

Chapter XXV.

Villages upon the Boscawen Road.

On March 1, 1734/5, the Proprietors held a meeting and it was "Voted that John Chandler shall have liberty to build a saw mill on Rattlesnake brook and liberty of a convenient yard for his logs and boards and liberty to flow the great pond called Rattlesnake pond ***** during the term of fifteen years." This was the beginning of that industry along the brook which, in due time, resulted in the village of West Concord.

Capt. John Chandler had a younger brother Abiel (b. 1717) and each had married a sister of Capt. Nathaniel Abbot, a leading pioneer in Pennycook. Capt. Abbot urged his brother-in-law to join the local group and used his influence to help him become surveyor of highways in 1743. As early as 1739 Abiel was in Rumford and was elected fence viewer. Naturally he became interested in the plans for the new mills on Rattlesnake brook, under the leadership of his older brother. The enterprise was, indeed, a family affair with the arrival in town in 1745, of young Capt. Henry Lovejoy (b. 1714) who, with his wife Phebe (sister of Capt. John Chandler) and three small children, established his home on the site of present Garrison School by the brook.

Abiel Chandler lived only about ten years after coming to Rumford, dying in his early thirties. The inventory of his estate included a quarter interest in a saw mill valued at 125 pounds and a dwelling house valued at 60 pounds. Presumably this property was on Rattlesnake brook since his family was assigned to the Lovejoy garrison in 1746. (see Chap. VII.)

A third young man lived in this neighborhood—Zebediah Farnum—who with his wife, Mary Walker, made a home near the first dam built on Rattlesnake brook. It is recorded that Capt. Henry Lovejoy and Zebediah had been boyhood friends in the old home in Andover, and that they shared in building the grist mill which followed the saw mill on the brook, and in construction of the later dam and a forge in 1748. The plan for Rumford's third set of mills was a challenging one when Capt. John Chandler was

granted his privilege. The location was a wilderness and hardly a settler had dared to make a home so far from the village street. As yet the Farnums had not settled on Rattlesnake Plain: the Abbots had not begun their home on the site of Swenson Granite Co. and their cousins on Beaver Meadow would not arrive for almost a generation later. There was, nevertheless, promise of patronage for Contocook Plantation (Boscawen was already (1735) in process of settlement and hardy pioneers were planning to settle Canterbury.

There was, probably, no adequate road north of our village street, but our pioneers were used to riding and tramping wilderness trails. In 1746 a road to Boscawen was in use, extending along Pine Plain, so-called by the pioneers, which lay at the base of Rattlesnake range and comprised the upland as far north as the high river banks by Beaver Meadow. The name Pine Plain indicates the heavy forest which then and for years to come, lined the highway. In 1727 the Proprietors had laid out seventeen lots on the intervalle east of this forest upland and called it Rattlesnake Plain, numbering the lots up river. It was on Pine Plain that West Village eventually came into being.

In June 1745, Capt. Lovejoy and his wife joined the local church by letter from South Church, Andover and before the Indian raids of the following year they occupied their house on the site of Garrison School with the grist mill nearby. As soon as immediate danger of Indian attack was over, he built his second dam on the brook at about 40 rods west of his house, thus flooding the swamp land and creating Forge pond, connected with Long pond by a section of the brook. The present dam raises the level so that Forge pond is a part of the larger pond. On his new dam, Lovejoy built a shop and installed a water wheel and forge for manufacture of bar iron (Chapter VIII). Below this dam, he dug a channel to deflect the brook to a place near his house "where the formation of the ground offered a good site for a mill", according to Levi Hutchins who owned the property later. The brook now follows that channel.

Josiah Farnum, last of the five brothers to come from Andover, Mass. to Rumford, was the next owner of the mill property and the large farm the fields of which lay east of the highway on the intervale. There were four sons in the family: Theodore fought in the battle at Bennington and Eben served under Capt. Daniel Livermore in 1777. Three of the sons built a grist mill on the site provided by the new channel for the brook. In the meantime new neighbors settled near the mills. Henry Rolfe had a homestead farm next south of Josiah Farnum's and in 1788 he sold a part of it to Daniel "Farnham," Josiah's nephew, who already owned a half share in the grist mill sold to him by Henry Rolfe two years earlier. With the sale of this share of the mill went half of "the privilege of the mill from Amos Abbot's land to the foot of Long pond." In 1795 Daniel Farnum sold his mill rights to "Jonathan Runnels Jr. of Concord, trader" together with land and buildings on "the north side of the highway from Concord Meeting House to Boscawen" (i.e. the section now Knight St.) Jonathan Runnels was a brother of Joseph Runnels at Broad Cove. He married Ruth Farnum but did not stay long in Concord, returning to his former home in Boxford, Mass. before 1811.

