

## FOCUS ON HISTORY by Barbara Barker

### The Village of South Hanover

On your Hanover Historical Society calendar the month of May pictures the train station at the village of South Hanover. From its earliest development Hanover settlements clustered around a cross road, a river or brook that could be dammed, or a small waterfall. South Hanover had a narrowing of the Indian Head River which was dammed probably as early as 1720 and several industries worked on this site through the years. An iron forge was one of the earliest, followed by an anchor shop, and gristmill. Later bar iron and tacks were made here. In 1853 E. Phillips and Sons tack factory was in business here. It consisted of over a dozen buildings and two furnace stacks, and stretched across the town line into Hanson. (See photo taken from the Hanson side by Thomas Drew) Atlas Tack Company purchased the business at the time of World War I. The buildings were eventually torn down except for a small one still standing, used for a time as a liquor store. The dam was destroyed by the hurricane of 1938 and only remnants remain.

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The 1857 map shows that E.Y Perry also had a general store, built about that time. (See picture of store in the early 30's). Later William Sherman, Thomas Drew, Ernest Bates, Ella May Bates, Herbert Jefferson and others ran the store and post office that was located at the present location of Myette's Store. As long as Mr. Perry was living he gave instructions that two articles never be sold in his store--"rum and ladies' corsets".

Charles Gleason relates the following story about Mr. Perry: When Mr. Perry had finished building his railroad, he put I.G. Stetson who lived on the site of 1119 Broadway near the station in charge of the first train as conductor. His son, Fred Stetson was the station agent. In the space you see taken up by a second store in the picture were located 2 apple trees. Mrs. Stetson, on her way home from Perry's Store stopped under one of these trees and picked up an apron full of apples to take home., and doubtless made a wonderful apple pie. However a neighbor lady saw her fill her apron with apples and reported to Mr. Perry. A general row ensued, and I.G. Stetson and his son, Fred, lost their jobs over the incident. Mr. Stetson, however, somehow got hold of that piece of land, cut down the apples trees and put up the store you see to the right of the Perry store in the picture. Now Mr. Perry had competition, and he did not like it one bit. Mr. Stetson did much better financially than he had done as a conductor. Fred, his son, began a stable business, living upstairs over the store part of the time, and later in his father's home.

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Another business located right beside the tracks near Iron Mine Brook was a factory occupied Goodrich Shoe Company which E.Y. Perry built to entice Mr. Goodrich to move his shoe factory from North Hanover to South Hanover where the railroad could serve his business well. (Picture given recently to the Historical Society by Robert Desroches shows workers in front of the Goodrich Shoe Factory). Later Goodrich moved his business to Brockton, and the building was used by the Cochran Shoe Company, the Shanley Shoe Company and the Clapp Rubber Company. Later chickens were raised in the run-down building before it was taken down..

Another business in South Hanover was the Bonney Ink Factory located on the north side of Broadway just east of Goodriches. William Bonney, known as "Ink Bonney", did a good deal of experimenting before he had a product he dared to offer in competition with other established companies, but eventually he had them coming to him. He had a two story shop where he had mixing vats, dyes, and pots, and other paraphernalia he used in the manufacture of his special ink for about 40 years from just after the Civil war into the early 1900's. An accident nearly blinded him, and his daughter, Cora tried hard to carry on, but she finally sold out the dyes and formulas to the Carter Ink Co..

The village schoolhouse was located on Broadway about opposite where Edie Bates house is today, and the children walked to school to learn their reading, writing and arithmetic.

Along Broadway and Cross St. in South Hanover are located many of the old houses where lived the residents of the village who worked in the mills and stores, farmed the land, gathered at the post office for the news and a chat, and helped their neighbors. The spirit of community is still present there today.

FOCUS ON HISTORY  
by Barbara Barker  
FEBRUARY 1998

The Village Blacksmith

"Under a spreading chestnut-tree  
The village smithy stands;  
The smith, a mighty man is he  
With large and sinewy hands;  
And the muscles of his brawny arms  
Are strong as iron bands."

So begins the well-known poem written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1840.

Blacksmithing was a craft that had its beginnings 2500 years ago. In the early days of life in America, each village had its blacksmith. They were an important part of the community. The blacksmith, so called because he worked with black metal (iron), worked at his forge, using a hot-fired pit, bellows, hammer, chisel, and tongs. He pounded out (forged) the red-hot iron on his anvil into a useful implements for the farmer, shipbuilder, or housewife. He sometimes filled the role of farrier, wheelwright, veterinary surgeon, doctor, even dentist if no other help was available.

About the oldest manufacturing of any kind in Hanover was that of iron working. At first the ore was found in the nearby swamps and ponds, the pellets raked out, melted down and used by the blacksmith and the larger forges. Those of us who have lived in Hanover before the filtration plant was in operation remember the rusty colored water that came from the deposits of iron still in our ground. "Iron Mine Brook" in South Hanover deserved its name.

Matthew Stetson, grandson of Cornet Robert Stetson, was granted a part of the so called "common land" in the Four Corners area, then a part of Scituate before 1727. Here he built his house, (233 Washington St.). He was probably the new town's first blacksmith. His shop stood near the corner about where Mary Lou's coffee shop is now located. A town record of February 1734 speaks of laying out a part of Broadway "beginning at Matthew Stetson's shop". Matthew Stetson also served as schoolmaster during the winter terms as well as practicing his blacksmith trade. About 1742 he sold his house and shop to Meletiah Dillingham also a blacksmith and continued working in the shop. Being located near the shipyards it no doubt did much business making chains and other findings for the ships. Meletiah Dillingham was followed in the blacksmith trade by his son, Joshua.

About 1802 the house was bought and occupied by Joseph Eells whose father had a blacksmith shop on the opposite corner. Joseph Eells and his brother, Robert, continued in the blacksmithing trade in the shop which was located in back of where Lorraine's Cake Shoppe is now. Following are examples taken from their account book which reveal the type of work and prices of the trade.

"Seth Chapin (minister of Congregational Church) To setting one shoe on your hors-10 cents. To mending your chaise (carriage) 25 cents To fitting a pare of sills to your slay \$1.33--Elisha Bass To 12 ribbets on your gigg--(He means rivets)--Rev. Wolcott (rector of St. Andrews) To shoe your hors all round new \$1.17. To setting one ox shoe 12 cents." (Spelling original to account book)

Warren Wright (born 1809), great grandfather of Betsy Sylvester Robinson, kept a shop in the same vicinity near his home at 176 Washington St. His portrait (pictured here) is displayed in the Stetson House. Later Jim Jones, pictured here, plied his trade in this area for over 40 years and certainly looks like Longfellow's "village blacksmith". Charlie Gleason says, "Jim Jones was the last blacksmith in these parts equipped to shoe oxen." Gleason also tells that Jones was also the victim of Fourth of July tricks and would find "the village boys had often hoisted a wagon wheel up in a tall tree for Mr. Jones to retrieve."

E.Y Perry moved part of the Eell's shop to Broadway near the present fire station. Tom Turner used it for making carriages. A fire destroyed the building, and in 1896 a new shop was built. Al Morrill was the blacksmith, later Ellie Curtis. According to Charlie Gleason, this "blacksmith shop was a small hall for social events, but was rather smelly. People were not so particular of odors some years ago." Charlie Stearns was another blacksmith associated with this location. This shop later became Percy Bonney's woodworking and repairing business, "Joseph's" (the clothier), "Hit or Miss," a mattress store, and is now a real estate office.

In South Hanover Fred White's blacksmith shop was located near the location of the fire station. In West Hanover, on Pleasant St. opposite Eliab's Mill was located the wheelwright and blacksmith shop for that village. In Assinippi Frank Alger's blacksmith shop could be found in the triangle opposite the cemetery.

With the coming of the automobile, the decline of the use of horse and carriage, and modern manufacture, the skills of the blacksmith were not longer in demand. Many shops became garages and gas stations. The blacksmith became a mainly a farrier, a shoer of horses. Now most farriers carry their tools in their trucks and travel to their appointments.

The village blacksmith shop is gone, a remnant of the past.

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## FOCUS ON HISTORY--MARCH 1998 by Barbara Barker

### THE SYLVESTER MANSION HOUSE Five Robert Sylvesters Living in Four Corners at One Time

Pictured on the March calendar sponsored by the Historical Society is an old photo of 417 Washington St., so called the Sylvester Mansion House to distinguish it from two other old smaller houses nearby owned by Sylvesters at one time or another. All three houses are now part of the Cardinal Cushing School property, acquired in 1935 from the Mitton family, who ran a gentleman's farm called Elmwood, and sold milk and cream from special Guernsey cows.

In the early 1930's Washington St. was straightened. The new cut off extended from the end of Old Hanover St. to the top of the hill in Pembroke and became Columbia Road, part of the State Highway, now Route 53. This necessitated a new bridge, the one which is now being repaired. The old part of Washington St. on which these houses and others were located was just by-passed, and the Four Corners area stopped growing as a business center.

Amos Sylvester, who was married in 1706, came into this property through his father and built a small house here in which he kept a tavern. He was probably a farmer as well and a good businessman. He had 11 children, and his son, Michael, inherited from his Amos. The original house (tavern) burned in 1762. Michael and his second wife built the larger typical center chimney colonial in 1763 which is pictured on the calendar.

Although Michael was over sixty years of age at the time of the Revolution, he did his part, going to Cohasset on the alarm there, three trips to Rhode Island, and in 1776 to Ticonderoga. Michael died in 1789, and his youngest son, Robert, (16) born in 1772, inherited one third of the estate which included this house. His son, Robert (22) who was only two at the time of his father's death in 1807, inherited 80 acres and the homestead farm with buildings at his mother's death in 1840.

Robert Sylvester (22) was an interesting and long-lived man. He became known as "Old Robert" to distinguish him later from 4 other Robert Sylvesters who lived in the Four Corners area in the 1890's. His son, Robert (30) was called "Little Bob", and his son, Robert, (30i) (of course) born in 1871, was called "Young Robert". "Bob Mike" was the name for Michael Robert Sylvester (27) who built 167 Washington St., and his son, Robert Irving Sylvester (27vii) was known as Irving. "Bob Mike" was killed in the terrible fire at Four Corners in 1898. (The numbers in parenthesis refer to the numbers in the genealogical section of the "History of Hanover" 1910 which help generations of a family to be identified)

Robert Sylvester (22) lived in this mansion house for many years. He married in 1828 and had 7 children. In 1860 when a valuation of all property in town was published, it appeared that Robert Sylvester owned considerable property including the "Tiffany farm, the Palmer farm, the Edmund farm. 2 horses, 2 oxen, 9 young stock, 3 swine and 17 sheep." He also had \$15000 worth of Bank Stock and \$4275 in Railroad Stock. When most valuations at that time were under \$2000, Robert Sylvester was well off. When Robert (22) died in 1899 he left his youngest son, Robert (30), his gold watch and his homestead farm, with 140 acres of land held in common with brother Michael and nephew, Edmund Q.. Sylvester.

Robert (30) "Little Bob" only had one son "Young Robert" who died at age 21 in 1896. Robert (30) moved from the mansion house about 1905. The house went out of the family about this time. The property with the smaller house next door were purchased by Col. John Osborne, and later through the Rockland Trust Company it passed to the Mittons.

About 1947 the Mansion with the smaller house, called "Iron Kettle Inn" were presented to the Sisters of St. Francis by Archbishop Cushing to be called St. Coletta's School. In 1970 the name of the school was changed to the Cardinal Cushing School and Training Center. The school is known nation wide as a model for training children with special needs to become useful citizens of the community. Hanover is proud of this part of our modern town history.

5/18/2006

## FOCUS ON HISTORY DECEMBER 1997

### THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH By Barbara Barker

Recycling is a new word for an old Yankee practice. Nothing was ever wasted in earlier times. "Make it do, use it up, do without", was an old Yankee proverb. Leftovers were recycled into casseroles; clothes were handed down, remade, used as quilt pieces and for dust clothes; even buildings were moved, or the wood and materials saved to be used again. Such was the case of the Second Congregational Church which is pictured on the Historical Society Calendar for December 1997. Although commonly referred to as the Second Congregational Church it was at first referred to as the Congregational Trinitarian Church of Hanover. It was also called the Orthodox Church

Many do not know that this typical white New England Church with its fine bell and tall steeple stood on Oakland Avenue ( then called Back Street) near the Four Corners from 1854-1936. It began its history as a Baptist Church in Abington. As Charles Gleason tells the story, " there was a squabble in the Center Hanover Congregational Church over one thing and another, and about the same time many of the members of St. Andrew's Episcopal got peeved and together these assorted members got together and bought a meeting house in Abington and moved it here."

The records of the First Congregational Church of March 15, 1854 show that 32 members were dismissed to form a new church "which would be an accommodation to the Hanover people who lived near the Four Corners." The view from the steeple looked out over the village of Four Corners and over to Church Hill in Norwell, where other members lived. (A view from the steeple is shown here).

The first minister retained was Rev. William Chapman. He only served for one year, when ill health forced him to resign. He was followed by Rev. Mann, whose salary was \$600 a year. He only lasted one year. Then came Rev. Aiken who remained 12 years, one of the longest terms held. (Maybe they paid him more than \$600) Then followed a succession of short term ministries, until Rev. John Wild came in 1892 and remained until 1904. (One of his daughters married a Hanover man, Mr. Henry Barstow.)

Families with familiar names of Barstow, Tolman, Ford, Turner, Lapham Stetson, Cushing, Damon, Sylvester, Eells and so on worshipped here for two or more generations. Mr. Gleason, himself attended here for a time. A story is told of how the church bell would toll the years of a member at his (her) death. One man borrowed a sum of money from another member (the bell ringer) and assured him he would pay it back. Time went by and promises were made, but the sum was not repaid. Finally the bell tolled the death of the borrower, but he was seen on the street. When questioned the, bell man is said to have answered. " He took so long in paying I thought he must be dead."

Gradually the older people died off and the younger ones moved away and eventually the church closed. It remained unused for a few years, but Yankees they still were, and in 1936 the church was torn down and moved by George Clark to his farm in Pembroke. He set the building up again almost exactly as it is pictured, except for the steeple and used it for a two story pig house. (How did the pigs get up to the second floor? a ramp?)

At the time of its removal a newspaper article (written by Charles Gleason, I think) said, "...this spire has shown across the glades and forests in a gesture of gentlest dignity, pointing to the heaven of which men have dreamed....the old church bell is never again to sound out its call over the countryside far down the North River valley. Here is a note of recompense. The old bell is now installed in the tower of the Baptist Church, Woodstock, Vermont."

From Baptist Church in Abington, to Orthodox Church in Hanover, to piggery in Pembroke, to Baptist Church in Woodstock, the old building and bell have influenced many man and beast.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY by Barbara Barker

### The Red and Blue War of 1909

Have you heard of the Red and Blue War of 1909? As Veteran's Day approaches I'd like you consider this event you may not have heard of. From August 14-21 1909 the United States government, together with the state militia (and other New England states) planned a mimic war. 10,000 to 12,000 men, under arms, invaded Hanover and nearby towns to participate in mock battles. Richard H. Davis, a war correspondent present, wrote that it was as real as anything in an actual war, except no one was killed.

Hundreds of great wagons loaded with provisions and camp kits came through our streets blocking traffic (which at that time was horses and buggies). Many of the participants arrived on the extra trains, which were put on the Hanover Branch Railroad, to bring them to our town, which was the site of much activity.

The Blue were the defenders, and the Red were designated as the enemy. Taken altogether they were respectful and many made friends.

One of the largest encampments was located in the Sylvester fields, near the present Cardinal Cushing School. Many of the men were farmers, factory workers, shop keepers, and the like and were unused to the rugged terrain and work. Some were called "tenderfoots". Some got lost as they charged the enemy through the swampy areas, and didn't find their way out for two days. Many such exhausted were carried out on stretchers. Many begged food from the country folk, because their camp was miles away. Some wells in Hanover went dry, because of the demand for water.

One of the largest battles took place near the Four Corners area, in the field beside where Betsy Robinson now lives (1994) The men trampled planted fields like cattle as they charged the enemy. The heaviest cannon fire occurred on the last day, when the two forces met on a nearby site. The detonation of the cannons, which was set off on Broadway, broke dishes from shelves in neighboring kitchens and broke every pane of glass in Herman Sturtevant's house (427 Broadway).

At the end of the skirmish, the men made their way back to their hometowns. Trains reached from Hanover (near Four Corners) to West Hanover.

No doubt many of these boys fought in a real war a few years later, and many laid down their lives for their country.

(Facts for this article were found in a note book of the late Charles Gleason, and 3 pictures taken by him as well as prints from two post cards enclosed are from the files of the Hanover Historical Society) If any one has additional information on this subject, I would appreciate hearing from them.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY--AUGUST 1998 by Barbara Barker

### THE ODD FELLOWS HALL

Natives of Hanover remember the Odd Fellows Hall pictured on the Historical Society Calendar for the Month of August. Built in 1888 on the south side of Broadway next to Academy Avenue (now the driveway to Salmond School) it was the home of the North River Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. At first the Odd Fellows met in rooms above Bates Store at the Corners, but later constructed this building. Charlie Gleason says that at one time there were 200 active members. "Time was when this lodge building was the center of considerable interest and activity. I recall when I joined in 1905 members drove several miles to attend the Monday night meetings. We had many members coming from Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke, and Hanson drive in with horse and buggy or with sleigh in winters. There was a large horse shed at the rear of the building and some put up in Hiram Howlands stable. "

It was the custom in later years for the members to attend services as a group once a year at the Congregational Church in the Center to observe Memorial Day. Pictured are some of the group about 1940 whom a few of you may remember: Robert Montgomery, Elmer Turner, John Reskervich, Samuel Turner, William Taylor, Alvin Dame, Wallace Cossaboom, Merton Studley, Bernard Stetson, William Flynn, Whitman Soule, Alfred Anderson, Chester Kiley, and Eugene Phinney. Charles Gleason took the picture and served as chaplain for 40 years. Others members some may remember were Ted Sykes, George Little, Reverend Barclay, and Lawrence Sweeney .

The Odd Fellows Building served not only as a meeting place for the Lodge, but was a place for community events. There was a stage as well as a dance floor. Here were held public meetings, debates, children's dancing classes, plays, concerts , movies and adult dances. Dancing was a common entertainment at the beginning of the century. There were balls held at the Town Hall, on the top floor of the old Academy Building, at Library Hall in West Hanover, and here. People loved to dance.

Eventually membership in the lodge dwindled. Charlie attributes the decline to "coming of the automobile, motion picture theaters, radio, television...." The building fell into disrepair and the members of the lodge dispersed and transferred to other Lodges and died. . When the lodge folded, the building was sold to the town for \$7000. But though the building was used for some community events, there were several fires and the building remained idle and became a hazard. It was torn town in 1960 and the land taken over by the town for parking for the Salmond School. Charlie regretted the loss of the building, but was philosophical: "This is the way of the times," he wrote.

We are all indebted to Charles Gleason as a preserver of stories and pictures of old Hanover. When he came to Hanover in 1905 as a young man of 25, he brought his innate intelligence, his interest in people, and his ability to take a picture and tell a story. He made scrapbooks of his pictures and stories, and the Historical Society is fortunate that several of them have been passed on to them. Charles Gleason was a true historian, and because of him much of our every day history has been preserved. Charlie was an "odd fellow". Would that there were more like him.

## The Little Red School House

The September Historical Society Calendar show a picture of the Whiting St. School, District # 5, taken about 1900. Thirty of so children, the boys in their dark pants and girls in light colored dresses with dark stockings, are posed by their school on a warm day, dressed for some special occasion, one imagines.

In the first 75 years or so after the incorporation of the town, the schoolhouses were erected and paid for by the town. Then it became the practice for each district to finance its own school. But in 1850 the town voted to purchase the district school lands and buildings, and there was then some equality of education from one district to the next. In fact the buildings were often constructed from the same plans. The Whiting St. School, pictured, was built in 1879, and was the third building to occupy the site.

Notes from Town Reports indicate that in 1879 Emma H. Ramsdells was paid \$268 for teaching 36 weeks at the Whiting St. (District # 5) School.. By that time all teachers in the primary schools (one teacher for each of the eight District Schools) were female. The high school teacher, Mr. M.S. Nash, was paid \$675 for teaching 40 weeks. The wages of all teachers had been reduced that year by approximately \$3 a month due to lack of funds. It was raised the following year.

In the old District School the teacher's desk stood on a platform in the front of the room. The blackboard was the front wall. Usually the stove was in the middle of the room, and the stove pipe extended to the front or back of the school (depending on the location of the chimney), dispensing heat as it made its way to the chimney. Those who sat near the stove were plenty warm; those at the perimeter were often chilled. Sometimes the teacher had to build the fire herself; at times an older student was assigned this task. The children brought their lunches in a lard pail or basket. In winter, sometimes the teacher heated soup or cocoa on the stove. Of course there was an outhouse in back of the school. At first many of the schools did not have their own well, and someone was sent to a nearby neighbor for the daily bucket of water for drinking. It was not unusual to drink from a common dipper until an understanding of disease communication was understood. Then a child brought his own collapsible tin cup. At the Historical Society we have the collapsible tin cup belonging to Lot Phillips.

District #5 School House closed about 1927. For a time it was used as a store-house for town belongings. At sometime it was sold. In the 1970's Valerie Gibson Barker purchased it and did some work to make it livable and conducted a Dance Studio there. Judy Kirshner Baines bought it in 1979 from Susan Barnicoat, who had resided there for a couple of years. Judy strengthened the second floor area and made two additional bedrooms there. She made changes in the kitchen and laundry areas for easier living. In 1984 David and Diane Haigh bought the charming old building and found it to be a wonderful home. Diane also runs her photography studio from the old school house. The Haighs have found remnants of old school days in digging around the gardens; marbles, china doll parts, slate pencils, pennies, etc. The granite foundation of the outhouse has been transformed into granite benches.

There were seven other schoolhouses in Hanover, one in each of the other districts. District 1 was Center Hanover, and the little school stood first beside the Stetson House, and by 1879 it was on the site of the present Sylvester School. I think that little building forms a part of the house at 339 Center St. District 2 was near the Four Corners on Broadway, and has been made into a residence # 254. District 3 was South Hanover. In 1850 that schoolhouse was located on Cross St. and by 1879, it was opposite Edie Bates House, 1194 Broadway. It too was moved and was converted into a house. District 6 was in North Hanover by Mann's Corner in 1879, and later became the Curtis School was built in 1896 and served that district. (The 100th Anniversary of the Curtis School is this September). District 7 was the Rocky Swamp School which served Assinippi and was located opposite the location of the Hanover Mall. District 8 was Main St. just North of Cedar St. in 1850 and 1879. The 1879 building was moved to 506 Main St. and served as a dormitory for the Poor Farm, and is now the Goldthwait's garage. It is interesting to note how many of the old schools went on to have other uses.

High school classes, which were instituted in 1868 ,were held in the Town Hall until 1927 when the Sylvester School was built.

In 1879 when the new District 5 School House was constructed, all were proud of the new building, and many children learned their three R's there. Some say that times were simpler then, but certainly not for the teacher who had to plan lessons for children ages 6 to 16, clean the school, keep it warm, and teach the eager and not so eager their lessons. Neither was it simpler for the students, who walked, some two or more miles to school in all kinds of weather, sometimes providing their own books and supplies, sat in a hot or cold building, depending on the weather, and used the outhouse when necessary.

