

## BOSCAWEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Welcome to the first issue of the Boscawen Historical Society's quarterly newsletter. In each issue, we will bring you an interesting article or two and an assortment of tidbits from Boscawen's past. We will introduce you to some of the people who made this wonderful town what it is today, names we are sure many of you will recognize.

On April 13 of this year, the Boscawen Historical Society will celebrate its fiftieth birthday. Incorporated in 1967, its mission has been to preserve and exhibit the memorabilia of Boscawen's past. Fourteen dedicated individuals with the common interests of local history and human events in Boscawen gave time and hard work for the formation of the Boscawen Historical Society. The founders of the Society included: Walter H. Booth, Charles L. Brown Jr., Robert G. Colby, Virginia L. Colby, Sydney R. Fisher, Arthur J. Gilbert, Theodore J. Houston, Alice F. Keneval, Robert G. Keneval, Harold F. Kenney, Henrietta I. Kenney, James Rostron, Sr. and Dorothy R. W. Sanborn.

The old Boscawen Academy and the Muchido Hose House form the site of the Boscawen Historical Society. Both buildings were placed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 8, 1980, largely due to the efforts of Virginia Colby.

The Academy building is now used as a



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museum with a large collection of artifacts and many exhibits. The Muchido building was the home to the U.S. Post Office for many years and is now used as a work area.

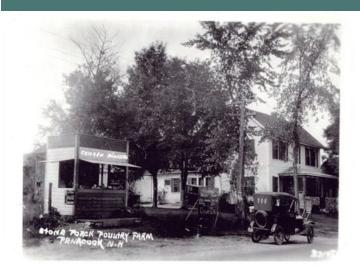
Through the years, our mission has been to collect and preserve the objects from Boscawen past and to maintain a museum to display them in. We are an organization that relies solely on people with a common interest in preserving Boscawen's history, and a willingness to volunteer their time and energy.

Looking to 2017, we are working to bring more of our collections to our members online and through this quarterly newsletter. The expansion of our web site will include an online digital library of scanned documents, photos, and ephemera.

Please support us by becoming a member. We hope to see you some Sunday this summer at the museum.

Steven W. Green, President

# STONE PORCH LODGE FOUR GENERATIONS ON A FAMILY FARM



Walter Marshall's Stone Porch Lodge

By: Josh Marshall, NH Farm Bureau Communications Director; Weekly Market Bulletin, Vol. 95, No. 26 August 17, 2016

Excerpted from: Agritourism - Making Connections Used by Permission of the Author

Agritourism is not a new practice of the current generation of farmers looking to diversify their operations. Agritourism has been a part of the fabric of agriculture in New Hampshire for generations. Recent attention is a revival!

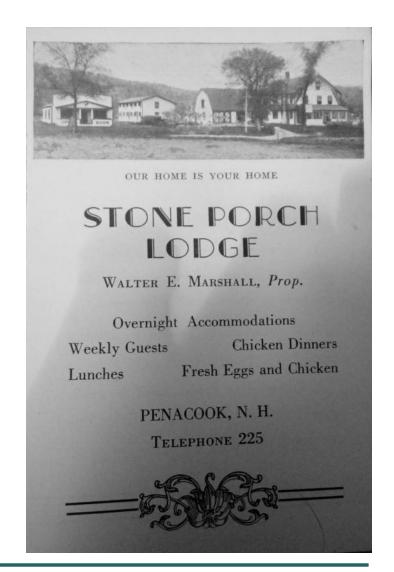
When Great Grandfather and his family made the trek in 1919, as has been described to me many times, from Center Strafford to Boscawen by way of a horse and dump cart freighted with all their worldly possessions and a cow and calf in tow, their destination was a farm in Boscawen that became The Stone Porch Lodge and Poultry Farm.

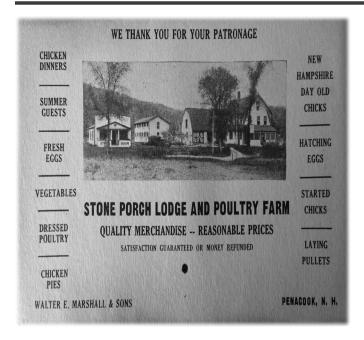
In those days, you did what you could to make a living. On my family's farm, they hosted summer boarders and passersby in the farmhouse, while the children forfeited their bedrooms to sleep in haylofts or outside in tents. Whether the guests were studying or working in the area, or simply tourists, the farmhouse would

fill up with changing residents all summer long.

