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NAFOH Oral History Recordings

July 2023

## Beulah (Mrs. Stewart) Hodgman, interviewed by Anne Pierter, Part 1

Beulah J. Hodgman

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1188 Anne Pierter 1 NAFOH Accession mp.183 Interviewer's tape no.: Anne Pierter Interviewer: Address: 311 Oxford Hall, Campus Interviewee: Mrs. Stewart Hodgman Address: 9 Lemon St., Veazie, Me. Place of interview: 9 Lemon St. Date: 11/7/77 Other people present: Water man came during the interview, also two neighbours stopped by. Equipment used: Sony T-25 Tape: Brand: Scotch mil]1.5 mil Speed: 1/ 7/8 Size reel: 5" Cassette: Brand: C-30/C-60/C-120 (Side 2): 20 min. Amount of tape used: (Side 1): a11 Brief description of contents: In the first interview we talked about General

Veazie, the sawmill operations and where the workers lived, ice business, canoe factory, cigar operation, her childhood pranks, family history tracing names. the old families of the town, Aunt Hat and some of the other town characters. She ended the interview with her views on modern schools.

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
		3 <b>2</b> 43	Opening announcement, purpose of interview explained. The town was officially incorporated in 1853. Formerly called Ward 7 of Bangor. Gen.
		57	Formerly called Ward 7 of Bangor. Gen. Veazie and other "pressured the legislature". At time of incorporation, the boundary gave Mount Hope Cemetary to Veazie, but later on Veazie gave it back. "I believe it was
		63	<pre>very generous of them." Gen. Veazie's home still in existence on State St. owned by Robt. Turner. His son's home, John Veazie, is Ken Haye's house. Gen. Veazie had a bank, got into some trouble. "He wasn't dishonest, he was independent." Coin collector shop owner in Central St.,</pre>
		98	Bangor, has one of two of the original banknotes. Gen. ¥eazie was influential in getting the Veazie Railroad, but she was also told that he purchased it after it was already in ex- istence. The railroad went from Bangor
Stillwater Bag		120	to Stillwater. In the Stillwater bog one of the trains wrecked and the engine went into the bog. Mr. Cardin good person to talk to about it, says it's still there. Wreck about 100 years ago (1895 from news clipping she
Stillwater Bag Stillwater Vease Banger		142	showed me). True story about the Veazie Railroad. A lady in Stillwater lost one of her hogs after train hit it. She wanted the railroad to pay, but they wouldn't. To get even with them,

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Appe # NAFOH Accession # **1183** <sup>1</sup> Catalog pg. # 2

	Anne Pie	erter -	- 1
Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
		156 165	she took the hog and "tried" it. Trying is getting the fat out, that's how they made lard. She took the reamins and "greased the tracks all in good shape" and the train couldn't go, kept slipping on the tracks. That is how Hogtown got its name. "That's supposed to be true, but I wouldn't take an oath on it". Down in Veazie Park (off Hobson Ave.), settle-
		198	<pre>ment of Indians. There was an Indian squaw there that weighed close to 400 lbs. and sat in a pile of sawdust and wove baskets. Her name was Molly Mollaise. (Pronounced like mollasses).Her aunt told her this story. Molly gave her aunt's mother a recipe for beet wine because aunt was thin and sup= posed to die. Mrs. Hodman's aunt lived to her late 80's. "So whatever it was Molly did for her, she done a darn good job." Her mother's father was a Turner, Charles,</pre>
		216	and her mother was a Page. Her grandfather Turner's father was a James Turner, who was "born here, lived here and died here." Some of the other names of the old Veazie
		267	residents: Spencers, Smith (traced back to Capt. John Smith), Hawthornes, Lambert. There were a tremendous amount of mills
			between Veazie and Bangor, "and I guess Gen. Veazie owned or controlled every darn one of them". They would control a section of the river, and if you wanted to get your logs down to market you had to pay the man who owned the section on the river inorder to get by. "It's dirty pool, but they do it."
		280	She remembers the company houses. A long wooden building with a common veranda with separate tennants. "I know that the people that worked in the mill lived there". Located by the "plant" [Not Graham Station plant]
		299	The cance factory was where Stucco is now. Her father , who was from Norfht Brewer worked in the Cance factory, that is how he met Mrs. Hodman's mother. He cained cance seats for 20¢ each, The factory burned in the 1920's. The Morris Cance Factory. [We get up and walk to kitchen window where she shows me the owners' home] Belongs to Carol Topliff now.
Veasee		339	There was once a sort of hotel that her brother owned now, but she thinks that there was gambling "and all that sort of thing going on" so she isn't sure. She thought that possibly some of the mill workers might have lived there, but most of them mjust lived in there private homes.

Interviewer's tape # NAFOH Accession # 1183 1 Catalog pg. # 3

AP-1			
Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
		344	A woman that she rented a house from had
		361	a stepfather that used to work in one of the mills. He 'd work from daylight to supper time, go back after supper and work until dark for \$1.00 a day. At the site of the old town hall there once stood the Drinkwater Hall. Before that it was the Patrons of Husbandry Grange. When <u>Mr. Drinkwater</u> bought the hall it was
		373	a cigar factory for a very short time. She things it was "The BCM Cigars". They rolled them by hand there. A long time ago there was a cooper, and her grandfather had a little blacksmith shop. He was actually a cabinet maker, but also had the shop. There was a shoemaker in
		391	town for awhile. She thingks that "the majority of the people worked either in the mill, or then worked for the B R & E." Changed in the town, the old part remains about the same, but is expanding out in the other sections. Veazie is two miles square. In her re-collection they had a voting list of two hundresd. Her school had 100 kids.
		423 441	"I can truthfully say thatI used to be able to walk up the street, and every kid I met, I knew by name and they knew me. And I swear I even knew their dogs and their dogs' names. And now I don't hardly my next door neighbour." She blames the influx of people on the War and Dow Field.
		441 469	Hadn't heard about salmon catching with nets. When she was very young she used to swim in the Penobscot, but even then it was getting polluted and the fish were dying.Pollution began to get out of hand at least in the early'20's. Kids got impetego once. The old Veazie Dam was directly across the
Anothoot River		479	river from Lemon St Talks about a man who fell in the river in the 1930's. The old electric cars came through Veazie and owned and operated by the old Bangor Railway and Electric Co., and later by the Bangor Hydro. In 1941 they ran the last car and put buses on. The "Last Car" would always leave at 11:00 p.m.X The people that lived across the river would come across on Saturdays and do their shopping nights. "It was just was the way of life." A man and companion were walking across the ice back to the other side of the river after having taken the last car, and the man fell through. "The common, ordinary poor person, that was they way they went, they went on
Penobscot River Veozie			the car" The man's companion screamed for help at about 11:30 at night. "Well, if

