

History of Albany.

OXFORD PROPRIETARY.

The earliest date we find relating to the history of Albany is Dec. 29, 1788 which date is borne by an instrument drawn up at Andover, Mass., and signed by twenty-four men each binding himself to the purchase of a tract of land lying between Sudbury, Canada and Waterford. Over two years passed before these men were given the deed to the coveted tract. It was probably during this time that the tract was surveyed by Samuel Titcomb and classified as "Township Number Five." The deed is dated Feb. 18, 1791, the sum paid for the land, as specified therein, was "826£ 5s in the consolidated notes of this Commonwealth, and 208£ 10s 6d in currency." The deed bears the signatures of the committee appointed by the General Court of Massachusetts for the sale of Eastern lands and shows the following men to have become the first individual owners of the land now constituting the town of Albany: Joseph Holt and John Russell, gentlemen, Isaac Blunt, hatter, Asa Cummings,—Stephen Cummings, millwright, James Holt, Jr., Jonathan Abbott, F.—and Nathan Abbott, Jr., Joseph Lovejoy, Jacob Jones, Nathaniel Fay, Wm. Chandler Jr., Nehemiah Holt two shares, Uriah Russell, Benj. Goldsmith, and Samuel Cogswell, yeo-

HISTORICAL

men, all of Andover; Johnson Proctor and John Lambert, yeomen, of Danvers; John Jaquith, Jr., Samuel Boutell and Jude Jones, yeomen, of Wilmington; and Daniel Lovejoy, Jr., of Wilton, N. H. The township contained, (and its boundaries are substantially the same today), about 23,000 acres. Each proprietor had a right to one-twenty-third of the grant, except that four lots of 320 acres each were reserved for public purposes, viz: one lot for the first settled minister, one for the use of the ministry, one for the use of schools, and one for the future appropriation of the General Court.

Little time was lost by delinquency of the proprietors, for they saw in the new township either the possibility of founding a new home in a new country, or the realization of a considerable sum from the sale of lots to settlers. We find that many of these men settled their own lots and became leading men in the community; whether the non-resident proprietors actually gained much wealth from the deal it would be gratifying to know.

Most of the proprietors' meetings were held at Isaac Blunt's tavern in Andover, where the first one was assembled on July 25, following the signing of the deed. Mr. Chandler became clerk, Joseph Holt was selected to handle the funds, and Asa Cummings, Nathan Abbott, Jr. and Lieut. John Russell were chosen assessors. We learn that five men, including Lieut. Joseph Holt, had visited the place the previous autumn, and had agreed to take up lots in the grant. At a mee[t]ing held Feb. 3, 1792, a committee was chosen to lot the town into twenty-four parts, and "to qualify the

ALBANY

town.” The same year the name Oxford was adopted for the township.

In December a move was taken toward the erection of a saw mill, which would be of great aid to the settlers. It was agreed to give Benj. Proctor a gore of land lying in Range 11, if he would erect “a good saw mill in the town of Oxford in one year, and maintain it *teen* years”; also if he should build a corn mill and operate it the same length of time, he should have a gore in Range 10. In 1799 he was given a piece of land for keeping the mill in good repair, showing at least one of the mills to have been erected in 1793; this was built at Lynches Mills.

In Jan. 1794, Stephen Cumming was chosen proprietors’ clerk. The proprietors showed much diligence in improving the roads and offering greater inducements to settlers. Some came in from the earlier settlements where they began to feel crowded. In 1797 ten dollars was voted, and Nathan and Jonathan Abbott, Jr., were chosen a committee to purchase books for a library.

After the organization of the plantation in 1802, part of the government of the township was shared by the settlers. The proprietors had builded well and had founded a flourishing settlement which was fast increasing in number and prosperity. Gradually they disposed of their lands until the organization of a proprietary became no longer necessary. The last recorded meeting was held in March, 1815. The proprietors did much for the town, seeking rather to make of Albany a thriving community than to gratify any desire for wealth.

