

## Chapter XXVII.

### Concord Street, 1809.

As we have seen in the preceding chapter, the village of Concord was fast outgrowing its rural character and by this year of 1809 the name "Concord Street" was in common use. It was a title significant in one respect- the village still consisted of only one main highway. Our present State St. was in process of being opened this year and already it was referred to as "Back St.", but it had only three or four houses below what is now Franklin St. West of Back St. a new thoroughfare had been opened through Esq. Peter Green's farm to open up house lots. This new road would be called "High St." (now Green St.) but as yet there was not more than one house on it. School St. and Prison St. were short lanes opened as approach to the buildings indicated and Centre road was still a place of farm lands. Another twenty-five years would pass before the town would find it essential to name its streets officially.

The growing political importance of our town encouraged new building along the main street. In 1799 the Carrigain brothers, Philip and Obadiah, built at the North End, a large three-story structure for business purposes. This ambitious building on the northern part of Dr. Carrigain's old homestead property still stands and our picture taken in the eighties shows it as it was when Mrs. Robert E. Pecker lived there. She delighted in beautifying the large south lawn, but velvet grass, stately elms and flowering shrubs have been sacrificed for the sake of a filling station.

Philip Carrigain graduated from Dartmouth college in 1794 and then studied law with Edward Livermore who was then practicing his profession in Concord. Young Carrigain opened an office in town but before he was fully established in practice, he and his brother began this rather showy building. Tradition says that its timbers were floated to the lot during a great freshet, and further tradition declares that on the day of the "raising" when a large number of men from all parts of the town had assembled to take part, news came of the death of George Washington at Mt. Ver-

non and "they ceased and went home in sorrow." Another old tale is to the effect that Philip Carrigain "was disposed to pay his addresses to the daughter of President John Wheelock of Dartmouth" at this time and hoped to impress the lady and her father by his enterprise. If this be true, his dream had an unhappy ending for he was unable to finance his project to completion, nor did he win the lady.

Brilliant and versatile, Philip Carrigain just missed prosperity at every turn, but he lived a gay and debonair life. Although "a great admirer and flatterer of the fair sex" and recognized as the wit and beau of his day in Concord, he lived a bachelor to the end of his long life. From 1805 to 1809 he profited by the overturn in state politics and was made Secretary of State under Gov. Langdon. In 1816 he was commissioned to assemble the first official map of New Hampshire from surveys provided by the various towns. This map is a creditable piece of work.

Concord was attracting new comers and among them, in 1809, was Capt. George Connell of Newburyport who moved hither with his wife and daughter Sarah. Sarah Connell kept a faithful diary which gives an intimate glimpse of the social life of Concord at the time and we are privileged to quote from it by permission of Miss Margaret Jewell of Boston, who published the manuscript. Sarah seems to have been immediately popular with the young people in Concord and in that group, the fascinating and seemingly ageless Philip Carrigain was a leading spirit. In this diary we find the impressions made upon a girl still in her teens by this brilliant man of thirty-five.

"May 3 (1809) Mr. P. Carrigain took tea and passed the evening here. I think from his conversation that he is a man of much information. His manners are easy and polite.

"Saturday, 15th July (when a girl friend was her guest) In the evening Mr. P. Carrigain visited us. We were both in very sentimental mood, the conversation of the Secretary was replete with many refined sensations,

sentiments elegantly expressed. He repeated to us some beautiful passages from Pope's translation of Homer's Iliad, with a pathos and expression of countenance that peculiarly interested me." And again-

"Mr. Carrigain had the politeness to send me Thaddeus of Warsaw, a novel in four volumes. I read the first two volumes through and was never more pleased."

Such was the atmosphere of that day.

Col. Carrigain was a generous and kindly man. He had tutored Nathaniel H. Carter of the Iron Works in preparation for college and, during this year of 1809, he took the young man who was teaching school, into his home. At the same time he was preparing for college, free of charge, two youths named Richard Bartlett and Charles G. Haines and giving them a home in his bachelor quarters. Both these boys became prominent men in later life. When Isaac Hill arrived in town this same year, he, too, became a member of the Carrigain household.

Following Dr. Carrigain's death in 1811, his two sons seem to have dissipated his property in short order. Piece after piece was sold until all was gone. Philip Carrigain tried the practice of law in Epsom and Chichester but finally returned to Concord and died in poverty. For years his grave in the Burying-ground was unmarked until finally, some of his oldtime friends subscribed for the handsome white marble shaft which now marks his resting place. The esteem and affection felt for him in Concord is expressed in the requiem written by Nathaniel G. Upham, Justice of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire:

"In Memory of Philip Carrigain-died March 15, 1842.

On to the churchyard gate, With measured step and slow,  
A small but friendly band Of solemn mourners go.  
What manly form reclines Upon that shrouded bier,  
For whom the band of mourners Shed fast the falling tear?

The hand lies cold in death That oft, with rapid pen,  
Cut out in flourish fair The name of Carrigain.  
The hand lies low in death, That traced our streamlets free,  
Through all their rocky courses, Down to the surging sea;

That marked the lines that bound New Hampshire's citadel  
That rock-bound home her children love, And guard and keep so  
well.

He climbed our highest mountains, And, with native pride elate,  
Exulting in the moral, First named 'The Granite State'.

