

Chapter XVI.

The Mills on Turkey River.

Records of oldtime Concord invite contrast with present day conditions and nowhere is the contrast more vivid and interesting than in Millville. Two centuries ago a primitive grist mill was the center of a few farms: ensuing years saw a little hamlet with varying industries grow up around the mill. Today the industries have vanished and the farms are the property of St. Paul's School, one of the famous preparatory schools of the country. Ancient highways have been changed in their course that the School may be safe-guarded in this day of motor traffic.

In following the story of Millville, it is necessary to understand such highway changes. The first road from Concord to Dunbarton ran directly through the present School grounds, turning at the flagpole to cross the dam on Turkey river before swinging west on the south side of the mill pond. A branch road, opened in 1829, extended this Dunbarton road from the flag pole along the north side of the mill pond to a point west of Coit House and there joined the original road. Coit House, an orphanage of later date, stood directly facing Silk Farm road until razed in recent years. This branch road is now a private road entirely within/^{the} residential part of the School property.

In 1919 a loop road was opened east of Alumni House to join the old Dunbarton road at Friendly House, thus lessening traffic through the compact center of the School. The first road from Concord to Hopkinton ran directly directly past the entrance to the Infirmary but in 1929 the section from the entrance to the School grounds west to the cemetery was re-located somewhat to the north and along the hillside.

The pioneer in Millville was Barachias Farnum who, with Henry Lovejoy of Andover, received the grant of one hundred forty acres of land and the right to flow "the swamp betwixt the first and second falls below the lowest pond on Turkey River." Today the only relic of this enterprise is the dam and mill pond created in 1732 to furnish power for

the first grist mill on this side of the Merrimack. It was Barachias Farnum who settled on the grant for the mill and there is no record that Henry Lovejoy ever lived in our town. His son, Capt. Henry, settled on Rattlesnake brook some ten or more years later. The School Athletic Field of today is part of the cultivated land of the old Mill Farm and the house stood approximately on the site of present Scudder. After long sojourn, the garrison marker is at last in its historic place.

Barachias Farnum and his wife were early members of the Rumford church, joining by letter from the church in Andover. Other members joining about that time were Seaborn Peters and his wife, Mary, coming with letters from Andover. Peters purchased in 1738, twenty-seven acres of land bounded east "by the brook or branch of Turkey river" and north by "Turkey Boggs". This tallies with the tradition that he lived north of Peters Brook, later known as Bela's brook (see Chap. 17, p. 15). The family is listed in the local garrison in 1746. A daughter, Hannah, married Benjamin Fifield and their first son (b. 1749) was named for Hannah's brother, Obadiah Peters, victim of the 1746 massacre. A second son, Benjamin, Jr., served during the Revolution in Col. Bedell's regiment.

A Jonathan Fifield served in September 1754, probably scouting under Capt. John Chandler and again in 1756 in Capt. John Goffe's company ^{the} enlisted for Crown Point expedition. In 1762 he was buying an eight acre lot south of land still owned by Barachias Farnum near Turkey river. Meanwhile "Seaborne" Peters sold his farm in 1751, to his son-in-law Fifield and migrated to Hopkinton. Long ago an eighteen acre farm which lay in the angle of the old Dunbarton road now occupied by Sheldon Library, was known as the "Howe place" and tradition tells that earlier it had been a Fifield homestead. In 1836 the bounds of this little farm were: Dunbarton road on the east and the south: "New Dunbarton road" on the north and Currier road on the west. Currier road was later called Saw Mill road and is now Dole road.

On this farm stood the old house shown in our picture, long the home of the resident miller. It was falling to ruin when the School purchased it and restored it to be a master's residence. The picture taken from below the dam shows it after restoration. When, in 1878 the the main building of the School was destroyed by lightning, the miller's house was rebuilt with a new roof and used as a dormitory. Finally it was moved to its present site on the south side of Dunbarton road to make way for the building of Sheldon Library. Now the oldest building in Millville, it may well be a link with the pioneer Peters and Fifield families.

The grist mill stood on the site of Hargate and continued to operate until 1878—a picturesque old red building in its latter days. Not long after it was built a saw mill was erected on the opposite side of the stream and continued in use until 1866. Next south of this mill stood the house here pictured which was occupied by the miller after the School purchased the first miller's house. In due time this house also passed into possession of the School and its barn was rebuilt into a School Commons. Friendly House now stands on this site.

