

**HISTORY
IN AN OYSTERSHELL**

**A Brief History of
Durham, New Hampshire
1600 — 1976**

Written by
Philip A. Wilcox
and members of
the Durham Historic Association

Illustrated by
Polly Crisman

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It is with gratitude that the writer acknowledges the helpful contributions of the DHA membership and others in the compilation of material for this little oystershell.

To the Lebanon (N.H.) Historical Society we are grateful for the idea of the format, which inspired the edition.

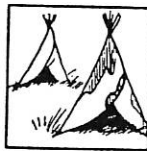
PREFACE

Since before God made the first little green apples, oysters have probably been growing in Oyster River; and some of the largest and juiciest to be found anywhere in the world are still growing here today. The following vignettes from rollicking history of Durham town on the Oyster River are therefore presented between the shells of an oyster.

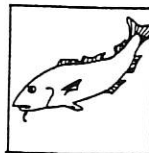
Letters and numbers following the paragraphs indicate geographic locations on the map in the centerfold. "M" indicates articles found in the Museum.

*This little volume is the Heritage Project
of the DHA Bicentennial celebration.*

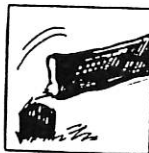
©1976 by the Durham Historic Association, Inc.



1600 — Eastern Indians were of the Algonquin tribe and in New Hampshire were the Sokokis, made up of 15 small family tribes; the Cochecos and Squamscotts in this vicinity. Indian Fever decreased the population by 90% in 1616-1618, and a smallpox epidemic further reduced it later.



1623 — The first settlers of Oyster River Plantation were Ambrose Gibbons, Francis Matthews, John Ault and John Goddard. Tributaries of the Piscataqua abounded with sturgeon and salmon. Catches were dried and salted before being sent to England in exchange for manufactured goods.



1624 — Lumbering tall trees along the waterways was a profitable occupation, for England needed timber for construction of its navy. Later ship-building was done along the shores, and log rafts conveyed timber down stream for masting enterprises in the coastal fitting yards.



1625 — The forests abounded with game, which provided food. Fur-bearing animals proved a valuable asset as barter with England. Beaver pelts were most in demand; but bear, muskrat, mink, rabbit and fox were exported. Trading with neighboring Indians brought furs from inland areas.



1626 — As a shelter was built for the family and land was cleared, the business of farming developed. The soil was rich in this unspoiled virgin land. Farming combined well with fishing, lumbering and trapping, but grew in importance as grants became available inland.



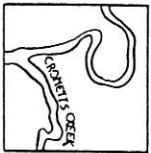
1642 — The first ascent of Mt. Washington was made by Darby Field, a settler of earlier than 1639, with a band of Indians as guides. The summit was reached alone as the Indians feared the wrath of the Great Spirit if they invaded his high places.



1649 — The Moat is a 2-acre island in the Lamprey River, and has long been a deed landmark. Included in the 60-acre farm owned by the Doe family since 1706, it was willed to the Town in 1909 by Olinthus Doe. The farm is now managed as a forest. K-7



1654 — A neck of land, an island at high tide, was first called Matthews Neck. A ferry was used to cross to Newington, and a bridge was considered by Newmarket citizens but Durham voted it down. It flourished for many years in the Adams family as a summer resort, but is now a wild-life refuge. L-15



1654 — A grant made to Francis Matthews for "all the marsh in Great Creek on the norwest side of Great Bay, being the first creek, and 100 acres of upland." This was called Matthews Creek until Joshua Crommett settled and built a grist mill on the west side. It is now called Crommett Creek. K-13



1655 — A meeting house was built on the south side of the river by Valentine Hill. The town lot consisted of 60 acres and contained a parsonage and burial ground. A 4-rod road was allowed through it, as this was the fording place at low tide for crossing from Dover to Exeter. F-12



1657 — Tax records show that George Branson had settled on the shore of Little Bay by 1648. In 1657 John Ault testified that he "found Branson lying on the ground crying that the bull had killed him." The creek flowing into the Bay is still called Branson Creek — Branson's only memorial. K-15



1658 — Moharimet, an Indian sagamore, was known in this vicinity. His Planting Ground is south of Lamprey River and west of Packers Falls Road. Moharimet Swamp is the area south of Mill Road and west of the railroad. The Hill at the north end of Madbury Road bears his name. K-4 & 6, B-7



1675 — First clash of King Philip's War came when William Roberts and son were killed and several homes burned. William Beard was slain and his head cut off and set on a pole. Indians were spurred on by conflicts between the English and French for possession of the new lands. D-9



1685 — Naomi Hull, daughter of Rev. Joseph Hull, Quaker pastor at Oyster River, was often in the public eye because of her misdeeds. She was tried by Portsmouth Council and fined for accusing her sister for the disappearance of her cow. This is the only case of witchcraft known here.



1689 — "James Huckins was slain, his garrison taken and 18 persons killed and carried away." The men were working in the field but the garrison was defended by 2 boys, who surrendered on the Indians' promise to spare their lives. Huckins' widow was recovered. D-8



1690 — Seven persons were slain and a lad taken at Lamperell River. Two days later occurred the Battle at Wheelwright Pond. In spite of the heat the men from Oyster River made all haste. James Smith, who lived by the Falls, "died of a surfeit which he got by running to assist Capt. Floyd." E-1



1691 — Gundalows were a type of heavy flat-bottomed cargo vessel, unique to the Piscataqua River system. Up to 70 feet long, they made good speed with a huge lateen sail raised on a 10-foot stump mast. When necessary, they were poled by manpower or rowed with great sweeps or oars.



