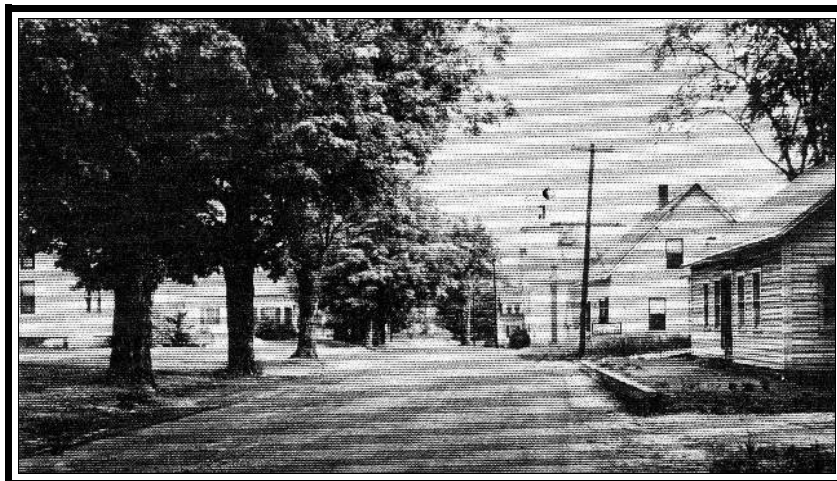


HISTORIC SITES OF GRANTHAM

TROLLEY TOUR
JUNE 25, 2005



EARLY HISTORY

By the time Grantham's first charter came into existence, Portsmouth, New Hampshire was a sophisticated seaport with impressive homes, active politicians, a cultured society and a strong economy. This contrasted dramatically with the wilderness that was assigned the name of Grantham. The first charter was granted by the royal governor of New Hampshire, Benning Wentworth, to a group of 68 proprietors in July 1761. The requirements for settlement (number of settlers, acres of land cleared, etc.) were not met and the charter was forfeited. The second charter was granted in 1767 to another set of 70 proprietors (one a woman) for a town called New Grantham. In each case, 500 acres in the northeast corner was assigned to Governor Wentworth. The name of the town was said to honor Thomas Robinson, an English politician and diplomat, who was anointed Lord Grantham in 1761 and was a friend of Benning Wentworth. There is also a possibility that the town was named after Grantham, Lincolnshire, England, the ancestral home of the Robinsons.

The very first settlers built homesteads in scattered areas on the west side of Grantham Mountain. The road from Plainfield over the mountain, through Grantham, to Springfield was not started until 1794. This road began on the Meriden Road, ran to Miller Pond Road to the south end of Eastman Pond then to Washburn corner in Springfield and remained in use well into the 1800s. With the building of the Croydon Turnpike which was chartered in 1804, settlement increased along this road. The main development occurred where the Meriden Road crossed the Croydon Turnpike which became known as the Four Corners. There was a church, store, cemetery, schoolhouse, two taverns and a blacksmith shop at this location as well as homes. This area functioned as the town center and was well established by 1818.

John Quimby opened the first public house on the top of the mountain at the Four Corners. As rum was an indispensable article for hotels in that day, the selectmen gave him a license to sell “spirituous liquors” and to entertain travelers in a public manner as the law directed. A second public house was opened soon after. After these taverns were closed, no hotel was kept in town until about 1860 when one was opened in the Village only to be closed by fire in 1877.

A meetinghouse was built on the Mountain at the Four Corners in 1826. It was later moved to North Grantham in 1855 where it remained until being torn down in the 1920s. Previous to this time, town meetings and church services were held in houses, schoolhouses and barns.

The name of the town was to be called Grantham in the first charter and New Grantham in the second. The area encompassed a rough parallelogram of about six miles on a side, containing 23,600 acres. As was true for all early charters, no recognition was given to physical features that might prohibit settlement and farming. New Grantham is clearly marked on Jeremy Belknap’s map of New Hampshire of 1791 in the county of Cheshire.

Other parts of Grantham that were settled in the early years included the Dunbar Hill area in the 1770s, the Leavitt Hill section around 1790-93 and Howe Hill around 1813.

The name was legally changed back to Grantham in 1818.

BOUNDARY CHANGES

The boundaries of Grantham today are much different from the original charters and changed gradually during the 19th century. The earliest boundary disputes were with Croydon which were settled in 1808. In 1836, the northeast corner was given to Enfield, followed by the southwest corner to Cornish in 1844. The largest change took place in 1856 when nearly 40% of Grantham’s acreage was given to Plainfield. The final change was acquisition of land from Springfield in 1858, still called the Springfield gore. Please see map of these changes in the back of the packet.

ROUTE 114

HOWE PRESS

For over a century, the small clapboarded, shingled building dominated the corner near the Sugar River bridge on the East Grantham road. The building, built in pre-Civil War days, was originally a cooper shop. Francis Howe made wooden butter tubs and casks there. Francis was called to enlist in the Civil War and died in a southern hospital as the war drew to a close.



In 1895, Francis' son, James Madison Howe, converted the cooper shop into a commercial printing shop. The first printing jobs were run off on a hand press, each piece of type being hand set. For over 30 years, Mr. Howe, with the help of his wife, Alice, and daughter, Bernice, served many businesses in neighboring towns and counties. Tax bills, letterheads, resort brochures, Grange bulletins, town reports, postcards, club booklets, calendars and yearbooks rolled in orderly fashion from the press.

Over the years, a small foot power press replaced the hand press; then a large Golding press was purchased. Steam power, a gasoline motor, and a Delco farm system supplied power to the press until electricity came to the town in the late 1930s. However, the method of type setting did not change: each letter, number, punctuation mark, and space divider was carefully placed by hand and then locked for printing.

In the early 1920s, J. Madison Howe became ill, and his daughter, Bernice, gave up her elementary teaching career to carry on the printing business. She also became the town librarian, following in her father's footsteps there as well.

According to Ella Reney, a long-time Grantham resident, Miss Howe gave the children trimmings from her different jobs, which were fashioned into note pads, Valentines, place mats and sundries.

On February 8, 1968 the Howe Press burned after fifty years in business.

STOCKERTOWN

East Grantham was once known as Stockertown but was never officially incorporated as part of Grantham. In the area of the remains of a dam on Stocker Brook on Route 114, William Stocker had his home and a small factory for making "hubs" for wagon wheels in the mid-1800s.

Stockertown ultimately was comprised of a clothespin factory, run by Samuel Currier, the Christian Baptist Church, Orlando Corliss's store, Horace Green's cider mill, a barbershop and a cooper's shop. Today, the only reminders of Stockertown include Stocker Pond, Hilldale cemetery and the foundations of the mills on Route 114. Stocker, Corliss and Green are all buried in the cemetery there which was originally located in Springfield before the "gore" was added to Grantham in 1858.

Mr. Corliss, a Civil War veteran, was prone to "spells" lasting two to three weeks which necessitated the closing of his store during these periods. The cooper's shop where butter tubs and firkins were made was still standing in 1939, in use as a hen house. There are reports that the first automobile manufactured in Grantham was built in Stockertown.

A fair ground, which was abandoned in the 19th century, was located near the present I-89 overpass. In the 1930s, Fourth of July celebrations were held in Barton's field, east of Stocker Pond. Ella Reney recalls a two-seater plane that gave rides for \$1.00 at one of the early fairs.