For mid its rugged wildness, Of mountain, rock and glen,  
The firmness of its Granite Gives proof of firmer men.  
His fostering care and kindness Lit up his prosperous day,  
And genius ever looked to him To lead and point the way.

His willing harp was ever strung, Its numbers rolled along,  
As free as if our mountain winds Had woke it into song.  
Each jubilee, its tribute Came as duly as the day;  
No friend or guest was welcomed, But had his ready lay.

He was the glad companion Of frolic youth or age,  
In simple-heartedness a child, While yet in wisdom sage.  
A friend of all, we mourn him; Forget we naver can,  
The noble heart and lively mind Of Philip Carrigain."

As this tribute indicates, Col. Carrigain was for years poet laureate for Concord and for the state and it was in his rhyme of welcome to Gen. Lafayette in 1825 that he used the name "Granite State". This, New Hampshire enduring title, we owe to the man who built "Carrigain's Folly" as old-time Concord called the great, square three-story house at the North End.

Across the street from Carrigain's was the Davis property as described in an earlier chapter and on the lot which David George, Jr. had bought in 1801 the house occupied today by the Arts & Crafts, was doubtless built by him. In its beginning it stood flush with the sidewalk and its history as a tavern under John George has much of interest. The tavern keeper married Ruth Bradley in 1807.

The first Hannaford tavern which stood on the corner of present Church St. was sold in the spring of 1805 to Charles Emery, son of Capt. Benjamin Emery. In the fall the young man married nineteen year old Polly Walker, daughter of Judge Walker, and the couple made their home in the tavern. Six years and a day after the wedding day, Capt. Charles Emery died and, according to Bouton, "was interred with military honors attended by a very numerous and respectable concourse; nearly four hundred of whom followed his remains to 'the house appointed for all living'".

Two years later (1813) a young man named Francis N. Fisk "announces a store one door south of Lemuel Barker's Tavern" and states that his former store in West Parish Village is "now run by David Davis, Jr." Shortly before, Fisk had married the young Widow Emery and the couple made their home in the old Hannaford tavern and Mr. Fisk moved his store there. In a later deed of this property we find reference to the town common between the tavern and the Meeting-house. Years later Church St. was opened on the south side but the present yard of Walker School preserves the only common known to Concord. In September 1815, the North End was in a dither for the Patriot announced: "Elephant exhibited in building adjoining Fisk's store near the Meeting-house. Admission 25¢ for adults. Children half price." The North End was the business center of the town with the Postoffice in the George Hatter shop until 1815 and various shops and small industries clustered on both sides of the street in this vicinity.

A new house stood on the site of Nathaniel West's old home on the south corner of Franklin St, built by Charles Walker who bought the lot in 1804. A successful lawyer, he married the daughter of Hon. John Pickering, in whose Portsmouth office he had studied law. Charles Walker succeeded George Hough as Postmaster in 1801 but kept the office only briefly. He was Solicitor of Rockingham County before Merrimack County was set off, serving from 1806 till 1808, and in 1830 he was Justice throughout the state. For some years he served as president of the Upper Bank, but "he was averse to public life", says Bouton, and "lived much in retirement in the latter years of his life." His house still stands at 197 N. Main St. and our picture shows it in its original form. South of the house was a garden and a small building which was Mr. Walker's law office.

The Nathaniel Abbot farm next south of the Walker homestead was occupied at the time by Capt. Joshua Abbot who lived in the old house which now stands west of First Church. His son, Nathaniel 2d (b. 1769) lived on the north corner of what is now Pearl St. in the house which

replaced the pioneer Nathaniel Abbot's original house. During three generations in Concord the Abbot property had been greatly increased so that it extended south to Chapel St., north to Franklin St. (including the lot purchased by Charles Walker) and west to the vicinity of present White Park. Nathaniel's house was moved from the corner of Pearl St. and now stands at 68 Pearl St. Concord, N.H.

In 1794 Capt. Joshua Abbot had sold half an acre with a frontage of seven rods on the highway, to John West, the blacksmith, and there West built the house now standing at 167 N. Main St. Our picture is copied from an old photograph showing the house before extensive changes were made. The characteristic sycamore tree (recently cut down) was the means of identification of this picture. In the year 1809, Henry Sweetser, a widower of forty from Chester, was making frequent visits to this home for he was courting John West's daughter, Susanna, little more than half his age. On August 3d, Sarah Connell wrote in her diary - "Miss West and Mr. Sweetser were married and a large number of gentlemen and ladies escorted them out of Town. I had several invitations (sic) but declined accepting them, as I had no wish to join so large a party. O. Carrigan called, and according to promise brought me some wedding cake. Staid till ten."

After some years the Sweetser family moved to Concord and made their home in this house. In 1833 Mrs. Samuel Fletcher opened a school for young ladies in the house and during the Civil War period it was the home of Henry McFarland, a grandson of Rev. Asa McFarland. Mr. McFarland was a paymaster in the army with headquarters in Concord and in his book of reminiscences, he says: "There is probably no other house in Concord that has had so much green back currency in it at any one time as has 167 No. Main St., which was my home at the period." Express charges were high and not provided for in the War Department's plans so Mr. McFarland used to go to New York and Boston to exchange large Treasury drafts for currency. "Several times", he says, "I came home late with a sole leather trunk full of money (perhaps \$150,000.) which was kept in

the house until it could be counted and arranged for disbursement.\*\*\* I had a dog, sure to hear and announce the approach of any unwelcome stranger, and a heavily loaded gun stood in a handy place."

