

1942

Correspondence from George Walter Chamberlain, 1942

George Walter Chamberlain

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29 Hillside Avenue,
Malden, Mass. Feb. 4, 1942.

1.

Mrs. Fannie Hardy Eckstorm,
173 Wilson Street, Brewer, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Eckstorm:

Some ten years ago or more I received a letter from you about my story of the Peggwacket Fight of 1725. As I remember I told you that I now believe that no one engaged in the fight on that day knew who shot Paugus. I edited a revised edition of the Expeditions of Kidder and included all relating to the Fight in 1909 which was published by William Abbatt in New York. Perhaps there may be a copy in the Bangor Public Library. I have only one copy of the reprint.

I have a copy of your masterpiece, the Indian Place-Name of Maine. I am amazed at your work. I have no information of this kind. I am delighted with your work. I have been in more than half of the towns you name in Maine. I have given no attention to the Indian lore therein. Had I known of your quest in these years I could have given you a little help as to the names themselves in York County from sources before 1760.

I believe that there have been no Indians in York County to live there since Major Robert Rogers exterminated the St. Francis Tribe there at St. Francis Canada about 1759.

I made some fifteen years ago an exact copy of the Journal made by Capt. William Gerrish of Benwick in 1755. Mr. Baxter printed the ~~the~~ Maine Collections a very imperfect copy of this Journal. This was Capt. Gerrish's Daily Record of his scouting from June to Nov. 1755 and is of great value in establishing the names of the places he daily visited and where he camped each night.

2.

I spent a day in May 1882 on Indian Island in Oldtown and made a fine collection of plants for my herbarium. I write very poorly now in my 83d year.

Montague Chamberlain was my cousin and I had a pleasant acquaintance with him from 1893 to the time of his death. I suppose you know that his mother or grandmother was an Indian.

Mr. Franklin McCreffer, the author of the History of Rochester was a cousin of mine and I have gleaned several Indian names from my copy of his work. I note that you apparently have not given the Indian name of my native town. You will find it on the first pages of the Vital Records of Lebanon. I am prepared to give the sources from which it was obtained.

On page 184 you state that Lombegewac Pond is in Lebanon. You say that it is on Lydstons Grant. I have from the State House in Boston a part of that Grant which appears to me to be in Sanford. These Grants were not a part of the original Township of Lebanon but ten grants were annexed to the Township at later dates. See "The Beginnings of Lebanon, 1936," page 8 and 9. There were 1000 copies of this given to who ever requested a copy.

I have been retired from professional work for four years, and have helped marry for nothing.

I congratulate you on such a comprehensive study as you have presented to students of History of Maine. I have ready for the press the English Ancestry of the Chamberlains which includes my cousin Gen. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, L. D. a native of Brewer, and an intimate friend of ~~my~~ mine from 1890 to the date of his death.

I hope you will find many ~~to~~ who will appreciate the long years of study which you devoted to his search. I have examined Ganong's publications in the transactions of the Royal Society of Canada but only for one name. Your explanation of Newickwannoc saves me from a long time misconception of Salmon Falls River.

When I was in Calais, 1890 to 1893, there appeared in the St. Croix Courier a series of historical sketches of Charlotte County N.B. and Washington County, Maine, which contained some Indian names. I cut the clippings and made two scrap books which may now be seen in the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 9 Ashburton Place, Boston. Gamong wrote some of the articles in these clippings and others now dead.

I am sorry to be so late in these facts. If you would like to have it I can send you the Indian names of York County as used before 1760 and you will have a few additions.

I am a beggar in your field of investigation as you see while I remain

Very sincerely,
George Walter Chamberlain

29 Hillside Avenue,
Malden, Mass. Feb. 19, 1942.

My dear Mrs Eckstrom:

It is good of you to write to me with a broken thigh. I am distressed to learn of your misfortune. I hope and pray that you will recover rapidly. I have a classmate in Winter Park, Florida, whose good wife is nearly recovered from a similar accident.

