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## The Lows of Lowes Cove (1830s-1880s)

Randy Lackovic

University of Maine - Main, [randy.lackovic@umit.maine.edu](mailto:randy.lackovic@umit.maine.edu)

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# The Lows of Lowes Cove (1830s-1880s)\*

## Low Family

John and Mary Lowe had a son named Sylvanus, born on July 3, 1817 in Portland, Maine.\*4

## Bennett Family

Benjamin and Sarah Bennett came from Massachusetts and settled in Boothbay in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>30</sup> Among their other children, they had a son named Benjamin Bennett, born in 1795.<sup>18</sup>

Benjamin Bennet Sr. drowned off Ocean Point in 1804.\*5 Pvt. Benjamin Bennett served in Captain S.G. Wilson's Co. in the Mass. Mil., Sept. 1814, during the War of 1812.<sup>22</sup> A Benjamin Bennett Jr. was also known to have served at Fort Island under Captain Rose.<sup>18</sup> In 1819 Benjamin Bennett married Mary Matthews, the daughter of William and Lydia Matthews.<sup>66</sup>

WAR OF 1812.		
NUMBERS	SOLDIER	BOUNTY LAND
W. O. 15695	Bennett, Benjamin	91052 - 40 - 50
W. C. 10193	WIDOW Bennett, Mary M	84366 - 120 - 55
	SERVICE Pvt., Capt. S. G. Wilson's Co., Mass. Mil.	
	ENLISTED Sept. 10, 1814	DISCHARGED Sept. 28, 1814
RESIDENCE OF SOLDIER	1853, 1855, 1856, Boothbay, Lincoln Co., Maine	REMARKS
RESIDENCE OF WIDOW	1878, Southport, Lincoln Co., Maine	
MAIDEN NAME OF WIDOW	Mary M. Matthews	
MARRIAGE OF SOLDIER AND WIDOW	Dec. 2, 1821, Boothbay, Maine	
DEATH OF SOLDIER	Dec. 25, 1869, Edgecomb, Maine	
DEATH OF WIDOW	Sept. 18, 1885, West Southport, Maine	

Figure 1: The War of 1812 pension card for Benjamin Bennett and his widow Mary M. Matthews Bennett. (Source: Ancestry.com)

Captain Daniel Bennett (1796-1849) followed fishing and coasting. Like his brother Daniel, Benjamin Bennett was also a ship's captain. He was master of the schooner Wasp during the first half of 1821.<sup>7</sup> In 1823 he was master of the schooner Ruby which was built at Boothbay in 1821. He was also a

master of the schooner Harriot in 1823. Built at Edgecomb in 1820, it was 41' feet in length, weighed 24 odd tons, and had one deck, two masts, and a pink stern. At the end of the year he became part owner of the Harriot with mariner John Lishman. On April 24, 1824 when the ship was enrolled at Wiscasset yeoman John Lishman is sole owner of the Harriot while Benjamin Bennet is still master. The ship is enrolled at Wiscasset on April 2, 1825 with a new owner and a new master.\*<sup>3</sup>

Benjamin and Mary Bennett lived on Spruce Point in Boothbay.<sup>18</sup> He was a calker by trade, but followed the sea, both as mate and captain, a part of the time. They had five children. Lydia Bennett was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, 1820. Emily D. Bennett was born Aug. 20, 1823. She married a Thomas Burnham. William Matthews Bennet was born Mar. 31, 1826. Charles H. Bennett was born June 1, 1828. He died in 1833. Elizabeth J. Bennett was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, 1831. She married Albert P. Bipper of Harpswell.

### **The Family of Sylvanus and Lydia Lowe**

On July 6, 1837 Sylvester P. Lowe married Lydia Bennett in Boothbay, Maine, where Sylvester now resided. On November 13, 1837 Lydia gave birth to their first child, Willard Henry Low, born in Edgecomb, Maine.

The 1840 census finds Sylvanus and Lydia living in Bristol with their young child. The 1840 census lists the names of only the head of households, and the number, sex, and age category of each household member. Sylvanus is employed in the navigation of the ocean. Listed in cursive alongside the Sylvanus Low household is a household for a Benj Bennet, having six members in the household, with two household members employed in the navigation of the ocean. In the neighborhood, other heads of households listed with Sylvanus Low and Benj Bennet are Wm Miller, James Wentworth, Bent Alley, Martha Wentworth, Jane Wentworth, and Samuel Wentworth.

Among the first settlers of Walpole were the brothers John and William Kent.<sup>1</sup> They were Scotch-Irish immigrants born in Northern Ireland who emigrated here in the 1730s. 1828 finds Benjamin Alley on the tax rolls of Edgecomb.<sup>29</sup> In 1831 Captain Benjamin Alley from Boothbay bought the original John Kent homestead on McGuire Point.<sup>2</sup> He raised the roof to add a full second story and lived there with his wife until their deaths. However before their demises he sold the house and farm to his son, Horace B. Alley, on condition that he support and maintain the two for the rest of their natural lives. That is the house on the road to the Darling Center's Willett House. In the 1840s Benjamin Alley built a new house nearby the one he purchased, almost on the shore of the Damariscotta River. He later moved it to the road just east of Lowes Cove (See Figure 4).<sup>2</sup>

On August 15, 1844 Mr. William M. Bennett of Bristol and Miss Mary Jane Brewer of Boothbay registered their marriage intentions.<sup>3</sup> William Bennett also became a ship's captain during his lifetime.<sup>7</sup> In an 1844 deed (recorded in 1847) William M. Bennett of Bristol deeded his parents, Benjamin and Mary, the farm they lived on at Bristol for three bushels of corn.<sup>4</sup> Sometime in or prior to 1847 Benjamin Bennett acquired an interest in Fisherman's Island in Boothbay. In 1847, according to a school district valuation, three men with children were on Fisherman's Island: Benjamin Bennett who had sheep, Sylvanus Low (Bennett's son-in-law), and Alex Standley. On September 1, 1849 John Andrews deeded half of Fisherman's Island and half of the island's buildings to a Benjamin Bennett of Boothbay. Bennett

then mortgaged it back to Andrews for \$400 the same day. One way to view these sloppily-written mortgages with no intervening deeds is as chits. When they needed to raise money, they mortgaged the land whether they legally owned it or not.<sup>4</sup>

In the Lincoln County Registry of Deeds there is a land record whereby a William M. Bennett and his wife Mary J.B. Bennett of Boothbay sell to mariner Sylvanus P Low of Bristol a tract of land in Bristol for the illegible sum of [?] hundred dollars.

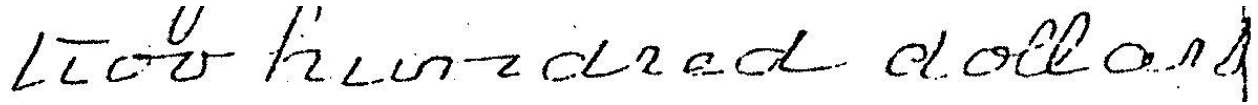
A photograph of a handwritten note in cursive script. The text reads "Two hundred dollars" and is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The handwriting is somewhat slanted and informal.

Figure 2: Illegible sum paid by S.P. Lowe for a tract of land on the south side of Lowes Cove.

