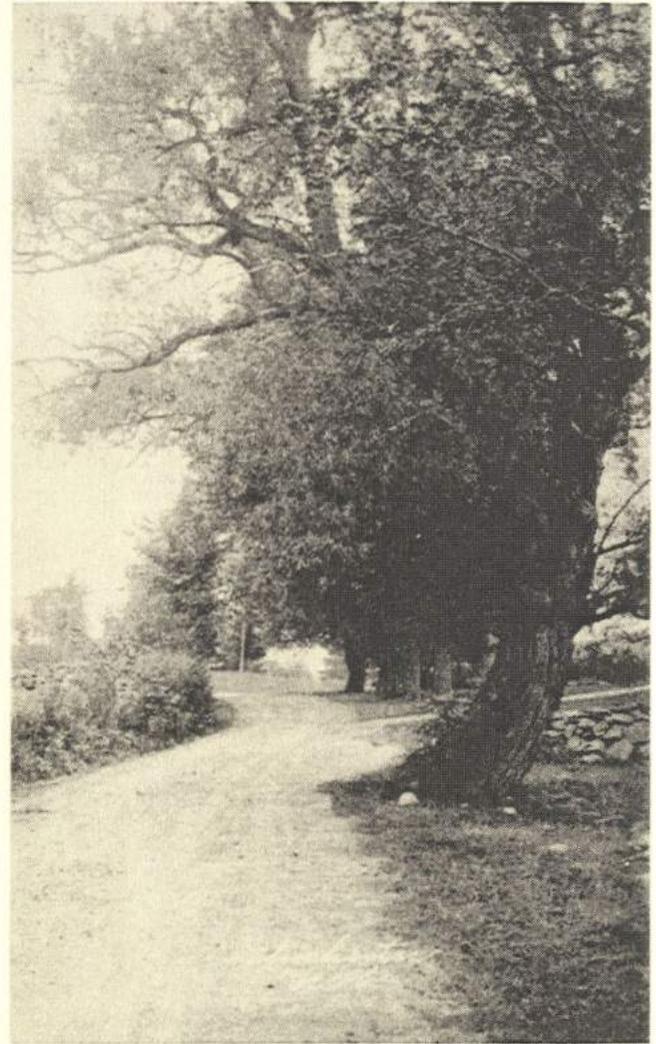
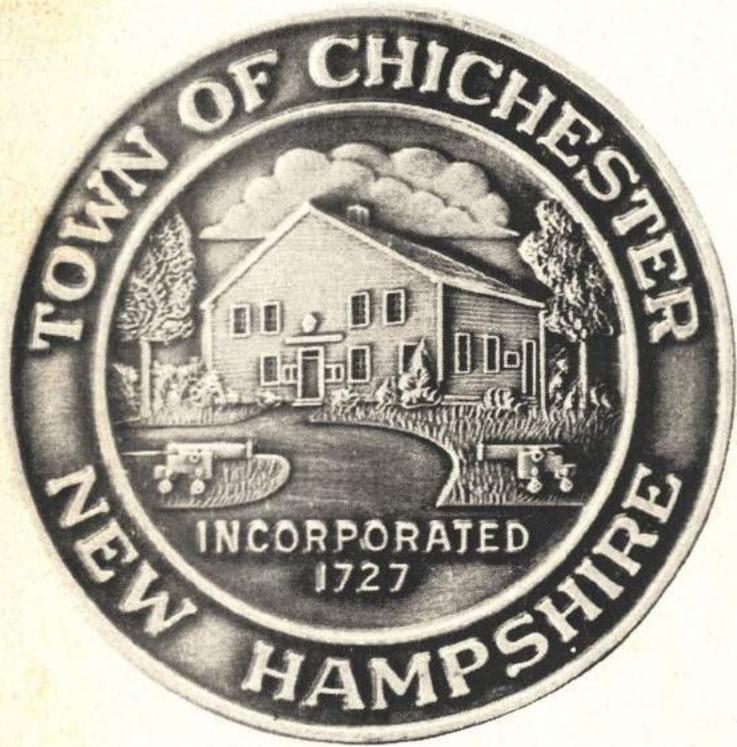


A History of Chichester



*Written on the occasion of our
250th Anniversary
1727 – 1977*

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PREFACE

Our committee was formed to put into print some account of our town's history to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the granting of the original charter of our town.

The committee has met over the past year and one-half and a large part of the data was obtained from the abstracts of the town records which were kept by Augustus Leavitt, Harry S. Kelley's history notes written in 1927 for the 200th anniversary and from the only sizable printed history of Chichester written by D. T. Brown in Hurd's History of Merrimack and Belknap Counties containing thirty seven pages.

In researching we found that a whole generation is missing. It is regrettable that a history wasn't done before now when much that is now lost was within the memory of some living who had the knowledge of our early history.

Our thanks to the townspeople who have contributed either information, pictures, maps and written reports.

It is our hope that the contents will be interesting and helpful to this and future generations.

The Chichester History Committee
Rev. H. Franklin Parker
June E. Hatch
Ruth E. Hammen

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CHICHESTER

Chichester was one of seven towns granted in New Hampshire in 1727 while Lieutenant Governor John Wentworth administered the affairs of the province, then a part of Massachusetts. It was one of several places in the state named in honor of Thomas Pelham Holles, Duke of Newcastle and Earl of Chichester, one of the most influential English politicians of the mid 18th century. As Secretary of State during the years following 1724, he assumed charge of the colonial policy and had much to do with relations between the American colonies and England. The Earl's title was taken from the ancient town of Chichester in County Sussex, England, built on the site of a Roman camp – or castra in Latin, which evolved into English as "Chester". In 895 A.D. it became the capital of the Saxon king, Chissa, Chichester being a combination of the two names.

The granting of Chichester, New Hampshire, and the other towns chartered by Lieutenant Governor Wentworth was the result of the outgrowth of several Massachusetts towns whose section, or "parishes" asked for additional land to be populated by new settlers, most of them adjacent to land already settled. Chichester became a new town because of this movement.

Among those receiving Chichester grants were the Gilmans of Exeter, Peter, Nicholas, and Capt. John; William Pepperell Jr.; Capt. Thomas Westbrook; Capt. Paul Gerrish and many others who had participated in the English wars against the French in Canada.

The original charter of Chichester served as a pattern for future charters for the undivided portions of New Hampshire providing for the planting and cultivation of land, the building of dwelling houses, roads, and a schoolhouse and church, with a time limit of three to five years. The charge to the settlers was one ear of corn per grantee per year.¹

THE TOWN OF CHICHESTER

On May 20, in the year 1727, John Wentworth, Lieutenant Governor under the Crown of the Province of New Hampshire granted to Nathaniel Gookin (Googins) and others an area covering sixty-four square miles in the interior of New Hampshire. The name appearing on the document was Chichester.

The Governor anxious to have this section settled also issued charters at about the same time to Barnstead, Bow, Canterbury, Epsom and Gilmanton. In accordance with the following document the proprietors set out to fulfill their pledges and thus began the long series of events which were to pave the way for the founding of the town.

¹N.H. Town Names and Whence They Came, Elmer Munson Hunt, p. 93, 94.

Provincial Seal

“George, by the Grace of God, of Great Britiane, France and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith, &c.

To all people to whome these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Know ye that we of our Special Knowledge and meer motion for the Dew Encouragement of Setling a new Plantation, by and with the advise and Consent of our Council, have Given and Granted and by these Presents as far as us Lyes, do Give and Grant in Equall Shares unto Sundry of our beloved subjects whose names are Entered in a Schedule hereunto annexed, that Inhabit or Shall Inhabit, within the said Grant, within our Province of New Hampshire, all that tract of land within the following bounds, viz:

To begin on the Southwest Side of the Town of Barnstead, and from Thence Runing South westerly on the head of the town of Nottingham untill Eight miles be accomplished, and then North west Eight miles, and then North east Eight miles, and then South east by said Town of Barnstead to the place where it first began, and that ye same be a Town Corporate by the Name of Chichester to the Persons affore Said for Ever. To Have and To Hold the Said land to the said Grantees and their heirs and assigns for ever, and to such associates as they shall admitt upon the following condition.

(1) That the Proprietors within three years Buld, or Cause to be Bult, Sixty Dwelling Houses and Settle families in the Same and Cleare three acres of Ground Fitt for Planting or mowing, and that Each Proprietor Pay his Proportion of the Town Charges when and so often as occasion shall Require ye same.

(2) That a Meeting house be Built for ye Publick worship of God within the Term of four years.

(3) That upon Default of any Particular Proprietor in Complying with the Conditions of this Charter upon his Part, such Delinquent Proprietor Shall forfeit his share of ye said land to the other Proprietors, which shall be disposed of according to the major vote of ye said Proprietors att a Legall meeting.

(4) That a Proprietor's Share be Reserved for a Parsonage, and another for ye first minister of the Gospel of that Shall be there settled and ordained, and another Proprietor's Share for ye Bennefitt of a Scoole in ye Said Town, provided nevertheless that ye Peace with ye Indians continue for ye Space of three years, but if itt Should happen that a warr with ye Indians Should Commence before the Expiration of the affore Said Tearm of three years that then ye Said Tearm of three years Shall be allowed the Proprietors after ye Expiration of the warr for ye Performance of ye affore Said Conditions rendering and Paying therefor to us our heirs and Successors, or Such officer or officers as Shall be appointed to Receive the Same, the annuall Quitt Rent or Acknowledgement of one Pound of Hemp in ye Said Town on ye last wensday in march yearly for Ever if Demanded. Reserving also unto us our heirs and Successors all mast Trees Growing on Said Tract of land according to acts of Parliament in that case made and provided and for ye beetter order Rule and Government of ye Said Town we do by these Presents and for our Selves, our heirs and Successors, Grant unto the Said men Inhabitants, or those that Shall Inhabit Said Town, that yearly and every year upon the Second Wensday in march for Ever Shall meett to Elect and Chuse by the major part of the Proprietors then Present, Constable, Selectmen and other Town Officers according to

ye laws and useages of our afforesaid Province with Power, Priveledges and authority of other Towns and Town officers within our afforesaid Province have and Enjoy, and for ye Notifying and Calling of ye first Town Meeting we do hereby appoint Peter Weare, Esq., John Sanborn and Jacob Freese to be the first Selectmen, and thay to continue in Said Respective office as Selectmen untill ye Second Wensday in ye month of march which shall be in ye yeare of Our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and Twenty Eight, and untill other Selectmen Shall be Chosen and appointed in thare Stead in Such manner as is in these Presents Expressed. In Testimony where of wee have Caused the Seale of our Said Province to be hereunto affixed.

“Wittness, John Wentworth, Esqr., our Liefertenant Governor of Commander in Cheife in and over our said Province att our Town of Portsmouth, in our Said Province of New Hampshire, ye Twentieth Day of may, in the thirteenth of our Reigne, anno Domine, 1727.

“By order of his honor the Leiftenant Govonor with the advice of the Counsell.

“JOHN WENTWORTH.

“RICHARD WALDON, Clerk of ye Counsell.”

Chichester is located in Merrimack County and today is bounded on the north by Pittsfield, on the east by Pittsfield and Epsom, on the south by Pembroke and on the west by Loudon. It is about six miles long and three miles wide and contains about eleven thousand nine hundred and seventy-eight acres.



EARLY BEGINNINGS

The first meeting of the proprietors was held in Hampton on November 6, 1727 and because of unknown reasons adjourned to the tenth of November when the first legal meeting was held in the home of Captain Wingatts. Col. Peter Weare was chosen to serve as moderator for the meeting and William Staniford, clerk. Jethro Tilton and Ichabod Robe were named to serve as a committee to survey the land and to lay out the township for which they would be paid ten shillings a day.

Col. Weare was voted fourteen shillings to attend a meeting in Portsmouth to consult with authorities and to meet with committees from other towns about settlement. John Sanborn, Samuel Palmer and Staniford were named as committee to make up all the accounts and receive all the claims. Staniford was instructed to get a book to enter the vote of the town of Chichester and that the charter be entered in the book and all the mens names that are in the sentle be entered.

On the 13th day of March, 1728 the proprietors met again at Captain Wingatts and Weare was named moderator of the meeting, Staniford, clerk, and Benjamin Perkins, Benjamin Lambere and Jethro Tilton, selectmen. Peter Gilman, Captain John Gilman and Nathaniel Healey were chosen as surveyors and Weare, Sanborn, Gilman, John Robinson and Samuel Marstin a committee to layout the town. For some reason no action was ever taken by these committees.

Meeting on Christmas eve, 1728 Simon and Samuel Marstin, Jeremiah Sanborn, Charles Stuart, Captain Tilton and William Staniford were chosen to layout the town and be given ten shillings a day for their work. It was also voted that he committee go up on ye work as soon as probable not exceding Munday next if ye wether be suitable.

Just when the men left is unknown but on January 28, 1729 another meeting was held at the home of Captain Wingatts for the purpose of paying those that had a hand in the layout.

For this each proprietor was to pay ten shillings to pay for the operation. Staniford's record states that ye pilate hired by the committee was payed five pounds, seventeen shillings for his services and the five members of the committee, six pounds each. Ichabod Robe, surveyor, was to be payed nine pounds.

This committee ran a line they supposed to be between what was then Nottingham and Chichester and Pembroke and Chichester. The preambulation was:

Beginning att a burch att ye South Corner of Barnsted which we found marked on fore sides and with ye letter B on ye N.E. side of Sd tre and with other letters C.B. on ye S.W. Side of Sd tre and with other letters on sd tre and with ye Day of ye month and with Date of ye eare that we took our departure from Sd tre which was on January ye 4, 1729 and marked other tres near Sd Bounds then Runing eight miles S.W. to a Beech tre which we marked on four Sides and ye letter C.B. on ye N.E. side of Sd tre and with other letters on Sd tre and ye Day of each month and ye Date of ye yeare that we marked Sd tre which was January ye 7, 1729 and marked other tre which we marked on four sids and ye letters C.B. on ye N.E. side of Sd tre and with other letters on Sd tre and with ye Day on ye month and ye Date of ye yeare that we marked Sd tre which was January 8, 1729 and marked other tres near Sd Bounds and this we mack as our Return as Witness our hands this 28 Day of Janury 1729.

On March 12, 1729 the voters met in the home of Samll Sedons in Hampton to choose officers and voted that Captain John Gilman and Peter Gilman be a committee to meet with the proprietors of Nottingham to see whether they will let us have a way through their town to the town of Chichester. They and Samll Marstin and Willm Staniford were to go to Nottingham to find a way to Chichester and look for the most convenient place for a settlement of the town and to mark a way up. Staniford's entry gave the results of their expedition.

"We have been out and took our departure from the end of Bow Street in Nottingham at a great white pine tree marked on fore sides and so running North west hald a point more northerly, or thereabout, through Nottingham and then we run Northwest about two miles where we came to little Suncook River (now Epsom) and there we think a convenient place to settle the town. Likewise we have marked the way up to said river from Nottingham fort".

This report was accepted at a meeting at Captain Wingatts on May 26, 1729 and it was voted to keep an exact account of all persons which work and that they be paid six shilling a day. He that don't go himself or send a good hand shall pay six shilling a day for every day ye company is out so as to make it equal to all. Every man was to provide to stay out a fortnight if ye work be not finished before and ye surveyor to proceed accordingly and ye Selectmen to give Publick Notice thereof.

Ichabod Robe and Samuel Palmer were voted eight shillings apiece for their services as surveyors. Thus the bridge path to Chichester was cleared although not speedily because a meeting was held on August 27th when the wages were raised to ten shillings a day.

On October 6th, Colonel Weare, Captain John Gilman, Ichabod Robe, Captain Jabez Smith, Jasper Black and Deacon Moulton were chosen to be a committee to go look out a convenient place for the settlement of the town and to lay out highways for ye town and if any of the committee cannot go the rest of the committee are to put a man in his place out of the proprietors of the town.

The proprietors records of the October 6 meeting contain a long layout report on highways, ye meeting house, the drawing of lots, some drawn by proxy by the proprietors. Each lot was to consist of twenty acres. No map has been found to tell which plot each proprietor drew.

Range one was to consist of two ranges of eighteen lots each side. Range two, two ranges, eight lots each side. Range three, two ranges, six lots each side. Range four, two ranges, fourteen lots each side. Range five, two ranges, three lots each side and Range six, two ranges, eleven lots on the northwest side and ten on the southeast side.

On December 23rd lot No. 26 was set aside as the parsonage lot and No. 13 as the minsters lot, No. 50 as the school lot, No. 61 as the mill lot at little Suncook and No. 20 the mill lot at nilus (exact wording in record, unknown meaning).

The proprietors also voted that the clerk must have thirty or thirty five shillings out of the money that is now paid for to procure a book for to enter the Records of the Town in.

The work of the lots drawn, at the March 11, 1730 meeting the proprietors decided to build a meeting house thirty-five feet long, twenty-five feet wide with eleven foot studs. Ye meeting house be built and finished by ye last day of November next. Daniel Weare, Captain Wingate and Nathaniel Healey be a committee to let out ye meeting-house.

Speedy settling of the town by a sawmill or a blochouse was voted at a meeting on January 13, 1731 and the specifications of the meeting house were changed to

read twenty-five feet long, sixteen feet wide with nine foot stud and be finished by May next.

"The proprietors found no difficulty in finding men who, for pay, would come up and survey house-lots and highways, locate meeting houses and forts, but when they looked for men who were willing to leave their comfortable homes in Hampton and the vicinity and come up here into the forest to fell trees and break the untried soil, and build for themselves rude log houses, through the cracks and crevices of which the snows of winter and rains of summer would beat, surrounded, in many cases, by hostile savages, and endure all the privations and hardships of the frontier settlers, they were not very plenty. So we find them holding meeting after meeting and taxing their inventive faculties to the uttermost to devise some plan which should offer sufficient inducement to families to settle in the new town."²

The March 11, 1731 meeting made no mention of the meeting house but the selectmen of the town Jabez Smith, Josiah Moulton and Josiah Bachelder with Ichabod Robe, as surveyor, Roger Shaw and William Staniford were instructed to notify the proprietors of Nottingham at their annual meeting to run their lines so as to find there head line between Nottingham and Chichester.

Several meetings were held in 1731 on speedy settlement. Sixty houses were voted to be built, each to be twelve feet long, ten feet wide and not more than one story. These were to be built within a space of four months. Each settler was to receive two hundred pounds for the first year and one hundred and fifty pounds yearly for the next two years.

In the summer of 1732, Peter Weare, Ichabod Robe and John Sanborn were chosen as a committee to meet with a committee from Epsom to see if they could agree about the settlement of a line between Epsom and Chichester and make a report at the next meeting for confirmation if the proprietors see cause to accept.

In August of that year Robe and Capt. Thomas Pierce were chosen to prefer a petition to the Governor and Council to gett our line settled between Chichester and Epsom.

It seems that when the surveyors lay bounds they miscalculated in measuring from Barnstead to the Nottingham line. At that time Northwood was a part of Nottingham and only markings were letters cut into the bark of the trees. The land laid out took in a greater part of Epsom as reference is made in the survey to the Great Pond and the Suncook River.

It may seem a little strange now that land should be given to both Chichester and Epsom but we must take into account that most of the country had never been surveyed and the Governor and Council had no way of knowing just how much territory laid in this section and it was very easy for grants to overlap. This same thing occurred with other towns.

Still the proprietors must have been discouraged because nearly all the land that had been surveyed was claimed by Epsom. Epsom received its charter two days earlier than Chichester on May 18, 1727 so the proprietors were losing a strip of land nearly five miles square in the southeasterly corner of the land they had surveyed which included the site set aside for the church and the blockhouse.

This made it necessary for the proprietors to start all over again to settle the town. They met the following March to elect officers and adjourned to meet again in April. This meeting did not go on because the weather was so stormy that the moderator did not cum, wrote Staniford. The bad weather continued and so few

²D.T. Brown's History of Chichester, History of Merrimack and Belknap Counties, N.H. edited by D. Hamilton Hurd, 1885 p. 237.

were at the April 26 adjourned meeting that they voted to meet again on May 3. At that meeting it was voted that ye town of Canterbury shall have a road of four rods right through our Town of Chichester in ye most convenient that they can find out provided that ye Proprietors of Canterbury do make it a good passable highway and if ye road does damage any of ye house lotts by going through it he shall have restitution out of ye common land. (This is now known as Canterbury Road and was the first road laid out in Chichester giving Canterbury settlers a through route to the seacoast). Land was later laid out using Canterbury Road in starting the survey of lots.

In 1735 a committee from Canterbury was appointed to obtain the consent of the Town of Chichester through which the road from the seacoast was to pass and an assessment of the proprietors of that town was made to defray the expense of building the road. The work of constructing the highway proceeded slowly, for in 1741 and 1742, committees were appointed to prosecute the undertaking, the vote in 1742 expressing literally its arduous character in the instruction of the committee "to plow the way through from Durham to Canterbury".

The petition of Thomas Young and Samuel Adams to the General Court in 1742, showed that only twenty miles of the distance had been built and two years later a petition to the colonial legislature asked that a bridge be built over the Suncook River on the road cleared by them.³

It must be remembered at that time Loudon was a part of Canterbury and it bordered Chichester. (Canterbury Road continued down to what is now Epsom and the bridge was built over the river probably a little north of the one now on Route 4).

In 1741 the Province of New Hampshire was separated from Massachusetts, and Binning Wentworth of Portsmouth, was appointed Governor. Under his administration he was anxious to see things go ahead. He urged those of the seacoast area, Dover, Exeter, Hampton and Portsmouth who were thinking of taking up grants inland to hurry up and do it.

Fort William and Mary which had suffered from neglect for several years was repaired and supplied with stores and the militia restored. Early in 1744 the French and Indian opened war upon the British in Nova Scotia and it soon extended into New England. Scouts were sent out in New Hampshire and garrisons were built and guarded. Canterbury was guarded as an extreme frontier town and the garrison of Capt. Jeremiah Clough was made a rendezvous for the Provincial troops and a depot for provisions. At one time twenty men were scouting and keeping the garrison. It is assumed that Canterbury Road provided the most direct route from the seacoast to the garrison, having been laid out and partially completed a couple of years before.

Several meetings were held during this period of ten years on the Epsom boundary question and nothing was done. In 1742 Samuel Palmer and Ichabod Robe were to prefer a petition to the Governor and Counsell that we the Proprietors of Chichester may have sum land granted to us for that which Epsom takes out of our Town of Chichester. At the 1743 town meeting, Palmer and Capt. Richard Jennis were chosen to go to the Governor and Counsell to see if our petition can be complied with or what we shall do in order for a speedy settlement of Chichester.

During the next few years the proprietors voted to change the size of the new lots to be layed out to fifty acres and several committees were chosen for the work.

³History of Canterbury, Page 17.

At the June 26, 1749 meeting, Obadiah Worth, James Prescott Jr., Lt. Jeremiah Sanborn, Nathan Clough and Jonathan Swett were named as a committee to come up with a surveyor and lay out the lots. Each was to have thirty five shillings a day old tenor for their work and each proprietor was to pay his equal proportion of the charge for laying out the said lots. The committee was to do their work and make a return to the selectmen in two months. On the 19th day of October the committee gave their report as follows:

A Return of the laying out of the first Division Lotts in the Town of Chichester — "We began on Canterbury Road about three quarters of one mile above Suncook River on the west side of said river at a large white pine tree standing on the northeast side of said road and a pitch pine tree on the Southwest side of said road which trees stand about fifty rods distance about Northwest from a brook and we numbered each of said trees with number one. Then from said tree, which trees are four rods distance from the other, on a Northeast and by North and Southwest and by South Point of the Compass, which is the course that divides one lot from the other through the whole division, We run Northwest and half of one point more northerly up said Canterbury Road that being the course of said road nearest, and when we had so run fifty rods then we marked a tree that stood two rods distance Northeast and by North from the aforesaid Northwest half North line with the number one again, and then four rods distance from said last mentioned tree South west and by South we numbered a tree number one also, then we went on North west half north fifty rods and marked a tree that stood two rods distance from said North west half North line with number two, and over against said tree, two rods from said line, we numbered another tree with number two, and then fifty rods and numbered two other trees standing in course and distance as the trees before described with number three on each of said trees, all the numbers are in figures, and we layed out seventeen lots on each side of said Canterbury Road.

The numbers increasing from one to seventeen as afore mentioned. Then we returned to the two trees first mentioned in this return and run south west and by South one hundred sixty and six rods and there marked a tree with the letters H.W. for a highway. Then four rods for said way and then measured one hundred sixty and six rods and then marked a tree again with the letters H.W. and then run up North west half North a tree before we began to run North west half North with the numbers one, two, both numbers on one tree, the number one on the North east side of said tree and number two on South west side of said tree, and then run fifty rods and marked another tree with one, two, as foresaid, then fifty rods and marked another tree with the numbers, three, fore, then fifty rods and marked a tree, five, six and so on to number thirty fore, and the road hereof four rods wide, it lays on the South west side of the number and spotted trees, and then we returned again to the trees first mentioned in this return standing on Canterbury Road and from the tree that stands on the North east side of said Canterbury Road we run North east and by North one hundred and sixty six rods and marked a tree with the letters H.W. and then measured four rods for the road; all the roads that are upon the North east side of Canterbury Road which is the road between the third and fourth range, lays on the North east side of the spotted and numbered trees.

All the eight ranges begin there numbers at the South east end thereof and increase there numbers as they go North westward. The first range are all even numbers from two to thirty four, the Second range from number one to thirty three all odd numbers. Range, the third, is numbered from one to seventeen, both even and

odd numbers. Range number fore is likewise. Range number five is numbered from two to twenty eight all even numbers. Range number six is numbered from one to twenty seven all odd numbers. Range number seven is numbered from two to twenty eight all even numbers. Range number eight is numbered from one to twenty seven, all odd numbers. All the lots are numbered at each end and are one hundred and sixty six rods long and fifty rods wide. The ranges are numbered from the South west to the North east. Range number one is the South westerly range then next is Range number two. Then next is Range three which lays on Canterbury Road on the South west side thereof and so on North eastward.

Dated at Hampton the 19th day of October 1749.

Signed, Walter Bryant
Obadiah Worth
James Prescott
Nathan Clough
Jeremiah Sanborn
Jonathan Swett
Committee

The first cross road, four lots distance North westward from the South easterly end of the ranges is two rods broad. The second cross road which is four lots distance from the road last mentioned is four rods broad, and where said road crosses Canterbury Road there is a Senter Square of about four acres which takes off a corner from each of four lots adjoining to said roads. The Senter Square is to extend twenty five rods on the end of each of said four lots and twenty five rods on the side of each of said four lots adjoining to said roads, and then extending a straight line from the end of said twenty five rods in a triangular from the third and last cross road is four lots distance North westward from the last mentioned four rods road, and is two rods broad, and in all this Return we have regard to a plan of said division drawn by Walter Bryant and received this day. (Added to end of the return of the first Division Lotts).

Proprietors drew their lots, paying their money. Each proprietor was to have two fifty acre lots. Nathaniel Gookin, who was named in the original charter of the town, drew lot 23 in the sixth range and two five hundred acre lots were set off for the Honorable Samuel Shute and Governor Wentworth.

Anxious to learn how much land they possessed the proprietors voted in 1750 to send Jeremiah Sanborn, James Prescott, Jonathan Swett, Samuel Drake and Josiah Shaw a committee to run the lines of the Town of Chichester.

The committee hired Simeon Dearborn, surveyor, who came up and laid out the second and third division of lots. Most of this land with the exception of one range in the third division is now in the town of Pittsfield.

1752 saw the proprietors voting that a committee of five men be chosen to mark and clear the way to the place where we have voted to build a sawmill and a blockhouse. Obediah Worth, Samuel Drake, Joseph Rollins, Jonathan Green and Samuel Jennis were chosen. The common land spoken for in the last return was for a sawmill.

Committees were named and inducements were given those who drew lots to go and settel in said town. They were to clear five acres of land and build convenient dwelling houses and live there for three years from the first day of September 1754.

In March 1756 Jonathan Cram and Henry Elkins were chosen to come up to see the land that the Suncook men are a mind to have to settle upon and to make re-

port of it at the next meeting. This report was received at the May 19th meeting. Rumors abounded that others were settling and in February of 1759 another committee was chosen to go into the Township of Chichester to see if they may find who those persons are that have cut or maybe found cutting down timber in said town and report at the next meeting.

Paul Morrill, first settler in the town, was allowed thirty five acres of land where he dwelled at the May 30, 1759 meeting of the Proprietors held at the home of Lieut. Jonathan Leavitt Innholder in Hampton. Morrill was to give a lawful deed to the Proprietors of said Chichester of one full share of all the common and undivided lands of said town. He settled in the southwest corner of the town in what is now known as Horsecorner. In 1764, Morrill was voted two hundred and fifty acres of land to be laid out to him by a committee. Choice of said property was that he give a warantee deed to said Proprietors of the whole right of the Rev. Mathias Plants, original proprietor.

In 1761 it was voted that six proprietors settle in said town and they have by these presents free liberty to exchange any lot that they own in said town for one lot that is not yet drawn for provided they make speedy settelment that fall upon said lot and continue to do so. On July 8th Samuel Davis was voted lot No. 5, third range, first division in exchange for lot No. 33 in the second division.

In November of that year it was voted to clear the road thats called Canterbury Road through to Canterbury and the road is to be let out to the lowest bidder. Work was to begin at the great Suncook River at the new bridge and is to be done well and to pass with a loaded cart without hinderance by stumps or sloughs (mud hollows) or the want of proper bridges or sufficient ways to be cleared twelve feet wide through Chichester to Canterbury. The road that already laid out is to be let out to the lowest bidder and is to be inspected by some suitable person or persons that shall be appointed for that end and if its not done well the undertaker is to have nothing for his work. Road was to be completed in one month. Capt. Jonathan Swett was to clear the road for one hundred and ninety five pounds old tenor. Evidently Swett did not clear the way because at a meeting of July 1762, Thomas Rand was voted to do the task and was given three months to do the work for one hundred and seventy pounds. Capt. Jeremiah Sanborn and Reuben Sanborn were named to a committee to over look and see that Rand complied with the instructions before he was paid for the work.

Rueben Sanborn appeared at the meeting to accept the vote of the Proprietors to build a sawmill and cornmill in Chichester on the place where the privilege was left for that by the Proprietors on the Suncook River. For building the mill or mills he was entitled to forty acres of land on both side of the river that was left with said privilege of the falls to be his and his heirs forever providing he or they build a sawmill and equip it fit for sawing within one year and keep said mill in good repair for the term of twenty years and likewise a corn mill to be completed and fit for grinding in three years. Sanborn was to comply with the obligations of the vote or lose all the privileges granted returning the privileges to the Proprietors.

Several factors had discouraged settlers in their attempts to come inland from their warm homes in Hampton. One of the largest forest fires on record occurred in 1762 which burned from the Lakes Region area to the ocean. An unusual drought also occurred that summer, hay and crops burnt in the field and swale hay was used for the cattle and swamp grass for winter feed. Winter provisions had to be made by ox team trips to Exeter and an illness of some kind of a digestive disorder swept through families probably because of the lack of variety in their diets. It was

of such severity that work was impossible. It was finally discovered that "Buckthorn Brake" brewed with "Penny Royal" proved effective. Buckthorn brake grew on high elevations near ledges and quantities of it were found on Bare Hill and Garvin Hill.

Just who the settlers were in addition to Morrill, Sanborn and Davis we can not tell definitely. John Sanborn Jr. was given lot No. 8 and Lieut. Jonathan Leavitt, lot 9, both in the first division, third range in the summer of '62, and the Proprietors gave permission the following summer for the settlers to cut all the grass in the meadows that are to be found in the undivided lands.

From 1760 until the middle 70's when frame houses were built, log homes were the tradition. There were supposedly two built on Canterbury Road, one near the large Colonial home which was in the Leavitt family for many years and the other on the ledge near the work shop now owned by the Halverstrude's. It is believed that there was a log shelter, or lean-to opposite the home of Madeline Sanborn and another near the brook behind the home of the Waters on Dover Road. Early building in the Horsecorner section was on the Staniels Road and off the Staniels Road, the homes of the Morrills. John Morrill, one of the sons of the first settler, was born about the time his father settled in Chichester and is supposed to be the first child born in the town.

Tradition says William Seavey settled on a farm located on the Lane Road about the time Paul Morrill came to town which is now owned by the Mayville's. It is claimed the first well in town was dug and stoned on this place, but we have no way to verify this.

During this period of time additional inducements were given to get settlers to come to Chichester to build mills and roads. In 1767 Capt. John Cram of Raymond and Joseph Frost Esquire of New Castle were voted the mill privilege and fifteen pounds each if they would build a saw and grist mill on the great Suncook River and keep the same in good order to grind corn and saw logs for twenty years. Evidently the mill was built in what is now Pittsfield because less than a year later Cram was paid four pounds to clear a road from his sawmill to Capt. Andrew McClarys sawmill in Epsom.

Need for better ways to get to the mills led the Proprietors in 1768 to vote for the building of two bridges by Reuben Sanborn, one over the Gilman Town Brook and the other over Swigey Meadow Brook.

Four years after Cram built his dam and sawmill and three after his gristmill the population of Chichester was 273. One indication of growth was the demand for roads from both the settlers and from neighboring towns. The settlers of Gilman Town most frequently pointed out to the proprietors at Hampton the deplorable back roads across Chichester which they had to use to get to their settlement.

On August 28, 1770 Paul Morrill and Jonathan Leavitt were appointed to repair Canterbury Road and in October of that year the Old Gilman Town Road was voted to be the road or as near as maybe to pass over the Epsom Bridge at the Suncook River and in December the road was laid out by Cram, Leavitt and Elijah Ring. (Part of this road is now route 28).

In October, Morrill was voted two hundred acres of land where he now dwells to be laid out by a survey or to be agreed on by the said Proprietors, and the said Morrill was to return to the said Proprietors or their committee a deed of three fifty acre lots in Chichester of a good land as is laid out to said Morrill and said Morrill was to pay the charge and likewise another deed so as to make up a full Proprietor's share in the whole in Chichester.

