

**MAINE HISTORIC ENGINEERING RECORD
DAM NO. 5, COBBOSSEECONTEE STREAM, GARDINER, MAINE.
MHER NO. 22**

LOCATION:

Cobboosseecontee Stream, Gardiner, Maine.
1 mile above confluence with Kennebec River.
Adjacent to 720 Water St., Gardiner, Maine.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:

1840-1850.

ENGINEER:

Unknown.

ARCHITECT:

Unknown.

PRESENT OWNER:

Newark Group, Inc. 20 Jackson St., Cranford, New Jersey.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Dam No. 5 is the last remaining intact stone dam of a series of seven stone dams constructed on Cobboosseecontee Stream in Gardiner, Maine in the mid 19th century for supplying water power and process water for a large number of manufacturing industries located along the stream. In 1882, the seven dams powered 18 manufactured facilities which employed 485 people. From 1865 to 2001, Dam No. 5 was utilized for the manufacturing of paper by a number of different owners.

PROJECT INFORMATION:

In 2001, the owner of Dam No. 5, the Newark Group, Inc. ceased papermaking operations at its paper mill at Dam No. 5 on Cobboosseecontee Stream in Gardiner, Maine. In 2002, the dam owner entered into a collaborative partnership with private organizations and state and federal fisheries agencies to remove the spillway of Dam No. 5 to provide passage for native migratory fish species in Cobboosseecontee Stream. In 2003, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission determined that Dam No. 5 is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and removal of the spillway of Dam No. 5 would have an adverse effect on the structure. This documentation was undertaken to mitigate this adverse effect.

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF DAM AND SETTING

Dam No. 5 is a stone and masonry dam located on Cobboosseecontee Stream in Gardiner, Maine approximately 1 mile above the stream's confluence with the Kennebec River. The dam was constructed c. 1840-1850 and is of cut stone and masonry construction. Its dimensions are approximately 100 feet wide, 12 feet in height and 12 feet in thickness. The dam was constructed for its owner, Robert Hallowell Gardiner, as part of a development scheme for the water rights and mill privileges he owned on Cobboosseecontee Stream.

The first known user of Dam No. 5 was the Stanwood & Tower Company, which constructed a paper mill at Dam No. 5 in 1865. The last user of Dam No. 5 was Gardiner Paperboard, Inc. which ceased operations at the site in 2001.

Dam No. 5 is the oldest intact dam remaining on Cobboosseecontee Stream in Gardiner, Maine. Large portions of

Dams No. 1, 2, 4 and 6 on Cobbosseecontee Stream are still preserved along the bank of the stream. All are similar in age and construction methods to Dam No. 5.

For 240 years, Cobbosseecontee Stream supplied mechanical power and process water to manufacturing facilities along the stream. Use of the stream for water power peaked in the late 19th century when seven stone dams were constructed on the lowermost two miles of the stream in Gardiner, Maine. In 1882, the seven dams supplied water and mechanical power to 18 separate manufacturing facilities employing 485 people.

During the 20th century, industrial use of Cobbosseecontee Stream steeply declined. By the 1970s, the Yorktowne Paper Company was the last remaining manufacturing industry using the waters of Cobbosseecontee Stream in Gardiner. Its facilities were located at Dam No. 5, which was used for drawing process water from the stream. In 1997, the Yorktowne paper mill at Dam No. 5 was sold to the Newark Group of Cranford, New Jersey and renamed Gardiner Paperboard, Inc. The 2001 closure of Gardiner Paperboard, Inc. ended the use of the waters of Cobbosseecontee Stream for manufacturing and closed a unique and formative era in the history of Gardiner, Maine.

Dam No. 5 and the now-breached Dams No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 played an integral role in the history of Gardiner, Maine and and Cobbosseecontee Stream; yet they also played a significant role in destroying part of this history.

These dams caused the extinction of the native populations of Atlantic salmon, American sahd, alewives and blueback herring in the Cobbosseecontee Stream watershed. Toxic pollution discharged into Cobbosseecontee Stream by the industries powered by these dams made the stream unsafe to drink from or swim in and killed its remaining fish and aquatic life. Storage dams built by the Gardiner mill owners on the headwater lakes and ponds of Cobbosseecontee Stream drastically altered the natural configuration of these waterbodies.

This report provides historic facts and information regarding Dam No. 5 and frames these facts in the context of the cultural and natural history of Cobbosseecontee Stream, the city of Gardiner, Maine and neighboring communities.

A. The Native People of the Kennebec River

Contrary to historians' repeated descriptions of the 18th century Kennebec River valley as a "trackless wilderness," the river valley has been settled by people as long as most other portions of the Earth's northern hemisphere. Since their first arrival nearly five centuries ago, Europeans and their descendants have lived alongside, traded with, taught and learned from the native people of the Kennebec River.

