

## Chapter XXXIV.

### A Century of Development

On a November Sabbath in the year 1830, the young Minister of First Church preached two sermons to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of its organization in Pennycook Plantation. It was a day of solemn remembrance and thanksgiving and a season of especial respect for the aged folk of the parish. In that small group of the very old there were a few who could remember the latter days of the pioneer period, chief among them being Mrs. Elizabeth Abbot Haseltine, the only survivor of first babies born in the primitive town. At this anniversary time she was in her ninety-seventh year, a beloved link between the ancient and the new.

Mr. Bouton's sermons on that day gave evidence of his keen interest in local history and it is likely that the research made in their preparation was the beginning of that more extensive study which finally bore fruit in his invaluable History of Concord. Added to this academic interest it was the Minister's purpose to inspire his people with a veneration and respect for the memory of their forebears—a purpose emphasized in reminding his hearers "at how dear a price our privileges were purchased and how weighty are the obligations imposed upon us to imitate their virtues and to confide in the God in whom they trusted." Through the ensuing years of his long pastorate at First Church Dr. Bouton maintained this standard in his leadership both in religious and secular affairs in Concord.

Her first century was history and Concord faced changed times. During the first half of that century her life had been that of a primitive rural community, her energies engaged in the toil of providing food, shelter and clothing; but during all that period her church had been her inspiration and her comfort. Self-reliant, each householder provided all the elementary needs of his family and the town lived in an independent little world of its own with only infrequent contacts with the world outside. Their anxieties were the weather and their crops, the savages and possible attack and occasional epidemic disease.

The latter half of that century brought the broadening experience of the Revolutionary War and the organizing of the new Republic. Travel increased and a crude commerce provided a new source of local wealth and brought new comforts to the homes. Concord was growing slowly in population but life was still simple and largely apart from urban trends and national problems. The old pioneer stock was liberally reinforced with newcomers from the outside world who found opportunity in this section of New Hampshire, and this fact produced a certain sophistication hitherto unknown in town. The old standards of a farming community were in process of change and at the town meeting of 1834 it was noted that there was "increase of inhabitants in the compact part of the town" above that hitherto shown in the farm area.

Concord housewives still spun and wove much of the family clothing but there was evidence of a definite yearning for the machine made cottons displayed in the new shops along the main street, and the fresh-cheeked girls on the farms were tempted by the news of the wages paid by the mills on the lower Merrimack. There was a rumor that certain men had a scheme to lay tracks between Boston and Lowell to duplicate the railroad already in operation in South Carolina—a rumor which brought dismay to the stage coach proprietors in town. Our own stretch of the Merrimack had seen a little boat propelled by steam against the current and some folks ventured to speculate on the possibility of some such craft crossing the ocean at some future day. While the men folks discussed such innovations the housewives shook their heads over the news that city people were wearing stockings knit by a machine.

The War of 1812 had left the young nation military minded and national defence became a general obligation. Concord fulfilled her responsibility by enrolling for military duty every able-bodied man between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, except he be exempt for special reasons. So it was that this small town maintained the Columbian Artillery Company,

the Concord Cavalry, the Borough Rifle Company and one or more companies of light infantry, all uniformed and well-equipped. In addition there were four non-uniformed companies dubbed by their more elegant comrades, "slam bang" or "string bean" companies.

Required by law to do duty twice a year these citizen soldiers held a training day in May and a regimental muster late in September. A warning was published a few days in advance, calling the men to meet at the appointed place, armed and equipped with a musket with iron ramrod, a bayonet and scabbard, knapsack, cartridge box and belt, priming wire and brush and two spare flints. May training was usually a local day and lasted only during an afternoon, although in earlier years it had been the custom for the men to assemble at the homes of their officers before daylight and there be treated with the stimulant deemed proper for such occasions. Drill took place on Pond hill at the North End or along the wide main street and "the officers evidently felt well from the captains down to the ensigns and the lowest non-commissioned subalterns."

The muster of the 11th Regiment in September was a much more formal occasion and took place, in rotation, in Concord, Pembroke and Hooksett. In 1828 the muster was held in Concord in the field west of the State Prison (between present Beacon and Tremont Sts.) but in the thirties another field was commonly used, as in the following account (Reminiscences by Abial Rolfe, b. 1823).