Each period of history has its own challenges, as do boys and girls attending Hanover Schools today, and the teachers who teach them.

## THE HANOVER MALL SITE by Barbara Barker

Washington St., so called "The Country Road" as it runs from Assinippi to the old bridge at the North River is one of the oldest cartways in town. Originally The Old Bay Path, it was the way made by the Indians and later widened by the horses and wagons of the early settlers on their journey from Boston to Plymouth. . The Third Herring Brook was located just to the east of the old road and meandered parallel to it. It was the inland path as opposed to shore route that went through Scituate. The Country Road was woody, rocky, hilly, and marshy in various places. On an October day it must have been a site to behold. On a spring day it was probably a muddy mess.

Just about where the present exit from the expressway enters Washington St. was low land, and it was rocky and swampy. On the old maps it is designated as "Rocky Swamp" Just to the north of "Rocky Swamp" was located the district school which took the name "Rocky Swamp" School.

In the diary of Fanny Allen Simmons (1855-1928) who lived just north of the Rocky Swamp School, she tells of the huge mosquitoes that plagued he children as they played outside.. The Historical Society has a mosquito and fly trap that was used by the Simmons family. I'm not sure how effective it was. Mrs. Simmons also writes of gathering wildflowers in the swampy and woody area where now stands the Hanover Mall. She lists cowslips, violets, Solomon's seal, Jack-in-the-pulpit, columbine, pitcher plant, star flower and shad bush among others. I wonder how many of these still grown in the nearby woodland on Mill St.

Mill St. intersected Washington St. Both ways were lined with stonewalls. Mill Street still has wonderful old stone walls bordering its edges. On Mill St. just south of Rocky Swamp, very near the Mall Cinema was located the early Curtis Mill. After the Curtises, T.J. Gardner, who married into the Curtis family owned these mills until they were later owed by Samuel H. Church who married Mr. Gardner's daughter. The mill stayed in the family for 3 generations.

Of course the area described above and shown in the quaint old picture, "The Country Road at Rocky Swamp", is the location of the present day Hanover Mall. Along "The Country Road" were countless old capes, colonials, and early farm houses. The Simmons House (see picture) was one of the larger homes and land holders. It was torn down in 1962 to make way for the expressway. On the 1850 Map of Hanover there were 9 old houses from Assinippi to Mill Street only two remain.

Of course, I know I romanticize those old days when the roadways were dirt, the horse and buggy were your transportation and you knew your neighbors and village folk. The automobile certainly brought about one of the biggest changes to our all small towns and cities also.

In the 1950's when these 9 old houses still were standing, and 20 others had joined them, people would sit on their front steps and porches on a Sunday evening in the summer and watch the traffic wind its way slowly up from the Cape, bumper to bumper, right past their front doors.

To eliminate this congestion, came the Southeast Expressway. It brought people not just through Hanover, but they moved into Hanover, and our little town grew to be no so little. Our new citizens needed a place to shop, a supermarket, bank, department stores, and the kids needed a movie theater to keep them out of trouble. So we were told at the town meeting in 1969 to accept a change in zoning in the Rocky Swamp area. And so came the Hanover Mall.

For the most part the Mall has been a good neighbor. They have provided convenient shopping, jobs, and recreation for teenagers. They have hosted two wonderful balls during the Bicentennial years. They hosted a Centennial Ball for the year 2000. They have been generous to the community.

We can not go back to the "good old days", but we must respect those values of an honest day's pay for an honest day's work. And we must not forget our humble beginnings. And we must look for the wild flowers and save them where they are left. We must treasure "the little pleasures of life".

## FOCUS ON HISTORY--FEBRUARY 96 by Barbara Barker

### THE HANOVER BRANCH RAILROAD

Trains are quite the topic of conversation in many communities on South of Boston these days. Many are shouting bring them back. Others are arguing that they will disrupt communities with their noise and dangerous crossings.

Hanover once had its own "branch" railroad. Many Hanover business leaders worked hard to bring rail transportation to our town beginning in 1846 until 1868 when the first train ran over the tracks from Hanover Station located about where a bank now stands, across from Sylvester's Hardware. It continued down along the Indian Head River to Curtis Crossing just above Elm St., along the river to the South Hanover Station, thence across Cross St. and the fields behind Tindale's Pond, crossing Myrtle St., and Circuit Street at Winslow's Crossing, and on to the West Hanover Station, Rockland and Abington.

I have written about the a Hanover Branch Railroad in a previous article, but since the February picture on the Historical Society's calendar shows first train, the last train, and a snow bound train, I thought I could find a few more personal stories about this colorful mode of transportation in our town.

Joseph Merritt, newspaper man of the old Rockland Standard, tells of the "dummy" train. "When the Hanover Branch was built in 1868, the rolling stock consisted for a time of three second hand passenger coaches, and a small locomotive. The company also experimented with what was known as a "dummy", a short double ended affair with but little power. It seemed a dinky little toy and created much amusement among the patrons of the road, and was replaced in a short time by a regular wood burning locomotive. A Hanover man by the name of Harvey MacLauthlin was engineer made a funny little sketch of the dummy.... (See reproduction )

Helen Whiting, Hanover born and a former Hanover school teacher long before my time, tells several stories about the beginnings of the Hanover Branch in her writings for children filed at the Historical Society. She tells of two old West Hanover men who could not see the need for the new railroad. "One said,'Now here is Randall's coach doing all the business there is to do. It comes through here twice a day. It ought to be here now. Let's see how many there are aboard.' Soon the rattle of the old coach could be heard,and a cloud of dust appeared far down the road as a four horse coach came into view with one solitary passenger." On the contrary, the Branch did very well in both passenger and freight service until the automobile became king.

Miss Whiting also tells of a riot caused by the dissatisfaction of the railroad firemen who planned to strike unless Mr. Perry, the president and founder of the railroad, would grant \$5 per day, shorter hours, and several other things. A messenger was sent to give the message to Mr. Perry who got so incensed that he crumpled up the paper and shouted, "Never". The frightened messenger took the reply back to the firemen, who when they heard what had happened, stamped up the track toward Rockland like an angry army. "There were blows, kicks, scratches, black eyes, bloody noses and yells of anger, but in all this excitement there was only one casualty, a man with a bitten ear. Finally a settlement was reached and the crowd was treated to free ice-cream."

Mr. Joseph Church, an old time Hanover resident, wrote about his days on the railroad in a paper he delivered to the Hanover Historical Society in 1965. He told of applying for a position of engineer. Mr. Collamore, whose name Joe had given for a reference, came right up to talk to Joe's grandfather, who thought Joe would be better fitted for office work rather than an engineer. Grandfather said, "Never in my life have I seen two boys (Joe and brother, Arthur) with so little mechanical ability...Neither one of you could put a button on a privy door...." Joe Church did get a job as assistant station agent for two years from 1902 to 1904. "There I spent two happy years....I reported at 5:15 in the morning and worked through 7:45 at night, six days a week--\$7.50 a week."

Charles C. Turner, who was a newspaper man in the first part of this century had a great affection for the railroad and wrote many articles against its closing. He recalls the days when "one could hardly get through the (railroad) car because of the presence of egg crates, boxes of soap, mail bags, etc. ...bulky packages ( in the passenger car racks, sometimes in the owner's laps, sometimes in the baggage car) ornaments that adorn the rooms of the Mid-Victorian houses for a half-dozen miles around...This prove my (his) statement that about everything came home to Hanover...."

And then Charlie Gleason had many tales to tell in his notebooks. Charlie drove his horse and wagon and later his bicycle was his mode of transportation, but on a rare occasion he took a joy ride on the Hanover Branch. He tells of the Tower brothers who lived in town and worked on the railroad. Frank was a conductor, his brother, Fred was an engineer, other brothers served as fireman and baggageman, and the train was called the "Towers Special".

There are still a few people in Hanover today who remember riding on the Hanover Branch Railroad. I urge them to write down their memories of those times or they will be lost.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY by Barbara Barker

### St. Mary's of the Sacred Heart

The church pictured on the Historical Society Calendar for August is St. Mary's of the Sacred Heart., located on Broadway at the foot of Spring St. (which used to be called Purr Cat Lane) The picture was taken for the printing of the History of Hanover by Dwelley and Simmons, which was published in 1910 . Under the picture on page 23 it says "The Pines on Broadway". An earlier picture is found on page 61 of the same publication and is printed here. The landscape looks very open, and the church looks rather lonely.

After the Civil War and before the construction of the chapel, monthly and later weekly services for those of the Catholic faith were held in private homes of someone of that faith. One such home was that of Mr. Solomon Russell who lived near the Rubber Mill at 180 Elm St. (house in now for sale) Priests from St. Bridget's in Abington conducted the services. In 1879 Father William McQuaid of St. Bridget's purchased the site on Broadway on which to build a church for the people of the area. Many of the communicants were recent immigrants who worked in the factories or Irish girls who worked in the kitchens of the larger homes.

This quaint little chapel was referred to as the "Chapel of our Lady of the Sacred Heart". It was dedicated on June 25, 1882 and had an entry, small cupola and steeple and was built by Ranson and Higgins with plans made by J.H. Bearick. At first it was serviced from Abington, but by 1883 the first pastor, Reverend John D. Tierney was appointed for the towns of Rockland and Hanover. There was an influx of Polish and Lithuanian immigrants from 1900 to 1914, as well as Irish, Italians, Swedish German, Russian and other nationalities. Many of these were of the Catholic faith and the little church grew by leaps and bounds. By 1907 the Parish was separated from the Rockland parish and included five towns, including Hanover, Hanson, Pembroke, Halifax, and Plymton.

Father Charles Donahue served the church in 1912, and it was during his tenure that electricity was added to the church. He was the first pastor to live in Hanover, at 965 Broadway. He reported having some ghostly sightings in the house, and these reports were sensationalized by the local and Boston papers. Perhaps this is why his successors lived in Monponsett.

Reverend Patrick Crayton was appointed pastor in 1926, and it was during his tenure that three stained glass windows over the entrance to the church were installed.

In 1945 Archbishop Cushing separated the parishes of Monponsett and Hanover. Rev. Robert Hinchcliffe was appointed pastor of St. Mary's of the Sacred Heart, and with increased membership the old Joshua Studley homestead and property was purchased on Hanover St.

In 1953 a "new" St. Mary's was constructed at the North end of Spring St. on Hanover St. on the Studley property, and it was soon filled . The present rectory was built on the site of the old Joshua Studley house in the early 1960's.

The old St. Mary's was used as a social hall and meeting place for religious and community activities such as the Knights of Columbus and the Boy Scouts. It was vacant for a while and then sold in 1984 to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Baines, who gutted the interior and have made it into a most attractive home for their family. It still retains the lines of the old chapel, minus the steeple, with the addition on an el. The Baines held an open house for the community in 1985 and many reminisced about attending services in the old chapel.

The second St. Mary's on Hanover St. became too small for its burgeoning population and in 1991 a third St. Mary's was dedicated, constructed around the second church. It still retains the lines of a white New England Church, and the parish is rightfully proud of its history and service to the community.

FOCUS ON HISTORY August 1996 by Barbara Barker

## SOUTH HANOVER FACTORIES

On the Indian Head River between Pine Hill and Rocky Run Brook in South Hanover a dam was built and a bridge constructed over the river into Hanson, and the water power provided an excellent mill site for several businesses and factories to follow.

Shown in the picture on the August Calendar of the Historical Society and above is the last of the big factories located here. In the upper right hand corner is the factory and smoke stack of the Goodrich Shoe Company. Along State St. Hanson and Cross St. Hanover are the buildings of the E. Phillips and Sons taken about the turn of the century. Note the railroad station in the middle left.

Ezra Phillips purchased one-third of the factory in Hanson, and in 1853 entered into partnership with Mr. E.Y Perry and Martin W. Stetson under the name of E.Y. Perry & Company. Of course Mr. Perry's railroad was able to bring in the raw material and ship out the tacks etc. In 1874 Mr. Perry, about whose many business I've written before, withdrew, and the tack factory become known as E. Phillips and Sons, under which name it continued until it was purchased (I'm not sure when) by the United Shoe Machinery Co., who had for years been buying up tack factories all over the East and closing them so that they might have a monopoly in the tack making business. It was torn down before 1945 as the photo of Charles Gleason shows.

Ezra Phillips was a man of fine reputation. Half-brother of Lot Phillips who ran the Box Company in West Hanover, about whom I have already written, Ezra was born in 1810 and died in 1882. His two sons continued in the business which provided well for the Phillips family for several generations. In 1889 it employed about 50 men from Hanover, Hanson and the surrounding area. They worked seventy one tack and nail machines, a rolling mill, machine shop and had a sixty horse-power engine. They cut that year about 750 tons of nails and tacks and rolled 250 tons of zinc and lead.

Mr. Perry wrote of his business partner, Ezra Phillips, "I consider him one of the grandest and best men I ever knew. ..It was simply a pleasure to do business in connection with such a man."

Let us go back to the beginning of the development of this site. In 1720 the town granted two acres of land on the Indian Head River at this site to Joseph Barstow and Benjamin Stetson," for the accommodation of a forge and finery." The forge, was known as Barstow's Forge.. Capt. Barstow also held interest in a grist mill, a sloop and at his death in 1728 his estate was valued at \$30,000, quite a sum in those days. His youngest son, Joshua, only 8 years old, inherited the forge. He soon learned the business and continued it until his death by drowning in 1763 at age 44, leaving the forge to his son, Joshua, then 14. He continued until 1795 when he moved to Exeter N.H.

During the Revolution cannon balls were said to have been made here. Joshua Barstow melted the iron at an ordinary forge fire and molded them in the bottom of his forge

Robert Salmond became the next principal owner in 1795 until his death in 1829. He was engaged in the building of anchors among other things. About 1825 Mr. Salmond and Mr. Thomas Hobart of Abington, who had become part owner, had a contract from the United States Government for the manufacture of anchors for the Navy.

John Sylvester joined the firm in 1825 and by 1829 about 100 tons of bar iron were made, 100 tons of anchors, and 12 to 14 tack machines were run and several built yearly. By 1830 locomotive cranks were made here. Under the leadership of Mr. Sylvester the Hanover Forge Company continued until 1853 when it was sold to Mr. Phillips, Mr. Perry and Mr. Stetson. In an early picture from the Simmons Collection the mill pond looks lovely and still. Note the Hanover Branch Railroad train in the background.

There were problems being located on the river. Several bad storms broke down the dams at various times. Charles E. Turner, a trader of sorts in South Hanover, whose diary we have courtesy of Mrs. Elsie Nelson, wrote on February 18, 1867 "Great Excitement! Water Water Water! Great Freshet! Cushing's Dam gave away The bridge down by Perry's Factory! Blueing Shop went down stream. Greatest time ever known!" Later Mr. Turner reports working on the road and repairing the dam. Again in February 1886, "an uncommonly heavy fall of rain caused a flood along this valley; ...at E. Phillips & Sons tack-factory at South Hanover the dams were nearly destroyed." (Briggs) And there were others. Many remember the hurricane of 1938, and those in 1954 and 1955 which took out more of the dams along the Indian Head.

Now it is hard to believe South Hanover was such a busy village.

5/17/2006

FOCUS ON HISTORY--DECEMBER 1996 by Barbara Barker

## SOUTH HANOVER BUSINESS DISTRICT 1902

The general store was the central gathering place in each of the villages of Hanover at the turn of the century. Featured on the December 1996 Historical Society calendar is the Store owned at that time by E.Y. Perry, the Post Office, and Thomas Drew Boot & Shoe Store. This complex is now part of Myettes Country Store on the Corner of Broadway and Myrtle.

The Post Office was established in South Hanover in 1864 and was located usually in the store of the village. Mr. Isaac G. Stetson was appointed the first postmaster and remained in office until 1897 when Mr. Thomas Drew took over. Mrs. Ernest Bates was postmistress until 1944.

The 1857 map shows that a store owned by E.Y. Perry was located on the corner of Broadway and Myrtle St. Mr. Perry had many business interests in town, so I'm not so sure that he, himself, was behind the counter that often, but he did set policy; he decreed that two articles never be sold in his store--"rum and ladies' corsets".

Mr. Perry and his wife lived over the South Hanover Store for many years. They had one daughter who died in early infancy. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1884.

Mr. Perry was an unusual man. He was certainly an entrepreneur. His business interests in town included at various times the General Store at South Hanover, the Tack Works at Project Dale, John Sylvester's Hanover Forge Co. which became the Tackworks at South Hanover and later Ezra Phillips and Sons, interests in Lot Phillips Box Factory, the Mill at West Hanover, and the grain business which became Culver, Phillips, & Co. He also had interests in mills in Waldoboro, Maine. Never idle he was engaged in the buying and selling of real estate, lumber and wood. He was president of the Hanover Branch Railroad, and it was through his leadership that saw the railroad completed and running at a profit for many years.

I have told a few stories about his driving a hard bargain, and his competitive nature, but there was a very humanitarian side of this complex man. He was a Justice of the Peace for 20 years, a member of the State Legislature in 1897, and was early identified with the anti-slavery movement and belonged to the Garrisonian organization from its beginning to the emancipation of the slaves. He advocated temperance in the strictest sense. He 1880 he stopped taking interest on any of his loans and collect no interest on many mortgages.

Edward Y. Perry died in 1899 at age 86. A large part of his property was left for the benefit of poorer people and a trust fund for worthy young people of Hanover, Hanson and Pembroke who needed help in acquiring a college education. This fund still continues today, and scholarships in his name are still awarded.

And so the name of E.Y Perry is not forgotten in the annals of our history. He started as an orphan, raised by elderly grandparents, and through a sharp mind and hard work, he accumulated a fortune. He was a country merchant, a business man, a bargainer, and a humanitarian whose influence is still felt today.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY by Barbara Barker January 1996

The picture for January on the Historical Society's 1996 calendar shows the old Simmons homestead located on west side of Washington St. on-so called "Deadman's Curve" about a quarter of a mile south of Assinippi four corners. The house was torn down to make way for the Southeast expressway in the early 1960's. Across the street on the west side was the old barn for the animals and a "lane leading to a rocky pasture where a rippling brook made a pleasant sound. Beyond the brook lay a pine grove where the Simmons and Phillips children loved to play." (Catharine Phillips 1954) This is the area sometimes called Rocky Swamp, and is now the location of the Hanover Mall. The rippling brook is Third Herring Brook which marks the boundary of Hanover and Norwell.

Washington St. (part of the Pilgrim Old Bay Path) is one of the earliest roadways, beginning as an Indian Path, probably only a few feet wide, "winding in and out through the trees of the 'forest primeval,' over stepping stones through the lower grounds". (John Simmons 1908). It was then used by the early colonists who later rode horseback. Later called the Country Road, it was officially laid out in 1656 by Hanover's first settler, William Barstow. The original path was gradually widened to make way for carts and carriages, and eventually straightened and widened further for the automobile. Along this early roadway many of our earliest homes were built.. By 1849 there were 29 houses shown on the Whiting map from Assinippi to Hanover St. Of these 29 only 6 are left standing, many taken down since I moved here in 1961, Of these 6, three are on "Old" Washington St. and were saved by the earlier straightening of the road. So much of our history has been destroyed.

To keep the history of the old Country Road alive I will tell you about the old Simmon's Place. It was probably constructed about 1750, though there is a question if parts of an earlier house were used in the ell. It may have been built by an Otis, but by 1782 David Jacobs was living there. It began as colonial in style, but was "Victorianized" in the late 1800's by the Simmons who came into possession in 1799 at David Jacob's death. Elisha Simmons, great grandfather of John F. Simmons, author of the History of Hanover, was a blacksmith. Here he raised 10 children, one to become a judge, one a clergyman, one a doctor, one an artist whose "The Return of the Flags" and "The Battle of Concord" were in the rotunda of the State House in Boston, (I'll have to check to see if they are still there) and one, Ebenezer, who inherited the property, kept a store in the ell. Ebenezer was a lieutenant in the War of 1812, and was at one time in command of the fort at the entrance to Plymouth harbor( the Gurnet).

Ebenezer's son, Perez, became a lawyer of some renown, and a biography of his life was written in "The History of Plymouth Count--1884" He was educated in the village school, and then given private instruction by the Rev. Samuel Deane, author of the "History of Scituate. He entered Brown University and was admitted to the bar at Providence. After practicing in R.I. a short while, he returned to Hanover and took up the practice of law in the home of his childhood.

During his forty years at the bar in Plymouth county there few leading cases where his name does not appear. Perez Simmons married in 1846 Adeline Jones of South Scituate, (now Norwell), and they had three children. Their daughter, Sophia, married Morrill Phillips of South Hanover, their youngest son, Moses, was a graduate of Harvard Medical School, and John Franklin Simmons, their oldest son, became a lawyer like his father and lived in the house with his father and mother, wife and four children.

John Simmons was a well-known and respected figure in Hanover. He was an eloquent speaker and strong supporter of public education. He served on the School Committee for 15 years. He kept law offices in Hanover, Abington, and Boston. John Simmons married Fannie Allen, the local minister's daughter and they had four children.

The Historical Society is in possession of the diaries of John Simmon's wife, Fannie Simmons, and daily life of this local Victorian family is wonderful to read. The diaries describe the warm kitchen with the big black stove, the dining room where one of the many parlor stoves was kept burning, the small office lined with tall book cases and filled with leather bound law books, the bay windows and piazza, Ma and Pa Simmons (Mr. and Mrs. Perez Simmons), family gatherings and holidays, as well as day to day life. Identified in the picture on the January calendar are Ma and Pa Simmons, Fannie Simmons, her oldest son Henry, and an unidentified female. Through the years the old house held many memories of the Simmons family, and fortunately some of their mementos have found a home at the Historical Society.

Mr. John Simmons died prematurely in 1908 and the family home eventually fell into other hands. For a time it was divided into apartments. Traffic increased to a steady stream as Washington St. became a main route to the Cape. Then the Southeast Expressway cut through the Simmon's pasture and hop yard. The house was torn down, and we are left with the memories of a grand family and wonderful old house.

## SIGNS OF SPRING IN HANOVER by Barbara Barker

Although this hasn't been a snowy winter or a very cold one, it seems to have been a long gray winter, and everyone is anxious for signs of spring. I'm not sure what poet said, "If winter comes, can spring be far behind", but I take great solace in that observation. The ground hog told us that it was going to be an early spring. I hope he was right. I haven't seen my ground hog yet, but I hope he has moved and is welcoming in spring elsewhere as I write.

In Hanover in the middle of February you may have noticed two great splashes of yellow along the west wall of the Carriage Shed at the Stetson House. "What could be blooming so early?" you ask. "Surely not forsythia." Witch Hazel is the answer; it is one of the earliest signs of spring in New England. In fact it blooms as early as December, but I first noticed it at the end of January. A lotion or potion made from the bark and flowers can be used as an astringent to relieve itching. I prefer to merely consider it an early sign of spring.

The Hanover Garden Club planted the attractive area between the Library and to the rear of the Stetson House and barn with native shrubs and wildflowers. They welcome you to discover the bloom of the witch hazel and other treats along the paths as the season progresses.

If you haven't gathered your pussy willows yet, you'd better hurry. It's almost too late. Put them in water and they'll grow roots; plant them in a damp place, and you'll have your own pussy willow bush in a few years.

My snow drops have been blooming since January. Their little white bells open up on sunny days, then curl up when winter asserts itself. But they are persistent and keep blooming through March.