1692 — The Mast Path was laid out from the Durham Falls through Lee to Nottingham. As many as 40 yoke of oxen were used to haul the great logs, and once a drive was started it often did not stop till the mast had reached its destination. The Path followed the most gradual grades and curves.



1694 — "The Indians fell suddenly & unexpectedly upon Oyster River about break of day. Took 3 gar-risons, killed & carried away 94 persons & burnt 13 houses." This massacre was the first act of hostility after "ye peace concluded at Pemiquid." Plans for attack were common talk on Quebec streets.



1700 — Early families lacked the convenience of a town burial place, so established plots near their homes. The Durham Historic Association has plotted 71 graveyards, 8 being tombs. Many contain only rough unmarked headstones, while others progress to slate, marble and granite markers.



1716 — The 2nd Meeting House was built at the present site of the Sullivan Monument. Ministers serving this church were the Revs. Hugh Adams, Nicholas Gilman, John Adams and Curtis Coe. In 1774, gunpowder taken from Fort William and Mary was hidden in this place. F-9



1718 — Known as the second falls in 1694, the "hole streame of Lamprele River for erecting mills" was sold to Capt. Thomas Packer, of Portsmouth, and others. The name Packers Falls did not appear in Town records until 1750, but since the name has been used for the road and the district. K-2



1724 — Young Thomas Chesley and Miss Randall on returning home from evening Meeting were killed on Mast Road by Indians. Miss Randall fell upon a rock which is still stained by her blood (iron oxide). Lt. Millett Thompson moved the stone to the Lee Garrity Road cemetery. D-5



1724 — Moses Davis and son were ambushed in their cornfield and both killed. A Negro slave killed one Indian and presented the scalp to Gov. Wentworth for 100 pounds bounty. The slave was later buried at the feet of Moses' daughter, Love, and the graves may still be seen on Mill Road. F-6



1732 — "The Justice at Dover September ye 5 do give our Consent that Mr. Samuel Smith may keep a Public House at the Place Called the Oyster Reaver Falls. (signed) Francis Mathes, Thomas Drew, Jonathan Chesley, Jonathan Thompson — Selectmen." Now home of James Chamberlin. F-9



1732 — Following numerous petitions by "sundry aggrieved inhabitants of Oyster River," the House of Representatives of the Province of New Hampshire decreed the formation of the Town of Durham on May 15th. The name of Durham was suggested by the Reverend Hugh Adams.



1734 — A Durham charter was granted. Common lands were divided among those 21 or over who had farmed the land. A whole share was 25 acres and the cost was 8 shillings. Whole shares were purchased by 122, portions by 75. The Rev. Hugh Adams drew lots in the Meetinghouse.



1735 — Epidemic of throat distemper (diphtheria) caused the death of 91 inhabitants, 70 being children. Starting in Kingston, it spread like wildfire throughout New England. Thomas Stevenson's farm had tombstones for 5 children, age 2 to 17, who died within 31 days. H-4



1740 — The Great Awakening came to town. Religious revivals, led by fanatical Nicholas Gilman, divided the town and temporarily destroyed the church. Revival antics included vision-seeing, jig-dancing, and all-night meetings. Unusual sectarian spirit continued after Gilman's death in 1748.



1743 — "Mr. Hugh Adams shall have 20 pounds yearly provided he set down satisfied and Preach no more but if he preach this vote to be voide." Dismissed in 1739, having been hired in 1717 for 100 pounds, this is believed to be the only historical instance when a minister was paid to stop preaching.



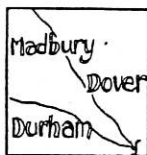
1745 — The principal event in King George's War was the capture of Louisberg, with the aid of N. H.'s Regiment of 304 men. Durham enlistees were Col. S. Thompson, Ens. B. Bunker, Capt. E. Daniel, Lt. A. Bennett, E. Bickford, J. Edgerly, D. Kincaid, J. Smith, J. Thompson and others.



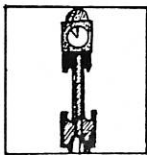
1748 — Petition signed by 96 residents started a town of New Durham, incorporated in 1762. Other towns founded by Durham families were Barnstead, Barrington, Canterbury, Holderness, Nottingham and Rochester. Later many settlers went farther west and rose to positions of distinction.



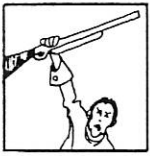
1750 — Winborn Adams, grandson of Hugh Adams, was inn-holder, followed by his widow. He was commissioned to raise a company for the Revolution. He proved to be a brave officer and attained the rank of lieutenant colonel, when killed at Bemis Heights in 1777. The inn still stands. F-9



1755 — The Parish of Madbury incorporated from Dover and Durham, 12 years after petitioning for separation, and was empowered to raise money for paupers, preaching and schools. The boundaries of the 3 towns come together at Cedar Point at the joining of the Bellamy River and Little Bay. F-17



1757 — A "wag-on-the-wall" clock bears this inscription: *Thos. Wille Durham 1757*. It is the only existing clock known to be made by him. Willey is recorded in a deed as clock-maker, and was commissioned to repair the arms taken at New Castle. M.



1760 — John Sullivan was born in Somersworth and came to town as the first lawyer at age 20. He prospered and owned slaves, and mills on both the Lamprey and Oyster Rivers. A mob fired on his home because of his foreclosures on property and unfair interest rates. F-9



1765 — "Voted that those tradesmen who shall be judged by the Selectmen that their respective occupations and businesses are so profitable that their income is sufficient to pay a larger tax should be doomed as much more as the Selectmen should judge equitable."