"The Concord companies met near Washington tavern at 6.30 in the morning. The companies from nearby towns were already on hand and the regiment formed on the main street. The march led around the big Walker barn, and down the hill and across the bridge to the island. The Northern R.R. now crosses the old muster field. With great dignity the reviewing officers and the regimental inspector were then escorted by one of the light infantry companies to the field and the grand review took place. Inspection/which followed, consisted of a routine curious to this present gen-

eration. At an order from the Captain, each man in the company drew the ramrod and placed it in the barrel of his musket. The inspector in passing took the piece, snapped the lock and gave an upward shake to see if it were clean. Returning it to the soldier, the inspector passed to the rear, to examine his cartridge box and other equipment, including two spare flints.

"After inspection was finished, the uniformed companies marched to the headquarters for dinner, while the non-uniformed stacked their arms and ate where they could. The afternoon was given over to drill, and sometimes a sham battle was staged. An added thrill was given to the day by the fancy manoeuvres of some of the companies during the march to and from the muster field.

"In 1853 the universal military training law was repealed, and it was not until after the Civil War experience that the foundation of our present national defence training was laid."

These companies of militia played a prominent part on 'Lection Day and whenever a distinguished guest arrived in town. A vivid description of their glory on 'Lection Day as remembered by Dr. Andrew McFarland, is to be found in the History of Concord (p. 45).

The "Reminiscences" of Abial Rolfe carry the reader back to the days in the thirties:

"The main street was still the regular route of travel between northern New Hampshire, Vermont and Boston, and all day long in the summer-time eight horse teams with their sturdy wagons loaded with heavy freight protected with canvas resting on upright bows, were lumbering along the highway. When the river was navigable, it was the usual habit to unload these wagons at the wharves of the Boating Company, while in winter the loaded sleds continued on to Boston. Winter travel was more than doubled when the two horse pung sleighs from Vermont came into use and it was not uncommon to see twenty, thirty, sometimes even fifty such teams passing

through Main St. at a time. At certain seasons, especially in the fall, large droves of cattle and sheep passed down the highway to Brighton market. Washington tavern was the favorite stopping place for the south bound traffic and its roomy yard was often filled to overflowing at night with big six and eight horse teams. When the canvas covered wagons rumbled away in the early morning it was like a great caravan.

"Such traffic conditions maintained until the coming of the railroad in the forties, which ended likewise the passenger travel by stage and much of the patronage of the taverns. Stage driving was a responsible profession and it took skill to handle the reins over the four horses hitched to the coach. Much more skill was necessary when six horses were needed in the heavy roads of early spring. The stage driver was a popular fellow and the annual January ball of the brotherhood at the Eagle Coffee House was the event of the winter."

The thirties saw the peak of stage coach travel and the Concord coach was in general use in this part of New Hampshire: "It was roomy and grand with rhythm in the roll and play of its wheels. Honest hands made it of wood slowly grown, and the toughest iron of the forge, so it held together through all the stress and strain, and bore a good name to every quarter of the globe," wrote Henry McFarland. His estimate of its durability is proven by the number of Concord coaches still in existence, one of which is on permanent display in our railroad station. \*

Well-known names in Concord of that generation are to be found in the list of stage drivers: Seth Greenleaf, William Walker, Jr., Robert P. Kimball, Nathaniel White, Peter Smart, George Herrick, Peter Dudley, Henry George, Richard H. Ayer, Elbridge G. Carter. Such were the men to "swing a whip with a twelve foot lash". Some of their exploits make interesting reading in the History of Concord in its entertaining chapter by Henry McFarland on "Canals, Stage Lines and Taverns."

Aside from the turnpikes the highways at this period were still cared for in neighborhoods, each of which had its surveyor appointed at town meeting. Individual farmers were taxed a small fee for upkeep which they paid in cash or by work on the roads. When heavy snow fell each farmer used his team of oxen to break out the roads and carry the children to the district school.

Abial Rolfe notes that the banks of that day were all state institutions so that travellers across state lines found it necessary to exchange such bank notes as they might have on hand. Counterfeiting under these conditions was so easy that it became common. The mint at Philadelphia was producing coin practically identical with that of today, but "the pockets of Concord men jingled with a strange assortment of 'pine tree shillings', Mexican quarters, Spanish milled dollars, and halves, quarters and the fifths called pistareens." These foreign coins brought into New England by her trading vessels, were often so old and worn that the mint stamp could scarcely be read.

Prosperity ere long, was to be followed by financial panic (1837) but in that calamity Concord had one industry which never failed - her traffic in lumber. The banks of the Contoocook river above the Borough and as far as the Hopkinton line, were heavily wooded with pine and oak. During the winter log men cut and hauled the great trees, drawing those destined for boards and planks to the saw mills, while timber for ships and masts was hauled by many oxen to the bank of the Merrimack to be floated to market.