Samuel Davis and Jonathan Leavitt were named as a committee to act on this and likewise to the committee was to lay out to Morrill, two hundred and fifty acres which was voted to him in the year 1764, fifty acres of which the said Proprietors gave to his first child that was born in Chichester (John) and said Morrill for the two hundred acres was to give an authentic deed of an other full share.

Jacob Sanborn was voted lot No. 3 in the second range in the first division for his natural life and that at his decease its to be the right of his son Daniel Sanborn and his heirs forever in the year 1774.

Division four, so called, in the northwestern part of the town was laid out by a committee and accepted at the March 1775 town meeting and in August of that year all the common land between the first division and Pembroke line was laid out with Jonathan Leavitt, surveyor.

The rich soil, favorable location and heavy growth of timber induced the ambitious young men of Hampton and vicinity to emigrate, and soon we find the Dows, Sanborns, Drakes, Davis's, Hilliards, Browns, Hooks and Lakes and many other young men of pluck and strength coming up here, and settling in different parts of the town.

Colonel Simeon Hilliard came up and settled on Brown's Hill, Jonathan Leavitt on both sides of Canterbury Road, Captain John Langmaid on Langmaid's Hill, David Brown at the Smith homestead on old route 28, Joseph Dow on Pleasant Street along with Jeremiah Lane and Thomas Lake, now the Randall home. Captain Dyer Hook and Peter Hook purchased the fertile interval farmland now owned by the MacCleery's. Dyer Hook is thought to have built the first frame house in Chichester, now the home of the Frekey's. It was in this house that powder was stored during the Revolutionary War and guarded by Hook for the provincial government. The house was moved to its present location in 1869 by the late Charles Carpenter who built a new and more elegant residence which still stands today. (MacCleery's).

The settlers being tired of being governed by the proprietors in Hampton and being told where to build their road in Chichester asked that the meetings be moved to Chichester. At the March 10, 1773 meeting in Hampton a vote was taken to move the meetings to Chichester but it did not pass. Undaunted the settlers a week later on March 18 petitioned John McClary, justice of peace in Epsom, to call a meeting in Chichester of the legal voters for the election of officers. McClary issued the following order:

March 18, 1773

Province of New Hampshire, Rockingham, SS

"Whereas application is made to me the subscriber one of his majesties Justices of Peace for the County aforesaid in a petition signed by a number of freeholders and inhabitants of the town of Chichester to call a Town Meeting as soon as maybe at some convenient place in said town to choose town officers as the law directs. Therein they complain of never having had the advantage of any legal meeting of said town heretofore. Pursuant to which application, I do hereby notify and warn the free holders and other inhabitants of the township of Chichester qualified by law to vote at said meeting to meet at the dwelling house of John Loverin in said Chichester on Thursday, the first day of April next, at ten of the clock, forenoon, then and there to choose a Moderator to govern said meeting, also Town Clerk, Selectmen, Constable and all other town officers as the law directs and to pass votes for the same.

JOHN MCCLARY, Justice Peace

The first town meeting held in Chichester was held as petitioned on April 1, 1773 in the home of John Loverin. The population of the town at that time was 273. McClary was chosen to act as moderator, John Cram town Clerk and Cram, Samuel Davis and Ebenezer Barton, selectmen. Samuel Prescott and Jonathan Leavitt were chosen assessors and John Worth, constable, collector or tax gatherer. Edward Sargent, Edmon Rand Leavitt, John Blaso and Elijah Ring, surveyors of highways. No other business was transacted but meeting again in June eleven pounds was raised to defray town charges and sixty pounds voted to make and repair the highways. It was left to the surveyors how much shall be allowed a pair yoke of oxen a day to work on the road.

Back in Hampton the Proprietors laid out Governor Wentworths five hundred acres beginning at Epsom and running up on the southwesterly side of the fourth division as far as to contain the said five hundred acres laying between the fourth division and the Pembroke line. Governor Shutes five hundred acres was to be laid out adjoining the aforesaid. Elijah Ring and William Seavey committee completed the task in 1788 and by 1789 the Proprietors were releasing two hundred acres on Wentworths share for taxes to John Cram who purchased the land. Ten years later Shute's land was divided into five lots.

From 1773, two meetings were held, one in Hampton by the Proprietors and one in Chichester, by the settlers. This continued until 1797 when John Hilyard, Joseph Dow, Joshua Lane, Jacob Sanborn, John Bickford, Thomas Lake, Timothy Prescott, Asa Lane, Daniel Tilton, James Drake, Robert Tibbetts, Jonathan Perkins, Joshua Berry, Abraham Green, John Cram, William Chase, Enoch Butler and Joseph Sanborn presented Abraham True, one of the justices of the peace in and for the county of Rockingham the following petition:

"We the undersigners, owners of more than the sixteenth part of the Township of Chichester, request that you notify and warn the Proprietors, owners and grantees of land in said Township to meet at the dwelling house of Lt. John Hilyard in said Chichester on Thursday, the seventh day of September next, at one of the clock, afternoon, to vote and act on the following articles -

1. To choose a Moderator to govern said meeting.
2. To choose a Proprietors clerk.
3. To choose any other proprietary officers that is thought proper at said meeting.
4. To vote and transact all such other matters as may be thought best for the interest of the Proprietors."

The warrant was posted by True on July 25th and the meeting was held. Robert Tibbetts was chosen to serve as Moderator and Joseph Dow as Proprietor's Clerk. True and Tibbetts were chose as a committee to examine the Proprietor's books and to bring them back to Chichester if they think best.

The meeting was postponed until December when then it was voted to accept the book of records of the Proprietors. Another meeting was held by True on petition of the Proprietors on May 29, 1800 when a board of officers was chosen and an attempt was made to raise taxes to pay up the indebtedness of the proprietors. Nothing much was accomplished except to adjourn the meeting from day to day then meeting and adjourning the meetings for the next three years. The large part of the Proprietors rights had been sold to pay taxes and claims, Governor Shute's and Wentworth's acres included. Thus ended the period of the Proprietors, from 1727 when they received the charter to 1803, some seventy-six years. Their voices and votes shaped our beginning.

SETTLEMENT OF CHICHESTER

For nearly half a century the Proprietor's had governed the town, now we will go backward several years to take up the doings of the "original settlers" the ones that came here to build their homes and raise their families, our ancestors.

Successfully petitioning to elect officers and hold a legal meeting in Chichester in 1773 the town fathers met early in 1774 to choose grand and petit jurors to serve at his Majesties Court of Judicature to be held in Portsmouth that March. Elijah Ring was chosen as grand juror and Jonathan Leavitt as petty juror at the Supreme Court.

The population in 1775 was 418 people. The settlers had scarcely got started in the new town when the difficulties which for a long time had existed between the colonies and the British government assumed such formidable proportions that war seemed inevitable. Elijah Ring was appointed as a delegate to the Provincial Congress to be held in Exeter to name delegates to represent the province at the Continental Congress proposed to be held in Philadelphia in May.

On the 8th day of May, John Cram was voted as deputy to attend the Provincial Congress representing the town and given full power to act and adopt and pursue such measures as maybe judged most expediant to preserve and restore the rights of this and other colonies and also to act for six months if they judge the same necessary and to adjourn as occasion may require.

The settlers also voted to enlist four minutemen to be ready at a minutes warning if wanted for any sending expedition, each man was to be paid two shillings (33¢) while they were in the service if called to go into war. One pound, six shillings was raised to purchase pork, flour and bread and store the same in the town for the minutemen.

John Cram was voted Captain of the town; Jonathan Leavitt, lieutenant; David Knowlton, ensign; Jonathan Styan, first sergeant; Joseph Bickford, second sergeant; Aquilla Moffett, the third and Jeremiah Sanborn, the fourth. John Langmaid was the first corporal; Jeremiah Sanborn Jr. the second corporal; Amos Blaso, the third and Benjamin Mason, the fourth.

In 1776 the town chose Simeon Hilyard, Jonathan Styan, Thomas Johnson, David Knowlton and Israel Hook to be a Committee of Safety, voted to pay the selectmen six dollars for doing the towns service and chose John Cram to serve as the first Justice of Peace.

On Sunday, June 16, 1776, the following children were baptised by the Rev. Mr. Stephen Chase of Newcastle —

Lieut. Jonathan Styan, two children christened, Jonathan and James
Benjamin Mason, two children christened
Edmond Rand, two children christened
John Langmaid
Benjamin Mason Sr., wife had one child christened
Jeremiah Sanborn had children baptised

August 11th day 1776 then Selvenas Moses of Epsom owned the covenant of baptism and was baptised.

Samuel Philbrook, wife had a child christened by the name of Jonathan Leavitt

August 25 then John Fullington and his wife owned the covenant of baptism and wife baptised Sarah and child by the name of John

August 25 then Simon Cass of Epsom and his wife owned the covenant of baptism and had a child baptised by the name of Fransies.

1777 saw the settlers voting to give thirty pounds, lawful money, to any man who enlisted into the Continental army for three years and chose Jonathan Leavitt, Jeremiah Sanborn and Jeremiah Garland as a committee to hire the men. John Cram, William Chase, Elijah Ring, John Langmaid and Simeon Hilyard were named to regulate the price of articles in said town so that they would correspond with prices in neighboring towns. Gunpowder, lead and flint was purchased for the minutemen and stored at the house of Captain Dyer Hook. In order that the families of the men that had gone into the army were looked after, James Cram, Jonathan Leavitt and Edward Sargent were named to take care of their needs.

In 1779 delegates representing New Hampshire towns met in Exeter for the purpose of establishing a new form of government. John Cram went from Chichester. After prolonged deliberation a form of government was devised by this group but when it was presented to the people it was not accepted. When presented in Chichester at the July 19th meeting, the vote was twelve for the new plan with two voting against.

Later that fall, Elijah Ring represented Chichester at a convention in Concord held to establish prices so that greater uniformity would prevail throughout the Province. He was paid twelve pounds, lawful money, for his time and horse.

By 1780 the patriotic zeal of the people had gone to new and unprecedented heights. They had caught the spirit of those in other towns and chose Capt. Jonathan Leavitt and Elijah Ring to furnish all the men that may be called for during the year. The selectmen were authorized to pay them and assess a tax upon the ratable polls to pay for it.

It was not easy for the farmers to pay the extra tax with only small clearings under cultivation. Markets for their produce were distant and the modes of transportation in those days added to the burden. However, they did raise it, and those who couldn't furnished beef and corn and took it to Hampton by horses or oxen. It is recorded that Chichester furnished six thousand, five hundred and twenty pounds of beef and the following year when the Continental Congress asked them to furnish eight thousand one hundred and fifty pounds of beef and forty eight gallons of rum for the Army it was given. They also voted to send all the men requested of them and passed the following vote, which not only showed the ingenuity of the settlers, but showed to what extremes poverty and zeal in a real cause had driven them.

"Voted that the men shall be raised by raising young stock to pay the hire of the men that are wanting for the Continental Army as our proportion for three years or during the war and that those who went should receive at the expiration of their service, twenty three year old heifers. Jeremiah Sanborn, Captain Jabez Haskel and Joshua Berry were the committee to hire the soldiers and were given forty dollars per day for their time and thirty dollars for their horses.

We do not know how many men accepted this offer and received heifers, but we found for the next several years votes taken to obtain the men and the beef in the cheapest and best manner they can for the town.

D. T. Brown wrote that the people of Chichester should ever remember that their ancestors performed well their part in the great struggle of the colonies for liberty, and no town offered more willing and efficient aid. If men were wanted, she furnished them without a murmur. If the families of volunteers needed help, their wants were supplied, and everything that the circumstances of the people

would allow was done to bring about the glorious consummation of the war. The Revolutionary War left the country deeply in debt. Congress had no power to establish a system of imports, consequently heavy taxes were levied on polls and estates. This, in connection with other circumstances, produced a season of distress and suffering, from which Chichester did not escape."

The war winding down, the settlers began to proceed with matters more pressing. At the annual meeting in March, 1781 the matter of raising money for preaching was again raised but did not meet the approval of the settlers. One thousand five hundred dollars was voted to support the schools and meeting again in April to finish the meeting, four thousand six hundred and eight pounds was voted for highways.

On December 10th a meeting was held for the first time in a public place rather than a private home or barn "at the school house which stands on Gilman Town road near Lt. John Hilyards in Chichester" to see if the town will vote and agree upon a center, and if voted to precede it what method the town will think most proper in building a meeting house of public worship on the place that shall be appointed for said center. After much argument it was voted that the minutes be destroyed concerning a center and building a meeting house in the year 1781.

Paul Morrill and those that settled in the southern part of the town and John Cram who had built mills in the northern part and others who settled around him could not agree where to put the center so on December 26th they met in Hilyards barn for half an hour to divide the town. Serving on the committee were William Chase, John Cram, Joseph Morrill, Simeon Hilyard, Captain Dyer Hook, Elijah Ring and Captain Jonathan Leavitt Jr. representing both sides of the town.

It was voted that the Second division of land below the Suncook River in said Chichester with that part of the third division below said river and the six northerly ranges in said third division above said Suncook River with all the privileges and proportion of Publick lands belonging to said divisions may be incorporated into a town or parish by themselves and invested with all town privileges as other towns in this state.

Voted that there may be three months liberty allowed for any person or persons to pool themselves and their estates either side of the dividing line that way they shall see best after the centers are prefixed each side of the dividing line.

John Cram, William Chase and Captain Jonathan Leavitt be a committee to prefer a petition to the General Court of said state to confirm the vote.

On March 22, 1782 the General Court voted that the petition for division be granted with an amendment that only five ranges in the third division instead of six be allowed and no pooling be taken and that the tract of land be set off by the name of Pittsfield as a separate town and have all town privileges distinct from Chichester except in the choice of representatives. Meetings did continue jointly for the next several years and the dispute on dividing the publick lands and controversy over the General Courts decision that the sixth range in the third division go to Chichester, the lush farmland on Pleasant Street, continued for another eighty years.

In 1783 it was voted that the center be at the pinebushes, so called, on Lot No. 3 in the sixth range of the first division and lots No. 3 and 5 were voted to be bought and Elijah Ring to be the man to purchase them. This land was in what is now known as Pineground. Lot No. 78, one of the parsonage lots, was located in the sixth range third division and given to Pittsfield when the towns were divided. This caused some problem because a vote was taken to have Elijah Ring, Simeon

and John Hilyard meet with Pittsfield to entreat with them about dividing the publick land and they were given the power to sell the land called the upper burnt ground lot.

Work continued on the center and in 1784 it was voted to fall twenty acres of trees for a parsonage and a "common house", a house for town assemblies and also for the worship of God on the Sabbath. Later that fall, four additional acres were to be cleared. A year later the settlers voted to burn the trees that are fell and to clear up the lot, find grain and hay seed and sow the ground after it was cleared. A fence was also to be erected and the ground sown with oats which could be cut and sold in the spring.

In the summer of '86 a meeting was called at Dyer Hooks to vote to have the four acres of trees cleared up and sowed with rye that are now fell on the parsonage, so work did not progress very speedily probably because of more pressing matters of the day.

The town although progressing steadily found for the first time in the year 1787 one in the midst who could not support himself or his family. Daniel Perkins applied to the town for help and the town immediately held a meeting and chose Jeremiah Sanborn and Lieut. John Hilyard to provide for him and his family and call on the selectmen for their pay. Other applications followed and the town aided them by placing them in homes, providing them with small farms to live upon and later boarding them out to the lowest bidder.

About this time the Federal Constitution, which had been formed in Philadelphia, was brought to New Hampshire for ratification and adoption. It seems that there was considerable opposition to it. It was discussed in several places and a convention was held in Exeter to consider it. Benjamin Sias, Esquire was chosen delegate to represent both Chichester and Pittsfield. John Cram, Simeon Hilyard, Elijah Ring, Abraham Green, Thomas Johnson, Lt. Edmund Leavitt, Jonathan Perkins, Capt. James Marden, Lt. James Drake, Abraham True, and Asabel Green were chosen to consult with the delegate upon matters concerning the new plan of government. Col. Simeon Hilyard and Capt. Jabez Haskel were appointed to examine and see if there is a Proprietor Act to tax the inhabitants of the Town of Chichester and Pittsfield.

After long debate, the convention in Exeter adopted the new form of government. Being the ninth state to ratify it, the necessary number to put it into operation, the Federal Constitution was adopted.

A meeting was held in September of 1788 at the dwelling house of Edmund Rand, Innholder in said town, for the purpose of laying out a road between Lt. Enoch Blakes and James Purringtons Lotts of land, so on through Zebulon Hilyards land, down to the river. This is believed to be the Mill Road.

It was also voted to clear the road laid out from Mr. Mann's to Pembroke line at the cost of the town and build a bridge half way over Suncook River by Mr. Hilyards and keep it in repair provided Pittsfield will do the other half. Abraham True and Nathaniel Morrill were to join a committee from Loudon to see about layout of a road between Chichester and Loudon from Bear Hill Road to Canterbury Road, so called.

Jonathan Leavitt, Esquire was selected at a special meeting held in the winter of 1789 to join a convention in Concord on the 4th day of December to consult upon matters concerning a new county.

Burdened with setting up a new county and federal government the settlers had let the matter of the meeting house and parsonage go. In 1790, Jeremiah Eastman,

Esquire, Major Samuel McConnell and Col. Antipass Gilman were named as a committee to appoint a senter for the Town of Chichester and Lieut. John Hilliard, Jonathan Leavitt, Esquire and Abraham True as a committee to wait on the above committee and give them notice.

The population at this time in Chichester was 491 consisting of eighty two families. There were 137 males above 16, 118 males under 16 and 236 females. (1790 U.S. Census).

In 1791 at the January 13th meeting held in the home of Captain John Langmaid the settlers voted to reconsider all former votes that had been passed in said town concerning a center to build a meeting house upon. They then voted that the center be prefixed in the corner of Captain John Longmaid's field at the place appointed by the committee that was chosen for that purpose.

Another meeting was held in February to put to vote to see if the town would vote to agree to build a gospel meeting house and it was not voted. At the annual March town meeting it was voted to measure the way and split the difference for a center between the old parsonage and the place appointed by the committee and it be the most convenient place between the two places. Evidently this caused a lot of discussion because another vote was taken to see if the voters would reconsider all votes concerning a center. The privilege of the pasture on the parsonage lot for that year was vendued and struck off to Thomas Lake for the sum of one pound, ten shillings and six pence, to be paid in rye at four shillings per bushel, or in corn at three shillings a bushel, to be paid when merchantable.

On June 6th they voted to take the northwest corner of Edmund Rands land or near thereto as shall be most convenient to build a gospel meetinghouse on in said Chichester and to erect said meeting house. Abraham True, Captain James Marden and Jeremiah Sanborn were chosen as a committee to oversee and carry on the business of said meeting house. It was to be built forty feet wide, fifty two feet long and twenty three feet post, and it was left to the committee to do as much as they think best the present year on the said house. The committee was given power to procure with Deacon Jeremiah Lane that sum which he has obligated himself to pay to this town towards building said meetinghouse. The selectmen were given the power to petition the General Court of New Hampshire to see if they would grant the town the privilege of laying a tax on the non-resident lands in the town for a certain term of time.

The meeting was adjourned until June 23rd when they met again to vote to erect the meeting house frame by a town rate and then to go on with the pew money to board and shingle it. Three shillings a day was voted for labor for those working on it. Marden, Sanborn and True were to purchase three or four acres of land from Rand to set the meeting on and a parsonage house when wanting.

Meeting in late July, the third day of August was set aside as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer to God in this place for his presence with us and his blessing to rest upon us in all our undertakings as a Christian people. Jonathan Leavitt, Esquire, Hilyard Shaw and Joseph Morrill were the committee to call together a number of neighboring ministers and churches and to provide for them.

Meetings were held that fall on settling a minister in the town. Several of the more prominent settlers entered their dissent against the town's proceedings. It was recorded that they dissented against settling the Rev. Josiah Carpenter of any other man in Chichester although they had nothing against Mr. Carpenter but wholly on account of the situation of the meeting house. Carpenter was settled (see churches) and the meeting house was built.

The first legal meeting held in the meeting house was on February 21, 1792. Up until that time the records show that meetings were held in various homes and barns as previously mentioned. The only business conducted at that meeting was to get the timber for the Rev. and Mrs. Carpenter's house by the way of vendue.

As the town and surrounding towns began to grow the need for better roads became apparent and companys of men were organized to lay out and build turnpikes where the travel was greatest and pay for them as well as yield a good income by charging toll of all who used these highways. The first turnpike in New Hampshire was called the New Hampshire Turnpike extending from the Piscataqua Bridge in Durham through Nottingham, Northwood, Epsom and Chichester to the Merrimack River at Concord.

Settlers in this town voted to raise three shillings on a single head or its equivalent to lay out on the state road in Chichester as early as 1792. The work on the road was to begin on the tenth day of September and proceed daily until all the money was expended.

For many years until the railroads were built this was perhaps one of the heaviest traveled roads in the state as Portsmouth was the nearest seaport for Concord and the central and western part of the state. It was also used by the post riders. Traveling by horseback, they carried letters, newspapers and small packages between towns.

The building of the turnpike road was probably the biggest event of the eighteenth century to the settlers. Up to that time, Canterbury Road had been the main thoroughfare upon which the people traveled, who had occasion to pass through town. The road, built many years before was without sufficient bridges so at times it was almost impracticable for travel.

The turnpike was the first built in the state. The company building it was incorporated in 1797 and upon its completion extensive travel was done on it. Merchants from all over the state and as far away as Vermont transported their goods to and from Portsmouth and immense quantities of lumber, beef, pork and farm produce was carried down to exchange for goods.

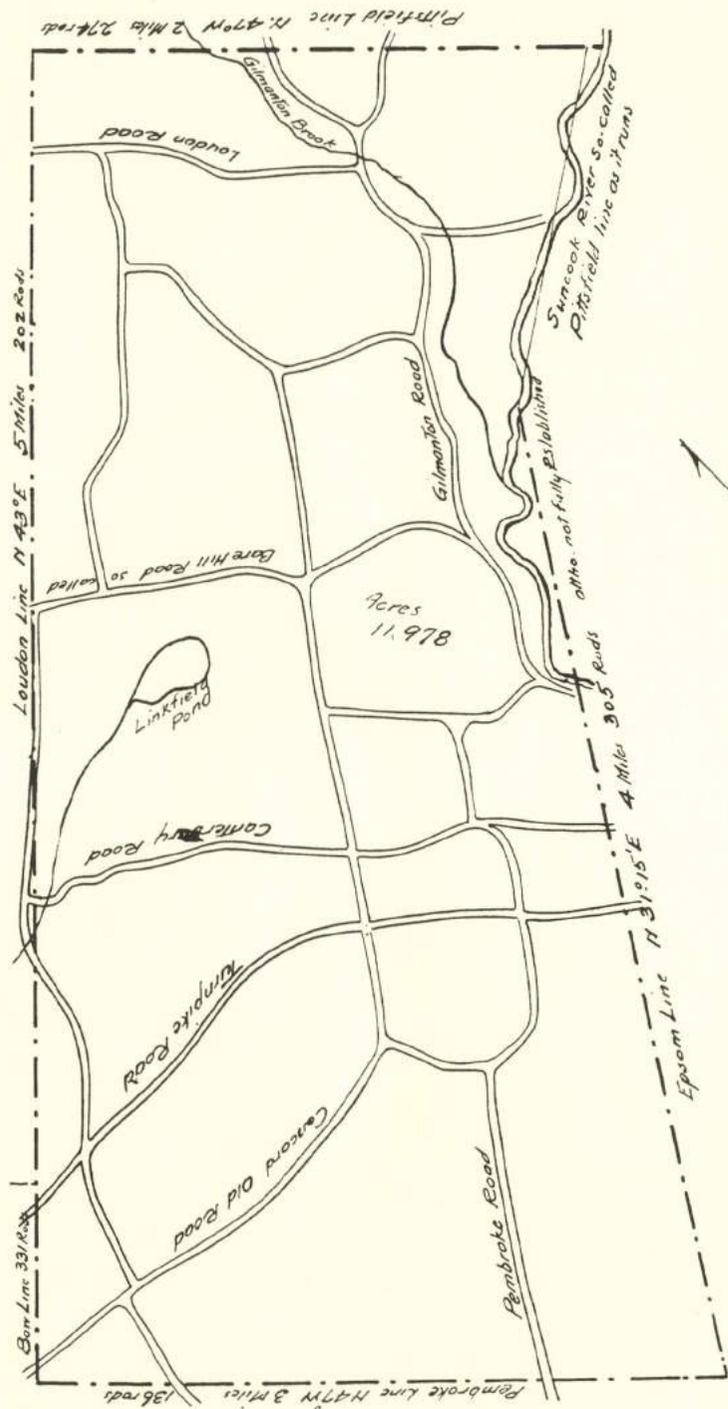
Toll-gates were established at different points along the line of the road and gate-keepers were appointed to collect the toll of travelers using the road. Moses Leavitt was one of the first toll takers on the turnpike.

Another road laid out in the late 90's was a road from William Seaveys road to Nathaniel Morrills, across the fourth division lots down to the Epsom line. Half the rangeway between the first and fourth division was exchanged for the land for the road. This evidently was the road that goes from the Lane District to Short Falls because houses in this area date back to the early 1800's.

Need for a pound in which to put stray animals was a concern of the settlers at the 1796 town meeting. Two pounds were voted to be built about twenty years before, one near the mills (Cram's) and one near Dyer Hook's. The pound was to be built by way of vendue to the lowest bidder, and was struck off to Edmund Rand, who built the same for \$26. The exact location is unknown but it was believed to be in front of the town meetinghouse.

Meeting again in June that year, the meeting house committee was directed to call on those that are indebted for the lower pews and lay out the sum due to finish the outside of the meeting house and glaze the same. Captain John Langmaid's name was added to the meetinghouse committee.

Evidently the pound was put into use and the need for a keeper became apparent because in the year 1801 Jonathan Edmunds was chosen to serve as pound-



Plan of Town of
Chichester
Joshua Lane Survey
200 rods to one inch
Apr 11 1805

keeper. Issac Fife was sworn in as culler of staves, Edmund Rand was fenceviewer and Captain John Langmaid was saxon. Moses Seavey and his associates were also given liberty that year to build a sawmill on the public land and to have the privilege of said mill for twenty years. Abraham True was paid \$4.09 that year in part of what was due to him for the land whereon the meeting house stood. The full price was \$59.41 which was paid to him on March 10, 1802.

Abraham True, Nathaniel Morrill and Joshua Lane were chosen a committee to meet with Epsom to settle on a line between the two towns. The survey was finished on October 14 and the report was as follows:

We the subscribers, a joint committee on the parts of Epsom and Chichester, to ascertain and permanently to establish a line between said towns, hereby certify that we have strictly and accurately attended to the business assigned us and have ascertained and spotted an accurate line from a pine stump on the southwesterly corner of Epsom to the northwesterly corner of the same town at the Suncook River upon an intersected line where a maple tree, cornerbounds formerly stood. The point run is North thirty one degrees and nine minutes east and the distance run is six miles and ninety one rods, and consider that line as an accurate straight line and establish the same as a division line between said towns. The above line mentioned hath a hack with an ax in every spot.

Witness our hands, Epsom, 15th November 1802.

- Abraham True
- Joshua Lane
- James Gray
- Thomas Babb
- Josiah Sanborn

Eight years later the matter was still unsettled and hearings were held in both towns to report that the line was to be settled and established. This notice read — Rockingham S.S. November 1, 1810

“We the subscribers mutually chosen a committee by a vote of the Town of Epsom on the 13th of March 1810 and by a vote of the town of Chichester on the 2nd of October 1810, to settle the line between the aforesaid towns; after notifying Josiah Sanborn and Richard Tripp on the part of Epsom, and Captain Jacob S. Moulton and Captain Joshua Lane on the part of the town of Chichester, all of whom attended. We after hearing the said towns by their agents aforesaid with their pleas, proofs and allegations, agree to report that the dividing line between the two Towns aforesaid, shall be settled and established in manner following,

Viz, to begin at a stake and stones standing on Pembroke Line about six feet southeasterly from a hollow Chestnut Stump. Which stake we spotted and marked with two strokes across each side with a marking iron, thence run a straight line N about thirty three degrees, twelve minutes to the East by a line which we spotted and marked with a marking iron, with two strokes across the trees, and the stakes which we set up, two miles and two hundred and forty seven rods to a white pine stub, standing on the Northeasterly side of Canterbury Road (so called) and southeasterly of Thomas Drake’s dwelling house which stub we spotted and marked as aforesaid, thence to run N about thirty-one degrees, twelve minutes to E, two miles and forty four rods to a pile of stones in Suncook River at a place where the line between Pittsfield and Epsom intersects the line aforesaid.

- Joshua Lane
- Samuel Shepard
- John Lane

November 1, 1810

We the subscribers agents for the above mentioned Towns do hereby signify our approbation of the above report and in behalf of the Town aforesaid do agree to same.

Josiah Sanborn
Richard Tripp Agents for Epsom

Jacob S. Moulton
Joshua Lane Agents for Chichester

Moses Seavey, Town Clerk

From the early 1730's when the Proprietors had to give up a portion of land they thought had belonged to them until this time no definite line had been established between the two towns. The work of that finished, the settlers turned to needs of the farmers, the building of a pound to keep stray animals in evidently to replace the original one voted to be built some twenty years earlier. At the September 12th legal meeting held in 1811 the building of the pound was voted, vendued and struck off to William Lake at fifty-nine dollars.

The dimensions were length, thirty feet on the inside, width, twenty-four feet in the inside. It was to be built with stone six feet high with a stick of timber on top fifteen inches square all around. The door in front was to be six feet high and four feet wide and be hung with iron top and bottom with a good post made fast with iron bolts to lock the door to the stone. The walls were to be laid four feet thick at the bottom and one foot and a half on the top. Captain Samuel Langmaid, Moses Seavey and Jacob Stanyan were chosen as a committee to inspect the building and Lake was given until the first of December next to complete his task.

The town hall at that time faced north instead of southeast as it does today and the pound was immediately in front of it.

The pound served well for the next thirty years. It wasn't until 1840 that repairs became necessary. At the town meeting that year the selectmen were chosen to see that it was repaired.

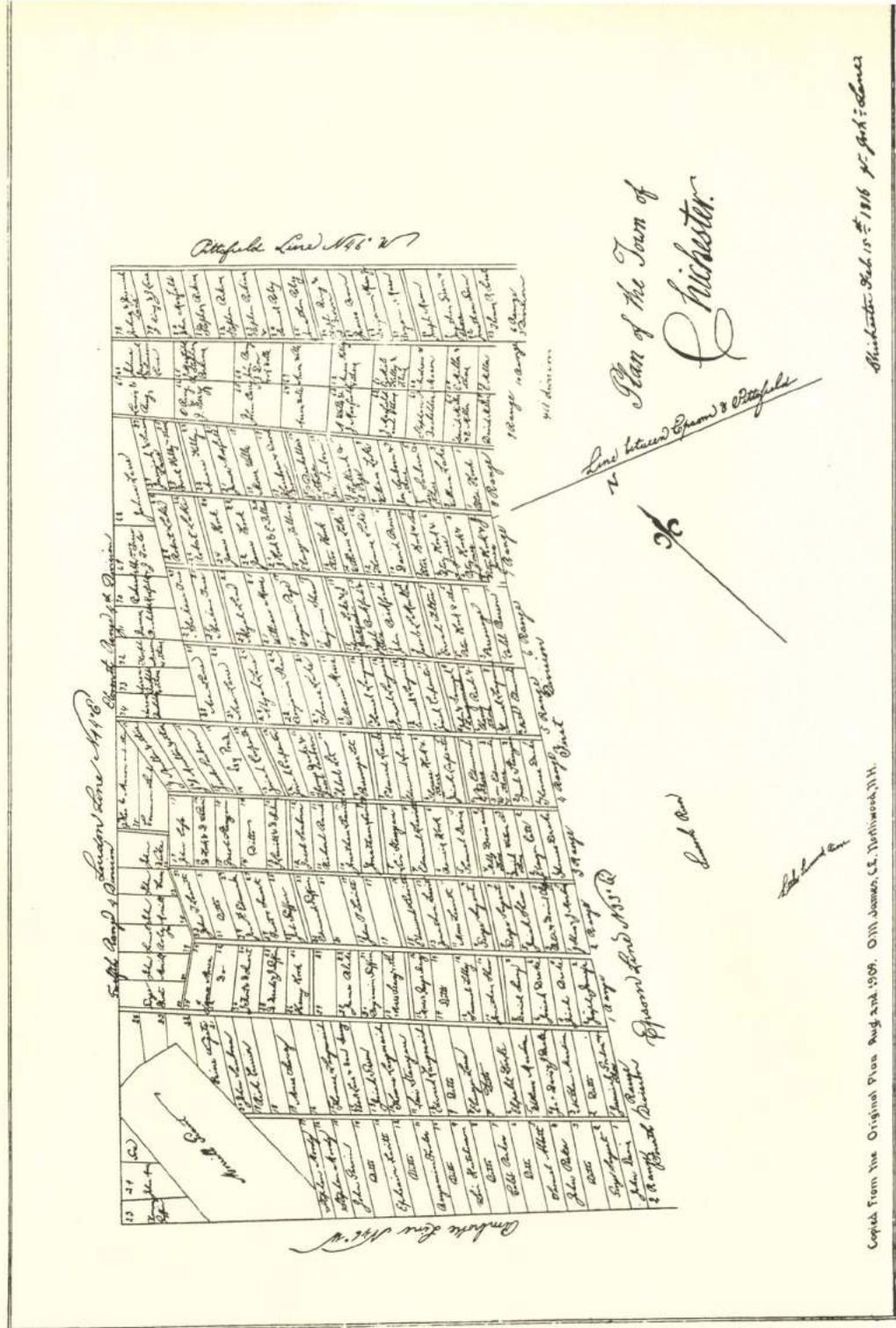
The first mention of the War of 1812 was at a meeting held in August that year when it was voted that the town should pay each soldier that shall be called into actual service three dolloars and thirty three cents per month in addition to what is allowed by Congress from the time they enter into service to the next annual meeting.

