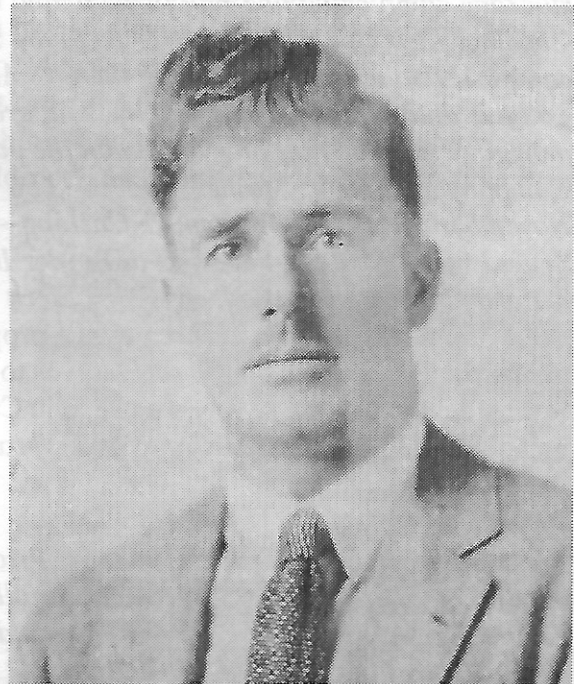


W. C. CUSHING: BLUEBERRY PIONEER

This is the third and likely final article based on the Crawford Town Clerk's register of business agreements. This book is nearly 300 pages long and has been indexed. A study of the book tells what people were buying on time between 1893 and 1931. In this article, only a synopsis of each agreement has been included. These agreements give, at best, only a partial picture of Bill Cushing's business activities.

Bill's daughter Kay (Cushing) Church, and granddaughter, Wilma (Church) Dray, provided pictures and lots of details about Bill Cushing as a person and as a businessman. An article prepared by Sharon Howland about the Cushing family was in our issue 70, starting on page 4. Additions and corrections are welcome. jhd



William Charles Cushing ~ 1922

- P236 ~ Enfield ME - June 9, 1917

I promise to pay N. M. Clapp \$275.00 with interest of 6 percent for one Maxwell Touring C Known as the S. M. Marsh Model 25, No. 24796 which I have this day bought of said Clapp. Payments of \$25.00 a month. ~ Wm. Cushing ~

Recorded by J. P. Jeffery, Town Clerk ~ Loan cancelled June 10, 1918

Bill Cushing was single and only 20 years old when he purchased this car that had belonged to S. M. Marsh. We note that he paid off the loan in one year. Was there ever a 20th century young American male who didn't want his own car?

- P246 ~ Calais ME - May 15, 1924

I promise to pay to the order of William Alexander \$500.00 with interest at 6 percent for an automobile. Payments of \$50.00 a month. Attest Tillee Gordon ~ Wm. Cushing ~

Recorded by Ray Moraisey, Town Clerk

Loan cancelled May 21, 1925 and recorded by Harry Seavey, Town Clerk

Another car, and a more expensive one. Was Bill courting Bessie Wallace by this time? They were married on June 6, 1925 at Oak Bay, New Brunswick. Note that again the car loan was paid off in about a year.

- P 163 ~ Calais ME – November 16, 1925

Know all men by these presents that I, William C. Cushing of Crawford in the County of Washington, State of Maine, do hereby sell and convey to Border Investment Company of Calais the following goods and chattels, to wit:

One story stockade shingle roof camp, also One a 1&1/2 story frame building and additions, both buildings being situated on land owned by Rose Seavey at said Crawford and being under lease to said William C. Cushing and Ermine Seavey of said Crawford, said lease being recorded in the Washington County Registry of Deeds Book 360, Page 185. The title to the stockade camp being one-half in each, and the frame camp being wholly in said William C. Cushing. Also One motor boat 23 feet long six feet four inch beams together with engine and all equipment attached or belonging thereto. Also Frame building and ice house thereon To have and to hold the same to the said grantee, its successors and assignees forever. This mortgage shall be null and void upon the payment of \$1100.00 to the Eastern Bank and Trust Company of Bangor, Maine.

November 16, 1925 ~ William C. Cushing ~ Recorded by Laura Hatt, Town Clerk

Settled in full by Reed V. Jewett of Border Investment Company, May 19, 1930.