The sap is rising and the buds begin to swell. The weeping willow takes on a chartreuse tone, and the swamp maples show pink. The skunk cabbage begins to break through the mud.

The snow crocus, a well know harbinger of spring, will bloom through spring snows and promises sunny days ahead. Snow crocus have been blooming by the back walk at the Stetson House for several weeks. For most Hanover people the early crocus at the old post office announced to the town, "Spring is here!" Do you think they still bloom even though they no longer have spectators I think they do. I checked and they were blooming their little hearts out. They love that south brick wall which holds the heat and draws them out of the winter depths like magic.

The brick wall on the south side of the Sylvester School has a similar exposure. In 1983 my fifth grade class planted crocus and daffodils in their own "secret garden, and I introduced my classes to the magic of spring. I think that garden still welcomes spring to children.

Following the bloom of the crocus is the dwarf iris, chionodoxas and squills. Finally as April approaches, my favorite, daffodils, raise their golden trumpets and herald the true spring. The daffodils will bloom at the schools, along the roadway, and in the yards all over Hanover. Some are the result of the "Trash for Bulbs Trade" sponsored by the Hanover Garden Club in the fall, when individuals, groups, and business people cleaned up the roadsides of litter and traded the collected trash for daffodil bulbs which they planted, and we all are rewarded with their bloom in the spring. The spring bulbs are not only beautiful but rugged, and we cannot help but admire their optimism.

Of course we mustn't forget the forsythia. Everyone should have a bush from which to pick early to force their golden blossoms into early bloom in the house, and later to enjoy their wonderful mid-April flowering. In Hanover one of the prettiest shows of forsythia is on the corner of Oakland Avenue and Broadway

Late spring brings tulips, and the flowering shrubs and trees. Along route 139 in 1976 during the bicentennial year some businesses and individuals planted flowering cherry trees. Quite a few survived. Watch for them

The lengthening of the daylight hours signals to some birds to move further north. The winter residents begin their mating songs. Some robins have remained for the winter and get a jump start on spring. Others have just arrived and think they have discovered spring. The cry of the red-wing black bird is heard near the wetlands. The woodpecker taps out his signal to all that this is his territory; females welcome; males should move on. To some people one sure sign of spring is the first warm evening when the noise of the peeper frogs is heard from the swamps.

Overnight it seems the grass turns green, and the dandelions bloom. The alewives swim up the brooks to spawn in the fresh water. The shad follow a few weeks later and draw fishermen from all over the state to the Indian Head River. Other fish become active and fishermen dot the edges of the streams to try their luck. Optimism runs high.

Baseball players young and old feel the desire to get out and hit a few. Spring practice begins. Of course the return of the Red Sox to Fenway is a sure sign of spring for many. Hope springs eternal.

The March winds may blow; the April showers will bring May flowers. Life is pushing out of its winter sheath and all the world welcomes spring. Life renews itself and the cycle begins again.

## SALMOND SCHOOL researched by Barbara Barker

The present Salmond School was constructed in 1931 on the site of a town grammar school which had previously served as Hanover Academy, a private high school. The old school had been constructed in 1852 with money invested by stockholders, many of whom were from the Four Corners area who had children attending the Academy. Mr. Samuel Salmond was the primary stockholder. His eldest daughter Mary Salmond donated a 400 pound bell to hang in the belfry. The bell cost \$138 at that time.

When the Academy closed in 1900 the Salmonds and other stockholders turned the building over to the town with the stipulation that the bell continue to be used to call children to the classroom. The promise was kept, and the school bell continued to ring three times a day. The old academy was used as a grammar school and replaced the Broad Oak School.

"The year 1931 will be always remembered in the annals of the Town of Hanover as the year of the opening of the new Salmond School. This building was made possible by the great generosity of the Sylvester family." So states the report of the School Committee in 1931. Mrs. Hugh Hatfield, (who was Elizabeth Sylvester) Samuel S. Sylvester and Edmund Q. Sylvester gave \$25,000 toward the new Salmond School. Mr. J. Williams Bell, Mr. George J.J. Clark and the Odd Fellows were also contributors. The building Committee was Edmund Q. Sylvester, Earl Shepherd and Joseph Church.

The little old white building was moved from its foundation (to Pembroke I think), and a new brick building was erected to take its place as a modern school. The old bell from the old Academy building was saved and hangs today in the belfry and was rung for many years by the elementary children who attended Salmond School. The new building housed the first six grades from Hanover, South Hanover and Center Hanover and the fifth and sixth grades from North Hanover. From 1938 to 1978 many children town attended the family oriented Salmond School and became very fond of it.

In 1978 there was great controversy. It was proposed that Salmond School be closed for economic reasons and the students from that district be bussed to Center School. Many families had a special feeling for this homey school, but economics won out and the Salmond School was closed and the bell silenced.

The school remained empty for only a year or two until it was rented out to a private day care and pre-school center. It currently houses the Administration Offices for the Superintendent of Schools.

## REMEMBERING LUCY BONNEY by Barbara Barker

I considered Lucy Bonney one of my good friends. Although the difference in our ages was almost 40 years and we had different opinions on many subjects, we shared many interests. Lucy died March 31, 1996 at age 104, and I shall miss her.

One can hardly remember Lucy without including her twin sister, Anne, who died only last year. They were born in the family home on Old Washington St.. in Hanover. They were the seventh generation to live in that home. They were told that they were so small when first born that they were kept in a small box near the stove, until they were big enough for cradles. Although they were not identical twins, most people could not tell them apart, but their close friends could.

They grew up on the farm that was typical of the early 1900's, but would seem magical to children today. Playing in the hay mow, picking blueberries in the pasture, helping Mother and Aunt Lucy with the household chores, playing with the kittens and the ever present faithful dog, catching fireflies at twilight , and taking long wagon rides to Duxbury to visit grandmother Weston were an important part of their early lives. They took good care of the few toys that they had, some handed down from a wealthy friend in Boston, and when it was time to open the Stetson Houses, they donated their toys that had been carefully preserved in the attic.

When you think of the changes that have taken place in the last 100 years, and realize that these women changed with them all, one cannot help but admire their spirit. From the District School in Center Hanover to Radcliffe College, education prepared them for the challenges they faced. I once asked Lucy if they played a part in the Women's Suffrage Movement. "Oh, we marched in Boston," she replied, "but we didn't tell Mother."

Both young women became teachers, Lucy a teacher of high school English and Anne, a school librarian, I'm sure their thirst and enthusiasm for knowledge was spread to the many children whom they taught in Connecticut and New Jersey.

We shared a love of reading, and I think I read most of the books on the shelves in their cozy library where we shared many of cup of tea. I remember sitting with them one afternoon in October after a particularly stimulating day of teaching my own fifth graders. I had been teaching a poem, but I couldn't remember the author. "Do you know the poem, 'October in New England'?" I asked.

And they chimed in "And I not there to see, the glamour of the goldenrod, the flame of maple tree; That was by Odell Shepard, our teacher at Radcliffe, the year he was in California".

Anne married a widower in mid-life and lived in Norwell; Lucy continued teaching, traveling in the summer and seeking new adventures, but always coming back to the old home on Washington St. where she retired.

But retirement became a most active part of her life. She took part in many community and church activities, and was a long time member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and active in the altar guild and prayer group for many years. Interested in art and music, she took up painting, and I am pleased to own several of her paintings of local places.

Lucy and Anne were both interested in politics, and were life-long democrats in a republican town. When Lucy received a birthday card in her advanced years from President Reagan, she huffed, and threw it into the wastebasket. She didn't think much of him! Both the sisters were active in the League of Women's Voters and avidly studied political issues. They attended Town Meeting until they were 95 years old. Lucy served on the board of directors of the Visiting Nurse Association for many years.

When I moved to town in 1964 with my family, my husband and I joined the then, small Hanover Historical Society that met in individual homes. We were the youngest in the group, but we were welcomed, and we learned so much, and it was there that the Bonney's discovered I shared their passion: historical research. They were wonderful teachers, and as I asked question after question, they quenched my thirst about the history of my house, other old houses, the history of the town, and the people who influenced its history. I joined with them in a project of researching the old homes in Hanover located on the 1850 map. I would ride my bicycle down to their house many a summer morning. There on their screened porch we would immerse ourselves in the historical puzzles of the old houses and how they passed from generation to generation, and family to family. In the afternoon, taking the history of a house as an entry, I would go off on my bicycle and visit and photograph the old houses, until we had done over 100 of them. We eventually collaborated on a book for the Bicentennial entitled, "Houses of the Revolution in Hanover, Massachusetts"

Of course all of this took a few years and during those years, the Bonneys became my dear friends and part of my family. They were welcomed at our table at Christmas and Easter dinners. (They had other invitations from other friends for every holiday) They were so positive in their outlook and so much fun to be around; they never lacked for invitations.

Anne and Lucy sponsored me as a member of the Hanover Garden Club, and we shared a love of gardening. Some of my prized possessions are the old daffodils, the dainty pink rose, the hyperion lilies, and other old fashioned treasures from their garden.

When they were in their 80's Lucy and Anne spotted a Newfoundland puppy, fell in love with her and she became their beloved Dinah. Dinah grew and grew, and weighed more than each of them. She led them a merry chase and helped keep them young. It was a sad day when Dinah died.

Lucy and Anne kept active and independent and remained in their much loved old home until well into their nineties. There they greeted their friends who sought out their company. The sisters were very close and had a kind of telepathy. One seemed to know what the other was thinking. When they turned 100 they were recognized in the national news: 100 year old twins are indeed rare.

A Memorial Service was held for Lucy Josselyn Bonney on Thursday, April 4 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Those who were present counted Lucy Bonney as a wonderful role model and a true friend. May she rest in peace.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY by Barbara Barker

### Remembering "Armistice Day"

On November 11 the country will celebrate Veteran's Day as a National Holiday to honor veterans of past wars. The roots of this day go back to 1918 when on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month the world rejoiced and celebrated the end of World War I, and the armistice was signed in a small French town. The "war to end all wars" was over. and the day was designated as "Armistice Day".

After four long years of a bitter war the boys came home. In Hanover the effects weren't felt so deeply until 1917 when 79 boys enlisted and in 1918 when 26 more went to serve their country according to the Town Reports. Of those who left their hometown, three died: 1st Class Private Charles E. Cummings, killed in France; Private Leon W. Josselyn, killed in France; and Corporal James J. Levings, died in the hospital.

While the soldiers were fighting in the trenches, those at home wanted to do their part for the war effort. The people in Hanover showed great sympathy for the British and French allies as well as for the homeboys in the service. They bought Liberty Bonds and formed a special branch of the National Special Aid Society for American Preparedness which met regularly to make surgical dressings, to knit and sew hospital supplies for the Red Cross, the Army and Navy League, and the French Wounded. They also filled comfort bags and Christmas boxes for the Public Safety Committee. The Women's Relief Corps, the Fire Department, Camp Fire Girls, the Summer Club, the Riverside Associates, the American Ambulance Hospital Workers, and the E.Y Perry estate provided the funds for this work. Also fund raising entertainments were held by other various groups.

People volunteered to help out in any way they could. Many went to work at the National Fireworks which in 1914 began making ship signals, flares and torpedoes for the Allies. Then in 1917 the whole Fireworks Complex was retooled and joined the war effort in full. This company was famous world-wide for developing a method of making tracer bullets and worked extended hours to fulfill a huge government contract.

Others helped boost the spirits of the boys and wrote letters telling of the news at home. People like Catharine Phillips served for a short time as a manager for a house in Provincetown which was a haven for off duty military personnel and their families, sort of a USO. (See picture)

One of the ways most families helped with the war effort was to conserve critical food supplies so that they could be sent to those fighting to make the world "Safe for Democracy". Each family was given a ration book. A United States Food Administration pamphlet gave these suggestions as to "What You Can Do to Help Win the War" The problem was stated "to feed the Allies and our own soldiers abroad by sending them as much food as we can, especially wheat, beef, pork, butter and sugar." Suggestion: "Have Two Wheatless Days, (Monday and Wednesday), and One Wheatless Meal every day. Have One Meatless Day (Tuesday) and One Meatless Meal every day. Have Two Porkless Days (Tuesday and Saturday) Make every day A Fat-Saving Day, Make every day a Sugar-Saving Day, Use Fruits, Vegetable and Potatoes abundantly, Use Milk wisely."

Another government publication said, "They have gone into the trenches; will you go into the Kitchen?" and then proceeded to give nutritional information and suggested recipes which could use meat substitutes, nitrogenous foods. There are several recipes using dried, ground peanuts. Here is one for "Liberty Escallop"

"Use the peanut foundation in alternate layers with war-bread crumbs mixed with minced celery tops, or outside pieces; dampen with any vegetable stock, tomato juice, or failing these, use water. Cover the top with crumbs and brown in the oven." Does this sound yummy? There are other equally different recipes. Among them are directions for Liberty Casserole, Liberty Shepherd's Pie, Liberty Curry, and Liberty Hash . Pictured is a scaled down example of a poster for the hometown people, "The Fruits of Victory".

Herbert Hoover, then U.S. Food Administrator, is quoted in one U. S. Food Administration pamphlet, "Our wheat situation is today the most serious situation in the food supply of the whole wide world." Recommended was to "Use Potatoes to save wheat." as well as recipes for potato bread, chocolate potato cake, potato cookies, etc. I don't think you would want these.

To keep their spirits up songs like "Keep the Home Fires Burning", "Over There", and "Somewhere a Voice is Calling" were sung as the hometown people gathered and remembered those fighting for liberty.

And so all rejoiced and gave thanks for the sacrifices when the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918. Although celebrated yearly on that date Armistice Day was not made a legal holiday until 1938 when it was officially voted by Congress. After the Second World War, Armistice Day continued to be observed on November 11. In 1953 the little town of Emporia, Kansas called the holiday "Veterans' Day". In recognition of the veterans of both wars soon a bill was introduced and passed by Congress to rename the holiday Veterans' Day. Veterans of Korea and Vietnam are now included in the remembrances on Veteran's Day, November 11. Let us all give thanks and remember the sacrifices of those who served and those families who lost loved ones. Let our children not take for granted the freedom we enjoy.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY by Barbara Barker

### PROJECT DALE

June 1996

The June photo on the Calendar of the Hanover Historical Society features a peaceful spot in Hanover referred to by many as "Project Dale". This is located in the beautiful valley (dale) along side the Indian Head River. What the "project" was I have not been able to determine, but the name goes back to at least until 1853 when J.S. Barry in his History of Hanover says, "...at a place called "Project Dale" stands the tack factory of Mr. Edward Y. Perry, moved to this spot by Mr. Charles Dyer about the year 1830". Mr. Barry notes, "the location of these works is very pleasant, especially in the summer season, being in a quiet dale, surrounded by hills, clothed with evergreen, and deciduous trees."

Earlier there was located on the same site an old dam, a grist mill, and a carding mill. We find a reference to the term, "Project Dale", from papers that were in the possession of Mr. Dyer, that James Torrey had a fulling-mill at this spot in 1737, at which date the place was called "Project Dale."

Dr. L.Vernon Briggs in his "History of Shipbuilding on the North River" devotes several pages to the manufacturing that took place "along the beautiful Indian Head River as it flows over its shallow course beside the railroad and the delightful drive known as Project Dale." He tells that "there was formerly a bridge over the Indian Head at this point, but it disappeared many years ago." Perhaps this is where the term "piers pont", which I recently heard in describing the place, came from. Briggs describes the history of the mill site as it passed from James Torrey to Nathaniel Josselyn "Josselyn's Corn Mill" to Joseph Stetson, thence to Lemuel Curtis, Nathaniel Curtis, and Aaron Hobart. About this time the dam was raised four or five feet.

Miss Helen Whiting gives a description of the manufacturing that took place at the site. Several years earlier Mr. Jesse Reed, who had come to Hanover about 1812, invented a "machine for making and heading tacks in one operation which made it possible to produce 60,000 tacks per day....He built a dam and put up a grist mill and nail factory at Rocky Run", a short distance above Project Dale. In 1830 Mr. Charles Dyer moved the tack factory down the river to the Project Dale site and conducted the works for ten years as an agent for Elihu Hobart.

Of course, the illustrious E.Y. Perry got into the act, and in 1850 he took charge of the works until he moved upstream to the Barstow works, which later became the Phillips factory in South Hanover, about which I will write in August. Mr. Perry was the founder of the Hanover Branch Railroad and was always interested in developing business that would use the line. The tracks followed the Indian Head River from South Hanover to the Station near the Four

Corners. Riders on the line always looked forward to the ride on the train beside the river and the scenic view of "Project Dale" Since the tracks have been taken up, this path forms the main route of the "Indian Head Greenway" written about in an earlier article. It is a pleasant walk along the river and one experiences the pastoral atmosphere of "Project Dale"

Dr. Briggs continues with the following description, "The location... is very picturesque, being on the edge of a placid pond, which during the summer sunsets, is a perfect mirror. It is surrounded by hills, thickly grown with foliage and has a beautiful fall of water over the dam most of the year."

George Curtis was the owner of the factory at Project Dale in 1870 when he sold to Lemuel Waterman, Rudolphus Waterman and George Clapp. When known as the R.C. Waterman Company, an exceptionally fine line of tacks and nails were made here and many shoe repair shops, especially in New York and Philadelphia, refused to use other than Waterman's tacks. The sons and grandsons of the above mentioned Charles Dyer were known as highly skilled tackmakers for the Waterman Tackworks.

In February 1886 there was an uncommonly heavy fall of rain which took out upper mills on the Indian Head. At Project Dale the water poured into the factory and the dam was partially carried away, as well as the underpinnings of the factory, and some of the tracks were damaged and the train halted for a time.

Later storms did damage to the dam, but hurricanes in 1938 and 1954 really took the dam and pond out, so that we can no longer see the peaceful pond referred to in earlier writings.

Different businesses have occupied the site since the Waterman Tack Factory went out of business. Evidence of a fire about 1927 can be found today. The depression followed. After the World War II James Sylvester ran a company called Silful Art Glass. I wish someone who worked there could tell me more about it. The Norman Robbin's Window Company operated here for a while. In the late 1960's, 35 people were employed making batakas. Since 1974 Mr. William Barr of Hingham has run the Universal Tipping Company and has proved to be a good neighbor. I may have missed a few since Waterman's Tack Factory, and if you know anything else about this site, please let me know.

The red house located opposite the mill at 361 Water St. goes back to about 1726 and Nathaniel Josselyn, who had secured early mill rights. It was enlarged and the house and mill rights sold to many of those mentioned above. Most of the subsequent occupants were in some way connected with the mills. Charles Dyer, who was Mr. Hobart's agent until 1839 lived in the house a number of years, and his son also until his marriage in 1874. For a long time it was rented. In the 1940's a family by the name of Foley owned it. Since the 1960's it has been the home of the Currier family.

Project Dale is still a place of refreshment. Wildflowers and ferns abound along the shores of the winding Indian Head River and take us back through the many lives that have been influenced by the place.

## HANOVER THEN AND NOW by Barbara Barker

Prepared for the Homesteader Newspaper September Feature

The first family to settle in the bounds of Hanover was William Barstow who came up the North River from the coast at Scituate in 1649. He settled near the river in the area now referred to as Four Corners. He was a husband, father, farmer, a bridge builder, a ship builder, and keeper of an ordinary among other things. Others followed him seeking more land, and by the early 1700's there were 200 families who petitioned the Massachusetts General Court to separate from Scituate and incorporate their own town, to be called Hanover in 1727. John Simmons in his "History of Hanover" suggests that the name "Hanover" was taken by those loyal subjects of the King of England, George I., who before ascending the throne of Great Britain, had been Elector of Hanover. Mr. Simmons goes on to say that the difference in spelling can be accounted for by the "inclination , which has always been prominent in this country, to make improvement in every way upon everything."

A description of the town life at the time of the Revolution is quoted from Lucy Bonney, one of the authors of "Houses of the Revolution". "In the vicinity of the North River Bridge, where ship-building had been conducted for over a century, there was the largest settlement. At each of the old and new Forges, there were a few settlers. The little streams turned the wheels of several saw and grist mills around which a few homes had been built.

"There was an ordinary at the bridge, taverns at the Four Corners and one at Drinkwater.

"The rest of the town was covered by self-sustaining farms. Each was a large clearing where had been built a sturdy house of superb architecture. Beyond, were the barns for horses, cattle, sheep and oxen. There were gardens and orchards which provided food for the family and the farm animals, flax for the weaving of linen and herbs, as there was no doctor in town. Farther on were meadows and pasture land surrounded by stone walls and hay fields. Beyond the clearing was an extensive acreage of woodland which provided fuel for the great fireplace and lumber for building.

"Only a few main thoroughways existed: the Country Way from the North River Bridge toward Boston, the Town Way to the Forges, the Drinkwater Way over Tumble Down Hill to the Abington line and Curtis Street from the Center of town to the North. Many little woodland lanes led from house to house or to the main road. Some later became streets, others can still be found in wooded areas.

"Many of the old homes are now here, some inhabited by the descendants of the early builder. Others are gone, but many a long forgotten house can be traced today by a lilac bush still blossoming near an old broken foundation or a nearby stonewall.

"Much of the old charm has disappeared, but that which remains is still beautiful."

Throughout the years that followed changes gradually occurred. More houses were built, the district schools were turned over to the town, and later consolidated, a high school was begun in the town hall, a railroad and trolley came and went. Many of the farmers and shipbuilders became shoemakers: doctors came to town. Electricity and the telephone arrived at the turn of the 20th century, and the automobile followed. It was the last three advances that changed life in our rural town.

The end of World War II saw a burst of building and later the Southeast Expressway resulted in Hanover changing to a suburban community with many fine new homes, (although the old ones are the jewels). The town boasts of a fine educational system, a fine pre-school and kindergarten program, two elementary school, a middle school and a high school which sends 89.5 percent of its graduates on to higher education. The public library is well used and is looking forward to an addition. There are six churches, and many civic clubs and organizations. The old volunteer fire companies still exist in the villages, but there is the most modern equipment, and a permanent force at the Center Station. The police force is well educated and one of the best on the South Shore, and is looking toward a modern police station soon to be constructed.

Business has moved much of its focus from the mills along the streams and the Four Corners to route 53 and the Hanover Mall.

But Hanover Center, received Historic District nomination, still retains a pastoral feel, featuring the Congregational Church, the Parsonage, the Town Hall, the Library, the Stetson House, the Civil War Monument, the Cemetery, and the Sylvester School. Near by is Briggs Stable with horses prancing around the ring and riding along nearby trails. One can almost imagine that time has stood still here.

Most of all Hanover has always had people who loved their families, their town, supported education, had a strong value system and a spirit of volunteerism. Hanover people are proud of their town.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY AUGUST 1997 by Barbara Barker

### Oxen in Days of Yore

I'm sure any Hanoverian has marveled at the miles and miles of stone walls that line the streets and lanes and criss-cross the fields in our old town. Having just added a mere 150 feet of stonewall to define my property from Main St. I have a greater appreciation of the work and skill involved. My self-built wall is not as sturdy, nor as wide as those of old, but I am learning. It took many rocks and a few stones to construct my wall, and I gathered many of them myself from my property, and some from as far away as Connecticut and R.I. However, I had a professional wall built around a garden to the rear of my property, and the wall builders there wanted more choice for their more perfect wall, so additional rocks were purchased. (You wouldn't believe how much they cost.) Those left over were then moved (by machine) to the street edge of the property for me to build my "country" stone wall. Most of these rocks were very large.

