

SEBAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS



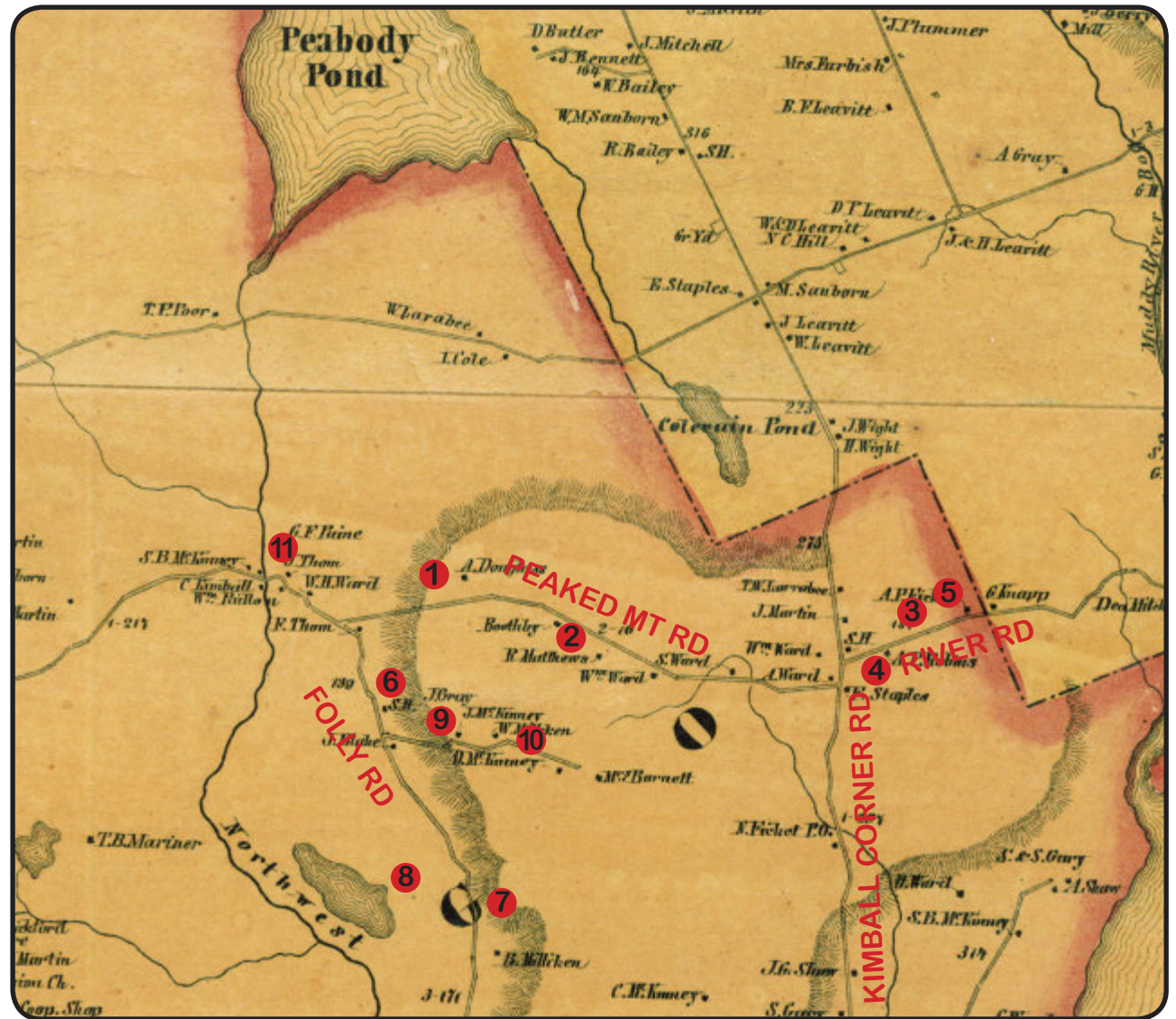
NEIGHBORHOODS OF SEBAGO THE FOLLY & PEAKED MOUNTAIN 2020

January 2020

Nineteenth century maps of Sebago show the Folly and Peaked Mountain Roads as major thoroughfares connecting many farms and homes. Few of them are left today, and most of the surviving buildings are used as summer camps. The cleared fields have gone back to woods, and some of the area between the two roads is being considered as part of the Tiger Hill Community Forest of Sebago.

The Folly takes its name from Asa Pingree's attempt in the early 1800s to build a log slip for moving timber down the Northwest River to Sebago Lake. When the effort failed, it became known locally as Pingree's Folly. The name stuck, and over time the whole area became known as the Folly. A later attempt, the North West River Canal Corporation, also failed. Finally, in 1821, a road was built past Perley Pond to Haskell's Landing (now Camp O-At-Ka) to transport the timber harvested from the mountain.