Interviewer's tape #  $AP \mid NAFOH Accession #$  183 1 Catalog pg. #4

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Index	NAFOH	lnt.	Catalog
		526	you didn't go to town, you was in bed by 11:30, because there was nothing else to do." A man got out of bed to save the man in his bare feet, and he and some others daved his life. She said he should've gone down Green St. because that was the path they made across the river. On Lemon St. the ice was weakened. Ice cutting was a pretty big business when she was a child. Her father used to cut ice by hand with saws, about 2 feet thick. They got 3 or 4¢ for each cake. Hauled by horses on a flat bed to buildings where surrounded by sawdust. Ice lasted way into
		547	hot weather. Getchell Brothers had a huge ice house on the KendusHeag R. She grew up on the house next door. Her mother was born and brought up in the house on the corner of State St. and Lemon St. [559- man whistling downstairs, it's her
		572	water man.] Her parents paid "the whole sum of \$700" for their house, in 1923 or '24. "It was an old shack then, and believe me kiddo.
		586	it still is." The block bounded by Maple, Flagg, Olive, and Lemon Sts., was all owned by the Sproul family, Benjamin Sproul. Talks about her family lots, her husband and she built their own home after he came back from the war.
		608	She never remembers a house raising, but "if one family was troub&& they didn't have to worry because everybody turned to to help
		632	them." Doesn't find it that way today There's one man in town that an elderly woman will let approach her while she is sick, is Mrs. Hodgman's husband, Stewart.
		636	"But that's personal, strike that." For entertainment, she wasn't quite sure, but she remembers that years ago there was a Pumpkin Tavern. She thinks that's
		644	the house that her brother owns is a "so called tavern". It /had a beautiful danse floor. But she supposes that they probably just went to bed. The first Monday in March every year, "and boy I mean the first Monday in March, no matter what the weather or anything", they held the town meeting. It was held in the daytime. "And the dear ladies always
Kenduskag Qiver		655	<pre>made a town meeting dinner." It took ll town meetings to vote for the building for the present town. For her entertainment, she can remember playing bridge and having bridge clubs. Also the church was more active than it is now. There were more children in the Sunday</pre>

Interviewer's tape # NAFOH Accession # 11833 2 1Catalog pg. # 5

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
			school than were in the grammar school. It was a real religious community, but she remembers religious prejudice. She thinks that it came about during the Presidential election of 1928 when Al Smith ran against Hoover. That's when she first became aware of it. She remembers them saying, "Well, if he's elected, the Pope in of Rome will move right into the White House."
		685	There used to be five churches in town, but not in her time. They were all incorporated into the Congregational Church in 1838. This was before Veazie was Veazie. It was originally called the Veazie "Congo" Church because it was a collection of all of them. Now it's called the United Church of Christ.
		697 029 033	Announcement of the end of Tape 1, Side 1 Announcement at the beginning of Tape 1, Side 2. Dingbat Prouty was before her time. There was a character, "I'd rather not mention his name, let's call him the town drunk." He used to drink for a period of two or three weeks. When he ran out of money he used to go door to door and ask people for anything to drink.
		074	"As long as it was wet it didn't matter". she thinks that there were probably a lot of other characters around, "probably, I'm one of them". Then she tells of some of her pranks.
		095	At the crossing where the railroad tracks cross the main road by Consumers' Oil, there used to be a crossing tender's little house, because there were no lights to signal. They like the daytime tender, Mr. Crocker, by they used to "make life miserable" for the night tender. It was an annual event the night before the 4th of July to bombard the shack where the tender was. "And he would come out and throw a stove cover at us."
		111	When asked if there were any people that she feared as a child, she began to talk about Aunt Hat Miller, who used to run "the house of ill repute". Mrs. Hodman says that she was a harmless old lady, but they received the bad impression of her from their parents. She personally thought Aunt Hat was a witch. She always dressed in black. When she was older she began to roam around the streets. This was probably because she was senile. She used to like to talk about to children, and tell them stories about the good old
Veazee		135	days. Mrs. Hodgman says she never swore. She supposedly had a son named Harry. Her business was "bad houses, if you will". She heard about the beautiful horses that <u>Aunt</u> Hat owned. She had coal black horses, four.

Interviewer's tape # NAFOH Accession # **1183** <sup>2</sup> Catalog pg. # 6

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
		157	She would drive the horses around on Sunday, and dress her girls all up, and they would drive around "nodding and bowing and smiling to the rest of the people, and some of the dear ladies would turn their back on them." She begins to talk about her grandmother, who was very proper but also very large. She always mede sure her corsett was in-tact. She would criticize her sister-in-law across
*		173	she had "no stays on, flopping down the street
		187	Talks bout her grandfather's horse, Ned. Jason Church was an old man in Veazie, who would humanely destroy your animals. He took
		206 [	care of Old Ned. <u>hone rings, tape off for 3 minutes</u> ] Talks about <u>Milton Crocker</u> , she had a photocopied picture of him. He lost his leg in a railroad accident. They used to call him "Dick".
		242	Owned the pink across the street from her house on Lemon St. When his daughter got married, he made her an apartment by raising the roof all by himself to add another storey for her. This is the one who was the day crossing tender
		361 407	She doesn't think the teachers are as qualified and as dedicated as they used to be. [Stopped tape for 1 min.] She was a good disiplinarian.
		429	
reagie			

Interviewer's tape no.: AP 4	NAFOH Accession no.: 1184 1125013				
Interviewer: Anne Pierter	Address: 311 Oxford Hall, Campus				
Interviewee: Mrs. Stewart Hodgman	Address: 9 Lemon St., Veazie, Me.				
Place of interview: Hodgman home	Date: 12/9/77				
Other people present: Mr. Hodgman, and their daughter, Gail.					
Equipment used: Sony					
Tape: Brand: Scotch Size reel:	5" <u>1 mil/1.5 mil</u> Speed: <u>1 7/8 ips</u>				
Cassette: Brand:	C-30/C-60/C-120				
Amount of tape used: (Side 1): One hou	ar (Side 2): One hour				

Brief description of contents: Mrs. Hodgman talked about the various sliding places around town and the accidents, how they tobogganed, skied, skated, the time they stole the sleigh and ran over a ;horse, the dutied of her mother raising nine children, all the chores, the food process, when she eloped, she explained the photos she len t me, like the watering trough outside of the store across from the Town Hall, the trolley lines, the train wreck of 1895. This was my second interview with her, and she was as helpful as before.

