

Chapter XII.

Farms Along the Village Street.

Our main street had no formal name for more than a century after Concord was first settled. In ancient deeds we find various names applied to it—"the highway from the ferry (i.e. at the South End) to the Meeting-house" or, sometimes, "the Great Highway through Rumford". After the town was incorporated as Concord, the people on the outlying farms began to call the highway "the Street" or "Concord Street" and that name came to be used to designate the village as a whole. Within the memory of some now living, oldtime residents at the South End talked of going "up-street" and North End folk always shopped "down-street": undoubtedly this was a survival of the old "Concord Street." Following the Revolution local deeds refer to "the main street" and when, in 1834, our town streets were given formal names, by common consent our oldest thoroughfare became Main St.

Until the Revolution was well under way, Main St. was "only a rural high with houses far apart and plenty of land for the agricultural pursuits of the inhabitants," according to Asa McFarland, Jr. (1873) who commented that Hopkinton then had a larger population than Concord and that Canterbury closely approached our town in population. As to the homes of this late colonial period in Concord, he thus described the principles of their construction: "In building a house the owner ordered a frame of certain size—and when roofed over, and the floor laid, the carpenter marked off the rooms to suit the expected occupant. Windows of even the more frequented stores were small-glass being usually seven by nine inches to the light."

Every man on the street was a farmer, although he might follow a trade on the side. All the villagers owned fields near their dwellings. The Minister owned home lots in the rear of his three house lots, but eventually his farm included additional fields on Horseshoe Island which his descendents still control. Other farms

were a like combination of several original house lots and home lots, with additional land bought up as opportunity provided. Such a farm was that of Capt. Nathaniel Abbot (Jr.) whose log house in 1731 stood near the site of today's First Congregational Church. Within three years of that date he acquired twenty acres directly west of his house lot and thereafter increased his holdings until his land extended along the highway northerly to Franklin St. and west to the vicinity of White's Park.

In the early days the Proprietors held their business meetings in the log Meeting-house except on such occasions of winter cold as might persuade them to gather in some warm and friendly home. On April 6, 1739, the formal notice of such a meeting signed by Benjamin Rolfe, clerk, was "Set up at the Door of the Dwelling House of Nathaniel Abbot, Inholder in said Rumford." Since the Abbot family then included seven children and the house was licensed as an inn, it must have been enlarged from the original cabin, or, possibly it was a new frame house. While the Osgoods are usually credited with opening the first tavern in town, this is the first mention found of any local man as "inholder".

With the exception of Capt. Ebenezer Eastman, no layman in our pioneer history was more prominent than Nathaniel Abbot—"honest, respected and beloved, and resolute in protecting the town and defending the rights of his country." * At the beginning of the French wars he entered service in 1744 and was present at the fall of Louisburg and took part in the bloody fighting on our northern frontier where, in common with many others, "he suffered almost incredible hardships." In 1746 he commanded a company raised to defend his own town against Indian attack and in 1755 he joined the expedition against Crown Point. Two years later when past sixty years of age, he was at the Fort William massacre, holding commission as lieutenant in Rogers Rangers. Such service as he approached

* Abbot Genealogical Register.

old age was possible because of a fine physique kept vigorous by a life of sobriety and self-discipline. He was always a man of strength, courage and resourcefulness. as is indicated by an experience during his earlier years. On a winter hunting trip he chased a deer across the ice on Long pond until he broke through and plunged into the freezing water. By sticking his hatchet into the crumbling ice he was finally able to haul himself to shore.

Capt. Abbot's frame house now stands at 12 Washington St. where it was moved to make way for the First Congregational Church at the time the "Old North" Meeting-house was given up. When the Abbot house was rebuilt a brick in the chimney was found to have the date "1756".

In 1769, the year before his death, Capt. Abbot made his will. There had been no break in his family of three sons and nine daughters and each is remembered with a bequest. The daughters were married with homes of their own and to each he gave some of his household furniture. The oldest son, Nathaniel 3rd, had pioneered at Iron Works some years before, Jeremiah, the youngest son, was part owner in the tanyard near Montgomery St.

During the Revolution, Jeremiah made a good record in service and later he married one of the Stickney girls. They joined the pioneers in Conway. There they "kept a house of entertainment where the few travelers who visited that part of the country found a home." In that frontier land, "suffering many hardships through ravages of frost and flood" they were uniformly "industrious and energetic, beloved and respected by all who knew them, and kind and hospitable to all who had claim on their benevolence." Faithful to their upbringing in Concord, "they were early supporters of religious worship and order" in that new home.

Capt. Nathaniel Abbot's homestead property-all his land and buildings and all his cattle- was bequeathed to his son, Joshua (b. 1740) with the usual proviso that the son care for his mother during the remaining years of her life. The son was worthy of his heritage- a religious man highly respected for courage and patriotism. he had an honorable

record during the Revolution for he commanded a company at Bunker Hill where, it is said, he and his men occupied an exposed position at the extreme left, beyond the rail fence stuffed with straw. He also saw service with the Continental Army as well.

When this patriot whose boyhood and manhood were passed in the old house now standing on Washington St., came to the end of his days in 1815, the farm seems to have been divided between two of his sons. Joshua, Jr. received the part along Washington St. with the old house while his older brother, Nathaniel (4) established a home on that part of the farm north of present Pearl St. Joshua, Jr. married Eliza Kimball whose girlhood home was in that section across the river and south of Turtle pond. She was known as "the Appletown beauty" at the time of their wedding in 1808. These silhouettes of the young couple are interesting and Eliza's bears witness to her repute for beauty.

The prolific Abbot family always maintained the tradition for scholarly tastes and Joshua, Jr. lived up to the standard by studying theology and obtaining a license to preach. The military strain found expression in the local militia and he held a colonel's commission. He was long a school teacher and in 1820 he introduced an innovation in Concord by opening a Lancastrian school in the Town House (site of today's Court House). This was a private school but the tuition rate was very moderate because the school was organized on the theory that the pupils themselves could give most of the instruction under Mr. Abbot's supervision. A preceptress assisted in the "female department" superintending sewing, tambouring, embroidery, drawing and painting, which met the standard of the day for female education.

This enterprise was short-lived for ill health forced Col. Abbot to seek a warmer climate and he settled in Norfolk, Va. where he opened a Lancastrian school and also preached as opportunity offered. He made one visit back to Concord and planned either to return permanently or to remove his family to Virginia shortly. Returning to Norfolk,

to make arrangements, he was taken with a fever and died after a brief illness in 1824. His grave is in Portsmouth near Norfolk, far from home and kindred. His widow with five young children, faced the necessity of finding some means of livelihood and so she opened a school for little children. In an old letter found not long ago, Mrs. Elizabeth McFarland, wife of the Minister of that day, tells of sending her small son, Andrew, to this dame's school.