In 1742 a young man named Ebenezer Hall purchased from Barachias Farnum a hundred and more acres of land on the south side of Dunbarton road, it being a part of an eighty acre lot and "part of the Farm laid out for the Mills on Turkey river." Shortly afterward Ebenezer married Hephzibah, daughter of Barachias Farnum, and in 1744 their son, Ebenezer Jr., was born. Fifteen days later the young mother died and very soon after, Barachias sold his farm and, saddened by his daughter's untimely death, he moved away from Rumford. In the early summer of 1746, the young widower married Dorcas Abbot (b. 1728) and they raised a family of ten children on this farm. Their house stood on the south side of Dunbarton road about where the School barn stood for many years opposite Dole road. In 1758 Ebenezer Hall bought another parcel of land from Barachias Farnum then resident in

in Haverhill, Mass. The farm eventually became the property of Ebenezer Hall, Jr. but the house burned many years ago. Eben Hall was reputed to be the one man in the neighborhood who had money to lend. Whenever he made a loan, he wrote the debtor's note on the ceiling in his house where it advertised the transaction to all who entered. This expedited payment.

Lieut. Timothy Bradley who lived on the Mountain, purchased land west of Silk Farm road and there his son, Samuel, Jr. built a house to which he brought his bride, Catherine Green, sister of Esq. Peter Green, Concord's first lawyer. Their daughter married Ebenezer Hall's grandson, Moses, in 1813 and it was their son, Charles Hall (b. 1814) who built the house on the old Bradley farm which stands today as pictured. The ell is, in part at least, the ancient Samuel Bradley house. Charles Hall was a familiar figure to the boys of St. Paul's School in its early years.

Jeremiah Bradley's homestead in Millville has been recorded in Chapter VII. He owned land here prior to 1737 and his farm lay west of Millville cemetery on the Hopkinton road. His log house and the frame house which replaced it about 1750, stood on the south side of the farm and neighborly to that of Samuel Bradley across the Dunbarton road. Jerry Bradley's name is on the list of signers of the Test Act (1776) and Samuel was one of the "minute men" who volunteered for the "Oxford War" (1797).

Millville abounds in memories of the 1746 massacre. The scene of that horror was not where the monument stands today, but somewhat to the south of the present highway and on the east side of a little brook which ran into Turkey river. It is probable that a trail which ran in a more direct line to the grist mill preceded the Hopkinton road of today. When Alexander Roberts, one of the militia men taken captive that day, returned from Canada, he identified the place where the savages stopped to bury two of their dead in the "Great Swamp" under large hemlock logs, and he also located the burial place of two other savages in mud farther up Turkey riv-

er. Roberts received a bounty for one of these Indians whose bones were found at the place he identified. "Great Swamp" was the name given to the bog land around Turkey pond.

The terror of 1746 drove the settlers near the mills to take refuge on the village street. The grist mill was deserted while raiding ~~saw~~ ^{saw} mills killed the cattle left in the pastures and destroyed the crops in the fields. But happier days were to come when the men and their wives and their children could safely return to rebuild their homes and replant their fields and when the miller could once more grind the corn for their daily bread.

Near the ravine at the upper falls through which the Indians made their hasty retreat after the massacre, a saw mill was built near the north end of present Dole road. In later years it came to be known as Powell's Hook after Benjamin Powell, a drummer in the Revolution. He married a daughter of Jerry Bradley and the couple made their home near the mill of which he was the proprietor. Dole road, originally Currier road, was laid out in 1778 and named for a family who were early settlers there. The first of this family in Concord seems to have been William Currier, "cordwainer", who arrived in Rumford between 1750 and 1760 and married Molly Carter, daughter of Daniel Carter, the foundryman at Iron Works. Their home was near the junction of Silk Farm road and Clinton St., but in 1794 they moved to Plymouth. Some of their descendants remained in Concord for the name is a familiar one even to this day. Within recent years, a little old red house at Powell's Hook was torn down by the School, said to have been, a century or more ago, the home place of Samuel Currier and his son, Samuel L. Currier. In 1836 the son sold this place of four acres with the house and purchased ^{thir-}ty acre farm in the angle made by the "new Hopkinton road" (recently renamed Currier road) which has been improved as alternative to the road over Dimond hill. Samuel L. Currier dutifully leased his new farm to his father and mother for life.

