

In 1833 there was a great revival and more than one hundred were baptized and were added to the church. This year the Baptists held a protracted meeting under the direction of Rev. H. Hawes for twelve days in succession and as a result of it more than fifty were baptized and united with the church and more than twenty with the Methodists.

In 1834 the Baptists began the erection of the present church edifice which was completed in 1835 and dedicated September 2, 1835. The next day the pews were sold, but not for enough to pay the cost of building. This left a debt on the building committee which it took many years to pay, but was finally settled up to the satisfaction of all.

This town boasts of having neither a doctor or a lawyer among its citizens. We have but one minister who, however, is not in charge of any church. Among the early preachers here was Benjamin D. Small, who supplied the church a number of years. From 1840 to 1870 the Rev. David Stuart supplied the desk the most of the time. Since then we have had no regular preaching.

The Methodists formed a class in 1831 at West Etna with Captain Isaac Pierce as class leader. There are none who belonged to the class alive now, who united with it when it started; all or nearly all of those early members having passed away. If any of them are still living they would be very aged, none are living in the town however.

In 1823 was established the first post office in Etna and Rev. Daniel McMaster appointed postmaster. He held the office until 1825, when he resigned and Daniel T. Crabtree was appointed in his place. In 1839 Stephen Hasty was appointed. In 1841 Anson C. Moseley became postmaster and held the office until Ellis Friend was appointed in 1853. The others who have served as postmasters are Asa M. Sylvester, Samuel Hasty, Augustus Mosley, Judson E. Friend, Henry C. Friend, Joseph E. Friend and the present incumbent, Alva L. Sylvester.

Another post office was established at Etna Center in 1845 with Timothy B. Carter postmaster.

In 1871 another post office at South Etna was established. Miss Marth Pitcher was appointed postmistress, but resigned in 1873 and Thomas A. King was appointed. Both post offices have been discontinued

and the patrons are now served by the rural delivery.

Of the history of the southern part of town, there seems to be very meager information. The writer being unable to learn of anyone who can tell anything about it, but of personal knowledge, knows that the first store was built in 1866 by H. H. Wheeler and was burned more than thirty-five years ago.

From all that can be ascertained, Etna Center was settled by people of a younger generation than those first settlers at the north, with two exceptions; that of Rev. Edward Carter before mentioned, and John Blackden. The latter located on a lot in beyond the place now owned by Harry Graves and known as the Turner place.

Timothy Carter came with his family from Stetson and located at the four corners, at the Center, on the place now owned by his daughter, Sadie Carter, who is now 82 years of age. She is a very interesting person to meet and talk with, but somewhat infirm bodily. Of the family, consisting of father and mother and seven children, all have passed away, leaving her the only survivor. Despite her bodily infirmities she cared for a flock of chickens last year and proposed to do the same this year.

At what time Allen Carter, father of Timothy, came is not known, presumably after the arrival of his son. Two brothers of the latter also located on the same road near him; John G. Carter and Allen Carter. Another who located at the Center was John Turner.

Originally the town was six miles square. In 1826 a little more than one-third of the west side was taken off to help make Plymouth. In 1824 the town voted to build the floating bridge which was in that part set off to make Plymouth. In making the bridge the town got in debt about \$1200.00 in 1825. There was no provision made by the Legislature for the payment of this debt and Etna had it all to pay. It was out of the question at that time for Etna to raise money and no one seemed to know what was to be done. Those who were the most forward to have the new town made were in the part set off for Plymouth.

When the question as to the town debt was in the Legislature, they reported that there were no town debts to be paid, when they knew that but a few days before the town was divided there had been given orders

for \$1200 for finishing the bridge.

The then proprietor of the town, Hon. William Gray of Boston, Mass. said he would take up those orders if the town would vote to allow him to pay his highway tax in that way. The town voted to raise \$2500.00 road tax, and as he had to pay about one half of all the taxes, he took up those orders and had the money credited to his road tax. The inhabitants had to pay therefore a double highway tax for that year, but in this way paid what was then considered a heavy debt quite easily, but there was considerable feeling about it against some of the leading ones in Plymouth.

