

Chapter XXIV.
Old School Districts.
Number Four, Number Five and Little Pond.

In the year 1805 a State law was passed requiring the orderly districting of public schools. Concord then had at least sixteen schools well distributed throughout her territory. Town meeting appointed a committee made up of a member from each school neighborhood, to plan with the Selectmen the method to be used for the districting. Three of the new districts were in farm neighborhoods not as yet considered in this story: "No. 4, West Parish where Capt. Samuel Knowlton lives", "No. 5, West of Lang Pond" and No. 6 at Little Pond where Nathan Ballard lives."

In 1833, methodical Dr. Bouton prepared a census of all such outlying districts and included it in his twenty-fifth anniversary sermon (1850) giving us the head of each family and the number in each household as recorded in his census. It is thus possible to reconstruct Districts 4, 5 and 6 as they were more than a century ago.

District No. 4 extended along the old "road from Orlando Brown's to Hopkinton". This is present Hutchins St. to present West Parish Road, over Parsonage Hill and Carter Hill and District No. 4 Road to Broad Cove and the Hopkinton line at the north side of Beech Hill. In the dip between Parsonage and Carter hills there is an old road branching to the right which runs diagonally down to Bog Road and River Road near Horse Hill bridge. This ancient road is so overgrown today that it is not easily found but, accepted by the town in 1819 and probably travelled much earlier, it was for long the only approach from District No. 4 to the bridge or to the ford which preceded the building of the bridge.

Traces of another ancient road leading from Lake View Drive not far from Henry Martin's old home (Sunnyside) north-westerly to present Little Road near Farnum Brothers' orchard, indicate the approach to the District from the south. It was not until 1821 that a road from Reuben Abbot's (on Lake View Drive) was laid out to David Carter's (at the four corners on top of Carter Hill). This 1821 road is called Little Road today.

It is said that old Reuben Abbot was highly indignant because this road invaded his premises, cutting between his house and barn. Parallel with Little road to the west was another highway connecting District No. 4 to District No. 5 and known long ago as Davis road. It is now abandoned and overgrown.

The family nearest West Concord village to be included in District No. 4 was that of Stephen Carlton, the first of the eighteen families and ninety-one persons listed in the 1833 census of the District. The Carltons were newcomers to Concord and when they settled on this farm it is probable that the house consisted of the ell only of the home shown in the picture. The main house was built in the forties and a descendant (Henry Holden) says: "My grandfather cut all the timber from his own lot, hauled it to mill to be sawed and back again, and Jehiel Knight built the house - one of his first, if not the first." Jehiel Knight was an old time builder in West Parish and his own home was on the road around the pond (Lake View Drive) a short distance west of Sunnyside. Long ago it was struck by lightning and destroyed. One assumes that Knight St. was named for Jehiel Knight.

Mr. Holden further relates: "My grandfather, Stephen Carlton, was Concord's first market gardener. He produced the first tomatoes and had two patches of asparagus, then quite unusual. He considered his vocation a dignified one. Went to market with a frock coat and top hat. His farm had a broad frontage on Long pond. Clearing the ten acre field, he hauled the rocks to the edge of the pond until the whole shore made an abrupt approach to deep water.**** That ten acre lot is now planted to pines. ***** I used to pick peas and string beans at a shilling a bushel where the pines now stand."

Mr. Carlton raised for market not only love apples (tomatoes) and other vegetables, but fruit as well. When his house was completed the

front yard was neatly laid out and fenced, as was the custom, to keep out the hens and chickens. Either side of the front walk he planted a cherry tree—one white and one red—of a variety new in Concord and north of the house he set out a peach orchard.

At the corner where the road turns toward Hobbs Farm, stands the long ago home of Christopher Rowell. For some unknown reason his family is listed in District No. 3, the West Village community, but this is the place to tell of him and his descendents. Bouton lists him as one of the patriarchs who sat in "the old men's seat" in the Meeting-house, wearing the customary white linen cap in summer and the red woolen cap in winter, which distinguished the venerable occupants of that seat of honor for Sunday service. Christopher Rowell was a man of varied experience. Living first in Amesbury, Mass. and later in Newtown, he received an ensign's commission in 9th Company, 7th Regiment of Foot, in 1764 from Gov. Benning Wentworth. The following year when he was thirty-five, he, in company with a friend, made a trip to St. John's Canada, which took seventeen or eighteen days. Remaining for a year or more, he engaged in lumber business, taking the opportunity to visit Montreal.

Mr. Rowell married Ruth Morse of Amesbury and sometime prior to 1782 the family moved to this small farm then owned by Mrs. Rowell's father. In 1790, their son, Christopher, Jr., (b. 1769) bought the farm. The son carried on his father's trade as shoemaker and he also taught school in West Parish. His wife was a daughter of Jabez Abbot at Beaver Meadow and their son, Ira, (b. 1797) was the third generation to cultivate the farm which had been increased in acreage during the years.

Ira Rowell established the second milk route in town. He was prominent in civic affairs and in church activities and served as deacon at the Meeting-house from 1829 until the new church was formed in West Village. He was member of the organizing committee for this new church and

served it as deacon until his health failed in 1876. The story is told of him that he sat in a wing pew facing the pulpit and that when sleepiness threatened to overcome him, he simply stood in his place for the rest of the service. Dea. Rowell was in his prime at the time of our District survey and taking active part in the first Temperance Society organized in Concord in 1830.

At present Hobbs farm, already described in its early days, Isaac Farnum, grandson of Joseph, the first settler, was living in 1833. This family like the Rowells was included in District No. 3. Parsonage hill so called because an 80 acre lot on its south slope was assigned to the Parsonage right in the early days, seems to have had no settlers so that Carter hill next west was the real center of District No. 4. Since Samuel Knowlton's house is mentioned in the old record we first show its picture from an old photograph, as it stands in the north-west angle of the cross roads on top of Carter hill. Capt. Knowlton was son of the soldier blacksmith, Robert Knowlton, who lived on Dimond hill. When a young man, Samuel came to Concord from Gloucester, Mass., married a sister of Jacob Dimond, settled here on Carter hill and opened a smithy directly across the highway from his house. Business was good, for aside from the fact that this was the center of a populous neighborhood, there was much travel back and forth to Hopkinton.

Captain Knowlton's commission, dated 1815, was in the 5th company of Infantry. An amusing story concerning the Captain and his good wife comes down through the years. They were devout folk and faithful in their observance of the Sabbath but on this occasion they somehow lost a day in their reckoning. Mrs. Knowlton had started her Saturday baking and her husband had lighted his forge fire, when an excited neighbor rushed in to admonish them because it was Sunday.

