

1912
Probably written

Helen Robbins ?

Historical Commission

EARLY STORES

where the Congregational Church now stands, once stood a Tavern, built and owned by Squire Lemuel Parker. Across from this building to the south, a road between, stood a one-story house, also owned and probably built by this same "Squire Lem." Originally, this house stood on quite a hill and was used as a store by the Squire. Later this hill was cut away to widen and improve the street and this led to the building of the basement, making it a side-hill house and such as it remains to the present day. In 1816, it was known as the Tileston house. About this time it became a dwelling house. It is interesting to note here the people who lived in this still, quaint, old building, probably today the most inconvenient house in this village, destitute of the ordinary comforts of the average country farm-house. Sometime in the 30's a family by name of Benjamin lived here. Mr. B. drove the stage which ran between Lowell and Pepperell. Mrs. John Durant, mother of Mrs. E. L. Tarbell, was intimate with one of the daughters, and speaks of going up the flight of steps which ran up to the front door and which many of us recollect, she cannot remember the house without a basement. Previous to living in this house, Mr. Benjamin lived in the house on Townsend Street, now occupied by Mr. Harry Foster, so also did his successor as stage driver. Dr. Charles E. Parker lived in the Tileston house, Augustus Parker also. Mrs. John Ames, grandmother of Dr. William F. Heald, lived there two years, boarding

impossible!!

1916

Horne

her son, Samuel T. Ames, and her grand-daughter, Mrs. John Durant, boarded in that house six months later when she was learning the tailoring business from Joseph T. Ward to whose business I shall later refer. About 1830, a store, first used as a hop store, stood about where Mr. Luther Boynton's shop now stands. It was painted green and known as "The Green Store" and run by George W. Tarbell, and Major Elijah Shattuck lived in the basement. In this region and back of the old tavern, stood a comfortable story-and-a-half cottage house, with a door opening directly on the street and a side door with a trellis covered with running roses and opening into an inclosed garden full of syringa and lilac bushes and many sweet flowering shrubs. Mr. John Mace came from Hancock, bought the place, occupying it as a dwelling, adding a two-story ell of considerable length and using it for a harness-shop, and letting rooms for business purposes. Thomas M. Thompson, a lawyer, used one for an office. Later Moses Greenlaw had a picture and glazing store here and a shoe store was also located here.

When the new church, second parish, was built in 1832, Squire Lemuel Parker, or his son, moved the ell from his old tavern over to the new Temperance Tavern, adding it to that structure making the store shown in the photograph presented to the Chapter by Mrs. Rolan Blood and described in her paper. In the part of the ell on the east, facing what is now Mr. Child's residence, was a tailor shop run by Joseph T. Ward, said Ward was succeeded by Thomas W. Atherton as a tailor. For many years

what is this?
See below
p. 4

the "Washington Fraternity Library" was kept in this shop till it was finally removed to the home of Major Luther Bancroft, after his death it was stored at Colonel S. P. Shattuck's, but is now interred in the usual "graveyard of books," the Public Library. Mr. Emerson sold the store to Ames, Cutter, and Swasey. They ran the store about two years when Seth Nason, who held the mortgage, foreclosed, and Squire Crosby bought the business and stock, which later he sold at auction. Next Mr. John Loring from New York leased the store and took charge about 1836. Mr. Loring used to go to New York and buy goods in large quantities at auction and his merchandise arrived, it would be noised ^{when} about and crowds of people would arrive to patronize. Mr. L. P. Blood says: "it was like the crowd on bargain days in our Boston stores." As he bought "cheap" Mr. Loring must have "made money." The Post Office was always in this store except during one administration (?) when a small building was erected and used.

Some years later, "somebody" trickily leased the property over Mr. Loring and Mr. William Shipley, his brother-in-law, bought the Mace house and ell, before referred to, and it was fitted up as a store for Mr. Loring, greatly to the chagrin of the interlopers, who were overheard to remark, when passing by in the street, "we weren't smart, or we would have leased that too."

