

A guide for the tourist and you

By JUNE W. KENNEDY (Part V)

Orchards

A major spring attraction is the showy display of apple blossoms and other fruit bearing trees along the hill-sides, including the Anderson Fruit Farm, Chamberlin Road, Hill's Orchards, Hunt Road and the Reid Farm with orchards on Tadmuck Road. In 1976 the Mormon Church purchased 125 acres of the Drew Fruit Farm and is using it as part of its worldwide welfare program. Fruit production from the entire Drew acreage in 1976 totaled 35,000 bushels of apples, 5,000 bushels of pears, together with some peaches, plums, nectarines, blueberries and grapes. Location: 7-F Boston Road, 9-H Stony Brook Road & Main Streets, 9-H Hunt & Chamberlin Road and 8-G Tadmuck Road.

Read-Drew Farm

A part of this home was built in 1746 by the Reads and remained in that family until purchased by the Drews in 1911. Interesting features include the large ten-pie dutch oven, the iron soap kettle embedded in the back of the kitchen chimney and the stenciled walls found under many layers of wallpaper. The reputation of the farm's champagne cider spread far and wide, for it was recommended in an old cook book in Amherst, Mass. Location: 9-H Main Street, first home beyond Stony Brook Road.

Prescott Homestead

Aged and weathered, this old homestead has many a story to tell. It was here in the kitchen that the local country doctor took out the tonsils of fifteen neighborhood children one afternoon. It was here, too, that Clyde, Cindy and Ben Prescott could look out the front window and watch Mr. Jenkins, Miller and O'Brien, the blacksmiths, shoe the horses and beyond them oversee Mr. Walkden, the wheelwright, make a whole farm wagon. Location: 9-H Corner Main Street and Chamberlin Road.

Keyes House

"Solomon Keyes from Newbury, in 1664 had a grant of land on the north side of Frances Hill and there he fixed his home, having married Frances Grant in Newbury in 1653. From her no doubt the hill took its name. There is reason to suppose that he was here at a time still earlier than the date of allotment. He appears to be the first permanent settler in the town of Westford and his family is the oldest in town." Hodgman's **History of Westford 1659-1883**.

Many old features remain in the home including two baking ovens, a smoking oven in the central chimney stack, and handmade wooden pegs on the front stair railing. A faint outline on the ends of the house indicates that at first it was of "salt box" design and later expanded by raising the rear roof.

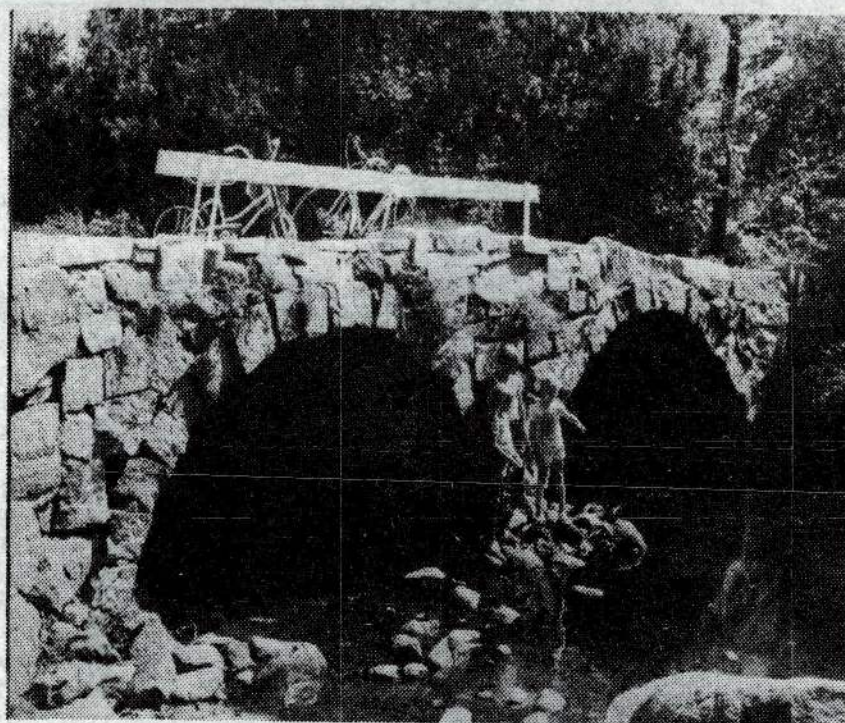
A handwritten deed to the Keyes house and surrounding lands dated Nov. 3, 1777, tells us the property was then owned by Jonathan Keyes and transferred to Joseph Keyes on Nov. 30, 1785 as recorded in the registry of deeds in Cambridge. The Westford Garrison House stood across the road from the old Keyes house. Location: 9-H Frances Hill Road.

