

Washington Historical Society Newsletter

FALL 2014 EDITION

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President's Report

The winter is fast approaching, the clocks have been turned back and the lights have been turned off in the museum, barn and schoolhouse.

We had five very successful programs and meetings during the year. We had fewer meetings because the April meeting was cancelled due to the floors being repaired in the Lodge. We cancelled the November meeting because of a history of poor attendance. The October meeting had to be cancelled at the last minute because the speaker was unable to attend due to a family illness. My apologies to anyone who did not receive the e-mail notifying you of the change.

The officers were elected at our last meeting: Jack Sheehy, President; Phil Barker, Vice President; Marian Baker, Secretary; and Elaine Crandall, Treasurer. Pauline Laprade replaced Bob Evans on the Board and Jim Crandall agreed to remain on the Board.

The Historical Society had two major fund raisers: the pie sale at the flea market in July where 86 pies were sold, and the sold out pot roast dinner in August. A substantial contribution was made by the Pierce Brigade for a program and luncheon provided by Gwen on October 10.

Repairs were made to the barn this fall. A membrane was placed along the foundation on the north side to help waterproof the basement. An area near the foundation was regraded to divert water from the foundation. Vinyl was installed on the window sills on the north side of the barn. The rear windows will be done in the future.

Dues will be increased next year. Single membership will be \$10, family membership will be \$15 and sustaining membership will be \$25.

In closing I would like to thank all past members and present members of the Board for their contributions of time and energy and to all who volunteered to help make our programs and activities successful. Last, but not least, I thank you the members for your attendance and participation.

Have a happy and healthy winter and Holiday season.

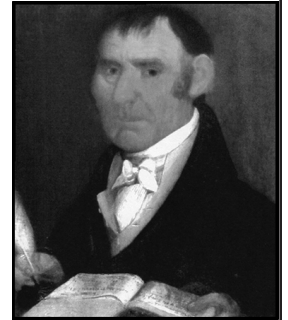
Jack Sheehy

THE EARLY PROPRIETORS OF THE LOVELL HOUSE

By Tom Talpey

The *1886 History of Washington* (pg. 89) gives a list of over 20 proprietors of the Lovell House, beginning with its inception in 1802. It occurred to me that a time-line of their tenures might be interesting and perhaps useful. Starting with that reference and using Ron and Grace Jagers' book *Portrait of a Hill Town*, plus a detailed search through the clerk's records and a list of Tavern and Liquor Licenses in the Washington Town Archives, I have attempted to create such a compilation. This article presents those findings, together with a few informative tid-bits where they seemed pertinent.

The Lovell House was built in **1802 by Reuben Farnsworth** and, starting in that year, his older brother **David Farnsworth** occupied it and ran it as a tavern. The town clerk's records of those years actually show that these two, plus another older brother, **Manessa**, all held liquor licenses, so it is reasonable to assume that any of the three could have sold "spirituous beverages" there, but since David lived here, he would naturally be considered to be the "taverner" or proprietor. He was also one of the instigators of the Croydon Turnpike and remained one of its directors until the corporation which owned it was dissolved in 1837. (All three of the brothers indeed held positions at one time or another in the Croydon Turnpike Corporation.) David was known in town as "Deacon Farnsworth" and later built the brick house on Half Moon Pond Road.



Deacon David Farnsworth
copy of portrait in library

In **1813, Luther Mellen** took over as proprietor and operated it for about 6 years. He also, of course held a liquor license.

In **1819, Joseph Healy** became the proprietor and held the position for about 8 years. Joseph, known as "Esq. Healy, had lived at the south end of town" in a large house on King Street almost at the Stoddard town line. (I once found what I believed were the foundations of this house during a hike in the woods up there, on the east side of King Street.) The *1886 Town History* (pg. 273) states that "he was engaged in farming and later moved to the village and was proprietor of the hotel..... He was an honored member and a first master of the Mount Vernon Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons then located in Washington."

In **1827, Uzziel Hurd** took over as proprietor for about the next 5 years. Not much could be found about this man, except that, of course, he possessed a liquor license, like all the rest.

