

Earl Merton Tolman
27 Apr 1914 - 7 Apr 1994
Son of Ernest Albert & Alice Robbins Blake Tolman

Almost 200 years ago, in 1769, Earl Tolman's ancestors were the first residents to settle in the Route 90, Warren, area which was then known as Thomasten. Today, that property which the Tolman family has worked as farm, blueberry and grazing land for two centuries, will soon be inundated by fall rains and drainage from a seven-square mile territory. It will be covered by the largest man-made lake in an extensive area.

To accomplish this, the present descendant has bulldozed and landscaped for ever four years laying the groundwork not only for the 4 to 12 feet of water depth, but for scenic islands within the lake itself.

Completion of the project was virtually accomplished when the final building on an emergency spillway on the 18 foot high dam at the south end of the property was finished off at the end of August. The dam, which consists of 10,000 yards of earth over a large drainage culvert is the high point of the construction.

When the lake is filled, Tolman plans to open the west side, which he has prepared with sanded beaches to campsites and trailer parking. On the west shore he has a country store and gasoline station under construction and he plans programs of water sports in the future as well as swimming and sun bathing.

The Tolman homestead was visible far south in the background from the Route 90 end of the 40 acre lake site when bulldozers were finishing off the final excavation. Shielding his eyes from beating sun, Tolman observed that his family had owned that land for 200 years and faced with a choice of breaking it into house lots or developing it he decided to put his faith in recreation—"it is the coming thing in these parts," he says.

30 May 1968:

TOLMAN MAKING A MAN MADE LAKE IN WEST ROCKPORT, MAINE:

Many weeks of planning and weeks and weeks of back breaking work are going into the construction of a man-made lake on Route 90, just west of West Rockport village.

The work is being done by Earl Tolman and his hired man on the Tolman property. In addition to the lake, Tolman plans a country store and hamburger stand, a gasoline station and eventually a tenting area.

At the moment the two men are constructing a dam at the lower end of the property. A 104 foot culvert has been put in place and during the next few weeks an estimated 10,000 yards of dirt will be put in place to make the 18 foot dam. When completed it is expected enough water will back up behind the dam to make a lake covering 50 acres. The lake will be about one-half mile

long by one-quarter mile wide with a depth of from 4 to 12 feet. The lake will boast a public beach on the Route 90 side, and a private beach opposite, near the Tolman home. Tolman says that drainage over a seven square mile area will fill the lake.

Tolman hopes to have the lake completed by August, and then will start construction of the store, a 28 by 48 foot building. He says the tenting area may have to wait until spring.

Boat rental will be offered at the lake as well as swimming.

Tolman says the new recreation area has many possibilities, many still in the talking stage.

KNOX-LINCOLN COUNTIES EXTENSION NEWS FARMER and HOW

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A 40 acre Pond for recreational use will fill the entire area in back of the Earl Tolman dam, West Rockport, Me., Shown as it nears completion. An extensive campsite area has been prepared in the evergreen stand at rear right of photo.

POND, RECREATION AREA DEVELOPED BY ROCKPORT MAN.

West Rockport, Me, - Earl Tolman, blueberry grower and retired builder is constructing a dam at the site of his grandfather's grist mill. When completed, the damned waters of the Oyster River will back up to fill a 40-acre pond for recreational use.

In addition to the pond, Tolman has cleared several acres of land bordering the pond for scores of campsites. The whole redevelopment is contiguous to Route 90, the U.S. 1 by-pass between Warren and Rockport.

Technical assistance and the design for the dam were provided by the Soil Conservation Service working through the Knox-Lincoln Soil Conservation District. Also assisting in this substantial recreation project were Robert Umberger, State Service Forester, and members of the Knox-Lincoln and University of Maine Extension Service staffs.

LAKE MAKING: An 18-foot high dam was completed Saturday at Rockport on land owned by Earl Tolman. The dam. will retain fall rains in an area excavated by Tolman with the intention of creating a lake. When the man made lake is complete it is expected to be a half mile long, a quarter mile wide, and from four to 12 feet deep. Tolman plans to have a public bathing beach on the route 90 side of the lake and a private beach near his home on the other side. His plans also include a tenting area, a refreshment stand, and a service station. The project is expected to be finished by next summer.

