



Dublin Historical Society

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Bond's Corner

by Felicity Pool

For as long as I can remember, which is some decades now, the intersection of Routes 137 and 101 in Dublin has been called “Bond’s Corner.” The landmarks there are Carr’s Store (NE corner), a huge boulder (NW corner), a small pond, (SE corner) and houses in which no one named “Bond” has lived for many years.

But by around 1820, a house referred to as ‘The Franklin Bond House’ or ‘The Robbe House at Bond’s Corner’ stood at the cross-roads. Isaac Bond (1733–?) came to Dublin from Sherborn, Massachusetts, in 1767 and settled with his family in the southeast corner of Dublin on the Jaffrey line near where Bond Brook flows under Route 137 today. His son Jonas (1760–1822) was living there in 1799. Jonas and his wife Ednah Bodwell were the adoptive parents of Franklin (1801–1882), a carpenter, joiner and farmer.

Sometime before his death Jonas relocated to the land on Bond’s Corner. His son Franklin and wife, Mary Emerson, had two children, George and Mary Maria (1832–1912). They were the third generation of Bonds to live on the northwest corner in the house with its massive boulder in the back yard. In the last years of his life, Franklin suffered from illness and depression, went deep into debt, and ultimately hung himself.

The house and land passed to daughter Mary Maria, who had married Joseph Robbe (1836–1902) of Peterborough. Their daughter, Mary Emerson Robbe, was a pho-



The Bond/Robbe house circa 1885. The Clifford’s house is in the background.

tographer and took this early image of the intersection around 1900.

The property remained in the Robbe family until Ada E Robbe, daughter-in-law of Joseph and Mary Maria, sold to Forrest Derosier in 1920.

Four years later, a person could buy gasoline and sundries at Bond’s Corner although the name of the business is unclear. When Forrest Derosier bought the property, town tax records show the family paying homestead rates (valuation for a horse, a house and a cow). By 1924, a shed next to the house held merchandise and a cash register, and a gas

pump had been installed [see photo]. An announcement in the 1925 Dublin News reads, “Mr. Forest [sic] Rose wants to announce that his gas station and stand will be open through the winter.” The Derosiers, who informally shortened their name to Rose, sold to Mr. and Mrs. George Carr in 1944.

The War ended and troops came home. Road traffic increased. When the small store and original house burned in 1946, the Carrs rebuilt their house across the street (now Route 101). A new and larger store was constructed on the site of the original building and a second gas pump was added [see photo]. The business was moved yet again (to its present site) when the state widened Route 101 and changed the intersection layout in the 1960’s.

George and Myrtle Carr deeded the property to their daughter, Susan, and her husband, Glen Hipple, who sold to Harold and Isabel Clukay in 1966. The Clukays were operating two other businesses in Dublin—a garage on lower Main Street and a school bus company—and somehow, they managed this third one as well. By 1976, their daughter, Catherine (Didi) and her husband Cles Staples had taken over Carr’s Store, and in the early 1980’s, Didi’s sister, Rosamond (Yummy) Cady and her then-husband,



Forrest Rose (Derosier) family store, circa 1925. The Bond/Robbe house is on the left. Photo from the Richardson/Scribner family collection; gift of Nancy E. Campbell

Jeff, joined in. In various combinations, family members grew and managed the business until 2006 when Yummy, Cles and Didi sold it to Cheshire Oil Company.

In “Village on a Hill”, Tom Hyman writes, “The store at Bonds Corner had always been a busy place . . . the anchor at the crossroads . . . a vital center of the town.” Elsewhere in his history of Dublin’s growth and changes, Hyman describes the transition of that east end of town, from which one climbs steadily to the central flagpole, as “now respectable” having early on been regarded as less so.

As if to back up this 21st century description, here’s what a 19th century resident in the valley end of town had to say about his neighborhood. The poem, found as a clipping in Ella Gowing Mason’s scrapbooks, is titled “BOND’S CORNER”, and appears to have been written in 1896. The unknown writer was apparently published in a local paper since the verses are addressed to “Mr. Editor.” They read, in part:

Often in your weekly paper
Read we of the wondrous deeds
Which our neighbors on the hillside
In their daily walks achieve.

While we, dwellers in the valley
To the eastward of the town,
Labor on in sweet seclusion
Caring little for renown [sic].



“View from kitchen” is the title of this photo taken around 1900 by Mary Emerson Robbe, great-granddaughter of Jonas Bond. The view is looking southeast across the intersection at Bond’s Corner.



