

Chapter XVII.
"Upon Hopkinton Road ****and West of Turkey River."

This title describes another of the outlying school districts provided for at the 1766 town meeting. It covered a wide section of the countryside for it included the settlement at Millville, the farms on Dimond and and Stickney hills, as well as those at Iron Works and along the Bog road. The first schoolhouse to serve this wide area is said to have been on the east side of Silk Farm road not far from the Haseltine house. In later years the building was moved to the angle of roads directly west of the site of Coit House.

As soon as the Indian menace lessened, there was a steady increase in pioneering in the remote parts of Rumford. About 1750 Reuben Dimond of South Hampton gave to his son, Ezekiel, the slightly land on top of Dimond hill. The young man, then about twenty-five years old, cleared the land, built a log house on the brow of the hill and then brought to this home his wife, Miriam Fowler, and their little son, Ezekiel, Jr. It was an isolated place for the little family, but in time Daniel Chase, Jr. and his brother, Jonathan, settled on Ash brook at the foot of the hill.

Meantime life on the exposed hill-top was hazardous and time and again scouts warned the Dimonds that Indians were prowling about. On such alarms, the family took refuge in Parson Walker's garrison. On one such occasion Mrs. Dimond had a web of cloth in her loom and she refused to leave it to possible destruction, so she delayed flight long enough to take out the yard beam, winding the reed and harness about it so that it could be carried on horseback to the garrison.

When peace at last arrived, Ezekiel Dimond began adding to his farm until he owned two hundred acres bounded on the west by the Hopkinton line. He acquired a mill privilege on Turkey river "between Great Turkey and the lesser pond" and there, on the Dunbarton road, he ran a fulling mill prior to 1787. Rated as a Proprietor by right of purchase, he built a frame house in keeping with his standing among the town folk and that

house stands today as here pictured, on the north side of Hopkinton road and very near the town line. In modern days when the clapboards were replaced, a loophole was uncovered in the west wall, showing that the house dates back to the days when Indian approach from the forests to the west was still an ever present fear.

On this homestead the Dimonds raised a large family-seven sons and two daughters. Two little sisters died in infancy but the nine surviving children, with one exception, lived to more than the allotted span of "three score years and ten". When the town made its first provision for a school in this part of rural Concord, the oldest of the children was seventeen years old. He and his brothers and sisters had been taught by father and mother who were rated "good readers", and were thus competent to teach the youngsters in the "three Rs." Tradition paints a pleasant picture of the Dimond family gathered about the roaring fire on long winter evenings, holding their own private school by the light of pitch pine knots and candlewood. Painsstakingly they made their pot-hooks or did their sums with a charred stick on strips of birch bark. They practiced reading aloud from the Bible that most wonderful of all text-books, or from one of the scanty collection of family books-all in conformity to a daily stint.

So excellent were the results of this simple education that one of the sons, Jacob, became a professional school teacher and somewhat of a literary man. He taught what was probably the first school to be opened in the immediate Dimond hill neighborhood, when an old abandoned cabin was used to house the pupils. In later life (1792 or 93) Jacob Dimond went to Kennebec, Me. where he taught school and did professional writing for business men less proficient than himself.

Ezekiel Dimond and his wife were devoted "professors of religion" and it was a grief, especially to his mother, that Jacob Dimond failed to "experience religion" according to the standard of the time. During this

of her great concern for his soul's welfare. Jacob had a gift for rhyming and because he longed to comfort his mother he wrote this little acrostic for her just before his departure:

"Jesus, thou mighty King on high,
And sovereign Lord of all below,
Command thy great salvation nigh;
O Lord, to me thy mercy show;
Behold I stand in need!

Deal gently with thy servant, Lord;
In mercy, Lord incline;
May I receive the Gospel sound-
Obey its precepts, and be found
Near to thy throne of grace."

Such humility and reverence were characteristic even among those who still delayed to profess religion in the old days.

Four of the Dimond sons served during the Revolution. Reuben enlisted under Capt. Kinsman in May, 1775 and fought at Bunker Hill. Enlisting again in the early summer of 1777, he was a member of the gallant detail which stormed the breastworks at Bennington and he fought again at Saratoga. Following the war he married Molly Currier of the Iron Works family and the young couple settled in West Parish.

In November 1775, Isaac Dimond enlisted under Capt. Benjamin Emery and before his time was up he re-enlisted for one year under Capt. John Hale. Military service led him to Albany, Lake George, Lake Champlain, St. John's and Sorel in Canada and then back to Ticonderoga. He was with the troops when the Hessians were captured at Trenton. He volunteered in 1777 under Capt. Joshua Abbot and marched to Fort Edward to cut off Burgoyne's army. His brother, Ezekiel, Jr., was in Capt. Ebenezer Webster's company at Ticonderoga in 1777 and in Capt. Joshua Abbot's company in the fall of that year, as it marched to reinforce the Northern Army.

Soon after the Revolution, Ezekiel, Jr. moved to Warner where his father owned Proprietor's shares. John, another brother, lived on Dimond road (now closed) on land which was undoubtedly a part of his father's farm. His house stood on the west side of the road and there he raised a

family of twelve children, half of whom were daughters who married and established homes not far from Dimond hill. John Dimond had a grandson, David, born in Groton, who graduated at Dartmouth in 1842 and entered the ministry, finally becoming professor of Greek and Latin in a Missouri college. Two brothers of the original family on Dimond hill have already been mentioned, Abner and Israel.

