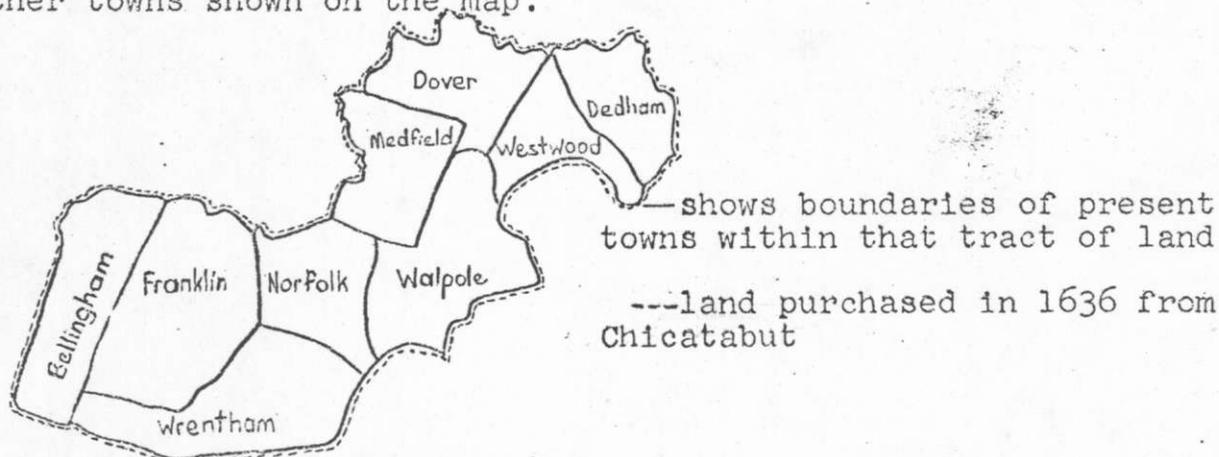


Our Land and Its Settlers

## Indians and Their Trails

When the Puritans came to America in the 1630's and settled where Boston is now, Indians roamed through the woods in Massachusetts. One of the famous Indians of Massachusetts in the 1630's was Chicatabut. He claimed that he was the chief Indian ruler of many of the tribes around South Dedham. In 1636 a large tract of land was purchased from him. This land included what is now Dedham, Westwood, Walpole, Medfield and other towns shown on the map.



Soon Puritans settled in the Dedham territory close to the Dorchester settlements. People were afraid to settle any great distance from one another. They feared the many dangers that existed at that time.

Although the large tract of land had been purchased from Chicatabut, several Indian chiefs claimed the area. Massasoit claimed it in the 1640's. Later it was claimed by the famous King Phillip, and Wompatuk, son of Chicatabut. Thus, the early settlers constantly faced the danger of being driven off the land and having their homes burned.

Settlements, payments of money and land titles were agreed upon with Wompatuk and King Phillip. However, these treaties failed to end the Indians' claim to the land.

As late as 1685 another agreement was made. This time it was with Josias, the grandson of Chicatabut. He agreed that the white people could have claim to the land as long as two hundred acres was left between Dorchester and the Neponset River for two Indian reservations. In this two hundred acres was the area now called East Walpole.

In October, 1685 Josias sold what is now East Walpole to Dedham, but he retained his claim to the right to hunt within South Dedham. You recall South Dedham refers to the present Walpole area.

The Indians had many trails through the Dedham territory. There were paths in every direction through South Dedham. Some were blazed trails. A blazed trail consists of marks made on trees by a tomahawk. Others were paths worn bare by trotting feet.

Where did these paths and trails lead? Most of them led to Indian hunting, fishing and planting grounds. Streams provided them with pure water and fish. The woodlands were rich with such game as wild turkeys, pheasants, ducks, geese, bears, foxes, wolves and wildcats. For these reasons, South Dedham especially now East Walpole was a popular area for the Indians.

## Early White Settlers

Around 1640 a few courageous men left the Dedham settlement near Dorchester to explore the area further west. Traveling on foot along Indian paths they passed through swamps and hills.

When these men returned, they told stories about thousands of cedar trees growing in a vast swamp. Cedar trees are evergreens which grow sixteen to eighteen feet tall. The reddish wood from these trees was often used because it was long lasting.

It wasn't until the 1660's that the first permanent settlers appeared in what is now Walpole Center. James Fales was the first settler. Shortly after came Thomas Clap, Samuel Parker and Quinton Stockwell. They were lured over the Indian trails to this area by the stories of the rich timberland. The men came in hopes of building a sawmill.

Soon four crude one-room wooden dwellings were erected near what is now Walpole Center. One was located near Spring Brook, another near the present Kendall and Main Streets, and two at the corner of Stone Street and Massachusetts Avenue.

## The First Industry

The early settlers decided to build a sawmill at the cedar swamp near the Neponset River. The sawmill was to be located near one of the three main Indian trails leading from Dedham through the South Dedham area. The old trail that was selected has become Walpole's fine paved highway known as Route 1A or Main Street.

After the location of the mill was determined, saw pits were built. These were twelve feet in length, four and one-half feet across and five feet deep. Boards were sawed directly from the logs. The man in the pit pulled the downward cutting stroke. It was this stroke that left its mark on every inch of board. Another man would straddle the log while holding the upper handle of the saw. Thus, he would direct the cut. Near the sawmill were a few rough log dwellings for the workers.

It was very difficult for the oxen to haul lumber over the narrow Indian path to the main Dedham settlement. So a crude highway was laid out. Not a highway in the sense of the word today, but a clearing which consisted of several feet of land free from trees.

Along this newly cleared highway passed supplies for the early settlers and lumber for the other people in Dedham. Once in a while people traveled beyond the sawmill road, as it was called in the 1660's to Wrentham. At that time Wrentham had only sixteen families.

### More People Come

In 1669 two more men, Caleb Church and Francis Jones, joined the small sawmill community in South Dedham.

As more people passed along the two main Indian trails and settled the tract purchased in the 1630's from Chicatabut, the Indians increased their attacks on the white settlers. Fear and suspicion continued between Indians and whites.

At this time, 1630's, King Phillip had complained that the white man's fences prevented the Indians from using the land. He further claimed that the land should be shared by the Indians and white people. Thus, although the land was being settled by the white people, King Phillip felt, the Indians should have ownership and control of it.

In 1675, at the start of the King Phillip's War, a force gathered in Dedham to fight the Indians. Thomas Clap and James Fales joined them in an attack on a Narragansett Fort in Rhode Island. This fort was occupied by Indians.

Friendly Indians were ordered to the Indian reservations at Natick or Ponkapoag, Canton to protect them from danger during the war.

