former perambulation. From 1800 to 1810 the farms were surveyed by Bradstreet Wiggins of Freedom, and laid out into shape, and a plan drawn and printed. Palermo was a part of the Kennebec purchase, and lies within the Plymouth charter.

The first settlers of this Great Pond Settlement took up their lands without purchase or leave of the proprietors, and held the same by possession. Robert H. Gardiner of Hallowell, Maine, and Ruel Williams of _____, were large owners in this township, being two of the proprietors.

PLANTATION MEETINGS WERE HELD FROM 1801 TO 1805.

THE FIRST TOWN MEETING.

to Christopher Erskine, one of the Inhabitants of Palermo, in the County of Lincoln, GREETING:--

By virtue of an act entitled, "An act to incorporate the Plantation of Great Pond Settlement, in the County of Lincoln, into a town by the name of Palermo." You are hereby required in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to notify and warn the male inhabitants of said town being twenty-one years of age and residing in said town for the space of one year next preceding having herein a freehold estate within said town of the annual income of ten dollars, or any estate to the value of two hundred dollars, to meet at Robert Foye's dwelling house, January 9th, 1805, to act on the following articles, etc.

JOSIAH STEBBINS,

Justice of the Peace.

December 30th, 1804.

The following officers were chosen:—Moderator, Samuel Longfellow; Clerk, Elijah Grant, Jr.; Selectmen and Assessors, Elijah Grant, Jr. Nathaniel Coburn, Samuel Longfellow; Collector and Constable, Stephen Marden; Wardens, Samuel Longfellow and Stephen Marden; Tything-men, Josiah Perkins and Abel Creasey; Pound-keeper, Daniel Clay; Field-drivers, Andrew Lewis and Amos Dennis; School Committee, Samuel Longfellow, Stephen Marden and Christopher Erskine, Sr.; Hoggreeves, Joseph Creasy and William Briant; Treasurer, Christopher Erskine, Sr. and Palermo became an organized body.

It was voted in 1803 that Hogs should run at large, provided they be well yoked and ringed. Hoggreeves were chosen from three to fourteen in number, each year, who were civil officers, whose duty it was to impound all hogs running at large that were not yoked and ringed according to vote. This was continued many years. Cattle and Sheep had to be ear marked and had all the rights and privileges of the highway. It was

also provided, in case they should break and enter a private enclosure, by way of a four foot fence, then Pound-drivers should take them to the Pound where they were kept until called for, and the bills paid.

From two to nine Tythingmen were chosen each year, who were Parish Officers. It was their duty to enforce the observance of the Sabbath by sending the offenders to church or imposing a fine.

It seems that in those early days crows were troublesome as now, for I find that in different years they paid a bounty of from twelve to twenty-five cents each for killing old crows and half price for young ones.

A tannery was built about 1800, on the farm where John H. Black now lives, owned by George Carlisle. The bark was ground by horse power, the horse traveling round and round. Soon after one was built by Nathaniel Bradstreet, on the stream where H. R. Carr now lives. The old dam and tan vats are now plain to be seen.

Two of the first settlers at Johnson's Mills (now Branch Mills) were John Johnson and Jacob Worthing, residents of Palermo. Johnson built the first mills on the dam where James Dinsmore now owns, which were built in 1801 or before. Later Joseph Hacker came in possession of the mills. They have changed hands several times since. There was an old Fulling Mill on the west end of the Toby dam and an old saw mill on the east end, which was built in 1823. At the raising, Silas Hamilton was struck by a falling timber and died on Sunday, December 7th.

Jacob Worthing had twelve children, five of them being born before 1800. Hiram, one of the younger boys, born in 1806, was first selectman in Palermo for many years. He was Postmaster continuously for forty-seven years, with the exception of two years under Buchanan's Administration. His son, Pembroke S. Worthing, is a grandson of Dea. Stephen Marden by way of his mother. He has served several terms as Town Clerk and first Selectman. He has been Postmaster twelve years.

Doctors Daniel Pratt, Samuel Hight and Enoch Huntoon were among the first settlers and the first doctors in town practicing before 1800.

Another of the early settlers was Amasa Soule, who took up a farm in 1799 and took his wife and children to his new home two years later.

She lived to be 101 years, five months and twelve days old. She was the mother of thirteen children. She lived to the greatest age of any person in Palermo.