In 1787 the father of the Dimond family deeded the homestead farm to his son, Isaac, and ten years later father and son sold the old house near the town line with eighty acres of the large farm. In 1830 it became the property of Joshua Berry whose descendants owned it for a century. Meantime Isaac Dimond built a new house on the site of the present Dimond Hill Farm house. A few years later the old pioneer died and in 1809 his good wife, Miriam, who had shared so gallantly in the years of his toil and adventure, was laid to rest by his side in the new Millville cemetery,

After his parents' death, Isaac Dimond migrated to Warner so that three of the brothers finished their lives in that town. Isaac's grave is at Warner parade. When the Dimond hill property was sold, it was advertised as a ninety acre farm "4 miles from the Meeting House in Concord and 3 miles from Hopkinton Court-house, "with a house" partly two story, well calculated for public use. "For a time its owner was Ezra Hutchins, son of Col. Gordon Hutchins, but in 1827 it was purchased by Joseph S. Abbot, "housewright", whose descendants still occupy the farm (1954). Eventually the house was moved across the highway where it now stands as pictured and a modern house was built on its original site.

Joseph S. Abbot (b. 1800) was brought up on his father's farm at the west end of Long pond and in the house which then stood opposite that of his grandfather, Daniel Abbot. When he was fourteen, the lad ran away but not very far, for he tarried in West Village and there he learned his trade. After his marriage to Esther Farnum, he acquired the farm on Dimond hill and carried on a sash and blind shop on the south side of the road

a little to the east old house. He took his lumber direct from the mill and during the winter months when building was slack, he made it up entirely by hand and marketed the product in the spring. He was a man of unusual enterprise and great energy. At one time he had a construction jobe in Manchester but spent his week ends at home, making the round trip on foot. He won renown as a builder and was identified with the building of Concord's first railroad station.

Of Joseph Abbot's two children, one was a daughter named Almira whose lover was a young Dartmouth college instructor in chemistry, named Ezekiel W. Dimond. He was a grandson of Ezekiel, Jr. who pioneered in Warner and the fourth of his name in direct descent from the pioneer on Dimond hill. The untimely death of Almira ended the romance and Prof. Dimond died at the early age of forty, in Hanover.

There are other old houses on Dimond hill which have interesting associations. Among them is old home built by Robert Knowlton in 1801. A blacksmith by trade and a Revolutionary veteran, he was proud to tell how, during the war, he shod the horse of George Washington. He came to Concord from Cape Ann and carried on his trade in a little smithy east of his house, its site being marked by a large granite hitching post which stands on the bank above the present level of the road. Doubtless business was good for there was much travel between Concord and Hopkinton in those days when the latter town was a close rival of Concord in population and importance. Robert Knowlton was the father of nine sons - a distinction in itself - and two of these sons married grand daughters of Ezekiel Dimond, the pioneer. This old homestead remained in the possession of Knowlton descendents until recent years.

On the south side of Hopkinton road and opposite the Knowlton house stands the old home of Lieut. Asa Herrick (b. 1754) whose name is on the list of minute men for the "Oxford War" in 1797. This was the time when

war with France threatened and Concord was concerned with its quota of the eighty thousand men required by Congress. Concord patriots, old and young, responded—the young men joining a company under Capt. Nathaniel Green of Boscawen which was to march to Oxford, Mass. there to await orders, hence the local term, "Oxford War." The older men formed a company of minute men which comprised the leading citizens of the town.

In 1807 Lieut. Herrick represented his neighborhood on a committee to map the growing town into school districts. He was a surveyor and as such, sometimes helped to "perambulate" the town line. Thus engaged west of Long pond, together with Moses Abbot and Richard Flanders who lived near the line, he became the center of an old tale. Working through the woods to check on the boundary markers, their dog was heard barking furiously, and they found him greatly excited at the huge root of a fallen tree. Investigating, they found a bear concealed and Abbot hit the beast on the head with his axe. The bear attempted to attack but Abbot quickly turned the edge of his axe and "with a well aimed blow struck it into the bear's head and soon killed it." The animal must have been of great size for the story ends: "After drawing the bear out, Lieut. Herrick seeing its huge paws, was greatly terrified, being more afraid of a dead bear than a live one"—a joke appreciated by his companions.

Lieut. Herrick's daughter, Anna (or Nancy, b. 1796) married Isaac Proctor and they lived in this house for many years so that it is generally known by their name. In 1819 there was a move to open the Rangeway which began near this house and ran south to Dunbarton road but no action was taken. Down the hill a short distance stands the pretty little house of our picture which belonged to Proctors of a later generation. It was moved to this location from Straw road west of the Hopkinton line in the fifties or earlier. It stands on or very near the site of the cabin where Daniel Chase, Jr. lived years before.

