

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS  
of  
SOME OF THE OLDEST HOUSES  
in Easton  
with  
SOME INFORMATION  
about  
THE OCCUPANTS OF THE HOUSES

ALSO

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS  
of  
SOME OF THE OLDEST PUBLIC BUILDINGS  
and  
MANUFACTURING PLANTS  
of  
Easton, Mass.

by

HEMAN HOWARD, ESQ.

Compiled from  
Chaffin's History of Easton, Mass.  
Public Records. Private Family Records.  
and  
Information furnished by individuals.  
North Easton, Mass.

1937.



## JOSIAH KEITH HOUSE

Bay Road

(The Oldest House in Easton.)

Rev. James Keith came to Bridgewater (now West Bridgewater) when a young man of twenty years. He became first pastor of the Bridgewater church and served as it's pastor from 1664 to 1719, a period of 53 years.

Josiah Keith, one of his sons, came to Easton and built a barn on the Bay Path in 1715. It stood a short distance north of his house. The date was found cut in one of the sills in the barn. This barn stood 187 years until 1902 when it was struck by lightning and burned.

Mr. Keith was said to have driven his cattle back and forth between here and West Bridgewater every spring and autumn, until he built his house here two years later. At times he lived in his barn. It does not appear that he bought land in Easton until 1717 when he purchased 108 acres from Nathaniel Ames of Bridgewater. He probably "pitched" for his land on which he built his barn, as it is recorded that he "pitched" from a heap of stones and also from a maple tree with a bird's nest in it with one egg. The heap of stones can still be seen but the bird's nest with one egg has probably disappeared.

July 7, 1717, he began to build his house. It's front faced the south. A short distance south of the house was a road abandoned long ago which ran from the Bay Road west to what is now Foundry Street a short distance south of Highland Street. The Bay Path was then in about the same location as it now is, but was not built for carriage travel until many years later.

The west part of the house was built first. It was rectangular with two rooms on the first floor and two rooms on the second floor. About 1798, the house being out of repair, the lower rooms were taken out and the upper story lowered on to the foundation, making a low-studded house of one story.

About this time, the house came into the possession of the Williams family and an addition was built on the end towards the Bay Road. This addition contained the present front door, and one room which was used as a sleeping room for a newly married couple. The floor of the new addition was two steps lower than the floor of the old part and there was no cellar under it until recently.

The front appeared about the same then as now. The whole



north side was built on later. The back part of the north side was covered by a roof which housed the well, and the outside was left open and unboarded for many years, perhaps as late as 1830 or 1840.

This house was used as an inn as early as 1724. Josiah Keith was a licensed inn-keeper. Thirty years later, in 1754, no mention is made of the house being used as an inn.

Its builder, Josiah Keith, died in February of that year. He had been a man of some prominence in town. He was moderator at Town Meeting for seven years, and town treasurer for two years.

A few years after his house was built he built a mill a short distance west of the house on Mulberry Meadow Brook, later called Leach's Stream. It is not now known how long this mill was used as it had disappeared by 1771. There were many difficulties. At first there was not enough water to run the mill and it was several times sold. At one time it was jointly owned by Samuel Keith and Benjamin Williams, the Williams family and the Keith family being related by marriage. They had a disagreement about running the mill so it was agreed between them that one should run it in the morning and the other in the afternoon.

A new mill and mill-pond were built before the old was taken down. Lewis Williams and his father, Thomas, then 88 years old, built a dam and excavated for a pond, built a canal to furnish power, and built a new mill just south of the old location, on the west side of the Bay Road. The pond was on the east side of the road. This was said to be the first mill in town to have a saw driven by water-power entirely without the aid of man-power. This mill was in operation until a few years ago.

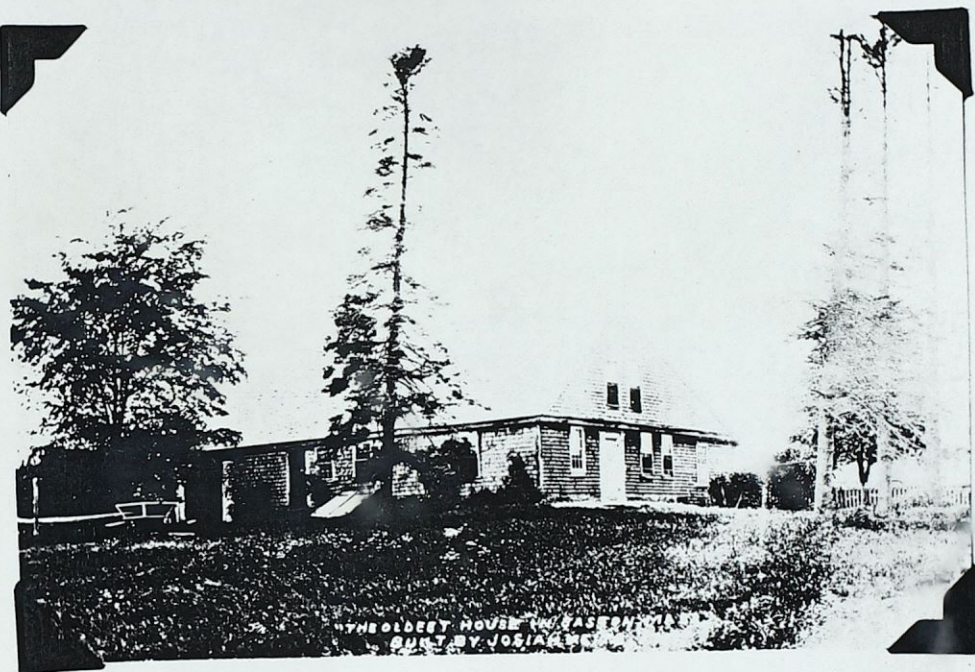
The house was early occupied by the Williams family. In 1735 Josiah Keith sold his 1/4 interest in the old mill and his house and farm to Eleazer Keith. The place later came into possession of Thomas Williams Jr. who married Rebecca Keith. He sold it to James Dean whose daughter, Laura married Lewis Williams, a son of Thomas Jr.

Edward Dean Williams who was a life-long occupant of this house was born in the Clapp house on Purchase Street at the railroad crossing, in 1820. The place came to the possession of Jesse Williams, his son, who was the last of the family to occupy it.

This place was owned and occupied by the Keith, Williams, and Dean families who were all related, for 205 years. It is now owned by William G. Newell and operated as a hen-farm (1937).



It is said that the last slave to be owned in Easton lived in this house. James Dean bought a slave girl from Sidiah Williams for thirty pounds. She was about eleven years old. Her name was Catherine Miller and she lived with him for more than thirty years or until his death. She died in 1809 and is buried a short distance south of here in the cemetery.



"THE OLDEST HOUSE IN EASTON"  
BUILT BY JOSIAH MILLER



### DANIEL WHEATON HOUSE

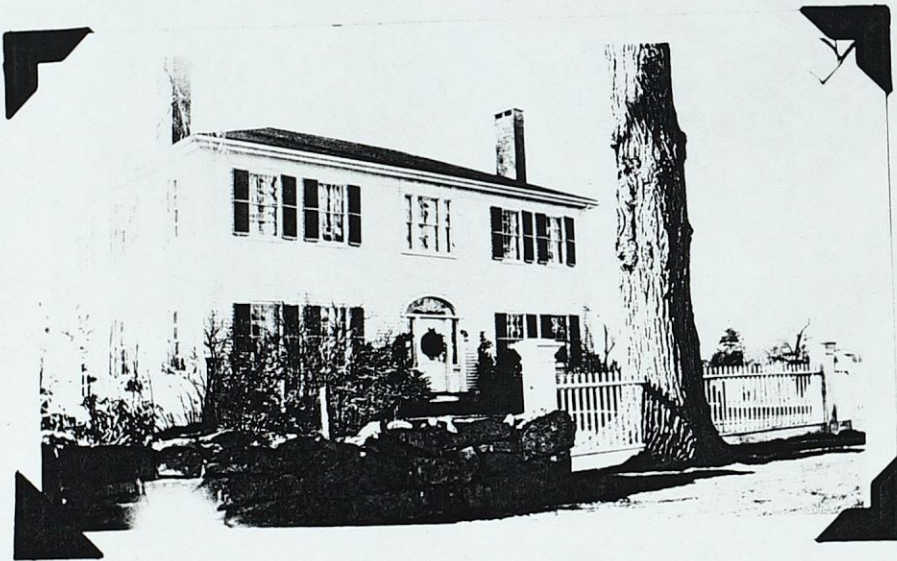
Daniel Wheaton, son of Dr. George Wheaton of Norton was born in 1767, graduated from Harvard University in 1791, came to Easton in 1796 and bought 365 acres of Williams land on the Bay Road near the Norton town line. He lived in a house already on the property until he built himself the house now standing there. Built soon after 1800 and was one of the best finished houses of that period in the town.

It has nine-foot ceilings, large 19 x 20 ft. rooms, three fireplaces and three chimneys and there are nine doors in the dining room.

Mr. Wheaton was a lawyer and was often employed by the town in legal affairs. He was prominent in church and town affairs. He was postmaster for the west end of the town for forty years. His house was practically a public building.

Mr. Wheaton died in 1841 and his son, Daniel B. Wheaton lived there. The farm has since passed out of the family and is now owned by Alfred P. Ward.

Photo 1936





DEAN KEITH HOUSE - MATTHEW HAYWARD  
Tavern  
(so-called)

This house stands on the east side of the Bay Road (now called Bay Street), a short distance north of the Josiah Keith house. It was probably the home of his father, Alexander Keith and was later owned by Dean Keith's youngest daughter, Joanna Williams.

The house was built by Matthew Hayward probably between 1753 and 1790.

It is a two-story house, side to the street, front door in the center, with the usual large rooms. The sides were clapboarded until recently shingled.

Dean Keith was born Nov. 9, 1807 and married Abigail Fowler Dean, Sept. 25, 1828. They had nine children.

Photo by Millicent B. Howard

1929





### FREEMAN DRAKE HOUSE

This house stands on the Bay Road about 1/2 mile north of the Five Corners.

