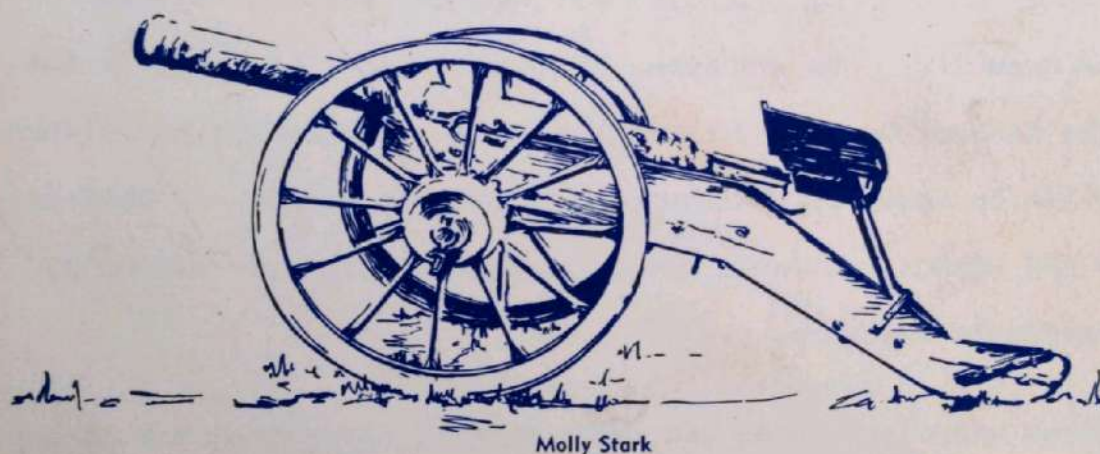




THOSE WONDERFUL YEARS

1763 — 1963



Molly Stark

Commemorating the
BI-CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
of
NEW BOSTON
NEW HAMPSHIRE

PROCLAMATION

NEW BOSTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE was incorporated into a Township on February 18, 1763. We, the members of the Board of Selectmen, officially proclaim that on July Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh, Nineteen Hundred and Sixty-Three, the Town will observe its Two Hundredth Anniversary.

NEW BOSTON nestles among the hills along the south branch of the Piscataquog River. In 1963, two hundred years after founding, it is still a small agricultural and residential, typical New England Community. We are proud to be known as "The Friendly Town".

The General Committee in charge of the celebration has planned activities to honor this Historical Event. We invite all citizens, former NEW BOSTON residents and friends to participate and enjoy this memorable occasion.

Given under our hands and seal, this twenty-second day of May in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and sixty-three.



*Regis Lehman
Howard Ham
Harold C. Strong*

Selectmen of New Boston, New Hampshire

THOSE WONDERFUL YEARS

1763 — 1963



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PREFACE

On January 14, 1736, "a township in the unappropriated lands of the Province, of the contents of six miles square, with one thousand acres added for ponds," and two rods in each hundred "for unevenness of surface and swagg of chain," and further designed as "lying on the south and middle branches of the Piscataquog river," was granted by "the Great and General Court or Assembly, for His Majesty's Province of Massachusetts Bay, to John Simpson and fifty-two others, inhabitants of Boston." The name of New Boston, which was suggested from the residence of the grantees, was first applied to the township by the proprietors on the 16th of April, 1751.

According to the **History of Hillsborough County**, the earliest settlement in New Boston was in the northeast section of town known as "the Plain." Here in 1733, Thomas Smith of Chester, cleared land by girdling trees and burning and built a cabin. A meeting of the proprietors, held in Boston, December 9, 1738, voted to settle a minister and also to build a meetinghouse of the following dimensions: "thirty feet wide, forty-five long and twenty feet stud." This seems to be ample evidence that a number of settlers arrived soon after Thomas Smith. No records exist to show whether this building was ever completed, but if it was, it had only limited use, because the settlers again approached the proprietors in 1757 asking for a place of public worship. A series of meetings followed, and at Dunstable, Mass., September 28, 1763, committees for the proprietors and the settlers agreed to build a meetinghouse on Lot 79 "near the center of said lot, south of a Red Oak tree marked with letter C, near the grave of a child buried there." This meetinghouse was completed in 1767.

New Boston was granted its Charter of Incorporation on February 18, 1763 by the Province of New Hampshire under the authority of Governor Benning Wentworth, acting for King George III of England. John Goffe was directed to call the first town meeting within twenty days of the charter date. This first town meeting was held at the home of Deacon Thomas Cochran on March 10, 1763.

New Boston's early days are steeped in tradition and folklore too lengthy for telling here, but no peak at New Boston's past could fail to mention how Joe English Hill derived its name. An excellent hunter and warrior, Joe English was so named by his fellow Indians, because they felt he was too friendly to the white men. Determined to kill him, one day they found him hunting along the river and attacked, but he managed to escape. He realized a lengthy race would be futile, so he used his knowledge of the area to outwit his pursuers. He headed up the gentle north slope of the hill, increasing his speed as he reached the brink of the cliff, and jumped down a short distance to a projecting ledge. His pursuers, running pell-mell, fell headlong over the cliff and were dashed on the rocks below. Not long after, however, he was ambushed and killed by another band of hostile Indians. He died in the service of his country, and Joe English Hill stands as a monument to his memory.

Our purpose in compiling this souvenir booklet of New Boston's Bicentennial Anniversary is to stimulate the desire for further research into the traditions of our community. If the material contained in these pages accomplishes this aim, your historical committee will feel justly rewarded. No one

should assume that this is intended to be a history. It is not. We have simply gathered a collection of New Boston's past that might otherwise be forever lost.

Over the years attempts have been made to fill the gap between New Boston's published history of 1864 and the present. About ten or twelve years ago a group met in the lower town hall to hear and record stories of important events and personal anecdotes recalled by our elder citizens. Marian Sallada transcribed the entire proceedings under the direction of the late Winfield Shaw, but when our committee sought this valuable data, it was among the missing. Mrs. Lois Shaw recalled that these typewritten sheets had been provided with a suitable hard cover and then placed with Molly Stark cannon in the library. Here the trail ends.

Some years earlier a former historical committee bravely attacked the task of compiling a new history of the town. Special stationery and forms were printed to gather a complete genealogical record, and the questionnaires must have been mailed, because a file in the library vault holds several hundred completed returns. These will be invaluable if, and when, a history can be written, but, meanwhile, once more the trail ends.

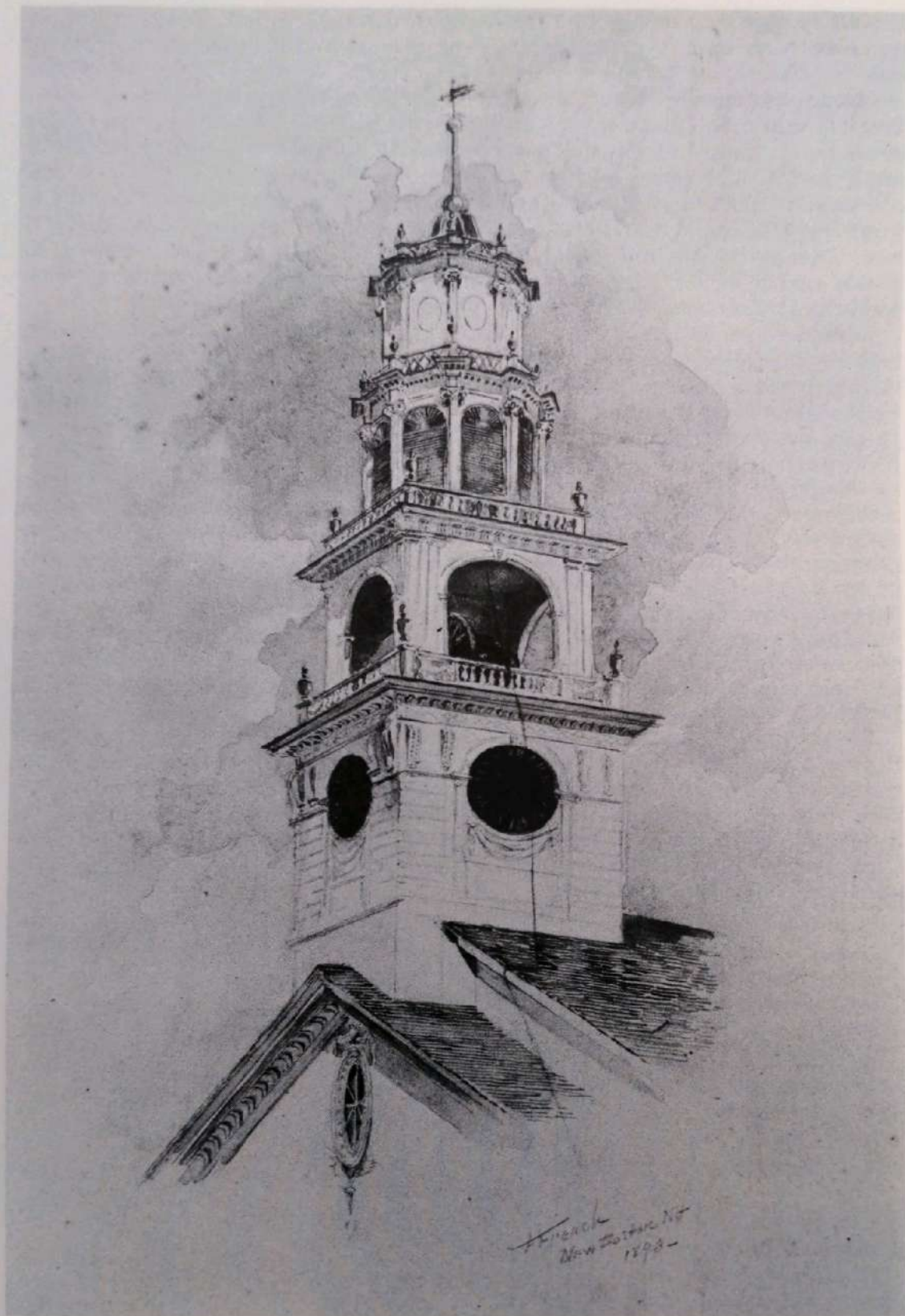
Much of the material in this souvenir booklet is quoted from faded newspaper accounts written by anonymous reporters who were on-the-spot eyewitnesses. These sources are the only records now available in many cases, and they should be preserved. We extend our thanks to these observers of our past and also to those who have carefully saved and generously loaned these accounts for this publication.

Thanks are also due the present officers and members of local groups who have furnished the committee with records, information and pictures of their organizations. Lacking this cooperation, there would have been no booklet.

Finally, to those who may discover additional historical facts about New Boston in the future, may we suggest that such items should be brought to the attention of our committee. We feel that many of the older homes in New Boston may contain historical items that have been tucked away in attics or storerooms and long forgotten. Old record books, letters and news clippings are particularly important. The fireproof vault in the library is a much safer place for these things.

THE PUBLISHING COMMITTEE





THE OLD MEETING HOUSE ON THE HILL

A newspaper clipping from the Manchester Union, dated November 10, 1900, gives a graphic account of the burning of the "Old Meeting House on the Hill." The article is reproduced here.

"Manchester could hardly believe its eyes last night when it was told that the fire that loomed up to the west was as far away as New Boston. This general surprise gave place to deep regret today when it was known that the flames were from the old Presbyterian church on the hill in the old town, an edifice the history of which went back to 1822 and which was celebrated far and wide among summer visitors to southern New Hampshire. During the heavy shower the church building was struck by lightning at 11 o'clock yesterday at the apex of the spire. Fire followed immediately on the steeple. It was naturally hard to fight it in that location, but several streams of water were kept on it, and the flames were temporarily subdued. For a time it seemed as if the building would be saved.

At 5 o'clock in the afternoon, however, a high wind fanned the flames to life, and the heroic efforts of 150 men were unavailing. The walls fell at 6:30 last night. The church was located in the center of the upper village. Some years ago it was abandoned for a new building more conveniently situated in the valley and was sold to Miss Lydia Atwood for \$650. The greater part of its furnishings were removed to the newer structure, so that many souvenirs of the old days are still preserved.

Oct. 24, 1822, an association of thirty-three men, "proprietors for building a new Presbyterian meeting house in New Boston," was formed. Two acres of land were bought from Ammi Dodge for \$420. The new church was dedicated Dec. 25, 1823, the Rev. Ephraim P. Bradford, its pastor, preaching the sermon. The church was 60 feet square, with a projection of 5½ by 36 feet, the post 30 feet. In 1839, on March 21, an Ecclesiastical society of 116 members was formed, which has since been maintained in a flourishing condition, the town thereafter declining to assess or collect for the church. Dr. Bradford declined a call to Park Street Church, Boston. He died in this, his first pastorate, Dec. 14, 1845, after nearly forty years' service, in his 70th year.

Succeeding pastorates have been fashionably shorter, the most marked being that of the Rev. Elliott C. Cogswell, noted as the founder of Coe's Academy at Northwood. The present pastor of the new church, which succeeded the historic edifice noted above, is the Rev. John E. Wildey, who began his pastorate in 1894.

The transfer was made in 1888, and the old house has since been used as a storehouse. The bell which hung in the old belfry, and which was removed to the tower of the new church, was cast by Paul Revere.

It is regarded as quite a singular coincidence that on the very day of the burning of the old church the announcement was made public that a bequest of \$1000. had been left to the Presbyterian Society of this town by the will of Mrs. Parkington of Milwaukee, who was a daughter of the Rev. Ephraim Bradford.

The quaint edifice which has just passed formerly contained all the furnishings peculiar to the times in which it was erected. The old sounding board, the antique pews, the old-fashioned decorations all had their place here, and many a modern pilgrim visiting New Hampshire, came to New

Boston and went to the 'old church on the hill' to carry away thoughts retrospective of the past. It is understood that the old church was insured for some \$400.

The fire threatened seriously the buildings of Charles Adams of the John B. Varick Company, but by almost superhuman effort these buildings were saved."

Your editor has a number of family recollections concerning the old church which may be of interest. In 1874 Dea. Marshall Adams, my great grandfather, retired from his farm in Paper Mill Village and purchased the Clough property next to the old meeting house. This home has been in our family since that time. Deacon Adams made this move so that he could be closer to the church in his remaining years, of which he was an official for nearly 60 years. In a letter received some years ago from Margaret H. Colburn, of Everett, Mass., she wrote, "I remember hearing my father (Charles S. Colburn) say that during your Great Grandfather Adams' last years he was crippled so badly that my father and Charles Fogg (Louise Fogg's father) used to go each Sunday morning to your present home, wheel his chair over to the old church, and carry him in." This seems to bear out the statement made in the news article that the church on the hill was used until 1888, although a Chapel had been built in the lower village around 1874. Church records indicate that session meetings were held in the Chapel starting in 1876-77. Evidently the Chapel was used for meetings and small gatherings until it was destroyed in the village fire and replaced by the present building in 1888.

I've often heard my grandfather, Charles A. Adams, tell how his sister, Lottie Adams, and Mercy Dale rang the bell to alarm the town in the fire of 1887. Both were slight of build and the heavy bell required their combined strength. He also used to tell how the entire Adams family of thirteen children traveled the long three miles from Paper Mill village to church each Sunday. The older children usually started out ahead on foot, and Father and Mother followed in the family wagon with those who were too small to make the hike. Despite their Sunday best, the boys usually removed their shoes, tied the laces together and carried them around their necks. They were careful, however, to postpone this pleasure until the wagon had overtaken and passed them, knowing that Mother Adams would hardly have approved. The way was up over Hooper Hill and down by the cemetery, since the road down through Hogback had not yet been built. The shoes were always returned to their intended use when the boys reached the cemetery, and apparently the girls never let on. Perhaps this confidence among the children was mutual, since the girls, too, had a custom they wished might remain untold. It seems that each Wednesday Dea. and Mrs. Adams attended adult prayer meetings and were absent from the homestead most of the day. Often on these occasions the girls would try their hand at pie or cake making and put on a spread for themselves and the boys. By the time the folks returned from prayer meeting everything was washed, cleaned and put away, but in later years Mother Adams admitted noting that her flour and sugar barrels often seemed less full than might be expected. "Supper appetites were less keen than usual, too," she used to say with a twinkle in her eye.

The day the Meeting House burned my grandfather came out from Manchester on the afternoon train. As the train rounded the bend along the

base of Pinball, he could plainly see the old church with just the top of the steeple on fire, looking like "a great torch in the sky." Perhaps the main part of the church could have been saved at this point by removing the steeple where all the fire was confined. Many of the onlookers were of this opinion, according to several reports. Mr. James Igo, boss farmer at the Whipple Farm, offered to climb up and cut it off, but, apparently, the offer was turned down by those in charge. Soon the fire worked its way down to the main building and went out of control. From then on it was simply a case of saving some of the furnishings and protecting the Adams buildings from the intense heat. A big door was removed from the Adams barn and, under a steady stream of water, held as a shield between the barn and the fire.

My mother has often told me of the exciting celebration that took place on the meeting house common the day the railroad was dedicated, June 22, 1893. Her one vivid memory was of the great tubs of lemonade, loaded with ice and fruit, and there for everyone to dip into at will. It seems that my paternal grandparents-to-be, Frank and Alice French, had rented the Adams house that year as a summer home, and my mother, also to-be, was visiting with them. It was this summer that my grandfather French did a water color of the old meeting house steeple, reproduced here in black and white. The original is in my possession and will be on exhibit during the anniversary.

My direct memory of the old meeting house is limited to a weathered, granite foundation which I often "explored" as a child, searching for old nails and bits of glass or crockery. It was filled in and grassed over some years ago by George B. Wason. His son, George Fletcher Wason, keeps the old common well mowed so it can serve as a fine play area for the children on the hill.

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

The story of the Church and Town of New Boston, New Hampshire begins on February 18, 1763, when the Legislature of the Colony of New Hampshire chartered the Town with instructions to meet in its first town meeting and "to see what money the town will raise to defray the charge of the town and pay for preaching to the inhabitants for the year ensuing."

The first meeting house was built on the site of the present cemetery and completed by August 1767. A stone marker indicates the exact location.

The Rev. Solomon Moor, the first installed Pastor of the Town and Church, began his work here early in 1767. He was called to the Pastorate on August 25, 1767 and installed on September 6, 1768.

The second church was built on the flat, known as the common, in the center of the upper village in 1823.



Upon refusal of the Town longer to assess and collect taxes for the support of the Church in 1839, the First Presbyterian Society in New Boston was organized "for the purpose of sustaining the Gospel Ministry in accordance with the received mode of administration in the Presbyterian Church."

In 1874 donations were solicited to establish a permanent fund. In 1879 by vote of the Society this fund was named the "Bradford Memorial Fund" in honor of Rev. Ephraim Putnam Bradford, second minister of the Church.

A Chapel was built on the site of the present Church in 1874 through a gift by George W. McCollom in honor of his parents, Alexander and Mary McCollom.

After the loss by fire of the Chapel on May 11, 1887, the present Church was built in 1888 and dedicated on January 10, 1889. The present minister's residence was built in 1892.

The Church has a genuine Paul Revere Bell which was purchased in 1826 and installed in the Church in the upper village. This bell was re-installed in the present Church building in 1892, after the old church in the upper village was sold and abandoned. According to a State Planning and Development Commission news release of July 9, 1953, our bell is the heaviest of 16 known Revere Bells located in New Hampshire. This article sets the weight at 1,415 lbs., more than 200 lbs. heavier than any of the others.

On March 16, 1897, the Society voted to accept the proposition of the Mizpah Circle to build an addition of 25 feet in length to the western projection of the church building for a parlor "for the use of the Ladies Circle and general use of the Church and Society," and a kitchen at the rear of the Church building.

At the request of the people, the Presbytery changed the name of the Church to "The Community Church of New Boston" on April 21, 1949.

The Church was completely renovated and redeccorated, including a new cork tile floor, in 1953. This was made possible by generous contributions of money and labor by the various Town and Church organizations, and many individuals and friends of the Church, under the leadership of the late Fred H. Cann, Chairman of the Renovation Committee.

The present Church Parish House, next to the Town Hall, was purchased in 1960 for the use of the Church Sunday School for classrooms, and it is used for various other meetings and activities.

Ministers who have served this Church and the years of their service are listed below:

Rev. Solomon Moor	1767-1803	Rev. Luther M. Kenneston	1888-1890
Rev. Ephraim Putnam Bradford	1805-1845	Rev. O. G. McIntire	1892-1894
Rev. Erastus M. Kellogg	1846-1852	Rev. John E. Wildey	1894-1901
Rev. Alanson Rawson	1852-1854	Rev. John E. LeBosquet	1901-1905
Rev. E. C. Cogswell	1855-1865	Rev. J. P. Richardson	1906-1908
Rev. D. C. Frink	1866-1871	Rev. Louis W. Swanson	1910-1945
Rev. William H. Bossom	1871-1872	Rev. E. Bradford Davis	1945-1948
Rev. John Bragdon	1876-1879	Rev. William J. Burger, Jr.	1948-1955
Rev. Frank H. Allen	1879-1882	Rev. Henry Jameson, Jr.	1955-1957
Rev. Israil Ainsworth	1882-1884	Rev. William Delaney	1958-1959
Rev. George A. Foss	1886-1888	Rev. John L. Aalfs	1960-present

SOLDIERS OF NEW BOSTON

New Boston's men have always been patriotic and have answered the call of duty whenever this country's need has arisen. Back in the year of 1759, three gallant men, John Burns, James Hunter, and James Jordan fought in the French and Indian War. But the greatest call to arms was made during the years 1775-1783 during the Revolutionary War, when 136 men from New Boston went to fight. 24 New Boston men fought at Bunker Hill and at this famous battle Henry Glover, a drummer, was killed and three Privates were wounded; John Hunter, Archibald McMillen and Alexander Patterson.