In the old days the farmer certainly never purchased a rock. In fact part of the story of New England stonewalls is that the stones were worked into walls as the rocky fields were cleared. But the old farmer had a helper to move the rocks, his loyal ox, or more likely his pair of oxen.

Oxen can be credited with helping the farmer clear the forests, drag the large trees out, pull the stumps, and haul the large boulders and rocks to the edge of the field where the stones were later carefully fit into a fine wall which defined the field. In the winter the oxen were hitched to a large sled and the burden pulled across the snow. When there was no snow, a stone boat or cart was hitched to the yoked oxen. Probably most of the rocks for the old stone walls in Hanover were hauled into place by a yoke of strong oxen hitched to a heavy home-made cart or sled. Helen Whiting wrote that "The loads oxen could pull is almost unbelievable. They had the drawing power of several horses, and a farmer could feed 12 oxen for the price of one horse."

Now I must answer the question some of you former city dwellers are asking. What is an ox? To be polite I will couch the answer in Victorian terms. An ox is male cow that has been "altered". Every bull cow was a potential ox, and a source of great usefulness as a draft animal.

200 years ago in Hanover there were twenty oxen to one horse. The reason was purely economics and logic. The oxen thrived on a diet of pasture grass and hay, was less susceptible to disease. When age made him unable to work, he could be slaughtered and eaten or sold. It is little wonder that they were so used and valued. At the beginning of the 19th century a pair of good oxen cost \$75 without their yoke.

Every farmer needed at least one yoke of oxen to run his farm. Oxen were used for any heavy job. They would pull a cart of hay or produce. They would drag the granite in place for the foundations of the old houses. They would drag the huge oak timbers across the fields to the ship yards for the construction of those 1000 ships that were launched on the North River. One could hear the driver directing his beast as he yelled, "Haw", go to the left, "Gee", to the right, and "Buck", move back. "Shh" was the signal to stop quickly. This was the universal language understood by both the driver and the oxen who communicated well with each other.

Oxen could travel over rough ground easier than a horse and a broken leg was unlikely on an ox who had sturdier legs and cloven feet like a cow. The blacksmith had to make two shoes for each foot of the ox. It was quite a job to shoe an ox. Weighing 2000 pounds and often more, the huge animal was hoisted up in a frame and a leather sling passed beneath its body. When the animal was off the floor, then the feet were bound to low side posts and the blacksmith would begin his work. I have an ox shoe found in my field by Lot Phillips years ago, left by one of those beasts of burden who worked to pull out the large pine trees that were to be made into boxes.

Three yoke of oxen could move a building and often did. Many of the old schools were moved about town, shoe shops were moved, as well as small houses. The ox was a reliable animal and bore his burden well.

Sam Sylvester, half brother to Edmund Q. Sylvester, had the last pair of oxen in Hanover. These were in use many years on the Sylvester farms, but were replaced as were others in town by the motorized tractor which would do ten times as much in the same time (According to Charlie Gleason) Charlie took these pictures of Sam's oxen in 1905 and said in 1942 "Sam does not use oxen, (anymore) but he like to see them around just to remind him." Also pictured are the week-old twin calves that sometime in the future would grow up into big oxen who would weigh a ton or more each. Their names were Pete and Repete. Pictured with them is Fred Saunders, who was caretaker on the E.Q Sylvester farm and later worked for Dr. Hatfield.

The days of oxen are long gone from Hanover, but the miles and miles of stone walls remind us of those days of yore.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY October 1998 by Barbara Barker

### One Old Hanover Inn with a Colorful Past

The picture on the October Calendar which the Historical Society puts forth and sells each year is of the so called Howard House, also known as the Hanover House or the Four Corners Inn, depending on the ownership. It was located in the historic Four Corners area on the corner of Broadway and Washington St. The site is now a parking lot owned by the Phoenix Lodge and also used by patrons of Mary Lou's News.

The Inn was torn down about 1925 to make the corner wider for the automobile which was making an impact on this sleepy village. It was build by David Kingman probably about 1750 and used as his residence. As it was being torn down about 1925 Charles Gleason noted " the early siding and roof board laid vertical instead of horizontal, and the laths for plaster made of thin boards partly split and the cracks opened leaving the open crevices for the plaster. The old boards were hammered together with 4 inch hand-wrought nails. Bricks for the old hive oven and two chimneys were made on the Hanover side of the Jacobs Pond .." Yankees being what they were I wonder who salvaged some of the relics of this old building.

Records show that as early as 1797 the building was used as a tavern/hotel, and in the dining room of the building the county court sat for meetings well into the 1800's. In the days of Daniel Webster he found it a favorite stop for beefsteak dinners on his weekend visits to his home in Marshfield.

The stage coach went by the door in the early days, and so the Inn was a place to stop for refreshment. By 1870 when the Hanover Branch Railroad was up and running, the station was only a block away, and so the Hanover House was a convenient lay over for salesmen and such.

Charlie Gleason recalled that through its colorful history the rooms fulfilled various uses: "a residence, tavern, dance hall, court room, tailor shop, tin smith shop, meat market, telephone exchange, dry goods store, millinery , barber shop, post office, and to anyone who visited Joe Tripp's back room, a museum.." Joe Tripp was the last proprietor and son-in-law of Frank Howard whose name was used to describe the hotel during his ownership.

The Four Corners Inn is probably most remember as the hotel that employed as its manager one James Costley who was hanged in 1875 for the murder of the chambermaid, Julia Hawkes.

## Murder at Four Corners special to the Mariner by Barbara Barker

Most residents of our fair town haven't heard of the infamous event that made the Boston papers in 1904. The operator of the Chinese Laundry, located on the first floor of the present day Phoenix Lodge, was murdered in cold blood in broad daylight. Who could have committed such a dastardly deed? This was the question answered at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Hanover Historical Society, held at the very site of the murder.

Back at the turn of the century, the quaint village of Hanover Four Corners, was a busy gathering place, connected to other parts of the town and to the city by the Hanover Branch Railway which ran 10 trains a day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. In addition to the railroad station, there was a livery stable, a blacksmith shop, the old Salmond School, St. Andrews Church, two hotels, one of which contained the new telephone office, the post office, a barber shop, two grocers, and a Chinese laundry. One grocery, the barber shop, and the Chinese laundry were located on the lower floor of the Masonic Lodge building. This was the setting of one of the most famous murders in the county. Murdered was Quong Sing, the operator of the laundry for two years, and well thought of in the village. Who could have murdered such an honest, hardworking man?

A docudrama, written by Barbara Barker, local historian, introduced the main characters of this story, and then the amazing tale was acted out by members of the Historical Society. The part of Quong Sing, was realistically played by Pauline Rockwell, a young woman of considerable talent. Her husband, Rick, played the part of Cyrus Ryan, an employee of the Clapp Rubber Mill, who had been seen the morning of the murder skulking about, and then left town quickly on the 2:15 train to Boston that day. Quong Sing was found drowned in his laundry tub, his head held down by a wooden soap box. The grocer and the barber had noticed the stranger lurking about during the morning. Early in the afternoon they found their friend, Quong Sing apparently murdered, drowned in his laundry tub. The grocer was played by Roger Leslie, owner of Leslie Foods, and his wife, Suzannah Leslie, was called in at literally the last minute and played the part of Snell, the barber, with good humor. On discovering the body, they immediately notified police chief, D.H. Stoddard. and Selectmen Waterman and Bowker. Boston authorities were also notified with a description of the man to watch out for, the suspect who had been seen boarding the 2:15 train.

In the meantime, Medical Examiner, Dr. Henry Watson Dudley, played by Historical Society vice-president, Les Molyneaux, was called in to conduct an autopsy. Dr. Dudley had the body removed and conducted a thorough examination and determined death was caused by drowning.

As the suspect, Cyrus Ryan, departed from the train in Boston, he was held for questioning.

On his person were found a revolver and a watch with chain, both believed to belong to Mr. Sing. Ryan was arrested and held over for trial. The motive for the murder was believed to be robbery, which followed on the heels of two other robberies the previous day.

The audience was then asked to serve as the jury as a mock trial was held. Hal Thomas, a fairly new resident of Hanover, with law enforcement experience, played the part of the District Attorney. Donald Deluse, town moderator played the role of the defense attorney and almost got his client off with his eloquence, suggesting that the victim had an enlarged heart and that the liquid in the lungs could have been caused by edema from heart failure the result of heart disease. But Doctor Dudley's evidence was conclusive. In his thorough autopsy, Dr. Dudley had examined the liquid in the lungs of the victim and found it to be soapy water from a laundry tub, not the result of edema.

he audience of over 100 attending the meeting voted that Cyrus Ryan was indeed guilty of the murder of Quong Sing, and their verdict agreed with the jury of history. Mr. Ryan was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Other participants in this entertaining drama included Carol Franzosa, president of the Historical Society, as narrator; Barbara Barker, researcher of local history, as Miss Hannah Jones, fictitious visitor, and describer of the village; Joan Thomas, society member, as the fiancée of Cyrus Ryan; and Judy Grecco, society member, as stage manager.

Newspaper articles concerning this historic event had been saved in the files of the Historical Society, and further research from files from the Rockland Standard, the Boston Herald , and the Bryantville News added to the primary sources. The information concerning Dr. Dudley's thorough investigation was recently discovered by Les Molyneaux in an old book he had in his possession, honoring Dr. Dudley.

The audience thoroughly enjoyed this creative and unusual program about an event in the history of our town. That the presentation was held at the site of the murder added to the mystery of the evening.

## Murder and an Unmarked Grave in Hanover

Special to the Mariner by Barbara Barker 10/11/98

It was a dark and stormy night....so begins many a mystery. This is a tale of murder, most foul, when on the dark and stormy night of May 23, 1874 the body of a young woman, wrapped in a carriage robe, and weighted down with a heavy object difficult to identify was thrown into the turbulent waters of the river on the Weymouth- Braintree line.

Sunday morning, May 24, what appeared to be a large bundle was dragged to shore, and the shocking discovery made--a the body of a woman between 20 and 30 years of age, with dark hair, dressed in black with one red shoe and one jade earring, was revealed. She had been shot in the head. Who was she? Where was she from? and Who murdered her? These were the questions to be answered. And the answers were to be found in Hanover.

State Constable, Napoleon Bonaparte Furnald, a short, mustached man, was assigned to the case. He was a tenacious fellow and was determined to solve the crime. His clues were a carriage robe with a metal tag attached to one corner , the strange, heavy piece of metal used as a weight, and a missing red slipper. Coroner George W. White had determined that death was probably caused by a gun shot wound, fired at close range, later identified as a .45 caliber Smith and Wesson.

While questioning the gathering crowd on the riverside where the body was recovered, Furnald heard from a blacksmith that a carriage had stopped on the bridge about midnight during the storm, and then, after a pause, start up again. Another onlooker identified the iron piece as a tailor's goose, a long, heavy, oversized iron used by tailors in pressing suits. Perhaps the murderer was a tailor.

The newspapers picked up the story of the unidentified young women who was found murdered and pulled from the river. On Monday evening two women appeared at the Weymouth police station inquiring about the body. A friend of theirs by the name of Julia Hawkes had been missing for a few days, her whereabouts unknown. Could the body be that of their friend? They hoped not. But when taken to view the remains, they were shaken. Indeed it was their friend, Julia Hawkes, a young widow from New Brunswick, who had come to the area with a small inheritance and was working to purchase a house and make a new life for herself here. Mrs. Hawkes had recently left a job as head housekeeper at the Four Corners Inn in Hanover, as the inn had closed due to liquor violations.

Detectives were sent off to Hanover to make inquiries there. Meanwhile Napoleon Bonaparte Furnald was questioning the stables in the area, trying to find the identity of the metal clip, similar to the one found on the carriage robe in which the body was wrapped. At the fortieth stable, Reidell's in Boston, Furnald found what he was looking for. "Yes, that is one of our disks," said Mr. Reidell. Searching his records, he revealed that he had rented a rig with that number that to a Mr. James Costley of Hanover on Saturday, May 23, and it had been returned in early morning hours of the 24th.

Furnald examined the carriage, which had not yet been cleaned. Behind the seat was wedged a crimson slipper which matched that found on the body of the now identified Julia Hawkes. Furnald was closing in.

Down to Hanover on the Hanover Branch Railroad went State Constable Furnald and two assistants. They found the Four Corners Inn easily and were told it had previously been called the Howard House after the former owner, who had also been a tailor.

Entering the inn they came upon the handsome Mr. James Costley, hastily packing his bags. "I'm in a hurry," he told the detectives. "Got to catch a train".

He never did catch that train. He was caught instead by his own lies and evidence that was found in the attic of the inn. A outline of the unusual tailor's goose was found in the dusty attic, and gunny sacks similar to those which were used to wrap the iron were found there also. An envelope of bills matching the denominations of those withdrawn by Mrs. Hawkes were found in Costley's pocket. When trapped by this evidence and lies about his whereabouts, Costley drew a pistol, the same caliber as the murder weapon. He was swiftly disarmed, but his "goose" was cooked!.

It was uncertain where the murder took place: in Hanover, or somewhere on the road between Hingham and Weymouth. The decision of where the trial should take place set the legal precedent that a case should be tried in the county where the body was found if there was no clear evidence where the murder was committed. The trial took place in Dedham, and Costley was convicted of murder.

For a while the people of Hanover could not believe this "hail fellow--well met" could be guilty of such a crime, but other facts emerged about a the disappearance of two other chamber maids, one found poisoned, and the simultaneous engagement to a wealthy Hanover heiress.

Soon the people of Hanover were disdainful of Costley, and although tickets were given out for the well -attended execution, not many Hanover residents were present. Costley declared to the end, "I am not a murderer!"

His body was taken to Hanover Cemetery and buried unceremoniously. Although the grave was not marked by a gravestone, it is said that residents cast their own stones over the grave until they formed a mound under an old maple tree. Grass now covers the spot where James H. Costley, murderer, lies buried.

FOCUS ON HISTORY -- MAY 1999 by Barbara Barker

## MEMORIAL DAY

Many people of six decades or more remember when Memorial Day was always on May 30 and families decorated the graves of their families and loved ones. To many families today, even though Memorial Day, the last Monday of May, does not often fall on the 30th, still visit the cemetery and place geraniums on the graves of our parents, grandparents and loved ones. It is a day to remember.

The tradition of "Decoration Day" as it was commonly called began with a group of Southern women who put flowers on the graves of the Northern soldiers who were buried there, as well as remembering their own fallen heroes. President first proclaimed the last Monday in May

When I was in grammar school I memorized "In Flanders field the poppies grow, Besides the crosses row on row.... and I was chosen one year to present the flowers to the Civil War Veterans who attended came to our school for our ceremonies. They seemed very old, in fact they were, and one by one they died off until there were not left who took part in "the war between the states"

Charlie Gleason recounted that the day before Memorial Day someone would visit every home and collect beans, potatoes, bread, pies cakes and all the fixings and then on Memorial Day everyone was invited to a free dinner at the town hall. After a good dinner, came speeches, singing, and children's recitations. All this took all day. People came in their wagons, put the horses in the sheds down back, (of the town hall--now part of the Boy's Club) and visited.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY by Barbara Barker November 1996

The November picture for the Historical Society calendar shows Lottie Peterson's store which was located on Broadway, and now the corner of Columbia Road. The picture was taken about 1900, and of course Columbia Rd wasn't put through until 1930 or so. Just a few hundred feet south on Broadway was the Hanover Depot, and to the north on Broadway was the Odd Fellows Hall, shown in another photo from the notebooks of Charlie Gleason.

Charles A. Peterson came from Duxbury to Hanover in 1887 and brought with him his partner, Frank Davis, with whom he was in business at Powder Point. They set up a shop in Robert Dwelley's yard (later the Beal property and now owned by Dr. Petterson) After 3 years Davis sold out and went to California. The building was moved and Charles Peterson bought land off the Odd Fellows. (The Hall was next door in front of the Salmond School property shown in a later picture.) Mr. Peterson built a large Victorian house . He was one of a dozen in town who had a windmill to pump water. Peterson was a dealer in stoves and hardware and quite successful in business.(See ad for Stove) He and his wife and daughter, Lottie, lived upstairs over the store.

Then in 1898 came the tragic fire at the Corners. It started in the basement of the Bates Store which was located in the area where the Phoenix Lodge now stands. As reported in the 1977 "History of Hanover", On November 11, 1898, Mrs. John Flavell was up tending a sick child and saw a glimmer of light in the basement of the Bates building. Realizing that it was the start of fire, her husband ran down to the house of the Fireward, Mr. Dwelley, who rung the alarm, and the neighboring men responded, including Mr. Peterson. Suddenly without any warning an explosion occurred. A number of firefighters and neighbors, badly injured, were taken out, but three remained buried and burned beyond recognition. One of these was Charles A. Peterson. It was a sad day in the history of Hanover

The widow of Charles Peterson and her daughter kept his store running for a while, but soon leased the store to others, including Henry Magoun who did a stove business and remained there until 1915. At that time Miss Peterson remodeled the store into a tenement for the convenience of Belle Tucker who kept a dry goods business there for some time In a second picture one sees a patient man and horse waiting for someone, (must be a female someone) outside the store. You can see vines growing up along the outside staircase to the living quarters above the business.

In a another view of the house, you can see the Odd Fellows Hall which was built in 1888. This fraternal group were very active at the turn of the century. The building was the scene of many community social activities. There was a stage which made it the site for local plays and programs. Children's dancing classes and movies were occasionally held here. As the membership declined and the Odd Fellows transferred to other Lodges, the building fell into disrepair, and after several minor fires, it was torn down in 1960, and the land taken over by the town for parking for the Salmond School.

In the early 1930's Columbia Road was put through from where Dr. Robert's Animal Hospital is now located, to the west of the Four Corners,` through the Sylvester fields, and a new bridge was constructed over the North River. (This is the bridge presently scheduled for extensive repair.) This new road divided the Charles Peterson land and the Hanover Branch Railroad Station, so that each stood on opposite corners of Columbia Road (now Route 53)

The Peterson house has seen many changes, and now several medical offices are located here, but the exterior is much the same, with many of the Victorian touches still in tact.

## LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES

May, and springtime has really come. The photo on the Historical Society Calendar for May 1997 shows a group of young people from South Hanover about 1902 on a grass tennis court at the Phillip's yard, posing for their picture I notice that none are smiling broadly enough to show their teeth, but I think it was not the custom to show one's teeth or smile too broadly.

What did people in Hanover do at the turn of the century in their leisure time in the summer? For the working farmer and his family there was not much leisure time, but even they went to the Memorial Day exercises and lunch at the Center All boys shot off a few firecrackers and turned a few tricks on Fourth of July, which was capped off by a family picnic. Labor Day ended the summer with a family gathering and picnic. Women could wear white only between Memorial Day and Labor Day. In the picture, notice the women are wearing dark skirts, so it was probably early in the season.

Croquet was introduced into the United States in the 1870's first to the more wealthy families, but later many local families set up a croquet field on their side lawn. It was the first popular outdoor game played by both sexes. The equipment was affordable and all could enjoy the rather mild game. A lady, however, was supposed to swing her mallet with an outside stroke, rather than from between her legs.

Croquet began to decline in popularity when tennis became more popular. Young people wanted a more energetic outdoor game where they could flirt with the opposite sex without alarming their parents.

The Phillips on Broadway had the first and for a long time the only tennis court in Hanover. Morrill Phillips had the court constructed in the late 1890's, and it was a great hit with his family and neighboring young people. The grass court was first laid out east to west, but was later changed to a clay court going from north to south. I interviewed Betty Hall Rattle, a niece of Aunt Fan Phillips recently. It was through Aunt Fan that the photo was given to the Historical Society. Betty Rattle remembered a few people in the picture, although they were much older than she. Her Aunt Catherine was sweet on the pictured Calvin Tilden, who lived just down the road, but the parents of each discouraged the romance.

Mrs. Rattle remembered playing on the courts with her brothers, sisters and neighbors, and what great fun they had. They would play from early in the season until fall and until it got too dark to see the ball. Betty remembered that while waiting for a turn to play her brother Jim, who was great fun, would organize a game called "Hail-ye-over". Two teams were formed, and they would each take a side of the carriage shed. The first team would throw a tennis ball over the roof of the carriage shed and call "Hail-ye-over". The other team would try to catch the ball, and if they did, the one who caught it would run around and try to tag as many of the other team as he or she could. If the ball was dropped, they threw it back and yelled, "Hail-ye over".

During the hot summer months some Hanover families built or rented a beach house over in Scituate or Marshfield. The Simmons family would spend a week in Scituate, sitting on the piazza, swimming, and sailing. Of course bathing costumes (as they were called) would seem ridiculous to us today. The suits of both men and women were of itchy wool, and lucky if yours didn't have moth holes. Women wore bathing shoes and stockings, no leg flesh showing, please.

Horseshoes was a popular sport with the men, particularly the older generation. Bicycling was also a popular activity. In the Simmons diaries of 1893, John Simmons was said to cut quite a figure on a bicycle as he rode around Assinippi. Young May Simmons belonged to a bicycle club that met at the church and cycled as far as Plymouth. Bloomers became the costume for cycling introduced by Amelia Jenks Bloomer who gave her name to the split skirt designed for bicycle riding and adapted for other activities as well. The phrase "the new woman" began to take on significance with these published lines in 1898:

"Then shout hurrah for the woman new, With her rights and her votes and her bloomers, too!  
Evolved through bikes and chewing gum, She's come!....."

Golf, although a rich man's sport allowed men and women recreational companionship, which also led eventually more casual clothing for women. I don't think too many Hanover men or women played golf though.

The popularity of baseball grew after Civil War and was reflected in the small towns like Hanover. Several of the villages formed teams and played each other. The North Hanover boys were fortunate to have the Brooks brothers playing for them, as they were great athletes. However, they were Baptists, and when some games were played on Sunday, the Brooks boys didn't play.

Although there was neither radio, movies or T.V. there was plenty there was always plenty to do. Families and young people just got together and had fun. Life was simpler then.

FOCUS ON HISTORY by Barbara Barker July 1996

## JO SSELYN'S STORE WEST HANOVER

Years ago the villages of Hanover were more distinct; each village having its own district school, post office, fire department and general store. The villages were somewhat competitive, but always ready to help each other when the chips were down.

The picture on the Historical Society Calendar for July is the delivery wagon for Josselyn and White General Store in West Hanover taken shortly after 1900. The store conducted a regular grocery route taking orders from the housewife and made deliveries on regular days, and so the picture shows the delivery wagon and Irving I. Josselyn who had joined his father Lewis Josselyn and Mr. White in the business.

The West Hanover store had its beginnings about 1857 when Mr. Horatio B. Magoun, who peddled groceries from a cart, set down roots and began a small business in a cottage house with attached barn. Later it was enlarged, moved, and the original barn separated from the store and then moved again and made into a two-family house. (1448-1450) Hanover St.

The timing was right The reason Mr. Magoun expanded was for the storage of molasses and flour and sugar as the Civil War was imminent. Of course the Hanover Branch Railroad was operating by 1868 and the station was right across the street. This was convenient for shipments of supplies for the store.

Mr. Magoun was appointed postmaster of West Hanover by President Lincoln in 1861. The post office was basically a few boxes at the right side of the long narrow store. It was connected to the store until about 1908 when a separate addition was made to hold the post office. Mr. Magoun served as postmaster until 1901 when he was succeeded by his son-in-law Mr. William H. White.

