

History of E. Stoneham

SETTLEMENT.

The town of Stoneham is made up of a tract of 3,000 acres granted to Fryeburg Academy and now included in the western part of the town, a grant made to Richard Batchelder along the state line called the First Division, and the Second Division made to the same grantee, a part of which is now East Stoneham. This section was explored by hunters and trappers, and probably by lumbermen, before the close of the eighteenth century, but we have no proof of any settlement having been made until sometime later. When Elisha Allen came onto this tract in March 1822 from Norway he found but three families living in the vicinity of East Stoneham. These were Jonathan Sawyer, who had moved from Oxford and was probably the first permanent settler, located on the farm which was so long occupied by his son, Joel S., now owned by E. S. Bartlett; Edward Wells, living on the north half of the farm now occupied by Levi McAllister; and Joseph Stevens who had a log cabin on the farm now occupied by James Merrill. Indeed, all were living in log houses, for the settlers in this locality had a hard struggle with nature to eek out a living from the rugged soil. These were all very poor,—and Mr. Allen did not add much wealth to the settlement. He stayed over night at

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the cabin of Mr. Wells, then moved his family into a cabin which had been built by one Russell who had made a small clearing. A son and daughter of Mr. Allen are still living in East Stoneham, at an advanced age.

At North Stoneham were six settlers, Levi Durgin, Ephraim Durgin, Nathan Cobb, Oris Parker, Solomon McKeen and Samuel S. Willard. Many descendants of these families have remained in town, but their early clearings have returned to their native timbered condition. In the west were Andrew Harper, Daniel McAllister, and Daniel McKeen, whose son, Peter, was the first male child born in Stoneham. Eastman McAllister came to West Stoneham in 1831.

But we can only briefly trace the Eastern settlement. A Mr. Thurlow settled on the Ames Barker place. John Allen came from Canton to the Levi McAllister place. Benj. G. Sturgis, Jonathan Moore and John Files, all from Gorham, Me., were pioneers in the settlement, as were also Samuel and Sylvanus Richardson, and Samuel Stiles of North Stoneham.

About 1830 the Oxford county road was built through East Stoneham from No. Waterford to Lovell, which opened up the country to many new families. Amos Evans, a valued citizen, moved in from Gorham, N. H., in 1832; his oldest son, Sumner, did much for the prosperity of place. James Durgin settled on the farm now owned and occupied by Jonathan Bartlett, Jr. Here he was followed in 1843 by Jonathan Bartlett, Sr., who came from Newry. Mr. Bartlett was a man of much ability and considerable wealth.

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He became the financial, social and political leader of the hamlet, in all of which he has been succeeded by his son, and namesake. Jonathan, Jr. is one of the leading lumbermen of this part of the state, and in 1885, like his father, represented his district in the Maine legislature.

Wm. H. Rand, the first trader at East Stoneham, lived very near the site of V. H. Littlefield's residence. Eben Sawyer, son of Jonathan, lived where Mr. Wells had made his first clearing. Christopher Rand, father of Geo. W. and Wm. H., settled where Jas. Merrill now lives. Jonathan Moore succeeded Wm. H. Rand in trade, and has been followed by Sumner Evans, I. F. Evans, W. H. Kilgore, J. B. Barnett, Geo. Meader and G. A. Brown, H. H. Tibbetts and J. Bartlett & Sons, the last named since 1891. Samuel Stiles was an early trader at his house which was near the site of Levi McAllister's. Many from the western and northern part of the town, have taken up lots in the east, among whom are the McKeenes, McAllisters and Sawyers.

We have no record of the incorporation of Stoneham, which was done Jan. 31, 1834. In 1840 Ellis B. Usher, of Hollis, who had bought of Mr. Batchelder all the lands that lay south of A Range, 2nd Division, except what had been settled, caused the passage of an act, changing the name of this town to Usher. The citizens were indignant, and when the following winter, they sent Edward E. Rand to represent them in the state legislature, he presented a petition which at once restored the early name. The earliest records now existing in the town, begin with the town of Usher, the earlier ones having been destroyed by fire.

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TOWN OFFICIALS.

CLERKS.

