



Corinth Historical Society

Corinth Historical Society Newsletter

Spring 2019

Hidden Cemetery Emerges from the Woods

For years, the average person driving by this site saw only woods. It took a sharp eye to spot a gray monument stone way back in the trees and underbrush.

This cemetery's history involves different families and different names over the years. The cemetery was established close to what became the border between Levant and Kenduskeag and not far from Corinth's southern boundary. In the early days it apparently served citizens from what later became all three towns. Extant stones and records show it in use at least from 1828 to 1912. It has been called the Emerson Family Burying Grounds, Weeks Cemetery, Piper Cemetery and, in one record, the Haley Cemetery. We'll call it the Weeks Cemetery, since the earliest known burial was that of Franklin Weeks, aged 2 years, 4 months, son of Walter & Elizabeth Weeks.

In 1852 when the Town of Kenduskeag was formed partly out of the northeast quadrant of Levant, the Weeks Cemetery fell near the line between the two towns, with each town assuming the responsibility for it belonged to the other. Eventually, Weeks Cemetery became inactive, was not kept up, and soon the surrounding forest took it over.

In the 1970s members of Maine Old Cemeteries Association visited Weeks cemetery, recorded information from all readable grave stones, and added it to the Maine Old Cemetery Association

Cemetery Inscription Project. Copies of this project's index can be found in Bangor Public Library's genealogical collection and in the Maine State Library.

In the 1980s a Cub Scout troop made an attempt to clear brush and weeds, but by then large trees and thick underbrush made this project more than one group of children and their leaders could sustain.

In 2010, Cindy Pedersen McKay, of Kenduskeag, decided to do something about this abandoned cemetery near her home. Enlisting the help of her granddaughters Brooklin and Jacklin McKay of Corinth, they begin cutting brush and weeds. They found the remains of the old cemetery fence showing the cemetery continued westerly on down a slope making it much larger than it had been obvious from the road. Soon they recruited more help from Cindy's extensive family, all of whom live on land that once made up the old Albert Bennett farm on Black Road (purchased in 1969 by Cindy's father, the late Thomas Pedersen.)

Soon Kenduskeag neighbors pitched in with rakes, shovels, chain saws and even a tractor. Since the cemetery contained graves of veterans, Brooklin and Jacklin put American flags on selected graves and at the cemetery entrance.

Additional grave stones were discovered under layers of leaf mold and soil. Probing a disturbed area on the side of the hill, an ornate coffin hinge turned up in mounds of soil excavated by ground hogs.



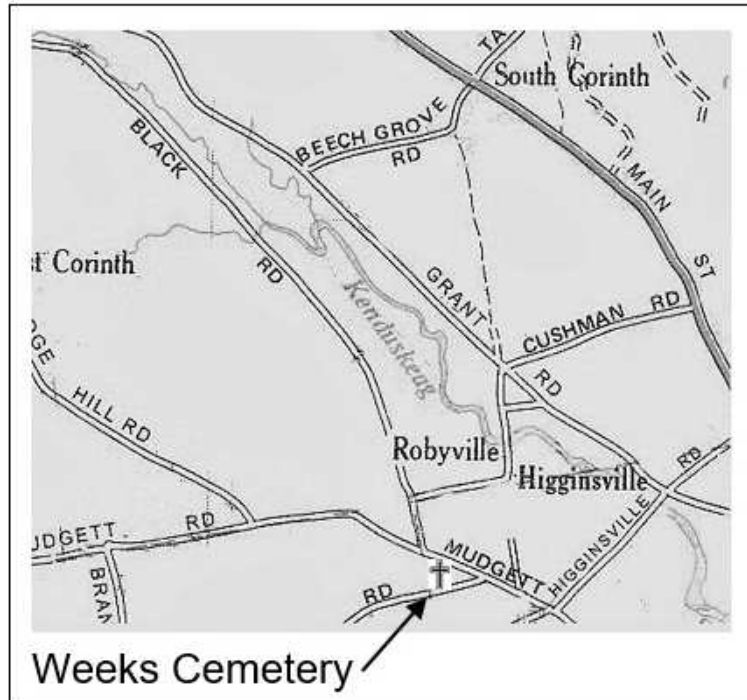
Summer of 2018 Kenduskeag hired a professional tree removal service to take down a number of trees that encroached into grave sites. The cemetery is now open to the sun and plainly viewable from the road.

