

MORSE NEIGHBORHOOD OF SOUTHBRIDGE

GIVEN BY H. PORTER MORSE
AT SOUTHBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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To establish the location of the neighborhood and the school, I used notes gathered from records searched by Lizzie Morse Sherman and her sister Ita Morse when they wrote an article at the request of some school officials for the 1916 Centennial. These notes were loaned to me by Lizzie's daughter, Elsie Sherman Hall for which I give many thanks.

This neighborhood, in the southeastern part of Sturbridge, was the last section settled. The neighborhood's situation was different from any other in the area except the south-west corner of Dudley.

During the interval between the running of the old Colony line of 1713 and the seceding of Woodstock in 1749, Massachusetts had granted the territory bordering on Woodstock's north line for other towns: Sturbridge in 1729 and Dudley in 1731. Thus the south bounds of these two towns, being fixed by their grants on Woodstock's north line and the seceding of Woodstock having lost to her all that part of her territory north of the Colony line, that land that formerly lay in Woodstock was not within the jurisdiction of any town. By its middle location between Woodstock on the south and Dudley and Sturbridge on the north it soon took the name of Middlesex, and was known as such from 1749 until by an Act of the Massachusetts Legislature on June 25, 1794 it was annexed to Dudley and Sturbridge.

The people being settled in this area, Middlesex, were not inhabitants of any town, had no voting rights, and paid no taxes. But at a Sturbridge Town Meeting in 1743, Ezekial Brown, Joseph Ammidown, Cyrus Ammidown, Benjamin Stoddard, Ephriam Bacon, and Jerimiah Morse together with their lands were voted to be inhabitants of the Town of Sturbridge.

Now it would seem there might be an added reason other than voting privileges that induced these men to give up their free status. Could it be they were thinking of schooling for their children? The town hadn't yet formalized school districts but did designate certain neighborhood members or member authorized to collect sums of money or other things of value to be used in neighborhood ~~in-neighborhood~~ projects. Did these men desire the backing of the town to help enable them to have schooling for their children?

At the Sturbridge Town Meeting of October 6, 1740, the subject of education was brought up for the first time.

"Warrant: To see if the towns will come into any measure to provide a school." The vote was negative. It was brought up again in the 1742 meeting and passed. Also an appropriation of 10 pounds 10 shillings to be divided between two schools in the south-west and 9 pounds 10 shillings for the north-west. So there may have been schools, or schooling, run by inhabitants even earlier than we thought.

In 1764 the only school district in what is now Southbridge was the Dennison School District. In 1775 the Center district was established, and in 1786 the Pratt district, taking it's name from Freeman Pratt who lived nearby. There may have been schooling before then, and possibly even a schoolhouse.

In May 1770, Jerimiah Morse, Ephriam Bacon, Samuel Rogers and others, finding it inconvenient to send their children to the Dennison School, twenty rods from Cap'n Wheelock's gate, petitioned to have the benefit of what money they pay yearly towards the schools rate. Voted "They have the benefit of their money"

Also a resolution that all south and south-east of Seth Hamant, who lived a little beyond the brook at the north end of Lebanon Hill, would be another district. This division was the first of the one district which embraced all of the present day Southbridge and part of Sturbridge. This made possible the founding of the Pratt district and school house near Freeman Pratt's, in our neighborhood, still technically in Middlesex, and suggests that a school was erected there in 1772. At a Sturbridge town meeting in 1772, Thomas Woodward, Benjamin Bacon, Henry Pratt, Daniel Morse and others, with their lands were voted inhabitants of Sturbridge. Again was schooling or a school a factor in their decision to give up a tax free status?

At the Sturbridge Town Meeting in March 1774, a petition by Jerimiah Morse, Henry Pratt and others that the town of Sturbridge "make a grant of 1 pound 16 shillings yearly in addition to their school money, more than they paid in; and that they can with draw said amount from the town treasury yearly at the pleasure of the town." So voted. This vote is important as a precedent; it being the first time a district received more than they paid in. Also the evidence is strenthened that there ~~was~~ a school in existence in our Middlesex neighborhood run by the inhabitants there of.

1780, the Revolutionary War is won! The Continental Congress has authorized money in dollars, so in Sturbridge Town Meeting, December 28, 1780 another petition. "To see if the town will act on the petition of Jeremiah Morse, Henry Pratt, and others in that school district praying that the grant moved to them some years ago in amount of six dollars annually for schooling may be made good to them or otherwise as the town shall think best." Not granted.

Voted to make an addition of \$4.00 annually to the school district in the south-east part. However the Pratt District was not formally set up until 1786.

Sturbridge Town Meeting, November 10, 1792, Lieutenant (or Deacon) Daniel Morse, Ephriam Bacon, Henry Pratt were appointed as a committee to raise a sum of money to build or repair a schoolhouse. The committee recommended "buying the schoolhouse". This was never done but from this statement we have a report that our growing Middlesex neighborhood had erected a schoolhouse in 1772. Evidently the committee then repaired the schoolhouse, and it was run by a district committee for many years. Sturbridge Meeting, 1794. "When a district cannot agree on a location for a schoolhouse, the district shall choose a committee of five to decide." And in 1794, Middlesex became Sturbridge and Dudley.

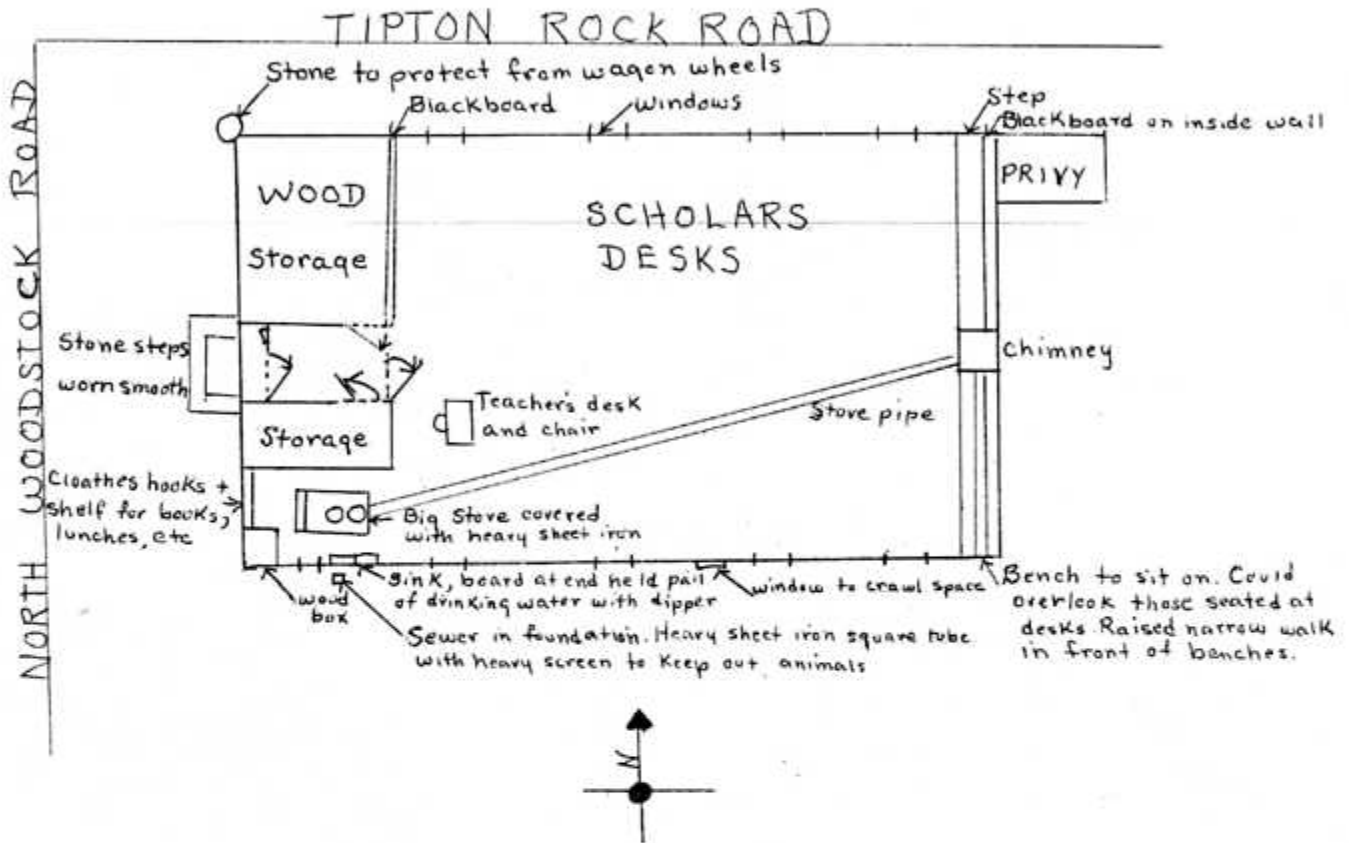
There were some changes when Southbridge was incorporated in 1816. I believe a town school committee composed of one member from each district ran the schools. School appropriations increased yearly but outlying districts were allowed smaller amounts yearly. A committee member visiting the school found a geography class of nine pupils using five different geography books.