This hill on which the Knowlton house stands is properly known as



Map of 80 Acre Lots on Carter Hill

From Proprietors' Records.

Carter hill for, in the early years that family dominated it even as Elliotts dominated the Brough. The earliest settler, however, seems to have been Enoch Webster who, in the last days of the Indian wars, lived near the site of Capt. Knowlton's smithy. (Chapter XI) The family could not have lived there long for we have no further record of them in the neighborhood.

This Hopkinton road has been renamed West Parish road as far as the four corners and beyond that it is called District No. 4 road. On the north side of this old highway the first settler seems to have been Ezekiel Carter (b. 1737 in Salisbury, Mass.) who came to Rumford about 1740 with his father, Ephraim, and his older brother, Dr. Ezra Carter 1st. In 1760 the father deeded Ezekiel a farm of 182 acres on this hilltop, consisting of Lots 64 and 65 (on our map) laid out respectively to Christopher Carlton and William White. Presumably Ezekiel did not wait long after the Indian wars before he began clearing his land. Well before the Revolution, he married the Widow Eleanor (Eastman) Johnson who had two young sons, Timothy and Jonathan.

The Carters had five children two of whom were sons—David and Ephraim 2d. In 1795 Ezekiel gave to Ephraim that portion of the farm west of Little road and a part of this is now included in the Dimond farm. About 1780 it was partly Johnson property and there was a small house upon it which Ephraim and his wife, Dorcas Presby, used as their home. Their homestead consisted of 5¹/₂ acres and it became the property of their sons, Ephraim 3d and John, Jr. together with additional land inherited from Ephraim 2d. As early as 1826, the small Knowlton farm had been taken out of the Carter farm which extended from the highway down the slope to the Contoocook river.

Coincident with this homestead property of Ephraim 2d and his sons, his brother David owned 150 acres next east which reached down to the river and easterly to the old road from Parsonage hill to the Contoocook

bridge. As early as 1811 this was David Carter's "homestead farm" and his house stood in the northeast angle of the cross roads at the top of the hill. Till very recent years the cellar hole was visible.

Shortly after Ezekiel Carter established his family on the north slope of Carter hill, his nephew, Ezra Carter, married Phebe Whittemore of Pembroke and left his father Daniel's home at Iron Works, to settle in West Parish. His large and prosperous farm lay on the south side of District No. 4 road and west of Little road and his house stood high on the hill where Farnum Brothers' orchard is now located. Our picture shows the house before it began to fall to pieces, Mrs. John Burgum who was a frequent visitor there more than a century ago, wrote: "This might be called three houses in one, the center part was built about 1780 by young Timothy Carter (son of Ezra) for his charming wife, who was Miss Judith Chandler, grand daughter of Rev. Timothy Walker. And after a while as their family increased they built on the west part. Then again after a time they built on another part on the east side. Consequently there are three sets of stairs leading up to the rooms above, even two attic stairs. There are eight large rooms all furnished with big fireplaces, besides two back rooms. The two west bed rooms were small. Below them was a wash room, a milk room and a store room and shed. The barn was 80 x 40 feet."

One inaccuracy occurs in this interesting description of this old house. The "charming" Miss Judith Chandler was born in 1770, so she could hardly have been a bride in 1780. Actually she married Timothy Carter in June 1794. Moreover their great grand daughter, Mrs. Frank E. Dimond called this the homestead of Ezra Carter and claimed that he built the oldest part of the ell. It might well have been enlarged when young Timothy brought hither his bride and Timothy, himself, undoubtedly built the easterly part which faced Little road, in the days of his prosperity

Mrs. Dimond declared this was an exceptionally good house for its

day. She treasured strips of plaster from the northeast parlor painted in a stencil of a vine in colors. This border was around the windows and at the top of the side walls and also formed panels on the walls. The parlor chamber above had similar decoration and there was a stencil border around the upper ~~hall~~ window. She also had a part of a window casing, a handmade moulding on a board ~~six~~ inches wide. This house was sold out of the Carter family during Mrs. Dimond's generation and so neglected that it fell slowly to utter decay.

Squire Carter as he was always called, was a man of substance, listed in deeds as "gentleman" in distinction from the small land owner "yeoman". In 1833 his family was listed by Dr. Bouton as consisting of ten persons - the largest in District No. 4 at that time. With him there lived in this large house, his son, Abiel with his wife and children.

Close neighbors to Squire Carter's household was the Tenney family in the small white house down the hill and on the east side of Little road. The origin of this house is obscure and the Tenneys are not listed by Dr. Bouton in 1833. It seems probable that this is the Chandler farm which Bouton says was sold by the town to Christopher ~~Revel~~ in 1829. How or why or when it came into the possession of the town is, as yet, a mystery. In 1846, 28 acres of the farm was sold (by Henry Martin, whose farm, now Sunnyside, adjoined) to Jonathan E. Tenney, ^{Jr.} principal of Pembroke Academy and John E. Tenney. The former was a brother of "Priest Tenney" of the West Parish church and this purchase was designed to be a home for his mother. Mrs. Tenney outlived all her nine children except her son, Daniel C. Tenney who lived with her in this house at the time of her death in 1898 at the age of one hundred and three. Daniel's daughter, Annie, married George C. Little and the ell on the east end of the house was built for their home. The Littles lived there until their death and the highway preserves their name. There is a tradition in District No. 4 that earlier occupants or owners of this picturesque place, were a

thriftless lot held in low esteem by the neighborhood. This leads to the surmise that the town took over the farm for unpaid taxes.

We now return to Lt. Ezekiel Carter's household at the top of the hill. The youngest of his five children was Joanna (b. 1771). Family tradition says that Joanna was a slender, fair girl with wavy hair and a lively disposition. Being the youngest in the family and attractive as well, she seems to have been indulged. She had her own saddle horse named Pomp, and was an expert horsewoman, ranging over the countryside. She often rode down a bridle path to the ford across the river, located near the present railroad bridge, and across to her half-brother Jonathan Johnson's new home high on the slope of Horse-hill.