ORIGINAL MILLS

The lumbering business has always played an important part in the economics of Grantham. In 1872, the town had six mills and claimed to saw more lumber annually than any other town in the county. These six mills had a capital of \$15,000. They employed 26 hands, had an annual payroll of \$6,000 and sawed timber valued at \$26,000.



The earliest titles to saw and gristmill lots in Grantham, on Skinner Brook (site #1 on map of mill sites and schools) were transferred to Skinner and Peck, having been previously owned by a man in Candia, NH who did not run them successfully. Remnants of a dam are still visible in Skinner Brook on Miller Pond Road. This site was chosen due to the lack of flowing water on the west side of Grantham Mountain. Skinner and Peck also held the license for a public house at the Four Corners dating from 1805. A wool carding

and cloth fulling mill was located at site #2 on the map. An “up and down” sawmill operated at map site #5 into the first quarter of the 19th century. An earlier mill of the same type was located on Chase Pond on the Mountain (map site #8). Littlefield’s sawmill was on Shedd Brook (map site #9). Map site #10 indicates the location of Chester Walker’s shingle mill on the upper waters of Stone Brook. Rough lumber and clothespins were manufactured at the foot of Eastman Pond at Clark’s mill (map site #12) which later became the mill of Moses P. Burpee. Currier’s clothespin mill (map site #14) later became Chester Walker’s shingle mill in this same location which was sold to Albert Collins within five years.

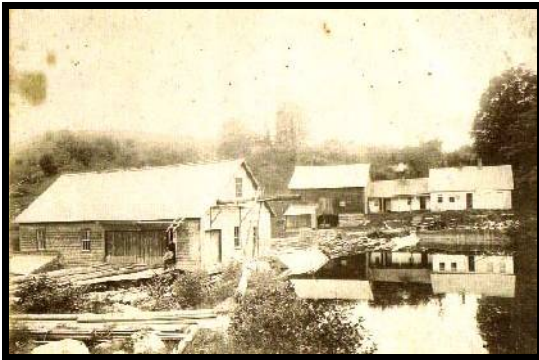
Water power was used to run all mills up into the 20th century. According to Allen Walker, also a long-time resident of Grantham, in Grantham Village there were at least four sites of businesses powered by dams:

1. Currier shingle mill/Collins shingle and Roney lumber mill on Route 114
2. Carriage shop/coffin manufactory on Route 114
3. Spiller’s wagon shop in the Village
4. Lumber and grist mill owned sequentially by G. Fowler, G.W. Dunbar, Reed and Buswell on Route 10 south

Fire was a constant hazard in the lumbar mills. A Fire Record Book in the Grantham Archives notes that the Collins shingle mill burned in February 1896 causing \$400.00 damage; there was no insurance coverage. The Leavitt saw and bobbin Mill (located on the site of an earlier “up and down” sawmill – map site #4) burned in April 1901 and Gauthier Brothers’ bobbin factory in the

village was a total loss after a fire in 1921. The Reney and Cote sawmill on Route 114 burned three times: in 1933, 1965 and 1973.

Collins mill



A shingle mill owned and run by Mr. Collins was at this location in the 1880s and 1890s. It operated year round, employing four to eight men. “Mr. Collins was a dark complected, medium sized man who smoked incessantly on a broken-stemmed ‘TD’ pipe which looked as though it had grown into his face” according to a newspaper description. In 1896, 8 million shingles were made using both steam and water power here.

Reney Mill

The Collins mill located on the East Grantham dam was purchased by the Reney brothers, Donas and Isaac, in 1901 who later established Reney Brothers in 1909. Although mill sites tended to be moved every three to four years because only horse power was available for transporting raw materials and finished goods, the Reney mill was a more permanent industry on this site. This was one of four mills powered by water within Grantham. The current Reney and Cote mill has been located at its present



site on Route 114 since shortly after WW II. Earlier, it was located on Barton Field on Sanborn Hill in East Grantham (Stockertown) before moving back to Stocker Pond. During WW II, the mill was at the north end of the Pond. A box shop was added to build ammunition boxes for the armed forces. Other mills located at various times in East Grantham included the Currier sawmill, the Currier clothespin factory, Smith Brothers lumber mill and Frank Leavitt’s steam-powered lumber and shingle mill. N.P. Burpee, known as the “Land King” because he owned 1,600 acres, also had a mill in East Grantham.

CARRIAGE/HAME/COFFIN SHOP

This shop, just before the bridge on Route 114, was owned by Cowles and Buswell (pronounced “buzzell”) between 1865 and 1869 (map site # 15). This was also the later site of a business owned by the Spillers who manufactured carriages, shingles and laths. Just prior to the Civil War, coffins were built there by Lewis Goss. A new dam was built in 1896 for milling of lumber.



The Argus newspaper of September 4, 1896 reported: “Mr. [Harrison] Cowles was for a long time resident of this town, had a carriage manufactory on the site of the Collins shingle mill and later a carriage and hame shop where the Spiller shop now stands.” (map site #15). Hames are two curved pieces of wood that go around the neck of draft horses to which the traces of the harness are attached.

GRANTHAM VILLAGE

During the second half of the 19th and the early years of the 20th century, the commercial center of Grantham was located around the intersection of Routes 114 and 10 (probably called the Stoney Brook or Dartmouth College Highway and Springfield Roads then). The village of Grantham early on became known as the Hollow or Holla’, then as Cruel Holla’ because of the poor soil and the cold, snow and ice in winter. A recently acquired copy of a personal history in the Grantham Archives of Albert W. Flanders who moved to Grantham from Quebec with his family around 1857 reports that “the north part of town was called ‘Northroad’ and the “village which we called ‘Grabville’ was in the southern part.” He documents the name, Stockertown, for East Grantham, as he lived there with a farmer for a year.



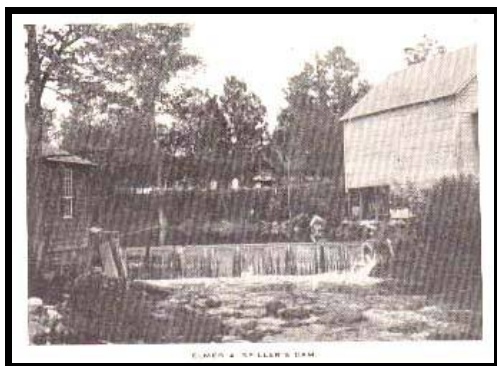
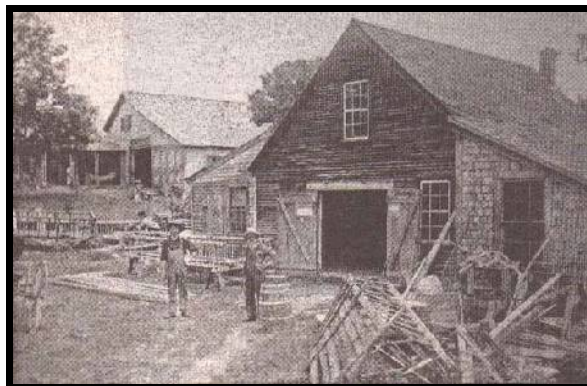
GOSS HARDWARE STORE/ ALLEN WALKER RESIDENCE

The shed located in Mr. Walker’s back yard was once the Goss Hardware Store. The millstone in his front yard came from the old Reed and Buswell mill on Route 10 south. His front door and several cupboard doors came from the old East Grantham church.

BLACKSMITH SHOP

The Grantham Archives has materials that indicate that the blacksmith shop, in addition to shoeing horses, also repaired sleighs.

