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150th Anniversary, Town of Raymond, Maine, 1803-1953

Mira L. Dolley

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History
of the
Town of Raymond

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150th Anniversary
Town of Raymond, Maine
1803 - 1953



*Nathaniel Hawthorne House
Raymond, Maine*

Mr. Richard Manning, Nathaniel Hawthorne's uncle built this house for his sister and here Nathaniel spent "the freest and happiest days" of his life during the years from 1813 until 1825. After the Hawthornes moved back to Salem, the old house served as a tavern for some time and then was remodeled into a "meeting house." It is today occasionally used as a neighborhood house.

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HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF RAYMOND

by Mira L. Dolley — Written in Honor of Sesquicentennial Celebration

July 25, 1953

The plantation of Raymondtown was given to Captain William Raymond and sixty others of Beverly, Massachusetts, for services against the French and Indians in 1690. It was in place of a grant made to them, called the Waretown Grant, which was found to be located in New Hampshire. The general court of Massachusetts confirmed the grant in January, 1767, and in April of that year, the proprietors met and voted to call the new town Raymond.

The original township comprised 37,750 acres of which 428 were excluded for Rattlesnake Mountain and 5,945 for ponds. The township was laid out seven and one half miles square, the base line running due northwest on the western line of New Boston (Gray) and Windham. In 1827, a part of Thompson Pond Plantation was annexed to Raymond and that part of the original grant lying west of Crooked River was taken off to form the town of Naples in 1829. The town was divided in 1841 and the western half incorporated as the town of Casco on March 18th. Raymond Cape was annexed to Raymond from Standish in 1871.

The story of the actual settlement of the town, whether fact or fiction, is an interesting one. John Davis, a trapper and hunter, was the first white occupant of the territory. He had trouble with the Indians who were taking the game from his traps. The story goes that he took his gun one morning when he went out to tend his traps. Soon after, a shot was heard and John Davis rushed into camp and made a hasty departure. However, his sons John and Gideon, selected lots east of the village in 1770. Margaret Davis, daughter of John, married Jeremiah Hayden, ancestor of Irving and Gardner Hayden. Thus, Pine Grove Farm is located on one of the original lots of the town.

But hunting in wild land is quite different from settling in it, so in spite of the appearance and the rapid disappearance of the intrepid Mr. Davis, the honor of being Raymond's first settlers goes to two other men. As was the custom in the early days, in order to encourage settlers to move in and develop the territory, free lots of land were offered; first, to any of the sixty original proprietors, and later, to any man who would move to the town, build a house, and clear four acres of land within fifteen months. The first actual settler was offered an extra lot of one hundred acres.

In 1770, Captain Nathaniel Jordan and Captain Joseph Dingley recorded lots in the new town. In June, Captain Jordan chose lot 3 range 2 embracing the outlet of Panther Pond, and in September, Captain Dingley signed up for lot 9, range 2, including the outlet of Thomas Pond.

According to tradition, both men started together on foot from Massachusetts in friendly contest for the coveted extra lot of land. Arriving together at the old Indian "carrying place" at Standish Neck, they camped the night. Early in the morning, Captain Dingley, awakening first, procured a boat and paddled across the lake. He came ashore at the mouth of Dingley Brook, which still bears his name and was the first to secure his location. Captain Jordan, finding his companion gone, cut a path along the lake shore and arrived at his location late in the afternoon. There he settled on the land recently belonging to the Crockett house. Jordan Bay and Jordan River (the local name for Panther Run) bear his name today. The first settler on Raymond Cape was Mr. Daniel Mason, who came by boat from Standish and built his house on the north shore near the Images in 1818. Later in that year, he was joined by his brother-in-law, Samuel Tarbox, who, with his wife, froze to death in a severe blizzard in 1819. The story of the tragic death of Mr. Tarbox, who had gone to the mill for provisions and of his wife who went to meet him, is still told in the community. For many years a severe blizzard, accompanied by extreme cold, was called locally a "Tarboxer".

In folk lore, perhaps, rather than in history, belong the tales of the Indian gatherings on the end of the Cape and at the Pulpit Rock. The Images are there, though, for all to see, and Frye's Leap and Frye's Island are material testimony of Mr. Frye's escape from Indian pursuit. It is said that, driven to the end of the cape by a band of wild Indians, Mr. Frye leaped into the water and swam to the island. The Indians were so astounded by this performance that they gave up the chase. It is interesting to recall in this connection that in the days when the Songo River Excursions used to pass by the Images, a man would appear atop the cliffs over the Images (the Images though located on private property may be seen from the lake) dressed in Indian costume. How many boys earned their way through college "playing Indian" for the amused if not bemused tourists, has not been established.

The economic history of the town follows the pattern of most all small New England rural communities. To supply the immediate needs of the early settlers, both Mr. Jordan and Mr. Dingley set up saw mills at the mouth of their respective rivers. Mr. Jordan's mill eventually burned, but it is interest-

ing to note that a shook mill is still in operation at the mouth of Dingley Brook on the same location as the original Dingley Mill. Mr. Willard Libby, the present owner and operator, sawed 1,100,000 board feet in the month of June of this year to supply the S. D. Warren Company.

As the population grew and spread out over the town, shook and shingle mills, as well as grist mills, were built in other locations. On the site now occupied by the Maine State Fish Hatchery, John Davis erected a mill probably before 1800. This mill was owned and operated by Hugh and Jesse Plummer and was burned about 1845. It was rebuilt by them. Hugh sold out to Elijah Fulton, who sold his interest to Gibeon P. Davis. The second mill was burned when operated by Plummer and Davis on April 22, 1889 and was never rebuilt. There was a shook and shingle mill on the brook back of Oldhouse, the old Brown place, now owned, and operated in the summer as a guest house, by Mr. and Mrs. John Leavitt. Mr. Nason built the mill and it was last operated by Carl and Robert Leach. The Raymond Lumber Company erected their steam mill near the Scribner mill privilege, on the location now occupied by the Scammon cottage, in 1901. Joseph Strout, Fred W. Plummer, and Vernon C. Jordan composed the company. It employed about eleven men in the manufacture of long and short lumber until it burned in 1912.