In the early 1800s, more than 40 years after the date most historians state that native people had completely disappeared from the Kennebec River, Robert Hallowell Gardiner spent time at Colonel Howard's store at Fort Western in Augusta and wrote:

"There Col. Howard kept up the simple hospitality of a previous period. It was said the fire never went out on his hearths. He lived in the old fort, built as protection against the Indians, and of which his father had been first commandant. Here he welcomed all, of whatever degree, who came to visit him. Nor were the natives of the forest, who were so looked upon with terror and were still regarded by most of the community in the light of noxious wild beasts to be exterminated, exempted from his kindness. They came in when they chose and remained as long as they pleased, sleeping on the kitchen hearth, being sure of having all their wants supplied by one who did not forget that the Indian had been once sole proprietor of the soil."

Native people of the Kennebec still live along the river, including Mr. Barry Dana, Governor of the Penobscot Indian Nation, a resident of Solon. Mr. Dana and many other members of the Penobscot Nation are descendants of the native people of the Kennebec River. Many of the place names in the Kennebec River valley are in the language of the native residents of the area. Place names such as Kennebec, Cobbosseecontee, Anabessacook, Maranacook, Cochnewagon, Messalonskee, Sebasticook, Cushnoc, Wesserunsett, Worrromontogus, Skowhegan, Caratunk, Nehumkeag, Abagadasset, Winnegance, Norridgewock and others all attest to the continuing influence of native people and their culture upon the Kennebec River valley today.

B. Dr. Silvester Gardiner

The 18th century settlement of Cobbosseecontee Stream was promoted by Dr. Silvester Gardiner. Gardiner was born

in South Kingston, Rhode Island in 1707 and died in Newport, Rhode Island in 1786. He was a physician and wholesale pharmacist practicing in Boston.

In the mid-1700s, Gardiner joined with other wealthy Boston men to promote settlement of a 600,000 acre land claim along the Kennebec River. Known as the Kennebec Proprietors, they encouraged families from southern New England to settle along the Kennebec River.

Silvester Gardiner did not reside in "Gardinerston," his land along Cobbosseecontee Stream. Living in Boston, England and Rhode Island, he managed his lands in Maine through his son William and various employees. He also made occasional summer visits. Gardiner offered settlers ownership of lots on his lands if they agreed to construct a house, clear a specified amount of land for cultivation, and reside on the land a specified number of years.

With deep water access to the lower Kennebec River and numerous water power sites, Gardiner's Kennebec lands along lower Cobbosseecontee Stream were especially attractive to potential settlers. Water power sites were important as a source of mechanical power to grind corn and to convert raw logs cut from nearby forests into salable wood products.

C. The First Mill Dam on Cobbosseecontee Stream

The first mill dam on Cobbosseecontee Stream was built in 1761 near Bridge Street in downtown Gardiner, Maine. This was the first significant fall on the stream above the tidal influence of the Kennebec River.

The "Cobbossee Grist Mill" dam was constructed at the direction of Silvester Gardiner and was equipped with a grist mill for grinding corn and other grain crops.

According to Hanson (1852), the builders of the dam employed by Dr. Gardiner included a "Mr. Thomes," Benjamin Fitch, and James Winslow. The occupations of Thomes and Fitch were builder of grist mills and saw-mill wright, respectively. These three men arrived with the first group of settlers of "Gardinerston" at the mouth of Cobbosseecontee Stream in the fall of 1760. The dam and grist mill were built the next year.

This dam was most likely constructed from large logs cut from trees along the stream bank. Hanson (1852) states the first settlers to arrive at Gardinerston in the fall of 1760 constructed log homes to spend the winter. Insight is provided by the removal of the Edwards Dam on the Kennebec River in Augusta in 1999, which revealed small wooden mill dams at the mouths of Goff Brook in Sidney, Riggs Brook in Augusta and Seven Mile Stream in Vassalboro. Because these dams were flooded by the Edwards Dam, built in 1837, these dams are definitely of late 18th or early 19th century vintage. All three are made of large, whole logs and sawn boards with wooden peg construction. It is likely the original grist mill dam at Cobbosseecontee was of similar construction. One of its builders, Benjamin Fitch, constructed other mill dams on tributaries of the Kennebec River from 1761 to 1775.

D. The Fight for Fish Passage

Besides lumber, a key attraction of the Kennebec River valley for new settlers and entrepreneurs was the river's fisheries. According to Kershaw (1975), James Bowdoin, treasurer of the Kennebec Proprietors, described the river's resources in this way in 1748:

"The Rivers & adjacent seas abound with Fish of most Sorts, particularly Salmon, Sturgeon, Alewives, Shad, Mackerel & beyond all Codfish. - These are some of the natural advantages we have."

