

North Main St

Peterham, June School

Historical Society -

In the following paper there are doubtless
errors and omissions, but an attempt has been
made to give a description of North Main St.
Peterham, from the Whol Line, as remembered
by Job Lippitt from 1852 to the present time
& June 1917.

The first house in Peterham has been built since 1832, and is known as the Batterby place.

The next house (right) was occupied by Samuel Mann, and a descendant Mrs. Sarah Wheeler has recently given an interesting account of this family.

We next came (left) to the house owned and occupied by Peter Marsh, carpenter by trade. This house has, I think, been in the hands of his descendants ever since. At present is owned by Julia Smith, a granddaughter.

Next (left) was built since 1832 by William Lehman, and is now occupied by his widow and daughter Mrs. Thompson. This house stands on or near the spot where the road turned and went over Bennet hill. This strip of the

Main road from here to or near the cemetery has been built—since 1852.

As we went over the hill the first house (left) was occupied by Almond French, and family, now owned by the above mentioned Julia Smith.

Next (right) we came to the school house in District No. 3, which long since disappeared.

We cross the road again, and this house was occupied by Zuri Stone. He was grandfather on the paternal side of Mrs. J. H. Payne. Later owned and occupied by Frederick Rich.

Then came Ensign Marsh, son of the above mentioned Peter Marsh. Now occupied by Prof. R. L. Fisher and family.

Continuing we soon came to the place (left)

owned by John Sanderson. A few years later this place was owned and occupied by a peculiar local sect-called "Fullerites" for the "Adonai Shomo" which is I find from an old newspaper clipping taken for the "Lord is There"

The association was a corporate body, and adhered to a number of peculiar customs, such as abstaining from meat, and vegetables that grew under the ground, the observance of Saturday as Sunday &c. It is now owned by the Harvard Forest. Following the road we soon came out, near the cemetery, to the main road.

West (right) - Lord Windsor Stratton, and for many years was in the family. A daughter Miss Cora Stratton is now living on West Street. The place is now owned by Andrew Benson.

West (right) was used as a boarding house for

for the men employed by Asa Clark, in his
tannery across the road. Various families have
lived here, but for many years has been owned
and occupied by Charles Lehman, son of
William mentioned before.

The next (left) was occupied by Asa Clark, who
employed several men in this tannery.
As long as Mr. Clark lived, I remember this
as one of the well kept places in Peterham.
Later this place was owned and occupied by
William Goddard, father of Elmer Goddard
Barre Mass. Various families have lived in
the house since, but it is now going to decay.
Owned now by the Harvard Forestry.

Next (right) lived Dana Knowlton, wife and
two children. Maria whom we all remember
and Nathan. Mr. Knowlton always kept
a yoke of oxen, and it was said had never

owned a horse. Many times I have seen him
with his ox team carrying bags of grain to
the grist-mill of Capt. Joseph Brown, who
lived where Mr. and Mrs. Robert Willson
make their summer home. Later on George
Wauagh, carpenter, owned and lived here for
many years. Now owned and occupied by
Prof. Edward F. Carter.

Next (left) lived Oliver Holman and
family. His children that I remember
were Hollis, Solomon who served in the civil
war, John and a daughter Olive who married
Charles Rogers. Later this place was occupied
by Lucius Holland and many others, but for
several years past has been owned and occupied
by Walter Bryant and family.

Next (left) lived Henry Brooks and family.
To quote from a newspaper clipping, we find

"Capt. Joel Brooks was ^a soldier of the Revolution. Settled in Peterham after the war about 1780. He came from Grafton Mass. and bought the farm referred to in this paper as the Dana Knowlton place. About the year 1806 he bought the farm at the top of the hill, and where Henry Brooks lived in 1852, of a half-breed Indian by the name of Joe Connor." At the time Henry Brooks married an addition was built to the east end to make it convenient for two families. Otherwise there had been little change since it was built. "Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brooks had five children, three of whom are living. Leucius lives in Boston, Mary married Lorin Cheney, and Martha married Leander Morse of Athol. Henry Brooks was killed in 1857 by being run over by a load of hay on what is called the poor farm road. Later on this place was owned and occupied many years by William Mann, who sold to the present

owner William Limes. The house was
destroyed by fire in July 1916.

