

Lanesboro



Lanesboro station, looking east

After 5 days return to
M. GOSLANT,
---DEALER IN---
LUMBER OF ALL KINDS,
Groceries, Clothing, Dry Goods, Etc.,
LANESBORO, - VT.



Lanesboro was once a very busy little village on the Montpelier & Wells River Railroad, very near the Peacham line. The community was named for Dennis and Edwin Lane, who built the mill there in the winter of 1882-83. They were also owners of the Lane Manufacturing Company in Montpelier, which manufactured saw mills. After Dennis died in 1888, Edwin assumed the management of the mill at Lanesboro, and General P. P. Pitkin became president of the Lane Manufacturing Co. The Lanes owned a tract of 2600 acres of timberland around the mill, employed a workforce of 25 to 50 men, and turned out annually about two million board feet of lumber and one thousand cords of wood. Dennis Lane served the town of Marshfield as selectman at one time.

About 1892 or 1893, the mill was acquired by Mitchell Goslant (pictured left), who continued to expand the timberland holdings into Peacham. Eventually, Goslant acquired 2615 acres of land in Marshfield and 2845 acres in Peacham, all of which he sold in 1919 to the State of Vermont for \$2.75 per acre, and which is now a part of Groton State Forest. He had also acquired an additional 10,000 acres, some in Groton, which he later sold to a Groton lumbering company. In all, Goslant's holdings were reported to be nearly 18,000 acres.

Mitchell Goslant was the father of 16 children from two marriages. He died in 1926 after being hit by a falling poplar tree at the age of 87. Casper Lyford reports that the mill building at Lanesboro fell down while Mitchell lay in his casket in his house nearby.

Lanesboro was large enough to support its own depot and post office, as well as a store, school, and church. Goslant held Catholic services in his home for 25 years. Priests from Lyndonville and St. Johnsbury arrived on the train on Saturdays and held Mass on Sundays. After the lumber business closed in 1917 the Catholics began meeting in Marshfield Village in a rented hall.



Above is the view looking west over the mill probably from one of the houses pictured below. Below, the Mitchell Goslant house appears in the foreground (shown as a vacant building next to the railroad tracks on the 1940 map, very near the homes of Milton Julian and Joe Legendre). The large ell on the left housed the store. The house at left was a boarding house for mill workers and later a home for Mitchell's son Perley. The first house to the right of Mitchell's was later owned by his daughter, Mrs. M. Julian. Mitchell reserved over 200 acres around the buildings from his sale to the state, and that land is still in the family.





Above: The Lanesboro schoolhouse about 1916. The mill and other buildings are visible in the distance. Right: Interior of the Lanesboro schoolhouse, also taken about 1916.

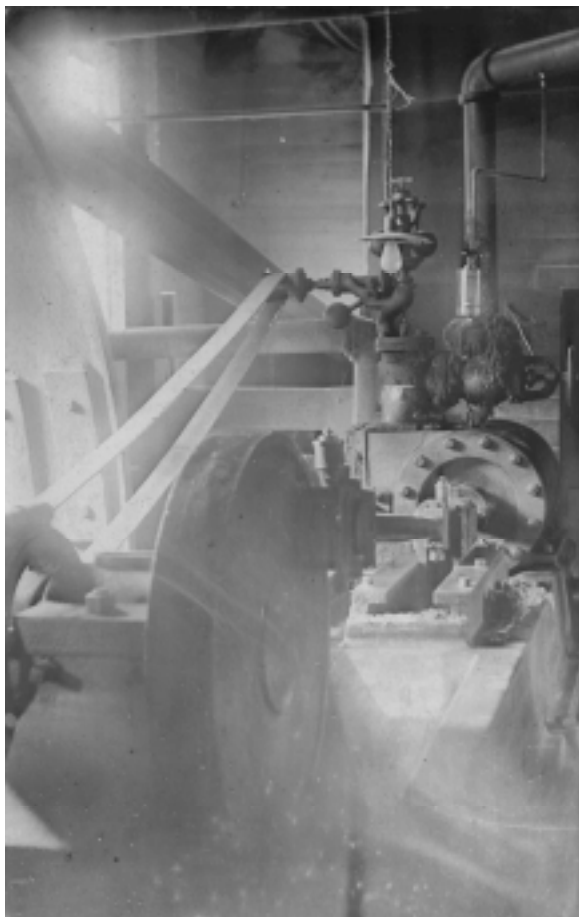


Left: These two perspectives of the mill building were probably taken while Goslant owned it. It has been said that the pile of sawdust once caught fire and smouldered for over two years.