For several years I thought of writing to Mr. Lamong for his opinion as to the Indian name of my native town. I neglected to do so and I have no idea as to its meaning. Between 1746 and 1760 the only part of Lebanon which was occupied was the southern western section of the township - the First Division of Home Lots. \rightarrow St. Town refers to the river. It may have some thing to do with the falls. The boundary line between Berwick and Lebanon starts at the lowest stair in the Salmon Falls River - there are three or \rightarrow four stairs there in the river. About two rods from the town line was erected early a grist mill by three of the earliest settlers which later the sold to Rev. Isaac Hasey, the first settled minister of Lebanon. The first division of Home Lots extended from Berwick town line back three miles towards West Lebanon Village. The Home Lots were covered with heavy pine growth and the soil was free from rocks. The Proprietors Records do not help me on the Indian name. They called it the "New Township at the Head of Berwick". After the township was surveyed and laid out there were later ten or more lots which were outlying which were later annexed to the original township. I have given a brief outline of the ten outlying lots in The Beginnings of Lebanon. I have only one copy in my possession. I have a photostat of these ten plans and several more which I have studied.

In your Indian Place Names page 184 you state that Tombegone Pond is in Lebanon. It is not in the original survey of the town. Lydstones grant of 300 acres is in two plans of that part of the town. If it is now a part of our town, it was annexed

to Lebanon with Baker's Grant 23 Feb. 1825. I conjecture that the Pond is the source of Little River. This river flows down along the eastern part of the town to Little River Falls Village and on through Berwick and empties into the Salmon Falls a mile or two before we pass from Berwick into Somersworth.

→ If you look at Gerrish's march Aug. 27, 1755, you will see that he encamped near Tombague Pond, a days march north east of Capt Benjamin Tibbetts Garrison in South Lebanon.

Baker's Grant was taxed to Sanford for a time before 1825. I have found in a comprehensive study of all the grants in the State Archives no reference to Lydstone's Grant but my plans show that he had a grant of 300 ^{acres} either in Sanford or Lebanon. There may be a reference to it at Augusta after 1820.

I don't claim to know anything in Lebanon although I have been to 200 cemeteries in that town and published in the Vital Records all I could read from the stones there.

→ Mrs. E. Skstam, will you let me state that "Witchstrot" in Rochester opposite Lebanon is a corruption of the old English surname Whitchcatt. 1000 acres was granted to the widow of Matthew Cradock and was the property of Cradock's widow who married (2) Rev. Benjamin Whitchcatt of London and lost the title when New Hampshire became a Royal Province in 1679. I have a long discussion of this in the Rochester Courier. I wish I had an extra copy for you.

I thank you for what you say about Purgus. I have written you statement in my edition of Kidder.

Accept these few notes as a gift. I have somewhere a note book on Indian Names in York County but I cannot put my hand on it as I have so much stuff with few indexes.

Keep good courage and don't worry about the war.

Very sincerely,
George Walter Leaburner

1
"Newichwannack", as given by you, is most gratifying. I like "between the rapids at the fork of the Salmon Falls and Cochecho."

"Piscutqua", I have supposed to be the lower part of the river from the sea to the head of the tide. I do not see it in your book.

"Lisomphegan" is undoubtedly "dip net falls" in the Salmon Falls at South Berwick.

"Squamagonic" is in New Hampshire six miles west of the Salmon Falls River. I do not find "xvi" in your index.

Mr. Mc Cluffee in his History of Rochester, p. 14, says Squamagonic means "The water of the clay place hill."

He also gives "Cochecho", as "falls and great falls".

He also gives Newichwannoc as the Salmon Falls River.

The last statement I do not believe to be true.

John Richards of Kennebec took the oath of fidelity at Merry Meeting, 23 Apr. 1654 (Plymouth Colony Records 3:58). John Tedd in his writ against the inhabitants of the Kennebec dated 16 June 1657, for seizing his vessel near "Agosset" calls John Richard their Captain. I do not find him in Weymouth as you state on p. 255. The Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire calls him, p. 585, son of Thomas Richards of Rochester, says he bought from Robin Hood the island of Arrowsic in 1644 and sold it in 1654. He lived in Connecticut and married into the Winthrop family.

