Chapter 7: HISTORIC RESOURCES

A Brief History of Settlement in Ossipee
with thanks to Ted Cook; used with permission

Ossipee is located in the central section of New Hampshire, bordering the State of Maine. Extending sixty miles north and west from the seacoast, Ossipee was granted by the English authorities to John Mason in 1622. This grant conflicted with others obtained by the actual settlers. So Mason's Patent had a stormy history during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, until it was bought by a syndicate of Portsmouth merchants and government officials in 1746.

The Masonian Proprietors, as this group was called, promptly relinquished any claim to the settled part of the colony, and began granting and selling townships in the unsettled, inland portions of their territory. Their usual procedure was to grant a township to a group of men who promised to sell it promptly, while reserving a number of parcels within the township for themselves, in hopes that the lots they kept would appreciate in value and become saleable at a later time. Among the towns granted on this basis were Wakefield (1749), Effingham (1749) and Wolfeborough (1759). Tuftonborough was given outright to a member of the Mason family, who later turned it over to several prominent Portsmouth men for development. This series of grants left an unsettled gore of land between the new townships, which avoided boundary disputes in view of the imprecise knowledge the Proprietors had of the exact locations of their grants.

By 1770, however, two factors precipitated the development of Ossipee Gore, which extended through the modern Town of Ossipee and around Ossipee Lake into present Freedom. The first factor was that between 1770 and 1772 the Proprietors cleared a road from Wolfeborough through Ossipee Gore to Effingham, then across the Ossipee River at the outlet of Ossipee Lake, and through Freedom and Eaton to Conway. The Ossipee section of this road ran from North Wolfeborough directly over the hill to Ossipee Village, by the path of Old Route 28 to Duncan Lake, and by Elm Street to Effingham.

This Conway Road was essential to stimulate settlement in northern areas, but it proved extremely expensive to maintain. Maintenance costs provided a strong incentive for the Proprietors to place settlers along it, who could be expected to contribute tax money and labor for road repair. The second factor was that by 1770 the boundaries of the surrounding towns had been better surveyed and marked, so that there was no longer a need for the Proprietors to deny themselves the profits that would accrue from the settling of Ossipee Gore.

In settling the Township of Ossipee, the Proprietors departed from their earlier practice of entrusting settlement to an outside group. Instead they appointed a committee of their own number to manage the township, and supplied it with scattered lots for free distribution. Most of the land was divided among the individual Proprietors for eventual sale.

The surveying of lots proceeded in three stages. First, the proprietors hired a surveyor named Ebenezer Thompson in 1772 to lay out one hundred acre lots on either side of the Conway Road. Thompson surveyed thirty lots between North Wolfeborough and the Effingham line, and another series between Effingham and Conway. All of these lots were turned over to the committee for distribution to settlers who would contract to clear the land, build a house sixteen feet square, and live there for seven years; settlers who fulfilled the contract received the land by deed. Between 1773 and 1780 at least a dozen of the lots from Wolfeborough to Duncan Lake attracted settlers, and by the latter year an incipient village center had appeared around Josiah Poland's mill and Jacob Brown's tavern at Ossipee Village.

The second stage in surveying lots came in 1774 when the Proprietors sent James Hersey to survey a large area of the Gore into five hundred acre lots. Hersey laid out forty-five, five-hundred acre lots and one four hundred acre lot on both sides of the Conway Road, encompassing the un-granted parts of Ossipee Gore south and east of a line from the Indian Mound area of Center Ossipee to the vicinity of Dan Hole Pond. The Proprietors Committee retained a one hundred acre settling lot out of each of the five -hundred acre lots for distribution to settlers, and transferred the remainder to individual proprietors for eventual sale.

During 1775 settlers began to take up the settling lots on terms similar to those that applied in the road lots, but settlement slowed during the years of the Revolution, and many of the settling lots remained unoccupied until the middle 1780's. The scattered nature of the lots available for free distribution determined the pattern of early settlement. Until the early 1790's, most of the settling activity in the southern two-thirds of the town continued to take place in the one hundred acre settling lots.

The history of the survey and settlement of the remaining northwestern section of Ossipee is more complicated. The earliest settlements in the Bearcamp River Valley occurred under the sponsorship of promoters in the adjacent towns of Tamworth and Moultonborough, rather than under authority of the Committee of Mason's Patent. Tamworth was chartered in 1766 by the royal governor of New Hampshire, but subsequent surveys showed it to lie within Mason's Patent.

In 1769 Colonel Jonathan Moulton, the most active claimant under the Tamworth Charter, initiated negotiations with the Masonian Proprietors to clarify title to the township. During the negotiations Moulton obtained a preliminary approval from the east corner of Tamworth to the north corner of Tuftonborough. The Proprietors soon reconsidered this grant and stopped short of conveying title to Moulton, but Moulton acted as if the land was his. Between 1773 and 1780 he sold the Bearcamp Valley section of this tract to a number of settlers. He also sold several parcels in the lower Bearcamp Valley, although his authority for doing so remains unclear.

Moulton's action goaded the Proprietors to safeguard their claim, and in 1781 they sent James Hersey to survey all of Ossipee Gore beyond the five-hundred acre lots into one-hundred acre parcels. Many of the lots in the Bearcamp Valley were designated as settlers' lots and most were deeded to men already settled on them by Moulton to induce the settlers to acknowledge Masonian authority. The remaining lots, mostly located in the Ossipee Mountains, were held by individual proprietors for eventual sale.

The deliberate policy of the promoters of settlement contributed to the dispersed pattern of settlement that prevailed in Ossipee. During this period the overwhelming majority of the population was engaged in farming. Two areas of the town, which are now only thinly populated, were areas of concentrated activity. The first is the area of Granite surrounding Pocket Mountain. This area was well developed for farming in the last years of the eighteenth century, as settlers sought upland and hilltop locations for farms. The other populous area surrounded the road from Ossipee Village over Walker Hill and Spring Tavern Hill to Garland Pond and to Tuftonborough that was laid out as the main road to Moultonborough between 1778 and 1781.

During the early years side roads connected the Moultonborough Road with numerous farms in areas where settlement has now been abandoned. An illustration of the settlement density in this area is the fact that the Leighton Road, leading toward Chickville from the foot of Walker Hill, was commonly referred to in early documents as "the road to the city". The only real center in the town was Ossipee Village, as its placement at the intersection of the Conway Road, the Moultonborough Road, the Wakefield Road (over Brown's Ridge), the Pocket Road, and the road to what later became the County Farm area, suggests.

But even its status as a cohesive village should not be exaggerated, because the meetinghouse, store, tavern and ten or twelve houses that made up the village were dispersed over an area that extended as much as a mile from the central junction on each of the roads. About 1800, grist and sawmills to serve this agricultural population operated at Ossipee Village, at the outlet of Pine River Pond, just below Garland Pond on the Beech River, and at what later became Center Ossipee on the Beech River.

The 1820's saw the beginning of a more diversified economy in the town. Predictably, the first avenue of development was the growth of the lumbering industry. About 1820 previously undesirable land in the Pine River Valley, the Beech River Valley, the Bearcamp River Valley, and all along the shores of Ossipee Lake attracted buyers who wished to exploit the timber.

The lumber industry had two components. The first was local, as Ossipee natives set up new sawmills on rivers and streams throughout the town to supply the local market for building materials. This market reached a peak in 1820's as the town experienced rapid population growth between 1810 and 1830, and as older settlers chose this time to greatly expand the size of their houses. The other lumber market was long distance. During the 1820's and 1830's, large mill operators from the Maine coast conducted log drives on the rivers feeding into Ossipee Lake, eventually floating the logs down the Ossipee and Saco Rivers to mills that supplied the maritime lumber trade.

The lumber industry and the growing needs of the population for the processed goods provided by millers, tanners, clothiers, and storekeepers stimulated the growth of new villages at sites with ample water and power. During the 1820's, the development of Water Village as a center for local mills began the shift of population in the central part of the town away from the Moultonborough Road highlands. Also during the 1820's the bridge over the Bearcamp at West Ossipee became the focus of a hamlet that had a tavern, store, and the shops of several artisans.