Jonathan Moore, 1850-52; Henry A. Small, 1853; Chas. A. Ayers, 1854; H. A. Small, 1855-57; Sumner Evans, 1858; E. E. Barker, 1859; H. A. Small, 1860-61; E. E. Barker, 1862; H. A. Small, 1863-64; S. E. Rand, 1865-67; Sumner Evans, 1868-74; Levi McAllister, 1875; Sumner Evans, 1876-80; I. F. Evans, 1881; Hilton McAllister, 1882; Sumner Evans, 1883-98; F. H. Bartlett, 1899-1908; Eugene Evans, 1904-05.

TREASURERS.

Ephraim S. Howe, 1850; J. Moore, 1851; Sumner Evans, 1852; Ashbel G. Allen, 1853; J. Bartlett 1854; Jas. L. Haskell, 1855; S. Evans, 1856-58; A. G. Allen, 1859; Samuel E. Rand, 1860-6; S. Evans, 1868-70; Wm. A. Manning, 1871-78; Hilton McAllister, 1874-75; Levi McAllister, 1876-82; Wm. Gammon, 1883-94; Arthur F. Moody, 1895-1905.

SELECTMEN.

1850—Jonathan Bartlett, E. S. Howe, Benj. G. McAllister.

1851—E. S. Howe, B. G. McAllister, James Evans.

1852—E. S. Howe, Benj. G. McAllister, Sumner Evans.

1853—Sumner Evans, Benj. G. McAllister, J. Bartlett.

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1854—Sumner Evans, Benj. G. McAllister, Levi McAllister.

1855—Sumner Evans, Joel S. Sawyer, Eastman McAllister.

1856—Benj. G. McAllister, Edw. A. Small, Samuel Walker.

1857—Benj. G. McAllister, Hilton McAllister, Amos E. McAllister.

1858—Benj. G. McAllister, H. McAllister, Samuel Walker.

1859—Sumner Evans, H. McAllister, David Small.

1860—Sumner Evans, David Small, Joel S. Sawyer.

1861—Sumner Evans, David Small, Daniel H. McAllister.

1862—Sumner Evans, H. McAllister, Dan'l. H. McAllister.

1863—H. McAllister, Joel S. Sawyer, J. Bartlett, Jr.

1864—H. McAllister, Henry A. Small, James L. Parker.

1865—H. McAllister, J. Bartlett Jr., Ashabel S. Allen.

1866—H. McAllister, J. Bartlett Jr., Levi McAllister.

1867—Sumner Evans, J. Bartlett, Levi McAllister.

1868—Joel S. Sawyer, J. Bartlett, Wm. Hazeltine.

1869—Levi McAllister, J. Bartlett, Wm. Hazeltine.

1870—Wm. Hazeltine, Wm. Gammon, John Howe.

1871—Levi McAllister, J. Bartlett, J. S. Sawyer.

1872-73—J. Bartlett, Joel S. Sawyer, Jas. L. Parker.

1874-75—Jonathan Bartlett, Jas. L. Parker, H. P.

McAllister.

1876—H. McAllister, Wm. Gammon, Solon Plummer.

1877—J. Bartlett, J. L. Parker, J. S. Sawyer.

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- 1878—J. L. Parker, Wm. Gammon, Wm. L. Goodwin.
1879—J. Bartlett, W. L. Goodwin, Chas. Flanders.
1880—J. Bartlett, H. McAllister, N. H. Palmer.
1881—Sumner Evans, J. S. Sawyer, H. C. Bickford.
1882—J. Bartlett, J. S. Sawyer, A. G. Allen.
1883-84—J. Bartlett, H. McAllister, W. L. Goodwin.
1885—H. McAllister, J. S. Sawyer, A. Littlefield.
1886—W. L. Goodwin, J. Bartlett, A. Littlefield.
1887—J. Bartlett, A. Littlefield, D. O. Brown.
1888—J. Bartlett, D. O. Brown, Jas. L. Ramsdell.
1889-90—J. Bartlett, D. O. Brown, E. B. Russell.
1891—J. Bartlett, C. C. Flanders, A. F. Moody.
1892—J. Bartlett, C. C. Flanders, Herbert Adams.
1893—J. Bartlett, A. C. Holt, Geo. M. Small.
1894—J. Bartlett, A. C. Holt, J. B. McAllister.
1895—J. Bartlett, Wm. Gammon, F. McAllister.
1896—J. Bartlett, D. O. Brown, V. H. Littlefield.
1897—D. O. Brown, V. H. Littlefield, C. C. Flanders.
1898—D. O. Brown, Geo. M. Small, Wm. Adams.
1899-1900—J. Bartlett, Wm. Adams, Frank McAllister.
1901—J. Bartlett, Wm. Adams, Edwin E. Allen.
1902—J. Bartlett, Wm. Adams, Herbert Adams.
1903—J. Bartlett, H. M. Adams, F. L. McKeen.
1904-5—F. H. Bartlett, H. M. Adams, A. E. Warren.
1905—F. H. Bartlett, V. H. Littlefield, R. W. McKeen.