Others who held an interest in the store over the years were Mr. Magoun, Mr. Morton V. Bonney, Mr. William H. White, Mr. Alpheus Packard and son, Edmund, the above mentioned Mr. Lewis Josselyn and son, Irving, and Mr. John F. Chase.

I will focus the operation of the store on the Josselyn family, as Esther Josselyn, the source of most of my information, was the granddaughter of Mr. Lewis Josselyn, sometimes referred to as "grand old man of Hanover" who lived to be 101. Mr. Josselyn entered the business in 1880 as an employee of M.V. Bonney, and in 1890 he and Alpheus and Edmund Packard purchased the business then called Josselyn & Packard. Later Mr. Josselyn took on Mr. White as a partner as indicated by the name on the delivery wagon. The partnership didn't last too long as Mr. White was more interested in music and playing in bands. In 1904 Lewis Josselyn changed the name to L. Josselyn and Son. The son was Irving Josselyn who took over the business in 1916 , but the name remained unchanged. It continued in the Josselyn family until 1946, and finally closed as a general store in 1955.

In the words of Esther Josselyn, "For nearly a century this business of the old fashioned type store continued carrying a good assortment of articles for the farmer, mechanic and housewife.... Following are some of Miss Josselyn's memories:

"Large head of cheese and boxes of crackers.. Cookies in bulk... Prunes in bulk...The filling of the candy dishes in the glass enclosed counter.... Smoked herring in bulk... Slightly salted herring speared on sticks that always smelled... The horse whips hanging on the rack in the front window.... The old stove in the center of the store... Tripe sold in bulk, as well as lard and butter in their firkins... The molasses barrel in the cellar... Cases of canned goods in the cellar.... Spices all stored in the small drawers on the shelves... Hardware in the back, and the nails of all sizes in their bins... Window glass of varying sizes all stocked up... Patent medicines, men's underwear and work pants, ladies and men's hose.... Thread of all colors, as well as pins and neckties... Rows and rows of soap and soap powders all stacked up ..."

There was some type of general store in each village. Some had a delivery service similar to the picture on the calendar; Brooks Store in North Hanover and Killams in Assinippi made deliveries. Probably others did as well, and of course Charlie Gleason had his peddler wagon until 1938. The days of the general store and the delivery wagon are gone, and the villages blend together; all have their stories to tell, and are part of our rich heritage.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY--MAY 1998 by Barbara Barker

John Curtis 1817-1900

Looked into the Future and Left a Legacy

As one enters the John Curtis Library and ponders its past and looks hopefully to an addition in the future, one considers the role of the citizen today and that of the public library. John Curtis made a great gift to the town and its people. In a letter to the selectmen of the town in 1887 offering his collection of books he wrote " Born and reared in this town, I enjoyed the advantages of its public schools in my boyhood, and have never ceased to feel an interest in the welfare of its people.... I desire to repay, in part my obligation for my early educational training... with a purpose to afford better opportunities for coming generations of boys and girls of my native town...."

John Curtis was the fifth generation to hold the name of John Curtis. Born in 1817 in the house at 702 Main St. built by his great grandfather, he always considered Hanover his home. Jedediah Dwelley in a speech at the dedication of the Library in Curtis' name said, "though he sought his life work in the city of Boston....we would make a great mistake if we belittle the period of his life spend on the farm---for here his character was established." He attended the district school, was a bright pupil and impressed a young teacher who persuaded his parents to let their son go to Wesleyan Academy for one year. Returning he attended Hanover Academy, walking both ways as was the custom in those days. Upon leaving the Academy he sought his fortune in Boston, and obtained a contract with a clothing firm agreeing to stay with them until twenty one years of age for \$50 a year and his board. In his twenty first year the firm helped him set up his own business and there in he made his fortune in the forty years that followed.

He married and had one daughter and a busy life but he never forgot his hometown, and often visited his nephew who lived in the ancestral homestead. "An old lane, an old gate, an old house by a tree, A wild wood, a wild brook--they will not let me be: In boyhood I knew them, and still they call to me."

John Curtis left more than his personal library to his hometown. He gave the land on which stands the Curtis School Building, and in his will read after his death in 1900 he gave \$15,000 for "the erection of a Public Library Building", the bequest payable upon the death of his daughter Alice Marion Curtis. But during the year 1906, Miss Curtis waved her right, desiring to see the building constructed in her lifetime, and it was. Another Hanover citizen, Edmund Q. Sylvester, who was to give much to the town was the architect to the new building.

In 1964 the growing town of Hanover voted \$175,000 to build a much needed addition. The Library is a focal point in the center of the town. Together with the Town Hall, the founding Church, the old Stetson House and the Sylvester School it ties the bonds of the town together. It is the Free Public Library for all Hanover people, and John Curtis saw the need.

Mr. Dwelley wrote of his friend, "Mr. Curtis enjoyed in his later years the leisure and delights which wealth properly used can give, and yet he lived the simple life. He was educated in the school of sympathy for the oppressed, in the school of service for others...."

One could repeat the poem which describes those such as John Curtis:

"Here lived the men who gave us  
The purpose that holds fast,

The dream that nerves endeavor,  
The glory that shall last.  
Here, strong as pines in winter  
And free as ripening corn,  
Our faith in fair ideals--- Our fathers' faith--was born."

Citizens of Hanover today strive to make our town a good place to live. Each has something to contribute to the future.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY--MAY 1998 by Barbara Barker

### Hanover's Grand Old Man

Lewis Josselyn was referred to by many as "Hanover's Grand Old Man." He had a long and interesting life. Born in Hanover August 15, 1842, he was one of 13 children. His father built the house on School St. , (still standing) which Lewis later bought.

He wrote an account of his life and described his adventures during the Civil War, his travels to the West later, his experiences in business as a storekeeper, and other events in his life. He tells of attending the district school in South. Hanover and then going to shoemaking and farming with his father. In his personal narrative he relates that "at the age of 14 he joined the Sons of Temperance and never indulged in intoxicants."

Lewis Josselyn tells that in 1862 he answered Lincoln's call for volunteers and along with twenty two other Hanover men set out to preserve the Union. ( At the outset of the war available men between the ages of 18 and 45 were called, and a total of 169 Hanover men enlisted .) Twenty year old Lewis Josselyn saw parts of the country he had learned about in school, but never expected to see. He went to the Chesapeake Bay, to the Hampton Roads, around Cape Hatteras in a storm. He became sick with typhoid in Carrolton, Louisiana, later joining up again with his regiment at Baton Rouge. He was sent on to Cheeneyville recrossing the Mississippi to Fort Hudson, . He recounts "that was one of the hardest days of my life. On the 27th of May we made our first assault on the fort and were repulsed---losing our Colonel and a good many men. On the 14th of June we made our second assault and were again repulsed with a great loss of men. On July 7, 1863 Fort Hudson surrendered to us."

In 1864 his regiment was sent up the Red River to fight at Cane River where they defeated the rebels. He tells of how he and Atkins Brown (who was later killed in the Shenandoah Valley)) had an exciting time. They became separated from the rest of the company, and suddenly they came upon a Texan soldier. Both were surprised. " I commanded him to surrender. He seeing us at the same instant, stopped, turned and retreated. I fired, but failed to bring him down which I was always glad I did."

Josselyn went on to Mensura Plains, where he saw "the greatest military display of my life" He later witnessed the first Iron Clad gunboat as "it passed through a breach made in the dam. going nearly all under water". From there he was sent to Washington, to the Shenandoah Valley and Georgia, while General Sherman marched from Savannah.

On June 30, 1865 he received the "welcome news" to start for home. "How pleased we were to get home no one can tell---only those who have been away for three years."

In 1871 Lewis Josselyn married Ella Sampson, and they had four children, one son died young. After the birth of their fourth child, Irving, in December of 1877, Ella contracted scarlet fever and died nine days later. The young Lewis took his 2 daughters home to his mother, and his brother and his wife raised the baby, Irving, until his marriage.

In 1886 Mr. Josselyn, still wanting to see more of the country, took an Excursion to California, about which he wrote of the sights he saw as he traveled across the United States.

In 1889 Josselyn married a second time, Mabel Corlew, and they had 8 children. Their last child, Russell was born in 1915, when Mr. Josselyn was 73.

After the war Lewis Josselyn worked in the shoe industry for a few years and then in 1880 went to work for Morton Bonney in his store. Later he purchased the store with Alpheus and Edmund Packard, and the store in West Hanover at the corner of Circuit and Hanover St. became Josselyn and Packard. Later he joined with Mr. White and the name changed to Josselyn and White. In 1904 the name again changed to L. Josselyn and Son when he took his son, Irving, into the business. In 1915 he left the business in the capable hands of his son and retired to farming. But he certainly didn't retire from life. He enjoyed attending GAR functions near and far. He always got in his uniform and marched in the Memorial Day parade. Charlie Gleason (who recorded the Grand Old Man in the photos) described him in 1940 at age 98 as "still going strong. Spry and strong, with no aches or pains, he bids fair to reach the century mark. He has a good sized garden each year and takes delight working it. Until a year or two ago he walked down to the airport every day and invited the men to take him up for a ride....His mind is still keen and he steps off briskly as a man of thirty."

Maybe his stand on "temperance" can account for his energy and longevity. His grandson, Wendell Henderson, recounts the family story that during the war when he was given offered a drink of liquor, he used it to rub on his sore feet.

Lewis Josselyn died February 15, 1944 when he was 101 and 6 months.

Those in Hanover today remember Esther Josselyn, granddaughter of Lewis, daughter of Irving, longtime Treasurer of the Historical Society for many years, who died just a few years ago. Ralph Josselyn, grandson of Lewis, son of Clare, and Bruce Josselyn, grandson of Lewis, son of Earle, both died just this year. Wendell Henderson, grandson of Lewis, son of Elva, lives on Washington St. and helped with the accuracy of this article. Other descendants living in Hanover include great grandchildren, Clark and Betsy Josselyn, Stephen Josselyn, and Gary Henderson, There are several great-great grandchildren. The " Grand Old Man" lives on.

Focus on History--September 1998 by Barbara Barker

## Hanover High School 1878 and Beyond

The picture on the September Historical Society Calendar features the Hanover Town Hall with High School Pupils in 1878. The photo is the courtesy of Jean Migre. Her mother, Mary Ellen Gallagher, identified in the picture, was the first girl to graduate from Hanover High School. Mr. Melvin S. Nash, pictured in the back row served as principal and teacher from 1878 to 1891, and married one of his pupils, Josie Dwelley, who is also pictured.

Public high school classes were instituted in Hanover in 1868 and were held in the town hall. One of the reasons that the town hall was enlarged in 1893 was the need for more rooms for the high school and a room for the library as well. This served for a while, but as the population gradually increased and more children instead of dropping out after eighth grade continued on into grade twelve, there was agitation for a new high school.

Town meeting in 1926 must have been much like a recent town meeting where most agreed that more space was needed for public education, but there was a great deal of discussion about cost. "We can't afford it!" the cry was heard. Then up rose Edmund Q. Sylvester, a bachelor, with no children, but who knew the value of public education. "I will donate \$50,000 for a new High School," he said.

Lot Phillips then rose and said, "I will give 20 acres of land in the town center."

Samuel Sylvester, Edmund Q.'s half-brother, donated \$10,000. J. Williams Beal and Sons, architectural firm from Hanover, designed the building, and it was named the Edmund Q. Sylvester High School, and opened in 1927.

Then came the depression, and these were hard times. There were few jobs, especially for high school boys and so they stayed in school. In 1932 the High School classes increased from 35 to 50 minimum. When space was short, rooms in the town hall were again used for classes. After the war the population grew, and a four room addition was built to the Sylvester School which housed grades 7 through 12, but new homes continued to be built and with the news of the extension of Route 3, population exploded.

In 1957 five building committee were studying school buildings and additions. A joint Norwell/Hanover High School was proposed. Hanover voted for it, but Norwell against. Back to the study committee and in 1959 the present High School on Cedar St. was built. The Sylvester School was then used for fifth and sixth grades which had been using some rooms in the town hall.

By 1964 enrollment had increased and an addition to the Cedar St. High School was built. In the following years as curriculum has been updated, so has the high school. kept pace with the times. Hanover High was one of the first in the area to have a computer lab, and continues to be on the cusp of the latest technology. The science area has been updated several times, the latest in 1997.

The high school today is far cry from when Charles Miller attended high school in the town hall rooms. He recounts some of his experiences in "A History of the Miller Family in Hanover 1910-1935", which he wrote for his children, but is of interest to Hanover people and can be found in the John Curtis Library. "The commercial room was next to the lab and one day the commercial teacher was absent. So we decided to make some hydrogen sulfide gas, putting the outlet hose through the keyhole of the connecting door to the commercial room.....Of course the gas we were making is known as the rotten egg smell. When it reached the busy students, they threw open the window. But the breeze was flowing from that direction so it blew the gas into the rest of the school. The teacher in room at the far end was made sick by the smell and went home. This cut the four teacher staff, including the principal in half." Ah, but they were doing "hands on" science even then.

Agnes Nawazelski, a former Hanover teacher, graduated from the Town Hall High School in 1924. Agnes described the layout as quite different from today. She said that in the old days there were two doors into the main hall, where the entry hall is now. There was a small platform at the front where the principal, who also taught math, sat. This room was also used for an assembly hall and a study hall. To the left was the language room where she studied French, and to the right was the commercial department where typing and shorthand were taught. Behind the main hall was the English and science room. Agnes said, "There were only 6 girls in my graduating class, and no boys. We didn't have any organized sports. We had a basketball but no baskets or gym. The boys (there were boys in the other classes) did have a baseball team. My graduation was held in the big room upstairs, that is now divided by a corridor. Sometimes on rainy days the we girls were allowed to go upstairs and practice dancing. That's where I learned to dance."

Agnes related that bus service to the high school had just been initiated. At first it was a horse and wagon from Kingman's, but then a motorized "barge", an open truck with benches on each side, was used to pick up the students from Drinkwater, North Hanover, South Hanover and the Corners.

"Things have sure changed," Agnes said.

However, as we look back, many of the issues are still the same: the most important being good public education. "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

## FOCUS ON HISTORY DECEMBER 1995

### HANOVER FOUR CORNERS by Barbara Barker

The picture for December on the Historical Society calendar is of Hanover Four Corners taken about the turn of the century. The Four Corners area is located at the intersection of Washington St. and Broadway, two of the oldest roadways in the town. This intersection is just a short way from an early North River crossing, which forms the eastern boundary of Hanover and Pembroke.

William Barstow, the first settler in the area that is now incorporated as Hanover, came up the river from Scituate in 1649 and built his house just across the Third Herring Brook and to the west of Broadway, behind where Oakland Avenue is now located. Here were the trees for building his house, nearby salt marsh hay, and the river which would provide fish, transportation, and a place to build ships. He built the first bridge over the North River on Washington St. in 1656, located about one-half mile south of his house, and his shipyard, one of the earliest on the river, was located on the site of the present Washington St. bridge.

Soon other settlers would follow. The oldest house still standing in Hanover is located at 168 Broadway at Four Corners. It was built before 1693, as in that year its owner, Daniel Turner, a shipbuilder, conveyed it to his son. Many fine old houses remain in the Four Corners, some replacing 17th and 18th century ones.

Four Corners developed as the early business center of Hanover because of the early shipyards located nearby. Also located here was the early blacksmith shop of Matthew Stetson and later Malitiah Dillingham. There was always a blacksmith located somewhere in the old village, the last one being that of Jim Jones who worked shoeing oxen for forty years. When did you last see an ox?

It was at the tavern at Four Corners that the stage stopped on its way from Boston to Plymouth to Sandwich. The first tavern/hotel that operated in the busy Four Corners area was called the Wales Tavern. Legend has it that Paul Revere slept in a room here when he came to install officers at the new Masonic Lodge. The tavern was built in the early 1700's when many ships yards were going full blast. The Four Corners was a busy place with upwards of 400 workers at the height of its prosperity, and an inn was indispensable for hospitality and a cup of good cheer.

The Hanover Hotel, built as early as 1797 and later know as the Howard House, stood where the Parking Lot opposite Mary Lou's is now located. When it was torn down, after the automobile was king, a gas station took its place. Of course, that too, is gone.

The Josselyn Hotel, not visible in the picture, was located about where Lorraine's Cake Decorating Shoppe is now. It was built as a farmhouse in 1856, and at one time was used for lodging students at Hanover Academy and later other guests. It was torn down after World War I. It is difficult for us to imagine hotels in the sleepy village of Four Corners today.

Beside the Wales Tavern is the building that began as the original Hanover Academy Building. A private institute operated in the building from 1808 to 1818 when it was located in Hanover Center. The building was moved here soon after and has been used as a tavern, store, post office, lodge, hall, telephone central office, shoe shop, drug store, dentist parlor, woodworking shop and antique store. A new academy building was constructed on the site of Salmond School in 1828. That building was sold to the town when the Academy disbanded, and replaced by the present Salmond School in 1931.

Chippy Curtis, who operated a drug and variety store in the Academy building was a Republican, and John Flavell, who had a general store on the opposite corner was a Democrat. The two shared the office of postmaster, and the post office was located in one or the other building depending whether the Republicans or Democrats were in office.

At different times during its history various grocers operated in the buildings and houses. Also located in the village during the early 1900's were barbershops, a millinery shop, Belle Tucker's dry good store, a restaurant, a photo graphic studio, a funeral parlor, Justice of the Peace office, flower shop, a Chinese Laundry, a livery stable opposite the railroad station, and Phillips Bates coal and grain company. In 1926 a block of stores was built on the site of Josselyn House, and several chain grocery stores were located here.

In the early 1930's Columbia Road and a new bridge over the North River were built, and the busy village of Four Corners was by-passed by the cape traffic. Many were glad, but the business community suffered, and life at the Corners changed forever. Those who live in the neighborhood today enjoy their quiet, quaint village.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY (Feb 95) by Barbara Barker HANOVER FOLLY

There are always those who resist change. I may be one of those who are reluctant to change the "status quo" so I can understand how Capt. John Cushing felt in the late 1850's when the town proposed to cut his land in half, right through the middle of his pasture land, and make a short cut from Hanover Four Corners to Hanover Center and on to Rockland

Capt. John's land stretched from Church St. next to St. Andrew's (in fact St. Andrew's was built on land he sold to them) on to the old rectory, presently 288 Washington St., the present home of David and Carol Richardson, westward to the location of the present Social Security Office and the Quincy Cooperative Bank, and further west for a total of 14 or so acres.

Capt. John felt that the old way was good enough for past generations and was still good enough for future ones. The old way followed Washington St. from the corner of Church St., on past the old Sylvester houses ( now Cardinal Cushing School), on to the present location of Dr. Roberts Animal Hospital, and around the hill on Old Hanover St.. to meet the Drinkwater Rd. (present Rt. 139, Hanover St.)

The new road, now called Rockland St., would shorten the distance quite a bit, run a straight line from the corner of Church St. down the hill through Capt. John's pasture and up that steep hill past the present Transfer Station to where Dr. McLaughlin's Dental Office and Richardson's Insurance Office are now located. Imagine trying to get the poor horses to pull your wagon or sleigh up that hill through the snow in the winter, and it would be even worse with the mud in the spring. Capt. John was so incensed at the town taking his land and building such a road that he put up a sign at the end of Church St. by his house, which stood at the location of 1 Church St. where Mrs. Robert Stewart now lives. The sign read "Hanover's Folly". This name stuck for a long time, and the present Folly Hill development derives its name from this piece of history (or folklore).

Capt. John Cushing instructed that when he died his body should be carried the long way around old Hanover Street to the cemetery at the Center. His wishes were carried out, and when he died October 30, 1871, his bearers walked the whole distance, one at each wheel of the funeral carriage.

When the Folly Road was put through in the early 1860's, Jedediah Dwelley was Selectman and road surveyor, and the new road cost about \$1500 which was a lot of money in those days.

In the picture shown of the Folly Road on the Hanover Historical Society calendar for the month of February, Hanover's Folly looks idyllic and pastoral in 1897. The road was dirt, lined with pine trees and birch. It had to cross over Trout Brook as it made its way up the hill to rejoin Hanover St. Most people today don't know the story of Hanover's Folly, or was it?

## FOCUS ON HISTORY OCTOBER 1996 HANOVER CENTER C. 1900

How appropriate that Hanover Center is the featured photo on the Historical Society's Calendar for October 1996, as our town center has recently received the status as a National Historic District. Hanover Center is unique in that although there have been changes since the picture was taken about 1900, the town center today still maintains its rural atmosphere. The buildings pictured here, and the others in the district (the Stetson House, and The Congregational Church Parsonage) were in place in 1900. The cemetery is appropriately part of the district. Listed in the Hanover Center Historic District also are The John Curtis Library which was built in 1908 and The Sylvester School. The Sylvester School was built in 1927 on the site of an early district school. Both the library and the school are consistent in architectural style with the columns on the Town Hall and Church, and fit into the New England town center.

There has been little intrusion of business. Briggs Stable only adds to the pastoral feel of the town. There was a store on this property begun by Perez Perry probably in the early 1800's, taken over by Andrew Damon, and inherited by Stanley Briggs in 1908. The center post office was kept here for some time and then moved down the street to Hanover St. The town pump gas station evolved when the automobile became king, and stands on the site of an early low cape which was moved to 49 Grove St.

The present town hall was erected in 1863, replacing one located next to the church across the street. In 1862 the church caught fire and rapidly spread to the adjacent town hall. Both were burned beyond repair and replaced the following year, the town hall moving across the street. The 1863 Town Hall was built on land purchased from Henry Stetson. The architect; Luther Briggs, and the carpentry work was done by S. Nathan Turner. We have in the files of the Historical Society the original specifications. The proposed cost was estimated at \$11,390. to cover the finishing and furnishing expenses. This building consisted of only the center section of the present town hall.

Education for high school was provided in 1868, and rooms in this town hall building were used for that purpose. In 1893 a wing was added to each end of the original central portion and a meeting room in the back. J. Williams Beal, noted architect and Hanover resident, designed the additions. The photo on the calendar shows the town hall with the two wing and rear additions. The high school expanded taking up more rooms, and the John Curtis Library collection of books was housed here until 1907.

In 1977, the 250th anniversary of the town, a further addition was constructed. Brett Donham of Donham and Sweeney was the architect for the most recent addition, which included increased office space and a larger hearing room. Quarters for the police department were provided on the lower level, which they now have outgrown, and a new police station is being proposed.

In the Lobby outside the selectmen's office and hearing room is a wonderful mural, painted by artist, Samuel Evans. It depicts scenes of old Hanover. If you are interested in local history and haven't studied this treasure, mark it on your list of "things to do"

The First Congregational Church shown in the photo was also constructed in 1863 after the disastrous fire. It stands on the site of the original Congregational Church which founded the town in 1727. I will write about the history of this building at another time.

Another focal point in the historic district is the Civil War Monument, which was dedicated in 1878. It was suggested at Memorial Day exercises in 1877 that a Monument to honor the Civil War Veterans be erected, and that "the ladies--always first in every good work--should take the matter in hand, and by means of a Fair should" raise the necessary funds. And the ladies did. "The Fair was held in the Town Hall on Tuesday the 16th of October," and raised \$1248.22. John Williams Beal, local son,, newly graduated from MIT, designed the monument, and it was so constructed . The shaft and capital weigh over fifteen tons. A grand dedication was held that lasted all day with many dignitaries and over 20 speeches and such. I will elaborated on this dedication at another time.