According to Ulrich (1990), an 18th century letter promoting the Kennebec lands to settlers described the river as, "a great Salmon fishery in the summer and a bass fishery in the winter."

While Atlantic salmon and Atlantic sturgeon were more commercially valuable, the diminutive alewife was by far the most abundant and easily caught food fish in the Kennebec River. Each spring, alewives ascended the river and its tributaries by the tens of millions. They were caught by early Kennebec River settlers and used for food, for sale and for barter.

Hanson (1852) relates an 18th century anecdote about the alewife run on Worromontogus Stream, directly across the Kennebec River from Gardiner:

"It is related that alewives were so plentiful there at the time the country was settled, that bears, and later swine, fed on them in the water. They were crowded ashore by the thousands. Mrs. David Philbrook, who was a McCausland, was very much in want of a spinning wheel. One day she took a dip net, and caught seven barrels of alewives in the Togus, and took two barrels in a canoe, and paddled them down to Mr. Winslow's, and exchanged them for a wheel."

During the 1760s, a number of new settlers secured lots from Dr. Silvester Gardiner on his lands at the large headwater lakes of Cobbosseecontee Stream. In 1771 the settlers incorporated the Town of Winthrop. Surrounded by 12,000 acres of lakes, these settlers were aware Cobbosseecontee Stream and its ponds had hosted enormous alewife runs until Silvester Gardiner's mill dam at the mouth of the stream completely blocked the fishes' passage. One of the first official acts of the Town of Winthrop was to ask Silvester Gardiner to restore access for alewives to their spawning grounds in the headwater lakes of Cobbosseecontee Stream.

Thurston (1855) reports: "The first action of the people at Winthrop in relation to the dam, on record, is at a meeting of the town, Nov. 17, 1771, when they chose James Craig, Jonathan Whiting, and Ichabod How, a committee to solicit Dr. Gardiner & Son to open a place through, or around their mill dam, to let the fish up for the benefit of the town."

Thurston reports that in August, 1773 the Winthrop Fish Committee reported to the townspeople that: "They had waited on the Dr. [Silvester Gardiner], and desired him to open a suitable way through or round his mill dam, for the fish to go up for the benefit of the town, but that the Dr. wholly declined to comply with their request."

With the Revolutionary War well underway, on June 29, 1776, the residents of Winthrop petitioned the provisional government of Massachusetts to compel Silvester Gardiner to allow fish to pass his mill dam at the mouth of the Cobbosseecontee Stream (Baxter 1910).

The Winthrop petition reads:

"To the Honorable the Council for the Colony of Massachusetts Bay and the Honorable House of Representatives of the Same in General Court Assembled The Petition of Joseph Baker, Ransford Smith and Daniel Dudley a Committee of the town of Winthrop in the County of Lincoln in Said Colony in behalf of the Town Humbly Sheweth ...

That Said Town is Situated in the River Called Cobiseconte formerly noted for one of the best streams in these parts for Fishing but some years ago Doct. Silvester Gardiner late of Boston Erected a mill dam at the mouth of Said River where it empties into the River Kennebeck which entirely stopped the Course of the fish up Said River called Cobiseconte. The Inhabitants of Said Town Sensible of the Great advantage of the fish taken so near as they might if they were not stopped by Said mill dam applied to Said Doct. Silvester Gardiner to make a fish way through or round his mill dam which he seemed willing at first to do but after delaying from one time to another refused to do anything about it and the Town having no other way to obtain a course for the fish up Said river but pursuing the measures printed out by the Law of the land which they have been prevented from taking advantage of by the breaking out of the present Troubles and Considering the advantage the fish would be in case they could have a Course up not only to the Inhabitants of Winthrop but to others in the Neighborhood Your Petitioners pray your Honours to take their Case under Your Consideration and Grant Relief by ordering the occupiers of saw mill dam to make a course for the fish by said dam or otherwise as your Honours in your Wisdom shall See fit and your Petitioners shall ever pray.

June 29 A.D. 1776

Joseph Baker
Ransford Smith
Daniel Dudley
Committee of Winthrop"

E. Second Mill Dam at Cobbosseecontee Stream

A Tory loyal to the King of England, Dr. Silvester Gardiner fled Massachusetts with British troops during the evacuation of Boston in the spring of 1776. His son William remained in Gardinerston to manage his father's landholdings, where he was repeatedly but unsuccessfully brought to trial for being a traitor to the American Revolution. Local resentment against Dr. Gardiner was such that settlers informally changed the name of Gardinerston to "Pittstown." Silvester Gardiner did not return to the colonies until shortly before his death in 1786.

At some time in the 1770s, a second mill dam was constructed on Cobbosseecontee Stream about one mile above the stream's mouth. Letters from this period from William Gardiner to his father mention a second mill dam. Kershaw (1975) provides a 1777 letter from William Gardiner to his father which refers to "the dispute with Winthrop about ye Dam."

