

## **1. A Turnpike, A Tavern & Boarding Houses in Davisville**

The stories I am sharing tonight came from a variety of sources; scrapbooks and house histories at the historical society, John Warren's articles on Davisville for the Soonipi Magazine, notes from a talk with Manley Glanville about the casino, a variety of writings from various members of the Bean family who operated the Glendon. After the mill left Davisville in 1908 the village reinvented itself as a center of tourism with a variety of boarding houses and activities to attract visitors from southern NH and northern Massachusetts.

## **2. Native American Presence – Camps and Villages**

The first people we have archaeological evidence for, arrived in Davisville between 4,000 and 6,000 years ago. They would have camped near the Warner River and Schoodac Brook at different times of the year hunting, fishing, gathering plants, making and repairing tools, containers, jewelry and clothing, renewing friendships and coming together for ceremony. Families likely returned to the same camps each year and undoubtedly left the heaviest stone tools rather than carry them to their next seasonal campsite.

More permanent settlements arose 1,000 years ago near agricultural fields. Families still spent time camping elsewhere to gather specific plants, animals, and fish, and to socialize with other families.

Colonial settlers arriving in the 1730s benefitted from changes Abenaki people previously made to the landscape. Overland trails aided travel. Large clearings existed where Abenaki agricultural fields once laid. Controlled burning of undergrowth around settlements and fields made travel easier and settlers would later use Native American paths as a basis for early roads.

### **3. Ferries**

Before bridges could be built settlers looked for calm and low spots in rivers they could walk across or built rafts to float over their families, possessions, and animals. Early settlers to Warner had to cross the Contoocook river.

### **4. Francis Davis Family**

Francis Davis was the fourth child of Francis and Johanna (Ordway) Davis, in a family of six children. Young Francis was born in Amesbury, Mass., at the family farm on the Powwow river in 1723. He had a fair education for the times and was reportedly enterprising and energetic. Francis married Elizabeth Ferrin in 1745. They had eleven children over nineteen years, all of whom were born in Amesbury before the family moved to Davisville in 1766.

Before the move Francis erected a sawmill near the falls of the Amesbury River (now the Warner River) and four years later a grist mill was constructed. Being a mill owner and operator, he was able to construct one of the earliest timber framed and clap boarded houses in Warner.

### **5. Map**

On July 14, 1774, Davis was elected to have the town of New Amesbury incorporated, a grant of land about six miles square. Royal Governor Wentworth agreed to grant the township but required the town to be named Warner. Which Warner (Daniel, Johnathan, or Seth) it was named for has been a matter of contention but probably it was for Johnathan Warner, a member of the King's Council and cousin to the Governor.

Ten years later Capt. Francis Davis, age 61, died by drowning in Derry NH on his return to Warner after a business trip. His sons continued to operate a variety of mills and industries along the Warner and Blackwater Rivers, and the Silver and Amey Brook watersheds. Aquila and his family lived in

the family homestead and it will be his son, Nathaniel and wife, Mary who will operate the tavern.

## **6. Roads**

Before 1820 roads and turnpikes connecting large towns did not pass through Warner. The NH turnpike phase lasted from 1795-1815 when 53 turnpike companies were incorporated. In 1799 the 2<sup>nd</sup> NH turnpike ran south of Warner and in 1800 the 4th NH turnpike connected Boscawen to Lebanon. In 1820 a committee of men from Warner, Bradford and Fisherfield (Newbury) met to explore the possibility of constructing a road from the head of Lake Sunapee through Bradford to Warner which would connect Windsor, VT to Concord, NH. Fisherfield (Newbury) did not have the funds to construct the road. Men from Warner and their families (Benjamin Evans, Daniel Bean, Sr., and John E. Kelley) moved to Fisherfield and completed the road by 1821.

## **7. Stagecoach**

The stagecoach and more important the freight traffic brought businesses and prosperity: eight taverns opened in Warner to accommodate and entertain travelers.

Then in 1830 a road was constructed from Weare to Bradford which diverted southern traffic from Warner. Once again businessmen from Warner, Sutton, New London, and Springfield built a road in 1831 to connect Hanover, NH to Lowell, Massachusetts. Then they decided to shorten the route and built a new section in Sutton over Pike's Ledge (North Road) to create a "flying" stagecoach line allowing one to travel from Hanover to Lowell in one day! I am sure this was bone jarring! The route became a main thoroughfare from Canada to Boston. A variety of businesses, from dry good stores to mills and post offices to livery stables flourished during this time before the Concord-Claremont railroad opened in 1849 and ended the stagecoach era.