In the year 1807 two town burying grounds were purchased, one for the lower settlement, by Jonathan Greeley's Grist Mill, and the other on Dennis Hill in the upper settlement. A vote was passed in 1809 that the town should be divided into two burying districts and that the dividing line should be at William Tucker's, south line square across the town. Each district to fence and care for their own yard.

In 1811 seven School Districts were formed and the school houses were built by each district in about 1812. In the seventh district not until 1822. Previous to this, schools were kept in dwelling houses and at such places as could be obtained. The Center School, then called, in District No. 3 was held in what is now Herbert Batchelder's old shop, which then set near where the hearse house now stands. This school house was built a four hiped roof. It contained two rooms: one for a school-room, the other for town meetings. It had an elevated floor about four feet high, which required three stone steps to enter the school-room and a flight of four wooden steps to the town part. The town rented this part for three dollars a year. It contained two brick fire places.

The first wagon in Palermo was owned by Dea. Stephen Marden about 1815.

The first roads were laid out in 1802. The first road, called the main road, commencing at the lower part of Great Pond Settlement, running through the lower and upper settlements to the north line of the town, by way of Greeley's Corner and Marden Hill, a distance of ten miles and forty rods. The next road, called The Back Road of the upper settlement, running from Thaddeus Bailey's to John Johnson's Mills, (now Branch Mills) thence to Robert Foye's, where Downer now lives. Another called the Eastern road of the upper settlement, known as the Level Hill road. Also another called the Western Road of the lower settlement running from Longfellow's Corner to Turner's Ridge.

Many of the cross roads were laid out in 1805. Road from Greeley's Corner to East Palermo and on the east side of the pond in 1806. Many changes have since been made. Road from Branch Mills to Longfellow's Corner in 1809. Road from John Nutter's place to Sheepscott Pond, 1807, and changed as it now is, from said Nutter place to Fred Spratt's in 1816. The new road from James Soule's to Branch Mills, in 1819 and old road discontinued. The Western Ridge Road in 1811, changed as now in 1838.

The old Belfast Road of 1805 was from John Ayer's by the Oliver Pullen Pond, crossing the Bog of the Turner Pond on a log bridge over six hundred feet in length. In 1821 a new road was built from Ford's Corner to Montville, still crossing the old log bridge. In 1841 a committee of three, Reuben Whittier, William Foye and Eli Ayer were chosen to superintend the building of a new bridge to be completed within four years. Those taking the job should keep it in repair while building. The bridge is of stone covered with earth six hundred and forty feet in length.

CHAPTER IV.

About 1779, Massachusetts was divided into the District of Maine and the District of Massachusetts; thereby our beloved state became the District of Maine. Still a part of that state having the same General Court. The first Representative from Palermo to the Massachusetts Legislature or General Court, held at Boston, was Daniel Sanford, senior, elected in 1809 and re-elected in 1811.

January 23, 1816, the inhabitants of Palermo met at John Clark's dwelling house and voted to petition the Legislature at its present session for the immediate separation of the District of Maine from Massachusetts, and form a separate and independent state.

September 2nd 1816 they were called to meet and vote on the question "Is it expedient that the District of Maine shall be separated from Massachusetts and become an independent state.)* Also to choose a delegate to meet at the old meeting house near the college in Brunswick, in the District of Maine, agreeable to an act of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, passed June A. D. 1816. The vote declared seventy-eight in favor of, and twenty opposed to the separation. At this convention they fell short of success. May 3, 1819 a petition to the General Court was laid before the town asking for their approval and signature and the selectmen were instructed to sign it in behalf of the town. And many towns joined in the same prayer. July 26, 1819 the voters were again warned to meet at John Clark's dwelling house to vote again on the same question. This time there were one hundred and two votes in favor of the separation and only six opposed, and the District of Maine was carried by a large majority

Sept. 20, 1819 a meeting was called to choose a delegate to meet in Convention at Portland on the second Monday in October to form a

*See Palermo records, volume 1st. page 236.

Constitution or frame of government for said new state. Thomas Eastman was chosen and delegates met as above and adopted a constitution. Again the voters of Palermo was warned to meet at the Centre school house on the first Monday in December to give in their written votes expressing their approval or disapproval of the Constitution. The result was a unanimous vote in favor of the Constitution. Their prayer was answered to the joy of the people. Then Congress was asked that the State of Maine be admitted to the Union, which was granted March 3, 1820.

