

Interviewer's tape no.: 78.6

NAFOH Accession no.: 1150 **1150 04**

Interviewer: Michael Chaney

Address: RFD#1, Box 243, Wiscasset, ME 0457

Interviewee: Charlotte Donnell

Address: RFD#1, Wiscasset, ME 04578

Place of interview: Sheepscoot, ME

Date: January 6, 1978

Other people present:

Equipment used: Sony TR 27

Tape: Brand: Scotch AV 176 Size reel: 5" ~~xxxx~~ 1.5 mil Speed: 1 7/8

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Brief description of contents: A discussion of the Sheepscoot area history and Joe Leighton. Some of the Leighton photographs were discussed, some identifications of people were made from the Sheepscoot section of the collection. The work that has been done in Sheepscoot area history was also discussed, as Charlotte has done a good deal of work at the Lincoln County Cultural and Historical Association. Part of the Leighton-Lincoln County Project.

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|-------|-------|------|--|
| | 053 | 030 | opening statement <u>Kitsy (Catherine Colby)</u> and <u>Martha Vaughan</u> are coming up Monday with typed copy of Sheepscoot history, may be included if <u>Charlotte</u> is willing |
| | 107 | | <u>Charlotte</u> talks of this history and the way it was edited. <u>[Part of it used for Nomination Form for National Register for Historic Places;</u> |
| | | | <u>"Sheepscoot Farms"]</u> |
| | 125 | [| <u>[noise on tape-mike moved]</u> I think <u>Bob Bradley</u> and <u>Beard</u> were ones who had history reduced <u>[Maine Historic Preservation Committee]</u> , does not think there is any reason the history under discussion could not go into the Northeast Archives |
| | 150 | 104 | <u>[interruption, someone at the door]</u> <u>Barbara Diaute</u> came in, lives just this side of <u>Mara</u> |

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| | | | <p><u>Mulligan's</u>, beyond <u>Miss Winslow's</u>. She is trying to develop some arts and crafts work but her house is too small so she uses one of my rooms upstairs</p> |
| | 178 | | <p>I will tell them tomorrow that you want the descriptions of the houses for the Archives [NAFO</p> |
| | 205 | | <p>I refer in history that there is more to be studied-between <u>Tappan</u> and <u>Dunbar</u> right on top of each other with the same surveyor-<u>[Cargill]</u> <u>Tappan's</u> mother's family and his wife's mother's family connected with the <u>Batt</u> Fall's name- must be some connection; perhaps the <u>Batts</u> were one of the families; <u>Mrs Tappan's</u> wife's mother was a <u>Batt</u>, his own mother was a <u>Batt</u>; his wife and himself were cousins-back of those two <u>Batt</u> sisters is the father of both of them</p> <p><u>[Charlotte gets a chart to show Mike about this]</u></p> |
| | 231 | 164 | <p>I have a lifetime of things I want to do but don't have a lifetime to do it</p> <p>Here is the <u>Tappan</u> family tree, it starts with <u>Benjamin Woodbridge</u> who came to Sheepscot (Mike: "There are two.") in 1750, his father was <u>Benjamin</u> too.</p> <p><u>Ann Hodge</u> was a Wiscasset girl, this is <u>Benjamin</u> who married <u>Suzanna Tappan</u>. This man is not buried here; he was a Harvard man 1695</p> <p>Harvard has an index about all who were Harvard men-says he was buried in Mass.</p> |

Mass.
Sheepscot

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| | 272 | 201 | <p>came up here about 1750 and his children-this chap was 20 years old when they came. Worked for a man in Wiscasset and explored around This one lived in Sheepscoot-there are 3 in a row <u>Christopher TAppan</u> who owned all the land never lived here as far as I can find out <u>Tappan</u> is the father of <u>Suzanna</u> who came here with her husband <u>Benjamin</u>. They lived down on the end of the point, now only a cellar hole and now called Chase's Point</p> <p>In my childhood it was called Woodbridge Point <u>William Chase</u> is a descendent of the <u>Woodbridges</u>; he is a grandson of <u>Woodbridge</u>. House there now is built almost on the cellar hole. There is a 1760 map, <u>James Forrester</u>.</p> |
| | 287 | | <p><u>Benjamin</u> died in 1797, neither are buried here. He was the first representative that went down from this area to the legislature. I think he got sick down there and was buried at Newburyport where he had originated</p> |
| <p><i>Batt Falls</i> <i>Newburyport</i> <i>Woodbridge Point</i> <i>Chase's Point</i> <i>Wiscasset</i> <i>Sheepscoot</i></p> | 308 | 236 | <p><u>Christopher Tappan</u> was the father of <u>Suzanna</u> and he xxxxx bought up the land. His father was <u>Peter Tappan</u> and his mother was <u>Jane Batt</u>. My hunch is that this family was here before <u>Tappan</u> and that's why it is called Batt Falls. She died, born in 1611; he in 1614, and in 1797 should be 1697, he was 83 when he died</p> |

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| | | | <p><u>Christopher Tappan</u> knew about the place, the name <u>Batt</u> meant that the <u>Batts</u> owned land around the falls. Early maps show it as Batt Falls</p> |
| | 333 | | <p><u>Christopher Tappan's</u> mother was a <u>Batt</u> and his wife <u>Sarah Angier</u> was a <u>Batt</u> also, <u>Ann Batt</u>. <u>Ann Batt's</u> father was <u>Christopher Batt</u>, the same man <u>Christopher</u> and his wife were apparently cousins I don't know where this family tree comes from. It is from my family papers; this is Aunt <u>Jennie</u> she was in DAR, the spearhead for restoration and geneologies and research of that sort</p> |
| | 352 | | <p>Aunt <u>Jennie</u> was a regent of the DAR; this tree was probably something she did</p> |
| | | 291 | <p>I came back only 20 years ago, for 30 years I was not here at all. The first time I moved here was when I was 9 months old, lived in the house where <u>Gerry Ross</u> lives, was there for about a year with her family. A troubled time for the family. Then the family went to a fruit farm in the Tenn. mountains. Moved from there to the town of Lincoln in New Hampshire in the White Mountains. Then went out to Iowa to my mother's home. No, went to Wisconsin-father worked in office with mother's brother. Then went to Iowa. Then moved back here to the farm when I was 12 years old. That was 6 places when I was 12 years old-came back in 1904</p> |

*Iowa
Wisconsin
White Mountains
Lincoln, N. H.
Tenn.*

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| | 379 | 315 | <p>I was born in 1891, I am 86 now. My father died in 1916. Then the place was sold, was too isolated for mother to live there by herself in those days. She couldn't run a farm. She had an aunt in Iowa who was in her 90's and needed her; had broken her hip. My mother was her only family. She died at 101, her name was <u>Aunt Lottie</u>. Mother was there 10 years looking after her. We sold the farm in 1916 or 17, where the <u>Gordon's</u> live now that's the Donnell place. Was for 100 odd years. Sold to a man who was a kind of foster child in our family. That was <u>Joe Kennedy</u>-he was an orphan boy.</p> |
| <p><i>Boston Iowa</i></p> | 406 | | <p><u>Grandpa</u> tells a story about <u>Joe</u> who was an orphan, was taken in by anyone who wanted a chore boy, was small in stature, probably undernourished. The story was that <u>Grandpa Donnell</u> was ^{went} into the Carney Store when this little boy came in and asked if he wanted a chore boy. Grandpa said he already had two, (my ^{his} father and brother). The next am, little <u>Joe</u> came with the clothes he had done up in a handkerchief, walking up the lane, knocked at the door and said "here I am <u>Mr. Donnell</u>." He was taken and lived there for about 8 years. He was 16 when he went down to Boston. They sent him one term up to Kent's Hill Academy.</p> |

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| | 427 | | <p>Which <u>Kennedy family</u> he belonged to I never knew. The Carney store was known as Kennedy's store. Not the same one, <u>Joe</u> had a brother, he married a girl who was the daughter of his employer in Boston. He drove a milk wagon for a farmer outside of Boston, in Winchester. He did well in his job. Was a salesman for Conway Lumber Co. in Conway New Hampshire. Lincoln was a private company town not far from Conway. Lincoln was where we lived [<u>New Hampshire</u>]</p> |
| | | 384 | |
| | 445 | | |
| | | 415 | <p>My father died in '16. Mother sold the place then</p> <p>When I was in college outside of Boston I used to go to Winchester once in a while to visit <u>Joe</u> and his wife. I went to Wellesley College did graduate work at the Univ. of Chicago, school of social work there in Chicago started in the Settlement House. In New York it was the Case Work Agency known as the Charity Organization Society.</p> |
| | 476 | | <p>Chicago was the first one-started lecture series around the turn of the century. In 1920 it became an integral part of the university. No financial backing from the University, had to raise own funds-were in Cobb Hall- the first building at the Univ of Chicago, founded 1893 these schools for social workers. Later the New York School was incorporated into Columbia Univ. school of social work</p> |

*New York
Chicago
Lincoln, N.H.
Conway, N.H.
Winchester, Mass
Boston*

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| | 506 | | <p>was offered first job at an agency in Minneapolis, did not know there was a school for social workers then- went to work in Minneapolis in 1919 doing what is now called family case work, was a relief agency in those days</p> <p>Something over 150 schools now giving a Master's degree in social work. 4-5 in New York, several in Boston. Most Universities now offer this. An extremely expensive form of education</p> |
| | 528 | 525 | <p>There is a big demand for social workers now supply does not meet the demand, must have clinical experience in social work now</p> |
| | 545 | 553 | <p>Back to <u>Mr. Tappan</u>-dates go back into 17th century. Name <u>Tappan</u> has not stuck on anything except an island on Great Salt Bay. Power company wanted to put a tower on that island a few years ago, only deed they could find was to <u>Christopher Tappan</u>. So now on the maps as Tappan Island. Power company got a quit claim deed to it from the courts.</p> |
| <p><i>Job's Mountain</i> <i>Tappan Island</i> <i>Great Salt Bay</i> <i>Boston</i> <i>New York</i> <i>Minneapolis</i></p> | 567 | 590 | <p>Mike says he is interested in <u>Joe Leighton</u> period, refers to it as hard times [<u>in Charlotte's paper</u>] it was hard times, ship building was out, big lumber was all out</p> <p>Mike asks if that's why Job's Mountain was all clear of trees</p> |

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| | | | probably been cut over more than once-Job <u>Averill</u> was operating here through the midpart of the 18th century, evidently the mill had been built during that time. He asked his brother to come up and see about developing the waterfalls , the power |
| | 576 | | When I was a child it was just open pasture, <u>Joe's</u> pictures show it all bare |
| | | 620 | Mike says in 1906 the mill at Batt Falls burned <u>Charlotte</u> says "right" |
| | 580 | | Libby's and Kennedy's stores burned in 1907, burned for reasons unknown, Bath Boxboard Company had bought it but they never operated it, nobody was down there. |
| | 589 | 636 | <u>Leighton</u> was taking pictures in 1904. Remember about <u>Joe Leighton</u> -dullness, he had an obsession about taking pictures, he wouldn't think of doing anything else; he was a kind of a loner, odd with his family, his sister <u>Blanche</u> was a chum of mine. <u>Charles Leighton's</u> house was down at the foot of the hill, about where the <u>Gilberts</u> built their little house [<u>Herbert Hidu house</u>] was not the original-that one was built early 19th century. <u>Ezekiel Leighton</u> is on the map of the town that was ordered in 1815- was the official base of all deeds. |

Batt Falls

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| | 613 | | <p>[Mike gets map from kitchen-is not the one she wants-Mike likes it] "Plan of the Sheepscot Farms and the King's Highway" done in 1877, traced from a survey and drawing done by <u>Alexander Johnston</u> surveyed at Wiscasset Sept 12, 1877. Traced by <u>Carl F. Palmer</u> in 1968. <u>Alexander Johnston</u> was an uncle by marriage of <u>Neal Creamer</u>. "All of <u>Johnston's</u> papers have gotten into <u>Neal's</u> hands". <u>Johnston</u> was a lawyer not a surveyor, he employed <u>Elbridge Chase</u> who lived in the place where the <u>Roberts</u> lived, <u>Elbridge's</u> father <u>Thomas Chase</u> built that house in 1803.</p> |
| | 627 | | <p><u>Thomas Chase</u> employed young <u>Jotham Donnell</u> to come over and be a shipwright on the Dyer's River, ships were built there on the Dyer's River. My great grandfather was employed as a shipwright the <u>Donnell</u> from Bath, <u>Elbridge Chase</u> was an experienced surveyor, was mostly open fields in those times, now covered with woods, now what is Chase's Point, this is still called Woodbridge Island. [points to place on map]</p> |
| <p>Woodbridge Is. Bath Wiscasset</p> | 645 | | <p>Celler holes where houses they could not identify. Referring to map says these houses are what is now the big sand pit down the river; the main fort was over here, the fort was in disuse when <u>Tappan</u> got interested in the place wasn't much</p> |

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| | | 797 | <p>Indian problem by the early part of the 18th century which is when <u>Tappan</u> bought it. There were probably some burials around it, probably burials there as early as 1630, nobody knows. The earliest marker that is in the cemetery is 1744 but there are a lot of little field stones that have nothing on them.</p> <p>The cemetery plan is available, <u>Skeet Huntley</u> has it [<u>map again</u>] fort and cemetery located on map area is what is referred to now as Davis Point or the Tobie area, Indian burial place in this area, "This area <u>Mr. Bradley</u> and the [<u>Me. History Preservation Commission Zeroed in on</u>]", down on the flat part where the mill would have been- that isn't a burying ground- is a midden, a refuse heap, some implements there, this a midden not a burying ground.</p> <p>I came back in 1958, my brother and I both quit work in 56- we had been coming here in the summers, we owned the place where the <u>Wilson's</u> live, 4 of the <u>Donnell</u> cousins, it was then I read something about an Indian burying ground on the old mill site on the point.</p> |
| | | 883 | <p>The information on the map came totally from <u>Alexander Johnston</u></p> |
| | 700 | | <u>[looks in her write up while Mike turns tape over</u> |
| | 701 | 914 | END SIDE I |
| | 043 | 019 | Begin side II of January 6 th, 1978 interview with |

Davis Point

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| | 047 | | <p>with <u>Charlotte Donnell</u> by Mike Chaney.</p> <p>They have that map at the jail, a reduced copy Mike did not know of celler holes on Davis Point before seeing this map [<u>Sheepscot Farms, A. Johnston, 1877</u>]</p> <p>#3 is noted "spring and cove" called Spring Well Cove [<u>Numbers refer to the Johnston Map</u>]</p> <p>#5 is <u>Kit Woodbridge</u> cellar, it wasn't <u>Kit Woodbridge</u> it was <u>Christopher</u>- people who settled on the point were <u>Benjamin Woodbridge</u> and <u>Suzanna Tappan</u> and <u>Christopher Woodbridge</u> was the one- <u>Tappan's</u> son-in-law, named for his grandfather [<u>Christopher Tappan</u>] he has a flag over his grave- must have been in the Indian Wars. He's buried up there [<u>at Sheepscot Cemetery</u>]</p> <p>Refers to ancient wharf, ancient garden, ancient orchard on map. Even <u>Lawrence [Averill]</u> can remember more of that wharf.</p> <p>What is left of the wharf is a picture up at the store [<u>the village store, Sheepscot</u>] <u>Mrs Goodwin</u> at the store has them. <u>Lawrence Averill</u> has written about little spots of history, does have endless scrapbooks of things- strange collection for a man with a PhD. From Lincoln Academy, he went to Clark where my brother went [<u>Phillip Donnell</u>] Worcester teacher's college, developed a clinic</p> |
| | 99 | | |

*Spring Well Cove
Davis Point*

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| | | 084 | in his church, described himself as an ordained deacon, did not go to the seminary a lay preacher is what it is called, Methodist have a lot of gradations that others don't have, <u>Mr. Paine</u> was same thing, minister that we have now. |
| | 162 | | |
| | | 104 | <u>Averill</u> "had evidence of how early the" mill was developed over at the falls, geneology on <u>Job Averill</u> , dated this along with <u>Dunbar</u> and <u>Tappan</u> ' thing- the area . He had a brother <u>Israel</u> and a son <u>Israel</u> probably it was his brother , wrote him about the water power and interest in it, brother was to do the work if he furnished the capital- a mystery her on how did they build a dam with the current there is over those falls an put in 4 great cribs, had to be blasted out when taken out in '24, built the bridge in 1794 into 1894 toll bridge, was a bridge before that. |
| | 193 | | |
| | | 138 | <u>Lawrence Averill</u> searched probate files in Lincoln County , found a will of <u>Israel Averill</u> , it was 1785, that referred to some of the equity he had in the mill property and a big stack of lumber was listed in the will and property inventory <u>Job Averill's</u> letter urging brother to come up was in the late 1730's, long before he bought the 1000 acres from the Plymouth Company over on the other side of the river. |
| | 208 | | |
| | | | <u>Lawrence</u> is a descendent of <u>Job Averill's</u> , his |
| | 224 | | |

Lincoln County

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| | | | <p>attention span is narrow now but Mike could get some information from him. <u>Averill's</u> writings are in his scrapbooks now, a great jumble of things, he doesn't write easily or smoothly, is verbose, scrapbooks are mixed up with a lot of cultch that has no meaning or connection with historical business really his personal pleasure. <u>Lawrence</u> has published little stories in newspapers, also a poem in Down East, "I am talking very frankly about someone I am personally fond of." <u>Lawrence</u> paints too he has written a novel, asked <u>Elizabeth Winslow</u> to help with comments on it- she said it was awful- not publishable at all.</p> <p>He would not leave books with me when he left for Florida- they are in his house now.</p> |
| | | 210 | <p>Leighton collection needs organizing- <u>Dorothy Chase</u> had classified it somewhat among occupations mostly lumbering.</p> |
| | | 325 | |
| | | 336 | <p>When I was a child the portable mills were at their height, a man named <u>Damon</u> had some big mills, <u>Norman Carney</u>, father of <u>Roswell Carney</u>. <u>Roswell</u> was the husband of <u>Ruth</u> [who now lives in Sheepsco <u>Norman's</u> life work was a stationsry engineer, ran the steam power for the portable mills, also on a boat at one time. Between Dyer's River and the Damariscotta River was where the mills were, nothing there now logging back then took what</p> |

Damariscotta R.
 Dyer's River
 Sheepsco
 Florida

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| | 367 | | they could, no sense to it. |
| | 400 | | Abutments to the dam are still standing also some on the Mill road by the brook on the way to Damariscotta. The dam is there at the head of the falls not sure where the mill actually was, thinking there was a water sluice for the mill same kind of structure two miles up the creek about 150 ft across the top, gate still standing, foundation of mill- square building- near the dam , mill race is on other side, still standing this is how you get there- over by Mill Brook more than a mile, start in at Dyer's Neck road, about 2 miles up the brook- [shows Mike on map] |
| | 415 | | was a lot of litigation on Tappan lands Mass. Passed a law that each town in Maine send in a platt of their town with names of owners to best of their knowledge- was when Maine was still part of Mass. was to stop all this nonsense about Indian claims at the time this is one of Sheepscot, writing very poor on it, <u>Paul Bartlett</u> has the list of names on this platt, this is the basis of all deeds, 1816 is date of this basic map. |
| | 427 | | |
| | 440 | 384 | There is an equivalent one of Waldoboro and Bristol , you can send and buy this from Massachussets Archives in Boston, took days to figure it out, marked in ranges, if you send for it ask for map of Newcastle drawn in 1816 with the selectmen's signatures on |

Newcastle
 Boston
 Bristol
 Waldoboro
 Sheepscot
 Mass.
 Mill Brook
 Damariscotta

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| | | 420 | <p>it, shows Great Salt Bay, Damariscotta, marshes. <u>Daniel Cunningham</u> is place that <u>Miss Fenno</u> has map signed by selectmen- "A Survey of the Town of Newcastle in the County of Lincoln with all z the lots and tracts claimed by settlers and others with the number of acres contained in each lot, allowance having been made for sunken lands, ponds and unimprovable ledges taken at the request of said town and con by me. <u>Josiah Jones</u>, Newcastle, Dec 1816 ... with the selectmen of the town of Newcastle herby certify that this is a true and correct plan of said town sccording to our best judgement and belief. Newcastle, Dec 10, 1816. <u>Edward Fowley</u>, <u>Thomas Cunningham</u>, selectmen of Newcastle."</p> <p><u>Thomas Cunningham</u> was the father of <u>Seth Cunningham</u> who owned the Phillips place with the big hip roof.</p> |
| <p><i>Sheepscot Lincoln County Newcastle Damariscotta Great Salt Bay</i></p> | 490 | | <p>This is the insert of Sheepscot and shows the houses, my house is that marked <u>William Williams</u>, <u>Mary Carney</u> on one map was <u>Widow Carney</u>, was widow of <u>Daniel Carney</u>, who was first <u>Carney</u> here, he was the father of <u>Addison</u> and <u>Franklin</u> is the greatgrandfather of <u>Louis Doe</u>, <u>Edwin</u> was a descendent of the <u>Chases</u>, lived in that big hip roof house.</p> |

