

FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

41

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

2. Town Chelmsford

Street address 75 North Rd.

Name Col. Simon Spaulding Hse

Use: original & present farmhouse/apartments

Present owner Mrs. Robert La Porte

Open to public no

Date 1736 Style _____

Source of date "A Wiltshire Tale," by Charles Dutton deeds.

Architect _____

1. Is this building historically significant to:
Town Commonwealth Nation

Building has historical connection with the following themes: (see also reverse side)

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Scholar | Commerce/industry |
| <u>Agriculture</u> | Science/invention |
| Art/Sculpture | Travel/communication |
| Education | <u>Military Affairs</u> |
| <u>Government</u> | Religion/philosophy |
| Literature | Indians |
| Music | Other _____ |

Development of town/city

Architectural reason for inventorying:

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added See attached sheet

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular very Low Material granite blocks. Addition - fieldstone at the rear

WALL COVER: Wood wide horizontal boards Brick Stone Other _____

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard _____
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork dormer over front entrance right side of ell

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 see attached sheet Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed See attached sheet

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 scrambled - rear addition PORTICO front entrance wide entrance - shed Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament _____

Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: 4 lights each side of door, enclosed vestibule

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 1st floor - 6 over 6 over 6 panes 5x2 Bay 2nd floor - 6 over 4 panes

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street 35
Property has 645 feet frontage on street



Recorder Jane B Drury

For Chelmsford Historical Commission

Photo # 2-12+13 Date May 2, 1973

SEE REVERSE SIDE

outbuilding; barn with connected horse sheds. "Honey house" - see additions

2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal overgrown field, brook
Predominant features boulder - right of house beside Dalton Rd - see attached sheet
Landscape architect _____

3. Neighboring Structures

Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern post-Civil

Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

see attached sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1831 Series map
1875 Burr Atlas
Waters, "History of Chelmsford" (1917)
Charles H. Dalton, "A Wintersnight Tale"
Chelmsford Vital Records to 1850 (Essex Institute, 1914)
1856 Series map
Mrs. Margaret Mills

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: Col. James Spaulding
Deed Information: Book Number 3 Page 314, northern Registry of Deeds
3 312

The house was built on ^{inherited} land bought in 1736, and Col. Spaulding added to already ~~inherited~~ ^{in 1736} land to form his farm.

Col. Simeon Spaulding House
75 North Road

Altered, Added, Attachments:

The main section of the house has Victorian type "gingerbread" under the eaves.

There are 4 apartments in the main section and the rear additions (ell & shed). The rear half of the shed was obviously built at a different time: the foundation changes from granite block to fieldstone, and the shed is divided into 2 portions by a cornerboard (seen on the North Rd. side). There are several roof line on the rear additions.

Another family lives in the "honey house" (so-called because honey was made there), which is separated from the rear of the house additions by a very few inches. It has another screened porch and two chimneys not included on the form. Its foundation is fieldstone.

Chimneys:

Main - 1, center, large, pilastered
Ell - 2, (1 on each side)
Shed - 0 (only a flue)
Honey House - 2 (1 at each end)

Landscape Features:

A metal plate on the boulder states, "Home of Simeon Spaulding of the Revolution, erected about 1728." This is obviously incorrect, as Col. Spaulding was not born until Aug. 4, 1713, and he bought the land in 1736. On April 19, 1775 Col. Spaulding is said to have mounted his restless horse, and "as he had some difficulty securing his gun, his wife stood on the boulder, and, giving him his weapon, waved her hand for a farewell."

Historic Importance:

The house was built by Col. Simeon Spaulding, who was one of the generations of Spaulding "gentlemen" who were "yeomen, living on and cultivating their own lands, while serving the town, colony, state, and church in various public offices." He became Chelmsford's most outstanding citizen during the Revolutionary War.

In 1755 William Shirley appointed Simeon Spaulding cornet of the first troop of horse; and in 1757 as cornet he marched to the relief of Fort William Henry. Col. Spaulding was the Town's agent for delivering contributions in the Revolution; Town treasurer and selectman; Colonial Representative from 1771 to 1775; in the Provincial Congress 1775 to 1778; Chairman of the Committee of Safety 1776; Commissioner to adjust the War Act 1778; Delegate to form the new Constitution 1779; 1st Lieut. Col. in the 2nd Middlesex Co. which marched on the alarm April 19, 1775; Col. in the 7th Middlesex Co. 1776 to 1778, when he resigned his commission due to advanced age.

Dr. John C. Dalton married a granddaughter of the Colonel; from 1818 to 1831 they lived in the house, and Dr. Dalton was highly respected

as the local medical doctor. Dalton Road, which goes by the house, was named after him.

During the late 1800's the house was owned by a "Syndicate" of well-to-do Lowell business men, who hired a farmer to run it, and they would visit it periodically for relaxation. For some time Dalton Rd. was known as Syndicate Rd. One of the men, whose name was Glidden, was interested in automobiles, and it is said that he put railroad wheels on an automobile and in this travelled across the country. This may be the origin of the term "Glidden's Tours."

Simeon Spaulding House
75 North Road

Compiled by Jane Drury
7/6/73

Middlesex Probate Court

Docket 395922
Feb. 5, 1965

Frederick Russell Estate to Arline La Porte.
Grandsons Robert LaPorte & Russell LaPorte (minors)
also mentioned in will.
2 acres, 12,960 sq. feet.

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

North: Book 668, Pg. 553
Oct. 13, 1922

Breck F. Emerson to Frederick Russell

North: Book 638, Pg. 382
Dec. 23, 1920

Cara B. Emerson, widow, to Breck F. Emerson
one undivided third part

North: Book 427, Pg. 441
Nov. 27, 1908

\$1 & other valuable considerations
Charles J. Glidden to Walter B. Emerson

North: Book 169, Pg. 544
Oct. 28, 1884

\$1 & other valuable considerations
William A. Ingham, Charles J. Glidden, Loren N.
Downs of Lowell to Mrs. Laura Ellen Glidden of
Lowell.