## **8. Nathaniel & Mary Clough Davis, Inn Keepers**

With the development of the stagecoach route Nathaniel Davis renovated the Davis family homestead into a tavern by adding a tap room and a dance hall with a spring floor over the carriage shed. The barns stabled replacement horses as needed by the stagecoach drivers. Nathaniel and Mary managed the tavern through the stagecoach era and business probably tapered off after the railroad line opened in 1849.

The women in the household were kept busy managing the vegetable and herbal gardens, cooking, cleaning, doing laundry by hand, never mind managing the needs of their own large families. Imagine the hundreds and hundreds of candles that needed to be dipped and hung to provide light during the long dark winter evenings.

## **9. Davisville Bridge**

The first bridges in the Davisville area were plank bridges not covered bridges. It has been said that all the bridges and mills along the Warner River were swept away in the Great Freshet (Flood) of 1826 and had to be rebuilt.

On February 8, 1839, Articles of Agreement for building the bridge near Gen. Aquila Davis read as follows: “Articles of Sale for building the bridge Will be sold as follows in one job putting up of said bridge. The railing of bridge to be the same finished as said bridge was before it was swept away by the late freshet and all to be done in a good and workman like manner. Thomas Chase won the bid for fifty dollars. *There must have been another flood other than the one in 1826 as they wouldn't wait thirteen years to rebuild a bridge.*

## **10. Davisville Truss Bridge 1855**

1855 seems to be the first mention of a “truss” bridge at this location.

An agreement between the Selectmen of Warner and Dutton Woods of

Concord states.

Woods is to furnish all the labor, pins, bolts, and nails for the construction of a **truss** bridge on the site of the old bridge now standing. Said bridge to be built according to the plan shown to the Selectmen. To be 16 feet wide in the clear roadway – sides to be sheathed with rough square edged boards, and the **roof** to be covered with 18-inch shingles. The work to be done in a thorough and workman like manner and the bridge to be completed ready for travel three weeks after the stonework is ready.

The Selectmen agree on their part to furnish (at their own expense) all the timber-boards and shingles necessary for said bridge. The timber to be free from wear, of suitable quality, well sawed and delivered to the acceptance of said Woods. The old bridge is to be kept standing for a scaffolding to raise the new one upon.

The opening of the abutments not to exceed 66 feet in length. The stonework is to be completed ready for the bridge on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September next.

The Selectmen agree to pay the said Woods \$300 upon completion of the bridge.

The bridge would next receive major repairs by John Dowlin and crew in 1870 and new shingles from the Davis Brothers in 1889.

### **11. Amesbury Bridge**

This covered bridge on the Webster-Warner town line was located about a mile down river from the covered bridge in Davisville. Webster was part of West Boscawen until 1860. The first bridge was probably a plank bridge with railings and the Davis family may have been instrumental in its construction as it would have benefitted their mill industry by providing access to an easier and flatter route to Concord. This map shows the location of the Amesbury bridge and the town lines. Once you crossed the

river from Dustin Road and travelled through the bridge the road split with the one branch towards Contoocook and the other towards the Glendon boarding house.

### **12. Amesbury Bridge 1936**

The covered bridge was removed off its piers during the Flood of 1936 and floated down river to Bohannon's intervalle. Webster resident, John Allen purchased the damaged bridge for \$40 and used the timbers in the barn at his farm on Allen Road.

The bridge was not rebuilt. Instead, a connecting road was built in Herbert Bean's pasture located across the river thus connecting the road to the Shurtleff's house and completing the Dustin road as we know it today from Route 127 to Cornett's Corner.

### **13. Dimond Station**

Dimond's was an unheated flag station. The mills in Davisville would haul their products in freight wagons to the railroad siding and telegraph the office in Concord when the train could pick up a full carload. Farmers in the area would also deliver their milk, produce, or animals for market on specific days.

Often railroad stations would also sport advertisements on either the outside or inside of the building. At the Dimond station the advertisements were large and flashy concerning Bromo Seltzer for headaches and Wrigley's Juicy Fruit Gum with its fascinating flavor!

### **14. Lake Tom Association - 1884**

Local entrepreneurs decided to take advantage of the tourist industry and established the Lake Tom Association which consisted of 50 people holding shares valued at five dollars. With the money, the association leased a grove of trees near the sandy shore, built a large pavilion and opened it to the public. It consisted of a main hall 36 X 40 feet with a ten-

foot piazza in the front and a cooking room 18 X 20 feet in the back. The establishment opened for business on July 4, 1884.