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| | 519 | | photo 690.2- schoolhouse. |
| | | 505 | photo 690.1- was some big doings about the school on school district 4, (M: Chickadee House) built by <u>Sargent</u> , <u>Sargents</u> lived there for many years, she died in 1903 or 4, no. lived to be 102, she was a <u>Fairservice</u> , one of old names here <u>Thomas Fairservice</u> , vault is up on Job's Mountain, house is old <u>Henry Sargent's</u> dynamo. |
| | | 540 | photo 690.2- <u>Joe Leighton</u> is one with visor cap- to right under the window with shade askew, next to the teacher in the door, <u>Sunie Chase Clifford</u> , funeral services I went to yesterday. <u>S.C. Clifford</u> was next to the teacher who was <u>Lottie Rundlett</u> , <u>Luther Carney</u> is in front of <u>Joe Leighton</u> (left from <u>Carney</u> is <u>Myron Palmer</u> - he is <u>Joyce Krah's</u> father, <u>Daisy Redulovitch's</u> father. Tom <u>Tom Leighton</u> is one with sailor collar and cap and grin in front row, 4 over from <u>Joe Leighton Arthur Chase</u> , <u>Sunie's</u> older brother is back row under the window. Next row below the teacher are the 3 <u>Carney girls</u> Next to the <u>Carney sisters</u> is <u>Gertrude Averill</u> on the next step down. Two <u>Fairservice girls</u> 2nd and 3rd from right. <u>Will fairservice</u> carried the mail from the depot on the West Alna Road to town. |
| | | 600 | |

Job's Mountain

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Catalog pg. #

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| | | | <p>First on right is <u>Walter Flye</u>.</p> <p><u>Annie Chase</u> is next to <u>Joe Leighton</u>.</p> <p>Next to her is <u>Blanche Leighton</u>, sister to <u>Joe Leighton</u>.</p> <p><u>Tom Leighton</u>, brother to <u>Joe</u>.</p> <p><u>Arthur Chase</u></p> <p>[Continuing description NAFOH photo 690.2]</p> |
| | 585 | | <p>That is <u>Arthur Chase</u>, the older brother in this family.</p> <p>Picture must have been taken about 1900.</p> <p><u>Lawrence Averill</u> under the leftmost window with an Eton jacket on, white shirt.</p> <p><u>Harold Averill</u>, who is now dead.</p> <p>3 boys under leftmost window from left to right are the <u>Fairservice</u> boy, <u>Harold Averill</u>, and <u>Lawrence Averill</u>.</p> <p>There are more <u>Fairservices</u> in the picture.</p> |
| | 597 | 644 | <p><u>Joe Leighton</u> was born 1884, this picture was probably about 1900, we came here in 1904 and <u>Lawrence</u> was ready then for the Academy, he lived where the ^{McLeod} McClouds now live, that was the <u>Averill</u> place, [end of <u>Golden Ridge Road</u>]</p> <p>There were only 2 <u>Fairservice</u> girls in that family, rest were boys.</p> |
| | 609 | | <p><u>Gertrude Averill</u>'s life would make a novel. <u>Dorothy Chase</u>'s older sisters, 3 of them .</p> |
| | 612 | | <p><u>Dorothy Chase</u> could tell you about these. <u>Harry Hall</u></p> |

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| | | | is second from the left, he was terribly burned, lived in house where <u>Orcutts</u> live, has a double breasted jacket on. |
| 626 | | | One of the <u>Fairservice</u> boys went down to Wiscasset and established a nice family. <u>Will Fairservice</u> carried the mail back and forth for \$90 a year, he didn't do any farming, a mystery how they bought groceries for that. |
| 631 | | | <u>Lottie Rundlett</u> lived here in the community, grew up in the x house where the <u>Percivals</u> live, she was the school teacher for many years, died of TB I believe. Then, <u>Sunie Chase Clifford</u> . [in photo] |
| 636 | | 725 | This country's full of stories, this little boy, <u>Walter Flye</u> , died of a tragic end, was an only child of elderly parents, lived in the <u>Eckels</u> place, don't know how they got along, old <u>Harry Flye</u> didn't do any real farming, never had anything to sell; one little boy grew up in an odd way with two very odd parents; when he was about 20, <u>Gertrude</u> ^{Averill} who was considerably x older and had kind of a lurid history married first, ran around with married men and one thing and another, married <u>Henry Averill</u> , brother of the two <u>Marsh</u> women- <u>Ernest</u> and <u>Horace Marsh</u> , sister not sister but their wives, their wives were sister named <u>Averill</u> from |

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|-------|-------|------|---|
| | | 772 | Jefferson; <u>Henry</u> worked inthe woods, she was a freat gal to set her cap for about a year later he was working on a vessel in Portland Harbor and fell in the water going down the gangplank- was an experienced person and a good swimmer but he drowned. |
| | 660 | | Everybody thought <u>Gertrude</u> tried to get rid of him, that she had given him something shorlty after <u>Walter Flye</u> , not more than 20, whe was years older but she inviegled him to marry her; they hadn't been married very long when he was swimming with the boys down here off the bridge over in the Sheppscot channel and dove off and never came up, just drowned, never came up, stayed down. |
| | 673 | | This very quiet respectable little village has plenty of stories like this. <u>Gertrude</u> grew up in the house where <u>Orianna Averill</u> lives now, her father <u>Samuel Averill</u> lived there, he was a descendent of the man who bought the place across here, <u>Carney</u> who built <u>James</u> and <u>Daniel Carney</u> were brothers. |
| | 681 | 835 | We came here in 1904. That 12 years was perhaps the low ebb for Sheepscoot, everthing was forlorn, our house needed paint badly, everybody's house needed paint badly, farming was so limited in those days. Wiscasset was pretty dead too but the railroad |

Wiscasset
Sheepscoot channel
Portland Harbor
Jefferson

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| | | | brought some business there. |
| | | | It was so dead that they even closed up the old jail up on the hill. |
| | | | MIke talks like his grandfather, <u>Parker</u> . |
| | 700 | | I remember there was a great fire at Wellesley in my senior year and we were given clothes for what we had lost in the fire. I brought them home, some I couldn't use, Mike's grandmother was about 16-17 then, <u>Marion Lowell Chaney</u> , <u>Parker</u> was working in the woods as farmers all did in those times in the wintertime, she'd pack a basket with food and go out and make |
| | | 924 | a picnic with him, <u>Parker</u> died in 1952, he married again, had a bad heart, he was working on the big bridge at Bath and had a dreadful case of bends, <u>[sound fades out here]</u> . |
| | 732 | | END OF TAPE. |

Bath

Interviewer's tape no.: Chaney 78.7

NAFOH Accession no.: 1150

Interviewer: Michael P. Chaney

Address: RFD #1 Box 243 Wiscasset, Maine

Interviewee: Charlotte Donnell

Address: Sheepscot, Me. (RFD#1 Wiscasset)

Place of interview: Sheepscot, Maine

Date: January 11, 1978

Other people present:

Equipment used: Sony TR 27

Tape: Brand: Scotch AV 176 Size reel:

5" 1 mil/1.5 mil

Speed:

1 7/8

Cassette: Brand:

C-30/C-60/C-120

Amount of tape used: (Side 1): all

(Side 2): all

Brief description of contents: A discussion of Sheepscot area history, particularly a paper she has written on the past 300 years of Sheepscot's history. Charlotte tells a good deal about herself and her interests and life's work. Part of the Leighton-Lincoln County Project.

NOTE: A FULL TRANSCRIPTION OF THIS INTERVIEW BEGINS ON PAGE 108

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| | 060 | 034 | Opening announcement. |
| | 101 | 060 | <p>"Sheepscot Village- 300 Years of Transition" By <u>Charlotte Donnell</u>.</p> <p>I wrote the paper from early experiences of coming to Sheepscot to grandpa's house, father grew up in Sheepscot, it was home, I got the idea that there was something special about Sheepscot happy memories, had an impression of importance of background of family and area, came back in 1904 lived up on Golden Ridge; a great-grandfather had been a shipbuilder, part of the farm was Shipyard Hill where he had his shipyard and launched several vessels, on what is now the <u>Gordon</u> property, steep slope by river used to launch ships; were some pieces</p> |

Sheepscot

| Index | NAFOH | Int. | Catalog |
|-------|-------|------|--|
| | 172 | | of old family pewter left from old times and other things, furniture; great-grandfather was was part of a rather large family of <u>Donnell</u> who lived in Bath- he came to Sheepscot in the employ of <u>Elbridge Chase</u> , no, correction, it was <u>Capt. Thomas Chase</u> who was established shipbuilder there. |
| | 184 | 125 | <u>Jotham Donnell</u> , grandfather, had married the sister of <u>Capt. Chase's</u> wife; the <u>Woodbridge</u> family, members of which had proliferated to the extent that a village to the north was always referred to as Woodbridge neighborhood, to the south was Woodbridge Point; was North Newcastle to the north, M: was north part of Sheepscot known as the area that is below Davis Point? |
| | 202 | | The ancient village was on area now known as Chase's Point, learned this later on <u>Woodbridges</u> had been involved in the development of the present village; <u>Christopher Tappan</u> , a minister of Newburyport, Mass., had a concern for getting European immigrants on to the land <u>Christopher Tappan</u> , to my generation was a great-great-great grandfather. His daughter married <u>Benjamin Woodbridge</u> and his wife, <u>Suzanna</u> , apparently lived on the lower end of Chase's Point about a mile south of present village |

Newburyport, Mass
Chase Point
Davis Point
No. Newcastle 233
Woodbridge Point
Sheepscot
Bath

| Index | NAFOH | Int. | Catalog |
|--|-------|------------|---|
| | | | <p>of Sheepscot; his children took up land after his survey and these included most of Newcastle, and some outlying parts of Nobleboro and Edgecomb.</p> <p>Their interests were at upper end of Dyer's Valley, as least the tidal river which was later known as North Newcastle.</p> <p>As I grew all of this I became aware of as being history and having a relationship to the family.</p> |
| | | 190 | <p>I was asked by a great aunt how old part of the house she called the "new part" really was she said not more than 90 years old, was built by my great-grandfather apparently. 90 year old part being referred to as the new part struck me as a kind of key to the historical aspect of it.</p> |
| <p><i>Arizona</i> <i>New Mexico</i> <i>Iowa</i> <i>No. Newcastle</i> <i>Dyer's Valley</i> <i>Edgecomb</i> <i>Nobleboro</i> <i>Newcastle</i> <i>Sheepscot</i></p> | 288 | 30 or more | <p>years following sale of old home were spent in various parts of the country following my own professional social work; was always interested in the history of the locality where I was working such as New Mexico, Arizona,</p> |

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| | | | no it was Oklahoma and others; many asked where I got my interest in history; I came back at the end of my working life with a revived interest in the history of my family and the locality we returned, brother and I, retired in 1958; had spent summers here for about 10 years along with 2 of Donnell cousins; this was home. |
| | 328 | 257 | M; mentions the <u>Tappan-Dunbar-Cargill</u> relationship I will bring that up later. |
| | 338 | I heard | a lot of history in the family talk and pieced this together; childhood on the old farm on the Alna side of Sheepscot included grandfather and his older sister. Most of my interest came from oral sources, not printed at that* time; gradually interest spread beyond Shipyard Hill; lost last relics at the fire when I was in college; perspective was different after my retirement and led to my acquiring added information from historical records and oral history from residents in community. |
| | 378 | 311 | I learned about commission for Historic Preservation in the state and plan developed nationally about historic districts, this happened just prior to my return to Sheepscot in 1958; Lincoln County Cultural and Historical Associa- |

Shipyard Hill
Sheepscot
Oklahoma

| Index | NAFOH | Int. | Catalog |
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| | | 335 | <p>tion formed about this time, my relationship with them led to a plan for a more concerted and organized research which resulted in continuity and realization that much of historic interest was still extant in the village and area.</p> <p>Put that together to best of my ability in the paper "Sheepscot Village, 300 Years of Transition"</p> <p>Paper is under consideration for publishing during study I came onto some areas I had not been aware of before; two surveys that were made of the area that <u>Rev. Tappan</u> purchased in early part of 18th century and the plans made by <u>David Dunbar</u> who was the king's mast agent, what he found led him to make plans for larger developing of area [<u>clock chimes</u>] apparently did not go any farther than the platting out of two areas already centers of population, Sheepscot and Pemaquid.</p> |
| | 430 | 378 | <p>I obtained facimilies of the area which he had surveyed; for Sheepscot <u>David Cargill</u> was the surveyor; was part of material that was presented to the Comm. on Historical Preservatio this survey by <u>Dunbar</u> made by <u>David Cargill</u> was about same time <u>Tappan- Tappan</u> was having his survey made; have not been able to find</p> |

*Pemaquid
 Sheepscot Villages*

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| | 460 | 420 | <p>platt of this one- rough date for that was 1730's deeds that were source of deeds to the cemetery now known as Sheepscot Cemetery and the ministerial lot he gave to people of Newcastle at Sheepscot.</p> <p>Is still under that title on the town maps are dated 1737, means the survey was made about that time.</p> <p>The layout of Sheepscot as it now stands is not at the location of the old historic village which was the first settlement at the Point of land south of the present village.</p> <p><u>Dunbar's</u> design for a new Sheepscot is plainly in the general location of the present Sheepscot, centers around the big tidal falls on the Sheepscot River; the historic Sheepscot Farms which was destroyed by the Indians in the late 17th century was on the point which ended about a mile south of the present village.</p> <p>The Dunbar platt shows no relationship to the general layout of the present Sheepscot in spite of the fact that they were made at near the same time.</p> |
| <p><i>Boston Sheepscot Newcastle</i></p> | 490 | 462 | <p><u>David Cargill</u> was apparently the surveyor of both surveys, his signature appears on the platt filed in the Archives in Boston, Maine</p> |

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| | | | <p>belonged to Mass. then; I have not been able to locate a formal manuscript of <u>Tappan's</u> survey made traditionally by <u>Cargill</u> himself. <u>Cargill</u> was an interesting character himself, settled here, family built a large home, now completely destroyed; interior decorations for woodwork is reported to have been bought by the Ford Museum at Dearborn, Michigan; family owned the Mill according to some maps on the Mill Brook; was a large water power developed there as early as 1630, correction 1660.</p> |
| | 520 | 508 | <p>History of this water power is another subject which still needs research; the abutments of a later dam are still to be seen; a historical paper of about 1870 the abutments of the dam are as a historic relic are mentioned. Use of this water power must have come earlier; the dam was already destroyed at the time this paper was written. Details of these two real estate developments are still to be completely researched.</p> |
| <p><i>Belfast Mill Brook Dearborn, Mich Mass</i></p> | 535 | 534 | <p>Wrote a bibliography of my paper. New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Oct. 1963, Belfast, paper- <u>David Cargill</u> and some of his descendants. Mike: What relationship does this area have</p> |

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| | | | with the Rockland, Belfast, Camden area? I have no knowledge that <u>David Cargill</u> had anything to do with that there. Bibliography had some editing since I did my part of the paper. |
| | 546 | 554 | I have no comment to make on this, was not in my bibliography. <u>Lowell Sid^elinger</u> is the next one up- I don't know where that came from. [Tape shut off for a few minutes here] |
| | 557 | 569 | <u>Cargill family</u> were prominent* in the affairs of the area, no descendents of the family in the community; old home has been destroyed; a large lot in the cemetery shows the extent of the family for latest burials are in the 1870's . <u>David Cargill</u> is buried there, may be a subsequent <u>David</u> , I'm not sure. |
| | 571 | 601 | <u>Dunbar</u> was here two years, entering into a lot of business and political activity to which he was not accredited and came into disrepute among the local population, he was withdrawn and sent to New Hampshire colony as governor deputy, was removed shortly after the date shown on the platt of Sheepscot. <u>Christopher Tappan</u> never lived here, no evidence that he did, he was a son of member of |

Sheepscot
New Hampshire
Camden
Belfast
Rockland

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| | 594 | 643 | <p>of the <u>Batt family</u>, there is some connection the falls of Sheepscoot were in early days called Batt Falls; interest which led him to choose the Sheepscoot area for the development of farm settlement project- the base of his activity whether the <u>Batts</u> were the local agents or lived in the early settlement is still to be studied. The King's Highway development was applied to the road which the 17th century village was laid out and directly north and south down the Neck that it was called Town Neck, was the center of early village, to what extent it was applied to the later village centered around the street Presently known as King's Highway is not clear, that street is an extension of the so-called Town Neck of the early settlement. It originated in the 17th century with that settlement completely destroyed except for the cellar holes, center of much archeological interest now.</p> <p><u>Job Averill</u> apparently came here about the time of the Tappan survey in the 1730's, there is a letter recorded in the Averill genealogical book so dated, in which <u>Job</u> writes to his brother, <u>Israel</u>, urging him to come up here and help with development of the water</p> |
| <p>Town Neck King's Highway Batt Falls Sheepscoot</p> | | 699 | |

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| 647 | 756 | <p>power, if <u>Israel</u> will take charge of it <u>Job</u> will provide the capital in the 1730's, about the time of <u>Tappan's</u> survey we do know that the deeds to his gift to people of Sheepscot for the support of a minister were dated 1737, also the deed to the platt which had originally been the location of the town fort for the early village was dated 1737 also.</p> <p>this deed to the hilltop where the fort had been was to the people of Sheepscot to be used as "God's Acre" forever, this has been enlarged in the years since and is still the center of interest though the cemetery is practically full and surrounded by privately owned property, can't be enlarged any further.</p> <p>M: Was the Alna side of the Sheepscot developing right along with the Sheepscot village?</p> <p>I think h that <u>Job Averill</u> was undoughtly here at the time of the height of the development of land sales in Sheepscot area, he was already here, his purchase of 1000 acres from the Plymouth Company did not come until later, 1760, he had it surveyed or used <u>Capt. North</u> Survey made by Plymouth Company, and sold lands in this area.</p> <p>His purchase from the Plymouth Company ran from about the Falls north to about where the</p> | |

Sheepscot

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| | | | <p>present old Alna Meetinghouse sat and ran back approx. a mile from the river on the upper part.</p> |
| | 671 | 816 | <p>The <u>Leighton</u> property as we know it more recently, their deed is from the Plymouth Company directly, that was south of the <u>Job Averill</u> property, the name "Job's Mountain" came from <u>Job Averill</u> , was part of his land.</p> |
| | 678 | 834 | <p>On <u>Joe Leighton's</u> photographs taken in the 1900's Job Mt. was practically clear, pasturland no way of knowing if the lumber there was used for ship's masts, was undoubtedly forested in the days of the 17th century village's existence, there were houses on that side of the river, many old celler holes, never dated lumber was cut off at some point, perhaps twice, few records were kept, on that side of the river one only speculates about, steep, much outcropping of ledge, not good farmland, over the ridge on the west slope there is open land.</p> |
| | | 888 | <p><u>Job Averill</u> was here in the 1730's and active don't know much about him, don't know much about him, he did in a small way what <u>Tappan</u> did to the East side of the river, what was by that time called Newcastle, was under seperate jurisdiction, even after he bought it the Plymouth</p> |

Newcastle
Job Mountain

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| | | | Company had a real impact up as far as the Sheepscot River even if the land may have been bought from <u>Job Averill</u> in the first place. His part in the development and relationship with the Tappan interest, the <u>Woodbridges</u> , <u>Tappan</u> interests isn't clear and would be of interest. |
| | 711 | 940 | <u>Averill</u> lived on the slope of the upper end of what is known as Job's Mountain, presently <u>Pinkham's</u> property; early maps show a Garrison house if so it was undoubtedly built before <u>Job Averill</u> was active in the area; may have been farming area, nobody knows. Picture from the Leighton collection of Job's Mountain are what I remember from my childhood here, are evidence of the cutting off of the property; I remember one of his pictures. |
| | | 978 | [Abrupt end of tape] |
| | 726 | | END SIDE ONE |
| | 054 | 030 | SIDE TWO Opening announcement |
| | 061 | 034 | The 4th of July celebration was a group of Alna families and had a picnic on top of Job's Mt. (Photo 691.1 & 691.2), old road goes up over end of the Mountain and on down towards Wiscasset, are of same group in both pictures, taken of nonsense orchestra, made-up |

*Job's Mountain
Sheepscot River*

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| | 102 | 060 | <p>instruments, <u>Lawrence Averill</u> played wash-tub bass voilin, <u>Parker Chaney</u> ran sheet music through an old-fashioned wringer; <u>Phillip Donnell</u> playing his cornet; at left, women playing tunes on combs; 691.2 shows group as a whole.</p> <p>.2 (previous discussion on 691.1) the orchestra at the left in less detail. Moving from the left hand side of the photo:</p> <p>The fellow blowing the horn: <u>Frank Houdlette</u>, of Alna Village</p> <p>The fellow with the washtub: <u>Lawrence Averill</u></p> <p>Next from the lwft playing coronet: <u>Phillip Donnell</u> (<u>Charlott's</u> brother)</p> <p>The next one is <u>Mrs. Houdlette</u> (thinks is <u>Mrs. Houdlette</u>)</p> <p>Next is <u>Hattie Houdlette</u>, from West Alna.</p> <p>073 Next is <u>Charlotte Donnell</u>.</p> <p>Next to <u>Charlotte Donnell</u> is <u>Ruth Smith</u>, a guest at the <u>Donnell</u> home , the one with the white hat.</p> <p>076 Next one, with the beret, is <u>Parker Chaney</u> (my grandfather)</p> <p>Next one is <u>Mrs. Donnell</u>.</p> <p>"The row back of this group is <u>Augustus Averill</u>, <u>Lawrence's</u> father" the fellow with the vest.</p> <p>Next is <u>Harry Flye</u>.</p> |