Towowh, the Indian name of some feature connected with Lebanon. A deed from Samuel Boone of York to John Moody of York sells Moody one proprietor's right in the New Township above Berwick commonly called "Towo", 14 Sept. 1754. (York deeds 32:38)

Rev. Amos Main, a native of York Me. and a graduate of Harvard College, 1729 was first minister in Rochester 1733 to 1760. He lived about five miles from the first settled part of Lebanon. He came to the township ten times between 1737 and 1759 and baptized in the Lebanon Meeting House and on each occasion he wrote in the Rochester Church records the name and residence as "Towow". Mr. Main's Account shows that he visited the sick in this township and changed the name and the residents as "Towow", nine times. "Towow", the Indian name for Lebanon by William Wallis, 1856, (Maine Historical Collections, 4: 111). I think I once saw the form given as Towrook but I cannot cite the authority.

The General Court declared war against the "Arasaguntacook" Indians and all other tribes of Indians east of Piscataqua River except the Penobscot tribe on 10 June 1755 and commissioned Capt. William Gerrish of Berwick to scout for them from Lebanon to the Saco River (Acts & Resolves of Massachusetts Bay, 1755-6 Chapter 41). Capt. Gerrish lived about four miles south of Lebanon - Berwick town line:
His Journal [in the State Archives].

Barwick June 28th [1755] mustered my Company to see that all was well equipped with armes and all things fitting to march the woods.

June 30th we march^t from Barwick to Lebanon and encamped at the Little River Falls.

Tuesday July 1st march^t from the Little River falls on a N. E. point for Saco River and at night encamped at the Swan Pond.

Wednesday July 2^d march^t on a N. E. point for Saco River and encamped at the Block house.

Thursday July 3, march^t on a N. W. point from Saco, then on a W. point which brought us to a pond called Massaweesick pond, the pond lying due north and south, and then S. W. point untill we came to eastern branch of Mouson River and encamped by a large marsh called the Long marsh.

Friday July 4th march^t from the Long marsh on a S. W. point untill we come to a hill called Bonnibee Hill and on the south of hill we encamped.

Saturday July 5th march^t from Bonnibee Hill on a S. point for Barwick.

Wednesday July 9th march^t from Barwick to Lebanon and encamped at Capt. Tibbetts House where there was an Hundred and Seventy Souls dwelt under that Roof. [170-52 = 118 persons in the Garrison]

Thursday July 10th march^t from Capt. Tibbettes House at Lebanon 3
on N. W. point to a pond called Lovells Pond [in Wakefield N. H.]
and encamped at the eastern end of the pond.

Friday July 11th we march^t from Lovells Pond on a N. N. E. point
until we come to a very large Beaver Pond and there we encamped.

Saturday July 12th march^t from the Beaver pond on a N. N. E. point
until we come to a very large pond called the upper
Salmon Falls Pond which is twelve miles in length and
six miles in breadth according to the best of our judgement
and from the upper Salmon Falls Pond we marched in a
N. E. point Monsoon upper Pond which brought us to Osabay
Hills and we came over one of the highest of the hills called
"Palmasicket" and encamped on the N. E. side of the hill.

Sunday July 13th we march^t from Osabay Hills upon a N. W.
and N. point to Great Ossaby River and from thence on
a N. E. by E. point which brought us to a large pond called
Little Osabay and encamped on the eastern side of the pond.

Monday July 14th march^t from Little Osabay Pond on a N. E. point which
brought us to a large river and from the river we march^t
a S. E. point to a considerable Large Pond which lyeth N. N. W.
and S. S. E. which we judged to be five miles in length and
two miles in breadth and we came to the eastern side
of the Pond and encamped.

Tuesday July 15th march^t on an E. point until we come to Saco
River about five and twenty miles above the Salmon Falls
and then we march^t S. S. E. which brought us to the Salmon
Falls and there encamped.

Wednesday July 16th march^t from the Salmon Falls to the Block
House and there encamped.

Thursday July 17th march^t to Bedford for allowances.

