

*The Pike Family of Sebago
Maine*



*200 Years from the Old Pike Place to
Woodside Farm*

Preface

In 1923, Margaret Louise and Neal Woodside Allen of Portland, Maine purchased a property of approximately 156 acres and a farmhouse on a north-facing hillside in Sebago, looking out towards the White Mountains of New Hampshire and the hills and mountains of western Maine. This purchase is recorded in the Cumberland County Registry of Deeds, Book 1153, page 234, November 9, 1923. They called their new summer home Woodside Farm. For the next fifty years or so, the property was the beloved summer home of several generations of the Allen family. First, the six children of Neal and Margaret, and then a second generation of cousins spent long summer months enjoying all the freedoms and excitement of childhood in a beautiful outdoor setting. Grandparents Neal and Margaret treasured their farmhouse and the joy that it brought to their extended family. They were able to live into their 90's taking pleasure in their experiences and memories of the Farm.

After their deaths in 1976 and 1977, the Woodside Farm property passed to the Allen grandchildren and in the years that followed, the property was divided up in various ways, always with good will and with a desire among all family members to maintain the integrity of the property as much as possible. From the 1970's on, Richard and Margaret Allen and their children David and Nicholas, enjoyed summers at Woodside Farm and began the long process of making improvements and renovations to the farmhouse, trying to preserve its historical character while making it a comfortable and contemporary space for living and working. In 1993, we became sole owners of the farmhouse and some of the surrounding acres of fields and woods. Several other family members took ownership of the remaining acreage and built their own houses.

In June 2014, Woodside Farm became our permanent year-round home. Some family members had lived in the southern ell of the house, a section of the house with some insulation and protected by the rest of the house from the cold north winds, for short periods of time during winter months, but no one had lived year-round in the original large house, with its bold and unsheltered outlook to the north and west, since Oliver and Sarah Pike's family first lived there in the 1800's.

We settled in for our first winter in the Farmhouse – the winter of 2014-15, which turned out to be one of the coldest and snowiest on record! We installed a central heating system, a wood pellet stove, a generator; we constructed a new kitchen and bathroom; we re-constructed the formal northeast façade entry and re-designed the driveway with winter use in mind. We insulated where we could, and installed some thermal window shades. Throughout the process, it was impossible not to draw comparisons with the first settlers on the land, and to wonder about their experiences, how they had built the house and managed the range of challenges involved in living through cold winters in Maine with none of the modern conveniences that we take for granted today. We knew something about the Pikes because many of them were laid to rest in the Pike Cemetery in the corner of the field. The Allen family refers to the rocky outcrop up the hill towards the Dyke

Mountain Road as "Pike's Peak", and the small stream that runs beneath the Convene Road at the northeast corner of the property is known as Pike's Brook. But the Pike name in the town of Sebago today has all but disappeared. Why did this happen? Many other early settlers names are still well represented in the town of Sebago (for example; Fitch, Hill, Howe, Potter, McKinney, Douglass). Who were the Pikes, what were their lives like, and what happened to them?

In the winter of 2014-15, I started work on a project to answer these questions, using local and family resources, historical records and documents, and a membership in Ancestry.com. Participating in the Sebago Historical Society provided access to other local family histories, and eventually to an understanding of the legacy of the Pike family in Sebago, especially the connection between the Pike and Douglas families. The story of the Pikes and their farmstead, the "Old Pike Place" and now "Woodside Farm" is told in the following pages. Information presented here as factual has been supported by historical records or artifacts. I am indebted to my brother-in-law, Ned Allen, Director of the Bridgton Historical Society, who read an early draft of this work and provided encouragement and very helpful feedback. As my own childhood and formative years were spent in another country, I had a lot to learn about this period of American history! I have endeavored to be careful in checking historical sources, but any remaining errors or misinterpretations are my own. Some speculation about conditions of living or generalizations from known facts is included to help in the appreciation and understanding of the story of the Pike family. We can only guess at the full story.

Table of Contents	Page#
Preface	1
The Pike Farmstead; Early Years (1800-1850)	3
The Children of Oliver and Sarah Pike: Overview	8
The Three Oldest Pike Children (born 1815-1820)	9
Lives of the Middle Pike Children (born 1820-1830)	12
The Youngest Pike Children (born in the early 1830's)	15
Living and Staying Warm in the Pike Farmhouse, early 1800s	17
The Productive Farmstead; The middle years (1850-1880)	21
The Civil War Period (1860-1870)	23
The Impact of the Civil War on Farming Communities	25
The Pike Grandchildren	27
Children of William and Louisa	28
Children of Oliver (Jr) and Luthera (with the connection to the Douglas family of Sebago)	30
The Final Years of the Pike Farmstead (1880-1900)	34
The Allen Family	37
Postscript; poem by Margaret Stevens Allen, c. 1930	39
Appendix, Resources and References	40
The Pike Yard Cemetery	
Print Resources	
Internet Resources	
Photographs	42
Poems by Margaret Stevens Allen (1928) and Margaret Reece Allen (2006)	48
Genealogical Family Tree: The Pike Family of Sebago Maine	49