

Woodstock History

Woodstock History

By Ida T. Sawyer

About the Author...

Ida T. Sawyer, who came to Woodstock as a teacher, was married to Harry D. Sawyer on March 25, 1915. Together they operated Fern Hill Farm, which was both a working farm and a home for summer tourists and boarders. Ida and Harry welcomed many people back to Fern Hill Farm year after year, and employed many young ladies as chambermaids and waitresses, including their future sister-in-law, Rose Egan.

Ida and Harry's only child was a daughter, Elinor, born in 1923, who married Roland Ladd Osgood. Ida had two grandsons, Jonathan and Vincent.

Ida served as a member of the Woodstock School Board for several terms. Harry served in the New Hampshire Legislature for ten terms, and also served on several state boards and commissions, including the original Tramway Commission. Ida's support and inspiration are known to have been of great help to Harry. After his death in 1950, Ida was elected to one term in the Legislature.

After serving her one term in the Legislature she was employed for a time by the University of New Hampshire in Durham. Then she traveled to Germany with her daughter and son-in-law, staying for several years.

After her return to Fern Hill Farm, her health failed and she died in December 1970.

Throughout her time in Woodstock she was very interested in the Sawyer family connection to Peeling/Woodstock. She always wanted to write a history of the town and spent many years researching and writing. Unfortunately she did not live to see this project to completion and publication.

During all her time in Woodstock, she was one of our most respected citizens and a friend to all.

- Leonard Sawyer, Nephew of Ida Sawyer

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Note: This work was written and compiled during the mid 1900's. Some references are now outdated. Where possible new references are noted so that locations can be understood.

- Barbara Avery, transcriber, 2013

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Woodstock History

Chapter 1

Early Petitions and Grants:

Eli Demeritt and Others

Nathaniel Cushman

John Goffe

After a place has existed for years and years, families have settled it, new generations have been born and died in it, the very land, the surroundings, become part of the human life of the community and questions arise as to the origin of this place. How did it come into being, whence came the very first settlers, why did they choose this particular spot and who carried on affairs? It is to answer some of these questions and to preserve the traditions and a record of the men and women who have made and kept it alive that a history of Woodstock has been attempted.

From old documents and from stories handed down to direct descendants of the early proprietors we have a clear picture of the reason for the first grant of this part of His Majesty's Province of New Hampshire. The year 1763 seems to have been a year of adventure and making of new homes for many towns date their charters from that year. After Dover and the land thereabout was more or less thickly settled men looked about for new lands to claim at a time when land meant food and sustenance. A man named Daniel Hayes felt that he needed more land that he might use to provide a proper dowry for his marriageable daughters. Accordingly he interested other men around him and together they presented a petition to Governor Benning Wentworth for land in the unsettled portion of His Majesty's Province of New Hampshire. On September 23, 1763 Governor Benning Wentworth accordingly issued a charter which is here copied in full from the original document now in the possession of Mrs. Carl A. Richmond of Tyngsboro, Massachusetts, a direct descendant of this Daniel Hayes.

A long list of names is attached to the grant but very few of the grantees ever came to the settlement and very probably many never realized any value from the grant but signed the petition to please friends. The name of Eli Demeritt heads the list of proprietors and that became a part of Woodstock history. Daniel Hayes probably never came here but his name appears often in the early meetings and business transaction of the land. Mr. Hayes did however accomplish his purpose for he sold his holdings in the grant and with it bought a set of horse hair covered furniture for his daughter Hannah for her dowry. This furniture, still called the

Peeling set, is in Mrs. Richmond's home in Tyngsboro.

Benning Wentworth in this charter incorporated the town and named it Peeling and designated the first Tuesday of November 1763 for first town meeting and appointed Joshua Wingate first moderator.

According to the wording of the charter there were ninety-eight proprietors. The tract granted was to contain 25,000 acres, to be six miles square and no more, and that before it was divided into ninety-eight equal shares, due allowance was to be made for mountains, ponds, rivers and highways. There were definite conditions imposed by His Majesty George III on these early proprietors. First they must agree to plant, within five years, five acres of land for every fifty acres granted them, and secondly they must reserve all white and other pine trees fit for masting the Royal Navy and cut none without special license. Payment was exacted too for the fourth condition of the charter stipulated that payment of one ear of Indian corn must be paid by each proprietor on the 25th of December, 1763 and for ten years following and after that one shilling of Proclamation money must be paid for every one thousand acres, payment being made at Portsmouth or some other designated place.

The charter granted compensations as well as making demands for it generously concedes to the inhabitants that do or shall hereafter inhabit said township enfranchisement and entitlement to all privileges and immunities that other towns within our province by law exercise and enjoy and further grants that when there are fifty or more families resident and settled they shall have liberty of holding two fairs each year and a market may be opened and kept open one or more days a week as may seem advantageous to the inhabitants.

Evidently obtaining the land was easier than settling it for we find the first meeting of Peeling Proprietors warned for November first 1763 being held, not in Peeling, but at the house of Ephraim Hanson in Dover. Joshua Wingate was moderator, having been appointed by the governor. The proprietors chose Daniel Hayes Clerk, Dudley Watson, Joseph Hanson, and Elijah Estes Selectmen, and also appointed a committee of five "to run the town," voting also a salary of from four to six shillings a day to the five men who were to "run around" or survey the town.

A most interesting account of this survey has been preserved and is here copied verbatim.

Minutes of the Journey

November 8, 1763

This day set out from Madbury to lay out the Town of Peeling in the County of Grafton in the State of New Hampshire at ten o'clock forenoon went through Barrington Nottingham and arrived at Capt. MacClaries in Ipsom and put up. The ninth day it rained and we set out for Canterbury Crost part Chichester and arrived at Insign John Moors in

Canterbury at 12 o'clock and lay by that afternoon and the 10 day it being very rainy the 11 day we set out and crost the ferry over to Contoocook then proceed to Bakerstown to Antoney Boens at 12 o'clock and that afternoon we rode 12 mile and incamped and there finding friend Caunery to be sick sent him back to Bakerstown with the horses their way to tarry till we returned and hired Anthony Boen to go on in his room[.] The 12 day we crost Smith river by falling several trees acrost said river and proceed up pemegawaset river till night and incamped[.] The 13 day proceded up the river till we came to mouth of Baker's river and incamped the next morning crost Baker's river by making a raft the 14 day and marched up Bakers river and found land for seven or eight miles to-gether up by the river the 15 day we marched on bad land all day and in about four miles of Haveril and incamped and was informed by two men that came from Haveril that night the southeast corner was 4 miles down a mile or two from the way we came and we found it so and run one mile that night and crost the path we went up in and incamped[.] 16 day we measuring on till we found Peeling Corner or run our compliment of miles and rods and found very bad land and incamped[.] 17 day and it snowed before day[.] the 18 day we set out for home and found bad land and incamped 19 day we struck pemissawasit river and followed it down to mouth of Baker river Crost Baker's river in a raft and came to Plymouth Camp Saturday night and incamped[.] Sunday morning the 20 day marched for want of provisions and came to the camp where we left our horses and incamped[.] 21 day set out for Bakerstown and arrived at Anthony Boens 12 o'clock there took our horses and arrived Insigns Moors and here put up the next morning we set out for home on Tuesday night slept in our own beds.

Joshua Wingate

John Demeritt

Dudley Watson

William Hanson

Ichabod Canney

For all this running around over bad land and rivers each man received four shillings a day except Lieutenant Wingate who had six shillings a day being a surveyor.

Records give Joseph Drew as the first tax collector in Peeling but the tax list or amount of the warrant are not to be found.

No papers can be found to tell us what happened to or in Peeling from 1763 to 1771 but evidently few proprietors had settled their claims or cultivated the five acres the charters demanded for on June 17, 1771 we find one Nathaniel Cushman petitioning Gov. John Wentworth as follows:

To His Excellency John Wentworth

Peeling petition of Nat'l Cushman of Lebanon in Conn – showeth that he hath a

number of sons disposed to remove into said Province and become settlers on the new and uncultivated Lands with the same and that a number of his friends are of the same disposition in the whole a number fully sufficient to settle an entire township

Your Excellency's humble petitioner prays Your Excellency to grant him and them a certain township known as Peeling June 17, 1771.

The answer to this petition from his gracious Majesty George the Third by and with the advice of our trusty and well beloved John Wentworth Esq. our Governor and Commander in Chief in and over our said province of New Hampshire may be found in Vol. XXV of the State Papers. Suffice it to say that all of Peeling was granted to Nat'l Cushman and seventy-five other proprietors among whom were ten Cushmans. Under this grant Peeling became Fairfield.

What happened to Mr. Cushman and friends enough to make a township, does not appear in the records, but we know that Fairfield once again became Peeling and was controlled by the original proprietors.

One other document to be found in the state papers is of interest but not of great importance to Woodstock. This is a record of 2500 acres in Peeling granted to John Goffe of Derryfield by George III "*because he is reduced and did serve faithfully in the King's army in North America.*" The Goffe name does not appear in early records so it is assumed John Goffe was not a resident.

Woodstock History

Chapter 2

Copy of the Charter and Proprietors

Province of New Hampshire

George the Third

By the Grace of God, of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the faith &c.

To all persons to whom these presents shall come,
Greeting.

Know Ye, that We of Our special Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, for the due Encouragement of settling a *New Plantation* with our said province, by and with Advice of our Trusty and Well-beloved Benning Wentworth, Esq; Our Governor and Commander in Chief of Our said Province of *New Hampshire* in *New-England*, and of Our Council of said Province; Have upon the Conditions and Reservations herein after made, given and granted, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs, and Successors, do give and grant in equal Shares, unto Our loving Subjects, Inhabitants of Our said Province of *New-Hampshire*, and Our other Governments, and to their Heirs and Assigns for ever, whose Names are entered on this Grant to be divided to and amongst them into Ninety-Eight equal Shares, all that Tract or Parcel of Land situate, lying and being within our said Province of *New-Hampshire*, containing by Admeasurements, 25000 *Acres*, which Tract is to contain Something More than Six Miles square, and no more; out of which an Allowance is to be made for High Ways and unimprovable Lands by Rocks, Ponds, Mountains and Rivers, One Thousand and Forty Acres free, according to a Plan and Survey thereof, made by Our said Governor's Order, and returned into the Secretary's Office, and hereunto annexed, butted and bounded as follows, *Viz.* Beginning at A Stake & Stones Standing at the Distance of Six Miles and an half upon A Point South fifty Eight degrees East from the South Easterly Corner of Haverhill a Township Lately Granted in this Province & from thence runs South fifty Nine Degrees East Six Miles to A Stake & Stones then turning off & running North Thirty Degrees East Six Miles and three quarters to Stake & Stones then Turning off & Running North fifty five West Seven Miles to a Stake & Stones then turning off & running South about Twenty

four Degrees West on a Strait Line to the Bounds began at And that the same be, and hereby is Incorporated into a Township by the Name of Peeling— And the Inhabitants that do or shall hereafter inhabit the said Township, are hereby declared to be Enfranchised with and Intitled to all and every the Privileges and Immunities that other Towns within Our Province by Law Exercise and Enjoy: And further, that the said town as soon as there shall be Fifty Families resident and settled thereon, shall have the Liberty of holding *two fairs*, one of which shall be held on the And the other on the annually, which Fairs are not to continue longer than the respective following the said and that as soon as the said Town shall consist of Fifty Families, a Market may be opened and kept one or more Days in each Week, as may be thought most advantageous to the Inhabitants. Also, that the first Meeting for the Choice of Town Officers, agreeable to the Laws of our said Province, shall be held on the first Tuesday in November next which said Meeting shall be Notified by Joshua Wingate who is hereby also appointed the Moderator of the said first Meeting, which he is to Notify and Govern agreeable to the Laws and Customs of Our said Province; and that the annual Meeting for ever hereafter for the Choice of such Officers for the said Town, shall be on this Second Tuesday of *March* annually, To Have and to Hold the said Tract of Land as above expressed, together with all Privileges and Appurtenances, to them and their respective Heirs and Assigns forever, upon the following Conditions, viz.

I. That every Grantee, his Heirs or Assigns shall plant and cultivate five Acres of Land within the Term of five Years for every fifty Acres contained in his or their Share or Proportion of Land in said Township, and continue to improve and settle the same by additional Cultivations, on Penalty of the Forfeiture of his Grant or Share in the said Township, and of its reverting to Us, our Heirs and Successors, to be by Us or them Re-granted to such of our Subjects as shall effectually settle and cultivate the same.

II. That all white and other Pine Trees within the Township, fit for Mast- ing Our Royal Navy, be carefully preserved for that Use, and none to be cut or felled without Our special License for so doing first had and obtained, upon the Penalty of the Forfeiture of the Right of such Grantee, his Heirs and Assigns, to Us, our Heirs and Successors as well as being subject to the Penalty of any Act or Acts of Parliament that now are, or hereafter shall be Enacted.

III. That before any Division of the Land be made to and among the Grantees, a Tract of Land as near the Centre of the said Township as the Land will admit of, shall be reserved and marked out for Town Lots, one of which shall be allotted to each Grantee of the Contents of one acre

IV. Yielding and paying therefor to Us, our Heirs and Successors for the Space of ten Years, to be computed from the Date hereof, the Rent of one Ear of Indian Corn only, on the twenty-fifth Day of *December* annually, if lawfully demanded, the first Payment to be made on the twenty-fifth Day of *December*, 1763.

V. Every Proprietor, Settler or Inhabitant, shall yield and pay unto Us, our Heirs and Successors yearly, and every Year forever, from and after the Expiration of ten Years from the abovesaid twenty-fifth Day of *December*, namely on the twenty-fifth Day of *December*, which will be in the Year of Our Lord 1773 *One shilling* Proclamation Money for every Hundred Acres he so owns, settles or possesses, and so in Proportion for a greater or lesser Tract of the said Land; which Money shall be paid by the respective Persons abovesaid, their Heirs or Assigns, in our *Council Chamber* in *Portsmouth*, or to such Officer or Officers as shall be appointed to receive the same; and this to be in lieu of all other Rents and Services whatsoever.

