

The Tide Water Mill

James Madison Kendall, millwright from Fairfield, invented and in 1861 put into operation the unique two-way tide mill under the Cathance Bridge which provided power for the Kendall grain mill and the Sagadahoc Fertilizer factory for over 40 years.

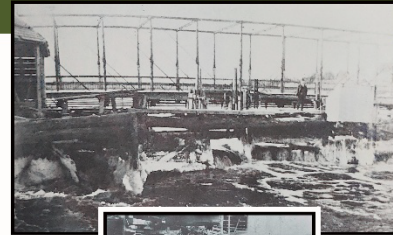
Kendall's Mills' king-post span bridge, 1900



Cast Iron Bridge, 1930
144 feet long, it was a Whipple "trapezoidal truss" bridge.

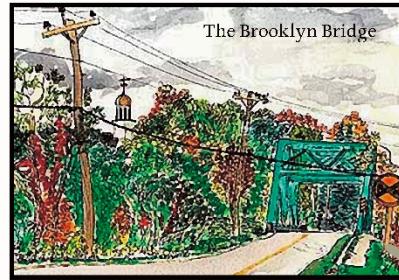


Kendall's Mills' Tide Water Mill and bridge, 1910



The original bridge over the Cathance (1805) was a wooden king post span, replaced by the Kendall's Mill span, also wooden. The famous cast iron bridge, brought from out of state and erected in 1895 was one of only three cast iron bridges in the nation. Having survived two serious floods, it was deemed unsafe in 1950, and was replaced by a temporary pontoon bridge until the current bridge, "The Brooklyn Bridge", was finished in 1953. At one time there were 68 bridges in Bowdoinham forestry access over the town's many watercourses.

The Brooklyn Bridge

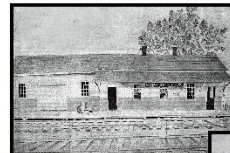


Excerpts from the book
"BOWDOINHAM.
The Bay, The Land, The People"
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The Bridges of Bowdoinham

The Railroad

The railroad arrived in 1850, connecting local goods and produce with markets in Boston, New York, and beyond, faster than had been possible by road or water. From 1880 to 1920 as many as twelve passenger trains stopped in Bowdoinham each day. Harward Station did a thriving business in freight and mail until 1936 when automobile traffic had increased so much that an overpass was built on Route 24.



left:
Bowdoinham's original
railroad station,
built in 1850. Harward's Station



below:
Harward's Station, after its remodel
around 1895



Passengers waiting for the train at the "Modern Station"

In 1872 this 'modern' station with an extended covered platform and stained glass windows was erected, serving the town until 1961 when it was torn down, all passenger service having been discontinued.

Sagadahoc Fertilizer
factory and railroad station
1955



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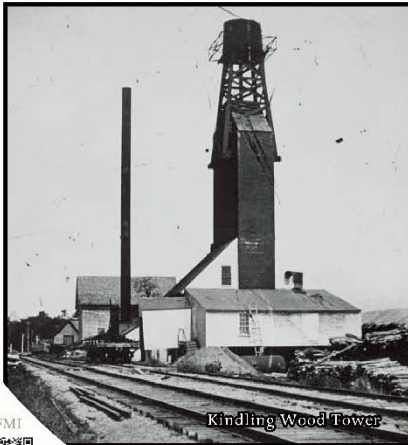
I need filler here:-)

The Steam Sawmill

From 1837 until 1927, the steam sawmill filled the area between the foot of Pleasant Street, and the West Branch, producing lumber, lathes, clapboards and shingles. It employed about 60 workers and 14 horses. Brigs and schooners could load at the mill and carry their cargo to Boston, the Carolinas, or the West Indies.



Steam Saw Mill before 1909 from Kindling Wood Factory tower



Kindling Wood Tower

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The Standard Wood Company, known as the "Kindling Wood Factory" was established in 1889. The factory used pine edgings, slabs and scraps from the nearby sawmill to make kindling wood for household use by cutting, drying and packaging the waste into a marketable product. It was located on the flat between the railroad track and the Cathance River. The drying kiln was made of brick and was eighty feet tall. The mill employed a crew of 25 and operated until it was destroyed by fire in 1909.



The Kindling Wood Factory



River Otters

The northern river otter, the most aquatic member of the weasel family, lives in rivers, lakes, ponds, and streams. They have sleek, waterproof fur, short legs, and a thick, tapered tail. They are carnivores and mainly eats slow-moving fish like suckers and minnows, along with crayfish, shellfish, and occasionally small animals like turtles or muskrats. Otters are active year-round, mostly at night, and prefer shallow waters under 10 feet deep. They often rest in beaver dens hollow logs, or under docks and bridges. Otters are playful, known for sliding in mud and snow. In spring, females give birth to 2-4 pups near water raising them alone while males lead solitary lives.



Where could you look to find an otter?

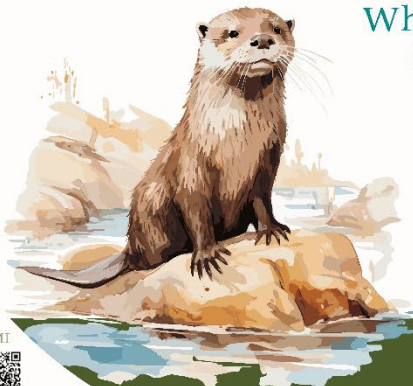
MORE OTTER FACTS

Total length: 3-4 feet

Weight 10-24 pounds

Tail length 10-20 inches

They can hold their breath for up to 5 minutes!



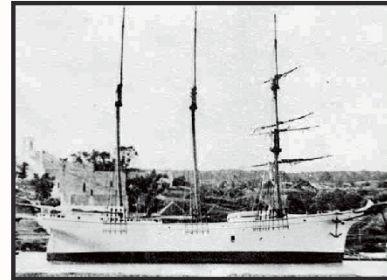
Ship Building

From 1768 to 1870, shipbuilding was a mainstay of Bowdoinham's economy with over 250 vessels sent to sea and many returning as part of a lucrative coastal trade. From 1793-1877, 177 were built at Cathance Landing where several shipyards were lined up side by side in what is now this parking lot. In 1855 Bowdonham sent 50,295 tons down the ways, the most of any town in Maine.



Right:
Barkentine St Lucie
Built in 1874. She sank in an Atlantic gale in 1898.

Top Left:
The Sea King
Bowdoinham's largest vessel, 1492 tons, built 1877
in the J.P. Rideout yard at the foot of Main Street.
Captain Benjamin Adams was her first master.
She was converted to a coal barge in 1911.



Consolidated Ice Company
This house, located on the Kennebec opposite the southern tip of Swan Island, was typical of the 24 houses located in Bowdoinham.



The ice harvesting industry reached a peak in the 1880s with many ice houses on the banks of the Cathance and Kennebec rivers. The ice harvested during the winter was stacked in these houses wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling. It could be kept in the house through the summer with minimal melting thanks to insulating sawdust or hay. The ice was shipped to buyers in cities for use in household iceboxes. . In 1882, the Cathance River had ten working ice houses. That same year, only the Kennebec & Penobscot Rivers produced more ice tonnage than the Cathance.



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Ice Cutting

