

MILLINERS & DRESS MAKERS IN AMHERST, N.H.

Compiled by Katrina Holman. This is/was a personal research file, made publicly available to those interested in WOMEN'S BUSINESSES in 19th-century Amherst. This is not a historical narrative but rather a catch-all file of historical tidbits gleaned from newspapers, tax invoices, censuses, vital records, deeds, and one diary.

This research file is organized into the following sections:

- I. WHO'S WHO of WOMEN who advertised MILLINERY SHOPS and/or NEEDLEWORK SERVICES, in chronological order of when they were in business, with attempt to identify their locations.
- II. WANTED TO HIRE advertisements 1829-1846 – GIRLS as apprentices to local TAILOR (man).
- III. Reports (1840/1, 1849/50, 1857/8, and 1858/9) from Amherst's Pauper Farm, identifying local women paid for providing spinning and weaving services and for making clothes for paupers staying at the almshouse.
- IV. Analysis of Censuses (1850, 1860, 1870, 1880) for girls' and women's occupations, particularly identifying all milliners, seamstresses, dressmakers, and tailoresses in Amherst.

For historical narratives, see the three-part series of articles by Katrina Holman in *Historic Amherst* column:

"Amherst's Early Milliners and Their Shops in the Village – Local Businesswomen in the Early 19th Century" (published in *The Amherst (N.H.) Citizen*, 7 March 2013, p. 7 & 10) which focuses on Mrs. Nancy Curtis, Sally Low Benden, and Miss Nancy Wakefield.

"Milliners in Amherst Village – Part 2: Mid-19th Century" (published in *The Amherst Citizen*, 26 March 2013, p. 4&5) which focuses on Mrs. Mary W. Few.

"Millinery Shops in Amherst Village – Part 3" (published in *The Amherst Citizen*, 9 April 2013, p. 4&8) which depicts seven old houses in Amherst Village that once housed a millinery shop: 97 Boston Post Road, 91 Boston Post Road, 6 Courthouse Road, 8 Main Street, 10 Cross Street, 15 Middle Street, and 4 Foundry Street (at its prior location), naming who & when for/in each; and suggests the Anah Goss House at 114 Boston Post Road as a candidate for the 1845/'46 millinery shop, located "two doors south of the whip factory," of Miss Louisa C. Eastman (b. 1813, m. 1847).

18TH-CENTURY WOMAN'S BUSINESS IN AMHERST

1779-1786 in Amherst: Mrs. Rachel (Johnson) Sewall ("Suell") (m. 1775; divorced 1786; d. 1813) of Lyndeborough, seamstress, mantlemaker and staymaker (1782 deed when of Amherst, purchased two lots in Village, including one on which future house of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Benden stood)

(See Historic Amherst column by Katrina Holman in *The Amherst Citizen*, 26 Feb. 2013, pages 4 and 12; also separate research file, Amherst_Desc_SewallRachelandThomas_byKH..doc)

OVERVIEW OF EARLIEST 19-CENTURY MILLINERS

A milliner was a maker of bonnets and ladies' hats, but a millinery shop also offered ladies' fancy goods such as gloves, hankys, fans, fabrics – and often also dressmaking services.

The earliest women who had their own shop (not counting Mrs. Rachel Sewall, a staymaker and seamstress in Amherst 1779-86, who possibly/probably had her own shop) were:

Mrs. NANCY CURTIS (wife of a young drunkard), who started in 1816 in the old Whiting store on corner of Main & Middle Streets (one door west of David Stewart's) and Miss Sarah/SALLY LOW, who started in March 1817, first on Mack Hill Road but 6 months later moved to the shop on Church Street where now is the front lawn (or tower) of Congregational Church.

Mrs. Curtis continued in town for six years, moving her shop location, until she remarried as a young widow in Feb. 1823.

Sally continued for three decades (with a break in 1844-1845 in Nashua), from 1821 as (Mrs.) S. L. Benden, having married Thomas M. Benden, a tailor and real estate investor.

They were joined in 1820 by Miss NANCY WAKEFIELD, who made bonnets, and at the end of 1821 took a room in the house “one door east of the meetinghouse” (NE corner of Church St. & Old Jailhouse Rd.) before moving her business in Jan. 1825 to house she built with her sisters at 97 Boston Post Road.

COMPETITION in Amherst Village for ladies' fancy goods: from Wallace & Spalding for fabrics and notions (*Farmer's Cabinet* 20 Sep 1817); from John Eaton Jr. in brick block (FC 1820/21)

COMPETITORS FIRST HALF OF 19th CENTURY

1822: Hillsborough Cattle Show & Fair held at Amherst on Tues & Wed, 24 & 25 Sept.

The Awarding Committee on Flannels, Blankets, Coverlets, Shawls, Hose, Grass & Straw Bonnets was comprised of **Mrs. Benden, Mrs. Curtis and Miss Wakefield of Amherst** as well as 2 men and 7 women from other towns. Among the prizes on Domestic Manufactures, Mrs. Nancy Curtis of Amherst won the “Best Straw Bonnet” prize of \$3. For the best Cassimere Shawl, Miss Emma Clagett of Amherst won prize of \$3. For a feather fan (in the discretionary category), Miss Betsey Batchelder of Amherst was awarded 50 cents. (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 14 Sep 1822, p 3; and 28 Sep 1822, p. 3)

WHO's WHO

Mrs. Nancy (Shepard) Curtis (d. 1827, aged 31, as Mrs. Luther Roby):

Fall 1816 to end 1822 = 6 years in business – one door west of David Stewart's (=adjoining old Whiting Store on Corner of Middle St., future Benden's in 1821); then in 3-story Brick Block from May 1818 until Sep 1821; then moved again.

Her first husband, Samuel Curtis Jr. (died June 1820 aged 41), son of tavern/innkeeper Dr. Samuel Curtis, was a housepainter but intemperate; they had 2 children. She remarried in Feb. 1823, Luther Roby (1801-1883) of Concord, publisher/editor of N.H. Statesman.

1816 Nov.7: New Milliner's Shop. MRS. N. CURTIS has just opened a **shop one door west of Mr. David Stewart's** where she offers for sale a good assortment of Millinery, very cheap. She has on hand, Silks, Bombazetts, Cambrics, Muslins, Fur Trimmings, Gloves, Muffs and Tippets. Bonnets, Gowns, Pelisses, &c made at short notice, and according to the most improved fashions. (FC, 16 Nov. 1816)

1817 May [long list]

NEIGHBOR:

1817 Sep: Fresh teas, sugars, coffee, rum, brandy, gin, cigars, spices, candles, soap, rice, general assortment of groceries, just received on consignment, and for sale **in the corner store next to David Stewart, Esq, and adjoining Mrs. Curtis's Millinery Store**, as cheap as articles of the same quality can be purchased in Boston. (FC, 11 Oct 1817)

1818 May: MRS. CURTIS has **removed to the Brick Store**, nearly opposite the printing office, where she offers for sale, a new and complete assortment of millinery and fancy goods... straw, silk and willow bonnets; pelisse and gown trimmings; ribbons; ...parasols; shell and horn combs; a few boxes Italian flowers; bugles; spangles; silver thimbles ... Amherst, May 15, 1818 (FC, 16 May 1818)

1819 Amherst tax invoice: Curtis Nancy – stock in trade \$200 (no other taxable property).

1820 Amherst Tax invoice: Curtis Samuel Jr. – 1 poll (nothing else).

1820 Amherst Tax invoice: Curtis Nancy – stock in trade \$200 (nothing else).

For comparison (1820): Sarah Low [milliner] – stock in trade \$200.

The first women in town to be taxed for “stock in trade” – which happened in 1819 – were **Nancy Curtis** (whose husband paid a poll tax but owned no taxable property, so no land, no livestock) and **Sarah Low** (who at that time owned no real estate), both for merchandise valued at \$200. In those days, the stock of a merchant or tradesman was taxed the same as real estate with buildings. To give you an idea of the financial size of their businesses: in the 1820 tax invoice of Amherst, N.H., here's a comparison of the value of “stock in trade” on which other locals were assessed: David McG. Means [store] \$1500; Read & Spalding [general store where now Soldier's Monument]

\$1500; Isaac Chickering [tanner at bottom of Mack Hill] \$800; James Sloan [general store on Church Street] \$500; Richard Boylston [printer] \$400; Ephraim Blanchard [cabinet maker, shop at 2 Middle Street] \$200; David Holmes [machine card manufactory for wool and cotton, possibly at 8 but more likely at 10 Main St.] \$200; Joel F. Thayer [general store for 1 year in 3-story brick block at 10 Main St.] \$150; and Thomas M. Dickey [saddle & harness maker, shop at 6 Main Street (not house now there)] \$100. As for **Nancy Wakefield**, in 1826 and 1827, her stock was assessed for tax purposes at \$200 (plus she paid taxes on wild land & bldgs valued at \$200, which probably was jointly held with her sisters).

1820 March: Wanted immediately, a few thousand yards of Straw Braid, trimmed, of the first quality – none other need be offered. NANCY CURTIS. Amherst. (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 1 April 1820)

1820 May: MRS. CURTIS with pleasure informs her friends and customers, that she has just received a fresh supply of seasonable goods. Likewise, fashionable straw, silk and ship bonnets. Also patterns for pelisses, gowns, spencers, &c. Amherst, May 20, 1820 (*Hillsboro Telegraph*, Amherst, N.H., 20 May 1820)

In same issue: "Painting. The subscriber respectfully informs his friends (if any he has) and customers, that he continues to drive the brush in hand, with care and speed. Those gentlemen who wish his services, in town or its vicinity, may depend upon their work being done in a workmanlike manner. SAMUEL CURTIS, Jr. Amherst, May 20, 1820."

1820 census – Amherst, N.H.: Nancy Curtis: 000000//01220//----
[She had one son and one daughter (b. 1810) by first husband, who died in this year.]

1821 March 24: Wanted immediately, 10,000 yards of good Straw Braid. None but the first quality need be offered. Kept constantly on hand, a good assortment of goods, as low as can be bought for CASH. NANCY CURTIS, Amherst. (FC, 31 March 1821)

1821 Amherst Tax invoice: Curtis Nancy – stock in trade \$150; wild land & bldgs \$150 = total valuation \$150. (1820-'32 volume, p. 7b)

1821 June: Mrs Curtis ... Good DIAPER and Striped Woollen CLOTH taken in part pay for GOODS. STRAW BRAID taken as usual. (FC, 30 June 1821.)

1821 Sep: MRS. CURTIS has **removed her shop a few rods west of its former situation**, where she offers for sale an extensive assortment of fashionable & seasonable goods: cassimere shawls; bombazetts, calicoes, cambricks, muslins, dimoties; hose; silks; kids, beaver and habit gloves; fashionable kid and morocco shoes; gingham; shirtings; Nankin and Canton crapes; and ostrich feathers of the most delicate colors. ... (FC 29 Sep 1821; *Hillsboro Telegraph*, 29 Sep 1821)

1821 Oct.: Cassimere shawls, elegant garniture, ribbons; gimp, and mireno trimmings; plaids; flannels, &c. just received and for sale by MRS. CURTIS. Bonnets, pelisses, dresses made after the latest fashions. Wanted immediately 1000 yards of good straw braid, trim'd. Amherst. (*Hillsboro Telegraph*, Amherst, N.H., 27 Oct. 1821)

1822 April: MRS. CURTIS has just received a fresh supply of black and white leghorn bonnets, from \$4 to \$12. Also Canton and Nankin Crapes; thread and mecklin laces; together with general assortment of seasonable fancy goods. Amherst. (FC, 27 April 1822)

1822 Oct: MRS. CURTIS has just added to her former stock, a large supply of goods ... Likewise a good assortment of mourning articles. The above goods will be sold for CASH only.

The subscriber is determined to close her Book Accounts immediately. Those that are concerned, are requested to call, as there will be no further notice given by HER. Amherst, Oct. 17, 1822. (FC, 10 Oct. 1822)

1822 Dec: MRS. CURTIS intends leaving town in a few weeks – therefore requests all those indebted to her by Note or Account to call and settle immediately. Likewise for sale or to let, the SHOP she now occupies. Amherst, Dec. 20, 1822 (FC, 21 Dec. 1822)

1827 March: MRS. N. ROBY ... straw bonnets [in Concord, N.H.] (*N.H. Patriot*, 2 April 1827, p. 3)

1827 Sep 10 – Concord, N.H.: Death of Nancy Roby, wife of Mr. Luther Roby, formerly of Amherst, of consumption. (*N.H. Patriot*, 17 Sep. 1827, "on Monday last, of consumption"; FC, 15 Sep 1827, "aged about 40"; findagrave.com gravestone image, Old North Cemetery, Concord, N.H., "aged 31"; Secomb, p. 748, "aged 34".)

1827 Sep 13 – Concord, N.H.: Death of Charles Greenleaf Roby, aged 11 months (gravestone by his mother's stone) or 14 months (Secomb, p. 748), son of Luther Roby (1801-1883) & Nancy (Shepard) Roby.

Sarah/Sally Low = Mrs. S. L. Benden (1783-1851):

1817 March- 1846 (3 decades in business with a break in 1844-Nov. 1845 in Nashua) – first 6 months on Mack Hill Road, then **shop on Church Street** where now front lawn (or tower) of Congregational Church till 1819/20; then in Main/Middle **Corner Store** (also their home) till death.

Began advertising her business in 1817 when she was 33; married at age 37 in 1821, shortly after she bought old Whiting's store on SW corner of Main & Middle Sts (from her pa); husband Thomas M. Benden, tailor who had arrived in Amherst in 1818, was about 8 years younger than she.) She ran her millinery shop through 1843 but then gave it up for nearly two years while her husband tried a new business in Nashua. She resumed her millinery business in Amherst in Nov. 1845; perhaps retired in 1846. Her family helped her get the house and then retain the roof over her head after her husband's poor finances put it in jeopardy.

1817 March: Millinery and Mantua-making. SARAH LOW, having taken the shop formerly occupied by Nathan Kendall, Esq., a little north of Amherst meeting house, will be happy to accommodate the ladies with fashionable Bonnets, Caps, Turbans, and Mantua-Making. She has for sale a variety of fancy goods, such as Silks, Satins, Plumes, artificial Flowers, Chinelle Cords, Ribbons, ... Amherst. (FC 22 March 1817)

1817 Oct: SARAH LOW has removed to a **shop one door north-west of the meeting-house**, and offers for sale on very advantageous terms, a very handsome assortment ... [fill in]
Good diaper received in payment. (FC 11 Oct. 1817)

1818 June: Philadelphia Fashions. S. LOW has just received her summer Fashions from Philadelphia, consisting of an elegant assortment of Straw, imitation Leghorn, Willow, and Silk Bonnets. Likewise a fresh assortment of Seasonable Goods. Amherst, June 4, 1818." (FC, 6 June 1818)

1818: Shop was in bldg standing on what is now front lawn of Congr Church (at other times a shoe store and/or shop). DEED FOR CHURCH PASSAGEWAY AND HORSE SHED LAND

1818 Aug. 21 Deed (Hillsborough County 120:286): Samuel DANA [Jr.] of Groton, Mass., conveyed to Charles H. ATHERTON of Amherst, N.H., for \$33.13, piece of land in Amherst, N.H., bounded – beginning at SW corner of land lately sold to Richardson, westerly by line of town common 1.5 rods to **within 2 feet of shop now occupied by Sally Low**; thence northerly 2 rods which is precisely 1.5 rods west of Richardson's west line; thence west 1.5 rods; thence northerly on a line parallel with Richardson's north line & preserving a distance therefrom 3 rods, about 9 rods to s&s 3 rods north of Richardson's north line & 3 rods distant therefrom, about 8 rods to road that leads to the Gaol; south on said road to Richardson's NE corner; thence on his north line to his NW corner; thence south on his west line to BFM.