Abial Rolfe was a member of the Penacook family which has been identified continuously with the lumber business from pioneer days until the recent closing out of the C.M. & A.W. Rolfe plant (1940). His description is therefore authentic:

"After the ice went out the lumber was rafted. The sawed lumber"

was placed on two sticks of timber called ways, in piles about four feet wide and high enough to make a thousand feet board measure. These were called cribs and were bound together with binders made from small oak trees split in the middle, and rounded at each end, then running under the cribs with the ends turned up. A piece of joist with holes bored through it was placed on top and the ends of the binders run through the holes and firmly wedged to keep the cribs together. Then the cribs were slid into the river; the masts and the ship timber were rolled in and all floated down to the ~~Borough~~ mills. Then the cribs were loaded onto wheels and drawn to the Merrimack. The wheels were backed into the water for the loading and unloading. The masts and round timber were loaded and drawn across the plains to the sand bank near the head of Sewall's falls and rolled down the bank into the river. Since the course of the river has been changed by the building of the Northern R.R. this public landing has reverted to wilderness.

"Before starting down the Merrimack the cribs were banded into shots consisting of eight cribs each-two wide and four long. The masts and ship timber were similarly banded so that their passage through the locks and canals on the Merrimack might be facilitated. Most of the sawed lumber was marketed at Lowell, while the rest went through the Middlesex canal to Boston, and thence to the ship yards at Medford and Charlestown. Much of the oak was so heavy that it was necessary to intermix it with pine in the banding in order to insure its floating. Mast Yard was the source of large numbers of ship masts, and the mark of the broad arrow was often found on the trees, a relic of the Colonial days when agents of the King had marked them to be reserved for the Royal Navy.

"Before shingle and clapboard machines were introduced, many farmers spent the winter working in the woods, splitting and shaving clapboards and shingles by hand from old growth pine. The product was of a quality

superior to the machine made ones of a later day. The farmers also cut oak timber into axe handles, whinstocks and goad sticks, which found a ready sale among the Vermont farmers who carted their produce through Concord to Boston. These same farmers produced the cord wood supply for Concord and vicinity. It was a familiar sight to see dozens of wood teams standing in front of the State House waiting for customers."

The superior quality of handmade clapboards is proven by the fact that a number of old houses in Concord still show these narrow overlapping clapboards still sound after the lapse of more than a century of wear. Log driving down the Merrimack continued for another half century before the timber supply became exhausted and in the eighties and nineties the youth of Concord and their elders found a thrill each spring as the drive passed down Concord's stretch of the Merrimack.

As prosperity increased a new emphasis was laid upon the desirability of wealth and men began to take chances upon easy money making. Lotteries had long furnished an outlet for the gambling urge but now a new temptation arose for those who would be rich without toil. In the new west public lands were offered cheap and the purchaser need not have cash in hand. Notes were accepted as currency and speculators grouped themselves together to organize banks for issuing such notes to themselves. The boom was countrywide and inflation was the order of the day. Land speculation became a mania and even conservative Concord caught the disease.

The New England craze started in the new State of Maine and spread to the towns and villages of nearby states. Abial Rolfe, remembering that time, wrote:

"Fictitious plans of cities and towns were issued and lots sold at fabulous prices."

Real estate here in Concord doubled in price as the demand increased and in some cases, sold eventually at five times its normal value. Sober-minded farmers and thrifty merchants staked the savings of years on such

investments and when the bubble burst in 1837, it is said that the citizens of our small town lost in land investments alone, the staggering sum of \$100,000.

In addition our people lost heavily in enterprises stimulated by the reckless spirit of the times. The Sewall's Falls Locks and Canal Corporation began construction at huge expense, dreaming of great cotton mills on the East Side. Before completion of the canal from the falls to the river near Federal bridge, the project failed with serious loss to local investors. The Silk Farm with its capital stock of \$75,000. failed after a brief time and was an almost total loss to its Concord promoters. Finally the Lower Bank failed as a result of accumulated folly and disaster. It is noteworthy that the catastrophe of 1837, general throughout the nation, seems to have been accepted in a sober sense of individual and collective responsibility—a frank acknowledgment of cause and effect. Men faced their losses and with chastened spirit proceeded to rebuild, each his own economic security for the future. There was no thought of government aid; families and friends stood by each other and the production of wealth began once more on the only solid basis of toil and thrift.

