

## Albert Wilson Bee - Bar Harbor Entrepreneur

The men who made money from the California Gold Rush often were not the miners, but the people who supplied the great wave of speculators with the supplies they needed in the Gold Fields. These early entrepreneurs were imaginative and resourceful. Albert Wilson Bee I was one of their number. His son, Albert Wilson Bee II, must have learned marketing at his father's knee. He used every resource he could think of to advertise his business in Bar Harbor – even opening a branch at Steamboat Wharf near his summer home in Southwest Harbor.

“Mr. Albert W. Bee supplied the ice cream for the large party at the Lynman House, Friday evening. Mr. Bee's facilities for the ice cream business are unsurpassed, and his patrons are always sure of a first-class article.” – The Mount Desert Herald, July 31, 1881.

“Whitman & Bailey's Candies, Albert W. Bee, Bar Harbor, Maine” – Advertisement in the Mount Desert Herald, July 31, 1881.

“Albert Bee's establishment is one of the interesting places worth visiting; here one can obtain anything from the freshest confection to the latest novel.” – Boston Evening Transcript, Friday, August 11, 1882

In 1887 Albert W. Bee, of Boston, was an incorporator of the Somesville Water Company, “for the purpose of supplying the village of Somesville, in the town of Mount Desert and county of Hancock, and the inhabitants of said town, with pure water for industrial, manufacturing, domestic, sanitary and municipal purposes, including extinguishments [Sic] of fires.”

“A.W. Bee arrived in town last Saturday. He intends to remain until after town meeting.” – The Bar Harbor Record, March 10, 1887.

“I wish to announce that I have completed arrangements with Bailey, of West St., Boston, the celebrated confectioner (who has re-opened at his old place), for a full supply of his candies, fresh and pure. Also that I intend to make a specialty of his cocoanut cakes.”  
ALBERT W. BEE

“I shall keep on hand during the summer a good line of the best fruits, California, Southern and Eastern. These will be carefully selected, free from decay, and of a uniform size for each grade, - not little ones at the bottom-big on top.”  
ALBERT W. BEE

“As Lawn Tennis is one of the most popular out door games at Bar Harbor, I have arranged for the agency of Wright & Ditson for their extensive line of sporting goods, and will furnish anything of their make at their catalogue prices, delivered at Bar Harbor. Their Tennis balls are the best.”  
ALBERT W. BEE

“I shall have as usual the finest line of Imported and Domestic Cigars, and will sell by the box at very little over the city prices. As I get cigars every few days they are fresh and not affected by

the climate. I also keep an extensive line of Tobacco and Cigarettes, including the Turkish and Egyptian." ALBERT W. BEE

"All the leading newspapers for sale or ordered. Periodicals and Magazines at earliest date of publication. Special arrangements to insure early delivery of papers.

Orders taken for any length of time from one day to the season, and papers delivered anywhere in the village or at Northeast Harbor, or Southwest Harbor.

Don't order your paper from the publisher as I can give it to you one or two hours earlier than you could get it by mail." ALBERT W. BEE

From "Sherman's Bar Harbor Guide, Business Directory and Reference Book" published by W.H. Sherman, 1890, p.80.

Apparently Albert Bee bought the remains of the Agamont Hotel from the Rodick brothers who owned it when it burned...

"Albert W. Bee, the well known newsdealer and stationer, will open his store Saturday of this week. He owns the ruins of the Agamont and still thinks he is doing all he can to help Bar Harbor." – The Bar Harbor Record, Thursday, May 30, 1889. The hotel had burned Wednesday, July 25, 1888.

#### Cottage to Let

"Cottage of eight rooms besides kitchen and dining-room, in a good situation in the village, partly furnished. Price for the season without kitchen and dining-room, \$250. Entire house with crockery and kitchen furnishings ready for housekeeping, \$325. This price is set low so as to allow tenants to do their own fixing up and changing instead of including it in the rent as is usually done.

Apply to Albert W. Bee,  
Bar Harbor, Me."

The Bar Harbor Record, Thursday, August 15, 1889.

#### Office Rooms to Let

"Six good rooms suitable for offices, salesrooms or lodgings. Only up one flight and in the centre of the business part of Bar Harbor. References required. Terms, etc., on application to Albert W. Bee,  
Bar Harbor, Me."

The Bar Harbor Record, Thursday, August 15, 1889.

"Those who have waited so long and patiently to see the ruins of the Agamont removed, will be gratified to know that the nuisance is no more. Where once stood the pioneer hotel of the place, nothing now remains but the blackened earth to mark the spot where the Bar Harbor hotel business had its birth." – The Bar Harbor Record, Thursday, June 20, 1889.

The Agamont Hotel, across the street from what is now Agamont Park, was the first hotel in Bar Harbor. Built by Tobias L. Roberts in 1855, the hotel had burned in the summer of 1888.

