

THE SUNSET HOUSE

The Sunset House was built in 1898 for Frank P. and Mary A. Noyes. The Noyeses first lived in "Milbrow House" (now owned by John Barclay) which was part of the property sold to Frank when he bought the sawmill located on the brook that runs from Jones Pond to Jones Cove.

Their first daughter, Mildred, was born at Milbrow House. Frank soon learned that his family would increase again, and since Milbrow House was very small, he purchased the Rodick lot which was located between Jones Pond and the road, bordered by the brook on one side and the Ebeneezer Wood property on the other side.

Frank purchased an unused schoolhouse and moved it onto the new property for temporary housing while the new house was being built. Their second daughter, Dorothy, was born while they were living in that building.

The property contained some buildings which were standing over the brook; one he used as a wood working shop. Men employed in his sawmill also built some of the furniture for the new house in this shop. Another building located over the brook was a three-bay buggy barn. In the mid-30s Elizabeth Noyes stored her Ford convertible in one of the bays during the winter while she was in Belmont, Massachusetts teaching school. This building still stands today but is no longer situated over the brook.

The new three-story home was completed in 1898, incorporating the schoolhouse as workmen's quarters at the back of the structure. There were four more additions to the family - a son, Chandler, and three more daughters, Ethel, Elizabeth and Eleanor. All the bedrooms in the new house were now occupied!

As Frank's family and business holdings grew, he added several out-buildings to the property. A large barn was built between the house and Jones Pond. An ice house filled with sawdust from the saw mill kept the supply of ice for family use and for the store all through the year until the next ice harvest on the pond. A chicken house and yard also shared the bank along the brook.

The house itself had a huge brick cistern in the basement as an extra water supply for the bathroom. At some point, a Delco system was added supplying electric power - the first home in the village with such a claim.

The Noyes family were a gregarious group and their home was a convivial gathering place for adults and children alike. Frank died in 1943 at the age of 87 and Mary died in 1957 at the age of 92. Dorothy lived on in the family home until 1976 when she decided that maintaining a 14-room house was more than she wanted to manage at age 80, so she sold the house ~~of~~ ^{for} \$25,000.00 and moved to Mill Stream Heights in Winter Harbor.

Since that time, new owners have upgraded the building in several ways. The present owners, Carl and Kathy Johnson, have lived here at Sunset House since 1989 and have established a successful bed and breakfast business, sharing their house much in the tradition that was established by the Noyes family.