A short sketch of the life of Capt. Charles Leroy Babson and Georgianna Babson; written for their many desendants, who have gathered for a Babson picnic at Little Deer Isle, Maine, September 4, 1960.

Charles Leroy Babson was born December 19, 1840 in the town of Brooklin, Maine, son of William and Clarissa Babson. When he grew to manhood he decided to be a teacher and was preparing for that work when the Civil War broke out in 1861. On July 28, 1862, at the age of 21 years, he enlisted in Company K - 16th Regiment of the Maine Infantry. Just before entering the service he became engaged to his boyhood sweetheart, Georgianna Herrick, daughter of Shadrack and Elizabeth Herrick of Brooklin, Maine.

In July 1863, he was wounded in the "Battle Of Fredericksburg," a bullet entering his left leg. He, with many other wounded soldiers was taken to the Lovell General Hospital, Portsmouth Grove, Rhode Island. It was a long slow trip. When he arrived at the Hospital and the bullet was removed, gangrene had set in so that it was necessary to amputate the leg just below the hip. He was carrying a high fever and was a desperately sick man. In a few days a message came from Army Headquarters that Charles L. Babson was dead. His brother William Kittridge Babson went to Rhode Island to bring the body home. Funeral preparations were being made in Brooklin. In the meantime, there in the Lovell General Hospital was a young nurse, Susan Woolsey. She was taking care of Charles Babson and many other wounded soldiers. Apparently she had become very fond of Charles Babson, so that when the Doctor pronounced him dead she knelt beside his bed in tears. She must have been holding his hand;

suddenly she became excited and refused to let the men (who had come in with the stretcher), take him away. She sent for the Doctor and told him that she was sure she had detected movement in one of his fingers. She pleaded so hard with the Doctor to help her that he consented and together they worked over him and finally succeeded in bringing him back to life. His brother, William Kittridge Babson, returned home alone. On the trip he caught a severe cold which develped into pneumonia and he died in a few weeks. Charles L. Babson spent a long time in the Hospital recovering from his illness.

He finally did come home, a cripple, a man with only one leg. Those must have been dark days indeed for him. But Georgianna was full of love for him and had deep faith in the future. They were married November 8, 1865. They lived in Brooklin the early part of their married life. Three children were born to them: Ernest E. September 5, 1866; Elizabeth B. January 19, 1868; and William K. April 18, 1872. All were born in Brooklin, Maine.

When little William was very young his father, Charles L. Babson, obtained the job of "Keeper of Pumpkin Island Lighthouse," situated in Penobscot Bay at the entrance of Eggemoggin Reach. He remained there thirty-two years. He bought a large tract of land (the head of Little Deer Island) located just opposite Pumpkin Island Lighthouse. There he started building a Cook-house and Dining Hall and a few small cottages. He opened the place for "Summer Boarders" - thus the Eggemoggin Summer Colony came into being. It grew and grew to be a flourishing and prosperous place. Many more cottages were built, accomodating between two and three hundred Summer Boarders.

The Summer people loved both Mr. and Mrs. Babson. It was they who gave him the title of "Captain" and he was known as Captain Babson the rest of his life. The title fitted him. He was a tall, dignified, very straight erect man - kind and gracious to everyone. He wore an artificial leg which he handled gracefully but he always walked with a cane.

Many years after he left the Hospital (forty years or more) one day a small package came to him in the mail. On opening it, he was so surprised to find a lovely letter from his old nurse, Susan Woolsey. She had seen a write-up in a newspaper about the Eggemoggin Summer Colony and Captain Charles L. Babson. She decided to write to him. She, herself, had become a writer of children's books and of poetry under the name of Susan Coolidge. She also enclosed one of her poems, "Every day is a fresh beginning," a very beautiful poem.

Toward the end of the thirty-two years on the Lighthouse and at the Eggemoggin Colony, Georgianna's health began to fail. He decided to retire and buy a home on the mainland. He purchased a nice home in Sargentville, Maine. It was there that they later celebrated their "Golden Wedding," November 8, 1915. That was a very delightful occasion. Four of their grandsons: Harold R. Dow, Charles Leroy Babson, 2nd, Joseph E. Babson and Francis N. Dow acted as ushers. (All these young men were in their twenties.) There was a special poem written for Captain and Mrs. Babson. A short sketch of their married life together and music, "Silver Threads Among The Gold" and "I Love You Truly," were enjoyed. They received many many beautiful gifts. The largest and most unexpected gift was a gold jewel case containing one thousand dollars; all in

gold coins. (The coins ranging from two and one half dollar gold pieces to fifty dollar gold pieces.) This gift was from their former "Summer Boarders" and it testified to their love for Captain and Mrs. Babson. The presentation was made by Mr. John Andrews of Newton, Massachusetts and Mr. Fred Whitman of Middleboro, Mass. Several other of the "Summer Boarders" were also present.

The kind deeds and great love bestowed on all who knew them could never be counted or described. It was like the "Sunshine," felt by and freely given to everyone who came in contact with them. Such was the life of Captain and Mrs. Charles L. Babson.

After the Golden Wedding, Georgianna's health continued to fail and February 4, 1917 she passed on to her Heavenly Home. After the funeral and burial in Brooklin, Maine, Charles locked the door of their Sargentville home and never again went back there. As far as he was concerned (without Georgianna) it was just a desolate and empty house.

He spent the rest of his life with his youngest son, William K. Babson, who lived at Eggemoggin. On November 17, 1922 he passed on at the age of eighty-two.

I am sure he and Georgianna must have received "A Well Done Thou Good And Faithful Servants" as a reward for their good works in this earthly life.

Charles L. Babson at the age of 82.

This picture was taken July 1922.



His death occurred November 17, 1922.