Also in the Battle of Bunker Hill was William Beard, who was the oldest son of Andrew Beard, blacksmith. When Wm. heard of the British landing in Boston in 1775 he joined the rebel forces. He was with a group of 40 men who brought some cattle across the neck at Charlestown, under enemy fire, to prevent the British from capturing them. Beard was also a scout at the Battle of Bennington in 1777 with General Stark's army.

There is an interesting story told about James Caldwell, Robert Campbell and Josiah Warren. These three men were always great friends and joined the army during the Revolution. They were captured by the Indians at Ticonderoga and were severely tortured by them. After three months, however, they were freed by exchange. The date of their release was the last Wednesday of May and every year after that they celebrated that day by a feast which they called the "Feast of Purim". This feast was held alternately at each others' houses and was prepared by their three wives.

Just before the Revolutionary War began, many settlers came to New Boston from Beverly, Windham and other coastal towns. This accounts for the several seafaring men from New Boston in the War. One was Capt. Joseph Andrews who was returning from the East Indies at the beginning of the war. He was captured and carried to Halifax where he was imprisoned in a dungeon for some time. After his release he commanded a vessel in the Privateering service until the end of the war. Another privateer, Capt. Benjamin Buxton, was also taken as prisoner and was taken to Halifax, but he was kept on board a British-Man-of-War until after the war.

The name of Joseph Lamson appears on the honor roll although he didn't move to New Boston until 1787, for he was also a privateer on the seas. He was among those who threw the tea overboard in Boston Harbor in 1773.

Two New Boston men were at Saratoga to witness Gen. Burgoyne's surrender to Gen. Gates. They were Livermore Langdell and Abner Hogg. Later Hogg joined Washington's army at Philadelphia and he was in ten different battles before he returned home in 1780.

It was at the Battle of Bennington that Thomas Hooper was killed.

One more interesting story about Revolutionary soldiers is that of Daniel McMillen. He was at West Point when Benedict Arnold went over to the British. McMillen was with the militia that was guarding Arnold's house when he rode away, however, McMillen had been sent out to bring in some wood for the fire, and while doing this he met an unknown soldier whom he saluted. After Major Andre, the spy, was captured, McMillen discovered his unknown soldier was Andre who was on his way to meet Benedict Arnold.

There is not much information about soldiers of the War of 1812 but on the war memorial monument is the list of 19 New Boston men who par-

anticipated. Nathaniel Cochran was killed in a skirmish with a party of Spanish Royalists on Christmas day near the Gulf of Mexico. Capt. John Peabody was a seamerchant who in 1813 attempted to reach St. Domingo with a loaded vessel but was captured by a British vessel and held until 1814.

It was from the Civil War that more New Boston men never returned to their homes, however, the reason for this was that more men died from diseases rather than from wounds. 12 New Boston soldiers died, mostly in Louisiana, from various diseases. The first man from New Boston to enlist in the Civil War was Edmond Page Fox, but 80 from New Boston were in this conflict, often called the War of the Rebellion. Because men didn't readily volunteer fast enough, a bounty was offered to each man who signed up to fight. In the town report of 1862 the town had paid \$5507.00 to soldiers, and in the following year it is stated that the town paid 15 soldiers each, \$535.00 for bounty.

New Boston soldiers who gave their lives in the Civil War were:

Sgt. Julian Dodge was killed at Weldon R.R., Va.

Edwin Barnard was killed at Fort Royal, Va.

Duncan Campbell, died of wounds in Washington, D. C.

Lt. Josiah Gage, died of wounds in N. Y. City on his way home.

Edward Reynolds was wounded at Dewry Bluff, Va. and was killed at Darbytown Road, Va.

Cornelius Wm. Beard, wounded at the Battle of Antietam, was killed at Gettysburg.

Corp. John Whipple, Jr. died in Anderson Prison in Ga. on June 25, 1864. He left New Boston on his 27th birthday to join the 11th N. H. vols. After 13 months of fighting he was taken prisoner at the siege of Knoxville, Tenn. on Nov. 23, 1863. Whipple was sent with a special detail of 30 men that were needed for reinforcements. A demand was made for a man to go some rods in front as a special look-out, in advance of a line of pickets, to give the alarm in case of the approach of the enemy. As no one responded, Corp. Whipple volunteered to go. The enemy cut off his retreat and he was captured. From Nov. 1863 to March 1864 he was at Belle Island but was taken to Andersonville where he died in June 1864.

It was not unusual to find deserters in the Civil War and we find the names of five from New Boston who deserted the Army on the roll call.

Lt. Wm. S. Bradford and Joseph Buck were the only New Boston men in the Mexican War. Lt. Bradford served in Florida and Mexico. He was 1st Lt. and breveted for gallant conduct in Mexico being the first to raise the American flag at Cerro Gordo.

Fred Merron and Karl Weaver were the only men from New Boston to serve in the Spanish-American War of 1898.

In World War I New Boston lost three of its 38 men enrolled. The local American Legion Post is named for these 3 men; Harold R. Emerson who died of pneumonia, Burns Baily with the U. S. Cavalry in France died of the flu, and Gerald K. Clover, who lost his life on the ship "Tuscania" which sank Feb. 5, 1918.

It is interesting to note that the 1st N. H. man killed in World War I was Charles H. Brooks, who was born in New Boston April 26, 1895. He

enlisted from Concord and he is buried in France and his grave is marked with a bottle containing his war record information.

It was during World War II that New Boston first had women serving in various women's branches of the armed services, and 88 men and women are listed on the honor roll. New Boston has one Gold Star mother, Mrs. Oscar Bailey, whose son, Frank R. Stearns, was killed in the Battle of the Bulge in Germany in Dec. 1944. Walter Christian was taken prisoner in 1941 on Corregidor by the Japanese and taken to Tokio where he was kept for 3 years. Paul Wilson was a German Prisoner during the war. Both of these men were later freed.

The New Boston War Memorial Monument was a gift to the town by a revered former citizen, Eben Dodge. It was Mr. Dodge's idea that something of the kind should be a part of New Boston and a year or so before he died, in 1914, he made known his gift to his native town. No action was taken by the town, for several years, presumably because of World War I. On Memorial Day in 1920, the monument was officially dedicated to the memory of the men of New Boston "who fought in the cause of Liberty and Justice." It was first erected on the oval at Central Square in front of Dr. Fraser's house. When the rotary traffic circle was built, it was moved to its present location on the Baptist common. This memorial, designed by Frank French, N. A., contains the names of 280 heroes from New Boston who served in wars from 1759 to 1918.

By Charles and Rena Davis

POSTAL HISTORY OF NEW BOSTON

As early as 1791, the legislature arranged four routes for post riders. The first began at Concord and proceeded through Weare, New Boston, Amherst, Wilton, Peterborough, Keene, Walpole, Charlestown, Newport, Hillsborough and Concord. Each postrider was required to travel his route weekly and he was paid 12 pounds, (\$50) a year. They were required to reverse their alternate trips. Postage on single letters was 6 pence for 40 miles and 4 pence for any distance less than that.

William Gordon was appointed postmaster for Amherst the same year and George Hough, for Concord. New Boston citizens, for a long time, mailed and received their letters at these offices and their uncalled for letters were advertised in the papers of those towns. Jacob Smith was the first mail carrier under the law of 1791. He received \$50. per annum for his services and what he could get carrying parcels.

Francis Peabody mentions the establishment of a post office in New Boston in a letter he wrote to his fiancee, in May 1816. He tells her that it will be much more convenient to get mail to and from her now. Unfortunately, he does not mention where the post office was located, and now, 147 years later, it is as yet, impossible to pinpoint the locations of the thirteen offices we have had under various postmasters.

As it was customary for the postmaster to keep the office at his place of business, we find the office changing location frequently. Knowing where some of the postmasters had their place of business, we have a good idea as to where the post office was during their tenure of office.

The late Benjamin H. Dodge had the distinction of holding the post-

mastership for the longest continuous period of time—thirty-three and a half years. Joseph K. Whipple was postmaster for just three months.

We did not have a post office at Paper Mill Village, as some have thought, nor at Oil Mill Village. There was a postoffice at Oil Mill Village, but the village was a part of Weare, not New Boston.

Our first postmaster was Levi Bixby, who was appointed April 13, 1816, and he held the position until May 9, 1819. We know from the history of New Boston that Bixby started his mercantile business in what we call the Upper Village, and that he moved to the Lower Village about 1825. This would lead us to believe that our first post office was up Meetinghouse Hill way.

We have no information about W. Jones who next held the postmastership from May 1819 until Sam. Dodge took over in April 1820. Mr. Dodge continued in the position until 1829. In all likelihood the office remained in the Upper Village during these years, and these two postmasters could have been tavern keepers, since the main road went over the hill and down by Joe English on the Wason side of the hill.

About 1830 business began to move down the hill to the Lower Village, and Sam Dodge probably took advantage of the trend and moved also. According to the history of New Boston, Sam was a prosperous farmer. He also had a saw and gristmill in which he did a profitable business. At one time he owned the property known to the older folks as Hadley's Mill.

Waterman Burr, another merchant in the Lower Village, had his store in what was known as the Morgan place, since owned by Dr. Abner Wing and now the residence of John and Cynthia Connelly. Besides being postmaster Burr served as selectman 1832-33 and as town clerk 1849-1851.

John Gregg was postmaster from June 11, 1853 to April 12, 1861. He was in trade in the Lower Village.

James Gregg was postmaster from April 16, 1855 until April 12, 1861. He also was in business in the Lower Village and died in 1862. Unfortunately, our town history does not give us any further information on these people.

Solomon D. Atwood was postmaster at four different periods, and his total time as postmaster amounted to 37 years and 9 months. He went into business with Joseph K. Whipple in 1860, who had two terms as postmaster.

We have no record of the location of their place of business except that, a newspaper account of the big fire of 1887 furnishes the information that Atwood's store was located in a building owned by George A. Wason. Following the fire, the building now known as "Dodge's" was built by J. R. Whipple and was known as Valley Hall. Sol. D. Atwood had a store in this building and it is possible that his place of business was in the same location prior to the fire. Probably he had a section of the store partitioned off for the post office and continued in trade until 1897 at least, as that is the date of his last appointment.

Samuel Worthly was appointed postmaster January 11, 1866 and held office until April 18, 1867. He was in business for several years near what was known as King's Mill.

Charles W. Dodge held the office for a year—February 18, 1868 to March 21, 1869.

Clarence H. Dodge had two terms as postmaster, serving from July 29, 1885 to April 22, 1889 and again from April 12, 1893 to May 21, 1897.

He had the post office in his general store on the west side of the river, in what is now known as the Gravity Conference Hall. The post office was in the left hand corner as you entered the building.

Benjamin Dodge moved the business and the post office to the east side of the river in the summer of 1929, and the office was in the right hand corner as you entered.

Oliver Andrews, our present popular postmaster, has had his appointment since July 1, 1948. The office is in the section of the Dodge Store building which originally housed the Whipple Free Library.

The above appointment dates were supplied by the Department of Archives, Washington, D. C.

By Laurier Michaud

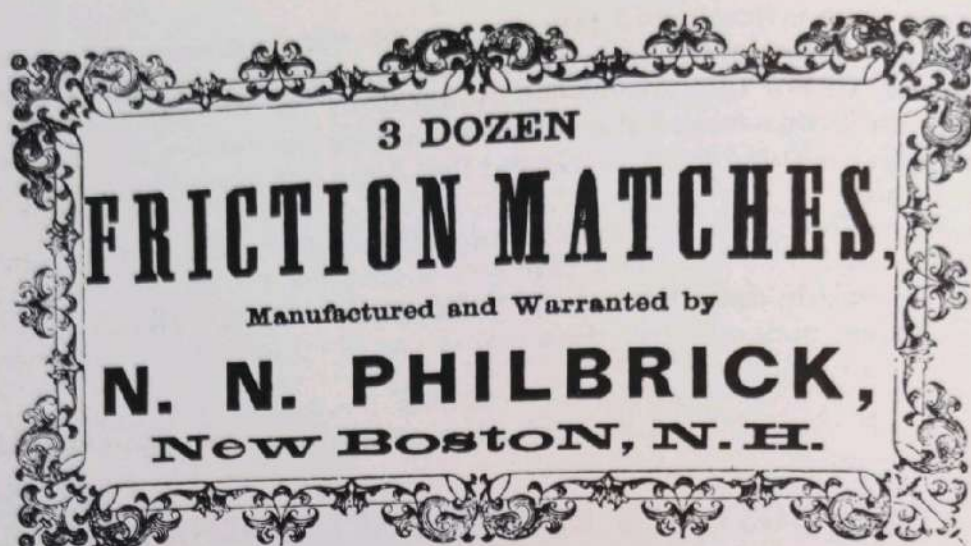
NEW BOSTON'S BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

As early as 1755 there was a small stock of goods kept in a house near Walker's mill and this is possibly the first store in New Boston, and over on Cochran Hill a Mr. McGaw built a house in which he had a store and tavern at about this same time. Samuel Worthy opened a store in Gougeville and in 1760 John McLaughlin had a store and inn on the hillside above the church. It was here that the people met during intermission to get warm. Because this was the main road into town, it was heavily traveled, as we find another tavern and store site near the old Wason Homestead and still farther on this road another tavern operated by J. Lamson.

Over on the Turnpike where the "Red Fox Farm" is located was a public house and store, and another was at Todd's Corner. All of these stores were at an early date so New Boston must have been a busy settlement then.

In 1820 there were three stores in the Upper Village; one in Forbes' house which was run by Amos Tewksbury. John Tull also had a store, and Burr & Lawrence kept store in a building that is now removed. In 1827 when the road from Newport to Amherst was built, the village moved into the





valley to be on the new road. The first new building to be erected after this road was completed was the store of Micah Lawrence & Waterman Burr which is Bryant's (Dr. Fraser) today. Later a hotel and store was built by Dr. John Whipple. Next, Amos Tewksbury built a store in the lower village called the corner store. (Site of Dodge's store today) Tewksbury kept store for 19 years, then James Gregg operated it before it was remodeled by Atwood and Kelso. This was destroyed by fire in May, 1887 and the present store was built by J. R. Whipple and occupied by S. D. Atwood, later by the Dodges.

While the corner store was operating the old brickstore across the river (now Babson's conference hall) was also running. The stage stopped here with the mail as it came down over Shedd's Hill. S. D. Atwood was storekeeper here before he moved to the corner store. This store burned in 1866 and was rebuilt by Stephen Whipple when it became known as Whipple & Atwood. Clarence Dodge started his store here before he moved across the river to the present Homer Dodge store. Two grocery stores are in operation today, the already mentioned Homer Dodge store and Cecil Marshall's Market which was Morgan & Dennison Market and later Hill's meat market.

New Boston's drug store has always been in the location of Pringles. In 1897 and maybe even earlier, Frank Greer was druggist in a small building near the bridge. This was removed and a larger building erected where Ernest Hagland was druggist, and in the other side of this building Walter Wilson and later Kenneth Purington had a small store. While Bernard Kane was the owner, this building burned and he built the present building housing the Pringle Luncheonette.

Around 1900 having "Summer Boarders" was a very popular business and New Boston was well suited for this with its large houses, country views and a railroad for passenger service. The tavern was remodeled in 1893 and opened for business by J. B. Whipple, until his death ten years later when William P. Averill operated it until about 1920. It was during this next period that a succession of different owners had the Tavern. Charles Crockett owned it for 2 or 3 years followed by a Charles Cox. Later Paul Hersch, a German war veteran, operated it from 1935 to 1937. The following years it was vacant and it was torn down in 1944.

Farming, both dairy and poultry, has been a leading business in New Boston but with changing market conditions these have diminished to only two or three farms that are now in operation. J. R. Whipple's Valley View Farm was once the show place of New Boston.

By Charles and Rena Davis

NEW BOSTON'S MILLS AND FACTORIES

In the first census, dated September 25, 1756, it is reported that within the limits of the township there was included one saw and grist mill with dam completed. This mill and dam was built on the Middle Branch of the Piscataquog a little north of the mill now standing at Clyde Heath's and is supposed to be the first mill built in New Boston. The contract for the mill was made November 25, 1736, and the contractor was Joseph Wright of Boston. He was to build for the proprietors a dam for a saw and grist mill. For this they paid him 300 pounds. The mills were completed in 1740, and in 1741 they were sold to Zackariah Emery. How long these mills were operated is not known.

The second mill to be built was Walker's mill in 1751. This mill is at Hadley's corner and is still standing at the rear of Leland Vadney's house. This is also known as Tucker's mill. (If the date is noted, both of these mills were erected before the first census, so it is very possible that only Walker's mill was standing in 1756). The proprietors made an agreement with Walker that he should have the right to flow, for seven years, the lowlands farther up stream so as to provide a supply of water during the dry season, and they would provide the mill-irons. Walker became very unpopular with the settlers, as he preferred to sell to outsiders where he could make more profit. The proprietors threatened to take away his mill-irons if he didn't stop infringing the rights of the settlers. Many other nearby towns used these mills to saw their boards and grind their grain.

Also on the Middle Branch, Leslie Gregg built a saw and grist mill before 1770. This site is supposed to be near the old Alvaro Hadley house. The first carding mill in town was connected with this mill, which operated for many years. New Boston has had many Gregg mills through the years. The first was the one mentioned above, located below Tucker's mill. The old Gregg mill at Clyde Heath's was built by Joseph and Daniel Gregg. John H. Gregg's mill was near Howard Woodbury's, and at the bridge near Harold Todd's was located John Gregg's mill and dam.

Over on Cochran Brook Deacon Thomas Cochran built a corn mill. The exact date is not known, but it is noted that, in the first town meeting of 1763, it was voted "that a pound shall be built by the corn mill, and that Deacon Thomas Cochran shall be pound master." Without a doubt this is the same corn mill which must have been built prior to 1763.

Deacon Christy, at an early date, built a saw mill over in Gougeville near where the paper mill was located. Later this saw mill became better known as King's mill. It burned in 1808 and was rebuilt and made into a flouring mill. King also added machinery to make pails.

It was about 1880 that saw and grist mills became very numerous along the rivers and streams. In the 1820 census New Boston had 25 sawmills, but

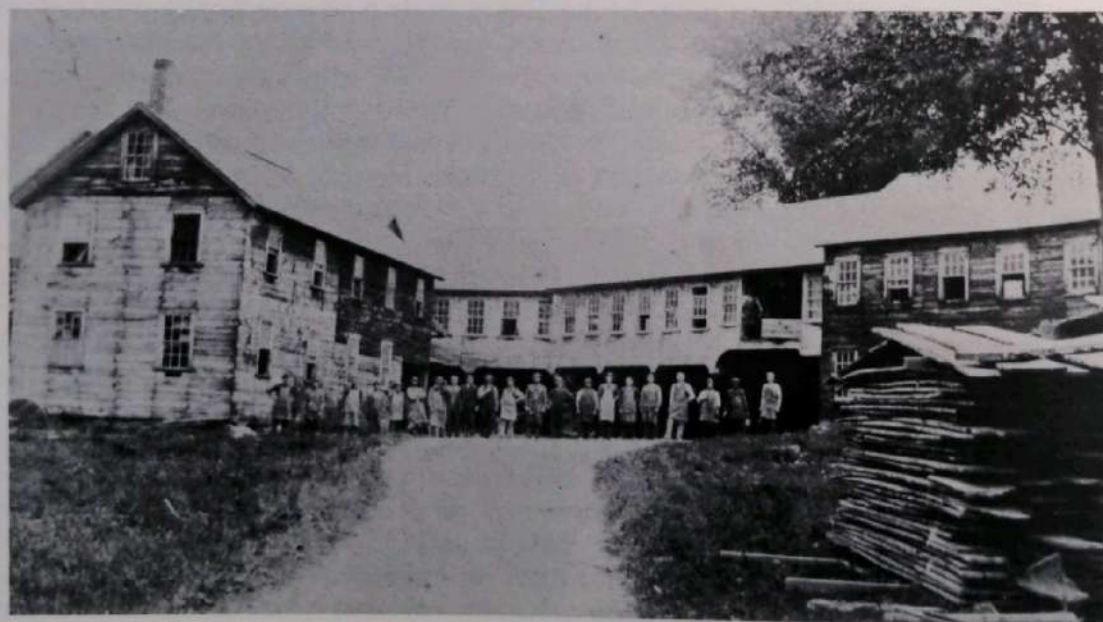
the largest number ever to be in town at one time was 33. Nine of these were located on the South Branch, nine on the Middle branch and the others scattered on various brooks.

Only a few of these mills are standing at the present time and none are in operation. The remaining mills are: Walker's mill near Vadney's, which continued to saw lumber until about 1950, Old Gregg mill at Heath's, George Goodwin's mill on Old Coach Road, Walter Kirsch's box shop, also known as Marden's and later Sutherland's mill, and the old Hopkins mill opposite Rev. Welch's on the Amherst Road. The old saw in this mill was purchased by Henry Ford and removed. The only remaining grist mill is the old Reed McLane mill, for several years used as a Merrimack Farmers Exchange store, and now being converted into a comfortable home by Randy and Gail Parker.

Near the old Butterfield bridge was the Ira Gage mill. This was a corn and saw mill, but he sold half interest to David Butterfield, who put in machinery to make boxes. Later they added a planing machine and a lathe so that furniture, mostly for children, was made here. They employed more than 20 people at one time and were in operation for many years.