South Dedham was fortunate not to be within the area of the war. However, it was under constant attack from Indians until the late 1700's.

Just three years after the start of the terrible Indian war, in 1678, Ezra Morse built a sawmill near Ellis Pond on the

main Indian trail in South Dedham. This was part of Walpole until 1738. Now it is Norwood. This sawmill was Walpole's second industry.

Although the Indians were useful in freeing the forests of wolves, wildcats, foxes, rattlesnakes and other dangerous wild beasts, some of the townspeople living in South Dedham in 1682 told the Indians to leave. The Indians left, but refused to give up their fishing privileges.

In the 1690's and early 1700's the sawmill divide took place. This sawmill divide gave several acres near the mill to individual owners. This land division brought more people into this territory. These families cleared land for their homes and for planting. In the process, Indian hunting grounds became ploughed fields.

Dwellings were built from boards produced at the sawmills or cut by hand nearby. The homes were furnished with only such bare essentials as a few wooden chairs, tables, beds and a chest. All the furniture was hand-made including the pegs. Later, looms were built and spinning wheels secured.

To accommodate the increased amount of traveling in the early eighteenth century, a wooden bridge was built over Spring Brook near Main Street.

As the century came to a close, South Dedham was becoming a prosperous community. More and more people were settling the area near the sawmill.

Life in the 700's

## Dedham Refuses Its Southern Townspeople

You will recall that the present Walpole territory was owned by Dedham until 1724. It was known as South Dedham.

The people who lived in South Dedham were separated from activities in Dedham. It was difficult for these settlers to travel eight miles along the Indian trails to attend church, town meetings or other special gatherings at the Dedham Village. Medfield was much closer for them, being only about three miles away. Because of this hardship, Dedham allowed the people in South Dedham to pay one-third of their church taxes to Medfield for the privilege of attending its church. However, the people of South Dedham still had to pay high taxes on their homes as well as taxes for the support of Dedham's schools.

In the early 1700's the people of the Dedham Village were asked during a town meeting to relieve the people of South Dedham of their tax for the Dedham meeting house so that they could have their own minister. However, their requests were denied. The majority of townspeople voted against it because without the taxes from this group their own financial burden would increase.

In 1722 the South Dedham residents asked the people of the Dedham Village if they might become an independent town. Again they were refused.

## An Historic Year, 1724

On May 15, 1724 the question of forming a new township was brought up again. This time the Dedham townspeople agreed. In June of that year, the House of Representatives of the Province of Massachusetts Bay granted the sawmill residents separation from Dedham as a new township. Because the township had so few inhabitants and desire for separation from Dedham was not unanimous, the upper Massachusetts House or Council was reluctant to grant it the right to become a town.

The question of township came up again before the House and favorable action was taken. But it wasn't until early December of that year that the Council took its final vote and agreed with the Massachusetts House of Representatives on the formation of a new town. Finally on December 10, 1724 a new town called Walpole came into being.

Perhaps you are wondering why the name Walpole was selected by those forty-eight settlers. At the time the residents of South Dedham petitioned for an independent town, Sir Robert Walpole was prime minister of England and her colonies. He was a peace-loving man and he had always proved a true and helpful friend. In recognition of his fine qualities the town was named in his honor.

## Hardships Faced by the New Town

One of the first requirements placed upon the Town of Walpole by the Massachusetts Council was to erect a meeting house within eighteen months and to secure a minister. This proved difficult because there was disagreement among the people as to where the meeting house was to be built. Finally, it was agreed that it should be built near what is now Main Street just before you get to Walpole Center. The meeting house was to be twenty-six feet long and eighteen feet wide.

Soon the eighteen months were up. Still the meeting house had not been completed.

In 1726 the residents of Walpole voted to make the meeting house twenty-eight feet long and twenty feet wide -- two feet longer and wider.

While some were attempting to build the meeting house, others tried to secure a minister. Reverend Belcher accepted after being offered one hundred pounds (about two hundred eighty dollars) for the first two years to be increased by ten pounds (about twenty-eight dollars) every year after that.

Although the salary was large for those days, it was not enough. The minister also received all the firewood he needed anytime he wanted it.

How would this and other town expenses be paid? The people planned to pay their bills by free contribution. However, this method didn't seem to be successful. Reverend Belcher

left Walpole in 1728 because he had received only fifty pounds for pay. Also the town had no meeting house.

Walpole was again faced with the same two problems:

1. Building a meeting house
2. Finding a minister

In 1729 Reverend Payson, a young man twenty-five years old and a graduate of Harvard (the first college in our country), was called upon to act as the town's minister. The town agreed to pay him one hundred pounds a year and in addition to that four-foot logs were to be brought to the place where he lived. Reverend Payson accepted the town's offer.

As progress continued on the erection of the meeting house, the people turned their efforts towards establishing a school and building better roads.

The town was faced with other hardships. Among them was the constant danger from Indians and wild animals.

## The First Meeting House

Finally, in the late 1740's the meeting house was finished. It had taken over twenty years to build. The structure was small and crude having been built from boards perhaps sawed at the local sawmill. A fireplace furnished heat on damp or cold days.

The pews were built by each family and would be for their own use. Thus, there were many different sized pews of various designs and heights. Many walls were so high that the people couldn't be seen in them. This proved to be an advantage because they could fall asleep and not be seen. Several pews had floors higher than the meeting house floors. In order to enter them, you passed through a gate, walked up a step or two and sat down. Here you would remain for several hours on Sunday.

The very poor people had only a wooden bench with no back on it. Imagine sitting three or four hours on it!

The boys and girls sat in the gallery near the rafters. It was hot and stuffy in the summer and freezing in the winter.

In 1755 the townspeople voted to elect twelve overseers of young people to curb their whispering and laughing in the church or meeting house as it was usually called.

The meeting house was not only used as a church and a place to hold town meetings or other events but in 1758 the town's stock of ammunition was placed there.

## The French Neutrals

There was fighting among the English and French in the area now Maine and Nova Scotia during the 1750's. Two residents from Walpole joined other men from surrounding towns and left this area to aid the British.

The French Neutrals were taken from the region to settle in other lands in Massachusetts. Maine was part of Massachusetts at that time and was not known as a separate state.

Some French families came to Walpole to live. The townspeople had to provide them with shelter and food. However, the people who cared for the French would be reimbursed for it.

As the struggle continued between the French and English, other Walpole men joined the group from Massachusetts to march on Canada. A year later, Walpole's soldiers took part in the English move against Fort Ticonderoga, and also fought the final campaigns of the war which resulted in France's loss of Canada.