The picture of the John West house shows at the north another historic house—the home of John West, Jr.—which was torn down to make way for West Garden. It was in 1811 that John West Sr. bought the lot described as north of his own house lot, from Capt. Joshua Abbot. The story of this old house belongs to a later chapter.

Walking down the main street, one passed Stickney's with its swinging sign decorated with a painted Indian. Not long before this time, a lad destined for fame had sought shelter and food at this tavern. In a newspaper clipping dated July 1857, there is this record:

"George Peabody, great American banker of London \*\*\* was the guest of Hon. N. G. Upham and lady \*\*\*\*\*. Mr. Peabody is a native of Danvers, Mass. and is about sixty-two years of age. Born and reared in indigent circumstances, he went to London some forty years since, where he achieved a position among the most successful bankers in Europe, counting his wealth by the millions. An incident which he related of himself while here, will show to what he is indebted for his success. Fifty years ago at the age of twelve, he had occasion to pass through Concord on his way to Vermont. He stopped all night at the old "Stickney Hotel" where he paid his lodging and breakfast by sawing wood."

Next south of the tavern was the Town house and beyond that the old homestead of Dea. David Hall who served the church as deacon, for thirty-two years, until his death in 1821. The garden of this place was north of the house, four rods wide and extending west from the street fourteen rods. The Hall property extended west of State St. and as Dea. Hall increased in years, his son, Simeon, carried on the farm. Tanyard brook ran down the hill south of the Hall house and on its further side was Capt. Richard Ayer's tannery. South of the tannery was the old Edward Abbot

garrison house where John Souther, Revolutionary veteran, had lived until his death in 1804. His widow married Capt. John Odlin who lived across the highway and in 1810, her daughter, Anna, (Mrs. Porter Blanchard) made her home in the old house.

On the south corner of Centre road was the home of Capt. Richard Ayer and his next door neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Emmons who lived on the site of the present Patriot building. Some years later this house would be moved a few rods to the north to make way for the American House and in a picture of that hostelry (Chapter XXXVI) it may be identified by the large pillars added to its front. Jacob Emmons is the first baker we find in Concord and he was in town as early as 1804 when he purchased from William Manley a potashery on the brook which crossed the highway near the corner of Mill road. Nearby, on the east side of the highway was a blacksmith shop run by Joseph McCutchins.

Below the Emmons home changes were taking place on the main street, due, in no small measure, to the enterprise of a group of young men recently arrived from Amherst and locally known as the "Amherst Colony." Among the first of this group to arrive was Peter Robertson who stepped into prominence almost immediately. In 1806 town meeting he was elected constable and collector. He speedily captured the heart of Sally Haseltine whose grandfather owned the farm which Concord St. now bisects. Bouton says that they were accounted "the handsomest couple in Concord."

Capt. Robertson acquired the homestead of Esq. Peter Green stretching from School St. north to the Emmons property, and probably lived in the Green house on the site of the N.H. Savings Bank, <sup>main capital</sup> with  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land bordering on the highway, School St. and present State St. There was a bake house on this property. Another dwelling stood on the northeast corner of the present State House lot and when this 2 acre plot was cleared for the State House, it was rated as "ancient". William Kent bought it, moved it to Pleasant St. and probably made it his home. In the winter

of 1844, Paul Wentworth of Sandwich bought it and used it as his dwelling while he built a new house beside it. Later the "ancient" house was moved to South St. and has been identified as standing at 26-26½ South St. today. Originally it had a hip roof. Eventually the Wentworth house was moved to 13-15 Blake St. to make way for the building of Chamberlin House.

The Robertsons had every appearance of prosperity. In 1808 the Captain was one of four citizens who supplied \$300, for purchase of a bell for the Meeting-house. The money was raised by a novel method—the town voted that "the ground for four Pews in the front part of the body of Seats on the floor of the Meeting-house" be sold "at public vendue" at the "House of William Stickney." Peter Robertson, Daniel Greenleaf, Bowen Crehore and George Hough bid in the ground. When the bell was hung the town voted: "That the bell be rung at seven o'clock in the morning, at twelve noon and nine at night Except sundays and the Selectmen direct the time on sundays" In 1814 the town voted: "That the bell be tolled at all funerals the Current year when application shall be made to the sexton at the Expense of the Town."

In January 1809, Peter Robertson sold the "ancient house" to Capt. George Connell of Newburyport and in April the Captain with his wife and daughter, Sarah, took possession. Sarah Connell brought her diary to Concord and kept it religiously after her arrival. This is an early entry concerning her new home: "I am delighted with the local situation of the place; the town is much larger than I expected to find it. Our house is pleasantly situated upon a gentle declivity near the street. Front of it runs the river Merrimack, and the prospect around is extensive and beautifully variegated." It is hard to realize that the view from what is now the corner of N. Main St. and Park St. could merit such description, but in 1809 except for a small shop or two not more than one story in height, there was no building on the east side of the highway between the Stickney house (Elks Club) and the Wilkins house (site of Exchange block). Wide fields sloped to the river with an open view of the bluffs beyond.