The tall brick chimney in Gougeville is the only reminder to New Boston that it once had a flourishing paper mill. No records tell the actual date of its building, but in 1869 it was known as the Union Paper Co., and in 1876 it ran under the name of Valley Paper Co. It ceased operations in about 1880 when it was supposed to have been struck by lightning and burned.

This site on the river had always been busy, for the first manufacturing in New Boston was the wire factory erected here by Holmes, Kendell and Crombie. This was of short duration, but axes and hoes were also made there. After a few years this plant was made into a carding and clothing mill by John Gage and later by Marshall Adams. Another industry in Gougeville was Moses Wood's gun and rifle shop. This building was near the paper mill also. Wood operated this for many years until the breech-loader replaced the old muzzle loader.



Beyond Todd's corner near Chittim's was the Andrew's Chair and Knob factory. There was also a threshing mill here, which later became Alfred Wilder's toy carriage shop.

The axe factory of George D. Neville in 1846 made axes of an exceptional grade. It was located in the small building in back of the Thomas A. Edison Bird Museum. A threshing mill was situated here, too.

Walter Kirsch's box shop was built by Peabody in 1810 as a sawmill. For a while it was also a carding mill. Neil and Rodney McLane made doors there for a short time before Fuller and Wisewell made looking glass and picture frames. While Sandy Smith had machinery in it for knitting hosiery, it burned. It was rebuilt and later became George D. Marden's mill. Following Marden, Alec O. Sutherland operated this mill for many years. In 1850 Neil and Rodney McLane constructed a dam and built a door factory near where Henry Friedrich lives. This building was later used by Farley to make piano cases, and still later became Wilson's electric plant.

New Boston had other mills that might have been of short duration but were very important to the early settlers. Tanneries were in this category. Near Abraham Wason's farm was a tannery and two were located on Meeting House Hill. One was at Sidney Hill's home, which today is Fletcher Wason's residence. Here, also was a slaughter house where they salted meat and then tanned the hides. The other tannery was located on the small stream at Charles French's. This was Clough's tannery. New Boston also had a Bark Mill which supplied these tanneries with the bark they needed to tan leather. After use the bark was spread on the roads carpeting them with a soft cover for horse and carriage travel.

Many homes in New Boston had electric lights at an early date because of Wilson's power plant, and in 1895 the town voted to have a contract with Kimball J. Wilson and Son to light the streets of the village with electricity. After Kimball's death, A. Page Wilson continued to manufacture electricity until October, 1913 when Manchester Traction, Light and Power Co. supplied the town. Wilson had his generators located in the old Farley piano case factory, as mentioned above. The dam washed out and the building was in bad condition, so Wilson moved his generators over to the old Muzzey Mill (Vaughn's red house on Lyndeboro Road), and it was here he ceased generating electricity when he sold his franchise in 1913. When the water at the dam was low, Wilson had a gasoline engine generator which he used for making power, and this he sold to the Best farm in Mont Vernon.

In the present Gamewell Building, men's neckties were made in the 1940's. Originally this building had been J. N. McLane's blacksmith, with a carriage paint shop on the second floor. It was also Perry Smith's garage for a number of years. At the rear of this building is the site of Abraham Wason's steam cooper shop, which also made barrel heads in 1883. It was from this shop that came the sparks setting the big village fire of 1887.

Today the only manufacturing in town is the making of fiber glass boats in the old Whipple cement barn. Through the years New Boston has had a wide variety of industries and even if many of these were small, they all added their importance to the history of New Boston.

By Charles and Rena Davis



THE DAY THE RAILROAD CAME TO TOWN

There could be no better way to tell the story of the New Boston Railroad, and how it came to town 70 years ago, than to relive the event through the words of an eye witness. Thanks to Paul Saltmarsh, we have an old newspaper clipping from the Manchester Union, dated June 23, 1893, which is reproduced here.

"New Boston, nestled peacefully among her slopes of green beside the fleet Piscataquog, was in gala attire yesterday, and her lips blew joyful notes from a bugle of triumph. Her eyes were bright with gladness, her hands held flower-emblems of peace and happiness. With the accompanying boom of cannon, fluttering of flags and sound of drum and cornet, she celebrated an event which has wrought a change for greater good in the even tenor of her existence.

Cause for this rejoicing is found in the six miles of shining steel rail which stretches, like a big bright ribbon, out from Parker's station, along the winding course of the Piscataquog, between the beautiful hills of the valley, through lowlands of level green, and rounding a bluff in a long curve comes to end in the historic old town of New Boston.

In a word, the New Boston railroad has become an accomplished fact. Years of endeavor have had a fruition that is of more than ordinary interest to the people of New Boston. They were quick to recognize in the successful completion of this project an event fraught with greater than passing importance, and with their characteristic energy they set about earnestly to prepare a fitting celebration. Completeness was sought in each and every detail, and when at length the gates were thrown open to afford entrance into the scene of commemoration, the 1800 people who passed in found an affair successful in the fullest sense of the word.

At 11:30 o'clock in the forenoon the Molly Stark, that historic six-pound piece of ordnance, which affords New Boston such pride, boomed a salute of six guns from a bluff on the right of the railroad, overlooking the town,

as the special train from Manchester steamed around the curve and came to a stop before the temporary station.

The train was made up of five cars, drawn by the engine, Governor Gilmore, and fully 250 representatives of the Capital and Queen cities were aboard. The parlor car Webster contained the directors of the Concord and Montreal and New Boston railroads, and distinguished guests from Concord and above. The train was in charge of J. H. Wason of Nashua. It left Manchester at 10:30, making the run in an hour without incident.

Under the direction of Dr. A. D. Gould, chief marshal, and aides L. S. Bidwell and F. A. Greer, the procession was formed and marched to the "church on the hill," in the following order:

Marshall M. J. Healy and Patrolmen Moore, O'Malley, Lovejoy, Hartnett, Welch and Rainville of Manchester.

Drum Major H. B. Campbell of Henniker.

New Boston Brass band, 25 pieces, W. A. Woodbury, leader.

Hand-tub Constitution.

The cannon Molly Stark.

Coaches and barges containing president of the day, orator of the day, railroad officials, townsmen and guests.

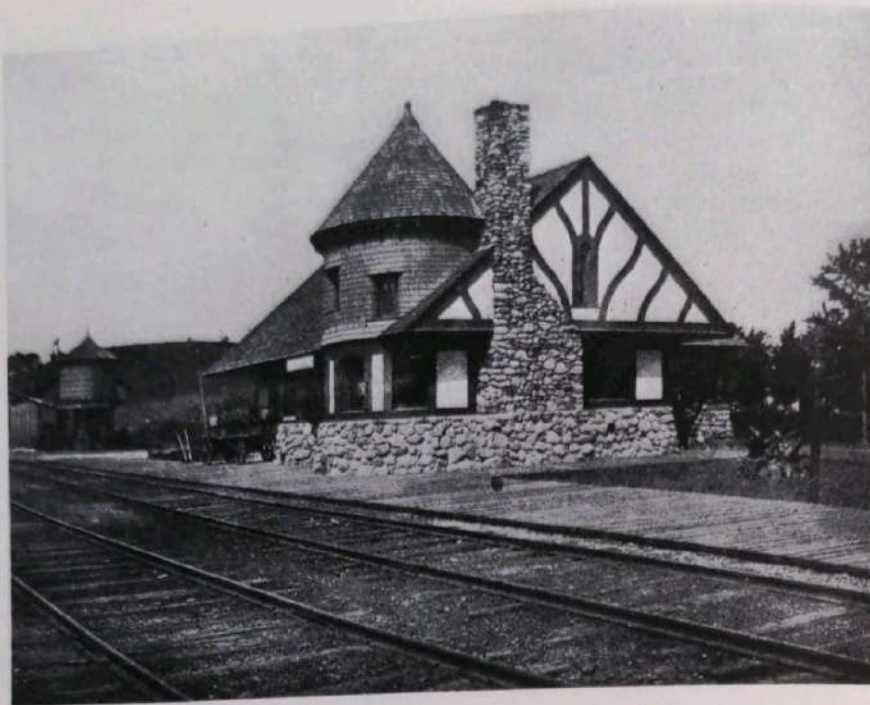
On arrival at the church the occupants of the carriages took seats upon the platform, and the musicians, in the gallery. No more appropriate adornment for the old church could have been chosen than the country's colors which draped it. Streamers ran from the back of the platform to the gallery pillars on either side. Bunting was effectively displayed along the gallery front and across the upper windows. The red, white and blue blending of "Old Glory" was arranged behind those on the platform, as if to furnish inspiration to their lips. Flowers were ranged along the platform front, and large and beautiful bouquets of red and white roses decorated the desk. The building was well filled. Men and women of gray heads and lads and lasses of fresh young faces had gathered to render honor to enterprise. An interesting contrast was presented. There on the hill was the old church of the fathers, erected back in '23, its bare white walls, box pews and green blinds suggesting days long past. Below in the valley and visible from the church stretched the two lines of steel which are emblematical of the enterprise and progress of these later days.

County Solicitor James P. Tuttle acted as president of the day. His speech of welcome was felicitous in thought and expression.

Invocation was offered by Rev. Mr. Bartlett of the Baptist church.

After a selection by the band, L. S. Fairbanks of Boston, was introduced and delivered the oration of the occasion. It dealt largely with the history of the new road from the beginning. In the course of his remarks the speaker paid high tribute to the perseverance and generosity of J. R. Whipple and George A. Wason, which was received with continued applause.

At the conclusion of the exercises in the church, adjournment was made to a large tent opposite, where dinner was served. By this time the rain clouds that had lowered all the morning were sending down scattering drops. The dinner called forth hearty expressions of praise from all the partakers. The arrangement of the tables was very attractive. The supply of viands was over and above that necessary, nobody being slighted. They comprised baked beans, sandwiches, meats, chicken croquettes, hard-shell crabs, pies, cake,



coffee and lemonade. The beverages were satisfactorily dispensed by the comely New Boston maidens. Earnest Saltmarsh, head waiter in the Whipple hotel, directed the excellent service, which was provided by a corps of colored waiters from Boston. Over-praise cannot be given in according commendation for the quality of the food and its serving. A thousand people or more enjoyed the meal while the band played several selections.

The special train left at 5 o'clock and reached Manchester at 6:10. The committee of arrangements on the occasion comprised: George A. Wason, J. R. Whipple, S. D. Atwood and Charles H. Chandler. The reception committee was made up of: James N. McLane, Thomas E. Cochran, Charles M. Wallace, Charles A. Weaver, Charles H. Shedd and Edmund P. Fox.

THE WHIPPLE FARM ERA

For nearly forty years the Whipple Farm was the mainstay of New Boston. Established in 1881 by J. Reed Whipple, Valley View Farm became known far and wide as the finest plant of its kind in the East—a typical show place, yet very practically operated. It furnished fresh dairy, poultry and pork products to three Boston hotels, the Parker House, Young's and the Touraine, owned by the J. R. Whipple Company.

The three main divisions of the farm were the Dairy, the Piggery and the Hennery, but equally important to all three was the the Farming department. This supplied feed for the stock and provided horses and wagons for transporting supplies and products. The Creamery, now the Pitman Apartments, processed the milk, producing bottled milk and cream and high quality butter. In one month the Creamery shipped 2000 quarts of cream, 6000 quarts of milk and nearly four tons of butter to the three hotels. A special refrigerator car carried these and the other farm products by rail to Boston daily, returning with waste food from the three hotels sealed in specially designed containers. This was fed to the hogs, fed to the poultry and used as fertilizer.

Three big ice houses, located where Kenneth Purrington lives, stored tons of ice, so necessary in those days in the dairy business. Another important product was pure cider vinegar. The mill, now owned by Paul Saltmarsh, is the only part of Valley View Farm still functioning in its original capacity. Manufacturing of the vinegar was a three year process, and 24,000 gallons could be stored at one time.

The cement barn was built of steel, tile, cement and stucco at a cost of \$100,000. It housed 80 Guernsey cows, 40 on a side, and it was equipped with automatic drinking fountains for each cow, steam heat and electricity. Wastes were carried out in special buckets suspended from an overhead track. Other barns housed more than 250 head of cattle, the best-blooded Guernseys and finely bred Holsteins. The entire number of pigs often ran as high as 1800 Yorkshires and some 2000 Plymouth laying hens were kept at the Hennerly.

J. Reed Whipple, a native of New Boston, left his home town to seek his fortune in Boston. Once someone called him Boston's luckiest man to which he retorted, "Forget that. I got where I am through method and minding my own business." Failing in his first venture, a grocery store on Pleasant Street, Boston, he entered the hotel field. Thirty years later and with \$65,000 of borrowed capital, he was one of the country's leading hotelmen and a millionaire.

When he built the cement barn, he filled it with pure bred Guernseys and then dedicated it by inviting all the hotel proprietors of Boston as his guests. He sent one of his hotel chefs and a corps of waiters from Boston to the farm, who put on a linen and silver service banquet on a hundred foot long table between the rows of Guernseys. On another occasion he entertained 500 members of a National Hotel Assn. at a banquet in the big hay barn, bringing his guests to New Boston on a special 10-car train.

His hobby was horses and he had one of the finest stables in the East. Brandy and Soda, his favorite tandem team, won prizes at shows all over the country. Once he bought a horse for \$4,100 later selling him back for only \$2,000, admitting that he wasn't much of a "hoss trader."

A better judge of cigars was hard to find, yet he never smoked. He was a connoisseur of wines and a temperate man, yet J. Reed's "night cap" every night was a pint of champagne.

June 19, 1912 was a sad day for New Boston when J. Reed Whipple was brought here for his final resting place in the cemetery on the hill. Equally sad, but not entirely unexpected, was the liquidation sale of Valley View Farm at a three day public auction in the early twenties. The spark had died out in 1912.

HERE IS MR J. REED WHIPPLE.





NEW BOSTON'S PHYSICIANS

The history of the practitioners of medicine in the Town of New Boston is very well spelled out in the "History of Hillsborough County" from the town's inception until the year 1885. It begins with the premise that Matthew Thornton, one of the three signers of the Declaration of Independence from New Hampshire, was the first doctor in New Boston, and it has been said he lived in the McGill house on Clark Hill Road. After searching the archives of the N. H. Medical Society, however, and perusing the book "Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence" written by Goodrich in 1842, no mention could be found of the fact. It is, however, entirely possible that Matthew Thornton was indeed our first "skillful physician and surgeon". The writers of the books mentioned above may have neglected to record the information. In the History of Francestown, New Hampshire, it is recorded that Matthew Thornton came to New Boston in 1762 and established a home here one mile from the town line and remained here for 8 years.

We are certain of one thing. Since 1885 there has been a long list of doctors who served our town faithfully and diligently.

Dr. Charles A. Weaver, a native of Milford, New Hampshire, and a graduate of the University of Vermont in 1881, came to New Boston from Montrose, Colorado. He represented the school of Allopathic medicine. He left New Boston to serve his country in the World War I as a captain in the Medical Corps and on his return from his tour of duty he was employed by State of New Hampshire, Division of Communicable Diseases.

Dr. Weaver is interred in the cemetery on the hill.

Our next physician, Dr. Herbert G. Gould, was a graduate of the N. Y. Homeopathic Medical College and he was a native of Weare, N. H.

After these two men, there was Dr. Arthur C. Todd, a native of New Boston. Dr. Todd had practiced earlier in Francestown and Manchester. Due

to poor health he retired to New Boston and lived in the present Waldon Hersey house. The flu epidemic in 1919 brought Dr. Todd back into active practice and he 'died with his boots on'.

Relative to practice of medicine is the necessity of a registered pharmacist. In 1897, Frank E. Greer, R Ph, had a store on the site where Pringle's store now is. That building was moved and is now the garage at the Durant home. Mr. Greer was followed by "Pop" Hagland. Ernest E. Hagland, R Ph, came here from Plymouth, N. H. While he was still in Plymouth he met a man who has had a lot to do with the health of the present generation in New Boston—"Sam" Fraser. Dr. Samuel E. Fraser, born in Thetford Mines, Quebec, graduated from McGill University with honors in June 1904 preceded by a 2-year stint at Inverness Academy. In order to finance his stay in college, at one time he peddled ice in Worcester, Mass., while staying with a cousin. At another time he worked as a farm hand for 10½¢ per hour. He also worked as a store clerk.

Space does not permit the listing of all those presently living in our town who were "Dr. Sam's Babies". In his later years, while sitting on his porch one day, he told a drug salesman that during his life he had delivered about 2500 babies who together with their offspring would today populate a city of 15,000 persons.

Tradition has it that the itinerary of one day in Dr. Sam's life as a country doctor would sound like this:

3 AM—off to Francestown to deliver a baby. Returned home and was called at once to South Weare—a farmer had been gored by a bull. Then off to County Farm to see patients there where he was in charge of medicine for a great number of years. While returning home he was stopped on the River Road by a woman whose child had been scalded by water slopped from a hog scalding cauldron. Returned home and found three patients in his waiting room. Saw two of them and was called out to attend an injured farm worker on South Hill. Back to the office to finish his office calls, and finally had dinner. Walked to the Post Office after dinner to pick up his mail and just got comfortably settled on his porch with his feet on the railing when the phone rang—Dr. Sam answered "Bring him down; I'll be right here".—A young boy was brought in with a dislocated toe.

With his house calls still ahead of him, he hitched up his Morgan Mare to his Top Buggy and called on his charges in and around the town. Finally he had supper about 7:30 PM. After taking care of his evening office calls he retired at 10 PM.

Dr. Samuel Fraser was loved and revered by both young and old in New Boston and also in the surrounding towns.

At a recent town meeting, \$3000.00 was voted to assist in establishing a doctor in New Boston which finally resulted in Dr. Paul Radgens coming here for just a short time.

At present we are ably cared for by the physicians of the neighboring towns.

By Roland Sallada

A NEW BOSTON INSTITUTION

It has been said that each generation produces only one outstanding leader in a community. If this is true, decision must often be in conflict in narrowing the choice down to one individual. New Boston, however, has two living generations that would vote for but one man—Rev. Louis W. Swanson, pastor of the Community Church for over 35 years. When a man touches the hearts of two generations with his one life span, he becomes an institution. Such was Mr. Swanson. Will Rogers once said, "I never knew a man I didn't like." Your editor never knew a man who didn't like and love Mr. Swanson.

When we were gathering source material for these pages, we knew that much of it had been collected by Mr. Swanson, or placed in the library by others at his urging. Rather late in our work we began to sense a strange lack of items about Mr. Swanson himself. We couldn't even find a picture suitable for publication. Fortunately, Evelyn Barss came to our rescue with a magazine article, clipped from the **Christian Herald** of 1931, entitled, "Happytown, New Hampshire." This article, written by William L. Stidger, is an excellent biographical sketch of Mr. Swanson. It is reproduced here:

"Louis W. Swanson went to New Boston, N. H. from Boston University School of Theology, expecting to stay for the summer—and he has been there twenty years.

At Allegheny College, twenty-five years ago, he was the leader of the Glee Club, a violin soloist, won his letter in sports, was by all odds the social leader of the college, a Phi Beta Kappa, winner of oratorical and debating contests; and yet today, in spite of repeated offers to accept the largest city churches, he remains in a country village of seven hundred population by choice. His reasons for staying are pregnant with human interest; his story is one of the romances of the possibilities of the small town in America.

Six feet tall, born in Sweden, graduated at Allegheny College and Boston University, this brilliant young man deliberately decided to stay away from city churches and serve a small community.

New Boston is only fifteen miles away from Manchester, and on a recent Christmas the **Manchester Union**, on its front page, told a graphic tale of a Christmas service in Dr. Swanson's church, which gives one an idea of what one preacher can do for and in a small American village.

At this Christmas service—as is true of all its services—in a town with a population of only 757 people, more than two hundred people crowded into the little Community Church. That means that two-sevenths of the entire population found their way to church. According to the **Manchester Union** that meant that if the same thing happened in Manchester more than 20,000 people would be trying to get into one church, which would be news to attract the attention of the newspapers of the nation.

And here is the reason:

One hundred and fifty years ago a little band of Scotch Presbyterians settled New Boston. They had denominational pride to the highest degree. They came from Londonderry in 1763 and brought with them "Priest" Moor, a graduate of Dublin University. He remained as



their pastor thirty-five years. Then they called "Priest" Bradford, who was their pastor for forty years.

When the present pastor, came to New Boston, he came in the midst of a terrible slump the town was passing through. J. Reed Whipple, the noted hotel man, had opened up a huge farm, one building alone costing a hundred thousand dollars. This farm was for the purpose of supplying farm products for the Parker House, Young's and the Touraine Hotels, which he owned. He himself was a native of New Boston and loved the little village. These farms made up the only industry the village claimed. Then Mr. Whipple died, and, in a few years the farms were abandoned. This town was left in the status of the famous "abandoned farms" of New England, and the population began to move away. The town was in the dumps, morally and socially and religiously. The Baptist Church died out. That left but one church, which was Scotch Presbyterian in origin and spirit.

Dr. Swanson called his members together and said to them: 'Now is the chance for this church to throw away its denominationalism and become a Community Church. Just because a little band of Scotch Presbyterians came here one hundred and fifty years ago is no reason why it should always remain a Scotch Presbyterian Church. This town needs a Community Church, and it needs it badly. It needs a church which is willing to forget its denominationalism and serve the Community.' The church reluctantly voted to follow Dr. Swanson's leadership.

