

Hon. Patrick M. Gillen Eulogized the Founders In Centennial Address

The Town of Houlton did not need to go further than its own native sons to recruit talented orators for such an historic occasion as the observance of the town's centennial in 1907.

As Hon. John B. Madigan was more than equal to the task of a welcoming message that combined brevity with eloquence and a glowing tribute to the early settlers, so was Hon. Patrick H. Gillen of Bangor, a Houlton native, supremely well qualified to deliver the principal oration of the day.

Known as "the silver tongued orator" even during his undergraduate days at Ricker, the fame of the Bangor lawyer as a gifted public speaker had spread to all corners of the state.

ELOQUENT TRIBUTE

His address, delivered August 21, 1907, was an eloquent tribute to the hardy pioneers who founded and settled his native town. It was done, in the words that described it afterwards, with feeling and deep sincerity and displayed a scholarly exactness that showed deep study and a reverence for his subject.

Because of its considerable length it is not practical to present it here in full. But there follows excerpts taken from the text which give a clue to the nature of the complete document:

"The shadows of a hundred years have fallen on the streams, and hills, and valleys which surround this beautiful shire town of the Garden of the East, since brave men of brain and brawn forsook the haunts and the pleasures of civilization and wended their way through a trackless wilderness to find a home in the bosom of the forest on the banks of the Meduxnekeag"

WHAT A CONTRAST

"Houlton 1807! . . . Houlton 1907! . . . What a contrast! "You noble and departed yeomen of New Salem, the bone and sinew of the beginning; the key which unlocked the giant resources of this great eastern section of the com-

monwealth. Let us look in upon you in the mind's eye one hundred years ago, dine with you, talk with you, work with you, gather inspiration, courage, fellowship, kindness, forgiveness, generosity, honesty and honor, all blended with that grim determination that knew no fear, that brooked no failure, that surmounted difficulties, rough, rugged and primeval."

"Capt. Joseph Houlton, your goodly wife and eight children, James, Samuel, Joseph and Henry, Sally, Polly, Lydia and Louisa; Samuel Cook, Varney Pearce, Aaron Putnam and Oliver Taylor, first settlers of the forest hamlet that has grown into this commercial town, come forth and tell us your trials and struggles with the elements of nature and your pleasures in overcoming them, Men of worth and hardihood with the same blood tingling in your veins that has made New England mistress of the vanguard of central and western civilization."

"READY TO BUILD"

"We see you on your arrival at its (Meduxnekeag) banks, tired and weary, building a fire and cooking your frugal meal, happy and courageous, ready to build amid the smoke and cinders of the fallow felled by stalwart arms, the log cabins in which to live and rear your progeny."

"Back to these men and women whose lives are now shrouded in the mists of history, all of you who can trace to them your lineage, can look with pride and point them out as monuments which began and will forever mark the onward trend of progress and civilization in this commercial center, of which they were the founders.

"Point them out as the men and women who brought into the great County of Aroostook New England civilization, the schoolhouse and the church, the integrity of the men and the refinement and delicacy of the women, and the true, sterling, unalloyed honesty that is descended to their children and their children's children"

In The Days When a Hunting Trip Was a Hunting Trip



This quintet of nimrods proudly pose beside what would be called a "king size" hunting trip in these days. The two men at the left are not identified but the others are left to right, Simon Friedman, Harry Briggs and J. A. Browne.

NUCLEUS HARDY PIONEERS

"From (the) little nucleus of hardy pioneers and others who followed from their New Salem home, has sprung up this commercial center of a growing, progressive and prosperous county endowed with every facility for the betterment of those who dwell within its borders."

"The founders who formed the nucleus of the civilization of this thriving metropolis on the banks of the Meduxnekeag believed in individual effort. They were against capital monopolizing the rights of honest endeavor, and against trade unions monopolizing the rights of

capital legitimately invested and honorably employed for the betterment of the investor and the betterment of the employer. Their action was creative. They 'cleared the forest, drained the morass' and made the site on which your town now stands 'rejoice and blossom as the rose.'

TIME TO LOOK BACKWARDS

"The time has now come when it is well for those, who now dwell in peace and plenty, with the railway and the telegraph and the telephone, and all the modern implements of husbandry and the requisites for carrying on commercial

intercourse with the outside world, to pause on the threshold of their now existing, and look backwards and draw a lesson from the past.

" Go back to the beginning. Back to the first families who peopled your town, surrounded by every difficulty, the heat of summer and the snows of winter, the unfelled forest without railroad, or telephone or telegraph, with nothing to do with but the labor of their hands guided by their brain and withal primitively in a certain sense, their association was ideal."