With the death of Dr. Silvester Gardiner in 1786, control of this landholdings went to his grandson, Robert Hallowell Gardiner, who at the time was a small child. His father (Silvester Gardiner's son-in-law), Robert Hallowell, served as guardian of his son's estate.

Town meeting records in Thurston (1855) show that during this period, the Town of Winthrop continued its legal efforts to force Silvester Gardiner and his children to obey the Massachusetts fish passage laws.

Enactment in 1789 of a new and tougher Massachusetts law requiring fish passage at mill dams along Kennebec and its tributaries spurred an effort by Robert Hallowell to put an end to the complaints by the Town of Winthrop. Documents in Baxter (1910) show that in 1790, Robert Hallowell asked the Massachusetts Legislature to exempt the Cobbossee dams from the new fish passage law, writing:

"To the Honorable Senate, and the Hon. House of Representatives.

The Petition of Robt. Hallowell Guardian to Robt. Hallowell Jr.

Humbly Shews

That upon the River Cobbiseconte in Pittston in the County of Lincoln, two Mills are erected the property of the said Robert Jr. one of which has stood nearly thirty years, and the other about eighteen or twenty years, to the Great Convenience and advantage of the inhabitants of said Pittston, and the Circumjacent Country -- That in order to supply the aforesaid Mills with a Sufficiency of Water, two dams were made and have been continued on said Cobbiseconte river ever since the said Mills were respectively erected, without which the water would be entirely diverted from said Mills and the same would become useless, as to the great damage of the Public, as well as to the said Robert --

That by an Act made the 29th day of February in the year of our Lord 1789, intituled an Act to prevent the destruction and to regulate the Catching of the fish called Salmon, Shad and Alewives in the rivers and streams in the Counties of Cumberland, and Lincoln, and to repeal all laws heretofore made for that purpose. An authority is given to certain Committees described in said Act, to open and destroy said Dams for the purpose of making a fish way, whereby said Dams are continually exposed to be thrown open & rendered useless. That in the Event no advantage would result to the Community, as the expence of making a fish way would be very considerable, and the same would be in a great measure ineffectual when built, as the oldest inhabitants in that Country cannot recollect any instance of the Alewives proceeding above the aforesaid Dams, and as a variety of natural obstructions render it highly improbable, that the larger fish would ever proceed above said dams in any considerable number --

Your petitioner therefore prays this Honorable Court to take these facts into consideration, and to appoint a Committee to inspect the premises, so that if it should appear that the damage arising to the community from the destruction of said Mills would exceed the benefit, accruing from the opening a fish way, such measures may be adopted, as will prevent the operation of the Act upon the Dams erected over the aforesaid stream -- Or if in the opinion of the said Committee a fish way should be found expedient, they may in that case be instructed to report, the dimensions, and restrictions under which it shall be made --

Robt. Hallowell"

In response to this petition, the Town of Winthrop submitted to the Massachusetts Legislature sworn depositions from three residents who disputed Hallowell's claim that alewives and shad never migrated up Cobbosseecontee Stream to Winthrop (Baxter 1910). Robert Hallowell's petition and Winthrop's response attest to the very contentious nature of this issue and provide a unique glimpse of conditions in Gardinerston during this period. The depositions state:

Deposition of John Stain

"I John Stain of Lawful age testify and Say that about thirty years ago before there was any mill Dam built across Cobesecontee Stream I caught Shad fish in said Stream up at the falls about a mile from the mouth of said Stream where a saw mill now Stands and have for years together when I was there to Catch fish Seen Shad and Elwives to over the falls going up said Stream.

John Stain. Lincoln, December ye 31st 1790

The above named John Stain made oath that the above Declaration by him Subscribed was true before -- Robert Page, Justice of the Peace."

The Deposition of Abraham Wyman

"Abraham Wyman of Wyman's Plantation in the County of Lincoln, Gentleman of Lawful age, testifieth and saith that

some years before there was any mills built on Coboseecontee stream so called which Emptyes in to Kennebeck River at Pittstown. I was hunting on said Stream and I saw a plenty of alewives Runing up said Stream they were then a mile above what was called the upper falls and further the Deponent saith not.

Abram Wyman"

The Deposition of Joseph Greeley

"The Deposition of Joseph Greeley of Sandey river in the County of Lincoln yeoman of Lawful age testifieth and saith that about four or five and twenty years ago and to the best of my Remembrance it was the year that Cobboseecontee mill Dam was Caried away I was a hunting on Cobbosseecontee Stream so called that Emptied into Kennebec River at Pittstown and up said Stream at the falls in Winthrop where John Chandler Mills now Stand I Saw a Plenty of Alewives Runing up Said falls. I also Saw Major Heald the same day he informed me that he had also Seen them as well as myself and further the deponant Saith not.