Mr. John Loring was probably an Englishman, he had a romantic history, he was fine looking, of most cordial, and had

the manners of a gentleman as well as the respect of his fellow townsmen. His nephew, Mr. Charles D. Hutchinson, became associated with him in business in the year 1872 and so continued till the death of Mr. Loring in 1878. John Mace sold this property to William Shipley in 1862, Mr. Shipley died September 17, 1875, he willed this property to the American Merchant and Tract Publishing Society of Philadelphia. John Loring died December 29, 1878. Mr. Hutchinson bought the contents of the store and succeeded as Post Master in the winter of 1879, leasing the store from the Philadelphia parties, until they sold to him in January, 1912, when he was succeeded by his son, Harry W. Hutchinson, the present incumbent (in 1916). This old (Mace) building was torn down in August, 1905, and replaced by a handsome Colonial brick building and occupied as a store in 1906 by Mr. Hutchinson until his death, August, 1914. Mr. H. W. Hutchinson now holds the property and store which was willed to him by his father.

OTHER STORES

Amos Adams, known as "Peppermint Adams," kept a store on Park Street in the building now the residence of Addison Woodward. He sold patent medicines, herbs, drugs, candy, tobacco, and liquors, and possibly a few groceries. The reputation of this place was "shady." He was brother of Abel, father of "Nancy and Maria" Adams. The building consisted of one large high-studded room and two rear bedrooms. There was also for a while a store run by Squire Sam Parker, brother of Lemuel, on Park Street opposite

the present residence of Elijah Miller. Both stores existed some time before 1840.

On the grounds nearby, and on which the summer-house of Mr. E. L. Tarbell now stands, stood a square colonial house once occupied as a parsonage by Rev. Mr. Bullard. This house was bought by Luther Tarbell. His land ran on the north as far as the present Hutchinson house. ^{Cousins} Mr. Bullard owned the land on Park Street as far as Mr. Charles Miller's present home and running back westerly to the so-called Shattuck woodlot and southerly by Charles Boynton's house on Heald Street to the corner of Mr. Meriams' house next to Miss Davidson's on Townsend Street. Here was located the "old Pound," (the new one is on Heald Street.) Mr. Bullard owned all the land between the two roads, back and up to the Congregational Church. Mr. Breck married Parson Bullard's daughter and built the house where Mr. Hutchinson now lives. After Mr. Bullard's death, Luther Tarbell bought the house and land north as far as Mr. Breck's and west as far as Charles Boynton's. Probably Mr. Tarbell added to the southern end of his house a two-story section, and he opened a store and tavern, and later raised a third story, building therein a large hall which ran the whole length of the structure. Later, he built the present residence of Mr. E. L. Tarbell, placing it as near the Breck line as possible. Hay scales also stood somewhere near this tavern in front. Fire destroyed this building and the Congregational Church in 1859.

Rev. Bullard's
land.

PEWTER INDUSTRY

But very little can be learned in connection therewith save that at one time two Englishmen, brothers, Dorrell by name, located in the southern part of the town on a little stream which ran through the farm of the late William T. Lawrence, a "turning shop", as it has always been spoken of where all kinds of pewter plates, spoons, and hollow ware were manufactured by them.

In plowing near there in comparatively recent years, Mr. Kirk M. Lawrence unearthed a large pewter button, about three inches in diameter, in perfect condition, but it was not preserved.

Bessie F. Allen

BRICK YARDS

In the years gone by there have been several Industries of more or less importance in the town, which have given occupation of few or more people as parts of a whole, one being that of making brick, where a good bed of clay could be formed, and carried on by different managers.

The oldest yard, now a thing of the past, is probably that at Oak Hill, quite an extensive one, reaching from the corner going toward Oak Hill, past the late Asher Blood place, now the home of the Dunbar's, it being occupied over one hundred years ago by one Joseph Lawrence, who was a brother-in-law of Mr. Isaac Boynton, Sen.

Later, Mr. Boynton was the manager, making the brick, where practically his only help in the work was from his own family of twelve children, nine sons and three daughters.

They all had to help in the brick yard in the fall, in the winter working on shoes, and making maple sugar during the spring, this being their only way of earning their clothing. This large family all lived to maturity, the older ones being well-known farmers in the town. Two were physicians; the daughters going to homes of their own in neighboring towns.