HISTORICAL

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Who was the first white man to visit the lands now contained in the town of Albany, it is impossible to say. A settlement was begun in Waterford in 1775, and in Bethel two years earlier. This locality was doubtless explored soon after. Warren's History of Waterford gives the date of the settlement of Albany, then ungranted, as 1784, but this settlement may not have been permanent as a much later date is usually given. The proprietors received their grant in 1791, having waited more than two years during which time it is probable that some settlement was begun, certain it is that it was settled very soon after. Most of the settlers were natives of Andover, the home of many of the proprietors. Many of the proprietors settled their own lots, and it is supposed that a number of these men came here to make clearings as early as 1792. To Abner Holt is accorded the felling of the first tree for a settlement. John Foster, Abner Holt, a Mr. Chamberlain and Jacob Chandler came in the early spring, (year uncertain), from their homes in Andover. Coming to McWain's opening, in Waterford, they made their way to the vicinity of No. Waterford, thence up Crooked river some three miles, where they turned to the east and climbed the hill. They made camp on the hillside which was afterwards the Stephen Cummings farm, now owned by F. E. Bean. Here it was that Mr. Holt felled a spruce to get the boughs for a bed. Mr. Foster was a land surveyor and during the summer devoted much of his time to surveying the township. In the fall these men returned

ALBANY

to Massachusetts and the following spring returned here with their families, together with other settlers. Abner Holt's lot line ran but a few rods from where he had cut the first tree, the farm on which he settled being that now occupied by W. W. Bird. Mr. Chamberlain erected his cabin on lot 11, range 5, now the late John Cummings farm. Mr. Chandler settled a few rods east of Chamberlain on the late John Cummings place. Dea. Asa Cummings came from No. Andover with a party of settlers in 1798, settling on the farm now occupied by his grandson, Geo. C. He reared a family of fourteen sons and daughters and has been followed by numerous and honorable descendants, many remaining in Albany, and others taking prominent positions in other places, many have become prominent member of the Congregational, and other clergy. Abner Abbott settled where his great grandson, Frank Abbott now lives. The earliest burying ground was a family yard on the Stephen Cummings farm, near the first clearing. A stone found there bears the name of a young settler by the name of Jones who died in 1797 at the age of 26. In 1800 the population of Oxford plantation numbered sixty-nine.

The following "Rate list" shows the names of the taxpayers in Oxford in 1802 and includes the names of such families as had become permanent settlers in town at that time.

A Rate List committed to James Russell to collect for the Plantation of Oxford, 1802, showing the amount of tax assessed on real and personal property.

HISTORICAL

An additional poll tax of \$0.27 was paid by all except

Name.	Tax.		Name.	Tax.	
	Pers. Prop,	Real Est.		Pers. Prop,	Real Est.
Abner Abbott,	\$0 14	\$0 26	Parsons Haskell,	\$0 10	\$0 18
Asa Cummings,	16	41	J. Kettredge,	05	14
Jacob Chandler,	12	14	John [L]ovejoy,	27	41
Philemon “	(poll tax only)		Jno. Longley,	01	—
Eph’ m Flint,	12	16	Benj. Proctor,		
John Foster,	02	04	(mills)		42
Jno. Holt,	03	05	Daniel Mears,		
Bani Haskell,	16	17	(poll tax only)		
Nehemiah Holt,	17	26	Wm. Newel	04	05
Abner Holt (2			Chas. “	05	07
polls)	18	26	Jas. Russell,	04	13
Stephen “ (3			Israel Sweat (2 p)	06	08
polls)	25	44	Samuel Town,	04	05
Moses Holt,	(poll tax only)		Isaac Wardwell,	—	07
Uriah Holt,	06	41			

Mr. Proctor, who was a non-resident.

A list dated two years later shows that the following had become residents between 1802 and the spring of 1804: John Bell, James Flint, Joseph Holt, Enoch Holt, Paul Holt, Joel Jenkins, Jonathan Jenkins, Thomas Russell and Wm. Sweat.

ORGANIZATION AND INCORPORATION.

Oxford plantation was organized under plantation government in what must have been the only school house,

ALBANY

Sept. 27, 1802. Asa Cummings, who was the leading man in the settlement, was made moderator, and Uriah Holt plantation clerk. These two men, with Abner Holt were chosen assessors, and Stephen Holt treasurer. James Russell bid off the collection of taxes at 13%. At the second meeting, Dec. 28, 1802, it was decided to petition the General Court for incorporation, and Asa Cummings, Capt. Bani Haskell and Jonathan Holt were chosen a committee to draw up the petition; Mr. Cummings being delegated to present it to Judge Frye. There seems to have been much difficulty in choosing a name for the new town. The petition was first for the name the township had borne since 1792, and was presented in Jan. 1803; early in the year the voters decided on the name "Montgreen." In May following, another vote was taken on a name, and Albany was chosen. Had not the legislature passed the act before another meeting it is impossible to say what name this town might have borne. The final meeting of the plantation of Oxford was held May 18, 1803, the first of the town of Albany, on Sept. 19, the same year. The town became fully organized on the latter date, taking her place among the corporate bodies of the District of Maine, the 144th town in the District and one of twenty-one incorporated that year.