In **1832**, the partnership of **Samuel P. Caulkins & William P. Greenleaf**, took over as proprietors. Not much could be found on Mr. Caulkins, but Mr. Greenleaf in 1834 built a store in East Washington which later became known as the Friend store (It was run by James K. Friend) until it was bought and run by Solomon E. Jones. To illustrate how intertwined matters can become—Solomon was the father of Julia A. Jones, who after the Civil War, married General Samuel Augustus Duncan and the two of them maintained the Jones homestead near the former store, for many years as a summer residence. Further down the line the present Duncan/Jenkins Trust, which benefits the schools of Hillsborough and Washington, is connected to this union.

Getting back to our main story, which if you remember is about the Lovell House, the next proprietors were, in **1834, Asaph Wilson & John May**, who ran it for the next 3 years. In town records it is sometimes referred to as "Wilson & May's tavern" and sometimes as simply "May's tavern." Here we go again with spurious connections: John May had previously kept a tavern and toll gate on the Croydon Turnpike near the entrance of what is now the Pillsbury State Park. When the turnpike business began to fold, he moved to the center of town to carry on with his tavern business. He was also the father of Clara May Hurd, who should be familiar to our readers as the author of the 40 diaries which continue to hold the attention of our Society. Talk about intertwining connections! (Are you faithful readers still with us? Remember there are over 20 of these Proprietors.)



The Lovell House as it looked prior to 1890
photo courtesy of Manahan-Phelps-McCulloch Collection

In **1837**, **William Adams** took over the proprietorship for a year. I will refrain from tracing his lineage—it is tempting to assume that it probably goes back somehow to John Adams, our nation’s second President! (But he did hold a town liquor license—William, I mean. I don’t know about John!)

In **1838**, **William B. French** assumed the proprietorship of the Lovell House and ran it for seven years, probably his first job after he married in late December 1837. He had occupied the brick house next to the Lovell House and had operated it as a storekeeper for many years, some of them in partnership with his brother, David Farnsworth French.

(There has to be a story behind this seeming coincidence! I believe it has to do with the French brothers’ father, Charles French, having been brought up in the home of Deacon David Farnsworth after their own father had died—another example of the inter-twinning in the 19th century small, rural town relationships. But tracing this is digressing too far from our time-line of the Lovell House proprietorship.)

In **1846**, **Elbridge G. McKean** took over the proprietorship in January and was issued a license for a “tavern at his house, lately occupied by W. B. French,” quoting from the town clerk’s records. This was renewed in **1847**, with the emphasis “a tavern at his house and no other.” However, on July 30th, **1847**, there is mention of **Benjamin Jeffs** as proprietor, but there is no further reference to him. It must have been a brief tenure, probably as a fill-in for the remainder of the year. On the very next page in the town clerk’s records, we find mention on January, 15th, **1848**, of the tavern of **Charles Train**. He continues to be mentioned as proprietor, with the last date found being August of **1854**. Charles Train grew up in the large white house, which his father had built, next to the present Washington General Store.

In **1855**, the State of New Hampshire went dry and the issuance of liquor licenses ceased, except for “medicinal purposes.”. However, town records continue to refer to the Lovell House as a tavern, and in February of **1855**, we find mention of the “tavern of **Harvey M. Bowman**” in the posting of notices for town affairs. This continued for three years, through the notice for the Annual Town Meeting of 1857, and Mr. Bowman is mentioned as proprietor.

In **1858**, the tavern of **Harvey Barney & Son** is named as the place of posting on Feb. 7th for the annual Town meeting in March.

In **1859**, a posting was made on Feb. 17 at **William B. French**’s. It appears that he may have taken over the proprietorship for a second time, for a brief period of time until the property was purchased by **Judson Wilson** later in the year. The following quote was found in the *1886 History of Washington* (pg. 217): “In September, 1859, at the earnest entreaty of his townsmen he bought the Lovell House and ran it as a hotel until August, 1862, when he enlisted as a private in the 16th NH Regiment of Volunteers” to join in the fighting of the Civil War. He was appointed to first Lieutenant of Company I and sailed with the Banks expedition to New Orleans. The 1886 History states that he “passed the voyage in joyful anticipation of meeting his son, Hamilton Wilkins, a member of the 8th NH Volunteers. But upon his arrival he received the sad intelligence that his son had died only two weeks before....It was a cruel blow, which left him childless.” Hamilton’s name is memorialized on the Civil War Monument in front of the Town hall. Judson finished his duties in the War and returned home to Washington, where he spent the rest of his life. He died in 1877 and is buried in the New Cemetery on Faxon Hill Road.

