

in Concord from 1834 until his death. Justice of the N.H. Superior Court and later of the Supreme Court, Judge Perley had served as treasurer of Dartmouth college 1830-35.

Two old pictures of N. Main St. are characteristic of the Concord of the thirties and forties, although they were taken probably as late as the fifties. The first one is taken from a point just south of Franklin St. and shows at the extreme right the front end of William West's house with the roof of the Carrigain house showing above it. The West house was moved away by Robert E. Pecker after he purchased Carrigain house, and the site was added to the beautiful lawn as shown in the picture of this latter house (Chapter XXVII). The West house probably stands at 86 S. Main St. At the left of the picture the gable end of the Pecker & Lang block shows back of the fine elms. Farther north may be seen the Francis N. Fisk house built in 1850, as it stands today at 213 N. Main St. *

The second picture is taken from a point just below the Old Building of the N.H. Historical Society, ^{214 N. Main St.} and it also looks north. A corner of the Old Building shows with a horse and delivery wagon standing in front. Next beyond is the south wall of the hip-roofed Livermore house with its first story windows heavily shuttered. Next north is the Charlotte Herbert house before it was moved back from the street, and beyond that is the Herbert tavern torn down in recent years. Directly over the horse's head is the front of the old store - still in business - at 226 N. Main St., but the old-time wooden awning which overhung the sidewalk long since disappeared. Trees at the left hide the house where Dr. Ezra Carter hung his sign and also the new First Church built in 1842.

Dr. Peter Green's old homestead opposite the Town House was undergoing change in the thirties. In 1827 the Doctor had sold a house lot to Ivory Hall, whose silver spoons are today treasured in sundry Concord families. Born in 1795, he was a grandson of Ebenezer Hall at the mills on Turkey river. Ivory Hall built the house shown in the picture but in 1833 he sold

* Recently razed.

it to John Whipple, Esq. of Hopkinton who had been appointed Registrar of Deeds for Merrimack County. Mr. Whipple was a native of Hamilton, Mass., a graduate of Dartmouth in 1812. His first wife was a sister of Salmon P. Chase - famous during the Civil War period - and Chase was a frequent guest at this home. During such a visit, his niece, Mrs. J. Prentice Tucker, gave a reception for him in this house. (1866) In later days this was the home of Rt. Rev. William W. Niles until the building of the Bishop's House by the Diocese of New Hampshire.

Ivory Hall's own home stood next south of John Odlin's, on the site of the garage now at 180 N. Main St., "at the foot of the hill" as the deed says, for the deep hollow through which Tanyard brook crossed the main street was not as yet filled in. Maj. Downing's map of 1827 locates him here and also at a point immediately north of the present site of First Church. This latter may have been the location of his silversmith shop for several shop buildings stood between Washington and Pearl Sts. This is borne out by the fact that he sold the building in 1832 and we know that afterward he carried on his business in the rear basement of his dwelling. There he made his silverware with "its maximum of alloy" according to a contemporary. Ivory Hall lived until 1880 and was the last survivor of the original members of the Society of First Church, organized in 1825 under the Toleration Act.

At the junction of S. Main and Pleasant Sts. the Endicott Hotel stands on the site of an old house which was moved away in two sections as our picture shows. It now stands at 5-9 Gilmore St. Long before it was moved the old house had been dressed up with a new roof and large windows so that it had lost most of its old distinction. In 1844 Dr. Ebenezer Moore purchased it for his home and before that it was occupied by Josiah Stevens. It seems to have been built by Henry Farley between 1830 and 1833 and it may be the place where he suffered a fatal fall in 1838.

On the site of Colonial Block next south stood the house here pictured

* Now (1961) used for commercial purposes.

which was, until its removal, the home and office of one of Concord's most public-spirited and popular physicians-Dr. Shadrach C. Morrill. The house was probably of later construction than the thirties. Next south of it there stood in the thirties, the home of a well-known Concord merchant Isaac Frye Williams, whose wife was Mary Ayer, daughter of Capt. Richard Ayer.

