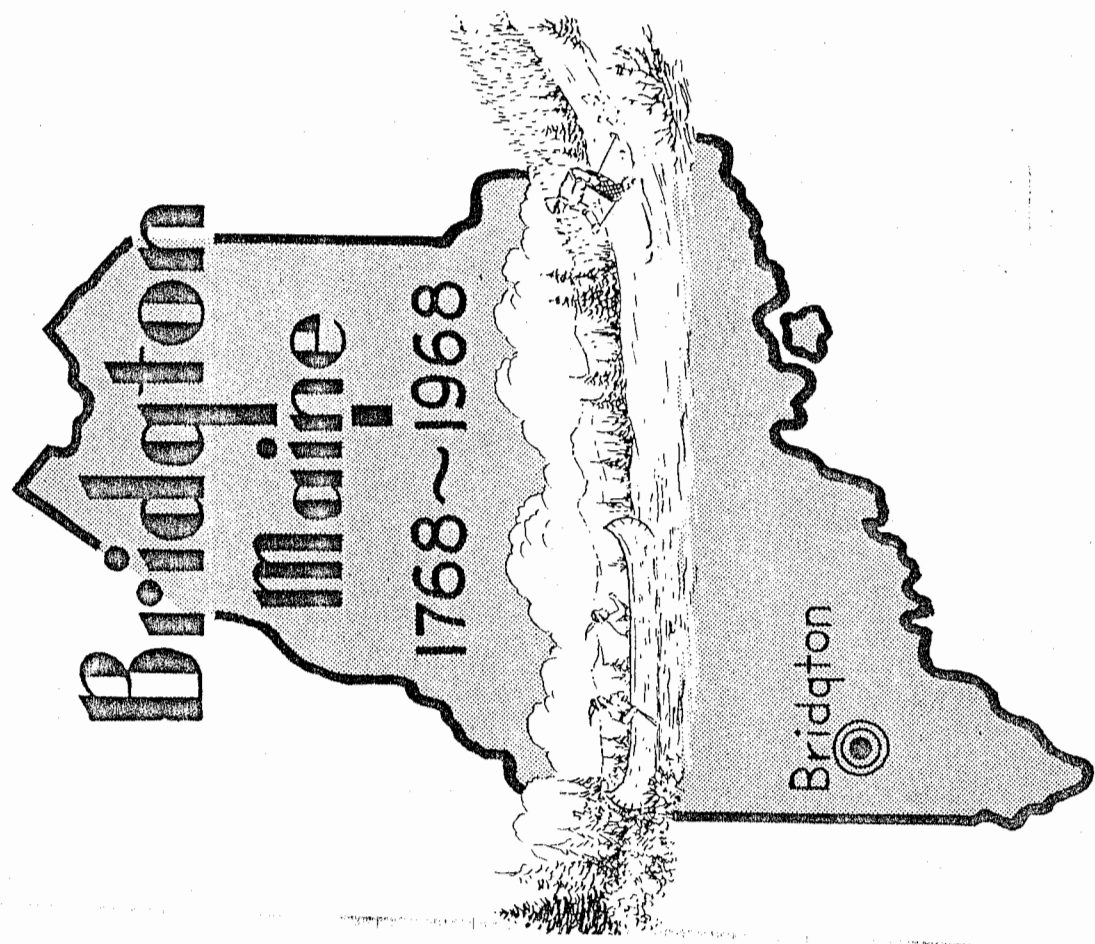


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returned to Sweden when her husband retired. She purchased for her son, John and family, and the Sweden home for another Thomas.

The Shorey homestead, at 36 North High Street, was built by Harmon Hayden in 1852 and sold to Francis B. Caswell. Major Shorey purchased it in 1876. Major Shorey's children—Albion, Harry, Maude, and Izora—lived there. Mrs. Shorey (Ida DeCarter of Sedgwick) purchased Shorey's Grove on Highland Street in 1880. All this land between High Street and Highland Street was owned by W. W. Cross.

The house at 39 North High Street, now owned by C. Bernard Hall, was that of E. L. O. Adams who in 1883 sold to Dr. Shorey. The Major had purchased this property for Dr. W. B. Perkins who feared people might object to a homeopathic doctor buying the homesteads were recognized by the Medical Society shortly after, and Dr. Perkins enjoyed a beautiful home and an extensive practice. He sold his office, home and goodwill to Dr. Edward Abbott in 1885; subsequent owners were Elley Clark and H. D. Betway.

The Congregational Church Parsonage at 41 North High Street on a site which was part of E. L. O. Adams' field. The house was built in 1886 by George Wescott, a lawyer, who sold to Mrs. Baker in 1890 before the Church acquired it.

Elizabeth Shorey's home at 38 North High Street once sat at the corner of Main and Church Streets; it was the original Amasa Merrill home. Mr. Merrill and Mr. Perry operated a carriage factory. Merrill came from Milton Plantation around 1850 with a large family of children, and two more were born in Bridgton. Harry Shorey purchased the house and moved it to North High Street when the Memorial Library was erected in 1913. This house was moved on "skids" drawn by several teams of horses, became stalled on Main Hill, and required several days to make the journey to its present location. Townspeople were annoyed because the road was blocked; Mr. Shorey was annoyed at their annoyance and made it known in columns of *The News* that Elizabeth Shorey inherited this property in 1952 when her father died.

At 44 North High Street, Alvin Davis built a house in 1859. His wife was Caroline Littlefield, daughter of the old "Squire." Lyman Chadbourne bought it in 1902 from William Larrabee and now Lyman's granddaughter, Mrs. Clarence Spinney, and her husband, own and occupy the house. Lyman Chadbourne operated a dairy stand here and sold milk to neighbors. His sons, Howard and Maurice, lived here until their deaths; his daughters, Gladys and Annie, married James Fitton and Herman Richardson, respectively.

The Clifford Blake residence at 46 North High Street was built in 1895 by Mellen Plummer and occupied by him until it was sold to Herbert Moulton in 1931. Clifford Blake has been the owner since 1930.

The Davis House, 47 North High Street, was built in 1883 by Dr. John B. Bray, long a practicing physician in town. His heirs sold it

Davis, and at his death it was left to son Osborne and three daughters. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Osborne Davis.

McKinney property next was built by Sherburne M. Harmon, a Baptist minister, who had a store on Main Hill lived here and later Rev. Daniel Larrabee, a lifelong cobbler, and Benjamin, purchased it in 1889. His heirs sold it to Hon. Luther F. McKinney, a Universalist minister, and his wife, moved into it in 1910. Harry's widow, Minnie, deceased was the last occupant.

