

# Hildreth Homestead

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voir, engineers spotted this plot as being ideal. With an elevation of 400 feet, when built this underground reservoir will balance the pressure between the standpipes on Frances and Kissacook Hills, plus serving the southern part of town.

The Hildreth property includes one-half a mile frontage on Hildreth Street, a highway linking Westford and Littleton and a natural way to Routes 495 and 2.

As for the old house there had been few changes on the exterior. As was the style so popular in the 19th century, the original small-paned windows had been replaced by "two over two" sash. These were recently changed to six-over-six with modern storm windows for the first time.

This Hildreth house was never turned into a salt-box type as was James Hildreth's home (1658) nearby when the lean-to style was added at an early date. What is considered the oldest Westford home still standing is the Solomon Keyes, constructed by him earlier in the east part of town on Frances Hill. Across the road was a garrison house for the Pawtucket, Wamesit and Nashoba Indians hunted this territory.

## Ownership Unchanged

George Parkhurst has forebears among the Hildreths and is considered an authority on the family history as well as on his native town of Chelmsford. With wife Barbara, they have kept alive the Hildreth Family Association revived by her father, holding annual reunions in various sections of the country. There is a mailing list of over one thousand.

Maintaining the continuing Hildreth ownership for nine generations has been accompanied by the simple expedient of pass-

ing title down from father to one of the male heirs in each generation, he explained.

Complications arose, however, when Isalah (1764-1813) and Lydia Leighton Hildreth produced no sons and only a daughter. The chain of nominal succession was solved when daughter Susannah married her first cousin, Abijah Hildreth, and settled on the farm.

Mrs. Parkhurst's father, Arthur, and his twin brother, Clarence, as well as an older brother, Albert, were born and raised at the old place. Arthur was active in many town affairs and carried on the family property operating it as a side line. He was for 25 years a science instructor at Newton High, then went on to become a college instructor.

Clarence operated an automotive repair service in town and Bert was a farmer nearby. Three of the latter's children, Stuart, Elizabeth Tallard and Helen Coupal, lived locally.

## New Owners Take Over

The Cambells, the new owners, have been doing some minor carpentry work and more interior decorating the past weeks and already have begun the process of moving with their three small children from the rented home they have been occupying for the past year at 10 Depot Street.

Karen, the mother, long has been interested in things Colonial and has been doing guide work at the Concord Antiquarian Society while living in Westford. She reports that ever since a small child on the West Coast, Colonial things have been an interest. She has been painting the rooms in Colonial colors, adding stencilling to the decor.

Purchaser of the farmlands is Charles Brown of Carlisle, operating as Panamora Properties.

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