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
	033 :03	020 ;035	[Opening announcement] [Purpose of interview explained, beginning of interview.] I asked about the women's role, and what a normal daywould be like for her mother. "Very hectic." Her father was a painter and a paper hanger, so in the summer they prepared for the winter. Her five broth were good hunters so they always had deer mea and "heaven help us, rabbit". The kids used to pick berries and can them, and they had mince meat. The Davis family on the Chase Ro would let them pick apples in the orchard. HEr mother's day would start at 6:00 and end at 11 or 12 that night. "Because she used to say that, 'You cannot do more than be busy all the time'". On Saturday, she cooked all day long. She
	100	100	would use a bag of flour a week, and a bag weighed 24 pounds. For noon meal she cooked a peck of petatoes and the left overs were eated at night with the hot biscuits she made every night. One of her phobias was running out of butter and having to use margarine. Monday was always wash day, and Tuesday she ironed, Saturday was baking day. She remembers this because she had to wahs the dishes after he The other days she can't remember her haveing a toutine.

Interviewer's tape # AP 4 NAFOH Accession # 1184 <sup>1</sup>Catalog pg. # 2

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
			Also, her mother always washed the floor on Saturdays. She always knit and crocheted for
		120	them. She recalled the time that her mother kicked
		120	a panel out of the kitchen door because the
			father didn't put the door knob on that had
			fallen off. She was trying to stop a couple
			of her sons from fighting in the backyard, and
		i.	that was the only way that she could get their attention to yell at them. When the father
			came home she said to him, "' Bill, if you
			don't fix that door, I'm going to kick a
			panel out of you.'"
		138	Another funny story she remembers about home,
1			was the time that the leg gave out on the
· .			stove and knocked the tank next to that that they used to store water in for washing dishes.
			Bhe asked her son, Dunk to do something after
			the water spilled out all over the kitchen
	150		floor. He replied, "'Ma, who do you think I
	1.5-	150	am <u>Houdini</u> or <u>Hurcules</u> ?'"
		159	When they were young they used to pick berries and save their m oney to buy fireworks for
			July 4th. They kept them all upstairs. Somehow
			someone wet the firecrackers off and set off
			the rest of them. HEr mother went ot the foot
			of the stairs to see what was going on and just
			then a skyrocket came down by her head. "That
11			set the fireworks off as far as my mother was
1		176	concerned right there." They used to have a "crazy old Plymouth Hawk
			rooster", and one time they gave therooster
1			some alcohol soaked corn. The alcohol came
			from the supply that theri father used to thin
			down paint for his business. "You never have
11			seen a happier rooster than he was." The rooster was nosey so they called him Dick after
			their very nosey neighbour.
		193	When they canned and preserved they did it
			as the things came along. Everything was in
			glass jars, with no pressure cooker. They
			put the jars in a big canning kettle and boiled
	200		them. The jars had screw caps, and she remem- bered very few things spoiling. Before they
			were put in the basement her mother always
			turned the jars upside down overnight, and that
			way she would know the next morning if they
			were going to leak. When she peeled apples,
			she always saved the peelings and cooked those
			for jelly. She would filter it into the jar kettle by placing the cooked peelings into
			a pillow slip suspended on the bakc of the
			chair with a broom handle, and letting it drip!
			all night.
		223	The ckildren finally pursuaded the mother nto
11	1	243	The children illially pursuaded the mother n to

Interviewer's tape # AP 4 NAFOH Accession # 1184 1Catalog pg. # 3

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
	250	238	preserve whole eggs in shell by placing them in a water glass with silicate of soda, and they would last all winter. Mother used to say that it was all right but the whites wouldn't whip up good. Mrs. Hodgman thinks that she was prejudiced. Most of the meat was cooked and canned right when it was brought home unless it could be hung outside and salted. HEr five brothers were hunters so they always had a lot of game. They used to buy potatoes by the battel, and mollases and binegar by the gallon. When the families could they would have their own garden, or they would go to a place where they could use dome of the land. They went to their grandfather's because their land wasn't suitable for it. She thinks that if you do it properly, farming is about the hardest work there is.
	300	288 304 326	They had a cow for a while, even though they had no place to keep her given to her by her grandfather, she was named Molly. She was a Jersey and gave good milk. Everyonce in a while her mother would put milk in a large pan and skim off the cream to make butter, and cottage cheese. She would say that hers was a typical family, typically large and poor. AFter her family had grown, her mother did midwifery. Sometimes Buelah helped her. Someone asked her mother how she could find time to do it, and her mother replied, "' After 12 pregnancies, I guess I know as much about it as anybody else does.'" She had nine living children. Buelah can remember her little brother that died when she was 3 1/2 or 4. He was only 10 days old when he died, his name was Cecil. They were all born at home and their mother saw only one of the children get married. All married except one brother. She talks about
	350	405	her marriage, she was the first to get married. They eloped, got married in Waterville a few minutes before midnight. Her husband had to go to work the next morning, so when they got back to Veaxie they went to their separate homes. They wnated to know where she had been and when she showed her marriage license to her brother Bill, he said, "'You poor little fool, turn out the lights, and get to bed.'" When her baby brother got married she was able to see it. She was a Catholic, and her mother overlooked her prejudice of mixed marriages. Her brother and mother used to fight over religion. He was going to the University and
Waterville	400		he was interested in sciences. He couldn't see the reason for believing in <u>God</u> .