Early **1863** finds **Frank W. Baker** as a short term proprietor of the Lovell House and he remained until the summer of 1865.

In **1865**, **Henry Train** took over and remained for the longest stay of any of these early proprietors—12

years. He had been brought up in a house nearly across the road from the hotel and was an older brother of Charles Train, who had been proprietor for six years starting in 1848. The *1886 History of Washington* (pg.644) says of him: He was a popular citizen of Washington and “held much office, including that of representative in the [NH] legislature. He was for a time the popular land-lord of the Lovell House.” He died in Washington on March 29, 1886. Sadly, his second wife, Catharine, had died just one week previously. One of his sons by his first wife Julia (Dow) was the father of one of the rare sets of twins in Washington—Charles A. and Henry A. Train.

In **1877 Benjamin F. Upton** took over the proprietorship for one year.

In **1878, Moses H. Wood**, became the proprietor for two years. He later served as one of the Selectmen and in 1881 became the Town Moderator for the year.

Late in the year **1880, George M. Wright** took over the hotel and was issued a 6-month license for a bowling alley, which was renewed in April 1881.

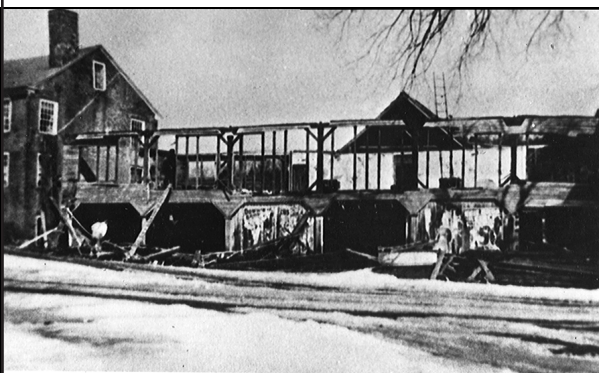
1883, Thomas H. Holland is listed as one of the proprietors following Mr. Wright. The only confirmation I have found for this is an advertisement for the Lovell House which appeared on the inside of the front cover of the Selectmen’s Report for the year ending March 1, 1883. It is signed T. H. Holland, Proprietor.

In **1884, Horace P. Snow** is the last proprietor that I could find during the 1880s. He also is credited as being the founder of the Washington Cornet Band, in 1884. *Portrait of a Hill Town* (pg. 342) has dubbed him as “the last man for whom the bell tolls.” He was a staunch supporter of the town and returned for the celebration in 1934 of the band’s 50th anniversary. He died the following year and is buried with his wife and son in the New Cemetery on Faxon Hill Rd.

The last mention that I found in the Clerk’s Records book was a notice posted at the Lovell House in Feb. 1890 for the Town Meeting that year. Unfortunately it does not mention the name of the proprietor. *Portrait of a Hill Town* (Chap.6, pp. 125-137, with additions on pp. 194-198) gives a complete and fascinating account of the last days of the establishment. It was bought in **1890 by Jasper T. Goodwin** and immediately enlarged by adding an incredibly long east wing annex, with a porch 109 feet long and a tower, stretching to within ten feet of the Congregational Church. He turned the Lovell House into a sort of gay nineties summer resort, which became a very popular destination for the wealthy-- the pride of the center of Washington. As the tale is told in *Portrait* it turns out that he had done it with two mortgages, but somehow managed to pay the taxes and keep it going. It lasted about 10 years, but in the spring of 1900 there was an auction of the furnishings and the hotel did not open for the summer. He and his wife Caroline, who was a Greenleaf, are buried in the Greenleaf family plot in the New Cemetery on Faxon Hill Road.*

So ends this part of our tale—a time-line of the early Proprietors. The “rest of the story” is decidedly complex and is told in detail in *Portrait* (recommended reading) but there is not space enough to summarize it here. However, the hotel did open with summer dances and parties under “intermittent entrepreneurship”

until the early 1930s. The annex on the eastern side and the horse sheds on the western side were demolished in 1935 and we have included a photograph taken by an unknown photographer of that event. The original Lovell House itself, built in 1802, was finally taken down in 1965. The question remains—how was there ever enough room to fit in all that between the brick house and the church?



