

Jennifer Sylvester, co-chairman of the 150th Anniversary Celebration Committee, being a very persistent person, tried to get me to wear a period costume and present a history of my great grandfather, Francis Barnes, for the 150th Anniversary Celebration. As some of you may know, Francis came to Houlton with his father in September, 1862, bought what we now know as the Barnes Homestead Farm, where I live, that fall, and lived there basically until his death, July 16, 1893. Francis is not the easiest person to learn much about. He died before any of his grandchildren were born, including my father and his brothers and sister. He was survived by his wife and three children, the oldest of whom was my Aunt Ann, and the second was my grandfather, Charles P. Barnes. Aunt Ann died in 1941 when I was 7 and my grandfather died in 1951 at the age of 82 years. He was only about 22 years old when his father died. I have a number of Francis's diaries, including 1862, 3 and 4, which are at the farm, and a number of later diaries which are at my cottage at East Grand Lake and which I was not able to look at in preparing this article. The lives of other members of his family are better documented, including "Grandmother's Story", which he wrote and included in his book on the history of Houlton, and it also appears in another history of Houlton.

"Grandmother" was Christiana Wormwood Putnam, one of Houlton's first settlers and the mother of Francis's wife, Isa Angeline Putnam. Francis took down her story at a time when she was probably in her 90's and it relates her trip to Houlton at the age of about 9. She was born in 1804 in Alfred, ME, and was 7 years old when her father, Samuel Wormwood, a skilled carpenter and homebuilder, decided to come to Houlton in 1812. He traveled by road as far north as Albion, ME, where the road ended, and through the woods on a rough road to Old Town, and from Old Town he was guided by an Indian up the Penobscot and Mattawamkeag Rivers and the Baskahegan Stream to Danforth. He had considerable difficulty communicating with his guide and was led to understand that it was only a short distance through the woods to Houlton - which he understood to mean a mile or so - and he wandered in the wilderness for 8 days, ran out of food and was virtually starving when he finally arrived at the residence of Dr. Rice, near where my law office is now located.

He survived the trip and the next year he called for his wife and 2 daughters, Sally, age 3, and Christiana, age 9, to repeat the trip. This was all during the War of 1812, British warships were in the ports, and the trackless forest and streams were the only route. They were accompanied by Mr. Samuel Cook, one of the very first settlers in Houlton, who had with him a

young fellow named Jo. Goodenough. The road still ended in Albion and from there they traveled on a rough path grubbed out of the woods to Old Town and from there they traveled in 2 canoes along with a third man named William Spencer. They were 11 days between Old Town and Danforth. They continued north of Danforth to what has been known as the "Indian Carrying Place" in Weston where they traveled on foot to East Grand Lake, up the lake to the thoroughfare, through the thoroughfare and North Lake to another carrying place, through the woods to the nearest Eel River Lake and from thence down the Eel River to the St. John River, 12 miles below Woodstock, and up the St. John 6 miles, where they were met by Christiana's father and taken to Houlton on horseback where they stayed briefly at the residence of Aaron Putnam, one of the first settlers. The Wormwoods bought 30 acres of land from Mr. Putnam, built a house, being the second framed house in the settlement, and Christiana later married Aaron's son, Amos Putnam, and they were the parents of 17 children, one of whom, Isa Angeline, born in 1838, married Francis Barnes, as we shall see.

In the 1840's Royal Crafts Spaulding and his wife, Jerusha, had moved to Houlton as Baptist Missionaries. Rev. Spaulding later became the first pastor of the First Baptist Church.

Francis Barnes was born in Brunswick, ME, April 27, 1840, in the same house where Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin. His parents were Phinehas Barnes, a lawyer, and Ann Judson (Butler) Barnes, a beautiful woman and the daughter of Rev. John Butler, who was a well known Baptist minister and led a church, among others, in Winthrop, ME, and founded a number of schools. Phinehas was born in Orland, Maine, near Bucksport, approximately 8 months after the death of his father, also named Phinehas Barnes, a fisherman, who drowned. His mother, Sarah (Frye) Barnes, moved to Portland after Phinehas was born, found work there, and sent Phinehas to Phillips Andover Academy in Massachusetts and later to Bowdoin College. Francis's father was a banker, a professor at Waterville College (now Colby College), editor of 2 different newspapers, was a member of one the first recorded ascents of Mt. Katahdin, and read law and was admitted to the Maine Bar when he lived in Waterville, and he practiced law for many years in Portland, where he died in 1871. Francis was educated at Harvard, Class of 1922, where he was injured, as I understand it, in a fall down the steps of Widener Library.