The Folly and Peaked Mountain Area



Map of the area in 1857

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ① Andrew Douglass Farm (Feb) | ⑥ Folly School (July) |
| ② Peaked Mountain Farm (Mar) | ⑦ Cassius White Farm (Aug) |
| ③ Charles Sanborn Home (Apr) | ⑧ Folly Camp (Sept) |
| ④ Edward Sanborn Home (May) | ⑨ Town Farm (Oct) |
| ⑤ Louis Wight Home (June) | ⑩ Clough Farm (Nov) |
| | ⑪ Edwin L. Poor House (Dec) |

February 2020

Andrew Douglass Farm

The Andrew Douglass family moved to Peaked Mountain in 1838. Andrew erected a cabin for his wife Casiah Irish Douglass and the first two of their six children. They continued to clear the land and began construction of a larger house for their growing family. The land was logged and farmed, and they added to the acreage when they could.

In 1871 the house was expanded by adding a second story, not in the usual way of today, but by jacking up the first story and building another underneath it. By then the youngest son, Charles Edwin, and his wife Mary Clark Douglass were living there and helping the first generation with running the farm. Charles' health had never been good, so in 1899 he sold a half interest in the farm to his son John E. Douglass, who married Madge Merrifield in 1904. The farm prospered, with the addition of apple and pear orchards and a dairy.

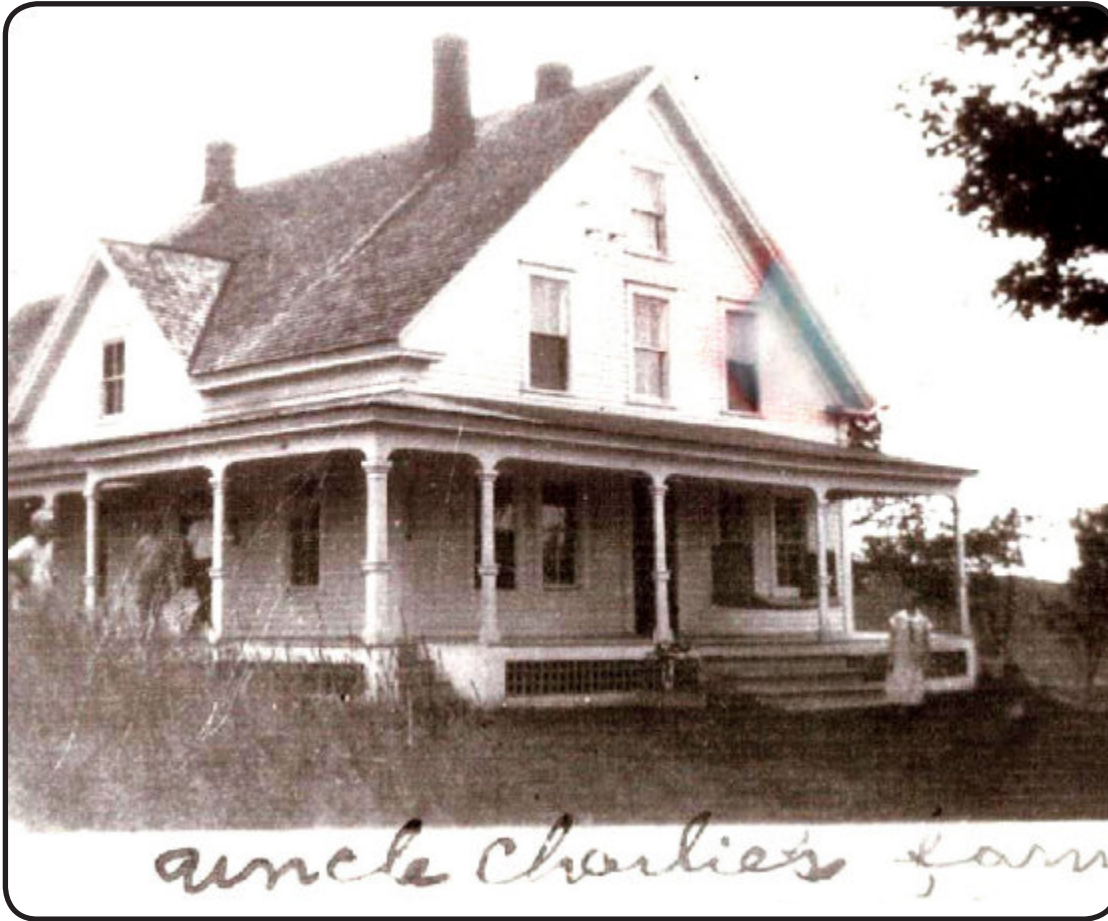
Milk and cream was sold to the Hiram Creamery, apples were shipped to European markets, and lumber was cut for box boards for Dupont's ammunition sales during the Depression. Life was good for the family until 1948 when a devastating fire turned everything around. The entire house, barn and dairy were lost in the fire.