Already conditions were vastly changed from Capt. Lovejoy's day. The farms around Long pond, on Carter hill and on Beaver Meadow were fully developed and adding to neighborhood prosperity. Improvements in highways brought advantage to the hamlet. In 1796 the town accepted a road four hundred rods long "from the southwest corner of Jonathan Runnels Jr.'s Barn to the west end of the lane leading to Jabez Abbot's house." This corresponds to the present highway from a point near Hutchins St. along the east side of the cemetery and past Beaver Meadow Golf Club to the Elms which is Jabez Abbot's old home. It indicates the abandonment of the detour hitherto made through Knight St. and across Hutchins St. to avoid the deep ravine which is now filled in to the highway level. It also gives a clue to the location of Jonathan Runnels's house. In 1804

the town accepted the highway as it now runs to Penacook west of the cemetery and in 1819 improvement was made on the Boscawen road by filling in the "Gulf" near the present railroad crossing and by building a stone water course over Hoyt's brook in Willow Hollow south of Penacook.

Josiah Farnum died about 1795 and his son, Eben, inherited the farm. In 1798 the grist mill which he and his two brothers had built years before, was torn down and replaced by a saw mill and for more than fifty years to come a saw mill operated on the spot. To replace the grist mill, Ebenezer Duston and a Mr. Howe built a new one on the brook in the village using the grinding stones of the old mill. At length these mill stones became the property of Nathaniel Baker's grandfather and he carried them to a grist mill which he owned in the Borough.

The Duston mill may have been the one which is said to have stood where the present Hodgson mill stands and which was used both as a grist mill and a woolen mill. Certain it is that Levi Hutchins manufactured woolen cloth as proved by his advertisement in the N.H. Patriot in 1813, for a weaver. Two years earlier Reuben Johnson of the Horse-hill family, was carrying on a wool-carding and fulling business on the brook directly east of the highway.

When Levi Hutchins took over the mill property and farm and moved to West Parish in 1808 he was forty-seven years old; he made his home there until his death forty-seven years later. Those years saw the development of a small hamlet with a few small industries into a thriving village with sizable mills, and Levi Hutchins had a leading part in that growth. It is fitting that his name is perpetuated in West Concord today. When the second building of West Church was planned, William Coolidge of New York, descended from the old man, donated a lot from the Hutchins farm on condition that the street to be opened on its north side should be called Hutchins St. Quaker St. is also a reminder of this old-time citizen for he and his wife joined the Friends meeting in Concord

Street although in his later years, Mr. Hutchins withdrew. He and his wife are buried in that section of the Old Burying-ground in Concord, directly north of the Minot Enclosure, which was set apart for a Quaker burial place. Quaker custom prevented marking of graves but Mrs. Hutchins's grave has a stone. Her husband's grave is unmarked except for an S.A.R. marker placed by Rumford Chapter D.A.R.

The portrait here shown is reproduced from ~~the~~ Autobiography which was written at the age of ninety-two. He is described as "Tall, nearly six feet, features regular, eyes blue, expression indicated thoughtfulness and a good disposition." It is recorded that an aged Quaker lady once said to his son: "Thy father was the handsomest man in his youth that I ever saw!"

Two neighbors and friends of Levi Hutchins merit our attention. One was "Soldier" John Elliott (b. 1755) whose father lived at the Borough. He used to tell of his experiences during the Revolution, especially of the time he marched with Washington's army "in the Jarneys, Trenttown and Princetown." He was also a veteran of the War of 1812. It is recorded that he planted four elms for Robert Davis 2d who was living in the Joshua Abbot house on the site of the North Church: that for two consecutive days in 1818, "Soldier" John tramped down from West Village, bringing by hand each day two trees to set before the house. They grew until they arched over the main street but were destroyed when fire consumed the first church built on the site. "Soldier" John lived on that section of the old Boscawen road which, after crossing Hutchins St. ran parallel and to the west of the present highway. After his death the small building was moved to a place near No. 30 Hutchins St. and used as a shop. Around the cellar hole where it first stood, lilies of the valley bloomed each spring for many years.

The other neighbor was Robert Wilkins who lived very near "Soldier" John. His pension papers show that he enlisted at his home town of Amherst fought at Bunker Hill and was wounded by a musket ball in his right elbow

* Main and Washington Streets

joint ,crippling his lower arm.Nevertheless he enlisted again in January 1776 as a sergeant and served continuously until his discharge in November 1783.During his last year of service he held commission as a lieutenant.Eighteen years old when he fought at Bunker Hill,he was later honored by service as adjutant to Lafayette.In 1786 he married Widow Matilda Abbot in Hillsboro and three children were born to the couple.When he came to Concord is uncertain,but he died in Boston,August 20,1832.