Carr's Store when the Carr family owned it, circa 1955, on the site of the former Bond/Robbe house which burned in 1946. Photo from the Richardson/Scribner family collection; gift of Nancy E. Campbell

... Think not we are vain or boastful
If we in a quiet way
Should recount some of our doings
Asking not a word of praise.

The writer recounts how, in the cold and snow of winter, one farmer goes uptown to plow for someone on "blessed Christmas day" and on another day "labored for our neighbor on the hill, That the reapers in the autumn Might with grain her garners fill." After further us-versus-them descriptions the tongue-in-cheek poet ends:

"To the Father let us daily
Lift our hearts with prayer replete,
Asking that He still will guard us
As he guards them on the "street."

To sum up: it's called Bond's Corner because of long-ago Jonas and Franklin Bond; it's an important part of town commerce because ninety years ago the Rose family saw the possibilities for that crossroads location.

2015 ANNUAL MEETING

At the DHS annual meeting on August 21, President Lisa Foote dedicated the meeting to the memory of John Wakefield Harris and noted with sadness the passing of another honorary member, Dick Meryman.

Foote extended thanks to the trustees who serve with her on the board: Ian Aldrich, Rusty Bastedo, Bill Goodwin, Henry James and Felicity Pool. She thanked Ian for his ample good humor and his help, among other things authoring 5 newsletter articles, as he stepped down after two terms as trustee. The meeting elected Lucy Shonk and Celeste Snitko for three-year terms as trustees. Foote also thanked Nancy Campbell, our assistant archivist, who offers sage advice and assistance on all matter of subjects. Kudos were also extended to Rosemary Mack, who vol-

unteers weekly to transcribe primary documents at the archives.

After the business meeting DHS welcomed Chuck Doleac who presented "Teddy Roosevelt's Nobel Prize: New Hampshire and the Portsmouth Peace Treaty". Doleac described the history behind the Russo-Japanese conflict in 1904 and 1905, when Japan set out to curb the possibility of Russia's annexing any part of Japan through colonialism. The Russian Fleet steamed half way around the world only to be soundly defeated by the Japanese Navy. President Roosevelt ultimately offered Portsmouth, NH as the site for peace negotiations, although no American diplomats participated in the talks. The conflict has been dubbed World War Zero by some modern historians.



TREE DEDICATION

Charles Doleac, President of the Japan America Society of NH, and DHS members at the dedication ceremony of the Living Memorial Cherry Tree. The sapling, given to DHS by JAPNH, is a cutting from one of the original trees which line the Tidal Basin in Washington DC, given to the United States by Japan in acknowledgment of the US role in the Portsmouth Peace Treaty of 1905. Kintaro Kaneko, Dublin's link to the event, visited the Joseph Lindon Smith family at Loon Point at the conclusion of his duties for the Japanese delegation.

Photo courtesy of Stephanie Seacord

ORAL HISTORY ORIENTATION SESSIONS

October 31 or November 7

Anyone interested in participating as an interviewer for our oral history initiative should plan to attend one of the training sessions to be held in the multipurpose room at the Dublin Public Library from 9 until noon on October 31 or November 7.

Gathering oral histories from residents is not about fact finding but is rather about people's life stories. The opposite of dialog, the interview is focused on the teller by asking open questions and by using active listening. If you would like to learn more about how to conduct an interview, please join us for one of the training sessions.

We have created a manual using some of the materials for the workshop we attended with Jo Radnor, past president of the American Folklore Society. The manual includes information on the process of interviewing someone, with sample questions and pointers. The training will also go over the use of a digital recording device, which records the interview onto an SD card like those used in cameras. We thank the Putnam Foundation through the NH Charitable Foundation for a grant to purchase the recorder and its accessories.

If you think you would be interested in meeting with Dublin residents to elicit their stories, please join us at one of the training sessions.

2016 MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of year again . . . please use the enclosed dues envelope to send us your 2016 pledge of support. We are grateful for your contribution toward preserving Dublin's history.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Emily and Todd Bennett
Ellen and Ed Bernard
Ellen and Tom Draper
Joyce and Jim Fearnside
Donna and Jeff Garner
Joan and Preston Haskell
Meredith and Bill Landis
Dennis O'connor and Bill McCluskey
Martine and John White
Beth and Jim Wiley
T. Spencer Wright

IN MEMORIAM

The Society reports with great sorrow the recent loss of **Edward Auchincloss** and **Marion Piper Lueders**, and we extend our condolences to their families.