Reserving forever right of taking all manure.

[Deed transcribed/abstracted by Katrina Holman, Feb. 2012.]

1819 Amherst tax invoice: Low Sarah – stock in trade \$200 (nothing else).

Note by Katrina Holman: The first women in town to be taxed for “stock in trade” – which happened in 1819 – were Nancy Curtis (whose husband paid a poll tax but owned no taxable property, so no land, no livestock) and Sarah Low (who owned no real estate), both for merchandise valued at \$200. In those days, the stock of a merchant or tradesman was taxed the same as real estate with buildings.

1820 Jan: S. LOW, **One door north-west of Amherst Meeting-House**, keeps constantly on hand and offers for sale a handsome assortment of English goods and Millinary such as [long list]

Good Diaper received in payment for Goods. Persons indebted, whose accounts are of more than three months standing, are requested to call and adjust them. January 1, 1820 (*Hillsboro Telegraph*, Amherst, N.H., 8 Jan. 1820)

1820 Amherst Tax invoice: Low Sarah – stock in trade \$200 (nothing else).

Note: Same amount for her competitor Nancy Curtis.

To give you an idea of the financial size of their businesses: in the 1820 tax invoice of Amherst, N.H., here's a comparison of the value of “stock in trade” on which other locals were assessed: David McG. Means [store] \$1500; Read & Spalding [general store where now Soldier's Monument] \$1500; Isaac Chickering [tanner at bottom of Mack Hill] \$800; James Sloan [general store on Church Street] \$500; Richard Boylston [printer] \$400; Ephraim Blanchard

[cabinet maker, shop at 2 Middle Street] \$200; David Holmes [machine card manufactory for wool at cotton at 8 or 10 Main St.] \$200; Joel F. Thayer [general store for 1 year in 3-story brick block at 10 Main St.] \$150; and Thomas M. Dickey [saddle & harness maker, shop at 6-8 Main Street] \$100. As for Nancy Wakefield, in 1826 and 1827, her stock was assessed for tax purposes at \$200 (plus she paid taxes on wild land & bldgs valued at \$200, which probably was jointly held with her sisters).

1820 Census – Amherst, N.H.: Sarah Low 000000 || 0022000

(Sarah [37] is head of household, tho single; no males; 3 other females, probably employees)

1821 Amherst Tax invoice: Benden Thomas M. – no poll; stock in trade \$200; cash \$200.

[Note: In 1819 and 1820, Thomas was not on list of taxpayers; as a non-citizen he did not have to pay poll tax and evidently did not have enough stock to be taxed, whereas his wife-to-be Sarah Low was taxed on stock in trade assessed at \$200, so the stock in trade on which “he” paid taxes in 1821 was probably hers.]

1821 May: New Goods. Mrs. S. L. BENDEN ... [fabrics], the most fashionable patterns for Pelisses and Dresses, and a great variety of MILLINERY such as Straw, Silk, Chip & Willow BONNETS. Mrs. B. intends keeping a general assortment of Goods, which will be sold as low as can be bought in the country. ... Wanted – A quantity of good DIAPER. (FC, 5 May 1821)

1821 Oct. 5: Combination ad for THOS. M. BENDEN, WOOLEN DRAPER, who recently added to his former stock, and Mrs. B. offers for sale, a much larger assortment of Goods and Millinery that she has formerly kept... (FC, 20 Oct. 1821)

1821 Dec.: Proof that Mrs. S. L Benden moved her shop.

“David Russell has removed from his former stand and has taken a shop near the Amherst Meeting-House, formerly occupied by Miss Low, as a Millinery shop, where he intends carrying on the BOOT & SHOE Making Business. ... Amherst, Dec. 5, 1821.” (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 8 Dec and 22 Dec 1821, p. 4)

1822 March: Wanted, a young lady who is sufficiently acquainted with the Millinery and Mantua Making Business to **superintend the work for four or five hands**. One who is satisfactorily recommended and qualified to take the charge of a shop of English Goods occasionally, may have constant employ and good wages, by applying immediately to S. L. BENDEN. Amherst. (FC, 23 March 1822)

1822: Mrs. B. – “for sale at fair prices, in exchange for cash, diaper, good butter, and striped blue and white all wool cloth 32 inches wide.”

1824: “Millinery & Mantua-Making. The subscribers having formed a connection in business, give notice, that they have taken a shop in Nashua Village, Dunstable, where they offer for Sale, Fashionable Millinery and Fancy Goods, Ladies' Pelisses and Dresses Cut and Made in fashionable style. Orders are solicited and will promptly be executed. S. L. BENDEN, E. BATCHELDER. *Dunstable*, July 27, 1824.” (FC, 31 July 1824)

1825 Feb.: “The subscribers give notice, that they have dissolved partnership, by mutual consent. The business in future will be conducted by E. BATCHELDER, who intends keeping fashionable MILLINERY & FANCY GOODS. S. L. BENDEN. E. BATCHELDER. Nashua Vill. Dunstable, N.H. February 17, 1825.” (FC, 19 Feb. 1825)

1827 Sep.: Elmira Wellington witnessed deed (152:108), Thomas M. Benden to David Russell for [9 Church St.]

1822, '23 Amherst Tax invoice: Benden Thomas M. – no poll; wild land & bldgs \$200; stock in trade \$200.

1824 Amherst Tax invoice: Benden Thomas M. – no poll; wild land & bldgs \$300; stock in trade \$200; 1 horse; carriage \$100.

1825 Amherst Tax invoice: Benden Thomas M. – no poll; wild land & bldgs \$300; stock in trade \$300.

1826 Amherst Tax invoice: Benden Thomas M. – no poll; wild land & bldgs \$300; stock in trade \$200; 2 horses; chaise \$200.

1827 Amherst Tax invoice: Benden Thomas M. – 1 poll; wild land & bldgs \$300; stock in trade \$200; 1 horse.

1828 Amherst Tax invoice: Benden Thomas M. – 1 poll; wild land & bldgs \$400; 1 acre arable; stock in trade \$500; 1 horse.

1830 Amherst Tax invoice: Benden Thomas M. – 1 poll; wild land & bldgs \$650; 1 acre arable; 1 acre pasture; stock in trade \$400; 1 horse; 1 cow.

1832 Amherst Tax invoice: Benden Thomas M. – 1 poll; wild land & bldgs \$___; stock in trade \$100 ...

[Note: This amount of stock in trade surely includes (or comprises) his wife's merchandise, as she was no longer listed as a taxpayer after her marriage.]

1832: "Silks just received ... A variety of straw Bonnets, with MILLINERY, and other Goods, as usual. S. L. BENDEN. Amherst, May 28, 1832." (FC, 31 Aug. 1832)

1837: "Just received the greatest assortment of FURS ... thick sole Kid Slippers and Walking Shoes, middling and low priced Prints, Shawls, Hdk'fs &c ... Nice Dunstable, eleven braid and Florence Straw Bonnets, variegated and plain. S. L. BENDEN. Amherst, Oct. 12, 1837" (FC, 3 Nov. 1837)

1839: "New Style Mourning and half do. Muslins and Prints, ... Straw, Florence & Palm Leaf Bonnets ... Knitting Cotton & Worsted ... S. L. BENDEN. Amherst, May 16, 1839." (FC, 14 June 1839)

1840 census – Amherst, N.H.: Thomas M. Benden 0000001//00000101; 1 employed in manuf/trades.

[Note: = 1 male 40-50 (Thomas); 1 female 30-40 (prob. Elmira Wellington); 1 female 50-60 (Sally). Since Mr. was a tailor and Mrs. a milliner, which do you suppose is the one whose employment is noted?!]

1842: "Prints. MRS. BENDEN has received new cheap prints, fast colours, Shawls, Hdkfs, Gloves ..." (FC, 8 April 1842)

1843 Amherst Tax invoice – Residents: Benden Thomas M. – 1 poll; land \$500/bldgs \$446; stock in trade \$100. [No separate listing for Mrs. Benden; the stock in trade is surely hers.]

1843 May: "MRS. BENDEN has just purchased a variety of NEW GOODS expressly adapted to the times and seasons ... Florence, Lawn, and Straw Bonnets of every fashionable variety, constantly on hand, which will be sold a little cheaper than the cheapest. ... Amherst, May 3, 1843." (FC, 12 May 1843)

1843 Oct. 11: Another Fresh Lot of Splendid Goods just received by Mrs. Benden ... (20 Oct. 1843_

1844 May: Miss L. C. Eastman, Milliner, **at the shop formerly occupied by Mrs. Benden**, Amherst, N.H. (FC 9 May 1844) [She must have gotten a one-year lease while Mrs. Benden accompanied her husband to Nashua and set up business there.]

1845 Nov.: MRS. BENDEN ... has resumed business at the OLD STAND in AMHERST. ... Butter and wood will be received in payment at cash prices. Amherst, Nov. 25. (FC, 27 Nov. 1845)

1846: Cheap Prints – MRS. BENDEN (FC, 26 March 1846) [1846 appears to be last year in which she advertised.]

1846 Amherst Tax invoice – Residents: Benden Thomas M. – 1 poll; land \$66/ bldgs \$600; stock in trade \$100; nought else.

1847 Amherst Tax invoice – Residents: Benden Thomas M. – 1 poll; land \$150/ bldgs \$600; stock in trade \$100.

1848 Amherst Tax invoice – Residents: Benden Sarah L. – land \$150/ bldgs \$600; nothing else.

1849 Amherst Tax invoice – Residents: Benden Sarah L. – land \$150/ bldgs \$600; nothing else.

1850 Census – Amherst, NH:

Preceding household: Perley Dodge, 50, et al.

Sally Benden, 67, b. NH, real estate value \$4000; no occupation; and Almira Wellington, 46, b. NH; no occupation.

Following households: David Stewart, 57, farmer, et al.; Ellbridge Hardy, 42, tavern keeper, et al.

1851 Oct 22 *Farmers' Cabinet*: DIED. In this town [Amherst, NH], 6th inst. **Mrs. Sarah Low Benden**, aged 68 years, relict of the late Thomas M. Benden. Mrs. B. was the eldest daughter of the late William Low, Esq., one of the old and respected settlers of the town, and sister of General Low of Concord. She was one of the few remaining of a circle of young associates of forty years ago in this village, the remembrance of whom and of former associations are endeared to those who yet survive. Called early to the experience of vicissitudes, she endured them with patience. Faithful in the relations of life amidst severe trials, her deportment was characterized by great equanimity and quiet submission to the allotments of Providence. Her end was peaceful.

Wakefield Sisters – Nancy (b. 1793), Mary, and Sophia, all born in Amherst:

1819-1830 (a decade in business) – Mary started making & bleaching straw bonnets at pa's house; 1821 Nancy opened shop in Village at NE corner Church St/Old Jailhouse Rd (building burned early 20th-c., now gone);

1824 buy **97 Boston Post Road** on Turnpike & build 4-over-4 house there,

Jan. 1825 Nancy opened shop in sisters' custom-built home; closed shop end 1830.

1819 April 26: Mary Wakefield ... commenced manufacturing straw bonnets...according to the latest fashions. Bonnets altered and bleached at short notice... one mile from meeting-house on county road leading from Amherst to Milford. [Presumably at her father's house] (FC, 1 May 1819 and several subseq issues)

1820 May FC: N. Wakefield bonnets

1821 Nov. 22: NANCY WAKEFIELD, informs her friends and the public, that she has taken a **room in the house recently occupied by Nathaniel Shattuck, Esq., one door east of the meeting-house**. She has on hand and offers for sale, on reasonable terms, a variety of FANCY GOODS Likewise, STRAW, SILK, VELVET BONNETS, made according to the latest patterns. Just received, the latest fashions for PELISSES and DRESSES, &c. ...Amherst, Nov 22, 1821 (FC, 24 Nov 1821, p. 3; 1 Dec 1821 and subseq issues in Dec.)

1822-11-23 FC: N. Wakefield [advertises huge selection of fabric goods, millinery – so must have shop]

1823

1825-01-22 *Farmers' Cabinet*: Removal. Miss Wakefield ... has removed from her shop near the Meeting-House into a building on the Turnpike one door North of Mr. Ray's Hotel, where she continues her business as formerly ... Amherst, Jan 5, 1825 [97 Boston Post Road, house Wakefield sisters built on land bought in 1824]

1826, 1827 Amherst Tax invoice: Wakefield Nancy – wild land & bldgs \$200; stock in trade \$200.

1830 Amherst Tax invoice: Wakefield Nancy – wild land bldgs \$200; stock in trade \$150.

1832 Amherst Tax invoice – Nonresident: Wakefield Nancy – “House on Plain” \$200; nothing else.

1830-11-13 *Farmers' Cabinet*: Notice [reduced sale & request for payment, end of business]

NANCY WAKEFIELD, Amherst, Nov. 10, 1830

1831: The Wakefield sisters, all still single, moved to Lowell, Mass. in 1831 and in November 1839 sold their house for \$700 to Mercy (b. 1787), Hepsibah (b. 1791), and Sarah (b. 1792), daughters of William Melendy and Abigail Badger, and older sisters of Mrs. Barnabas David.

M. Snow: 1831 – in Wakefield sisters' house at 97 BPR

1831 April: M. SNOW has taken the shop [in Amherst] recently occupied by the Misses Wakefields, where she intends carrying on the business of Millinery and Dressmaking. (FC 16 April 1831)

[Note by Howard Locke that she was of Peterborough.]

Eliza R. Ridgway: 1832-35 – in Wakefield sisters' house at 97 Boston Post Road

– probably daughter of James Ridgway (1770-1840, d. in Nashua), watchmaker, jeweler, silversmith and agent for spectacles, who opened a shop “opposite the Bank, Amherst, N.H.” in June 1832, probably already working with his son Charles Thomas Ridgway (1815-), and in May 1835 moved to Eayrs Building in Nashua where after his death C. T. Ridgway carried on the business of silversmith, jeweler, optician.

1832 July: ELIZA R. RIDGWAY has taken the shop formerly occupied by the Miss Wakefields. She has the latest fashions for Bonnets and Dresses. Bonnets and Caps ready made, or made to order.

Wanted – 2 or 3 Young Ladies as apprentices. (FC 17 Aug. 1832)

1833: “ELIZA R. RIDGWAY has just received and offers for sale A good assortment of STRAW BONNETS, elegant Bonnet and Cap Ribbons,, artificial Flowers, Puffs and Curls, Wrought and Plain Combs.