Recorded by Mildred Wallace, Town Clerk

That loan for \$1000 was secured by the property described. It appears that Bill used this money to buy those buildings on the lake. It was to one of these camps that Bill and Bessie brought Kay soon after she was born. Kay was born in Calais and Bill hired Rufus Perkins to bring the family home in a sleigh, lined with straw and warm soft fur robes.

- P258 ~ Calais ME – July 16, 1927

For Model T20 GMC Truck #1968354, Price \$1410.00 less \$310.00 for second hand truck making balance of \$1100.00 payable as follows – 3 months with interest at 7 percent with renewals. Purchased from William Alexander by Wm. C. Cushing

Recorded by Laura Hatt, Town Clerk.

This time Bill traded in an old truck for what apparently was a new GMC. Automobiles were good for courting and getting to town, but a truck could be worked to produce income.

- P268 ~ Calais ME – November 13, 1928

For a new 1928 Chevrolet sedan model a13.

COST: List price \$675.00 + freight and tax \$64.00 + bumper, spare tire and motor meter \$40.00 + finance charge \$62.00 = \$841.00

PAYMENTS: cash on delivery \$40.00 + trade-in a 1925 Buick \$425.00 + 15 monthly payments of \$25.07 = \$376.00

Purchased from Border Motors (H. Franklin Eaton, treasurer) by William C. Cushing

Recorded by Harry Seavey, Town Clerk

Business must have been good for Bill Cushing as he was trading for a new car when the old one was but three years old.

- P276 ~ Crawford ME – July 5, 1930

The pulpwood business in No. 19 during the 1929 – 1930 season in which we were engaged has been this day settled as follows: W. C. Cushing takes over all the assets including the camp at ledge dam with contents, and to pay all the debts connected with that business.

~ Wm. C. Cushing ~ ~ Orris McKeown ~ Recorded by Mildred Wallace, Town Clerk

This entry tells about one of the many business activities Bill was engaged in. More about this is written below.

- P281 ~ Crawford, ME – April 1, 1931

I promise to pay to the order of Roy Gillespie one hundred fifteen dollars for one Philco Radio No 2L3757, Model 30, 1931; said amount being balance due on sale price, including finance charge, the sum of \$35.00 being received in cash. Balance to be paid as follows, \$9.58 on the first day of May 1931 and \$9.58 on the first day of each month until fully paid.

~ Wm. C. Cushing ~ Recorded by Della McKeown, Town Clerk

With the depression in full force, Bill bought an expensive radio! He must have had a positive outlook for his future. At that time some men were working for 50 cents a day. Bill must have wanted his family to have the very best, and this battery radio still exists! Kay well remembers some of the favorite programs. Bill liked the news and music, classical, Hawaiian and the “Frank Crummet and Julia Sanderson Show”. They listened to “Amos and Andy”, and the “National Barn Dance” from Chicago. Kay’s favorite program at one time was “Jack Armstrong, The All-American Boy”. Once she sent ten cents away to the show for a pedometer. Other programs she listened to were “Little Orphan Annie”, “The Green Hornet”, and who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? “The Shadow Knows”

- P286 ~ Calais, ME – May 2, 1931

For a used 1929 Model A Ford Sedan (motor number A467429) at the price of \$396.00. Down payment was \$125.00 and deferred balance of \$271.00 to be paid in installments of \$23.00 a month starting on June 7, 1931. Seller: Border Motor Company, Alice Eaton, President; Purchaser: William C. Cushing, witness: Agnes Hooper

Recorded by Della McKeown, Town Clerk

Kay remembers a car with a rumble seat. She remembers going to Danforth where the family had a picnic at Deering Lake with Charles and Leah Darling. The depression had caused Bill to suffer a serious financial setback. He, like many others at the time, lost markets because of the economic downturn, and in turn, could not pay for equipment purchased on time. In Bill’s case, the equipment would have been one or several trucks used to transport forest products.



Bill Cushing in later years

- P288 ~ Crawford, ME – May 8, 1920

This indenture between George Perkins and William C. Cushing concerns a lease of land owned by said Perkins to said Cushing. The lot of ¾ acre is on the shore of the lake (Crawford Lake) and includes the camp known as the Dr. Hall camp. Cushing is to have and to hold from May 3, 1920 until May 3, 1930 and agrees to pay \$5.00 each year on the 3rd day of May.

George A. Perkins ~ William C. Cushing ~ witness Mrs. George A. Perkins

Recorded by James Wallace, Town Clerk

This document is the last entry in this book. It is out of time order, but definitely is dated 1920.

