

THE HISTORY of BIRCH HARBOR

By Estelle Church

Grade VI

Birch Harbor 1904 – 1936

Tradition says the village of Birch Harbor derived its name from the birch growth that flourished there.

Among the early settlers recalled is Elisha Clark a brother of Stephen, who settled at Prospect Harbor. They came from Sippican, Mass. which is now divided and their section is known as Marion, made famous by Pres. Cleveland's summer residence "Gray Gables."

Thither also came Jonas Rice from Rochester, Joseph Bickford from Portsmouth and Oliver Pettee. The former residents of the latter is unknown but Mr. Pettee served in the Revolutionary War.

Of Elisha Clark's family now living is his granddaughter, Mrs. Phoebe Temple who lives in her father's (XJohn Clark) home at Birch Harbor, with her two sons Lewis and Ralph. The other two sons, Frank and Fred have homes nearby of the two daughters Celia Noonan is at Prospect Harbor and Mrs. Frank (Helen) Miller in Mass. Elisha Clark's daughter Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Bickford, had a son justice, who used to live in Birch Harbor, a veteran whaler. Fred Crane the great grandson of Elisha Clark, after passing several years in California, has returned to the Old Pine Tree State and taken his abode with his family on the Gilbert Simpson farm in East Sullivan. Thankful, the wife of Henty Hamilton, is living in Prospect Harbor. Alfred who now resides in the Old Clark house near the factory, Mrs. Coombs and Mrs. Johns, and the children of John Henry Hamilton, the other daughter Dordana, wife of Robert Perry, had six children, Thankful Gay, Mary (unmarried), Celia Bickford, Samuel, Thomas, and Robert who went away and was never heard from.

As near as can be recalled by the oldest resident the first schoolhouse was built about one hundred years (about 1830) ago on the northern side of the brook and western side of the road about sixty yards to the north of Mrs. Frank Temple's. It burned about thirty years ago (1906). The present building was built twenty-nine years ago (1907). The pupils numbered fifty-five.

The postoffice was established in 1880 March twenty sixth. The first postmistress was Flora W. Coombs.

October first, 1901, a Christian Endeavor was organized. The present number of members is eighteen, April twenty-sixth 1902, a church was completed, present Baptist Church.

The sea captains of the village are Nahum Fitzgerald, David Rice, Joseph Rice, Nahum Stevens, James Higgins, James Rice & Freeman Davis.

Fred Crane lived a few years in East Sullivan and then returned to California in the spring of 1911 where he & family have lived since until February 1936, when he died, but his 2 remaining boys Gilbert & Will and his wife are still living in Pasadena.

Of the old sea captains still living are James Rice 87 years, now living with his son Herbert O. Rice in the house where Melvin & Flora Coombs lived. He has another son Chester who married the widow of his brother Arthur Rice and a daughter Minnie who married Robert McKay of Bar Harbor and they have one daughter Zelma.

Arthur and Etta Colson Rice had a son Clinton Rice and a daughter Ruth now married to John Hooper at South Gouldsboro and they have a son Robert.

Herbert Rice has two sons and one daughter. Emerson married to Rosalie Bickford daughter of Herbert Bickford and they have two sons Errold and Emerson, Jr. and one girl Blanche. They are now living in Sorrento, Me., the other son James is married to Bernice Tracy of Winter Harbor and now live at Wonsqueak. Herbert's daughter Winifred married now to Dana Hodgkins at South Hancock they have two boys, Harvard and Herbert.

Nahum Fitzgerald died leaving a son Alphonzo who had two sons and two daughters. One daughter died in childhood

And Ethel married Henry Teal of Rockland. One son Leslie is living in Bangor, Me. And the other son Jesse is now living in Winter Harbor, married Gladys Rice daughter of David.

David Rice have five children Will, Laura, Lula, Helen and Gladys. Laura married Byron Hancock of Winter Harbor now living there. They have three girls, Lola who married Harvey Myrick they have three children Arland, Ruth and Alta. Blanche married Chester Wentworth they have four children, Arthur, Byron, Leroy and Nancy. Flossie (unmarried) is living with her parents at Winter Harbor. Lula married Roy Sargent of Winter Harbor they have a girl Edwina. Helen married in Stonington is now dead. Gladys married Jesse Fitzgerald. William is now living in the old house, married Nellie Pettee. Joseph Rice had seven children, Aaron,

William, Joseph Jr., Sarah Jane, Lydia Ann, John David, and Nathan. All are now dead.

Mrs. Phoebe Temple died in 1919 and her sons were Lewis and Ralph, Fred, Frank and William, daughters Adella and Celia.

Lewis married Mary Cowperthwaite and had three children Adella, Olga and Lewis Jr. He died in May, 1921.

Adella married Colon Church of Jonesport, Me. They had eight children Colon T., Estelle, Edison, Violace, Janice, Allen, Denton, Birchard. Janice and Allen died before one and half years old. Ralph married Carrie Cowperthwaite they are both dead but had no children. Fred married but wife unknown children died young. Frank married Nellie Winslow they had a daughter, Avis, and she married Frelon Nash son of Stillman Nash in Winter Harbor They remodeled the old John Clark house where they now live with three daughters Faye, Mildred, and Elva. Nellie died in Dec. 1947.