In November 1890, Edwin LeDion purchased the blacksmith shop from J. H. Goss. The purchase contract read as follows: “ Edwin LeDion is to have the Blacksmith Shop for one hundred and fifty dollars to be paid in installments [of] ten dollars per month until paid for and all other accounts are settled and then he is to have a deed.” A newspaper item in 1896 indicated that E.L. Dien “does wood and iron work” in his shop.



This was also the site of the first filling station in Grantham, a Texaco station, built around 1916.

COMMUNITY HOUSE

The Rev. Ned D. Witham, pastor of Grantham’s Methodist Church from 1919 to 1928, was a community activist. He was responsible, with a committee of church members, for building the Community House from an old barn in the early 1920s. This building provided a site for a variety of community activities and was focused on keeping the interest of young people.

A description of its purposes romanticizes the village of Grantham:

“The Grantham Community House . . . is located in the little village of Grantham, N.H., a pretty hamlet nestled among the beautiful hills bordering the east side of Corbin Park. Surrounding it are farms and homes where dwell kind-hearted, industrious people, whose homes teem with the lives of bright, promising children and young folks who will take their place in the business and social world of tomorrow, thus deserving training and social advantages in keeping with the age.”



The building was dedicated on October 29, 1922. The dedication booklet (in the Grantham Archives) noted the following amenities: coatroom, dining room and kitchen, furnace room, woodworking shop, assembly hall with a stage (also used as a basketball court) and a tennis court.

The building had its own “private dynamo” for making electricity.

In addition to manual training in the woodworking shop, the upstairs assembly hall was used for showing movies (in 1925, movies from the US Department of Agriculture were featured), basketball games, and shows and plays put on by the Community Club (one called “Yimmie Yonson”) which often traveled to nearby towns. Boys and Girls Clubs won awards for canning and sewing and “attention and efficiency”. A regular newsletter, the Community House Record, later called The Community Builder, was published. Copies are in the Grantham Archives.

Health clinics were also held here. In 1923-24, 70 children were examined and 12 had their tonsils and adenoids removed (presumably not at the Community House!). Between April and September 1924, 2,931 people attended activities in the building which included group meetings, rehearsals, movies (“pictures”), suppers and banquets, conferences, entertainments, concerts, drama, and plays.

As the population of Grantham declined with the departure of the Draper Mill and the Depression, upkeep of the building was limited and it became unsafe. It was sold to a retired Connecticut minister, Hollis French, and in 1962, it collapsed under the weight of snow and was dismantled.

PLANK HOUSE



At the intersection of Dunbar Hill Road with Route 10 stands a plank house, circa 1800. Plank construction predated the use of post and beam building.

A “plank” house is usually a 1 ½ story building which dispenses with the need for vertical wall framing members as it utilizes vertical three-inch sawn pine or hemlock planks as the principle component of the wall fabric. These vertical planks, pierced at appropriate intervals by window and door openings, are mortised into sills at their bottoms and into plates at their tops. Thus bound together at top and bottom, the wall planks are further stiffened into a rigid wall by means of dowels which connect adjoining edges at intervals.

In most instances, rafters of plank buildings are also sawn from two or three-inch stock, are placed at relatively close intervals, and are attached to the plates of the buildings by simple “bird’s mouth joints”.

When Ella Reney taught at the old Village School, just up the road on the right (now the Town Offices), the boys were sent down to the plank house to obtain water every day. It is one of the oldest houses in Grantham.

STORES

Stores in Grantham date at least to the early 1800s when Francis Howard ran one at the Dunbar Hill settlement. By the late 19th century, stores had been owned and/or run by: Lorenzo Dunbar, Prescott and Smith, Willard C. Colby, Samuel F. Hook, George H. Walker, Ira B. Walker, Frank F. Whitney, Nelson Cote, Eli Levine, Orlando Corliss and Hiram Bishop according to a history written for the Centennial Celebration of Sullivan County.

George Walker store

The current dance studio near the bridge was run as a grocery store for many years by various members of the Reney family. The building burned in 1947 and was rebuilt. It remained a store until 1992 when local competition forced its closure. The original building was constructed in 1908. An ell was used for storage, public meetings and sports events on the second floor. The store and post office were on the first floor as were living quarters for the owner and his family. A previous building on the same site



was George Walker's store. A 1900 Walker store advertisement for a money-back guarantee in the Argus: "Come to my store and get a 25 cent or 50 cent bottle of Greene's warranted syrup of Tar and I will pay you back your money if it does not cure your cold or cough."

Hall and Dunbar store

Rufus Hall, born in 1844, assisted his father in running the family store – Hall and Dodge - as goods had to be transported from some distance and required regular trips for stocking the shelves, a job left to young Rufus. When he reached 21 years of age, he bought out his father and with Lorenzo Dunbar, began running the store called Dodge and Hall. After six years, he sold his interest to Mr. George Dunbar and became a full-time farmer. In 1874, he and his father purchased a saw and gristmill which they ran until the elder Hall's death two years later. In 1882, with Chester Walker, another Grantham resident, Rufus purchased a store in Croydon and several years later, bought out Walker. Thereafter he ran the store alone.

Lorenzo Dunbar became a teacher, filling in for one who departed before the end of the term, at age seventeen. After teaching for several more terms, he worked in Horace Ford's store for six years until the store became the property of Dodge and Hall. When Rufus Hall sold his interest to Mr. George Dunbar, Lorenzo continued as the sole owner until 1887.

Goss and Dodge store – 1854-1887

Advertisements found in the Grantham Archives revealed the extent of services and products sold by Goss and Dodge. Bills of sale include those for: patent medicines, money orders, accident insurance, groceries, dry goods/dress goods, “white lead” (paint), lamps costing from 25 cents to \$6.00, “sleigh shoes”, phosphate (fertilizer), hardware (e.g. stovepipes) and manure (by the cord).

Materials in the Archives suggest that the owners were paid for “drawing lumber” to mills, traded in hides (letter of 1862) and may have bought and sold horses. They advertised regularly in the Republican Champion.

A bill of sale (date unknown) listed the purchase of patent medicines, including English Pain Annihilator and Asthma Cure as well as extracts of peppermint, wintergreen, lemon and castor oil. Other “medical” products included liver pills, porous plaster and adhesive plaster.

Correspondence from L.A. Smith to Mr. Goss addressed purchase of “oil” that was being shipped to the depot in West Andover and a request for an advance to buy linseed oil as “at this time of the year am not collecting much and am rather short.”

In 1883, a pound of wool was sold for 31 cents “and upwards” and raspberries, 8 cents a quart.

Ira Walker store

Ira Walker’s store was one of two Walker stores. George and Ira Walker were not related. George was a native of Grantham; Ira came from Goshen. This store burned in 1940 leaving part of a retaining wall near the river which can still be seen.



SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS

Rose Reney/Mayo house

Rose Reney came to Grantham from Quebec via Manchester and was the last French-speaking resident of the town. The door on the south end of the house was once the entry to the Grantham post office.

Maxwell Inn

An item in the Grantham Archives, probably from a local newspaper of



July 19, 1915 stated that “forty-one guests had meals or lodging at the Maxwell’s Inn Saturday night and Sunday.”