At the foot of Dimond hill and on the north side of the highway is the charming old home of Atkinson Webster (b. 1797). He married a daughter of Col. Benning Smart of Stickney hill and built this house under the shade of its fine elm. In 1830, his father, Stephen Webster, came from Atkinson to make his home with his son's family. Stephen Webster (b. 1758) served three campaigns in the Revolution and fought in the battles at Saratoga, Stony Point and Diamond Island. His son was a master builder and erected our first Court House, rebuilt the State House and built various houses in town, among them that at No. 9 Tahanto St. and that at No. 80-80½ School St.. It is on a corner of this Webster farm that the oldest schoolhouse left in Concord now stands. Atkinson Webster and his father were among the first members of the Methodist Church which was organized in Concord in 1825.

South of Dimond hill rises Stickney hill named for the pioneer settler on the height, Jonathan Stickney, son of Lieut. Jeremiah Stickney. Born in 1739 soon after the family arrived in Rumford, as a young man he adventured on this lonely hill, clearing his fields and building a cabin on the slope back of the Scales house shown in our picture. His old well is still to be found but the "mansion" built in Jonathan's prosperous days, fell victim to lightning years ago. Tradition tells that the ell of the house and the barn escaped destruction and were moved from the slope to become part of the present buildings. The early road up the hill followed a course somewhat to the south of the present highway and probably nearer the original "mansion".

In 1774, Jonathan Stickney was commissioned lieutenant in Capt. Joshua Abbot's company of militia and when the Revolution began he entered service. The Concord Herald of Nov. 1792 carried this notice: "Died in this town on Sunday night of Small Pox in the natural way, Lieut. Jonathan Stickney, aged 53." The evening before, a child in the family had died of the dread disease and so great was the fear of contagion

in the town, that these victims were hastily buried in a secluded spot on the farm. In later years other members of the family were buried nearby but most of the markers have disappeared. Col. Benning Smart, later owner of the farm, and his son, Charles, gave this little cemetery plot to the town in 1843. It is on Hart road which connects the Stickney hill road with Dunbarton road.

Lieut. Jonathan Stickney was twice married and his family comprised sixteen children. The fourteenth of these was Jonathan, Jr., (born 1788) who built, according to neighborhood tradition, the house here pictured. It was at this point that the original highway turned south so that this house then faced the road which ran between it and its barn. The road was changed in 1822 so the house antedates that year. Later occupants of this farm found relics which indicate that long before the Stickneys came to the hill, it was an ancient camping ground for Indians. Jonathan, Jr. died in 1835 and was buried near his father at the foot of the hill. A stone marked his grave within the memory of living man but, cracked by the frost of years, it fell and finally disappeared.

Further up the hill stands an old house which, until recent remodeling, faced the south where the original road used to run, with its back door to the present highway. For many years it was owned by the Goodwin family who purchased it in 1831. It was then unfinished and was built, so tradition says, by Daniel Stickney (b. 1762) brother of Jonathan, Jr. about 1790. Daniel moved away from Concord, evidently to Plainfield where his second child was born. When he was eighteen, Daniel's name was on the list of "new levies" for the Revolution (1780).

On the north side of Stickney hill road is the Capt. John Sherburne house where a famous elm used to stand, which measured seventeen feet in circumference at four feet from the ground. Capt. Sherburne was a Portsmouth "yeoman" who bought this farm "on the north side of the Country Road" in 1807. The fact that Widow Anna Stickney had a "dower privilege

in the Barn" and a part of the orchard, indicates that the property was a part of Lieut. Jonathan's farm.

Interesting legends cling to Stickney hill. At one time, so it is said, a poor old dependent, Granny Aulds, lived on the Stickney farm and there were those who called her a witch. At the foot of the hill where the road turns off to the little graveyard, there lived a fidgety man named Clary who declared that Granny bewitched him. So fearful was he of her malign influence, that he left town. One day far from Concord, he was in a field digging potatoes when suddenly he stopped work, jumped into the air clicking his heels, and screamed "Granny Aulds is dead!" "And", continues the narrator, "true enough, she was dead."

Down in the hollow where this "Old Country Road" crosses Turkey river "between Great Turkey and the lesser pond", may be seen the ruins of an ancient dam. Here Ezekiel Dimond had his fulling mill, a half interest in which he sold to his son-in-law, Jonathan Runnels, in 1787. In 1799 Runnels deeded a part of the water power to Daniel Kendall and one of the boundaries mentioned in the deed is "a stake and stone a small distance from the fore door of my new dwelling house." Time was when this water power ran a large shingle mill but that and the fulling mill are long since gone. Jonathan Runnels's "new dwelling house" was acquired by St. Paul's School and in 1951 it was torn down. It was an excellent example of the late eighteenth century farmhouse. Its west front room and its long, low kitchen had the old panelling and wainscot while the front hall backed by a huge chimney, had a good staircase with landings and carved skirting. The doors had the original latches and H and L hinges.

Jonathan Runnels, born in Lee 1758, wished to enlist in the Revolution War with his father and older brothers, but was dissuaded because of his youth. Restless, he made his way to Concord and met and married Ezekiel Dimond's daughter, Dorothy. Parson Walker notes their wedding in his diary, Nov. 9, 1780. Once again Jonathan planned to enlist but was de-

laid by a serious illness of his young wife. The family eventually moved Deering where he died April 18, 1804. Jonathan Runnels had the distinction of being a "seventh son" and according to the belief of that time, he was consulted by hundreds of people suffering from scrofula and other disease because of his supposed healing power.

