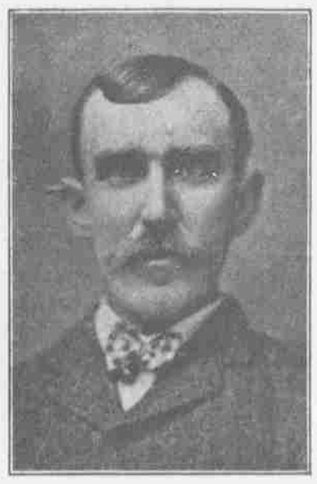
THE METROPOLIS OF THE UPPER DEERFIELD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO

facts here will show what has been done. January 1st Monroe Bridge had one subscriber and now has eight, Wilmington had two and now has 31 other villages have grown in proportion.

He has just opened a local long distance system in Stamford with a large list of subscribers and in the near future the line capacity will have to be doubled to meet its demands. He has also succeeded in placing lines over the mountains in the farming districts and has many instruments in farm houses and it will be but a short time before nearly all the farmers in this section will have telephone connection.



GEORGE M. BEMIS.

Arrangements are now being made to continue the lines 16 miles back in the Green Mountains to Glastenbury to connect with the large lumber interests in that section.

Mr. Bemis is a man full of business push and any enterprise he may connect himself with is sure to succeed.

Phebe Bishop Hicks.

"Aunt Phebe," the oldest lady resident born in Readsboro was born October 14, 1820. She is the daughter of Joy and Abagail Blaksley Bishop. Her parents came to Readsboro in the year 1780 from North Haven, Conn., by the way of marked trees as at that time there were scarcely any roads or bridges necessitating the fording of streams.

Their first necessity was a house which they built of logs, also a log barn. He next built a saw mill, the first in this section and then built a residence sawing the lumber from his own mill.

At this time there was not a school house, store or hotel in the town, few roads or bridges and no grist mill nearer than Bennington.

Mr Bishop often gave a day's work in Bennington for a bushel of corn and carried it home on horseback fording the streams, at some seasons of the year badly swollen.

He raised his own flax and wool, making it into cloth for their own clothing.

Books were few and newspapers almost unknown.

"Aunt Phebe" is the only survivor of fifteen children and led a life that we would call one of hardships for many years. She never rode on the steam cars until after 50 years of age, but since then has travelled quite extensively. She is the mother of eleven children of which four sons and two daughters are living and prosperous.

Until one and one half years ago she enjoyed excellent health, was active and could handle a team as well as any of the younger members of the family.

In 1891 she had a stroke of paralysis which totally disabled one side but left her brain perfectly clear.

She is one who has "Charity for all and malace toward none," and is called "Aunt Phebe" by the residents of the town.

AUNT PHEBE HICKS.

She showed the writer some samples of linen that she wove in 1838 and said that she wove all the cloth for the family until her children were quite large.

She married Alonzo Hicks Nov. 28 1831 at Readsboro; after forty years of married life he died February 14, 1871. In her early married life both she and her husband were hard workers. He worked a farm from 16 to 17 hours a day getting in return for his labor the munificent sum of $6.00 per month and board. And to illustrate what amount of work she did for a pittance I will describe one week's work as she told it.

"I arose at 6 a. m., and worked until 9 or 10 p. m., each day. I did two washings and ironings and got all the meals for eight in the family, helped milk and made the butter from eight cows and spun several skeins of yarn. As the family had a tailoress I assisted her all my spare time besides doing all the housework, cleaning several rooms and other necessary work. While there I had one evening off and was obliged to do extra work to make up the lost time.

"While there I learned a lesson which I never have forgotten, and that was to always set a price on my labor in advance, as when my week's work was completed my employer offered me 75c but I refused it and demanded $1.25 which I obtained after quite an argument."

"Aunt Phebe is the oldest lady born in Readsboro and it is hoped that she may be spared for years to come and her latter days be peaceful.

Post Office.