In Testimony whereof we have caused the Seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed. Witness Benning Wentworth, Esq.; Our Governor and Commander in Chief of Our said Province, the Twenty-third Day of September In the Year of our Lord Christ, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty three And in the Third Year of Our Reign.

B. Wentworth

By His Excellency's Command,
With Advice of Council,

Theodore Atkinson Junr Sery
Prove of New Hamp^r Sept^r 23^d 1763
Recorded According to the Original Charter under the Prove Seal
T Atkinson Junr Sec^{ry}

Names of the Grantees of Peeling – Viz.

Eli Demerit	Isaac Twomley	Richd Kimball
Dudley Watson	Otis Pinkham	Capt Richd Waldron
W ^m Hanson	Meshech Drew	James Chelsey
Icabod Canney	Elijah Eastes	Nehemiah Kimball
Joshua Wingate	John Church	Thomas Hanson
Silas Hanson	Robert Huckins	John Horne junr
Daniel Hayes	Maul Hanson	Daniel Horne
William Demeret	Timothy Roberson	Samuel Ambross

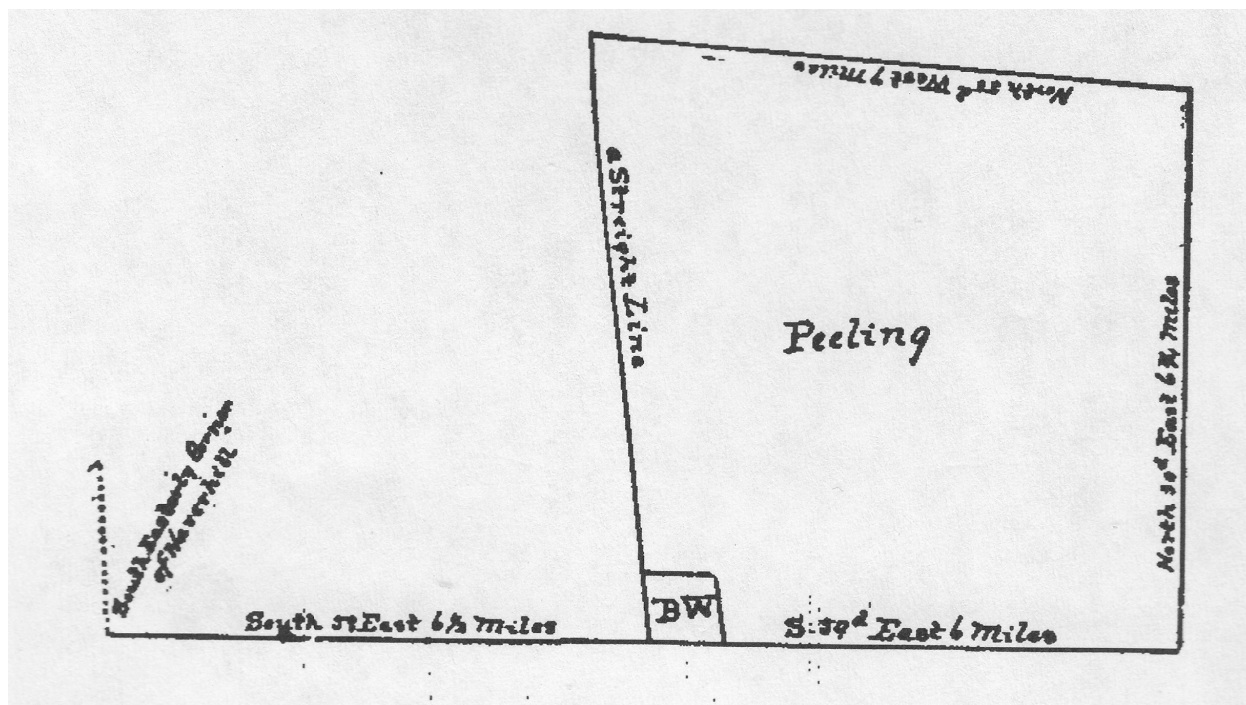
Stephen Pinkham	John Tibbets	Samuel Ricker
John Huckings	Moses Roberts	Eph ^m Kimball
Ebenez ^r Demeret	Aaron Roberts	Will ^m Horne 3 ^d
Job Demeret	Obediah Drew	Otis Baker
Tim ^o Moses	W ^m Twomley 3 ^d	Joseph Ham jun ^r
John Demeret	Will ^m Allen	Thomas Tuttle jun ^r
Robert Hill	Moses Wingate	William Hanson
John Demert jun ^r	William Twomley jun ^r	James Tuttle
James Clark	Joseph Drew	W ^m Leighton
John Russell	Clem ^t Drew	Hatevil Leighton
Henry Russell	Joseph Hanson	Jotham Nute
Joseph Evens	Jona Cushing	Solomon Demeret
Daniel Evens	Joseph Roberts	Benja Hill
Henry Tibbets	Israel Hodgson	Samuel Emerson
Joseph Hall	Joshua Ham	Sam ^t Ham
Stephen Otis	Tobias Randell	Thos Tuttle 3 ^d
John Wingate jun ^r	Ambros Bantom	Silas Tuttle
Tobias Hanson	Samuel Alley	Elijah Astin
James Young	Ralph Twomley	Caleb Hodgdon
Isaac Canney	Howard Henderson Jun ^r	Rich ^d Canney
Nathaniel Lummas	Shadrach Hodgdon	John Wingate
Joseph Twomley	John Tuttle	

The Honble Daniel Warner, Joseph Newmarch and James Nevin Esq'rs

His Excellency Benning Wentworth Esq a Tract of Land to Contain five Hundred Acres as Marked in the Plan B-W- which is to be Accounted two of the within Shares one whole Share for the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign Parts One whole Share for A Glebe for the Church of England as by Law Established – one Share for the first Settled Minister of the Gospel in sd Town & one share for the Benefit of A School in Said Town forever.

Pro^v of New Hamp^r Sept^r 23^d 1763

Recorded from the Back of the Original Charter of Peeling under the Pro Seal
T Atkinson Jun^r Sec^{ry}



Copy of letter sent to the Proprietors of Peeling – May 10, 1799

State of New Hampshire
To the Proprietors of the Town of Peeling
Gentlemen:

This is to inform you that I, Daniel Hayes of Madbury was concerned in getting a Charter of said township from the first proposal and when the charter was obtained I was chosen Clerk at all the meetings of said Proprietors and kept a minute of their proceeding until Judge Thomson was chosen Clerk when the propriety was considerably changed as to owners; and did assist some of the new proprietors in letting them know the names of the first proprietors in order to purchase their rights and did consent with Judge Thomson to get the charter recorded a new, and when Judge Thomson wrote me that he was chosen Clerk of the said proprietors I went to his house and delivered him the charter and the minutes that I had kept all which services I humbly submit to your consideration and not having received any pay for my services do desire you gentlemen to let me have a piece of land in said township to requite me for my trouble – which if you do I will leave it with you gentlemen how much it shall be and whereabouts it shall be in full of all my demands on the said propriety to this day.

Madbury, May 10, 1799.

Daniel Hayes

Woodstock History

Chapter 3

Early Town Meetings

1763—1800

As was recorded in the previous chapter the first town meeting of Peeling was held on November first 1763 in Dover with Joshua Wingate Moderator, Daniel Hayes Clerk, Dudley Watson, Joseph Hanson, Elijah Eastes Selectmen. Joseph Drew was tax collector.

Next came a lapse of years while Peeling became Fairfield and again Peeling and in 1792 we find another record.

This record tells that the proprietors who owned 1/16 of Peeling petitioned Johnathan Warner to call a meeting of Proprietors on Tuesday the 4th day of September 1792 at two o'clock at house of James Dorn, innholder in Atkinson.

The meeting was held according to the warrant and definite business was transacted. Fifty-nine proprietors met and chose Nathaniel Peabody, Moderator, Ebenezer Thompson, Clerk, Ebenezer Thompson, Jonathan Cilley and Thomas Pinkham, assessors, and gave Jonathan Cilley the proud title of Collector. He was empowered to collect for back taxes 40 shillings from each proprietors or sharer, within 6 months and to turn the same over to Peeling's first Town Treasurer Nathaniel Peabody. All this having been accomplished the meeting adjourned to November 27th 1792 at four o'clock at home of Benj Lamson in Exeter.

At the third town meeting in the fall on 1792 the business of most importance seems to have been the instructing of Major Jonathan Cilley to pay the first county tax and the instructing of Ebenezer Thompson to petition the General Court for abatement of back taxes in Peeling. This meeting appointed six men, Nathaniel Peabody, Ebenezer Thompson, Jonathan Chesley, Jonathan Cilley, John Young and one whose name is lost, to see to the settlement of Peeling.

These men decided to allot 100 acres to not more that six settlers and to lay out tracts. The adjournment of this meeting reads to the last Wednesday in May 1793 at the home of Capt. Joseph Richardson in Durham.

According to reports at least one family was settled in Peeling before this settling committee was appointed. The first family settled on the east side of the Pemigewasset River, about a mile north of the bridge at Woodstock on the low land belonging to Mr. E. E. Woodbury in 1940. The cellar hole is still to be seen. This Peeling pioneer was James McNorton whose name is

preserved in the falls at Woodstock. James McNorton went to fight in the Revolutionary War and is rumored to have been killed at Germantown. His wife remained at the settlement until some relatives came from Portsmouth and took her back to her former home.*

On the twenty-ninth of May 1793 the proprietors met at Durham and appointed Thomas Pinkham to get John Brown of Thornton to survey Peeling and allot one hundred acres to six grantees and to take in four more grantees. After this the meeting was adjourned to Sept. 12, 1793 to home of Colonel Amos Cogswell in Dover. Evidently the committee of six appointed in November 1792 had not carried out their task in a manner satisfactory to the proprietors for they were dismissed and Ebenezer Thompson, Jonathan Cilley and Thomas Pinkham were elected to succeed them and lay out the whole town in one hundred acre lots, to clear roads and build a bridge. Settlers were to be urged to come to Peeling and obtain land by giving a "paper" wherein they promised to settle within borders of the town.

It must be borne in mind that while the proprietors were holding "Town Meetings" settling affairs of Peeling in places remote from Peeling, in Atkinson, Exeter, Dover, Durham, settlement had commenced within the town limits. Little is known about these families. When the proprietors started to reapportion the land among themselves protests were heard from some of these settlers. At the meeting in May 1793 it was voted to give John Osgood title to his claim because he had lived there ten years.

Details of the annual town meetings are too trivial to include further in this history but they may be read in the Secretary of State's office.

The meeting of July 1st, 1794 does seem epochal because at that meeting John Brown reported that he had lawfully surveyed the town. The proprietors voted to draw lots of two hundred acres each. This was done on July 2nd 1794 and the result is on record in Concord.

In 1797 there was another meeting at Durham to choose a representative for Peeling in a lawsuit with the town of Thornton. Mr. Brown when he surveyed the Peeling grant had run the lines exactly straight and had included in Peeling land claimed by Matthew Thornton. Mr. Thornton proved his claim and Woodstock has no Range No I, her holdings counting from Range No. II.

This 1797 record shows that Thomas Pinkham was given all rights to lot 13 in 3rd range except the right of way and mill privilege for the sum of \$51.00 and that Lot 17 in the 5th range was allotted to Joseph Russell. These grants were called "Pitches." A tracing of the different

* Widow McNorton and children are noted on the Peeling/Thornton census records for 1790 and 1800, but not after that.

owners of these pitches is contained in deeds passed down and a full record is contained in front of Town Book II listing proprietors and lot and range they claimed.

The first town meeting held on Peeling soil was in a log house which stood on the east side of the present Daniel Webster highway about one and one half miles south of North Woodstock Village, near where Grand View Cabins are now, on land formerly owned by M. H. Sawyer, * This meeting warned by Constable John Bryant, who was commissioned by Gov. John Taylor Gilman was held on the second Tuesday of March 1800. Joseph Russell was made Town Clerk, Isaac Spencer, Benjamin Barron and Joseph Russell were Selectmen. This meeting raised \$50.00 for highways and \$6.00 to defray town charges.

Thus as Peeling, Fairfield and again Peeling the town had its start, granted in 1763, incorporated again in 1779 and in 1840 recording its meeting under the name of Woodstock. The date on which Peeling became Woodstock is definite, June 19, 1840, but no reason for the choice of Woodstock seems recorded. Some presume the name "Woodstock" was taken from the novels of Sir Walter Scott.

* Near Scenic View / White Birch Estates and Dan Keniston's home.

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Chapter 4

Mount Cilley Settlement

Between the points where Glover Brook and Beaver Brook cross the Daniel Webster Highway in western part of the town a road leads off toward the west and winds up the mountain. For a mile it follows Beaver Brook, over Tomb Hill then crosses the brook and after another mile and a quarter crosses Pipe Brook and still further on crosses School House Brook. The road is still traceable through the fields of the John Smith place, the Matthew Hunt, the Thomas Smith, the Edward Smith and the Sam Smith places and following it one comes in view of Elbow Pond. Beyond the Sam Smith place the road is obliterated by old logging operations but by following the old railroad bed one comes to the region known as Scotland. The region through which the road winds is the site of the Mt. Cilley settlement. Presumably the land first belonged to Johnathan Cilley whence the name.

A certain aura of romance now hangs about the Mt. Cilley story but in all probability there was more of hardship than of glamour in the lives of the brave men and women who from 1824 until after the Civil War made their homes there. Why these people chose homes on the mountain is not known but it is to be remembered that in that early time one part of Peeling was about as isolated as any other and since a living must be had from the land each man chose land far enough away from his neighbor to allow each large fields.

From Dunbarton, Newburyport, Weare and other settlements people took up grants and made a community. There were at least fifteen farms inhabited at one time. Dr. Symnes Sawyer is credited with being the first man to take his family and establish a home on Mt. Cilley about 1824. Dr. Sawyer is known to have been a practicing physician in Littleton in 1819 and lived in Peeling first in a log house which stood near the present Eton Cabins on property once owned by M. H. Sawyer.* He continued to practice medicine from the Mt. Cilley home and has the distinction of being the first Peeling doctor.