December 27, 1820 the question arose "Shall this county of Lincoln be divided and form a new county. The answer was, No! While other towns contended for a new county, Aug. 12, 1826, Palermo voted to remonstrate against the proposed new county of Waldo and petitioned to be annexed to the county of Kennebec. Feb. 7, 1827 the county of Waldo was incorporated and named for Gen. Samuel Waldo. Still determined against the new county a meeting was called February 23, 1827 to see if they would vote to petition the Legislature to be set off from the new county of Waldo and be annexed to the county of Lincoln, Kennebec or Penobscot. They voted unanimously to petition to be set off into the county of Kennebec, and that this vote be published in the Kennebec Gazette and in the Lincoln Intelligencer which were the two papers taken in those early days.

In 1847 our mail bore the first U. S. postage stamps, being of the five and ten cents denomination. September 23, 1815 a heavy gale of wind swept over the place doing much damage to property.

November 30th, 1811 a severe earthquake was felt through New England.

CHAPTER V.

The mill which my grandfather referred to was on the Sheepscott river below the pond. There were two old mills, the Jonathan Bartlett and the Alden mills. The former said to be the oldest, which must have been built before 1790. The barn now standing on the William Histler farm was the first framed barn in town, and was built as early as 1790. The boards must have been sawed at this mill.

The old David Turner house is still standing on the old farm as a stable, and is now owned by Wesley Turner. The Ransalaer Turner house is also one of the first houses. It shows the style of early days. It is in good repair and with the same good care will last another century.

About 1800 my grandfather and his brothers, Stephen and Benjamin built the old mill on the Benjamin Marden farm, which was an up and down saw. The iron work of the water-wheel was made in New Hampshire, and brought to Augusta. From Augusta it was hauled on a hand sled by two men, at that time a distance of about thirty miles through the wilderness by spotted trees. From Augusta they followed the river to Vassalboro' then to East Vassalboro', then around the foot of China pond and up to near where the town house now stands: from there to Dirigo and to Branch Mills, which was before the roads were built. This mill had the necessary machinery for making hand rakes, which the Marden brothers sold for twenty-five cents each. They also had a brickyard and made bricks, which supplied the houses with their first brick chimneys. They were laid up in clay and ashes for mortar. Later the property passed to Benjamin Marden, 2nd, and to his son Stephen, who operated the mill. They have all passed away now except Stephen's widow and two sons, Oscar and Frank. Oscar is a successful lawyer in Stoughton, Mass., having graduated in 1876 from Boston University Law School. In 1891 he was appointed Judge and Justice of

the District Court of Southern Norfolk. Frank is a successful business man in the firm of George H. Leonard Co., Boston. In 1849 the old houses on the farms formerly occupied by these Marden brothers were removed and new ones built by Joshua Goodwin, Alva Marden and Benjamin Marden, 2nd.

In 1844 it was voted to build a town house. The contract was let to John Erskine for one hundred and eighteen dollars. A quarrel began about the location. The south part of the town carried the day and it was built on Orchard Greeley's land near the cemetery: A warm battle ensued and it was sold at auction for sixty-five dollars. Again the south part ruled and bought it back by paying the interest. Several meetings were held there during the next year. Still the battle went on and it was again sold and moved to Longfellow's corner and since used for a store. The present town house was built by Enos Greeley in 1847 and located in the center of the town.

The first guide boards were made by Joseph Creasey in 1823. The town paid him eighty-three cents each, for making. They were painted and lettered with a hand pointing the distance towards the principal places and have gone to decay years ago.

The first store and traders in town, as far as I can ascertain, was Burrill & Benson, who traded at Greeley's corner in 1822, and Joseph Arnold at Carr's corner. Before this the people went to Belfast and Wiscasset to do their shopping, and Wiscasset was the nearest Post Office.

The first building burned no record was the barn of Andrew Bonney, burned March 1819, together with a large stock of cattle. A vote was passed on April 14, instructing the selectmen to sign a petition in behalf of the town asking the Legislature to compensate his loss.

There was a grist mill owned by John Black, which was built about 1800. It stood on the same dam that Ira Black's saw mill did and was carried away in a freshet about 1812.