Directly west of Powell's Hook lies Fush Market, a name whose origin -- still a mystery. This is the section where Jerry Bradley's large farm lay and its growth in later years into a little hamlet, was probably due to an excellent bed of clay on the south side of the highway, which invited brick and pottery making. One old house stands in Fush Market built by John Corliss (b. 1777) who came hither from his father's home in Iron Works District. He purchased seventy acres on the south side of the road and nineteen on the north--both being a part of the original Bradley farm. Being a carpenter by trade, Corliss built his own house about 1822 on the south side of the road, but in later years it was moved to stand on the west corner of Long pond road.

One of the last of several potters at Fush Market was Joseph Haseltine (b. 1799), son of Ballard Haseltine and grandson of Joseph Haseltine of Silk Farm road. From 1820 till 1824, the young man taught school at Iron Works and then turned to the trade of potter. He lived to four score years on a farm lying west of Upper School and his small house stood at the west fork of Loop road. His pottery shop was close by and the inventory of his estate (1881) gives this list of "stock in trade": "Lard pots, bean pots of various sizes, jugs, chambers, milk pans" all doubtless in the coarse brown ware.

Haseltine was preceded by numerous other potters who utilized the clay bed at Fush Market and among them was Richard Flanders, Jr. who belonged to a family influential in early Millville. As early as 1759 his father, Richard, Sr. (b. 1725) came with his family from Salisbury, Mass. and in time, he owned the land on the north side of Hopkinton road from Fisk road west to Fush Market. In 1762 he was operating the grist mill built by Barachias Farnum and the family acquired "the Runnels privilege" on Turkey river between the two ponds.

There were five sons in the Flanders family and three of them married daughters of Daniel Chandler-Richard, Jr., Abner and Oliver. Each of the five received a share in the father's large holdings in Millville. Abner served as an officer at Bennington. Oliver and his wife, Abigail, had ten children born in Concord and in 1816 they removed to West Plymouth. Abner and Philip, youngest of the brothers, moved away from town so that Richard, Jr. was the only one to remain in Millville. He married a seventeen year old widow, Molly (Chandler) West and their home was on the west corner of Hopkinton road and "the road to John Blanchard's" (Fisk road today). This two acre place he bought in 1813 with "house, barn and potter's shop" from Peter Flanders of Plymouth. There Richard, Jr. carried on his making of brown jugs, crocks etc. In later years he bought a farm on the west slope of Pine hill (District No. 4) and moved there. His father and mother spent their last years in that home.

Descendants in the next generations of the Flanders family continued to live in Millville and P. Flanders is said to have built the hip roofed house shown in our picture, in 1804. In 1873 it was remodelled for a master's residence. Woodbury Flanders, last miller at the "old red mill," built a cottage which is now the ell of the Master's house directly across the road from the Infirmary. A short distance west of this house is the spring or well which Woodbury Flanders deeded to the School in 1859 "with the right to deepen and enlarge" for School use. This provided the water supply for the School in those early days.

In 1803 Oliver Flanders sold the property now No. 310 Pleasant St. and described as part of the original grant to Barachias Farhum. Possibly he had a house there. In 1838 the place came into possession of Thomas W. Abbott, descendent of Dea. George Abbot, and a story and half house then stood on the lot. Mr. Abbott added a second story for his growing family. His thirty acre farm was on the corner of Hopkinton road and Fisk road. A famous builder in his day, "he and one other, framed all the railroad

buildings from Nashua to Concord, inclusive, besides flour mills at Pembroke and many other buildings throughout this section.

The most famous of Millville potters was Daniel Clark who moved here from Lyndborough in 1791, bringing with him his wife and little daughter, Mary. Their first home was the little house shown in our picture which still stands with little change at 297 Pleasant St. Clark's first pottery stood east of the house and back of trees now growing on the lot, and there he did a flourishing business. About 1810 he built the large house at 294-96 Pleasant St. which keeps much of its original look. Meantime Daniel Clark had purchased the bed of clay at Fush Market from Israel Dimond, son of Ezekiel Dimond, the pioneer on Dimond hill. "Potter" Dimond must have been one of the earliest to carry on this trade and he sold out only because he was moving to Warner.

Mr. Clark kept a careful diary in which he recorded the development of his business and many matters of local interest. From his record we understand that the clay for his product was dug and hauled as soon as the ground dried in the spring, then turned into ware and fired in the kilns. A staple product was milk pans. Red lead and bar lead were essential for the glaze and all his life Daniel Clark suffered from colic and lameness symptomatic of lead poisoning—a disease not then recognized as to cause.