Allow me now to indulge in a little of personal reminiscences. In 1854 the railroad which runs through the town was, of course, in construction and they used in the work a little engine called "The Little Etna". One day, my father, being away from home, Mother with us children were outdoor when we heard a terrible screeching, apparently in the woods, which were not far from the house. Thinking it might be some savage animal, Mother hastened us all into the house and upon Father's return home, she told him about the terrible cries of some animal we had heard. A little later, however, they learned that it was the whistle of that little engine, a big noise, but a little machine.

During the construction of the railroad the men built shanties near their work to live in and had their families along with them while they were working in this section. They had their shanties in what is now Henry C. Friend's pasture, near where the clump of cedars is. One day my aunt went to make a call on the women there, taking me along with her. I was very much frightened by their language, they being of Irish nationality, and clung closely to Auntie's side. A little baby of two or three months of age, however, belonging to one of the women, was quite an attraction and I ventured a few steps toward it, but my courage left me and I felt relieved when we started for home.

The railroad was finished in 1855 as far as Etna bog, and the first train passed over it July 4, 1855.

As early as 1821 this town had a "rural mail" delivery, for this year a mail route was established between Bangor and Milburn, now Skowhegan, by the way of Hampden. A post-office was established at Carmel and it

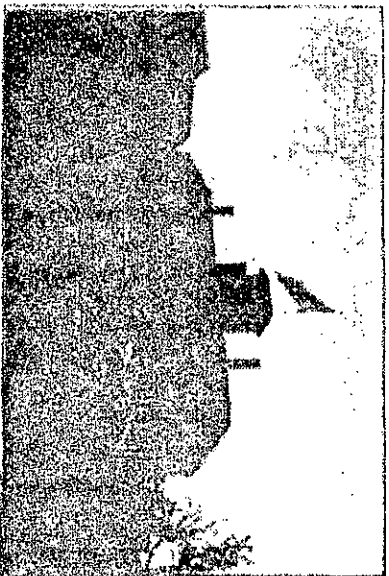
was the only one between Hampden and Newport. The mail was carried on horseback once a week each way. It usually took one and one-half days to go through. The mail carrier carried the newspapers and delivered them to the subscribers on the route, for which the subscribers paid him one cent for each paper delivered. At that time the Bangor Weekly Register was the only paper known in these parts and when a carrier got near a house where the paper was taken, he would blow a horn attached to his saddle when someone would appear and take the paper. Those who lived a little distance from the road would make a large mortise in a rail of the fence, with a cover and he would put the paper into this box, shut the cover and pass on.

About the year 1876 Daniel Buswell, Jr. conceived the idea of having a camp meeting of Spiritualists, he being an ardent Spiritualist.

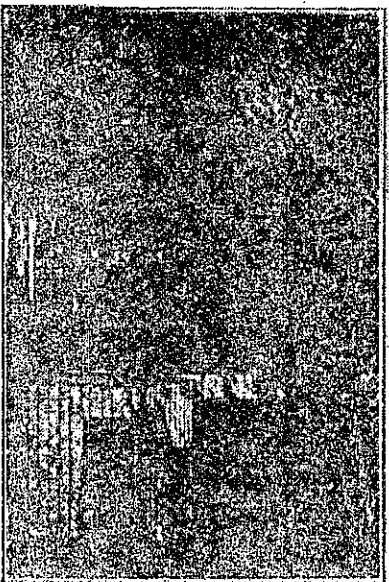
Previous to this time the Advents had held camp meetings in a grove on land owned by him, under a large canvas tent; he therefore issued a call for the people to assemble for that purpose. He hired the large tent and the speakers. J. W. Colville was hired and gratuitous work was given by several others. This was held in the fall of 1876 the first Spiritual camp meeting at Etna. Mr. Buswell fenced the grounds, built the boarding house, hall, and confectionery tent. In 1880 the pavilion (which the association has so kindly tendered, together with their beautiful grounds for our use today) was built by subscription and cost about \$500.00 and has a seating capacity of more than one thousand. They then began the improvement of the grounds by laying out streets and building cottages. The building of cottages by individuals has continued until now it is estimated there are about one hundred and twenty-five, some of which are quite luxurious homes and are occupied the entire year.

