

The third home of the Salvation Army in Houlton is the one now occupied on Court street next to the Pioneer Times block. It is the former Cary building, and was long the home of the former Houlton Times. It was bought by the Army in 1920.

Salvation Army Has Long Record of Humane Service Since Coming to Houlton

For almost three quarters of a century the Salvation Army in Houlton has been a haven for the homeless, a dispenser of aid to the unfortunate and an unsung and often unappreciated benefactor to the needy.

The time is long since past when the appropriate measure of the gratitude which this community should hold for one of its more humane institutions, should have been expressed. It is not untimely to use the vehicle of the Sesqui-centennial edition of this newspaper to pay our respects, and that of the town, to an organization that has been a good neighbor for the past 37 years and a good citi-

zen for almost twice that length of time.

69 YEARS AGO

It will be 69 years on September 20, 1957 since the Salvation Army first came to Houlton to establish a Corps in this town. Their first headquarters was a leased room over the old J. A. Browne store on Main street. It was here that Capt. and Mrs. Haddy established themselves and launched the long record of humane service that has since been established by the Army here.

A month after they had gotten settled in their new home, the two pioneers in this outpost assignment were joined by the Divisional

officer, Maj. Ralph Bryant of Portland, who journeyed to Houlton to assist in getting the new post well started by staging a program of three days of special meetings.

The object of this program was to make the townspeople better acquainted with the Army, its objectives and its aims. The Aroostook Times recorded that Maj. Bryant spoke on "the rise and progress, the aims and methods and the unparalleled success of the Salvation Army."

NOT DAYS OF HARMONY

Those early days were by no means times of harmony and good will for the small coterie of followers who became the first nucleus of the Houlton Corps. Not only were their objectives misunderstood but also they encountered an unexpected hostility from churches.

To many of the townspeople, the Salvation Army had come to this town solely to stir up trouble and to lead people away from their churches. Because of this feeling, a great deal of bitterness was aroused against the Army and the path of its early days here was strewn with heartache and sacrifice.

But the Salvation Army and those dedicated and unselfish men and women who make up its membership are made of the sort of sterner stuff that enables them to rise above their critics and their detractors.

Such was the case here in the early 1890's. Capt. and Mrs. Caddy were followed in that same year by Lieut. Price and Cadet Moody, both men. These two held over into the next year with Capt. Price remaining alone, later to be succeeded by Capt. Lockyer, Capt. and Mrs. Millward, Capt. Clow and Lieut. Johnson, both men and in 1890 by Capt. White and Lieut. Gage, both women, Lieut. Williams, a man and, Lieut. McIver, later Capt. McIver, a woman.

PERSONNEL CHANGED FAST

This was the beginning of a long succession of officers of the Salvation Army who have come and gone since. In the earlier years the changes in personnel were rapid. More recently those who have been in charge have been kept here for somewhat longer periods. But, regardless of the procession of officers of varying ranks who have passed through the portals of the quarters in Houlton, there has been no change in the unending record of aid and comfort that has

been spread among the hapless and the unfortunate who have appealed to the Salvation Army for help.

When Capt. Price and Cadet Moody took over here late in 1888 and early the following year, they advertised in the Aroostook Times that — "Saturday was a Welcome Demonstration, Sunday morning a Sacrifice meeting and Sunday evening a Salvation Rally and Ho-sanna meeting."

It is uncertain if this public use of the advertising columns of his competitor irked the editor of the Aroostook Pioneer or whether he had other reasons to arouse his ire. In any event, he took issue with the Army with bitter words and berated the selectmen for permitting them to parade about the streets.

ARMY NOT DETERRED

The Army was not deterred by this tirade nor were they ever during all their time here, dissuaded from doing what they conceived to be their Christian duty, by any force or influence whatsoever or even abuse and rough treatment.

Nearby towns began to feel the impact of the Army's crusade with the editor of the Aroostook Pioneer fighting the Corps every inch of the way. Among other things, he inferred the "Salvation crowd has been or will be the means of spreading (diphtheria and measles) all over the village unless they are stopped."

