

REFERENCE MATERIAL about "THE SENECA".

From "Farewell Old Mount Washington" by Edward H. Blackstone

Page 19- "The Seneca" was built early in the 1860's at Melvin Village for Uriah Hall. It was short-lived. During a heavy windstorm it was smashed on the Goose Egg, a dangerous rock on the Moultonboro Shore. It's boiler, engine and some other equipment were salvaged and used in "The Ossipee", which was used for hauling freight.

From "Three Centuries on Winnepesaukee" by Paul H. Blaisdell.

Page 25. Blaisdell authenticates the wreck of "the Seneca". "These craft were of Winnepesaukee's first fleet of steamboats. To tell the history of each would be but repetition. All were scow-shaped sidewheelers with sawmill or old locomotive engines..." "The Seneca" with Uriah Hall as captain, was another early steamboat; and it is remembered as having run aground on Goose Egg Rock, that treacherous spot in Moultonboro Bay. Hall later built the steamer "Ossipee".

On August 7, 1975, the propeller of "The Seneca" first came into the province of The Tuftonboro Historical Museum when John McWilliams of Baltimore, Maryland, approached one of the two hostesses for the day, Jeannette Wells and Jane Fowler, with a question which electrified the atmosphere- "What sizeable boat was wrecked near lighted buoy #12 in Moultonboro Bay a long time ago?" Scenting a good story, the hostesses succeeded in finding out that Mr. McWilliams and his party could be reached at Peggy Van Etten's on Moultonboro Neck and told him that they would find out about the wreck and notify him. He had discovered while scuba diving a 6' propeller with 4 blades of iron, very heavy, "which must have weighed a ton" and could not be recovered without heavy equipment.

That evening consultation with Marion Robie produced a guess that the propeller might have been from "The Carroll" or "The Eagle" both of which were associated with Melvin Village. However, Marion's subsequent investigation located in "Farewell Old Mount Washington" the information that the ship must have been "The Seneca".