This change worked a miracle. In a very brief time the whole community recognized the fact that here was their own church. It was being run in the interests of New Boston and not in the interests of Presbyterianism.

The first definite community act to which the young preacher summoned the entire town was to build a Community Playground. Mr. Swanson set aside a certain day and invited the entire community to turn to and build a playground. More than two hundred men and boys appeared at daybreak. Twenty-two horse teams appeared as if by magic. The land was cleared that day; a substantial grandstand seating more than six hundred people, with a fine cover and all painted was erected within twelve hours. In addition to that a large refreshment stand was built. This was all done by community labor, and while the men toiled the women cooked food for them.

The next thing the community did was to turn in and equip itself with a motion picture projector and outfit. In the summer time the pictures are shown outdoors and hundreds of people attend them. Mr. Swanson for years played the piano and furnished a complete musical programme to go with the picture. He is a musician of skill and unusual talent and is willing to take a hand at the piano, and at directing the annual minstrel show and having a part in it himself; into organizing and training a Community Glee Club, teaching music to boys and girls, developing dramatic and musical talent in the town. The community picture enterprise pays its own way, gives the picture to the community free of charge—save for a collection—and within ten years has added to its equipment the latest and finest projection machine known to the industry.

Not content with making the church and the community one in its play life, Mr. Swanson organized and developed a Chamber of Commerce for the village. He attends all of the town meetings and is the heart and directing personality in every community enterprise.

I visited this church and community on a peculiar errand recently. I went to preach the ordination sermon for this young minister. He has been the pastor for twenty years, but was only ordained at the end of this long period of preaching. One of the speakers at this ordination service facetiously made the statement that, true to their Scotch Presbyterian ancestry, this church kept their minister on trial for twenty years before they had him ordained.

On my visit to this strange ordination service Mr. Swanson took me on a flying trip through the town and surrounding countryside. I have traveled the world over on one errand or another, and have seen Christian ministers and missionaries at work on their particular fields everywhere, but I have never seen anything like the love and regard that that town has for this preacher. The tears came unbidden to my eyes to see them hail him as we flew by in his old battered automobile, of an ancient vintage. Mothers tending children on the porches of farmhouses waved at him, children playing in street and road, farmers at work in the fields and barns; college girls home for the summer flung him a cry and a gesture of comradeship. I am sure that we did not pass a single field, house, store, barn, or corner that somebody, old or young, did not fling in his direction a hearty hand or hail. Their hails and gestures indicated that long since that community of human beings had taken him completely into their hearts as one of them.

While I was there four little girls came to Mr. Swanson's front porch; all from one family—came to bring him each a red rose. (Jean, Dorothy, Barbara and Mary Virginia Leland were the girls, according to Evelyn Barss) He invited them in and played with them as if he too were a child. Later Mr. Swanson said: 'I have no children of my own so all the children of the village are mine—and I love them!'

Every spring he has bird and nature classes—takes the children into the woods and teaches them wood lore. He offers a prize each year for the boy or girl who can tell him when the most birds come back.

He issues a community bulletin, the like of which I have never seen in the nation. It is not a church bulletin, but a community bulletin. In fact it is called: '**New Boston, N. H., Community Bulletin.**' On the left side of this bulletin is the slogan: 'The Friendly Town—Uniting its forces for progress and achievement.' On the right is this slogan: 'The Community Church—For people of all creeds seeking the higher life and working together for the common good.'

As I drove away from that little New Hampshire Community, I said to myself, 'If we had that sort of a preacher and that sort of a church in every community in America, we would re-make the nation and its ideals and its spirit.' "

This is not the end of Mr. Swanson's story. He carried on his fruitful work for fifteen more years in devoted service to his community. This, in spite of personal tragedies that would have stripped most men of their courage and spirit. Mention has been made that he had no children of his own. His first wife, Mary Warren of New Boston, died as a result of childbirth only a few years after they were married.

Many years later, in 1937, he married Marion Davis of Haverhill, Mass., and the town rejoiced that there would now be a Mrs. Swanson by his side. The Church granted him a month's vacation and the happy couple left on an extended honeymoon after the Haverhill wedding. But, again, tragedy struck. The couple returned to Haverhill and were preparing to come to New Boston,

when Mrs. Swanson was taken suddenly ill at the hairdressers and rushed to the hospital where she died. Ironically she was buried in New Boston Cemetery on the very day the homecoming reception had been scheduled.

One final chapter remains. Two beautiful monuments stand perhaps 25 feet apart in the cemetery at New Boston. One bears the inscription, "Louis W. Swanson" with the spaces for dates left blank and "Mary E. Warren, his wife, 1879-1922." The other, a few feet away, is inscribed, "Marion A. Davis, wife of Louis W. Swanson, 1887-1937." Clearly his intention was burial in this lovely spot, but other plans were made for unknown reasons, preventing the return to New Boston—a minor tragedy, even in death.

New Boston will long remember the young minister who came to town for the summer and remained with us for nearly 40 years.

OUR LIBRARY

In this 75th year of its existence, it is most appropriate to look back and study the beginnings of our library.

As early as 1894 our forebears were giving serious thought to the establishment of a library, for we find that in the warrant for that year an article was included that read, "To see if the Town will vote to establish a Public Library: accept the provisions of Chapter 8, Sections 21-26, of the Public Statutes in such manner as to be entitled to \$100. worth of books from the State; Elect a board of library trustees, raise and appropriate a sum of not less than ——— dollars for the support of the library and otherwise comply with the provisions of said Chapter of the Public Statutes."

Article 14 of the same warrant read, "To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the maintenance of a library in addition to the amount required by the terms of the law."

Evidently no action was taken to establish the library, for the warrant of the March 1896 meeting, under Article 10 was, "To see if the town will vote, 'that it is inexpedient to establish a library' as provided in Sec. 8, Chap. 18, laws of 1895." This article was contained in every warrant from that date until it last appeared in the warrant for 1902. A footnote following the warrant for 1902 gives us the reason for the article.

EXTRACT OF CHAPTER 118, LAWS OF 1895

Sec. 1. The selectmen in each town shall assess annually upon the polls and ratable estate taxable therein, a sum to be computed at the rate of thirty dollars for every dollar of the public taxes apportioned to such town and so for a greater or less sum.

Sec. 8. Any town or library official violating any of the provisions of the preceding sections shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

Whenever a town having no town library, and having made no assessment under the provisions of this act, shall vote that it is inexpedient to establish a library, such action having been taken under a special article inserted in the warrant for the annual town meeting, then the officials of such town shall be exempt from the provisions of this section for one year, thereafter.

Following the fire of May 11, 1887, which burned out the central part of the town, Mr. J. R. Whipple built the business block now occupied by Dodge's Store and at that time known as Valley Hall, since the upper floor was set off as a meeting place for lectures and meetings of various groups.

In that section of the ground floor now occupied by the Post Office, he furnished a room for a library and installed a collection of about 1800 books, with chairs and a table for the benefit of those who would wish to read and relax. A glance through the post office wicket at the mantel of the fireplace will give one an idea of the finish of the room which housed our first Public Library. Privately maintained by Mr. Whipple, it was a free and public library, open to all who wished to use it.

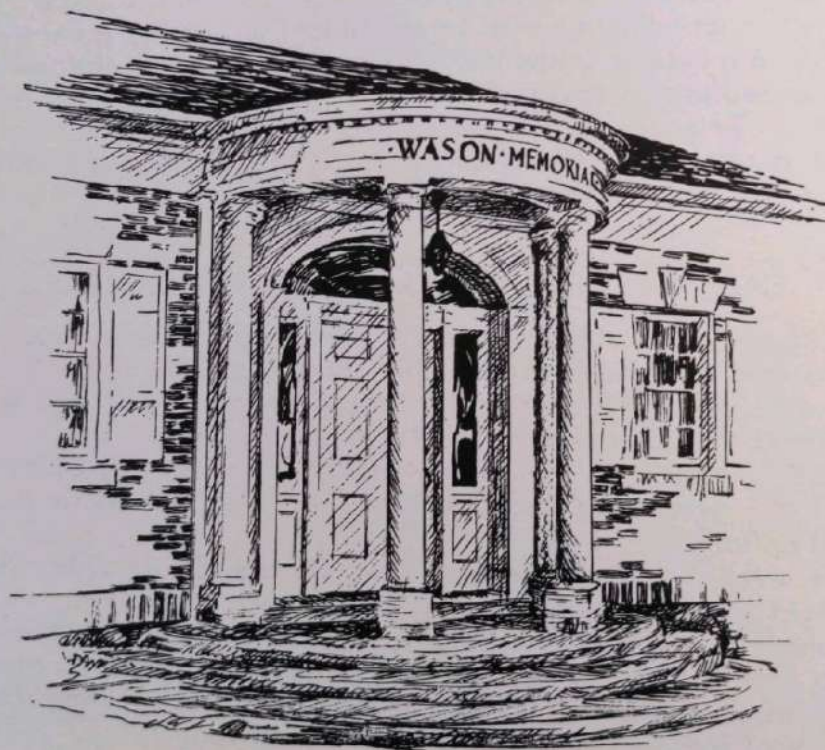
Mr. Whipple died in 1912, and the following year his widow and daughter gave to the town of New Boston the Whipple Free Library. In 1914 the Town Warrant carried an article asking for the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars for the maintenance and use of the Whipple Free Library, now the Town Library.

Mr. Christopher Coleman, Marion Martin and Annie A. Atwood were named as the first Board of Trustees, Miss Mildred Warren taking over for Miss Atwood the summer of 1916.

Miss Shearer, the first librarian, resigned October 1, 1916, and Miss Elsie Warren was appointed to fill the vacancy. She remained as librarian until the end of January 1957.

Mrs. Angie Prince was appointed to the board to fill the vacancy for the balance of the year caused by the death of Mrs. Marion Martin, one of the original trustees.

In their report for the year 1917 the trustees lament the universal craving for works of fiction, "And can but feel it a pity that so many worthwhile books are read only by a few. There are in our library many such which bear



no marks of ever having been taken out." They also make a plea for better handling of the books by the borrowers.

In the year 1918 the Rogers Memorial Library was given to the town. This was a collection of 162 works and was given by Mrs. Charles B. Rogers, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She was a descendant of our town's second minister, commonly known as "Priest Bradford."

At town meeting March 1919, two trustees were elected, one to replace the late Marion Martin, and the other to replace Miss Mildred Warren, resigned. The new appointees were Alice L. Waldo and Charles F. Marden.

The 1920 warrant carried three articles relative to the library.

Art. 3 To see what sum of money the town will raise and appropriate for the use of the Town Library.

Art. 4 To see what action will be taken in relation to insurance on the books, etc. of the Town Library.

Art. 5 To see what action the town will take for the future disposition of the Town Library.

The action on Art. 4 was to raise and appropriate \$175. and on Art. 5 it was decided to leave the decision up to the trustees.

During these years the Library had occupied a room on the ground floor of the store building owned by the J. R. Whipple Company, and through the courtesy of the company had been furnished this room rent free, with heat and lights also provided. By November 1919 the interests of the Whipple Company in this town had been sold, and the new owner had assumed control. Naturally the arrangement with the Whipple Company in regard to heat, light and rent ceased. The new owner, however, Mr. Fred Gilman, generously offered the trustees the use of the library room rent free as long as he was the owner of the building, or until such time as he should notify them of any change. The late Clarence H. Dodge bought the building from Mr. Gilman in July 1920, and he continued to allow the trustees free use of the room. They were responsible for heat and light.

At about this time the pupils of the school began to make more use of the library and the trustees report the loan to the high school of a limited reference library.

In 1921 a conference was held with Miss Grace Kingland, Secretary of State Library Commission in regard to a new cataloguing system, but no action was taken. In 1922 the library suffered the loss of both Mr. Swanson and Mrs. Waldo from the board of trustees. Miss Annie Atwood was appointed to replace Mr. Swanson, and Mrs. Clara Sutherland, to replace Mrs. Waldo.

By 1923 the library was getting a bit crowded for room, and the trustees mentioned in their annual report the immediate installation of two new stacks. The report also stated that they were also prepared to begin the work of cataloguing and classifying, "if the town is disposed to appropriate money to complete the undertaking." In the next year's report they tell of the acquisition of cards and cabinet for card indexing.

In 1926 the valuable reference set of 33 volumes of Provincial and State Papers was placed in the library.

In 1927 the building which now houses the Whipple Free Library was dedicated and given to the town. Known as the Wason Memorial Building, it was built and presented to the town as a memorial to their parents, George A. and Clara L. Wason, by their sons, Edward H., George B. and Robert S.

Wason. This modern brick structure adds beauty to the center of the town and provides safe and convenient quarters for the permanent housing of our library books. A place is reserved for Molly Stark Cannon, and a vault preserves town records. The original selection of books has gradually grown until now it numbers better than 6,000.

In the 75 years of the library service, there have been only six librarians. After 41 years of faithful service Miss Elsie Warren retired and was replaced by Mrs. Rheba Locke, who, in turn, was succeeded by Mrs. Majorie Bose for a period of about 4 years. Our present librarian, Mrs. Nina Cote, is proving an excellent choice, and it is the wish of the trustees that we may long have her with us.

Over the years our library has been fortunate in having had financial assistance to a marked degree. There has never been any argument about the money requested from the town at any annual meeting, and of late years the trustees have been able to hold down their requests due to income from trust funds set up by public spirited citizens.

In 1937 Mrs. Marion Clark, a lifelong resident and friend of the library, set up a fund for support of the library. Incidentally, the library is on the former site of the Clark house, which was moved and is now the residence of Cecil and Mary Marshall.

In 1943 Dr. William H. Dodge set up a trust fund in the amount of \$4000., the income to be used for the purchase of books, and in 1957 he set up another fund for the purchase of books and supplies.

In 1961 we received the sum of \$500. from the estate of the late Byron Smith for current expenses of the library.

In 1929 the name of Harland Shattuck appears as a member of the trustees, followed by Lois Shaw, Laura Hagland, Fred Hodge, Clara Smith, Rheba Locke, Marion Boulter, Doris Isacson, Mary Cann, Edward Locke, Mabel Hodge, James MacPhail and your present reporter, Laurier Michaud.

By Laurier Michaud

HISTORY OF NEW BOSTON SCHOOLS

The first school of New Boston was erected in 1769 near the meeting house known as the Session House. In 1773 the town voted to raise 24 pounds to be used by the selectmen for educational purposes. New Boston was divided into five districts then. In 1788 the town voted to hire "a grammar school master for one year for as little as they could." The school master had to first pass an examination given by Rev. Solomon Moor, Jonathan Gove and Wm. Clark, Esq. This grammar school master was to teach school in all five districts by allotting each district an equal number of days. The school committee in 1792 was composed of Ninian Clark, Matthew Fairfield, Solomon Dodge, James Caldwell and John Cochran, and they were called school overseers, which corresponds to our present-day school board. The town increased until in 1856 there were 18 school districts. The two districts near the center united and built a new building in 1859 on the site where New Boston High School now stands. Many noted citizens of New Boston were educated here. Among them was Rev. Joseph Addison Goodhue. He is remembered for his notable remark about the schools: "They have been to the intellect of her youth what the sun and rain have been to her soil."

BY-LAWS
— OF —
SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 11,
IN THE TOWN OF NEW BOSTON,
ADOPTED DECEMBER 8, 1866.

SECTION 1.—It shall be the duty of the Teacher in this district, at the commencement of each term to assign to each scholar a seat; and no scholar shall leave the seat so assigned, without the consent of the teacher.

SEC. 2.—No person shall with chalk, coal, paint or pencil, write any obscene words, or draw any figures, or in any way discolor, cut, mark, scratch, or injure the school house or any other property of the district.

SEC. 3.—It shall be the duty of the teacher in this district to report to the Prudential Committee all injuries to the school house or other property of the district, together with all facts relative to such injuries as may have come to their knowledge or possession.

SEC. 4.—It shall be the duty of the Prudential Committee, with one legal voter in said district, who shall be chosen at each annual meeting in March, being duly sworn to the faithful performance of the duties of said office, to examine the school house and out-buildings at the close of each term of school, and at all other times when notified of any damage done in violation of these by-laws, appraise such damage (the sum not to be less than one dollar), ascertain the offender, and collect the amount adjudged.

SEC. 5.—Every parent, guardian, or other person who shall send any minor scholar to school in said district, shall be liable for every trespass or injury done by said minor to the school house or other property of the district.

SEC. 6.—No scholar shall chew or smoke tobacco in or about the school house.


On May 11, 1887, the school building was destroyed along with many others in the big village fire. At a special school meeting on August 11 of the same year, it was voted to build, at a cost of \$3,000., a new schoolhouse on the same lot and of the same design. This is the same building that stands today, although it has been altered many times over the years.

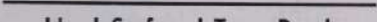
MAP OF NEW BOSTON


New Hampshire


Prepared for
THE PLANNING BOARD OF NEW BOSTON
by
NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

LEGEND

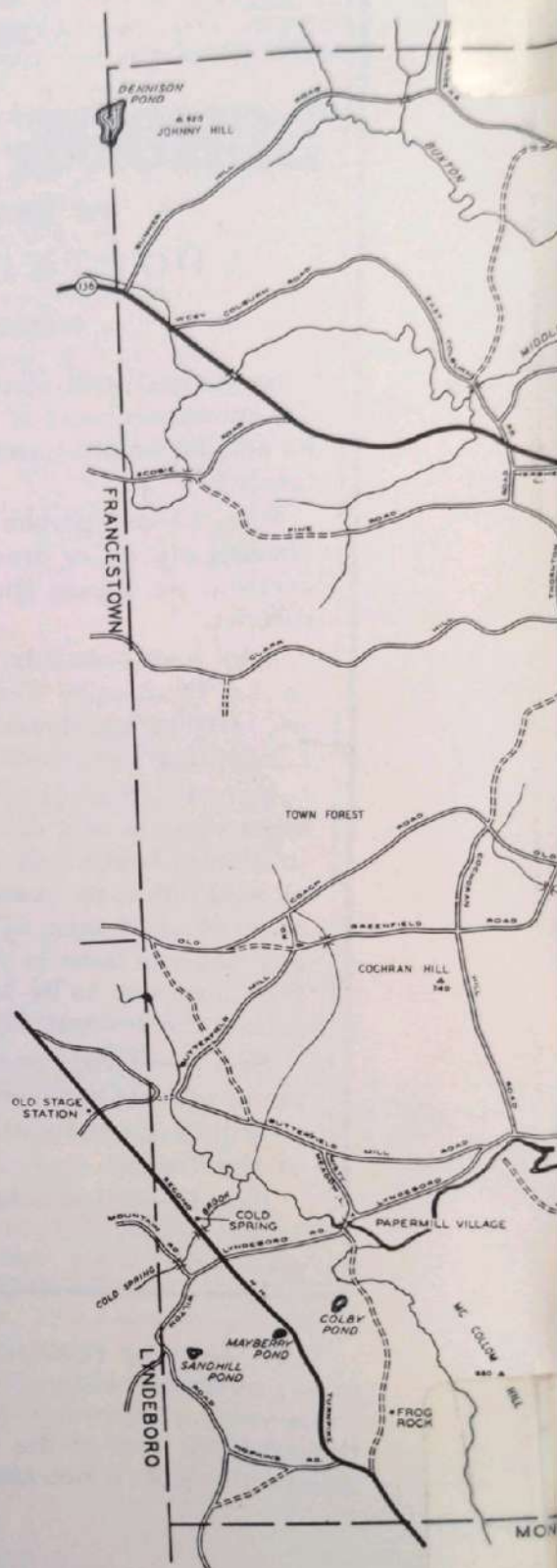
 First Class Numbered State Routes

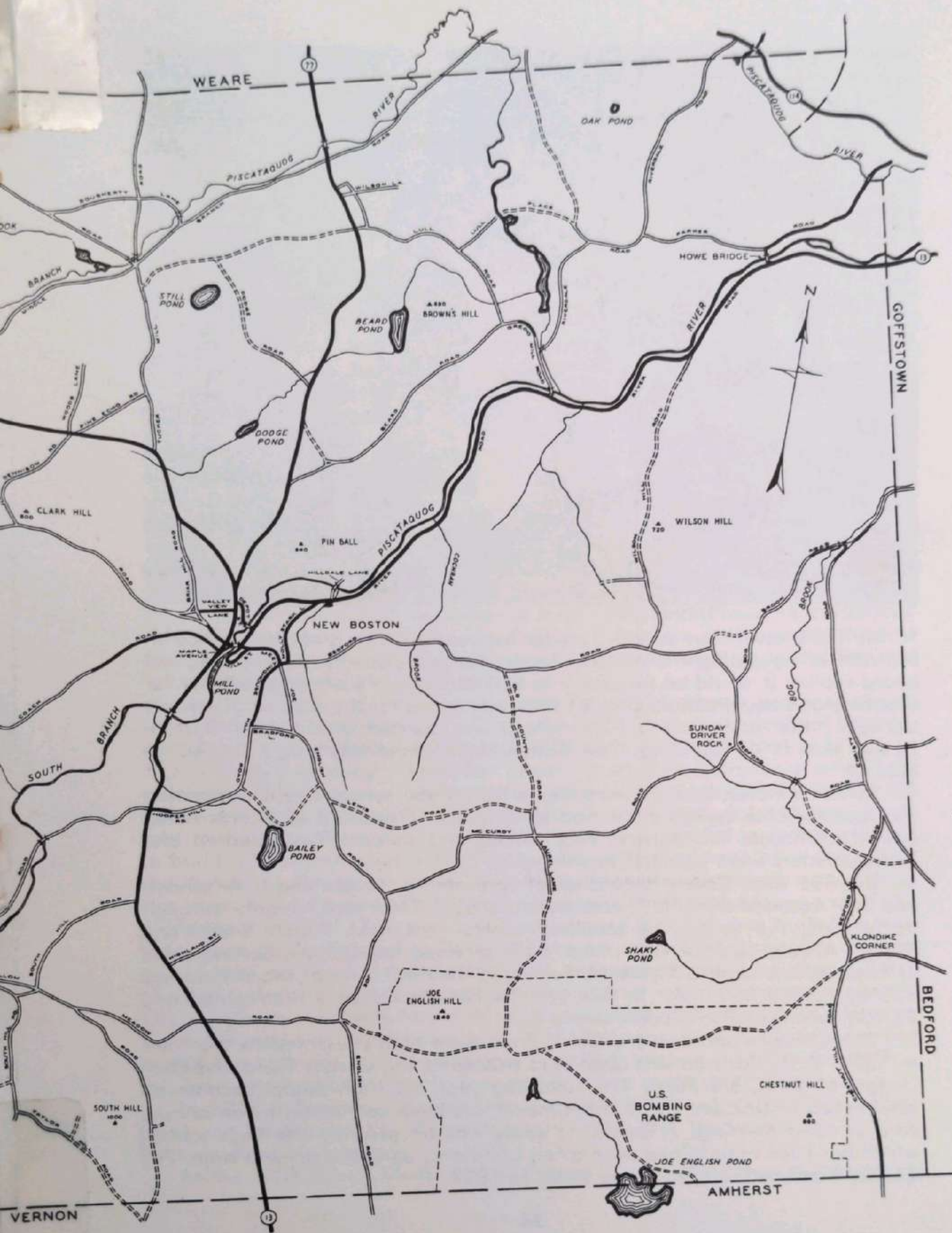
 Hard Surfaced Town Road

 Improved Gravel Road

 Unimproved Road

January 1958





MAP OF NEW BOSTON New Hampshire

Prepared for
THE PLANNING BOARD OF NEW BOSTON
by
NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