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and three.

HISTORICAL

An act to incorporate the Plantation of Oxford, in the County of York, into a town by the name of Albany.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that the Plantation heretofore known by the name of Oxford, in the County of York, as described within the following bounds, together with the inhabitants thereon, be and hereby are incorporated into a town by the name of Albany; beginning at a pond at the north-easterly corner of Waterford, thence north 20 degrees west six miles and one hundred rods to the south line of Bethel, thence west 20 degrees south on the Bethel line five and one half miles, thence south 20 degrees east about seven miles to Waterford line, thence northerly by said Waterford line to the bounds first mentioned—and the said town is hereby vested with all the powers, privileges and immunities which other towns do or may enjoy by the Constitution and Laws of this Commonwealth.

Signed by the governor, Caleb Strong, June 20, 1803.

TOWN OFFICIALS

CLERKS.

Zadoc Saunders, 1850-51 Geo. W. Saunders, 1852-55
John Hunt, 1856; Geo. W. Saunders, 1857-62; David F.
Cummings, 1863; Hermon Cummings, 1864; Addison Love-

ALBANY

joy, 1865; H. D. Haskell, 1866-71; Amos G. Bean, 1872-75; Amos French, 1876; D. C. Healy, 1877; Josiah Wheeler, 1878; Dexter A. Cumming, 1879-83; Wallace B. Cummings, 1884-96; Dexter A. Cummings, 1897-99; Amos G. Bean, 1900; Wallace B. Cummings, 1901-02; Herbert I. Bean, 1908-04; Roy G. Wardwell, 1905.

TREASURERS.

Hiram Bisbee, 1850; Jacob H. Lovejoy, 1851; John Hunt, 1852; J. H. Lovejoy, 1853-55; John G. Hunt, 1856; J. H. Lovejoy, 1857-90; Gilbert Wardwell, 1891-92; Wallace B. Cummings, 1893-1905.

SELECTMEN.

1850—Geo. W. Saunders, Geo. French, James Wheeler.
 1851—Geo. French, Geo. W. Saunders, Geo. H. Brown.
 1852-54—Geo. W. Saunders, Abenethy Grover, Reuben Libby.
 1855—Samuel P. Haskell, James French, Wm. Coleman.
 1856—James French, Samuel Brown, Isaiah French.
 1857-58—James French, Geo. French, Wm. Coleman.
 1859—Abenethy Grover, Gilbert Wardwell, Isaiah French.
 1860-61—S. P. Haskell, James French, Gilbert Wardwell.
 1862—Gilbert Wardwell, Thos. Morrill, Phineas P. Dresser.
 1863—Thos. Morrill, P. P. Dresser, E. S. Hutchinson.
 1864—Gilbert Wardwell, P. P. Dresser, Elijah K. Morrill.

HISTORICAL

- 1865—Gilbert Wardwell, Lewis H. Sawin, John Haseltine.
- 1866—Geo. French, John Haseltine, Washington French.
- 1867—John Haseltine, L. H. Sawin, Lawson Mason.
- 1868—L. H. Sawin, Lawson Mason, Joseph Wheeler.
- 1869—Gilbert Wardwell, J. H. Lovejoy, Joseph Wheeler.
- 1870-72—Gilbert Wardwell, J. H. Lovejoy, John Haseltine.
- 1873—J. H. Lovejoy, Geo. W. Beckler, David A. Edwards.
- 1874—J. H. Lovejoy, Gilbert Wardwell, John Haseltine.
- 1875—Gilbert Wardwell, John Heselton, Wm. M. Robbins.
- 1876—J. Heselton, Geo. W. Beckler, D. C. Healy.
- 1877-78—G. Wardwell, W. M. Robbins, W. M. Brown.
- 1879—Geo. French, W. M. Robbins, G. W. Beckler.
- 1880—W. M. Robbins, G. W. Beckler, Elbridge Prince.
- 1881—G. Wardwell, H. C. Lawrence, F. H. Bennett.
- 1882-84—G. W. Beckler, F. H. Bennett, A. Hutchinson.
- 1885—F. H. Bennett, A. Hutchinson, J. K. Wheeler.
- 1886—G. W. Beckler, J. K. Wheeler, Shirley Haselton.
- 1887—G. W. Beckler, S. E. Haselton, L. H. Sawin.
- 1888—G. W. Beckler, C. H. Fernald, L. H. Sawin.
- 1889—L. A. Sawin, F. H. Bennett, J. W. Dresser.
- 1890-92—F. H. Bennett, A. Hutchinson, Chas. Flint.
- 1893—F. H. Bennett, A. Hutchinson, L. H. Burnham.
- 1894—J. Dresser, A. Hutchinson, S. E. Haselton.
- 1895—A. Hutchinson, S. E. Haselton, J. Flint.
- 1896—G. Wardwell, G. W. Beckler, H. B. McKean.

