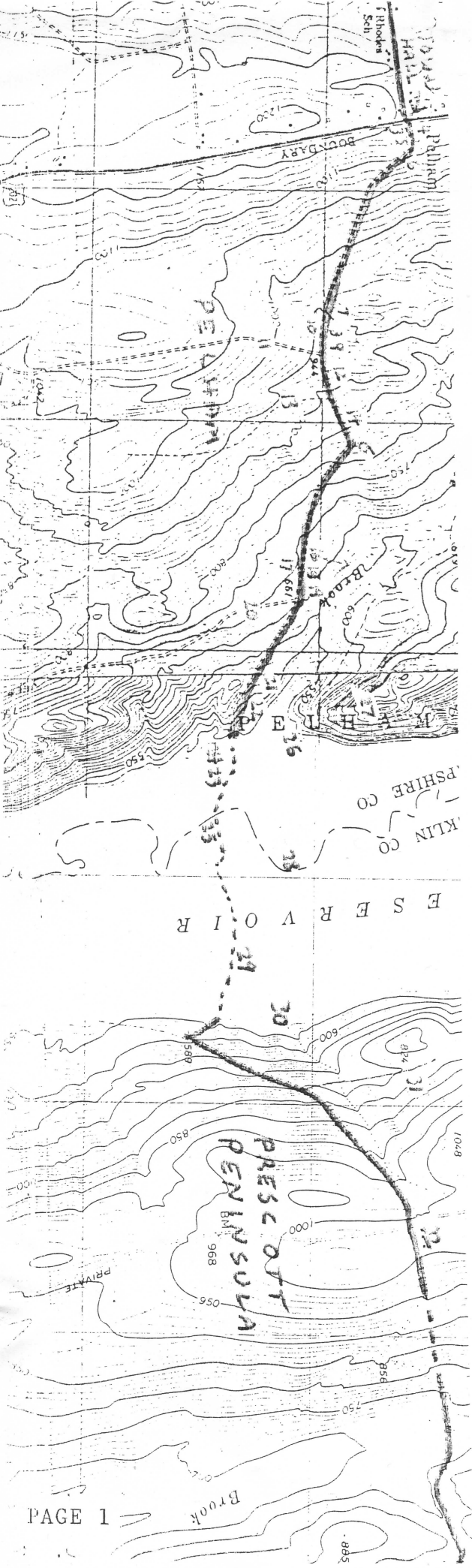
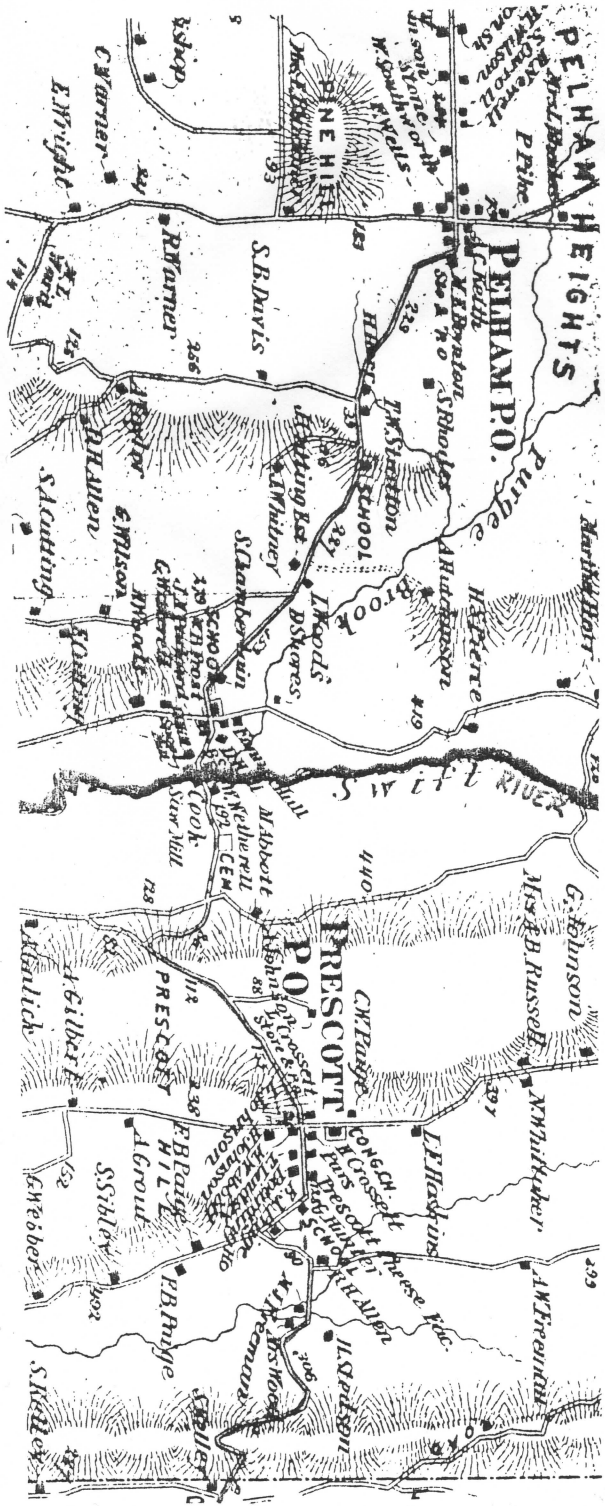


Bruce

# GATE 11: PELHAM HOLLOW ROAD

A COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL SOURCE MATERIAL

1873 Beers Atlas of Pelham and Prescott



1. PELHAM HOLLOW ROAD, GATE 11 [FORMER 6TH MASSACHUSETTS TURNPIKE - Pelham Hollow Road was probably first laid out when Pelham was surveyed shortly before settlement in 1738 or 1739. From 1799 to 1820 it served as a toll road, part of the 6th Massachusetts Turnpike from Amherst to Shrewsbury. It reverted to a county road after 1820 until it was closed for the taking of the Quabbin in the 1930's.
2. DANIEL SHAYS of Pelham, a former Revolutionary War officer, was a principle leader of Shays' Rebellion [1786-87]. The Rebellion was a region-wide uprising to redress the sufferings caused by a severe economic decline. Shays would have known Pelham Hollow Road well from his trips to Town Meeting from his home on East Hill [see no. 31]. Shays' troops also marched on this road in Jan. and Feb. 1787 after being routed by the State Militia in Springfield.
3. ALMIRA V. KEEP HOUSE - MDC photo shows the house as it looked on Dec. 20, 1932.
4. KINGMAN TAVERN - A beautiful tavern built about 1800 and needlessly torn down by the MDC in 1944. The Tavern was noted for its ballroom on the second floor. Pelham Town Meetings would often adjourn to the Tavern for liquid refreshments and "unofficial" discussions of town issues. The famous Blizzard of 1888 struck during the Town Meeting and twenty voters were stranded at the Tavern for several days until they could be plowed out. A stranded meat peddler happened to have more than an adequate supply of beef on hand.
5. GEORGIANA M. COOK HOUSE - MDC photo shows the house as it looked on Dec. 20, 1932. The tree on the left in the photo appears to still be standing.
6. BOYNTON'S STORE AND PELHAM POST OFFICE - This was the local grocery store on Pelham Hill and was the location of Pelham's Post Office. The Post Office closed in 1912. Near this site would have been the location of the original Town Pound, ca. 1800.
7. ROAD TO S. RHODES SITE - Dead-end road running north for perhaps 1/2 mile. The S. Rhodes site and two other unknown cellar holes are to be found along this road.
8. LOCATION OF HARRISON D. HARRISON SUICIDE, 1876 - See Amherst Record newsclipping for the particulars. Pelham Hollow had its share of human tragedies and accidents, like anywhere else. A journal written in the 1840's by a Pelham Hollow farmer frequently notes the deaths of neighbors, houses or barns catching fire, floods along the Swift River, along with the daily observations of nature, crops, and the heavens. Including comets.
9. HARRISON D. HARRISON SITE - This site is perhaps the same as the John L. Ely home, an MDC photo of the house on Jan. 3, 1933 is shown.
10. WELL - A stone-lined well can be found in the woods on the opposite side of the road from the Harrison D. Horr site.
11. DAVIS ROAD - This road runs for 2 1/2 miles south of Pelham Hollow Road all the way to Gate 8. It can be accessed from Gates 9 and 10, though Gate 9 can be difficult to follow. Nevertheless, Davis Road itself is a fine walking road.

12. T.W. STRATTON SITE - Cellar hole and well can be found north of Pelham Hollow Road.
13. ROAD TO J. WHITNEY SITE - Dead-end road running south for perhaps  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. Cellar hole at end of road.
14. EAST SCHOOL SITE - This was a one-room school house from about 1867 to 1934. Sally Parker taught here in 1927 and recalls that it had one pot belly stove for heat. The school building was sold by the town and eventually became a residence on South East Street in Amherst.
15. S. BAILEY SITE/"SLAVE CELLAR HOLE"/DECK BEND - The house once on this site, belonging to S. Bailey, appears on the 1860 Walling map of Pelham but is gone by the time of the 1873 Beers map. A stone-lined, "bee-hive" structure can be found just east of the cellar hole. Unconfirmed local stories tell of this structure being used to hide runaway slaves before the Civil War. "Deck Bend" is the name of the bend in Pelham Hollow Road at this point. The road is said to resemble the "bend" on the deck of a ship. Many double rippers, on their madcap dash down Pelham Hollow Road in snow from Pelham Hill, "wiped out" here on Deck Bend.
16. ROAD TO A. HUTCHINSON SITE - Connecting road to Gate 12 runs north  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile. After fording Purgee Brook [a small bridge over the brook has been removed], there is a cellar hole and a former mill site, along with one of the roads connected with Gate 12. A beaver dam and pond can also be found along this road.
17. J. CUTTING CELLAR HOLE on south side of Pelham Hollow Road.
18. LOCATION OF CLIFTON JOHNSON PHOTO taken in the 1930's [see photo]. The photograph shows Pelham Hollow Road in foreground and the Frost House in the distance. One or more trees on the right of the photo are still standing.
19. FROST FAMILY SITE on north side of Pelham Hollow Road. No cellar hole.
20. ROAD SOUTH - This road leads south past Gulf Brook and connects with Montgomery Road [a.k.a. Governor's Woods Drive]. It is perhaps  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles long with at least seven cellar holes at various spots.
21. ROAD NORTH - This road, perhaps made by the MDC, connects to Gate 12 as well as provides a path to the shore.
22. MARION SITE - The tree in the photo of this site is still standing. Note the wall in the hill behind the tree as you look over the site.
23. CONKEY-DAVIS SITE [UNDERWATER] - This was the home of Charles S. Davis at Pelham Four Corners. It was built by the Conkey Family in the late 1700's and was the birth place of Hampshire County Judge Ithamar Conkey in 1788.
24. PELHAM HOLLOW CHAPEL [UNDERWATER] - A chapel stood in Pelham Hollow for a short period of time in the late 1800's. The exact site of the building is not known, though the chapel may have been in the building that once served as the Pelham Hollow School before being replaced by East School.