North: Book 168, Pg. 104
x x, 1884

\$1 & other valuable considerations
A.A. Coburn of Lowell to William A. Ingham,
Charles J. Glidden, Loren N. Downs of Lowell
one undivided fourth part

North: Book 161, Pg. 110
June 2, 1883

\$5000
Armand Whitaker to William A. Ingham, Charles J.
Glidden, Loren N. Downs, Alonzo A. Coburn of Lowell

North: Book 134, Pg. 529
April 29, 1879

\$2671 68/100
Elizabeth Burrows of Lowell, Guardian of Ellen W.,
Harry S., Percy F. Burrows, minor children of
Henry Burrows, deceased, to Armand A. Whitaker of
Lowell
Sold at public auction

North: Book 79, Pg. 456
April 22, 1871

\$2000
Charles H. Dalton of Boston to Henry Burrows of
Lowell.

North: Book 19, Pg. 79; South: Book 633, Pg. 509
March 24, 1852 \$550

John C. Dalton Jr. of Boston, Physician, to
Charles H. Dalton of Southbridge, Gentleman.
J.C. Dalton one of the heirs of Noah Spaulding
Farm & all the out-lands. 76 acres, total

North: Book 19, Pg. 42; South: Book 627, Pg. 165
Oct. 25, 1851 \$1650

John C. Dalton of Lowell, Physician, Guardian of
Julia Ann, Edward B., Henry R. Dalton, minors, to
Charles H. Dalton of Southbridge, Gentleman
Sold at public auction. Single lot: 20 acres; total
farm: 80 acres.
Dwelling house, barn & other buildings

North: Book 7, Pg. 432. South: Book 119, Pg. 544
Feb. 23, 1796 \$700

Matthias Spaulding, Gentleman, to Noah Spaulding,
Yeoman.
All land, buildings, & appurtenances formerly
belonging to Col Simeon Spaulding.

North: Book 3, Pg. 314. South: Book 38, Pg. 521
March 1, 1736/7 10 pounds

Edward Spaulding to Simeon Spaulding, husbandman.
(Edward is carpenter).
Tract of land in Carolina Plain. 10 acres.

North: Book 3, Pg. 312. South: Book 38, Pg. 520
February 5, 1736 25 pounds

Sampson Stoddard Jun^r, Gentleman, to Simeon
Spaulding, husbandman.
Plow land, in Carolina Plain. 8 acres.

North: Book 3, Pg. 309. South: Book 38, Pg. 518
January 19, 1735/6 330 pounds

Nathan Kendall, tailor, to Simeon Spaulding,
husbandman.
Several parcels of land & meadow. 21 acres total.

Matthias Spalding

Dr. MATTHIAS SPALDING was of the fifth generation of Edward Spalding, progenitor of this family, (Simeon⁴, Joseph³, John², Edward¹), born June 25, 1769, Chelmsford, MA and died May 22, 1865, Amherst, NH, aged 95 years, 10 months and 28 days. Dr. Matthias Spalding married Rebecca Wentworth Atherton, Sept. 16, 1806. She was born July, 1779 and died Dec. 27, 1862, aged 84 yrs. 4 mos. 20 days.

He was the ninth son and thirteenth child of Colonel Simeon Spalding, of Chelmsford, MA. His mother, Abigail Wilson (Simeon's second wife), was a Johnson of the fourth generation in descent from Captain Edward Johnson, who came from Kent County, England, in 1630. Johnson resided for a while in Charlestown and afterward became one of the first settlers of Woburn in 1642; he died at an advanced age, Apr. 23, 1672.¹



The early years of Dr. Spalding were passed in agricultural pursuits. He worked on the farm of his father at old Chelmsford, and on the land owned by him on the Merrimack near Pawtucket Falls, in what is now Lowell.²

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1. Edward Johnson and Capt. Simon Willard were prominent in laying out the Chelmsford plantation and Johnson was a founder of Woburn. Johnson was also the author of "*The Wonderworking Providence of Zion's Savior in New England*."
 2. A portion of this property, or property nearby, later became known as the Spalding House or DAR house (Daughters of the American Revolution). His sister, Abigail, married Joseph Tyler resided in this house and he was instrumental in the early construction of the Pawtucket Canal.



*Family farm at 75 North Rd.,
Photo courtesy of Marti Spalding*

He always retained the impress of these early labors; and although very devoted to the profession he afterwards chose, he was an enthusiast in farming and in all its improvements to the last days of his life.

When a young man, his health became feeble and he was advised to seek a liberal education. He accordingly commenced his studies at Westford Academy, under the tuition of the late Professor Hedge, entering Harvard College a year and a half in advance. He graduated with honor in 1798, in a class having as its members such men as Stephen Longfellow, Rev. Dr. Channing, and Judge Story. Although the eldest member of his class, he survived all but two of his classmates.

Having adopted the profession of medicine, he studied with Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, of Cambridge, Professor of Theory and Practice in Harvard University; and subsequently with Dr. Holyoke of Salem. In 1801, he went to London, passing a year there in attendance upon medical lectures, and devoting himself with great industry to the professional advantages afforded by the medical schools and hospitals. He attended the lectures of Sir Astley Cooper and the younger Cline, and received from them many marks of personal attention. He knew Doctor Lettsom and Doctor Jenner, with the latter of whom he enjoyed a special acquaintance. From him, he derived much valuable information relating to vaccination, a subject in which he was always greatly interested. His friend and former pupil, Dr. J. P. Batchelder, of New York, says in regard to Dr. Spalding's agency in the introduction of vaccination into the United States:

“From his intimacy with Jenner, and knowledge of what had transpired in London during his residence there, in relation to the efficacy of the vaccine matter to prevent smallpox, he on his return engaged most zealously in the practice of vaccination. Perhaps it would not be too much to say that he did more than any man, except Waterhouse, to introduce that important practice into this country.”

On his return from England, in 1802, he was the bearer of a letter from Jenner to his former instructor, Dr. Waterhouse; with the celebrated silver snuff-box, containing vaccine, and having on it this inscription:

*"From the Jenner of the Old World to the Jenner of the New."*³

"The silver snuffbox was a gift from Edward Jenner to Benjamin Waterhouse and contained quills impregnated with cowpox vaccine matter for use in America. In a letter dated November 16, 1802, Waterhouse said, "Dr. Jenner has been to me what the sun is to the moon...Dr. Jenner has just sent me a present I highly prize, a silver snuff box inlaid with gold of exquisite taste and workmanship, bearing the inscription, 'Edward Jenner to Benjamin Waterhouse.' But Mr. (John) Ring annexed the superscription in rather a hyperbolic style. 'From the Jenner of the Old World to the Jenner of the New World.'"

