



Inventory of the Bartlett Collection (Collection #53)

The Brick Store Museum
Kennebunk, Maine

Compiled by J. Butler, Manuscript Curator
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Physical Description:

This small collection of ledgers and business materials generated by the store and lumber, wood, and grain business of the Bartlett family of Kennebunk was salvaged by the donors from the Bartlett house on Route 1 just before it was burned down to make way for a development.

The house was in disrepair and had been abandoned for many years. The ledgers were extremely dirty and had already been through a fire. They are in general in very poor condition, but were saved on the chance that they will be of interest to a researcher some day.

They are stored in three full boxes and one half box. Their acquisition number is 85.30.1-17.

Box and Folder Breakdown:

Box 1:

Ledger, 1880 – 1888

Ledger, 1886 – 1888

Ledger, 1888 – 1890

Box 2:

Ledger, 1892

Ledger, 1893 – 1896

Ledger, 1903 – 1907

Ledger, 1907 – 1911

Box 3:

Ledger, 1910 – 1911

Ledger, no date

Ledger, no date

Ledger, 1887 – 1892

Ledger, no date

Box 4:

Check book, Ocean National Bank, two dated 1935

Check book, Ocean National Bank, 1946 – 1950

Folder 1: Notebook with accounts of sales (of lumber?), no date

Folder 2: A few miscellaneous papers from R. W. Bartlett's wood, lumber, and grain business and store, 1930s and 1940s. Includes applications for membership in Arundel Grange for Franklin M. Leach and Franklin M. Leach, Jr., North Kennebunkport, 1941.

The collection also includes a copy of *New England Magazine* which is in Misc. Box (0) #9, Folder 4.

THE BARTLETT HOMESTEAD

As far as I know the photo opposite is the only one in existence of the old Bartlett homestead, located on Route 1 on the east side of the Kennebunk River. When the house was built I have not yet determined; however, J. H. Bartlett was living there in 1856. A sawmill is not mentioned at this time, although there was one operating across the road in 1872. Very likely this was run by his son William.

J. H. Bartlett ran a store, far right in the picture, on the same location that Bob has his auctions today. William Bartlett and Thomas Gilpatric, who later owned a store on Depot Street, were partners at one time. When the partnership dissolved, William devoted his entire time to the store and sawmill across the street.

Bill was thought to be taciturn, with no sense of humor. He bore a striking resemblance to Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria, and we kids held him in great awe. Only once did I ever hear his laugh. That was one time when a small boy stood in front of the store counter with Bill scowling at him. Suddenly the boy looked up and said "I ain't scared of you!" That tickled Bill so that he told the boy to fill his pocket.

During the sugar shortage, Bill let it be known that he had some, so I walked over to get the pound he allowed each family. As I passed him the six cents for the pound, he said "You've got a brother and sister who like sugar on their oatmeal, haven't you? Then you better take another pound." (I'm older than you thought I was.)