In 2011 the Town of Kenduskeag put in a culvert and a graveled access to Weeks



This discovery suggests there were also burials at some distance from the known marked graves.

Of the Weeks Cemetery grave stones uncovered, only 2 people from Corinth have thus far been discovered: Joseph Simpson (1830 - 1909) and his 2nd. wife Nancy Downs Haley Simpson (1829 – 1912.) Joseph Simpson was born 1830 in Corinth. He enlisted in the Union Army Aug 14, 1862. His service record described him as single, a farmer, 5'6", with blue eyes and sandy hair. Private Joseph Simpson served in the 16th Infantry, Company H.



The long list of the 16th Infantry's engagements include (but are not limited to) Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg --where by the 4th day only 2 officers and 15 enlisted men remained, but still participated in the pursuit of the enemy to Rappahannock Station, Spotsylvania Court House, Petersburg, and, ultimately, the pursuit of Lee's forces to Appomattox Court House.) To have survived three years in this high-casualty regiment, Joseph Simpson must have been hardy and fortunate! He mustered out June 5, 1865 with an honorable discharge.

Joseph Simpson married Nancy Downs Haley, a widow, in Corinth on March 27, 1889. His widow chose to have him buried in Weeks cemetery in the Haley plot where her 1st husband was buried and where she would be buried a few years later.

Weeks Cemetery also is the final resting place for two War of 1812 veterans: **Ebenezer Piper** and **Charles Piper** each of whom served from 1812 to 1815. In later years, "Eben" Piper kept a general store in or near Corinth, not far from this cemetery.



Joseph Simpson & Haley family monument and fenced lot within Weeks Cemetery.

Laurie Cookson, currently a member of the Kenduskeag Cemetery Committee, has made a detailed study of this cemetery and those buried there; her research fills an entire 3-ring binder. Laurie brought the plight of this overlooked cemetery to the Kenduskeag Cemetery Committee. She pointed out that there are at least three veterans buried there and she urged Kenduskeag to budget money for restoring the Weeks Cemetery. Clearing weeds (there really isn't grass to cut,) marking veterans' graves and exploring for additional covered up stones falls to volunteers from the Kenduskeag Cemetery Committee and the surrounding community.

For the summer of 2019 Kenduskeag has budgeted money to repair and reset toppled stones in two cemeteries, one of which is Weeks. We look forward to this continuing progress.



Butch Pierce & tractor chipping branches to make weed-smothering mulch

References: McKay, Cindy, Telephone Interview, 1/13/2019; Cookson, Laurie, Telephone Interview, 1/13/2019; Rogers, Lynn & Pickard, Patricia, Levant, Maine: a History, 1995, Levant Historical Society, Levant, ME; <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2646752/weeks-cemetery#view-photo=158748972>

United States Census of Union Veterans and Widows of the Civil War, 1890, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K8SF-1QW> : 11 March 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M123 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 338,166; History of Penobscot County, Maine . . ., 1882: Cleveland, OH, Williams, Chase, & Co. pp 126 -127; Maine, State Archive Collections, 1718-1957," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:246J-MXY> : 11 March 2018), Joseph Simpson, of Corinth; Military Service, , 04 Aug 1862 – 05 Jun 1865 , State Archives, Augusta.

