

EARLY HISTORY of HOULTON

CHAPTER SEVEN

Reprinted verbatim in the exact form in which it appeared in the Aroostook Pioneer, June 29, 1858.—Ed.

More Settlers, Marriages; a Hunting Trip

In Autumn, James U. Taylor and family removed from the Province of New Brunswick to Houlton. In the winter following, Messrs. Carr and Carl, from Kennebec, came to Houlton and built a flour mill at the dam of A. Putnam. Mr. Carr was a millwright and vocalist, who taught school evenings and was patronized by youth and adults. A primary school for the common branches was taught by Samuel Kendall, Jr., in an apartment of a large home built by Doct. S. Rice. Messrs Reed and Tilton of Kennebec came to Houlton where, for some six months, they manufactured scythe snaths, fitting the ones to the wood, for which they found a ready market at Houlton, and the province, at \$1.50 per sick.

In the summer of 1815, Joshua Putnam, 2nd, a proprietor of Houlton, and Edmund Coan, came from New Salem to reside in Houlton. At this time, with the exception of three families, the inhabitants of Houlton consisted principally of Houltons and Putnams; if not all of those names, they were connected by marriage. Dea. S. Kendall and Doct. S. Rice married sisters, the daughters of Joshua Putnam, Senr., who, with two brothers, Amos and Zial, were among the primitive inhabitants of New Salem, whose native place was Danvers, Mass.

Here, for want of dates, we depart from chronological order: Samuel Cook, Esq., married Sally Houlton; Ebenezer Warner married Polly Houlton; Isaac Smith of the Province of New Brunswick, married Lydia Houlton; Jesse

Thompson of New Salem, married Louisa, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Houlton; James Houlton married Sally Haskell of New Salem. Samuel Houlton married Sally Kendall; Joseph Houlton married Elmira Ray; Amos Putnam married Priscilla Wormwood; Stillman J. Putnam married Betsy Broad; Lysander Putnam married widow Ruth Tall; Aaron Putnam, Jr., married Maria Burleigh.

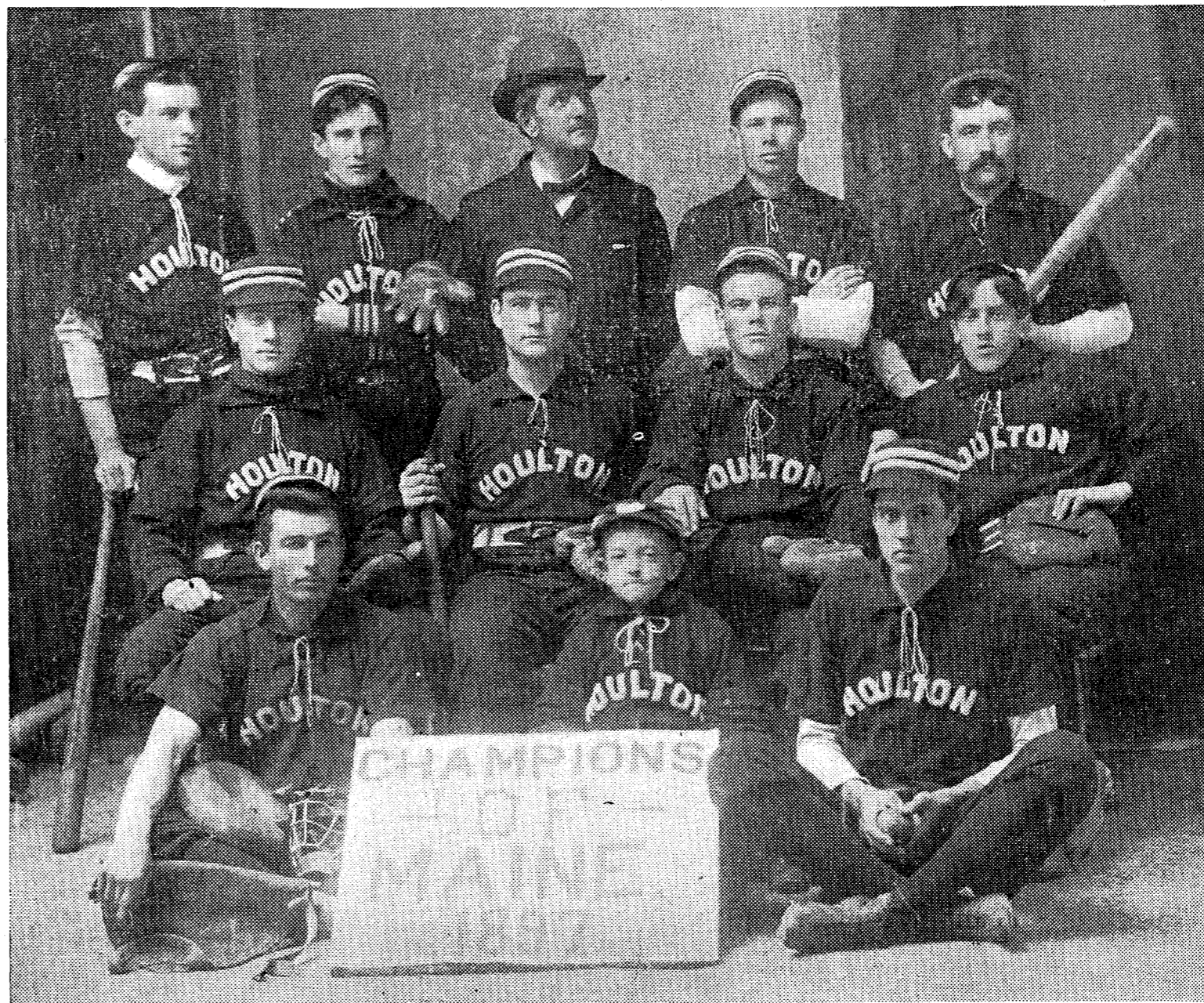
From these and other kindred marriages descended numerous offsprings to the second and third generation, who, at this day, constitute a considerable portion of the inhabitants of Houlton, though some have, as must be expected, removed to other states and territories, scattered from Minnesota to Australia, which is but a miniature of the common lot of Adam's posterity; marrying and intermingling in social alliance, as if to fulfill the destined mission of disseminating light and knowledge universal, which amicable intercourse is a preminent feature of the long prophesied millennium.

