

History of Greenwood

EARLY SETTLEMENT

The town of Greenwood, formerly Number Four, is made up of three separate grants. The surface is broken by many mountains and lakes, which give to it a certain picturesqueness, but which is not altogether to the advantage of those in the pursuit of agriculture. There are, however, many valuable farms in town, the soil is fertile, and is much cultivated for hay and potatoes.

The first grant of lands within the present bounds of Greenwood was made to James Mosher, John Haskell and John Akers, by act of the General Court of Massachusetts, passed June 24, 1795. This consisted of 1,000 acres, laid out by Lothrop Lewis, on the head lines of Cummings' Gore and Lee's Grant. A plan of this tract, dated Jan. 18, 1796, was returned to the secretary's office by Mr. Lewis.

The second grant, consisting of one-half township, 11,520 acres, was made Feb. 27, 1797, to the trustees of Phillips Academy, the same to be laid out or assigned in some of the unappropriated lands in the district of Maine. Mr. Lewis laid out the half-township on the northern border of Haskell's Grant, which he had surveyed four years earlier, and the transfer was made to the trustees March 19, 1800.

GREENWOOD

The third was granted to Eleazer Twitchell and others, Feb. 1, 1805, they having filed a petition for the grant as soon as the above grant was made. This tract contain[e]d 9,000 acres and now comprises the northern section of this town.

The first man to make a home within this town was William Yates (or Yeats), who settled on Patch Mountain, in 1800. He was born in Scotland in 1772, came to Boston, thence to New Gloucester, where he married Martha Morgan. Later he removed to Norway, where his three oldest children were born. The first house on Patch Mountain was a rude log cabin, which served as a home for this family until a frame house was erected a few years later. This was the first frame house in Greenwood. His fourth child was born Feb. 4, 1801, in Greenwood. Mr. Yates was a farmer and a Methodist preacher. Here he lived for 68 years.

Timothy Patch, for whom the mountain received its name, was probably the next to make a clearing and to bring a family to the place. We learn that there were 13 families here in 1805, mostly in the southern half of the town. Doubtless Simeon Sanborn, who built the first mills at what became known as Greenwood City, was here at that time, and his mills became early the center of business and social life. Thos. Furlong's clearing was north of the mills, and was probably made before the mills were built. Amos Richardson settled between Furlong and the mill. But Patch Mountain became the first center, and here was built the first school house in town. Frederick Coburn, Israel Herrick, Dustin Patch, Isaac Patch, and others, were lo-

HISTORICAL

cated here early. Paul Wentworth located in the western part of the town, and Noah Tobey near by. John Small, an educated man, was an early resident on the Haskell grant. Capt. Isaac Flint lived near Greenwood City. Jonas Stevens took up the lot now occupied by Isaac P. Noyes. Christopher and Solomon Bryant, Jr., removed from Woodstock to the vicinity, later known as the Bryant neighborhood. Eleazer Cole and his sons, Calvin and Cyprien, were among the earliest settlers. This family has contributed largely to the prosperity of the town. Others of the early families here were James Nutting, Jonathan Gurney, Stephen Sanborn, Consider Cole (near Bryant's Pond), Chas. Young, (on Young Hill), James French, Wm. Cordwell, Jeremiah Noble, Luther Cole, Capt. John Noyes, (on Haskell's grant), Isaac Howe, (on Howe Hill), Bela Noyes, Jesse Cross, Geo. Berry, John Small, James Packard, Israel B. Fifield, Hatevil Hall, Amos Young, Wm. Noyes, Francis Beckley, and others.

ORGANIZATION AND INCORPORATION.

The residents of Number Four were called to assemble at the house of Simeon Sanborn on May 8th, 1813, for the purpose of organizing a plantation government. Mr. Sanborn was made moderator of the assembly and Paul Wentworth was chosen clerk. The board of assessors chosen was

GREENWOOD

Noah Tobey, Simeon Sanborn, and John Small. Dustin Patch was made collector, and Isaac Flint was chosen treasurer.

The next meeting was held in June, when \$600 was voted to make and repair highways; \$50 for the support of schools and \$75 to defray the expenses of the plantation. Four new roads were soon laid out by the assessors which were actuated by vote in plantation meeting in October. A bridge at Sanborn's mills was built by Paul Wentworth during the fall. Many improvements were made. These hardy pioneers had little but the bare necessities, but they were willing to work for what they were unable to pay.