25. VANSTONE' MILL SITE [UNDERWATER] - This site stood on the Prescott side of the Swift River. A bobbin factory--which gave Pelham Hollow the alternative name of "Bobbin Hollow"--stood nearby on the Pelham side.

26. SHORES' CHARCOAL KILNS - David Shores' farm and his brick charcoal kilns stood north of Purgee Brook along the present Quabbin Shore. Shores sold charcoal to a number of Springfield manufactures, such as Ames Sword and the Springfield Armory. His son, Henry [see newsclipping], was a well-known furniture maker. Henry used wood he gathered from Pulpit Hill.

27. PULPIT HILL - Hill north of Purgee Brook. This hill can also be seen from the Rte. 202 Quabbin Overlook.

28. PELHAM HOLLOW POND SITE [UNDERWATER] - This was the site of the man-made pond used by Vanstone and other mills. Apparently, this pond varied greatly in size, running as long as a half mile or so.

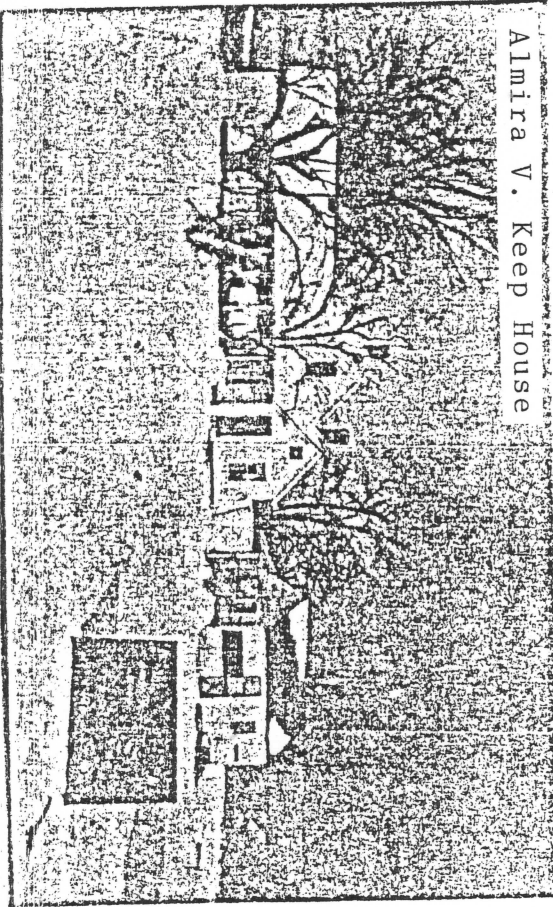
29. PELHAM HOLLOW CEMETERY [UNDERWATER] - This was the second oldest cemetery in Pelham, dating to the late 1700's, and contained the graves of many of Pelham's earliest families. William Conkey, the owner of Conkey's Tavern, was buried here, along with Dr. Nehemiah Hinds, East Hill Tavern owner and opponent of Shays' Rebellion. The cemetery became part of the town of Prescott in 1822. In the 1930's, all of the graves were disinterred and removed to Quabbin Memorial Cemetery in Ware.

30. CONKEY'S TAVERN SITE [PROBABLY UNDERWATER] - Conkey's Tavern was one of the centers of Shays' Rebellion [1786-87]. Owner William

Conkey was in sympathy with the insurgents. Here Daniel Shays--a half-mile from his house--met with other leaders of the rebellion. Shays' trained and drilled his troops on the tavern lawn. The building itself stood until 1883 when it was burned down. A reproduction of the tavern interior exists, along with an original lintel stone, in the American Museum at Bath, England.

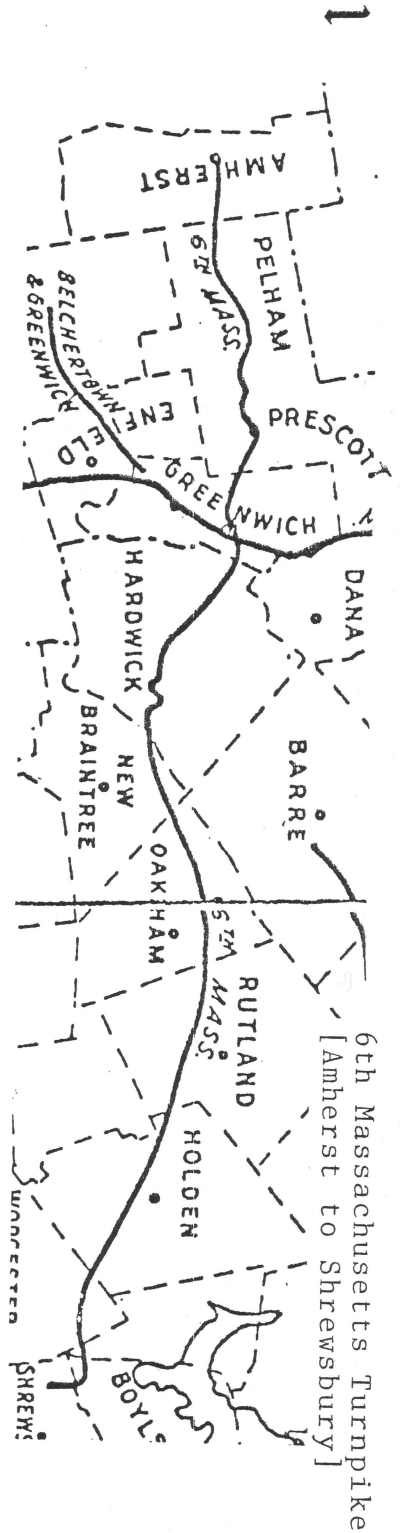
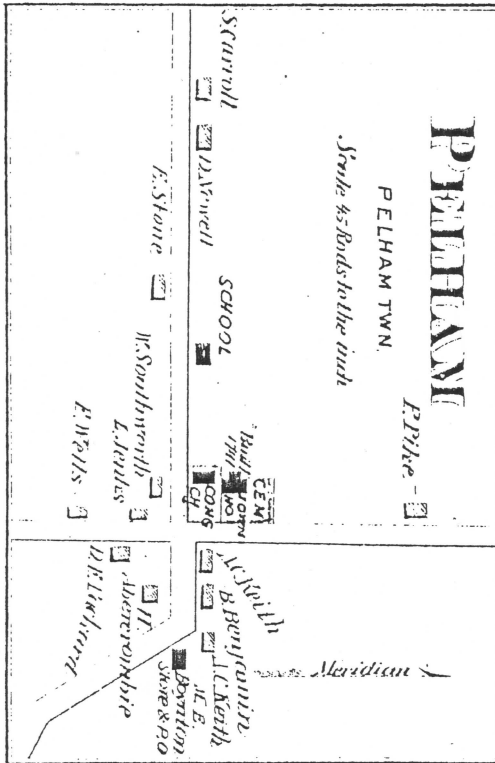
31. DANIEL SHAYS' SITE - The home of Daniel Shays stood on Pelham East Hill at the end of a dead-end road  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of the continuation of Pelham Hollow Road. In 1822 this area became part of the town of Prescott. The site today is now part of Prescott Peninsula.

32. PELHAM EAST HILL/PRESCOTT HILL - This is the site of the East Hill of Pelham. [Pelham Hill, the location of the Pelham Town Hall, was once known as the West Hill.] Daniel Shays' troops gathered, half at East Hill, half at West Hill, for six days in Jan. and Feb. 1787 after being defeated by the State Militia in Springfield. The 6th Massachusetts Turnpike ran east from this location towards Greenwich. After 1822, East Hill was the center of the town of Prescott and was known as Prescott Hill. The Skinner Museum in South Hadley was originally the Prescott Church at this location. Today, the former East Hill is home to the Five-College Observatory--the only building on the entire 10-mile long Prescott Peninsula. Daniel Shays was said to have stood at the location of Dr. Hinds' tavern sign on East Hill and toasted his men as they marched to Petersham, only to be scattered once and for all by the Militia. Shays is not known to have returned to Pelham.