Madge died later that year. John lived with various relatives until his death in 1958. Much of the land was sold to S.D. Warren, but the homestead lot was kept, along with the garage that survived the fire. The garage was made into a camp where the family still spends time in the summer months.



March 2020

Peaked Mountain Farm



This farm, presently owned by Tom and Diana Allen, was originally built by Arthur Boothby in 1846. He sold it to Herman Wight in 1859 and it remained in the Wight family until 1926. A second story was added in the late 1800s, making it look as it does today. The huge barn across the road was built around the same time as the house, and similar barns were framed by George Fitch during that period.

In 1926 the property was deeded to Merle Douglass. Merle was not yet 21 years of age, so the property was transferred at a later date.

All three of Merle and Doris Weed Douglass's children were born here. The remoteness of the home made it difficult for the Douglass children to attend school, so it was sold in 1938 and the family moved to Convene. The property passed through three more owners before Tom Allen's parents bought it in 1951.

Edward and Georgia McKenney Sanborn



April 2020

On the River Road, which is off the Kimball Corner Road, Stephen S. Martin sold 25 acres to James M. Sanborn in 1872, who sold it to his son Edward F. Sanborn in 1875. Edward was the great grandson of one of Sebago's founding fathers, Jonathan Sanborn. Edward built the house and a barn sometime after that. He later added to his acreage with another 20 acres.

Edward and Georgia had two daughters, Eva and Cora. Cora never married, and she continued to live with her father after her mother's death.

In 1935, Edward passed the home on to Cora. In 1955 Cora passed it to her great niece Carlene Wight Burnell. When Carlene died in 1995, her husband Philip signed the property over to their daughter Gaye Burnell.

May 2020

Charles H. and Cora Woodsum Sanborn

In 1917, George E. Anderson sold a small lot, just over a half acre, to Charles H. Sanborn, son of Edward and Georgia, on which he built a small house. In 1927 he and his wife Cora were deeded another four acres from his father. They lived here with their daughter Dorothy. After Charles's death, Cora sold the home to Millard Tripp in 1956.

Millard always claimed that the house was built on hard cider. The door tops were 4" on one end and 5 to 6" on the other end. He also said that if you dropped something on the floor and if you "ran like the devil," you could catch it before it hit the opposite wall.

The Tripps later sold the property to the present owner, Valerie Duffy.



Louis and Ethel Burrill Wight

June 2020



Ethel and Louis Wight

Edward and Georgia Sanborn gave their grandson Louis W. Wight a small parcel of land near the Naples line. He built a small house in 1921, and added to the property over the years. He and his wife

Ethel raised their children Lester and Carlene there. The property was given to their granddaughter Gaye Burnell just before Ethel's death in 1984.

Folly School

July 2020



The Folly School was built in 1854 and closed in 1905/06 when too few students were left in the district. The building was torn down in 1920.

This picture of Folly School children was taken in the fall of 1895. Teacher Lunetta Poor Chessey only taught there for the fall term. Two weeks into her winter term, a family emergency forced her to return home.

Standing, from back left: Cora White age 7; sitting, from left: Grover White age 12, Florence White age 4, and Leon White age 5. The names of the other children are not known. Alfonzo White, their older brother, was superintendent of the district for the year 1897.

August 2020

Cassius M. White Farm



Peter White was one of the founding fathers of Sebago. He is listed as a mill man, owning mill rights on the Northwest River. The Whites began buying land around Perley Pond in the mid 1820s. In 1866, John White, son of Peter, bought pond lots 36 and 37 where the family began clearing the land and building their farm. Eldest son Cassius farmed this land with his father. In 1873 he married Celestia McKenney, who grew up on the neighboring farm.

After John died in 1875, his widow Irene moved to Naples to live with her younger sons. Cassius and Celestia stayed on the farm and raised ten children. In 1877 the original small cabin burned to the ground. The Bridgton News

reported: "*Cassius M White of Sebago, whose buildings were destroyed by fire Aug 13th, 1877 has received his insurance in full. He was insured at the agency of E. L. Poor for \$1150. Mr White is building again on the same site, having got his house and ell up, boarded and a part of the finish on. Stephen P Douglass is doing the work.*"

The farm prospered until the early 1920s. Cassius and Celestia were no longer able to farm the place alone, as their sons Grover and Leon had moved to Hillside and had a dairy farm there. It eventually fell into disrepair, and its lumber was used to build a camp across the road on the shore of Perley Pond.

