

Houlton Did Its Patriotic Bit During World War One

The Town of Houlton will yield nothing to any other town of its size in the measure of its contributions to the combined national effort that went into the successful prosecution of World War One.

As a community, Houlton was fortunate in the scant number of its casualties. As a community, too, it did its fair share in the manifold activities which attended the successful conduct of the civilian war effort.

Principal military contingent to march to war from Houlton was Company L. of the Maine National Guard. This unit had been a popular aggregation in the shire town for many years. It was organized February 15, 1894, and its first complement of men and officers was 54.

HUME FIRST CAPTAIN.

Frank M. Hume became the first captain of the company with Olin Smith as his first lieutenant and John Tenney as second lieutenant. Three years later Capt. Hume was promoted to major in command of the first battalion of

the second regiment and Lieut. Smith succeeded to command. Later, Frank A. Peabody was commander of the company, to be followed by Ralph H. Whitney who resigned in 1909.

At the outbreak of World War One, Elson A. Hosford had succeeded to command of the company and Frank M. Hume had become a colonel and was commander of the 103rd Regiment of which Company L. was a part. It was in this order of command that the company took the oath of allegiance on April 14, 1917.

ENLISTMENTS INCREASE

At the first threat of war, the rolls of Company L. had been increased by enlistments. Many high school and Ricker students rushed to join the colors. Some had previously impetuously joined up with the Canadian Overseas units before this country was drawn into the conflict.

Some of those who had crossed the line to Woodstock to enlist, later transferred their military service back to their own country. Others remained in the Canadian Army until the end of the war.

Company L. was formally mustered into the service of the government April 30, 1917. It should be remembered, however, that many of the company's membership were not unfamiliar with army service. The company had

A Welcome to the Boys Back from France In 1919



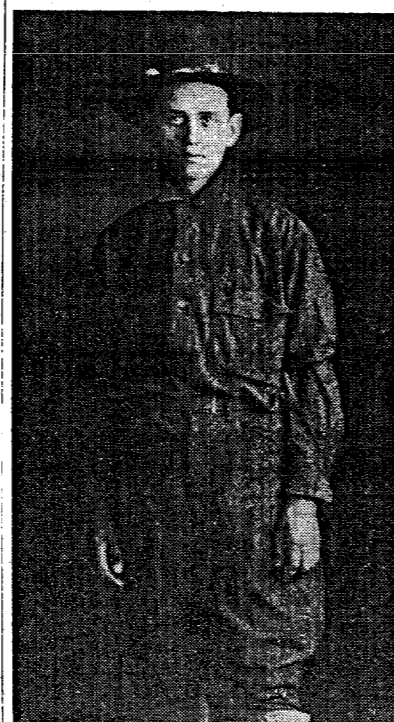
This four cornered arch was set up at the east end of Market Square in November, 1919 as part of Houlton's final celebration of World War One.

served for several months the preceding year on the Mexican border.

Following the mustering in ceremony, the armory on Water street was a busy place as the company personnel prepared for their departure from Houlton and ultimate embarkation overseas. When the time came there was much waving of flags, martial music and speeches as the boys of Company L. were escorted by their

fellow townsmen to the railroad station. Automobile horns and sirens, locomotive whistles and the ringing of bells, added to the din to create almost a holiday atmosphere for what was actually a rather grim occasion.

For Whom the Post Was Named



important wartime event. The ex-president delivered what was called "an inspiring address" in the Heywood Opera House before a capacity audience and also appeared before the student bodies of Houlton High School and Ricker. At both schools he went through the ordeal of shaking hands with every student.

WAR EFFORT SOON FELT

Evidence of the impact of the war effort was immediate. The Bangor and Aroostook Railroad, beset with a shortage of coal with which to fire their locomotives, was obliged to invoke a curtailment of their service. On the other side of the ledger was the stimulus to the productive capacity of the Houlton Woolen Mill, occupying the quarters now held by the recently closed plywood mill.

