



# Pages in Time



Individual Supporters:  
Lyn & Joe Rowden, Fairfield

## Two Tales – from different sources

edited by Lyn Rowden

These two tales come from Albion and Clinton. The first was sent in by a reader who wanted to contribute to "Pages in Time," as all readers are welcome to do. The second I found amongst papers in our files and do not know the author. I hope you enjoy them and are inspired to send us your memories and stories of times before 1970.

### Papa's Belt

by Kay Tozier, of Unity

A friend in our writing group had written a story about World War II German prisoners helping with the potato harvest in Aroostook County. I shared the story with my Aunt Eula. She read it, looked up, and said, "Do you still have Papa's belt?"

Through the years she had passed on to me many family keepsakes from the Fuller, Bragg, and Knowlton families. Quilts, dishes, tools, baskets, and the like came my way. Not only did I have the belt, I knew exactly where it was. I retrieved the worn, wide leather belt. It's big meal buckle was embossed with the words, Gott Mit Uns

(German for "God be with me"), and with an eagle emblem with a tiny Nazi swastika below. I guessed my Uncle Herman Bragg or my father Clyde Fernald brought it back after serving in Europe in World War II.

But no, here is the true story of Papa's belt. Auntie's father,

Albion during the summer corn season. He directed farmers dumping truckloads of green sweet corn raised on their farms.

German prisoners-of-war were brought from the barracks in Maine, to help at the canning factory. Grampie supervised them as they moved the ears of corn

its way to be husked and become canned corn.

Grampie would have been around age 60. He became friendly with the prisoners, sharing biscuits baked by his daughter, which he brought for his lunch each day. When canning season neared an end, one of the young Germans wanted to give Grampie the gift of his belt. Grampie took off his own worn leather belt, probably one he made, and they swapped.

My aunt said her father wore that belt every day for the rest of his life. This would have been for nearly forty years. Grampie Bragg died in 1985 at the age of 101.

So this is the story of Papa's belt. I wonder if his original belt might be stashed some place far away with it's own story waiting to be told.

where the Flood Brothers Farm sat for nearly 200 years, was originally Gibson and Cain land bought by and deeded to the Floods.

George Flood, Sr. was a visionary. He had starting milking cows in the old barn in 1927 at the tender age of 14. He would take the milk cans by horse and wagon to the Fairfield Creamery on his way to school. As the years passed, he and his wife, Madelyn, were able to purchase the farm from his mother in 1943. There wasn't much to it, but very old buildings and barns and only the nine cows he had accumulated himself. In 1945 George told a reporter from the *Morning Sentinel* that he wanted better barns and a great herd.

In 1951 he built a 72 stall hip-roof barn that was used until recent times. A new milking parlor was built in 1972, a double eight herring bone with 16 units - quite a step up from four milking buckets and a dumping station! Many improvements were made through the years, including building another barn for cows, one for heifers, and the addition of modern equipment.

In 1980 George decided to cut back - retirement was not in his vocabulary. He sold the farm to his two sons, George, Jr. and William. Fourteen more barns were built, land bought (some of the original land had been sold during the Depression), and a new 50 stall rotary milking parlor was constructed.

After 20 years a new state-of-the-art 100 cow parlor was built, milking 1500 cows twice daily with 34 employees helping George, Sr.'s grandsons, Dana and Tim get the work done.

Indeed, George, Sr. had his vision accomplished!



German belt buckle like the one Kay Tozier wrote about in "Papa's Belt." Internet photo

Oscar Bragg, my maternal grandfather, worked in the corn shop in

with rakes and shovels onto the conveyor belt. The corn was on

### "Quality Milk Since 1927"

Author unknown

The Flood Brothers came to Clinton in the 1700s. (Clinton was settled about 1775, and incorporated in 1795).

The Floods were looking for land and a place to settle. The trip took two weeks by ox cart from Fort Western, in Augusta. (which was built in 1754). Their families stayed behind until a place was established for them, a house and a lean-to for animals built, and some land cleared. By the early 1800s John Flood was the first citizen of Clinton to pay taxes at a whopping rate of \$18, a large sum at the time.

The land on the River Road

### Seeking histories on American Legion and VFW posts

by Lyn Rowden

In our special feature, "Pages in Time," we focus each week on an aspect of local history. I am looking for brief histories of the various American and VFW Posts in our area, which I would like to feature in May.

A small piece of about 250 words would be wonderful. No worries about "perfect" writing and editing, we will take care of that for you. An old photo, if available may be sent in jpeg format or mailed or brought in to the paper for scanning. You will get your photo back as long as you include your address.

Please send me your information along with a reliable method of contacting you, by email to [townline@fairpoint.net](mailto:townline@fairpoint.net) or mail to P. O. Box 89 Jonesbrook Crossing, South China, ME 04358.

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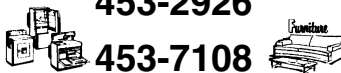
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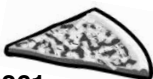
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