Running south from the old Dunbarton road to the Bow line is Silk Farm road and there we find the old house of our picture. This was the homestead farm of Lieut. Joseph Haseltine and his wife, Elizabeth Abbot (b. 1731) and here they raised a family of nine children. The present house was built in 1802 by their son, Ballard, who inherited the place at his father's death. Mrs. Haseltine lived there until her death at the great age of one hundred years and six months, retaining her accurate memory until the very last. Born in the earliest days of the town, her reminiscences, flavored always with kindness and by her vivacity of spirit, made her a person of distinction. She was beloved because of her neighborly deeds. Many a time she was sent for in cases of illness or distress and, even when past middle life, she always responded to such calls. Often in mid-winter nights when snow lay deep, she strapped on her snowshoes and journeyed across the fields and over snow-buried walls and fences, to the help of a sick neighbor.

Widowed thirty-five years before her own death, Mrs. Haseltine's Puritan faith upheld her spirit in sweetness and good cheer. On her ninety-ninth birthday, her pastor, Rev. Nathaniel Bouton, journeyed with many of her friends in the village, to this home on Silk Farm road and there held a religious service. The text of the sermon was "Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth." A year later this birthday observance was repeated to Mrs. Haseltine's joy and comfort. Said she to her young minister - "When you preached here last year from the text in Psalms 71:9, I did not expect that I should hear another sermon. But I am thankful that the Lord spared me to hear the word once more."

Today I am a monument to His mercy and a witness for His goodness and forbearance." Then, sitting in her arm chair, this "Mother in Israel" listened reverently to the service held in her honor as a centenarian.

Joseph Haseltine's first purchase in the vicinity of Turkey pond was from his father, Richard, in 1757. When he died in 1798, his son, Ballard (b. 1769) succeeded him and kept the farm until his mother's death in 1834. The place was then sold to a company of Concord men incorporated the following year for the manufacture of silk. Mulberry trees were planted near the house and silk worms were cultivated for a few years and silk was made in small quantities, but the business was not a success.

The first schoolhouse built to serve children "upon the Hopkinton road and westerly of Turkey pond" is said to have stood on the east side of Silk Farm road and not far from the Haseltine house. In later years it was moved to the angle of roads directly west of Coit House which faced Silk Farm road.

The story of Iron Works District has been told with absorbing interest by the late George T. Abbott who was born and lived his life within its borders. The traditions with which his tale abounds were told by his mother, Mrs. Nancy Badger Abbot, who married Aaron Abbot of the Iron Works in 1824. A few typed copies of this story are in existence one of which is placed in the N.H. Historical Society. It furnishes much of the information used here.

Iron Works road begins at Wheeler's Corner on the old "Country road to Bow" (South St.) and runs westerly to Silk Farm road. At one end of the short bridge which spans Turkey river, is a tablet which marks the site of an iron foundry and rolling mill established in 1760. The promoters of this enterprise were Dr. Philip Carrigain, second physician to settle in Concord permanently, Daniel Gale, the town's blacksmith, and Daniel Carter whose farm lay just beyond the bridge. Ore used in the foundry was dug in the Soucook river valley near "Egypt" on the First N.H. Turnpike,

but the ore was too inferior in quality to produce a flourishing business.

There is a tradition that cannon balls were made here for use in the Revolution-perhaps in anticipation of local need for defence. A story of earlier date concerns a mill crank forged in 1765 and weighing sixty pounds which was to be delivered to Newbury, Vt. A party of six men started from Concord, dragging it on a hand sled over the snow, on a trail which led from our valley to the Connecticut river. As they crossed Newfound Lake on the ice, the cold was so intense that they narrowly escaped perishing. When the foundry was closed, the plant was used for a saw mill (1813) and in later years it was destroyed by fire.

Daniel Carter who probably ran the foundry, was a brother of Dr. Ezra Carter 1st. In 1745 he purchased his home farm on Turkey river from Abraham Kimball who is said to have been the second man to pioneer in this section. The log house on his one hundred and thirty acre farm stood on the opposite side of the road from the present house and nearer the river. To this home Daniel Carter brought his wife and three little children from their old home in South Hampton. Twice during those early years Indians attacked the lonely house in an effort to capture the family.

The present house, here pictured, is an ancient one modernized and it is said that it originally stood across the road where its old well may still be found. Probably its builder was Joseph Carter, son of Daniel and if so, it may have been the birthplace of Nathaniel H. Carter (b. 1787), Joseph's son. At any rate it was his boyhood home. Dr. Bouton opines that Nathaniel stood "pre-eminent among the sons of Concord in literary merit." This later day offers few if any, rivals among native sons or daughters.

As a boy the lad's interest in books was so keen that his father encouraged him in seeking the best possible education. He attended a private school conducted by Rev. Abraham Burnham of Pembroke, had further prep

aration at Exeter and entered Dartmouth college, graduating with Phi Beta Kappa rank in 1811. From beginning to end he paid all expense of this education by his own effort and followed graduation by teaching school in various towns. In 1819 he was teaching in Concord for three dollars per week. He became professor of languages at Dartmouth, leaving that post to read law in Albany, N.Y. Such were his gifts that, in this new field, he was sponsored by DeWitt Clinton and other prominent men, to become founder and editor of the N.Y. Statesman—a paper distinguished for its literary standard and for able and independent editorials.