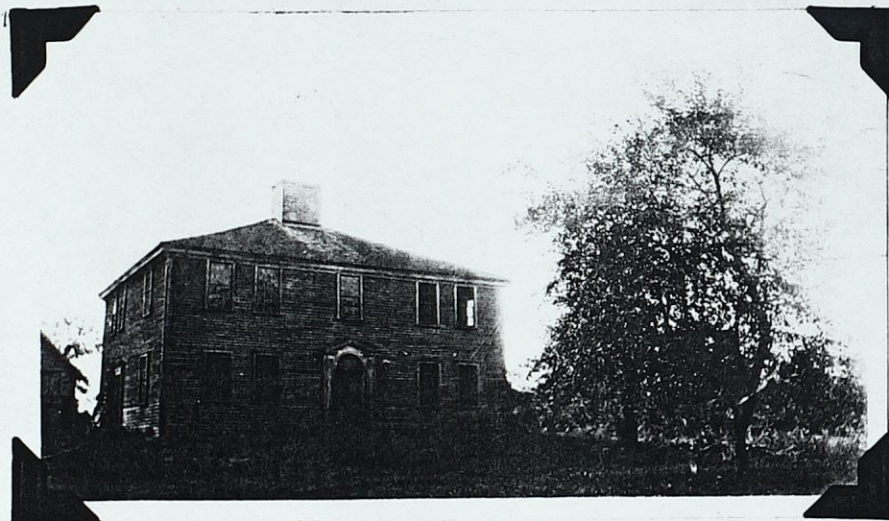
His father, Titus Drake was born in Bridgewater and his mother was born in Plymouth. Titus Drake died from an accident March 9, 1853 aged 82 years, and is buried in Mansfield.

Freeman Drake married Mary and had a daughter, Martha Davis Drake, born September 1, 1822. She died in Easton, August 7, 1867, aged 67 years 9 months.

The house has recently been repaired and the sides shingled.

Photo by Millicent E. Howard

1928



*V.B. File - Lic. Dr.*  
(2)



## BARZILLAI DEAN HOUSE

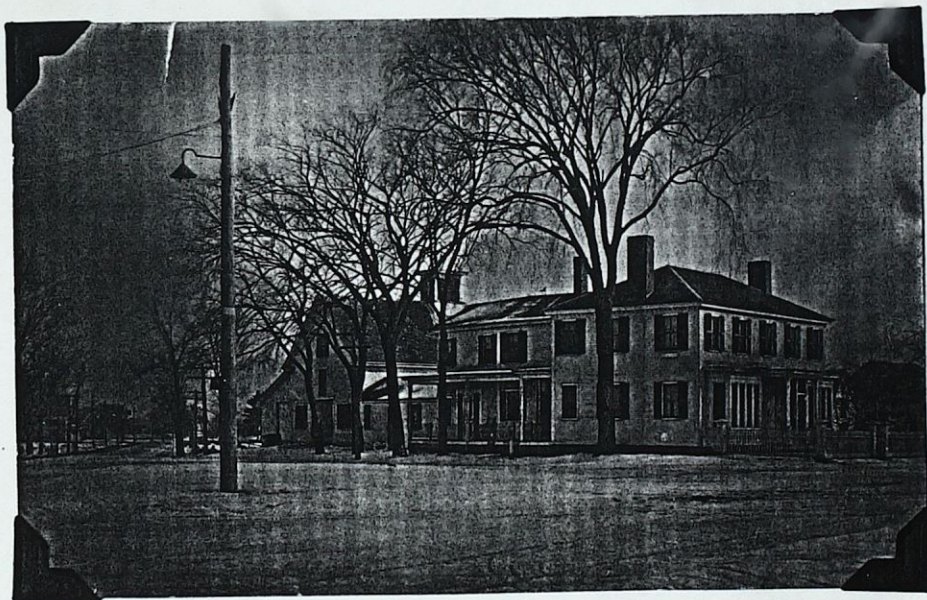
This house is situated on the southeast corner of Depot Street and Washington Street and was built by Barzillai Dean in 1827-1828. It is two stories high with large rooms and an L on the east side. There was a green fan over the front door, a picket fence around the front yard, and two fir trees in front. The house cost \$1500. and an itemized account of the cost has been preserved.

Barzillai was killed in an accident in 1848 and his widow, Deborah, lived in the house with her son, John Otis Dean until her death in 1878. After her death the bay windows were added, and the piazzas, and hot air heat was installed. In 1896 the second floor was made into a separate apartment.

After John Otis Dean's death in 1912, the front fence and fir trees were removed.

The house is now owned and occupied by John Brett Howard, great grandson of Barzillai Dean.

One of the following pictures was taken before 1878 and the other prior to 1912.









## ABIEL EDSON HOUSE

Abiel Edson built a small two-story house on the east side of Center Street opposite Summer Street, in 1800.

The main house has two large rooms on the first floor and the same on the second floor. The door is in the center. A low lean-to is built across the rear of the house. There is also an L projecting easterly.

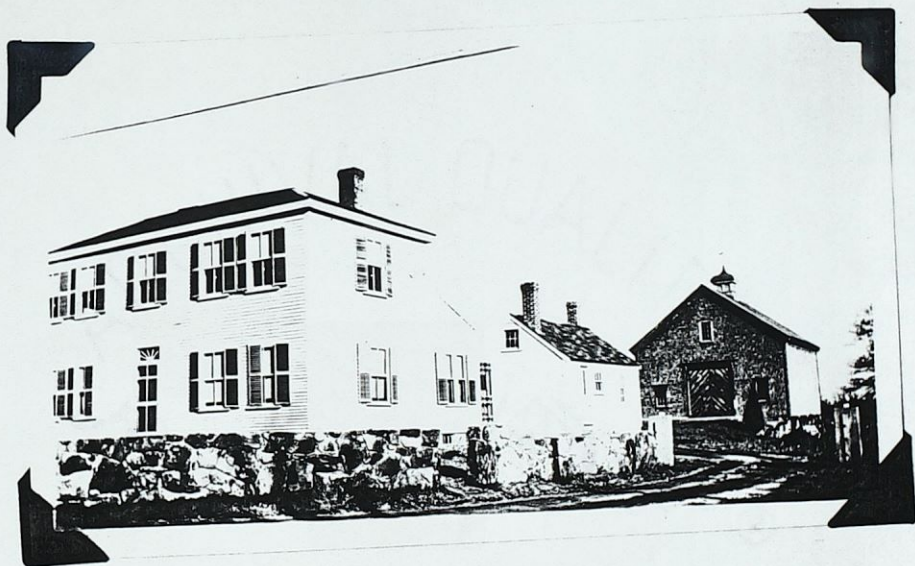
Unlike most old houses, it has two small chimneys in the rear of the main house. The building is clapboarded and painted yellow.

A stonewall encloses the small front yard.

Title passed from Abiel to his son, Daniel, and thence to Charlotte Clark, and it is now owned by Robert T. Conroy (1929)

Photo by Millicent B. Howard

1936





### LUTHER SHELDON HOUSE

This house is situated on the east side of Center Street a little north of the church. It was built prior to 1810.

Rev. Luther Sheldon came to Easton in October 1810 and bought a small farm and residence a few rods north of the church. This house was his home for nearly thirty years.

The house is large with many rooms. It is clapboarded and painted yellow. It has blinds, and an L in the rear. After Rev. Sheldon's death the house was owned by Hannah Tibbetts for many years. Since her death the place has been sold several times.

Rev. Sheldon was born in Rupert, Vermont, Feb. 18, 1785 and died in Easton, Sept. 17, 1866. His first wife, Sarah, was born in Canaan, New Hampshire, Jan. 30, 1790, was married Sept. 26, 1812, and died in Easton, October 10, 1853. His second wife, Elizabeth (Alger) Keith was born in Easton November 17, 1819, and married October 24, 1854, and died October 14, 1863.

Photo by Millicent B. Howard 1929





## " MEETING-HOUSE PLANE"

or

## CHURCH ST.BURYING-GROUND.

In 1705 the Proprietors of the Taunton North Purchase voted to set apart six acres of land for a burying place, a training ground or some other public use. Provision was made for a road forty feet wide through the land. The land to be perpetually reserved for public use. It was described as being between Benjamin Drake's house and Israel Randall's house.

Benjamin Drake lived south of her and Israel Randall lived on Depot Street about half way between Church St and the Green. near where Mr. Clarence Perry now lives (1937).

This locality was called "Meeting-House Plane", then Cynthia Drake's Park and later Cynthia Drake Road. It is now called Church Street.

The first meeting-house was on the east side of the street. It may have been built as early as 1713. It was a very rude affair and probably had no glass in the windows for ten years or more. At a town meeting in 1726 it was voted to raise ten pounds for furnishing the meeting-house and to put glass in the windows. The rest of the money to be used for boards, nails and labor.

Think of listening to long sermons, sitting on rough board benches in a building with no glass windows, and no heat!

A new meeting-house was built at Easton Center after much controversy in 1750 in November of that year. The town voted the church committee permission to pull down the old meeting-house when they might think proper.

In November 12, 1750 the old meeting-house was pulled down. It had probably been in use about thirty-five years.

The first preacher was Elder William Pratt. He was probably not an ordained minister. His work here was very brief. He died in January 1714 aged 54 years. His widow lived until 1728 aged 72 years. They came to Easton from Weymouth. Their home was just north of Morse's Corner. He owned considerable land. Some of it ~~is now~~ <sup>later</sup> F. Lothrop Ames' estate. Their remains lie in this cemetery among the first burials. Their tomb stones are well preserved.



Matthew Short succeeded William Pratt. He was an ordained minister and lived on the north side of Depot Street, near where William Furlong now lives. He died in 1731 and was buried here but his remains have been removed to the Center Street Cemetery.

Pratts, Daileys, Randalls, Haywards, Crossmans, Howards, Leonards, Fobes and Ames and others, are buried here, all representative Easton families.



## EDWARD HAYWARD HOUSE

Edward Hayward, son of Edward, was married in 1771. His father's estate consisted of 484 acres of land which was divided among his three sons in 1772. Edward's share was 170 acres. He probably built his house soon afterwards. It is still standing on Foundry Street next east of the railroad crossing.

The large chimney has recently been removed. Otherwise the house has not been much changed. It is the usual type of low, one story and a half house.

The property passed into the possession of the Poole family, and is now owned by Manuel Lewis. (1937)

Photo by Millicent B. Howard 1929.





SHEPARD LEACH AND  
LINCOLN DRAKE HOUSE

As early as 1800 Shepard Leach, son of Abisha Leach was in Easton and interested in the iron business. He acquired several hundred acres of land and in 1823 was running as many as seven furnaces in Easton.

In 1812 he built himself a two-story house of the conventional architecture with a large chimney, numerous fireplaces and four brick ovens, two of which are in the cellar.

After Mr. Leach's death in 1832, the house passed into the hands of his brother-in-law, Lincoln Drake, and it has remained in the Drake family ever since.

After Lincoln Drake died in 1872, his son Abbott occupied the house. It is now occupied by his daughter, Carrie F. Belcher, wife of John W. Belcher.

