



The Ingraham homestead as it is today

continued from page 1...
 overseer on Gen. Knox's estate, and to her many has been handed down many stories of "Montpelier" and its distinguished master. Mrs. Ingraham was born December 27, 1829, but takes no cognizance of the passing years as far as looks and acts go. In her manner there is a charm which makes her very popular with the many callers at her home. She attended the same school as her husband, and with him became a member of the First Baptist church, in the city years ago. They united under Rev. Isaac Kalloch, who subsequently became mayor of San Francisco.

Mr. & Mrs. Ingraham have three children. Albert H. Ingraham. Mrs Carries Anderson and Fred Ingraham.

Article taken from an article published in the Boston Globe dated December 24, 1904

The Penobscot Marine Museum

The Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport, Maine has just launched their Online Collections Database. The Mussel Ridge Historical Society this past summer hosted a speaker from the PMM at the Community Building which was very well attended. Kevin Johnson, Photo Archivist presented a program on two photo collections; Eastern Illustrating and Publishing's photos of Owls Head and a selection of Elmer Montgomery's photos. Pictures can be ordered directly from their website. <http://www.penobscotmarinemuseum.org>.

To view what pictures they have of Owls Head (194 photos) click on the following link
<http://pmm.pastperfect-online.com/36272cgi/mweb.exe?request=jump;dtype=d;startat=1>

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At The Ingraham Homestead

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard B. Ingraham Celebrate 55th Anniversary of their Wedding.

Rockland, Me, Dec 23 – The Ingraham homestead at Ingraham Hill, built 115 years ago is the sheltering roof of a well-known Knox county couple, who yesterday celebrated the 55th anniversary of their marriage.

The husband is Bernard B. Ingraham : the wife's maiden name was Elizabeth C. McIntosh. They were married December 22, 1849 at the home of Rev. Joseph Belcher. The groomsman was Col Samuel H. Allen, who was subsequently warden of the Maine state prison, and who is now governor of the national soldiers home at Togus.

Bernard B. Ingraham was born in the house where he now resides _ a son of Bernard and Hannah (Crouse) Ingraham. His grandfather Job Ingraham was born where the now city of Leeds, Eng. Now stands, and was a claimant to extensive land there. The crown contended for them, and with the usual result, and Job came to America, locating first in Saco. Thence he went to Boothbay Harbor, and from there

fairly blazed a path through the dense forests to Thomaston.

Gen. Henry Knox, the first secretary of war , was then reigning at Thomaston, and from him Job Ingraham purchased many acres of land at Ingrahams hill. This slice of the "Waldo patent" was scarcely mere than forest primeval when Mr. Ingraham erected a log cabin near the site of the house now occupied by his grandson Bernard Ingraham. The latter's father was a farmer and lime burner, and Bernard himself has devoted most of his life to dairy farming. The farm at present consists of about 500 acres, 60 of which are in a state of cultivation.

Bernard was educated in the red schoolhouse which stood are what is now the corner of Main and Park Sts. He went to school in the winter and worked hard on the farm in the summer. The studies were of a very fundamental character, reading arithmetic, and geography, although there was a class in navigation composed of men grown, who inherited their fathers' love of the sea, and were educating themselves for that career alone. One of his six surviving schoolmates is Capt. Mark Ingraham, the well-known ex-steamboat commander.

Bernard Ingraham, now in his 82nd year is ignorant of the taste of liquor or tobacco, and with the exception of an occasional twinge of rheumatism is in surprisingly good physical condition. He is a good story-teller, and is well liked for his many genial qualities.

His memory goes back to years when the winter storms were of such severity that there were weeks when there was but little communication between Ingrahams hill and the city. When cold winters are mentioned Mr. Ingraham harks back to the story told by his grandfather of the winter when Penobscot Bay was frozen so solidly that a yoke of oxen were driven across the ice from Vinalhaven to Rockland.

Mrs. Bernard Ingraham is the daughter of Hary and Eunice (Healey) McIntosh of Thomaston. Her father was an

continued on last page



THE WHALE IN THE FOREST

Why do so many old pictures show the Village, Ingraham's Hill and Ash Point nearly barren of big trees?" became an interesting study and it provided enough material for several articles in the News.