During this period in his career, Mr. Carter travelled widely in Europe and upon his return, he published a two volume edition of his "Letters from Europe". When barely forty years of age he fell victim to the dread "consumption" and sought relief in winter by trips to Cuba. At that time tuberculosis was practically incurable. In the fall of 1828 he made his last trip to Concord and found admiring hospitality on every hand, but he stole away from the town and its adulation long enough to visit the banks of little Turkey river—"scene of my boyhood's earliest dream". With melancholy appreciation of his fate, he wrote on a chill November day before leaving Concord, the poem "To My Native Stream"—a touching farewell in limpid verse. Shortly afterward he sailed for the south of France in his final effort for health and died at Marseilles a few weeks after landing.

While Nathaniel was still an undergraduate at college, his father sold the homestead to William Abbot, known to the next generation as "Uncle Billie". He was a grandson of Benjamin Abbot whose old red house still stands at the corner of South and Clinton Sts. William Abbot and his sons by sheer hard work and thrift, made a snug fortune. The last of these sons, William, Jr. (b. 1801) built the house on South St. which, after his death, became the N.H. Memorial Hospital. Mr. Abbot's will provided for the church of his forefathers, a legacy which made possible a much needed chapel which, remodelled, is still in use at the First Congregational Church. It was named Abbott Memorial Chapel and a portrait of William Abbott long

hung on its wall.

At the west end of Iron Works road stands a low roomy house in a setting of trees and wild shrubs. It is probably the oldest house in this neighborhood for it was built to replace the log cabin of Nathaniel Abbot, Jr., pioneer settler. Son of Nathaniel Abbot of the village, at the age of twenty he dared the Indian peril, only a year after the massacre near the mills on Turkey river, and made his home in this isolated spot. A year or two later he married Miriam Chandler but the times were too dangerous to take her to this home. Nathaniel, himself cultivated his cleared land only under protection of an armed guard. This one hundred acre farm is said to have been acquired by his father in 1734.

As soon as peace was assured, the young couple settled in the log house in the hollow and, with prosperity, they built the house of our picture. The log cabin stood as long as their descendants occupied the farm but after a hundred and seventy-five years, a new owner destroyed this priceless example of a pioneer dwelling. Four sons were reared on this farm, Nathaniel C., Moses, Philip and Joshua, and all served in the Revolution, but only Moses who settled in West Parish, remained in Concord. Two of the brothers pioneered in Rumford, Me. (1784) hauling their goods thither in hand sleds through forest wilds and camping beside the trail at night. Levi (b. 1767) inherited the farm and married Polly Carter, sister of Nathaniel H. Carter.

Travelling out Bog road and passing Turkey pond, one crosses two brooks-Tury and Peters (or Bela's). Approaching the Dunbarton line one passes Hart road which connected Stickney hill road with this Dunbarton road. On the west corner of this old cross road there stood for many years the handsome old house of our picture, destroyed by fire in the winter of 1946. This was the farm of Daniel Hall, early settler in Iron Works District and son of Ebenezer Hall at Millville. Daniel's mother, Dorcas Abbot, inherited land near the pond from her father, Proprietor Edward Abbot. Likely this

this was the tract which the young man cleared for his farm. Born in 1755, Daniel Hall married Deborah Davis, daughter of Lieut. Robert Davis of the village and their first child was born in 1776 in a log house near the road. Tradition tells of an adventure which befell them on Thanksgiving Day, possibly in that very year of '76. There had been a family gathering at Ebenezer Hall's house near the mills and, as night closed down, Daniel mounted his horse, his young wife stepped to the pillion and baby Dorcas was placed snugly in her arm. Away they rode toward their own home but as they rounded Turkey pond, their horse showed panic and almost immediately came the long howl of wolves. Telling the story to his grandchildren long years after, Daniel Hall would say-"If Dolly couldn't have run a mile as quick as by two seconds, or cleared Peters brook with a single jump, with two persons and a babe on her back, we could not have told you this story tonight."

Eventually Daniel Hall built the house of our picture which was the home of his son and his grandson. Of Daniel's fourteen children, James (b. 1784) married Ruth Abbot, daughter of Capt. Benjamin Abbot who fought at Bunker Hill, and they, in turn, were the parents of Dr. Robert Hall (b. 1810) who was born on the place and whose story follows. In the meantime, we turn again to the home of Daniel Carter in the day when its owner was Joseph Carter. Joseph had a daughter, Abigail, who married Ebenezer Capen of a neighboring farm in 1805, and the couple moved to the northern part of the state.