When these guests needed to eat they only had to cross the front lawn to enter the farm's restaurant, which specialized in chicken dinners (the building remains today and is used as storage). By having guests at the Stone Porch Lodge, my family opened a market for their vegetables and poultry that made the difference between staying afloat or going under. Looking at the old menu today, you might not think a 75 cent meal could make or break a farm, but a summer in the 1930's with a steady flow of paying customers, could.

I've heard stories of the guests so many times





I feel I was there. One legend is of an English lady whose unmistakable laugh could be heard from any field on the farm. My great Grandfather – sparked one of her laughs when he went to set a cow out to pasture, a typical chore. He carried an axe in one hand and a wooden post with a chain attached to it in the other. The other end of the chain was wrapped around the cow's horns; wherever he found a suitable bit of land he would drive the post. One day he was halfway to his destination, when the familiar laugh caught his attention. He turned around to find nothing attached to his chain and Bossy a hundred yards back gnawing away at the grass in front of the farm's namesake stone porch.

Memories like these provide lasting connections between the public and agriculture. Every chance someone gets to see a farm first hand and to meet the folks providing them with food, fiber, or fuel is an opportunity for learning and a chance to inspire the next generation. It is so easy now, to see the world of agriculture through the lens of a super market or internet myth. The complex truth is not only more human, but also closer to you than you realize!

Agritourism is not simply a way for farms to supplement income, although it is difficult for farmers to subsist solely on crop or livestock production; it is and has always been a way to connect people to the land and develop

memories, and family legends to last a lifetime.

Walter Marshall moved to Boscawen in 1919 to start what would come to be known as the Stone Porch Lodge & Poultry Farm. He grew the farm over the years and eventually transitioned to vegetables and a roadside stand that was passed down to his son Kenneth.

Ken Marshall is a lifelong Boscawen resident and farmer. He continued the family farm operation including adding a second roadside stand at the intersection of King and Queen Streets before taking a job with New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation in the late 1970s. He continued to farm a variety of crops on a smaller scale before handing the operation down to his son Keith and grandson Josh. Ken still grows cut flowers for residents at the Merrimack County Nursing Home and vegetables for area food pantries.

#### Did You Know.....



The Stirrup Iron Brook got its name from Revolutionary War General Henry Dearborn during a visit with his sister. It is said that he lost a stirrup iron while crossing the brook. Stirrup Iron Brook has its source in Salisbury and runs to the Merrimack River near the County Home



In 1939 the Congregational Church at the head of the Plain stood facing West, but was turned to its present position facing south between the two roadways, when the Daniel Webster Highway was re-routed in 1940-41.



Rines operated a John E. brickyard until December 1902. Located on the south side of Corn Hill Road a short distance up High Street, Mr. Rines ran it for more than thirty years. He served and Selectman Commissioner for the Town of Boscawen.

### Boscawen Academy

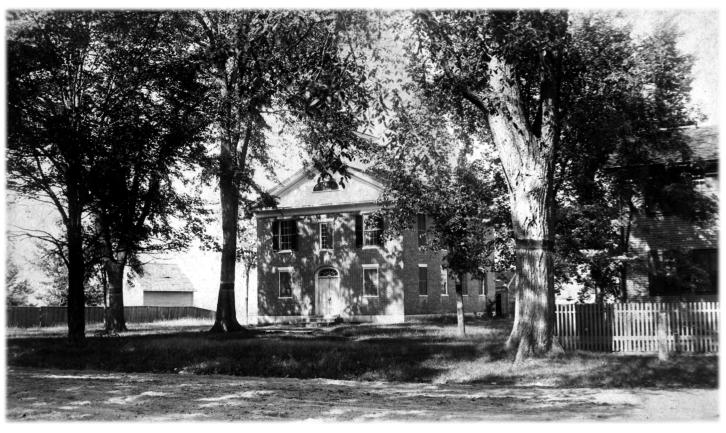
A Boscawen Landmark for 190 Years

Early Education in Boscawen From Settlement to Boscawen Academy - Part One By Elaine Clow, Used by Permission

