

I didn't go to school until I was over 6 years old. Went to four teachers in a year 1887-88) at Scribner School: Isaac Clough, then he was made superintendent and Eugene Carl finished that term. In the spring I went to Adelia Paine and Minnie Berry, that was 1888, and in April, my father moved to Durnell neighborhood so we would be near the new high school which the town had finally voted to build, as the boys were 16 and 20. (Gene had already taught school at Shadigee and Salmon Falls without a high school education, but I think he was very thorough in the 3 R's.) All along those years we boarded a school teacher of Dearborn Hill School.

While the (school) house was being made over we small grades had our school in the town house (Old Town Hall) with Miss Benson from Hollis as teacher and I was afraid of her. She was rather masculine with a heavy voice and she looked cross, but she was all right—she was a good teacher. In September of 1888, the new building was completed and set just below the four corners on land which the town must have purchased from Frank Adams.

The new high school was a two story building with a big bell on the top. It was the old District School enlarged and made two stories with the small scholars downstairs. The grades had a large room on the first floor and there was a large room to accommodate the girls of both schools for their outside wraps, with hooks around three sides. (There was) an entry and winding stairs under

which was a large bin where the coal was kept as the rooms were heated by large coal stoves.

George H. Larrabee was the first principal, a fine looking young man, as I remember. He was just out of college and newly married. The first assistant was Miss Benson for a short time and then Carrie Piper, a very pretty and plump miss from Parsonsfield, I think.

In June, 1889, there was no class to graduate, but in 1890 two young men, Everett Harmon and William Cressey, who had been two years at Gorham High. This was a Gala Day for the little town of Buxton, with exercises in the afternoon and a Grand Concert in the church in the evening. This same way was the form of graduation for many years. There was always some quartet like *Ladies Cecillian Quartet* from Portland or a male quartet from Boston, and some public reader to make a good two hour entertainment to finish out the program in the evening after graduation. Always a big day for Buxton when the whole townspeople turned out. I have many happy remembrances of the graduations.

I graduated from Buxton High School in 1897 and taught school in Baldwin at North Baldwin School, in the Burnell District, at Chicopee, at Bog Mill and my last term was in the Burnell District at Baldwin.

I was married to Charles H. Dean, July 11, 1901, by Rev. William Clements, the Baptist minister at Buxton Center Long Plains Road, Buxton) to

Parsonage, then I came to this house (Dean Homestead on live and have continued to make it my home for sixty-eight years."

R. (Rossie) Blanche Patridge Dean (1881-1975) devoted 75 years of her life to her family, her community and her state. On September 13, 1920, the State of Maine voted to give women the right to vote and on March 7, 1921, Mrs. Dean was elected Town Clerk of Buxton, becoming the first woman in the State of Maine to be elected to public office. Her husband had served as Town Clerk of Buxton prior to 1921 and Mrs. Dean had served as his assistant. Town records show entries in her handwriting as early as 1914.

She served as Town Clerk of Buxton from 1921-1927 and again from 1934-1951. In 1958 she was elected to the Maine State Legislature, representing the towns of Buxton, Dayton, Hollis and Lyman. She is the only woman to have ever represented these towns in the Sate Legislature.

She had a long record of public service in various civic and fraternal organizations and was an honorary member of the Alumni Association of Samuel D. Hanson High School, observing her 75 anniversary of graduation at the 1972 banquet.

"The Artist on the Saco":
Gibeon Elden Bradbury

CARD SERIES
CON'T...



"Wild Roses & Hummingbird"

The second in a series of six lovely floral note cards of Gibeon Bradbury paintings will debut this spring at the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society, courtesy of Beverly and Richard (Sandy) Atkinson of Bar Mills. The first card offered in 2009 was Bradbury's "Trillium, Lilies and Violets." Cards are \$ 1.25 each or 4 for \$5.00. They will be available at the Society Museum, the Saco Museum and at the BHHS sale table on July 24th at Buxton Community Day/Dorcas Fair .

"Bradbury's
paintings
remind us to
savor the
beauty
and
complexity of
a flower."