Next house (left) lived Austin Brooks. His
children were Horatio, George, Charles, Humphrey,
Nelson and Abbie. Later he bought and moved
to the east part of the town to the farm now
owned and occupied by Elbridge Harwood.

After Mr. Austin Brooks left the first mentioned
farm, came Elias Walker. His children were Erie,
Henry, Samuel, Jane, Ellen and Thra. Of this
family, I think, there are only two living.

Ellen married Roswell Bancroft. Thra married
A. H. Goddard, and both are living in Duxbury.

The next owner was Thomas Martin, a blacksmith,
who worked at his trade in a shop north of, and
nearer the road than the house. His widow, Mrs.
Martin, now makes her home with her niece.

Mrs. Philip Gale, in the east part of the town.
William Limes is the present owner.

Crossing the road (right) lived Mr. and Mrs.
Lemie Sanderson, Their children were Horatio,
William, Frederick, Isabell and Charles.

Frederick served in Co. F, 53rd Mass. regiment
enlisting in 1862. He lost his right arm, but in
spite of it managed to do a man's work at almost
any kind of labor. After his father's death thirty
five, or more, years ago, he returned to the farm, and
was accidentally killed in May 1886. ^{his horses threw}
Miss Isabell the last of the family, died at ^{him off a roller}
Springfield Mass. last July. The next owner
of this place was Geo. Lumber Mann. Then Miss
Mary S. Roumanie, It is now owned by
the Misses Flint.

Next (right) was the cottage, which was rented
and I do not remember who lived here.

Next (left) lived Mr. and Mrs. Lysander Wilder
parents of Charles, compiler of J. B. Howe's and

other sketches" published in 1915. Charles Wilde's
Elder son George K. lives on the farm now.
See page 163 of "Peterham Sketches".

Next house (right) lived John Holman, son of
Oliver referred to before. Mr. and Mrs. Holman
had one son Frank J. who makes his home at
Barre Mass. Mr. and Mrs. Holman in the latter
part of their lives sold this farm to William Limes,
and moved to a house they owned on West St., where
they both died at a ripe old age. Now owned by
Samuel R. and Alice R. Donance.

The next house (right) is the nice residence of
Dr. and Mrs. Brooks of Springfield Mass. It was
built only a few years ago.

The next came (right) to the Scott place. This
was a large two story house with a basement.
It was painted white, had a hipped roof, and

a cupola, from which could be seen many
church spires in the surrounding town. I
Ebenezer Chamberlain lived here with his
wife and children. There were three daughters,
I think, and one son Lyman. He served in the
civil war, and soon after his return married
Clara, daughter of Cephas, and granddaughter of
Dea. Cephas Willard. The Rev. Harry Willard,
Chamberlain, pastor of the Baptist Society here
several years ago, is the son of said Lyman.

The house went to decay, and fell down. When I
first knew this place it was owned by Dea. Cephas
Willard, who sold it to John Holman. He cleared
up the place, leaving only the cellar to mark the
spot where the house stood. Mr. Holman sold
to William Ames, now owned by Mrs. Edith L.
Bull.

Next (left) was owned and occupied by Mr. and
Mrs. Palmer Wheeler. Three sons were born to

Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler, but only one, John, is living, and he is on the homestead.

Next (right) lived Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Bancroft. Children by a former wife were Jonas, Boadicea, Geo. Harry, William, and a daughter who married Rufus Clement. She died in early life leaving one daughter. Jonas and Boadicea lived much of the time in Peterham, and are well remembered, both died at an advanced age a few years ago. Mr. Bancroft had a daughter.

Abby, by his second wife. She married John, son of Boltman Holman referred to before. They both died several years ago, leaving a son Ralph and a daughter Annie. After Mr. Harrison Bancroft's death this farm passed into the hands of Charles Rogers, now owned by the heirs of Charles S. Waldo.