The Gilbert property at 51 North High Street was originally owned by Dr. Hazen who built the house. Dr. N. P. Potter purchased it and lived there a short time, selling to Capt. R. T. Bailey. The Bailey family lived there with her husband, Rev. H. Bernard Carpenter, his pastorate at the Congregational Church. Other owners were Russell, Carrie Hayes in 1920, and after her death Rupert Russell, who sold to Mr. and Mrs. George Gilbert, present operators of an antique shop called "The Hitching Post."

The Guy Gardner house at number 53 was built on a lot owned by G. McGee, a tailor, who came from Ireland and lived to be 100. He left the house to his son who passed it on to a daughter, ("Cad") McGee, who was a public school teacher here for many years. Her heirs sold to the Gardeners in 1943.

The Browning House, an antique center, owned by Miss Jennifer Browning was formerly the home of Dr. John H. Kimball. The house was built by E. J. Leighton. The next owner was Mary Proctor, sister of Dr. Gore, who sold to Dr. H. A. Lombard in 1900. Mr. Gore built the house on Highland Avenue (now owned by Larry Cote) to which Mary moved when she left High Street.

At the corner of Highland Avenue at 52 North High, Gage and Webb purchased the old Dr. Webb house and moved it in 1863 below the Livery Stable (Maurice Keene's Shop) for a dwelling. Dr. James Webb then built the present house on this site. It was later owned by Dr. Thompson, an artist, who sold to Isaiah Webb in 1890. The next owners were Frank Webb, George Waldow, Mrs. Charles Waldow, then her son, the dentist, Dr. Harold Taylor, and present owners Dr. Webb and Robert Hatch. Adjoining this house is an extensive lot which was owned by Dr. Webb and Perley Burnham, who built the house on Highland Avenue now owned by the Samuel Stuarts. Mr. Burnham built his place he had a wrought iron fence installed around the grounds which were formally landscaped; his was a showpiece in the town. He had a talented daughter, Edith, who became a writer and textbook proofreader in Boston; his son Harold was a lawyer and musician. Dances and formal parties were often held here, and musical groups coming up from Portland.

The house at 54 North High Street was built by Mial Davis, for many years proprietor of the old Bridgton House. His heirs sold it to S. S. Fuller, then to Mrs. Elizabeth Cleaves who remodeled the house and sold it to Walter Davis of Lovell in 1914. Richard and

clay, and many beds of clay have been found in Bridgton. It is fine grained and usually fertile. Many kinds of soil are clay, but the clay from which bricks can best be made must be when moist, considerable tenacity and plasticity. The best clay deposits were found along Mill Brook in North Bridgton not far from its mouth at the West Cove. In the early days, far beyond recollections of our older citizens, there were several brick yards along the east side of Mill Brook. The clay deposits are there, and innumerable fragments of bricks bear testimony to extensive brick-making activities. After some years, a better grade of clay was brought in to these brick kilns by boat, and perhaps, it accounts for the fact that within a few years brick-making ceased to be an occupation. Be that as it may, the fact remains in this little village of North Bridgton more brick buildings were found built in the last century than in all the rest of the town. Countless thousands of bricks, fired in the Mill Brook kilns, were used to build the Cushman House, the Lincoln Mayberry House, the Bird House, the old Brick Store, the Arcade, and the J. Gibbs House on the Upper Ridge. Moreover two other houses are known to have been built with brick walls, which were sheathed over. These were the Gould-Hamlin House on the Ridge Road and the Kitson House just beyond Mill Brook on the road to Harrison.

In the Center Village there are only two brick houses erected in those earlier years. These have been known as the Haskell House and the Bridgman-House. The large two-story brick house at 66 South High Street was built by Samuel Andrews, 2nd, probably well over a century ago, and was later occupied by the family of Royal Senter, Dr. William L. Haskell, Mrs. Edward Marc Benjamin Everett and Almon Littlefield. The 2-story Casco Bank Trust Co. building, at 84 Main Street, is also an old house and was very likely built by Edward Alley as a one story house, for he lived there in 1871. William Bridgman, Abel C. Hinds, Dr. Richard Marc and the Central Maine Power Company were subsequent occupants.

Some form of cement has been known for ages, but it is doubtful if it was used to make cement blocks before the beginning of this century. Masons of old used cement to join blocks of stone, but those blocks had to be shaped with painstaking care. Finally some ingenious workman discovered that he could use cement to make stone building blocks of a size and shape to be handled much more easily than the unwieldy granite blocks. Warren Walker believed the first cement blocks ever used in Bridgton were the small garage built by Lorenzo D. Corser to house his Model T Ford beside his home at 12 Church Street. There was also erected about this time a small firehouse to house the steam fire engine near the upper end of Gage Street, where threescore years

Frisbie had his Marble Shop. Edward P. Foster thinks the house was built in the fall of 1914, and that Corser's probably not built until later. In any case, these two shared the honor of being the first cement block structures in the fire house is no more, but the garage still stands on Street. Cement blocks in those days were locally made, little building stands as a monument to the ingenuity of Lorenzo Corser, and to the beginning of a different building construction, which has become very popular. change from brick to cement block construction has been but very nearly complete. Probably the Municipal Building, at 1907-8, and the Dalton Holmes Davis Memorial Library, 1913, were constructed entirely of bricks, and this type of building material was used in the 1890's when the engine house at Pondicherry Mill was erected with its immense chimney. In the 1930's, the Brookside Building was erected by Claude cement blocks were used, as was the case when Francis built the Chevrolet Garage around 1948. Since then, a garage, filling stations, the Laundromat, and one or more private residences have been built of cement blocks.

Several decades now, cement blocks have been on the scene and have become popular because they are cheaper to build and to lay. Practically all the buildings of fireproof materials erected within the last decade have been constructed with a brick or frontage and cement block construction elsewhere. Some of these buildings are the addition to the High School (1955); the & P Store; the Liquor Store; the Army Reserve Center (1958); the BIDC building now owned by the Pleasant Mountain Company (1956); the Elementary School (1961); the Post Office (1956); the Bridgton Knitting Mills (1962); the new Northern Cumberland Memorial Hospital (1964) and the local headquarters of the Central Maine Power Company on Portland Street (1964).

