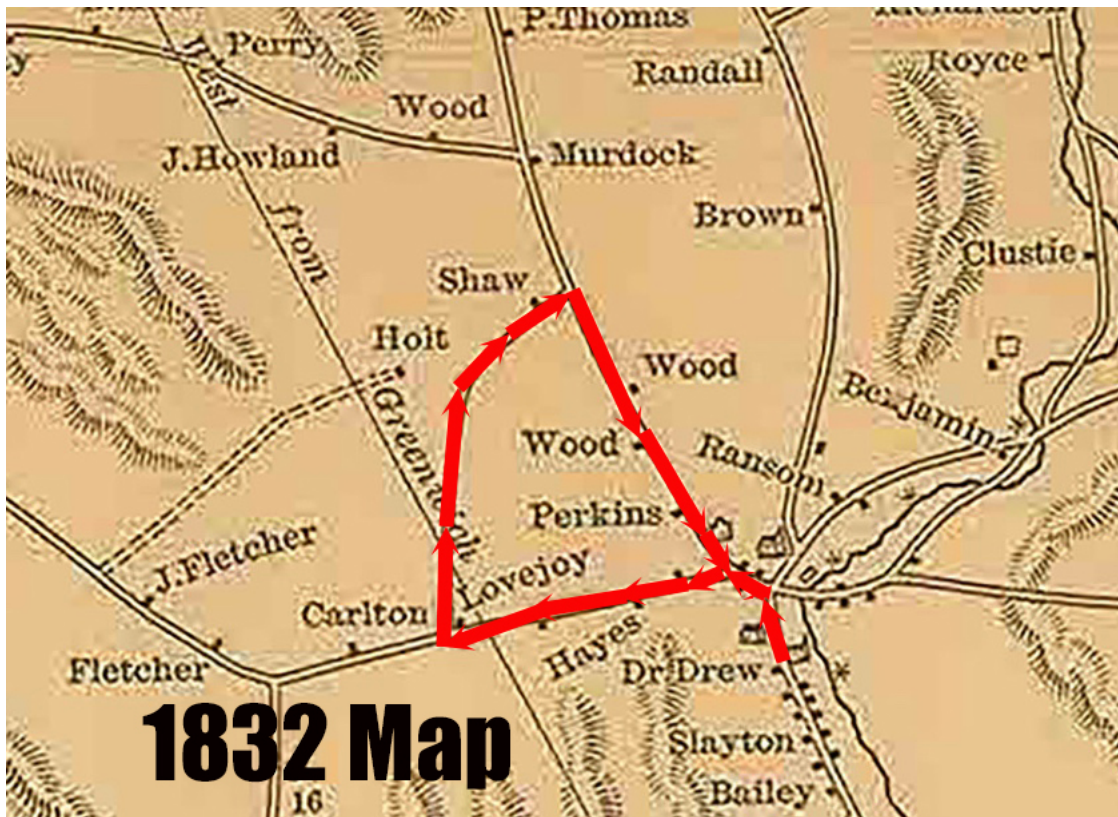


Fletcher Schoolhouse - Greene Rd - Lover's Lane - Church Hill Rd Hike

Approx. 2.8 miles • 600 foot elevation climb • challenging





I. Carleton Morgan / Hoadley Home

The original house here was a small cape - built in the 19th century. In the early 1940s the house was purchased by Bertrum Hoadley, the Hoadley family had been in South Woodstock for a many years and had owned the Stone House at the north end of Kendall Road. Bertrum was a widower at the time and within a few years of owning the house his son Darwin and his bride Mona Havill moved into the house with him. Mona and Darwin lived in the little cape for over



50 years, as they both lived long lives. Under their ownership the house and yard were kept tidy and looking nice. They both were community people, being involved with local organizations- Darwin was the head of the cemetery commission and kept the Methodist cemetery in top shape. Mona was involved with the Academy and the Homemakers club. In the early years she would make butter for local farmers with their cream. She and Darwin had a big garden and would preserve many of the vegetables. She made some of the best pickles in the area.