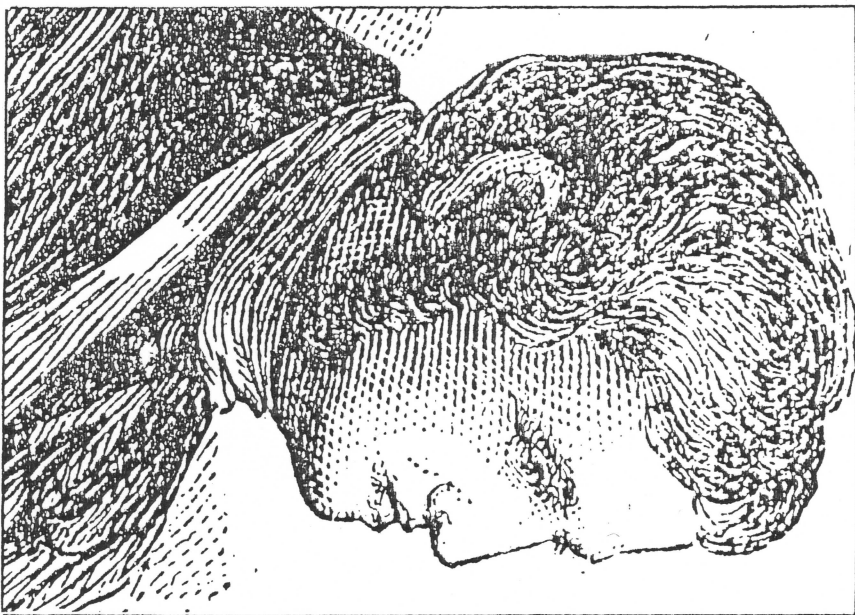


Almira V. Keep House

1873 Beers Atlas of Pelham



6th Massachusetts Turnpike [Amherst to Shrewsbury]

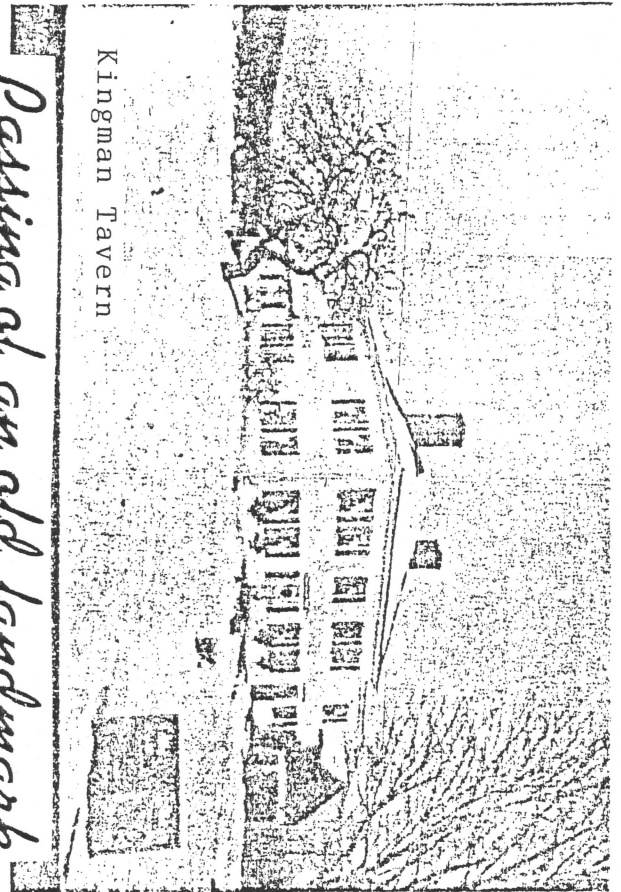


Samuel Shays

1944 Pelham Town Report

*Passing of an old landmark*

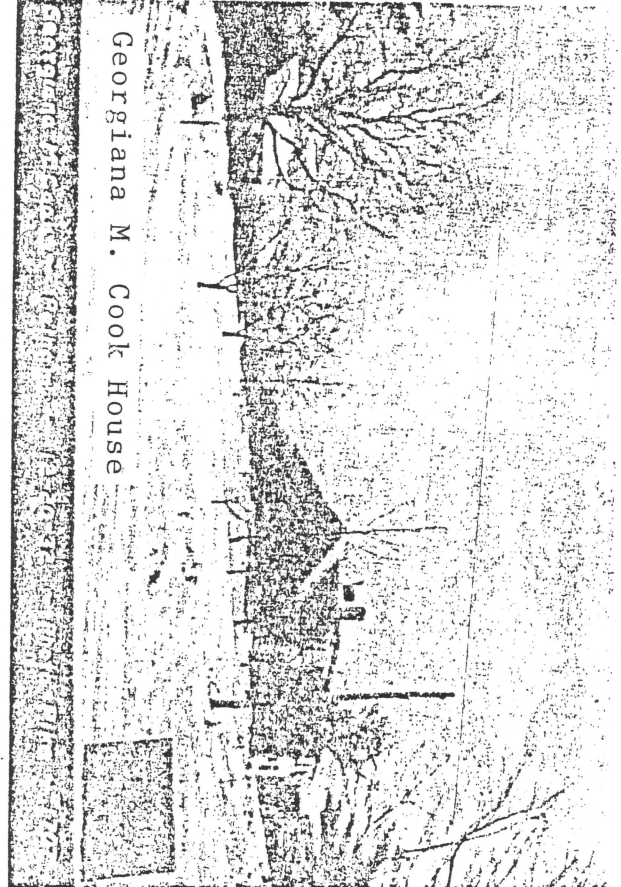
Kingman Tavern



The exact date of the building of the old Kingman Tavern is not known. We do know that in 1801 it was "Voted to sell the land belonging to the Town East of the Graveyard and North of the turnpike"—"Voted to sell land at Publick Vendue". We also know that the house was built by Cyrus Kingman, whose younger brother, Martin Kingman was a popular innkeeper on the West Hill as early as 1820. The Kingmans continued to keep tavern here for years. In 1841 the house was purchased by Calvin Eaton. One of Mr. Eaton's daughters, Mrs. Cornelia Holland, says that she well remembers seeing the date 1820 in large white figures on the wall, when going upstairs from the store to the store chamber. This was in the East all of the house. Mrs. Holland also says that at one time you could count fourteen church steeples from the roof of the house. Mr. Eaton used the property for a store and tavern until 1883 and continued to make his home here until 1870, when he sold it to Ariel Keith for a residence. Here Mr. Keith and his son Willard served the town as town clerk for forty years. The next owners were Mr. and Mrs. Marion Richardson. They, with the Raymond Robinson family, lived here until it was necessary, because the property was on the water shed, to sell it to the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission. Although used as a residence for over seventy years the structural changes in the house were few and to the end the old dance hall on the second floor remained intact.

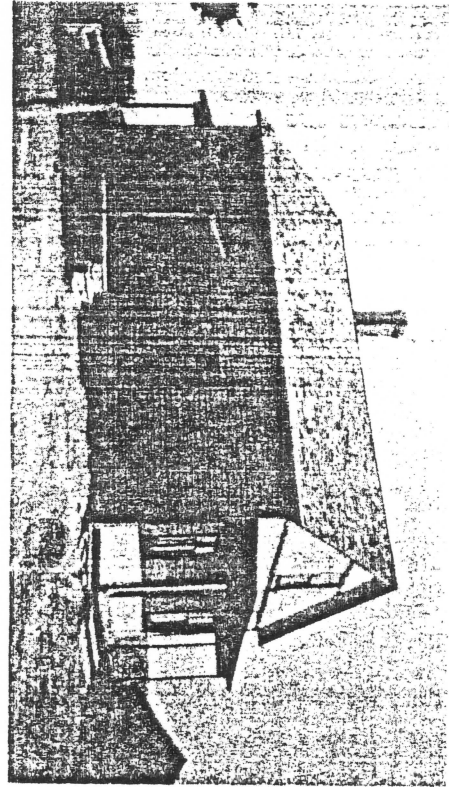
At one of our town meetings a vote was taken asking the Metropolitan to spare this building. We received an encouraging reply. In 1943 in reply to a letter from an interested group Mr. Molt, secretary of the Commission, said, "This Commission has permitted the house to stand and will do so, during the present war emergency period." It was, therefore, with much surprise and disappointment that we saw, in 1944, this building removed from town.

Georgiana M. Cook House



MDC Photo

Pelham Store and Post Office



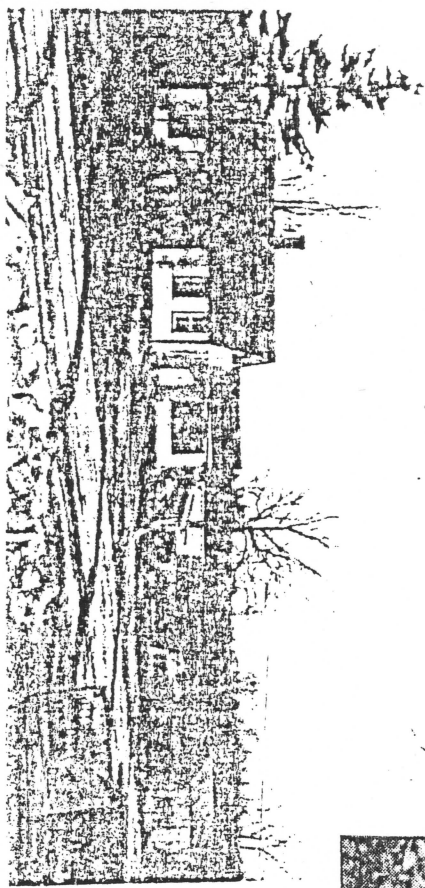
Donald W. Howe, Qabbun: The Lost Valley

# 8 The Amherst Record, 1876.

Sept. 29, 1876

**Pelham.**  
 Harrison D. Horr committed suicide last Thursday morning, by shooting himself. Mr. Horr had been a little unsettled in mind since Spring, yet not enough to be noticed except by his own family or intimate friends. On Thursday morning he told his wife that he had a mind to go up in the bushes a short distance and see if he could find some partridge; he accordingly took his double-barreled, shot-gun and started. Not long after his wife heard the report of a gun, and not feeling easy about him, went to the next neighbor's, Mr. Stratton's, and they, notwithstanding there was anything wrong, delayed going in search of Mr. H. for some time, but on going in the direction from which the report of the gun came, found him in the bushes near the roadside, dead. He had discharged both barrels of his gun by trying a string to a bush, connecting the string to the trigger, and placing the muzzle against his heart, leaned back and the contents of both barrels entered his heart, causing instant death without any doubt. Mr. Horr was 31 years of age, and leaves a family.