Earlier that year Gov. John Langdon detached over 3,500 from the militia of the state and organized them into companies, battalions and regiments to be armed and equipped and be ready to march at the shortest of notice.

During 1813 and 1814 detachments of the state militia were stationed on the northern border and at Portsmouth in expectation of an invasion of New Hampshire territory.

Records showed that in 1814 the selectment were voted permission to pay the soldiers thirty three cents each in lue of their meets and drinks on the mustering day of the militia or the 27th day of September, next, the money to be paid before the March town meeting, next.

In 1815, it was voted to pay each soldier that was drafted out in defense of seaboards to go to Portsmouth last September, two dollars, or a month for the time in actual service to make up ten dollars for a month.



Chichester, Feb. 15th 1816 J. S. Moulton

Copied From the Original Plan Aug 2nd 1909. O.M. James, Co. Portsmouth, N.H.

Town meetings of the early 1800's until the late 1870's when the state and town elections were separated by an amended constitution, most always took days to complete. The first day was given to organization, voting for state and county officers, choosing a representative to general court, and the election of the selectmen and other officers.

The battle opened with a choice of moderator who was elected to preside over the meeting. The selectman was a partisan office, the town fathers had charge of the making the list over who was to do the towns business.

It was a lengthy process after the selectmen were elected there were the constable and collector, bondsmen, auditors, assessors, tithingmen, inspector of schools, surveyors of the highways, surveyors of lumber, culler of staves, hogreave, fence viewers, weights and measures, pound keeper, saxon office and the overseers of the poor. These positions were not usually sought, but were filled by nominations from the floor.

At this point, the meetings were usually adjourned, sometimes continued the next day, sometimes at a later date to transact the towns business.

The 1813 records show eleven farmers were assigned artificial marks - holes punched through one or two ears or ears were cropped off or some other distinguishing mark was given the owners to designate their livestock. This was used by the settlers in those days to assist the owners in identifying their stock which roamed on unfenced lands.

The first mention of approbation to sell spiritous liquors as a taverner for one year provided he conducts as the law directs was made in March 1813 when Samuel Langmaid was given permission.

A copy of a notice dated October 14, 1814 was also recorded in the clerk's record "FOUND - secreted in a pile of wood adjoining the subscribers dwellings a number of flannel shirts of different colors supposed to have been stolen from some shop - the owner may have them by proving property and paying charges on application to Eliph Wood."

1816 made mention of Center Road being cleared from Bare hill to Canterbury Road, so called, so as to make it passable for foot people or on horseback.

Two meetings were held in 1825 to repair the meeting house but no action was taken. All common land adjoining Epsom line near Pearson's mill was voted to be sold in 1826 and the school lot next to Eliphalet Drake at the corner of Lane Road was sold by auction to David Brown for \$210.

A meeting was held in September 1826 to see if the voters would raise any money to repair highways and bridges in said town ruined by the late heavy rains. The money was raised by one half of a day on a single poll and other estate equivalent at 65¢ per day. Rations for muster day of the soldiers were also voted.

Interest in building a poor house surfaced in 1826 when it was voted to build a house 18 by 36 on the parsonage lot near Caleb Pearson's, in Pineground, but the December meeting held that year showed that an article to sell the lot and to raise money to purchase some suitable place for a building spot for the use of the poor was not acted upon.

At the December 28th meeting that year it was voted to reserve two acres of the parsonage land near Pearsons for a burying ground in a square lot (Pineground Cemetery), but no mention was made of the poor house.

It was also voted to sell part of the meeting house land and all the parsonage lot on Centre Road except four acres at the southeasterly corner.

This land was sold to settle the debt owed the Rev. Josiah Carpenter. The town wishing to dissolve the contract made in 1791 chose a committee to make final settlement with him of \$500. This ended taxation to support the Church and the people were left to form religious societies of their own.

At a special meeting held in January of 1828 the voters decided to relinquish all rights and title of the meeting house belonging to the town to the Union Congregational Society in said town provided the society shall put and keep in repair the house free of any expense to the town, except for holding of town meetings. The society had been formed in 1826 shortly after the end of the pastorate of Rev. Carpenter in the town.

Although the town had voted in 1811 to build a pound and in 1813 issued the farmers artificial marks to identify their stock by 1828 they sought additional means to keep the animals off the highways. They voted to make bylaws to prevent horses, mules, cattle, sheep and swine from running at large using Concord's bylaws as a reference. The records show that just a year earlier they thought the law was sufficient for horses, sheep and swine if the field drivers and hogreaves did their duty, but if any creature of the neat kind was found going at large from the first day of April to the first day of November the owner of said creature so going at large shall pay a fine of 25¢ for every creature, one half for use of the complainant and the other half to be used by the town.

Before stone walls were built by the settlers to protect their land, grazing land and fields were protected by small fences made of brush and rails. The winters broke down these fences and it was necessary to repair them each spring before turning out the stock in pastures and it was no small undertaking to keep the enclosure secure. Animals were allowed to roam free around homes and stray stock was common so towns undertook to make laws to impose penalties on owners who knowingly or through neglect allowed their animals to roam freely. As owners became responsible for any damage done by their stock they soon found it was cheaper to confine them and gradually the practice of letting them roam ceased. The population in 1830 was 1,084.

It is very interesting that much of the town business was put up at vendue and let out to the highest or lowest bidder. Many of the roads were vendued, the Center road was divided into short sections and bid off to various persons. The town land was also rented by the same method in 1832 when it was voted to rent the four acres on the centre square for five years at so much per year. The land was fenced, set up and struck off to Benjamin Emery for \$4.50 per year.

From the late 1700's when the town found one among them that could not support himself or his family, namely Daniel Perkins, the townspeople came to their aid by placing them in homes and later boarding them out to the lowest bidder. Nearly every town meeting mentioned the poor being set up and struck off.

A vote taken at the 1834 town meeting saw Thomas Morrill receiving fifty dollars with John Morrill's surety to support a Mrs. Griffin for her natural life free from any other expense to the town. Daniel Jenneys was paid fifty dollars to support a child until he became fourteen years of age. He furnished the town with a bond to free the town from any further expense for the child during that term.

This practice continued for the next few years. In 1838 a vote was taken to purchase a farm on which the town paupers could be kept and supported but it was defeated. Evidently their was considerable sentiment for the idea because at the annual meeting the following year nine men were chosen to post notices for

proposals to be given them for the sale of a farm for the town and they were instructed to report at a meeting that spring. The selectmen were given the power to purchase the town farm using the surplus fund money. It seems that the Federal Government had the unheard sum of \$36 million surplus which was divided among the 25 states according to population. New Hampshire received \$669,000 which was credited to the towns. Our share was a little over \$2,200 which was voted at a special town meeting held on Feb. 21, 1837 to leave our proportion in the State Treasury to be loaned to the town when the need arose.

The committee recommended a farm on Canterbury Road. The farm still exists today although the barn and sheds were torn down several years ago. It is now the home of Edwin Leopold's. At a special town meeting held in May of 1839 it was voted that the town paupers of every description be carried immediately on to the farm or receive benefit from the town in some other way. An agent was employed by the town to carry on the farm and take care of the paupers.

This custom continued until during the Civil War when it became unprofitable to continue. Receipts in 1864 were only \$62.76 and expenses were \$470.86. The town deeply in debt, the farm and its personal property was auctioned off in 1866 for \$2,824.53.

During the 1840's the selectmen met and had their office at the town farm. It was not until 1850 that the selectmen were voted permission to fix up a room in the town hall suitable for keeping town records and transacting town business in.



Town Poor Farm 1839 - 1865 (circa 1900)



Chichester Town Hall, Early 1900's

In 1838 the Congregational Church was built and the old meeting house was no longer used by the Society. The town used the building until 1843 when it was in such dilapidated condition that a committee was chosen to confer with the pew holders to see if the building could be bought of the society so that it could be replaced or repaired.

William Swain, Nathaniel Seavey and Josiah Carpenter reported that according to the best of their judgement the house was not worth more than \$75. It was voted that it was expedient to build a town house and to use the old meeting house provided it could be purchased for \$75 or otherwise to build an entirely new building.

It was to be built on town land or on the center square, so called. Swain, Newel Sanborn and P.J. Mason were appointed to superintend the building and the matter relative to the size and form of the building was to be left in their hands. The only stipulation was that it should be completed by the first of March.

Another meeting was held in May when it was voted not to build it on the town land or in the square and at the next town meeting the selectmen were left to investigate building a new town house, to be located on the same lot as the old meeting house, or to change the old meeting house into a town house.

We can imagine that feelings ran high just as they had when the old meeting house had been built in the late 1700's with each part of town wanting it located in their section. In 1845 David Carpenter offered to give the town the land to have it built on the southerly side of Canterbury Road opposite the Methodist Church and six months later Stephen Perkins petitioned the town to reconsider placing it there. Meeting in October, his petition was passed over, and it was voted that it be built on the northerly side of Canterbury Road, easterly of the Methodist meeting house on land of David Carpenter. \$500 was voted for the building and the work started.

However, this was not the end, at the 1846 town meeting held in the Centre school two petitions were presented. The first to remove the town house from its present location and locate it on town land on the pineground so called passed 74 to 55 and the vote to move the town house on to the spot of ground where the Old Congregational meeting house formerly stood or some convenient spot not far therefrom also passed, 73 to 69. Daniel Foster, John Stevens and Edward Edmunds were to oversee the work before the March town meeting, next.

Meeting again on March 31st, the voters voted to postpone indefinitely all votes previously taken and to adjourn to September 7. The meeting was held and adjourned again. Evidently this did not hold up the moving back, erecting and finishing the hall on the site which it now sits. It was extensively repaired in 1871 shingled and painted and in 1955 moved back about twenty feet and its foundation elevated two feet to provide basement space.

The next event of importance in the history of the town is the War of the Rebellion, and on the 14th day of December, 1861, the town passed the first vote in regards to the soldiers when it "Voted to aid the wives, children or parents of any inhabitants of the town who have enlisted into the military service of the United States agreeably to an act of the Legislature of New Hampshire, authorizing towns and cities to aid the families of volunteers. They also instructed the selectmen to pay a bounty of two hundred and fifty dollars to each volunteer who may enlist up to September next, to fill the quota of this town under the call of the President for volunteers.

Later this amount was changed to three hundred dollars to fill up the old regiments and two hundred and fifty for those enlisting in new regiments and one hundred for those enlisting for nine months. On September 20, 1862 \$12,000 was voted to encourage volunteer enlistment and the bounty for the nine month enlistment was raised to two hundred.

A year later, it was voted to pay a bounty of three hundred dollars to those who may be drafted to service or to his substitute who shall be mustered into the army, and the selectmen be authorized to borrow, on the credit of the town, the sum of \$5,000.

In December of 1863, \$6,000 was voted to be raised to encourage voluntary enlistments and the selectmen were authorized to pay bounties to soldiers to fill any quota assigned to the town.

On June 14, 1864 \$10,000 was raised to encourage enlistment to fill any quota of the town under the call of the President during the present year and the selectmen pay such bounties as they think proper. All persons who have been, or may be, drafted on conscripted into the military service from the town, during the existing rebellion, or any substitute for such conscript was to receive a bounty of three hundred dollars.

\$15,000 was voted in addition to the money already raised and the selectmen

were authorized to enlist twenty men immediately, and put them into the service, for a reserve to fill any quota of the town during that year.

A little over two months later on August 24th, the voters raised \$25,000 and the selectmen were authorized to pay a bounty of one thousand dollars to each man that enlisted for the term of one year to fill the quota of the town under the call of the President of July 18, 1864. Sixteen men enlisted in this call and received \$1,000 each.

In December the last vote was taken to raise men for the Army. A bounty of three hundred dollars was voted for any one who had been since the date of the warrant, or may be hereafter, mustered into the military, naval or marine service of the U.S. for three years as a substitute for any enrolled man in the town of Chichester.

The town responded to every call of the President for men to go into the Union Army and promptly filled every quota assigned to it, paying bounties from one hundred to one thousand dollars for each man. To do this, the town borrowed, from year to year, as it was needed and at the close of the war had incurred a debt of over \$36,000. The interest and principal was paid each year until 1881 when some \$16,000 on the debt remained unpaid. The town, that year, voted to fund the town debt, and authorized the selectmen to issue bonds with one thousand dollars payable each year, so that by 1895 the last bond was paid and the war debt of Chichester became extinct.

The Civil War over, the Suncook Valley Railroad which had been delayed because of the war, was completed and brought prosperity to the town in 1869. It followed the Suncook River where there were mills, at Webster Mills, Pine ground and two stations were erected. The Chichester station, sat just over the Chichester-Epsom line on Depot Street and the Webster Mill station, sat in Pittsfield, just over the Chichester-Pittsfield line on Webster Mills Road.

In 1872 there were several in the town employed in the manufacture of boots and shoes and stock was sent in from the shops in Lynn and Haverhill, Mass. to be "bottomed."

By 1900, the population had dwindled to 661, the young men leaving to seek their fortune elsewhere. Some had followed the railroads and some moved to the cities abandoning their farms which were later sold for taxes.

It was about this time that the town acquired the cannons on the Town Hall grounds. David Floyd, who was employed by the War Department in Washington, notified his son-in-law, Arthur W. Blackman, that the government had surplus cannons available to towns for patriotic display in a park or around public buildings. The only cost was for transportation charges from Washington to its destination.

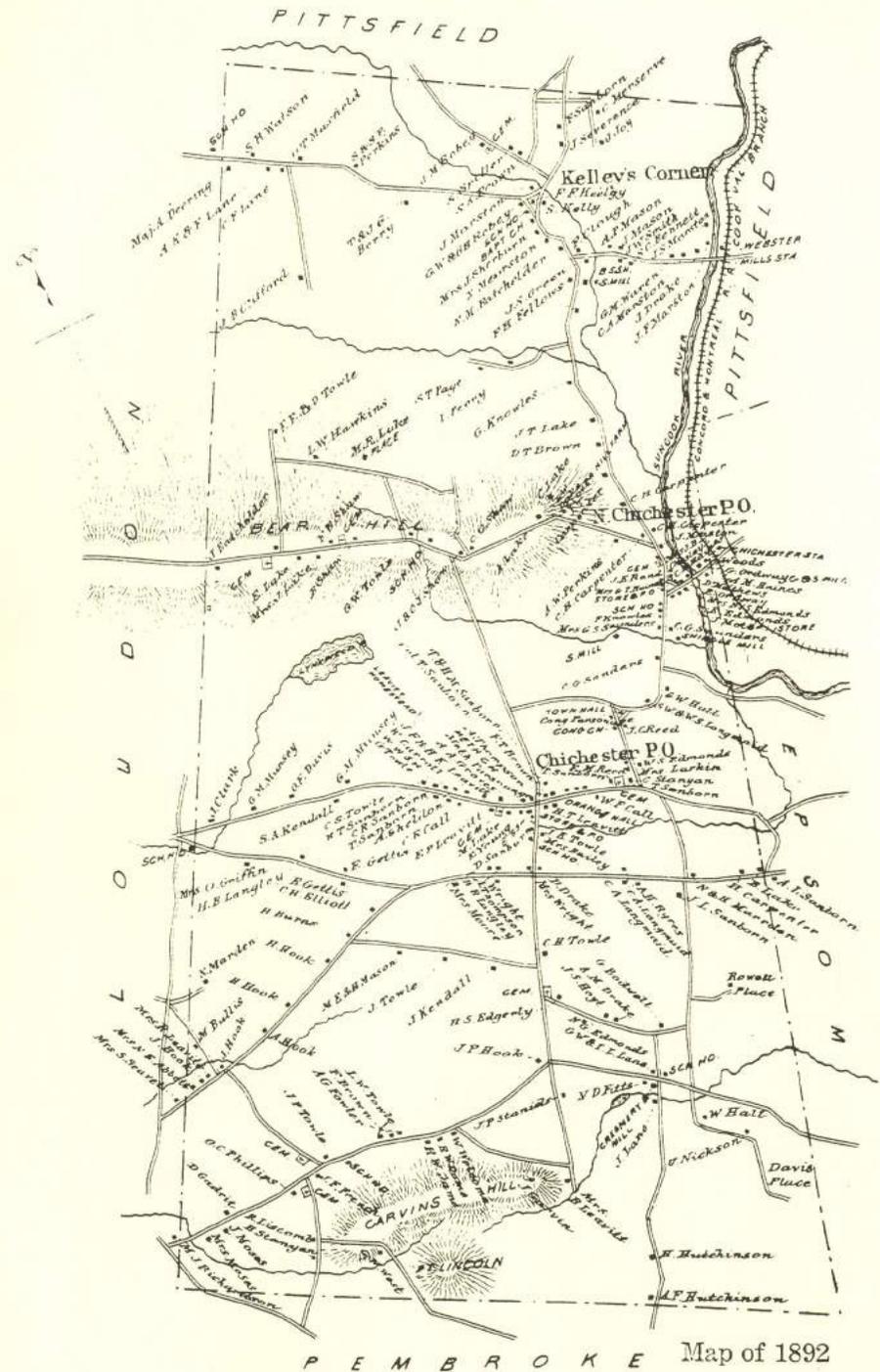
After consulting with several interested citizens, Blackman ordered two cannons, believed to be 1840 howitzers with explosive balls.

It was the intention at the time to erect an impressive flag pole and put a cannon on each side facing the road. As word of the project flourished there developed quite a bit of difference of opinion as to where the flag pole should be erected. Some people wanted it in Pineground and others by the Town Hall and other suggestions were made.



The cannons arrived before there was agreement so they were put temporarily near the Town Hall where they have remained. They came by railroad car to the Chichester depot. Mr. Blackman arranged for construction of the two gun carriages after considerable research to be sure that the design was historically correct for the age and type of cannon and they were made by a carpenter in Boston and shipped by rail. These were replaced several years ago by a new set of carriages using the old ones as a pattern.

By 1920 the population was down to 525, the lowest since settlement, but with the coming of the automobile the town began its steady increase in residents and today stands over 1,100.



TAVERNS, INNS AND BOARDING HOUSES

All notices to hotel appear in the list of licenses granted by the selectmen to the citizens of Chichester to keep taverns in their homes and to sell spirituous liquors for one year as early as 1813 when Samuel Langmaid received an approbation to sell spirituous liquor as a taverer for one year provided he conducts as the law directs.

In 1814, James Blake, Caleb Person, John Bradley, Ezekiel Kelley, Eliphabel Drake, Martha Stanyan, William Lake and Elipt. Wood were added to the list.

No list was recorded in 1815 and the list for 1816 only contained three names, Benjamin Emery, David Carpenter and Phineas Weeks.

The lists continued until 1827 and over the years some twenty odd names were listed as taverners. The year 1832 saw a vote taken to prosecute every person who sold ardent spirits contrary to the laws of the state. Nathaniel Seavey was given permission not to sell less than one pint in his store on the turnpike, Varnum Fisk and Gilman Fellows at their retailer store, Stephen Perkins to keep a tavern at his house and Jonathan Pierce to retail wines in his home.

An inn was kept on the turnpike in the early 1800's by John T. Leavitt. After Leavitt, Benjamin Emery and John Langley kept the inn. In 1817, when President Monroe passed down the turnpike from Concord to Dover, he halted here for a while to rest his horses and many were the calls made by Daniel Webster and other distinguished public officials going to and from Portsmouth. General Lafayette, when he visited this country in 1824, passed over the road and visited the inn.



Leavitt Inn, early 1800's, where President Monroe visited in 1817 and General LaFayette in 1824. Destroyed by fire in 1920's.

Several inns were kept on the turnpike, in 1807, General James Blake erected one and carried on an extensive business until 1838 when he left and his son James M. Blake continued the business until 1844. The place was burned in 1868.

From this it appears that at least several places at some time have served as inns, not including the summer boarding houses of a more recent period. The coming of the railroad changed the method of travel and soon after there was little occasion for taverns.

The license to exercise the business of a taverer in Chichester was given to Edward Edmunds in September 1843. He was authorized to sell wine and spirituous liquors, not less than one pint, in his home to be sold, delivered and carried away therefrom.

This same Edmunds a year later was mentioned in a temperance committee report along with three others Jonathan Pierce, Charles Hook and Edward Perkins.

After a request made by True Sanborn a committee was chosen to do away with the sale and traffic of liquor. They visited several places in town where they knew liquor was sold and tried to arrange with the sellers for the town to take the liquor off their hands and pay for it if they would promise to quit the business.

One member of the committee was forbidden to enter the premises of two of the dealers, however, the other two entered and found that about 660 gallons of liquor was available in the town with a value of more than \$450. Because of the quantity of the liquor involved and the inability to get them to stop trafficking the committee set about to get the evidence of the law being violated and to carry the cases into court.

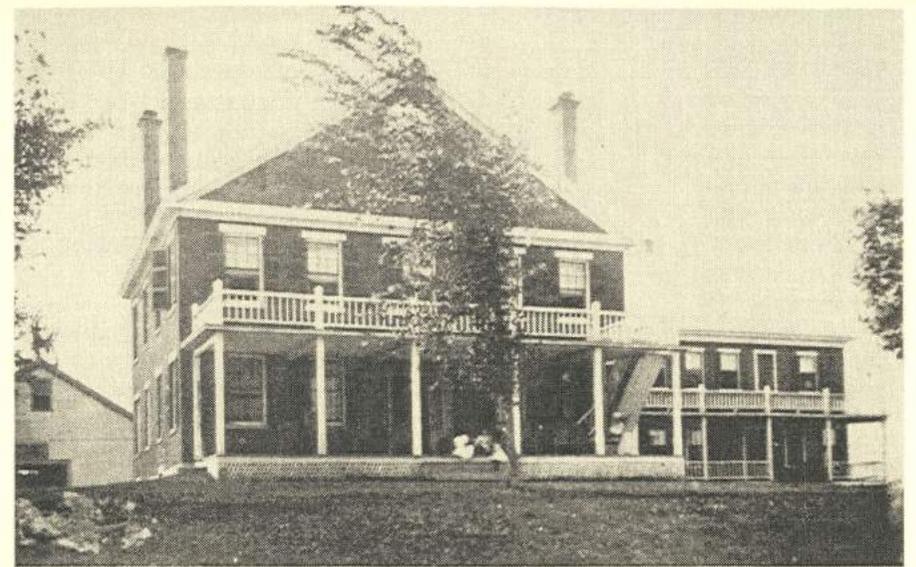
Before they could close their investigation, it was discovered by them, that two of the selectmen of the town had issued licenses to Pierce and Edmunds to deal in spirituous liquors. The committee reported that this was an untoward act of the selectmen not only making null and void the labors of the committee but also the will and vote of the town.

In 1855, several citizens petitioned the selectmen that some suitable person in the town should be licensed to sell spirituous liquors for medicinal, mechanical and chemical purposes, therefore they asked that S. W. Langmaid be licensed to sell. Langmaid was licensed for one year. His license was renewed in the year 1856 and 1857.

In 1857, it was voted to have a town agent for this purpose and John Langley was chosen. He was to receive \$3 for his services each week and to keep accurate records. Evidently his record keeping was questionable because at the next town meeting he was put under oath to swear that his record was a true one. Joseph Bartlett was chosen liquor agent and required to post a \$1,000 bond. In 1859 the voters voted to do away with having a liquor agent.

After the passing of the taverns in the late 1800's and early 1900's the summer boarding houses came into being. Many persons came for vacations in the pleasant country atmosphere. The going rate for room and board was about \$5. Probably the largest was Garvin Hill and the Lanes. Accounts of these can be found elsewhere.

The Edmunds also ran a boarding home. In the early 1900's Emma Stanyan Edmunds started operating a home taking in summer boarders. She and her husband, Noah, kept up the home until her death in 1924, when her son Edward and his wife, Mary, took over. They continued to take in boarders, eight to ten at a time until his death in 1946. Guests were registered from all the New England States. All the meals were homemade and served by local girls.



Several other places in town also took in guests. With the coming of the automobile, new methods of lodging were sought. Cabins were built on Dover Road and still remain today at the Hillcrest Motor Lodge and Camping Area. Tourist homes were also popular and two of these establishments were located on the Dover Road.

GARVIN HILL

The original Garvin to arrive in New Hampshire was Patrick who settled in the town of Bow, probably in the 1740's. Garvin's Falls is named for him. He was an educated man who, because he was a teacher, was forgiven his taxes, both church and state. Evidently, teachers were valued members of the community. He was born in 1710 and lived to the ripe old age of 91.

Rumford, as Concord was originally named, was on the frontier in those times and Indian raids on outlying farms were not uncommon. Ten men were ambushed and tomahawked in the vicinity of the present Concord Hospital during those French and Indian Wars. In order to protect their homes the townspeople petitioned the General Court (then in the Capitol at Exeter) for a militia, but funds for such a purpose were scarce. The citizens of Rumford took matters into their own hands and fortified several private houses in which nearby families could take refuge and where arms and ammunition were stored. Patrick Garvin was assigned to the house of Benjamin Rolfe who later came to fame as a member of Roger's Rangers.

Patrick Garvin had a very large family and James, born in 1734, maintained the family tradition for longevity by living to 95. He was the father of Jesse Garvin who built the brick house on the top of the hill which bears his name. Jesse was born in 1795.

He married a girl from Pembroke by whom he had two children. His first wife died when she was only 22. After a respectable year he remarried, this time choosing the red-headed Eunice Leavitt, daughter of a neighbor. She was an accomplished horse-woman who broke and trained her own horses. She augmented the Garvin family by having 13 children all but one of which lived to maturity. George died at 7 days old. All lived on the 160 acres which was originally the Shute Grant, cleared land, built the stone walls and tilled the rocky soil producing wheat, corn, barley, rye, beans, squash, flax and other crops which made the Garvins a self-sustaining family. In those days there was a mill at Short Falls where the Garvins took their grain to be milled. Parts of the old dam may still be seen from the bridge over the Suncook.

As the West opened and railroads were built, three of the sons became railroad men. One, Benjamin, trained as a machinist in the big railroad center in Concord, was the engineer who drove the first steam locomotive from Manchester to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Some of the girls became teachers, and Emma, the youngest, also moved west to Illinois where she married and had five children. Emma has left an interesting autobiography written at the age of 90. She lived to be 94.

She describes the house built by her father all too briefly. The bricks were brought by ox-cart from Portsmouth and it is safe to assume the great blocks of granite for the foundations and the four fireplace hearths downstairs were quarried in Concord.

One can conjecture that the reason Jesse went all the way to Portsmouth for the bricks — when there was a brickyard in nearby Pittsfield — was because they were either better or cheaper. It would seem that the latter might have influenced his decision. If there were cheaper bricks in Portsmouth, it is just possible that they were brought to this country as ballast in the ships which were then carrying great quantities of lumber, grain, and even iron ore to England from the colonies. We have no way of authenticating the origin of the bricks except to note that they are all hand-made and hard-fired.

According to Emma's account, her father was a very particular man. He would never allow shades or curtains at any of the windows. "He reasoned that windows were to let light and sunshine in; why use shades to keep them out?" she quotes. Her mother, who did all the spinning and weaving, had her loom in the large attic.

The big fireplace in the kitchen was used for all cooking. The crane is still there. A Dutch oven was bricked up some 30 years ago to accommodate the flue of the modern furnace. Most remarkable adjunct to this fireplace is a small door on the left wall inside the fireplace. It led to an ash pit in the cellar so that wood ashes from the fire could be available to make lye for soap.

Emma does not say which of the Garvins inherited the property when her mother died, but we know that it eventually came into the possession of Jeremiah Garvin and Anna Maria Garvin Bailey, who were twins. Under their ownership extensive changes were made in the house — probably in the late 1880's or early 1890's — certainly after Mrs. Jesse Garvin died in 1888.

All this was in preparation for its becoming a summer hotel. There was a large porch added across the front of the house, a large frame annex was built on the southwest corner of the main house consisting of a number of bedrooms on the second floor and a large dining room — sometimes called the ballroom — on the first floor with bowling alleys in the basement. The roof of the kitchen wing (one suspects the original woodshed) was raised so that there was passage from the second floor of the main house into the second floor of the annex. There was *one*

bathroom, but according to a guest of the time, there was a pitcher, washbowl and slop jar in every room.

To complete the transformation, a large tower was built at the junction of the main house and the annex. At the top was a flagpole which became a Reference Point for the early Geodetic Survey. In 1955 it was still on the records until a visiting inspector found the tower gone and removed it.

Gerald (Jerry) Garvin's son, Charles, took over the operation of the summer hotel from his father when he became director of a county farm in Derry. Many families came to Garvin Hill for the summer. (At \$5.00 a week for board and room it was probably less expensive than staying at home!). Guests arrived by train at the monumental railroad station — built in 1857 and torn down to make room for the present shopping center. A Concord coach and four horses met the guests to bring them the 8 miles to the house, and it is said that the driver requested the gentlemen to walk up the last steep rise of the hill so as not to tire the horses. At the peak of the season 50 persons could be accommodated at Garvin Hill. Most of the food was grown in a large garden; there were many fruit trees and beef, lamb and pork were produced on the farm as in the earlier days. Many prominent persons from New York and Boston were guests. There are rumors that Theodore Roosevelt was a guest before he became president, but this cannot be confirmed until the guest register is found — if it has not been destroyed.

Emma Garvin Elwood inherited the property from Gerald and Anna — probably a few years after the hotel closed in 1907. Mrs. Elwood came to Chichester each summer for three or four weeks, gave well-attended parties for local friends of the Garvin family and kept the house much as it had been. Emma found, however, that it was a long trip, so she sold the property to George Phelps of Concord. It changed hands several times — the owners in the late 20's cutting off all the marketable timber.

No owner seemed to care enough about the house to preserve it. One owner pulled down the annex, it is said, to salvage the beautiful maple floor in the "ballroom". For many years the place was abandoned, the furniture stolen or wrecked, the windows used for target practice by hunters, and some undesirables from Concord were supposed to have used it for "wild parties". It was said that no self-respecting young girl would come near the place even escorted by her "beau".

Taxes were not paid, chimneys toppled, the water tank in the top of the barn overflowed and rotted beams. Garvin Hill was a ghost of its former splendor. Occasionally those who had known it in its heyday would come and picnic on the former lawn and deplore the devastation.

In 1946 a young Navy officer and his wife saw the possibilities in Garvin Hill and bought it. Frank and Mildred Horne worked with a crew of helpers all summer — putting in windows, a furnace, electricity, an electric water pump, restoring walls and floors, repairing the slate roof — making Garvin Hill once more habitable. They managed to preserve 7 of the 8 fireplaces — one being sacrificed to make a bathroom. They lived busy lives there until 1955 when they sold the property to Jane and Steven Coons.

By then all vestiges of the annex and its tower were gone and a garage built on the old foundations. The barn was demolished together with all the outbuildings except the corncrib. The Coonses continued the restoration and began assembling stories and photographs from various sources — from Chichester friends and the scattered members of the Garvin family. In the more than 20 years the Coonses have occupied the house they have welcomed many visitors to enjoy one of the unparalleled views in New Hampshire.

In 1975 the porch, which after 80 years was showing its age, was removed. The plan was to reconstruct it as it was originally, but the house without it was so much like some of the Georgian houses in Portsmouth that the present owner decided to change the front aspect to a central entrance with pillars and granite steps and to build a brick terrace flanked by granite curbing and three granite steps — north, east, and west — instead of one. That one remaining old step still has the cast iron foot-scraper set in the stone with lead.

The four tall chimneys which identify the house from the approaching road are still standing — two of them the originals. The elm and maple trees were saplings in an 1895 photograph, now they are full grown and obscure the lines of the house which must once have been visible from the Baptist Church in Epsom, from the top of Bear Hill, and from the road to Pittsfield in North Chichester. Now one sees a clump of trees on the horizon.

With all its tribulations, the house at Garvin Hill retains much of its historic charm. It is a gallant house which has resisted (with a little help from its occupants) the onslaughts of time and vandals. It is an honestly built house. Jesse Garvin did not compromise in construction or materials. Who knows, it might just be around for Chichester's Tri-Centennial.

* HORSECORNER DISTRICT *

Horsecorner district is the area bounded by Pembroke in the southwestern part of town and down to what is now the Garvins Hill Road.

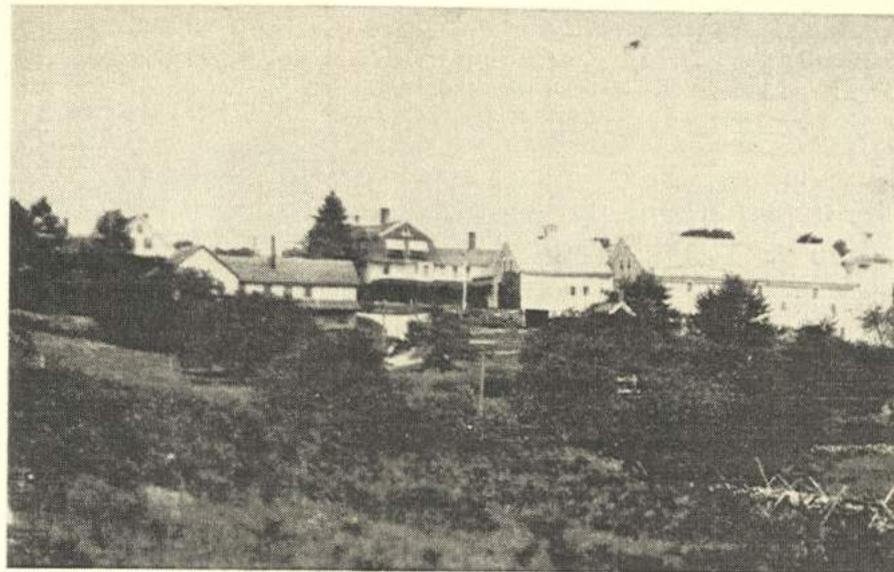
The story goes that a Revolutionary soldier from Portsmouth deserted and stole a horse and while enroute to Concord left his horse in a small cellarhole located a little below the Jordan home and finished his journey on foot. Some time later the horse was found in the corner of the cellar and it is said that is how the old neighborhood got its name.