Demolition of the horse sheds in 1935
courtesy of Steve Crain Collection

*The Society’s web-site contains a list of all Washington, NH, gravesites at: <http://www.ultimate.com/washington/whs/graves/index.html> (courtesy of Phil Budne)

Camp Morgan

by Gwen Gaskell

This past summer I was asked if there could be an article in the newsletter about the history of Camp Morgan. "Good idea" I replied. Now as I look over the "History of Camp Morgan" written by Philip M. Morgan and Donald A. Perry, which is at the museum, I realize that this is not an easy task as Camp Morgan was a part of Washington for 70 years (1908 - 1978).

Records from 1911 refer to "Camp Worcester for Boys, Lake Brockway, Washington NH." The Brockway lumber mill was just below the dam, thus that name for the lake rather than Millen. The sparkling clean water of the lake and the availability of the Millen farms 180 acres started the camping program for the Worcester YMCA.

"Camp Washington" was located on the north side of the road across from the present lodge in an old house. Out in the field, two rows of large white tents were pitched on platforms with cots for the campers, in the house was the kitchen, recreation rooms with the camp office, camp store and storage rooms on the second floor. A large tent served as the dining hall and dishes were washed in tubs outdoors.

Mr. Millen's brick yard, which was said to be the town's earliest brick yard, was located about where the tether ball and volleyball court are now. In 1910 the Farnsworth brothers, Waldo and Carroll, built the road along the pond from the present Camp Morgan Lodge to the foot of Farnsworth Hill.

The "Morgan" name comes from the Morgan Construction Co. of Worcester, MA who built steel mills all over the world. Paul B. Morgan, son of the founder, Charles Morgan, served on the board of the YMCA and took a sincere interest in youth work and camping. Four generations of the family supported the camp financially and through leadership. Phillip M. Morgan, President of Morgan Const. Co. was never too busy to help when needed and it was through his guidance that Camp Morgan had a reputation for being one of the outstanding camps in New England.

The train ride from Worcester to Hillsboro took about 2 hours and the trip by "barge", a truck soon to be called a pick-up, could take almost as long depending on weather and road conditions, often requiring "boy power". 1925 was the first year the boys arrived by bus directly to camp, rather than train to Hillsboro. By now the camp was moved to the pond side of the road.

From 1937 -1943 Merrill Durdan served as Camp Director. He was a man of multitudes of ideas; one was to have a camp farm. Stanley Drew owned the farm beside the camp and was willing to let the camp raise a garden for food during the war years.

In 1938 "Chief Henry Red Eagle" Henry Perley (b.1885-d. 1972) came to camp to lead the Lumberjack Village. Chief Henry Red Eagle was an elected Chief of the Maliseet tribe of the Algonquin Nation. He traveled much of the world in Wild West Shows and played in over 100 silent movies. Hank, as he was affectionately known, was village head of the Lumberjack or Ranger Villages for a total of 29 years; "Leading boys into manhood".

The 1938 hurricane left a big scar on the western shore, so the camp undertook the job of clearing brush and replanting trees. Logs were used to build cabins. Many Indian ceremonies and pageants were staged at the camp and enjoyed by campers as well as surrounding communities.

Weston Brockway was very involved with camp music and wilderness training. Cousin, Earl Hallstrom, Colby, Leslie, Uphoff, Floyd, Bob Moore and the nurses Schofield and Stockwell are all names important in that time.

In 1944 Don Perry was appointed Director of Camp Morgan and served through 1969. He inherited many problems including sugar rations, gas rations and lots of "red tape". Mr. Durdin had left Don with a large crop of potatoes planted in the spring of 1944. Fortunately the counselors volunteered to help harvest and they picked, sorted and bagged several tons. "We sold some of them, then fortunately Charles Davis,

a camp committee member and owner of Putnams & Thurston's restaurant came to our rescue and bought 2,200 lbs.”