Bonnet, Caps & Dresses made after the latest fashion.

Wanted, 1 or 2 Young LADIES, as apprentices to the above business. Amherst, Oct. 20, 1833.”

(*Farmers' Cabinet*, 8 Nov. 1833.)

1834 May: Miss E. R. Ridgway has just received the latest fashions for bonnets and dresses. She keeps constantly on hand, silk & straw bonnets, lace, ribbons, &c. (FC, 23 May 1834)

1834 Amherst, N.H. Non-resident Taxes: Wakefield Nancy – land & house on Amherst Plain **occupied by James Ridgway**, value \$700. [Is 97 BPR; only year that Ridgway is listed as occupant]

Note: In Nov. 1840, Miss E. R. Ridgway advertised the large assortment of millinery goods at her shop (at the old stand) at the corner of Main and Park Streets, Nashua, in the FC.

Sophia Morrison & Mary D. Convers & Sarah Ann Convers: 1825/6 one door E of mtghouse

[This must have been house at NE corner of Church St & Old Jailhouse Rd. (“5B” Church Street) because same as Miss Wakefield's, which was same that Nathl Shattuck had occupied and which 1817 nonresident tax invoice for Aaron K. Putnam called “the House Nathl Shattuck lives in”. (House at NW corner, 7 Church St, had been built c. 1825 but L. D. Brooks was still alive until 1829 and occupying it.)]

Mary Dean Convers (b. 1800), daughter of Josiah Convers (1778-1842; b. Stoneham, d. Hooksett) & Sally Dean (1777-1851, d. Concord), was married Nov. 1837 to Thomas Moore. Her sister Sarah Ann Convers (1802-1881) remained unmarried, died in Concord, N.H.

Sophia Morrison (b. 1786 in Skeensboro N.Y.), dau of Samuel Morrison (d. 1820, aged 64, at Amh), who kept public house in Amh c. 1793-1801 and was deputy goaler in 1795 and by trade a carpenter, & Jane Adams (d. 1814, aged 59, at Amh), was married at Lowell, Mass. 29 Oct. 1827 as second wife to John Underwood (d. 1845), carpenter, and had one son, Joseph M. Underwood (b. Sep 1828); in 1850 Sophia & son were living in Nashville (Nashua), N.H. (Samuel Morrison's genealogy found in *Descendants of James and William Adams of Londonderry, Now Derry, N.H.*, 1894; his and wife's deaths in FC; Sophia's husband and son in *History of Jaffrey, N.H.*, p. 502; her marriage in Lowell Vital records.)

1822: Misses C. Cochran & S. A. Convers inform the inhabitants of Francestown that they intend to commence the Millinery & Manuta Making business, on the last Monday in this month. Straws and Leghorns repaired and bleached. April 15, 1822. (FC, 25 May 1822) [Altho NOT in Amh, Miss Convers could be “of Amherst.”]

1825 April: S. Morrison & M. & S. Convers have taken the shop lately occupied by the Miss Wakefield's [meant to be plural], where they intend carrying on the Mantua-makers and Milliners business. Also for sale Fancy Goods & Mourning Articles, as cheap as can be purchased elsewhere. (FC 9 April 1825)

1826 Jan.: Dissolution of Partnership. The connexion in business which has heretofore existed between the subscribers, is this day dissolved by mutual agreement. SOPHIA MORRISON. MARY D. CONVERS. SARAH ANN CONVERS. Amherst, Jan. 5. 1826.

MISS MORRISON continues the Millinery & Dress Making Business **one door east of the meeting-house...** January 7, 1826. (FC 28 Jan. 1826) [no further advert's by her]

E. E. Phelps & N. J. Shattuck: 1835 – in shop on Church Street

Ede Elizabeth Phelps (1813-1885), daughter of Amos (1777-1861) & Sarah Whiting (d. 1851), was married in her late 30s to widower David Hopkins (b. 1805 Mt Vernon; widowed 1870; d. 1888 Wilton), who had been a farmer in Mont Vernon (1860, 1870 census) but was a carpenter in Amherst in old age (1880 census). (Secomb, p. 729, has Ede's parents, no BMD dates for her; History of Mont Vernon, p. 79 of genealogy section has Hopkins.)

Nancy Jane Shattuck (1815-1898), daughter of Abial Shattuck (1795-1859, d. Townsend), had not reached her majority when she entered into this millinery joint venture. Nancy was married at age 25 in 1840 to James Hildreth (1817-1892) of Townsend, a farmer. Six children were born in Townsend and three more after they moved in 1852 to Lunenburg, but only three of her 9 children survived her. Four of her children died as babies, and her two eldest died as soldiers in the Civil War. [shop on what is now front yard of church, Sally Low's former shop?]

1835: Misses Phelps & Shattuck have commenced the Millinery & Dress Making in all its branches, in the **building formerly occupied by Mr. Russell as a Shoe Shop and Store, near the meeting-house**, where they will be happy to do any work that they may be favored with in their line, at short notice. E.E. PHELPS, N.J. SHATTUCK. Amherst, June 1, 1835 (FC 5 June 1835, ran in the next few issues, then no further advert's) [This is likely the bldg that had to be moved in 1836 when the Congregational Church was rolled across the road to its present site.]

A. Mills: 1838 – on Main Street?

1838 July: A. MILLS has taken a shop on Amherst Plain, nearly opposite the Bank, where she will attend to the Millinery and Dress Making Business. (FC 3 Aug 1838; no further advert's)

1838, 1839 Amherst tax invoice: NO listing for Mills, meaning she did not carry taxable merchandise (or perhaps there was a minimum that wasn't taxable).

There was a Mills family in Mont Vernon.

Lucy P. Willoughby (1824-1908): 1841 – in shop on Middle Street

Born in Bristol, N.H., daughter of John Willoughby of Hollis, yeoman, who died Dec. 1833 while she was a minor, & his wife Marinda Saunderson; married 1 Sep 1841 in Nashua Lewis Rice (b. c. 1820), who was a clerk in Nashua in 1850; she died at age 84 yrs 3 months, a widow, in Manchester, N.H., where she had resided for 43 years after living in Ohio.

1841 May: MISS L. P. WILLOUGHBY has opened a shop in the house recently occupied by John Brown, near the New Meeting House [now Baptist church], where she will attend to Dress Making.(FC 14 May 1841)

Miss Louisa Cushing Eastman (1813-1896):

1844 May-1846 – first worked for Mrs. Benden in Corner Store; then own shop two doors south of Whip Factory [was this Anah Goss House??], succeeded by Miss H. A. Nutt in 1847

Eldest daughter of Cyrus Eastman (1787-1862), lead-pipe manufacturer who lived at north end of Middle Street (no. 4); married Nov. 1846 Dr. Hezekiah Eldredge of Amesbury, Mass.

1844 May: Miss L. C. Eastman, Milliner, at the shop formerly occupied by Mrs. Benden, Amherst, N.H. (FC 9 May 1844)

1845 Nov.: Miss L. C. Eastman has removed to the **shop two doors south of the Whip Factory**. Just received, a good assortment of Seasonable Millinery Goods, latest patterns for Bonnets, Caps, &c. Amherst. (FC 6 Nov. 1845)

1886, 1887, 1888, 1890 Amherst tax invoice – District 1 resident: Eldredge L. C. – no poll, no real estate; only \$100 bank or corporate stock.

1896 Dec. 11: “Mrs. Eldredge. The widow of the late Hezekiah Eldridge died Friday at noon, aged 83 years, 7 months, 25 days. Louisa Cushing Eastman was born at Concord, April 16, 1813. Her father, Mr. Cyrus Eastman, moved to Amherst when she was a very small child, occupying the house owned by Mr. George F. Hansen. Some years after she kept a **millinery store at the stand now occupied by C.D. Wilson** [old corner store??]. She was a member of the Congregational church at Amherst for a number of years. She married Dr. Hezekiah Eldredge of Amesbury, Mass., November 1, 1846, and moved to Milford in 1848. ... Dr. Eldredge died in 1870. Mrs. Eldredge moved to Amherst about 1883, where she has since resided.... Five sisters survive her, Mrs. Harriet R. Woodman, of Danvers; Mrs. Elizabeth Tripp of Amherst; Mrs. Abby Melendy of Orange, N.J.; Mrs. May Farley of Hollis; Mrs. Sarah F. Craig of East Orange, N.J.; also a step son, Dr. F. A. Eldredge, Berlin Heights, Ohio.” (*The Farmers' Cabinet*, 17 Dec 1896, front page.) [added to this file Feb. 2014]

1896 Dec. 14: “... Mrs. Eldridge’s funeral at one o’clock, looked very beautiful in her white robe & shawl. ...” (Diary 1893-1898 of/by widow Elizabeth W. (David) Nichols, page 160; second of her five diaries in collection of Historical Society of Amherst, N.H.; transcribed by Jackie Marshall, Feb. 2014.)

Miss D. R. Snow: 1845 – over Hildreth & French store

[Was this over Read store??]

1845 May 15: MISS D. R. SNOW would announce to the Ladies of Amherst and vicinity, that she has taken Rooms over Hildreth & French’s Store, where she will attend to DRESS-MAKING. Just received the Latest Patterns.

WANTED two or three young Ladies as Apprentices. (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 5 June 1845, p. 3)

Hannah/Anna H. Nutt (c.1822-1856) (succeeded by Sarah E. Farley):

1847-Aug 1850 – in part of old Means store on south side of Common.

She was daughter of late tavern/inn-keeper Samuel Nutt; married Dec. 1851.

1847 May 12: MISS H.A. NUTT, Successor to MISS L. C. EASTMAN, would say to the Ladies of Amherst, and vicinity, that she has this week received a fresh supply of MILLINERY GOODS, among which may be found a variety of BONNETS, CAPS, RIBBONS, LACES, EDGINS, FLOWERS, TABS, and all articles usually kept. Particular attention paid to DRESS MAKING in all its various branches. Amherst (FC, 17 June 1847)

1847 tax inventory of non-residents taxed as residents: Store owned by R. Means heirs, Tuttle & Boylston & Hannah Nutt occupants.

1848 tax inventory of non-residents taxed as residents: Store owned by R. Means heirs, Boynton, Fletcher & H. A. Nutt occupants.

1849 tax inventory of non-residents taxed as residents: Store owned by Means heirs, D. A. Fletcher & Hannah Nutt occupants.

1850 tax inventory of non-residents taxed as residents: Store owned by Robert Means heirs, D. A. Fletcher & Hannah Nutt occupants; tax inventory of residents: Hannah Nutt \$200 stock in trade.

1850 Aug: Millinery & Dress Making. SARAH E. FARLEY ... has taken the Shop recently occupied by Miss A. H. NUTT, where she will continue the MILLINERY & DRESS MAKING business. She will also keep constantly on hand the various kinds of Millinery and Fancy GOODS that are usually desired. Also, Straw Bonnets repaired in the best manner. A liberal share of patronage is respectfully solicited. Amherst, August 20, 1850. (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 22 Aug. 1850)

1851 Dec. 31: In Nashua, Anna Nutt married James Monroe of Amherst, NH, who kept a livery stable.

1852 tax inventory of non-residents taxed as residents: Land & bldgs owned by Levi Woodbury, James Monroe occupant. [=1 Jailhouse Road where Monroe kept livery stable]

1856 Oct. 2: Wife of James Monroe died. Her infant son died shortly afterward.

Sarah E. Farley: 1850

1850 Aug: Millinery & Dress Making. SARAH E. FARLEY ... has taken the Shop recently occupied by Miss A. H. NUTT, where she will continue the MILLINERY & DRESS MAKING business. She will also keep constantly on hand the various kinds of Millinery and Fancy GOODS that are usually desired. Also, Straw Bonnets repaired in the best manner. A liberal share of patronage is respectfully solicited. Amherst, August 20, 1850. (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 22 Aug. 1850)

1850 census – Amherst, N.H.:

Sally Benden & Almira Wellington [SW corner of Main & Middle]

David Stewart [SE corner of Main & Middle]

Elbridge Hardy – hotel [east side of Main Street]

WmWetherbee, 51, register of deeds; & Mary, 42; Ann E., 19, b. Mass; also in same household:

Oramus W. Burnham, 23 clerk, b. NH; and

Farley, Sarah E., 25, b. N.H. [Wetherbee's house just north of Town Hall on 1858 map]

George Kent, 25, farmer, et al [1 Pierce Lane]

Note: 1850 census – Amherst, N.H.: Enoch Farley, 26, farmer, \$4K; & Harriet E., 30; George E., 1 (listed between household of Timothy Wheeler, 76 with Nathan Wheeler, 44, and household of Francis Knight, 52, farmer.) Enoch was from Hollis and later returned to Hollis, but Sarah E. Farley, who was milliner in Amherst, may not have been related to him at all.

1850 Amherst tax invoice: The only Farley listed is Enoch – land \$200/ bldg \$180 and 1 horse.

1851 tax invoice of non-residents taxed as residents: Store owned by Means heirs, D. A. Fletcher, S.E Farley occupants.

1851 Amherst tax invoice of residents: Farly Sarah E. – stock in trade \$124 (nothing else). Not listed 1852.

Miss Upton: 1855-60 – at dwelling on Courthouse Rd (= 154 Amherst Street)

1855 Dec: MISS UPTON informs the ladies of Amherst and vicinity in want of dress making that she may be found at the house of Miss Susan Clagget, on Amherst plain, where she will be happy to wait upon all that may favor her with a call. Amherst, 17 Dec. 1855. (FC 20 Dec. 1855; no further advert's)

1860 Census – Amherst: Sarah E. Upton, 24, milliner [prob. boarding, in household of “widow” Mary Jane Taylor, 34, owned no real estate, where also sister? Lucinda Putnam, 21, domestic] (p. 157) [Note: Appears to be in vicinity of intersection of Middle Street & Cross Street. Mary Jane nee Upton was wife of Nathan Taylor, a teamster; they subsequently rented at 17 Carriage Road.]

Miss Caroline M. Vaughn (1836-1860):

1859-60 – Millinery & Dressmaking Shop in One Room of Mrs. Vose's House at 91 Boston Post Rd

In 1860 Census, Caroline M., aged 26, milliner, lived with her parents Joseph Vaughan [sic], 64, watchmaker & jeweller, and his wife Harriet, 55, on the same street in Amherst Village as Mary Vose and Charles C. Danforth [Boston Post Road north of Common]. Her older sister, Frances Harriet had married 30 Sep. 1847, Robert Emerson, a tailor. Miss Caroline Vaughan, daughter of Mr. Joseph Vaughan [sic] died in Amherst in August 1860, aged 26 years 10 months (*Farmers' Cabinet* 22 Aug 1860).

1859-04-27 through June 22 *Farmers' Cabinet*:

Miss C. M. Vaughn, will say to the ladies of Amherst and vicinity, that she has just returned from the city with a Rich and Choice Selection of Millinery Goods, consisting of Bonnets, Children's Hats, Ribbons, Flowers, Silks, &c. Dresses __ and Spring Capes cut and made in the most Fashionable Styles... Old Straw and silk bonnets repaired.