In prosperity and in adversity, the period of the thirties was one of broadening outlook and of vision in social responsibility. All over the country a new seriousness appeared and religious and humanitarian service made steady growth. Concord shared in this blessing and there were deeply spiritual revivals in First Church and in her offspring sects the Baptist and Methodist churches. The temperance movement became a popular crusade; prison reform and care of the insane engaged the minds of our citizens. In Massachusetts pioneer work was beginning in care and training of the blind and of the deaf and dumb. New ideals for the stabilizing of economic conditions led to the establishment of savings banks and life insurance benefits. The people profited by the bitter experience of 1837.

One of the first social reforms in Concord concerned itself with better care of the town's paupers. The oldtime custom was "to bid off" these unfortunates to persons offering board and care at the lowest figure, but in 1827 the town meeting voted "that the poor of the town be supported on a farm." Negotiations began at once and the following year the town purchased the 200 acre farm in the south part of West Parish village, owned by Timothy Walker (b. 1767), son of Judge Timothy Walker. When he was a young man this Timothy Walker was one of the pioneers in Rumford, Me. but he soon returned to Concord and settled on this farm with its Intervale and brook land on the east side of Boscawen road, and a hundred acres of woodland on the slope rising to Rattlesnake hill. (picture of house Chapter XXV.)

In anticipation of the sale of this farm, Mr. Walker purchased from his brother, Joseph, a lot on the main street "near to the great Elm tree" which stood opposite the old home built by the first minister. This lot was a portion of the original No. 3 in 2d Range, laid out to Abraham Foster who sold it in 1748 to "Timothy Walker, Clerk of Rumford". When Timothy 3d vacated his farm he probably had his new brick house on the main street ready for occupancy. Our picture shows this house at 217 N. Main St. years ago when the "great Elm tree" still sheltered it from summer sun.

Ten years later Timothy Walker was left a widower with no children. He married again but in 1846 this second wife died leaving him an old man of nearly eighty, practically blind and helpless. A young woman named Abigail Griffin had been "hired girl" in the household and he persuaded her to remain but traditon tells that gossip was unkind. Learning this Timothy Walker suggested that if Abigail would marry him and care for him during his few remaining years, his property should be left to her. After his death in 1857, his widow closed the blinds of the brick house, locked its doors and left it completely furnished and then went out to earn her living by working in the homes at the North End. Being handy at many things she seldom lacked employment. "Aunt Tim", as she was familiarly known, lived to

old age but she never occupied the brick house inherited from her husband, nor did she use the money that was his. Some folk say she could not believe her wealth; others say that, realizing her inferior social standing her pride led to this renunciation. Sometimes on a summer day, she opened the house for an hour and on such an occasion, Aunt Tim took a neighborhood child into the darkened place. Years afterward that child told the writer that the widow sat down in front of her husband's portrait and wept quietly for a little. Then she locked the door and went back to her mending of carpets and upholstering of worn chairs and her other odd jobs.

Before her death thirty four years after her husband's decease, through the friendly advice of her husband's kinsman, Joseph B. Walker, she made a will leaving the bulk of her considerable property as endowment for "The Timothy and Abigail Walker Lecture Fund." The property was still Timothy's - not hers, for she refused to claim it; but the increase through long years of toil was Abigail's and it is fitting that both names are linked in the title of the Fund.

Years ago the Boston Transcript published some verses written by Laura Garland Carr (Mrs. Norman G.) under the title "About a House." Mrs. Carr then lived in Concord and the deserted old house at the North End inspired her muse. This poem is included in Mrs. Carr's collected verse and recalls vividly to old North Enders, the time when Aunt Tim's house with its tangled vines and bramble grown scoryard, was a place of mystery - "the haunted house" to every neighborhood child.

It was about 1831 that the last of the historic wrestling matches took place in Concord, the occasion being the raising of Judge Walker's big barn which still stands the northernmost building on the old main street. At its corner stands the old boulder set as a shield against the ox carts which might cut the corner too closely in the days before fences were built. This site is historic for this is Lot I, Range I where the

first Minister's log house stood in 1730. The Minister's great-grandson, Joseph B. Walker had the inscription cut in the old stone as a memorial.

Wrestling was a popular sport in the early days and was likely to be on the program of any public occasion either social or secular- especially at house raisings. Naturally, the physical effort of the raising plus the stimulating effect of the customary "treat", tended to a show of further prowess. The sport began, says Bouton, (and he may very well have seen this last epic battle) with the youngsters, ringed about by on-lookers. Then their elders came into the ring and wagers were laid and a little more stimulant taken in would give wonderful strength and elasticity to the parties. By and by defiant and angry words would be heard, and it was well if a fight did not end the sport."