Interviewer's tape # ap 4 NAFOH Accession # 1184 1 Catalog pg. # 4

			1
Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
		419	One day she said, "'Well, hhere's one thing, scientists have never yet been able to create a human baby." And he replied, "'But we're working on it, Ma.'" She believes that history represents itself. An example, wood burning. She thinks that people are turning back to the simpler times. She believes that the last world was straightened people out. She cannot forgive a deserter, but she could go for amnesty.
2	457	464	She talked about her son when he turned 18. They had no problem with World War II because we had been attacked, but she felt that Viet- nam was different. She thinks that General MacArthur shold have "whipped the pants off" the Koreans, because we showed the Communists
		492	our weakness. Her mother's half brother was on the Eisenhouer staff during the war, and he said that the Roosevelt administration would prove itself in history to be the most evil.
Stillaster Veazee	500	500	I ask her to explain the pictures she has lent me. [Photo 1] Veazie School, 1892, on Rock St It had to be one of the first. It was grades 1-9. Her brother owns the building or the land where the building stood to the left of the schoolhouse. Her brother, Waldo. The building to the left of the schoolhouse used to one of ill repute. The schoolhouse is gone now, too. [Photo 2] On fromt says Veazie Me. 130, Mr. and Mrs. Al Gilman, State St. She said the picture was taken in the early 1900's (1906-04. Mrs. Leary ownes the home now. [Phote 3]On front says, Olive St. Veazie Me., 122. I ask her about the old truck and its contents. In front of it the wagon and horse. The house on the extreme right has a woman sitting on the porch. Mrs. Hodgman was told that if the woman was alive today she would be 150 years old. Ben Akins owns the house in the left of the picture now, and the original owners of the house were named Sproul, "What General Veazie didn't own the Sprouls did." The house on the right with the woman on the porch became an apt. house by Wadleigh, the owner of Governer restaurant, in Stillwater.She tried to find out about the elms that lined the streets. She did discover that the original plan was for efvery street to be 60 feet wide. But they weren't. The zoning lawm now require more space for less cmowding. [Photo 4] on front, 'Mcpheters home on Oak Hill. Vesta Welch' That family was one of the earlier ones in Veazie. The heuse is about the same now as it was then.

Interviewer's tape  $\#_{AP}$  4 NAFOH Accession  $\#_{1184}$  1 Catalog pg.  $\#_5$ 

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
22		584	One of the ladies in the picture (possibly the woman on the far right) was Vesta Welch and she was the seamstress in town for years. Oak Hill is located by the river on the road parallel to the River Road. It's the hill behind the big white house on the corner. You go part way up and it's Oak Hill, then the rest of it is Grove St. Oak Grove was originally given to "the ladies of the town". It was supposed to be a place for picnics for them. [Photo 5] "Corner Main and Olive Sts. Veazie, Me., 133." The car track is in fromt of the store, and there was a watering trough in front where the girls used to congregate. Next to the store is a brick building where they used to have a barber shop and a pool hall downstairs. "That was another place where us kids were supposed to stay away from."
	600		The homes were used mainly for social gatherings for the kids. She believes that this should still be the case, instead of sending the kids off somewhere. "Why should the taxpayers be babysitters?"
		637	Feels that parents should prepare for parent- hood, and if they can't take the time to do it, why should they be one. They did a lot work with the Cub Scouts.
	650	659	She talks about the disorder of the present Veazie elementary school, then relates her school regimination. To leave, first your desk would have to be in order, then the teacher would say, "'Position'", so you had to turn around and fold your hadns on the desk. Then she'd say "'Turn" and you turned, and then she's say "Rise" and you'd rise, and then she'd say "Pass" and the aisles would follow each other out in succession.
		673	She says it wouldn't work today. I ask her about the train wreck that she talked about in the last interview. [Photos 6 and 7] The wreck was down on the Veazie Flats, just below School St. going towards Bangor. Two trains collided head on. Photo 6 shows a cable that they tied on to one of the cars to pull over. Her father told her that it was hes father that tied the cable on there.
		685	Happened around 1895. She talks about the Greystone Farm [Photo 10] Was on the trailer court today. Her earliest recollection of the owners were Austin and Marjory Jones. They constructed the buildings except the barn around 1941. It's all built
Bangor			out of natural stone from the land there. There are motel cabins on the land.

Interviewer's tape # AP 4 NAFOH Accession # 1184 1 1184 2 Catalog pg. # 6

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
	700		At its heigth, they had a dairy and delivered milk all around. Theyalso raided sheep but they were diseased, and he had to discontinue. They made their own ice cream and sold it in the front stone building. Mrs. Jones made "simply gorgeous fudge". This past year they discontinued the motel. After he got rid of his cows he gbought his own milk. She worked for them in 1947-48. She was the supervisor over the high school girls in the cabins. The Jones Family is willing now to turn the ice cream building over to the town for a
	720 017	728 027	library. [End of Side 1 Tape 1 with Buelah Hodgman] I ask her about her sliding hills. The hill that they used to slide on the most was the Dickey or Oak Hill. But there was a problem with Corporation Hill. When slideng from Oak Hill you could collide with the sliders from the other hill. One bad accident finally hap- pened with a bobsled. The boy was very seriously hurt. After that they tried to all slide on
	100	100	the same hill at one time. One pf their pranks was the time that they stole a man's old fashione sleigh. It didn't have any seat, but that didn't stop them. They would all climb into it, and "it would go like the dickens." The man that they stole it form came after them. He was leading his horse and they hit the horse with the sleigh, the horse went down and all the kids scattered. He ran after Buelah, and her mother couldn't believe that Buelah would do that. It was old Sammy Chick. Sometimes they used to start on Bridge Hill, near the present overhead bridge. Then it was a much steeper hill. They'd start on the hill come down Lemon St., and then out onto the ice on the river. They'd use to skate on the river and have a big bonfire. "We made our own good time, becausse there was nothing
Western's ford Swetts Pond		125	else to do." When she went to school, no girls wore pants.' She wonders how why they didn't freeze when they went out skating. [Mer daughter, Gail, comes in.] [REferring back to photo 10] I ask her of the hill behing Graystone Farm. It was called Western's Hill. Belonged to part of the Jones farm There was a pond in there that they used to skate on also, Western's Pond. There was a trail there that they could ski on. They used to start their winter's activities shortly after Halloween. She recalls that Western's Pond was also called Swett's Pond.

