

BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

The first Synagogue was opened in Randolph - Water St. . about 1904. At that time most of the Jewish people lived in Gardiner, so in 1910 it was moved to where the present post office is now. The people couldn't afford to keep the hall so the Holy Scrolls were kept in different homes until the High Holiday and then a hall was hired. After about two (2) years they hired a hall on the causeway, where the filling station is now "Rankin's Texaco". They soon had a fire there from which the Scrolls were saved. they were then fortunate in able to obtain the "Wood Hall" upstairs over "Reny's". In 1934 the Jewish Community found that they had out-grown the hall so they obtained the "Brann Hall" over the "Tacoma Reality" .

In 1941 they moved to "Masonic Hall Building", where they hired two (2) halls. Again fire came and everything was lost. The Mason's wanted the halls for themselves; no other hall was available, they bought the building next to "Talbot's". Much has been done to modernize and to better equip the building and to make it a Community Center for our people. On the first floor is the Synagogue and on the next floor the Vestry and Kitchen.

Trustees were "Abe Glaser" , Abe Goldberg and L. B. Slosberg".

The women's organization is called the Sisterhood. They help with the decorating , maintenance at the Synagogue.

They sponsor a senior "Girl Scout Troop" , have a canteen group, who are only too willing to help when called upon, such as birthday cakes for Togus and Red Cross. They also did the Gardiner Hospital Annual Tea.

They also conduct a Bible School for their children. As the children grew older the women of the Sisterhood conducted a Sunday School and a Center Youth Group, who were in part of the State Organization. It gave the youth a chance to meet Jewish youth of the state.

In 1973 the Jewish population of Gardiner had grown so small young people coming into the area preferred Augusta with their new Temple and advantages . We closed our Synagogue and participated with Augusta.