In spite of all appearance to the contrary, a crisis was imminent in the Robertson family and in December Sarah Connell writes: "Capt. Robertson's property was attached. In consequence of this our house was in great confusion, and we did not retire till between one and two o'clock. It is supposed that Capt. R. left his family without any intention of returning. I can scarce believe him guilty of such baseness;" and next day-"I have been into Mrs. Robertson's this evening. Mrs. R. in tears. Her husband gone, she knows not whither, she and her little ones reduced from competency to want, surely his conduct is unpardonable, and merits severest censure."

Eventually the prodigal returned and resumed his debonair manner of life. We shall hear of him often but Dr. Bouton's estimate stands-"Capt. Robertson is a failure," the one exception to commendation of the Amherst Colony.

In January after Capt. Robertson's disappearance, Crehore & Brown advertise the Concord Bake Shop "lately occupied by Capt. Peter Robertson", and in May 1810, they announce removal to "the house lately occupied by Capt. George Connell"\*\*\*\* where they continue the bakery business and W.I. goods and groceries. In the summer John M. Hunt was running the bake shop "formerly occupied by Capt. Peter Robertson" and in September, Jacob Emmons advertises for two bakery apprentices. Competition was keen with three bakeries running in this narrow neighborhood. In May 1811, Capt. R. is back and, in partnership with Bowen Crehore, runs two of the bake shops while Mrs. R.'s brother, Joseph Haseltine works for the firm "carrying bread to neighboring towns." In January 1812, the Connells have left town and Crehore occupies their house-rental \$120. yearly. In November 1813, the Robertson home-"Homestead of late Col. Peter Green" is advertised at auction.

In 1806, two more young Amherst men arrived in town: William Low and Benjamin Damon. At an annual rental of \$35. they engaged quarters in the Wilkins house (Hannah Osgood's famous tavern) and opened there a shop

for making and painting chairs. When their enthusiasm led the youthful partners to buy a load of one hundred chairs in Peterborough and bring them to town, the neighbors thought they were crazy. "Never", said they, "can you sell so many chairs in a lifetime!" but the neighbors were wrong for the business prospered. By 1809 Mr. Low was able to build himself a house next south of Peter Robertson's on the site of our Board of Trade.

On the site of Phenix Block stood two or three wooden buildings built for shops which "in their day, together with the brick building erected by the Concord Bank\*\*\*\*were monuments of enterprise upon which the people looked with extreme satisfaction", writes a citizen in later years. One of these "a new building nearly opposite the Lower Bank with eighty rods of land, for mechanicks or merchants" was advertised for sale by Levi Hutchins in the summer of 1809. <sup>at the</sup> This was, shop where Levi Bartlett (b. in Salisbury 1784) had been carrying on a "Cabinet Manufactory". Evidently he bought the building for not long after he sold it to Porter Blanchard. It is said that this old shop now stands in Posterville but it seems impossible to identify it. Bartlett moved to another shop just south of present Depot St. and carried on his trade there, making four post beds, mahogany sideboards and card tables. In 1811 he sold his stock preparatory to leaving town.

William Low purchased the Bartlett shop and moved it to the rear of his new dwelling house. In time he added a third story making it the first three story building in the center of the town. There Low and Damon continued business until the partnership was dissolved in 1825. When William Low was appointed postmaster in 1829, he fitted up a postoffice in the rear of his house where it functioned for ten years. New postmasters sought new quarters for the office but in 1849 it was returned to the Low building. Our picture shows the Low house after it was converted into stores. Along the School St. front of the building may be seen a row of trees which the late John W. Ford said were horse chestnuts and "when

\* North Corner of School St.

I went to the old school on the site of the Parker School, Charlie Mellen (later president of the New York, New Haven & Hartford R.R.) "and I and the other boys clubbed those trees nearly to death to get the nuts."

When Concord obtained a city charter in 1853, she chose as her first mayor a member of the Amherst Colony, Joseph Low, who was a younger brother of William Low. The young man's first appearance in Concord was when William moved his goods to town in a vehicle drawn by three horses. On the forward horse the young brother rode postillion fashion, receiving for his services the grand sum of twenty cents. But Joseph Low did not come to Concord to live until some years later.

Benjamin Damon married in 1811 a sister of Mrs. William Low and he built his home on the south corner of School St. on a lot containing one hundred square rods for which he paid \$400. The space west of his house was Dea. Damon's garden reaching nearly to State St. The house burned in 1861 and the property was sold for business blocks.

As William Low watched the fitful development of the partisan newspaper in Concord, he remembered a printer's apprentice in Amherst who had impressed him by his "industry, frugality and perseverance", and when the time seemed ripe Mr. Low sent for this young man, Isaac Hill by name, and persuaded him to come to Concord and buy William Hoit's American Patriot. The paper was then published in an old building next south of Abel Hutchins's house (site of Phenix Hotel). In the spring of 1809, having come of age and thus free as a seven-year apprentice, Isaac Hill arrived in Concord. During the forty years of life before him he, more than any other citizen, lifted the town out of rural provincialism into a position of state leadership and national recognition. This he accomplished with schooling which, because of poverty, ended at the age of fourteen. Even so, that meagre education was interrupted by hard manual labor.

He was a boy of character: honest, sober, reliable, above all determined to win success in life; and so, after a long day's work as apprentice in the Amherst Cabinet office, he spent his evening with books and

by rigid self-discipline, he gained both in knowledge and in character. Two weeks after he gained his freedom, Isaac Hill was editor of the N.H. Patriot with William Hoit as his devoted helper. The first issue under the new management was dated April 18, 1809, and within five years Hill's genius fired by his eager and tireless spirit, had made his paper the most influential in the state and its editorials were noted throughout the country.