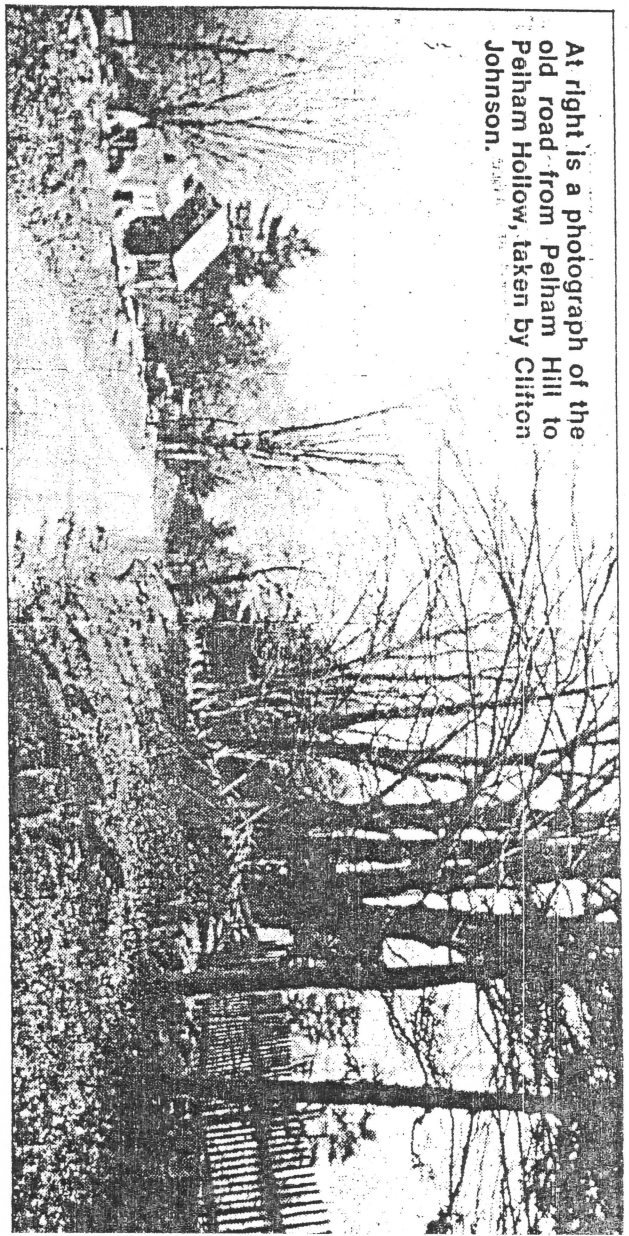
# 9 Harrison D. Horr House or John L. Ely House



MDC Photo

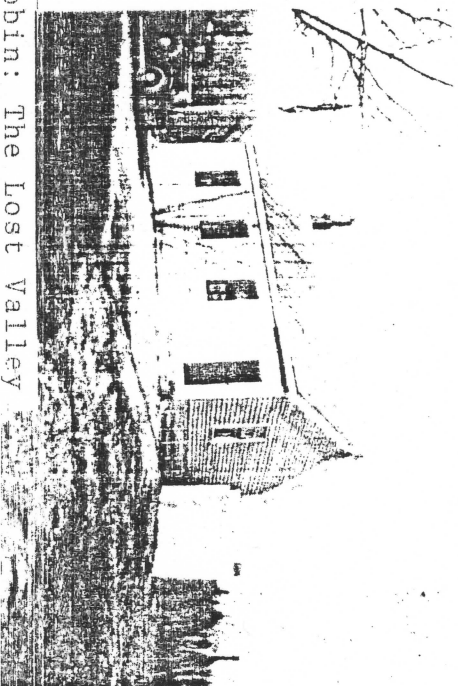
# 18

At right is a photograph of the old road from Pelham Hill to Pelham Hollow, taken by Clifton Johnson.



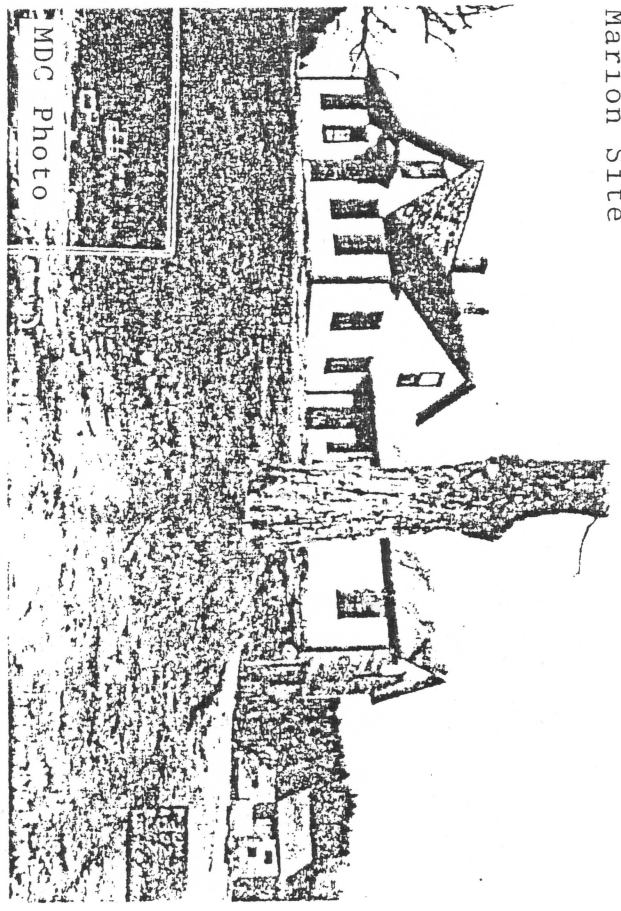
# 14

PELHAM HILL SCHOOL, PELHAM  
 Howe, Quabbin: The Lost Valley



# 22

Marion Site



MDC Photo



**DAVIS-WARE GROUP.**  
Back Row—Charles Nutting Davis and Mrs. Josephine Davis. Front Row—Mrs. Mary A. Davis and Mrs. Lucy A. Ware, Holding Thelma Josephine Davis.

There was an interesting gathering of relatives in the home of Mr and Mrs Charles S. Davis of Pelham Hollow recently when the generations, descendants of Mrs. Mary Amelia Davis, sat at the same table and congratulated one another on the fact that theirs was an unusual family gathering.

Mrs. Mary Amelia Davis, great-great-grandmother to the youngest of the gathering, Thelma Josephine Davis of West Somerville, is in her 90th year. She was born in Springfield, Sept. 20, 1831. Her father, at that time known as (Huntley) Packard, at that time among the most prominent residents of Springfield, and waits anxiously each morning for the arrival of the rural delivery mail carrier so she can learn the news.

Mrs. Lucy B. (Prest) Ware, great-grandmother of little Thelma Josephine Davis, and daughter of Mrs. Mary Amelia Davis of Pelham Hollow, lives on a pretty farm in the town of Enfield. She was born in Wilbraham, Nov. 10, 1842. She has been married three times. Her first marriage was March 19, 1862, when she married Abner Nutting of Brimfield. He died May 22, 1882, and on May 30, 1888, she married Andrew J. Towne of Enfield. Mr. Towne died June 14, 1892, and on Nov. 2, 1893, her marriage to Harrison B. Ware of Springfield took place.

Mrs. Josephine (Nutting) Davis of Pelham Hollow, grandmother of little Thelma Josephine Davis of Somerville, and granddaughter of Mrs. Mary Amelia Davis, who makes her home with her, was born in West Brimfield, Aug. 11, 1863, on the banks of the Queboag river in a house that has sheltered five generations of Nuttings. She was married to Charles S. Davis of Amherst Nov. 9, 1881.

Charles Nutting Davis, the fourth generation, father of little Thelma, and great-grandchild to Mrs. Mary Amelia Davis of Pelham Hollow, was born in Amherst March 3, 1883. He married Miss Dessa Richardson of West Somerville, Feb. 1, 1908. Their home is in West Somerville. Mr. Davis is employed as engineer in the Boston school of technology and is well known in that section.

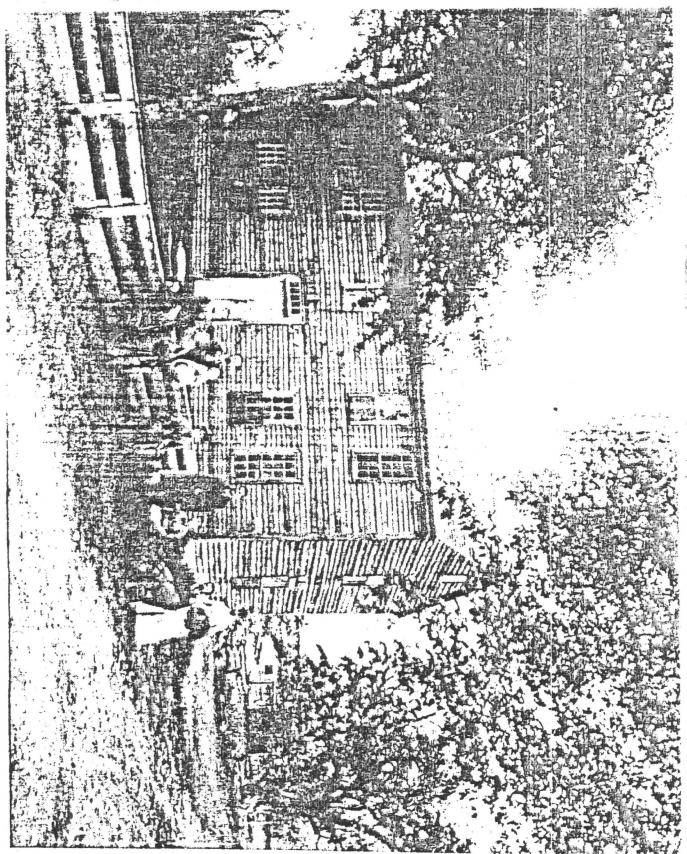
Little Thelma Josephine Davis, was born in Revere July 21, 1909.