- 4.
- Fryday July 18th march^t from Reddiford on a w. by n. point
~~point~~ beyond the great marsh and encamped in
 the hlesarts.
- Sater day July 19, we march^t from the hlesarts on a s. w. by w. point
 and encamped at the Great Oak Hill near Bonnebeeg
 Pond.
- Sunday July 20th march^t for Barwick on a s. w. by w. point
 which brought us to Barwick North Parish and march^t
 to church and heard prayers [Blackberry Hill].
- Wensday July 23th mustered and march^t to the Commiserey
 for allowence and there was none to receive.
- Fryday July 25th again march^t to the Commisereys for
 allowence and there was none to receive.
- Wensday July 30th again mustered and march^t to the Commisarys
 and received all our back allowence
- Thursday July 31st march^t from Barwick to Lebanon to Capt.
 Tibbettes and from thence to Little River Falls
 upon a e. n. e. point and encamped at the Falls.
- Fryday August 1st march^t from Little River Falls on an E. N. E.
 point which brought us to Monson River and there we
 encamped.
- Saterday Aug. 2^d march^t from Monson River to Saco Falls
 on an e by n. point and received allowence and encamped.
- Sunday Aug 3^d march^t from Saco Falls for Lebanon on a
 w. point to the eastern end of Swan Pond and there encamped.
- Monday Aug 4th march^t from Swan Pond on a s. w. by n. point
 to Phillips Town upper part and there encamped.
- Tuesday Aug 5th march^t from Phillips Town on a s. s. w. point
 to Barwick.
- Thursday Aug. 7, march^t from Barwick to Lebanon on a
 n. by n. point and encamped at Little River.
- Friday Aug. 8th march^t from Little River in Lebanon on an
 n. e. by e. point to a small pond called "Bungo-
 nungo" Pond and encamped by the pond.

- 5.
- Saturday Aug 9th march^t from "Bungonungo" Pond where we encamped on a e. n. e. point to Saco Little Falls and from thence to Saco Falls and received allowance.
- Sunday Aug. 10th march^t to Church and heard prayers.
- Monday Aug 11th march^t from Saco Falls on a w. by n. point to a pond called Brimstone Pond and there encamped.
- Tuesday Aug. 12th march^t from Brimstone Pond on a s. w. by w. point to the Great Oak Hill and there encamped.
- Wednesday Aug 13th march^t from the Great Oak Hill on a s. point to Barwick.
- Monday Aug 18th march^t from Barwick after taking allowance up the Beaver Dam Road and encamped.
- Tuesday Aug. 19, march^t from where we encamped to Lebanon and from Lebanon on n. by e. point beyond Phillips Town upper part about three miles and there encamped.
- Wednesday Aug. 20th march^t from where we encamped on a n. e. point for Saco River and encamped at the Block House.
- Thursday Aug 21 march^t from the Block House on a s. w. point to the western side of Swan Pond and encamped against Pleasant Point.
- Friday Aug 22 march^t from where we encamped on a s. w. point to Phillips Town and from thence on a s. point to the Great Oak Hill and there encamped.
- Saturday Aug. 23d march^t from the Oak Hill where we encamped on a s. point to Barwick
- Barwick Aug. 26th 1755 by Wm. Gerrish
 [Indorsed] from June 28 to the 23 Aug. 1755
 Read in Council Aug. 30th 1755

By order of His Excellency.

A further Journal of my proceedings

Monday Aug. 25th march^d to the Commisceys and received allowance.

Tuesday Aug. 26th march^d from Barwick to Lebanon to the house of Capt Tibbetts and encamped.

✓ Wednesday Aug. 27 march^d on a n.e. point to a marsh near Tombague Pond and encamped.

Thursday Aug. 28 March^d from the place where we encamped on an n.e. by e. point and struck Mouson River four miles above Phillips Town and from thence on the same point to a large marsh and encamped.

Friday Aug. 29 marched again on a n.e. by e. point and struck Saco River at the Salmon Falls and march^d from thence to the Black Horse and encamped.

Saturday Aug. 30 march^d from thence on a s.w. by w. point to the upper Kennebunk Pond and encamped on the western side of the pond.

Sunday 31 march^d from ye pond where we encamped on a s.w. by s. point to Ell Pond and encamped at ye eastern end of ye pond.

Monday Sept 1, march^d from thence to Barwick on a s.w. point.

Thursday Sept 11, march^d from Barwick after taking allowance up the Beaver Dam Road and encamped.

Friday Sept. 12. march^d from where we encamped to Lebanon and from Lebanon on an e. n.e. point to Mouson River and encamped.

Saturday Sept 13 march^d from Mouson River on an E. N. E. point to a place called Pissquacket and encamped. [Fryeburg?]

→ Sunday Sept. 14. March^d from Pissquacket on a s.e. point down to Saco Falls for allowance.