I have a nearly complete record of teachers beginning in 1855, but I will only mention a few persons of interest. No summer term 1856. Myron Webster taught winter term. Average attendance 20 pupils. 1858-59 winter term taught by Elisha Lyon of 14 weeks, and paid \$24.50. At five days a week, this makes his pay thirty-five cents a day. 1859-60, Emma Child taught summer term with 21 children, and average attendance 17. Winter term with Annette Child with 26 attending and an average of 22. Sixteen were pupils between 5 and 15 years.

This leaves ten over 15 years, and more of the older boys could attend the winter months when the hay was in, fields cleared, and a good supply of wood on hand. This year Deacon Daniel Pratt was paid \$18.67 for fourteen weeks board for Emma Child, which also included some transportation (taking Emma to her home in Woodstock, probably weekends)

1860-61, School Committee report. District #7, "After the close of the summer term, the District feeling the necessity of better school accommodations, proceeded to reconstruct the building so long occupied as a schoolhouse and accomplished the work in the most thorough manner, making it as good as new, and furnishing it with seats and desks of the modern pattern, at an expense of \$250.00 besides labor and means gratuitously rendered. Both the exterior and interior of the building are furnished with neatness. The school-room is warm and comfortable for winter, adapted to ventilation and made as desirable as any in town. Some other rural Districts would do well to examine this laudable improvement, and copy it." I went to this school, later, and it was warm and comfortable in winter and cool and comfortable in summer. Are we doing as well with our Southbridge High School today? There were some expert carpenters and masons in the neighborhood and many willing workers to help them. The "labor and means gratuitously rendered"? The school house had a slate roof as did the privy attached. We had enough blackboards with grooves like eaves troughs running the length of the bottom of the blackboards to hold the erasures and chalk. We each had two slates in our desks. One was about 12 x 16 inches with lines spaced for small and large letters to write on, and a smaller perfectly smooth slate to figure on.

The building was about 25 ft by 50 ft, with a floor plan about so



This faced North Woodstock Road on the south-east corner of what is now North Woodstock Road and Tipton Rock Road.

This year there were 766 children between the ages of 5 and 15 and in seventh District nineteen. Janette Vinton taught the winter term. War was near, and expenses were going up. Miss Vinton received \$30.50 for twelve and one fifth weeks. This was up to fifty cents a day compared to the winter term of only the year before when Eliza Lyon received thirty-five cents a day. And no one went out on strike! Also the district committee spent fifteen dollars

for apparatus, meaning books, maps, and other supplies.

My only aunt, Martha Morse, taught winter term 1867-68. School hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with noon intermission one hour.

Tradition has it the highest scholar attendance for at least one day was 41. However in 1880, when the lure of industries in town, and the lure of the West was great, "Bacon school. There is but one scholar in this district between 5 and 15 years of age. We have maintained a school here 13 weeks and for nine weeks more paid the board of the single pupil in Centre Village". This pupil was Walter Pratt, father of Willis Pratt, owner of the north-west corner of North Woodstock Road and Tipton Rock Road today. The town reimbursed Willis Morse for Walter Pratt's board in town for nine weeks in the sum of \$18.80. Willis Morse was Walter's grandfather, and as Walter's mother died when Walter was a baby he spent considerable time at his grandparents Morse's home. Walter went to school this year in the Vestry of the Universalist Church which the town had hired because it was short of room for the scholars.

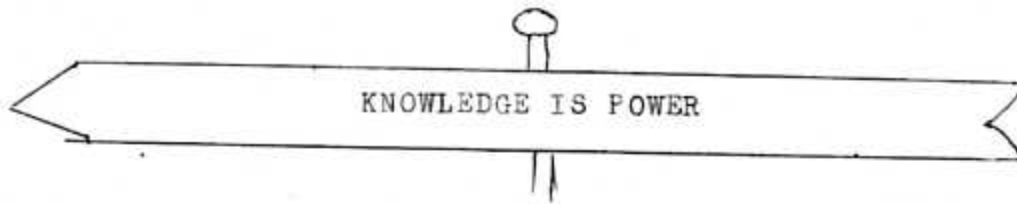
1868, District system was abolished. A town-wide school system was now run by the town School Committee. This school was renamed the Bacon School.

1872.73 School Committee report. "Bacon School. This school, the smallest in the town has continued in the even tenor of it's way under the direction of Miss A. Lawson the first and second terms, and Miss Mary A. Perrin the third.....

The school-house is comparatively new and in good condition.

Four years ago Mr. Francis E. Bacon, of New York City, a native of this district, in honor of whose ancestors the school was named, presented a clock for the use of the school. It is an ornament to the room and marks the fleeting hours of school-day life. Besides this, the apparatus consists of the text-books that belong to the desk, Webster's dictionary and Fowle's Outline Maps." Mr. Bacon's name and the date given were on the clock, and it stayed in the building as long as it was used as a school. 1877-78 "Bacon. The handful of scholars in this school can hardly inspire the enthusiasm requisite for the most successful teaching; but Miss Nellie Walker, who has taught through the year has done patient and valuable work. One scholar has been fitted for the High School."

An act of Congress in 1895 required that a United States Flag wave over every schoolhouse in the land. Charles M. Morse, my father's cousin, who I always called Uncle Charlie, fashioned and gave the flag pole, together with the weathervane surmounting the pole. The weathervane was in the form of an arrow, made of iron, fashioned and lettered with gilt or gold, with the motto "Knowledge is Power." Uncle Charlie also made and fashioned the iron socket, braces and such that attached it to the schoolhouse; and gave the whole with pulley and rope completely installed. I remember his taking it down, painting it and putting it back up. I remember helping him with what I could as a boy as he helped as he could when a boy with building the schoolhouse itself.



I attended this school as a boy, and in 1901 I was taught how to read and write by my cousin Gertrude M. Litchfield. This was her first teaching job after graduating from Framingham Normal school. Her home was uptown, so early each week she drove by horse and buggy down to the Bacon School, and stayed all week at my home. She slept in her cousin Zetta's room that had been her mothers room. when she was a girl. My sister, Zetta, was of high school age, and and she drove uptown the beginning of each week, and stayed at her cousin Gertrude's home and used her room. A convenient trade.