The early Patriot was printed on a Ramage press at the rate of not more than two hundred and fifty per hour. Two pressmen were employed—one to work the press requiring two pulls of the lever to print the two pages the other to ink type with two large "balls" made of soft sheep or chamois skin, stuffed with wool. Before long the paper attained a circulation of three thousand and then four thousand and it was a whole day's job to print one side of the four page folder. During the early years, the editor did not scorn to take a hand in printing as well as doing all the editorial work, and there were times when he delivered the papers at the doors of his subscribers.

In 1811 a younger brother of the editor, Walter Russell Hill (b. 1790) became a partner in the enterprise and in 1818, a third brother, Horatio, aged eleven, began work as a compositor on the paper. He had to stand on a platform of three type boxes piled on each other, in order to reach the case. During summer months such apprentices worked from sunrise to nine o'clock at night; during winter months, from sunrise till sunset. In 1830 Horatio Hill married Clarissa Walker Emery, daughter of Charles Emery and their home was "a pleasantly situated dwelling" on the site of No. 24 Green St., removed in later years and now standing at the corner of South and Thorndike Sts., completely transformed and used as a store. Following his wife's death in 1839, Horatio Hill moved to Chicago. His brother, Walter Russell Hill, marched in Capt. Peter Robertson's company to Portsmouth in 1814 when invasion by the British threatened at that

point. Exposure and suffering incident to that service brought on a mental derangement from which he never recovered.

During the War of 1812 the Patriot featured news of the impressing of American seamen by the British-an injustice which fired the young editor with indignation, and his first editorial sounded his war theme: "Our cause is the cause of our country-our only enemies those who are seeking ~~ing~~ its ruin!" When, nearly forty-two years later, his N.H. Patriot published the editor's obituary, it referred to his worldly success with this tribute "The honor and influence thus won, were honestly earned by hard labor, strict integrity and unflinching devotion to the principles of his party and the great interests of the country."

By the vigor of his mind and the power of his will, this man always slender, often frail and nervously exhausted, became a national figure. A partisan for Andrew Jackson, he was appointed by that president to the office of second comptroller of the Treasury Department and by his ability he held Jackson's life-long confidence and friendship. When the administration changed, Mr. Hill's renomination for office was rejected by the Senate and an effort was made to discredit him. Thereupon the Senate of New Hampshire elected him to the U.S. Senate. Shortly before his term expired, Mr. Hill resigned to become the popular governor of our state, elected by an unprecedented majority.

Very soon after Isaac Hill took over the American Patriot, he moved the printing office to a long two-story building which stood on the site of Cyrus Hill Block (Emmons Store) overlooking Abel Hutchins's garden. The presses were set up on the second floor of the building and in the north room on the ground floor, Mr. Hill opened the Franklin Book Store which continued as a Concord institution for many years. There was other business in the building for we find an advertisement in the Patriot to the effect that William Huse carried a line of broadcloths, velvets, gingham dainty, laces, ribands etc. at his store "I door south of the Patriot office

Isaac Hill foregathered socially with the group of young people which included Sarah Connell and he is frequently mentioned in her diary, but always as "Mr. Hill" and without comment. Perhaps his seriousness accounts for this: perhaps he was already showing devotion to Sarah's neighbor, Susan Ayer, to whom he would be married at no distant time. In May 1809 when both were newcomers in Concord, her diary first mentions the editor:

"I was sent for to visit Mrs. Robey. Mama advised me to go and upon the whole I concluded that I would not be ceremonious. I had never seen Mrs. Robey and of course felt unpleasantly about visiting her. I seated myself and read till 5, then drest. The Miss. Eyers" (Richard Ayer's daughters) "called on me and waited on me to Mrs. Robey's. I was pleased with her she is a pleasant little woman. Emily Mann was there, she introduced me to Miss Clarissa Walker" (daughter of Judge Walker and later wed to Levi Bartlett) "She is a handsome girl and her manners are very pleasing. I saw Mrs. Low, Mrs. Emery and the Miss. Hutchins there. Mr. Huse, Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Hill, Mr. Eyer and several other gentlemen came in the evening. We danced and I enjoyed it highly. My first partner was Mr. Huse, my second Mr. Bartlett. I danced again with Mr. Huse and then with Emily Mann. The last figure was my favorite, "Chorus Jig". At eleven o'clock Mr. H. walked home with me."

Mrs. Robey, the hostess of this party, may be identified with Sally Carter (b. 1785) daughter of Jacob Carter. She married 1. John Robie. 2. Jonathan Worthen.

Below the Damon house on the corner of School St., the new Lower Bank and Gale's tavern with several small wooden stores south of the tavern, completed the business establishments on the west side of the main street. One of the wooden stores was occupied for years by Col. William A. Kent, on the site of No. 11 N. Main St. On the east side of the highway, Mrs. M. Redig "Fashionable Hair trimmer wig and Frizett maker" adver-

vertised that she had removed from a shop opposite Capt. Robertson's "to a large and convenient room next door to Mr. John Odlin's." The Wilkins house (Hannah Osgood's tavern) was used for commercial purposes at the time and Mrs. Redig's beauty parlor may have been located there. The Odlin house was on the site of 186 N. Main St. Sarah Connell notes in her diary: "Called at Mrs. Redig's", but whether socially or for professional service is not revealed.