OF THE SQUARE

The foregoing material has made it clear that for many years Rufus Chase built his mills, the land between the brooks, as the Post Office Square, was distinctly an industrial area, and as a place of mills and shops. It was probably as late as the Civil War when this "Square" began to be a commercial area. residences sprang up on Elm Street and along Main Street. The Savings Bank crossed the Brook in 1908 and became established on the east bank in the new brick building, it was for the show place of the town. The Walker Mills had crumbled since some thirty years previously, but the huge Tannery was still running intermittently.

For many years Peter Nulty had his home on a little lane extended northward from Main Street beside the Walker Mill

they sold it to G. Milton Oberg, who now carries on an insurance and real estate business.

Dr. Charles Libby erected a building in 1915 adjacent to the Corn Shop brook. He opened optical rooms in the east side and in 1918 Mrs. Mabel Chadbourne had a restaurant in the west side. When Dr. Libby decided to move his business to his home on Walker Street, Howard Chadbourne, son of Mabel Chadbourne, bought this building and opened a grocery and bakery. Charles Arey, the veteran baker, taught Howard the business. His mother moved her restaurant upstairs. In this building in 1940 the First National chain opened a store; six years later it moved to Pondicherry Square.

After the 1906 fire Will Crosby moved an icehouse from its location near Highland Lake onto the next lot. With Arthur Sanborn he started a meat and provision store. After only three years it burned, October 21, 1909. Mr. Crosby rebuilt at once. He and Fred Gibbs had had a boot and shoe store in one side and a jewelry and gift shop in the other. About 1912 Crosby and Gibbs leased their store to Elmer Seavey, father of Mrs. Hazel (Chadbourne) Anderson. He ran it as a "Five and Ten" until Eugene Tenney bought all the land from Swanson's to Elm Street. He kept the same line that Mr. Seavey had until in 1925 he sold the lot and store to Edward Smith who still continues to operate a sporting goods store. The Chadbourne block burned in 1936 and Smith's store was badly damaged. Joseph Bardsley and his son Clayton bought the Chadbourne lot in 1938, erected a new building on the site and the following year sold it to John Swanson who established a modern variety store, known for years as "the 5 and 10," but in this affluent decade as "the 5 to \$1.00." After a quarter of a century, the Swansons sold this store in 1967 to George Giatas of Nashua, N. H., and Mr. Swanson retired, another of the town's long-time business stalwarts.

Mr. Tenney soon built the next store to the east which he sold in 1938 to Mrs. Catherine Prentice for a periodicals and ice-cream store. After nearly 20 years here she leased it in 1957 to Leslie Barker. In 1935 Tenney also built the State movie theater at the corner of Elm Street where for some years immediately preceding there had been a public tennis court. (As this is written, the State Theater's film future is in doubt, plagued by television and drive-ins.)

In 1865 the J. Winslow Jones Company began the corn canning industry here in Bridgton. Their 20 buildings occupied all the land from the "Corn Shop" brook to Elm Street. They did a good business for some years, but failed in 1873, bringing heavy financial loss to many farmers. They were succeeded by the Winslow Packing Company. Albion Hall Burnham, who lived on the northeast corner of Elm and Main Streets, was one of their supervisors.

Frank Segon, an employee at the corn shop, lived in a house located between Burnham's (now Clayton Bardsley's) and Main Street. Mr. Burnham didn't like this proximity so he built another house on the north side of his lot and moved Mr. Segon into it. Then Burnham sold the vacated house to Frank Hanson, who moved it to Church Street where the Erwin Clarks now live. The barn was then turned around, end to Main Street, and Mr. Burnham had a fine, cleared lawn between his house and Main Street.

The land where the corn shop buildings were located was very swampy, as many have since found, and the company decided in 1889 to move to the west side of Upper Depot Street. Only two buildings were left on the old site. One of these, the "office," was used by Horace Billings as a carriage shop and later Frank T. McCann started a steam laundry there. A. C. Hinds had a tailor shop upstairs. This building burned in 1906. The other corn shop building was bought by Elden Martin and became the apartment house now owned by Frank Lackee.

The barn which was turned around on the Burnham-Bardsley lawn was in later years remodeled and has had a variety of occupants: the First National Store; a snack bar; the Red and White Store; the Chamber of Commerce Information Center; and Mr. Swanson was there briefly until he could occupy his new store. In 1964 the Charles Langs leased it for a gift shop. They had bought the stock and business of the "Candlewick Gift Shop" from the Roy Truworthys, who retired when their location went to the Casco Bank for its new building. The Truworthys had bought in 1945 from Mary White, who had started her gift shop business where Mrs. Nellie Hickey formerly had a millinery shop.

The history of the next building begins in the late 1830's or early '40's, when Hiram Baston built there before joining the Gold Rush and leaving for California. It was probably E. T. Alley, who had the heel-and-sole factory on the corner of Elm Street, who built the brick building on this site, for he was occupying it in 1871 and some of his family owned it for many years. (It is one of only three brick buildings in the village). His wife was Eunice Foster, granddaughter of Asael Foster, first settler in Sandy Creek. A. C. Hinds the tailor occupied this house for a time.

The William Bridgman family lived there for many years and always paid their rent to Lydia Alley, E. T.'s daughter. Laila (Bridgman) Lewis says the second story was added in 1904 during their occupancy. The Howard Burnhams (Rosa Bridgman) were married in the parlor there. When the Bridghams moved out in 1918 the place was sold to Dr. Richard March, the dentist. He sold it to the Central Maine Power Company in 1927 for an office and service center. In 1964 the Casco Bank and Trust Company purchased the site, remodeled the building extensively and moved in. The original bank building, at this point, was acquired by the

running "The Pondicherry House" at the top of Main Hill. Rufus Chase sold his home, "The Cumberland," to Marshal Bacon in 1858. It was ideally located for a hotel as the level area along the stream was then becoming the trading center. Business prospered for the Bacons. Soon the house was enlarged and a stable built. It was still further enlarged in 1871 by moving the ell back and building a connecting section between the two parts. It is of interest that long before the local water system became a reality, this hotel was provided with excellent water, supplied by an aqueduct from the hillside to the west.

After Marshal Bacon's death in 1888 another story was added and his children, Eva L., Mary Elizabeth and Frank Wason Bacon, usually known as "Doc" Bacon, continued to operate the hotel for more than three decades. A cousin of the Bacons, Leon Jack, took over in 1915 and carried on for a couple of years after the Bacons' retirement. He sold to Lester Wiggin. Stanley Bridge bought it in 1924 and made many improvements. He soon gave up serving meals, and most of the building was converted into apartments. The stable was removed in 1943. Long associated with The Cumberland House was the carriage that transported guests to and from the railroad station. It was drawn by a shaggy, under-sized pony. The hotel was sold in 1966 to Ralph Burnell who continued it as an apartment house.

