



1888

Bethel Journal

The 1888 Bethel Journal

1888 Journal



1888 At a Glance

"West Bethel is too important corner of the world to be left unnoticed in our County paper."

"Bethel, the seaport!"
(October 1888)

The Rumford steamer made a trip (up the Androscoggin River) to Bethel Monday P.M. and returned immediately.

Bethel's Romance of the Year.

Mrs. Susie Farnsworth, of Bethel, was married to Dr. J.G. Gehring of Cleveland, Ohio, Saturday, October 20th. They started on their wedding tour immediately to visit his home in Cleveland,

The year was bad for raising sweet corn, potatoes and hay. Town reporters followed Wolff and Reesing Company's corn canning operation closely each year in the fall. It was a barometer of the year's crop success. In 1888, only one-fourth the usual amount of corn was canned. Early frost damaged much of the crop. Added to the poor corn crop report potatoes rotted from wet and cold weather. Hay crops fell short of expectations.

Annual Bethel Town Meeting was held at Rialto Hall on Main Street, March 5, 1888. In September, Bethel voters went for Burleigh for Maine governor 316 to Putnam's 232 votes; and voted for a Republican candidate, Dingley, 317, versus, Allen, 232, to be the Congressional representative.

The Bethel Chair Factory, leased by J.H. Barrows, continued to build its manufactory business to the satisfaction of local supporters. The Bethel Chair Company was

incorporated with Bethel men elected to the new board of directors.

Public water system: William Skillings and Judge Enoch Foster led efforts to find a pure water and fire protection supply. They brought in expert help from the Boston metropolitan water system.

Gilead: The largest fire that ever occurred in this vicinity occurred (in early June) with

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the burning of Locke & Hastings mill up Wild River. Loss was about \$8,000 and owners are undecided about rebuilding. At Bethel depot, George Brown of Danvers, Mass. loaded two cars with spruce spars which he sent to Boston. They were cut in Albany and measured about 60 feet in length

Annual Log Drive: Gilead: The river is at a good driving pitch and the logs are running very thick. Some large jams are happening on the heads of the island. Newry: Man killed breaking a jam on Sunday River last Sunday. Bethel: The Androscoggin River is over-flowing its banks and logs are running rapidly. The main drive on the Androscoggin River passed through town on Saturday, May 19th. Bethel's "drive HQ" camped at the mouth of Alder River.

The Journal

1-3-1888:

Locke Mills. Ella Sanborn stamped 550 gross of spools in 10 hours- a record breaker (at Tebbetts' Mfg. Co.). Tebbetts' Mfg Co. has started new saw mill- best in county – saws wood into strips.

East Bethel: First snow came on December 28.

Bethel: reported a foot of snow then rain.

South Bethel: E. E. Chase hauling dry wood to Locke Mills to ship to Lewiston. Bethel: J. H. Barrows contracted for 100,000 board feet of oak for Joshua Saunders of Waterford. He also bought the birch and maple of S. G. Bean land in Albany. He recently installed a dowel lathe- birch into dowels.

1-10-1888:

Albany. J. W. Dresser has contracted to haul four hundred cords of birch for J.J. McAllister. South Bethel: R.J. Virgin has purchased the saw mill of Henry Goddard. The mill will be good business addition and offers him better control of the water. Bethel: Large quantities of wood being hauled to this village-taking advantage of good roads-much poplar being shipped from our depot to Berlin and Yarmouth.

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1-17-1888:

Bethel. Schools in District 15 (Bethel) closed due to chickenpox; Mr. Charles Valentine and Mary Chapman teachers. The Rialto Hall was largely crowded due to I.O.O.F (Odd Fellows) installation. At the close of exercises, one hundred were on hand to enjoy dancing. Mrs. (N. T.) True and her daughter, Mrs. (Marion Susie) Farnsworth, have gone to Florida for the winter.

Albany: Mr. Barrows of the chair factory has purchased different lots of hardwood: birch, yellow birch, rock maple, red oak – from lots in Albany – three men are hauling to the Bethel mills.

1-24-1888.

Bethel: Coldest week so far – 28 degrees below zero. W. E. Skillings and his wife have gone to Florida. Mr. Skillings will stay a few weeks and return.

East Bethel. The Holts are cutting and drawing poplar and loading it onto cars at Locke Mills.

South Bethel. The water wheel at J. R. Virgins' dowel mill froze up on Wednesday night and it took some time to thaw it out.

1-31-1888.

Bethel: A foot of snow fell Wednesday night. The mail due at Bethel Station on Thursday morning did not arrive until 8 PM Friday. Carrier had to use a hand sled to get it to the office from depot. High wind on Friday blew down the smoke stack of the chair factory – badly broken.

Newry: Steam mills at the Corner and at the Branch are ready to start sawing next Monday. It was reported that a large amount of birch has been yarded. All areas around Bethel reported temperatures in the minus 20's, foot of more of snow, high winds as part of a western blizzard that came through the area.

February

Bethel: First week of February has been mild and pleasant – pulp being hauled to the depot and long lumber to the mills. February 1, 11 AM: violent shock of earth quake felt in Bethel – stove covers rattled and dishes on shelves shook. “The blockade is raised and business has revived; much oak is being hauled to the chair factory.”

