JAMES W. AMBROSE

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

by

Richard D. Kelly Jr.
JAMES W. AMBROSE was born in Industry, Maine on Jan. 3, 1826. He was the son of Dr. Jonathan Ambrose b. March 11, 1783 in Sutton, N. H. and Mehitable Carr b. Nov. 14, 1792 in Rochester, N. H. Dr. Ambrose died in Starks, Maine on Aug. 3, 1863, and his widow Mehitable died in Sherman, Maine on Jan. 6, 1882.

James W. Ambrose left home at an early age and traveled extensively in New England and the Southern States. To use his own language, he "paddled his own canoe" since that time. Following these wanderings he stopped in the town of Wells, Maine. This was in the early 1840's and his occupation was cordwainer (leatherworker).

On Dec. 27, 1846 he married Mary Lovinia Littlefield b. March 15, 1827 at Wells, Maine, the daughter of John and Mary (Page) Littlefield. After residing in Wells for several years, in 1858 he decided to move to the town of Sherman in Aroostook County. He bought land in the town of Sherman and arrived there late in 1858. He also owned land in Mapleton but sold it sometime before 1877. In January of 1860 he moved his family to Sherman where they lived in a small log cabin near the Mill. He built a log house on his land and in the Fall of 1860 placed his family and goods on a sledge and hauled them four miles through the woods to their new home. After paying his expenses he found himself possessed of $33.00 and an old horse which he exchanged for a cow. His farm totaled 300 acres, 80 of which he cleared.
James W. Ambrose was a member of the Democratic Party before the Civil War but at the outbreak of hostilities he changed his allegiance to the Republican Party. He entered the Union Army, having been drafted at Sherman, but actually never served in the war. He is however officially listed as a veteran of Co. A, 17th Regiment of Maine Infantry.

Following his discharge from the Army he returned to Sherman and his interests turned to politics. He was a selectman for the Town of Sherman for three years, a County Commissioner for six years, and sat in the Maine House of Representatives for the 1883-84 Session. While in the House he sat on the Joint Committees of Agriculture and Interior Waters. It would be interesting to analyze his voting record at some time in the future, but some insight is given into his character from the following: On Feb. 16, 1883 he voted in favor of a constitutional amendment, "forever prohibiting the manufacture of intoxicating liquors and prohibiting their sale, except for medicinal purposes and the arts."

Of 151 members of the House, James W. Ambrose was one of 109 Republicans, one of forty farmers, and one of three Catholics. After his term in the House he was for another three years as a County Commissioner for Aroostook County.
CHILDREN OF JAMES W. AMBROSE AND MARY LOVINIA LITTLEFIELD


CHILDREN:

MARY E. PERRY
EDWARD A. PERRY
JEREMIAH D. PERRY

2. ANN E. AMBROSE b. May 4, 1850 at Wells, Maine. She married James F. Farmer of Silver Ridge Plantation. Intention recorded June 18, 1867.

CHILDREN:

MARY S. FARMER
LUCY ANN FARMER
HENRY FARMER
GEORGE A. FARMER
ELLEN E. FARMER
AGNES H. FARMER


CHILDREN:

ELIZABETH DUBOY
JAMES DUBOY
MAUDET DUBOY
CLEMENT DUBOY
ANDREW DUBOY
LILLIAN DUBOY

CHILDREN:

WILLIAM A. AMBROSE
FRANK A. AMBROSE
IDA AMBROSE
ETHEL AMBROSE
EDITH AMBROSE
FREDERICK AMBROSE

5. JAMES EDWARD AMBROSE b. April 8, 1859 at Wells, Maine. He married Mattie Michaud of Patten. Intention recorded Nov. 6, 1881.

CHILDREN:

AGNES AMBROSE
EDWARD AMBROSE
FRANK AMBROSE
LOTTIE AMBROSE
EVA AMBROSE

6. AGNES E. AMBROSE b. April 27, 1860 at Sherman, Maine. She married True David Sleeper of Sherman. Intention recorded May 19, 1881.

CHILDREN:

JAMES SLEEPER
AMY SLEEPER
HAROLD SLEEPER
SAMUEL SLEEPER

CHILDREN:

FREDERICK AUGUSTINE AMBROSE
JAMES RALPH AMBROSE
LUCY MARIE AMBROSE
ANNA ELIZABETH AMBROSE
HELEN GERTRUDE AMBROSE
MARY EVELYN AMBROSE


CHILDREN:

RICHARD A. SLEEPER
ESTHER A. SLEEPER
WALLACE H. SLEEPER
BERTHA SLEEPER
EMMA SLEEPER
HELEN SLEEPER
BLANCHE SLEEPER
MARK SLEEPER
JONATHAN AMBROSE (1723 - 1760), James W. Ambrose's great grandfather, saw service with New Hampshire Volunteers at the siege of Louisbourg, Nova Scotia in 1745 during the French and Indian Wars.

SAMUEL AMBROSE (1753 - 1830), James W. Ambrose's grandfather, served as a private in Capt. Noah Worcester's Company, which marched in 1775 to reinforce the army at Boston. Following this service he served in Capt. John Willoughby's Company at the Battle of Saratoga in 1777. After his Revolutionary War service he became a Baptist Minister and settled in Sutton, New Hampshire.
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