

Special Supplement

The hometown newspaper for:

MASCOMA WEEK

Canaan
Dorchester
Enfield
Grafton
Orange

Combining the Canaan Reporter and Enfield Advocate

CANAAN, N.H. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1969

Orange Bicentennial 1769 - 1969



Staff photo by Elmer Dulmage

View of Cardigan Mountain from the Bruns camp in Orange



The old Halfway House located on Cardigan Mountain where the parking area is now, served climbers from about 1888 until it burned down in 1919.

Cardigan Mountain: Orange's Own Landmark

Rising 3,156 feet above Orange, Mt. Cardigan is by far the best known landmark of the town. Geologists say Cardigan is composed mostly of porphyrite granite, a dark gray rock through which is scattered numerous white rectangular crystals of feldspar up to six inches in length.

Cardigan's origin and geological age are still in doubt. It is a three-crested mass with a base length of about five miles. The middle peak, "Baldface," is steep-sided, dropping almost perpendicularly for 1,200 feet into the forests below, while the spurs from the flanking peaks, running to the east, enclose a vast ravine or scoop. "Firescrew," the northern peak (3,040 feet) was swept clean of its forests in 1855 by a devastating fire that curled about the trees on the skyline giving it the appearance of "screws of fire." The southern and main peak (3,121 feet) is more accessible, and because of its baldness and isolated position, provides an unusually extensive view of mountain peaks in all directions. With the exception of Smarts Mt. (3,240 feet) in Lyme, this is the highest summit in the vicinity. Many bodies of water

are visible from here: on the east, Newfound, Winnepesaukee, Squam Lakes; south, Stinson; southwest, Mascoma and Canaan Street Lakes. Cardigan is usually snow-covered from three to five weeks earlier than are the valleys at its foot.

Sometime during the 1780's, the dreadful disease of smallpox broke out in New Hampshire and people were terrified. A number of students and professors at Dartmouth College developed the disease. Because Colonel

Elisha Payne was a trustee of Dartmouth from 1784 - 1801 and its treasurer in 1779 and 1780, authorities concluded that his land in Orange would be an ideal and remote spot to send into isolation smallpox victims. One reference relates that Col. Payne's own home was used, but another source states that farther back on the mountain a cellar hole was dug, wells were sunk, and a house 36 x 30 feet, two stories high, was built together with convenient outbuildings. From all over the state these wretched victims came to the Pest House, as it became known, and were tended by Dr. Tiffany from Connecticut and a young assistant, Mr. Storrs. It is reported that at one

time there were as many as 30 Dartmouth students and professors living in the Pest House. Some of these afterward attained fame: Thomas G. Fessenden was a well-known agricultural journalist; Parker Noyes became a distinguished lawyer; Philander Chase became a bishop and was a founder of several western colleges; and Seth Currier, a merchant; all of the class of '96.

These patients were detained for six weeks and not permitted any intermingling with the outside world. Those who died were quietly buried a short distance from the house in unmarked graves. As the house was gradually cleared of its victims, it was deserted and eventually winds, storms and time did their work in reducing the buildings to dust once more.

One more interesting fact pertaining to this establishment concerns Daniel Blaisdell of Canaan, whose brother Parrit became an Orange resident. Daniel arranged to furnish the house with vegetables and "wholesome provisions" at "reasonable prices." So that he might not come in contact with the inmates, he built roads so that he could approach safely by driving his oxen and cart as near as possible and call loudly to announce his arrival. Thereupon he would leave to allow the inmates to collect their supplies after his departure.

In 1897, Charles O. Barney, state representative to Congress and founder of the Canaan Reporter (now Mascoma Week) received an appropriation of \$200 for a carriage road up Mt. Cardigan. Charles A. Ford, with the aid of a horse, built the first look-out tower on top of the mountain in 1904.