A contemporary newspaper article revealed that the mill "is now being rushed to capacity and has to work overtime to keep up with their orders. The company received last week an order for 5,000 blankets for the U. S. Army, which is some order. The cloth being turned out by this mill for heavy work pants is meeting with the approval of manufacturers who are taking all of the product that can be secured from the

Former President Taft Visited Houlton in 1917



The ex-president was escorted through town by Judge Frederick A. Powers, at his left. The car was driven by former superintendent of schools George J. Cumming. Standing in the rear of the open car are B. B. McIntyre and John Q. Adams, then commander of the Addison P. Russell Post, GAR.

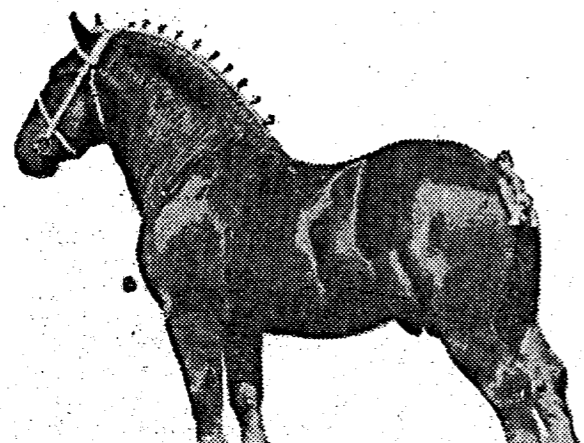
Barbecuing The Fatted "Peace Ox"



The late "Vic" Holdaway is reported to have stayed awake nights awaiting the signal to start barbecuing the Peace Ox, which he is shown tending here on a spit set up in Market Square, as a part of the celebration of the termination of hostilities in World War One.

Compliments of
SUSAN'S
SANDWICH SHOP

100 YEARS AGO

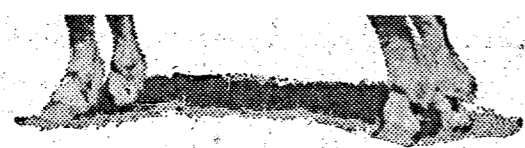


HORSE POWER

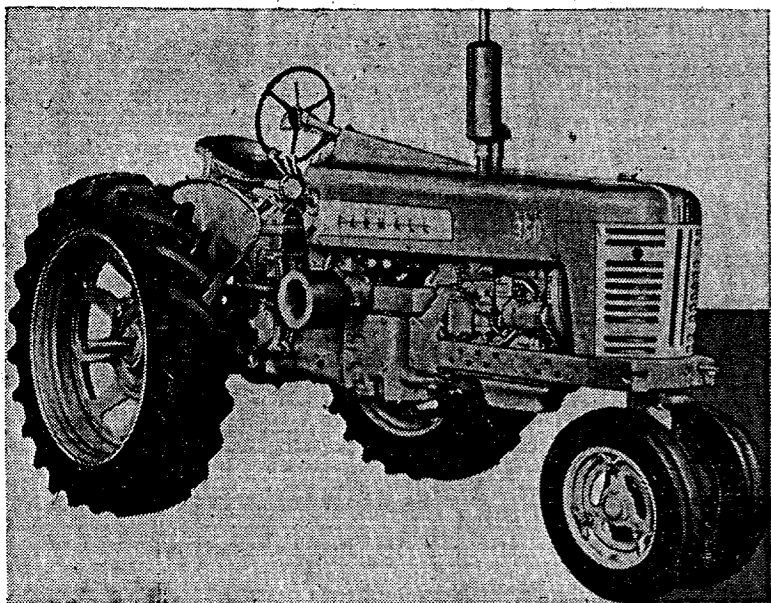
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HORSE Power



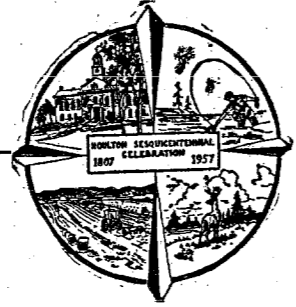
TODAY...



THE FARMER'S HORSE POWER IS UNDER THE HOOD OF HIS International Harvester Tractor

WE PAUSE AT THIS TIME TO EXTEND OUR GREETINGS TO THE RESIDENTS of HOULTON on their 150th Birthday

... AND TO THE HOULTON PIONEER TIMES ON THEIR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY.