The following description of the homesteads in the region was given by a descendant of Dr. Sawyer.

*Near Dan Keniston's home

Symnes Sawyer settled on what came to be known as the Royal Smith place. This was known as "Top of the Hill" because one climbed from the River Road, now Daniel Webster Highway, to that place and then went down grade to the next places. After leaving the Royal Smith place one crossed Gate Brook, first called Pipe Brook, but later called Gate because a gate was put across to separate the John Smith place from the Royal Smith place. At the crossing a stone dam was built to make a pool where sheep were washed before shearing.

The road continued on through the woods to a small stream known soon as School House Brook, where it again forked and went down hill to the Jackman farm and mill. This mill was equipped with an old style up and down saw. It was said that Mr. Jackman would roll a log onto the carriage, start up the mill, go into the house and have breakfast before the saw could separate a board from the log. Back to the fork of the road one proceeded to the place occupied first by Robert Smith and then by John Smith. Here was built the school house, foundation and fireplace of which can still be seen. Near the foundation are four unmarked graves of members of the Smith family. This John Smith place is still marked by stone walls on both sides of the road, and walled in fields, mute tribute to the perseverance of the early owners. Next is the King's place. They stayed only a short time and so far as is known no descendants stayed in Woodstock. A tale has come down of a very small boy catching a big King girl stealing eggs from a bird's nest. He promptly went home and said, "Harriet King she wobbed a wobbin's nest and I promised not to tell."

The next farms belonged to Matthew P. Hunt, Thomas Vincent and Edward Smith. These farms formed one big field with no woods between. These were the only places on Mt. Cilley where one could see one's neighbors. This land was so stony that when Mr. Hunt started to plow in the spring the neighbors would say, "Mr. Hunt is beginning to stave up his plow." Next in order was the Samuel Smith place. Samuel Smith was a veteran of the War of 1812. His place faced into the south had gentle slopes not too stony. He abandoned the place for some years and went to live in Vermont but came back. Two sons stayed in Vermont. While driving his oxen up the Mt. Cilley road one night after having grain ground at the mill, Samuel Smith dropped dead with the goad stick in his hand. One Thomas Tomkinson said of the tragedy, "I told old Sam he die at road and he did die at road."

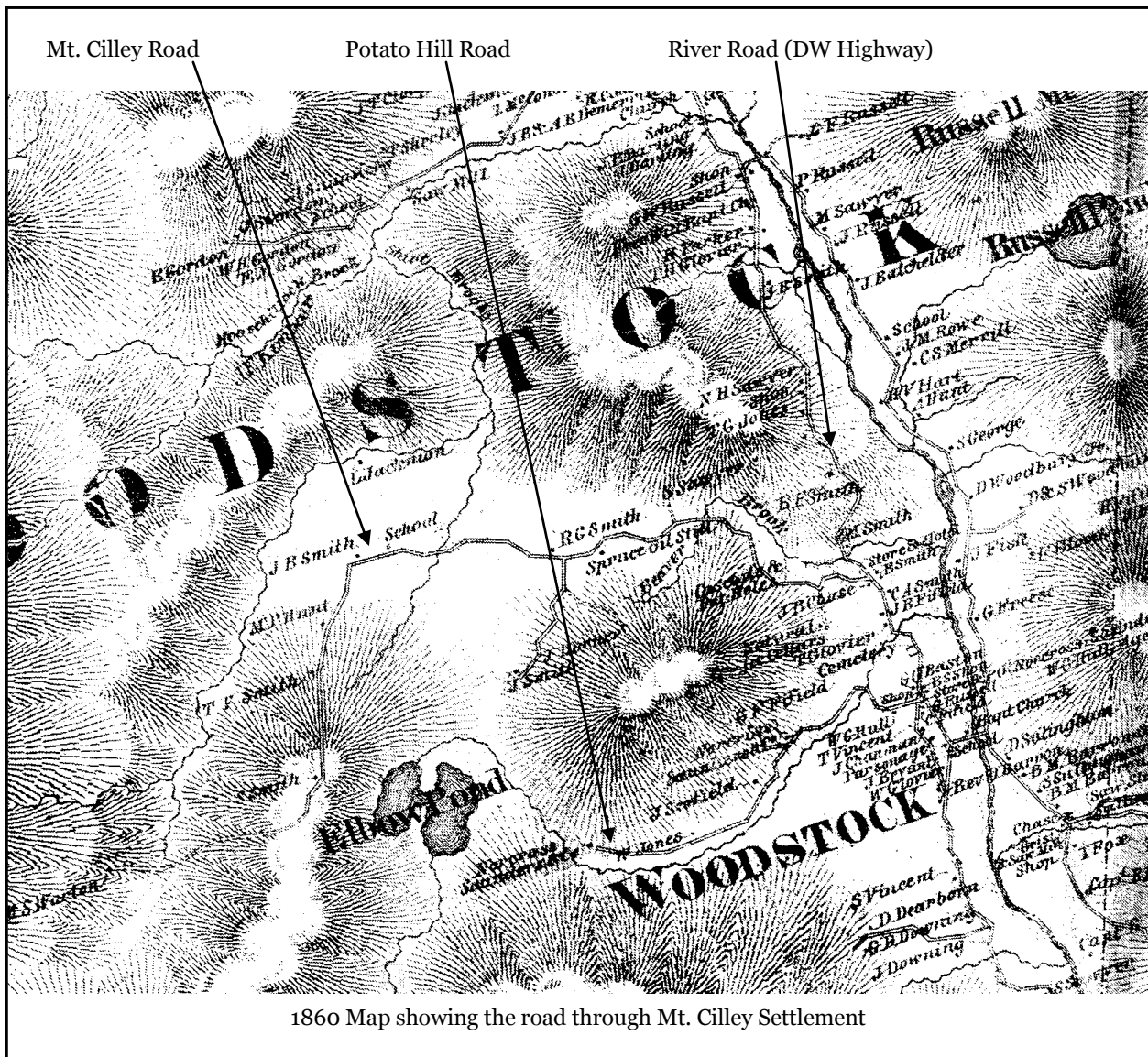
Going back to the Symnes Sawyer homestead one could follow a fork of the road to the west a bit upgrade to land cleared and occupied by Joseph Smith. Three other places were on this road, one cleared and buildings partly put up but never finished belonged to Alvin Smith, brother to Joseph. Another place was cleared and occupied by Josiah George. One of the Georges hung himself in the barn there. Luther Taylor a carpenter built a home beyond the Joseph Smith place and this later became the Foster Place.

From the Sam Smith place the road led to a cluster of homes known as Scotland. Here lived

William Clark, Paul Emerson, and John Pender. The Penders went to Portsmouth where a descendant John Pender became mayor. The Pender place was later the Wharton place. The last farm was known as Lee Hill. Here settled John Lee, made a small clearing but probably stayed only a short time.

Dr. Symnes Sawyer had a son Symnes who settled a place about a mile nearer the river than his father's place. This was afterwards occupied by his brother Moses who later owned the Fairview property. It was this Symnes who started the Old Sawyer Homestead where Van Allen's Inn is now.* While this place was being occupied by Moses Sawyer a school was started in the barn with Betsy Selingham as teacher.

* Van Allen Inn burned, but was located on the west side of the old Daniel Webster Highway, about a mile and a half north of the Jack O'Lantern Resort.



1860 Map showing the road through Mt. Cilley Settlement

On the Hunt place there can still be seen a rough stone marking the grave of one of Matthew Hunt's sons. At the Thomas Smith place the stone steps are still visible. It was customary in those days to make a raised plot for onion beds and the shape of these beds is still discernible after seventy-five years. The white roses and lilacs are still growing around the Joseph Smith place despite the fact that they have had no care for thirty years.

The lifting rock was long remembered by persons who had lived on Mt. Cilley. This was a rock on the Luther Taylor (Foster) place. It was so shaped that it was impossible to get a good hand hold on it and it was a test of strength and so of superiority for the young bloods to lift it off the ground. The rock is still up there.

Many a heartache was suffered on the mountain and one of the saddest has never been forgotten. From the Joseph Smith place a son Napoleon B., wanted to get away either to get more schooling or to see what the outside was like. He had his sister, Alma, throw his few supplies out of the window one evening and he left on his great adventure. The next spring his body and knapsack were found not far from a farmstead. It was from this same house that another son, Lucien, went to join the Union forces. He was killed at Petersburg.

The abandonment of the Mt. Cilley farms has been attributed to reluctance of the town to keep a road in traveling condition even for ox carts. The town records year after year have articles in the warrant showing that Matthew Hunt, or Thomas Smith or someone else tried to have a little money laid out on the road. It was about four miles from the present Daniel Webster Highway, then known as River Road, to the last farm. People who lived there were blockaded through the winters and were thus the first to leave the settlement. When logs were sold in the winter a sled road gave some access but it was never easy to get produce over the road. Younger members of the families soon saw advantages of being nearer a better road. When Lucien Smith was home on furlough he and his brother bought a home in the south end of town. The place they left became the property of J. E. Henry and Sons who used it to raise hay and potatoes for their Henryville (Lincoln) project.

It is difficult to picture living conditions on Mt. Cilley but we know the houses were of sawed lumber and were plastered. The cleared land gave food for oxen and cattle, potatoes and hardy vegetables were raised but early and late frosts made beans and corn a gamble. Many little reminiscences are handed down. One year when bechnuts were plentiful a wealthy man from the river drove his hogs up the mountain and left them to get a living from the nuts to the great annoyance of the Mt. Cilley people who had to protect their fields and crops from the hogs.

Naming the brooks was simple. The story is told that Thomas Smith coming home from work on the burnt piece looked at the shirts they were wearing and said, "These shirts are going

to be hard for Mar'm to clean," whereupon the three men washed them in the brook, which of course became Shirt Brook. Crossing a brook on a log foot bridge a man dropped his pipe in the water, so Pipe Brook was christened. Gate brook has already been mentioned and naturally the brook past the school was Schoolhouse Brook.

A little flax was raised on the mountain, and linen spun and woven there is still in existence. Sheep provided warmer clothes. Field corn was raised and potatoes for starch as well as for food.

The people cherished their flame for if it went out someone must travel some ways to beg coals to start a new fire. Probably there were few matches anywhere in Woodstock until about 1850 when people made their own. A long pine block was sawed into a comb-like piece and the teeth were dipped in brimstone.

Major Royal Jackman built a saw mill in the neighborhood and had an up and down saw in it. This mill later became the property of Curtis Parker who set it up near the present Electric Light Dam.*

The school house served as a meeting house and services were held on Sundays led by preachers from the river. Elder Russell and Mr. Ropes are known to have preached there. On August 5, 1834 the church met at house of Royal Jackman and received by baptism Samuel Smith, Ezra Hunt, Betsy Chase and Deborah Hunt.

The last family to leave Mt. Cilley was the Royal G. Smith family. They went a little further south on the hill to the Potato Hill settlement. Descendants of that family are still in Woodstock, the Smiths and Campbells of Lower Woodstock. No families lived on the mountain after 1865 but Benjamin W. Chandler came from Maine sometime in the early nineties and built himself a cabin about a mile up the hill and elected to live a hermit's life there until he died. He was a Civil War veteran.

No one is now living who was born of Mt. Cilley. Ada Smith Ward was the last survivor and she died in Thornton in 1939.

Descendants of those hardy pioneers however are still here. Dr. Symnes Sawyer has left many to carry on the name. Joseph and Royal Smith are still represented. The Hunt family name is gone from the checklist but only by reason of marriage for the Clark families are Matthew Hunt descendants.

*The old Parker Dam on the Pemigewasset River just north of North Woodstock Village.

Nothing but a few raised vegetable beds, cellar holes, white rose bushes and lilac bushes with a few graves still marked, is left of Mt. Cilley but it holds a definite place in Peeling/Woodstock history.

Another group of people settled a district similar to the Mt. Cilley region on what was called Potato Hill. A road still used led from the Woodstock village toward the west up the hill. The first place on this road was the Tewksbury place. Mr. Tewksbury had a small saw mill there. Then lived in succession the Waitts, the Royal Smiths, the James Schofield family, the Isaac Jones and the John Cook families. On the John Cook place was a mill where it is said the first circular saw in Woodstock was used. This settlement did not break up as soon as Mt. Cilley but has long been restored to wilderness. Descendants of the Jones, Smith and Schofield families are still living in town.

The road went past the settlement to Elbow Pond mentioned earlier.

Potatoes for starch were raised in this region and a starch mill was operated on Glover Brook.

Woodstock History

Chapter 5

Old Houses, Manners and customs

Often the first of anything is remarkable only because it is first so that we have really little to tell about the first settlement in Woodstock. We learn that this first dwelling house was on the east side of the Pemigewasset River in 1773 by one James McNorton, land now owned by E. E. Woodbury.* McNorton left his home to go to the Revolutionary War and was killed at Germantown. Another of the early homesteads was long represented by the old log house, standing on the west side of Daniel Webster Highway, about two miles north of the old Woodstock Post Office. This was built in 1810 of logs and has been the scene of many gala occasions. It was the home of ministers and other notables and it is with great regret that this generation has seen it fall into ruin.

Frame houses were more common in Woodstock than any other style. These were wrought with utmost labor from the natural growth of the country side. Hand hewn beams and hand split laths went into their makeup put together with herculean effort by the men of the settlement, and held in place with wooden pegs and hand cut nails. A few houses in Woodstock now show boards in the sides of rooms twenty-six to thirty inches wide, and the old hand split laths on ceilings. "Raisings" were a part of every well built house and sometimes the cider jug was too much in evidence. A few buildings always will show a deviation from the perpendicular as a result of too many trips to the jug. No architect's plans were necessary for these early dwellings; an oblong building with a door in the center, leading into an "entry" and a square room on either side was the general plan. In the very early days fireplaces served to heat the house as well as a baking place.

Probably the first frame house was built nearly opposite the Averill cottage** in North Woodstock and was the home of Jonathan Darling, hence the name Darling Hill for the slope at the intersection of the Daniel Webster Highway and Eastside Road south of North Woodstock Village. The oldest frame house now standing is probably the Burney house just north of Fairview Hotel on the east side of the river.*** This was built by Thomas Pinkham, and it is a pity

*The land between Eastside Road and the Pemigewasset River, across and south of Tripoli Road.