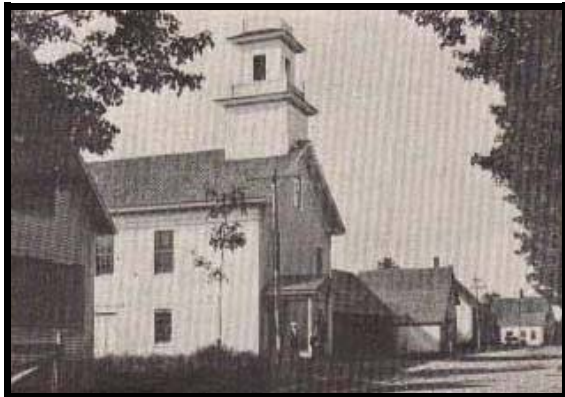
Drug store

A drug store was located on the south corner of Routes 114 and 10. The building was taken down and re-used in house construction in 1914.

Old Parsonage/Hanson house

The red house, first on the right going east on Route 114, was the Methodist parsonage. Pam Hanson, current resident, is the granddaughter of Parson French, the last owner of the adjoining Community House. A geological marker near the backyard is found without any indication of elevation.

CHURCH/TOWN HALL



The earliest settlers of Grantham brought with them a strong belief in religious principles but initial efforts to build homes and mills precluded the construction of meetinghouses or churches until the beginning of the 19th century. Prior to that, religious services were held in private homes, school buildings or barns. In 1780, church members of East Plainfield and West Grantham joined together to form the Meriden Parish which was a religious entity but not a legal one.

Two church buildings in Grantham were completed in 1826, one at the Four Corners on Grantham Mountain (intersection of the Meriden Road and Croydon turnpike) and another on Dunbar Hill on the corner of Hartshorn Road and Dunbar Hill Road. The Four Corners Church was moved to North Grantham in 1855 to the corner of Route 10 and Burpee Hill Road. Rebuilding after the move cost \$1200.00. The church was in use until the early 1900s when it was taken down and used in the building of a house on Grove Street in Newport. The Dunbar Hill Church was moved to the village of Grantham in the late 1850s. A ground floor was added to be used as a Town Hall, the first in Grantham. The pews in the refurbished church were to be sold for \$500.00 but the highest bid was \$36.00. The cost of moving and rebuilding was over \$800.00. The mechanics of moving such a large building down Dunbar Hill Road are unknown.

In 1918, the Blue Mountain Grange began to use the Town Hall for their meetings. Here is their description when first viewing it: “The furnace stood in the middle of the floor and there was

neither stage nor kitchen. The floor was rough and uneven. It had never been used for anything but town meeting and that was before women were given the vote. Nothing more needs to be said about the sanitation.”

In 1893, a new bell was rung for the first time on February 24. It was cast in Baltimore, Maryland and weighed 525 pounds. The Community Builder, the Community House newsletter, stated that “It has the real Methodist ring to it...” The church was repaired, repainted and re-dedicated in March 1900. Repairs were again made in 1965 and a re-dedication took place in 1986 with the Rev. Ned Witham, whose pastorate between 1919 and 1928 was the longest of any in Grantham, in attendance.

A mural of the Good Shepard was painted by Sidney Bickford at the turn of the century as repairs were being made to the church. He was a local painter of some fame and was living with relatives in Grantham when asked to do the painting for the church. Restoration of his painting was begun in 2002.

Until about 1920, pastors of the church lasted only from one to three years. After that, the Rev. Ned Witham was the pastor with longest tenure. As of 1927, 80 different ministers had served Grantham over a period of 125 years. In the 20th century, pastors from Enfield, Newport and Lebanon served the Grantham Church as well for short periods of time.

A Christian Baptist meetinghouse stood in East Grantham, at the site of the current Reney and Cote mill, in use from 1840 to 1895.

Blue Mountain Grange

The Town Hall provided not only meeting space for annual March Town Meetings but for organizations as well. The Blue Mountain Grange (No. 232) began in 1895. Until 1918, meetings were held in Reney’s Hall. The Grange, a secret agrarian organization, held well-organized programs at each meeting. A calendar for 1900 found in the Grantham Archives listed the programs for the twice-monthly meetings for the year. In July, there were readings and solos as well as a discussion on the question: “What obstacles hinder the farmer from being first in politics, in society and the happiest people in the world?” The July 20th meeting was “an evening with Henry W. Longfellow” featuring songs, recitations, readings and a “roll call, answered by quotations from Longfellow.” During the mid-20th century, the Grange published a monthly newsletter, The Grantham Guardian. Included were announcements of upcoming meetings, pleas to pay dues, and efforts at humor in a column called “ ’owls ‘eared by our gatekeeper.” The Grange sponsored fairs, put on plays and lectures open to the public, held field days, carried out community projects such as painting the cemetery fence and visited other Granges. Chicken pie and oyster stew were considered the favorite meals. The Grange provided a social and educational outlet for busy farm families. It celebrated its 1000th meeting in 1942 and was disbanded in 1978. The name “Blue Mountain” was chosen as the Blue Mountain Forest Association of Corbin Park had recently been formed.

Hearse house location (church parking lot)

This is the original location of the town hearse house which was converted to the firehouse in 1985. (The New London Historical Society has both a building and a hearse which are probably similar to those once used in Grantham.) Materials from the hearse house, especially doors, were used in construction of sheds at Bouldervale Farm. The firehouse was subsequently torn down and replaced by the parking lot.

Dunbar house/McNeil Realty

Dunbars have lived in Grantham since her founding when John Dunbar moved to what became known as Dunbar Hill. The Dunbar/McNeil house was built in the late 1800s and owned by Dunbars until the death of Mildred Dunbar in 1982. The ell of the house was once a store, Goss and Dodge, among others, one of a number that existed for short periods in Grantham over the years. Lorenzo Dunbar who lived here donated the land and money to build the Library in memory of his wife in 1900. The Sugar River telephone company was started in this house which provided the first telephone service in Grantham. The company later moved to Croydon. The house has also served as residence and office for a Town Clerk, Joshua Dunbar, who served twice. Lorenzo Dunbar's brother, George Washington Dunbar was the grandfather of Joey Dunbar Holmes, another long-time resident of Grantham. "Wash" owned Fowler's Mills where Joshua, Joey's father was born in the mill house. The site of this mill will be seen on Route 10 south.

The Dunbar Free Library

From 1889 to 1893, a lending library was available in a private home. In 1893, the Ladies Aid began buying books for a collection and J. Madison Howe was paid \$15.00 a year to be the librarian. In 1900, Lorenzo Dunbar who had moved to Enfield, gave land and money to build the Dunbar Free Library in memory of his wife, on the site where it is found today. He required that the town spend \$50.00 a year for ten years on books. The building was dedicated in August 1901 at a church service where Edwin Eastman, NH Attorney General and earlier Grantham resident, gave the address. "Ice cream and cake with fruit" was served on the Library grounds afterwards. The building was heated by wood and lighted with kerosene lanterns; a "two-holer" was located at the end of the central hall. The front room on the north side was used by the Ladies Aid and the rear room by town officers. There were 1000-2000 books and the Library was open three hours per week.



The library could not be used after the 1970s as the building had not been maintained or improved. The contents were moved to the Grantham Village School. Renovations and a small addition in 1992 allowed it to re-open. A large addition as well as restoration of the historic building was completed in 1999, with a major portion of the cost derived from fund-raising by

townspeople. In 2004, 1,787 people borrowed books or used library services and the library contained 20,264 items including books and other media.