Albany: J. J. McAllister started his steam mill but had unexpected breakdown. George Cummings is hauling dry hardwood to Bethel – sells at \$3.50 per cord.

2-14-1888.

Bethel. Gould Academy closed the winter term on Wednesday. Knights of Pythias gave a ball at Ideal Hall Friday evening with 45 couples taking the dance floor; 35 couples dined at The Elms, E. E. Bedell, Proprietor. Chandler's Band, Portland, furnished music. West Bethel. Ed Bell met with a serious logging accident – load got away from him. A. S. Bean's mill yard is filling fast; birch for spool stock and lumber for lathe rooms.

Newry: both steam mills are running.

2-21-1888

Bethel: The paper's correspondent E. P. Kimball reports having completed her 54th school term. In the past year she received \$160.50.

2-28-1888

Newry: the North Newry Sewing Circle had a supper at the Poplar Hotel – had oysters and pastry meal.

Bethel: Gould Academy's spring term opens February 28. Many are expected from out of town. Large attendance anticipated.

Middle Intervale: oyster and pastry supper – proceeds to assist church services.

South Bethel: R.J. Virgin has sold his spool lumber to Mr. Tebbetts, Locke Mills.

Albany: Amos G. Bean is hauling his spool lumber to Skillings' mill in Bethel.

March

3-5-1888

Bethel Annual Town Meeting: The voters passed over the article to build a town lock-up.

3-6-1888

Gould Academy opened its spring session with 75 scholars.

East Bethel: The lyceum on the evening of February 24, 1888, was very interesting. The debate question: "Resolved. The town system of schools is preferable to the district system." It was decided in the negative. The selectmen have been visiting all school houses in town to appraise them.

Newry: Thurston of the Branch mill is now setting up his recently arrived new boiler.

3-13-1888.

Mason: A. S. Bean's steam mill is running full time – five or six teams are hauling in birch and hardwood.

3-20-1888

East Bethel: snowbound again – mail delayed two days (about 15 inches of snow reported in Albany).

Bethel: Bethel Dramatic Club presented “Our Folks” in Rialto Hall.

3-27-1888.

Newry: potatoes going to market – price in Bethel is 70 cents per bushel.

West Bethel: “West Bethel is too important corner of the world to be left unnoticed in our County paper.”

April

4-3-1888

Bethel: George Brown of Danvers, Mass. has loaded two cars with spruce spars which he sends to Boston. They are cut in Albany and are about 60 feet in length.

Newry: Logging is about done for this season. The people in this section want a corn factory at the Corner.

4-10-1888

Albany: Stephen Libby thinks his new turbine is doing good business. Circular saw makes 1735 RPM. There are 400 cords of short lumber and 100,000 feet of long lumber to saw.

South Bethel: Tapping trees is order of the day.

Bethel: The Congregational Church Sewing Circle had “an old fashioned school” at Rialto Hall.

4-24-1888

Locke Mills: S. S. Felt has tapped 1,200 trees – doing large syrup business.

May

5-1-1888

Bethel: Saturday, April 28, 1888 temperature reached 35 degrees – highest in 1888. [On January 2, 2005, the high temperature was 39.9 degrees F.] Ice left the Androscoggin River on April 26. About 40 men from Berlin, N. H. left Bethel for Grafton to drive logs down the Cambridge to the lake (Umbagog). Some 40 men are at the headwaters of Sunday River waiting for conditions to float logs. Hay is selling Bethel at \$12 – 15 per

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ton.

5-8-1888

Newry: Man killed breaking a jam on Sunday River last Sunday. May Day Ball at Poplar Tavern Tuesday evening well attended.

5-15-1888

Bethel: "E. C. Chamberlain and family have moved from Portland to the Alphin Twitchell place, Bethel, where he is superintending the building of his house at Mayville."

Gilead: The river is at a good driving pitch and the logs are running very thick. Some large jams are happening on the heads of the island. The largest fire that ever occurred in this vicinity occurred with the burning of Locke & Hastings mill up Wild River. Loss was about \$8,000 and owners are undecided about rebuilding.

Bethel: The Androscoggin River is overflowing its banks and logs are running rapidly. Many buildings on Bethel Hill are being painted and spruced up.

5-22-1888

Bethel: The logs are out of Sunday River and the drive of Bean & Wilson is passing Bethel this (Saturday) morning. The body of George B. Farnsworth who died in Boston about a year ago was brought to Bethel Thursday for burial. He married a daughter (Susie M.) of Dr. N. T. True. His widow bought a lot in Greenwood Cemetery, Bethel, and laid him by the side of her father. She will erect a monument to his memory.

The A.L.T. Company has put another steam boat in Lake Umbagog. They took it from Bethel to the lake with fourteen horses. The company will run a daily stage from Bethel to their hotel in Cambridge at the foot of the lake.

South Bethel: little farming has been done this week due to wet weather.

Grafton: ice has gone out of Lake Umbagog.