In 1816 the British and American Commissioners, Beauchet, Campbell, John and Turner, with some sixty men, came to survey the boundary line between Maine and the Province of New Brunswick, according to the treaty of 1783, commencing at the monument up the source of the St. Croix, running the line due north to the highlands which separate the waters that flow into the Atlantic, from those that flow into the St. Lawrence. Having run the line some 50 miles from the

monument, to Mars Hill, cutting an avenue sixteen feet in width, twenty miles in distance, the British commissioners, Messrs. Beauchet and Campbell, contended for Mars Hill as the said highlands, but the Messrs. Johnson and Turner nonconcurrent with them. They erected a temporary observatory on Park's hill, on the east line of Houlton, where with their theodolites and instruments, they measured distances and altitudes. The men were equipped with axes, knives, canteens and knapsacks. Houlton being their place of rendezvous, having an excellent violinist and the choicest liquors, which at that time seemed indispensable to festive entertainments; they occasionally met the people of Houlton in friendly, social pastime, whose kind attentions were reciprocated with cordial salutations by our limited circle.

A young Indian invited a youth of Houlton to accompany him on a hunting expedition. The young man, pleased with this son of the forest, accepted the invitation, delighted as he was with the prospect of such a novel excursion, with spirits buoyant and with the anticipation of inexperienced youth, on a beautiful September morning, started off, with his Indian friend, for the hunt, with the entire equipage for the expedition, with gun, hatchet, blankets, knives and provisions. After a hard day's tramp, with packs nearly as weighty as themselves, they came to a stream which, for a distance was still water, where they found it expedient to procure some water craft to proceed. Finding it difficult to construct a raft which they could propel upstream, and far from the growth of the birch, the bark of which canoes are made, the next morning, after a night's lodging upon the bank, listening to the music of the owls and mosquitoes, with which, however, the Indian too familiar, lost no sleep, they found a large spruce which they felled and with Indian application and skill, they peeled off the bark

Famous Houlton Baseball Team, State Champions 60 Years Ago



This team had a memorable year, winding up a successful season by also winning the state championship. Members are, top row, left to right, Arnold Toland, Percy L. Rideout, Beecher Munson, manager, Guy Clough, John McCluskey; second row, Olin Rideout, Charles McCluskey, Bidde Iott, Herbert Glidden; third row, Joe Cyr, Horace Munson, son of Beecher Munson, and George Mooers.

Two Made The Big Time, One Refused



teeth cut whenever they take hold. Those that were taken in this manner and well bled, the Indians sometimes brought to Houlton where they found a ready market. The tail of a large fat beaver is esteemed a luxury for an epicure.