The Dimond station served as a stop to unload families for a day of swimming, boating and picnicking on its shores. Unfortunately, sparks from a locomotive set fire to the woods at Dimond's Corner and the fire spread rapidly, burning the grove of woods, and destroying the pavilion. It was not rebuilt; however, there is still a Tom Pond Association today.

### **15. Moses Trussell Store**

Moses Trussell grew up in Webster and lived with his parents and farmed until his first marriage to Mary Stevens in 1861. By 1870 he was working in the Davis family mill operations, first in the sawmill and later as a mechanic. After the death of Mary in 1874 he married Susan Arey the following year. The 1880 census listed his occupation as merchant and he and Susan operated the store for the next thirty years until his death in 1912. During their management the store was enlarged and included a wraparound porch and outside stairs to the second floor. Susan and Moses are standing on the porch in this image. Trussell was postmaster until 1908 when the Davisville office was closed. Susan died on June 4, 1919, and the store and stock were sold to Oakman and Augusta Webber.

### **16. Amos and Drusilla Bean's Home**

Amos and Drusilla Collins Bean were married in 1851 in Exeter and lived in North Danville, Fremont, and Sandown, New Hampshire. Drusilla gave birth to a daughter and two sons (Sarah, Emory, and **Herbert**). The family moved to Davisville in 1870 where Amos purchased this farmhouse and property in Warner and Webster along the Amesbury River. It appears the people living in the Davisville section referred to this part of the river as Amesbury instead of Warner. He was employed by one of the Davis men (probably Charles as he pursued agriculture instead of working in the mill

industry with his brothers) and was engaged in market gardening, lumbering and general agricultural pursuits. The children attended the one-room school in Davisville. Amos died from a month-long battle with blood poisoning and died on July 15, 1892. Drusilla lived until 1895 and both were buried in Contoocook.

*Photo image: Herbert, Drusilla, small child in chair next to her is Florence and boy is John Everett.*

### **17. Herbert James and Mary Jane Morrison Bean**

Herbert, the youngest son of Amos and Drusilla, was five when the family moved to Davisville. He attended school in Davisville until the age of twelve and went to work in the paper mill, twelve hours a day for the meager sum of seventy-five cents per day. Herbert left the paper mill for the Merrimack Co. glove shop in Warner and learned to become a leather cutter. In 1886 he and several other Warner men went to Johnstown, New York to work in the shop of J.H. Decker & Company. Supposedly they were recruited to become strike breakers.

A few months later he married Mary Jane Morrison, a staunch Irish Catholic and they were married at St. Patrick's Catholic church on November 17, 1886. On Christmas the following year a son, Everett, was born. Everett was known as John E. Bean. A daughter Florence soon followed. Herbert contracted typhoid fever in 1893 and was advised to seek outdoor work. His father had died the previous year in 1892 so Herbert decided to return and operate the family farm. Four more children joined the family between 1896 and 1905: Katherine, Herbert Emmett, Harold, and Robert Emery.

### **18. Utility Poultry Farm**

Herbert decided to invest \$500 and raise chickens, Wyandotes, Leghorns, Plymouth Rocks, Imperial Pekin Ducks, and cross breed them to have layers and broilers. He named his endeavor the Utility Poultry Farm. The



hen houses and pens were built along the road to the Amesbury bridge and covered 8 acres allowing the pullets to free range on the intervale once the hay had been cut. The dressed chickens and eggs were sold in Concord, especially St. Paul's school, and surrounding towns. He felt after six years he should be able to clear \$700 yearly.

### **19. Davisville School House and John Bean**

The boy (holding his hat in his lap) in the front row on the far right is John Bean. John finished school through the eighth grade in Davisville and went to high school in Warner for a year. He decided to quit school and work in the paper mill. That lasted one day, and he wrote a letter to the school principal, Professor Libby, and was re-admitted, graduating in the class of 1905.

All the Bean boys and their father attended the one-room school. Emmett and Robert went to Tookie (Contoocook) for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Robert then went to Concord High School on an athletic scholarship (he was a very good baseball player). Harold finished his schooling in Davisville.

John Bean's next endeavor was attending the Boston Museum School of Art for two years. He was employed with Burnham Brothers, of Newton Center, who manufactured lumber. There he acquired the skill of estimating the cost of constructing buildings from blueprints and drafting. Skills that would come in handy after returning to the family business in Davisville.