Joseph Grele

Lincoln, January 21st 1791

Personally appeared the above named Abraham Wyman and Joseph Grele and after being Duly Cautioned and Examined made Solom Oath to the truth of the Above depositions by them Subscribed before me.

Obadiah Williams, Justice of the Peace."

F. Robert Hallowell Gardiner

In 1801, upon reaching his 21st birthday, Robert Hallowell, Jr. petitioned the Massachusetts Legislature to change his legal name to Robert Hallowell Gardiner, as required by Silvester Gardiner so that he could inherit the family landholdings. The Legislature granted his request in 1802 and Robert Hallowell Gardiner took control of family landholdings, mills, dams and all of the undeveloped water powers of Cobbosseecontee Stream in Gardiner. In 1803 the original Kennebec Proprietors' township of Pittstown was split in two along the Kennebec River and the Town of Gardiner was incorporated.

During this period the legal battle with the Town of Winthrop over fish passage continued unabated. Robert Hallowell Gardiner was likely aware that in 1803 the Selectmen of the Town of Benton tore down a mill dam on the Sebasicook River because its owners refused to provide fish passage as required by law. In 1805, Gardiner apparently petitioned the Massachusetts Legislature to exempt Cobbosseecontee Stream from all fish passage laws. At town meeting in January, 1806, the Town of Winthrop voted to instruct its Representative to the Legislature "to oppose having Cobbossee Conte stream exempted from the fish law of the Commonwealth."

On February 17, 1806, the Massachusetts Legislature passed a law exempting all existing and future dams on Cobbosseecontee Stream from any fish passage requirements. With this legal assurance in place, Robert Hallowell Gardiner began in earnest to develop the water powers of Cobbosseecontee Stream for industry. That same year, Gardiner constructed the first paper mill on Cobbosseecontee Stream. Information suggests it was built at the old mill dam site about one mile from the stream's mouth, near the location of Dams No. 5 and 6.

The "Daily Reporter Journal," edition of November 4, 1893, states:

"The first paper mill of which we have any knowledge was built by Hon. R.H. Gardiner in 1806, and operated by a company comprised of Mr. Gardiner, John Savels, Eben Moore and John Stone. This was a wooden mill, and the process of manufacturing paper was very crude. This mill was burned in 1813. Another mill was built, on the same site, and Mr. John Godding, who lives at the New Mills, is the only one left of the men who were prominent in the paper making in this locality in those days. In 1834 the present "Richards Mill" was erected, and operated for 20 years by Richards & Hoskins. In 1852, what was known as the Great Falls Company was formed and another mill built. The company was comprised of Charles Swift, L.N. Tucker, S. Bowman, Phillip Winslow, Joseph Perry, Lincoln Pery, Charles Bridge, R.K. Littlefield, F.P. Patten, Samuel Hooker, William Libby and Noah Woods. After ten years this company sold the mills to the S.D. Warren Co., who have operated it since that with great success."

A visual sense of the mills on Cobbosseecontee Stream in the 1850s is conveyed in Hanson (1852):

"The sawmills are the next more notable objects which would be likely to draw the stranger's attention. Five or six of them extend across the bend of Cobbossee-contee bay, northerly at a right angle to Water Street. All around them are

huge piles of lumber, and about 30 feet below them lies the bay, a shallow body of water, about 8 acres in extent, and thickly paved with mill logs, upon which, at all times of the day, may be seen numbers of hardy lumbermen, with their long pick poles, selecting logs by their marks, and moving them slowly up to the foot of the slip, up which they are drawn in the mills, by water power machinery. Beyond these mills to the west, is the deep gorge through which flows the Cobbossee-contee river, lined on either side with saw-mills, factories, tanneries and other water works of the city."

Hanson (1852) provides 1850 census data for Gardiner industries, including 6 lath machines, 1 steam mill, 11 clapboard mills, 13 shingle machines, 15 up and down saws, 1 woolen factory, 1 tannery, 1 flour mill, 1 paper mill, 2 carriage manufactories and 1 plaster mill. Output of these industries in 1850 included 15,000,000 feet of lumber sawed; 12,000,000 shingles; 3,500,000 clapboards; and over 500 tons of paper valued at \$120,000.

F. Construction and Ownership of Dam No. 5

The construction date of Dam No. 5 is not certain, however records show it was built on behalf of Robert H. Gardiner prior to 1850. Hanson (1852) reported that six dams were present on Cobbosseecontee Stream, of which "two have no machinery and four are not as improved as they might be."

During this period, Robert H. Gardiner maintained ownership of all the dams and mill privileges on the stream. Remnants of Dams 1, 2, 4 and 6 can still be seen along the stream today. All are made of large, fitted stone blocks and are very similar in material and construction to Dam No. 5.