**Fashionable**  
**MRS.**  
**CHARLES DAVIS**  
**ITHAMAR**  
**CONKEY HOUSE**

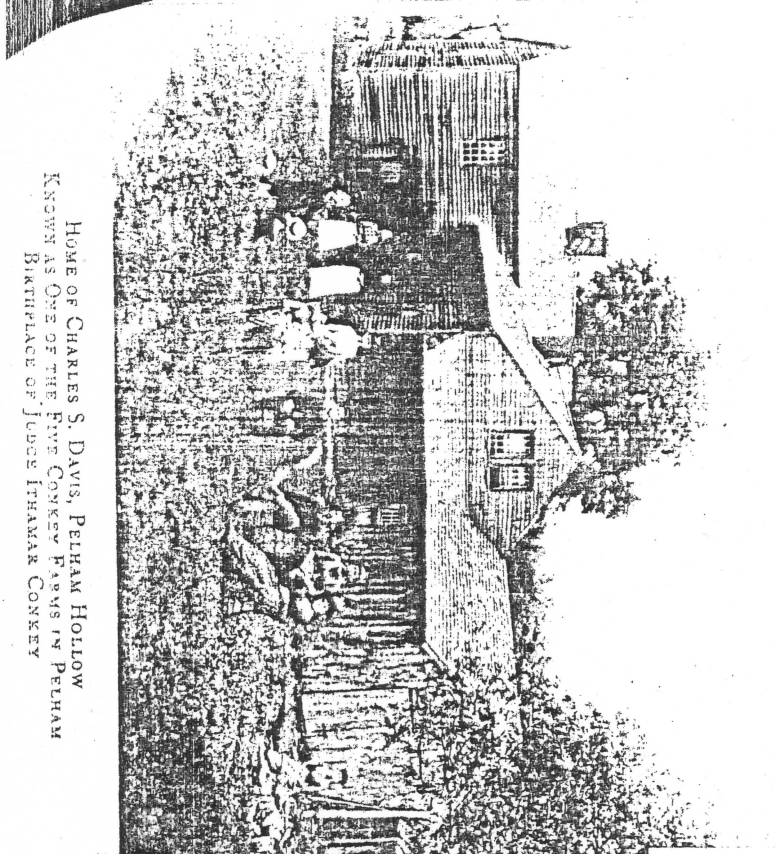
field, and were the ancestors of many of the prominent residents of Springfield at the present time.

Mrs. Davis has twice been a wife, but is a widow at the present time. In 1840 she married William Butler Frost of Springfield. He died Feb. 13, 1886. On Feb. 1, 1889, she married George W. Davis of Wilbraham, who died a few years later. Mrs. Davis makes her home with her granddaughter, who is interested in religious and charitable work and has charge of a large colony of state boys at her home. Although the elder Mrs. Davis is in her 90th year, she is in good health and assists about the house.

She is a great collector of old jewelry, and is interested in what is going on in the jewelry world. She has been a subscriber for "Treasures of Pelham"

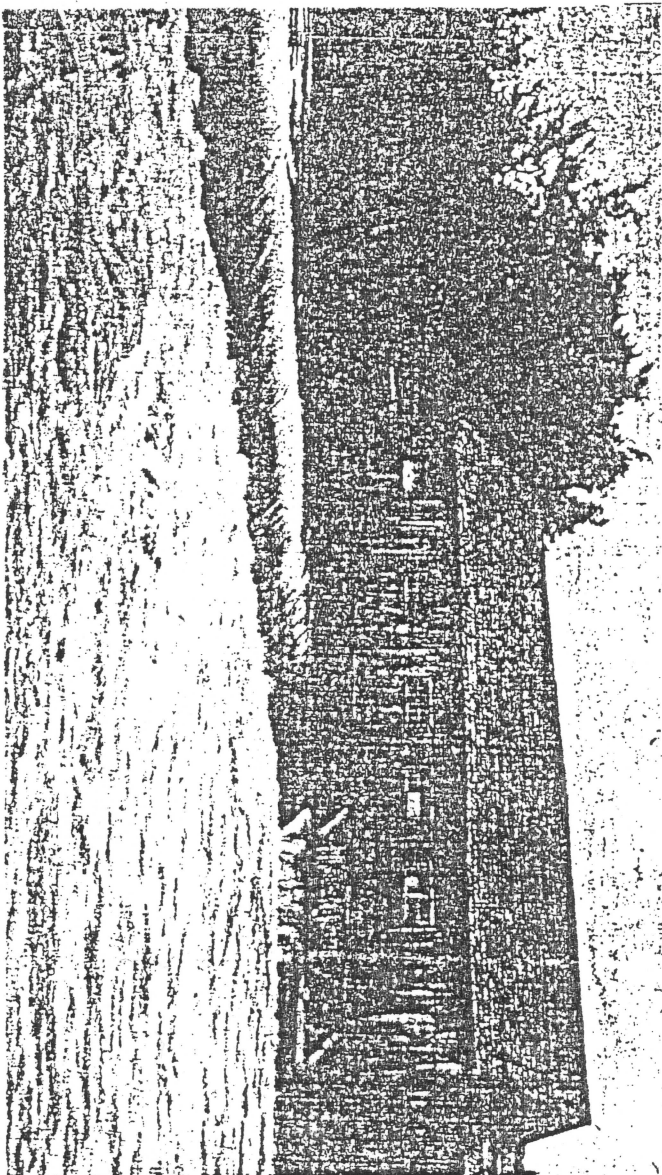


Howe, Quabbin: The Lost Valley

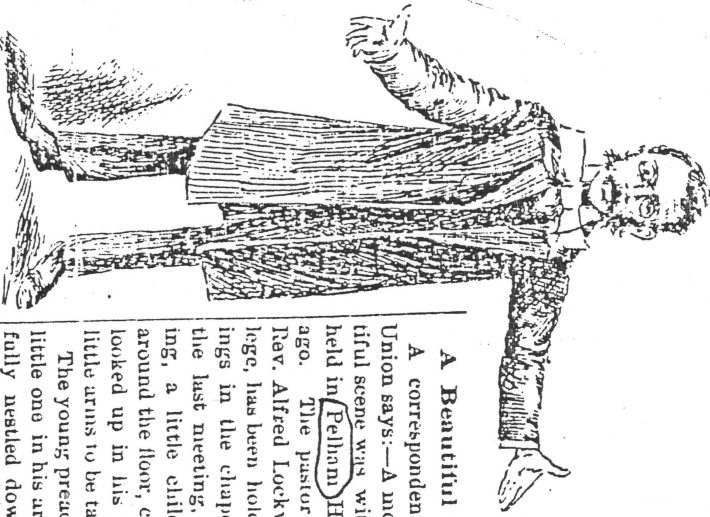


HOME OF CHARLES S. DAVIS, PELHAM HOLLOW KNOWN AS ONE OF THE FIVE CONKEY FARMS IN PELHAM BIRTHPLACE OF JUDGE ITHAMAR CONKEY





AMHERST THROUGH THE YEARS-Another picture postcard, entitled "High Water, Pelham, Mass.," shows Vanstone's Mill on the west branch of the Swift river. This picture was identified for the Record by William Chaffee when he brought in the map showing the location of Shore's kiln. The mill was on Prescott Rd. and, like the kiln, now lies beneath Quabbin reservoir.



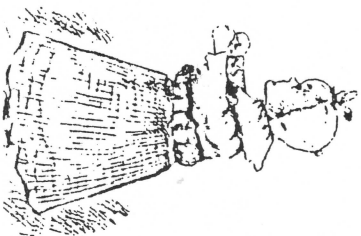
**A Beautiful Object Lesson.**

A correspondent of the Springfield Union says:—A most touching and beautiful scene was witnessed at a meeting held in Pelham Hollow a few evenings ago. The pastor of Pelham church, Rev. Alfred Lockwood of Amherst college, has been holding a series of meetings in the chapel in the hollow. At the last meeting, while he was speaking, a little child that was creeping around the floor, crept to the platform, looked up in his face, and put up her little arms to be taken.

The young preacher paused, lifted the little one in his arms, and, as she trustfully nestled down upon his shoulder, proceeded with his address, which was an earnest plea to his hearers to seek safety and peace in faith in and service for the Church.

The scene was thrillingly impressive, as the young man with his expressive face all aglow with nobility of purpose and love of human souls, stood pleading with the unconverted, while the white-robed, white-souled little child nestled confidently in his arms, herself a beautiful living illustration of the faith and trust which was the subject of the address and of the purity of purpose which inspired it.

The singularly striking scene will long be remembered by those who saw it.



PELHAM'S OLD CHARCOAL KILNS.

Half a Century Ago Making Charcoal Was a Flourishing Industry in This Little Hampshire Country Town.



SHORE'S KILN, Pelham once turned out 50 to 150 thousand bushels of charcoal a year. This part of Pelham now lies below Quabbin waters.

26 Shore's Kiln, Pelham Now Under Quabbin Waters

Several area residents responded to the Record's request for information on Shore's kiln pictured with the Amherst Through the Years column on August 4.

This section of Pelham in now under Quabbin waters, Mrs. Sadie Mitchell of North Amherst tells us. She lived in this neighborhood until she was 19, watched the kiln in operation, played in the fields and as a child explored the whole area.