When the first Europeans began exploring this area they were deeply awed by the size and abundance of our huge trees. (A recent Sierra Magazine article cites the U.S. Forest Service as estimating 1.04 billion forested acres nationally at that time.) For those men who came from a land with trees no taller than fifteen feet, the answer to England's timber shortage had been found. Treks of several days duration revealed a great forest of Oak, Maple, Birch, Spruce and Fir reaching heights of 90 feet. Soaring another fifty or sixty feet into the sky the mighty White Pine goliathed over all others. Pictured here is one on South Shore Drive estimated to be ninety-six feet tall and well over a hundred years old.

The Pine's size, abundance, smooth texture, and strength versus it's weight made it the perfect wood. Until this discovery of the New World forests, the Europeans were obliged to splice trunks of the smaller Scotch Pine for their ship's masts and spars. Here, they had whole trees without a single cant or crook the entire length. After the trunk was trimmed there would be plenty of limbs and slabs for shingles, flooring, doors, windows, furniture, and toys, too. Those saplings and small trees that were cleared prior to cutting or came down with the felling, were used for fence posts and rails, axles and spokes, tool handles, buckets, barrels, and lastly as firewood. Blocks of ice cut in winter were packed in saw dust, preserving them well into summer.

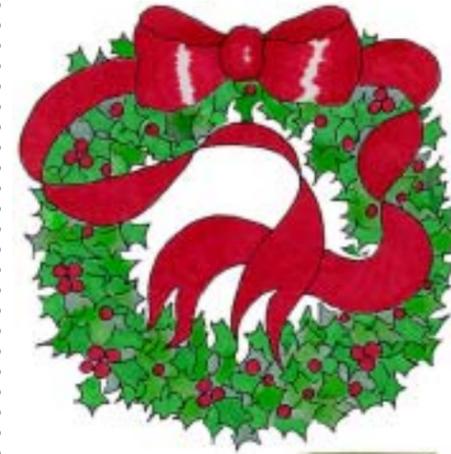
By mid-1600s, the settlers had built scores of water-powered saw mills. This was something unheard of in Europe. In 1660 the Boston shilling, one of the first coins minted in the colonies, paid homage to New England's second largest export with an image of the White Pine tree. Timber had become a commodity generating profits equal to fishing. Indeed, when one considers the investment in equipment, manpower and time required for harvesting the white pine, it was truly the whale in the forest.

Like his counterpart on the ocean, the seventeenth century logger endured months of isolation exposed to danger and the elements. But, unlike the whaler, the woodsman had to deliver his prize to market in one large piece. An eighty foot log could have had a butt six feet in diameter. Just dragging such a behemoth to the river for shipment to the mills required a Herculean feat of men and beast. One trick was to cut the logs in Summer or Fall then, wait until Winter to twitch them out. The logs, considerably lighter after drying all those months, were much easier to manage.

By 1865 the large two man crosscut saw doubled the production of four men with axes. Steam engines had long been utilized in most aspects of milling and transportation of lumber. States west of the Appalachian Mountains were spewing logs into the waterways of the new frontier. Massachusetts and Maine foresters no longer were the primary supplier of lumber to the United States. But, furniture exports to European markets continued to support New England woodsman and craftsmen for many years.

If we consider the innumerable cord of wood burned under the salt kettles, lime kilns and shipyard steam boxes combined with the thousands of board feet of lumber that went into the ships and homes that were built, it seems reasonable there would be few trees of any size remaining. We cannot forget the fireplaces and cook stoves in those homes and shops, which could take ten cord of firewood a year while schools and churches consumed perhaps five cord. Adding a final blow to the wrack and ruin of our great forests were the insects and diseases "from away".

Today, our forests have recovered only about 746 million acres, or 70% of the estimate quoted above. Some accounts credit Maine with the most acreage recovered. The Sierra article asserts numbers alone are not relevant until we take into account the quality of those "forests". Some plots are mere timber plantations void of any biological diversity while subject to clear cutting— again and again. Other wooded lands may be fragmented by roads and development greatly reducing the accessible wildlife habitat.