Conditions along Rattlesnake brook were ideal for the tanning business and in 1794,Isaac Dow,brother of Moody Dow in District No.4, bought land on the east side of the highway and on the north side of the brook.The vats used by this "tanner and currier" were on the roadside and his drying frames hung with redolent hides were in the dooryard of his house.That house stands today as pictured." He was,writes Bouton,"a man of native good sense and sound judgment;often employed in town affairs ***** a man of integrity and firm purpose;strong in his political preferences,and attached to the democratic party.His influence was always on the side of morals,good order,education and religion."Isaac Dow had a family of twelve children,but he lived to see death take eight of them from him."Greatly afflicted***** but resigned to the will of God,he cheerfully bore the trials of life and infirmities of age."

Another tanner along this brook was Abner Farnum,Jr.whose plant burned in mid-winter of 1811.He rebuilt and continued business as late as 1830.His house stands today next north of the old store.

The year 1808 marked the real beginning of West Parish Village for it was then that William Fisk,a member of the group of young men who migrated from Amherst to Concord,arrived on the scene and built the tavern shown as it now stands.The new stage to Hanover which twice a week connected with the stage from Concord to Portsmouth,afforded patronage to the tavern in addition to the regular traffic to and from the north country.The great barns which often sheltered sixty horses for the night,long

ago disappeared.

Two years later a young man from Boscawen named Orlando Brown, purchased the tavern and served as landlord until his death in 1836. His widow and a son continued the business until 1850 when, with the coming of the railroad, travel by coach and chaise so diminished that wayside taverns languished. In its early years every spare nook and corner of the tavern was filled with children for Orlando and his wife raised a brood of seven. In addition to the family, Grand sir Brown-born in Bridgewater in 1744, and a veteran of the Revolution-also lived in the household. Doubtless he foregathered with the other old soldiers in the immediate neighborhood.

From an old newspaper clipping comes this tribute by J.W. Moore: "The genial face of Orlando Brown appeared at the open door of his inn on the hill to greet travellers as well as the passengers in the Hanover stage as it was gracefully driven up by Nat White who drove his four white horses with regularity and safety, always giving them time to breathe while the passengers wet their whistle with Orlando's 'best and the driver had time to deliver his mail bags."

In 1809 Abel Clough bought land along the north side of the brook with its northerly boundary along present Knight St., with "Privilege of using water from the brook for the house and barn use". Clough was a blacksmith-perhaps the first to locate in the village and his house is shown in our picture. It has been modernized with a steep pitched roof and large windows, but the door-stone with its wrought iron scraper for muddy shoes is as it used to be. Indoors there are fireplaces with crane and hand wrought and irons which probably are the product of Abel Clough's smithy. There is pine wainscot in one of the front rooms and the small hall in front of the big central chimney has a winding stair.

Back of the two front rooms is the long kitchen and many of the utensils of a century and more ago are preserved there: the hand loom,

the bread trough, the Dutch oven, the 'spider' with its three foot long wrought iron handle and other reminders of the days when cooking was done in the open fireplace or its brick oven. In the backyard is the old well with its oaken bucket." (Mrs. Henry H. Chase) In 1849 the tracks of the Concord & Claremont R.R. were laid across Abel Clough's garden.

The first schoolhouse for this section was built as early as 1770 in the angle of Lake View Drive and the Hopkinton road over Hobbs hill, and it served in later years for District No. 3. The second schoolhouse was built in the west angle of the Hopkinton road and the ancient Bos-cawen road, at a point directly west of No. 20 Hutchins St. One of the most famous teachers in District No. 3—a man who taught in other Concord Districts as well—was John Jarvis. Mr. Jarvis came from Pembroke about 1821 to take over Reuben Johnson's fulling mill on the intervale east of the highway. His dwelling house was near the mill.

Mr. Jarvis began teaching in the District in 1819 before he moved to town and he continued to teach every winter save two until 1854. His skill in penmanship was famed but his influence on his pupils was his great asset. "He believed that education applied to the spiritual and moral needs of children as well as to the purely intellectual." As a result of such standard, his own fine character was built into that of impressionable youth so fortunate as to come under his guidance. Mr. Jarvis was one of the founders of West Church in 1831 and later served as its deacon.