West Alna
Alna Villiage

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| | 151 | 092 | <p>Next ones are unidentified except the face at the rear between two others is <u>Henry Sargent</u> who lived at Sheepscot, he's in the back.</p> <p>The fellow next to him with the black hair is familiar, but can't place his name, he came from West Alna.</p> <p>The fellow with the goatee from the village area she thinks it is <u>Albion Averill</u> from West Alna Road.</p> <p>The tallest fellow in the picture, a very red beard.</p> <p><u>Mrs. Harry Flye</u> is directly in front of him.</p> <p>NEXT TO HIM IS <u>Mrs. Augustus Averill</u>, <u>Esther</u>, <u>Lawrence's</u> mother.</p> <p>The man next to the tree she can't name, next to him in the back row is <u>Edwin Donnell</u>.</p> <p><u>Celia McCobb</u>, next to her moving from left to right in the back row, she can't place that one either.</p> |
| | 174 | 109 | <p><u>Allie Averill</u> has his knee up on a stone wall.</p> <p>Thex three fellows at the end;</p> <p>From the left, (in front?) a <u>Mrs. Baker</u> of West Alna, <u>Natalie West</u>, the daughter of <u>Nat West</u>, who lived inx the house where the <u>Pinkhams</u> live now.</p> |
| | 189 | 120 | <p>Next is <u>Ed Leighton</u>, the father of <u>Joe Leighton</u> who took the pictures, this is sort of ina</p> |

West Alna
Sheepscot

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| | | | <p>middle row.</p> <p><u>Ed Leighton</u>, <u>Will Averill</u>, the last man can't name. the first of the three fellows in the right side of thd picture is <u>Joe Leighton's</u> father.</p> |
| | 198 | 129 | <p>his mother is here somewhere, in the first of this next line, that's her with half a face, (blocked)</p> |
| | 200 | 135 | <p><u>Marion Lowell</u>, Mike's grandmother- I don't think she was in the family at that time.</p> <p><u>Parker</u> wasn't married at the time this was taken, they married after I went away to school, 1908.</p> <p>The <u>Lowells</u> lived out back of Wiscasset in what is now known as Lowelltown., it was the first year I was away at school that <u>Parker</u> married to <u>Marion Lowell</u>, she was very young, younger than he, she was 16, he was about 26 then. She died about 1975-76 winter.'</p> |
| | 243 | 170 | <p>This is <u>Lucy Averill</u>, <u>Harold Averill's</u> mother, she is in front of <u>Mr. Donnell's</u> left arm. <u>Maggie Averill</u>, <u>Will Averill's</u> wife is next to <u>Lucy</u>.</p> <p>Little folks are hard to identify, all Alna people, couldn't have been any of the <u>Chases</u>. <u>Leighton</u> father and mother were here, don't know why the <u>Leighton</u> children weren't here.</p> |

*Alna
Lowelltown
Wiscasset*

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| 257 | | | <p><u>Joe Leighton</u> took the picture; there was no separation, <u>Leighton</u> was always kind of thought of as a loner, he had no friends particularly people wouldn't resist him, he was entirely acceptable to people [<u>clock chimes</u>] but he chose to live in a rather dilapidated old house which was one of the very old houses; <u>Charles</u></p> |
| | | 194 | <p><u>Leighton</u> was one of the ship builders of Sheepscot in early 19th century, up on Job's Mountain on opposite side of old road to Wiscasset, from the Leighton place, built by Edward <u>Edwin</u> <u>Joseph</u> <u>Leighton</u>, father of <u>Edward</u> <u>Leighton</u></p> |
| 275 | | 200 | <p>M: I was talking to <u>Ted</u> and <u>Marcia</u> <u>Ross</u> last night and they remember <u>Joe</u> and his wife in the summertime would pile into his truck and would follow the Maine fair circuit.</p> <p>C: Yes, he took portraits at the fairs, is a whole stack of them in the collection, typical of the sort of thing he would do.</p> |
| 285 | | | <p>He developed mechanical dispensers, he put them in that is for added income, put a nickle in the slot type things.</p> <p>Photography and the dispensing machines were his sole source of income.</p> <p>It was surprising how he was able to by plates and such at that time, could not see how with the amount of farming done, they supported themselves; was very modest living; houses</p> |

*Wiscasset
Jobb Mountain
Sheepscot*

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| | 310 | 232 | <p>were sad, shabby area; began to perk up in Sheepscot with the coming of the automobiles; I don't think that <u>Joe</u> would ever have taken a regular job, would have ever been willing to regulate himself.</p> <p>Even members of the family commented they didn't know what <u>Joe</u> was doing.</p> <p>He lived by himself, ate his meals up with the family; perhaps that accounted for him being able to support himself; must have been earning something as he got married.</p> <p>I don't know just when he got married, he did not have any children; and he didn't do anything but take pictures as I knew hims.</p> |
| | | 245 | <p>pictures of the mills, I think the group requested he take these.</p> <p>Pictures of the elderly man holding proudly to a favorite horse or a cow must have been something someone asked him to take and and paid him for a few copies of them.</p> <p>Seems to have been a precarious source of income Everybody bought pictures of these, a lot of families have them 691.2 an example this one of the band had no particular point, only</p> |
| Sheepscot | 341 | <u>Parker</u> | <p>^[Chaney] if you remember how hilarious the picnic was. with his little black beret on grinding sheet music through the old wringer, a lot of fun;</p> |

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| | 288 | 238 | <p>this is my mother on this end, 691.1- the lady on the left July 4th picnic, this is I and my friend <u>Ruth</u>, <u>Hattie Houdlett</u> this is <u>Ruth Smith</u>, and this* is I with the little white cap on, <u>Parker</u> with his back to, the leftmost man with white shirt and beret.</p> <p>Where we were was open, it was on the roadway; from the top of the wall I could see the China Hills, 30 miles to the north; there were relics of big woods then; was an area that was solid that <u>Ruth Smith</u> was visiting me-summer of 1909 exactly.</p> <p>I am went to Northfield in 1908 and roomed with her, the next summer she came home with me for a few weeks.</p> |
| | 377 | N | <p>Northfield is in Mass. on the Connecticut River, where it runs between Vermont and New Hampshire and it's barely in Mass.</p> <p>Campus of girls school where I went is not more than a mile from the line, boys school of Mt. Herman is across the rivxer a little farther down 4 or 5 miles down; two merged now to Northfield, Mount Herman School.</p> |
| <p>Mt. Herman, Mass Mass. N. H. Vermont Conn. River Northfield, Mass. China Hills</p> | 405 | 341 | <p>A washboard was supposed to be a zither in the picture of 4th of July, <u>Frank McCobb</u> and <u>Whimpet</u> boy here; made a cornet out of an old candle mold with a funnel in it for the bell.</p> <p>That was July 4th 1909.</p> |

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| 414 | 354 | | <p>Mike: Was <u>Joe Leighton</u> a drinking man?</p> <p>No, I never heard anybody refer to him as drinking at all. (the comment by Mike about <u>Joe's</u> temper and kindness by turn) that fits him, rather odd person.</p> |
| | | | <p>M: <u>Ted Ross</u> remembers <u>Joe</u> when he was a boy <u>Ross</u> was hauling wood across the <u>Joe Leighton's</u> property, what is now <u>Joyce Humason's</u> house, had hauled across * his land for years and one day <u>Joe</u> met them and told them never to haul wood across there agian.</p> |
| | | | <p>C: <u>Joe</u> was a strange person, married a girl that was strange, <u>Gertie Blagdon</u>; they had a comfortable like together, no quarreling; people said it too 2 queer people to get along.</p> |
| | | | <p>When <u>Joe</u> was 16 a man named <u>Nadeau</u> with his family lived Sheepscoot; he apparently had something do with photography, I've seen pictures mounted with <u>Nadeau</u> named printed on them; all were μ musical, played at community affairs, lived upstairs part of <u>F.L. Carney's</u> store, now burned; lived here a short time, he interested <u>Joe</u> in photography, <u>Joe</u> was on his own, <u>Nadeaus</u> left shortly afterwards.</p> |
| 450 | 403 | | <p>My father tried to interest himself in <u>Joe</u> and his photography; was printing on a type of paper that faded; lot of his pictures faded</p> |

Sheepscoot

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| | | <p data-bbox="532 300 560 331">4</p> <p data-bbox="532 1119 597 1150">463</p> | <p data-bbox="690 300 1567 709">very shortly; father tried to talk with him about another kind of better paper-better business; he (<u>Joe</u>) had a reputation at this time of his pictures fading badly; <u>Joe's</u> only responsw was that th̄is was the way he wanted to do it; he rejected even father's interest. <u>Father's</u> name was <u>Edwin Donnell</u>.</p> <p data-bbox="690 741 1588 909">Some of <u>Joe's</u> later picture were printed on better paper; Wiscasset High School, and grade school in many pictures.</p> <p data-bbox="690 930 1510 1098">I can identify style of dresses and date pictures from this fairly well, these were much later in his work.</p> <p data-bbox="690 1119 1604 1350">We never saw very much of him, there wasn't any Grange till the later part of our living here; Grange Hall built about 1915; mother sold the house to <u>Joseph Kennedy</u>.</p> <p data-bbox="690 1371 1588 1864">I knew nothing of the later part of <u>Leighton's</u> career, after I cam back I learned he had practically gave up the photography business and spent his time circulating with dispensing machines, he must have done well with this, he bought land, owned the Humason place; where he and <u>Gertie</u> lived he also owned, in West Alna [<u>This could be the same place</u>]</p> <p data-bbox="690 1885 1534 1990">M: They* lived for a time in Wiscassett on Hooper St.</p> |

Wiscasset
West Alna

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| | 507 | | <p><u>Gertie Leighton</u> sold that place to the <u>Humason family</u> they lived & in Wiscasset in the later part of his life.</p> <p><u>Mrs. Humason</u> said <u>Mr. Fried</u> [<u>Fred Fried</u>] came up and bought <u>Joe's</u> camera equipment and plates</p> <p>The association now has [<u>Lincoln County Cultural and Historical Association</u>]</p> <p>Apparently from time to time people have gotten a hold of some of <u>Joe's</u> Plates, every once in a while one turns up that I have never seen in all my work with the collection.</p> |
| <p><i>Boston</i> <i>Sheepscot</i> <i>Wiscasset</i></p> | 523 | 512 | <p>[M: I'm fairly certain some plates were left behind, there were plates left behind in the Wiscasset house]</p> <p><u>Mr. Fried</u> kept plates of some that had to do with entertainment.</p> <p>There are a group of 4th of July parade nonsense here at Sheepscot they had what they called the parade of "The Ancient and the Horrib a take off of the famous Boston "Ancient and Honorable Artillery Parade" that center around Faneuil Hall, the headquarters of this artillery, there are some pictures of this local parade, in background is Carney's Store and the other store.</p> <p>568 "It was a community playing with itself in a kind of way that I know no other episode</p> |

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| | | | <p>of except this little incidental picnic, which, and the idea of what was called a 'kitchen band'"</p> <p><u>Ruth Smith's</u> idea [<u>the band</u>] the <u>Donnells</u> may have been reasonably bright but we are not very inventive of entertainment, a very serious minded family.</p> <p><u>Phillip [Donnell]</u> and <u>Parker [Chaney]</u> and perhaps <u>Lawrence [Averill]</u> worked the thing out, we girls practiced up on combs, mother included, played tunes on the combs.</p> <p>569 Ancient and Horrible a parade, I remember two times when we came back to visit, when I was 7 [<u>1898?</u>] I went up to <u>Aunt Jennie Whit's</u>, up on Dyer's Neck where <u>Humphreys</u> live now; had a <u>Woodbridge</u> reunion there that summer, 120 people about,</p> <p>612 descendents of <u>Woodbridge</u>; 2 pictures of second generation <u>Woodbridge</u>- 10 or 12 men in one picture and about same number of women in other, costumes were of earlier period, not the one I attended.</p> <p><u>Florence White</u> was sitting on ground in front of the old ladies, the cousins, was about 12 yr. old, she was born in 1880, picture was probably in the early '90's, <u>Sunie</u>, <u>Chase Clifford</u>, was a baby sitting on <u>Florence's</u> lap.</p> |

Dyer's Neck

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| | 602 | 655 | <p>No more <u>Woodbridge</u> reunions now.</p> <p>All gone now, the <u>Trasks</u>, (<u>Follensbys?</u>), <u>Hodges</u> married into the <u>Woodbridge</u> family.</p> <p>I have in print a history of the <u>Woodbridge Family</u> that she read at the reunion, I have a copy of the typescript of it.</p> <p>It is not very adequate in things.</p> <p>Is part of family tradition.</p> <p>Later more research done, <u>Rundlett Palmer</u>, is a a descendent of the <u>Woodbridges</u>- a 4th cousin.</p> <p>[Mike gets typescript for Charlotte]</p> <p>[Discuss this paper]</p> <p>I copied the part on the <u>Donnells</u>, take them along and read them at your leisure, "They're not sacrosant like <u>Cushman</u> [<u>David Quimby Cushman</u> <u>History of Ancient Sheepscot and Newcastle</u></p> |
| | 630 | | <p>"Read to the Annual Reunion at Newcastle, August 1889" about <u>Woodbridges</u>.</p> <p>Mike comments on <u>Leighton's</u> work and his project</p> |
| | 640 | 747 772 | <p>C: There is a great deal of value in the collection (<u>Leighton's</u>) as it stands that has not been utilized by the Association, for lack of organizing and planning; in my opinion the value of the collection is not as great as it would be if <u>Joe</u> had been a person of larger imagination and interest; there is no indication that he was interested in telling a story about</p> |

Newcastle

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| | | | <p>the lumber industry, the largest part of the plates, a type of lumbering that was quite limited as to period; the portable mills represent a small section ended with development of motor power for hauling logs.</p> |
| | 672 | Only a | <p>few pictures that seem to have been intended to tell stories of things that happened, like the one of the man driving his wxeen into the river to get drinking water instead of carrying water to them; a few others in which people are doing something.</p> |
| | | 841 | <p>However there are real values if the effort is made, tie them together. Knowledge of the houses, pictures taken when no leaves on the trees. This was the way he made his living, he was devoted to his camera, didn't want to do anything else.</p> |
| | 694 | You wish | <p>he had been able to see people in the value of their doing things that represented things; there is one on Chase place on Dyer's Neck,</p> |
| | | 897 | <p>haying- 646.1 and 646.2 possible the <u>Chase family</u>; the one of Hay racks loading hay is probably on Dyer's Neck- 646.1 646.2 of threshing machine isn't the Chase place The hay racks and the single horse mean a later period, in my time no one would have thought of</p> |

Dyer's Neck

Interviewer's tape # 78.7

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| | | | hauling in hay with one horse; many farmers were still using oxen when I came to the farm in 1904 |
| | | 954 | Ending announcement- Chaney tape 78.7 |
| | 721 | 960 | END OF TAPE. |

Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History

Separation Sheet

Collection/Accession Name:

Collection/Accession Number: 1150 (Pg 51-98)

Items Removed (Include page numbers or number of pages as appropriate, description):

Accession Sheet:

Tape Worksheet:

Release Form: 052

Interviewer/Depositor Agreement Form: 051

Other:

Reason for removal: Transferred to control file.

Removed by: Rex

Date: 07-12-01

Interviewer's tape no.: Chaney 78.14 NAFOH Accession no.: 1150, 3
 Interviewer: Michael P. Chaney Address: RFD # 1 Box 243 Wiscasset, Maine 04578
 Interviewee: Charlotte Donnell Address: Sheepscot, Maine (RFD # 1 Wiscasset)
 Place of interview: Sheepscot, Maine Date: July 6, 1978

Other people present:

Equipment used: Sony TR 24

Tape: Brand: Scotch AV-176 Size reel: 5" ~~xxxx~~ 1.5 mil Speed: 1 7/8

Cassette: Brand: C-30/C-60/C-120

Amount of tape used: (Side 1): All (Side 2): All

Brief description of contents: This is the third interview with Charlotte Donnell. At the end of the interview, I added a "taped interviewer's journal," summing up my impressions of the three interviews with Charlotte, and where I thought future interviews would be headed, in terms of subject matter, et al. The literary accomplishments of people who have lived in the Sheepscot and Lincoln County area were discussed, particularly Ola Elizabeth Winslow and her biographies. The interview then took a turn to the religious consciousness of rural Maine and Charlotte's own consciousness. Part of Leighton-Lincoln County Project.

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| | TR-9 | | |
| | 036 | | Opening announcement. |
| | 044 | | [Mike refers to the release forms] [Photograph-Crescent Photo Studio-Danny Morris gave me that when he was director of the Lincoln County Museum.] |
| | 062 | | I feel reasonably sure that <u>Joe</u> [she said Ed] <u>Leighton</u> was not associated with the Crescent Photo Studio. He was pretty much of a loner. After <u>Joe</u> left his home on the Sheepscot Road, he lived in a small house on the same property across from the old road. It was an abandoned house, not kept up. It is situated almost in the same place as where ^(Scott) <u>Gilbert</u> lives now. It was a two room cabin. In a photo it is shown to have two run down end chimneys. The photo was probably taken after <u>Joe</u> stopped living there. |

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| | 106 | | <p>He left there when he got married. He went to live with his wife on her property in West Alna. It was one of the very old, low studded, two room houses, that were the ^{old} standard type of construction. It was known as the Charles Leighton Place.</p> <p><u>Charles Leighton</u> was a prominent ship builder and has his ship yard at West Bank up the cove near the mill. The photo does not look anything like it.</p> <p>I never knew of <u>E. Joseph Leighton</u> using the Cresnet Photo Studio. Joe Leighton's family said once they did not know much about his work because he never said much about it. He did a lot of his developing work down to that two room house.</p> <p>I don't know where the Cresnet Studio would have been located. Try <u>Lawrence</u>, he may be able to tell you where that place was located.</p> |
| | 155 | | <p><u>Mr. Nadeau</u> was here above the apartment above <u>F. CARNEY'S Store</u> on the corner, which is Burn's now. He had 4 or 5 children. They were a musical family and had an interest in the community. Even the little 3 year old had a special little violin. The mother played the piano. Everyone liked them and enjoyed hearing them play. I think that they did sing.</p> <p><u>Mr. Nadeau</u> was probably the person that interested <u>Joe</u> into the photography business. He must</p> |

West Alna

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| | 205 | | <p>have been in his late teens at the time and looking for a livelyhood. <u>Joe</u> never went any further than the district school. <u>Mrs. Carney</u> has a picture with <u>Mr. Nadeau's</u> name stamped on it. They were on cardboard mounts. This was not his business, it was something he did on the side. <u>[Mike is talking about advertisements with pictures In the Lincoln County News, Dec. 17, 1904 with the name F.F. Nadeau and another one with the name Joe Leighton. The ad ran for 3 weeks.]</u></p> <p>Perhaps <u>Nadeau</u> was connected with the Elite Studio. 1904 would make <u>Joe</u> just 20 years old. There was a definite friendship between them. I think there was some link between them. We were always under the impression that <u>Joe Leighton</u> loved taking pictures, but was not concerned with new techniques. My father tried to introduce <u>Joe</u> to a new form of printing paper for photos.</p> |
| | 265 | | <p>I don't know anything about what <u>Margorie Huntley</u> told you about <u>Roscoe Chase</u> talking to <u>Joe</u> about photography school. But I think it is again something like my father trying to introduce <u>Joe</u> to something different. But he never responded to anything new or strange. I never knew <u>Roscoe Chase's</u> father, also named <u>Roscoe</u>. He was probably the one that said he would put up the money for photography school. You should ask</p> |

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| | | | <p><u>Dorothy Chase</u> about that. She married <u>Roscoe Chase</u> a little later in life. But I don't think it would have been her husband, <u>Roscoe Chase</u> that would put up schooling money. <u>Roscoe</u> moved to Massachusetts after grade school with his mother, after his father had died. He went through a trade school to learn electrical work. He eventually became a superintendent at Signals in the town of Walden, outside of Boston. He didn't come back those summers.</p> |
| | 321 | | <p><u>Marjorie Margaret Huntley</u> is a relative of <u>Joe's</u>, as she is a sister to the widow and they would be niece and nephew to <u>Joe</u>. <u>Stella</u>, their mother, ^{Louis / Dol} <u>Lewis</u> and <u>Marjorie's</u> was <u>Stella Leighton</u>, a sister of <u>Joe Leighton</u>.</p> |
| <p>Harpwell Topsham Damariscotta Mills Damariscotta Boston Walden, (MASS)</p> | 342 | | <p><u>Mara Mulligan's</u> book does have a lot of contributions in it. I just saw her over km to the women's club in Damariscotta, where she explained the beginnings of her writings, she was a compulsive writer all her life. She left college to teach, then married before she got a chance to go back to college to finish. Her husband came from a prominent family in Damariscotta Mills. She grew up in Topsham and Harpswell. Her family is an old family from that area. Her husband belonged to an old family around the Mills. She always had a Maine connec-</p> |

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| | 425 | | <p>tion. She went to college in at Bates. She is a local writer compared to someone like <u>Elizabeth Winslow</u>. The background for her writing is definitely the world that she is now living. Her works come out every week. She has written quite a lot of poetry, even at the time when she had the responsibility of a family. She hasn't done any poetry lately. The one that touched me particularly is the one she called "Security." The jest of it was that there was something special about ledges, they were so solid, that there is security about them. It haunted me the way she expressed the feeling I always had about the ledge on the farm (Where the Gordens live now, what was called the home pasture). I climbed up and sat on the ledge as often as I could, I loved the feeling- and <u>Mara</u> expressed that feeling that I never could.</p> <p>A lengthy and colorful description of ^{Mrs.} Mrs. <u>Winslow</u>'s feelings about settling in the area. At the time she came up here she was in the English department at <u>Wesley</u> College, she was also doing work for Radcliff. Prior to going to <u>Wesley</u> she had taught for 20 odd years at <u>Goucher</u> in Baltimore. Also sometime during this time she taught some courses at the University of Maine and at some college in CALifornia. Her</p> |