Next house (left) was built in 1852 by Russell

Dudley. A house formerly there was burned a short time before. The above mentioned Ebenezer Leham-berlain lived in the house at the time of the fire. Mr. Dudley married Jane Pease, a relative of, and had been brought-up in the family of Narcissin Bancroft. Mr. and Mrs. Dudley spent their days on this place. After Mrs. Dudley's death Mr. Charles S. Waldo purchased the property, and moved the house to where it now stands. Surrounded by Charles S. Waldo's heirs.

Next (right) stood the Bell school house in District No. 2. To quote from writings of J. B. Howe "John Chandler, son of John (the constructor, and owner of "Deer Park") bore half of the expense with the school district, in the purchase of a bell that had done service in San Domingo before the rebellion, and bore an inscription in Spanish, and was well known as the "Plantation Bell." This was hung upon the building, which became the

"Bell school house" henceforth.

Next house (right) lived Capt. Asa Pond, and his sisters Judith and Lucretia. They, ^{with their parents} came from Franklin Massachusetts many years before. Here the three (none were ever married) lived with their faithful helper, Thomas Franklin, till about 1866 or 7 when the brother passed away. The elder sister, Judith, lived only a few months after, and Lucretia was left alone with the said Thomas Franklin. Here they lived on for more than twelve years after the death of Judith. Miss Lucretia lived more than eighty years in this house. Death coming but a few days before her ninetieth birthday. Perhaps it will be interesting to quote from a copy of her will "I give and devise to Thomas Franklin of Peterham, on account of faithful service rendered, for many years to myself and sister Judith, and to the heirs and assigns of said Thomas Franklin, all my homestead farm situated in said Town of Peterham,

whereon I now live, said farm embracing all the
land I now own in said Peterham, To have and to
hold the same to his heirs and assigns forever, and
it is my will that the Looking Glass with Gilt
Frame in the Parlor, and the Eight-Day clock in the
sitting room shall be considered a part of said Home-
stead, and I desire and command the said Thomas
Franklin to keep them in their present position, and
that in event of the sale of said Homestead they shall
go as a part of the Real Estate."

After the death of Miss Lucretia Pond, Thomas
Franklin married, and lived on this farm till
his death in 1891. He left a widow and three child-
ren, William, Asa Pond and Catherine.

Among since James W. Brooks, Meres Bennett
and Aris Johnson, now owned by heirs of Charles
S. Walcott.

Nearly opposite this house stands a shop (which
the Ponds always called the "shingle shop") and
where the above mentioned Capt. Asa Pond, and

his father before him made shingles by hand. I have seen Charles Pike doing the same work in this shop since 1852.

The next (left) is known as the Nathaniel Chandler place. I have been asked to describe this as I know it. The house was a large, plain, two story house with an ell of the same height extending to the east. There was a spacious front yard which was terraced and ornamented with shade trees, and flanked on the north by a long and noble row of horse chestnuts or buckeyes. The whole enclosed with a picket fence painted white. The house was built about 1760. It was planned and constructed by John Chandler, the elder. The inside was divided into spacious and convenient rooms finished in panels, with exceedingly wide ones over the fireplaces. The one in the north west front chamber or "green room" is covered with an ancient painting, supposed to represent the city of London before the great fire of

1666. There were eight fireplaces, the one in the dining room was fitted with crane and hook. There were six substantial, brick partitions in the cellar, giving storage rooms for vegetables, fruit, coal &c., with an admirable apartment for milk, with a floor of stone, and two tables of the same material, for the production of cream, lighted from the north and west. It is owing to the brick supports that the house stands as level and firm on its base, as the day it was completed. There were three wells of water near the house.

It was on this farm that a Deer Park was constructed in 1768, enclosing 35 acres in a round fence ten or eleven rails high, in which a small head of deer were kept - until a memorable snow storm in 1786, when the drifts were so high and solid that the prisoners walked over the high fence to liberty. This was one of the homesteads where some of Shays' men in 1787 put up, supped and lodged after a cold and weary

march only to be driven from their good quarters before breakfast, by the approach of Lincoln's men to their final dissolution.