The most important development of the 1820's, however, was the appearance of Center Ossipee as a thriving village. Between 1825 and 1830 the stretch of the Tamworth Road (old Route 16) from Smart's Mill to the intersection of the road toward Dan Hole Pond (Grant Hill Road and the Moultonville Road) became the site of several stores, a church, additional mills, and a new concentration of houses.

Economic diversification continued through the middle of the nineteenth century. Ossipee Village received a boost as a commercial, professional, and service center when it became the county seat of newly created Carroll County in 1840. Thereafter, it boasted two hotels and several legal offices, as well as its previous compliment of businesses. In the 1850's and 1860's, it was the site of the state-chartered Pine River Bank. Available waterpower and labor resources stimulated the formation of small-scale industrial enterprises in many parts of the town.

Most of these businesses were short lived. The largest and most successful industries developed in the Dan Hole River Valley under the entrepreneurship of the Moulton family. These mills made furniture and other wood-based products and formed the nucleus of the village of Moultonville that developed after mid-century as a classic mill village. Moultonville also was a service center for the Ossipee Mountain district that gained a large population in the late nineteenth century. The Moultons and their successors also established textile mills, but even the building of the railroad through Ossipee in the 1870's could not compensate for the locational disadvantages of manufacturing in a thinly populated area remote from large markets. Large mills also flourished for a time along the Beech River at Center Ossipee.

The integration of Ossipee into the national economy that was symbolized by the coming of the railroad caused the decline of the town's principal industry as well as opening the way for new ones. By the 1830's, it was clear that agriculture in Ossipee, as in most of northern New England, could not compete with the yields on larger western farms or with the wages obtainable in urban industries. By 1840 the value of hill farms began to slide and the town began a slow decline in population that continued until the 1950's. Nevertheless, farming remained the core of the local economy until its precipitous collapse in the 1920's and 1930's. Today, full-time farming is virtually non-existent in Ossipee.

The railroad and later improvements in transportation introduced a wide range of new activities. The most important, of course, were the vacation industry, and the services that accompany it. Ossipee participated in the mid-nineteenth century discovery of the White Mountains as a resort area. By the time the railroad arrived at West Ossipee, the Bearcamp River House was well established as a resort hotel, and it soon became a favorite summering place for Whittier and other literary figures.

On a more modest scale, many Ossipee farmers participated in the practice of taking in summer boarders. During the 1890's, Roland Park developed as a planned resort community, and was soon followed by cottage developments on the shores of Ossipee Lake. As farming declined in the early twentieth century, many of the old farmhouses became summerhouses. The vacation industry laid the groundwork for renewed population growth of the last two decades, as former seasonal residents have established year-round residency.

General History of New Hampshire

(Condensed from R. Stuart Wallace, New Hampshire Historical Society)

By 1600, English fishermen were fishing on the offshore banks, using the Isles of Shoals for seasonal shelter and drying racks for their fish. New Hampshire's first permanent European settlement started in 1623. During the next one hundred years, the southeastern portion of what became New Hampshire was divided into the four great "towns", or "plantations", of Portsmouth, Dover, Exeter and Hampton. During much of this time, these four towns, along with settlements in southern Maine, were a part of

Massachusetts. By 1680, the Province of New Hampshire was a separate entity.

Throughout the 17th century, people in New Hampshire made their living through a combination of fishing, farming, cutting and sawing timber, ship building, and coastal trade. By the first quarter of the 18th century, the provincial capital of Portsmouth had become a thriving commercial port, exporting timber products and importing everything from food to European finery.

As population grew, the original four towns subdivided into towns of smaller area. During the 1720's, a "second tier" of towns developed beyond the four original towns. Farmers from Massachusetts and Connecticut worked their way up the Merrimack and Connecticut River Valley's, pushing the Indian population before them.

By the time of the American Revolution, New Hampshire was a divided province. The economic and social life of the seacoast area revolved around saw mills, shipyards, merchants' warehouses, and established village and town centers. Wealthy merchants built grand Georgian-style homes, furnished them with the finest luxuries, and invested their capital in trade and land speculation. In the central and western parts of the state, however, the inhabitants were farmers. They spread themselves over the countryside and built simple Cape-style houses and outbuildings on land long-since reverted to forests.

During the 19th century, the seacoast area declined as a commercial center. While a few towns like Dover, Newmarket, and Exeter maintained a healthy economy by turning to textile manufacturing, most of New Hampshire's large mill complexes were along the Merrimack. By mid-19th century, the Merrimack Valley had become the social, political and economic center of the state. So great was the demand for labor in these mills, that immigrant labor was required in the 1850's, and by the 1860's, French-Canadian workers were pouring down from Quebec.

New Hampshire emerged as a major manufacturing center in the late 19th century. New Hampshire hill farms could not compete against farms in the Midwest, and the population not only dropped in the farm towns, but it literally moved downhill, leaving the hillsides a maze of stone walls, cellar holes, and new forests. The population that remained became concentrated in small village centers, usually marked by a church of Protestant denomination.

By the First World War, New Hampshire's old textile mills were proving as non-competitive as its farms had seventy years before. Newer cotton mills in the South spelled decline and eventual doom for New Hampshire's mills. Manufacturing towns responded by turning toward the manufacture of alternative items, particularly shoes. The hill towns began to cash in on the nation's growing tourism. Throughout the 20th century, old farms became spacious summer homes, and town commons were beautified to attract city tourists. Non-residents in some cases paid the majority of the town's property taxes.

By the 1950's, the New Hampshire landscape was covered with relics of the past. Crumbling Federal-style mansions in Portsmouth, empty mills in Dover, deserted farms in Northwood and rotting railroad ties lacing the state, all spoke of past progress and earlier lifestyles. These "windows into the past" were not physically threatened in a state whose growth rate was slow and whose economy seemed to be going nowhere.
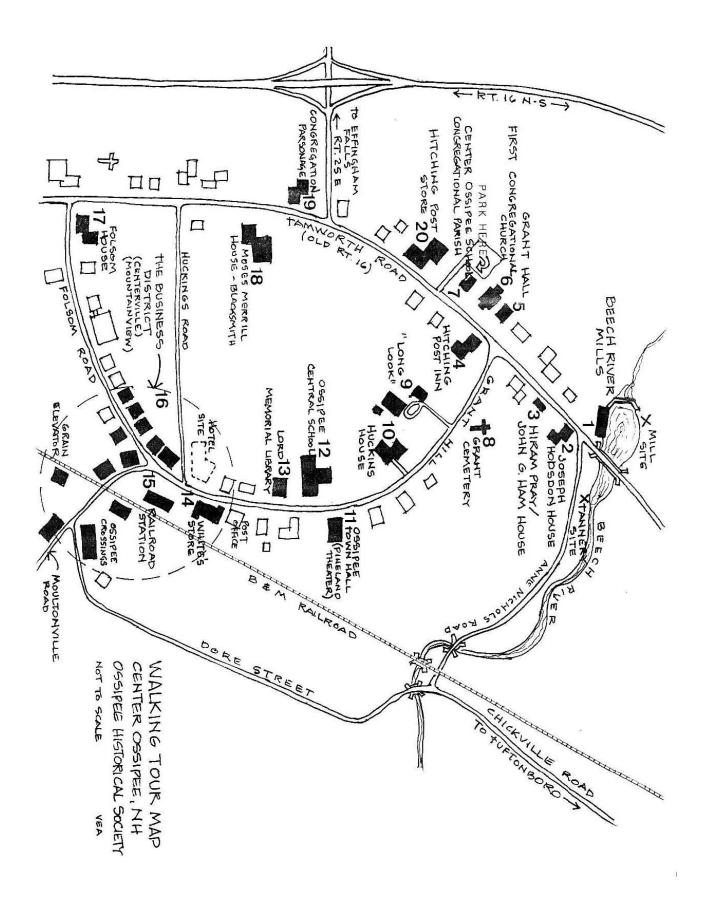
During the 1960's, however, and carrying into the present, economic stagnation turned to prosperity. Boston's urban sprawl now carried into the Granite State, aided by interstate highways and New Hampshire's favorable tax rate. Just as economic decline kept so much of New Hampshire's historic heritage intact, success is now threatening to sweep it away. It remains to be seen if the new and the old can co-exist.