The next section of Main Street, from The Cumberland House down to the present News building, has been swept by two disastrous fires, one on April 11, 1873 and the other November 2, 1879. Each time the fire very nearly wiped out the entire section. Both fires occurred before the memory of anyone now living and so it is difficult at this date to pinpoint locations and names of owners.

At the time of the 1879 fire, as reported in *The Bridgton News*, The Cumberland House was threatened and the Bacon building was burned. This must have been located just across Bacon Street on the south side. It was owned by Melville A. Bacon, son of Marshal, and occupied at that time by the A. F. Hill Clothiers. Evidently it was not rebuilt, for in the horse-and-buggy days and later it was a well-kept lawn, with the stable well back. During the summers of World War II Mrs. Bridge had a victory garden there. In 1956 Herbert Chalmers acquired title to this property and built a modern office building for the Braithwaite-Chalmers Realty and Insurance business. They moved there from an office in the March block, where they had succeeded the Horace B. Libby and Son Insurance Company (Norman Libby was the "and Son" of this firm.)

There always has been a two-story building on the next lot and most of the time it has been a provision and meat store. Jonathan Fogg bought the site in December of 1871 and two years later he put up a two-story structure; it replaced an earlier

building owned by Mrs. Hannah Parker. Fogg and Dodge opened the store on the first floor and D. C. Saunders leased the upstairs for a tailor shop. This building was not touched in the 1873 fire. When the 1879 fire started in the next building south, Mrs. Corbett, wife of the bandleader, was living upstairs and was awakened by the noise. There were nine barrels of kerosene stored in her building — a good starter for a fire — and she got out quickly! Jonathan Fogg rebuilt at once but lost the second building by fire in January 1892. Fred Emery was then selling meat there and Lincoln Douglass lived upstairs. The late Mrs. Rosa Burnham recalled that in the early 1880's her father, William Bridgman, had a market here and the family lived upstairs.

Right after this second fire Benjamin Walker Gibbs, son of Aaron and Eliza (Walker) Gibbs, took title to the lot and built the present building. He was succeeded by John Morrison. Later it was mortgaged to Dr. Angus G. Hebb, who sold it in 1918 to Ned Holden of Sweden. He in turn sold it in 1926 to Rue Warren of Brownfield. The latter's widow and two sons, Carleton and Merton, are running a successful business at the present time. The Business and Professional Women's Club was organized in rooms on the second floor of this building; after World War I the veterans of that war organized the local American Legion Post there.

On October 18, 1873, Jonathan Fogg contracted to build on the next site a hardware store for G. P. Perley, who had been in business on the Hill. He ran this business successfully until the 1879 fire took it from him. At the time of the fire, the place was owned by Charles Weston who had greatly enlarged the building. It was occupied on the street floor by the B. F. Evans Furniture store, where the fire started. The lawyers B. T. Chase and F. S. Strout had offices on the second floor.

On the site of the present town equipment garage, Charles Washburn of Thomaston, in 1913 built a garage which marked the beginning of a new era in the town's history. To quote from Norman Libby: "Up to this time the farmers took half a day and came to the bank to deposit their money. With the automobile, they took an hour, went to the bank and borrowed money to take home to run the farm."

After Mr. Washburn's son died the garage was bought by two young men, Everett Starrett and Clarence Turner. They opened a Ford agency, and during their ownership, on October 20, 1916, Bridgton experienced its first unsolved mystery. The Starretts went by auto to Portland for a brief business trip. They separated after arranging on a place to meet later in the day. No one has seen or heard of Everett Starrett since. In 1919 Ripley and Fletcher of South Paris bought the lot and business and continued the Ford agency. In 1946 the town bought the building to house its

came back and married the daughter of the owner of the Gibb's Mill at the foot of Highland Lake and afterwards ran this mill before he built Forest Mill. The Greene-Morrison place is now owned by the children of Charles and Hannah (Davis) Stone, and is used as their summer vacation center.

Back on the main road south of the Jacobys the Dr. Bennett place was located. It was here that he first lived when he returned to Bridgton to practice medicine. This house burned.

Further beyond the Sweden Road cemetery and near the Fryeburg Austin. They are faculty members at Fryeburg Academy and were previously Bridgton teachers. They also own the Christmas Tree Inn property (formerly the Morris Kanalys'), which has now been subdivided into building lots.

On the next property is a cellar hole, beside the road which goes down to The Birches. It was the home of Daniel Thorne, an old-time peddler who, with his horse and red cart, went around the countryside selling tinware, thread and other household items. He often traded these for rubber and rags which he then resold.

Near the Thorne cellar hole is the Nat Thompson farm, now owned and occupied by the Merton Warrens. He is a partner in Warren's Market, established by his parents, Ruel and Grace Warren. Then comes another cellar hole, the Byron Kimball place.

The William Pease property is next and is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Lockwood, who now make their home in Fairbanks, Alaska. Across from the Lockwoods is the small overgrown Burnham Neighborhood graveyard, where some of the names mentioned here can be found.

In the early days, the Burnham Neighborhood suppers were most enjoyable affairs. They were held at different homes and everyone brought something for the supper. Each person paid four cents, the money being used for the Burnham Neighborhood Library. The Library was located where Mrs. Beatrice Young now lives, north of the Stone farm. Another pleasant memory is the evenings spent at the Lake View House (now Highland Lake Inn owned by Everett Douglass and up for sale) and the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Al (Astley) Burnham. This was the gay meeting place for young people of the neighborhood, with a bowling alley in the rear of the house and treats of ice cream, popcorn or sweets usually on hand.

Thus, to review this short journey, from the Gammon place down to Route 302, out of the old Burnham Neighborhood homes there now remain nine cellar holes and only seven of the early residences. But adjoining these properties, along the west shore of Highland Lake, are approximately 75 camps and cottages. Nowhere in the township is the transition from farming to vacationing more clearly illustrated.

II: EARLY HIGH STREET HOUSES

Approaching the town from the Burnham Neighborhood, the early trail, and later the main road, lay along a rise of land overlooking Croched Pond and the village center, and it came naturally by the name of High Street. It was the first principal residential section of the town, along both its northern and southern reaches. Many of the present houses along High Street replace homes built in the fast-growing period from 1850 to 1900.