FARM IMPLEMENT CO.

— INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER DEALER —
 BANGOR STREET HOULTON
 — WOODROW W. PEABODY —



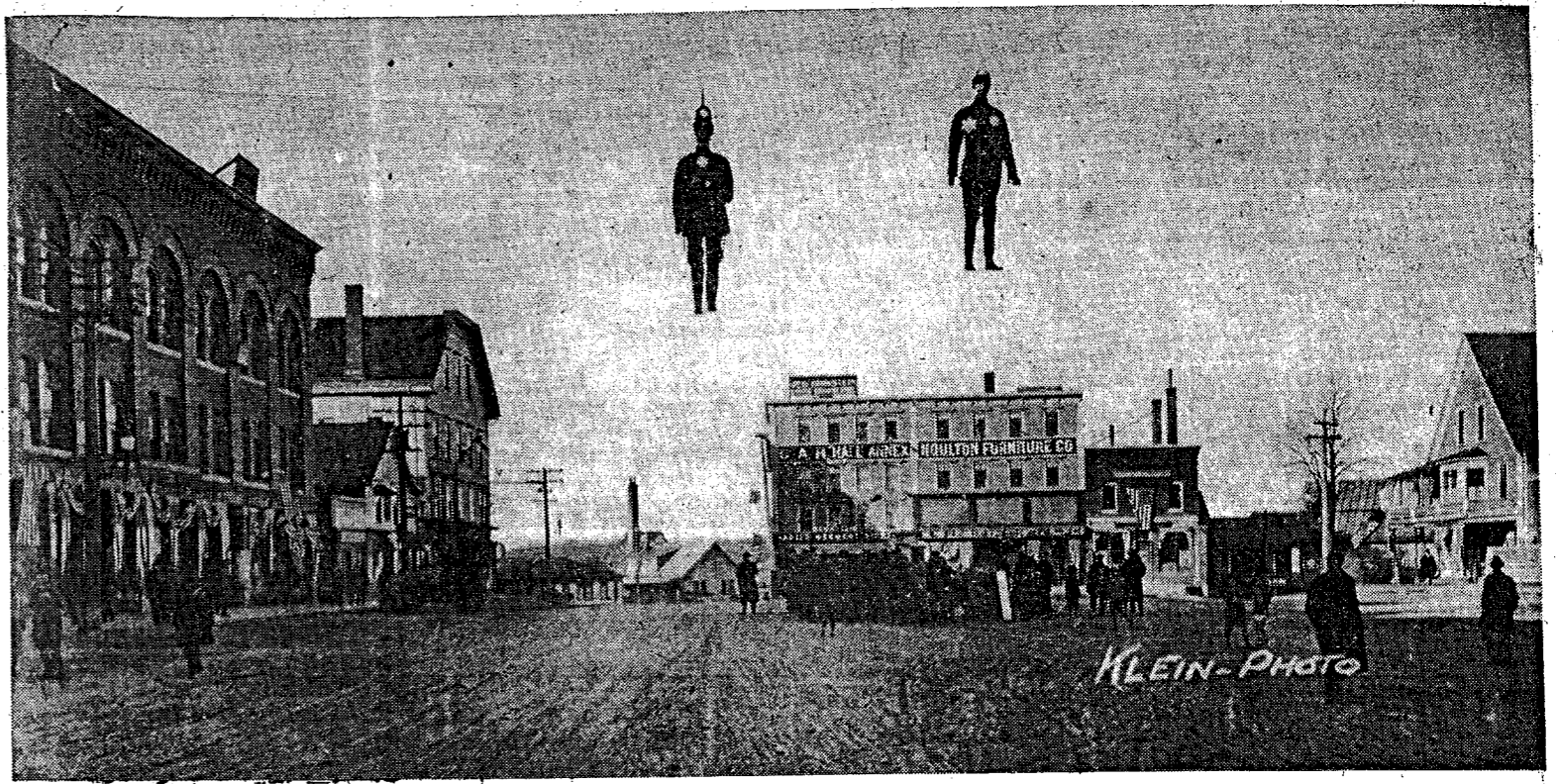
CHESTER L. BRIGGS
 As he looked just before departing with Company L. for active service in World War One.