Months passed since the first French settler had come to Walpole. Still no money was paid to the Walpole residents who fed and cared for them. Therefore, the townspeople didn't want the responsibility of caring for the French Neutrals any longer. Thus, after several years, upon the request of the Walpole townspeople, they left. Banning together with other French Neutrals, they started in 1766 on their long walk to their old homelands in Northern Massachusetts or Nova Scotia.

## A Struggle Is Near

Early in 1768 Sir Francis Bernard, Governor of Massachusetts, made a decision to dissolve the Massachusetts General Court. What did this mean to the colonists? To them it seemed that they had lost their only means of true representation in the government controlled by the British.

Why had Sir Bernard made such a radical decision to dissolve the General Court? The members of the court were in favor of the colonists in their opposition to "taxation without representation".

The situation reached a climax when Sir Francis Bernard refused the colonists' request for a special session of the General Court. The colonists were not defeated by his decision. Instead, they took matters into their own hands. In September, 1768 a special meeting of representatives from each town was called to meet at Faneuil Hall.

The people of Walpole being interested in the affairs of Massachusetts sent one person to represent them. Such topics as the increased number of British troops, larger taxes and greater levies made upon them by the British were discussed.

Again, Sir Bernard interfered with the discussions. He wasn't going to let that meeting interfere with his duties as a British governor loyal to the King of England. He ordered the meeting dissolved and warned them that any person not obeying the King's orders would be punished. However, this

didn't stop the colonists who were determined to do something about their hardships under British rule. Therefore, they continued their meeting.

Months passed quickly. Soon September came and with it one of the most unforgettable days Massachusetts settlers had encountered up to that period. On September 28, 1768 the British troops arrived in Boston.

How did this affect the settlers of Boston? Why were they so concerned? With the presence of British troops and by paying judges out of the Royal treasury, England was able to establish a tighter control over the settlers. The colonists felt they were losing their rights and freedoms. They wanted a government run by their own people to ensure their rights and liberties.

As years passed, the colonists labored under increased burdens and hardships. In January, 1773 a special town meeting was called by Walpole to discuss the course of action. At the meeting it was agreed that Walpole would unite with other towns which were also crying out against the grievances placed on them by the British. This included war as a means of bettering their conditions.

Some of Walpole's townspeople feared clashes with the British. Because of this fear in May, 1773, Walpole set aside five pounds or about fourteen dollars in today's money to build a powder house six feet square.

The following year, one hundred fifty pounds of gunpowder,

bullets and flint was secured as ammunition and placed in the powder house. Also one pound and four shillings was donated to assist the Committee of Congress in establishing a Massachusetts Provincial Government. Money was also given to the Continental Congress to help the representatives from the thirteen colonies in North America who were meeting in Philadelphia to discuss the British situation.

The English rulers imposed still more restrictions. They prohibited town meetings in 1774. However, Walpole held one in that year to select delegates to attend various meetings held by Boston and the surrounding towns. These meetings were held to determine what should be done in view of the closing of Boston's Port and the extra tax burden on the colonists due to the Sugar and Stamp Acts. The Sugar Act placed a duty on foreign goods like sugar, silks and molasses. The Stamp Act required stamps to be bought on almost everything that was sold here including newspapers. This was a way that Britain provided revenue for supporting its army and for regulating colonial trade to encourage British trade.

Walpole now had various committees. Some aided in running the town, others assisted in the cause of the colonists. In December, 1774 a committee of prominent leaders in Walpole was established to inspect merchants and traders to see that goods imported from England were not being sold to Walpole residents.

Our town like many other towns had its Minutemen. In 1775

twenty pounds (about fifty-six dollars) was appropriated to pay the men who were being trained to fight against the British soldiers.

On one occasion early in the year 1775, a Walpole resident, Phillip Robbins, informed some British soldiers in a Boston inn that the Americans although poorly equipped would be better fighters than the British if war broke out between them. For that remark, he was arrested and held prisoner a few hours.

Agreeing that they were loosing their freedom, the majority of Walpole's residents, including Phillip Robbins, soon declared their desire for independence from England.

The question now arising in the minds of the settlers was who would be the first to face the British in battle. Would Walpole be prepared should it get involved in a war? You will soon find the answer to this question.

## War Comes

April, 1775 was a month of greatly increased hardships. During this month the Americans and British began fighting at Lexington.

As soon as news of the fighting reached Walpole, the Minutemen secured arms and horses and marched toward Lexington. About one hundred sixty men, out of Walpole's population of eight hundred, hastened to fight against the British. However, by the time they arrived in the area the encounter with the British troops was over. Thus, they took no part in the actual fighting. The Minutemen spent a week in Boston then returned to Walpole because food was scarce.

Later that year the Massachusetts Provincial Congress asked for troops to establish an army to fight the British. Walpole's troops were among those of the newly formed company.

In June of 1775 Walpole quickly responded to the alarm that there was fighting at Breed's Hill. This is now referred to as the Battle of Bunker Hill.

At this time many colonial troops from Rhode Island and Connecticut passed through Walpole on their way to Boston. Cannon and other arms also passed along Walpole's three main roads leading to Boston.

Walpole now had men in the colonial camps at Roxbury, Charlestown and even in Rhode Island, after the British fleet had sailed into Narragansett Bay.

In 1777 Walpole voted to give thirteen pounds or about thirty-six dollars to every man who would enlist in the Continental army for three years. To us this seems a very small salary and the men at that time thought so too because they failed to respond to the offer. So the sum of money was greatly increased to one thousand pounds and a half-bushel of corn for each twenty miles they traveled.

—This new offer readily brought many acceptances. In addition to these, Walpole hired three soldiers who lived in other countries to fight. One of the hired soldiers came from Ireland, the other two came from France. Hiring soldiers from foreign countries was a common practice.

Even though a few Walpole families refused to pay taxes which would be used to pay the soldiers, appropriations of money for the war continued. Among these appropriations was eighteen thousand pounds for beef for the army.

Years passed. Walpole's soldiers were still fighting in the war. People became enthusiastic every time news arrived telling of victories by the Continental armies.

Finally the war was over on October 19, 1781. After the surrender of Cornwallis, the British General, thousands of French troops passed over Walpole's roads. Remember that the French under General Lafayette's command helped the colonists fight the British.

## Walpole Continues to Prosper

In 1776 Eleazar Smith came to Walpole to live. If you were living in Walpole in that year, you would know him as an inventor. Among the many things he invented were:

1. A machine that turned out 1,500 pins a day
2. The first machine in America that cut nails from cold iron
3. A machine for making cards. Cards were used to comb and fluff wool or flax fibers. His idea was stolen and patented before he could perfect the machinery.