ROUTE 10 SOUTH

Fowler's mill/ Reed and Buswell mill (map site #16)



The settlement in the valley which developed around 1800 and consisted of one house and the mill, was called Fowler's Mills. This mill operated from 1800 until 1910 and was owned by many individuals over the years. Between 1800 and 1830, Fowler's mill was a gristmill, grinding barley, oats, wheat, and corn grown by Grantham farmers. By 1872, the mill was both a saw and gristmill, the latter producing flour, meals and "all kinds of feed". Fredson Reed and Guy Buswell purchased this mill in 1894 from George Washington Dunbar. Foundations of the mill house and barn are visible from Route 10. The mill foundations can be seen from Split Rock Road.

As of 1900, Reed and Buswell owned a chute that transmitted logs from the top of Grantham Mountain to its base in 13 seconds. Logs were skidded to the top of the chute by oxen. In 1902, the Argus noted that the mill had just purchased "a fine new Robinson steel grist mill to replace the stones used for so many years." At the same time, the Argus reported that "the smallpox cases in Sargent's Lumber Camp in Grantham last week, are apparently doing as well as could be expected. The first patient was taken to the pesthouse on Wednesday." The pest-house was a farmhouse just over the line in Croydon, used temporarily for this purpose during an outbreak of smallpox.



In 1997, children in the 3rd and 4th grades at the Grantham Village School did an archeological dig at the site of the mill and found over 1000 artifacts including pieces of pottery, tile and brick, nails, bottles and parts of toys.



Draper/Beaulieu house

This house was one of the original Draper Mill village houses built for married men and their families. It was moved from an area near the north entrance of Eastman to its current site. The porch and dormer are not original to the house.

Reney Memorial Forest

Land available to developers in Grantham became more limited in February 2003 when 430 acres were sold to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. A large donation from the owners of the land, Lena Reney Cote and Everett “Mike” Reney, in addition to \$153,000 raised by Grantham supporters, allowed the property to be purchased by the Society for use as recreational land. The area had been lumbered selectively by the Cote and Reney Lumber Company for many years. Hiking and snowmobile trails were already in use at the time of the sale with more to be developed as funds allowed. Trailhead parking was established on Route 10. The Forest was named after Donas J. and Margaret Reney, the parents of the donors. The Forest is managed by the Society with the assistance of volunteers and property taxes are paid to the town of Grantham.

Creamery

In the late 19th century, family farms produced their own milk and other dairy products for the family. Surplus milk was sold to creameries which made cheese and butter before the milk spoiled. These products were then transported to urban areas. By 1899 there were 47 creameries in New Hampshire; 3.3 million pounds of butter were produced and the creameries employed 110 people throughout the state. Until the early 20th century, quick movement of dairy products was necessary because of the lack of refrigeration. In 1870, 19,070 pounds of butter were made in Grantham as well as 2720 pounds of cheese.

The development of creameries was stimulated by the state of New Hampshire as agriculture began its decline during the last half of the 19th century. Milk was either collected and shipped out of state for production of butter and cheese or sent to regional creameries for the same purpose. New Hampshire butter won awards for quality at the Chicago World’s Fair in 1893.

Grantham’s creamery, known as Sullivan Creamery and Fixtures, was one of 53 in the state in 1900. It was purchased by F.Q. Hudson of Meriden in March 1899 for \$325 (he “comes recommended as an excellent butter maker and a good business man”) and sold a year later for \$2000 to a company for whom he became an “inspector and manager.” During his ownership, in addition to making cream which came from milk provided by Grantham, Springfield and



Croydon farms, he sold separators, mechanical devices for separating cream from milk under somewhat sanitary conditions before it could spoil.

The sale of the creamery to D. Whiting and Sons of Boston allowed for transport of cream from Grantham to Boston. In 1900, the Whiting Company sent “two covered milk wagons and three horses to carry the cream from Grantham, Springfield and Croydon to the station “ in Newport. After the sale of the business, the Argus newspaper of August 23, 1900 noted that “ Mr. Hudson has done a good business the past year and has been an energetic stirring citizen.”

Draper Corporation and Draperville

The economy of Grantham suffered a major blow in 1924 when the Draper Corporation moved their bobbin mill to Campton, NH where they built a whole new community at Beebe River. The Corporation was the world’s largest manufacturer of automatic looms at a time when New Hampshire’s economy depended on the weaving industry, located in the southern mill towns of Manchester and Nashua. A bobbin mill in North Newport preceded Grantham’s and was in business until wood, especially rock maple, was lumbered off.

Only nine years after the North Newport mill was established, wood ran out. In 1916, the Company built a new but smaller mill in North Grantham on 4000 acres as well as housing for employees, stables for the 110 horses used in the woods and a boarding house where meals were served. Housing was available for single men as well as families and a store was run by the Company. The area became known as Draperville and was located west of Eastman Pond. During its existence, twenty-five million feet of logs were removed from Grantham forests by men and horses. Finally, available wood was beyond the reach of horse-drawn equipment and Draperville was closed. When the business moved to Beebe River, some Grantham employees moved to the new location and the population of Grantham declined from 550 to about 275. During its time in Grantham, the mill provided income for townspeople who logged, grew food for the Draperville tables and in other ways supported the employees and their bosses.

The Draper Corporation continued to own substantial land in New Hampshire after the move and was not a willing seller of its property. However, in 1968, land was finally advertised for sale and purchased by the Controlled Environment Corporation, the developer of Eastman, for \$450,000. No remains of the Draperville site are known today. However, its legacy lives on in the names of roads in Eastman: Draper Road (north entrance), Draper Mill Road and Bobbin Hill Road.

Bouldervale Farm

This brick house is the home of Dennis and Connie Howard and was built in 1825. The brick was made in the brickyard on Cote Road. This house was built at the same time as the brick house at Gray Ledges. Both houses have center chimneys. There are four rooms in the basement of Bouldervale Farm with partitions, four plank double cupboards around the base of the chimney, and brick walls instead of wood. Two boards were used to make shelves that go up the brick wall. One room in the basement was used for cold storage.

The top of the cupboards is fieldstone which supports the fireplace, built on top of the fieldstone. On the main floor the huge fireplace has a brick “beehive” oven. Underneath the brick oven there is a hole into the chimney with a wood door on the outside. Here coals were stored after the oven was used. The ashes were saved and taken outside in the spring. There are two smaller fireplaces on the first floor and one fireplace on the second floor.

Tramp Room

In 1870 a tramp room was added to the 2nd floor. Selectmen of the town were supposed to supply housing for tramps. Dennis Howard’s grandfather, Willie, who was a selectman, put a dormer window in the upper floor bedroom and also built a porch under the window. In his forge, Willie made a wrought iron latch for the inside door in the house between the tramp room and the rest of the house. Tramps could stay for breakfast. Tramps also had the choice of leaving in the middle of the night. They could leave by the dormer window, jump down to the top of the porch, on to the back of the shed roof and then step down onto the kindling shed. No one ever did. In 1930, Dennis said the town was still taking in tramps, but did not have to house them. He did not know of any other houses that provided for tramps.

Outlying buildings

The house has an attached carriage shed (with three sets of double doors). In the back there is a wood shed and a kindling shed. Northeast is an ice house and beyond is a children’s playhouse. There is also a horse barn, a cow barn and a corn barn. A shingle mill is attached to a workshop which had been the forge shop. There is a white garage which was built for cars. Oakland cars which were later named Pontiacs were sold for a time here. Also on the property is a red shed originally constructed when the town government gave up the town shed. The doors are from the town shed which were placed upside down on the building, as the doors were too tall for the Howard’s shed. Nine inches were cut off the bottom of each door. The Town Shed had been originally built when the town needed a place to house the hearse.

