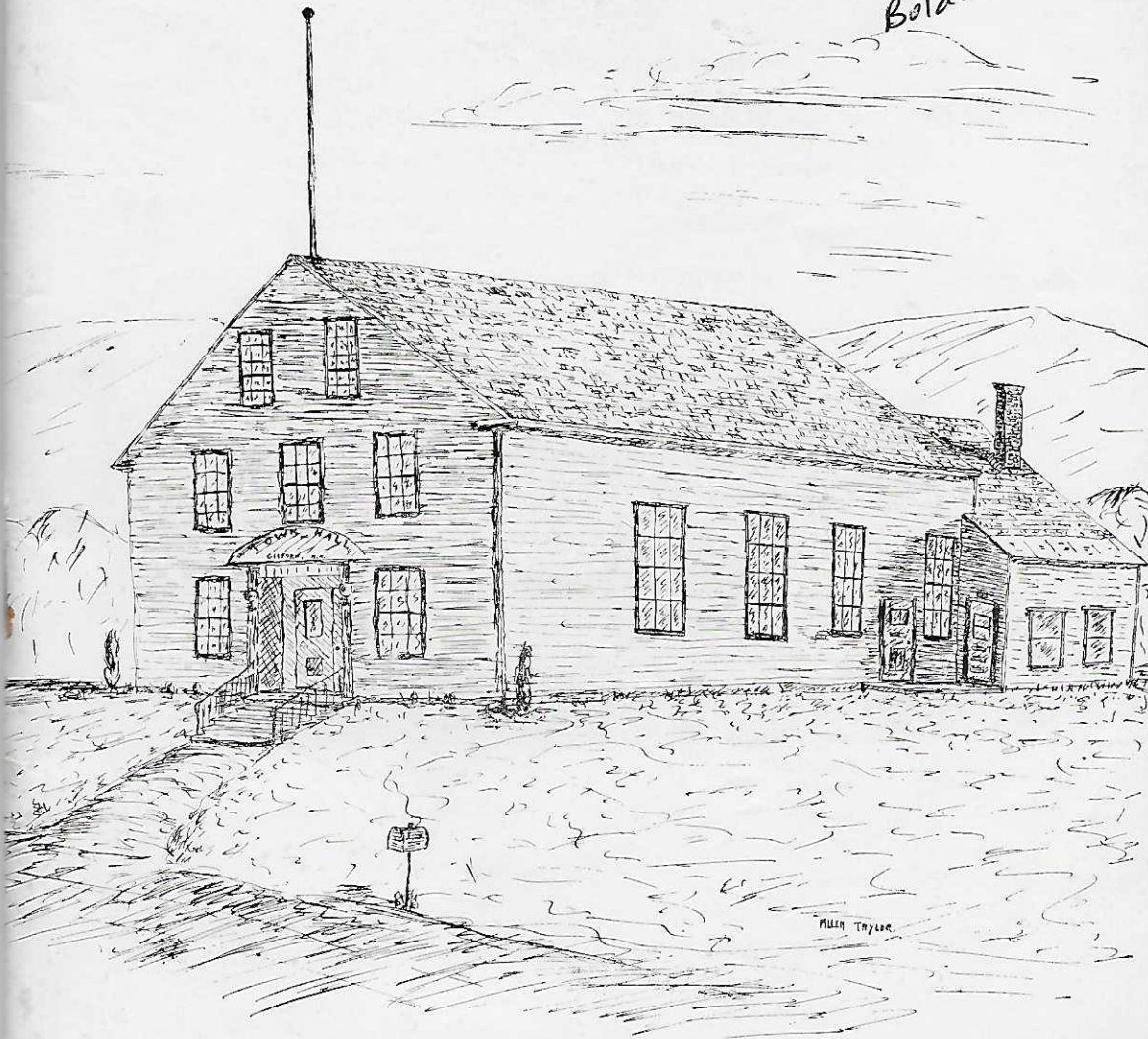


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The GILFORD STORY

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THE GILFORD STORY

Compiled for the

Thompson Ames Historical Society

By

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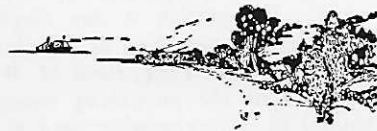
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Under the Editorial Supervision of

