



DODGE FAMILY JOURNAL

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WENHAM AS IT USED TO BE ROADS, BYWAYS, AND THE PEOPLE WHO USED THEM - Part 1

by Louis A. Dodge - printed by the Wenham Historical Association and Museum, Inc. 1968

NOTICE

Since 1981 when we formed our Dodge Family Association, we have kept the dues at \$10 per year. However, due to rising operational costs (to say nothing of rising postage) we have had to raise the yearly dues to **\$15** for USA and Canada. For other countries, the cost is **\$20** per year.

Lifetime membership are now available. For those **65** years and older, the cost is **\$150**. For those under 65, a lifetime membership is **\$250**.

Lifetime members are sent a beautiful pin picturing the Dodge Coat of Arms. We are having a pin made for those who are not lifetime members and this will be able to be purchased for \$10.

This series will be printed exactly as it is written without any editing.

This has been taken from a book printed by the Wenham Historical Association in 1968 that was transcribed from tapes made of the talks given in 1963, 1964, and 1965, by the author.

This will give you a feel for the time in which many of our early Dodge ancestors lived. Please remember, times have changed!

Some of the names you will see as this story unfolds, are: Dodge, Edwards, Conant, Batchelder, Whipple, Webber, and more.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

To say that I am delighted to see the crowd that is here is putting it far beyond my expectations. I have lived in Wenham all my years, so far at least. I have been to town meeting a great many times and I have been to town

meeting when there were fewer out than there is here tonight. I consider this a compliment, if I may use that word.

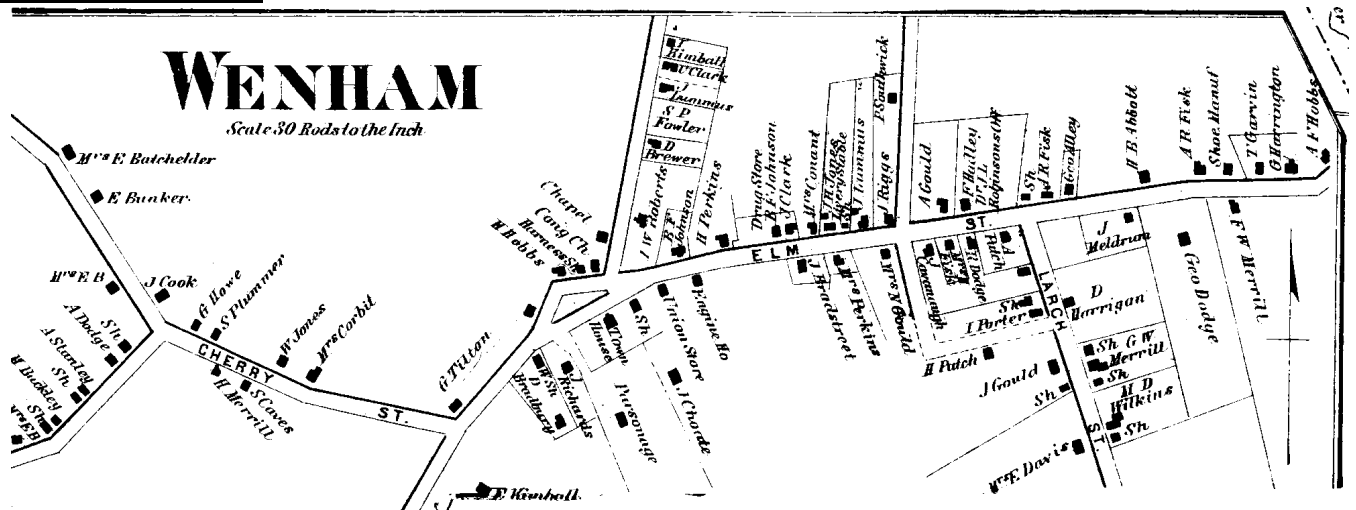
I am not going to take up too much of your time simply because when this meeting was first suggested back possibly last February I said I would take a few minutes, ten or fifteen, and I want you people to ask what questions you would like to have answered concerning Wenham in its earlier days and what led up to some of its changes. Therefore, what I am going to say is going to be short. I have picked up a few odd items scattered around over the last two or three hundred years. I have thrown them together in a pile. They are not in order. It is not a businesslike venture in any way, shape, or manner. To those of you who received the invitation by the mail I am supposed to tell you something of the changes that have happened in Wenham. A lot of you may think Wenham has changed. How do you think

Wenham has changed? That is one thing I am wondering.

Wenham, as a town geographically, has not changed, together with the coming of modern ideas and new inventions that have changed the whole outfit. The area of Wenham has remained practically the same as it was after the several boundaries were adjusted previous to 1700.