Before Col. Joshua Abbot first set out for Virginia, his old home became the property of Robert Davis 2d who kept store there as early as 1818. After Mr. Davis's death, his widow married Asaph Evans and their son sold this old house in 1842, to Col. Abbot's brother, Nathaniel(4) He, in company with four other well-to-do citizens, then donated the lot for the site of the new church planned to replace the old Meeting-house on the Walker School lot of today. At the time of this transfer, the Abbot house with its shed and barn, was sold and moved west of the church lot. The house was enlarged with a second story and ell as it stands to-day.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Joshua Abbot had made her home and kept her school in a newer house which stood near the site of 22 Washington St. -still a part of the old Abbot farm.

During all these years, the elder brother of the Abbot family, Nathaniel(4) (b. 1769) was living in a farm house which he built on the north corner of present Pearl St. When that street was opened in after years, it was described as "running westerly from Main St., south of Mr. Nathaniel Abbot's dwelling house." There the house with its big barn stood until it was moved to its present location at 6-8 Pearl St. to make way for the brick house now standing on the corner. The first directory of Concord (1830) lists Nathaniel Abbot as "farmer and treasurer of the NH. Bible and Missionary Societies." He served his generation in other ways and was one of the most substantial and public-spirited citizens of his day - all of which was to be expected of an Abbot in Concord of that time.

The Abbot farm shared the fate of other farms along Main St. as the years passed by, and in 1827 ^a a building lot nearly opposite the fine new prison on State St., was purchased by a joiner from Epsom named Philip Sargent who built the house now standing at 86-88 No. State St. As soon as Pearl St. was cut through the farm, building lots were available and the house standing at 18 Pearl St. was built by James Mason. This house became the home of Mrs. Eliza Kimball Abbot during her old age and there she died in 1870, a widow for nearly fifty years and the last of the family to live on the farm which Capt. Nathaniel Abbot had established an hundred and forty years before.

Further down the main street was the old Edward Abbot farm extending along the north side of Centre road (Centre St.) as far west as "Sand hill". For two generations this family had prospered but when the farm came into possession of a grandson of the pioneer, its fruitful days were doomed, for Timothy Abbot (b. 1769) was one of those rarities in old Concord a thriftless, unworthy descendent of strong men and women. Because of "irregular habits" he was placed under guardianship and the town took over his property and sold the land to pay his debts and to guarantee care for his unfortunate wife. He died in 1819 but his widow survived for more than thirty years, supported, as agreed, by the town.

The old garrison house where Timothy Abbot's father was born—the first little white boy to see the light in Pennycook Plantation—became the home of John Souther (b. 1760) a Revolutionary veteran who married a daughter of Col. Thomas Stickney across the highway. This old house—standing, in part at least, was their home until Souther's death in 1804. In later years it was the home of their daughter, Anna (b. 1791) who married Porter Blanchard, and it was in this house that a son, George Blanchard, long a prominent business man in Concord, was born.

The Stickney garrison directly opposite had been enlarged from time to time and it was one of the last of the old farm houses to be moved

away from the main street and thereby hangs a tale. Our picture is copied from an engraving in Bouton's History and shows the house as it looked in the eighteen fifties, shaded by spreading elms set out, it is said, by the redoubtable Eph Colby. Jeremiah Stickney, "cordwainer" by trade, had purchased this house lot and the one next north of it, with the adjoining home lots on the intervale to the east, in the year 1735. This made a little farm of twenty acres but it was only the beginning. When he died he was one of the largest land owners in Concord. When he made his will in 1763 his outstanding character and his prosperity had changed his status as "cordwainer". Deeds now refer to him as "gentleman".

Of his eleven children only three were boys, one of whom died when a small child. Jeremiah Stickney's will left his "homestead with dwelling house, barn and all edifices;***** adjoining westerly on the Great Road leading through Rumford", to his older son, Thomas. The house was then smaller than in our picture and the farm may not as yet, have increased to the point of later years when its frontage on Main St. extended from south of the present Eagle Hotel, north to include the site of the present apartment house at 172 No. Main St.

The Stickneys were men of valor. During the winter of 1745-46, Lieut. Jeremiah served with Capt. John Chandler in a company raised for Indian scouting, and the following winter his eighteen year old son, Thomas, served as a scout. The house itself, was garrisoned and had next to the largest list of people sheltered in the town. A public-spirited and patriotic family, indeed, for Jeremiah Stickney's two sons, four of his grandsons and several of his sons-in-law, served during the Revolutionary War.

Col. Thomas Stickney whose gallantry at Bennington will be recorded in a later chapter, had a bent for military service. In colonial days he held a commission as Lieut. Colonel in the 15th Regiment of Militia of which his brother-in-law, Andrew McMillan, was Colonel. He was promi-

ment in town affairs as evidenced by the fact that he served as moderator at the last session of the memorable convention which made New Hampshire the ninth state to ratify the Federal Constitution .His wife was Anna Osgood, daughter of tavern-keeper, James Osgood. Down through the years has come the testimony of her daughter-in-law-"She was a very lovable woman."

With the death of Col. Stickney in 1809, the farm descended to his son, Thomas, Jr. (b. 1769). He lived worthily of his heritage and to the end of his too short life, he was an asset to the town. He was gifted musically and was assistant choir master at the Musical Society in 1799. In 1802-3 he led the choir at the meeting-house. His wife was a woman of outstanding character and ability-Mary Ann Odlin of Exeter, daughter of Rev. Woodbridge Odlin. Her husband died when only forty-one, leaving his widow with the farm to manage, three sons in their teens and a little daughter.

With all this responsibility, Mrs. Stickney found room in her heart and home for the tiny three days old babe of her dead sister, Mrs. Jeremiah Stickney, Jr., rearing the child and giving her a home until she was married. In later years she repeated this care and protection for an orphaned grand-daughter and a motherless grandson. Such was the home maintained by Mary Ann Stickney in the old house of our picture. The grandson who shared that home was Joseph Stickney (b. 1840) who made a career for himself in New York City and became one of the very few Concord born millionaires. Because he loved his native state, he built the MT. Washington Hotel at Bretton Woods. After his death, a beautiful chapel was built to his memory near the hotel.

For many years the body of Joseph Stickney lay in the large plot in the Old Burying-ground, with those of his ancestors, but in recent years, in accordance with the will of his widow, a mausoleum was built a few rods west of the Stickney lot and there he and his wife rest. At the back

the mausoleum is a lovely stained glass window and when the afternoon sun streams through, one sees the mountain near Bretton Woods which was named for the man who developed that beauty spot in our White Mountains.. Mount Stickney.

At times money was scarce in Mrs. Mary Ann Stickney's household and so she opened her comfortable home to boarders, and many leading men of New Hampshire lodged there during legislative and court sessions. Hon. Ezekiel Webster was rooming there at the time of his sudden death while addressing a jury at the Town House in 1829. His body was carried to the Stickney house to await its last journey to his Boscawen home.