Records suggest that Gardiner and other investors built the six dams as part of a development plan which assumed that if they constructed solid dams on all of Cobboseecontee Stream's water powers in Gardiner, enough tenant mill owners could be found to rent them and return the investment. Under this plan, Gardiner would pay for construction and repair of the dams while mill owners paid for and maintained the mills using the dam. This arrangement was evidenced in 1810 when Robert H. Gardiner granted a lease to the Gardiner Cotton & Woolen Mill Factory allowing them to use the water powers at Dam No. 2 for 99 years.

In memoirs intended for his children (Gardiner 1936), Robert H. Gardiner confessed that maintaining and repairing the mills and dams on Cobbosseecontee Stream was an expensive and continuous task. He wrote: "My dams and mills were constantly subject to heavy repairs ... The lower dam, built of wood in my father's time, was carried away, and the Swan dam was carried away from a defect in its apron. To prevent the reoccurrence of the same accident, I rebuilt the dam with a stone apron, but a large log coming over broke an apron stone, and the dam shared the same fate as its predecessor. In all these cases, besides the expense of rebuilding, there was a loss of nearly a year's mill rent of all the mills situated on the dam."

From this description it can be assumed that prior to the 1850s, Gardiner's six dams underwent numerous and repeated repairs and alterations in an effort to make them less vulnerable to damage. In 1864, Robert Hallowell Gardiner died at the age of 83.

By the Civil War there were seven stone dams along the stream, numbered consecutively from its mouth and named Dam No. 1, Dam No. 2, etc. During this period, the heirs of Robert H. Gardiner sold several their seven dams on Cobbosseecontee Stream. Kingsbury (1892) states that Dam No. 5 was sold by the Gardiner heirs to Ellis Hollingsworth and Leonard Whitney in 1877. An article in the "Kennebec Reporter," dated Nov. 24, 1883, describes Dam No. 5 as "a splendid privilege, the dam being built of stone and with a fall of 16.35 feet and capable of driving a large amount of machinery."

Records show that in 1882, the heirs of R.H. Gardiner owned Dams No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3; Hollingsworth & Whitney Co. owned Dams No. 4 and No. 5; S.D. Warren Co. owned Dam No. 6; and F.G. Richards Co. owned Dam No. 7.

According to an October 28, 1882 article in the "Kennebec Reporter," the Cobbosseecontee Stream dam owners formed in 1879 an organization called the "Gardiner Water Power Company" to secure greater water storage and reliable stream flows at the various ponds and lakes that feed Cobbosseecontee Stream. The article states:

"Until within three years, the power has been unreliable in the summer months. The mills had to shut down, more or less of the time in July and August, on account of a water shortage. The saw mills were run by turns. The day and night were divided into sections of so many hours, each, and one of these was assigned to each mill. This sort of thing has been obviated by the company's purchases of increased flowage rights and raising the reservoir dam. The company purchased a few weeks ago, at an expense of \$12,000 the Whitman mill privilege, on Anabessacook Pond, in Winthrop, for the sake of flowage right. The company now owns seven ponds for storage uses as follows: Pleasant Pond, three Purgatory ponds, Great Pond, Anabessacook Pond and Horseshoe Pond. There is an unfailing supply of water, every dry season in the year."

The 1882 "Kennebec Reporter" article states in that year 18 businesses utilized the water power from the seven dams on Cobbosseecontee Stream in Gardiner, employing a total of 485 people.

G. Industries Using Dam No. 5

Kingsbury (1892) summarized the industries utilizing Dam No. 5 from 1865 to 1892:

"Stanwood & Tower started the first paper mill on Dam No. 5 in the fall of 1865. It was a one machine mill, making bogus manilla paper for wrapping. About 1871 the Dillinghams bought in with Stanwood & Tower, put in another machine, and as Dillingham & Co. made bogus and No. 1 manilla paper. In the spring of 1876, Ellis A. Hollingsworth and Leonard Whitney bought out Dillingham & Co. and continued making manilla paper. In November, 1877, Hollingsworth & Whitney bought of the estate of R.H. Gardiner dams No. 4 and 5, with land and privileges, and in 1880 began the building of a pulp mill on dam No. 4, for the manufacture of soda pulp, which was completed the next spring and called the Aroostook mills. ... In 1886 the Cobbossee mills on Dam No. 5 shut down, were entirely rebuilt in less than six months and again in active operation making manilla paper. The original founders of these mills both being dead, a new company was formed in 1882, called The Hollingsworth & Whitney Company. At present [1892] the Cobbossee and Aroostook mills at Gardiner make about fourteen tons of manilla paper per day, which gives work to one hundred people, and uses water to the amount of 4,000 horse power."