ALBANY

1897—F. H. Bennett, H. B. McKean, Z. K. Wheeler.

1898—H. B. McKean, J. K. Wheeler, W. E. Herrick,

1899-1900—F. H. Bennett, W. E. Herrick, A. Hutchinson.
son.

1901—W. E. Herrick, A. Hutchinson, C. G. Beckler.

1902—W. E. Herrick, C. G. Beckler, F. G. Sloan.

1903-0—W. E. Herrick, C. G. Beckler, Geo. Cummings.

1905—W. E. Herrick, C. N. Eastman, E. W. Rolfe.

INDUSTRIES.

As an inducement to settlers, the proprietors hired Benj. Proctor to erect a saw mill, about 1793, and a grist mill the same year, or soon after. These mills, located near the southern border of the township, were owned and operated by Mr. Proctor until sold to Daniel Brown about 1830, together with about 2500 acres of valuable timber land. Soon after this they passed into the hands of Jas. Osgood, of Fryeburg, who built new mills and manufactured more extensively, sending some lumber to Portland by the canal. About 1840 Moses Petty became owner and proprietor. Ten years later he sold to John Lynch who did an extensive business in manufacturing lumber, and at one time had a match factory and a box factory. After carrying on an extensive business for many years he assigned and the mills went to Samuel Spring. In 1890 his heirs sold to Clark &

HISTORICAL

Burnham, and soon after Mr. Clark sold his interest to his partner, L. H. Burnham, the present operator.

The large spool mill at Lynchville was erected in 1871 by Elliott, Bartlett & Lynch. Soon Mr. Lynch sold his interest to Elliott & Bartlett who have continued to carry on an enterprising and successful business for thirty-five years. Around 700,000 feet of spool stock is consumed annually, thirty men being employed at the mill. The entire product of number 1 spools is shipped to the Coats Thread Co.

What is known as the Petty mill, in the northern part of the town, was built early in the last century, and was owned by Jeremiah Niles in 1825. John W. Dana bought it soon after, and about 1830 sold to Moses Petty, who operated it for half a century. Later owners have been A. S. Bean, Herrick & Kilburn, of Bethel, and F. L. Edwards, the present owner. N. Moore & Co.'s mill, better known as the Grover mill, was built by Francis Cummings about 1840. Later owners have been Abernethy Grover, Wilbur Bros., Eliphalet Burbank (who rebuilt it about 1880 after being burned,) Stephen S. Libby, and N. Moore & Co. A grist mill was connected with the mill until it was burned. An early mill was built on the site of Fernald's mill early in the century. Chesley Fernald and Parker N. Flint built the present mill about 1875. A saw and grist mill was built about 1814 on Swett Brook by John Lovejoy. This was washed out after which a clover mill was built. In 1871 this was destroyed in the same manner. In 1875 a steam mill was built just above this site by James McAllister; this

ALBANY

was burned a few years later.

Other mills, on sites now vacant, were: one on the outlet to Round Pond, built about 1835; one at the outlet to Kneeland Pond below the Albany Basins built by Cyrus Kneeland probably to replace the above. This was burned about 1873 and Mr. Kneeland built a steam mill on the shore of the pond, and one built by Andrew Bean in 1859 on Bean Brook. S. W. Libby built the mill in No. Albany about 1875. He later sold to Wm. Mason.