Peters brook-its earliest name-is also known as Bela's brook because Bela Carter, grandson of Dr. Ezra Carter 1st, owned the farm through which the brook flows on its way to Great Turkey pond. The old farm house stands as pictured on the north side of Dunbarton road, facing Birchdale road and in sight of the Hall place. In 1784 Obadiah Hall (b. 1748) a brother of Daniel Hall, sold this eighty acre farm to Ephraim Carter and it remained in that family until his son, Bela sold it in

1833. Bela moved to the Horse-hill neighborhood where he is said to have lived just below the bridge at present Riverhill. Bela (or Bealey) married Judith Carter, sister of Squire Timothy Carter who lived on Carter Hill and this may have influenced the family in moving to the new home. Bela was said to be "a man not renowned for his religious worth" probably because he was unorthodox in much of his attitude toward life-an odd character, but intelligent and well-read according to the standard of the times. He was rated "an interesting talker" and chose to educate his numerous children after his own original methods. Soon after he left the farm on Bela's brook, it became the property of Ebenezer Capen who moved his family thither from Stewartstown.

Among the Capen's children was a daughter, Lucinda Susannah (b. 1815) and on June 4, 1833, she and her next door neighbor, Robert Hall, were married and made their home in Loudon for a short time. Returning to Concord, they continued for seven years and during that period two children were born to them. A daughter, Ann Louesa, married a son of Rev. Nathaniel Bouton and became the mother of Rev. T. C. H. Bouton, thus named by Ann Louesa for her brother, Tilton Clark Hall, who was accidentally killed while hunting the year his namesake was born. The young mother died when her babe was only two months old and the Halls were thus doubly bereaved.

In the meantime, Robert Hall had developed an interest in medicine and, for a time, he acted as lay assistant for Dr. Lemuel Paige of Weare. In 1847 he returned once more to Concord as an apothecary. Mrs. Hall also became interested in medicine and while living in Weare she studied in Dr. Paige's office. Anxious to become a physician, she faced difficulty for no medical school of that day would admit a female, so she turned to the next best thing-a course of training for midwives in the newly opened Boston Female Medical College. She graduated in the first class of twelve women and for the next few years practiced midwifery, the only woman so engaged in the state, who held such a certificate.

In 1846 an eclectic school under the name of Worcester Medical College was opened in that city and after securing a Massachusetts charter, it opened a women's department in 1852. Mrs. Hall was one of the three first women to enroll and, after taking a course which lasted from March till June, she received her degree of M.D. Her husband also took a course and received his degree two years later. Then began a busy career for these two physicians. Dr. Lucinda began practice in Lowell, Mass. at a time when, in all New England, there were only four women holding the degree of M.D., she being the first New England born woman to win the degree.

In 1857 the Halls came back to Concord to stay and made their home on Birchdale Springs road in the pretty little house shown in our picture. Only a few years ago ⁽¹⁹³²⁾ this house was destroyed by lightning. They took into this home their motherless grandson. In 1866, Dr. Robert and Dr. Lucinda bought a large tract of land directly across the road from their house, which contained various mineral springs. These they developed and then built a large cupolaed house for a sanitarium for chronic cases. For ten years it grew in fame and popularity and then the Halls, approaching old age, sold the property and in 1885 it burned. The old gateways remain as well as the foundations of the house overgrown with brambles, and several of the springs may be found easily. In the eighties the grounds were still beautiful and there was a fine grove which was a popular place for church picnics which went out in merry barge loads.

Dr. Lucinda Capen Hall died in 1890 at the Birchdale home and Dr. Robert Hall died in Concord in 1902. Both are buried in Millville Cemetery. These interesting facts of their joint professional career appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine, March 22, 1934. In 1938 the writer was in St. Petersburg and a handsome, white-haired old man was pointed out as Rev. T. C. H. Bouton, the grandson of this distinguished couple.

Tury brook in the neighborhood of the Daniel Hall house and the Capen house, flows from Tury (Turce) pond in Bow and takes its name, so it is

said from Tury Marie who once lived on the shore of the pond. He was a mighty man, six feet tall, and his feats of strength became legendary in Iron Works District. West of Tury brook is Bela's brook or, as Grandsir Daniel Hall called it, Peters brook. No doubt this name came from that Seaborn Peters who pioneered near Millville and to whom the Proprietors sold land south of Turkey bogs in 1738.

One of the oldest houses in Iron Works District stands at Wheeler's Corner as pictured. About 1750, Moses Noyes came to this neighborhood from Bow and took up land on the south side of Iron Works road. He married a daughter of Tury Marie and built a home—possibly this very house. He set out an orchard on both sides of the highway and, a generation or two ago, a few of the trees were still standing and still called "Noyes Orchard." Tradition tells that this little farm was once the property of Moses Day, one of the original Proprietors. If so, it was undoubtedly one of the eighty acre lot divisions.

Moses Noyes was licensed as an innholder in 1799. In 1805 he was drowned while crossing Turkey river near its entrance into the Merrimack. A later owner of this farm was Jacob Towle and at the opening of the nineteenth century, it belonged to Ebenezer Dustin who owned the mills at Bow Mills. Meanwhile the house had been moved to its present site a short distance to the east, and in 1801, Dustin sold the little farm of thirty-four acres to Benjamin Wheeler of Bedford, Mass.

A short distance down the road to Bow there was a small place where David Simpson had lived since about 1770 and next below Simpson's was the Emerson place settled about 1760. In time Wheeler acquired both these farms but the neighborhood considered them inferior farm land. To their surprise Benjamin Wheeler by shrewd methods developed it into a profitable farm. He had side Quaes as well, and in 1812, he was hauling granite for the first prison and again for the State House in 1816.