The first settler in the area and in the town was John Morrill who received what was known as the Morrill Grant. He built a house on the property now owned by Morse. The building burnt in the late 1830's and the Morse farmhouse as it stands today was built in 1839. The house was built on the same site and a 35 foot dug well which is now in the shed was located at the corner of the original house.

* KELLEY'S CORNER *

Kelley's Corner, so called, located in the northern part of the town was named for Amasa Kelley, first physician in Chichester. After practicing in Pittsfield for a few years Dr. Kelley came to Chichester in 1799 and settled at what is known today as Kelley's Corner where he practiced medicine for the next forty years.

Dr. Kelley was considered a very successful physician and was respected by all. In his religious belief he was decidedly orthodox, and held firmly to that doctrine. He was conscientious and upright in all his dealings, constant in his attendance upon public worship while his age and strength permitted and an example of temperance, faith and charity. He died on April 7, 1847 at the age of eighty-two.



* LANE DISTRICT *

The Lanes came to Chichester in the 1790's when Ebenezer Lane and his wife Sally settled there in the fourth division, first range. They were the parents of six children, Betsey, Sarah, Huldah, David, Isiah and George. Huldah married Jeremiah Bickford who built the Alvin Hussey residence about 1820. George was a civil engineer and in 1891 surveyed the line between Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He also surveyed route 202, 4 and 9 when the road was improved through Epsom to Northwood.

A farmer, he was a very enterprising gentleman, building a dam to furnish water to run a mill during the late 1840's for about a twenty year period.

He and his wife, Annie, (Locke) had several children who continued to farm, run the mill which was later changed to steam and operated a creamery in the large building located in front of the present Hussey home during the 1890's.

During the early 1900's "The Lanes" became known to the outside world when they operated a summer boarding house. The three level, twenty two room house, became a hustling busy corner of the town. It was advertised as a quiet, retired Farm Home, with sanitary arrangement. Pleasantly located on high land, two and a half miles from railroad station, Short Falls; eight miles from Concord. Has public telephone. Pleasant drives and walks, with very fine views. Will accommodate about thirty boarders. Conveyance furnished on due notice. References exchanged. Rates of board \$1.50 per day, \$5.00 to \$9.00 per week, according to room and number of occupants or length of stay. G. W. Lane, Proprietor.

In 1911 the telephone company installed a switchboard at "The Lanes" where it remained for several years.



WEBSTER MILLS

One of the early grantors of this area which lies in the northern part of the town, was John Webster who probably was the one or his ancestors who started the mills which flourished during the 1800's.

This area was also sometimes called Smokey Hollow and after the industry slowed down sometimes is known as Sleepy Hollow.

There was a dam probably made of logs just above the bridge from a mill pond which furnished waterpower for the industries.

A large mill was located at the dam which contained an up-an-down saw. The carriage moved the logs ahead about a quarter of an inch for each down sweep of the saw. Logs were taken in from the mill pond after being floated down the river.

Near the big mill was a carriage shop where wagons and staves were made and repaired. Across the driveway and on the bank of the canal was a blacksmith shop, the stone base of the trip hammer is still there.

A little to the west was a furnace for brick making and foundry work and very good bells were known to have been cast there.

Near the end of the canal was a grist mill, where flour was ground and several kinds of grain grown by farmers in the area. Sometimes ten to twelve wagons would be waiting at the mill for their turn. One of the old grinding stones is said to be buried at the site.

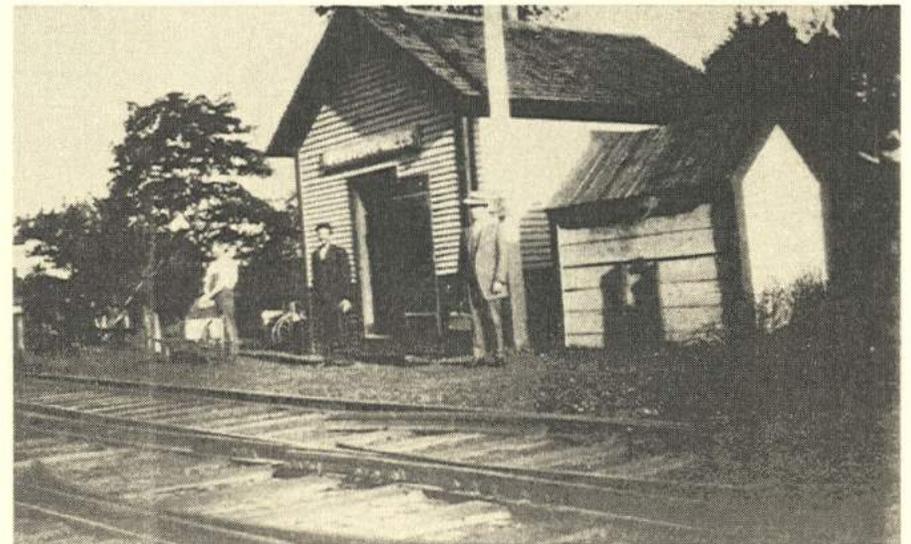
On the north side of the canal was a lumber finishing mill which made clapboards, shingles, finish boards and house blinds. Across from the mill was a large house in which the Holmes family lived and is no longer standing. He was part owner of the mills.

A little to the west of the lumber mill was a shoeshop where George Warren made handmade shoes and working from early morning until night made about a dollar a day which was fairly considerable because the rate of pay in the late 1800's was about ten cents a hour.

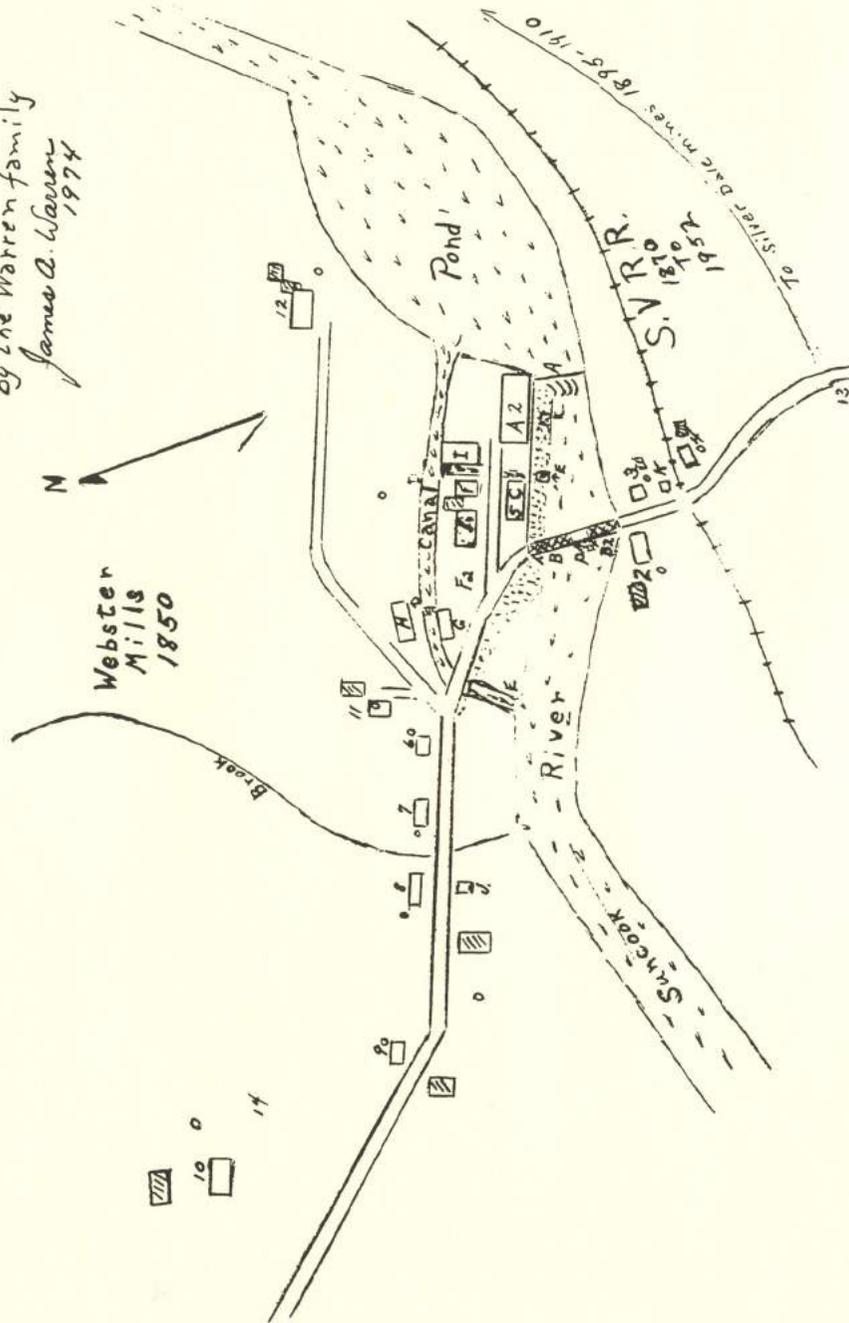
One of the early large grants in the area was to the Miller family who lived at the top of the hill above the river. The Miller homestead burned in the late 1800's and is now the site of the John McCoy home. All deeds in the area when traced back refer to the Miller grant and the road now known as the Webster Mills Road was known as the Miller road.

Other early settlers on the road were the Bennetts, Smiths, Masons, Warrens, Marstons, Greenes and the Batchelders. The Mason brothers operated a shingle mill on the brook.

Just over the bridge in Pittsfield were the railroad tracks for the Suncook Valley Railroad where lumber, fruit, and large quantities of milk were shipped by rail to all over New England.



Sketched as known
by the Warren family
James A. Warren
1974

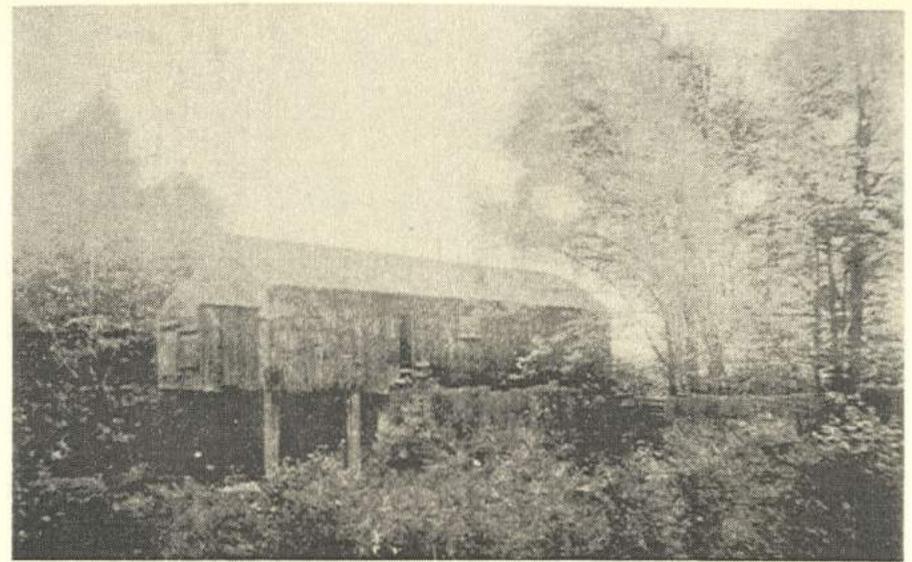
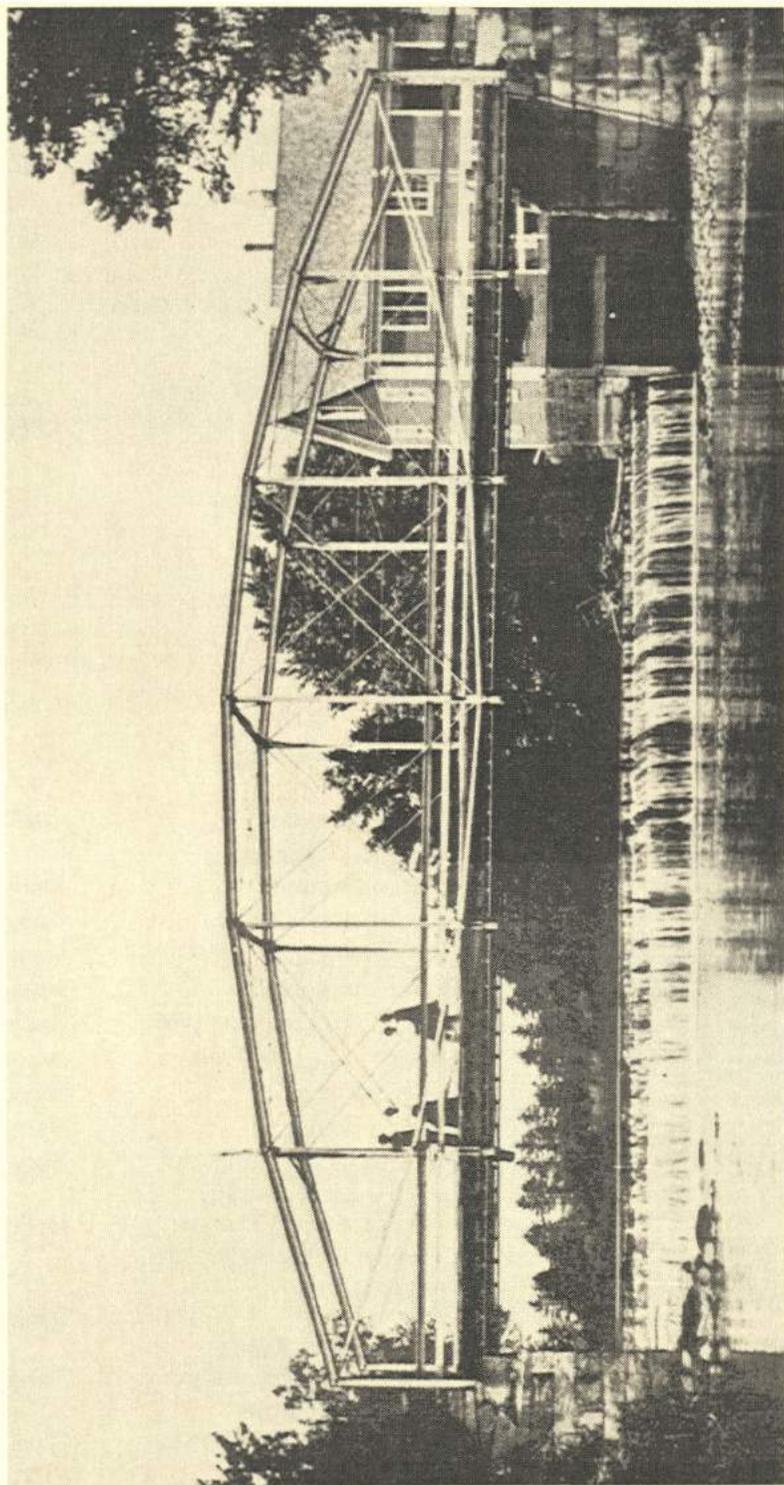


Industrial Key – Webster Mills

- A. Webster Dam
- A2. Webster Mill – main sawmill, up and down saw with bullwheel to pull logs up ramp and into the mill after being floated down river to mill pond.
- B. First bridge, “P” pier, “B2” second bridge
- C. Carriage shop – wagons, sleighs, etc.
- D. Dams on canal (two)
- E. Water spill-ways (three)
- F. Furnace – brick, foundry, bells (maybe some ore smelter work)
- F2. Brick drying yard and lumber yard
- G. Grist mill, wheat flour, barley, oats, corn etc.
- H. Custom sawmill – boards, shingles, clapboards, finish lumber
- I. Blacksmith shop, ironwork, trip or drop hammer, horse and ox shoeing, tool sharpening.
- J. Warren’s shoeshop, handmade shoes
- K. Railroad depot
- O. Water wells
- Barns

Residential Key – Webster Mills

1850 or before	Other years	1974
1. John Webster	J. Lane – J. Mason – J. Marston Frederick – Hart – Swenson	Rudberg
2. John Webster Jr.	John Fellows – Marston – Hudson	Campbell
3. — Boucher	Silver Mine Co. Buildings gone 1915	Campbell
4. Sidney Smith	Fellows – Carson – Rothwell	Ladd
5. Daniel Lewis	2nd floor Brown – Buildings gone 1890	Rudberg
6. Dearborn Marston	Drake – Maxfield – Warren – Frost	Baum
7. Clinton Marston	Warren – Bolson – Warren	Shapiro
8. George Warren	J. F. Warren – J. A. Warren	Warren
9. Obadiah Marston	Buildings gone – Moulton – owned by	Warren
10. Ebenezer Miller	Green buildings burned about 1905 Land owned by Bennett – 3 Warrens	McCoy
11. Joseph Holmes	Ordway – Carpenter – Batchelder Buildings gone about 1930 Rudberg – Warren	Baum
12. Jerry Lane	Hall – Shaw – Marston – Warren Hultman – Johnson – Plumb – Shaw	Lienhart
13. Jeremiah Marston	Four Marstons – House burned about 1926 – New House by S. Marston	Marston
14. Unknown		



EARLY INDUSTRIES

On December 23, 1823, Edward Edmunds of Chichester, a cooper, for \$90 conveyed to Elijah Sanders of Ossipee a certain tract of land located on the easterly side of the road leading from the store of James W. Towle to his house. This acre of land is today between the Central School and the stone house in Pineground.

Edmunds, a cooper, used wood to make pails, washtubs, buckets and other such utensils, also barrells and casks to hold farmers produce.

Sanders came here to build a tanyard, bark house, bark mill and mill tam. Early tanneries were usually located where hemlock bark was available for tannic acid. Vats were made to soak the hides and skins of farmers and then they were laid out to dry in open fields. The settlers not only used the leather for boots and shoes but for breeches, straps for harnesses, etc and for bags and buckets and for blacksmith and cobbler aprons.

Evidently this area abounded with commerce and trade because in back of the tannery was a circular sawmill, commonly called the Jackson Mill. On March 14, 1861 Jonathan Reed gave up his right, title and interest in the sawmill to Charles Sanders, son of Elijah Sanders. This also included the right to keep and support a dam and flow the land above the sawmill and to draw the water therefrom.

Three years later the two Sanders purchased fifteen acres from Samuel Langmaid to include the mill yard.

The Sanders also operated a shingle mill across the road on the brook named for them.

In 1853, the privilege of building a gristmill and sawmill on the mill privileges that belongs to the town on the Suncook River so called at the pine ground, so called, was voted to be given to Eneas Ordway. In 1858 he was given two more years to complete his mill and in 1860, five more. It was one of the earlier water mills which ground grain, manufactured boards, shingles and clapboards and was powered by two large turbine wheels.



GENERAL STORES

There were several stores kept on the turnpike in the early 1800's. Hurd's history states that the first store was kept by a Mr. Bradley, in 1800, location unknown. Then came Benjamin Emery, in 1817, who remained for several years and Jonathan Pierce and Olive Smart who kept a store for four or five years.

Although Hurd spoke of several stores in the early 1800's we did not have time to search out the location of these.

George P. Haines commenced trading in Pine Ground in 1847, now Varney's. He ran the store and postoffice and kept a hotel for awhile. The house attached to the store was used as a tavern and the large barn contained stalls for the travelers horses. With the coming of the stagecoach the store became a stage stop for the coaches that passed through the town, two or three times a week.

Haines was one of the first to manufacture friction matches in the area and also carried on quite an extensive shoe manufacturing business.

His son, George H. Haines, returned here in 1867 and began a carriage business in the former Locke shop. Reuben Locke and his four sons, all journeymen carriage painters came here from Gilmantown in 1857 and erected a shop for the manufacture of carriages and sleighs and for about five years carried on quite an extensive business in that line, especially in the department of carriage painting. When the war for the suppression of the Rebellion came on the sons all enlisted in the Union army, Locke sold out and left town.



From the beginning, his business flourished and in 1869 he needed additional space. A large building was erected, the lower story used as a shop for building his sleighs and carriages and the upper story for a paint shop and trimming room. This was located in back of the general store.

Across the street, he built two blacksmith shops and a long two story building with a ramp in the rear which he used for storage. Later he bought the Advent Chapel to also be used for storage. His business compassed five buildings and were used to their uttermost capacity. Goods were shipped to Boston and other cities in New England.

In front of the paint shop were drive-on scales where grain, hay and coal was weighed after coming in by train.

After the death of the senior Haines in the late 1890's, he took over the general store which he ran until 1905 when he retired on account of ill health.

Harry S. Kelley and George Lake formed a partnership in 1906 and ran the store for a short while until Lake established a store on Bear Hill Road.

Kelley continued running the general store until his death in 1951 when his wife Belle and daughter, Mary Ordway, took over the operation of both the postoffice and store.

The Varneys purchased the business in 1955 and the postoffice was moved into a small building outside the Ordway home where it remained until 1975 when Mrs. Ordway retired. The building is now used as a wool shop next door to the Gary Ordway home.



In 1857 a Union store building was erected at Chichester Centre, near the Methodist meeting house, and Carter Wilder kept a country store here for several years. Hurd's history shows several owners of the years, John S. Drake, Jonathan Leavitt, Charles L. Brown, Jonathan Kendall, Augustus Sheldon and Herbert T. Leavitt, Leavitt operated the store in the late 1800's until 1911, also the Chichester Centre postoffice. Leavitt was quite an extensive dealer in corn and flour and in 1884 leased a building at the Chichester railroad station for storing his corn, flour, grain and other heavy goods which he had shipped from the West for buyers in this area.

On May 21, 1911, Leon A. Sanborn purchased the store from Leavitt and with the aid of his mother, ran the store and postoffice. That fall he married, Helen Langmaid, and they continued to run the store for thirty-five years. The postoffice was discontinued in October, 1935.

In July 1946 the store was sold to George Wetherby who only ran it a short time selling to Edward Buzzell in 1948. Mr. Buzzell died in 1951 and his wife, Eliza, ran the store for the next few years selling it to John MacIvor in 1955. He and his wife, Milda, continued operation until he retired due to ill health in 1966.

The building thus ceased to exist as a general store. Since that time it has changed owners several times and is today owned by Herbert Oakes & Sons who operate it as a home improvement center.

In May 1963, a small general store was built at the corner of the Horsecorner Road and Route 4. The Beanstalk 202, owned and operated by Albert L. Hatch continues operation at the same site today. The original store was enlarged to accommodate more stock and in 1977 an additional building was built for the sale of used and new furniture adjacent to the general store.



Beanstalk 202, 1975

After examining the early records of the town of Chichester, N.H., it became evident that the early settlers were devoutly religious people; and it is clear that they would have established organized religious worship at an earlier date, but they were constantly being made aware of their limitations in view of the fact that a greater portion of their time was occupied in providing for the ones dependent upon them. There were meetings of a religious nature held in homes which consisted of Bible reading and prayer conducted by laymen very early. We remember that they came into a wilderness that was barren and desolate and the matter of survival was incumbent upon their native ingenuity. But it requires no stretch of the imagination to picture a few families looking to God for help and protection believing that God had power for their several necessities.

The locality now known as Pittsfield was originally a part of the town of Chichester. Early in the town records a regularly called meeting of the town was convened in the home of John Cram near the present Washington House and an article was inserted in the warrant for March 8, 1775 which reads as follows: "Put to vote to see if the town would raise any money to supply the town with a Gospel minister. Passed in the negative." This article was "by petition," which would lead the historian to believe that some unknown early inhabitant had a vision of the necessity for religious worship and the nurture of children and youth in Christian piety and knowledge.

On June 16, 1776 the Rev. Stephen Chase of Newcastle baptized several children as he passed through the region and found a need for this special ministration. We have no further knowledge of Mr. Chase in connection with other activities.

Again on March 11, 1778 as the colonies were being troubled by war, an article was put into the town warrant "to see if the freeholders will vote to raise any money to hire a Gospel minister some part of the year;" and again the article failed to pass; but on March 10, 1779 it was "voted to raise 45£ (\$225.) toward the support of the Gospel." This was the first successful attempt to establish preaching in the town to be paid for by a town appropriation, and we have no way of knowing how long the 45£ lasted, but according to the subsequent rate agreed upon in the contract between the town and the Rev. Josiah Carpenter in 1791 we are justified in assuming that likely it was sufficient to pay for services for the greater part of a year.

On March 10, 1784 it was voted to raise 10£ (\$60) for preaching in the year. Then for some time only desultory attempts were made for organized Christian work. There was considerable agitation respecting the building of a meeting-house and the laying out of land for a parsonage lot, and because of this, the matter of hiring a minister had to be suspended. It is recorded by town clerk Simeon Hilliard that the desire was to build the meeting-house at the center of the town and it was "voted that the center be at the "pine-bushes" so called on lot #3 in the 6th range of the first division and that Elijah Ring be the man to purchase the lots #3 and #5 for the town. Then on June 8, 1784 it was voted to "fall twenty acres of trees on the lot #3 in the 6th range and first division that hath lately been purchased for a parsonage and center." It was voted that Jeremiah Sanborn, Elijah Ring, and John Langmaid be a committee to see to the falling of the trees.

From March 11, 1729 when a vote was taken by the proprietors of the town of Chichester held in Hampton, N.H. "that ye meeting-house be built and finished by ye last day of November next, to the year 1791 there was considerable controversy

over the religious situation. In the early year even the size of the building was specified: "25 foot wide, 35 foot long, and 11 foot stud." For some unknown reason this vote and many others that were passed were not acted upon. From 1772 to 1791 was an unsettled period that considered details that appear to have occupied considerable time and thought.

On February 21, 1771 a town meeting was called in the house of Captain John Langmaid (near the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Frangione) and it was voted that Lieut. John Hilliard, Captain James Marden, and Joshua Lane be a committee "to carry on what business the town will think proper to build the meeting-house. Twenty years passed before action was taken and Captain Marden died before the building was completed.

There must have been some form of church organization prior to or by 1791 because there is reference in the town records to Deacon Jeremiah Lane in that year. The building committee, Abraham True, Captain James Marden, and Jeremiah Sanborn started work in that year. The specifications for the building were "40 feet wide, 52 feet long, and 23 feet post." This building was used by the Congregationalists until 1838 and is now the town hall and library.

In the same year 1791 on July 13th a town meeting was called and it was voted: "to call a fast and set it apart as a day of humiliation and prayer to God in this place for His presence with us and His blessing to rest upon us in all our undertakings as a Christian people." At the same time it was voted "to call a council of a number of neighboring ministers and churches — to form the discipline and found and establish a church — in order to have an ordained minister in this town who shall go in and out before this people teaching the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ truly." Jonathan Leavitt, Hilyard Shaw and Joseph Morrill was a committee chosen.

It was a source of satisfaction to the group that was anxious to establish a church that this degree of progress had been achieved and it is not difficult to imagine that some forms of jubilation took place. But obstacles began to appear. There were some citizens who questioned the wisdom of settling a minister before the meeting-house was completed. The Rev. Josiah Carpenter, recently graduated from Dartmouth College, had preached in town several times in a very acceptable manner, and his name was at the head of the list of those who were to be considered. But on August 22, 1791 at a duly called town meeting held in the barn of Captain John Langmaid sixteen men dissented against settling Mr. Carpenter or anyone else. And four men asked to be excused from paying the church tax. But on September 6, 1791 the town voted to call Mr. Carpenter to be the town minister at a salary of 50£ (\$250) for the first year, 55£ (\$275) for the second year, 60£ (\$300) for the third year, 65£ (\$325) for the fourth year, and the last sum to be his stated salary to be raised by taxes. Part of the salary was to be in meat and grain. He was to receive also twenty-five cords of "hard firewood" valued at 82¢ a cord: There were those persons belonging to other religious sects like the Baptist and Quakers who asked the town to excuse them from paying the church tax, but the request was refused. However, the Toleration Act of 1819 took care of this.



The meeting house was erected on the site of the tablet that commemorates the event. Originally it faced north. Pews were sold to the highest bidder. Boards were sold for \$5.00 per thousand and clapboards cost \$10 per thousand. Pews on the floor level sold for from \$30 to \$60 each and the gallery pews for \$11.26 each.

Rev. Josiah Carpenter must have been a colorful character. He was born in Stafford, Connecticut in 1762 and was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1787. He was only fourteen years old when the Revolutionary War broke out, but he and three brothers engaged in the conflict. He was ordained in Chichester on November 2, 1791, was present at the ordination of the first minister in Northwood in 1799, and preached the funeral sermon of Rev. Isaac Smith in Gilmanton who had been pastor there for forty-three years. At one time he was chaplain of the New Hampshire Legislature. Dismissed from Chichester in 1827 and died in 1851.

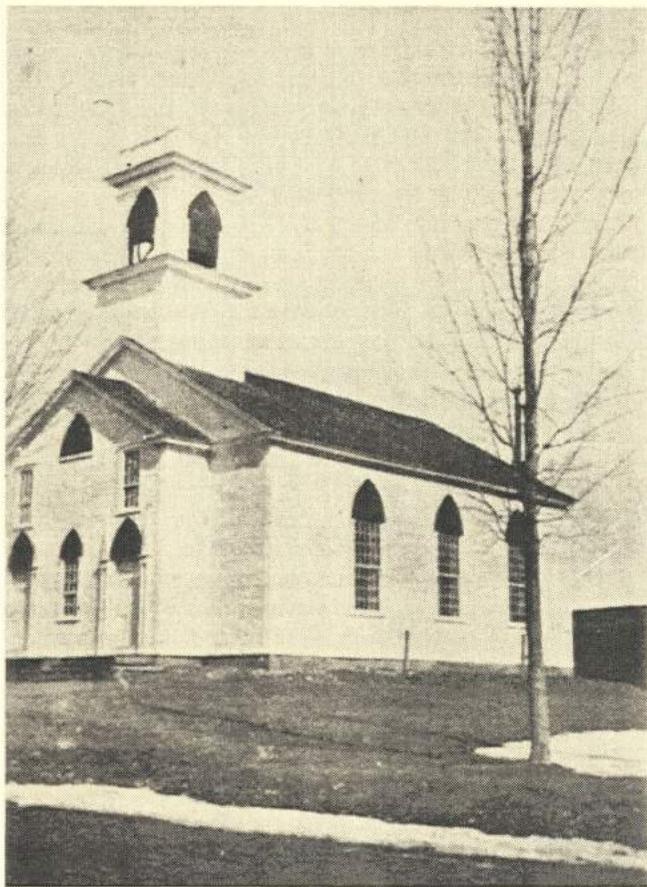
The Toleration Act was passed by the legislature in 1819 and from that time there was to be no further taxation for the support of an established church, but from 1791 there were frequent appeals to the selectmen to be freed from paying the church tax because of persons being identified with other religious bodies. Upon one occasion the matter was brought before the annual town meeting for a vote.

In the same year (1819) a circuit rider by the name of Rev. John Lord belonging to the Pembroke circuit rode on horse-back through this small settlement and according to general belief preached to a group that gathered near a spring across the road from the home of Miss Madeline Sanborn. Her ancestor True Sanborn was living in the same house then. It was from this inauspicious beginning that the

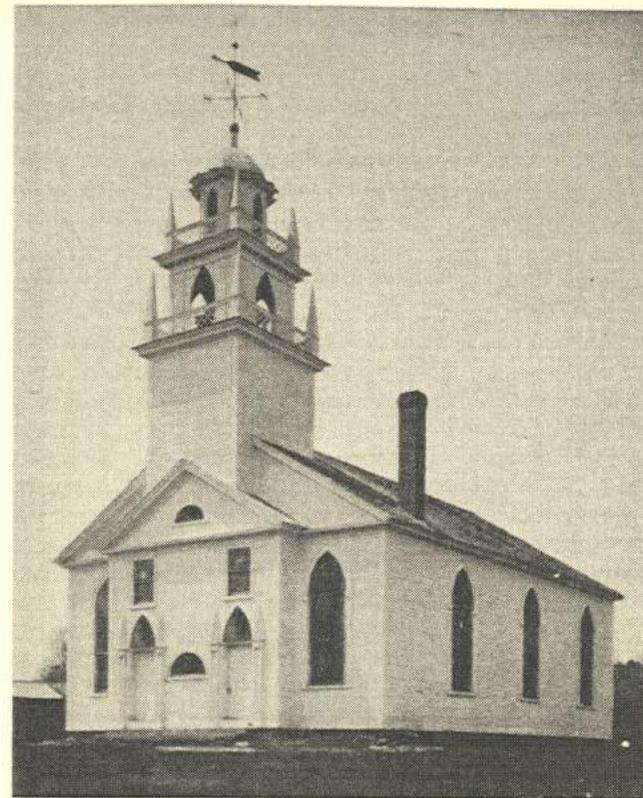
Methodist church had its origin. In 1829 Rev. Ezekiel Stickney came to this town and organized a class which met from time to time in homes and in the Center School house. The members were John Mason – leader, Hannah Winslow, Nancy Batchelder, John W. Morrill, Betsy Seavey, Hannah Drake, Josiah Knowles, Debora Marston, Amos Barton, and Mehitable Barton. The first meeting was held in the home of David Carpenter, the son of the first minister who lived in the Marshall Sanborn house now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Kroll.

The Methodist Society was formed in 1830 as a result of the labors of Rev. Orlands Hinds of the Pembroke circuit. Sixty members composed the society, and the members were divided into three classes with a leader for each class; the leaders were Elijah Sanders, John Bailey, and Hiram Chase. It became necessary to have a church building and so a committee was appointed consisting of: Abraham Drake, Elijah Sanders, Cheney Reed, and Caleb Beede, assisted by Hiram Chase and True Sanborn Sr. The present Methodist Church building was erected in the summer of 1833 and completed on November 23rd of that year free of debt. Sabbath-schools were started by the Congregationalists in 1832 under the leadership of Rev. Rufus Putnam, and by the Methodists in 1835 by Rev. William Locke. In the summer of 1834 a Methodist revival was held on the Batchelder farm on Bear Hill at which time 35 members were added to the church making a total of 95 members. It was in this period (1840) that the Chichester Wesleyan Female Society was organized which, under several names, has been a very effective service organization of ladies of the church. Also in this period (1847) the parsonage was built. The first settled minister, Rev. F. A. Hews was appointed and renovations were made in the church.