When Joanna was about sixteen, a young man named Benjamin Buswell came from Salisbury, Mass. to work on her father's farm. Life had not been easy for young Buswell. He remembered that day in '75 when his father came hurrying into the house, took his gun from its rack over the fireplace, kissed his family farewell and went to his duty as minute man. Benjamin was a lad of nine and he never forgot, for his grandsir took him by the hand and together they trudged to the highest elevation in Haverhill and there they waited, hearing the cannon boom at Bunker Hill forty miles away. Benjamin remembered his father's death a year later—the result of exposure and exhaustion during the battle—and the ensuing years of struggle to help mother and sisters through the war years of poverty.

Now, at the age of twenty-one, the young man was free to make his own way in the world and this he proceeded to do with efficiency and despatch. For two years he labored for Lt. Carter and of course he fell in love with Joanna. He saved his wages and bought a tract of land at the foot of Beech hill on the Hopkinton highway, and there he worked early and late to clear the wilderness. He cut and hewed timber and

framed a house for his Joanna and on Christmas Day 1790 he brought his nineteen year old bride to a home of love and hope. The only picture of this home, long since gone, is a color sketch from which our copy was made.

Benjamin and Joanna lived together for sixty-one years and raised a family of twelve children, all of whom lived to maturity and some to great age. The Buswell farm was large and prosperous—a fact which Benjamin acknowledged with characteristic understatement: "Well, I've managed to keep out of debt." He was a Yankee in his versatility, for one of his descendents* at a Buswell family reunion on Christmas Day, 1893, spoke as follows: "In addition to carrying on his farm, he was in demand because of his skill with sick animals. From this vocation he developed an aptitude for medicine when trained physicians were few and far between. It was the period when bleeding was the popular remedy for human ills, and 'Doctor' Buswell, as he came to be called, was successful in this drastic treatment. He earned a reputation as a bone setter, and he extracted aching teeth. He compounded spring bitters and syrups, liniments, salves and lotions for both man and beast; and, withal, he was kindly and benevolent, and the poor were treated free."

This unusual man lived to the age of eighty-five, dying in the summer of 1851 more than three score years after he made his clearing in the wilderness at the foot of Beech hill. His end was "in full faith of a glorious immortality". His Joanna outlived her husband for more than ten years and then, having retained her mental powers to the last, she closed a devoted life of Christian wifedom and motherhood in a vision so ecstatic that her last words were— "O, Glory! Glory!"

The present Dimond farm next west of Capt. Knowlton's house on the north side of District No. 4 road, combines two original 80 acre lots

*Augusta G. Chase of Davisville.

Ezra Abbot whose daughter Rose married Jacob Dimond. The present house is only a portion of the original which formerly provided room for two families. Years ago the west end was torn down.

Lt. Ezra Abbot (b. 1756) was the son of Dea. George Abbot and in his youth served in the Revolution. At the disastrous encounter at Fort Cedars, May 19, 1776, he was in the group captured by the enemy and lost his arms, equipment; and most of his clothing. The following year he fought at Bennington. In 1782 he married and settled in West Parish and there, probably in this house, Rose was born. Her young mother died soon after and Ezra married a second time with the same sad result. A third wife, Jane Jackman, bore three children, the youngest of whom was Benjamin (b. 1808). In 1817 Ezra Abbot was approaching old age and he deeded to this boy half of all his property, including half the house.

As the years passed Benjamin was not content to remain on the farm and before he was thirty years of age, he sold his interest and bought a farm in "Hartford about one mile from Harriot's" according to an old letter preserved in the Dimond family. In the same letter is the statement that Benjamin in selling his patrimony, stipulated that his aged father and mother should "occupy that part of the house that they now live in as long as they want it." (Letter dated 1835)

Andrew Austin was the purchaser of this property in 1835 but he was evidently occupying half of the house in 1833 for he is listed with a family of two in Dr. Bouton's censuses. Lt. Abbot's family is listed as numbering seven. In the deed conveying the land to Austin, one parcel is described as lying on the north side of the road and a plot three rods square is reserved "for the schoolhouse where it now stands", next west of the Dimond farm. It was a building well thought of in its day for when neighboring District No. 5 planned a new building in 1816, it was stipulated that it be finished as well as the schoolhouse by Corporal Ezra Abbot's." Corporal Abbot lived at what is now known as Maplewood Farm west of the schoolhouse

and our picture reproduces an old photograph of the house which is still standing.

This Ezra Abbot was the son of Reuben Abbot who lived where Little road starts at Lake View ^{and} ~~Drive~~, he is sometimes referred to as Ezra Jr. to distinguish him from his distant cousin of the same name. In 1833 his son, John, was living in the house and the entire family numbered eight. In 1812, John purchased this farm from his father, with the usual proviso that father and mother have a life interest in it. The house is of the sturdy type common on prosperous farms of that time. Its frame is of oak beams ten by twelve inches and there are six fireplaces one of which is large enough to hold four foot wood, with a brick oven and an ash pit by its side.

A century or more ago this farm came into possession of the Gile family and there is a family tradition that the housewife of that day was in the habit of doing her summertime washing at the well across the road from the house. One day she was interrupted by a big bear and perhaps her pleasant out-door laundering ended with that experience.

Cornorral Abbot had a twin brother named Nathan (b. 1765) who married Phebe Abbot of the Iron Works family and they lived next west of Maplewood Farm in the little house on the knoll above the highway. Their son, Hazen, inherited the farm and its latest owner was a member of the family, Miss Arzelia Abbot, who died very recently (1949). She called her home "Seven Acres". A brother of Hazen Abbot was William (b. 1793) who married Dorcas Carter, daughter of Ephraim Carter 2d. It was Col William Abbot who built the first church in West Parish Village in 1832 and accomplished the feat of "raising the frame without use of ardent spirits" - a record for those days.

Travelling along the present day highway toward Hopkinton, one finds the old home of one of Squire Timothy Carter's grandsons, Augustine Carter. It stands at the foot of the hill and well south of the road and

there is today no other house standing between "Seven Acres" and the town line. But if one were to search in the scrub growth along the roadside, one might count many cellar holes, the mute evidence of a considerable population in years gone by. Nearly opposite Augustine Carter's house stood the home of John Friend Elliott (b. 1787), a son of "Soldier" John Elliott. There were five in his family in 1833, six in Nathan Abbott's. Long ago fire destroyed the Elliott house.

Crossing Mill Pond brook, one comes to the site of Moody Dow's home on the north side of the road. Living with him was his father, Ebenezer Dow, an old Indian fighter and Revolutionary veteran. In his old age he had a comfortable pension and was "able to sit by his doorway and tell tales of how battles were won." In this quiet spot in District No. 4 this old man of great endurance and greater patriotism re-told the thrilling adventures of by-gone years to wide-eyed children and grandchildren.