In an attempt to look at the history of Ossipee in a different way and to acknowledge the efforts of a number of people who developed these walking tours and articles to preserve the history of Ossipee and make it known to the citizens, the following selections are included with permission in the Master Plan.

A New Hampshire Village Through Two Centuries: A
Walking Tour of Center Ossipee

Center Ossipee began as a pioneer hamlet, clustered around a crude grist and sawmill on the Beech River when the American Revolution was barely past and Ossipee was a newly incorporated town. A generation later it blossomed as a trading village, stretching along the road to Tamworth (Rt. 16) past the new roads that ran westward to the newer settlements in the Ossipee Mountains, and eastward toward Effingham Falls and Portland. By the 1820's flourishing farms lined the Tamworth Road, and enterprising lumbermen were cutting the virgin forests for local use and for sale to large mill owners on the Maine seacoast. During the 1840's trade expanded further to serve the lumber mills and tannery on the Beech River and the new furniture mills at Moultonville, a mile and a half to the west. Prosperous industrialists and tradesmen built new houses in the fashionable Greek Revival and Victorian Styles.

Life in Center Ossipee changed dramatically after the Civil War, with the coming of the railroad. The center of trade moved up the hill to a new village at the train depot, and the old village declined into a residential semi-suburb. New stores, a hotel, and a range of services developed at the railroad village. But prosperity was brittle as agriculture declined under competition with train-borne produce from the west, and local manufactories had trouble competing with giant urban industries. A second round of growth came with a new phase of the lumber economy after 1900. Finally, in the post-war era the village adapted to the automobile age as commerce moved to outlying shopping centers and the village focused on residential and service functions.

Refer to the map of the Center Ossipee Walking tour to identify the buildings.

WALKING TOUR MAP
CENTER OSSIPEE, NH
OSSIPEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOT TO SCALE

VEA

RT. 16 N·S

To EFFINGHAM FALLS RT. 25 E

CONGREGATION 19 PARSONAGE

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CENTER OSSIPEE SCHOOL CONGREGATIONAL PARISH

HITCHING POST STORE

PARK HERE!

GRANT HALL

20

6

7

5

BEECH RIVER MILLS

MILL SITE

JOSEPH HOBSDON HOUSE 2

1

X TANNERY SITE

HIRAM PRAY / JOHN G. HAM HOUSE 3

GRANT CEMETERY 8

TAMWORTH ROAD (OLD RT. 16)

17 FOLSOM HOUSE

18 MOSES MERRILL HOUSE - BLACKSMITH

HUCKINGS ROAD

THE BUSINESS DISTRICT (CENTERVILLE) (MOUNTAINVIEW)

16

HOTEL SITE

LORD 13 MEMORIAL LIBRARY

OSSIPEE CENTRAL SCHOOL 12

HITCHING POST INN 4

"LONG LOOK" 9

HUCKINS HOUSE 10

GRANT HILL

ANNE NICHOLS ROAD

BEECH RIVER

FOLSOM ROAD

GRAIN ELEVATOR

15 RAILROAD STATION

14 WHITE'S STORE

POST OFFICE

OSSIPEE TOWN HALL (PINELAND THEATER) 11

OSSIPEE CROSSINGS

B & M RAILROAD

DORE STREET

MOULTONVILLE ROAD

CHICKVILLE ROAD
To TUFTONBORO →

1   Beech River Mills. On this site about 1790, Jonathan Sanderson built saw and grist mills to serve the needs of the infant settlements in the upper part of Ossipee. Through the next century, a succession of millers – Sanderson, Joseph Buswell, Nathaniel Libbey, Levi Smith, Solomon and John G. Ham – built and rebuilt a series of mills on both sides of the stream to serve the processing needs of the area. As Ossipee's economy turned from farming to manufacturing after the Civil War, the mills shifted to market products such as excelsior and specialty lumber. About 1900 the Smart family purchased the mill and began the sash and blind manufactory that continues today.

2   The Joseph Hodsdon House. In 1839 Joseph Hodsdon, nephew of two prominent local farmers, bought a small tannery on the Beech River. He soon built the substantial Victorian house that stands at the corner of Beech River Road, and a large tannery a short distance up the stream, the site of which is still visible. Joseph was a State Representative and a Deacon of the Congregational Church. During the Civil War era, the tannery processed large quantities of local hides into shoe leather; and after the arrival of the railroad in the 1870's, bought hides from as far away as Argentina. The tannery was supplanted by large urban factories by the 1890's, and soon burned.

3   The Hiram Pray/John G. Ham House. This classic early house housed the families of several of the millers, and may have stood on this site as early as the 1790's. A store which stood just to the south of the house through much of the 19th century housed the local Post Office for some years.

4   Hitching Post Inn. This large village house was begun by the local businessman Levi Perkins about 1825, and eventually was finished in a Victorian style. During the heyday of the lower village of Center Ossipee it was the residence of Dr. Nathaniel Grant, who ran the store across the street, and his son, Dr. William Grant.

5   Grant Hall, the Ossipee Historical Society. This early store building was erected about 1834 by Edward Grant and others on a foundation next to the road, and operated as a store for many years by Edward's brother, Dr. Nathaniel Grant. Edward had Center Ossipee's first Post Office in the store beginning in 1835. The store was one of several that sprang up in the 1820's and 1830's as Center Ossipee emerged as the trading center for the farms along the Tamworth Road (Rt. 16), the burgeoning lumber trade in the river valleys, and the growing settlements in the Ossipee Mountains reached by the (now) Grant Hill and Moultonville Roads. Later in that century, the building was moved back near the river and used for storage. In the 1920's the Grant and Hodsdon families donated it to the Historical Society, and it was moved to its present site.

6   Congregational Church. The first church formed in 1806, meeting at first in schoolhouses and private homes. In 1827 it erected its meetinghouse in the growing village of Center Ossipee. At first led by the prosperous farmers of the region, by the Civil War era it became the church of the industrial leaders of the community, the Hodsdons, Smarts, Merrows and Huckins. The church was remodeled to its modern appearance in 1893.

7   Center Ossipee School/Congregational Parish House. A local school was built beside the meetinghouse in 1846, and replaced with the present building in 1884. It was a one-room school, educating children of all ages to the level of modern eighth grade. In 1924 the local school was consolidated into the newly constructed high school building up Grant Hill Road. In 1929 the old school was acquired by the church as a parish house.

   With the move from Old Rt. 16 (originally "The Tamworth Road") to Grant Hill Road, focus shifts from the lower village of the pre-Civil War era to the upper village of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

8   Grant Cemetery. This was originally the Grant family burying ground, one of several family graveyards in the village. It later expanded to serve the needs of the village.

9   Long Look. This colonial revival style mansion was built by Lyford A. Merrow in the early 20th century. Lyford Merrow, whose mother ran a store and Post Office near the Beech River Mill through the later 19th century, returned to Center Ossipee after a successful business career in Boston, and made it his objective to revive the economy of his home town, which had declined after the burst of prosperity associated with the railroad. He brought the Carroll County Independent to Ossipee, began a large dowel mill in the upper village of Center Ossipee, developed a lumber business, and with his wife Rena, became a vigorous force in local politics and community life. His son Parker Merrow, continued his role in local business and community life.

10   Huckins House. This large colonial revival house was the home of Simon O. Huckins, who developed a large logging business, lumberyard, and store in Center Ossipee early in the 20th century. Like his neighbors the Merrows, Huckins was active in church, political, and community life.

11   Ossipee Town Hall. This building began its life in the 1930's as a movie theater, known as Pineland, and was the scene of many community entertainments in the pre-television era. It has since become the Town Hall.

12   Ossipee Central School. The first high school in Ossipee opened on this site in 1925, in a building that also consolidated the lower grades from one-room schools like the one beside the First Church. Until the 1920's, Ossipee, like most country towns, provided schooling only to the eighth grade. When Ossipee joined the Governor Wentworth Regional School District in 1964, a large addition was built. Another addition followed in 1973 (replacing the old high school building) for grades k-6 and in 1993 the building was enlarged again.