The Rodick Hotel, across the street from Bee's Stationery in Bar Harbor, was, "a great achievement for those days. It was the largest hotel in Maine, if not in New England. People came from miles around just to see it. The house contained some 500 rooms... At last, in the early 90's, Fountain, Serenus and Edward Rodick, who had died some years before [Sic], decided to close the big building. It was leased a few years later to Albert W. Bee, a Boston merchant, but it failed to attract." – The Los Angeles Times, September 21, 1906, p. II, 11.

Mr. Bee's Store was mentioned in almost every Bar Harbor novel of the period:

"There, also, in Mr. Bee's shop window, are plainly visible the more or less startling covers of the newest books..." – "Love in Idleness a Tale of Bar Harbor and Marion Darche: A Story Without Comment" By F. Marion Crawford, 1894, p. 18.

"...and the establishment of Mr. Bee, the locally famous and indispensable provider of summer literature, and of appropriate alleviations for the same, in the shape of caramels, cigarettes, and chewing gum." – "Bar Harbor" by Francis Marion Crawford, 1896, p. 5.

He sold maps and charts for sailing men:

"Sailing directions for the Great Lakes and Connecting Waters" by United States Hydrographic Office, Robert C. Ray, Government Printing Office, 1896, p. 239. - "Agents for the Sale of Hydrographic Office Charts, Sailing Directions, Etc." – Albert W. Bee, Bar Harbor, Me.

and was right there to sell tickets to people who sailed on larger ships:

Albert W. Bee was the Bar Harbor agent for the steamer, "Olivette". The steamer ran from Boston to Bar Harbor and back between 1888 and until about 1891. See SWHPL 5194 for a photograph of the steamer, "Olivette."

Albert applied his entrepreneurial skills to his private life: "The big item of interest for this issue, is of course the reunion and convention held in Chicago in February. In order to have '04 make as good showing as possible the secretary requested A.W. Bee, Jr. to act as "'04 booster" for the convention. That "Bee's boosting" was a glorious and unqualified success from our point of view can be seen..." – "Technology review, Volume 16" By Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Alumni Association, p. 304, 1914

# ALBERT W. BEE

## STATIONER

169 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass.

### Wedding Cards! Calling Cards!

WEDDING INVITATIONS in correct styles, both Engraved and Printed. In sending for samples send 2c for each sample desired. Prices in detail furnished with each sample ordered.

An ENGRAVED PLATE IN SCRIPT and 50 VISITING CARDS Printed from it will be sent for \$1.85, postage paid. If you have a Plate send it to me and I will print 50 Cards from it for 85c and send them to you postage paid.

VISITING CARDS written or printed in the latest styles for 75c a pack (50 cards in a pack). On written cards a postage of 10c additional will be charged.

### DIARIES AND CALENDARS

FOR 1887

I have a good assortment of Diaries for 1887 on hand (some in American Russia,) at prices varying from 10c to \$1.00. Send amount you wish to pay and state kind of Diary wanted, and I will send the nearest I can, allowing you to return it if not satisfactory, and get the money back less the postage incurred.

In CALENDARS I can send, postage paid, until sold

TENNYSON	50c		
SACRED		35c	
PRANG'S FOLDING			15c
ROLL			35c
		SMALL ROLL	10c

### WRITING PAPERS

RAGGED EDGE WRITING PAPER, flat, in 1 quart boxes, to hold long-ways, (the new fashionable way) in

ANCIENT HANDMADE,

THREAD FINISH,

MOME CLOTH AND

CREPE DU CHINE

PAPER

60c a box, postage paid.

QUOTATION NOTE PAPER, 1 quire in a box, 4 lines, and 4 different quotations, on 60 pound superfine paper, 35c a box, postage paid.

FINE PAPERS 25c to 80c a pound, to which add 10c pound postage.

In ordering paper by the pound it is safe to allow the same amount of money for envelope to match. Not less than 1 pound sold at pound prices.

### PLAYING CARDS

A pack of DOUGHERTY'S GILT EDGED PLAYING CARDS for 30c postage paid. Other qualities 10c to \$1.00.

SENSIBLE CARD COUNTERS 10c pair.

### LADIES

SHOPPING,

ADDRESS,

LETTER REGISTER,

ENGAGEMENT AND

CALLING BOOKS

In American Russia or Persian Seal, with pencil, 65c each.

### BIRTHDAY CARDS

Send from 5c to \$2 and state the kind of person it is intended for and I will select a New Birthday Card and send it carefully packed to you.

PRANG'S AMERICAN CARDS are the finest.

### INDIAN BASKETS

I have a good variety of the Passamaquoddy Indian Sweetgrass baskets, and will send price list to anyone sending stamp for it.

In sending money use a Postal Note, Money Order or Check. No order can receive attention unless accompanied with the amount, including postage when so stated.

A Calendar for 1887 will be sent with every order filled, including orders for samples.

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169 Tremont Street,

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STATIONER,  
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VISITING CARDS written or printed in the latest styles for 75¢ for a pack (60 cards in a pack). On written cards a postage of 10¢ additional will be charged.

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