Ebenezer Dow's early life was in Newbury, Mass. and at the age of fifteen he enlisted for Indian service under Capt. James Smith, becoming within the next year (1756) an accredited Ranger and scout. He fought at Ticonderoga and Crown Point and was present at the horrible massacre at Fort William Henry where he heard "groans of the dying-praying and cursing-yells of savages- all mixed together." He told of adventures at the capture of Louisburg in 1758 and at the surrender of Quebec the next year when, he said, the fighting was the worst in all his experience- "hand to hand with knives."

During his Ranger days he was in command of a company ordered to surprise and destroy an Indian camp. During the march provisions were exhausted but the Rangers felt confident of finding food at their destination; but when they arrived at the camp it was deserted with nothing left behind except a hide hanging outside the camp. This hide was apportioned equally among the famished Rangers and the combined share of Ebenezer and three others was a piece no larger than two hands. They made a broth

and hoped to gain strength for the return trip, but only four out of the entire company survived. The weather was bitter cold and when Ebenezer took off his mittens to unstrap his snowshoes in order to walk across a frozen lake, a gust of wind blew them away. His hands froze badly but when he reached shelter and food, he was so crazed with hunger that he thrust both hands into a steaming bean porridge with painful results. In proof of this experience, the old man would show his badly disfigured hands.

But such experiences did not deter him when, in the prime of his manhood, the colonies began their struggle for liberty. On the 19th of April 1775, Ebenezer Dow was a minute man at Concord bridge and after the fight was over he went to Lexington where he saw the victims laid out on the village green ready for burial. He fought at Bunker Hill and followed Arnold in the tragic expedition to Quebec, suffering the almost unbelievable torture of that winter march through the wilderness of northern Maine. At Quebec he was taken prisoner but was exchanged in time to re-enlist and fight again at Bennington and Stillwater. He died at his son's home in 1817 at the age of eighty.

Moody Dow married for his second wife Joanna (b. 1770), daughter of Oliver Hoit of Horse-hill. After twenty-eight years of life together, he felt called to become a Shaker and when his family declined to join him, he left his home (1830) and joined the Family at Canterbury where he died 1838. His son, Enoch (b. 1806), carried on the home place. He married Judith Chandler and was one of the selectmen in 1837. In 1833 there were four in his family.

West of the Dow farm was the farm of Amos Abbot, Jr. (b. 1791) son of Nathan Abbot of "Seven Acres". The schoolhouse in District No. 4 evidently became inadequate for the number of children in attendance for, in 1829, the District voted that several families should be transferred to a new union district and the west boundary of No. 4 was set just east

of Amos Abbot's house. The new school was built at the foot of Beech hill directly west of the town line and the new district centered about Buswell's Corner at the junction of the Hopkinton road and the road running south over Beech hill.

One of the last houses to survive in this union district was the old home of Ephraim Fisk which stood at Broad Cove in the angle made by the junction of River road and District No. 4 road. The picture shows it as it decayed before falling into complete ruin. In this house lived two gallant soldiers of the Revolution who fought at Bennington. About 1772 Ephraim Fisk came to West Parish with his wife, Mehetable Frost, and their family of children. The oldest was Ephraim Jr. who was born when his mother was thirteen and a half years old. He, himself, was barely sixteen and small for his age when his father enlisted for service, but with Yankee ingenuity he tied his hat band tight to keep his hat high on his head and pulled himself so erect that he passed muster and went to war with his sire. At Bennington he was one of the detail ordered to carry the wounded Capt. Taylor from the field—a difficult task over rising ground with cannon balls ploughing furrows "as wide as those made by a breaking-up plow," while the injured officer fell from one faint into another. But, as Ephraim Jr. was wont to add when telling the story, "a kind Providence protected me." According to family tradition, the father of the family was, at his death, buried in the pasture across the road from his house.

Before forest fires swept Buswell's Corner, the westerly limit of old District No. 4, there were between Augustine Carter's house and the town line, five houses, a shoe shop and a saw mill on the Hopkinton road, while on the Beech hill road there were four Buswell houses and a blacksmith shop. All this had grown from Benjamin Buswell's clearing of the land and building a home for Joanna. In the early years in that home, tradition tells that she still travelled on horseback as when she was a girl: that she often rode from her home along the old highway to Carter

hill for a visit at her father's house, but she rode carefully now with a babe in her arm and a tiny child on the pillion behind, happily bound for Grandsir Carter's.

On Christmas Day, 1893, the descendants of Benjamin and Joanna held re-union to celebrate the one hundred and third anniversary of their happy wedding day. There and then these and many other tales were told of the old times at Buswell's Corner. The Corner had grown into a prosperous little hamlet. Benjamin's house had stood on the west side of Beech hill road so it was actually in Hopkinton, but his son, Andrew built on the Concord side of the road and thither he brought his bride, Zilpha Dimond, in 1820. In 1833 their family numbered six. They lived to celebrate their Golden Wedding in that same house- a home proverbial for its hospitality. In later years some descendent added a dance hall to the house and "Faraway Farm" became a social center for the countryside. But, alas, the last of all these houses fell prey to forest fire in 1911 and only barren country is left, the haunt of fox and deer.

On Davis road (now discontinued) which climbed the west slope of Pine hill, and at its highest point, lived Capt. Samuel Davis (b. 1759), son of Lt. Robert Davis of the main village. In March 1776 he enlisted as private under Capt. Enoch Coffin and marched to Great Island (Portsmouth) where he served seven months. In May 1777 he enlisted as corporal under Lt. Jeremiah Abbot and served at Portsmouth until ordered in June, to Rhode Island where he served under Capt. Simon Marston until January 1778. In August he volunteered again at Concord and served as corporal under Capt. Ebenezer Webster in Rhode Island. This old house of the Davis family stood until recent years when it was destroyed by fire and only the cellar hole remains.

The old records of School District No. 4 have been preserved in the Dimond family, opening with the date Jan. 27, 1808, warning "the freeholders and other inhabitants of the District qualified to vote in Town

affairs to meet at the school House now standing" and "to raise I73 dollars to repair said school House". The committee to superintend such repairs consisted of Timothy Carter, Lt. Ezra Abbot and Moody Dow. Ten months later, in November, at an adjourned meeting, the work of the committee was approved and it was voted that a committee of three should have power "to appoint all futer meetings." As usual the committee had a military flavor-Capt. Samuel Davis, Lt. Ezra Abbot and Corporal Ezra Abbot. Arrangements for hiring "a Master to keep a School" were left to another committee and it was "voted to vendue the Master to board at the lowest bidder struck off to Capt. Samuel Davis at one dollar and fifteen cents per week. This figure was underbid the next year and the Master boarded with John Abbot at \$I.I4 per week. At that the Master doubtless lived well for these thrifty folk were not niggardly.