Interviewer's tape # AP 4 NAFOH Accession # 1184 2 Catalog pg. # 7

	INAFOU		
Index	NAFOH		
Index	200	Int. 159 207 228 233 255 276 276	Catalog [Photo 9] Photo of the station for the steam cars, the trains. From Bangor to STillwater there is a 4% grade, one of the steepest around then when they had the locomotives. In the early days it took one hour to come from Old Town to Bangor. She thinks that the station was either the one on School St. on right off Lemon St With the trolley cars, the one that went through Veazie was the Old Town run, and there was on that went out to Charlstown, to Brewer and Hmmpden. "It was a passing of an era." The last car to make the last run was in March, 1941. Charles [Photo 11] A photo of her gwandfather Turner's home on Main St, her mother was born and brought up in that house. Wed finish talkingabout the pictures and she begins to talk about the Ladies' Aid. Once a year they would go up to the Gardener Rd. in Orono to a former Veazie resident, Mrs. Smith, who still belonged to the Veazie Ladies' Aid. Sometime in the summer they would go there for the picnic. Nan Spencer on the Chase Rd. would tak her "jigger" wagon and load up the ladies for their trip to Orono. One year they were going up and the horse fell down. The last day of school they used to hire an electric car and go down 60 Dorothy Dix Park in Hamden and go swimming there. It would cost them 16 dollars to hire that special car. The teachers and mothers and infant children go along also. Graduation excercises from.grammar school were always held in the church (hers included.) They always had the 7th and the 8th grade sit together because the clawses were so small. The 8th graders would resent it because the 7th graders "were mere children". The mothers would decorate the church with flowers from the garden. That was the only public building in town. At Christmas time they would have a tree in the church and <u>Santa Claus</u> would come to visit. Her uncle was a big stout man, "and he was a great Santa Claus". There was one little boy
Oroni Hampolen Brewer Charlestown Veazee OH Fown Stillwater Bangos	300	294 309	the garden. That was the only public building in town. At Christmas time they would have a tree in the church and <u>Santa Claus</u> would come to visit.
Dug	11	I	1

Interviewer's tape # AP 4 NAFOH Accession # 1184 2 Catalog pg. # 8

			1154 2
Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
		324	She talks about the pictureof the baseball team, her husband and brothers were on it. On one side is a formal team picture, and on the other side they are practicing. When the team traveled, any of the town members that could would go, and take a picnic along with them One time in Aurora, she stepped into a hornet's nest and caused quite a
		382	commotion. She remembers the team being close knit, so there was no jealousy. "Those were the good
		395	old days, but who wants them." She talks about some of the tradedies in town to be over by her brother's gon shop off Lemon St., $U^{-L L }$ one man killed another with an axe.
¥0.		401	When she was very young, a man shot his sweetheart on Thompson's Point. He shot her ear off. The man was insane. She played him on, then laughed at him.
40	400	440	Her cousing shot himself at 17. And that winter there were two or three people that hung themselves. "A suicidal trend". She points to a man in the team photo, and said he took his life, too. She wouldn't favor taking pilling to end your life. "It's a pretty gruesome prodeedure to have your stomach pumped out". "God gave you your life, that is his gift to you. And what you do witth your life is your gift to him."
		452	She gets up and reads a philosophy off the bulletin board behind her.
		458	She asks what is coming out of this project. She is going to go out and take pictures of her-son's-new-home-and the old houses and buildings in townn. She gets up to get the photo album and shows me the barious stages in her son's home. Then she talks about her son and his woife. The son's lot was all wilderness.
	500	509	She shows me a picture of her oldest granddaught Then she has a picture of a house that was just built on Lemon St., the last lot down on the left hand side. In her house "there's a lot of blood and sweat and tears". She talks about the various occurences in the building of the house. The story of the house was going to be put into Better Homes and Gardens, but it never was. The most they ever owed on the house was \$600 for heating for the jbm house.
Bar Harbor aurora		220	A man from Bar Harbor came to the door one day and pressured her into selling it. She talks about an old antique table that a woman gave it to her.

Interviewer's tape # AP 4 NAFOH Accession # 1184 2 Catalog pg. # 9

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
Index	NAFOH 600 636	Int. 578 640 648	Catalog Mrs. Hodgman relates their woes about the kitchen floor, and the new one they had to install. "Everything we get, we get the hard way." Another example was the second hand range stove she bought that was filled with cockroaches,"A bushel and Peck" of them. Her stove and refridgerator gave them a little trouble with children getting into them. "It's and interesting life, I'm telling you." She tells about some of the electrical night- mares she has had to contend with because her husband liked to have them around. [End of the interview with Mrs. Stewart Hodgman.]
		8	

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OTHER MATERIAL

article in the Bangor Daily News Sat-Sun December 18-19,1976 p26 The day a man's boyhood dreams came to life at the Veazie dam

full page article about <u>Edward Conners Sullivan</u>,75, born in Veazie, graduated Bangor high class of 1920

article in The Maine Sportsman December 1976 pg 6

"Finding" the Original Morris Canoe by Fern Crossland Stearns

zerox of Veazie Congregational Church

Veazie



## Peazie Congregational Church VEAZIE — MAINE

### ANNIVERSARY MEDITATIONS

Dear little church by the side of the road What changes in life you have seen. The slow-moving horses of yester-year Have been replaced by cars speeding by; Fashions for ladies and men, young and old, How different they've grown through the years! Relaxed social standards more freedom have given And altered our manners of living. Yet through all these on-rolling years You have been a beacon of faith for mankind. Conceived by a dedicated people who Felt the need for a place for all to worship our God, Still today beneath your roof we find peace As we gather to pray and sing praises To the One who is our Guide and Stay. Dear little church by the side of the road We bring you our heartfelt devotion. May your doors ever stand open wide; May your walls resound with true gospel Preached from the heart and the soul of your pastors To a host of reverent mankind.

Persis Messer

### HISTORY OF VEAZIE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

On Saturday, May 5, 1838, when the present town of Veazie was known as North Bangor, a group of citizens interested in uniting in a church of Christ, met at the home of <u>Samuel L. Valentine. Simon Nowell</u> was chosen moderator and <u>William Valentine</u> secretary of the meeting. It was voted that a committee be appointed for the purpose of inviting a council to assemble on the twenty-third of the month at nine o'clock in the forenoon at the home of <u>Mr. Samuel Valentine</u> to take into consideration the expediency of organizing a church on Congregational principles, or to advise the professors of religion and others who are desirous of uniting in a church of Christ in the neighborhood, to such a course as said council shall deem proper for them to pursue. It was voted that Simon Nowell, Samuel Valentine, and <u>Nahum Warren be</u> this committee.