Lord's Hill still remains Lord's Hill and the highest point in Wenham. The main drainage system is Miles River which has its origin partly in the estate of H. P. McKean in East Wenham. It winds its way through Longham Meadow up through Wenham Neck over back of my place, crosses Larch Row, Walnut Road, finally goes into Hamilton, and, in so doing, it only crosses the highway seven different times. When it gets into Ipswich it crooks around so many times you cannot count it, and the

(Continued on page 2)



From Beer's Atlas of Essex County, 1872

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DID YOU KNOW?

Mr. & Mrs. William F. Dodge lived in a farmhouse in Whitefield, NH. One rainy night in 1865 a stagecoach passed through Whitefield on the way to Montreal. It hit a large mudhole and overturned. The two passengers crawled out of the stage into the pouring rain. The driver told them that they would find a farmhouse about 1/2 miles down the end of a nearby dirt road.

When they got to the farmhouse, they were warmly welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Dodge, who gave them dry clothes, supper, and a place to sleep. The next morning they were treated to homemade sausage, eggs, and freshly made doughnuts. This was consumed while looking at the magnificent view of the mountains.

The visitors persuaded the Dodges to allow them to stay for a few more days. They enjoyed it so much that they returned the next summer. This second visit gave Mr. Dodge the idea of building an addition onto the family farmhouse, so that they could take in boarders. Their newly enlarged home opened as an Inn in 1866, and was christened Mountain View House. In it's heyday, this Inn was one of the top resorts in the Northeast.

The above was extracted from an article in the "Northern New Hampshire Magazine" written by Charles J. Jordan, and sent to us by Becky Rutledge of Vermont.

(Continued from page 1)

fall of the river is only fourteen inches in the whole Town of Hamilton. So in other words, it is estimated that Miles River is approximately thirty to thirty-five miles with a fall of only one foot to the mile. If Minister Gerrish or John Fiske should come back to Wenham they would have no trouble finding their way around simply because the paths, or roads so called, are the same today as they traveled. There has been practically no difference in the layout either in length or location simply because some of our new roads have only taken the place of older roads that had been abandoned and went into disuse.

The Main Street out here in its earlier days was simply an Indian path known from here to Ipswich as Bay Path. Sometime along, no one knows when, a group of people set out some elm trees, and it was known as Elm Street. That stood until a vote at Town Meeting when Elm Street was discontinued and it became Main Street.

Larch Row and Grapevine Road were known in earliest history as a highway leading to Manchester, or Captain West's farm. Now Captain West lived in Beverly and owned the land between Manchester and Pride's Crossing; therefore, you could go to Captain West's farm.

To those of you who are acquainted over in Wenham Neck, you know of Walnut Road. That is a modern name - when I was a youngster we called it Depot Street; before that it was Captain Ezra Dodge's

Lane, and before that it was Peter Dodge's Lane and simply went to the foot of the hill and turned to the left to Peter Dodge's sawmill. There you could go across the brook and go afoot, if you wanted to, to what is now Hamilton-Wenham Depot, but the road did not cross the brook.

Arbor Street was simply a path leading to Mingo's Corner. You may wonder where Mingo's Corner was - that was up at Asbury Grove, and Mingo was a colored servant of Ebenezer Lovering and lived somewhere near the junction of Asbury and Highland Streets, Asbury Grove, and it was only in comparatively modern years that Arbor Street, in fact, in 1843 I think it was, was developed and went as far as the drive into Howard Perkins' dooryard. In the middle of the 1600's Sergeant John Perkins who was living where Howard Perkins now lives, applied for a right of way to the Town to get to his property, and they laid out a street, now Perkins Street.

After the County Office established the boundaries, it became Perkins Street, and so you might go on with the streets so far as Wenham is concerned - where Lord's Hill got its name I have yet to find out. As early as 1670 Hezekiah Ober owned seventy-five acres which bounded on Lord's Hill and Bass River - so there is nothing new as far as the geographic area of Wenham goes.

Now to go back to the early history of Wenham - when the first settlers came, and how many we do not know - Wen-

ham was Enon Village, a part of Salem, and the boundary line was at what is now Hamilton. The group consisted of the Fair-fields, Batchelders, Fiskes, Kimballs, Gotts, Tarboxes, and so on, an almost unlimited number of odd names. Most of them have now departed and gone. The Dodges do not show up until later.

As Wenham grew, the people of the community, or plantation as they called it in some places, became able to support a church and pay a minister. Then they were allowed to become a settlement by themselves. So in May, 1643, Wenham was set off from Salem, and the county records go on to say that "Enon shall be called Wenham" and should send a deputy to the general court; but we did not get our Charter until sometime the following September, so if you want to celebrate, you have any time in the summer to carry out your intentions.