It was the custom to divide the school year into two terms. The summer term began after May I, in charge of a Mistress since only the youngest children attended. The winter term began after Thanksgiving with a Master in charge of the older boys who were free to go to school after harvest. In I8I0 it was "Voted to raise \$6.00 by tax to furnish the school house with necessary utensils" and in I8I4, "Voted that every person furnish 2 ft. of wood for every scholar he should send." In later years the tuition for "non-resident Scholars" was twelve and one half cents per week. In I8I4 it was voted to take a census of the District but the report has been lost. The I833 census taken by Dr. Bouton lists two citizens who are as yet, a mystery: J. Knowles with two in the family and Moses Chase with a family of six. One of these probably lived at the Tenney place on Little road.

On the west side of the road from the four corners on Carter hill down to the bridge across the Contoocook, there is a place which long went by the name of Bridge View Farm. The buildings with one exception, are of a much later date than those described in this chapter; ~~the~~

exception,¹⁵ the horse barn — said to have been an old dwelling moved from the south-east corner at the crossroads on the hill. A new home has been built on this site but before that an old cellar hole marked the place of the ancient house, which neighborhood tradition declares was once "a fort house" dating back to the days of Indian terror. Who built it and when is the top mystery of District No. 4 but in its latter years it was Farnum property. It is said that Moses Farnum (b. 1769) lived in the house and this seems reasonable since he twice married into the Carter family — 1. Rhoda Carter (b. 1771) 2. Esther Carter (b. 1778) both of whom were sisters of Squire Timothy Carter. In 1821 this was part of the estate of Enoch Farnum who married Dorcas Davis, daughter of Capt. Samuel Davis. Later the owner was David Farnum, son of Isaac Farnum, and as late as 1860 his widow occupied the house.

The record of District No. 4 may fittingly be closed with the story of a Thanksgiving Day celebrated in 1836 at the home of Squire Timothy Carter. This account was written by Mrs. John Burgum (Emma Gannell) and published years ago in the Granite Monthly. Emma Gannell was a girl of English birth who, in babyhood, became the protegee and companion of Sarah, Countess of Rumford. The Countess who then lived in London, brought the young girl to this country for a visit to relatives and friends in Woburn, Mass. and Concord, and during their stay they attended this party here recorded, and loaned by Mrs. Burgum for this purpose.

"High upon the very crest of the hill, the dear old red house stood, spacious in size and angular in form, and no road beyond the house, it being owned by Mr. Timothy Carter, built about 1780, with nearly 400 acres of land. Well, here we are, on a week's visit to dear grandpa Carter's ~~the~~ Countess after an absence of nearly twenty-five years, and Emma's first. This old homestead was always considered the home of peace, plenty and contentment. It being Saturday everyone was busy. Even the Countess

lent a hand in paring apples for the pies and Baby Marthy had fun with the skins that Emma fixed as figures and letters, and everyone was in fine spirits. The two brick ovens, one in the sitting room, the other in the kitchen, were filled with all sorts of goodies to be baked. And the long crane over the fire in the kitchen had kettles hung on it boiling other goodies.

Well, the Great Day came, and the fine weather continued, little or no snow on the ground, so all the guests came on wheel carriages and at an early hour. Twenty-two, and the inmates of the house, including the Countess and her Emma, eleven. Their ages were from seventy years—Grandma Carter, and fourteen months old Baby Marthy. The seven children were asked to go into the parlor and play while their elders had their dinner, and the baby being Queen of the party, was enthroned on her mother's lap at the first table, thus: in the sitting room of four sunny windows:

Squire Carter and wife, Dr. Ezra Carter and wife, Son, Capt. Abiel Carter and wife and baby, Son, Mr. Ezra Carter and wife, daughter, Countess of Rumford, cousin, Mr. Joseph Robinson, Postmaster, Miss Ann Clark, Miss Selina Clark, sisters of Mrs. Dr. Carter.

In the center of the table was placed a 27 pound Turkey, surrounded by a boiled ham, roast chickens, chicken pie, cracker pudding, squash, potatoes, onions, turnips, cranberry sauce, tea, coffee, loaf sugar and cream. On the sideboard were cup custards, pies, cakes, nuts, grapes, plums, pears and peaches.

At three o'clock the parlor door was opened by Cousin Judith Chandler an inmate of the house for many years, who asked the children in to dinner: Thus—Timothy, Frank, Sarah and Augustine, children of Capt. Carter, aged sixteen, fourteen, nine and three years; Edward, son of Dr. Carter, aged three; Lizzie, daughter of Mrs. Ezra Carter, aged five; Emma, aged ten, Mr. Jacob Carter, a helper on the farm and Miss Chandler who presided at the second table, that was still provided with the fat of the land.

It being a bright moonlight night, the guests lingered along until late. The elders conversed and the children played games. All ate fruit,

nuts and parched corn, drank sweet cider. Then the guests went home in a merry mood. Well do I remember seeing two men, just before sunset, leading a horse into the front door of the kitchen dragging a four foot log and when in front of the fireplace, the other man would ~~unhitch~~ the log and roll it on to the back of the fire, then cover it with ashes, and renovate the hot embers, put on small wood on the andirons; the other man would lead the horse out by the back door into the barn. This performance (sic) was gone through evenings. The log burned into coals during the twenty-four hours so that the fire never went out or rarely ever. If it did, the flint and steel and tinder box had to be used, for in those days friction matches were unknown."

A pleasant picture, this, of a prosperous, happy people in District No. 4.

Next door neighbor on the south was District No. 5, "west of Long pond," with Davis road and present Little road connecting it with District No. 4. In 1833 there were thirteen families in this District with the astonishing number of ninety-five persons. Henry Martin (Jr.) used to say that the sixty scholars in his school were mostly from four families and his own household numbered at the time, seven people. His home and that of other pioneer families around the head of Long pond have been described in Chapter XV. Daniel Abbot's old house was, at this later time, occupied by his son, Nathan K., with a family of five. Directly across the road lived his eldest brother, Samuel, with a household of eight. He and his wife, Mary Story, had a remarkable record of sixty-two years of married life and death separated them by only a space of three weeks. Their home disappeared many years ago. Old Reuben Abbot had been gathered to his fathers and his son, Reuben, Jr., lived in the old house at the corner of Little road with a family of eleven in the year 1833. Reuben, Jr. (b. 1754) and his brother Elias (b. 1757) had served several campaigns during the Revolution.