This house stands on the north side of Foundry Street near South Street.

Photo by Millicent B. Howard

1929





## STEPHEN FULLER HOWARD HOUSE

### Foundry Street

Calvin Howard, son of Jesse Howard, built a house there in 1790. It consisted of two rooms facing south with a piazza and a door in the center. It had a fireplace in each room, a brick oven in the cellar. The family was soon too large for this house and Mr. Howard built a larger one a few feet north about 1800.

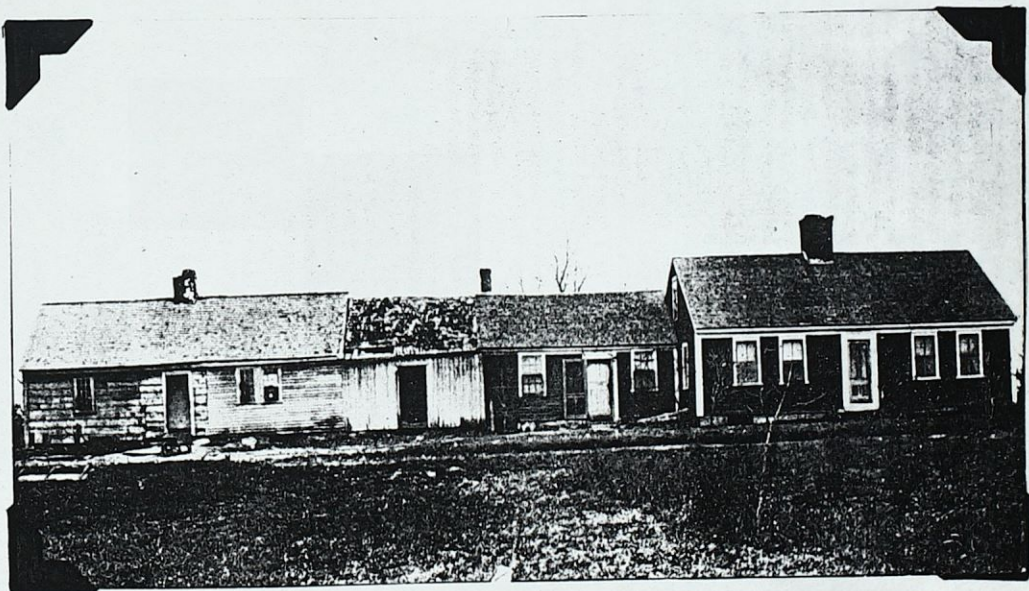
The latter house had five rooms all on one floor, two fireplaces and a brick oven in the cellar. The usual large chimney of that period was made of bricks manufactured on the farm. The L there now was built some years later.

The house is clapboarded and painted red.

There have been 23 births, 2 marriages and 11 deaths in these houses. They passed out of the family in 1897 after four generations of the Howard family had lived there.

The building at the left of the photo is the original house and was built facing south. The house at the ~~left~~ right of the photo was the second one built and is in its original position. The photo shows the houses as they were prior to 1900.

The farm is now owned and occupied by Margaret A. Jones, wife of R. Warren Jones, and family. (1937)





HISTORY OF THE CALVIN HOWARD HOUSES ON FOUNDRY STREET, BOSTON, MASS.  
(STEPHEN FULLER HOWARD)

(JULY 1919)

The houses are situated on the southerly side of Foundry Street, about one half mile west of Turnpike Street at Alger's Corner.

The oldest house was built by Calvin Howard, son of Capt. Jesse Howard, soon after his marriage in 1790. It was a two roomed house, facing south, with a door in nearly the centre of the front, with a piazza across the front: it had a fireplace in each room and a brick oven and a cellar. It stood a few feet southerly from its present position (1919), it was turned partly around facing east without the piazza and located as shown in the picture taken by W.W. Bolton in 1903, this was done by Cyrenius Howard, son of Calvin when a young man probably previous to 1840.

The new house, which is the northerly portion shown in picture of 1903, was built by Calvin Howard probably early in 1800, it consisted of two living rooms and three sleeping rooms, a fireplace in each living room, and a brick oven, and a good cellar under the whole house. The bricks were made on the farm, from clay dug from a pit a short distance southerly from the buildings next to the Hayward property. The ell on the southerly end of the new house was built some years later. The shed connecting the old house with the ell of the new house, as shown in picture of 1903, was probably built by Cyrenius Howard when he moved the old house to its position facing east. Calvin Howard did not move into the new house for some years after it was built, it was used for sleeping rooms for his large family when the old house became too small.

After the death of Stephen Fuller Howard in 1869, his widow took the brick chimney and oven out of the old house, and made a sleeping room out of the pantry and a part of one of the living rooms



as it is now (1919), and lived there a portion of the time until her son Charles Franklin died in 1883.

The old house was again turned around facing north as it now is (1919) by George Ross who lived there, after 1903. He also built an addition to the new house on the westerly side, enlarging one of the sleeping rooms, as it now is (1919).

In 1917 a door was put into the easterly room of the old house on the south side: the house repaired and renovated by its owner Mary R. Howard. The trimmings of both houses were painted red in their early days, but there was no paint on the body of the houses until they were painted white by Charles Franklin Howard, probably after 1870, they were both painted red by George Ross after 1897.

The barn now standing directly south of the house, originally stood north east of the house, and was moved to its present location by George Ross after 1897. The large barn now standing south east of the house was built by John O. Dean in 1898 on the location of another barn which was struck by lightening and burned.

The farm consisted of  $87\frac{3}{4}$  acres of land, a strip 192 feet wide was sold off the easterly side to Adam Mynike after 1900.

The property was left at the death of Calvin Howard in 1848 to three of his children, Stephen Fuller, Cyrenius and Elmira C. Swift. Stephen Fuller soon bought the interest of the other two, probably the next year. After his death in 1869 the property came into possession of his son Charles Franklin who lived in the new house after his marriage in 1872. After his death in 1883, his widow Mary P. Howard occupied the place the most of the time until her children sold it to John O. Dean Nov. 24, 1897. He sold it to George Ross and Jennie S. Farmer Dec. 11, 1902. After their death the place came into the possession of Lucy M. Millard by will probated Aug. 5, 1910, she sold the place to John O. Dean Dec. 28, 1910, upon his death in 1912 it was



inherited by his daughters, Mary R. Howard and Kate E. Kennedy.

May 22, 1914 Kate E. Kennedy deeded her interest to Mary R. Howard.

The place was leased and occupied by George Howard, son of Edwin D. from 1911 to Nov. 1917

The old house was then occupied for a year by St. Clair B. Sarty who had charge of the farm for Mary R. Howard. In Oct. 1918 the new house was occupied by Eric Corkum who works on the farm.

There been twenty three births in both houses, two marriages and nine deaths as follows: of Howards.

Calvin Howards thirteen children, probably all born in the old house.

Sally	born Apr. 22, 1791	Stephen Fuller	born Apr. 8. 1804
Mary	" Aug. 10, 1792	Elizabeth Brown	" Jan. 4. 1806
Calvin	" May 11, 1794	Nancy	" Nov. 12. 1807
Cynthia	" Feb. 4, 1796	Chloe	" Mar. 14. 1810
Calvin	" Feb. 25, 1798	Elmira C.	" Jan. 13. 1812
Alzada	" Jan. 19, 1800	Cynthia	" May 3. 1814
Charles	" Apr. 23, 1802		

Seven of Stephen Fuller Howards children born in new house.

Rachel Smith Edwards	born Dec. 18, 1839
"	" Sep. 29, 1841
Luoy Minerva	" Mar. 29, 1844
Sylvia A. M.	" June 3, 1850
Charles Franklin	" Feb. 11, 1852
Ella Frances	" Mar. 25, 1856
Elmina Adelaide	" Dec. 24, 1857

Charles Franklin Howards children born in the new house.

Cora May	born June 5, 1873
Annie	" Dec. 5, 1879
Chas Merton	" Feb. 2, 1881

Abbie Nelson dau. of Stephen Fuller Howard married Charles Dunbar Nov. 27, 1856.

Rachel Smith Edwards dau. of Stephen Fuller Howard married Henry Drake Sept. 29, 1861.



(4)

Capt. Jesse Howard while with his son Calvin died Jan. 3, 1828.

Calvin Howard died March 7, 1848.

Chloe Howard, his wife died August 21, 1848.

Nancy Edwards, mother of Mrs. Stephen Fuller Howard died July 1872 aged 88 years.

Stephen Fuller Howard died August 30, 1869.

The following children of Stephen Fuller Howard.

Stephen            died August 24, 1854.

Rachel Smith Edwards died October 20, 1840.

Venelia Ellen            • March     8, 1864.

Charles Franklin        • March    14, 1883.

BY HEMAN HOWARD, July, 1919.



*Eleazar Keith*

~~JOSIAH~~ KEITH, JR. HOUSE

Josiah Keith Jr. built a house on what is now known as Highland Street about 1730.

It is a two-story house with an L, side towards the street, facing south. The front door as usual is in the middle. There is a large central chimney with six fireplaces and two brick ovens. The house has been kept in good repair inside and out and is not much changed.

It is one of the best preserved and the best type of the very old houses now standing in Easton, being almost 200 years old.

It has been occupied by the Keith family all these years until recently when it was sold and passed out of the family. Josiah, Eleazer, Samuel who died in 1801, and Samuel who died in 1859, Hiram, Albert who died in 1907, and his son, F. Sherwood Keith who died in 1927. The place was sold by Mrs. F.S. Keith.

Photo by Millicent B. Howard

1936





11  
1 Bridgewater 1726 and  
moved to Easton and  
probably built this house.  
and was the occupant.  
Please change the title  
over this house to,

ELEAZER KEITH HOUSE. built  
about 1730. also crosses  
out the name Josiah which  
appears in the description  
as the first occupant,  
you can add the above  
information if you wish  
Thanks for sketches of  
old houses that you  
sent me.

Recd. House  
Gerrard Howard

40 Bentz St. No. Easton  
Jan. 29. 1938  
Dear Mr. Thurt.

I have discovered that the  
house shown in the book of  
old houses which you have,  
under the heading Josiah Keith  
house. was not built  
and occupied by him.