There were mills also in East Raymond. One built by Elias Bartlett in 1880 was located two miles north of East Raymond. This mill was subsequently operated by Charles Davis, J. D. Spiller, and Mr. Bartlet. Not far away, Mr. Getchell operated a mill until it burned in 1870. Another mill built by Franklin Sawyer in the Rolfe neighborhood, near Rattlesnake Mountain, also burned in 1870.

Besides these lumber and grist mills, and probably some others located in the northern part of the town, there used to be a brick yard on the bank of the Jordan River across from the Witham house, now known as the Raymond Inn. Mr. Witham, himself, was a bricklayer. Across the road from the Inn, also Albion and George Knight at one time operated a cooper shop.

In addition to the actual sawing and finishing of the lumber, quite a business used to be done, of course, in logging. Cutting the timber and transporting it by water or by land to the local mills or to Smith's Mills, Sacarappa, or Portland was a long arduous task. Every spring Jordan River and Dingley Brook would be full of logs. Great booms of them were driven down Sebago Lake to the famous Cumberland and Oxford Canal. In the early days, too,

big trees were cut for ships' masts and hauled to Portland by ox-team. It must have been with such a load that Mr. Gay found himself in a "pinch" because he could not make the turn in the old road and had to have help in getting his load around. In those days, in order to get a load of logs to Portland in one day, a man started before daylight. Mr. Files, who lived in North Raymond, used to require his daughter, Charlotte, to get up at two or three o'clock in the morning to ride the horse which he hitched in front of the oxen to help pull the heavy load of logs up over the long hill in front of his house.

Besides the building and lumber business, there were, once upon a time, in Raymond two trades that are not likely to be resumed. One was the burning of charcoal in the kilns of the "Egypt Road" (so called because, as the legend goes, this section of town was the "land of plenty" during a prolonged drought in the early days), and the other was the sale of rattlesnake oil. The sole proprietor of the latter business was a Mr. Ben Smith who came from Dover, New Hampshire and settled in the wild land of Raymond, five miles from Rattlesnake Mountain in 1787. He marketed snake oil for rheumatism in Portland and vicinity and is said to have carried along with him on his rounds two or three live rattlesnakes to prove the authenticity of his product. A hundred or more years ago a great fire swept over the mountain and destroyed the reptiles, so that the source, as well as the income, of Mr. Smith's trade has disappeared.

As in all rural communities, farming has always been one of the chief occupations. Although there have always been some prosperous farms in Raymond, the town would not be classified as a rich farming area. According to the last Town Report, there are only thirty horses, about one hundred cows, and seven thousand hens in the town.

It has often been said that "truth is stranger than fiction." A glance back at Raymond Village even fifty years ago, when the centennial was held, reveals a way of life entirely strange today. There was a telephone, The Raymond and Webb's Mills Telephone Company with the exchange in E. B. Harmon's Store, but toll calls were very rare and a call to Portland or Boston was a cause for great excitement. The passing of an automobile was such a phenomenon that the children stopped their play to run out and watch it go by. If they were not blinded or choked to death by the dust that the "infernal machine" stirred up, they saw it whiz by at fifteen or twenty miles an hour. There was no electricity in town, and of course, no radio, television, or planes.

In these "horse and buggy" days, there were two ways to get to Portland

by public conveyance — one was by stage-coach, driven so many years by Mr. Albert Murch of South Casco, and the other was by steamer to Sebago Lake Station and thence by train to town. The steamer service was used more by incoming summer guests than by the natives, but it did bring the afternoon mail. There was a boat landing at one time "down front", but it was later moved over to the mouth of the river. Much merchandise came into town via barges from Sebago Lake Station.

Stagecoach travel and the circulation of the "drummers" in horse-drawn vehicles created a demand for the village inn. Stephen Sweatt kept a tavern known as The Sawyer House located on the "old tavern site", which is the lot at the intersection of route 302 and the Meadow Road. Later, Mr. and Mrs. William Smith ran the well-known Central House (it burned in October, 1897). The brick house, now the Raymond Inn, was one of the old taverns. The original Elm Tree Inn was run by Joseph and Fred W. Plummer in the house on the corner of route 302 and the Mill Road. This place has recently been purchased by Mr. Haggerty and is run as a drive-in food stand and grocery store. The second Elm Tree Inn, which is now Clarke's Grocery Store, was remodeled from an old house by Mr. Charles Gifford. It was run by the Giffords, the Wilsons, the Merrills, the Lloys, and finally became a summer singing school under the direction of Mr. Regneas. Later the property was divided and sold at auction.

With the changing times most of the old industries of Raymond have disappeared, but the hotel business has adjusted itself to the new demands and is today the chief source of income of the town. Attracted at first by the hunting and fishing and now by all the opportunities for rest and relaxation on the shores of the many lakes of Raymond, the summer guests have come to town in increasing numbers. Echo Lodge and Camps, Pine Grove Farm and Camps, Silver Sands, Wind-in-Pines, the Raymond Inn, the Old House, and at North Raymond, Noraco Inn, all have exceptionally fine accommodations for summer guests. The Crockett House, especially popular for many years among the early spring fishermen, has recently been sold. The land of the old farm is now being sold as cottage lots. Besides many privately owned cottages, Raymond has a large number of boys' and girls' camps. On Crescent Lake (Big Rattlesnake Pond), there are camps Machigonne, Kingsley and Agawam, on Panther Pond, Timanus and Hawthorne, as well as Camp Hinds, the Pine Tree Council boy scout camp and Kokatosi, which is a recreational camp for business and professional women. Camps Arundel and Aquilla,

though located in Gray, have a Raymond post office address and seem like members of the Raymond camp family. Raymond is particularly proud to be the "home town" of the Gulick camps, Wohelo and Little Wohelo, located on Raymond Cape, as Dr. Gulick, their founder, was the originator of the Campfire Girls of America. His son, Halsey Gulick, who now directs the camps, has recently become a permanent resident of the town. At the end of the Cape is Camp Wawenock operated by Mr. and Mrs. Usher, who have also taken up permanent residence here. It is estimated that these camps, along with the private cottages and the resort inns and lodges, increase the population of Raymond in the summer by at least three thousand persons. It is obvious that this source of income is not limited to the owners of the camps and hotels. A great many other citizens of the town earn their living by serving the various needs of this large summer population.