ROOM, at MRS. SAMUEL VOSE'S House, a few doors north of the U.S. Hotel.

Amherst, N.H., April 25, 1859

1859-Sept FC [new millinery advertisement that ran through Nov. 1859]: Miss C. M. Vaughn, FASHIONABLE MILLINER & DRESS-MAKER, Having just returned from the City, is prepared to show her friends and the public generally Something New in the way of BONNETS and DRESS PATTERNS ...

Rooms at Mrs. Samuel Vose's House a few doors North of the U.S. Hotel. Amherst, Sept. 26, 1859

1859, 1960 tax invoice: Miss Vaughn was not assessed any taxes on stock in trade, nor was Joseph Vaughn, the only taxpayer of that surname listed. Nor did Mrs. Mary A. Vose pay any taxes on stock in trade.

Mrs. Mary W. Few (nee Walsham; d. 1900 in Amherst as Mary W. Richardson):

Born in England, wife of William Few (1821-1863) born in England who arrived in Amherst by April 1852, moved to Nashua 1860, served & died in Civil War, interred at Amherst, with whom she had daughter Susie; Mary (re)married 5 July 1864, as his third wife, Charles Richardson, Esq. (1809-1891), manufacturer, merchant, insurance agent, who had arrived in Amherst in 1853 when he was county register of deeds & bought former bank bldg as their home in 1868.

1852 April: **H. Z. ELLIS**, feeling thankful for past favors bestowed upon him by the citizens of Hillsborough County, wishes to inform them of a new enterprise he has undertaken, which is the establishment of a first class DRESS AND MILLINERY SHOP, **located on the premises known as the Means estate, recently occupied by J. Holden, on the street leading from the Court House to Esquire Atherton's.** His rooms are fitted up in an elegant manner, and well filled with the most fashionable Millinery Goods that the market affords. He has also fitted up a room at the same place for English Goods, where he will keep a large assortment of Dress Goods, and the most fashionable the market can furnish, which will be sold at his usual low prices, as he goes in for “quick sales and small profits.” ... Having been at great expense to obtain an **English lady, Mrs. Few, of fourteen years experience**, of unequalled taste and fashion, direct from England, with the latest patterns from London and Paris, and the American patterns from New York and Boston, to superintend the business. ... All should come from far and near and examine the rich taste displayed in the trimming of Bonnets, Dress-making, Crotchet work, &c. Drawn Bonnets kept constantly on hand. Also French lace and Straw Bonnets trimmed for inspection and for sale. N.B. Particular attention will be paid to the making of Wedding and Mourning Garments. (FC 22 April 1852)

1852 July: Mrs. W. FEW has taken the **Shop adjoining D. A. Fletcher's Store** where the MILLINERY, DRESS MAKING and STRAW BUSINESS will be carried on in all its branches, and that whilst with feelings of deep gratitude, she acknowledges that large share of public patronage she has had while employed by Mr. ELLIS, pledges

herself, that with strict attention and punctuality to give satisfaction to all who may continue to favor her with their support. Amherst. (FC 15 July 1852) [Note: D.A. Fletcher was at that time in old Means store.]

1852 Aug 24: Important to Ladies.

MRS. M. W. FEW

Desires to tender her thanks, 'tis true,
To Ladies around, both far and near,
For their kindness during her sojourn here;
in return she will clothe them from *top* to *toe*,
At prices that never were heard so *low*;
BONNETS for *ten cents* she will sell.
For *forty* and *fifty* quite fashionable;
CALICOES good, at *five cents* per yard,
Ten cent DE LAINES in Dress lengths prepared;
A pair of good SHOES for one *half a dollar*,
Then good HOSE at *nine pence* are sure to follow;
With a good assortment of very cheap TOYS,
To please all the children, both girls and boys.
And now, my dear friends, if your money you'd spend
To advantage, just call at the **WHARF's upper end**.

Mrs. FEW has resumed her old stand in the shop lately occupied by Mr. H.Z. Ellis, it being more conveniently connected with her home. Amherst, August 24, 1852. (FC. 2 Sep 1852)

[Note: "The Wharf" was the nickname Hazen P. Ellis gave to his mercantile business on the mill premises; "the upper Wharf" was the house at 6 Courthouse Road.]

1853 Nov.: Mrs. M. W. FEW has removed from her Old Stand to the **Store lately occupied by David Russell, Esq.**, where the MILLINERY AND DRESS MAKING BUSINESS will be carried on it all its branches. Mrs. F. desires to thank the ladies of Amherst, New Boston, Mont Vernon, and the adjacent Villages for their kind patronage the past year, and trusts that now she is in the **vicinity of stoves, whips**, wood and water, they will again lend her their aid, and she in return will give the articles good and cheap. She will not copy the old adage of her neighbors at the Foundry [in 3-story brick bldg], that 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating,' but the proof of the durability of her Bonnets and Cloaks shall be in the wearing. N.B. Mrs. Few will have a splendid stock of Winter Goods home this week, which will be the most fashionable to be found in the city, and as cheap as any in the market. Amherst. (FC 24 Nov. 1853)

FEW DWELLING & MILLINERY SHOP AT 8 MAIN STREET (marked as such on 1858 map)

1854 May 1 Deed (286:411): Samuel B. Melendy & Barnabas B. David both of Amherst sold to WILLIAM FEW of Amherst, laborer, for \$500,

piece of land w buildings on south side of Amherst Plain and is located between the three-story brick building now occupied as a stove & tin ware shop and land lately owned by the heirs of Thomas M. Dickey deceased, bounded – beginning east of 3-story brick bldg and between it and the bldgs on the premises hereby conveyed and running S 26 degrees E 56 feet which is as far south as the SE corner of said brick bldg; thence:

easterly in a line with the south line of the brick bldg 14 feet to land lately owned by heirs of Thomas M. Dickey deceased; southerly 24 feet to a post in the fence; easterly by our land 20 feet; northerly 72 feet; northerly to the Common; westerly by the Common 46 feet to a line parallel to BFM; southerly on said line to Beginning.

Reserving the right to have 2 apple trees growing and standing on our land near to the line above described and the fruit which may grow thereon for our own use and that the grantee shall have no right to cut off branches of those trees the same which may overshadow some of the land herein conveyed.

Also making reservation that no bldg or fence shall be erected within 7 feet + 9 inches of west line of premises but that a strip of land 7 feet + 9 inches wide on east side of west line extending from the Common to south bound shall be kept open and appropriated as a passage way. Nor is there to be any bldg or fence erected on the west side of the west line within 7 feet 9 inches of the same ... passageway to be kept open for mutual benefit of owners of the contiguous properties & not obstructed by either.

Everline B. Melendy, wife, & Elizabeth W. David, wife, relinquished rights of dower. Witnessed: Andrew Wallace (also JP), Abby B. Melendy. Recorded 1 May 1854.

[Deed transcribed/abstracted by KH, March 2012. This is 8 Main St.]

1854 May 1 Mortgage (286:412): William Few of Amherst received \$500 from Samuel B. Melendy & Barnabas B.

David both of Amherst for land w bldgs on south side of Amherst Plain next to three-story brick building ... Wm Few and Mary W. Few, wife, relinquished right of dower & signed. Witnessed: Andrew Wallace (also JP), Abby B. Melendy. Mortgage discharged 7 Oct 1857 by Melendy & David.

1855 May 9 Deed (355:123): Samuel B. Melendy & Barnabas B. David sold to WILLIAM FEW of Amherst, husbandman, for \$10, three-cornered piece of land on Plain in Amherst, N.H., bounded – beginning at post in fence lately erected on east side of Few's dwelling house a few feet from the SE corner of the main part of said dwelling house, thence:
SE by fence 1 rod 15 links to a corner of fence;
westerly as fence stands 14 links to a corner of fence;
northerly 1 rod 17 links by Few's land in a strait line to BFM.
Everline Melendy & Elizabeth David, wives of grantors, relinquished dower rights. Witnessed: Charles Richardson, Andrew Wallace (also JP). Recorded 25 March 1865 by J.O. Pulsifer.
[Deed transcribed/abstracted by KH, March 2012. This is extension of 8 Main St. lot.]

1855 Aug: Live and let live! At the Fancy Goods Store, Amherst, just received from Boston ... Amherst Millinery [sic] Rooms, M. W. Few.

1857 Feb: Twenty-One days Only, A great clearing out of Millinery and Fancy articles ... M.W. FEW. (FC, 19 Feb 1857)

1857 May: A Chance Worth Taking! To Milliners, Dressmakers and others. Mrs. M. W. FEW offers for sale her entire **millinery establishment, situated on Amherst plain near the High School**, and in one of the best neighborhoods in all New England. Mrs. Few is not leaving through lack of trade or friends; far from it; but acting upon the principle that self preservation is the first law of nature, and knowing that her health has suffered from the severity of the climate, seeks a warmer region. Business, too, at this time calling her to sell. Possession may be taken on the 4 th of July next. Persons wishing to purchase are requested to call and inspect the **house which contains five sleeping rooms, two kitchens, sitting room, and parlor, with a large and convenient shop**, all of which have been newly finished within the last three years.

My Bonnet Rooms are now open and I have a large stock of straw, neapoliton, and fancy bonnets, hats, head dresses, which must sold at some price. Never go without a bonnet when one can be bought for \$1.50 full trimmed; never stay away from Church because your bonnet is not fashionable. If you are really too poor to buy, come and you shall have one credited to the good folks of Amherst. M.W. FEW. Amherst, May 13. (FC, 14 May 1857)

1857 Sep: The Amherst Millinery Establishment, Stands in the Same Place! The above business will be carried on in all its branches during the absence of M.W FEW. The Millinary department in charge of **MISS FANNIE WHEELER**. Ladies need make no scruples on account of her youth or inexperience. Mrs. Few can safely recommend her as bidding fair to make one of the most tasty milliners in Hillsborough County. The shop will be under the care of Miss **ELIZA J. RYDER**. Orders promptly attended to. Mourning Goods and grave clothes constantly on hand. M. W. FEW (FC, 30 July 1857)

Note: I could not figure out who Ryder was. Fannie was daughter of Wheeler on Carriage Road.

1859 April: M. W. FEW, Waked up anew! Dear Old Cabinet: I am not dead, tho' for three months I have been silent, with hands folded and head bowed. I have dozed away a portion of the Winter, but the April sun and the welcome click of the needle and scissors has somewhat aroused me, and I am ready to attend to business and to show you all the sunny-side of good bargains. My Spring Stock is larger than ever before, selected with great care and, I trust, some little taste.

Straw Bonnets, full trimmed, \$1.25; Fancy Hats from \$2.50 upwards; Misses & Children's Hats, Ladies' Riding Hats, Head Dresses, fancy hair pins, wrought setts fancy sleeves, great variety Gloves, Trimmings, Watch Spring Skirts for Ladies and Misses, &c. N.B. Grave clothes constantly on hand. Bonnets bleached every week. For the accommodation of many of my friends in adjacent villages, I will attend to the Dress Making Department, which I have neglected the last three years. My Show Rooms will be ready for inspection the first Monday in May. M. W. Few. Amherst, April 12, 1859. (FC, 27 April 1859)

1855 Amherst Tax Invoice: Few William – 1 poll; land \$30/bldg \$470

1856 Amherst Tax Invoice: Few William – 1 poll; land \$30/ bldgs \$650; stock in trade \$100.

1857 Amherst Tax Invoice: Few William – 1 poll; land \$30/ bldgs \$650; stock in trade \$100.

1858 Amherst Tax Invoice: Few William – 1 poll; one-eighth acre, land \$30/ bldgs \$650; stock in trade \$150.

1859 Amherst Tax Invoice: Few William – 1 poll; one-eighth acre, land \$30/ bldgs \$650; stock in trade \$100.

1860 Amherst Tax Invoice: Few William – 1 poll; one-eighth acre, land \$30/ bldgs \$650; stock in trade \$100.
1860 – Amherst, N.H.: Mary Few, 37, milliner, \$800/\$500; and Susie, 10. (Census)
1861, '62 Amherst Tax Invoice – District 1: Few William – no poll, Abel T. Rideout occupant, one-eighth acre, \$30/\$650.

Note: In Sep 1860, Wm Few bought a dwelling on Cottage St. in Nashua for \$1400, for which Wm & Mary took out mortgage of \$900 but they took out a further mortgage against their house-cum-shop at 8 Main Street in Amherst for \$400 later that same month. Wm died July 1863 as a soldier in the Civil War (see Edward D. Boylston's book). Widow Mary W. Few remarried, exactly one year later, 5 July 1864 Charles Richardson (1809- 1891) who had arrived in Amherst in 1853. She sold the house at 8 Main St. in April 1867.

PROBATE OF WILLIAM FEW, Nashua, 1863 (N.H. Hillsborough County No. 2035, 80590-C71-11)

1861 Oct. 23: **Will of William Few**

“I William Few of Nashua N.H.,

- bequeath to my daughter Susan A. Few \$100

- bequeath to my beloved wife Mary W. Few all the rest residue and remainder of my estate real personal and mixed ... and appoint my wife Mary W. Few sole executrix of my last will & testament.”

Signed, sealed and witnessed 23 Oct. 1861. Filed with court of probate in Nashua 25 Aug. 1863.

[Transcribed by KH at State Archives, Concord, N.H., Oct 2012.]

Sophia E. Phelps (1836-1924): 1860-1864 – successor to shop of Mrs. Mary W. Few at **8 Main** daughter of Horace Phelps, resided 18 Foundry St.; 1864 became wife of Perley Woodbury Dodge. “She must have quit teaching school before she started her business; then had to give it up when she got pregnant & married. At the end of March 1864 when she advertised a sale, she would have known she was pregnant.” (Note from Jackie Marshall Sat, 06 Jun 2009)

Note to self: check Overseers of Poor reports – she sewed a garment for a pauper

Note: Sgt Charles Phelps who fought & fell in Civil War was her brother. (He wrote her letters from the front.)

Note: This file does not address the later significant contribution to town of/by Mrs. Sophia E. Dodge as early member of school board when Amherst switched to single town-wide school district in 1881.

1860 Sep: Important to Ladies. MISSES PHELPS AND MARVELL, having taken **the shop recently occupied by Mrs. M. W. Few**, and having just returned from Boston are ready to show the ladies of Amherst and vicinity their variety of goods, Hats, Bonnets, Ribbons, Dress Trimmings, &c. We intend carrying on dress making and have secured an experienced dress maker. Capes and Cloaks made to order, and other sewing done if desired. S. E. PHELPS, M. E. MARVELL, Amherst. FC 3 Oct. 1860)

1861 Apr 24, Amherst: NEW MILLINERY GOODS! Miss S.E. Phelps would say to the Ladies of Amherst and vicinity that she has now a variety of New Summer Goods ... Thanking friends for past patronage we hope to merit a continuance of the same. Please give us a call, one and all. P.S. Sewing done if desired.

