

## Gould Property

by Diane R. O'Brien

A hidden landscape lies within the lovely forest covering the newly-acquired Gould property on the Ducktrap River in Lincolnville. Most obvious are the roads, bordered by stone walls. Openings in the walls lead to more woods; a little searching reveals several cellar holes, one clearly from a big barn. An old road, barely discernible in the thick undergrowth, leads to massive stone bridge abutments on the banks of the river, but the bridge is long gone. People obviously lived here, but who were they?

During the years of the Revolutionary War the first settlers in Lincolnville followed the common practice of building their log cabins behind the hills so their chimney smoke wouldn't be visible to British ships passing in the Bay. It was not unusual for the British to raid coastal farms for livestock; sometimes the farmer might be imprisoned over at Castine as well. Two of those first families living "behind the hills" were the Millers and the Goulds. Sometime near the turn of the 19th century young Joseph Gould married Hope Miller, the first white girl born in Lincolnville. Over the next years Hope gave birth to twelve children; ten of those grew up to marry. At some point the family probably moved from the rough log cabin of Revolutionary War days to a real frame house on the front side of the hill overlooking the big pond (Pitcher) and the bay beyond.

According to the 1850 census one of those twelve children, Noah M. was living with his wife Rachel and his widowed mother, Hope. The 1859 map of Waldo County shows every house and who lived in it; on the site of those extensive cellar holes is "H.M. Gould" -- Noah and Rachel must have been living in Hope Miller Gould's house, at the fork in the road leading to the old bridge, perhaps the very house she'd lived

in as a young wife. Noah and Rachel had nine children. A search of the old Hills Cemetery on the nearby Vansickle Road presents a mystery. In 1859 Noah died, as did two of his sons, both in their twenties. Was there an epidemic, a terrible accident? The record, so far, is silent. But we do know that in that same year, 1859, Rachel gave birth to her last child, Oscar. Noah's mother, Hope, "widowed, 81 years old" was still listed as living with the widowed Rachel and several young children in the 1860 census. We can only imagine Rachel's struggles to raise the youngest of her children alone and care for her elderly mother-in-law.

The 1900 census lists 41 year old Oscar Gould, 23 year old Lizzie and their 1 year old daughter. (Their age difference can be explained by the fact that he lost his first wife in childbirth -- they'd had three children.) Oscar and Lizzie eventually had eight children, four boys and four girls. Oscar was a farmer, working his own land and helping out at neighbors; he's remembered as a hard worker. In 1923, and here the stories differ, Oscar was killed, either in a sawmill accident, or "gored by a bull." Lizzie lived on, finishing the job of raising their children, working out occasionally to help an elderly neighbor, until she died in 1938. She was a talented seamstress, making clothes for her own and friends' children as well.

The house, "a lovely old fashioned farmhouse", was "all used up" by the 1930's with worn down thresholds and "scooped out" floors. No one seems to know what happened to it after Lizzie's death, except it stood empty, and then was probably torn down. The rest of the Gould neighborhood included the Hills School, moved down to Route 52 and used as a garage, and the old Cilley farm. The latter caught fire and one woman remembers standing on the lawn with her family and seeing the glow in the sky and "knowing someone was burning down, but not who." The place was flat by the time the Belfast fire department got there. Local fire departments in Lincolnville and Northport didn't become active until after the 1947 fires. The present Ararat Farm is on

the site of the old Jason Hills place, a showplace for the area in its time. Jason Hills had a store and post office below the house known as Grange Corner. A dozen or so cellar holes are in the vicinity of the Van Cycle Road, completing the community which once included the Gould land.

Still to be explored and understood is the site of the Gould Mill located on the far side of the bridge abutments down on the Ducktrap. Perhaps another river channel was hand dug here, for the mill is located on the edge of an island in the river; only one side of this island seems to be the normal river bed. Further research may turn up some record of ownership for the mill and the years it operated. At this point a single photograph of an old sawmill labeled "Gould Mill 1909" and the actual dam and foundations stones are the only evidence of its existence.

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