### **20. Mill Ruins**

This illustration and article by John Bean, published in *The Granite Quarterly* in 1910, described the rural abandonment of northern New England. By 1906 Henry and Horace Davis, who had organized the Davis Paper Company, closed the paper box board mill in Davisville and moved the equipment to their new headquarters in West Hopkinton, where the new

plant was located on the Contoocook river and nearer the rail line.

## **21. Moving the Bleach**

This is an image of moving the bleach to West Hopkinton.

John noted “one after another the workers sought employment elsewhere; houses were torn down and moved away, while other beautiful residences remain deserted.”

Around 1908 the poultry business was faltering and to aid the family finances Mary Jane started taking in a few summer boarders. In 1910 John would become assistant manager of the Glendon, earning \$50 a month plus room and board.

## **22. Tourism**

Dairy farming and tourism were the two industries that contributed most to the rejuvenation of New Hampshire’s economy in the first half of the 1900s. Boarding houses, hotels, summer camps, ice cream shops, produce stands, and tea rooms brought money into the state.

Davisville would enter the new era of “travel and tourism” as homes became summer boarding houses, the Glendon, the Amesbury, Sunnyside, and Riverside Cottages. Home-cooked food, fresh country air, canoeing, swimming, and fishing in the Warner River, climbing Mt. Kearsarge, and scenic drives touted the attractions of the area.

## **23. Lillian Sherman’s Tea Room**

Lillian was born in Maxfield, Maine in 1870 where her father was postmaster for the community. She attended local schools and Foxcroft Academy. In 1906, while working as a nurse in Philadelphia, she married Joshua Sherman a man twenty-eight years older and a Civil War veteran. They first moved to a farm on Burnt Hill in 1911. They sold this property

and “purchased “Sunshine Lodge” in Davisville by 1913. They operated a small boarding house and farm until it was destroyed by fire on July 5, 1919.

After the fire, the Shermans purchased an adjoining lot which had a carpenter shop which they converted into a gas station and tearoom and operated it during the summer months. In the winter months they went south. Lillian cared for the ill, wrote poetry and was the Warner Women’s Relief Corps WW1 historian. She often entertained various women’s groups at the tearoom and held poetry readings. She published a small booklet of her poems and photographs, *Souvenir of Davisville and Vicinity*. Mr. Sherman’s health eventually required they sell the business, and he died in June 1925.

#### **24. The Glendon**

By 1911 the Bean family re-built the barn ell of the farm and expanded the summer boarding business. The barn became sleeping rooms and a lobby. The farmhouse got a second story, and a large summer kitchen was added, with an icehouse underneath. There was also a laundry and storeroom built underneath the barn. One of the features off the laundry was a small room with a tin bathtub. This was the only bathtub in the entire hotel!

#### **25. The Reunion**

Apparently Glendon Reunions were held in Boston or at least this one was on November 14, 1912 at the Catholic Union Hall.

#### **26. The Annex**

Eventually the annex (nicknamed the harem) was built by Simon Sanborn and John Bean and contained 21 rooms. The house and converted ell contained 25 rooms, a dance pavilion would be built and later a concrete swimming pool by the annex. The Glendon could accommodate a hundred guests and was open from late June until Labor Day.

## **27. Harold and the girls**

Harold Bean became the cook, making the meals and pastries. Mary Jane oversaw the wait staff, maids and managed the laundry, housework, and trained the staff. She ironed all of the linen and because she didn't think the girls were expert enough nor had the time to do them well. Mary Jane had been a maid before her marriage to Herbert. Her boss was very well to do and extremely particular. Her employer wore white gloves to pass her hands over furniture to check for dust. Also, she took off her shoes and checked the floors in her stocking feet. Needless to say, it made Mary Jane a strict housekeeper and marvelous cook.

## **28. Tom Pond Anyone?**

Around 1912, John had the bright idea and acquired land on the south end of Tom Pond not far from the Dimond railroad station. He thought it would be a fine place to build a new hotel on the cool waters of the lake with a beautiful view of Mt. Kearsarge and it would be nearer to a railroad station. But his brother could not be convinced of the idea and the investment. Instead, an annex was built near the existing farmhouse.

## **29. Icecycle Company**

Always thinking of new opportunities John Bean invented a "modern coaster" which was advertised in the American Boy Magazine in the winter of 1915-16. His son, John Bean, Jr. described it as completely made of wood, one model resembled a tricycle with three small skis, and the larger model was more like a bicycle with one ski behind the other. Each model provided the ability to steer with a handlebar attached to the front ski. The Icecycles were manufactured in Contoocook at the local lumber mill. The venture was apparently unsuccessful. There was an attempt to get a patent on the idea and there were problems with production. At one time there was a pile of icecycles all packaged for shipment in the attic of the "tinshop" at the Glendon. The family moved to Contoocook and John Jr., doesn't know if any survived five children, two floods, and a fire. It is doubtful.