**The Chirkov home between DW Highway and the river,

***The Burney House, home to Priscilla Cox for many years, was torn down in early 2013.

that the old house cannot talk. To this house came "Stragglers" of the Civil War to hide in the fireplace until it was safe to make the next dash to Canada.

It is a matter of regret that Woodstock can boast of no old beautiful houses built with the grace and beauty of the old Portsmouth places and other colonial houses but it must also be remembered these early settlers were not sea captains, not merchants, just ordinary straight thinking Yankees whose only wealth to them was what they obtained from natural sources with their own hands. Houses to them were shelters, cozy homes, but by no means homes of beauty. Credit goes to such men whose courage and perseverance made early Woodstock.

Water was obtained from springs and was often brought into the houses in pails by women of the family. Some enterprising householders burned out logs to make water pipes, and by laying these logs underground brought water into the house. The water ran slowly and most houses had their water barrel in the kitchen from which needed supply could be dipped with gourds or later with tin dippers. Later, of course, lead and iron pipes brought water into houses and in laying these modern pipes, people have found remains of the old burned out logs left in the ground. Even in the present century water barrels were considered a prime necessity in many homes. Wooden sinks were a luxury and when a house had attained to the possession of a "wet sink" that allowed water to run through a pipe onto the ground outside the kitchen, that house was indeed luxurious.

Log houses and frame houses were the most numerous and it remained for one Deacon Benja Fox to build the first brick house in Woodstock, the only brick house in that day north of Concord. The brick Deacon Fox made himself from clay obtained in Thornton Gore. It took five years to build it, but when the house was finished it was free and clear of mortgage. (Benja Fox was son of Benajah Fox, who was the first settler in Campton. This house, for many years the home of Newton Baston and family, direct descendants of Benja Fox, was the last house in Woodstock on the east side of the Pemigewasset River. In it were to be seen the old fire place and brick ovens.

While on the subject of old houses, it might be well to recall some of the early houses in Woodstock which are still standing. Many have changed both style and ownership but the original dwelling still endures. These are notably part of the Russell House, Jackman House (Pilgrim Inn), Johnson Gordon place, Hunt place, Alec Demerritt place (Now Pinefields), the Sawyer place, John Gray place, and the Burney place.*

* The Russell House was where the Post Office and Bank are now located, and the Jackman House was across the street on the property of Sue Williams.

Quote from Woodbury's recent articles:

"Times were too hard to allow for much attempt at beauty of surroundings. The houses were placed as near to the roads as possible to prevent too much snow shoveling in winter, and piazzas or verandas were not needed for no one had leisure to enjoy them. The men logged or farmed to keep their families from starving and the women were kept busy indoors, baking, hemming, spinning, measuring, knitting, not to mention mending and caring for the children.

Front door yards in those early days became the site of the family wood pile and it was often the children's duty in the spring to clean up the resultant chips. "Get me an apron full of chips" was often the mother's plea to the girls while the boys of the family were filling the wood box. Even the six year olds were expected to be sure that the morning's supply of kindling was provided, and the kindling was not always piled neatly in the wood shed. Some "scrabbling" was often required to meet the kindling emergency. The houses were lighted by candles made by the mothers from tallow, heated and run into molds. These were succeeded by coal oil lamps which frequently gave less glow than a good candle, and these in turn were followed by kerosene lamps and the crowning glory of all was the hanging lamp over the table which while possibly a strain on the eyes, gave nevertheless a cozy glow to the room. If this lamp or the tall parlor lamp could boast a large and colorful pansy or other flower on its globe, no greater elegance could be asked.

The floors were of soft wood in wide planks, covered possibly by braided or drawn on rugs. Carpets were a luxury of later years and then made up in the largeness of their figures and brightness of their colors for all the former talk of floor coverings. Furniture of course varied with the worldly wealth of the family, but most beds were proud in the glory of a rope spring, a husk bed in summer and a feather tick in winter. When made up in all the beauty of a puffed feather bed and spread with the hand-woven counterpane, these beds were things of beauty and many a housewife showed with pride her newest "pieced up" quilt made with infinite care and patience. Soap was a household necessity and with the help of wood ashes and grease, the thrifty housewife laid in her barrel of soft soap. Perfume was dear to the feminine heart and Woodstock still boasts some old rose jars, made from dried rose petals and spices.

Dyeing became necessary sometimes and the women often gathered butternuts and burned the bark into a brown dye. Nothing that pioneers could do did these worthy settlers of Woodstock overlook. Salt pork and potatoes was a good meal,

potatoes and salt a nourishing one, and corn meal or hasty pudding often was the main dish. They raised corn and buckwheat and took it to the mill to furnish their flour. The maple trees often furnished the only sugar available.

Apples were pared, sliced and strung up to dry, these furnishing the pie material and often the "sauce" for the winter. Apples in their natural growth were available, but in early days little grafting was attempted. A fresh orange was an almost unheard of treat in the winter.

Pennies were seldom available for the small folk, but many a Woodstock superior recalls with joy the days when they had "sugar on snow" as a treat.

Amusements in Woodstock were much the same as in small villages all over the country. Huskings, quiltings, raisings, dancing the square dances, straw rides, all happy intercourse that young and old could provide for themselves. Woodstock had her school days when the musically inclined met in school houses or at neighbors and made the welkin ring."

Woodstock History

Chapter 6

Schools

It may be recalled that the charter demanded that one whole share of the town be held for the benefit of a school in said Town forever. This was done. Citizens were permitted to cut lumber on the lot and turn a portion of the money to the schools. At times the lot was rented. The history of the school lot is carried through the years. The warrant of 1811, *Article 12 To see if the town will choose an agent to lease School Lot 12 R 6, or authorize the selectmen to lease same, also to see if town will authorize selectmen to collect stumpage for lumber already cut on said lot.* The town voted to choose Shurburn R. Merrill agent to look up School Lot 12 R 6 and collect stumpage and dispose of lot. Mr. Merrill was succeeded by Benjamin Fox. Money was collected for stumpage and in 1856 it was voted when sale of lot was completed money should be paid into Town treasurer.

Long since the school lot has belonged to private individuals and there is no definite sum from which interest is derived but \$35 is contributed each year under the heading Schools by Law, or Trust Fund.

Just when Peeling laid out school districts is not clear but by 1811 there were five districts. The March 1811 meeting voted to let James Edgerly, John McLellan, Isaac Woodman, Abraham Bryant have their school money. Again in 1814 we learn that the town voted to pay out \$100.00 for schools beside the Literary Fund and what the law requests, and to let Isaac Woodman, James Pierce, James Edgerly, George Edgerly and Abraham Bryant have their school money to lay it out when it will best convenience them, provided they will school it out and bring a receipt to the Collector before the annual meeting. Evidently each district had a man to supervise its finances. There was also a school committee for Benja Barron, Thomas Pinkham and John Palmer are named as being on the School Committee in 1816. The State law creating the School district system was passed in 1805 and Peeling had six districts at one time, possibly more, and sometimes less. The March meeting often voted to consolidate two or more districts and then to separate them. These districts are not definitely described in records but seem to have been about as follows:

District I was the Center School. The first two school house sites were both on the west side of the Pemigewasset River, in the area where the covered bridge stood in lower Wood-

stock village. Later in 1886 a one story schoolhouse was built in the village but up on Daniel Webster Highway. Between the time that the railroad took over the school house under the hill and the new one was built, Woodstock pupils went to school in the town house.* This Center School was enlarged in 1909 by adding a second story.**

District II was the McLelland District known better as the Tannery District. Two school houses, of the one room type stood there at different times, the last of which, built in 1908, was converted into a dwelling.

District III was at North end of town and the building stood just north of the present cement bridge*** which took the place of the Darling Bridge. This was later moved to School Street and is one of the residences on School Street at present.

The present Mt. Park neighborhood was the home of District IV and it is about this district that an amusing story has come down. This district evidently extended from the Fox neighborhood on the south to the Moses Sawyer neighborhood on the north. After the 15'x20' school house was built it was found that contrary to definite agreement the house was not at the geographical center of the district. In fact the Mountain Park School house was 47 ½ rods further north than it should have been. Another meeting was called and a committee appointed to move the school house. The north enders got still another vote to have the house remain where it was and on a certain morning the north end leader was to put a notice on the school house door. A woman at the south end hearing of this, walked in the early morning over twelve miles to let her husband know of the impending disaster. Together they trudged home. At 11:00 p.m. four yoke of oxen and several determined men appeared in the school yard. Two skids were put under the building, each pulled by two oxen. The oxen soon hauled the building to the exact center of this district and by 1:30 a.m. the school house was situated where it did duty as long as the district system stayed in effect. Later this house was moved from the Mt. Park Hill and now stands at the top of the hill on the property of Mrs. Abby Brown.**** Mr. Elmer E. Woodbury adds a humorous touch to the tale when he writes:

“So quietly was the work done that only one person of the neighborhood heard the noise and that woman kept the secret twenty-four hours. That woman was the observer's mother. The morning following the northender appeared to post the warrant for the next meeting and found only the foundation. Hat in hand he went to the nearest neighbor and asked ‘Who in @#*% stole that school house?’

*The Town Hall just north of the cemetery

**The Center School was in use until it was closed in 1954.

***On DW Highway just south of North Woodstock village, the bridge over Moosilauke Brook.

****This building no longer exists, but until recent years it stood on property of Jim and Susan Young.

“What, has the school house been stole?’ asked the neighbor.’ ‘Yes by @#*% it has.’ ‘Well I swan.’ said the neighbor.

Mrs. Susie Anderson further added to the story when she ended her recital of this story with the words, “You see the joke was on my grandfather.”*

District V was on Gordon’s Hill and a new school house was built there in 1909 on what is known as Pondfield Road.**

District VI was on Mt. Cilley. At first the children gathered in barn at Dr. Symne Sawyer’s place but a building was soon put up, used also as a meeting house. The foundation is still to be seen. Betsy Selingham, an aunt of Mary Peaslee, was the first teacher on Mt. Cilley. Polly Fitts, Sarah Pinkham, Delofa Bailey, Delia Pinkham and Rosamond Vincent followed her. School kept eight weeks a year, but since descendants of the Mt. Cilley families have been valuable citizens of Woodstock through the years it must be conceded the pupils and teachers used the time to good advantage.

A description of the common schools in Peeling or in early years of Woodstock would read like a description of the single room buildings in any other town, when the rooms were heated with box stoves, when one water pail and one dipper did duty for twenty to thirty pupils, when the winter term saw boys and girls bigger, if not older than the teacher and when grading consisted of going from one Reader or one Arithmetic to another. It is interesting, however, to trace the growth of school mindedness a little from the old records. From 1811 when it was voted to expend \$100.00 for schools to 1940 when Woodstock spent \$12,984.52, many changes took place.

The governing body of the early schools was apparently first the Prudential committee responsible to the voters, next the head man in each district. One town meeting voted to leave selection of Prudential committee members to each district.

In 1820 Mr. Benja Fox was a prudential committee member. The boarding of the teacher was set up at vendue and evidently Mr. Fox was lowest bidder for he had the privilege of boarding the teacher for seventy-five cents a week. Thomas Vincent bid off the wood privilege and was to furnish wood for sixty-five cents a week. One of the first teachers recorded was Miss Jane Fox who boarded with B. M. Barron for fifty-five cents a week.

For years things went along, the town raising from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five dollars a year, teachers paying from \$.55 to \$.78 a week for board, wood costing from \$.56 to \$.77 a week. In 1838 a new school house became necessary and Peeling voted to

*Moses Sawyer who lived at the north end of District III.

**Lost River Road

build one the same to be not over 24' nor under 22' square. Ezekiel Tewksbury was the lowest bidder and was awarded the contract for \$154.00. Benja Fox, Steven Vincent and Symnes Sawyer were appointed to "watch Mr. Tewksbury." In 1845 wood was cheaper than in 1828 for B. M. Barron had the wood contract for the new school struck off to him for \$.28 per week and it must be good hard wood prepared in good order for the stove.

Evidently education needed more of an impetus in Woodstock for in 1849 the town voted to hire a male teacher and in 1851 to hire a female teacher. Controversies arose and frequently it was voted "Not to have scholars from out of this district come to this school."

In the spring the money was divided among the districts according to number of children in each district, and each district was jealous of its rights. This was not strange for school tax was levied on number of children in each district. Reports of many years are printed thus.

Resident and nonresident School Tax, Literary Fund, and Interest money as divided among the several school districts with the number of children from 4 to 14 and from 14 to 20 in each district for the year 1853:

District I	Resident	\$60.27	60 between	4 and 14
	Nonresident	<u>\$28.29</u>	22 between	14 and 20
		\$88.56	82	
District II	Resident	\$38.96	29 between	4 and 14
	Nonresident	<u>\$18.28</u>	24 between	14 and 20
		\$57.24	53	
District III	Resident	\$16.17	18 between	4 and 14
	Nonresident	<u>\$ 7.59</u>	4 between	14 and 20
		\$23.76	22	
District IV	Resident	\$ 7.35	7 between	4 and 14
	Nonresident	<u>\$ 3.45</u>	3 between	14 and 20
		\$10.80	10	
District V	Resident	\$ 7.35	7 between	4 and 14
	Nonresident	<u>\$ 3.45</u>	3 between	14 and 20
		\$10.80	10	
District VI	Resident	\$3.67	5 between	4 and 14
	Nonresident	<u>\$1.73</u>	0 between	14 and 20
		\$5.40	5	

Total tax \$196.56

Outstanding personality in Woodstock school history was Mrs. Eliza Fox Parker Bunton. When Mrs. Bunton was thirteen years old a teacher from New Hampton School boarded at her home and persuaded her father, Isaac Fox, to let Eliza and her brother go to New Hampton. This was a great innovation and Mr. Fox did not think it quite necessary. Accordingly after a short time he found his daughter a school to keep. When she was ninety years old, Mrs. Bunton remembered with what fear and trembling she went to the school committee man for examination. He told her afterwards his most important question was "How many states are there in the Union?" and he passed her because she did not omit the seceded states. Miss Eliza Fox began her long career as an educator the day before she was fifteen years old. Her salary that term was \$2.00 a week and she was "Knocked off to the lowest bidder to board." Alternating with teaching, Miss Fox went on with her education at New Hampton but humorously stated that she had no diploma until a thoughtful headmaster found, after she was married, that she was not listed among the alumnae. From teacher to school committee and finally to Superintendent in 1878, Mrs. Bunton kept her interest in Woodstock schools. In her report to State Superintendent James W. Patterson in 1878 Mrs. Parker (Bunton) wrote, "The prevailing idea seems to be that teachers are expected to impart only such knowledge as will benefit the pupils intellectually while their moral natures are neglected. A great want of the present age is honest men. We believe that all instruction should be of such a nature as to bring about a reform, and in no place, outside our homes, can this be done more efficiently than in our common schools. Great care should be manifested in the selection of the teachers to obtain those who are examples of morality as well as learned in the studies to be taught."