The land is on McGuire's Point. It began at a stone wall on McGuire's north line and ran north easterly and northerly by land of Benjamin Alley to Weare Cove, thence southerly by the said cove to the McGuire line, thence easterly by said line to the bound first mentioned. 12 acres more or less were contained within the aforesaid bounds. The transaction was signed and sealed by William and Mary Bennet in the presence of Justice of the Peace Parker Wilson on May the 24, 1848. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of February, 1850 Fisherman S.P. Lowe sells the same tract of land to Fisherman Benjamin Bennet of Boothbay for the sum of \$350. The transaction was sealed by Sylvanus P Low and Lydia B Low. It was signed by SP Low, WH Low, and LB Low. Both transactions were entered into the record and examined by Registrar Asa F. Hall on June 7, 1850 at 10¼ O Clock AM.<sup>37</sup>

It is worth noting here that by the 1840s almost all of the trees along the shores of the Damariscotta River had been cut down.<sup>65</sup>

In the 1849 Bristol tax records, Sylvanus Lowe has one house and one barn on his 12 acre Bristol lot valued at \$250.<sup>24</sup> He has a 45 ton vessel or 45 tons of vessels valued at \$175. He has one cow and one 2 yr. old horse valued at \$30, and his personal property is valued at \$207. He is assessed an 86 cents poll tax, a \$2.12 tax on his real estate, and a \$1.76 tax on his personal property.

The 1850 census lists the names of each member of a household.\*<sup>6</sup> The 1850 census finds 34 year old Syvanus Lowe and 30 year old Lydia Lowe living in Bristol with six children. There was 12 year old **(1) Willard H. Lowe**, 10 year old **(2) Benjamin F. Lowe**, 7 year old **(3) William A. Lowe**, 5 year old **(4) Marcellus Lowe**, 3 year old **(5) Sylvenus Lowe**, and 1 year old **(6) Marium Lowe**. All the children were listed as boys, excepting one year old Marium, who was listed as a girl. The occupation of Syvanus was fishing.

In William Lowe's obituary it says he went to sea when he was a boy.\*<sup>1</sup>

In 1854, 17 year-old Darius Wentworth operated a fish weir, at Salt Marsh Cove on the western side of the Damariscotta River, with the verbal consent of Hartley Sherman who owned the upland at the site.<sup>31</sup> Darius and his Clarks Cove Rd. neighbors petitioned the state legislature, and in March, 1855, an act (Chapter 521) was passed empowering Darius to construct and continue his weir. In December, 1855, Benjamin Bennett petitioned the state legislature for the repeal of the act. He writes that he is now the owner of that upland property, and that the legislature had no right to authorize Darius Wentworth to operate a weir on his property. He said he was ignorant of the passage of that act as he was then living on an island. Chapter 521 was repealed in March, 1856.

Low  
to  
Bennet

Know all Men by these Presents, that Sylvanus P. Low of Bristol in the County of Lincoln & State of Maine, Fisherman, in consideration of the sum of three hundred & fifty dollars paid by Benjamin Bennet of Boothbay in said County & State Fisherman, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give, grant bargain, sell & convey unto the said Benjamin Bennet his heirs & assigns forever a certain lot of land situate in the Town of Bristol & bounded as follows viz Beginning at a stone wall in McGuire's north line, thence Northeastly & Northwesterly, by lands of Benjamin Alley to Ware Cove (so called) thence Southerly, by said Cove to the McGuire line, thence East by said line to the bounds first mentioned, containing twelve acres more or less, to have & to hold the aforegranted & bargained premises, with all the privileges & appurtenances thereof to the said Benjamin Bennet his heirs & assigns, to their use & behoof forever And I do covenant with the said Benjamin Bennet his heirs & assigns, that I am lawfully seized in fee of the premises, that they are free of all incumbrances, that I have good right to sell & convey the same to the said Benjamin Bennet to hold as aforesaid & that I & my heirs shall will warrant & defend the same to the said Benjamin Bennet his heirs & assigns forever, against the lawful claims & demands of all persons, In witness whereof the said Sylvanus P. Low & Lydia P. Low wife of the said Sylvanus P. Low in testimony of her relinquishment of her right of dower in the above described premises have hereunto set our hands & seals this fourth & last day of February, in the year of our Lord

Feb  
14  
1850

Sold one thousand eight hundred & fifty Sylvanus P. Low & seal, Lydia P. Low & seal signed, sealed & delivered in presence of Nathaniel Pike (to the sig of S. P. Low) W. H. Low (to the sig of L. P. Low) Lincoln Feb 14 1850. Personally appeared the above named Sylvanus P. Low & acknowledged the above instrument to be his free act & deed before me, Nathaniel Pike Justice of the Peace  
Rec June 7, 1850, 10 1/2 O'clock A.M. & entered & examined by Wm. F. Hall Reg

87  
14 February  
1850

Figure 3: Land Record of a 12 acre tract of land on the south side of Lowes Cove transferring ownership to Benjamin Bennet from Sylvanus Lowe. My apologies for highlighting and making notes on my only photocopy. (Source: Lincoln County Registry of Deeds)



The Dictionary of Maine Place-Names states that Lowes Cove is named after an S.P. Low.<sup>6</sup>



Figure 4: Portion of an 1857 Lincoln County map showing an SP Low residing on the south side of present-day Lowes Cove (left of the large capital letter B).<sup>5</sup> The new house Captain Benjamin Bailey built and moved across the road is just east of the cove (above capital letter B). Note that no Wentworths are listed on the map though there are a number of Wentworth households listed living alongside their neighbors in the 1850 and 1860 federal censuses. Note also the shipyard between William Miller's house and the Humphrey, Baker & Co. Store. In 1855 it was reported that at Clark's Cove, Bristol, Messrs Humphrey, Baker & Co. launched the 700 ton ship Highland Light.\*<sup>10</sup> The ship was built by Samuel Kelsey, the son of Thomas and Esther Kelsey who are buried in the Wentworth Cemetery.<sup>67</sup>

In the 1860 Bristol tax records Sylvanus P. Lowe has 1 building and one outbuilding on a 12 acre lot valued at \$250, and a 10 ton vessel or 10 tons of vessels valued at \$200. He has one cow valued at \$20, one 2 year-old horse valued at \$12, and personal property in the amount of \$232. He is assessed an 84 cents poll tax, a \$2.50 tax on real estate, and a \$2.32 tax on personal property.