Sometimes they found families consisting of large and small beaver, after catching the old ones, they would break their houses and take the little ones, bring them to Houlton and give

Fire In 1890 Proved Value Of Equipment

The effectiveness of the fire equipment that was purchased by the town after the succession of blazes in the late seventies and early eighties combined to cause damage estimated at \$400,000, was proved to be a valuable investment ten years later.

The sounding of an alarm at about six on the morning of February 4, 1890, caused the firemen to respond promptly and to have several lengths of hose laid from the hydrants in a very short time, forcing water on the burning buildings.

The fire had its origin in the rear of the Flagg building and spread rapidly to the Tenney store adjoining and to the S. H. Powers furniture building. All of these buildings were soon a mass of flames. But it was not for long. Under the effective management of the firemen, the fire was soon brought under control. But not, however, until the buildings were burned out inside; leaving only the outside shed standing.

SEVERAL TENANTS

The second and third stories of the Flagg building were occupied by numerous tenants, who saved but little of their furniture and household gods. Miss Benson, milliner, lost in damage to her stock, about \$300, insured. Olie B. Buzzell, saloon, loss on stock about \$200, no insurance.

The Flagg block was owned by Miss Isabel Smith and valued at \$2,500, insured for, \$1,000. C. P. Tenney's loss on building was about \$1,500, insured for \$1,000. S. H. Powers' loss on stock and building, about \$2,000, insured for \$1,200.

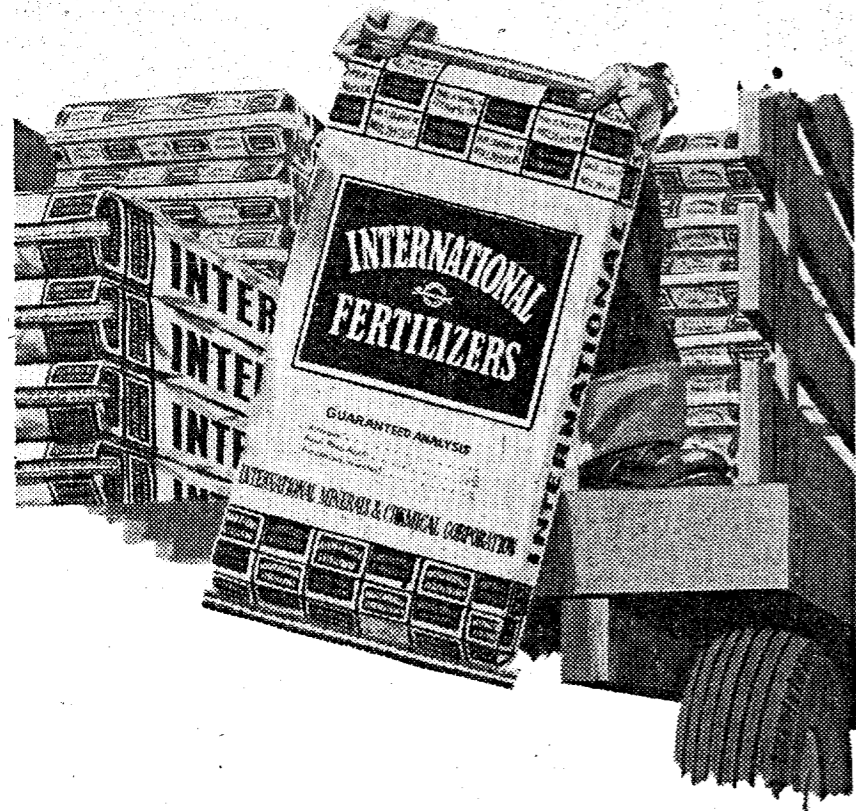
The firemen with a will and a purpose nobly confined the fire to the premises where it originated thereby preventing its spread east or west, and probably saved the town from an even more serious calamity.

them to boys to domesticate and sport with; but the poor captives made so much ado and pined so for their dams, the owners were glad to release them and trust them to their native element.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOWN OF HOULTON