Clark's first sale was made to Maj. Caleb Stark of Dunbarton and from then on, the ware was distributed by cart throughout and ever-widening area which finally included Plymouth and the countryside around Memphramagog. Payment might be in cash but often it was in barter for paper rags and various commodities. Hence Daniel Clark opened a store on his premises for the disposition of this miscellaneous collection.

In "Horae Scholasticae" for April 1924, there is an article on "Millville Pottery" written by William W. Flint, master at the School

Ground reads. Coming from Amherst to Concord in 1821, Mr. Farmer did valuable work in historical and genealogical research and Dr. Bouton acknowledges in his History, a debt for such data. He was corresponding secretary for the N.H. Anti-Slavery Society. His life was shortened because he fell victim to old-fashioned "slow consumption" and died in 1838 before his fiftieth birthday. When his illness became desperate the Clarks took the invalid into their home and ministered to him with all tenderness.

It is a family tradition that the cellar of the Clark house hid at least one runaway slave on his desperate escape to Canada and freedom. This is credible for Miss Mary was heart and soul in the cause of the black people. Although devoutly religious, she abjured church and clergy because they hesitated to adopt her attitude of militant opposition to slavery. "A short time before her death (1841) she prepared a paper giving her dying testimony -being on the brink of Jordan-against all those ministers and churches who have refused to pray for the slave." With utter consistency, she directed that her funeral should be without parade and without the ceremony of an officiating clergyman.

The times were bitter and such extremes were all too common among the anti-slavery enthusiasts who seemed to lose all sense of proportion in their insistent call for immediate reform. The tragedy for Mary Clark was that her fanatic spirit left this sphere before that day, so many years later, when churches and ministers and newspapers and the public generally, followed a leader raised by God and inspired to declare: "This nation cannot endure permanently half slave and half free."

There was a time when old John Shute, the Rogers Ranger, owned the Mill Farm and a number of his descendents lived in Millville. Perhaps the first so to do, was John, Jr. whose home was on the north side of the Dunbarton road within the present School grounds, until his death in 1822. His widow continued to make her home there and a deed mentions

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across the road from the clay bed. He owned considerable land east of Dimond road (foot of Dimond hill) and carried on a brickyard on the premises. An 1858 map shows the brickyard still owned by a Currier. There were other industries in and near Millville, including an old fulling mill and a shingle mill on the stream between Great Turkey and Little Turkey, known in old days as Runnell's Mills. Further reference to this will be found in the following chapter.

Israel Dimond had a brother, Abner, who owned a farm on the south side of Hopkinton road a little west of the clay bed. In 1810, Joshua Currier purchased the east half of the house and ten acres of the land. After Abner Dimond's death in 1848, his half of the house and the adjoining land became the property of Nathan Lovejoy who later bought in Joshua Currier's part of the original farm. By 1873 the farm passed again into ownership of a Currier family and is owned today by the descendants. The present owner was told by his grandfather that seven Currier families used to live in the neighborhood. It is possible that the house standing at Currier's Camps dates well back toward Abner Dimond's time.

Mr. Dimond had a son, Abner, Jr., and he, in turn, had a son, Luther, who owned a small place in the angle made where the branch road of 1829 joined the original Dunbarton road. Luther and a brother built a little house there for their father and mother to use in their old age, but only the cellar hole could be found in recent years. Luther Dimond's own house became the first orphanage at Coit House, but as that institution grew the house was replaced by a larger one. The barn on Luther's place was made over for use at the orphanage and so continued until Coit House was closed and later torn down.

The first brick dwelling in all Concord was built in Millville by Ensign Jacob Carter in 1803; doubtless the brick was made from Fush Market clay. It stood next west of "Shuting Lodge" and was a square, plain edifice sufficiently roomy to serve as a tavern on occasion. Jacob Carter was the

currently proprietor of the mills. He was born in Iron Works District, son of Daniel Carter, and during the Revolution he served in Capt. Benjamin Emery's company. In 1797 he was on the "List of Continental Soldiers" enlisted at the time of the "Oxford War". He was a man of definite importance in the town—a citizen of most estimable type. After his death in 1805, his new brick house and the mills passed through varied ownership, and eventually became the property of Moses Bullen in 1811.