The three-quarters of a mile lying between the northern limit of the Corporation (at No. 22 N. High Street) and the fork of Routes 302 and 93 (the Sweden Road) is generally referred to as the Fryeburg Road, and our tour will begin at that fork, where Mr. Stone's journey ended, and proceed south.

The Pease (now Lockwood) house near this fork was built and occupied by William and Ruby (Colby) Pease. Mrs. Pease was an aunt of the late Herbert Evans of Maple Street. Howard Burnham recalled that, when as a boy he was tapping maple trees near the Pease place, Mr. Pease would always ask for a little sap to make tea, a refreshment unknown to the present generation.

A short distance south of the Pease place, on the west side of Route 302, William H. Burnham built a home on land purchased from Simeon Burnham in 1876. This was the Reuben Morrison farm, later occupied by his son and daughter-in-law, Harold and Alice Morrison, before the place was destroyed by fire. The Harold Morrisons still maintain flower gardens at this location and have built a small summer cottage near the original cellar hole of the old home place.

Across the road, in the house now occupied by Mrs. Gloria Soltvedt, the children of Astley Burnham—Howard, Winifred, Bertha and Grace—grew up. Mr. Burnham built this place in 1878. Opposite was the house built and occupied by Howard's great-grandfather, Nathaniel Burnham. This was torn down and in 1894 on this site Astley Burnham built the Lake View House where for many years guests came to spend the entire summer. One, J. Clark Reed of New York, arrived each June with his family, driving a two-seated buckboard. Hazel Reed, a daughter, married the Rev. James Richards and they spent their summers in Bridgton during their lifetime; they owned a cottage on the other side of Highland Lake, and their heirs still occupy it as a vacation retreat. The Lake View House, renamed Highland Lake Inn by Leland Page, one of its owners, is now the property of Everett Douglass of West Bridgton, who has subdivided the lakeside property.

South of the Inn is the house built by Howard Burnham's grandfather, Leonard Burnham. Mrs. Rue (Grace) Warren lives there now, the Warrens having purchased the property in 1933.

Mrs. Howard (Rosa) Burnham in 1955 prepared a paper on High Street Houses. She died in 1967 at the age of 88. The Editor has attempted to update her data, and regrets any inaccuracies which may have crept into the account.

Chapter

SANDY CREEK

"We must welcome the future, remembering that soon it will be the past; and we must respect the past, remembering that once it was all that was humanly possible." (George Santayana)

ABOUT three miles south of Bridgton village center is located a hamlet of Sandy Creek, on Willett Brook, which flows into the outlet of Woods Pond east and north to join Stevens Brook near the site of the old Bridgton railroad station. At the fork of the main road divides, the right-angled fork going south to the bridge and on to South Bridgton, while the main route continues west to New Limington and Denmark. Originally this road through the little community, but a new bypass lies north of center's houses, so to reach them one must leave the main road at the foot of Usher Hill and use the old route.

This district has had three names in its lifetime, and no one is known explaining the origin of the first two. Hensborough first, was on the upper or west side of the present bridge, with a ten-foot waterfall in the stream made an excellent place to establish a sawmill. Here in 1772 Asael Foster built the first frame house. He came from Danvers, Massachusetts. His wife was from Symonds, the first married woman to establish a home in Bridgton. This family later moved to South Bridgton. One story has come down that when Asael was asked why he was moving to South Bridgton he replied he wanted to "raise corn, and this place is only a hen's burrow," but whether this witticism preceded or followed the name is not stated. Hensborough grew to a settlement of six or seven houses. The old cellars may still be found. The entrance to these houses was from a road which left the South Bridgton Road near the present home of Donald Spiller.

Mrs. Ruth (Ingalls) Moulton is responsible for this chapter on the history of the hamlet in which her family lived for nearly three decades. One of three daughters of Laforest Ingalls and Mary Cross, Ruth graduated from Bridgton High School in 1915 and immediately went into teaching in the local elementary school. She subsequently took courses at Gorham State Normal School, University of Maine and Boston University. In 1920 she married Mr. Moulton of Freedom, N. H., a surveyor, who died in 1925. In the spring of 1925 Mrs. Moulton completed a record 52 years of loyal teaching service. Her hobby is collecting old photographs. "Relatives, friends and my memories." Her hobby is with children.

The second name given this settlement was Pinhook. Hensborough was abandoned and the families moved eastward to the present location because of better water power. Here a dam, gristmill and sawmill were built below the bridge. The sawmill was a town mill, built in 1782. It was washed away in a freshet, rebuilt, and sold at auction for \$250 to Javan Knapp. Later it became the property of A. G. Berry and Son who continued to operate the mill for many years. When in the late 1870's a post office was to be established, the settlement was told by government officials that because there was another Pinhook in Maine, their name must be changed. The public was invited to make suggestions and one local wag, more in jest than earnest, came up with Sandy Creek. In view of the sandy river soil and the existing "crick" it seemed a logical choice, and was the name selected. A church, school and store were among the early buildings.

The church, a Free Will Baptist, was built in 1834, facing the South Bridgton Road and in front of the cemetery which had been laid out several years before. The school was built opposite the cemetery on the cross road to Side City. This was a one-room, one-teacher school which at one time had 40 pupils. Some of the early teachers were Alice Bradstreet, Wallace March, Dora Gould, Helen March Shorey, Rosa Burnham, Josephine Williams, Alma Walker, Marion Barker Allen and Gertrude Foster. From the doors of this little school went forth two doctors, a dentist, a county attorney, and many other able men and women. The school was later closed and the pupils transported to the center. The building is now the South Bridgton Grange Hall. The first store was across the road from the present store. It was operated by the grandfather of Perley Frost. Later the present store was built where it still continues to do business.

When the narrow gauge railroad was built in 1883, a station was located on the north side of the bridge, where the tracks crossed the South Bridgton Road. After many years of service the railroad was sold and the station was torn down. The first post office, established in 1879, under T. E. Lang, Postmaster, was in an old building across the railroad tracks from the station. The office was soon moved into the station, and Orlando Plaisted, then station agent, served as postmaster. The next move was to a store on the hill. Here the postmasters were Wilfred Hubbard, Frank Stevenson, Laforest Ingalls and Mary C. Ingalls who continued until the office closed in 1927. The mail then was sent out R.F.D. in Bridgton.

One winter pastime of the early settlers in this community was horse trading or "swapping." There is a story of one Sandy Baker who started horse trading in the fall, traded all winter long, and when spring came found himself with the same horse and

Jennifer Johns purchased the place in 1950; it is presently Edgar Johns.