During this period the town owned five school houses valued at \$150.00 and the school appropriation from all sources netted \$266.36. It is related in records that the selectmen reported at the town meeting of 1879 that they had adequately educated Woodstock's young people at \$1.60 per head, that they had paid all their teachers \$98.00 for the year, Mrs. Parker \$12.00 as superintendent, and made \$50 cover all necessary expense wherefore they proudly reported a balance of \$106.36 left from the very generous school appropriation. The enrollment was 49 boys, 51 girls, or one fourth of the population. By 1885 Woodstock was more school minded for the report of W. L. E. Hunt, then superintendent, tells that Woodstock raised \$372.90 for schools and expended \$360.62 of the amount. School houses had been valued at \$405.00 and 114 pupils were being taught by one male and six female teachers who were paid \$22.00 and \$20.00 per month.

In 1886 the state passed another school law doing away with the district system making all schools town schools under the supervision of school boards. This did not close all district schools but did provide a more equitable education. It was intended to also provide transportation but this did not start until many years later in Woodstock. In 1914 Willie Smith transported pupils from the Gordon neighborhood after the District V School was discontinued.

1917 witnessed the passing of the "New School Law." This divided the state into supervisory unions and made it compulsory for each union to employ a superintendent recommended by the State Board of Education and paid in part by the state and in part by several towns of the district.

Supervision was not new. Mr. Royal C. Jackman recalled a Major Jacob Demeritt, veteran of the War of 1812, having charge of the schools. Mrs. Eliza Parker served as Superintendent as did Mr. W. L. E. Hunt. Mr. Eugene Tuttle was appointed by the state board to superintend these schools, and those in nearby towns in 1908. His contribution was the grading of the schools and much pioneer work for better supplies and maps and text books and single seats for pupils. He stayed two years then, because the other towns withdrew their support, the superintendent was dismissed and the next one came in 1917. This was Mr. William Buker. Mr. Buker resigned to go to Rochester and his place was taken by Alonzo B. Knowlton on September 1, 1919. Mr. and Mrs. Knowlton made their home in North Woodstock giving much to the community besides Mr. Knowlton's faithful and efficient services to the schools until 1934 when he went to Groveton. Vincent Gatto served the town one year when Allan M. McCurdy was appointed Superintendent in 1941. His resignation in June 1943 was accepted and Mr. Arthur S. Rollins was elected.

For several years, pupils wishing education beyond the grammar grades were obliged to go to Plymouth or to academies. In 1903 the agitation began for a town high school and the annual meeting of March 1908 voted to raise the sum of \$4000.00 and to appropriate \$4000.00 to build a new school at the north end of town. This building was to be so planned that pupils from the schools at North Woodstock could be better accommodated and still leave room for High School. One thousand dollars had previously been voted to house a library and it was decided to put this money with the other and house the library in the building. A committee consisting of Elmer E. Woodbury, Daniel B. Baston, Thomas L. Stewart, Alice P. Emmons, Sadie F. Baston, and Effie T. Smith was chosen.

Land on Depot Street was secured from the estate of Cora K. Bell, through the administrator Hon. Nathan P. Hunt after much delay and some litigation. Contract for the building was made with Mr. J. S. Doane of Marblehead for \$9000.00. Mr. Doane was released from the contract and John Gordon and Thomas Stewart carried the work to a finish and the building was opened in the spring of 1909. The committee reported an expenditure of \$9,420.65. At an adjourned meeting in May it was voted to open a high school. In his report of February 1910, Eugene Tuttle states that Woodstock High School, under Alfreda Emerson as principal has been approved by the State Board of Education as a fourth class high school (having one year of work). In 1910 a second year was added and the school raised to a third class school, and in 1916 Woodstock High School had a four year course and was on a list of Approved High

Schools, which rating it never lost.

A note of contrast is given in the fact that in 1878 Woodstock raised \$266.36 to educate 100 pupils and in 1940 she spent \$14,556.00 to educate 207.

Woodstock History

Chapter 7

Libraries

New Hampshire makes the proud boast that within her borders was opened the first free public library wholly supported by municipal tax. This was at Peterborough in 1833.

Woodstock has something to be proud of also in the matter of furnishing reading matter to her citizens. Early in her history a Literary Society met to read and discuss books, bought books and allowed people to borrow them.

In the town report of 1893 we find the first recorded report of Library Trustees. The Board was then David Webster, W. L. E. Hunt and F. N. Gilman. That report states that the State gave the Moosilauke Free Public Library at North Woodstock 101 volumes that were put in circulation on July 11, 1893. Hon. J. J. Bell gave 95 volumes. One hundred twenty-four volumes previously loaned by Woodstock Literary Society and North Woodstock Literary Fraternity* were given to the library on August 25, and Rev. J. E. Johnston donated 18 volumes.

The report also proudly claims that 213 readers read 953 books in 7 ³/₄ months, at a total expense to the town of \$43.10. Not too much of this was paid for librarian's salary because several years' accounts show a total salary of \$15.00 to the librarian, first Miss Nellie Russell and then Miss Jennie Russell. An attempt was made in 1906 to get a vote to build a library building but did not carry.

Fifteen years after its start Moosilauke Free Library boasted 1092 books and operated a year for \$79.50.

In 1910 the library was located in the new school building. The people had become more book conscious for the trustees report that 264 patrons read 3175 books, an average of twelve books to a patron in a year. During 1913 a hundred more books were added to the library. One was a gift from S. F. Claflin and it is a pleasure to be able to include Mr. Claflin's name in Woodstock's library chapter for many well remember how that amiable gentleman canvassed our town each year getting magazine subscriptions at club prices, leaving behind his

* see further information on the North Woodstock Literary Fraternity at the end of this chapter.

homey poems which made the people personally acquainted with the man who wrote under the pseudonym Little Pitchers.

In 1914 a little sarcasm creeps into the librarian's reports and Mr. W. L. E. Hunt complains that the number of books loaned from the library was not as large as during previous years. "This is due mainly to the 'modern' idea of the merchants keeping books for sale and exchanging them for five cents. Many of the summer guests took advantage of this 'modern' convenience and our receipts fell short a few dollars." Apparently Woodstock had a circulating library in 1914. Books have been received from the Carnegie Endowment Fund. About 1915 an attempt was made by Mr. W. H. Bunton and the Woodstock selectmen to obtain a Carnegie library for the town but it was found that the Carnegie Foundation would give funds only to larger townships. This was a great disappointment but Woodstock has cause to be grateful for her library privileges.

For some time it was customary for books to be loaned from Moosilauke Library for distribution to people living at the south end of the village. After a time this became burdensome and finally was discontinued. Then south end people could enjoy library privileges only by going the three or four miles to North Woodstock. In 1920 the town appropriated a small sum and a library was started at Woodstock by purchasing 136 books and accepting 174 from patrons. Sadie F. Baston, then a library trustee was partly responsible for this library. For a time the books were distributed from the post office, where May E. Bagley generously contributed room. Subsequently room was hired in the vestry of the Baptist Church and the library was open there once a week. After the church burned in 1935, the library was moved to the Baptist parsonage. *

North Woodstock has had eight librarians, Miss Nellie Russell, Miss Jennie Russell, Mr. W.L.E. Hunt, Mrs. C. V. Parker, Mrs. Bernice Orozco, Mrs. Fannie Muchmore, Mrs. Emily Avery and Mrs. Thelma Joy. Jennie Brown, Grace E. Amos and Charlotte Amos have served the Woodstock People.**

** Update: In or around 1945 the library at the south end was moved again, this time to the second floor of the Woodstock Center Schoolhouse, the elementary school in Woodstock Village. The library remained there until the school was closed in 1954. At that time, both school and library merged with the facilities at the school in North Woodstock.*

To meet the changing needs of the school population, the North Woodstock School, which now served as the elementary school for the Lincoln and Woodstock area, took over the Library's space in 1975. The library was moved to an old courtroom above the North Woodstock Fire Department, sharing the floor with the Town Offices and the Police Department. As the library's new location was near the elementary school, the library continued to serve as the school library until the North Woodstock school closed for good in 1981.

In the mid 1980's the Town Offices, Police Department and Library moved into a new building a half mile west on Lost River Road.

*** Update: Librarians at the Moosilauke Public Library since Thelma Joy have been Sybil Canaan, Marcia DeSteuben, Barbara Avery, Jean Rolph, Don Goyette and Wendy Pelletier*

Ida Tilton Sawyer

The following is a letter written to Ida Sawyer explaining the North Woodstock Literary Fraternity:

Franklin, N. H.

April 7, 1933

My dear Mrs. Sawyer,

My sister, Mrs. Russell. Has asked me to tell you what I can about the small literary club, in North Woodstock, to which we belonged many years ago, and its contribution to the town library....

It is difficult to go back in thought to what seems almost like another existence, but I will do the best I can.

Our club, known as the "North Woodstock Literary Fraternity" had a membership of probably twenty young people living in No. Woodstock and Lincoln. ...

We organized, I think, in the winter of 1883-4 and our last meetings, I would say, were during the winter of 1887-8. We planned to meet once each week during the fall and winter, less often during the spring and summer. We usually met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Russell, who always took an active interest, often an active part, in our meetings. We occasionally met in other homes and sometimes in the school house.

We usually had a club paper. Other features of our programs were music, readings, essays, debates etc. Occasionally there were spelling matches, dialogues, short plays and the like.

During the existence of the club we gave several entertainments at which an admission fee was asked. With this money we started our small library. These books were kept in the post office at Mr. George Russell's home and Fred and Jennie Russell were the librarians. Summer guests patronized it, paying the small fee and sometimes adding a gift of money for more books.

The books were very carefully selected and called forth many compliments from the readers. Club members, of course, used the books free of charge.

When the town library was started, several years after the club ceased to exist, those of us who could get together and talk the matter over, decided to enrich it with our little collection. ...

Very sincerely yours,

(Mrs. I. M.) Alice L. Hanson

Woodstock History

Chapter 8

Industries

It would be logical to assume that farming would have been the chief occupation of Woodstock citizens from early days to the present but soil and climate have made other means of livelihood a necessity. Time was when Elder Barron and others had sheep and cattle which roamed the hillsides in summer being sold for meat and hides in the fall. Every thrifty person tried to till the soil enough to raise vegetables for home use, hay for oxen and cows and corn and rye or India wheat to be ground but no great crops for market were ever produced. Benjamin Barron raised hops and often hired twenty girls to pick them. These girls lived for the season in a two storied house nearly opposite the Robert Mellett Home.* After the harvest Mr. Barron allowed neighbors to glean what was left and many women gleaned what hops they required for yeast.

Potato Hill got the name because farmers raised there a large deep eyed potato used to make starch. Elder Ropes was interested in starting a mill on the hill and also helped operate a starch mill on Glover Brook.

Home industries had their place in town. A cobbler made and mended shoes at place now known as "Notch View," now Scenic View, formerly the Tucker place. John Fiske was another cobbler who lived at one time on the present E. E. Woodbury place, later in house in Woodstock Village, now property of Maurice Sherrick,** and spent his last years at Fern Hill Farm. Many amusing tales have come down about these cobblers who were philosophers as well as cobblers. Enoch Emmons often told of having a pair of boots from Mr. Fisk and finding them much too large. He took them back to Mr. Fisk who said "Let me look at my measures" and then said "Fact, Sir, I made a mistake of an inch over the instep."

The women after spinning, weaving, soap making, churning and innumerable other duties still found time to earn some money at home. Mr. Joseph Cook came from the Dole mills in Campton and brought pants to be finished for twelve cents a pair. Later when women had sewing machines they made the pants for nineteen cents a pair and even the children were

**Eastside Road by Sugarplum Lane, near where Fred Mellett now lives*

*** Daniel Webster Highway, now Havlock property*

taught to sew on Cook's pants. Some times these were of woollen materials and sometimes of sail cloth. Often Mr. Cook brought shirts to be made and women vied with each other to see which could make a shirt fastest. Sometimes Mr. Cook brought commodities instead of money with which to pay for the work: calicos, thread, kitchen utensils, shoes or other necessities.

Not a Woodstock industry, but worthy to be recorded in any small town history were the itinerant peddlers. New Englanders have a warm memory of the tin peddler's carts. These peddlers were usually Yankees like themselves who brought wares and fellowship into the village. Often the peddler put his horse in some man's barn and found shelter for himself at the farmhouse each time he came through town. Frank and Henry Smith often kept the peddlers. Woodstock recalls a Rogers who often came with a beautiful big horse of whom he took such good care; Joe and Milo Morrison also came through with shoes and dry goods. George Foss was the last to run a regular route from Plymouth up. The picturesque carts with brooms, clothes baskets, galvanized washtubs and pails on the outside and all sorts of notions within are things of the past.

Medicine too came by itinerant vendors and Dr. Ham brought his famous pills to Woodstock each spring.

Woodstock had a mining operation when the Hunton Mining Co. opened a vein of lead in the Mt. Cilley region not far from the main road. Here a shaft was sunk, tunnels drilled, a huge compressor installed and all the paraphernalia for preparing the lead for market set up. The material was not as hoped but while the work was in progress it helped Woodstock and the sale of mining rights and right of way privileges also helped. No one in town lost on the venture. The old shaft and mine are still a source of some interest to hikers.