In 1884 on the east side of the mountain, Cilley Cave was discovered, 30 feet long, 10 feet wide and 8 feet high. From it, across a natural bridge, is a shelf of rock, 80 feet by 34 feet, with a sheer

drop of nearly 100 feet.

Halfway House, located near where the State Parking lot is now, was used to serve meals to climbers. It was owned by Dennis L. Bryant and Mrs. Nellie Stevens (Mrs. Roxie Gould's mother) served food to all who came to visit the mountain for 25 to 50 cents. Halfway House burned down in 1918 or 1919 and was never rebuilt.

Between 1931 and 1934 or 1935, trains loaded with holiday skiers came to Canaan where they were met by trucks and teams and for a fee of \$3 to \$5 were transported to the Enoch Held Place in Orange for a day on the slopes. At five o'clock they returned to town for their main meal and were served by either a church group or another organization.

In 1918, 700 acres of Orange township was acquired by the state to form the Mt. Cardigan State Reservation. By 1921, the Reservation was enlarged by 1000 acres which included the summit of Mt. Cardigan. Of Orange's original grant, 4,876 acres are now included in the State Park.

The Civilian Conservation Corps was organized, after being approved by President F. D. Roosevelt, on March 31, 1933, to provide work for unemployed youth.

On June 16, 1933, Camp Cardigan was established in Danbury and occupied by the 126th Company of the C. C. Thanks to these young

men, Mt. Cardigan received a new look. An entrance road of one and three quarters miles was completed and maintained to the old hotel site, where a rustic shelter was constructed. Besides cleaning out the old hotel well and cementing and capping it, they constructed the parking lot, ten fire-control ponds, log bridges, laid out trails, put in telephone service lines to the lookout man's cabin, and improved other trails and roads as necessary.

Now the Mountain has become a more popular climb than ever before and hikers who sign the Lookout guestbook sometimes number as many as 300 or more in one day.

Lookout Watchmen on Cardigan through the years: Carleton E. Pike, 1925; Stephen E. Howard, 1926; Gilman T. Woodbury, 1927; Harold E. Perry, 1928; Frank W. Johnson, 1929-1932; Henry Waldo, 1933; James Ricard, 1933; Lester Putman, 1933; Clyde F. Smith, 1933-1942; John Nelson, 1943; Wyman M. Larrabee, 1943-1948; Arthur Hazen, 1949; Wyman M. Larrabee, 1950-1954 (died on the trail); Leo A. Dorr, 1954-1956; Elwin Arnold, 1957-1963 August; John Carron, 1962-1963; John Weber, 1964-April 30, 1964; Shannon Woodward, 1965; Wallace Stockwell, 1966-1968 July 4; Almon Bucklin, 1968, July 5 - 1969, May 15



Charles A. Ford, then 73, with horse drove up mountain with supplies to build first lookout tower.



Orange birthplace of C. O. Barney, founder of the Reporter Press and Canaan Reporter.

Bicentennial Program

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1969
12 NOON
TOWN HOUSE, ORANGE

Buffet dinner served at noon — turkey and all the trimmings.
Program follows dinner with Nathan Harpootlian, Selectman, as Master of Ceremonies.

It is expected that a number of the older residents, former residents and visitors will speak briefly. Among these will be Mrs. Roxie Gould of Canaan, who taught school in Orange; Mrs. Jacqueline Lary, who attended one of the small district schools; Harry Eastman, town clerk and Orange's oldest citizen; Congressman James C. Cleveland of New London and Stephen W. Smith of Plymouth, member of the Governor's Council.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Chairman — Mrs. Richard Jaeger
Dinner — Mrs. Archie Eastman, Sr. (chairman), Mrs. Nathan Harpootlian, Mrs. Oscar Greenwood, Mrs. Leonard Roberts, Mrs. Kenneth Clark.
Historical Publications — Mrs. Oswald Hamel, Mrs. Richard Moulton.
Mailing — Mrs. Frederick Robinson, Mrs. Charles Barnum, Mrs. Lary Lord

A "First" in Orange



Orange's first automobile owner and driver was Charles A. Ford in the early years of the century.