The southeast corner of Pleasant and High streets was the site of the home of Reuben Ball, Sr., Baptist minister. In Helen, married Dr. John Kimball who built the present residence. He and his wife and his property went to his housekeeper, Wardwell. Her heirs sold to Dr. and Mrs. John Fahey, who occupied the rear apartment in the summers after her husband sold the residence to Mrs. Evelyn Winkley. Mrs. Winkley, her father, Herman Beloff, whose daughter now owns the property. Levi and Sarah (Dennett) Holmes lived in this house at one time they built the Willett Farm in 1860.

The Pike house at 59 North High was built by Royal store was attached to the ell and extended to the street operated by his son, Harry Lewis. Next owner was W. T. Kirby, Harry Spofford, manager of the tannery. Judge J. Bennett purchased the property in 1920 from Nathan Palmer who had to 1896. Since the death of her parents, Barbara Pike has lived The last house on North High is presently the home of the teanski family. Frank Gibbs, owner of a dry goods Pondicherry Square, built the house; he sold it to Fred Goodman to Dr. Thomas Hunter, founder of Hunter College, New York. When Dr. Hunter died his three daughters, Jenny, Anna and used the property as a summer home and after their deaths to Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Brown. Mr. Brown was in the heating trade and his wife, Emma (Morse) Brown, was an died at early ages and left the property to a daughter Sabasteanski.

South High Street

This end of High Street begins just beyond the monument the northern half is lined with stately shade trees. The foundations were built on the west side of the street.

At number 63 is one of the most beautiful residences with a trace of southern architecture in the white pillars of original small house at this site was built by Abner Smith in 1772. Smith probably sold to Bennett Pike, a lawyer in who came to Bridgton in 1819 and whom Squire Littlefield. The "Squire" came from Alfred in 1825 and 17 years larger house now on this site; the original Smith house is Flint Street. Mr. Littlefield's law office was in a small building same lot, but this was moved later to the lower village and Anselear Harmon store at the corner of Main and Pine Littlefield, who at one time had William Pitt Fessenden, a young apprentice lawyers with him, among them Sherburne who came in 1852. In 1855 Harmon formed a partnership with R. Mains recently purchased this house.

The Squire's son, Frederick, improved his father's residence, and had Georgianna, a sister of William Bridgman. When Frederick elected County Clerk of Courts, he sold this house and moved to Portland. His daughter, Annie, had graduated from the high school married Bert Cobb of Portland and moved to Minneapolis, Minn. Douglas bought the house in 1883 and his heirs sold to Clayton Grace (March) Richardson (Mrs. Stillman) inherited the property at Mr. March's death, and in turn it went to her son, Edward son, Jr., the present owner.

The original house at 65 South High was owned and occupied by Dr. Theodore Ingalls. It became the property of Franklin (son of Rufus) and his son, Owen, was born there. The house was sold at auction in 1881 and moved, a part to the corner Walker and Cottage Streets, and another part to Kennard Street. In built the present residence in 1882. Both he and his wife died and his sister, Emma, cared for their two children, Louise and who inherited the property. When Louise and her husband, Mr. Shorey (with the Bank of New York City) retired, they moved to Bridgton. Mrs. Shorey pre-deceased her husband who continued to live until his death. Then the residence became the summer home of Miss Sara Gibbs who died in 1966. She left her home to nieces, Robert Cushman, Worcester, Mass., and Mrs. Harper Follansbee, Dover, Mass., and they sold the property to George Giatas who moved to Bridgton in 1967 after purchasing Swanson's Variety Store.

The next house was built by Augustus Perley in 1867 and later to Frank Stevens, son of W. A. Stevens. Mrs. Stevens was musical her home became the music center of town. Later owners were Quincy, Karl Schmidt, Kenneth G. Allen, Mrs. Montemorra and Mr. and Mrs. C. Arthur Sanborn. They operate a tourist business

Richard Davis built and occupied the house at 69 South High, owned by Mrs. Frederick W. Skillin. Charles B. Walker acquired in 1872 and added on the cupola. The next purchaser, in 1885, Judge A. H. Walker; his heirs sold to Judge Edgar Corliss. Dr. purchased the property in 1938 and Dr. Skillin in 1950. Since death in 1966, the family continues to live there, spending their years at their cottage on Highland Lake.

A sample of the complicated real estate transactions which have taken place on for nearly two centuries is the record of property at 73 South High, one of the oldest houses in town. There is a list of 12 registered owners, beginning with Joseph Sears to Joseph Kellogg in 1797, and continuing among others: Abner Dodge, Richard Manning, Theodore Dixey Stone, Caroline Walker, Horace Hall and Winburn Clayton March, Adolphus Fessenden and Mrs. Celia Arnold. R. Mains recently purchased this house.

a duly elected town officer, collected the fees. There seem to be no early trails mentioned from the north which led directly to the areas later known as Post Office and Pondicherry Squares.

The first homes were little more than rude shacks, set well back from the trails and far enough apart to allow plenty of land for cultivation. They were occupied by "men only" until enough land had been cleared and suitable housing secured to make it possible for their families to share what at best must have been cruel hardship and backbreaking toil in pursuit of their first needs, food and shelter. A number of the earliest arrivals took up holdings along High Street ridge, where the north and south trails met and entered the town. Some of these early homes are described in the section on "High Street." Among them were farming families, but many were connected with the early business ventures established along Main Street*, near the course of Stevens Brook where the industrial strength of the town was being born.

The mills built along this brook were the magnets which drew trade from the entire area. The settlers needed the services provided by these industries and located their homes where the services would be easily available. Lumber for the new homes had to be sawed and the grain the settlers raised had to be ground. Joint community effort built the first cabins, defended them against Indians and harvested the crops. Later they cooperated to build churches, schools and roads.

If one could call the roll of all the businessmen who have operated in locations up and down Main Street, they would emerge as men who envisioned great possibilities and worked laboriously to realize their dreams. The first of these men of whom there is any record is William Sears. He came from Beverly, Massachusetts, and in 1789 built a tavern, with a connecting store and livery stable, on the site where the Herbert Chalmers' residence now stands. He must have been farsighted, for he shortly obtained title to much of the desirable real estate in the Center. Part of it he decided to his daughter Elizabeth, who had married Abner Dodge of Beverly. They built their home in 1790 where the Edgar Johns' residence (formerly The Bridgton House) now stands at the head of Main Hill. The Dodges had been married in Beverly; she was the second wife. They had six children born in Beverly and four after they came to Bridgton. Mrs. Dodge died at the age of 90.

