

Dublin Historical Society

Dublin, New Hampshire 03444 • Founded 1920

Newsletter No. 26 – September, 1993

HELP MAKE HISTORY

Literally. A volunteer group of Dublin residents has re-activated a program to record on audio tape recollections of local historic and other interesting events experienced by long-time Dublin residents and summer visitors. This is an attempt to capture valuable remembrances that otherwise would be lost forever. Those interviewed will also be photographed. Thus far, we have tapes of 24 interviews, and photos of the majority of those interviewed, all located in the Society's Archives.

Our interviewers include Rosemary James, Albert and Nancy Handy, Linda Van Wyk and Ned Whitney. Vira Elder and Doris Haddock have volunteered to transcribe.

Linda Van Wyk has compiled a most useful list of questions and topics to assist interviewers, along with many names of candidates who might be willing to be interviewed. Linda has also offered to continue to photograph those interviewed.

Thanks to The Dublin Foundation's recent \$250

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THE BETHEL CONNECTION

Early Dublin Settlers Emigrate.

A long-forgotten connection between Dublin and Bethel, Maine, was recently brought to light by William Bauban. In researching the history of his property (the former James house on Old County Road), Bill discovered that the original owner had been one Joseph Greenwood. Greenwood was Dublin's first Town Clerk, from the incorporation of the Town in 1771 until 1793, when he left Dublin and moved to Bethel, in what later became the state of Maine.

Bethel is a town of some 2500 inhabitants lying on the Androscoggin River 12 miles east of the New Hampshire border at the latitude of the northern White Mountains. It is about 125 miles northeast of Dublin. Most early settlers who left Dublin went west. To move northeastward seems an oddity, a back eddy against the general tide of settlement.

Bill wrote to inquire about Joseph Greenwood to the Bethel Historical Society, without knowing whether such an organization existed. It does indeed, and Bill got a very prompt and courteous response

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DUBLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saturday, September 18, 1993

Community Church Vestry

8:30 AM Breakfast

Election of Officers and Trustees/Business Meeting

from Randall H. Bennett, Curator of Collections, who wrote:

“The story of the removal of many families from Dublin to Bethel is an interesting one, and many of our nearly 1,000 members are descended from Dublin families who moved here late in the 18th century or early in the 19th. Dr. Moses Mason (1789-1866), whose Bethel home serves as our headquarters, was born in Dublin, N.H.”

From the Bethel town history it appears that besides Greenwoods and Masons, members of the Twitchell, Morse and Mills families emigrated from Dublin to Bethel in the 1780's and 1790's. This sort of migration was scarcely ever random. Then as now, people tended to move to places where friends or family members had preceded them. What lured these dozen or so families to the northeast to Bethel?

JOSEPH TWITCHELL OF SHERBORN, MASS.

It has long been known that many of the early settlers of Dublin came from Sherborn, Massachusetts. Greenwoods, Masons, Morses and Twitchells came to Dublin from Sherborn in the 1760's. Joseph Twitchell of Sherborn was an agent for the proprietors to sell land and to procure settlers for Dublin. Samuel Carroll Derby, in a monograph on Dublin's Revolutionary War Soldiers, wrote:

“It is said that twenty-seven of the early settlers [and their families] of Dublin came from Sherborn, Mass., most of them presumably through the effort of Joseph [Twitchell].” (Derby, “Early Dublin / A List of Revolutionary Soldiers of Dublin, N.H.”, 1901.)