S.E. Phelps (*Farmers' Cabinet* 26 Apr 1861)

1861-'64 Amherst tax invoice – District 1: Sophia Phelps – \$100 stock in trade. (She is not listed 1865 nor 1868.)

For comparison – Amount of “stock in trade” for which others in Amherst were taxed for 1860/61 year in District 1: Hapgood & Abbott [general store] \$2000; George F. Stevens [general store] \$1000; David Russell [apothecary] \$500; Cyrus Eastman & Co. [lead pipe aqueduct mfr] \$400; George F. Nichols [“saloon” for confectionery, tea and coffee, oysters, tobacco, letter-paper] \$100 (following year \$300); Sophia Phelps [millinery shop] \$100.

1863 Jan 8 and other issues, *Farmers' Cabinet*:

LADIES OF AMHERST AND VICINITY You will find a good assortment of Fall and winter styles of Millinery Goods at reasonable prices, at S.E. Phelps' . Oct 23, 1862, Amherst.

1864 Mar 23, Amherst: Selling at Cost for Thirty Days! Ribbons, Bonnets, Hats, &c, &c. S.E. Phelps

[*The Farmers' Cabinet*, 28 Apr 1864]

1864 Oct 5, Amherst: Now is Your Time! To buy a stock of Millinery and Fancy Goods at prices which cannot fail to be an advantage to the purchaser. To any one wishing to engage in the millinery business this is a good chance, there

being **no other shop of the kind in town**. Call soon to insure the fall trade. For particulars inquire at the shop formerly occupied by Mrs. M.W. Few, recently by S.E. Phelps.

[*The Farmers' Cabinet* 21 Oct 1864]

1880 Census – Amherst, N.H.: Dodge, Sophia E., wife, 44, milliner

Nellie S. Jaquith (1840-): **1865-1869** – successor to shop of M. W. Few & Sophia E Phelps at **8 Main Street**

Prior to her marriage, Nellie S. Lovejoy (b. 1840 in Amherst, N.H.), daughter of shoemaker John Lovejoy & wife Eliza Nichols, worked as a milliner (1860 census of Amherst). At age 22, Nellie married 21 Aug 1862 in Lawrence, Mass., 21-year old J. Merrick Jaquith of Lawrence, a printer born in Milford, N.H. They had a son, Clarence E. Jaquith, born in Amherst Dec. 1863. After running her millinery business for 4 and a half years, on 16 Jan. 1870 in Amherst, Nellie married widower Harry R. Wheeler of Nashua, a 28-year-old printer with two young children. [CHECK – was the daughter born before marriage] Harry R. Wheeler had bought the Nashua property of the Fews from Mary W. Richardson in March 1865.

Location: Mrs. J. clearly started in shop leased from the former Mrs. Few, now Mrs. Richardson; but in 1867, when/after Mrs. R. sold 8 Main Street, Mrs. J. must have moved to the place on the Lawrence lot, Church/Foundry St opposite triangle.

1865 Feb: Reopened. NELLIE S. JAQUITH has taken the shop formerly occupied by Mrs. M. W. Few – more recently by Miss S. E. Phelps – where the ladies of Amherst and vicinity can find a good assortment of Trimmings, Hoop Skirts, Corsets, Gloves, Hose, Embroideries, &c. Millinery in all its branches will be carried on as soon as the spring opens. Bonnets and Hats bleached, pressed and colored at short notice. Grave Clothes and Mourning Goods constantly on hand. Amherst, Feb. 7, 1865 (FC, 10 Feb. 1865)

1865 Feb: Not Dead, Down or Removed! Though the jail birds have flown and the records are going, the old Amherst Millinery Establishment remains in the same place, and Mrs. NELLIE S. JAQUITH has just returned from the city with a choice lot of fancy and useful articles which will be sold low for cash. I trust my old friends and patrons in Amherst and vicinity will give her a liberal share of their patronage. They will find Mrs. J. pleasant and accommodating. M. W. RICHARDSON. (FC 10 Feb 1865)

1865 Oct: A Word to the Ladies. N. S. JAQUITH has secured the services of a first class milliner. Also, a first-class dress and cloak maker ... I have also an excellent assortment of worsted breakfast shawls, hoods, sontags, infant's worsted capes, sacks, socks, hose, caps and leggings, which will be sold at the lowest cash prices. Hats and bonnets bleached and pressed into fashionable form. Amherst, Oct. 17, 1865. (FC, 26 Oct. 1865)

1866 April: Important to the Ladies.... Hoop skirts warranted to be made of the best wire. Grave clothes ready-made, or made to order. Also, corsets, gloves, hose and veils. ... Bonnets and hats sent to the bleachery on Wednesday of each week. N. S. JAQUITH. (FC, 3 May 1865 [or 1866?])

1867 April: ... Bonnets and hats sent to the bleachery on Monday morning of each week. ... N.S. JAQUITH. (FC, 2 May 1867)

1867: "The House, and Milliner's Shop occupied by Mrs. Jaquith, has been sold to Mr. W. R. Clark, and will be used for a Restaurateur." (FC, 2 May 1867)

1869 Sep: Rare Business Chance! N.S. JAQUITH being about to leave Amherst, offers her entire stock of Millinery and Fancy Goods regardless of cost for the next 20 days, commencing Friday, Oct 1 st.

In the mean time, any one desirous of taking the stand can do so on very liberal terms. It is a good opening for any one wishing to engage in such a business, as it is the **only store of the kind in the place**, and a successful business has been carried on for many years. (FC, 14 Oct. 1869)

LOCATION OF MILLINER SHOP – EAST END OF FOUNDRY OR WEST END OF CHURCH

1869 Jan. 28 Deed (380:333): The Congregational Church & Society of Amherst and Lizzie G. Lawrence and Cornelia M. Lawrence, single women & heirs in law of Aaron Lawrence, sold for \$300 to Sarah Lucretia Lawrence of Amherst, NH, land in Amherst Village, bounded –

beginning at **NE corner of homestead garden of Sarah Lucretia Lawrence** at stone post, thence running: northerly in a direction that the line will strike a point 10 feet westerly of the NW corner of the Congregationalist

Chapel and continuing in same direction to hwy running easterly from southerly of the foundry; thence running: northerly on said hwy to land deeded by Samuel Fuller to Aaron Lawrence; southerly on the land so deeded to Lawrence to the homestead of Sarah Lucretia Lawrence; easterly by land of S. L. L. to BFM;

with a small shop now occupied as a milliners shop standing on the same.

Sarah L. Lawrence covenants that no bldg shall be erected on the above described premises nearer than 20 feet of Chapel Vestry and this deed is made upon that condition;

that Lizzie G. Lawrence & Cornelia M. Lawrence quitclaim all their right title and interest in premises as heirs at law of Aaron Lawrence only they making no covenants to warrant & defend.

Signed: Edward Aiken, David Russell, Elisabeth G. Lawrence, Cornelia M. Lawrence. Witnessed: B. E. Perry to CML, Phebe E. Rollins to CML. Cornelia appeared before JP B. E. Perry of Commonwealth of Massachusetts 28 Jan. 1869; the others before JP Wm Wetherbee. Recorded 11 Feb. 1869.

[Deed transcribed/abstracted by KH, March 2012. This appears to be lot fronting on connector bit between Church and Foundry Street, thus lying behind 3 School Street, which was the homestead of "Lu" Lawrence (1843-1870) after her father's death in 1867, and behind Chapel on Middle Street.]

Miss Sarah K. Macer (c.1845-1898, b. England, d. Wilton, N.H.):

1870-71 – offered dress-making & millinery from rm in residence of Dudley Carlton for few months; after stint in Boston, moved to Milford April 1872

At age 28, Sarah married 43-year-old farmer Gilman R. Mansur [Jr.] (1829-1908) of Wilton (b. Cambridgeport, Mass., son of a grocer). Her mother Sarah (b. Aug 1810), who had born 9 children (2 of whom were still living in 1900) before immigrating from England in 1870, lived with them. Mrs. Sarah K. Mansur (b. London, England, daughter of wheelwright Macer & wife Sarah nee Wilson) died at age 52 on 2 April 1898 in Wilton, N.H., of consumption, leaving 2 sons, Gilman Edwin Mansur (b. July 1876) and Clarence W. Mansur (b. Jan. 1888). Her widower died at age 78 at Hillsborough County Farm in Goffstown after a stay of 1 year and 10 months.

1870 Oct. 11 – Amherst: Fashionable Dress-Making. MISS S. K. MACER would inform the ladies of Amherst and vicinity, who wish Dress-Making and Millinery fashionable and expeditiously accomplished, that all orders will be promptly attended to. As she has had several years' experience in London, she feels sure of giving satisfaction in style and fit. She has taken **rooms at the residence of Mr. Dudley Carlton**. Will sew in families if desired. Amherst. (FC 24 No. 1870)

Note: This was likely at 10 Cross Street, former dwelling house of widow Rachel Batchelder (d. 1863) who resided there with her widower brother, Timothy Jones Jr. (whose name "T. Jones" labels that house on 1858 map).

1870 July census – Old Saybrook, Middlesex, Connecticut:

Macer, Thomas J., 31, laborer, \$450, b. England & Mary, 33, b. Ireland; Sarah, 5, b. Conn.

Also in household, [Macer] Sarah, 59, b England, "living in family" & **[Macer] Sarah, 23, b. England, dress maker**

1872 April – Milford: The attention of the ladies is directed to the card of Miss Macer, fashionable dressmaker, who has taken a room in Wheeler's building, Milford. Miss M., **though lately of Boston**, is well known in this place, and is highly spoken of by the ladies, who are certainly the best possible authority. We would commend her to our Milford friends who are in want of anything in the line she advertises, with confidence that all work entrusted to her will be done in a satisfactory manner. (FC 17 April 1872)

1872 April – Milford: MISS MACER, DRESS-MAKER (late of Boston). Dresses, Mantles &c, made in the very latest New York styles. Also, cut and basted. Room in Wheeler's Building, Milford, N.H. (FC, 24 April 1872, card advert.)

1872 Sep – Milford: Co-partnership. Miss Macer desired to inform the ladies of Milford and vicinity that MISS HOLDER, a lady who has had many years' experience in London, Eng., and also in New York, has entered into partnership with her, and they hope by strict attention to customers' wishes to please as heretofore. Dresses made, or cut and basted, in the latest New York styles. Also, an apprentice wanted. S. K. MACER, M. HOLDER. Milford, N.H.

1873 Oct 21: Married. At New Jerusalem church in Boston, 21 st inst, Mr. Gilman R. Mansur of Wilton and Miss Sarah K. Macer of Milford. (FC, 22 Oct. 1873.) [The marriage was registered both in Boston, Mass., where it took place, and in Wilton, old home of the groom and future home of newlywed couple. First marriage for both; he (born Cambridgeport, Mass., son of Gilman and Melvina) aged 43 and she (born England, daughter of William & Sarah) aged 28.

1873 Nov: A party to the number of a dozen of the friends of Mrs. Gilman R. Mansur (nee Miss S. K. Macer,) of this place [the friends were of Amherst], who could not attend the wedding ceremony at Boston, paid the happy couple a visit at their home in Wilton on Saturday evening. The occasion was a very social and happy one, the company sitting down to a nice supper. Before leaving, a large and elegant family Bible was added tot he extensive and valuable collection of bridal gifts, as an expression of regard from the party. Mr. Mansur received it with fitting words of thanks. (FC 5 Nov. 1873)

1880 census – Wilton, N.H.:

Mansur, Gilman R., 50, farmer, b. Mass.; & wife Sarah, 35, b. England; Gilman E., 3, son, b. NH; Ann 10/12 b. July, b. NH; also in household Macer Sarah, 70, mother-in-law, b. England.

Miss Lelia J. Small (1849-1885):

1872-77 – did dressmaking in room of pa's house at 15 Middle Street from Jan. 1872, expanded to ladies shop in Nov. 1872; moved business & opened millinery shop opposite 101 BPR Oct 1873 - 1 Nov. 1877

Lelia Josephine Small was the daughter of blacksmith (and firefighter company captain) Gilbert Small (b. Goffstown, N.H.) & wife Sabra P. nee Locke (b. Deering, N.H.), who arrived in Amherst around 1850 (when first listed in tax record with poll tax; first recorded with taxable real estate in 1855 although he had a few taxable livestock starting in 1852), thereafter making their home at 15 Middle Street next to Wigwam. On 11 March 1878 in Amherst, Rev. J. G. Davis married Lelia J. Small and Charles W. Dodge, 35, clerk in store. Lelia bore two children (also buried at Meadowview Cemetery): Martha Belle Dodge (1882-1968, Mrs. Ladd) and Maurice Whipple Dodge (1881-1883, died aged 1 year 10 months). Lelia died at age 35 and a half of consumption on 4 April 1885 at Amherst. (NH Vitals record on familysearch.org oddly has her listed under her maiden name, although indicates she was married at time of death, gives cause and parents' names and birth places.)

1872 Jan. 9: L. J. SMALL, Dress and Cloak Maker. Machine Stitching and Pinking done to order. Rooms at residence of GILBERT SMALL, Amherst. (FC 24 Jan 1872; ran for several months)

1872 Nov. 4: New advertisement. To the Ladies. MISS L. J. SMALL would respec(t)fully invite the ladies of Amherst and vicinity to call and examine her stock of Ladies & Children's Hats & Hat Frames, Plumes, Jet Ornaments, Ribbons, Black and White Laces [and much more]. Stamping [for embroidery] done to order. Also, Cloak and Dress-Making attended to as heretofore. (FC 6 Nov. 1872)

1873 Oct.: The shop lately occupied by W. S. Locke as a grocery and market, has been renovated and remodeled for the occupancy of **Miss L. J. Small and Miss C. S. Blair, milliners and dress-makers, and dealers in fancy goods and ladies' furnishings.** This will be a great convenience to the ladies, who will doubtless show their appreciation by a liberal patronage. (FC 8 Oct. 1873)

[Note: 1872 Nov 4, Wm. S. Locke opened “new market and grocery store, at corner of Main and Foundry Streets (opposite J.B. Fay's)” (FC 2 April 1872). Joseph Byron Fay owned “old Stewart house” in its new location at 101 Boston Post Road, site of former Nutt's tavern/hotel, in Village just north(west) of Common.]

More ads:

20 April 1874 – Millinery and Dress-Making Spring styles... and 18 Oct. 1875 – Opening of New Fall Goods 1875 [by] L.J Small, dealer in Millinery and Fancy Goods ...

1876 Sep 26 FC: New Fall Goods Just received by L.J. SMALL. MILLINERY – Hats, Bonnets, Feathers, Flowers, etc. Fancy Goods, Ladies' Hosiery and Underwear. Dress Cutting and Making in the latest styles. L.J. SMALL, Amherst, Sept. 25

1875 Dec 22 FC: “Complimentary Christmas Ditty” about advertisers in Amherst, Milford, and “city just below” contains these lines about Amherst shops:

“Fay has a host of nice things in store, / And Miss L. J. Small at opposite door.”