The school was closed for good in 1912. The clock that Francis Bacon gave, with name and date of gift on it, dissappeared soon as the last term ended. We wondered if some school official fell in love with it. The weathervane also became lost, much as I have tried to find it.

The school house was also put to other uses by the neighborhood.

OTHER USES OF THE SCHOOL HOUSE

Deacon Daniel Pratt and wife Louisa (pronounced at the time as if it was speeled Louwyza) used the school house several times a year to hold Payer Meetings. They lived in the same house where Willis Pratt now lives.

It seems to me that at his period Fear of God was preached much more than the Love of God. Weren't we supposed to be a God-fearing people? Uncle Daniel, as he was known on the neighborhood, preached that if a person strayed or even wobbled from the straight and very narrow path Hells Fire and Brimstone would be his lot. He had been partially crippled by the sickness called Shingles when he was young. He walked with a cane but was able to do quite a lot of work nevertheless.

Aunt Louwyza's mother died when she was twelve years old where upon she took the mothers place as much as she could bringing up the rest of the family. She didn't go to school after this but she was a religious girl who read and studied her Bible. I know I have heard my parents say they much rather listen to Aunt Louwyza than Uncle Daniel. She spoke from the heart in fine language. It seems people can feel and recognize sincerity. One evening at prayer meeting Uncle Daniel as usual became very enthused, aroused and loud and finally called everyone forward for prayer. A Morse sitting in back of the room evidently not being in the mood for prayer did not come forward. Whereupon Uncle Daniel shouted "Any man who wouldn't come forward for prayer should be taken by the hair of the head and thrown into Hell!" But Morse did not come forward, neither did he ever attend another Prayer Meeting.

Nathan Angell lived a few hundred yards west of the Pratts on what is now Tipton Rock Road in the dwelling now owned and occupied by Kay Foskett. Nate was a civil war veteran and retired from striking brick at Dresser's brick yard. He often would walk up to the Southbridge Post Office and pickup the mail for people who lived in the neighborhood. He would deliver the mail to the different ones who would give him a glass or two of cider, so by the time Nate had delivered the mail he was in a very mellow mood.

One evening in April Uncle Daniel and Aunt Louwyzza held a Prayer Meeting in the schoolhouse which Nate attended. Being near Easter the Pratts preached about the Resurrection and Resurrection Day. Uncle Daniel preached about what people should do to be prepared to take part in Resurrection Day and what they should not and must not do to be able to arise on Resurrection Day. He became very vehement, whacking the schoolroom door with his cane for emphasis.

The next day was a cool, cloudy, drizzly April day. Nate decided he would go and get the mail. He delivered the mail as usual and received his cider as usual. Then went to his home on Tipton Rock Road and ate his noon meal. At the time the Southbridge Town Farm was on Lebanon Hill Road right near Tipton Rock Road where Desaulniers live today and about a mile and a half distant from Nate's home. After his meal as Nate was sitting at his window, down Tipton Rock Road came a young man stark naked. Nate watched him go up the hill towards the Schoolhouse and then tagged along to see where the man went to. By the time Nate reached the Pratt's dooryard, the naked man was sitting on the cemetery wall so Nate knocked on Pratts door. Aunt Louwyzza came to the door. Nate said "Aunt Louwyzza

Resurrection Day has come! Look" Uncle Daniel came and took a look then went and got his horse whip and drove the man into a box stall in the barn, locked him in and sent a boy up to the Town Farm to tell them to come and get the man.

Then again there was a fast talking man came along and talked ten or more farmers in the neighborhood into buying a lecture course on how to raise grass in five lectures. The course was \$10.00 paid in advance. Grass and hay was a good sized part of the farmers income at the time. There were four livery stables in town and many business men who had many work horses, besides anyone doing business had from one to three driving horses to get around with. So there was a good market for hay besides the needs of the beef and dairy cattle on the farms. These lectures were given in the school house and the lecturer every evening would take a different variety of grass and describe all aspects of it and soil it grew best on, the soils it would tolerate etc.etc. Came the last night and the lecturer told them all they needed to grow grass was plaster and salt and gave the formula for the mixing of it.

Then the farmers knew what they had begun to suspect: i.e. that they knew more about growing grass than he did and that they had been taken to the tune of \$10.00 each.

They talked pretty rough to him and roughed him up a little but he escaped with their money.

Also the Village Improvement Society had a few meetings in the schoolhouse. A spelling bee and another time recitation of poems and some of the famous speeches in our national history. I remember my surprise and astonishment to hear my father recite Horatius at the Bridge. They had card parties and suppers in different seasons.

Strawberry Suppers, bean suppers, oyster stew suppers and after the tables were cleared away since most houses had a piano or an organ and in most gatherings someone could play there would be singing. The Gagers, a family in the neighborhood, were musical and Billy Gager and his two nieces harmonized beautifully together. Billy Gager had as nice a tenor voice as I ever heard anywhere. When he, his brother who drowned in Pond Factory when a young man, and his sisters were children they used to sing along and beside the road in front of their home and often travelers would stop their carriages to listen and would give them pennies.

The town of Southbridge never held a deed to our district schoolhouse. When my grandfather bought the farm in 1850 the deed covered the land on which a schoolhouse stood and the one built in 1861 ~~was~~ an enlargement of the old one. The neighbors contributed the labor and most if not all the construction materials. The town furnished desks and seats, the teachers desk, the books and slates, some or maybe all of the black boards, with chalk, erasers, slate pencils, pens ink, pencils etc.

My grandfathers brother Daniel, a blacksmith by trade, plyed his trade and helped and lived with my grandfather in Quinebaug, Glastonbury, Conn. and Swampscott, Mass. My grandfather kept tavern in these three places until buying the farm in 1850. Daniel remained a bachelor until about forty when he decided to marry. So he wanted a spot to build a home and barn on and my grandfather gave him a life lease on the corner of the present Woodstock Road and Tipton Rock Road and west of the cemetery. Daniel built the home and barn which now stands there, the house being the residence of W.W. Sherman the founder of W.W. Sherman and Sons Dairy)

And my grandfather sold him some mowing, pasture and woodland, my grandfather owned just over the line in Connecticut.

As time went on Mr and Mrs Daniel Morse had two sons Ed and Will. My grandmother Morse, who did not approve of Daniels marriage in the first place, became concerned by the thought that the boys had a comparatively old father and their mother could not inherit the home that Daniel had built. So she talked to her husband, my grandfather and his brother Daniel and succeeded in having my grandfather deed the property outright to Daniel.

The deed covered the area the schoolhouse was built on. Some few months later someone must have realized my grandfather had conveyed the schoolhouse because a few months later a deed was recorded from Hiram to Daniel conveying the same area but "reserving the schoolhouse and the land on which it stands". Since he previously had deeded it to Daniel by the first deed it was not in his possession to reserve.

So when Shermans bought the corner where the house and barn was (and still is) they became owners of the schoolhouse also. Shermans used it for years as a storehouse and finally tore it down about four years ago (1966). If Daniel had deeded it back to my grandfather and then my grandfather gave Daniel a deed "reserving the schoolhouse and the land on which it stands" it would have held. Perhaps Daniel wouldn't do that as my grandfather charged Daniel \$75.00 when he gave him the first and binding deed and Daniel didn't like that.

At the time the Town of Southbridge sold it's several unused and vacant district schools and for a few years thereafter, some one in town government would occasionally call me up about our closed district school! The conversations followed pretty much the same

pattern. "Mr. Morse what do you know about the school down there?" "I attended it." "Well who owns it?" "Shermans." "How come Shermans own it?" "The town owned all the other schools why doesn't the town own this one?" "They don't have a deed of it." I think it was the last time some one called he said "The town should have title to it. They furnished the school and the books and paid the teacher for years and years." "If you are thinking of squatters rights it is my understanding that it would have to be continuously occupied for twenty years." "Well the town maintained and ran it for a good deal more than twenty years." "How many days a year does school keep?" "One hundred and eighty days." "There are three hundred sixty-five days in most years which one hundred eighty days is less than half of; so for more than half the time no agent or employee of the town was on the premises so it don't seem possible this could be called continuous occupancy" I still think the town has a good claim, however I had no more inquiries.