As late as 1877, the Col. Samuel P. Shattuck and Mr. William Anes made a kiln of brick at this yard for the town house which was built that year, it being the last of the brick making at that yard.

The old yard on the South Road at the corner of Shirley St.

was known by the name of Whitney's yard, because it was on his land but occupied by the late William T. Lawrence.

About seventy or more years ago, it was moved or changed, probably by the scarcity of the clay, from that place to near the corner of Mt. Lebanon. St. with River St. and bricks were made at this yard until 1899 and 1900 when it was given up, as the clay from which they were made had given out so they could not make more. Mr. Lawrence and later his son, Mr. Jerome T. Lawrence used this yard as long as it could be used. At the present time the old clay pit is in a pond of water several feet deep.

A rumor has been afloat that many years ago, bricks were made in the easterly part of town, but where or by whom managed, remains a mystery, as several of the older people fail to remember about it.

At present, there are no bricks made in town, it being a lost art. New clay-pits will have to be developed before it can again be an industry in the town, and bricks have to be brought for chimneys and underpinning on the cars from out of town, though in years past thousands of bricks have been shipped to other towns from the yards in town.

P. S.

Later--

Mrs. Woodworth has, since the above was written, informed me that Mr. William Ames built the three brick tenement

houses on Foster Street at East Pepperell from some of the brick manufactured by him about 1877. Also she said that her husband worked at the brick yard twenty or more years since and there was plenty of clay at the other end of the pit to continue making brick for some time to come. Mr. Woodworth burned brick as late as 1892, when he fired 175,000 at each burning. This was the last.

THE HOP INDUSTRY

The hop is an herbaceous, twining plant. On the European Continent it is spontaneous, but in North America it is doubtfully indigenous. The cultivation of hops for use in the manufacture of beer dates from an early period. In the 8th and 9th centuries hop gardens, called "humularies," existed in France and Germany.

Until the 16th century, however, hops appear to have been grown in a very fitful manner and to a limited extent.

Beginning with the 17th century the cultivation increased rapidly. Its cultivation was encouraged in America by legislative enactments in 1657.

During the last decades of the 19th and first decades of the 20th century, New York was the chief hop growing state in the union.

The county of Kent has always taken the lead in hop growing in England.

Tying the vines to the poles on strings was considered woman's work. After being picked the hops are taken to oasts to be dried. The oasts are circular or square kilns where the green hops are laid upon floors covered with horse-hair under which are open stones or furnaces. The hops are from nine or ten hours drying. Very few hops are raised in this country at the present time; it being found cheaper to buy them from Italy.

Back in the thirties the hop industry flourished in this town; in fact, Luther Fitch and Joseph Warner had hop fields in

the late sixties. They lived in the south part of the town. Jonathan Butters, John Webber, and Asa Jackson Ames had large fields in the western part of Pepperell. Mr. Butters lived on the place now owned by Miss Rosa Alden. Mr. Webber lived at the Baker place on West Street. He had a press to which the people brought their hops and then they were sent to the Boston Market. Mr. Ames lived on the place later known as the Joshua Blood place, later still owned by Mr. Edwin Colburn, and now by Mr. Pelletier. Later Mr. Ames moved to the place on Ames Street which is now owned by his daughter, Miss Harriet Ames and Mrs. Conant. Miss Ames is an honorary member of Prudence Wright Chapter, D. A. R.

Mr. Jacob Chase, for whom "Chase Hill" was named, who lived on the site where Dr. Qua's house now stands, and built the house owned by Rainsford Deware, had large hop fields where the high school building now stands.

Abijah Jewett lived in the old house by the covered bridge and had large fields of hops where "The Pepperell Card Shop" now stands.

Nathaniel Wright owned the Henry Blake place and had an extensive hop field. Milo Wright, son of Nathaniel, lived on the River Road (now Canal St.) and had hop fields. His son Alfred lived there also and he had hop fields. He was the first husband of Mrs. Susie Richardson, a member of Prudence Wright Chapter, D. A. R. The house on High Street where Mrs. Richardson

now lives was built by Mr. Alfred Wright and hops were raised there also.

On the Moses Griffin place in North Pepperell, hops were raised in the field opposite the house and that hop house, I think, remained standing the longest of any in Pepperell.