Sgt. Major John Turner, now retired, has been a member of the Salvation Army since its earliest days in Houlton. He has many memories, both pleasant and unpleasant, of those trying times when the Corps was stubbornly attempting to get a foothold here to carry on their merciful work against the bitter resistance of the irate editor of the Aroostook Pioneer.

SHOOK HAND OF FOUNDER

Probably the experience he prizes most is the memory of the day he was privileged to shake the hand of Rev. William Booth, founder of The Salvation Army. The Army had been established in Woodstock for quite a few years before it came to Houlton. On March 7, 1889, only a few months after the local Corps had been organized, Rev. Booth of England accompanied by Ballington Booth, commander of the forces in the United States, visited the post in Woodstock.

A group from the Houlton Corps attended this historic meeting and

it was at that time that Mr. Turner shook the hand of the founder of The Salvation Army.

In the meantime the Pioneer's editor did not cease his abuse and verbal attacks on the Army with harsh words, epithets and accusations that were, it seems certain, considerably wilder than the actual facts.

PELTED WITH GARBAGE

Sgt. Turner remembers well an incident that occurred here June 20, 1889 on the occasion of the visit to Houlton of Major Sully from the State of Nebraska. An open air meeting was held in front of the Snell House the participants in which were pelted with rotten eggs and old garbage tossed from the roof of the hotel.

Typical of the Army's attitude in such cases, Maj. Sully is reported to have told his assailants that "I'm just as happy as a fly in a sugar bowl."

Not long after that affair, on July 3rd, the Salvationists attempted to parade the local streets. They were met with a warm reception of firecrackers and torpedoes that was warning enough the temper of the people, in holiday spirit, was not to be trifled with.

Accordingly it was decided that prudence dictated the Fourth was a day to remain in the barracks and stand guard over the precious American flag and the bass drum that, with the trumpet and the tambourine comprise the musical trade marks of the organization.

BULLET HITS DRUM

What might have happened had the plans been otherwise, cannot be guessed at but a later incident reported was of the firing of a shot while the Army was marching, the bullet passing through the drum narrowly missing the finger of the drummer.

Capt. White and Lieut. Gage, both women, were the first of their sex to be despatched alone to Houlton to take charge. They arrived here in 1890. They were replaced in that same year by Lieut. McIver, also a woman, who remained here for two years, was later promoted to Captain before being transferred.

It was in the year 1890 that occurred the incident in the business section which was officially reported in the War Cry, the Salvation Army newspaper. It involved a local newspaper editor, presumably of the Aroostook Pioneer whose wrath against the Army had not in any way abated. The report

a minor one of "blocking the corner".

CORPS COMMENDED

The publication known as The Hornet was having its day at about that time and the editor appeared to be more in sympathy with the aims and humane work of the army than at least one of his colleagues in Houlton was.

He asked in his newspaper, "What has struck the people? The open air and indoor meetings are attended by crowds unparalleled in the Army history in Houlton. The officers mean business and talk independent and right. We can pardon the noise of the drum and the band while they do good work. Keep marching along gentlemen, we need practical and earnest workers here just now."

There was a change in the chain of command for the local Salvation Army post between the years 1897 and 1905. For those eight years the Houlton Corps was taken over by the Canadian Command and the officers were appointed by and from Canadian headquarters. This situation existed until Commander Evangeline Booth was put in charge of the Salvation Army in the United States when the Corps was transferred back to the United States command.