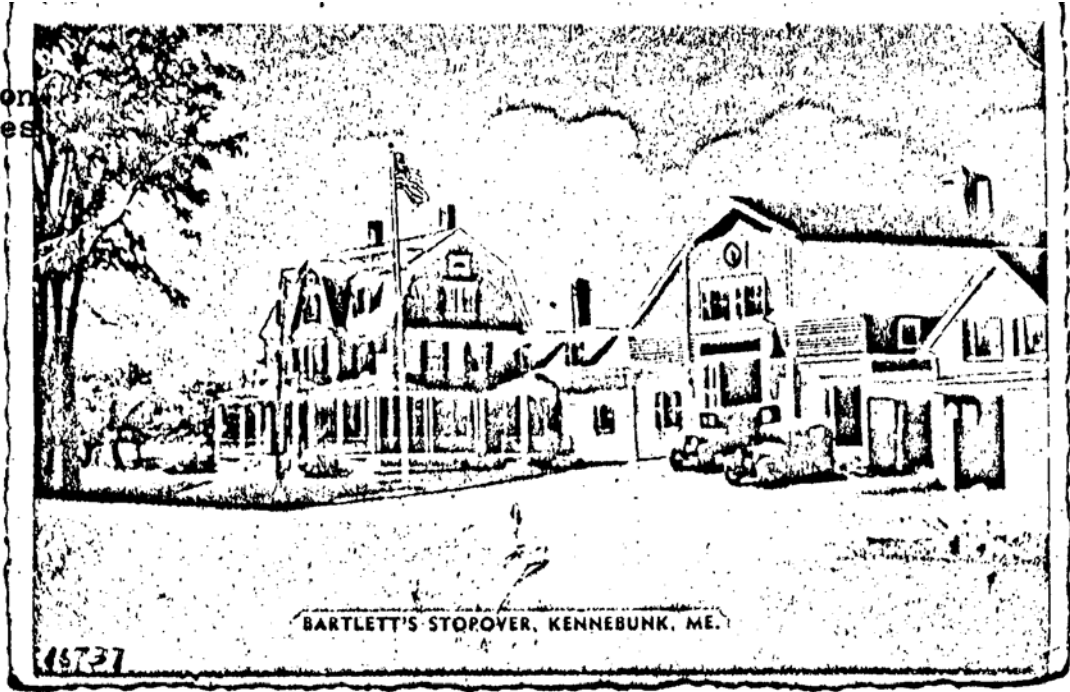
In the 1890's William Barry was commissioned to design an addition to the old home. The main house only was altered, the ell and barn remained the same. These two, with the old store, were destroyed by fire about 1925 and were rebuilt as you see them today. No one would ever guess that the first floor of the above house is still part of the new one. Even the front door is the same one that was put in over one hundred years ago.

Upon the death of Bill, the property passed to his grandson Robert, son of Archie, who died many years ago.

Today, it seems that the old-time, small-town tycoons are a relic of the past. They started at the bottom and by hard work and long hours built small fortunes.



Ken Joy, OUR OF THE PAST



BARTLETT'S STOPOVER
 Portland St., Kennebunk, Me.
 MODERN ROOMS and CABINS
 Heated, Hot and Cold Water
 \$1.00 Per Person
 Free Garage Breakfast Served
 Mrs. R. W. Bartlett

POST CARD
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sun shone brightly, but a thick cloud rested upon the summit. When near the top this cloud enveloped them and they encountered a fierce wind. Making their way with difficulty they were within twenty rods of shelter when Elizabeth Bourne became exhausted. In the mist they were unaware of their nearness to the Summit House and Mr. Bourne assisted his niece a short way down the path looking for some protection. About twenty rods farther down she fell and died without recovering consciousness. It was supposed some weakness of the heart existed and that her death was due to the exhaustion of the climb and buffeting of the wind. She was a great favorite and the whole town was saddened by her death. A monument to her memory planned for erection on the mountain, now stands in Hope Cemetery, Kennebunk.

Littlefield's Mills

Littlefield's Mills, now known as Bartlett's, was one of the early settlements of the Town. It is situated on the Kennebunk River. Grants were obtained from both Wells and Arundel but the larger settlement was on the Wells side. The Littlefields were descendants of Edmund. Later, the Kimballs were the pioneer settlers. On the Wells side were the Garrison houses. Richard Kimball opened the first grocery store. Nathaniel the first public house. He was also the first postmaster, May, 1776.

William Bartlett was born November 3, 1845, son of John and Dolly (Fogg) Bartlett. At the age of 16 he bought one-half interest in the sawmill on the southwestern side of Portland Street, just below the bridge. A little later he became sole owner and for 70 years manufactured boards, timber and slabs and operated a country store. The mill became known as Bartlett's. The three-lane cement road to Biddeford beyond is now called Bartlett's Boulevard. Mr. Bartlett died November 24, 1931, aged 86 years. He is succeeded by his grandson, Robert Bartlett.

HISTORY OF ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT SITE

A Description of the Site of the Present Electric Light Plant and Its Surroundings, West Corner of Stoner and Main Street, Kennebunk

The date when the first dam was built on or near the pres-

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