Eleanor Keith who is named  
as the second owner, undoubtedly  
was the first owner and  
probably built it. Eleazer  
Keith born 1703. in Bridgewater  
was son of Joseph and Elizabeth  
(Stiles) Keith and grandson of  
Rev. James Keith of Bridgewater.  
Eleazer Keith married Legiah  
daughter of Henry Kingman



### GEORGE NEWCOMB HOUSE

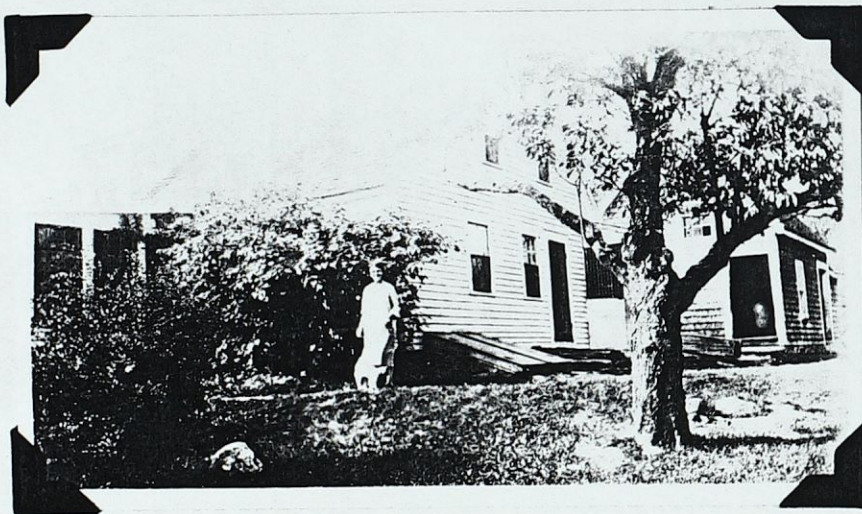
The house in which George Newcomb lived on Highland Street a short distance from the Mansfield line, is an old one, probably built by a Randall, possibly by Robert who moved from the east part of the town to the west part. He died in 1783. His grandson, Thomas was born in 1779 and probably lived in this house.

The property came to Shepard Godfrey and then to George Evans, and later to George Newcomb in August 1887.

The house was originally shingled. George Evans raised the roof and clapboarded the sides. Like all old houses it had a brick oven and fireplaces. The rooms on the first floor have low ceilings and the original finish. There are four rooms on the second floor, all rebuilt. There is a modern front porch added and a sun room.

Photo by Millicent B. Howard

1929.





EDWIN HOWARD and ELIJAH HOWARD Jr.

Brick-end houses.

These were two large two-story houses with brick ends built about 1815. The only two that I know of in town. The north and south sides were brick and the other parts wood.

They had the usual large rooms, with the front door in the center and a green fan over the door. They were well built and nicely finished inside.

One of the two was Edwin Howard's house on Howard Street which remained in the family about 75 years, and burned down about 1800 .

The other was Elijah, Edwin's brother's house. It was bought by Horace Y. Mitchell about 1882 and is occupied by his descendants.

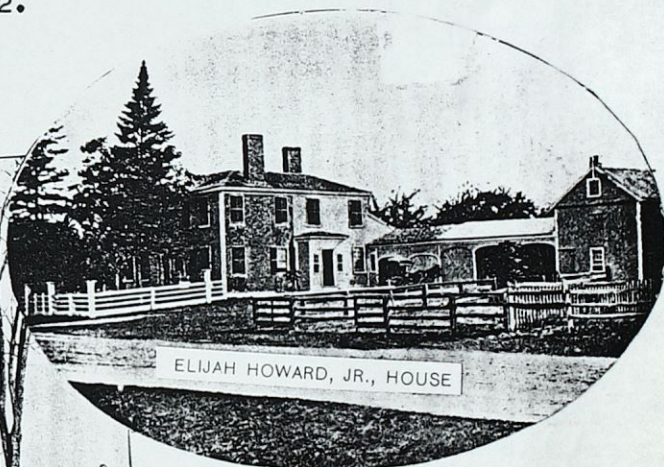
It is standing (1937) on the east side of Washington Street, South Easton. Several changes have been made but the body of the house remains the same.

The photo of Edwin Howard's house is by Webster W. Bolton.

The photo of Elijah Howard Jr's house is prior to 1882.



EDWIN HOWARD HOUSE.



ELIJAH HOWARD, JR., HOUSE



## GEORGE ROLLINS HOUSE

Highland St.

This house was built and has been continually occupied by a Williams family. Mr. Rollins' mother was a daughter of Nahum Williams. Mr. Rollins' grandson who lives with him is of the eighth generation of Williams to live in the house. The older generations operated a tannery. The building stood near where the cider mill now stands. Edward Williams was operating the tannery in the latter part of the eighteenth century. Mr. Rollins is of the fourth generation to operate a cider mill there.

Recently the large original chimney was taken down and Mr. Rollins found a brick with the date 1757 cut in it. Some of the bricks have the appearance of being even older than that.

The easterly end of the house was the first part to be built. It <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ about one half of the ~~present~~ main house. The westerly part was soon built as there were thirteen children in the family. The front part had probably not been much changed. The house was probably first shingled but there are some very old clapboards on the rear.

The original east half had an L in the rear. There was also an L on the rear of the west half which was torn down a few years ago and a two-story L built. The house had six fireplaces, two brick ovens and two set iron kettles. The rooms were large and most of the interior finish remained as originally made.

The house was partially burned in 1934. The accompanying photo was taken in 1929, before the house was torn down.





## ELIJAH HOWARD'S FIRST HOUSE

This house is one of the oldest of its type and stands at the southeast corner of Prospect and Howard Streets in the south part of the town.

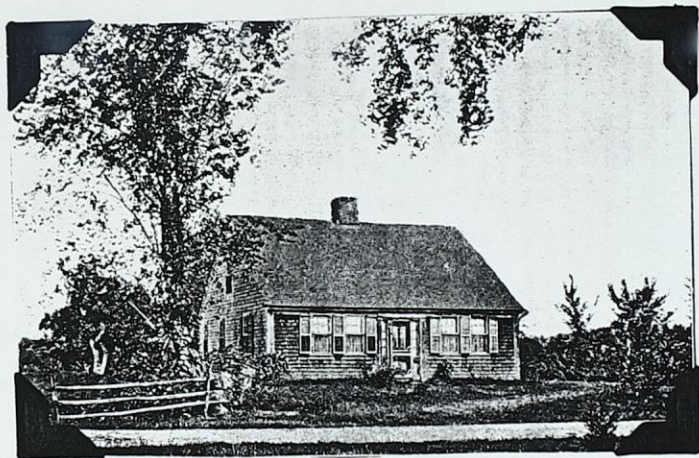
In 1771, Elijah Howard, a son of Henry Howard, was living there. He married in 1768 and may have built the house. He soon sold it to Reuben Snow. It has been owned by many people since but is not much changed outside.

It faces west, the sides are shingled and it is low in the walls. It has the usual large chimney, center front door, small front entry, and usual large rooms.

A bath room was installed in one of the back rooms about twenty-five years ago.

The house has no visable underpinning, the sills being near the ground.

Photo by Webster W. Bolton 1903.





## ELIJAH HOWARD'S SECOND HOUSE

In 1771 Elijah Howard bought 74 acres of unimproved land on what is now Howard Street, there being no street there then. He staked out his house by the north star and probably built it as soon as he cleared the land and got out the lumber for his house. At first the house had three living rooms on the first floor and one in the attic, and an L which housed the well.

The water was drawn by a bucket attached to a rawhide belt which ran over a huge drum which was suspended over the well.

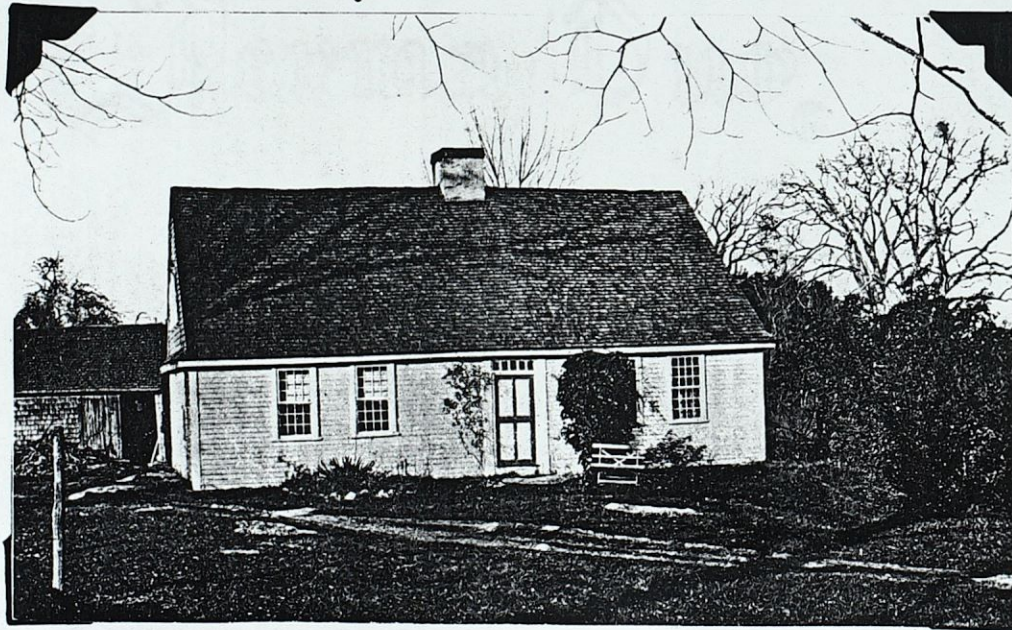
An addition on the west end of the house was built a few years later. It was shingled and painted red.

It had the usual large chimney, three fire places, and the necessary brick oven. The kitchen had nine doors. About 1880 the L was taken down and the house painted white. The windows are the original ones with 24 lights of glass. The inside finish is the same now as when built.

It has handmade H and T hinges. The frame is of oak, joints mortised and pinned, and the house sets low on the ground, only one step being necessary to enter.

Four generations of Howards have lived there and it has remained in the family.

Photo by Webster W Bolton 1903.





## GEORGE WASHINGTON HAYWARD HOUSE

Foundry Street

This house was built by Joseph Hayward in 1778 on the site of his father Edward's house. It faces south and the shingles are painted red. The windows have the usual small lights of glass 6" by 8". The original L was taken down in 1810 and a new one built.

The carpenters who built this house were paid 33 1/3¢ per day and board.

It has 8' ceilings and the usual large central chimney and five fireplaces and two brick ovens. The fireplace in the kitchen is seven or eight feet long. There are thirteen rooms in the house.

Ownership has always been in the Hayward family. It is owned in 1937 by Dr. Charles R. Hunt of New Bedford, Mass. whose mother was a Hayward.

For many years it was a semi public house: Pedlers and travelers who wished to put up for the night were always accomodated. The barn stood across the street.

At the time this house was built the road up from Bridge-water ended there and there was no road westerly.