The two buildings on the site are new, but it was the original home of Carleton Morgan. We can find no information on Carleton, but he was clearly related to the Morgan family that is so important to the early and present history of Woodstock. What follows is from Mary Grace Canfield's book *Valley of the Kedron*:

"Just north of the Kedron Tavern was a house occupied by Carleton Morgan, a most eccentric person, wholly a law unto himself. He was a horse lover and always had a few excellent animals which he fed many times in the twenty-four hours of each day, a handful of oats and a dab of hay, and so the process went on. He did not raise enough hay for them, but that did not trouble him so long as his neighbors had hay. He never undressed at night but he lay on an old wreck of a sofa, with his lantern lighted at his side. When the village was asleep, Uncle Carleton with a bag on his back, strolled about to the barns and generously helped himself to the hay he needed. He also went on to Long Hill and cut whatever hay he wanted.



Uncle Carleton Morgan carrying to his barn his neighbor's hay

He owned quite a famous stallion, Kentucky Pilot. Pilot developed some temper. When the late Edmund Page as a boy was working at the Kedron Tavern, he was awakened by piercing screams from old Carleton's barn. The investigation showed the old man under Pilot's manger where he had crawled to escape the fury of the horse. He had entered the stall on one of his night feeds when the attack was made. Strenuous measures were used to rescue him from this dangerous place. After Carleton's death, Kentucky Pilot was sold and had the ignominious job of hauling a tin pedlar's wagon about the country side. "

When the Academy was winding down in the late 1890's what's now the Kedron Valley Inn was sold to Melvin J. Holt. He conveyed back to the Academy the Carleton Morgan property.

2. The Tomb

The village's first religious building was the Congregational Church located where the 1906 Queen Anne style schoolhouse stands now. In 1825 an organization was formed to build a public tomb or receiving vault behind this original church. This group included John Cottle, Abraham Kendall, Richard Hayes, Eleazar Parker, John Lake, Chauncey Richardson, James Slayton and Gaius Perkins. It charged to cover its costs:



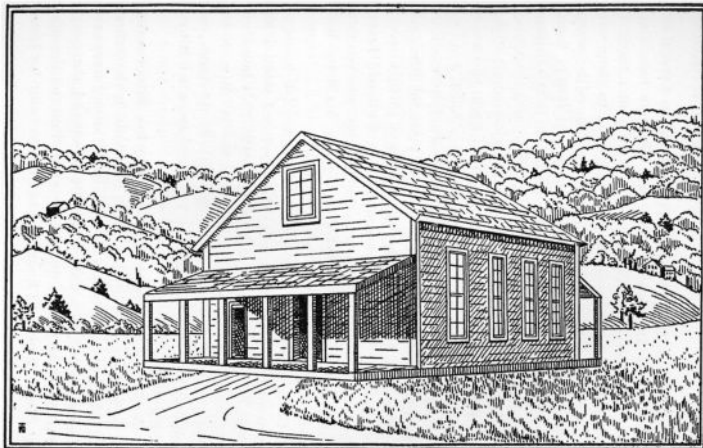
A sexton was elected at this meeting to keep the Key and to open the tomb when necessary and he must be paid 25 cents whenever he unlocks it for the use of the Proprietors. All others using it must pay him 75 cents but the Sexton can only have the usual fee, the balance must go into the funds of the Society.

Nine years later they decided to add a hearse:

At the Annual Meeting of 1835, "it is nominated and seconded that we have a comite to bild a Sleigh for the Herse. Gaius Perkins and Benjamin G. Bigelow made the Bildin

Commite to Bild Sd. Sleigh."

"That non-subscribers pay for the use of the herse in the summer, the rate of one dollar and ten cents a mile one way. In the winter fifty cents and ten cents a mile one way."



Congregational Meeting House 1792

Mrs. Canfield tells us that by 1937 the old tomb found a new use: dynamite was stored there for the road crew. I can't imagine how much this would have weighed on the minds of the village's young ones.

3. MacKenzie House

There is a debate on the age of this house. Mrs. Canfield in the Valley says that it was built in 1802 by Cyrus Allen (1796-1851). But she also says that the deed to Charles Monroe MacKenzie was dated 1828 but the stone gate posted were engraved with the initials C. M. and the year 1827. Is it possible that the Charles Munro MacKenzie (1768-1847) was the original owner and his son Charles Monroe MacKenzie (1800-1871) inherited the house and created the 1827 fence post? Plus who could blame him for



changing his name from the Scottish Munro to the more American Monroe? Both of these MacKenzies are buried in Hartland. It is also mentioned that the younger MacKenzie married a Dunsmore. We wonder if that is a typo for Densmore...



