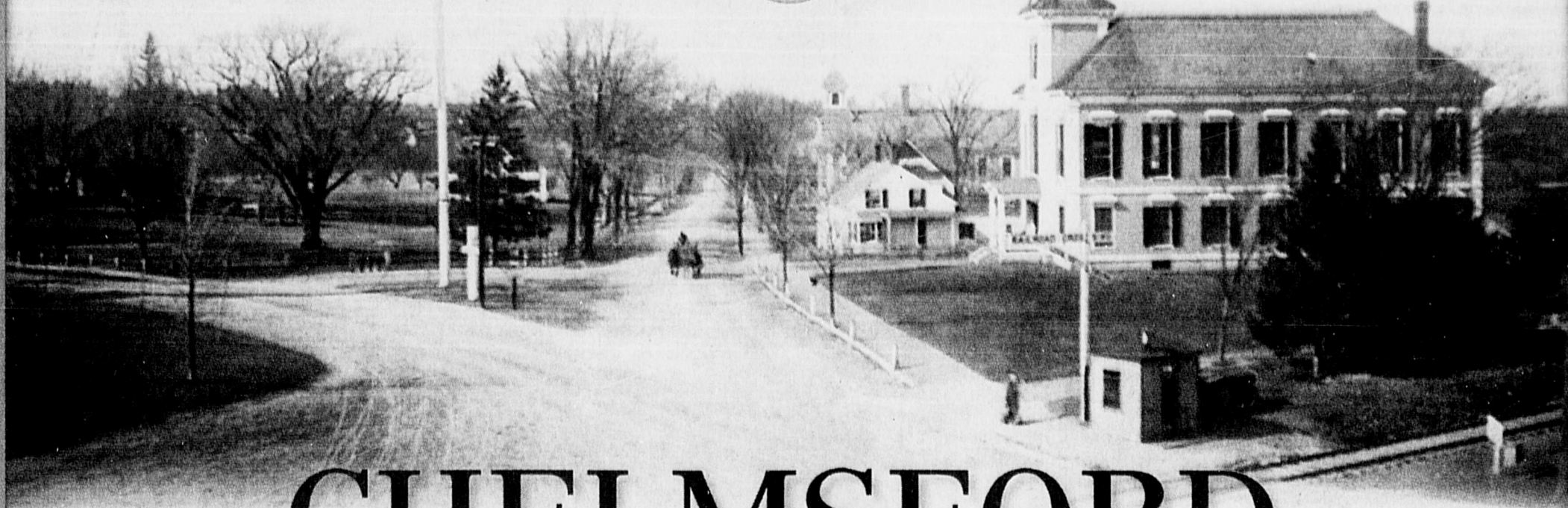


1655 2005



CHELMSFORD

*celebrates*350
Years

A look at the rich history
of Chelmsford
in stories and photos



Images of Chelmsford's history, clockwise from top: photo of Chelmsford Center taken by A.J. Emerson from the hotel block showing the common and the Old Town Hall; Nathaniel Winship and family, circa 1882; the Littleton School in 1893; "After The Hunt," circa 1900, by photographer A.J. Emerson, whose glass negatives make up a large part of the Historical Society's collection; the courtyard of the Canada Dry Ginger Ale Co., taken October of 1937; the Albert Davis House, next to the former Town Hall on Chelmsford Common. This was taken during the town's 250th celebrations; Nettie Byam poses as a milkmaid in the barn at the Old Heywood (Garrison) House, circa 1900.

COVER PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CHELMSFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1655 2005

Birthday weekend events

Thursday, May 26

Bonnie Wilder will present at program at the Community Center titled "Early American Children's Games and Songs." Sign-up required. Check out the Web site at www.chelmsford350.com

Friday, May 27

Celebrate our town's birthday in style! Attend our Celebrations Ball at the Chelmsford Public Library. There will be music and dancing upstairs with Dick DeFreitas and his jazz quartet; downstairs enjoy "Chelmsford's own piano man," Jon Mansfield and Tricia Gervais. This event will be catered by Bianco's Catering. Sponsored by the 350th Social Activities Committee. For tickets and more information contact Marian Currier at 978-250-5289.

Saturday, May 28

Canoes and kayak events at Mill Pond, sponsored by the Chelmsford Land Conservation Trust. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Warren Wildlife Sanctuary. Parking at the end of Janet Road next to Thanksgiving Forest.

Bring canoe or kayak, paddles and life preserver. Rebecca Markey and members of the Chelmsford Land Trust will lead a flotilla down Russell Mill Pond. Come learn more about this little-known water way in Chelmsford.

We're throwing a town-wide birthday party on the Common on Saturday, May 28th! Music begins at 1 p.m. with the Chelmsford Community Band and the Chelmsford High School Band. A giant cake (created by Flaky Pastry Bakery) will be cut at 3 p.m. The

Chelmsford Art Society will present "Art on the Common." This spectacular birthday party will be free and open to the public. There will be an exhibit of the decorated pitchers. The First Parish and the Central Baptist Churches will sell refreshments. Later in the evening take in a "Drive-in" movie ("The Wizard of Oz") at the McCarthy School's field. Gates open at 7:30 p.m.; movie begins at 8:30 p.m. Free. (Rain date for movie Sunday, May 29).

Sunday, May 29

The party continues on the town common from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, with more "Art on the Common." The Revolving Museum from Lowell will make a visit and lead artists of all ages in a special 350th art project fit for a parade float! This program is supported in part by a grant from the Chelmsford Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. At 1:30 p.m. magic show and animal balloons. Face painting sponsored by the Chelmsford Schools' Foundation. Take part in an interactive mural sponsored by the Chelmsford Art Center. All events are free.

Monday, May 30

The Memorial Day Parade will be held in North Chelmsford for this special town celebration. It begins at 10 a.m.

Meet the Garrison House Families. Learn about the families who lived in the Garrison House — their work, their clothing, their food and fun. Demonstrations and interactive activities, 2 to 5 p.m.

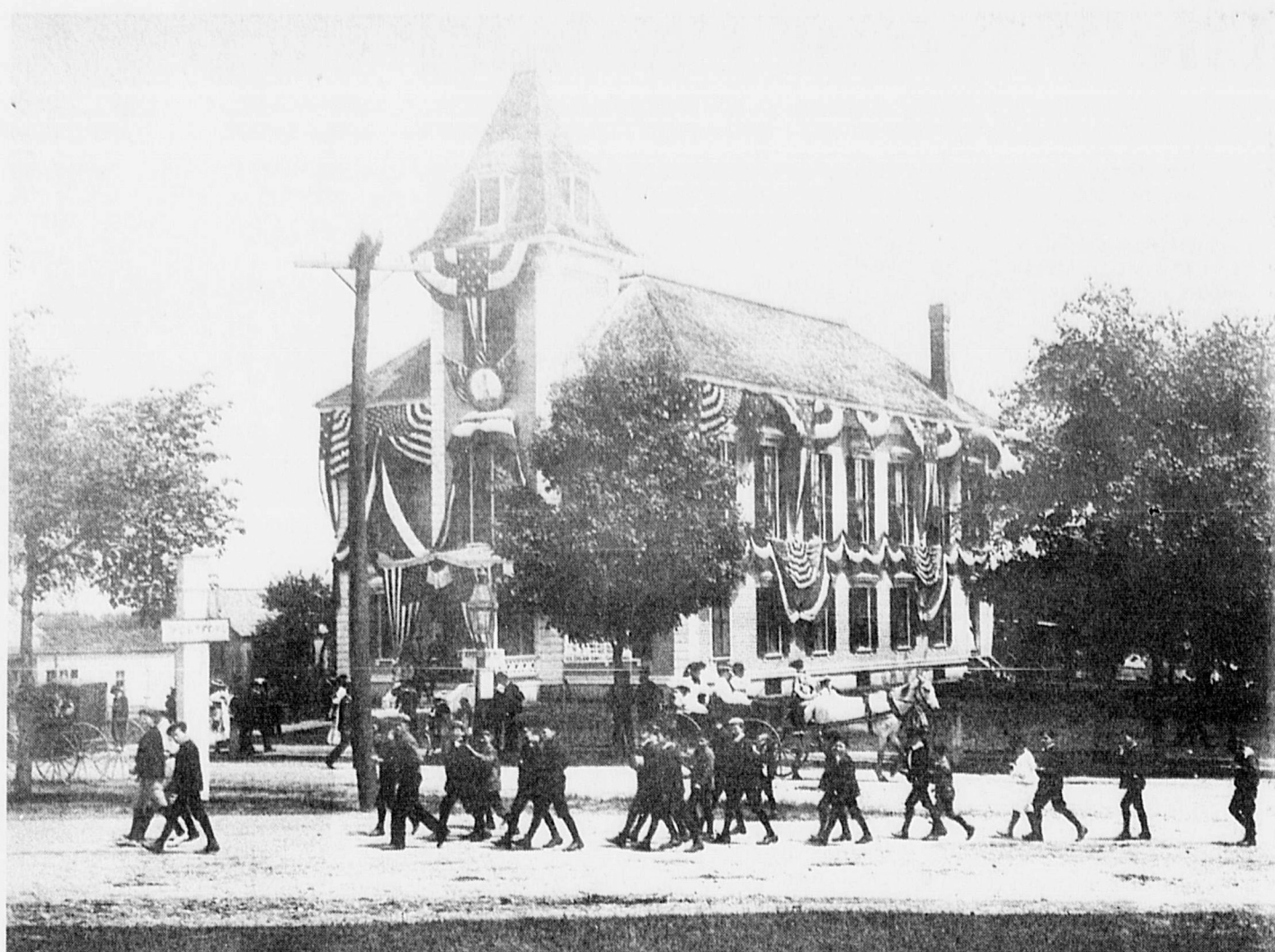


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHELMSFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Town's 250th birthday

Residents promenade past the Old Town Hall during Chelmsford's 250th birthday celebration.

Happy 350th birthday Chelmsford

The Chelmsford Independent congratulates the town of Chelmsford on its historic 350th anniversary. Everyone who lives here knows what a special community it is with its lush green spaces, superior schools, thriving business sector and its unparalleled town services.

In this special section, we chronicle the town's growth from its rustic and simple beginnings when it was incorporated as a plantation on May 29, 1655, to its modern stature today as a place where people want to live and enjoy its culture, heritage and bright outlook for the future.

We would like to thank our contributors and consultants to this special section: Tom Groves, contributing writer;

Anne Marie Messier, Chelmsford Cultural Council; Kathy Cryan-Hicks, Chelmsford Public Library; Judy Fichtenbaum, the Chelmsford Historical Society, who with Staff Photographer Ann Ringwood spent hours shifting through the society's photograph collection; Jane Drury, who offered much guidance and an eye for historical detail; and finally, former Chelmsford Newsweekly editor Eleanor Parkhurst.

Parkhurst was the daughter of Thomas and Ednah (Byam). To quote Eleanor, they were "lifelong residents of this town and members of two of Chelmsford's earliest families. The settlement of Chelmsford in the 1650s was not

an isolated event as the prevailing concentration on the local scene might seem to indicate. It was, instead, a single thread woven firmly into the fabric of colonial and even world history. Failure to take some account of this larger fabric foreshortens unnecessarily our historical perspective and understanding. These articles are for the most part planned to broaden and deepen the appreciation of our local history by providing glimpses of people and affairs which greatly influenced Chelmsford's beginnings and development, but which operated at various distances in time and space from the familiar territorial limits of the town."

— Kevin Zimmerman

Chelmsford celebrates 350 years of history

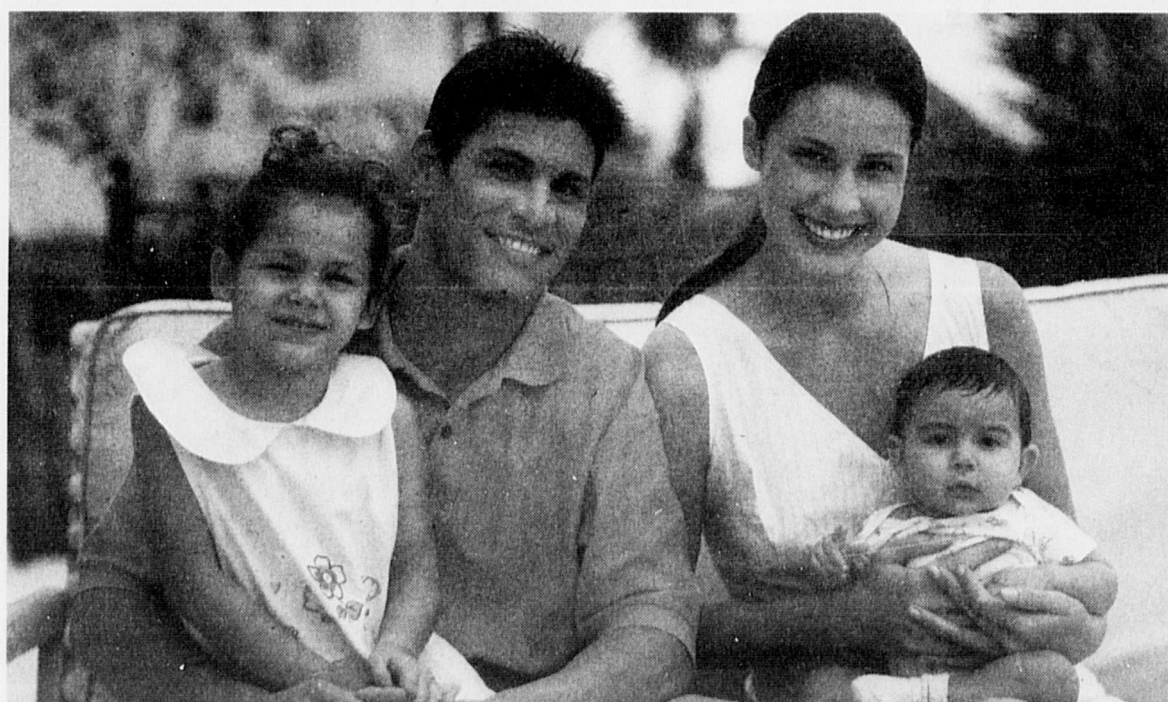
A special section celebrating Chelmsford's 350th anniversary, noting some of the people and places that make the town special.



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Kevin Zimmerman, Editor
Jennifer Martinage, Special sections editor
Ann Ringwood, Photographer
Beatrice Friedman, Retail sales representative
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The town of Chelmsford from the beginning

Chelmsford was incorporated as a plantation May 29, 1655, and was first mentioned as a town May 14, 1656. It did not originally bound on the Merrimack River, its northeastern corner being one mile from what is now the city of Lowell, south of the Pawtucket Canal.

It was bounded on the east by the Indian land known as Pawtucket; on the south by Patuxet Stake on the Concord River; on the southwest by Indian lands called Tadmuck or Zadmuck (now Westford) and on the northwest by common, unoccupied lands.

On May 14, 1656, on petition of the inhabitants of Chelmsford, the Rev. Mr. Eliot, representing the Indian lands, this territory was extended north to the Merrimack River, one mile at its northeastern corner, three miles at its southwestern corner and west to the Groton line.

This three mile extension appears to move the northern boundary as far as the present southern line of Tyngsboro, although a strip of land about one and one-half miles wide and situated north of this line was settled and owned by Col. John Tyng of Chelmsford, making the northern boundary of Chelmsford very nearly coincide with the southern boundary of Dunstable. No record has been found, however, of this grant to John Tyng.

A small part of Chelmsford, including the estate of David Parker was set off to Carlisle as incorporated, April 28, 1780. A portion of this area was set back to Chelmsford, March 1, 1783, but was re-annexed to Carlisle, Feb. 17, 1865.

On Sept. 23, 1729, the west precinct of Chelmsford was incorporated as Westford.

On March 1, 1826, the northeastern part, bounding on the Merrimack and Concord rivers, was incorporated as the town of Lowell. Another portion was set off to Lowell, May 18, 1874; this act was accepted by the city of

Lowell, June 23, and took effect, Aug. 1 of the same year.

In 1820, Feb. 1, the General Court passed an act by which a number of the citizens of East Chelmsford, were — for parochial purposes — set off from Chelmsford to Pawtucketville society. They were “to enjoy all the parochial privileges of the society and pay their proportion of all necessary charges that may arise for such purposes.”

There were 31 names set off in this act. Chelmsford took formal action in 1708, when it voted “that Drawcutt shall not vote in Chelmsford.”

From Chelmsford, England
The town was named for Chelmsford, England, an old town about 29 miles from London in the County of Essex, and containing a population of 13,000.

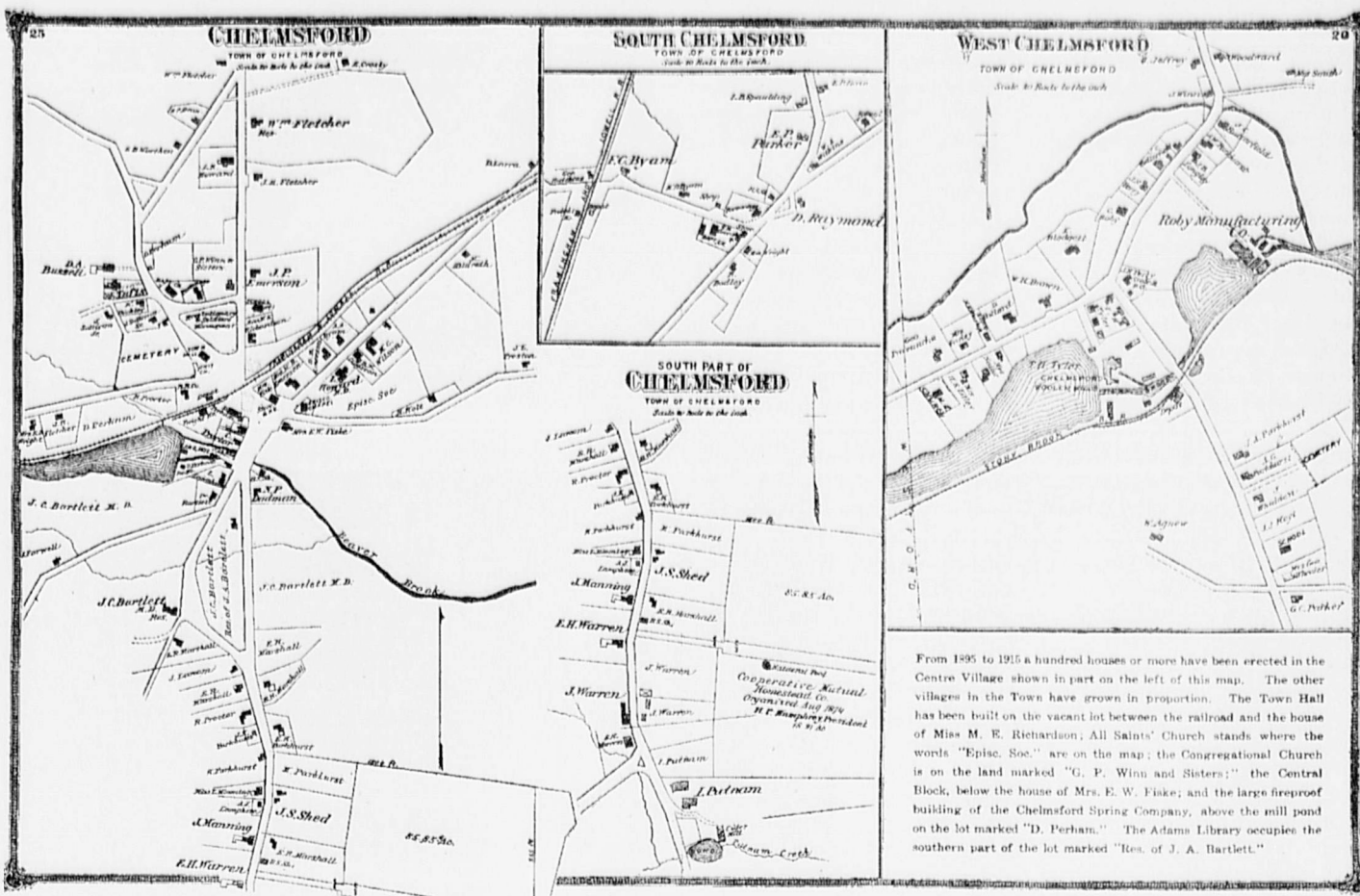
It was named for the Chelmer River which flows through it.

Chelmsford, Mass., was undoubtedly named, in accordance with the custom of the time, for the town in England which had been the former home of some of the prominent settlers.

An examination of a transcript of St. Mary's parish register, Chelmsford, England, in 1902, shows that there were in the old mother town, between 1538 and the time of the settlement of this town, families or individuals bearing the names Adams, Butterfield, Spaldyng, Chamberlyne, Fletcher, Parker, Warren and Purkis — possibly Parkhurst — names that have been prominent in the affairs of the town and its offshoots from its earliest days to the present.

Chelmsford is the only town of that name in the United States. There is, however, a Chelmsford in Ontario, and another in Northumberland County, New Brunswick.

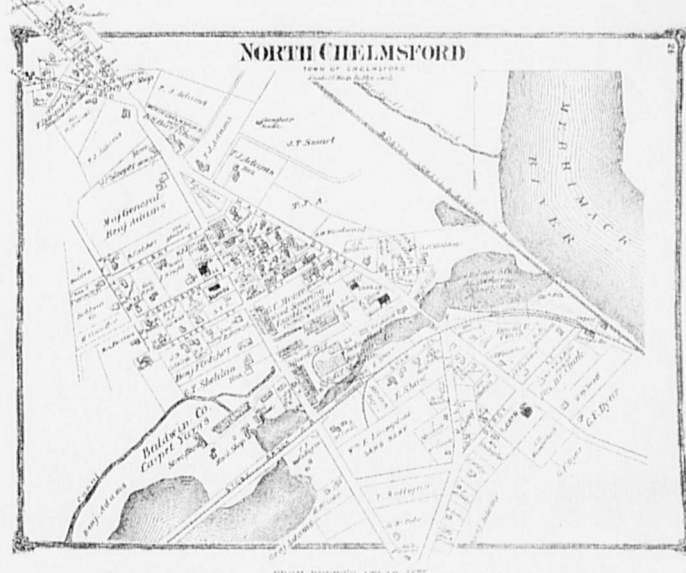
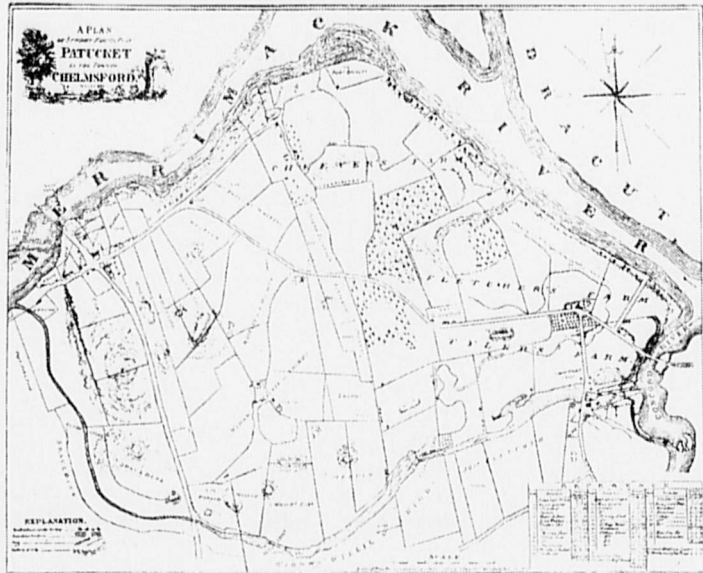
— Eleanor Parkhurst, Chelmsford Tercentenary Edition, the Chelmsford Newsweekly.



