

Biographical Review (1896) Items

Martin North, born Nov. 5 1804 in Torrington, was an early settler in Colebrook. He was a chair maker, plus manufactured spinning wheels. He married Abigail Eno.

Horace North, son of Martin, was born October 10 1833. His emigrant ancestor, **John North**, was born in England in 1615 and came to this country in 1635 in the ship *Susan & Ellen*.

Joel North was a blacksmith, he repaired clocks and watches. He bought a small farm with a sawmill, which he sold in 1834.

Rev. Mr. Mace conducted a "select school" in Robertsville during the 1850s. It was attended by those who had finished with the district schools. [Today the building is gone, but his house, which was adjacent to the school building, still exists as #1 Old Forge Road.]

Nelson D. Ford of Winchester, owned the oldest established cheese box factory in this section of the state.

Francis Benedict, born in Danbury, Connecticut, moved to Norfolk in 1760 and became the first settler in the northeast section of the township. He married Mary Lyon, and they had a son, Francis, who lived on the farm all his life, except for two or three years, when he was employed in a shovel factory at Colebrook Center. On his farm he had a sawmill and also turned out wooden dishes.

John J. Carroll of Winsted, was born in Canaan in 1851. In 1864, he hired himself out as a farm laborer at \$6.00 per month for one year, then at \$10.00 per month the second year.

1889 A grist mill in Washington, Connecticut was run by "three wheels combined", giving 90 horsepower. Besides milling a large amount of flour and grain, the miller ground about 800 bushels of rye annually; also produced about 1,000 barrels of cider per year.

Israel Crissey, born in Woodbury, Connecticut on March 31 1764, first settled in Colebrook, but moved to Norfolk. He married Alice Woodruff, daughter of Hezekiah Woodruff of Colebrook on February 7 1788. They had a son, Benjamin W., born on May 19 1791.

Henry N. Camp of New Milford, born on October 4 1826, at age 12 (1838), began working on a farm for \$4.00 per month. He worked there 10 years, at which point he married and purchased a farm of 40 acres.

Fire bricks were first manufactured in Litchfield County by Lyman Hine, of New Milford about the year 1825.

Reuben Rockwell of Colebrook, born August 24 1818, was postmaster from 1841-1857 and part of 1861, then he was assessor of the 4th Congressional District until it was abolished, when he again became postmaster until 1893. [He died in 1898.]

John Preston, born in 1735 in Windham, moved to Harwinton as a young man. He arrived in a two-wheeled cart containing, among other things, a cedar pork barrel inscribed with the date "1737", which was still in the possession of the family in 1895. In those days it was considered an evidence of thriftlessness and improvidence for a man to be out of pork, but as shad were cheap and plentiful, it was not uncommon to see a man coming from the Connecticut River on horseback with a few dozen shad thrown behind him on his horse, a sight sure to bring forth the sometimes unjust comment from the onlookers of, "That man is out of pork!"

Daniel Deming, Revolutionary War veteran, a shoemaker by trade, married Judith Loomis. His son, Allen Deming, lifelong resident of Colebrook, built a brick house. He married Verena Woodruff of Stonington. They had five children, one of whom was Harvey, born on January 27 1827. Harvey married Amarette Spencer of Colebrook in 1851. They had five children, two of whom died young. The survivors were John Allen, Clayton and Homer P., who was born April 7 1870.

1850s A young man who apprenticed himself to a carpenter, did so for three years at sixty dollars per year, at which time he became a journeyman, and went to work for himself.

James Allen, a blacksmith of Kempton, Bedford, England, whose son, Roger emigrated to New England in 1638 and changed the spelling of his name to **Alling**. This remained in effect for about one century, when the descendants changed it back to the original spelling; this causes a major headache for researchers.

Samuel Bostwick, (1723-1789) of New Milford, Connecticut, freed his slaves (that he had inherited from his father's estate) "long before Connecticut permitted such a thing". He wasn't allowed to grant them their freedom, so he sold them to each other for .25¢ each. [Presumably they would have had to remain on the Bostwick estate, but at least they were not slaves and no doubt were compensated for their work.]