From inception as Contoocook Plantation in 1733-34. Boscawen was a town where important, education mattered as an part well-regarded, and integral of the community. The founding Puritan/ Congregational colonists who emigrated from Newburyport to Contoocook Plantation brought with them the principle of early, free public education as mandated by the Massachusetts law of 1650 requiring literacy for all children. Every township of more than 50 families was required to hire a school master. The earliest settlers provided basic education in private homes. A school house, later School District #1, was located at the northwest corner of the Plains Cemetery, placed in front of the first meetinghouse and burying ground at the top of the knoll.

Lengthy, erudite sermons by talented, educated clergy, such as Dr. Samuel Wood, Rev. Robie Morrill (who later left the ministry to become a teacher), and Rev. Ebenezer Price filled the meetinghouses in East and West Boscawen every Sabbath, often with morning and afternoon services. These clerics made private tutelage available to scholars who hoped attend Dartmouth or other universities, enter the clergy, to study law, or to teach. Both Daniel and Ezekiel Webster were tutored by Dr. Wood, prior to studying Law at Dartmouth. Several private home libraries were available to community members.

Reverend Price felt the need educational reform. In 1809, Rev. Price joined a group of prominent men to refine common schools that were known their harsh discipline and poor conditions. Charles Carleton Coffin, a later historian of the town, reported: "The old theory, that man must be a master, gave place to the new idea that he must be a teacher..." At select schools on Little Hill and on the Plain students got "taught by students from Dartmouth College, at which



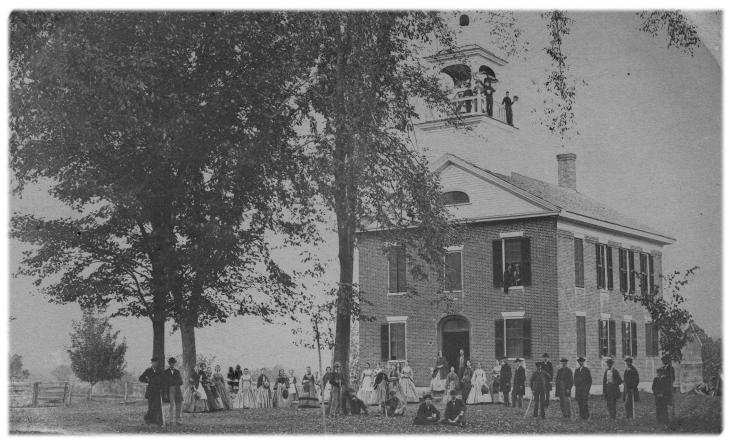
young gentlemen and ladies can take up grammar, philosophy, algebra, and composition."

In the Congregationalist community, each church is regarded as an individual congregation, autonomous and independent of a state religion, or oversight from any authority other than God. This view encouraged a social liberalism. Times were changing in 1820s Boscawen, and in the nation at large. As the economy changed from home-based existence to paid wages in the industrial mills, so did the lives of people change. This town became a hotbed of reform politics supporting the abolition of slavery, religious revival, temperance, prison reform, establishment of poor houses, and the founding of mental hospitals. In Boscawen, as elsewhere, women's suffrage, including a woman's right to own and inherit property in her own name was new, uncharted ground. The Erie Canal allowed for and emigration to the west; expansion new economic possibilities emerged locally with the industrial revolution and development of local mills. Native son Daniel Webster now shone in the world of politics in Washington. Boscawen was a happening place and a major transportation route.

Dr. Samuel Wood, Rev. Ebenezer Price, and Ezekiel Webster, Esq. desired to establish high grade educational facilities in the town that went beyond the basic 'readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic of basic one-room common and dame schools. On March 27, 1824 they formed a committee to begin preliminary steps to attract students to what would become a Young Ladies' School. A record in the New Hampshire Observer published as New Hampshire Repository on April 5, 1824 advertises:

"A School for Young Ladies will be opened in a pleasant room, on Boscawen street, under the care of Miss Emily Parker, on the third Monday of April next; in which will be taught Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, Rhetoric, History, Ancient and Modern Geography, the use of Globes and the projecture of Maps, and such other branches, as are usually taught in similar schools. Boarding may be had in good families at one dollar per week. Tuition, two dollars a quarter."