Excess of stimulants on all occasions was the reason why the town decided (1830) that, for the first time in her history, Concord must provide a place of detention for disturbers of the peace. And so it was voted to equip a "Bridewell" in the basement of one of the wooden store buildings on the Stickney farm property. The cost was \$30.78. This was the time when the growing abuse of liquor brought into being the Concord Temperance Society in which Rev. Nathaniel Bouton was a moving spirit.

Gone were the days when Concord was a community of select men and women descended from the pioneers or their carefully restricted successors. Thenceforward Concord was to be an open field for any and all who sought such opportunity as she afforded. Significant of such change was a land development at the top of Franklin St. hill, which resulted in a group of humble homes known as "The New Colony". This seems to have been somewhat of an outcast neighborhood: at any rate the Concord Female Charitable Society established a Sunday School there, considering it a field for home missionary effort. At least one of these remote "New Colony" houses is standing today at 85 Franklin St. In 1834 Richard Herbert sold it to Richard Bradley, its tenant then being Washington George, "laborer."

One of the leading business men in Concord at this period was Luther Roby, a member of that enterprising group of young men known as the "Amherst Colony". He arrived in town in 1822, having just reached his majority and his future wife was a girl in her teens, living with her widowed mother, Mrs. Benjamin Kimball, in the homestead at 207 N. Main St. The pictures of Mr. and Mrs. Roby were, of course taken in the late years of their married life. One of their daughters, Lucy, married Moses Hazen Bradley, last of the Bradleys to live in the old house on Penacook St. Mr. Bradley was a man of fine physique and a sterling character worthy of his ancestry. The writer has a childhood memory of him as the tall man in a nearby pew who sang the church hymns in a rich bass of great volume. His wife, Lucy Roby Bradley, was for years the leader of the infant class in the Sunday School - "Buds of Promise" - at First Church and there are some of us gray-haired folk who still remember her sweetness and affection. As she aged, Mrs. Bradley so closely resembled our picture of her mother that one likeness is adequate for both.

Luther Roby's connection with the Statesman has been mentioned. His next venture was in the publishing business in the firm of Luther Roby & Co. and later, Roby, Kimball & Merrill. About 1830 a large brick building of some pretension was erected north of Washington tavern, by an aunt of Mrs. Roby's, Mrs. Anna Kimball True. Left a widow in her home at Hampstead, Mrs. True returned to Concord and co-operated with the new enterprise by furnishing it with quarters. The building as shown in our picture, stood at the North End until torn down in 1949 to make way for a bridge over the railroad tracks. The Merrill in the above firm was Rufus Merrill, native of Conway but no alien to Concord, since he was descended from the pioneer ferryman, Dea. John Merrill. His wife was a Concord girl, Sophia Barker West.

The new firm occupied the first floor of the new block and began publishing Bibles, Testaments, school books such as the New England Primer

and Webster's Spelling Book and, in addition, the indispensable Leavitt's Almanac. Their quarto Bibles were sold all over the country and are still to be found in some Concord homes. The firm's product was one of which Concord was justly proud. Power for the work was furnished by a windlass in the basement, turned by a plodding horse and about twenty men and eight young women were employed in the printing office and bindery. Isaac Hill wrote following the visit of President Jackson to Concord in 1833:

"I had the gratification to present the President of the United States and the Secretaries of War and Navy, who visited this town last summer with specimens of the fine Bible stereotyped and manufactured by Luther Roby & Co., and of the "Christian Harmony", a volume of music published by Horatio Hill & Co.-specimens, the almost entire material of which twenty years ago would have been wonderful if produced by the best artists in Europe."

Horatio Hill who published "Christian Harmony" was a younger brother of Isaac Hill and he came to Concord to associate himself with the publisher of the *Patriot*. In 1829, in company with Cyrus Barton, he purchased the paper and continued in its management for five years. In 1830 he married Clarissa Walker Emery, the young great grand-daughter of Parson Walker, and their home was "a pleasantly situated dwelling house" (as described in an advertisement) on the site of 24 Green St.-probably one of the early houses built on that street. It now stands, entirely changed, as a store at the corner of South and Thorndike Sts.

The Horatio Hills removed to New York City where Mrs. Hill died in 1839 before her thirtieth birthday. Mr. Hill, like his brother, was a man of conspicuous ability and energy and in Chicago whither he moved after his wife's death, he made a notable business success. His outstanding contribution to Concord's future was a part in, sponsoring a charter for the Concord railroad.