EARL TOLMAN & SONS
CONTRACTING AND BUILDING
WEST ROCKPORT, MAINE

5 June 1967

Dear Mr. Tolman,

I got a note from Lew Dietz and the letter that you wrote to Field and Stream about the May issue that he wrote about (The Bog)

Most of the story is near true. I believe he did exaggerate the part that only a Tolman could find his way out, of course the Tolmans have worked in this area for many generations as he quoted and should know something about this territory, Each forefather has told each one of his children about the Bog and other areas around here.

My fifth great grandfather came here as Lew said, the year 1769, I have records of this to prove it and there are some of us to still carry on.

I have some hundred of acres of land that has been in the Tolman family for many years and plan to keep it as long as possible. I have two sons Maynard and Arnold and six grand sons to keep it if they so desire which I hope they will.

We raise many tons of blueberries on some of our land. My father and gr and grandfathers were in the cattle business for years, I have always kept a cow or two for my family but now I only have one cow. I was in the poultry business until last year and had 16,000 layers. I have a bad heart so had to slow down. I also had a contracting business and due to my health let the older boy run this and his brother is helping him. They like construction better than farming. I am also helping out as we enlarged the business, I have fifteen and twenty men that have worked for me for nearly twenty years. Well I guess this is all you will want to hear from the Tolmans in Maine but we love it here.

I will give you my ancestry if you like, hope this will help you believe that we are Tolmans and have been here for a short time.

Yours Truly,

Earl M. Tolman

UP A WHISKER:

Earl Tolman at the transit tells West Rockport Baptist Church building committee members Royce Carroll and chairman Orel Ward to move up guide boards a little to assure that the foundation to the addition to the church will be even. Tolman gave his professional services to laying out the project Saturday. The men of the church will do most of the construction.

WEST ROCKPORT, MAINE:

Excavation will start this week on a 24 by 48 foot addition to the West Rockport Baptist Church to serve its growing Sunday School. The building is 119 years old and the Baptist movement in West Rockport dates back to 1817.

A building committee has enlisted the professional knowledge of Earl Tolman to lay out the building but it will be a do-it-yourself project after the foundation is laid.

Mrs. Henry Keller, A member of the building committee and keeper of church records, looked back and found that the present building was erected in 1849, cost \$1250.00. It is expected that the foundation for the addition will cost more than that.

This fall the congregation hopes to enclose the addition and finish it as funds permit. It will contain one large room which may be broken up by such things as blackboards or curtains. Plans may be adopted to permit the basement to be used in future years.

Orel Ward is chairman of the building committee which consists of Mrs. Keller, Cecil Harrington, W. Leeman Oxton, Mrs. Keith Crockett, William Bragg, Jr., Royce Carroll, Robert Kinney, Mrs. Burton Bickmore, Robert Cunningham, and Richard Ripley.

The church is located on Park Street and the addition will be on the rear. A used fire escape recently was purchased and will be installed on the side of the building to permit use of the upstairs dining room.

When the church was founded the community was known as West Camden. Tolman's grandfather assisted in the construction of the present church building.

May 12, 1967

Dear Sir:

I subscribed to the magazine last year and us Tolmans in West Rockport really enjoyed it, that is Earl my husband, and his brother Albert who lives in West Rockport village. I have

been a long time this time to get Albert's money but want to get it to you this weekend.

I also am going to send a clipping to you and would like you to get a copy to whoever is in charge to get it printed. This property that is below our house that Earl is having flooded was flooded years and years ago as it shows up on an old map we have that has been in the family for years.

Thought your organization would like to read about it. We are also making a recreation park through our pines.

I am going to get Albert's subscription tonight and I will get this mailed this weekend and I am having some more clippings of the paper (which is the local Rockland paper)

Will be looking forward to getting our copy of the magazines.

Yours truly.

Mrs. Earl Tolman (Frances Tolman)

P. S. Alberts mail comes Box 42 also.