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MILLS AND LUMBERING.

The chief industry in Stoneham is lumbering. Much valuable timber has been taken from its rocky, rugged hillsides, and much is yet to be found awaiting the woodsman's axe. The earliest settlers took their corn to Proctor's mill, in South Albany or to the mill in West Stoneham but Jonathan Sawyer early built a saw mill on the outlet to Lake Keewaydin, earlier known as lower Stone Pond. Joel S. Sawyer succeeded his father at the mill until he sold to John Lynch. It was then sold to John Howe, and lastly, to Jonathan Bartlett, about 1880. This is a long lumber mill, but isn't much used now.

On the site of the mill built by Mark Ham about 1855, James Durgin had earlier erected a shingle mill which was probably destroyed by freshet or fire. Mr. Ham sold his property and rights to Sumner Evans and Wm. Hazeltine, and they to Jonathan Bartlett about 1871. Mr. Bartlett employs from six to eight men here about nine months in the year preparing spool stock for the mill at Lynchville, dowels and other lumber. There is also a steam mill in West Stoneham, which Mr. Bartlett operated for seven years, now owned by McKeene Bros., which furnished much spool stock.

The first mill built at the lower site, near the postoffice, was built by Solomon Floyd about 1845. Jonathan Howe bought the property about fifteen years later. It was later

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owned successively by Horace Brown, James L. Parker, G. W. Spears, who repaired it and sold to the Stoneham Lumber Co. about 1887, then C. D. Spears. The mill was neatly all swept away by freshet soon after which Mr. Spears committed suicide. His administrators sold to A. H. Spears, of whom the present owner, V. H. Littlefield, bought in 1900. The mill was burned in June 1902, but rebuilt that fall. It is operated about four months each season.

MILITARY ACCOUNT.

When the call for men to defend the Union went forth, and during that terrible struggle for the freedom of the South, Stoneham responded promptly and liberally from her small list of available men. She sent to the Union army considerably more men than her quotas called for, and not only in numbers, but in the character and bravery of these men, were they an honor to their native town. The following is a list of the men credited to Stoneham, as recorded by the State Adjutant-Gen.:—

Thos. Adams, Albion Adams, Hosea Adams, Chas. L. Adams, Andrew J. Blair, Alpheus S. Bisbee, Henry S. Barker, Melsor B. Brown, Orrin W. Bartlett, Wm. W. Durgin, John Evans, Corpl. Saml. S. Evans, Saml. Gray Jr., L. B. Gurns, Frank W. Ham, Wilson Hill, Willard B. Hill, Andrew Hill, Henry Hill, Geo. Herr, Frank Kilgore, Albert Little-

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field, John G. Littlefield, John S. Littlefeld, Livin K. Lane, Sergt. Henry H. McKeen, Ephraim McKeen 2nd., Silas McKeen, Lorin McKeen, Burnham McKeene, Corpl. Elbridge G. McKeene, Stephen C. McAllister, Isaac F. McAllister, Dustin McAllister, Amos McAllister, Amos McAllister 2nd., Gardiner McAllister, Gorham McAllister, Weeman McAllister, Nathan McAllister, Benj. H. McAllister, Wm. McAllister, Geo. P. Meader, Albion Moody, John McKenzie, Sergt. Arthur M. Parker, Jos. W. Parker, Warren G. Palmer, Nelson M. Russell, Sylvester L. Ricker, Edw. F. Ricker, Moses M. Seavey, David Shirley, Jacob Stokes, Cummings P. Stokes, Benj. F. Stokes, Edw. A. Small, Geo. W. Spear, Aaron N. Spears, Samuel J. Spears, True W. Spears, John H. Wiggin, Henry Wilber, Danl. Wentworth.