Unfortunately the 1832 map does not have a name associated with the house, but by 1869 Oliver Bridge (1824 -1906) was living here. He is buried in the South Woodstock Methodist Burial Ground. Another stone engraving that was set in the front wall says F. L. H. It is unknown who this

might have been. The Weedens lived here later and then the Marshalls bought the house and tore out the brick kiln in which Monroe Mackenzie fired the pottery he made. One of these jars is on display at the Academy. On the stream behind the barn is located some interesting stone work that was probably the axle holder of a overspill mill that powered the pottery wheel.

Mrs. E. W. Belcher owned the house by 1937, as a second home, perhaps one of the first ones that now so unfortunately are the norm. Fran Gillett owned it in the latter part of the last century and many know her son Ham who has accompanied us on our history hikes. It is currently owned by Hunter and Jessica Melville, who to no little amusement to himself, is descended from a Scottish Melville from Renfrewshire, the same town that the original MacKenzie hailed from!

The *Valley of the Kedron*: tells us it has a 'wonderful stone walled cellar, such as the Paul Kendall house has' where Chip Kendall now lives. This seems to support the 1802 building date, Also the roof was very similar to the 4 sided Kendall roof, before the Melvilles changed it to a two sided roof.

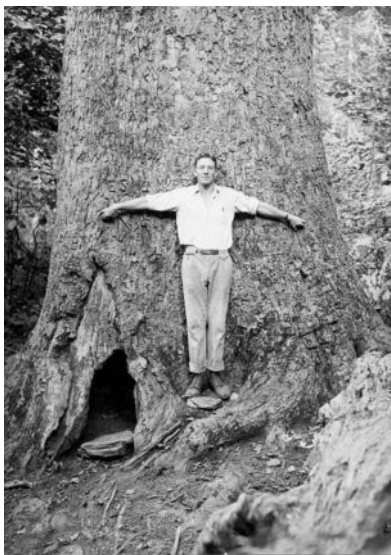


The western or left side of the house dates from 2009, but the right/eastern side retains the original beams and floors. Below you can see the exposed tree-nails that were used to join the main bearing beams.



4. American Chestnuts

On the Melville property are approximately 24 American chestnuts that have been grown from nuts provided by the American Chestnut Foundation (TACF). Native chestnuts were once an incredibly important part of the American forest, providing food for turkeys as well as Native Americans and early colonists. The wood was strong, didn't rot and grew quickly. In 1904 a chestnut



blight was imported from China that was first

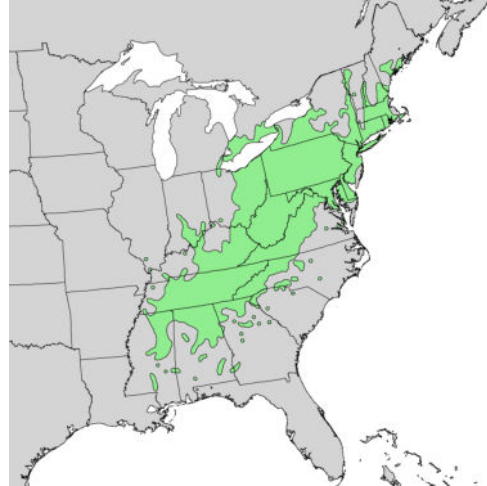
discovered at a site near the Bronx Zoo. It spread quickly and wiped out an estimated three to four billion American chestnut trees in the first half of the 20th century. The picture at left shows why these trees were known as the 'Redwood of the East'. South Woodstock may have had trees of this size at the time of settlement. In any event several groups are attempting to develop blight resistance through both back-crossing and through genetic manipulation.



According to analysis of old forest dust data, the tree was rare or absent in New England prior to 2,500 years before present^[50]

but rapidly established dominance in these forests, becoming a common tree over a range from Maine and southern Ontario to Mississippi, and from the Atlantic coast to the Appalachian Mountains and the Ohio Valley. It was said that a squirrel could walk from New England to Georgia solely on the branches of American chestnuts.

There are scattered survivors of the blight around us. At least two American chestnuts live on the side of Skitchewaugh Trail in Springfield, Vermont. Woodstock is at the top of their range, but these trees are doing well, the largest tree here is only fifteen years old. A local member of the TACF came earlier this month to pollinate the flowers with pollen from trees in Plainfield NH. We're hoping to see our first nuts this fall! If you want to get involved in this interesting hobby just look up The American Chestnut Foundation online.