Another Sears daughter, Mary, married Samuel Davis and came to a farm about opposite the High Street Cemetery. They were ancestors of Dr. Nathan Davis who later gave the town its library building. Two other children of Abner Dodge were Mrs. Peter McGee, whose husband built the Guy Gardner house on North High Street, and George Dodge who settled on South High Street east of where Lyman Otis' new barn now stands.

* 1871 Map of Main Street in Center fold of this book.

Before William Sears and his son Joseph sold the remainder of their holdings to William Emerson, and he to Richard Gage,* they had transferred to many other incoming families clear titles to their homes. They had also sold locations for a wide variety of businesses: stores, hotels, harness and carriage shops, wheelwright and blacksmith shops, cobbler and machine shops, a printing plant and livery stables, as well as mills and tanneries.

When Richard Gage took over the Sears' Tavern he changed its name to "The Eagle House." He wanted to build a barn in the rear of his property on the present Gage Street. In those days the timbers for such a building were measured and fitted on the ground and then a "barn-raising" was scheduled. This was a community project at which all the men of the area assembled to give assistance. On such occasions it was customary to have plentiful supply of rum on hand. As it could be a dangerous undertaking, there were often accidents. For this occasion the carpenter, Benjamin Hewes, being a good Baptist, decided to provide only cold water. The crowd came, the barn was raised and there were no accidents!

Sometime in the late 1830's this barn, store and tavern, owned then by Edward Barnard, burned on a Sunday morning. When the bell in the nearby Congregational Church began to ring in the midmorning, the service broke up and the good church folk rushed off to the fire. The tavern was rebuilt by W. J. Hayden and this time it was called "The Pondichery House." This too burned, but on December 15, 1859, Augustus Perley, son of General John Perley of South Bridgton, acquired title to the property and built the fine residence that now stands there.

After the tavern fire of the thirties, Richard Gage, Sr. moved north across Main Street into a house which had been built in 1816. He enlarged this and gave it the name of "Gage's Tavern." He was actually returning to his former home, as indicated by an item in *The Bridgton News* of Feb. 12, 1879: "Richard Gage, Jr. was born in 1818 in the house where The Bridgton House now stands." The Gages lived there for 23 years, selling to Mial Davis (a brother of Samuel) and his son Marshall. Mial Davis married Mary Dennett in 1827. (Their home was where the Edgar Johns previously lived at 54 North High Street.) For several years Davis leased the hotel to various proprietors among whom were Reuben Ball, Jr., Enoch Osgood, George Bridgman, A. B. Lee and others.

Richard Gage (b. Bradford, Mass. 1781; died Bridgton, 1835) married (1) Mial Wheelock (1782-1807) and they had two children; married (2) Martha Wheelock (1787-1866), five children, the youngest, and only son, being Richard Leander Gage, born 1818. From 1835-1845, Richard, Jr., ran a country store in a building that stood on the site of the old Opera House. In 1830 he leased for oxen, cows, several head of stock and several pigs, and owned acres in ranges 13 and 14, which total property was valued at \$3,256. In 1831 he married Eliza Kimball of Bridgton, and they had a son Hanno W. born 1843, who studied law, practiced for a time in Bridgton and later Portland. (Information supplied by Blynn E. Davis.)

became District Attorney. Mr. Kneeland's departure and the eyesight of Edward C. Walker made a place for the arrival of the mentioned **J. Bennett Pike**, who became a member of the firm of Pike in March 1905.

The next young lawyer to settle here, on April 2, 1914, was **F. Corliss** who has had a long career in Bridgton and the state. He has been a member of the Maine Public Utilities Commission and of the Northern Cumberland Municipal Court. He was responsible for organizing the Municipal Court here. He was responsible and political leader of the town. His wife Halle, was a son-in-law, **Arnold S. Lane**, formed the firm of Corliss and Lane. Lane was Judge of the local Municipal Court for 13 years.

In 1939 **Charles P. Morris, Jr.** began his practice in Bridgton after serving in the Army from 1942-1948 he returned to Bridgton to resume his practice. **Leslie S. Dudley** opened an office in Bridgton in 1940. Besides legal work, he has been connected with the Bridgton Finance Company and the real estate business. His hobby is amateur radio broadcasting. Other lawyers to come to Bridgton are **Hann Gray**, who has since moved to Windham, and **Neil D. Mackerron F. Boardman Fish** who are in partnership here.

Several Bridgton boys went on to become lawyers elsewhere. Two brothers, **Edward and Wade Bridgman**, both entered the profession. Edward practiced in Bath, and Wade became Judge of the Westbrook Municipal Court. **Ralph M. Ingalls**, who began his career in the office of Walker and Pike, became prominent in Cumberland County and **Walker Abbott** practiced in Norway and was Orono County Attorney. He became one of the best known criminal lawyers in the state.

V: BANKING

For a full century after its settlement Bridgton had no bank. It was difficult to imagine how even routine business affairs were handled before banks came to the town. A century and a half ago, Bridgton inhabitants were predominantly farmers and for them cash was almost non-existent. A man's wealth lay in buildings and lands, in cattle and crops. A good illustration of the manner in which financial affairs were handled in those days is the account book kept for several decades by **Joseph Lindsay Ingalls (1806-1904)**, who lived on the Sanborn farm in the Lower Ridge. "Uncle Joe" used the barter system. For a barrel of cider, a neighbor shod his horse. Dr. Moses set a collar bone for someone in the family and was paid with several pounds of lamb. It helped Aaron Brigham hay for three days and received \$2.50 in cash.

The business boom caused by the Civil War, and the industrial developments that followed, fostered banking throughout the north, bringing it into the smaller centers of population. By 1869 Rufus Gibbs Bridgton's industrial leader, decided the time had come for Bridgton to have a bank. His efforts were directed, however, toward the establish-

PROFESSIONAL LEADERS: BANKERS

ment of a savings rather than a commercial bank. On February 16, 1869, the Bridgton Savings Bank was incorporated with five citizens as incorporators: Rufus Gibbs, Luther Billings, William Cross, William Perry, and W. A. Stevens. At the first meeting held in Luther Billings' home, Cross was chosen president, Gibbs treasurer, and George Wright assistant treasurer. The next year Perley Burnham was made an incorporator and later a trustee. He remained on the board until the bank was liquidated in 1926.