Don Perry and his wife Mary had roots in Washington as Don’s grandfather drove the stage between Hanover and Concord. Mary’s father, Dean Ricker, was a camper at Camp Washington in 1912 and wrote letters from the cupola of the Millen farmhouse to his fiancée, Jean Harvey. Don and Mary wed on Sept. 9, 1944 and their sons grew up at Camp Morgan every summer. Don Perry knew his campers and counselors and was well respected by everyone.

We should note that Jim Graves was a counselor about this time and found his true love at the other end of the pond in Charlotte “Stubby” Crandall. They and their 4 girls were on the pond every summer and the families still have summer homes here. Another counselor, Jim Donnally, also found his love in one of the McNeil girls at the top of the hill above the old Millen Farm.

Camp Morgan and the town of Washington, became intertwined during the next 20 years or so with activities like Old Home Days, church services, weekly hikes by the camp to the village store, town dances and camp fires at the camp. Local boys were invited to be the guests of camp each year.

In 1970 Ken Aldrich of the YMCA staff was appointed as director but only served one year before entering a family business. Joe Crevino was then hired as director. Camp enrollment declined, and in 1978 the camp property was put on the market. The town of Washington bought it and uses the lodge as the activity center for the town.

A six week summer day camp is run for the children of residents and taxpayers, the beach is used by taxpayers of Washington and there are hiking and snowmobile trails. The new school was built up behind the ball field. Most camp buildings were sold and moved or destroyed for safety and insurance reasons.

The name “Camp Morgan” has remained as a tribute to the Morgan family and all the young men who went to camp here and their accomplishments, perhaps touched by experiences of Christian fellowship at Camp Morgan.

Campers that remained or made their marks on the work include Phil Gaudette who was town road agent for many years. Frank Flemming bought property here that is still in the family. Marvin Richmond, well known Worcester photographer, developed his first film at Camp Morgan. Astronaut Robert Parker, repaired a broken camera in space with a paperclip. John Sheehan, totally blind boy, learned to dive at camp and became a telephone switchboard operator at Goodwill Industries in Boston. Bob Woo could not return to China so bought property in Hillsboro. There are many other doctors, lawyers and good ordinary people who loved their experience at Camp Morgan and they, with us, will remember the motto: “Keep the Fires Burning”

The complete history of Camp Morgan is available to be read at the museum next summer, Saturdays 10AM to 2PM.

*Ammi Millen owned the property where Camp Morgan was/is, thus the name of the pond, although it is often mispronounced as “Mellen.” An interesting side note: the McMillens dropped the “Mc” part of their name in the late 1700’s soon after they started settling in Washington.