Isaac Bennett lived at the corner of Main and Canal Street opposite "Saunders' Corner." He had large fields of hops and Mrs. Bennett made yeast to sell. Mrs. Harriet Guttererson, the grand-daughter of Isaac Bennett, is a member of Prudence Wright Chapter, D. A. R. The Halls, who lived where William Chapman now lives, on Shirley Street, also raised hops.

John Blood, by the Woodlawn Cemetery had hops. The road ran through from the Henry Blood place to Deacon Jewett's. There were so many working there, to have dinner it took a whole lamb for the meat part of it.

Almost every farmer raised some hops for his own use and sold the surplus to the large dealers.

The hop picking season was looked forward to as a gala occasion by the people, although wages were small. Twenty-five cents a day and dinner; it was considered quite worth the while to earn even a little.

My late father, Henry Davenport Shattuck, often said he began his day's earning at six cents a day in the hop field when he was six years old.

The social life fostered was worthy consideration and the

corn roasts in the evening were never to be forgotten.

Ida E. Shattuck

This only refers to hop raisers in the south part of town, three in number, Mr. John Hosley, who grew so fine a grade of hops that they were always stamped "Number One" and without inspection. Then Mr. Joseph Warner on the state road or as it was then called the "Great Road" and at one time the "town" was owing him one thousand dollars for his output. Mr. Luther Fitch, living near the Groton line, also raised a large quantity.

COOPERING

Coopering was an important industry in the early history of Pepperell. Several of our older citizens have told me the location of cooper shops at some of the old Homesteads. No doubt there were others, since taken down and forgotten.

On Oak Hill, at the homes of Mr. Abel Winn and Mr. Converse Winn were shops.

At the Deacon Jonas Parker homestead a shop stood on the opposite side of the road from the house, but was moved to its present location by Mr. Reed.

Mr. Charles L. Parker told me that he assisted his father in taking down the brick chimney of a cooper shop that stood just west of the Walter Jewett place on Townsend Street. There was a shop on the Aaron Shattuck place now owned by Mrs. Sylvester. There is still standing, in good condition, a cooper shop opposite the playground on what was once the Bradley Varnum homestead.

At Hovey's Corner there was a wheelwrights shop, with a room in one end which was used by Ensign David Shattuck as a cooper shop. Many years ago, there was a shop on the Abel Lawrence homestead; the old buildings are all gone, and the family of Mr. Ralph Shattuck now live in a new residence on the farm at Hollis Street.

So far as I can learn the largest shop in town was located on the Bancroft Farm, on the opposite side of the road from the home of Mrs. Lucy B. Page, and near the site of the old cottage.

On that section of Nashua Street between Hollis Street and Mill Street, on land owned by Mr. Henry Parker, once stood a small cottage and cooper shop. For some years Mr. Ralph Lawrence resided there, and carried on the business of coopering. He was a skilled workman, a cousin of my father, Miles Lawrence, and of him my father learned the coopers trade, becoming able to cut and prepare the wood, and from it make any sort of tight tub or cask, from a tiny bottle, holding one quart, to a hogs head, holding half a hundred or more gallons. Next on Nashua Street was the shop owned by Benjamin Lawrence, that was near the house where Mrs. Ann Davis now lives.

Farther down the road at the Nathan Lawrence place, a shop stood near the house in a pleasant corner between the road and the field. Still farther north there was an old cottage known as the Mike Murphy house, this small house was moved around 1865, to the rear of the Smith or Dow house and arranged for a cooper shop. All those buildings were leveled some years since. There were several others whose exact locations I am unable to state, only in the local term of East Village, one being on Brookline Street; another near the residence of Mr. George Carter.

These old shops were, generally one large room, with a fireplace at one side, a truly cozy place for neighborly calls during the cold winter months. The cooper had for his use a bench, shaving horse, and tools peculiar to the work; such as drawing shaves, two sorts of adze, a croze, planes, saws, dividers, bits,

draw knife, truss hoops, and possibly some I have forgotten. The work was more generally done in the winter months, and was a matter of pride as well as income, by the more skilled coopers. The poles and staves were wet, then heated by the fireplace to make them more pliant for shaping the barrel.