Mrs. Bullen bore the unusual name of "China" and is so listed among the early members of the Concord Female Charitable Society. Her husband became involved in multiple law suits and thus dissipated his large property at Millville, and the family moved to Chichester. When this Millville property was advertised for sale in the N.H. Patriot (Jan. 16, 1837), it included—"brick dwelling house; near it a new and convenient dwelling house and store; 4 other dwelling houses, and 2 grist mills, and saw mill, a clapboard mill, 2 shingle mills, and a large chair factory." There were sixty to seventy acres of land and "near the saw mill on the Hopkin-road (i.e. Powell's Hook) is a bed of clay." The store stood where the School flag staff is today. In the century since Barachias Farnum built his lonely grist mill changes had taken place.

Much of the Bullen property came into the hands of Jacob B. Moore, a prominent printer and publisher in Concord. He opened a printing office in the old grist mill and did job printing. About that time an out-of-state company opened the chair factory using beech and birch wood for their product and employing upwards of forty men in the enterprise.

As the nineteenth century progressed the greater change in Millville became imminent. Dr. George Shattuck of Boston purchased the brick house and a small farm surrounding it, for use as a summer home. Later he conceived the idea of making it a preparatory school for boys under the auspices of the Episcopal Church. To that end, in 1855, he deeded the prop-

erty .Our picture shows the old brick houe enlarged to be used in the early years of famous St.Paul's School.On July 21,1878 it was struck by lightning and ttotally destroyed.

In the Town Records for Aug.27,1798 we find-"Voted that the Selectmen fence a quarter of an acre of Land near John Currier's house with a post and boards for a burying ground."This land for Millville cemetery was given by Warren Bradley,son of Jeremiah Bradley,and the first burial was that of Mrs.Sally Dimond,first wife of John Dimond who lived on Dimond road.The second was that of the old pioneer on Dimond hill,Ezekiel Dimond,in February 1800.Because of its status as a thriving community, Millville had a public school very early in its history.In 1801 its people united with the Dimond hill neighborhood in a plan for an adequate schoolhouse.They voted one hundred and forty dollars to erect a building "on Pine hill near Stephen Hall's".This was very near the new cemetery and according to Daniel Clark's diary,the school was "raised" on Oct.18, 1802.On Jan.31,1803,"Master plumer began School in the new house."

The schoolhouse stood somewhat south of the cemetery and its specifications called for a house 24 x 28 feet,with 12 foot posts and a hip roof.The sides were to be covered"with sawed clapboards."The costs of building and maintainance were to be provided by selling rights or shares to the proprietors of the enterprise who organized themselves as the Federal School District.Each member was privileged to send all his children to the school while outsiders might send pupils by paying a weekly fee of fourteen cents.Before long this tuition was considered too high and it was reduced to a sixpence.Isaac Dimond was given permission to build a pulpit in the schoolhouse and to hold religious services there.

Federal School District was continued independently until the fall of 1807 when,by vote of the inhabitants of Millville it became the Seventh School District of Concord.In Daniel Clark's notes in his diary on

Sept. 5, 1816, we find - "Moved Market Schoolhouse", referring to its original location at Fush Market. Its destination was a corner of ^{the} Atkinson Webster farm at the foot of Dimond hill and there it stands today, the oldest original schoolhouse in Concord. It is somewhat changed having been shorn of its little cupola which was probably not original. Raised on a new foundation it is now a dwelling.

Meanwhile the old mill at the lower falls continued to grind its grist although it had competition in a newer mill at Powell's Hook. In the years between Moses Bullen's ownership and the opening of St. Paul's School, Theodore Abbott, grandson of Benjamin Abbot of the old red house on the corner of South St. and Bog road (Clinton St.), bought the ancient mill and gave it a thorough renovating. Across the fields on Bog road lived Capt. Amos Paul and he with Horatio G. Belknap, built six or seven new wheels for the mill (1838). Dr. Robert Hall who lived on Dunbarton road west of Great Turkey pond, was then the miller. Capt. Paul lived in the house shown as it stands today, built by Col. John Carter for his son, William M. Carter and sold by the latter to Capt. Paul.

Theodore Abbott made his home in the brick house built by Jacob Carter and he fitted up a cutlery shop on the second floor of the mill. In 1841 he contracted to furnish members of Congress with all the cutlery needed for their desks in the Capitol at Washington, including pen knives for their quill pens, and paper cutters. Mr. Abbott also made locks at a nearby smithy. In later years he moved to Manchester and was one of that city's earliest mayors.

The "old red mill" rounded out very nearly two centuries of service but its last years were humbled by use as the School laundry. Finally it was torn down and only the old mill pond remains - today the center of School-boy work and play and dreams.