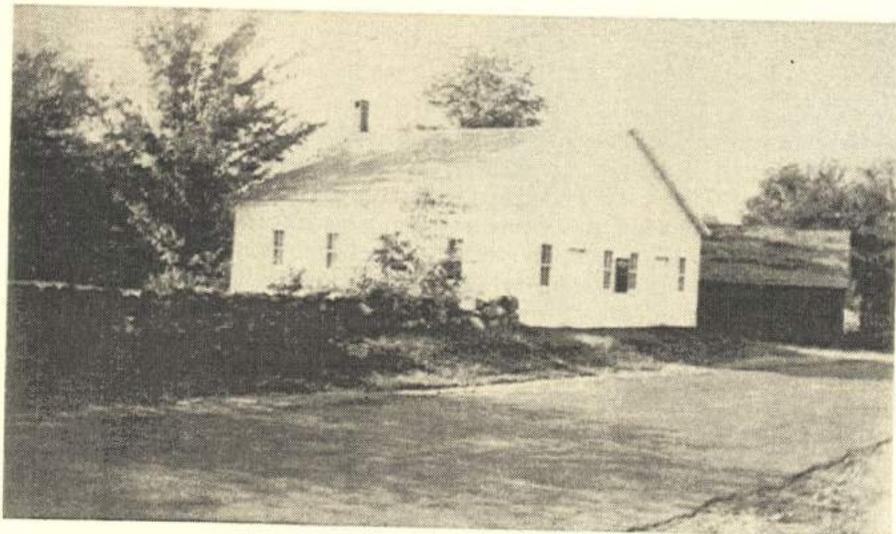
In 1908 the Epworth League was formed and for many years served as an opportunity to cultivate a deeper faith in the youth. It was during the pastorate of Rev. Carroll Carter in 1933 that the centennial of the church building was observed with appropriate services. And it was then that a beautiful American flag was presented to the church by Mr. Henry Sanborn, the town's last Civil War veteran. The Parish Hall was completed in 1955 and has served well as places for Sabbath school classes, for suppers, and for other social gatherings. In the same year a beautiful Baldwin organ was purchased aided by donations and memorial gifts, and this instrument has been effective in the ministry of music. In the 1960's Rev. William L. Shafer served the church and brought to his work an unusual understanding of directing choruses. Upon several occasions this group under the capable direction of Mr. Shafer and with some 30 singers, cantatas at Easter and Christmas were presented. Also the group presented gratuitous concerts at the State Hospital and at the I.O.O.F. Home in Concord.



In 1855 the Ladies Benevolent Society of the Congregational Church was organized. Article II of their constitution indicates the purpose of the group. "The object of the Society shall be that of mutual improvement, the promotions of Christian sociability, and the execution of such benevolent schemes as the members shall devise and vote." There were thirty charter members and twenty-three honorary members. The first meeting was held at the parsonage during the pastorate of Rev. S. M. Blanchard. Mrs. Blanchard was elected president, Mrs. Sarah Stanyan, vice president, Mrs. Carpenter, treasurer, and Mrs. Mary Jane Langmaid, secretary. One of the first endeavors of this worthy organization was to purchase a pulpit Bible in 1856 which may still be seen at the church. Three ladies served in the office of secretary for long periods were Mrs. Annie Towle, Mrs. Emma Sanborn, and Mrs. Sadie Langmaid. Mary Edmunds occupied the president's office for 20 years. Mrs. Blanche Edmunds served as treasurer for 43 years and brought to her responsibility an accuracy that was commendable.

Through the years the members of this organization were in the front ranks to assist in worthy causes and works. In 1924 a new barn was built at the parsonage at a cost of \$714.20 and the ladies paid more than half of this amount. Both ladies organizations in the two churches have conducted very successful Saturday night suppers since the 1930's.

In the early 1820's there were those who were not in sympathy with the existing religious emphasis and were anxious to follow other forms for the practice of piety. There was quite a formidable group who gathered in homes to hear Elder William Swain and others preach Baptist doctrine and their interpretation of the Scriptures. Elder Swain, at that time, lived in Pittsfield but in later life lived and died in the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Edmunds. He was the great-great-grandfather of Richard and Walter Sanborn and Charles Langmaid. This interest in religion issued in a revival that took place in 1824-1825. One of the fruits of the revival was a concerted endeavor to establish a Baptist church in the town. In the spring of 1825 the quarterly conference of the New Durham Association was to meet at Loudon Center and this group sent representatives to lay the matter before the Association. The Association looked with favor upon the suggestion and appointed a committee to help organize a church. In May 1825 the elders met the people at Benjamin Kaime's home and brought into being the Chichester Baptist church. The first members were: Benjamin Kaime, Ebenezer Fellows, Stephen Robey, John Fellows, Samuel B. Miller, Dearborn Mason, Levi Staniels, Sarah Fellows, Mary Miller, Sally Kaime, Rhoda Page, and Mary Mason. In 1826 Benjamin Kaime gave the land and the meeting-house was erected and dedicated — Elder Arthur Caverno preached the sermon. In the next year Rev. William Swain was settled as the first minister and preached until 1833. This church continued to serve the community for a hundred and thirty years and then the building was sold to be used for storage purposes.



From the middle of the 19th century there was considerable interest in the doctrines promulgated by the Adventists and the chief proponent in this town was Eneas Ordway who was born in Loudon in 1809 and came here early in life. He operated a water-mill on the Suncook river grinding grain and sawing lumber. With the help of several contributors he built the chapel which was dedicated in 1864 according to the historical sketch by David Brown Esq. This body of believers never had a settled minister and desultory services were held by them until 1884 when Mr. Ordway died, and in the next year Captain George H. Haines bought the building which he used to store his carriages and sleighs in. Little is known of this sect in town — its activities or outreach. If records were once kept they are not available for use now. We do know of one restriction; i.e., neither the subjects of slavery nor politics were allowed to be presented in this pulpit. The group became absorbed in near by churches and denominational activities ceased with the death of Mr. Ordway who contributed the larger share toward erecting the building. Toward the close of Mrs. Mary Haines' life she gave the building to the Ladies' Benevolent Society of the Congregational Church which it has used for social events, sales, and public suppers. When the new highway was laid out in 1956 the chapel was moved back to its present location on the easterly side of route 28.

In the year 1924 the Rev. Addison F. Gifford, who had served for a time in the Brentwood Congregational Church was called and he served in the pastorate until his death on June 14, 1928. In the fall of that year the church called Rev. H. Franklin Parker who preached for 41 years. It was during Mr. Parker's pastorate that the church observed the 100th anniversary of the building of the present edifice. The anniversary sermon was delivered by the Rev. Richard F. Beyer of Concord.

Upon Mr. Parker's retirement the pulpit was occupied by a layman, Mr. James MacFarlane, who concluded his activities after two years.

In 1972 Mr. Richard Slater, a senior at Gordon-Conwell Divinity School was called to the pastorate and rendered very acceptable service. He was ordained in the church on Sept. 22, 1974. In the year 1976 he was called to serve two churches in Ohio. In February of 1977 the Rev. Dr. Joseph Coughlin was called to the pastorate from the teaching and missionary services in Central America. Extensive repairs were made on the parsonage. Mr. Coughlin is getting settled and is doing excellent work. Rev. Alan Goodwin is at present (1977) serving the Methodist Church.

CHICHESTER HYMN

Words and Music by REV. H. FRANKLIN PARKER, 1965



1.

Arise ye Christian band today,
Now is the time for mighty deed;
Awake and live thy soul's high faith,
And move man by thy mighty creed.

2.

Let us be strong while yet 'tis day,
Night cometh on and hides our plan;
Let us be strong and fear no ill,
Thus shall we serve our God and man.

3.

Lift high the truth of Christ our Lord,
That nations far away may see
That we have found a shelter from the storm,
And strength for days that are to be.

4.

Arise, then, evermore to work,
Our task to do the Master's will;
Behold, there's One gone on before,
May He in us His work fulfill.

SCHOOLS

The early settlers of Chichester soon saw the need for education for their children. As early as 1778 forty pounds was voted for schooling and the selectmen and assessors were appointed to find places for schooling. The scholars met in private homes and were taught to read and cipher by Joseph Dow who was also the first proprietor's clerk of Chichester.

Records of 1781 state the town meeting was held in the school house on Gilmanton Road but later records show that it wasn't until 1788 that Simeon Hilliard, Jonathan Leavitt, Abraham True and Nathaniel Morrill were chosen as a committee to build four schools, one at the mouth of Loudon Road, one near Joseph Morrells on Bare Hill, one near Paul Morrill's, and one on Canterbury Road.

During the year 1789 Abraham True was paid fifteen pounds and six shillings for building a school house on Bare Hill Road and Jonathan Leavitt, thirty pounds fourteen shillings as part payment for two school houses and in 1790 Abraham Sanborn was paid sixteen pounds and sixteen shillings.

True had come to Chichester that year from Deerfield and the school house that he built is believed to be the only original one still standing. Joseph Morrell lived at what is now the corner of Bear Hill and the Pike Road, or the same site as where the school is located today. The school originally sat next to Mitchell's but was moved to its present site after a fire destroyed their home. No record has been found that the school was ever destroyed or rebuilt so it is safe to assume it is the original building.



Bear Hill School, 1906

Left to right - Lena Winslow, Mrs. Perry, Agnes Lake, Charles Winslow, Edwin Winslow, Lawrence Harvey, Richmond McKerley, Chase Harvey, Marion Shaw, Frank Harvey, Clinton Shaw.

The one at the mouth of Loudon Road became a union district with Loudon and is longer standing, the one located near Paul Morrill's was burned in the 1840's and rebuilt on the same site and the one located on Canterbury Road was presumed to set on land now owned by the Frank Hatch's, although not verified.

A school was built in the Lane district about 1790 and Dr. John Osborne was paid seven pounds, four shillings in 1791 for school keeping. Other early teachers in this area were Joshua Lane, Hannah Seavey and Sally Leavitt.

Ephraim Leavitt taught school in the Northern district, John Leavitt and Jonathan Stanyan on Canterbury Road and Ruth Page in the Southern district.

By 1801 it became apparent that each district should choose its own committee and manage its own affairs and they were given permission to do so at the annual town meeting that year. In 1803 the school money was proportioned to five districts. They were the Seavey (Lane) district, Morrill's, Canterbury Road, Barehill and the North district.

At a special town meeting held on June 1811 the records state that the schools must be improved as the law directs. It said that we cannot so much as collect wood for our fires. For this purpose it was decided to limit the school districts.

District #1 was to begin at the Epsom line and contain 51 lots in the seventh range, first division, the eighth range to Loudon line, then northwest on the Loudon line to Pittsfield, southeast on Pittsfield line to the Suncook river and southerly to said river to the said seventh range.

District #2 was to contain the whole of the sixth range to the seventh at Thomas Lakes, the whole fourth division to Barehill and the fifth range owned on the Barehill road.

District #3 contained the second and fourth range in the first division and so much of fifth that was not owned by the Barehill district.

District #4 all the land in the first range and first division up to lot #30 also 16 lots in the first range, fourth division, also second range in fourth division to John Garvins land.

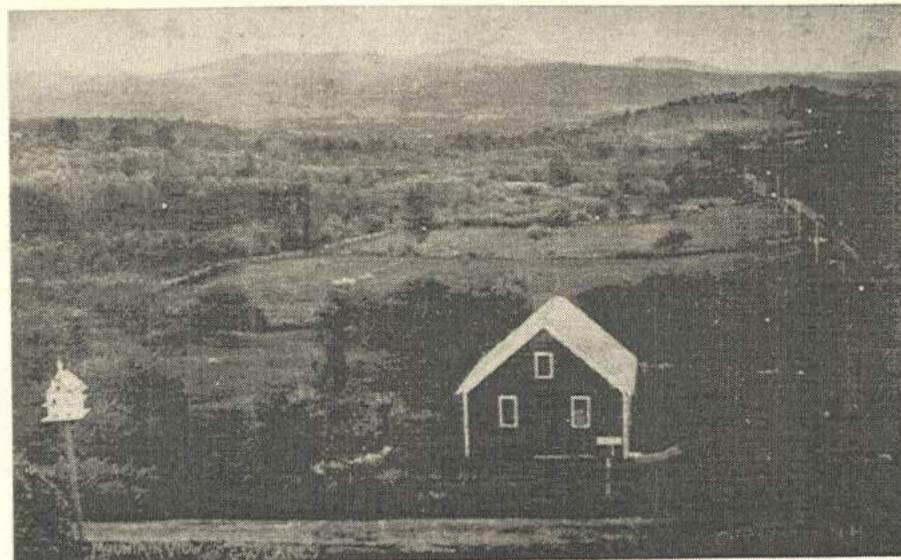
District #5 all of Paul Morrill's land and all the land in the first range, fourth division from #16 to the Loudon line and all land in the second range, fourth division that lays between Ephraim Leavitts line and the Loudon line.

In 1815 the school house in the Seavey district burned and was rebuilt in 1816. For this purpose a special school house tax was imposed on the settlers that year in addition to their town, county and state tax.

Numerous changes in the districts were proposed over the years but it wasn't until 1820 that the first change took place when district #3 was divided into two districts. The division began at Edward Edmunds thence to the Epsom line thence from Amos Langleys by the meeting house to Canterbury road, so called, thence taking Canterbury road so called from Epsom line to the Center Road, so called to be one district, and the other to take all that formerly belonged to said district #3 and composed all the land from what is now the Center to about where the school now sits to the Epsom line. The Centre district became #6.

Another important vote also took place in 1820 when it was decided not to have any superintending committee appointed by the selectmen but to let each district choose their own. Each year, it was the custom for the selectmen to appoint someone to act as an overseer of the schools, much like our superintendent today. They were to visit the schools and make a report to the town each year.

In 1826, the school lot next to Eliphalet Drake who lived at the corner of Lane Road was sold at auction to David Brown for \$210.



Lane School

Although the schools were supported chiefly by the town, the early involvement of the state in providing funds for the support of them was undertaken in 1828 when "The Literary Fund" was set up and financed by a bank tax. Like today, these funds had strings attached, various school boards and committees were required.

On April 3, 1829, ten men petitioned the town to unite the teaching of their children with families from Loudon to operate the school at the mouth of Loudon Road. This was approved and the New Dover District sent off.

In 1835 the Lane school was moved to the corner located near Deacon Lane's cider mill. David Drake was paid \$33 to repair the inside of the school and Josiah Staniels \$34.90 to finish the outside. Apparently vandalism was a problem of those days too because in 1838 it was decided that it should be locked and the key was to be kept by Isiah Lane.

The district records of district #4 from 1824 to 1886 are on file at the N.H. Historical Society in Concord given by the Ederly family.

Hosea Knowlton, James Brown, Benjamin Kaime, Nathaniel True, John Berry, John Bailey and Abraham Drake were chosen as a committee in 1837 for locating a spot for a school in district #3. The place chosen was at the westerly end of the old meeting house beginning at the corner rounds of the road leading from Center Road so called by the back side of the old meeting house and the rangeway leading from said road to Rev. Putnam's house then running southerly five rods. The size of the lot was one tenth of an acre and estimated to be worth about \$2.



Pineground School

Later district #3 was divided and all the part of the district that laid on the Gilmanton Road was given to the Parade, so called, and set off as district #9 from district #3 by giving up their part of the old school house. This was apparently when the Pineground school was built although the location of the old school is unknown it must have been near the old meeting house, probably on the pound road.

Evidently this disivion did not meet the approval of everyone in that part of town because just a few years later in 1840, William Sanders petitioned the town to merge the two districts into one, but the voters let the matter stand.

1840 also saw the school at Horsecorner burned to be rebuilt the following year on the site where it sits today.

For the next several years attempts to alter the boundaries of the school districts were made so that the money would be equal or nearly so in each district. At the 1847 meeting it was voted to investigate only district #3 which seemed to be the poorer one.

Soon after this district #3 and a portion of district #6 joined with district #2 in Epsom to become the Chichester-Epsom union school district. District #7 petitioned to join district #10 in Loudon to build a school on Pleasant Street. This petition was strongly protested and it was not until 1851 that a location for the school was settled upon on the Foster property, just over the Chichester-Loudon line and the school house was built. This was known as Chichester-Loudon union school district #1.

In 1855, the total number of scholars attending school was 380, 31 over the age of 16. Schools were kept both summer and winter with the average wage for a teacher \$9.60 per month and the total amount expended for the seven schools was \$512 or an average of \$1.34 per scholar.

Chichester-Loudon union school district #2 was formed in 1857 with district #5 and part of district #6 joining with districts #3 and 11 of Loudon.

By 1863 concerned with the education their children were getting, the townspeople voted that a committee be appointed to recommend a series of textbooks for the schools. It was the custom in those days for the scholars to own their own books, some did not have any, and in many instances only the teacher had any text. It was not until some twenty years later that the towns purchased their own books.

In the March 1865 report made by Edward Langmaid, Superintending School Committee, parents were asked to see that the older boys obey the rules of the committee and build the school fires. If this was not done it was said an added expense of keeping the schools fires would be added to the already burdensome school taxes. He also pointed out that children were seen going to school with pistols, guns, skates and sleds and pockets full for trading. Taking firearms to school endangered lives, he stated. In one instance that year a hole made by a musketball went through the side of a school and in district #6 a ball remains in the ceiling for all to see.

Kelly Corner school house was built in 1879 at a cost of \$655. The expenses for the building were as follows; contractors \$385, land damages \$50, expense of laying out the lot \$20, painting \$40, seats \$50, foundation and grading \$50, stove and funnel \$20, privy, \$20 and contingencies \$20.



Kelley's Corner Schoolhouse

As early as 1808 school teachers were required to obtain a certificate from some reputable school master, minister, or professor, plus a certificate as to their moral character. In 1880, the Supreme Court made it mandatory that these certificates be presented to the Prudential Committee before they could be employed or paid for their services stating that they were qualified to instruct the youth in the branches to be taught in school.

The 1880 record also showed that the "Literary Fund", set apart for use of the schools, was so small a sum, when equally divided among the districts, that the voters felt no benefit could be derived from it. A suggestion was made to the selectmen that it be kept until enough could be obtained to purchase maps. The selectmen conceded with their views and kept the funds in the town treasury.

In 1885 the legislature passed a law authorizing towns to appropriate money for the purchase of textbooks for the use of their schools. It felt that if teachers were properly paid from public money than books should also be furnished to every scholar free. The law stated "The parents, masters, or guardians of the scholars attending school shall supply such scholars with the books required to be used in the schools, and upon neglect or refusal, after notice, the same shall be furnished by the school committee at the expense of the town and the cost be added to the next annual tax of such parent, master or guardian, if able to pay the same."

In 1886 the old district system of school management was changed to a town system. This was as a result of another decision of the N.H. Supreme Court to abolish each and every school district heretofore existing in the town (both whole and union). Although the statute did limit districts it did not limit the number of schools and it further provided that adjoining towns or districts could contract with each other.

The first school board was elected to take on the duties of managing the eight schools that were in existence at that time. They were Samuel A. Kendall, who had served previously on the superintending school committee, O. T. Maxfield and C. Lake. Desiring to encourage in every possible way both parents and children in the laudable efforts to make the latter both regular and punctual in school attendance, the roll or honor, giving the names of all pupils who have been present every half day of a term without being tardy was published for the first time in the March 1, 1886 annual report. This tradition exists today, some 90 years later.

The Lane school was damaged extensively by fire in 1888 and no winter session was held. It was repaired and back in session for the summer with Abbie A. Lane as teacher.

During the following year, voters provided only enough money for two terms in each of the schools. By agreement with the Loudon board an experiment was tried of a Union school at the New Dover schoolhouse, the expense to be divided equally. This experiment was not very successful with Loudon refusing to do anything for its support. Scholars had to be transported to the Centre school adding an extra burden to the taxpayers. During the summer, the Lane and Horsecorner schools were also discontinued and the pupils brought to the Center where the consolidation was not fully satisfactory.

The only mention of a private school in the town was made in 1889 report when it stated that 25 or more pupils were being kept in a private school at the Centre school by John P. Brown, the privileges of which were shared by members of several schools and by some from outside the town limits.

A law was passed that year that as of January 1890 all pupils attending school shall be supplied books and other supplies at the expense of the town. The amount of money which the town was obliged to raise was to allow for two terms of ten weeks each making vacations longer than school. There was no systematic course of study and it was hoped with a uniform series of textbooks that the town would adopt a course of study where there was ample time in the twelve years of ordinary school life for them to complete their advancement in all branches, reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, bookkeeping, practical mathematics, geography and elements of grammer.

A liberal appropriation of \$500 was made that year enabling the school board not only to make the needed change in books and to pay for them but to provide for three terms for every school child in the town.

The old district idea was clung to by the townspeople, each wanted to keep his child in the neighborhood school, so little progress was made on combining schools to reduce costs. The number of scholars dwindled, New Dover school operated for only half the year, and two years later the Horsecorner closed. The four pupils remaining in that area of the town were sent to Canterbury and Concord which proved less expensive than educating them in Chichester.

By 1894 most of the schools were badly in need of repairs. The Lane school was not considered fit to have a winter term and Bear Hill, Kelleys Corner, Pine-ground and the Center schools needed attention. Although funds were not available the school board saw the necessary repairs were made by going into debt to provide the necessary money. This was later reimbursed to them by the town.

An agent for the enumeration of the children in the district was appointed in 1896. Up until this time the selectmen gave a report each year to the school board of the number of children in the town between the ages of five and fifteen and they included the figure in their annual report.

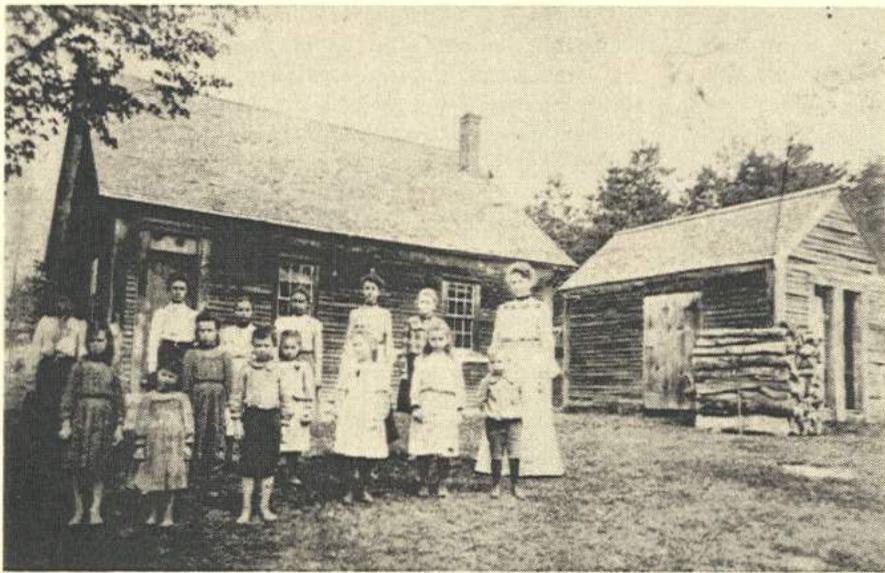
The early 1900's saw six schools in operation. Kelley's Corner, now the home of the Clough's, Bear Hill, later moved a few feet up the road and now the home of the Mitchell's, Horse Corner, now the home of the Davison's, Center, Rand's home, Pine Ground, French's home, and New Dover which sat in the corner of the King and Canterbury Roads just over the Chichester-Loudon line and has since fallen down.

In 1910 the town had its first superintendent and two years later its first music teacher.

During World War I, war gardens were kept by the children. Records show that during 1919 there was a frost every month of that year in some localities of the town hindering the successful completion of some gardens but others prospered.

Shortly after the close of the war new state laws were rendered to aid school districts meeting certain conditions for the first time. Thrift Saving Societies came into being to encourage children to save and Dr. Gilmore of Pittsfield was named as the first school physician. Drawing was added to the school curriculum.

New Dover School was closed in 1924 and a suggestion was made that a modern two room schoolhouse be built near the junction of Bear Hill and the State road to consolidate Kelley's Corner, Bear Hill and the Pine Ground schools.



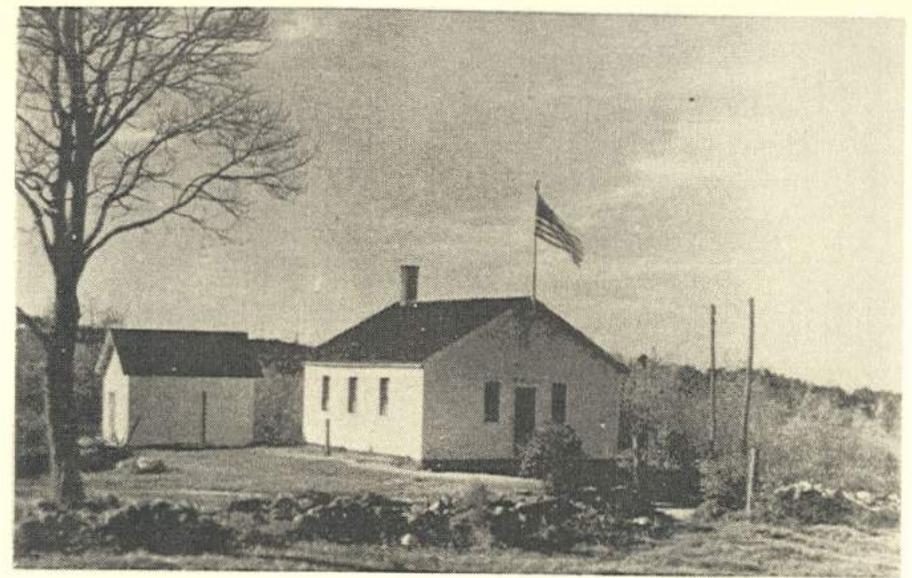
New Dover School

Horsecorner school was closed in 1926 and shortly afterward Kelley's Corner. Seeing the need for some formal ceremony, graduation exercises were introduced in 1929. The tradition is carried on to this day in the community. Exercises were held in the Grange Hall until 1968 when classes became so large that it was decided to move the ceremony to the Central School where they are held outdoors when the weather permits.

Ruth B. Whitcomb was named school nurse in 1931 a post she held for the next thirty four years, retiring in 1965. Workbooks became the new system of reading, keeping the children profitably employed and learning to read with enjoyment by themselves.

Electricity was added to the school house at Pine Ground and the Center during 1932 and the superintendent returned three per cent of his salary, a little over \$10., to help out costs of the school program. Free milk was furnished to all needy children by the Federal Government that winter but it was noted that Chichester people should feel proud that during that time conditions in Chichester were such that no children were found in need of free milk.

During 1937 the school district became the recipient of a trust fund from the Myron J. Leavitt estate to be used to help improve the quality of the schools. It was estimated at that time the annual income from the trust would be \$2,700 or more. This has increased over the years and since its acceptance the school district has received over \$175,000 from the fund which has helped every taxpayers pocketbook for the past forty years.



Horsecorner School

At the March 1943 town meeting voters were asked to set aside a sum of money from the surplus as a sinking fund for the purpose of constructing a new school house. \$200 was also voted to purchase the so called Langmaid Ball Grounds as a school site. This land was later deeded to the school district for \$1 and is the site of the present school.

1946 saw the Horsecorner school which had reopened in 1932 because of increased enrollment in that area, closed again. Kelley Corner's was re-opened and hot lunches introduced. Housewives continued to can surplus food for the program and they were made and delivered daily to the three schools.

World War II babies were coming of school age and taxing the overcrowded one room schools. Voters seeing the need for a centralized school gave their approval for a new school and in 1949 the Central School was opened containing four classrooms and a small kitchen at a cost of \$55,957. 94 children were enrolled.

School enrollment began to climb and by 1960 the school committee saw a need for two additional rooms but the voters turned it down. A study committee met to consider space in various community buildings to house either the first or second grade and regional study groups were formed to investigate moving Grades 7 and 8 to Pittsfield to alleviate the overcrowding.

At the beginning of the study, Barnstead, Chichester, Epsom and Pittsfield participated. Epsom withdrew after town hearings were held to further study. The plan under consideration involved additional classrooms in the elementary local schools in each community and at the Pittsfield High School. Transportation was to be furnished all students and programs up-dated. While the plan received favorable support the final conclusion was reached that the overall cost would be prohibitive, so the plan was dropped.



Centre School

At the March 1961 school meeting the voters approved an additional two rooms on the southern end of the building. Enrollment had risen to 138.

Two years later the school board was still confronted with increasing enrollments creating space problems at the school. The advisory committee was reactivated and reports made to the citizens at a special hearing that fall. Three plans were proposed, two classrooms with a multi-use room; four rooms, two to be unfinished; and to build two classrooms. All plans included a new kitchen, boiler room, storage and other related space.

While investigating plans and costs of adding to the school, the committee was invited to participate in an informal study with Salisbury, Boscawen, Penacook, Loudon and Canterbury into a cooperative School Plan. Members attended the meetings and in March 1964 were authorized to formally study the plan.

Meanwhile the voters accepted plan three, to build two classrooms and construction proceeded. Problems arose however because between the time the plan was approved and the job put out for bid the price of materials had risen some \$12,000. One classroom was completed and put into use and plans made to finish the other when need arose. A maintenance and heating facility was installed adequate enough for a sixteen room school. The system used No. 4 heating oil designed to cut cost of heating the school. A new kitchen, kitchen storage area and a storage room for the custodian was completed and a small room set aside for a library. New toilets were partially completed, an artesian well drilled and a new pump and water storage facilities installed.

After a public hearing held in January 1965, Chichester withdrew from the proposal to establish a cooperative school district to be known as the Merrimack Valley School, because of the cost and its geographical location. Canterbury also withdrew but the remaining towns accepted the proposal and the Merrimack Valley Regional High School was built in Penacook.

At the school district meeting that year another attempt was made to add the multi-use room, the last year it has been proposed to the voters. Additional funds were voted to complete an additional classroom, the kitchen, paving the driveway and installing a new septic tank and drainage fields.

A kindergarten was opened in the Town Hall three days a week for four and five year olds under the supervision of Beulah Carter. The private run kindergarten is still in operation today with Linda Williams becoming director in 1975.

1967 saw the last addition to the school as it is today, two classrooms with a sliding partition designed so that it could be used as one large room when necessary.

June 1968 saw the last class graduating from Concord High School because Concord had voted earlier not to accept tuition students from Chichester because of over crowding in their classrooms.

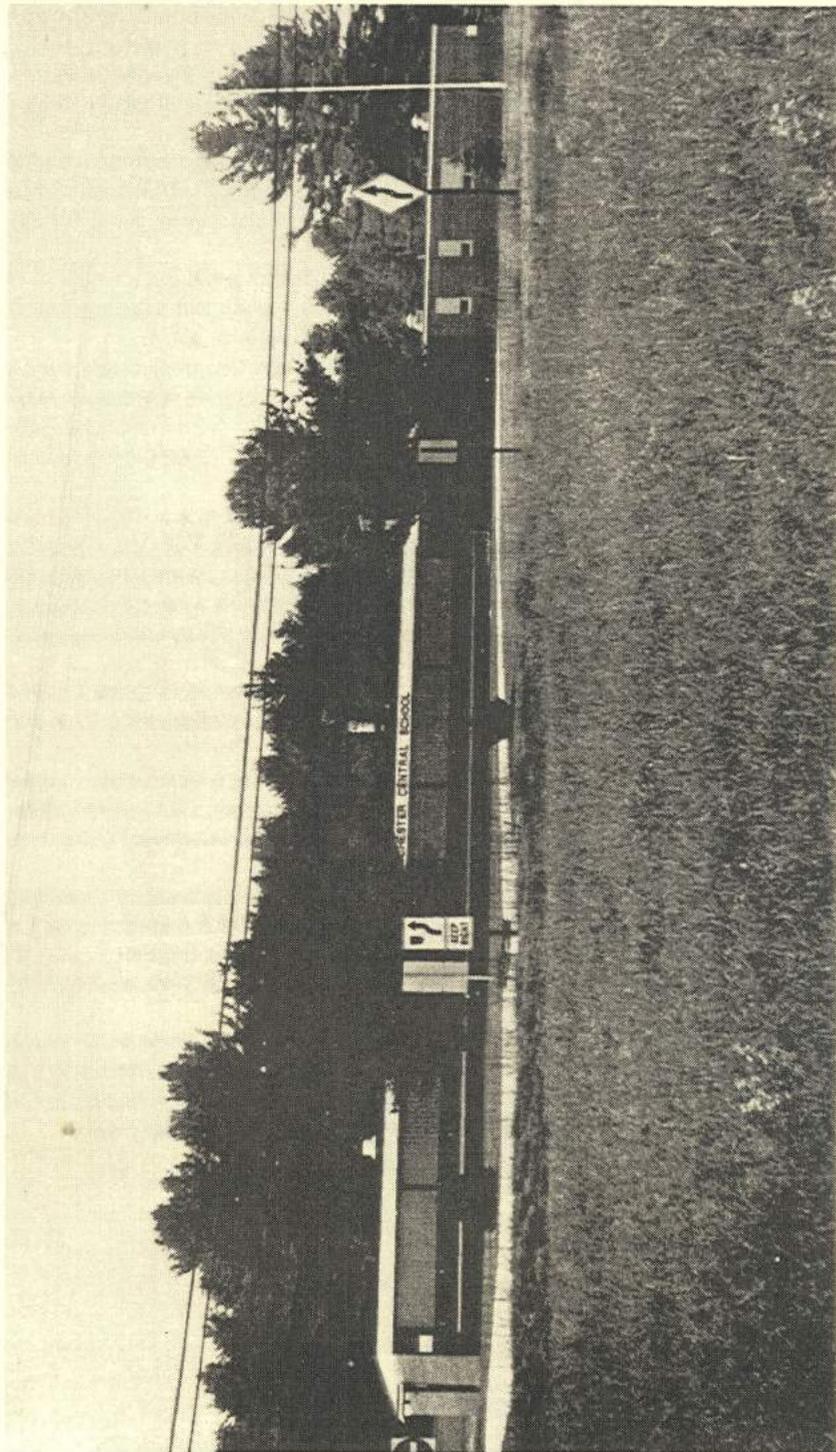
A Regional Enrollment Area school district planning committee was created at the March 1969 meeting. Studies were made in creating a Suncook Valley cooperative school district first with Allenstown, Chichester, Epsom and Pembroke and then with Allenstown dropping out, just the three towns. Both plans were discarded and an area school concept came into being. This was for a twenty year plan designed to guarantee the education of our high school students.