5-29-1888

Gould Academy closed a successful session with exhibitions. There was a prize debate on the topic of organized labor and strikes. A prize of \$10. was put up by A. E. Herrick, Esq.. A Mr. Elliott of Rumford won the prize. An enjoyable reunion was held at Rialto Hall.

East Bethel: School opened May 14; teacher: Miss Arvilla Grover; Z. N. Bartlett boards the teacher.

June

6-5-1888

Newry: steam mills expected to run into late summer to cut all their birch. Bethel: the farmers have improved this past week in getting their seed into the ground.

Albany: "Never so late as now (to get seeds into the ground) is the word all around."

6-12-1888

Gilead: The largest fire that ever occurred in this vicinity occurred with the burning of Locke & Hastings mill up Wild River. Loss was about \$8,000 and owners are undecided about rebuilding.

Bethel: The Androscoggin River is overflowing its banks and logs are running rapidly. Many buildings on Bethel Hill are being painted and spruced up. Most of the sweet corn in Bethel is planted by machine. The Eclipse planter is used. It drops and covers the seed and fertilizer at the rate of one acre an hour.

Newry: Thurston, of the Branch, is having his spool strips hauled. Moore and Kilgore have each a team working for him. Eli Stearns started for Bridgton today with a carload of fat oxen.

6-19-1888

Bethel: Deacon A. W. Valentine died at age 47. A deacon in the 2d Congregational Church, a leader of the Mt. Abram Lodge, I.O.O.F., and an active member of the Bethel Grange. The road machine in charge of J. S. Bartlett and I. G. Kimball with four heavy horses is putting the roads in good repair at one-half the expense of the old way of repairing.

Mason: D. T. Bean was suddenly taken sick. Dr. Twaddle was telegraphed for. Apple trees are in full bloom.

6-26-1888

Bethel: V. V. Whitney of Lancaster, N. H., has opened his marble shop at Bethel – today he is setting a monument in West Paris.

Gilead: A champion road machine has been on trial here from an agent in Oxford.

July

7-3-1888

Bethel: the boarding houses are all in order waiting for the summer visitors. The Misses Locke, four miles from the village have put on new carriages and horses, in the charge of an experienced driver, Charles DeMerritt. They accommodate about sixty guests. S. B. Twitchell (Mayville), H. R. Godwin (North Bethel) and Mrs. A. W. Valentine are fitting

up.



The Valentine Farm in winter. This farm was also a summer farm inn operated by Mrs. A.W. Valentine, and later by her son Charles. It was one of Bethel's highly regarded summer boarding houses for vacationers. These buildings were located on the Northwest Bethel Road (North Road in 2006) less than one-half mile west of the Bethel Regional Airport in 2006. Photo courtesy of the Bethel Historical Society.

7/3/1888:

Bethel: The Bethel correspondent for the Oxford Democrat reported that on Monday (July 2, 1888) at "about 5 AM a dense cloud of smoke was seen to rise over Mayville and in a few moments the large barn of Samuel B. Twitchell was discovered in flames." Quick response by townspeople saved other buildings including the Twitchell house from catching fire but the barn and most of its contents – about 15 tons of hay, two carriages, harnesses, farming tools, etc. - were lost. The dollar loss was estimated at \$3,500 with insurance coverage of \$2,500. Cause of the fire was unknown.

The Grand Trunk Railroad is treating their depot to a coat of paint, outside and inside. They have erected a baggage shed to protect baggage as it is taken from the cars in stormy weather.

7/10/1888:

Bethel: The Democrat reported that S.B. Twitchell had decided not to rebuild his barn until after haying, having secured storage for his hay near his farm. (Also, in the same edition of the paper, it was reported that a nearby set of farm buildings (in Mayville) be-

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longing to Dr. John W. Twaddle and occupied by Nathaniel Barker had completely burned only a week after the Twitchell's barn was lost.) The hay crop in Bethel is expected to be below average (due to weather conditions).

7-17-1888

Bethel: The entire Bethel area was hit by a very severe thunderstorm on July 13 and July 14. On July 14 the noontime temperature was only 40 degrees. The lowest temperature seen was 38 degrees and it was the coldest day in the memory of even the oldest residents. Rain that fell in this storm was very welcome and broke a long dry spell but the very high winds damaged corn and hay that was growing in fields all over the area.)
Newry: Thurston has finished sawing at the Corner and will turn dowels for the rest of the season. There is more talk of a corn factory at the Corner – and maybe a butter factory is also being discussed.

7-24-1888

Bethel: Prof. William Chapman and family of New York are spending the summer with his sister, Mrs. Jacob Horton, of Mayville. Three good hay days this week.

7-31-1888

Bethel Hill: W. E. Skillings (Steam Mill Company owner), Judge Foster, and Samuel D. Philbrook (cattle dealer and later President of the Bethel Savings Bank) accompanied by Albert Stanwood of Waterford have been investigating the general possibilities of supplying Bethel Hill with pure water and supply of water in case of fire. They have a natural basin in Chapman Brook about three miles from The Bethel House and one hundred fifty feet above the level of the Common on Bethel Hill. Mr. Stanwood was for many years connected with the water supply system of Boston. He thinks that the supply is sufficient and the intervening ground is suitable for digging and laying pipe. An early effort will be made to obtain a charter and enter in earnest upon the work.

