



Dublin Historical Society

Dublin, New Hampshire 03444 • Founded 1920

Newsletter No. 38 – January, 1997



Mark your calendar for the Society's **annual pot-luck supper**. The supper will be on Valentine's Day, Friday, February 14 (Snow date: February 21) at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. The supper is a pleasant and relaxed way to spend a Friday evening and fend off cabin fever. Bring a dish and if there

are any questions, call Ann Walsh at 563-8542.

William L. Bauhan, a Society trustee and one of the principal authors of the Town of Dublin's National Register nomination, will give a talk, illustrated by slides, on some of the architecturally important Dublin houses.

"Lost Dublin"

In conjunction with William L. Bauhan's talk on historic houses, this issue of the newsletter will explore some of the buildings no longer standing in Dublin—part of what we call "Lost Dublin".

The Society has a number of photographs of these buildings. Some were destroyed by fire and others torn down. These buildings included grand hotels, like the Leffingwell Hotel and the Willcox Inn, as well as stores and large estate houses.



The Willcox Inn, c. 1890

Gift of Bernice Hyman

Hamilton House / Willcox Inn

This sprawling Victorian mansion, built by Horace Hamilton in 1880, stood on the hillside across the New Harrisville Road from the present fire station. The house had four stories and 27 rooms, including a reception hall, a 40' by 32' dining room, three kitchens, nineteen bedrooms and seven bathrooms.

Horace was born in 1847 in New Hampshire, probably in Dublin, although his birth is not registered in the Town records. His parents were Charles Augustus and Susan Perry Hamilton. Horace was a Civil War veteran,

having served with the First Vermont Calvary. After the war, he went to Mexico, where he made a fortune as a commission merchant.

According to the late Hildreth Allison, Horace had the reputation of being quite a ladies man. In

1874, he married Hortense L. Nice, a Mexican lady, very much against her father's wishes. That same year, Hortense was killed in New York by a Mexican gunman sent by her irate father.

Horace's second wife, Mary Smith of Philadelphia, moved to Dublin with him in 1880. She led the subscription drive for purchasing the Town Clock. Horace died in 1917 in New York and is buried in the Dublin cemetery.

Fred S. Willcox, of Aiken, South Carolina, bought the house from Horace Hamilton in 1910 and ran it as the Willcox Inn until 1914. Willcox owned the house until 1924 when he sold it to Charlotte Hill. She appears to have been the last owner of the house, which she called "Edgewood". After 1936 the house disappears from the tax rolls, probably because it was demolished.

The Leffingwell Hotel

The Leffingwell Hotel was located on the property just west of what is now the Dubliner Bed & Breakfast. The first building on the property was a store run by Joseph and Aaron Appleton. They sold Medford rum, costing 3 cents with sugar and 2 cents without sugar.

In 1871, the property was purchased by Charles H. Leffingwell, a Rhode

Island physician, who opened a boarding house for summer visitors. In 1877, Dr. Leffingwell built the first of several additions, converting the boarding house to a full-fledged hotel. In its heyday, the Leffingwell was capable of accommodating one hundred and fifty guests.

On November 22, 1908, the hotel was destroyed by a fire that threatened the entire Village. Fortunately, the stone Library stopped the eastward spread of the fire, which consumed the entire hotel, its "Annex" and the former Unitarian Parsonage (on the site of the present Dubliner B & B). The only remnant left of this grand hotel is the "Casino" behind the present Hanson house.

The last of the hotel's guest registers, covering the year 1908, was rescued from the fire and is now in the



The Leffingwell Hotel, 1895 Photograph by Henry D. Allison; gift of Peter S. Thomas

Society's collection. Among the notable names appearing in the register are those of the sculptor George Gray Barnard; George Luther Foote, a distinguished composer, owner of "The Thistles" (until recently the Trowbridge house) and father and grandfather of Society members George B. Foote, Sr. and Jr.; John Gellatly, one of Abbott Thayer's principal patrons; Charles MacVeagh, ambassador to Japan, builder of "Fasnacloch" and grandfather of Society members Clarissa Silitch and Moira Burnham; and Frank E. Spaulding, who grew up on Spaulding Hill in the western part of town, became a distinguished school administrator, and was the grandfather of Society member Donald T. Spaulding.



"The Corner House" (Hiram Carey house), c. 1890

Ethan Allen Hitchcock House

Ethan Allen Hitchcock built a big white house on the west side of the lake, on the present Leonard Korpi property, while serving as Secretary of the Interior in President Theodore Roosevelt's cabinet. According to the Town's tax records, the house was built by 1897 and assessed for \$6,000. The house may not have been completed until 1902 because in that year, the

assessment jumps to \$15,000. The property continued in the Hitchcock family until 1911. Beginning in 1915, the property is taxed to Mrs. John Lawrence Mauran, who in the Fall of 1948 tore the house down to improve her view.