Also, in 1776 smallpox, a highly contagious and deadly disease, was spreading in Massachusetts. At the town meeting that year permission was granted to the town's doctor to inoculate the children. This action saved the lives of many children in Walpole.

It is interesting for us to note that Walpole approved the Articles of Confederation in 1777. You will recall that these were a series of articles binding the thirteen states together, allowing one vote to each state regardless of its size. It gave Congress no power to secure taxes or money other than by asking the states for it. Thus, the states retained most of the power including the right to issue and coin money.

Maybe you are wondering what the Congress could do? It could control foreign affairs, an army and navy which were

raised and equipped by the states, and Indian affairs.

The residents of our town showed another interest in their state government. One year after passing the Articles of Confederation, Walpole approved the constitution of Massachusetts. But due to the failure of many towns to vote on the constitution, no action was ever taken on it. So in 1779 Massachusetts held a constitutional convention. Walpole chose and sent a representative to the meeting. Finally on September, 1779 Walpole's men voted on the constitution of Massachusetts in our first state election.

After the war was over, the townspeople turned their attention to the meeting house. By now it was beginning to show its forty-six years of use. Thus, in 1783 the old one was torn down and a new one built. Material that was in good shape was re-used. The building was sixty feet long and forty feet wide.

To erect the new building and to operate the town effectively, the town needed funds. One method of securing money was by fining people about six shillings or eighty-four cents if they tied their horse within twenty-four feet (a rod and a half) of the new meeting house.

Massachusetts towns were grouped together into counties. Walpole was part of Suffolk County. The townspeople had in 1727, 1732 and 1740, asked to be separated from Suffolk County which included the city of Boston. The answer was always no. However, the residents wouldn't take no for an answer. Walpole again asked in 1785 to be in a different county.

Why didn't they wish to belong in Suffolk County? The main reasons were the distance the jurors had to travel and the small pay received.

Walpole's request for a new county was again denied. Finally, they got their wish but it wasn't until 1793. In that year a new county was established called Norfolk County.

Now that peace had come more people were traveling. Stagecoaches and taverns were busy accommodating travelers. Walpole had four taverns during the 1700's. These included: the Roe Buck Tavern, on what is now Coney Street, East Walpole; Clapp Tavern, near the present town hall; the Brass Ball, just beyond Walpole Center; and the Morse Tavern, in what is now East Walpole Center.

It was expensive to venture far from home. It cost twenty-five dollars in 1795 to take the stagecoach from Boston to New York. Travel was bad because of the poor roads. It took eight days to cover two hundred thirty miles. Not many of you would have wanted to take such a journey unless it was absolutely necessary. Today you can sit back in a modern car with soft comfortable seats, shock absorbers, strong springs, and travel to New York in about five hours using our super-highways. Times have certainly changed!

Post riders in the late 1700's took only five days on horseback. It's hard for us to imagine that the people of the 1790's thought this was a speed record. Compared to the eight days it certainly was.

### More Changes Occur

In 1802 Walpole had its Light Infantry. Its members were easily recognized by their high leather hats with brass mountings. The Infantry was in addition to its Militia.

Relations with England declined in the early 1800's and the value of keeping these military units in readiness to fight was recognized by all. Even those who thought they had been unnecessary since the war for independence had been fought now agreed to support its cause.

While relations with England grew worse, Walpole residents again thought of protection for the town. In 1811 they agreed to build a new brick powder house seven feet by eight feet.

A year later war with the British came again. Not all of Walpole's residents favored the war. Many times Walpole's Infantry and Artillery Companies were prepared to march but they saw no action. On one occasion they got as far as Boston and prepared for an attack that never occurred. You will recall it was during this war that the British burned the White House.

In the meantime, while war preparations were going on, other industries came to Walpole. Among them was George Bird's paper mill. You will read about his mill later on.

After the war in 1815, Polly's Tavern, East Walpole, became a very busy terminal. As many as twenty stagecoaches drawn by four horses would stop at the tavern for refreshments

before continuing their trip to Providence to change horses. Later, this old tavern became East Walpole's post office.

Although peace had come to the country, fighting continued in Walpole. Not fighting in the sense of guns and war, but arguments arising from differences of opinion.

What was the cause of this? It seems that some people attending church in the meeting house became dissatisfied with the views preached by Reverend Storer who had been appointed minister of the meeting house. These people separated from the church and attended Sunday services elsewhere.

Finally, in 1827 these discontented people built an orthodox church. Here they could cling to their old ideas of worship. The men and women sat on different sides of the vestry just as they had done in the early Dedham church. In 1850 galleries were built. At this date the women and girls occupied the eastern part of the galleries and the men and boys the western part.

Interest in the Walpole Militia was beginning to decline. By 1830 the Massachusetts Militia was reorganized and the Walpole Company was made part of the First Regiment. This regiment was disbanded in 1835 because its members lost interest.

In the middle of the nineteenth century the first railroad ran through Walpole. Its significance and importance was felt by all, especially the industries. How did it help Walpole in its development as an industrial town? Railroads

provided convenient and fast transportation.

Excitement was high among the people who attended church in the meeting house in 1851. It was the first time an organ was played there.

Again war comes during the nineteenth century or 1800's. Not with the British but among the colonists themselves -- the north versus the south over the question of slavery. Abraham Lincoln called for volunteers in 1861 to save the Union and to abolish slavery. Four Walpole men were among the first to serve. One of the men, Lowell Fales, participated in the first Battle of Bull Run. The town raised money to pay each volunteer enough money in addition to his army pay to make his total pay twenty-five dollars a month.

In 1862 twenty-four men of Walpole were ordered into military service. Walpole's quota was now filled, so a dozen men were "sold" to Charlestown. Being "sold" meant that Charlestown paid a soldier's bounty and other additional wages.

Our town now had sixty men enlisted in the service for three years. Several were under eighteen years of age.

Just a year later, two hundred twenty of Walpole's men were in the Union Army. Twelve of these men gave their lives for a "United" States and emancipation of the slaves.

As late as 1881 the town meetings were held in the vestry of the first church. It was poorly ventilated and not many attended the meetings even though they were offered cake and

nutmeg buns. Something had to be done! A new building, known as the town hall, was erected in September, 1881. This is our present town hall.

Walpole spent larger and larger sums of money to operate the town and provide for the welfare of its residents. Our town with money appropriated at the town meetings always took care of its people who couldn't work because of illness or old age. Most of those people lived together in one house called the Almshouse.

Money was also appropriated at the town meetings for the maintenance of street lamps. Six dollars was given to every person who maintained a street lamp. These lamps were kerosene lamps which had to be lighted each night at dusk and turned off at dawn each day.