California

U. M. O.

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| | 484 | | <p>association with Boston was entirely related to the use of the [Athenian], a famous old Library. Ever since she has lived here she has spent 3 or 4 months in the wintertime researching in the Boston Library.</p> <p>She has also done some traveling. She spent one summer in England, in Bedford where <u>John Bunyan</u> lived. She did this before she wrote the biography of <u>John Bunyan</u>. She did her research right on the spot. <u>John Bunyan</u> being a pilgrim of Pilgrims Progress.</p> <p>Her book, the pulizer prize winner, on <u>John Edwards</u> has had the most recognition of any of her books. She once saidxxx she loved that old man because he was sincere, even though she did not agree with his theologies. She also said once that the book she thought was most valuable and the one she liked the best of her own was "Meeting House Hill". It is about the growth of ideas as they show up in the minutes of the churches meetings. To prepare to wxx write the book she read through literally hundreds of town records. She quoted them in interesting ways, showing the development of ideas and the changes in peoples approach in religion. [Lenghty discussion about a church sermon she just heard from her minister that related to ^{Miss} Mrs. Winslows work.]</p> |
| | 525 | | |

Bedford.
England
Boston

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| | 555 | | <p>Most of <u>Elizabeth Winslow's</u> work had a christian element in it. She was a religious person. Many of the biographies that she wrote were of people like <u>John Eliot</u>, <u>Jonathan Edwards</u>, <u>John Bunyan</u>, and <u>Roger Williams</u> which showed she was liberal in her thinking and very perceptive about values.</p> <p>I am a Unitarian. I do not belong to a Unitarian Church at the present time. Unitarian philosophy is such that there is no authority beside the individual ^{soul} self. You had a obligation to seek truth, but when you come to some conviction it is the same as the other fellow. The real obligation is to seek truth meaningfully and conscientiously to problems. The Roman Church has the <u>Pope</u> as it's authority. Calvinism has the figures in the Bible as their authority. They have had trouble among themselves about interpretation of the Bible. When you join the Unitarian Church you make a commitment to a doctrine. To sum it up the Unitarian faith is "one man's faith is as good as another's if he is conscientious about it." That is a liberal interpretation. There is trend in the Unitarian denomination now toward humanitarism. They have removed the concept of <u>God</u> as an entity. <u>God</u> is something that you can't paint a picture of.</p> |
| | 600 | | <p>Even in <u>St. Paul's</u> letter he warned them of</p> |

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| | 620 | | <p>false teachings. One of today's great Unitarian ministers wrote a book called "<u>Paul, the First Christian.</u>" It was <u>Paul's</u> interpretation of what <u>Jesus</u> said. He stired a great deal of enthusiasm for his ideas. One of the gospels were written nearly 100 years after <u>Jesus</u> died.</p> <p>Calvinism is a strict interpretation of what <u>Paul</u> said. They are all born evil and so on. <u>Mr. Eastwood</u>, preached last Sunday about following a spark in us and to leave the tempting things alone. [<u>Long discussion about being in school in Northfield and talking about religion.</u>]</p> |
| | 670 | | <p>Sheepscot has a lot of believers in <u>God</u>, it is a simple type of faith. <u>God is God</u>. They really don't understand about a trinity, but they believe it. I don't believe in a Biblical study unless it is modern and scholarly. As long as I was in Northfield everyone took Bible study and one teacher I had that wasn't puzzled by the Bible. [Another discussion about how puzzled she felt when studying the Bible.] [Religious discussion of beliefs.] <u>Ralph Waldo Emerson</u> was a Unitarian minister at one time, but he got away from the church when he felt he was too confined. A quote from Emerson that I like is: "<u>God</u> is the power outside of ourselves, greater than ourselves, and makes for righteousness."</p> |

Northfield

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| | 035 | | BEGIN SIDE TWO. |
| | 045 | | <p>Christians were being persecuted; they were also fighting among themselves.</p> <p>In the year 330 A.D. a few bishops got together and brought all the different religions together so they would settle their beliefs and stop quarreling. It was called the council of Narsia. The statement of our faith was voted in by a vote of one. What actually happened 300 years after <u>Christ</u> was on earth may not have been written down authentically. I just don't believe everything they wrote down. There have always been heretic in the Christian Church.</p> |
| | 143 | | <p>I use to belong to the Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati. The minister there was asked one time if he believed in the virgin birth. He said that he would have to say he didn't know. But he did know that great spiritual truth can't hang on a biological fact.</p> |
| | 184 | | <p>The religious conscienciousness of this area is not that involved with ideas to higher levels, they have a basically simple faith.</p> <p>[discussion about exploring religion]</p> <p>I was chairman of the Sheepscot Community Church for a while. We didn't have a set of by-laws and I helped formulate the by-laws. The tappan gift was a gift to the people of Newcastle at Sheepscot for the support of the</p> |

Sheepscot
Newcastle

1215 2

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| | 247 | | <p>minister. The people of Newcastle quarreled so much at one time concerning a minister that they had no place of worship at one time.</p> <p>The church on the hill was built with private funds. They got their money back by selling pews. The Mehtodist owned a quarter of them, the Baptist owned a quarter, and the Congrega-tionalist owned a half.</p> <p>This was 18th Century doings.</p> <p>The 1857 map called the Church on the hill the Union Church. All three religions were using the church. My grandmother's name is on the list as the first members of that church. Her name is Jane XXXXXXXXXX Donnell.</p> <p>In 1868 the Methodist pulled out of the Union Church. The last minister that the Congregation-alist had was in 1885. Into the 19th and 20th Century The glebe was still owned by the church. The Metodist were the ones that hung on the longest here. It was settled by a law suit that went the to the State Supreme Court. Because no one challenged the Congregational Church for 100 years, it should be considered a Congregationa Church. Both the Congregational and Methodist have a group of people holding the rights to the glebe. <u>Bobby Ives</u> is the minister of the Con-gregationalist Church, but they do not hold services.</p> |

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| | | 330 | <p>[<u>MIke and Charlotte are talking about different churches and joining a religion.</u>]</p> |
| | | 422 | <p>[<u>Photo #660.1</u>] This one in the middle is old <u>Dan McCobb</u>, who is a great Uncle of yours. He is the man with the hat on, second from (<u>Mike's</u>) left. The fellow with the white mustache and white shirt sleeves, furthest to the left looks vaguely familiar, but I wouldn't name him. I think the man second from the right is <u>Mr. Baker</u>. The man furthest to the right looks like <u>Will Averill</u>. [<u>M: right to left: Will Averill, Ed Leighton, Daniel McCobb, (tantative)</u>] I would ask <u>Gerrie Ross</u> to identify those for you. [<u>Mr. Ted Ross</u> told me a story about <u>Mr. Baker</u> having a terrible accident with on of those saws, like in the picture.]</p> |
| | 454 | | <p>I know a story like that but it was <u>Dan McCobb</u>, that had a tradey with a saw. Perhaps <u>Mr. Baker</u> also did. I would want you to turn the machine off so I could tell the story. [<u>Machine is turned off and started again.</u>]</p> <p>The bottom picture I could not identify. But it is a man spliting wood. <u>Mr. McCobb</u> use to cut fir^ewood for everyone after he came out of the woods.</p> <p>[<u>M: Your paper ; Sheepscot Village - 300 Years of Transition</u>, is being put together. Sheepscot District has been accepted into the National</p> |

Sheepscot

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|--|-------|------|---|
| | 500 | | <p>Registry of historical places. We've gone through a lot of your interest. Your concern with the architectural aspect of the Sheepscot area. With my visit from ^{Kaplan} Mrs. <u>Capplin</u>, we found the archeological aspect of the area.]</p> <p>I feel that the architectural aspect has a connection in the history of Sheepscot. I am doing this without a real formal search. I am getting the information from what I have heard, growing up, and from my own family. That is a oral history. Some has come out of reading, and some out of the local developments, things that have happened since I lived here. In just writing a history, I would not have followed the formal outline about houses. I suddenly realized that I have no information about who was in charge of the selling of <u>Tappan's</u> land. This is something I want to look further into. The family moved here in 1750, the <u>Woodbridges</u>. Someplaces it says they came in 1753. I belive the reason for this is because the oldest son, also Benjamin, came ahead of time to see the lay of the land. He came to Wiscasset and worked for a man in the merchandizing business for 3 years.</p> |
| <p>Batt Falls Wiscasset Sheepscot.</p> | 544 | | <p>It was in the 1730's the began talking about water power. They all refer to Batt Falls. I discovered that one of <u>Christopher Tappan's</u> grandfathers was named <u>Christopher Batt</u>.</p> |

| Index | NAFOH | Int. | Catalog |
|--|------------|------|--|
| | | | <p>His wife was also a descendent of <u>Christopher Batt</u>. From reading I have found that this area was so devasated that there was nothing going on for 30 years.</p> <p>I am interested in closing the gap. It was closed in the coming of <u>David Dunbar</u>. He functioned as the governor of the colony. The <u>Tappan</u> survey was 1737, 5 years after <u>Dunbar</u> had 2 villages planted as feudal villages. Sheepscot was one of them. <u>Tappan</u> owned most of the land around here then. He started buying as early as 1702. There are sales of records from <u>King Phillip</u> to <u>Christopher Tappan</u>. That would have to have been prior to 1702. The Indian wars are very well documented, but it doesn't contribute anything to Sheepscot.</p> <p>The part about <u>Robinson</u> was played up in the fact they he only lived in Alna for a year and lived the rest of his life in Gardiner. He was born here. His writing looks back to Gardiner and Hollowell.</p> <p>[ramble conversation]</p> <p>END OF INTERVIEW</p> <p>[At this point Mike adds an interviewers taped journal]</p> <p>This is the third taped interview with <u>Charlott</u> about 6 hours of conversation. We have had some</p> |
| | 597 | | |
| | 651 | | |
| <p>Hollowell Gardiner Alna A</p> | <p>653</p> | | |

| Index | NAFOH | Int. | Catalog |
|-------|-------|------|---|
| | 665 | | <p>untaped conversations. WE have discussed some geneological and archeological persuits of people in this area. Many people have taken to finding old stones and taking rubbings.</p> <p>The interview tonight dealt with <u>Charlotte</u>, the person. It was her religious conscienceness, literary aspects of Lincoln County. She has given us all she knows about <u>Joe Leighton</u> and now we are studing <u>Charlotte Donnell</u>.</p> |
| | 678 | | <p>END OF TAPE.</p> |

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SHEEPSCOT VILLAGE
THREE HUNDRED YEARS OF TRANSITION

BY

Charlotte C. Donnell

assisted by many neighbors

Special maps by John Vansant

It must be explicitly understood that these descriptions of old houses and "lost landmarks" in no way impinge on the privacy of the present residents. No buildings are open to the public save the Village Store and the two churches, keys for which can be borrowed from neighbors.

Published by the Lincoln County Cultural and Historical Association

Sheepscot Village

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nistel
 Damariscotta
 Nobleboro
 ? outland
 Newcastle
 Sheepscot
 ? Pownalboro
 +

INTRODUCTION

In this sketch of the Sheepscot area, ~~(boundaries have been~~ ^{we have} drawn to include territory which in a general way has functioned as a social entity since white men commenced settlement in the 17th century. The story of its origin lies buried, almost obliterated, in cellar-holes needing careful archeological attention. But archives and human memories produce evidence of the interest there was in the district throughout its past as a focus of political and economic concern on the part of "men in high places." The many ^{late 18th and} early 19th century houses still occupied are but the lasting evidence of continued development which cannot be separated from the early crude beginnings. That none of these old houses are occupied now by the descendants of their builders does not represent a break in the continuity of life and interest in the area which an early historian called "the garden spot of the east." The natural beauty of the Sheepscot area is free to be enjoyed by traveller and resident alike. This pamphlet is an attempt to share some of its historic interest.

GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING

The area included as of special historic interest can be seen (Map #1) to be basically related to the Sheepscot River (an Indian designation meaning, it is reported, "a place of birds," perhaps because of the hundreds of Canada geese which annually stop to rest and feed here on their way north.) The river divides Sheepscot Village politically, so that those who live on the

1150 71

eastern side vote and pay taxes in Newcastle and those to the west in Alna. But the river also binds Sheepscot Village together, making it the tight-knit community it is.

The Sheepscot is a tidal river having a mean variation of 9.6 feet which flows about 20 miles south to the open ocean. There are two main branches; the first, which has been known as Marsh River, runs ^{toward} ~~from~~ the east several miles. It has an irregular channel through low-lying meadows and tidal flats. Several tidal inlets run north from this river creating narrow necks of land originally heavily wooded. A mile or more north of the junction with Marsh River the main river makes a sharp turn to the east, where a submerged rocky ridge creates a considerable fall of water on the out-going tides and some drop on the up-tides. Just above this Fall, early known as Batt Falls, a smaller tidal river, Dyer's River, comes in from the east, turns north for several miles and parallels the main river, creating another neck of land. This section of the Sheepscot Valley offers, therefore, a variety of terrain for farming, everywhere easy access to navigable water, good supplies of fish, and forests covering the surrounding hills.

Scattered over the area and clustered around the confluence of the river above the Falls there are at the present time 35 houses built prior to the 1840s. In addition there are 31 houses built between the 1850s and 1940, and 27 built since 1940. Eighteenth-century cottages and modern ranch houses seem to neighbor comfortably with large dignified federal-style mansions; and the presence of more than 20 overgrown cellar-holes, other than those of the 17th-century village-site on Mason's Neck, is

Nason's
Neck
Dyer River
at Falls
Marsh River
Sheepscot
Alna

readily observable. Often a great cluster of lilacs marks the spot. In six or seven of the larger houses it is clear that an earlier cottage with its cooking fireplace and ovens has been incorporated into the newer structure as an ell.

Of public buildings two have some claim to antiquity; a Congregational church on the hill overlooking the village built in 1825, a Methodist church built in 1868. The Grange Hall ^{built in 1911} ~~of 1911~~, on the point where the two rivers join, serves as a community resource as well as for the use of the P. of H. The more modern buildings of the Volunteer Fire Department, the telephone exchange, the Village Store with its Coffee Corner, and a small club house built in 1970 by a local benefactor, with space around it for tennis, softball and riding, serve their respective purposes.

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HISTORY OF THE AREA

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY: SHEEPSCOT FARMS

Insert →

The earliest ^{recorded} settlement was on Town or Mason's Neck, later known as Woodbridge Neck and Chase's Point. Little is known about the beginning of settlement here, but by 1665 the area already known as Sheepscot Farms was of enough significance to be designated by the Commissioners of the Duke of York (later James II of England) as the place for a meeting of delegates from the settlements at Pemaquid and Arrowsic, as well as Sheepscot, for the purpose of organizing a county government "for the better ordering of the affairs of the settlements." They met at the home of John Mason (location of which is documented) who was evidently already a leader in the community, and drew up plans for the "County of Cornwall." Excavations and a careful survey of the area (Map #2) carried out about 1880 seem to indicate an active population of about 300 persons. There is evidence of a boat-yard, a well-constructed wharf at the south end of the Neck, and a small fort at the north end. This survey locates all cellarholes that were evident at the time. A number of cellarholes on the forested hill west of the river have not been studied in detail but local tradition has long considered them as part of the Sheepscot Farms development of the 17th century. No artifacts from those early days are known to exist, but two houses in the village, built about 1800, show an unusual use of heavy beams, 14 inches square, in their foundations. By long tradition these beams were considered material from "the old fort" when it was ~~finally~~ demolished.

... about 17~~90~~
90.

*Arrowsic**Pemaquid**England**Chase's Point**Woodbridge Neck**Mason's Neck**on*

1150 74

Records of the Town Meeting of 1803 show the sale of "flankers from the old Fort." ~~This may have referred to a later construction.~~ (Insert)

After repeated raids, the village and surrounding countryside were completely devastated by a concerted Indian attack in 1695 in the continuing effort of the Indians to drive out the white invaders. The Indian hostility was complicated by rivalry between England and France over control of the American continent. Farming was gradually resumed with the return of former settlers and the beginning of planned land development. The only settler known to have established a home north of the Fort in that early period was William Dyer, who cleared fields and raised cattle in the area known ever since as Dyer's Neck, lying between the Sheepscot and its eastern branch, the Dyer River. William Dyer was killed in the raids of 1695. The family fled to relatives near Weymouth, Mass. Later his son Christopher returned but was killed by a prowling Indian.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

A substantial number of the inhabitants of Sheepscot escaped the Indian devastation by reaching the islands off the mouth of the river or Boston on a small coasting vessel built at the village for Sir William Phips, a prominent colonial whose original home was nearby on the Kennebec, ^{and had invested in Sheepscot Farms.} Some of these fugitives returned in the years that followed, to re-establish their family claims. Walter Phillips, who since the organization of the plantation in 1655 had acted as clerk and recorder, apparently took his record books with him when he fled, for they were used as reference in the Boston courts in establishing claims. The use of this record ended about

Weymouth
Boston
Kennebec R.
Dyer's Neck
Sheepscot
Dyer's Neck
France
? Nahant

1738. It was in that year that the Suffolk County Courthouse burned, and probably Phillips' records with it.

Interest in these abandoned lands developed rapidly. Before 1702 when Phillips died, he had deeded to one Rev. Christopher Toppan (often spelled Tappan,) ~~spelling on his deeds is Toppan~~ by purchase, the title to all land in the area which he owned, including land purchased from the heirs of John Mason and of Madame Elizabeth Gant (two of the earliest purchasers of land from the Indians). Madame Gant's son Thomas married John Mason's daughter. Through the following years Rev. Toppan added to his holdings, covering what is now the Town of Newcastle, and into present-day Nobleboro and Edgecomb.

Rev. Toppan was a Harvard graduate (1695) who for 51 years was pastor of the First Church at Newbury in Massachusetts, and on the side interested in land development because of his social concern for the boat-loads of immigrants coming into Massachusetts ports with no plans for settlement. His holdings were in an area covered by four or five different royal grants and individual purchases from Indians; so the legal status of his property was subject to much litigation throughout the period. The Toppan venture was never a financial success, although the number of settlers coming in increased rapidly, especially from 1730-1750.

In 1730 Rev. Toppan employed David Cargill, formerly of Londonderry, New Hampshire, to make a complete survey of his land. Cargill was an educated man. He established a home on a large tract of land near Sheepscot and seems to have been responsible for the sale of land and management of the project, since Toppan

sheepscot

Londonberry,
N.H.

Nass.

Newbury, Ma.

Edgecomb

Nobleboro

Mass.

continued with his church in Newbury; no mention has been found of his coming to live at Sheepscot. The name Benjamin Cheney is also associated with this survey. The lines run by the Toppan-Cargill survey are undoubtedly those marked by surviving stone walls, which are still the basic reference for property lines.

In 1737 Toppan deeded two of the farm lots to "the people of Newcastle at Sheepscot for the support of the parsonage," one to be given to the first minister who would be "settled" in the area, and the other to be kept forever for the support of the minister. In the same year he also gave a similar deed to the property on which the Fort had stood, "to be used as God's Acre forever."

Meanwhile a brief but interesting interruption intruded on Toppan's land project at Sheepscot. One David Dunbar had been appointed agent of the King's Pines and was sent into the area today known as Lincoln County. Here he became so impressed with the potential of the region that he started his own land development project. He envisioned five different towns planned on the feudal scheme of a cluster of house lots to form a village with a central common, each householder to own also a hundred-acre plot nearby which would be operated as a farm. Sheepscot Farms (called New Dartmouth by Dunbar) was one of only two started before Dunbar was withdrawn from the area and assigned elsewhere due to his arrogant manner and his involvement in affairs to which he was accredited, which threatened serious disorders. His projected plans for Sheepscot are dated 1732 (Map #3), the same year in which he left the territory, so little action could have been taken. Only one deed signed by Dunbar has been found, and the present

Lincoln
County

Newcastle

Sheepscot

1732-1733 M.

village lay-out does not appear to follow his plat. David Car-gill seems to have been involved in this survey as well as in Toppan's.

More research needs to be done on the relation between the two developers working with the same terrain and on what influence Dunbar's projected plans may have had on the development of settle-ment above the Falls and the site of the Fort, rather than at the site of the 17th century village. Harnessing of some of the huge water power evident at Batt Falls may have seemed more feasible to an 18th century pioneer than to one of a hundred years earlier. This is another interesting point for research and speculation.

Christopher Toppan died in 1747 leaving his property in Sheepscot to his daughter Susannah, who had married Benjamin Woodbridge also of Newbury. The Woodbridges moved to Sheepscot about 1750, to live in a house, no longer standing but marked by a filled cellar-hole, on the point of Town Neck where the earlier village had begun. Benjamin Woodbridge continued to sell land and farms based on the Toppan survey as well as to traffic in other resour-ces of the area. Three of his sons took up land at the head of Dyer's River. In another generation that section became known as "Woodbridge Neighborhood," more recently as North Newcastle. Benjamin was Lincoln County's first representative to the General Court in Massachusetts in 1774 and thereafter.

Nass.

Lincoln
County

o. Newcastle

yer River
Newbury, Ma.

Sheepscot
at Falls

A marked increase in the population of Sheepscot developed, as elsewhere, with more stable conditions following the end of the French and Indian Wars and the creation of more effective government with the establishment in 1760 of Lincoln County courts

1150 '78

sitting at Pownalborough, Waldoborough and Hallowell. The town of Newcastle had been incorporated in 1753. Included within its bounds was that part of the Sheepscot settlement east of Sheepscot River, where already was concentrated a goodly majority of the 450 people making up Newcastle's population at that time.