No. 7

PLAN OF CHELMSFORD FROM BEEBE'S COUNTY ATLAS, 1875

MAPS FROM THE CHELMSFORD NEWSWEEKLY



FROM BEEBE'S ATLAS, 1875

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Changes at the Chelmsford Ginger Ale building

A zoning change on Littleton Road approved by Town Meeting cleared the way for a modestly-sized, Colonial-type mall, occupying the site once widely known as The Chelmsford Ginger Ale Company.

The first business set up here, situated between the railroad and the cemetery, was the Byfield Manufacturing Company, maker of knitting machinery, owned by John Byfield of Chelmsford who erected a brick building for the purpose in 1887. Operations began early in 1888; a few years later Mr. Byfield left the company and moved to the building's second floor, where he set up the Beaver Manufacturing Company, (a name no doubt adopted because of the proximity of the business to nearby Beaver Brook) producer of knitted goods. In 1893, the building burned down and was left empty for some years.

Some information about the individuals involved in this and later business ventures

must be included here. Mr. Byfield had married Miss S. Jennie Armstrong sometime before beginning the knitting machinery business. She had come to Chelmsford from her home in St. Mary's, Ontario, Canada. She died in January, 1888. Sometime before, however, her brother Christopher George Armstrong, had become a salesman for the Byfield enterprise after serving in the Canadian forces during the Riel Rebellion (1895) and spending a year in Australia to restore his health. He returned by way of the Suez Canal, completing a circle of the globe. He married Mary Hendricks Hallett of Sussex, New Brunswick, and set up a millinery shop in Goderich, Ontario. After the shop burned, the Armstrongs went back to Sussex where Mr. Armstrong joined his brother-in-law in establishing the Sussex Ginger Ale Company which enjoyed a long and profitable existence; nevertheless, Mr. Armstrong wished to return to Chelmsford and to form his own ginger ale company. Mrs. Armstrong, too, had her reasons for coming to Chelmsford, for she was the granddaughter of the Rev. John Parkhurst of this town and many relatives lived here.

Mr. Armstrong found an excellent source of water for his company's products in one of the many springs around Robin's Hill; one was near the railroad tracks and could easily be piped down beside the tracks to the plant, which had been the old Byfield company's location. The Chelmsford Spring Company (later The Chelmsford Ginger Ale Company) opened in

1901; it maintained connection with the Sussex company for a short time but then became independent, producing ginger ale and Old English ginger beer. The ginger beer was sold in stone bottles imported from England which were known as ideal containers for the beer but because health regulations later forbade the use of any container whose contents were not visible to the consumer, this line was discontinued and the company concentrated on ginger ale and allied flavors.

In 1919, a spectacular early morning fire destroyed the plant. It was soon rebuilt and, after a later enlargement, neatly kept, nicely landscaped and a place of which the town could be proud. Other plants were added over the years in Boston and in Shrewsbury. In

1928, the business was purchased by the Canada Dry Ginger Ale Company which sold Chelmsford Golden Ginger Ale with its golden label showing a map of New England with "Chelmsford"

prominently displayed across it. The Chelmsford building has since been used as a warehouse by Purity Food Stores, as a store house for rubber goods by the government, and as a furniture storage place by the firm of Diggins & Rose.

Mr. Armstrong became a director of Canada Dry after his retirement from active business but continued his long interest to community activities. In 1911, he had been

one of the leaders in the establishment of the Chelmsford Water District and continued participation in a variety of local affairs. He also became the owner of a large farm in West Campton, N.H., which he called "Armstrong" where he raised fine herds of cattle and Angora sheep.

Mrs. Armstrong died in 1936 in Chelmsford, where she and her husband had made their home opposite All Saints' Church, Billerica Road. Mr. Armstrong died two months later.

Of all the contributions Mr. Armstrong made to this community, one of the most obvious, long-lasting and quite certainly most overlooked, is the

concrete sidewalks from Chelmsford Street at the square, running along Billerica Road past All Saint's Church. This, the first concrete sidewalk in town, was Mr. Armstrong's gift in deep appreciation of his long friendship with the Rev. Dr. Wilson Waters, rector of the church (1892-1933), who lived at what was then the rectory at the corner of Chelmsford Street. Dr. Waters, also author of the voluminous History of Chelmsford, was a familiar figure as he walked along the sidewalk to and from the church. He died June 13, 1933 and was buried in Forefathers Cemetery near the graves of many of the historic figures with whom he had become so familiar in his research for that book.

— By Eleanor Parkhurst

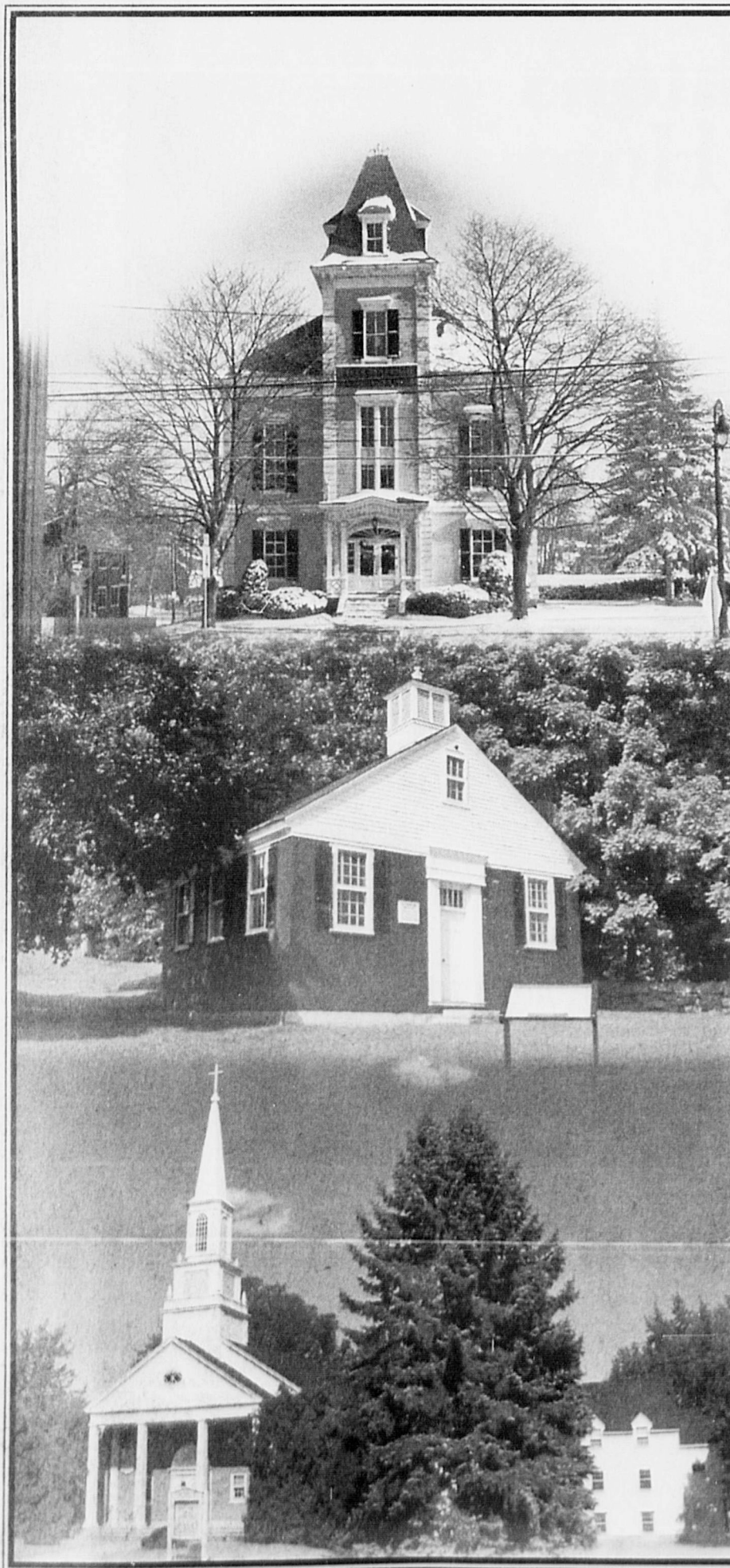


PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHELMSFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A 1937 photo of the courtyard of the Canada Dry Ginger Ale Co, makers of Chelmsford Ginger Ale.



A Chelmsford Ginger Ale delivery truck.



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Smallpox took its toll

Until almost the first quarter of the 18th century had passed, one epidemic of smallpox after another had seeped through the colonies, leaving hundreds dead in Boston each time and spreading out from this center of population to the towns surrounding it — of which Chelmsford was one.

The devastation of this disease, spreading unchecked, is shown in figures from the "History of Boston" by Caleb H. Snow (1825). Epidemics appeared in Boston, for example, in 1649, 1666, 1678-79, 1689-90, 1702 to 1721-2, when out of a population of 10,567, there were 771 deaths. It was during some of these epidemics that people fled from the city to the country — including Chelmsford — because there was no other known way of escaping the deadly contagion.

Smallpox came to the colonies by means of the ships which docked at the seaports. The disease in the 1721-2 epidemic was introduced, Snow says, by the Sal Tortugas fleet in April 1721. In addition, the disease was often spread by travelers and especially by soldiers, returning home from war and already infected by contacts from various sources. The introduction of inoculation as a means of preventing smallpox is attributed to a black slave belonging to Cotton Mather, a leading figure in the colony, author of many reports of natural phenomena which he sent back to the Royal Society of London. He was known as an excellent observer of such events and was elected a member of the Society in 1713. The slave just mentioned, came to him as a gift, and from him, Mather learned about an African practice of inoculation against smallpox. This information proved exciting to Mather, who wrote a report about it. The report caught the eye of Dr. Zabdiel Boylston of Boston; and after much consideration, Dr. Boylston decided to try the new method, beginning in June 1721, in the midst of the epidemic of that year, with his son Thomas and two servants. The trial was successful and immediately a furor arose —

the clergy supported and encouraged Dr. Boylston, but the physicians and the general public adamantly opposed him. Nevertheless, the genie was out of the bottle, and although it was considered a daring thing to do, individuals did undergo the treatment which was in most cases again successful. At the same time, people chose other methods of combating the disease, primarily through avoiding contact with infected persons. Once the infected were confined to their houses, the roads past their houses were closed except for the delivery of food or other necessities, and they hoped for the best. In 1761, Chelmsford residents gave more than 62 English pounds for the aid of the Widow Mary Keyes, who had smallpox. In 1776, Byam Road was fenced at both ends to prevent travel past the home of Dr. Marshall whose wife and two of their children died shortly after a soldier stopped their carrying the disease. The Marshall family lived at the present Barrett-Byam house. The three Marshalls were buried in Heart Pond Cemetery where their gravestone may be seen today. As early as 1761, (and probably earlier) Boston refugees came to town to escape the epidemic and some daring souls went down to Boston to undergo the new treatment, among them two sons of the Rev. Ebenezer Bridge and the two Stoddard sons.

"This affair of ye smallpox — my two sons' desire to be inoculated — one is of the most troublesome affairs of my whole life," wrote Mr. Bridge in his diary, April 1764.

John Adams describes details of inoculation (1764): Diet is very important; no bread, butter, spice, salt or meat should be eaten. After the "preparatory phase of the treatment, four to six weeks should be allowed for total recovery and retiring for seven days of preparation which included "a long and total abstinence from everything in nature that has any Taste; two heavy Vomits, one heavy Cathartick, 4 and 20 Mercurial and Antimonial Pills; 3 weeks' close to confinement to an house..." Once this period ends, a doctor

would make a small (quarter inch) incision in the left arm of his patient, as soon as it began to bleed, he inserted a Thread about the length of the incision, then laid a little Lint over the incision, a pressed piece of Ragg over it, and then bound a Bandage over all. Other pills were to be taken morning and night. "When Abigail Adams and her four children took the treatment (1776), they shared a private house with 12 others, giving rise to the idea of hospitals set up especially for inoculating patients. Chelmsford voted (1792) not to have a hospital built at town expense but one paid for by those who sought inoculation. In 1823, the town voted to have a hospital and to ask the Legislature to require that each town do likewise.

Despite these and other attempts to deal with this disease, epidemics still plagued some of the larger cities. In 1870, during an epidemic which also involved Boston, Chicago, Baltimore and Washington, there were 2,000 deaths in Philadelphia. In 1873, a combination of yellow fever, smallpox and cholera, killed 10,000 persons in Memphis. Nevertheless, progress was made in fighting smallpox, using the milder cowpox vaccine developed by Jenner instead of the actual smallpox vaccine first used by Dr. Boylston. About 1971, eradication of smallpox throughout the world was declared and vaccination for it — once compulsory — has been ended. Today "shots" are given for diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis, polio, measles, German measles, mumps, and optionally, tuberculosis.

Next year, 1996, will mark the passage of two centuries since Jenner's first successful experiment with the cowpox vaccine in 18796; we can hope that the dedication of researchers and the courage of physicians will, with public acceptance, also result in elimination of currently infectious and other diseases, but more rapidly than was required for the smallpox victory.

— By Eleanor Parkhurst

Medical care in the 1700s

During the 1700s, America's industrial economy along with an increasing impoverished population made the threat of disease and epidemics more realistic. During this time period, doctors used a variety of practices and techniques to heal the ill. Among these were purgings (vomits), bleedings and large doses of calomel, a toxic drug (used as a purgative) made from chlorine and mercury.

Dr. Anthony Emery was the first resident physician to practice in Chelmsford. It was probably shortly after he arrived in town that he and Abigail Leavitt married on May 10, 1738.

He was a graduate of Harvard but learned his trade with his wife's brother-in-law, Doctor Clement Jackson of Hampton, New Hampshire. He worked as a surgeon from 1744-1745 in Colonel William Pepperell's army. Five years later he moved to his wife's hometown of Hampton.

The Reverend Willard Hall began practicing medicine in Chelmsford in 1727. He was also established as Westford's first minister. There he united the offices of pastor and physician, "greatly extending his influence and usefulness." He was a friend of the Reverend Bridge the minister here in Chelmsford.

Another early "doctor" who practiced in Chelmsford was John Tucker. He arrived in 1739 and lived in the house on 50 Garrison Road (no longer standing in Chelmsford). During this time period a formal education in medicine was not required for one to perform as a doctor. A former clothier in Boston, John Tucker became a storekeeper in Chelmsford. He had no medical training but was called Dr. Tucker, and his success is not known.

In 1748 Doctor Samuel King arrived in Chelmsford from Littleton. Reverend Ebenezer Bridge of Chelmsford sent for him several times, whenever a family member fell ill. Usually the treatment prescribed was a "vomit." On March 19, 1760 Reverend Bridge wrote, "This PM Dr. King blooded my wife; I hope it will do her good." At the time, bleedings and vomits were believed to clean and circulate the system by ridding the body of impurities.

Doctor Rice came to Chelmsford in June of 1762. Besides the fact that he worked as a practitioner in Chelmsford and left after four months of work, little is known about him.

Doctor Nehemiah Abbott and his wife, Joanna, arrived in Chelmsford in 1770. Prior to moving to Chelmsford, he lived in Andover and was a witness to a murder trial in Salem. Doctor Abbott owned a book of medical treatments, one of which called for "sinews that are shank. Take young swallows by Number Twelve with a handful of Rosemary tops, Bay Leaves, Lavender tops, Strawberry Leaves. Cut of the Long feathers and put all together birds and herbs into a mortar and pound them, then mix three

Medicine, Page 8

History of slaves in Chelmsford

According to the Provincial Census of 1775, including persons over the age of 16 years, eight slaves were living in Chelmsford at that time, 14 in Groton, three in Townsend, one in Shirley, and five in Westford.

In Boston, 989 slaves were counted in Suffolk County and 161 in Middlesex County. Slaveholding was taken for granted here as well as in

the south. Dr. Waters in his "History of Chelmsford" counted 20 slave-holders in Chelmsford in the period before the Civil War — all persons of the highest standing: the Rev. Ebenezer Bridge, Dr. Nehemiah Abbott, Col. Samson Stoddard, Deacon Ephraim Spaulding, Capt. John Butterfield, Capt. Jonathan Richardson, Benjamin Walker, Timothy Clark, William Campbell, Ben-

jamin Byam, Joseph Pierce, Samuel Adams, Gershom Proctor, Eleanor Richardson, Josiah Fletcher, Ephraim Blood, Joseph Moors, Henry Spaulding and two widows who doubtless "inherited one or more slaves after their husbands' deaths — widow Elizabeth Fletcher and widow Rebecca Parker.

Slaves, Page 15

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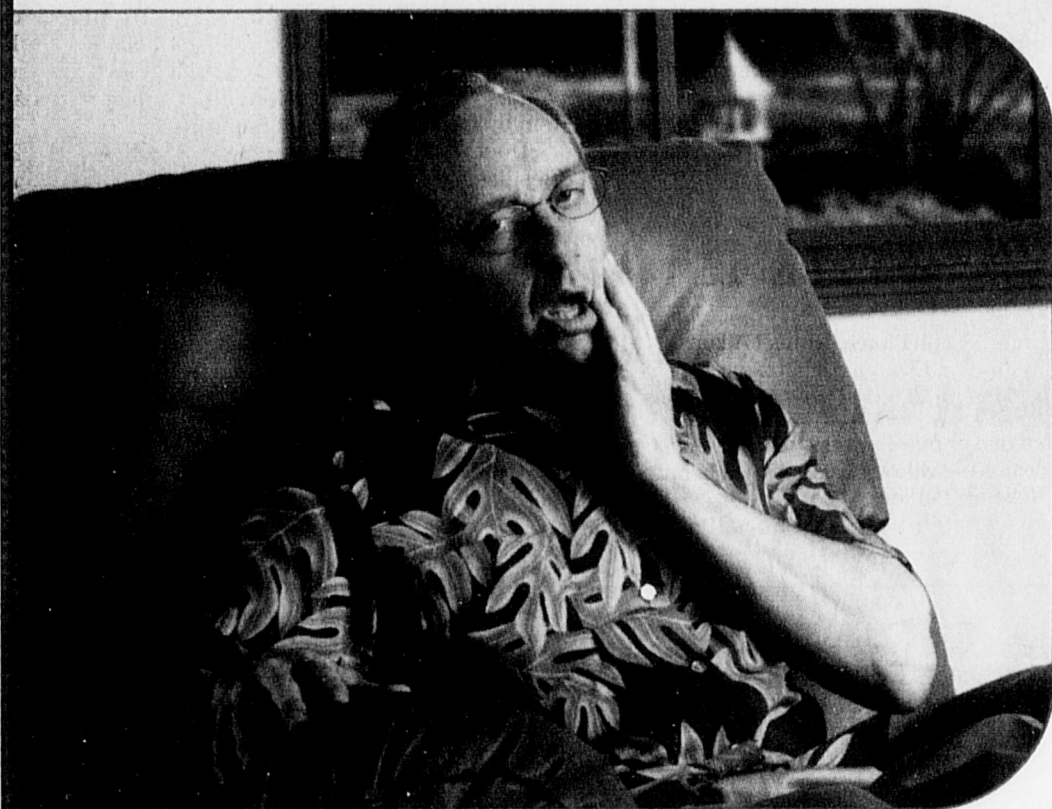
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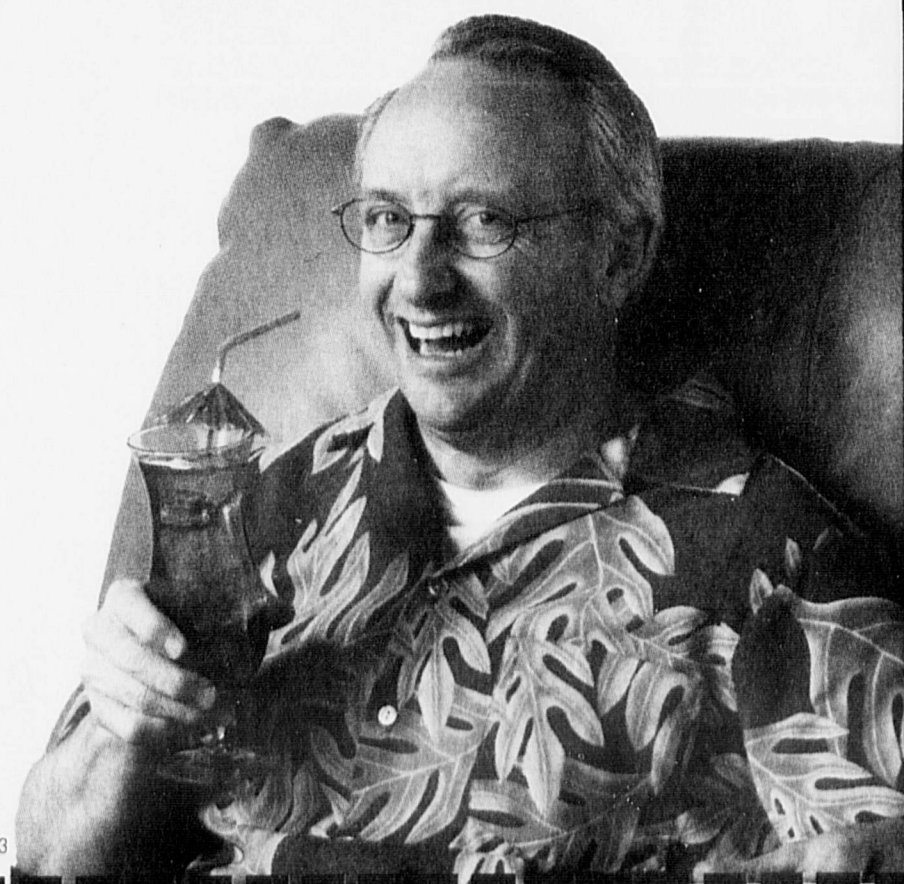
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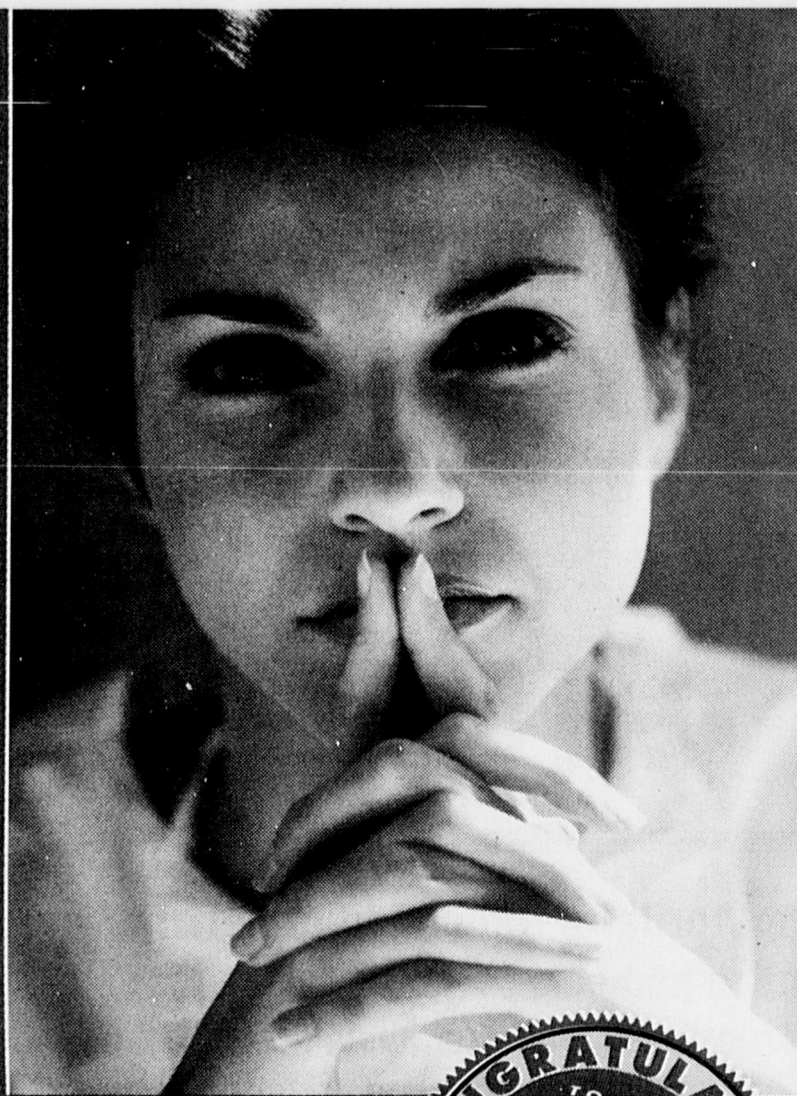
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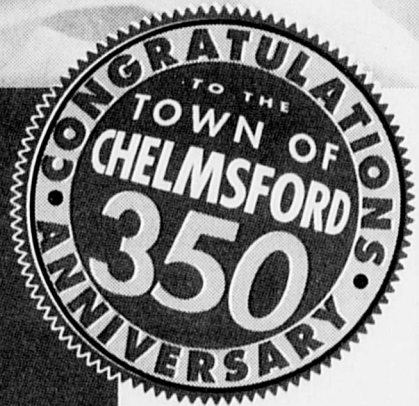
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Early medical care

Medicine, from Page 6

pound of hogs' fat with it, set it in the sun Twenty or thirty days and then Take it and boyl it and strain it out and keep it for your use. This is an excellent oln and ought always to be ready because it is so long in the preparation that you should always have it in readiness." Doctor Abott died on July 13, 1785.