13   Lord Memorial Library. The town's first public library was built in 1939 in a colonial revival style, as a memorial to Frank S. Lord, a prominent businessman in Ossipee Valley. Until that time, books of the public library were kept in homes, stores, and schoolhouses. The library was greatly expanded and modernized in 1990.

14   White's Store. This was one of a half-dozen stores that sprang up around the new transportation hub. Its proprietors were O.L. and C.A. White for more than half a century. In 1882 the railroad village was granted a new Post Office called "Centerville" until 1909, and then "Mountainview". In 1926 it became "Center Ossipee", the office of that name in the lower village having closed in 1914. The Whites ran the Post Office when Democrats were in office in Washington, and Dr. Ervin Hodsdon, who had the drugstore across the street, mostly ran it under Republicans. A hotel called the Central House and later the Center Ossipee Inn opened next to the drugstore in 1884 to serve travelers arriving by train. It burned a few years ago.

15   Railroad Station. Railroad transportation began to influence Ossipee in 1854, when the Portsmouth, Great Falls, and Conway Railroad was completed as far as the village of Union. In 1870 the town raised almost $20,000 (five percent of the town's valuation) for the railroad to ensure that its extension would run through Ossipee. The station opened in 1875, when the railroad reached Center Ossipee. It soon became the focus of a new village that supplanted the old village at the foot of Grant Hill.

        The railroad opened Center Ossipee to the world, providing several-times-a-day access to nearby towns and rapid access to major cities. It brought new opportunities and markets to the community, but also threatened local industries that now had to compete directly with much larger enterprises. Rail service was the foundation of the economy for fifty years, and continued for another twenty-five under increasing competition with the auto. Passenger service stopped in the 1950's and freight service a few years later.

16   The Business District. The cluster of stores around the road junction in the village center traces the economic history of the village. Most of the general stores opened in the years after the railroad arrived. George L. Cate (now Nevins Antiques) specialized in shoes and "sale work", the piecework sewing of rough clothes done by local women. Joseph Chamberlain built a grain elevator behind his store (where the medical clinic was located) after the turn of the century, and specialized in the sale of western feed grains – a mark of the rapid decline of local agriculture. After World War II, his store became an IGA supermarket. The W. H. Lord store (Ossipee Crossings), later became a hardware store. The commercial economy of the village continued until 1965, when the principal stores moved to the new Indian Mound Shopping Center.

17   Folsom House. Turning down Folsom Road and continuing to its foot returns the tour to the earliest days of Ossipee. Andrew Folsom, a young farmer of Newmarket, bought land along the Tamworth Road in 1779 and built his classic center-chimney house soon after. He was a successful farmer and a prominent citizen in town and church affairs.

18   Moses Merrill House. This classic Greek Revival farmhouse was built in the 1830's by Moses Merrill, a local farmer, blacksmith, and storekeeper.

19   Congregational Parsonage. This handsome house in the Greek Revival style was built in 1874 as the second parsonage of the First Church, and served that role until 1977.

20   Hitching Post Store. This country store was built as a farmhouse in the early 1820's by John Moulton, who later moved to Moultonville and developed the mills there. It was converted to a store about the turn of the century after stores in the lower village were discontinued. It has been known as the "Hitching Post" since the 1950's.

Two other sites of interest in Center Ossipee were written up by Arletta B. Paul, Curator of the Ossipee Historical Society. These excerpts were taken from Ossipee, New Hampshire, 1785-1885: A History.

The Indian Mound

The mound, located on the Indian Mound Golf Course in Center Ossipee, was originally said to be 25 feet high, 75 feet long and 50 feet wide. It has been described as an Indian cemetery.

The first real step to reveal the story of the Mound was taken by the New Hampshire Archaeological Society. In 1950 it was determined by careful digging that the mound was really a kame, deposited by a melting glacier.

The mound itself could not have been built by the Indians. Except at the very top, the strata showed no signs of being disturbed. Quite naturally those who advertised the mound as an Indian burial site were disappointed.

The Fort Site at Indian Mound Golf Course

The original fort was built between 1650 and 1660 by the English to help protect the local Indians from attacks by the Mohawks. Around 1676 the fort was burned to the ground.

On the site of the original fort, John Lovewell threw up a hastily built shelter in 1725 to house one of his sick men and some expedition supplies. He then went on up to Conway and Fryeburg where he met Chief Paugus and a band of men. A battle ensued which left many people dead on both sides including Captain Lovewell and Chief Paugus. One man was separated from the rest and raced back to Ossipee. His story frightened the others and they left for Dunstable.

The fort site was deeded to the Ossipee Historical Society by its owner, Mr. Robert C. Draper, in 1959. When the golf course was built, the Historical Society gave them a right-of-way across the site with several stipulations.
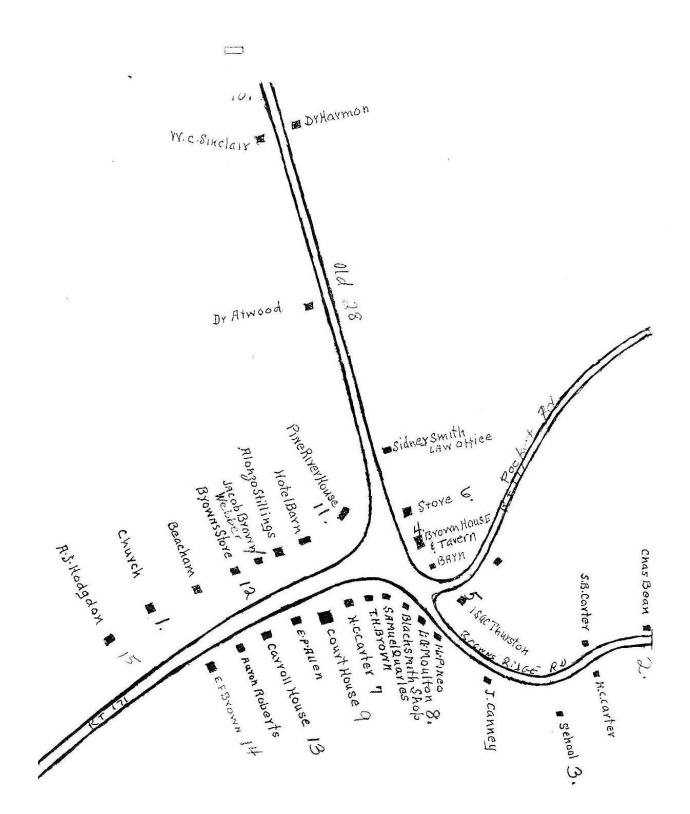
A Historical Walking Tour of Ossipee Village

Ossipee Village, or Ossipee Corner as it was known for much of its history, emerged as the main village in the town in the earliest days of settlement, and remained the chief village for nearly a century. Its prosperity rested on its location at the junction of the five major roads to Wakefield, Wolfeborough, Tuftonborough, Tamworth and Conway, and to Ossipee Pocket and Effingham. The village naturally became the marketing center for the southern and central uplands of the town, the largest agricultural region, and after 1840 received a boost when its favorable location allowed it to claim the county seat of the newly organized county of Carroll. Commercial and governmental travelers flocked to its inns and hotels, helped in part by the stage lines that ran from the village south to Rochester and north to Conway.

Its status as a transportation hub was reinforced when it secured the station for southern Ossipee on the Great Fall and Conway Railroad after the Civil War. But its commercial prosperity began to ebb in the post-Civil War period as well, with the long, slow decline of agriculture and of the population supported by it.

From the late nineteenth century, the balance between Ossipee Corner and the younger village of Center Ossipee shifted markedly. Center Ossipee had more natural industrial sites nearby, and was closer to the sustained center of the lumbering industry in the river valleys and in the Ossipee Mountains. Business and population grew around Center Ossipee while business in Ossipee slackened. For a half-century town government was shared between the two villages, before locating decisively in Center Ossipee after World War II. Commercial decline was hastened by a series of devastating fires in the early twentieth century that took, at one time or another, both hotels, all five general stores, the courthouse, and a number of residences and smaller businesses. The village rebuilt around the new courthouse, a new store, and a new set of automobile-related businesses, and stabilized at a lower level of activity.