Hanover Center has been spared the intrusion of the route 53 type commercialism, and still maintains its pastoral small town feel. In the spring the state has promised brick sidewalks in the district which will tie it all together. Signage marking the center as a National Historic District is proposed on the upcoming warrant. Hanover people are proud of their heritage, which began here in the town center, and has continued through out 269 years to the present and beyond.

## HANOVER CEMETERY HAS STORIES TO TELL Special to the Mariner by Barbara Barker

The cemetery at Hanover Center is a beautiful and peaceful place at any season of the year. Many find it a safe and interesting place to walk. On Wednesday evening the Hanover Historical Society sponsored a guided walk through the older part of the cemetery for its members and other interested folk. "How did it happen that you became the one to know the stories and lead the tour?" the Mariner asked me. I asked myself the same question....

In 1964 my husband and I bought the old Stockbridge House on Main St. It was built in 1809 and I wanted to find out all I could about the house, who lived there, and about the town itself. And so began my journey and research to find out about the old houses in Hanover and the people who lived in them. These were the families who made the Town of Hanover the fine place in which we live today.

We joined the Historical Society and met many Hanover natives and long time residents. They were most generous in sharing their knowledge. Many of my old Historical Society friends lie peacefully in the cemetery today. People like the Bonney twins who became my dearest friends and lived to be over 100, Aunt Fan Phillips, Dr. Donnell B. Young, Dr. Valentine Harrington and others encouraged me to inquire, research, photograph, and write.

I began to learn about the Curtis families on Curtis St. (now Main St.), the Bailey's of the Revolution and of clock making fame, Tryphena Whiting and all the Whitings on Whiting St., the Sylvester and the Salmond families at the Four Corners, the early ministers, doctors, the shipbuilders and common people with interesting names such as Snow and Bathshua Curtis, Melzar Hatch, Cindrilla Bass, Almerin and Chloe Josselyn, Zilpha Stetson, and others. Every family had at least one novel in it.

When my youngest child entered first grade I went back to teaching. I felt the children in Hanover should know about the heritage of their town, and so I began to expand and share my knowledge with them. One of the activities I developed after we had studied the history of the town was to take them on the tour of the cemetery. Their reaction was similar to mine. "Oh, there's John Curtis!" "Here is Edmund Sylvester!" "Look! Col. John Bailey!" It was like they were meeting old friends.

Now I am retired I walk with a friend almost every morning, and sometimes our route takes us through the cemetery. And that is how I always feel as we wander around the cemetery. "Here's Rev. Benjamin Bass!" I almost cry when I read again the epitaph of Dr. Peter Hubbart (Hobart) "Thousands of journeys night and day I've traveled weary on the way To heal the sick, but now I'm gone

A journey never to return."

When we pass the plot of Rev. Cyrus Allen and his family I remember reading in his daughter's, Fanny's, diary her description of the funeral of her brother's wife, Lizzie, who died in childbirth just after their first anniversary. There are Dr. George Allen and Lizzie, and I weep for them.

I would like to find the expertise and funds to clean the lichen and moss from the old slate stones so that more stories could be revealed. I would like to start a fund to replace the original stone of Joseph Washington who is buried in the corner of the Church family plot. "Joseph Washington. born in North Carolina, Slave, died in Massachusetts, Free. 1857-1881." (This project has been completed.)

I am not an expert on cemeteries, gravestones, or cemetery lore, but I feel as if I know all these people and they have become my friends. The stories of their lives is part of the story of Hanover.

And so as a historian, a writer, a lover of Hanover and its people, past and present, I developed and led "A Tour of the Older Portion of Hanover Cemetery". I still have more to learn. Please share your stories with me. .

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## FOCUS ON HISTORY APRIL 1998 by Barbara Barker

### Hanover--A Town that Made Shoes

Most people know that Brockton was called "Shoe City, USA", but many of our newer residents don't realize that our town, Hanover, as well as Rockland, Abington, and surrounding towns were important manufacturers of shoes as well. The Historical Society Calendar for the month of April pictures some of our former townspeople posing for a picture in front of a shoe factory in our town probably about 1890.. Notice the derby hats worn by the men and the suit jackets, vests, and ties, as well as the upswept hairdos and tight bodiced dresses of the women. They dressed well even to go to work. (Of course they wore aprons in the factory.)

The shoe industry had simple beginnings in our small town. At first the shoes for the family were made at home in a back room, woodshed or kitchen, where could be found a cobbler's bench, built to fit the need with drawers for tacks, holes for awls, knives and hammers. (Some of these relics are prized antiques today, polished up a coffee tables) As time went on men who were more skilled than their neighbors at cobbling began to set up little shops in their yards near the street, and the unskilled came for shoes and repairs. There were dozens of these little shoe shops long the roads on Main St., Washington St., Whiting St. and Broadway. Few remain. The Historical Commission saved one and had it torn down piece by piece and reassembled on the Stetson House property.

The 1850 Hanover census lists 228 shoemaker, and by 1860 the number had increased to 262. Many of these are listed as cutters, stitchers, and boot makers, which probably suggest they were beginning to work in the larger factories which had been established in Brockton, Rockland and North Abington and even in Hanover. The smaller shops closed, and the workers went to the factory. Also work was sent out from the large factories to the smaller shops to be finished. The Civil War made a great demand on the shoe manufacturers, and many cases of boots, made in Hanover, were sold to the U.S. government and worn by the Union soldiers.

Business increased rapidly. Hanover's assessment for 1875 mentions 50 shops assessed anywhere from \$20 to \$200. By 1875 there were listed in Hanover several large shoe factories where men and some women were employed. At Mann's Corner in North Hanover by the present Baptist Church, Samuel Buffum, George T. Damon, Sam Henderson, Caleb Mann and Henry Stoddard all had good sized shoe factories. Some of these have been remodeled into homes today. Along Main St. in North Hanover were the shops of Rufus Crane, Marcus Mann and Joseph Studley. Those of Augustus Poole and the Studleys could be found on Whiting St. The larger factory of George and Nathan Goodrich was located on Walnut St. Killam and Turner had large shops at Assinippi and Charles and Elbridge Briggs on Washington St. at the top of so-called Briggs Hill. All these factories can be located on the 1879 map of Hanover.

About this time there were so many shoes being shipped out (by the freight cars on the Hanover Branch Railroad) that the voters in North Hanover mustered their power at town meeting and voted to put a road through from Pleasant St. to Cedar St., today called West Avenue. It was supposed to continue on through where the present high school is, across the Curtis fields and come out on Main St. near the Curtis School, but the farmers there blocked that move.

In the 1890's the coming of the electric cars (trolley) down from Rockland through North Hanover meant the end of the North Hanover factories. Nathan Goodrich with the help of E.Y. Perry closed his factory and built one by the railroad tracks in South Hanover. This shop was able to compete for some time. It was later sold to Shanley Shoe, and later to the Clapp Rubber Company for the making of rubber heels. Dwelley and Simmons say that in 1910 "There is no one engaged in the manufacture of shoes in Hanover." Pictured is the remains of the Goodrich factory in South Hanover probably taken shortly before it was taken down, at which time it was being used as a hen house. An old house was moved from Weymouth (I think) and set on this site.

It is hard for us who not natives to Hanover to realize the factories that dotted the roads and streams in our town. In future articles I will discuss other manufacturing interests in our past.

April 1997 FOCUS ON HISTORY by Barbara U. Barker

## Hanover Academy

Down at Four Corners you will find an interesting old building that proclaims it was the Hanover Academy building, and indeed it was. It is pictured on the April 1997 Historical Society Calendar, which is on sale at the Stetson House and the John Curtis Library.

Well, here is the story of Hanover Academy. In 1808 the Reverend Calvin Chaddock, a 1791 graduate of Dartmouth College and minister of the First Congregational Church, saw the need for Hanover students to get a more advanced classical education beyond the 8th grade grammar school. He founded and became the teacher of Hanover Academy. It was first held in his home (now the home of Richard Briggs--623 Hanover St.) and later in a building which is described as follows by a former student of 1812. "The building, which was owned by subscribers and proprietors, was located near the center of the town, a little west of the ancient parish church . It was tasteful, and even quite elegant, two stories high, of fair proportions, its walls neatly painted, furnished with Venetian blinds, and crowned with a cupola and bell." I would locate it in the area of the present ball field west of the Congregational Church.

Reverend Chaddock continued as preacher and teacher until 1818 and his fame as an elocutionist was noted far and wide. To the minds of the youth in his charge he is reported to have imparted the ardor of his own spirit in the pursuit of learning. He was followed by Reverend Chapin who continued Sunday school here for a time until the building was sold in 1822 and moved to its present location at the Four Corners.

At the Four Corners it did not remain as an Academy, but was utilized by Mr. Ephraim Stetson "for the storage and sale of strong waters". To some of the shipbuilders who frequented the place it was referred to as "Stetson Shoals".The building has subsequently served as a general store, post office, lodge hall, telephone central office, shoe shop, drug store, dental parlor, woodworking shop, and antique store.

In 1828 a second Hanover Academy was founded and a building erected about where the entrance to the Salmond School is located today. Thirty nine shareholders, supported the undertaking, Samuel Salmond holding most of the shares. Unfortunately we do not have a picture of this building . I understand that the boys were educated on the first floor. Two of the male teachers were ministers, among those being Rev. Calvin Wolcott and later his son, George Wolcott, and Rev. Cyrus Holmes.The upper floor was a very pleasant schoolroom for the young ladies, many of whom were daughters of residents of the Four Corners. This enlightened addition came into existence as a result of a Young Ladies Seminary begun in 1847. One female teacher was hired to teach the girls.

1850 Mr. Martin Paris McLauthlin became Principal of Hanover Academy and was the last principal to teach in the old or second Academy. In 1852 the third and new Academy was built, the second one sold for \$352 and moved to High St. in Pembroke. The new academy stood about 100 yards back from the road from where the old Academy stood, on a more elevated piece of land about where the present Salmond School stands today. The picture printed here and on the calendar shows a wooden building painted white with green blinds and a bell tower.Shares were again sold, Mr.Samuel Salmond again heading the list with 42 shares taken. Mary Salmond, eldest daughter of Mr. Samuel Salmond gave a bell reported to weigh 400 pounds for the new school. The total cost of the buildings, grounds and furnishings was \$3483.53.

In the lower part of the build were the school rooms, while the upper hall was reported to seat more than 300 people. The hall was furnished more formally with furniture and a carpet and was to be used only for "educational, moral and Literary purposes". It was rented out for concerts, lectures, political, temperance, and phrenology meetings, as well as sewing circles, fairs and festivals. The new Academy was dedicated in March of 1852 with great pride and sanctity of purpose. "Literature and Science having long enjoyed here a temporary dwelling place, have at last consented to be installed in this new temple". So stated Rev. E. Porter Dyer in his Dedicatory Address.

Mr. McLauthlin continued in the new building until 1854 and was followed by a number of talented educated teachers. Their influence on the education of many young men and women, alumni of Hanover Academy has echoed through the years.

Broadoak School, District # 2 Grammar School, was located nearby and I found this little poem, hand written on a scrap of paper, which seemed to indicate some friendly competition between the Academy and the local public school.

"The Academy pigs put on their wigs  
And down to Broadoaks run,  
The Broadoaks rats put on their hats  
And case them back for fun."

Hanover Academy had some competition from Assinippi Institute which was founded for like purposes. Public high school courses were initiated in 1868 at the town hall and over the next 20 years enrollment at the Academy declined. The last graduation exercises at Hanover Academy took place on June 26, 1892.

The building was then leased to the town for several years for use as a public school, and in 1899 it was voted that it be sold to the town. At the March 1900 town meeting it was voted to purchase the Academy building for \$500, and subsequently in recognition of the Salmond heirs and their service to the town and community it was voted to be renamed the "Salmond School", and so it served for 30 years.

In 1931 a new six room Salmond School was built through the generosity of Mrs. H. K. Hatfield, Samuel S. Sylvester, and Edmund Q. Sylvester, who gave \$25,000 toward the new school. Also J. Williams Beal, Mr. George J.J. Clark and the Odd Fellows gave generously to the building of this new school. The old building was moved to Pembroke I think, but the bell was saved and put in the "new " school.

This Salmond School was the pride of the Four Corners and the town, and when it was voted to close it in 1980, there was much nostalgic opposition. The building has been leased to private preschools for the last 17 years. It is now scheduled to be opened once again to public kindergarten in September of 1997.

Excerpt from Poem by Mrs. Augusta Briggs written for a Hanover Academy reunion

"The boys and girls of former years  
Are scatter far and wide  
And many have achieved success  
Which all have viewed with pride  
And we, the veterans of old,

Our days of youth renew,  
Knowing in this Academy  
We learned the most we knew.  
All honor to our public schools  
Which give with generous hand  
A liberal education  
To all from every land.  
And let us view without regret  
This old door open still  
And welcome those with  
outstretched hands  
Who come our place to fill."

(Much of the information for this article was obtained from "A History of Hanover Academy" by Rev. David B. Ford, 1899.)

5/18/2006

## GARDENING AND FLORICULTURE IN OLD HANOVER

Photos on the July Historical Society Calendar show the Beal Greenhouses and Flower shop which existed in the Four Corners from about 1900 to 1957. The flower shop was between the Episcopal Church rectory and the house of Captain John Cushing, later J.W. Beal. Behind the flower shop were built the greenhouses, which stood about where the Tesdeschi Plaza shops are located. Here were raised a variety of flowers for the retail trade, but more importantly for the wholesale trade as they could easily be shipped by train into Boston . The specialty of the Beal flower business was carnations. Mr. McCrae was in charge of the green houses. When the railroad left the Four Corners, the greenhouses were sold and taken down.

Listed in the business directory of 1902 as a Florist and dealer in Coal in West Hanover was Alpheus Packard. His greenhouse closed about 1912 due to Mr. Packard's failing health. His specialty was gladiolus, and his fields and business were located near the railroad for convenient shipping.

Also listed as a Nurseryman and Florist in an early 1900 directory was George Sylvester who lived at 839 Broadway, the present home of Dr. and Mrs. Orthon. Remnants of his old nursery are still evident.

The farmer chose his stock of apple and pear trees for his orchard carefully and learned how to graft them to the sturdy wild stock. Grape vines were studied carefully to get the best grapes. Dr. Donnell B.Young, used to tell that his family had one of the first Concord grape vines in this area. His daughter still makes wonderful grape jelly from these vines.

Of course going back to the beginnings of the town, almost all the early settlers were farmers, for their very existence depended upon the food they raised. The colonial housewife had her kitchen herb garden for medicine, cooking, and pleasure, in that order. She hunted the wild plants in the spring: wild asparagus, fiddlehead fern, dandelions and the like. All spring greens were considered a good tonic. Even the Victorian woman who enjoyed a spring walk in the woods would wait for the wild flowers as they appeared, and note them in her diary.

During the late 1800's interest in bedding out began to grow and flower gardening took on a new dimension. Although photographs about this time show that the land was much more open and bare, because the available wood had been cut for cooking, heat, and building, the area near the houses, large and small, began to be softened by flowers and shrubs.

In 1927 Miss Olive Beal in the Four Corners invited a group of her friends into her home and gardens, and The Hanover Garden Club was formed. It met in member's homes and gardens during the growing season, but never in the winter, because it was harder to get about then. (The Hanover Garden Club today maintains the same meeting schedule) One of the most interesting projects of that early club was sending garden produce into Boston. Each week members would bring their garden flowers, fruit and vegetables to the home of Mrs. William Bates at Four Corners where they were packed in hampers and then taken by auto to the station in Greenbush. The train left at 6:00 a.m. and that meant rising very early. Once in Boston the hampers were distributed to the needy by various agencies. This project continued until 1957 when the train service to Greenbush was discontinued.

Today interest in landscaping and gardening has become very important to many homeowners. Membership in garden clubs has increased, (Hanover now has two garden clubs). The Walnut Hill Garden Club has joined the Hanover Garden Club in planting a Period Herb Garden at the Stetson House and in planting and maintaining traffic islands throughout the town which all who drive through our town appreciate.

We, who are interested in historic preservation, are not only interested in preserving brick and mortar, but in preserving our wetlands, wild flowers and wild life and living in harmony with them.

BEAL GREENHOUSES IN FOUR CORNERS ABOUT 1950  
LOCATED ABOUT WHERE TEDESCHI PLAZA IS TODAY

BEAL FLOWER SHOP ABOUT 1915 LOCATED ON CHURCH STREET NEXT TO EPISCOPAL  
RECTORY

5/18/2006

## FOCUS ON HISTORY Barbara Barker

### FIREWORKS October 1995

The photo on the October Historical Society calendar is of some of the buildings of the National Fireworks taken about 1918. It was located on the Drinkwater River which was dammed early in the 1700's for early mills that began here. Factory Pond was formed by this dam.

The historian, John Barry, says the name, Drinkwater, came from the tradition that when the first mill was erected, cold water, instead of liquor was served as a beverage.

The Drinkwater Ironworks were founded about 1710 and the Barkers (no relation to my family) were known iron workers. Robert and Caleb Barker advertised in the Weekly Advertiser in 1754 that cast bells for Meeting Houses and other useages were available for purchase here.

L. Vernon Briggs in his "History Shipbuilding on the North River" says that during the American Revolution cannon were cast here, and wrought iron cannon balls were found here by George J.J. Clark when he became owner of the factory complex in 1899. He was the owner of the complex when the picture was taken in 1918.

Early mills located on or near this location were a grist mill, saw mill, boxboard mill and a shingle mill, as well as the forges which made bar iron and anchors up until the late 1800's.

Mr. Charles Stetson was the owner of the property in the late 1800's and operated a machine manufacturing shop here until his death, at which time Mr. Clark entered the picture and began his National Fireworks Company. He eventually expanded his holdings to 200 fenced-in acres, about 150 adjoining acres, and 100 acres which were used for an airport and additional storage. Most of the land was located between King St. and Winter Street and Forge and Factory Ponds.

Mr. Clark used the existing buildings and built many smaller buildings to manufacture and store his finished fireworks, and later munitions. With such incendiary products it is not surprising that several terrible fires were associated with the business, but he built and rebuilt each time trying always to make a dangerous work place safer.

The Historical Society has in its files several accounts of the 1905 explosion which occurred in the Laboratory and extended to at least 10 smaller buildings out of the 60 in the complex at the National Fireworks. Many workers were frightened, some hurt, but no one was killed or seriously injured. The blast was said to have been heard for 20 miles, and many of the neighbors in the Drinkwater section lost panes of glass, but the National Fireworks rose like a Phoenix from such disasters.

One process developed by George J.J. Clark, certainly a local entrepreneur, was the way he found to make aluminum powder from the sawdust of aluminum comb manufacturers, using a dozen claw hammers which were attached to cans in a machine in such a way that they pounded the sawdust into a powder so fine that it floated in the air and was drawn by a fan through a pipe into a cloth bag in another building and used in special firecrackers. Charles "Aluminum" Briggs tended the machine and you can imagine how he got his nickname. When powdered aluminum was made commercially, he moved on to making small firecrackers. He worked at the fireworks into his 80's.

During World War I Mr. Clark was called to the Defense Department in Washington to solve a problem with tracer bullets which were used to help the aviators make sure their bullets were hitting the intended targets. Mr. Clark solved the problem and soon was asked how soon he could ship the first 100,000. When put into production in West Hanover, they were the only plant in the country to make the bullet. Then powdered aluminum became scarce, so Mr. Clark got out the dozen carpenter's claw hammers and using stick aluminum crushed it to a powder. Mr. Clark was commended by the War Department for his efforts.

After World War I the company again went back to making fireworks with branch offices from Maine to Texas and with an average payroll of 350. Then came World War II and the National Fireworks again became one of the largest munitions manufacturers in the country. It is hard to believe that in our little town of Hanover such a vital part of the war effort was conducted under tight security. Many folks who lived in Hanover at that time and still live here today did their part for the war effort and worked at the Drinkwater plant.

At a meeting of the Hanover Historical Society held in 1980 Les Molyneux, a local Middle School teacher and chairman of the Board of Health, and Lawrence Slaney, a former fire chief and Historical Commission member, now deceased, conducted a meeting about the history of the National Fireworks. It was a very well attended and popular meeting, as many former employees attended and remembered those old days. Mr. Molyneux, through his research, probably knows more about the history of the fireworks than anyone around.

After World War II many changes, subdivisions, and acquisitions brought about the dissolution of the old National Fireworks. Triangle Engineering now occupies "power house" building of the old Fireworks. Some of the land is now owned by the town under the umbrella of the Conservation Commission. Although the Environmental Protection Agency and Environmental Consultants have investigated and done removal action at the sites, there are still unanswered questions about disposal of the hazardous waste many years ago.

## Edmund Q. Sylvester 1869-1942 Hanover Benefactor of the Past

Have you ever wondered how the Sylvester School got its name? If you look carefully you will see its full name, "The Edmund Q. Sylvester High School" Who was this Edmund Q. Sylvester?

Born in Hanover in 1869 Edmund Quincy Sylvester was named after his father who built the mansion house at 65 Washington St. near the North River in 1850 Edmund was the first son on his father's second marriage. His mother was Eliza Salmond Sylvester, sister of his father's first wife. Edmund had a half brother, Sam and a half-sister, Eliza, as well as three younger brothers.

You might say Edmund was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. The Sylvesters were by far one of the wealthiest families in town; the Salmonds being the other. E.Q.'s father died in 1898 and David Ford in his History of Hanover Academy says of the family "one of great wealth, yet liberal withal, ...seldom refused to help a need applicant who was known to be worthy." Edmund grew up in a family who were most generous with their wealth, and he continued in their benevolent manner. The Sylvesters were communicants at St. Andrews Episcopal Church and most generous in their support.

E.Q. attended Hanover Schools and graduated from the Hanover High School, which was then located on the upper level of the Town Hall. He continued his education at St. Paul's School at Concord, N.H. and graduated from M.I.T. School of Architecture. He followed his vocation as an architect, and among the buildings he designed was the John Curtis Free Library for which he served as a trustee and treasurer for many years. He was very much interested in town affairs and particularly the schools of the town.

In 1926 there was a great discussion on the town meeting floor concerning the need for a new High School. Mr. E.Q. Sylvester rose and stated that he would give the town \$50,000 for this purpose. His half-brother, Samuel gave \$10,000 and Lot Phillips gave twenty acres of land. The total cost of the building was \$144,480.47, and Edmund Q. Sylvester had started the ball rolling by giving one third of the cost. It was voted to name the new high school the Edmund Q. Sylvester High School after this man who valued education for the youth of his town. He continued to be an active Alumni of Hanover High School all his life.

E.Q. never married, but lived with his mother in the homestead on Washington St. She died in and he continued to live in his childhood home until his death in 1942. In his obituary it was written, "Edmund Q. Sylvester will be remembered in his native town for his countless kindnesses, his unswerving integrity, his modest helpfulness and his great generosity."

Although it would be unusual for a citizen to have the means to give one third of the cost of a new school, our people today would do well to support education. their churches, and their town by giving of themselves, serving on committees, becoming knowledgeable about issues, attending town meetings, and voting on issues that will help Hanover retain its caring spirit for all its people. Edmund Q. Sylvester gave us an example to follow.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY by Barbara Barker

### EARLY INDUSTRIES AT LUDDAM'S FORD IN HANOVER

The Indian Head River with its headwaters in Hanover empties into the North River just below here at Luddam's Ford. It is fed by the Drinkwater River and numerous small streams that course the town. Early on it served as a pathway for Indian canoes and provided the Native Americans with fish such as shad, alewives, trout, perch, and pickerel among others.