Meader (1949) states that Ellis A. Hollingsworth and Leonard Whitney were from Watertown, Massachusetts and operated a paper bag mill in Watertown and a paper mill in South Braintree, Mass. She provides detailed information about the "Cobbossee mill" at Dam No. 5 in the 1870s-1880s era:

"The machines in the Cobbossee mill were of the narrow cylinder type and would seem very tiny in comparison to the modern machines. The Cobbossee and Aroostook mills used as fuel what was called spruce edgings and was piled along the lanes of the mill yards. All the raw material, which consisted of jute and sisal rope was cut and dumped into the bleachers to be cooked. Both the raw materials and the finished product was hauled by a company of teams to and from the old freight depot located near the boat wharf where the Boston boats landed.

"There were no paved roads at that time and Water Street, which familiarly known as "Tip" Street made the hauling difficult, especially in the spring when the mud in some places was so deep that the cart wheels would sink to the hubs. The office was in the upper part of the mill, and after Hollingsworth & Whitney took over the plant an office was built just across the raceway. The main office was in Boston. Girls were employed in both mills on the cutters and in the finishing rooms. Some of the paper was cut into sheets, and some made into rolls.

"The Cobbossee label on the bundles and rolls was a guarantee of good quality and the product found a ready market. In 1876 the Cobbossee mill was awarded a prize at the Centennial in Philadelphia for the best heavy weight manila.

"The working hours were from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., for the day crews and 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. for the night shift. The mills ran steadily from 6 p.m. Sunday to 6 a.m. Saturday. There was no lack of orders and the only stoppage, except for holidays, was an occasional breakdown of machinery.

"Amasa R. Meader was the first superintendent of the Cobbossee mill and also of the Aroostook mill when it was rebuilt as a paper mill. He entered the employ of Stanwood and Tower in 1867, and after working in the different departments was promoted to superintendent in 1869. He continued in this position during the changes of ownership until 1886 when he resigned to accept a position as superintendent of a mill in western New York State."

An article in the "Daily Reporter Journal," dated November 4, 1893, provides information on the Cobbossee mill at Dam No. 5 from after the deaths of Ellis Hollingsworth & Leonard Whitney ca. 1882; and a profile of mill's second superintendent, Frank E. Boston:

"After the death of Ellis Hollingsworth and Leonard Whitney, who composed the firm of Hollingsworth & Whitney, the Hollingsworth & Whitney Co. was formed. The company operated mills in Gardiner, South Braintree and Watertown, Mass. and in looking for Superintendent the choice fell upon a young Gardiner paper maker in the person of Frank E. Boston who commenced his business life with the company, and the present indications are that he will spend many years with it. He was born in this city, March 4th, 1855, and was the eldest child of Calvin and Sarah Boston. His father, Capt. Calvin Boston, was one of Gardiner's bravest soldiers, who died in the defense of his country. Frank attended the primary and grammar schools but did not enter the High school, preferring to take a business course at the Augusta Commercial College. In 1868 he commenced his career as a paper maker in the position of 2nd hand on the Stanwood & Tower mill. He served his apprenticeship and afterwards ran the machine, and then tried his hand in almost every department, being familiar with each branch. He was naturally a good

mechanic, and rapidly advanced in his work. He remained in the mill during different changes in its management, and in 1880 the company made him foreman of its bag mill in Watertown, Mass. He remained there two years, when he was called to the charge of the South Braintree mills. There he remained until 1886, when he was appointed Superintendent of the company's mills, with headquarters at Gardiner. Upon assuming charge he commenced at once the extensive improvements on the mill at Gardiner, which has made this plant one of the first in New England of that class of manufactures. The old Cobbossee mill was torn down and wholly rebuilt, while the Aroostook was very extensively altered, the company spending about \$200,000 in repairs ...

"October 1, 1886, he was married to Miss Florence Goodrich, the second daughter of Mr. George Goodrich at the New Mills. His pleasant home on Brunswick Avenue is made pleasanter by the presence of a bright young lad, who thinks Papa is O.K. in every sense of the word. Supt. Boston puts his whole time into business, allowing but very little time for recreation; in fact his chief pleasure seems to be his work. He is an ex-foreman of the Continental Hook & Ladder Co., and still takes a great interest in the company. Frank is a good fellow to meet anywhere, and no one will discommode himself more to do a favor for a friend than the Superintendent of the Hollingsworth & Whitney Paper Co. May he live long and prosper."