Housekeeping in the early days of New England was so unlike that of the present time. We cannot realize how much the comfort of families depended on the work of skilled coopers. Almost everything the housewife used in her work was kept in some sort of tub or cask. There were tubs for butter, maple syrup and sugar, for pickles and preserves, boiled cider, and applesauce which was made by the barrelsful. For washing clothes there were several sizes of tubs, two staves in each tub, being longer than the others, with an opening near the top to lift them by.

There were pails and mackerel kits, barrels for pork, beef, cider, fish, apples, vinegar, wines, and liquors. The leach tub was a tall, flaring top affair used to leach wood ashes, the lye obtained was used in making soft soap for which another strong barrel was used. Many of the barrels made in Pepperell were carried to Boston on barrel riggings drawn by oxen. Two or three days were required for the journey, the team bringing a load of merchandise on the return trip.

One driver of such a team told Mrs. Alfred Boynton that the rigging of his wagon was so broad and high, that it knocked signs down in the narrow streets of Boston for which he had to stop and

settle for damages.

There is in the Chapter House a rum bottle, made in 1735, which is in perfect condition. Such bottles were used by men to carry their drink to the fields and woods.

Josephine M. Lawrence

THE SHOE INDUSTRY

The shoe industry commenced in Pepperell years ago by the farmers among the first settlers making shoes in little shops at their homes in their spare moments. The stock was brought from Natick and Haverhill by team. Mr. John Williams would start very early in the morning with a load of shoes, reaching Natick late at night, and return the next day with a load of stock already cut for the people to make into finished shoes.

Mr. Walcott, who lived on the Daniel Blood place, now occupied by Mr. Bliss, used to drive to Haverhill and bring stock from there. The wives and daughters would close and bind the shoes. They had five cents a pair for closing and binding, and the husbands and sons put them together.

Many of the houses in town have these little shops. At my home there is one, and although it is used for store and wash room now, we still speak of it as "the shop."

Later they could get the stock in town. Mr. William Kendall had a shop in North Village for this purpose. Also, Mr. Putman Shattuck had one there where the Greenlaw place now is. Later he moved to the center where he had a shop until he died. He did cobbling and made sewed shoes and also had a shoe store.

About 1853, Mr. Able McIntyre had a shop where Mr. Bradley now lives. Mr. McIntyre lived where Mr. Fred Bancroft's place is. Sometime later, Mr. Albert Leighton had a shoe business at the depot village, putting out stock and employing some help to

make the shoes there. Later he went West and Mr. Joseph Hovey managed the business for a while. Then Mr. Brainard Shattuck did quite a business, succeeding him.

About this time, in 1860 and 1870, as many as fifteen or twenty made shoes in Henry Hovey's shop at Hovey's Corner, getting their stock ready cut from Brainard Shattuck's in the village. This shop was originally used for cooper and wheelwright business.

In 1868, the first pegging machine was put in the shop at Hovey's Corner. It went by foot power and was considered a great invention as well as a great help. The machine is still in the building.

In 1869, Mr. Leighton returned from the West. He built a shop in Babbitasset Village where he employed a good many making the entire shoe mostly by machinery. This building was burned in 1879. It was rebuilt on the same spot being somewhat larger. This was burned in 1889. Their courage seemed good for they built again a much larger building in which they employed some two hundred people. The firm was called Leighton Brothers, they were Mr. Albert Leighton's sons. This was burned in 1903 which practically ended the shoe industry in Pepperell as the Leighton Brothers did not seem to have courage to rebuild. A few small companies have made shoes for short times since, but seemingly have not made a success.

Anna C. Shattuck Woodworth

BURKINSHAW VILLAGE

My father, Lorenzo P. Blood, who was ninety-one on July 25, 1915; gave me the following information about the industries carried on over on the Plain, or in Burkinshaw Village, as it was called for some time.

Captain Vryling Shattuck, father of Augustus S. Shattuck and brother of Capt. Tom Shattuck, owned the farm where Mr. A. S. Shattuck has lived for so many years on Maple Street. He also owned land bordering on Sheffield and Blood Streets commencing a little west of Sucker Brook on Heald Street and extending to the sand hill on Blood Street, including the mill pond.