5. The Cooper Shed

On the north side of ByBrook next to the current shed is an old foundation, this is probably where the cooper shed was located.



A cooper is basically a barrel maker. These containers were incredibly important to our early settlers allowing for storage and easy transportation of goods including flour, grains, salted meats and fish, beer, spirits, whale oil, molasses, butter, cider, dried goods and hardware. Farmers stored produce like grains, butter, and cider, while merchants kept dried goods and hardware in barrels



6. ByBrook

This house was built by William Minor Lord (1754-1820) about 1806. William Minor Lord was born in Lyme, Connecticut. An important early settler, he donated the land to create the South Woodstock Methodist Burial Ground off Kendall Road. He died on 20 March 1820, in his hometown, at the age of 65.



Richard Hayes (?-1854) lived here, he painted the Universalist Church. Marshall Jaquith (1802? - 1884) who is buried in the Jenneville Cemetery lived here as well. We learn from Mrs. Canfield that on March 29, 1879, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Jaquith celebrated their golden wedding at the National Hall, now the Kedron Valley Inn. Quite a feat for a couple whose parents basically hacked a living out of the wilderness.

The farm is 25 acres in extant, and the buildings have been much done over and expanded in recent years. The present

barn was built in the early 20th century. The original barn was below the house. It was a "gentleman's farm" for many years in the 1900s. Owners included Frank Wood, Elsie McLean and Ann Hutchins. Ann kept draft horses in the barn. Water was supplied by a spring from across the road. The small building across the road was built on the neighbors land with permission. Joe and Peggy Dion owned the house from the mid 1970s to the 1990s. They had chickens in the barn. Their children Joe and Beth both graduated from Woodstock Union High School.

7. Howard & Frannie Burns House

The Burns Farm as we know it is named for Howard Burns and his wife Frannie who owned it in the latter part of the 20th Century. Many locals fondly remember this couple, Howard sold some of his land to the folks who built Mary Bush's house, in addition to 18 acres sold to the founders of the Woodstock Water Buffalo Company.

Mike Harlow, Frannie's son and Howard's stepson, inherited the property which extends from the corner where the present house is up to the Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company on Churchill Road. Essentially splitting the land bounded by our hike with the extensive Slayton fields to the east.



The current house is relatively new, however Mrs. Canfield tell us that in her times a comfortable house stood here. You can still see the barn foundation from the road. The Lovejoys lived in

it and appear on the 1832 map. "Mrs. Lovejoy distinguished herself by being one of the very few women who belonged to the list of "Individuals" at the Chapel. From this fact, we know that she was a woman of convictions". Emanuel Morgan lived here, and a M. Morgan by 1869. Albert Stearns lived here with his family. The house was ultimately destroyed by fire.

Frannie and Howard built the current house in the late 1940s. Part of their original farm includes land across Fletcher Schoolhouse Road and across Greene Road. They lived there until they died. Howard passed away in 1980 at the age of 58. Howard was blind in one eye - from an accident in the woods early in life. Frannie lived another 15 years. Both were jovial, community-oriented people. Howard was active in the local Fire Department and Frannie with the Homemakers.

8. The Star Hill Farm

Star Hill Farm was named by its most famous and longest owner, Anne Bosworth Greene. She was an author and artist who loved animals and nature. She named the beautiful hill behind her house Dipper Hill, where a mansion now sits (built in 2010) She had whimsical names for her horses and Shetland ponies- Greylight, was her daughter's favorite pony, her horse was Cupid. She even had names for the fireplace andirons - Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Castle!



Greene was born and educated in England and came to the US as a young woman. She married in 1900 to Dr. Harry Greene then divorced in 1910 and remained single the rest of her life. With



her one child, Lorna she came to Vermont around 1912 on horseback from Cape Cod on a mission to find a farm to buy. After a week on route and then several days staying at the Kedron Valley Inn they had a tour of an old farm up a winding steep road that they fell in love with. The house at that time was already over 100 years old having been built in 1783. It became her beloved home and an inspiration for her many books until her death in 1961. Her family continued to own the property into the 1990s. One of her books, titled "The Lone Winter, (1923) reads some like a diary of the winter she spent alone on the farm with over 30 ponies and her milk cow Cressy and her dogs. Another

book "The White Pony in the Hills" (1927) is about her adventure of finding her Vermont home and the farm life with her Shetland ponies and horses. She also wrote travel books and essays. Later in life she had a winter home in South Carolina. Sadly, Lorna died in a car accident when her car rolled over on one of the bends in the road leading to Woodstock at age 23. She is buried

up near the house along with her mother and her pony Greylight. A white stone and a plaque mark the grave.