BARRACKS UNSATISFACTORY

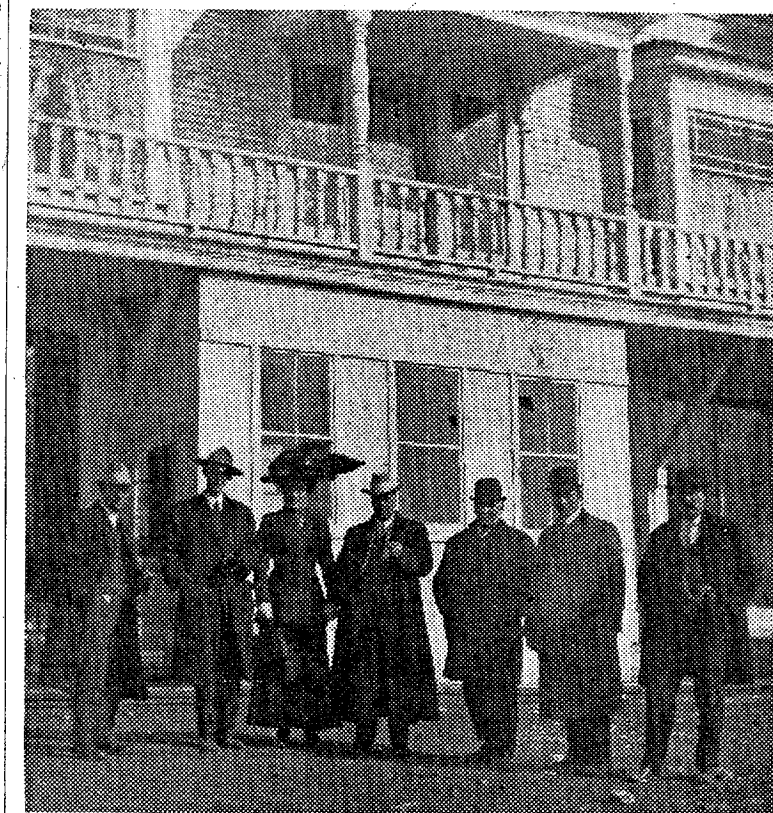
The location of the barracks became increasingly more inconvenient and unsatisfactory. Situated above the blacksmith shop, the surroundings were not only unattractive to the eye there was also the discomfort arising from the smell of the horses and the smoke from the shop below as a constant cause of annoyance. In addition, there was the menace of fire from the antiquated lighting system of kerosene lamps which would sometimes get so hot they would ignite the ceiling.

At this juncture in the Salvation Army's local history, there arrived in Houlton to take charge, an unforgettable character who became affectionately known as "the little man with the big voice" — Capt. George Farmer.

Taking one look at the cramped and unsightly quarters and with the experience of a few meetings behind him, the pint-sized Captain demanded to know in his stentorian voice that could be heard the entire length of the business section, "Do we have to put up with this sort of a place to worship?"

GOES TO WORK

Their Dance Music Was Popular



The successor of one of Houlton's earliest orchestras, that known as Robinson's, was one that took the name of its leader, J. Frank Bryson, and none before or since gained more fame than did this musical organization that performed for more than 40 years. This picture was probably taken 45 years ago in front of the Curless Hotel in Van Buren. Show here, left to right, C. B. Esters, trombone and bass viol, Harold Chadwick, cellist, Rose Donovan, piano, Joseph Marriott, violin and vocal soloist, Charles Vincent, piccolo and Albert G. Merritt, drums. Man at right is unidentified. Others not in this picture, but long members of the orchestra were Joseph E. Robinson, Emmons Robinson, John Bryson, and Oscar Wilson.

featured performer with this group.

LOCAL OFFICIALS ATTEND

Local officials were also present for the occasion. Sheriff Charles Dunn raised the American Flag over the building and Howard Webb, then chairman of the board of selectmen, gave the greetings of the town to the new Salvation Army home.

The four bowling alleys in the basement were open to the public. The rooms on the street floor were devoted mostly for the Army's meetings. The second floor was living quarters for the officer in charge while the top floor had a series of rooms which were available for a night's lodging for migratory transients temporarily down on their luck.

able conclusions that can be drawn, probably more accurately, by a close neighbor, of the invaluable worth of the Salvation Army in the field of human relations and of its inexhaustible store of human kindness that is hoarded especially to be used on the unfortunate.