Original Folly Camp



September 2020

This camp was built in the early 1930s by Henry and Cora White Weed and Maynard and Florence White Frost, with lumber salvaged from the White farm that had been abandoned in the early 1920s. After their deaths, the camp was passed down to the Weed's daughter Doris and her husband Merle Douglass, who bought out Florence Frost.

The Folly Camp sat on the shore of Perley Pond, which was a little too close to the pond to suit Merle. He had the camp moved onto a foundation behind the original location. The camp was enjoyed by many of the family members until it burned Christmas Eve 1964. Apparently someone had broken in and a fire started.

A new camp was built on the same foundation the next summer. It was passed down to Merle and Doris' daughter June Allen, and is presently owned by June's daughter Donelle Allen.



Pictured in front of the camp during the summer of 1941 with Cora White Weed are her granddaughters Joyce and June and their friends. Front row: Edith Snow (Cole), June Douglass (Allen). Back row: Joyce Douglass (Viles), Gloria Hale (Eldridge,) Louise Snow (Cummings), Cora, Marie Brown (Crawford).

October 2020

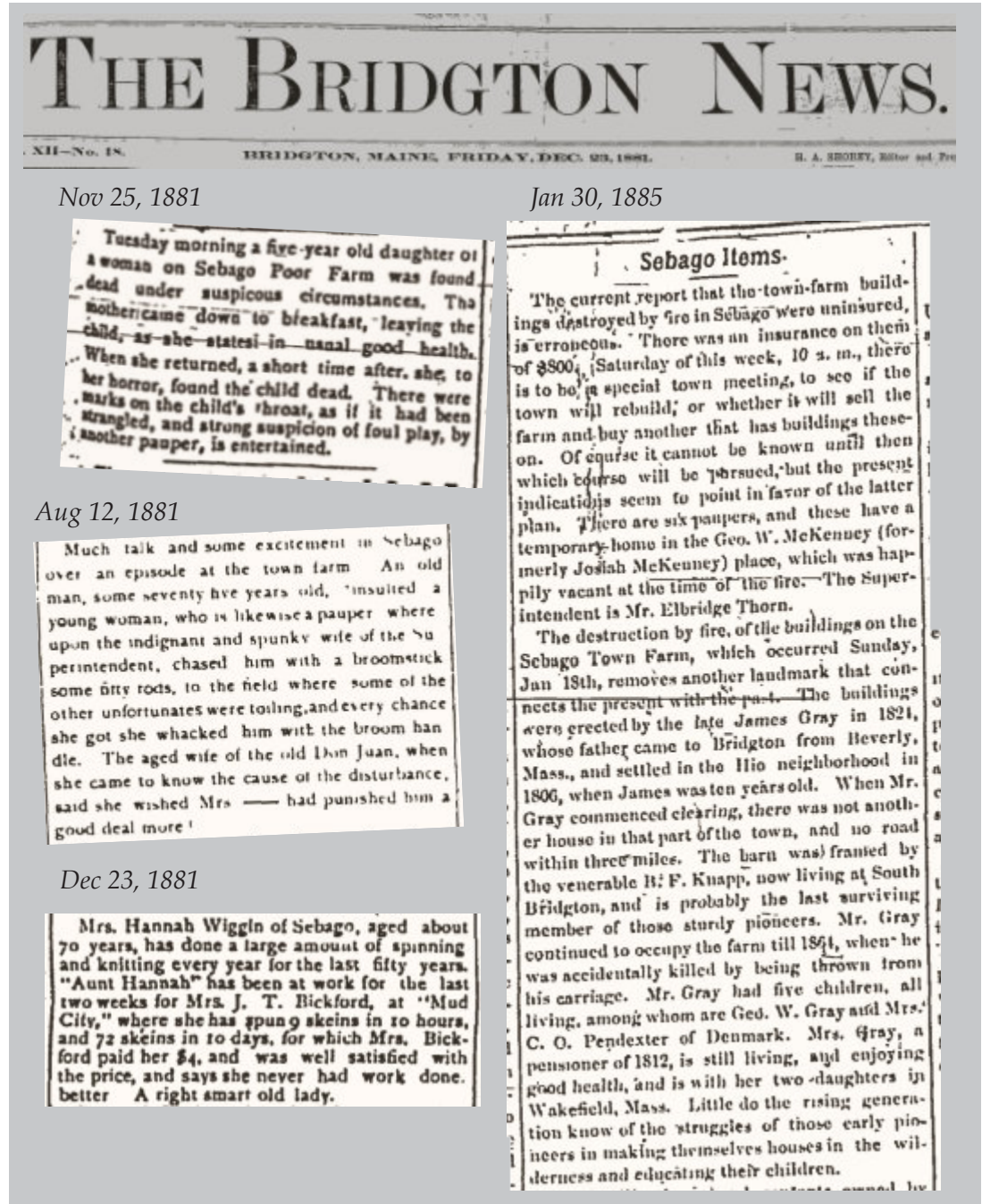
Sebago's first Town Farm was located at the former James Gray farm on Peaked Mountain, off today's Barnes Mountain Road. It was purchased by the town on April 4, 1880 from James S. Martin. No pictures are available, as the farm burned to the ground in 1885. As with most fires in those days, it was probably the victim of a woodstove accident. The farm was overseen by Peter W. Sawyer and his wife Mary (Jewell). Sawyer's wages were \$210 in 1881. Mr. Sawyer ran the farm until 1883 when Elbridge Thorn assumed responsibilities. The residents, or inmates as they were called, were expected to help with chores so the farm could run as efficiently as possible.