Gift of Mrs. Roscoe Thayer to the Harvard Medical School 1933. – *Harvard University Library Notes*, Number 1293, March 2000.



Dr. Waterhouse had been the first to introduce the great discovery of Jenner into practice in this country, in the face of great opposition.

Soon after his return home, Dr. Spalding commenced practice in his native town, Chelmsford, where he remained four years securing a large business and a high reputation as a surgeon.

In 1806, he removed to Amherst, NH, at that time the principal town in the southern part of the state, where he continued to reside during the remainder of his life. Here he married; in 1806, Rebecca Wentworth, the daughter of Hon. Joshua Atherton, a woman of refined and superior nature. He had eight children, two of whom became physicians.

While living at Chelmsford, he had been called on several occasions to Amherst and other places in the vicinity. In the adjoining town of Wilton, he successfully performed trepanning in a case of fractured skull, an operation at that time practically unknown in that region and which gave him a favorable reputation as a surgeon. His professional calls often compelled him to take long and fatiguing rides through a country poorly supplied with good roads, some of them being mere bridle paths, in which the use of a carriage was out of the question. Although his constitution was originally feeble, yet by regularity of life and a careful abstinence from all injurious indulgences, he was able to perform a large amount of professional labor. His ability to work hard and continuously on

3. Chapter five of *"Amherst Historical Moments,"* Amherst, New Hampshire, by Row and Veillette (published 2004) is dedicated to Matthias Spalding.

a small allowance of sleep was very unusual. It was his habit to sit up until the midnight hours, and to rise before other members of the family began to move.

Sensible of the advantage that would come to the profession and the public from a better acquaintance among medical men than their occasional meetings would afford, Dr. Spalding exerted himself to bring together the regular physicians in his neighborhood for the purpose of mutual improvement and professional culture. To him, more than to any other man, the Southern District Medical Society of the State owed its existence. This society was instituted in 1816, and embraced the towns of Hillsborough County, and the adjacent parts of the counties of Rockingham and Cheshire. In the first year of its existence, it had on its record the names of fifteen physicians who resided in fourteen neighboring towns, his own name being first on the list. Within three years, its members increased to more than thirty. Dr. Spalding was for many years its president and librarian. In 1809, he was elected a fellow of the New Hampshire Medical Society, in which he continued as an active member until age and infirmity rendered him exempt. He held the office of vice resident 1815 to 1821 inclusive; and that of president in 1822 and 1823. In 1817, the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on him by Dartmouth College. He was elected an honorary Member of the New York Academy of Medicine, June 1, 1860.

Favored with an education, which, for the times, was superior to that of most of his medical brethren around him, he also possessed many natural qualities fitting him for the profession of his choice. In heart and manners he was a gentleman, with an integrity and purity of character, which were never questioned. His equanimity and cheerfulness rarely forsook him. As must be the case in an extensive country practice, it often happened he was called in cases of emergency, which admitted no hesitation or delay. He could not easily avail himself of the counsel of learned and experienced men, but he was fertile in resources, and had, in a rare degree, the ability to make a practical application of the fruits of previous study and careful observation. He was calm and self-reliant, and impressed the minds of his patients with the feeling that he comprehended their situation, and that he would do all that a faithful, cautious, and intelligent physician could do.

Dr. Batchelder, of New York, who was one of his first pupils, remarks of him:

"If he erred at all in the treatment of disease, it was in trusting too much to the powers of nature, especially if the patient had a good constitution."

The experience of half a century in throwing light upon the curative powers of the materia medica, would perhaps recognize, in this feature of his practice, evidence of sagacious observation in advance of his times. He undoubtedly possessed this faculty in an uncommon degree. In a practice extending over so long a period, among a rural population in which changes were comparatively infrequent, he became thoroughly acquainted with the idiosyncrasies of individuals, and their constitutional or hereditary tendencies. It was interesting and instructive to notice how readily he comprehended the condition of patients with whose families he had been familiar through two or three generations.

He had great faith in true science, and genuine contempt of all quackery in medicines or practice. His decision, cheerfulness, and gentleness of manner made him very acceptable in a sick room. The children who had been his patients, became very fond of him; indeed, he was a favorite with children generally.

With all Dr. Spalding's habitual caution, he did not hesitate to make a change in received modes of treatment, when he saw sufficient reason for it. This was strikingly proved at the time of the prevalence of spotted fever, many years ago. Hot applications were considered to be the true treatment, but he had warm bricks and blankets removed, and allowed cold water to be taken in moderate quantity. This change proved of great advantage, not only to the patient's comfort, but to his recovery; and this form of treatment was afterward generally adopted.

The genial presence and hopeful spirit of Dr. Spalding made him ever welcome to the sick chamber. His vigor continued so unimpaired through a long series of years, that, at the age of three score and ten, he performed some surgical operations. In the early part of his professional life, his office was the resort of students, sometimes sufficient in number to form quite a medical class. Many of these went into practice in neighboring towns, and through life they cherished with gratitude the remembrance of his instructions and his influence. Some of these attained distinction in other States, as physicians, surgeons, and professors in medical institutions.

A sketch of Dr. Spalding's life would be incomplete without reference to his social qualities, and the high estimation in which he was held as a citizen and a Christian. His character attracted friendship and confidence. He was cordial in his feelings, and kept alive the glow and warmth of early attachments. He was fond of poetry and music, and could sing quite well. He had a rare gift at story-telling, and his anecdotes never lost their freshness and point. As a citizen, he never sought political office, but he was always relied upon as the friend and supporter of such measures as aimed to promote education, good morals, and the general welfare. His symmetrical and genuine Christian character are illustrated by the fruits of charity and good will. He made a conscientious and judicious use of his professional opportunities to impress the minds of his patients with the claims of religion, and he was always ready to answer those calls for spiritual guidance and consolation, which sometimes appeal to the Christian physician as to no other person.

His church connection was with the Orthodox Congregational denomination, in which he maintained the office of deacon for nearly half a century. He was not a demonstrative Christian, but no one could know him well and not be convinced that religion held in his mind its place as most important of all mortal interests, and the controlling influence of his daily life. He was a constant and appreciative hearer of the gospel, and a studious reader of the Holy Scriptures. He was able to read the Bible until the ninety-fourth year of his age, after which time his faculties declined. A fortnight before his death, he spoke of his long life, of the departure before him, of his early friends, and of the comforting support of a Christian faith. In this faith he closed a long, useful, and honorable life.