Pembroke Academy became the AREA school and Pembroke School District as the receiving district became responsible for the education of grades 9-12 and the local school district for grades 1-8.

In September 1969, Dr. Anna Earle, a practicing child psychiatrist, opened an ungraded country day school for children ages 6 through 14, at the "Hook Place" on route 28, now the home of the Frekeys. Just how successful the school was is unknown but it was only open for a years term.

1970 saw Chichester moved into Supervisory Union 53 to efficiently co-ordinate the primary studies in our school with other towns in the AREA complex, and the school district officers were elected by a non-partisan ballot for the first time. The General Court passed legislation in the 1969 session to provide for elections in this manner.

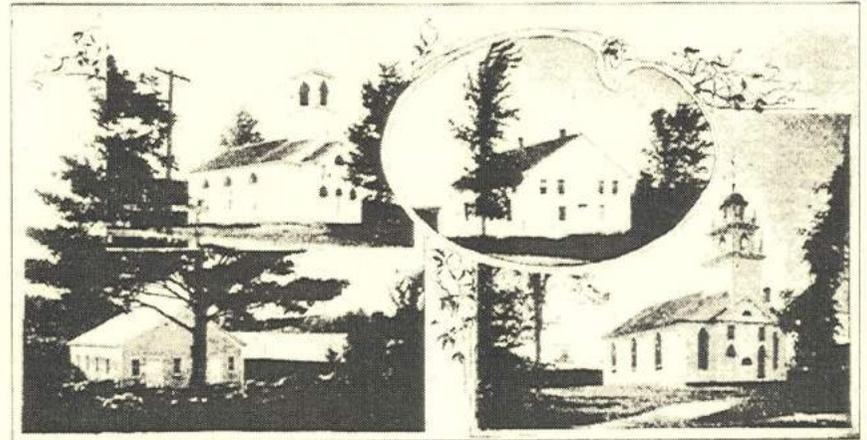
The Irene Ricker Memorial Fund was established in 1973 to provide for a monetary award to be given to a graduating girl and boy each year. The fund was established by donations given by the townspeople in her memory. She had served as a school bus driver in the district for fifteen years until her untimely death.



Chichester Central School, 1977

CHAS. E. GARVIN, PRESIDENT.
 J. L. T. SHAW, SECRETARY.
 J. L. SANBORN, TREASURER.

CHAS. A. LANGMAID, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT.
 JAMES A. RICHMOND, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT.



THE CHICHESTER OLD HOME WEEK ASSOCIATION CORDIALLY INVITES
 YOU TO RETURN TO THE OLD TOWN AND PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND
 ANNUAL OBSERVANCE OF

“OLD HOME WEEK”

AND ESPECIALLY TO BE PRESENT AT PUBLIC EXERCISES APPROPRIATE TO
 THE OCCASION, TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1902.

CHAS. H. CARPENTER,
 TRUE SANBORN,
 EDSON C. BERRY,

INVITATION COMMITTEE.

WALTER S. LANGMAID,
 H. T. LEAVITT,
 GEO. W. LAKE,
 GEO. W. LANE,
 O. T. MAXFIELD,
 O. F. DAVIS,
 J. FRANK TOWLE,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

OLD HOME DAY

Old Home Day in New Hampshire was instituted by Governor Frank Rollins in 1899. Two years later, On August 10, 1901 a group of Chichester citizens chosen by the Grange met in the Grange Hall to consider Old Home Week. Because of the unfavorable weather only a few were present but after careful consideration it was thought best to proceed with the business of the meeting instead of postponing it to a later date. The Rev. James Richmond, pastor of the Congregational Church, was chosen temporary chairman and John L.T. Shaw, temporary secretary. It was voted to organize the Chichester Old Home Week Association and the following by-laws were adopted.

Article 1. This association shall be known as the Chichester Old Home Week Association.

Article 2. The object of this association is to promote the welfare of the town by increasing the interest in the town among former residents.

Article 3. All people now living in town, or former residents thereof, are members of this association without further action.

Article 4. The annual meeting of this association shall be held on the fourth Saturday of May at such place and hour as the executive board may determine.

Article 5. Special meetings of the association or meetings of the executive board may be called by the president and secretary, as circumstances demand.

Article 6. The officers of the association shall consist of a president, two vice presidents, secretary, treasurer and executive committee of three who shall constitute the executive board. These officers shall be elected at the annual meeting called for the purpose and shall hold office until their successors are elected.

Article 7. This association may, by vote, hold an Old Home Week meeting upon any day of Old Home Week which it may select, and at such place within the town as it, by vote, determines.

Article 8. The committees to carry into effect action in regard to Old Home Week meeting shall consist of committees on location of writing, invitation, finance, program, and dinner and such committees shall each consist of three members appointed by the president. The president and secretary shall be ex-officio members of each committee in addition to the three appointed.

Article 9. The secretary shall cause to be distributed such printed material bearing upon Old Home Week observance as may be furnished by the New Hampshire Old Home Week Association, or ordered by this association, and shall compile a list of former residents of the town, with post-office address as far as possible and forward to the state association.

Article 10. The by-laws of this association may be amended at any annual meeting by vote of two thirds of the members present and voting.

In accordance with the by-laws officers of the association were elected as follows — Charles Garvin, president; Herbert T. Leavitt and George M. Munsey, vice presidents; John L. T. Shaw, secretary; Charles W. Langmaid, treasurer; Walter S. Langmaid, Otis T. Maxfield and Oliver F. Davis, executive committee; Charles H. Carpenter, George W. Lane and Col. True Sanborn, invitation committee.

It was decided to hold the first observance on August 24, 1901 and to raise about thirty dollars by subscription for the benefit of the association.

The Grange Hall was filled with residents and former residents to exchange greetings and listen to an appropriate program. Rev. Richmond gave the opening prayer, followed by a welcoming address by Garvin. The featured speaker was

Harry F. Lake and selections were played by the Chichester-Pittsfield Brass Band. Henry Mitchell, lecturer of the N.H. State Grange spoke and an original poem was read by Jeremy Sanborn and a reading given by Mrs. Lila Thompson French. Remarks were made by the Rev. Elisa Wilkins, Chaplain of the N.H. State Prison at that time, W.A. Swain of Lynn, Mass. and Truman Maxfield of Pittsfield, former residents. Col. True Sanborn gave a few remarks reminiscent of the Civil War and exhibited interesting relics of the battlefield.

After the program a supper was served. A heavy shower interfered with plans for a band concert to be held on Garvin Hill and a bonfire to be set-off. These were postponed until the following Saturday night.

The following year the celebration was to be held at Langmaid's grove on the turnpike but because of threatening weather 500 or more gathered in the Grange Hall.

After greeting old friends and neighbors, dinner was served and a program was held in the afternoon including many remarks from homecoming visitors and a band concert. The week was ushered in with bonfires on the hilltops.

This is the first year that printed invitations were made. On the cover was the picture of the town churches and the town hall.

In 1903, bonfires and fireworks were set off on Saturday night, August 15th atop of Brown, Bear, Drake and Garvin Hills. The following Tuesday a picnic was held in Langmaid's Park, a acre grove of stately pines located on what is now Dover Road near the homes of Donald Hodgdon and Jaan Luikmil. Many old fashioned sports were participated in by the young and the old with generous awards presented to the winners.

Dinner consisted of a lamb roasted over an open fire and beanhole beans were served in half pint souvenir bean pots which were taken home by all. 333 were used for the occasion and several are in existence today.

The program consisted of choir selections conducted by the master of the old singing school, Jonathan C. Lane of Concord, and speaking by several homecomers.

1904 saw elaborate signs posted in the grove directing people to the "Old Red Spring". Everyone was anxious to use this new found spring and signs directed them to follow them. After an extensive travel through the woods they found the spring and on lifting a wooden cover beheld a bed spring which had been painted red. Each one was careful not to tell his neighbor until everyone had visited the spring. Dinner consisted of beanhole beans, steamed clams and corn.

In 1905, an outdoor bowling alley was built in the grove and enjoyed by the youth while the oldsters listened to an address by the Honorable James Lyford, collector of the port of Boston. In the evening, fireworks were set off at Garvin Hill and the Civil War veterans sat around a camp fire and were entertained by the Old Home Day committee with Col. True Sanborn in command.

The observances continued for the next ten years starting with union church services rotating between the Congregational and the Methodist Episcopal Church as it was known then and picnics held in Langmaid's Grove supplementing the beanhole beans. Evening programs were held in the Grange Hall.

In 1916 the association voted not to hold any observance and none was held for the next few years probably because of World War I.

The exercises were resumed on August 19, 1919 consisting of a picnic held in Langmaid's Grove and a literary program that evening in the Grange Hall.

This was the last observance held by the Old Home Week Association. Programs were printed from 1902 to 1915 with pictures, the program and list of committees.

Meeting in 1925, the association decided to turn over its small amount in the treasury to the Chichester Grange to assist their Old Home Day observance. The Grange evidently did not use the money because the association met again in 1927 and decided to return the money in the hands of the treasurer over to the town to be used with and in addition to the amount of money appropriated by the town for the 200th anniversary celebration.

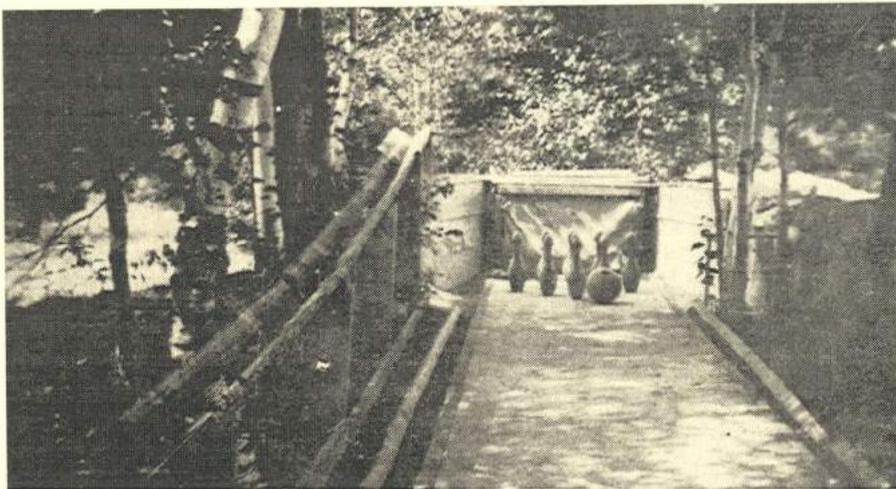
The 1925 report printed by the Old Home Week Association said that this old town, along with several others who would observe its 200th anniversary in 1927, had "fallen from grace" in the matter of Old Home Day observance, having celebrated in no year for the last five, but this year, through the public spirit of the Grange, which arranged and directed the exercises, there was an Old Home Day observance on August 20 with union Old Home Day Sunday services having been held in the Congregational Church. There were sports in the morning, and a dinner in the Grange Hall at noon. The afternoon program included speakers and music by local talent.

No report was issued for 1926 so it is not known if an observance was held that year or not. A check of the annual meeting shows no funds being voted for the purpose but the Grange at that time sponsored the event.

In 1927 the Old Home Day celebration was merged with the 200th anniversary of the founding of the town. On Sunday, August 21st, a large union meeting was held in the Congregational Church. The Rev. William E. Gardner, Rector of the Church of the Messiah in Boston, preached a sermon on the general theme of the difference in the thought of men two hundred years ago and the thoughts of men of that time, in reference to God, Heaven, Hell and their fellow men. The church was crowded to the doors.

Monday, the 22nd was given up to family reunions, among the largest was the Lake family, descendants of Thomas Lake, an earlier settler. The reunion was held at the Town Hall where 115 members of the family gathered.

Tuesday, exercises were held in the Grange Hall. Both afternoon and evening saw crowds that could not easily be accommodated, but nevertheless their interest was so great that they stayed for hours to hear the full exercises.



Outdoor bowling alley much like the one that existed in Langmaid's Grove where Old Home Day celebrations were held in the early 1900's.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

At 2 O'Clock

Music
 Invocation
 Welcome
 Announcement

 Remarks
 Music
 Historical Sketch
 Soprano Solo
 Early History of First Church
 Special Message

Memorial to Paul Morrill,
 First Settler
 Soprano Solo
 Address
 Music
 Benediction
 Silver Fox Patrol, Boy Scouts,
 Melvin D. Sanborn, Scout Master, in attendance

Georgi's Orchestra
 Rev. William E. Gardner
 Leon A. Sanborn, First Selectman
 John L. T. Shaw, Chairman of the
 Centennial Committee
 Governor Huntley N. Spaulding
 Orchestra
 Harry S. Kelley, Town Clerk
 Mary Shaw MacMahon
 Elsie Sanborn Weeks
 Mayor of Chichester, England
 Delivered by Rev. Gardner

Fred P. Morrill
 Mary Shaw MacMahon
 Harry F. Lake, Esq.
 Orchestra
 Rev. Addison F. Gifford

EVENING PROGRAM

At 8 O'Clock

Music
 Invocation
 Selection
 George W. Philbrick, First Tenor
 William B. McInnis, Second Tenor
 Melvin R. Crowell, Baritone
 Herbert W. Rainie, Bass
 Message from Pittsfield
 Selection
 Greetings from Epsom
 Solo
 Greetings from Loudon
 Banjo Solo
 Greetings from Pembroke
 Solo
 Remarks
 Selection
 Address
 Song, America
 Benediction

Georgi's Orchestra
 Rev. John N. Barrett
 Temple Male Quartette

 Rev. Walter Scott
 Temple Quartette
 Hon. Walter H. Tripp
 Herbert Sumner Sargent
 Everett P. Jenkins
 Victoria Welcome Mahoney
 Laurence F. Whittemore
 Paul LeClair Towle
 Former Residents & Descendants
 Temple Quartette
 Hon. Fred N. Marden
 By the Audience
 Rev. John H. Vincent

The following is an excerpt from the address given by Governor Spaulding – “Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am always glad to attend an Old Home Week celebration. This fine idea of Governor Frank W. Rollins has given pleasure to thousands of people and has benefited our state in many ways. I hope it will continue to do so indefinitely. It is good to know that as many observances as ever are being held this week in all parts of the state.

Again, I am always glad to come over into the Suncook Valley and see my friends in this section, for I have not forgotten the fine – cooperative spirit, under the leadership of my very good friend, Mr. Dame, which was shown in helping me in my work as Food Administrator during the World War. It has been proven many times to me in the past that I have many friends in this part of the state, and one of the objects I have always in mind is to be worthy of their continued regard and esteem.

The Suncook Valley is very much in the limelight this week because of the celebration of the 200th anniversary of its settlement. Last month I attended Concord's similar observance and learned of its history. I heard how it was once swallowed up by Bow, one of your own group of towns, and how it had to fight hard, at home and abroad, in Portsmouth and London, to preserve its identity.

As you know, Concord settlers came from Massachusetts and took up their lands under the authority of a Massachusetts grant. Your ancestors came from southeastern New Hampshire and your grant, like that of Bow, was from Governor Wentworth of New Hampshire. When the conflict of authority was settled and the boundary fixed, Suncook Valley won, Concord lost.

Your orator of today read to us at Concord in the finest style the historical address prepared for the occasion by Miss Frances Abbott. One of its interesting features to me was the way in which it tied up forty of the first families to settle in Concord with their living representatives in that city today. I do not know whether Mr. Lake plans to touch up on that subject as regards Chichester, but it has principally concerned with the early history of your town pleased me to learn that at least one half of the families are represented here today.

From the first days of its settlement, the Suncook Valley has had its difficult problems to solve and it has them today in common with the rest of the state. In the way in which it has met some of its emergencies, it has set an example of pluck and resource for all New Hampshire and I know it will continue to do so.”

The Old Home Week Association booklet did not mention a large bonfire that was held on Saturday, the 20th of August to usher in the event. An address given at a later Old Home Day celebration by Leon A. Sanborn mentioned that one was held on Bear Hill in a pasture owned at that time by Walter Batchelder, the barrells being hauled there by truck for the occasion.

The officers of the Old Home Week Association who planned the event were E. F. Grady, president, H. M. Sanborn and H. H. Frost, vice presidents, L. S. Sanborn, secretary-treasurer and A. S. Dame and H. M. Sanborn, executive committee.

From 1927 until 1940 we have not found any record of Old Home Day celebrations being observed but they may have been.

In 1940, \$25 was appropriated at the annual town meeting to be used to help pay for the event by a separate article in the warrant. This was continued for the next seven years when the sum was raised to \$50 in 1948 and it was included in the town budget for the first time.

Although the town sent many boys to serve in World War II the Old Home Day celebrations continued with events being held in Bailey's Grove. It was during one of these events that the late Leon Sanborn spoke relating the past celebrations. An excerpt from his address follows “Since Old Home Day has been carried along under the auspices of Chichester Grange it is needless to go into detail about the occasions, only to say that each year brings together many friends and many happy memories are talked about each year. This year is a year in which the home means more to us than at any time in the history of our country. I wonder, do we appreciate the fact that we are living in a country on which no bombs have dropped. How horrible are the facts that thousands of homes across the oceans have been destroyed. Homes that were cherished as much as ours, homes that a few short years ago were prosperous, full of joy and happiness, and again today we are again to enjoy visiting some one we may have not seen for some time. Let us fully appreciate that we are privileged to once again mingle with each other, and in order that these occasions may continue, let us all strive to do our part in this conflict, no matter how hard the task, with our shoulder all to the wheel, we'll truly continue to keep our old homes.”

During the forties, fifties and the early sixties the observances were held at Bailey's Grove, located next to the Central School, with beanhole beans served for dinner. The afternoon program usually consisted of a speaker and music. The men enjoyed a baseball game with the single men challenging the married men. In the evening entertainments were held in the Grange Hall consisting of home talent plays or minstrel shows. 1966 was the first year a parade was held to begin the events.

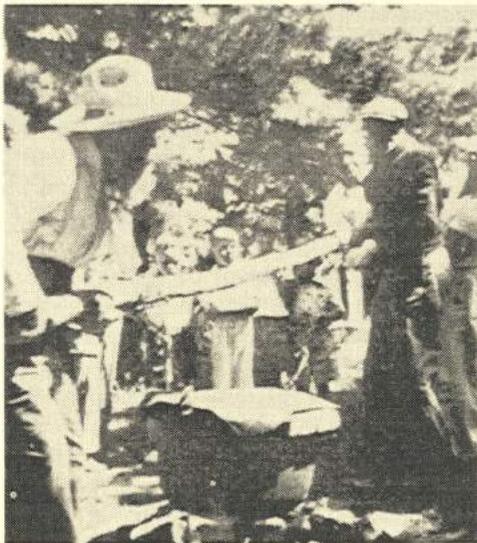
1968 was the first time the Old Home Day event was held at the Carpenter Memorial Park where it is presently held. The park was given to the town in 1964 by the late Charles N. Batchelder, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carpenter for whom the park is named.

A parade was held and the children's parade at the park prior to the beanhole dinner. Showers interrupted the days events and the concert by the Epsom Band was moved indoors to the Chichester Grange Hall. A dance was held in the evening.

Similar events were held in the following year and in 1970 a firemen's muster was held featuring hose laying and relay contests and three one-act plays were presented for the evenings festivities. “Tired of Church”, “The New Neighbor” and “The Old Fashioned Girl”.

For the past few years the events have continued in the same tradition, a parade to begin the day-long events, followed by a children's parade at the park, children's games and dinner. The afternoon speaking program has been discontinued and evening events were not held in 1974 and 1975. In 1976 the evening event was revived and the Pittsfield Area Arts Council presented a musical “Yankee Doodle”.

Much of the credit for the Old Home Day events goes to the Chichester Grange who have endeavored to see that the celebration is held each year. Funds for the events have been voted for the past thirty odd years by the voters at the annual Town Meeting. The Marden family, three generations of them, have continued the preparation of the beanhole beans served at each celebration. We hope with the birth of the fourth generation this year that the tradition for which Chichester has become famous will continue for many years.



CHICHESTER BRASS BAND

The formation of the band took place on February 14, 1896 at the home of the late Oliver Drake. Albert Dame, F. M. Egerly and H. S. Kelley were appointed to procure a suitable place for rehearsals and in March of that year it was decided to meet at the Armory hall in the Town House (now the library).

The band met for rehearsals and in August the Northwood Narrows band made a visit and both bands played in the lower hall. The first public appearance was given for the Ladies Aid Society at the Chichester Grange Hall on September 23. They also played October 31 for a Republican rally held in the Grange Hall with each of the eleven members taking part receiving 32 cents each for the performance.

Several concerts were given in 1897. The band assisted by Peabody's band of West Concord gave a concert in the Grange Hall in February, played for the Ladies Aid Society in May, and for the Northwood Narrows Band at Bickford's Grove in Northwood that summer. An open air concert was also held at Chichester Center.

A concert was given at the Grange Hall in January of 1898. Admission for the concert was 15¢, an oyster supper 20¢ and dancing 25¢ with the Jubal orchestra furnishing the music.

Several persons from Epsom joined the band in May and on the fourth of July they performed at a picnic held in Langmaids grove.

Records do not show how long the band continued but we do know they played for the Old Home Day observance in 1901.

CARPENTER MEMORIAL PARK

This fifty acre park was given to the town in 1964 by the late Charles N. Batchelder, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carpenter, for whom the park is named.

It consists of twenty acres on the north side of Bear Hill Road consisting of two large pine groves and a large field bordering Route 28 and thirty acres on the south side of the highway consisting of a wooded area and an area which could be used as an addition to the Pineground Cemetery when the need arises, and a small plot bordering the Suncook River north of Corliss home.

\$300 was voted in 1965 for improving and developing the park and work progressed. The small field next to Bear Hill Road for parking and an entrance area was cleared and the trees in the natural bowl area were thinned. The 4-H club contributed in the weeding and thinning work and the Neighborhood Youth Corps under the Community Action Program worked at the park during the summer of 1968.

The town conservation commission was voted in 1966 and undertook to oversee the work done on the park. A memorial sign was installed at the junction of Route 28 and Bear Hill Road and the park opened to Old Home Day festivities in 1968.

Future plans for development of the park were made but still have not been undertaken. A well is located on the property and could be utilized for supplying water to the park and toilet facilities are still non-existent. Selective cutting of timber could provide the funds for these facilities.

The community self attitude survey showed that the townspeople would like to see the park improved for future recreational uses. It is a project that should be undertaken.



CHICHESTER GRANGE

It was in March of 1888 that a paper was circulated by Walter Langmaid to see how many were interested in organizing a Grange in Chichester. Forty five men and women attended the meeting and became charter members. It was voted to call the organization Chichester Grange No. 132 and to hold meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

The first meeting was held on April 16, 1888 and for the next eighteen months they met in the Chichester Town Hall. Not satisfied with the place for meetings a group got busy to see about building a hall. Henry Sanborn and Benning Sanborn donated the land and the present Grange Hall was built by a company known as the Chichester Building Association.

After its completion, the building was dedicated and a program held on the evening of November 8, 1899. A drama was the entertainment with eight hundred tickets being sold.

The officers desks were made from the pew doors from the Methodist Church and constructed by C.P. Sanborn and the large lamps used then were given by Emaline Hutchinson. Betsey Leavitt gave a carpet for the stage and the first Bible was given by Ann Langmaid, the first Chaplain of the organization. Later funds were procured to purchase chairs for the officers which are still used today.

Often plays, dramas and fairs were presented to earn funds to improve the hall and purchase supplies. The electric lights and water was installed in this way.

The Grange has had charge of Old Home Day since 1925 except in 1927 when the 200th anniversary was held.

A collection is taken at each meeting to be used to remember members who are ill.

The Home Economics committee has always been very active. They have sold hotdogs at the Old Home Day celebrations to raise funds to buy furnishings for the hall, such as curtains, tablecovers, and things for the kitchen. During special times of the year they remember shut-ins and have paid the dues for any member while he is serving in the military service.

For the past several years they have held cooking, sewing and needlework contests with local people participating. Many have won on the Ponomo and State Grange levels and a few have been fortunate to have their entries entered in National competition.

Since the organization, nearly 90 years ago, many celebrations have been held on the anniversary of its founding. On April 15, 1953 the 65th anniversary was held and attended by over one hundred and fifty members representing 25 Granges. Several State officers were in attendance and five Deputies. A Grange history written by Alice E. Sanborn was read and an original poem written for the occasion by the Rev. H. Franklin Parker. Musical selections were rendered by Olive Edmunds, Leah Langley, Edgar Reed and G. Alvin Towle and by the Young People's Orchestra. A tableau presented the only living charter member, Julia E. Langmaid. 25 and 50 year members were presented certificates.

On April 16, 1958, the 70th anniversary was held with one hundred and twenty members attending. Julia E. Langmaid, charter member, was presented a bouquet of roses and a cake made for the occasion by Martha Sanborn. Violet Wladkowski, master, gave the Welcome and the history of the Grange was read. Musical selections were by Nelson, David and Frances Towle, Edgar Reed and the Rev. Bruce Berry gave a trumpet solo accompanied by Alan Wright, pianist.

The Grange has been a very active organization and contributed in many different ways to our town such as continuing the tradition of the Old Home Day observance each year. Many young people have received guidance and went on to become leaders in this town and other parts of the U.S.A. where they have settled. Many lasting friendships have been made by being a Granger.



**A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE CHICHESTER
PARENTS AND TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
1948 - 1977**

The year was 1947, throughout the little community of Chichester (pop. 752) there grew a feeling that things might be better for the children in the town's four one-room schoolhouses if there was a Parents and Teachers Association. In January, twenty-four charter members gathered for the first Chichester PTA Meeting in the Center School, the largest of the schoolhouses. A nominating committee was appointed to select a slate of officers, and a date set for the next meeting at the Kelley Corner School, which was null of modern conveniences such as water, central heat, indoor toilets or even a woodshed.

That first spring, a Milk Fund was initiated in order to provide milk for each student and a portable Hot Lunch Program. A hot one-dish meal was carried in large thermos jugs to each school every noon. The children brought a dish, spoon, sandwich and a nickel from home. All the food was donated. Friends and members planted a PTA row in their gardens, people offered their fruits, vegetables, canning jars, and canning bees were held. A total of 450 quarts were canned one year.

The PTA, also, that first spring, sponsored a Health Clinic - a well-baby and toxoid. These have continually been sponsored as the need arises for the immunization of smallpox, polio, measles, etc.

In June for the Eighth Grade Graduation, the members voted to serve ice cream and cake, and decorate the Grange Hall. The next year it was decided to have the Sixth Grade parents serve the refreshments and the Seventh Grade parents be in charge of the decorations, which has persisted through the years.

The Chichester PTA formally joined the New Hampshire Parents and Teachers Association in the fall of '48.

A lending library was organized. Books were donated by the members and loaned for a penny a day.

In the spring of '48, the PTA sponsored the 4-H Program and the first of three annual Pot Luck Suppers, which were held in June.

The members saved General Mills coupons for the purpose of obtaining silverware for the Hot Lunch Program.

A Health Fund was initiated for use by the School Nurse; this is still in existence today.

For a number of years, before the Annual School and Town Meetings, both the School Board Members and the Selectmen spoke to the PTA members concerning the School and Town Warrants and answered questions. Also, at the Annual Meetings the PTA members made and sold fudge.

In the season of 1948-49, all programs and panel discussions were devoted to reasons for a new consolidated school. At the Annual School Meeting in March, approximately 130 persons turned out - about six times the usual number. The new school was approved by a tiny margin, and the PTA was showered with credit or castigation, depending on who was talking.

So, in September, 1949, for the first time, all the Chichester students in grades one through eight were under the same roof, with the completion of four rooms and a kitchen in the new Chichester Central School! There were now sixty PTA members and each brought a dish towel, or a dish cloth to the first PTA meeting in the new school.

In the spring of '49, the PTA held the first of six Annual Spring Festivals. It was

held the first week in June, with everyone in town helping, members or not. Some of the events featured were a Pet Parade, Pony Rides, Fortune Telling, Baby Show, Greased Pig Contest, Field Events and Races, Hobby Show, Crowning of a Queen, Refreshment Stand, Food Sale and Public Supper. In the evening one year a Talent Show was held; another year a One-Act Play and Dancing; a Band Concert; and a Hay Ride.

The monies raised furnished dishes and kitchenware for the new kitchen, playground equipment - a jungle gym, swings, slide and seesaw unit, two basketball courts, volleyball equipment, baseball accessories and a ping pong table.

Each year, since 1948, the PTA members have given Christmas gifts to the Chichester students, such as ice cream at their Christmas parties, oranges, candy canes, Christmas candles, pencils and one year it was toothbrushes. For the past five years the PTA has been purchasing the Christmas trees for each classroom.

Beginning in the fall of 1950, the first Annual Membership Supper was held, and thereafter for twenty-four years. The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Chichester PTA was celebrated in the fall of '73 at the Annual Membership Supper.

During the winter of '50-'51, the PTA initiated the flooding of a Skating Rink for the Chichester community, and the Chichester students put on an Operetta.

Landscaping the school grounds was the major project for the year '52-'53, and constructing a school sign. The next year a record player was purchased and fifty dollars worth of records.

In 1953, the PTA members worked with the Eighth Graders to earn money for a class trip to the mountains.

Also, in 1953, the first American Red Cross Swimming Lessons were organized and sponsored by the Chichester Parents and Teachers Association for all Chichester children 6-up at Bear Brook State Park. In 1960, they were transferred to Cascade Park in Loudon, one year at Deer Meadow, then in 1963 to Northwood Lake Public Beach and since 1967 have been held at the Forrest B. Argue Memorial Pool in Pittsfield.

During the winter of '54, a Study Group was organized, which was found to be most valuable with its informality and exchange of ideas.

With monthly food sales, a Traveling Basket and the sale of Chichester Sweat Shirts, T-Shirts and Caps, a set of World Book Encyclopedias and References were purchased for the Chichester students in 1957.

Christmas Fairs were held, '58-'60. More than two hundred books were purchased with the monies raised, materials for a movable bookcase (volunteer labor), and a TV.

In 1961, the Annual Chichester PTA Birthday Calendar fund raising project was initiated. This has realized many dollars for the amelioration of the Chichester children's learning experiences, sports and recreation programs, health and school facilities. One hundred fifty dollars was appropriated for the improvement of the baseball field, fifty folding chairs with a rack were purchased, as well as material for slip covers and drapes for the Teacher's Room in '61.

The first Dental Clinic was sponsored that year, which has been perpetuated since. The PTA pays one-half of the cost and the State matches the amount.

The PTA members implemented many recreation events during the sixties. For three years Father-Son Football Games and Softball Games were held. Nature walks and Bicycle rides, Skating Parties, Dances, including Square Dancing, and a Brownie Troop sponsored.

For their major project, during '63-'64, the Chichester PTA members reactivated

the Chichester Town Library in the Chichester Town Hall. A complete renovation was accomplished, a Webster's International Dictionary was donated and The Friends of the Library was sponsored.

Two rooms were added at the southern end of the Chichester Central School, in 1961, in order to meet the population explosion. At the time it was thought that this would indeed service for many years to come, but, again in 1964, two more classrooms, a larger kitchen, new toilet facilities, and a boiler room were necessary. Also, at this time, a small utility room was made over into a school library. The PTA supplied the materials for shelving and members volunteered their labor; a set of encyclopedias and library books were purchased.

During the next several years the projects were many and varied, including the purchase of science materials and equipment, Nurses's supplies and an audiometer, a PTA filing cabinet and five cabinets for the Staff, the New Hampshire and United States Flags, globes for each classroom, two record players and records, recreation equipment, basketball uniforms for both teams and drapes were made for the office.

Room Representatives were organized, in order to be of assistance to the Teachers, in the spring of '64, and the first Easter Egg Hunt was held with the Easter Bunny present, which was a success and subsequently has been held each year.

Including all the Townspeople, a Hobby and Crafts Show was sponsored for several years, through which the school children benefited as many members of the community shared their artistry in the classroom, thereafter.

A six week course was sponsored for the parents in Modern Math during the spring of '64.

Also, that spring three tetherballs, a volley ball and net, swing chains and basketballs were furnished for the Chichester students.

It was 1961-62, when the first Chichester Rams Basketball Team was formed and that first year won a League trophy. During the season of '65-'66, the Chichester Rams joined the Merrimack Valley Basketball League, with a seventh and eighth grade team and a fifth and sixth grade team. Every year one team or the other has been either Runner-up or Champion, and one year took both Championship trophies.

Also, in the early sixties a seventh and eighth grade Cheerleading Team was sponsored, and several years later a younger Cheerleading Squad. The League also sponsors Cheerleading competition and the Chichester Cheerleading Teams have won several trophies.

The Chichester PTA awarded Letters to the Basketball, Cheerleading, Baseball and Softball Teams following the '64-'65 season for the first time. Since then, trophies have been awarded to every player on every team. In the fall of '74, a Chichester Soccer Team was organized. For the past three years, the PTA has sponsored a Sports Banquet — pot luck supper for the team members, parents, relatives and friends — at which time the presentation of the trophies is made by the Coach of each team.

For several years, beginning in the spring of '67, the PTA sponsored the New Hampshire Award contest for the Eighth Grade.

Another addition was necessary in 1967, and two more classrooms with a folding petition were built on the northwest wing, and so the little four room school-house now became an efficient plant with ten classrooms, all in use.