1765 — The Parish of Lee was established from the western part of Durham, and incorporated with full town privileges. Named by John Cartland, a Friend, who came from Lee, Scotland. Lee Hill was early called Federalist Hill because of the large number of Federalists living nearby.



1765 — "We the under Named Subscribers do hereby Inlist our Selves under the Command of Samuel Demerit Esq., in a Troop of horse to Ride as Troopers under his Command of which Troops the Honorable Clement March Esq., is Colonel." (signed by 38, from B. Brackett to Philip Yeaton).



1774 — Nathaniel Folsom and John Sullivan were elected to represent N.H. at a General Congress in Philadelphia. Resolved — that the Selectmen ought forthwith to add to the stock of powder so as to make it up to 200 pounds and to lay in 400 pounds bullets and 500 flints.



1774 — John Sullivan was in charge of 2nd attack on Ft. Wm. and Mary and brought back ammunition and arms by gundalow, which were stored in the Meeting House near his home. He held command in all major battles of the Revolution and was a favorite of General Washington. F-9



1781 — Alexander Scammell studied law under Sullivan, applied the Association Test, pulled down the British flag at New Castle, was Washington's Adjutant-general, and died of wounds at Yorktown. The Grange, 1930 draw-bridge to Dover Point, and a Fort in Casco Bay are named for him.



1782 — "Portsmouth — Received of the Selectmen one hundred twenty seven Gallons, by half gallons, Rum, being a tax on the Town of Durham agreeably to an Act of Said State passed the 31st of August last. —John Wentworth"



1785 — When there were 8 school districts there was no busing problem. By 1805 there were 10 districts and for the next 80 years the duty of providing teachers was imposed on a prudential committee in each district. Durham Point and Packers Falls school buildings still stand. I-4 & 14



1786 — Mail was delivered by post riders from Portsmouth, and in 1796 Benjamin Thompson became our first postmaster. In the next 120 years 12 men and women held the office and did business in 10 stores and homes, being in the Frost store by the Falls for 40 years. F-9



1786 — Our granite is very workable. Local practice was to split the stones in the field by drilling a line of holes in which ice could form during the winter; in spring they would be neatly split. Still in use in Portsmouth are sidewalks made from our granite.



1789 — To supplying Philip Crommet, one of the poor, being for pasturing and shacking his cow; to hay sufficient to winter cow and hauling same to his hovel; 23 ft. wood supply; supplies and medicines; for coffin and digging grave. The family was a Town charge through 1817.



1790 — "Voted against the proposal to dis-annexing the Towns of Dover, Durham, Somersworth, Madbury and Lee from Strafford County, and annexing the same to Rockingham. These towns would be put to . . . difficulties of crossing ferries in windy seasons to attend court in Portsmouth."



1792 — Off the Dame Road is a boulder, computed to weigh 60 to 70 tons. It was once so perfectly poised on another rock as to be easily moved by one finger. Some years ago curious visitors pried it off its balance. This is a matter of record in Jeremy Belknap's *History of New Hampshire*. J-12



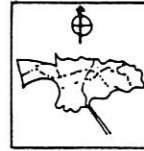
1792 — The Third Meeting House, financed by sale of pews, was built on site of 2nd House. It was 50' x 40' x 29' high, with balconies on 2 sides, steeple for bell and spire for weathervane. Torn down in 1849, the lumber was used to build boarding houses at Great Falls. F-9



1794 — The Piscataqua bridge was one of the wonders of N. E. It was 2,262' long and 38' wide, had a 240' arch and a draw. It cost \$65,947.34, paid partly by lottery. It served as an important link between the seacoast and interior farmlands. Carried away by ice in 1855, it was never rebuilt. G-16



1795 — After John Sullivan's death, townspeople tried to prevent his burial until his debts had been paid. He had served the Town as moderator, school committee man, Committee of Correspondence and agent for the proprietors, also State federal district judge, attorney general, and governor.



1796 — Franklin City was planned as the site of the state capital, with state house, library, meetinghouse, burial ground, streets and quarter-acre house lots. Few houses were built. The War of 1812 and the decline of shipping caused its abandonment. F-16 & 17



1796 — From Franklin City to Concord, the First N. H. Turnpike Road was 36 miles long and cost \$900 per mile. Toll gates were at Johnson Creek, by Durham Corner and at Mast Road. Tolls per mile were 1¢ for horseback rider, 1½¢ for horse and cart and 3¢ for 4-horse coach.



1796 — Jonathan Woodman, Jr. sold 1 acre "for the sole and exclusive use of a burying place for them and their posterities forever" to 19 of the leading businessmen. To date headstones indicate 243 burials. No funds exist for upkeep so the Town assumes maintenance. F-9



1800 — The last water-powered mill to operate was the Jenkins Mill, located at the south end of the existing dam. Cider, leather, gravestones and shingles were products. The sound of the iron water-wheel could be heard far down the river on a quiet day. The mill collapsed about 1949. F-9



1806 — A new line of stages for the convenience of passengers between Boston and Portland was established. Leaving these cities at 6 o'clock on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, they met here at Richardson's tavern each evening, exchanged passengers and returned the next day. F-9



1806 - 1890 — Benjamin Thompson was the son of Benjamin and Mary Pickering, never married, taught school, farmed the ancestral acres, invested his money wisely, and willed his entire fortune of about \$400,000 to the State of New Hampshire for a school of agriculture. E-8