The story is told that Benja Fox who early came to Woodstock made two trips a year to Dover and Portsmouth and on these trips he saw houses made of brick and a brick yard which greatly interested him. He determined to have a brick house of his own and was constantly hunting for clay suitable for bricks. He located some in Rumney but that was some distance away and after much searching he found clay on the banks of the Eastman Branch Brook just below where the road leading to Lester Bradley's farm* leaves the main Gore Road. This clay was taken to farm now property of Fred Scott, the bricks made and fired there and taken to the hill on the east side of the Pemigewasset River near the Thornton line where Benja Fox built his house of brick which still stands four square and still houses descendants of Benja Fox in the family of Newton H. Baston.** Here was born Eliza J. Fox first of the family to be born in the first brick house north of Concord. This house was built sometime in 1839. At some later date

* *Johnson Brook Road*

***Now owned by Frank McNamara*

Isaac Fox wishing to beautify his home hired George Freese to get young maple trees and set them out at regular intervals from the top of the hill to the brick house. Mr. Freese was to receive two and one half cents for each tree that lived.

Another small business that helped provide cash was the coal pits. Lumber had to be cut from the land and could not all be marketed to advantage. Blacksmiths required charcoal for their forges and thus individuals burned the surplus wood in coal pits. The wood was piled into a depression, set afire, carefully covered with earth, and allowed to burn. Great care was needed to prevent the wood from burning too fast and to keep it burning fast enough to make a perfect charcoal. Evidences of the old coal pits are still to be seen.

In the south west portion of the town is the Tannery District, mentioned in another chapter. Here was the tannery that gave the district its name and employment to many people. Next to lumber this was the most prosperous industry while the tannery operated.

In 1841 Richard Sears Danforth came from Bristol and worked for twelve years as foreman for Warren White in the latter's tannery. Richard Danforth and his brother Almon H., with Warren White built the first tannery and Richard continued to hold his interest in it for sixteen years. The building burned and Almon Danforth sold his interest to Joseph W. Campbell who carried on a successful business from 1855 to 1888. This building was also destroyed by fire. Richard Danforth sold his interest to J. W. Campbell and left Woodstock in 1868, and Mr. Campbell took John Horner as partner. Miss Sarah Danforth recalls coming to Woodstock to the Tannery District and living in house with Jesse Kendall's family in the old McLelland House. She said, "All the lumber for the No. I and No. II tanneries was sawed there (at McLelland's mill). I know as I used to go out with my father when he was sawing lumber for the second tannery and hoist the gate and set over one end of the log as it was an up and down saw."

Little is left to show where the tannery buildings stood but traces can be seen. It was on the west side of the present Mirror Lake Road, over the bank near the brook, almost directly behind the place owned by Sam Center in 1941.* The N. H. Gazetteer of 1855 describing Woodstock says, "There is an extensive tannery here where twenty hands are employed: capital \$15,000." Another description says, "In 1855 Joseph W. Campbell moved to Woodstock and became engaged in the tanning business on a large scale, continuing in that line until 1888. In this business he succeeded from the start and possessed a very profitable and growing trade when his buildings were destroyed by fire in 1888. The buildings were large and roomy to accommodate the requirements of so prosperous a business. The main building was 120 feet long

* *Near the Nicoll's home*

and 40 feet wide and to it were joined two wings one 40 x 20 the other 33 x 20. The receipts from the sale of product varied from \$60,000 to \$100,000 a year.”

In talking for the railroads about 1907 Mr. Campbell threw this side light on the business, “When I carried on my tanning business there were years when I paid \$1.05 per 100 pounds of hides from Chicago to Boston and \$.54 from Boston to Plymouth and then had to cart them fourteen miles from Plymouth to Woodstock by team. I can now get hides from Chicago to West Thornton for \$.50 per 100.” Not only the men who actually worked in the tannery were benefitted by this industry but many others. Peeling hemlock was part of the job of woodlot owners and bark piles were frequent until it was time to haul bark to the tannery. Others found employment hauling hides from Plymouth and later from West Thornton station. Aside from a long career as a town officer, Joseph W. Campbell holds a place in Woodstock history as a benefactor.

Like all of New England, Woodstock was forest when first granted and wood and lumber have played an important part in its history. The romance of old logging methods, the river drivers, the hard work entailed in getting trees from the stump to mill is not peculiar to Woodstock history and need only be mentioned here. Drives went down the Pemigewasset river to Lowell and spring brought the drivers to town. Many a tale of the way these men made and enforced their own laws have come down, one incident of tar and feathers, another of the wood’ans threatening a man so that he put on his snow shoes backward and left home for a discrete period.

Many saw mills came and went in Woodstock. When and where the first one was set up isn’t recorded, but in 1816 Jacob Selingham and John Palmer were elected surveyors of lumber in the mills of the first and third districts respectively. The March meeting of 1824 is on record as having voted to give Nathan Fitts of Sanbornton three hundred acres of land in Peeling belonging to the town. Mr. Fitts was to select the three hundred acres out of any land the town owns on condition that he build a saw mill and put it in good repair for cutting boards somewhere in the westerly part of the town near Elbow Pond, so called.

Probably about 1850 Neil Norcross bought a great many acres and started the Norcross Lumber Co. Many outside jobbers came into town contracting to lay logs on the landings for \$2.00 to \$3.00 a thousand which soon increased to \$7.00. Nathan Weeks succeeded the Norcross Company, was for many years the lumber king of Woodstock. He frequently furnished the Woodstock men oxen, sold them hay and grain and groceries and bought their lumber. All too frequently men found in the spring that the winter’s work about balanced the Week’s account. There were at times one hundred oxen drawing logs from the Potato Hill and Elbow Pond regions.

Logs were frequently drawn to the Darling ledges* (recently blasted out for road construction) and put into the Pemigewasset River to be floated to mills.

The New Hampshire Land Company owned many acres and took quantities of lumber out of Woodstock. In 1905 the Publishers Paper Company took over the N. H. Land Co. holdings and started to build a dam across the river at Woodstock to make a pond in which to float logs to mill. January 1906 saw water running over the dam and in April a mill was started. Mr. T. I. Emerson was the carpenter, under the direction of J. H. Albee, and put in foundation and built the mill. This mill was equipped with band saws, gang edgers and all appliances of a modern saw mill, had its own electric light plant and was a great asset to the town. In contrast to Major Jackman's mill which sawed a log while he ate breakfast, this mill had a capacity of 100,000 feet a day. The management was in hands of Charles H. Green. Later William G. Clemens, son of former residents of town, took over management of all the Publisher's Paper Co. holdings in this area and the Woodstock Lumber Company succeeded them. This brought George H. Green, son of Charles, Martin Brown of Wilmington, Vermont and H. B. Moulton into the business life of Woodstock. A large boarding house was built near the mill and a company store nearly opposite. The big mill operated until it was burned in 1912 when a smaller one was set up to finish the operation.

The Woodstock Lumber Company built a logging railroad into Thornton Gore running north from McNorton's Falls through the intervale belonging to E. E. Woodbury and hence easterly into the town of Thornton. The grades were very steep, one being ten percent grade. The log trucks were designed especially for such work and operated with pin and link hitches, and drawn by Shay engines. Boston and Maine cars were used for hauling spars from the woods. On one trip the train got out of control, the cars broke apart and all left the rails and the engine in trying to round a curve left the tracks and tumbled about twenty-five feet into Eastman Branch Brook. This engine was salvaged and put back to use. Twelve camps were built in the woods which supplied lumber to the mill, but of all those camps built during this period there remains only the US Forestry camp at site of Camp 3.

Many families coming into town with this company have remained to make Woodstock their home. It was during this period that the little white church so dear to the older people of Woodstock was moved from the grove, set up on the east side of the bridge, used as a barber shop and subsequently burned.

Meantime the Johnson and Stebbins Co. was operating in Lincoln and they took over the lumber in the Elbow Pond region and extended their rails to the pond and took logs to mill

** Possibly this is near the Pattersons, just north of the current bridge where Route 175 intersects with Route 3*

on Lost River Road. In the Tannery District, W. D. Veazey bought stumpage from Publishers Paper Co., erected a mill on site of old tannery and made dimension stuff for several years.

Several mills are here noted as a matter of record:

In 1854 Gray and Merrill had a mill on road 5, (now D.W. Highway), which later became property of Curtis Parker.

Enoch M. Gordon had a mill on Pondfield Road and William Gordon built one below Agassiz basin and flumed the water from an overhanging rock to use for power. Munroe Gordon built the mill whose ruins are still to be seen on Lost River Road.

J. M. and W. N. Moulton had a saw and shingle mill which was built by Wilson Hill in 1865 and purchased by the Moultons in 1870. This was a big mill with a capacity of 1,000,000 feet of lumber and 250,000 shingles a year.

Mr. Daniel Baston gives this description of the mills on the Eastman Branch. There was a starch factory in this branch owned and operated by Sherburn Merrill who also operated a clapboard mill there. Later O. P. Gilman operated a saw and shingle mill there. E. E. Woodbury was bunching shingles there and tried to experiment with the joiner, boy fashion, and sliced two of his fingers.

B. M. Barron built a grist mill on east side of the river where the east side road and gore road meet. This mill was sold to Daniel Selingham in 1867 and operated as a grist mill until it burned in 1880. Next the property came into the possession of Andrew J. Selingham who erected a saw mill on site of old grist mill. Plummer Fox owned it from 1884 to 1905 when it became the property of Daniel B. Baston who operated it as a saw mill until changing conditions made it unprofitable. When it crumbled to ruin, one of Woodstock's most picturesque spots was lost.

One article tells that in 1854 there were fifteen active mills in town. Mr. A. W. Sawyer recalls the following: A saw mill at the cascades; saw mill at outlet of Mirror Lake built by McClelland; Hunt and Jackman saw and grist mill built by Luther Taylor and later purchased by Curtis Parker; the Bartlett saw mill on the John Smith place; a rake mill on the channel on property owned by M. H. Sawyer; and a bobbin mill once worked by M. H. Kendall on same property. George Merrill built a mill for threshing on the Russell Pond Brook and early records place a "good mill" on Lower McNorton Falls. Alonzo Selingham had his mill for threshing on Eastman Branch opposite Frank Selingham place.

On the present Jack O'Lantern property Frank Sawyer started to build a clothes pin factory but never finished and A. W. Sawyer bought the building and set it up on Fairview property.

Of course Woodstock had its blacksmith shops. One of these stood for years at top of the “store hill” in Woodstock. This shop was built by the Norcross Lumber Co. and the smithy for years was Hamilton Fifield. Deloss Huckins also carried on there. An ox sling, wherein oxen were lifted clear of the floor to be shod was a feature of this shop.

Frank Selingham had his blacksmith shop on the south side of the road near the bridge that crosses Eastman Branch, about opposite the grist mill Mr. Selingham worked here until his death.

Benjamin Fifield was a village smithy who had several shops. His first building was north of present village above the Cascades on east side of the road. After a number of years Mr. Fifield bought the Wells Place and built another shop. This shop he tore down and rebuilt at top of Darling Hill, very near the spot where Professor Harrington’s garage stands. Later he moved across the river and ran his shop on the Fairview property.

John Ashley was the last man who had a blacksmith shop in town working on the land behind the Sanborn block.

The blacksmith shops where horses and oxen were shod, tires were rimmed and numerous other jobs done was a gathering place for villagers. Especially when weather made outdoor work impossible, the thrifty farmers took horses to be shod and themselves to be regaled with talk. As the smithy passed, then came the automobile and the shop to take care of them, the garage.

Some of the garages of the past and of the present day that care for the traveling public are found only in the northern end of the town. One of the older garages is the one at the old Darling place, Bernie Andrews.* He has been at the same location over 20 years. Bernie used to drive woods tractors for the old Parker Young Company of Lincoln, out of Ellsworth and Waterville in winter when the automobile was put up as the roads were only rolled by horses and big wooden rolls. Arthur McLeod had a garage located where the Chevron service station is now located**. He did business there a long time and then it was taken over by the Parker Young Company after their garage burned. After they went back to Lincoln, Shirley Avery took it over and ran it until his death in 1958, then his son Dalton ran it a while. Al Corlis ran a garage a while over in the old Deer Park stable, which later became the Profile Grange that was wrecked in the 1958 flood when the East Branch washed in under the hall taking out the back part of it.

**On the east side of Route 3, north of the green bridge.*

** *On the northeast corner of the intersection of Route 3 and Route 112.*

One garage that was started some time ago by the late Floris Nichols, then run by his son Roy, was then owned and run by Joe Huot.*

Many service stations and gas pumps sprang up over town. Wilson's Mobile owned and managed by Neil Wilson; Ken's Gulf near the sight of the old Russell House** and the Cities Service station.*** Edward Gordon had gas pumps and a small garage at his home where Clarence Parker lives today.****

Store keepers were a greater influence in early history than now for then the village store ranked with the blacksmith shops as a meeting place where news was dispensed and opinions exchanged. The first store in the town of Peeling was the Edward Smith store. It was located at the junction of the River Road and Mount Cilley Road, on the east side of the road. This store sat across from the Whipple house, or better known to some as the old Henry Smith Homestead. This store was where all the Mount Cilley people came to trade, also the people at the north end of the town had to come here to trade. Other store keepers at the south end of town were William Hull and Nathan Weeks. Weeks sold out to Benjamin Peaslee who was the man in the south end of town people traded with for any thing from a pin to a steam engine as it was told. He did not like people to sit on the counters. He came up with the idea of placing a long pin in a hole in the counter and when some one was sitting on it he would ask them to move and helped them up quick by making the pin go up through the counter it is told. Later Alexander Russell became the Woodstock merchant. At the north end Frank Merrill, Herbert Sanborn, James H. Fadden, James C. Muchmore dealt in general supplies. Ernest L. Putnam was for sometime the town pharmacist until he sold to the Parker Drug Company.