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Preface

1962
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1777

One hundred and eighty-five years ago a band of hardy New Englanders left the security of their Gilmanton homes to settle in the wilderness of the "Upper Parish"—modern Gilford. In time these pioneers were joined by others. As the settlement grew and prospered, the desire to sever the legal ties that bound it to Gilmanton became stronger yearly. Finally, in 1812, after lengthy petitions, longer speeches and a legislative act, permission was granted to organize the community as a separate town.

This brief history of Gilford has been compiled under the auspices of the Thompson Ames Historical Society as part of the celebration marking the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of this event. An attempt to give personal credit to all who have contributed material used in this book would be a difficult task. However, we are grateful to all who provided us with data—from scraps of paper tucked away in old books, to carefully written records and documents.

Dedicated to those men and women who settled in the "Upper Parish" in 1777, the pages that follow are by no means a complete history of Gilford. Far more research must be done before such a volume is written, but it is our sincere hope that this booklet will prompt those interested in the history of our town to seek more information so that additional chapters can be added to *The Gilford Story*.

THE PUBLISHING COMMITTEE

An interesting story is connected with the Hunt home. While serving as a soldier in the Revolution, Abel Hunt had a dream in which he saw a slight elevation surrounded by woods and hills and a charming lake, dotted with islands and backed by lofty mountains. This dream so impressed him that he went hunting for such a place, resolved, if he found it, to make his home there. Fate or chance directed him to this part of Lake Winnepesaukee, and he immediately recognized it as the background of his dream.

The Hunt family, particularly Thomas E. Hunt, was long active in compiling local history. He wrote several articles in 1912 about Gilford at the time of its hundredth anniversary, and also gave an historical address at the centennial celebration.

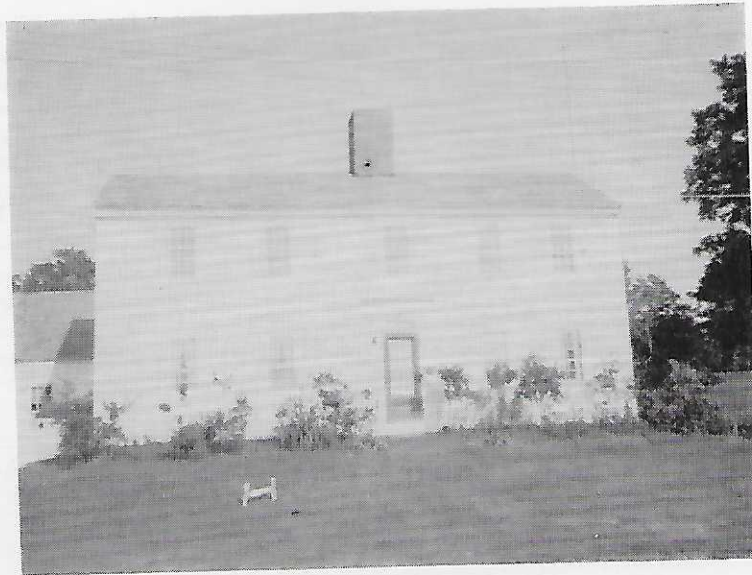
Perry E. Hunt assisted Edgar H. Wilcomb in the writing and publishing of segments of local history in *Winnepesaukee Lake Country Gleanings*.

Eunice Hunt carried on the work of her father and grandfather and wrote many interesting papers on Gilford. After her death, the notes came into the possession of her sister, Mrs. Marion (Hunt) Atwood and have proved most useful in compiling this history.