The development of the Stickney farm into commercial property will be told in a future chapter. The old house, home of five generations of Stickneys, stood long after business blocks were built on the farm land either side of Bridge St. but in its last years on Main St. it presented a strange spectacle. This is the tale: Mrs. Mary Ann continued to live there in her old age and her son, Joseph P. Stickney also lived there. Mr. Stickney had a second wife who was dissatisfied with the ancient house and pined for a new and more elegant home. So insistent was she, that Mrs. Mary Ann consented to a most unusual plan by which she, herself, would retain the south half of the building and allow her son to tear down the north half to make way for Mrs. Joseph's new house.

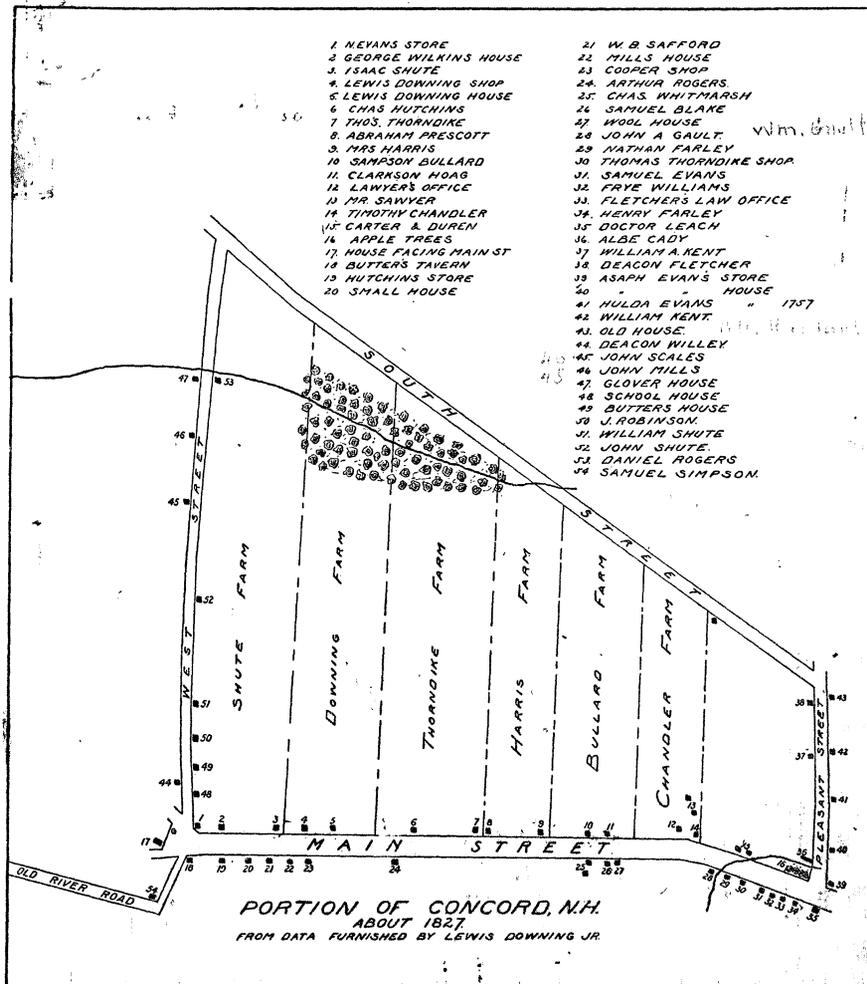
The great old house was sliced in halves as if with a great knife and in the mutilated south section, Mrs. Mary Ann continued to live until her death in 1866 at the age of ninety-four. On the lot left vacant by destruction of half of the house, Joseph P. Stickney built for his triumphant spouse, the brick dwelling now used by the Elks Club and it stood within arm's length of the remnant of the old mansion. After Mrs. Mary Ann's death, the old half of a house was moved to the South End and the lost half was restored. It stands today at 44 Pillsbury St. - one of the three old garri- sons of 1746 left in Concord today.

The entire west side of the main street between Centre road and the Mill road, was taken up by two farms, except for the lots where McMillan's store and Daniel Gale's house and smithy stood. Aaron Stevens still lived on the northerly farm and his south boundary was at present Capitol St. The farm extended west until it covered fifty acres, The old house where Stevens lived stood opposite present Bridge St. and it later became a part, at least, of the home of Capt. Richard Ayer of a later generation. After Capt. Ayer's death it became Union Hotel and was destroyed by fire in 1861

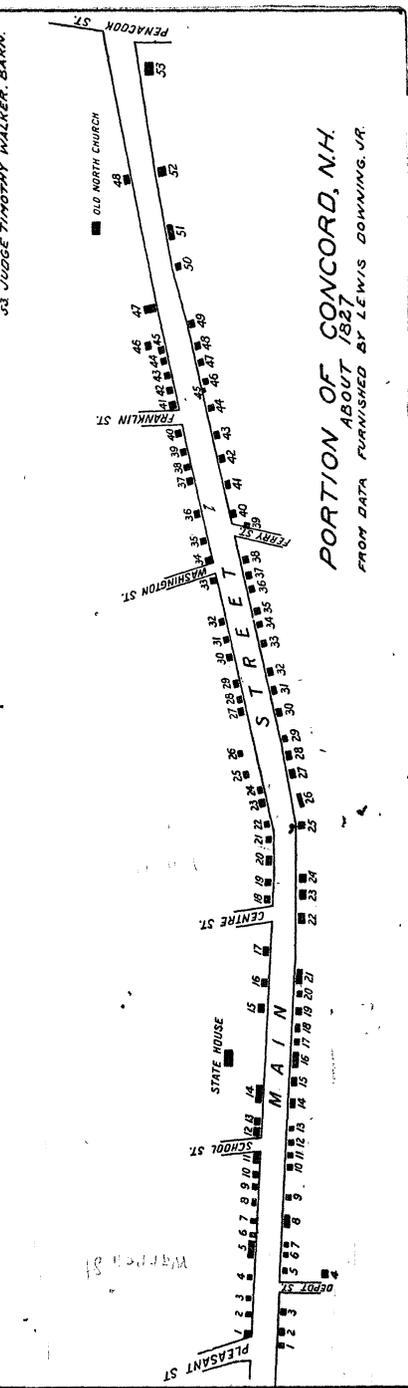
Next south of the Stevens farm was the homestead of Dr. Ezra Carter which combined properties purchased from Joseph Eastman, tanner, and Reuben Kimball. The house stood on the site of the N.H. Savings Bank and fifteen feet north of the house was the line of the Stevens farm. The south boundary was Mill road (Pleasant St.) along which it extended for ninety-seven rods, making a farm of thirty-nine acres. After Dr. Carter's untimely death, his son, Ephraim, lived on the place until 1772 when he sold the farm to Concord's first lawyer, Esq. Peter Green. In 1783 Esq. Green purchased the Stevens farm also.

Below Mill road, both sides of the main street were lined with farms. In the Lyford History of Concord there are maps of the village as it existed about 1827, drawn from data supplied from memory by Maj. Lewis Downing. Checking up by old deeds, these maps are found to be surprisingly accurate and they are useful for reference through the remainder of this story. In this chapter they are of value in contrasting the South End farms of the pre-Revolutionary period with the same farm area in 1827.