On this farm was a large and successful manufactory of red earthen pottery, heavy, brittle and gross. Some of this pottery was on the altie as late as 1882. The well north of the house supplied water for the making of this pottery.

My father, Nelson Lippitt bought of Mrs. Nathaniel Chandler of Lancaster Mass. and moved to this place in 1852.

At that time a building which had formerly been used as a store by John and Nathaniel Chandler stood on this desirable corner.

This store in their day to quote from J. B. Howe "was a favorite centre of trade of seven or eight of the neighboring towns, and their teams largely of oxen, could be met every few miles between here and Boston. Large quantities of farmer's produce, shingles received in barter, at the store.

potatoes from three manufactories, and barrels
the product of nearly a score of coopers was the
principal exports. While the goods required for
so large a trade amply loaded the return wagons.

A few years after Father bought this place
he sold this building to Mr. Seth Hapgood, and
it was removed. Part of it is worked into the
ell of the red house, owned by Miss Carolyn Emmerton
and what might be called the ell of the store is
now converted into a dwelling house West St.,
and occupied by Homer Mark and family.

One of the three wells mentioned before was
back of the store, and the third well supplied the
house with water.

Mr. and Mrs. Lippitt had eight children
four of whom are living. Job served in the civil
war in Co. K. 21st Mass. regiment. Dwight
in Co. F. 53rd Mass. regiment, died at Prasher
City, La. June 6. 1863 at the age of 19 years and
7 months. Palace is the widow of L. B.

Ramadell and lives in Gardner Mass.

Hannie is the wife of Y. E. Cody of Gardner.
and Susan makes her home in Peterham.

The first owner after Mr. Lippitt's death in
1882 was Henry King, who sold, Henry S.
Bennett. Now owned by Miss Emily
Bennett.

Next house (left) were Isaac and Mrs. Cephas
Willard. They lived up stairs, and their child-
ren were Elizabeth, who was the wife of Rev-
William Barry. Much of their married life
was spent in Chicago. Joseph, William and
Cephas Jr. The last named with his family
occupied the lower part of the house.

His children were Clara, who married Lyman
Chamberlain referred to before, Maria married
Charles Day, Catherine an Eddy. William
and Benjamin. Isaac Willard died in
August 1879 at the great age of 92 yrs. ~~and~~

8 months and 18 days, in the house where he was born. So much has been said and written of this good man's life it is hardly necessary to say more.

After his death his son William came to live on the homestead, later selling it to a Mr Battle, who sold, I think, to James Lee of Athol, then William Hedges who sold to Messrs Deeter and Gooding. They tore down the old house, and built a nice residence a little south from where the old house stood.

At present owned and occupied by the afore said E. C. Deeter and family.

Next (right) lived John Gates, his children, I know, but Nancy and John. This house had formerly been a shop and stood on the opposite side of the road, but was moved and converted into a dwelling house before 1852.

After Mr. Gates' death came Benjamin Cook

and family. His children were George, Charles, Sanford B. Harriet and Mary. Sanford B. whom many of us remember, was prominent in school and town affairs for many years. His widow and daughter Mrs. E. C. Coolidge are living on South Main St. Mary married Nathaniel Knowlton referred to before, and is the part of her family. She makes her home with her son Harry Knowlton West St. Some of the owners since have been a Mrs. Narkins, William Mearns, Abiatha Wallen, and now owned by Mr. Wallen's heirs.

Next house (right) lived William Clark a blacksmith by trade, and his shop stood near the road on the Peckham northern boundary of his land.

Next owner was Lemuel Shumway, who was also a blacksmith, and worked in this same shop. His children were Payson, Lucy, Rufus L. and George. None of the family are living unless it is George.

Mr. Shumway lived here many years, going from this place to the first house (right) on the Templeton road to the farm known as the Haskell place.

After Mr. Shumway left the first mentioned place the blacksmith shop was sold, and moved to the farm of Thomas Martin referred to before. Later this place was owned by Mr. West, father of the late Lorenzo West, and later by William Hodges. Now owned and occupied by William Clem.

West (right) lived John Clement and wife.