The health of Walpole's residents was not neglected either. Preventative measures were taken by the owners of cows infected with tuberculosis or other sick animals. An inspector was hired to examine cattle and other animals for disease. It was also his job to see that measures were taken by the owners of unhealthy animals.

At that time, 1890's, there were more horses than houses in Walpole. Here are some figures on the number of animals in Walpole in the late 1800's. There were 586 horses, 384 cows, 3,693 fowl, 66 swine and 5 sheep.

The 1800's now come to a close. You have seen how the

A Thriving Community

in the 1900'S

## Life In This Century

Now let's turn our attention to the 1900's. Many changes have taken place during this century. Industries have expanded, especially the Lewis Manufacturing Company (known today as The Kendall Company) and Bird & Son, inc. Grocery, hardware and clothing stores have been built in Walpole and East Walpole. Older stores expanded to accommodate the increasing population. Electric streetcars operated between Walpole and other surrounding towns until 1919, when they gave way to "modern" buses.

During this century electric lights were erected over most of Walpole's streets. What an improvement over kerosene lamps!

Roads were widened and improved. New methods of building them better and cheaper were tried. In 1907 because gravel was expensive, an experiment was tried using ashes secured from Bird & Son at a cost of twenty-five cents to thirty cents per yard. This was a reduction of twenty to thirty cents over the price of gravel. Two or three inches of ashes were put over the whole length of the street. Then it was wetted down with water and rolled. Another three inches was applied. The same process continued until the desired thickness resulted. On top of this was put an inch of loam.

This type of road absorbed water and it was cheaper to build. But frequent oiling was needed, especially during the

the summer months.

This experiment proved that gravel roads were the best. Therefore, most of the roads built after 1910 were of gravel. Later, cement or tar was used.

The early twentieth century saw an increase in a number of insects in Walpole. Especially prevalent were the insects which destroyed trees. Farmers were always trying to rid their land of harmful insects. Now, however, all the people in the town worked together because they were concerned about the gypsy and brown-tailed moths which had invaded their land. So in 1909, the town appointed a man to be Superintendent of Bugs. Later, he was known as Superintendent of Moth Suppression. About \$2,500.00 a year was spent by the town on this work.

How did the gypsy moth come into this area? What did they look like? Why was so much money spent? These are some of the questions that will soon be answered.

In 1869 a man in the Town of Milton, Massachusetts, which is about twelve miles from Walpole, decided to raise silk worms. A silk worm spins a web from which silk is secured. The silk fibers are finally made into cloth. He secured some worms which he thought were silk worms. To his amazement and disappointment, they turned out to be a different worm known as a Gypsy moth. They escaped from his home in Milton and multiplied. In the 1900's the area around Milton was infested with them. They soon spread throughout the New England states.

The male gypsy moth is brownish in color. The female is

a lighter brown. She has large wings with blackish marks, yet is too heavy to fly. The male can fly easily and quickly.

Eggs are laid on the bark of trees in a cluster of four to eight hundred. Each cluster is covered with a buff-colored web. Eggs are laid in July and hatch in spring. The caterpillars or worms are usually two to three inches long. They are night eaters of leaves from any tree, especially oak and apple trees.

Home owners were requested to use creosote on the nests. Creosote is an oily liquid with a burning taste. The creosote killed the eggs and young caterpillars.

Assisting in spotting trees infested with the gypsy moth was the man on the lookout tower. However, this was not his major work. The state had built a forty foot steel tower at, Moose Hill, Sharon so that fire's could be spotted before they got much headway. The tower was equipped with maps, field glasses and a telephone. The tower benefited not only Sharon but Walpole and other surrounding towns.

In addition to fire protection, Walpole's Selectmen passed laws to safeguard the lives of children. Suppose you were living in Walpole in the early 1900's and wanted to go coasting in the winter. A law was passed prohibiting coasting on the sidewalks or streets unless the Selectmen had set aside the area for that purpose. If the rule wasn't followed and you were caught, a fine of one to ten dollars had to be paid. A fine of that same amount was imposed on boys and girls playing

ball on the streets or sidewalks.

During this century our country was faced with two world wars. Many of Walpole's citizens saw action in both of them and gave their lives that we may continue to enjoy our wonderful freedoms.

In the 1900's Walpole was made a more beautiful place to live. Parks were improved with shrubbery and trees. Thousands and thousands of trees were also planted along the sides of the streets. Swimming pools were built for its residents to enjoy.

Walpole's population in the last fifty years has surged from 3,500 to over 12,000. Why this tremendous increase? The expansion of existing industries and available employment drew many people to Walpole. Also, there was a general move from the city to the country throughout Massachusetts. Excellent transportation for those who commuted to such cities as Boston and Providence, also increased settlement in Walpole. The fact that Walpole had available land for homes and excellent schools were two more factors aiding its growth.

## A Pond Is Built

Of interest in the early 1900's was the building of Willett Pond or "New Pond". It is hard for us to imagine that in the 1800's and first part of the 1900's, this was a swampy marshland where people picked blueberries. George Willett, who formerly resided in Walpole, decided around 1916 to make the swampland into a pond. Earlier he had built Brummitt Pond near his old homestead on Peach Street now the Walpole Country Club.

His dream came true after many months of digging and scraping by nearly a hundred men. The gravel, mud and soil taken from the area was banked up on the side of the pond. Sandbags were also used. This pond is almost a mile long. The largest part of the pond is in North Walpole. Willett Pond is also part of the territory of Norwood and Westwood.

Appropriately enough, Willett Pond was named after George Willett. He was also the founder of the Norwood Hospital. Land and a building was donated by him to be used as a hospital. This not only benefited Norwood but also people in the surrounding towns including Walpole. This white wooden building, which is at present used as a nurses home, can be seen in Norwood on Washington Street near the entrance to the hospital.

George Willett was known as a philanthropist because he gave money, land and buildings to benefit mankind.

## Our Town Seal

The town in 1913 authorized twenty-five dollars to be spent on a design for a town seal. A contest was held and a high school student won. Edna Buck's sawmill design best depicted Walpole in its early years. In 1914 it became our town seal.

If you have looked at the town seal, you will see that the early history of Walpole is told.

It shows:

1. The Neponset River on which Walpole's industrial life was centered
2. A water wheel necessary for the operation of the early mills
3. The cedar trees that lured Walpole's first settlers to this area
4. A sawmill -- Walpole's first industry



## Churches

Walpole's churches include the:

### Blessed Sacrament Church

The church was built in Walpole in 1913. The Catholic people prior to building this church, held their services in a wooden church building. Before that they worshiped in a local mill.

### Epiphany Episcopal Church

It was built in Walpole in 1904. The people organized an Episcopal church group in 1886.

### Methodist Church

Its first service was held in 1822 in a small house. As membership increased, the present church was built in South Walpole in 1886.