In 1821 the "Corn Mill of Walker & Flanders" stood on the east edge of the highway where the brook drops steeply to the intervale. This mill was on the south side of the brook directly across from Isaac Dow's tannery and a short time later, Mr. Dow took over the mill. In 1824 he took John Jarvis into partnership. About the same time, a house was being built next south of the grist mill by Abel Baker, Jr. whose father built the

first grist mill in the Borough. The young man married Nancy Bradley, daughter of Samuel Bradley, and carried on a lumber business along the Contoocook and the Merrimack, making his home in West Village until after his wife's death when he moved to Concord. In their early wedded years the Bakers lived in Henniker and there, in 1818, a son, Nathaniel Bradley Baker, was born. He studied law with Franklin Pierce, was governor of New Hampshire in 1854 and Adjutant General of Iowa in 1861, in which office he did notable service during the Civil War. He died in Des Moines in 1876 and grateful Union soldiers erected a monument to his memory.

Coming to West Parish from Henniker, Abel Baker, Jr. purchased in 182 a half acre lot on the highway and probably built the house which stands there. Our picture shows it as it is today after considerable modernization as to exterior. The interior still keeps original and interesting features. The small square hall is open to the third floor and the stairway has two landings between the first and second floors. The old chimney back of the stairs was torn down and the bricks were found to be of the ancient handmade type, laid in clay. The floor timbers are of sound hard pine and the front windows originally had sliding panelled shutters, some of which are now used as cupboard doors in the pantry. The house had the fireplace and the brick oven common to houses of the period. The front door has unusual sidelights of moulded glass.

The grist mill on the west side of the highway changed owners during these years. In 1812 Moses Ferrin owned half of the mill and in 1825 he sold that share to Samuel Baker, younger brother of Abel, Jr. The land with this mill seems to have been west of the present railroad track and the dwelling house was on the south side of Knight St. In 1828 Baker sold the property since he was migrating to the West.

A house interesting because of its associations, is shown in our copy of an old photograph. It was built by William Fisk who had built the tavern. "Cordwainer and shoemaker" by trade, he lived in the village as

early as 1803 when he bought twenty-five acres of land. Adding to this in 1817 and 1818, he owned a small farm stretching to the river—all a part of Levi Hutchins's old farm. This land lay north of Abner Farnum, Jr.'s house. In 1820 Fisk built his own house, originally one story in height. Asa Blanchard of Beaver Meadow used to say that the entire village then boasted only thirteen houses. William Fisk moved to "Concord Street" about 1833 and this place became the home property of "Priest" Tenney, first minister of the West Church. Rev. Asa P. Tenney who, with his wife, appears in this old picture of his home standing in the dooryard beside his chaise, was the most notable figure in the village life a century and more ago. For thirty-two years he served the church and West Parish in a life of incessant activity. His son, Rev. E. P. Tenney, describes his routine:

"He waked up, all new to his work, every morning at two o'clock in summer and four in winter, and with a boyish enthusiasm even to old age, worked two hours before day; having an hour for devotions, and then in immediate connection with it, taking his material from the Bible for next Sunday service—kindling his soul before forging the sermon. In those early morning hours he learned to pray, having at times eminent power in prayer!" (Granite Monthly Oct. 1912)

The figure of the forge thus used is appropriate since "Priest" Tenney began his career as a blacksmith earning by his trade the funds for his education for the ministry. His salary at West Church was four hundred and fifty dollars but he added to this by working his farm and by some work at his trade. He delighted in horses and loved to drive a fast one on the ice of Long pond somewhat scandalizing certain parishoners. He made his parish visits on horseback or in a gig, singing hymns at top of his voice, it is said. But he was, above all else, a preacher and Dr. Bouton whose judgment was excellent said—"I have heard him when I thought he was the equal of Whitefield."

During his years in West Parish, "Priest" Tenney averaged more than four sermons a week for fifty-two weeks in the year and his church grew steadily in membership with larger gains through occasional revivals. In addition to spiritual leadership, he exercised a profound intellectual influence in his parish. "There went out from West Parish twenty-seven young people at one time to pursue advanced schooling. One district of forty pupils furnished twelve physicians, clergymen, professional teachers or scholars of college grade." It is doubtful if this record in a farming community can be equalled by the combined effort of minister and school in any generation since "Priest" Tenney's day.

In 1827 Concord invested in a Town Farm. After due consideration a farm in West Village belonging to Timothy Walker 3d (b. 1767), comprising two hundred acres, was purchased. This included intervale land between the highway and the Merrimack river and a large tract west of the highway along the south side of Rattlesnake brook. This latter portion of more than one hundred acres was sold off by the town in house lots and wood lots. The old farm house used for the town paupers, stands today as pictured. It is said that the farm originally belonged to Nathaniel Rolfe (b. 1713; d. 1808). Timothy Walker 3d, son of Judge Walker, had gone to Rumford, Me. in his youth but returned to Concord, acquired this farm and engaged in various industries both on Rattlesnake brook and at the Brough.