From the late 1960s to 1989, the Milton Fullerton family used the Star Hill Farm pastures for their Holstein heifers for the summer months. The run-in barns were used as well as a spring for water. Electric fences were installed to enclose 4 big pastures. At the time Green's grandniece, Cynthia Travers and her husband John, enjoyed the farm as a second home.

The house was owned and renovated by David Muller in the late 90s and early 2000s. He started the Vermont Water Buffalo Farm, making yogurt from the milk. His base of operations was next door at what now is Vermont Farmstead Cheese. The property is now owned by the Arundales, and they built the mansion that is behind the old house.



The 1832 map has access to this house going to the west and connecting with Fletcher Hill Road, this was a pent road which we will have more to say about soon. By 1869 a B. Hathorn was living there, probably B. Hathorn the Third since we know of a Benjamin Hathorn Sr (1761-1847) who is buried at Bailey's Mills Cemetery in Reading. He was from Wilmington, Massachusetts served in the Revolution and had 14 children. His son Benjamin Jr died at age 25 of spotted fever and was married to Amanda Bridge who probably grew up in the Bridge/MacKenzie house just a few hundred yards away.

9. A Pent Road

As you can see on the 1832 map there is a dotted road that connects the Greene property to Fletcher Hill road to the west. This road was defined as a Pent Road which was basically a private road that was locked at its two ends. We think it extended up Lover's Lane to connect with Churchill Road. It was clearly important as it has stone walls on either side, The 1832 map shows a Shaw homestead just north of the road near its east end. It must have burned down or been otherwise removed as nothing shows up on the more accurate 1869 map.



10. Mary Bush's



In researching this hike we reached out to Mary Bush, long time owner of the beautiful property near the top of the hill on the left side of the road. Here are her words:

“I wish I could say our house is an antique but from our understanding it was built in the early 1950's. I have forgotten the couple's name we bought it from. I do remember the wife was a secretary at the Country School. They purchased the land from the Burns family. When we bought it, Howard Burns was still farming the land all around us. He had a small race track in

the spot behind our field where he raced cars and maybe motor cycles. He also had a bunch of old cars back there as well. We had ponies and a horse for me and my girls to ride and the Farm was a lovely spot for trail rides. We have owned our property for close to 50 years. I would walk to GMHA for Pony Club on Saturdays while my daughters rode their ponies. We have so many wonderful memories of living in S. Woodstock including sledding down Church Hill to have Mrs. Kendall's popovers.”

The land for this house was originally purchased from Howard Sr. and his wife Margaret Burns. Margaret Burns was a Bartel before she got married - part of the Bartel store owners down in the village. Some of our contacts say that is why the Burns ended up owning so much land!

11. The Woodstock Rifle & Pistol Club

Following World War II returning veterans, among others, created a gun club on 25 acres of land owned by the Burns family. Their holdings had included land on the east side of the road from the top of the hill to the downhill Franklin Perry site which is the stone-covered house and riding barn. Howard Jr. played a part in setting up the gun club. Large competitive events were held back in the day. The Woodstock Police Department still practices here. There is a clubhouse and several rifle and pistol ranges. A trap shoot is held one or two nights a week in the warmer months. Membership is incredibly affordable.



12. Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company



Before there was a cow cheese company there was a Water Buffalo Yogurt company. Created in 2002 their products were well received and delicious! David Muller, who still lives in the area sold the company to a group of investors who decided not to invest further capital and the company folded. It was purchased by Canadian Frank Aballe who started out as Bufala Di Vermont hoping to continue the water buffalo enterprise but he struggled to find adequate local feed for the herd. at this point the plan

changes, he intended to open a slaughterhouse. This set off a firestorm of opposition and a local group of mostly Woodstock residents gathered the funds to purchase the creamery. Thus was formed the Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company creator of award-winning cheddars, bries and Windsordale cheeses among others. Earlier this year VFCC purchased and merged with the Grafton Cheese Company, one of Vermont's oldest cheesemaker, a joining of tradition with innovation.



