

# Stones that tell Stories

By Frank Connors

Edit Note: One of the unique features of our Town of Bowdoinham is the fact that more than 60 Cemeteries are located within our borders. With the advice of Bowdoinham's Cemetery Advisory Committee, and Town Sexton Frank Connors, we're proud to offer tidbits of local gravestones (and of the people they memorialize) in this and future editions of the NEWS.

## Thomas Tyler Rideout, A Civil War Hero

Thomas Tyler "T.T." Rideout was born April 20, 1841, and enlisted in the 19<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Maine Volunteer Infantry, on 5 August 1862. He was 21 years old, records say, was unmarried and a bounty of \$150 was paid to him. The 19<sup>th</sup> could be considered one of Bowdoinham's "home" regiments, since at least 24 local men served in its ranks. He was a "good Soldier," according to Sgt. Samuel Smith, a fellow NCO in the 19<sup>th</sup> who eulogized him after he was killed at Gettysburg. "While we were making a flanking movement at the time of Pickett's infamous charge," Smith wrote, "He fell by my side. I stopped and asked him where he was hit and he replied, "in the back." He fell in a very exposed position, so I laid down my gun and dragged him about a rod, where I found him shelter behind a large boulder. Bullets were singing about us pretty lively at the time. Rideout was later taken to a field hospital, where I found him in good spirits and expecting to live and go home. A surgeon informed me that He'd been shot through the lungs and the ball lodged against his shoulder, where he first felt it, and he added that Rideout could not live. I afterward learned that he died about 15 days after he was wounded."

Bowdoinham's GAR Post (Grand Army of the Republic) Number 26 was named in his honor.

The Adams History of Bowdoinham says, "his body was returned home by a friend and is buried in the Village Cemetery." An 1864 Maine AG report says he was buried at Gettysburg, (Section C, Grave 10.)

If you care to find the Bowdoinham burial site of Thomas Rideout, go to the last gate of the Village Burying Ground, (farthest from the Community School.) Walk straight to the last lane parallel with Cemetery Road, turn right, walk another 50 feet, you'll see the stone on your left...

PLEASE credit the picture to: Photo **by Silas Morin**

Frank Connors