Although he was not a resident of Chelmsford, Doctor John Cuming did make medical visits in Chelmsford, traveling from his home in Concord. He entered Harvard in 1744, but left in 1746 to teach. In 1771 Harvard awarded him an honorary degree. During the French and Indian War he was captured by Indians and sent to Montreal, where he remained until being exchanged. This capture enabled him to study medicine in Edinburgh.

After returning to Concord, Dr. Cuming became a prominent member of that town, and on April 19, 1775 he treated wounded soldiers. He was a friend of Reverend Bridge and made multiple visits to his home whenever one of the Bridge children fell ill, often prescribing "vomits". One December night in 1765 Reverend Bridge wrote in his diary "Last night my Daughter Sally was so bad that I was obliged to send for Colonel Cuming in the night - he arrived in the morning and judged that beside the canker & fever etc. she had a turn of hysteric chollic. He was instrumental of her releife - my wife & I Watched & nurse were up with her all night." Sally and her other siblings did eventually get well after the doctor made several visits. Doctor Cuming died at the age of 60 while visiting Reverend Bridge in 1788. A Chelmsford doctor had bled him in spite of his strong objections.

Doctor Jonas Marshall

began his medical career in Chelmsford in 1765 and is perhaps the best remembered Chelmsford physician of the 18th century. He resided with his wife at 40 Byam Road, which is now the home of the Chelmsford Historical Society. He was an active participant in town affairs and was also a successful practitioner. In 1776 Doctor Marshall enlisted in the army. Coming home one day and noticing an awkward smell, he asked his wife if any soldiers had been in the house. When she responded affirmatively, his fear was soon realized: his wife and two of their children had contracted smallpox from the soldier. The road to his house was fenced up. Soon Mrs. Marshall and the children died. Although he was broken hearted, he eventually remarried. After the death of his second wife, Abigail Adams of Fitchburg in 1783, he moved to Fitchburg and established the Marshall Farm, which is still standing as an apple orchard.

A graduate from Harvard in 1771, Doctor Walter Hastings was an apprentice in medicine before becoming a Chelmsford physician. For some time during the American Revolutionary War he attended the wounded. At Valley Forge he extracted a musket ball "between two bones of the leg" of Colonel Michael Jackson, which had not been located for seventeen months. After marrying Reverend Bridge's daughter, Lucretia (Creesy) Bridge, he lived in Cambridge until 1781, when the couple moved into the home of Widow Stoddard (where the Center Baptist Church now stands). He died in 1802 at the age of thirty.

Doctor Timothy Harrington arrived in Chelmsford in 1782. He attended Harvard and graduated in 1776 with honors. He was known as a "regularly

bred physician & esteemed in his profession - peaceable, compassionate & hospitable." However he still used the primitive medical treatments of the day. In his diary Reverend Bridge (now an elderly man) wrote that, "Dr. Harrington bled me." In 1787 Doctor Harrington aided in subduing Daniel Shay's rebellion against high taxes. He also arranged a memorial acknowledgement for President Washington. Doctor Harrington died in 1802 and is buried in the Stoddard box tomb in the Forefathers Burying Ground.

Reverend Bridge first mentioned a Doctor Hurd in 1784. Unfortunately little is known about the doctor except that Mr. Bridge sent for him when Doctor Harrington was away subduing Shay's Rebellion.

A native of Chelmsford, Doctor John Betty was a grandson of Doctor John Tucker and with his brother William inherited the house then located at 50 Garrison Road. He studied medicine with Doctor Marshall and in 1777 he wrote concerning the proposal that "Doctr. Marshall [had] made to me before I came to study physick & Surgery." An ailment referred to as the "itch" seemed to be prevalent in 1778, as Doctor Betty purchased an "oyment to cure Ten persons of the Itch." He treated "canker" by using "P. Bull paddocks or frogs with fresh butter: simer them close covered to a crisp, then strane for use." Doctor Betty died at his home at the age of 75, "a victim to rum, once a sensible man & physician."

Thus as the threat of disease increased, so did the influx of doctors and their variety of treatments. During the 1700s Chelmsford was a prominent town for medical treatment, and today it still carries on that legacy.

Researched and written by Jane Drury.

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1655 2005

A look back at the Wilson Hotel

The Vlahos block, in Central Square, known familiarly as "the old hotel" by longtime residents, acquired a new owner in Bradford Emerson, an event which turned back the clock in several ways while ensuring that the venerable building will be well cared for under the new ownership.

The building itself was erected in the mid-1890s by local resident George H. Wilson who later became the hotel's proprietor. It was designed to attract visitors to town from Boston and other then-faraway places, as well as travelers by the railroad which ran nearby. The "summer boarder" business in town had been brisk for many years — Chelmsford offering city-dwellers a welcome opportunity for peace and quiet. The Adams house (near the site of the present Center School) and the Bussell house (now the Linnerud house at 16 Westford St.) were among many which sheltered "summer boarders."

In 1887, contemporary accounts show, Walter S. Simons, who was destined to become a prominent citizen of the town through his various commercial enterprises, came to town and "was fairly established in his hostelry in the Wilson block" where he welcomed guests with food and shelter. Mr. Wilson, we are told, came from Lowell "where he was for many years engaged in business as a bill-poster and has lately taken Middlesex County as his field of labor and will form a general advertising business therein." His "long experience and through reliability" would make him a valuable asset to the community, the announcement proclaimed.

The advertising business must have been profitable, as Mr. Simons was able to purchase as his home "Robin's Hill Farm" (now the Richards home at 15 Byam Road). With this came property at the top

of Robin's Hill, where Mr. Simons conceived the idea of a small building where visitors to the slightly spot might buy refreshments. It was reported that on a fine Sunday afternoon as many as 1,000 persons went up the hill to enjoy the fresh air and the view, and members of the Appalachian Mountain Club regularly scheduled the hill for its weekend trips for several years.

Mr. Simons built the Summit House — and later a small addition — and enjoyed a brisk business in ice cream, lunches; he planned to build a hotel on the hill but this never materialized. A road to the top was constructed by volunteer labor and Mr. Simons' livery service from the Wilson block's stable, profited from the desires of those who wished to ride up to the top of the hill, whether they might have come to town for the summer without their own carriages or arrived by trail at the railroad station across the way.

The Wilson block continued to house boarders and roomers and became transformed into apartments some 50 or so years ago as it continues today. Greater interest lies in the fact that a wide variety of stores and storekeepers have occupied the lower part of the building throughout its long existence. At two different times it housed the Chelmsford post office — once with Bradford Emerson's grandfather as postmaster. One of the earliest occupants (1885) was a grocery store, run by Fremont C. Fletcher, stocked with "a full line of groceries." Mr. Fletcher had been in Lowell in the wood and hay business and also had an interest in a Lowell bakery. Within about a year, however, Mr. Fletcher gave up the business and H.L. Davis planned to occupy the store but then decided to open a boarding-house in Lowell instead. Meantime the Redmond also one of the three stores below



The Wilson Hotel welcomed guests with food and shelter.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JANE DRURY

the hotel, had been purchased by Ervin W. Sweetser, who had worked for J.H. Redmond. Sweetser's Market was a landmark in that location for many years and its office served also as an office for Mr. Sweetser when he was elected town treasurer and tax collector.

In 1892, in the right hand store of the lower floor, W.H. Hills, a registered pharmacist, reopened a family drug store formerly operated by Arthur F. Brown. A year later, the Chelmsford post office was installed there as it moved from place to place within the Square as political winds blew this way and that. Mr. Hills' assistant, William Fletcher, alternated as post office clerk. George H. Wil-

son, owner of the block, had by this time taken over the hotel business. He had, by the way, served as postmaster several years before.

W.H. Hills (always called "Dr." Hills by local residents) remained in his drug store for many years and was succeeded by Walter D. Falls, also a registered pharmacist who was distinguished by the fact that he wore blue glasses and his son was a motorcyclist. When Mr. Falls moved down to the building now occupied by the First Bank, Ralph W. Emerson operated a confectionery and ice cream store there, and for a period was the town's postmaster.

Meanwhile, in the other stores, Ernest Nettel had set up shop in one of them,

(1886), selling fancy goods, stationary and confectionery and becoming an agency for Scripture's Laundry of Lowell. He had been in the same business on Middlesex Street in Lowell for a number of years and Mrs. Nettel was put in charge of the Chelmsford store but fell ill of "lung trouble" and died within the year.

The small store at the end of the building was occupied before and sometime during World War I by a Chinese laundry. The owner was occasionally tormented by the "big boys" of the Center School who were forbidden to cross the tracks but sometimes did, to tease the laundry man who is said to have chased them with some kind of weapon. He was generally

known as a kindly good workman who kept mostly to himself. His predecessor in that place was (1887) a shoemaker, Carl A. Sylvander, who also stocked a fine assortment of boots and shoes "which will be sold at Lowell prices."

Other enterprises have come and gone in these three stores during the past 65 years. Among them was an auctioneer's business in the right hand store now a barber shop. The large center shop became the first showroom of Roger Boyd Inc., a Chevrolet dealer who used the former livery stable in the rear of the building as his repair shop. The small Chinese laundry-shoe shop was used again as a shoe repair shop.

Hotel, Page 25

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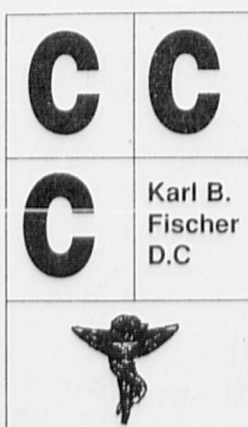
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1655  2005

Libraries have a storied history in town

By Tom Groves
CORRESPONDENT

The Adams Library in Chelmsford center was dedicated in 1895, 240 years after Chelmsford was chartered in 1655. Before the Adams Library was built, the Rev. Hezekiah Packard organized the first library for the town in 1794. Initially, the books for the library were kept at various locations around town. The houses of the librarians housed the first 93 books purchased by the organization.

Of the 93 books only 12 were fiction.

The other books were moral, religious and philosophical texts. The books circulated through the years until they landed at the present permanent location. The first stop was Oliver Barron's Tavern where the books were housed until they transferred to Simon Spaulding's residence. In 1893, the library system in Chelmsford was made a "Free Public Library."

Originally, the library membership fee was \$2, and 25 cents due annually for dues.

The question of what to call the first official library in town came to a vote in 1896. The town's people decided upon "The Adams Library." Mr. J. Adams Bartlett and Capt. C.E.A. Bartlett donated the site of the present day library to the town. It was a natural decision for the town to name the library in honor of Mr. J. Adams Bartlett.

In 1996, the town voted whether or not to expand the library. After the vote the town of Chelmsford had decided that it would appropriate \$4.8 million towards a library expansion due to be finished in 1999. Almost \$1.3 million of that money came from a state

grant and the remaining \$3.5 million is still being paid off by the town's taxpayers. In 1997 the Children's House and the Carriage House both went up for sale to the public. The Library Trustees wanted to sell the houses to people who would move the houses to another location to preserve the history of the two houses. In 1998, the Children's House was moved to a lot off High Street. The house was sold for a whopping \$1 and it cost the couple \$35,000 to move the house. They blocked off

Routes 27 and 4 in the process.

As the library was being renovated and restored, the library needed a temporary place to house its books.

For a while the Chelmsford Public Library called the gym of the Town Hall home. They got by until 1999 when they moved into a newly refurbished building. The nice thing about the library is that they decided to keep the old building intact — although the George Memorial Hall, which had been added to the rear of the original building was torn down — and add the new part on to it.

Children's and adult programs are being run constantly to better the community, bring people together, and to make Chelmsford a better town overall. In fact, the celebration of Chelmsford's 350th ball is being held at the Chelmsford public library.

Chelmsford is a town luckier than most. Two libraries are found in Chelmsford, twice as many found in most other towns. The Mackay Public Library became the branch library of The Adams Library in 1894. The North Chelmsford Library Association, later

to become the North Chelmsford Library Corporation organized in 1872. Five years later they purchased the building on Gay Street in North Chelmsford for a library. Use of the library was halted in 1949 when former Selectman Stewart MacKay willed his home on Newfield Street to the town with the stipulation that from then on it would be known as the Anna C. MacKay Memorial Library. Stewart MacKay's sister and former Chelmsford school teacher became immortalized in the name of the branch library of North Chelmsford.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JANE DRURY
Above: The Adams Library, now known as the Chelmsford Library, as it looked around 1900.



Left: Former Selectman Stewart MacKay donated his house to the town for the MacKay Library in North Chelmsford.

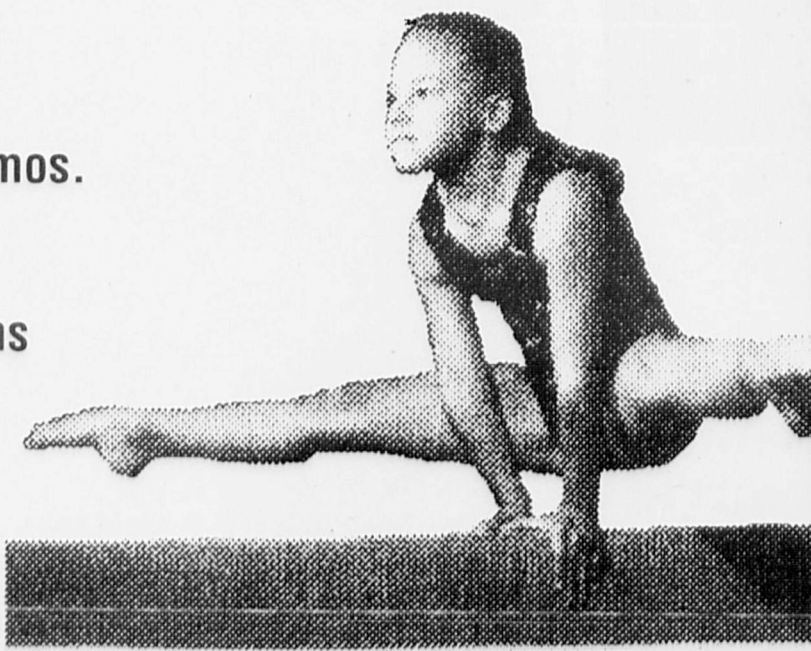
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1655 2005

A vacation destination

Summer in Chelmsford a century or so ago offered a great deal to its residents.

There were picnics, band concerts, drives along elm-shaded streets, lawn parties, Fourth of July parades made up exclusively of local groups without having to resort to hiring organizations from elsewhere to make them more spectacular, and crowd-pleasing, apron sales and homemade ice cream sales by church women in support of some good cause. There were also strawberry festivals, for example — as well as opportunities for groups, large or small, to work together to further common interests.

Some residents found summer an opportunity to travel by street car, train or carriage while others stayed at home to work in the hay fields or in small shops and the grocery store, and the women worked in their kitchens in the morning and went calling in the neighborhood during the afternoon or stayed at home to receive white-gloved callers who left calling cards in a silver tray on a table by the front door.

This way of life drew visitors every summer. The summer boarders returned year after year from Lowell's hot and dirty streets with their noise and confusion, or from Boston, perhaps, or New Hampshire or even Canada, to breathe fresh air and, in the evenings, sit on a front porch

listening to the quiet or greeting passer-by.

Summer boarders provided a welcome source of income for those who "put them up" but they also became, over time, life members of an extended family in many cases. For some, it was a literal "homecoming" as, for instance, when the prominent Boston lawyer and benefactor of the Adams Library, Thomas Parker Proctor drove up from his Boston home to spend time with relatives. One always kept a room ready for his visits — "Uncle Thomas's Room" — while others took turns in caring for his two fine horses and carriage.

The greenhouses in town were always popular places for summer boarders to visit. There was the conservatory of Mr. Bussell on Westford Street, and the larger greenhouses on Parkhurst Road and Park Road. Many contained exotic plants as well as more of the plants which decorated the town squares each year as well as the more utilitarian cucumber vines and other vegetables.

Summer vistas

It was a great convenience, too, for the adventurous to be able to hire carriages with drivers to go to Robin's Hill and from there survey the scenery for miles around, from the Customs House tower in Boston to the distant White and Green mountains as well as the nearer Mt. Wachusett and Mt. Monadnock.

Refreshments were available at the Summit House and cool breezes usually prevailed. Appalachian Mountain Club members frequently came out by train from Boston, then walked up to the hilltop. On their way back down High Street, they might be greeted by an informal musical group of neighbors, inviting them to an open house.

Summer residents attended services in the village churches where they were warmly greeted by old friends and new. In later years, these relationships were acknowledged again by substantial gifts willed to a church or to the library.

The dark side of summer

Idyllic as this picture of a Chelmsford summer may seem, other events occurred to disturb its serenity. Chimney fires were common, caused by use of wood-burning stoves, and brush fires, set by sparks of the locomotives were frequent, especially in dry seasons. A boy's arm was blown off by an explosion in a Fourth of July celebration. Horses ran away with or without their drivers, and buggy wheels became wedged in trolley tracks, bringing disaster. Several house burglaries were reported each summer and rooms in the Central House hotel were sometimes ransacked. Watches and money were especially sought by the thieves. The grocery store was broken into occasionally; there was one celebrated murder in the span of some 20 years.

Newcomers from other countries came out from the city at harvest time, to strip orchards of apples and other fruit.

Yet, on the whole, Chelmsford was a pleasant place at any time of year — as it still is, in spite of the disdain of today's sophisticates who would never choose it for a summer vacation.

— By Eleanor Parkhurst



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHELMSFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Albert Davis House

The Albert Davis House, next to the former Town Hall (now called the Old Town Hall) on the Chelmsford Common.

Presidential parentage

By Tom Groves
CORRESPONDENT

Father to Franklin Pierce, the 14th President of the United States, Benjamin Pierce was born in Chelmsford in 1757. Benjamin Pierce hurried to Boston as soon as he heard the news of the Battle of Lexington. Benjamin wanted to be part of the Revolutionary forces massing against the British. Pierce served through the American Revolution and was discharged with honor in 1784, 10 years after he left the Chelmsford farm.

After fighting in the revolution, farming seems a little drab. Pierce took a job as an explorer in New Hampshire on lands belonging to Col. Stoddard. After this job ended, he was returning back to Chelmsford when he spotted a piece of land that stirred his interest. The land was in Hillsborough, N.H. Pierce returned to the Chelmsford farmhouse, and he bought the New Hampshire land one year later in 1786 along with one of his fellow war veterans. The two men cleared fifty acres of land.

The military always being in Pierce's blood, especially after the revolution, the Hillsborough County Militia asked him to organize some troops. In 1805 Pierce was made Brigadier General of the State Militia in New Hampshire.

Pierce's military career and militia background boosted him into the lime light allowing him to get enough support to be elected as the State Representative. Pierce served as the state's Representative from 1789 to 1802. Among other offices held were delegate to the 1791 state Constitutional Convention, Governor's Council in 1803, 1809, and 1814, and also the Sheriff of Hillsborough County from 1809-1812 and 1818-1827. Pierce finally became governor of New Hampshire.

Benjamin Pierce had nine children, one of whom, Franklin Pierce, went on to become the President of the United States serving from 1853 to 1857.

Today the Pierce Estate still stands and is maintained by the Hillsborough Historical Society.

Benjamin Pierce had nine children, one of whom, Franklin Pierce, went on to become the President of the United States serving from 1853 to 1857.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANE DRURY

Dig in

One of the town's more popular gathering spots Kydd's Diner is now better known as Skip's.