The "business district" of Raymond Village today presents quite a different aspect from that of fifty years ago. A series of photographs of the village, dating from the very early days up to the present, makes an interesting study. The role of the general store in the small New England town is certainly often recounted in poetry, drama and fiction. Mr. Z. L. Whitney was one of the early store-keepers of the village and for years David and Erastus Plummer ran the principal store, which was located on the south corner lot of route 302 and the Mill Road. Mr. Charles Jordan and Mr. Frank Eager bought the store from Mr. Erastus Plummer in 1902 and operated the business in that building until the disastrous fire of 1914. At that time, not only the store but also the home of Erastus and Fred Plummer, that of Joseph and Robert Plummer, Eugene Hayden, and Mrs. Abbie Jordan were destroyed. The only fire-fighting equipment in the town at that time was a small hand hose which could not be made to work. It is good to be able to report that the town has in recent years organized two groups of volunteer firemen, one at the village and one at East Raymond and that adequate equipment has been purchased.

After the fire of 1914, Mr. Jordan set up his store in the north half of the Sumner Plummer Building, which has since been burned. Mr. Plummer, who built the cottage out in Jordan Bay, known today as "the Venice", operated undertaking parlors in the south end of the building. In 1925, Mr. Jordan moved his store to the building where the Marsh Brothers are now located. This building has a rather long history as a store, as it was formerly owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Harmon. After Mr. Jordan's death, the

business changed hands several times before coming to the present owners. It was owned, successively by Mr. Oliver, Mr. Bryant, and Mr. Wood.

At East Raymond, the store now owned and operated by Mr. Everett Clough, one of the selectmen of the town, was established in 1863 by H. J. and O. B. Lane. The Lanes were succeeded by Charles Cole Jr. Mr. Percy Plummer purchased the business and building from Mr. Cole and sold some years later to Mr. Clough.

In South Casco, on the Raymond side of the river, L. W. Welch conducted a general store for many years. "Judge" Welch, as he was called, served as trial justice for this area for many years. His son, L. W. Welch Jr. ran the old store as an antique shop for some time, but it is now a grocery and supply store run by Mr. and Mrs. Shaw. At North Raymond, formerly known as Wilson Springs, the general store was run for years by Mr. George Churchill. The Wilson Springs House and bottling works, similar to the Poland Springs establishment, though not so elaborate, burned in 1895. The bottling works have not been replaced, but Noraco Inn is now located near the site of the old hotel.

Besides the general store, old views of "Main Street" would reveal a number of specialty shops. Irving Morton's Blacksmith Shop did not stand under the "spreading chestnut tree" nor would the village smithy have been described as a "mighty man" physically, but the keenness of "Scott" Morton's wit and the dry humor of his observations will long be remembered in the town. With the advent of the automobile, the shop changed its name and occupation to Morton's Garage, and "Scott" dealt out a chuckle with every gallon of gas. Like Longfellow's "Village Blacksmith", Mr. Morton used to sing in the church choir. Many an occupant of the pews would have given a good deal to know what was going on in Irving Morton's mind as he sat there on the right of the preacher.

"Ernie" Skillings had a harness shop in the building known as "the old post-office." Fred Brown also carried on this business. The building was subsequently built over and used for the postoffice after "the fire". Mrs. Grace Mussey and later Miss Bertha Plummer and Miss Hazel Hunt ran an ice-cream parlor in conjunction with the postoffice. F. E. Hayden had for many years a wood-working shop opposite his home on Mill Street, and in the field on the north side of the mouth of the Jordan River stood the old corn shop. The corn factory was erected about 1881. It was under the management of J. Winslow Jones, the Portland Packing Company, and finally, Mr. H. L.

Forhan. Mr. Forhan lived in the house later purchased by Charles S. Jordan. The former K. P. hall which burned in 1944 was named Forhan Hall in his honor.

One of the products for which Raymond was famous at one time was "Leavitt's Frozen Dainties". In the early days of the automobile, as well as later, many Portland families used to drive to Raymond, not only for the beautiful drive, but for the added treat of a Leavitt ice-cream cone. During the last war, when cream was unavailable and an "A" ration card would permit no rides to Raymond, Mr. Leavitt and his sister, Mrs. Leach, closed their shop. Mr. and Mrs. Knox are now operating this shop as "The Raymond Variety Store." Mr. Knox serves and sells his own home-made ice cream, so the tradition is being carried on.

There are several other places visible in the modern kodachrome that the old stereoscope would fail to reveal; in the stable of the old Henry Harmon place, Mr. Hartley, who is Mr. Harmon's grand-son-in-law, has a boat shop. Mr. Robinson, who has bought and renovated the Joseph Sawyer cottage, has built overnight camps across the street, as well as a new grocery store called the Raymond Food Center, now owned and operated by Mr. Pierce Flynn. There are also two garages in the village, one beside the church, built by Harold Bennett. The present proprietors are Mr. and Mrs. Rex Mills. The other was built by "Jerry" Van Dusen in the yard of the old Gibeon Davis Place. After Mr. Van Dusen's death, this garage was run for several years by Donald Van Dusen and Frank Lambert, but is at present operated by Russell Thurlow. At the north end of the village stands "The House that Jack Build." This quaint and attractive house is a popular restaurant and gift shop operated by Mrs. Willis and Mrs. Donald Foster. The Maine State Fish Hatchery (Number one) which has been referred to as located on the old mill site is still in operation. Mr. Floyd, Mr. George Libby, Mr. Albert Plummer, assisted by Mr. Orrin Libby, Mr. Raymond Lane and Mr. William Kelley, successively, directed the work at the hatchery. Mr. Walter Plummer from Gorham and Richard Morton are now doing the work there. Mr. Harrie Burdge, who is completing his 53rd. year as an exterminator, has his office in his house, the old Mary Ann Brown place on the Mill Road. Mr. Burdge was recently named Dean of Applied Pestology by the Massachusetts State College at Amherst.