Further change came with the relocation first of Route 16 (1930's) and then of Route 28 (1950's) out of the village, and the discontinuance of rail service. Gradually, businesses moved out of the village to new locations along the highways. In recent years the village has become more and more of a center for the legal profession and the court system.

Dr Harmon

W. C. Sinclair

10.

Old 28

Dr Atwood

Sidney Smith LAW Office

Pine River House

Hotel Barn 11.

Alonzo Stillings

Jacob Brown Webster

Browns Store

Beacham

Church

R. S. Hodgdon

12.

1.

15

Store 6.

Brown House & Tavern

Barn

4.

Pockwt Rd

Chas Bean

S. B. Carter

5. Isaac Thurston

Browns Ridge Rd

Mr Pineo

L. G. Moulton 8.

Blacksmith Shop

Samuel Quarles

T. H. Brown

H. C. Carter

Court House 9

E. P. Allen

Carroll House 13

Aaron Roberts

E. F. Brown 14

Rt 171

J. Canney

H. C. Carter

School 3.

2.

1. The Town Meetinghouse and Second Congregational Church. This New England meetinghouse was authorized by the town in 1800, and completed under the leadership of Ossipee Corner businessmen Samuel Quarles and Jacob Brown. Although the town had appropriated small sums to hire preaching during the 1790's, such was the division of religious loyalties among Congregational, Baptist, and Freewill Baptist denominations that the original expectation that the town would hire a single minister at public expense to preach in the meetinghouse was never fulfilled. Town meetings were held there from 1802, and preaching was conducted irregularly, by the First Congregational Church and Elder Lord's Baptist Church and later by the Fourth Freewill Baptist Church (1836-1895), which flourished until the 1870's, and the Second Congregational Society, which grew in strength from the 1860's and organized as a church in 1894.

Originally, the meetinghouse stood long side to the road, with a door in that side and an interior filled with box pews. In 1839 the town rebuilt the ground floor as a townhouse, while local worshipers fitted out a church above. In the 1880's the new building was turned end to the street, a new belfry was added, and the whole structure modernized. The Second Congregational Church again modernized the second story about 1950, and in 1955 they purchased the disused town office and meeting space for use as a community hall.

2   Poland Bridge and Mills. Captain Jacob Brown developed grist and saw mills on Poland Brook in 1781. The mills flourished under Josiah and Samuel Poland in the 1810's and 1820's, but they proved unable to compete with better-situated sawmills in the Pine River Valley. The mills were discontinued about 1840. From the 1780's, to about 1810, Brown and the partnership of Jonathan Dodge and Samuel Quarles ran stores near Poland Bridge. After Brown retired and Dodge's store burned, both in 1811, the seat of business moved decisively to the center of the village.

3   The Village Schoolhouse. Ossipee provided public schooling in the village as early as 1792, and for many years the local school had the largest attendance and the longest sessions of the town's twenty-three districts. In the 1880's the town launched a reform program that consolidated the small districts in the strongest locations. The village school was replaced about 1892 with the current building, an improved model. As the town extended schooling beyond the eighth grade and gradually consolidated schools into a central building in Center Ossipee, Ossipee Corner was the last area to retain its local elementary school. The school closed in 1950 and was sold soon after.

4   Brown's Tavern and the Post Office. Jacob Brown established an inn on this site as early as 1781. When his son John took over the business in 1810, he greatly expanded the inn business, which also became headquarters for stage coach lines run by Jonathan Dodge (Jr.) and Leander Sinclair. After John Brown's business failure in 1826, the inn was continued by John Brewster, Jr., into the 1840's. In the 1910's it was replaced with a small building that was operated by the Bickford family as an ice cream parlor until about 1935. About 1940 it was rebuilt to serve as the local post office.

5   Isaac Thurston's Store. In the triangle formed by the junction of Brown's Ridge Road and the Pocket Road, John Brown built a store in the 1810's. In 1821 he sold it to Clark and Wingate of Wakefield. They in turn sold it in 1833 to Isaac Thurston, who had been managing it for them. Thurston, a prominent local figure, did a large business until the 1850's, when he closed the store to concentrate on the lumber business. The store became a house, which burned in the early twentieth century.

6   Moulton's Store. The first store on this site was built by John Brown, Jr., about 1844, who ran it until he entered the army in 1861. It was run by a long succession of storekeepers, and for many years was a "Union Store", a kind of early IGA-style chain. The most prominent proprietor was Newell P. Sias, the builder of Flag Gate Farm, who ran it from 1894 until it burned down in 1912. Sias sponsored a series of local postcard views, which can still be found in antique shops today. Meanwhile, the property had been purchased by members of the Moulton family. Lisle O. Moulton promptly rebuilt it in a similar style, and ran it as a large and successful general store until his death in 1961. Grant and Beryl Kramer continued it for some years, but closed it when supermarkets began to replace general stores. It has continued intermittently under varying management as a kind of convenience and specialty store.

7   Carter's Store and the Great Fire. Directly across the square was the store started by Bracket Wiggin in 1830. Wiggin, who also owned the Pine River House across the street, did a large trade until his death in 1860. The store was later run by members of the Carter family. To the east was a house belonging to the Brown family, a small building used as a law office by Sanborn B. Carter and later Samuel D. Quarles, and then the blacksmith shop in which the fire started on June 23, 1915. The fire burned everything from the Moulton house west to the courthouse and the house of Elisha P. Allen, on the site of Clyde Brown's bungalow-style house. Steam-fired engines came from as far away as Dover and Rochester, but arrived after the buildings were destroyed. Tom Brown's new house on the store site later became the offices of Ossipee Insurance Agency and recently the Clerk of Courts.

8   The Moulton House. The large house located here was the home successively of Lewman G. Greenleaf and Ausbrey C. Moulton. They were carpenters, coffin-makers and undertakers. The Pine River Bank was located in their house from 1857 to 1864.

9   The Courthouse. Carroll County was created out of the northern part of Strafford County in 1839. Asa Beacham, the local businessman who was the Ossipee representative, left Concord on Saturday when the legislature adjourned, rode all night, met with local businessmen on Sunday, and by Monday was back in Concord with a subscription paper promising $595, and eventually $850 toward a courthouse in Ossipee Corner. Suitably impressed, the thrifty legislators awarded the county seat to Ossipee. The courthouse opened in 1840, a white clapboard structure right at the road that resembled a meetinghouse. It burned in the fire of 1915. The current Colonial Revival courthouse replaced it.