After these people got the Town started, others came in, and we had men of all kinds and descriptions and of all trades. They were common workmen; carpenters, part-time carpenters, bricklayers, weavers, etc. Fairfield was a wood-turner, Josiah Dodge, Jr., was a cotton weaver, so you can go on down the list of common, everyday occupations combined with the art of earning a living by farming and trading.

(continued in the Next Dodge Journal)

Table of Contents	
Wenham As It Used to Be - Part 1	1
Did You Know?	2
Barbara's Byline	3
Breaking News-Dodge Tour	4
Dodge Blotter	4



**... To talk of deeds
and documents ...
Of Ink and other things**

Today in the mail, I was tickled pink to receive a used blotter. Now, I know that you are saying, "Barb has been working too hard. Her mind has finally snapped. P-o-o-r Barb!"

Or . . . maybe you do not even know what a blotter is! Fess up now! If you were born after W.W.II, you probably have never used a blotter because you have never used a wet ink pen. Well, let me fill you in with a bit of information.

When I went to school, the children could hardly wait to get into 5th grade, because when they entered that grade, they would have a desk that had a little hole up in the right hand corner, called an 'ink-well'. Into that hole went a bottle of black ink. We also had a shaped black piece of wood (called a pen handle), and on the end there was a place to insert a metal 'pen point'.

Fifth grade was big kid time. We got to write with REAL INK! However, along with this advance, we also had to have a blotter handy at all times. How many times, as we became accustomed to using that pen, did we suddenly find a big blob of ink right in the middle of a sentence.

When we progressed into 7th grade, we were allowed to use our own 'Fountain Pen'. I guess it got that name because it contained a 'well' in the handle (called an 'ink barrel') that was filled with ink from the ink jar. There was a little lever on the side of the fountain pen, and when it was out of ink, you would put the point end of the pen in the jar of ink, and lift the lever thus slurping up ink into the barrel.

Ah-h-h! This was TECHNOLOGY! What a wonderful thing to be able to carry a fountain pen with you and be able to write with ink at all times . . . unless, of course, you forgot to make sure the the ink barrel in the pen was full of ink before you left school or home.

Oh . . . I almost forgot to mention the

other thing that sometimes happened. Right in the middle of the final copy of a book report that was due the next day, the fountain pen would suddenly drop a big blob of ink. It was 'start over time'. Oh, those wonderful nostalgic days gone by, when everything was SO MUCH BETTER than today!

Now . . . How did I get on this subject? Oh, Yes . . . the used blotter. It was sent to me by Gibb Dodge of New Hampshire, but I hasten to add that this blotter is indeed VERY SPECIAL, and I am thrilled to be able to scan it (both sides) for our Historic Preservation Project!

This blotter was printed by Dodge Printing Co., Leominster, Massachusetts. (NO - I do NOT have any problem spelling Massachusetts! I grew up there!)

Gibb writes: "My Great Uncle, Forbes Bryant Dodge, son of Rufus B. Dodge, page 456 in the new genealogy, was a printer and I believe his shop was in Leominster. I saw the man only twice when I was in my early years. (Late 1930's or very early 40's)

"I'm sure he printed these but am not sure of their purpose. I sure do remember my dad, Arthur Gibbs Dodge, Page 457, using this one at his postoffice during the 40's.

"I thought you might be interested in having the enclosed blotter for the family Historic Preservation Project . . I sent you the "used" one just to show one hard worker how another hard worker used a piece of Dodge "History" nearly every day."

So . . . now you see that I have not "snapped", and you don't need to say "P-o-o-r Barb", and . . . I wish that more of you would send us some of your old items such as letters, deeds, certificates, etc., so that we might scan them in for a permanent record.

Some of you HAVE sent us photo copies of old items, BUT that does not work for Preservation. We need the **ORIGINAL ITEM** in order to make a scan that will actually be of value to our descendants.

I appreciate the photoed items. They **ARE** of value and they will be kept in our scrapbook, but even paper that is 20 years old shows it's age, and many times is difficult to handle without tearing.

Let me assure you that the **utmost care** will be taken in the scanning process, and **ALL ITEMS WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU POST HASTE!**

If you would like to see the face side of the blotter, it is shown at the bottom of page 4 of this Journal.

Barbara

YOUR input, please!

We are thinking about the possibility of sending out our Dodge Family Journals on regular letter size paper with 3 holes punched on the left side and one staple in the upper left corner. The purpose would be to make it easier for those of you who save your Journals for future reference.

We would then have for sale a binder such as a 3 ring notebook with our logo on the cover, which could be purchased by those Dodge Association members who enjoy keeping their Dodge Journals.

We would not want to go to this format unless we feel that the majority of our members would appreciate this change.

PLEASE send us your comments! regarding this matter.