1809 — "A vendue at the house of Joshua Ballard to let out to build a Stone Pound; said Pound to be 30 feet square inside, 3 feet thick at bottom and 6½ feet high and handsomely faced, to be built on or near site of old Pound. Struck off to Joseph Chesley 3rd for \$94.50." Receipt on Dec. 8, 1810. G-9



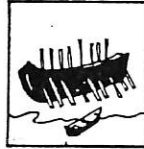
1815 — Durham Social Library was incorporated, used the Richardson building, and bought the property in 1883. The Library's share of Simpson house was sold to the church for \$8,000. In 1893 the Town, Library Association and NHC consolidated, all contributing to support as they do today. F-9



1817 — "To Joseph Richardson, Dr.— To expences of his Excelency James Munroe Esq. President of the United States of America with Selectmen and other Gentlemen—\$30.00." Pres. Munroe was on a tour of the country, traveling by chaise, and stopped here at noon between Dover and Concord. F-9



1819 — First Christian Church organized. Brick church built in 1825. Elder Wm. Demeritt served gratuitously and held record for baptisms and marriages in region. Decline came in 1889 and building sold at auction and land bought by School District for \$225. F-9 & M



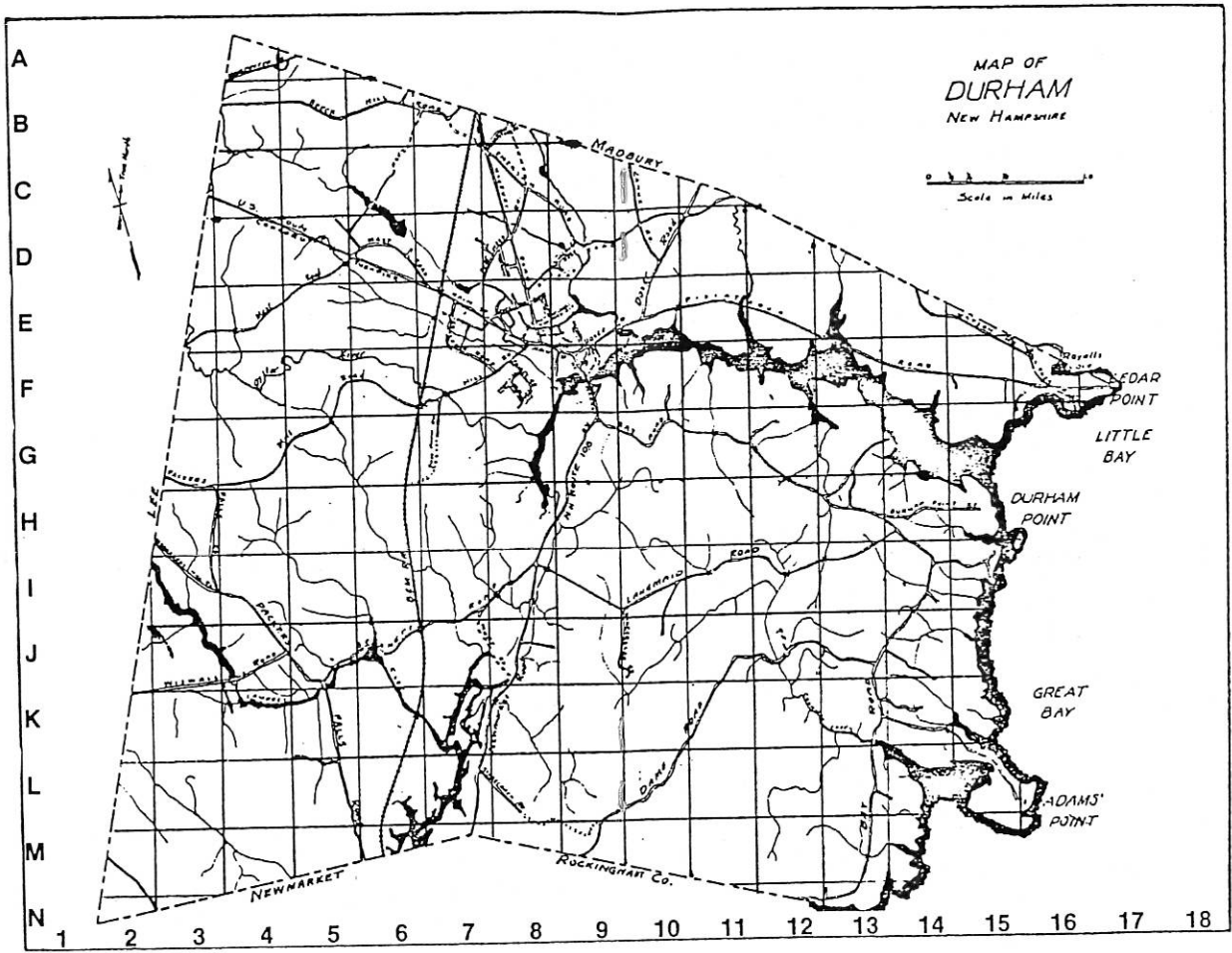
1820 — Two shipbuilding ways were located just below the Falls. They were said to be the only town-owned ways in N. E. Their use was auctioned off at Town Meeting to the highest bidder. With good management, 2 ships could be built on each way. The hulls were fitted down river. F-9



1821 — Only one house remains to perpetuate the memory of Franklin City. Built on "Lot 36" by Ballard Pinkham, it was sold to John Emerson and taken up Oyster River by gundalow. A tomb by the River contains members of the Emerson family. E-10



1825 — Gen. Lafayette came to town on his tour of the state. He was met at the town line at Lee and escorted to the Town Hall. Bills for his entertainment included "2.00 for making cartridges for cannon" and for "spirits, Vituals etc. for from 150 to 200 for \$150.00 to Benjamin Kelly, Dr." F-9





1825-1894 — Mary P. Thompson was daughter of Ebenezer and Jane Demeritt. Educated in Durham and Derry Academies and Mount Holyoke College, she was teacher, author and traveler. Her *Landmarks in Ancient Dover* is a valuable resource volume for historians. DHA has made 2 reprints.