A growing village offers opportunity for a general store and so, in the spring of 1830, Samuel Dimond bought a piece of land three rods on the east line of the highway and seven rods deep, and there he opened his store in a building which is the ell of what was for many years after, the Shepard store. On the north side of present Hutchins St. Moses Farnum owned a hundred acre tract which he inherited from his father and which was a part of his father's inheritance from the pioneer Ephraim Farnum. This land was known in the family as the "Bull Meadow" and

the late Charles H. Farnum (b. 1837) remembered haying there as a boy. This indicates that the original Farnum property included much of present West Concord, this being the north portion. In 1823 Samuel Dimond had purchased nineteen acres of land next east of the "Bull Meadow" with certain reservations which are of interest. The first of these was "where Widow Phebe Farnum lives", the second was "the school house belonging to 3rd District" and the last, "the building occupied by John Elliott" - that is, "Soldier" John.

The Widow Phebe was remembered up to recent years by the older generation as "a bed-ridden invalid of great age, wearing a mob cap and finding solace in her pipe." She was a grand daughter of old Reuben Abbot and had married Peter Farnum in 1804. Her little house stands at No. 40 Hutchins St. The school house stood in the west angle of Knight St. as it crossed Hutchins St. in the days when the original Boscawen road followed this route. Widow Phebe's house stood just west of the school and "Soldier" John's house was a short distance north of the school.

The most ambitious project in the village of long ago was launched in 1831 by a Scotch millwright named Brodie. He persuaded his fellow countryman, Dr. Peter Renton of Concord Street, to build a flour mill. The Doctor, in partnership with John Jarvis who then owned the grist mill next south of Isaac Dow's house, built a brick mill on the site of the grist mill. The location was ideal since the abrupt decline of land made a natural pit for the old type overshot wheel which was built to run the mill by turning four runs of stones. Western wheat was brought from Boston to Concord by the Boating Company (see Chapter ~~XIII~~) and stored at the foot of Sewall's Falls ready for the milling. Unfortunately the enterprise never justified the investment and in 1844 the property was sold to B. F. Holden whose descendants carried on the manufacturing of woolen cloth for many years. Our picture is a copy of a photograph taken many

years ago when the old mill was so flourishing that the newer one (now the Hodgson mill) was being built across the highway. The old mill was torn down some years ago.

In the years preceding the building of the Hodgson mill, various small industries flourished on this mill lot. The house at the north end of the mill, now used as the mill store, was the home of Emery Burgess, a chair maker by trade, who bought the lot in 1831. Very near this house stood a smithy which found lively trade among nearby farmers and the patrons of the tavern on the opposite corner.

Our old picture of the Shepard store is interesting for a number of reasons. It shows the ell which was Samuel Dimond's store. It also shows the hay scales indispensable to that generation and the fence which set off the tavern. On the north side of the store is an excellent view of the house of Abner Farnum, Jr., the tanner.

Closely south of the store stands an old house which may be seen in the picture of Isaac Dow's house. It was the boyhood home of Rev. George Marden (b. 1836) who saved a struggling western college more than fifty years ago. As a lad he was anxious for a good education and his father was ready to help, but when the youth decided to be a minister, his father's retort was: "And be as poor as a church mouse!" The young minister won his way and ventured west and found there a great task which challenged his mind and spirit. Colorado College at Colorado Springs "was sinking into the ground" relates Mr. Marden's sister, "although it had a fine body of students." Mr. Marden gave up the ministry to travel over the east soliciting aid for the college among the church people. Such was his success that the institution was saved and it was possible to erect new buildings on a campus where only two had stood before. Through George N. Marden's devotion, Colorado College flourishes today, a link between the youth of the far west and the village of West Concord.

According to Mrs. Carrie Marden Smith, sister of Mr. Marden, the old house in West Concord had a well room—a large room with a well forty-two feet deep "where Mother used to put her butter in a pail and lower it down into the well to keep it cool.**** Father had a store next door to our house— the upper part was his shoe shop—a good room in front. In the basement was a grocery store."

Joseph B. Walker once reminisced about the houses which stood along the highway between Concord and West Village when he was a youth, in the thirties. The dense forest on either side extended from the present cemetery at Blossom Hill to the Farnum places north of the present railroad crossing. There the house of Benjamin Farnum (b. 1739) stood on the site of the house of Charles H. Farnum (now the property of the Prison). Near the ravine farther north stood "the ancient yellow building" which took the place of Ephraim Farnum's pioneer log cabin. This house was used as a tavern by Samuel Farnum during the thirties. Close by and about opposite Dolan St. was a tiny house in which two of Benjamin Farnum's daughters, Mary (b. 1764) and Sarah (b. 1787) made their home for years. This house somewhat modified stands now at No. ^{465^m} N. State St. Family tradition says that Moses Farnum was born in this house in 1769.