HAVEN FOR TRANSIENTS

If one has not seen the thoroughness with which the Army, year after year, arranges for bed and food for migrant potato pickers whose numbers many times stretch their accommodations to the limit, one has missed an impressive object lesson in basic kindness.

Their attention to family welfare, regardless of the creed or color of the family, is bound

1921

1957

36 Years in the Baking Business

... and now, in Houlton's Sesquicentennial year, we are proud to offer our finest loaf . . .

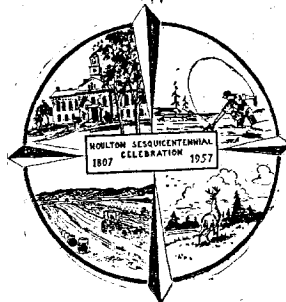
"It's Soft Twisted"



stays fresh days longer!

TINGLEY BAKING COMPANY

HOULTON



with his horse and wagon. Failing in this attempt, so the report goes, he struck at the Captain and the Lieutenant and one of the sisters, with a horse whip, one of whom he succeeded in striking.

HOME FOR 25 YEARS

In 1894 the Army moved to new quarters over the Whenman blacksmith shop, now the Hawkins shop, on Mechanic street and this place was their home for the next 25 years. As the years passed the determination of the Army to let nothing stand in the way of their work was clearly recognized by the citizens of Houlton and the opposition to them lessened and finally died out altogether.

Sgt. Maj. Turner is responsible for the story of an indignity that was perpetrated on the Corps when they were first located in their new barracks on Mechanic street. He relates that he showed up late one Saturday evening for the usual open air meeting. When he arrived he discovered that Capt. and Mrs. Smith, officers in charge at that time, and 12 other members of the Army were being marched off to jail.

They went with the Flag flying and the drum beating, so the story goes, leaving those who remained behind to carry on the services over the week-end.

The group who were jailed were released Monday morning. The charge against them had been

with an equally loud "No" and then proceeded to go to work. Just at that time the so-called Cary block, for many years the home of the Aroostook Times had become vacant. Previously a social order of that day had decided to go out of business due to a too unfriendly and two frequent interest which certain law enforcement agencies showed in their activities. They were followed by a bowling alley which had just ceased operations.

Drawing a bead on these commodious quarters, Capt. Farmer gathered a group of business men together to assist him in a drive to raise funds to purchase the building and convert it to a "Community Home" to be run by the Salvation Army. Not the least of its attractions was the excellent set of four alleys in the basement. They were a legacy from Wild Bill Fleming, then a popular Bangor prize fighter who had operated them here for a short time.

The campaign was successful and the building was purchased and officially dedicated at a two-day ceremony July 10 and 11, 1920. The dedication service was conducted by Maj. Albert Widgery, a divisional officer, of Portland. A feature of the program was a concert in the high school auditorium presented by a quintette from the New England staff band in Boston. Billy Parkins, 14 year old cornet soloist was a

since been abandoned. But the building itself has been scrupulously maintained. In 1950 it was the object of considerable improvement with the installation of a half bricked up front, a paint job, the installation of extra front windows and a general overhauling and renovating. This was done under the direction of Capt. and Mrs. J. Allen Kittle and the remodeled building was officially rededicated during the four days from June 2 to 5, 1950.

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Col. William H. Fox, provincial commander of the New England states, officiated and was supported by Sgt. Maj. and Mrs. Ernest Marshall, divisional officers for Northern New England, Maj. and Mrs. Kenneth Ayres, divisional young people's officers. The band from the Fredericton, N. B. Corps united with that of the Houlton Corps to furnish music for the occasion.

The program included an anniversary supper, which took place at 6:30 p. m. on the opening day. The following day, which was Saturday, the Army held open house for most of the afternoon and the remodeled building was open to public inspection. This was followed, in the evening, by an open air service in Market Square.

On Sunday a Holiness meeting was held at 11 in the morning. The dedication service took place at three in the afternoon and the program was concluded with a Salvation meeting at 7:30 in the evening.