Their children were Harris, Theodore, Rufus, Lydia who married Elias Nildreth, and lived and died on the place now owned by Mr. and Mrs. George West. Mary married Dr. Willis, and they were the parents of the late Miss Flora Willis West.

In 1852 when I first knew this family Rufus was a widower, and lived with his parents. He had a little daughter who ^{died} soon after.

Later he married Elyja Bruce, 3 children

were the result of this marriage. Anna is the wife
of George Sargent and lives in Northboro, Mass.

Carrie is the wife of Frank Green of North Brookfield

During the latter part of Rufus Clement's life he
moved from this place to a house on West St.

known as the Babbitt house. His widow still
owns the place and makes a home there.

Mrs. Charles Smith and Mr. James W. Brooks

have been owners since. Now owned by Miss
Martha W. Brooks.

Nearly opposite the Clement farm had formerly
stood a house owned and occupied by John
Chandler, son of John the constructor and owner
of the "Deer Park" mentioned in this paper.

He was head of the house of John and Nathaniel
Chandler that kept a store on the corner of Athol
and Templeton roads.

This house was burned before 1852. During
the sixties a house was built on this spot by

James Gilson, who occupied it - a few years
selling to James M. Usher of Medford Mass.
He occupied it - a few years, as a summer home,
and sold to a Mr. Rogers. Later Mr. and Mrs.
Frank Stone (he was son of Zuri Stone living on Ben-
nett hill in 1852) The house was burned in 1899.
Mr. Stone rebuilt the next year.
The place is now owned by Arthur Brooks of
Cambridge Mass.

Next (right) lived Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Bryant, ^{and}
For several years previous to 1852 they had rented
lived on the farm that father bought of Mrs.
Nathaniel Chandler.

Their children were Jane, who married Samuel
Bigelow. Ellin & married Daniel Ward and
Catherine never married. Miss Catherine passed
the last few years of her life on the homestead.

She passed away last January. This place has
been in the hands of Rufus Bryant and his more

than sixty years.

Next house (left) was owned by Seth Hapgood, and occupied by Henry Hodges, brother of William referred to before. Mr. Henry Hodges moved from this place to the house across the road. Then came John Bourage and family who lived here several years. Later it was bought by Mr. and Mrs. James Higginson. A few years ago, and since Mr. Higginson's death, Mrs. Higginson gave land for a church, to the Roman Catholic society.

There is now a very pretty little church St. Peter's on or near where the old house stood.

There is also a house, built only a few years ago, on land of this same farm. This house is owned and occupied by John Brown and family.

Next (right) lived Joel Stearns. He was grandfather on the maternal side to the late Mrs. James H. Stowell. Then came the above mentioned Henry Hodges and family. They lived here many years.

and his widow continued to live here much of the
till her death.

The place then passed into the hands of Miss
Bacon. A few years later she married Mr. John
Woolsey, and they make a summer home here -

Next (right) stood a shop "Yellowville" in the
corner of the road. Palmleaf splitting and bleach-
ing was carried on here under the management of
P. W. Barr. I remember seeing the late Maltese
Stone, and William and Major Peckham (both of us)
working here.

Previous to this there had been a Tanner on this
corner, and I have heard that several years after
the business was given up a rat of hides were found
which caused a law suit to ascertain whether the
hides belonged to the previous owner, or to the owner
at that time which was Seth Napgood.

Unfortunately memory fails to record how
it was settled.

Now may we deviate from the main road, and go up
this cross road to the farm of Joseph Hinds?

His children were Mary who married Paul Peckham
and lived in the house now occupied by Mrs. Lincoln
and daughter.

Cephas is well remembered by many in the town.
He made his home, the last forty years of his life, with
his wife Mrs. Paul Peckham. He never married.

The last of the family left is Mrs. Elizabeth Burr.

On this farm was a brick yard, where Joseph Hinds
made bricks, and after his death Cephas carried
on the business certainly into the late sixties if not
later. Now owned by Dwight Soune.

Back to the main road (right) lived Mr. and Mrs.
John Galland. After Mr. Galland's death Mrs. Galland
married Otis Fox, but continued to live on the place
for several years.

Then came as owners Silas Gage, and Mrs. Moore.
Now owned by the Misses Hodges.