John French added to the business prestige of North Woodstock with his hotel, later known as Fairfield Hotel.***** Beard's opera house was also an outstanding venture, where were held many fine traveling plays and musical groups. Both were destroyed by fire on February 20, 1908.

For some years Eugene Sanborn had a photographer's shop near south end on east side of Main Street in the north village.

*On Main Street near the NAPA store

**On the west side of Main Street near the bank

***On Main street by Waynes Market

****On Lost River Road by Stan's Tire Barn

*****On east side of Main Street by Cascade Park

Souvenir shops where sweet grass baskets could be found existed from stage coach days, but it was Grace Conant and Bernice Orozco, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Conant and Edna Fadden who made North Woodstock gift shops important business places.

Spring brought activity to the farms in the sugar places. Tapping the trees, gathering the sap and carrying it in buckets hung from sap yokes, carried over the shoulders of men or boys, and boiling it down to syrup or stirring it to sugar was the earliest spring farm work. The little sugar houses were to be found on many farms. In some families this maple sugar was the only sugar the family had. It was often stored in wooden barrels and often a delectable pool of syrup formed in the barrel.

Shortly after the Civil War people began to be vacation minded and Woodstock became a summer home for many people. Isaac Fox had guests at his House of Seven Gables and the guest book for 1874 is very interesting. Nathaniel Boynton, Curtis L. Parker, George Russell, Edward Gordon were pioneers in the work [*of taking in summer boarders*].

In 1883 Stephen Sharon built the Mountain View* and for years offered hospitality and today that hotel still boasts that descendants of Mr. Sharon's early guests patronize it. Hotels sprang up and did a flourishing business. Three Rivers House, the Russell House,** the Fairview House*** and the Alpine were famous. In 1885 Samuel Bell built the Deer Park and with his brother John operated it. This afterward became the property of Herman Sanborn, grandson of the pioneer hotel keeper Stephen Sharon. Many farm houses opened their doors to Summer boarders, took the city people in as part of their families and the farmer's family benefitted by the money and the ideas these guests brought.

The automobile brought a change to this industry. Instead of staying from two weeks to two months in a place, people stayed one night and the transient business flourished. Soon camp outfits appeared on the automobiles and instead of rooms the tourists asked for room on a man's property to pitch his tent. This was soon followed by camps built for sleeping equipped with bed, bureau and washstand with pitcher and bowl, and these have in turn given way to the cabins equipped with all the comforts of modern homes and renting from \$1.00 to \$5.00 a night per person. In 1940 Woodstock had eighteen of these little villages operating through the summer months.

Not only as boarders, but as summer residents people from other states have contributed to Woodstock's growth. Professor Charles Henry Raymond at the Pines and Charles Harlow

**on the height of land on the south west corner of the intersection of Route 3 and Route 112.*

***On the west side of Main Street near the bank.*

****Between the river and Route 175 , a short ways south of the green bridge.*

Raymond at Far Mountain have brought a friendly spirit from the Lawrenceville School in New Jersey. Professor Karl Harrington from Middletown, Connecticut with his genial family and his music add much to the town each summer. The Atkins's, Waterman Russell, Dr. Beach and numerous others added much to the community. Misses Alice and Edith Brewster with their literary work, the Misses Farr and their lovely garden, Miss Betsy Merriam and many others became part of Woodstock. For years Frank Carpenter roamed the mountain trails and left us richer for his White Mountain Guides, and we are proud to claim Charles Harlow Raymond's "Far Mountain" collection as a reflection of Woodstock.

In 1933 Woodstock was made winter sport conscious by the Boston and Maine snow trains which brought about 2100 people to North Woodstock to enjoy the scenery, skiing, snowshoeing and riding behind sled dogs from the Clark farm. The March meeting of that year voted to allow Raymond B. Sawyer to spend \$200 on ski trails. Trails were made with the W.P.A. help on the south slope of Grand View Mt. and on Russell Mt. emerging near the Cox home. Later a slope was laid out in 1938 on north slope of Grand View and a ski tow installed.

The Parker Young Paper Company and its attendant activities has had a great influence on Woodstock changing the character of the inhabitants and increasing land values.

Woodstock History

Chapter 9

Political History

It would be a daring historian indeed who would make definite statements about the political history of a town but facts which have been recorded seem worthy to be recorded here. Before the Civil War the town was notably Democratic. After that war Woodstock remained in the Democratic ranks longer than many New Hampshire towns, possibly due to the influence of N. H. Weeks. After a time the sentiment swung with most northern communities and many “natural born democrats” became Republicans.

The year 1811 saw Thornton, Peeling and Ellsworth making up a representative district which on September 9, 1811 elected Enoch Colby to represent it at the General Court. The district changed at times including Waterville but more often than not a man from Woodstock or Peeling was sent to Concord. As recorded in the Secretary of State’s Office the representatives are listed at the end of this chapter.

After the election of Enoch Colby, apparently a man from Woodstock was chosen regularly. It was of Thomas Vincent, Jr. the story is told he went to Concord to General Court so often that some one asked if he was the only man in Woodstock who had a suit of clothes fit to wear to General Court. Thomas Pinkham, Benja Baron and Jesse Jackman were familiar names in Legislature, whose ancestors were among original proprietors. N. H. Weeks ably represented Woodstock five times in legislature.

As recorded in Chapter 1, Nathaniel Peabody was the first treasurer of Peeling and Joseph Russell was the first clerk. Several men gave long periods of time to the service of the town and deserve to have their names preserved in the record of the town.

The name Vincent is worthy of note in town annuals. A moderator, in early history, was William Vincent, and John Vincent (?) was moderator 1812-1814. Arthur Vincent was clerk, and Thomas Vincent selectman, 1813-1815. Then Thomas Vincent Jr. began a long career of public service. He was Town Clerk from 1815 to 1828 consecutively, then frequently until 1846, serving 18 years in all. He was selectman for 15 years, and represented Peeling and Ellsworth four times in Legislature. In February, 1828, Peeling petitioned the legislature for privileges of sending representatives and was a district by itself and Thomas Vincent Jr. again went

four terms, making Thomas Vincent, Jr. representing his town 8 different times. He was also selectman five times.

Public careers are hardly to be inherited but it is interesting to note that Thomas Vincent Jr. had a nephew, Thomas Vincent Smith, who carried on the family tradition. Thomas V. Smith held practically every office in town; he was a highway surveyor, auditor, collected taxes, scaler of mountains and measures, representative, town clerk for 14 years, and selectman for 28 years. He died in office in 1888. A nephew of his, Harry D. Sawyer, carried on the tradition, became supervisor of the check list in 1910 and with the exception of 2 years, was selectman from 1912 to 1950, a period of 38 years of service. He also represented the town in legislature 10 different terms. In 1940 a great grandson of Thomas Vincent Smith, Sherwood Avery, was appointed to board of selectmen.

The Fox family carried on a line of public service. Benja Fox was clerk for many years. Starting in 1820, he served as selectman 7 times. Isaac Fox was auditor three times and selectman for twelve years. Frank Fox served as town clerk from 1900 to 1922, when he died in office. He represented the town in 1913 as did his brother Benja B. Fox in 1919. Sadie Fox Baston served on the school board and library board and Eliza Fox Bunton was notable as school teacher, board member and superintendent of schools. Daniel B. Baston kept up the tradition of his wife's family.

James C. Muchmore became town clerk in 1923 and served continuously until 1951. He added town clerk to his service as selectman, representative in 1915 and 1919, justice of the peace, member of the school board for 20 years and judge of the municipal court.

J. W. Campbell of Tannery fame also took an active part in our affairs serving fourteen times as selectman; twice as our treasurer. The Hunt family must be honored for long service. Arthur Hunt was collector, and selectman for 19 years. Charles Hunt represented the town in Concord and W. L. E. Hunt was an active worker in school affairs. Harry C. Clark carried on the Hunt tradition by serving as town treasurer, and 9 years as selectmen.

Benjamin Barron, a selectman in 1810, served also as clerk from 1812-1814, and Benja Barron was for several years a selectman in the 1850's as well as auditor, and Oliver Barron, served as clerk and selectman.

Woodstock Representatives to the New Hampshire Legislature:

1811-Enoch Colby	1877-Arthur Hunt
1812-Capt. Joseph Russell	1879-Joseph Campbell or Arthur Hunt
1814- “	1881-Christopher Palmer of Ellsworth(?)
1816-John Palmer	1883-Thomas J. Gilman
1818-Thomas Pinkham	1885-Benjamin F. Smith
1820-Thomas Vincent Jr.	1887-Henry H. Pease
1822- “	1889-Fred P. Weeks
1824- “	1891-Joseph P. Campbell
1826- “	1893-(none)
1828-Samuel Newell	1895-Harry D. Emmons
1830-Thomas Vincent Jr.	1897-Dr. Bell or Samuel Sherburne of Ellsworth
1832-Thomas Pinkham	1899-Scott Weeks
1834-Thomas Vincent Jr.	1901-Isaac Fox
1836- “	1903-Ernest L. Bell
1838-Benja M. Barron	1905-Charles A. Hunt
1840- “	1907-A. W. Sawyer
1843-John Gray	1909-E. E. Woodbury
1844-John Woodbury (?)	1911-D. B. Baston
1846-Thomas Vincent Jr.	1913-Frank A. Fox
1848-Stephen Coombs	1915- James C. Muchmore
1851-Sherburn R. Merrill	1917-A. W. Sawyer
1853-William H. Gordon	1919-B. B. Fox
1855-Benjamin Fox	1921-E. E. Woodbury
1857-Thomas Vincent Smith	1923-H. D. Sawyer
1859-Stephen M. Hanson	1925- “
1861-Jesse Jackman	1927-James C. Muchmore
1863-Nathan H. Weeks	1929-L. F. Parker
1865- “	1931-Willie E. Keniston
1867- “	1933-Harry D. Sawyer
1869-J. W. Campbell	1935- “
1871-Nathan H. Weeks	1937- “
1873-J. W. E. Tuttle	1939- “

1941-Harry D. Sawyer

1943- “

1945- “

1947- “

1949- “

1951-Ida T. Sawyer

1953-Thomas F. Sawyer

1955- “

1957- “

1959- Dagmar Davis

*

**Update*

1961-St Clair Berringer

1963- “

1965- “

1967- “

1969-Wayne Higgins

1971- “

1973-Murray Clark / Richard Bradley

1975- “ “

1977- “ *Betty Jo Taffe*

1979- Murray Clark / Betty Jo Taffe

1981- “ “

1983-Roger Stewart

1985- “

1987- “

1989- “

1991- “

1993-Bonnie Ham

1995- “

1997- “

1999- “

2000- “

2002- “

2004- “

2006-Robert F. Matheson

2008- “

2010-Lester Bradley

2012-Edmond Gionet

Woodstock History

Woodstock Selectmen :

1887	T. V. Smith	A. B. Sawyer	Stephen S. Sharon
1888	“	“	“
1891	D. B. Baston	Lucien Smith	W. L. E. Hunt
1892	A. B. Sawyer	B. L. Peaslee	“
1893	“	“	A. W. Sawyer
1894	“	C. A. Hunt	“
1895	“	“	“
1896	“	S. A. Tappan	W. F. Butler
1897	A. W. Sawyer	Isaac Fox	“
1898	“	M. H. Kendall	“
1899	“	“	F. N. Gilman
1900	F. S. Merrill	T. L. Stuart	“
1901	“	“	I. E. Hanson
1902	“	W. L. E. Hunt	H. E. Gordon
1903	H. S. Dearborn	“	“
1904	“	E. E. Woodbury	E. L. Putman
1905	Murray W. Gordon	Henry M. Sawyer	James H. Fadden
1906	C. A. Hunt	H. E. Gordon	T. D. Schofield
1907	F. S. Merrill	W. F. Butler, Jr.	D. B. Baston
1908	“	“	T. MacCormack
1909	J. H. Fadden	H. E. Gordon	E. E. Woodbury
1910	“	“	“
1911	T. MacCormack	Ira E. Hanson	“
1912	“	H. S. Brown	“
1913	J. C. Muchmore	“	H. D. Sawyer
1914	“	“	“
1915	“	H. C. Clark	“
1916	L. F. Parker	“	“
1917	“	“	“
1918	“	“	“
1919	“	“	“
1920	“	“	“
1921	S. G. Matthews	E. E. Woodbury	“
1922	“	“	C. W. Clark

Ida Tilton Sawyer

1923	W. S. Gordon	E. E. Woodbury	C. W. Clark
1924	“	“	“
1925	“	“	H. D. Sawyer
1926	“	“	“
1927	“	H. C. Clark	“
1928	“	“	“
1929	Erving Conant	“	“
1930	“	E. W. Clement	“
1931	“	“	“
1932	E. E. Woodbury	“	“
1934	“	N. B. Fadden	“
1935	“	“	“
1936	“	R. B. Sawyer	“
1937	“	“	“
1938	“	“	“
1939	“	“	“
1940	“ “	“	“

(S. M. Avery appointed on death of Woodbury)

1941	E. P. Lynch	“	“
1942	“	S. M. Avery	“
1943	“	“	“
1944	“	“	“
1945	“	“	“
1946	“	“	“
1947	“	“	“

(W. Fowler appointed when Lynch moved away)

1948	W. Fowler	“	“
1949	“	“	“
1950	“	“	“

(N. B. Fadden appointed on death of Sawyer)

1951	“	“	N. B. Fadden
1952	“	“	“
1953	“	“	“
1954	“	“	“
1955	“	“	“

Woodstock History

1956 W. Berg S. M. Avery N. B. Fadden

*

* Update

	<i>W. Berg</i>	<i>S. M. Avery</i>	<i>N. B. Fadden</i>
1957	<i>W. Berg</i>	<i>S. M. Avery</i>	<i>N. B. Fadden</i>
1958	"	"	"
1959	"	"	"
1960	"	"	"
1961	"	"	"
1962	<i>Earle Cheney</i>	"	"
1963	"	"	"
1964	"	"	"
1965	"	"	"
1966	"	"	"
1967	"	"	"
1968	"	"	"
1969	"	"	"
1970	"	<i>Duncan Riley</i>	"
1971	<i>Gilbert Fowler</i>	"	"
1972	"	"	"
1973	"	"	"
1974	<i>Bonnie Ham</i>	"	"
1975	"	<i>Robert Keating</i>	"
1976	"	"	"
1977	"	"	"
1978	"	<i>Robert Bujeaud</i>	"
1979	"	"	"
1980	"	<i>J. Stanton Hilliard</i>	"
1981	"	"	"
1982	"	"	"
1983	"	"	"
1984	"	"	"
1985	"	"	"
1986	"	"	"
1987	"	"	"
1988	"	"	<i>Francis McCarron</i>
1989	"	"	"
1990	"	"	"
1991	"	"	"
1992	<i>Everett Howland</i>	"	"
1993	"	"	"
1994	"	"	"
1995	"	"	"
1996	"	"	"