Sgt. Maj. Marshall presided at the dedication service with the dedicatory address being delivered by Col. Fox.

LOCAL GREETINGS GIVEN

Greetings were extended from the Houlton Ministerial Association, from the Chamber of Commerce, the Town Council and the Army's Advisory board. It was a gala occasion and an important milestone in the long and distinguished history of the Salvation Army in this town.

How does one appraise the inexhaustible depths of the Salvation Army's service to humanity? How does one estimate the extent of its contributions to any community in which a Corps is located and carries on its great work?

Since this is not the sort of speculation the Salvation Army either expects or encourages, it is perhaps pointless to explore it. However there are some inescap-

constantly at work in the distribution of clothing, food, shelter and fuel. Their activity Christmas every year as they distribute food brings happiness many homes that might otherwise have very little of cheer. They have a program of recreation for boys and girls, they have the Guards, classes in handicraft and in music and many other areas of charitable work in general about which little is known because the Army is not given to bragging about the good it accomplishes.

AN ADVISORY BOARD

The Houlton Salvation Army Corps is fortunate to have the help of an Advisory Board which gives advice and counsel in emergencies and assists in the annual raising of funds which, aside from its collections at Christmas time and the gifts it receives, is the Army's only source of fun for its charity work.

The present board is made up as follows: Philip D. Tingle, chairman; Floyd Haskell, vice chairman; Edward C. Joy, treasurer and Humphrey Fleming, secretary. John Turner is an honorary director while the present active board is made up of Hill Ingraham, Jasper Lycette, Albert Putnam, Walter Varney, Bertram Wetmore, George Stevens, Robert Harold Rowley, George Gorham and Leo Spain.

It is understood that a fast train is to be put on the route between St. John and Boston. If this is done passengers may leave Houlton in the morning, and, connecting with the lightning train, reach Boston about 10 o'clock in the evening of the same day.—Aroostook Times, Nov. 23, 1880.

There were shipped from the railway depot in this town, from Sept. 1 to Dec. 14, 1880, 853 carloads of freight as follows: Potatoes, 447 cars, Shingles, 49, Starch, 49, Sheep, 53, Canned goods, 4, Sundries, 103, Extract, 15, Sleepers, 15, Leather, 12, Cattle, 1, Horses, 3, Cheese, 2, Bark, 1, Oats, 2 cars. All the products of this section of Aroostook.—Aroostook Times.

The County Commissioners have laid out a road in Dyer Brook a road which will materially shorten the distance between Portland and Houlton, making an easy one to travel, and one of public necessity and convenience.—Aroostook Times, Sept. 8, 1881.

EARLY HISTORY of HOULTON

(Continued from Page Two)

casins losing foothold—cast-banded, tangled up, and for loss of locomotive power, thrust down their hands to keep their heads, per chance, some way, horizontal with their heels, lest, forsooth, they should find themselves in rather a sad predicament, with their unweildy packs wagging them first one way and then the other, in their struggle to right ship and cargo.

Thus traveling twenty-five miles to the Mattawamkeag, they were all jaded out, where they sought fuel and camping. Suffering from fatigue and cold,—fingers cramped and fireworks damp, it was, with much effort they obtained a fire. Their refuge for lodging was often the snow, covered with layers of fir boughs and pillows of the same, with a fire of logs, six or eight feet long and as many inches

through, one upon another, with a forestick supported by short cuts for andirons, protected by no shelter but the forest. After partaking of their homely fare, each with his blanket wrapped around him, in real Indian style, they lay themselves down in the fond embrace of morpheus.

The writer well recollects the facetious account they gave of their rude effort upon snow shoes, and their travelling down the Mattawamkeag and Penobscot rivers on the ice, crossing the track of some wonderful wild animal where the creature leaped more than twenty feet at a bound. If, while we relate this fact, we can divest ourself of the possibility of its reaching the magnitude of a "fish story", we must suppose that the wilds of the Penobscot were once the home of the panther.