H. Porter Morse
April 8, 1970

MORSE CEMETERY

Copy of Deed of Levi Eddy to Henry Pratt and others.
 To all people to whom these presents shall come Greeting:
 Know ye that I, Levi Eddy, of Sturbridge in the County of
 Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the consideration
 of thirty-five shillings lawfull money received to my full
 satisfaction of Henry Pratt, Edward Learned, Daniel Morse,
 Jerimiah Morse, Joseph Barrett, Thomas Barrett, Ephriam Bacon,
 all of said Sturbridge and Reuben Ammidon and Joseph Ammidon
 of Woodstock in the County of Windham and State of Connecticut
 Do give grant, Bargain and sell and confirm unto the said Henry,
 Edward, Daniel, Jerimiah, Joseph, Thomas, Ephriam, Reuben and
 Joseph nine tenths of one half acre of land lying in said
 Sturbridge for the use of a Burial Place Forever. Reserving one
 tenth part of said tract for myself which I hereby sequester for
 the same use forever. The said Proprietors always to fence the
 same and Keep in good repair. Said tract bounded as follows:
 Viz: Beginning at a stake and stones twelve rods east of Eddy's
 northwest corner by south side of a highway twelve rods to a
 stake and stones. Thence Southerly five rods and three quarters
 to a stake and stones. Thence Westerly twelve rods to a stake
 and stones. Thence Northerly five rods and three quarters to the
 first corner. To Have and to Hold the above granted and bagained
 Premises with the appertunances there of, unto them the said Henry,
 Edward, Daniel, Jerrimiah, Joseph, Thomas, Ephriam, Reuben and
 Joseph their heirs and assigns forever to and for the use of the
 aforesaid. And also I the said Levi Eddy do for myself my Heirs,
 Executors and Administrators covenant with the said Grantees their

heirs and assigns forever to and for the use of the aforesaid. And also I the said Levi Eddy do for myself my Heirs, Executors and Administrators covenant with the said Grantees their heirs and assigns, that until the ensealing of these presents I am well siezed of these premises as a good indefeasible Estate in fee simple, and have good right to Bargain and sell the same in manner and form above written; and that the same is free of all encumbrances whatsoever. And furthermore I the said Levi Eddy by these presents bind myself and my heirs to warrant and defend the above granted and bargained premises to them the said Henry, Edward, Daniel, Jerimiah, Joseph, Thomas, Ephriam, Reuben and Joseph their Heirs and assigns against all claims and demands whatsoever. In witness where of I have here unto set my hand and seal the 11th Day of March. Anno Domini 1789. Signed, Sealed and delivered in presence of Levi Eddy (L.S.G.)

Charles Child-Elisha Child - Windham SS Woodstock March ye 11-1789
Mr. Levi Eddy Acknowledged this instrument to be his free Act and Deed. Before me. Elisha Child. Justice of the Peace.

There are no Eddys buried in the Cemetery. They moved in to Woodstock where they became the forbearers of the Woodstock Eddys today. But any decendent can be buried there as long as any room is available. Lots can not be sold, nor anyone given a deed. The first four buried in the cemetary were in the year 1789. There were removed there from a plot north west of the present cemetary. They were a Mrs. Morse, no first name known, who died July 8, 1787; Sally Morse's child, died November 2, 1787; David Morse's child, died 1788; and Jonas Lamb, died 1789. There was a house directly across the road from the cemetary and these people were buried on their land before the cemetery was deeded. Until just a few years ago when the road was widened to allow easier entry through the cemetary gates, there was a beautiful bush of cinnamon roses that bloomed there each year in front of this

house's cellar hole.

A stone wall was built around all except the east side with hitching rings for horses on the north, or road side. Many years later when the walls needed repair, a subscription was taken to defray the expenses. In A.D. 1903 an attempt was made to get the neighbors together to form a group to give the cemetery better care. It was talked over by the neighbors who gathered at Mr. H.P. Morse's home January 30, 1904.

After a bean supper a business meeting was held to make a beginning towards forming a Cemetery Association with H.P. Morse chosen Chairman, and Wm. E. Garfield voted Secretary. The motion made and seconded that all blood descendants of the original grantees, their husbands and wives and children over sixteen years of age, and all others that the Association see fit to admit, may become members of the Association. Unanimous vote.

Motion made and seconded:

That fifty cents be charged as a fee for admittance to the Association. Unanimous Vote.

Motion made and seconded.

That H.P. Morse, S.E. Morse, Chas M. Morse, form the committee to draft or make bylaws and name officers for the acceptance of this Association. Unanimous Vote.

Motion is made and seconded to adjourn this meeting subject to the call of this committee. Unanimous Vote.

Monday Evening Feb. 22, 1904

A meeting was called at H.P. Morse's residence to form a Cemetery Association. Mr. H.P. Morse, Chairman called the meeting to order. Motion made and seconded: That H.P. Morse, C.M. Morse, S.E. Morse, Continue as executive committee. Also Wm E. Garfield as Secretary and Treasurer. Unanimous Vote.

Chas M. Morse voted in President

Wendell W. Sherman Sexton

Voted to call the Association - The Morse Cemetery Association.

Voted to keep the money or fund in the Associations Control.

Jas. S. Keyes, H.F. Haskell, H.P. Morse Voted in Trustees

A meeting can be called by the President and a two thirds vote of members present rules. Unanimous Vote.

Voted - The Executive Committee must see that all the money paid by subscription for perpetual care shall be kept for a fund. Also that only the interest of the perpetual fund shall be economically spent.

Voted. - The Executive Committee to have full control of the grounds.

Voted: The Bylaws may be subject to a change and new ones made at a meeting called for the purpose by a vote of two thirds of the members present and voting thereon.

This year, 1904, W.W. Sherman and my father, H.P. Morse built the East wall. It had previously been all loose stones and the ground dropped away sharply, but they built it up to match the other three sides. On the North-West corner there are stone-steps to enter on, when the gates are closed. Very ingenious. The Morse Cemetery Association met at the home of Charles M. Morse April 15, 1905, on June 29, 1906, and February 25, 1910 with Wm.E. Garfield still serving as secretary.

In 1906 gates to the Morse Cemetery were donated by Mrs. Thomas Stearns in honor of Dudley R. Haskell and his wife. Mr. Charles M. Morse widened the driveway, put the new iron gates in place, completing the plans laid out by the Association, and executed by its able Committee of which the late Hiram P. Morse was chairman. Then the cemetery was plowed where possible and the rest done by men with picks. Finally it was all smoothed over, fertilized and seeded.

On December 5, 1917 the Association met at Charles M. Morse's

and C. Russell Morse was elected secretary as Wm. Garfield had resigned. He had moved to Barre, Massachusetts. Also Water Pratt was elected Sexton to replace W.W. Sherman. \$12.88 was received from the Village Improvement Society to be applied to improvements in the spring.

May 29, 1925 - 8: P.M. Morse Cemetery Association met at Chas M. Morse's. A motion made and seconded that the cemetery be mowed twice a year and paid for from the interest of the fund. No further business. Meeting closed with 20 members being present. C. Russell Morse Secretary.

Chas. M. Morse, was President of Morse Cemetery Association for the rest of his life. Next meeting held at Uncle Charles old home on Aug. 25, 1947. Where H. Forester Morse was elected President, Clifton Lyon, Secretary. Also C. Russell Morse; Richmond Sherman, Wayne Morse elected trustess. Willis Pratt, Marvin Morse, Aner Sherman elected Executive Committee and Former Secretary, Trustees and Executive Committee having rezined at this meeting.