Their eight children were all born in Amherst, NH, four of whom died young.

- i. Frances-Rebecca, born July 10, 1807; died Jan. 5, 1808.
- ii. Abigail-Atherton, born Dec. 3, 1809; married Rev. Josiah-Gardiner Davis, D.D. Sept. 26, 1848. They resided in, NH, and had one child, Rebecca-Atherton Davis, born Aug. 20 1849. Dr. Davis graduated from Yale College in 1836; S. T. D. Dartmouth College, 1866.
- iii. Frances-Rebecca, born Aug. 27, 1811; died Sept. 8, 1815.
- iv. Edward, born Sept. 15, 1813.

- v. Alfred, born Oct. 24, 1815.
- vi. George, born Nov. 24, 1817; died March 21, 1837.
- vii. James, born Dec. 11, 1820; died Oct. 21, 1826.
- viii. Rebecca-Frances, born Nov. 9, 1822; died Oct. 20, 1826.



This memorial stone was erected in Amherst, NH as a memorial to the families of Means, Spalding and Atherton.-- Courtesy of Marti Spalding

Bibliography:

Spalding Memorial, by Charles Warren Spalding, 1896
Harvard University Library Notes, Number 1293, March 2000
Photos as noted



Dr. John C Dalton

MD REMEMBERS: A Pioneer Physiologist

Jane:
Dr. John Call Dalton, Jr., who was born February 2, 1825, in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, is remembered as America's first professor of physiology, a pioneer in vivisection, the author of a widely used textbook and the tenth president of Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons (P & S).

A graduate of Harvard College in 1844 and the Medical School in 1847, he worked at the Boston Cholera Hospital during an epidemic and then studied under Claude Bernard in Paris in 1850.

Cartoon of Dr. Dalton, students, and feline experimental subject.



When the young American said that he "thought" a certain function must be so, Bernard exclaimed: "Think! Why think when you can experiment?" Guided by this principle, Dalton devoted his life to experimental work and teaching. Medical students appreciated his demonstrations, lucid lectures, and colorfully illustrated "chalktalks."

After teaching at the University of Buffalo and Vermont Medical College, Dr. Dalton was appointed professor of physiology at P&S in 1855 and at Long Island College Hospital in 1859. The following year he published his *Treatise on Human Physiology* that went through seven editions in his lifetime and was regarded as the best English textbook on the subject for many years.

During the Civil War he was one of the first physicians to join the Union Army where he served as surgeon of the 7th New York regiment and later Brigade Surgeon of Volunteers. Returning to P&S in 1864 he continued teaching and research, published a popular book on physiology, and campaigned for the legal use of animals in experiments. He stated: "If we slaughter cattle for

their beef and hides, musk deer for their perfume... there can be no doubt that any useful knowledge in medicine or surgery is abundantly worth the lives of the animals destroyed to obtain it."

Professor Dalton was vice-president of the New York Academy of Medicine for several years and from 1883 to 1888 when he was president of P&S the college built elegant new facilities and increased the student enrollment.

Dalton, a bachelor who lived simply in a small suite of rooms and took his meals at his club, was known for his fine sense of humor, his keen eyes, and a general appearance that often inspired sketches by embryo artists in his classes.

A year before he died of kidney disease on February 12, 1889, he suffered an attack of uremic convulsions that left him aphasic for a time but he regained his speech and maintained his intellectual interests almost to the end. Dr. S. Weir Mitchell said of Professor Dalton that he had "the skill to make the difficult appear simple... the rare gift of making those who listened desire to become investigators. He made men think."

Vice-President, Asa C. Russell.

Directors for 1897, John C. Burke, Michael Corbett, Solomon K. Dexter, Charles J. Glidden, Othello O. Greenwood, Jesse N. Trull, William F.



CHARLES J. GLIDDEN.

Hills, James H. Mills, Clarence H. Nelson, Asa C. Russell, Robert Simpson.

Cashier, William F. Hills.

Teller, Frederic A. Holden.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

CHARLES J. GLIDDEN.

Mr. Charles Jasper Glidden was born in Lowell, Mass., Aug. 29, 1857, and is descended from a family of English origin, which emigrated to this country about the year 1700, and which has since then, through many generations, been identified with the progress and development of the section of the country in which they lived.

His grandfather was Jasper E. Glidden, a

farmer by occupation, born in Gilford, New Hampshire, in 1804, and died there in 1851. His grandmother was Abiah S. Ames, born in Gilford, New Hampshire, in 1804, and died in Manchester in 1861.

His father, Nathaniel A. Glidden, was also born in Gilford, on Nov. 23, 1831. His mother, Lawrey Ellen Clark, was born in Laconia, New Hampshire, Nov. 4, 1835, and died July 14, 1889. His father was married a second time to Isabella H. G. McCrea, in 1890.

Mr. Glidden attended the public schools of Lowell until the age of 15 years, when he engaged in the activities of life by securing employment as a telegraph messenger boy. Since that time until the present he has been prominently identified, in one capacity or another, with electrical interests of the telephone system of the country, and also he is one of the men to whom the credit for the establishment and successful operation of this system is due.

The introduction of the telephone has been a great public benefit, and certainly the men who, by their great intelligence and wonderful business energy, have made possible this great improvement in the facilitation of the business of the world, must be recognized in the light of public benefactors.

He is a Republican, but has never had time, owing to his extensive business interests, to engage in active political life.

He is a member and Treasurer of St. Paul's M. E. Church, a member of the local Masonic fraternal bodies, of the Massachusetts Consistory, having taken all the degrees up to and including the 32nd degree.

July 10, 1878, he married Lucy Emma Cleworth, of Manchester, N. H.