Most of the material — text and photographs — used in this special Bicentennial issue was written and assembled by Mrs. Josephine Moulton and Mrs. Alice Hamel who are next-door neighbors on Tuttle Hill Road. They are grateful for the generous assistance from townspeople and others who helped make the historical record possible.

King George III Of England Makes a Land Grant

Two hundred years have passed since the town of Orange was granted by King George III of England on February 6, 1769 to Colonel Elisha Payne, Isaac Fellows and ninety-nine other settlers.

Named Cardigan by Governor John Wentworth for James Brudene, Earl of Cardigan, England, Orange was first settled in 1773 by Silas Harris, Benjamin Shaw, David Eames, Colonel Elisha Payne and Captain Joseph Kenney. The inhabitants petitioned several times to have the town incorporated: in 1779 by the name of Bradford or Warwick; in 1783 by the name of Middleton; in 1789 by the name of Liscomb which was crossed out and Orange inserted. In answer to this last petition, the town of Orange was incorporated June 18, 1790. According to the original charter, Orange was to have 24,000 acres, but by various acts, the last of which was December 16, 1820, the eastern boundary was set as the summit of Cardigan Mountain. Since that time, with the formation of Mount Cardigan as a State Park and Reservation, the township has been reduced somewhat from its original 16,000 acres.

Orange is bounded by Groton and Dorchester on the north, by Alexandria on the east, by Grafton on the south and by Canaan on the west. The town has an altitude of

1,214 feet and has three different and interesting physical features—a mountain, a pond and a "well."

Nearly half of Orange lies on the steep western side of Cardigan Mountain; in the southern part is Hoyt Hill, 1,700 feet; and in the northern part, the elevation rises to 1,600 feet. Although mostly mountainous, its territory has fairly rich arable soil and had many productive farms at one time. Orange Brook, with its tributaries, is the principal stream and flows west into Indian River, but several other streams have been able to support numerous sawmills at various times.

In the southeast corner lies a small pond known at various times as Chalk Pond and Barney Pond, but now called Orange Pond. Various minerals have been found in Orange, such as mica, lead, iron ore and clay. Large deposits of a species of paint resembling spruce yellow and chalk, intermixed with magnesia, were taken from the pond. In 1810 a superior yellow ochre was discovered in great abundance and large quantities were prepared for market by the New England Mineral Company.

"The Well" was discovered when a deep cut was made by the Northern Railroad (Concord to Lebanon) into Orange land, near the Summit

over 900 feet. This is the highest point of land between the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers and divides the streams flowing into them. In the solid granite on the highest of this land, pot holes were discovered over four feet in diameter at the top, two feet at the bottom and 11 feet in depth. These

were worn smooth and in them stones were rounded and polished similar to those found in pot holes formed in our times. One of these, which is now in the museum at Dartmouth College, is over two feet in length and nearly in the form of an egg, worn and polished very smooth. It is believed that these pot holes must have been formed by a great stream of water flowing for centuries. But in order that a stream should flow through this gap, the geological aspect must have been entirely different from that which now exists and this region must have been at least 1,000 feet lower than now, as compared to the beds of the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers. Then, since that time, it has been elevated by subterranean causes. The time required for forming these can hardly be estimated.

One side of the pot hole has been broken away, so that a concave section of a semi-cylinder is seen.



This photo of the Harvey Smith residence, the last house in Orange before reaching the Groton line, was taken about 1910. Posing for the camera are, from left: Ed Smith, Leon Patten, Maud Smith Wescott, Della Smith Chellis, Clara Smith (wife of Harvey), Florence Smith, Jesse Reed, Bill Beede, Harvey Smith, unidentified man, Lewis Smith.

Settlers Formed Their Own Neighborhoods

When Orange was settled in this cold rugged terrain, the people grouped together in neighborhoods.