PEOPLE OF MORSE NEIGHBORHOOD

There were many interesting families that settled in our neighborhood which in early times was considered to include what was roughly our school district: that is, from the brook at the foot of Lebanon Hill southerly to Connecticut line; along the present Woodstock Road from the same brook at the foot of Cheney's Hill southerly to and beyond the Connecticut line to include at least two and maybe three farms in Connecticut; also the farms along the road by Ephriam Bacon's and along the present Tipton Rock Road from Lebanon Hill to Dudley line and at least two farms in Dudley; then northerly on present Blackmer Road to the top of the hill going down to the Harrison Cheney place, Szlosek's. The place now owned by Maurice Morneau was the Allard place. Many Allards are buried in our Morse Cemetery. My school classmate Arthur "Leu" Allard tells me these Allards were Baptists. Then on Lebanon Hill were Walkers and later Morse and Vintons and Baylies and at the foot of Lebanon Hill near the brook, Thomas Dyers, the Revolutionary Veteran. Then there were Rogers I think from Woodstock and Farnums possibly from Woodstock. There are a few Ammidowns. The place I knew as the Charlie Blackmer place just north of the lane where the "road by Ephriam Bacons" came on to Blackmer Road was the Liberty A. Lyon farm. Hiram Cheney erected the house and afterward sold to Ralph Lyon. Possibly the Ammidowns and Sabins were in the area south of the top of the hill in Sandersdale where the road by Ephriam Bacons came out. Then we have the Ides and Wests in our cemetery. Possibly from Brick Yard road area.

The most numerous in the Cemetery are the Morses. I think next in number are the Haskells but many of them came from beyond our neighborhood in Dudley and I know very little about them except those within the bounds of Southbridge. Next in number are probably the Pratts who had many professional and highly educated people as did the Bacons although not so numerous. The Morses don't have the highly educated people for they were mostly skillful farmers, woodsmen, blacksmiths, carpenters, tavern keepers and many having a knack for doing business or running a business. So I will talk tonight principally about the Morses, the Pratts and the Bacons.

In 1769 Daniel Morse (b. June 8, 1744 in Walpole d. Jan. 7, 1832 in Southbridge) whose brothers Jeremiah and Asa were already in the neighborhood came up from Newton where he was living with his wife nee Sarah Prentice of Newton and their daughter Sarah b. April 9, 1768 in Newton and bought a tract of land as follows from Vol.II of Data Gathered by Holmes Ammidon? "August 28, 1769 Ebenezer Edmonds of Dudley to Daniel Morse of Sturbridge, 56 acres for 39 pounds, land in Sturbridge. Book 82 page 93."

This is the late Daniel Morse born 1744 died in 1832, he was the brother of Jeremiah Morse, the father of the late Alpha Morse whose son Francis S. retains their homestead. (This house now owned 1970, by Dr. Knox and known in this neighborhood as the Garfield Place) also a brother Asa Morse the father of the late Parker Morse. This family came from Sherburne to Sturbridge".

Daniel came up from Newton.

Probably all of this tract is owned by Notre Dame Parish and a portion is now used as a Cemetery called New Notre Dame Cemetery.

Daniel built a log cabin in an orchard which was on the east side of the lot that lies south of Notre Dame Cemetery equipment garage and some of the apple trees can still be seen there. This garage is in what was the cellar of the Tavern House built by Daniel two or three years after he built the log cabin. Since this house and barn "built on the hill" was on a stage route he started" keeping tavern." The first tavern sign read "Good Keeping for Horses and others". So he augmented his farm income and cashed in his farm raised food. Tradition has it he had a still down by the brook east of the buildings near the big sugar maples that were still there the last I knew. So he had good victuals and drink and "good keeping" for horses. Most of the taverns outside the towns were run in conjunction with a farm. The stage route was one of the routes from Boston to Hartford. Today Route 20 from Boston to Charlton and route 169 to route 44 in Conn. and so to Hartford.

His wife Sarah who bore all his seven children died July 8th, 1787 aged 41. Then on May 31, 1789 he married the widow Lois Bullard of Dedham in Dedham. (under marriages Sturbridge.) They had been acquainted when they were young in Walpole. Lois had married

a Bullard of Dedham. I saw a sign Bullard St. when I rode to Noble and Greenough School in Dedham last year, 1969.

The following is from the Quinabaug Historical Society leaflets Vol. 3 - No 6 given by John E. Paige at a meeting of the Society Jan. 30, 1914 and I quote.

"In 1803 Deacon Morse the year of his marriage, hung out a sign which is still in existence. On one side is a spread eagle, with a red, white and blue shield on its breast and a blue ribbon bearing the motto "E Pluribus Unum" in its beak. The claws of one foot hold a bunch of arrows, the other an olive branch. Underneath is this inscription D. Morse's Tavern, 1803.

On the reverse side is the same inscription and above at one corner is a new moon in profile, on the other corner a cluster of seven stars, while in the center is the Masonic square and compass. Masonic meetings were held in this tavern."

The quotation "In 1803 Deacon Morse the year of his marriage" I feel sure is in error for according to records Dea. Daniel had married the widow Lois Bullard in 1789 who died in 1816. However Dea Daniel's son Daniel whose first wife was Abigail Clark married his second wife, Polly Morse, in 1803. Daniel Jr. was a Freemason. Polly Morse's mother was a daughter of Capt. Parker.

The tavern buildings, house and barn burned on Sturbridge Fair day 1896. Most of the people, in fact nearly all the men in the neighborhood, were at the Fair. However most of the furniture including this tavern sign was saved. Also the hired man who did not go to the Fair was badly burned getting out Bessie the brown mare that old Willis Morse used to ride bare back around the neighborhood guiding her by his hands on her neck for Willis seldom bothered to put a bridle on her. It was thought that a spark from the chimney ignited the barn which was burning when the hired man came out of the house after dinner.

Dea. Daniels wife Lois died in 1816 aged 60. Then we find Dea and Lieut. Daniel Morse of Southbridge and Mrs. Jerusha Walker of Sturbridge married Dec. 24, 1817. Mrs. Jerusha Walker, widow of Dea. Josiah Walker, a Deacon in the Sturbridge Church, that Daniel had left for the South Parish Church.

Jerusha was born Jerusha Bardwell in Hatfield, Mass.

The Walkers had ten children and lived on the Walker homestead near Walker Pond in Sturbridge. Jerusha died March 4, 1824 aged 76. On her stone in Morse Cemetery - Mrs. Jerusha wife of Dea. Daniel Morse and former wife of Mr. Josiah Walker.

I think these Walkers were Newell Walkers ancestors.

Dea. Daniel died on Jan. 7, 1832 age 88. He and his three wives are buried in Morse Cemetery in our neighborhood. Daniel was a petitioner for a separate Parish in this end of town for he had to get up about 3 a.m. do his farm chores and get his family ready and drive to Sturbridge to church which often had late sessions and then drive home arriving late at night. It must have been rough on the wife and children too. After the Parish at this end of town was established he became a Deacon there.

He also was a petitioner to establish a separate town in this end of Sturbridge. He worked hard on both these projects and was an incorporator of Southbridge.

Daniel was corporal of the revolutionary squad in the neighborhood. They were on the Alarm Roll and answered the alarm of April 19, 1775. Besides Corp. Daniel Morse the squad consisted of Daniels two brothers Asa Morse and Jerimiah Morse. Jerimiah Morse was also a veteran of the French War 1755-1763. Also Ephriam Bacon, Henry Pratt, Thomas Dyer who lived near the brook at the foot of Lebanon Hill. Stephen Haskell might have joined later but according to the dates on his grave stone Stephen was only twelve years of age in 1775. On his stone it says Stephen Haskell of Dudley so probably he was in a Dudley outfit.