A Baptist church was organized on Muscongus Island about 1794. Wm Jones, John Murphy and Robert Oram were early deacons.<sup>8</sup> On Feb. 6, 1861, Sylvanus and Lydia sold their 12 acre lot at Weir Cove to Albert S. Clark, a physician.<sup>14</sup> Albert then sells that lot to George and Albert Thurston on April 12, 1861. Albert Clark also sells to the Lows a 100 acre lot on Muscongus Island for \$732.<sup>16</sup> This lot was deeded to Albert by Mary Oram, the heir of Robert Oram, and the brothers Benjamin and Sylvanus Lowe deed Mary Oram of Orrington 100 acres.<sup>16</sup> Baptist Deacon Sylvanus P. Low and family arrived on Muscongus Island in the spring of 1861.<sup>8</sup>

On March 7, 1862, Benjamin Bennett's nephew, Daniel Bennett Jr. died, "bound from Portland to Havana, wrecked by a waterspout, aged 26." On 25 September 1861 Benjamin Bennett of Boothbay sells to his grandson Willard Low of Edgcomb, Maine, 70 acres in Edgcomb north of Pool's Wharf on the Damariscotta River for a thousand dollars.<sup>13</sup> Willard and Adeline then sell that property to Willard's grandmother, Mary Bennett, one month later for \$1000. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, 1864, Benjamin Bennett sells to Willard Low 50 acres with building for \$1000.<sup>15</sup> Then Willard sells it back to his grandfather the same day for \$850.

### **Louds Island (Muscongus Island)** <sup>8, 9, 10, 11</sup>

When Bristol was incorporated there were too few settlers on Muscongus Island to warrant identifying it as a division of the town. After the Revolution, census takers counted Louds Island with Bristol. Louds islanders voted with Bristol and attended Bristol town meetings (when they felt inclined); marriage "intentions" involving Louds islanders were published in Bristol town records; Bristol taxed Louds Island.

The issue of Louds Island secession from Bristol -- some say even from the United States of America -- in the early 1860s is obscured by differing versions of the episode. One version is that Louds islanders normally voted Democratic, and thus in the 1860 presidential election Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln failed to carry the town of Bristol. A specious challenge to the vote was raised -- the island, having inadvertently been omitted from an early survey of the township, and thus was not part of the town -- and the islander's votes were thrown out leaving Bristol a Republican majority. Another version relates to a state senate election in 1863 when the defeated candidate reversed his fortunes by claiming Louds Island had not paid taxes, at least at that time, and therefore deserved no vote in the election. At any rate the islanders took to heart the well-known Revolutionary War slogan, "No Taxation Without Representation."

In 1863 Bristol made a draft of her citizens and an unequally large percentage fell to the islanders. Nine men out of a possible forty-five were drawn to fill Bristol's quotas. The island men refused to honor such a draft, and when an officer landed to summons them he was met by a fusillade of boiled potatoes from an indignant matron, and driven off the island. The islanders then hired David Chamberlain, Esq., postmaster at Round Pond, and also the local enrolling officer in 1864, to represent their legal rights in Augusta. It was determined that Bristol had no right to draft the men of Louds Island. The island people then met a proportional draft among their own citizens. 3 men were drafted for three 3-year enlistments, and subsequently 3 substitutes were bought for \$900. In 1864 an additional two 3-year volunteers were bought off by the islanders for \$652. In 1864 David Chamberlain wrote a letter to the state's adjutant-general pleading for forbearance where the Louds islanders were concerned: there were "few actual inhabitants," he argued, since they were often at sea; they were also poor and had neither a plantation nor "any organization whatever. "They received nothing from

the state for schools or other uses "and in fact from their itinerant habits" such assistance would be to no purpose.

The secession, in any case, was real enough. Muscongus Isle is mentioned as a plantation in 1870 Maine legislative records.<sup>41</sup> The population declined after the 1880s. Louds Island remained stateless until the early 1900s, and townless to the present day. As a result there are no records for the island until the State of Maine assumed responsibility for its affairs in or about 1907. The school-house closed in 1962 and shortly thereafter the last year-round residents departed. Today, there are seasonal homes on the island and signs of the past inhabitants include stonewalls and foundations. Louds Island is now unorganized territory.<sup>41</sup>

### **(1) Willard H. Lowe**

Syvanus and Lydia's first child, Willard Henry Lowe married Adeline Haggett of Edgcomb, March 1 1861.<sup>21</sup> Adeline was the daughter of John Haggett, a tanner.<sup>29</sup> They had a son, Franklin Howard Lowe, born September 6, 1862 in Bristol.<sup>20</sup> They also had a daughter, Anna Lowe who was born in Edgcomb on 7 July 1864. There is or was a gravestone for sea captain Willard H. Lowe in East Edgcomb, Maine, opposite of what was John Burnham's store.\*<sup>8</sup> It is dated April 27, 1867.<sup>12</sup> It says he is 30 years and 6 months old. On the opposite side of the inscription for Willard on that gravestone is inscribed the name of his wife, Adeline. It is dated April 3, 1876, and she died at the age of 39 years and 6 months old.

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### **(2) Benjamin F. Lowe**

Benjamin F. Lowe was one of those nine Muscongus Island men drafted in 1863.<sup>39</sup> Nothing else is known of the life lived by Benjamin F. Lowe.

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### **(3) William A. Lowe**

Syvanus and Lydia's third child William Albert Lowe was born September 4, 1842. On May 18, 1869 he married Clara Dow. The 1870 census listed 28 year old William's occupation as a sailor. In 1870 he and Clara are living at the Farnor household in Paris, Maine. In 1870 they have a son Charles, who dies two years later. In 1871 they have a son George. The 1880 census listed William's occupation as plumber. He and Clara are now living in Portland with their 8 year old son George. George died later that year of diphtheria. William and Clara also had a daughter Eleanor, born in May, 1887. William died in 1902. His obituary states, "William Albert Lowe was one of the best known and skillful plumbers in this section of the state, his work being called for all around this vicinity, and being of an unusual order of excellence.\*<sup>1</sup> When a boy he went to sea, but later when about 20 years old came to this city, where he entered the employ of S.D. Merrill, then the leading plumber of Portland. In a few years he bought out S.D. Merrill, and went into business for himself on Temple street [sic], afterwards moving to Free street [sic], where he did business until the time of his death." He and Clara are buried at the Evergreen Cemetery in Portland.



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 and Federal.

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Jobbing promptly attended to. All work warranted to give satisfaction.

**TIN ROOFING A SPECIALTY.**

S. D. MERRILL.

WM. A. LOWE.

Figure 5: 1873 advertisement in the Portland Directory for plumbers and tin roofers S. D. Merrill and Wm. A. Lowe.

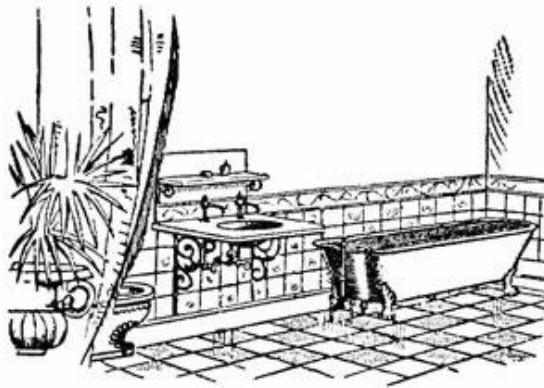
Telephone 522-3.

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**Jobbing Promptly Attended To.**

Figure 6: William A. Lowe's advertisement in the 1893 Directory of Portland.