Other news comments: St. John Hastings, Benjamin R. Bryant and William Mason use hayforks which they consider a great advantage. S. D. Philbrook uses a tedder which he considers the most valuable article in his haying machinery.

August

8-7-1888

Bethel village is alive with summer visitors; many bring their own teams.

8-14-1888

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Mason: dull weather has slowed haying and Mason people are in the mountains in search of blueberries. They have not yet acquired the habit of scouring their s like as the Newry people do. Corn is growing fast.

All areas complain of poor weather for haying.

Gilead: Rob Hastings has bought out his partner, Mr. Locke, in the mill up Wild River and will continue business alone; he will begin soon on a long lumber mill to replace the one that was burned in the spring.

8-21-1888:

Bethel: the shock of earthquake was felt in Bethel – “it sounded like distant musketry”. The Whitney brothers have opened a marble shop near the depot in Bethel where they are prepared to furnish all kinds of monumental work.

West Bethel: The Village Improvement Soc. held a dance and social at Bean’s Hall on the 8th; able to add \$40.to their treasury.

8-28-1888

Gilead: Robert Hasting has some twenty men at work on his new mill which is going up rapidly.

Bethel: The fall term of Gould Academy commences Sept. 4th, Tuesday, in charge of A. C. Dresser, A.B., with an able corps of assistants. Mrs. Abiel Chandler (wife of Bethel correspondent) opens her house to school boards at \$2.50 a week.

September

9-4-1888

Newry: weather continues to threaten frost. There is talk of a new birch mill going up on Sunday River. West Bethel: A. S. Bean has two four horse teams hauling spool stock from Mason to West Bethel with two trips daily. Haying slowed; struggling with the weather; not four good hay days in the last four weeks.

Bethel: Friday evening the citizens of Bethel Hill, Mayville, and Steam Mill Village assembled at Rialto Hall and took steps towards supplying these villages with pure water. A committee of three composed of W. E. Skillings, G. A. Hastings and S. D. Philbrook were chosen to make preliminary surveys, estimate of costs and report to a future meeting. The citizens are in earnest in this matter and before the expiration of another year hop to have a full supply of pure water for all purposes.

9-11-1888

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Bethel: Thursday night ice formed as thick as window glass and the crop of sweet corn is ruined. Political rallies- largely attended by both parties – very spirited. The Republicans had the largest rally ever at Rialto Hall. Hon. Nelson Dingley spoke to 1,500 people in the hall with another overflow crowd of 500 outside – eager crowds from Norway and Paris attended – two bands and marches of up to 400 paraded through the principal streets.

Newry: The corn factory has begun operations at Bethel but a large part of the corn is not sufficiently matured to pick.

9-18-1888

Bethel: The excitement of the election, severe frost, damage to corn and beans are the topics of the day at Bethel. About a fourth of the usual crop of corn will be canned. Maj. G. A. Hastings mistakenly took a dose of poison thinking it was medicine and came near to losing his life. His stomach was pumped to remove the poison before it had assimilated with blood. S. D. Philbrook is sending his potatoes to Boston from the field – he has two car loads to sell.

Bethel: voting results: For Governor: Burleigh: 316 and Putnam: 232 and some scatter other votes. For Congressman: Dingley: 317 and Allen: 232. For State (?) Senators: Read: 309; Wright: 318; Moulton: 231 and Irish: 235 Edwin C. Burleigh was elected Governor and served from Jan 1889 to Jan 1893. Dingley won re-election to Congress.

9-25-1888

West Bethel: “Five lowery days of weather is moldering our frost bitten corn fodder in the fields”. Several cases of typhoid fever reported in town – people cannot be too careful in providing pure water the families at all seasons of the year. Newry: lots of grain lying on the ground – potatoes rotting.

Bethel: Eighth day of continuous rains –corn fodder is ruined. Wolfe and Reesing have put up about one-fourth the usual amount of sweet corn and beans. S. D. & J. M. Philbrook bought 300 head of cattle in Vermont that they will have for sale in Bethel the first week in October.

October

10-2-1888

South Bethel: School will begin Monday October 1st. Farmers are busy digging potatoes – rotting badly in some places.

West Bethel: Continued bad weather rotting potatoes.

10-9-1888

Bethel: Elections in the Bethel Chair Factory company resulted in the following slate of officers being elected: Pres. J. H. Barrows; Secretary and Treasurer, H. G. Brown; Directors: J. H. Barrows, H. G. Brown, Calvin Bisbee, E. C. Rowe, J. U. Purington . Other items: Dexter Cummings, Isaac Crocker and J. L. Chapman are sending large quantities of birch edgings to Portland and Lewiston.

Newry: Saddleback and Puzzle Mountain were white with snow Wednesday morning. A number of snow squalls yesterday people hurrying to get apples picked.

10-16-1888

East Bethel: The thrashing machine has completed its work in the neighborhood.

Bethel: The Rumford steamer made a trip to Bethel Monday P.M. and returned immediately. Our correspondent exclaimed "Bethel the seaport."