On May 22, 1838, an Ecclesiastical Council convened at the home of Samuel Valentine and voted that a Congregational Church be organized in the village to be called the Congregational Church of North Bangor. It was voted to recommend as the basis of the organization the Confession of Faith and Covenant adopted by the First Congregational Church of Bangor. On June 19, 1838, the public services were performed at the schoolhouse when the following people gave thier assent to the Confession of Faith and Covenant and were organized into a Church of Christ: Simon Nowell, Samuel Valentine, Polly Nowell, and Sarah Valentine from Bangor; Dearborn Chase and Nancy Chase from Tamworth, New Hampshire; Nahum Warren, Clarissa Warren, William Valentine, Sarah Howard, Ruth Chase, and Henry Chase. The sermon of organization was given by the Reverend Wooster Parker, who also served as the scribe; the consecrating prayer by the moderator. The fellowship of the church was xpressed by the Reverend Walter Lewis.

On June 9, 1839, <u>Henry Chase</u> was chosen a delegate to the Penobscot Conference of Christian Churches. The records show that these conferences were held regularly at which the church of North Bangor was represented, usually by two delegates.

The church records indicate there were twenty members on May 20, 1844.

The church was built by its members who raised money for building materials by selling rights to pews for the sum of \$28.00 which gave pew rights to them, their heirs, and assigns forever.

The church was dedicated on Thursday, March 29, 1845, with a sermon by Reverend Maltby and a prayer by Reverend Page.

On January 13, 1851, it was voted to suspend a sister for misconduct.

In 1853 General Samuel Veazie journeyed to Augusta and persuaded the legislature to allow North Bangor, known as Ward 7, to separate from Bangor and to be incorporated as Veazie. On January 30, 1856, the name of the church was changed to Congregational Church of Veazie.

On March 26, 1860, a church member was suspended "for not attending the private meetings of the church and absenting himself from the worship of <u>God</u> upon the Sabbath and also for improper behavior as a Christian."

July 26, 1860, was a memorable day in the history of the church, for on that day <u>Reverend Smith Baker</u> was ordained as pastor, a position which he held until 1868 when he accepted the pastorate of the Park Street Congregational Church in Boston.

In March, 1862, a brother was suspended "until such time as he shall repent and return to his Savior and his duty." At the same meeting a sister was excommunicated for "constant neglect of the Church Conference which she has convenated to observe and refraining from coming to the Holy Sacrament without a reasonable excuse, by her unchristian sentiments publicly expressed, by her indifference to her religious duties in forsaking the church which she has promised to

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augusta Veasee walk with, and by her impropriety of conduct she has evinced to the church a definite proof that she either never was born again or if so, that she was apostatized, and having been conversed with she refused to manifest sorrow."

In March, 1863, another sister asked forgiveness of the church and promised to repent her "great imprudence in deportment" as a result of which the committee recommended that her confession be accepted. At the same meeting a sister was suspended as an "offending member," and a brother was excummunicated for "impropriety of conduct." Often the "improprieties" consisted of card playing and dancing. The excommunications were announced "with sorrow that such a necesity is forced upon us," and with a prayer that, "God have mercy on the soul" of the offender. Occasionally, a suspended member was reinstated.

On September 11, 1865, the following resolves were passed:

1. Resolved: that the Deacons be requested to visit any church member absenting him or herself from the Communion Table and labor with such for their return.

2. Resolved: that as a church we consider the attending of dancing schools and balls as inconsistent with Christian character, and from this date any member of this church so doing shall not be considered in good standing and is subject to discipline.

3. Resolved: that financial honesty is the duty of professing Christians and that any member is justly subject to discipline who disregards it, and the case of a Brother be referred to the Deacons as a committee to report as soon as convenient.

There are no church records from May 31, 1866, until October 31, 1902. On the latter date a meeting was held of all who were desirous of becoming an incorporated religious society. As a result, the church was incorporated on November 12, 1902, under the name of Veazie Congregational Church.

The lot upon which the church stands was deeded January 1, 1845, by John T. Clark to the North Bangor Congregational Society which was not an incorporated body and therefore, had no legal power. However, upon petition of the Business Committee on September 4, 1903, the Supreme Judicial Court in Equity decreed that the property be conveyed to the Veazie Congregational Church, a corporation under the laws of the State of Maine.

At this time, it was voted to insure the church for five years for 1000.00 at a cost of 30.00.

In the latter part of the last century there were also a Methodist Church, now the residence of <u>Mr. Alvah Doane</u>, and a Freewill Baptist Church which became Penobscot Hall and later the residence of <u>Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jordan</u>.

A new bell, still in use, was installed in the belfrey in 1898.

On September 13, 1906, a beautiful memorial window was dedicated to the <u>Reverend Smith Baker</u>. The Ladies Aid raised the money by subscription. The window cost \$150.00, and the labor was 29 cents per hour. Other memorial windows were given in memory of Japheth and <u>Mary Dexter</u>, <u>Nahum</u> and <u>Clara</u> Warren, and <u>Emma J. Smith Patterson</u>.

On June 3, 1938, the church held a centennial anniversary in Penobscot Hall with the Ladies Aid serving the banquet. Mr. Raymond Fielder was minister at this time. The speaker of the evening was Reverend Rensel Colby, student pastor from 1909-1911. The title of his address was *Outreach of the Church*. The anniversary sermon, *The Challenge of the Forward Look*, was delivered by <u>Reverend Harry Trust, D.D.</u>, President of the Bangor Theological Seminary and student pastor of the church in 1911 and 1912.

Easter Sunday, 1949, a communion plate was presented in memory of Mrs. Annie Moholland by her husband and daughters. The next Easter, another plate was given in memory of Mrs. Gladys King by her family.

In 1951, Veazie Grange provided new steps with railings and two tubs of flowers on each side of the bulletin board. The Grange also presented an altar cloth in 1959 and has contributed to the Floral Fund.

On September 20, 1953, a candelabra was dedicated in memory of Mrs. Lillian M. Turner, clerk of the church for many years.