The Lea. George Abbot Garrison house has been described (Chapter VII) The farm corresponded in general, to the Chandler farm on the map. Next south was the Richard Haseltine farm which became the Harris farm and the Bullard farm of Maj. Downing's memory. Almost the only mention of



- WEST SIDE OF MAIN ST**
1. ASAPH EVANS STORE.
 2. WILLIAM HENT STORE.
 3. MORRILL & SILSBY STORE.
 4. MARSHOOD STORE.
 5. BENJAMIN GALE TAVERN.
 6. CONCORD BRANCH SHOP.
 7. JAMES SANBORN SHOP.
 8. JAMES SANBORN SHOP.
 9. JOHN & DAMON SHOP.
 10. BENJAMIN DAMON HOUSE.
 11. WILLIAM LOW HOUSE.
 12. COLUMBIAN HOTEL.
 13. HILL'S BUILDING.
 14. DR. BROWN DRUGS.
 15. JOHN EMMONS HOUSE.
 16. RICHARD HAYER.
 17. PORTER BLANCHARD.
 18. PORTER BLANCHARD SHOP.
 19. DR. THOMAS CHADBOURN.
 20. OLD GARRISON HOUSE.
 21. DR. THOMAS CHADBOURN.
 22. MURDOE BROS. SHOP.
 23. SUSAN S. KNEELAND HOUSE.
 24. JOHN TEEL. SHOP.
 25. SARAH DEARBORN HOUSE.
 26. TOWN HOUSE & COURT ROOM.
 27. JOHN STICKNEY TAVERN.
 28. NATHAN STICKNEY HOUSE.
 29. ISAAC SWEETSER.
 30. JOHN W. ST.
 31. LEWIS DOWNING SHOP 1814.
 32. JOHN W. STICKNEY HOUSE.
 33. NATHAN W. STICKNEY HOUSE.
 34. DR. EZRA CARTER.
 35. IVORY HALL.
 36. JOHN TITCOMB SHOP.
 37. JAMES HOOK HOUSE.
 38. NATHANIEL ABBOT.
 39. CHARLES WALKER OFFICE.
 40. CHARLES WALKER HOUSE.
 41. ROBERT DAVIS SHOP.
 42. TYLER ROBINSON.
 43. JOHN GEORGE HAT SHOP.
 44. JOHN GEORGE HOUSE.
 45. BENJAMIN KIMBALL SHOP.
 46. BENJAMIN KIMBALL HOUSE.
 47. FRANCIS N. FISKE STORE & HOUSE.
 48. TIMOTHY WALKER BRICK HOUSE STANDING.
- EAST SIDE OF MAIN ST**
1. JOSEPH S. ABBOT.
 2. HOSEA FESSENDEN HOUSE.
 3. SIMPSON WIGGIN.
 4. SIMPSON BULLOCK DISTILLERY.
 5. LEACH BUILDING.
 6. SAMUEL CLARK RESTAURANT.
 7. PUGHIN STORE.
 8. GEORGE HUTCHINS STORE.
 9. CURRIER & HALL BOOK BENDERS.
 10. JOHN TERRY STORE IN REAR.
 11. ISAAC WILL SHOP HOUSE IN REAR.
 12. JOHNATHAN WILKINS HOUSE - Old Road.
 13. STEPHEN BROWN SHOP TAYLOR.
 14. WILLIAMS BLOCK STORES.
 15. JOSEPH LOW HOUSE.
 16. JOSEPH BROWN SHOP.
 17. EAGLE COFFEE HOUSE.
 18. BARTLETT HOUSE & STORES.
 19. STICKNEY BLOCK STORES.
 20. HODGSONS RESTAURANT.
 21. LONG WOODEN BUILDING STORES.
 22. JOSEPH P. STICKNEY HOUSE.
 23. GOV. STEARNS HOUSE STANDING.
 24. IVORY HALL.
 25. JOHN DOLIN SHOP.
 26. JOHN DOLIN HOUSE.
 27. JOHN WHIPPLE HOUSE.
 28. DR. PETER GREEN HOUSE.
 29. MRS. N. B. PRESTON HOUSE & SCHOOL.
 30. ASA W. FARLAND HOUSE.
 31. DR. SAMUEL MORRILL HOUSE.
 32. GOV. DAVID L. MORRILL HOUSE.
 33. JOSEPH CARTER WEST STORE.
 34. JOSEPH CARTER WEST HOUSE.
 35. JOHN W. STICKNEY HOUSE.
 36. REV. W. W. WALKER HOUSE.
 37. CHARLOTTE HERBERT HOUSE.
 38. RICHARD HERBERT TAVERN.
 39. SAMUEL HERBERT HOUSE.
 40. HERBERT STORE STANDING.
 41. HERBERT HOUSE.
 42. DR. PETER REMYTON.
 43. WILLIAM WEST HOUSE.
 44. PHILIP CARRAGAN HOUSE.
 45. FRANCIS BARBER SHOP.
 46. WASHINGTON HOTEL.
 47. PETER ELKINS SHOP.
 48. ALICE FLANDERS HOUSE.
 49. SAMUEL A. KIMBALL HOUSE & OFFICE.
 50. JOSEPH WALKER HOUSE.
 51. JUDGE TIMOTHY WALKER BARN.



the Haseltine farm in Bouton's History is the fact that Cross St.(now Concord St.)was opened (1834) "through land of the late Richard Haseltine."

Richard Haseltine(b.1705) was a son of that Richard Haseltine who was one of the original proprietors of Chester.He held town office in Penneycook as early as 1732 and was accounted a Proprietor by purchase in 1735.He married Sarah Hall before settling in town and the young couple came here from Bradford.Mr.Haseltine became prominent in town affairs and was chosen moderator of "the first legal meeting of the freeholders and inhabitants of the Parish of Concord"on Jan.21,1766.At the same meeting he was elected tything man.

The Haseltine sons and daughters married into families well known in Concord and nearby towns-one daughter,Sarah, becoming the bride of William Coffin at the North End.The youngest of the family,Barnes Haseltine, served as a ranger in Capt.Osgood's company in 1775 and was an early settler in Fryeburg,Me.Lieut.Richard Haseltine died before 1800 and his farm descended to his son,Richard,Jr.,who died in 1817. Each generation of this old family supplied its quota of members for the church but the church record is confusing because of varied spelling of the surname.

The farm marked on the Downing map with the name of Thorndike was originally the property of Capt.Timothy Walker,the Minister's cousin and his house,garrisoned in 1746,stood in what is now Thorndike St. In 1765,Capt.Walker sold this farm"on the corner of two highways" to Dea. Joseph Hall who lived at Eleven Lots.The "two highways"mentioned in the deed were the village street and an ancient reserved road provided in the original survey of the town.This road ran west from the main street at a point between present St.John's church and its rectory and from that corner,the Walker farm extended north on the village street a little over thirty-seven rods .Its west bound was the"Country

road"(South St.) and it covered an area of twenty-seven Acres.