About 1888 Capt. Welcome remodeled an old farm house, making the hotel now owned by the Association. In 1900, the Association purchased the grounds including the beautiful groves, Camp Etna Hotel, and farm. In the beautiful spot called Barrett Square rests the ashes of Mrs. Mary S. Vanderbilt, also those of little Xilia Barrett, a little child of Harrison D. Barrett, one of their former noted speakers, now deceased.

In 1820, Phineas Friend built a grist mill near the place where Elishu Withee's house now stands. An over shot wheel was the power employed to run this mill, the water being taken from the brook above and conveyed



CAMP ESTATE FRONT

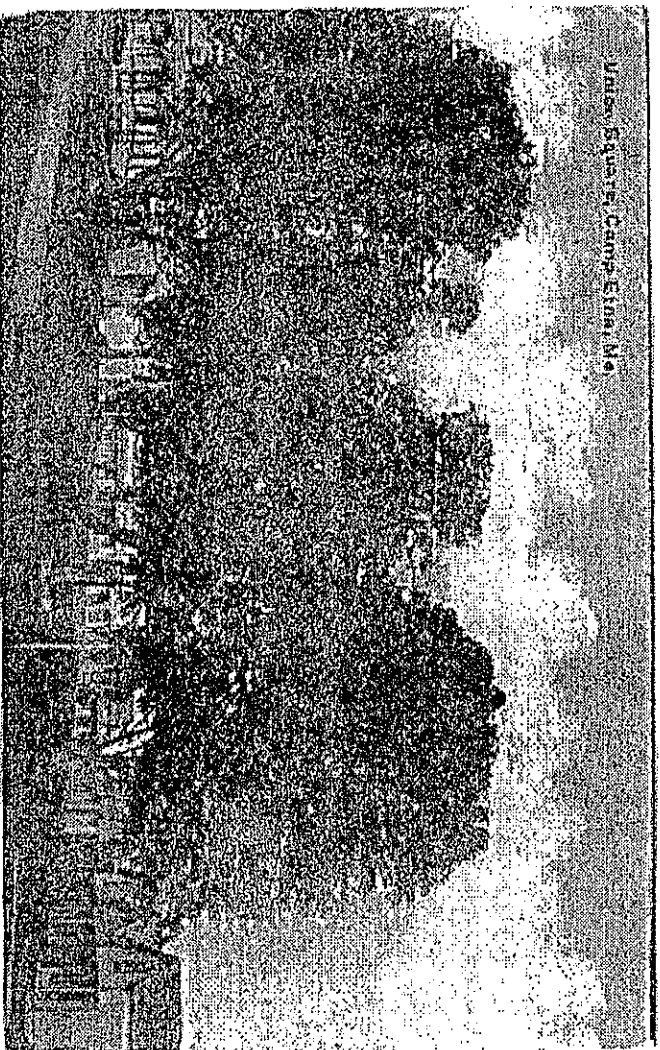


Main Street from Lower Gate to H. R. Track, Camp Base

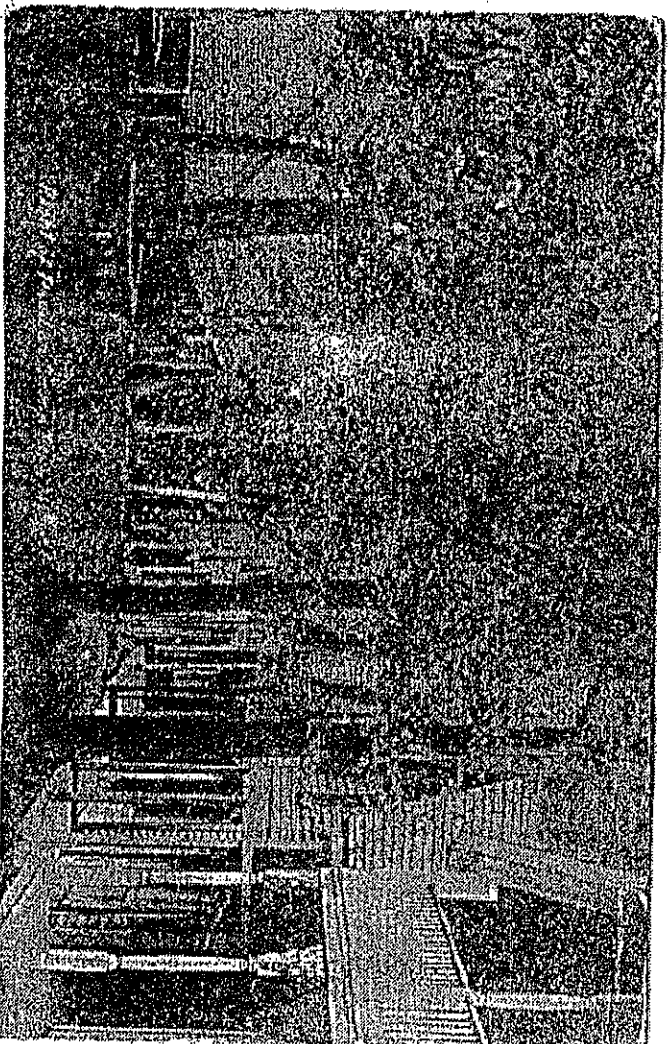




Right of Pavilion, Camp Sina



View of Camp Sina



to the wheel in a spout made of pine logs.

There is no good water power in the town, but there have been built two saw mills, both burned, and three shingle mills, one of which was burned and two taken down. There is no water power used for any purpose in Etna today.

In Sept. 1876, Mount Etna Grange, P. of H. was instituted by Amasa K. Walker of Hampden with 26 charter members, the writer being one of them.

There are two halls, one owned by the P. of H., the other by the I. O. O. F. The Grange hall was built by a stock company. It contained a hall in the upper part with several stores beneath. After a time it became the property of one of the stock holders, William R. Locke. In 1906 the Grange purchased it of his heirs and repaired and painted it and remodeled the interior making of the stores a commodious dining room and kitchen and a room given over to the use of the selectmen of the town.