RICHARD E. GRIFFITH

December 2, 1910 - July 7, 2014

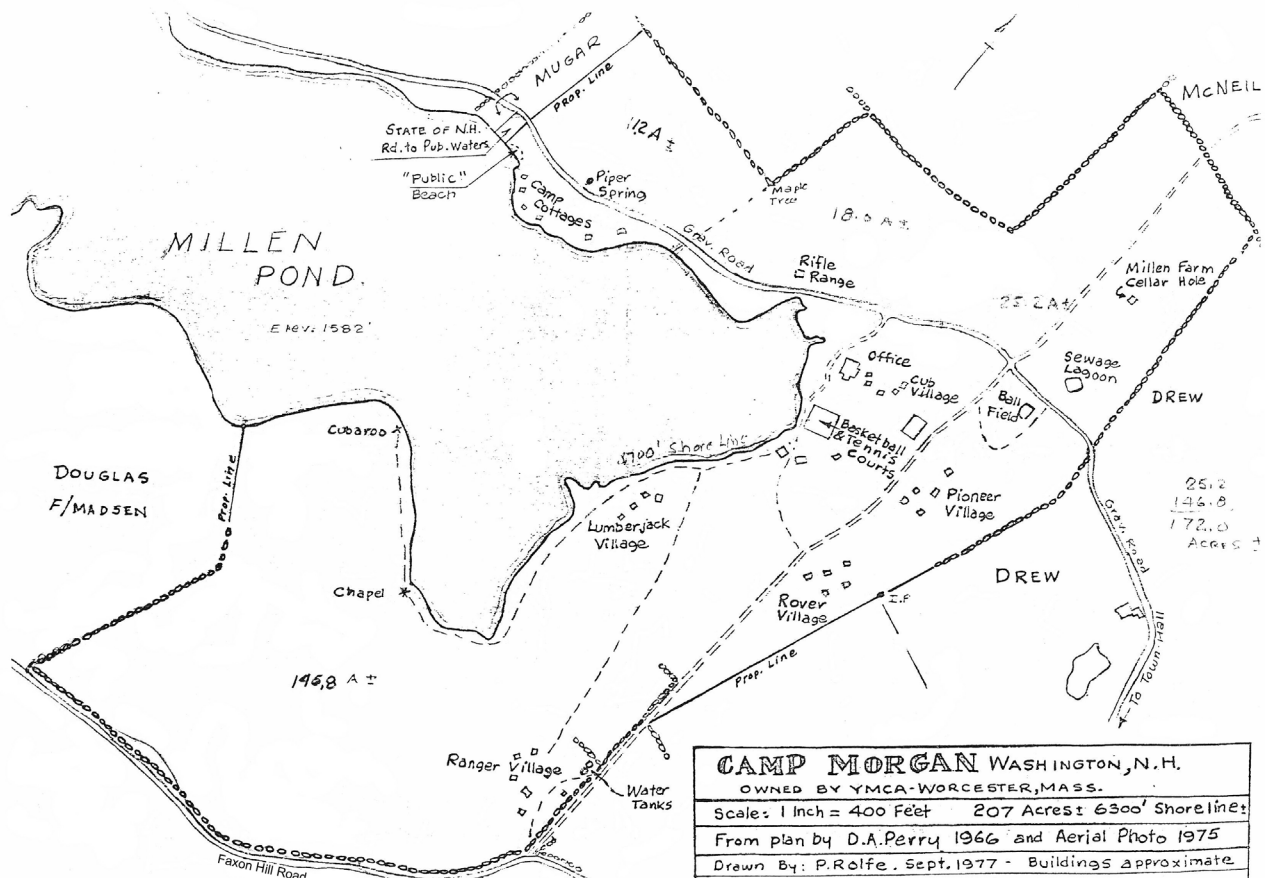


On July 7, 2014, Richard E. Griffith, former Selectman in Washington, died at the age of 103½. At the time he was living in an assisted living facility in Bandon, Oregon, where he had moved in 1994 to be near his family.

Dick was born on Dec. 2, 1910, in Carthage, NY, and graduated in 1936 with a BS degree in forest zoology, from the New York State Ranger School (now called the New York State College of Environmental Science and Forestry.) He came to Washington in 1976, after retiring from a career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He had received several awards during this career, culminating in a U.S. Department of the Interior Distinguished Award.

While serving the Town of Washington, he became an advocate for what eventually became our Conservation Commission. His wife of 50 years died in November 1982. He lived in the summer home that they had built on Island Pond in Washington NH. He moved to Oregon in 1994 and helped his daughter develop a home on 30 wooded acres about ½ mile inland from the Pacific Ocean. He is the Grandfather of 8, Great Grandfather of 23 and was soon to be a Great-Great Grandfather.

Dick, suitably, is buried under the shade of trees in a beautiful corner of the East Washington Baptist Church Cemetery, next to his wife, Mayhugh.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES are \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family (including children under 16). For those who would like to contribute more to the Society to help us cover our expenses, we have a new sustaining membership for \$25. The membership year is August 1 through July 31. We appreciate your continued interest and support of our projects. New members are always welcome. If you would like to join us as a member, please complete the form below and send to THE WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 90, Washington, N.H., 03280. If you know of someone who might be interested in our newsletter, please let us know or pass this one on to them.

Name: _____

Participating family names: _____

Mailing address: _____

_____ Zip Code: _____

Phone No. Winter: _____ Summer: _____ Cell: _____

Email _____

Membership Level: \$10 Individual \$15 Family \$25 Sustaining

PLEASE NOTE: As a non-profit historical society, we qualify with many companies for matching grants provided the company you work for, or are retired from, supports such benefits.

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