It was the custom for a well-to-do farmer like Dea. Hall, to provide a farm for each son as he attained his majority except that one son, usually the youngest, stayed on the home place which he inherited on his father's death. Dea. Hall had two sons, the elder of whom, Joseph, was in his late twenties and the younger, Jeremiah, was nineteen. It is reasonable to suppose that the Walker farm was purchased for Joseph and that Jeremiah now of an age to do a man's work, was to stay at Eleven Lots with his father. Four years later, Jeremiah Hall married Esther Whittemore and in midsummer of 1770 a baby girl was born to the couple. When the baby was less than six weeks old, Jeremiah died.

Meantime, Dea. Hall's daughter, Mary, married a newcomer in town named Thomas Wilson and in 1772 a baby girl named Mary (Polly) was born. The following year the young mother died—the second tragedy in Dea. Hall's family within a space of two years. Thomas Wilson married again and it seems more than likely that the two little girl cousins, Sarah Hall and Polly Wilson, grew up together in Grandfather Hall's home at Eleven Lots. When the Deacon died, his will (1784) provided that this Walker farm on the village street should be the inheritance of his two grand-daughters in equal shares.

In 1792, Polly Wilson married Dr. John Thorndike and at that time she purchased her cousin's share in the farm for one hundred and fifty pounds and she and her young husband made the place their home. Since that time it was known as the Thorndike farm and the last of the family name in town, lived there until her death in 1934.

Joseph Hall, Jr. probably took over the farm at Eleven Lots and after his father's death, he became deacon in the church, filling that office until his own death in 1807 at the age of seventy. In his father's will, Joseph, Jr. was bequeathed a desk and the clock which was famous throughout the town. In the early days when hardly a clock or watch was

owned in Concord, the first Dea. Hall set the time for the townsfolk on Sabbath mornings. All along the village street the people watched for him to come up from Eleven Lots as the signal that it was high time to start for meeting. In his will the Deacon left one half of his house and all his furniture to his wife, with the exception of the gift to his son, the inference being that he had already given the other half of the house with the farm to his son.

The break-up of the Thorndike farm began in 1819 when an acre lot "at the south-east corner of the Garden belonging to the homestead estate of Mrs. Mary Thorndike" was sold to Abel Hutchins who erected "a dwelling house and other buildings thereon" and then transferred the property to his son, Charles Hutchins. Charles had married Mary Thorndike, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Thorndike, in the spring of 1812 and the N.H. Patriot at the time described him as - "Charles Hutchins, merchant of Sandborn-ton"; but he came soon after to Concord and opened a store which will have due notice in a later chapter.

Following Dr. Thorndike's death, his widow married Abiel Walker of the North End, whose great grandfather, Proprietor Isaac Walker, had lived on the lot which long ago had been the nucleus of the Thorndike farm. After her second marriage, Mrs. Walker lived at the North End and deeded her farm at the South End to her children. (1835) Shortly after, a highway was cut through the farm and named Liberty St. (now Thorndike St.) and building lots were for sale. That same year of 1835, Charles Hutchins sold his home to Stephen S. Sweatt, an innkeeper of fame in Charlestown, Mass. who moved to Concord immediately after his purchase. Tradition in the Sweatt family says that he added a story to the house which then looked as our ^{picture} shows it. Neglected, it was torn down in 1944. *see page 14*

Having sold their home to Mr. Sweatt, the Hutchins family moved into the old garrison house but their stay was brief, since the ancient house must be moved away to permit the opening of Libery ^f St.. In June 1837, Mrs.

Hutchins who was on a visit in Boston, received a letter from her husband with news that the historic old house was being moved away: "The old house", he wrote, "now stands in front of the governor's house. (i.e. Isaac Hill's house 75 So. Main St.)" They have been four days getting to this spot. Moves like a 74, don't give an inch. The rats last evening were running on top asking for quarters. "The same letter mentions the beginning of the cellar for the present Thorndike house which stands a little north of the site of the old garrison. All trace of this latter is lost for its destination is unknown, but presumably it had been destroyed before Dr. Bouton wrote his History for no mention of it is made in his list of ancient houses then standing. (p. 514)

For many years a row of elms which rivalled those at Parson Walker's homestead, stood along the street in front of this Hall-Thorndike farm. They were set out by Capt. Timothy Walker (Jr.) in the days immediately following the Indian wars. Our picture of the present Thorndike house shows the last survivor of these elms just before it was cut down in the fall of 1924. Its trunk at the base was fourteen feet nine inches in circumference and five feet four inches in diameter and the tree yielded nine cords of wood. Its companion next south had stood where the sidewalk now runs on the north side of Thorndike St. and a third tree stood in the yard of the house on the south corner of Thorndike St. A fourth elm mentioned in deeds as "the twin Elm" marked the south boundary line of the lot of this house at 60 So. Main St.

About 1838 George Hutchins, brother of Charles, built a house on the north side of the old farm, with only a driveway between the new house and Charles Hutchins's. The interior of that home had some beautiful panelling and carved woodwork. George Hutchins was a merchant and his store was next north of the Phenix Hotel which had been built and run by his father. Reputedly this was the most widely known store north of Boston and it dealt in "English, American and West India goods". One of

the leading business men of the town, he was known as well for good works. His death was tragic for he and his wife lost their lives in a steamboat disaster on the Ohio river in 1868. Our picture of their home was taken in after years when it was the property of A. Frank Holt.

Prior to 1790 the only grave markers in the Burying-ground were rough field stones and few of them bore inscriptions. Those few were so crudely marked and so shallow in cutting that it was difficult to decipher them today. After 1790, slate slabs came into use with ornamentation of cypress, an urn, or angelic heads and such stones are mostly in a good state of preservation today. A number of the crude, rough field stones may still be found in our Burying-ground and one of these bears a brief but legible inscription:

"Here lies the body of Mollie Chase."

There is no date, no family record, no sentimental or religious verse—only age and mystery. Who was Mollie Chase and what part did the Chase family play in old Concord?

In 1762, Daniel Chase of Rumford sold to his son, Daniel, Jr., the eighty acre lot "whereon said Son now liveth" and this farm seems to have been on the south side of Hopkinton road near Ash brook. There is a tradition that young Daniel served as a young ^{man} in the French and Indian wars and it is certain that about 1747 when barely twenty years old, he married Mary Pratt who thus became, we believe, "Mollie Chase". The couple had a family of thirteen children and three of the sons were of age to take part in the Revolution. Two of these were definitely in the service: Pratt Chase who enlisted under Col. Gordon Hutchins April 30, 1775 and again (from Canterbury) in 1777, for a period of three years in the Continental Army. His brother, Benjamin, enlisted at the age of eighteen and was made corporal Jan. 1, 1776.

"Mary Chase" died in 1779 before the end of the Revolution and we assume that she is identical with "Mollie Chase". Her husband had signed the Test Act in Concord but apparently he did not enter service

although his younger brothers did so. One of them, Capt. Jpnathan Chase, had been a Ranger at Crown Point in 1755. He married Sarah Stickney, sister of Col. Thomas Stickney, and their home was on Dimond hill west of the town line. He fought at Bennington in 1777 and commanded a regiment at Burgoyne's surrender and was in active service until the end of the war. Two of his sons, Samuel and Moses, were also in service.