Luther Roby's energies were not confined to the publishing business,

for he was one of the first to develop Concord's great granite industry. In 1834, in company with William Green, he purchased the "Summit Ledge" on the south side of Rattlesnake hill, and granite cutting outside of convict labor began in Concord, thus inaugurating the town's greatest source of wealth for future years. The Roby quarries lie at the end of Woolson road in the Little pond district and it was there that New Hampshire's block for the Washington monument was quarried. One surmises that the fine wall in front of the Kimball-Roby house (207 N. Main St.) came from the same source and that it was built under Mr. Roby's supervision.

In 1842 when the stone for the first Concord R.R. depot was produced ledge stones twelve to fourteen tons in weight, were frequently hauled down through the town. One of the largest was seventeen feet long and it was hauled down Woolson road, Penacook St. and Main St. by forty yoke of oxen. This was in the month of March and as the huge stone was placed on two new, strong sleds and the five hundred pound chain with studded links adjusted, all promised well. But just as the journey began the great chain broke and one of the sleds slipped back to the very edge of the ledge and was wrecked. The stone itself lodged against a big oak tree and was saved and with new sleds and a new chain, the second attempt was a success.

In the early thirties, William Restieaux, "Draper and Tailor", began business for himself in a shop one door south of Eagle Coffee House. There he had "Constantly on hand a good assortment of Broad-cloths, Cassimeres, Vestings, Stocks, Suspenders &c." Samples of these vestings laid off with colorful plaids, were shown to the writer by the tailor's grand-daughter, the late Mrs. Frank E. Dimond. The index of Mr. Restieaux's ledger reads like a directory of the town: butcher, baker, merchant, statesman, stage driver, banker, lawyer, doctor, laborer—all had accounts with Restieaux. There are Abbots in abundance, the Kents, the Lows, Isaac Hill and Landlord Gass; Isaac Shute from the South End and stylish Dr. Renton at the North End, Sheriff John Pettingill and the famous abolitionist, Nathaniel P. Rogers; Frank-

lin Pierce and Potter, the colored ventriloquist. Orders by mail or otherwise brought business from North Hempston and New Chester (Hill); from Piscataquog and Orono, from Plymouth and Warren, and from points west. Restieaux set a new standard for men's attire in this part of New Hampshire. Prices are of interest in contrast with inflated values of today: an old bill dated 1836, gives the charge for making a coat \$6.00, a pair of pants \$1.00, a vest the same, with extra charge for thread, canvas, buttons and other finishings.

Probably no other Concord citizen had so romantic and adventurous a background as William Restieaux. His great grandfather was a jeweler in Bordeaux, France where the family had lived since that time when all Bordeaux men were "Citizens of the Roman Empire." His grandfather migrated to Norwich, England, and there a son, Robert, was born in 1772. When, some years later, the Alien Act was passed because England feared invasion from France Robert's father prepared to leave the country but before he could do so, he was found dead in a Norwich road with his money and watch safe in his pockets.

Young Robert's godmother was "a great lady" whose son, Sir John B. Warren, was to become an admiral in the British Navy. The orphaned lad was placed under guardianship of the Bishop of Ely and, through the influence of such important friends, he became midshipman in the Navy with service on the brig "Otter", cruising then from Gravesend to Ostend. The boy realized that without money he could hardly hope for promotion, decided to venture to London and there he became apprenticed to a French staymaker whose house was a rendezvous for French refugees during the French revolution. Among these visitors, Robert remembered the man who became the famous diplomat, Prince Talleyrand.

Such associations stirred anew Robert's longing for freedom and opportunity and America became the land of his dreams. In 1792 when he was

barely twenty he embarked across the sea, taking a ship for Quebec since vessels to the United States were infrequent. When the ship docked at Halifax he found himself in trouble. The authorities were suspicious of French speaking visitors because France was known to be sending over scouts for the purpose of stirring up rebellion in Canada. When Robert Restieaux was found talking fluently with French prisoners in their language, he was arrested and tried for treason. Warning his landlady to destroy all his papers, he defended his own case and was released under bonds, but only to be faced with impressment in the British Navy.

Providentially his old patron, Sir John Warren, was stationed at Halifax and came to his rescue, with an offer of reinstatement in the Navy but Robert was more than ever determined on freedom and this his patron was able to accomplish for him. The young man worked his way into Maine where he worked as a tailor until such time as he could make his way toward his goal in Baltimore, Md. He made his way as far as Boston and there his journeying ended with the meeting of a young widow, Catherine Goss Bellows, whom he married on Christmas Day, 1798. The rest of his long life was passed in Boston, a respected citizen. His home was on Hanover St. and, being one of the earliest Methodists in Boston, he was long identified with that faith and, in his old age, he was known as "the Patriarch of the Hanover St. Church."