10   The Railroad and Railroad Station. The Portsmouth, Great Falls and Conway Railroad, constructed as far as Union Village in 1854, then was suspended while the railroad company debated its further path. In 1870 the town raised almost $20,000 (five percent of the assessed valuation) as a "loan" to the railroad to insure its passage through Ossipee. Construction reached Ossipee Corner in 1871 and Center Ossipee in 1875. The station was completed in 1871. Leander Sinclair, who had driven the now unneeded stagecoach to Dover, became the station agent. The railroad brought new business opportunities, such as Asa Beacham's steam sawmill along the tracks, but also opened local business to outside competition. It revolutionized travel, making possible daily round-trips to nearby towns, and easier access to distant cities. Passenger service ended in 1961 and freight service about 1972.
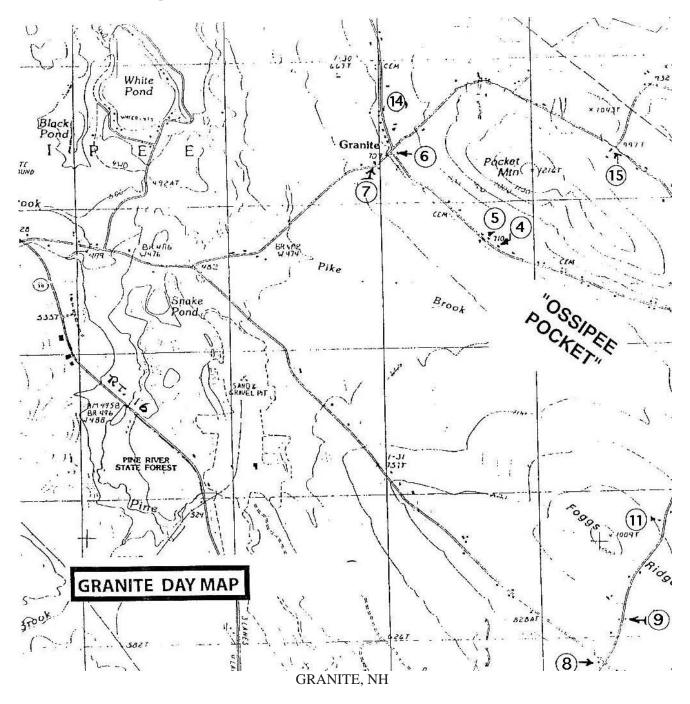
11   The Pine River House/Carroll Inn. About 1830, Bracket Wiggin took over the Poland Farm, which extended along the Tuftonborough Road from the Corner to well beyond the meetinghouse, and began to expand the farmhouse at the Corner into the Inn. After Wiggin's death it was taken over by Joseph Q. Roles, who named it the Pine River House. Later it was called Huse's Hotel, and after 1900 the Carroll Inn. It was the only one of the Ossipee hotels to come to grips with the automobile; its large barn made the transition in the 1910's from livery stable to auto garage. The Inn burned in 1922 and its site was redeveloped as a gasoline station, which continued until the highways left the village. More recently the building has been remodeled into a law office and then a house.

12   Brown's Store. In 1818 Peter Huckins, a young storekeeper, purchased a lot west of Samuel Poland's barn and erected a store. After Huckins' untimely death, the store was kept for some time by Wentworth L. Young, and in 1856 sold to Jacob F. Brown. Brown, then his sons, Dana and Eugene, ran the store until 1915. The store burned twice, in 1903 and again in 1915, and the second time was not rebuilt.

13   The Carroll House. On the site of this small ranch house stood the Carroll House. About 1838, John Brown, Jr., acquired and began to expand a small house into what became an impressive hostelry. Curtis Pitman, Asa Beacham and Joseph Q. Roles were notable innkeepers, as was Elisha P. Allen who expanded the house to accommodate seventy-five guests during his twenty-five year tenure. The House burned in 1903, and was not rebuilt.

14   The Brown/Schoonmaker House. This impressive Victorian house was the home successively of Jacob F. and Eugene Brown, who ran the store across the street. It replaced an earlier house, purchased along with the store in 1856.

15   The Hardy and Webber Houses. These attractive Greek Revival houses were built in the 1840's on lots taken from the Poland Farm. The house nearer the meetinghouse was long the home of Loammi Hardy, a popular vote-getter who served as Register of Deeds for more than thirty years. Hardy was a Democrat stalwart and his house was the center for Democratic electioneering when an election was underway. One suspects that Asa Beacham's house on the other side of the meetinghouse fulfilled the same function for Republicans. The Webber house was originally built and occupied by Jacob F. Brown, before he moved across the street. It was long occupied by Horace Webber, a Freewill Baptist minister who was for some time pastor of the local church.

GRANITE, NH

In 1994 the residents of Granite held the second Granite Day celebration to raise funds to repair their church buildings. The following information is from a pamphlet the Granite Day Committee produced that year.

This once thriving farming community in the foothills of the White Mountains, Granite, also known as "High Pocket" includes Fogg's Ridge, Pocket Mountain, and Leighton Corners. It was the first real community in Ossipee, settled by pioneer farmers from coastal New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts.

After 1830 the more adventurous moved west for stone-free fields, less severe winters, and more productive land. Until the 1950's and 60's, buildings deteriorated, farms fell into disuse, and the population decreased. Since then it has increased as tourists and families buying second homes become year-round residents.

The source of the name "Granite" remains a mystery, although it is probably due to the many outcroppings of granite found throughout this upland region. The exposed top of Pocket Mountain produced fine slabs of granite that were drilled, cut and slid down the mountain. The quarrying business disappeared with the introduction of cinder blocks and poured concrete.

Rounded or glacial stones were an obstruction to the farmer, so they were hauled to the edges of the property, forming stone walls. Mining played an important role in Granite history. Mica, or "isinglass", was mined near the Wakefield border. Low-grade ore of silver and gold was also taken from the hills. Mining activity was determined by economic cycles.

The following information was provided for a 1994 tour of the buildings. Numbers correspond to those on the map.

- 1. *The Early Settlers' Meeting House.* Was built by the community between 1806-1812 by community effort on land donated by Jacob Leighton. It served many different religious denominations. In 1856 many improvements were made. In the 1920's the building was given to the Ossipee Historical Society by the Freewill Baptist Organization.

- 2. *The Freewill Baptist Church.* In East Ossipee was built to provide more dignified services for residents in that area. Built under the influence of Greek Revival architecture, it features wide pilasters, heavy cornices, and pediments over doors and windows. Although the outside has remained basically unchanged, the interior has an ornate Victorian painting behind the pulpit, which makes it one of the most sophisticated rural churches in Carroll County. The last regular services were held around 1925, and maintenance has been sporadic since then.

- 3. *Maple Hurst Farm.* Originally built as an inn between 1810 and 1815, it became a thriving farm with much cleared land. Its original features include Granite's first refrigerator, a box on ropes moving from the kitchen to the cool basement. The horse-drawn equipment on the lawn dates from the 1800's and was used on the farm. Eleven families now share their grandfather's 1930's purchase.

- 4. *Syer Homestead.* Unofficially, the oldest farm in the Ossipee Pocket, built in approximately 1780 by the Crockett family. The original building still exists, surrounded by modern improvements.

- 5. *Hurn Farm.* Presently the C. Smith residence, this imposing farm has always held large fertile acreage since 1804. Present holdings include most of Pocket Mountain and deep valley wetlands. This farm has the best pastureland in all of Ossipee.

- 6. *Granite Schoolhouse.* This building was the last of many Granite elementary schools active in the area, closing in 1942. Today it is a comfortable residence for the Huntley family.

- 7. *Wm. Hazlett Farm.* Originally comprised of over fifty acres, this land purchase dates to before 1800, and was subdivided only once, in 1989. The farmhouse was started in 1808 with later additions, and survives as a traditional example of New Hampshire architecture. The massive red barn, now the residence of the Walsh family, served for a time as a livery for the Portland/Wolfeboro stage route.

- 8. *John Dearborn Homestead.* Tax records justify this as the oldest recorded home in Ossipee. This building has never had any additions and the decorative exterior copies the original style. Mr. Dearborn operated a sawmill at the Pine River Pond and produced lumber for many of the early farmsteads. The remains of the granite foundations and sluiceways are still visible below the present dam.

- 9. *Seth Fogg Homestead.* This home replaced an earlier log cabin and was built between 1785 and 1790. Considered the "second settler", Mr. Fogg's home retains much of its original features, with proper modernization.

- 10. *Nathan Fogg Homestead.* Nathan was Seth's brother and built this home between 1790 and 1799. Presently the residence of Robert English, it was the site of the "lost Walker child" episode in the 1930's.

- 11. *Little Red Schoolhouse.* Leighton's Corner's last school, it was built in 1909 on land donated by the Ames family, the 19th century residents of Nathan Fogg's farm. It was used briefly for education through the 1920's.

This home served as the parsonage for the Free Will Baptist Church in the early decades of the 1900's.

- 13. *Lyon House.* Built about 1835, this still original farmhouse incorporates Ephraim Leighton's first permanent residence. A cellar hole on the property locates Leighton Corner's first dwelling, a shed, built by Mr. Leighton in 1791.

- 14. *Munroe's Store.* Granite's last general store, operated by Charles N. Munroe from the 1920's until his death in 1946. It was closed in 1948.

- 15. *Samuel Tasker Homestead.* The original farm on Circuit Road.

- 16. *Carroll County Grange #160.* Built in 1820, it has been a store, a school, and a Grange. Totally renovated, it is now the home of F. Dickinson.