THE JEWETT HOMESTEAD *

The Jewett name has always been prominent in local history. Benjamin Jewett settled west of Gilford village on the farm now owned by Charles H. Bolduc. He was the first to settle in this district and the Jewett genealogy states that he cleared land out of the wilderness and built a home here in 1759, becoming one of the largest landowners in the district. His holdings went well into Laconia, bordering the land of Samuel Jewett (first settler in Laconia) and far to the north of the village. The first home built by the Jewetts is the long narrow building situated to the south of the present Bolduc house. A section was later added to this house and it now serves as a garage and woodshed.

The Jewett family lived in this building while the main house was being built. That house was incorporated into another and can be identified by the large bay windows which were later added. About 1838, the house was enlarged, but was struck by lightning about 1880 and was damaged slightly by fire. While repairing this damage, most of the house was remodeled. At the same time a large barn was built. In 1905 the carriage house (now a garage and storage building) was erected. This building has a walkway, connecting it to the main house. The second story of this building was used by the Jewetts to store wood and they installed a rope pulley on the rear of the building to haul up the wood. The house has been remodeled several times; and although the outside is unchanged, little remains of the original interior. During reconstruction, following the fire, the fireplaces were removed, and replaced with Franklin stoves, and the two large Dutch ovens in the cellar have been boarded over.



THE RICHARD JEWETT HOME
(Mr. and Mrs. Ena Morin)



THE JEWETT HOMESTEAD, 1779
(Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Bolduc)

Bolduc

There are 16 rooms in the house, which has a superb view of the White Mountains and Lake Winnepesaukee. One of its unusual features was a primitive icebox in the cellar. It was a large cupboard, about seven feet high and three feet wide, equipped with several shelves, which could be brought up into the pantry by a series of ropes and pulleys.

The huge double doors in the front of the house lead into a large hall which has a graceful staircase leading to the second floor, turning to the rooms in the front of the house. A second stairway leads from the kitchen to the rooms in the rear. The rafters and beams used in the older parts of the house are all handhewn, joined with wooden pegs while exposed corner posts can be seen in the front rooms. In early days, when mail was carried from Dover to Portsmouth, the Jewett Place was used as a stopping point to change horses. The Jewetts also established the first maple sugar industry in 1811. The old sugar house has been used every season since.

The Jewett family was engaged in several businesses. They had a large cooperage which was located in the village and also made boots and shoes. Benjamin Jewett, Jr., Esq., for many years operated a store in Gilford Village. He was also a justice of the peace and postmaster for many years.

Dozens of ledgers, diaries, and day books containing much data on early Gilford were left by the Jewetts in the attic when they sold the house. These have proved very helpful in doing research on Gilford history. They sold the house in 1917 to George L. Lucier. The property then came into the hands of John C. and Mystie E. Lucier who sold it to Gedeon Bolduc in 1919. The farm was then purchased by his son, Charles H. Bolduc and has remained in his possession.

Near the Benjamin Jewett house is another in which Jewetts lived for many years. Now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ena Morin, it is a two and a half story house of hand hewn timber set with wooden pegs. The large front door, of Christian cross design, opens into a hall from which a very narrow staircase with spoke banister leads to two spacious bedrooms upstairs, one with an unusual fireplace. Two other fireplaces are found downstairs; one in the parlor, and a very large one, complete with Dutch oven, in the bedroom which formerly served as kitchen. Old beaded, grooved panelling is still to be seen in the present kitchen. The property was sold by Richard Jewett in 1913 to Flora A. Hill, who resold it to Isaac Breton. Mr. and Mrs. Morin purchased the house from Mr. Breton (Mrs. Morin's father) in 1931.

KIMBALL'S CASTLE

One of Gilford's most famous landmarks is Kimball's Castle built by Benjamin A. Kimball, president of the Concord, Montreal and Lake Shore Railroad. Construction of the large stone building was begun in 1897 and completed in 1899. "The Breads" as it was affection-