Among the newcomers to Sheepscot was Job Averill, followed by his brother Israel and a son, also Israel, from Ispwich, Massachusetts and Londonderry, N.H. About 1760 Job bought a thousand-acre tract of land from the Kennebec Proprietors lying along the west side of Sheepscot River, beginning below Batt Falls at Sheepscot and including an area previously part of the 17th-century village. The farms north of the Falls platted and sold by him were probably based on the Kennebec Company's "Capt. North Survey." Several houses still in use today were apparently built in the 1770's, following this purchase. The unusually long, narrow shape of the farms was, by local tradition, an effort to provide each buyer the same share of different kinds of land varying from potentially arable fields near the river to rocky ridges covered with woods, open pastures, and ending a mile from the river in a large swamp with a heavy covering of ^{swale} swede grass and a special variety of cranberries.

Job Averill lived on the upper end of the long ridge west of the river, since known as Job's Mountain, until he obtained a license for a ferry across the river in 1764, superceding the fords previously in use. These fords are located on Map #2. The ferry was located just below the confluence of the two rivers in approximately the same place as the present bridge across the

Job Mtn.

Batt Falls

Londonderry N.H.

Ispwich, Ma.

Sheepscot R.

Sheepscot

Newcastle

Hallowell

Waldoborough

Pownalborough

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Sheepscot. A toll bridge replaced the ferry in 1794 which became a free bridge in 1894.

Averill and his sons were largely instrumental in the development of the water power at the Falls, and Israel's will dated 1785, shows a sizeable operation. Job later built a house near the west end of the ferry, convenient to the mill as well. The contours of the land show its probable location.

NINETEENTH CENTURY

By the turn of the century ships were already being built in Sheepscot; this activity increased to a high point in the Thirties and Forties but became less and less significant following the Civil War.

Banks of clay suitable for brickware, discovered very early, became commercially important by 1840. The numerous places where broken and discarded brick may be seen along the banks of the river attest to the extent of this industry (Map #5) though it was apparently shortlived. Only one house in the area was built of brick, explained perhaps by the high prices the brick commanded in the Portland and Boston markets compared to the small profit from lumber.

Mills proliferated because of the abundant water power at hand; sawmills ^{to provide lumber} supplied from the nearby forests, ^{for the needs} ~~to cater to the~~ ~~construction needs~~ of homesteaders and shipyards; grist mills for the convenience of the farmers as they cleared their fields and put in crops of barley and wheat, oats and corn.

These industries, along with the sale of timber and hay, produced the mild affluence that built the handsome houses which are

oston
ntland
heeps cot

Inset
Kilby
Prospect

1150 80

a special interest of the present village. Cottages also were built for workmen or as farm homes, but many of these have been destroyed.

TWENTIETH CENTURY

The latter part of the 19th century showed a decline in family farming, wooden ships were no longer in favor, and the best of the timber had gone to market. The development of portable steam power reduced the work available locally. Population declined with the exodus to neighboring states for jobs. The big mill at the Falls, after being idle for extended periods, burned in 1906; the two stores at the end of the bridge burned a year later. Many houses stood empty and many were ill-cared-for because of the low economic conditions. The last sea-faring was carried on by Capt. Joe Jones's scow, the "North Star," which for many years transported consignments of cordwood, baled hay, etc. to coastal markets. Even the "North Star" disappeared from the river about 1925.

The appearance of automotive transportation reversed the trend by making it possible for people to commute to jobs in the larger coastal towns. Automobiles demanded better roads - with local employment for construction and maintenance. It became possible to truck produce directly to market and hence ^{mil farming or becom} ~~the raising~~ ^{more} ~~of it~~ profitable; and the production of eggs, broilers and milk raised the economic level a bit for those who had chosen to stay on the home farms, though times were hard for many years.

The automobile had also stimulated travel all over the country, and Sheepscot felt its effects early. From the '20s on tourists

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who specialized in back-road exploring discovered and were enthralled by Sheepscot's sleepy charm. New people bought old houses, some abandoned, some simply in need of paint; many new people-after the end of WW II. An intelligent process of "fixing up" has been carried on ever since, enjoyed and shared in by those whose families have always lived in the village as well as by the newcomers.

Land values have skyrocketed in recent years. "Old houses" are at a premium or literally unavailable. House lots begin to be the best use for the narrow pastures, and some modern houses have been built. But there has been no change in the basic character of the community. Sheepscot is still a close-knit neighborhood, all its residents ^{united}, whether they live on the Alna side of the river or in Newcastle, in a real concern to preserve its natural beauty and the flavor of its past.

Newcastle

Alna

Sheepscot

1150 82

HOUSES BUILT PRIOR TO 1850

Note: Name of earliest known owner is used. Classification by architectural period is based on structural evidence, historic articles and maps as well as family tradition. The numbering is arranged geographically beginning at the Sheepscot Bridge. (Map #5)

1. James Carney came to Sheepscot from Pownalboro on the Kennebec for business purposes c. 1795. He built the present house on the Sheepscot River at the east end of the bridge, and sold it to Samuel Averill in 1805. Later owners were Joseph Hall, Beard, Bird and others. The house has nine rooms, is two-story with low hip roof and chimneys with panelled over-fireplace (no mantles), original woodwork and floors intact. The former kitchen wing was an older one-story cottage. The 8-foot square foundation of the old cooking fireplace lies under the floor. After a period of neglect the house has been modernized and carefully restored by recent owners.

2. Capt. Thomas Chase Built in 1803 by Captain Chase, farmer and ship-builder, this house is a simple example of Federal design. There are eight rooms with hip roof and large central chimney. Occupied by the builder and his son Eldridge and family until c. 1880, then for many years by members of the Carney family related by marriage. A long porch on the front built ~~by~~ⁱⁿ 19~~00~~¹⁸ is the only exterior change. Several sliding "Indian shutters" were found in the walls of the first floor and are preserved. There is some use of 14" ~~by~~^X 14" hand hewn beams in the foundation of

the cellar which are reputed to be remnants of old Fort Ann, de-
 Sheepscot R.
 Kennebec R.
 Pownalboro
 Sheepscot

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molished about the time of the construction of this house.

3. Capt. Thomas Lenox - Located across the North Newcastle Road from Capt. Chase's, just north of Sheepscot Village. The house was built c. 1825. There are eight rooms, full two stories, with attic and gable roofline. Basic Federal design with no adornment inside or out. Occupied by the Lenox family until c. 1865, then for many years by the Frederick Hall family, then by Joseph Hodgkins. Repaired and modernized by recent owners.

4. Samuel Kennedy - One mile north of Sheepscot Village on North Newcastle Road. Kennedy ownership is shown on an official town map dated 1816, probably based on the Toppan survey of 1733. Plot runs from Dyers River east to Mill River (or Brook). Earlier data^{is} not available. Property owned by James Campbell during the 1850's and apparently for one or two generations of his descendants. About 1900 the place became the property of Henry H. B. Nash whose wife was a member of the Murray family next north (q.v.#5). About 1935 the property became a girl's summer camp. In 1950 it was purchased by Pauline Fenno who used it as a private residence until her death in 1975. Through the years extensive alterations and additions have been made to the house which disguise its early origin.

James Campbell, about 1842, sold a small plot at the southeast corner of his farm on Mill River and the water rights in a dam. The abutments of the dam and the foundation of the mill building and mill race are still standing in a very isolated wooded area. The dam is noted in the deed as 16 rods across the top.

Mill River (Brook)

Dyers River

Sheepscot

to Newcastle

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5. David Murray - House is located on North Newcastle Road. It was built c. 1776 and occupied by generations of the Murray family until 1932. Six sons of the builder were lost at sea and several subsequent generations produced sea captains. Col. Robert Murray, a ^{grand}son of the builder, was prominent in the Civil War, and earlier built coasting vessels at a yard on the Dyers River below his house. The house is a story and a half "Cape Cod" cottage with a long ell. Central chimney is intact as well as an interesting parlor completely panelled in wood which appears never to have been painted. A second room is similarly panelled but there is evidence that this has been transferred from another house of the same period.

6. John Murray - A nephew of David Murray built this house about 1825, and died here. The last of the family to occupy the place was Lavinia Murray who died c. 1910. It has been appreciably altered from its original simple design but is well maintained.

7. Robert Lennox - Cape Cod farmhouse, a quarter mile east of Sheepscot Bridge on Old County Road, was built in 1822. Occupied by Lennox relatives until 1945. Central chimney, ovens, cupboards and old stairway are intact, though there are slight alterations for modern facilities. The doorway is an unusually attractive feature.

8. William Hopkins - Around 1900 this house was known locally as "Brooks Reed's House" though the house was abandoned. It is a well proportioned Cape Cod with four rooms downstairs and two up. The foundation shows the same use of heavy beams in chimney and wall foundation as in Capt. Thomas Chase's house and the same

tradition persists that they were some of the flankers of the Old Fort (Fort Ann) demolished in 1803. This circumstance along with high ceilings and very wide floor boards on the first floor establishes the first decade of the 19th century as a tentative date for building. The names Moody, Reed, Vinal, Bird and others appear as owners.

9. Jerome Kennedy - On Old County Road, 1 mile east of the village. Seventy years ago this house was a low-studded two-room-and-attic cottage. Jerome Kennedy probably was not the first owner of this house, although records show that his father William and grandfather Samuel had been long residents and holders of the land. Evidence of ownership is dated 1816. In following Kennedy generations Eugene and Albert (Bert) lived here until c. 1925. The subsequent owner repaired and improved a rundown primitive cottage until today it bears no resemblance to its original appearance.

10. Mary Moody's Cottage - This property is part of original Kennedy land. The sequence of ownership is unclear but associated with William Hopkins and Mary Ann Moody, both related to Kennedys. The house is clearly a combination of ~~two~~ parts of ^{two old houses.} ~~different ages~~, both very old - noticeable especially in a narrow, very primitive board-walled stairway leading to a very low attic in the wing. In the front part of the house there are two rooms downstairs and two small, almost attic rooms upstairs. The house has been modernized comfortably but not "restored."

11. Robert Kennedy - A two-story house with a one-story ell, just south of the Congregational Church on the road to Newcastle. Built c. 1820, with an older cottage attached. A cellar hole

1150 86

nearby was probably the original location of the ell. The main house has end chimneys, and there is a cooking fireplace with ovens in the ell. Original wall paper in good condition still hangs in the hallway. The house was later owned by F. I. Carney and his family. Since 1925 the place has changed hands frequently, but has had excellent maintenance.

12. Wm. Cunningham - The property was owned and occupied by the Cunningham family 1735-1960. The present house was built by Wm. Cunningham about 1800. A good example of early federal design - hip roof, two stories, eight rooms, with a central chimney. An unusual feature is the meat-smoking chamber built into the chimney on the second floor. Large iron hooks in the walls for hanging slabs of meat are still visible. Original woodwork is intact throughout the house. Part of the second floor rear was never finished but is served by a large fireplace and gives access to the smoke chamber. ^{the interior} Shows excellent restoration and care.

13. Dennis Mahoney - Bought property near the crossing of Sheepscoot Road and Indian Trail in 1835. The front part of the house may have been built before this as indicated by ^{the} cooking fireplace with cast iron door on oven, paneling over the mantle and the crude stonework cellar under one part of the house, as well as the use of split boards for lathing. Exterior has general appearance of late federal period but has been added to several times. Two rooms now used as shed space are obviously of much older construction and local tradition has it that they were part of an older house still standing a short distance away. There have been several additions and changes with modernizations. Presently well

1150 87

maintained.

14. David Shattuck - The property was originally part of the large Nickels holdings. ~~This owner~~ ^{David Shattuck} came to the locality in 1838, built the present house and his family occupied the place until 1950. In addition to farming, he developed a tide-mill at the head of the tide on Mill Brook nearby, grinding grain as well as sawing lumber.

15. Chas. Nickels - On Sheepscot-Newcastle Road, half mile east of Mill Brook. House built about 1805. It is a large, square, two-story house with high attic and monitor. There are four rooms on each floor, two chimneys on inside cross walls, originally four fireplaces on each floor. It has been extensively repaired in recent years but not suitably "restored." Original parlor is intact with very attractive federal design in woodwork. Cornice, dado, fireplace, door and window ^{frames} ~~panes~~ in excellent condition. Outside appearance much altered by use of "four-light" sashes in some windows. The original cornice survives under the eaves on one side only. The fireplace with cooking facilities ^{has} been eliminated, but there is evidence of provision for the laundry kettle and smoke chamber in the basement. The Nickels family had lived for two generations on extensive holdings in the area and a large cellar hole nearby is considered to have been an earlier family home. Alexander Nickels, brother of Chas. built an identical house at the Fort at Pemaquid Harbor. The family disappears in mid-19th century and the house was subsequently owned under names of Delano, Dodge, Davidson and others.

Pemaquid Harbor
Mill Brook

1150 88

16. Capt. John Holmes, Jr. - The family was long resident in the area. Capt. Holmes was a successful shipmaster and in 1826 built the large house now standing on the point of Dyers Neck at the confluence of the Dyers and Sheepscot Rivers. The house has 12 rooms and a full gable attic. The portico has classical features. The ell is plainly of earlier construction. The original chimneys were placed on the inside wall of the house and had four flues each. These have been replaced by a box chimney. Holmes sold to Capt. Moses Chase in 1853 and three generations of Chases lived in the house until ^{recently} sold to the present owner. House and barns have been well maintained. The property is now used as a stock farm.

17. Amos Flye - This two-story house ^{on Dyers Neck} with ^{typical} large attic-gabled roof in ^{general} Federal pattern was built in 1846. Descendants report that the ell originally stood on ^{land} ^{which was} previously owned by Ezekial Laiten and was moved across the road when Amos Flye built his new house. The facade of the new part of the house shows interesting classical detail in a graduated series of Ionic pilasters on each side of the center doorway, on a central second-story window, even to a large Palladian dormer window on the third floor. The parlor paper is the original decoration from 1846.

18. Sam Laiten - Story and a half Cape Cod farmhouse on Dyer's Neck Road, two miles from the bridge. In 1822 Kingsbury Donnell bought the house from Laiten; thereafter Donnell descendants occupied it until 1905. It was owned subsequently by the John Twachtman family but completely abandoned by 1940. Rebuilding was undertaken by Pauline Fenno in 1960 and completed by the present owners.

Sheepscot R.

Dyer R.

Dyers Neck

19. Methodist Parsonage - The early history of this house is not known but successive generations have considered it "the oldest house in the village" and details of its structure substantiate the claim. Very low ceilings, plank walls, narrow staircase in a corner of the "common room," central chimney with fireplaces and oven, intact except for intrusion of furnace pipes. There are wide plank floors and a "stoop" as entryway for the two rooms. A lean-to kitchen and bedroom were added about 1850 by a ministerial occupant and the roof raised to make the attic space available for use, with two oval windows added below the eaves. Four-light sashes have replaced the small paned windows. An 1857 map shows this house as "Methodist Parsonage." It was probably also the place of worship for the Methodists who had been organized into a congregation earlier. The place was bought in 1868 by Addison Carney and is still owned by his descendants.

20. William Williams - Owned in the 1850s by Wm. Williams, who had a joiner's or carpenter's shop nearby on the river bank, this house has two stories with end-chimneys. The fireplace in one has been converted to use as a furnace flue. A one-story ell providing a large kitchen and attic seems to be part of an older cottage, with plain board dado, hand-planed doors and crude hand-made hardware. An attractive front doorway with classical features is partially obscured by a porch built c. 1900. Molded cornice, panelled dado, door and window frames, and the fireplace, are intact in the living room. Woodwork in the other front room has been changed to a simple classical style with low pediments over the doors and windows, a style popular in the 1840s. The house was bought in 1873 by Franklin Carney when his own house

1150 90

burned, and remained in the family until sold in 1958 to the present owner.

21. Jothan Donnell Clifford - who came to Sheepscot in 1841, built this large house on the Main Street (now renamed The Kings Highway) which shows neo-classic details on the exterior and has Victorian fireplaces in chimneys built into interior walls. Clifford built and operated for many years a store on the corner at the junction of the two rivers. His family occupied the home until 1905 when it was bought and occupied until 1960 by Capt. Joseph Jones and his family. Capt. Jones owned and operated two freighting scows in the coastal trade - the last commercial shipping on the River. A substantial wharf on his own property was home port.

22. "The Buoy" - On The Kings Highway, half mile south of the Cemetery. Parts of two ancient structures were moved to present site at unknown date and integrated into present cottage. Local tradition has it that main part came from house formerly on corner of The Kings Highway and Sheepscot Road.

23. Dennett Weymouth - House built about 1848 by D. Weymouth is on ^{the} north side ^{of the road} at west end of Bridge. He owned the Mill and shipyard at the Falls at this time; several relatives resided nearby and carried on other businesses. Design shows several neo-classical features in doorway and fireplaces which have free standing columns at corner and round-the-chimney mantles. Seven rooms all formal and high ceiled except the kitchen which is plainly an earlier house, probably pre-Revolutionary, with the large chimney and cooking fireplace intact. ~~A family burying ground was started on knoll near the house,~~ ^{which was later removed.}

1150 91

House was later occupied for many years by family of George Mahoney who was toll keeper at the Bridge for F. L. Carney, owner of the Bridge until it was freed in 1894. The Mahoney family occupied the place until 1940. Kenneth Hinds' family were resident for several years starting careful restoration which has been continued by present owner.

24. L. D. Weymouth - Stands on south east corner of Mill Road in Alna at west end of the Sheepscot Bridge. It is a large square house, with hip roof and two large chimneys on inner cross-walls. Has especially gracious proportions and an attractive front portico. Five large rooms and hall on first floor and five bedrooms upstairs. Kitchen in ell is of earlier construction with ancient fireplace. Property owned by L. D. Weymouth, mid-19th century, during the heyday of Weymouth interests in Mill and ship-building. He was part owner of the Mill at Sheepscot Falls nearby. Entire first floor woodwork retains painted graining popular in 1840's except the parlor which shows redecorating done in 1885 for the wedding of a daughter. The owner at that time was George Nelson. Property has been in this family for four generations including the present.

25. "The Captain's House" - Located on Mill property at the Falls at end of Mill Road on Alna side of Sheepscot. Clearly of 18th century construction with "salt box" roof line. Interior arrangement and woodwork of original house ^{are} intact - two rooms with central chimney and fireplaces, very low ceilings, etc. Occupied for many years by Capt. Joseph Leighton. Considerable space has been added by wide dormer upstairs and enlarged space

Sheepscot
Alna.

1150 92

in living room. Built originally for use of "millwright," became run down after Mill burned but has been pleasantly restored and improved by present owner.

26. Cyrus Rundlett - A late 18th century cottage on Mill Road in Alna to which has been added a music room and a studio by present owners who acquired the property in 1930. Property was usually owned by mill owners for employees' occupancy. The original cottage is intact except for the large cooking fireplace and is well maintained.

27. D. C. Howard - Originally a one story, three room cottage with end chimneys. Fireplaces and internal woodwork intact. Built early 19th century, possibly by D. C. Howard who owned it during the 1850's. Second story added later and in 1960 the ell roof was raised to make two full stories. Has retained its "early American" aspect. Owned in early 1900's by Mrs. Frank Palmer, widow of former owner of the Mill at Sheepscot Falls; subsequently by Mrs. Flora Carney, Mr. and Mrs. Cheyney Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Richmond Smith.

28. Job Averill - This property is the site of Job Averill's earliest residence on land procured from the Kennebec Proprietors about 1760. The traditional designation as a "garrison house" probably referred to an earlier structure associated with Sheepscot Farms or subsequent early developments. Job Averill removed to a location near the river where he operated a licensed ferry beginning c. 1770's. The present house was built in the early 19th century, a plain two-story early farmhouse with third story dormers added later. Samuel Averill, Jr. owned the place in mid-

19th century. After several brief ownerships it has been occupied by the present owners since 1935.

29. Joseph Leighton - This house is on the Old Road to Wiscasset about a mile south of the Sheepscot Bridge. Leightons previously owned farms on Dyers Neck. Four generations of the family occupied this house from 1822 to 1965. It is a square house of two stories with a hip roof and two chimneys on interior walls.

30. Francis Rundlett - A story-and-a-half farmhouse built c. 1840 on a small tract in the early Job Averill purchase. The house has the basic Cape Cod pattern though with wider eaves and a more decorative doorway. There is an appreciable amount of painted graining showing on second-floor woodwork. The cooking fireplace is in an end chimney facing into an ell room, still intact with oven and cast iron doors. The house was renovated by members of the Rundlett family c. 1915 with changes in the front hall and stairs. Small-paned window sashes have been replaced by two-over-one on the front of the house. The house was occupied by three generations of the Rundlett family until sold to the present owners.

31. Rufus Stevens - The land was part of Job Averill's purchase from the Kennebec Proprietors. The house is a simple Cape Cod cottage of comfortable proportions. It was built late in the 18th century, dormer windows added more recently. The place was occupied for many years by Rufus Stevens and his descendants, then by the Ervin Averill family beginning 1895. Since the 1920's the farm has been owned and operated as an egg and poultry production unit by the present occupants.

1150 94

32. Jotham Donnell - This house was probably built in the 1770's. The property was bought by Jotham Donnell from Samuel Clark in 1812 when he married Jane Woodbridge, great granddaughter of Christopher Toppan. It was occupied by four generations of the Donnell family until 1916. Capt. Donnell served in the garrison of Fort Edgecomb 1813-1814. He had come to Sheepscot from Bath as a shipwright, employed by Capt. Thomas Chase. Fourteen coasting vessels were built between 1816 and 1865 at the Donnell Shipyard at the foot of the property on the Sheepscot River. "Shipyard Hill" has yielded artifacts relating to the shipbuilding activity in the course of subsequent farming operations. An addition was made to the house in 1820 to provide "keep" for the ship carpenters who lived at a distance.