After Wheeler's death in 1848, his son, Benjamin, Jr., carried on the farm. Born in Woburn, Mass. before the family came to Concord, he was drafted in the War of 1812 and was afterward a captain in the militia. He died in 1870, leaving three sons, John C., Giles and Isaac F., all of whom were men of standing in their generation. Giles Wheeler left notes on the history of the Iron Works which are now in the Concord Room at the City Library and which have been a source of material for this chapter.

Farther west on Iron Works road and on the north side of the road, next east of Turkey river, stands the house which Moses Carter, son of Daniel the foundry man, built about 1790. The house has been rebuilt and was known to a later generation as the Philbrick place. Moses Carter and his wife had a family of eleven children and such was their reputation for hospitality that it was said "their latch string was always out." Abraham Duncklee who came to Concord from Hanover about 1830, seems to have been the owner of this place after Moses Carter's death in 1833, at the age of seventy-one. Duncklee married Susanna, daughter of Jacob Carter of Millville.

In 1801 Iron Works road was officially laid out from Nathaniel Abbot's house to Joseph Carter's house, three rods wide, and thence to Moses Noyes's house, four rods wide. A new road from Wheeler's Corner to the main village was laid out in 1820 corresponding to present South St. as far north as West St. The early highway to Wheeler's Corner and Bow seems to have been via Bow St. east of Bow brook, to avoid the deep ravine which has since been filled in. This old highway crossed Bow brook through present Rockingham St. directly into Iron Works road. The 1820 road is described as "beginning on the north side of the road from Moses Carter's to Concord Street near Benjamin Wheeler's house", running thence north-east to the center of the "old road east of Bow brook", following along a part of that road and ending at "a causeway near Arthur Rogers' house". Rogers' house was near the triangle at the junction of South St. and Broadway.

The bounds of Iron Works District seem to be flexible for it is a

a neighborhood subject to variation. Those who reminisce about the old days in Iron Works, tell stories of Silver Hill, Bog Road, South St, Bow and Garvin's Falls, as well as of Silk Farm road. This latter highway is undoubtedly a part of an old rangeway leading to eighty acre lots in the division of 1736. Near the Bow line the first settler on this road is said to have been Andrew Stone who served in the Crown Point expedition in 1756 and later, during the Revolution. He never gained title to this land but remained a squatter for some years. One of the few sordid tales coming down to us from these pioneer days, centers around a lawless daughter of Stone's. While her father was off at war her conduct was so immoral that some of the neighbors pulled the house down in an effort to get rid of her. At the town meeting in 1780, the warrant called for prosecution of these self-constituted reformers.

The actual owner of this land and adjacent property, was William Currier who came to Concord from Bow about 1760. He found it impossible to rid his land of the lawless Sarah even after the house had been destroyed, for she built a shack of bark to shelter her loom and "when all was snugly closed in, crawled in with her promiscuous family of five and held the fort until driven out by the cold." An old law with heavy penalty, protected a loom from wilful injury or removal and this was her safeguard. Currier was a cordwainer and he added to his farm that of Isaac Cheever who had come from Danvers, Mass. and settled on this road about 1750. Cheever was a successful farmer and built a house in which Currier probably lived until he, himself, built the large dwelling which still stands as pictured. This is the William Currier mentioned in Chapter XVI, because of the family's later identification with Millville.

After William Currier moved to Plymouth, this farm became the property of Wells Carter and his father, Col. John Carter, veteran of the Revolution and of the War of 1812, spent his last years there. The farm then comprised an hundred acres. Col. Carter was one of Concord's most

prominent citizens. About 1790, he pioneered in the forest of "Great Swamp" and there he built two houses for his sons, on property which later was made famous as "Nat White's Farm". One of these houses, built for his son, Aaron, stood on the site of the present house on the White farm and is now the ell of the house directly across Clinton St. The other house was built for his son, William Manley Carter, and stands as pictured^x. This house and its surrounding farm was purchased in 1830 by Capt. Amos Paul of Newfields who sold it to Nathaniel White in 1849.

Col. John Carter's enterprises were many and varied. He is said to have built a saw mill and a grist mill at Garvin's falls on the Bow side of the river: it is certain that he carried them on for a time and that he left them to move to "Bad Harbor", Bow, and built and carried on mills there. At one time he lived on the west side of Hall St. in a little one story house which fell to ruin as here picture^d, and which is now replaced by a bungalow which stands just north of the Bow line. He also built a house on the site of 166 South St. which later became the home of Jesse Read from Foxboro, Mass., listed in the 1844 Directory as "farmer, South St." Read was in Concord as early as 1817, as indicated by certificates of stock in the Londonderry Turnpike. Part of his house was moved to Iron Works road but was eventually destroyed by fire. Read is said to have been "a blunt spoken" somewhat eccentric man, but a great worker. In his young days he delighted in surpassing everyone else in work accomplished and asked nothing easier than to reap and bind an acre and a half of grain in a day.