Two brothers of Daniel Chase, Jr., Isaac and Abner Chase, married Abigail and Betsy Bradley, daughters of Lieut. Timothy Bradley who lived on the Mountain. Isaac fought in the French and Indian wars and was captured in 1758. Abner enlisted for Bennington in 1777 from Warner, ^{where} ~~where~~ Daniel, Jr. and Isaac, by agreement, joined him as settlers in 1763.

The boyhood home of these brothers was in Rumford on the farm next south of the Thorndike farm. Daniel Chase, Sr. had been a shipwright in Newbury until about 1733 when he purchased the original share in town owned by John Pecker. That year he was appointed highway surveyor. By 1736 his home place consisted of thirty acres, a dwelling house and barn, bounded southerly on Jacob Shoot's land and northwardly on Joseph Hall's (i.e. the Thorndike farm) It was the town meeting of that year which accepted the highway "2 rods in Weadth on the North Side of Daniel Chase's ~~stead~~ ^{stead} ****to run the Length of said Chase's Home ~~stead~~." This is the road already mentioned as running between present St. John's Church and its rectory. Long years ago the road was closed and replaced by Perley St.

John Chase, youngest of the sons (b. about 1745) succeeded his father on the farm and he was one of those Rumford men whose right was confirmed after settlement of the Bow controversy. He signed the Test Act and was 2d Sgt. in the militia, marching with Lieut. Richard Herbert to Ticonderoga. Seventy-five miles on the way they were met by the news

of the evacuation of the fort. In 1777, his father having died, John Chase sold the farm to Esq. Peter Green who, in turn, sold to Robert Harris. During the Harris ownership it was known as the "Duncan Estate" probably because Harris's daughter, Mrs. William Duncan, lived there. In 1815, Lewis Downing purchased the farm and our picture is reproduced from a painting made for Mr. Downing before much change was made in the old house. It was a charming place in those days, both inside and out. There was a staircase quite unlike any other in Concord. Its one wide landing was under a high west window and was reminiscent of that in the famous John Hancock house on Beacon hill in Boston.

The age of this house is uncertain except that it was probably built later than 1766 since it is not included in Bouton's list of earlier structures. The Chases were well-to-do as evidenced in the 1778 list of Town rates, and it is not at all unlikely that it was built during their ownership. The house differs from the prevailing style of other Concord houses of the period and that fact suggests that Daniel Chase who was a shipwright before he came to town, may have had a hand in its building.

After John Chase sold the farm, he moved to Conway and thus the last of the family disappeared from Concord and in time it was forgotten that this was ever the Chase farm. Only the small rough granite stone with the name of "Molle Chase" was left as a clue to this story.

The last of the old farms along the main street to keep its distinctively rural character was the Shute farm along the north side of West St. It was established by Jacob Shute who was, for many years, the only man of alien birth in town. It comprised about thirty acres and extended, as did all these farms, westerly to the "Country road" (South St.) For nearly a century only members of the Shute family lived on the property but after that it slowly conformed to the general disintegration into house lots.

We know but little of Jacob Shute's early life aside from his pioneer association with Capt. Ebenezer Eastman. When he came to Pennycook he brought his wife, Sarah George of Haverhill, and a small daughter. Two other children named John and Elizabeth, were born here. In the winter of 1745, Mrs. Shute died leaving the family desolate and some months later the Minister's diary notes the marriage of Jacob Shute and "Widow Evans, mother of John," the same John who was helper on the Minister's farm. Two daughters were born of this marriage but neither lived to adult life.

The original Shute house probably stood near the elm trees south of present 86 So. Main St. for old residents remember an ancient cellar hole which was filled in many years ago. The Shutes were a long-lived race and Jacob lived on his farm until very near the close of the eighteenth century when he died at the age of ninety-four. His son, John, the old Rogers Ranger, succeeded him and lived on the farm until his own death in 1829 when he was nearly one hundred years old. Meanwhile John Shute's family of nine children had scattered, some of them settling with their families on Shute property near Turkey river mills, some migrating to other towns. Isaac Shute (b. 1775) remained on the farm with his father, married and, in his turn, added eleven children to the Shute clan. Four of this fourth generation established homes on the farm.

Development of the Shute farm began when the town accepted West St. in 1808 as a highway to Bow via South St. The Shutes sold a small lot to Samuel Butters, Jr. whereon he built for his home, the house still standing at 10 West St. But the Shutes were in^{no} hurry to dispose of land and so it was not until 1823 that another lot was sold next east of the Butters house. The school district was the purchaser and there a brick schoolhouse was built which, with a new roof, is now the dwelling at 8 West St. Except for a lot of three acres at the extreme west end of

the farm which was sold to Arthur Rogers, no other sale was made for some years.

John Shute, Jr. (3) who owned a small plot on the farm, built the house still standing at 54 West St. about 1830. Recent additions have changed its appearance. This John, Jr. was the farmer of his generation on the homestead, while his brother, Samuel, who also built a home on the farm, was a joiner. Two of the sisters married and made new homes here. Nancy's husband, George Wilkins, built about 1830, a substantial house at 94 So. Main St. so that, according to tradition, "his bride never had to leave her father's dooryard." Her younger sister, Lydia, married Samuel Gage, a wheelwright, and by that time George Wilkins had built a new house for himself on the corner of West St. The Gages moved into the house at No. 94. In recent years both houses were torn down to make way for the present garage. (1948)

The patriarch of the family, Isaac Shute, spent his last years in the family of his daughter Nancy Wilkins, in the new house on the corner. This was the site of an earlier one built on leased land by Nathaniel Evans who ran a store there from 1818 to 1828. When the lease expired, the building was moved to newly opened So. State St. where it stands today at No. 116.

Until her marriage, Nancy Shute lived in the original Shute house, caring for her grandfather, Ranger John, and filling as best she could, the place of mother to her younger brothers. When Ranger John died in 1829, his will left to Nancy the treasure of his old age—"my clock". This was one of the now famous tall clocks made by L. & A. Hutchins here in Concord and on the dial was engraved—"1792. The gift of Jacob Shute." Descendants prize this tangible link with the old French Huguenot pioneer of Pennycook Plantation.

On Lewis Downing's map there is a house on West St. marked "51" with the name "William Shute". He was a grandson of Ranger John Shute but he had died leaving his widow Sarah and a son, William H. Shute. Sometime in the 1820s, Widow Sarah Shute bought a quarter acre piece of land between the Butters house and that of John Shute Jr (3) There she built a house in which she lived until her death in 1830 and her son evidently continued for a time to live there. But in the 1844 Directory, Samuel Shute, the joiner, is listed as the occupant. Today the house stands on a lot in the rear of the other West St. houses where it was moved to make room for more modern buildings. As may readily be seen, the ell is of more ancient construction than the main part of the house and it is probably the original home built by Widow Sarah Shute. The newer construction is of the type coming into favor in the forties and doubtless is the work of Samuel Shute, the joiner.