This issue, telling of Readsboro as it is today, would not be complete withouta sketch of the old Post Office building. While the outside now gives an appearance of age and past usefulness, the interior you will find, upon entering, is well equipped with 286 Lock Boxes, Lock Drawers and ordinary boxes all of the latest pattern. The amount of mail handled each day is surprising for a town of 1,200 population.

This office now handles 15 mails per day, receiving eight and sending out seven. In 1875 they had but one mail per day coming from Hoosac Tunnel by stage and previous to that it came by the same messenger from North Adams.

THE READSBORO POSTOFFICE.

This office is fourth class and handles Domestic international money orders. It has been in the present building about 50 years. The first posmaster was Jonathan Houghton followed by Mr Ranney, Joel Houghton, Michael Sanford, Merritt M Houghton, Ada M. Houghton.

The present Post Mistress is Mrs. Ada M. Bannister, who is very efficient having served for a number of years. I will say she has two qualities worthy of mention and that is her faculty of always being pleasant and quick, which acquirement you do not find in all post offices.

St. Joachim Church.

This church was established in the year 1889 by Rev Alfred Pauquet now pastor at Milton, Vt. The resident priestwas the Rev W. Plamondon who, after a few years of studies in Rome, came to give the Italians of Readsboro the benefit of his knowledge of the Italian language.

The present pastor of this young and prosperous parish is the Rev A. L. Desaulniers. Father Desaulniers is in hearty sympathy with all his people, who represent the best class of Italians many of whom were born in Austria. They are a thrifty and valuable class of people and are fast becoming Americanized, making good citizens and many owning their own homes. Some are engaged in prosperous business but the majority are employed in the large manufacturing concerns.

Father Desaulniers is fast bringing his people to a good standard of citizenship and is a persistant worker and it is hoped his pastorate may be a long and successful one.

Hon. Tyler D. Goodell.

Hon Tyler D. Goodell, the genial proprietor of the Goodell House has probably the largest acquaintance and the most friends in Bennington County of any man in Readsboro.

He has been the proprietor and manager of the above hotel since 1884, and he has thoroughly demonstrated for the past 15 years that a first class hotel could be run in Vermont without selling one drop of intoxicants in any form.

THE GOODELL HOUSE.

If you want to know what kind of a house it is ask any of the many travelers that stop at Readsboro. It is here you get as good food, as choice cooking and as fine beds as are to be found in any hotel in Bennington County. In fact if you go there once you want to go again.

Mr Goodell has been twice married. The first union was with Flora E. daughter of Jeremiah Gifford, June 25, 1871, she living but three years and six months, dying Dec. 26, 1874. The fruits of this marriage were Hallie T. and Flora E. Goodell.

His second marriage occurred Feb. 12, 1879 to Ida M. daughter of E. W. and G. M. Robertson of Readsboro. Five sons were the result of this union of which three are living.

His son Hallie is the proprietor of two general stores, one in Readsboro, and the other at Munroe Bridge. Earle has charge of the hotel livery and is a genial fellow, full of life and push. Harvey is in school except when he is catching the speckled beauties or playing ball, while Richard makes it interesting for the baby carriage and his attendant. It is a family whose members are in harmony with each other and seem to know how to get the best out of life.

Mr Goodell has been honored by the town and county in a political way, having served his town in the legislature four terms, has been assessor, Grand Juror, and last but not least was in the senate of 1900.

He is a very modest man in his manner, always fond of a good joke and one that you are glad to meet at all times.

Frank Crozier & Son.

For a picturesque location Readsboro certainly is properly placed, and nearly all travelers are anxious to carry away with them creditable views of the beautiful scenery in this section.

When I was directed to the photographic parlors of Frank Crozier & Son I knew from what I saw there that I had found a photographer who was up-to-date.

Their rooms are spacious, well furnished and all upon the ground floor. Their parlor and reception room is larger than you generally find in the cities, as well as their studio and finishing rooms.

Messrs Crozier & Son are both interesting gentlemen to meet, and have had a large experience in photography and that, with their natural taste for the business, puts them on the top round of the ladder in their line.

They make a specialty of scenic pictures and family groups, and it is well worth while to spend an hour in their rooms, looking at the large stock of views which they have on hand and they are constantly adding new ones to their stock, so that one can call at any time and find something new and interesting.

