

## **561 Colebrook Road, the History of**

The history of this most historically important structure in Colebrook is both fascinating and complicated. Erastus Wolcott, an important member of the Windsor community, was approached by the Colonial Legislature in October of 1765 and told that if he were to erect a sawmill in the Town of Colebrook (which at that time had no structures of any sort) by the following May (1766), he would be granted seventeen pounds worth of land in the northeast corner of the township. Land records show that he did indeed receive title to 60 acres of land in the eighth tier of lots in January, 1767. This is proof that the dwelling for the sawyer was constructed in the year 1766.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> of 1767, Wolcott sold ½ of his sawmill and ½ of his dwelling house to Samuel Rockwell. The following year Rockwell purchased the other ½ of the house, but remained as 50/50 business partners with Wolcott throughout the rest of their lives. Samuel lived out the rest of his life in this house, dying in 1794.

The dwelling was left to his son, Reuben, who had the main part of the present building built in 1796. There is a smaller addition at the rear that was added in the 1930s. This is the history of this dwelling, which has been undergoing extensive remodeling this past year (2012). Because all of the large maple trees adjacent to the house had to be removed due to advanced decay, what the observer sees today is no doubt much like what a Colebrook resident would have seen in the late 1790s. The central one-story part of the building is thus Colebrook's oldest dwelling, and although its official modern name is "The Samuel Rockwell House", Samuel never saw the main portion nor the rear addition.

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