On March 21, 1825 the following ad appeared in the New Hampshire Repository/ Observer:



School for Young Ladies. A SCHOOL for Young Ladies will be opened on BOSCAWEN STREET by Miss Martha Parker, on the third Monday of April next. She will teach Reading, -- Writing - Grammar - Arithmetic - Geography, with the use of Maps and Globes - Drawing of Maps, -- Ancient and Modern History, -- Rhetoric, -- Logic, -- Chymistry; and Philosophy. Tuition, \$3.50 per quarter. Board may be had for one dollar a week. Samuel Wood, Ezekiel Webster, Committee

The sisters Emily and Martha Parker were young, educated women from Dunbarton, and you can see that spelling had not yet been completely standardized. So far, we have not discovered where these two original classes for young ladies were held. The need of permanent educational facilities of a high grade was keenly felt, and measures were taken to establish an academy.

On March 29, 1827 at a meeting of the Trustees, it was voted to apply to the NH Legislature for an act of incorporation to create

the new Boscawen Academy, and the process started. Members of the Committee included: Rev. Samuel Wood, Rev. Ebenezer Price, John Greenough, Henry Gerrish, Isaac Gerrish, Thomas Coffin, Hezekiah Fellows, Simeon B. Little, and John Farmer.

Subscriptions came pouring in to build a suitable academy building, and the sum of \$1,136 was raised to build The Boscawen Academy on the Plains in Boscawen. Ezekiel Webster, Esq. gave liberally to the construction of the building on the land donated by Joseph Chadwick. Nathaniel Webster, W. Webster, John Greenough, Jacob Hosmer, Dr. Price, the Gerrishes, the Littles, the Coffins, and the Farmers lent a helping hand and "the Boscawen Academy became a thing of joy and benefit." Reverend Samuel Wood, long-term clergyman and a school trustee shaved the original shingles with his own hands. The construction of the building was done by Captain William Abbot.

"To fix upon the solid branches of learning" a



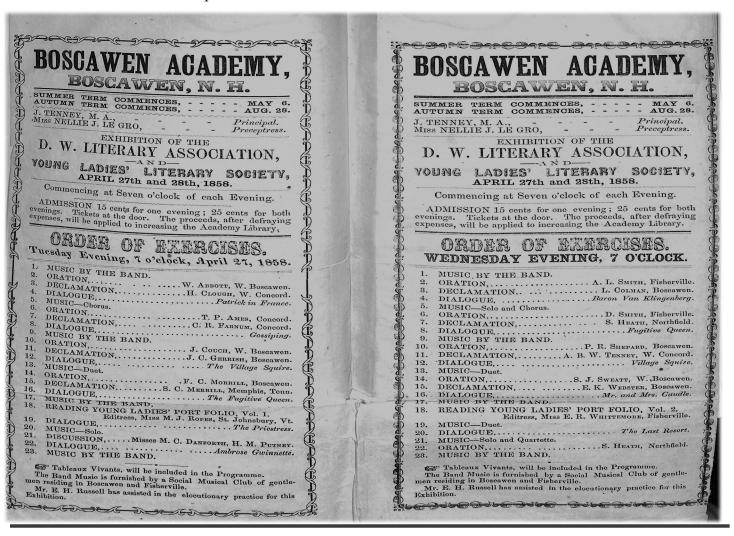
committee of Dr. Wood, Dr. Price, and Ezekiel Webster created the curriculum for the new academy. New additions to the curricula included additional studies in Latin and Greek Grammar and Readings, Algebra, Geometry, Surveying, Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, Ancient and Modern Geography, Astronomy, Logick, Rhetorick, Improvement of the Mind, and the use of Maps and Globes.