William married Lena Moore one daughter survived, Leitha, married Lawrence Joy of Westbay where they now live. They had two daughter Leola and Erma.

Adella married Frank Miller of this place they had a daughter Zida who died in her early thirties, and her parents are now dead.

Celia married John Noonan and lived in Prospect Harbor. They had three girls Delia, Amy and Zelma and a son Walter who died at the age of 21. Delia married Irving Farley lived in prospect and had one girl Celia. Amy married Harry Coffin had no children. Zelma married Justice Ray and had one daughter Fern now married to Roger Tibbets, they have two boys, Rodney and Leslie.

Olga daughter of Lewis Temple married Russell Robinson of Steuben they have three girls, Irene, Maxine and Betty and one son Russell Jr. Irene married Alvah Sprague and has six children. Maxine married Albert Morse and has two children. Betty is married to George Bartley no children. [2 boys – Brian & Barry]

Lewis Jr. married Alice Marshall of Bangor they live in Bunkers Harbor and have seven children Marshall, Shirley, Elizabeth, Bernice, Marylyn, Eleanor, and Fredrick. Shirley is married and lives in New Mexico. Elizabeth is married to Richard Bradstreet and have one daughter Donna May (Lissa, Danny, Mark, Anna).

Fred Crane nephew of Fred of California and son of Obed and Patience Crane lives in the house that was the first store built by Abail Clark. The house where Albert Winslow lived is where his granddaughter Alda now lives with her husband Arthur Cole they had two children Alden and Elvira. Alda's mother Grace of Cherryfield married Joe Winslow a brother of Nellie Temple. They also had a brother George.

The Justice Bickford place owned by a relative, Jerod Crane is ~~to~~⁵wn down and he has built a new house, Mrs. Crane is now dead and two of the girls, Vera & Nellie are dead, the others Shirley, Emma, Lottie are now married. Shirley married William Robinson lives at Dennysville and has one son William Jr. Lottie married Harry Cunningham first and now is married to John McNeil, both of Bar Harbor. Emma married Carleton Joy of Winter Harbor they have a son Maxwell who married Venita Sargent of Sorrento, they live in Connecticut and have two daughters Anita and Mary Ann and two sons, Murray & David.

Nahum Stevens and wife Celia are dead and their two daughters Mabel and Geneva live in the old home. Geneva married Alton Bunker of South Gouldsboro and had no children. Mabel married Roy Stanley of Isleford and they have a son Gordon married to Irene _____ of Mass. They have a daughter Joyce.

Freeman Davis and wife Lila Joy lived in the Zenis Joy house, her old home. They are both dead, he died first and she died about 10 years later around 1940. Clinton Rice son of Arthur and Etta has bought the house, he married Eva from Kennebunk, Maine. She had two sons by a previous marriage, Richard and Arvide Bradstreet.

Jonas Rice the father of James Rice, Herbert's father, Stephen Rice, Jonas brother, and Joseph's brother, had four children of which two boys are living, Frank and Elmer. Frank (died in 1930s) lived in the Fred Temple house married Anne (she died before Frank) from Canada and had two children Dora and Stephen. Dora married Ezra Myrick of South Gouldsboro and lives in her father's house they have four boys Elliott, Francie^{5?}, Laddie, Langdon. Elliott married Pauline Crane daughter of Fred and has two daughters Helen and Stephanie. Francis married Ilda Burke of Milbridge and has four children Methel, Mary Jane, Peggy and one son Michael. Laddie is unmarried. Langdon married Loretta Strout (Pep) from Steuben and they have two girls Anne and Alice Jane. Stephen married Eva from Bar Harbor, lives in Stonington and has no children.

Elmer Rice married Bess Bickford of Lower Harbor a part of Schoodic Point. They had seven children Cecile, Mildred, Edgar, Myra, Hazel, Raymond, and Unabelle ~~wo~~⁵ died when young. Ceclie married a Smith from Steuben and had two sons Dwinell and Lonnie. Since has remarried Fosset from Augusta where she

now lives and has three more children, Norman, Dickie and Athleen. Lonnie is married lives Steuben, Dwinell married Lillian Norton from Steuben and they had two children Irene & Wayne. Irene married William Follett of Steuben where she now lives. Wayne married Patricia Parkin of Steuben, Norman, Dickie and Althleen are all married and live in or around Augusta, near their mother. Mildred married Thurlow Young and she had three children Margaret, Cobb, Stillman. Then she married Alvah Dyer and had Lena (Tootie), Scott, Paul & Peter.

Raymond & Edgar (Dick?) married and live in Stonington. Hazel married Grafton Dyer of Gouldsboro, has one child Corinn (Lassie). Myra married a Marsten, had - Bessie, married a Duane – had - \Kathleen, Agnes, & Rena, then was married to Briggs from South Gouldsboro, had Earle, Jr., Eva, Bernard, Asiel, Abial, Carolyn.