Eli Carr was born in Goffstown, N. H., in 1806. He came to Palermo in 1811 with his father, Richey Carr, who settled on Marden

Hill. He is now one of the oldest men in town being ninety years of age. His mind is clear and he can remember the most of those first settlers and can tell where they lived. He is a respected citizen and a worthy member of the First Baptist Church, and to him much credit is due for his assistance in preparing this record of Palermo.

As my grandfather has said there were twenty-six families in town in 1793. I find that about ten years later at the incorporation of the town the families numbered about one hundred. I will give their names omitting those already mentioned.

Moses Stevens,
 Samuel Stevens,
 Gideon Glidden,
 Jacob Buffum,
 Nehemiah Blake,
 William Blake,
 Joseph Carlisle,
 Benjamin Leadbetter,
 Jonathan Nelson,
 Benjamin Nelson,
 John Perkins,
 Robinson Sanford,
 Henry Sanford,
 John Rigby,
 Gabriel Hamilton,
 Stephen Greeley,
 Joseph Spiller,
 David Briant,
 William Briant,
 Nathan Bachelder,
 Samuel Creasey,
 Oliver Pullen,
 William Creasey,
 Daniel Sylvester, Senior,

George Carlyle,
 Stephen Longfellow,
 Samuel Buffum,
 Joseph Evans,
 Jonathan Worthing,
 Isaac Worthing,
 John Leadbetter,
 William Worthing,
 Samuel Hoyt,
 Daniel Nelson,
 John Nelson,
 Daniel Sanford,
 Henry Whittier,
 Stephen Bowler,
 Joseph Bowler,
 George Brooks,
 Beriah Bonney,
 John Bachelder,
 David Edwards,
 Jonathan Towle,
 Joseph Perry,
 Amos Sylvester,
 Waite Weeks,
 Oliver Boynton.

Shubal Weeks,
Asa Boynton,
James Brown,
Eben Bradstreet,
Hollis Hutchins,
Francis Somes,
Nicholas Gilman,
John Hutchins,
James Grant,
Samuel Redington.
Nathan Stanley,
Othnal Pratt,
Joseph Turner,
Mr. Hill, Father of Dr. H. H. Hill, late of Augusta.

Luke Sylvester,
Chase Robinson,
Joseph Richardson,
Nehemiah Somes,
Nathaniel Bradstreet,
Hollis Hutchins, Jr.
Clement Meserve,
Asa Crowell,
John Glidden,
James Dennis,
Rufus Plummer,
Lot Chadwick,
Daniel Bagley,

CHAPTER VI.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

About 1779 brother Stephen Belden came to Great Pond Settlement, bringing his Bible under his arm. As the settlers increased in numbers and a Baptist Church being formed at Fairfax (now Albion) many of this vicinity united with that body.

In 1804 a reformation swept this township. Those of our members withdrew from that Fairfax church and organized the First Baptist Church established 1804. Election of officers July 20th, 1805.

Meetings were held at Josiah Perkins' house and John Marden's barn, on Marden Hill.

Chose John Robinson of Freedom, first clerk; John Sinclare of Knox, first deacon; Nathaniel Robinson, first pastor, ordained June 26,

Members were received from Freedom, Montville and Knox. Thus it became necessary to build a meeting house and a plan for the structure was drawn by Daniel Sylvester, Senior, showing the design and location of the pews. These pews were sold from the plan at value, which sold for 25 and 50 dollars each, according to choice. Thus about 1200 dollars was secured. 1826 the contract was made with Spencer Arnold to construct the building for 1100 dollars and completed in 1827 and dedicated on New Years day, 1828, which was thronged with people each Sabbath.

A LIST OF MEMBERSHIP FROM 1804 TO THE PRESENT TIME, 1896.

James Sinclair,	Joseph Gowen,
William White,	Benjamin Black, 1st,
Nathaniel Robinson,	John Marden, 1st,
Josiah Perkins,	Betsey Black, 1st,
John Robinson,	Abigail Worthing,
Mr. Whitten,	John Clay,
Stephen Marden, 1st,	Ruth Rider,