When, in 1832, the members of the Orthodox Society built their first church edifice, the one that was burned, it was framed on the corner now bounded by Heald and Sheffield Streets, the timbers being cut elsewhere. It was a good broad field to work on, and Captain Shattuck gave the use of the land.

The work going on could easily be seen from what is now the almshouse, then owned by Noah Blood and occupied by his family. In 1844, when the house now occupied by Lorenzo P. Blood was rebuilt by his father, Noah Blood, being changed from a small cottage to its present style, the lumber used was sawed out in a saw-mill standing on the north-east corner of the mill pond, north of the present dam on Sucker Brook. This mill was run by Col. Sam P. Shattuck. His brother, William, (familiarily known as Bill Poll) used the power to saw out inner soles for brogans

from thin wood, probably oak, which was used instead of leather.

John Loring, somewhere in the forties, became the owner of some of the land on Sheffield Street. He was appointed guardian of Levi Wright, and he built the house occupied later by Aaron Burkinshaw, on the corner of Heald and Sheffield Streets, and let Levi Wright and his wife occupy it. Mr. Loring conceived the idea of going into the button business (probably metal buttons covered with material for men's coats.) This was the time when Samuel Williston of Northampton, one of the benefactors of Amherst College, had made himself prominent and acquired quite a fortune in this industry. Mr. Loring's son, Henry, went out to Northampton to look into the business. He called on L. P. Blood who was then a student at Amherst College. Mr. Loring abandoned the business scheme, however, and the property came into the hands of Aaron Burkinshaw.

This was somewhere about 1850-53. Mr. Burkinshaw was living in Naugatuck, Conn. when he bought here. He was an Englishman by birth, and had served his apprenticeship of seven years as a cutler in Sheffield. He brought his Englishmen with him and established a knife factory, where he and his sons built up a flourishing business, and manufactured a grade of pocket-knives that became widely known for their excellence.

In a talk I had with Mr. Augustus Shattuck, who is in his ninety-first year, the information I got from my father was supplemented as follows:

Captain Vryling Shattuck sold, in the spring of 1844, twenty-one acres of land at twenty dollars an acre to Col. Sam P. Shattuck and John Loring in partnership. This was the land bordered by Heald, Sheffield, and Blood Streets, including the mill pond and the water power on Sucker Brook. That winter, '44-'45, the partners hired a millwright from Nashua to put machinery into a saw mill on the north side of the brook. They began sawing later on. The first lumber sawed came from John Tarbell's land in Brookline. The logs were teamed by Capt. Lemuel Parker and the boards were used in building the covered bridge over the Nashua River in East Pepperell. The building now standing near the old mill-site was put up for the button factory but was never used for that purpose. More than a century ago Jonathan Shattuck, Captain Vryling Shattuck's father, had a saw mill at this spot. Jonathan Shattuck was born in 1747. Mr. Augustus Shattuck recalls seeing the sills of his grandfather's old mill when he was a boy. The carrying-wheel or "old nigger wheel" as "Captain Vryling" called it, was used as a plaything by "Gus" when he was a boy.

The large house on Sheffield Street, now the property of Alta S. Shattuck and the residence of Aaron Burkinshaw's granddaughter, Mrs. Frost, and formerly owned for some years by Mr. Henry Oliver, was built by Mr. Loring about 1847, after the Burkinshaw house; Dr. Cutter lived there for one summer.

The first building on the Plain was an armory for storing

the arms of the old Prescott Guards. Lovell Shattuck, one of Capt. Tom Shattuck's sons, was the commander of the company at the time of its establishment, about 1840. It was not a new building, but had been used as a store by "Uncle Sam Parker," and stood near the house where Elijah Miller now lives on Park Street near Hovey's Corner. Mr. A. S. Shattuck helped to move it from that spot to a site near the present main entrance of Woodlawn Cemetery.