This image shows the advertising and a newspaper clipping of Harold and Emmett Bean modeling two different sizes of the icecyle.

### **30. Grocery Bill July 1914**

Mary Jane Bean spent the summers overseeing the cooking, baking, and cleaning for one hundred guests each week. Her grocery bill for the first half of July included:

- 48 lbs. Grand Isle Butter
- 27 1/2 lbs. Lamb
- 24 1/2 lbs. Roast Beef
- 23 lbs. of Veal
- 40 1/2 lbs. Beef to Boil
- 15 gallons Pickles
- 1 bushel of Beet Greens
- 12 bunches of Beets
- 15 lbs. Turnip
- 1 Bunch of Ripe Bananas
- 6 Pints of Apples
- 6 5/8 lbs. of Bacon
- 4 3/4 lbs. of Pressed Ham

### **31.Prescott Piano**

The Glendon advertised they had a piano for their guests. But the Bean family began paying for a Prescott piano in the early 1900s before they opened the boarding house in 1908. Nancy Bean Eastman, daughter of Harold and Dot Phelps Bean has several years of receipts for a piano from this Concord, NH Prescott company. The Herbert Bean family must have been purchasing the piano over time for the enjoyment of family and later for guests.

### **32. Contoocook Railroad Station**

When booking their rooms guests would have let the Bean family know which train, they would be arriving on at the Contoocook railroad station. Someone in the family or hired help would meet them with a wagon to load them and their luggage for the two-mile trek back to the boarding house. Later as automobiles became more popular, they were met by the family car or truck.

### **33. Mt. Kearsarge**

A summer visit to Warner was not complete until the families had wound their way up the mountain for a picnic and a short hike to the top. There one was treated to a 360-degree panoramic view towards the White Mountains, the Green Mountains in Vermont and on a real clear day, Boston Harbor.

### **34. Advertisement**

The Beans promoted the Glendon with a four-page colored spread featuring photographs and descriptions about their boarding house.

Where thousands of people from Boston and vicinity have had enjoyable vacations.

Where you can fish, swim, dance, play tennis, read or sleep to your heart's content.

Where there are free boats for the use of our guests.

Where we try to give you all you can eat of good home cooked food.

Where we bake our own bread, rolls, and muffins every day.

Where the entire water supply is furnished by a natural spring noted for its purity.

Where we like to have our guests say, "I have gained a few pounds on my vacation.

Ask your friends about us, - some of them have been here.

### **35. Doris Phelps Remembers Working at the Glendon in 1923**

I worked for six weeks earning \$5 a week and averaged about the same amount in tips. It was a full day's work with about one hundred boarders served family style except for breakfast which consisted of eggs, juices, muffins, or toast cooked and ready when guests demanded them. What a job it was washing dishes, after we had grabbed a bite to eat ourselves.

Then we had to launder the table linen and iron all the napkins. We did have time to go swimming in the afternoon. How we hurried with the supper dishes so we could crowd into the Model T Ford to go milk canning – to get the next two days supply of milk. Another evening past time was to snatch a pie or cake and six or eight of us would crawl into the unfinished cellar to sit on the stairs while Robert Bean entertained us with ghost stories.

### **36. Dance pavilion**

The Bean boys attracted a lot of help from the female guests and maids. How we sang every old and modern song and ditties with special harmonizing effects. Harold Bean recited poetry by the mile. It helped us forget about the excessive heat. Dances were held two nights a week in the open-air pavilion, and we vied with each other on who would dance with Harold. My slogan became, "I'd rather dance than eat."

### **37. Marriage of Harold and Doris**

Doris Phelps would marry Harold Bean on April 19, 1930.

### **38. Laundry**

Imagine the laundry – sheets, pillowcases, towels, tablecloths, napkins, never mind clothing... The laundry was soaked overnight, put in cold

water and brought to a boil in the boiler, then scrubbed on the tin scrub boards and rinsed three times, starched, and then hung “just so” on the line and finally ironed.

### **39. Bean Family Portrait**

This formal portrait of the Bean family was taken circa 1920-25. In the back row dressed in their Sunday best is John, Herbert (Emmett), Robert and Harold. Seated in front of them are Katherine, Herbert, Mary Jane, and Florence. All the children assisted in the day-to-day operations of managing a very busy and successful boarding house.