LEGEND

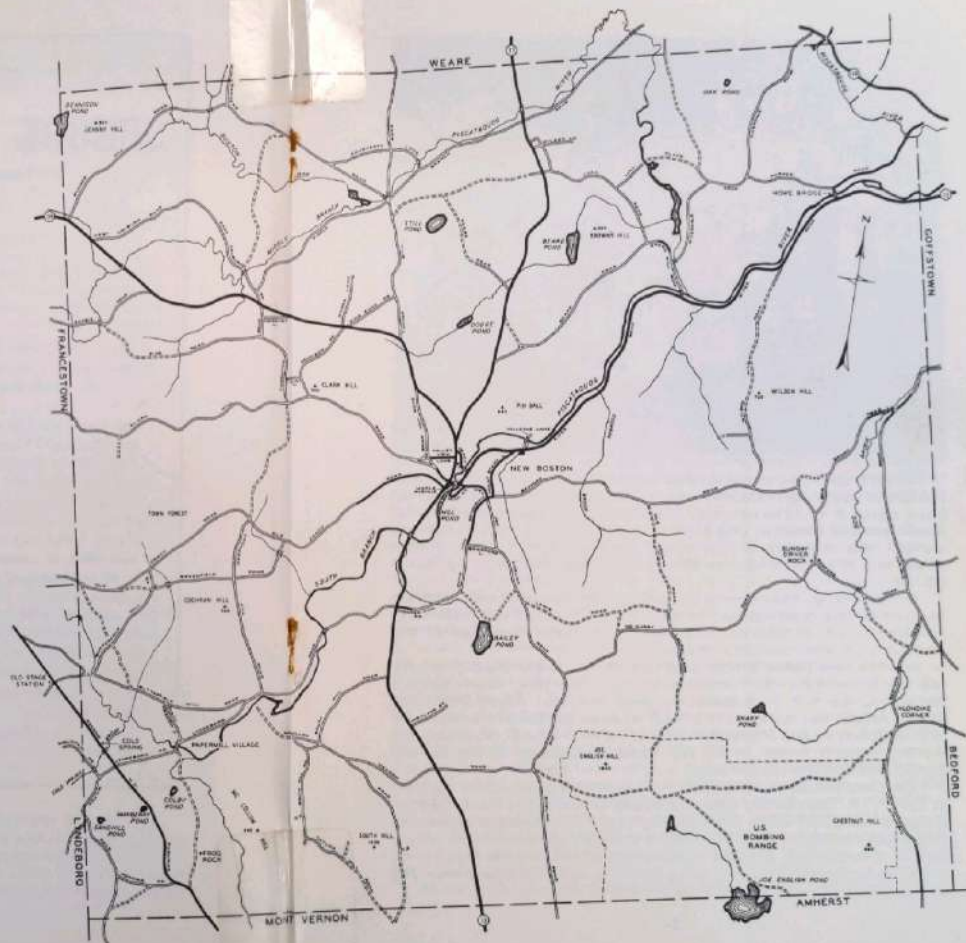
First Class Numbered State Routes

Hard Surfaced Town Road

Improved Gravel Road

Unimproved Road

January 1958





In 1891 seventeen school districts existed, but the great difference in the cost of educating the scholars in the several districts made the school board realize it would be necessary to consolidate some of these schools for economy and equalization. Only \$1,288. was raised for the support of schools in 1891, the first year a high school was carried on in New Boston. In this year of its founding, New Boston High School was taught by George Hadley.

In 1892 eleven schools were supported by the school board, indicating that considerable consolidation had taken place. The board also constructed new schoolhouses for districts two, fifteen and sixteen. Two hundred and thirty scholars were enrolled in this year.

In 1893 Miss Covell, a teacher of rare ability, taught the high school, and her accomplishments "were outstanding." This year, mainly through her efforts, the first prize speaking contest was held. Albert Shedd and Russell Atwood tied for first place. Each received five dollars. Second prize of three dollars went to Myrtle M. Felch and the third prize of two dollars was won by Fannie B. Prince. In this year twelve schools were maintained and \$2,400. was raised to support them.

The Christy Fund and the Clark Fund were both presented to the town in 1894. T. A. Cochran was appointed trustee of the Christy Fund and Eben Dodge, of the Clark Fund. The following year the high school became an established institution. Up to this time, it had been carried on by an annual vote at town meeting. A course of study was adopted by the high school, which has been maintained, with a few additions, up to the present time. The Christy Fund netted the schools \$288. in 1897.

In 1898 nine schools were supported by the town, including the high school. In some districts a great deal of roughness and tardiness occurred. The total cost of schools this year was \$3,081., with over 300 scholars enrolled. Miss Mildred C. Warren was a faithful principal for five years, resigning in 1903.

The record of 1899 shows some interesting items. A class of seventeen passed the examination and entered high school. District school number 6 had no tardy marks through its three terms this year. The school board decided to close No. 15 "as it was not profitable to run it." The cost of all the schools this year was \$3,235.

The next year the school board asked that more money be appropriated so that they could retain the best teachers and hire better replacements. Total expenditures for 1900 dropped to \$2,906.

In 1905 vocal music was introduced under the direction of Chester Mason.

In 1912 the State Board of Health prohibited the use of public drinking cups in school buildings.

In 1923 an Agricultural Course was introduced under the leadership of Headmaster Clement A. Lyon. At that time a domestic science course was desired by many, but this program was delayed until 1939. During that summer (1939) the third floor was finished off to provide a new room for that purpose.

The first issue of the school yearbook was published in 1927. The editor was Webster Burnham and the purpose of the paper was to tell the activities of the high school year. Of all the names suggested by the students, the name, "Joe English Echo" received the most votes, and it became the official title of the annual yearbook. Joe English Echos are still being published each year by the senior class. In this year, also, Mrs. Katherine Bartlett was hired to teach music. She is still with us in 1963.

Between 1930 and 1935 the few outlying district schools had been closed and all students came in to the village school. To illustrate the rate of change, compare the 18 district buildings of 1856 with 8 in 1922 and only one in 1935. Then a growing population began to produce increasing school enrollments. The busy war years of the early 1940's took priority over local school problems, although the steady growth continued. A large amount of controversy occurred in the late 40's when the district tried to decide whether to build a new four room school or to remodel the cement barn for school use. Since no agreement could be reached for either proposal, compromise was in order, and a new first grade building was built at the lower end of the playground in 1951. Two years later another unit school was built to house the second grade. Finally, in 1955, the new central school for grades 3-6 was constructed on the hill behind the first and second grade buildings. After years of indecision and disagreement, the district was once more in accord. The motion to build was favorable on a voice vote, but when the ballot vote for the money was announced, a roar of happy approval went up from the crowd. The vote was 166 for, and only 1 against. Later it was determined that this lone vote had been cast in fun, perhaps as a measure of good luck.

In 1957 a Business Education course was introduced, and a high school band was organized the following year under the leadership of Vincent Ferdinando of Manchester.

At the 1958 School Meeting it was voted to appoint a committee to study

the educational needs of the schools, including consolidation and tuition. Because of conflicting thoughts on the school situation, it was felt that it would be best to hire an independent educational consultant to discover the best method of solving the future problems of the high school.

At an adjournment of the 1961 Annual Meeting it was voted to have the School Board petition the Superior Court to discontinue New Boston High School. The School District would then pay tuition of all high school pupils to any approved comprehensive public high school. The petition was granted, to be effective July 1, 1962, but it was rescinded by the Superior Court before this date. At the 1962 Annual Meeting the District reversed its former vote to discontinue by a substantial margin, and the high school was never officially closed.

This year, 1963, the interior of the high school building was redecorated, and new fire doors were installed. The attic stairs were reconstructed and the attic is now a new classroom. The bookroom was made into a teachers' room and the office was enlarged.

New Boston has many sons and daughters of whom to be proud who received their education in the New Boston schools.

By Virginia Davis and Justine Gagnon

NEW BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

The department was formed in May of 1872 by a group of men who felt it their duty to do something about trying to save property from fires.

They named the newly formed department the "Constitution No. 2." There seems to be no reason why it was named "No. 2" unless, perhaps, there had been an earlier company of which no records are in existence. Through the years the department has been known as the Constitution No. 2, the Engine Company and the N. B. F. B., but today the by-laws show it as the "Constitution Co. No. 2, also known as the New Boston Fire Department."

When the company was formed they had their by-laws and rules as we do today. Although there have been many changes, the present company still operates under some of the old original by-laws.

When the company was founded, anyone could become a member as long as he was voted in by the company. There was no limit on the number of members at first, but this rule has been changed many times. Today, we have a membership of thirty-five regular members.

Shortly after the company was organized, the Constitution No. 2 Hand Tub was purchased, which we still proudly exhibit on special occasions and use in muster competition.

G. H. Chandler was the first foreman of the company. In those days the top officers were: foreman and assistant foreman; today, the same leaders are: captain and first lieutenant.

In May of 1878 it was voted to buy a bell to put on the Hand Tub. The cost of the bell was not to exceed \$15., and it is still on the Tub today.

The alarm system that was used was the schoolhouse bell, and at the time of the big village fire, the Paul Revere bell in the old Meeting House on the hill, as mentioned in another article. In 1889 they started to use the steam whistle at the Whipple Creamery for alarm. Today we have a siren and also the Red Phone Network. After the creamery business was discontinued,

the school and church bells came back into service for this purpose. For a period, too, when the central phone office was in operation, it was customary to sound one long ring on all telephones as a warning of fire. This worked extremely well, since those who answered were immediately told the location and extent of the fire by the operator.

In the old days our company had many "water throwing" contests, as they called them, with the Goffstown company. In October of 1894 the company went to Nashua for their first firemen's muster. They hired a special flatcar and made the round trip by train, one of many similar excursions later undertaken with good success.

In 1925 the town bought its first motorized truck, a Reo pumper. Through the years we have had several trucks redesigned and adapted to our needs by local citizens. Today we have three trucks, two equipped with portable pumps and large water tanks, a radio system and most of the equipment needed for fire fighting.

In 1900 the company voted to have an Honorary List of firemen. We still have the original list, and many additional names have been added to it. Harry S. Colby, one of the founders, heads the list.

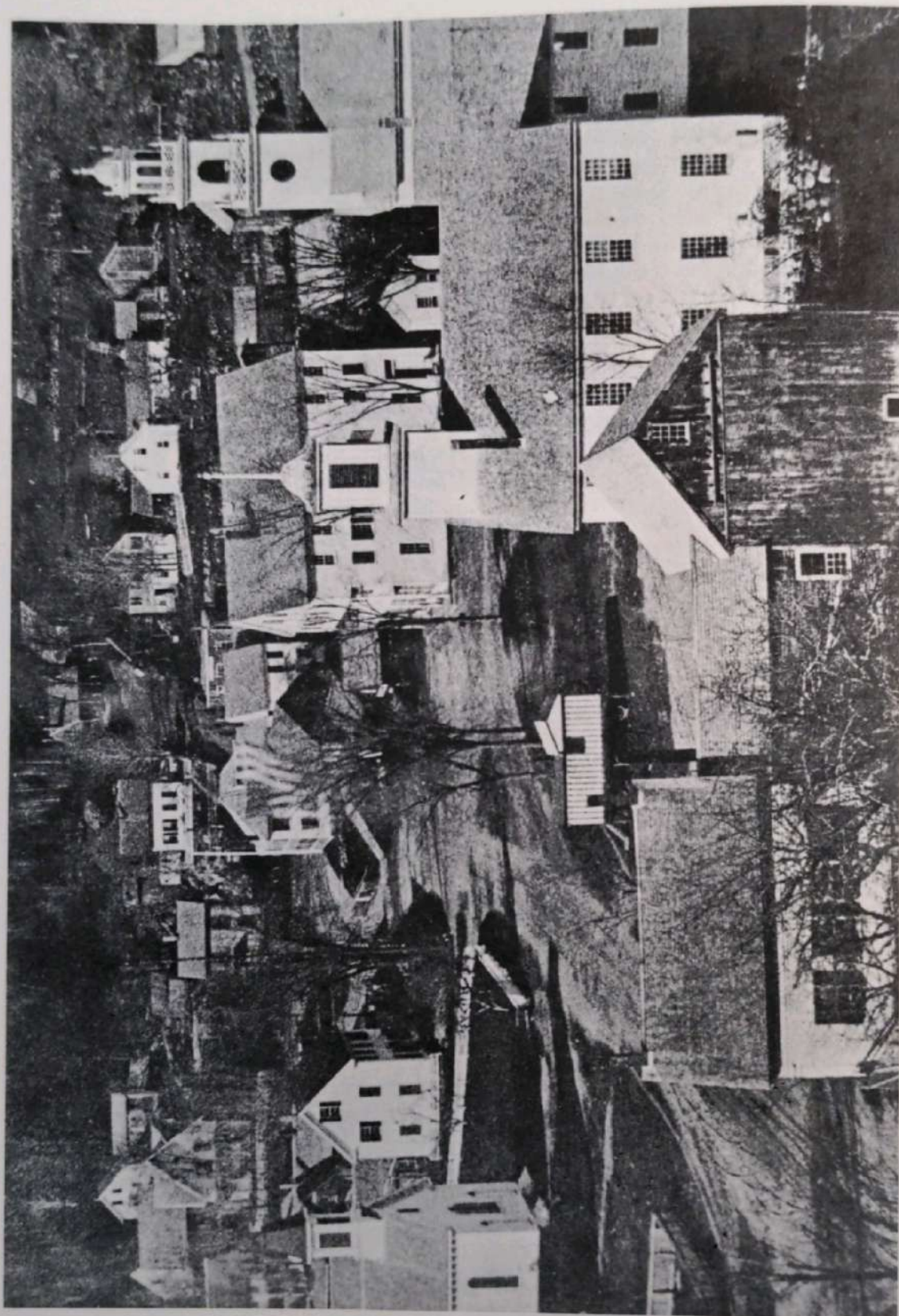
New Boston has had a number of bad fires, but the village fire of 1887 was by far the worst. The following is a record of this disaster taken from the old company records just as they were written down:

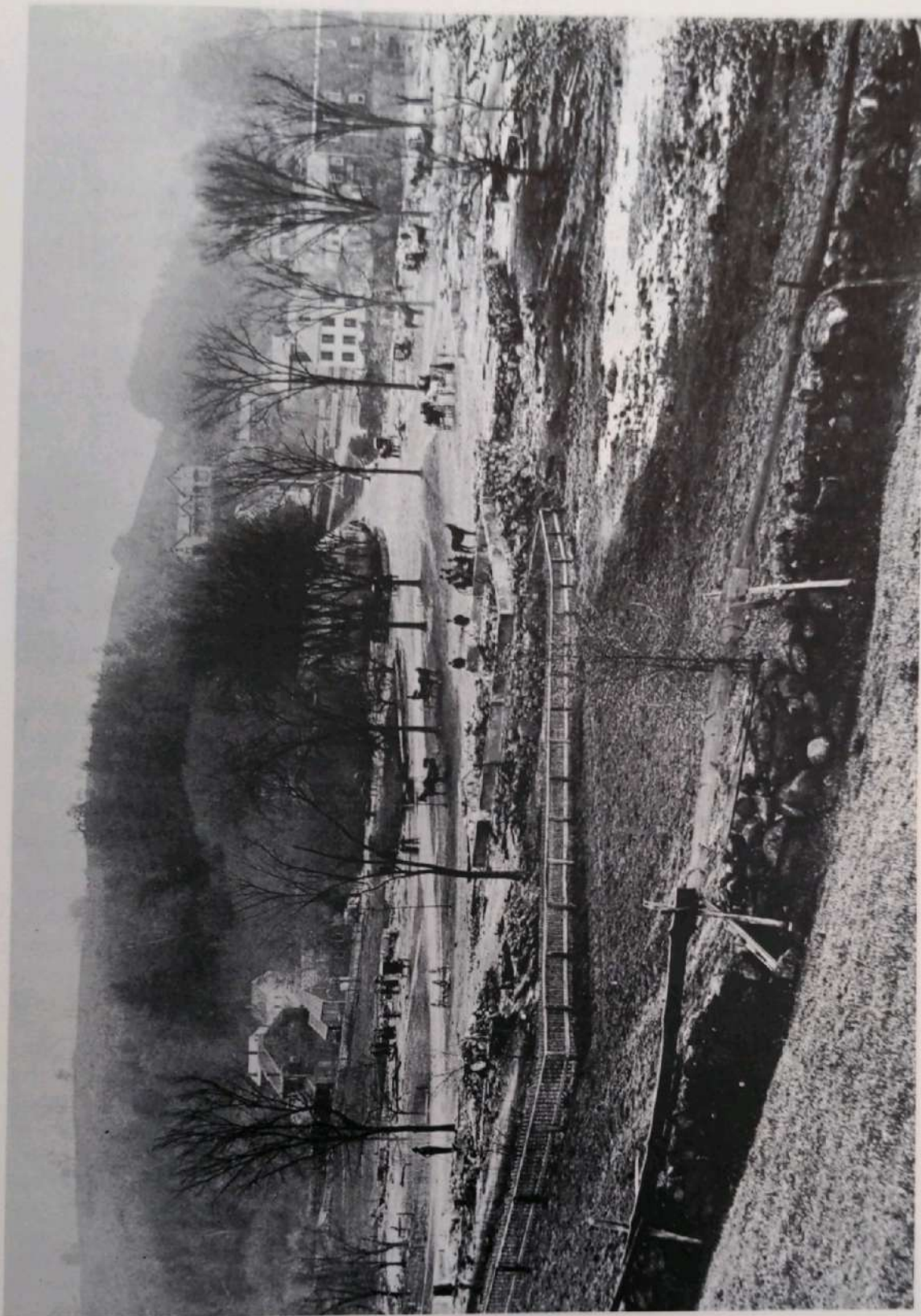
"On May 11, 1887 an alarm of fire was given at 12:00 o'clock noon. The fire was in an old barn of S. D. Atwood's and was supposed to have caught by a spark from Abram Wason's steam shop close by. The company with engine was promptly on hand and done all that was possible for them to do.

The fire was so hot that it burnt holes in the leading hose so that it was



New Boston Fire Department at Boston





impossible to throw water with any force. There being a strong northwest wind, the fire spread rapidly, leaping from one building to another, and in an hour and a half the following buildings had fallen in: S. D. Atwood's store and outbuildings, J. W. McLane's blacksmith shop; dwellings of Neil and McLane, Nancy McLane, Abram Wason, Henry Farley, J. P. Tuttle and Harriet McNeil; the Baptist Church and Chapel, Engine House, Town House, Schoolhouse and Presbyterian Church and Parsonage.