1831 — A listing of 50 sea-worthy vessels built in our ways since 1800 include 35 ships of 201 to 399 tons, 8 brigs from 98 to 281 tons, 7 schooners from 50 to 137 tons. Joseph Coe produced 18, Stephen Paul 11, Robert Lapish 6 and Andrew Simpson and William Hanscom 4 apiece, and others. F-9



1836 — Anti-slavery agitation began when a convention was called in Gilmanton, with John Richardson, Joseph Coe, George Thompson and John Kelly attending. The town Anti-slavery Society was formed with 63 members and Abraham Perkins, Daniel Mathes and Richard Steele as officers.



1839 — Durham clay has a reputation for its tenacity. There were 40 brickyards on the banks of the Oyster and Cocheco Rivers. Gundalows and barges transported the fine bricks to Boston, where it is believed they were used for buildings on Beacon Hill.



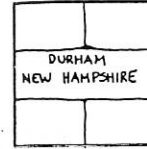
1840 — Durham Academy, established by the N. H. Christian Baptist Conference, ranked high in the preparation of students for colleges for 23 years. Tuition was \$4 per term and room and board \$1.50 per week, without wood. Enrollment was 112, 30% being non-residents. F-9



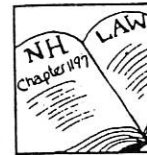
1841 — The Boston & Maine Railroad extended its line from Exeter to Dover, the tracks passing over the campus and down what is now Edgewood Road. The station was on Main Street, east of Morrill Hall. Moved downtown, the station is now the Pizza Den and the freight shed Gray's Garage. E-7



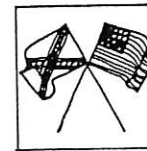
1848 — Congregational Church on Main Street cost \$3,325. Enlarged in 1893 and remodeled in 1923, adding Community House. Name changed to Community Church with 19 denominations as members. Brick Education Center built in 1963 and sanctuary remodeled and new organ in 1976. F-9



1850 — By vote of the town, Jacob Mathes was employed to quarry a stone, 3'10" by 1'10" and marked "DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE" to be used in the construction of the Washington Monument. Inserted in the east wall at the 130' level it has been viewed by astonished Durhamites over the years. G-12



1851 — J. Richardson, E. Thompson, S. Demeritt, W. Chesley and associates became incorporated as the Durham Historic Association, authorized to hold personal and real estate valued to \$3,000 as enacted N. H. Laws, 1848-52, Chapter 1197, pp 1151-1152. This is the only known record.



1861 — According to a detailed report, compiled by Lucien Thompson, there were 86 citizens who served in the Civil War. Enlistees from other towns or Durham men who joined elsewhere are not included in this count. There were 7 fatalities, but many were wounded.



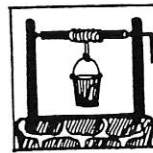
1875 — Voted to buy a hearse for \$400 (plus \$250 voted in 1874). Shipped from Worcester, Massachusetts to Rochester, the express charges were \$10. It was a one-horse vehicle equipped with wheels and runners. It was kept in a special shed on Schoolhouse Lane, and was in use until 1905. M



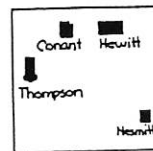
1880 — Body of Peter Duvall, employed as wood-chopper, was found in Horn's Woods by small girls. His companion, Otis, was tried in Dover, sentenced to 30 years hard labor, but paroled in 1906 for good behavior. Local folks resented his sentence and "thought he should dance on hemp." J-10



1881 — 10 shares of Boston & Albany RR stock were accepted by the town for a George Ffrost Temperance Association & Health Insurance Company. Signing the pledge were 43 males & 46 females. In 1973 the trustees converted it to a school educational fund to combat drugs and alcohol.



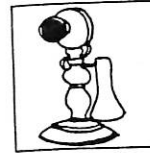
1885 — Townspeople depended upon springs or dug wells for water. Whitcher, Hoitt, Smith, and later Pettee, drilled wells and used wind- or gasoline-powered pumps to service the village. NHC used its own electric power. Follet Brook was dammed for fire protection.



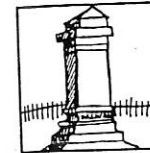
1893 — N. H. College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, created under the Land Grant Act of 1862, was moved from Hanover. Four buildings had been constructed — Conant, Nesmith and Thompson Halls and the Shops. Three graduated the first year from a total student body of 64. E-7



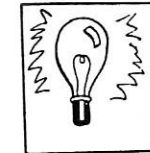
1894 — The Village Improvement Society organized by citizens interested in the maintenance of roadsides by cutting of grass, planting of shade trees and keeping waste matter out of streets. Clarence Scott was president, Lucien Thompson, secretary and Chauncey Hayes, treasurer.