Old Colony, which included the Eastman roads and the road to Canaan, was the seat of the town government. It was here the settlers built their first school and church, and later a library started in a private home. Col. Elisha Payne gave to the town the Parade Ground and the Common. The three main cemeteries were located in this particular area. A plot of land was purchased by the town from Edward M. Pettes in 1895 and the town house was erected by residents who gave their services. It was planned so that the town meetings were held upstairs and the school was located downstairs, with the playground on the Parade Ground near the church. In 1943, a \$1200 gift from Arthur A. Williams Sr. paid for repairs made on the town house and its school.

In 1826 the town voted to build an animal pound which was located between the Greene and Way homes near the Orange-Canaan townline. Reuben Heath bid for the job of building the stone wall around the land and was paid \$15.40 by the town.

Mrs. Clarnece Williams gave 16 acres of land near Orange Brook and the Common for a town park to be a memorial for her late husband. The town voted to accept the gift of land at the March 14, 1950 election meeting, with the understanding that this land may not be sold.

Some of the industries located here at various times in history include a gristmill, sawmills, clapboard and shingle mills, and also a coal kiln. Most of the residents were farmers.

As the town prospered, the people moved out and settled New Colony where the soil was excellent but very rocky. Located about one and a half miles from the Eastman farm was the Keys Mine where mica was mined along with quartz, feldspar, beryl and tourmaline. The coal kilns were located near the Eastman farm where they made charcoal. The Dean Brothers' donkey steam sawmill was located above Clarks. Mrs. Ralph Gallup (Laura Sturtevant's mother) cooked at this lumber camp for a number of years.

Cilley's Cave is in this area and it was here that the Cilley family and animals retreated during bad thunderstorms. It is also reported that some of the Cilleys lived here at one time. Schoolhouse No. 2 was located in New Colony. The population was so great here that it could influence a town election in its favor.

The Standard (Strain) mine, located beyond the Dr. Cummings residence, was considered to be in this colony. It was first sold as a mine in 1906 - 1907 before mining had started and the mine was still not too deep by 1916.

Some of the residents moved to East Neighborhood after the fire of 1855 which burned the mountain and made the clearing of the land a much easier chore. The grass came in very lush and green, and in the pastures could be seen cattle, sheep and deer all grazing together. The East Neighborhood school (No. 3) was located on the property now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Lindahl. The spring used by this school still supplies the drinking water for the summer residents. John Pederson, a



The Sanborn farm on Tuttle Hill Road - 1887. In the picture are Russell Sanborn, his wife Nellie and their children, Annie and Edward. Mr. Banta is holding the horse. The property, looking vastly different, is now the Richard Jaeger place.

former selectman who died recently, lived where the Lindahls presently live. Before that he lived in the house that Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Ells are now remodeling. This house was built in 1786. At one time, twenty-eight farms could be counted from this house, but now most of the land has reverted to forest.

A mica mine was situated just off Burnt Hill Road. At one time, T. F. Brown ran a clapboard mill which was located between Tuttle Hill and Burnt Hill, near school No. 6.

Many cellar holes are found on this road. The first large one on the left from the mountain was the Chellis place which Weeks Waldo

owned in 1832, but was occupied by William Chellis and later bought by the Chellis family. Located on this road was the French place and farther down on the right was where Inez Flanders lived (the Edwards' A-frame house).

Tuttle Hill was also a thriving neighborhood and by 1899 seventeen farms were being operated between the Orange Road and the Grafton line. There were sugar orchards in this area as well as sheep and cattle raising and grain crops. Near the brook were sawmills and in the early 1900's a shingle mill. Asa Lary had a sawmill located between Tuttle Hill and the Eastman Road. Barn

dances were held regularly at the Pettes barn with two very talented fiddlers furnishing the music. David Williams ran a mica mine on a dirt road off Tuttle Hill.

Down the road was located the Chalk Pond (Orange Pond) where school No. 6 was located. This still stands near the Magpies Camp and is used by the camp.