### **40. Mary Jane and Her Faith**

John Bean wrote, “Mary Bean was a woman of untiring energy. Through her efforts the Catholic church (St. Mary’s) in Contoocook was built, and her funeral was the first to be celebrated in it. She passed this earthly life June 16, 1929.” The holy water fount was dedicated to her and one of the stained-glass windows in the rear of the church was in memory of the guests of the Glendon.

Mary certainly worked tirelessly to raise funds for the church but Isabel Weld Perkins Anderson, wife of Larz Anderson was the driving force behind the project. She wanted a Catholic church built in Contoocook so Irish servants of local families would not have to travel to Concord. Isabel inherited her parents (Commodore George and Anna Minot Weld Perkins) home and donated a piece of the property to the Catholic church, funded construction, and St. Mary’s was dedicated on July 28, 1929.



## **41. The Great Depression**

1929 brought a dramatic change when the “great depression” struck. Everything slowed down and daily and yearly routines were disrupted and changed.

Mary Jane had passed in June 1929. Herbert was in poor health and the MD told him he should restrict his diet due to hardening of the arteries and high blood pressure. But he resisted and died October 3, 1930, and was buried beside his wife in the Contoocook Cemetery.

## **42. Winter**

The family had often closed and buttoned up the inn and travelled to Florida for the winter months. But in 1930 the trip was cancelled. Changes were wrought in the farmhouse to enable the John Bean family to winter in Davisville. Daily life was reduced to three rooms. The rest of the house was closed and unheated.

## **43. Harold and Doris**

Harold and Doris Bean married on April 19, 1930. They lived in the house across the road from the Glendon with brother Robert. Luckily, they had a large garden that year and Harold and Robert hunted and fished to help put food on the table.

## **44. Glendon and Annex**

The summer of 1931 was the last season for the Glendon as summer visitation had fallen off and Bean family members had to find other sources of employment. After serving the public for over twenty years the Glendon was closed that fall. The property was sold in 1943 and later opened at the Scandinavian and was busy in the winter months of the snow train era. In the 1960s it was owned by Frederick and Elsie Bovee and

known as the Glendon Hotel and Tavern. In January 1974 the annex of twenty-one rooms burned to the ground.

#### 45. **The Patchwork Lineage**

Most rectangles for this coverlet were cut from Drusilla Collins Bean's scrap bag in the mid-1800s. After her death in 1895, her daughter-in-law, Mary Jane, sewed the pieces together. 50 years after her passing in 1929, Doris Bean, a former Glendon employee and eventual daughter-in-law added batting and a backing to the top. The completed coverlet was finished, three generations of women and over a hundred years after its "conception."

These women shared little love. Drusilla raised Protestant and her daughter-in-law Mary Jane was Irish Catholic. In turn, Mary Jane was Doris's employer at the Glendon. Doris described her as very kind-hearted and a thoughtful person, but she never felt close to Mary Jane even after marrying her son, Harold.

Not one of these women could create the coverlet on her own. The work required leftover time and energy from three generations. The quilt becomes more an emblem of the context from which it was made, than an object of use and beauty. It has an autobiographical dimension.

This is an excerpt from a paper, *The Patchwork Lineage* written by Karen Parsons, granddaughter of Doris Phelps Bean.

#### 46. **The Sunnyside 1.**

Fannie Shurtleff on Dustin Road named her boarding house "Sunnyside." As the family observed their neighbors taking in guests after the mill closed women saw it as an opportunity to supplement the family's income even though it meant extra work. Still in the Federal censuses women defined

themselves as a housewife and did not take credit for home businesses they may have operated. Fannie's husband John, worked as a sawyer in a steam mill until his death in 1925 from heat stroke.

#### **47. Sunnyside 2**

The Shurtleff's had six girls between 1890-1910. It is not clear when exactly their boarding house opened, but probably after 1910. The house was renovated to include dormers and a wraparound porch. Their daughter, Elinor married Elmer Clough of Warner and they operated a boarding house on Burnt Hill, based on her experience at "Sunnyside." Katharine Bean from the Glendon married Jim Henley and they operated the "Henley" boarding house in Waterloo.

#### **48. Hillcrest 1**

This house known as "Sunny Acres Farm" was built prior to 1777, but the specific date of construction and builder are unknown. Zebulon Davis was living here in 1777. There were two chimneys with each chimney serving three fireplaces. There was a seventh fireplace in the west wing, each one having a granite-back hearth. One of the wings was formerly the kitchen; the eastern wing was a dance hall with a raised platform for the musicians. The cellar beneath this wing stored ice cut from nearby Tom Pond.