CRAFT FAIR & BAKE SALE

You've been waiting patiently for it. The time has come! M.R.H.S. is sponsoring our third annual Fall craft fair at the

Owl's Head Community Building

from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

on Saturday, November 19.

All proceeds from the table rentals and any cash donations will be applied to the restoration of two very dilapidated one room schools. We are also soliciting donations of baked goods for our food table.

This fair will be restricted to hand made/ hand crafted products. F.M.I. call 594-2438

See you there?

You'll Be Giving Thanks For Leftover Turkey

Serves 4

8 slices whole grain bread, toasted 4 tbsp cranberry sauce

8 oz sliced turkey 8 slices cooked bacon

1 cup baby spinach *1 cup spiced sweet potato

* Spiced Sweet Potato: 3 med sweet potatoes, peeled & cut into 1/4 in. cubes
4 tbsp honey 4 tbsp grated fresh ginger 1 tsp ground cardamom
1/2 tsp black pepper 2 tbsp walnut oil

Combine all ingredients in a shallow pan, bake in a 375 degree oven for 10 min.
turn over, bake another 10 min. or until tender.

Layer cranberry sauce, turkey, bacon, spiced sweet potato and spinach on the
toasted bread. Enjoy!

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children"

(Native American Proverb)

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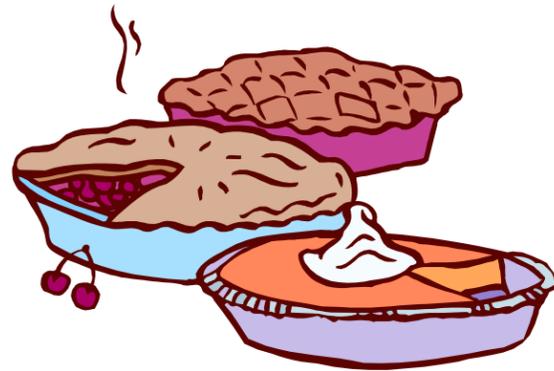
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PIE?, BOYS

Editor's note: The item below is taken from BLACK CAT of the Courier-Gazette dated July 20, 1971. The supper mentioned, was for the town's fiftieth anniversary celebration. Anybody know the boys? Better yet, anyone dare to admit they one of these fellows?

“Went to the baked bean supper at Owls Head Central School Saturday evening and across from us sat two lads in their middle teens. They were rugged youngsters, one in blue sweatshirt and the other in green. When offered a heaping bowl of beans they commented that they could take them or leave them, but did start to work on a few hot rolls, the milk, and the cabbage salad, well that was something to their liking but as they worked away on those they seemed in a hurry. Sure enough, they were hurrying along to pie time. When a waitress came around they were ready and made a selection. The next time a lady with a tray filled with wedges of pie showed up they were ready again. Their first pie plate was neatly hidden under the big plastic plate intended for beans and fixings. Their forks had been licked clean to show no tell tale sign of pie. Once again they made a selection and went to work. Under the big plate went the second paper plate and the fork clean again. About this time it took another carton of milk to help wash things down. By this time the first waitress was back with pies and she gave them a bit of an argument but let them make their choice. Another added a carton of milk. Once again they polished off the delicacy but had trouble hiding [*sic*] their pie plates for the big plate by then was teetering on the pile beneath it. By this time the waitresses had caught on and, unknown to the boys, were keeping them supplied from the ample stock donated by the Owls Head good cooks. So, the fourth serving went down the hatch as the ladies were determined to learn just how many slices of pie the boys could consume. When we left they were working on their fifth but slowed down considerably as still another hovered in the background with more. Don't know how the contest came out but were betting on the kids, for the elasticity of the youthful stomach has never ceased to amaze us.”



IT'S A TOUGH JOB

Just for the record, the Maine Warden Service was founded in 1880 making it the oldest conservation law enforcement agency in the nation. According to research conducted a year ago by Field & Stream magazine, Maine ranks fourth on a top ten list behind Minnesota, Texas, and California. But, in this case fourth is not a good thing. The list identifies those states with the highest incidence of Game Warden or Park Ranger deaths incurred while in the line of duty. Records dating back to the late 1800s indicate assault by poachers was the leading cause of death, but drownings, vehicle accidents, heart attacks and weather conditions also took their toll on the profession.