Sugar House

A sugarhouse was located on the west side of the property originally. In 1935, it was moved across Route #10, where it can be seen today. The last maple syrup was made there in 1970.

Why the name of Bouldervale Farm?

When Dennis Howard’s grandfather went to work there as a hired man, there were rocks and boulders between the buildings. In the further field there is a huge boulder with grape vines growing over it. Behind the house there are boulders and ledges. Rocks are constantly falling off the ledge behind the house onto the flood plain.

COTE ROAD

The Littlefield house was owned by Seth Littlefield, a town selectman, who took in boys and girls without families to learn farm work in the 19th century. The house was surrounded by sheep pastures. Next to the house is the Littlefield private cemetery, surrounded by large spruce trees. It is one of nine cemeteries in Grantham. In addition to the Littlefield cemetery, the Fisher cemetery (Miller Pond Road) and Hastings cemetery (Burpee Hill Road) are also private. The Leavitt Hill and Four Corners cemeteries are relatively inaccessible today. We will see the Dunbar Hill Cemetery shortly. The Hilldale cemetery was originally part of Springfield, now Grantham's gore. The Brown cemetery is on Burpee Hill Road and the Memorial Cemetery was passed as we left the Village School. A map is in the handout locating all of these cemeteries.

The Perley Walker house/Sugar Spring Farm house is a semi-plank house and was owned by Allen Walker's grandfather and Henry Walker, his great-grandfather.



Just above Sugar Springs Farm, on the right, is the site of the clay pit from which bricks were made for Dennis and Connie Howard's house and the brick house at Gray Ledges. Further up the road, on the left, was a watering trough that provided refreshment for horses pulling heavy loads up what was then called Dunbar Hill Road.

GRAY LEDGES

DUNBAR HILL CEMETERY

Dennis Howard has often been asked why the cemetery is not called the "Howard Cemetery" as there are so many Howards buried there. In 1792 both the Howards and the Dunbars settled in Grantham on Dunbar Hill Road. The Dunbars settled on Gray Ledges and the Howards settled beyond Hartshorn Road. There are only eight people named Dunbar buried here but 35 Howards. There are also some Bartons as there were marriages between the families. In addition, there are graves of Corlisses, Smiths and Haywards. The oldest gravestone is that of Malinda Dodge who died in November 1803 at age 19 months 11 days.

GRAY LEDGES



The development at Gray Ledges was the last in a long series of incarnations of the land and buildings. John Dunbar, the original settler, had twelve sons in the brick house. In more recent years, it was the home of Edwin

Eastman, a NH Attorney General, who married into the family. It has also served as a spiritual retreat owned by Carol Sturgis and a restaurant and motel.

Near the exit of Gray Ledges is a boulder placed by Allen Walker's father. The white house below after leaving Gray Ledges was built from parts of School No. 9 or 10 which stood further up Dunbar Hill Road.

INTERSECTION OF HARTSHORN AND DUNBAR HILL ROADS

Dunbar Hill Road was the main access to the Croydon Turnpike via the Hartshorn Road. The first organized settlement in Grantham was known as Four Corners, which developed after the construction of the Croydon Turnpike, begun in 1804 at the intersection with the Meriden Road. The second settlement was on Dunbar Hill a few years later. By 1808 this area had a tavern, blacksmith shop (Francis Howard, storekeeper), church (meetinghouse built in 1826) and a schoolhouse. Dunbar Hill, named after the first settler, John Dunbar, came to be the center of business in town by 1828 with a population of 1,036.

The Musterfield

The town of Grantham has always done its part in military affairs. In 1792 Grantham was in the 15th Regiment, which also included Cornish, Plainfield, Protectworth (Springfield today), Claremont, Newport, Croydon and Wendell (known as Sunapee today). What is a "muster"? Musters took place when the soldiers got together and practiced using their firearms, learned drills, exercises, paraded and were inspected. The Militia would muster annually in either August or September and at such times as the commanding officers should think proper, not exceeding four times a year. It was a kind of celebration, not unlike a fair. A gathering of the public, sales of food and drink and appearances by a minister as well as town politicians took place.

In the late 1830s and 1840s, Grantham had two companies of 50 men each, nicely uniformed and equipped. The East Grantham Company was considered the best in the old 31st N.H. Regiment. Francis Howard was one of the first captains. He was the great, great grandfather of Dennis Howard. Other soldiers in the early Militia were Nicholas Shaw, Nathaniel Wheeler and Reuben Winter who lived at Gray Ledges. Chick Pillsbury currently lives in Lt. Shaw's house at the end of Pillsbury Road.

For several years, the Militia that mustered on this field was composed not only of the East Grantham Company but included Newport, Wendell, Goshen, Croydon and Springfield as well. The second company (the West Company) was formed on the west side of the mountain and was composed of Plainfield, Cornish, Claremont and the West Grantham Company and was known as the 15th Regiment. Soldiers in the Militia were paid one dollar annually by the town selectmen in October and each soldier also received fifty cents on each muster-day, to be paid on the parade-ground. The Militia disbanded about 1846 by federal order.

Grantham's Militia flag, found in a local barn several years ago, is currently undergoing conservation repairs and will be displayed when it is returned to Grantham.

Grantham furnished eight men for the War of 1812, forty-seven for the Civil War and seven for World War I.

The Kimball Farm

The musterfield is part of the farm on Dunbar Hill Road presently owned by Ann Kimball Royal. Her father was a dairy farmer who provided "taxi" service for those who needed transportation which was provided by horse and wagon. This area of Dunbar Hill Road supports a number of apple orchards.



Croydon Turnpike

There were no roads in existence when Grantham was chartered in 1761 and none were built before the re-chartering in 1767. Although town charters typically required the establishment of roads, the huge amount of muscle from men and oxen needed to clear even narrow passes in New Hampshire's woods and the demands of other priorities allowed this requirement to lapse until there were enough permanent families and mill sites in town.

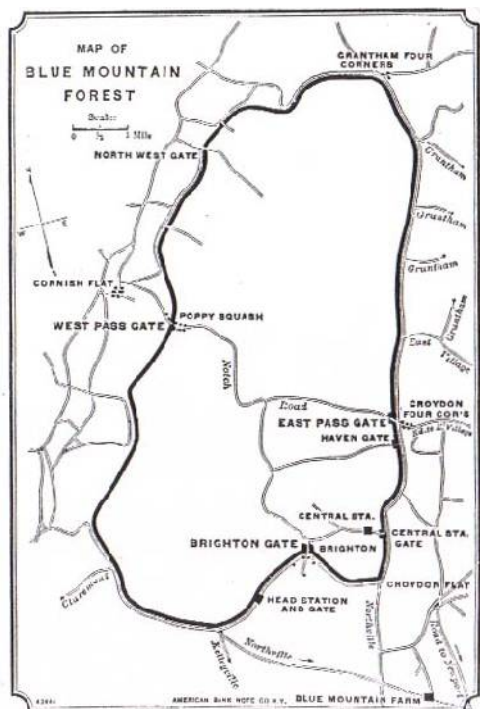
There was no highway system in New Hampshire before 1796. People used waterways like the Connecticut River, Indian trails or paths hacked out of the brush. Turnpikes were privately-developed roads, approved by the state, which were built to facilitate movement of goods and people between ports like Boston and Portsmouth and inland communities. Tolls were charged at specified distances. The 4th NH Turnpike to which the Croydon Turnpike connected was authorized in 1804 and was laid out between Boscawen at the southern end and Lebanon at the north (about where the Lebanon green is today). There was a short branch called the "college branch" that ran to Hanover and Dartmouth College from Lebanon. Today's Route 4 through Salisbury, Andover and Enfield is a remnant of the old 4th Turnpike. Early roads had to be 4 rods in width (about 66 feet). The road itself would not be this wide; the additional cleared space allowed for better drainage during spring thaws to help decrease the depth of mud.