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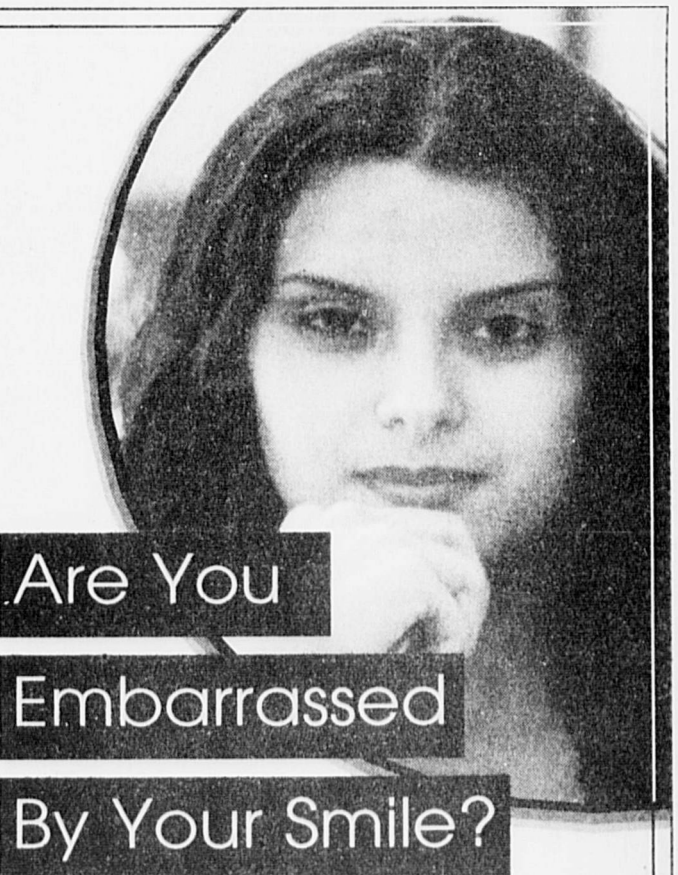
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1655 2005

'Brimstone Corner' got its name from matches

Contrary to one version of how the intersection of Acton and Robin Hill roads, South Chelmsford, became known as "Brimstone Corner," that name has nothing to do with the house at that intersection.

One erroneous account attributes the name to the house still standing in that intersection (305 Acton Road) where, the story goes, Ezekiel Byam manufactured the first "Lucifer" matches (1835) in America. Unfortunately, this theory is completely untrue. A marker placed a short distance down on Robin Hill Road, by the town's Historical Commission, at the time of the Tercentenary celebration (1955) states quite clearly that the match manufacturing took place a short distance from the marker at a location between the two small houses still standing and the larger property once known as Sunny Meadow Farm. The work was actually begun and carried on there for a time in a shed-like building which happened to be available at the time. The shed has long since disappeared.

The "Lucifer" match, the first match to be ignited by friction, was lighted by being drawn through folded sandpaper, a process which gave off clouds of sulphur vapor. This type of match came at the end of a long line of other means of lighting the fire in a fireplace (rubbing two sticks together, Indian fashion, or striking steel against flint to produce a spark which then ignited some flammable material like a bit of cloth or various fibers). From the fireplace, a splinter ("splint") of wood might be lighted to light a candle or a pipe, but as stoves came into use, a better method of starting the fire became necessary. Hence, the

"Lucifer" match was developed in England. But it was too expensive for general use. At a time when a man might work all day for a dollar, the matches sold for 25 cents per hundred. The first "real" friction matches were struck on a strip of sandpaper glued to the side of the package. Their production has been improved and their costs were lowered and the "modern" making of matches began.

Ezekiel Byam, who saw the possibilities of match-making, had engaged in store-keeping at the South village and also produced and sold an ointment for rheumatism's pain. He had been born (1796) in the big house which is now known as 15 Byam Road. In 1818 he married Charlotte Batemen, whose father, John, built the fine brick red house, now owned by Charles Parlee at 4 Proctor Road. A son of Ezekiel and Charlotte, also named Ezekiel, succeeded his father in the match manufacturing business much later and became one of the first incorporators of The Diamond Match Company when his own firm, Byam, Carlton & Company, along with several other small firms, was bought out or folded into the new larger company in 1880.

In the intervening years, the first Ezekiel had set up his shop on Robin Hill Road (1835) after purchasing a patent that seemed to be promising for the production of an improved friction match, which he first marketed in 1837. The matches were packed by girls and women of the village, in space at the home of his uncle (192 Robin Hill Road) who probably owned the first small building where the matches were made.

The business grew and prospered. It moved to Boston, then back to Chelmsford and finally back to Boston as

Byam, Carlton & Company. After his father's death (1863), Ezekiel Jr. carried on the business, but moved it to Boxford (1866) where it remained until the sale to Diamond Match. The Boxford building, built by the Byam, Carlton company, was a large barn-like structure. After it was occupied, John Parkhurst, a son of the Rev. John Parkhurst of Chelmsford, went with his family to Boxford to be building superintendent. His son, John William, who was 7 years old at this time of the move, remained in Boxford until his death in 1959. Occasionally he came to Chelmsford to attend the First Baptist Church where his grandfather had been pastor for many years. He knew the match business intimately and described the process by which the matches began as 14-foot logs, then were cut into 2-inch planks, then cut into 4-5 inch length and eventually turned into nearly 5 million matches a day. Workers were paid \$1 to \$1.50 per 10-hour day at the Boxford plant.

The popularity of the "new" matches spread quickly. Other companies making them were set up, and matches were sold from wagons which went into the South. At last, the match industry was in need of consolidation with its economies of production and better distribution, and so the age of the small companies ended and the giant Diamond Match Company began. For those interested in history, however, this little poem, accompanying each package of the Byam matches, will not be forgotten:

For quickness and sureness the public will find,

These matches will leave all others behind;

Without further remarks we invite you to try 'em,

Remember all good that are signed by E. Byam.

— By Eleanor Parkhurst



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANE DRURY

Chelmsford high school students planted the tree in 1891.

History of the purple beech

Two young residents, out for an early morning walk, stopped by the Common to admire the magnificent purple beech tree that stands beside the Revolutionary War monument. They spoke of the majestic shape of the tree, the burnished hue of its leaves and its sturdy trunk and then walked on.

The story of the purple beech, as it has been retold through the years, sometimes merges fact with fiction. Written in a firm girlish hand on the back of a photograph of the tree's planting, we learn that "Chelmsford High School" planted the tree May 1, 1891, and that teacher Susan M. Emerson, is pictured with students.

This photo identification shows that the planting did not happen in 1894 or 1896, as some have thought. We learn also that it was not one class, but the entire high school of some 40 students who participated in the planting.

The tree itself, as shown in the photograph, looks more like a small switch, about as tall as the hand shovel with which the hole was prepared.

When over time, this switch grew old enough to bear nuts, many a harvest crop found their way into local kitchens to be used in baking cookies.

Susan Emerson, a member of an early graduation class at Framingham Normal School, now Framingham State College, seems to have enjoyed the affection and respect of her students in and out of class. She was always interested in enlarging their horizons. For example, she encouraged an elementary form of gymnastics in her classes at a time when there was no formal physical education offered. Her students were taught to conduct some of their exercises with large dumbbells, a memory that lingered with them for years.

Emerson also had a strong interest in nature, no doubt increased by the photographs of her brother, who provided excellent photographs of a variety of trees in a well-received reference book. It is quite likely, then, that the tree planting idea was Emerson's own, although Arbor Day had already begun being observed and was the impetus for many spring tree plantings. Emerson's brother was, of course, on hand to photograph the student planting.

In September 1935, the 10 members of the Class of 1894, probably the first to have a formal graduation with a class ode and a list of officers, held an informal reunion to which Emerson was invited. This was one among many such gatherings of former students to which Emerson was invited, always sitting in the front row with her students.

For as long as they lived, students who participated in the purple beech's planting remembered the day as a source of pride and satisfaction. The tree has outlived the granite post and rail fence that once encircled the Common, outlasted the Classical School building that became the Baptist parsonage and was later torn down, and survived the "Old Yellow School," on the site of the current Center Fire Station.

It is to be hoped that plans for "progress," perhaps in the form of a faster flow of traffic, will never threaten the Common, its memorials, or its well-loved beech tree.

— By Eleanor Parkhurst

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Early years helped shape Henry David Thoreau

Henry David Thoreau, a former Chelmsford resident and the great American, was born on July 12, 1817 in Concord to John and Cynthia Thoreau.

The family of John and Cynthia included Helen, 6; John, 4; and Henry, 1, when with Aunt Sarah, they moved to Chelmsford in 1818. A fourth child, Sophia, was born here a year later.

Mr. Thoreau, a small, quiet and slightly deaf man, a great reader and nature lover, had tried several occupations before coming here: he had been a school teacher, farmer and shopkeeper — all unsuccessfully; after failing in Chelmsford he went to Boston to teach but the family returned to Concord permanently when Henry was 6 years old. Mr. Thoreau began making pencils and prospered to a modest degree.

Mrs. Thoreau, daughter of a New Hampshire minister/lawyer, was a large, outspoken woman, "the greatest talker in Concord" and, like her husband, a reader and lover of nature. Sometimes she wore a sun-bonnet with yellow ribbons, thought by some Concordians to be "too bright." She took in boarders and welcomed relatives so the house was filled with life and talk. She and Mr. Thoreau took the children on nature walks and both stressed the value of a good education.

In Chelmsford, Mr. Thoreau kept a shop, with his wife to wait on customers, painted signs and held a liquor license. Aunt Sarah took care of the youngsters and, when he was 4, taught Henry to walk here. The exact locations of the shop and house hired by the Thoreaus is not known except that Henry learned later from his mother that the house was "next to the meeting house where they kept the powder in the garret." This would, of course, have been the present Unitarian Church.

Settled in Concord after the Chelmsford shop and a teaching job in Boston, the Thoreau children attended the Concord public schools and John and Henry went on to Concord Academy, studying Latin, French and Greek among other sub-

jects. John was later to be the principal of the Academy with Henry as a teacher. Meantime, Henry went to Harvard on a scholarship when he was 16, learning more Latin and Greek, spending long hours at the library. At one point he left Harvard to teach six weeks of school to pay college expenses. He graduated in 1837, presenting a commencement address on "The Commercial Spirit."

In the fall of 1839, Henry and John went on the expedition down the Concord and Merrimack rivers which furnished material for the later "A Week on the Concord and Merrimack." The boys rowed as far as Hooksett, N.H., left the boat and explored scenic New Hampshire before sailing and rowing home. As they passed Middlesex Village, now a part of Lowell, Henry reminded John that they "had spent part of our lives" further inland in Chelmsford.

In college and afterward, Henry had been writing and expanding his circle of friends. He met and greatly admired Ralph Waldo Emerson, then living in Boston and the author of "Nature" which profoundly influenced Henry. Emerson became a Concord neighbor shortly and in 1844 bought property near Walden Pond. Knowing Henry's love of nature as well as of solitude, Emerson suggested that he build a cabin on the Emerson property and live there for a while. Henry built the cabin himself and on July 4, 1845, moved in, remaining a little over two years. Here he wrote his first book (the expedition on the rivers) and began his famous "Journal" and "Walden."

He walked, wrote, fished and conversed with visitors whether farmers, curious folk or philosophers. A good school teacher and adept at pencil-making, he had decided to become a writer, continuing the essays and lectures that had already been well received by the public. Much of the material came not only from his reading and philosophical discussions but from his travels in New England, Canada, Minnesota, Oregon and elsewhere — but Concord was still "home" and he traveled there, he said, a great deal, too.

Thoreau was jailed overnight for not paying his poll tax; this experience became the basis for his essay on civil disobedience in 1849. In 1859, John Brown came to Concord and Thoreau talked with him about slavery. When Brown was hanged at Harper's Ferry, he wrote and spoke of the event with great indignation.

On May 4, 1862, Thoreau died but we are the inheritors of his many and varied writings which have relevance for us today although they appeared before the Civil War. In addition to being recognized as a writer, Thoreau has been called a hunter without a gun, fisherman, teacher, geographer, surveyor, pencil-maker, carpenter, botanist, vegetarian and naturalist as well as dreamer, eccentric and revolutionary.

In today's jargon we would say that his was not a "dysfunctional family," but that the inner relationships expanded outward without limits, from the humblest farmer to the greatest philosophers. He was a contemplative who abhorred violence but could justify it as a last resort; he hated killing but saw war as an inevitable final step when all else failed. No abolitionist, he yet helped fugitive slaves escape. He learned "moral values" at home such as the importance of work and of honesty (although he reversed the order of six days' work and one day to rest and proposed one day's work with six days to explore one's self and one's world. He declared that "each town should have a park" (today's "open space"); he planted trees and flowers and vines made friends with animals and birds.

Today we still talk of families and moral values, of the tolerable limits to which violence can go of reducing government interference in our lives and the general roll of government in society in addition to considering friendship, solitude, nature and the other human subjects he discusses. Finally, we suggest that unwittingly earned the name of "environment lost" because of the relevance for us of much of his work.

— By Eleanor Parkhurst

Town Reports change with the times

The Town Reports may not have ever appeared on the best seller list anywhere, but beginning in 1823, a report of sorts detailing town expenditures has regularly been published and attracts a dedicated but increasingly small body of readers.

The first report, "A statement of town expenditures" was ordered printed at the Town Meeting, and, as a single sheet about the size of a letter, duly appeared. It was noted for its brevity and detail, carefully listing each amount spent and the person to whom it was owed and for what reason.

The expenditures were divided into those for road work, for the poor and for "incidental charges." Aid to the poor was shown by person or family to whom it was given, and overseers of the poor were paid for their services. The "incidental charges" included selectmen's services, the constables' and tax collector's services, for assessors' services and those of the school committee and town clerk. Each amount varied according to services performed. Money received came from sale of milk and produce from the Town Farm, for example, and from the state for care of certain paupers. The total amount spent for schools was \$1,200 in 1842.

In 1874, the single sheet gave way to a pamphlet-type report — about six by eight inches. It included the town clerk's report, information from the assessor's book, the selectmen's report (including school expenditures for each teacher, wood for heating, school supplies and care of each of the 10 district school-houses). The report also included a section for highways and bridges, a receiving tomb at South Chelmsford, two new hearses, and other town charges (lamps for North Town Hall, new wells and a pump at Center Cemetery, etc.). It included the report of the overseers of the poor and report of the town treasurer, together with an affidavit that the report was correct, signed by the three members of the Committee to Settle with the Town Treasurer (which later became an auditing committee); with a page on the

financial condition of the town by the same committee. The pages were bound with heavy thread.

From then on, the reports expanded in some way almost yearly. In 1878, five selectmen were elected instead of the usual three members. In 1880, a copy of the March Town Meeting warrant was printed for the first time. The warrant included an article for furnishing the new town hall in the center. Town Meeting was held at the North Town Hall, beginning at 9 a.m. and lasting through the afternoon. The 1881 Town Meeting warrant article seeking women's rights to vote and hold office was dismissed. Also in 1881, the town clerk's report stressed the number of births of native, foreign and native-foreign parentage; deaths were recorded only by number and sex, and marriages were recorded between natives, natives and foreigners and between foreigners. The report for 1884 listed town officials for the first time: selectmen, assessors and overseers of the poor, town clerk, town treasurer, School Committee, tax collector, constables, fence viewers, highway surveyor, appraisers of property at the Town Farm, auditors, weighers of hay and of coal, measurers of wood, surveyors of lumber and field driver. The School Committee had issued its own annual reports for some years but now, in 1885, the report was included in the Town Report (23 pages for school report, 26 for the Town Report). In 1888, fire wards were first listed, as were precinct officers (nine) for the three new precincts, and registrars of voters (four).

Forest fire wards were listed in 1891, as was the sealer of weights and measures. Expenditures for "fire apparatus" were made in 1886 for pails, ropes, ladders, and materials for ladder houses. In 1890, a distinction was first made between elected and appointed town officials; special police officers and fish wards were also added to the listing. In 1893, the town was asked whether the library should become a free public library, and in 1894, the first report of the

Reports, Page 15



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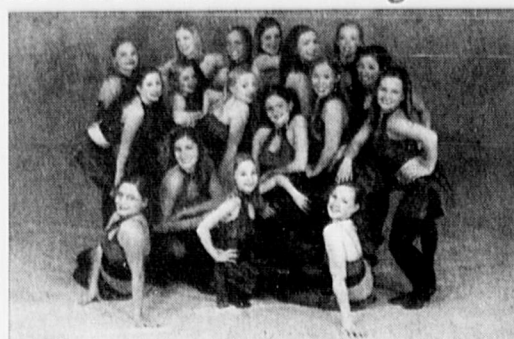
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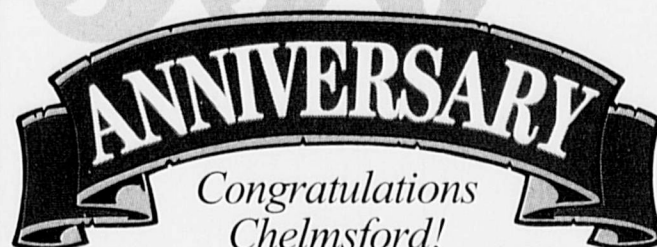
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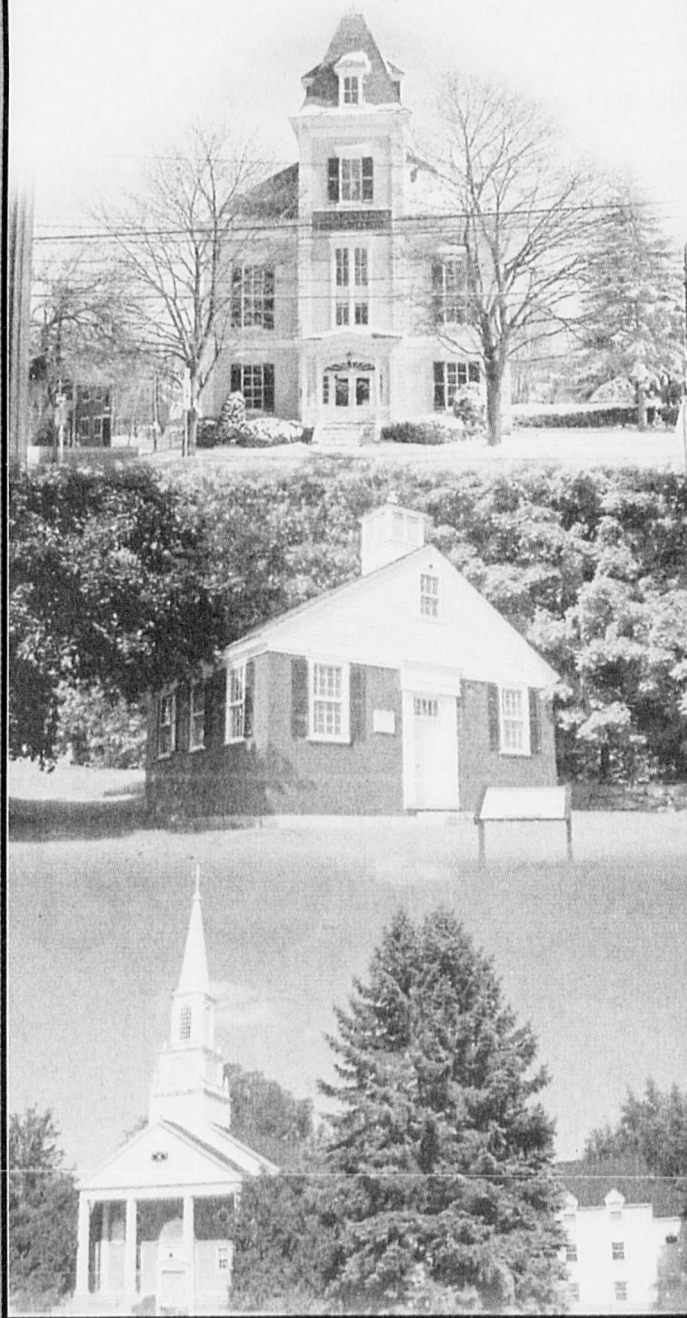
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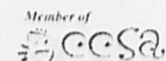
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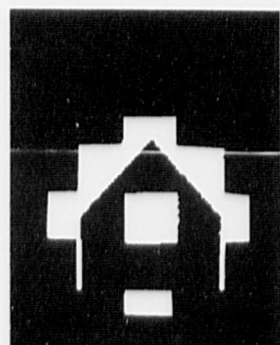
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Reports change

Reports, from Page 13

Library Trustees appeared, followed in 1896 by the North Chelmsford Library Association's first report as a free public library. A list of jurors appeared for the first time in that year, and in 1897 came the cattle inspector's first report, and much about street lighting was discussed. The Board of Health report came in 1899, listing four types of contagious diseases found that year. Then quickly followed (1900) the first report of the tree warden. Election of officers had been held at each annual Town Meeting for many years, but only in 1900 is the record given in the Town Report on officers elected and actions taken at that meeting. State election results were listed in 1902, and the first ever special Town Meeting was held in that year.

This sketch of a developing town government as seen through the Town Reports for about 175 years suggests how the framework originated. The fledgling Fire Department, for example, began when increased population and more homes posed a greater fire threat. Although still a farming community with its weighers of hay, shops were spreading and brought a sealer of weights and measures. A Health Board was the answer to rising contagious diseases and a public library came when the need for non-exclusive access to books was recognized. And, above all, perhaps, we salute the dozens of town officials who were paid only for their services when rendered, willing and, in most cases, able volunteers who sometimes held two or more positions. The years before 1900 were formative ones: the next century saw the rise of professionalism, greater state intrusion into local affairs, and proliferation of services for a growing population.

— By Eleanor Parkhurst

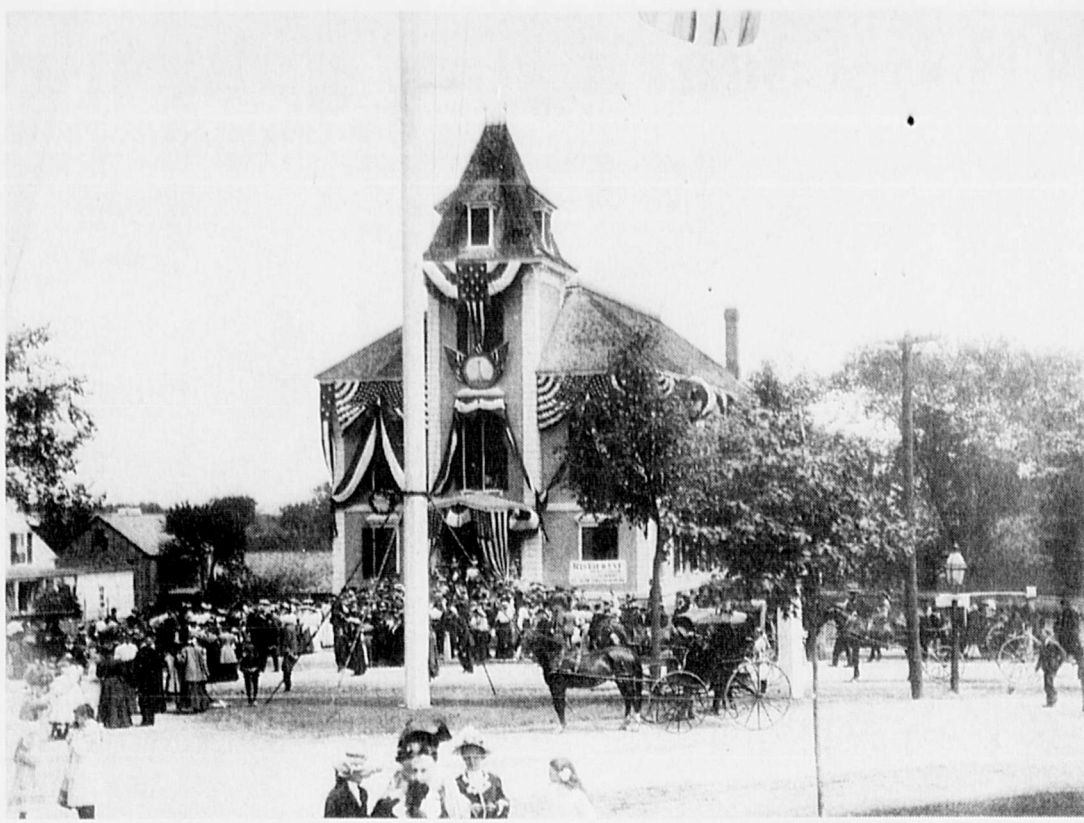


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100 years ago today

Chelmsford Town Hall, now the Community Center, decked out for the town's 250th anniversary.