Geo. F. Leppien Post, G. A. R. No. 136, was organized by the veterans of this town, North Waterford and Albany. on April 9, 1885. The charter members were Geo. E. Elliott, Geo. W. Woodbury, H. H. Tibbetts, E. J. Jordan, W. W. Kilburn, Jas. Brown, W. R. York, Levi McAllister, N. M. Russell, J. S. Small and J. J. Fields. Geo. W. Woodbury was made the first commander. This post has attained a membership as high as sixty, but is now reduced by death and removals to sixteen in good standing. Jas. J. Fields is the present commander, N. H. Plummer, adjutant, and Levi McAllister, quarter master.

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**EAST STONEHAM CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH.**

Services were early held in East Stoneham by Methodist preachers, including Elder Watson of Lovell, and Elder McIntire and Elder Center of Waterford. These meetings were held in the school house or at the homes of devout members of the faith for many years, but no meeting house was ever erected, and the people were too poor to support a regular preacher.

Other denominations were represented, but none attempted organization until recently. In the summer of 1894, Rev. E. W. Pond, a Yale Divinity student was commissioned by the Maine Missionary Society to supply the church at Albany. At that time no services were being held at East Stoneham, but the people here were anxious that some form of religious worship might be established, and a Sunday school maintained. Hearing of the place Mr. Pond came and held a few services, after which a school was organized which continued after Mr. Pond returned to his studies. Rev. Donald McCormick, of the North Waterford Cong. church then began holding Thursday evening services and much interest was manifested by the people. In March Mr. Pond visited the place and reported its favorable condition to the Maine Missionary Society. He was then commissioned to this field for the summer. In May he began his ministry, having been ordained, and on May 31, steps were taken toward a preliminary organization. Jonathan

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Bartlett, Albert Littlefield, C. C. Flanders, A. C. Holt, Mrs. M. R. Littlefield and Rev. Mr. Pond were chosen a building committee to consider the erection of a church. A building lot was given by J. L. Parker of Norway; this the people graded and laid the foundation for the new edifice. The contract for the building was given to C. H. Adams of Norway for \$1700. The organ, books, and interior furnishings were all gifts from friends of the society. The entire cost of the building was \$2230.

A Congregational Church was organized Aug. 25, 1895, with 26 members. Rev. Mr. Pond was followed by Rev. A. P. McDonald who began his ministry here Oct. 24, 1895 and remained until April 24, 1899. The following July Rev. Howard Gilpatrick began a pastorate which lasted until Aug. 1, 1901. Rev. E. W. Pond again came to the church in Nov. 1901, and remained until March 1904, when Geo. H. Driver succeeded him for the summer. The church was then without a settled pastor until April 1905, when the present pastor, Rev. Geo. P. Fuller, began his labors. These pastors serve this in connection with the No. Waterford church, living generally at the latter place. There are now 54 members representing the leading families of the community. The work done by the church here has remarkably transformed the social life of the community, and is educating the children to higher ideals.

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SCHOOL ITEMS

We are given some light on the earlier schools, by Mrs. Prudence Smith, the daughter of Elisha Allen, whose memory goes back to the time when the families of this hamlet could be counted on one's fingers. What was doubtless the earliest house erected for school purposes in East Stoneham was a low log house located about one-third the way up Shirley hill. Schools were taught also at private houses, which may have been before this house was erected. Mrs. Smith distinctly remembers attending one of these schools, taught by Mary Ann Bryant, on the top of Shirley hill, as early as 1835.

In 1842 there were six districts in town. This number was maintained for many years, but under the town system has now been reduced to three, two of which are in the east. The two-story school house at the village, formerly called district No. 1, was built in 1870, when there were about 100 scholars attending. Both rooms were filled. Now there are about one-third that number and only the lower floor is used for school purposes, the upper one being used for a hall. The house in district No. 6, has been twice moved eastward to be at the center of the families whose children attend here.