13. Franklin Perry

In the 1832 map there are two close farms halfway up Church Hill, both come under the name of Wood. We were unable to find out any information about these Woods, perhaps Diane Wood on our Board will have some info to share.



There are so many Woods in Woodstock it's hard to separate the threads, we'll leave that to a more enterprising researcher.

More is known about the two Perrys who replaced them, and appear on the 1869 map. The original Silas Perry (1757-1823) was born in Barnstable Massachusetts on Cape Cod. His son Silas Perry (1802 -1878) lived on the west side of Churchill Rd. His brother Elisha Perry (1798-1872) had a son Franklin (1832 -1881). Elisha ran an advertisement in 1828 to sell his father's farm:

"The Subscriber now offers for Sale his farm (Woodstock South Parish) formerly owned by Silas Perry deceased, and under good improvements with good House, two barns and other out buildings thereon standing. Any person wishing to lay out money to advantage will do well to call and look for themselves, as the crops which are now on, together with those taken off will recommend Said premises without deception. Terms of payment will be easy, if required, by having part of the money down."

Elisha Perry
Aug. 20, 1828

It appears that Daniel Perry originally built this house in 1795. Franklin Perry (1852-1881) succeeded him. Franklin died at age 48 and is buried in Woodstock's Riverside Cemetery. We are not sure if any of the house is original, but certainly the granite veneer siding is new, having been added in the last couple of decades.

14. Silas Perry / Burns Farm



There were at least 3 generations of Burns that farmed this land and another 2 generations of Harlows who are owners and related through marriage to the Burns. The first was William Burns, from the late 1800s to about 1920, then the longest stretch was his son Howard Sr. and his wife Margaret -1920 to about 1970. They used the old original barn and a newer barn and milked about 20 cows. Putting their milk in milk cans and then driving it down to the South Woodstock Grange building to meet the bigger truck to take it to

be bottled. There were 2 silos and a big house facing down the valley looking into the village. When William Burns owned the property it was a smaller piece of land but after Howard married Margaret they expanded. They purchased the old Holt place across the road and what now is the pistol range. They also purchased the old Lovejoy farm which is contiguous but accessed from what is now Fletcher Schoolhouse Road. Margaret was part of the Bartel Family that owned the general store in South Woodstock. Some say that she either had money from the store or had traded for land when people had built up a debt for things they acquired there.

Margaret was born in Brooklyn NY and came up to the area as a child with her family to run the store. She became involved with the local Grange, Social Circle and Homemakers. She was a reporter for the Rutland Herald for over 40 years and also did the South Woodstock



column for the Vermont Standard. She and her husband Howard were outgoing and fun and were generous neighbors. They had a big house where they often entertained - she would cook big dinners and have a "Penny Sale" with the guests. Everyone would bring something for the sale. Fred Barr recalls them having a Bull Moose head inside the house. People also said admiringly of Margaret, "I don't know how she did it, but she knew everything that went on in this town!" As they got older it was hard for them to keep up the pace and keep up the house. After they died the house was unoccupied for years. Eventually it was taken down but not until the 90s. The cellar hole still remains.

Howard Jr. ran the farm in the 70s, after his parents died - a few years later he sold the herd. In 1981, John Morgan, from Arthur Morgan Road, about 4 miles away, moved into the barn with about 10 cows. His dream was to be a dairy farmer but he didn't have the right space at his home farm. Within a couple years he was up to 25 cows. For that time period it was a small herd but he was able to get his milk picked up as a milk truck from Swards was going right by on Church Hill road to service another farm. He made it work and kept milking until 1998. The Water Buffalo farm leased the barn and fields for a few years after John moved out. The barn is empty now and barely standing - it's hard to find with the vines and brush growing all around it.



As to its early history, we have a snippet: "Barker Crooker built a house further up this hill in 1810. Silas Perry occupied it later." As did his son Silas Perry, Jr. (1802-1878). He died at the age of 76 and is buried in the South Woodstock Methodist Cemetery. The only remnant of this home is a foundation very near the road just down hill from the dilapidated barn. There are some old bricks which seem early 1800s era.