Through this process of building Shute homes, the farm narrowed down in size, but there are people now living along West St. who recall that the brick house at 48 West St. was the nearest on the west to Shute homes and that all between was farm yard and orchards.

In 1829 the Shutes sold a lot west of the Widow Sarah's house to Josiah Robinson, a shoemaker, and he moved to this lot a house from Wheeler's Corner near the Bow line * In later years this house was moved again and it stands now, as pictured, on Allison St. Two sons of the Robinson family were well-known men in their day: Joseph (b. 1798) graduated from Dartmouth college in 1825 and taught school in Concord during the next four years. He held many public offices, including those of Register of Deeds, Register of Probate and Postmaster of Concord. His brother, Abraham Hazen Robinson (b. 1811) was a graduate of Yale college in 1835, taught in the brick schoolhouse on West St. the following year and practiced medicine in Hillsborough and Salisbury. and was Postmaster in the latter place. His son, Allan Robinson, was a

* See Alpheus Chickering, Chap. XVII, p. 23

newspaper man in Concord a generation and more ago.

The tenement house at 90-92 So. Main St. is not a Shute house, but was moved there from the site of the Foy Tire Co. building. It may have been built by the Downings in connection with the coach business. The old house at 86 So. Main St. ^X is not a Shute house, but is said to have been moved to the present site from the North End, before the memory of anyone living today. Its ell seems very ancient but its origin is a mystery, although it bears strong resemblance to an old picture of the William West house at the North End, moved away in the sixties. (Chapter 36) p. 28

Before we leave the Shute farm, we should pay tribute to the two men who founded the family in Concord and established the prosperity of the farm. Jacob Shute is said to have been born in Dublin, Ireland, the son of a French Huguenot refugee. A stowaway to America, he began his life in this country under the handicap of service to repay his passage. Coming with the pioneer group to Pennycook, an alien and speaking, it is said, only broken English, he made a place for himself with the more favored of his townsmen. His son, John Shute, the Ranger, made a record during the years of the French and Indian wars (Chapter X) and when he died the N.H. Patriot called him "a worthy, temperate, industrious native of this town." This was his character in spite of his adventurous youth such as, too often, left a man hard and coarse.

Years after the Ranger's death, one who remembered him well, described him thus - "John Shute was short of stature exceedingly quick in his motions and walk, and with a piercing black eye." Like so many serious minded men of his generation, he hesitated to undertake the obligations of church membership. He long considered "owning the covenant" but it was not until he was seventy years old that he made his decision. Constant attendance at meeting was no new habit for the old man but as he advanced in years, it became noteworthy even in that day of very general

X- House with one other destroyed 1955 for filling station
thus removing all which stood on Shute property on Main St.

going to meeting. "When upwards of ninety years of age" writes Bouton, "he could be seen tripping along, with the agility of a young man- commonly passing others on foot, on their return from meeting." Constant in his attendance, John Shute occupied, as was fitting, a place of honor in "the old men's seat" in the Meeting-house- one of the most picturesque characters to be known in our town. On a Sabbath morning in the winter of 1829, as his thoughts turned Heavenward from life-long habit, John Shute's spirit entered eternal life.

Another farm at the South End was that of Dea. John Merrill who, after settlement of the Bow controversy which had so seriously threatened his homestead, now dwelt thereon in peace and contentment. His house stood at the junction of the main street and present Water St. It was a happy household with father, mother and eleven children. By the middle of the nineteenth century, the descendents of this good man and his wife, through the male line only, were said to number approximately five hundred. Among them were ministers, lawyers and physicians as well as farmers and artisaans who proved worthy of their goodly heritage.

There were good times in the Merrill home. The Minister's diary, under date of February 16, 1764, records the marriage of the Deacon's son, Nathaniel, to seventeen year old Anna Walker, daughter of the North End "Taylor", and the following day the record reads- "Attended marriage entertainment at Dea. Merrill's". What an "entertainment" it must have been with all the relatives and in-laws and children joining in the happy crowd! Eventually these sons and daughters of the Merrill family scattered widely- to Pembroke, Conway, Hill and Warren. Nathaniel and his bride settled in Brownfield, Me. but a grandson of theirs, Rufus Merrill, returned to Concord, married one of the West girls and became a widely known book-seller and publisher.

Three farms at Eleven Lots were notable in this generation. Dea. Joseph Hall and his wife, Deborah Abbot, lived a long and happy life in

the garrison house. Nevertheless they had their sorrows when only two of their six children lived beyond the age of thirty. Three little daughters died in the terrible year of 1746 when crowded conditions in the garrisons invited epidemic and medical science was inadequate. Such sorrow was accepted with Christian grace. A picture of the Hall home may be found in Chapter VII.

Col. Benjamin Rolfe had long lived a bachelor life in a small house on his farm at Eleven Lots, but according to the Minister's diary, on April 16, 1764 he "pitched y^e place for his house," building there a mansion more befitting the wealthiest man in town. To this new home he brought his bride, Sarah, daughter of his intimate friend, Rev. Timothy Walker. The story of that homestead—now the Rolfe and Rumford Home—belongs to a later chapter.

We first hear of Lot Colby when, as a young man of twenty-one, he was appointed field driver in pioneer days. He was a member of the first board of selectmen of the new Parish of Concord (1766) and until the end of his life continued active in town affairs. He was one of that group of very respectable citizens who owned slaves, and there is a record of his purchasing from a Billerica woman, a mulatto boy named Salem in 1761, at a price of forty-five shillings, Sterling.

Lot Colby's house was for many years, the most southerly in the village, his farm lying between the Rolfe farm and the town line and along the "Country road from Concord to Bow" (Hall St.) and bordering the Merrimack river. The house, according to Bouton, stood on the site of J. S. Lund's house of a later period (now 34 Hall St.) Lot Colby's grand-daughter, Betsy (b. 1785) married Nathan Abbot (b. 1779), grandson of Dea. George Abbot. Through her inheritance, the Colby farm became Abbot property and home. Nathan's father, Joseph (b. 1741), a veteran of the Revolution, lived his last years on the Colby farm and died there in 1832. Nathan Abbot's sister, Ruth (b. 1782) was deeded an acre on the north side of the farm, ad-

jaacent to the Rolfe pro perty, and the little house in which she lived, a spinster, until her death in 1865, stands today as shown in our picture. She was known to three generations of South End folk as "Aunt Ruth Abbot."

The largest of the farms along the main street was the Rogers farm of five hundred acres, bordering on the Merrimack river and including the Frog Ponds and land on Ferry Plain. (See Map of 1726, Chapter II) The year that young Robert Rogers was commissioned Major of the Rangers, he visited Portsmouth where he was received with honors. Bred though he was to the rough life of the forest and the rougher experience of ranger service, he was endowed with a personality which won him favor with the exclusive people of an aristocratic town. He became something of a hero and was admitted to St. John's Lodge No. 1, A. F. & A. M. where he met its chaplain, Rev. Arthur Brown, first rector of Queen's Chapel and intimate friend of Gov. Benning Wentworth. The rector figures in the story of "Lady Wentworth" in Longfellow's "Tales of a Wayside Inn."