A story told by Dr. Bouton concerning the pioneer generation is pertinent here because of the proximity of this neighborhood with the neighborhood on Carter hill. Esther Martin, wife of Henry, Sr., together with her friend on the hill, Phebe Whittemore Carter (Mrs. Ezra), travelled on snowshoes to Horse-hill three miles away, to carry aid to a sick woman. The tradition is that they took with them such supplies as might be needed, in sacks slung on their backs, and with gun in hand, to defend themselves against beast or prowling Indian, they trudged through the woods and across the frozen Contoocook. These were days of true neighborliness and there is ample evidence that they were days of romance^{too} among the younger generation in Districts No. 4 and 5.

In 1769 the town accepted a road from the head of Long pond to Hopkinton and it was on this road that District No. 5 centered. The road leaves the older highway around the pond at a point a little south of the Daniel Abbot house and, climbing the south slope of Pine hill, runs westerly to the Hopkinton line on the south slope of Beech hill. It is properly called today, District No. 5 road, but it is now discontinued before it reaches the Hopkinton line. The first settler on this road seems to have been Jonathan Emerson who built his house, according to family tradition, about 1762 as described in Chapter XV.

The District was organized in 1816 when it was voted to purchase a lot two rods square from Isaac Emerson, "west of the mudhole near his house, and as nigh the mudhole as will be convenient on the west side of the same." On this lot the District built a schoolhouse 18 x 22, in close proximity to the Emerson house which was then a story and a half building facing east. The house as it appears in the picture (Chapter XV) was enlarged and turned round by a descendent of Isaac's. The latter had a family of three in 1833.

Reference should be made to the map of lots on top of Carter hill (p. 5) for the farms on the north side of District No. 5 road appear

as the original 80 acre lots apportioned to the original Proprietors in 1737. The Emerson farm was Lot 46, apportioned to Thomas Blanchard, but sold to Emerson by Nathaniel Rolfe of Haverhill, Mass. in 1762, ninety-four acres, for "50 pounds Lawful money." The south boundary of Lot 46 and those in line to the west, is the rangeway which became District No. 5 road of today. Three of these Lots, it is to be noticed, border on Lot 70, the Ephraim Davis lot, which became part of the Dimond farm on Carter hill. District No. 4 and District No. 5 were neighbors, indeed.

A little to the west of the new schoolhouse was the cross road known as Davis road and still further to the west, an old abandoned highway called Dimond road leads to the south. At the corner of this Dimond road stands the little old house here pictured, built by Reuben Dimond, son of the pioneer on Dimond hill. Reuben and his wife, Mary Currier, brought up a family of eleven children of whom the sixth was Jacob who settled the Dimond farm on Carter hill. Two of Jacob's sisters married two Knowlton brothers and lived not too far from this home. Sarah was the wife of Capt. Samuel Knowlton and Hannah married Robert Knowlton, Jr. and lived in the house still standing on the old rangeway over Horse-hill. A third sister, Zilpha, married Andrew Buswell at Buswell's Corner. Such relationships-and they abounded in these neighborhoods-suggest that the old cross roads from Pine hill to Carter hill were well travelled a century and more ago.

In 1825 shortly before his death, Reuben Dimond deeded his farm of ninety acres to his son, William, whose family included five people in 1833. At one time Reuben had owned the farm directly across "the highway from the head of Long Pond to Hopkinton beach hill, so-called" and this he sold in 1785 to Richard Flanders, Jr. of Millville. This was Lot 44 on our map, apportioned to David Kimball in 1737. Richard and his wife, Molly West Flanders, moved to this farm and made their home in a house which stood on the north side of the highway on that section which is

now closed to travel. There they brought up a family of seven children, the youngest son, Jacob, (b. 1795) inheriting the place. Jacob continued the family tradition for he and his wife, Huldah Abbot, had a family of seven children and a son, Jacob Nelson Flanders, succeeded to the home place. This line ended with the death of his daughter, Lucia A. Flanders, some years since. Before that time the old home had been destroyed by fire. Miss Flanders was one of the last representatives in First Church of the oldtime families on far away farms. She drove in every Sunday riding in a buggy drawn by a faithful old white horse.

Richard Flanders Jr. (b. 1751) seems to have been the head of the household in 1833 for he is listed with a family of nine.

On the south side of the highway and east of Dimond road was the farm of another early settler- Abner Farnum, who served during the Revolution in Capt. Daniel Livermore's company in 1777. His father, Joseph Farnum (Hobbs Hill Farm) gave him the choice of all lands in his possession and Abner decided upon this Pine hill farm because, so family tradition tells, of the "fair meadow" thereon. This farm was 80 acre lot No. 41, granted to John Pecker. There Abner and his wife made a home for thirteen children and John, his son, was deeded half the farm and half the buildings in 1814. In 1820 after the father died, the other heirs gave John quitclaim on the "estate of our late Hon'd Father deceased." One of the romances of District No. 5 was John's courting and marriage with William Dimond's daughter, Miriam. In 1833 John Farnum was head of a household of ten persons. Our copy of an old picture shows the original Farnum house which was torn down not long ago when the more recent addition was rebuilt.

Near neighbors of the Farnums were the Abbots who lived in the west angle of the highway and Davis road on what seems to have been Lot 45 granted to John Austin. Moses Abbot (b. 1752) was the son of Nathaniel Abbot who pioneered at Iron Works. In 1774 he purchased this hill farm from his father. He served in Capt. Joshua Abbot's company in 1776. In 1814

he sold the farm to his son, Levi, and in 1833 there must have been three generations living in the house for Moses Abbot is listed with a family of three and Levi with nine. The ell of the present house is of ancient construction and is, undoubtedly, a part of the original house.

Directly east of the Moses Abbot house is the Emerson Homestead but the schoolhouse "nigh the mudhole" is no more. Across the highway from the Emerson house stands the the old home of John Flanders, now happily restored from decay. John was the son of Richard Flanders, Jr. and he married Rachael Abbot (b. 1788), daughter of Samuel Abbot who lived down the hill at the head of Long pond. They were married in 1812 and this house was built for the bride. Of their nine children all but one lived to adult life and the youngest son, George W. Flanders, stayed on the farm with his aged and widowed mother. The last of the family to occupy this old home were two grand daughters of John and Rachael, the Misses Willis.