Once on a walk up Church Hill I noticed some black walnuts in the ditch by the Franklin Perry home. Surprisingly, since they are relatively rare, you could see three tall black walnut trees surrounding the house. On the scouting tour to prepare for this hike, I was astounded to see dozens of very young black walnut trees all over the west side of the road around the Silas Perry cellar hole. They're even springing up in the middle of the fields that you can see from the road. It seems the squirrels have been very busy! Black walnut lumber is very valuable, and if you're clearing a farm, as much of Windsor county was in the 1800s, you might keep the maples, but black walnuts would be used or sold. Hopefully, as we hope for the chestnuts, this burgeoning stand of walnuts will bring about a new forest where these fantastic trees abound once again!



15. Edwin Slayton's

This house was originally built in 1802, but it is unclear if any of the structure we see today is original. It is decidedly unlike every other house built before 1820. The builder was Kendall Emerson who sold it to Ephraim Allen. Emerson subsequently moved off to Cincinnati, Ohio. Many of the early settlers moved west, Michigan being a favored location. But the Perkins stayed. The Perkins family settled originally in Ipswich, Mass. Descendant by the name of Captain William Francis Perkins (1743-1826) married Lydia Sterling in Lyme, Connecticut in



1766, one would imagine he knew William Minor Lord. This restless Perkins next moved to Hartland with his six children. It didn't take long until he was off to the northwest to South Woodstock in 1801 with his three sons Elisha, Gaius and Benjamin. In 1813 he married his second wife Irene Ransom. Let's remember that the Ransom house was what we now call the Kendall home on Kendall Road. Captain Perkins was a tanner and shoemaker. His sons continued the business with Gaius Perkins being particularly successful.

So which Perkins lived in the house on Church Hill? We know that Gaius built the brick building on Cottle Ridge nearby the Academy in 1832, the house that Alice Fletcher, his great-granddaughter lived in in 1937. And let us not forget that it is this Perkins whose name adorns our organization due to his generosity in donating \$1000 to save the Academy. It can't be the Captain who appears on the 1832 map since he died six years before. Perhaps it was Cyrus Perkins since his wife was the sister of Monroe MacKenzie, the neighbor to the immediate south and west.



Edwin Slayton, the resident in 1869 was an outstanding farmer, from the Child's Windsor County Directory 1883-1884:

*SLAYTON EDWIN H., (South Woodstock) r 37, carpenter and builder, sugar orchard 1,000 trees, fruit grower 100 apple and 15 pear trees, 100 pure American Merino sheep, and farmer 23, soldier in the war for the Union. [Card on page 442.]

Mrs. Canfield says:

Ed. Slayton makes the best of sleighs,
And if you'd only ask it,
He'd make you one the Queen would praise,

In the memory of those living today, the house was known as the Breifings. Clover Durfee was a Breiling and lived across the road on property accessed by Brown Road and just uphill from the Kendall place. The Breilings retired to the home in the mid 1900s. They were newcomers to the area at that time. Mr. Breiling was an architect. His wife dyed wool for hooked rugs. Mary McCuaig remembers going there with her Grandmother, Mary Fullerton, to pick out strips of wool for the rug she was making. There was every shade of many colors available!

Ed Cowdry of South Woodstock leased the barn and milked a very small herd of cows there. The stalls are on the lower level and are still there to this day! The milkhouse, where the milk was kept cool is up by the road. Milk storage had to be in a separate room or building per regulations as a precaution to keep the milk clean. This property is currently owned by Dawn and Ed D'Alelio who is an investor and boardmember of the Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company.



16. The Town Pound

At a town meeting in 1793, Plyman Church was ordered to build a pound near the South Meeting house just above the tomb, I have often wondered what the very small rock wall square near the road just uphill and on the opposite side of Church Hill Road could have been. Too near the road and too small to be a house, perhaps an outbuilding? Well I think it's the town pound built 232 years ago. Compare



this example located in Rhode Island: What is interesting about these walls is that it supports the idea that stone walls in Vermont were primarily built to enclose sheep rather than just marking property lines. Apparently walls as low as these could keep straying animals contained.

ON the Night of the 27th of this Month, the Pound at the South-West Part of this Town was broke open, by five Persons, and one HORSE, of a middle Size, mostly white, and intermixed with small Spots of a dark Colour, with the fore Part of his Breast somewhat galled, was carried off.

Whoever will apprehend said Thieves, and return said Horse, shall receive **TEN DOLLARS** Reward, and Five Dollars for either of them.

JOHN MILLER,

Pound-Keeper.

Providence, Sept. 30, 1795.