Photo by Millicent B. Howard





## JONATHAN PRATT HOUSE

This house is situated on the northeast corner of Foundry and Prospect Streets.

Capt. Jonathan Pratt was a son of Caleb Pratt and was of the seventh generation from Matthew Pratt of Weymouth. He was born May 3, 1792 and died October 23, 1862. He was twice married. He probably built the house about the time he was married on a portion of his father's farm. He had seven children. After his death in 1862 his eldest son, Jonathan Avery Pratt, lived there. He died February 1, 1886 having been twice married and having had seven children.

The farm was inherited by Frank Carlton Pratt of the fifth generation who sold to George P. Greenleaf about 1900.

Greenleaf sold out to Henry Hill about 1920. It has been sold several times since and is now in the possession of W. Chester Gray (1936).

The house has seven rooms on the first floor and two finished rooms on the second floor. It probably has not been altered much since built. The barn stands across the street.

Photo by Millicent W. Howard 1930.





### CALEB PRATT HOUSE

This house is situated on Prospect Street near Foundry Street.

Caleb Pratt was of the sixth generation from Matthew Pratt of Weymouth. He was born in 1764 and died in 1840. His youngest child, Nahum Pratt, was born June 17, 1801 and died July 15, 1850. This house was his home. He was married twice and had four children.

After the death of his second wife, Jerusha Hopkins Pratt, in 1864, the place was bought by Eliphalet Smith Howard. It has since been owned by several other parties and it is much improved within and without.

The barn stands across the street and is probably as it was originally, except that there was a shed which was attached to the south side which covered the well. This shed blew down in the gale of September 1869.

Photo by Millicent B. Howard

1930





## SETH PRATT HOUSE

Thomas Pratt came from Middleboro to Easton in 1710. His house probably stood where the present house now stands on the east side of Washington Street next north of the Pratt Cemetery. Thomas Pratt died in 1744.

Lieut. Seth Pratt was born in 1739 and died August 27, 1802. He built the house in 1761 as there are bricks in the chimney with that date cut in them.

Seth, son of Seth, was a physician who died at the early age of thirty-five years.

Another son, Seaver, lived in the house, and died in 1843 at the age of sixty-one years.

Seaver's son, Isaac Lothrop Pratt, was born in 1817 and died December 4, 1899. They are all buried in the cemetery on the farm.

This property remained in the Pratt family until purchased by Frederick Lothrop Ames.

The house is the usual low-studded type, with the front door in the middle, a large central chimney and an L in the rear used as a kitchen. The windows in the house are new, it has been plastered outside and painted red, although originally wooden.

Photo by Millicent W. Howard 1929





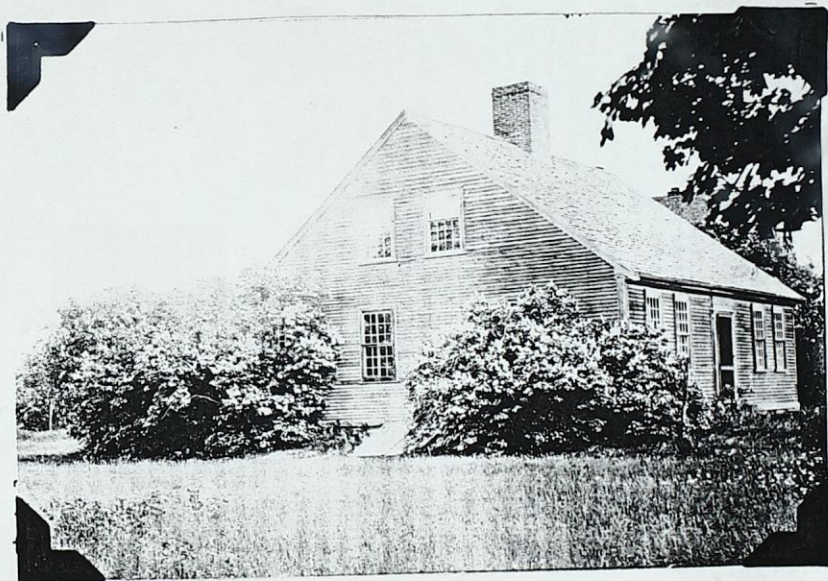
## JOSEPH HAYWARD HOUSE

Joseph Hayward, son of Joseph, built the house in 1810 on land that was a part of his father's farm. It stands on the north side of Foundry Street on the crest of the hill just east of the railroad, and is the third old house from the railroad crossing.

Joseph Hayward lived only twelve years after building his house. It was later occupied by his son, Samuel Kinsley Hayward, and still later by his grandson, Samuel Adoniram Hayward, later occupied by his great grand daughter Emma Josephine Hollis and now by his great, great grandson, Morton Hollis and his family. It has been owned by his great grand daughter Maude L. Hayward for many years, and is now owned but not lately occupied by her. (1937)

The house has been kept in its original state and is well preserved. It is of the usual one story and a half construction with an L which was used as a woodhouse, summer kitchen and shop. It has a large central chimney with four fireplaces and a brick oven.

Photo by Webster W. Bolton





### EDWARD ALGER HOUSE

The Edward Alger house at Alger's Corner stands a few rods east on the north side of Foundry Street near the West Bridgewater line.

December 26, 1785, Israel Alger married and probably built his house about this time. Four years later he was living there and had eight children. His second son Bernard was born, lived there, and was twice married.

Bernard's son, Edward S. was born and lived there, and was twice married.

Four of the five Alger wives who lived there were Howard. Israel's wife was Rachael, daughter of George Howard of Cochesett. Bernard married twice, his second wife, Vesta, was a daughter of Roland Howard who lived in a house which stood until 1912 where Brooks Farrar now lives (1937). Edward S. married first Vanelia Ellen, and his second wife was Nancy Jane, both daughters of Stephen Fuller Howard, who lived on Foundry Street a half a mile west of Alger's Corner.

Bernard Alger was post master for years for the east part of the town and no doubt his house was the post office.

The house was bought by Margaret Ivy Hayward, wife of Edward Carleton Hayward, in 1934.

Photo by Millicent B. Howard 1929.





## GOWARD HOUSE

Norton Ave.

Seth Babbitt came to Easton from Taunton about 1715 and settled in the extreme southwest corner of the town. He probably built and lived in the small three-room house that stood near Alexander Tune's. Mr. Babbitt died in 1751 and the house disappeared long ago.

Later the property was acquired by Francis Goward. There were three generations of the same name and they acquired a tract of several hundred acres of land, extending from the vicinity of the Brick Schoolhouse Corner toward Mansfield.

The house where Alexander Tune lived was built by Francis Goward before 1775. It was later inherited by Dwelly Goward. His heirs sold it to W.A. Tune, who died in 1935.

The house is a clapboarded two-story structure. The front door is not in the center of the house which is unusual in that style of architecture. There are three windows east of the door and two west. The top sash of the first floor windows are larger than the lower sash. All are small panes of glass.

Photo taken by Millicent B. Howard

1929.





## OLIVER HOWARD HOUSE

Oliver Howard, son of George Howard of Cochesett, built a two-story house on Short Street in 1805. It faced south, had a large chimney, large rooms, front door in the center, and an L projecting eastward. It is now painted a dark color with white trimmings

This house was occupied by his son, Thomas, who died in 1832. The house later came into possession of the Mayall family and from them to Bessie Snowdale, wife of Lloyd H. Snowdale and was later <sup>occupied</sup> ~~owned~~ by Herbert W. O'Neill.

This photo was taken by Webster W. Bolton  
in 1903.





40 Centre St. No. Easton, Mass.

Dear Mr. Hunt.

Your letter of Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> at hand. about pictures of old houses in Easton. I gladly grant you the privilege of making for and ink sketches of any or all houses that you wish to. I am glad to have the

information need. in any way that you wish. I did not intend that any one should have the book. before you got it. Was glad to receive your sketches and description of two old places. recently.

Yours,  
Hermon Howard

No. Easton. Nov. 22. 1937

Dear Mr. Hunt.

Recd. news paper clipping of cut and description of. Hermon Howard. house in Easton. Thanks.

The large barn on the spot where one was previously struck by lightning and burned, was

totally destroyed by fire about two months ago. together with a bunk shop and a large new house. You can make a note of that in your book. if you like.

Yours,  
Hermon Howard



## JACOB REED HOUSE

This house was built by Matthew Hayward prior to 1791. It was situated on Purchase Street opposite Prospect Street. Matthew Hayward lived in Easton Furnace before he built this house. He did not live here many years as he moved to Winthrop, Maine in 1791.

About this time, Jacob Reed of Abington bought the place from Mr. Hayward. He was born July 7, 1720, and died in Easton October 11, 1806.

His son, Abijah Reed, lived here until his death on June 16, 1816.

His son, Noah Reed lived here and died one year after his father, aged 36 years.

The farm then came to his only son, Rotheus Hayward Reed, who was born July 26, 1811, and died in this house May 15, 1884.

Wilmarth Preston Howard bought the farm in 1888. The barn stood across the road from the house. The old house was taken down in 1913 and a modern one built on the site. The farm was owned by the heirs of Wilmarth P. Howard in 1937.





## BRETT HOUSE

This house stands on Turnpike Street in Eastondale, north of Lothrop's Corner, near the site of the old Shoddy Mill. It may have been built by one of the Bridgewater Brett family who probably built the mill also, as the house was part of the mill property.

Soon after 1800, Calvin Brett with others, bought what was afterward known as the Shoddy Mill privilege. They operated a fulling mill at the dam and also made "satinet", and in later years, shoe pegs.

Calvin Brett lived in this house during the latter part of his life probably until the death of his wife in 1845. He died two years later at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Edwin Howard.

His son, Samuel Guild Brett, was the one who made shoe pegs. He probably lived in this house.

In 1848 the property was sold to Solomon Whiting Morse who manufactured cotton cloth there. From him the property passed into the hands of Edward J.W. Morse and thence to his heirs.

The mill was burned in 1879. The house is in fair repair and probably has not been much changed.





## NEHEMIAH HOWARD HOUSE

In 1796, Nehemiah Howard, son of Dr. Abiel Howard, built the house at the northeast corner of Turnpike Street and purchase street, at what is known as Goward's Corners.

The house faced south, had the front door in the center, the walls were clapboarded and painted white. There was the usual large chimney in the center of the house, and other features. The L projecting toward the north is old. Edwin T. Goward said that he expected it was part of Dr. Abiel Howard's house. His house stood a few rods east of Goward's Corners on the north side of the street going to Cochesett and just over the town line in West Bridgewater. Dr. Abiel Howard's married life was between the years 1737 and 1777. If this part of the house was built near the time of the marriage of Dr. Howard, it was one of the very oldest buildings standing. It was kept in good repair and remained in the family for five generations, Nehemiah, Asa, Horace Dean Howard, Mrs. Maria Goward, wife of Edwin T. Goward and then their daughters Mrs. Carrie Neale and Mrs. Bertha M. Meyers.