Eleanor Lowe (1887-1960) married Clinton Wesley Graffam (1885-1933) in Portland in 1908. They had a daughter, Eleanor Graffam who was born stillborn 15 June, 1909. 1910 finds Eleanor and Clifford living in the household of Clara Lowe (1850-1931) on 68 Parris Street in Portland, ME. Clifford managed a music store. The couple also had a son named Clinton W. Graffam Jr. (1914-1998). Clifford Graffam (1885-1933) helped found the Portland Symphony Orchestra.<sup>56</sup>



Figure 7: From L-R: William A. Lowe, Clara Dow Lowe, Eleanor Lowe Graffam, and Clinton Graffam.  
 (Courtesy of Andrea Graffam from the Clinton W. Graffam Jr. Family Tree in Ancestry.com)



In 1935 Oboist Clinton W. Graffam Jr. married Cellist Katherine Hatch (1913-2005).<sup>55</sup> Both had graduated Deering High School where they met, and both graduated Boston University.\*<sup>9</sup> Together they put their stamp on Portland’s classical music scene. Each of them taught hundreds of students, and each belonged to the Portland Symphony; Katherine joined at the age of 14. The couple also founded the Portland Youth Symphony Orchestra in 1942 which Clinton conducted for 30 years. Mr. Graffam was a staff sergeant in the army, an assistant leader of the 240<sup>th</sup> Class Artillery Band, which was inducted into federal service prior to WWII. Clinton was also director of the Deering High School Band and Orchestra which represented Maine in President Kennedy’s inaugural parade. Clinton and Katherine Graffam had a daughter Andrea Mansfield, who became a cellist with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra for 40 years, and a son Allen Graffam who became a professional trumpet player, and the Music Department Chair and Director of Bands at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham.

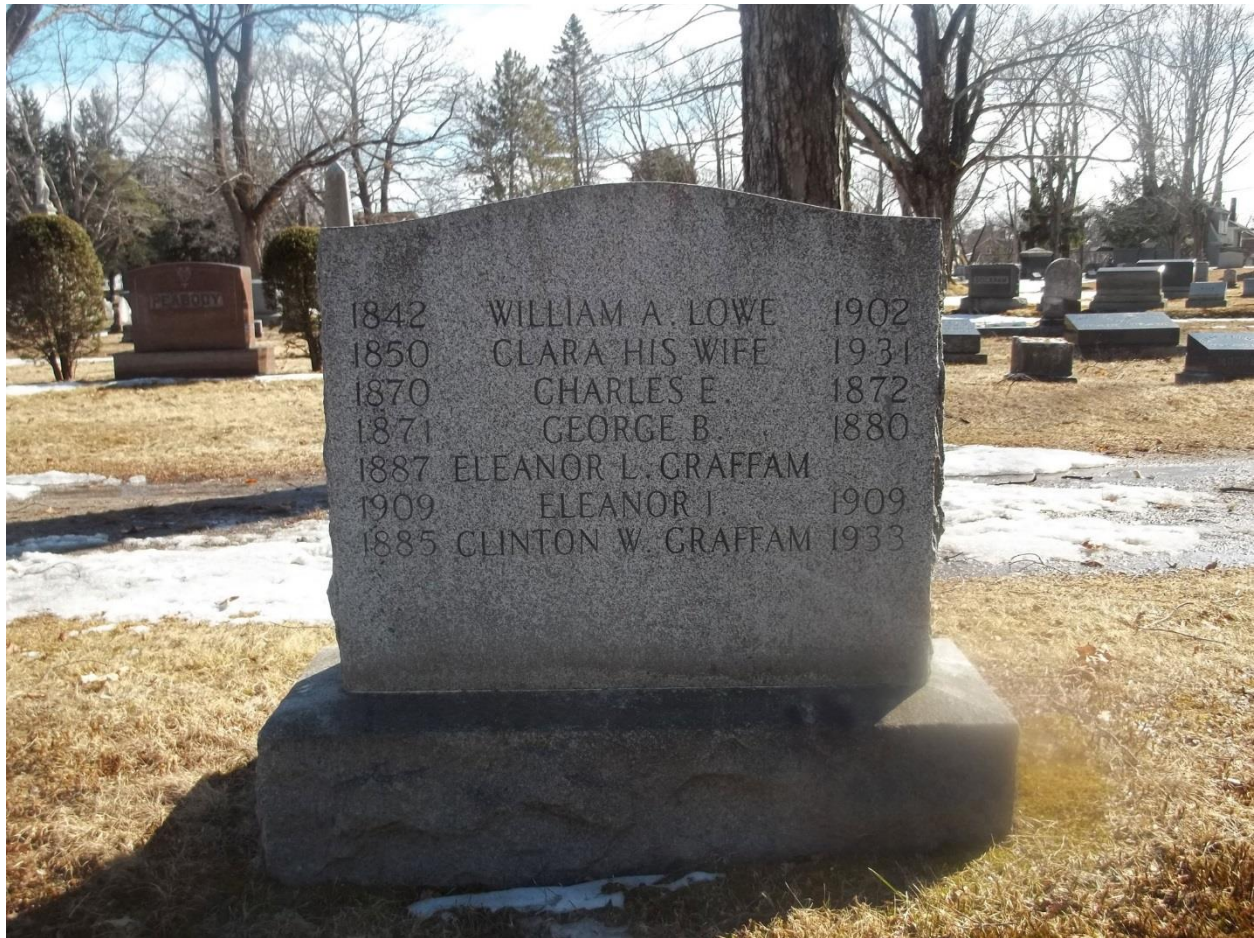


Figure 8: Gravestone of William and Clara Lowe and their family, Evergreen Cemetery, Portland, Maine.  
(Courtesy of Sukey Jane @ Find A Grave, <http://www.findagrave.com>)

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#### **(4) Marcellus Lowe**

Syvanus and Lydia’s fourth child Marcellus Lowe was born September 15, 1844.<sup>19</sup> The census of 1870 finds a Marcellus Low living with the family of Cladian Hall, a 34 year old wholesale dealer residing in Falmouth. Marcellus, a seaman, gets married the next year to Annie Adelaide Sturdivant in Portland on

the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, 1871.<sup>19</sup> They had two children Edith May Lowe, born in Cumberland, Me., Oct. 4, 1874, and Sumner Sturdivant Lowe, born at Invercazal, New Zealand, June 24, 1879. On later census records Sumner he is listed as being born at sea. Captain Marcellus Lowe is said to have died at sea, June 5, 1881; it was reported he died in Boston.<sup>23</sup> His widow, Annie A. Sturdivant passed away in 1918. Their gravestone is at the Foreside Community Church Cemetery in Falmouth, ME.



Figure 9: Gravestone for Marcellus Lowe and his wife Annie Sturdivant.\*2

Edith May Lowe (1874-1950) married Fred Mason (1874-1962), a gardener from Vermont, 12 Nov. 1902. In 1910 the couple are living in Cumberland, ME., and he managed a farm estate. The couple resided in Cumberland for decades, and don't appear to have had any children. They are buried at the Foreside Cemetery in Falmouth, ME.