Forty years ago Burkinshaw Village was at the height of its prosperity. The old Burkinshaw house was full, the cottages were full, the pond was full, the factory was full, and the orders were full. The hands were all Englishmen of the sturdy working class, so that the Village had the air of an English hamlet. The Yankee playmates of the children of these workmen, after the manner of all children, teased and mimicked the little "cockneys" for dropping their h's and twisting their vowels, but fraternized with them in their sports around the mill pond and along the brook. Additions were built to the original factory, expert workmen finished the knives, and the name of "Burkinshaw" on the blade of a pocket-knife was the guaranty of honest goods. However, like the other industries of this town the business has passed away. Only one of the sons of Aaron Burkinshaw is now living, and he has not resided in town for some years.

While the Village has not quite the deserted air of some sec-

tions of our old town, it is no longer the busy hive of industry, no work having been done in the factory for three years. However, the building is still owned by the Burkinshaw Knife Company, at present represented by Mrs. Fred Burkinshaw, the widow of the youngest of Aaron Burkinshaw's sons, and Alta S. Shattuck.

Annah P. Blood

Sept. 6, 1915

MACHINE SHOPS

Lemuel Ward Blake born in Milton, Massachusetts, came with his wife and family of six sons and two daughters, from Springfield, Massachusetts to reside in East Pepperell in 1836. He purchased the water power, shops, and mill from Dr. Lawrence of Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, who was the father of Appleton, Joseph, and Alfred Lawrence.

The old machine shop was, at that time, one third its present size and located on the Canal bank near the sluice way and opposite the old Grist and Saw mill.

Dr. Lawrence resided in the old house on the site of Charles Taft's house. Appleton Lawrence occupied the house, now the residence of Edgar W. Blake. Joseph Lawrence was a sea-faring man. Alfred Lawrence was of a literary turn. After the sale of the property to Mr. Blake, Appleton Lawrence moved to the west part of the town to the farm now owned by Mr. Payson Smith, where he died. His brother, Alfred, who married Sarah Boynton, occupied one half of the same house and died there.

L. W. Blake bought the business from Charles Gay who manufactured wood-working machines, called tenoning machines, for Fay Fisher and Company of Lancaster, Massachusetts, who were manufactures of sash, doors, blinds, windows, and so forth. Mr. Blake continued in the same manufacturing line until the expiration of the patents on the machines when he greatly enlarged the business by adding thereto the manufacture of Steam Engines, Upright and Horizontal; water-wheels. The Turbine water wheel

of his make was considered among the best manufactured. He also made various kinds of machines as called for, including Pipe Organs, Reed Organs, Seraphines, and Melodeons. The old Pipe Organ standing in the gallery of the Unitarian Church was built by this firm and presented to the church, and for years played by L. W. Blake. After his death the organ was played by his son James and after his death by Ida Blake, James' daughter. The Cases for the musical instruments were planned and made by the firm, also various kinds of iron, steel tools and machines.

On the death of L. W. Blake, in 1864, the firm name of L. W. Blake and Sons was changed to that of Blake Brothers, who invented and manufactured augers, belt studs, and many small and useful tools. George Blake was the inventor of the Belt Stud so largely manufactured by this firm. Repairing of all kinds has received their attention and carefully done. They have a world wide reputation not only in all parts of the United States but in foreign countries including China. The Southern States have been large purchasers. The firm also invented and manufactured machinery for Circular Saw Mills.

The old Grist and Saw Mill business was carried on by Gilman Blake, the eldest son of L. W. Blake, and afterwards by the Blake Brothers, which firm was comprised of George, Otis, Henry, and James. Gilman, not possessing a mechanical turn of mind, was more interested in agriculture and literature. Charles, the youngest son, was of superior mechanical skill but declined to become a member of the firm, preferring to be an employee which

would give him more freedom to enjoy his taste for hunting and fishing.

The old Grist Mill was burned on the 29th of February (Leap Year) 1864, but was replaced the same year by a substantial brick building finely equipped for grinding the various kinds of grain. The old Saw Mill had its upright saw. Logs were brought from a distance to be cut into Slab-wood, boards, and timber. In the rear of this mill, on the river bank, stood a frame building used for a shoddy mill, leased by Mr. A. S. Woodward and Mr. H. A. Parker.

The firm of Blake Bros. dissolved at the death of George Blake, the elder brother of the firm, and was reorganized under the name of Henry Blake and Son, who have since manufactured Raw hide hammers, bed springs, and novelties of various sorts in addition to the general run of the business. Edgar W. Blake is the son member of the firm. An Orange wrapping machine perfected by Edgar W. and his uncle Charles Blake, claimed much attention for its novel and interesting movements. In the past years Edgar W. Blake has invented several complicated machines.