The PTA sponsored Skiing Lessons one afternoon a week on a private hill near

the school, during the winter of '71. As this proved successful, the next year for those children who did not wish to ski, townspeople volunteered their time and expertise, and the students chose an area of interest in one of the following: Arts & Crafts, Square Dancing, Leather work, Knitting, Drama, Phys Ed.

This past winter the PTA sponsored a Defensive Driving Course.

During the past few years the PTA has purchased Learning Abilities, Materials, Soccer Nets, Basketball uniforms and material for Cheerleading uniforms, and has continued the many worthwhile projects previously initiated over the past twenty-nine years.

Up to the present, eight meetings a year have been held, with stimulating programs pertaining to every aspect of education. The National and State PTA Organizations now state that four meetings a year are adequate. And so, the Chichester Parents and Teachers Association perpetuates the PTA Objects:

To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, church, and community.

To raise the standards of home life.

To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.

To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child.

To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

MUTUAL-HELP CHICHESTER EXTENSION

The Mutual Help Club was formed some fifty odd years ago. No early records of the club have been located but it is known that the club was in existence in 1927 when Harry S. Kelley wrote his history and said the club used the former Advent Chapel as a meeting place.

Over the years the name was changed to include the name Extension to denote that the club was participating in the extension service programs and the word club dropped. This year the by-laws were adopted and the name was changed to Mutual-Help Chichester Extension.

All persons without regard to race, creed, color, sex, national origin, ethnic background or economic status may become a member.

The group sponsored the local 4-H clubs and have undertaken many community projects. The last major project was to improve the appearance of the town hall building and grounds. Several organizations assisted in the project and the new bulletin boards were purchased, a colonial type fixture for the front of the building was installed and folding chairs and tables purchased to replace the old wooden ones.

Meetings are held the last Wednesday from September to May with the annual meeting in June.

4-H CLUBS

The youth of Chichester have been actively involved in 4-H work for over fifty years. Although we were unable to find records of early clubs several residents living today remember belonging to 4-H clubs in their youth.

The first recorded 4-H club in Chichester was the Pinehurst 4-H Club formed in 1937 with Leon A. Sanborn as leader. There were 18 active members, all boys. Officers were Edward Sanborn, president; Carroll Bartlett, vice president; Roger George, secretary and George Call, treasurer.

The Chichester Champions 4-H Club was organized in April 1948 with Mary Smith and Marion George, leaders. The meetings were held in the Haines Chapel. Officers elected were Carlyle Shaw, president; Warner Jones, vice president; Martha Dodge, secretary and David Ivester, treasurer. Wayne Rich was county agent at that time and the club enrolled thirty five members. Projects included sewing, cooking, dairy, gardening, forestry and crafts. In addition to the required work the members assisted at Old Home Day celebrations, took part in field days and demonstration day held by the county.

During 1949 the club divided into two clubs, a junior club, and a senior club. The juniors elected their own officers who were Beverly Treloar, president; Dorothy Harris, vice president; Evelyn Treloar, secretary and Verne Harris, treasurer.

In 1951, Mary Smith moved away and Lois Treloar joined Marion George as a leader and the clubs were united. Many from this club have received county, state and national honors.

During the late fifties the meetings were held at the Chichester Central School. Some of the activities of the club were conducting lily sales in the community for the Easter Seal Agency, assisting with clean-up days, PTA membership suppers, Old Home Day programs, Red Cross and March of Dime drives, exhibiting in both local and county fairs and helping with the landscaping of the school grounds.

By 1957 the club had grown to 66 members, 39 girls and 27 boys. The club was again divided into two groups and new leaders were recruited. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Boyce became leaders of the boys group and Alice H. Sanborn, leader of the girls group.

In 1961, the girls group became known as "The Championettes" and Jean Griffiths became the new leader. The boys group retained the name "The Champions" and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jordan became leaders.

The membership continued to rise in both clubs but the greatest increase was in the girls club. Virginia Clark, county 4-H agent, at that time met with the Mutual Help Club, sponsoring group for the 4-H clubs and suggested that small clubs be chartered specializing in areas of interest to the youth.

In 1964, six clubs were formed to best serve the needs of the girls enrolled in 4-H projects. The boys continued to retain the name and charter of "The Champions".

The Chippewas with Lorraine Moses, as leader, for cooking and arts and crafts; the Needles with Dorothy Hussey as leader, first year sewing; the Pussywillows with Carol Southwick as leader, cooking and arts and crafts; the Tonkas with Barbara Frangione as leader, first and second year sewing; the Cloverleaves with Jean Griffiths as leader, advanced sewing and arts and crafts and the Fillies Horse Club with Virginia (Ginger) Sanborn and June Hatch, co-leaders, horsemanship.

In October 1966, Jean Griffiths moved away, and the Tonkas merged with the

Cloverleaves with Barbara Frangione and Rebecca Bilodeau, co-leaders. About the same time the Needles no longer met and Dorothy Hussey became an assistant leader of the Fillies Horse Club which had grown in membership, helping the leaders by taking over the first year requirements.

The Chippewas membership declined about 1969 and the remaining members transferred to other clubs.

At the October 1970 Achievement Night, Robert Jordan retired as leader of the Champions and Terrance Houle became the leader. At the same time, Rebecca Bilodeau gave up her co-leadership of the Cloverleaves and Barbara Frangione assumed the full leadership of the club.

The Fillies Horse Club became inactive in 1973. During its nine years in existence the club had enrolled sixty girls in its program of horsemanship and veterinary science. Several clinics and horse shows were held and two of its charter members have made horsemanship their vocation.

The Champions became inactive in 1975. The only two clubs that remain active are the Pussywillows and the Cloverleaves. This spring efforts are underway to organize a horse club.

FRIENDS OF THE CHICHESTER LIBRARY

The Chichester Town Library re-opened early in 1964 after being inactive for several years. It became apparent that more assistance was needed to help give the community good library service. On June 1 at a meeting held in the Chichester Town Hall, thirty interested citizens met to organize the Friends of the Library.

Mrs. Richard Sanborn, extension librarian of the Exeter Branch of the N.H. State Library, spoke on the purposes of forming the Friends emphasizing that the membership is open to anyone in the community interested in promoting the work of the library and to serve as a source of friendly advice and support to the Librarian and Trustees.

The first meeting was held on June 22, 1964. Officers elected were Mrs. Robert Myers, president; Mrs. Stanley Parmenter, vice president; Mrs. Alan Wright, secretary and Mrs. John Sweet, treasurer.

Since its organization the group has made contributions to the library and the community such as flowers and shrubs in front of the Town Hall, curtains, shades, an electric fan, and other supplies to provide better services.

Story hours have been held for the children during the summer, film parties during school vacations and contests to promote interest and ideas. Two of the most popular have been poster and kite flying contests.

The very important job of cataloging the library was started in 1970 under the direction of Mrs. Frank Hatch Jr. and because its never ending the job still continues today. The project of cataloging the school library was also undertaken by four aides, Lucille Noel, Elaine Coffey, Velna Pike and June Hatch, and the library re-opened.

The Friends have, since organization, provided library aides so that the library can be open two nights a week. This small dedicated group has devoted many hours on an entirely volunteer basis.

The major project the past few years has been to help the Trustees raise funds to have a new library.

SCOUTING

The first Boy Scout charter issued to Chichester was in May 1926 when the scouting program came into being by a group of interested citizens. Melvin D. Sanborn was the first scoutmaster and Fisher Edmunds, assistant scoutmaster. John C. Langmaid, E. M. Bartlett and Harry S. Kelley, troop committee.

Nine boys were charter members of the Troop.

Macbeth Bartlett
E. Scott Edmunds
Gerald C. Edmunds
Charles W. Langmaid
Fred M. Marston
Gilbert J. Marston
Edgar M. Reed
Richard C. Sanborn
Madison A. Bailey

This troop was known as Troop 1 and the Silver Fox Patrol of the troop participated in the 200th anniversary program of the town held in the Grange Hall.

The troop was honored this year at the Blue and Gold Banquet held by Cub Scout Pack 85 in the Chichester Grange Hall. Melvin Sanborn was presented an "Outstanding Citizen" award given each year to someone who has contributed services to the town and its youth. Charles Call, a member of Troop 79 committee, was the recipient of one of the first awards in 1976. Seven of the charter members were in attendance at the dinner.



Boy Scout Picnic, 1925

TROOP 79

This troop was organized on December 19, 1938 at a meeting with Frank A. Williams of Concord, husband of Rebecca Williams who taught at the Center School for several years, as scoutmaster. William E. Lindquist served as his assistant. Bryant B. Call, Alfred J. Sanborn and Charles R. Call, troop committee members.

Members of this troop were Carroll and Elbridge Bartlett Jr., Chellis and George Call, Leslie and Roger George, Bernard Hill, John Moran, Edward and Edwin Sanborn, Kenneth West, Robert and John Wilcox, Edward Paul, Harold Ricker Jr. and Frank B. Hatch Jr.

Joining as scouts at a later date were Raymond Kendall, Jr., Robert LaDuke and Richard Towle.

This troop was active for about three years, made camping trips to White Lake each summer and put up their own camp on a wooded area near Deer Meadow where they held their meetings. The building fell into disrepair over the years and no longer exists. The troop was disbanded during World War II when the Scoutmasters entered the service of the country and one by one all the members of the troop went to the defense of their country serving in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marines and the U.S. Army.



Boy Scout Troop No. 85 raising flag at Carpenter Park, Old Home Day 1974.

TROOP 85

The present troop was organized on June 4, 1958 with eighteen boys from Chichester and Epsom joining. There were six troop committee members, four from Epsom and Ronald Coffey and James W. Mitchell from Chichester. The Chichester Fire Department is the sponsoring organization for the troop.

Charter members of the troop from Chichester were Barry Bickford, Frederick Shaw, Thomas Smith and George A. Towle, Jr.

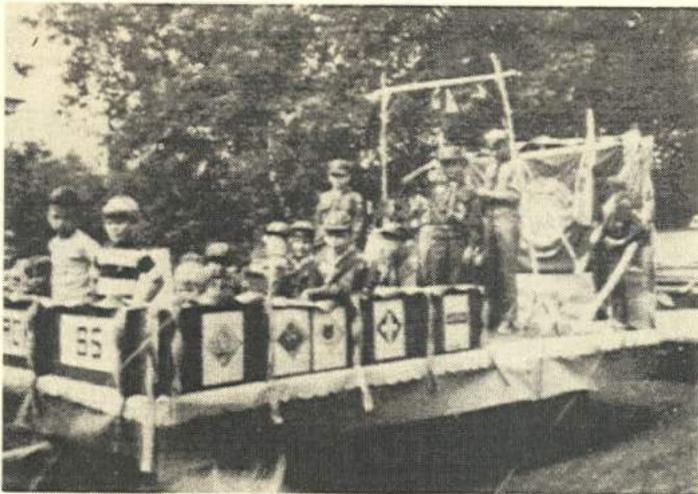
The troop was active for a little over the first three years with Alfred Bickford of Epsom as scoutmaster who was assisted by Sidney Yeaton of Epsom during the last year.

After two years of inactivity, the troop was reorganized in 1973, with fifteen local boys joining. James Hilton Sr. became scoutmaster and was assisted until about a year later by George Bisson.

In 1974 Derwood Kichline of Pittsfield became assistant scoutmaster and Harold Hilliard Jr.

The troop became inactive for about a year due to lack of leadership until Stephen Grivois became scoutmaster in 1976. The troop today has sixteen members and meets regularly in the Town Hall.

They have participated in scout shows, klondike derbies, and several camping trips.



Cub Scout Pack No. 85 Old Home Day parade, August 1974

CUB SCOUTING

Cub Scout Pack 85 was formed in February 1973 with Glen Booth Sr., cubmaster, and the Chichester Fire Department, as sponsors. The pack meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month in the Town Hall.

David L. Crane became cubmaster in 1974 and the pack has continued to grow. In 1977 there are four dens with Anne Titus and Lucille Randall, den leaders of den 1, Velna Crane, den 2, Kathy Michachik, den 3 and Donna Chagnon and Gloria Louis, den 4. David Lucier Jr. serves as leader of the Webelos.

The cubs have participated in the Mini-Olympics, roadside cleanup drives and participated in many parades since their organization.

CHICHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On September 23, 1970 seven interested persons met at the Town Hall to look into the possibility of forming a Historical Society in Chichester. On the recommendation of those present it was decided to hold another meeting on October 14 to organize the society and the Rev. H. Franklin Parker, Mrs. Peter Hammen and Mrs. Frank Hatch Jr. were named to a steering committee to plan the meeting and write an outline of a constitution to be adopted.

Rev. Parker was named to act as temporary chairman until organization. Those present desired to see a history of the community gathered and printed in some form. Mary Edmunds stated that the late Harry S. Kelley wrote a short history of the town for the bicentennial which was held in 1927.

Present at the first meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Blackman, Mary Edmunds, Rev. Parker, Mrs. Hammen, Mrs. Hatch, Lucille and Heather Carson.

The second meeting was held as planned on October 14th at the Town Hall with twelve persons attending. It was decided to call the society "The Chichester Historical Society" and to hold meetings four times a year, the second Wednesday of February, May, August and November.

Officers elected were the Rev. H. Franklin Parker, president; Joyce Neveux, vice president and JoAnn Luikmil, secretary-treasurer.

On November 11, 1970 we held charter night with twenty-one residents and five non-residents signing the charter. Those who signed the charter were —

Rev. H. Franklin Parker	G. Evelyn Huckins
Ruth and Peter Hammen	Mary Edmunds
Mary Ordway	Walter and Alice Sanborn
Helen Blackman	G. Alvin and Phyllis Towle
June Hatch	Jaan and JoAnn Luikmil
Dorene Bates	Robert and Joyce Neveux
Howard Burton	J. Franklin and Ruth Towle
James Herrington	Marguerite French
Compton French	Marion Slater
Margaret Abbott	Sylvia Fitts Getchell

We have done many things to gather information about our town and surrounding areas. Taped sessions of some of our meetings have been made and material gathered.

In May 1973 Neil Leary of Rockville, Maryland was accepted as an honorary member of the society. His name was submitted by Jane Coons at whose home he had found an Indian arrowhead shortly after the society met there trying to locate the last known Indian encampment of Chief Plausawa. The arrowhead is now framed and hangs at Garvins Hill and has authenticated.

On the second journey to Plausawa Hill a small group found what is believed to be the site of the encampment near the Pembroke-Chichester line.

One of the major fund raising projects for the society was to have reproductions made of an original Arch McDonnell painting owned by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hammen of the Chichester Railroad Station printed by the Village Press of Concord. These were sold for the benefit of the society's treasury.

The membership of the society has grown from the original seven to more than five times that in the span of seven years and all meetings are open to the public.

Present officers of the society are Mrs. Hammen, president; G. Alvin Towle, vice president; Mrs. Luikmil, secretary-treasurer.

No record of any Indian incursions in Chichester have been found. This was probably due to the fact that the first settlers did not come here until the late 1750's when the Indians were living in peace with the white men.

Surrounding towns were not so fortunate and by the summer of 1747 the attacks were becoming more frequent. They made an attack on Suncook, now a part of Bow, making it necessary to send out a scouting party. While Captain Eastman of Concord was out on this scout, the Indians made an attack on Epsom.

One of the Indians involved in that attack was Plausawa, a corruption of the French name Francois, of the St. Francis tribe who lived on the elevation to the south of Garvin Hill now known as Plausawa Hill.

Plausawa with two other Indians, Sabattis, a corruption for the French name Jean Baptiste, for whom Sabattis Heights in Loudon is named, and Christo took captive the wife of Charles McCoy on August 21, 1747. Enroute to the fort in Nottingham, she had fallen a little to the rear of her family and was ambushed by the Indians. After burning her home they left for Canada. Reports state that Plausawa, the leader, would make a couch of leaves a little way from theirs every night for Mrs. McCoy and cover her with his own blanket. She was treated well the full length of the trip and later sold as a servant to a French family in Canada.

Christo up until that time had been a friendly Indian. He had resided at Amoskeag and scouted for Capt. Clough in Canterbury in 1744. Being suspected of joining his countrymen in the battle of Pequauquauke the whitemen went to Amoskeag and not finding him home burnt his wigwam. After this outrage, he became a wanderer and finally retired to St. Francis.

After the capture of Mrs. McCoy, the Indians visited this area often, but never caused any real trouble. After the French and Indian War the Indians lived in peace with the white men, building several wigwams on the Great Suncook, several on the island located near what is now Short Falls.

Plausawa and Sabattis, in 1753 spent several days in Canterbury and their conduct became so menacing to the inhabitants that they were given notice if they remained, they did so at their own peril. They left and took up their abode across the river in Contoocook, now a part of Boscawen. Here they continued their insolent manner, boasting of robberies they had committed in the neighborhood and of the murders they had perpetrated in previous wars and threatened to do so again.

There was little doubt that the inhabitants of Canterbury and Contoocook were apprehensive of the Indians and most felt that their own safety was to get rid of them. Obtaining liquor from Rumford, now Concord, two white men, Peter Bowen and John Morrill gave it freely to the two Indians. Bowen was known as a noted hunter and Indian fighter in the area. Getting them intoxicated, they were taken into the woods, the charges drawn from their guns, and both killed by Bowen. The part Morrill played seems to have been an accessory. The men were arrested and jailed in Portsmouth and later released by a party of men from Canterbury.

Governor Wentworth later made presents to the relatives of the two Indians as an atonement for blood spilled in the time of peace. Maybe this explains why their names still exist today. Plausawa Hill has an elevation of 1,020 and Sabattis 960.

Chichester did not publish its own newspapers but the attics have revealed two publications which we thought were of interest. The Chichester Courier and the Chichester Eagle.

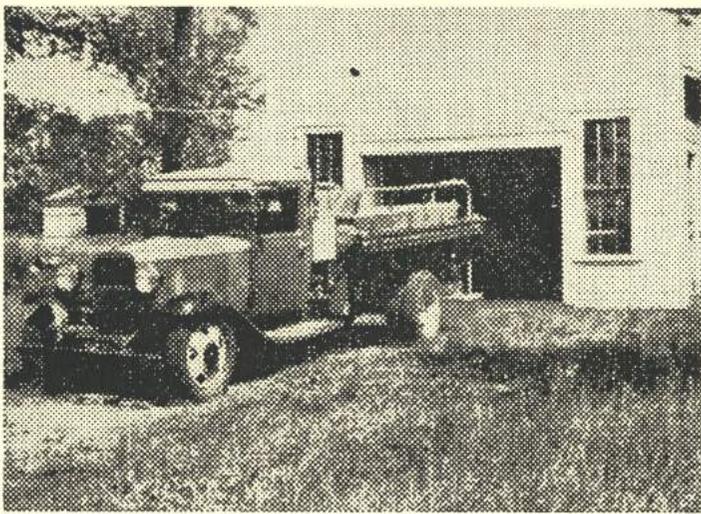
The Chichester Courier was published in 1898 devoted to local, state and general news and family reading. Printed by the News-Letter Publishing Co. of Short Falls, N. H. the paper went by different names to nearby towns. In Epsom it was called the Epsom News-Letter, Loudon the Echo, Northwood the Citizen, Deerfield the Sentinel and in Strafford the Gazette. Single copies, mailed postpaid, cost two cents and a yearly subscription was only seventy-five cents.

Among the Chichester items was a Grand Concert held in the Grange Hall on January 27 by the Chichester Band. Eighteen instruments took up the opening number and the program throughout was excellent, varied and pleasing. It was a surprise to many that a band composed so largely of young players could have attained such proficiency in less than two years it has been organized. Albert S. Sanders has been its teacher and leader from the beginning, and their concert was a credit to the leader, to the players, and to the town. An oyster supper was well patronized. A very enjoyable social dance with C. A. Towle as violinist, accompanied by cornet and piano, concluded the night's entertainment. It is pleasing also to note a good financial success, some \$25 being netted.

Under North Chichester was an item on the great storm of the season which did not pass Chichester without being seen and heard. All travel was suspended from Monday until Wednesday afternoon. The road agents with large corps of men and teams found plenty of work. The whistle of the locomotive was heard with joy Wednesday morning. We never truly appreciate our mail privileges; nor many other conveniences until deprived of them. Ice is also being cut for several of the milk producers.

This same February 12th issue said under the Epsom items that the snow storm was so great that some people in that town were obliged to make an exit by window instead of doors.

The Chichester Eagle printed in the early 1900's was published by the New Hampshire Publishing Corp. of Manchester and issued every week. On the editorial page was the following — Some things we don't want. We don't want liquor ads at any price. We don't want quack medicine ads at any price. We don't want questionable advertisements at any price. Our publications we intend shall be clean in their correspondence, clean in their editorials, clean in their advertisements. Upon this platform we have established ourselves and we propose to fight it out upon this line. Among the Chichester items was a paragraph on our people having started the new year well by attending in goodly numbers the week of prayer services which began with a service in the Congregational Church on Sunday evening.



CHICHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHARTER MEMBERS

John C. Langmaid, Chief

Merton T. Bailey
 George L. Beals
 Charles R. Call
 Normand P. Call
 Edward R. Dahm
 Edward S. Edmunds
 E. Scott Edmunds
 Gerald C. Edmunds
 Lawrence Elliott
 Raymond W. Kendall
 Maurice H. King
 Charles W. Langmaid
 Charles T. Lane
 Hazen M. Leavitt
 C. B. Lovering
 Shirley A. Marden

Orrin N. Marston
 Arthur G. Morrill
 Dean E. Ordway
 Winifred J. Pickard
 Frank A. Quimby
 Edgar Reed Sr.
 Alfred J. Sanborn
 J. Smith Sanborn
 Leon A. Sanborn
 Melvin D. Sanborn
 Ralph E. Sanborn
 Richard C. Sanborn
 Benjamin F. Shaw
 Walter G. Smith
 Clifton W. Stevens
 G. Alvin Towle

CHICHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

On January 29, 1936 some of the citizens of Chichester interested in forming a fire department met at the Town Hall to organize the Chichester Volunteer Fire Department. Officers were elected and John Langmaid became the first chief and Leon Sanborn, clerk, an office he held for twenty-seven years.

The constitution and by-laws were approved by 33 charter members in February and one of the first orders of business was to instruct the Central Telephone Office which at that time was located in the home of the late Frank Quimby on Dover Road (Louis's) to ring the fire alarm by telephone for all fires in Chichester.

Action was taken to purchase a truck from Huckins Garage in Epsom in March. An option to buy a new Chevrolet chassis for \$625 or a used one for \$325 was voted upon and it was decided to buy the used truck. During the next few months a water tank and pump were bought and installed on the truck.

In August several members feeling the urgent need for a permanent home for the fire truck agreed to advance an equal sum of money toward the purchase of the stone shed owned by the late Alfred Jenkins which stood where the present station now stands. Leon A. Sanborn, Winifred J. Pickard, Edward S. Edmunds and Melvin D. Sanborn each loaned \$100 each to purchase the building and at the next town meeting the town bought the firehouse from them.

During the early years the department held many minstrel shows, dances and whist parties to raise money. From 1935 to 1941 Chichester and Epsom jointly held winter carnivals which were two day affairs held alternately in the two towns, climaxed with a Carnival Ball on Saturday night. This was one of the major social affairs held at that time and quite a large sum of money was realized from them.

In August 1939 Chief Langmaid passed away and Deputy Chief Edward S. Edmunds assumed the office until 1940 when Charles R. Call was elected chief. During these years many improvements were made on the fire house and equipment. In 1940 an oil heater was bought and Leon Sanborn was paid 25¢ a day to build a fire when needed. A small room was added to the back of the station and a cook stove and sink installed. This room was used for meetings and an occasional oyster stew.

No meetings were held from 1942 to 1945 because of World War II. A telephone was installed in the meeting room and manned twenty-four hours a day for air raid alerts.

In 1945 the department bought their first combination fog nozzle, an important innovation in firefighting at that time and today is the most versatile weapon in fighting fire.

In 1947 a committee of firemen went to Camp Devens, Mass. to look at an Army surplus fire truck. Papers were signed and the town bought the truck, a 1942 Chevrolet 500 GPM pumper all equipped. At the same time a 500 GPM trailer pumper was also purchased through the government surplus plan. Later that year the front doors to the fire house were widened to accommodate the new equipment.

In September of 1948 a water hole was started beside the fire station and completed the following year giving the Center added water for fire prevention.

In February of 1949 the department proposed the matter of buying the Center School for a new station but at the next meeting the members voted against changing the location and relinquished their option on the school to the school district.

The siren atop the station was purchased in March and a wire run to the telephone office so that the telephone operator could sound the alarm.

In May 1950 two committees were appointed, one to study the future needs of a larger station and one to look into the purchase of a truck. In June a used 1942 Chevrolet chassis was bought and during the following year an 800 gallon tank was built and pump installed and the truck was operational in the summer of 1951.

Chichester and surrounding towns formed the Suncook Valley Mutual Aid Fire Association in May 1952 with each town agreeing to assist the other in emergencies with cost. Also that year radios were installed in the trucks and a base station was added in 1955 operating on the State Forestry frequency.

At an annual meeting held in January 1953 Charles Call retired as chief and Shirley Marden was elected as the new chief. Action was taken to start work on a new station with the building committee estimating that a two story building would cost approximately \$1,600 and require about 127 man days of labor. In February the men started cutting the lumber and by August the first meeting was held in the station. During that time the firemen cut, sawed over eleven thousand feet of lumber, and erected the building with volunteer help in addition to donating \$931.26 of their funds. At the next town meeting the town voted an additional \$500 to complete the building. During the middle 1950's several Firemen's Field Days were held jointly with Epsom at Webster Park.

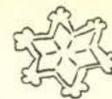
The year 1954 saw a change in the telephone system going to dial and a red network system was installed to alert the fire department. Also that year an agreement was made to use water from the Methodist Parish Hall with the pump being installed in the fire station which was heated.

Chief Marden served until 1958 when he resigned and Walter Sanborn finished his term and was elected chief in January 1959. During these years minstrel shows and annual firemen balls were held and in 1961 a special celebration was held at the Grange Hall when the firemen were honored at the 25th anniversary of the department.



Chichester Fire Department, 1961

SPONSORED by
FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
of CHICHESTER and EPSOM, N.H.

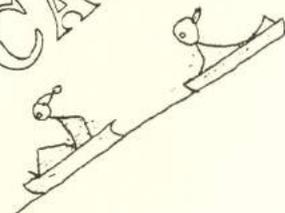


Friday and Saturday, February 2 and 3, 1940

Friday at CHICHESTER

- 9:30 A.M. Cross Country Ski Race (starts at George Pike's in Epsom).
Tobogganing and Coasting (Langmaid's hill)
Snowshoeing (Langmaid's hill).
Cross Country Snowshoe Race.
Skiing Contests.
- 12:00 M. Noon Refreshments on sale at Haines Memorial Chapel.
- 1:30 P.M. Snowshoe Contests.
- 2:30 P.M. Snowshoe Baseball Game (between Fire Departments).
- 3:30 P.M. Tug of War (between Fire Departments).
- 8:15 P.M. Entertainment at I.O.O.F. Hall – Short Falls.
Two one-act plays by Chichester and Epsom dramatic groups.
Chorus of Farmhands and Milkmaids.
Instrumental music.
Announcement of the Carnival Queens.
Awarding prizes for the day's Events.

WINTER
CARNIVAL



Saturday at EPSOM

- 9:30 A.M. Ice Events at Deer Meadow.
- 11:00 A.M. Wood Chopping and Sawing.
- 12:00 M. Noon Refreshments on sale at Haines Memorial Chapel.
- 1:00 P.M. Children's Activities.
- 2:00 P.M. Rifle Match (between Fire Departments).
- 2:45 P.M. Hockey Game.
- 8:00 P.M. Carnival Ball – Chichester Grange Hall.
Crowning of the Kings and Queens.
Drawing for the Grand Prizes.



1962 was a sad year for many in our community and a great loss was felt in the fire department by the death of three members who had served the town so faithfully. There were Benjamin Shaw, Hazen Leavitt, treasurer, and Leon Sanborn, clerk, since the organization of the department. His son, Richard, was elected to fill the office.

The year 1964 was a special occasion for the fire department because the first new piece of fire apparatus purchased by the town, a 1964 Chevrolet 500 GPM class A pumper all equipped was purchased from the Howe Fire Apparatus Company. All of the previous equipment was used or built locally by the firemen. An addition was also built onto the rear of the station to house more apparatus.

During the year 1966 the department joined the Concord Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact adding more towns to our area for assistance in emergencies. FM radios were installed and an alert system was installed to call firemen. Chichester was one of the first departments in the area to use this method of dispatch.

A used oil truck with a 1000 gallon tank was purchased and put into operation in 1967 to fill the need for a newer tank truck. Also that year a Junior Fire Department was organized to include boys between the ages of 16 and 18 and the firemen voted to sponsor the local Boy Scout Troop.

A 1969 GMC utility truck was presented to the department by Frank Hall and when completed was put into service as Engine 3.



*Engine No. 1, purchased in 1964
Left to right - Philip Glines, G. Alvin Towle, Chief Walter Sanborn, Earl Morse, (Howe Fire Equipment Co.) Herbert Oakes, Edward Drew, Clarence Shaw, Benjamin Daroska, James Bates, Theodore Bailey, Richard Sanborn, Henry Eastman, Richard Drew. On top truck, Alfred Sanborn, Andrew Bailey and A. Rodney Sanborn.*

In March 1970 the department was host to two volunteer firemen from Concepcion, Chile who were touring the United States in a 1929 Dodge on their way to Alaska. They visited and stayed at various fire stations on their journey sharing their experiences with fellow firemen.

In 1972 the department voted to insert an article in the town warrant for the purchase of a new 1,000 gallon tank truck. The article was voted down and again in 1973 but approved in 1974 and in April of 1975 the department received its second piece of new equipment.

During the fall of 1973 the department received a substantial increase in membership bringing the roll up to 60 members.

Frank Hall was elected chief at the annual meeting in January 1974 and served until January 1975 when Walter Sanborn was re-elected.

In the summer of 1975 an interested group organized the Chichester Emergency Medical Squad to assist the ambulance crews and to respond to calls for emergency medical service.

At the January 1976 annual meeting Walter Sanborn retired as chief and Ernest Randall was elected as the new chief, and Richard Sanborn who had served as clerk for the past 14 years also retired with the Rev. Richard Slater elected to fill his office.

In 1976 the town voted to have the Concord Dispatch Center perform the service of dispatching all calls for the department alerting the firemen by radio.

Also voted were \$1,000 to be put into capital reserve for a truck to replace the 1942 pump truck and \$2,500 was voted to purchase four inch fire hose and fittings.

During the year more than 1500 man hours were spent on training. Drills were held most every Monday night and drills were also held with other towns through the two mutual aid systems. Every other month drills are held by the Capital Area Compact in different towns, giving each town a chance to drill on possible hazardous areas. Two such drills were held in Chichester, one at the Center and the other at the home of Mabel Stevens on Horsecorner Road. The purpose of these are to see how much water is available in the given area and how to find out the best way to get water to the scene, and check the response time of responding mutual aid towns.

During the summer hurricane watch firefighters manned the station and readied tools throughout the night. A pancake breakfast was held on Old Home Day and at the end of the summer a firemen's supper was held to raise money for the department.

At the March 1977 town meeting \$1,500 was voted for the fire truck fund, \$1,000 to purchase eight transistor monitor radios for the firemen and \$500 to purchase new equipment to equip the firemen.

LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE CHICHESTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

On July 12, 1948 a meeting was held in the home of Alice H. Sanborn for the purpose of forming a Ladies Auxiliary to the Chichester Volunteer Fire Department. Officers chosen were Blanche Call, president; Alice H. Sanborn, vice president; Phyllis Towle, secretary and Madeline Sanborn, treasurer. An emergency committee was chosen for the purpose of serving food and drink to the firemen while they are fighting fires. Supplies were donated by the members for this purpose and then purchased from the penny collection taken at each meeting.

Meetings were held in homes until that fall when the women met and cleaned the meeting room at the fire station which at that time was a small room located at the rear of the original station.

The membership rose to twenty-one during the first year and many fund raising activities were undertaken by the women. The first official duties of the Auxiliary were performed at the Martel fire on Canterbury Road.

In 1949, \$50 was donated to the firemen to purchase helmets for the firemen and aid was given to the Russell Quimby family who lost their home on the Dover Road.

During the next year, Civil Defense came into being and the Auxiliary made plans to shelter refugees in case of emergency in the community, and sent a contribution to Hiram Frost whose home on Horsecorner Road had partially been destroyed by fire.

Aid to the fire department continued and in 1951 the women voted funds to purchase complete outfits for ten firemen and the Fire Chief. A contribution was given to the Gilbert Marston family at the time of his hunting accident and lunch was served at the Samuel Marden fire on Bear Hill Road.

For the next few years the Auxiliary continued to purchase equipment for the firemen, a rubberized hat, jacket and overalls and for the hall, 12 chairs, 2 card tables and cups. A telephone system was set up so that all firemen on a member's line would be called when it was necessary to relay messages from the Fire Chief and the emergency committee was organized so that varied areas of the town would have a member on the committee. Thermos jugs were purchased and the ladies furnished cold drinks to the firemen while they were engaged in building the new station.

When the need for funds to complete the new fire station were needed the Auxiliary responded by donating \$200 and as soon as the upper hall was ready equipment was purchased. Electric light fixtures, an electric stove for the kitchen, a sink, linoleum for the floor and countertops were installed and dishes furnished by the women.

The women saw the need for emergency care in the community and in 1954 sponsored a 15 hour Red Cross First Aid Course and a couple of years later had a speaker from the Red Cross on emergency care, inviting those interested to attend.

The Auxiliary continued to assist the fire department purchasing whatever equipment was needed, earning their funds in various ways. In 1962 an auction was held at the Town Hall with Winona Walker, a member of the Auxiliary, as auctioneer. This was to raise funds for a new fire truck.

Luckily during this ten year period there were no major fires in the community but assistance was given in the way of contributions to victims of fires in Epsom and Pittsfield and during 1962 lunch was served to firefighters at the Anderson fire and coffee at the Parmenter fire on Canterbury Road.