United States War of 1812 Index to Service Records, 1812-1815, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q29K-L8JB> : 12 March 2018), citing NARA microfilm publication M602 (Washington, D.C.; Wiggins, Hanah Robinson (1815 – 1909) Transcription of Her Letter telling of her family's 1824 arrival in Corinth and describing Piper's store as "near-by" their homestead a half mile east of Abner Tibbetts' place. Archives of Corinth Historical Society; **Photos** by Bruce E. Bryan, of Corinth Historical Society



Veteran Tribute



photo is from 16 Aug 1974 – Rank Major

Lt Colonel Carl E. Noddin

US Air Force

Korea & Vietnam

November 8, 1951—1984

Carl enlisted in the US Air Force November 8, 1951. He was a Supply Records Specialist, Stock Control Tech, and Organization Supply Supervisor while stationed at Sampson AFB, Geneva NY; Lockbourne AFB, Columbus OH; Warren AFB, Cheyenne WY; Willow Grove PA; Clinton County AFB, OH; and Grenier Field, Londonderry NH. In 1954 he had a one year assignment to Masseur AFB, French Morocco in North Africa.

His last duty assignment was Lockbourne afterward named Rickenbacker AFB near Columbus, OH. His last reserve assignment was Commander of the 907th Combat Support Squadron at Rickenbacker and a civilian

position of 302nd Tactical Airlift Wing Executive Officer. He retired in 1984 with 35 years service. He held every rank between Private and Lieutenant Colonel except Master Sergeant and 2nd Lieutenant.

Carl was born April 6, 1928, in the family home on Andrews Road, Corinth, Maine. His parents were Albert S. and Florence M. (Hatch) Noddin who were married May 19, 1906 in Corinth. His siblings included Elida Thompson, Charlie, Cornelius, Alberta Curtis, and Bernice "Susie" White. Carl's father died when he was only two years old.

Carl graduated Valedictorian from East Corinth Academy in the Class of 1946. He played basketball and baseball. A scout from the Boston Red Sox came to Corinth and wanted Carl to come to try-outs for the team. He declined because as the remaining child of a widow he knew he needed to stay and care for his mother.

He and his mother moved to New Hampshire where he worked at Manchester Knitted Fashions as a Production Controller. There he met and married Beverly "Betty" Howe November 24, 1949. They had two children, Janet who lives in Columbus OH and Robert who passed in 2008.

He liked bowling and scored 300 a perfect game. His hobby was woodworking and he made hundreds of pieces for TWIG Bazaars which benefited Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus.

Carl passed away September 23, 1999, in Columbus, Ohio, of pulmonary fibrosis.



Carl Noddin at camp in Morocco,
Africa

Carl wanted to be buried at Arlington Cemetery and qualified, but his wife was adamant that he be closer to home in Pickerington, OH. Literally the day before he died he consented to Pickerington. His daughter Janet recalls that Arlington was his true desire, but he always wanted to make his family happy.



Carl Noddin bowled a perfect 300
score

Corinth Historical Society Museum

Family Collections

Although our Museum is closed during the winter months because we do not have a furnace to keep the building warm, Historical Society business does not come to a stop. Contact and correspondence with members continues, upkeep on our website and Facebook page is performed, preparations are made for new exhibits in the Museum, the Newsletter is published, research for and the improving of our electronic data files continues – the list of our activities is a long one.

This winter our Corinth Families File has grown to more than 2,000 pages organized as a Word Master Document on the Museum PC. The U.S. Census records have been searched through 1910 and sometimes later, and names of residents of Corinth at the time of each census have been included in the files, along with whatever information was noted regarding each individual.

The Skinner Diaries are currently being reviewed. Readers will remember that this very large collection was donated to the Historical Society several years ago by James Wagner. The diaries had been transcribed by a group of local historians who called themselves the Skinner Society, and when that organization disbanded, were passed along to us. These typewritten pages were then scanned and organized into years, and set aside for review at a later time. That time arrived for me when I found that I (Jeanne Slasor) was housebound – actually chair bound --for most of this winter. Now, with the Corinth Family file available, I have been able to add references to people mentioned in the Diaries into the data bank, and am finding them fascinating.

In the beginning, the entries in the diaries are very brief, but as years pass and George and Sarah Skinner had a little more time for their writing, they become more and more interesting. They are full of references to weather, emergencies in the community, methods of farming and the sharing of labor, inventions of farm equipment, prices for purchases, the coming of electricity and telephone to the area, the organization of the railroad system, the sorts of things that Corinth people did for fun – the list is endless.

