

# Westford's natural face has rocky history



ONCE A GRANITE boulder in the bed of a fast-flowing brook or river, through the action of water and abrasive materials this anvil of sorts was formed. Today it can be found at the junction of Leland Road and Main Streets, opposite the homestead of the late Oscar R. Spalding. Spalding was a noted lumberman who owned many acres of land in the vicinity. It is believed that he placed the marker in its resting place. The house in the background is at 80 Main Street.



GRAVE MARKER AT West Burying Ground once was a horse mounting block in front of Prescott Tavern in Forge Village. The marker now designates the family lot of Luther Prescott. These blocks were common in the days when folks travelled mostly by horseback and it was much easier for a lady (and gentleman) to board the animal by stepping up a bit. Pictured in this 1974 photo are Avis Day and Arnold Wilder with their horses.

Photos from the collection of Gordon B. Seavey

**T**he town of Westford is no different from other areas in New England, with rock outcroppings commonplace.

There are a few distinct boulders in this community that deserve mention for those people who have passed by and wondered about the more recent history surrounding them.

Fifteen million years ago the retreating glacier which covered New England to Long Island Sound left two giant granite boulders north of Long Sought for Pond. They came to be called the House and Barn and seem to rest atop the ground in a heavily wooded area.

Larger of the two, the "barn", measures chest high 124 feet in circumference and 24 feet above the ground.

A cubic foot of granite weighs approximately 160 lbs., creating a problem best left to someone with a calculator at hand.

White quartz, a mineral found in small quantities near Nashoba Hill across town, makes up an unusual historical marker in front of the farm once owned by Colonel John Robinson. The memorial etched "Here lived Col. John Robinson, a brave and distinguished officer in the battles of Concord and Bunker Hill, born 1735, died 1805" was placed at its site on Robinson Road by the Westford Improvement Society in 1896. The stone was used by Robinson's daughter, Hilda, as a horse mounting block. The original farmhouse, located near the site of the Robinson School, burned in 1937.