

# The way it was: Bits of history recalled

By Gordon B. Seavey

## Ill-fated farm

Only the oldest of Westford residents will remember this typical set of farm buildings, the Amos Day place on Flagg Road near the junction with Robinson Road.

It burned in 1903, and a new home was erected across the street. It still stands today.

The barn, however, was rebuilt on the original site by Charles D. Colburn, who had married into the family. Lightning struck the second barn some 30 years later and it, too, burned to the ground.

## Minot with a 't'

As business activity began to expand a few years ago in the Minot's Corner region of Westford, the area started to take on the name of "Four Corners", possibly following the name of a prominent gasoline station at the junction of Boston and Littleton Roads. This was heresy, according to a group of 100 women, who signed a petition to keep the old historical name of Minot's Corner. Hail to the power of women's lib, the old name remains.

The busy crossroads shows on a map of 1730, and because Major Jonathan and Esther Minott lived on the north corner folks began to designate this intersection as Minot's Corner, shortened the spelling by one "t".

Minott led one of the Westford Companies during the Revolution and his son, Joseph, was killed at Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775.



A CAMERA RECORDED the Amos Day farm on Flagg Road in 1903, before it was consumed by a fire. Take note of the elaborate water system, with the storage tank in the middle of the tower and windmill atop, which pumped water for the home as well as livestock in the barn or to the cow yard. Pictured are Charles Day, his wife Norah May, daughter Eleanor, his mother Elizabeth Day and his father Jonathan T. Day. (Photo courtesy Eleanor Colburn Fletcher)

He is buried in Fairview Cemetery, not far from the town tomb. Times were hard after the Revolution, so when his sister, Joanna died March 9, 1780, at the age of 17, the family erected a single slate marker for the si-

blings.

The bronze marker at Minot's Corner designating the spot of the original homestead and depicting this historical item, erected by the Westford Minute-men, has mysteriously disap-

peared Stolen — or hopefully in storage while construction in that area is taking place.

Gordon Seavey is a Westford native, historian, and retired publisher/owner of the "Belmont Citizen."