According to records in Boston Archives Building Daniel was paid for two weeks in April 1775 and three weeks in 1777. He reinlisted in spring of 1780 but obtained a discharge in the fall of 1780.

I was told Daniel and his brother were plowing with oxen in the lot where Notre Dame Cemetery now is when a rider came about 9 A.M. telling them the British were marching on Concord.

They unhitched the chain from the plow leaving the plow in the ground, put the cattle in the barn and sent messengers to notify the other squad members; gathered their equipment, hitched a horse to a wagon and picked up members of the squad. There might have been another horse and wagon by another squad member. They changed horses I think twice and at dusk that April day were on the outskirts of Boston. This shows how well this event was anticipated and planned for.

Jerimiah b. Aug. 20, 1740, Daniel b. June 8, 1744 and Asa b. Dec. 30, 1748 were three of thirteen children of Obidiah Morse and Bethiah Ruggles. They resided at Walpole. Their first child, Silence b. Sept. 3, 1729. Their last child Mary b. Jan. 12, 1756 over 26 years apart. All this happened before family planning.

There was another Obidiah Morse b. March 20, 1732 (and a son of Obidiah and Mercy Walker so there must have been some Walkers in this area of Dedham, Walpole, Sherborn, Medfield) Obidiah married Grace Fairbanks of Dedham. The Fairbanks House still stands. Grace died May 30, 1772 then in 1776 Obidiah married Abigail, daughter of Caleb and Abigail Death, of Framingham. Altogether they had 15 children and resided in Sherborn. So there was 34 years between the birth of Mercy, May 7, 1756 and Pede, Sept 15, 1790. This family sustained many tragedies. From Morse genealogy Adam b. Dec. 9, 1759, d. 1779 from an injury of the knee received in the Army. Asa b. June 14, 1787 m. Susana McFarland has lost a limb. Moses killed by a cart in East Douglass, and their father Obidiah died from a fall from a scaffold Jan. 7, 1800. Probably went up to throw down some hay for his cattle.

Dea. and Lieut. Daniel is the ancestor of the Morses now living in our neighborhood. Some others like the Morses who formerly lived on Eastford road are descendants of the same Samuel who emigrated from England with wife Elizabeth and six children, two of whom were young men 18 and 20 years of age on the ship Increase in 1635, but thru a different son of Samuel than we are.

The three brothers Jerimiah, Daniel and Asa had families so they married into most of the other families in the vicinity including the McKinstry's, Cheneys, Haskells, Pratts and each other but espically the Pratts.

Since the Pratts and Morses arrived in the neighborhood about the same time and lived close by each other they have gotten well mixed up by marrying in nearly every generation including the present one.

We learn from the Ammidown books. "Aug 28, 1769 Ebenezer Edmonds of Dudley to Daniel Morse of Sturbridge 56 acres for L 39; land in Sturbridge" b. 82 p. 193.

"Aug. 28, 1769 Ebenezer Edmonds of Dudley to Henry Pratt of Sturbridge 80 acres L 60."

These two adjoining tracts lie on the east side of Woodstock Rd. and consist of the Notre Dame Parish holding formerly Daniel Morse and all south of that to the easterly portion of Tipton Rock Road running easterly from Woodstock Road towards Dudley line.

Again from Ammidown Collection.

"Nov. 12, 1778 Edward Learned to Henry Pratt both of Sturbridge, half of 91 acres, L 112: this Mr. Pratt was father of the late Freeman Pratt." b. 82 p 166. Both Henry Pratt and Edward Learned are buried in our Morse Cemetery.

This tract is on the west side of Woodstock Road extending northerly from the Tipton Rock Road (running westerly of Woodstock Rd) to land which Dea. Daniel came into possession of. The northern boundary of this purchase of Henry Pratt on the west side of Woodstock Rd. is exactly opposite the northerly boundary of the tract Henry Pratt bought of Ebenezer Edmonds. Aug. 28, 1769.

I think quite likely Daniel Morse bought the other half of the 91 acres. Edward Learned sold to Henry Pratt, for Daniel owned at least that much on the west side of Woodstock Rd. extending from Henry Pratt's land northerly to land later belonging to James Lyon and exactly across Woodstock road from Daniels holding purchased of Ebenezer Edmonds. However I have no records of a deed to back this surmise up.

Also regarding another member of the Revolutionary squard, Page 576 Vol.II Ammidown Historical Collections "Jan. 4, 1765. Thomas Cook and wife of Union, Luke Upham and wife of Killingly, Thomas Sabin and Ebenezer Sabin of Pomfret to Ephriam Bacon of Woodstock 81 acres in Sturbridge b. 51 p. 283. This is located in Southeast part of Southbridge near the farm now the Homestead of Mr. Francis S. Morse. Mr. Ephriam Bacon is the ancestor of the Bacons now residing in that vicinity, and the father of

the late Enoch Bacon."

"Samuel Bacon graduated at Harvard 1808, son of Ephriam Bacon in that part now Southbridge, read law with W.C.White, Esq. of Rutland, and Hon. Levi Lincoln of Worcester. While in the latter place assisted in editing the National Aegis. He then edited the Hive a political paper in Lancaster, Penn. Samuel Bacon in 1812 became an officer in U.S. Marines; afterward practiced law in Philadelphia; then became an Episcopal clergyman and lastly an agent of the American Government on the coast of Africa to protect persons liberated from slave ships; he died there May 2, 1820."

Francis Ingrahams Bacon, son of Enoch and Sally b. Aug. 19, 1807 went to New York and was successful there. Donated clock to our then new district school, about 1862.

Enoch Bacon Jr. and his wife Theodotia M. were missionaries in Cuba and died there. Theodotia M. died at Ingenio Sandu Elena Lugunu Grande, Island of Cuba Oct. 4, 1847, age 39. Enoch Bacon Jr. died Jan 24, 1853 at Ingenio, Florida Candenus, aged 41 years.

They had a son Benjamin F. Died April 14, 1844, aged 8 years. All this from Bacon Monument in our Morse Cemetery.

Henry Pratt the revolutionary veteran was of the 5th generation in descent from Phineas Pratt born 1590 in England and emigrated to America and became the ancestor of our local Pratts and doubtless many others. Henry Pratt married Elizabeth Murdock and I think had sixteen children.

I think Abiel Pratt who married Huld Briggs was one of their children. Abiel and Hulda had nine children as follows: Julia, M., Ernest Hocking, lived in Chicago, had a son Ernest who became a dean at Harvard and he has a daughter living in Chicago. Athanta, no information.

John Freeman, M. Laura Fitch. A Captain Army in Civil War.

Eber, a Lieut in 6 U.S. Colored Troops, was wounded in the leg at Chapins Bluff, Virginia while acting on the staff of Col. Duncan. Eber kept going neglecting his wound which became infected. He died Dec. 15, 1864, age 25. Eber before he took a commission in U.S. Colored Troops was a corporal in the 34th Mass. Regiment. Herbert E. Pratt, West Dennis, Mass. a descendant of Capt. John Freeman Pratt has Lieut. Eber Pratts sabre inscribed "Presented to Lieut. Eber Pratt 6 USCT by his friend Porter Fitch, New York,

Sept. 18th, 1863.

Nelson died in Chicago.

Dana, r. Worcester, organist and active in church work, has two sons living early 1900s. Dana's son Ward was railroad ticket agent in Worcester or Leominster. Dana's other son Carroll attended Clark University, became head of Psychology at Princeton.

