

Origins of the Etna Telephone Company.

"Irving Powell Fitts (born 7/26/1856 died 3/11/1936) and Sam Stark ((born in 9/19/1880 - ?) who worked for him on Sunny Vale Farm) started the Etna Telephone Company. They bought a carload of instruments, telephone wire, insulators, brackets and one pair of climbers sometime between 1904 and 1912. Farmers dug the holes and cut their own poles to run the original lines. When enough customers joined, they needed more lines so they set up a switchboard at Nellie Camp's (Millard Camp's widow) home at the corner of Dogford Rd near the cemetery. She ran the switchboard. Irving Fitts put up a private line down the old trace of the Wolfeboro Rd. from Sunny Vale Farm to Manassa Foss' place so the sisters Harriet (Fellows)Perley and Minnie (Fellows) Foss could visit. Perley Fitts (my grandfather) recalls that as a boy he had some fun tapping into the private line and listening in on his grandmother Perley's talks with her sister Minnie."

Excerpted from:

'Fitts Families (Fitts-Fitz-Fittz) : a Genealogy' / Sylvia Fitts Getchell c1989 p.253

This is one of the original phones that my grandfather Perley salvaged from Sunny Vale Farm.