South Bethel: The threshing machine is making its annual trip through the neighborhood.

10-23-1888

Bethel: The death of Andrew Jackson of Newry removes one of our oldest and trusted engineers from the G. T. R. The village schools in charge of Henry Hastings, a student in Bowdoin College, and son of St. John Hastings and Miss Mary Chapman in District No Fifteen and Miss Perkins in District Thirty promises to be a grand success.

Newry: Logging operations commenced in Riley Plantation last week. The roads are in a fearful state everywhere almost equal to mud time in the spring.

10-30-1888

Bethel: Mrs. Susie Farnsworth, of Bethel, was married to Dr. John George Gehring of Cleveland, Ohio, Saturday the 20th last. They started on their wedding tour immediately to visit his home in Cleveland, Ohio. And: J. W. Penney of Mechanics Falls has been adding improvements to the engine in the mill of Woodbury and Purington.

November

11-6-1888

Bethel: S. B. Twitchell is putting the foundation for a barn to replace the one burned last summer.

South Bethel: Our annual squirrel hunt came off Saturday, October 27. The side of R. J. Virgin won by over 400 points. Oysters were served the evening – bills paid for by the defeated party.

11-13-1888

West Bethel: A. S. Bean is moving and rebuilding his mill in Albany putting in water power instead of steam – previously he had used steam.

How local towns voted in the Presidential Election for Benjamin Harrison, Republican, and Grover Cleveland, Democrat:

| Town | Harrison | Cleveland |
|---------|----------|-----------|
| Bethel | 315 | 204 |
| Newry | 42 | 55 |
| Andover | 118 | 50 |
| Gilead | 62 | 41 |
| Mason | 18 | 8 |

Newry: If as they say Harrison is elected it will be glory enough for one day.

11-27-1888

Bethel: E C. Chamberlain is moving into his new house in Mayville.

Gilead: A foot of snow to go with the cold snap.

Newry: Mail only comes tri-weekly now.

December

12-4-1888

Bethel: The fall term of Gould Academy closed with an exhibition at Ideal Hall. Messrs J. A. Thurston and Isaac Morrill received a 40 hp boiler and engine from Erie, PA Iron Works Friday; they moved them to Riley Plantation with ten horses. Eight inches of snow fell then rain took most of it.

West Bethel: A squirrel hunt occupied the whole week.

12-11-1888

Albany: The schoolhouse at the Corner will soon be ready for occupation.

12-25-1888

Bethel: Gould Academy commenced the winter term December 18 with 50 scholars. – Staff included Prof. Dresser, assisted by Linscott and Miss Wingate. Bethel Chair Company monthly payroll was reported at \$1,000 a month. Bethel Masons had a ball at Ideal

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Hall and supper at The Bethel House, W. F. Lovejoy, Proprietor.

The Androscoggin Water Power Co. team passed through Bethel going to Gilead lumber camps. They take their grain and feed from the store of Woodbury and Purington.

West Bethel: The Androscoggin closed on the 14th – iced over- good bridge to cross on until April.

(Front page display along with other attorneys)

Addison E. Herrick

Attorney-At-Law

Bethel, Maine

(Ad continued to appear each week)

Advertisement

Portland & Boston Steamers

First class steamers of the old reliable line.

Leave Franklin Wharf, Portland, every evening

(Sunday's excepted) at 7 o'clock arriving in Boston in season for earliest trains to Lowell, Lynn, Waltham, Providence, Worcester, Fall River, Springfield, New York, etc.

Through tickets to Boston at principal R. R. Stations.

J. F. Liscomb, Gen. Agent

From a correspondent in Gilead:

Anyone in want of a good cultivator should call on E. E. Kimball & Co.

They have the Planet Jr. for sale.

The Caligraph

(Illustration of the caligraph - like a typewriter with a roll, maybe three inches in diameter and the length of the machine's width was mounted on top).

“Can be seen in operation at Paris and South Paris offices of W. J. Wheeler and George M. Atwood who are agents of the American Writing Machine Co.”

Part III

Town Reports

Town Officers for 1888

Selectmen: Albert W. Grover, Charles M. Kimball and Eben S. Kilborn

Clerk: Leander T. Barker

Treasurer: Oliver H. Mason

Superintending School Committee: A. W. Valentine; S. S. Abbott; O'Neil R. Hastings.

Tax Collector: T.H. Chapman

Auditor: Enoch Pratt

Moderator: Elbridge G. Wheeler

Town Meeting Held at: Rialto Hall, March 5, 1888

Town Report Printed at: Oxford Democrat, Paris, Maine

10. Propose to build and keep a lockup and raise money for that purpose.
11. How much money should be appropriated for Bethel Library?
17. To accept appraisal of school houses.
24. To see what method should be adopted for collecting bridge tolls.

Selectmen will be in session at Rialto Hall at 9AM on day of town meeting.

Officers:

Selectmen elected for 1888: Albert W. Grover, Charles M. Kimball and Eben Kilborn

Clerk: Leander T. Barker

Treasurer: Oliver H. Mason

Tax Collector: T. H. Chapman

School Committee: A. W. Valentine; S. S. Abbott (not in Bethel at time of town meeting); O'Neil R. Hastings.