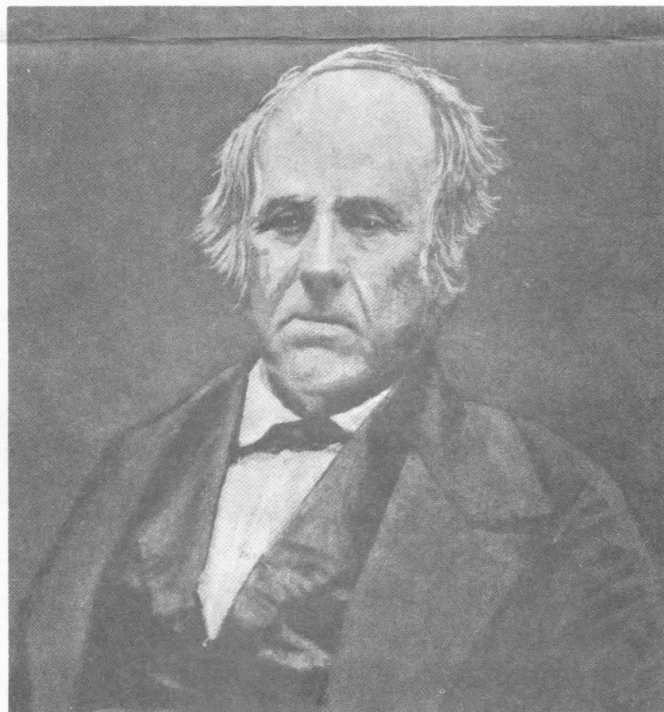
Another source, after describing Joseph's interest in Dublin, adds:

“But this was not enough for Captain Twitchell's adventurous spirit, for it appears that still further to the north, not only on the Indian frontier, but in their very midst, he became a proprietor, with his sons, notably Eleazer Twitchell, who was his father's agent in this section of the country, and founded the town or settlement of Bethel, Maine.” (Twitchell, *Genealogy of the Twitchell Family*, 1929.)

Although a substantial landowner in both Bethel and Dublin, Joseph never lived in either town, remaining in Sherborn until his death in 1792.

Of Joseph's fourteen children, however, seven settled in Dublin in the 1760's. These were Samuel, Joseph, Jr., Eleazer, Ezra, Eli, Elizabeth, Martha and Abel.

Eleazer left Dublin for Bethel in 1779, the first of Joseph Twitchell's children to settle there. He built the first grist mill in Bethel on property owned by his father and known as the Mill Lot. He may have learned something about milling from his elder brother, Samuel, whose grist mill on Stanley Brook in Dublin is known to have been operating by 1768. According to the Bethel Town History, Eleazer “owned the land where the village of Bethel Hill now is, and gave to the town the common.”



Dr. Moses Mason, First Postmaster of Bethel, Justice of the Peace, County Commissioner and member of the Governor's Council from History of the Town of Bethel, Maine

THE MASON FAMILY

In 1768, while still living in Dublin, Eleazer Twitchell married Martha, daughter of Moses and Lydia Mason, who had come to Dublin from Sherborn the previous year. Their eldest son, Moses II, left Dublin in 1799 for Bethel. His son, Moses III, born in Dublin in 1789, later became a physician, a U.S. Congressman from Maine and President of Gould Academy in Bethel. His house is now the home of the Bethel Historical Society.

Another Mason daughter, Lucy, married David

Marshall in Dublin in 1776. In 1781, they also went in Bethel, but left after the Indian raid in the same year. A third Mason daughter, Hannah, having married James Mills in Dublin in 1782, moved to Bethel in 1785 with her husband, who was killed there by a falling tree in 1790.

In 1784, still another Mason daughter, Betsey (or Betty) married Benjamin Clark, who had been captured by Indians in the raid on Bethel in 1781, and taken prisoner to Canada. Betsey had gone to Bethel with her sister, Martha, Eleazer's wife. Nevertheless, Betsey and Benjamin appear to have come to Dublin for their wedding.

Lydia Mason, widow of the first Moses, moved to Bethel in 1798, presumably to live with one of her children. It seems a reasonable conjecture that the Masons followed the Twitchells from Dublin to Bethel because of the relationship created by Martha Mason's marriage to Eleazer Twitchell.

JOSEPH AND NATHANIEL GREENWOOD

Joseph Greenwood also came from Sherborn to Dublin where he achieved some prominence. The Dublin town history has this to say:

"Mr. Greenwood, for twenty years or more next after [the incorporation of Dublin in 1771], was by far the most prominent business-man in the town. He was town-clerk in 1771, and from 1776 for seventeen years successively, during which time he was also selectman ten years, and town-treasurer some part of the time. He represented Dublin in the Convention of Delegates which met at Exeter, May 17, 1775. He was likewise a noted school-master. Furthermore, he was the first justice of the peace."