Mr. Glidden started as a messenger boy for the Northern Telegraph Company, which had an office at 31 Central Street (old number). At 16 he was appointed Night Manager of the Franklin Telegraph Company, at Springfield, Mass., where he remained one month, when he was transferred to the management of the company's office at Manchester, N. H. He also acted as local correspondent of the Boston Globe, Transcript, and Traveller. At the organiza-

Lowell Weekly Journal

July 19, 1889 - Laura E., wife of Mr. N.A. Glidden, died at her home in this village Sunday morning at 3:35 o'clock, after an illness of about 6 months. For 8 weeks prior to her decease she had been confined to the bed suffering intense physical pain from which she was aware only death could bring release. She was born in Merideth, now Laconia, N.H., in 1836, and therefore was 53 years of age. Her father, Major Jacob Clark, is still living at the advanced age of over 80 years. In 1885 Mr. & Mrs. Glidden removed to this town from Lowell, where they had lived since 1856. For the last 30 years Mrs. Glidden has been one of the most active, as she was one of the oldest, members of St. Paul's M.E. church in Lowell. She was a charter member of both Evening Star lodge, Daughters of Rebekah, and Washington commandery, United Order of the Golden Cross, and had filled all the offices in each. At the time of her decease she was president of the Chelmsford branch of the W.C.T.U., whose noble mission enlisted her warmest sympathies and most earnest support. Besides her husband, Mrs. Glidden leaves three sons, Charles J. and J. Clark Glidden, prominent business men of Lowell, and Merton N., a resident of this town. By this dispensation not only does the domestic circle deeply mourn the departure of the devoted wife and mother, but the church, the cause of temperance, the benevolent organizations to which she belonged and the community in which she lived will sadly miss the presence of one whose example will long remain as an inspiration and encouragement to those who shall continue the work she has laid down to enter upon higher service.

The funeral services were largely attended Tuesday afternoon. There was a brief service at her late residence in this village at 1 o'clock. Prayer was offered by Rev. C.B. Wathen, pastor of the Central Congregational church, brief remarks were made by the former pastor of the deceased, Rev. S.F. Upham, D.D., of Madison, N.J., a selection was sung by a quartette from the Congregational choir, and the benediction was pronounced by Rev. J.A. Chase of the Unitarian society. The remains were then borne to St. Paul's M.S. church in Lowell where impressive services were conducted by Rev. C.E. Davis, pastor of the church, assisted by Rev. Dr. Upham.....

Oct. 1, 1886 - The raising of fowls, both for eggs and for the table, is a growing industry in this vicinity. Mr. N.A. Glidden has just completed a henery, 100 feet long by 15 feet wide, which he considers a model. He designed it after examining various first class hen-houses in and out of town, and thus was able to take advantage of the best modes of construction. The building is set upon a cement stone underpinning; it is divided into 8 rooms or pens, separated from each other by coarse mesh wire netting; each pen has two large windows on the front, which ensure ample light. The centre room, where is the main entrance, will constitute the granary. Along the entire length of the rear is a walk, and in this, against the pens, are the feed and watering troughs, to which the fowls obtain access ~~through~~ between perpendicular slats so spaced as to admit only the head and neck. The doors to the pens, nest-boxes and roosts open into the walk, so that all examinations and ordinary house-cleaning can be done without entering the pens and disturbing the inmates. Each section is provided with a yard 12 by 24 feet, with partitions of wire netting, and in front is a large tract, where at times a ~~larger~~ wider range may be enjoyed. The building is boarded and clapboarded, with tarred paper between, which will make it sufficiently warm except in coldest weather, when a stove will be brought into requisition. Mr. Glidden has other quarters for poultry but no building so complete in its appointments as this. He will keep about 350 fowls, and intends that they shall be profitable. In the proper season he advertises freely in the Farmers' Exchange in the Weekly Journal and finds it a profitable investment.

Lowell Daily Courier

Friday, July 13, 1900

The house in North street, now occupied by N. A. Glidden, was formerly the home of Dea. Noah Spalding, who was chosen a deacon of the First Congregational Society in 1812. Deacon Spalding had a brother, Matthias, who graduated from Harvard in 1799, and removed from Chelmsford to Amherst, New Hampshire in 1805, where for many years he was a prominent physician. This is just a preliminary to saying that while carpenters were recently making some alterations in the Glidden house they came across an old letter behind the boarding where it had lain undisturbed for more than 50 years, and it was as legible as when written in 1846 by Dr. Spalding and sent to his brother Noah. At that time the doctor had retired from active practice, attending cases only as consulting physician, and was indulging his taste for agriculture. His letter deals mainly with farming topics, but there is one paragraph I quote which illustrates the intense partisan feeling which then prevailed in the Granite State between the Whigs and Democrats. The doctor says, "You have undoubtedly heard of the triumph of the Whigs in this region; and the old Democratic granite foundations tremble and will, I hope, crumble to the ground; there is not much doubt of it; they have stood quite long enough" Deacon Spalding was the father-in-law of Dr. John C. Dalton, for many years a leading physician in Lowell.

Simeon Spaulding House
75 North Road

Waters, pg. 448:

"A little book, printed in 1904 for Mr. Charles H. Dalton, contains 'A Wintersnight Tale' told on a Christmas evening, 1903, to his family and their guests, assembled around the dinner table or in the drawing room at 33 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston; and it has so much in it that relates to past days in Chelmsford that most of it is here reproduced in slightly condensed form.

The first Town Meeting of the Chelmsford settlement, in Middlesex County, was held September 22, 1654, more than two hundred and forty-nine years ago, at William Fletcher's house, there being no public town-house.

My maternal ancestor, Edward Spaulding, married Margaret.

His son John married Hannah.

His son Edward married Priscilla. Governor Endicott officiating.

His son Joseph married Elizabeth.

His son ~~Noah~~ Simeon married Sarah.

His son Noah married Anne.

Noah and Anne were my grandparents.

These six generations of gentlemen were yeomen, living on and cultivating their own lands, while serving the town, colony, state and church in various public offices.

My great-grandfather, Colonel Simeon, inherited lands from his father in 1728. When he was twenty-three years old, having fallen in love with Sarah, he married her, and that same year bought more land and soon built a house on it, where they lived the rest of their lives. This was our Chelmsford homestead, which my grandfather Noah (Spaulding) inherited. He, his daughter Julia, who was my mother, and myself were born in this house. It is about one hundred and sixty years old, and is still standing, a modest structure of two stories, the hewed posts and beams of the frame showing ~~the~~ in the rooms.

There are several ancient elms about the house, which must be nearly if not quite the same age, and I suppose Colonel Simeon planted them.

My grandfather ~~Noah~~ was fond of having his grandchildren about him, so it was here that, after my father moved to his own house, I stayed a great deal in summers, and often in winters, during my early teens. It seemed to me the pleasantest of all possible places. I liked it better than going to school.