Each season brought in new families, and the second annual election of officers shows some new names. The plantation seems to have reached considerable activity before any effort was made to become incorporated. The last recorded meeting of the plantation was held Sept. 21, 1815, but no mention is made of petitioning for incorporation. Neither is the act of incorporation recorded in the town records. Greenwood was incorporated the 213th town in Maine, Feb. 2, 1816, and aside from added privileges and duties, went on much as before.

The meeting at which the town was organized was held in the school house, Mar. 23, 1816, and the following officers chosen: Noah Tobey, moderator; Paul Wentworth, clerk; John Small, Capt. Isaac Flint, and Jere. Noble, selectmen and assessors; Frederick Coburn, treas.; and James French, collector and constable. Sixteen others were chosen to fill minor town offices.

HISTORICAL

TOWN OFFICERS

CLERKS.

G. W. Verrill, 1850; Enoch Cordwell, 1851-58; E. Cordwell and Isaac Flint, 1854; Isaac Flint, 1855-57; Benj. G. Parker, 1858-60; Edward M. Yates, 1861; Moses Yates, 1862-63; Willard Herrick, 1864-66; D. H. Crockett, 1867-70; Kingsbury J. Cole, 1871-75; H. A. Brownell, 1876-78; Geo. W. Patch, 1879; Abner C. Libby, 1880-87; J. A. Fairbanks, 1888; Walter B. Rand, 1889-90; A. C. Libby, 1891-1905.

TREASURERS.

Isaac Wentworth, 1850-51; Frederick Coburn, 1852-55; Cyprien Cole, 1856; John M. Swift, 1857; C. Cole, 1858; Isaac Wentworth, 1859-60; Willard Herrick, 1861; Abner C. Libby, 1862; Wm. H. Kendall, 1868; Peter B. Buck, 1864; A. C. Libby, 1865; W. G. Whittle, 1866-67; S. N. Young, 1868; D. H. Crockett, 1869; Noah Hobbs, 1870; Wm. Richardson, 1871; David Emmons, 1872; A. G. Tinkham, 1873-75; David Emmons, 1876; W. G. Whittle, 1877-79; A. J. Ayer, 1880-81; Willard Whittle, 1882-83; E. L. Tebbets, 1884-85; J. G. Coffin, 1886-88; Fred H. Morton, 1889; E. L. Tebbets, 1890-91; W. B. Rand, 1892; C. P. Kimball, 1893; E. L. Tebbets, 1894-95; A. B. Bryant, 1896-1900; W. B. Rand, 1901-03; Lester H. Penley, 1904-05.

GREENWOOD

SELECTMEN.

1850—Josiah Small, G. W. Merrill, Christopher Bryant.

1851—Josiah Small, G. W. Merrill, Geo. W. Patch.

1852—Enoch Cordwell, Geo. W. Patch, Cyprian Cole.

1858-54—Geo. W. Patch, Lawson M. Coburn, Calvin Crocker.

1855—Geo. W. Patch, Josiah Small, Isaac Wentworth.

1856—Geo. W. Patch, O. C. Houghton, Daniel Swift.

1857—Geo. W. Patch, Calvin Crocker, John Locke.

1858—Josiah Small, O. C. Houghton, Isaac Wentworth.

1859—Geo. W. Patch, O. C. Houghton, Wm. F. Kendall.

1860—O. C. Houghton, Geo. W. Patch, Edmond Curtis.

1861—Wm. F. Kendall, Alvah Hobbs, Wm. Richardson.

1862—Josiah Small, A. G. Tinkham, Willard G. Whittle.

1863—W. G. Whittle, Jeremiah Bartlett, Isaac Flint.

1864-65—Willard Herrick, Wm. Richardson, C. Crocker.

1866—Willard Herrick, David A. Sawyer, Wm. F. Kendall.

1867—W. G. Whittle, Willard Herrick, Josiah Small.

1868—W. G. Whittle, Willard Herrick, Wm. F. Kendall.

1869—W. G. Whittle, H. N. Young, N. R. Russell.

1870—Willard Herrick, Albert S. Herrick, N. R. Russell.

1871—Willard Herrick, Levi Shedd, E. E. Rand.

1872—Willard Herrick, E. E. Rand, R. L. Cole.

1873-74—E. E. Rand, Geo. W. Patch, Wm. Richardson.

1875—W. G. Whittle, Willard Herrick, A. J. Ayer.

1876—Willard Herrick, W. G. Whittle, A. J. Ayer.

1877—Eben E. Rand, W. G. Whittle, W. Herrick.