THE TOWN OF HOULTON

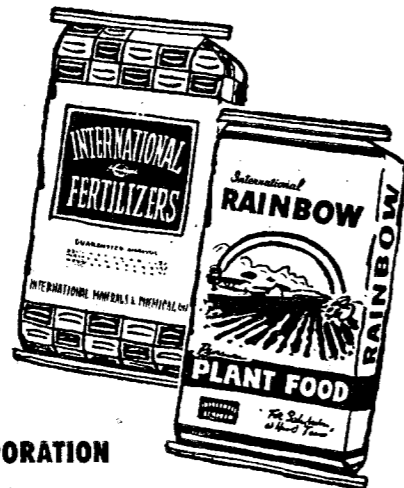
On Its 150th Anniversary



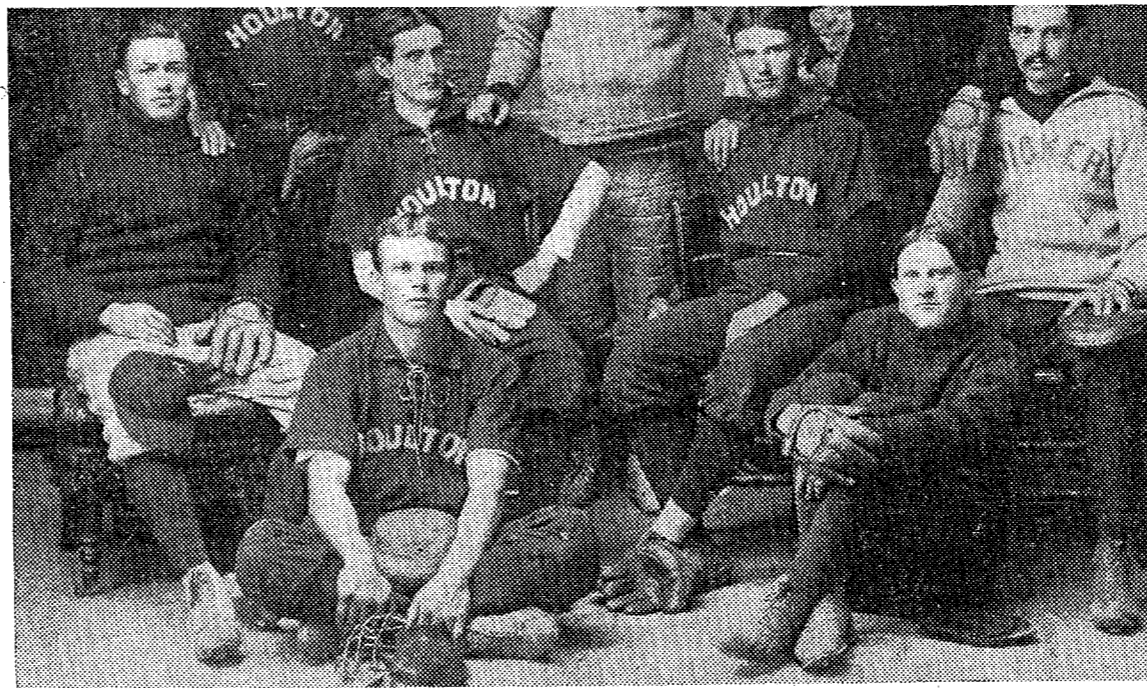
We at International are happy to have had a part in the Industrial and Community life of HOULTON, during so many years of her history.

"For Satisfaction at Harvest Time"

Rainbow premium plant food and all International Fertilizers in popular, recommended grades have that big difference in quality that makes a big difference in the results you get... "For Satisfaction at Harvest Time."



INTERNATIONAL MINERALS & CHEMICAL CORPORATION
BANGOR ROAD HOULTON, MAINE



This Houlton Town Team of 1902 helped launch two big league careers. Both Bob Vail center row, left, then of Hodgdon, pitcher, and Biddo Iott, front row, left, catcher, went on to the fastest baseball company, the major leagues. The two brothers, Olin and Percy L. Rideout, second and third from left, middle row, are the only surviving members. Others are, back row, left, Charles McCluskey, Andy Hasey, an import from down state to play for the season, and Jed Dickison. Middle row, left to right, is Vail, Perce and Olin Rideout and George Mooers of Ashland. At the left of Biddo Iott in the front row, is James Cox, a former Ricker star and later a prominent Bangor doctor. Cox starred at Bowdoin for four years and turned a deaf ear to several big league offers.

some fifteen feet in length, which, with cedar splits and spruce roots for thread, they constructed a thing which carried them over the smooth rough waters to their hunting ground. Before they reached this place their miniature bark became leaky, from the shoal places, over which they hauled it, and their only remedy was to bail it out with a dipper, which was no desirable pastime while haunted by the flies and mosquitoes.

In fact, this inexperienced youth, whose fair complexion and tender skin was rare bait for those bloodthirsty legion to feast upon, was probably not aware that while on this anticipated tour of pleasure he would be games for such a pestilential storm of insignificants who neither give nor ask for quarter.