Sixty-odd years ago life on a New England farm was very different from that of today, as were also the characters and qualities of the households. The farms then, had usually descended through several generations of pure English stock, as you will have noticed by the names of the gentlemen and gentlewomen which I have mentioned in the opening of this story. In examining the first town records of Chelmsford, I did not find a solitary name other than English.

Furthermore, the 'hired men,' so called, were young Americans, who came down from New Hampshire and Vermont to work during the summer months. Their pay was fourteen to sixteen dollars a month, with board and lodging. They were generally young fellows of excellent character, with plenty of self-respect. They did not shirk their duties, but worked long hours especially in haying and harvesting time.

Much of my time was spent in their company, in riding the horse while they held the plow between the rows of potatoes and corn, and in the hay-field, and in turning the grindstone when they sharpened their scythes, a kind of labor which made me tired.

Nearly all the food consumed by the household and animals was raised on the farm, and various industries, requiring little knowledge and skill, were carried on to supply the domestic wants. Purchases of food were limited to such articles as tea, coffee, sugar, spirits, spices, etc. The products of the farm were hay, wheat, rye, oats, corn, buckwheat, potatoes, beans, the small vegetables, fruits, and poultry.

The pigs grew into hogs, were fattened on corn, killed, and salted, the hams and bacon smoked, the lard tried out, the beef corned, cheeses, butter, soap, and candles made, fruits were preserved, and rose water made from the rose leaves, which I had to pick.

The grain crops were reaped with the sickle, till a 'cradle' so called, was substituted, - an efficient tool which required a stalwart man to swing, but it did great execution. Now it is as obsolete as the sickle. The grass was mowed with the scythe. The corn was husked by hand in the barn, sometimes in the evening by the dim light of two or three lanterns, followed by a simple supper. The ears were stored in bins and shelled by hand over the blade of a spade.

The grain was threshed on the barn floor with flails. When required for grinding into meal it was winnowed, wind and weather being favorable, by spreading a sheet on the grass and pouring on it the grain from a peck measure held by a man at arm's length above his head, the wind blowing the dust and chaff away, just as the Phoenicians did and as the Egyptians do today. A wonderful hand winnowing machine was bought, which the neighbors came to see and admire, and the ancient picturesque way ceased. The grain was then bagged and taken to a little rickety grist mill, run by ~~water~~ water from a brook some two miles the other side of the village, and ground into excellent meal, the miller taking his legal toll in payment for grinding. This was a full afternoon's job and I considered it 'larks.' The rude machinery seemed to me a wonderful creation of genius.

There was a cider mill on the farm, worked by a horse, who went round in a circle, grinding our apples and those of the neighbors. During the autumn season the mill was busy all day and often well into the evening. I drove the horse, sitting on his back or in a chair fastened on the rig behind him. In the evening I was tied into the chair to prevent me from falling off if I went to sleep, which I generally did, but the horse did not know it, and would keep moving if I were there; or if he did stop, I woke up and started him along. About forty barrels of cider was the year's product of the farm; some was bottled, the bottles kept in sand in the cellar, and when opened the cider sparkled like this champagne which you have been drinking; some was kept in wood for common use, and some turned into vinegar for making pickles. This was the beginning of my manufacturing experience.

With all these varied products off the farm, the table was generously provided with food. The kitchen fireplace was so large that I used to go into it, and, looking up the chimney, see the stars at night. (The stars might have been thus seen in daylight as well as at night.) The meats were roasted in a tin kitchen in front of the fire, and the vegetables boiled in iron pots and kettles hung by chains on S-shaped hooks from a long iron crane.

On the side of this fireplace there was a big brick oven, where on Saturdays a fire of fagots was kept burning till the bricks were thoroughly heated, when it was swept clean of ashes, and the ~~pudding, - brown-and-white~~ bakings for the next week's consumption, pots of beans, Indian pudding, brown and white bread, pies, etc., put in, and the door shut tight. The bread and pies were taken out in the afternoon, but the beans and pudding remained inside till Sunday, when they were served hot. There was little or no cooking on Sunday, for my grandfather, though in his early manhood he had been a Captain of Cavalry in the Seventh Regiment, Second Brigade, Third Division of the Militia of the Commonwealth, was then a senior deacon

of the church.

Among the old-fashioned, blue-and-white china in common use were two large tureens, decorated with views of our beautiful State House on Beacon Hill, Boston, showing cows grazing on the Common in the foreground. Sometimes the entire menu, soup, meats, and vegetables, were served in one or both of these generous tureens, followed, perhaps, by a pudding for dessert; and it was as good a dinner as you are having today, though not quite so elaborate.

Wool was sheared from the few sheep kept, carded by hand-cards and spun in the house on the same old wheel now upstairs here. I recall distinctly the pleasant hum and buzz of this wheel in winter. The yarn was dyed a dark indigo blue, but not, I think, at the farm, and then sent to a little water mill at West Chelmsford, where it was woven with a strong cotton warp into an excellent fabric, called 'farmer's frocking,' from which was made the long warm frocks which the men wore in their winter work.

A seamstress, named Lucy Shed, whom we children called 'Bumble Bee', for her stoutness, cut and sewed these and other garments for the household, she living in the house while so occupied. I had a small blue frock, which gave me more real satisfaction than any clothes I have ever had since. The stockings, mittens, gloves and neck comforters for the family were knit from this yarn, in the house.

There was also a small wheel for spinning flax.

There were always several hives of bees in the garden, which supplied ample store of honey, and this, I suppose, took the place of the white loaf sugar for some purposes. The West India soft brown sugar in common use was not attractive in appearance, and had a rummy flavor.

When the bees swarmed it became a matter of much anxiety to secure them in a new hive. Sometimes the swarm, led by a revolutionary member, would try to secede, and rising in a body some fifteen feet in the air, would fly off with much humming, which would be heard at a considerable distance, in a bee line for the woods, or some isolated trees. When this happened, we ran along in front of them, beating tin cans and throwing up sand, trying to turn them back or make them swarm again where they could be secured. I do not remember that we ever succeeded in doing so. When, as usual, the bees swarmed on a bush or on a rail, placed for the purpose near their old home, a skillful person could generally re-hive them without much risk. But occasionally the bees would become unruly and then angry, when those of us who were watching the progress of events would scatter to a safe distance.

In the autumn a pair of steers or oxen, that had worked during the summer were fatted and sent to Brighton to be sold.