In 1902 Sumner Lowe became a member of the Cumberland Country Club.<sup>43</sup> That same year he graduated

from the University of Maine with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. His thesis was: [A sewerage system for Casco Terrace, Falmouth Foreside, Maine](#). Sumner Sturdivant Lowe may have married first Cornelia A. Holms of Oswego, N.Y.<sup>45</sup> She died in February, 1911. In 1910 he is a lodger in the Sands household in Lycoming, Penn. Sumner Lowe married Virginia Katherine Sands (1879-1956) in Buffalo, N.Y., on 3 Sept., 1913. They had a daughter, Janet Lowe born in 1917. In 1918, on his WWI draft registration card, Sumner is recorded as being a civil engineer for the U.S. Railroad Administration in Cleveland, Ohio.<sup>53</sup> The Lowes lived at 1379 Beach St. in Lakewood, Ohio. Sumner is recorded as being tall at 5<sup>5</sup>/<sub>2</sub> [sic], and he has brown eyes and dark hair. In 1920 Sumner, Virginia, and Janet Lowe are living in Ohio, but by 1930 they are back in Cumberland, ME., living with Sumner's uncle Summer Sturdivant. Sumner Lowe is now a market gardener in the truck farm industry. Sumner Lowe also became a member of the Board of Trustees for the [Greeley Institute](#).<sup>44</sup> In September, 1935 Sumner Lowe and Harlan H. Sweetser drew up [plans for the Congregational Cemetery in Cumberland](#), and [plans for the Methodist Cemetery](#). Sumner Lowe (1879-1960) and Virginia Sands (1879-1956) are also buried at the Foreside Cemetery, as is the grave of Sumner and Virginia's daughter Janet Lowe Palmer (1917-1986), and the grave of her son William D. Palmer (1951-1994).<sup>52</sup>





Figure 10: The grave of Sumner S. Lowe and Virginia C. Sands at the Foreside Cemetery in Falmouth.

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**(5) Sylvenus Lowe**

Syvanus and Lydia’s fifth child Sylvenus Lowe was 3 years old in 1850. In an 1870 U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedule for Muscongus Island (Louds Island), a 22 year old Sylvanus Lowe, occupation fishing, is listed as drowning in the previous year, June, 1869.<sup>40</sup> However, in the Edgecomb field where his brother Willard has a gravestone, there is or was a gravestone for Sylvenus Lowe.<sup>12</sup> He is 22 years old; the gravestone was down at the time that source was written; the gravestone is dated May 1, 1868, and it says Sylvanus was lost at sea.

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Benjamin Bennett (1795-1869) died on Christmas Day in 1869 in Edgecomb, ME.<sup>22</sup> His son Captain William M. Bennet administered his estate. Adeline Lowe laid a claim against the estate of Benjamin Bennett, late of Edgecomb, which the administrator found exorbitant, unjust, or illegal. A hearing was to be held 18 Oct. 1870, but Adeline Lowe failed to appear, and her claim was dismissed. The estate of Benjamin Bennett paid out \$8 to Darius Wentworth.

What follows is a story about a Mr. Bennett. Mr. Bennett of [Bennett’s Neck](#) coming home late one night drove his buggy off the road where it once (now washed out) skirted the shore on the down-

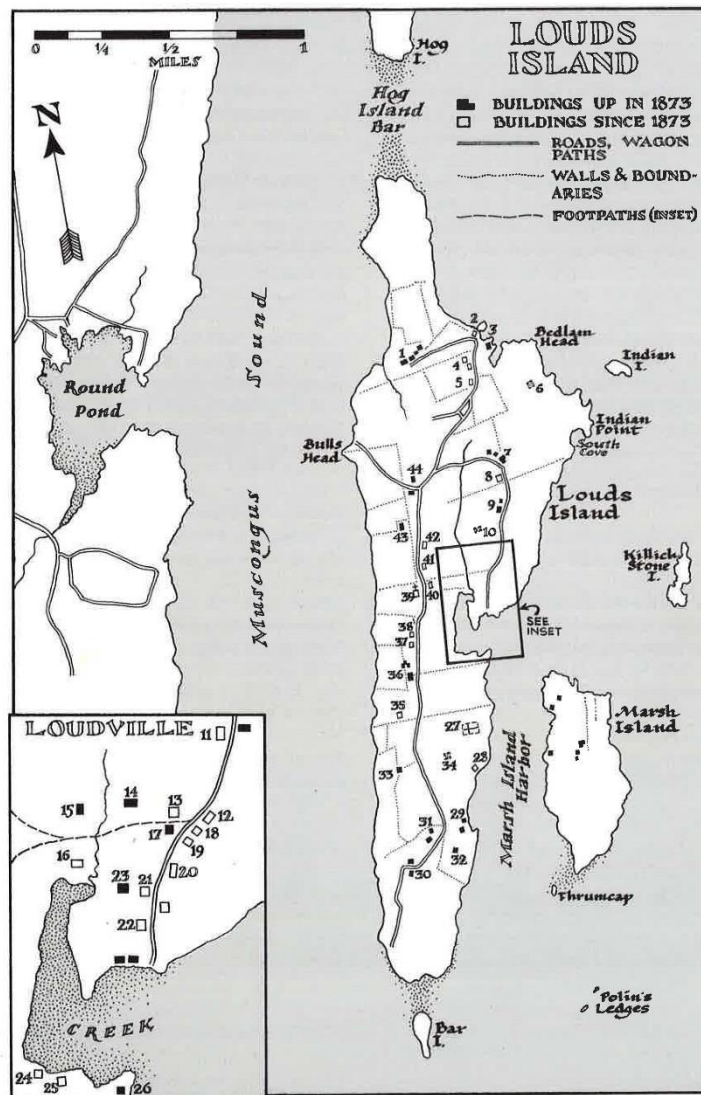


Figure 11: The house the Lowes moved to is # 33 on this map. It was known as "Oram House," and was said to be one of the oldest on the island.<sup>38</sup> Robert Oram was a young carpenter in Portsmouth in 1810, when Captain William Solomon Loud persuaded him to come to Louds Island and ply his trade for a season. After building a house for the captain, Robert married the captain's daughter Mary Loud, and they had a family of ten children, eight who lived to found homes of their own. He became a deacon of the Baptist Society, a school agent, and sometimes a teacher. The young couple settled on the western coast of the island, and the rough land soon became a fertile farm. The frame for his new house, which he was obliged to build for the accommodation of his increasing family, lay upon the ground for one year, while his neighbors tried to shake the "Deacon's" firm refusal to furnish intoxicants for the "raising." That sturdy advocate of temperance, in an intemperate time, replied to their arrogant demands: "If my house cannot be raised without rum, it can rot upon the ground." The house was finally erected, and without rum. More can be read about Robert Oram and the history of Loud's Island here:

[The Romantic History of Muscongus; or Loud's Island](#)



river side of Bennett's Neck, and was apparently washed away by the tide.<sup>36</sup> People say his ghost still appears at times where the road once ran.

The 1870 census finds 53 year old Sevalus P. Lowe and 49 year old Lydia B. Lowe living on Muscongus Island. The profession, occupation, or trade for Sevalus is listed as farmer, and for Lydia it is listed as keeping house. They have 7 children living with them. 21 year old **(6) Marian Lowe** is the oldest. He is a male, and his occupation is Mariner. Next in line is 18 year old **(7) Hartford Lowe**. His occupation is Fishing. Two boys, 16 year old **(8) Julius Lowe** and 14 year old **(9) Merrill Lowe's** occupations are listed as At Home, though they indicated they had attended school within the last year. 12 year old **(10) Lettice Lowe** (girl), 7 year old **(11) Franklin Lowe** (boy), and 5 year old **(12) Anna Lowe** (girl) are occupied with school. Frank and Anna Lowe were Sylvanus and Lydia's grandchildren. Their father Willard had died, but their mother Adeline is still alive in 1870. The 1870 census takers were required to ask male citizens, 21 years of age or older, if their right to vote had been denied or abridged on grounds other than "rebellion or other crime?" The census taker recorded Sevalus Lowe and Marian Lowe's right to vote had been denied or abridged.