About the year 1874 another stock company built a cheese factory in which cheese was made for several years, but finally concluded they were not making a paying business of it. This building was finally purchased by the Odd Fellows, who repaired and remodeled it to suit their needs and is the beautiful and convenient building now occupied by that order. They have been very generous, opening its doors to the public free of charge, on very many occasions.

In the war of 1861 to 1865, Etna was not unmindful of her country's needs and according to all available records sent 109 of her boys to the front line. About thirty of these brave boys lost their lives in their country's service.

About 1880 a G. A. R. Post was organized with charter members, but the reaper "Time" has done his work and there remains in town today only four who were ever members of this order or of those who went to the defense of their country. These are Noah W. Edminister, Goff M. Blackden, H. Hutchings, and Mr. Johnson, the latter moving into town a few years ago. There was also until very recently a W. R. C. auxiliary to the G. A. R.

There are three general stores in town. C.B. Friend and Son have a

store near the railroad station. They also do a flourishing business in grain and feed. The Withee Bros. store is on the hill at the corner on the "Trunk Line" road. The Farmers Union also runs a store near the latter place conducted by Alva L. Sylvester. Both these stores also have a large trade in feeds and grain.

D. Whiting and Son have a receiving station for milk, designated "The Creamery", situated near the railroad to which the farmers of Etna and other towns carry their milk. From here it is loaded into a car, which is left for it every other day and shipped to Boston.

About one year ago, Mr. Ralph Lord of Bucksport came to Etna and opened up a cooper shop, near the R.R. Station. During the summer he made a large number of apple barrels, about 10,000, which were bought and taken away by the apple growers as fast as they were made. He also made and shipped three car loads, about 1400, cracker barrels, one car load or five hundred and ten, skin drums, besides fifty thousand hoops.