#### **49. Hillcrest 2**

The large barn was built in the early 1820s and was connected to the house by a woodshed. The silo was located inside the barn, to avoid being taxed on a separate structure.

The Joseph and Earl Sanborn families owned the house from 1898-1956. Earl and Hazel took in summer guests, and it was known as Hillcrest.

## **50. The Riverside**

Theodore Davis married Mary Ann Hardy and they had three sons, Eugene, and twins Homer and Herman. The boys attended the Davisville school and were employed in farming and at the paper mill. Homer married Jettie Thurber from Webster in October 1879 and listed his occupation as cabinet maker. A year later the 1880 Federal Census indicated he was working in the paper mill in Davisville. Theodore sold Homer a piece of property for \$100 in 1882 and Homer and Jettie built a 1 1/2 story gable front cottage in the Queen Anne vernacular style. The cottage displayed dormers, a bay window, an elaborate front porch with fret work and spindles, and a companion wrap around porch on the ell side.

## **51. Mill**

Their only living child, Theodore Lawrence, was born in 1891. In 1900 Herman was still working in the papermill which at that time manufactured paper box boards. By 1902 the owners sold to a new corporation, the United Box Board & Company. Four years later Henry and Horace Davis reorganized the business and moved the Davis Paper Company to West Hopkinton and manufactured leather board.

## **52. Riverside 2**

To supplement their income in 1904 Homer and Jettie decided along with other neighbors to take in summer boarders from the city. They added an annex and operated the boarding house and farm until they sold it to Reuben Brown in 1914 and moved to Manchester, NH. Other families probably operated the boarding house after this date.

### **53. The beginning of the Amesbury**

Oakman and Augusta Webber were both born in Maine. His first wife died in 1890 leaving him with three children under the age of fourteen. Eight months later Oakman married Augusta and they would have two children, Robert and Doris. Doris died within two days of being born from hemophilia. Oakman owned and operated a machine shop in Beverly, Massachusetts and Augusta kept his books.

### **54. The Amesbury**

They purchased the brick cape called the Amesbury and the Moses Trussell store on June 4, 1919. They were 60 and 51 years old.

### **55. The store**

The Davisville Store carried groceries and ice cream in the summer. Oakman sold gasoline and featured a little ice cream parlor on the end of the building. It was a very busy and popular place. There were soldiers camped over in Webster for two weeks during the summer. Jeannette Callas Cloues, their granddaughter, said they frequented the store, and seeing them in uniform was exciting.

### **56. Conversion**

The Webber's converted the old barn behind the house into rooms and made additional rooms above the store.

### **57. Doll House**

Carol Webber Whitehead was the granddaughter of Augusta and Oakman. Her parents, Robert and Olive Webber, had four children: Roger, Arlene, Carol, and Billy.

Carol was very comfortable working with tools and spent hours in her woodworking shop in Jefferson, Maine creating dollhouses, miniatures, sewing and creating other craft products.

One of her favorite creations was a replica and interpretation of her grandparents' *Country Corner Store*. The dolls in the living room represent her grandparents. Oakman and Augusta probably never lived in the store as they resided in the boarding house next door. However, the overflow guests at the boarding house could sleep in the upstairs bedrooms.

## **58. Dance Pavilion**

The popular dance pavilion hung over the river, and twice a week there was dancing featuring "Hugh Flanders" live band. Hugh was a town mailman but had played music his whole life. His band also featured his brother Royal and the band was very popular in the area. The orchestra moved over to the Glendon just down the street for an additional two nights of music and dancing.

### **58. Brochure Description for the Amesbury Boarding House, circa 1930s**

The Amesbury features, "A large screen plaza, with comfortable chairs, a beautiful, shaded lawn with swings and seats, croquet grounds, double tennis court, a nice dance hall with piano, four boats free to guests, a good bathing beach a short run from the house, home cooking with plenty of milk, cream, eggs, fresh vegetables from our garden, fruit in season, pure spring water, Protestant and Catholic churches in the area. Rates \$12 to \$15 per week room and board." They could accommodate up to 55 guests, and had three bathrooms and extra bedrooms over the store.