HISTORICAL

- 1878-79—W. Herrick, E. W. Penley, Abner H. Herrick.
 1880—W. Herrick, A. H. Herrick, Geo. W. Patch.
 1881—W. Herrick, G. W. Patch, Wm. Richardson.
 1882—W. Herrick, G. W. Kinsley, A. H. Herrick.
 1883—W. Herrick, Wm. Richardson, A. J. Ayer.
 1884-85—E. E. Rand, Wm. Richardson, M. Harrington.
 1886—E. E. Rand, M. Harrington, E. L. Tibbetts.
 1887—E. E. Rand, E. L. Tibbetts, E. W. Penley.
 1888—E. L. Tibbetts, E. W. Penley, Wm. A. Holt.
 1889—Wm. Richardson, M. H. Harrington, C. R. Carter.
 1890-91—M. H. Harrington, C. S. Carter, A. H. Herrick.
 1892—C. S. Carter, H. N. Cummings, J. C. F. Roberts.
 1893-95—M. Harrington, E. W. Penley, Ransom Cole.
 1896-98—E. W. Penley, R. Cole, O. P. Farrington.
 1899—E. W. Penley, R. Cole, L. P. Bryant.
 1900—E. W. Penley, O. P. Farrington, L. P. Bryant.
 1901-04—E. W. Penley, L. P. Bryant, H. D. Cole.
 1905—M. H. Harrington, H. D. Cole, O. L. Peabody.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

The manufacturing of lumber and spools has been one of the leading industries of the town of Greenwood since railroad facilities have been opened for shipping the product, and in fact for many years previous. At Mr. Sanborn's mill which must have been built as early as 1805,

GREENWOOD

were sawed the boards and shingle for most of the early houses built in the town, and here was ground the corn raised by the pioneers on their clearings. Around this mill sprung up the trading center for many years known as Greenwood City. Indeed, this name is yet used notwithstanding the place was almost entirely destroyed by fire in 1858, and has never been rebuilt. The mill was run for many years by Mr. Sanborn after which he sold to Amos Richardson. Later owners were Loren Roberts, John Foster and one Mr. Tuell, who was operating here when it was burned. The dam has been washed out, and the old site remains unoccupied except for a portable mill built by E. L. Tebbets & Co. not long since, which is temporarily located here.

The second mill built in Greenwood was that built by Samuel Locke, Sr., of Bethel. Mr. Locke was an enterprising business man and did an extensive business. The first house erected at Locke's Mills was a "block house" built of hewn timber which was for many years occupied by Samuel Stevens, the miller. Mr. Stevens was killed at the mill when trying to clear the old tub wheel of ice. James Yates was the next miller, Albion Cole followed him. The second dwelling at the Mills was considered a magnificent structure when built. It was built by standing plank on end and was two stories in the rear. Samuel Locke, Jr., removed from Bethel to this house in 1838 or '39 and it remained his home until he moved to West Paris in 1857 or '58. Mr. Locke erected several houses on his lands surrounding the mills, owning most of the property here until he sold to Moses

HISTORICAL

Houghton near the time of his removal to West Paris. Together with the lumber and grist mills, Mr. Locke erected a large woolen mill which was occupied by a company manufacturing woolen goods for several years. This building was then leased to Russell & Russell, of Bethel, who made furniture extensively for about six years. Just before the Civil war Lyman Russell, one of the brothers, removed the business to Walker's mills.

Most, if not all the milling property at Locke's Mills, together with many of the homes, passed into the hands of J. R. Bassett, about 1863. Mr. Bassett had large plans for the future of the place, based on a new machine for the manufacture of excelsior. He made many improvements in the water power, laid out new house lots and a park, and installed the new machinery in the building formerly used as a furniture factory. But the machinery did not prove all that was hoped for it, in fact it proved useless, and Thos. Guilden & Co., put in new machinery which they used for making excelsior. After the failure of Mr. Bassett the property went into the hands of Faxon, Elms & Sears of whom J. G. Tebbets and others bought, at the close of the war. R. D. Rand and Chas. Gerrish soon after sold their rights to Mr. Tebbets, who later took John F. Dearborn as a partner. Mr. Dearborn was a spool maker and the making of spools was at once begun at Locke's Mills in the old woolen mill. After this building was burned the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Dearborn went to Bryant's Pond; Mr. Tebbets rebuilt and operated as the Tebbets Mfg. Co., until he sold to the American Bobbin. Spool and Shuttle Co. Soon after

GREENWOOD

the transfer the spool mill was again burned, Feb. 9, 1891, but was built the following summer. Upon the assignment of the company, in 1892, E. L. Tebbets & Co. bought the stock and leased the mill of the assignees, and in 1900 bought the property. They erected a long lumber mill during the fall of 1899 and the following spring; they are also interested in the other mills at the village. The spool mill is by far the largest industry in town, employing an average of 60 hands, and consumes over 1,000,000 feet of stock.