The only child of Joseph mentioned in the Dublin history is Ebenezer, who died here in 1780. The history suggests, but does not state, that Joseph had another son called Nathaniel by listing Nathaniel along with Joseph as living on lot 7, range V, and by putting Nathaniel's name under Joseph's in the list of emigrants.

The Bethel Town history is more specific:

"[Joseph] married his cousin, Sarah Greenwood, ... and moved to Sherbourn, Mass. He subsequently moved to Dublin, N.H., and later in life came to Bethel. They had one child, Nathaniel, who married in Dublin, Mary, daughter of Moses and

Sarah (Knap) Mason, and settled in Bethel. They lived for a time on the Moses A. Mason farm..." (Lapham, History of the Town of Bethel, Maine, 1891, reprinted 1981.)

The history of Farmington, Maine, where Nathaniel Greenwood spent his later years, has still more detail:

"[Joseph Greenwood and his wife] had three sons, Ebenezer, born in 1759, John, born Dec. 24, 1760, and Nathaniel, born Nov. 6, 1761. Nathaniel Greenwood married, June 24, 1782, Mary, daughter of Moses and Lydia (Knap) Mason. In 1793 he removed to Bethel, Me.,..." (Butler, A History of Farmington, Franklin County, Maine, 1885.)

So the answer to Bill Bauhan's original question - why did Joseph Greenwood move to Bethel, Maine? - seems to be that he went to join his son, Nathaniel. Nathaniel presumably went because his wife's relatives, the Moses Masons, were already in Bethel and provided him with a temporary place to live. Moses Mason was in Bethel because his sister, Martha, was married to Eleazer Twitchell. Eleazer had gone there as agent of his father, Joseph Twitchell, who, in addition to his Dublin connections, was one of the proprietors of Bethel.

- Nancy E. Campbell

I am grateful to William Bauhan for telling me about the connection between Dublin and Bethel and to the Bethel Historical Society and John Harris for the research materials.

An annotated version of this article is in the archives of the Dublin Historical Society.

- N.E.C.

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Archives Building

Bids were received from contractors in May, and at \$120,000, the low bid was substantially above expectations. Even with the \$50,000 pledge, it was felt that the balance was more than could be raised by private contributions at this time. Accordingly, after two years' work by a committee chaired by Dick Hammond, plans for an archives building at the back of the Town Hall parking lot have been shelved indefinitely.

Recent Accessions

A major gift from **Linda Van Wyk** consists of 29 audiotapes of oral history interviews with Dublin residents, along with 59 portrait photographs and 12 photographs of buildings on the National Register, all created by her between 1987 and 1989. This collection is important in preserving a record of

the present for future generations, and we are most grateful to Linda for entrusting it to the Society.

An interesting account book from Milton D. Mason's (later Scribner's and Burt's) store, dated 1897-1898, has been received from **Mr. and Mrs. Peter Felix**, proprietors of the Eagle Bookshop on West Street in Keene. Mr. Felix is a step-son of Elliott Allison and grew up in what is now Steve Avery's house on Main Street.

We are indebted to the **Bethel Historical Society** for a wealth of information about the migration of Dublin settlers to Maine. The archivist was fortunate in being able to obtain and donate a reprint of the Bethel town history. These materials were useful to Nancy Campbell in the preparation of her article in this issue.

Other welcome gifts have come from **Nancy Campbell**, the **Hancock Historical Society**, **John Harris** and **Katrina Maloney** of Marlborough.



DUBLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHOOLHOUSE

Exhibits are to be installed in the schoolhouse during August 1993. If you see the front doors open, please stop and watch the progress being made by the Schoolhouse Committee.

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grant in support of this effort, we now have some funds to help cover costs of materials and supplies. Applications for funding from other organizations are also in process.

If you'd like to help, we need more interviewers, transcribers and folks willing to be interviewed.

To volunteer or get more information, please contact **Bernie Vigneault** at 563-8972

C R E D I T S

This issue of the Dublin Historical Society Newsletter has been prepared and edited by Elliot Snow.

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