3 Rs GET A SIBLING

As early as 1789 the Massachusetts school laws required instruction in decent behavior, arithmetic, English language and orthography. The Winston Simplified Dictionary defines **orthography** as the art of spelling words correctly; also the standard way of grouping letters to make words. So, now we have “the 4 Rs”.

LOOKING FOR:

We have heard of an old school located in Owl's Head village, near the Post Office, but have found only one mention of it in a personal journal. If anyone has any knowledge of THE LITTLE JERUSALEM SCHOOL or the NEW JERUSALEM SCHOOL, or any variation of these two names, please contact us at: M.R.H.S., P.O. Box 133, Owl's Head, Me. 04854-0133 or history@musselridge.org.

We're looking for old doors and windows, (with the wavy glass), to replace the ones in our Homestead on Ash Pt. Drive. The house is a Cape Cod style from the late 1790s or early 1800s. If you have any ideas where we might find these please contact us at either of the above addresses.

ELOCUTION 101

During our lawn sales at the old Head of the Bay School, many former students have reminisced of their education in that building. One common thread was the agony of reciting poetry and other literary pieces from the school's small stage. Although I did not attend any of the area schools, I can relate to their misery.

In preparation for making oral book reports my fifth grade teacher introduced us to tongue twisters. Seems this was intended to teach proper diction and at the same time build self confidence. After we had pondered Peter Piper's pickle picking and chuckled with woodchucks chucking wood, we learned this little ditty.

A Tudor who tutored the flute tried to teach two Tudors to toot.
Said the two to their tutor, “Is it harder to toot? or to tutor two Tudors to toot?”

Of course, she had to explain the difference between “Tudor” and “tutor” which led to a discussion about homonyms. No doubt those three new words found their way into our next vocabulary test. The homework assignment was to write a tongue twister for individual recitation the next day. Do you have a treasured tongue twister to tempt our typist? Contact us at 207- 594-2438 or history@musselridge.org

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FOLLOWING SEAS .

Did you know that from 1690 to 1725, known as “the Golden Age of Piracy”, no less than three thousand pirates were prowling the waters from Greenland to the Caribbean? A pirate’s life was a nearly perfect democracy. Each sailor had a say in who would be the captain and they could vote him out if not satisfied with his performance. They also decided what to do with their prisoners and how the booty from the raids would be distributed.

That old tale, *Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* was inspired by the true experiences of Alexander Selkirk, who in 1704, was stranded for fifty six months on the Juan Fernandez Islands off the coast of Chile. To be cast ashore on a remote island with few provisions usually resulted in agonizing starvation or suicide. According to legend, the exile was Selkirk’s own decision after quarreling with his pirate captain. He was eventually rescued, but we know very little else of his life except that he died in 1721, two years after Defoe published his epic novel. Watch for more on this subject in future issues of the Mussel Ridge News.

The Creole Slave Ship Revolt

Blinn Curtis of Owls Head was wounded on this ship.

The American brig Creole sailed in October 1841 from Hampton Roads, Virginia, with 135 slaves bound for New Orleans. On Nov. 7, as the ship approached the Bahamas, the ship’s chief mate found the slave cook, Madison Washington, in the main hold with the female slaves. Washington ran up to the deck, resisted the attempts of the chief mate to seize him, and called on the other slaves to join his resistance. Led by Washington and 3 other slaves, a total of 19 slaves participated in taking over the brig, subduing the crew, and forcing William Merritt, the white overseer, to steer the ship into Nassau, a British port in the British colony of the Bahamas. One white man had been killed by the slaves when his musket failed to fire and one black slave would later die of wounds. According to international law, the slave revolt on this ship was a mutiny, not piracy, and fell under the jurisdiction of the local authority where the crime occurred. The Creole arrived in Nassau Nov. 9 and British authorities imprisoned the 19 slave revolt participants. The remainder of the slaves were taken off the brig by local residents who surrounded the ship in their small boats and demanded that the British grant freedom to the slaves. With all slaves removed, the brig set sail and arrived in New Orleans Dec. 2.