I have his 1862 diary in which he recorded a trip in May to Boston and other parts of Massachusetts seeking medical

attention, and during which he visited his brother (the 3rd Phinehas) in New York by steamer where he also met their father and they went aboard some famous ships in New York, including the Great Eastern and the Scotia. He spent the rest of May and June between Boston and North Hampton, MA, seeing doctors and taking treatments, including Turkish baths. After a couple of weeks of this, on June 13, 1862, he concluded that his doctor was "... a great humbug" and accused him of quackery. He found a new doctor in late June who advised him to "... go to farming".

He decided to return to Portland and before leaving he called on an old family friend whom his parents had known in Portland, General Robert and Mrs. Anderson, at Round Hill. A year earlier, then Major Anderson, was in charge at Ft. Sumter, SC, when it was fired on by General Beauregard, who was, I believe, Major Anderson's former student at West Point, the act which signaled the commencement of the Civil War on April 12, 1861. Francis recorded this interview in detail on May 28, 1862. His report of this interview is being typed and will be made available at a later time, perhaps as a footnote to this article.

On May 29, 1862, Francis left Northhampton, MA, at 8:38 a.m., arrived in Boston at 2:30 p.m., and in Portland at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the same day.

From this point his diary is silent until Tuesday, September 9, 1862, when he and his father left Portland for Houlton, Aroostook County, where "... we had bargained for a farm for me to live on." They left Portland by the steamer New England at 5:00 p.m. "Had a most magnificent night. Saw the full moon rise out of a smooth sea. Did not go to bed until 10:00."

In the morning (September 10) we "... found ourselves off Machias Bay. Got to Eastport soon after breakfast. ... the trip across the bay [to St. Andrews] was beautiful. We climbed up to the top of the steamboat and had a view that cannot be surpassed. We left St. Andrews in the cars at 3:00 p.m. and arrived in Houlton at 11:00 p.m., having been 30 hours from Portland." On Thursday they drove to Carys Mills and "... saw Mr. Sincock, the owner of our place (to be). He came to town after dinner and the transfer was made and we have the farm for \$2100.00. Thought by everyone to be a good bargain." The family sold off part of the farm - two parcels - and the remaining 97 acres, more or less, has been in the Barnes family ever since - 151 years. I have owned it since 1984.

The rest of the month was spent with several hired men digging out the cellar and installing stone walls and masonry. As late as mid-October, masons were building a chimney. Hauled stones from fields, including blasting boulders, and got ready to plow and ready for spring planting including stump removal and hauling and spreading manure and lime. He had hired a mason, a carpenter, and other laborers.

They also did a great deal of carpentry work, including brick foundation walls, partitions, door and window frames and building a rollway into the cellar, building closets, plastering walls, hauling and installing new shingles. On Sundays he attended church and Sunday School and on Monday, October 20, 1862, Francis called "... at Mr. Spaulding's and had a pleasant conversation."

The new roof was completed in late October after a good deal of rain, some snow, and very stiff frosts. He sowed grass seed, built a compost pile, and a hot bed for spring seedlings. On Friday, November 7, 1862, he went to the academy (later Ricker) where he "... found a good school" and was "introduced to Miss Putnam, the assistant." During the rest of November he worked with the carpenters and workmen installing "birch finish" inside the house and other chores and lumbering and cutting firewood. On Sunday, November 16, he "walked down from church with Miss Putnam"

The next day he cut his foot chopping wood, went to see Dr. Mayo who "... put on a plaster". Then he was driven "... over to Miss Putnam's where I spent the afternoon very pleasantly"

After resting a day or so to "... ease my foot. Hardly any feeling in the foot and hope it will not trouble me much ..." and on Thursday he "... had horse harnessed up after dinner and went over to see Miss Putnam. Had a pleasant call." And that evening "... invited Miss Putnam to ride home in my wagon which she gladly accepted."