The area has been called Luddam's Ford for many years in recognition of one James Luddam from Weymouth who served as a guide for Governor John Winthrop of the Mass Bay Colony who was on his way to a meeting with Governor Bradford in Plymouth in 1632. Legend has it that Luddam carried Winthrop on his back as they forded the river at a rocky spot just below the present bridge.

As settlers moved into the area that was to become Hanover, they saw the river as a source of water power for their future mills. Early on a dam was constructed here on the Indian Head River at Luddam's Ford, by 1693 Joseph Curtis, Josiah Palmer, and others entered into an agreement "for erecting a saw mill on that part of the Indian Head River a little above the cartway" (Elm St.).

By 1704 an Iron Works had been constructed. Thomas Bardin, an immigrant from Wales, was an early pioneer in the industry of turning bog iron into iron utensils. Later names involved in this forge were Wanton, Randall, Barstow, and Josselyn. By 1720 Josselyn of "Old Forge" held a major portion of the shares until 1790.

In 1791 the Curtis family, Lemuel, Ruben, and Consider became long time owners. Later George Curtis and Lemuel Dwelly took over. Curtis Iron Works, as it was known, made anchors ranging from 1000 to 10,000 pounds, and during the American Revolution it made many anchors for the Government. Later the anchors for the ship, Constitution, were forged here.

A grist mill was operating here in 1791, and a saw mill was still in use in 1873. In 1839 a carding mill, which was built upstream at the junction of Rocky Run Brook, was moved to this site as well.

In 1873 the Iron Forge property was sold to Mr. Eugene Clapp whose business was to grind products that contained rubber for reuse. He was a pioneer in the recycling industry. However, the waste was dumped in the riverside swamps and still remains today, somewhat overgrown, as an early trampoline. (an early polluter) The "old forge" building burned in 1881, and Mr. Clapp constructed a much larger mill and later built repeated additions and buildings on both sides of the river.

The rubber mill was the last active business to operate here. At times over 400 men were employed. A terrible fire occurred in 1923, pictures of which are on file at the Historical Society. The business was rebuilt, but then the depression hit, and the company went into receivership. At the time of its closing it was the largest rubber reclaiming mills of its kind in the country and covered 18 acres along the Indian Head River. On the receivership inventory were listed 35 buildings in the factory area, as well as numerous other pieces of real estate (worker's homes etc.) in the adjacent area of Water St. and Clapp Road.

Grossman owned the property for some time and then it was purchased by the town in the 1930's through the efforts of then Selectmen Fred Nagle.

The Hanover Branch Railroad ( crossed Elm St. just above 251 Elm St. at Curtis Crossing and became an important part in the development of the industries at this site. And when the businesses failed, the need for the railroad diminished.

All the factory buildings are now gone. A fish ladder was constructed by the state to aid the migrating fish in reaching their spawning grounds further up river. The towns of Hanover and Pembroke now own the land on each side of the river as conservation land. The river flows cleaner, the shad and herring have returned, and youngsters and oldsters fish and hike and picnic.

In the 1970's the Rotary worked to make the area more accessible, but were discouraged by vandalism.

Today it is great to be present at this rededication of this historic place.

5/18/2006

## FOCUS ON HISTORY by Barbara Barker

The Lone House in Cricket Hollow, or the Cricket Hole House: these are the two old names used to describe the old cape-style house pictured here, which was destroyed by fire one Fourth of July in the 1920's.

It was located on a road that was once a public way which was a short cut from Scituate to Abington. It went from Tiffany Road (now Norwell), the area of the old Stockbridge or Tiffany Mill, through the woods in back of the present Cardinal Cushing School crossing Washington St., south of East St., around Randall's Swamp and came out on Hanover St. (then called the Drinkwater Road) near the present tennis courts. There were boggy places near the Cricket Hole, and bog iron was dug from this area. The iron pellets were melted down and used at the forge at the Curtis Mill at Luddam's Ford.

The house stood way back in the woods on property now owned by Cardinal Cushing School, and a path still leads to its location. Descendants of William Palmer, who built the first bridge over the Third Herring Brook at the now Hanover-Norwell line on River St./Broadway in 1680, probably built the house as a small farm. By 1724 the property belonged to the Sylvester Family. I found a deed from Josiah Palmer to Amos Sylvester of that date for property in that location. Robert Sylvester, in valuations of 1860 and 1876 referred to it as "my Palmer Place" and rented it out to various families.

It was just a little farmhouse in the woods, but it had a story to tell. Those of you who have read Longfellow's poem, "Evangeline" know who the Neutrals were. Just before the French and Indian War French families were driven from their peaceful homes in Grand Pre. Acadia (now Nova Scotia) by King George because they refused to swear allegiance to the English crown, They were scattered far and wide and were billeted upon the colonies, one family to each town along the Atlantic coast. In most towns the location of these families seemed to be in secluded spots, perhaps because at that time the French were looked down upon in America. And so in Hanover "Cricket Hole" seemed quite secluded and a good place for them. Their lack of acceptance into the community can be illustrated by the tale of Peter Trahan, a neutral passing through, who reportedly found a silver watch which he gave to a countryman to return to its owner if reported lost. The owner had Trahan arrested and put in jail for four days until he paid five pounds. The same Trahan complained to authorities of Mass Bay Colony that the selectmen of Scituate had placed hardships on him and his brother. How long the French Neutrals stayed at Cricket Hole has not been recorded. Many were on their way to Louisiana, and some made it there accounting for the French influence in that part of our country.

Later a family by the name of Donnell rented there for a time. John Milton Dwelley recorded in his diary December 13, 1849, "Came to Cricket Hole to live". I doubted if the crickets were chirping then, but he probably heard them in the spring. He raised sheep here, carried the mail and did errands for those who lived on the way to the Four Corners. The last family to occupy this lonely house far from the main road were the Loatmans. "Peanut" Loatman later moved to Old Hanover St.

Col. John Osborne bought the Sylvester property in 1919 and ran a restaurant called "The Iron Kettle Inn" in one of the Sylvester houses on Washington St. (Now run as "Iron Kettle Inn" by the Cardinal Cushing School.) Col. Osborne was an officer in the State Militia, and he invited the militia to hold maneuvers in the woods around f the Cricket Hole site.

The old cellar hole is still visible. The Historical Society had an exploration there several years ago, and found evidence of the old location and well. Pictured is member Roger Leslie at the Cricket Hole.

There are still a few calendars with other historical views on sale at the John Curtis Library. Pick up your calendar, and I'll tell you a story about the village of South Hanover next month.

March 1997 FOCUS ON HISTORY by Barbara Barker

An airport in Hanover as late as 1958? Ah, yes, and at one time there were as many as 50 small planes kept there. Mr. W. Melvin Clark was the man who took his dream and "flew" with it.

I interviewed Mr. Clark in 1977 when making a film for the 250th Anniversary of our town. I got out the old tape as I was writing this, and Melvin Clark's New England twang came over loud and clear. Son of George J.J. Clark, entrepreneur and founder of the National Fireworks, Melvin had a creative and courageous spirit. Born in 1902, he was intrigued with the early airplane, and as a young man hung around the airport in Quincy. He bought what was left of an old Kittyhawk and brought it to his home on Winter St. where he tinkered with it and put it together. In those days the body and wings were covered with an Irish linen type of canvas. This was covered with what was called "airplane dope" which caused the canvas to shrink tightly around the wing and body forms. Ten to twelve coats were applied until the surface was as tough as metal.

Mr. Clark told the story about a day in 1927. He was running the plane up and down the field in back of his house, and then he just kind of "took off". There was hardly enough room to land back on the field, but somehow he did. Then he called the Dennison Airport and told them what he had done, and said, "but I don't have a license".

"Why don't you fly over and get it?" was the teasing reply.

"I'll come right over" said Melvin. And fly over he did and received license number 17,540.

Shown in the picture on the March Historical Society calendar (on sale at the Library and the Stetson House) is the airport that was fashioned out of Melvin Clark's back yard, field, and adjoining lands belonging to the Holbrooks, Robinson, and Greens. A high tension wire had to be moved, and even more difficult in those days (1929) was the leveling off of two hills and removal of many stones. There was a line of elms on Winter St. which were cut down and an orchard of apple trees that was removed to make room for low flying planes and 3 runways. The airport was located in the triangle between Winter, Myrtle and Center streets.

The picture was taken in 1958 when the airport had just been demolished. Today streets with the names of King Phillip Lane, Massasoit Lane, Samoset Drive, Pocahontas Lane and the like criss-cross the old runways. I wonder what the homeowners think when they dig down and hit some of the old tarmac.

When the airport began, there was one plane, one hanger, and 35 acres, but it expanded as more land was needed, and East Coast Airways, as it was officially called, housed private planes from Hanover, Marshfield, Rockland and Abington, and was listed as a commercial airport. Most people around here called it Clark's Airport, and it was a thrill to go down to West Hanover and take a Sunday sightseeing ride.

Mr. Clark told of being the first Air Policeman in Hanover. It was his job on summer Sundays to keep sightseeing planes away from a nudist camp on the North River. He thought it was quite a joke, because it was pretty hard to control, until the Federal Aviation Inspector told him to "just take their number, and I'll take their license." Then there was no further need for an Air Policeman.

Mr. Clark became the first airmail pilot in Hanover, carrying mail from Hanover, to Brockton to Boston. He had his airmail pilot certificate dated May 19, 1938 . In the picture he is shown with postmaster Bart Downing, Eleanor Kimball's father.

Mr. Clark never lost his love of flying and adventure. He spoke about flying to the World's Fair in Chicago, and what a thrill it was to find his way there. He made three different trips across the country to California, Texas and Seattle, Washington. He was the first person to land a private plane in his father's birthplace, Prince Edward Island. He spoke of scaring the cows down to one end of the field so he could land at the other end.

During the war he sold the airport land to his father, who needed the a space to store magnesium powder and other materials used in the manufacture of the munitions made at the National Fireworks. After the war Melvin Clark bought the land back from his father, and the airport continued for 10 more years.

With the coming of the larger planes and air traffic from South Weymouth, Mr. Clark didn't enjoy competing for air space. Two large planes one in trouble and one mistaking Hanover for South Weymouth landed dangerously on the short runways. One was taken apart and towed to Otis, because it couldn't take off on that length runway.

When the airport had closed and the land sold, Mr. Clark took his plane and one hanger and made a deal with the owner of the Plymouth airport. He could keep his plane there in his hanger, and when he sold his plane, he would leave the hanger. I wonder if it is still there.

Horse and wagon, stagecoach, train, trolley, airplane, but in Hanover today the automobile is king.

If you have any old pictures of earlier Hanover days, the Hanover Historical Society would be interested in borrowing and copying them for their files. Bring them to the Stetson House any Wednesday afternoon between 2 and 4 o'clock. Last year becomes tomorrow's history. Help us preserve it.

5/18/2006

## FOCUS ON HISTORY By Barbara Barker

### Charlie's Wagon

Let me tell you a little about Charlie Gleason and his Peddler's Wagon: Charles Gleason was born in 1880 in Barnett, Vermont and came to Hanover in 1904. He found room and board at Joe Frank Stetson's place near the Four Corners. (He later married Mrs. Stetson's niece, Olive Prouty from Rockland.)

Charlie bought a wagon third hand (it was new in 1880) from Judge Kelly's brother in Rockland, and for \$50 he bought a horse from Dan O'Brien. Charlie said it was the best horse of the 12 he owned. Nancy Hanks was her name, and he said in those days (1904) there was not a paved road in Hanover or any surrounding town. "I could throw down the reins in Duxbury, curl up on the seat, go to sleep, and the horse would take me right home." Once, however, Charlie left Nancy drinking at the old pump by the newly built fire station near the Four Corners, and when he came out the horse and cart were gone. He supposed they had gone home, but they were not there. He got a lantern and traced the horse's foot and wheel marks, and found that the horse had evidently mistaken the spur railroad track for Joe's road to the barn, and had ended up in the coal shed at the terminal.

For over 35 years Charlie Gleason's Peddler's Wagon traversed the roads of Hanover, Norwell, Pembroke, Marshfield and Duxbury selling needles, dishes, skirts, petticoats, stockings, and even corsets among other things. One of his customers, Lillian Whitaker, of Pembroke wrote, "I have a red table cloth that I prize. ..It is a relic of the day when a traveling dry goods cart used to come every so often to our door. ..I love this tablecloth, purchased from Mr. G--. Despite many washings its colors are still bright. The driver was a friend to his customers and often carried messages and packages from mother to me or vice versa."

Charlie Gleason was a friendly and usual man. He was more than a peddler; he served as Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor for a period of 13 years. He knew just about everybody in town. Charlie was also an amateur photographer. Shortly after he arrived in Hanover Charlie acquired a Brownie box camera and learned to develop his own negatives. He began the first of some 70 or so scrapbooks of which about a dozen relative to local history are in the possession of the Historical Society.

By 1939 the automobile had put the peddler out of business, and Charlie sold his wagon for \$15 and figured he had put over 100,000 miles on it, and fed 1500 bushel of oats and 100 tons of hay to his horses. After 1939 Charlie rode his bicycle all around town, always taking his camera with him. His bicycle became a trademark in his later pictures. He was for a time custodian at the Salmond School, and jack-of-all-trades. He rode his bicycle well into his 90's and died one month shy of his 99th birthday.

The Hanover Historical Society was able to purchase the wagon for \$990 in 1988 and moved it back to Hanover. It was in pretty rough shape, but Bill Sides and the late Larry Slaney used their skill and Yankee smarts, and restored the wagon. Charlie would be proud. Now there was only one problem. The wagon was too tall to fit under the barn. It has been kept on the driveway level of the barn, but takes up valuable display and work space.

Through funds raised by the Historical Society and the Friends of the Stetson House a three bay carriage shed, designed by architect Doug Ulwick was built. To house Charlie Gleason's Peddler's Wagon, as well as several others, and all will have a story to tell.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY JULY 1997 By Barbara Barker

### Changes at the Four Corners Area

Hanover Four Corners, where Broadway intersects Washington St. northwest of the Old North River Bridge, was the original business center of Hanover. At first it was here the ship builders gathered after pay day and tipped a glass or two. The first William Barstow kept an "ordinary" (tavern) near the first bridge in 1657 . Later the Wales tavern met the needs of workers and travelers. In 1770 Cornelius Turner , inn holder, sold land to Atherton Wales, who in a deed of 1785, is listed as an "Inn holder", and so called until 1795. The stage from Sandwich to Boston which began runs in 1704 made a stop here. (see Broadside shown here)

The Hanover Academy Building was moved next to Wales Tavern in 1822, not to be used as a school, but through its life it served as a tavern, general store, post office, lodge hall, telephone office, shoe shop, drug store, dental parlor, woodworking shop, clock shop, and antique store .

The Hanover House(later called the Howard House and then Tripp's Hotel) was an early hotel which stood in the parking lot opposite Mary Lou's News. It was built by David Kingman , who first occupied it as a residence and later kept a hotel here in 1787. Others followed him in the business. Probate Court held its annual sessions in Hanover from 1850 to 1880 here, and other meetings were held here also, one of which was the incorporation of the Hanover Branch Railroad. With the coming of the railroad in 1868 and its terminus near the "corners", the village grew more commercial. Later in the Howard House was located a barber shop (Joe Tripp, the owner, was also a barber, and Mrs. Stockbridge's millinery shop was located there in 1915. Just when the Howard House was removed and a gas station later erected I have not yet determined. (Please contact me if you know)

Each village had its own post office, which moved from place to place depending on the politics of the postmaster and the political party in office in Washington. Opposite the Howard House was the Flavell Store. The post office was kept here when the Democrats were in office This building was later torn down as the traffic on the Washington St./Broadway corner increased to widen the turn toward Norwell. Mary Lou's News was once part of John Flavell's barn.

Facing Broadway about where Lorraine Cake Shoppe is now located stood another hotel: the Josselyn Hotel, originally a farmhouse built by Robert Dwelley in 1856. It was at one time used for lodging students from Hanover Academy and later the general public found rooms here. It operated until a hotel until after World War I , was eventually made into two apartments, and later torn down. A one story block of stores was built, and later in 1926 a second block added to it. South of these stores a two story building had been moved in 1890 which later housed Fred Bowkers grocery and Belle Tucker's dry goods store, with two apartments above. This building, which may have been an early barn to 168 Broadway, was torn down in 1941.

Where Church St. meets Broadway opposite the Salmond School was located a flower shop (pictured here about 1915) . Behind the flower shop were located the Beal green houses where flowers for the retail trade were raised. The main crop was carnations where were shipped by express to the Boston wholesale market. Mr. McCrae was in charge of the greenhouses. When the rail road left the Four Corners, the greenhouses were sold and taken down. By 1954 part of the land was occupied by the Tedeschi Shopping Center. (These views are pictured on the Historical Society's calendars on sale at the library and the Stetson House)

Other businesses were located near the Corners and of course the Railroad terminal was located about where Columbia Road now intersects Broadway. Columbia Road (old route 3, not route 53) was cut through by the State in the early 1930's and the traffic eased at the Four Corner. (Many residents were happy, but it made a huge change to the businesses located there).

And so business moved to be accessible to the traffic. Four Corners is now a quaint little village, missed by many. If you have not taken this scenic by-way, follow Rockland St. straight through the lights at routes 139 and 53, drive slowly, and imagine what life was like here at the turn of the century and before.

October 1997 FOCUS ON HISTORY By Barbara Barker

## CELEBRATIONS IN HANOVER

The Historical Society has a wonderful file of pictures of "Old Hanover". They have used these photos on a calendar they produce each year. The new calendar will be available at the meeting of the society, and at the Library and the Stetson House. Old calendars, which contain some really great pictures can be purchased at the Stetson House. I use the monthly picture as a jumping off point for my monthly articles so that you will have a story that goes with each picture.

The October 1997 calendar picture shows photos taken at a 1909 Columbus Day Parade, sponsored by the Hanover Fire Department. Harold Arnold, whom some old timers may remember, related this story of the float entitled, "A Little Child Shall Lead Them". The theme was based on an actual happening. The fire bell was on top of Louis Stone's barn, and the fire wagon kept inside. One day a fire call came in and no men were nearby. Two little girls, Dorothy Studley, and the other was one of the Phillip's girls, as I remember...rang in the alarm, pulling the bell rope. My grandfather (Alpheus Packard) made the lettering and built a bell in the cupola,, using dwarf geraniums on a wire fame. One side said "Ringin in the Fire Alarm". The other side read "A Little Child Shall Lead them".

Celebrations were more frequent in the old days. Memorial Day was an all day long and community event. I will relate more of this special holiday in a future article.

In 1877 there was a celebration for the 150th anniversary of the founding of the town, and the historical society has a framed broadside telling of a picnic at the grove. The society has the receipts for the expenses of this celebration. Apparently dippers were given out as mementos, as we have a receipt for 400 dippers at 5 cents apiece. Has anyone every seen one of these?

In 1903 there was a special "Old Home Week" which published a wonderful booklet of old pictures (some of which are on our calendars) history, poetry by local poets and genealogy. A field day was held and probably a dinner and other events. I suspect there were other "Old Home" weeks of which we have no record.

Then there was the 200th anniversary celebration in 1927. It lasted a week beginning on Sunday, June 12, with observances in the churches, exercises and orations and music at the Town Hall on the 14th, a Children's Day on Friday with entertainment,. games and prizes, and supper at the Town Hall. On Saturday the week concluded with a Firemen's Field day , a parade, band concert and fireworks. Pictured with this article is a float from that parade depicting a boat (Hanover's shipbuilding industry) the anchor (forged for the Constitution in Hanover, and the iron plough, invented by David Prouty of Hanover. I have heard this float did double duty and appeared in the Massachusetts Tecerntenary (1930) parade, as well as local citizen George Miller who dressed as George Washington. (pictured)

There was a celebration at the end of World War I of which I have no details. In 1946 a celebration was held to honor the veterans of World War II. Charlie Gleason in his scrap book tells of a parade with floats, flags, and festivities. Pictured is a float from the Baptist Church from that parade. Speeches were made at the soldiers memorial flag pole in front of the Sylvester School. Hanover honored its veterans.

Many of us remember the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. Chaired by our good friend, John Libertine, a wonderful Patriot's Ball was held at the Hanover Mall. A chicken barbecue and bonfire followed games at Sylvester Field. The new Hanover Militia demonstrated a mock encounter with the British at the Four Corners. This was the year the Lions planted and lighted the spruce tree at the Library for Christmas.

The following year, 1977, was the 250th anniversary of the town, which even surpassed the previous year. Another Ball and Supper were held at the Mall. A special anniversary quilt was made by ladies in the town, and it now hangs in the large hearing room at the Town Hall. The most exciting event was a huge parade, the likes of which the town had never seen before. Bands, military units, floats decorated by almost every club and organization in town, fire engines, mounted police, Clydesdale horses, and over twenty antique autos. Over 1700 people took part, and the parade was viewed by thousands along the roadside for the two hours it took from start to finish. Other events included a road race, field events, a barbecue, an ecumenical pageant, and a bonfire. The addition to the Town Hall and New Police Station were dedicated and a time capsule buried. It was a grand time.

Hanover has been proud of its town, its people, and its history, and enjoys a good celebration. The next big time is already in the planning stages. How about welcoming in the 21st century with a big band, great food, good friends, right here in our hometown, at the Hanover Mall. No big city prices, no traffic, just a great time with your fellow townspeople.

## BURNING OF THE "BEEHIVE"

Pictured on this month's Historical Society Calendar is the burning of the "Beehive". Here is the story of the "Beehive". The two chimney colonial house was located on the north side of the "Drinkwater Road" (Hanover St.) opposite Spring St., about where the tennis courts are now located. An old yucca plant that was planted there still remains. The house was built in 1759 when the First Congregational Church entered into an agreement with Reverend Samuel Baldwin to be their second minister. The church agreed to build him a parsonage, and this was done at the expense of 80 pounds silver (English). It was built on the so called "Common Lands" which Scituate had deeded to the town of Hanover at the time of its incorporation in 1727.

Reverend Baldwin had graduated from Harvard in 1752 and married Hannah Cushing, daughter of Judge John Cushing in 1759. They raised a family of 9 children here. Under Rev. Baldwin's leadership, membership in the church increased and a second larger church was built in 1765. It was also used as the meeting house for town meetings, as was the first church.

The historian, Barry, in 1853 wrote, "Mr. Baldwin early espoused the cause of America in the struggle with Great Britain, and throughout the continuance of the war of the Revolution, took a deep and anxious interest in his country's success. He officiated as a Chaplain in the Army, and gave eloquent exhortations to his own flocks at home and to the minutemen of the town..." The stress and strain of the Revolution made it impossible to keep up the payments of the clergyman's salary, and Mr. Baldwin was forced to resign in March of 1779 after serving the church for more than 20 years. He died in 1784 and his wife in 1790. Their gravestone, pictured here, can be found in the Hanover Cemetery.

Mary Baldwin, daughter of Reverend Samuel and his wife, married Robert Salmond from Scotland in 1787, and they lived here for a time. In 1794 Robert Salmond conveyed to Caleb Marsh, a physician, 100 acres and this house. Later Mr. Seth Stetson lived here and served as postmaster, and so the Post Office was located in the old Baldwin house in the mid 1800's.