The next house north on the east side of the road was that of Alexander Nichols, a laborer, and this house stands today as pictured. Perhaps the ell was the original house. Next north were the Abbots in the large house at No. 382 N. State St. and beyond there were the Town Farm and Abel Baker's house. It is recorded that Abel Baker's daughters walked to Concord for their schooling.

On the west side of the highway, Mr. Walker recalled only three houses between Blossom Hill and Rattleswake brook. Near the Farnums, Nathan Brown had an eight acre place and a house which he built about 1828 and there he earned his living as "husbandman". Next north lived Zebediah William Taylor Gleason (b. 1787), a Vermonter by birth, who came to Concord

when he was a young man to learn the stone cutting trade. In 1812 he purchased a part of the Moses Ferrin property south of Rattlesnake brook and built a house which stands today as pictured. In 1828 he took advantage of the sale of lots from the Town Farm property which adjoins his land and bought a wedge of land which gave him access to the mill pond closely west of the present railroad track. A sample of Mr. Gleason's stone work is the old Town Pound which he built in 1830 at a cost of sixty-five dollars to Concord. His portrait is an interesting study in the character of a substantial citizen of that time. It was probably made after Mr. Gleason sold his home in 1844 and moved to his farm in Hackett's Brook Neighborhood.

The third and last house recalled by Mr. Walker, was the "miller's house" which, in part at least, is standing today on the south side of the brook. It was for many years the home of the Holden family who owned the mills.

With the building of its church the village established itself as a substantial and self-sustaining community. The record of the time reads: "Persons residing to the westerly part of Concord travel a distance from one and a half to seven miles when attending public worship, of whom less than two hundred of the seven hundred inhabitants usually attend meeting on the Sabbath." For such inhabitants the church was planned and a wooden structure 63 x 48 feet with walls 19 feet high with three windows on each side and a low tower, was erected on a lot somewhat north of the present church. The building was heated by a stove placed inconspicuously in the vestibule—perhaps in the hope that the prejudice which the older and more conservative people sometimes felt over undue comfort in their house of worship, might be appeased. The new church was dedicated in January 1833 but church organization waited until the following April when eighty-eight members of the mother church in Concord were given letters of dismissal and recommendation for the purpose.

For nearly a third of a century West Church was led by the extraordinary personality of "Priest" Tenney—a personality which combined physical and mental vigor with a deep spiritual understanding. The church grew in numbers and West Parish was blessed in mind and spirit thus making its contribution to the character of Concord.

The most ancient landmark in the village is the spring which bubbles out of the bank at the foot of Lake St. Long before the hollow watering trough of granite there was a mossy trough of logs where travellers loosened the check rein to give their steeds a drink and where the driver himself refreshed his dusty throat with a draught of the sparkling water. In the days when electric cars ran between Concord and Penacook, it was no uncommon occurrence on a hot day for the motorman to stop his car beside the spring so that he and any passenger who wished might drink the cooling water. Ages before, moccasined feet had made a trail to this spring and perhaps decided then and there the present route of the Daniel Webster Highway as it leads north from Concord.

The first bridge across the Contoocook river which Capt. Henry Lovejoy and John Flanders built was replaced about 1805 by a new structure the expense of which was shared by the towns of Concord and Boscawen. The new bridge occupied the site of the old one with its south pier near the later Axle Company's foundry. It was built "mainly of logs, with a middle pier square like a log house and filled with stones."

The most valuable relic of the old days in this neighborhood, was destroyed in recent years when Capt. John Chandler's ^{tavern} on the north side of the river and on the Boscawen side of the village of Penacook, was torn down to make way for a filling station. It was one of the too few examples of excellent colonial building left in this vicinity and it had been conducted as a tavern continuously since Capt. John built it in 1787. Chandler owned much land along this north bank of the river from the Merrimack on the east to the vicinity of Hardy's brook on the

west. As travel from the north country increased he saw the value of this location as a tavern site. His brother, Col. Isaac Chandler, built nearby the house still standing as shown in our old picture, and thus began the hamlet on the north side of the Contoocook which, in time, developed into the village of Fishersville-later to be named Fenacock.

The first bridge across the Merrimack in this vicinity was built in 1802 and, since Col. Isaac Chandler was the largest stockholder, it was known by his name. The embryo village was called "Chandler's Bridge" as given in deeds as early as 1812. This new toll bridge was a profitable enterprise since overland freight from the north to Portsmouth and Newburyport chose this route until the Concord Boating Company began to operate. A freshet in 1839 swept the bridge away and a chain ferry was used until 1853. Canterbury bridge now occupies the site of the old bridge of 1802.