Clarissa, nicknamed Cassie was very religious and believed in divine healing. She and two other women went to Turkey as missionaries. They went on horse back out into the country. Cassie rode a white horse. When these three were sleeping one night in a dug out Turks rolled a boulder over the dugout but the women were unharmed. Cassie said "By the Grace of God they escaped harm. Cassie made a visit home of several months. Went back to Turkey and eventually died there. Mary graduated from Wellsley College at the very top of her class. Taught about 40 years in High Schools. Hulda, no information. Abiel Lyon Pratt built the house owned by Mr and Mrs. William Lapointe on Eastford Road. Abiel made violins and he made the first melodeon and played it at the Town Hall. Rev. Walter Pratt who lived in our neighborhood for many years and married Jennie Morse.

Rev. Daniel L. Pratt b, March 25, 1814, died Jan. 26, 1892. Louisa L. his wife, born Oct. 19, 1822, died March 28, 1901. This man was widely known as the Dea. Daniel Pratt and he and his wife were fondly known in this neighborhood as Uncle Daniel and Aunt Louwya.

Col. Lendal F. Pratt b. Sept. 28, 1807, d. Nov. 8, 1884 - no further information. Freeman Pratt b. Dec. 19, 1775, d. July 3, 1855.

When Henry Pratt, the Revolutionary Veteran, bought of Ebenezer Edmonds 80 acres for L 60 pounds on the east side of present Woodstock Rd, what is now the ell part of the present house was on the east side of Woodstock Rd and was moved across the road to its present position after the big part was built, which would be sometime after 1778 for Henry Pratt purchased "half of 91 acres of Edward Learned Nov. 12, 1778."

Re: The maple trees on west side of Woodstock Rd opposite Notre Dame Cemetery and along the north boundary wall running to the west.

Willis b. July 2nd 1815, d Feb. 24-1895, married Mary Lucy had Mary who married McVay, had Marvin who married J. M. Hastings. Mary Lucy also had Silas P. Morse who married Vera Pratt, had Marjorie who married Alison Potter, who had 2 sons and 2 daughters. The twin brothers Willis and Willard Morse. Willard b July 2nd 1815 d June 24, 1849 - married Mary Mixter: 1 Asa, 2 Ruggles, 3 Sarah inherited what had been their gradfathers Deacon Daniel Moses property on which the tavern stood. I think they paid off Lewis and other heirs for Willis was sole owner for several years.

One (and I don't know which one) wanted to set out a row of apple trees on the west side of the road and along the north boundary wall running west. The other brother said, "no, thats no place to set apple trees; the apples will get all dust there beside the dusty road, Also people traveling the road will help themselves to the apples and besides when ladders were raised to pick the apples and men working on them would frighten horses and cattle going by and many times the ladders would have to be set in the road to pick the apples and taken down out of the way as every team approached. Certainly it was not a proper place to set apple trees."

But the brother who wanted to set apple trees got the neccessary trees the next spring and set them out. The following spring the brother who didn't want apple trees got some young hard maples down near the brook east of the buildings and where the parent trees to the trees beside the road still stand and set them between each apple tree knowing that they would eventually overwhelm the apple trees. When I was a boy quite a number of the apple trees were still there. There were two left in 1940 one of which lived to 1950 maybe 1953. One of these brothers died in 1849 the other in 1895. So it took about 100 years for the maples to accomplish the purpose they were set out there to do and the brother that lived the longest had been dead at least 50 years. And so nature can be slow and sure at time; also at times work in the twinkling of an eye.

At least one of the maples has died and been removed. I think caused by road salt. Nearly all the others show effects of road salt. Probably all will die from it eventually.

Recently tree trimmers have trimmed off the lower limbs of these trees. I see that they trimmed all the limbs off three trees leaving all the trunks standing.

Luther "Mule" Smith lived on a tract of land now owned by Henry Palmerino approximately 125 acres. It was a farm then with house, barn, cultivated land and orchard.

Smith raised mules and every spring sold those that were big and old enough to work. He drove them over the road to the New York City livestock market and sold them there. The banknotes he received in payment he would cut in half and mail one half to his wife, here and bring the other halve home with him. They had "highwaymen" or "road agents" in those days so "Mule" Smith made sure by cutting these banknotes in half that if he was held up and robbed he could take the other halves to the bank and the bank would redeem them. However I never heard that he was robbed. When he returned he pasted the halves together.

This tract was later owned by Lewis Morse and then by his son Willard Morse until about 1935. Freeman Spaulding bought it and cut 1,867,000 ft of lumber and nearly 2,000 cords of wood there. I pastured it for several years including at least 2 years after Leopold Lemmelin owned it.

During the time I pastured it the apple trees came back to bear one "apple year" such an amount of apples that my 18 head of cattle couldn't eat them all and the ground beneath the trees was still covered with apples when I brought the cattle home.

The road by Ephriam Bacons was discontinued in 1822. It went from that part of Tipton Rock Road lying on the east side of Woodstock Rd at a distance of about a half mile from Woodstock Road and wound around and came out a lane on to Blackmer Road just south of Arthur Beaumiers' horse farm now owned I think by a restaurateur from Brooklyn, New York. This place original built by Heriam Cheney who sold to Ralph Sayon. Liberty Sayon, son of Ralph, inherited it.

A branch went northwesterly over a hill down into the valley by the log cabin built by Shumway and an other by someone Shumway sold to. Bacon sold to Shumway who built a log cabin and cleared up a good sized field but only stayed two years living there, then sold to two other men with families that were related in some manner so needed and

built another cabin. Then the road continued a little west of north by the Luther "Mule" Smith place and came into what was for a long time the land owned by Herman Cheney now by Frank Dinonaventura; down the hill where the slope is gentle, crossed the brook where it is shallow and came on to Old Woodstock Road right near the junction of Old Woodstock Road and New Woodstock Road.

Still another branch from this section described above and branching within the "Mule" Smith property bore northeasterly and came out on Sandersdale Road at the top of the hill where Sandersdale School was built now the property of Mose Riopel.

Lendal Tower, whose house and barn were about 150 yds west of Dea. Daniel's Pratt's buildings, ran a slaughter house situated on his land on Tipton Rock Road at the westerly corner of Remington Lane and Tipton Rock Road. His land ran from Remington Lane to the Parker Morse place on that side of the road and on the other side of the road from land of Dea, Daniel Pratt westerly to the Town Farm lot now in my possession. He raised and bought live stock, slaughtered them and sold the meat in Southbridge and surrounding towns. When the railroad reached Abiline he often bought a carload of Texas Longhorns, which were unloaded at Palmer, Mass. and later at Charlton Depot. Other slaughterers in the area did the same thing. John Halpin who was meat inspector and an elderly man when I started slaughtering in the early 1920's told me about driving these Texas cattle over the road from Palmer when he was young. He with a horse and buggy, a twelve year old boy, and a good cattle dog. The Texas cattle although wild, were tired from their long ride from Abiline, also hungry and thirsty and so were much easier to handle than after they got rested up.

Of one load that Lendal Tower bought seven Longhorns got away from the cattle pens. That fall my father at 16 years age and his brother Amasa at 14 hunted these longhorns and shot all but one. When the first snow came the brothers set out to get the remaining one. Evidently the steer didn't move much for the boys couldn't find his track. My father came on to Tipton Rock Road and started walking down the road towards home for the sun was setting. Since the soft snow muffled his footsteps as he came to a sharp downward incline that extended as a ledge into the land on the

left hand side of the road my father saw the steer back under an apple tree. My father ducked down, crept up to the wall and shot the steer.

Lendal Tower had a tan vat right beside the little pond where Dea. Dan had a hydraulic ram to pump water to his house and barn, now owned by Willis W. Pratt.