Two interior views of the mill at Lanesboro. Notice in the picture above there appear to be two saw blades, one above the other. This would facilitate the sawing through of very large logs.



At left is the steam engine, crankshaft, governor, flywheel and belts which probably powered the saw blade. The boiler which powered the steam engine was fueled with sawdust and other waste from the mill.

FIVE ARRESTS MADE

June 30, 1919

As Result of Lanesboro Celebration That Ended In A Fight.

Deputy Sheriff H. C. Lawson returned this noon from Lanesboro with five persons who with Deputy Sheriff George Bliss of Marshfield, he arrested at the Jewett house in Lanesboro this morning on the charge of breach of peace. They were brought into court this afternoon upon States Attorney F. E. Gleason's Warrant. They answered to the names of Ira Pearson, Izzy Jewett, Mrs. Izzy Jewett, Dora Spinks Cheney and Harold Farnsworth whose residence in the several warrants were set up as of Marshfield although it is understood that one, at least, lives in Montpelier.

During the night Officer Bliss received a telephone call about a general celebration that was taking place in Lanesboro. He called Deputy Lawson who obtained warrants from States Attorney Gleason and proceeded to Lanesboro this morning. It appears, according to the report received here today, that a jamboree took place. The warrants charged the men with fighting and charged each woman with striking and beating each other.

When the quintet appeared in city court this afternoon, each pleaded guilty to the charge of breach of peace. The cases against Mr. and Mrs. Jewett were continued until Monday for sentence while the other three were sentenced to 30 days each in the county jail. They did not treat the matter as though it was very serious but 30 days will give them ample chance to think it over.



*Mitchell's son Fred at the Lanesboro Depot (above), and driving a team (center).
Bottom: An early skidder in use at Lanesboro with Bert Goodridge driving.*



Lumber King Victim of Forest Giant

**MITCHELL H. GOSLANT, 86,
SUCCESS IN SEVERAL LINES**

Lanesboro, Vt., Dec 5 - A rugged pioneer, one of the best-known men in Central Vermont, was laid at rest Friday at Newport. One who, although he should have been bowed by the weight of years, could not give up the work which had brought him much in worldly goods and only himself knew how much in the satisfaction of a task well done.

Mitchell H. Goslant, aged 86, known for 50 years as the Lumber King of this section, died, the victim of one of the giants of the forest and in a wooded glen, the like of which he had cleared many times that Vermont and other sections of New England might have lumber with which to build and build. He was found dead beneath a fallen tree and evidence showed that he had been just a trifle too slow in his jump when the warning creak of the falling timber came to his failing hearing.

He was born in Derby, May 11, 1840, and early started to hoe his own row. He took up the lumber business and after working around Walden for 16 years came to this town where he became associated with the late A. B. Lane, the originator of the town. With the growth of the village Mr. Goslant's business kept pace, but even an industry that once looked forward to clearing 18,000 acres of timbered land could not keep Mitchell Goslant busy. He opened a grocery store and although unable to write, he was a real Yankee trader and made a success of the venture. In addition to the cares of the store and the lumber business he was for many years postmaster.

When timber land in this vicinity became cleared he turned his hand to the granite industry and owned property on which the quarrying has been given up some years since.

Father of 16 Children

He was twice married and was the father of 16 children, 13 of whom are living. Five of these were from his first union. The survivors are: John of St. Johnsbury, Moses of Plainfield and George of Newport. Ten of the 11 children born of the second marriage survive. These are Fred of Peacham, Frank of Barre, Perley of Dover, N.H., Mrs. Mabel Baker of Hollywood, Calif., Mrs. J. H. Legendre of St. Johnsbury, Harold of St. Johnsbury, Albert of St. Johnsbury, Mrs. R. M. Cutting of Plainfield, Rupert, living at home, and Mrs. Milton Julian of St. Johnsbury.

Always a lover of the forests, his advanced age and the counsel of his family and friends could not keep him from taking frequent walks through the woods in this vicinity. Only last summer he was missing all of one night showing up in the morning to explain that night and a rainstorm had overtaken him and that he had built a fire and rested. He suffered no ill effects from that experience.

Some years ago he built a little church in the village and twice a month a priest came and celebrated mass. Those of the Catholic faith employed by him must have need of a better than ordinary excuse to remain away from mass. Unless that excuse was forthcoming on Monday the man who had failed to attend was paid off and went his way.

He was generous, but in a quiet, helpful way which made it difficult for any but those whom he had assisted to discover his good deeds.