Inmates at the Town Farm included *Harriet S. Marriner, 50* -- pauper admitted on April 26, 1880 with consumption and died shortly thereafter. She was the widow of James S. Marriner, who had fought in the Civil War. *Sarah M. Marriner, 14* -- pauper admitted on April 26, 1880 as a homeless child. The census records that her father was deceased and that "the origin of the child was respectable." A notation states that "Mother is dead now. Was not separated until death."

After the fire, Alonzo B. Jewell sold his father's homestead on the Bridgton Road to the town for \$2000, and it became the new Town Farm. It operated until the 1950s, after which the town sold it to Lester Irish. It is currently owned by Paul Debonis.

Sebago Town Farm

Clippings from the Bridgton News about events at the Town Farm



Hartley Clough

This farm originated in the mid 1850s. It is not known who built the house, but early deeds show Alonzo Burnell's name, followed by George and Mary Milliken. The Joseph D. Smith family lived there until his death forced them to sell, and it was conveyed to Hartley Clough in 1883. After a

November 2020

series of other owners, it was purchased in 1935 by Cecil L. Barnes and his wife Rose. Their son Lowell, who became the locally renowned Dr. Barnes, was nine when the farm was purchased. The Barnes family used the land for a hunting camp. Unfortunately, the homestead burned in the mid-1970s.



December 2020

Edwin L. Poor



This piece of property, located just east of the Folly Bridge on the left side of the road, was bounced around from owner to owner for 125 years. The common denominator was always Edwin L. Poor. He was a lawyer in Sebago and also ran an insurance agency. He bought and sold the land several times, sometimes buying it back from someone who had bought it previously. From the late 1870s and on, it was always noted on the deeds that it included the dwelling place or former dwelling place of Mehitable Thorn, although she and her husband



Elbridge were in Denmark by 1886. In 1954 the property was sold to Carrie Vaslet of Attleboro, Massachusetts. She owned it until 1992, when her heirs transferred it to their daughter Linda May. The cellar hole of the Thorn home is still there, as is the old camp that Carrie had moved there as a fishing camp for her father.

Linda lived in the camp for three years before building her own home on the property. She is very comfortable there in spite of the fact that there's no electricity or running water in the cabin.



Paintings by Mamie White

The paintings here and on the front cover were done by Mamie White (1879-1960). Mamie was a teacher in many of Sebago's schools, and like many teachers in those days she never married. In her middle years she lived on Hillside with a sister and two brothers, and it's believed she took up painting during that time.

The painting on the cover shows cows standing in Perley Pond. On this page is her picture of an unnamed brook, presumably somewhere in Sebago. The paintings are now in the care of her grand-niece June Allen and grandnephew Thomas Frost.

Coming 2021

Hogfat Hill and Environs

If you have pictures and stories to share of your family's home in the last century, please contact a member of the Sebago Historical Society, send a comment to our Facebook page or email us through the Contact page of our website www.sebagohistoricalsociety.org



Alonzo Jewell's house on Hogfat Hill

The Calendar Committee, Sue Cummings, Susan Gasset, Nancy Sosman and Sherrill Brown, would like to thank all those who invited us into their homes and opened their photo albums and told us the stories behind the pictures. We would like to thank especially June Allen and Ann Burns for their family stories. All information is as accurate as can be determined at the time of printing.