The Croydon Turnpike Company was incorporated on June 21, 1804, with authorization to run from the north at the junction of the college branch and Lebanon termination of the 4th NH

Turnpike to Lempster or Washington where it would “strike” the 2nd NH Turnpike, to be completed in four years. All the incorporators were from Newport or Croydon. The Croydon Turnpike passed through Lebanon, Enfield, Grantham, Croydon and Newport. People who avoided tolls and were caught would have to pay three times the toll. Militia units could pass for free on muster days. The turnpike was also known as the 5th NH Turnpike.

Corbin Park

The second half of the 19th century saw the accumulation of enormous wealth by individuals who were motivated and manipulative enough to take advantage of the westward migration, the expansion of the west and the growth of the economy after the Civil War. Huge fortunes allowed



individuals to indulge in dreams of property accumulation and elaborate home-building. Austin Corbin II was born in North Newport, attended local schools and eventually graduated from Harvard Law School, followed by practicing law in Newport. He then moved to Iowa where his skills as a lawyer were not in demand. He became involved in the development of banks instead. Due to what today would be called “contacts”, his professional activities expanded to include real estate, establishment of the first national bank and building railroads. He developed properties on Coney Island, New York into a resort area, building the railroads that brought city people to enjoy his handiwork. His private home included a resident animal population which expanded rapidly. Thus, property was purchased in his old hometown of Newport to establish a wildlife park. To provide for a roof over their heads during summer vacations, the Corbin homestead was demolished and a huge mansion was built which still stands in North Newport. Over a million dollars was

spent in acquiring land, enclosing the 27,000 (19,000, 24,000, 26,000 – reports vary) acres with 30 miles of fence and installing many wild animals in Corbin Park, including buffalo, reminders of Corbin’s early life in the West, a large elk population and wild boar from Germany whose descendants still roam the woods causing damage to local gardens. The buffalo were shipped by rail from Minnesota to Newport; from the Newport rail station, they were herded the seven miles to the park on local roads. Mr. Corbin was instrumental in saving bison from extinction.

Although visitors were allowed during the early days of the Park, as it became more “private”, gates barred the way to interested citizens. This state of affairs was quickly disrupted when, in June 1953, fire started by lightning was spotted on Grantham Mountain inside the Park. During the month that it took to put the fire out, Grantham, Croydon, Newport and Cornish residents were major forces in fighting the fire along with the US Air Force from Grenier Field in Manchester, area fire companies, the Red Cross, and soldiers from Fort Devens in Massachusetts. The bare areas (gray ledges) visible on Grantham Mountain today result from lack of re-growth after the fire.

Only about 1100 of the 27,000 acres of Corbin Park lie in Grantham. The Park was developed as a preservation effort and hunting was not permitted during Corbin's lifetime. After his death, the Blue Mountain Forest Association was developed which owns the property today, used only by private members for hunting. Austin Corbin's other legacy to which we all have access today is the Reading Railroad of Monopoly fame, named after one of his many purchases.

NORTH GRANTHAM

School No. 8

Records from the North Grantham School (Grantham Archives) detail the number of sessions, names of teachers and their pay (\$24.00 per month in 1893 in addition to room and board from a local family) and physical condition of the school. By 1919, the population of the school had grown so that a suggestion was made for seventh and eight



graders to go to the Village School. With the addition of families from the Draper Corporation's Draperville, at one time there were 60 children in the North Grantham school. Indoor plumbing and water were installed in the 1950s and the last classes were held there in 1967 when students in grades 7-12 were sent to Lebanon for junior and senior high school. The building was subsequently bought for a private home.

North Grantham Church

Two church buildings in Grantham were completed in 1826, one at the Four Corners on Grantham Mountain (intersection of the Meriden Road and Croydon turnpike) and another on Dunbar Hill on the corner of Hartshorn and Dunbar Hill Roads. The Four Corners Church was moved to North Grantham in 1855 to the corner of Route 10 and Burpee Hill Road. Rebuilding after the move cost \$1200.00. The church was in use until the early 1900s when it was taken down and used in the building of a house on Grove Street in Newport.



North Grantham Store



There was a store in North Grantham from the turn of the 19th century, owned in sequence by the Robinson family, Nelson Cote, Eli Levine, Hiram Bishop and Dennis Kongulus, who sold groceries and ice cream. According to an account in the Argus Champion in 1994, he moved his business to Newport where he was shot in a hold-up in the 1930s. The North Grantham store burned after being struck by lightning.

Early mills in North Grantham

Mills in north Grantham as in other sections of town had multiple owners and even moved after the resources of the local woods ran dry. We know of mills owned by Moses Burpee (on Eastman Pond); Alexander and Cobb & Cheney at the outlet to Butternut Pond (map site #6); and Smith and Clark mills, all located in North Grantham as sawmills. A tannery was located on the road from North Grantham “to the Mountain.” Carrie Buswell, in a talk to the Grange at the end of the 19th century, located a tannery on Skinner Brook, said to be in operation still at mid-century (map site #3).

Miller Pond Road/ Leavitt plaque

The Leavitts were one of the earliest and largest families to settle in Grantham, arriving on what was to be called Leavitt Hill in the early 1790s. Nathaniel, his wife and twelve children left many descendants – at one time there were more than 50 Leavitts attending the Leavitt Hill School. Nathaniel reportedly fought in the French and Indian Wars and the Revolution and was said to have been rescued by George Washington after a battle at Crown Point, New York. Among his descendants were teachers, physicians and astronomers. In the late 19th century, Dudley Leavitt, teacher of “Mathematics and Astronomy”, published Leavitt’s Farmer’s Almanac, clearly a competitor with the Old Farmer’s Almanac. He was assisted in the astronomical calculations needed by farmers by his nephew, William B. Leavitt, an astronomer. The Grantham Archives holds a number of issues of the Almanac, the earliest dating from 1841. These were published in Concord and sold at pharmacies and grocery stores. An 1882 issue described the following: “Tuesday, September 6, 1881 was remarkable over the whole of New England and may be

known as Yellow Day. It was so dark in many places that artificial light was needed for the common acts of indoor life. Without, the dense curtains of smoke or dry fog that shut out the sun, gave a peculiar yellow hue to the atmosphere, changing the color of the trees and grass, perplexing the birds and other animals and seriously frightening the superstitious. It will long be remembered.”

Some family members went west where large branches were established. Members of the Western Association of Leavitt Families visited Grantham in September 2000 and visited the Leavitt Cemetery, walking along the old Leavitt Hill Road where the granite footstep of the old schoolhouse can still be seen. The plaque off Miller Pond Road was put in place during this visit as was one at Leavitt Cemetery and Leavitt Pond, recognizing Nathaniel and Lydia, the original settlers. The Leavitt cemetery had been cleaned by members of the Grantham Historical Society in preparation for the visit. Records indicate that there are nineteen gravesites present, all dating from the 19th century.