The original house is a typical Maine farmhouse of the period except that its proportions are more generous than most built at that time, being two full rooms deep instead of one, with two full bedrooms on the second floor and a stand-up attic. A central chimney, ten feet square at the base, was removed about 1880 to create space for a hall and a more convenient stairway. No other structural changes have been made except modern plumbing and substitute fireplaces.

33. Ebenezer Albee - This place on the Golden Ridge Road is one of the "shoestring farms" laid out by Job Averill in the 18th century. The house is a typical one-story and an attic Cape Cod farmhouse facing the river. Bought by Ebenezer Albee early in the 19th century, it was occupied by members of the family including four generations of Chaney's until 1965.

Sheepscot River
Bath
Sheepscot

1150 95

34. Miles Averill - This house is a small early farmhouse with four rooms only one of which, the "Common Room" has much size. The ceilings are very low. Its construction is attributed to the 1760's as a part of Job Averill's development. There is better woodwork in the house than is usually found from that period. The large fireplace and ovens are intact. A porch on two sides and an ell have been added but the character of the house has been preserved. Miles Averill was a descendant of Job but was not the builder of this house. After the family died out in the 1890's the house was abandoned for many years.

35. Israel Averill - The land is part of Job Averill's original purchase. A cottage built about 1770 is the ell of a two-story federal house with two chimneys on inside walls, built c. 1840. Large brick ovens and the cooking fireplace are intact, with considerable primitive woodwork. One bedroom upstairs shows hand-painted stencilled wall decorations (pineapple pattern) probably done when this style was popular, 1840-1860. Color has been damaged by the subsequent use of wallpaper over the painting. The house was occupied by Averill descendants until 1925. Since then three generations of Philbricks have lived in it. The white paling fence around a small square front yard is intact, with interesting decorative details to match the house cornice. These fenced front yards were standard at one time, now almost extinct.

36. Wm. Gray - Originally this house was a typical Cape Cod but through the years has had periods of neglect as well as restoration and modernization to the extent that its period of construction is not readily identifiable. It is understood to have

omit whole
page 95

1150 96

been built in 1741 but this is probably the date of the original land purchase under the Toppan Survey. The first house built may have been a small cottage, possibly the present ell or a small ancient cottage nearby, now used as an annex. The central chimney and much of the woodwork is original or dated.

The house was owned by Wm. Gray in the 1850's. The property was part of the large Kennedy holdings in the early 19th century, on what was known as "Crumbie's Reach." With its annex the house, occupied by the Gray family until 1925, is now the only one still standing and lived in ^{on Crumbie's Reach the now} ~~the~~ heavily forested two-mile neck of land between Mill Brook and a smaller stream once cleared and dotted with many homesteads.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(See Map 6)

37. Congregational Church - The building is situated on Garrison Hill on Sheepscoot Road where Madame ^{gent's} ~~Gray's~~ garrison house stood and later the village school. ^{the church} It was built in 1825 from private funds as a Union Meeting House, available to Congregational, Methodist and Baptist groups already established. A church had been "gathered" at the Town Meeting House about 1795 but due to geographic problems and rivalries between Sheepscoot ^{Boston} and Newcastle Village, the members from each community organized and built their own building. The union arrangement at Sheepscoot was broken up by the withdrawal of the other two groups leaving the Congregationalists in possession of the building but too small in number to support a minister. After 1885 the church had no minister and only an irregular summer service was held until 1943. At that

Newcastle
Sheepscoot
Garrison Hill

1150 97

time Sheepscot Community Church was organized and services are held here regularly through the summer, alternating with the Methodist Church building for winter services. Since a careful and attractive restoration in 1910, the building has been kept in excellent repair thru income available from the glebe provided by Christopher Toppan in 1737. The building is Greek revival with a steeple and will seat 200 persons. The interior decorations are simple but pleasing, designed and executed by George Haushalter, an artist living at Sheepscot at the time of the restoration.

38. Methodist Church - This building on "The King's Highway" near the river was built in 1868 with pews to seat 200 people. The exterior is in a modified Italianate design, clapboard finish, painted white. The windows are tinted a dull rose with a uniform pattern simulating diamond-shaped leading. The interior was decorated by a Boston artist circa 1890 and carefully restored in 1968 thru community contributions. The building is used for regular church services from October to May by the Sheepscot Community Church. Sunday School is conducted in the modernized vestry.

39. Grange Hall - Located on NW corner of Sheepscot Road and Dyers Neck Road. Constructed by Garrison Hill Grange P of H 497 in 1911. Besides serving the formal requirements of the organization it provides a center for various community activities and is rented to individuals on a selective basis. It is kept in excellent condition, its value added to by its attractive location.

40. Fire House - Sheepscot Volunteer Fire Department began 1900 with a hand pumper and a few devoted members. By 1945 they owned a tank truck and built their fire house to house the truck

1150 98

near the corner of Kings Highway and Sheepscoot Road. A new and better equipped tank truck, extra hose, Indian tanks, fire helmets and other equipment are kept there and additional space serves for meetings of the firemen and the Women's Auxiliary. Supported by volunteer community activity and a small Town subsidy.

41. Village Store - A small store which along with a Coffee Corner supplies an incidental social center for the village.

42. Gertrude Bird Club - A six-acre tract includes a club house of one large room with modern facilities, a riding ring, tennis courts and a softball field. It was developed by a private individual and presented to the Town at the time of her death. Operated with small fees by a committee appointed by the Selectmen.

HISTORIC SITES

(located on Map #5)

WATER POWER

A. Sheepscot Falls - ^{earlier} Once called Batt Falls, (a corruption of the name ~~Batt~~) ^{Christopher Batt} Christopher Batt was Christopher Toppan's grand father, but it is not yet known whether ^{Batt} interests preceded Toppan's in Sheepscot land development.

Substantial tidal power has been developed from these falls since about 1760. The natural fall was supplemented by the construction of a dam of four log cribs filled with rocks, between which were heavy wooden gates, the central one of which so constructed that the gates swung open with a rising tide to let in the maximum amount of water and allow for the passage of vessels up or down at flood tide. This provided a 14-foot head at the peak of each tide according to local ratings.

The dam originally promoted by Job Averill and his brother Israel changed hands in 1785. Later, in its heyday, it was owned by Dennett Weymouth and members of his family until 1860. Franklin Carney, Oakes Rundlett, Trask and Palmer were later owners. About 1904 the property was acquired by the Bath Box Company, but was never again operated. The mill burned in 1906.

Power was used primarily for sawing lumber, but some grist was ground. The fire left nothing of this property except the "Captain's House" and a shed, beside the log piers in the river above the dam which held log booms, and some of the millrace structure. The dam, unused for water power since the fire, was dynamited in 1924 to facilitate access by boats to the upper river

Sheepscot
Sheepscot Falls
Batt Falls

1150100

The old mill stones have been reported by scuba divers to be lying in the river above the dam site.

B. Mill Brook - Earlier known as Allyn's or Allen's Falls, Cavasissex River, Nickels River and Deer Meadow Brook. The falls can be seen from the Sheepscot-Newcastle road. Power for grinding grain was developed here as early as 1660 to serve the people of Sheepscot Farms. A freshwater stream draining a valley fifteen miles to the north here runs through a narrow gorge with a drop of about fifteen feet at the Falls. Walter Phillips, an early settler on the Damariscotta River to the east opened a trail between his home and Sheepscot Farms which passed the mill site, to serve both communities. This route was known until taken over as a county road as "Walter Phillips Cart Path." The abutments of a heavy stone dam are clearly visible from the road and indicate an added elevation of ten or fifteen feet. Alexander Johnston reporting to the Maine Historical Society in 1878 says that the abutments of this "very strong double wall dam still remains whole at the present time."

That this gristmill with a sawmill added later was a recognized establishment is shown by the fact that a plat of the district proposed by David Dunbar and dated 1732 (Map #3) shows a two-acre lot set aside on each side of the Falls as a "Common" for the mill. No trace is evident, without intensive study, of the mill itself or the wooden sluice which must have been used in place of a stone millrace. The Nickels family whose property abutted the Brook to the east still owned the mill early in the 19th century.

Damariscotta River

Deer Meadow Brook

Nickels R.

Cavasissex River

Allen's Falls

Mill Brook

1150101

C. Shattuck Tide Mill - Located at the mouth of Mill Brook, this was a small but active operation established by David Shattuck about 1835 on the farm where he lived. There are remains of a plank dam to impound fresh water from the stream above and from tidal flow.

D. Gray's Tide Mill - This was a small development on the west side of "The Reach" between Deer Meadow Brook and Marsh River. A plank dam was constructed across the mouth of a small bight to impound water from a brook and tides on William Gray's farm in mid-19th century. Little evidence remains.

SHIPYARDS (see Map #5)

E. Dennett Weymouth - Weymouth's shipyard was on the Mill Point at Sheepscot Falls. The largest ships produced in the Sheepscot area were built here: "King Philip" of 1196 tons in 1856; "Keystone," 853.2 tons in 1854; and "Jonas Wren," 747.4 tons in 1843. Schooner "Annie P. Chase," 257 tons, was built at this yard in 1873 when it was owned by Franklin L. Carney.

F. Capt. Thomas Chase - Capt. Chase built a substantial number of coasting vessels at this shipyard on his property on Dyer's River just above its confluence with the Sheepscot River. About 1810, Captain Chase brought Jotham Donnell, a ship-wright, from Bath to take charge of his shipyard.

G. Charles Leighton - This shipyard was developed on the west side of the cove below Sheepscot Falls. The "Ascutna," 450 tons, built in 1854, was apparently the largest vessel built in this yard. Also known were the "Emma" (1846) of 206 tons and "Napoleon" (1845) of 74 tons, and others.

Bath

Sheepscot R.

Dyer River

Sheepscot

Sheepscot Falls

Mill Point

Marsh River

Deer Meadow Brook

Mill Brook

1150102

H. Jotham Donnell - This yard was located on the shore of his home farm on the Sheepscoot River about a half mile above the bridge. It appears that the "Mary T. Rundlett" (286 tons) was the largest of fourteen vessels built at this yard. Others were "Dart" (1816), "Orient" (1819), "Morningstar" (1820), all of about 120 tons. The last ship built was in 1869.

I. David Murray (and son Col. Robert Murray) - The Murrays built ships as early as 1795 on their farm on the Dyer's River, three miles above Sheepscoot Bridge as it meanders thru wide salt marshes. The location gave rise to stories of his vessels being launched with a collar of air-tight barrels above the keel to raise the vessel high enough to get around the bends in the river. Murray vessels ranged from the "Betsy" (133 tons) up to "Damascus" of 313 tons. Col. Murray was building boats as late as 1858.

J. Henry Cargill - A substantial number of coasting vessels were built at this yard between 1820 and 1845. It was located at the north end of Town Cove. A fine spring nearby had from earliest times attracted a variety of activities. John Mason's house was close by in the 17th century Sheepscoot Farms period. Sir William Phip's craft in which some of the settlers of "the Farms" escaped the destruction of 1695 was built here. Later, brickyards were developed to make use of the fresh water in ~~relation to it~~. Henry Cargill was a great grandson of David Cargill, surveyor of the Toppan Claims, and built his house nearby on the King's Highway, the cellar of which has only recently been filled.

Note: The names of the following men also appear as builders of ships recorded as having been built at Sheepscoot: James Averill,

Sheepscoot
Dyer River
Sheepscoot River

Town Cove

24

Leighton
Joseph Leighton, Samuel Averill, Charles Cargill, J. D. Clifford,
William Watters and Charles Nickels.

BRICKYARDS

K. Fairservice - Located on west bank of Sheepscot, a quarter mile above the Bridge where a small brook enters the river. Dresse logs show along river bank and broken bricks scattered near the area are traces of early activity. Piles of hand wrought chain almost overgrown with sod have been discovered at the site.

L. Town Cove - West bank of Town Neck at Sheepscot Farms over a considerable part of its length shows refuse brick at low tide and probably further inland except that pine woods grow clear to the shore. Near the upper end of the Cove a large spring pours its fresh water into this tidal cove. It was the major water supply for most of Sheepscot Farms and today with an electric pump supplies water to a modern house near by. Several sections of wooden pipe, hand bored, lying in the stream bed were placed there by Henry Cargill to supply his brickyard on the Cove. He sold the property about 1850.

M. Nickels - There is also evidence of brick making and frequent references to Hartley Nickels brickyard on the east side of Mill Brook below the Falls. Hartley Nickels lived on the home property from 1817-1864 and the stream is shown on some maps as "Nickels River."

Small workings show up at various spots on the east side of Town Cove along Marsh River at the mouth of fresh water streams.

MISCELLANEOUS SITES

N. Sheepscot Farms - (Map #2) Settlement during the 17th

Marsh R.

Nickel's River

Mill Brook

Sheepscot

century was largely limited to the Town Neck lying between Sheepscot River and what came to be known as Town Cove east of it. The Neck is about a mile long and less than a mile wide at the north end. Apparently the Neck was cleared of forest in those days and extensively farmed. The wide meadows of salt and "sweet" hay were added resources. The settlers were largely English but ^{the addition} with some ~~immigration of Dutch, probably officials,~~ ^{towns who were officially relocated at Sheepscot} after England captured ^(Amsterdam) New York in 1664. Maximum population was probably about 300. The village was completely destroyed by Indians about 1695, later re-settlement was established north of the old village site and the Neck again developed extensive forest growth. This re-development of the second Sheepscot village on an entirely different location north of Town Neck (for reasons which need to be explored) resulted in the cellars and other relics of the 17th century village remaining unmolested for some years. Extensive and unsupervised amateur digging was done 1870-1880. Any artifacts found have completely disappeared. Currently the Neck is heavily wooded except for three small areas of open farmland. In the 20th century large sandpits have been opened on the west side. There are now five houses on Town Neck - one built in 1850 at the south end, another old construction of two rooms, parts of different houses, moved separately from elsewhere, and near the upper end, three homes of very recent construction.

0. Old Newcastle Meeting House - After constant bickering as to the location of the Town Meeting House, between the settlement at Sheepscot and the people of Newcastle on the Damariscotta River side of town, and the threat of fines by the Massachusetts

Mass.
Damariscotta R.
Newcastle
Sheepscot R.
Town Cove }
Town Neck } Sheepscoot

1150105

authorities for not providing a place for a church to be gathered, a town meeting in 1788 voted to build a meeting house in the middle of the town and hire a minister. It took six years before it was actually in use. The building stood until 1924, but was long unused because the Newcastle town business center had become concentrated along the Damariscotta River.

The building was originally of the same design as other 18th century Town Meeting Houses in the area, with box pews and a second story gallery. The building is gone but the square stone foundation still stands in a thicket, opposite the "Nickels House."

P. Old Fort (Fort Ann) - The highest point in the Sheepscot vicinity is a hill which rises abruptly from the river east of the Falls and on the northern end of "Town Neck." Here the first white settlers built a crude stockade and named it Fort Ann. There are references to repair of Fort Ann in town records during the 18th century but apparently it was not garrisoned after the French and Indian Wars. It was demolished by the beginning of the 19th century and the "Flankers" sold to house builders. An aged citizen reported many years ago that when he was young a broken brick-arched vault was visible at the site but "had since been covered by filled lots" (as the cemetery there was expanded). From the dates on the stones in these ^{filled} lots, it seems clear the archway must have been covered between 1850 and 1867. The steep slope of this Fort Hill ends at the river in a long level outcrop of ledge clear of water at all tides. In this ledge a large mooring pin ^{is} ~~was~~ fixed in the rock, now nearly buried in debris, ~~the~~ suggests the possibility that this ledge ^{may have been} ~~was~~ the wharf for the landing of supplies to the

Sheepscot
Damariscotta R.
Newcastle

1150106

early ~~Fort Ann~~. No exploration work has been done here. An English coin dated 1685 was found recently below the surface near the Fort property.

Q. Cemetery - Some historians report that this high land east of the Falls was used as a burying ground as early as 1630. There are no records but some years ago human bones were found when new graves were dug in what was thought to be unused ground. That there has been no evidence of burials anywhere else on Town Neck would seem to substantiate the report of the hill top being so used.

In 1737 Christopher Toppan in surveying his large land holdings which included this site, deeded the hilltop (about four and a half acres) to "the people of Newcastle at Sheepscot, to be 'used as God's Acre forever'". There have been during the 19th century two additions made to the cemetery but all available space for conventional burials has now been filled except for an occasional single space in a family lot. Cremation lots are available.

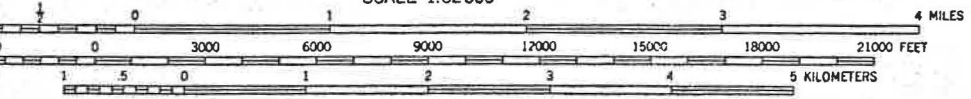
There are thirty flat but irregularly shaped field stones set on end in what is obviously the oldest part of the cemetery which show no inscriptions at the present time. The oldest readable inscription shows "Sarah Campbell - ¹⁷⁴⁴1774." Based on Toppan's deed (now filed in York Co. deeds), the cemetery is considered Town property and is carefully managed and maintained by a community organization and the income from private trust funds.

Sheepscot
Newcastle

1150107



40' 18 MI. BOOTHBAY HARBOR 11 MI. (21) 35' 4 MILES
 INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C.—1954
 SOUTH BRISTOL 11 MI. (129) (130) PEMAQUID 7.5 MI. 459000m E. 69° 30'



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
 SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.4 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.,
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————
 Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
 □ U. S. Route ○ State Route

WISCASSET, MAINE
 N4400—W6930/15

1957

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(MONHEGAN)

TRANSCRIPTION

Interview with Charlotte Donnell of Sheepscot, Maine by Michael Chaney on January 11, 1978.

C: Charlotte Donnell
M: Michael Chaney

M: Today is Wednesday, January 11, 1978 and I'm on my way to interview Miss Charlotte Donnell of Sheepscot, Maine. On Sheepscot area history. My name is Michael Chaney.

You remember what I told you last time about a release form and all the business. I have to get a release form for each interview that we (C: Oh) each interview in the archives will have a separate file. It's all part of the bookkeeping that we were talking about.

C: Well that part of it's alright. What is, is there some way that if I really am stuck as to what I want to say, that I can stop the tape?

M: Sure I can just reach over and flip that little button. Microphone here but

C: I can do it more quickly if it's alright for me to do it. (M: Sure) it just pulls down this way?

M: Yes and that will shut it off.

C: It's off now?

M: No, its going now.

C: Oh dear.

M: I just turned it on.

C: Can you cut that out? [laughs] This talk isn't very valuable.

M: Well , you know I'm used to, some of the interviews that I've done with people I don't know, you know, I walk in and put the tape down and turn it on just as quickly as I can and I try to make sure that they know that the machine is going. That's bad when someone talks and
Sheepscot,

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1214 1

they don't think the amchine is running.

C: I didn't realize it was running. Well that's alright.

M: But the thing is that the conversation swings so quickly. Something valuable that you really don't realize it and so it's

[both speaking at once-confusing here] (096)

C: It's your affair not mine.

M: But, yes she can you know, you want to shut it off for a second or need to go in the other room for a map or something like that, just say the word and

C: Well I can reach out and push the thing down.

M: Yea. But well. I have this paper in my hand called Sheepscot Village Three Hundred Years of Transition by Charlotte Donnell. How diid you get involved in all of this for one thing?

C: Well it goes back to an early piece of my life and my first experiences of coming to grandpa's house. My father had grown up in Sheepscot and all through the early part of my memory he always referred to it as home. And I got an idea that there was something special about Sheepscot. And my memories of those visits were happy ones. The impression that there was something important about the background of the family and was quite early in the picture. As I came to know it, Sheepscot, better when the family moved to Sheepscot and lived on the old home place, I came to know more and more of the background.

M: That was early in the century right?

C: That was in 1904. After living at a variety of places we came to settle in what had been home.

M: That was up on Golden Ridge.

C: On the Golden Ridge, the house as I gathered from conversation in the home, no explicit history, but just talk, I acme to realize that the

*Sheepscot Village
Sheepscot*

family had lived in this house for a long time. I didn't know just how long and it didn't seem to matter. In the picture there was a great-grandfather who had been a shipbuilder and part of the farm was shipyard hill where he had his shipyard and launched several vessels.

M: That is on what is now the Gordon property, (C: Yes) There was a shipyard there.

C: By the river (M:Yes) there's a steep hill, rather a steep slope, comes down to the river that great-grandfather utilized to make the launching of his ships easier, rather than having to build up the framework, the slanted ways that were (163) essential to getting ships into the water. There were a few pieces of pewter around the house that were traditionally part of the old family outfit in the early part of the century China had become more common. They were used, the old pewter, were used to send the dinners down to the men from the house, rather than they're coming up the distance from the river. Various things of this sort developed, there were pieces of furniture that were referred to as belonging to the earlier generations of the family. Apparently somewhere along I learned that my great-grandfather had been, was a part of a rather large family of Donnells that lived in Bath. And they, he had come to Sheepscot as a shipwright in the employ of one Elbridge Chase, correction- Captain Thomas Chase who was an established ship builder here. He had married-Jotham Donnell my grandfather had married the sister of Captain Chase's wife. A famous Woodbridge family that had, the members of which had proliferated to the extent that, a village to the north was

Bath

always referred to as Woodbridge neighborhood and to the south was Woodbridge Point.