In 1870 there are 30 families living on Louds Island.<sup>9</sup> The total number of residents is 142, possibly the largest number of residents on record before or since that date, and the peak of vigorous settlement of that island. According to the 1870 federal census five residents had valuations over \$1500. The highest valuation was for 53 year old farmer, Silvanus Lowe. His real estate property was valued at \$1800, and his personal property (i.e. livestock, vessels, farm equipment or fishing gear, etc.) was valued at \$465. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, 1873 Lydia B. Lowe died aet 52 yrs. 6 mos. 14 days. The Vital Records of Old Bristol state she died on Sands Island, which is across Muscongus Bay in Friendship. She is buried at the Samoset Cemetery on Muscongus Island.<sup>20</sup>



Figure 12: The grave of Benjamin and Mary Bennett at the Union Cemetery in Edgecomb, ME.

Deacon Low remarried. He married Syrena A. Carter of Muscongus Island, April 4, 1874.<sup>21</sup> The 1880 census finds a P. Low, a 64 year old farmer, living with his 50 year old wife Cerena A. Low, who is keeping house. Living with them is his 17 year-old grandson Frank Low, who is still attending school. Sylvanus P. Low died May 1, 1887 aet 70 yrs. 10 mos. He is buried at the Samoset Cemetery on Louds Island.<sup>20</sup>

Mary Mathews Bennet died in 1885 in West Southport, ME. She was buried with her husband, Captain Benjamin Bennett, at the Union Cemetery in Edgecomb. In 1880 Captain William M. Bennett and wife Mary Brewer Bennett are living in Boothbay. They have four children living with them, 26 year-old son William A. Bennett, 17 year-old son Herbert D. Bennett (both sons fishermen), 15 year-old daughter Mary E. Bennett (housekeeping), and 13 year-old daughter Laura Bennett (at school). William M. Bennett's occupation is now Huckster (trader, peddler, dealer, etc.). On the 1900 census William M. Bennett's occupation is as a Lumber Dealer. Capt. William Bennett passed away in 1910, and his wife Mary in 1911. Both are buried at the Wylie Cemetery at Boothbay Harbor.

1906 finds widow Serena Low living with her brother, Captain Robert Carter, at the "Oram House."<sup>9</sup> She is the only Low/Lowe listed in the 1906 town register for Muscongus Island. Captain Robert Carter died in 1916. His sister Syrina A. Lowe died in Loudville, Muscongus Island, Jan 1, 1919 a. 88 y. 3 m. 5 d. Both are buried at the Samoset Cemetery on Muscongus Island. Both share the same gravestone.<sup>20</sup>

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### **(6) Marian Lowe**

Mariam Lowe is listed as a 1 year old girl on the 1850 census. Marian Lowe is listed as a 21 year old male, a mariner, on the 1870 census. ??? In 1873 24 year-old female Marion M. Lowe married 27 year-old Thomas D. Hagggett of Edgecomb. Thomas is a carpenter and a nephew of Marion's sister-in-law Adeline Hagggett Lowe. The couple moved down to Everett, Mass. In 1920 Thomas D. Hagggett is a carpenter in the electric road industry. Thomas and Marion Hagggett had three children.

Georgia E. Hagggett was born in 1875 in Newcastle, Me. She married bookkeeper L. Wesley Richardson, March 22, 1899, in Everett, Mass. They had a son, Paul Richardson, on February 8, 1900, who was stillborn. Georgie E. (Hagggett) Richardson died that same day.

Thomas Albert Hagggett (1876-1941) was born on September 27 in Edgecomb. In 1900 he is a teamster living with his parents in Everett. In 1910 he is a milk wagon driver. He married Florence E.



Figure 13: The family grave of Captain Wm M & Mary J Bennett at the Wylie Cemetery at Boothbay Harbor, ME.



Smith in 1908 in Everett. They had a daughter, Glenn E. Haggett (1909-1971), and a son, Gordon P. Haggett (1911-1970). On Thomas A. Haggett's WWI Registration card he is listed as a milkman working for T.G. Hancock in Chelsea. He is tall and slender, with gray eyes and black hair.

Edgar Sylvanus Haggett (1878-1939) was born on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June in Edgcomb, ME. In 1900 he is a boarder in Chelsea, Mass., employed as an Inspector for the telephone company. He married Ethel Dalton (1879-1972) in Somerville, Mass., on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 1905. In 1910 he is a chauffeur living in Somerville. The couple had a son, Laurence Percy Haggett (1911-1986). On his WWI Registration Card he is listed as a chauffeur working for Wm A Paine, and he is described as being medium in height and build, with blue eyes and brown hair. In 1920 Edgar Sylvanus is a repair man working in the automobile industry, and in 1930 he is again chauffeuring, as is his son. His wife is a bookkeeper in the furniture business.

It's not know what became of Marion Lowe.

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### **(7) Hartford Lowe**

Nothing is known of the life lived by Hartford Lowe.

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### **(8) Julius Lowe**

In the Bristol vital records it states Julius C. Lowe of Muscongus Island and a Mrs. Lizzie Kennedy of Portland were married Nov. 28, 1878 in Portland, ME., by the Rev. A.S. Ladd.<sup>33</sup> Julius C. Lowe born in Bristol, and Martha E. Pierce, born in Southport, had a son William Herbert Lowe, born Jan. 16, 1881, in Boothbay.<sup>26</sup> Julius does not appear in the 1880 Boothbay valuation records. In 1881 he paid a poll tax, but he had no assets. In 1882 Julius C. Low is listed as "off" the rolls.

On the 1900 census Julius is a day laborer. He and Martha E. Lowe (married 22 years) are renting in the dwelling of Robert Anderson at 57 Boyd St. in Portland. Living with the couple is their 19 year old son Willis H. Lowe and a 46 year-old boarder, Thomas Webber. When 37 year-old William Herbert Lowe registered for the WW I draft in 1918, he was a cooper working for the Portland Cooperage Co. Earlier in the year he married 32 year-old Sarah A. Dean, a stenographer born in Leeds, England. It was his second marriage. In 1910 William (a chauffeur at the time) had married an Estelle Edwards, who resided in Westbrook, and was born in New Brunswick. In 1920 William H. Lowe is a carpenter in the long shore industry, and in 1930 he is an antiques dealer. William and Sarah Lowe had 3 children.