A message was sent to Goffstown for help. They responded with 150 men and an engine, but not in time to be of any practical help, only to play on the ruins. The loss of property by this fire is estimated to be fifty thousand dollars. Signed Will A. Woodbury, clerk."

by Robert A. Bose

As a companion article to the above we quote parts of the story, written by Harland and Winifred Brown, that was printed on the inside cover of our 1956 Town Report. It adds a number of interesting details about the old hand tub:

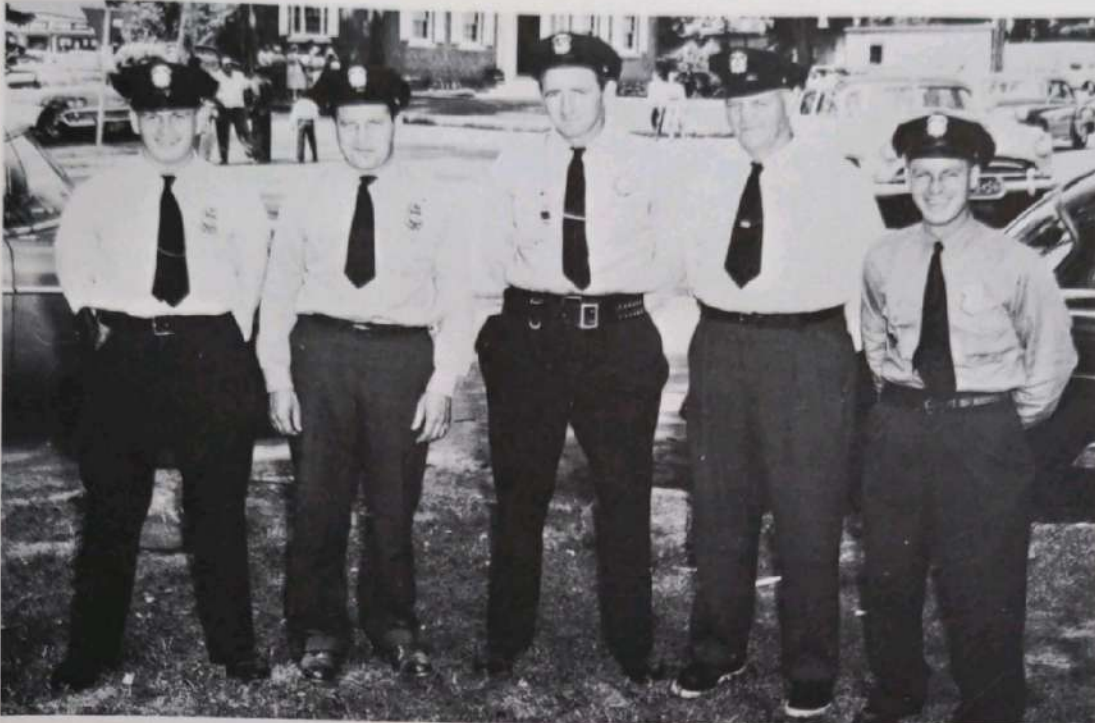
"When the Salem, Massachusetts Fire Department purchased its first steam engines, their Hunneman hand tub became the property of New Boston. This tub was made in Boston, Massachusetts in 1852, and at that time was considered one of the finest pieces of hand fire equipment available. It required fifty men to pump her. Records show that New Boston pumpers could throw a stream of water, after passing through one-hundred-fifty feet of hose, a distance of two-hundred-nineteen feet. The tub was drawn by either men or a pair of horses.

In addition to her practical value in fighting fires, Constitution No. 2 has participated in many Firemen's Musters. One of the high lights in her history was going to Boston with her entire company as guests of Mr. J. R. Whipple, September 23, 1896. A special train was used for the trip. After parading through the streets of Boston, she competed against many other noted New England hand tubs, and records prove she made a creditable performance. For over fifty years Constitution No. 2 was New Boston's main fire fighting equipment.

On the Fifty Year Revival of "The Old Time Firemen's Muster in New Hampshire" loyal workers cooperated to recondition and redecorate the Constitution No. 2. On September 3, 1956 she was in the Firemen's Parade in Manchester and from there went to compete against other hand tubs at Pine Island Park. Due to a defective part, she was eliminated in the trial run, however, with the enthusiasm and spirit of local citizens, it is believed that Constitution No. 2. will yet prove her merit in future musters just as she has done in the past."

That prophesy has proven to be most accurate, as she has won a number of cash prizes at musters since then under the sponsorship of the Constitution Hand Tub Association, organized to care for and exhibit this venerable relic.





HISTORY OF THE NEW BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

At the first town meeting, on March 10, 1763, Thomas Wilson was elected the town's first constable. At that time constables were elected by votes at town meetings, but after 1870 they were appointed by the selectmen.

Through the years the roster of New Boston's constables has lengthened with over 50 men having served in this capacity. 100 years ago in 1863, George Shedd held that office, and in 1913, at the 150th anniversary, Bernard F. Porter was constable. In 1953 the title of constable was changed to Chief of Police. In our bi-centennial year, 1963, George St. John is the Chief of Police.

Besides keeping law and order, it was also the duty of the constable to care for tramps and dogs. In 1876 John Gregg was paid \$57.15 for a tramp house and furniture, and in that year 97 tramps were cared for by the town. That is the first record of any town building being used for the care of tramps. The story goes that this building had been a cobbler's shop in the Upper village located along the brook between the houses owned by Roger Griswold and Howard Kane. It is quite possible that this building survived the big fire of 1887, since it was well protected by a row of horsesheds.

At the town meeting of 1892 it was voted to see if the town would build a "lock-up," but as this also appeared in the warrant of 1893's town meeting, we assume that it wasn't built until that year. This so called jail was built into the tramp house and was used until it was sold by the town in 1947 to Harold Todd. At the present time this building is owned by Carl Friedrich and situated on land near his home on Thornton Road.

By Charles and Rena Davis

THE MIZPAH CIRCLE

The Mizpah Circle was established in 1869. The first officers were: President, Mrs. Clara Hill Wason; Vice-President, Ella J. Farley; Treasurer and Secretary, Mrs. Lena Woodward; Directors, Mrs. M. A. Clark and Mrs. Carrie Cromby.

Due to the fire of 1887, which destroyed the church and all records of the Mizpah Circle, the only information we have been able to find up until the year 1888 is contained in a letter written by a member. This letter is undated and unsigned, but we find it to be most enlightening and interesting. It reads as follows:

"The first Circles that we have any knowledge of in this town in connection with this church were held about fifty-two years ago in private homes. Once in two weeks during the evenings of the winter months, the people gathered in large numbers. Fee was five cents for gentlemen, three cents for ladies. Even with this small admission, at the end of the season, quite a sum of money had been gathered, which they used for beautifying the church. The handsome chandelier in the church on the hill, costing ninety dollars, the red silk damask drapery for the high pulpit, costing a hundred, were paid for by these Circles.

Later Circles were held in the afternoons in the homes of Circle members. Since my remembrance they were usually at the home of Mrs. Waterman Burr, daughter of the Late Rev. E. P. Bradford and mother of Mrs. Charles Rogers. At these meetings they sewed and made articles of clothing for the Five Points House of Industry, New York, occasionally sending a box to some missionary. As the times changed and our numbers lessened, at the instigation of Miss Lottie Adams, the present Mizpah Circle was started about thirty years ago for our own church work. We cannot give the exact dates as our records were burned in the terrible conflagration of 1887.

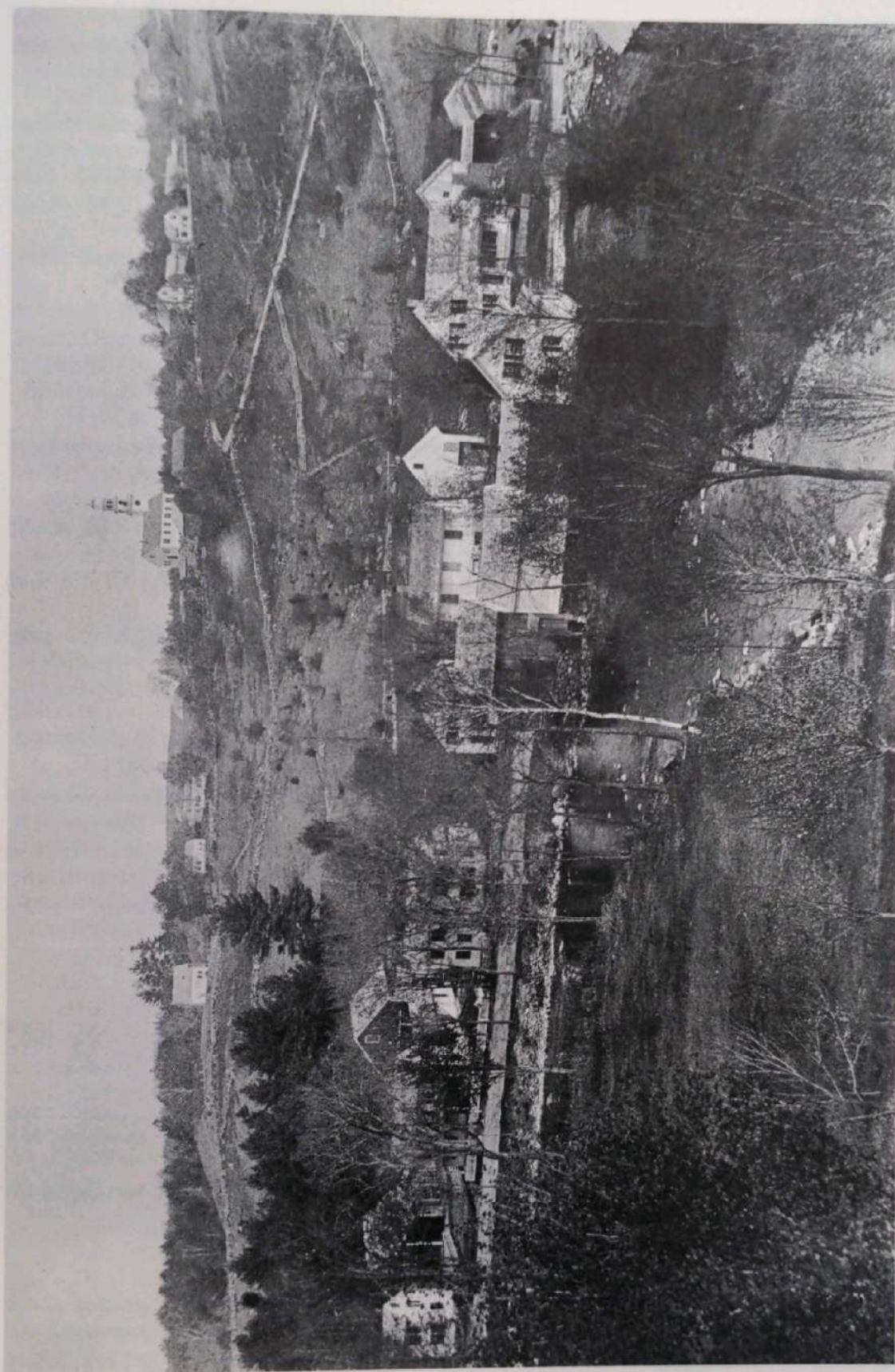
Our first president was Mrs. George A. Wason; treasurer, Mrs. Laura Woodward. About this time a Circle was started for the children called, "The Willing Workers." All money earned by them was turned into the treasury of the Mizpah Circle. Like any other organization, we have had our joys and sorrows. Our hardest financial blow was when all that we had been gathering was destroyed by fire. The reaper, Death, is calling for our members each year leaving many vacant places and sad hearts.

We have held our annual summer fairs for twenty-seven years and our Christmas sales for fifteen years.

Now I will mention a few of the things that we have done in the last twenty years. In 1892 we painted the church at an expense of \$61.62 and bought an organ for the vestry costing \$60.00.

In 1894-95 we paid the balance of the debt on the parsonage amounting to \$400.00. In 1897 we built Kingsbury Parlor at an expense of \$500.00, in addition to the furnishings which cost \$200.00 and were given by Joseph Whipple. We were obliged to borrow \$200.00 to finish our parlor. This would show we were again in debt. 1902 we painted the church and parsonage at an expense of \$235.00.

I have given you the larger items, but it should be born in mind that we have frequent calls for money. Until within a few years we have paid from ten to twenty-five dollars for entertainment for our fairs, and the amount expended for our working material would surprise the novice. We have



purchased contribution plates at an expense of \$10.50; silver knives, forks and spoons costing \$30.00, and our goodly number of dishes kept at the Town Hall with the Baptist people in a cupboard purchased by both societies, our half costing \$8.00. All organizations find these very useful.

We have kept the organs in tune, clock cleaned, built an extra platform to be used at S. S., concrete costing \$5.00, repairing concrete, keeping curtains in order, cleaning the Church, which last year cost us \$15.77. Furnishing one dozen singing books, chairs, flower stands, vases and other thing too numerous to mention.

Our success as a Circle seems to be due to the scriptural injunction, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."

We now number 30 members. A friend and member of this church has made it possible for us to hold a rummage sale, date will be announced later. We ask for your aid and hearty cooperation when we see the need of shingling, recarpeting, recushioning and decorating the walls of our church. It shows our very great need of money."

Circle work was dropped for a time due to World War I needs, but on Friday, September 30, 1919, the Mizpah Circle was reorganized, and Mrs. Hattie Sheldon was elected president.

Mrs. Shledon was president of the Circle until September 12, 1940, when she resigned due to ill health. These 21 years of faithful and devoted service can stand as a fitting memorial to Mrs. Sheldon, who revived the Circle and quietly led it through so many years of fruitful endeavor.

The Circle continued doing everything it could to help the Church and Community. During World War II the ladies of the Circle temporarily shelved their local duties and directed their energies to the war effort, particularly to the Red Cross and its various activities.

Space does not permit us to relate all that has happened through the years, but this article would not be complete were mention not made of Mrs. Beulah Hayes, our president from 1958 to 1963. Under her energetic leadership, the Circle has installed a flood light in front of the church, helped finance the new oil burner in the church, painted the exterior of the Church and the Parish House, contracted for new toilet facilities in the church, made new kitchen curtains and new drapes for Kingsbury Parlor, installed a hot water heater, a stainless steel sink and painted the kitchen. In addition, they have planted attractive shrubbery in front of the church.

Presidents of the Circle and their years of service follow:

Mrs. Clara Hill Wason	1869-	Mrs. Elizabeth Prince	1948-1949
Mrs. Neil McLean	1888-1908	Mrs. Hazel Michaud	1949-1954
Mrs. Lendell Dodge	1908-	Mrs. Theresa Mehlhorn	1954-1956
Mrs. Hattie Sheldon	1919-1940	Mrs. Ruth Kirsch	1956-1957
Mrs. Augusta Bartlett	1940-1946	Mrs. Josephine Byam	1957-1958
Mrs. Katherine Boulter	1946-1948	Mrs. Beulah Hayes	1958-1963
Mrs. Wanda Gendron	1963-		

By Mrs. Wanda Gendron

THE NEW BOSTON Y. M. C. A.

The New Boston Young Men's Christian Association was organized some time in the spring of 1869, since the record shows that a meeting was held April 2, 1869. There were 33 signatures to the Constitution and By-laws,

and others are mentioned in the records, although no mention is made of their joining the association. More or less friction must have developed among the members, for the following resolution was adopted May 6, 1872:

"Whereas, Mr. Wm. H. Bossom has repeatedly neglected, or refused to read notices of regular meetings placed in his hands by the secretary,

Resolved: That his name be dropped from the roll and he be suspended from membership until he shall make acknowledgement before the Board of Managers."

A committee was chosen to inform Mr. Bossom of this action of the association. Nothing further in regard to this resolution is recorded. According to the records, this association must have done considerable good in the town, holding two Sunday schools, courses of lectures and making plans for a library, which was never completed. The last recorded meeting was dated October 21, 1872.

It is interesting to note the names of the officers and other officials: President, J. S. Edwards; vice-president, J. K. Whipple; corresponding and recording secretary, Chas. H. Shedd; treasurer, Geo. Adams; librarian, Fred H. Bradford. The directors were: John N. Dodge, John Atwood, William Cochran, Nathan Farley, Jr. Members of the standing committee were; J. P. Todd, S. D. Atwood, Eben Dodge, D. F. Shedd, Richard Batten, Jr., Geo. A. Adams, Chas. (F) Dodge and Geo. Langdell

By Laurier Michaud

HISTORY OF JOE ENGLISH GRANGE 1875-1963

On March 5, 1875, several of the leading citizens of New Boston met at the town hall to organize a Grange. Meeting with them was Christopher C. Shaw, N. H. State Secretary, who came over from Milford to help establish Joe English Grange #53. Those that signed up that night were considered charter members. 25 men and 21 women signed, and 15 of these members were initiated—fee, \$1.00.

George A. Wason was elected master, John F. Marden, secretary and Alfred Campbell, treasurer. It is most important to note that worthy brother George A. Wason was the second State Master of the New Hampshire Grange. The honor of holding this high office at that time shows in what great esteem Mr. Wason was held all over the state. The members of Joe English Grange must have been very proud to have had him as one of their leaders.

Here is a partial list of the first officers and other charter members of Joe English Grange which was prepared for the 150th anniversary celebration held in 1913:

George A. Wason	Master	Alfred Campbell	Treasurer
Clara L. Wason	Ceres	Thomas R. Cochran	Lecturer
John M. Holt	Overseer	John F. Marden	Secretary
Benjamin Goodhue	Chaplain		
Caroline Goodhue	Almira F. Cochran	Mary C. Marden	
William E. Andrews	Lydia A. Andrews	Moses A. Dane	
Alfred Read	Eunice E. Read	Joseph S. Tucker	
Lendell Dodge	Ellen O. Dodge	Ira Gage	
David Butterfield	Benj. F. Woodbury	Edward P. Morgan	

At the second meeting 21 new members joined, and it was decided to hold the monthly meetings on or before the full of the moon. Numerous difficulties arose, however, as the meetings proved to be most irregular. Often

there were more special and adjourned meetings than regular ones, so this practice was discontinued. Many of the meetings during these early years were all day or all afternoon sessions rather than just in the evening.

Originally the by-laws of Souhegan Grange of Amherst, with a few changes, were adopted. Later these were replaced with by-laws patterned after Peterborough.

It's interesting to review some early "firsts." The first Pomona meeting was held here on February 15, 1878. The fee at that meeting was \$1.00—now it is only 50 cents. The Pomona Grange has been meeting here once a year ever since. At first the Pomona members brought their lunches, and our grange served coffee. Later dinners or suppers were served by the local grange at a cost of .25-.35, but these prices could not withstand gradual inflation over the years. When they finally reached \$1.25, the dinners were abandoned. Today, a lunch is served after the meeting at the original dinner price of .25.

The first gift to Joe English Grange was an altar, given by John M. Holt. The first musical instrument purchased by the Grange was an organ bought in 1877 at a cost of \$65.

One of the most important activities of the first years of the Grange was the buying of commodities in wholesale lots for the benefit of the members. It first was the practice to purchase from one to three carloads of shorts (grain feed for cattle). These cars were unloaded at Parkers Station and the shorts were hauled to New Boston by horses. Later, molasses, soap, raisins, grass seed and paris green (used for spraying potato bugs) were added to the list of wholesale purchases. Apparently an early forerunner of farm cooperatives, this business grew to such an extent that a store was partitioned off in the lower town hall, and later a building was bought for the purpose of storing these goods. The last record of this activity mentions that candy was added to the list of purchases—perhaps when the other goods were moved from the lower hall to the new building. No record exists showing when this business was terminated, but the story goes that those who had charge ate so much candy the profits were lost, and the business ended.

In 1892 Bro. Fred C. Brown had charge of arranging and publishing the first printed program of Joe English Grange. These were the activities for the year 1892:

- Feb. 12. Practical talk on horses and their care. George Muzzy, H. H. J. Read; select readings by C. A. Prince, Nora B. F. Read; music by May L. Chandler.
- Feb. 26. Question Box; recitation by E. H. Dodge; reading by Mrs. Mabel Buchanan; music by Ella J. Farley.
- Mar. 11. An evening with Whittier, arranged by Chas. Colburn.
- Mar. 25. Entertainment arranged by the married members, committee, H. H. J. Read, Mrs. Minnie Mudgett, Ansel Buchanan.
- Apr. 8. Question: Resolved that it is more profitable to raise corn than to buy it. William Woodbury, T. R. Cochran; reading by Cyrus Goodwin; music by chorus.
- Apr. 22. Dialogue, arranged by Overseer; music by Evelyn Smith.
- May 6. Box Party, committee, C. A. Prince, May L. Chandler.
- May 20. Patron's Journal by Cora L. Fiske; select readings by Chas. F. Marden, George H. Mansfield.

- June 10. Entertainment by the unmarried members; committee, Fred C. Brown, S. Olive Marden, Geo. H. Mansfield.
- June 24. To be assigned.
- July 8. Question: Does the prosperity of the Grange depend more upon the financial than upon the educational features? G. A. Wason, Ansel Buchanan; select readings by George P. Bennett, Maggie Bushee; music by Nora Read.
- July 22. An evening with Will Carlton, arranged by H. D. Gould.
- Aug. 5. Question: What can be most profitable managed, a large or small farm? Chas. S. Colburn, H. H. J. Read; reading by Geo. W. Bennett; music by May L. Chandler.
- Aug. 19. Patron's Journal by Alice Read; reading by Minnie Mudgett; music by chorus.
- Sept. 2. Essay by Mabel Buchannan; roll call, each member to repeat a proverb; music by Ella J. Farley.
- Sept. 16. Impromptu speech by Joseph Lash; readings by Cyrus Goodwin, S. Olive Marden, Mrs. H. D. Gould.
- Sept. 30. Exhibition and discussion of bread and pastry by the ladies.
- Oct. 14. Exhibition of farm products and discussion of the same.
- Nov. 4. To be assigned.
- Nov. 18. Leap Year Supper, committee, Ellen O. Dodge, Mrs. Wm. Woodbury, Mrs. Minnie Mudgett, Mrs. Emma Bennett.
- Dec. 2. Election of officers.
- Dec. 16. Question: Is the Pomona Grange a benefit to the subordinate grange? If so, why? G. A. Wason, H. H. J. Read.
- Dec. 30. Review of the year.
- A new altar, a station for the Chaplain and the Bible were purchased this same year.