At first Lemuel Ward Blake moved into the house opposite the now standing Silas Shattuck's Carriage Factory built of brick now owned by John Frossard and used by himself for patented machinery of his design, on Brookline Street. Here Mr. Blake lived for a few months when he moved into the house vacated by Appleton Lawrence, now occupied by Edgar W. Blake. This house he made his home until his death in 1864. His son George never

married but continued to reside at this old homestead until his death in 1884. Gilman Blake built himself a house in 1852 on Hollis Street on land from his father's estate where he lived until his death in 189.. He married Elvira Annette Lane of Nashua, N. H. Otis and Henry lived on the hill on Hollis Street in the house their father purchased from Square Farley of Hollis, which was built by old Nathaniel Wright, father of Gulliver Wright who married Elizabeth Lawrence and gave her the land on which to build the house, as was the custom in those days. Elizabeth was the sister of James Lawrence and the other brothers. At this date the Lawrence family owned land all about in this section. David Wright was Nathaniel's brother and spent much time in this house with his family in visiting Nathaniel's family. The original house was one story in height with the well sweep at the end of the house next to the Hollis Street, near the window of the lower bedroom, which was then a large entry. The old Hop house which stood in the back yard is now used as an old shop at the homestead of Gulliver Wright, west of the Pine Orchard Schoolhouse on Hollis Street. Henry Blake purchased the house and land from his father who had greatly improved the building to which had been added a second story. Henry Blake also made many additions to the house.

Otis Blake married Elvira Bancroft Parker of Westford and built himself a house on Brookline Street on land which he purchased from his father. The house is now owned by George Tarbell.

James Blake married Hannah Augusta Gilson. He purchased land from his father and built the house now owned by Charles Taft. Charles Blake married Sarah Ann Graves Wright and lived for a while in the small cottage on Nashua Street, owned by his father, from which he removed to a large house on Hollis Street, the home of Miss Mary Browsers who left the property to him at her death. Henry Blake married Martha Ann Tucker who was born in Brewer Village, Bangor, Maine. Emeline Blake, the eldest daughter of Lemuel Ward Blake, married George Sumner Barton of Worcester, Massachusetts. Mr. Blake's second daughter, Miranda Cochran Blake, married John ^{LORING} Lawrence Parker of Cohasset, Mass.

The Seraphine (pronounced Ser-a-fen) which is in the Prudence Wright Chapter house was built by Henry Blake between the years 1841-46. It was once owned by Mrs. Susan Locke Lawrence, wife of Joseph Lawrence, East Pepperell, and loaned or presented to the Chapter by Miss Eleanor Lawrence, a cousin of Joseph, the son of Cummings Lawrence. Susan Locke was the daughter of True Tucker Locke who came from Chester, New Hampshire to East Pepperell where he worked for L. W. Blake and Sons. He built a store on the corner of Hollis and Brookline road where he kept a general stock of merchandise and was the postmaster of East Pepperell.

Henry Blake made a Seraphine which was used in the old, first Parish Church in Pepperell for Sunday School exercises where he as the acting Superintendent at that time sat on one of the front seats and played the instrument as an accompaniment to the singing.

This was between the years 1850 and 1860.

It may be interesting to add, although not directly related to the Pepperell industries, I beg to digress. It has been proven beyond doubt, so far as we can learn, that the first model of an Electric Car was constructed by Lemuel Ward Blake in the attic of his house in Springfield, Massachusetts. The invention was perfected by him.

The idea was brought to the attention of Mr. Blake by a man from Vermont who believed that a car could be run by electricity, but had not the faculty to execute his idea. He therefore sought the assistance of Mr. Blake. This experimental car was secretly built. When brought to perfection it was exhibited publicly in a large hall in Springfield before a large and appreciative audience. The car was run on a circular track. The dynamo used for motive power was found too expensive for general use.

Charles, the youngest son of L. W. Blake, conceived the idea for the construction of an automobile, but it was never fully perfected.

Mrs. N. B. Appleton