

ARTHUR L. DEERING
6 CEDARWOOD STREET
ORONO, MAINE

March 29, 1963

Dear Mrs. Valley:

Your letter and history of Denmark were both very interesting. I am sorry I do not remember meeting either you or your son, though I do remember Alice Colby as she taught French here in Orono years later. Perhaps I may have the pleasure of meeting you sometime and reviewing our mutual interest, "The History of Denmark".

To the best of my knowledge, and with some checking, I believe names and dates you have furnished are correct. I hope you and your committee might have the time to develop the History of Denmark into the next period - that of 1800. This is the period of its greatest growth. I will enclose some information which may be helpful.

The Portland Public Library, on Congress Street, would be able to supply you with much information. If you would make a date with the librarian, Miss Grace Trappan, and indicate your interest in sources of historical material regarding Denmark I am sure she would have such assembled to assist you.

Another good source would be the State Library at Augusta. Miss Ruth Hazelton is the librarian there.

Good luck and good hunting!

Cordially yours,

Arthur L. Deering

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✓ P.S. The copy you sent me - "History of Denmark", is enclosed as requested.

HISTORY OF DENMARK

The town of Denmark was formed from various land grants. About two-thirds of these were taken from Brownfield and Hiram. Many of the land titles were issued by The General Court of Massachusetts.

The first settler in Denmark was Daniel Boston, a native of Sanford. He cleared the land and built a log house in 1775, between Boston Hills and Saco River. His only thoroughfare was the Saco River, which he traveled by boat and sled.

The next settler was Jedediah Long from Berwick, who cleared a farm at West Denmark about 1780. His log cabin was washed away by the Saco River.

Soon after 1780, Ichabod Warren of Berwick settled on what was later known as the Amos Poor Farm, on the north side of Pleasant Pond.

About 1786, Isaac Berry from Massachusetts began clearing the farm later known as Hadley Jack's in East Denmark. A Mr. Stiles settled on the E. P. Ingalls farm adjoining it. Between 1787 and 1794, Ephraim Jewett cleared a farm at Head's Corner.

Mr. Elias Berry was one of the most prominent settlers of Denmark. About 1786 he cleared a farm on what is now Fessenden's Hill. This house is still standing and now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Valley. In 1794, Major Berry built his house on land adjoining that of his father, Isaac. This house was the first two-story building in town and contained a large ball-room. This place was later known as the town farm and is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Manus of New York City.

Cyrus Ingalls came to town about 1792 and built his house at the top of Mill Hill. He started the first mill in town, on Moose Brook, now owned by Jennie True.

Thomas Pingree built the first house on the South Road in 1801 (now owned by Leland's). His brother, Parson, located near him in 1805. This is now owned by ^{Perley} Elwood Pingree's widow.

William Davis cleared a farm on Davis Road adjoining Pingree's land. It was at a meeting at the Davis home in 1829, that the Congregational Church was organized. The Baptists had been meeting at various homes since 1804, and the Free Baptists held services in the schoolhouse. The present Congregational Church was erected in 1804 by Joshua Osgood.

The original Town House stood near the church. Some timbers from this building were used in the present Town House in 1891.

The Town of Denmark was incorporated on February 20, 1807. The first Town Meeting was held March 23, 1807. On this day the appropriations were \$1,000 for roads to be worked out at \$1.00 a day for labor. \$300 was raised for schools, and \$100 for town charges. A sum was raised at that meeting to build the first schoolhouse. There were at one time fifteen schoolhouses in Denmark. The High School was organized in 1893.

In 1825 the population of Denmark had reached 800, of which 245 were school children. They were divided among twelve schools. It is said that one John Kennison was the father of thirty-one children, by two wives.

The free high school was established in 1893; the appropriation was \$200 with a similar amount received from the State.

Several professions and industries have been carried on in Denmark. The first doctor was Joseph Bennett, and there was a lawyer here for many years.

At one time there were three post offices in town, and a number of mills, factories, blacksmith, undertaker, clothing and general stores.