"They ministered to each others wants. They nursed each other in sickness, and solaced each other in

changes are marvelous and almost incomprehensible. . . ."

"As the nation has grown in science, art, literature, commercial intercourse, railroads, telegraph, telephone and population, so has your town grown along the same lines and in the same manner. And where one hundred years ago there were but three families surrounded by an unbroken wilderness, today there are thousands of men and women surrounded by beautiful homes and all the modern improvements and conveniences of the Twentieth Century,

THE SHIRE TOWN

"This beautiful town first an-

Dux Club Formed To Fill Need For A Social Center

By Mrs. Helen Atchison

One of the first organized clubs in Houlton, the Meduxnekeag Club was organized and incorporated in November 1905. The groundwork for the club had been started earlier in the year when the following document was circulated.

"In a recent canvass among the professional men of Houlton a general feeling of the need of some place where all might meet for social intercourse and amusement was expressed. Accordingly those interested in this project have formed plans for a club similar to the St. Croix Club of Calais.

AGREE TO SUPPORT

"We, the undersigned, hereby agree to become members and give our hearty support to such a club. Initiation fee to be \$25. The estimated dues to be \$12. a year." Frank M. Hume, Ora Gilpatrick, John B. Madigan, J. K. Plummer, Beecher Putnam, Michael M. Clark, Harry B. Garrison, E. L. Cleveland, William A. Braden, Albert W. Madigan, Parker M. Ward, T. V. Doherty, F. A. Peabody, H. B. Jervis, Ira G. Hersey, C. H. Pierce, George A. Gorham, Jr., L. P. Hughes P. L. Rideout, Fred W. Mann, A. T. Putnam, J. C. Rose, W. A. Martin, B. H. Putnam, L. O. Ludwig, Fred L. Putnam, Theo J. Fox, Lee W. Ervin, J. S. Wilson, Murdoch B. McKay, Walter F. Titcomb, Almon H. Fogg, M. L. Buck, Fred F. Merritt, Fleetwood Pride, Parker P. Burleigh, Thomas P. Putham, Willis R. Dresser, G. A. Hall, Calvin L. Fox, Chas. E. Williams, James H. Kidder, F. E. Hall, Wm. A. Purington, Harry R. Burleigh, G. B. Dunn, Simon Friedman, Chas. H. Fogg, Geo. W. Richards, Samuel Lane, James Archibald, Wm. C. Donnell, Everett E. Burleigh, H. H. Stetson, A. E. Clark, L. B. Stuart, Preston N. Burleigh, P. C. Newbegin, Geo. S. Gentle, John McIntyre, Llewellyn Powers, Andrew J. Saunders, Moses Burpee, J. B. McMann, Don A. H. Powers.

NAME IS CHOSEN

At the incorporation meeting,

Cleveland, Third Vice-President Roland E. Clark, Treasurer; Fred L. Putnam, Clerk; and J. K. Plummer, George C. Purington Jr., Frank M. Hume, Parker F. Burleigh, Beecher Putnam, J. C. Rose, and George A. Gorham, Jr directors.

OPENING RECEPTION

On Tuesday, January 30, 1906 the club members held an opening reception at the club house which was situated in what is now the parking lot next to the Houlton Theatre. Ladies were invited there were refreshments served and music was by Bryson's Orchestra. This gathering proved such a social success that the January Ball became an annual event on the club calendar.

Bowling was, as it still is, the major interest of the club. Bowling alleys were built at this first club house, and, in 1907, the newspapers report bowling tournaments and indicate the great interest in this activity which has continued to the present time.

Inter-club leagues in the town and county were popular and the Dux Club more than held its own on the home alleys and away. The Eastern Maine Bowling League was organized in 1922 and the Dux Club has had a good share of the trophies and awards over the years.

LEAGUE FORMED

Two members of the club, Lester Kelso and the late Charles C. Lunt were leaders in organizing this league.

Since the beginning of the club, there has always been an enthusiastic group of card players. The game of Double Pac Rummy, or Ten Card Rummy, which is still a favorite, is considered to have originated in the Dux Club Game Room.

The report of the hall of January 30, 1907 mentions that the party - goers enjoyed "bridge, whist, bowling, billiards, pool playing and social conversation" All of which is much the same 50 years later.

By 1927 with a membership restricted to 125 and a long waiting list, it was decided the time had come to expand the

Pioneers in Aroostook County!



... yes, over 50 years ago, Lemuel R. Ingraham started what is now our present business on Bangor Street . . . in the "old pumping station" on B Stream . . . over these years it has been our pleasure to see this business grow . . . to see the many, many new friends we have made in these 50 years.