The Portland Pipe Line operated an oil pumping station on the Meadow

Road for several years. The property has been sold to the Dielectric Products Engineering Company.

The industrial history of the town is an interesting study, as its business has followed, in a microscopic sort of way, the trends of commercial progress throughout the world. In recent years, many of the men of Raymond have been obliged to seek employment outside the town, but the mountain seems to have come to Mohammed and the prophet, who, contrary to the proverb, is not without glory in his own country, is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brown, Dr. Charles Brown. Dr. Brown is vice-president of the Dielectric Products Company in New Jersey. Last year, he was able to realize one of his fondest dreams; to bring an engineering company back to his home town of Raymond. The Dielectric Products Engineering Company, located on the former site of the Portland Pipe Line, manufactures equipment for television stations. The company has already established a good business. This infant industry promises to be a prodigy. Dr. Brown's oldest brother, Reginald Brown, is general manager and overseer of the plant and many others in town have been employed. Thus, it is hoped that, with the establishment of this new and thriving business, the industrial activity and independence of the town are beginning an upward swing. "The old order changeth, yielding place to new, and God fulfill himself in many ways."

The church history of Raymond dates back to several years previous to 1790 when Elder Joseph Hutchinson held religious meetings among the early settlers. In 1784, Zachariah Leach, who was clerk of the church society, was ordained and became pastor. The old Baptist Meeting House was built on Raymond Hill in 1834. The Reverend Mr. Leach was chosen pastor and thereby received the right to two lots of land reserved by the Commonwealth for "a learned Protestant minister to be established in the township." As Deacon John Small left the sum of five hundred dollars to the church in 1855, a parsonage was purchased with that money and Mr. Leach later gave his lots to the town for the schools.

The second Free Baptist Church was organized at Raymond Village in 1858 by a council from the Cumberland Quarterly Meeting. Services were held more or less regularly in the Village and at East Raymond. Baptisms were performed in the nearby ponds.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Raymond was incorporated in 1823 with Mr. Eben Strout as clerk. A Meeting House was erected on Raymond

Hill. Classes were formed in Raymond Village and on the Cape. In 1879, the Raymond Village Union Parish was organized for the purpose of erecting a church building. This edifice was built at the cost of \$2,200, seven hundred dollars of which was contributed by "The Ladies Mite Society." A union chapel was erected at East Raymond by a parish society in 1891.

The Hawthorne Church at South Casco, on the Raymond side of the Dingley River, was originally the boyhood home of Nathaniel Hawthorne. It served as a tavern at one time, known as Scribner's Tavern. As Mr. Richard Manning, Hawthorne's uncle, left money for the erection of a church in his neighborhood, it was thought advisable to remodel the old house into a church rather than to erect a new building. This was done in 1839 and served as a place of worship for some years. As Mrs. Manning later married Francis Radaux, a French dancing master, the church was for some time known as the *Radaux Meeting House*. The Reverend Samuel Brown, a Baptist preacher, held meetings there as did also the Bullochites, a religious sect quite strong at one time in this locality. As the church had no regular minister, it was, no doubt, available for any religious meeting. The records show that there were Advent meetings here also. The building is no longer used as a church, but serves as a community house occasionally.

Obadiah Gould who came to Raymond in 1801 is said to have been the first member of the Society of Friends in town. After others of this faith had settled nearby, meetings were held in the neighborhood now known as "Quaker Ridge" at the houses of Mr. Gould and Daniel and Elijah Cook, who were also members of the monthly meeting at Windham as early as 1811. The Meeting House was erected near Mr. Cook's house in 1814. Isaiah Gould, an ancestor of Isiah Gould, who later moved to Raymond Village succeeded his father as clerk of this meeting in 1826 and was succeeded by William Hall in 1864.

Today Raymond is a member of the Presumpscot Larger Parish, which includes the towns of Raymond, Windham, and North Gorham. The Reverend Hilda Ives of Portland was most active in the formation of this parish. A number of able ministers have served the churches, one of the most beloved of whom was the Reverend Robert Whitehead who passed away in June of 1953. Miss Emilie Pitcock and Mr. Donald Henderson are now ministers of the parish.

A Roman Catholic Parish has been created in the town this year. (1953).

It is located in East Raymond in the locality formerly called "over the river", facing Crescent Lake. It is called St. Raymond's.

The political center of the town is East Raymond, the most central community of the township. The town hall was erected there in 1834. The first town meeting recorded took place August 15, 1803 in Eli Longley's stable. Daniel Mann was elected moderator, Joseph Wight clerk, and Joseph Wight, Samuel Dingley, and George Small selectmen. Daniel Cook was given the office of tax-collector with the rate set at five cents on a dollar of valuation. The act of incorporation was dated June 21, 1803. Raymond was the 146th town to receive its charter.

In the town meeting held in March, 1953, J. Irving Hayden was elected moderator and Carleton Edwards, Everett Clough, and Leland Haskell, selectmen. It is interesting to note that in 1903, at the time of the Centennial, the property valuation of the town was \$206,464. In 1953, it is \$960,960. A comparison of the "money expended" would show an amazing upward swing, too, but the "services rendered" are many, as are the demands of the times. The financial rating of the town today is considered excellent.

The school system has developed along about the same lines as the church. The schools started first as neighborhood affairs offering only a few weeks of schooling each year. By the terms of the grant one share was reserved for the use and maintenance of schools in the township. On June 14, 1814, an act authorizing the sale of school lands was passed. The school land plus the lots given over to the school fund by the Reverend Mr. Leach were sold and the money invested. At the division of Casco and Raymond each town got its share. In 1905, Raymond realized \$130.50 and Casco \$120.00, which was six percent on the invested funds. In 1878, Raymond had eleven school districts and 348 pupils attending school. In 1903, there were six school houses in the town with a total enrollment, varying from term to term, of about 200 pupils. In 1953, there is a new consolidated school completed in 1952, with an enrollment of 120 pupils. In addition, the town pays tuition for eighteen high school pupils attending nearby high schools or academies. There are, at present, five regular teachers and an instructor in music. The town now has a health council, which, among other services, has done some valuable work in organizing tests for the school children.