In the area where the present Route 4 and the railroad tracks run almost parallel from Canaan to Grafton, farming was carried on and Alonzo Stevens had a slaughter house. The Hammond sawmill is now the only existing business in Orange.



Samuel Andrew built this house in the early 1800s. The house, still standing and in good condition, is owned by the Schneider family.

The Andrew Family in Orange

BY NEAL D. ANDREW

The story of the Andrew family in Orange is not much different from others in the early 1800's. Samuel Andrew came there from Sutton, buying land in 1818, cleared some of it and built the house now known as the Schneider place.

It would seem that he must have been interested in lumbering as he bought the mill on the site above Orange Basin where the first owner also had a grist mill. The up and down saw was run by a water wheel and it was a slow operation compared to the sawmills today.

His son Benjamin stayed there with his father and logged off the old growth spruce from around Cardigan Mt. My father, Irving, also worked with his father a while, and around 1882 had a circular saw mill run by steam in East Neighborhood, so called, and later moved it to Bryant Pond where it burned.

Father then bought land on the mountain range in Easton. Many of those old growth spruce would average a thousand feet to three trees and a lot of them would saw out a thousand feet to a tree. The clear outside boards were sold to the Parker and Young Company to be used for piano sounding boards.

According to old maps, there

were at least three other saw mills in Orange at that time. Also there were coal kilns, so called, where wood was stacked and burned to make charcoal. The kilns were usually of brick and the fire had to be constantly watched so that it would not burn too fast and consume the wood. The charcoal was sold to hotels for broiling; spruce oil was made from the boughs, the finer pieces being put into a huge vat and tightly covered. The contents were heated by pipes from a small steam boiler and the steam condensed by running the pipes through cold water and the oil drawn off and sold for medicinal purposes.

A druggist tells me that spruce oil, as far as he knows, isn't used any more, nor is skunk's oil.

When the railroad came through Canaan, there was a big demand for wood for the engines, and also to be shipped to the cities until coal became more common.

For a time around the Civil War and after, there was a great demand for wool. Farmers did well keeping sheep and most of them had a pair of oxen and some steers coming along as well as two or three cows for butter and cheese. And of course a hog or two to kill every Fall was a must.

Although there were hard times in the 1880's and early 1890's, father found an outlet for lumber as the textile mills were being built in Lowell and surrounding cities. And the immigrants coming here demanded more homes.

But the younger generation sought "greener pastures" as the West developed, and the rocky New England hills were left to be taken over again by forests. At times the mines furnished work and there was still some demand for lumber and wood, especially pulpwood.

I have never heard of any one family having made any great fortune in Orange. Neighbors had to help one another in sickness and other disasters.

Samuel Andrew died from consumption, a member of the family died from the dread "black" diphtheria. One son was drowned in the mill pond, and three of their daughters married but died young.

My grandmother, Abbie Sanborn Andrew, was known for her help to less fortunate neighbors, and grandfather was called upon when anyone had sick animals as there were no veterinaries then. Some

families depended on him for work and he would often send a note to a storekeeper in Canaan to let someone have groceries on his account. Or someone needed a little money and he would sign a note with them and quite often had to pay it.

Not that people were dishonest, perhaps, but money was scarce and people had to live.

As Canaan was on the railroad, the post office and stores were located there, and most of the folks in Orange traded there.

As one travels over these hills and sees the stone walls and the old cellar holes, one realizes how difficult it was getting a living from the soil in the early half of the last century.

And one cannot blame the younger generation for moving to the cities where life seemed more attractive or to the West where farming was easier and more rewarding.

The older folks would now, at least, appreciate seeing some of the places they worked so hard to create out of the wilderness, being occupied or new homes built by those who want to get away from the cities.



Built in 1786 and originally known as the Larson place, this house shown at left was occupied by John Peterson for many years. At right, the house as it looks now, having been restored by Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Ells.