First located in one of the Gibbs buildings on Main Hill, the bank was moved in 1880 to the Kilborn building on the north side of Main Street. In 1907 land was purchased for a new building on the north side of Main Street just east of Tannery Bridge, in the rapidly growing business area of Post Office Square. Since plans were under way for the establishment of a commercial bank, the Savings Bank decided to erect a substantial building for joint occupancy. A two-story brick structure was built and in the light of modern construction figures, it is surprising to note the cost of this building: basic construction was \$11,000; fixtures were installed for \$1,125 with an inner chest, called a Banker's Fireproof Safe, for only \$700.

On October 29, 1908, the Bridgton National Bank joined the Savings Bank in occupying the building. It had been felt for some time that Bridgton needed wider banking facilities. The new bank was incorporated August 1, 1908, with Winburn M. Staples as president; George W. Newcomb, vice president, and William T. Johnson, cashier. Johnson, a Bowdoin graduate, remained cashier until 1915 when Lewis Keen took over the post. Mr. Keen worked for the bank 18 years in all, six months as clerk, four years as assistant cashier and 14 years as cashier.

In the mid-1920's, however, both local banks were liquidated. The National Bank had not taken advantage of a federal law which permitted national banks to operate savings departments, and in 1926 it was purchased by the Casco Mercantile Trust Company, which did have a well-established savings department. The Savings Bank too was offered serious competition by the Casco Bank and it too decided to close its doors. On October 28, 1926, a liquidation decree was issued.

The Casco Mercantile Trust Bank remained in existence until 1933. When it closed, a group of its directors and officers started to organize a new bank. During the interval between the closing of the old bank and the opening of a new branch of the Casco Bank and Trust Company, only limited banking services were provided and no loans could be made.

In order to form a new bank, a committee, chaired by Maurice W. Hamblen, was set up to raise \$25,000 for capital stock. The quota was difficult to raise, and the fund was helped considerably by Winburn Staples' gift of \$10,000 for the new bank. Finally the money was raised, and on December 11, 1933, the Casco Bank and Trust Company opened its doors. Roger W. Flint became its manager and remained

George Bridgman came to Bridgton in 1857 from Carlisle, Massachusetts, and during the Civil War ran the hotel. At the same time he operated the farm where Milton Oberg now lives, originally the Nathan Church parsonage. Mr. Bridgman was the late Mrs. Howard Burnham's grandfather, and at the close of the war he turned to farming, saying he was a better farmer than hotel man.

Enter The Summer Guest

In 1860 Mial Davis again became the proprietor, and in the post-Civil War decade enlarged the building and built up an increasing clientele. The place became known then as "The Bridgton House," and this period may properly be considered the beginning of the town's present status as a summer resort center. The Bridgton House was known beyond the limits of the State and in its day lodged many important personages; one particularly remembered is Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The first building was three stories high, with a broad piazza, supported by pillars across the front of each story. The per diem charge was \$2; supper, lodging and breakfast \$1.50; single meals, 50 cents. And the menu was long and hearty! It was in front of the old Bridgton House, on October 5, 1871, that a balloon landed with three aeronauts aboard, having sailed 53 miles from Plymouth, New Hampshire in one hour and 27 minutes! A horse hitched in front of the hotel took fright and bolted the length of the building, with much damage to carriage and porch. It was also in front of the second Bridgton Hotel that an exhibit of an early biplane halted in 1913 or 1914, towed behind a big touring car. Both were novelties, and no doubt all this excitement presaged a first helicopter landing at this location before long!

Following the Davises there was a succession of hotel managers. In 1888 Mr. and Mrs. Mahlon L. Mason became the landlords, but he died shortly thereafter and her sister, Miss M. E. McRoberts, came to assist in the management. In 1896 George Newcomb, a local businessman, married Miss McRoberts and they were the owners when The Bridgton House burned in 1896.

Bridgton built a new hotel on the same location in 1899. It was much larger, with four floors and a basement. A broad piazza extended across the front and along the High Street side. It was modern and up-to-date in every appointment. This new hotel was run successfully by Charles E. Cobb (who later founded the camping business in Bridgton) and George Cabot. In 1914 while the next manager, Mrs. Stephen Winslow, was getting ready to open and burning trash in the fireplace, the building caught fire near the top, too high for the pressure to pump water, and the hotel burned to the first story which was largely ruined by smoke and water. The owners, Edward Walker of Bridgton and

Arthur of Arlington, Massachusetts, decided not to rebuild, Edward Burnham saw enough promise in what remained to rebuild in 1915, and he made it one of the fine homes in Bridgton. The death of his widow, their daughter, Mrs. Edgar (Eleanor Ann) Johns and her family moved into "The Bridgton House."

Market, To Market

One of the early stores on Main Street was on the northwest corner just above the old Bridgton House. It was a grocery store owned by Richard Gage, Sr., who lived on Gage Street. The second owner of record, Dixey Stone, came from Kennebunk to Bridgton in 1823. He leased the store for a year before he bought it. Mr. Stone had built a home on South High Street, still standing, where the late Mrs. Celia Arnold lived. (Further details about this house given in the section on "High Street Houses.") Dixey Stone called "the honest merchant," and if one ever sent a child to any store alone, it would have been to his. Later Mr. Stone took his son Benjamin into the business and he built the house just south of his father's, where the Harold Morrisons now live. When Dixey retired, about 1857, Edward Staples of Millo, Maine, and South Bridgton, succeeded him. In 1872 Stone and Staples began using a patented coffee mill which would grind a pound of coffee per minute. It was operated by muscle power. Mr. Staples retired in 1889.

Always in these early stores there were barrels of crackers and boxes of raisins near the entrance. Everyone coming in helped himself; he was expected to. Also in evidence was the big desk where the owner usually sat and "kept the books." It was not "cash and carry" then. Much of the business was by barter. Every customer had an account and all items purchased from, and all items sold to, the store were carefully recorded on his account. At the end of the month, or when settlement was made, the customer was given an extra item in his grocery bag, and if there were children in the family there was a bag of candy for them. In these early stores the merchants sold rum, just as they did any other item, for most of their customers drank more or less of it. A comparison of prices is interesting. In 1863 eggs were 16 cents a dozen, cheese 8-12 cents a pound, butter 18-20 cents, hams 7-9 cents, salt pork 10-12 cents, beef 4-5½ cents, chickens 8-10 cents, wood \$1.50-\$2.50 a cord.

All places of business had hitching posts in front and a mounting block to assist those who came on horseback. They were as necessary then as parking spaces are today; people traded where there were good hitching posts. These were of all descriptions, but wooden posts were most common, with an auger hole near the top. They were gnawed, battered and often standing askew, but they were an invitation to trade. Some posts, the best ones, were of split