Auditor: Enoch Pratt

Valuation:

Real Estate: \$577,505

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Personal: 134,072
Total: \$711,577

Poll tax: 546 people @ \$2.00

Total Appropriations: \$11,765.65 (Note: this was an 8.9% increase over the 1887 amount.)

Financial Activity:

Expenses:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Snow bills allowed at special town meeting | \$ 704.69 |
| Rebuilding Alder River Bridge*..... | 634.81 |
| Repair roads and bridges | 3,055.17 |
| Town Officer bills for 1887..... | 765.13 |
| Poor (on farm, not on farm, insane)** | 1,044.85 |
| G.A.R. (Brown Post) Appropriation..... | 50.00 |

* Rebuilding Alder River Bridge: The cost was \$634.81 and the town paid out \$234.81 more than had been appropriated.

** Expenses of the poor: The total expense of the poor (on the farm, not on farm and insane) : \$1,044.85.

The poor farm superintendent was paid \$322.09. There were four inmates at the farm; one died during the year.

Assets and Liabilities:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Liabilities:..... | \$32,119.75 |
| Resources:..... | 21,647.20 |

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Indebtedness..... | \$ 10,472.55 |
| Due on bridge rent | 45.00 |
| Due from Chair Factory.... | 297.50 |

The Bethel Toll Bridge was rented to A. S. Chapman for one year, March 7, 1887,

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for the sum of \$900.00 to be paid in installments to the treasurer.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Town Liquor Agency: Cash sales | \$1,748.89 |
| Inventory: | 198.48 |
| Net profit..... | 284.23 |

Corn factory leasing notes:

Wolff and Reesing leased for \$200. a year the buildings and two acres on east side of road (corn factory);
also leased is a house and 20 acres on west side of road with the lease expiring May 1, 1890.

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

To T. H. Chapman, a constable of the town of Bethel, in the County of Oxford, Greeting:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the said town of Bethel, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at Rialto Hall in said town, on the fifth day of March, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to act on the following articles, to wit:

1st. To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting. 2d. To choose a clerk for the ensuing year. 3d. To hear and act upon the reports of the several town officers. 4th. To choose all other necessary town officers. 5th. To see if the town will grant and raise such sums of money as may be necessary to repair roads and bridges for the ensuing year; and whether it shall be assessed wholly in money or a part in a labor tax. 6th. To see if the town will grant and raise such sums of money as may be necessary for the maintenance and support of schools, and the poor, and to defray all other town charges for the ensuing year. 7th. To see if the town will vote to open the road leading from Bird Hill, so called, to Locke's Mills, as laid out by the County Commissioners last year, and raise a sum of money sufficient to build the same. 8th. To see if the town will grant and raise the sum of twenty-five dollars to pay the land damage awarded to Osmyn Smith on the road leading from his house to Absalom Farewell's. 9th. To see if the town will grant and raise the sum of fifty dollars (\$50) to be expended under the direction of Brown Post, No. 84, G. A. R., for the proper observance of Memorial Day. 10th. To see if the town will vote to build a lock-up and raise and appropriate a sum of money sufficient for that pur-

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pose. 11th. To see if the town will grant and raise a sum of money for the benefit of the Bethel Library. 12th. To see what sum of money the town will vote to grant and raise toward paying the town debt. 13th. To see if the town will vote to authorize its treasurer to renew outstanding notes or hire money to pay the same. 14th. To establish the rate per cent, for collecting taxes for the ensuing year. 15th. To receive and allow accounts. 16th. To see if the town will accept of a change in the road leading from a point near R. D. Cummings's house to a point near the cemetery on Bird Hill, as made by the selectmen, and grant and raise a sum of money to pay damages on same. 17th. To see if the town will accept of the appraisal of its school houses, as made by the selectmen, and grant and raise a sum of money to pay for the whole or a part of the same. 18th. To see if the town will vote to raise money for repairs on school houses, and how much. 19th. To see if the town will vote to instruct some one to keep the school houses insured. 20th. To see what method the town will ~~adopt to collect~~ toll on the Bethel toll bridge. 21st. To see if the town will vote to assess a tax on dogs.

The selectmen will be in session at Rialto Hail, at nine o'clock, A. M., on the day of town meeting, to revise the list of voters.

Given under our hand this the 20th day of February, A. D 1888

G. P. BEAN, A. W. GROVER, C. M. KIMBALL Selectmen. (for 1887 responsible for the 1888 Warrant)

Part IV

School Reports

The Bethel Superintending School Committee for the 1888 school year:

E.G. Wheeler and J. Gayton Abbott.