M: Now the north back of the Woodbridge, the Woodbridges were up in North Newcastle back in then

C: And at that time there were still several Woodbridge families living in what more recently is known as North Newcastle.200

M: Now was the north part of Sheepscoot known as the stuff below what is now Davis Point? Sheepscoot Village was once further south than it is now.

C: This was later knowledge that came to me. The ancient village on what is currently known as Chase's Point, but I was somewhat older before I became aware of this bit of ancient history. But the Woodbridges had been involved in the development of the present village through a certain Christopher Tappan. A minister of Newburyport, Massachusetts, who had a concern for getting people onto land, immigrants from Europe. This detail came later in one's understanding. The whole feeling about the, as it grew, the knowledge of this grew, I picked up a good amny bits of interest of the family because Christopher Tappan was to my generation was a great-great-great grandfather. His daughter had married Benjamine Woodbridge also of Newburyport and had brought his family to Sheepscoot in 1750. They had lived on the point and had bought up land which had been surveyed by Rev. Tappan's interests

M: That would have been David Cargill?

C: Yes, David Cargill was the surveyor though I didn't place him exactly at that time. He became a permanent resident here in the neighborhood which we knew as the Middle neighborhood.

*North Newcastle
Sheepscoot
Davis Point
Sheepscoot Village
Chase's Point
Newburyport, Mass
Europe*

C: Now the center of the town of Newcastle. It's a, Benjamin Woodbridge and his wife, Suzanna, apparently lived on the lower end of what we know as Chase's Point, about a mile south of the present village of Newcastle- of Sheepscot. And it's but his children took up land when the completion of the survey of his lands which were extensive and ~~included~~ included most of Newcastle and some outlying parts of Nobleboro and Edgecomb. But their interests were at the upper end of the Dyers valley, at least to the tidal river and was later known as North Newcastle. All of this drifted in to my conscieness as history Much of the sense of it of the passing of time and the historical depth, depth of the historical background of the family and this community came little by little. At one point something which helped to give me prospective of the relationship of the family to the community, or to the passage of time, came when I asked of the great aunt who was a part of the household on the old farm how old the part that she presistantly referred to as the new part. How old this part really was. She puzzled a minute and said I don't believe that its more than 90 years old. And this was built by my great grandfather apparently as the two houses, the shipyard employees, the 90 year old part of the house being the new part was, struck me as kind of the key to the many of the things in terms of historical perspective that briefly interested me. The death of my father in 1916 and the necessity of my mother returning to my own home in Iowa to her own family and the fact that my brother and I were employed elsewhere by this time led to a kind of lapse in any going on of thinking and learning about the history because we were not living here anymore. But it was always

*Newcastle
Chase's Pt.
Sheepscot
Nobleboro
Edgecomb
Dyers Valley
North Newcastle*

with a sense of

[tape off I think]

M: There we go.

C: The 30 or more years following the sale of the old home were spent in various parts of the country following my own professional of social work. In each case a interesting myself in the history of the locality where I was working, such as New Mexico, Arizona, correction, Oklahoma. In each as well as others I would often ask, was often approached with the question of where did you get the interest, were you a history major at college? Well I was to be sure but it meant that I came back at the end of my working life to Sheepscoot with an interest, a revived interest in the history, not only of my family but of the locality in which they had lived.

M: Now would that have been around 1946 or so?

C: We returned, my brother and I, retired from our prospective professions in 1958 and had , after having spent summers here for about 10 years along with two other, two of the Donnell cousins. We had returned in the summer with a feeling of coming home. Even the summer visits led to an increasing interest in the background of the village which we found as interesting from a historical point of view as we did from a point of view of family sentiment.

M: Now was it then that maybe this is jumping ahead a little bit but I have been thinking a lot about that, the Tappan-Dunbar-Cargill sort of relationship.

C: This I will bring up a little later because it, in the evolution of my understanding the history this was quite late.

*New Mexico
Arizona
Sheepscoot*

C: Because I didn't get this until quite late. Part of the picture until later and began exploring with it a little bit. The evolution of my thought about the history of the area wasn't very logical from a chronological point of view but pieced together out of dredged up memories of what I heard in the family talk since my childhood experience on the old farm on the Alna side of Sheepscot had consisted of my grandfather and his older sister who was through three generations had been part of the family background.

M: So up until that time most of your interests was from oral or vocal talk rather than actually reading something written.

C: That's right. It was only gradually that my interests spread beyond Shipyard Hill. And the fact that I had lost the last relics of the old family pewter in a great fire where I had taken it was a sort of tie with my homelife and it was destroyed in this fire. But it ⁽³⁷²⁾ With facilities for a better knowledge for the history of the community were more readily available than they had been in childhood. And the values that there were in perspective that I had learned and the few things that were, I remembered about the old home, led step by step to acquiring added information from historical material which was available and the oral family recollections of friends that still lived in the community whose background was very much like my own. Along with this, as time went on I learned about new provision, new interest in the state which had resulted in the creation of the Commission for the Historic Preservation and the plan that had developed nationally, historic districts. This interest and the

*Alna
Sheepscot*

and the development of which had come just prior to my return to Sheepscot in 1958, the creation of the historic, of the Lincoln County Cultural and Historical Association and my developing relationship with that organization led to a plan in which the association was very encouraging to me. I began a more concerted and organized plan of research which though never intensive from a scholarly point of view did result in a sort of a continuity of the impressions and pieces and the realization that much of historic interest was still extant in the village and the surrounding area (409) That history was put together to the best extent, to the best of my ability. In the course of the

M: Well that is this right. [indicating printed matter]

C: The future of this brief history of the village and the remains that there are in the way of houses and historic sites is underconsideration for publishing. In the course of the study I came onto some areas of some interest that I hadn't been aware of before. Especially the question of the relationship of two surveys that were made of the area which the Rev Tappan's purchase of, in the early part of the 18th century and the plans made by a man named DAVID Dunbar who had been sent into the area as the king's mast agent. He was stimulated probably by his discovery of larger values in the economic resources of the area, led him to make large plans for developing the [clock chimes] the area. But apparently it didn't go any farther than the platting out of two areas already centers of population. Sheepscot was one of them and Pemequid was the other. Through others who were doing a research of the area of Dunbar's activities I obtained

*Sheepscot
Pemequid*

the facimilies of the platt which he had had surveyed for Sheepscot. David Cargill was the surveyor according to these maps and they are especially

M: Was that the map that you showed me the other day that is available in Massachusetts archives.

C: No, you see that's 1815, 1816. That was a hand drawn map, not a real survey. The part of the Sheepscot layout centered around the village is a part of that material that was presented to the historical, commission on Historical Preservation. That's where you might have seen it, I'm sure. It's, the interesting part of it one might say the puzzling part is that this survey by Dunbar made by David Cargill was by date very much the same time as Tappan, Toppin, was having his survey made. The plat of which I have not so far been able to find any record or copy of.

M: A rough date for that would be?

C: Rough date for that was the 1730's. The deeds that were the source of the deeds to the cemetery down, now known as the Sheepscot Cemetery, and the ministerial lot which he gave to the people of Sheepscot, correction people of Newcastle, at Sheepscot, is still under that title on the town maps. Are dated 1737 which means that the survey was probably made at about that time. The relationship between Dunbar's project and Tappan's project is a matter of interest to me but I've never been able to get to the sources to the extent that would be needed to find out what it did represent in terms of controversy or change. The plat, the layout of Sheepscot as it now stands is not at the location of the old historic

*Sheepscot
Massachusetts
Newcastle*

village, which was the first settlement of Sheepscot, which was at the point of land south of the present village. Dunbar's design for a new Sheepscot centers around the Tidal Falls on the Sheepscot River. The historic Sheepscot farms which was destroyed by the Indians in the late 17th century was on the point which ended about a mile south of the present village. However the Dunbar platt shows no relationship to the general layout of the present Sheepscot in spite of the fact that they were made pretty near the same time.

M: What of David Cargill, wasn't he involved both with Dunbar and Tappan?

C: Yes, he apparently was the surveyor of both surveys. His signature appears on the platt that is filed in the archives in Boston, since Maine belonged to Massachusetts at that time. But as I have said I have not been able to locate anything relating to a formal manuscript of Tappan's survey which was made traditionally by Cargill himself. Cargill was an interesting character who might be researched still farther to good advantage, because he settled here, developed a home in the center of Newcastle and eventually the family built a large home, now completely destroyed, The interior decorations of which, or the interior woodwork of which is reported to have been bought by the Ford Museum at Dearborn and installed in that great museum. The family at certain points were upstandingly prominent in the community and owned the mill according to some maps of the Mill Brook, so called at the present time, on which there was a large water power developed probably as early as 1630. Correction 1660.

*Sheepscot
Sheepscot River
Boston
Massachusetts
Newcastle
Dearborn
Mill Brook*

This history of this water power is another interesting subject still to be researched adequately. The abutments of a later dam are still to be seen. In a historical paper about 1870, the abutments of the dam as a historic relic are mentioned. Therefore the height of the use of this water power must have come earlier because the dam was already destroyed at the time this paper was written. The details of these crude realestate developments are still to be completely researched.

M: I might be getting off the track a little bit but I notice in the bibliography of the paper you wrote under the New England Historical and Geneological Register, Oct 1963, Belfast, is the paper of David Cargill and some of his descendents. Well the question I have is as I do more work on Sheepscot I wonder what relationship this area has with the Rockland, Belfast, Camden area. I always just wanted to ask if David Cargill had anything to do with that area up there?

C: I have no knowledge that there was any connection. I'm not the development of that bibliography has had some editing since I completed my part of the paper and I didn't know that it had been added to the bibliography. This is something that I don't understand and I have no comment to make on it.

M: I think what it was, this Belfast is where the New England Historical and Geneological was.

C: Yea, well I don't know about it as a reference. It wasn't in my bibliography.

M: Oh! Well

C: It has something to do with the editing that the paper had had.

*Belfast
Sheepscot
Rockland
Camden*

C: This Lowell Sidelinger

M: It's the next one up I think.

C: I don't know where this came from. I have no idea. Now we'll have to get out, this is the edited copy. Let me get that Commission material.
[tape off]

M: Ok.

C: It's up.

M: Yea it's going now.

C: Members of the Cargill family were long prominent in the affairs of the area. And at one time owned the mill on Mill Creek. There are no descendents of the family as far as is known left in the community. The only evidence, the old home has been destroyed but a large lot in the cemetery of Sheepscot shows the extent of the family and the latest burials are in the 1870s.

M: Is David Cargill buried here or?

C: Yes he's buried up there. David Cargill, I believe is buried in that lot. It's maybe a subsequent David I don't know, I'm not sure at the moment.

M: Oh I see. Now Dunbar and Toppin never actually came to Sheepscot, right?

C: Dunbar must have, was here two years.

M: Oh he was.

C: During, entering into a lot of business activity and political as well which, to which he was not accredited and came into such disrepute and resistance on the part of the local population that by force of public opinion he was withdrawn and sent as deputy governor to New Hampshire colony. He was

*Mill Creek
Sheepscot
New Hampshire*

removed shortly after the date shown on the plat of his survey of Sheepscot. Christopher Tappan never lived here I feel quite sure because there's no evidence of it. One of the recent developments in my understanding of the history of Sheepscot is to find that he was a son of members of the Batt family. There is certainly some connection between the fact that the falls at Sheepscot were in the early days called Batt falls and the interest which led him to choose the Sheepscot area for the development of his farm settlement project which was the base of his activities. Whether the Batts were involved as the local agents or lived in the early settlement and knew the area from this is still to be studied. Such records as there may be found still will throw a good deal of light on the connection between the early Sheepscot of the 17th century and the later development which centered around the falls at Sheepscot.

M: Now the King's highway development here developed with that settlement around ~~the~~ the falls, right? This is what you would call the falls?

C: The term King's Highway was applied to the road which the 17th century village laid out for itself, which ran directly north and south through the, down the neck, that was called Town Neck, which was the center of that early village. It doesn't to what extent it was ever applied to the later village which centered around the street presently known as King's Highway is not clear. It was simply that street is an extension of the road the length of the so-called town neck of the early settlement. It may not have been used at the time the

Sheepscot

settlement was interested in the King of England. It originated in the 17th century in connection with that settlement now completely destroyed, except for the cellar holes which are the center of the source of much archeological interest.

M: Now when Cargill and Dunbar came up Sheepscot who was developing on the other side of Sheepscot on the Alna side. Was the Averill family?

C: Let me check a minute with my thoughts. Job Averill apparently came here, became interested in the area about the time the highday of the Tappans survey in the 1730s, because there is a letter recorded in the Averill geneological book in which Job writes to his brother, Israel, urging him to come up here (647) and help him with the development of the water power. He indicates that much interests has developed about the use of that water power and he urges him, Israel, to act promptly about it. His offer being that he will himself provide the capital for whatever development they devise if Israel will take charge of it and plan what is needed.

M: Now that was around Christopher Tappan's time.

C: This is the 1730s which was the time, about the time of Tappan's survey. We don't know exactly when it is so more or less until we can find some records of his platt of the area. It's, we do know that the deed as I said, the deeds to his, a gift of a deed to the people of Sheepscot farms in support of a minister were dated 1737 . Also the deed to a platt which had originally been the location of the town fort for the early village was dated 1737 also. These deeds, this deed to the hilltop where the fort has been

England
Sheepscot
Alna

was to the people of Sheepscot to be used as God's Acre forever. This has been somewhat enlarged in the years since and is still the center of interest though the cemetery is practically full and surrounded by privately owned property so that it can't be enlarged any further.

M: Well I guess the question I was getting at was , was the Alna side of Sheepscot developing right along with 675 the Sheepscot village.

C: I detoured myself. remembering the question. I think that Job Averill was undoubtedly here at the time of the heighth of the development or the opening of the land in the Sheepscot area because of this letter he was already here. But his purchase of a 1,000 acres from the Plymouth Company did not come until later. Toward 1760. He had it surveyed or used the Captain North survey so called, which had been made by the Plymouth company, and sold lands on this area. Apparently his purchase from the Plymouth Company ran from about opposite the falls north to about where the old Alna Meeting House stands and ran back approximately a mile from the river at least at the upper part of it, I'm not sure whereabouts the part that's down closer to Sheepscot. Because the Leighton property as you know it more recently, their deed, is from the Plymouth Company directly so that that is, was south of the Job Averill property, the land that was sold to him.

*Sheepscot
Alna*

M: Job Averill is, the name Job's Mountain is from Job Averill.

C: Yes, he, that was in his land and quite early designation of his.

M: Now Joe Leighton's photographs, we're moving up a bit to 1900, on Job's Mountain was practically clear of lumber, was

C: Pastureland

M: Pasturland

C: Yes

M: Any lumber that was on that, would that have been used for ships masts or

C: Well there is no way of knowing whether it was that good, especially good that the masts had to be.

M: Do you think it was forested?

C: Oh undoubtedly back in the days when they first, when the 17th century village was in existance theye were undoubtedly houses on that side of the river, opposite the town neck. There are many very old celler holes nobody has ever studied them as to dating them or anything of that sort. There are other archeological projects that could be of much interest. But undoubtedly the lumber was cut off at some point, perhaps twice, nobody knows. Because so few records were kept. (710)

The development of homes which presumably would have been farm homes on that side would have been by the river are one of the things that one speculates about because that hillside is quite steep and with much outcropping of ledge. Beautiful in itself but not conceivable as good farmland.

Over the ridge on the west slope there is land that ~~is~~ was undoubtedly open . Few farms down in between there

Job's Mountain

is still some open land, hayland. Other than recent you know, ^{active and} Job Averill was here in the 1730s, he was interested, we don't know much about and I think the deed is clear as to when he bought this property and did in a small way what Tappan did in the east side of the river in what was by that time called Newcastle. He was around but it was under separate jurisdiction and even after he bought it there's no question that the Plymouth Company had a real impact up as far as the Sheepscot River, even though the land may have been bought from Job Averill in the first place. I his part in this development, his relationship with the Tappan interest, the Woodbridges with the Tappan interests, isn't clear and would be of interest in making clear how business men related themselves to one another, conflicting interests as of that time. I don't suppose we'll ever know too much about it but no telling what will turn up about the whole business. It'ss , Averill lived on the slope of the upper end of what is known as Job's Mountain on what is presently Pinkham's property. On early maps it is shown as the garrison house, if it was actually a garrison house it was undoubtedly built before Job Averill was active in the area because the Indian menace wasn't as real as it was earlier. There may have been even in the days of the early 17th century there may have been farming attempted in the area but nobody knows . The pictures from the Leighton collection of the mountain which are the thing that I remember from my childhood here. Our evidence of the cutting off of the property I remember one of his pictures

*Newcastle
Sheepscot River
Job's Mountain*

[begin side two of tape 1150.2]

M: This is side two of the interview with Charlotte Donnell on January 11, 1978. The tape ran out on the first side. My name is Mike Chaney.

M: Fourth of July celebration and

C: This fourth of July celebration was a group of Alna families and we choose to met in a new area for picnics, which was on top of Job's Mountain, the old road goes up over the end of the mountain and on down towards Wiscasset.

M: I think I know the picture you're speaking of.

C: It's a, the old road was fairly visable though there was, that's it, both of them I think.

M: Ok that's archives photo 691.2

C: These two pictures, .1 and .2 are the same group. This was taken of a little nonsense orchestra that was gotten together for our group diversion , with the boys playing some made-up instruments. The bass viol was an old bashed up wash boiler with some bailing wire for strings which Lawrence Averill was playing. Parker Chaney was running the sheet music through an old fashioned wringer and so on. Phillip Donnell was playing his cornet to make some semblence of the tune and at the left a few of the women folks were playing tunes on combs. .2 was the group as a whole that showed the orchestra in less detail.

M: Moving from the left hand side of the picture who was the fellow blowing the horn there?

C: That's Frank Houdlette. of Alna village.

M: How about the fellow next to him with the washtub?

*Alna
Job's Mountain
Wiscasset*

C: That's Lawrence Averill playing the washtub, see he had a big file, wood rasp, which he used as a bow. Let's see I have to look at it. Next is Phillip Donnell palying his cornet. I think that the next one is Mrs. Houdlette but I can't. Down in front is somebody's dog. The next one beyond, lets see, beyond what I think is Mrs Houdlette, is Hattie Houdlette who was from West Alna. The next one is Charlotte Donnell. Next to her is Ruth Smith, a friend who is a guest visiting the Donnell home.

M: The one in the white hat.

C: Yes. Then the next one, with the beret, is Parker Chaney. And the next one is Mrs Donnell. The row back of this group is Augustus Averill, Lawrence's father.

M: The fellow with the vest and the black hat.

C: Yes, then the next is HARRY FLYE. The next ones are unidentified except the face at the rear between two others is Henry Sargent of Sheepscot.

M: He's in the background. What about the fellow next to him with the black hat.

C: He's familiar but I can't place his name. I think he came from West Alna.

M: What about the fellow with the goatee in this one and the hat? Any idea?

C: I can't place him, I remember him as part of the village but I think it's Albion Averill, lived on the West Alna Road. And who that man here, all I remember is that that beard

M: The tallest fellow with the

C: The tallest fellow in the picture, a very red beard, but I

*West Alna
Sheepscot*

C: can't place him. This is Mrs Harry Flye and this is
M: Directly in front of him
C: Yes Mrs Harry Flye. And then next to him is Mrs Augustus
Averill- Ester, Lawrence's mother. The rest of the group,
the man next to the tree I can't place and I can't name.
Next to him in the back row is Edwin Donnell. This one I
should know but I can't tell you. This is Celia McCobb.
M: Next to her
C: Next to her is
M: This is moving from left to right in the back row.
C: I can't place that one either. This is Allie Averill.
M: Allie Averill, let's see, he's got his knee up on somebody
else's knee.
C: He's got it up on a stone or rock or something.
M: Oh yes, they're sitting on a stone wall.
C: Yes
M: What about these three fellows?
C: This is, who is that man, looks perfectly familiar. This is
er, we better go in the same direction. I think this was a
Mrs Baker but I'm not sure from West Alna. This is Natalie
West, the daughter of Nat West who lived in the house where
the Pinkhams live now. This was Ed Leighton, the father of
Joe Leighton that took the pictures.
M: Ok this is sort of in a middle row.
C: Yes this is a middle row. Inamed Edwin Donnell as he's the
back you see.
M: Ok but there's three fellows
C: This is Ed Leighton and this is Will Averill.

West Alna

M: Will Averill, the man in the middle.

C: Yes. But this, the last man here I can't name. Again familiar but

M: But the first of the three fellows in the right side of the picture

C: Is the father of Joe Leighton.

M: Is Joe Leighton's father.

C: His mother is in here somewhere. Here's his mother right back here in the first of this next line.

M: That's her with half her face. Now next to her would that be Marion Lowell, my grandmother.

C: No I don't think that she was in the family at that time.

M: Now was she in that picture though.

C: No. Parker wasn't married at the time that this was taken. You see they were married after I went away to school which was 1908.

M: Who was that person right there (212) do you know? I thought it might have been

C: No I think that Marion wasn't known in the community at this time. See they lived in what they always described as out back of Wiscasset, in what is Lowelltown. And it was, how your grandfather came to know her I don't know. It was when I went off to , when I was away at school, I think probably the first year that I was away, it was 1908 or 09 that mother wrote me that Parker was married to a Marion Lowell. She was very young she said but she seemed like a nice girl or something of that sort. She was much younger than your grandfather.

M: Yes I think she was 16 when they were married, I'm not sure. (22)

Wiscasset

Northfield
M: how old he was when

C: I always thought, what's left in my mind is that your grandfather was ten years older than I. So when I was 16 when I went off to Northfield, but I think of your grandmo- of Marion Lowell when I came to know her as being younger than I , so she couldn't have been more than perhaps a year younger, something like that. How old was she when she died?