In the early days agriculture was perhaps the chief industry. The soil is fertile and productive, but uneven and generally hard to work except in the valleys. There are many good farms now under cultivation while many of those cleared one hundred years ago have been allowed to return to woodlands.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The first and only religious organization ever effected in Albany was made very soon after the incorporation of the town. With the assistance of Rev. Joseph Strong of the N. H. Missionary Society, twenty-two residents formed an organization Sept. 15, 1803, which they named "the church of Christ in Albany." Asa Cummings was chosen clerk and first deacon. Jonathan Holt was chosen second deacon. The next year the church received from the church at

HISTORICAL

Andover the gift of a flagon, tankards, and linen for a communion service. No settled pastor was employed for several years, and the early records of the society are rather meagre. In June 1818, Asa Cummings, Jr., was dismissed to the church connected with the theological seminary, Andover, Mass. He it was who became the founder and editor of the Christian Mirror.

The church was supplied occasionally by missionaries of the N. H. Missionary Society; and also by Revs. Church of Bridgton, Ripley of Waterford, Dutton of No. Yarmouth, and Cressey of Norway. In 1823 Rev. Henry A. Merrill; in 1824 Timothy Hilliard; and in 1826 Joseph Walker were with the church. Sermons were sometimes read by the deacons or leaders when no preacher could be had, and the society continued to thrive and prosper.

On Feb. 1, 1828 the church extended a call to Rev. Thomas Ayer to become its installed pastor. This call he accepted, Mar. 4, and on the 25th a council was convened which ordained him, the first settled pastor in Albany. After a successful pastorate of five years he was dismissed by mutual consent and supplies were again had until Rev. Geo. F. Tewksbury was installed Jan. 31, 1838. The pastorate of Mr. Tewksbury lasted for fourteen years, which were fruitful years to the church. During the first three years twenty-eight were received into membership. He was also a staunch advocate of temperance. In the record of Mr. Tewksbury's ordination is found the first mention of the meeting house and its use. The early services had been held in a house which served for all public gatherings including

ALBANY

the school. A meeting house seems to have been erected about 1831 on a height of land toward North Waterford from Hunt's Corner. Mr. Tewksbury's pastorate lasted over fourteen years during which time forty-five members were added to the church. Rev. Isaac Weston preached a few months during the summer of 1853, and Rev. Lorraine Read from April 1854 to Sept. 1855. On July 6, 1856, began the pastorate of Rev. Samuel L. Gould, which also covered a period of fourteen years. Mr. Gould was beloved as a pastor and esteemed as a citizen. Since his dismissal the church has been regularly supplied during the summer months, mostly by students. Rev. E. J. Converse supplied from May 1896, to the autumn of 1897, and greatly strengthened the church. The latter year the church was incorporated for the transaction of business. The meeting house was removed to Hunt's Corner, to the present site, rebuilt, and greatly improved, at a cost of about \$2000. It was rededicated in June 1878, a neat and convenient house of worship. W. J. Hail was the supply during 1902 and 03 and Carl Thompson, of Yale Divinity School, during 1904 and 05. A Sunday school is sustained, and a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, organized in 1889, has done much to sustain public worship.

SCHOOLS.

We have very good proof that a public school was maintained in Number Four prior to the organization of the

HISTORICAL

Plantation of Oxford, in the statement that the meeting organizing that body was called in the school house. This was located on a road (now discontinued) leading from the Haskell place to the Valley road and was a low, log structure. Later a house occupied for town purposes, schools and religious services, was erected on the right hand side of the road from Hunt's Corner to the Haskell place.

We do not find that any sum of money was raised for education by the voters in the plantation, but a vote taken in Jan., 1803, was made to petition the General Court to remit the state tax of the plantation and "to order the same to be laid out in educating the youth in said Oxford." Soon after, a school committee was chosen. At the town meeting held in November, after the incorporation, Asa Cummings, Uriah Holt, Lieut. Stephen Holt, Ephraim Flint, and James Ruseell were chosen a committee to rebuild the school house. The house then constructed was doubtless that afterwards used for town purposes and religious worship. We find record of much lumber being furnished for it by various citizens, in fact most if not all of the voters had a part in its construction, and it was doubtless the pride of the settlement when completed.