Col. Isaac Chandler built his house about the time the tavern was built. He had no children but when a thirteen year old Sanbornton lad came to work for him in 1804 and proved worthy, he gave him the chance to learn the trade of cloth dressing. Young William Hazeltine Gage made the most of such opportunity and in time he inherited the large farm of his patron and became an influential citizen of the growing village. No one was better or more favorably known than "Squire Bill Gage," justice of the peace and practically the lawyer of the village. The great Daniel Webster was his friend and, on his trips to his farm at Webster Place, the statesman was wont to stop for a call at Squire Gage's home.

Capt. John Chandler's son, Nathan, married Jane Rolfe, grand daughter of Parson Walker and in 1806 he built the little house next east of the tavern as shown in our picture. When Capt. John retired he lived here with his son. In later years Nathan sold the house and it became the home of Benjamin Kimball, famous millwright. There his son, Benjamin Ames Kimball was born in 1833. Meanwhile Nathan ^{Chandler} ~~Rolfe~~ bought the house on Fenacock St. which had been built by a man named Eaton. Benjamin A. Kimball and his brother, John Kimball,

~~John~~ became two of the most able and influential men of their generation in Concord.

The first schoolhouse in the village was built about 1815 and it stood on the town line near the bridge for it served pupils in both Concord and Boscawen as well as a few from Canterbury. There were seldom more than fourteen in attendance and those from Boscawen sat on the north side of the room (in Boscawen) while the village youngsters from the Concord side sat on the south. This union schoolhouse was used at times for preaching services held by Dr. McFarland of Concord or Dr. Nathan Wood of Boscawen. Not far from the schoolhouse there was an eddy in the river known to that generation as "Potash Eddy" because Capt. John Chandler long carried on a potashery near the bridge.

On the south side of the river and within Concord limits, there stood until recent years the little house shown in our picture. Its site was closely east of the present Police Station and although its early history is not known, tradition says it ante-dated the Revolution and was the oldest house in the village. Winthrop Elliott once lived in it and in 1830 he was making shoes for the neighborhood. According to Town Records he lived there as early as 1822 when a road was accepted from Rolfe's landing on the Merrimack river to the Boscawen road near ^{the} Winthrop Elliott house. Probably this is Merrimack St. of today.

Water power in the Contoocook river was the incentive for the lively mill village which took over the farms of long ago in this section. As early as 1790 the lower falls were utilized for a grist mill built by Jeremiah Chandler near the site of the present Harris mill. It was a primitive affair with an overshot wheel outside the mill, run by water which flowed through a penstock from above the falls. Later Chandler built a saw mill nearby and later still. William Hazeltine Gage with his brother Richard, opened a lumber business on the premises which developed into an important industry.

*Brezner Tanning Corp.

About 1800, Richard Kimball and Jeremiah Abbott built a carding mill on the site of the present Harris mill and it was well patronized by the farmers who brought their wool to be carded into rolls which their housewives could spin into yarn for weaving on their hand looms. The woven cloth was returned to the mill for fulling and finishing. These young men had a streak of daredevil in them for, during a spring flood when the river is a wild torrent, they undertook to run the rapids from the Borough to the Merrimack. Their boat was small and quickly capsized. On this April day in 1812 their bodies were found just above the bridge near Chandler's tavern.

It was after this fatality that young William Hazeltine Gage having learned the carding and fulling business, returned to Chandler's Bridge and took over the Kimball and Abbott mill. He built a two-story wooden mill, added a few looms to the equipment and thus established the first mill in this locality which carried out the entire process of making woolen cloth. This old mill stood until the newest of the Harris mills took its place. With success of the woolen mill assured, Mr. Gage took his brother Richard into partnership and opened a lumber business on the site of the present Stratton mill. Richard Gage married a daughter of Capt. John Chandler.

The first saw mill on the Concord side of the river at the lower falls was built by Henry Rolfe in 1825 on land later occupied by the Symonds Table Shop (destroyed by fire some years since). Benjamin Kimball was the millwright in charge of construction. A year earlier an attempt had been made to develop water power at the falls in what is now the center of the village, when George D. Varney of Dover bought up considerable land thereabout and built a dam and the frame of a saw mill. Financial reverses halted his enterprise and the saw mill was sold and moved to the Borough where it was set up on the Outlet, on the site now occupied by the west end of the Holden mill (Pipe Factory) where the original

* Brezner Corp.

road from the Borough to Penacook crossed the stream.

