

CORRESPONDENCE.

Pushaw Pond.

What may have been the origin of the name is a question more easily asked than answered. People in this vicinity have the general understanding that it is an Indian name which has been applied to the lake for an unknown period and having some definite signification. Upon a careful enquiry, it turns out that such is not the fact.

John Weston Nelson, an intelligent man, on being asked what was the meaning of the word "Pushaw" replied that he did not know, that it was an English name, that the Indian name of the lake was "Pe-quar-took." This was an unlooked for and surprising phase of the question and to make the matter still more certain, the same question was propounded to Joseph Nicolai, the best authority in the Penobscot tribe on such matters, and his answer was that "Pushaw" was an English name, and he added the further remark, that there were persons of that name still living in the western part of this county.

Clarifying thus clearly and definitely the fact that Pushaw is not an Indian name, the enquiry naturally leads to its origin, and how long it

existed. The assessors books of the town of Orono, have the name of David Pushaw in the list of 1829 and 1830. How far the name would appear upon the records of the town, it is now impossible to tell, as all of the assessors books, previous to 1829, were burned in the fire which destroyed the town clerk's office in Orono, about the year 1836. The conclusion then is unavoidable that some person by the name of Pushaw lived upon the shore of the lake, within the limits of the town of Orono, and of sufficient character and notoriety, to have given the name to the lake. About the year 1774, just previous to the American revolution, there seems to have been a grand rush of squatters to the places of settlement upon the western lands, bordering upon the Penobscot river. The man by the name of Eyears squatted upon the island which is now familiarly known as "Ayer's Island," and that year, John Marsh settled upon this island which has since that time retained the name.

and to have so indelibly impressed his name upon the lake; Pushaw must have lived upon his cabin upon its shore not much later. In 1804 a petition was sent to the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, asking for an act of incorporation for the town of Orono, and Pushaw pond is prominently mentioned in describing the boundaries of the new town, which is a certain indication of the early settlement of Orono.

It seems almost a sacrilege, thus ruthlessly to dissipate the pleasing illusion that "Pushaw" was an Indian name, and carried with it some peculiar significance as most Indian names do.

Whether the name be English or Indian, the lake still retains its placid and beautiful surroundings, with many beautiful islands, where during the lurid months of winter, when the weary and dejected world workers may rest from their strenuous labors, recuperate their energies, and breathe the health giving air of "Pushaw Lake."

D. N.

Mr. Frost, Esq., of Orono, says that in the winter of 1835, David Pushaw lived in the woods for Thomas J. and he now recalls the fact that "Pushaw Pond" was named for him.