Next home (right) built long since 1852 by Mr. and Mrs. Otis Fox mentioned before -
The present owner is Mrs. E. C. Docter.

Next (right) lived Mason Johnson and wife. He was a painter by trade, and a first-class workman.
Next came Zuri Stone, mentioned as living on Bennet Hill in 1852. He had a shop opposite the house, and worked at his trade, as a blacksmith here.
He sold this place about 1885 to a Mr. Hubbard who owned, and occupied it as a summer residence, and during this time he sold the blacksmith shop to Peter Johnson, and it was removed.

The next owner was James Higginson. It is now owned by his widow Mrs. Margaret F. Higginson.

Next (right) lived Samuel Tonne and family.
Four of his children Dwight, Lydia, Hannah and Frank are still on the place!

Next (right) lived Marsena Amsden.

Later came Perry Carveth, wife and two children. The daughter, Mary Jane, married John Adams, both passed away several years ago. George Waugh bought the place, and his widow lives there.

Next house (right) formerly stood on the right-hand corner of Main St. and Dunnet St. It was moved by Seth Wapgood to make room for the house which now stands on this corner.

In 1862 this house was occupied by Ellis Amsden and family. Isaac Bruce and family also lived here. Mr. Bruce was a shoemaker and repairer, and worked at his trade here.

There also lived here a woman known as aunt Celae Bancroft. She lived in a room in the ell part of the house, and probably this one room contained all her earthly possessions, consequently she was rather crowded for lack of room. A woman told me, recently, of going there when a child, with an older person.

and aunt Erblue, as she was familiarly called, had several chairs hung high on the wall, two of these she removed that her guests might be seated.

This house was rented for many years, and so many unmarried women found homes here at different times that it was called "The Old Maids Retreat."

Col. Welcome Wadsworth was the owner at that time.

Later was purchased by Mrs. Thomas Howe, mother of Mrs. Charles Gay, and Mrs. Howe's heirs sold to the present owner Mrs. Maida S. Riggs.

Next (right) was built a few years previous to 1852 by Seth Hapgood, and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Hapgood. Their children were Charles and Emma. Charles died in Chicago a few months ago. Emma has never married, and lives in Chicago.

This place has been owned since by Leat Mann, William B. Spooner, Thomas A. Rogers, and the present owner C. E. Eaton.

West house (left) was an old, unoccupied house, known as the Robinson house. It was never occupied after I knew it. Mr. James Brooks bought the property, and tore down the house. Later selling to Mrs. Solomon Lincoln, who built the house now owned by heirs of Mrs. W. W. Stewart.

West (left) was built in 1899 by Clarence Fiske. Now occupied as a summer residence by his widow and children.

West (right) stood a house on the left-hand corner of Main St. and Sunset Ave. Eural Houghton, harness maker, lived here in 1852. Later this house was moved to where it now stands.

Mrs. Forbes, The Misses Flint and Mrs. George Emmerton have owned it since. Now owned by Miss Carolyn Emmerton, bought in 1933 by Miss Leslie Hopkins.

West (left) stood then, as now the law office.

of Aaron Brooks Jr.

West house (left) lived the children of Aaron Brooks Jr.
now owned by Miss Martha W. Brooks.

See pages 25 and 108 in "Peterham Sketches" published
in 1915.

West (right) stored the Orthodox Congregational
church. Within a few years it had been
moved back, and the interior remodeled. The
first minister I remember in this church was
Rev. Charles Kendall, and he lived in the house
now owned and occupied by Charles E. Cogood.

West house (right) lived Dr. Samuel Taylor
and family, now occupied by Mrs. Ota Fink.
Then came Dr. Frank Wood and his family.
We next lived Dr. Eben Jackson here.
Later this place was owned by Lorenzo Vale.
He sold to Fred Storrell, and he sold to

Samuel Smith. Later it was owned by
Mr. James Brooks,
Present owner is Mr. C. H. Fike

Will not continue this paper longer, as there must
be others, who in all probability remember the
commen, and the many changes since 1852 better
than Mr. Lippitt.