While paddling their rough shapeless bark over the still water, which mirror-like reflected the various colors of the trestled foliage, pendant from the bending tops, which marked the irregular windings of the stream, they proceeded slowly and stealthily, lest they should frighten the game, both on the land and the water, for the Indian was so expert with a gun that he would shoot game on the land, ducks on the wing or the water, while on his seat in that allish canoe.

The manner of taking the beaver is with the utmost cunning and caution. They set and fashion the traps under water, near their only ingress and egress from their houses. While setting them they are careful not to speak a word except to whisper, lest they be heard, and be as expeditious as possible, lest they be seen, and where they have trodden or handled anything they wash or wet with water, to prevent their scenting them, for if they discover any of the marks of the approach of man to their houses, they forsake them at once.

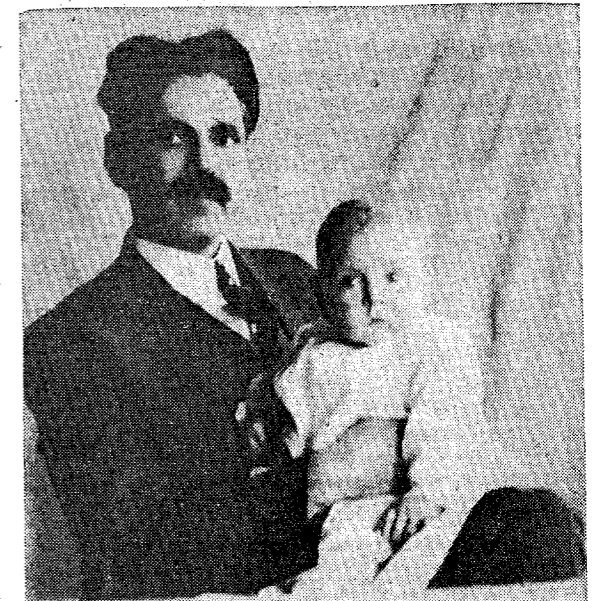
Beaver separate in families by pairs, leaving their homestead for new and favorable locations, for if they remain together until they become numerous and crowded families they, like certain bipeds, grow churlish and quarrelsome, and not infrequently leave marks of violence which they inflict upon each other. Upon separating for new homes they seek places where, by building a dam they can flow a large surface for their sphere of operations and security; building their houses of sticks, (the barks of which is their food) about a foot long, and from one to five inches through, which they lay in a mixture of mud and grass; the Indians say their houses are done by their large

flat tails: When their houses are finished, being of various sizes, they resemble the fork of a hay-cock. The inside is divided into upper and lower apartments, in order to suit the convenience of those amphibious animals, at high or low water always making their entrance under water, for safety from the approach of the enemies from above.

Their flesh is excellent, when well prepared, but they are seldom taken in a manner to bleed them properly; they are so exceedingly shy, they are rarely caught except in steel traps, which are so fastened as to drown them. When, in the winter, the Indians find their dams, they cut holes and drain off the water. Finding their dams broken, they venture out nights, by families, on the ice to seek asylum from their marauders. The Indians, anticipating their removal, lie in ambush for them, but when thus assaulted, they often prove desperate antagonists, for if some are shot dead, others finding they can make no escape, will turn upon their pursuers, as there are generally a family or more together, they fight a bloody battle. The Indians get badly wounded when they slip and fall on the ice, as they sometimes do in their encounter for their broad incision

nouses and take the little ones, glad to release them and trust bring them to Houlton and give them to their native element.

NOW ... as THEN ...



C. S. OSGOOD & SON
EXPERT
WATCHMAKERS, JEWELERS AND
ENGRAVERS
HOULTON, MAINE
HONEST WORK AND FAIR PRICES.
WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE

... build on a firm foundation ...

... we are all familiar with the ceremony known as "laying the cornerstone", the first step in successful construction. Building a successful business ... or life ... also begins with a cornerstone.

OVER 100 YEARS AGO ...

Our cornerstone was laid ... when Hudson Osgood started "peddling" in the Houlton area ... after him came James K. Osgood ... then Charles S. Osgood. We've gone a long way ... and most of our success ... can be attributed to people who have had faith in our business.

For this we wish to pause, at this time for celebrating ... and add our best wishes.

Cedric S. Osgood.

Congratulations
HOULTON
on this your
150th Birthday

BEST WISHES TO THE HOULTON PIONEER
TIMES ON THIS YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

OSGOOD'S

— JEWELRY —
MARKET SQUARE HOULTON