Orange's Schoolhouse No. 1 was located near Neal's home. Shown here is a group of teachers and pupils. Back row, from left: Wilber Jameson, teacher; Luella Levenworth, Warren Turrell. In front: Edith Jameson, Bambleton Flanders, Clayton Flanders, Annie Sanborn, Edward Sanborn, Lena Flanders, Hattie Flanders.

Would You Believe 7 Schools in Orange?

In 1870 Orange had seven school districts scattered throughout her township. No. 1 school was located near the Conrow place, now the Neal summer home; No. 2 was in New Colony, beyond the farm of the late D. W. Hazelton and the home of Melvin B. Eastman; No. 3 was in East Neighborhood, well over the southerly ridge of Cardigan and near the John Pederson farm. Just beyond the Everett E. Eastman farm was No. 4 school, while No. 5 was located at Orange Pond (formerly Chalk Pond). No. 6 was placed near "The Gables" on Grafton Road, then moved to Canaan village. By the brook beside the Mountain Road, just below "Singing Winds," the present Schneider place, was the location of school No. 7.

Each one-room school had a summer and a winter term which varied in the number of weeks classes were held. The supervisors of all these schools went by the title of Superintending School Committee. Every school district elected a local representative called a Prudential Committee, who became a member of the Superintending School Committee. He had charge of hiring the teacher for his district, and checked on her discipline and saw that she implanted some knowledge in her pupils' minds. He was also responsible for collecting the taxes on which to run his school.

The following list is an example of a typical school budget and applied to the year 1869: District 1, \$69.06; District 2, \$29.65; District 3, \$55.70; District 4, \$60.22; District 5, \$30.79; District 6, \$28.84; District 7, \$60.65.

Until 1890, the schools functioned in this way, but by 1891 several were closed. At the end of 1897, schools numbered 1, 3, 5 and 6 were still in operation, and the next 25 years show some fluctuation among the schools, so that by 1925, only two schools continued to hold sessions regularly.

Beginning in 1930, the Town House School (No. 1) educated the children of Orange with a few tuitioned to Grafton and some to high school at Canaan. This school was closed in June, 1949, and Orange pupils became students in Canaan schools where they now attend, as well as those who "seek higher learning" and continue on to Mascoma Valley Regional High School.

In 1885 Orange's seven school houses, including the furniture, were valued at \$1,021.00. There were 59 children attending school with four "pursuing higher grades." The entire amount raised for school purposes during this year was \$404.34 with the expenditures coming to \$402.00.

For a typical Superintending School Committee report, the following record is for the year 1870:

School No. 1 for its summer term of nine weeks had Miss E. A. Aldrich who received a monthly salary of \$20. The winter term was taught by Mr. L. E. Follansbee for ten weeks at \$16 per month. No. 2 school that year had only a fall term consisting of twelve weeks with its teacher, Miss S. A. Barney, receiving \$12 per month. School No. 3 had Miss S. J. Sargent who taught both terms for which she received for six weeks \$10, and for eleven and a half weeks \$17. No. 4 school had Miss S. S. Lane who taught both terms for a total of fourteen weeks and received \$32. No. 5 school had only a winter term under Miss S. J. Whittier's tutelage and no pay was recorded for her. No. 6 school had only a summer term of ten weeks and Miss S. M. French received \$14. Miss G. N. Sanborn of No. 7 school received \$16 for eight weeks of a summer term and Mr. A. F. Jones received \$15 for his twelve week winter term.

In 1925 when only two schools were educating the youth of Orange, one school ran for 36 weeks and the pay was



Another Orange school was held in the Town House, the first teacher being an evangelist, Mr. Buffam.



This tiny school beside Orange Pond is now part of Camp Magpies.