1876 August 21: Grand Business Chance! L. J. SMALL is now offering her entire stock of fancy goods at cost! For the next 20 days, Millinery at less than cost. Any one desirous of a good safe business can have the stock and trade on very liberal terms. **The only store of the kind in town.** L. J. SMALL, Amherst. (FC 5 Sep 1876)

1877 Sep. 18 FC: Selling Out at Cost! For the next thirty days I shall offer my Stock of Milliner & Fancy Goods at cost! And many Goods below Cost, in order to close up my business. L. J. SMALL, Amherst, N.H.

1877 Oct 16 FC: Those in want of Millinery and Fancy Goody will do well to notice the advertisement of L.J. Small, as the **business will be closed November 1 st.**

1885 Apr 10 FC (p. 3): We regret to record the death of Mrs. Lelia (Small) Dodge, wife of Charles W. Dodge, which occurred on Saturday last, __, at the age of 35 years and 6 months. Her sickness was a long and __ one, and as is often the case with consumptives, she was hopeful almost to the last, but when she became convinced that she was not to recover, she sank rapidly. She was the eldest daughter of Gilbert Small, of this place [Amherst, N.H.], and for __ years was engaged in the millinery business here, keeping a small store in connection therewith. She gave up __ business to marry in March 1878. She leaves a husband, and daughter of __ than three years, besides father __, sister and brother. In June, __ she buried a promising boy of __ whose loss she deeply felt.

Miss C. S. Blair (d. 1887, aged 76): **1873-5 – dress-making, briefly partner, then competitor of Lelia Small 1873 (in Danforth House) and 1875 (in Andrew F. Sawyer's house near Wigwam)**

1873 Oct. beginning: The shop lately occupied by W. S. Locke as a grocery and market, has been renovated and remodeled for the occupancy of **Miss L. J. Small and Miss C. S. Blair, milliners and dress-makers, and dealers in fancy goods and ladies' furnishings.** This will be a great convenience to the ladies, who will doubtless show their appreciation by a liberal patronage. (FC 8 Oct. 1873)

1873 Oct 29 FC: MISS C. S. BLAIR, lately of Boston, would announce to the ladies of Amherst and vicinity, that she has taken **rooms in the Danforth House, (lately occupied by Mr. Russ),** for the purpose of carrying on the dressmaking business. A perfect fit warranted. Dresses cut and basted if desired. Also machine sewing and embroidery stamping done to order.

[Note by KH: This was the Charles C. Danforth place, formerly the Wakefield Sisters', as evidenced by Amherst tax invoice of 1873 for District 1, which showed I. J. Russ as occupant of half acre w/ bldgs valued \$700.]

1875 June 9 FC: New Dress-Making Rooms. MISS C. S. BLAIR would announce to the ladies of Amherst and vicinity that she has returned and opened Dress-Making Rooms **at the residence of A. F. Sawyer, near Methodist church,** in Amherst, where she will attend to orders in the dress-making line, in all branches. Also, Machine Stitching, Embroidery Stamping and Sewing of all kinds. Terms reasonable and satisfaction assured.

[This was at 19 Middle Street, the former Bake House.]

HOUSE OF ANDREW F. SAWYER

1866 Oct 20 Deed (365:306): Julia A. SHIRLEY, wife of Daniel C. Shirley of Amherst, in my own right, & Daniel L[?] Shirley in right of my wife, sold to ANDREW F. SAWYER of Amherst for \$600, piece of land with bldgs in Amherst, N.H. near the Methodist church, bounded –

beginning at SE corner of premises and NE corner of land of Thomas F. Wilson, thence:

westerly on North line of Wilson's land about 16 rods to s&s in garden fence;

N 5 and one-third feet by garden fence;

westerly to SE corner of the barn of Luther Melendy to s&s;

northwesterly by Melendy's land formerly of Kinson & Stevens to the road running west from the Methodist Meeting House to the Blacksmith Shop of Gilbert Small [Cross St.];

by said road easterly; & southerly by road [Middle Street] to BFM.

Reserving that no bldg or fence shall be put more than 10 feet south of the house which was formerly the Bake House or within 26 feet of the house formerly owned by Aaron Lawrence, now owned by Thomas F. Wilson. And no fence or bldg shall be put up more than 8 feet east of said house that shall intercept the prospect from the north side of said Lawrence House now owned & occupied by Wilson. Also the privilege of occupying as a passageway with teams or otherwise 8 feet on the south side of said premises as far west as the garden fence named above.

Meaning & intending hereby to convey the same premises with the same reservations and restrictions as conveyed to me by deed of Frederick A. Noyes, recorded 361:17. Both grantors released homestead rights.

Witnessed: Isaac B. Dodge, William Wetherbee (also JP). Recorded 26 Oct 1866 by Robert Fulton, Register.

[Deed transcribed/abstracted by KH, May 2012; house at SW corner of Middle & Cross Streets; opposite Wigwam; Locke V125 - 19 Middle Street, 1857 owner T. Danforth]

1876 Aug 29 FC: The Golden Wedding of Mr. & Mrs. Andrew N. Stackpole, who reside in the easterly part of Amherst, was celebrated by a picnic in the Grove at Amherst Spring on the 22 nd ... by a company of more than a hundred. ... After being seated at the semi-centennial feast, the aged pair were crowned with wreaths of wild flowers by Miss. S.C. Blair, with fitting words of cheer. ... The pleasant occasion was enlivened by a song by Mrs. Hattie G. Walker [and others]... Another thing adding pleasure to the entertainment was music on the Organ and Harmonica by Fred M. Parker, playing both instruments at the same time.

1880 Census – Amherst, N.H. – “Village/Plain” [south of Common, judging by neighbors]:
Coggin, Betsey, 84, single, b. NH; and Blair, Catherine S., 60, boarder, single, nurse.

INHERITED HOUSE AT 11 CROSS STREET

1885 June 19 Deed (479:311): CATHERINE S. BLAIR of Amherst sold to GEORGE H. SHAW for \$433 piece of land with buildings in village of town of Amherst, N.H., bounded – beginning on easterly side of street leading from the “corner store” so called on Amherst Plain by the Baptist meeting house towards Nashua at NW corner of Polly Farnum's land and the SW corner of the premises, thence running easterly by Farnum's land and land now or formerly of Perley Dodge about 130 feet to a corner; thence northerly by Dodge's land and land occupied now or formerly by Mrs. David about 67 feet to a cross street running east and west;

thence westerly by cross street about 184 feet to street first mentioned at the intersection of the two streets;

thence southerly on first mentioned street about 84 feet to BFM.

Being the same premises conveyed to Betsey Coggin by Elizabeth F. Blaisdell by her deed dated 30 July 1872 and recorded 405:412 and devised to me [Blair] by the will of Betsey Coggin approved in Probate Court of Hillsborough County and on file in Register of Probate office.

Signed: Miss Catherine S. Blair. Witnessed: Albert A. Rotch, John H. Upham. Acknowledged: 19 June 1885 before Albert A. Rotch, JP. Recorded: 25 June 1885.

[Deed transcribed/abstracted by KH, Oct. 2012. Is 11 Cross Street combined with land of 18 Middle Street.]

1887 Aug. 3 – Amherst, N.H.: Death of Catherine S. Blair, 76 years and 9 months; occupation seamstress.

Roxanna H. (Stiles) Cutter (1822-1898) – cottage work

1877 Nov through 1878 April 2 *Farmers' Cabinet* advertisement:

“Dress Trimmings Plaited to order and Machine Work done by **MRS. R. H. CUTTER**, Amherst Plain. Nov. 10, 1877.” [Roxanna H. (Stiles) Cutter, divorced, owned & occupied south half of house at 6 Manchester Rd.]

For more about Roxanna, see “Historic Amherst: Roxanna H. (Stiles) Cutter, 19th Century Owner of Two Old Amherst Houses” by Katrina Holman (in *The Amherst Citizen*, 27 March 2012, p. 6&7)

BRANCH OF TUCK's NASHUA MILLINERY IN BRICK BLOCK

1878 March 19 *Farmers' Cabinet*: Change in Business – Mr. Martin L. Wheeler has sold his entire stock of goods to H.E. Woodberry, who has added it to his stock at the “old corner store.” It is understood that the rooms in the “old brick” lately occupied by Mr. Wheeler, have been leased to Samuel Tuck of Nashua for a branch millinery establishment.

1878 April 2 *Farmers' Cabinet*: Mr. **Andrew J. Tuck has opened his millinery and fancy goods store** in this place [Amherst] – rooms in the “Old Brick” formerly occupied by M.L. Wheeler – where he will keep a duplicate stock of his Nashua establishment, bring new goods, fresh from the markets, to Amherst as well as Nashua. The services of a competent milliner have been secured, and we have no doubt but that a successful business will be the result of the enterprise.

[Note by Katrina Holman: Andrew J. Tuck (1845-1918) of Nashua was the son of Samuel Tuck (b. Kensington, N.H.) & Mary Foster (b. Candia, N.H.). Samuel was a merchant; Andrew's last occupation was insurance agent.]

1878 June 11 FC: Andrew J. Tuck, “Old Brick” Block, Corner Store, Amherst, N.H. (main store No. 2 Noyes Block, Nashua) – Millinery and Fancy Goods. Our s[Amherst] store, **under the charge of Mrs. Hamilton**, whose experience warrants us in claiming as Stylish Work as can be found in any city. Fringing and Plaiting done to

order. ...

1879 July 29 FC: The millinery and fancy goods store of A. J. Tuck, which has been located in the corner of the “old brick” for a year and a half, has been closed.

1880 Feb 24 FC: Sad Death of Mrs. Agnes C. Hamilton of Nashua occurred at residence of her brother Chas E. Clement. Mrs. H. will be remembered as in charge of Mr. Tuck's millinery store in this place [Amherst], where she made many friends. Her sickness was long and painful as she wasted away from an internal cancer.

[Note by KH: Agnes (Clement) Hamilton (b. ca. 1846, d. Feb 1880 at residence of her brother Chas E. Clement) was the daughter of William W. Clement & wife Mary J. who resided in Manchester in 1860; Agnes may have been widowed by age 24 in 1870.]

Miss Georgianna W. Flint (1852-1832): 1880 – in former drug/shoe store next to Chapel (GAR bldg)

until about April 1881

Georgianna Warren Flint (b. 1852 Quincy, Mass.; d. 1932 Memorial hospital in Nashua, N.H.) was eldest child (of 6 children) of Daniel Kendall Flint (b. 1815 in Mont Vernon, d. 1892 in Quincy) who married 1846 in Quincy where he was a blacksmith (1860), hack man (1870), and depot express manager (1880). (At least two of her sisters were school teachers in Quincy in their 20s.) Georgianna's later career (by 1919) was as the public librarian in Mont Vernon. She died a resident of Mt . V. at 80.

1880 March 16 *Farmers' Cabinet*: New Millinery Store. There is a proposed opening of a new millinery store in this place the first of April. The lady who is to supply this want – and we might almost say necessity – is **Miss Georgia Flint of Quincy, Mass. The rooms decided upon are in the store near the Cong'l Chapel, formerly used as an apothecary and boot and shoe store.** We have no doubt but this enterprise will receive a liberal support from the ladies of Amherst and vicinity.

1880 April 6 FC, p. 2: Miss Georgie W. Flint announced the opening of a new store, with a fresh stock of dry and fancy goods and millinery, at Boston prices, for cash. Miss Flint has had large experience in the millinery business, and the accommodation her rooms will afford cannot but be appreciated by the ladies of Amherst and vicinity.

1880 April 13 FC: Ladies! Will find at Miss Flint's Store a nice assortment of Flowers, Ribbons, Ruching, Worsted, Handkerchiefs, Laces, Bleached & Brown Cottons, Prints, Siliesias, Cambrics &c. The store will be closed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. Opens at 8 a.m. Next door to the Cong'l Chapel, formerly the drug store. Miss G.W. Flint, Amherst, April 12, 1880.

1880 June 7: Miss Flint's store in Amherst: Dry and Fancy Goods. ...The store will be closed on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings. Open 8am. (Advertisement ran in *Farmers' Cabinet* every issue June through 7 Sep 1880.)

1880 Census – Amherst, NH:

[All in same household, namely 15 Church Street:]

Bartlett, Ruth C., 53, widow

French, Mary F., 32, daughter

Leland, Willis D., 25, boarder, Clergyman

Flint, Georgianna W., 28, boarder, Milliner

Note: Ruth (Langley) French, widow of John Flavel French, had married Dr. Bradley H. Bartlett. Her daughter Fanny Mary [or Mary Fanny] French arrived in the house at 15 Church Street as the stepdaughter of Dr. Bartlett. She is shown as occupying the house, as Miss F. A. French, on the 1892 Amherst Village map. Fanny Mary French later married a man named Parsons, and lived in this house for decades as his widow.

1880 Sep 25: Miss G. W. Flint offers white and colored corsets 50 cents and better. ... Fall Millinery. Hats and Bonnets in felt and straw... (Advert ran in FC 28 Sep. through 26 Oct. 1880. Same issues contained advert for new millinery shop in Nashua by Mrs. Bingham.)

1880 Oct-Dec FC.: New Winter Goods! A full line of Ladies Merino Underwear, at very low prices. Felt skirts. Red flannels 25 to 60 cts. Black [sic, changed to “Blch'd” in later issues] & brown cotton flannels. Winter Millinery. Felt and Brush Hats & Bonnets... at Miss Flint's. Amherst, Oct. 20th, 1880.

1880 Dec. 6 FC: Local Intelligence section. "If one wants to know the value of advertising, let them advertise something they have not in stock. By an error of the compositor, Miss Flint was made to say that she had black cotton flannel (instead of bleached), within a very short time after the advertisement appeared, she had four calls for the article, by people who were in earnest in the matter."

1880 Dec.: Useful Presents for the Holidays. A good assortment of Hoods, Nubias, Gaiters, Stockings, and Gloves. Felt Skirts, Handkerchiefs, Neck-ties. Also statuary and vases at Miss. Flint's Millinery Store, Amherst, N.H. (Advertisement ran in Farmers' Cabinet through 11 Jan. 1881; in same issue there were larger advert's by competitors in Milford and Concord, N.H.)

1881: Amherst is to be represented at the inauguration of Mr. Garfield at Washington March 4, by the Misses Fannie French and G. W. Flint, who left for W. Thursday morning. Miss Flint's millinery store will be in charge of **Miss Emma Josslyn** while she is absent. (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 25 Feb. 1881, p. 3)

1881 April Amherst tax invoice – District 1: Flint Georgia A. – stock in trade \$200. (Not on tax rolls in 1880 nor 1882.)

1881 April: It will be seen on account of ill health, Miss Flint will sell her stock of millinery and fancy goods, with fixtures of store, and good-will in the business. (*Cabinet*, 29 April 1881, p. 3.)