William Chaffee of Pelham drew us a map of the roads leading to Shore's kiln. The map shows that a road once led directly east from the present blinking lights at the junction of Rte. 202 and Amherst Rd., Pelham. Known as Prescott Rd., it led eventually to the town of Prescott, also now under Quabbin, but one first came to a four corners. There one turned north to Shore's kiln about a half-mile away.

Mr. Chaffee tells us that the Shores made 50 to 150 thousand bushels of charcoal each year. It was taken to Endfield, in horse drawn vans and there loaded onto the Springfield-Athol train and shipped to Springfield to Smith and Wesson and the Springfield Armory.

The Springfield-Athol was a branch line, according to Mrs. Mitchell, and there was a double track at Endfield where the up and down trains passed each other twice a day.

The Shore's kiln and homeplace were located in a hollow called Bobbinville, probably because bobbins were once made there. Mrs. Mitchell says in her explorations she once found an old bobbin near the ruin of a mill on the Pelham side of the west branch of Swift river.

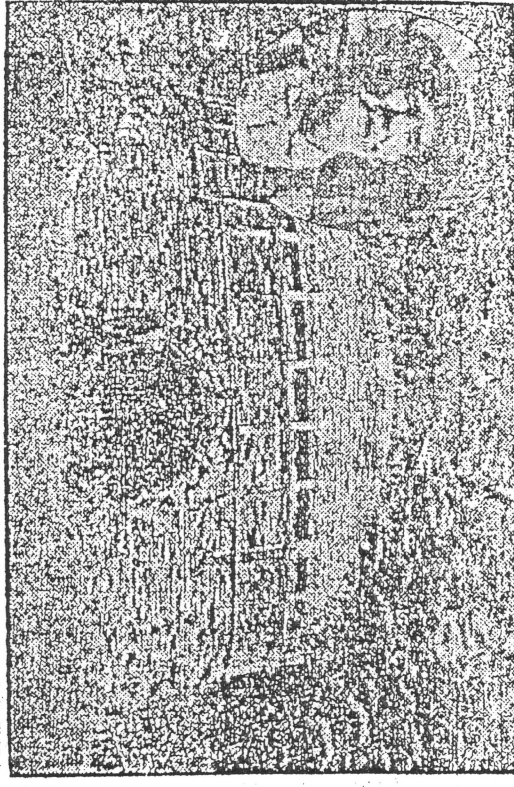
She remembers Grandpa and Grandpa Shores and their five or six children. Each Monday, she says, Grandpa loaded the kiln with four-foot logs and started the fires. He stayed at the kiln 24-hours a day, sleeping in a small shack and keeping an eye on the burning logs. The charcoal was ready on Saturday. Grandpa was a deeply religious man, she adds, and there was no work done on Sunday by the family or the hired men.

Mrs. Mitchell was the former Sadie Tillson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Tillson who lived on Prescott Rd. near the four corners. She recalls picking blueberries in the meadow where the kiln was located and once was chased from the spot by a "gentleman cow" whom she avoided by rolling quickly under the fence.

Mr. Chaffee remembers five of the Shore children. There was Silas, he recalls, who made hand-some chairs and tables, including a masonic chair which may still be around Amherst. The emblem on the seat was not painted on but was an inlay containing 31 or 32 varieties of wood. Silas also fashioned a checkerboard stand for someone in Amherst with the squares inlaid in light and dark woods.

The other members of the family were Charles and Benjamin and two sisters, Mary, who married Willard Keith, and Nellie, who married a Woolcott.

Mrs. Edwin Whipple also called the Record with information about Shore's kiln. The spots mentioned both in the history of Pelham and the history of Quabbin, she reports.



ONE OF THE CIRCULAR KILNS USED IN MAKING CHARCOAL, AND DAVID SHORES, AN OLD CHARCOAL MAKER, IN THE INSERT.

In one corner of Hampshire County is the hamlet called Pelham, little known to the people throughout the State generally, but never forgotten when once visited, as it is one of nature's beauty spots.

Today everything is peaceful and quiet throughout the village, and every time an automobile or a carriage passes along the road which leads through the town, the natives stop to look and wonder who is in the vehicle.

Fifty years ago this little town was a busy community with one of the largest charcoal factories in these parts; today the remains of the old kilns are covered with weeds and wildflowers. The old charcoal factory is owned by David Shores, who, as a boy, helped his father make the charcoal and cart it to Springfield to market.

Two of the kilns are circular and will hold about 500 bushels of wood which would make 200 bushels of charcoal.

There is another large kiln rectangular in shape.

The makers of charcoal 50 years ago according to Mr. Shores, used to fill the kilns with green wood and after placing a little dry wood at the bottom would light the huge piles within the brick houses. The entrances were bricked up and only a small opening in the top remained.

The size of the fire was determined by the color of the smoke and when the fire reached a certain point the top hole was bricked up and one opened a fire door at the bottom so that the fire would burn down gradually from the top.

Mr. Shores says that when used to make the best quality of charcoal which sold at wholesale at about 10 cents a bushel, it took about a week to make one batch of charcoal and the finished product was put in huge wagons drawn by oxen to Springfield. Hobbes and Chicago were the principal markets for the charcoal, which was sold to the local dealers who distributed it to the local markets.

# PELHAM HOLLOW MAN IS A MAKER OF FURNITURE



HENRY D. SHORES.

ENFIELD, March 23.—A few miles up the west branch of Swift river, beloved of the fishermen, lies one of the most interesting little hamlets in all New England—Pelham Hollow. Years ago the Hollow was busier than it now is, but today there is not a lacy person there, no matter how old or how young. Degeneracy there may be in the hill towns, but you do not find it in "The Holler." Under the perpendicular, frowning cliffs of the Rattlesnake mountain on one side, and the dignified supervision of Old Put on the other, there are many strenuous struggles with isolation and loneliness, and the good people of "The Holler" have been victorious in all of them. But of all the struggles there, it is to be doubted these is one that commands such attention and respect as that of Henry D. Shores, who, crippled and suffering,

smoothed until a flea would slip on them. If Pelham Hollow were not so far away from the rest of civilization Mr. Shores would be much busier. However, he does not complain, for he has sent his furniture as far west as Chicago, and it graces homes in Brooklyn. The time consumed in making a chair makes it impossible for his output to be large, but every chair is made "for keeps," and there never has been a complaint. The prices he charges are so low the workers where the profit comes in, and doubtless it is a small margin. But there is much comfort in the work for Mr. Shores, and he finds much to enjoy at 68 years, despite the misfortunes he has endured. When one just looks about Pelham Hollow and sees how content the people seem to be with their little activities and their farming, he becomes convinced that this is a place where civilization is

"Until seven years ago I was one of the most expert heavy movers in the vicinity of Boston. I made his home in Hyde Park, and was a superintendent for a firm that would guarantee to move anything anywhere, regardless of size, shape or weight. Trolley cars 40 feet long, heavy machinery weighing 15 tons and more, Giant boilers, all were the same to Mr. Shores. But one cold, drizzling winter day, while he was driving into Boston with a heavy load, his feet were frozen, and that the muscles and nerves were affected. When he recovered he was unable to continue his work, and he came back to the scene of his birth, "The Hollow," and is making a brave and successful battle against misfortune.

Mr. Shores makes chairs, checkers, boards, tables and other furniture, all of which he inlays most artistically with beautiful foreign woods. Every chair he makes on honor, entirely by hand, and there is not a stick that goes into it, except the inlaid woods, that did not grow on his father's land near by. Curly maple, rock maple and oak are the principal woods he uses for the bodies of the chairs. For inlaying he uses cocobolo, mahogany, ebony, cherry,ignum, yucca, boxwood, California redwood, black walnut and other beautiful woods. So hard are most of them that they cannot be planed, but each piece must be carefully filed, sanded and scraped. He inserts them in all kinds of designs, and when a chair leaves his little shop by the name-side he guarantees it to last longer than the life of the man who takes it away.

"When Mr. Shores came back to "The Hollow" for a long time he was troubled, what to do to keep his mind occupied. Although his feet did not permit of much moving about, his hands were skillful, and merely to pass away the time he began making doll's chairs. His first attempts did not satisfy him, but the product sold well, and he kept on,

gradually making the chairs more artistic and complicated in the inlaid designs. Soon it occurred to him that if he could make the small chairs there should be no reason why he could not make large ones, and he tried his hand at it. Fishermen passing the little shop would stop to look in on the industrious man, and they parveled at his work. They bought his chairs, and soon others heard of him and he had a market for the goods.

"The wood in that chair grew right over there," Mr. Shores said recently to a Union reporter, indicating a chair and pointing toward the riverbank. "Every stick in it has been seasoned and worked until it will last forever. All the wood I use grew in our own woodlots, except the seats of the fire-side chairs, which are whole pieces of white pine."

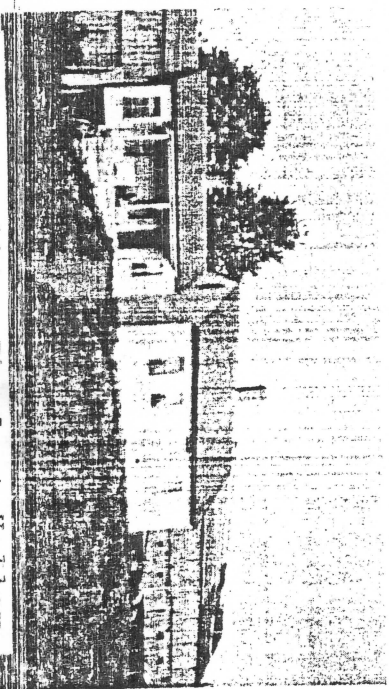
"How long does it take you to make a chair?"