- Tuesday, Sept 16. Received allowance and march^t up Saco River twelve miles and encamped.
- Wednesday, Sept 17. March^t from Saco Salmon Falls on a s.s.w. point to Monson River and from Monson River on a s. by w. point which brought us to "Frying Pan" marshes and encamped.
- Thursday, Sept 18, march^t from thence to Barwick on a s. by w. point.
- Monday, Sept. 22 march^t to the Commerceryes and received allowance.
- Tuesday, Sept. 23 march^t for Lebanon on a n.w. by w. point and encamped at the new fort at Lebanon [Upper Garrison - 2 miles from Barwick-Lebanon town line].
- Wednesday, Sept. 24 march^t from thence on a n. e. by n. point and encamped at Monson River, eight miles above Phillips Town upper fort.
- Thursday, Sept. 25 march^t from thence on the same point and struck Saco River above the Salmon Falls and encamped.
- Friday, Sept 26, march^t down Saco River to Biddeford for allowance and there encamped.
- Saturday, Sept. 27, March^t to the Commerceryes for allowance and there was none to receive.
- Sunday, Sept 28, Received allowance and march^t for Barwick on a s. w. by w. point to Kennetunk River and encamped.
- Monday, Sept 29, march^t on a s. w. point to Monson River and encamped.
- Tuesday, Sept 30 march^t from thence on a s. w. by w. point to Barwick
- Monday, Oct 6, March^t to the Commerceryes and received allowance.
- Tuesday, Oct 7, March^t from Barwick on a n. by w. point and encamped at the Little River in Lebanon.
- Wednesday Oct 8 march^t from thence on an e. by n. point for Saco River and encamped.
- Thursday Oct 9, march^t on a n. e. by e. point to Saco River and encamped.
- Friday Oct 10 march^t from Saco River on a s. w. point and encamped.
- Saturday Oct 11 march^t on a s. w. by s. point to Barwick.

- 8
 Wensday Oct. 15 Received allowance and march^t from Barwick for Saco River on a n. n. e. point and encamped.
 Thursday Oct. 16 march^t on a n. n. e. point for Saco and encamped.
 Fry day Oct 17. march^t again on an e. n. e. point and struck Saco River and march^t to Biddeford and encamped.
 Saturday Oct 18. Received allowance and march^t on a n. n. w. point up the River and encamped.
 Sunday Oct 19, march^t from Saco River for Lebanon w. s. w. and encamped.
 Monday Oct 20 march^t again w. s. w. point for Lebanon and encamped.
 Tuesday Oct 21, march^t for Lebanon on a w. s. w. point and encamped.
 Wensday Oct 22, march^t through Lebanon to Salmon Falls River and encamped.
 Thursday Oct. 23, march^t for Barwick on a s. point.
 Saturday Oct 25, march^t to the Commencement and Received allowance.
 Monday Oct 27 march^t for Lebanon and encamped.
 Tuesday Oct. 28 march^t from Lebanon for Saco River and encamped.
 Wensday Oct 29 march^t to Saco River and encamped.
 Thursday Oct. 30 march^t from Saco River for Barwick and encamped.
 Fry day Oct 31, march^t again for Barwick and encamped.
 Saturday Nov 1, march^t to Barwick.
 Sunday Nov. 5, march^t to the Commencement to receive allowance and there was none to receive.
 Saturday Nov. 8, mustered at the stores and there was none.
 Thursday Nov. 12, march^t to the stores and there was none.
 Monday Nov. 17, march^t to the stores and received allowance and march^t into the woods and encamped.
 Tuesday Nov. 18, march^t for Saco and encamped.
 Wensday Nov. 19 march^t to the store at Biddeford and received allowance.

9.

Thursday Nov. 20 march^t from Biddeford for Barwick and
Encamped.
Friday Nov. 21 march^t again for Barwick and encamped.
Saturday Nov. 22 march^t to Barwick.
Monday Nov. 24 called my Company together and disbanded
them.

Saturday night after returning from my last march
I received your orders for reissuing my Company
which I did forthwith on Monday the 24 of November.

Barwick Nov. 26, 1755

Wm Gerrish.

Capt. William Gerrish of Barwick was in the service with 51 men
from 19 June to 24 Nov. 1755.

He was again in scouting from Lebanon to Saco River from
10 Mar. to 21 Nov. 1756 (Mass. Archives 95:47), but there is no
Journal in the State Archives of this scouting.