Col. Thomas Stickney died in this year of 1809, an old man of nearly eighty, and his son, Thomas Jr., was managing the farm. Business was spreading up the main street and very soon small wooden shops and stores would spring up on the Stickney property and obstruct the lovely view of river, fields and hills to the east. South of the Dea. Wilkins house was the property of George Hough and next south was the Sweatt property which had been purchased the year before by Sherburne Wiggin, sexton and bell-ringer at the Meeting-house. This homestead comprised two acres with a dwelling house, wood house, barn and shop. In 1810, Wiggin sold it to Allen Goodridge, housewright, and Porter Blanchard, cabinet maker; and in 1815 it was sold to Isaac Hill, and there, on the present site of Emmons Store, the editor carried on his newspaper business for the next years. From his home in the old dwelling house, he looked over into Abel Hutchins's garden. Meanwhile, Wiggin purchased the Ebenezer Dustin tanyard on the brook which crossed the main street near present Freight St. and, for a home, he bought the Richard H. Osgood tavern property (site of First National Bank) and there he died, still a young man, in 1814.

Abel Hutchins, prosperous clockmaker, was about to build on his homestead property, a large three-story house (site of Phenix Hotel). When Alva Cady came to Concord to live after appointment as Secretary of State his family lived in a part of this spacious house until it was destroyed by fire in 1817. Mr. Cady was one of the finest type of citizen that Con-

\* Main and Depot Streets

cord has known and he played an active and wholesome part in the civic enterprises of his day. In the early thirties he was the local justice before whom petty offenders were brought for punishment. He was one of the founders of the first temperance society in Concord and served as its first secretary. In the late thirties he was associated with the management of the "Herald of Freedom", a local Abolitionist publication, but his deepest interest was centered in the Episcopal church which he was instrumental in establishing in Concord in 1817. In the early days of its history this devout man often read the service in the absence of a regular rector.

The South End was, changing little for farms still lined both sides of the street. One store had been opened by Samuel Butters Jr. next north of his father's tavern. In 1800 when he was twenty-five years old, the young man purchased the lot from his father, built a store and ran it for several years. In 1809, young Asaph Evans became the storekeeper for two years and then Butters sold the place. In years to come, Charles Hutchins carried on a store at the same location.

In 1807, Abel Hutchins and Capt. Sherburne Wiggin took the initiative in organizing an effective fire department for Concord. They called the local firewards for a conference at the Town House and as a result, Concord Engine Company No. 1 was formed. Firewards were appointed at each town meeting and some of the most prominent and reliable citizens served in this capacity but the apparatus for use was a hand tub, only, and results left much to be desired. Improved methods were coming into use and Concord men were eager to take advantage.

The first firewards appointed to office were such well-known men as Benjamin Kimball, Jr., Nathaniel Abbot, Sergeant Rogers, Timothy Chandler and Paul Rolfe. Reminiscent of firewards and their work is the following-

"The way they flourished their red staves at a fire, punching holes through partitions while Tom Sargent, the Old North bell-ringer, mounted

the ridge pole and cut through the roof to let the water in from the tubs, was a caution to modern chief engineers and their assistants."

Porter Blanchard already referred to, ~~came~~ hither from Milford in 1809, purchased Levi Bartlett's "Cabinet Manufactory" and married Anne Souther. Some kind friend sent this announcement to the Patriot of Nov. 6, 1810:

"Married, Ensign Porter Blanchard to Miss Nancy Souther.  
While many long for best Port wine,  
Some make of rum a sporter;  
Nancy, more wise, chose good brown stout  
And fell in love with Porter."

The young couple-Nancy (or Anne) was nineteen-made their home in the old Edward Abbot Garrison house and Blanchard later owned the property as far south as Centre road. He founded in 1818 one of Concord's famous industries, the Blanchard Churn Company. Meanwhile Levi Bartlett went to Boston to begin a long and successful career as merchant, returning to Concord in 1814 to claim Clarissa Walker as his bride.

In the 1790s dancing teachers were advertising in Concord for classes and dancing parties came to be popular. This invitation was printed on a playing card:

"Social Ball.  
The company of Mr. and Mrs. Chandler is requested at  
Stickney's Hall on Thursday next, at 5 o'clock.  
W.A. Kent )  
R.H. Ayer ) Managers.  
C. Emery )  
Concord, Nov. 29, 1806."

Sarah Connell's diary gives us vivid though brief, pictures of the townspeople and their social interests. Calling and taking tea were a part of every day life and little Miss Connell thought nothing of entertaining four beaux of an evening. Religious life was strict and Sunday was a serious day of "going to meeting" relieved, perhaps, by the fact that Sarah was "much pleased with Mr. McFarlin" and his "very excellent sermon". Quite properly the Connells entertained the Minister and his wife and at the same time, Capt. and Mrs. Ayer; after tea "they pas'd the evening here".

"Had a social friendly time." Later when Mrs. Connell was seriously ill, the Minister called in his professional capacity and, as was the custom, "went to prayer with her."

Sarah was reading "St. Clair or the Heiress of Desmond" and "St. Leon"-both loaned to her by Philip Carrigain: also "Corinna" which she was "far from pleased with." Mr. Samuel Ayer, a tutor at Dartmouth college, came over from his nearby home and read aloud to her the Southey ballads. But on Sunday all such worldly books were put aside and she read the book of Daniel through or perused Zephaniah and Haggai (without comment) or turned to Dodd's "Reflections on Death" or her favourite Author Doddridge on Religion." Cowper's poems were suitable Sunday reading and she favored them. On week days she read Sterne.