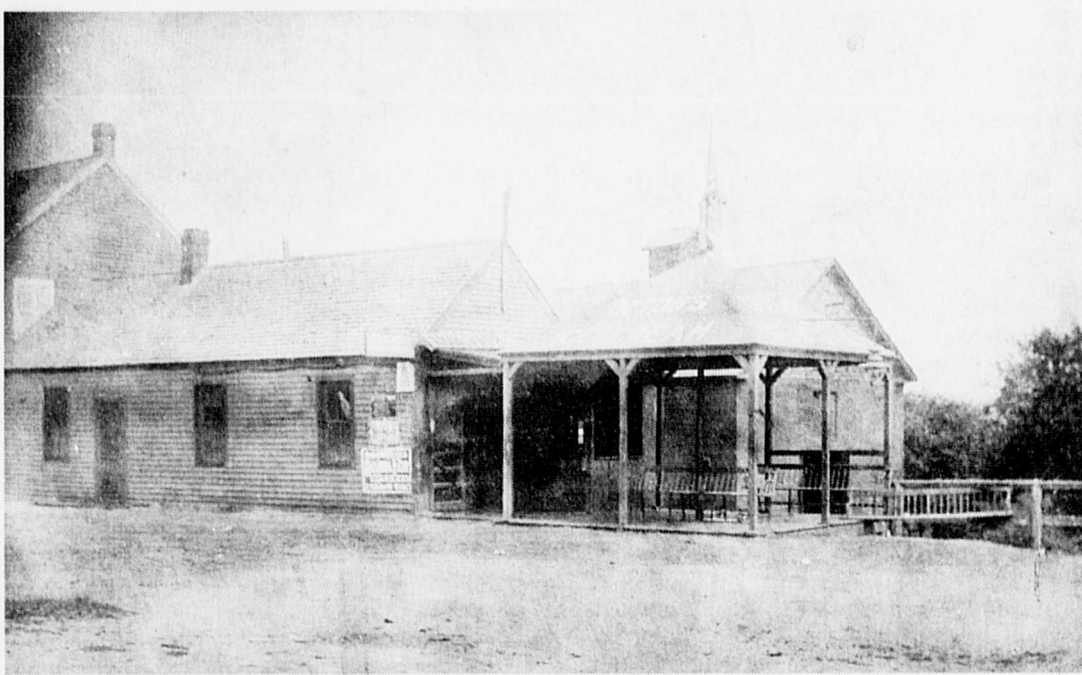


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I scream, you scream

Upton's Ice Cream in North Chelmsford. Unknown date.

Slavery in Chelmsford

Slaves, from Page 6

Based on the scanty data now available, it seems that the slaves here were generally treated as household servants, farm hands and, in a few cases, workers in a trade or business such as a tavern or a tailoring establishment, quite unlike the much larger number employed on the Southern plantations as field laborers and household servants in the great houses of the plantation owners. An entry dated March 18, 1756, describes one owner's thoughts on the death of his slave Venus:

"My Negro servant Venus died of a throat distemper of which there was a good deal in town. A great loss. Considering it as a loss of estate (property), it hath little or no weight in my mind. But as a death in my family, one that hath gone and [sic] that hath lived so many years with me and bin so much trouble, the one that hath gone through a great deal of hard service and that hath provoked me and my wife to rash and unjustifiable expressions and hard treatment of her; so wicked and sinful whose soul as precious as any. Upon these considerations, I count her loss great."

During the Revolution, two local Negroes enlisted in the army: one was Cato, belonging to Dr. Abbott, of whom we know little except that he served 1777-1779 and saw action at Cherry Valley; the other was Parzilla Lew, born in Groton in 1743, son of Primus, Capt. Boyden's manservant and Margaret, a mulatto formerly servant to Samuel Scripture.

When he was 17 years old, Barzilla enlisted in a Groton militia company that took part in an unsuccessful assault on Canada. Some time later he came to Chelmsford and was living in the North End, according to a 1775 tax list. This was the section of town lying north of the center extending beyond but including the Merrimack River and its Pawtucket Falls. At age 30 he enlisted in Capt. John Ford's Chelmsford company and was described on the roster as "Stature, 6 feet; Occupation, cooper; Reported a Negro; Fifer." He was already well known for his musical abilities.

Chelmsford appears to have had no special problems with its slaves but Tyngsborough, according to Morton's recent "Images of America: Tyngsborough" an attic beam in the Tyng mansion bore "a heavy iron ring once used for chaining troublesome slaves."

In Concord, John Jack, slave of shoemaker Benjamin Barron, has built a cabin near Meriam's Corner which became his home and that of fellow slave, Old Violet, another one also belonging to Barron. After Barron's death, Jack purchased his freedom from the shoemaker's widow and retired from the shoemaking trade. When he died in 1773 he willed whatever was left of his possessions after the burial expense and the lawyer's fee for writing the will had been paid to old Violet. The lawyer, Daniel Bliss, well known as the town's Tory lawyer, composed an epitaph for Jack's gravestone which, one historian wrote, had made Jack immortal. The first two lines of the epitaph read: "God wills us free; man wills us slaves. I will as God wills; God's will be done."

As an anti-gesture, one resident tended Jack's grave prior to the Civil War and planted lilies on it. In tribute to him and the spirit of the epitaph there, Jack's grave has become a place of pilgrimage throughout the years for those who too, believe in freedom.

— Eleanor Parkhurst

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School days, school days, learn your golden rules days

High school graduation ceremonies are, comparatively speaking, latecomers to the history of our public education. The first indication that successful completion of school work merited special recognition in the annual reports may be found in the reports for 1880 and 1884 under expenditures for the public schools, expenditures of \$9.50 and \$8, respectively for "high school diplomas." At that time, of course, the town had two high schools, one in North Chelmsford and one in the center, with the high school occupying one room in the school building; the course of study and the length of the high school work were quite different from later versions — the two-year course being standard at this time and its subjects were very limited. This is not to say that there were no informal celebration of "School's out!" but we do not read of them.

It was in 1885 that the annual financial report of school costs was supplemented by a formal report by the School Committee and the school superintendent on many aspects of their work. Supt. J.H. Vincent reports this regarding the North High School: "It was very pleasant to go into this room and hear scholars recite independent of the teacher's questions from five to 10 minutes. It seemed more like persons making speeches than like boys and girls reciting. A class of 14 was graduated from here last June, who in their essays and declamations appeared more like college graduates than like high school boys and girls 15 and 16 years old."

Two years later, eight "scholars" graduated from the North High School. Exercises were held "as usual" in the North Town Hall (although we do not know what period of time this phrase refers to) and

Superintendent George F. Snow reported: "The exercises showed thorough preparation and were highly pleasing to the large audience" but no further information is given.

In 1888, however, the graduation program of the Center High School appears for the first time in the Town Report along with the report of the committee and superintendent. Thirteen students were graduated at this time and Snow states that "The exercises of graduation were attended by the audience which completely filled the Town Hall. The essays were characterized by more originality than is generally shown at such times. Music rendered by the Chelmsford Orchestra was a marked feature of the evening. Diplomas were presented by J. Adams Bartlett, chairman of the School Committee, with an address to the graduates appropriate to the occasion."

This program served as a graduation model for years to come, slightly altered from time to time by adding or leaving out some details. Therefore it is worthy of being summarized here: "Military March" by Catlin as played by the orchestra; a prayer followed after the graduates had entered. The salutatory essay "Influence of Poetry" by Miss Marshall; and three essays by graduates were given next by Misses Crooker, Davis and Fulton, respectively, on "Empress Josephine," "Music," and "The Three Caskets." The orchestra played Gounod's "Ave Maria." Miss Locke's essay "Value of Character" by Miss McNutt and an oration by Master Fletcher on "Power of Ideas" was followed by another orchestral interlude, Donizetti's "La Favorita." Two more essays, "The Fall of Troy" by Miss Robinson and "Joan of Arc," by Miss Warren preceded by Class Prophecy by Master Saunders, "The Autiscope." The orchestra



The 1925 eighth-grade class at the Center Grammar School on North Road.

played a selection from Verdi's "Il Trovatore." Miss Wilson's essay "Great Inventions" and the valedictory essay by Miss Hutchinson on "The Puritan Character," together with all the graduates singing the Parting Ode, closed the program except for the awarding of diplomas and Chairman Bartlett's address and a benediction.

The first lines of the Parting Ode, written by an unidentified member of the class were:

"Once more we gather, classmates,
While the setting sun
Lightly flings its lengthened

shadows

O'er the course we've run."

Except, perhaps for adding the names of the clergy who took part in the exercise, the listing of the Class Flower, Colors and Motto, the program held for a good while, following the general outline of his 1888 model. Musical interludes were furnished by the girls' or boys' glee clubs, or by the high school orchestra. Speakers often came from out of town, like the president of Boston University, for example, or the principal of Fitchburg Normal School, or the secretary of the state Board of Education. The pro-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CHELMSFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Chelmsford Academy students pose for a class portrait in either 1861 or 1862.

grams were held in the Town Halls regularly with two exceptions: One when there were three boys and one girl in the graduating class and by vote, there were no exercises; and once when three girls were the only graduates, a full program was held. By 1930, graduations for each of the town's eighth grades were held and the names of the graduates were listed, just as only the names of the high school graduates were printed — the remains of the elaborate programs.

In 1917, a giant step forward was taken by the School Department by consolidating

the two high schools and opening the building now occupied by the Town Offices on Billerica Road. The essay topics of the graduates at this World War I period show its influence: "The American Red Cross," "The Part Women Play in the War," and "America's Duty and the Peace After the War" are illustrative of this point. In more recent years speakers have often come from fields of science, industry and sports instead of the more romantic idealized subjects of the late 1880s and 1890s and early 20th-century years.

— Eleanor Parkhurst,
Chelmsford Newsweekly.

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CHELMSFORD NEWSWEEKLY PHOTO

Championship season

The 1940 basketball champions were the first CHS team to play in the Eastern Mass. tournament. Pictured are, front row, Bernie McHugh and George Ducharme, manager; second row from left, Mike Cochrane, Bud Doole, Allie Angus, Don Grant and Hank Zabierek; and third row from left, John Sullivan, Ham Lennox Chet Woodward, Ed Leonard, Coach John McLaughlin, Hal Clayton, Garvin Jones, Park George and Bob Angus.



CHELMSFORD NEWSWEEKLY PHOTO

Suburban champs

The Lowell Suburban Champions for 1955 were, front row from left, Peggy Connor, Co-Capt. Mary McCarthy, Co-Capt. Gloria Paduch, Judy Bomil, Carole Harper and Marilyn Vaipan; and back row from left, Kay Morrow, Gigi Long, Eileen Cumming, Joyce Murphy and Marie LaHaise.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHELMSFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Class picture

This first- or second-grade class at the Center School poses for a group picture with the teacher. Date unknown.

School for deaf started here

For the Clarke School for the Deaf, its beginning was in the large white house standing at the corner of North Road and Academy Street where, in the upper left-hand room, the first school in the United States to teach oral speech and lip-reading to deaf students opened on June 1, 1866. About a year later, thanks to a large gift from John Clarke of Northampton to the school on condition that it relocate to that city, the local school was closed and teachers and student transferred to Northampton. Harriet Rogers again

became its principal, assisted by Mary S. Byam.

Clarke has earned worldwide recognition for its work with those with hearing impairment and total hearing loss. In 1992, it celebrated its 125th anniversary with many special events, one of which was the visit to Chelmsford.

A similar contingent from Clarke came here to dedicate the boulder on the common opposite the house in honor of the school's 100th birthday. The town welcomed them enthusiastically and town officials took special note of the occasion. Three relatives of

Mary Byam were present: Amelia Byam of Chelmsford, Robert Byam of Maine and Edith Byam Riese of Lawrence. The selectmen presented the visitors with a key to the town and read a proclamation among other parts of the observance during which Clarke president Dennis Gjerden spoke about the school's history and its beginning here.

At its opening, the classroom of the new school easily accommodated three pupils, but as the number grew to eight, a move was made in early 1867 next door to the building originally built for the

Chelmsford Classical Academy in 1825 which became Chelmsford Academy in 1859 but closed in 1862 due to the Civil War's effect on availability of private funds to support the academy. Its first floor became available for the growing new school. The further move to Northampton late in 1867 left the building empty since the Central Baptist congregation, which had been meeting on the upper floor since the church was organized at the corner of Westford Street. The academy building then became the church parsonage.

Clarke, Page 18

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School for deaf started in town

Clarke, from Page 17 replaced in the mid-1950s by the present more modern structure on the same site.

From this simple beginning, Clarke School has grown as a center for oral education of the deaf, "dedicated to the principle that hearing-impaired pupils can live independent productive lives." It offers services to infants and their parents learning to cope with the child's deafness, classes from preschool to upper school for youngsters, services for mainstreaming hearing-impaired pupils and those who teach them or who are themselves hearing-impaired, services to parents and senior citizens with hearing losses and a wide range of research projects including the study of cochlear implants — all to find new and better ways of helping the hearing-impaired in the future.

The Chelmsford school's upstairs classroom was in a house of great significance in several other ways. It was the birthplace of Josiah Gardner Abbott, a member of the Classical School's first class and a student of Concord's Ralph Waldo Emerson. He entered Harvard at 13 and graduated four years later, becoming a teacher, then a serious student of the law. He founded and edited a Lowell newspaper, he practiced law, he was elected state representative, state senator, and U.S. representative, he served as a justice of the Superior Court in Boston and had a great variety of interests in the

developing mills and railroads of the day and served many of them as officer, director or trustee. He is said to have been offered a cabinet position by President Grover Cleveland.

During the Civil War (in which Judge Abbott lost two of his sons), the house was one of the meeting places of the Soldiers' Aid Society, where articles of clothing, food, bandages, and other necessities were prepared. It was there that the meeting was

During the Civil War (in which Judge Abbott lost two of his sons), the house was one of the meeting places of the Soldiers' Aid Society, where articles of clothing, food, bandages, and other necessities were prepared.

held to organize the Central Congregational Church in the home of Eliza and Mary Winn and their brother George (the Winn House) in 1876 and it was the Winns who gave the land on North Road adjoining their home as the location for the church, built in 1888 after meeting in the 1802 Schoolhouse, the Unitarian Church, the Baptist Church, and the Town Hall.

Deacon Otis Adams, whose house took its name from his occupancy, was a widely respected resident, active in many local affairs. He was clerk of the First Congregational Church (now the Unitarian Church) parish from 1833 to 1870, he was prime mover in the plan for a Revolution monument on the common and served as treasurer of the fund to build it. His descendants still live in town. He held many other posts of trust and prominence as well as his willingness to provide a room for the School of the Deaf.

— Eleanor Parkhurst, Chelmsford Newsweekly.

Bus brought change to schools

With the opening of the Chelmsford High School — what is now the Town Office Building on Billerica Road — it became possible to close the North Chelmsford High School and bring all high school students together — a goal long sought by school officials.

Until that time, 1917, various means of transporting students to the elementary and grammar schools were provided by independent contractors using their own equipment, which was for the most part horse-drawn "barges."

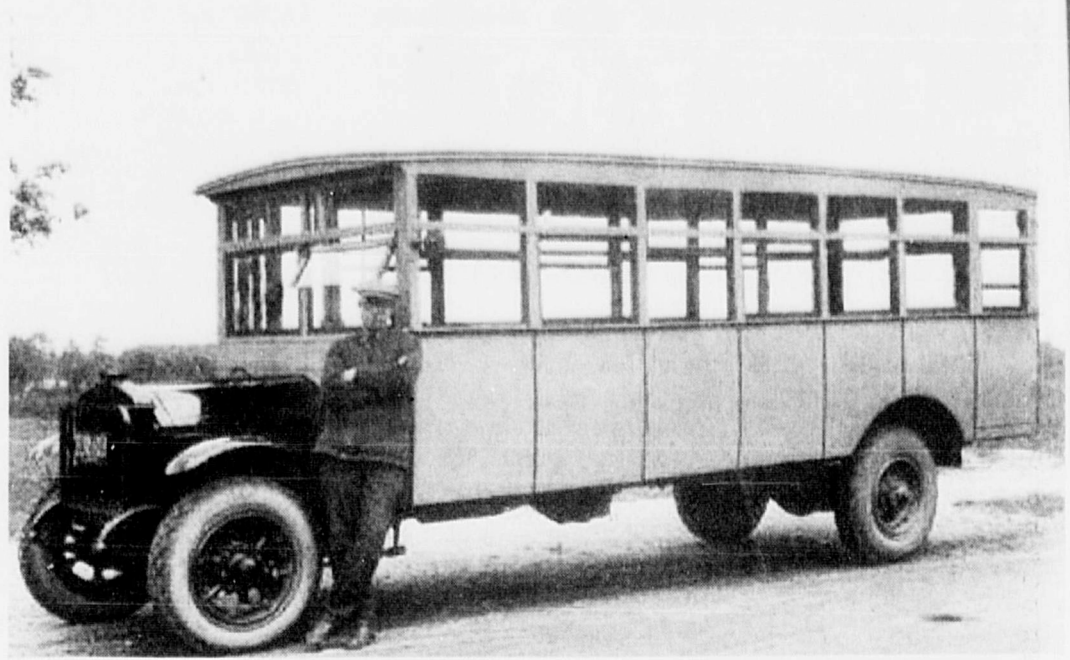
The purchase of two trucks for transporting students from the North High School to the Center with an appropriation of \$5,000 was proposed at the annual Town Meeting of Feb. 5, 1917, but a committee to study the matter was appointed instead and asked to report at the next special Town Meeting in the same year.

At the special Town Meeting on May 31, it was voted to raise and appropriate \$1,146 (which amounted to 25 cents per \$1,000 of valuation on the tax rate) and to borrow the balance of the sum of \$7,600 — promissory notes to be issued for \$6,454, repayable over four years in installments of \$1,613.50 per year with semi-annual interest paid at not more than 5 percent per year.

Provision of a garage facility — to store the trucks — was put over to the next annual meeting but \$2,200 was appropriated to "cover the balance of the expense of transporting school children."

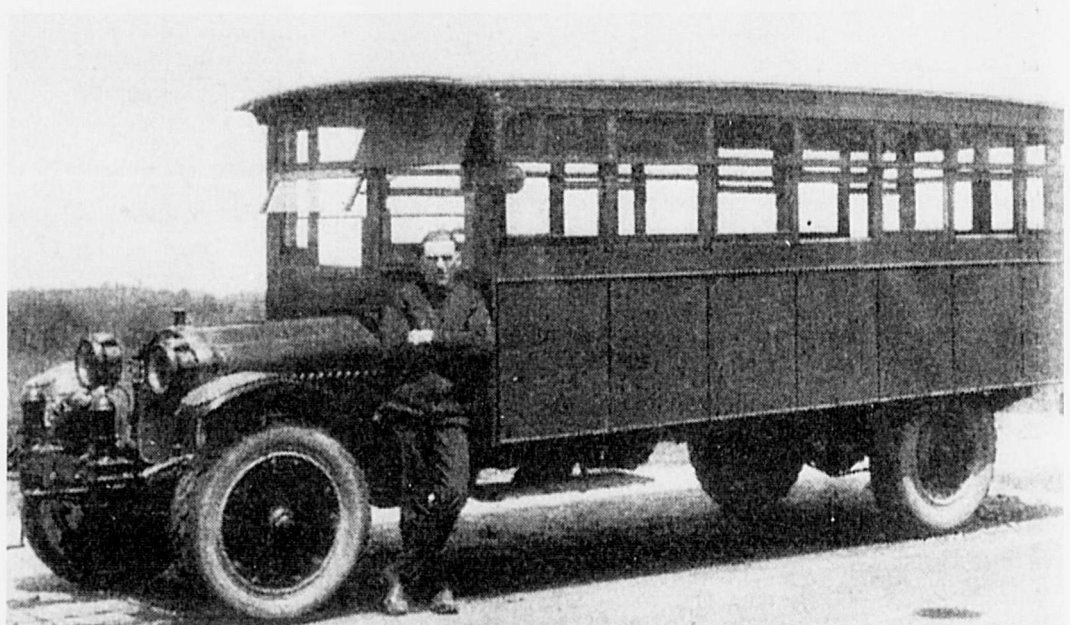
Two automobile trucks were then purchased: a G.M.A. vehicle costing \$3,450 and a Pierce Arrow, costing \$4,150.

The first drivers, Walter Thomas and Frank Lupien were paid \$273 and \$258,



For several years, Chelmsford school bus fleet consisted of two vehicles driven by George Gaudette and Lewis Fiske.

CHELMSFORD NEWSWEEKLY PHOTOS



respectively, for their services. Other expenses connected with the trucks came to \$55.26 for grease, oil, chains, etc. The total cost of the new form of transportation for the first year, not including purchase of the

vehicles, came to \$1087.26.