Continued on next page

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| District | Location | Terms | Scholars/Term | Teachers |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---|
| | | | | |
| 3 | N. Bethel | S-F-W | 11-11-11 | Gertrude Chapman (S,F), Edward Wheeler |
| 4 | Mayville | S-F-W | 10-10-10 | Maggie Libby (S), Bertha Grover (F,W) |
| 5-29 | North West Bethel | S-F-W | 11-10-12 | Bessie Harden, Blanche Trask and Maggie Libby |
| 8 | East Bethel | S-F-W | 17-18-22 | Arvilla Grover (S,F) and George Rich (W) |
| 10 | Swan Hill | S-F-W | 9-13-14 | Blanche Smith (S), E.R. Ab- bott (F,W) |
| 9-11-12 | Middle Inter- val | S-F-W | 16-12-9 | Flora Bartlett - all terms |
| 13 | | S-F-W | 15-14-9 | Martha Gibson (S,F) and Edmund Clark (W) |
| 14 | Chandler Hill | S-F-W | 10-11-13 | Bessie Hammons, Lillian Hamlin and Stella Bowker |
| 15 G | Bethel, Broad St | S-F-W | 33 | Malcolm Bean, Charles Hastings, Mary Chapman |
| 15 P | Bethel | S-F-W | 31 | Mary Chapman,(S,F) and Grace Goddard |
| 16 | Steam Mill | S-F-W | 16-14-15 | Maggie Libby - all terms |
| 17-18 | West Bethel | S-F-W | 35-33-22 | Flora Wheeler (S,F) and W.L. Nickerson (W) |
| 19 | Milton | S-F-W | 32-22-20 | E.R. Abbott (S) and James Hutchins (F,W) |
| 21 | Bird Hill | S-F-W | 7-6-6 | Edith Chase (S,F) and Minnie Wheeler (W) |
| 22 | South Bethel | S-F-W | 12-13-16 | Alice Chapman (S) and George Perham (F,W) |
| 24 | Grover Hill Rd | S-F-W | 9-7-6 | Jennie Rich (S) and Addie Farwell (F,W) |
| 25 | Flat Road | S-F-W | 11-8 | Edith Wheeler, Bessie Harden and Mary Barker |
| 26 | East Bethel Rd | S-F-W | 8-9 | Vertie Cushman, Blanche Smith and Arthur Grover |
| 27 | Hapgood's District | S-F-W | 11-15-15 | Ida Haselton (S,F) and Flora Wheeler (W) |
| 28 | Grover Hill - South | F-W | 6-5 | Lizzie Grover and Edith Wheeler |
| 30 | Bethel, Me- chanic St. | S-F-W | 30- ²⁰ 36-35 | Lillian Brown (S) and Emma Perkins (F,W) |

Adjustment from the district system to a town system of schools continued in 1888 supervised by a new school committee.

Districts 5 and 29, North West Bethel, were united for the year. Districts 9, 11 and 12 were united for 1888. At District 15 in Broad Street, Bethel, Mary Chapman taught the primary department. Malcolm Bean taught intermediate department in the summer; Charles H. Hastings in the fall and Mary Chapman in the winter term. District 17 was combined with District 18 (West Bethel) for the year. This district is the largest school in town; it includes all classes ABC to the highest branches taught in our schools. At the close of the school year, Ida Haselton had completed 34 terms; Mary Chapman, 24; Flora Wheeler, 18; Minnie Wheeler, 16; E.R. Abbott, 14; Flora Bartlett, 10; James Hutchins, 10. The average term length was eight weeks, with some 9, 10, 11 and 15 weeks terms depending on teacher availability and local district agent preferences. Summer terms usually started in May, Fall terms in September and Winter terms in November with variations to this schedule occurring in each district.

Teacher wages varied from \$3.00 to \$7.00 per week. Ida Haselton, the most experienced teacher, only received \$5.50 weekly. Mary Chapman received \$7.00 per week but in the winter as an intermediate level teacher, received \$8.00 per week. The highest wage, \$10.75, was paid to Charles H. Hastings for his teaching the fall term of the intermediate level in District 15. Hastings was a college student at the time.

Part V

Gould Academy

February 14, Gould Academy closed the winter term on Wednesday.

February 28, Gould Academy's spring term opens today. Many are expected from out of town. Large attendance anticipated.

March 6, Gould Academy opened its spring session with 75 scholars.

May 5, Gould Academy closed a successful session with exhibitions. There was a prize

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debate on the topic of organized labor and strikes. A prize of \$10 was put up by A. E. Herrick, Esq. A Mr. Elliott of Rumford won the prize. An enjoyable reunion was held at Rialto Hall.

August 28, the fall term of Gould Academy commences Sept. 4th, Tuesday, in charge of A. C. Dresser, A.B., principal, with an able corps of assistants (Prof. Linscott and Miss Wingate). Mrs. Abiel Chandler opens her house to school boards at \$2.50 a week.

December 4, the fall term of Gould Academy closed with an exhibition at Ideal Hall.

Part VI

Names in the News

Mrs. N. T. True and her daughter, Mrs. Susie Marion True Farnsworth, have gone to Florida for the winter.

Albany: Mr. James Barrows of the chair factory has purchased different lots of hard-wood: birch, yellow birch, rock maple, red oak – from lots in Albany – three men are hauling to the Bethel mills.

April: Bethel: George Brown of Danvers, Mass. has loaded two cars with spruce spars which he sends to Boston. They are cut in Albany and are about 60 feet in length

6-19-1888: Deacon A.W. Valentine (school board member) died at age 47. He was deacon in the 2d Congregational Church, a leader of the Mt. Abram Lodge, I.O.O.F., and an active member of the Bethel Grange.