In 1919 Julius C. Lowe sued the power company in the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in *Lowe v. Cumberland County Power & Light Co.*<sup>25</sup> 65 year old wagon driver Julius Lowe was injured when he attempted to cross the track ahead of a streetcar. It was found that the motorman was negligent in failing to stop in time. The 65 year old plaintiff's earning power was diminished by \$10 per week. The court found a jury had properly compensated Julius for his expenses and suffering in the amount of \$4,375. The defendant moved for a new trial, but it was overruled. Julius is listed as a day laborer in the 1921 Portland directory. A Julius Lowe is said to own land on Muscongus Island as noted in the annual report of the Board of State Assessors in 1922.<sup>27</sup> Julius is the only one of his siblings known to be living in 1922. Martha E. Lowe passed away Jan. 19, 1922. Julius C Lowe passed away June 23, 1924. Julius and

Martha are buried at the Forest City Cemetery in South Portland, Maine, as is their son, William H. Lowe, who passed away September 15, 1962.<sup>60</sup>

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### (9) Merrill Lowe

The 1880 census finds 23 year old Merrill H. Lowe living on Catharine St. in Philadelphia, a resident in the household of his in-laws the Ludwigs. He is married to their 22 year old daughter Emma, and they have a 3 year old son, Howard S. Lowe, born 29 May 1878 in Philadelphia. On the 1881 Philadelphia city directory Merrill H. Lowe is listed; his occupation is Waterman.<sup>28</sup> Howard Lowe later joined the 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Artillery, Battery G, Pennsylvania Volunteers during the Spanish-American War. He was promoted to sergeant 6 Oct 1899. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, 1899, he was killed in action in the Province of Iloilo, Philippines, as his unit advanced on Pavia.<sup>42</sup>

It's not known what became of Merrill Lowe.

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### (10) Lettie Lowe

Lettie Lowe married another nephew of sister-in-law Adeline Haggett Lowe. She married Thomas D. Haggett's younger brother Albion P. Haggett (b.1856), and in 1880 the couple are living with Albion's parents, Edgar and Abigail Haggett in Edgecomb. Edgar is a farmer, Abigail is keeping house, Albion is a laborer, and Lettie is listed as Working in the Family. Albion has been unemployed 3 months during the census year. Albion and Lettie had two known children. Albion Dixon Haggett (1879-1930)(b. in Edgecomb), became a telephone lineman/repairman/installer who resided in Everett, Mass. He married but the couple is not known to have children. Leonard Russell Haggett (1882-1955)(b. in Edgecomb), resided in Chelsea, Mass., and held a variety of jobs. He married and they had children.

Albion P. Haggett (b.1856) is known to have a daughter. Grace C. Haggett born in Massachusetts in January, 1888. He remarried to Bertha P. Harding in October, 1888.

It's not known what became of Lettie Haggett. Albion P. Haggett also made his way down to Everett, Mass. He remarried two more times after Bertha passed away in 1899.

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NO RECORD IN FILE of Card Record From 4/21/98 to 11/21/99 Read 4/21/98  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
+ 2-18  
VETERAN'S COMPENSATION APPLICATION NUMBER 291118  
Read instructions and then type or print answers to the following questions striking out words that do not apply. Numerals in parentheses refer to corresponding numerals in the instructions.  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA  
EMMA GRIFFIN  
HOWARD W. LOWE (DECEASED)  
being duly sworn, deposes and says: I am the veteran named in the following descriptive information: I served in the military or naval forces of the United States from 1898 to KILLED IN ACTION  
as authorized by Act No. 53, approved January 5, 1924; I was a resident of Pennsylvania at time of entry into service; I make this claim with full knowledge of the penalty for making a false statement relative to a material fact concerning this claim and the answers to the following questions and descriptive information are true:  
(2) LOWE HOWARD W. RESIDENT NO. 567617 WHITE  
(Last name) (First and middle name) (Social number) (White or colored)  
(3) Legal residence at entry into service 941 S. FRONT ST. PHILA (PHILACO) PA  
(Street and number, City, County and State)  
(4) Present residence 2132 S. COLLEGE (DECEASED)  
(Street and number, City, County and State)  
(5) Enlisted, commissioned or inducted in U.S. ARMY; NA; NAVY; MARINE; AIR; OR: Pa. Vols: US-Vol: at PHILADELPHIA-PA on 1898  
(6) On active duty in Navy or in Reserve from to  
(7) Place and date of birth PHILADELPHIA-PA, MAY 29 1878  
(8) Names and addresses of dependents: Wife (full name) SINGLE  
Minor children None  
Mother (full name) EMMA GRIFFIN (MRS LUDWIG)  
Father MERRILL LOWE (MERRILL LOWE)  
(9) Service in organizations, at stations or on vessels in the order named as follows: BATTY G 6th US ARTILLERY from 1898 to (DEATH)  
from to  
from to  
(10) Grades and ratings with dates of appointments or promotions: SERGEANT, OCT 6 1899  
(11) Engagements: KILLED IN ACTION, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.  
(12) Wounds or other injuries received with dates:  
(13) Served overseas from to  
(14) Honorably discharged on KILLED IN ACTION  
(15) Did you ever apply for or receive a bonus or veteran's compensation from any other State? no  
(16) Did you ever refuse on conscientious, political or other grounds to perform full military duty or to render unqualified service?  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20 day of March 1934  
(17) Mary D. Mc Carley (Signature of Applicant (mother))  
NOT A PUBLIC OFFICER (Name of person certifying to) (Title of officer applying for Veteran's and position) that Emma Griffin (Name of applicant) applying for Veteran's Compensation is known to me to be the applicant named in the application; that he is mentally competent; that the signature of the applicant is the signature of the applicant.  
Signature and impression of seal or stamp indicating office or position held.  
Read instructions (19) before signing.  
(1) 20 Months at \$10.00 per month Total \$ 200  
(1) Computed by Myron Deeg employed by W. S. ...  
(1) Checked and approved by J. ... For the Adjutant General.

Figure 14: 1934 pension application filed by Emma Griffin for the Spanish American War service of her son, Howard Lowe. (Source: Ancestry.com)

**(11) Franklin Lowe**

Sylvanus and Lydia Lowe’s grandson, Frank H. Lowe, was living in Boston in 1900.<sup>17</sup> He is a lodger in the household of Mark and Nellie Haggett at 19 Kearsarge Avenue (presently a vacant lot being used by the Boston Day and Evening Academy). Frank is a groceries salesman and his cousin Mark is a teamster. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, 1904 he married Mary E. Gregory of Boston, a bookkeeper. On later censuses he is listed as a coffee roaster in the wholesale business. Franklin and Mary were not known to have any children, and he passed away and was buried in Arlington, Mass. in 1940.

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**(12) Anna Lowe**

Sylvanus and Lydia Lowe’s granddaughter, Anna E. Lowe (1864-1917), married Albert J. Wood (1862-1921) in Newcastle, ME., Christmas Day, 1890.<sup>34</sup> Albert was a grocer in Newcastle.<sup>8</sup> Albert and Annie Lowe had three boys: Thomas Albert Wood (1893-1968), Frank L. Wood (1897-1918), and Maurice H. Wood born 20 Jun. 1907.<sup>35</sup> Frank L. Wood was inducted into the military, 5 August, 1918, in Wiscasset, Maine.<sup>47</sup> He died on 19 October, 1918, of disease, at Camp McClellan in Alabama. Frank is buried in the Glidden Cemetery in Newcastle. Annie E. Wood died shortly after Frank was inducted, 17 August, 1918, of apoplexy.<sup>48</sup> Annie Wood is buried in the Glidden Cemetery. Albert J Wood died in 1921 and is buried in the Glidden Cemetery.