The house burned down in 1935.

Photo by Webster W. Bolton, 1903.





# HOPESTILL RANDALL HOUSE.

Hopestill Randall, a son of Ephraim Randall of South Easton, married in 1768. He probably built the house soon afterwards. It stands on the North side of Main Street just west of Dailey's Corner.

Hopestill Randall died in this house in 1814. It was the home of his son, Ebenezer and his grandson, Thomas, and his great grand daughter, Clara, who married first, ~~one~~ Tyler, and second ~~one~~ Parsons O. Hardy.

The house is smaller than most of that period. A piazza has been added and new windows put in.

Photo by Millicent B. Howard, 1929.





### ROLAND HOWARD HOUSE.

This house stood on the east side of Turnpike Street a short distance south of Goward's Corners. It may have been built by John Howard, son of Dr. Abiel Howard, who lived nearby.

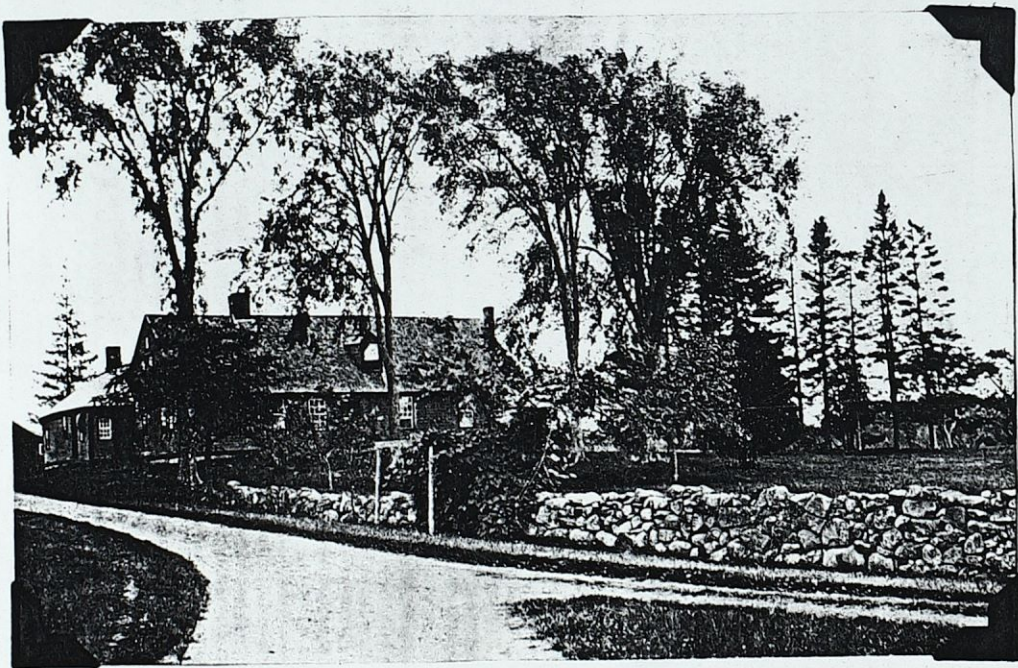
John Howard was born in 1743 and died in 1795. His son, Roland Howard, was born in 1769 and lived in this house. Roland married Phoebe, daughter of Elijah Howard and had eight children. He died in this house in 1844.

The first library in Easton was in this house as early as 1800.

The house was later owned by David Hervey and later by a Collins, then by Augustus Farrar and then by his son Brooks Farrar.

The house burned down in 1912.

Photo by Webster W. Bolton 1903.





## WILLIAM CARY HOWARD HOUSE

This is a brick house situated on Turnpike St. opposite Pine Street in Eastondale. The date over the door is 1815. This house is well preserved and in good repair. It was the home of William Cary Howard who was born in Jan. 18, 1841 and died Dec 9, 1890. After the death of his wife in 1916 the property passed out of the family. It is now owned (1937) by Henry P. Avery. The barn stood across the road.

William Cary Howard was prominent in business and in town affairs holding office.

The bricks used in this house were made in a brickyard a short distance north of the house, near the river.

The house was used as a tavern at one time. It had an L extending east from the main house with sheds in the first story and living quarters above. The L was moved many years ago, used for other purposes, and finally torn down.

Photo by Millicent B. Howard, 1936.





## ABIJAH KNAPP HOUSE

Abijah Knapp came to Easton from Taunton. He was here as early as 1800.

His farm extended from Washington Street to Turnpike Street on both sides of Pine Street. His house was located on Pine Street on the east side.

He was born in 1756 and died in 1833. His wife, Lydia A., was born in 1764 and died in 1830. His son Abijah, lived in the same house. He was born in 1797 and died in 1878. His wife, Chloe W., was born in 1797 and died in 1868.

His daughter, Betsey Knapp, married, Jeptha Howard, a grandson of Dr. Abiel Howard. Their home was on the west side of Pine Street. In 1817 they moved to Braintree, Vermont.

Abijah Knapp's son, Charles A., came into possession of the property of his father. He built a new house nearly opposite his father's. Charles A. was born in 1829 and died in 1919. His wife, Lizzie W. was born in 1836 and died in 1904.

The house was owned by Everett D. Clark in 1937.

Photo by Millicent B. Howard 1929





## WILLIAMS HOUSE

#29 Main Street  
North Easton.

Thomas Williams and Rebeckah Keith both of Easton were married by the Rev. Archibald Campbell on August 3, 1780. One of the youngest of their children was Larnard, born July 1795. He married Eliza W. Wilde of Easton, September 17, 1823, and died June 1, 1871. He lived in this house which may have been built by his father.

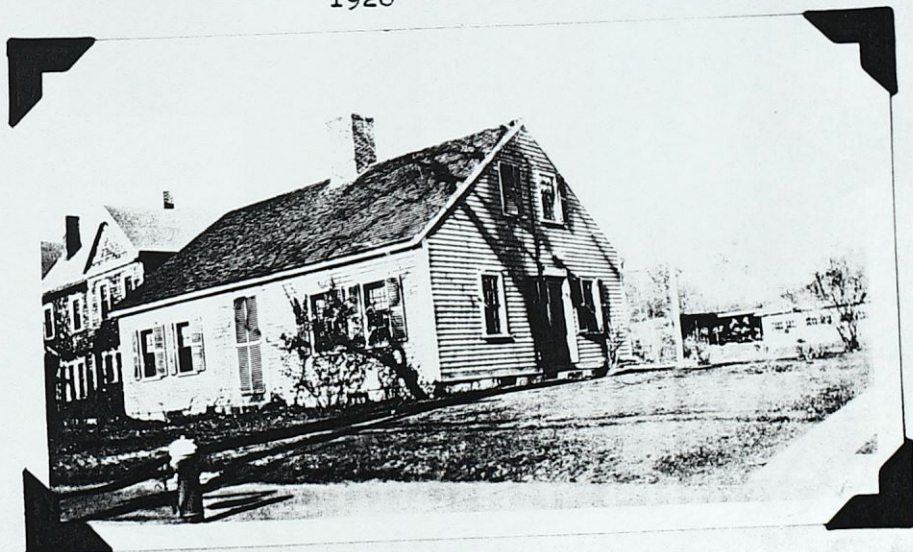
The house was owned by the Williams family until a few years ago when it passed out of their hands into the McCarthy family.

The house sets low on the ground, side to the street. The door is in the center front. There is a small front entry and a large room on each side and a large room in the rear. There are three fireplaces, a brick oven, and the usual large chimney. The L projects from the rear which in recent years has been used for a kitchen but was used formerly as a shoe shop by Larnard Williams. The stairs to the second floor are in the large back room which was the old kitchen. There are two low attic rooms. The outside was partly shingled and partly clapboarded, and painted yellow.

Of recent years the house has been much changed and improved.

Photo by Millicent W. Howard

1928





ELLIS RANDALL HOUSE

Main Street  
North Easton.

In 1831 Gurdon Stone bought land on the north side of Main Street and built the house adjoining the pond. The house was later owned by Ellis Randall.

From 1828 to 1837 Mr. Stone and Elijah Howard made cotton goods in the Red Factory south of Main Street at this place. He also had a store near his house.

Mr. Stone was a carpenter and built the large house on the south side of Main Street near the railroad bridge, and also the house on Main Street where Mrs. Poole lives. (1937). Mr. Stone died in 1861.

Ellis Randall was married in this house and lived there until his death in 1935. Mrs. Randall resides there (1937).

Photo by Millicent B. Howard

1929.





## METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

North Easton.

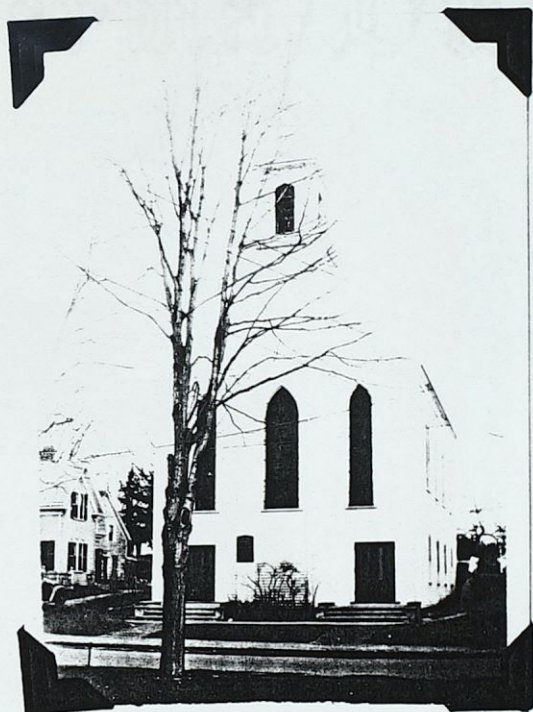
In the spring of 1845 the corner stone was laid of what is now the Methodist Episcopal Church in North Easton.

The first building was erected where the "Rockery" now stands facing the square. It cost \$2200. It was called the Village Church. In 1872 the name was changed to Main Street Church. In 1850 church services were discontinued for about two years.

From 1861 to 1875 the building was used by the Unitarian Society. In 1876 it was given to the Methodist Episcopal Society and in November of that year it was moved to its present site on Mechanic Street and re-opened. About Dec. 1889 the building was raised and a lower story added and an addition built in the rear. It has recently (1936) been painted inside and out.