The first town meeting was held on April 3, 1820, at the house of Josiah Hopkins. There being no town officers any Justice of the Peace for the County was empowered, upon application therefore, to issue a warrant, directed to a freehold inhabitant of a town, requiring him to notify and warn the inhabitants thereof to meet at such time and place as should be appointed in said warrant, for the choice of such officers as towns were required by law to choose and appoint at their annual town meetings. I do not know who the petitioners were, but John Godfrey, a Justice of the Peace for Penobscot County, issued the warrant to Benjamin Friend, the first settler. The following is a copy of that warrant and the record of that meeting:

"To Benjamin Friend, a freeholder and one of the principle inhabitants (L.S.) of the town of Etna in the County of Penobscot.

Greetings: You are required in the name of the State of Maine to notify and warn the freeholders and other inhabitants of the said Town of Etna qualified to vote in town meeting, viz: such as pay to one single tax besides the poll or polls a sum equal to two thirds of a single poll tax, to meet at the dwelling house of Josiah Hopkins in said town on the third day of April next at ten of the clock in the forenoon to vote on the following articles, viz:

- Article 1 To choose a Moderator to govern said meetings.
- Article 2. To choose a Town Clerk.
- Article 3. To choose three or more discreet persons as Selectmen.
- Article 4. To choose three or more discreet persons as assessors of notes.
- Article 5. To choose three or more discreet persons as overseers, of the poor.
- Article 6. To choose a Town Treasurer.
- Article 7. To choose one or more Constables.
- Article 8. To choose a collector of taxes.
- Article 9. To choose surveyors of highways.
- Article 10. To choose surveyors of Lumber.
- Article 11. To choose Fielddrivers and Fence viewers.
- Article 12. To choose Tything men and all other town officers.

You are also required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town being twenty one years of age and upwards excepting paupers, persons under guardianship, and Indians not taxed, having their residence in said town three months next preceding Monday of said meeting to meet at the time and place afore said to give in their votes for Governor of said State and a Senator for the County of Penobscot and a Representative of the said towns of Etna, Dixmont, Newport, Stetson, Carmel and Hermon, to represent the said County and the said Towns in the Legislature of the said State for the year ensuing. Given under my hand and seal this seventeenth day of March A. D. eighteen hundred and twenty.

John Godfrey, Jus. Peace

Return of Warrant &c.

Pursuant to the within warrant I have summoned and notified the inhabitants of said town qualified as therein expresses to assemble at the time and place and for the purposes within mentioned.

Benjamin Friend, freeholder.

Attest: George Hopkins, T. C.

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Etna held at the dwelling house of Josiah Hopkins in said town on Monday April the third at ten of the clock in the forenoon pursuant to the foregoing warrant voted on the following articles, viz:

- Article 1. To choose a Moderator to govern said meeting.
Voted Solomon Harding
2. To choose a Town Clerk.
Sworn Voted George Hopkins.
3. To choose three or more discreet persons for Selectmen. Voted Samuel Abbott for the first, Nesbet Karmon 2, Dennis Dennett 3.
Sworn
4. To choose three or more discreet persons for assessors of taxes.
Sworn Voted that the selectmen shall assess the tax.
5. To choose three or more suitable persons as overseers of the poor.
Voted that the selectmen shall be overseers of the poor.
6. To choose a Town Treasurer.
Sworn Voted Asa Sylvester.
7. To choose one or more Constables.
Sworn Voted Solomon Josslyn.
8. To choose a Collector of Taxes.
Sworn Solomon Josslyn Collector, he collects for four and a half percent.
Schubad Allen, bondsman for the collector.
9. To choose surveyors of highways.
Sworn Voted Samuel Abbott as one of the surveyors, on the highway in the E. part of town.
Voted Dennis Dennett do.
Voted John Dunton do.
Voted Enoch Josslyn do. in the W. Part of the town.
Voted Moses Clark do.
10. To choose surveyors of lumber.
Sworn Voted Solomon Josslyn.