In the spring the young cattle and calves were branded. A responsible drover came along, collected such stock from the neighboring farms, and drove them, often quite a herd, over the highway to Vermont, to graze during the summer on the rich hill pastures. They were driven down again in the autumn to be raised or fatted for market, much as is practised in Switzerland nowadays. Our stock went to Stoddard. (N.H.)

The direct highway from Boston to Concord, New Hampshire, called the Mammoth road, passed through the farm in front of the house. It was traversed by large wagons covered with white canvas, and drawn by teams of four or six horses. Going north these were filled with store-goods, bringing back farm produce in return. They usually passed our farm on Fridays. Sometimes there were several in convoy, and in dry weather they raised great clouds of dust, from the poorly built road, which could be seen long before the teams came in sight, and after they had disappeared.

No coal was then used in the country. The wood for fuel was cut in the wood-lot some two miles up the Westford road, and hauled down on ox sleds, making a big pile in the dooryard; also a few logs to be sawed into boards for repairing the premises. I greatly prized these winter excursions into the snowy forest as a kind of arctic expedition.

Some kinds of birds were much more numerous than now, especially the common pigeon. Vast flocks of these game birds flew to the north in the spring, returning south in the autumn. 'Pigeon stands,' so called, were prepared in a wood or near its edge, away from any house, some twenty feet square, the brush cleared away, and grain scattered on the ground, which would attract the birds in large quantities. A net was so arranged on poles on one side of the stand that pulling a string when the birds were busy feeding, it would suddenly cover the space and imprison the game; and great numbers were caught in this simple way.

Partridge in the woods and quail in the thickets along the stone walls were more common than nowadays. In the pasture behind the barns, where were many old hollow apple trees suitable for nests, turtle-doves, - a very beautiful bird, - wood-pigeons and woodpeckers abounded, and in the meadows beyond larks and bobolinks were plentiful. The hanging nests of the golden oriole were always pending from the great elms about the house. Chimney swallows built in the big kitchen chimney, the nests occasionally tumbling down on to the hearth, and the eaves of the barns were plastered inside and out with the clay nests of the swifts.

.....
(silk worm raising)

After the death of my grandmother the housekeeper was Hannah Wilson, a Vermont young woman, with a bright complexion and red hair. She was very efficient and a good cook. One day in a paroxysm of house-cleaning she lighted upon a box of old papers in the garret and emptied them into the pig-yard, the general receptacle for rubbish. Happily my Uncle Philip discovered what she had done just in time to jump into the yard, disperse the pigs, who were already destroying the papers, and rescue many of them; but some were ruined. Among those saved were civil and military commissions and semi-public documents, official and private correspondence, bundles of deeds nearly two hundred years old, and various valuable papers of dates before, during and after the Revolution, which are now arranged and preserved among the Family Records in my keeping.

Among the commissions, for example, is one from 'William Shirley, Esq., Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over His Majesty's Province in Massachusetts Bay in New England,' appointing 'Simeon Spaulding, Gentlemen, to be cornet of the first troop of horse,' dated March 18, 1755. There is also one dated 'In the 28th year of His Majesty King George the Second, Annoq. Domini 1755,' and signed 'W. Shirley.' Another commission, twenty years later, - 1775, - appointing Simeon 'to be one of our Justices to keep our peace,' was signed by 'Samuel Adams, Secy.,' whose statue now stands in Adams Square, Boston.

But shortly there was no peace to keep, for another commission, dated February 12, 1776, appointed Simeon 'one of the Field officers of the Seventh Regiment in the sixteenth year of the Reign of George the Third &c.' Two days later another commission appointed Simeon Colonel of the regiment. This last document is interesting as showing the printed heading, 'George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith &c,' crossed out, and having this title written above, 'The Government and People of the Massachusetts Bay in New England,' and at the bottom the date, 'In the 15th year of his Majesty's Reign,' crossed out, and the words, 'In the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five,' substituted. You will notice that these Rebels were using the King's stationary without his knowledge or consent, which was certainly wrong.

These commissions are a good heritage, and rank with those issued by Abraham Lincoln to my brothers John, Edward and Henry."

Lowell Weekly Journal

Aug. 20, 1886 - Miss Nettie G. Craige of Lawrence and Miss Mary G. Ford of Lynn are guests this week at the house of Mr. N.A. Glidden.

The Lowell Sun

Chelmsford

Sat. eve. July 20, 1889

Death Mrs. Laura E. Glidden, wife of N. A. Glidden residing at Chelmsford died at 3:35 o'clock Sunday morning. Mrs. Glidden was 53 years of age and had lived upon the old Dalton farm at Chelmsford the past 4 years, previous to which and since 1856 she resided in this city. A husband Nathaniel A. Glidden and 3 sons Charles J., J. Clark, and Merton M. Glidden survive her. Funeral at St. Paul's Church at 3 p.m. Tuesday. The burial was a private one.

Lowell Daily Courier

Mon. Dec. 31, 1900

There was a lively boom in the hen business in this part of town last week but it lacked the element of profit to the original owners. Monday night Geo. B. Alexander suffered the loss of a number of fowl by hen thieves and Friday night N. A. Glidden's hennery was depopulated to the extent of 125 fine pullets. The selectmen offer a reward of \$50 for the conviction of these and other rascals who may be engaged in similar acts of larceny

Thurs., Jan. 17, 1901

CHAS. J. GLIDDEN RETIRES AS PRESIDENT OF THE ERIE T. CO.

"My relations with all employees in the telephone service covering a period of nearly 25 years have always been pleasant and perfect harmony has prevailed."

Sept. 17, 1908 - The flight of Charles J. Glidden's airship, the "Boston," this afternoon, from its ascension at Nashua, was witnessed by many as it passed over about a mile east of the village, going in the southerly direction

As they went over John P. Eaton's place they were within hailing distance and he extended an invitation to alight and have supper. He admits that he immediately began to talk politics to them, which may have had something to do with their failure to accept his hospitality.

Sept. 22, 1908 - The smoky atmosphere, seemingly more dense than usual this afternoon, prevented the ascent of C.J. Glidden's balloon "Boston" being seen from Chelmsford, although many watched closely for a sign of it.

Dec. 6, 1908 - The sale of a valuable piece of Chelmsford real estate has recently been completed, that of the "syndicate" property, so called, at the junction of Centre street and Syndicate road, to W.B. Emerson of Chelmsford, which places him in possession of some of the most attractive land in the village, owning as he does now all land found in the four corners at this point. The property was owned by C.J. Glidden, and the sale was effected by his brother, Merton N. Glidden of Lowell.