For names of the preachers prior to 1884, reference may be had to the "History of Easton".

Photo by Millicent W. Howard, 1936..





## SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

North Easton.

A Swedish Lutheran mission was started in 1872 by Adolph Hult. It was later discontinued.

In 1890, Rev. J.A. Nordling of Brockton, started Lutheran services in local homes and in a hall.

The present Swedish Lutheran Congregation was organized by him in 1892. There <sup>were</sup> fifty-nine members. The present church building was built on Williams Street and the house next south was purchased for a parsonage in 1898.



## SAMPSON HOUSE

Main Street  
North Easton.

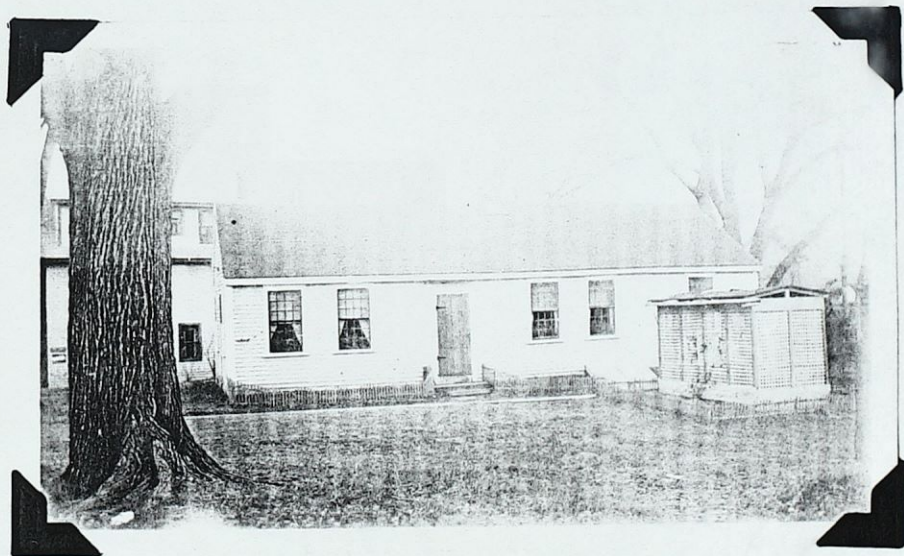
Hoes were being made at what is known as the "Hoe Shop" from 1805 to 1814. Obed Harlow was connected with this business. He is said to have lived in the Sampson house. If so, it was undoubtedly during this period.

As early as 1822 Gurdon Stone was living there, but in less than ten years he moved. About 1850 Joel Sampson moved into the house, having previously lived at Easton Center, and on North Main Street. He was a tenant but not the owner of the property.

This house and the adjoining property was acquired by the Ames Corporation.

It has the appearance of having the original doors, windows and chimney. It is low studded and sets low on the ground. It faces south as usual with many of the old houses. The lights in the windows are 6" x 8" and 24 to a sash. There is the customary L projecting from the north side.

Photo by Millicent W. Howard 1936





# SWEDISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

North Easton.

In 1883 a meeting was held for the organization of a Swedish Congregational Church in North Easton. Officers were chosen and the society incorporated in Jan. 16, 1884.

The society purchased the Main Street Church once occupied by the Methodist Episcopal Society, for \$1450.

The first pastor was Rev. Axel Mellander. In recent years the church building has been much improved and the membership has grown rapidly with the increase of the Swedish population in town.



## UNITARIAN SOCIETY of EASTON

The first church building in Easton Center was built in 1750. It probably stood between the present town house and Depot Street.

January 1816 it was voted to build a new church and "to set it north of the old meeting-house." Wade Dailey was the master carpenter.

The frame was raised June 10, 1816. The church was finished the following year and dedicated in September. Rev. Luther Sheldon preached the dedication sermon.

In 1845 the building was remodelled, a second story added making an auditorium above and a hall below. This hall was used for town meetings and was let for other purposes. The altered church was re-dedicated December 24, 1845.

Rev. George G. Withington was the last settled pastor there having preached from 1858 to 1870. No religious services were held from 1870 until 1874 when afternoon services were conducted for several years.

The Evangelical Congregational Society withdrew from the First Parish Society and built another church for itself nearby in 1893.

The First Parish Church burned down January 27, 1886 and the Town bought the lot and erected the present Town Hall there.

The First <sup>Unitarian</sup> ~~Congregational~~ Society was without a church for several years until one was built in Eastondale <sup>about</sup> in 1900. Services have been conducted in Eastondale and ~~North Easton~~ since.



## CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

### Easton Center

The original building was built in 1832-1833. It was dedicated June 20, 1833 and stood where the present church now stands. The first church burned September 6, 1882.

Rev. Luther Sheldon was pastor until 1855. He was followed by Rev. Lyman White, Rev. Charles E. Lord, Rev. Charles L. Mills, Rev. D. W. Richardson, Rev. M. B. Angier, Rev. A. S. Hudson, Rev. Luther H. Sheldon a son of the former pastor, Rev. S. D. Hosmer, Rev. L. H. Angier, Rev. W. H. Dowden who was pastor when the church burned.

The new church was completed in 1885.

Photo by Webster W. Bolton.

The second church building.





# METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Unionville, Mass.

The church of which this is a picture, was built in 1830 and was known as the "Square Top Meetinghouse".

The dedication ceremony was preached by Rev. George Pickering. Rev. Bates, known as "father" Bates was minister at the time.

The church was taken down about the beginning of the twentieth century. The original building which stood on the site of this one was dedicated by Bishop Asbury October 13, 1795. It stood there until 1830 when it was moved away.

The walls of the first church were not plastered there were no stoves and no chimney, and the seats were oak slabs with the bark side down supported on wooden legs.





## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

North Easton.

In 1850 the Ames Shovel Company gave the Catholics a piece of land near Shovel Shop Pond and a chapel was built there and occupied in 1851 under the direction of Father Fitzsimmons. The membership was fifty-five people.

Several years later Father McNulty built an addition to the chapel. In 1864 a lot was purchased on Main Street, and a church built on this lot, which was completed next year. This building is now St. Mary's Hall.

In 1871 Father Francis Quinn took charge of the parish. He purchased the homestead of Eldredge Morse and remodelled it for a parsonage.

By 1895 there were 1400 people in his parish. Father Subby took charge in 1899 and during his pastorate the present stone church was built. All the stone in this church except the trimmings, was quarried from the ground on which the church stands. The building and furnishings cost approximately \$65,000.



## UNITARIAN CHURCH

No. Easton, Mass.

The little church which stood on Main Street where the Rockery now is (1937). was used by the Unitarian Society for preaching in North Easton in 1855. No settled pastor was employed until 1860 when the Rev. Christopher C. Hussey was called and remained until 1866.

The church was without a pastor for two years. January 1, 1868 Rev. William L. Chaffin was engaged as pastor. He remained as pastor and pastor emeritus until his death January 8, 1923.

Church services were held in this building until 1875, when it was taken by the Methodist Episcopal Society in 1876 and moved to its present location on Mechanic Street, enlarged and much improved.

In 1874 and 1875 Hon. Oliver Ames erected a new church on Main Street for the Unitarian Society. It was dedicated August 26, 1875. It is built of native stone and has beautiful memorial windows of stained glass.

The parsonage was built in 1878.

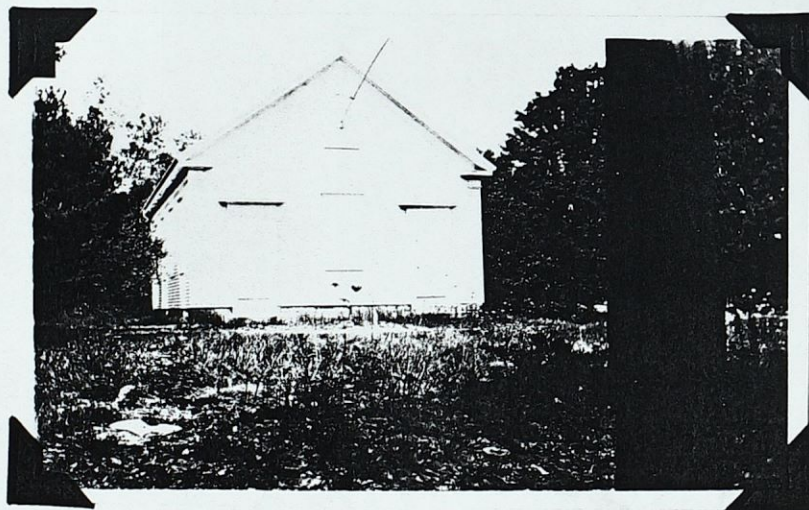


## EASTONDALE SCHOOLHOUSE.

The first schoolhouse built in Easton stood on the north side of Purchase Street about 1/2 mile west of Goward's Corners. It was built in 1770.

The district was so large that a second schoolhouse was built a short distance north of Alger's Corner soon after 1800. School was not kept in both buildings at the same time. This arrangement was continued until 1819, when another schoolhouse was built at the junction of Turnpike and Washington Street, then called the Turnpike and the Branch Turnpike, the Branch Turnpike being now called Washington Street. The land was given to the Inhabitants of the Town of Easton School District Number 2 by deed from Asa Howard dated Feb. 9, 1819, the land to be used and occupied for the purpose of erecting a schoolhouse upon and for all other such purposes as may be connected with a school, and for no other purpose whatever, for such time as the above mentioned inhabitants shall see fit to occupy the same as above described and no longer. In 1869 this building was moved a quarter of a mile south on Turnpike Street and became the home of Luther Blood. A new schoolhouse was built on the same lot. This was used until about 1925. The building is still standing but unoccupied. (1936).

The following is a picture of the last building taken by Millicent B. Howard .





## The FIRST NO. 3 SCHOOL-HOUSE

Howard Street.

About 1793 the first school-building was built in this district about twenty-three years after the first school-building in Easton was built at Howard's Corner, a short distance west on Purchase Street.

The inhabitants of District No.3 raised twenty-four pounds and nineteen shillings to build a school-house. It was painted red.

Before 1793 school was held in private houses, sometimes in the unfinished chamber at Elijah Howard's and sometimes in his corn-house.

The new school-building was 20 or 25 feet in length and 15 feet wide. The seats were wooden benches around three sides of the room. The scholars faced toward the center of the room. One row of desks with openings in the center of the rows and a row of long seats for small scholars was built around in front of the desks. When a scholar whose seat was not near the opening had occasion to come forward, the others would lean over and he would walk behind them on the seats, and sometimes over the tops of the desks in front.