- 17. *Burned Home site, Effingham Road.* The last known contract Post Office in Granite. Operations moved to Ossipee Corner in approximately 1898.

The third of the smaller villages, West Ossipee, owed its prosperity to its location at a major crossing of the Bearcamp River and at the intersection of major roads from Tamworth and Madison with the main road north.

The center of the village was Knight's Tavern, run by Mrs. Knight's second husband Ben Hodsdon, from 1824 to 1832, and then from 1832 to 1866 by Israel and Asa Ames and their employee Jesse Thing.
The tavern was the next major stop after Ossipee Corner for the Dover to Conway stage line. It was also a transfer point for travelers coming from Meredith and Moultonborough. The second post office in the town operated in the tavern in 1831. But the real growth of the village came after the Civil War when the railroad made West Ossipee a major shipping point for the towns of central Carroll County.

Early business people of the area, Jeremiah Goodwin and John Brown, ran stores in the 1820's and the Varney family did joinery and blacksmithing out of their homes near the Nickerson Bridge.

There was great promise for all of the Ossipees, the mills on the Beech River were thriving as were other mills in the town. There was a great lumber resource, tanning materials, and of course, its agricultural base, and a new political importance. The town was destined to become a major industrial center.

In an attempt to fulfill the promise, Josiah G. White and some neighbors began to see Ossipee not only as the Manchester of the north, but the Pittsburgh of the north. In 1847 White and his friends bought land and the mineral rights in the Nickerson Mountains, and formed the Carroll County Iron and Mining Company. The volcanic origins of the area insured that the plan to find coal would fail, however, there was hope that iron ore could be found. However, little of the company was heard of after the first year.

The largest bridge in town was the Nickerson Bridge over the Bearcamp River in West Ossipee. The bridge was in constant need of repairs and the people of both Tamworth and Ossipee were heavy users of the bridge. The people of Ossipee often argued that its costs should be shared by neighboring towns. In 1803 the town voted not to repair the bridge. But by November the bridge was repaired, and repaired again in 1811, and again in 1820. In 1820 Wentworth Lord bid $133 on the bridge and built a new one.

But by 1830 it was in need of major repairs. In 1832 a new bridge was constructed. By 1849 the town was once again in a bridge crisis. This time they built a stronger bridge and it stood until 1870 when a freshet took out every bridge on the Bearcamp. This time the town voted to invest in a modern and permanent structure that would cross the river in a single span and be less vulnerable to freshets. They contracted Jacob Berry of Conway to build a covered bridge using the Paddleford truss. The first bridge of this type was built over the Saco River near Redstone in 1846 and stood until 1970. In 1875 the town voted to fine anyone $5 for driving a team of horses over the bridge faster than a walking pace. The bridge was restored in 1983, with funding provided by summer resident Gordon Pope and the state. The bridge is now closed and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. An attempt to get Federal funds to make extensive repairs on the covered bridge in 2005 failed.

The winter of 1913 saw a change in the way people got around in the snow. Winter travel still required sleighs, wagons and horses. Cars were put up on blocks until spring. Virgil D. White, looking for a way to pick up sales for his Ford Dealership, looked for a way to get around in the winter using a motorized vehicle.

Using a chassis of an old Ford, he added tractor-like treads to the rear and ski runners to the front. By 1920 he had patented his invention and coined the term "snowmobile". The Snowmobile Company Inc. of West Ossipee manufactured 350 snowmobiles per year, until the plant was destroyed by fire in 1929.

ROLAND PARK

   Nestled 1,300 feet high in the Ossipee Mountains is Roland Park, a community almost forgotten by time for a century, a community whose residents span generations back to the original settlers.
   It was 1800 when three men on horseback rode from Milton to what is now Roland Park, blazing a trail through the forest and a path into history. Mrs. Fernald, Hanson and Hilton settled near each other, clearing land for their farms and building homes.

   About 1858, T. R. Neal purchased the Fernald Farm, but it wasn't until 1894 that Roland Park was officially born. On Dec. 6 of that year, nine businessmen from Malden, Mass., arrived in Center Ossipee on the noon train from Boston, among them Enoch E. Neal.

   The group was met by Joseph Chamberlin, proprietor of the Central House (later known as the Center Ossipee Inn). After enjoying a steak dinner, the men climbed to the ice on Little Dan Hole Pond. Eight inches of snow was on the ground when the men returned three hours later.

   Meanwhile, Chamberlin had not only prepared a sumptuous meal, but he also had arranged a dance that evening. Invitations went out to local communities by messengers, telephone and telegraph, and an orchestra from North Conway was hired. Eighty people came and enjoyed the evening.

   The next morning, several of the men returned to the hills to climb Black Snout (Sentinel Mountain) before returning to Malden. So in love with the area were Enoch Neal, Walter Hopkins, Henry J. Cox, Harvey Thompson and George Thompson that they formed the Roland Park Land Company.

   The company later acquired the original Hanson Farm, and in 1895, the land was surveyed and named. It is believed that it was Enoch Neal's wife who named the area because it was "rolling". It was in 1895, also, that the first of the numerous "cottages" was built. Now, much enlarged and modernized, but Victorian in appearance, the home belongs to the Morrison family. Bill Morrison of Wolfeboro has been active in Republican politics. His father, Dr. William R. Morrison once performed an appendectomy at his home, using kerosene lights and the dining room table.

   The men of the Roland Park Land Company laid out approximately 200 lots on 100 acres, adjoining the Neal property, in 1895, and brought their friends to visit. Many purchased sites and built summer homes.

Every year, new houses were built until the colony boasted 26 houses, seven of which were built in the last years of the park's original expansion. In just a few years, the tax value of Roland Park increased 46 fold.

To accommodate visitors, the Neal's home became the Roland Park House, a family enterprise. Enoch Neal "sold" the park to his friends in Malden and neighboring towns to the extent that they comprised much of his guest list at the boarding house.

George Neal, his son, was the farmer. He kept the cows, pigs and chickens, raised vegetables, harvested ice from the pond and kept an icehouse, and provided transportation for all who visited Roland Park. His buckboard and horses, Kittie, Trilby and Shifty Sadie, among others, were well known. A very large man, well over six feet tall, Neal often had "a flock of little kids tailing behind him", wrote Aiden B. Bailey in 1973, who was "endlessly regaled with his 'tall' stories; and what stories, true or false". Neal was almost always on hand at the waterfront for the routine afternoon swim to assure the safety of the children, also.

Lizzie Farnham, George's sister, was "as large a woman as her brothers were for men," Bailey wrote. Lizzie ran the boarding house with an assistant named "Suky". They did all the housework and served family-style meals for the boarders, and often a second sitting for the cottages. Guests were promised all the blueberry pies, cakes and muffins they could eat on condition that they pick the berries.

Farnham's meals were noted for their excellence and generous servings. When one of her guests caught a fish, it was cooked to perfection and placed before the lucky angler at dinner. Fresh chicken, baked beans, vegetables from the garden, biscuits and blueberry pie comprised a typical dinner. Farnham also maintained a fleet of rowboats for guests.

After the summer months passed, Farnham was a teacher, sometimes walking a trail from her home, across the river, along some distance to a pond and through a gorge to the Mountain Village School. "My estimation of Mrs. Farnham went up 500 percent when I learned that she had taught school for one entire winter in Mountain Village, walking the trail morning and night," Bailey wrote.

Before her death, Farnham taught at several schools around Ossipee. She was idolized by many of her students, including Minnie Leighton. In fact, it was Leighton who delivered the eulogy at Farnham's funeral service, held in the Moultonville Methodist Church, and presented the church with a sterling silver vase in memory of Farnham.

The cottage population grew rapidly – "The Overlook", "Red Oaks" and "Fairmont" names that reflected the characteristics of the hillsides. The "Belmont", the "Wellesley" and the "Fromlyn" (from Lynn), captured a piece of the owner's hometown.

Summer life at the colony seemed idyllic. Hunting and fishing were always popular with the men. Salmon caught in 1903 weighed as much as seven pounds. The first salmon caught in 1909 weighed in at five-and-a-half pounds and sometime in the early 1900's, Warren Hixon landed a 12-pounder. Several from the Dan Hole Ponds are now on display in the Libby Museum.