Walking was a pastime allowable on Sunday when a group of the young folks sedately "walked down as far as the bridge"; nevertheless, prim Miss Connell admits-"I dislike walking on the Sabbath, except when alone I can devote myself to uninterrupted reflection, and invoke Piety in my lonely wanderings." This seems to have been the prevailing "sentimentality" of the age for Sarah Connell was in reality a lively attractive girl. In spite of such commendable principles, she sometimes yielded to her youth as when, on a fine June Sunday, after hearing two long sermons in the Meeting-house, she and one of her devoted admirers walked up to the North End. Stopping at Washington tavern for Emily Mann, they went on to Judge Walker's house to annex Clarissa. Then the little party strolled over to Horseshoe pond and undertook to cross to the Island on logs. Writes Sarah "I got very wet. Clarissa and I jumped into a little boat, and finally reached the other side without any more difficulty. On our return, I called into Judge Walker's and Capt. Mann's." Quite an exciting Sabbath!

Perhaps it was an uneasy conscience which led to this entry in the diary on a Sunday later in this same month of June:

"Mr. Toppan called in to see if I would ride to the Canals with

him. I told him no. That it was against my principals to visit on the Sabbath. There are enough days in the week for worldly pleasures without infringing on one which was set apart for devotional exercises."

The "Canals" was the project under way in Bow which, in conjunction with the Middlesex canal proposed to make the Merrimack a waterway from Boston. In March of this year of 1809, the Patriot carried a notice of a meeting of the "Proprietors of the Bow Canal."

On week days Sarah Connell joined blithely in walking parties and on one such occasion after tea, she with three girl friends and Mr. Hill, Mr. Huntoon, Mr. S. Mann and "Mr. Huff" (George Hough, son of the printer) "we pursued our way to the pond. We were inclined to be gay and trifling, talked much and laughed more.\*\*\*\*\* Walked home with Mr. Hill. O. Carrigain joined us and I regretted his intrusion."

On another day-" We amused ourselves with gathering flowers along the road, till we arrived at the bank of the river. There we seated ourselves on the verdant carpet of Nature and the girls sang a pritty little song 'Will you come to the bower'. We had quite a sentimental walk home." It was on an evening in the lovely time of May that, in company with Mr. Huse, Mr. Bartlett and Susan Gale, the tavern keeper's sister, Sarah walked "down to the river where I sang my favourite little song 'When evening eloses in' ". It was a charming walk in those days, down the Stickney lane (now Bridge St.) through open fields to the winding Merrimack.

The sentimentality of the times pervaded these simple pleasures but there came a September evening-a pleasant evening-"though there was no moon", when a very genuine sentiment prevailed: Sarah's neighbor, Samuel Ayer, called for her and they "wandered round by the schoolhouse into the road that runs back of it" (Green St.) "My companion was just such an one as I could have wished. Amiable, sensible and polite. How much do I enjoy a walk of a fine evening with a companion in whom I feel interested, and whose sentiments are congenial with my own." In a little more than a year

Sarah Connell and her "favourite Mr. Ayer" were wed.

The Carrigain brothers were still her devoted friends although she refers to Obadiah as "a very agreeable companion, but I have heard him called very dissipated." Philip Carrigain continued to hold her respect and admiration—"a man of much information \*\*\*\* cheerful and pleasant. His conversation interesting and instructive." On a midsummer day this gentleman took Sarah and her friends, Susan Ayer and Sally Hutchins in a chaise to Hooksett falls for a visit with Susan's brother, Moses Ayer and his young wife. "I was quite in love with the latter", she writes, and the ride home after tea and in the moonlight, "was most pleasant."

Riding parties were popular with the young folk and Miss Sarah with her favorite Mr. Ayer had "a charming ride as far as Ambroe's tavern" on the Mountain; or, with Samuel Ayer's sister Susan, she rides "to Hopkinton, a pleasant little Town several miles from Concord," where they "stopp'd at Bailey's tavern, took a little refreshment then walked out." Upon her return from this ride she found O. Carrigain waiting patiently and they "walk'd up as far as the post office. No letters." On the last day of June there was a large riding party to Boscowen, including Capt. Robertson and his pretty wife, Mr. and Mrs. "Lowe" and her sister, Mr. Bartlett, Miss Thorn-dike and Mr. Hill who had "engaged" Miss Sarah to ride with him. The party "stop'd at Power's tavern and refreshed ourselves."

On the evening of the same day there was a party at Rebecca Wilson's (site of Acquilla block) with Susanna West, Polly Green, the doctor's daughter, Moses Bradley, young Dartmouth graduate who was engaged to Polly, the two Wilkins girls, Sophia and Janette, Miss Kimball—probably Sarah,—Mr. Kimball, probably her brother Samuel A., and Mr. P. Carrigain. Samuel A. Kimball was a Dartmouth 1806 man and after a brief period of law practice in Dover, he had returned to Concord and was settled on the Kimball homestead at the North End.

