

Interview with Kitty Noonan 11/22/81
On the history of Shelburne Falls.

Miss Quinlan picked out photographs from an old photograph album we found in our attic. Following are the people she knew:

Frederick A. Basford and Family had a wagon shop at the Falls in 1869.

A. K. Moore who ran the Grist Mill at Shelburne Falls. He died around 1989 from an accident at the Grist Mills. The mill was down behind Barbara Kent's house.

John Papineau lived in the Oake's House. Another family lived across the street (Henry Papineau. John was the father.

Mrs. Papineau was a Sorrell. Her father lived to be 100 years old.

View of the 1927 Flood. Back view of the Grist Mill at Shelburne Falls when both dams on the river were washed out. The people in the picture are Evert Laroque, Clayton Shortsleeves, Jr. and his wife Hazel. This is a view of the front of the Grist Mill.

The stones from the Grist Mill were used to build the Vermont House at the Shelburne Museum.

Map of Shelburne Falls in 1900 drawn from an inset of the 1869 Shelburne map by Tom Tompkins, Cub Scout in the 1960's as a project on town history. He visited the neighbors in the Shelburne Falls from Mt. Philo Road to just over the Falls bridge. He also drew another map of the people living on the street in the 1960's.

For 1900: Beginning at the bridge and going East, the first house on the left is where Mrs. Sorrell lived. Then the house where Catherine Potvin lived.

The Coggins lived in the next house. Going across the street-Mrs. Ash lived in the house now owned by the Bean's ~~now~~. Frank Burbo was Mrs. Ash's son. He lived in the basement of her house. Laramy's house was next as we go west down the hill. (Mrs. White lives there now)

Henry Winterbottom lived in the house west of Laramy. They had the most beautiful flower garden. (The house burned down in the 1960's)

Still headed west on the north side of the road, we cross the covered bridge. The upper dam was to the north of the bridge where the Grist Mill was located. The lower dam was south of the bridge where the Circular Sawmill, owned by the Webb's and run by Fred Bacon around 1900. Alice Quinlan's father also worked there.

Just past the bridge on the north side was a road that went to the Grist Mill. Moore and H. Lake had a house down there, too.

The first house on Falls Road west of the bridge on the north side was owned by Abair and Colt. The house is now owned by Barbara Kent. It's one of the oldest houses in the

Falls and was built by one of the Quinlan's, an Edward Quinlan (Not Alice Quinlan's brother Edward)
The Clayton Shortsleeves moved into the house about 1906, the year they were married. They had a little store in the basement, Pop, etc., not too much.

The Tracy's lived in the next house from 1890-1893. The house burned shortly after 1900. Fred Bacon lived there about 1898. Walter Palmer and his family lived there for a few years.

Bacon and Palmer were in partners with the mill. Sold to Walter Palmer when he married (Loren Palmer is his son). They rented it to the Bergerons. Then Fred Thomas owned it when he was married to Grace Quinlan. Then Bob Bacon bought it. Then Alice Bacon owned it.

The next house to the west (still on the north side of the street) was owned by Enos Douglas. There was a school in the living room where Burt Scofield taught. The Forest Carpenters live there now.

Marie Hamilton owned it before the Carpenter's bought it a few years ago.

Fred Bacon (Marie Hamilton's father) owned next house which was built by Goslin in 1860.

John Papineau lived in the next house (where the Tom Oakes' now live). Old Mrs. Papineau owned the house for years, then it was sold to Alan Bacon, then to the Oakes' who said in 1961 that the house was 140 years old. The Collins' lived there around 1914 when Allen Bacon tore down the old general store and used lumber to build the porch on the house.

Between Oakes' and the next house was a little store that came out to the "sidewalk" formerly owned by George Curry. After his death, his widow ran the general store. Fred Peet, Loren Palmer's father-in-law had a liquor store there. Behind the store was the long Woodman Hall where dances were held. (Clayton Shortsleeves said he helped build it in 1906.) Eventually store was removed and the new part was left standing. Woodman's Society had big suppers there. Marie Hamilton's mother was the best cook. They had an insurance for the members, too. The members and their families had a lot of fun at the Woodman's Hall.

A Mr. Howard Peterson had a garage in the old Woodman Hall for a few months around 1928.

Presently a garage for the Tompkins'.

The Woodman Hall was moved to the Gervia house after a few years.

The house was owned by Tommy Thompson around 1900. Later owned by Allen Bacon.

Arthur Hathaway lived in the next house in 1900. It was ~~the~~ Herman Dederer and the Tompkins'.

There was a small house between the Arthur Hathaway house and Galipeau's which burned.

Henry Goodsell built the Galipeau store sometime after 1900. Then there is the Blacksmith Shop (which is still standing)

owned by William
& Daisy Bacon,
the Kellogs
(Maydean
Birmingham's
parents)

The old Mr. Hathaway was a blacksmith. After that Joe Bacon bought it. Nellie Bacon's father. They sold it then moved to the road to Charlotte where Rose Early lives. The next house was owned by George Parker. It's Eunice Osgood's house. Emerson Palmer left it to his son, Alton. The next one is Abair's. Pricilla Abair. That's where the new Woodman Hall was. There was also a millinery store in the front part of the building. The next house was owned by George Miller. (Fanny Russell's husband) They had 2 or 3 daughters and 2 sons. St. George used to live there. That's as far as it went going west on the north side of Falls Road. Mr. Hathaway owned the land from there to the northwest corner.

Going back to the bridge and heading west on the south side of the street we find:

Just south of the covered bridge was a circular Sawmill run by Fred Bacon around 1900. John Quinlan also worked for the Webbs who bought the mill from Fred Bacon and Walter Palmer. The first house was John Noonan's house. (Kitty's father) Used to belong to the Degrees. One of the oldest house in the Falls. John and Kate Noonan owned the house since the 1890.

Next house was owned by Leon Henas (Mrs Shortsleeves mother and father). Not as old as some of the houses.

Next is Collier (Alec Collier's worked in the Creamery) who rented the house.

Next is John Harrington. He used to be a state inspector. He and his mother lived there.

Behind Collier house was a tanning factory.

The next house to the west of John Harrington's house was the Henry Papineau. The son of the old Mrs Papineau. Mary Jane Papineau house.

Next is John McGee. Cousin to Johnny McGee, the professor. They had 4 or 5 daughters. Nina Cole lives there now.

Next is the John Quinlan house, built around 1890 by John Quinlan. His brother Mike was an inventor. He invented a box machine. His son, Ed was a clever carpenter.

The house next to Quinlan was the Lemires (Daisy Bacon's house) Downstairs was a store. They lived upstairs. Grocery store.

The next building was the Grist Mill that Fred Bacon ran. Was a Creamery first. Then it became a tenement house, then in the early 1960's H.P. Hood Co. had a store there, then Chittenden had a business there.

The next family was the Burbo's. One of the Burbo's married a Coleman. Mrs. Burbo was in a wheelchair most of the time.

The Wetmore's lived in the next house. There were 2 or 3 sons (Earl Wetmore was one of them). At one time a John Williams and his daughter, Myrtle had a slaughter house in the back yard.

Basically all the houses still stand. The Elkins house and the Stebbins house are the only additions to the neighborhood.

the rest of that part of Shelburne Falls Road to the west corner (at Mt Philo Rd) is built up with a number of houses on both sides of the road. (Beyond the McGregor house & the former St. George house going west)