HELD IN HIGHEST ESTEEM
 The members of this military unit were held in high esteem in the community and there was great pride among the people as these young men gallantly marched away to war. Said the Houlton Times in its next issue, "It is a fine looking body of men that Capt. Hosford leads to do its part in our present war. They may never have to cross seas, possibly will see no serious trouble, but no one knows what is ahead of them. They go at their country's call to do what is assigned to them to do, and we all know that each and every one of them will do his part to the honor of his country and the community he represents."
 It was at this patriotic juncture in the town's history that it received its first and only visit from

that can be secured from the Houlton mill. A new washer

ket Square, as a part of the celebration of the termination of hostilities in World War One. One.

Houlton Shows Its Scorn For the Kaiser and His Son



Soon after sunup, on the day after the Armistice, the effigies of Kaiser Wilhelm and the Crown Prince were seen dangling from a wire stretched from the Rice Block to the Mansur Block. Crowds swarmed through the town during the day to witness the festivities and see the two Hohenzollerns burned to the wire when darkness came.



OUR BEST WISHES...

TO THE RESIDENTS OF HOULTON on this your 150th BIRTHDAY...

AND TO THE HOULTON PIONEER TIMES... GOOD LUCK ON YOUR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE...

BROADWAY RECORD SHOP

Mechanic Street HOULTON



a president of the United States. William Howard Taft paid a memorable call on this community on May 16, 1917. It was an with a capacity of 1,500 yards, was installed last week and other improved machinery is being installed as fast as it can be secured."

Houlton took its place in the procession of communities across the nation who were doing their utmost to further the war effort. Recruiting meetings were held and many were effective in swelling the rolls of enlistees from this area.

EIGHTEEN MEN ENLIST
 A typical example was this one, described in one of the local newspapers as follows: "Eighteen young men came to the front in Houlton to join the colors after a rousing open-air meeting in Monument Park last night. Houlton has done herself proud in enlistments since the war began, but last night's enthusiasm topped her record when Col. Frank M. Hume of the 2nd Maine Infantry, himself a Houlton man, made the appeal to the sons of his own town to come forward and fill his regiment to war strength."

The Southern Aroostook Chapter, American Red Cross was organized here April 6, 1917 and soon got into high gear in meshing its activities with that of the nation's effort. Bandages, socks and sweaters came off the production line of local women and were promptly shipped away to be of service to our fighting forces. Watson Hall, the Meduxnekeag club rooms and other facilities were pressed into service as the women maintained daily work schedules.

There was also a group known as the Junior volunteers which invaded Aroostook County at this time and did their share of work on farms in the area. The members of this organization were boys too young to enlist for active service and who were mobilized from all parts of the country to step into the shoes of those who had gone forth to do battle with the forces of the Kaiser.

FIRST DRAFTEES
 A registration for the draft went into effect with an immediacy that revealed the machinery must have been set up some time before. Those within the draft age brackets were summon-

ed to the old armory on Water street to sign up for future military service in case they were needed. The first contingent to leave Houlton took their departure Sept. 20, 1917.

Of this historic event the Aroostook Pioneer was moved to comment that "... 86 brave and stalwart young men from the first Aroostook district set their faces toward the life that has to do with active war, as they left for Camp Devens at Ayer, Mass. Houlton citizens gave the men a most patriotic demonstration. It was the first big draft to leave Aroostook County and the shire town paid homage in their honor..."

The procession was led by the Houlton band and also escorted by the townspeople, especially the sweethearts, sisters and mothers of the men, all the way to the railroad station. It was a tearful but inspiring departure. Short exercises were conducted by Hon. Charles P. Barnes. Prayer was offered by Rev. T. P. Williams and there was a brief address by Hon. R. W. Shaw. It was this same R. W. Shaw who was to officiate in a like ceremony some 25