### Union Congregational Church

The church was built in East Walpole in 1915 on land given by Charles Sumner Bird. This church was first organized in 1877.

### United Church

The church is located in Walpole Center. It was organized in the year Walpole was incorporated as a town. The members of the church back in 1838 built a new church and changes have taken place since then.

### St. Mary's Church

This church was built in East Walpole Center in 1927.

Our town's

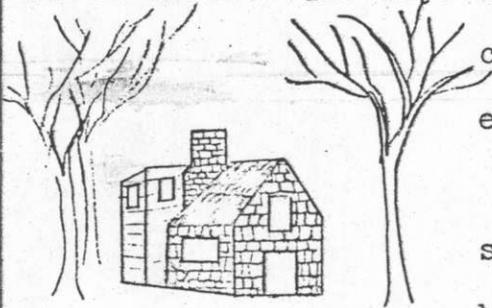
Past and Present

## Schools

### Middle and Late 1600's

The early schools were different in many ways than your schools. You are taught subjects that children had never even heard of before. Your buildings are much different too. Now let's find out what the early schools were like.

The boys who lived in South Dedham in the 1600's and early 1700's attended the village school in Dedham. It was a one-room wooden building with a tower on the top which served as a watch tower. The boys were taught reading, writing and some catechism. Books were few and paper was extremely scarce.



It wasn't very pleasant attending school then. Walking or riding horseback such a great distance was dangerous especially in winter. Can you name some reasons why this was true?

If you arrived at school cold and shivering, you had no chance of warming up. In winter, the room became very cold because the fireplace didn't throw off enough heat to warm the room.

Girls didn't attend school, but they were instructed at home by their mothers in cooking, sewing, spinning and weaving.

### 1700's

When Walpole was incorporated in 1724, a school was

required by law. However, it wasn't until 1732 that Walpole appropriated the necessary money for a school. Thirty pounds (about eighty-four dollars) was appropriated to support two schools, a writing school and a dame school. Classes for both were to be held in local dwellings because schoolhouses had not been erected.

The writing school, held in winter only, was attended by boys your age. For hours, they practiced the correct formation of letters in the alphabet. Birch bark, sand or paper was used. However, the boys didn't have paper very often.

The dame school was taught by a woman in her living room or kitchen. She taught young boys and girls the alphabet, reading and arithmetic.

In 1757 a schoolhouse was presented to Walpole. It had been built by Deacon Robbins on land given by Walpole's second minister, Reverend Payson. The town accepted it and thus had its first schoolhouse. It was twenty-one feet long, eighteen feet wide and nine feet high. Soon other schoolhouses were built in the North, East and West parts of town.

The town didn't hire teachers. Instead, the schools were taught by the selectmen or by the minister.

1800's

Improvements were gradually made. For instance, in the early 1800's the fireplace and a box-iron stove were used to heat the room. The stove had an open oven where children

warmed their dinners. The children had to make the fire when they got to school in the morning.

Girls in the 1800's gradually received more education than what was offered by the dame school.

Books were still scarce. One book was used by many children. After one child had finished reading the New England Primer, it was passed onto another boy or girl. For lessons learned well you received a certificate of merit.

On Mondays, the children would have to tell how many chapters of the Bible they had read over the week end. Just before being dismissed the multiplication tables up to 144 were said by all.

The school in East Walpole near Lewis Castle was a long one-story building. Its hallway was used to store wood. The schoolroom had a continuous board seat around the side and rear walls. In the front on a raised platform was the desk and seat of the teacher.

In 1831 a two-story schoolhouse was built in Walpole Center.



Harvard College students were employed as teachers in the early 1800's. Later in the 1800's when a high school was established, teachers with special training were employed. However, a great many of the elementary schoolteachers were still only high school graduates.

Besides reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling and grammar, the grammar schools taught music, gymnastics and art. Even in the 1870's there were still three or four grades in one room. Even then the room wasn't crowded.

As time went on, children had more books to study from and paper to practice on. New methods of manufacturing paper made this possible.

Can you imagine taking only one test a year? Contrary to our present practice of frequent testing, only one test was given and that was at the end of the year. If you passed it, you were promoted to the next grade. If you didn't, you would remain in that grade another year or until you had mastered what was taught there. This was changed in the late 1800's, and more tests were given to the pupils.

Perhaps you are wondering if children had report cards. Yes, they did. The first report cards were used in 1889. Then the one test at the end of the year was discontinued because parents wanted to know how their children were progressing in school. The boys and girls were marked by per cent, 80% in spelling, 90% in arithmetic, 70% in grammar and in other subjects. It wasn't until 1921 that the letter grade system was

used.

Sewing classes were available for girls in 1895. Manual training classes were provided for the boys several years later.

Until 1896 children secured water from wells. In that year, all schools except the West were connected with town water.

1900's

Transportation was provided for children who lived a great distance from their school. However, it was primarily for the high school students.

What was used for transportation? Until 1920 railroads, electric cars or barges were used to transport the children to school. Barges were horse-driven wooden wagons used for transporting a large number of people. These proved to be the most reliable and successful of the various forms of transportation. Railroads and electric cars were used only a short time because timetables didn't correspond to the opening of school. After 1920 buses were used.

In the 1900's the schools ceased to be called North, East, South and Center.

North School became Fisher School  
South School became Boyden School  
East School became Bird School  
Center School became Stone School

Each school building was named in honor of a resident of Walpole. This person lived in the section where the school was

located or had exerted a great influence on the educational system of Walpole.

A good breakfast is essential. Without one, you cannot do your best schoolwork. Do you know what boys and girls ate for breakfast? Surely not packaged cereals! The school physician, Doctor F. Fuller, in 1909 recommended the following breakfast for children.

1. Fruit
2. Cereals thoroughly cooked with sugar and milk
3. Eggs lightly cooked, boiled or poached
4. A light vegetable like baked potato with butter

In place of eggs, broiled steak or lamb chops could be eaten.

During The First World War vegetable gardens were planted by school children. This greatly increased the food supply, so that food could be sent to American soldiers in Europe.

In 1920 Mrs. F. W. Bird and her mother, Mrs. George Phelps, established a dental clinic at Bird School. Here boys and girls were provided with excellent dental care. The clinic was not operated on town funds, but with money given by the Bird family and Mrs. Phelps. Many years later, the town provided funds for dental clinics throughout the schools.

Today in addition to dental clinics, our schools are well equipped with books, maps, colored paper, crayons, paints, flannel boards, motion pictures and television sets. Our system of education has certainly come a long way since the Revolutionary War.