ROUTE 10 SOUTH

Brookside Park

In 1984, a parcel of land given to the town of Grantham by Tony Hanslin, was converted to a nature and conservation area. Bounding private property on two sides, the area includes trails, bridges, a fernery and at least sixteen different types of trees. Skinner Brook runs through the park. The Park is located at the site of the former Grange fairgrounds from the 1930s.

SCHOOLS

Although learning to read and write were probably of some importance to the early settlers of Grantham in the 1760s and 1770s, priorities were the building of homes and mills and clearing land for growing food. The earliest school districts were developed on the west side of Grantham Mountain. By 1789 there were “north”, “central” and “south” school districts (Districts Nos. 1, 2 and 3). In 1797, three more districts had been established on the east side of Grantham which was settled in the 1790s. Two more were added by division of District No. 1 in 1802 and by 1837, all twelve of the original districts in town had been created. New districts were voted upon by the town as families moved into settled areas and did not want their children walking long distances to school. The earliest school districts went to Plainfield when west Grantham was adjoined to east Plainfield in 1856.

Town records (Grantham Archives) show that the superintending school committee report for 1857 for District No. 7 noted that “this district has this past season, erected a beautiful house, expense between six and seven hundred dollars.” In 1850, Reuben Winter, town treasurer, was ordered to pay to School District No. 8 “two hundred dollars that amount having been allowed them being the amount of an assessment against said district for the purpose of building a school house.”

In the early years of the 19th century, the town resources must have been constrained as in 1803 and 1805, the town voted not to raise any more money for the schools “than the law requires.”

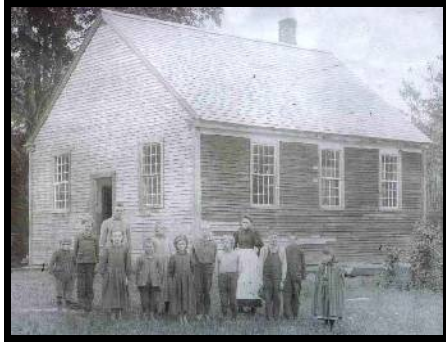
By mid-century, superintending committees or school committees annually reviewed the progress of “scholars” by visits to the schools as well as reviewing expenses and teacher qualifications. Some of their reports can be found in the Grantham Archives.

By 1885 there were only four school districts in Grantham (Dunbar Hill, Howe Hill, North Grantham and the Village School). In the earliest years of Grantham, school terms were held as teacher availability and funding allowed. The ideal was to hold four terms per year (spring, summer, fall and winter). At a time when children and adolescents were required to help with farm work, attendance was spotty. Epidemics of childhood diseases (which are now non-existent due to vaccines) also compromised attendance. The school committee, in the late 1860s, complained of “two prominent evils infesting our schools”: absenteeism and tardiness. Typically, 25% of students were absent and in the year reported, there were 2,112 marks of tardiness. The population of Grantham schools in 1890 was 106 when the town’s population was a little over 400 people.

In 1853, a group of citizens petitioned the town to “disanex all of District No. 7....to constitute a New District in the Hollow (so-called).” By 1858 a school building had been erected, the Hollow Village School (current Town offices; map site #7). The building originally had two entries. A huge stove between the entries provided heat. Water was carried from the plank house down the hill. Coats were hung on hooks in the stairwell. In 1910, a partition divided the building into two sections, one for grades 1-4 and the other for grades 5-8. Prior to that, all eight grades were taught in one room. The basement was ultimately converted to a third classroom. The school was closed on February 18, 1983 when the students moved to the new Grantham Village School on Learning Drive. Allen Walker and Ella Reney graduated from the 8th grade at the Village School in 1936. Ella later returned as a teacher between 1954 and 1964. This building which currently houses the Town Offices will be given to the Grantham Historical Society when the new town building is completed.

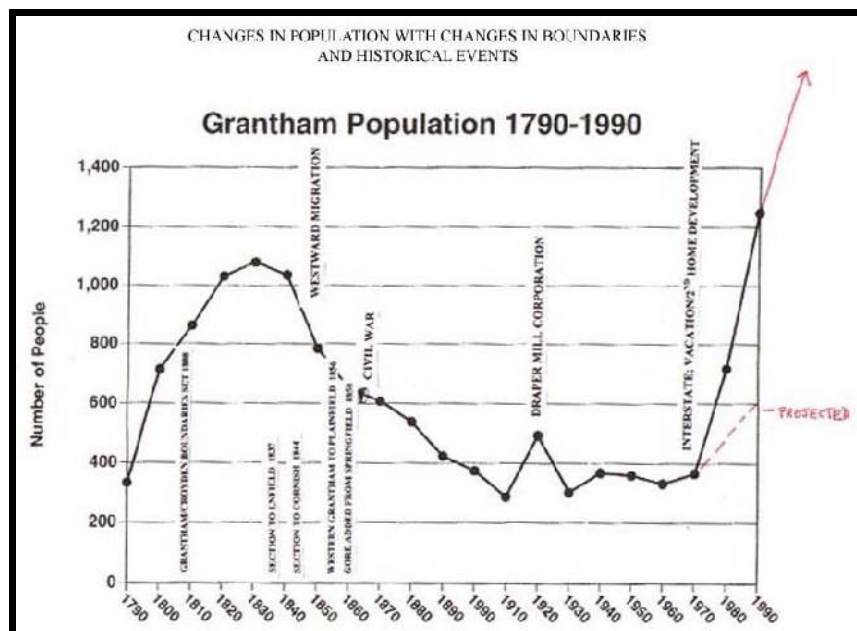


The East Grantham school (map site #10) was located in what is now part of Hilldale Cemetery. According to an article in our Archives, the building was bought and moved to the village to add space in one of the stores. A copy of personal history of Albert Flanders who grew up in Grantham during the 1850s and 1860s describes the loss of young teachers in the Civil War. He recalled the winter weather which allowed for skating on Stocker Pond, “a few rods back of the school house” and the extreme weather later that winter with “a great hail then it turned extremely cold which made a very hard slippery crust” on which people could skate “anywhere.” He describes a school session of “twelve or thirteen weeks beginning the first Monday in December” in a “large, ungraded school perhaps of fifty or more pupils from the youngest learning their ABC’s to big boys of twenty one years.”



The Howe Hill School's location was obscured during the building of roads in Eastman. A picture in the Archives, probably taken in the 1890s shows 12 students and a teacher. One of the students is a young man, taller and older-looking than the teacher. In those days, older adolescents and young adults attended school with young children if they had been unable to acquire an education earlier. These older students sometimes challenged the authority of the teacher!

The Dunbar Hill School was originally located at the intersection of Hartshorn Road and Dunbar Hill Road. It closed in the early 1900s when students were moved to the Village School. The school building was eventually moved down Dunbar Hill Road across from what is now Gray Ledges and is presently used as a home.



GRANTHAM'S FUTURE?

The picture above, looking south on Route 10, dates from the 1960s. In the mid-1970s, the Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Council projected a population of 500 for Eastman in the year 2000. With the coming of major developments like Eastman, Olde Farms and Gray Ledges as well as Interstate 89, the number of residents has soared far beyond this very modest projection. While it is impossible to know what Grantham will look like in the future, whatever is happening today, added to the documentation of Grantham's past by the Grantham Historical Society, constitutes our history of the present.