Col. John Carter was engaged in brick making and brick yards flourished near various of his homes in Iron Works, on Clinton St. and Hall St. But it was Richard Worthen who was best known of our early brick makers. He moved from Bow to Iron Works road about 1790 and built a house on the south side of Iron Works road somewhat west of Wheeler's Corner. There he continued the making of trenails as he had done in Bow, carrying them to

ship builders by the oxcart load. Later he began brick making and furnished brick for both the prison and the State House. In 1835 he made the brick for the Academy on Sand hill (Academy St.), in his brick yard near present Thompson St. between South St. and Spring St., and his clay bed was east of South St. In 1821 after the new highway (now South St.) was opened, Worthen built himself a brick house on thereon and it stands, modernized, as in the picture. The surrounding farm comprised eighty-two acres.

Turning back to Silk Farm road, we find next north of the Wells Carter (William Currier) house, the old home of David Sanders (Saunders). The farm is one of the eighty acre lots and the deeds are available from 1736 when it was apportioned to Proprietor Robert Kimball. It approximated ninety-six acres. Lieut. Phineas Kimball (b. 1746) who settled in Appletown (East Concord) gave the farm to his son, Benjamin Kimball 3rd (b. 1781). In 1834, the Kimballs sold it to "John Saunders, Epsom, Gentleman" and described it as eighty acre Lot No. 74. An adjacent lot, "the Learned Lot" is mentioned recalling the name of another of the original Proprietors, Thomas Learned probably of Woburn, Mass. By whom the house was built we cannot tell, but it was a Sanders homestead for many years.

Next north of the Sanders place was the George Corliss farm extending along both sides of the highway north to Iron Works road. Corliss came to Concord from Salem, Mass. and bought this farm from the first settler, a colored man named Simons (Simonds), who had cleared the land, got a title and raised "a family-half white". After taking possession, Corliss built a house and barn on the east side of the road, long since gone. There were four Corliss sons, one of whom, John, built the house at Fush Market (Millville). James Corliss inherited the farm and the next family to live there was that of Thomas Carter Capen, son of Thomas Capen who came to Concord from Charlestown, Mass. in 1778 and married Mary Abbot (b. 1761) a daughter of Edward Abbot, Jr. Their son, Ebenezer Capen, was the one who took over the Bela Carter farm on Bog road. Thomas Capen died at sea in 1808.

One of the old Iron Works houses stands on Allison St. in Concord today and it has a singular history. It was once the home of Alpheus Chicker+ing and stood ~~toed~~ on the east side of South St. midway between Wheeler's Corner and the Bow line. He married Sally, daughter of Ebenezer Dustin, but Sally ran away from home with James Emerson, a neighbor, and the couple were living in Maine in 1827. A member of the Meeting-house in Concord since 1817, she was "dismissed" in 1826. Such domestic tragedy was almost unknown in the Concord of a century ago and her husband seems to have been distraught. He lost his home and the house was purchased and moved to the site where our picture shows it, ^{-x-} while he became a pauper, living in one alms house after another for years.

The taxable property of some of the prominent householders at Iron Works in 1757 is suggestive:

Daniel Carter- 2 heads (poll taxes) 1 house, 10 lands, 1 horse, 3 swine, 2 cows, 2 oxen, 3 three year olds, 2 yearlings.

Nathaniel Abbot, Jr. - 1 head, 1 house, 0 lands, 4 oxen, 2 cows, 1 ~~five~~ years old 1 swine.

Richard Haseltine- 1 house, 1 head, 27 lands, 4 oxen, 4 cows, 3 three year olds, 3 two year olds, 2 yearlings, 3 swine.

This last invoice indicates that Joseph Haseltine's father, Richard, lived on the farm on Silk Farm road in 1757 which accounts for four generations on this homestead.

In the early days of Iron Works District, its children depended upon the school house on Silk Farm road, but in 1817 the people raised funds to build their own neighborhood school. It stood just west of the Daniel Carter house and was a building 18 X 20 feet with 7 foot posts and cost \$140. Its one room had a stone fireplace and forty to sixty pupils were in attendance. Wolves were still common when this school was built and sometimes skulked about this spot in winter. As late as 1835 a large wolf was killed near the school house by Capt. Enoch Dow who, with

-x- See Josiah Robinson - Chap. XII: p. 20

other hunters, tracked the beast for a week from the northwest section of the town.

When the old school was finally abandoned, George T. Abbott who preserved so much of the District lore included in this chapter, purchased the humble little building and set it up between the ell and the barn of his house for use as a workshop. Unfortunately the shop burned in 1941. The Abbott house stands nearly opposite the Wells Carter house and is the only old house left on the east side of Silk Farm road. It was built by Mr. Abbott's father, Aaron Abbot (b. 1799) about 1840, on land purchased from Daniel Prince whose uncle, Dr. Jonathan Prince, was an early settler, on a part of the Wells Carter farm. Aaron Abbot was the son of Levi Abbot and grandson of the pioneer, Nathaniel Abbot, Jr.

The Iron Works has completed its cycle. Two hundred years ago its peaceful river was undisturbed except for the light-footed savage who stooped from the trail to drink. Followed the period when the forest rang with the pioneer's axe, and until the river was fretted by the clang of the forge and the whine of mill saws. It was a happy stream when children loitered on their way to school and a gentle stream when a melancholy poet lingered there to dream. Today its farms are growing to brush, its school children ride in a bus, its industries are no more. Peace returns with the years.