

# **A Look Back at Some Early Andover Farms**

**Thomas D. Talbot  
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## **1. Elliot P. Skinner Farm 187 Route 6.**

Built by Daniel Burnap in 1805. Now known as Post Farm on Route 6.      Census info 1870

Acres of improved land:	238
Acres of woodland:	12
Value of all livestock:	\$1,655
Estimated value of all farm produce:	\$1,150
Cash value of farm:	\$7,000



# Skinner Family History

Elliot Palmer Skinner was born Nov. 2, 1831 in Vernon, CT. He married Mary D. Burnap, born Oct. 21, 1827, in Coventry (now Andover). She died May 27, 1912. Elliot died Mar. 11, 1917. They are both buried in the Andover Congregational Church Cemetery. They had no children.

Elliot and Mary lived in Mary's Andover home for the rest of their lives. Mary's father, Daniel Burnap, a well-known New England clockmaker, built this home. In 1805 Daniel built the house where his daughter Mary and Elliot would live.

Elliot was elected to the state legislature in 1880 and again in 1883. He introduced the bill entitled "An Act Concerning the Placing of Telegraph and Telephone Fixtures in Highways." He was a delegate to the CT Constitutional Convention of 1892 and that same year a delegate to the Republican State Convention in Hartford.

In a codicil to his will, Elliot directed that \$5,000 be taken from his estate for the erection and equipping of a suitable building for the use of a library, to be known as the Burnap-Skinner Memorial Building. The library now stands directly across Long Hill Road from the church.



## **2. The John S. Topliff Farm 65 Long Hill Road**

The house on this farm was built around 1734 by Benjamin Blackman.

Census info 1870

Acres of improved land:	165
Acres of woodland:	75
Indian corn:	50 bushels
Irish Potatoes:	300 bushels
Cash value of farm:	\$7,000



# **The John S. Topliff Farm**

## **History**

John Topliff was born July 9, 1824, in Coventry, and married Sophia F. Standish June 2, 1851. Sophia died in 1888. John died in 1900 in Andover. Both are buried in the Andover Church Cemetery. They had one child, Miles Standish.

In 1869, John S. Topliff, Democrat, was elected to be Andover's representative in the CT State Legislature. He won by 1 vote over John F. Bingham. John Topliff and his son Miles, built a new barn. This barn is now behind the house. It was moved to its current location in 1934 when Long Hill Road was straightened.

At the bottom of the hill near the athletic fields, the bridge over the Hop River has 1934 inscribed in its cement -it was also built there when the road was straightened. When I was young the old pre-1934 bridge across the river was still there, about 200 feet upstream from the current bridge. One had to be careful walking across it as there were holes in the roadbed.

### **3. The Henry F. Standish Farm 184 Boston Hill Road.**

The house on this farm was built about 1779 by Joseph White. Census info 1870

Acres of woodland:	40
Cash value of farm:	\$6,000
Oats:	125 bushels
Indian Corn:	150 bushels
Irish potatoes:	200 bushels
Butter:	600 pounds



# **Henry F. Standish Farm History**

Henry Friend Standish was born July 10, 1843 in Canton, CT. On Oct. 21, 1865, he married Ellen Rosell Strickland in Rhode Island. Ellen Strickland was born Dec. 22, 1845, in Andover, and died Aug. 5 1921 in Andover. John died May 5, 1901, in Andover. Both are buried in the Andover Congregational Church Cemetery. They had an only child Edwin Andrew Standish.

In 1900, Henry Standish, a Republican, was elected to be Andover's representative in the state legislature where he served on the committee on constitutional amendments. He died only a few months after taking office.

Henry and Ellen Standish's son Edwin Standish acquired the Lucius D. Post general store located at 12 Center Street. Edwin Standish died Nov. 2, 1931, and like his father Henry, died shortly after being elected to represent Andover in the state legislature. After Edwin Standish's death, his son Leslie ran the store for some years but had to go out of business during the great depression of the 1930's.

In the 1940 census, Leslie is working at the thread mill in Willimantic.



**4. The Willard Loomis Farm 180 Long Hill Road.** The house on this farm was built about 1839 by Willard Loomis. Census info 1870

Acres of Woodland:	30
Indian corn:	75 bushels
Oats:	75 bushels
Irish Potatoes:	175 bushels
Butter & Cheese:	200 lbs. & 40 lbs.
Cash value of farm:	\$3,000





# **The Willard Loomis Farm History**

The house on this farm was built about 1839 by Willard Loomis.

Willard Badger Loomis was born Oct. 23, 1809, in Andover. He married Susan Adeline Manley Oct. 5, 1834. She and Willard are both buried in the Andover Church cemetery. Willard's second wife was Elizabeth Manley Hunt, his first wife's younger sister. They married Apr. 10, 1867. Willard Loomis died Nov. 17, 1882, in Andover. Elizabeth Loomis died Jul. 20, 1909, and is buried in the Old Willimantic Cemetery with her first husband, Anson Hunt.

Willard and Susan Loomis had the following children:

Jared M. (1835-1838)

Jared M. (1839- 1896)

William N. (1838-1901)

Jane A. (1842-1883)

George W. (1844-1908)

Minerva A. (1846-1857)

Monroe S. (1848-1913)

Arthur P. (1850-1900)

Frank M. (1853-1918)

Dwight E. (1855-1941).