It has also been a pleasure to have been a part of the growth of Houlton . . . so we do feel like PIONEERS in our type of business.

We could not let this opportunity pass, without pausing to pay tribute to the citizens of Houlton on its 150th Birthday . . . for part of these 150 years, have been OUR YEARS. So we say . . . HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HOULTON.

Some of the friends who have been Serving you . . .

- AC Products
- AP Mufflers
- Autolite Electrical
- Bonney Tools
- Briggs & Stratton Engines
- Carter Carburetors
- Clinton Engines
- Delco Batteries
- Delco Remy Ignition
- Delco Shock Absorbers
- Federal Mogul Bearings
- Fitzgerald Gaskets
- General Motors Parts
- Hyatt - New Departure - Timken
- Modac Fan Belts
- Mohawk Remanufactured Engines
- Packard Cables
- Power Products Engines
- Sealed Power Piston Rings
- Thompson Motor and Chassis Parts
- Wagner Brake
- Wico Magnetos

Serving You . . . Has Been Our Pleasure for Over 50 Years

L. R. INGRAHAM & SONS, Inc.

Automotive Parts

BANGOR STREET

HOULTON

eastern section of the com- their children's children" . . . unions monopolizing the rights of sites for carrying on commercial

sickness, and solaced each other in sorrow. They ground their wheat and corn with the same stones; they hauled them on a handsled through a bridle path to Woodstock, and amid what might seem to us now dire surroundings, they formed the beginning around which to build an ideal civilization. Such was the origin of the government under the constitution in which they lived and from the heroic struggles of those who brought it forth, they drew inspiration to struggle that you might at the end of a hundred years, under the sunlight of God, under the shadow of your religious temples, under the guidance of your institutions of learning, under the integrity of your manhood and womanhood, maintain and forever perpetuate these simple principles of charity, honesty and love of your fellow-men." . . .

ORIGIN IN HONEST TOIL

" . . . Your town had its origin in the honest toil of those who first peopled it. If, in its now existence, there are things that should be changed, change them wisely but not hastily. If, in the state or nation, there are laws which should be changed, wrongs which should be righted, change them and right them wisely so as not to destroy the good in trying to remedy the bad." . . .

"Today we meet clothed in the achievements of a departed century, each year of which has added something to the betterment of Houlton and its citizens by the labor of those who have gone before, something for the betterment of all who come in contact with its men and women who now uphold its moral, hospitable and social standard."

HAS MOVED FORWARD

"It has moved forward as the government of which it is a fractional part, has moved forward. Were we standing on August 21, 1807, eight years after the death of Washington, and looking at the surroundings of this town and the surroundings of our nation, could we believe from the lips of the prophet the future of both? "

"Houlton with its three log cabins and three families, the nation at the beginning of the nineteenth century . . . "

"The nation has grown as your town has grown, each has left behind the difficulties through which it toiled and has emerged into a new sphere of action surrounded by all the best that all the men and women of the nation and the town have thought and said and done throughout the century. The

"This beautiful town first appeared like a spectre upon the horizon, carved from the streams, the valleys and the hills, emerged forth from the struggle of its builders, who are now resting at its base, beautiful and influential, the shire town of a great and growing county, a county that is larger than the States of Rhode Island and Connecticut put together, almost as large as the State of Massachusetts, and larger than the other fifteen counties of the state, with the hem of its garments scarcely touched, its fertile valleys teeming with abundant harvests greeting the first morning sunshine on the eastern border of our state.

"Let us hope that at the end of another hundred years when other people stand here to celebrate the second century of existence of Houlton, that it will have advanced in everything that is noble, good and useful for its people and its State, as much as it has advanced from the simple beginning of 1807."

Auxiliary Has Greatly Helped Legion Post

The Chester L. Briggs Auxiliary No. 47 was organized through the persistence of the late Lieut. Hector L. Carpenter. At his suggestion his cousin, Mrs. Cora M. Carpenter Putnam called together a number of eligible women for the purpose of forming an Auxiliary Unit to the Chester L. Briggs Post No. 47.

The first meeting was held in the old Town Hall on Water street. Mrs. Putnam was chosen as presiding officer for the meeting and after the reading of the Call, a petition for a Unit was circulated and signed by ten women.

CHARTERED IN 1921

A temporary charter was secured April 26, 1921 and, on May 25, 1921, the organization was completed and the following officers elected: President, Mrs. Harriet Ebbett Hume; First Vice President, Mrs. Henrietta B. Clark; Second Vice President, Mrs. Etta M. Blake; Treasurer, Mrs. June H. Dunn; Secretary, Mrs. Cora M. Putnam; Finance chairman, Mrs. Lydia Albert.