The 1917 report of the School Committee declared that: "This year has marked the beginning of a new epoch in the history of the school system in town. This important change in the

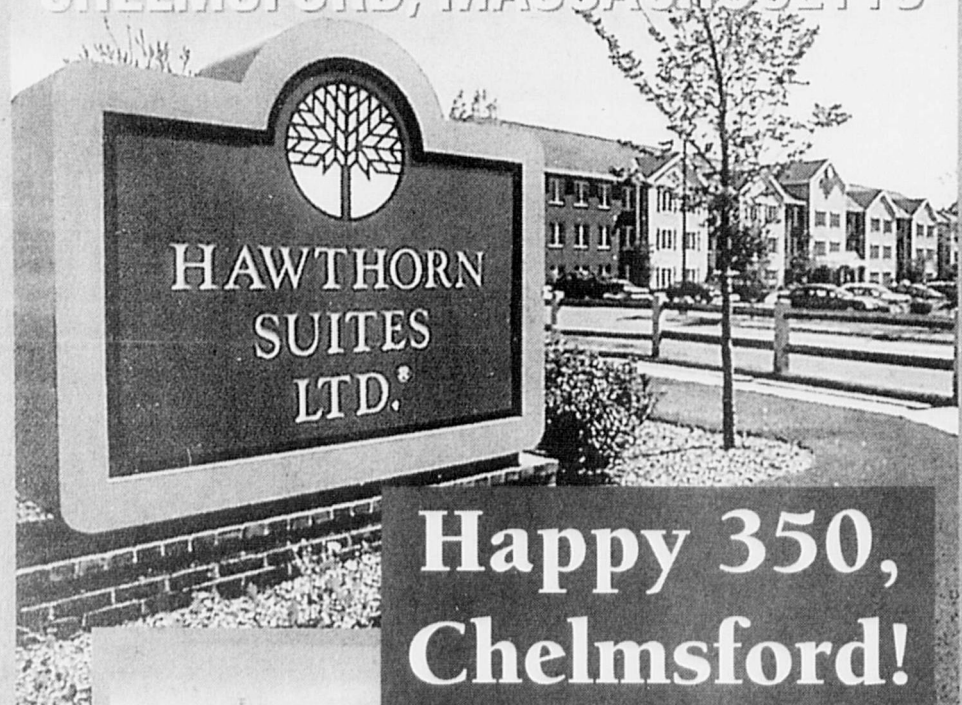
operation of the system has been due to two reasons.

First, the consolidation of the two High Schools and, second, the use of the automobile trucks for transportation of school children."

— By Eleanor Parkhurst

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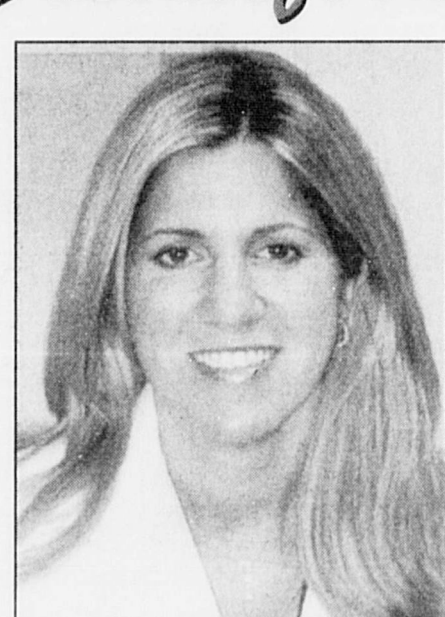
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Social event of the season

The Chelmsford Village Improvement Association (as distinguished from the South Chelmsford Village Improvement Association which was organized somewhat later) depended heavily on its Field Days (later known as Clean Up Days) and in what was in its heyday a "social event of the season."

Contemporary newspaper accounts (1884) tell of the transportation arrangements for the event, the music, and the dances, as well as of the dance itself:

"The Village Improvement Association will close the winter with a grand ball in the town hall, Thursday evening, March 6. The American orchestra has been secured, and the dances will consist mainly of those in which our fathers and mothers were proficient. As Lowell is to be represented in the persons of some of her most substantial citizens, a special train will be run for their accommodation, leaving the Middlesex Street depot at 7:30, returning after the ball. Only the regular fare, 20 cents for the round trip, will be charged. There is every reason to believe that the adjoining towns will be represented by some of their best people, and it is the intention of the association to make this occasion the event of the season."

The occasion was indeed a successful one, according to this news item:

"The VIA Ball. Indescribable the success of the ball the writer is strongly tempted to borrow from the circus and dry goods advertisers a dozen or two of their big adjectives such as 'magnificent, unparalleled, unprecedented, phenomenal,' etc. and he is quite confident that none of those present would take him to task for Munchausenism."

"The statement of your local correspondent in last week's Journal that the association intended to make this the social event of the season was fully verified by the result. The

rare combination in March of fine weather, a full moon, and good sleighing, brought a large number from the city and adjoining towns. More than 100 came in a special train from Lowell and among the many well known citizens were recognized B.F. Shaw, J.B. Richardson, S.G. Parker, A.R. Bachelder, E.B. Conant, Horace Ela, C.H. Wilder and Dr. Heald.

"Dancing commenced at 8 o'clock, the American orchestra furnishing the music and continued till 1, with an intermission from 10 to 11 for supper which, excellent in quality and ample in quantity, was provided by the ladies of the village, except the ice cream, which came from the well known establishment of Page & Nunn. The capacity of the hall, ample for all ordinary occasions, was severely taxed to accommodate the large number who wished to dance, and the only regret felt by the directors was that they had not the power to extemporize an extension to the auditorium. Undoubtedly this was the largest gathering ever assembled in the hall and in its personnel beyond criticism. As a financial venture the association has abundant cause for self-congratulation."

Annual picnics were popular affairs, too. Some 300 persons attended the all-day picnic held at nearby Nabnasset. There were games and sports, and a program of musical selections by the North Chelmsford brass band. Another year, the picnic was held at Willowdale, on the other side of the Merrimack, which was "a very pleasant gathering" we are told, to which about 200 people from Westford, Lowell and Tyngsboro went, in addition to the 35 from Chelmsford who went in style in a "barge" — a horse drawn vehicle. Here again there were games and sports, and, as at Nabnasset, a dance for the young people in the evening ended the program.

—Eleanor Parkhurst,
Chelmsford Newsweekly.

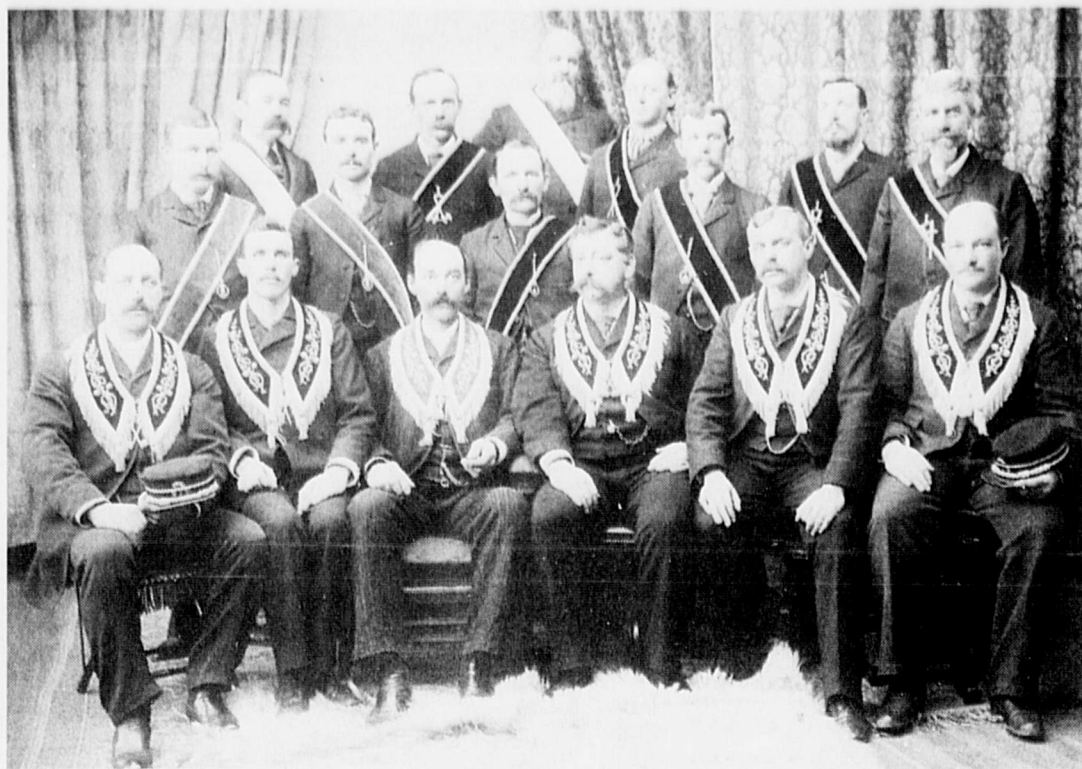


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHELMSFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Club meeting

The officers of the International Order of Odd Fellows. Date unknown.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANE DRURY

All in the family

The family at 78 High St. poses for a group portrait. Date unknown.

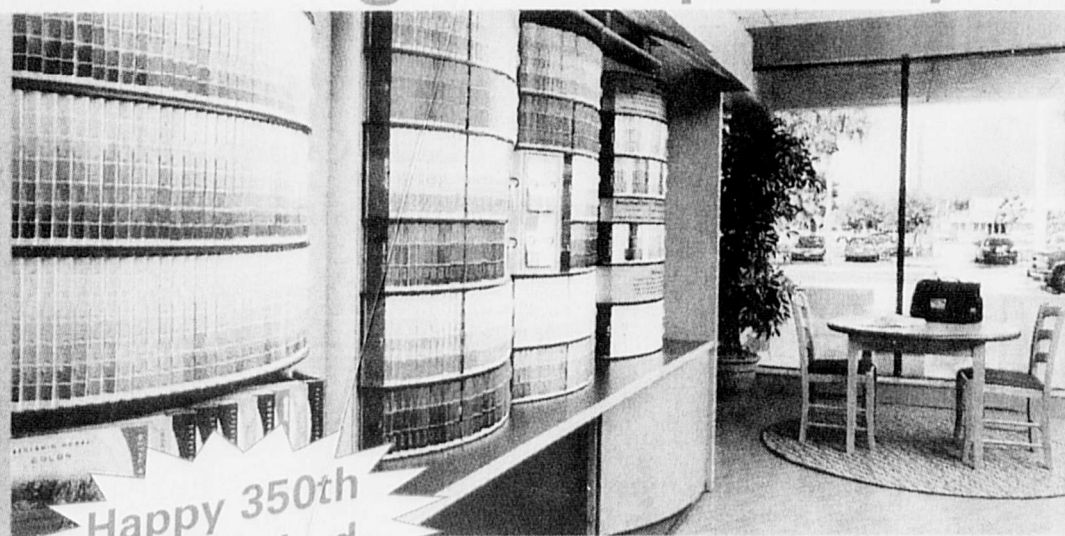


PHOTO COURTESY OF JANE DRURY

Honorary gardeners

The Chelmsford Garden Club's honorary members pictured in 1956. They were, from left, Mrs. William Baldwin, Mrs. Frederic A. Snow, Mrs. Garfield Davis, Mrs. Charles A. Wells, Mrs. Harold Stewart, Mrs. Warren Kneeland, Miss Frances Clark, Mrs. Josiah E. Marshall and Mrs. Ralph Emerson.

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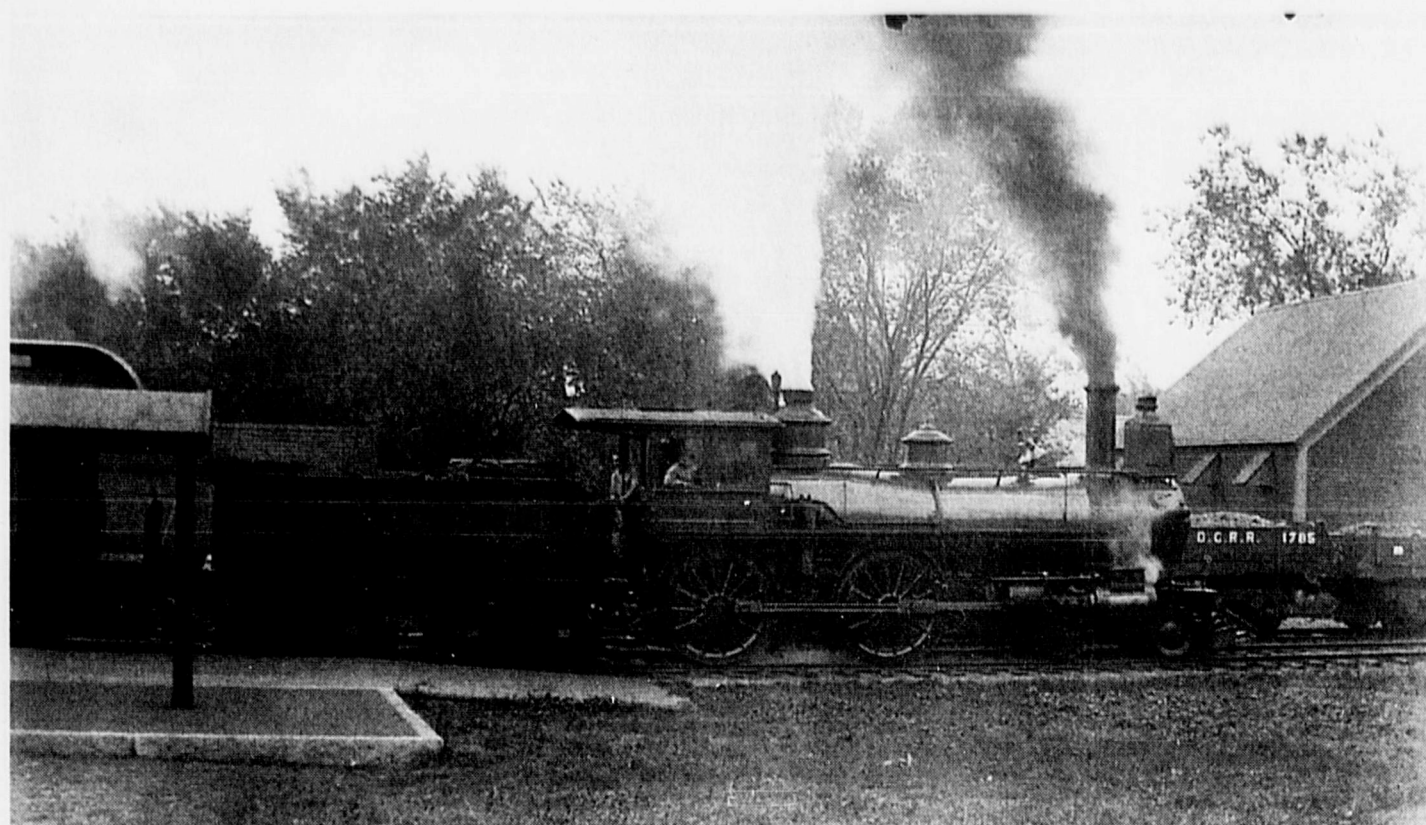


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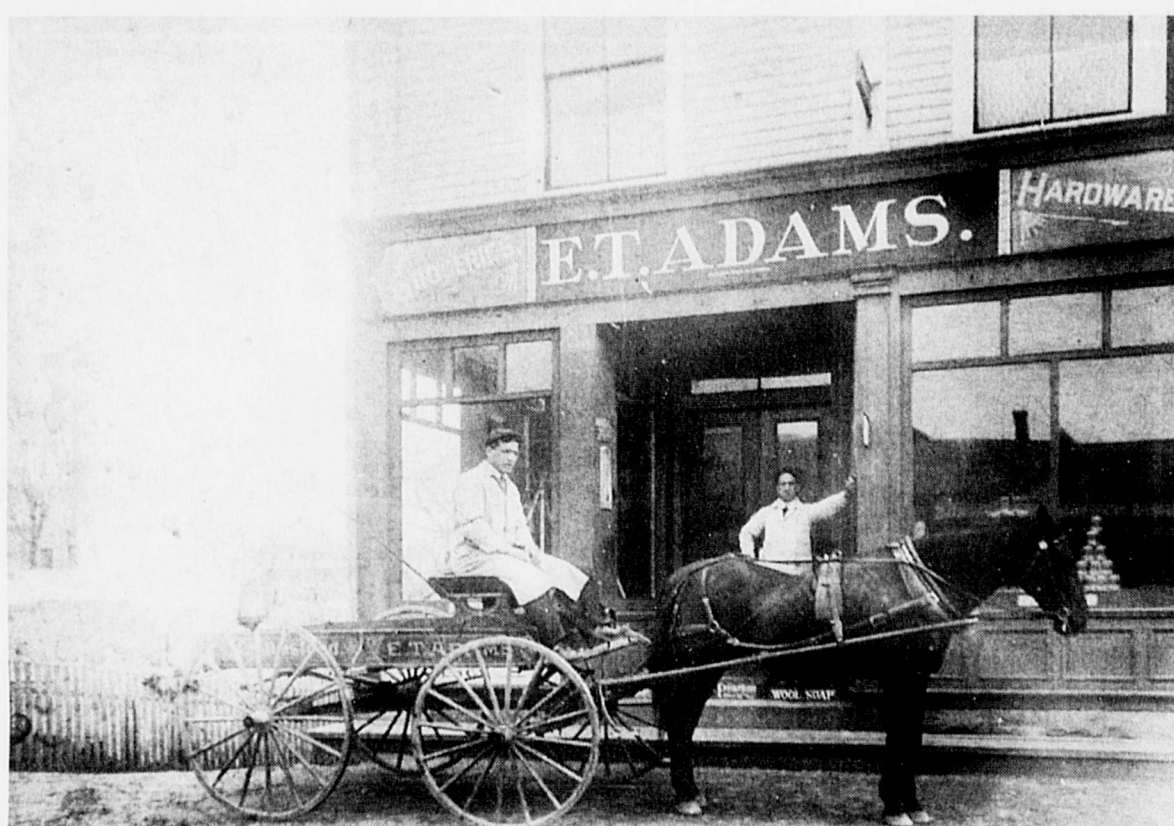
Full steam ahead

The OCRR locomotive pulls into Chelmsford Center in 1890.

PHOTO COURTESY
OF CHELMSFORD
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

All in a day's work

The Eben Adams store delivery team taken on Nov. 2, 1939.



Garrison House still makes history

By Tom Groves
CORRESPONDENT

The Garrison House in South Chelmsford is one of the oldest, if not the oldest remaining houses in Chelmsford.

Its architecture is typical of dwellings erected during the early 18th century.

In 1702, Pelatiah Adams Sr. deeded a relatively small lot next to the road to his sons Pelatiah Jr. and Thomas Adams, and the Garrison House was erected soon after that.

The house stayed in the Adams family until 1726, when Benjamin Heywood of Billerica purchased it.

The architecture of this early settlement house contains both superstition and necessity.

The roofs on many early two-story houses are absent of dormer windows, which were leaking and the lack of insulation made them a burden on the inhabitants. Also, the night air was thought to be noxious a superstition held over from the Puritan religion. A useful addition to the Garrison House was the use of a "lean-to" built onto the back of the house. It enlarged the area of the lower floor, which allowed more space for the kitchen and sleeping area.

Along with the Garrison House on the property the D. P. Byam blacksmith shop was moved to the present location

in 1977. Our lives are extremely different today, as opposed to the earlier centuries.

The blacksmith was one of the most important people in the community. Without the blacksmith, a towns person wouldn't be able to acquire horseshoes, door hinges, harnesses, hammers, or nails. Without the blacksmith, many of the things we take for granted today, wouldn't have been possible without his skill.

The blacksmith shop in South Chelmsford was owned and operated by Marcus D. Byam, and after the Civil War by his son, Daniel P. Byam. Their shop was famous for the manufacturing and repair of the famous blue sleds used by many inhabitants of Chelmsford to haul cords of wood during the winter months.

When Daniel P. Byam died the building was inherited by his granddaughter Eleanor Parkhurst who donated the building to the Garrison House Association for education and learning programs.

The Garrison House is still used today for educational purposes. Every October, second-grade students go to the house spending two hours touring the house, blacksmith shop, barn, churning butter, making soap, dipping candles, and quilting. In May, school children visit the grounds for a live blacksmith demonstration.



PHOTO COURTESY
OF JANE DRURY

Teaching tricks

A young resident of 78 High St. teaches his dog how to sit up and beg.

Happy 350, Chelmsford...

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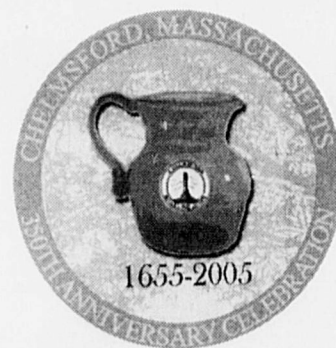
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This weekend is meant for remembering our deceased relatives and friends. It isn't meant to be a somber weekend, but rather a joyous one reflecting on all the good times you had with those people who have passed on.

Many people wish to go to area cemeteries to pay their respects but have no transportation. Because of this problem, we are offering such service to local cemeteries at no charge on Monday, May 30, 2005 from 9:00 to 1:00 p.m. If you require a ride to a local cemetery, call us to set up a time as accommodations are limited.

Respectfully,
James F. Dolan
James F. Dolan, II
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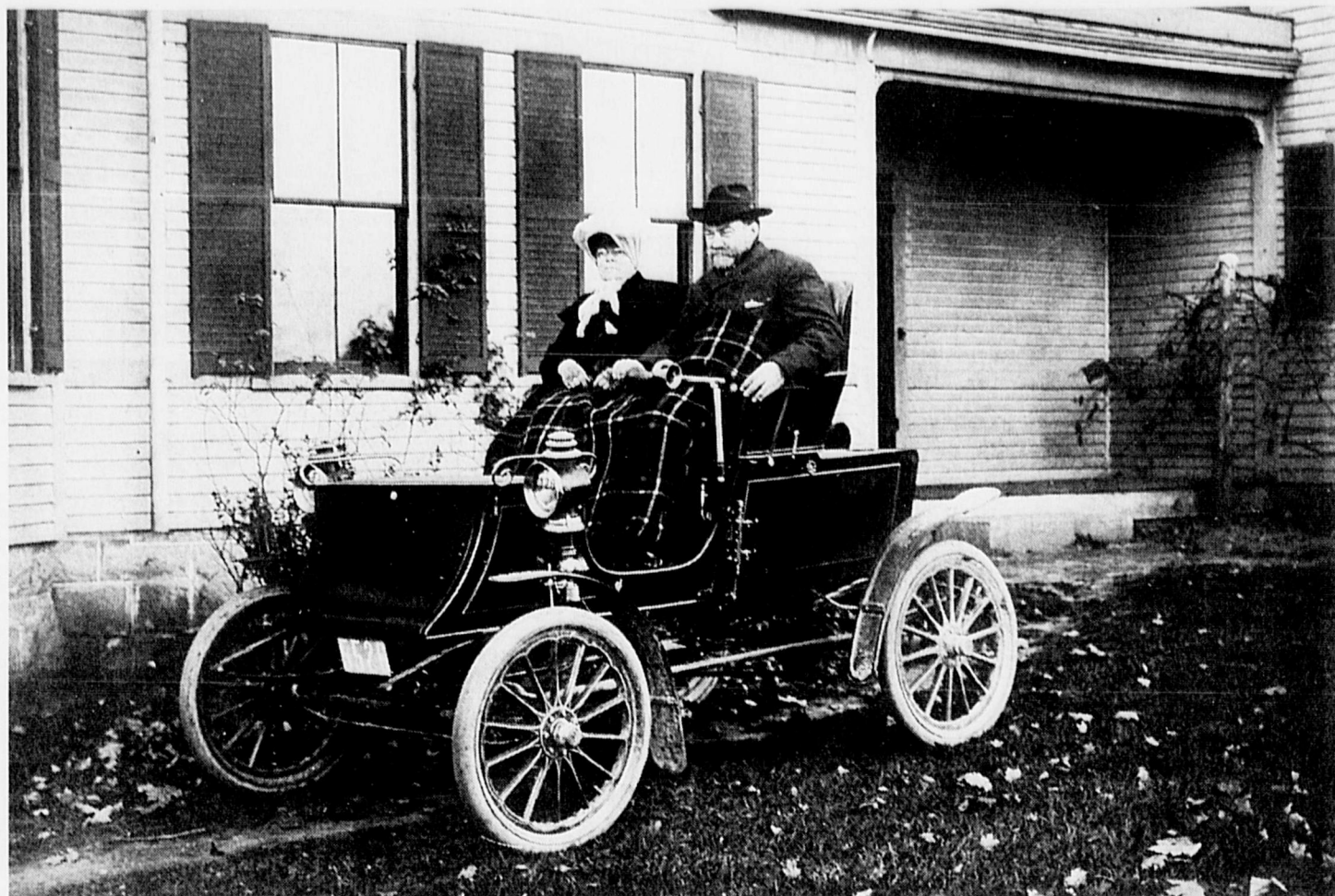


Neighbors

Below left, Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Parkhurst around 1889 in front of their home at 67 High St. Below, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Greene of North Chelmsford are ready to take a spin in the steamer car Mr. Greene purchased used in 1912 for \$600. The car was built by the Waltham Auto Company. Bottom left, Although this picture was taken in the woods of Maine around 1900, it includes men from Chelmsford.