The first Scholarships for New Hampshire University were given in 1907. Nearly every year since some worthy student has benefited by this program. The Home Community Welfare Committee was unknown in the early days of the Grange, but that sort of constructive work was accomplished in various ways. One interesting item on the record was the collection of \$9.50 to assist a family stricken with sickness. In addition to the fund, men of the grange turned out and hoed the sick member's garden until he could care for it himself. On several occasions the Grange has sponsored a "pantry party" to bring aid to worthy fellow townespeople in temporary distress, stocking the larder with needed provisions.

In 1883 a Gen. Deputy made the first official visit to Joe English Grange, but regular fall visits did not start until five years later in 1898. A member of the State Grange did call unofficially in 1883 to explain the unwritten ritual.

It is interesting to note the different prices of the hall rent over the years. In 1882 the hall was hired every Friday afternoon and evening for .25 cents. There was an extra charge of .12 cents when a fire was needed. Two years later the price was \$10.00 annually. In 1891 the charge became .50 cents per night. Eight years later, in 1899, the charge was again on an annual basis at \$36. Increasing over the years, the present charge is \$114. a year for hours 8-11, with one dollar added for each extra hour.

The fire of 1887 destroyed all property of the Grange kept in the town

hall, but fortunately, the records were saved, being in the keeping of various officers. New equipment had to be purchased, and neighboring granges were most helpful in this time of need. Uncanoonuc Grange of Goffstown contributed \$10. and what extra regalia they had; Amoskeag of Manchester sent a gift of \$20. and \$5.00 was contributed by John Hancock Grange. New dishes and a new organ were bought in 1899.

Down through the years, "The Traveling Gavel," "The Record Book" and "The Little Red Schoolhouse" have each visited our grange in their rounds of the state. One of the largest meetings on record was held in June, 1933, with an attendance of 312. Pomona Grange has a "Go To Church Sunday" each year, and our members are invited at this time. The first invitation Joe English Grange received to attend church in a body was in 1908.

In 1940 our Worthy Master, Francis Dodge, was chosen a Deputy of the N. H. State Grange—the only member of Joe English Grange to be honored with this office.

In 1942 an honor certificate was presented by the State Lecturer for work done by Past Lecturer, C. B. Leavitt. 1943 was a banner year under the leadership of Bro. Leavitt. The ritualistic prize had been won, and we became an honor grange for the first time.

When Bro. Leavitt became Master, he appointed a finance committee with Henry Friedrich as chairman. This committee was most successful and added greatly to grange funds. It enabled the grange to purchase three \$100. and two \$25. war bonds, raising the money by holding dances, card parties and suppers. In 1949 a brother of our grange lost his henhouse by fire. Under the chairmanship of Bro. Friedrich a new henhouse was built, and the sum of \$200. was presented to help replace lost equipment. Lumber for the new building was bought from a granger at a discount, other grangers cut the lumber and yarded the logs to Kirsch's Mill, where they were sawed at a discount. Construction of the new building was a community effort, joined by many non-grangers. Ladies of the grange served dinners and lunches during the entire project. That year Joe English Grange received the gift of a \$100. bond from the Home Service Program sponsored by Sears Roebuck & Company.

In 1956 the Home Service Committee bought suits for the little league baseball team, together with other equipment. It was a highly successful season climaxed by a Grange sponsored banquet. Bro. Leon Daniels deserves much credit for this program. Again, a \$100. bond was received from the Home Service Program.

The following year was equally rewarding. For the third time Joe English Grange was presented a \$100. bond by the Sears Company, for outstanding community service. New Boston has long been known as a good baseball town, and Bro. Daniels' work in developing a "farm team" for future years has certainly paid off. The Grange has continued to contribute to this worthwhile endeavor.

In 1948 the first grange sponsored Community Day was held, with Henry Friedrich as chairman. Work for this day included raking the cemetery and a general clean-up around the center of town. Sisters of the Grange served a bountiful dinner at the town hall for the workers. This activity has been repeated several times since then.

Each year the Grange sends Christmas gifts and toys to hospitals and

cheer baskets to shut-ins. Yearly contributions are made to help the following causes: Golden Rule Farm, Easter and Christmas Seals, Cancer Society, Red Cross, N. H. Crippled Children, N. H. Children's Aid Society, Kern Hattin Home, in Vermont and the Educational Loan Fund of the Grange. Special contributions and activities have included: providing the children's tables and chairs in the Library, books for the library, letters to servicemen during the war, whether grangers or not, card parties to raise money for a Senior Class trip, collection of 50 lbs. of tinfoil for a worthy cause, contribution to the Worcester, Mass. Fire Relief Fund, the Whipple Memorial Fund, the Terry Houghton Fund, the Salvation Army, Church Bulletin Fund, School Lunch Program, Church redecorating fund in 1956-57, and the National Grange Building and War Chest Fund.

A brief sketch of grange activities, such as this, must leave much untold—many ardent workers unmentioned—many worthwhile deeds unsung. Joe English Grange has had its up and downs just like other granges, but through these many years of service it has proved itself a worthy institution of which New Boston can be justly proud. "May we always have a grange here," is the ardent wish of Sister Leavitt.

By Mrs. Bessie Leavitt

MOLLY STARK CANNON AND THE ARTILLERY COMPANY

Our front cover features a sketch of Molly Stark Cannon done by Clarence F. Boulter for the 1963 town report. The companion story of "The New Boston Artillery Company and Molly Stark," written by Clement A. Lyon, is reproduced in part here.

"The famous Molly Stark cannon, captured from the British at the battle of Bennington (Vt.) by New Hampshire troops under the command of General John Stark on August 16, 1777, has for many generations been the proud possession of the citizens of New Boston. She is two hundred and twenty years old, having been cast in Paris, France, in 1743. "Old Molly," as we affectionately call her, has had a most glorious history, serving under the French flag once, the British twice, and the American twice.

Of especial interest to us are the details concerning the capture of the gun, Molly Stark. History records the following details concerning the battle, "the fruits of the victory were four pieces of brass canon, several stand of arms, eight brass drums, a quantity of German broadswords, and about 700 prisoners." Our gun, Molly Stark, was one of these four pieces, it being a four pounder.

History does not record definite information concerning the date that the New Boston Artillery Company, then attached to the Ninth Regiment, New Hampshire Militia, received possession of the gun. However, since historical records show that this gun was in the War of 1812 and that General Stark died in 1822, it appears correct to presume that the New Boston Company received the gun some time previous to Stark's death.

The original New Boston Artillery Company was active until 1852. It was in that year that the General Court repealed the law requiring military service. During the intervening years until June 21, 1938 no legal authority

had claimed the right of ownership. Numerous are the tales of rivalry between our neighboring towns for the possession of the gun."

We insert an interesting interlude based on two clippings from the **Manchester Union**, of March 1920. It seems that the Manchester Historical Association had serious designs on acquiring Molly Stark. Elaborate plans were proposed for bringing the cannon to Manchester by chartered train. "One car of the special train would be a suitably draped flat car bearing the priceless Molly Stark gun." The second clipping quotes a New Boston selectman as saying, "I guess that parade some of the exercises incident to Manchester are saying will be a special feature of the exercises incident to transporting the gun to Manchester will be somewhat delayed, and I shouldn't wonder if it would be indefinitely postponed."

"In the spring of 1938, certain incidents developed that caused serious thought among some of our citizens relative to the security of the gun. On June 7th a meeting was called by William O. Dodge for reorganizing the Artillery Company. It was incorporated on August 31, 1938. The object for which this corporation was established is to have custody of and responsibility for the cannon, "Molly Stark."

by Clement A. Lyon

NEW BOSTON PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION

The New Boston Playground Association came into being soon after World War I. Early records are missing, so the exact date is presently undetermined. Some recall that a sign over the playground entrance carried the date, 1922; others believe 1920 was the year of organization. No one questions that Rev. Louis Swanson was the prime factor in its formation. Two acres of former Whipple land were bought from Mr. Fitzgerald at a cost of \$600, raised by public subscription, and a Community Day was set aside for construction. A brief description of the day is contained in the article about Rev. Swanson. In succeeding years other community days were arranged to lay out the baseball field and construct a tennis court, all with voluntary contributions of money and labor by the townspeople.

The Association was incorporated on June 16, 1928. The original Articles of Agreement state, in part, "The object for which this corporation is established is to conduct community sports, games, celebrations, etc., for the purpose of providing healthful and wholesome recreations for the citizens of New Boston." The original by-laws were revised in 1953 to provide a better working unit, but it is interesting to note that the first Articles of Agreement remained unchanged, and they were made Article I of the Revised By-Laws.

For many years the Playground Association has sponsored an annual July Fourth celebration, which has grown to be a regular old home day affair in New Boston. The success of these events depends entirely upon community effort, with the whole town pitching in. Proceeds from these celebrations have financed the many activities of the Association over the years.

Prompted by occasional queries as to what the Association does with the money it makes on Fourth of July Celebrations, your editor made a survey of actual expenditures a few years ago. The survey covered the period from Jan. 1, 1947 to Jan. 1, 1958 and was based on expenditures evidenced by

cancelled checks written by the Association's treasurer, "Gus" Andrews. During this eleven year period 454 checks had been written totaling \$17,030.-90. Of this sum, \$9,082.37 represented the cost of "doing business" such as the purchase of food supplies and other expenses of celebrations. The balance, amounting to \$7,948.53, was expended in the community for various projects and activities. This was the breakdown: Children's Play Area, \$802.59; Movie & Sound Equipment, \$1,171.01; Dishes and other items for the Town Hall, \$551.83; Other Equipment and Maintenance, \$527.41; remodeling the Ball Field, \$1,203.50; Baseball supplies and Equipment, \$341.71; Skating rink, \$389.16; New Booth, \$488.09; Grandstand Repairs, \$126.64; Community House, \$1,311.46; Youth Programs, \$980.13; Miscellaneous Donations, \$55.00.

This impressive list of community expenditures is a pretty good example of what can be accomplished through cooperative effort. A similar list could be taken from the Association's records of most any other like period. This year, among other programs, the Association is sponsoring baseball, the Scout Bugle and Drum Corps, youth and school activities such as Girls' Camp and Conservation Camp, has bought a science encyclopedia for the Library, has given prizes for Christmas decorations and helped finance the Community Christmas Tree.

Some years ago the Association acquired the former railroad station after service was discontinued by the Boston & Maine. The purchase was made possible through a fund known as "The Fireplace Fund" which was started many years ago by a group of Appalachian club members and was added to by the New Boston Fair Association which turned over its resources upon its dissolution as an organization. This building, known now as the Community House, has a large open fireplace, fulfilling the original intentions of the donors, and is ideal for small gatherings. The Association meets here and offers use of the building to all at a nominal charge. For a three year period it was rented by the School District as a classroom to relieve crowded conditions while building plans were being decided.

BASEBALL IN NEW BOSTON

New Boston has always been known as a good baseball town. Probably no small community in the state has a greater measure of baseball enthusiasm.

In the early years most of the games were played on sand lots and fields in different areas of the town. The most commonly known fields used were Lang's field beyond Lang bridge, Prince field along the river in back of the Louis Cluche home and the center square between the high school building and engine house. Paul Allen tells us that home plate was located on the south side of the road in front of the church about halfway to the corner. First base was near the schoolhouse door, and second was in the middle of the road. Traffic was light in those days, and, apparently, the trees were only a minor hazard.

With the development of the Community Playground in 1920, baseball really came of age in New Boston. Few towns have the advantage of having a playing area so ideally located right in the center. A Town Team was organized and played regular Saturday afternoon games through most of the



1920's. Few, if any, out-of-town games were played during this period, most of them being on a guarantee basis rather than a home and home agreement. Local interest was high, and generous contributions to the collection tins made this possible. Tin pans attached to long poles for reaching through the crowd were usually well filled with silver and bills.

The advent of Sunday baseball and increasing automobile travel changed the picture. Attendance waned as people became more free to move about, dividing their interests; some were slow to accept the idea of Sunday baseball; lower collection receipts forced more home and home games, which in turn had the effect of breaking the pattern of regular weekly home games. In spite of these difficulties New Boston teams continued to carry on with their usual enthusiasm and spirit. They simply had to tighten their belts and struggle the more to make both ends meet.

The Tri-Mountain League was first organized in 1933 at a meeting held in Greenfield. The name Tri-Mountain League was chosen because the towns

represented were in the area of three important mountains: Uncanoonuc in Goffstown, Kearsarge in Warner and Monadnock in Peterborough. The league flourished until the war years when it was necessary to cease operations for the duration.

In 1945 John Reardon, owner of the Bradford Inn and an ardent baseball fan, helped to reorganize the league. Walter Kirsch represented New Boston at these reorganization meetings and was president and a director for a number of years. John Reardon donated a trophy cup in memory of his brother Jerry who was killed in the service. This cup would become the permanent possession of any team that won top place in the league for three consecutive years. As yet the cup is still uncaptured. New Boston, the only original team which has never dropped from the league, won the league championship in the years 1947, 1949, 1952 and 1955.

A non-profit organization, the Tri-Mountain League has the following purposes: "To encourage, promote and provide an organization basis for the playing of amateur baseball in the State of New Hampshire; to promote and arrange baseball competitions and to present trophies, certificates and other suitable awards in recognition of outstanding ability and sportsmanlike conduct."

In 1954 our catcher, Robert Kennedy, was signed with the St. Louis Cardinals and attended spring training camp in Georgia. In 1956 he was signed by the Baltimore Orioles and trained in Florida.

In 1962 Leon Daniels, who had played on the town team since the league was organized, was presented a plaque in recognition of his many years of service and contribution to the improvement of the Tri-Mountain League. He was cited as outstanding batter and inspirational player for the New Boston team and for demonstrating the highest quality of sportsmanship and gentlemanly conduct.

For several years New Boston played at the State Tournament games and in 1957 were second place winners.

The future of baseball in New Boston seems well assured with developments such as the Small Fry League. Around 1945 when the Kennedy brothers were old enough to hold a ball and bat, they formed a team. The village boys were called the "Southern Team" and the outside boys, the "Black North." These young boys operated a team without older guidance until 1954. At that time Leon Daniels and Howard Prince offered to help the boys and scheduled out-of-town games with Amherst, Milford, Goffstown, Weare and Wilton. The Wilton game was a big treat for the boys, as they had the opportunity to play under the lights.

As leagues were becoming popular for young boys at this time, New Boston approached the Tri-Mountain League to propose a league for the boys. In due time the Tri-Mountain Small Fry League was formed for boys up to the age of 15. Joe English Grange sponsored the team for two years, providing uniforms. For the first time the boys were proud to wear their white and red uniforms, which matched the town team suits. In 1956 the Playground Association took over the financial responsibility of operating the team and has continued this duty ever since. The boys have worked hard to help their sponsorer by selling refreshments and conducting bottle drives each spring.

New Boston's Small Fry team won the league championship in 1955, 1956 and 1958. Management and coaching was taken over by Dean Yost

in 1959 and 1960. Assuming this responsibility in successive years were: Raymond Gelinas, 1961; Lawson Smith, 1962; Vaughn Smith and Jack Banks, 1963.

Many hours are spent with these boys, but all agree that the experience is most gratifying.

GRANITE COUNCIL #13, O. U. A. M.

"The Order of United American Mechanics organized Granite Council #13 in New Boston on December 2, 1891, with 27 charter members. The officers and other charter members were:

Ira J. Felch	Sen. Ex. Councillor	Will A. Woodbury	Finan. Sec.
Clinton D. Butterfield	Jun. Ex. Councillor	Geo. A. Muzzey	Treasurer
Herbert D. Gould	Councillor	Harry S. Colby	Inductor
S. A. Richards	Vice Councillor	Fred C. Brown	Examiner
William H. Dow	Recording Sec.	Jesse W. Mudgett	In. Protector
Ernest A. Saltmarsh	Asst. Rec. Sec.	Edward L. Rose	Out. Protector

E. A. Edward, C. H. Dodge, Arthur Chandler, Trustees

Geo. W. Dennison	George W. Bennett	Thomas W. Hooper
Arthur D. Dennison	George W. Marden	George W. Searle
Samuel Leonard Marden	George T. Harris	Walter A. Wilson
Fred A. Fuller	Charles A. Bailey	Fred O. Gould

Since then the list has grown to 131 members. Four have died, others have removed or been suspended from the list. Membership on April 12, 1913 is 58 and the Order is in good financial standing."

The above is from a record made for the 150th anniversary celebration of the town.

The "Mechanics" as they were commonly known held regular meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month, for a while in the Town Hall, and in later years in Valley Hall. A dwindling membership, however, began to have its effect during the middle 30's and was not offset by enough addition of new blood. The few faithful "regulars" struggled on bravely, but finally decided to disband in 1942.

By Laurier Michaud

THE NEW BOSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"To develop the commercial, industrial, agricultural, civic and financial interests of the town," the New Boston Chamber of Commerce was formed on Dec. 17, 1923. Its first officers were: President, Clarence Dodge; First Vice-president, George Fox; Second Vice-president, Harlan Shattuck; Secretary, Clement Lyon and Treasurer, Arthur Holt. There was also a Board of Directors which consisted of 6 members serving for two years and 5 elected for one year. There was a membership fee of \$5.00 per year, and besides the officers, 47 charter members signed up.

The prime reason for organizing the Chamber was to promote New Boston so new industry would take the place of the loss of the Whipple Farm. A brochure was published calling attention to the fact that New Boston was the "Friendly Town" and showing general views of the town.

The popular route from Goffstown to New Boston at this time was by way of Parker's Station, and a big sign pointing to "The Friendly Town" was erected on the side of John Parker's barn, now the Freezer Locker.

The Chamber sponsored a series of annual fairs in New Boston, culminating with the County Fair of 1927, a two-day event, which was considered one of the best in New Hampshire. "New Boston has a state-wide reputation for co-operation," said Gov. Huntley N. Spaulding when he addressed more than 1500 people at the fourth annual New Boston fair. "His statement summed up the thoughts of the large crowd that thronged the little halls and the community playground that day," reported the **Milford Cabinet**. It's too bad that the requirements of space prohibit reproduction of this lengthy and detailed account which appeared in the **Cabinet** issue of Oct. 6, 1927.

The Chamber of Commerce was in existence for only 5 or 6 years, however, many of its projects are now carried on by the Playground Association and recently, the Betterment Association. The activities carry on, because it's the people, often nearly the same ones, who see to it that they do. Organization titles are minor in comparison.

THE BOMBING RANGE

In the fall of 1941 and winter of 1942 the land on the southeast corner of New Boston, on the north side of Joe English road, was purchased by the U.S. Government for the purpose of building a bombing range to be used by the air force out of Grenier Field. Air Force personnel from the field was sent out daily to operate the range. When a college student was badly injured by one of the bombs, it became evident that 24-hour duty was necessary, so soldiers were sent out to establish a permanent base on the range.

Three sets of buildings were suitable for living quarters. One was the William J. Mason place, the second, the former home of William O. Mason, known as the White place and the third, the Peirce home, known as the "Wigwam." The latter was selected because it was in a safer zone than the other two, and it was nearer the main highway, route 13. The detachment opened the Wigwam on April 18, 1942, which was the same day that General Doolittle bombed Japan.

The Wigwam had no electric power, telephone or water when the boys first arrived. They hauled water from the Leach farm and Dodge's store until a well was drilled in October of 1942. They used candles for the first two or three days until the power could be connected. They ate out of mess kits and used nail kegs for chairs. To relieve the situation, some of the ladies of New Boston including Mrs. Sam Fraser, Mrs. Ethel Leland, Mrs. Benjamin Dodge and Mrs. Laura Hagland gathered some used furniture which they donated to the Wigwam.

Soon after some of the townpeople, including Rev. Louis Swanson, formed a U. S. O. of their own and furnished entertainment periodically in the town hall. There were about 18 men in the first group sent out to the bombing range, and this number or more were stationed at the Wigwam most of the time.

The first planes to use the range were A-20's or dive bombers. Next came B-17's, with P-38's supplying cover. Others to use the range at various times included B-25's, B-26's, P-39's, P-40's, P-47's and B-24's. The fighter planes

and the light bombers used the range in the daytime and the heavy bombers practiced night bombing.

The bomb target was 25 feet square, located in the middle of Mary Campbell Pond, with poles placed around it in a 100 foot radius. 19 large spot lights with red reflectors were mounted on the poles to form and light the target. The power for these lights was supplied by a portable generator. The range area consisted of nearly 3,000 acres of which about one-third was in the town of New Boston.

Planes came from Grenier Field until about January of 1944, when the field was changed to an ATC Base. After this Army planes came from Westover Field, in Massachusetts, and Bradley Field, in Connecticut. The Navy began using the range about April of 1944, sending SB2-C's, TBF and Hell Cats which came from small fields at Camp Devens, Bedford and Squantum Air Base. Planes also came from Carriers off the East Coast. Practice bombs, live bombs and 325 lb. depth charges were used. On the ground, tanks and anti-tank vehicles were used, firing 30. cal., 50. cal., 20 MM and 37 MM rounds.

The range was used and staffed until about October of 1945. Then for a year or so, a caretaker had charge of the installation. Around 1950 the Navy started to use the range again, with the men being stationed at Grenier Field and coming out to the range daily. A radio room was fitted up with equipment to contact the planes in addition to a mobile unit which was also used.

The boys that were stationed at the range came from all over the United States, and many of them married New Boston girls. Some settled here; others took their new wives back to their home state. Joseph Wallace of Iowa married Hazel Colburn; Rex Orr of Pennsylvania married Mary Virginia Leland; Oliver Andrews of Maine married Lucille Kenney and became postmaster of New Boston; Roger Green of Minnesota married Kitty Lovell; Roy Dixon of Georgia married Lillian Heath and returned to the family farm in Georgia; Charles Huff of New Jersey married Marion Matheson and three more boys were married to girls in neighboring towns.