John Flanders had a little shop across the road from his home where he made shoes in the intervals between his farm duties. His family was notable for musical talent, his son George being proficient with both flute and violin as well as having a fine singing voice. It was the writer's privilege to call upon the two little, white-haired old ladies shortly before they left forever this home of their grandfather's - Miss Marietta and Miss Anna Willis. They were happy to add to this story of old District No. 5 and for that purpose, they provided this memorandum:

"A little cottage, now rose-embowered, nigh six score years ago our grandfather built, midway between his sunny home and that of his beautiful bride, by the lake now called Penacook. In his old training days he was Fife Major in his regiment. He made shoes and was especially skillful in raising fruit and grafting trees.

"Nine children came to bless the home and make the rafters ring with laughter and with song. No movies had they, but concerts many, for they were musical and sang and played well. Danes, too, they had often and

the old fireplace was the center of a circle of swinging boys and girls who merrily skipped through forerom, bedroom, kitchen and little entry in their circling rounds. Sleighing parties, coasting parties were enjoyed and even mother's big chopping tray was called into requisition for sliding, and one daring girl rolled down the hill in a barrel, to the delight of her boon companion."

On this gay note we say farewell to the old families of District No. 5 which, with District No. 4, we call West Parish. The hills farms of this region were made productive by the toil of a robust but reverent people. They were home-loving: they were patriotic. The weekdays brought care and responsibility and long work hours but as regularly as the Sabbath came, a carriage load started out from each household for meeting at the distant Meeting-house, for worship was a fundamental part of their living.

Two householders on the 1833 list leave us in uncertainty: "Widow Dimond" with a family of seven and Samuel Uran with the same number. Widow Dimond was probably the second wife of John Dimond whose farm was down on Dimond road. She was born Sarah Emerson. Samuel seems to have been the son of Jonathan Uran who lived on the River road near Horse-hill bridge.

Continuing from West Parish around the head of Long pond and up the steep hill, one comes to District No. 6 at Little pond. When, preparatory to assignment of the 80 acre lots in 1737, surveys of the outlying lands in Pennycook Plantation were made, the pioneers explored the Rattlesnake range of hills above "the great pond called Rattlesnake pond." Some of the 80 acre lots were laid out along the southeast shore of "the great pond" and these extended up the slopes of the range to a small body of water which they named Little pond. With some surprise, the pioneers must have discovered this small sheet of water on top of the hill and deep in the woods. It proved to be the source of a brook which flowed down the east slope for a short distance and then divided into Wood's brook flowing east into the Merrimack and Bow brook which flowed

south and across the town line into Bow before joining the river.

In the early years of Rumford-as early as 1734- "the highway from Bradley's to Little Pond" was in common use for it led to land as yet undistributed where, by common consent, the pioneers cut their wood. Much of the hill property after survey and allotment, was bought up by Benjamin Rolfe and became the inheritance of his son, Col. Paul Rolfe. The first settlers purchased their land from him. But before the land around Little pond was cleared there seems to have been a settlement on what is now called Fisk road. Long ago a family named Blanchard owned a farm on top of the hill and old time families in the neighborhood remember a cellar hole a little north of the present Fowler farm house, which undoubtedly marks the Blanchard homestead. Less than a century ago Fisk road was called Blanchard road and the Town Records in 1816 tell of a highway approved "from Little Pond road so Called to John Blanchard's" 94 rods to a road" already laid out and now travelled through John Blanchard's land." The earlier approach to this farm must have been from Millville.

John Blanchard died in 1823 at the age of eighty-five. His widow, Hannah Blanchard died ten years later at the age of ninety-two. There are various members of the family in the records of our town: James who was in Capt. John Goffe's company in 1756 for the Crown Point expedition; Abiel who signed the Test Act in 1776; Peter who was in Capt. Benjamin Stas's company in 1776, and who married Sarah Chandler, daughter of Capt. Abiel Chandler; Ruben who enlisted in 1780 under Capt. Aaron Kinsman. John Blanchard was in Continental service under Capt. Joshua Abbot in 1776 and after the war he was surveyor of lumber in 1783, 1787 and 1796. There were others of the name: Joseph who re-enlisted in 1781; a younger John (Jr) who served in the War of 1812 and Samuel who marched in Capt. Peter Robertson's company in 1814. A pity that this family has so long been forgotten. A pity, too, that the old name Blanchard road was not kept for the highway which connects Millville with the Little pond neighborhood.

Probably the first settler at Little pond was Ebenezer Fisk (b. 1766 in Tewksbury, Mass.) who was the son of Ephraim Fisk in District No. 4. He purchased one of the 80 acre lots from Col. Paul Rolfe, which lay at the end of the road and there he made a clearing and built a shanty in which he lived, writes Bouton, for about three years. Then he built the house (1797) shown in our picture and brought to it his bride, Sarah Blanchard (b. 1769). The house stood nearly opposite the brick house built by his son, Abira.

The pioneer was a man who played his part in life with great gusto. He was big and muscular of frame and he toiled like a giant and suffered hardship and adversity with great good cheer. When a youth he worked for Joseph Colby in New London and one day when the two men were out in a boat, the craft capsized and young Fisk saved his employer's life by seizing him by his long hair worn in a queue. Mr. Colby returned this service when the two men were at work raising the frame of the New London meeting-house. Both were high up on the frame when Fisk slipped and Mr. Colby literally saved him by the hair of his head.

Ebenezer Fisk seemed fated to such narrow escapes from death for, at the raising of a barn in Millville, he had a terrible fall from top to cellar and a heavy timber falling with him, crushed his shoulder and so injured him that his life was despaired of. But a remarkable physique won the victory and he recovered to live and toil for sixty years more. It was while working during the threshing on a Hopkinton farm that he was cruelly injured by the swingel of his flail being driven into his eye. He fell senseless and the bystanders believed him dead, but he revived and they tardily sent for Dr. Carrigain to come from Concord. When he finally arrived the doctor diagnosed the eye as "spoiled" and made the comforting prediction that it might "run out" with terrible pain. The eye stayed put but its sight was gone. Incidentally, Dr. Carrigain's fee for this professional trip was two shillings.