It was the custom to give afternoon parties for the girls and invite the young men in for the evening. Sally Hutchins and her sister, Dolly, gave such a party at their home on the site of Phenix Hotel and there was dancing in the evening. "I enjoyed it highly", writes Sarah Connell. The most elaborate parties during this year of 1809 seem to have been those of Mrs. Duncan, widow of the Major. She invited a large number of people in November to her home which was probably the house owned by her father, Robert Harris, on the South End farm later the Downing farm. "Miss H. J. Livermore was there. I did not enjoy the visit" writes Sarah. Harriet Livermore later to be famed as traveller and writer, was the daughter of Mrs. Duncan's brother-in-law, Edward St. Loe Livermore. One wonders if it were the presence of the somewhat erratic Miss Livermore, then in her early twenties, which disturbed the pleasure of Miss Connell.

On the evening of Sarah's eighteenth birthday she was invited to a grand party at Mrs. Duncan's and her escort was her favorite "Mr. A." She writes: "I felt rather confused on entering the room to discover so many strangers. The Governor, Counsel, President of the senate, Speaker of the house, Treasurer, former Secretary and several representatives were there." Evidently this party was a celebration over the recent return of the Federalists to power in New Hampshire.

Quilting parties were still in vogue in 1809 and there was one at Mrs. Richard Ayer's and another at Susan Gale's with a "fine frolic". All the young folk at these festivities were, with a few exceptions like P. Carrigain, in their teens or early twenties and the diary leaves no doubt as to their gayety of spirit. Through its pages the older people walk in and out: Mrs. Jacob Dimmons, "still beautiful and interesting": the gracious Mrs. Kent: "Aunt Gale" at the tavern: Dea. Kimball: Mrs. Nathaniel Abbot whose admission to the church "was a solemn scene, my heart was affected": Fanny Abbot, her daughter, soon to become Mrs. Joseph Low: Major "Starks" from Dun-

X at "the Duncan Estate"

barton and "Old Capt. Emery": Mr. and Mrs. George- all these were welcome callers at the Connell home. On a red letter day, Mr. Samuel Ayer appeared to "introduce the celebrated Doct<sup>r</sup> Smith of Hanover to us."

Political feeling ran high in these days and sometimes vented itself in unseemly fashion, as witnessed by this entry in the diary: "Papa was greatly insulted at the court house by one Roggers"-probably Arthur- for daring to support his principles. On going into Stickney's to obtain some refreshment he was assaulted by a party of Federalists, from the other side of the river, and abused in a shameful manner. He was brought home by Capt. Ayer, and considerably injured. It was with difficulty that I could suppress the resentment I felt at the base treatment my Father received.

The diary includes the story of Sarah Connell's attendance with "Papa" at Dartmouth commencement in August 1809. In this graduating class was Levi Woodbury (b. 1789) whose brilliant future included being governor of New Hampshire, U.S. Senator, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of the Treasury, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. He seemed destined to be Democratic nominee for the presidency but his sudden death threw that honor to Franklin Pierce.

Sarah and her father were invited to commencement by a member of the graduating class, Israel Putnam, who belonged to a Danvers, Mass. family long friendly with the Connells. His sister Sally was to attend and she was a dear friend of Sarah's. Added attraction for Sarah was the fact that Samuel Ayer, the tutor, would be in Hanover also.

Capt. Connell and his daughter travelled over the present highway to Boscawen and then followed the newly opened Fourth N.H. Turnpike through Salisbury, "a most pleasant Town containing a very neatly finished Meeting-house, and several large and handsome dwelling houses. We stop'd at Petingal's tavern in the upper parish," (Salisbury Heights) "where we passed the night." Next morning they drove on to Dea. Noyes's, sixteen miles from Salisbury, for breakfast-"a house distant from any other dwelling and sur-

rounded by thick woods."Riding "very rapidly till we reached the pleasant little Town of Enfield, inhabited by shakers", where the turnpike followed the west shore of Mascoma lake, they passed directly through the Shaker colony. Beyond Enfield they were delayed by a mishap when the tackling broke and Capt. Connell found help in tying up the chaise at "a small house that stood some way from the rhode." But in due time they reached Hanover safely and found lodgings at Dea. Fuller's and "had tea at the President's".

There were happy greetings with Israel and Sally Putnam and with Samuel Ayer and the group toured the library and the museum before going to the Meeting-house to hear an "Oration from Mr. Woodbury." Next day Sarah had "a ride to Norridge" (Norwich, Vt.) "with Mr. W. and was very much pleased with him," while Mr. Ayer must have wondered at the flightiness of maids in general. In the afternoon there was "an Oration from Rev. Mr. Parish on "Ambition" and in the evening, "Mr. Brown delivered an address before the Handel Society\*\*\*\*Music was excellent." The commencement exercises were "pleasing to me" and Israel Putnam's Oration on "Connexion between Virtue and National Prosperity" she commends as "sentiments very good." In the evening there was a ball and another on the following night: "I never enjoyed a Ball more. Returned between Four and five o'clock."

After such exciting experiences in Hanover, Sarah returned to her home in Concord, to her tasks of spinning, making "a new Habit and altering some gowns", to her books and her friends and her sentimental walks: to the routine of a well-bred Concord girl in the year 1809. It was a town astir with the hope that its destiny was assured. During legislative sessions the Senate and the House convened in the Town House and directly across the main street the northwest parlor of Madam Israel Evans's house was reserved for use of the Governor and Council. From that year on down to the present day, Concord has been the political center of the state - the Capital for New Hampshire.