The mansion used for many years as the main building of St. Mary's School on the south corner of Fayette St. was built about 1835 by Judge Hall Burgin of Allenstown. He was one of the victims of the financial panic of 1837 and when he died in 1844, he left his family in poverty. Joseph Gilmore, Civil War governor of New Hampshire, made this house his home until his death and then it became the property of Judge Asa Fowler. It is, of course, much changed from the original for the mansard roof was a fashion of more recent days. This is one of the few mansions left on S. Main St. reminiscent of the years when this was a fine residential section of the city.*

A solid, substantial citizen of the thirties was Abraham Prescott who came to Concord from Deerfield and, in 1833, purchased a new house which seems to have been built by Simon Batchelder, a cooper. This old house now standing in Wentworth Ave. stood originally nearer the street. Directly south of it is Abraham Prescott's factory where he made famous bass and double bass fiddles. The first mention of music in the new Baptist church was this record: "Bought of Abraham Prescott Concord, Apr. 25, 1829, one double bass viol. \$50." The Prescott family later manufactured melodeons and then pianos and carried on for years a successful business. Our picture shows the sad wreck of a fire on Main St. (1869) which destroyed a group of three old two-story, ^{and} one one-story wooden stores and ruined a fifth along the east side of the street. Rumford Block stopped the fire on the south and Exchange Block stopped it on the north. Over the second story windows of the latter is a sign reading- "Prescott Brothers Melodions & Harmoniums",

* Galman Peckham was for several days the guest of a niece in the Gilmore House, where he wrote to his brother's grave in Holfkater. He heard how given away to the Employment Society, builders.

thus showing the family progress from bass fiddles to reed instruments. In 1886 the firm began its manufacture of the "Prescott Piano".

This lengthy and final chapter of a manuscript long in the making, cannot be brought to a close without the mention of three historic houses intimately associated with Franklin Pierce, President of the United States. The years of his great honor belong to a later period but in the early thirties he came to Concord representing Hillsborough in the legislature and boarding at the George tavern (205 N. Main St.). In 1838 he moved to Concord and made it his residence for the rest of his life.

The story of Franklin Pierce during the years of his high estate are touched with tragedy. Approaching Civil War made for suspicion and bitter recrimination. The loss of an only son on the eve of his inauguration, permanently affected Mrs. Pierce as well as being lasting grief to the new President. Partisan criticism was cruel to Mr. Pierce after his retirement and there was unkindness even here in Concord. He carried himself with dignity and now that the bitterness has gone, it is evident that he was a high-minded and courteous gentleman fated to be in the limelight at a period of dreadful and bitter hatreds.

The late John C. Thorne, a lover of old tales and reminiscences, once wrote for a local paper:

"In 1848 when I was six years old, Gen. Pierce lived on Montgomery St., at No. 18. I lived three houses further west. One pleasant day I saw one of the most impressive sights, to my youthful eyes, that they had looked upon. As I go back some eighty years ago, up the street there came the appearance of Gen. Franklin Pierce, riding up to his house, mounted on his magnificent horse in rich trappings, and he in a Brigadier-General's gorgeous uniform certainly filled my eyes. He was a noble figure on his spirited charger."

Our first picture shows Gen. Pierce in uniform as he appeared on his return from the Mexican War. Those were the days when Concord delighted to honor him, and crowded the "railroad depot" to greet him, insisting that

he made an address in Depot Hall. Those were the days when the hero was presented with a handsome sword by the N.H. Legislature.

The house at 18 Montgomery St. was the only home which Franklin Pierce ever owned in Concord and this he purchased in 1841 from William F. Goodell who was probably its builder. In those days Mrs. Pierce was evidently equal to maintaining a home, but in later days she suffered a depression which unfitted her for such responsibility. At the south corner of Thorndike and S. Main St. stands the house thus pictured in an old print of the time. It was owned by Willard Williams and there, in Mr. Williams's family, Franklin Pierce and his family were living in 1852 at the time he received the news of his election to the Presidency. The following January the Pierce family suffered tragedy in the instant death of their only living child, Benny, in a railroad accident near Andover, Mass. The eleven year old boy sleeps beside his four year old brother who died in 1843—both resting in the Minot Enclosure of the Old Burying-ground. Mrs. Pierce's picture, taken at this sad time, shows her in mourning garments with wide crepe bands—a pitiful figure. Her nervous instability ill-equipped the mother for this shocking bereavement and she had a strange, distorted fancy that her little son's death was, in the Providence of God, necessary to fit her husband spiritually for his task as head of our nation. Never has a President of the United States entered office under such distressing conditions.

In 1856 Willard Williams built the house where the President passed the remaining years of life after his retirement. There with this loyal family he lived quietly and died peacefully in 1869, faithfully nursed by George H. A. Williams, son of his friends. (1869)

On the 29th of May each year, the pupils of Walker School form a procession and follow the flag across the ancient highway to the Old Burying-ground and the Pierce family lot. One of the boys carries a wreath presented by Rumford Chapter D. A. R. and that wreath is placed before the

monument of Franklin Pierce, soldier in the Mexican war, President of the United States, real Son of the American Revolution.

"I have considered the days of old,
the years of ancient times."

Psalm 77.



President and Mrs. Pierce.
Kimball Studio.