Robert Restieaux had a sister, Louise, who was educated in a Paris convent and married a French count. A brother was a copper engraver in London. Robert's children, born in Boston, were Louise, William and Thomas. He never told these children about his own mother and her antecedents, saying in answer to their questions: "You would be dissatisfied with your position in life." His dying message to his grandchildren seems significant "Tell them to live so as not to disgrace their ancestors."

This tale of adventure, romance and mystery is gathered from Bible records, old letters and memoranda and tradition preserved by the descend-

dents of Robert Restieaux and his son, William, the Concord tailor. Although Robert himself never lived in Concord, his name appears in the 1834 directory in the firm name "William & Robert Restieaux, Tailors."

William Restieaux (1802-1883) married Elizabeth Lincoln of Hingham, Mass., a grand daughter of Paul Revere, but their brief happiness ended with the death of the young wife and her infant son. The widower sought new scenes and came to Concord <sup>and</sup> in 1830 married Betsey Chase of Hopkinton. The following year he purchased a lot on the new residential section of State St. south of Centre St. and built his house—a wooden building with brick ends. Our picture shows this old house as it was being demolished to make way for the building of the N.H. Historical Society. Many were the guests who entered its hospitable door when William Restieaux lived there and prominent among them was Franklin Pierce who was a frequent visitor. In later years Mr. Restieaux lived for a time in Hopkinton but his last days were spent in the home of his daughter, Mrs. Augustine Carter, in West Parish.

While William Restieaux clothed the adult male of the town in latest fashion, the small boys were fitted out in jackets and trousers by a seamstress whose home stood between Washington tavern and the printing establishment of Roby, Kimball & Merrill. "It was then the family and industrial abode of Alice Flanders, a slender, black-eyed and bright little woman of uncertain age, who made the clothes of more or less of the North End boys. With a twinkle in her eye she accepted all their wise suggestions, but followed her own measurements of their bodies, legs and arms and kept them decently clad." One of those boys was Joseph B. Walker who thus told the story. Long ago Alice Flanders' house was moved away and stands today as pictured, at 23 Bradley St. *The house is, undoubtedly, the shop where David George, Jr. kept Post-office 1804-1815*  
The most extensive land development in the early thirties took place on the Rogers farm at the South End. Arthur Rogers, son of the famous Hang-er, had exhausted his financial resources and was "of parts unknown". His

son, Arthur Brown Rogers, was a merchant in far off Porto Rico when, in 1832, Isaac Hill acquired the old Rogers house and 26 acres of land adjoining, by deed of execution in his favor against Arthur Rogers. The remainder of the 100 acre farm was sold by the family to Mr. Hill, William and Joseph Low and Joseph Robinson. The south boundary of this tract was the Charles Hutchins store, the north boundary was "the highway leading to the Frog Ponds" (probably present Chandler St.) and the east boundary was the Merrimack river.

Immediately after acquiring the old historic house and the adjacent land, Mr. Hill began to convert the property into building lots. A number of these found ready sale, streets were laid out and dwellings were built. William P. Hill, son of the owner, writing to the Monitor (12/13/94) says:

"Gov. Isaac Hill bought the dwelling house of William Manley, trader, and erected a dwelling house and other buildings—all standing now on the east side of Main St. at the South End, and moved there when Gov. Hill built his brick mansion (75 S. Main St.) in 1835. In their midst is the Rogers house. These buildings originally stood on the site of Hill's and Cyrus Hill's blocks". (site of Emmons Store today.)

The "brick mansion" was built approximately on the site of the Rogers house which Isaac Hill had moved farther to the south and back from the main street. Next north of the Hill mansion the Lows built the house which still stands although somewhat altered. Until recently it had a recessed doorway of the type becoming popular in the thirties. It was the home of Franklin Low who married a daughter of George Hutchins who lived across the main street.

On the south side of his property, Gov. Hill built a little one-story house which he sold in 1834 to William B. Safford. This house (119 S. Main St.) seems to be in original form and a great elm tree rooted fast in its south foundation wall, testifies to its age. The streets which

Isaac Hill laid out may still be identified: next south of the Safford house is "Cross St. 1st" running easterly; "Cross St. 2d" is now Sexton Ave. "Cross St. 3d" is the alley south of Jenney Filling Station and "The Road" is to be found next south of the "brick mansion." There were also streets running north and south, traces of which are still to be found. Upon one of these the Rogers house faced when moved from its original site. This promising development of a new residential section for Concord was abruptly ended when the Concord Railroad acquired a right of way across the property in 1841.