During the years between the 1800's and the 1900's other schools were built and later sold or torn down. It would take too long to go into the history of each school building. However, let's read about our present elementary school buildings.

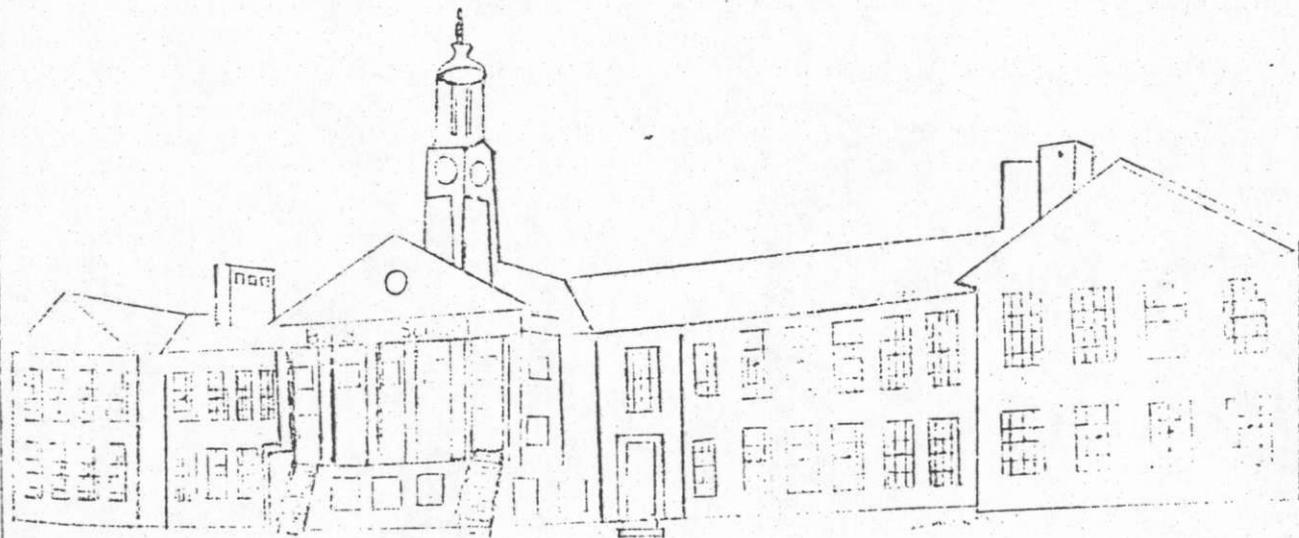
### Our Present Elementary School Buildings

#### Plimpton School

In 1913 a new eight-room school building was erected on Common Street in Walpole. It was built on thirty-five acres of land donated by George Plimpton, a prominent citizen in Walpole in the early 1900's. Few towns had so much land for parks, recreation, play-grounds, school gardens or forestry purposes.

#### Bird School

In 1919 a sixteen-room building was built on Washington Street, East Walpole. It was named after Mary Bird, who had contributed so much to establishing a library in Walpole.



### Boyden School

This school was built in 1930 on Washington Street in South Walpole. The Boyden family are old Walpole residents. Their ancestors first settled in this area in the early 1700's.

### Stone School

This large two-story school building was erected in 1950 on School Street in Walpole Center. It is adjacent to the old Stone School which is still being utilized.

### Fisher School

This modern ranch type school was completed in 1955. It is located on Gould Street in North Walpole, not far from the old Fisher School.

## Libraries

In the 1600's, 1700's and early 1800's, a public library was unknown. During those years some people were fortunate to have enough money to purchase books, others borrowed them from friends or neighbors. But not many people in Walpole had books except for the Bible.

In 1816 a group of women met and voted to hold meetings to read and discuss books. Usually the meetings lasted for five hours. Imagine talking about books for that length of time, because all conversation not pertaining to books was prohibited. However, the women braided straw as they talked. The straw was sold and the money used to purchase more books. Non-members could use the books if they paid one dollar a year. This provided people with access to a small number of books for a moderate fee.

Nothing was done about starting a library until 1826. During that year the Walpole Social Library came into existence. This was not a free public library where residents of the town could secure books. Again people had to pay a fee to borrow books. This time the fee was four dollars and the borrower was only allowed to take two books per year. Due to a lack of interest, the Social Library was discontinued the same year it started.

The year 1872 was a very important one for Walpole. Miss Mary Bird presented the town with a public library on the con-

dition that books were to be sent free of charge from Walpole Center to the people in East Walpole. The town gratefully accepted this generous offer.

This first public library was quartered in the town hall. The town appropriated the money collected from dog-taxes for support of the library. This amounted to around two hundred thirty dollars. Many people gave books, magazines and pictures to the library. Concerts and dramatic performances were held to raise money. Other people donated gifts of money.

The library was able to purchase many books. By 1877 there was a young people's library of one hundred twenty volumes, an agricultural library of fifty volumes and seven hundred volumes of literature. The library subscribed to five magazines. These included Harper's, Scribner's, Atlantic Monthly, St. Nicholas, for children, and North American Review. During that year, 1877, 325 volumes were acquired. The library's circulation increased as many school children began to borrow its books.

The library was only open during the business hours. For many adults, this meant that they could only select library books on their lunch hour.

To enable the library to be open at night, Francis W. Bird in 1878 said he would give twenty-five dollars to the library if the town voted an appropriation of three hundred dollars a year for its support. The people at the town meeting agreed. The hours were changed to 1 - 5:30 and 6:30 -

9. This greatly increased the library's circulation.

In 1878 the library was forced to move out of the town hall because the rooms were needed by the town. The library's new home was Mr. Pillsbury's store and the town agreed to pay sixty dollars a year for rent.

Among the largest gifts made in the late 1800's was that willed by Francis W. Bird. In a few years, with interest, the money had increased to six thousand dollars.

The library soon outgrew its two rooms and a suitable place had to be located. A contribution of fifteen thousand dollars by Andrew Carnegie, the great philanthropist, was given on the condition that \$1,500.00 was appropriated by the town per year in support of the library. The town agreed. Thus, this generous offer by Andrew Carnegie enabled Walpole to erect a library in 1903, on land given by Charles S. Bird. This building on Common Street is the present home of our library.

Through the years, many people gave books and magazines. Among those contributing a large number of books were G. A. Plimpton, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Bird, and C. S. Bird, Jr. Many pictures and photographs were also received. These are frequently loaned to the schools.

In the 1900's space was given by Bird & Son for an East Walpole Library. A North Walpole Branch was later started in the Fisher School through money appropriated by the town.

Year	Total Number of Books	Total Number of Magazines
1880	1,978	9
1890	3,590	20
1900	8,583	51
1910	12,296	48
1920	16,359	38
1930	20,194	46
1940	22,956	52
1950	28,563	61
1958	46,496	86

Notice how the number of books and magazines have increased.