In October, 1955, collection plates, given by <u>Alton McPheters</u> in memory of his mother, Mrs. <u>Annie McPheters</u>, were resilvered and presented to the church for church services only, by <u>Mrs. Ida Colby</u>.

January 19, 1958, a cross and candlesticks were given in memory of Louise. Olmstead by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Olmstead.

On January 26, 1958, wax followers and three dozen candles were presented by Mr. and Mrs. Heinrich in memory of their infant daughter, Brenda Ruth.

The Veazie Garden Club landscaped the grounds in 1958, gave an organ lamp, four choir robes and \$12.00 for collars for the choir robes in 1960. This club also gave a gavel and \$25.00 for the Floral Fund in 1962 and presented the flowers for this anniversary, 1963.

Mr. William Pickard and Mrs. Morita Springer presented choir music, pulpit cloth, and platform curtains in memory of <u>Mrs. William Picka</u>rd, who had served as church organist.

The present Bible was given by <u>Reverend Harry Trust to</u> replace one given by Smith Baker in 1866.

A motion picture projector was purchased by the youth groups in 1958.

In June, 1958, the Colby Memorial Room was dedicated in honor of Reverend Rensel H. Colby.

On May 23, 1959, a fine Hammond Organ, purchased with contributions from members and friends, was dedicated with a recital by Mr. Wilfrid Tremblay. Mr. Joseph Hedrick was pastor at this time.

In March, 1960, the platform, posts, and railings were removed from the sanctuary; and partitions were made for Sunday School rooms in the Colby Room.

The Girl Scouts gave bookmarks in March, 1962.

Trust funds were established in memory of John Towle, Martin McPheters, Mrs. Isabelle Hathorn, R. E. Hathorn, Miss Flora Weed, and Flora McPheters Bachelder. A contribution was made for the Building Fund in memory of Orris Harkness. A contribution to the Organ Fund in memory of Mrs. Lunetta McPheters Burden was received.

It would be impossible to mention the multitude of services performed over the years by the Ladies Aid, a group of dedicated women, who have not only kept the church in repair but who have done much toward financing the current expenses; and at times, actually have kept the church in existence. Certainly, these ladies deserve much praise.

Commendation should be given to Miss Addie Weed, who has served efficiently as clerk since February 6, 1949; and in addition, has typed the existing records into a Bethany Church Record, which was indeed a tremendous task.

On April 30, 1961, the church became part of the United Church of Christ.

Thus have passed the first hundred and twenty-five years of the Veazie Congregational Church.

May it continue to grow and prosper in the years that lie ahead!

Helen Hathorne Todd

Typing by courtesy of Mrs. Edward Thomas

### PASTORS, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VEAZIE

	1000		1045
Supplies or vacant	1838	to	1040
Rufus William Emerson	1845	to	1840
Daniel Smith Talcott	.1846	to	1849
Supplies or vacant	.1849	to	1858
Smith Baker	.1858	to	1867
William Foster Obear	1867	to	1868
Supplies or vacant	.1868	to	1886
Charles Burns Wathen	.1886	to	1888
Supplies or vacant	.1888	to	1890
Virgil William Blackman	.1890	to	1891
Francis Arthur Sanborn	.1891	to	1894
Supplies or vacant	.1894	to	1895
Herbert Edwin Lombard	1895	to	1896
Robert Robertson Morson	.1896	to	1897
Supplies or vacant	1897	to	1900
Charles William Howkins	.1900	to	1902
Edwin Call Brown	1902	to	1905
Frederick William Foote	1905	to	1908
	1008	to	1000
Rensel Harold Colby	1909	to	1911
Harry Trust	1911	to	1912
Robert William McClure	1912	to	1914
Frederick Rudolph Dixon	1914	to	1916
Jesse Churchill Donahue	1916	to	1918
Jesse Churchill Donanue Thomas Foxall, Jr.	1018	to	1010
Albert Bernard Kettell	1010	to	1022
Albert Bernard Kettell	1022	to	1023
Walter Egbert Stackpole	1022	to	1025
Frank Roosevelt Hamilton	1005	to	1027
Summer Francis Johnson	1920	10	1021
Leon Arthur Dean	1921	to	1022
Clarence Walter Harvey	1000	10	1025
Arthur Wallace	1025	to	1020
Raymond Edward Fiedler	1935	to	1930
Earl Damon Greenlaw	1930	to	1939
George Stanley Keast	1939	το	1940
Wilbur Putman Parker	1940	to	1942
John Peters Webster, Jr.	.1942	to	1944
Craig Handyside Richards	.1944	to	1945
Craig Handyside Richards Raymond Andrew Michel	.1945	to	1947
All of Inther Holoomb	.1941	το	1949
Delih Handrik Adolf Unger	1949	to	1952
Cliffered Cooil Tabin	.1952	to	1904
Norman Louisson	.1954	to	1956
Trilli D II in sich	1956	to	1958
Ladrick	.1958	to	1961
Samual M Lafferty	1901	ω	1962
Peter A. Dakers	.1963	to	

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#### LADIES AID

Many years ago, believed to be in the late 1890's, men and women of Veazie met evenings in various homes for "Sociables". Refreshments were served, sometimes only apples and pop corn. Each paid five to ten cents. This was used for the minister's salary, which was five dollars each Sunday. Flora McPheters was Treasurer of the group.

In 1902 Edwin Call Brown came to Veazie to serve as pastor of the Veazie Congregational Church. With his wife Ellen and two daughters Frances and Mary, he lived in what is now known as the Clish house.

The Browns attended the Sociables. Ellen was a quiet, very nice lady, a good organizer, and was known to be of great assistance to her husband in his work. Ellen, realizing the need for a group such as the ladies belonging to the sociables group, organized the Veazie Congregational Ladies Aid. The ladies began meeting afternoons.

The Ladies Aid was organized, we believe, in the latter part of 1902 or early 1903.

The Browns served the church until 1905. Mrs. Perley Lobley, daughter of Mary Brown, lives in Bangor and is clerk of the Forest Avenue Congregational Church.