An important change has taken place in the administration of the schools since 1913. It was formerly customary for the town to elect some able citizen to be superintendent of schools. For example, in 1901, Loring Mains was

elected superintendent, in 1902, William Cole, and in 1903, Charles S. Jordan. Mr. Jordan, who held the office again in 1913, strongly recommended that Raymond join with Windham, Gray, and Casco for the election of a full-time, trained superintendent of schools.

A comparison of the figures in the town reports for 1903 and 1953 brings out some rather startling figures. In 1903, the total expenditure for schools, including the State Grant, was \$1,880.97. In 1953, it was \$26,413.31. These figures would, of course, have to be broken down and analyzed to be understood, but as statistics go, they present an interesting aspect of the change in the cost and standard of living, even in a small rural community.

In connection with the schools, there are two benefactors of the town who should be mentioned: Ellen Jane Small who gave the money for the East Raymond school which was dedicated in 1908, and Isaac D. Jordan, who contributed the funds for the school named for him and erected in Raymond Village in 1925.

Due to the changes in the way of life, the population of the town of Raymond decreased in the period from 1903 to 1950. A recent trend, however, is bringing about an upward swing. Many former residents and summer residents are deciding to make Raymond their permanent address. Mr. Melvin Watkins, owner of the well-known cleansing and dyeing company, has recently bought property on Raymond Cape. Mr. Watkins' ancestors were pioneers in South Casco. The summer tourist business and the new Dielectric Company will attract technicians and skilled labor.

The social life of the community, besides the church activities, centers about the grange in East Raymond and the K. of P. Lodge in the village. The Riverside Grange, No. 93, of which the hall stands in East Raymond just north of the Town Hall, was organized in Raymond Village in 1875 and re-organized in East Raymond in 1889. The chapter is not large, but quite active. The hall is used for suppers and entertainments to raise money for the church and other community projects such as the Firemen's Organization, the Rod and Gun Club, the "31 Club," as well as for the grange activities. Hawthorne Lodge, Number 16, Knights of Pythias was instituted in Raymond Village in 1877. The Pythian Sisterhood was formed in 1930. These organizations are very active. Besides the lodges, there are many other group activities in the village — the Ladies' Circle, the W. C. T. U., the Farm Bureau, the Woman's Club, and the Semi-Circle. There is a branch of the American Red Cross, a pack of Cub Scouts, and a Little League base-

bail team. Summer guests often ask the question, "What do you do all winter?" Many of them are astonished to hear that Raymond is as busy a place in winter as in the summer, only in a very different way.

So far, this study has been concerned with the development and growth of the town as a community. To speak objectively of the people of a town is very difficult to accomplish. The measure of success and service is not always renown. A number of Raymond boys have gone out into the world and won distinction, but many of those who have stayed at home are just as deserving of appreciation and praise. Miss Marilyn Bennett, who is a descendant of all three of the first settlers of Raymond, gave as her valedictory address at the Raymond Grammar School, a paper entitled "Prominent People of Raymond." She referred to the comparative quality of fame and gave some interesting sketches of some of the names in Raymond's "Who's Who." The folklore of any town is interesting material and Raymond's is no exception. The story of Edgar Welch who rolled the boulders down from the top of Rattlesnake Mountain so that the sun would not sink so fast into the horizon and his neighbor, who loved to work, would have more daylight for labor; the biography of Betty Welch Libby, the first girl born in the town of Raymond; the oft-told tale of Sumner Plummer's printing the Bible reference of Matthew 23/27 on the weather vane of the Village Church, the Tarbox blizzard, Mr. Frye's Leap, and the old Indian tales all enter into the folklore of the town and add color to its history.

But besides the characters of local fame, Raymond can claim as native or adopted sons a number of men of renown. Nathaniel Hawthorne, though not a native of Raymond, spent much of his time here as a boy, from 1813 to 1825. His uncle, Richard Manning, came to town in 1800 as an agent for the proprietors of the township and opened a store and a blacksmith shop at the outlet of Dingley Brook. His house, now owned and occupied by Mrs. Grace Welch, was so fine in appointments and so expensive for those days that it was called Manning's folly. Hawthorne speaks in his diary and in many of his letters of his various haunts in Raymond and Casco. He loved to fish from a boulder still to be seen in Dingley Brook near the outlet of Thomas Pond. This boulder is called today "Nat's Rock." Another favorite spot that bears his name is "Hawthorne's cave" which is a cave underneath the Images where he used to play. Mr. Clifford Plummer has a very interesting letter written by Hawthorne when he was in Bowdoin College to Mr. Mark Leach, whom he mentions several times in

his diary. It seems that Hawthorne had been caught with several other boys playing cards and had been severely reprimanded for it. He wrote Mr. Leach that he surely hoped that the authorities would not notify his uncle of his escapades, for he feared that if they did his uncle would take him out of college. In his letters to his family, also, Hawthorne often spoke of Raymond and of how much he loved the woods and the shores of the "Great Pond," as Lake Sebago was called in the old days.

Other stars of lesser magnitude, perhaps, but nevertheless sources of pride, are; Dr. Whitman Jordan, who was for twenty-five years director of the New York Agricultural Station at Geneva, New York. Dr. Jordan was born in Raymond in 1851. Jordan Hall at the University of Maine is named for him. Judge Joseph W. Symonds of Portland was born in the "old Symonds Place" up on Raymond Hill. John Andrew Hayden, who for many years was the outstanding court stenographer of the state, was born in Raymond. Mr. Guy Chipman, a successful teacher and the founder of Camp Minniwawa, which has been closed for the last two years; Mr. Lyman Chipman, a much respected business man in Portland; Roland Barrows, now a florist in Gorham, who played ball for the Chicago White Sox; Dr. Ned Plummer, a famous eye, ear, nose and throat specialist in Boston; Mr. Chester Winslow, secretary of the Maine Senate who has shown unusual qualities of leadership and has proved that he can play ball in the field of politics as well as on the diamond where he used to play for Raymond. Every family has produced sons and daughters who, with intelligence and perseverance, have won respect and admiration at home and abroad. The late Honorable Guy H. Sturgis, chief justice of the Superior Court of Maine, and Dr. Frank S. Dolley, noted chest surgeon of Los Angeles spent many of their boyhood vacations in Raymond, as their mothers were Haydens and born at Pine Grove Farm. But when it comes to day by day living or dying, the most important man in any community is the local doctor. Dr. Lester H. Jordan came to Raymond in 1873 and for forty-seven years tended the sick people of the town. Much has been written about the "horse and buggy doctor," but no words can express their service to the people. Dr. Jordan was a quiet modest man and a very able physician. Today, Dr. Bischoffberger of Naples is "the doctor." He, too, is greatly beloved as a man and highly respected as a doctor.