A. Somes,
 Henry Whittier,
 John Johnson,
 Abigail Marden,
 Edmund Black, 2nd,
 Hannah Soule,
 John Sinclair,
 Thaddeus Bailey, Jr.
 Betsey Somes
 Lydia Wiggin,
 Benjamin Marden.
 Abigail Perkins,
 Polly Bailey,
 Joseph Robinson,
 Betsey Arnold.
 Susanna Cunningham,
 Polly Davis,
 Ann Davis,
 Betsey Davis,
 William Davis,
 Levi Davis,
 Thomas Sinclair,
 Nancy Davis,
 Samuel Henry,
 Mrs. Huntoon,
 Polly Black,
 Hannah Cunningham,
 Betsey Weeks,
 John Brown,
 Joseph Bowler,
 Grace Cook,
 John Erskine, 1st,
 Mrs. Campbell,

Asa Gowen,
 Stephen Belden, 1st,
 Abigail Belden,
 Aaron Belden,
 Charity Belden,
 Eunice Marden,
 Mrs. Whitehouse,
 John Brown,
 Jacob Greeley, 1st,
 Hannah Greeley,
 Joseph Arnold,
 George Robinson,
 Mrs. George Robinson,
 Simeon Magridge,
 Mrs. Simeon Magridge,
 Mrs. Sanford,
 Wiggins Perkins,
 Mrs. Sylvester.
 Hannah Robinson,
 Eunice Brown,
 Polly Robinson,
 Hannah Sanders,
 Lucy Rider,
 Elizabeth Rider,
 Asa Robinson,
 William M. Robinson,
 Gideon Robinson,
 Smith Gilman,
 Jonathan Clay,
 John White,
 George Smith,
 Joseph Sylvester,
 Susanna Sylvester,

Molly Black,
 Abigail Young,
 Stephen Longfellow,
 Samuel Leadbetter,
 James Black,
 Nathan Bachelder,
 Mrs. Nathan Bachelder,
 Hannah Nelson,
 Sister Wood.
 Betsey Arnold,
 S. Bailey,
 Lucretia White,
 Ruth Cummings,
 Sister Wilton,
 Betsey Leadbetters,
 Sister Ford,
 Nathan Bailey,
 Nathaniel Stanley,
 Mrs. Nathaniel Stanley,
 Amos Dennis,
 Amasa Soule,
 Sister Martin,
 Asa Crowell,
 William Tucker,
 Samuel C. Wight,
 Elder Jesse Martin,
 Abigail Pullen,
 Alley Marden,
 Eliza Marden, 1st,
 Miss Eastman,
 Mrs. John Rigby,
 Hannah Cummings,
 Sally Frye,

Sally Sinclair,
 Aaron Rollins,
 John Perkins, 1st.
 Knowlton Bailey,
 Mrs. Williams,
 Lucy Soule,
 Polly Spiller,
 Spencer Arnold,
 Susanna Hill,
 Sister Tuck,
 Sally Tuck,
 James Clark,
 Charity Marden,
 Nancy Arnold,
 Molly Somes,
 Hannah Somes,
 Jeremiah Tuck,
 Elder Dexter,
 Brother Weymouth,
 Sister Weymouth,
 Betsey Strong,
 John Rigby,
 Benjamin Marden, 2d,
 Betsey Bryant,
 John Spiller,
 Hannah Marden,
 Eliza Sanders,
 James Sanders,
 Elder William Bowler,
 Lydia Sanders,
 Eliza Soule,
 Gilbert Pullen,
 Mrs. Gilbert Pullen,

Pamela Arnold,
 Maria Marden, 1st,
 Patty Perkins,
 Eliza Marden 2nd,
 Betsey Smith,
 Sally Black,
 Reuben Whittier,
 John Bailey, 1st,
 Comfort Black,
 Edmund Black, 3d,
 Rachel Cummings,
 Patty Black,
 Mary Andros,
 Thaddeous Bailey,
 Charity Barlow,
 John Rollins,
 George Waters,
 Prissilla Robinson,
 James Sanders, Jr.,
 Mrs. James Sanders,
 Franklin Foye,
 Samuel Waters,
 Oren Nelson,
 Asa Cowen,
 James Sanders Senior,
 Charlotte Pullen,
 Hazen Nelson,
 Mary Parkhurst,
 S. L. Marden,
 John A. Marden, Jr.,
 Abigail Snell,
 Sewall L. Black,
 Silas Tabor,