The Hollingsworth & Whitney Co. paper mill at Dam No. 5 continued operation for several more decades. Records at the Kennebec County Registry of Deeds show that on April 7, 1947 Dam No. 4 and Dam No. 5 and mill privileges were sold by the Hollingsworth & Whitney Company to the Gardiner Board of Trade. On June 2, 1947 the dams and mill privileges were sold by Fairview Wine Corporation, Herman D. Sahigian, President, to Mercer Paper Tube, Inc. of Trenton, New Jersey. Records at the Registry of Deeds show no conveyance instrument of the mill property and Dam No. 5 from the Gardiner Board of Trade to the Fairview Wine Corporation.

In 1947, the Kennebec Journal reported the commencement of manufacturing operations at the Gardiner Paper Mill at Dam Nos. 4 and 5. The newspaper report suggests the Hollingsworth & Whitney company mills had been idle for some time, due to the reference of the resumption of papermaking at the "old" Hollingsworth & Whitney mill. The 1947 conveyance of the property from the Hollingsworth & Whitney Company to the Gardiner Board of Trade suggests the local business development group took an interest in finding a new occupant for the mill site.

The 1947 Kennebec Journal story listed Morris and Myer Kaplan as owners of the Gardiner Paper Mill company and reported the mill recycled paper waste into cardboard. At its opening, the mill employed 47 people. Some of the pulp was sold to a separate company at the mill site, the Maine Paper Tube Co., which manufactured cardboard tubes for textile and lineoleum manufacturers. The manufacture of recycled cardboard for paper tubes continued at the mill facility until its closure in 2001.

On April 3, 1951, deed records show Dams 4 and 5 and mill privileges were sold by the Mercer Paper Tube, Inc., Meyer Kaplan, President, to Gardiner Paper Mills, Inc. Both corporations were located at 650 W. Ingham Ave., Trenton, New Jersey.

On Nov. 24, 1967, deed records show the Gardiner Paper Mill and Dam Nos. 4 and 5 were sold by Gardiner Paper Mills, Inc. to Yorktowne Paper Mills of Maine, Inc. headquartered in Yorktowne, Pennsylvania.

On August 22, 1997, deed records show Dam 5 and mill privilege were sold by Yorktowne Paper Mills of Maine, Inc. to the Newark Group Inc., 20 Jackson St., Cranford, New Jersey. The mill was renamed Gardiner Paperboard, Inc.

In October, 2001 the Newark Group ceased all manufacturing activities at the Gardiner Paperboard mill. In 2002, all paper making machinery and equipment was removed from the mill. As of 2004, the Newark Group remains the owner of the mill facility and Dam No. 5.

Appendix -- Ownership Chronology

Nov. 19, 1877 -- Dams 4 and 5 and mill privileges sold for \$21,250 by heirs to Robert H. Gardiner (Robert H. Gardiner, J.W.T. Gardiner, Frederic Gardiner, Richard Sullivan and F.G. Richards) to Ellis A. Hollingsworth of South Braintree, Mass. and Leonard Whitney, Jr. of Watertown, Mass. Kennebec County Registry of Deeds, Book 316, p. 53.

April 11, 1882 -- One half share of Dams 4 and 5 and mill privileges sold by Susan J. Hollingsworth, Sumner Hollingsworth and Ellis Hollingsworth of Braintree, Mass. to the Hollingsworth & Whitney Co., Boston, Mass. Kennebec County Registry of Deeds, Book 335, p. 569.

April 11, 1882 -- One half share of Dams 4 and 5 and mill privileges sold for \$51,000 by Catherine Whitney, Arthur Whitney and Edward B. Eaton of Watertown, Mass. to the Hollingsworth & Whitney Co. of Boston, Mass. Kennebec County Registry of Deeds, Book 335, p. 572.

April 7, 1947 -- Dams 4 and 5 and mill privileges sold by Hollingsworth & Whitney Company to Gardiner Board of Trade. Kennebec County Registry of Deeds, Book 845, p. 52.

June 2, 1947 -- Dams 4 and 5 and mill privileges sold by Fairview Wine Corporation, Herman D. Sahigian, President, to Mercer Paper Tube, Inc. of Trenton, New Jersey. Kennebec County Registry of Deeds, Book 841, p. 600.

April 3, 1951 -- Dams 4 and 5 and mill privileges sold by Mercer Paper Tube, Inc., Meyer Kaplan, President, to Gardiner Paper Mills, Inc. Both corporations located at 650 W. Ingham Ave., Trenton, New Jersey. Kennebec County Registry of Deeds, Book 911, p. 78.

Nov. 24, 1967 -- Dams 4 and 5 and mill privileges sold by Gardiner Paper Mills, Inc. to Yorktowne Paper Mills of Maine, Inc. Kennebec County Registry of Deeds, Book 1457, p. 144.

August 22, 1997 -- Dam 5 and mill privilege sold by Yorktowne Paper Mills of Maine, Inc. to the Newark Group Inc., 20 Jackson St., Cranford, New Jersey. Kennebec County Registry of Deeds, Book 5434, p. 321.

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