The first appropriation we find recorded was made in Feb., 1804, when ten dollars was voted "to be laid out in a summer school to be taught by a Mrs. & \$20 for a winter school to be taught by a master." Among the early teachers were Anna Bean, Uriah Holt, Esq., Sarah Holt, Lydia Swift (of No. Norway), Eben Hutchinson, Esq., Samuel Haskell, Dea. J. H. Lovejoy and Hepsibah Gould, who became

ALBANY

the wife of Dea. Lovejoy. As the settlement increased in population and prosperity the amount of the annual appropriation was increased. In 1825, Albany had four school districts, 126 scholars between the ages of four and twenty-one, 84 of whom attended school. \$120 was then raised for the cause of education; the population of the township was 307. Five years later the population was 387, and in 1840, 691.

We do not need to trace the later development of the schools. New d[i]stricts were established or discontinued as the settlement or desertion of different neighborhoods called for. The house now standing at Hunt's Corner was erected about 1840, rebuilt and remodeled in 1885.

SOLDIERS OF THE CIVIL WAR.

No section of Maine responded more readily and truly to the call for men to defend the Union than did Oxford county and the town of Albany. The following list we have compiled from the Maine Adjutant General's reports. We have endeavored to include all that were credited to the town of Albany, and if any omissions are found in the list they are unintentional.

Justis Aspenwall, Edgar D. Andrews, John L. Beckla, Andrew J. Bean, Edward Burk, Ephraim K. Buxton, Sergt. Thos. J. Bennett, Jos. H. Briggs, Parker V. Brown, Geo. H. Brown, Jas. Brown, Frank Burnham, Walter Bisbee,

HISTORICAL

Ephraim K. Baston, John Cowie, Wm. Coffron, Ruel Cofran, Corp. Lorenzo N. Cole, Lewis F. Cummings, Danl. Cummings, Granville W. Drew, Osgood Drew, Thos. Dalton, Osias B. Edgecomb, John Flint, Jacob F. French, Geo. W. Fernald, Chas. W. Farnum, Sergt. Wm. H. Foster, Capt. Abernethy Grover, Corp. Wm. H. Henry, Chas. P. Jordan, David A. Jordan, Saml. E. Kenniston, Watson Kenniston, Geo. W. Kimball, Moses E. Kimball, Edw. R. Kneeland, Alonzo Littlefeld, Vincent Mason, David Mitchell, Corp. Cyrus B. Morse, John Marshall, Bravity Marston, Thos. G. Morrill, Wm. H. Pingree, Solomon S. Pingree, Asa B. Pingree, Ai E. Searer, Seth E. Seavey, Henry C. Scribner, Oscar D. Wilber, Henry Wilber, Benj. Wilbur, Oscar D. Wilbur, Sergt. Gilbert Wardwell, Isaac W. Wardwell, Elbridge P. Wardwell, Nathan M. York, John York, Jr.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Round Mountain Grange, No. 162, was organized in 1875 with 27 charter members. The Grange Hall, located at Hunt's Corner, was purchased by the society in 1884. Here a store is conducted, now under the care of James Flint. The following is the list of men who have occupied the Master's chair: Herman Cummings, Geo. W. Beckler, Justis Aspinwall, James Flint, Gilbert Wardwell, James Kimball, Isaac Wardwell, Geo. Cummings, Wallace B. Cummings, Leon Kimball, Roy Wardwell and Irving Beckler. The leading officers for 1906 are Leon Kimball, master:

ALBANY

Cecil Kimball, overseer; W. B. Cummings, steward; Geo. Cummings, treas.; Ella Cummings, lect. and A. E. Cummings, sec. The society now numbers fifty-one members.

The Albany public library was organized about 1870, at Hunt's Corner. Mrs. J. H. Lovejoy became the first librarian. It has been successively under the care of Amos G. Bean, Hattie C. Wilbur, and Mrs. Nancy C. Andrews who now has it at her home. There are around 2250 volumes which number is increased as time and funds permit.

Hunt's Corner tavern was opened about 1805, to accommodate travelers over the new stage line from Portland to Bethel. It was built by one Holt who was succeeded in 1818 by Timothy Hutchinson. Two years later he was followed by Reuben Beard who remained four years when he sold to John Hunt for whom the place was named. He became well known throughout this part of the state as the genial proprietor until the year 1870 when he sold to A. S. Cole, the present owner. About 1825 a U. S. mail route was established running through the Albany Basins from North Waterford to West Bethel, on the way to Lancaster, N. H. On a certain trip the driver came near freezing and soon the old route by Hunt's Corner was resumed.

A local telephone has been recently installed in Albany by a local company incorporated as the Albany Telegraph and Telephone Company.