After interviewing several candidates, on October 28, 1827 the Trustees, in public meeting, hired the Preceptress, Sarah Choate Crocker, for the newly-built Boscawen Academy at a salary of \$3.50 per week. Tuition for the incoming students was \$3.00 a quarter. The spring term opened the Academy for the first time on Wednesday, April 30, 1828, with 33 female students. By the summer term the Female Department had enlarged to 46 students, with Miss Crocker getting an assistant, Miss Hannah Bridges. The summer term saw the addition of the Male Department, with 42

students, opened by Jarvis Gregg, at a salary of \$150/annum, but he had to provide his own fuel and board.

On January 29, 1829, the trustees voted unanimously, "that the thanks of the Board be presented to the Hon. Daniel Webster for his very generous donation of a suitable bell for our academy, and that the President communicate the same in the manner he shall deem the most respectful."

Next Newsletter: Part Two - Schoolhouses prior to 1860



## Dorothy's Corner

#### Edited by Elaine Clow

Many in Boscawen, Salisbury, and Webster remember the elderly Dorothy Sanborn as someone always interested in town politics and local history. Very few now remember or know of the young modern woman's interest in writing, folklore, opera, and her passion for the rural life on the family-owned farm on the Boscawen/Salisbury town line on the top of Raleigh Hill. As a Colby Junior College graduate in the 1930s, she hoped to become a published magazine writer, a goal that mostly eluded her, although we do have samples of her work, and documentation of a payment for a letter sent to Woman's Day magazine.

At the Boscawen Historical Society, we are fortunate to have examples of her unpublished short story manuscripts, local observations, and recipes collected for an unpublished cookbook of early and farm life in Boscawen. We will be showcasing some of Miss Dorothy Raleigh Wheeler's literary talents in her words of the time. Roger C. and Dorothy W. Sanborn were founding members of the Boscawen Historical Society.

#### <u>From Godey's Lady's Book – August 1891</u> **Aunt Nellie's Corn-Meal Muffins:**

2 Cups Indian Meal
1 Cup Flour
1 large spoonful of Sugar
2 Tablespoons meat drippings or butter
A little salt
About 1 teaspoon soda
1 egg beaten

Wet up with buttermilk or use sweet milk and baking powder.

*Bake in hot irons* 

#### Editor's Notes:

"Indian meal" is coarsely ground corn meal.
 The flour and the meal from flint corn would have been stone-ground locally at the near-by mill. The Flanders mill in Boscawen, as indicated by Esther Fisher's

- diaries of the time on the BHS website, was near the National Lumber site.
- "Meat drippings" are bacon fat, or the cooked fat from other types of meat.
- "A large spoonful" would be about a quarter cup.
- A "little salt" means a salt spoon full, a scant quarter teaspoon.
- "Wet up" means adding enough liquid to form a dough. If you don't have buttermilk, you can substitute plain yoghurt, or use whole milk and eliminate the baking soda and substitute 2 teaspoons of baking powder.
- Eggs, milk, buttermilk, and cream would have all come from the farm, without today's processing
- "Hot Irons" are gem or corn meal muffin tins, made of cast iron.
- These muffins would have been baked in a moderate (350-degree F) oven for 10 to 15 minutes. The cast iron muffin tins contain a small amount of dough. Today's muffin tins contain more volume and require slightly longer cooking.
- This recipe would have been cooked in a wood stove, with highly variable temperatures. If you use iron muffin tins, use today's vegetable spray before adding the dough. Any refrigeration was from ice boxes.

#### Godey's Lady's Book. 1866

#### **Bread Sauce**

Cut up into slice bread (crusts removed), adding to it some pepper, an onion, a little salt and butter and enough boiling milk to cover. Let it simmer gently at the side of the fire until the whole of the milk has been soaked up by the bread, then add a little thick cream. Remove the onion and run the whole through a sieve. Make it very hot and serve."

Editors Notes: This traditional English recipe is especially wonderful served with roast, carved poultry such as capon, turkey, or goose

- Pepper means 5 or 6 black peppercorns, removed by straining the sauce
- For additional flavor the onion can be studded with 4 – 6 whole cloves, removed before straining

## Boscawen Notables

### Moses Gerrish Farmer

Compiled by Steven Green

Born February 9, 1820 to Colonel John and Sally (Gerrish) Farmer in Boscawen, N.H. Moses Gerrish Farmer was an inventor and pioneer in the field of electricity.

