

Histories of Various Colebrook Locations

These accounts are from the notes of Henry Hart Vining.

Flagg Hill Farm. The 13-room house of J.W. Jones, known as Flagg Hill Farm, and situated half a mile east of the Norfolk-Winsted Road in the township of Colebrook, was burned to the ground in December, 1922. It was formerly known as the Emmons place, and even earlier as the Cowles place.

Interbrook, the summer home of Professor Howard Bement on the Sandy Brook Road was totally destroyed by fire on June 25, 1920. The loss was estimated to be about \$3,000. Mr. Bement was on the faculty of the Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

[Today, this is 189 Sandy Brook Rd., the home of Mike and Abra Carroll.]

Horace White House on Water Street [now Center Brook] burned to the ground on March 17, 1922. It started from a defective chimney. The roofs of Mrs. S. A. Cooper, Mrs. Carrie Sparks and the farmhouse of Mrs. E. J. Bulkley all caught on fire from the sparks driven by the high winds, but they were extinguished by a bucket brigade made up of the elder children from the Center School and a number of Colebrook women.

Hitchcock House and Barn The old S. Hitchcock house and barn, located on the corner opposite the Beech Hill Cemetery and owned by James Anderson of Brooklyn, New York, [Today the front lawn area of 92 Beech Hill Rd., the home of Amelia Wilber.] was destroyed by fire during the month of Sept. 1917. At the time it had been occupied by Alvin Johnson, the lumber dealer. Loss was placed at about \$3,000.

Brookside Farm On January 23, 1875, the farm formerly owned by J. S. and J. T. Rockwell, near Albert Kelsey's, in South Colebrook, was sold for \$12,000. The prospect that the *Lee & New Haven RR* would pass through Robertsville and near this farm probably had something to do with the price. A narrow gauge road up Tannery Hill to the tannery was spoken of. This farm is now known as Brookside Farm.

Edgar Smith Farm In October of 1924, Walter McGill of New Rochelle, New York, purchased the Edgar Smith farm in Colebrook. The farm contains 225 acres. McGill planned to make extensive repairs on the dwelling house, which is 150 years old.

Colebrook River Tannery Timothy Persons moved to Colebrook River in 1807, where he carried on a tannery until his death. A hard-working man, he married Lucy Davis of Winsted.

North Colebrook Tannery Alpheus Persons, brother of Timothy, moved to North Colebrook in 1807, where he carried on a tannery during the remainder of his life. He died August 18, 1858, aged 72 years. He married Sally Davis, sister of Lucy, in 1810. She died in 1821, aged 32 years. They had one son, Wing Persons, who moved to Winsted in 1851.

The Dewey Tannery was located near the little brook near the Seymour place on Marshall St. [now 35 Old Colebrook Rd.]. At an early date the tannery was owned by one Willis Hotchkiss, and a former resident of Colebrook recalls the time when Hotchkiss operated the tannery, grinding the bark with a sweep power propelled by an old mare, blind in one eye. Hotchkiss lived just above the tannery, in a house still standing [This is now 24 Old Colebrook Road, the home of Peter and Kate Kennedy.] and Mrs. Hotchkiss used to sit and sew by an upstairs window that looked down the road. She was very pleasantly remembered, owing to the fact that it was her custom to give the small boys of the neighborhood a handful of peanuts in return for reading her a chapter in the Bible. Peanuts were a great delicacy and much more highly prized than today.

The Brick Schoolhouse This school, now referred to as the South School, was built from bricks from the Rowley Brick Co., located down the hill over the Winchester line about 1848. It replaced an earlier building, erected in 1817 that had fallen into disrepair. The original school site had been at the four corners, where the road [now Bricklemaier Rd.] from Marshall St. [Old Colebrook Rd.] crosses the Old North Road, one-half mile west of the Eugene Barber place [now 273 Smith Hill Rd., home of Lynn and Susan Welchell].

Dish Mill Brook starts from a swamp south of the Old Colebrook Road at its junction with the Colebrook-Winsted Road [Conn. Rt. 183 and Conn. Rt. 182] on land of H. L. Culver and the Wheeler Farm (E. B. Hawksley), flowing south through land of F. G. Thompson (Horace North), Gus Durst (William Swift), Charles Seymour, now owned by Adrian Godenzi, then through land of Col. Henry Terrell (Patrick Danahy) crossing the Colebrook-Winsted Road (formerly known as The New Road) at the Colebrook-Winchester town line, thence following the highway on one side or the other, joining with Indian Meadow Brook, and entering Mad River in Winsted near Dudley's Tannery (now Dudley L. Vaill), was known as Dish Mill Brook, receiving its name from a dish mill that stood on the Charles Seymour Farm. This mill turned out wooden bowls and dishes.

Wakefield Brook, starting in a swamp north of the Colebrook-Norfolk Road [Rt. 182], near the Colebrook-Norfolk town line, runs south in back of the Norfolk Town Farm, across the Wakefield land (American Legion property) then the lands of William E. Donaldson, Deacon Grant, Lewis T. Allen, Lawrence Ice Pond, A. B. Ferry, then through Hannafin Meadow and finally into Mad river near the RR underpass east of the former Brooks place.