The old Rogers house with its great barn and sheds has long since gone and so has the house which Mr. Hill built for his bride in 1814 and twenty years later moved to this new development from the present site of Hill's block. One or two ancient buildings remain in the neighborhood of the "brick mansion" but it seems impossible to identify them as those mentioned by William P. Hill.

It was in the early thirties that a young man from Andover, Mass. came to town full of enthusiasm for establishing an academy for Concord youth. Private schools had flourished with more or less success during the years but Concord's only academy waited the enterprise of Timothy D. P. Stone who was generously backed by a list of public spirited citizens. Samuel A. Kimball donated a lot on Sand Hill and the funds subscribed made possible the erection of a building on the site of the house now standing at 12 Academy St. It was a two-story wooden structure surmounted by an impressive cupola. For about ten years Mr. Stone conducted a successful school and it had at least one famous alumnus in the person of Henry Wilson who became Vice President of the United States. But the Academy lacked endowment and when dissension arose among its backers, it was necessary to close its doors in 1844. Isaac Hill purchased the abandoned building, took it down and used the lumber to build two tenement houses on the Rogers property. They stand today south of "Cross St. 3d."

On the site left vacant when Isaac Hill moved his house and other buildings from the lot now occupied by the Hill blocks, he erected a wooden building known as Athenian block with a hall in the upper story. In 1842 the Second Advent Church organized in Concord during the Millerite revival, held its services in this hall and it was there that Elder John G. Hook, a convert, began his half century of devoted work as an evangelist. His name is still associated with the "Healing Balm" which he compounded and which, to this day, many a Concord family feels to be indispensable. \*

The old Edward Abbot farm on the north side of Centre road with its ancient garrison house, had passed entirely out of <sup>the hands of</sup> the descendants of the pioneer. As early as 1791 Edward Abbot 2d had sold a house lot on Centre road to John Weeks west of one already sold to Asa Parker. The fields pasture and wood land of the farm extended west to Sand Hill and when Edward Abbot 2d died in 1801 this property was inherited by his son, Timothy. Unfortunately this grandson of the pioneer was "a man of irregular habits", as Bouton records, and in 1818 the town fathers were authorized to sell his inheritance in whole or in part, to pay off his debts. Two years later this unfortunate man died and the town was obligated to support his widow until her death many years later.

Porter Blanchard, churn manufacturer, became owner of the old Abbot garrison house and lived there until he built himself a new house on the north corner of the main street and Centre road. Shortly thereafter he built his churn factory on the lot next north and both buildings stand today although considerably altered. The factory with the addition of a third story and a large ell, is now the tenement house at 147 N. Main St. Our picture is a drawing which reconstructs the two buildings as they looked in the thirties. West of the Blanchard dwelling may be seen a part of the brick house still standing at 6 Centre St. In the <sup>30s</sup> thirties it was the home of John E. Chaffin, a saddler, and it is the type which found favor in the late thirties, with gable end toward the street and a re-

cessed and panelled doorway.

In 1850, Dr. Timothy Haynes purchased the Blanchard house and after making various changes, he conducted it as a Water Cure for some years. At a later date its roof was raised and a third story built under the old eaves, thus distorting its fine old proportions into the uncouth elevation of the present day Commercial House.

Asa Parker probably built a home on his lot a little west of the Chaffin house. His ~~great~~ grandfather was Benjamin Parker of Andover, Mass., one of the original Proprietors but Asa and his brother Enoch (who settled on Horse-hill) seem to have been the first of the family to come to Concord. Asa served during the Revolution at West Point and came here soon afterward when he was twenty-five years old. In 1786 he married Widow Sarah Thompson Willard and a few years later he was advertising in the Concord Herald: "Asa Parker Boot & Shoemaker\*\*\*\*\* Cheap rate for Cash, Flax or Flax Seed." After his death in 1803, his son Benjamin, "cordwainer" and land surveyor", lived on the homestead and it was ~~probably~~ he who built the brick house <sup>about 1830</sup> which stands as pictured. The present roof and porches are, of course, modern but the rather unusual seven panelled door seems to be original. With Benjamin Parker lived his two spinster sisters, Sally and Mary. Miss Sally kept a private school in one of the front rooms which, although lathed was not plastered at that time. It is recorded that pupils were expected to bring their own chairs. The school mistress was prim and exacting; pupil self-expression after the modern plan was not on her program. Learning was a wholly serious business under Miss Sally Parker.

Concord was a century old and her citizens had reason to take pride in the progress which had brought prosperity to a town of such humble beginnings. Entering now on her second century, Concord was for a second time in her history, preparing to entertain a President of the United States - Gen. Andrew Jackson.