Buddy Gridley, reminiscing in 1973 about Roland Park in his youth, recalled watching mink swim a cove and pintail ducks pausing in their annual migration. He claims to have held the antlers of a swimming deer from a canoe one day while fishing with Bill Gimpel, Jr.

Everyone seemed to enjoy swimming and diving, boating and canoeing. There were always games to play – croquet, tennis, badminton and horseshoes. Miss Patch introduced shuffleboard, a game she had learned in Florida. She had a concrete shuffleboard built, but the surface was not smooth enough for play.

Youngsters played capture the flag, follow the leader, hide and seek, and built huts from scrap lumber, trying to imitate the popular architect Frank Lloyd Wright. It was not uncommon to fill large milk pails (the seven or eight-quart variety) or a galvanized washtub with blueberries, with adults helping. Years later, the boys were known to scale Necco wafers at the girls who sat in front of them at the silent movies in the small upstairs hall of the grain elevator downtown in the village.

Picnics, dances, skits and musical events were ever popular, the Virginia reel and the songs of Stephan Foster among the most popular. A pump organ soon gave way to a more popular piano, but these were not the only musical instruments enjoyed. Chester Norris played a beautiful coronet, and there were other musicians among the colony's residents over the years.

For the athlete of all ages, climbing Black Snout, Shaw, Chocorua or even Mount Washington were favorite trips.

At the turn of the century, the train trip from Boston to Mountainview (Center Ossipee) took approximately four hours. There were numerous stops along the way, with a long stop in Sanbornville so passengers could stretch and eat lunch.

The trip from the train station to Roland Park could often take another two hours, depending on the road conditions and the amount of baggage in the buckboard.

The first automobile to climb the road to Roland Park was a Stanley Steamer, driven by car dealer Chester Norris, in 1900.

"The passing of the horse and buggy wrought a marked change in the summer life at Roland Park," wrote Ernest Grover years later. "The cars, the task of putting up the tops at the sign of a shower, the costumes of the lady occupants, the goggles, the caps, gauntlets, the roads, the guidebooks, all would make a chapter in themselves," he wrote.

Percy Witherell recalled a four-hour train ride being replaced with a 12-hour drive from Winchester. "Of course, one always carried two spare tires, and often had to buy more along the way due to blowouts. Traveling trouble-free for 300 miles was unheard of, even with the most expensive tire," he said in 1968.

Leonora Severance Neal, known better as "Ant Linney" bought a new Rambler in 1915 and built a garage to house it, but she never learned to drive. "It was quite a car, brass radiator, carbide lamps with a carbide tank on the running board, and a collapsible top, held in position by leather straps to the front fenders. George Neal was her chauffeur – complete with a linen duster, cap and goggles," wrote Baily.

Miss Patch had the first house on the hill with electricity, according to David Dingman (1973). She had her house completely wired and set up her own Delco power generator. When power arrived a few years later, Miss Patch's wire was thought to be inadequate, but she refused to modernize and was connected to the power line anyway.

Telephones were non-existent until the 1920's. The universal means of communication was the megaphone, so everyone knew everyone else's business.

The first cesspools and wells, found by divining rod, were dug by hand. One work crew, hired to dig a cesspool for Thompsons' Gladys Cottage, got drunk on cider, so George Thompson finished the job, sending the men staggering back to their boat.

The first water pipes from a spring near the windmill were laid by Thompson to various cottages. They were lead pipes because no one knew at the time how toxic lead is.

Fires destroyed some cottages over the years, but much of Roland Park today remains in the hands of families who have been there for many generations, with some newcomers. The woods have taken over pastures and fields, obscuring some views, but the beauty of the area remains. The strong sense of community balanced with a survivalist's spirit still predominates.

The cottages are now year-round homes, complete with all modern amenities and even a computer or two, but there is a sense of unhurried activity and peacefulness high in the hills.

1998's ice storm hit the area hard, but Eugenia Stiff, the current owner of the former Roland Park House and a member of the Neal family, says, "It was just like the old days." She has known "more than fifty years" on the hillside, so being snowed in and without power for six days is a familiar adventure. "We love it here, summer and winter," she says.

Many of Roland Park's residents have placed their marks in Ossipee history and development. There were grocers, restauranteurs, teachers, farmers, a doctor, a nurse, a shoe salesman, an advertising executive and two excellent photographers among the early residents of Roland Park. Harold Neal served several years as an Ossipee selectman. Their contribution influenced the town and its residents for years to come and their ancestors continue their tradition.

Dr. William Morrison and the late Dr. Frank Lahey, celebrated Boston Surgeon (for whom the Lahey Clinic was named), once stood together and viewed Dan Hole Pond. Lahey said it was the most beautiful small lake and the most magnificent view he had ever seen. Morrison replied, "It's as near to heaven as one can get on earth."

By Natalie Peterson
With special thanks to: *Roland Park: An Informal History*
By David Dingman. Edited by Christine Gimpel.
Roland Park Association (1976 Bicentennial)

WATER VILLAGE

Water Village is a small community in the southwesterly corner of Ossipee, bounded by Wolfeboro and Tuftonboro. Today the large sprawling farms are gone as are the stores and mills. The Post Office and the schoolhouses are also gone. What remains is a community rich in traditions of hard work, self-sufficiency and pride.

The first settler, Benjamin Bean, came from Moultonboro to build his home in 1780 on the Ossipee-Tuftonboro line. Bean and his father and brother served in the Revolutionary War. He and his wife had ten children and many of them settled on his land in Ossipee.

The first house built in Water Village is believed to be John Wadleigh's on Pork Hill Road in 1775, followed by his neighbor, Richard Beacham in 1778. By 1800 Abner Moody built the Moody Mountain Farm, but the most impressive farm was that of Levi Wiggin at the junction of 171 and Sawyer Road. The home was badly damaged in a fire several years ago, but still retains many of the historic features.

Early in the 1800's industry began to take the place of farming, with large-scale development in 1810. A gristmill, a tannery, and a clothing mill were built along the Beech River. By the 1830's a wheelwright, a blacksmith, and several smaller businesses were established. Alvin Senter's country store sold liquor, which was the source of some of the legends and stories about Water Village people. The first Water Village Post Office was established at the store in 1837, and later moved to the Whitehouse residence.

Water Village was at the peak of its prosperity in the 1840's. In addition to the tannery and shoe manufacturing, the woolen mill and clothing manufacturing, a shingle and furniture mill, there were numerous smaller businesses. A church was established in 1844, and a district school, as Water Village was one of the original ten school districts in Ossipee.

Asa Beacham had a profound influence in Ossipee. A working farmer, he became a selectman and a member of the N.H. House of Representatives. He played a major role in establishing Carroll County with Ossipee serving as the county seat. He also convinced the railroad engineers to run the rails through Ossipee Corner, rather than Water Village. This changed the future of Water Village from a business community into a residential community.

The site of the Ossipee Mountain Grange Hall, which later became McDuffee's antiques and secondhand store, was the last building of note, built by a descendent of earlier settler Benjamin Bean.

This information was taken from an article in the Carroll County Independent written by Natalie Peterson. She gives credit to Edith Eloise Bean's written history of Water Village.

HISTORIC RESOURCES GOALS

Identify and preserve Ossipee's cultural heritage, architecture, and character.

Implementation Recommendations

Create small local Historic Districts. Several areas of Ossipee would benefit from creating a small local historic district to help protect the attractive setting that now exists. These include: Water Village, Ossipee Village, Center Ossipee, and Pocket Road. These would help protect the rural landscape or create a positive image for downtown revitalization.

Gather information for National Register Nominations. A number of structures in Ossipee should be considered for National and/or state Registration Nominations in addition to those already on the lists, such as:

> First Congregational Church Lafayette Moulton House
> Chickville Church Gingerbread House
> Granite Freewill Baptist Railroad Stations

Maintain the Ossipee Town Pound located in the Walker Hill area.

Initiate an oral history project, talking with and recording the memories of some of our older residents.

Identify funding opportunities to allow Ossipee residents to access and preserve historical and cultural sites.