1894 — Central for the telephone system was in Caveno's store, on Main Street opposite T. Hall. The expertise of installing the telephone lines about campus and to several homes in the village was supplied by the faculty. This phone system appears to have been a very local organization. E-9



1896 — John Sullivan was honored by the erection of a monument in Durham and an obelisk in Elmira, N. Y. Bearing his name are also a town and county in N. H., counties in Pennsylvania and New York, a bridge across the Piscataqua, a fort in Eastport, Maine and a 1929 2c stamp. F-9



1899 — Water rights on the Lamprey River were sold to James Burnham, who established the Newmarket Light, Heat & Power Company. The first electric lights were at homes of the Griffiths brothers, James Burnham and Sarah Woodman. The concrete dam and head gates were built in 1912 J-4



1899 — "To see if the Town will vote to light the streets of Durham village." In 1900 \$367 was paid Newmarket Electric Light, Heat and Power Co. for street lights. Each year thereafter a petition appeared in the warrant to light some new area of the town.



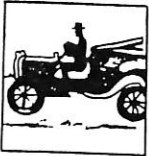
1900 — The Chapel was erected as a memorial to Hamilton Smith by his widow. Beautifully constructed of granite, it has 6 lovely stained-glass windows. The graves of the Smiths and her daughter are here. It is now owned by the Town, and is available for small weddings. G-8



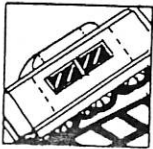
1901 — Tourist attractions: Adams House, 25 guests, \$6 to \$10 per week; Brookside Farm, 15 guests, \$1 per day, 2 miles from station; Highland House, 20 guests, \$7 per week, electric lights, good boating. Additional boarding houses — Chesley, Wiggin, Emerson and Woodman. J-5, L-16



1903 — Goat Island, owned by Newington, was the home of a squatter, Jim Murtaugh, for 22 years. Everyone left him alone, because of his fierce dogs and excellent aim. He did hunt, fish and lobster. He was friend of the Dunlaps, Emersons, Jones, Langleys and Watsons, especially at mealtimes. G-18



1905 — The first auto was inventoried at \$400. Early owners of cars were President Gibbs, Deans Taylor and Pettee, Dr. Grant, Dad Henderson, Stone, Curry, Kendall. Gasoline was sold at Edgerly's Store in Pettee Block, 5 gallons for \$1, and strained through chamois-skin into tank. E-8



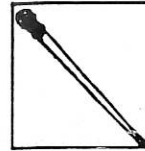
1905 — A defective rail caused the wreck of the St. Johns Express near the College shops. Students and faculty broke open the cars and helped the passengers escape. The badly injured were taken to the home of Dr. Grant. The B & M RR gave NHC \$1000, which was used to furnish the new gym. E-7



1907 — The deplorable condition of the Sullivan graveyard was discovered by Rev. Beard and his mother. The Woman's Club raised money and obtained volunteer labor. The wall was built by Dan Chesley and the metal gates donated by the Dover DAR. Many dignitaries attended the dedication. F-9



1907 — Lucien Thompson built a special post office building, which he rented to the government. It had steam heat, electric lights and a flagpole. It still stands, but is a residence. R.F.D. was established in 1902, previously being handled from Dover. F-8



1909 — The Boston Post newspaper gave a gold-headed cane to each New England town to be transmitted to the oldest resident. True Lovering was our first recipient, then J. Smith, E. Griffiths, C. Scott, S. Runlett, Jr., C. Pettee, A. Clough, A. Craig, F. York, H. Hatch, W. Dean and E. Hitchcock.



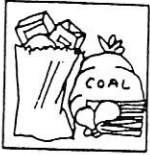
1910 — Ice harvesting was done from the Mill Pond, College Reservoir, Lamprey River and a small pond on Adams Point Road. Albert DeMerritt sold ice from his 20' x 250' storage shed to village homes, but most farmers had their own ice houses. Ice was usually cut into 22" x 22" cakes.



1911 — The railroad tracks were moved west to eliminate a curve. The station at Lynn, Massachusetts was dismantled and reconstructed here, serving the town and campus until 1964. Bamboo poles, used to convey messages to the passing train engineers are still in existence. E-7 & M



1911 — An epidemic of typhoid fever struck. Beginning at a fraternity house near the Town Hall, 12 of the brothers were hospitalized and the Rev. Telesphore Taisne died. A shallow well proved contaminated by surface water from outside toilets, in particular from the Perley house. F-9



1912 — For 19 years a Durham Co-operative Company existed which allowed its members to beat the high cost of living by buying in quantity at wholesale prices. Items purchased were groceries, coal, auto accessories, clothing, magazines, snowshoes, ovens and electrical items.



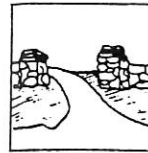
1912 — Theodore Roosevelt was campaigning for the presidency. President Gibbs planned to meet him on the train, but Gorham Sawyer, a distinguished looking butcher, leaped into the private car and shook hands with Roosevelt. "Glad to meet you, President Gibbs." Gibbs was not at all pleased!