The list of the younger men and women of Raymond who have excelled in their field is too long to enumerate. Many have won outstanding honors in

college, in business, and in the professions. All have brought honor to the town as well as to themselves.

Any authentic history of Raymond should include a list of the citizens who have served their country in time of war. That Raymond men have carried arms in seven wars is a fact that it is very hard to realize. Many of the settlers of Raymond had fought in the Revolution before coming to Maine. In the war of 1812, a company was formed in Raymond and marched to Portland. About seventy men were called to the colors during the Civil War, and two volunteered for duty in the Spanish-American War. In the first World War, 18 men served in the armed services and in the Second World War, 37 men and two women saw active duty. The Korean War and the military program of today have to date recruited one man.

And so, in war and peace, at home and abroad, the Town of Raymond, has completed with honor 150 years of its history. As "time past and time present are in time future," there is little doubt that those who, in the year 2003, will write the history of the town will have, as we do, many reasons to rejoice and be proud.

Revolution

Andrew Brown, Joshua Brown, John Cash, Thomas Crisp, Hezekiah Jordan, Mark Leach, — Knight, Eli Longley, Richard Mayberry, William Mayberry, William Shurtliffe, George Strout, Prince Strout, and Dr. Joseph Wight, who was a surgeon in the U. S. Army.

War of 1812. Western part (now Casco)

Ephriam Brown, David Decker, Samuel Dingley, William Chane (Shane?), Peter Graffam, Louis Hancock, James Jordan, John Nash, James Welch Jr., and Peter Skinner.

Eastern part

Benjamin Davis, Samuel Davis, Hezekiah Jordan, Nathaniel Jordan, William Rolfe, Levi Small, Simeon Small, and — Tyler.

Ex-militia officers Raymond and Casco: Cols. Joseph Dingley, Nathaniel Jordan, Eben Scribner, Edwin Jordan. Lieut-Cols. Collins Strout, James Leach, Thomas Davis. Major Jonas Jordan. Captains Wm. Brown, Wm. Cook, Jacob Dingley, Ebenezer Hayden, Mahlon D. Hayden, Stephen Hall, Benj. Mayberry, Jethro Libby, Jesse Plummer, Jos. Symonds, and Joseph Tukey.

Civil War

Francis F. Adams, Wm. B. Adams, John M. Bryant, Corp. Timothy Berry, Corp. Elias Bartlett, Albert S. Brackett, John M. Bryant II, Wm. K. Bartlett, Hiram M. Cash, Washington Cash, Chas. H. Coffin, Corp. Samuel D. S. Duran, Moses D. Duran, Corp. Thos. M. Davis, Wyatt T. Edwards, Richard C. Edwards, John Farewell, Anson J. Holden, Geo. A. Jones, Corp. Jas. M. Jordan, Zachariah Jackson, Jas. M. Jordan 2nd., Jas. E. Jordan, Joseph F. Keene, Libbeous H. Leavitt, Chas. H. Latham, Tyng Libby, Wm. Leach, Eben H. Libby, Daniel Leavitt, Amos Meserve, John Mains, Jordan McLellan, Merlin Meserve, Silas May, Ivory Mains (1st D. C. Cavalry), Asa P. Morrill, Guzzle Moyatt, Frank McCullough, Clement P. Plummer (D. C. Cavalry), Alvin E. Plummer (D. C. Cavalry), Levi S. Robinson, Samuel F. Ricker, James Rolfe, John Rolfe, Jordan Rolfe, Samuel Rolfe, Jas. E. Stevens, John M. Staples, Sergt. Simeon Small, Ambrose G. Smith, Geo. A. Strout, Sergt. J. C. Sawyer, Sergt. Joseph Spiller, Levi Small, Alvin Skillin, Alonzo Small, Cyrus T. Strout, Enoch S. Small, Jas. F. Tenny, Nelson Tenny, Ambrose Tenny, Jeremiah Tripp Jr., Levi A. Tripp, Sidney Verrill, and Corp. Edward P. Verrill.

"Foreign enlistments": Alonzo Durom, 12th Mass. Inf., Rufus McQuillan, U. S. Army, Wm. H. Nason, U. S. A.; Chas. A. Plummer, U. S. Navy; James F. Spiller, 7th Mass. Inf.; Joseph M. Whitney, R. I. Cavalry.

Spanish American War

Hiram Cash, and J. Harrie Burdge.

World War I

Anson J. Allen, J. Harrie Burdge, Leon P. Carle, Warren S. Coffin, Leslie D. H. Drew, Archie L. Gerry, Charles F. Gerry, Roy H. Gilpatrick, William E. Milliken, Harold T. Morton, Charles W. Qualey, Edgar P. Rivera, Jonas E. Robinson, Guy L. Segar, Leonard Small, Harland C. Thurlow, Merritt Verrill, Milton E. Verrill, and Perley J. Wilson.

World War II

Lawrence E. Barton, Cornelia Bednarowicz, Frank G. Brown, Paul F. Brown, Frederick D. Call, Everett C. Clough, Willard S. Coffin, Daniel R. Cook, David B. Crockett, Robert O. Crockett, Harry J. Delan, Lawrence R. Delan, Clifford S. Files, Carlton L. Flanigan, Donald Alfred Flanigan, Herbert Foss, William D. Foster, Arthur L. Hall, Harry A. Jensen, Clarence

McConkey, Daniel R. Mann, Charles W. Moodie, Richard I. Morton, Judith A. Mudge, Harold Paine, Homer B. Perkins, Olin C. Plummer, Richard L. Rand, Leonard E. Robinson, Lewis S. Rose, George N. H. Siegars, Gilbert G. Smart, Wesley P. Strout*, Ernest K. Thorpe, Leendert VanVliet, Milton VanVliet, Earl D. Varbel, James C. Waugh, Francis G. Winant, and Roger C. Winslow.