## **60. Swimming and Sliding**

Helen Webber Callas had separated from her husband and worked in the Boston area. Her daughter Jeannette lived with her grandparents in Davisville. She loved living there she said it was her own little world and she helped to entertain guests as a child. As she got older, she would help with chores around the boarding house. One day she was waiting on tables

and received a 50 cent tip, “she thought she was wealthy.” Another interesting job she had was turning on the streetlights at dusk. Her mother would return on the weekends and help Augusta with the cooking and cleaning.

Jeanette loved to swim and delighted in showing off for the boarders by swimming back and forth across the river. She also scoured the bottom for freshwater clams, which she handed to her grandfather in a rowboat to inspect for freshwater pearls, none particularly valuable, but interesting, nonetheless.

In the winter she and her friends slid on double runners down Route 127 through the covered bridge until it was dark. She also loved skating on the river which given the current, had to be a daring affair.

### **61. On her own**

The Webbers were getting ready to retire. They had sold the Amesbury in 1939 and moved to a house on Pumpkin Hill. But they hadn't sold the store. Jeannette feeling very grown-up offered to operate it, selling groceries and pumping gas. Her grandmother gave her \$50 to stock the store and her mother came up on the weekends to keep her company and then returned to her job in Massachusetts. Jeanette said she never had any trouble over the summer. In 1940 the Amesbury reverted to the Webbers and they sold it a year later to the Arnolds.

### **62. The Candlelit Inn & The Flagstone Inn**

In 1931 Edward Whiting of Cape Cod purchased this lovely brick house, opened it for tourists, and named it “Candle Lit.” He sold it in 1943 and it changed ownership twice when George and Alli Curtis purchased it in 1948. They called it the “Flagstone Inn.” In 1953 Mable Jelleme was the owner and the days of being an inn were over.

### **63. John Warren**

John Warren's parents honeymooned at the Amesbury 1939 and the family returned to Davisville for several years, staying at the Amesbury until it closed and then moving up the hill to the "Flagstone." After its closure they moved down to the former "Glendon" which was then known as the Scandinavian. His mother taught him to fish on the Warner River, rowing upstream from the bridge into deeper water. The river provided trout, bass, pickerel, eels, suckers, and perch.

### **64. Pleasant Lake Casino/Dance Hall**

In the 1920s Hattie and Harry Walls owned the Pleasant Lake Casino. The dance hall opened in 1929 and quickly became a summer institution. Terry Babson's mother Jean ran dances at the casino in the 1940s. The Carruthers, Walls and Babson's were all interrelated and worked at the Casino. A casino was a favorite term at the time for dance palace.

In 1935, Harry Walls built an outdoor bowling alley consisting of four lanes. The structure had a roof over it, the bowler approaches and the bowling pits. Men's bowling leagues were formed and bowling continued until 1942 when World War 2 and rationing affected activities.

### **65. Ad**

Manley Glanville purchased the business in 1947 and ran it for 38 years

Dances were held Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday nights. On Tuesday nights they had the "Jimmy Wylie Band" from Manchester playing "big band" style swing music. The boys in the band were college kids and great musicians. On Thursday nights Manley hired Hugh Flanders, the local mail carrier and owner of Maple Ridge, and his band. On Saturday nights Hugh brought his seven-piece band and would pack the hall. As many as 500 people would attend those Saturday night dances.



## **66. The lake**

During the 1950s as automobiles once again became available after the war, drive-in theatres became popular, and television was invented, the Glanville's decided to drop the weekday dances and concentrate on the Saturday night dance scene.

## **67. Roller Skating**

As interest in the dance business waned, Glanville created a club by adding tables and chairs. He also added a campground, created a roller-skating area, and improved the bowling alley. Later it was converted into an arcade. Eventually, insurance costs for operating a public recreation area became too high and he converted the resort into a private operation. Frank Hebert bought the campground and dance hall from Manley Glanville in 1985. After the Pleasant Lake Casino roof collapsed in the winter of 1987, the business closed.

## **68. Totem 89 Restaurant and Motel**

Frederick and Anna Lane, residents of Hingham, Massachusetts had a summer home on Pleasant Lake. Frederick was general manager and treasurer of the Nantasket Steamship Company. Frederick died while visiting Littleton, NH in July 1943. In 1955, his wife sold their property to Michael and Dorothy Donovan. The Donovan's decided to build a small one-story motel on the back of the property and opened for business the following year, Donovan's Pleasant Lake Motel.

## **69. Ad**

Later owners named it Totem 89 and in 1979 the restaurant was known as

“Danny’s.” Its reputation “No Tell Motel” attracted a lot of characters throughout the motel’s life, providing endless stories that were never recorded.

A Warner Storage complex is located on this site today.

## **70. The End**