A lumber mill was built at Center Greenwood by Mr. Locke, about 1850. This he sold to Hiram Bisbee who operated it for a long time, until his death. It then stood idle for a few years until Cummings Bros. began operating. They sold to the present owner, Ransom Cole, who rebuilt the mill last season, and is doing a good business.

Among the early traders and inn-holders at Greenwood City we would mention Geo. Patch, Daniel Verrill, Lawson Coburn, Wm. Noyes, David Crockett and Winthrop Stevens. Samuel H. Houghton, son of Moses, of Norway, was the first trader at Locke's Mills.

Dr. Daniel W. Davis was the resident physician at Locke's Mills for many years, before removing to Bethel.

HISTORICAL

CHURCH AFFAIRS.

Rev. Wm. Yates, the first settler in Greenwood, was a preacher of the Methodist faith, and was doubtless a leader in the religious life of the community for many years. The Baptists were also numerous in the early town. They were ministered to by Stephen Chase and Jacob Whitman, of Woodstock; Christopher Bryant and others in Greenwood. What was known as the Woodstock and Greenwood Baptist Church was organized in 1830, by the people of the east part of Greenwood, and the west part of Woodstock. The services were generally held in the Bryant Neighborhood, in Greenwood. No church edifice was ever erected by the society, its meetings being held in the school house. Dea. Jacob Whitman, Dea. Christopher Bryant, Jacob Whitman, Jonathan Cole, Joseph Whitman, D. Ricker, L. Whitman, and Cyprian Cole were leading members. Reuben Milner was the first pastor, ordained in 1843 and remaining two or three years. D. Ricker, Jr., a local preacher ministered to the church much of the time during the following years, until he became ordained pastor in 1854. The society was disorganized in 1855 and its members became members of the Bryant's Pond Baptist church. Mr. Ricker was continued pastor of the new society. The Baptists have a small chapel at Greenwood center which is sometimes supplied by the pastors from Bryant's Pond.

A Union meeting house was erected early at Greenwood City and was occupied by the Baptists, Methodists and Universalists. This was destroyed by the fire in 1858, but a

GREENWOOD

small chapel was soon after erected. In 1893, Rev. A. K. Bryant, a native of Greenwood, who was then appointed to the pastorate of the West Paris Methodist church, began holding services at this place each alternate Sabbath afternoon. His labors here were attended with remarkable success, there were over one hundred conversions, and soon a strong society was organized. Mr. Bryant remained pastor until the spring of 1898 when Rev. R. S. Leard was appointed his successor. This has remained a part of the West Paris circuit. Rev. Mr. Leard was followed by Rev. R. A. Rich, in 1900, and he by the present pastor, Rev. David Nelson, in 1903.

A Union meeting house was begun at Locke's Mills in 1883, and completed the following year. Samuel Locke, Jr. gave the land for the burying ground, to the town, and reserved the adjoining lot as a gift to any society which should erect a church thereon. At first preaching was had but once a month, as had been the custom before the church was erected. Rev. Wm. Stevens was the first resident pastor, followed by Rev. Luther Briggs; R. A. Rich, 1894-95; J. H. Bounds, 1896; E. F. Doughty, 1897-98; W. B. Eldridge, from Bethel, 1899; O. L. Stone, 1900-01, the last resident pastor; F. C. Potter, from Bethel, and the present Bethel pastor. The house is sometimes occupied by the Baptists, Universalists and Advents but no regular services are sustained by either of these denominations. A regular Sunday School is maintained, Joseph George, Supt.

HISTORICAL

EARLY SCHOOLS.

The earliest school house in the town of Greenwood was erected on Patch Mountain. After the organization of the plantation in 1813, a generous appropriation of fifty dollars was made for the support of schools, and the following spring this amount was increased to \$75. It was also decided to divide the plantation into school districts, each district to draw its proportionate share of the total amount, and to regulate itself.

When the town was organized in 1815 a school committee was chosen, and \$150 appropriated for educational purposes. The plantation had erected a school house in the vicinity of Sanborn's Mills, and others were soon located throughout different parts of the town. In 1820 there were nine districts, and an appropriation of \$200 was made for education. Five years later we find there were 225 scholars in town, 168 of whom were registered attendants on the public schools. The town population was then 650.