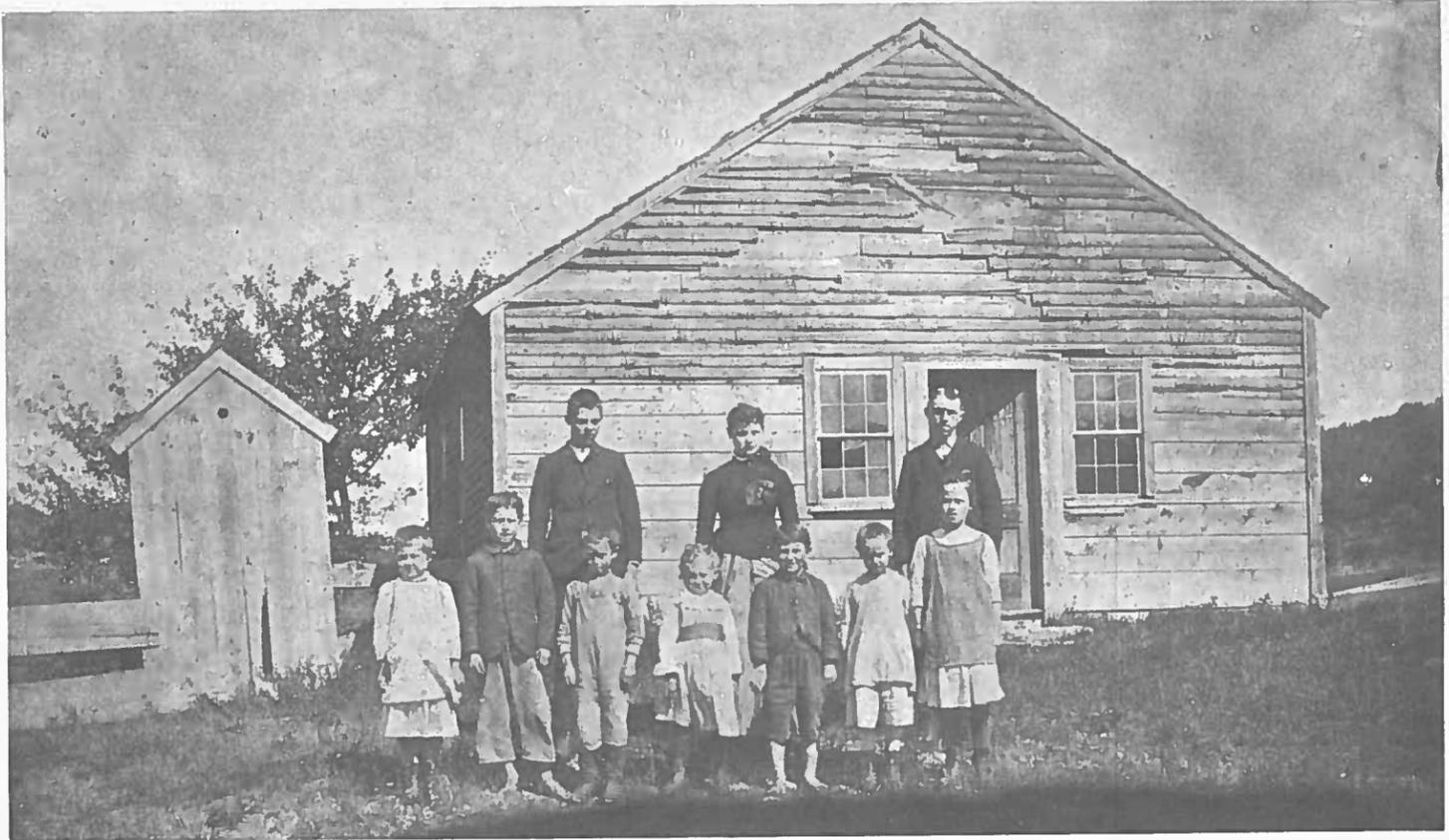
for \$664; the other school went an extra week and the pay was \$666. In the last year of a grade school at the Town House in 1948-1949, the teacher's salary was \$1700.