He attended Phillips Academy, Andover MA in the autumn of 1837 and attended Dartmouth College in 1840. He was soon teaching at the Academy at Eliot, ME, where he met and married Hannah Tobey Shapleigh, one of his students. They had one daughter, Sarah Jane Farmer.

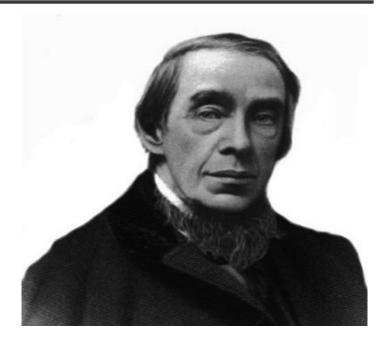
In 1847, Farmer moved his family to Framingham, MA for a short time. While there he constructed and exhibited an "Electro-Magnetic Engine & Railroad" that could carry two passengers on a track a foot-and-a-half wide. In December of that year he accepted a position as wire examiner of the electric telegraph line between Boston and Worcester, MA. He learned telegraphy, and in July 1848 was appointed operator in the Salem, MA office. Farmer went on to manage the telegraph between Boston and Newburyport, MA.

In 1852, he and his partner William F. Channing patented the first electric fire alarm system, and installed it in Boston that same year.

In 1855, he discovered the means for duplex and quadruplex telegraph, *i.e.* sending more than one message over the line at the same time. He successfully demonstrated this between New York City and Philadelphia in 1856.

In 1858, he installed a form of incandescent lighting in one of the rooms in his home in Salem, MA, illuminating it for several months, some 20 years before Thomas Edison's success.

In 1872 Farmer was appointed to the office of electrician at the United States Torpedo Station at Newport, R.I. For the next nine years, he helped advance torpedo warfare until his health forced him to resign. He acted as consulting electrician for the United States Electric Light Company of New York for several years before



retiring with his family to their summer home at Eliot, ME where he established a public library.

On May 25, 1893 Moses Gerrish Farmer died at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, while preparing an exhibit of his inventions.



### BECOME A MEMBER

Join, renew or give as a gift! Help us preserve, explore and celebrate the history of Boscawen, New Hampshire by becoming a supporting member of the Boscawen Historical Society.

As a Member, you will be assisting us in our primary mission of acquiring and caring for the objects from Boscawen's past. Your contributions will help us with the projects we now have underway to preserve, restore and digitize the objects and artifacts in the many collections we care for. One of today's most important projects is to make these unique items accessible to the Members online.

In return for your fully tax-deductible contributions you will receive:

- Access to member-only website content and extended features, including all digitized collections.
- Our quarterly newsletter, featuring articles and information on the Society's collections, exhibitions, programs, and events
- A 15% discount on all store purchases
- An open invitation to the annual meeting and other events
- The satisfaction of being a part of the ongoing efforts of bringing Boscawen's unique history to as many as possible.

#### Membership Levels

- Individual Yearly Membership \$20
- Family Yearly Membership \$35
- Individual Lifetime Membership \$200
- Couples Lifetime Membership \$350

To become a member, visit us at:

http://BoscawenHistoricalSociety.org/join-us

OR

Use the mail-in form below.

Send To:
Boscawen Historical Society
PO Box 2761
Concord, New Hampshire 03302

Already a Member? Please contact us so that we may update your contact info and create a Members user account for you. Send us an email or use the contact form on our web site.

Email: <a href="mailto:admin@boscawenhistoricalsociety.org">admin@boscawenhistoricalsociety.org</a>
or
<a href="mailto:http://BoscawenHistoricalSociety.org/contact">http://BoscawenHistoricalSociety.org/contact</a>

### Membership Form

New Membership		PLEASE SELECT ONE  Renewal Membership PLEASE SELECT MEMBERSHIP LEVEL		Update Contact Info	
	\$20 Individual Yearly _	\$35 Family Yearly	\$200 Individual Lifetime	\$350 Couples Lifetime	
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