

Mister Interlocutor, here is Joe Wall

By Gordon B. Seavey

One of the several delightful town characters half a century ago was Joe Wall. We presume he had a middle name, but to all he was known as just plain Joe Wall.

Westford Wanderings

He was a comical auctioneer who spent much time building up his audience telling stories which usually made the bids higher and higher with each anecdote. A smart man.

His profession was hanging wallpaper and painting, but Joe liked to recite poetry — his own! Here's a sample which reads pretty corny, but Joe at the podium was an artist at interpretation:

"When you want your kitchen grained,

When you want your bathroom stained (with paint)

Or a little different paint put on your hall,

If you want your chambers brightened,

If you want your ceiling whitened,

Then you had better look around for Joe Wall."

At Joe's home in Graniteville, between stories, he boasted he could show the prospective home decorator "1,000 patterns of the finest wallpaper in the country!" He also dealt in paints, oils and set window glass for the whole community.

Joe was his best when, with blackened face as an end man at a minstrel show, he teased Mr. Interlocutor, usually with a Joe Wall joke.

He was the perennial fish and game warden for the area. He was fond of stocking little known brooks, such as Vine, O'Brien's and Snake Meadow with trout fingerlings but would never

admit this act was for the special benefit of favorite buddies. One year he purchased six pair of snowshoe rabbits at \$2.50 a pair in Maine and released them in

Tadmuck swamp.

His biggest complaint was that there were more hunters than pheasant or partridge.