From left, Arthur Emerson, Harry Parkhurst and guide Frank Currier. Bottom right, Mary Stetson Clarke, center, author of "The Old Middlesex Canal," visits the Toll House on the Commons on July 29, 1975, where she is joined by Janet Lombard and Richard Lahue, president of the Chelmsford Historical Society.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CHELMSFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND JANE DRURY

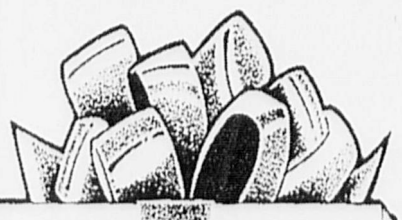


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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHELMSFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Turn-of-the-century Center

This photo by A.J. Emerson of Chelmsford Center was taken from the hotel block looking up North Road.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANE DRURY

Chicken Corner '75

On May 8, 1975, the Chelmsford-Westford-Tyngsboro Newsweekly ran this photo of the Center with a caption describing how a police officer would direct traffic in Chicken Corner during morning and evening rush hours.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JANE DRURY

Watch out for those fins

Chelmsford Center is decked out for Election Day 1956.

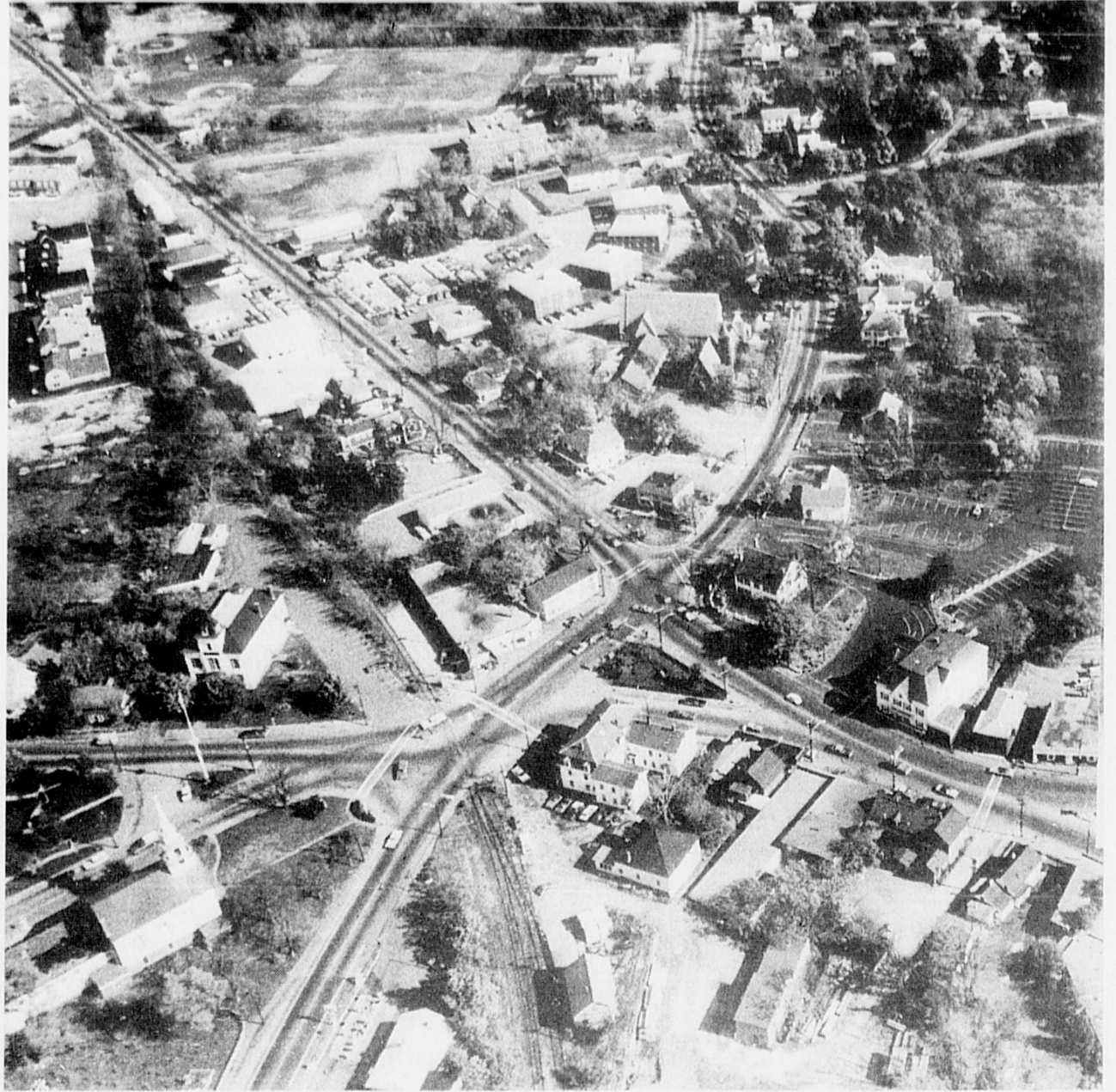
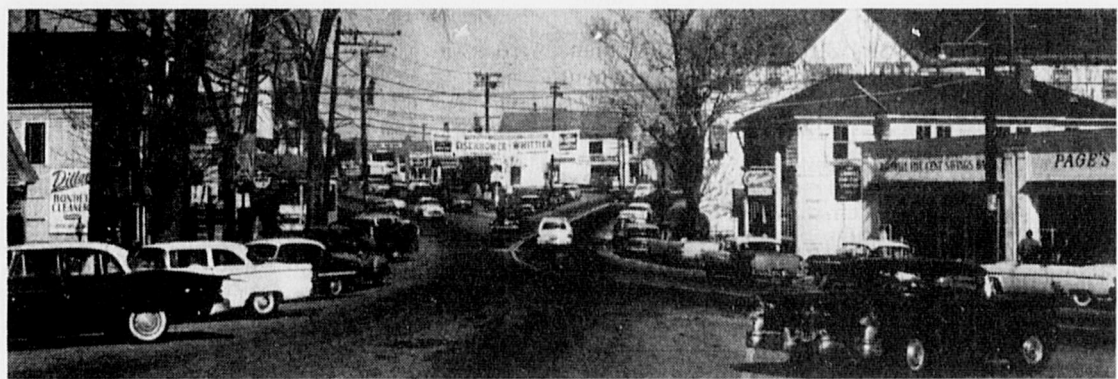


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Chelmsford Center 1983

This aerial shot of the Center appeared in the Chelmsford Newsweekly, March 10, 1983.



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During the depression, town had own WPA

Leonard "Lenny" S. MacElroy was the first welfare agent for this town from 1935 to 1944.

MacElroy held this office by appointment of the Board of Public Welfare, often doubling as the Board of Selectmen. He couldn't have worked in a more essential capacity or at a more rapidly changing social, political and economic period than the early years of President Franklin Roosevelt's first term.

Roosevelt was inaugurated in March of 1933, when the country was in the midst of economic chaos and the people were despondent. Unemployment was an overriding concern.

Roosevelt was seen as a strong leader. Optimistic, decisive and, with the help of the bright young men around him, called his Brain Trust, he was ready to take on and work toward solving the problems of the day.

The attack on unemployment and poverty by a number of New Deal programs was well under way when MacElroy began his work in 1935.

The Emergency Relief Administration and the Works Progress Administration, carried out by a local director independent of, but closely connected to, the Department of Public Welfare, was funded by the federal government and the local government.

Chelmsford, like other local communities, provided material and equipment for the projects while the government provided federal grants for labor.

Origins of deficit spending

The federal grants were given and needed in such huge amounts that the old tradition of balanced budgets had to be abandoned and "deficit spending" was substituted on the theory that over-

One project was deepening and widening Beaver Brook from Central Square toward Lowell to solve a long-standing pollution problem.

spending in "bad" years would be made up by the increased revenue of "good" years which this "pump priming" helped to develop.

With that new theory, the federal government could not continue to fund the WPA so generously. When in 1940 cuts of 59 percent were made, the burden of aiding ex-Works Progress employees fell on Chelmsford and MacElroy.

Works Progress projects which were operating before the MacElroy era included a wide variety of programs from repairing and painting public buildings to constructing and oiling roads, building sidewalks, laying water pipe in all the water districts, building street drainage, controlling gypsy moth infestation and, for women, sewing.

Chelmsford's New Deal

In 1940, when WPA-funding was at its lowest ebb, MacElroy and the selectmen and the Highway Department organized the town's own program which did on a smaller scale what the WPA had been doing.

One project was deepening and widening Beaver Brook from Central Square toward Lowell to solve a long-standing pollution problem.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANE DRURY
The 'Tramp House' at the corner of Billerica and Golden Cove roads was a building used to house the many homeless men who wandered from place to place. Under state law, the town furnished supper, breakfast and a bed. The men were required to do whatever work they could in return. The house was torn down in the mid-1950s.

Initially, MacElroy's work included two categories: temporary aid and old age assistance.

Families in the first category were provided with all necessities from groceries, rent, fuel, water, light, cash and medicine as well as burials.

These recipients also received these items as needed, but grants to individuals were constantly being increased and eventually all commodities were eliminated, especially with the advent of Social Security in 1935.

The town infirmary at Golden Cove and Turnpike roads sheltered many elderly

poor in the past but was closed in 1942 as part of the trend toward de-institutionalization and also it was economically unfeasible.

Only three residents were living there at the time. They were transferred to the Westford Infirmary and boarded at town expense.

—Eleanor Parkhurst, the Chelmsford Independent.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHELMSFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Jonathan Manning built this farm in 1816. In 1872, it became the Town Farm to provide work for indigent Chelmsford residents.

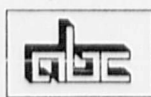


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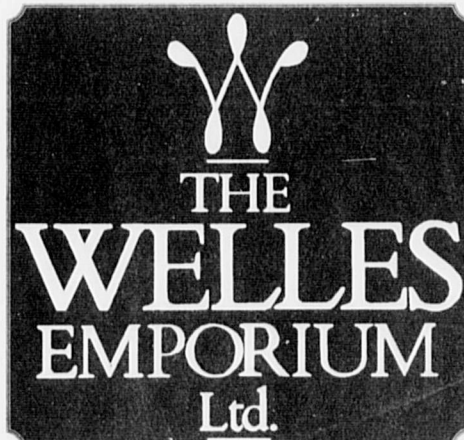


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1655 2005



Dedication day

On June 14, 1899, the town dedicated the Revolutionary Boulder at Central Square. The Boulder was a gift from the Molly Varnum Chapter, D.A.R.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JANE DRURY

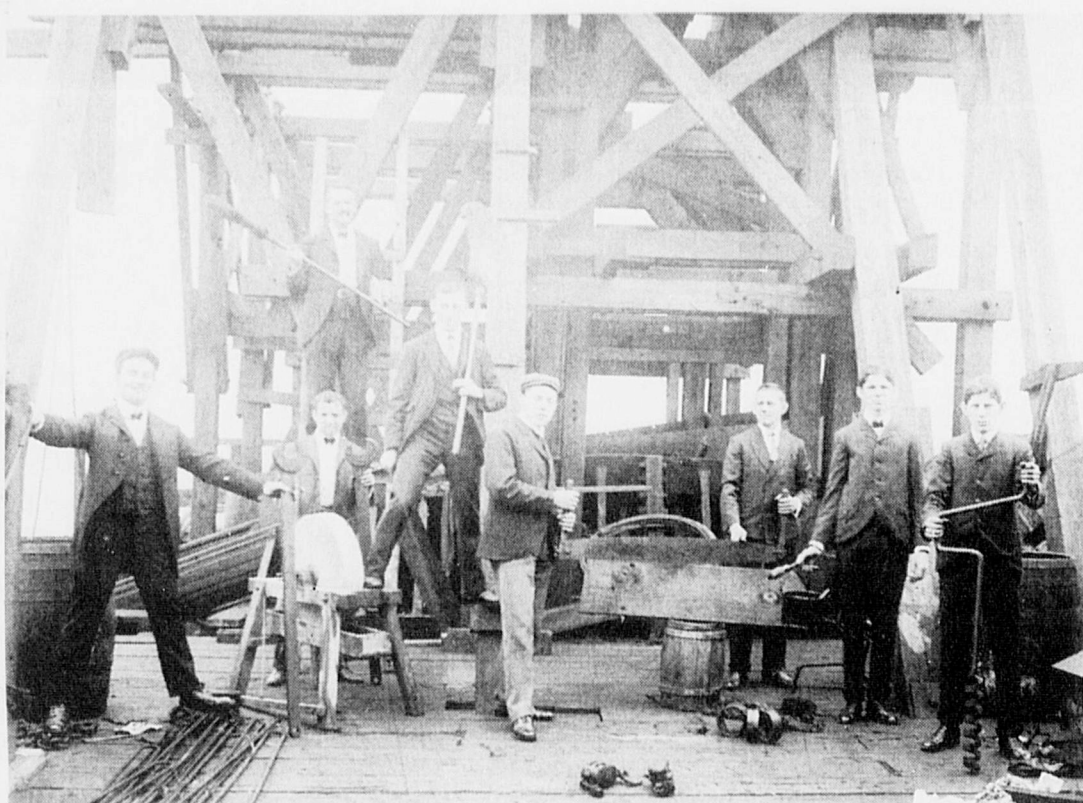


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHELMSFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

They chute, they score

The construction of an ice chute at Russell's Pond, around 1900.

Oliver Fletcher was first town counsel

Oliver Fletcher (1708-1761), direct descendant of William Fletcher at whose house the first Public (Town) Meeting was held in November 1654 to organize a government for the fledgling settlement, is believed to have been the town's first lawyer.

He handled the town's legal affairs and engaged in private practice. He graduated from Harvard in 1735 and, according to newspaper accounts of the day, received a second degree in 1738.

Like other members of the distinguished Fletcher family, Oliver Fletcher's career was notable in many areas. He was especially interested in the early schools, served as an elected official for many years, was appointed Justice of the Peace for Middlesex County and represented Chelmsford at the General Court in Boston.

In 1750, he was named to take charge of the schools, which had had difficulty in finding and keeping schoolmasters. Fletcher taught grammar and writing during most of if not all of the six years he spent at the school system (1750-1756).

At the same time (1751), he was elected a selectman and town clerk, continuing in those positions in 1752, when he also became the town moderator. From 1758 to 1761, he was not only the moderator but represented the town at the General Court in Boston. In 1762 and 1765, he again was moderator but thereafter left public elective office and concentrated on legal matters.

In 1763, Fletcher bought a house — possibly looking forward to the time of his marriage in 1766 to Mrs. Grace Weld, a young widow living in Roxbury.

The property he acquired was quite extensive, but part of it was occupied by a house built by the town for the Rev. Thomas Clark, second minister of the Church of Chelmsford, 1677-1704. We don't know whether this house was the building now known at 4 Bartlett St., but it did serve as the Fletcher residence for many years.

The former Grace Weld, now Mrs. Fletcher, was a niece of the Rev. Thomas Weld, first minister of the church in Tyngsboro. Thomas Weld Jr. had been appointed schoolmaster in Chelmsford directly after his graduation from Harvard (1702) but died suddenly, two years later — he was a cousin of Grace Weld.

Justice and Mrs. Weld had a daughter, Martha, or Patty, who was born in 1767. Her father's sudden death in 1771 from what was called "dumb palsy" or "apoplexy" came when the little girl was not yet five years old.

She and her mother, as far as we know, continued to live in their home until 1793 when Patty married her cousin Jabez Hatch Weld of Plymouth, N.H. where the couple made their home and had a son. This son married a woman, whose first name Dorcas, is all we know about her.

After Patty's husband died, her mother could be speculated to have gone to live with her as was the custom of the time. Grace died at the age of 85. Patty died at the age of 60 on July 4, 1827.

Grace had given the Chelmsford property to Patty, and she had in turn, deeded it to her daughter-in-law, Dorcas. Dorcas sold the property in 1839.

The old home property was then owned by a succession of residents, including S. S. Parkhurst, Judah Wetherbee, John Minot

Fiske, Joel Adams and Joel Adams Bartlett, whose daughter after marriage lived in the so-called "Pink House" next to the Adams Library. The library is located on land given for the purpose of building a library by Joel Adams Bartlett.

All of this gives a sense of immediacy, of connection between the Justice Fletcher family and the present day. In addition, a similar sense of connection comes from following out the Weld genealogy and finding that it includes former Gov. William Weld.

But what of Mr. Justice Fletcher, whose untimely death, in 1771 came while he was a comparatively young man, married only a few years, with a small daughter and a wife only 38 years old?

He was a man whose social position ranked next to that of the minister and who enjoyed a professional and personal reputation of the highest degree.

Parson Bridge, in his diary, wrote on Nov. 30, 1771, the day of Fletcher's death, "This day died suddenly, Oliver Fletcher, Esq., of this town. A worthy man, my good neighbor and friend. A great loss is sustained in his death to the town and to the country, as well as to his own family and relatives."

— Eleanor Parkhurst,
the Chelmsford Independent.

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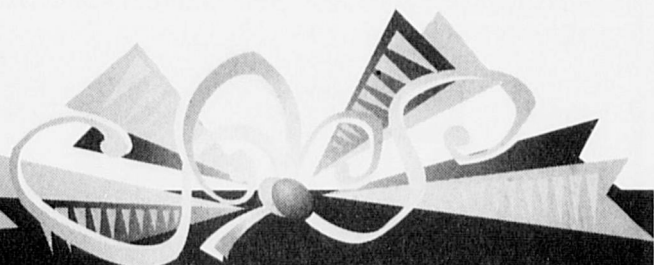
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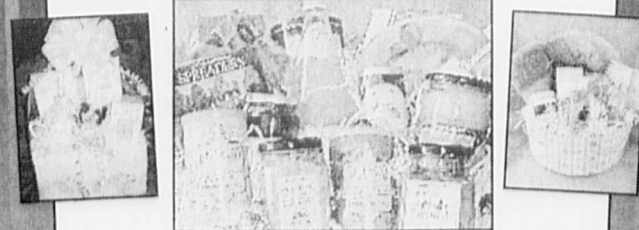
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Along for the ride

The F. J. Whittemore carriage manufacturers on North Road.

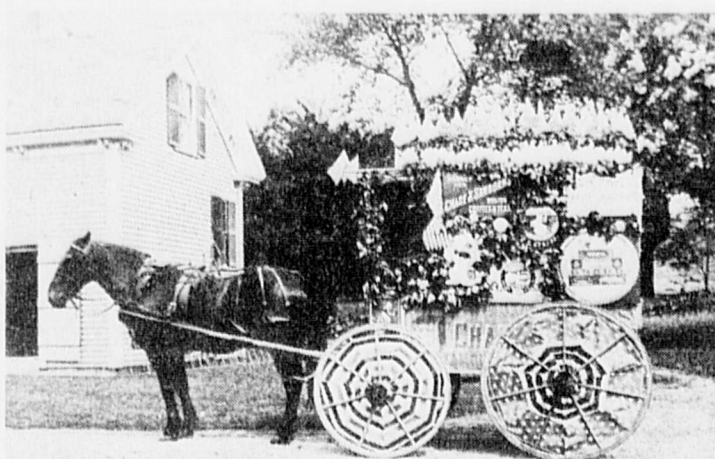


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHELMSFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Parade day

This is a horse and float waiting for the start of the July 4, 1907 Parade belonged to the Eban Adams Grocer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANE DRURY

Humble beginnings

An earlier incarnation of St. Mary's Church on North Road and Fletcher Street.

Connection to the phone

By Tom Groves
CORRESPONDENT

C helmsford is a town laden with a rich historical background. Many famous people have come and gone from this town. Everyone knows that Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, but does anyone know about his wife, Mabel Hubbard?

Mabel Hubbard was Alexander's inspiration to invent the telephone among other things.

Hubbard, in 1866 enrolled three pupils into the first school for the deaf in the United States. The method used to teach the students was purely oral, using a system of articulation and lip-reading. From these methods of teaching, Alexander Graham Bell was able to visualize the vibrations of speech coming from the mouths of deaf children. The school felt that sign language was isolating the deaf people rather than helping them to communicate in a normal way. The methods Mabel and Alexander Bell discovered helped to integrate the handicapped, rather than isolate them.

His experiments led to use of vibrations, and eventually spawned the telephone. Bell obtained his first patent for the telephone in 1876. This eventually

created Bell telephone company which was then renamed AT&T.

Mabel Hubbard wasn't always deaf. Born on Nov. 25 1857, in Boston, antibiotics were not yet available to fight the inflammation contracted from Scarlet Fever. Mabel contracted the disease when she was five years old, and the infection spread to her inner ear causing major damage. Mabel, at age 16 began to attend speech lessons taught by then, Aleck Bell. Ten years her elder, Aleck began to fall in love. They got engaged and were soon married in 1875. Mabel had an ear for the rhythm of words. Mabel made some suggestions to Aleck about his name, first of which was to drop the "K", and to use his full name on everything official. Alexander Graham Bell took her suggestions and changed his name, to the name we are familiar with today.

Mabel's father owned and edited the National Geographic Society Magazine, founded in 1888. Aleck became the president of the magazine, but it fought to maintain subscribers and a steady income for Bell. Mabel made a few suggestions like adding more photos, and stories to accompany the photos. Soon, the publication became one of the most acclaimed magazines worldwide, known

for its stunning photography.