7-3-1888: Bethel: the boarding houses are all in order waiting for the summer visitors. The Misses Locke, four miles from the village have put on new carriages and horses, in the charge of an experienced driver, Charles Demeritt. They accommodate about sixty guests. S. B. Twitchell (Mayville), H. R. Godwin (North Bethel) and Mrs. A. W. Valentine are fitting up.

Also on July 3rd, the large barn of Samuel B. Twitchell was discovered in flames." Quick response by townspeople saved other buildings including the Twitchell house from

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catching fire but the barn and most of its contents – about 15 tons of hay, two carriages, harnesses, farming tools, etc. - were lost. The dollar loss was estimated at \$3,500 with insurance coverage of \$2,500. Cause of the fire was unknown.

Prof. William Chapman and family of New York are spending the summer with his sister, Mrs. Jacob Horton, of Mayville.

7-31-1888: Bethel Hill: W. E. Skillings (Steam Mill Company owner), Judge Enoch Foster, and Samuel D. Philbrook (cattle dealer and later President of the Bethel Savings Bank) accompanied by Albert Stanwood of Waterford have been investigating the general possibilities of supplying Bethel Hill with pure water and supply of water in case of fire. They have a natural basin in Chapman Brook about three miles from The Bethel House and one hundred fifty feet above the level of the Common on Bethel Hill.

5-15-1888: Gilead: The largest fire that ever occurred in this vicinity occurred with the burning of Locke & Hastings mill up Wild River. Loss was about \$8,000 and owners are undecided about rebuilding.

5-22-1888 Bethel: The body of George B. Farnsworth who died in Boston about a year ago was brought to Bethel Thursday for burial. He married a daughter of Dr. N. T. True. His widow bought a lot in Greenwood Cemetery, Bethel, and laid him by the side of her father. She will erect a monument to his memory.

9-4-1888: Bethel: Friday evening the citizens of Bethel Hill, Mayville, and Steam Mill Village assembled at Rialto Hall and took steps towards supplying these villages with pure water. A committee of three composed of W. E. Skillings, G. A. Hastings and S. D. Philbrook were chosen to make preliminary surveys, estimate of costs and report to a future meeting.

S. D. & J. M. Philbrook bought 300 head of cattle in Vermont that they will have for sale in Bethel the first week in October.

10-9-1888: Bethel: Elections in the Bethel Chair Factory company resulted in the following slate of officers being elected: Pres. J. H. Barrows; Secretary and Treasurer, H. G. Brown; Directors: J. H. Barrows, H. G. Brown, Calvin Bisbee, E. C. Rowe, J. U. Purington

10-30-1888: Bethel: Mrs. Susie Farnsworth, of Bethel, was married to Dr. J.G. (John

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George) Gehring of Cleveland, Ohio, Saturday the 20th last. They started on their wedding tour immediately to visit his home in Cleveland, Ohio. .

11-6-1888: Bethel: S. B. Twitchell is putting the foundation for a barn to replace the one burned last summer. South Bethel: Our annual squirrel hunt came off Saturday, October 27. The R.J. Virgin squirrel team won by over 400 points. Oysters were served in the evening – bills paid for by the defeated party.

Part VII

Weather

The weather of 1888 led to reduced yields of sweet corn, hay and potatoes. Local correspondents commented on weather oddities frequently.

January: Bethel: reported a foot of snow then rain. 1-24-1888:

Bethel: Coldest week so far – 28 degrees below zero.

Bethel: A foot of snow fell Wednesday night. The mail due at Bethel Station on Thursday morning did not arrive until 8 PM Friday. Carrier had to use a hand sled to get it to the office from depot. High wind on Friday blew down the smoke stack of the chair factory – badly broken.

February: Bethel: First week of February has been mild and pleasant.

March:

East Bethel: snowbound again – mail delayed two days (about 15 inches of snow reported in Albany).

April:

Bethel: Ice left the Androscoggin River on April 26. April 28, 1888 temperature reached 35 degrees – highest (to date) in 1888.

May: Grafton: ice has gone out of Lake Umbagog.

July:

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Bethel: On July 14 the noontime temperature was only 40 degrees. The lowest temperature seen was 38 degrees and it was the coldest day in the memory of even the oldest residents.

September:

Bethel: Thursday night ice formed as thick as window glass and the crop of sweet corn is ruined.

Eighth day of continuous rains –corn fodder is ruined.

West Bethel: “Five lowery days of weather is moldering our frost bitten corn fodder in the fields”. – potatoes rotting.

October:

Newry: Saddleback and Puzzle Mountain were white with snow Wednesday morning. A number of snow squalls yesterday people hurrying to get apples picked.

November:

Gilead: A foot of snow to go with the cold snap.

December:

Bethel: Eight inches of snow fell then rain took most of it.

West Bethel: The Androscoggin closed on the 14th – iced over- good bridge to cross on until April.

Part VIII

Where events happened in 1888

Continued on next page.

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