Dodge House - 1725
Located at 18 East Street,
Ipswich, Massachusetts
Picture taken by Blanche Dodge Day
of S. Hamilton, MA 8-91

Late Breaking News about the Dodge Family Tour in May 1999

On May 23, the Investiture of the Mayor of Stockport, England, will take place at St. Mary's Cathedral in Stockport. This is the church where many Dodges worshipped in the years gone by, and there are grave stones in the church yard for at least two Dodge residents of Halliday Hill house. There is also a memorial tablet on the wall of the sanctuary by the Dodge pew, to Robert Dodge of Halliday Hill House. The new Vicar of this church, Rev. Scoone, is very excited that the Dodge group will be there that morning, and Earl Dodge is expected to take part in that service.

A web page is being constructed by the church archivist for St. Mary's and it will feature, among other things, the upcoming investiture service, and most likely, the fact that Dodges from the United States will be attending that service.

Ray Preston, our Dodge friend in Stockport, England, is in hopes of arranging for Halliday Hill House to be included in the Blue Plaque Scheme. This is a system to mark Historical Sites. Stockport is going all out to get ready for their millenium celebration, and this is part of what they are doing.

Our tours have ALWAYS been a special treat for those who join us, but this one will be a once in a lifetime treat. You will see all the pomp and ceremony that your forefathers saw hundreds of years ago and in the same church where they worshipped. Hopefully, if Ray has his way, you will see a permanent blue marker on the road, designating Halliday Hill House, YOUR ancestral home, as an historical monument.

One of the highlights is our English Tea at Halliday Hill House on our last Sunday in England. Those who take part in our Dodge Tours, are the ONLY people so honored. Many wonderful desserts are served at this tea, including that English delicacy, scones and clotted cream.

The Dodge tours have always attracted the attention of journalists in England, and with each trip there have been articles in newspapers in Stockport regarding our visit. This time, we have attracted attention two months before we leave this country. We received a request today from a journalist in Stockport who is writing an article about the upcoming May tour and what our purpose is for doing these tours. He especially wanted to know about Halliday Hill House, and WHY we go there.

IF you have been giving any thought at all about joining us, this news should be the deciding factor. Truly, you will not have another opportunity to travel with Dodges, to the land of your heritage, to see your ancestral home in a year preceding the new millenium, and to view and take part in a ceremony so old that no one can say for sure when it began.

You will NOT regret making the decision to join us. THIS will be the TOUR of a LIFETIME and we look forward to having you along. Just fill out the form at the bottom of the accompanying letter and send it in.

Remember that **ALL EXPENSES** are included in the **ONE price**. This means **entrance fees** to all attractions planned for the tour, a **full English Breakfast** and an **evening dinner** each day, **all tips**, **transportation to and from Manchester Airport** in England, **all of your hotel rooms**, your **ferry, train, and boat** rides, and **anything else** we have neglected to mention here.

All this will be yours, plus visiting with others in your family as you travel in a comfortable coach with plenty of room to spread out. If you have not traveled with us before, you will be delighted at the friendships that will develop, the amiable coach driver, Roger, the coach refrigerator which will be well stocked with cold drinks, the great meals that we are always served when on these tours, the sense of taking part in an ancient historical ceremony, and pretending for one Sunday afternoon, that **YOU** are the owner of Halliday Hill House. I can assure you that it will be the experience of a lifetime, and one not to be missed!

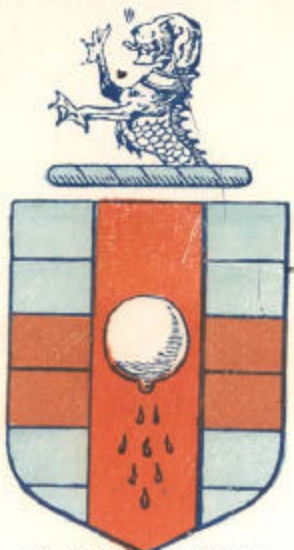
Dodge

The family name of Dodge comes from what the name implies, "to evade by a sudden shift of place, or one who evades."

The family is of very ancient English origin. In 1300, Peter Dodge of Slopworth, county of Chester, England, was granted a coat-of-arms.

William, husbandman, settled at Salem, Mass., in 1629. He resided in Beverly, Mass., in 1637.

Richard, brother of William, and son of John of East Coker, Somersetshire, England, born in 1602, settled in Salem, Mass., in 1638. In 1667 he was one of the founders of Beverly, Mass.



The Dodge Coat-of-Arms

Tristram came from Suffolk, England, to Newfoundland, in 1647. He moved to Massachusetts and was one of the original settlers in 1661 of Block Island, R. I.

David Dodge was one of the outstanding citizens of old Charlestown. He was made town clerk in 1825 and served until he was made the first city clerk in 1847-48. The accuracy, precision and elegance of his records were recognized by the city government in resolutions adopted when his resignation was accepted—qualities noticeable in the productions of The Dodge Printing Company, at 28 Laurelwood Rd. Leominster, Mass.