The contained is divided into three parts, covering in all about 18 acres, upon one parcel of which is situated a commodious and attractive house with large barn and outbuildings. A grove of beautiful trees surrounds the buildings.

The house was built before the Revolution, and was the home of Colonel Simeon Spaulding, who was a regimental commander in that war, and who was descended from the original founders of Chelmsford, his ancestor being Edward Spaulding, who came to town in 1655.

Mr. Emerson's former home was located just across the road from his newly acquired property, and was itself one of the historical places of the town, dating back to the time of the Indians. A bullet hole near the front entrance was claimed to have been made by men of the town firing upon Indians who were advancing upon the house to set it on fire.

Strangely enough, the house finally met its fate by fire, being destroyed three years ago, during Mr. Emerson's absence in California.

Dec. 31, 1908 - H.D. Baker, who has for several years occupied the "Syndicate place" on Centre street has removed to a farm in South Chelmsford lately occupied by A.C. Davis.

Sept. 9, 1909 - The balloon ascension at Lowell this afternoon, a part of the carnival week program, was watched with interest from Chelmsford, the big airship Boston being in sight to the residents of the town from the time of its rising to its landing.

At first the air currents carried it to the northward, then back again until at 5 o'clock it passed over the village to the east. About 5:30 it again passed over the town in a westerly direction and at 6 o'clock, after a most delightful trip of two hours, accomplished an easy landing in the ball field at Graniteville.

C.J. Glidden of Boston, the pilot of the balloon, was met as he landed by Walter Perham, who had followed the course of the balloon in his automobile and returned with him to his home as his guest for the night. Mayor Brown of Lowell, who accompanied Mr. Glidden on the trip, returned at once to Lowell in Fred Horne's automobile.

Nov. 30, 1909 - The number of New England Telephone subscribers at Chelmsford increases steadily. Telephones have lately been placed in the home of W.B. Emerson at the Syndicate farm, F.A. Emerson in Westford street, and at A.H. Davis's, Boulder farm.



75 North Road

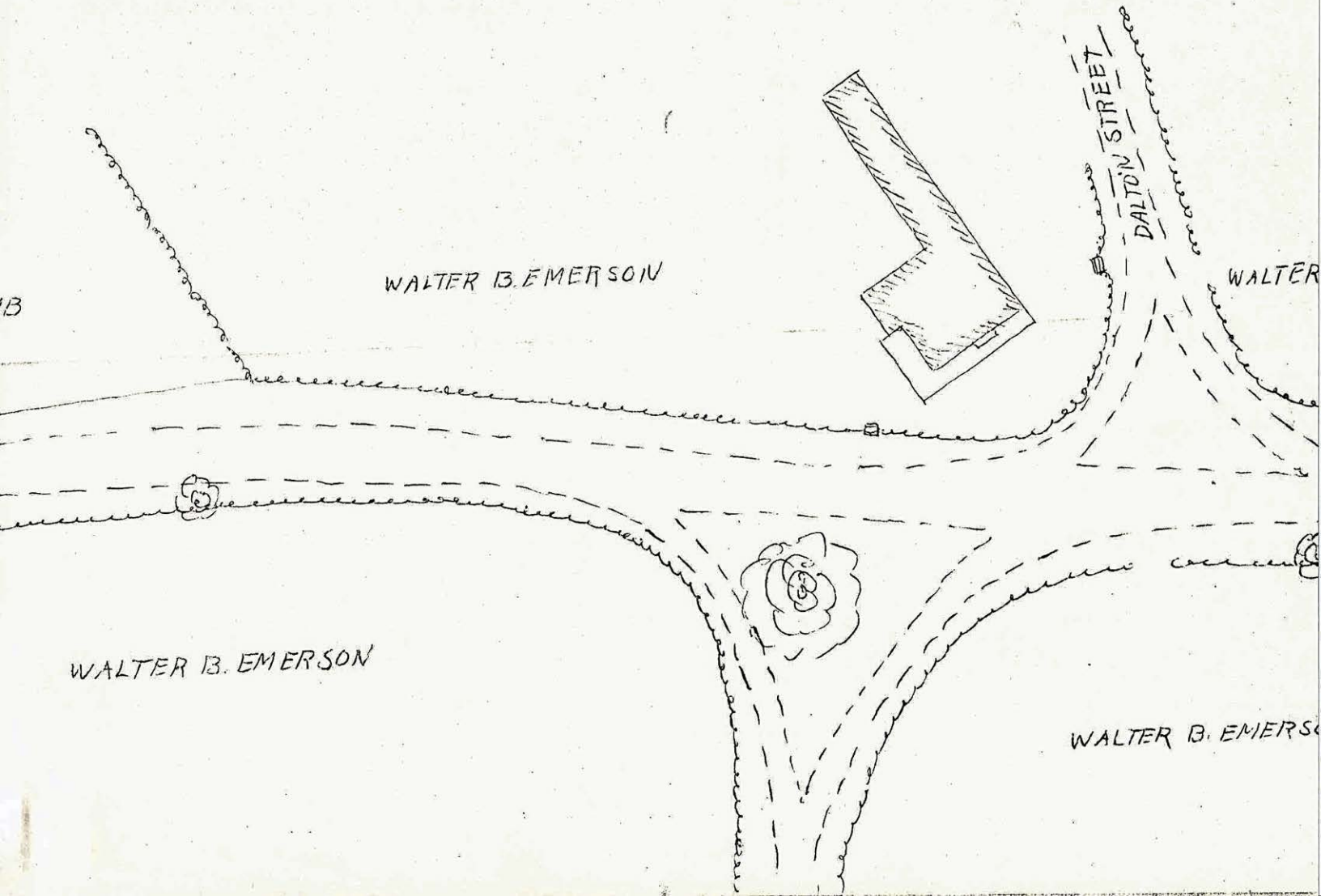


75 North Road

c 1903 F. Park

Book M, Plan 119

1920





75 North Road

Aug 2001 G. Merrill



75 North Road barn (demolished)

Aug 2001 G. Merrill



75 North Road

Aug 2001 G. Merrill

N/F
HONG K. & EUNHEE PAIK





HOME OF
COLONEL SIMEON SPAULDING
OF THE REVOLUTION
ERECTED ABOUT 1728