1881 May: "Good Business Opening. Owing to the ill health of the owner the Stock and Fixtures of the store occupied for the last year by Miss Flint, as a Millinery & Fancy Good Store, is offered for sale. Stock new and in good condition. A good chance for a milliner or dress maker. For terms and particulars apply to A. A. Rotch. Amherst, N.H." FC, 8 May 1881)

1892 Sep 22 FC: Mrs. S.W. Nash of Waltham and **Miss G. W. Flint of Quincy** are visiting relatives in Amherst.

1893 Sep. 28 FC: Miss Georgie Flint of Quincy, Mass., is visiting at W. B. Rotch's.

Mrs. Hamilton – on Church Street (owned & resided 9 Church St with shop, now gone, next door) **Anna H. Hamilton nee Sweet** (1835-1905), owner of 9 Church Street 1887-1891, & husband Silas Hamilton (1823-1914), town tax collector 1889/'90 – came from Manchester. Mrs. H. used bldg next door east for her dressmaking shop and fancy goods and wallpaper store where also Mr. H. made pillow shams. They removed to Lowell.

1887 May 20 FC (Advertisement): "Mrs. Hamilton's Dress-Making and Fancy Goods – in the old store formerly occupied by J.O. Pulsifer, near the Congregational Church."

1887 Feb 18 *Farmers' Cabinet*: "[J.] O. Pulsifer, Esq., has sold his ___ near the Congregational church ___ Dr. Pettengill, to Silas Hamilton, mill overseer at Manchester, who ___ stood will remove here with ___ soon." / "The removal of Mr. Hamilton and ___ Manchester here is likely to ___ advantageous to the place in several __. Mr. [Mrs.?] H. is an experienced __, and will doubtless receive a ___ welcome from the ladies. It is ___ that they will open the little ___ long vacant and keep a stock of ___ supplies." [Two separate items in Local Intelligence column. Left margin cut off on microfiche copy in Amherst Town Library. Note: This suggests that Dr. Pettengill did NOT use the little bldg next door as his doctor's office.]

1887 March 4 Deed (488:519): Jeremiah O. PULSIFER of Amherst sold to Anna H. HAMILTON of Manchester for \$1200, land (about half an acre) with bldgs in Amherst, N.H. [house next to church = 9 Church Street] ... Meaning & intending to convey same premises conveyed by D. Smith Perkins by his deed dated 6 May 1867, recorded 371:50.

Caroline F. Pulsifer, wife, relinquished dower right. Witnessed: Joel F. Osgood Jr., Isaac B. Dodge. [Deed abstracted by KH, Jan. 2012.]

1887: "Hamilton's Dress Making and Fancy Goods Store. The old store formerly occupied by J. O. Pulsifer, near the Congregational church, has been fitted up in good style for Dress-Making and FANCY GOODS. Mrs. Hamilton's long experience in dress and cloak making will enable her to guarantee satisfaction to the ladies of Amherst and vicinity . They will also sell by sample a large and choice selection of PAPER HANGINGS, at the lowest cash prices. Mr. Hamilton has taken the agency of ALGER'S NEW IMPROVED PILLOW SHAM HOLDER. No more folding shams! No more creasing shams! No more maring bed posts! Amherst, N.H. April 19, 1887." (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 20 May 1887)

1888 Amherst tax – District 1: Hamilton Silas – 1 poll; half acre, real estate value \$1100; cash \$276; stock in trade \$200. [Note: The husband was paying taxes on property of his wife.]

1889 Amherst tax invoice – District 1: Hamilton Silas – 1 poll; half acre, real estate value \$1100; stock in trade \$60.

1890 Amherst tax invoice – District 1: Hamilton Silas – 1 poll; half acre, real estate value \$1100; nothing else.

1889 April 9: “Mrs. Abbott made over Henrietta dress skirt 2 day [\$]3.00 / canvass lining. silk &c” (Nichols Diary, p. 3)

1889 April 19: “Paid Mrs. Hamilton making two dresses & altering coat for Bess [\$]11.23” (Nichols Diary, p. 3)

1889 May 24: “Mrs Hamilton for making basque Henrietta [\$]3.70” (Nichols Diary, p. 9)

1889 June 10: “... sent to Chandler & Co for 1 yard more of Satine. carried dress to Mrs. Hamilton.” (Diary, p. 11)

1889 July 9: “... Mrs. Hamilton in A.M. ...” (Nichols Diary, p. 14)

1889 Aug 6: “... Mrs. Abbot here making Mother’s dress,...” (Nichols Diary, p. 17)

1889 Aug 8: “Mrs. Abbott finished dress & sewing” (Nichols Diary, p. 17)

1889 Sep 4: “... carry dress to Mrs. Hamiltons.” (Nichols Diary, p. 21)

1889 Sep 11: “... called at Kents [1 Pierce Lane] in A.M. on way home fr Mrs. Hamilton” (Nichols Diary, p. 22)

1889 Sep 12: “... Hatties dress home fr Mrs. Hamiltons.” (Nichols Diary, p. 23)

1889 Sep 13: “gave Hattie \$5.00 & am to pay Mrs. Hamilton for making over dress for Hattie paying her 44.70 including buttons &c” (Nichols Diary, p. 23)

1889 Nov 9: “Mrs. Hamiltons & Library meeting in P.M.” (Nichols Diary, p. 31)

1889 Nov 19: “... rode to Mrs. Hamiltons see Bess dress. ...” (Nichols Diary, p. 33)

1890 March 17: “... Mrs. Hamiltons in PM...” (Nichols Diary, p. 44; last entry for Mrs. H. in Amherst)

1890 April 30: “Mrs. Worcester here sewing on Bess dresses...” (Nichols Diary, p. 50)

(Excerpts are from “Diary 11 March 1889 to 20 August 1893” of/by Elizabeth Welch (David) Nichols; collection of Historical Society of Amherst, New Hampshire; First of Five Diaries – transcribed by Jackie Marshall 9 December 2013. Note: Listed above are ALL entries for Mrs. Hamilton while in Amherst; other sewers included for context. During this period, Widow Nichols had clothes made and/or altered at Hovey’s in Boston, for daughter Bess especially.)

Miss S. Eliza Atkinson

Sarah Eliza Atkinson (1866-1930) was the daughter of Robert Atkinson (1838-1913) & wife Ann Bethel (1843-1906), both born in England, who arrived in Amherst around 1868 with their twin daughters (born in Pennsylvania in Feb. 1866), where Robert became a laborer and farmer/gardener, and offered cemetery maintenance and monument cleaning services. They had three more children, sons, born in N.H., the first in Nashua 1868, the other two in Amherst 1870 and 1872 (birthdates from gravestones). From 1873 to 1876, Robert Atkinson rented house in District 10 with farm of 33 acres that straddled Districts 10 and 1 from Patrick Moran, but moved in 1876 to 3 Old Jailhouse Road on quarter acre in the Village which he purchased in 1880 and where he lived out (nearly all of) his days with his wife; Robert died in Boston. Eliza’s twin sister married Jan. 1886. Miss S. Eliza Atkinson taught school in Lyndeboro in 1887 (*History of Town of Lyndeborough*, 1906). She opened a millinery & fancy goods shop in the “old brick block” in April 1889. She quit the millinery business shortly after she inherited the house at 3 School Street from Cornelia (Lawrence) Bartlett in 1892. Sarah E. Atkinson of Amherst, 26, was married 12 Jan. 1893 at Amherst to Charles D. Wilson (1859-1934), 32, clerk in Nashua, son of David F. & Electa M. Wilson of Deering. Mr. Wilson in 1897 (FC) and still 1900 (census) was the local grocer in the Corner Store; they moved to Boston by 1910 census, and were divorced before 1920 census, both still in Boston. (Note: The divorce date is given in 1914 Hillsborough County deed recorded 724:445 whereby “Charles D. Wilson of Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, divorced from Sarah E. Wilson of Boston at May 14 term of Suffolk Superior Court” conveys all his right, title and interest in one of his wife’s Amherst properties.) Despite having moved away, the Wilson family members are buried at Meadowview Cemetery in Amherst, N.H. Their divorce explains why they are in separate plots: There is a stone for Sarah Eliza Wilson 1866-1930 in plot owned by Mrs. C. D. Wilson (i.e., herself); beneath her name and dates are

inscribed names and dates of two of her three children: David L. Wilson (1894-1959) and Beatrice B. Wilson (1908-1977); town records show they all died out-of-town. Her parents, Robert Atkinson (1838-1913) & wife Ann (1843-1906), with place stones that only say FATHER and MOTHER, and her three brothers are buried in plots owned by Eliza's brothers in same cemetery block. Sarah Eliza Wilson, divorced from Chas D. Wilson, daughter of Robert Atkinson & Ann Bethel who were both born in England, died of liver cancer in Dorchester, Mass. on 2 June 1930, aged 64 years 3 months, having been born in Bridesburg, Pennsylvania. In 1930 census, she, aged 64 and "widowed," was still residing in Boston, head of household that comprised daughter Beatrice, 21, and son Laurence D., 35, & his wife, plus 2 boarders.

"CHARLES D. WILSON 1857-1934" is inscribed on back of gravestone of Myra Lovejoy Forsaith (1842-1905) & Wilson D. Forsaith (1842-1922), who had been proprietor of general store in the Brick Block, in plot owned by D. S. Forseth (sic, misspelled). CDW was born in Deering (also the hometown of Forsaith) and died aged 74 years 11 months (having been born 8 June 1859 according to his N.H. death record) at Elliott hospital in Manchester after a residence there of 5 months; in 1930 census Wilson, 69, was residing in Nashua with his cousin Harry W. Ramsdell, 65, & Mrs. R. (Sources for most B-D dates from data entered by Jackie Marshall into findagrave.com in 2011 and town's vital records entered by jlsm in HSA website.)

Where was shop?

Howard Locke (often inaccurate) suggests her shop was in one-story store/office bldg between 7 and 9 Church St.

Rambles About Amherst by Albert E Rotch, 1890, p. 20: Brick Block. The lower story has usually been occupied as stores, though originally the west side as a tenement. The upper ones have been used for school rooms, tenements, book bindery, pattern maker shops, and at one time the entire building as an iron foundry. At present, **store in which is post office, millinery store and barber shop.** [In this book, it is also called "Cushing's Folly".]

1889 April: New Millinery & Fancy Goods Store. Miss S. Eliza Atkinson has opened a millinery & fancy goods store in the "old brick block" in the corner room recently occupied as a barber shop, and which has once or twice before been used for that purpose. She has quite an extensive stock of millinery goods, small wares, etc. which will interest the ladies. Miss Atkinson served a millinery apprenticeship in New York. Her opening is Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week ... (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 11 April 1889) [added to this file March 2017]

1889 June: "Commencing Monday next the millinery store of Miss Atkinson will be closed for a few weeks, excepting on Saturdays, when the store will be open afternoon and evenings." (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 27 June 1889.) [added to this file Feb. 2014]

1889 Nov.: "Bargains this Week. I have on hand a full line of Winter Millinery. Best quality and lowest prices. Silk Ribbon 25, 38, 45 and 50 cents per yard. Trimmed Hats \$1.47, \$1.75, \$2.47, \$3.50 and upwards. Also a full line of Fancy Goods. Stamped Goods of all kinds. You will also find many useful things for Xmas. Call and examine my goods and get my prices before purchasing elsewhere. S. E. ATKINSON, Old Brick Block, Amherst." (FC, 14 Nov. 1889)[added to this file March 2017]

1891 April 17: "Home all day, except getting E. Atkinson to put velvet on hat frame for Bess" ("Diary 11 March 1889 to 20 August 1893" of/by Elizabeth Welch (David) Nichols, p. 93; collection of Historical Society of Amherst, New Hampshire; First of Five Diaries – transcribed and annotated by Jackie Marshall 9 December 2013.)

1891 Oct. 1 *Farmers' Cabinet*: You are cordially invited to attend my opening of trimmed hats and bonnets on the 8th and 9th of October. I have a full line of stamped goods and hosiery, gloves, underwear, dress linings, etc. Dressmaking at reasonable rates. My store will be open three evenings during the week, Monday, Tuesday and Saturday. S. E. Atkinson. [Other than this notice, which was placed among news items, Miss Atkinson did not advertise. The "opening" in the notice was usually the beginning of the new season rather than the beginning of a store.]

1892 April 7 FC: Amherst: Millinery Operation – I would say to the ladies of Amherst and vicinity that my Spring and Summer opening trimmed and untrimmed millinery will occur Friday and Saturday, April 8th and 9th, to which all are cordially invited. Miss S. E. Atkinson

1892 June 23 FC, Milford, N.H.: Will of Mrs C. M. L. Bartlett / A Remarkable Document / The Church Gets Two Thousand.

... "I devise and bequeath to Miss Eliza Atkinson of Amherst my house and land, and all there is in my house of every description, in said Amherst, excepting my jewelry." [In the same will, Mrs. B. left \$1K each to multiple

different friends.]

1892 Sep 29 *Farmers' Cabinet*, Milford, N.H.: For Sale. A good paying Millinery and Fancy Goods Store, also a grand chance for Dressmaking. Small capital required. No other store of the kind in the place. Fine chance for an enterprising person. Rent moderate. Good reason for selling. For full particulars, address S. ELIZA ATKINSON, Amherst, N.H.

[On the same page: Mrs. Geo. K. Boutelle advertised her Millinery Opening [open house] at 9 Garden St., Milford, N.H.]

1892 Nov. 3 FC: Amherst – For the next 30 days, Miss S. Eliza Atkinson will sell the contents of her store at cost, in order to close it out. Millinery orders executed same as heretofore until further notice.

1892 Dec 1 FC: “Miss S. Eliza Atkinson is occupying the Lawrence house, recently given her.” [Note: This is house at 3 School Street.]

Miss Sarah/Sadie Lowe, Dressmaker

1898: “Amherst: Miss Sarah Lowe, dressmaker, is taking two weeks rest, visiting her sister in Massachusetts.” (FC, 18 Aug, 1898)

1899 June: “Amherst: Mrs. P. Bartlett and daughter Bertha spent a few days with Mr. C. B. Sargent's family, recently. Miss Sadie Lowe, a sister of Mrs. Bartlett [and also sister of Ruby Sargent], has given up dressmaking and returned with her to Bridgewater, Mass., to stop with her for the present.” (FC, Milford, N.H., 15 June 1899.)

Mrs. Felt and Miss L. Duval, Dressmaking

1914: “Amherst: Dressmaking neatly and satisfactorily done. Terms reasonable. Mrs. Felt and Miss L. Duval. adv” (*Milford Cabinet*, 9 April 1914, Amherst column.)

Miss Annie J. Parker at 3 School Street (owned by her parents)

1915: “Amherst: Annie J. Parker's Easter millinery opening March 17 th, opposite post office. -adv” (*Milford Cabinet*, 11 March 1915, p. 5.)

1915: “Amherst: The ladies will all be interested to call and see the up-to-date millinery of Miss Annie Parker. -adv” (*Milford Cabinet*, 18 March 1915, p. 5)

Mrs. C. E. Atkinson (d. 1917, age 45) at 3 School Street (owned by her sister-in-law), then in store on Church Street

Helen/Nellie Judkins (1872-1917) was the wife of Charles E. Atkinson (1872-1923), son of Robert & Ann Atkinson of Amherst (born in England). He was single in 1900, a 27-yr-old farm laborer working for and living in household of widow Harriet Rogers, 68, in Amherst Village; in 1910, Charles, 37, was laborer in grocery store, owning house, in which he had one male boarder, a farm laborer. (Source: B-D and maiden name from Findagrave entries by Jackie Marshall, 2011.)