The neighbors who were most friendly and helpful were the Joe Daniels's, the Paul Barss's and the Robert Barss's. Nor will the boys ever forget the many times Henry Friedrich went out of his way to lend a hand in time of need. The foregoing seems to be ample proof of the friendly relationship that existed between the "boys at the Wigwam" and the people of New Boston, who made them feel right at home.

By Oliver Andrews

EMERSON, BAILEY, CLOVER POST #19, AMERICAN LEGION

On March 20, 1919, the above named Post received its charter from the State Department of the American Legion and became an active patriotic organization. Fifteen names were required for a charter, and New Boston easily topped the quota with native sons.

The early years saw meetings held in Valley Hall, located over Dodge's Store. Through active participation, the members secured a small club house near the Benjamin H. Dodge home. Many civic activities and social functions

were planned there. These were the prosperous years, and the Legion and its Auxilliary worked hard to build local enthusiasm and prestige.

In the late twenties the club house was abandoned, for many members had moved away and dropped their memberships. It was decided to meet jointly with the Auxilliary at private homes and after each meeting to have a social hour and luncheon. This joint effort kept the Post active and its charter intact in the years before World War II.

Veterans of World War II swelled the ranks to over forty. Young blood added new zest, and the Legion prospered once more. Donations of time, labor and money made possible the building of a larger club house in the area of the old Railroad Depot.

Again the Legion and its Auxilliary have large enough memberships to carry out the program of the Legion, locally and on the state and national level.

Each year, in March, the Legion has a Birthday Banquet, given by the Auxilliary, to remember the early years.

By Frank and Lillian Wilson

ROGER W. BABSON AND NEW BOSTON

In 1948 Mr. Babson consulted his good friend, Karl T. Compton, President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from which he graduated. As Mr. Babson was fearful that a third World War might come some time he was anxious to select a safe location far enough away from Boston, Massachusetts in case that city should ever be bombed. Compton recommended a location sixty miles away. Accordingly, Mr. Babson drew a circle around Boston with a sixty mile radius. The eastern end was in the Atlantic Ocean. A location to the west would conflict with the congestion of Worcester. The same distance to the south would enter the highly industrialized Providence area. Hence, southern New Hampshire was the location he chose. New Boston appealed to him as the best self-sustaining community, able to feed, clothe and heat itself under any circumstances, and independent of uncertain water, light and power utilities. Of course, it is only fair to say that the New Boston name had a strong appeal. And so it was that Mr. Babson first came to New Boston in 1948.

At the same time the Trustees of the Gravity Research Foundation were anxious to locate the headquarters a safe distance from Boston. Therefore, the present property now occupied by the Foundation was secured and adapted for that purpose under the direction of Mr. George M. Rideout.

The three original purposes of the Foundation have not changed in fifteen years.

1. To stimulate interest in Gravity through Awards for Essays.
2. To serve as a free clearing house for everyone seriously interested in the causes and possibilities of Gravity.
3. To have one of the best libraries and files on Gravity in the country, open freely to anyone.

During the relatively short history of the Foundation



interest in gravity has stimulated the minds of some of the world's most able scientists. Each year the winning essays have shown progress. The clearing house activity has kept the headquarters' office busy. Important visitors from all over this country and abroad have come to consult the important collection in the library and files.

Each summer for fifteen years, a Conference under the direction of Mr. George M. Rideout has been held at New Boston. Interest and numbers have grown each year.

Shortly before his death, Thomas A. Edison, when discussing aviation with Mr. Babson, pointed to a bird flying in the air and remarked,—“That bird can do what no man can do—namely, fly with its own power. I wish that you would take a greater interest in birds—not solely from the viewpoint of their beauty and song, but concerning their method of flying.” Mr. Edison was also interested in the beauty of butterflies and the speed at which insects travel. This caused Mr. Babson to collect and study birds. Through his generosity the Foundation now has at New Boston an unusually fine collection of about five thousand birds. Many of the townspeople and tourists have visited the Thomas A. Edison Bird Museum. Groups of school children have come in from the surrounding area and really enjoyed their visits very much.

This summer another interest will be added to the Foundation buildings—the Sir Isaac Newton Room. It will house the Warwick Castle bed in which Newton slept. Dedication of the room is planned for Gravity Day, August 31, 1963.

When Mr. Roger W. Babson was a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology he wrote a thesis on Newton. He observed that whereas Newton's writings on optics, mechanics, astronomy and mathematics had developed into great industries, almost nothing had been done since Newton's day in connection with Newton's Law of Action and Reaction and Gravity. Mr. Babson made a great success with Babson's Reports using



Newton's Law of Action and Reaction. He was determined that something would be done about Gravity one day and that is why he established the Gravity Research Foundation which is proud to have its headquarters in New Boston.

In 1948 most of the experimenting and research was going on under cover. Mention of Gravity too often brought a smile as if the inquiry were not taken seriously. Now after fifteen years, thanks to Mr. Babson and Mr. Rideout Gravity research has been pulled out of the attic for all to see and study. The Trustees expect to see the day when the establishment of the Gravity Research Foundation will be recorded as one of the greatest scientific contributions of this generation.

By Gravity Research Foundation

NEW BOSTON SATELLITE TRACKING STATION

This United States Air Force's satellite tracking station is located on a 2,800 acre tract of hilly woodland formerly known as the bombing range. The tracking station is located in parts of three towns, New Boston, Amherst and Mont Vernon. However, since the greater portion which contains most of the technical equipment lies within the New Boston town line the station carries the name of that town.

The Air Force has two tracking stations in the United States, the other one located at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, which is also the launch base for the satellites. Control of tracking station operations is exercised by an Air Force Control Center at Sunnyvale, California, on the San Francisco peninsula.

Equipment at the New Boston station is an array of complex electronic devices designed to a high degree of accuracy and for fast operation. Primary mission of the station is to "work" earth satellites in polar orbits with the



station electronic equipment. In addition to tracking satellites, another way of saying locating the exact position of the satellite in space, the station "talks" to a satellite when it passes overhead. Radio signals are sent from the hills of New Hampshire through space to the satellites passing over the station at distances from a few hundred to several thousand miles giving the satellite instructions. These instructions cause the satellite to perform its desired functions. In turn the satellite sends radio signals from its transmitters back to the New Boston station's large receiving antennas. The satellite's signals contain a very large quantity of information concerning the status of the equipments in the orbital vehicle and the scientific data being gathered by the satellite. Received information is processed by high speed digital computers and electronic data handling systems. The data are all recorded for future evaluation and some selected portions of the data are transmitted directly by telephone circuits to Sunnyvale.

Ground was broken for construction of the multimillion dollar installation in the spring of 1959 which today has over 500 persons working on an around-the-clock basis in exciting space research projects. About 65 percent of the personnel are active duty Air Force. The remainder are Civil Service and associate contractors such as Philco Corporation and Lockheed who assist the Air Force in operation of the station.

The New Boston station operates as a self-contained establishment importing only electrical power and telephone service. It has its own water supply system, sewage disposal, fire protection, roads and grounds maintenance and cafeteria. All station personnel live in the surrounding communities except for single airmen who live in barracks at Grenier Field, Manchester. The annual payroll of the employees of the tracking station amounts to several million dollars and this has a noticeable impact on the economy of the area.

By Col. Glenn B. Daughton

CAMP FIRE GIRLS, INC.

The national organization, known as Camp Fire Girls, Inc., has recently become of vital interest to the girls of New Boston. The "Blue Birds" were started in New Boston on March 31, 1962. This camp is for the younger girls, ages 8 to 10 and is sponsored by Mrs. Nita Grant. Their leader is Mrs. Ruth T. Jones. In March of this year two other camps for older girls were organized, the "Camp Fire Girls" for ages 9 to 11 and the "Jr. Hi's" for those 12 to 14 years of age. Mrs. Grace Stanford is the leader of the "Camp Fire Girls" and their sponsors are Mrs. Nina Cote and Mrs. Marguerite Webster. Mrs. Roland Beauchemin serves as assistant leader. The "Jr. Hi's" are headed by Mrs. Verna Elliott, and sponsors are Mrs. Polly Yost and Shirley Elliott. Each leader holds a membership in the National Camp Fire Girls, Inc. of America, which is one of the necessary qualifications.

The name "Camp Fire Girl" was suggested by a poet. Fire symbolizes the home, the place of comfort and cheer. Camp symbolizes the out-of-door spirit of the organization. With the selection of the name, "Camp Fire Girls" in 1910, America's first national organization for girls of every nationality, race, creed and economic status, came into being.

The watchword of Camp Fire Girls is "WO-HE-LO" derived from the first

two letters of three meaningful words. "WO" means work, "HE" means health and "LO" signifies love. Combined, they symbolize what it means to be a true Camp Fire Girl.

The colorful lore, ceremonies and costumes of the American Indian were chosen as the artistic impetus, and "WO-HE-LO" became the watchword of this great organization. "Blue Birds" are the youngest group of girls in which a girl begins to come out of her shell and mature with her age, self-being and the society around her. The next step is the "Camp Fire Girls" where they learn various skills and appreciation for the homely tasks of everyday life, which should be enjoyed rather than dreaded. The "Jr. H's" go on to an expanded program designed to develop a true sense of responsibility in all aspects of living. The uniforms of each group are traditional in American colors of red, white and blue.

BOY SCOUTS OF NEW BOSTON

Early records of Boy Scouting in New Boston are vague and in most cases very incomplete.

According to the **Story of Scouting in New Hampshire**, compiled by the Projects Administration, the following excerpts can be recognized as important to the Boy Scout movement in New Boston:

"On September 11, 1913, a group of boys attended a hike and corn roast with troops 5 and 10 of Manchester. They were led by Rev. Louis Swanson, Scoutmaster and Rev. Gordon C. Warren, assistant, of New Boston.

Camping, scout drills and other activities started in 1919, and the New Boston scout troop was one of twelve in the state at that time.

Charters issued from time to time since 1928 indicate that William Dotey and Laurier Michaud were very active and many of the present New Boston townspeople will remember their work and devotion to scouting."

Today Troop 123 is sponsored by the New Boston Playground Association. The Association also sponsors the Boy Scout Bugle and Drum Corps, having advanced financing for this program. New Boston is the only troop in New Hampshire with its own Bugle and Drum Corps.

The present roster of leaders of Troop 123 follows:

Peter J. Herbert	Institutional Representative	Rene Cote	Camping Chairman
Reginald R. Webster	Chairman	Albert P. Dancause	Scoutmaster
August J. Gomes	Educational Committee	Robert Jardine, Jr.	Assistant Scoutmaster
James A. Boulter	Transportation	Oliver Parker	Assistant Scoutmaster
Roger C. Griswold	Treasurer	John L. Jones	Senior Assistant
Howard R. Gagnon	Committee-at-large	Harry Herbert	Senior Assistant

By Albert Dancause

HISTORY OF 4-H CLUBS

About 1900, 4-H clubs were organized under the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to benefit farm youths in Agriculture and Home Economics. In New Boston the earliest 4-H club on record was organized by William O. Dodge and Harlan Brown in 1925. This club was for boys and was called the Joe English 4-H Club.

In 1935, Hazel Michaud had the "Riverside" club for girls and the "Joe English" was led by Clement Lyons.

Due to the lack of leaders, 4-H clubs have not been continuous through the years. The present girls' "Sew and Sew" club received its charter in 1949. Now 27 girls are under the leadership of Rena Davis, Elizabeth Houghton, and Irma Lehman.

Since 1940 there have been many different boys' clubs under many different leaders which had various projects. The present boys' 4-H, "The Little Farmers," is a new club which was formed in 1961 by Charles Davis and Robert Colburn.

The youths that are enrolled in 4-H have many opportunities to compete in county, state, and national contests with their completed project work. Projects vary from food and clothing to livestock and gardening. Citizenship is a new project and from the profit of the annual county cookie sale, 8 young people are sent to Washington, D. C. each year to learn the ways of our Government. We hope that 4-H will always continue to help our youths of New Boston to become good citizens.

By Charles and Rena Davis

THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The first Baptist meetinghouse in New Boston was situated in the northwest part of town about two miles from the village. A small building only 40 feet by 32, it was erected and dedicated in 1805 with Rev. Josiah Stone as pastor.

Earlier meetings had been held jointly with a group from Amherst and the church name bore mention of both towns. When Rev. Stone assumed his duties in 1801, however, the name was changed to "The First Calvinist Baptist Church in New Boston."

John Atwood became the second pastor in 1824 when Elder Stone retired. The church prospered, and more convenient quarters became desirable. Dr. John Whipple offered a site in the village, and it was voted "To build with wood a meetinghouse sixty feet by forty-five with a projection of three and a



half feet by twenty-six. The new house was dedicated on the first Sunday in February, 1833.

After twelve years of service Rev. Atwood retired and Rev. Andrew T. Foss began his ministry in 1836, continuing until 1844. The following year Elder David Gage began a decade of fruitful work. With the close of Rev. Gage's ministry began a new experience for the church. The period of long pastorates was past. In fifty-five years there had been but four ministers; in the next forty-five years twelve came and left, most of them serving only two or three years. Moreover, during this time, the church was nine years and four months without a pastor at all.

The church was destroyed in the village fire of 1887. An invitation was extended by the Presbyterians to worship with them in the old meetinghouse on the hill and for many months both congregations worshipped together with their respective pastors alternating in the preaching. A new Baptist church was finally dedicated Nov. 1, 1889.

The church struggled bravely on for another forty years or so, but never seemed to recover its former vigor. Increasing costs and a dwindling membership finally caused dissolution in the early 1930's. The building was later dismantled and the land deeded to the town as a perpetual common.

THE NEW BOSTON BETTERMENT ASSOCIATION

With each passing year, voters in 'little republics' like New Boston are faced with more and more complicated problems to resolve at their town and school meetings. For several years, citizens of the town had discussed the need of an organization to serve the community on a year 'round basis as a forum for discussion of town government problems. Here, too, projects for community improvement could be discussed and initiated.

Circumstances occurred whereby a meeting of dissatisfied taxpayers gathered at the town hall in the fall of 1961. As a result, the desire for such an organization became apparent, and the Betterment Association was sparked into being, October 23, 1961.

During the past two years we have: (1) Published a monthly newsletter, **The Better Times**, which has been mailed to every box-holder in the town. It is our purpose to publish information about the happenings of the community; reports on organizations, their aims and accomplishments; reports and messages from our town officers; reports about our own association, its projects, programs and meetings. (2) On town beautification, in cooperation with town officials, we have encouraged and publicized clean-up campaigns through our newsletter. In cooperation with the selectmen, some of our members planted the new trees on the Common as replacement for the doomed and dying elms. Money for this project was voted at a town meeting. (3) Our civics committee took up several subjects of community interest, found out information and made reports. As a result, an article was sponsored in the town warrant for re-evaluation of real estate by the State of New Hampshire, and another article was placed in the warrant for adoption of a proposed building code. The article on re-evaluation won a majority vote at the 1963 town meeting. Several of our meetings were reserved for informational reports and discussion of education problems of today. Oral reports were given by members of the Regional School Study Committee, and progress

reports published in our newsletter. An access road from Route 13 to the New Boston Tracking Station would be of benefit to local residents who work there, so this subject was explored, with report on outcome pending. (4) Through our recreation committee, we sponsored an evening social last summer, a community song fest, and several movies. Many of our members are presently engaged in preparation for New Boston's great Bicentennial, and it is a pleasure to lend a hand in its promotion in whatever way we can!

Present officers in the Betterment Association are: President, Donald Byam; Vice President, Roland Sallada; Secretary-Treasurer, Yvonne Gomes; Editor, Marjorie Colburn; Directors, Kenneth Forbes, Robert Normandin, Reginald Hayes, Marjorie Colburn.

By Marjorie Colburn

NEW CENTURY CLUB

The New Century Club was appropriately named, because it was organized just after the turn of the century on May 24, 1901. Founded through the efforts of Mrs. Sadie H. Saltmarsh, the group organized at a meeting held in Valley Hall. Purposes of the club were to conduct lectures, concerts and various entertainments for the enlightenment of the community and to stimulate a constant quest for advanced knowledge in many fields.

For over fifty years the New Century Club furnished the community with a public forum of cultural interest. Yearly contributions were made to a great number of worthy causes, and the club has often provided financial support to school and other civic projects.

An outstanding financial achievement was the installation of the clock in the town hall in 1913. \$125. was taken from the club treasury, and members of the club collected the remaining \$625. from interested friends. Today, our town clock still ticks on, regularly sounding the hours in service to the community, but, unfortunately, the organization that was responsible for it was discontinued a few years ago.

The accompanying picture shows a group of New Century Club ladies on a visit to the state capitol, where they attended a legislative session as guests of "Honest John" Corliss, New Boston's representative at the time. The trip also included a visit to the State Prison.



THE BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

- GENERAL COMMITTEE** *Chairman*—Henry Friedrich *Secretary*—Mrs. Evelyn Barss
Paul Allen, Artemus Boulter, Mrs. Minnie Chandler, Walter Kirsch, Harold Todd
- HISTORICAL COMMITTEE** *Chairman*—Charles E. French
- SOUVENIR BOOKLETS** *Chairman*—Charles E. French
Laurier Michaud, Mrs. Rena Davis, Charles Davis, Roland Sallada, Paul Saltmarsh,
Mrs. Nina Cote
- HISTORICAL EXHIBITS** *Co-chairmen*—Reginald and Beulah Hayes
Mrs. Marian Sallada, Mrs. Yvonne Gomes, Mrs. Mary Louise Gould
- HOME TOUR** *Chairman*—Mrs. Lenora Friedrich
Mrs. Beulah Hayes, Mrs. Lois Hersey
- PARADE** *Chairman*—James Boulter *Sections*—Mrs. Nina Cote *Civics*—Richard Whynall
- PUBLICITY** *Co-chairmen*—John and Marjorie Colburn
Mrs. Yvonne Gomes, Mrs. Marian Sallada, Mrs. Helen Murphy, Mrs. Lois Hersey, Mr. and Mrs.
Reginald Hayes
- INVITATIONS** *Chairman*—George Fletcher Wason
Mrs. Marjorie Bose, Harold Todd, Mrs. Marion French
- ALUMNI DAY BANQUET AND BALL** *Co-chairmen*—Mrs. Frances Towne and Mrs. Pauline Yost
Mrs. Ethel Gagnon, Mrs. Bernice Pelchat, Mrs. Gladys Hilliard, Mrs. Rena Davis
- TICKETS** *Chairman*—Robert Normandin
Edward MacPhail, Richard Whynall
- BARBECUE** *Chairman*—Elliot Hersey
Put on by the Parent Teachers Association
- DINNER** *Co-chairmen*—Mrs. Ella Daniels and Mrs. Viola Kennedy
Mrs. Rhoda Hooper, Mrs. Stella Prince
- REFRESHMENT BOOTH** *Co-chairmen*—Milton and Shirley Elliott
Vaughn and Jean Smith
- SPORTS AND CONTESTS** *Co-chairmen*—Leon and Wayne Daniels
- TOTS PARADE** *Chairman*—Mrs. Marion Hamel
Mrs. Bernice Pelchat, Mrs. Irma Lehman
- FIREWORKS** *Co-chairmen*—Oliver Andrews and Clayton Savoy
Paul Werner, George Peirce, Lester Byam, Herman Miller, Steven Lemear, Charles Byam
- DECORATION** *Co-chairmen*—August Gomes and Charles Gould
- LIGHTING** *Chairman*—Fred Moss
Winfield Lovejoy, William Barss
- BONFIRE** New Boston Fire Department
- EVENING ENTERTAINMENT JULY 4th** General Committee
- EVENING ENTERTAINMENT JULY 5th** New Boston Players
- FINANCIAL** *Chairman*—Edward Locke
Oliver Bailey, Oliver Andrews

Bi-Centennial Program

THURSDAY, JULY FOURTH

8:30 A.M.—GRAND PARADE followed by a drill by the Spartan Drum and Bugle Corps, a salute from Molly Stark Cannon and patriotic exercises.

Greetings and Remarks—HIS EXCELLENCY, GOVERNOR JOHN W. KING

Bi-Centennial Address—HON. JAMES C. CLEVELAND, Congressman

12:00 Noon—DINNER—Town Hall

1:15 P.M.—TOTS PARADE followed by sports and contests

2:30 P.M.—BALLGAME—New Boston vs. Goffstown, Tri-Mountain League

5:30 P.M.—CHICKEN BARBECUE

8:00 P.M.—EVENING ENTERTAINMENT. Fireworks, Bonfire

FRIDAY, JULY FIFTH

2:00-4:00 P.M.—OPEN HOUSE TOUR of eight interesting and attractive New Boston homes. Tea served. Tour donation \$1.00. Tickets available at Bi-centennial Headquarters

8:00 P.M.—"THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST" by Oscar Wilde, presented at the Town Hall by the New Boston Players. Donation \$1.00.

SATURDAY, JULY SIXTH

2:00 P.M.—TEA AND SOCIAL HOUR—New Boston High School

6:00 P.M.—ALUMNI BANQUET—Town Hall—(Reservations only)

8:00 P.M.—ANNIVERSARY BALL—Open to public—Semi-formal. Jimmy Pollocks Orchestra—\$1.25 single

SUNDAY, JULY SEVENTH

11:00 A.M.—Special services. New Boston Community Church