President John Tyler

The reaction throughout the South was outrage at the British for interfering in America’s lawful coastal trade. The case seemed similar to another slave ship, the Spanish-owned Amistad, that had been transporting 53 slaves captured illegally in Africa from Havana to another Cuban port in 1839 when Cinque led a revolt and the ship ended up in Connecticut. The Supreme Court ruled that the slaves should be freed because Spain had outlawed the African slave trade in 1820. But in the case of the Creole, the slaves were legally purchased in Virginia and were being legally transported to another American port. The British in Nassau ruled that local laws applied to the Creole, and since the British Emancipation Act of 1833 ended slavery in the British empire, the Creole slaves were free. The British had also freed slaves in previous cases of the American ships Comet, Encomium, Enterprise, and Formosa that had been driven ashore or wrecked in the islands.

The Creole became part of the widening attack on slavery by northern abolitionists in the 1842. Madison Washington was portrayed as a romantic hero in a New York Evangelist newspaper story titled "The Hero Mutineers" and emphasized "his generous leniency towards his prisoners" because he restrained his fellow rebels from killing the crew and "dressed the wounds of the poor sailors who had fought against him."

John C. Calhoun

Elizur Wright said "the hand of God is in this matter" as it was in the Amistad revolt, and men like Cinque and Washington were the chosen divine agents of God. William Goodell noted that the Creole revolt occurred on the very same day as the death of abolitionist martyr Elijah Lovejoy in Alton, Illinois on Nov. 7, 1837. John Quincy Adams led a campaign to present petitions to Congress to end slavery, and Joshua Giddings introduced resolutions that praised the Creole rebels and argued

that the slave codes of the southern states had no jurisdiction on the high seas. Giddings also attacked the gag rule in the House that had prohibited discussion of slavery (in effect 1836-44), was censured by the House March 22, 1842, resigned from Congress but returned by special election in April.

Secretary of State Daniel Webster was seeking to resolve the northeast boundary dispute with Britain in 1842 and wanted to avoid a crisis over the Creole. He agreed with the Robert Peel ministry that the 19 slaves imprisoned in Nassau should not be tried for murder or mutiny because the revolt had taken place outside local jurisdiction, nor should the slaves be sent to America because England had no extradition treaty with the United States (the Jay’s Treaty provision for extradition had expired in 1807).

Therefore, Madison Washington and the 18 other slave rebels were set free in Nassau. Webster did demand some compensation from Britain for the loss of property sustained by the slaveowners. When Lord Ashburton came to the U.S. to negotiate the Webster-Ashburton Treaty, he agreed to refer the issue back to England for settlement. He offered the assurance that British authorities would avoid "officious interference" with ships brought into British ports. He also added an extradition agreement to the Webster-Ashburton Treaty. Article 10 allowed extradition for seven crimes: "murder, or assault with intent to commit murder, or piracy, or arson, or robbery, or forgery, or the utterance of forged paper." There was no mention of mutiny or slave revolt, and extradition would not be used against any of the 12,000 ex-slaves who had fled to Canada. Southerners were agreeable to this Anglo-American compromise, but northern abolitionists were opposed and angry at Webster for compromising on the issue of slavery. The U.S. navy joined the British navy to enforce the African slave trade prohibition, but the British did not interfere in the coastal slave trade. In 1855, a claims commission awarded \$110,330 in compensation from the British government payable to the owners of the Creole slaves.

Crew included:

Blinn Curtis, Owls Head, Maine, wounded

William Devereux, free man of color, cook and steward

Francis Foxwell

Jacques Lacombe, Leconte or Lecompte[1], French helmsman

Jacob Leitener, Prussian cook

John Silvy (Antonio)

Henry Sperk or Speck

More info on the web:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93iZqGZvkOg>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creole_case



Home built by Blinn Curtis is located on Makers Cove Road in Owls Head

Barbara’s Hair Salon



594-2658

Barbara Fournier

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