1915: “Amherst: **Mrs. C. E. Atkinson will open her millinery parlors at the home of Mrs. G. E. Parker** on Saturday afternoon. Will be open afternoons and Wednesday and Saturday evenings. -adv” (*Milford Cabinet*, 16 Sep. 1915)

1916: “Mrs. [C. E.] Atkinson, who has had parlor millinery rooms in the house of Mrs. George Parker, has this season opened up a millinery store in the building of A. L. Martin, close to the church, which has been thoroughly renovated. It is electric lighted and will prove quite an addition to our little community.” (*Milford Cabinet*, 7 Sep 1916)

1917 March 22 *Milford Cabinet*, Amherst section: “A display of Easter millinery in the latest designs and colorings will be shown March 27, 28 and 29 at **Mrs. C. E. Atkinson's**, Amherst, N.H.”

1917 April 26 *Milford Cabinet*, Amherst section: “A new line of millinery, house dresses, shirt waists and muslin underwear can be found at Mrs. C. E. Atkinson's. adv.”

1917 Sep 6 *Milford Cabinet*, Amherst section: “Mrs. C. E. Atkinson has returned from the Memorial hospital at Nashua and has a nurse to care for her in her own home.”

1917 Nov 29 *Milford Cabinet*, Amherst section: “At the closing out sale of millinery of the late Mrs. Atkinson on Wednesday and Thursday, a good many bargains were found.”

B. Roberts

1923 Nov. 15 Milford Cabinet (page 1 advertisement): “Millinery – Hats Trimmed, Made, Remodeled. Orders Promptly Filled. **B. ROBERTS, Amherst, N.H., Rear of Post Office.**”

WANTED TO HIRE – GIRLS FOR NEEDLEWORK OCCUPATIONS

1822 March: Wanted, a young lady who is sufficiently acquainted with the Millinery and Mantua Making Business to **superintend the work for four or five hands**. One who is satisfactorily recommended and qualified to take the charge of a shop of English Goods occasionally, may have constant employ and good wages, by applying immediately to S. L. BENDEN. Amherst. (FC 23 March 1822)

1829 Oct 1: Wanted: Two capable, steady GIRLS, well recommended, as Apprentices to the TAILORING BUSINESS. THOS. M. BENDEN, Amherst. (FC 31 Oct 1829) [He sought journeyman tailor before and after this year.]

1831 June 17: Wanted immediately, a capable Girl, as an Apprentice to the Tailoring Business. THOMAS M. BENDEN, Amherst. (FC 25 June 1831, 2 July 1831)

1831 Oct 14: Wanted immediately, an active and capable GIRL, as an apprentice to the *Tailoring Business*. FREDERIC BENDEN, Amherst. (FC 15 Oct 1831)

1831 Dec 10: Wanted, one or two capable Girls as Apprentices to the above business [tailoring in Amherst in front part of his house]. THOMAS M. BENDEN. (FC 31 Dec 1831)

1832 Aug 1: Tailoring. Wanted immediately, Two Girls, as apprentices. FREDERIC BENDEN, Amherst (FC 17 Aug 1832)

1833 March 4: Tailoress wanted, at the Tailoring Business, a good capable GIRL. One who is well acquainted with the business will receive good wages and steady employ. Also wanted, 2 Girls, as apprentices. FREDERICK BENDEN, Amherst. (FC 29 March 1833)

1835 Sep 17: Wanted immediately, 2 First rate Tailoresses, and 2 good Girls as apprentices. THO'S M. BENDEN. Amherst. (FC 18 Sep 1835)

1846 Aug. 17: “Wanted Immediately, two or three Girls, to serve as apprentices at the Tailoring business, by E. F. PERKINS. (*Farmers' Cabinet*)

PAUPER FARM ANNUAL REPORTS

1840/1: Report of the Selectmen of Amherst for Year Ending 1 March 1841

1841 March 1: “The number of Paupers on the Farm 4 March 1840 was 29. None have died, but 4 have recently been added, making 27 now supported on the Farm.”

Town Expenses included:

For doctoring paupers, pd [Dr.] Matthias Spalding \$20 + [Dr.] F. P. Fitch \$20 + for truss pd Dr. Fitch \$3.50
Misc town expense: Shoe bills [for paupers], pd D. Russell \$1.40 + pd W. L. Styles \$4.47 + pd S. D. Knowlton \$0.87

Misc town expense: For **making clothes for paupers, pd Charlotte Leavitt** \$3.25

1849/50: Report of the Selectmen of Amherst for Year Ending 4 March 1850

The number of paupers now on the Farm is 14; which is less than the average number the past year. Three are upward of 85; five are under 85 and over 60. Five have died the past year; 3 males and 2 females. There are two county paupers at present on the farm.

Expenses at the Pauper Farm for year ending 4 march 1850, included:

Pd S. Eaton for spinning and weaving \$9.48

Shoe bills: pd D. Russell for shoe bill \$7.08; pd J.O. David for shoe bill \$4.26; pd L. Stiles for shoe bill \$5.10
Pd E W Bullard, tailor's bill \$8.80

1857/8: Annual report for Year Ending 4 March 1858

Number of paupers now on Farm, 15; average the past year 15; 1 death.

Expenses at Pauper Farm (total \$828.80) included: **Paid Mrs. Josiah Colburn for spinning** \$3.25

1858/9: Annual report for Year Ending 1859 March 4

The number of paupers on the Farm is now 10; average number the past year 13; number of deaths 3.

Expenses at Pauper Farm (total \$240) include: **Paid M. W. Few for robe and cap** [probably for coffin] \$1.50

CENSUS – WOMEN WITH NEEDLEWORK OCCUPATIONS

1850 Census – Amherst, N.H. (in Amherst Village on Church Street):

occupations are not noted for girls and women but check out

Perkins Elbridge F., 39, tailor, real estate value \$3500, & wife Abby, 38, b. NH. **Also in household**, 4 yg men tailors (aged 16, 18, 20, 24) and 2 male painters (22, 25) of various surnames; and **5 young women (Elmira Hutchinson, 22; Elmira Trow, 21; Sabrina Beard, 21; Josephine Orcutt, 17** [double-counted, also with her mother widow Betsey Orcutt]; and **Helen Batchelder, 16**) who must also have been employees but in the sexist manner of the time their occupations were not listed. Almira Trow was a relative, their niece: b. 1830 in Mont Vernon, daughter of Joseph Trow & Sarah Perkins (sister of Elbridge); m. 1854 Charles Forsaith of Mt V.

(Note about location: Perkins is clearly at 9 Church Street, judging by neighbors. Speculation: Perhaps David Russell didn't remove the shop next door east after all and Perkins was using that as his shop.)

1860 Census – Amherst, N.H. (601 heads of household per HQ): **Women with needlework occupations**

[caution – very poor handwriting so spelling is iffy]

Note: This was the era of working for single women. There were the 13 common school teachers, the youngest 17, the oldest 37, probably not all “of Amherst”; plus one private school teacher, Miss Letitia R. Clark, 50; plus a couple at the Manual Labor School. The Irish lasses – more than 19 girls, starting as young as 13 – worked as “factory operative,” presumably (all or most) in Milford. More than 22 women of all ages [I haven't finished counting] gave occupation as “domestic.”

Milliners

Harriet E. Danforth, 17, milliner [living w parents in Village, pa is whip maker] (p. 166)

Lucy E. David, 16, straw milliner [daughter of deaf-mutes, living w them on Carriage Road] (p. 170)

Sarah F. Eastman, 28, milliner [sister, 33, copyist; living w parents on Middle St/old turnpike just N of Common] (p. 167)

Mary Few, 37, milliner, \$800/\$500, b. England & dau Susie, 10 [living at 8 Main St in Village, ran business] (p. 185)

Sarah Gowing, 33, milliner [sister Harriet, 22, dressmaker; sis-in-law of James W. Towne; living w parents on Old Lyndeboro Rd] (p. 149)

Nellie Lovejoy, 19, milliner [living w parents, pa shoemaker John, and sis Sarah Fanny, 23, tailoress, and 2 sisters, 21 and 17, domestics; Nellie married 1862 Jaquith, was widowed young and took on millinery business] (p. 161)

Eliza J. Stearns, 17, bonnet maker [dau of Hiram D. Stearns] (p. 182)

Sarah E. Upton, 24, milliner [prob. boarding, in household of “widow” Mary Jane Taylor, 34, owned no real estate, where also sister? Lucinda Putnam, 21, domestic] (p. 157) {Note: Appears to be in vicinity of intersection of Middle Street & Cross Street. Mary Jane nee Upton was wife of Nathan Taylor, a teamster; they subsequently rented at 17 Carriage Road.]

Caroline M. Vaugh(a)n, 26, milliner, b. Vt [living w parents on BPR/east side old turnpike north of Common] (p. 166)

E. Frances Wheeler, 22, milliner [living w older parents, pa farmer Daniel; 9 Carriage Rd] (p. 168)

Tailoresses

Note: In 1860, there were **2 tailors** in Amherst, David Cram, 30 (p. 159), who soon moved away, and Robert E. Benden, 40, b. England.

Sarah Elliott, 25, tailoress, in house of farmer Phinehas Upham, 64 (p. 184)

Hattie Hamblett, 38, tailoress (living in household of Charles Richardson, 50, & wife Clara, 55, possibly Middle St.) (p. 157)

Cornelia A. Lovejoy, 26, tailoress [living w parents] (p. 150)

Sarah F.(anny) Lovejoy, 23, tailoress, [living w parents, pa shoemaker John, and sis Nellie, 19, milliner and 2 sisters, 21 and 17, domestics; Sarah Fanny married 1861 C.H. Danforth] (p. 161)

Nancy Merrill, 25, tailoress [living w parents, pa farmer Mark] (p. 171)

Mary Patch, 24, tailoress [living w parents, pa farmer Timothy Patch; sister Susan, 22, teacher] (p.148)

Ada Russell, 16, tailoress [living w older parents in Mack Hill vicinity] (p. 162)

Mary P. Towne, 22, tailoress [living w parents, farmer pa Luther?; sister Cynthia, 18, domestic] (p. 149)

Dressmakers

Mary Jane Barrett, 27, dressmaking [living w parents, farmer Henry] (p. 170)

Catharine Duncklee, 24, dressmaking [living w parents, pa farmer Porter] (p. 153)
Harriet Gowing, 22, dressmaker [sis-in-law of James W. Towne; living w parents on Old Lyndeboro Rd] (p. 149)
Sarah E. Lovejoy, 18, dressmaker [living w parents, pa farmer Isaac (p. 150)
Hellen M. Putnam, 26, dressmaker [living w parents] (p. 161)

1870 Census – Amherst, N.H. (516 heads of household per HQ):

Job opportunities for women and girls seem to have dried up, although many Irish immigrant children living near Milford worked in cotton mill at young age. The ones with needlework occupations were these few:
Austin, Lucy J., 32 and (presumed sister) Joine [sp?], 22, both tailoress, living in household of farmer Hiram Felton, 56, et ux (p. 22)
Gowing, Harriet, 32, dressmaker, living with parents (p. 23)
Rice, Kate F, 37, dressmaker (p. 15), living with relatives, household of women
The only other occupations for women noted are “domestic servant” – 31 – and housekeeper, 2.
Note: In 1870, there was one tailor in Amherst, Robert Benden, b. England.

1880 Census – Amherst N.H. (1225 people indexed by HQ, 25 pages):

Women with Needlework Occupations

Milliners

Dodge, Sophia E. [Mrs.], 44, milliner [living with farm laborer husband at 18 Foundry Street]
Flint, Georgianna, 28, milliner, boarder with widow Ruth Barrett, 53 [in Village at 15 Church St.]
Weston, Lizzie M., 23, milliner, living outside Village with widowed mother Elizabeth [b. 1856 daughter of Wm J. Weston and Betsey Towne, living at 2 Thornton Ferry Rd 2]

Tailoresses

Howland, Lorena, 76, tailoress, mother-in-law of farmer Francis Holbrook [living outside of Village]
Parker, Mary H. [Mrs.], 65, tailoress, mother of head of household [husband = cooper, living outside of Village]

Dressmakers and Seamstresses

Abbot, Sarah P., 23, dressmaker, boarder [in Village]
Fletcher, Elvira?, 50, seamstress, cousin of head-of-household Sarah E. Jacobs, 66 [living in Village]
Jacobs, Emily H., 28, dressmaker, adopted daughter of head Sarah E. Jacobs, 66 [living in Village]
Marvell, Annie _, 21, seamstress, living with widowed mother, 50 [on Foundry St. in Village]
McAlvin, Ellen F., 58, dressmaker, sis-in-law of head Jonathan Knight [living on Carriage Rd in Village]
Rice, Catherine F., 47, seamstress, living with widowed mother, 78 [at 99 BPR, in Village just north of Common]
Russell, Mary Ann A., 36, seamstress, living with widowed mother, 74 [in Village]
Shirley, Ella M., 15, dressmaker [living w family in Village, probably Mack Hill]
Sullivan, Bridget N., 21, dressmaker, living outside Village with widowed ma, 60; sis, 24, works in cotton mill

Wilson, Ruth B., 70, widow, **carpet weaver**

Wilson, Sarah R., 28, machine sewing, living with widowed mother Ruth, 70

ABOUT THIS FILE

File: Amherst_Milliners.doc created/typed-up Feb. 2012 (from research 2009-2012) by Katrina Holman. Rev. March 2017 (First sent to jls 9 April 2011 as Amherst_Milliners_expanded.doc, but still dated 9 March 2012.)
After April 2011: added Tuck, Flint, Blair, Small. 9/2012: added Miss D. R. Show, dress-making in 1845; Caroline Vaughn's older sister married to tailor Robert Emerson. 10/2012: Added location for Dudley Carlton, and connected Sarah Upton in 1860 census with Miss Upton earlier at Miss Clagett's. 11/2012: Added Blair inherited 11 Cross St. 12/2012: filled in more of Sally Low Benden. 2/2013: added Rachel (Johnson) Sewall; death date of Nancy (Shepard) Curtis Roby and her continuation in business in Concord before her untimely death. 8/2013: Added Mrs. C. E. Atkinson in 1917 and B. Roberts in 1923. 9/2013: Added Annie J. Parker. 2/2014: Added Miss Atkinson June 1889. 4/2014: Added taxes and Mrs. Nichols' diary entries for Mrs. Hamilton; 1881 tax Georgia A Flint. 8/2014: Added Sophia Morrison geneal. 3/2017: Added Atkinson shop in “old brick block” April 1889. Introductory section added Nov. 2023.

Submitted by Katrina Holman to the Historical Society of Amherst in Nov. 2023 to be made accessible to the public for the benefit of historical researchers.