## 5. The John B. Baker Farm 253 Boston Hill Road.

The house on this farm was built about 1850 by John B. Baker. Census info 1870

Acres of woodland:	15
Value of all livestock:	\$970
Indian corn:	25 bushels
Buckwheat:	16 bushels
Cash value of farm:	\$1,500



## **John B. Baker Farm History**

John Brooks Baker was born July 30, 1816, in Uxbridge, MA. He married Rebecca E. Williams on June 26, 1836. Rebecca died in 1890, in Andover. John died in 1887. Both are buried in the Andover Congregational Church Cemetery.

In 1877 their eldest child, Charles H. Baker, purchased a forty-one-acre lot directly east of his father's. In the Andover Land records, this lot is known as the Crocker Lot.

On the Crocker lot, right next to Boston Hill Road and across the street from 224 Boston Hill Road is the grave of Captain Simon Smith. On Feb. 11, 1924, The Estate of Charles H. Baker donated a four-rod by four-rod (fifty feet by fifty feet) square of land that contained the grave of Captain Smith to the Andover Cemetery Association.

The Andover Cemetery Association maintains this grave and the Townsend Cemetery.

**6. The Chester D. Norton Farm 36 Boston Hill Road.** The house on this farm was built about 1761 by Benjamin Lamb. Census info 1870

Indian corn:	10 bushels
Oats:	15 bushels
Irish potatoes:	20 bushels
Butter:	75 pounds
Cash value of farm:	\$1,800





# **Chester D. Norton Farm**

## **History**

Chester Davis Norton was born in 1817 and died in 1891. He is buried in the Andover Church Cemetery. Chester Norton stipulated in his will that \$500 be given to St. Peter's church in Hebron, in varying amounts to 10 different individuals, and the rest to be divided equally to:

- The town of Andover for the care and support of the poor children in Andover.
- The town of Andover in support of its public schools
- The Congregational Church for the care of its buildings
- To the Porter Library Association for the care and increase of the books.

Before our current library, the Porter Library was housed in the conference house of the Congregational Church. To fulfill the request to help the children in Andover, The Norton Children's Fund Commission was established in 1937. The Commission has five members, meet twice a year, and gives assistance to Andover children. They also give a small annual scholarship to an Andover high school or home-schooled senior who will be continuing their education.

**7. The Edgar J. Kingsbury Farm 92  
Hutchinson Rd.** The house on this farm was  
built around 1805 by Seba Loomis.  
Census info 1870

Acres of woodland:	30
Indian corn:	50 bushels
Buckwheat:	6 bushels
Cash value of farm:	\$4,000



# **Edgar J. Kingsbury Farm History**

Edgar Joseph Kingsbury was born Apr. 3, 1831. On Dec. 25, 1867, he married Hannah Mariah Reynolds in Adams County, Illinois. Edgar died Nov. 20, 1903, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Edgar and Hannah are both buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Sioux Falls. Their children were Amelia J. (1868-1935), and Horace Reynolds (1873-1935).

Edgar attended Williston Academy in Easthampton, Mass. At seventeen he commenced teaching school and for the next eight years, he worked on the farm and taught school during the winters. In 1854 he was admitted into the Bolton Congregational Church and was chosen to be a deacon there in 1872.

In 1880 Edgar and his family moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In Sioux Falls he lived next to his brother Walter Reynolds Kingsbury and his family. After a few years, Edgar moved to a farm of 320 acres in Mapleton, just north of Sioux Falls. About 1897 he moved back to a house he had built in Sioux Falls.



## **8. The Gurley Phelps Farm. 131 Route 6.**

The house on this farm was built in 1773 by Joel and Daniel White. Census info 1870

Acres of woodland:	45
Wool:	300 pounds
Indian corn:	120 bushels
Butter:	600 pounds
Cash value:	\$8,000





# **Gurley Phelps Farm History**

Gurley Phelps was born on Aug. 8, 1803, in Hebron. On June 11, 1845, he married Ann Eliza Sperry in Bolton. He died May 14, 1889, in Andover.

Gurley Phelps's home was built as a tavern in 1773 with a sprung floor and sliding partitions. Gurley Phelps taught school for several years as a young man.

Phelps was elected to the state legislature from Hebron. He was a member of the Whig party. After Andover became a town in 1848, he was elected on two occasions to represent Andover. For several years he held the office of Tolland County surveyor.

In 1851 he was made judge of probate and held that office for 7 years. He was often referred to as Judge Phelps in newspaper articles and town records.

**9. The George F. Blackman Farm 84 Long Hill Road.** The house on this farm was built around 1774 by Jonathan Blackman.  
Census info 1870

Acres of woodland:	10
Irish Potatoes:	125 bushels
Indian corn:	120 bushels
Butter:	600 pounds
Cash value of farm:	\$2,500



## **George F. Blackman Farm History**

George F. Blackman was born in 1814 in Andover. He married Emily Newell who died in 1850. George later married Eliza Hubbard, who died in 1887. George Blackman died in 1906 in Andover. Both he and his second wife Eliza are buried in the Andover Congregational Church Cemetery. There were no children from either marriage. George was one of the oldest residents of Andover when he died at 92.

This is the farm where I grew up. The old part of the house, the back part facing the woods, was built about 1774 by Jonathan Blackman. The new part of the 1774 house, facing the road, was built about 1850.

In 1910 my grandfather Ward Talbot purchased this farm. It was in very primitive condition. For the first year, there was no indoor bathroom. We had to go outside to the outhouse. There was a faucet for water at the kitchen sink, but only for cold water.

To read Tom Talbot's full  
comprehensive document...  
find the link on Andover CT Website  
or visit the 175<sup>th</sup> Facebook page.

## **Andover Covered Bridge**