*Had Korean service

*Military List for World Wars I and II furnished by the
Adjutant General of the State of Maine*

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- Scrap Books of Ina Witham
- Articles Written for the Press at the time of the Centennial in 1903, especially one composed by Cyrus Witham
- Interviews, consultations, and conversations with most everyone in Raymond.
- Special acknowledgement is made to Mildred Jordan for her able council and collaboration to Marilyn Bennett, whose graduation essay has been referred to above, and to Mrs. Harold Morton who was the first to propose the celebration of Raymond's Sesquicentennial.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF RAYMOND'S FIRST DAUGHTER

Written by Mrs. Sumner Plummer (Frances Dillingham) for the Centennial of the Town of Raymond in 1903 and read at that time by Mrs. A. F. Winter.

The original manuscript of the story is owned by Mrs. Dennis Plummer and was contributed by her to this history.

We are regretfully mindful that the hurrying flight of years — a hundred years, — has, unavoidably, swept from the delightful realms of memory many important and interesting events and circumstances connected with the history of Raymond. However, by patient investigation, and kindly effort of several well-known and reliable citizens, (who, notwithstanding the mighty march of human progress, in our midst, still fondly cherish bright fancies, legends and dreams of the shadowy past), we are enabled to-day to present a brief statement of facts in relation to the life of one of our Town's earliest settlers, without which its history would be incomplete.

Betty Libby, whose maiden name was Betty Welch, — the first daughter born in the town, — better known among those of her day as "Aunt Betty" (this name having been given to her by friends and those with whom she lived and to whom she became greatly endeared), was born in the year 1775.

Her parents were John Welch and Catharine (Crisp) Welch, of Scarborough, Maine. They moved from Scarborough to Raymond in 1775.

It is said that Betty was born upon the day of their arrival, but it cannot be authoratively stated whether Betty Welch or Samuel Jordan Jr., was the first child born in the town of Raymond.

We are also unable to state *where* Betty was born; but it is supposed that her childhood's home was on the neck of land projecting into Panther's Pond. This tract was presented to Betty Libby by Robert and Richard Manning, (brothers of Nathaniel Hawthorne's mother), in consequence of her having been the first daughter born in Raymond, and was for many years known as "Betty's Neck." The farm is now owned and occupied by William Plummer.

Betty Welch married Seth Libby, who was born in Gorham, Maine. They resided on the farm above mentioned. They had no children of their own, but for several years gave a home to a young girl named Witham.

Subsequently Aunt Betty's husband became afflicted with rheumatism and

incapacitated from performing labor. Consequently, the arduous duty of carrying on the farm devolved upon Aunt Betty, who, almost entirely unaided, planted, cared for and harvested the crops.

It is related that, at one time, her neighbors, appreciating her patient endeavors and her noble, unselfish nature, gathered at her home and cut her hay, and that she then requested them to do no more; that she then raked the hay and carried it to the barn in her arms, there being sufficient, with the small amount of corn-fodder that she had raised to keep her cow through the winter.

The story of Aunt Betty's life is replete with incidents, which not only illustrate her undaunted courage, her tireless energy, her womanly tenderness, her loyal love for truth and right, but also the privations and hardships which she, with other women of those long-ago days, were compelled to endure.

These incidents often, also, present a humorous side as well. Upon one occasion, leaving her husband at home alone, Aunt Betty went to the berry field to pick berries, a common occupation in those days, as at present. While thus engaged a rattlesnake, close at hand, sounded his dread warning of danger. Aunt Betty's practiced ear at once located his snakeship, and, cutting a forked stick, she approached the deadly and watchful reptile, and, by a dextrous movement, as he raised his head to strike the fatal blow, she deftly managed to place the forked stick across his neck and pinned him securely to the ground, and immediately severed his head from his writhing body, with a knife which she always carried for that purpose when abroad in the fields. A few minutes later, she espied a woodchuck, which at once sought the shelter of his burrow. But, quick as he was, Aunt Betty was quicker still, and, overtaking him as he reached the entrance to his home, she dispatched him without trouble, then calmly resumed her berrying. Having gathered a sufficient amount of berries, she proceeded to cut a withe, which she twisted and tied around her waist, attaching the woodchuck on one side and the dead rattler on the other, and taking a pail of berries in either hand, she proceeded to her home, a distance of a mile or more. Arriving there, she dressed and cooked the woodchuck for the family dinner; she afterwards fried the oil from the snake, using a portion of the oil for her husband's rheumatism and storing away the remainder for future emergencies. While relating the day's adventure to a friend afterwards, she remarked, "I was master glad when I saw that snake."

Of the oil extracted from the woodchuck, she made what in those days were called "sluts." As the youthful members of this audience may be en-

tirely ignorant concerning the use and manufacture of the above-mentioned household article, a few words of explanation may not be amiss. A "slut" is an old time invention for illuminating, for lighting the home at night time, and it is made by plunging a twisted rag of white cotton cloth in a saucer containing burnable grease, leaving one end of the rag at the edge of the saucer and slightly above it. By lighting the protruding end of the rag, an unsteady though bright light was produced, continuing while the grease remained or till the rag burned out. Housekeepers desiring to be particularly elaborate in the construction of "sluts" often tied a large brass button in a circular piece of cloth, allowing the edges of the cloth to expand, somewhat like the petals of a rose, and, as the edges of the cloth were patiently raveled, finger-like, the curious luminary was considered ornamental as well as useful.

It is a well-authenticated fact that Aunt Betty once saved a young man's life. While attempting to cross Panther's Pond on a rudely constructed raft he was overtaken by a sudden squall. Aunt Betty was busily employed at her spinning wheel, but her quick ear caught the sound of human distress, and her sympathetic heart prompted her to seek the cause, and hurrying to the pond shore, she launched her little boat on the billows and rescued the much frightened sailor. In relating the circumstance afterwards, she said, "I was so happy to know I could save him, that I forgot to be scared."