Some of the many teachers who instructed in Orange schools were: Miss S. Addie Barney, Miss Eva Hadley, Miss Jennie Whittier, Miss Hattie Gilley, Miss Abby A. Lowell, Miss Mary E. Huse, Miss Rosie B.

Waldron, Miss Jennie F. French, Mrs. N. Finnette Ford, Mr. George S. Barney, Miss Martha J. Eastman, Miss Lucy A. Hoyt, Miss Laura B. Sanborn, Miss Fanny F. Sanborn, Miss Addie B. Morse, Miss Lena M. Esty, Miss Carrie H. Walker, Mr. O. E. Kingsbury, Miss Bertha M. Flanders, Miss Adell P. Kimball, Miss Emma J. Barnard, Miss Sarah A. Reid, Miss Alice M. Barber, Miss Jenny S. Barber, Miss Louisa Lary, Miss Ethel

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The superintendent who started in 1930 and continued until the June 1949 closing were H. H. Pratt from 1930 through 1933; Earl P. Freese for 1934 through 1944, and from 1945 through June 1949, C. Maurice Gray.



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Fifty -Nine Years Ago -- Asa Lary's Mill



Asa Lary's mill in 1910, located back of the Bert Pettes place. Asa stands third from right. Others identified are, from left: Rufus Bryant, Lyman Batchelder, Raymond Crosby, and Bert Young.

The Flourishing Mills and Mines

The Keys Mine, an open pit mine, located on Road 1 leading to Dorchester and Groton, was about fifty feet deep. It was operated during both World Wars I and II. Dynamite was used to obtain large pieces of quartz, feldspar and mica, and all were transported by horses and oxen to town. Feldspar was used for porcelain insulators and also for making china. Beryl was used for smelting metals and for jewelry as also was tourmaline. Tourmaline is commonly jet black, but also comes in transparent varieties of red, pink, green and blue.

The Standard Mine was located on the road past the former Dr. Cummings' residence. Owned by a Canadian firm, it was sold in the early 1900's to the Strain Company for between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

Charcoal kilns, commonly called coal kilns, were placed in various parts of town. Hard wood was cut, piled and covered with sod, then allowed to burn. It was carefully controlled or all the wood would be consumed to ashes instead of charcoal. Some of this charcoal was used by the inns in the mountains for use in cooking meals for their guests. Most of the charcoal was sent to Concord to use in running the forges.

Around 1913 to 1920, there was a lumber mill located one and a half miles past Harry Eastman's home, that was burned out several times. Because it was so steep, a donkey engine placed

on railroad tracks was used to remove lumber from the mill to a spot where it could be loaded. The lumber, mostly spruce, was extremely hard and durable.

Inhabitants of an earlier Orange were concerned with the same occupations as other small towns of the late 1700's and most of the 1800's. Established in many parts of town were a large variety of shingle mills,

sawmills and clapboard mills. Charcoal kilns were located in various places at different times. There was at least one known spot for producing pottery on the land of the present owner, Mrs. R. Skinner. Bricks were also made in this locale. Other occupations were blacksmiths, coopers, stone cutters, apiarists, miners, painters, carpenters, as well as the largest group consisting of farmers.

The farmers maintained the essential herds of cows, some horses and oxen, hogs, sheep and geese, ducks and chickens. Besides their sugar orchards, with end products of maple sugar and syrup, they raised annual crops of hay, potatoes, wheat, oats and corn. Their fruit produce consisted of a few fruit trees, mostly apple, and strawberries, blueberries and blackberries.

Later on, mica mines were

discovered in several places in town. The two best known were the Keys Mica Mine and the Standard Mica Mine, later called the Strain Mine. Two lesser known mines were located on the Williams property (now belonging to Edward Gude) and off Burnt Hill Road which ran about 80 feet deep.



Bill Beede's mill -- a scene of more than 50 years ago. Left to right, Leon Patten, Harvey Smith, Ed Smith, Lewis Smith, Jesse Reed, Mr. Beede.