The development of the school system was similar to that in the surrounding towns. New and improved methods were introduced when proven to those under whose care the schools were placed to be of value in advancing the cause of education. The district system was abolished when the state law was enacted for that purpose and several of the districts have been united under the town system. The representative men of Greenwood who have gone out into the world, and many who have remained upon its native hills are proof in their character and mental ability of the

GREENWOOD

value of the early training received in the little red school house, and though not here offered the advantage of an advanced institution of learning, they laid the foundation for a life of usefulness and influence which does credit to these early families and the town of their birth.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS

The following is a list of men, residents of Greenwood, who died in the service during the Civil War, or in consequence of wounds or sickness incurred thereby. Willard O. Ames, Wm. E. Brooks, Cyrus A. Buck, Albert A. Cross, Frank L. Dunham, Ser. Melvin W. Emery, James N. Emery, Solomon Farr, Lary N. Fifield, Jos. L. Herrick, Geo. Howe, Hartwell Keaton, Damon Lebaron, Geo. W. Libby, Richard Libby, Royal T. Martin, Chas. H. Milliken, Lieut. P. J. Mitchell, Geo. W. Morgan, Osgood Morgan, Samuel Morgan, Simeon Morgan, F. K. Noyes (N. H. Vols.), Geo. W. Record, Darias Richardson, Jas. C. Sheds, Cyrus Swift, Wilbur F. Whittle.

Below is a complete list of men credited to this town as we have found them recorded by the State Adjutant General, together with seven included in the above list which were not found in those reports.

Willard O. Ames, Franklin Buck, Chas. H. Buck, Geo. G.

HISTORICAL

Buck, Cyrus A. Buck, John A. Buck, Wm. Berry, Wm. E. Brooks, Albion P. Beattie, Byron V. Bryant, Chas. C. Bryant, Lawrence Bryant, Sergt. Geo. W. Bryant, Chas. M. Bryant, Orrin S. Bisbee, Joel W. Brackett, Geo. W. Beady, Levi N. Bartlett, Corpl. Woodbury Cummings, Jos. Cummings Jr., Corpl. Jas. B. Currier, Albion Currier, Adoniram B. Crafts, Winfeld S. Cordwell, Consider Cole, Kingsbury J. Cole, Wm. G. Cole, Dennis Cole, Geo. C. Cole, Hanson Cole, Albert A. Cross, Chas. E. Dwinel, Frank L. Dunham, Chas. E. Dunn, Sergt. Melvin W. Emery, Freeman J. Emery, Jas. N. Emery, Israel F. Emmons, Levi W. French, Lary N. Fifield, Loring Fifield, Solomon Farr, Danl. Grant, Dana B. Grant, Danl. L. Grant, Wm. Gannon, Chas. H. Hobbs, Jas. W. Hall, Geo. Howe, Geo. G. Howe, Robt. Howe, Jos. L. Herrick, Abner H. Herrick, Albert S. Herrick, Lithgow L. Hilton, Henry N. Judkins, Ithiel Kennerson, Stephen D. Knight, Wm. Keaton, Hartwell Keaton, Geo. A. Littlefield, Jas. A. Littlefield, Geo. Littlefield, Jas. Littlefield, Geo. W. Libby, Elijah Libby, Jas. Libby, Richard Libby, Nathaniel LeBaron, Damon LeBaron, Matthew Lane, Royal T. Martin, Lyman R. Martin, P. Jordan Mitchell, Chas. F. Morgan, Jacob W. Morgan, Geo. W. Morgan, Otis E. Morgan, David Morgan, Osgood Morgan, Saml. Morgan, Jacob Morgan, Edwin Morgan, Thos. A. Morgan, Austin W. Morgan, Alonzo D. Morgan, David M. Morgan, Simeon Morgan, Danl. M. Morgan, Chas. H. Milliken, Cyrus B. Millett, Saml. S. Millett, Jas. McAllister, Frank Needham, Henry P. Noyes, Chas. Otis, Isaac O. Parker, Wm. H. Pearson, Geo. W. Patch, Warren G. Palmer, Geo. W. Record, Nelson R. Rus-

GREENWOOD

sell, Benj. Russell Jr., Eben E. Russell, Nelson K. Russell,
Darius Richardson, Calvin Richardson, Wm. E. Starbird,
Francis E. Shaw, John M. Swift, Cyrus Swift, Levi Shedd,
Jas. C. Shedd, Enoch D. Stiles, Jas. Sullivan, Chas. H. Trull,
Albert A. Trull, John W. Whittle, Wilbur F. Whittle, Sergt.
Wm. W. Whitmareh, Wm. Whitman, Moses M. Whitney,
Elisha S. Wardwell, Cornelius York, Cornelius M. York,
Orelus L. Young.