"Usually six or seven days," he replied. "It depends a good deal on the amount of inlaid work put into them. Some take longer than others. Some men want the insignia of their lodges put on them, others want their initials, and others have special designs. The toughest job I did was putting the different emblems of the Order of the Mystic Shrine in a chair, and it is pretty hard to put in the links of the Odd Fellows' order. Of course those chairs cost more than the plain inlaid ones."

The inlaid chairs Mr. Shores is making entail a great deal of labor. They have tall, rounding backs, with thin rungs, wide arms and comfortable seats. He makes them from a model 130 years old, and they are as comfortable as they are artistic.

Mr. Shores' rockers are of the same character—solid, comfortable and substantial. Most of them have solid seats, inlaid with wide strips of beautifully grained wood. His checkers and boards are also marvels of patience and ingenuity.

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HOME OF  
DAVID SHORE,  
PELHAM

Howe. Ouabbin: The Lost Valley

# AMHERST INTERESTED IN PELHAM CEMETERY

## Bobbinville Burying Ground Resting Place of Many Famous Hill Folk

From Our Special Correspondent  
Amherst, Dec. 19.—The fate of the Pelham Hollow or the Bobbinville cemetery, as some prefer to call it, hangs in the balance. This is one of the 20 or more cemeteries in the district taken over by the Metropolitan water commission for the huge reservoir to supply Boston and will in due time be removed. In the Pelham Hollow cemetery there are 300 or more grave-stones indicating the resting place of many of the early settlers of the town, some of whom were importantly connected with its development.

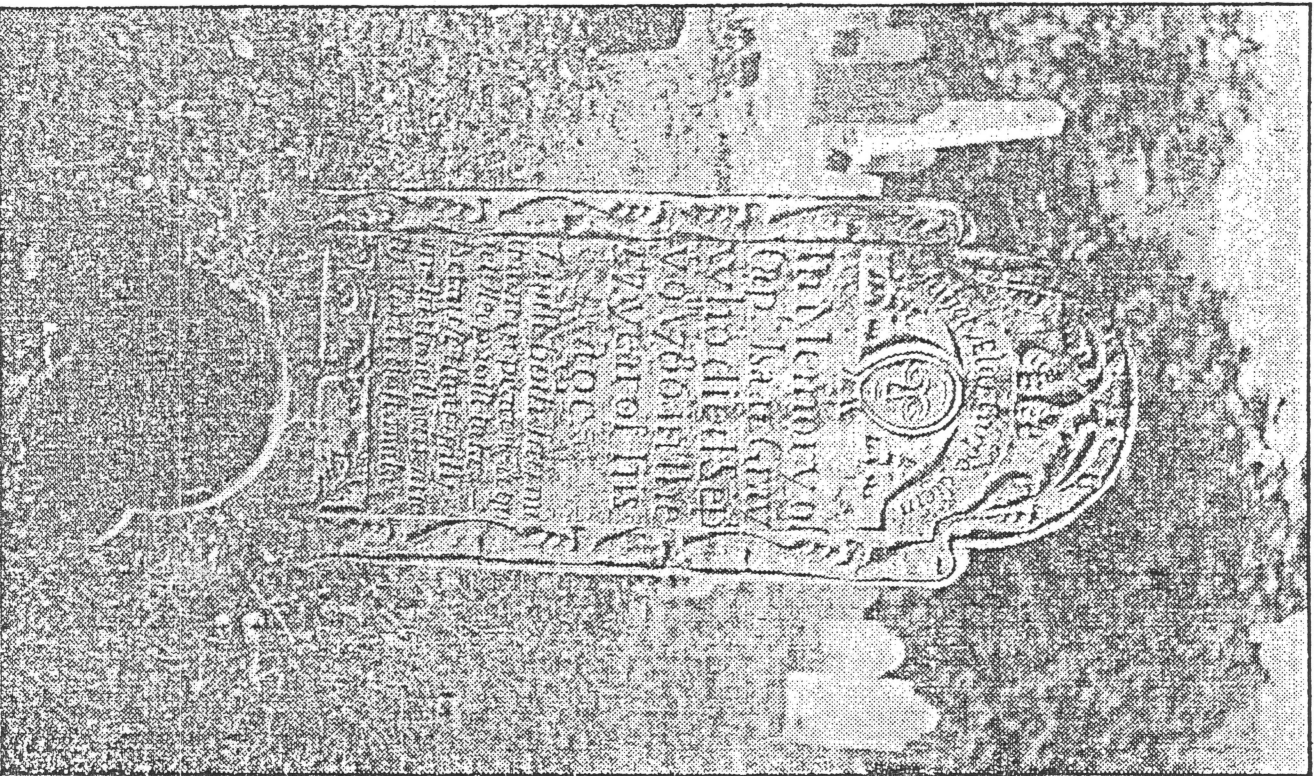
Some of the stones are elaborately carved and carry long inscriptions in Latin or English. Others are of common field stones, erected by none the less loving hands.

The cemetery lies on the direct road from Pelham hill to Prescott hill, in what is commonly called Bobbin Hollow. It was opened as a burial place about 1780 and overlooks the west branch of the Swift river. Less than half a mile away is the famous Conkey tavern, associated in history with Daniel Shays and his insurrection.

William Conkey, the first landlord of the famous tavern, lies in the burying ground under discussion, and is only one of 29 persons of the name of Conkey to find a final resting place here. The Conkeys lived to a good old age, in spite of the floors of the winter beams and of the lack of comforts as one looks upon them today. The inscriptions bear the ages of 70, 85, 77, and so on, men and women.

The people of Pelham, the "top of the world town," are worried. The Metropolitan water commission has brought several acres lying beside the new road being laid out from Belchertown to Ware, to accommodate travel after the district is flooded, in which it proposes to lay the pipes from all of the condemned cemeteries. The spot is beautiful and there is no doubt that the new burying ground will be honored and well cared for. But the people of Pelham, and the descendants of the early settlers who are buried in Bobbin Hollow, think it fitting that the stanch and sturdy people who sacrificed so much that the town of their choice might live should be moved to a place within that town.

One of the Old-Time Gravestones  
In the Pelham Hollow Cemetery



The cemetery as it lies in the town of Prescott, but when most of the graves were laid it was part of Pelham and the ground is occupied entirely by Pelhamites. Prescott got off from its mother town in 1827. The Metropolitan plans for a water supply have caused the complete sacrifice of Prescott as a town; its records have been put into the care of the Pelham Old Home association for safe and permanent care. It is to be hoped that a way will be found to keep the inhabitants of this cemetery in the town.

There are possibilities. For instance, if any descendant of a person buried there makes a request for the removal of a grave or graves to any specified place, the commission will comply with that request. Miss Alice Collins, secretary of the Pelham Old Home association, would be glad to correspond with any person making such a request. The descendants of these early Pelhamites are scattered from one part of the world to another. Several such requests have already come from far corners. The simple request is all that is needed with it for the person making the request.

The Abercrombies, descendants of the first minister to serve the Scotch Presbyterian church which showed its spite on Pelham hill early in the town's history, are buried in this cemetery. Abercrombies married Conkeys, and Conkeys married Abercrombies, and Jeremiah Hinds, a physician and man of affairs in the town, lies buried here, as does his "relic," Anna. Dr Hinds owned a tavern in addition to being at this tavern that Daniel Shays found shelter after his ill-fated raid on the Springfield armory. Dr Hinds was knocked to the ground by a blow from a stick in the hands of the notorious Stephen Burroughs, when he was pursued to the barn in Rutland, after he had outraged the good people of Pelham by preaching a preacher. The fact that he had been paid for one sermon which he had never delivered irritated the sensibilities of the Scotch temperance. Young Burroughs delivered his famous hay-mow sermon on this occasion.

The whole business was nearing a settlement, with the proposition that the imposter spend the money which had been forwarded to him at the bar for the benefit of the thirsty ones, including the pursuing Pelhamites, and the Rutlanders, who had joined the cause. By this time, however, Dr Hinds had recovered from the blow which had felled him and still smarting under the pain, was outraged at the turn which things were taking. Further discussion under his leader-

ship brought the decision to take Burroughs back to Pelham, but he escaped to Attleboro, and that was the end of the whole affair as far as Pelham was concerned. Burroughs later turned counterfeiter, but that is another story.

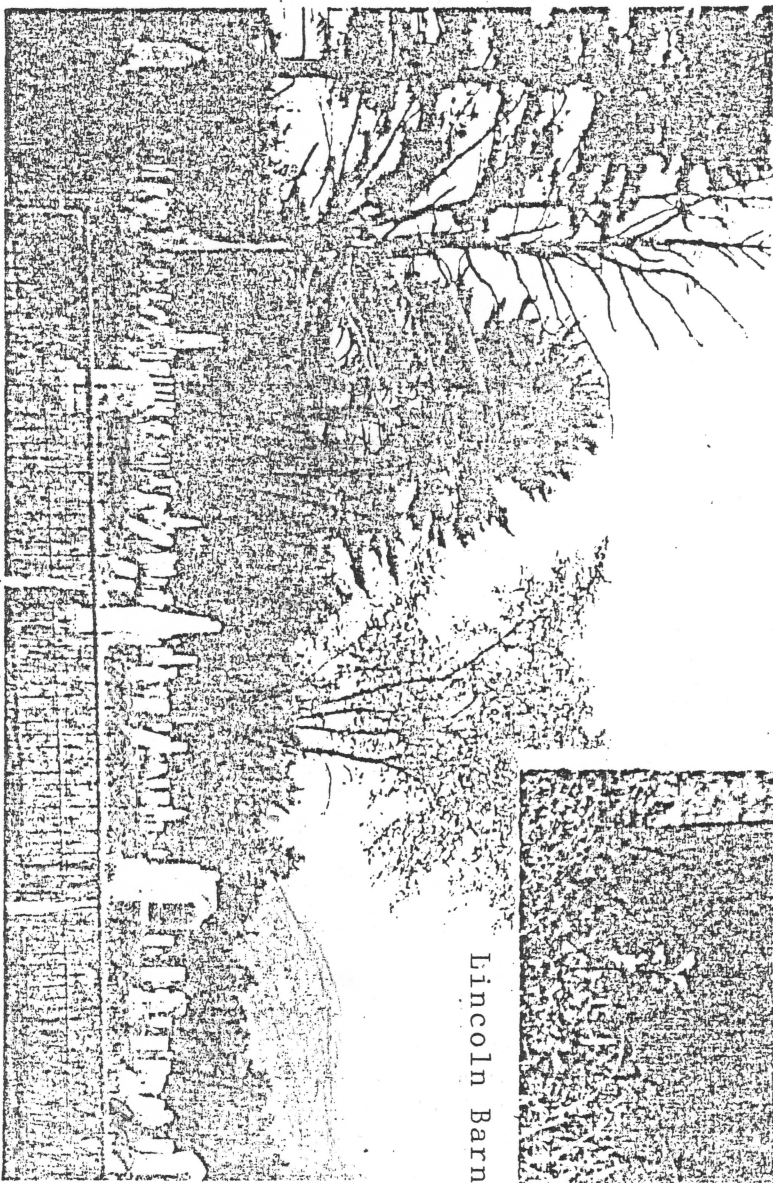
A lonely little grave in one corner of the cemetery is that of an unnamed child, whose family soon after its death left by covered wagon for the Western frontier. There are many interesting inscriptions, similar to those that one finds in all old cemeteries. One stone simply carries the information that a young man's grandmother died at such a time, and below is his name inscribed. Whether the stone marks the grave of the grandmother or of the young man is left to the imagination.

