

Westford Recollections

More Russian Tales

By JUNE W. KENNEDY

Having read the WESTFORD RECOLLECTIONS articles about the Russian families of Westford (Nov. 1979), Mrs. Sadie (Sudak) Sluyski of Maynard, for many years a Westford resident, would like to share her own recollections of Russian history here in town.

"Although no longer a resident of Westford, I lived until I was ten years old in that old brick schoolhouse on the corner of Pleasant and Pine Streets in Forge Village (No. 3) and have a few recollections of my own. My mother, Mary Sudak, could read and write Russian, Polish and Lithuanian when she came to this country, and taught herself English in a very short time to the extent that she was called upon by Dr. Welsh to act as interpreter when he had to visit the Russian people in time of sickness or childbirth. Mr. Nicholas Sudak, my father, could read and write and subscribed to a Russian newspaper which I remember him reading in the evenings after work, by lamp light. Many of the Russian people came to our home to have letters read or written to their relatives in Russia. My mother and father started a general store in West Graniteville in 1923

which they conducted until after World War II.

"My father was the main instrumental in the purchase of land for the Russian Brotherhood Cemetery because he was the one who could talk English the best. He went to the lawyer Mr. Fisher, in Lowell and his signature is on the deed, I am sure. Mrs. Josephine (Socca) Connell can vouch for that. She was Mr. Fisher's secretary. My father helped clear the land, sustained a very severe cut on his foot which entailed a lengthy stay at Lowell General Hospital. He almost lost his life. Mr. Peter Worobey, the present caretaker of the cemetery can vouch that when father died arrangements were made to dig a grave on the exact spot the accident occurred, because Mr. Worobey remembered my father saying, 'I spilled my blood here, bury me here when I die.' My mother didn't even know of that statement, but Mr. Worobey remembered and complied."

Because Sadie (Sudak) Sluyski took exception to a few of the Russian reminiscences related in the November series, her own recollections are especially appreciated.



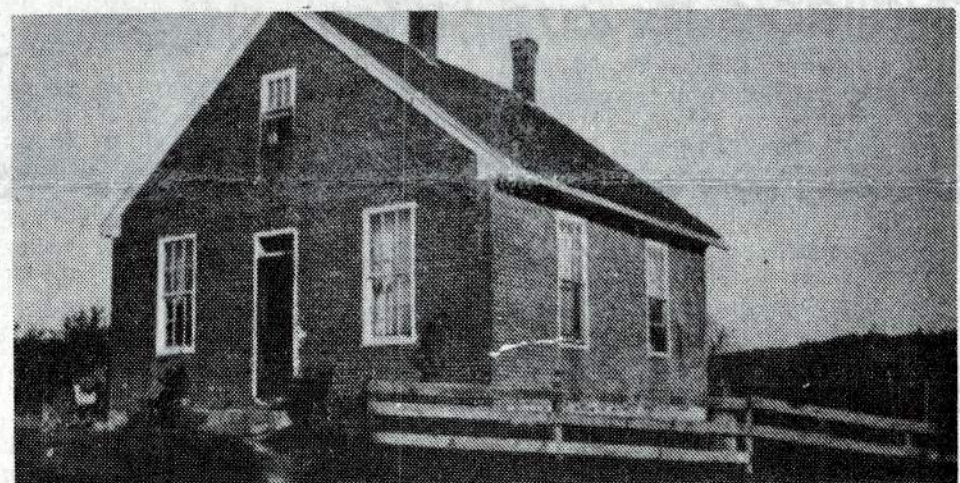
Nashoba School. Nashoba School No. 4, built in 1872, is located on Concord Road and is visible from Route 495. For the year ending March, 1892, the School Report states: "Two good teachers resigned because of low salary, and at the close of the spring term, four more resigned, leaving nearly half of our schools with new teachers. One school was three weeks late in opening the winter term, and four others were closed for one or two weeks due to "La Grippe." A changeover of teachers and frequent interruptions impair the value of a school, the report says: "This has been one of the happy schools — same teacher, Clara Smith — no sickness, and all is well." Miss Smith's salary for the year ending March, 1892, was \$290. (A Day photo from June Kennedy's book "Westford Recollections 1729-1979," on sale at the "Book-tique" or from the author.)

(A Day photo from the "Westford Recollections. Series by June W. Kennedy)



The general store in West Graniteville was run by Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Sudak from 1923 until after World War II. This building also had served as Graniteville School No. 10.

(A Sanders photo from the "Westford Recollections". Series by June W. Kennedy)



I lived until I was ten years old in that old brick schoolhouse on the corner of Pleasant and Pine Streets in Forge Village," states Sadie (Sudak) Sluyski.