Stony Brook School No. 2

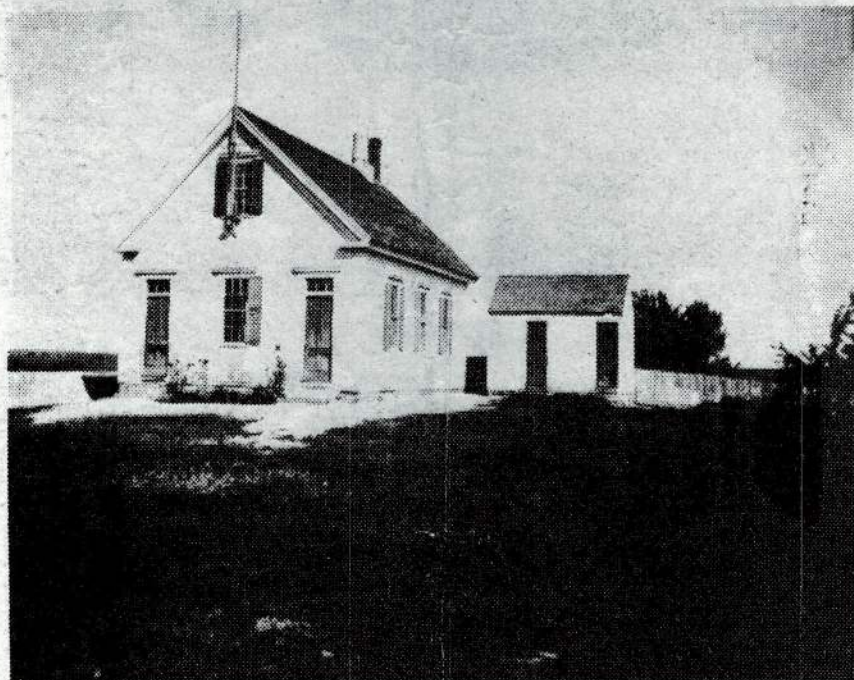
In 1822 an old brick school stood here. Water still flows from the schoolyard pump. The "1870" on the gable end refers to the original one-story wooden school before it was remodeled into a home by the Taylor family. Former occupant, Mrs. Elizabeth Cushing Taylor, wrote **Happiness To Share**, a book of children's poems which may be found at the J.V. Fletcher Library. Location: 8-9H Stony Brook Road.

Stony Brook Bridge

This graceful double-arched granite bridge spans Stony Brook. Note that no mortar was used in its construction. Picturesque in every season, it is frequently photographed. Location: 8-J Stony Brook Road.



The Stony Brook Bridge is picturesque in every season and a favorite motif for photographers. (From the book **WESTFORD RECOLLECTIONS 1729-1979** by June W. Kennedy on sale at the "Book-tique" or from the author.)



THEN - Built in 1870, this one-story wooden structure was known as Stony Brook Schoolhouse No. 2. (From the **WESTFORD RECOLLECTIONS** Series)

Fulling Mill-Brookside

Nearly all fabrics for garments were spun and woven at home on the handloom. Early deeds show that men were often weavers by trade. The cloth, after it was taken from the loom, had to be dressed by the clothier. From the headwaters of Stony Brook at Forge Pond to the mouth at the Merrimack River in North Chelmsford, there were at least seven mill sites, with a height of fall varying from eight to twenty feet. In 1724 William Chandler established a fulling and grist mill here at Brookside (Nabasset). On this spot the business of dressing cloth was carried on for 140 years. Later it became the Moore Woolen Mill, then Abbot Worsted Mill and Shawcross Freezer Locker. Today the facility is the home of Commodore Foods. Location: 9-J Brookside Road.

H.E. Fletcher Quarry

Opened in 1880, this is the largest representative granite industry in Westford. The quarry is the largest in the United States employing about 200 men. Today the ledge has sunk to a

depth of 300 feet and this pit is almost 800 feet in width. A railroad track runs the perimeter of the pit and carries the granite blocks to the company's storage lots. A ten wheel circular wire saw is used to cut sections of the ledge. All the buildings are modern. The third generation of Fletcher's is now active in its management. The Company also owns quarries in Jonesboro and North Jay, Maine, Bethel and Plymouth, Vt., Mason, Milford and Madison, N.H. and Milford, Ma. In order to fill the demands of their customers, they also import granite from Canada and Europe. Westford granite is too coarse for statuary. Because it has the power to withstand weather, it is excellent for sea walls, city

curbings, bridge abutments, piers and buildings. The granite pillars of the Quincy Market House in Boston were hewn from huge boulders in the north part of Westford. The base of the Concord Minuteman came from a quarry located near the Westford-Carlisle line. Location: 9-L Groton Road, Route 40 to West Chelmsford line. To be continued.



NOW - The Stony Brook Schoolhouse No. 2 on Stony Brook Road was remodeled into a home by the Taylor Family. (From the **WESTFORD RECOLLECTIONS** Series)