M: I; really not sure, she died in 1975.

C: About that time.

M: It was the winter of 1975. No the winter of 76, 75-76 when she died and I'm not sure how old she was.

C: It was, whether it was because I had been away or something, she seems younger though. Fact is I know them, don't seem to indicate, because I was 16 it may have been that it was later and my being away from home then that first year that I was at Northfield. To go on with the list, this is Lucy Averill, Harold Averill's mother.

M: She is right in front of Mr. Donnell ~~xxx~~ ~~xf~~ left arm.

C: Yes and this is Maggie Averill, Willie Averill's wife

M: Yes, next to her.

C: Let's see the little folks are so far from clear that I don't think that I can identify them. No I can't. See they were all Alna people. It couldn't have been any of the Chases. This one I don't know why the Leighton children weren't here since their father and mother were.

M: Now, like this picnic, Joe Leighton took the picture of it?

C: Yes

M: Now was, was everybody in that photograph friendly with him or would he just sort of keep to himself?

C: Oh they were, there was no seperation, it was just that he didn't, he wasn't, always kind of thought of as a loner. He had no friends particularly about. People wouldn't resist him. [clock chimes] 273 He was entierly acceptable to people but he choose to live down in a rather delapidated old house on his family's place, Charles Leighton house which was one of the very old houses. Charles Leighton was one of the shipbuilders of Sheepscoot in the early 19th century.

M: That was up on Job's Mountain right?

C: Yes. It was on the opposite side of the old road to Wiscasset from the Leighton place where that had been built by Joseph Leighton, the father of this Edward Leighton.

M: Well I was talking to Ted and Marsha Marcia Ross last night and they remember him, well he and his wife, in the summertime would pile into his truck and follow the Maine fair circuit, in the summertime.

C: Yes that was, he always took photographs, I mean portraits, he made these little inexpensive portraits. In the collection down there there is a whole stack of unidentified entirely, but typical of the sort of thing he

M: Now was that, Ted mentioned that he sold trinkets and spinners and you know, he had a weighing machine, weight and fate type of thing.

C: Yes, he put in these, later, these mechanical dispensers of gum and I don't know whether cigarettes were popular enough at that time, but it was, you know, put a nickle in the slot

M: But did, was that his sole source of income?

His photography and his trinket

C: Yes and whatever he made with these dispensing machines.

*Sheepscoot
Job's Mountain
Wiscasset*

M: Yes because I'm amazed at how he could over a period of say 1900 to the 1940s anyway, how he could keep up his interest in photography and how he could take and develop such a massive amount of plates and have the money to do it. Like those plates must have cost

C: Well I haven't any comment to make, it is suprising, just as it was suprising how so many of the families lived at that time when you didn't see how in the world with the amount of farming that they did, how they supported themselves. It was a day of very modest living and it, the houses were, especially later that his time, Sheepscot was a sad, shabby little area and it was with the coming of the automobiles that people began to perk up because people could get to places. I don't think that Joe would ever have taken a regular job, would have ever been willing to, to regulate himself, even members of the family have commented that Joe they didn't know much about what Joe was doing, . He just lived by himself, ate his meals with the family I think. But perhaps that accounted for his being able to support himself but he must have been earning something. He got married and took on responsibility

M: When did he get married ?

C: I don't know.

M: He didn't ahve any children right.

C: No. It, he just went about his business as I knew him. He didn't do anything but take pictures. If anybody wanted those pictures of the mills that there are so many of I think that much , probably much of what he took pictures of, many of the things, the group requested it. there are pictures of an elderly man holding proudly to the head of a favorite horse. Or a cow. They must have

Sheepscot

C: been something that someone ~~exercised~~ asked him to take and paid him for a few copies of it. But it does seem like a precarious source of income because many of the things there wouldn't have been a particular source. Now everybody bought pictures of these, all the people that were involved, I mean a lot of families have them and things like that but.

M: That picture there 691.2 has been published, received, that's probably the most popular picture

C: I expect it is. And under many circumstances they, there were very few occasions where they really explained what these pictures, now this one for instance of the band it doesn't make any particular point. Just to remember how hilarious, it was the only hilarious picnic that I even went to [laughs] Parker with his little black beret on grinding sheet music through that [still laughing] old wringer. Well it was just a lot of fun. This was my mother here

M: What year was that?

C: On this end. It was very typical of her but it doesn't show what she looks like really.

M: 691.1, the lady to the farthest to the left.

CE Yea on the left.

M: What year was that? picnic July 4th.

C: Let me see if I can, this is my friend Ruth and there's Hattie Houdlette.

M: You moving from left to right?

C: Well no I'm, don't know who this is. This is Ruth Smith and this is I.

M: Which one would that be?

C: This one with the little white cap on, there's no point in identifying them, this is Parker, this is

M: He's in the back group right?

C: Yes. Let's see if I can

M: He's the left-most gentleman?

C: This is

M: With the white shirt on

C: With the white shirt on. The reason I brought up this picnic was the relics of big woods. Where we were was open as you see. It was on a roadway and I remember climbing up on the top of this wall against which this picture was taken and I could see the Camden, not the Camden Hills, the China Hills off over the top. Now it was open enough to see clearly from the vantage point at the top of that stone wall the China Hills off to the north, thirty miles to the north. And I remember childlike saying "someday I'm going to see that" It certainly is pretty up there. I did. On a trip before we moved back here. But it, there were relics of big woods, these were along the stone walls but there was an area up there that was big woods, just solid woods, was not cleared off.

M: Now what year would that have been?

Let me think, I can date it by the fact that Ruth Smith was visiting us. It was the summer of 1909, just exact. Because I went to Northfield in the winter of '08 and roomed with her that year and it was the next summer that she came home with me. And stayed for two or three weeks.

M: Where was Northfield?

C: Northfield is out in Massachusetts on the Connecticut River

*Camden
Camden Hills
China Hills
Northfield, Mass
Connecticut River*

where it runs down, you know, between Vermont and New Hampshire. And it's right in Massachusetts, but its just barely. It's right where it runs out from between New Hapmshire , Northfield-the campus of the girls school where I went, well it isn't more than a mile from the New Hampshire line; and the boys school Mt. Herman is across the river a little farther down. Its about four or five miles from the girls school. The two merged now and considered just Northföeld Mt Herman School. About a thousand students in the two institutions, they collaborate back and forth, the big classes that everybody has to take and so on they have them on both campuses. The other, the smaller courses that attract a smaller number of people are, instead of offering them the same thing on both campuses they offer them on one or the other and bus the students, the opposite students back and forth. There are some boys that live on the Northfield campus now and some of the girls over on Mt Herman side. So that it, they try to give it a semblence of a, is an excellent school and ~~they~~ really outstanding, considered a excellent school when I was there. I know I, it was so good that I had a hard time after what the academy was in those days. It, I didn't, the latin composition I near failed or failed, I can't remember which. I remember another one of the instruments there was a wash board which was supposed to be a zither. One of the boys had a washboard , which ~~w~~ one was Frank McCobb and which one is the Whimpet boy I don't remember. This one you see has made a cornet out of one of the old candle molds with a funnel stuck in the front of it to indicate the bell. Oh we had lots of fun out of that. That was the summer of, July 4th, 1909. You can get an exact date on it.

Vermont
New Hampshire
Massachusetts
Northfield, ma
Mt. Herman

M: This is kind of a funny question but I've gotten the idea from other people but was Joe Leighton a drinking man?

C: No.

M: He wasn't. He wasn't at all. He just had

C: Not that I, I never heard anybody ever refer to him as drinking at all.

M: Yea but some people say that sometimes he had a kind streak in him , you know, real friendly, and then most of the time he was, you know, if you teased him or you said something wrong to him then he was liable to really loose his temper.

C: Yes well that I, fits into what I saw and knew and heard. A rather odd person.

M: Because when Ted Ross spoke of, well he remembers him from a boy hood experience when Ted was a small boy and he and, Ted Ross and his father and his uncle were sawing wood out of the Ross land which they had, the only access they had to it was the road across the Joe Leighton property. He owned what is now the Joyce Humason house.

C: Oh I didn't know he ever owned that property up there.

M: Yea he did later in his life. But they always hauled wood off of this, across his land for years and one day they were coming out with the horses and a load of wood and Joe met them and told them never to haul wood across there again. He was very ugly and very Ted remembers always being sort of scared of him after that.

C: He was a strange person (447) he married a girl that was strange, Gertie , Gertie Blagdon. Apparently they led a comfortable life together.

C: I mean as far as there were never any stories of them quarreling or anything of that sort. ~~They~~ If they fitted why that was fine. It, people used to say it took two queer people to get along and that was that, he must have been about 16 years old when a man named , goodness sake I can't think what his name was. Nadeau, N-a-d-e-a-u, will his family lived here in Sheepscoot and Mr Nadeau apparently had something to do with photography because I've seen pictures that were matted, not matted but mounted, that had the Nadeau name printed in the bottom. They used to do that and I remember him, them mostly as all being musical and they used to play at the community affairs and so on. They lived in the upstairs part of Mr F.L. Carney's, what had been Mr. F.L. Carney's store, which is now burned of course. But they lived here a short time and in the course of that contact he interested Joe in photography . Now whether he say in him a person who might be kind of adrift and might be interested I don't know what the background of it was because Joe was on his own. The Nadeaus left here shortly afterwards and it wasn't until I was back here and learning more about who was who and picking up more about persons and personalities that I realized there was any connection between Nadeau and . My father was, tried to interest himself in Joe as a point of view of photography as he was taking pictures of this and that and the other thing and printing on a type of paper that faded. they were

M: Joe was using

C: Yes it was faded, a lot of his pictures faded very shortly and father tried to talk with him about whether there wasn't some

Sheepscoot

C: other kind of paper that would do better and he really more profitable because people were really more likely to buy his pictures because they had a reputation of fading out pretty badly. He was, Joe's only response was that this was the way he wanted to do it, you know, just rejected any, even father's interest as anything valid. He was apparently in one of these moods when he didn't want to relate himself to. Course father belonged to the community and grew up with his father and there wasn't anything strange about but talking to Edward now but this was, he never, some of his later pictures were printed on better paper. In the file down there there are so many of those group pictures that were taken of the, and the style, they aren't dated, any of them, or labeled, just various things, perhaps most of them were of Wiscasset high school or grade school. But the styles of dresses I can identify and date fairly well as to what, and they were definitely later, much later in his work. So he did pick it up somewhere but the attitude was, they were much later than father would have, been this conversation. He never saw very much of him, as I remember it he, well there wasn't any Grange until the later part of our living here. The Grange hall was built about 1915 I believe. And we left here in '16, father had died, mother sold the house to Joseph Kennedy. So that the later part of his career I knew nothing of, it was only after I came back here that I learned that he practically gave up the photography business and spent his time circulating with these dispensing machines, which were a new wrinkle at that time. He must have done well with that business because he bought land, see he owned the Humason place and he also owned the place where he

Wiscasset

C: and Gertie lived 520. Somewhere in West Alna, I think, where that house was. I'm not sure.

M: They lived for a time in Wiscasset on Hooper Street. I've been told.

C: It may be ~~that~~ that it was down there. I've gotten it in my head somewhere that they lived up in West Alna but probably some. Is the Humason place out there or is it the one that's up on 218?

M: No this is the one that's on that crossroad. It's about half way out to West Alna. Gertie Leighton sold that place to the Humason family.

C: Oh I see.

M: And er

C: So that's where I got the West Alna idea. They lived in Wiscasset evidently at the later part of his life.

M: Yea I think so. Now Mrs Humason told me of that Mr Fried.

He bought the, well all of Joe's camera equipment, the plates that the association now has.

C: That wasn't all of the, apparently people have from time to time have gotten hold of some of Joe's plates. Because every once in a while a picture turns up that I've never seen in all my work with the collection that came from Mr Fried. It er, what accounts for the plates not being there I don't know because he seems to have collected the, seem to have collected his plates.

M: I'm fairly certain that some plates were left behind at his house because I've talked to a fellow that worked in the Wiscasset house that Leighton lived in and there were plates left behind there also.

West Alna
Wiscasset

C: Is that so. Even after Mr Fried took the bulk of it?

M: Well there's a number of different houses. There's the house in Wiscasset and the Humason house. And evidently not all of them were taken, I'm not sure but I know there are extra, I know there are other plates around. How they

C: I would think there would still exist, or is it pictures that don't have plates in our collection?

M: Well I'm not really sure. That I don't know.

C: I wrote Mr Fried and asked him and I said that it was understood from some correspondence or conversation with the Historical Society people, that you had retained some of the collection for your own files and I was writing him not to restore them to the collection necessarily but to find out what they were about so that we would have a more complete picture of the things that Joe covered. in his photography. And he wrote back and said they were, the ones that I kept were mostly these pictures that had to do with entertainment and I couldn't tell from the way that he put it whether they were the ones that, of which there are interesting little group of pictures of Fourth of July parades, nonsense floats and funny little characters. You see here in Sheepscot there was a, for a good many years, they had something that they called the parade of the Ancient and Horribles, which was a takeoff of the famous Boston Ancient and Honorable Artillery Parade that centers around Faneuil Hall which was the headquarters of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery. It, there are a few of those pictures which I'm sure are associated with these doings and they are at Sheepscot because in several of them there is a background of identifiable Carney's Store and the other store there

*Wiscasset
Boston
Sheepscot*

C: the background stuff that I can recognize. It's a part of the thing that could have a particular lot of value because it was a community thing in itself. In a kind of way that I know no other episode of except this little incidental picnic which, and the idea of what was called a kitchen band was my friend Ruth Smith who was visiting me. She said, why don't we get up something for fun? And the Donnells were, we may have been reasonably bright but we're not inventive as to entertainment. Being a very serious minded family and the suggestion of it would be I think would be

Parker and perhaps Lawrence worked the thing out and drew these other people into it and we girls practiced up on combs, mother included. I never played a tune on a comb before in my life, which was of course my loss. We were awfully serious minded

M: Now this Ancient and Horribles Parade type thing, did it happen many years? Or was it

C: I don't know. I don't know. I just, when, when we came back, the two times I have no memory except of two times coming back to visit at the farm when we lived over in New Hampshire which was two year. It, one of them was my seventh birthday. I'm not sure that I have a clear recollection of there being two. I know I was here on my seventh birthday, visiting at grandpa's and going up to Aunt ~~Jennie~~ Jennie White, father's sister up on the Dyer's Neck where the Humphries live now, and at a Woodbridge reunion up at there, that summer. Great big, oh 120 people or something, that were Woodbridge descendents or kin, and there were two pictures taken (600) of the second generation Woodbridge

*New Hampshire
Dyer's Neck*

C: cousins, they would have been first cousins. There were 10 or 12 men in one picture and about the same number of women in the other. I think they were taken about, not the one that I attended because the costumes were of an earlier period. I somewhere I've dropped them off which is too bad. Twas that lapse of long being away and perhaps accident that they were lost, or I may have in my persistent packing up and moving somewhere else, I got tired of handling them, thinking that they wouldn't be of any use to anybody. I've wondered if somebo, somewhere around among the photographers that have bought out old photographers, he bought out an old photographer, they might have dug around. The plates for, they were very much bewhiskered. Florence White was sitting on the ground in front of the old ladies, the cousins. I think there were several of the younger generation, Florence was apparently about 12 so that must have been, oh she was born in 1880 I believe, and so she^{it} was probably in the early '90s that this was taken. Little Sunie, Sunie Clifford, it was Sunie Chase Clifford, cutest little baby sitting there on Florence's lap. Florence was a pretty child. Just by itself it was a cute little picture. Those Woodbridge reunions are all gone now. The Tranks, the Fonsbys, and the Hodgens are all, married into the Woodbridge family. There were, Aunt Jennie was largely the instigator of it and one of the, the only thing that I have in print of the Woodbridges was a history of the Woodbridge family that she read at one of these reunions and then had printed and I have a copy from it. Had a typescript made of it to give to the younger generations of my brother's family. It isn't very adequate

C: Contains, I suppose it is absorbed in my mind as part of family tradition because that was all that we had at the time. Later I'm sure because this had some more research done because this is a, that extensive history back of the Woodbridges that came ~~NSMMNMS~~ to Sheepscoot that I've shown you. I , Runlette Palmer who is also a descendent of the Woodbridges, he would be a, probably a fourth cousin, of , well his father was a fourth cousin, I don't know, is back farther than most of the Woodbridge connection here, where the Rundlette came in I don't, he's developed quite a chart of his family and he came to me to see whether I had any information about one of the connecting things and I gave him the, this printed material that I have inherited from my aunt and he had copied made. So I have two copies as well as the original. It's , has some valuable stuff in it. I don't know where, I thought I showed that to you.

M: I've seen the geneology.

C: Oh yes but you hadn't seen what?

M: Well this typescript.

C: Oh no, I haven't shown you that because , I can

M: Well that's alright

C: That's alright, you can get it for me. On this end of those shelves out there by the back window, there are two briefcases, it's the dark one of the two that's kind of ragged around the top.

M: Ok. [goes to get case] 652

C: Thank you very much, course this is, get people to run errands for me is an acquired habit I

Sheepscoot

C: you wouldn't be interested in. I did the same thing. I copied what I had of the three families that are important to us, the Donnells and the Woodbridges . You can take those along with you, ~~xxxxx~~ they're not sacrosanct like Cushman. I had probably the young folks have lost track of them but.

M: Would you mind if I made a copy of this or

C: No there's nothing there that isn't in the other, well I think, no you can make a copy of it, you're welcome.

M: That way I'd have it.

C: The one about the Woodbridges is the one that was printed, let's see if I,

M: That's the annual reunion, Newcastle, August 18, 1899, 1889.

C: Oh as long ago as that. Oh there's a lot of reference materials, in libraries that I, beginnings of things that I

M: Well the way things are turning out I think well by the end of this grant I'll get myself into a darn good exhibit of Leighton's work and ~~xxx~~ then have a way into a history of Sheepscoot.

C: Well, now, is that running?

M: Yes.

C: I was going to make some further comment about Leighton's work.

M: Ok

C: Its relation to collection. This is simply my comment about it and introduce my critical comment with the recognition that there's a great deal of value in the collection as it stands that has not been utilized by the association. Not for lack of interest but lack of organizing and planning for usage that might be made of it. But I er, should recognize, must, do recognize that, or I should say, in my opinion. The value of the collection

*Newcastle
Sheepscoot*

C: is not as great as it would be if Joe had been a person of larger imagination and interest. There is no indication that he was interested in telling a story about either the lumber industry which constitutes the largest part of the plates, a type of lumbering which was er er quite limited as to period er the er portable mills represent ~~XXXXXX~~ really a small section, ended of course with the development of motor power for hauling logs and er the er er kind of lumber er in more satisfactory locations then out in the woods where er the er power, the development of steam power was, was really menacing er to er the er woods and so on. His er, there are only a few that er of the pictures that er seem to have er intended to tell stories that happened. Some like the one of the driving his oxen into the river for to get their drinking water instead of carrying water to them. And a few others in which people are doing something that related either to that industry or to the rest but they're nevertheless are real values in , that can be obtained from them if a concerted effort is made to tie them together out of the knowledge that there is of the houses. You see the houses are often taken, the pictures are taken of, with the houses in the ~~background~~ the season when there are no leaves on the trees. So they're ugly compared to what they would be as they were lived in in the sense of the thing that makes the area so lovable and personal.

M: What you're saying is that there is no real talent of Leighton's or no real purpose of Leighton, it's just the fact that he was there. (711)

C: This was the way he made his living. He was devoted to his to his camera, he did n't want to do anything else. But it seems to have been a, no particular imagination going into it. People are set, often groups are organized just in stiff rows with er, and you wish that, er that he had been able to see the value in catching them doing thèngs that represented the value, now there's one of haying over on the Chase place on the lower end of Dyer's Neck, where the Chases live for so long.

M: Just a quick [shuffles through photos]

C: This is a picture of haying

M: Well I have another picture of the barn and it shows this threshing machine but would these 646.1 and 646.2

C: Let me look, my eyes don't work unless I

M: Is that possibly the Chase family

C: I think that possibly that is the Chase family but it isn't the one I was thinking of. That one had the house in the background. But this looks like the countours, yes I think that this is on the Chase place but I wouldn't identify the people. This business of of one horse hay rakes- hay racks I mean came quite late you see.

M: And this was on Dyer Neck you mean.

C: I think probably the one of the hay racks loading hay is on Dyers Neck. This one I can't identify at all.

M: Ok now 646.1 was on Dyer Neck

C: This, the other one, that threshing machine , I thought that was a hay ^{baler} ~~baler~~ but somebody tells me that it was a threshing machine. (732)

Dyer's neck

M: Yes I think it is also, that's what I've been told.

C: Now this isn't the Chase place. This is not the same. I thought perhaps it was.

M: Ok But the upper photo is right.

C: This could well be. But there is another one.

M: Yes so I'll bring it next time.

C: It's so like these, hay racks and the single horse. Mean a later period, you see.

M: Ok ok

C: In my time as I remember haying and helping with haying I don't think anybody would have thought of hauling in hay with one horse. simply because it would have to be small loads and so on. People, many farmers were still using oxen when I came to the farm at the age of 12 in 1904. Oh dear, I didn't mean to get er.

M: I have to shut my tape off because I'm almost out of tape.

C: Well that's alright we can stop anywhere.

M: This is the end of the January 11, 1978 interview with Charlotte Donnell of Sheepscot , Maine. This is Chaney tape 78.7 and my name is Mike Chaney (744)

Sheepscot