The rector's daughter, Betsy, was quite a beauty in her early teens and it is not strange that she and the dashing Major fell in love. For five years while he was winning victories and fame, the girl in Portsmouth waited until, in 1761, Rogers returned in triumph to wed his sweetheart. She was then twenty years old and her portrait here presented, was painted by Blackburn, a popular portrait artist of that day. A portrait of Maj. Rogers at a later period may be found in Chapter X.

Three years before his wedding day, Robert Rogers planned for a home in Rumford. He was then on duty at Fort Edward and ~~and~~ so he commissioned Hannah Osgood, the tavern mistress, to purchase for him, the Samuel Gray farm which comprised Lots 29 to 32 in Range I with additional home lots some of which were in "Y^e Frogg Ponds adjoining s^d Home Lots." There were buildings upon this farm, for an earlier deed (1748) mentions "a Logg House and Frame of an House". The next year following this purchase (1759) Rogers - then of Starkstown (Dunbarton) bought the Abraham Kimball homestead of twenty acres directly south of the Gray farm. This extended the Rogers property south to Dea. Merrill's farm.

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"Ranger Rogers house" as future generations were to call it, stood originally on or very near the site of Gov. Isaac Hill's brick mansion (75 So. Main St.) and it faced south, gable end to the street. When Gov. Hill became owner of this property, he moved the ancient house to a location in the rear of 87 So. Main St. where it degenerated into a cheap tenement house and was finally torn down.

On Dec. 20, 1762, Maj. Rogers transferred this farm in trust to his wife. Concord historians have failed to affirm that Rogers, in his wandering life, ever lived on this farm, but one of his descendents, Mary Cochran Rogers, is authority for the fact that he brought his bride hither and that she was served by a number of slaves - Sylvia, Pomp, Castro and an Indian boy, Billy, who was captured at St. Francis. Miss Rogers also claimed that it was while resident in this house that Maj. Rogers wrote his "Journals" from notes made during his campaigns, his "Concise Account of North America" and his "Ponteach".

There is, as yet, nothing to disprove these claims: indeed, it is considered by novelist Kenneth Roberts whose "Northwest Passage" is based on exhaustive research through all documents relating to Rogers, that the Major undoubtedly lived in this Concord house at least for short periods. It is significant that the house always bore his name and that, long after his departure from this country and after his wife's death, one of the Thorndike family directly across the street, came into possession of the spy glass of Robert Rogers which was found in the old house. Unfortunately this interesting relic has disappeared for a member of the family took it with him when he moved away from Concord. Further evidence of Maj. Rogers as resident, is the casual mention by Rev. Timothy Walker in his diary - "Feb. 23, 1764. Maj. Rogers dined.", as if it were an ordinary occasion rather than the visit in town of a famous outsider.

In 1765 Rogers went to England to arrange for the publication of his writings and in London he was received with honor. He returned with the King's commission as Governor and Commander-in-chief at the important military and trading post of Michilimacinae in the country of the "Ojibwas" and thither he took, his young wife, thirteen hundred miles into the wilderness. So spectacular a career as that of Robert Rogers was bound to create jealousy and ill-will and Sir William Johnson, powerful in the province of New York and the frontier far to the west, plotted to destroy Rogers's influence. With the aid of Gen. Howe, tales were spread that the Major planned to betray his fort to the French and so specious was this propaganda that in December 1768, the British authorities arrested the new Governor and he was taken in irons to Montreal. The physical torture of that journey was extreme but the trial ended in acquittal. This ended Rogers's triumphal career.

Meantime his poor wife returned from the wilds to her father's home in Portsmouth and about two months after her arrival, gave birth to a son, Arthur Rogers. After his release, Maj. Rogers took ship for England hoping to retrieve his fortunes. Restless for military life, he entered service in Africa and claimed that he fought two battles under the Dey of Algiers. According to Mary Cochran Rogers, Mrs. Robert Rogers brought her little son to Concord to live and there Maj. Rogers, returned from Europe, joined her shortly before the Revolution.

As the months passed, feeling ran high and excitable patriots even in staid Concord, were alert for possible Tories. An officer who had long been prominent in the King's service could hardly escape suspicion and Maj. Rogers was hardly the man to be threatened into submission by the Sons of Liberty method. He did, however, seek service under Gen. Washington at Cambridge in 1775, but was refused admission to the American camp. Such patriots as John Stark, his life-long friend, then and in the future, insisted that Maj. Rogers was, at heart, loyal but to no avail.

Furiously resentful, Robert Rogers secured a commission from Gen. Howe and raised a battalion of Rangers for British service which, in the fall of 1776, was attacked and routed at Mamaronec, N.Y. It is said that a corps of Rangers still exists as "the Queen's York Rangers", a Toronto regiment of militia. In 1777 Rogers went again to England whence he wrote-"I love America. It is my native country. I hope to spend the evening of my days in it." But this was not to be, for Tories were shown scant privilege in those times and in 1778 the N.H. Legislature passed an act banishing Robert Rogers and declaring Mrs. Rogers freed of her marriage bond.

Elizabeth Brown Rogers married again-a certain Capt. Roach (Roche) who was a native of Cork, Ireland. He first appeared in Concord about the time of Maj. Rogers's banishment and he seems to have been a poor substitute husband for the lady. He was a man of more vices than virtues. Tradition tells of the scandal of his arrival in the colonies: he set out as master of a sailing vessel engaged in British fur trade, with a cargo from Quebec to London in the early months of the Revolution. He contrived to lose his way (so the tale runs) and sailed into Portsmouth harbor where he sold his cargo, pocketed the money and then acquired command of the "Ranger" before it was taken over by John Paul Jones.

A son was born to the Roach couple in the old house at the South End and as a young man, he had a creditable record as an officer on the famous frigate "Constitution". Tradition in old South End families tells of gay doings in the old house during the Roach regime and Roach figures as somewhat of a brawler around the taverns of the town. Mrs. Roach continued to live in the old home until her death at the age of seventy-two in 1813. After a life of romance, sorrow and tragedy, Hetsy Brown Rogers rests in an unknown grave in Concord

After Mrs. Roach's death, her son, Arthur Rogers, inherited the farm but it is evident that he was incompetent to handle the property. Early in the eighteen thirties, he was sued by numerous creditors, he being then "of parts unknown", and deeds of execution transferred the farm to his creditors. Chief among them was Isaac Hill who proceeded to move the historic house in order to build his new brick mansion. Mr. Hill also planned an ambitious land development on a large section of the farm, laying out streets east of the main Street and staking out lots for what was intended to be a fine residential neighborhood. Shortly the railroad being promoted to enter Concord, decided to claim a right of way directly through this project of Gov. Hill's before more than a half dozen houses had been erected.