The couple had a fear that if they had children they may turn out deaf. This never occurred. Mabel became a mother in 1880 to Daisy and Elsie. Mabel was a supporter of the Woman's Suffrage movement, and in 1910 Mabel and her daughters marched down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington D.C.

Alexander contracted diabetes in 1920. He later contracted a blood disease and died in 1922, at the age of 75. Mabel mourned her husband's death, but attempted to occupy herself as best she could. Mabel took initiative to organize her late husband's notes for a biography on his life. Being savvy in science, she attempted to continue some of his other innovations such as experiments with a hydrofoil, and some flying machine designs. Her life was cut short only five months after Alexander died. Mabel contracted pancreatic cancer, and died in 1923. Mabel was buried next to her husband at their summer residence in Canada.

Mabel was a remarkable woman despite her disability. She made tremendous strides in the education of deaf children and adults. Coming from Chelmsford, she leaves the mark of pride on her home town, and history.

Wilson Hotel welcomed visitors

Hotel, from Page 9

and, briefly, as a dress shop.

The days of a post office within a confectionery store are long gone, and only memories of Sweetser's Market with its sawdust covered floor, its barrels of Malaga grapes packed in sawdust, the great sides of beef from which a customer's order was cut, and the straw-hatted, white-aproned employees are kept by a few individuals. The lively stable, which became an automobile shop and then a shop selling all sorts of odd articles, useful and ornamental or merely "different" perhaps leftovers from the auction business of the proprietor. The automobile space was divided up with a part devoted to a law office and the rest a natural food store, later a hairdresser's salon.

Recycling of space is not new as shown by the great number of variety of stores that have occupied the street floor of "the old hotel." Inside, it has remained for the most part a rooming-

"The old hotel" is a monument to the businessmen of the 1880s and later who saw in it an opportunity to serve the public in ways that changed with changing conditions

boarding house, now an apartment house, but at the turn of the century, the Misses Philips, two maiden ladies from Richmond, Vt., arrived, took rooms there and while one was "a skilled dressmaker" the other was "proficient in the musical art" and perhaps gave singing or piano lessons — truly genteel pursuits. There had been an ice cream parlor there, too, run by the enterprising Mrs. Simons who felt sure

that the residents approved that use of space to having "a liquor saloon." And at one time — about when the garage across the street now destroyed by fire was built, two other ladies, Mrs. Hemenway and Mrs. Hagerman offered excellent baked goods for sale in the lower front right hand room.

Under the new owner, aside from painting, the encasing of the round iron columns with wooden frames to enhance a more Colonial look, there will be little change in outward appearance, except for a welcome uniformity of business signs. "The old hotel" is a monument to the businessmen of the 1880s and later who saw in it an opportunity to serve the public in ways that changed with changing conditions (the railroad, the summer tourists, the carriages, the automobile garage, and so on), as well as to make a living for their families. It represents an interesting chapter in the social and economic history of the town.

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A WOMAN'S PLACE

1655 2005

When winter was always welcomed

Winter was a welcome season for the residents of Chelmsford some 100 years ago; this was a farming community of 2,000 or 3,000 people, compared with 10 or 12 times that number today, and winter meant a welcome relief from summer's farm work.

A farmer then plowed, planted, tended his crops and harvested them if the sun and rain had been favorable during the growing season, while his wife cooked three large meals a day – not only for her immediate family of husband and several children – but often an elderly aunt or a grandparent, mother-in-law, plus the inevitable group of relatives from the city who arrived for long stays to enjoy fresh air, good cooking, restful hours swinging in a hammock or rocking on the porch and, all in all, visiting the scenes and family atmosphere

of their childhood. The 'city cousins' usually brought their children along, which was an additional way of making sure that they became acquainted with their 'country cousins.' (When they could be spared from the work in the field or the kitchen.) There was also time for playing croquet, for singing, and for talking, but summer was not seen by farm folks as much more than a hot, busy season.

Winter, on the other hand, meant some rest from summer activities. The livestock had to be cared for, of course, and harnesses for the horses had to be mended and tools sharpened or repaired, wagons repaired and, perhaps, most important of all, if the weather permitted, a trip or two to Lowell, for some wifely shopping by the lady of the house who might need cloth for aprons and dresses, yarn for knitting, pots and pans for the kitchen, and

other items. In winter, the horses had to be shod, with special attention to the sharpening of parts of their shoes which would give good footing on snowy roads – so there would be at least one visit to the blacksmith. And always there was the excitement for the children of seeing the sleighs taken out from their storage places and the thrill of the first rides. Larger sleds for carrying cord wood

appeared, their back and front sleds made of heavy oak shod with iron and usually painted blue. Finally, there was the fun of watching the men cutting ice on Baptist Pond with long heavy saws – the ice being at least two feet thick. Some of the ice would be cut into manageable cakes

for the farmers to carry back to their own icehouses attached to the farm buildings, to be buried in sawdust insulation fetched over from the sawmill, to await summer's heat.

Chelmsford at the end of the century and a little later had a number of icehouses belonging to out-of-town ice companies like the Boston Ice Company and the Daniel Gage Company of Lowell.

Ice to fill the buildings was first sawed into cakes and put on an endless chain mechanism which carried them into the building where they were removed by men with sharp hooks and piled between sawdust layers, until they would be taken out and carried by wagons up the

down city streets months later. A representative display of ice-cutting equipment is shown to the public when the Garrison House Barn is open during the summer.

Without doubt the snowstorms of those days were much heavier and more frequent than those of today. The cost of "breaking out the roads" was always a large expenditure item in the Town Reports of those days, and gangs of men with wooden snow shovels played an important part, along with the horses who plunged ahead into the snow dragging a snow roller, the wooden equivalent of today's steam roller, which packed the snow on the road, or the heavy plows which were hauled through the drifts to pack the snow down. Sometimes shovelers had to push the plow, too, and lead the horses to encourage them to pull harder. A smaller version of the street plow was the

sidewalk plow made of oak and drawn by one horse, followed by a man who pushed, encouraged and shoveled the way along. Following him, if the sidewalk was in danger of becoming slippery, came a man with an iron shovel full of sand which he pushed out on the sidewalk, refilling it from a cart or sled drawn along the road by another horse.

The railroad, when it was operating, and the trolley car line when it was built and came out from Lowell, had their own heavy plows run by electricity, but this was much later than the age of the wooden plow and the wooden shovel.

With all this activity, was the farmer's winter still a relief from summer work? Indeed it was, but how the townspeople relaxed in winter is another story.

— Eleanor Parkhurst,
the Chelmsford Independent.

*Without doubt
the snowstorms of
those days were
much heavier and
more frequent than
those of today.*

Fletcher Granite used in buildings worldwide

By Tom Groves
CORRESPONDENT

It is a little known fact that there is a form of granite that is named after the town of Chelmsford. In fact, it's called Chelmsford Granite. This particular granite is of a fine to medium grain intermixed with small black flecks. It is known as a subtly beautiful and enduring stone worldwide.

The Fletcher Granite Company was founded in 1881 by Herbert E. Fletcher. The West Chelmsford site where Mr. Fletcher originally put down roots is where the company can be located today. The company has progressed amazingly from the original pine tree boom used to lift the rocks from the quarry, and the team of oxen used to drag the stone to be cut. Today, the site is littered with cranes and other heavy machinery to move the

massive stones.

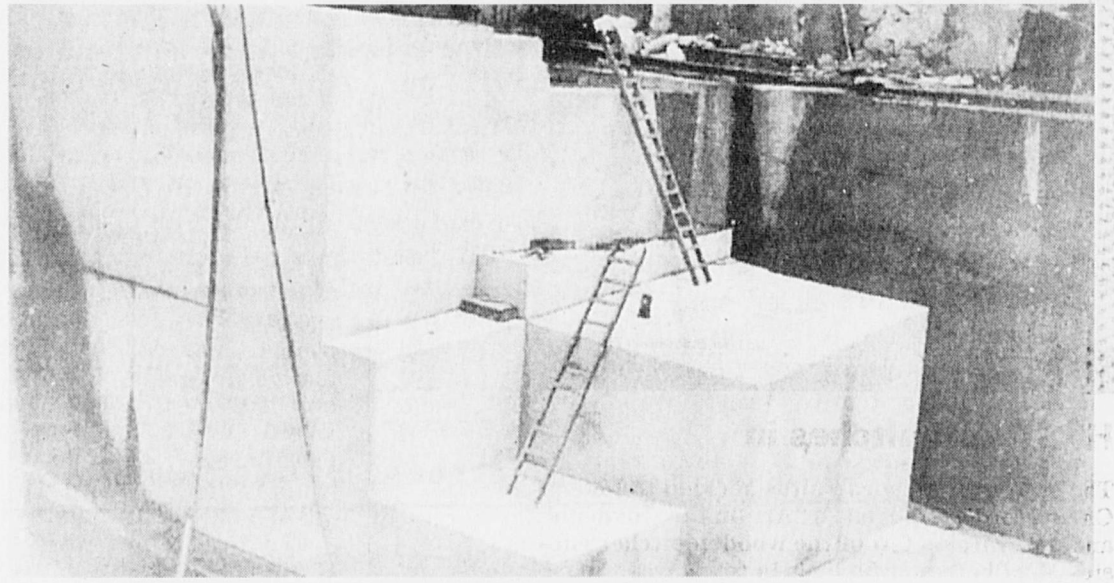
The company is not only located on Groton Road in Chelmsford. They have business offices in New York City and Washington D.C.

The rocks hefted from this and other local quarries are used in different applications such as granite curbing, bridge facings, building stone, monument bases, grave markers, house veneer, paving blocks, rip-rap, crushed stone, poultry grits, super-granites soil amender, stone for dams and water supply, flagstone, industrial surface plates, paper rolls, mill stones, jetty stone, slope paving, and sea wall stone. The number of applications goes on and on. Chelmsford Granite has been used for almost everything. However most of these obscure uses only make up about 40 percent of their total sales. The majority of their business is in granite curbing.

The Fletcher Granite Company and Chelmsford Granite are used in such prominent locations as the Boston Post Office and the steps of the Supreme Court Building in Washington D.C. Chelmsford Granite is also seen everyday by the citizens of Chelmsford. Next time traffic backs up on Routes 3, 4, 110, 129 and 128 take a look out the window and try to notice the granite curbing. It's there.

The H.E. Fletcher Company is also a company that cares about its employees and customers. It is a company that is always striving to give the customer a better product for less.

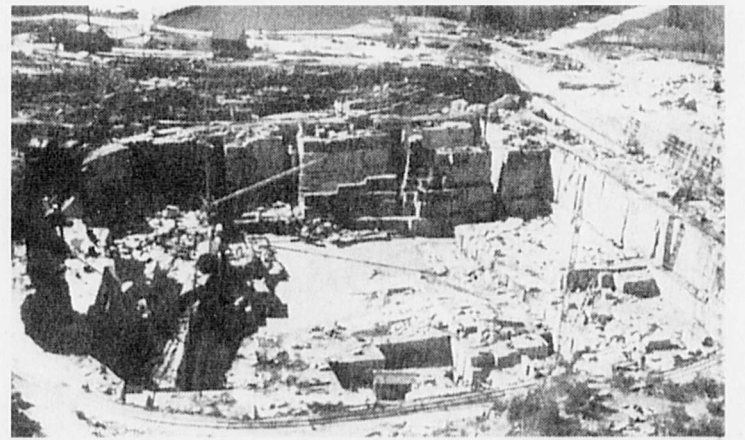
Chelmsford has gained prestige almost everywhere due to a rock. The rocks that build our buildings, line our sidewalks and highways, and mark our graves. Chelmsford granite is a constant and permanent part of everything it



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JANE DRURY

Chelmsford Granite in the process of being quarried.

touches. Even outside Chelmsford the pride that the town has is left written in stone.



An aerial view of the quarry.

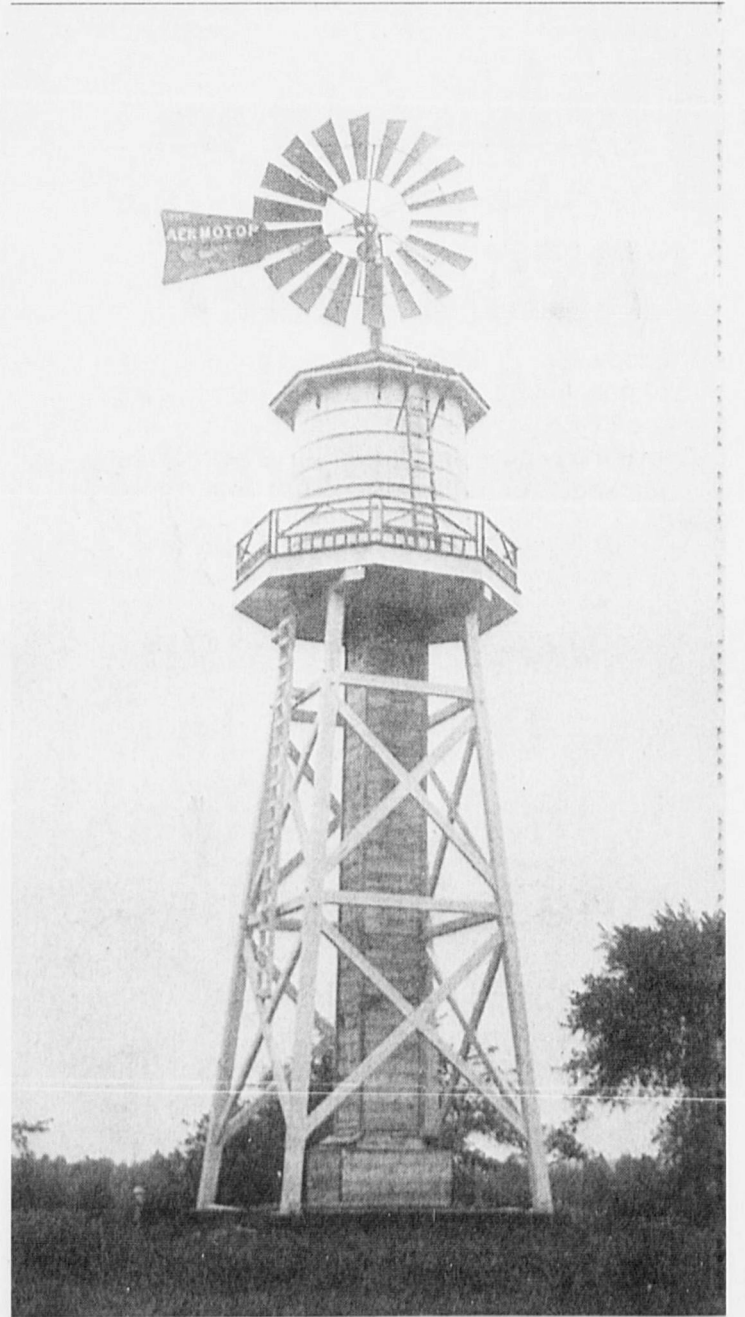


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Wind power

This photo of the windmill across the road from the Bartlett mansion was taken sometime in 1895 or 1896.

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1655 2005

Community win for the fine arts

By Anne Marie Messier
SPECIAL TO THE INDEPENDENT

It has become more apparent than ever that Chelmsford is a community rich in talent and culture. The Chelmsford Cultural Council recently unveiled its 'Invest in Culture' campaign, a project to raise funds for future culture related projects. The council sent out invitations to arts-minded residents and local cultural focused organizations to donate tickets, artwork or related cultural items for their 'Baskets of Culture' fundraiser. The response has been overwhelming and is a wonderful example of how local artists and organizations work together to support the growth of cultural projects for the Chelmsford community.

Variety is clearly the theme of the donations the council has received to date. Artwork in the form of paintings, jewelry, textiles and pottery are just a few of the handcrafted items that have been donated.

Coupled with that are items that represent theater and musical performances, gift certificates for personal services or a variety of goods which represent the traditions and culture of our region. The donations are arranged into baskets, each representing a theme or a simple mixed presentation of the variety the arts community can bring to each of our lives.

Raffle tickets are on sale now. Two baskets will be on display and raffled off during the Memorial Day Birthday Celebration weekend. Raffle tickets can also be purchased during the Fourth of July festivities. To get a sneak peek at some of the donated items, check out www.chelmsford350.com.

Donations are still welcome — if you have goods or services that you would like to contribute to the baskets or if you would like to buy raffle tickets, please contact Sheila Schultz.

Community project for 350th

By Anne Marie Messier
SPECIAL TO THE INDEPENDENT

What will happen when hundreds of Chelmsford residents gather with paint, markers and their imagination? Well, there is really only one way to find out. Join in on the fun with the staff of Lowell's Revolving Art Museum on Sunday, May 29, on the Town Common from 1 to 3 p.m. and watch a truly unique community art project emerge right before your eyes.

It all starts with a few simple questions. What does Chelmsford mean to you? How would you represent yourself, a friend or family member or a town landmark? The combined response to these questions will lead to the creation of a one-of-a-kind birthday gift to the town, and rumor has it, one of the most unique floats our parade has ever seen.

The Chelmsford Cultural Council is funding this project through a cultural grant and began discussions with the Revolving Museum in September of 2004. When Jerry Beck, artistic director for the museum, was first approached about creating a community art project to celebrate the town's 350th, he was thrilled.

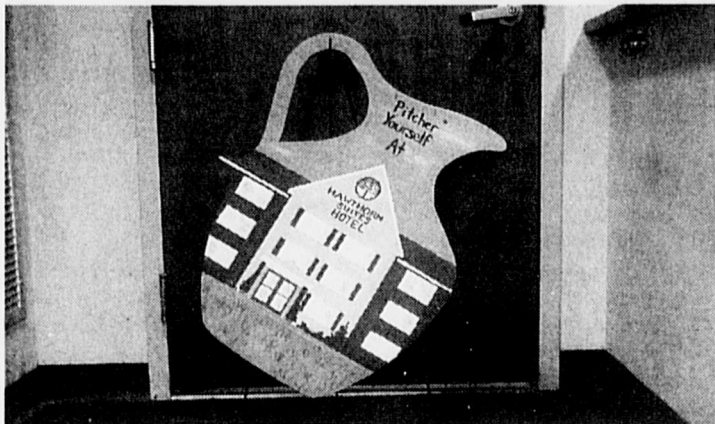
"We love being a part of birthday parties. The word art is even in party! It is an honor to participate in the great town of Chelmsford's 350th. We look forward to making art with as many people as possible and having a fun and creative day that everyone will remember."

The Revolving Museum's public artists Nora Valdez and Matthew Terry will lead this unique public art project. The Museum will provide all the necessary art supplies as well as the physical backdrop of the project. This surprise structure will be over



COURTESY PHOTOS

Clockwise from bottom: Darlene Gossement, Alex Roark, Shannon Roark, Katherine Tang, Danielle Couture and Andrew Duncan, a workshop artist with the Revolving Museum, pitch in.



COURTESY PHOTO

Hawthorn pitches in

The staff at Hawthorn Suites decided to take part in the Chelmsford Art Society's "Art on the Common" project and decorated a few of the wooden pitcher cut-outs. Jessica MacPherson, who lives in town, was the main artist on "Pitcher Yourself at Hawthorn Suites." All the pitchers that residents decorated will be displayed on the Commons on Saturday, May 28.

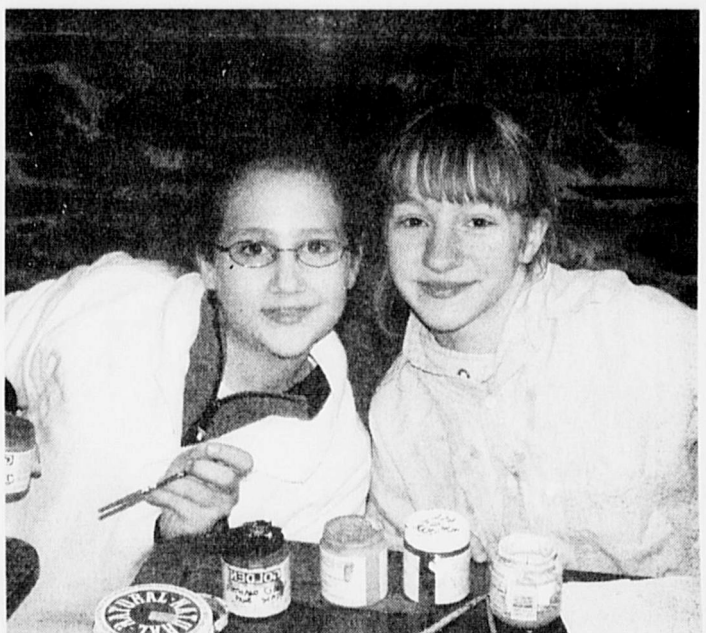
six feet tall and will provide the 'canvas' for participants of all ages to decorate with their ideas and inspirations.

The project was recently launched by a team of 23 residents of all ages who were invited to meet at the museum on Saturday, April 16, to get things started and begin what the larger community will eventually finish.

Heidi Novack, a sixth-grader at the Murdoch Middle Public Charter School said "It's awesome because you get to express yourself and represent the history of Chelmsford in a really fun way!"

Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime chance to participate in a 350th community project.

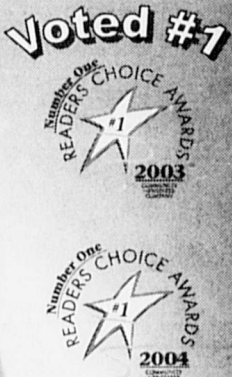
In the event of rain, this project will be moved to the Old Town Hall.



Brianna Pare and Julia Messier, both sixth graders at McCarthy Middle School, put their personal touch on the art project.

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SUN CAPSULE



"The Deepest, Darkest Tan On The Planet In 7-Minutes Or Less" - Sun Capsule

Saints Memorial Medical Center

A Banner Year of Milestones



CEO Thom Clark surrounded by the Saints Memorial team

Quality Recognitions

- ◆ Outstanding JCAHO Survey (Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations)
- ◆ Another Bond Rating Upgrade
- ◆ Patients First Initiative
- ◆ Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award Winner
- ◆ Prevention Institute Wellness Programs
- ◆ ICED Program - (Improving Care Via Electronic Documentation)
- ◆ Customer Acclaimed Service Program
- ◆ Primary Stroke Service

Leading Technology

- ◆ Primary Angioplasty
- ◆ The Center for Weight Management
- ◆ Bone & Joint Center
- ◆ Vascular Center
- ◆ Endovascular AAA Surgery
- ◆ Carotid Stents
- ◆ Kyphoplasty Spine Surgery
- ◆ Chemo Embolizations
- ◆ Sinus Surgery
- ◆ PACS (Computerized Radiology)
- ◆ Digital Mammography
- ◆ PET CT Scan

We would like to thank all members of the Saints family for a job well done - our physicians, nurses, employees, donors, volunteers, and our patients for their unwavering support.

For over 100 years
Saints Memorial Medical Center has led the way in offering
quality health care for the Merrimack Valley

One Hospital Drive, Lowell, MA 01852 978-458-1411
www.saints-memorial.org