During the protracted illness of her husband, her trials were often very great. He was nearly helpless, and dependent on her labor for everything. They lived far from neighbors, and were not only lonely, but many times were destitute of life's comforts. One Saturday, in midsummer, they were without bread, and the old fashioned "meal-chest" was empty. She told her husband that she must take her boat and cross the pond, to her brother's home, to obtain meal wherewith to make bread. He warned her that a thunder shower was near at hand, and urged her to remain at home; but she, knowing that they must have food, did not heed his advice, but paddled her boat across the pond, reaching her brother's home, only to learn that they had, an hour before, used the last meal in the house; but they kindly offered to give her sufficient bread to last over the Sabbath. It was nearly night, and the sky was dark with the oncoming tempest; but Aunt Betty decided to go two miles farther to the home of John Tenny, having heard that he had a supply of meal. In vain her relatives tried to persuade her to wait till the next day. She understood her difficulties much better than they could. Her invalid husband could not be left alone every day. He must be

cared for and must have food. The tempest was fearful. The brave woman did not heed it; but walked along the pond shore for two long miles, guided only by the flashing lightning, till, when near midnight, she reached Mr. Tenney's home. Taking a bag of meal and a loaf of bread, she set forth again for her own home, arriving safely, but to find her husband extremely anxious concerning her fate.

At another time, when the larder was empty, Aunt Betty concluded to go to the pond and try for a fish; but having no bait, she could only — as usual — “trust in Providence.” As she walked along she caught up a small bit of birch bark. Attaching it to her hook, she threw out her line, and no sooner had her hook gone down than a large fish (which was, evidently, as hungry as herself) swallowed the bait and was triumphantly landed, and in due time the wished for dinner was served. It would seem as if her perfect faith and unlimited courage often supplied her especial needs.

After Aunt Betty became a widow, she lived for several years at different places in Raymond Village. At one time she occupied a house which, in earlier times, was a store on the site where at present is the residence of Ed. Plummer. Later, she lived in a house nearly opposite the same, and, still later, at “Hamlin Hill.” This place was surrounded by forests. In those days wild animals were much more numerous than now, but Aunt Betty knew no fear. She would sit, at evening time, with her cottage door wide open, without a thought of danger. When asked by a friend if she was not afraid, she replied, “No, I am not afraid. The wild animals will not harm me.”

A little incident, which is well remembered by the then small participants, may be spoken of here. While it illustrates the unfailing unselfishness of “Aunt Betty,” it may, at the same time, cause a smile of amusement. While living in this forest home her lonely, isolated condition often appealed to the hearts of the mothers at the village, and Aunt Betty's slender stock was occasionally replenished from their more bounteous store. At one time four or five of the small damsels of the place were sent with supplies. Each had her little basket of delicacies. They trudged away on their journey of a mile or more, happy with the thought that they were to make Aunt Betty a call and surprise her with the goodies. The long walk in the cool morning air sharpened their healthy, children's appetites, and as they rested before starting on their return journey, the contents of the baskets began to look very tempting. Aunt Betty, quick as ever to grasp the situation, very soon had the dainties — which meant so much to her — spread on a snow white cloth and

the hungry little girls seated before them. Truth compels me to add that when Aunt Betty's guests finally departed, her cupboard was none the richer for her visit from these little ones.

Aunt Betty's life was one that extended through eventful times. During its period, three wars — two of them long and bloody struggles — were fought in this country: the Revolution, the War of 1812, and the War of the Rebellion.

Late in life, (through an unfair advantage taken of her by those to whom she entrusted her property), she became penniless, and died, in 1867, a town charge, but respected and loved by all who knew her. She was buried in the family lot near Raymond Village. No marble slab marks her final resting place, and but for the remembrance of some few friends now living, her grave would be unknown. A suitable memorial stone is soon to be erected to her memory.

The memory of her worth and useful life, her unfailing Christian fortitude, her countless deeds of unselfishness, and, more than all, her perfect trust in God, gives to us the sweet assurance that, after "Life's fitful fever" her pure spirit, no longer fettered by pain and poverty, dwells in immortal light, mingling with the sanctified spirits of her loved ones, on "the shining shore."

COMPLIMENTS OF

Mr. and Mrs. J. Harrie Burdge	Marsh Brothers
Camp Agawam	Mr. and Mrs. Paul Merrill
Camp Hawthorne	Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Newt
Camp Kingsley	The Old House
Camp Wawenock	Pine Grove Farm
Clarke's Grocery	Mrs. Dennis Plummer
E. R. Clough's General Store	Plummerville
Cook and Company	The Raymond Food Centre
Dielectric Products Engineering Co.	The Raymond Inn
Echo Lodge	The Raymond Service Station
Mr. Carleton E. Edwards	The Raymond Variety Store
Mrs. Raymond Grant	Silver Sands Lodge
Mr. and Mrs. J. Halsey Gulick	Clifford L. Swan and Co.
Hartley Service and Sales Inc.	Thurlow's Garage
The House that Jack Built	Tom's Market
Indian Point Camps	The Wagon Wheel
Kokatosi Colony	Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Watkins
Lake Sebago Motor Court	Mr. and Mrs. Llewelyn Welch
Mr. and Mrs. Convers E. Leach	Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Whitehouse
Mr. Harry Lessard	Wind-in-Pines
Mr. and Mrs. Willard Libby	Mr. and Mrs. Chester Winslow
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon MacLeod	

SPONSORS

Dr. and Mrs. Charles Brown	Mr. and Mrs. Elroy R. Mann
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crosby	Miss Isabel Pease
Miss Mira L. Dolley	Mr. Albert Plummer
Miss Hazel Hunt	Miss Eleanor Plummer
Miss Mildred Jordan	Miss Ethel M. Porter
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lambert	Mr. and Mrs. George Siegars

*Committee on Arrangements for the Sesquicentennial Celebration
for the Town of Raymond
July 25, 1953*

Mr. Carleton Edwards*	Mrs. J. Harrie Burdge**
Mr. Brooks Whitehouse jr.	Mr. Nelson Newt

*Representative to Maine Legislature

**Mrs. Burdge also served on the committee for the Centennial Celebration in 1903.