Ida Tilton Sawyer

1997	<i>Everett Howland</i>	<i>J. Stanton Hilliard</i>	<i>James Fadden Jr.</i>
1998	<i>Andrew J. Morse</i>	"	"
1999	"	"	"
2000	"	<i>Everett Howland</i>	<i>Joel Bourassa</i>
2001	<i>James Fadden Jr.</i>	"	"
2002	"	"	"
2003	"	"	"
2004	"	"	"
2005	"	<i>Gil Rand</i>	"
2006	"	"	"
2007	"	"	"
2008	"	"	"
2009	"	"	"
2010	"	"	"
2011	"	"	"
2012	"	"	"
2013	"	"	"

Some who served in many ways:

Isaac Fox

Auditor—1856, 1858, 1859

Selectman—1862-1863, 1871-1876, 1881-1884

Representative—1901

J. W. Campbell

Selectman—1858-1859, 1861, 1868-1869, 1871-1875, 1877-1884

Treasurer—1868-1869

N. H. Weeks

Auditor—1869-1870

Selectman—1865-1867

Representative—1863, 1865, 1867, 1871

Councilor—1869-1871

Moderator—1871

Jesse Jackman

Town Clerk—1865-1869, 1871-1875

Superintendent of Schools—1872

William Horner

Selectman—1871-1872

Tax Collector—1872

Benjamin Barron

Selectman—1810
Town Clerk—1812-1814

Benja M. Barron Jr.

Town Clerk—1850-1852
Selectman—1853-1855
Auditor—1857

Thomas Pinkham

Selectman—1820, 1826-1832

Oliver Barron

Town Clerk—1862
Joseph Russell
Town Clerk—1810-1812
Selectman—1810

Arthur Hunt

Tax Collector—1857, 1873-1874
Selectman—1853-1856, 1858, 1863-1864, 1868-1871, 1873-1876, 1880-1882,
1884
Justice of the Peace—1877

R. S. Danforth

Selectman—1856

Daniel Dearborn

Tax Collector—1875

Almus B. Sawyer

Tax Collector—1878-1879, 1881-1882
Selectman 1877-1880

Gardner G. Baston

Selectman—1875-1887

Jesse J. Jackman

Town Clerk—1859-1860

John Vincent

Moderator—1812

Tax Collector—1814

Thomas Vincent

Selectman—1814-1815, 1818, 1823, 1825-1827, 1830, 1832-1837, 1844-1846

Town Clerk—1815-1817, 1819-1828, 1832-1833, 1839, 1846

Thomas Vincent Smith

Selectman—1850-1853, 1855-1857, 1859-1861, 1863, 1865-1871, 1875-1880,
1882, 1886-1888 (Died in office in 1888)

Auditor—1855, 1857

Tax Collector—1854, 1868-1870, 1875

Town Clerk—1864, 1869-1871, 1875-1883

Woodstock History

Chapter 10

Physicians

The Town of Woodstock has been fortunate in that, during a major portion of its history, it has had available competent, and sometimes outstanding, medical practitioners.

There is no record of any physician among the earliest settlers, and it must be presumed that among their hardships, not the least of which was the absence of men trained in medicine. It is hard for us to imagine the primitive state of medical science only a century and a half ago. Our early residents no doubt had to struggle along with their homemade remedies, and most of the early Woodstock children made their entry into the world with the aid of an amateur, though often skilled midwife.

The first practicing physician to take up residence in town was Dr. Symmes Sawyer. It is said that Dr. Sawyer was born in Newburyport, Massachusetts, which is the cradle of the Sawyer family in the New World, but unfortunately little is known of his early life. Tradition tells us that he was a graduate of Dartmouth College, but this cannot be confirmed from the records of the college. We do know that he practiced in the towns of Dunbarton and Sanbornton before his arrival in Peeling. On May 31, 1792, he married Ruth Page of Weare, a niece of Mrs. John Stark. The first Mrs. Sawyer died on January 27, 1804, and on January 2, 1805, Dr. Sawyer married Elizabeth Ann Hoyt. Records of the town of Sanbornton indicate that he practiced there in 1813 and for two or three years afterward. He also practiced in Littleton for a time, and came to Peeling in 1819. His first home was on the site of our first local town meeting, but soon afterward he moved to Mt. Cilley.

In the days of Dr. Sawyer's practice, all travel was by horse and foot, and his saddle bag held all his instruments. Dr. Sawyer has left no records of his practice in Peeling, but we know his devotion to duty must have been very great to enable him to endure the hardships of traveling back and forth over steep mountain roads to tend to the needs of his people. Dr. Sawyer probably has more descendants in Woodstock than any other early resident, and though none has followed the medical profession, many have followed his fine example of service to humanity by their active participation in the affairs of the community.

Dr. Sawyer's instrument case is still in existence, and at this writing is in the possession of his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Edgar Anderson. In his time there was no distinction between the

professions of doctor and dentist, and his dental tools are particularly impressive, not to say terrifying, to the modern observer. The extracting tool was called a cant dog and worked on exactly the same principal as the cant dogs used by lumbermen. The dog or swivel part was hooked around the tooth and the dentist acting as a lever on the handle of the dog, was able with a powerful twist to literally haul the tooth out.

After Mr. Sawyer's death in Woodstock on Christmas Eve, 1845, at the age of 82, the medical history of the town becomes obscure. There was no resident physician for any great length of time during the ensuing sixty years, but some names of men who carried on a portion of their practice in Woodstock, have come down to us by tradition. Mention has been found of a Doctor Umphrey, who is said to have lived between the old Sawyer homestead (later Van Allen's Inn)* and the Vincent place**, on the west side of the road. He used a two-wheeled gig in making his rounds. No records can be found to show how long he practiced in Woodstock, nor what became of him or his descendants. Also among the early doctors hereabouts was one Dr. Newton, who resided on the Oakes place in Thornton, not far from the present residence of Newton Baston.***

Dr. Alonzo Muchmore of Campton, the father of James C. Muchmore, who was to become one of Woodstock's foremost citizens, carried on an extensive practice in Woodstock during the latter part of the nineteenth century. Other doctors in nearby towns, who undoubtedly served Woodstock residents on occasion, were Dr. William Smith of Campton, Dr. John Lance of Campton, and Dr. Elbridge G. Guilford of Thornton.

At least one Woodstock native of the last century, Isaac Newton Fox, born in Woodstock on March 1, 1862, succeeded in completing the educational requirements to become a physician, and practiced actively in the town of Rumney for four years before returning to his native town to set up an office. Dr. Fox had carried on his Woodstock practice for only a year before his untimely death at the age of thirty-three. During his brief practice, Dr. Fox had won the respect of the people of Woodstock, and Woodstock suffered a great loss in losing its first native professional man at such an early age.

Dr. William Russell Garland came to Woodstock on February 6, 1886. He was a native of Thornton, and a graduate of Dartmouth College, Class of 1885. He was not quite twenty-one years of age when he began practicing. He boarded and maintained his office at the home of Nathaniel Boynton, (the same house which is today known as the Birches*). Shortly after his

* West side of Route 3 by Van Allen Road

** West side of Route 3 by Thomas Vincent Road

*** Route 175 just south of KOA Campground, not far from the present residence of Frank McNamara

arrival in town, Dr. Garland married Sadie A. Clough of Lyman. In the fall of 1886, Dr. Garland moved to Campton, having bought out the practice of Dr. Smith, and he remained there until 1895, when he moved to Plymouth. Even after his departure from Woodstock, Dr. Garland's practice included the entire Pemigewasset Valley, and he had many patients from Woodstock.

Dr. Ernest L. Bell, a graduate of Harvard College and Dartmouth Medical School, settled in Woodstock in March or April 1895, and remained here until 1904. Dr. Bell's practice was quite extensive, as Woodstock's population was increasing due to our great industrial expansion. Dr. Bell also practiced in Plymouth after leaving Woodstock, and had an outstanding record in the military service during World War I. After the war he returned to Plymouth and continued to do surgery there and throughout the valley until his death on April 18, 1925. Dr. Bell's many friends in the vicinity remember him as an outstanding athlete as well as an excellent physician and surgeon. His son and grandson, who are both attorneys in Keene, were frequent visitors to Woodstock.

Present in Woodstock for a time in the 1890's were Drs. J. A. Drew and H. H. Dinsmore. Dr. Drew came here a short time before Dr. Bell and was still in Woodstock as late as 1899. He was also a Harvard graduate and was a specialist in eye, ear, and throat troubles. He went from here to Rumney.

Among the physicians who practiced in North Woodstock in the early twentieth century were Dr. E. L. Casey, Dr. W. L. Newell, and Dr. Harry E. Mygett. Dr. Casey was here for about six years, commencing in 1906, and is known to have had a large obstetrical practice. The others were here for shorter periods of time.

Among the really outstanding men who have lived and worked in our community, there have been few who have won the love and respect of the populace as did Dr. Edward D. Burt. Dr. Burt came to Woodstock at about the turn of the century. He was even then no stranger to the valley, having been born just below the village of Plymouth. He married Martha Corliss and made North Woodstock his home, moving to Lincoln in 1905, where he established the Lincoln Hospital.

Dr. Burt was a graduate of Johns Hopkins Medical School. Our town records show that the first children he delivered in Woodstock were the Butler twins, born on February 6, 1901. For forty years he was Woodstock's doctor and many a family holds him in living memory. No night was too dark, no snow too deep for Dr. Burt to venture out if he was needed. Operations

* On Route 3 by Marri Court

by kerosene lamps, babies born in homes where no clothes were provided for the infant, no facilities for heating supplied, where a volunteer assistant was pressed into service at critical times, were commonplace incidents in Doctor Burt's life. Often he told of the thrill he experienced in bringing into the world the second generation, the children of the babies he had delivered in his early days of practice. There are few men to whom we owe so much as to Dr. Edward Burt. Woodstock lost a friend on Dr. Burt's death in 1941.

Dr. Leslie Betts Copenhaver, a native of Bristol, Tennessee, and a graduate of William and Mary Medical College in the Class of 1931, arrived in Woodstock in 1933. Dr. Copenhaver soon impressed the local residents with his abilities in the medical field. Having studied medicine with the benefit of the most modern facilities, he came here well qualified for the duties of a small town doctor. By his friendly attitude and his level-headed approach to his duties, Dr. Copenhaver became an exceedingly popular physician. He maintained a well-equipped office in North Woodstock, and his practice extended into many of the surrounding towns. Dr. Copenhaver married Rosemary Terhune of New Hampshire in 1933, and at this writing they have four children.

Among other doctors with a local practice are the late Dr. Harry Cheney of Campton, and several of Dr. Burt's successors in Lincoln, including Dr. Handy, Dr. McDade, Dr. McDonald, Dr. Seales and Dr. Dooley. There are others, particularly those on the staff of the Sceva Spears Memorial Hospital in Plymouth whose practice occasionally included Woodstock residents. The many doctors who forego the prestige and profit of a large city practice, and prefer to come to the small town where they can be closest to the people, certainly will play an essential role in our community for as far as we can see into the future. In the larger hospitals, to which we have access after considerable travel, we find great specialists in the many fields of medicine, and their work is contributing in ever-increasing measure to the improvement of human welfare. But towns of the size of Woodstock still have great need of the general practitioner and Woodstock's citizens can be truly thankful for the able and courageous doctors we have had among us.

Woodstock History

Chapter 11

Post Offices

The earliest post office recorded was in the house at Woodstock now owned by Jennie Brown, the Thomas Vincent place. Thomas Vincent was postmaster and the old paneled door that was the post office entrance is still there. Gardner Baston got the office and moved it to his house which then stood on the west side of present Daniel Webster Highway nearly opposite where the eastside road meets the D. W. H. Here Mr. Baston boarded up a space three by six feet and made a window eight inches by nine through which he distributed the mail. The mail came by stage three times a week in winter and every day in summer. All the mail for places between Plymouth and the Profile came in one pouch. The contents were sorted at each office along the route, each post master keeping mail for his office and putting the rest back in the pouch. William Hull kept store in a building which stood in the triangle between the Store Hill Road and the present main road and had the post office in his store. Mr. Benjamin Peaslee built his store on location of the present store in 18__ and was postmaster for sixteen years. Mr. E. E. Woodbury became postmaster while the Woodstock Lumber Company was operating and had the office in the company's boarding house near the covered bridge. Mr. Charles Griffin then built a small office next to the village store and kept the office. May E. Bagley succeeded him and took the office across the road to her house. After her death Rose V. Sawyer was appointed post mistress August 1932 and took the office first to the parsonage and then in 1934 to a new house built next to the lot where Gardner Baston's house stood. She retired in January of 1959.

At the north end of town Mr. Tuttle distributed mail in his house near the Lincoln line. George Russell next took it to his boarding house, built a cubicle similar to the one Gardner Baston had and is reported to have kept all the mail in a cigar box. Wilbur Hunt kept the office at the corner of School and Main Streets. Benja Fox had the office in his house at corner of Pondfield Road and Main Street and Effie Smith had it in her home on Main Street until her death when Fred Smith was appointed. Ernest Stevens succeeded him and was the first Woodstock post master to have an office outside a private house. Edward W. Clement followed Mr. Stevens. After Ned Clement, Wesley Fowler was acting postmaster for a year or so, then Hollis Gordon, Jr. was appointed.

Ida Tilton Sawyer