Early records tell of these ladies aid members raising funds to pay for the Baker Memorial window. Some of these early members were:

Melvina Morse, Abbie LeBlanc, Minnie Cushman, Ida Colby, Annie McPheters, Flora McPheters, Hepsy Calkins, Melvina Fitzgerald, Vesta Welch, Fannie Kennett, Annie Moholland, Lillian Turner, Leola Bulles, Sadie Crocker, Susie Wentworth, Nancy Spencer, Agnes Bostrom, Ella Robbins, Winnie Spencer, Sarah Turner, Lacitna Shorey, Jennie Lambert, Jennie Barene, Ethel Ellingwood, Fannie Rutter, Bessie Rutter, Nettie Martin, Eva Albee, Marjorie Jones, Nellie Spencer, Ethel Parsons, Alice Hathorn, Edith Shorey, Grace Jordan.

With time, I might learn of more who could be listed. Many who are living have been members of this group and worked hard. In 1925 to 1930 there were lawn parties with refreshments sold, cooked food sales, and public card parties held in the old town hall; also parties held in homes.

Aid served town meeting dinners and at times also served suppers as the meetings continued into enenings. Also at times town meetings took two days so served dinner the second day. Aid served public baked bean suppers then as they do today. After 1930, the lawn parties were dropped. At public card parties, refreshments were always served and prizes given for high score, players paid twenty-five cents.

Previous to 1953 the aid meetings lasted all afternoon, members sewed, crocheted, knit, did fancy work, made crazy patch work for quilts. Vesta Welch supervised making crazy work squares and she saw that they were right as she was a beautiful seamstress. We also tacked the quilts. We owned two sewing machines at one time.

I recall in the 1930's for a few years, the church treasurer either Rose Webster or Lillian Turner, would report at an aid meeting that the church treasurer needed five dollars to pay the minister's salary Sunday. If aid funds were low, an aid member would invite ladies to her home for an afternoon card party, price twenty-five cents, the hostess furnishing refreshments and usually a few members would give the prizes. Auction bridge and 63 were the most popular games.

In 1938 Annie Moholland as President was Chairman of the Centennial banquet. Aid members met, planned the menu and food lists were made out.

Sylvia with her car and Ruth Mutch to assist, solicited aid and church members and friends of both, and on June 3rd it was our part to collect the solicited food and take it to the N.E.O.P. hall where the other members were working under difficulties. The tables were set up on main floor, the kitchen was set up in the balcony, kerosene oil stoves had to be used to heat water, make coffee and keep some food hot but the stoves at homes of Lacitna Shorey, Ella Robbins, and Vesta Welch were used and foods carried hot to the hall. Soon Ruth and I were told more potatoes and fish turket were needed. We rushed potatoes to neighbors to be cooked, while Vesta Welch made up milk sauce. Sylvia rushed to Bangor for more Haddock and the extra food - reached the hall with little

Bargor

delay and all ended well.

The Grange in May of 1948 gave the Ladies Aid \$89.03 to start a building fund and they later added more to this fund. Ladies Aid has added some to this each year since. The Grange shares half the cost with aid to fill the church urns.

In 1953 our Ladies Aid voted to do our planning at aid meetings and do the aprons, knitting and all handwork at home. A committee of two to have charge of all different kinds of work, and committees are elected or appointed to have different booths at time of fair usually held in November. Our Missionary Committee informs us of Missionary work needed to be done. Then we decide which of the projects we can best do for our mission work for the year.

In 1953, the aid published the "Veazie in Review" booklet which gives a history of the town with names of many who took part in the pageant which was written and directed by Helen Hathorn Todd.

There are copies of this booklet available through the aid at 50 cents and could be interesting reading for new residents of Veazie.

The aid, through hard work and the help of many others giving time, labor and cash, built the church basement, the kitchen and tables. They bought the steel chairs. Afterwards, dishes and silver were moved from the town hall where they had been used by all in town and when all was completed, the basement was dedicated as the "Rensel Colby Room" in 1958.

After the town hall was built, we catered to private suppers with the profit adding much to our treasury. We pay church insurance, give to special projects for church, have paid to have church painted inside and outside, given to church general fund and have handled receptions. Many times to welcome new ministers.

Some of our pleasant memories are of aid going to members camps to enjoy a good dinner, short meeting, then a pleasant afternoon. One such trip was to <u>Mrs. Cushman</u>'s farm home that is beside DorotheaDix Park. After dinner out doors on picnic tables, the younger women played ball, and had sack races.

We have 1:00 p.m. desserts and some aid days serve a tea after the business meeting. We have a covered dish dinner the day of our annual election of officers in Jan. and usually a dinner in a home or picnic dinner out of doors at a members home to close our meetings before recessing for summer months. We meet in private homes and in the town hall. The aid works and plans so that we may assist in church work and carry out the work started by Ellen Brown who organized the aid to do this work.

We welcome new members and believe they could find aid work rewarding.

I could not attempt to name all the hard working women still living who have worked in and for our Ladies Aid.

We want to mention the help we have received from town folks in Veazie, Orono, Bangor, Stillwater and surrounding town who have been kind to us.

So many women have worked under Presidents (listed on separate sheet) who have made their years in office successful.

With loyalty and good friends, may our cause continue for years to come.

Sylvia Gamble

Stillwater Bangor Onono Vensie

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### Presidents Since 1930

1930	Nancy Spencer
1931 & '32	Nellie Welch
1933,'34 & '35 to June,	1 million and a second s
1935, elected in Oct.	
1936 & '37	Annie Maholland
1938 to Jan. 1939	
1939	f F 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8
1940	Sylvia Gamble
1941	Bernice Robinson
1942	Sabra Berry
1943	Thelma Blaisdell
1944	Annie Moholland
1945	Erma Gordon
1946	Sabra Berry
1947 & '48	Thelma Blaisdell
1949 & '50	Alice Harkness
1951 (4 mo's.)	Amy Calkins
1951 (8 mo's.)	Lillian Turner
1952-1953 to March	Natalie Wentworth
1 month, 23 days	Alice Hathorn
Rest of 1953	Addie Weed
1954,'55,'56	Addie Weed
1957	Ruby Meehan
1958	Alice Webster
1959	Ruby Meehan
1960,'61,'62	Addie Weed
1963	Doris Potter
1964,'65	Ruby Meehan
1966 to April '67	Gertrude Honey
8 months '67	Marjorie Jordan
1968 & '69	Ruby Meehan

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