In 1966 a Civil Defense Medical Self Help Course was sponsored for the community and the new Barnstead Ambulance was displayed at the fire station. A new alert system was put into effect to alert the firemen and lunch was served at the McQueen fire.

During the next year, a clothing and bedding drive was conducted for the Kosko family whose home was destroyed by fire on Bear Hill Road and assistance was given at the time of the Bilodeau fire on Main Street. \$100 was given to the fire department to help purchase a used 1,000 gallon oil tanker to use as a tank truck.

1969 saw the beginning of a custom which still exists today. Serving coffee and doughnuts following the Old Home Day parade. Beverages were served to the firemen at the Dodge fire on Bear Hill Road.

The Auxiliary voted in 1974 during the energy crises to meet only four times a year, to conserve fuel. Assisting the department when needed, the Auxiliary over the past 29 years since its organization has served the community well.

CHARTER MEMBERS

Blanche Z. Call
June E. Hatch
Alice Kendall
Leah Langley
Eunice Leavitt
Eleanor Marden
Pauline T. Reed
Alice H. Sanborn
Blanche Sanborn
Madeline Sanborn
Helen Shaw
Phyllis M. Towle

In June 1975 a group of concerned individuals banded together to form what is known as the Chichester Fire Department Emergency Medical Squad. These individuals saw a need for quick emergency medical care and stabilization until the arrival of an ambulance and took the first steps toward providing it.

After much discussion it was decided that the squad could serve the town more efficiently by becoming a company of the fire department. Later in the year through mutual consent of both groups, the squad became a part of the fire department, with its own officers and assumed responsibility for its own budget.

The original officers elected were:

Paul Sanborn, President

June Sword, Captain

Lucille Randall, Secretary-Treasurer

All services the squad supplies are free of charge and many hours are devoted to training and fund raising all without reimbursement to the members.

The squad has progressed quite well during the past two years and acquired equipment through donations of local civic organizations, fund raising activities and memorial gifts.

The squad looks forward to serving the town and citizens of Chichester throughout the coming years.



Emergency Medical Squad – left to right – Chief Ernest Randall, William Reid, Lucille Randall, Walter Sanborn and June Sword.

Early in 1905 a group of Chichester men met to “agree to associate as a body corporate and politic under the public statutes of the State of New Hampshire for the purpose of building, constructing, owning, acquiring and operating a telephone system in the town of Chichester and vicinity in said state.”

The name *Chichester Telephone Company* was chosen as the authorized capital stock was decided upon, divided into shares and subscribed to by those present.

April 12 of the same year the first meeting was called by the man subscribing to the first share, Frederick B. Shaw, who was then elected president. He remained in that office until his death. Other officers became – C. A. Langmaid, vice president; J. L. T. Shaw, secretary; W. L. Langmaid, treasurer. First Directors named were G. W. Lake, N. G. Edmunds, A. S. Dame, E. J. Lake and S. C. Marden.

By-laws were adopted and June 3, 1905 the company was incorporated.

January 21, 1911 negotiating was carried out with the Lane family to maintain the switchboard. In later years the board was moved to the home of Ella Mae Osgood, where the Frank Quimby family members were operators until their new home was constructed.

During the next few years noteworthy acts were a vote to insure the company for \$5000.00 if the cost was no more than \$25.00, appointment of a committee to meet with N. E. Telephone in Boston to complete a contract between the two companies, and due process of filing with the N. H. Public Utilities Commission.

In 1924 the death of Noah Edmunds was noted, lines were extended to the Ida Robinson home and Leon Sanborn was elected secretary, an office which he held until his death in 1962.

At a session June 1, 1926 there was a discussion of attaching telephone wires to Concord Electric Poles. This continued until 1976 when an agreement was reached to own poles jointly.

Monthly billing was begun April 1, 1935. March 6, 1936 the death of E. J. Lake was noted. Following the passing of the vice-president, J. L. T. Shaw, B. F. Shaw was elected to that office.

A pay station installation in the Center Store was authorized in 1928, personal liability insurance was voted in 1930.

In February 1949 B. F. Shaw was elected president, R. C. Sanborn, vice president, C. W. Langmaid, treasurer, L. A. Sanborn secretary, S. C. Marden, C. W. Stevens, H. G. West, H. S. Kelley and E. S. Edmunds, directors.

March 1953 saw a discussion of converting from magneto to dial equipment and William Dubben, a salesman, was present to offer information. A decision to convert was made and equipment was ordered. This equipment was not available so a used No. Electric system was purchased from Telephone Service Company of Standish, Maine. Concord changed to dial and was soon followed by Chichester. More cable was purchased and put into use as were more trunks and circuits.

In 1958 magneto telephones were sold – some to Hollywood and many to be made into lamps.

The death of the company secretary, Leon A. Sanborn in the fall of 1962 was followed in a few days by the passing of the president, Benjamin F. Shaw. As a result early in 1963 Mrs. Sanborn took over her husband's duties and Mrs. Shaw was elected president with C. W. Stevens, vice-president, and R. C. Sanborn continuing as treasurer.

In 1965 Paul Ordway was chosen vice-president and in the same year revised by-laws were adopted. Mabel Stevens was elected secretary in 1966.

After an addition to the Dial House was completed, a new system was purchased, installed and went into effect February 20, 1968. Soon CAMA equipment was installed and December 11, 1975 Direct Distance Dialing was available to all Chichester Telephone Company Customers.

And so Chichester Telephone Company continues to the best of its ability to serve its ever increasing list of customers.

INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICITY

Anticipation of electric service in the town of Chichester was conceived in the spring of 1925 and a petition was circulated by Harry S. Kelley, who was town clerk and representative to the General Court at that time. He, with assistants, received about forty signers and presented the petition to the N.H. Power Company who were erecting a high power line at the time from Penacook to Pittsfield. This project apparently was not favorably received by the company and no action was taken.

In October efforts were made further by John L. T. Shaw through correspondence with Concord Electric Company and a meeting followed of the citizens of Chichester held on Dec. 1, 1925. Officers chosen were F. B. Shaw, clerk, John L. T. Shaw, Harry S. Kelley and Leon A. Sanborn, executive committee, who proceeded at once and about a week later presented to the Concord Electric Company a request for service signed by forty subscribers wishing to be known as the Chichester Development Associates.

The Associates were organized on a non-profit basis for the purpose of securing electrical service and such other development for the town as may from time to time seemed feasible. Those who pledged financial aid became members.

The proposition for electrical service was as follows — To commence at Edgerley's Corner, so called to the estate of the late G. W. Lane (Lane District) to the store of Leon A. Sanborn (Center) thence commencing to C. S. Towle's on Canterbury Road (Leopold's) to Pineground to the residence of Mary J. Carpenter (MacCleery's) and up Bear Hill Road to the Loudon line, a distance of eight or nine miles. The Associates were to furnish and erect the poles on the said roads and obtain permission to place wires of the Chichester Telephone Company on the same wherever advisable. The lines to be turned over the Concord Electric Company.

Meanwhile subscribers for electric lights at Horsecorner conferred with the Concord Electric Company and an agreement was formed. The subscribers were to furnish the poles and plant the same. The electric light company were to complete the job and the lines were to be turned over to the Concord Electric Company. It required 89 poles thirty feet at a cost of \$5.75. Cost of planting them was \$2.00 per hour. This line extended from the Suncook River to the home of Hiram Frost a distance of about two miles and cost the ten subscribers about \$75.00 a piece.

Thus by Christmas of 1926 a good share of Chichester had electricity for the first time.

The first proposal for a town library was in the warrant of the Town Meeting in 1896. It was defeated, and defeated again in 1897 and 1898. In 1899, "Article 2", To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 118, laws of 1895 relating to Free Public Libraries, was adopted. Charles H. Carpenter, Otis T. Maxfield, Frederick B. Shaw, Charles E. Garvin, Albert S. Dame and Walter S. Langmaid were named library commissioners. The appropriation of the town required by the law was \$56.70 and the state books to the value of \$100.

Charles H. Carpenter was named chairman of the commissioners at the first meeting held in the Town Hall on April 20, 1899. Charles E. Garvin and Albert S. Dame were chosen to select a suitable place for the library. Several meetings were held that year and books purchased.

Clara Richmond was named as the first librarian in 1903 and a year later the records show that the commissioners met with the selectmen to enlarge the library room for added books.

Julia E. Langmaid replaced Miss Richmond in 1906 and served for the next 15 years. In 1910 the town voted to raise the library appropriation to \$75 and two years later the commissioners voted to establish branch libraries. One was located in the northern part of the town in the home of Grace E. Warren, one on Horsecorner Road in the home of Mabel Dame (Stevens) and one on Bear Hill in the home of Clara B. Shaw. They received \$3 a year for their services.

These branches continued until World War II. In 1934 the northern branch was moved to Pleasant Street with Dorothy Lane, librarian, and in 1940 Josie Shaw replaced Clara Shaw on Bear Hill. By the mid-forties, only the branch at Horsecorner Road was active, although books were left by the bookmobile at the home of Gladys Batchelder in the Center and later in the forties, Kathleen Shaw opened a Parent Teachers Association lending library.

Sadie Langmaid became librarian in 1921 and served the longest until her death in 1954.

The library was inactive from 1954 to 1958 during the years that the town hall was moved to its present foundation. It was re-opened in 1958 after being redecorated for eight months of the year with the Rev. H. Franklin Parker serving as librarian.

In 1963 the Chichester Parent Teachers Association saw the need for a full-time library facility for the children and decided to make it their community project to update the library. Under the leadership of the PTA executive committee, the PTA library committee, library trustees and the State Library staff the library was completely redecorated shelving added for 1,000 books, and hundreds of new books added to the collection.

An open house for the community was held Jan. 11, 1964 attended by 71 townspeople. The state bookmobile was also present to loan books and refreshments were served by the PTA in the Town Hall. Volunteers signed up to work two hours each Saturday to keep the library open from 2 to 5 p.m. each week.

Soon after the re-opening, Mrs. Floyd Blackman, was named librarian and continued until 1972. During this time, the Friends of the Library were organized, and two nights a week were added to the hours with the library aides donating their time.

The Friends have continued their support contributing equipment, sponsoring fund raising activities for the benefit of the library program and assisting in pro-

grams for the school children. In 1970 they undertook the task of cataloging the library and assisting the trustees, cataloged the school library and arranged for aides at the school so that library could be open daily during the school year.

In March 1972 the trustees voted to start a fund for a new library building which they felt was badly needed and raised \$1,000 to establish a reserve fund to which the town has been contributing each year.

Sylvia Dane was appointed librarian in March 1973. All the book shelves were enlarged, repainted and the floor refinished. Two hours were added to the opening hours bring to a total of nine hours the library is open. A branch library was also re-opened in the Pineground section of the town in the home of Mrs. John Varney.

A new card catalogue unit was purchased in March 1975 from the Gilsun Public Library who recently built a new library, one like we would like to see in our community.

A questionnaire was distributed at the town meeting requesting comments concerning library services for the town. Tabulation showed the desire for more books and expanded services.

During the year Mrs. James Bates Sr. who had assisted at the library since its reopening died. A memorial fund was established in her name by her family and friends to be added to the library building fund.

A childrens book memorial fund was also established in the name of Thelma Dutton Daniels who taught school in Chichester for several years. Formal dedication of the books was held in the library on November 13 by her daughter, Betty Ann Towle, attended by relatives and friends.

Early in 1977 an informal study committee was formed consisting of one school board member, a planning board member, a citizen-at-large and the three library trustees. The committee met and discussed the possibility of combining town and school library facilities at the school. This approach would mean a new facility either attached to or included in the school building. The consensus of the committee was that a combined facility would result in the lowest cost as well as provide the greatest amount of services for the town.

Other possibilities under consideration are an addition to the Town Hall or a separate building on town owned land.



Chichester Town Library before renovations in 1963

CEMETERIES

There are sixteen cemeteries located within the town's boundaries. Some are private lots with a very small number of interments and some are known only to a few relatives or to grave decorating veterans.

Following settlement some were buried on their own land or that of their neighbors, or, in some cases, several families would unite a small piece of ground for a common cemetery. No other sites were available because of non-existent churchyard or burying lots. It wasn't until the 1800's that burying grounds were set aside by the settlers.

Ederly – Knowlton Cemetery

The original owners of the farm on which it was established were the Seaveys who settled there about 1760. Later it was owned by Hosea Knowlton from whom the cemetery took one of its names. Henry Ederly became the owner next, and soon after the transfer the Chichester Union Cemetery Association was formed which bought about an acre of land of him to enlarge the holdings. The ground is now cared for as a town cemetery.

It is located at an intersection of the Horsecorner and Lane Roads about a half mile southwest of Dover Road (Routes 202, 4 and 9) and some of the early settlers of that section of the town are buried there.

Locke Cemetery

A private resting place for at least three interments. Two have unmarked head and foot stones, with the one in between inscribed, Elijah Locke, Parson's Co., N.H. Reg. Rev. War. Locke was no. 26 on Capt. Joseph Parson's company list of 14 officers and men. They formed one of the companies of Minute Men enlisted by the order of the Committee of Safety of 12 Oct. 1775. The small plot is located almost across the road from the Hook Cemetery but more westerly toward Concord on an embankment. The three granite posts and small Juniper trees can be seen from Dover Road.

Langley – Watson Cemetery

This cemetery is located in the Horsecorner section of town on what is known as the Bailey Road. It is a private family cemetery with gravestones dating back to the 1800's.

Morrill Cemetery

The private cemetery is located in the Horsecorner section of the town on what is known as the Staniel Road, on the original Morrill Grant. Paul Morrill, the first settler in town, is buried here with his family. A large granite monument shows the date of his birth May 5, 1706, his settlement in Chichester 1758, but no date of death.

Pineground Cemetery

This land was set off originally as part of the parsonage lot at the "pine bushes" and was the first town cemetery. When the lot was disposed of in 1826 two acres were set aside as a burying ground. While stones carry dates of the beginning of the 19th century, many unmarked field stones off in an area by themselves indicate interments – undoubtedly began during the latter part of the 18th century.

Sanborn-Smith Cemetery

This cemetery is a small private ground of the Sanborn family. Located well out in a field on the east side of Swigley Brook Road it is a field stone quadangle. Some of the stones are legible including the one of Sergeant Jeremiah Sanborn, Clark's Co., N.H. Troops, Rev. War and his wife Elizabeth.

Perkins-Maxfield Cemetery

The Perkins-Maxfield Cemetery is located on the north side of Pleasant Street and is a private cemetery.

Foster Cemetery

The Foster Cemetery is located farther west on Pleasant Street from the Perkins-Maxfield ground near the Chichester-Loudon line. It is not generally known, even locally, said Harry S. Kelley, a former town clerk, that the original owners in leaving the district took the remains with them. Tradition had it that the owner taught in a neighboring academy. In the course of family changes the farm was sold and the remains deposited elsewhere. "This small ground is so unusual it warrants description. A central aisle has four rectangular bays on each side, all being a couple feet below the surrounding terrain. They are paved with a deep layer of fist-sized and larger rocks, through which the bushes and weeds in the intervening century have made little headway. The three blocks of lots on each side, enclosed by the lowered aisles, are curbed with rough dressed granite cap-stones, as is the wall in front of the ground. Some are thirteen feet long, only a foot wide on top and but six inches thick, representing a high degree of mason's skill in splitting them out of the ledge. Each cap-stone is anchored to its neighbor with heavy iron staples, to prevent the wall below from frost heaving. The front wall cap-stones are topped by the low, cast iron fence, so often seen in works of the period. The lots between the aisles are at ground level and covered with bushes. Rising serenely above them in one of the lots is a small, white marble statue of a child in a pose of supplication. The base of the monument has on two of its panels

John L. Foster, and

Georginna dau'r of J. L. and L. A. Foster, D. Sept. 12, 1856 ae 7 yrs.

There was no other evidence of use of the lots found. The shingled walks, raised curbing around the lots, and technically unusual design and skill seemed to warrant recording in brief detail."¹

Brown Cemetery

The Brown Cemetery is located on the hill top above Kelley's Corner, on the west side of the Kaime Road. Dr. Amasa Kelley, the town's first physician was buried here and the dates here go back to the end of the 18th century. It is a private common cemetery of families that made their home in this area in the 1800's.

Kaime Cemetery

The Kaime Cemetery is located on the Locke Road in the northern part of town. Kaime 1856 is cast into the iron gates. It contains the graves of the Kaime family dating from 1851 to 1908.

¹N.E. Historical and Genealogical Register, N.H. Historical Society, Concord, N.H.

Edmunds Cemetery

The location of the Edmunds or Stanyan ground is located on what is now called Main Street. It was originally part of Canterbury Road the first travelled way in town. The Rev. Josiah Carpenter was the original owner of the adjoining farm which was later sold to the Stanyans, close friends of the Carpenter family. Upon the death of Charles Stanyan the farm came into the possession of his daughter, Emma, and her husband, Noah G. Edmunds from whom the cemetery took its name.

Much of the small ground evidently provided permanent rest for some of the pioneers. Dates bear silent witness to the ground's probable use before 1800 although many areas are unmarked even by field stones.

The Rev. Carpenter and his family are interred in a small private cemetery adjoining.

Leavitt Cemetery

The Leavitt Cemetery, situated on a knoll of land, is located on the Canterbury Road a few rods west of the Methodist Church. It was built by a stock company incorporated at the session of the Legislature in 1854. Original stockholders were Hazen K. Leavitt, Solomon Leavitt, Jacob P. Leavitt, Benjamin F. Leavitt, G. W. West, Moses W. Page, Richard Locke, True Sanborn, True Sanborn Jr. and Benning Sanborn. The company purchased seven acres of land, enclosed it with a neat and substantial fence, constructed a beautiful driveway across a valley to it, divided it off into lots, set out shade trees and otherwise improved it. In 1936 the town took over the cemetery. A few years ago the town obtained about three quarters of an acre in an adjoining field to allow for expansion.

Hook Cemetery

The Hook-Dover ground, so called, is located on the south side of Dover Road at the corner of the Robinson Road. It is the private resting place of the Hook family.

Shaw Cemetery

The Shaw Cemetery, also known as the True Cemetery, is located on the north side of Bear Hill Road, on the top of the hill next to the Brown home. The cemetery contains about 50 graves and the graves of three veterans of the Revolution and the War of 1812. Abraham True, John Maxfield and Enoch Moore. True, served from Deerfield during the Revolution and came here in 1785 where he settled and served as Selectman for several years and in the legislature.

Bachelor Cemetery

The Bachelor Cemetery or Jackson Cemetery as it is sometimes called is a small private cemetery located on the south side of the Bear Hill Road between the homes of Lloyd and Kempton Ricker.

Page Cemetery

The Page Cemetery, also called the Soldier's Cemetery, is a small private cemetery located on the south side of Bear Hill Road, just below the Shaw home.

It contains headstones marking the graves of David Page, his wife, Bethian, and Christopher Page, who fought in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Local legend has it that his horse is buried with him.

Winslow Cemetery

Although this private cemetery is listed as a burial ground with members of the Winslow family therein accredited to the town, it is located on the Bear Hill Road in the town of Loudon, one half mile from the Chichester town line. It is not counted as one of the sixteen cemeteries in Chichester.

Most of the lots are recorded in either the library of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Mass. or at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord.

WARS AND VETERANS

On May 16, 1776 the call went out for Chichester, Loudon and Epsom men to hold themselves in readiness and to march on the shortest notice and equip themselves. They were under the command of Major Nathan Bachellor.

John Cram was chosen Captain of the town and made the following report —

To the honourable Thomas Stickney Esquire Colonel of the thirteenth reigement of Miletery in the colony aforesaid —

Percuent to orders I have received from your honour I have accordingly mustered my company and have Enlisted Eight Able Bodyed Effective men —

Also An a count of all the Training Soldiers under my Command from Sixteen to fifty years ld.

Drumer one	001
Sargents and privates Seventy Eight	078
Also those of the alarm List Eighteen	018
Those Gone into the Service for twelve months four	004
Also the friends or the People called quakers Six	006
	<hr/> 117

Chichester July the 12th, 1776

Pr me John Cram Capt.

Records show that three Chichester men were at the June 17, 1776 Battle of Bunker Hill, John Bickford, James Garland and Josiah Libbee.

The 1909 Chichester Register lists the following Revolutionary Soldiers.

Jacob Abbott	Neal Cate	Nathaniel Martin
Jeremiah Abbott	John Chase	John Maxfield
James Ahearn	Ephraim Conner	Joseph Merrill
Josiah Barton	Eliphalet Conner	Daniel Paige
Benjamin Berry	Joseph Dow	Daniel Seavey
John Bickford	Ephraim Garvin	Joshua Smith
Benjamin Brown	Joseph Goss	Richard Smith
Joseph Brown	Jonathan Locke	Dudley Swain
	Simeon Lovering	

This is not a complete list of the men who served in the militia and the Continental Army. Other names found are Charles and James Mason who served in the 12th regiment of the N.H. Volunteers and Joseph Smith who served with Capt. Josha Woodmans regiment.

After the war the militia became disorganized but with the adoption of a new Constitution in 1792, provision was made for organization. Chichester became part of the second battalion of the eighteenth regiment along with the towns of Epsom, Northwood and Pittsfield.

War of 1812

Jonathan Batchelder*
David M. Carpenter
Rueben Dearborn*
Samuel Drake*
Edward Edmunds*
Benjamin French*

Theophilus Mason
John B. Maxfield*
Christopher Page*
Mathew Sanborn
David Shaw*
Issac Stanyan

*These men all served with Capt. Samuel Collins Company in the 1st Regiment of the Detached Militia. Collins was from Deerfield. They enlisted on September 12, 1814 for 3 months.

Caleb Davis, served as a fifer with Capt. Jonathan Godfrey's Company of the 2nd Regiment. Godfrey was from Epsom. The enlistment was for 60 days from September 29, 1814.

After the war of 1812 the militia laws of the state were radically changed. All white men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five were enrolled and companies formed. Each company was required to parade on the first Tuesday of May for inspection and on two other days for regimental muster and the towns were to furnish refreshments for the men.

This was changed in 1820 and provided among other things that the companies be called out only once a year, and no more, except for annual inspection in May.

An orderly book dated 1821 — 1825 kept by Captain James Blake shows that there was an active militia during these years. Part of the 38th Regiment, the Company was known as the Seventh, and contained 3 brigades.

On August 31, 1822, John W. Morrill, was to notify and have the men listed below to meet fully equipped according to military law to parade at the home of the Captain.

James Batchelder
Abrahan Brown
William Bickford
Samuel Towle
Jonathan Towle
Ebeneza Fellows
Newell Maxfield
Asa Lane Jr.
John Fellows

Simon Mason
Elbin Kelley
Jewet Maxfield
Ebenezer Hilliard
Jonathan Batchelder
Joshua Lane Jun.
Enoch Tilton Jun.
Jefferson Ingalls

The same date, David Drake, was to notify the following men, the same as above.

Daniel Clifford
Andrew Smart
Jonathan Langmaid
Edward Perkins
Simon Winslow
Samuel Moulton
Nathaniel Sherburne
Josiah Drake Jun.

Malahi Haines Jr.
Issiah Lane
Daniel Potter
Daniel Sargent
David Lane
Thomas Langmaid
Thomas Leavitt
Moses Fife

Daniel Feathers
Benjamin Griffin
Moses Seavey Jun.
Samuel Jenness
James Stanyan
Jesse Garvin
Josiah Stanyan
John Marden Jr.

The same date, Edward Edmunds, was to notify the following men, the same as before.

John Davis Jun.	Samuel Marden	Samuel Marston
Thomas Rand	Nathaniel Batchelder	Aaron Mason
Dudley Sanborn	William Lake Jr.	Issac Eastman
Levi Stanyan Jun.	True Lake	True Edmunds
Robert Muncey	Henry Robie	Oliver Carpenter
Ephraim Hoit	Ephraim Fish	Christopher Hilliard

The following items were furnished by the state.

- 2 drums
- 1 fife
- 1 Infantry regulations
- 1 military law
- 1 roll book
- 1 orderly book

On the Merrimack County Map of 1858 the map of Chichester shows the part of town now known as Pineground as Chichester Parade. This term probably designates where the militia met and practiced and paraded.

In 1840 Chichester was constituted in Section 38 with Canterbury, Loudon and Northfield and known as the Thirty-eighth.

By 1851 the militia had become a mere skeleton of itself. The legislature met and enacted the law that the militia of the state no longer be subject to active duty, except in time of war.

When the War of the Rebellion broke out it was impossible to draft the men needed because the rolls were incomplete and the call went out from the President for volunteers.

Civil War

Thomas J. Ames — 15th Regiment Co. D. Sept. 13, 1862-Aug. 13, 1863
Sewell B. Bailey — 1st Reg. Co. H. April 19, 1861 — 9th Reg. Co. B. June 6, 1862-Sept. 30, 1862
James P. Batchelder — N.H. Vol. H. Art. 2nd Co. Aug. 22, 1863 disabled March 10, 1864
Charles L. Brown — N.H. Vol. 1st Reg. H. Art. Co. E. Sept. 5, 1864 Promoted Cpl. June 15, 1865
Frederick T. Brown — 14th Reg. Co. H. Sept. 24, 1862 disabled May 10, 1863 Washington, D.C.
Hugh Burns — 15th Reg. Co. G. Sept. 13, 1862-Aug. 13, 1863
William Buzzell — 14th Reg. Co. H. Sept. 24, 1862-July 8, 1865
Chellis E. Call — 14th Reg. Co. H. Sept. 24, 1862 disabled June 10, 1863, re-enlisted Sept. 9, 1864
Charles H. Edmunds — 14th Reg. Co. H. Sept. 24, 1862 died at sea April 2, 1864
Charles Green — N.H. Vol. 1st Reg. H. Art. Co. E. Sept. 5, 1864-June 15, 1865
George P. Haines, 2nd — N.H. Vol. 1st Reg. H. Art. Co. E. Sept. 5, 1864-June 15, 1865
George H. Haines — N.H. Vol. 1st Reg. H. Art. Co. E. Sept. 5, 1864-June 15, 1865 (Corporal)

John P. Haines — 13th Reg. Co. C. Sept. 19, 1862 Promoted to 1st Sgt. Jan. 1865 1st Lt. May 1865

James H. Haines — 14th Reg. Co. H. Sept. 24, 1862-July 8, 1865
Thomas Haines — 14th Reg. Co. H. Oct. 1, 1862-July 8, 1865
Alonzo Hall — N.H. Vol. 1st Reg. H. Art. Co. E. Sept. 5, 1864-June 15, 1865
Albert Hook — 4th Reg. Co. B. Feb. 25, 1864-July 20, 1865
Levi Hook — N.H. Vol. 1st Reg. H. Art. Co. E., Sept. 5, 1864-June 15, 1865
Hiriam Hook — N.H. Vol. Heavy Artillery Sgt. Sept. 5, 1864-June 15, 1865 (1st Reg. Co. E.)
James P. Hook — N.H. Vol. H. Art. Co. E. Sept. 5, 1864-June 15, 1865
William H. Jackson — 7th Reg. Co. G. Oct. 7, 1861-July 10, 1865
Charles H. Johnson — N.H. Vol. 1st Reg. H. Art. Co. E. Sept. 5, 1864-June 15, 1865
Alfred Langmaid — 15th Reg. Co. G. Oct. 11, 1862 mustered out Aug. 13, 1863 (sick)
Warren Langmaid — N.H. Vol. 1st Reg. H. Art. Co. E. Sept. 5, 1864-June 15, 1865
Jonathan H. Leavitt — N.H. Vol. 1st Reg. H. Art. Co. E. Sept. 5, 1864-June 15, 1865
Jonathan D. Leavitt — 3rd Reg. Co. A. Oct. 30, 1861 wounded slightly July 10, 1863 promoted to Cpl. wounded May 13, 1864, Nov. 2, 1864
George A. Lear — 1st Reg. Co. I. April-Aug. 1861 3rd Reg. Co. B.
Elbridge G. Locke — 3rd Reg. Co. B. Aug. 8, 1862-June 26, 1865
Hiriam E. Locke — 13th Reg. Co. C. Sept. 19, 1862-June 21, 1865
James J. Locke — 3rd Reg. Co. B. Aug. 14, 1861-July 10, 1863 (killed in action)
James McGuire — 3rd Reg. Co. B. Oct. 14, 1862, wounded July 18, 1863-July 20, 1865
Peter Mehier — 14th Reg. Co. I. Dec. 29, 1863, died and buried in Chichester
James Meserve — N.H. Vol. Cavalry March 11, 1864 — Promoted to Sgt., Captured June 30, 1864. Died of disease Andersonville Ga., July 31, 1864
Joseph C. Munsey — Sgt. 14th Reg. Co. H. Sept. 24, 1862-July 8, 1865
George H. Pearson — 3rd Reg. Co. B. unanswered Aug. 29, 1862, never reported
Samuel M. Perry — 14th Reg. Co. H. Sept. 24, 1862-July 8, 1865
Joseph C. Perry — 14th Reg. Co. H. Sept. 24, 1862 died, buried in Chichester
Ira B. Perry — 3rd Reg. Co. H. Aug. 23, 1861, captured at Pinckney Island, S.C., Aug. 21, 1862 exchanged Aug. 23, 1864
Cyrus Sanborn — 14th Reg. Co. H. Sept. 24, 1862 — July 8, 1865
Henry M. Sanborn — 14th Reg. Co. H. promoted to Cpl. Dec. 1864, July 8, 1865
True Sanborn Jr. — 4th Reg. Co. K. Captain Aug. 15, 1862 — disabled Nov. 2, 1864
George Sanders — 4th Reg. Co. A. Aug. 8, 1862 — June 28, 1865 Promoted to Cpl.
Herbert T. Sanborn — N.H. Vol. 1st Reg. H. Art. Co. E. Artificer Sept. 5, 1864-June 12, 1865
William Sanborn — N.H. Vol. 1st Reg. H. Art. Co. E. Sept. 5, 1864-June 15, 1865
Hiriam Stanyan — N.H. Vol. 1st Reg. H. Art. Co. E. Sept. 5, 1864-June 15, 1865
William Spiller — 13th Reg. Co. C. Sept. 19, 1862-June 3, 1865
James Stanyan — 14th Reg. Co. H. Sept. 24, 1862-July 8, 1865

Charles H. Staniels Jr. — 15th Reg. Co. G. Oct. 14, 1862-Aug. 13, 1863
 William S. Stanley — 15th Reg. Co. D. Sept. 13, 1862-Aug. 13, 1863
 Charles H. Towle — 14th Reg. Co. H. Sept. 24, 1862
 Joseph M. Walker — 3rd Reg. Co. B. Aug. 14, 1861-Aug. 23, 1864
 John A. West — 15th Reg. Co. G. Sept. 13, 1862-Aug. 13, 1863
 Edward West — N.H. Vol. 1st Reg. H. Art. Co. E. Sept. 5, 1864, Promoted Cpl.
 Dec. 13, June 15, 1865

On October 4, 1871 the Merrimack Guards, a military company, was organized in Chichester at the hall of Benjamin F. Leavitt.

On learning on the 4th of July that year that the quota for Merrimack county was 2,000 men, a few of the numerous patriotic citizens met on August 26th to see if public opinion was strongly in favor of the speedy enlistment of a volunteer company in Chichester. The necessary enlistment papers were to be procured from the Adjutant General's office by the first of September.

The papers were procured and Capt. True Sanborn Jr. and ten others enlisted. They met every week thereafter and the enlistment progressed until the company was full. On October 4th, officers were chosen for the company. True Sanborn Jr. was chosen Captain; Hiriam Hook, first lieutenant and George Haines, second lieutenant and Augustus Leavitt, secretary. The name Merrimack Guards was chosen the following week.

The following month a committee was chosen to ascertain the names of the soldiers then residents of Chichester who enlisted in the late war for the suppression of the rebellion and the regiment in which each soldier enlisted. They were to post the said report in the armory and a list to the state of those who were wounded or killed.

The guards continued to meet each week at the Leavitt hall for drills until the middle of December when it was decided to adjourn until the first Tuesday in February of 1872. At this meeting uniforms, arms and equipment was received from the state and the evening devoted to the selection and fitting of uniforms.

Spanish American War

Vernon S. Colwell

Charles H. Staniels

World War I

Frank C. Adams
 Arthur J. Collins
 William G. Collins
 Richard F. Clough
 Bryant B. Call
 Wilfred E. Davis
 Walter S. Dow
 Alvin B. Edmunds
 Franklin S. Harvey
 Orrin Marston
 Charles F. Moses
 Harold F. Ricker
 Dennis C. Stevens
 Edwin L. Winslow
 Frank E. West

World War II

James C. Bates
 James Boyd
 Charles Brady
 Clarence Brown
 Charles A. Burton
 Howard M. Burton
 Chellis H. Call
 George W. Call
 William Calkins
 John E. Dicey
 E. Scott Edmunds
 Leslie M. George
 Roger S. George
 Robert E. Gibbs
 John F. Grady
 Frank B. Hatch Jr.
 Russell Hutchins
 Robert LaDuke
 Charles A. Langmaid
 William Lindquist
 Harry B. Mattice
 Cory E. McAllister
 Edwin W. Mason
 J. Walter Mitchell
 Lawrence E. Mitchell
 Murray D. Mitchell
 James O. Mobbs

Lemuel H. Mobbs
 Oliver E. Mobbs
 Richard A. Mobbs
 John Moran
 Ray W. Munsey
 Walter B. Nye
 Robert Parent
 John Pickering
 Clifton S. Rice
 Kempton L. Ricker
 Edward C. Sanborn
 Edwin E. Sanborn
 E. Ralph Sanborn
 Frederick H. Sanborn
 Richard C. Sanborn
 Robert D. Sanborn
 William H. Sanborn
 Barbara Sawyer
 James M. Sawyer
 Maurice Sherburne
 Onesime V. Simard
 Dennis C. Stevens
 George A. Towle
 Kenneth E. West
 John R. Wilcox
 Robert A. Wilcox
 Kenneth M. Witham