Figure 15: The graves of Albert & Annie Wood at the Glidden cemetery in Newcastle, ME.

Thomas Albert Wood also served in the military; He was inducted May 31, 1918. At the time he registered Thomas was self-employed, vulcanizing and repairing bicycles. He was of medium height, medium build, with dark brown hair and dark brown eyes. He served in the 151 Depot Brigade at Camp



Devens in Massachusetts.\*<sup>7</sup> He was honorably discharged Jan. 10, 1919. In 1920 he was still in vulcanizing, but in 1930 and 1940 he no longer had an occupation.



Figure 16: The gravestone of Frank L. Wood at the Glidden Cemetery in Newcastle, ME.

In 1928 Maurice Harland Wood is a freshman engineering student at the University of Maine.<sup>50</sup> In 1930 Maurice Wood is living with his brother on the Mills Rd. in Newcastle. He is a civil engineer. By 1935 he is married to Hope A. Morrisette, and he is a salesman in the gas refining industry living in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.<sup>51</sup> He and his wife Hope are still living in Pawtucket in 1940 where he is now a foundry man in the textile machinery industry. Hope A. Wood is a secretary. Maurice H. Wood had completed 3 years of college. Maurice H. Wood died 11 Jan. 1978 in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.<sup>61</sup> Hope A. his wife died in 1991. They are buried with Hope's parents and sisters at the Moshassuck Cemetery in Central Falls, R.I.<sup>62</sup>

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## Notes

This is a third and final edition of a Wentworth Point History Bulletin. It was edited, put into chapter form, and reissued in 2017.

\* Spelling variations of names are entered as they appear in the records.

\*<sup>1</sup> Obituary posted courtesy of Andrea Graffam on the Clinton W. Graffam Jr. Family Tree in the Ancestry Library Edition.

\*<sup>2</sup> Courtesy of Tracy G. (#46557105) at the [Find A Grave Index](#)

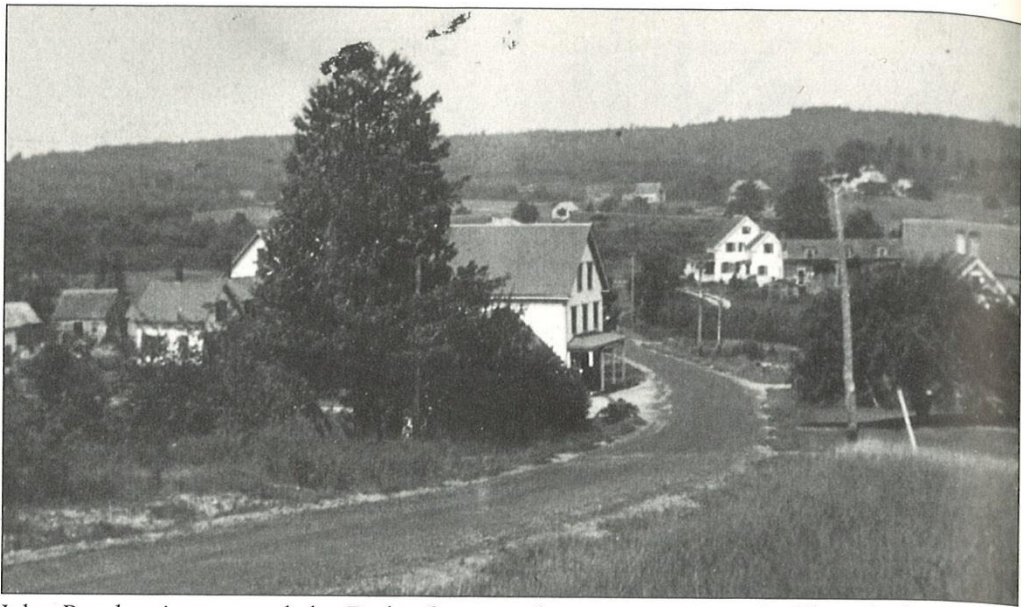
\*<sup>3</sup> Courtesy of Kelly Page and the Maine Maritime Museum Library. Culled from the Captains Index & the unpublished manuscript Abstracts of Registers & Enrollments of the District of Wiscasset.<sup>7</sup>

\*<sup>4</sup> There seems to be a number of mistakes when these old records were copied as to make it difficult to be reasonably certain this is Sylvanus P Lowe's family. I can say there was a John Low who married a Mary Merrill on 24 November 1804 in Gray, Cumberland County, Maine. On the 1810 census there is no John Low living in Gray, but there is a John Low living in Freeport. On the 1820 census there is a John Low living in Gray, Maine. There are records in FamilySearch and Ancestry.com for a number of children born to a John and Mary Low between 1812 to 1834; all of the children were born in Portland. Charles B. Low (b1812), Joshua Low (1814-1817), Sylvanus Low (b1817) \_ Solomon Low (b1826), Isaac Low (b1828 or 1829), and a daughter Merriam B. Low (b1831 (birth records)). On Isaac Merrill Lowe's death certificate it says his mother was Mary Merrill, and that his father, John, was from Barrie, Me. Mariam B. Lowe married twice, first to Henry Luce, secondly to George Miller. On one death record she is Marian B. Low Luce Miller (1834-1901) born to John Low and Mary Merrill. On another death record she is Mariam B. Low Miller (1834-1901) born to John Low and Mary M. Gray.

\*<sup>5</sup> Thanks to Barbara Rumsey at the Boothbay Region Historical Society for gathering & providing information about the Bennetts and Lowes.

\*<sup>6</sup> The children in the household of Sylvanus in the Lydia Lowe have been numbered, underlined, and made bold for easier reference and reading.

\*<sup>7</sup> The role of the Depot Brigades was to receive and organize recruits, provide them with uniforms, equipment and initial military training, and then send them to France to fight on the front lines. The Depot Brigades also received soldiers returning home at the end of the war and completed their out processing and discharges.<sup>49</sup>



John Burnham's store and the Dodge farm are the most prominent buildings looking north through the village at East Edgecomb. The obvious clump of trees on Mt. Hunger (background) was known as the Square Pines, an uncut area of old-growth pine which could be seen for miles and was a landmark for mariners. (Boothbay Region Historical Society) <sup>54</sup>

\*<sup>9</sup> To read more about Clinton W. Graffam Jr. (1914-1998) and Katherine Hatch Graffam (1913-2005) see Sources 55, 56, and 57.

\*<sup>10</sup> On April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1855 the 700 ton ship the "Highland Light" had been launched by the company at their yard at Clark's Cove. One report stated it was a finely modelled and staunchly built ship, and that it had been sold at a remunerating rate, to Capt. Alpheus Boyd, of Wiscasset, by whom she is to be commanded.<sup>63</sup> Another report states it is a fine freighting ship owned by the builders and Capt. A P Bond, who will command her. She combines the qualities of sailing fast and carrying a large cargo, and is represented to be of strong materials, abundantly fastened, and handsomely finished.<sup>64</sup>

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