In the late 1800's several persons owned the house, and it fell into disrepair. It was rented to several families at once. At one time 19 persons occupied the house, and because of their constant comings and goings, it was give the name "The Beehive".

"The Beehive" burned in 1909, and Charles Gleason, who left us so many pictures and anecdotes in his notebooks, took pictures of "The Beehive" as it burned. He tells us that he was selling goods to Mrs. Briggs just down the road when he heard the firebell and raced up to the site. He had his trusty Brownie camera with him as usual and lost no time in recording the end of "The Beehive". All that was left were the 2 large chimneys. Mr. Gleason wrote, "It is to be regretted that such an historic house could not have been preserved."

Not one to miss an opportunity, however, Mr. Gleason developed his film and sold the series of 5 pictures to those townspeople interested. He made enough to buy his wedding suit.

FOCUS ON HISTORY JANUARY 1998 by Barbara Barker

## BROOKS STORE IN NORTH HANOVER

Pictured on the January 98 calendar sold by the Historical Society is a gathering of North Hanover men seated around the old pot belly stove at Brook's Store in North Hanover.

From its founding the town of Hanover, as most country towns in this area, was made up of different villages. Each village had its own school, a store, and often a particular industry or factory. Most had a church, and Four Corners, South Hanover, and West Hanover each had a railroad terminal. The villages were quite separate, and it was not unusual that the only time men and women from the different villages met was at Town Meeting. Each village had its leaders and its characters. In North Hanover the Brooks family was a family everyone knew and looked up to.

Samuel Brooks, born in Hanover in 1742, was a descendant of William who arrived in New England in 1635. Samuel lived in a house on a cart path off of the present Webster St. in North Hanover. He died at age 87 in 1829. Many of his descendants built their homes and raised their families in North Hanover. At the incorporation of the Baptist Church 5 of the 24 were Brooks. The Baptist Church was erected in 1812 on Main St. next to land on which Brook's Store was built.

Brook's Store was founded in 1854 by John Brooks, his son, John S. Brooks, William Church and George Damon. John S. Books was elected agent, set up his shoemaker's bench in the back of the store, and eventually bought out the other stockholders. He and his brother Thomas operated the store until the early 1900's. John S. Brooks had a son, John Flavell Brooks, a very bright boy who graduated from M.I.T. in 1896. John F. came home to Hanover to help out his father until he died in 1909, and then continued to run the store until his death.

The first John S. Brooks was postmaster for 20 years, his son, John F., succeeding him. For seven years he served as town clerk, and treasurer of the town,. He was Superintendent of the Baptist Church Sunday School, and each week compiled the weekly calendar and sung in the church choir. As General Storekeeper he found an amusing way to advertise his goods. He composed little rhymes, sent them out on postcards and advertised in the local paper.

"Wingold Flour" by John F. Brooks

The girls around are going wild,  
They always have been very mild.  
Their bread they say is nice  
and white  
And rises up so very light,  
They talk about it by the hour,  
They make it now of Wingold  
Flour."

The religious influence of four generations, was apparent in the atmosphere of the store. Honesty was first. "I owe you eight cents," said a clerk. "What for?" "Don't you remember a few days ago you didn't wait for your change." Tobacco was screened from view by a pile of biscuit tins. No cigarettes.

The Brooks brothers, sons of the postmaster, were valued baseball players, but when it was decided to play Sunday games, the Brooks boys didn't play. They worked out with the team on weekdays, but good Baptists that they were, they didn't play ball on Sunday.

## Another poem from "Tales from the Village Store"

"A Short Winter  
Some men one day were talking together  
As usual about the weather,  
The drought, the crops, the early frost,  
And all the things that they had lost.  
And of the many things they'd need  
To keep them warm, the stock to feed.  
One said, "The Summer now is gone,  
A long hard Winter is coming on."  
An old man then had his say,  
'Young men just sign a note today  
That's due in Spring, you'll change your thought,  
You'll think the Winter is very short.'  
" (poem given with others in his own handwriting  
by John F Brooks to Alice Bonney)

John F. Brooks wrote over 100 poems about his store, people he knew, his philosophy, his family. He gave a copy of his collection to each of his grandchildren-- A treasure. Above all he was a family man. Upon the death of John F. Brooks in 1945, his son, John S. Brooks continued to run the store, in much the same manner as his father. With the coming of supermarkets and the decline of "the village", the store closed in the late 1960's, I think.

Brooks family descendants still live in Hanover today and are proud of their heritage.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY MAY 1996

### BRIGGS STABLE AND HOUSE

Featured on the May 1996 Historical Society Calendar is a picture of Briggs Stable and House taken about 1940, judging the year by the car in the picture. This old property has an interesting history. Built as early as 1740, it was owned and occupied by Joshua Staples in 1759. The rear portion of the house may be the earliest portion; both sections of the house have a central type chimney. In the rear portion the large fireplace has been covered, but the wonderful old ceiling timbers have been exposed and give us a hint as to why the house has withstood 250 years.

Luther Robbins, a veteran of the Revolution, bought the house from Staple's widow when he returned from the war. It later passed to John Mellon, minister of the Congregational Church from 1784 to 1805. It then became the property of the church. Rev. Calvin Chaddock lived here from 1806 to 1818 while serving the church. He also served as one of the first teachers at the Hanover Academy which was then located close to the site of the Little League field across the Church on Center St. (The Academy was later moved to Four Corners and is still standing.)

Reverend Seth Chapin followed Rev. Chaddock and served as minister from 1819 to 1824, residing in the house and also conducting a small private school for young ladies in a small building located in the front of his parsonage. (long gone or moved) Mr. Chapin, it is told, was a small neat man and very particular. He laid out paths so that his students would not walk on his grass, and posted a notice that read, "Ladies will please keep to the path". The first morning after the posting was a rainy one and puddles abounded in the path, but the young ladies splashed with glee through the water that had collected in the path, following the directions posted by their teacher.

Church membership figures indicated a decline in religious interest, and at the departure of Mr. Chapin, the church was lacking in financial support and was several years without a regular minister. In 1827 Rev. Ethan Smith was called to serve. He had nine children and filled the parsonage to overflowing. In 1833 Rev. Abel Duncan became pastor and stayed until 1854.

At this time the church's shareholders sold the house to Andrew Damon, an ancestor of the present Briggs. He was owner of the house as it was pictured in the 1910 History of Hanover. Mr. Damon kept a store, located on the Drinkwater Road, (Hanover St.) which he took over from his brother-in-law, Perez Perry. Andrew Damon's daughter, Ella Damon, married J. Austin Briggs, and they lived here followed by their son, Stanley A. Briggs and his son Richard Briggs, who is now the present owner.

In the 1920's Stanley Briggs, who was born and brought up in the old house, inherited the store. He had a delivery service from the store as did the small stores at that time. He also delivered wood, and ice as well. Charlie Gleason in one of his notebooks tells the story of Mr. Briggs stopping frequently at a certain house to inquire if they needed ice. Being very, very, frugal, the answer was, "No, Mr. Briggs, we don't want ice today, because we are going to hand our meat, milk, and cheese down the well." This went on for quite some time, Mr. Briggs stopping and told the same until one very hot day in August when the Missus came running out, calling, "Mr. Briggs, Mr. Briggs, stop! We want some ice. The old man is dead!" Mr. Briggs is said to have replied, "Hang him down the well!" And slapping his horse, he drove on.

Stanley Briggs had loved horses since his boyhood and kept several for use in his delivery services. He enlarged his stable by boarding some of the horses belonging to Fred and Burt Phillips and gradually added others to his own. A fire in 1913 caused a set back, but ever resilient this Yankee continued on, and in 1933 the Hanover Hunt and Riding Club was formed. Another even more disastrous fire ensued in 1934 when seventeen valued horses, frightened by the smoke, refused to leave their stalls, and perished. It was a sad time for the family, but again, they continued on.

Before the town did any snow removal on the roads, they hired Stanley Briggs and his team to plow the sidewalks at the Corners (Four Corners) Always there were children tagging along as you can see in the picture printed with this article.

Stanley's son, Richard, with a love of horses in his blood, became a Lieutenant Colonel in the U. S. Cavalry. When his father died in 1962, he took over the Riding Club and Stable, and lives in the old house. Briggs children from four generations have spent much of their time in the stables, and it continues in the family today.

The little old store building has been made into a dwelling and is the home of John and Vickie (Briggs) Dougherty (and daughter, Kara,) who carry on the tradition of managing the Briggs Stable.

Generations of horse lovers have enjoyed quiet rides through the woodlands near Hanover Center because of Briggs Stables. The old house, the old and new barns, the coral, the trails; all add a pastoral feel to our village, which we all enjoy.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY February 1997 by Barbara Barker

### Black History Month

In New England, especially in Massachusetts, many people choose not to know that it was not just in the South where the ownership of humans by other humans was a fact of life, but in the North as well. ..even in our little town of Hanover.

Pictured on the Historical Society Calendar for the month of February is a black couple, not slaves at the time the picture was taken, probably in the early 1900's, but no doubt descended from slaves. Here we see Diana Freeman Pierce and her husband, who lived in a little house, now gone, which stood on the corner of Mill and Pond Streets. They are pictured by the winter's supply of wood, outside the woodshed. Diana's middle name, "Freeman", is a clue to her ancestry. When about 1780 slaves in Massachusetts were declared "free" some took the surname of their late owner, although many took the name "Freed man" which later became "Freeman":. John Simmons recalls that "James Freeman was still well remembered by men of advanced years as "Uncle Jim." He was the son of Asher who died in Hanover in 1820". No doubt Diana was in some way related to him.

But let us back up a little. It may be surprising to some to learn that previous to the Revolution it is an undeniable fact that slavery existed in all the colonies, even in our town. In 1754 there was listed in a census of sorts eight male and nine female slaves held in Hanover. Not only blacks were held as slaves, but Indians as well, and intermarriage between the two was common. In the records of marriages, births and deaths there are 36 instances of slaves who married, were born or died who were owned by Hanover citizens, and probably many others not recorded. Slaves were held by almost every family wealthy enough to own them. Ministers, deacons, Quakers,, justices of the peace, innkeepers, business owners, revolutionary war officers, etc. were among those listed.

Perhaps in Hanover the traffic in slaves was not very great, but it is a matter of record that in the settling of estates slaves were appraised as property and passed to heirs as such. Here in Massachusetts the great minds recognized the mortal wrong of human slavery, and in the adoption of its constitution in 1789 we find in the first article, the "Declaration of the Rights of the Inhabitants of the Commonwealth", --"All men are born free and equal, and have certain natural essential and unalienable rights; among which may be reckoned the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties; that of acquiring, possessing and protecting property; in fine, that of seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness." Does this sound a little like Thomas Jefferson in his "Declaration of Independence", except that in Jefferson's document "slaves" were excluded.

Nevertheless, even though slavery was abolished in Massachusetts in 1780 many slaves continued to live and die in the homes of their masters. Some had no where else to go.

As free men, there was still not a lot of choice in the community. Many were looked on as "characters", although there were others members of the community who also had the same reputation and were not "negros".

One "colored" man whose picture is included in Briggs "History of the North River is that of Jerry Gunderway. He had a responsible position and great skill as a pilot guiding newly built ships from the ship yards to the mouth of the North River. He was also the operator of a gundalow, which, if you are unaware of this term, is a shallow drawing flatboat on which salt marsh hay was loaded and taken to market. Jerry was reported to have one or two bad habits, that of liquor and tobacco. These got him into trouble when he accidentally set on fire a gundalow of green hay. When he felt the temptation of the "demons" too much, he sometimes asked to be tied up, until he could trust himself to do his job.

Another Negro whose story I would like to know more about is that of Joe Washington. He lived and worked for the Robert Church family who lived just to the south of Forge Pond, at 284 King St. He is buried in the Church plot in Hanover cemetery. The original marker for his grave as recorded in the "Church and Cemetery Records" read, "Joseph Washington; born in North Carolina a Slave, died in Massachusetts, Free; 1857-1881, "The reward of the faithful is certain" The original marker has been replaced by a small flat granite piece with only his name. I would like to see the original epitaph added.

Slave, Negro, colored, black, African American: now citizen "judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." I hope we in Hanover, in Massachusetts, and in America can honestly say this, and if not; let us work to make it so.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY SEPTEMBER 1997

### BEAL FAMILY OF ARCHITECTS

The Historical Society Calendar for the month of September shows Hanover High School, class of 1926, the last class to graduate from the Town Hall High School.

Public high school in Hanover was instituted in 1868 and was held in rooms in the Town Hall. In 1893 two wings were added to the central portion of the original building to provide for the expanding high school population. Local architect, J. Williams Beal, designed this addition, and his designs were to influence four later Hanover Schools. I would like to focus on this local family this month and their contributions to the town.

In 1878, J. Williams Beal, then only 23 and a recent graduate from M.I.T designed the Civil War Monument. In 1884 he married Mary Howes, daughter of Dr. Woodbridge Howes, local physician. They lived at 178 Broadway, a house built by Robert E. Dwelley in 1853. Here Mr. Beal made architectural changes and additions that reflect the "Beal" style, and it became known as "The Anchorage" a safe haven for their children to return. The renowned Frederick Law Olmsted designed the landscape for this house.

The Beals had five children: Olive founded the Hanover Garden Club, John Woodbridge and Horatio became active members in the J. Williams Beal firm of architects which employed a staff of 25 trained specialists in the big Boston offices at 185 Devonshire Street. Robert became a landscape architect and lived in Wellesley, and Gerald became an agent and president of the J. Henry Schroeder Corp., an international bank and lived in N.Y. City.

The firm of J. Williams Beal and Sons, was especially well know for public buildings. J. Williams died in 1919 and the firm continued with the same philosophy under the direction of his sons. In Hanover buildings designed by J. Williams Beal and his sons include the 1878 Civil War Monument, the 1893 addition to the town Hall, the Edmund Q. Sylvester High School, 1927, the Salmond School, 1931, the Center School 1953, and Hanover High School 1959, as well as several of the village fire stations.

Among other structures elsewhere in the state J. Williams Beal Sons are credited with the designs for the old bridge over the North River at Union St., Norwell, the Cole and Osborne schools in Norwell, Whitman High School, Shrewsbury High, Rockport High, Kingston High School, Northampton High, the Granite Trust Company in Quincy, Quincy Masonic building, Bethany Congregational Church in Quincy, Marlboro National Bank, Althol Savings Bank, buildings at LaSalle Jr. College, the Repertory Theatre in Boston, Plymouth County Hospital, the Registry of Deeds building and the remodeled courthouse at Plymouth. They originated the design of the Howard Johnson Restaurants.

The firm also designed many fine homes. They designed the "Castle in the Clouds" in Moultonboro, N.H. for United Shoe Machinery investor, Thomas Plant. In Hanover John Beal designed the Calvin Ellis House on King St., the Rose Sherman house on Broadway at the end of Oakland Ave., and a house for Carrie Cushing and one for Herb Chamberlain on Oakland Ave. My father-in-law in South Weymouth lived in a Beal designed home, and I have learned to recognize some of the characteristics of their design in several South Shore communities.

John, the oldest son of J. William and Mary, was born in 1887. He married Grace Donovan of Rockland in 1915, and they remained in Hanover and raised their family here. As a wedding present, J. Williams renovated and restored the oldest house in Hanover, 168 Broadway, for the

young couple. They later moved over to his parents home at "the Anchorage" in 1930.

John and Grace raised their 4 boys in the "little red house" and the "Anchorage" and their son, Philip, and his wife Barbara raised their children in Hanover as well.. Phil is well remembered among other things as Water Superintendent and Public Works Superintendent responsible for the Water Treatment Plant and the Beal Bed Rock Well, both of which showed great foresight in solving water problems in Hanover. He was the third generation of his family to work for a good water system in Hanover. I interviewed Phil about his family and began to realize the great contributions his family made to this town.

The Beal family were always public spirited citizens, and served our town well. J. Williams, or "Billy" Beal as he was called, was one of the founders of the Village Fire Association. He was followed by his son John, grandson, Philip, and great grandson, Peter, in interest and service in Station # 2 at Four Corners which he designed. He served the town on many committees. He put bills before the Legislature to put all utilities underground (what a good idea--to bad it didn't pass), and to extend the Hanover Branch Railroad to Greenbush and make it a circular line.

His son, John, after putting in long hours at the firm, still found time to serve as Town Captain for the Board of Food Administration during W.W.I, as a member of the original Board of Water Commissioners, volunteer at the fire station, and spent many Sunday afternoons meeting with the Finance Board of the town. He also served as a Commissioner for the Department of Public Works of Massachusetts from 1938-1942 His wife, Grace, was very concerned about education and served on the Hanover School Committee for many years. She was the local agent for the Society for the Preservation of Cruelty to Children, founded the local Tuberculosis Association, active in the local garden club, and visiting nurse association, and served as the State Regent for the Daughters of the American Revolution.

As your children return to school this September, many of them will be entering a "Beal" designed school as they have withstood the years well. Remember the services this family gave to our town.

## FOCUS ON HISTORY--JULY 1998 by Barbara Barker

### Back Street House Home to Many Professionals

The large gracious house located on Back Street, now 94 Oakland Ave., was constructed from the timbers of the first Episcopal Church in Plymouth County, which stood a few hundred yards north of the Third Herring Brook in the present Norwell at the central part of Church Hill. Behind the Church on the hill is still found one of the most interesting old local cemeteries. When the old church proved too small and inconvenient for its growing congregation, the "new" St. Andrews was built in 1811 at the Four Corners at a cost of \$5000. The old building was sold to a man of the times as well as a man of the "cloth", Rev. Joab Cooper, for \$188.82. (I wonder what the 82 cents was for.) He took the old building down and with its timbers had the present house built, which became the rectory for a few years.

Charlie Gleason says, " This is perhaps the best built house in Hanover as the quality of the lumber would be impossible to match nowadays." (1940) Charlie later did a lot of work on this house for Mrs. McCullough, the present owner, and he had seen the sturdy construction first hand.

The present house stands on the site of an earlier house on land of the first settler, William Barstow. Thomas Sylvester who was born in 1723 probably built the first house here, and it was later occupied by his daughter, Margaret.

In 1811 Rev. Cooper then built the two end chimney colonial on the site of the old Sylvester house. Thence began a chain of several ministers and doctors who made this fine house their residence. . Rev. Calvin Wolcott, who served as Rector of St. Andrew from 1818 to 1834, served as principal of Hanover Academy for a year. He also taught private pupils in an attic room in the house, and some Latin words, inscribed no doubt by some scholar are still evident. During some of the time between 1834 and 1849 there were supply rectors who served for short periods and no doubt lived in the rectory. Dr. Jacob Richard married Rev. Wolcott's daughter and they resided here briefly. In 1849 built a new rectory at was built at 288 Washington St. for the ministers at St. Andrews and Rev. Wolcott sold the old rectory to Dr. Joseph Forbes.

Dr. Forbes practiced medicine in Hanover for 13 years and lived in the Back Street house. Dr. Alfred Garrett succeeded Dr. Forbes in the practice of medicine and was an occupant of the house for 20 years. He was followed by Dr. John O. French who also lived here for a short time before moving closer to the river. Dr. French is described in Dwelley and Simmons: "He had a strong constitution and great powers of endurance; was a cool and skillful operator, working often day and night without rest." Dr. Nathan Downs came to Hanover before 1869

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and also lived here for a few years.

At some point E.Y. Perry, the founder of the Hanover Branch R.R., Phillips Bates Co., and a dozen other businesses, purchased the property in 1879. He traded houses with James Tolman of Norwell in 1886, and it is the Tolman family who is pictured in the doorway of the house about the turn of the century. Tolman's daughter, Morgianna, became a school teacher and taught in Hanover, Norwell, Abington, and Rockland for 50 years and lived out her life in this house, which became known in her time as the "Morgianna Tolman House". Her brother became a professor of Greek at the University of Tennessee.

The present owner is Mrs. John McCullough who has lived here for many years, and cares for it well. She writes in a note that Mr. Gleason when shingling the ell found where the original entrance to the rear of the home was located, and assumes that the present butler's pantry and dining room were originally one large room. A back stair case was located where a laundry chute is sited.

These old houses have seen many changes and many occupants. If only the walls could talk....

## A BEAUTIFUL OLD HANOVER HOUSE

Smith, Salmond, Sylvester, Harraden, Hatfield, O'Brien: well known names in Hanover's history, and they all have a history in this house. Pictured on the June calendar put out by the Hanover Historical Society is the fine home of State Representative, Janet O'Brien, and her family. It is located on Washington St. facing the wonderful open Sylvester Fields and beyond them the North River. The above named families all lived here and influenced the history of our town.

This house, built about 1810, replaced an earlier house on the same site built about the time the town was founded and described as "two stories in the front, sloping back nearly to the ground." Albert Smith, born 1763, tore down this old house and sometime between 1810 and 1814 constructed this clean-lined central entrance colonial. Smith had interests in shipbuilding, and served as a Representative and Senator from this district. He lived most of his adult life in a large house on Broadway. He was a man of some means, and the Washington St. house was given to his daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband Samuel Salmond, and here they lived and raised their family.

Samuel Salmond was a good business man. He was engaged in the tack business and accumulated a considerable fortune. The Salmond family was generous to the town of Hanover, giving money towards Sylvester School, and financing Hanover Academy and the Salmond School. Salmond's oldest daughter, Mary, born 1832 married wealthy neighbor, Edmund Q. Sylvester in 1858, and they moved into the fine mansion he had built just up the road. She died in 1864, and Edmund married Mary's sister, Eliza in 1867. The oldest daughter of Edmund Sylvester and Mary, Eliza, born in 1861, married Rev. Frank S. Harraden in 1893. He was the Rector of St. Andrew's Church, and they lived in the house where her mother was born. Rev. Harraden died in 1905.

Later Eliza Sylvester Harraden married Dr. Hugh Hatfield. Dr. Hatfield, a graduate of Harvard, held joint degrees in medicine and dentistry and was one of the first orthodontists in Massachusetts. He practiced in Boston, and summered in Hanover. It was during the Hatfield's residence that some very unusual wall paper was put on the front South room. It told the Greek story of Telemachus and how he went from Troy to Ithaca, looking for his father, Odysseus, who had died in the Trojan War. The wall paper was so unusual and valuable it was removed and preserved by the Society of the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Mrs. Hatfield died in 1942. Dr. Hatfield continued coming to Hanover in the summer season. Fred Saunders, was the caretaker of the house for the Harredan's and Hatfields for many years and was a well know character in the Four Corners.

John and Janet O'Brien purchased the house in 1971 after Dr. Hatfield's death. The house had no children living in it for 100 years. The O'Briens changed that when they moved in with their four daughters and soon became involved in the community. Janet served on the Planning Board, became our first woman Selectman, and went on to become the State Representative for this district. Dr. O'Brien kept a busy practice as a respected physician in South Weymouth. Their daughters are now grown and the O'Briens will soon be moving to a smaller house in Hanover, and the imposing house on Washington St. will be for sale. Who will continue the legacy?

Hanover has many fine and beautiful old homes. I have been inside over 100 of them and admired the old fireplaces, paneling, unique staircases, wonderful beams and such. Some people have expressed surprise that Hanover has so many wonderfully preserved homes, but Hanover was founded in 1727, and the town was well settled by 1849 when over 250 homes were placed on a map of the town made at that time. Of course some have been destroyed, especially along route 53, and it behooves us all to respect and preserve those that remain, because we not only preserve the house, but the history that it holds.