Disaster seemed to follow Ebenezer Fisk to the end, for when he

was of great age he was thrown from his wagon on Little pond road near our present reservoir, but once more his vigor won out and he recovered. Bouton recommends him as one who, having no education in his youth, was, nevertheless, "a good calculator and manager of his affairs, and a reliable substantial citizen." He was, indeed, the type of indomitable spirit which pioneered in Concord. It is interesting to read the record that this unlettered man had, among his children, a son and a daughter who were successful teachers.

The eldest son in the Fisk family was Abira (b. 1800) who married Eunice Abbot, grand daughter of Daniel Abbot in District No. 5. The young folks settled down on a part of the Fisk farm and built the substantial brick house which stands as pictured, opposite the site of Ebenezer's old home. Abira bought fifty acres from his father in 1826 and the north bound was "a small apple tree by the road nearly opposite my (Ebenezer's) house", with "a barn thereon". Members of the Fisk family also settled along Blanchard road and as early as 1809, Daniel, a younger brother of Ebenezer, owned a farm on top of the hill. An old house here pictured still stands on the farm, the home of his son, Charles Fisk, and neighbors believe that it dates back to the time of Daniel, himself.

The second family to settle on Little pond road was that of Nathan Ballard, native of Andover, Mass, who had served in Capt. Goss's company at Bennington. In 1792 he purchased from the Rolfe estate, the farm which extended from the west side of Little pond down the slope to the shore of Long pond and thither he brought his wife and family of nine children from their former home in Wilton, N.H. The oldest son, Nathan, Jr. was about seventeen at the time and was his father's right hand man on the farm. During the winter months when farm work was slack, he taught school; when the neighborhood was organized into District No. 6, Nathan, Jr. represented it on the town committee which defined the limits of the districts. Per-

haps that was one reason why the schoolhouse in District No 5 stood opposite the Ballard farm.

Nathan Ballard, Jr. was prominent in town affairs and held various political offices. He was one of that group of substantial citizens who organized the N.H. Savings Bank. His family numbered eleven children and he encouraged two of his sons to enter college, an opportunity open to a select few in those days—the few of sufficient intellectual promise to make worthy use of higher education. The elder of these sons, William, died at eighteen on the threshold of his ambition, but his brother, Nathan 3d, entered Dartmouth and graduated in 1837. He followed the teaching profession in Brooklyn, N.Y. Nathan, Jr. with his sons, Ezra and John and his grandson, William P. Ballard, all of whom lived on the Little pond farm, served First Church as deacons, in turn—a record for one family unique in the Church history.

The first Ballard home stood on the rise of ground a little east of the present farm buildings and is shown in a reproduction from an old sketch. Long ago it vanished. A map of Concord published in 1858, shows four houses on the Ballard farm, one of which was the home of Ezra Ballard (b. 1802). This house still stands as pictured, down the slope from the site of the original house as one travels toward Long pond. Back of these houses and higher on the hill, is the Snowshoe Club and from its house an old road runs toward Long pond to a point near the mouth of Ballard brook. On this old road is a cellar hole which has long been concealed with brush. Lacking other identification, one wonders if it may be the site of that ancient cabin where tradition says John Webster, the master, ended his days in dire poverty.

In 1798 the town laid out a highway two rods wide beginning "beside the road leading to Hopkinton by Mr. Nathan Ballard's House" and ending at Levi Hutchins' house on the southwest slope of Rattlesnake hill. This road followed an old rangeway which, according to tradition, used to

be travelled in its northerly course, over the west slope of Rattlesnake hill to the first Lovajoy dam near our present upper gate house. The 1798 road has been called Woolson road in more recent years and it leaves Little Pond road at the point where the brook divides. At a barway a more modern road leads to the old quarries, but one must pass through the barway to search out the ancient road to Levi Hutchins's farm. On the way there is a ruined foundation of house and barn and an old stone-lined well.

Shortly after the Civil War the late Maj. Abijah Hollis came to Concord and established a home in West Concord at the foot of the Rattlesnake range. He was thoroughly familiar with these hills and could trace this rangeway its entire length to Long pond. He told the writer that in the cellar hole of this old ruin he found a profusion of old-fashioned red roses and that he transplanted some of them to his own home where they continued to bloom. He gave some of the roots to his brother-in-law, Daniel Chester French, the famous sculptor, to be set out at his place in Stockbridge, Mass.

But tradition says that Levi Hutchins's house was farther along the rangeway and nearer the pond, where Maj. Hollis found a row of old trees which indicated the location of a house. Here, doubtless was the hundred acre farm which was a part of Levi's share when he and his brother Abel divided the property hitherto held in common. But there is no indication that Levi ever lived here for in a year or less he exchanged this farm with Eben Farnum, son of Josiah, for the garrison house and mills on Rattlesnake brook. In after years the south part of the farm came into possession of James Woolson and his wife, Charlotte Herbert (b. 1801) hence the name-Woolson road.

Two of the pioneer settlers at Little pond were cousins, Henry and Nathan Chandler 3d, of Andover, Mass. Nathan's wife was Lucy Ballard which may explain their migration to Concord. He was a Revolutionary soldier having been out in Capt. Joshua Hale's (Holt's) company at the Lexington

alarm April 19, 1775. In 1793 he purchased from Paul Rolfe, a lot of seventy-nine acres which lay northeast of and adjacent to the Ballard farm, adding to it a small tract of land from the latter farm upon which stood a small house where he could ~~make~~^{make} his home. In the following January he moved his family to Concord.

Henry Chandler was younger than his cousin and was a bachelor when he came to Concord. His farm adjoined his cousin's on the northeast and Nathan sold him an acre of land on which to build his house. This house stood across the drive from the present Snowshoe Club house and the road leading to the Club house was known as "Henry Chandler's road" in the old days. In 1827 the Town of Concord conveyed to Henry Chandler the "School lot on Little pond hill" bordering the southeast line of the Chandler farm and also the parsonage lot which lay beside it; the two lots amounting to over thirty-six acres. In 1798 Henry Chandler married Ruth, daughter of Reuben Abbot, Jr. and they had seven children to send to school while Nathan Chandler had six.

In 1843 Daniel Farnum purchased the Henry Chandler farm and later he acquired the Nathan Chandler farm and adjacent land along Woolson road, building his house on Little Pond road. Years ago fire destroyed the house but the present house (Jordan Farm) is said to be a faithful reproduction of the original.

Old District No. 6 had plenty of happy children to fill its old schoolhouse which stood opposite the Ezra Ballard house, but there are fewere in the neighborhood today and probably not a descendent to represent the thrifty and prosperous farmers who cleared the land and cultivated the fertile fields around Little pond a century and more ago.