Anna Marden,
 Eliza Davis,
 Elmira Arnold,
 Mrs. Bowler,
 Mrs. Davis,
 Lydia Rowe,
 Nancy Pullen,
 Mary Arnold,
 William Waters,
 Rufus Rowe, Senior.
 James Marden, Senior,
 David Spratt, 1st,
 Josiah Carr,
 Mrs. James Marden,
 Eliza Bradstreet,
 Mary Spratt,
 Sister Worthing,
 John W. Bailey,
 Nathaniel B. Robinson,
 Rachel Arnold,
 Sally Balcom,
 Jonathan Sylvester,
 Louis Bryant,
 James Rowe,
 Sarah Hamilton,
 Mr. Hathorn,
 Mrs. Hathorn,
 Louis Davis,
 Elder E. H. Emery,
 Benjamin Young, Jr.,
 Elder Smith,
 Jacob Sanders.
 Mrs. Jacob Sanders,

Martha J. Hathorn,
 Nancy Seavey,
 Clifford Worthing,
 Mrs. Clifford Worthing,
 William Carr,
 L. Sabin,
 Sarah Marden,
 Laban Spratt,
 Jane Wood,
 Nathan Wood,
 Adaline Marden,
 Pamela Wood,
 Melissa Soule,
 Mary Thurston,
 Clarasa Black,
 Mary F. Carr,
 H. Sanford,
 D. M. Black,
 Betsey Carr,
 Charles Carr,
 Mrs. S. Bailey,
 Abigail Whittier,
 Axa Noyes,
 Sumner Handy,
 Joanna Handy,
 Wesley Bailey,
 Betsey Bailey,
 Clarendon Black,
 Melvina Rowe,
 Mrs. Luke Jaquith,
 Kesiah Hallowell,
 Addie White,
 Samuel B. Soule,

Hiram T. Black,
 Lovica Black,
 Eliza Black,
 Marcus Ricker,
 Merrill Black,
 Mercy Spratt,
 Mary A. White,
 Elvira Mores,
 Elisha Wood,
 Eliza, Wood,
 Lydia Bailey,
 Mahala Carr,
 Jonathan Ward,
 Polly Bailey,
 Miss Maria Perkins,
 Prissilla Waters,
 Nehemiah Bryant,
 Eunice Dean,
 Caroline Drake,
 Mary Black,
 Mrs. William Worthing,
 Mrs. E. Parmeter,
 Mrs. S. Bailey,
 Mrs. M. Marden,
 Catherine Marden,
 Mary Spiller,
 Alice Soule,
 Olive Black,
 Luke Jaquith,
 Josiah Hallowell,
 George White,
 Joseph Perkins,
 Mrs. Alexander Worth,

Alexander Worth,
 Mary Jaquith,
 William Balcom,
 Henry More,
 Josiah Norton,
 Alley Curtis.
 Martha Plummer.

Erastus Nelson,
 Nellie Black,
 Gustavus Burgis,
 Alley Clifford,
 Hattie Norton,
 Llewellyn Coffin.
 Elder S. O. Whitten.

Jesse M. Jaquith.

PRESENT MEMBERSHIP.

Eli Carr.
 Eliza Nelson.
 Nancy Black.
 John S. A. Rowe.
 Emma S. Carr.
 Etta Soule.
 Mary Wood.
 Allen Goodwin.
 C. E. Carr.
 George V. Black.
 George F. Rowe.

George M. Rowe.
 Winfield Jaquith.
 Ellen Rowe
 Henry Carr.
 D. A. Whittier.
 Anna Drake.
 Alice Spratt.
 Cora A. Goodwin.
 Etta A. Carr.
 Hattie Chadwick.
 Earl Nelson.

On the first Wednesday of February, 1809, the 2nd Baptist Church, near Longfellow's Corner, was organized, having withdrawn from the 1st Baptist Church. In 1827 they took the plan of the first meeting-house and began the erection of the old church now removed. The 2nd Baptist Church records were destroyed by fire many years ago.

The Methodist Church was organized in the year 1830. Camp-meetings were held in Dr. Eli Ayer's Grove for many years. The Meeting house was built in 1861.



5N
600

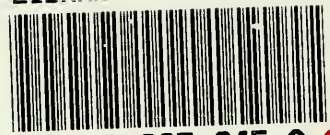
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 013 995 645 A



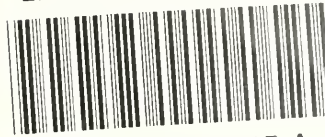
5K
600



0 013 995 645 A



LIBRARY OF CONGRES



0 013 995 645 A