In a letter to the Keene Sentinel, the late Henry D. Allison wrote, "The house to be taken down is large, pretentious, beautifully located on attractive grounds with fine views of the lake and the mountain. With its

surrounding land it was valued at some \$75,000 [this appears to be a mis-reading of the figures in the assessors' records] at the time of the building."

The Ethan Allen Hitchcock house replaced another house. That house was sold to Hiram Carey who moved it across the lake on the ice to its present location at Dublin School, where it is known as "The Corner House".

Carr's Store property

The original Carr's Store was located on the northwest corner of Routes 101 and 137, beside the present Van Hoogen property (Seaver & McLellan Antiques), originally known as the Bond / Robbe property.

Forrest Derosier acquired the Bond / Robbe house and property from Ada E. Robbe in 1920. Forrest and Wilhelmine Derosier were the parents of Nancy Campbell's great-grandmother, Jennie May Richardson (Mrs Luke Harland Richardson).

In 1929, Forrest Derosier sold the property to his son-in-law, James T. Ganley. Ganley, in turn, sold the property to George & Myrtle Carr in 1944, who ran Carr's Store until 1965, when Glen and Susan Hipple (the Carr's daughter) bought the property.

The Bond / Robbe house and adjacent store burned in December, 1946. The Carr's rebuilt the store on the



Carr's Store when the Derosier family owned it, c. 1925

Photograph from the Richardson/Scribner family collection; gift of Nancy E. Campbell

same site, but built a new house across the street - the present yellow house (now Pickford Real Estate). When Route 101 was widened in the mid 1960's, the Carr's built the present store east of Route 137, now owned by members of the Harold Clukay family.

The log cabin next to the yellow house was one of a number of prefabs built by Thorne King of Hancock. It was bought by Joseph Woodward, Myrtle Carr's father, and first erected in Peterborough. It was later moved to its present site, where Mrs. Woodward was living in it at the time of the fire.



Carr's Store when the Carr family owned it, c. 1955 Photograph from the Richardson/ Scribner family collection; gift of Nancy E. Campbell

Society News

From the Archives . . .

In November, the Archives hosted a sixth grade class from South Meadow School. The students were studying the history and early settlers of all the towns in the Con-Val district.

The Town archivist illustrated her talk with a number of early Town documents, including the charter and eighteenth and nineteenth century maps. The students were given a demonstration of our computerized index of people and families, including birth, marriage and death records, photographs and newspaper clippings. The students also visited the Schoolhouse and the Town Hall.

Thanks to the generosity of **Jane Frothingham Hawkins**, we now have a third Harvard chair, matching those previously given by Gordon Hayes and Edward F. Whitney. Jane has donated the chair that belonged to her father, Francis Edward Frothingham, a member of the Harvard class of 1894. As many of you know, Francis Frothingham formerly owned the Pillsbury / Britton house, as well as the Old Common and the Edward Sprague house on the other side of Frothingham Road.

Nancy Shook Bender has added to her collection of material about Dublin, including a leaflet announcing the Town's Bicentennial observances in 1952 and more photographs and clippings about the Allison and Shook families.

David Godine has given architectural drawings for the Upton house (NR-96) on the Upper Jaffrey Road (formerly the Luette Eaton residence), by John Lawrence Mauran.

The **New Hampshire Historical Society** has given the Society several deeds from 1754-1800, including one signed by Matthew Thornton, a signer of The Declaration of Independence.

Donald T. Spaulding gave the Society permission to copy photographs of his grandfather, Frank Ellsworth Spaulding and his family. The Spauldings are old-time Dublin residents. Frank Ellsworth Spaulding was a writer and editor of school textbooks, as well as a Superintendent of schools in Massachusetts and Ohio.

Betsey Harris, Bob McElroy, Mary McKee, Sharron Monaghan and **John Nelson** provided the Archives with photographs of the construction of the Archives building and the opening celebration.

Other welcome gifts have come from **Nancy Aldrich, Anne C.S. Anable, Michael C. Carter, Isabel Clukay** and **Nancy Foote**. To all of them our most grateful thanks.

A GENTLE REMINDER

Most members have already paid their 1997 dues. For those few who haven't, we enclose a second dues card and return envelope.



C R E D I T S

This issue of the Dublin Historical Society Newsletter was edited by Nancy E. Campbell.

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Heidi Thomas of Little House Graphics.