The Pelham Old Home Day association had hoped that the water commission might make a special disposition in the matter of this particular burying ground. Miss Collis has written to the commission in its interest, and although her letter was mailed soon after the annual meeting of the association in September, she has received no reply. The association jays its hopes in the fact that some years ago, a descendant of the Abercrombie family presented the town of Pelham a tract of land adjoining the Cook-Johnson burying ground, which lies outside of the water district, and it provides ample room for the accommodation of the graves from the Bobbitville cemetery. It would seem a simple matter to plan for their removal to this plot instead of to the new tract in the Belchertown-Ware highway, provided by the commission.

In this case of course, the town of Pelham would have to provide the perpetual care. In the case of most of the cemeteries having to be moved, the town itself has been sacrificed, but since Pelham stands increasingly strong as a municipality, it would seem critical to keep its history intact. Prof. Frank A. Waugh in his address on the occasion of the last meeting of the Old Home Day association referred to the town as although "once a self-sustaining farming community, its future, like that of many another town has become a problem to be solved."

"It is no longer supplying the necessities of life in great quantities, and it is possible that its future mission is in supplying luxuries of natural beauty and recreational opportunities," he said. And the time is coming when these things, like the automobile and the telephone will no longer be considered luxuries, but necessities. In this way Pelham may be able to render as great a service to American civilization in the future as she did, in another way, in the past.

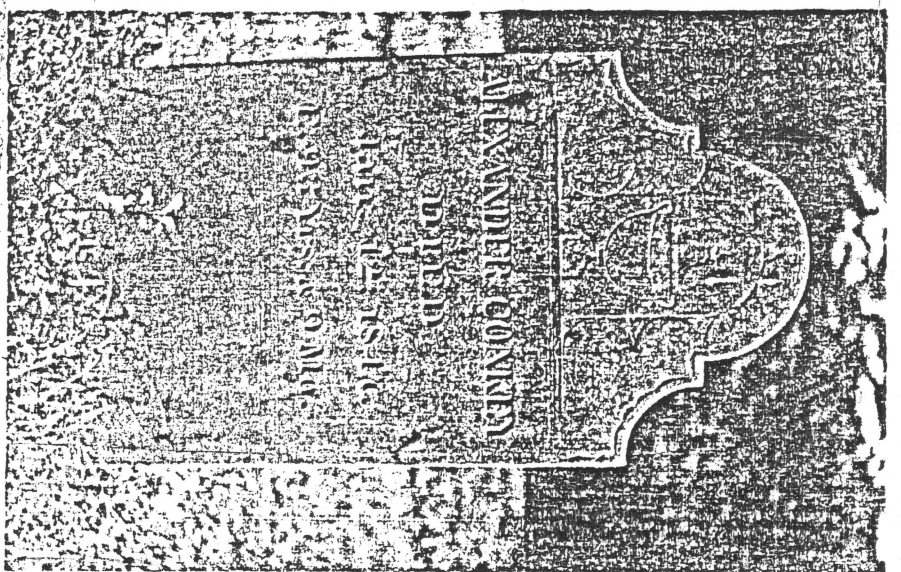
## Lincoln Barnes Photo



The Old Cemetery in Bobbin Hollow

Pelham Hollow Cemetery  
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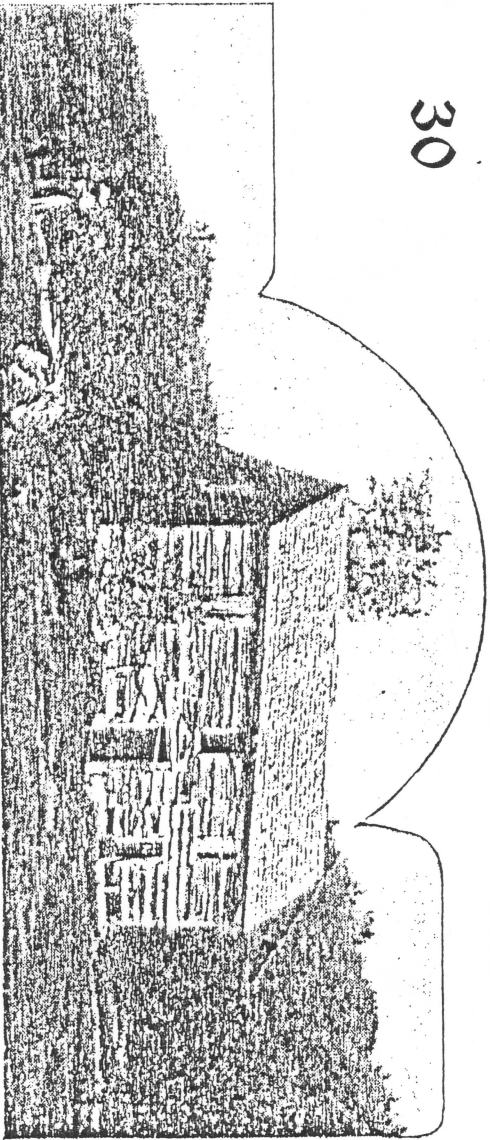
Lincoln Barnes Photo

# Conkey's Tavern

IN PELHAM

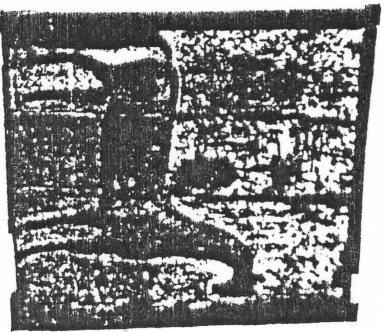
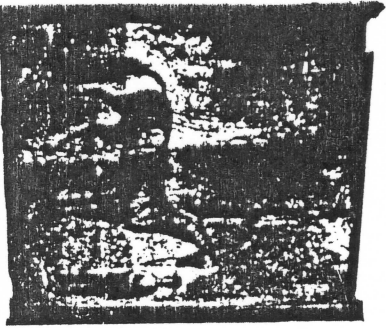
1758 - 1883

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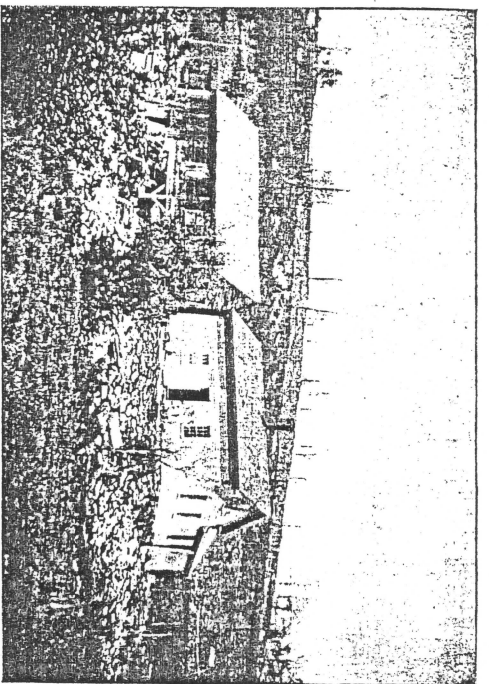
THE OLD CONKEY TAVERN.

"Treasures of Pelham"



OLD CONKEY TAVERN SIGN. (Front and Back)

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HOME OF CAPTAIN SHAYS.

Sources:  
Pelham Historical Society  
Archives Collection  
Donald W. Howe, Quabbin:  
the Lost Valley  
Robert Lord Keyes

## POSTSCRIPT

THE BOSTON GLOBE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1989

### 9. How long does it take water to travel from the Quabbin Reservoir to the Boston area? — A.K., Newton

A. MDC spokeswoman Leanne Del Vecchio says water stays in the Quabbin Reservoir "in residency" for about four years, on average. When it leaves the Quabbin, water first goes to the Wachusett Reservoir near Worcester, where it stays about 10 months, she notes. Then, when it is needed, the water flows from Wachusett to the Sudbury Reservoir in Southborough and from there to other reservoirs in the MDC system, such as Chestnut Hill and Spot Pond. Actual travel time from Quabbin to Wachusett is 10 to 12 hours, from Wachusett to Southborough about 10 hours. From Southborough, water takes about a week to get to the system's other reservoirs, she adds.