In 1831, Benjamin Kimball bought the Varney power rights and built the dam and the brick grist mill at the foot of Brown's hill on the Boscawen side, using the stones from the old Chandler grist mill at the lower falls, no longer in use. The brick grist mill had a long and continuous service and the Kimball dam offered opportunity for manufacturing in its immediate neighborhood. In 1836 two brothers from Boston named Fisher, built the old stone mill next north of the grist mill and manufactured a coarse grade of cotton cloth which they sold in the south for clothing for plantation slaves. The Fishers did not remain long but their enterprise opened the way for other mills. In their honor the growing village was called Fishersville - later simplified to Fisherville, and still later changed to Penacook.

The Fishers sold their plant to H.H. and J.S. Brown, cotton manufacturers from Attleboro, Mass. who proceeded to build the larger stone mill called the Penacook mill, and later "the big mill" called the N.H. Spinning Mills in more recent years. These two mills took their power from canals. It was the Browns who "gave to the village its first great impetus to growth and prosperity", their name to the hill (Elm St.) where five generations of the clan have lived and sundry windows to the Baptist Church where the family worshipped. The accompanying picture of the period following the Civil War, shows the development of the village. The covered bridge on the new highway to Boscawen, was built about 1849 and at its north end may be seen the brick grist mill and the Fisher stone mill.

In 1823 the town recognized the growing importance of Chandler's Bridge by accepting a road from the older mill settlement at the Borough the line of the road being practically the same as present Washington St. except that the bridge over the Outlet was near the location of the present Holden mill (Pipe Factory). Prior to 1823 travel into Chandler's Bridge seems to have been by way of the Borough road and what is now

West Main St.

A century and more ago, the land now occupied by the thickly settled portion of Penacook was a hundred acre farm owned by Capt. John Sawyer, purchased by him in 1832 from William H. and Richard Gage. Capt. Sawyer married Phebe Elliott, sister of Theodore Elliott of the Borough and not only did he carry on this farm but he followed the trade of carpenter as well. His two-story house stood on the site of the present Washington House and, it is said, forms a part of the wall of the hotel. In company with Joseph Eastman of West Village, the Captain built the hotel in 1847. Captain Sawyer's second home in the village was a brick story and half house which stood on the site of Exchange Block, with a big barn on the site of Graphic Block. West of the buildings a little brook with plentiful water cress, flowed down the slope into the Contoocook. Our picture shows this attractive little house as it stands now in the rear of Exchange Block. The easterly bound of this old farm was a rangeway which ran south from the Contoocook river in the vicinity of High St. and the westerly bound was near the Outlet.

Captain Sawyer's commission was in the 3rd Infantry (1832) and he was also captain of the famous Jackson Rifles in the last year of their existence (1845). He profited well by the industrial development of this community for his farm was cut into house lots which found ready sale. He was a man respected for his integrity in all his many activities religious, civic, financial and social.

The men who developed this village were folk who combined with their business energy and shrewdness, a concern for the Kingdom of God. Among them, Capt. Abial Rolfe stands out for his zeal in religious work. For many years before a church was organized in the community, he held meetings and did what was practically a pastoral work among his neighbors. It was his custom to hold Sunday School in the union schoolhouse early on Sunday morning, after which he harnessed his horse and drove to

the old Meeting-house in Concord where he served as deacon. After the long morning service he drove home for his dinner and after dinner he drove to Horse-hill schoolhouse where he held a Sunday School and a prayer meeting. Singularly clean in speech and in character, kind and wise in his judgments, Dea. Rolfe was greatly beloved in this village and his influence toward its morale is not to be estimated.

It was not until 1843 that the first church edifice was built in the village by the Christian denomination on land donated by Reuben Johnson. Five years later the organization sold its building to the newly formed Congregational Society and thereafter held services in a hall until the church disbanded a few years later. Those villagers who followed the Baptist doctrines attended the church of that faith in Boscawen until 1845 when, through the initiative of Henry H. and John S. Brown, the First Baptist Church of Fisherville was established. Their father, David Brown, with Benjamin Hoyt were elected deacons, and a store on the site of Dr. A. C. Alexander's house was purchased and fitted up as Union hall for use as a church. The present church was built and dedicated in 1858. The Congregational church numbered among its original members, Richard Gage and his son, Calvin, and a new-comer to the village, Almon Harris, who established the Harris mills—the only one of the old enterprises which continues business to this day. (Closed since writing)

Such was the development of Chandler's Bridge into Penacook which, for three or more generations, was a center of varied and prosperous industries. Throughout the years the business men of this village contributed definitely to the upbuilding of Concord in wealth and in the character of her citizenship.