This school never had a stove. A brick fire-place occupied the middle of the south end of the room. At one side there was a small closet for the girls' hats and wraps and dinner pails and on the other side a small entry for the boys where about one-half a cord of wood was kept.

There were six small windows high above the floor. The inside of the room was never painted. The school boys were expected to cut and split the wood and make the fire.

My grand father told of one teacher who had a rod long enough to reach any scholar in the room from where he sat.

The winter term was always commenced the first Monday after Thanksgiving and continued for ten or twelve weeks. The summer term began the first Monday in June and was about the same length.

On very cold days one-half the scholars would be standing in a semi-circle around the fire and when they were somewhat warmed, would give their places to the other half who were shivering in their seats.



Several Easton people were teachers here:  
Henry Williams                      Joel S. Drake  
Isaac Pratt                          Miss E.W. Dean

James Howard of West Bridgewater, father of Joseph C. Howard who died recently, was the last teacher in this building and the first in the new building across the street.

At the close of the last term in the old house Hon. Oliver Ames Jr., who was a member of the school committee at that time, visited it and pronounced it to be No. 1 in town.

The summer term of 1845 was the last in this building, it having been in use for 53 years.

The new school <sup>building</sup> across the street was occupied at the beginning of the winter term of 1845-46. ~~This is the building shown in the accompanying photo.~~

James Howard taught that term. Hiram A. Pratt taught 1847-1848. Martin V. Pratt 1848-1849.

This building was in use until 1926.

The following are among the teachers in this school building:

George Pratt	Edward R. Hayward
Daniel Pratt	Almira Hayward
Emery Pratt	Elizabeth Dean
Martin V. Pratt	Leonora Leonard
Hiram Pratt	Ada Leonard
..... Allen	Louise Marshall
Oliver Howard	Marion Fitton
James M. Howard	Olivet Field
Edwin Howard	Belle Heath
Henry Reed	Lottie M. Heath
Louisa Capen	Etta Dickerman
..... Leach	Mary L. Geddes
Mary A. O'Connell	Grace A. Packard



## SAW MILL

Dean privilege, South Easton.

Thomas Randall was one of the first settlers of Easton. He built his house a few rods northeast of the present (1936) John O. Dean Company grain mill. He and his son, Thomas, built the first saw-mill in Easton on "Saw-Mill" or Queset River. It stood near the north end of the present dam. The mill was there in 1703 and without doubt was built prior to 1700, as Thomas Randall was living there in 1696.

Thomas Randall and his son, Thomas, and Nathaniel Packard of Bridgewater, brother-in-law of the senior Thomas, were owners of the mill.

In 1713, Thomas Randall Jr., his father having died, sold 1/4 interest in the privilege to Timothy Cooper who lived a short distance south of where Brooks Farrar now lives (1937). He sold another 1/4 interest to John Dailey who lived near the Bridgewater line where Belmont Street now is. Dailey immediately deeded his share to Cooper.

Ephraim and Israel Randall who inherited 1/4 interest from their father, sold it to Clement Briggs who in turn sold it to Timothy Cooper, who owned it at the time of his death in 1726.

Ephraim Randall lived in the house where his father lived. Israel Randall lived about where Clarence Perry now lives (1937) on Depot Street near Easton Green and he owned land north of his house.

The saw mill had disappeared before 1771 as it does not appear in the valuation of that year.



## GRAIN MILL, etc.

Dean privilege, South Easton,

Clement Briggs was one of the first settlers of Easton. His house was about where Ellsworth Simpson lives (1936) on Depot Street.

Clement Briggs built a grist-mill on saw-mill, on Queset River prior to 1713 (probably several years earlier than that, as he was living in the vicinity in 1696.) It probably stood where the grain mill now stands (1936).

After Clement Briggs' death, his son Clement, sold the mill to Timothy Cooper in Feb. 1723. In 1729 it appears to have been in the possession of Ephraim Randall and was afterwards owned by his son Timothy Randall.

The old mill was torn down in 1750 and another one built. Robert Ripley was the carpenter. Timothy Randall owned it at his death in 1781. It then became the property of his son Timothy who owned it until 1803 when he moved to Wilton, Maine. He sold the mill to Ichabod Macomber, who bought it for himself and partner, Cyrus Alger.

It was said to have been their intention to enlarge the pond, build a forge, and perhaps a furnace, and start an iron foundry there. This move was stopped by Josiah Copeland and Calvin Brett and others who bought the mill privilege below the dam and land so near as to prevent enlargement of the pond. Macomber and Alger deeded the property back to Timothy Randall who deeded it to Josiah Copeland, Bezer Keith, Calvin Brett and James Guild, in Feb. 23, 1804, Copeland and Keith owning three-fourths interest and Brett and Guild one-fourth.

In 1807, Joseph Hayward, Roland Howard, Josiah Copeland, and Elijah Howard Jr., entered into a partnership under the name of Elijah Howard & Co. Two years later this company expended \$2800. in building a forge. Cyrus Alger, Nathaniel Howard and Willard Babbitt were for a time connected with the company but Cyrus Alger's interest was sold in 1810 and Nathaniel Howard and Willard Babbitt soon discontinued their connection.

In August 1810 James Guild and Calvin Brett sold their interest in the grist mill to the company. About a year afterward, Elijah Howard & Co. lost a coal shed and coal worth \$1500. destroyed by a fire.

They engaged in the manufacture of bar-iron nails, rods, etc. But the forge business proved worthless, entailing a loss of more than \$2000. The building used for their business was a portion of what ~~is now~~ <sup>was</sup> the Ross Heel Company building. (1936) the old section around where the water wheel ~~was~~.



Elijah Howard & Company was composed largely of relatives of Mr. Howard who lived in the house where Harrison. Y. Mitchell lived. Josiah Copeland was his nephew, the son of his sister, Irene. Roland Howard was his brother-in-law, husband of his sister Phebe, who lived in a house that stood where Brooks Farrar's house now is. Joseph Hayward lived on Foundry Street where Mr. Hollis now lives. Mr. Hayward was great uncle to Edward B. Hayward. Calvin Brett was father to Elijah Howard's brother, Edwin's wife Lucy, and lived where William Rowe now lives on Prospect Street. Mr. Brett also lived on Turnpike Street at the Shoddy Mill Pond. Mr. Howard's first wife was a Guild. Josiah Copeland also married a Guild. Nathaniel Howard was not a near relative. Elijah Howard Jr. was brother of Edwin Howard who was the great grandfather of John Brett Howard, present owner of the mill.

In 1811 the Elijah Howard Company which was making cut nails at North Easton began to manufacture them at the South Easton shop. They also manufactured cotton, yarn, and cloth. During the War of 1812 they did a good business but their loss by depreciation of currency and by bad debts after the war, left them in a bankrupt condition.

The cut nail business was continued in South Easton until 1823 when it was moved to Braintree. The company continued to make cotton, yarn, and bed ticking, apron-check and other goods, at South Easton until about 1840. This plant was called the Village Factory Company to distinguish it from the North Easton plant which was called the Federal Factory Company.

About 1840, Capt. Barzillai Dean bought the South Easton plant and continued the manufacture of light cotton goods. Capt. Dean continued to operate the plant until his death in 1848. He built and lived in the house at the Green where John Brett Howard now lives. Barzillai Dean was killed while working in the tomb on Depot Street.

Following his death, the water privilege and the factory came into the possession of his son, as did the grist mill. This son's name was Thomas H. Dean. Later another son, John O. Dean, became part owner.

The cotton and tack business was discontinued before 1880. The grain business was conducted under the name of T. H. and J. O. Dean. After Thomas H. Dean's death about 1890, the entire property was acquired by his brother, John O. Dean.

About 1880 a small business of making wooden heels was started in the name of Ross Heel Co. This business grew rapidly, several additions being built to the shop at this period. Thomas H. Dean operated a machine shop in one portion of the building until his death, at which time the business was continued



by Fred H. White and Amasa C. Heath. Mr. Heath sold his interest to Mr. White, who later sold his business to the Ross Heel Co. that in 1927 occupied the entire building. The Ross Heel Co. discontinued their business in August 1929 and the buildings were taken down in 1935.

The grain business grew rapidly. A large addition was built by Lucian Bonney on the north side of the mill in 1872. Another addition 10 feet wide, the entire length of the building on the south side, was built about 1900 by Joseph Baldwin. At the same time a third story was built and elevating and other machinery installed.

John O. Dean continued to own the entire property until his death in 1912 when the grain mill passed ~~by will~~ to his daughter, Mary R. Howard, and the manufacturing shop to his other daughter, Kate E. Kennedy. Mary R. Howard owned the grain mill until her death in 1920 when it passed to her husband, Heman Howard and to her son, John Brett Howard. In 1921 the grain business together with a hay and coal business was incorporated under the name of John O. Dean Company, Inc.

Thus this water privilege has been utilized continuously for 225 years being the oldest privilege in town.

Solomon Hayward who lived on Foundry Street was the miller for some time prior to 1821. Jonathan Drake was the miller for many years. He was a son of Robert and Susannah Drake of Raynham. He died in Easton June 23, 1867 aged 79 years. His home was on Depot Street, Easton. E. Minot Stone was miller for forty years prior to 1905. His home was on Depot Street and he died in 1919. Dennis J. Brophy who lives on Depot Street has been miller from 1910 to 1936.



## KEITH SAW-MILL

### Easton Furnace

In 1742 a saw-mill was built on Mulberry Meadow Brook by Eleazer Keith, Silas, and Benjamin Williams.

Eleazer Keith lived in the Keith house corner of Highland and South Street. The mill was undoubtedly on his land.

In 1765 the saw-mill was used as a grist mill also. At that date Eleazer sold it to his son, Samuel, who in turn sold it to his son, Samuel 2nd in 1801. He added an oil mill before 1823 and by 1834 it was a shingle mill.

Later Samuel Keith formed a partnership with A.A. Rotch and others and manufactured thread there. After the death of Samuel 2nd in 1859, his son, Hiram Keith, and William Davidson continued the business until about 1861. For some years the building was not used.

It was purchased by Isaac Lothrop Pratt, then of Roseville, Illinois and thread was again made there under the firm name of Pratt, Belcher & Co.

Amos Pratt of Easton owned the property for a few years making cotton batting and sawing shingles there. It was bought by James Belcher in 1878 and used as a saw-mill. After his death Robert Birnie operated it as a saw-mill for a while. Later, F. Sherwood Keith, a direct descendant of the first owner, Eleazer Keith, used the building for a duck house. It is not in use now. (1936.)

The above information prior to 1878 was taken from the "History of Easton".