On the left hand side of Tipton Rock Road just across the brook at the foot of "Burying Ground Hill" is a lot that Wendell Sherman told me that his Uncle (by marriage) Dea. Daniel Pratt told him there was a Gig Mill where high wheeled racing gigs were made and sold over a wide area to race horses in.

Dea. Daniel said the Gig Mill was near two apple trees. There are two apple trees there now, one is dead but still standing (1970) the other is alive and looks well. The deed to a wood lot on northerly side of Tipton Rock Road about ¼ mile east of Lebanon Hill Road bought by my grandfather from the Town of Southbridge in 1856 is signed for the Town by Francis Chapin "Treasurer of Southbridge for the inhabitants of Southbridge." On it are the foundations of two habitations. One near Tipton Rock Road is a small cellar hole, the other further in looks more as if a log cabin might have stood there not far from a spring. When I was young there were a few old fashioned single red roses growing on the south side of these stones and a pear tree that bore pears diagonally across the path from it. I have never found where the barn was but there must have been one as several lots show ridges near an edge or edges showing they have been plowed. In one lot on the notherly side my father showed me a spot where he said four people by name of Clark were buried.

This tract might have been acquired by the Town with the Parker Morse place or seperately but it could be found out by the records.

Mnason Morse, a grandson of Dea. Lt. Daniel Morse and my great grandfather, was a blacksmith and farmer. His home was the ell part of the house across the road from my homestead at 990 Woodstock Rd. and at the time Mnason lived in it, it set in front of the present stone garage. Mnason and wife Hannah Richmond had eleven children, one of which died in infancy. The others grew up. One, Lorenzo, when he was nineteen went to Cuba to seek his fortune and was never heard from. Boston sailors inquired in Havana and learned he had died soon after arrival either by foul means or tropical disease.

Mnasons' blacksmith shop was almost directly opposite my driveway at 984 Woodstock road. Near the Northeast corner of this blacksmith shop was a barberry bush which is still there and eight or ten feet south of the southeast corner was a porter apple tree which was vigorous when I was young, but became decadant and finally succumbed to the 1938 hurricane.

When Mnason was courting Hannah Richmond of Woodstock she lived on the Houghton Place which my grandfather bought in 1856 of Maria Blackmer et al. And when my grandfather Hiram, son of Mnason the blacksmith was courting his wife Martha Dodge she lived on the same Houghton Place which I now own. Mnason the blacksmith became blind in his old age. When a boy, my father at Mnason's request would lead him into the blacksmith shop and get Mnason placed by the anvil with stock and tools at hand and the old blind Mnason would pound out nails for hours.

My grandfather Hiram at twelve years of age was "bound out" until he was twenty-one to the older Amasa Haskell. When Hiram was eighteen he borrowed a hundred dollars and bought himself free and went to "keeping tavern" in a long 1½ story house, painted yellow for years, in Quinabaug. It was torn down 15-20 years ago when that shrub, flower and land scape place was made on the opposite side of the road from the theater entrance. This house set a little south and nearer the railroad tracks than the landscape place.

I think he married while there and then went to Glastonbury, Conn. Kept tavern there for several years and then to Swampscott about 1840, "keeping tavern" there. The fishermen would come in about dusk with their catch and moor beside a wooden railroad track on which small wooden cars were used to haul the fish up to the processing plant beside the ice house. My grandfather had a big gray mare that would work in that depth of water so she was used to haul the cars from boatside to processing plant and sometimes earned him as much as \$40 a night. Everything was done about the fish by piece work.

I have several of his account books. Entries Joseph Millet - Horse and buggy to Boston \$1.50. Josiah Thomas - Horse and chaise to town 50¢. I think Joseph Millet

and Josiah Thomas must have been salesmen. Their names appear so many times on many pages and over a period of years.

Man and horse to go for doctor 50¢

Self and horse to go for doctor 75¢

Self and horse to go for doctor \$1.50 (Must have ridden all over the county to locate doctor.)

Also bought 3 gals rum \$1.50

3 lbs cheese 25¢

Then an odd item - Filling bed sack 25¢ (Doesn't say what he filled it with.)

Horse to town 25¢

Horse and wagon to go to market sometimes 50¢ sometimes 75¢

Sold 1½ cds softwood \$3.37½

Sold 1½ cds, hardwood \$5.25

Butter sold, no weights given, a dozen entries on one page all the way from 10¢ to 37½¢. Sold 50 lbs fish \$1.75, 120 lbs fish \$4.30, 10 lbs fish 35¢

T. Adams bd, and room 29 wks @ \$2.50 - \$72.50. He sold fish to members of this neighborhood. To his brother Mnason 430 lbs once, to Amasa Haskell 600 lbs. They must have peddled it on the way home, Amasa H. probably learned from Mnason M.

A man lived in our neighborhood by name of John Stone. He worked around the neighborhood for different farmers and landowners. He never was able to afford a horse and so had to walk everywhere he went. Amasa Haskell with a number of scattered farm fields and also usually being engaged in cutting off a woodlot for lumber and cord wood or clearing land and having several men working for him would saddle a horse in morning and if he had to go more than a hundred yards would mount the horse and ride there. This irked John Stone to see Amasa Haskell riding everywhere and he, John Stone, having to walk everywhere. So John Stone used to say "If Amasa Haskell could go to Heaven and walk; or go to Hell and ride; he'd go to Hell!"

About the Garfield Place. This house is the first house on that part of Tipton Rock Road going easterly from Woodstock road and is on the left side of Tipton Rock road as we travel from Woodstock Rd. towards Dudley line.

This house has nine fire places, two brick ovens and a copper set kettle to heat water. What was the original dwelling was built very early, possibly and I think likely, before 1700 as the north bedroom in the now ell part has a fireplace exactly like one in a house in Old Sturbridge Village built in 1686. There was a large acreage when Alpha Morse owned it. I think Jerimish Morse bought it from some one. Then Jerimiah's son Alpha had it with added acreage and then Alphas' son, Francis S.

The next owner was Amasa Haskell to whom my grandfather Hiram Morse was "bound out". Either before or about the time Amasa Haskell came into possession of it the house was added to by going up another story on the south end of the original and continuing at right angles in a westerly direction with the high part. Then when Amasa Jr. was going to marry Julia Morse a further addition was made. Including a kitchen with fireplace, brick oven, and set kettle to heat water, back room living room, several bed rooms, this was about 1840. Julia loved flowers and shrubs. Had a large circular fenced in place near the lawn and plenty of flowers and shrubs on their spacious lawn and behind the house, lilacs of different colors, also spring flowers, lilies, rosebushes near the fence, and a house garden east of the east drive way with three cultivated grape vines. In fact Amasa would hire an extra man each spring so that Julia could call on this man to help her as she was continually changing, or adding or improving or trimming. The trumpet vine she planted by the back kitchen door is still there. It was a beautiful place when I was a boy.

Mnason, my grandfathers brother, and son of Mnason the blacksmith for several years sold vegetables and farm raised meats in season from house to house in Boston. He was able to get higher prices there. He had places he stayed overnite at and places where he got ice at and a good large box on the wagon for the meat. Ater he sold out his load he would go down to Tea wharf and load up with fish and peddle that on the wasy back. He met his wife Emeline Waters while selling his wares in Boston.

He also bought a sawmill at the dam of the present Morse Pond of Moses Pervin. At the time Mnason bought the sawmill Amasa Haskell owned the Alpha Morse place which then extended to the west across Woodstock road, across Morse Pond and beyond extending half

way to Lebanon Hill. So Mnason then had to buy the water rights of Amasa Haskell. He also bought the land on the east side of the pond.

There is a cellar hole near the southwest corner of this property. I have never known the name of any people that lived there but it is thought that it was someone who worked at the Pond Factory Mill. I have been told that this mill was a forerunner of the Hamilton Woolen Company and that the cloth made there was hauled to New York City by oxen.