The Auxiliary for several years had an active Drum Corps under the leadership of Perley W. Lovely. It was the first Auxiliary Fife and Drum Corps in the State and

At the incorporation meeting, November 9, 1905, it was voted to organize a corporation for the purposes expressed in the foregoing application to be known as the "Meduxnekeag Club", to adopt the proposed Constitution and By-Laws, and to elect the original signers of the articles of agreement for the formation of the club members of the corporation pending payment of the dues. The following officers were elected, John B. Madigan, President; Harry L. Putnam, First Vice-President; George B. Dunn, Second Vice President; E. L.

won the state championship at the Rockland Convention in 1935.

Local Unit members who have held state department offices are: Harriet E. Hume, Department President; Cora M. Putnam, Department Vice President; Mamie Conlogue, Department Vice President; Cora M. Putnam, Department Chaplain.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Past Presidents of the Unit have included, Mrs. Harriet E. Hume, Cora M. C. Putnam, June H. Dunn, Henrietta B. Clark, Mamie Conlogue, Lelia D. Bennett, Doris L. McKay, Hazel H. Stevens, Laura McQuade, Beatrice Helms, Myrtle Logan, Rose McIntyre, Edna Chapman, Pearl Benn, Julia Russell, Ann McDade, Mary Waller, Phylis Sewall, Gladys Goode, Amy Cone, Madelyn Ketchum, Marion Hyde, Mary McLain, Annie Barnes.

During the Department convention in 1950 the Houlton Unit, headed by Beatrice W. Helms held the largest membership in years. The officers were: Beatrice W. Helm, President; First Vice President; Daisy Taylor, Second Vice President; Mamie Conlogue, Secretary; Edna Chapman, Treasurer; Annie M. Barnes, Chaplain; Annie Seamans, Sgt.-at-Arms.

The Auxiliary deserves much praise for loyal and vital support to the Post. The work in conducting poppy sales, card parties, essay contests, serving public suppers, has resulted in an excellent financial condition of the Post. Together they own a fine American Legion and Auxiliary Home, fully equipped, on Pleasant street, in the center of the town, well located and well kept up.

Their charity work has been outstanding and it is this fine organization that established the international feature of an annual event since 1938 of observing International Night once through the year, which is well attended and looked forward to each year.

the time had come to expand facilities of the club. Consequently the present quarters in the nam-Ervin Block were re: four new alleys were built, portedly the finest in the state the time, and the member was increased to 150.

ALLEYS OFFICIALLY OPEN

On Saturday, January 28, 1950 the alleys were officially opened. The honor of rolling the first ball was given to Cecil McGin chairman of the Building Committee. On January 31, the annual Ball was the most splendid affair in years.

Early in the history of the club, the ladies were invited to have a night of their own each week, and, on the first Ladies' Night, the men were invited to cover dish supper. The occasion was so successful that over years later, Thursday is Ladies' Night and the ladies of the Dux Club are still bringing their covered dishes for the monthly ladies' supper.

FAVORITE ACTIVITY

Bowling has been the favorite activity of the women of the Meduxnekeag Club too. Since advent of the new alleys in 1950 club teams have competed through the season and a bowler tournament held in spring.

It is interesting to note that following charter members still living. Roland E. Clark, treasurer, is in Portland and F. L. Putnam, original clerk, and doch McKay and Percy Ride are in Houlton.

Past Presidents, beginning with John B. Madigan in 1906 are follows: Harry L. Putnam, Gec S. Gentle, George W. Richa Michael M. Clark, John A. Mil Albert T. Putnam, Ora Gilpatr Moses Burpee, Leith S. Bl George A. Gorham, F. A. Peab S. L. White, George A. Hall, F. Gellerson, Dr. Fred W. Mitch G. R. Ervin, Dr. E. O. Orcutt, H. McGary, James C. Madig Fred L. Putnam (1927-1928), ton Carter, W. B. Roben, By Stewart, Victor Gilpatrick, Les Baker, M. B. McKay, A. L. R ers, B. H. Brown, Joseph Rol son, A. M. Stackpole, Humph Flemington, Hazen Nevers, H old Inman, Henry Waalew James Wiggim, Waldo Hag man, A. E. Holden, James Arc bald, Wendell Grant, F Greaves, Marim C. Gentle, (19 1950), Harold Britton, Hern Estabrook, Ralph Bishop, Char Smith, Gus Porter, Leland J cette, and the present preside Victor S. Totman.