

Rufus McIntire
HON^{OR} RUFUS MCINTIRE.

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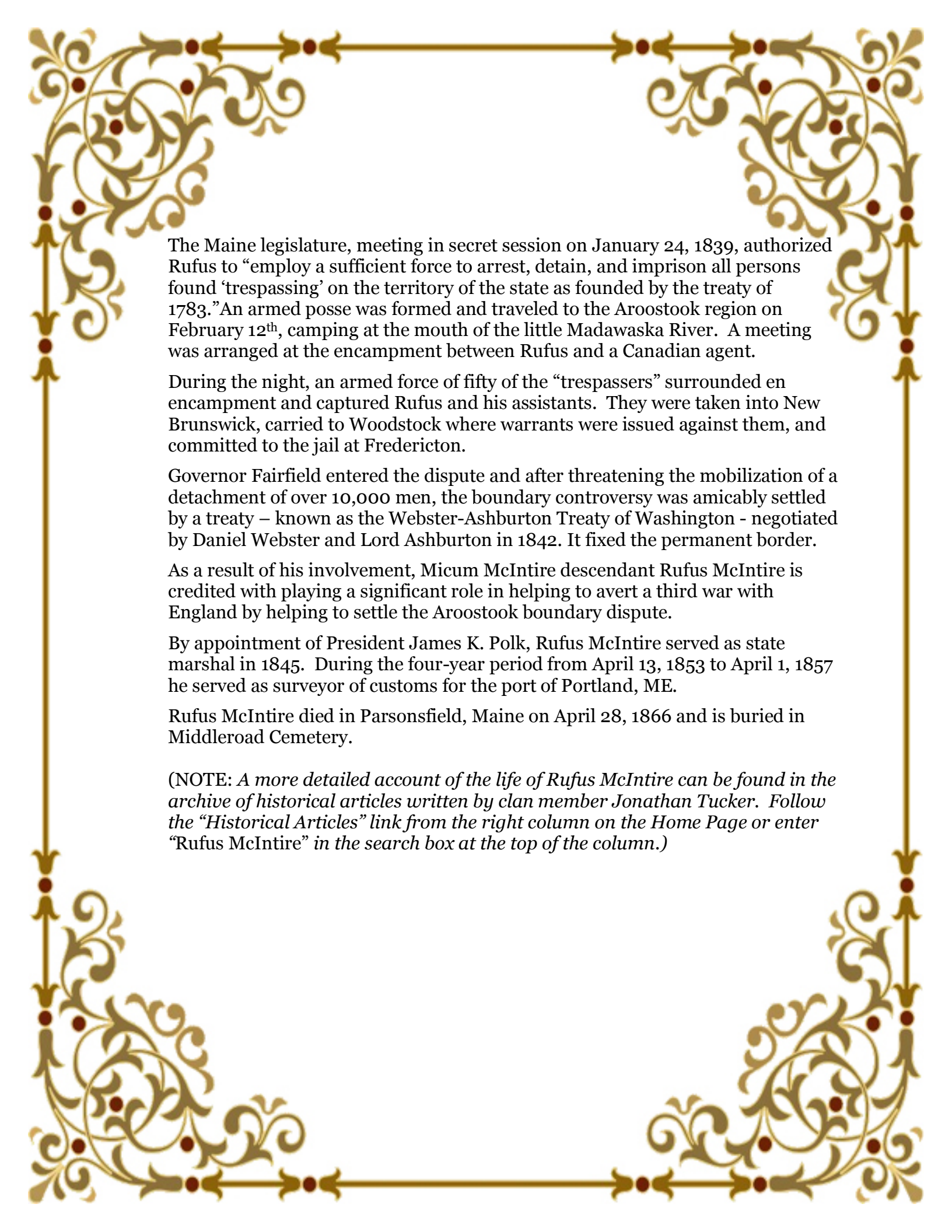
December 19, 1784 – April 28, 1866

Rufus McIntire was a United States lawyer, captain of artillery in the War of 1812, congressman, land surveyor and prisoner of war. He was born December 19, 1784 in York, ME, in what was then York, Massachusetts, the son of Micum and Rhoda (Allen) McIntire. He attended South Berwick Academy and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1809.

Rufus was admitted to the York County Bar Association in 1812. When the War of 1812 interceded, he was commissioned as a captain in the 3rd Regiment of the United States Army artillery company. He and his troops, a company of over 100 men he had raised by himself, were deployed in northern New York State and Canada and were engaged in battles at Sackets Harbor and Crysler's Farm.

In 1817, he moved to Parsonfield and began practicing law. He was a member of the state legislature in 1820, prosecuting attorney of York County from 1820 to 1843, and a member of the Maine Boundary Commission of 1820. As a Jacksonian Democrat, he was elected to the Twentieth Congress of the United States, elected to fill vacancy caused by the death of William Burleigh and was subsequently reelected to the Twenty-First, Twenty-second and Twenty-third Congresses. In all, he served in Washington from September 10, 1827 to March 3, 1835. As the Democratic candidate for governor of Maine, he was defeated in the state elections of 1837.

Rufus McIntire was appointed state land agent in 1839 when the controversy with England respecting the United States Northeastern boundary was at its height – **The Aroostook War** (sometimes called the "Pork and Beans War").



The Maine legislature, meeting in secret session on January 24, 1839, authorized Rufus to “employ a sufficient force to arrest, detain, and imprison all persons found ‘trespassing’ on the territory of the state as founded by the treaty of 1783.” An armed posse was formed and traveled to the Aroostook region on February 12th, camping at the mouth of the little Madawaska River. A meeting was arranged at the encampment between Rufus and a Canadian agent.

During the night, an armed force of fifty of the “trespassers” surrounded an encampment and captured Rufus and his assistants. They were taken into New Brunswick, carried to Woodstock where warrants were issued against them, and committed to the jail at Fredericton.

Governor Fairfield entered the dispute and after threatening the mobilization of a detachment of over 10,000 men, the boundary controversy was amicably settled by a treaty – known as the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of Washington - negotiated by Daniel Webster and Lord Ashburton in 1842. It fixed the permanent border.

As a result of his involvement, Micum McIntire descendant Rufus McIntire is credited with playing a significant role in helping to avert a third war with England by helping to settle the Aroostook boundary dispute.

By appointment of President James K. Polk, Rufus McIntire served as state marshal in 1845. During the four-year period from April 13, 1853 to April 1, 1857 he served as surveyor of customs for the port of Portland, ME.

Rufus McIntire died in Parsonsfield, Maine on April 28, 1866 and is buried in Middleroad Cemetery.

(NOTE: A more detailed account of the life of Rufus McIntire can be found in the archive of historical articles written by clan member Jonathan Tucker. Follow the “Historical Articles” link from the right column on the Home Page or enter “Rufus McIntire” in the search box at the top of the column.)