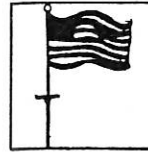
1912 — "Voted to pay the Rev. Everett Stockpole \$700 to write a history of Durham." Assisted by Winthrop Meserve and Lucien Thompson, it was published in 1913 in 2 volumes and sold for \$5. Reprinted with the approval of the Durham Historic Association in 1973 in one volume for \$25. M



1914 — On the 3d floor of Thompson Hall Ex-President Taft lectured, in the then girls' gymnasium, on his life in the White House. Being very large he got off the train backwards. The Boston 5:18 Express stopped for him. Taft's forgotten umbrella was sent to him the next day. E-7



1916 — Search began for property suitable for a town cemetery. Committees appointed, money voted but nothing accomplished until 1925 when 6 acres were bought from Karl Woodward for \$1,200. Under the supervision of 3 trustees, area was cleared, graded, surveyed and 20' by 20' lots laid out. C-4



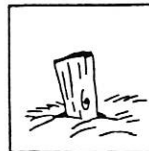
1917 — The Student Army Training Corps consisting of 1,269 men from N. H. and New York City took over the campus and town. Townspeople fed, transported, entertained and comforted them. The Barracks (dismantled in 1973), concrete sidewalks and flagpole were memorials to them. E-7



1917 — A small pipe-fenced area is found just east of Route 108 below Broth Hill. Enclosed is a 18" granite slab, inscribed "Bennie Flanders, June 17, 1909, Sept. 11, 1917, Gone, but not forgotten." It has been determined that this is the grave of the Flanders' pet dog. G-9



1918 — The influenza epidemic, lasting 3 months, started with SATC students, billeted in the Barracks; 3 college buildings served as hospitals. Strict quarantine, with guards on streets and buildings; passes were necessary. 12 deaths occurred among townspeople and students.



1918 — The 1897 T. Hall flagpole needed replacement. Digging the stump was unsuccessful, so it was bored, packed with dynamite, and fired as the clock struck twelve. The stump shot higher than the tower, turned, and plunged into the hole. It was not hard to find witnesses 20 years ago. E-7



1919 — Louis Bourgoïn was a one-man police force for Durham and the college for 37 years. He was the butt of endless pranks by students and others, most of which will never be recorded. The Chief could always be counted on to help the down-and-out.



1920 — A pageant was presented at the Town Landing "In Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Founding of the Durham Congregational Church," in 3 episodes—"Pioneers," "Founding of the Church," and "The Revolution." The cast of characters comprised a virtual roster of Town and Campus. F-9



1921 — Though there are no records of the Falls jail, we do have this picture. The Police Department was budgeted \$200, but previous receipts for \$6 and \$20 were found for truant officers or for elections, to Mark Willey, Fred E. Jenkins and P. R. Magoon. F-9



1922 — The Fire Department was organized when Ed Getchell called a meeting of Town and College authorities. The College agreed to furnish housing but the cost of equipment and pay for call firemen were shared equally. Call firemen held weekly drills to increase their efficiency.



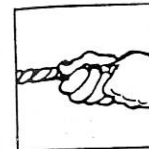
1923 — N. H. College functioned as a single administrative unit. However, the variety of subjects being taught and the size of the school required a fundamental reorganization. A university pattern was adopted, with separate colleges for Agriculture, Liberal Arts, Technology and Graduate School.



1924 — The Pettee Block, built in 1897 by George Whitcher, burned, destroying general store, market, barber and tailor shops, pharmacy, men's dormitory. Mrs. Gorman warned all the residents. Dover and Newmarket Fire Departments helped our call firemen — but in vain. E-8



1929 — Miss Charlotte Thompson, "Aunt Lottie," was the beloved and respected librarian of the Durham and NHC libraries for 34 years. The children's room in Hamilton Smith Library and now in Dimond Library were named in her honor. She was short of stature but long on dignity.



1930 — For many years the annual freshmen-sophomore rope pulls across the mouth of Beards Creek just below the highway bridge were the steller events of the fall. When the freshmen won, there was no hazing that year. They never won. The pulls were especially spectacular when the tide was out. E-10



1934 — Doctor and Mrs. George McGregor arrived to care for our physical needs. He served the community for 33 years, not only as an efficient physician but as selectman, bank director, county medical referee and a well-loved town "character." The ambulance service bears his name.



1934 — We have the distinction of having the fire station burn. Two students rescued one of the engines and started for Massachusetts to visit a girl, but were stopped by state police. Damaged was the Daniel Webster plough, but now restored and safe at his birthplace in Salisbury. E-7



1938 — Renovation and coordination of the various sewage disposal systems was initiated at the Town Meeting. Construction began in 1947. Three major stages have been accomplished and the 4th is currently in progress. Nearly 40% of the homes are now on the sewer system.



1938 — The Historic American Building Survey reconstructed (on paper) many older buildings; our Town Hall was one. The 1800 store had 3 floors. The roof timbers are adze hewn, the joists are hand sawn and the walls plastered to the plate. The 1860/70 remodeling, with domed ceiling, conceals this. E-9



1939 — Being Dean of NHC for 62 years speaks highly of Charles H. Pettee. He believed in thrifty Yankee finance and practiced it vigorously in all dealings with students and townspeople. His spring supplied water to the Town through a mysterious network of pipes, some of which are still in use. E-8



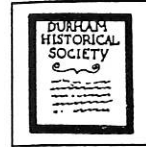
1940 — Ed and Mary Scheier were sponsored by the N. H. League of Arts and Crafts and became teachers at UNH. As skilled potters their creations from Durham clay are collectors' items in museums world-wide. Fortunate are the many students who studied with this couple.