Two days later he "... called again on Miss Putnam. Met her again the next Monday and again on Wednesday ... went home with Miss Putnam." Thursday, November 27 - Thanksgiving "Spent the evening with Miss Putnam. Told her of my love for her. She wants 'til Saturday night before answering." On Saturday he took a drive to Woodstock, came back in the afternoon and "In evening called on Miss Putnam. Her answer 'you have my hand and all with it.' Had a most pleasant time with her. The Lord has been good

to me. May his blessing attend us both, to guard and sanctify." The next day - Sunday - went to church and "Wrote long letter to Father and Mother about Isa and myself. Went to prayer meeting and "... went home with Isa - had a pleasant chat together." Every day for the next week the diary entries end with the entry "Went home with Isa" and in one "gave her my picture." and another "stayed with her to tea and until nearly 10 p.m."

Francis's diary during this period is mostly filled with work details, farming and other terse notes and I have extracted most of the personal family details.

After returning to Portland for "Christmas and a few weeks" during which there are no diary entries, he returned to Houlton with his mother and brother Willy (Wilfred) in April, 1863, and on April 14 they moved into the farm, after spending a few nights in the village, bought 2 cows and a calf and 2 4 year old colts which "... make the stock to commence on." On Thursday, April 16, "... brought Isa out to spend afternoon with mother ... [and] in evening carried Isa back again. Hope I shall not do it many times more."

Finally on Friday, May 10, 1863, this entry: "I stayed with Isa 'til after 9:00 conferred with her about being married next week." And on Wednesday, May 14: "Saw Mr. Spaulding and engaged him to marry Isa and I (sic) next Tuesday."

And at last on Tuesday, May 19, 1863, they were married at Mrs. Putnam's (Christiana's) house. "All the family came. Mr. Spaulding came a little late. We were married at half past 11. ... stayed a little while. Mother and Willy drove off first and we all soon after. 4 teams came with us. At night had a serenade from friends ... Somebody fired guns under the window."

During all this period he reports attending, on Sundays (and Thursdays), services at various churches, including Methodist, Congregational, Episcopal, and at least once, Unitarian. Through the end of the 1964 diary, there are no entries regarding acquiring the land, building a church, or actually organizing the Baptist church.

The following diary entries are about all I could find, other than terse details like "took the red cow to the bull." The following items were of interest to me.

Friday, 18 September 1863: "Began to make some arrangements about buying a piece of land for a meeting house." Wednesday, 4

October 1863 "Mr. And Mrs. Spaulding called here about 4 p.m. telling us of Bangor friends willingness to buy a lot for us. Drove into town to see about it." Monday, April 25, 1864: "Our dear little baby born this p.m. Isa sick 24 hours. Very comfortable in evening. We name her Annie." Her actual name was Anna and she much later became Cary Library's first and long serving librarian. She was my great aunt and she lived at the farm for many years and died in 1941 at age 77. Sunday, 29 May, 1864, "Isa and I went to meeting together first time since baby was born." Wednesday, 1 June, 1864, "carried Isa around home with the baby." Thursday, 25 August, 1864, "went to dedication of Unitarian Church." Tuesday, 1 November, 1864, "Mr. And Mrs. Chase called here p.m. and took tea." Friday, 11 November 1864: "Baby broke out with the scarlet rash." Saturday, 12 November 1864: "Brought the doctor out to see the baby. She is not very sick." Tuesday, 20 December, 1864, "baby cut her 1st tooth today."

I have a number of Francis's diaries for several years after 1864 but they are all in Orient at my cottage. They are all difficult to read, at least with my eyes. I plan to review them for more details this summer. My research, including a number of newspaper articles and handwritten notes, some of which I am sure were made by my Great Aunt Anna in the nature of family genealogy, suggest that my seven times great grandfather was Thomas Barnes (1636-1679) who came from England to Boston on the "Speedwell" in 1656 and was at Marlboro in 1666 where he had bought land in 1663, and his house and goods were burned in King Phillip's War about 1876.

As an additional ancestral note, Sarah Frye, the wife of the first Phineas Barnes, was apparently the daughter of Jonathan Frye, who was General George Washington's orderly during much of the Revolutionary War. His record, known in the family as "Jonathan Frye's Orderly Book", was donated by my father to the Maine State Archives in the 1960's or early 70's. It is a fascinating read, including great detail about Benedict Arnold's treachery and the role of Major Andre. I have a copy of that somewhere, but it is available through research at the Maine State Archives, if anyone is interested.

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