The illustrations in this article are made from artistic photographs by Crosier & Son.

BASE HITS.

Jack Dunn is playing good ball at short for McGraw.

Billy Dahlen's fielding of late has been of the sensational order.

In Boston Johnstone is considered the best umpire on the league staff.

When Fred Clarke is out of the game Hans Wagner is manager of the Pirates.

Pitcher Ed Stein, once with Brooklyn, is twirling for amateur teams in Detroit.

Frank Drill, the crack Georgetown college catcher, has joined the Brooklyn club.

President Pulliam says the Chicagos are the model organization of the National league.

The St. Louis club has corralled a pitcher named Donnelly, who comes from Amherst college.

Fred Clarke leads the Pirates in hitting. Ritchey, Wagner, Beaumont and Phillips are above the .300 mark.

Pete Chiles and Henry Reitz, once famed in the National league, are now playing with a tiny team at Fortuna, Cal.

Manager Selee of Chicago has rare luck in discovering good infielders. Last year he captured a pippin in Tinker and this season has secured one just as good in Second Base Man Evers.

TIMELY TOPICS.

The estate of the late Richard Henry Stoddard is valued at $2,000. The memory that he left is better than money.—New York World.

Rear seats on the Reliance will be at a premium, so that the visitors on the boat may be able to get a good view of Shamrock III.—Chicago News.

America may be the "land of the dollar," but the cry of distress anywhere in the world always loosens its grasp on the dollar.—Chicago Tribune.

As a rule, the young man of whom it is said that "a college education unfitted him for business" would never have been fit for it anyway.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

It is not kindness to the European peasant to invite him to come to America and when he arrives to leave him to work out his destiny in ignorance and helplessness. Until a way to get labor and land together is found it is better for all concerned that immigration be restricted more rigidly.—Philadelphia North American.

OVER THE OCEAN.

Russia has been giving the powers a glimpse of her hand in the east. There appear to be four aces and a club and also Manchuria in it.—Sioux City Journal.

The queen of Italy says she admires Americans, but her appreciative majesty cannot score a claim for originality on that ground.—Baltimore American.

Abdul Hamid is in an embarrassing position. He can fight Bulgaria all he wants to, but the powers will not permit him to whip her.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

With the diplomacy of repeating rifles and four Maxim guns the British government has just arranged with the remnants of a couple of African tribes to take over the control of about 100,000 square miles of territory.—Toledo Times.

THE ROYAL BOX.

The king of Italy is 5 feet 3 inches in height.

The sultan of Turkey requires that all state documents and papers intended for his perusal shall first pass through a careful process of disinfection.

Carmen Sylva, queen of Roumania, has written a drama vividly portraying the sorrows of a Jewess deserted by her own people and persecuted by all the world. The play is described as "tremendously dramatic."

During the czar's recent visit to Moscow he walked, with members of his family and without a guard, among his subjects and was enthusiastically received. The czar was affected to tears at the devotion of his people.

RACE PREJUDICE.

China is more civilized than Russia in its treatment of Jews.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Race prejudice, a legacy of barbarism, dies hard, but is bound to perish. It cannot live in the face of progressive civilization.—New York News.

Let it be noted to the glory of literary men that they are leaders in the battle against race prejudice. As Zola was the strongest enemy of anti-Semitism in France, so Tolstoi and Gorky are apparently the only men who dare to tell the truth about anti-Semitism in Russia.—Chicago News.

TOWN TOPICS.

The schoolteachers of the two Kansas Citys will hardly accused of being unreasonable in asking that they be as well paid as the dog catchers.—Kansas City Times.

More than 2,000,000 persons live in Manhattan and the Bronx. About 19,000 persons own all the land in these two boroughs. The number of property holders is 8,000 less than it was eight years ago.—New York World.

DROPS OF WATER.

There are twenty-five great ocean currents in the world.

The Thames river is only a little over half the length of the Hudson.

Prismatic lake, in the Yellowstone park, is the largest body of hot water in the world.