1940 — The last of the one-room schools at Packers Falls was closed in June. The Mast Road School had closed in 1915 and the Point School in 1921. The Schoolhouse Lane School in the village was built in 1890 with 2 rooms, with tower and bell. Enlarged to 4-room in 1917, the tower was removed. F-9 & M



1941 — "To see if the Town will vote to raise \$700.00 for the purpose of surfacing Woodman Avenue from the residence of Dr. McGregor to the Woodman Cemetery." Voted. Mrs. Henderson voiced her dismay but everyone else delighted in the wording of the article in the Town Warrant. E-8 & 9



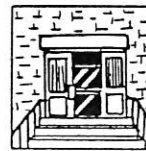
1946 — Mrs. O. V. Henderson formed a Durham Historical Society, with proper bylaws. Incorporation was sought in 1949 and the 1851 enactment was discovered by Rep. Bill Stearns. The acts of the forebears were adopted, though the \$3,000 limitation was removed. The membership is currently 228.



1947 — St. Thomas More Parish was established; it had previously been administered by St. Mary's Parish in Newmarket. This church was dedicated in 1950 and the Student Center in 1962. Presently it is served by 2 priests. Ecuminical Spirit is enjoyed by all our churches. E-8



1947 — St. George's Church was established as a mission of the Episcopal Diocese. In early years services were held in Ballard Hall. The present church was constructed in 1954. It was pictured in *Life Magazine*, and also received an award as the outstanding small church in America. F-9



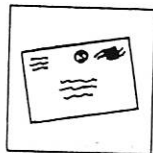
1948 — The Durham Trust Company was organized with a capital of \$50,000 and a working surplus of \$15,000. Now in a modern building, it has assets of \$11,000,000. Founders were Messrs. P. Fitts, E. Huddleston, H. Iddles, G. McGregor, B. McIntire, C. Rice, A. Stewart and G. Barrett. E-8



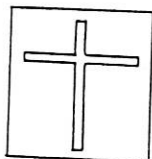
1955 — The Oyster River Cooperative School District was formed, combining the schools of Durham, Lee and Madbury. By 1956 all pupils, kindergarten through grade 12, were housed and no longer did local students have to go out of town to high school. Present enrollment is 1776, with 86 teachers. E-9



1957 — All Durham churches held their Fair Day simultaneously, the first Thursday of December. The plan proved so successful for each church that it has continued. National magazines featured this unique cooperation. As new churches have been established they join in Fair Day also. E-8



1958 — A brick Federal building was dedicated to Dwight Eisenhower, the upper floor housing federal projects and the lower floor the post office. In 1975 our post office did \$391,000 business, having 21 employees. In the lobby are historical murals, gift of the Woman's Club of Durham. E-8



1958 — The Durham Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship began and was incorporated in 1962; 1972 — the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints consecrated their new Church; 1973 — The Durham Evangelical Church was started by 5 families from the Dover Baptist Church. E-8 & 13



1960 — Each fall mayoralty campaigns were a campus tradition. Two weeks prior to Home Coming ambitious candidates vied with each other with fantastic promises and public exhibitions. The only official duty was to host the half-time of the game with high jinks and hilarity.



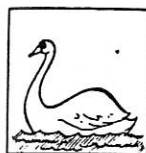
1961 — The selectmen offered the vacant Town Hall to the Durham Historic Association for a museum. Durham artifacts now crowd the room and it attracts visitors from far and near when open in July and August. The Hall also serves as a meeting place for the DHA and other groups. F-9



1962 — Following years of Puritanical conservatism and the injury and death of numerous students returning from Dover with internal cargoes of beer, the Town voted to permit the sale of beer. This has now been extended to the Student Union. If not "wet," Durham is at least "moist."



1965 — A 7' x 6' topographical map of the Town made and donated by John Hatch. Encased by Batchelder and Chase, it is in the Town Office. A work of art, it includes in color all buildings, types of roads, sewer and electrical lines, woods, streams and swamps. It is periodically updated. F-9



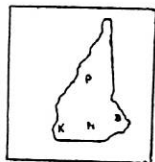
1968 — A swan arrived on the Mill Pond, was christened Alice and became the pet of the town. A mate, Hamilton, was obtained. Broods of cygnets have been produced but only one survived. Flying to Portsmouth for open winter water, they have always returned for Town Meeting day. F-9



1974 — National attention focused as Aristotle Onassis attempted to locate here the world's largest oil refinery. Opposition from a citizens' organization, Save Our Shores, spread throughout the seacoast. At a dramatic Town Meeting on March 6, the vote was 9-1 against the refinery. I, J, K-14



1974 — The official seal was accepted by the selectmen. The rising sun background was from the original State Seal, but the foreground is the scene from the Falls bridge. The gundalow has had much to do with early livelihood of the Town. The seal was designed by Richard Brayton.



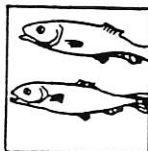
1974 — Enrollment at the University grew from 2,400 in 1923 to 10,000 in 1974. Other state institutions of higher education at Keene, Plymouth and Merrimack Valley enrolled an additional 4,500 students. These and other units were incorporated into a single University System of New Hampshire.



1975 — Spruce Hole was purchased by the Conservation Commission for the Town. This fine example of a glacial pot hole was formed when a huge block of ice was covered by sand and gravel. When the ice melted the hole remained, and its biologically unique environment will be protected. F-3, G-3



1976 — President Gerald Ford ate here! On campaign trail, he spoke to students in the Field House, but made headquarters in UNH President Mill's home, complete with body guards, plainclothes police, beacon lights and tight security. His party was served food prepared by the Navy Yard. E-7



1976 — Fishing preceded colonization in New England by many centuries, and fish and fishing have continued to be important to Durham. In May, a fish ladder over the Mill Pond dam was dedicated. This structure is remarkable in the seacoast region in that it was partially financed by the town. F-9