Corinth Vital Records, the Cemetery Lists, our Historical Society Newsletters and the Newsletter Index, the Corinth Families files, a growing inventory of the photos in our collection. The Skinner Diaries are all available on the Museum computer. We also have a library of ECA Yearbooks, Town Reports, our Adopt-a-Soldier files, additional Families and People files not yet entered into the computer. We also have a selection of books dealing with the history of our area. Volunteers are always willing to assist you in your research, but visitors are welcome to access the files themselves when the Museum is open.

Come in and spend some time with us this summer. And ENJOY!

Links and Social Media

Folks with Internet: Check out Town of Corinth's newly re-designed website, <https://www.townofcorinth.com/>. And while you're at it surf over to the popular [Corinth Historical Society Facebook Page](#), and see what is new. To everyone who maintains and contributes to these fresh, informative pages, thank you!



Tombstone Images

This slate tombstone is from Corinth's Simpson cemetery on the line road (Mudget Rd). Ephm (Ephram) Leavitt died June 15, 1846 aged 77 years.

His tombstone is etched with the weeping willow symbol which symbolizes sorrow and mourning and also the joy of the afterlife or immortality. The urn alongside the willow represents our mortal remains.



Spruce Things Up

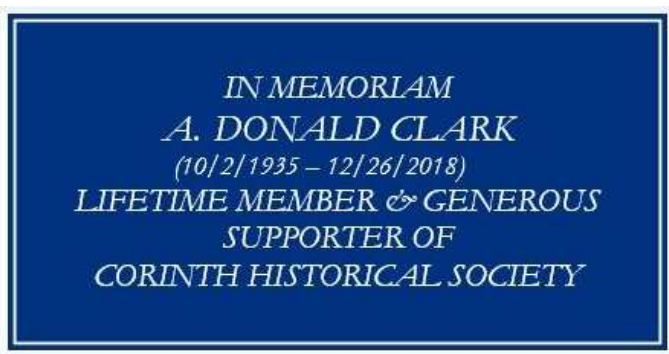
'Spruce' isn't just a tree—it's a historical name for Prussia. 'Spruce leather', a product of the region, was popular among the fashionable set, and by the end of the 1500s, 'spruce' was used to describe anyone fashionable or neat in appearance.

Annual Town Wide Yard Sale

The museum's annual fundraising event will be held June 21 & 22. This Town Wide Yard Sale helps provide an opportunity for the Historical Society to provide working capital for our many museum events and preservation efforts.

If you have any items that you would like to donate to this effort please contact us. Sorry we cannot accept clothing or large collections of books. We can arrange pickup of your donations.

Pauline Sodermark will pick up 852-5195 or leave message at 285-3077 after May 5th or see a Historical Society member.



Next Historical Society
Meeting
March 9th, 10am
Corinth Town Office

To contact the editor: write

Newsletter Editor

PO Box 541, Corinth, ME 04427

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published quarterly. © Corinth Historical Society*

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Membership Information

The postal address on your mailed newsletter has a small notation to the upper right of your name, showing your membership type and the dues-paid-through date that our records show. (Periodically, we send a status e-mail to recipients who receive their newsletter in that manner.) **Dues now come due in June**, not January, although feel free to pay them sooner, if you wish. If it says June 2018 or earlier, then please renew now. If your label says June 2019 or later you're paid up! If you are a **Lifetime** or **Emeritus** member, no membership year will be displayed since your dues are paid up forever! If it says Courtesy, this newsletter is a courtesy copy sent to another historical organization, or friend of the Society.

Dues:

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|----------------------------------|-------|
| Individuals | \$10 |
| Families (living a same Address) | \$15 |
| Under 18 (please inquire) | |
| Benevolent donor | \$25 |
| Lifetime membership | \$200 |
| Benefactor | \$500 |
| Organizations (50-250 members) | \$20 |

Periodically, we vote to elect Emeritus members. Emeritus members are over 85 in age and have demonstrated ongoing interest in the history of Corinth, Maine.

New Members:

Corinth, ME 04427
PO Box 541

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