## Our Town Government

How is our town governed? Since its incorporation in 1724, our town has had the New England town meeting form of government. A warrant is issued notifying the people that on a certain day a town meeting is to be held. At the appointed hour the townspeople assemble to discuss and vote on matters pertaining to the town.

In 1724 our town had its elected officers like town clerk, selectmen, moderator, constable and hog reeves. A total of five in all.

As the town grew in the 1800's, new town officers were elected and appointed. These included in addition to the ones mentioned above: collector of taxes; auditors to check the expenditures; police; engineers of the fire department; sealer of weights and measures, to test scales for accuracy, surveyors of lumber; assessors, to determine the taxes on buildings; field drivers; pound keeper; fence viewers; and treasurer.

Today our town has many more officers. They are:

### Officers Elected

- Moderator
- Selectmen (total five)
- Tax Collector
- Assessors
- School Committee
- Trustees of the Public Library
- Trust Fund Commissioners
- Walpole Housing Authority
- Town Planning Board
- Town Treasurer

## Officers Appointed

Town Accountant  
Town Clerk  
Registrar of Voters  
Town Counsel  
Town Engineer  
Purchasing Agent  
Superintendent of Schools  
Superintendent of Sewers  
Inspector of Buildings  
Wire Inspector  
Forest Fire Warden  
Fire Department  
Inspector of Animals  
Health Officer  
Plumbing Inspector  
Librarians

As our town continues to grow, more officers either appointed or elected may be established to handle the town's business.

## Police and Fire Departments

### Police Department

When Walpole was incorporated as a town, its people promptly elected a constable. He acted as a policeman for the town. As the town increased in size, more constables were added. However, this didn't happen until the late 1800's. In fact, in 1880, Walpole had just two policemen. One received twenty dollars as his salary a year. The other policeman received thirty-seven dollars. In 1940 seven policemen were employed. Today eighteen serve on the police force.

### Fire Department

Fire protection in the late 1600's and 1700's was a community affair. Usually a small leather fire bucket with a handle was kept in every household. The alarm consisted of shouting and notifying the people that something was on fire. Then people would form two lines, one to pass the full water buckets, the other to pass the empty buckets. How did this operate? The last person in one line was at a supply of water and the first person was at the scene of the fire. Water was passed by hand from person to person until it was thrown on the fire. The empty buckets were passed down the other line of persons. This enabled a constant supply of water to put out the fire.

After the fire, the fire-warden made sure that each

leather bucket was returned to its owner. This wasn't too difficult for each bucket contained the initials of its owner. The fire-warden's other duties included an inspection of all kitchens. He looked for defective chimneys and wooden chimneys which he ordered removed at once.

In the late 1880's the town installed a fire alarm at a cost of \$97.73. The town's fire apparatus was drawn by a pair of horses. Unlike today, it perhaps was used only four to ten times a year, depending on the number and severity of the fires.

In 1891 the town purchased two chemical fire extinguishers. Lacking adequate equipment, Walpole at this time ranked sixth in amount of loss by fire of all the cities and towns in Massachusetts. Many of the calls to put out a fire, although fewer than the surrounding towns, would result in a total loss of a house or building. A steam fire engine was badly needed.

By 1896 the town added two more stations -- one in East Walpole and one in South Walpole. The town now had a total of three fire stations.

Most of the fires in the late 1800's and early 1900's were due to sparks from steam locomotives, lightning and overheated stoves. The fire alarm whistle system inaugurated in the early 1900's aided in the reduction of loss from fire. This same fire alarm system is in effect today.

In 1911 a new building was erected in East Walpole to

house both a fire and police station. Horse stalls were built in the fire station so that horses could be stabled there for immediate use at night.

A fire engine was purchased in 1917. It had six cylinders and was equipped with taillights. The new engine was placed in the East Walpole Fire Station because horses were difficult to secure there. The gasoline motor was capable of propelling the fire apparatus at a speed of thirty miles per hour. It could cover twenty miles an hour carrying a full load. But it wasn't too successful because of frequent engine failures.

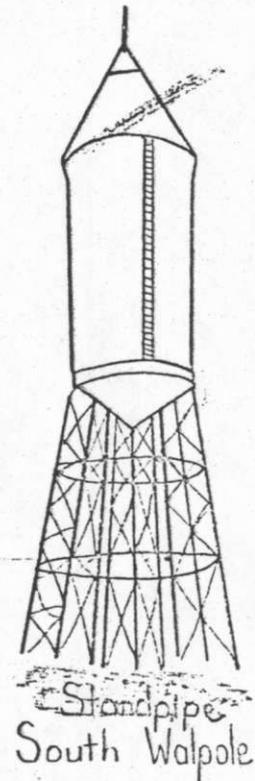
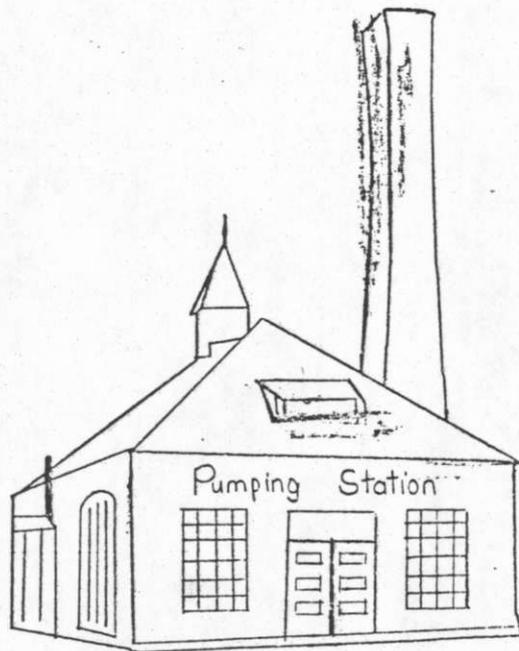
More modern and scientifically equipped fire engines were added periodically during the last twenty-five years. The latest fire alarm boxes were also installed. A new fire and police station was built in Walpole Center in 1956. This makes a total of three fire and police stations presently in Walpole.

## Water Supply

Until the late 1800's Walpole's residents secured water from their own wells or springs.

The town decided in 1894, after much discussion and figuring, to build its own water system. Forty artesian wells were driven near Lowe Brook on Washington Street. These are wells drilled by powerful machines to forty or sixty feet in the ground until a layer of porous rock is reached.

In 1895 a pumping station was erected and miles of piping was laid. Standpipes were built in South Walpole and East Walpole. They are tall metal tanks. Water was and still is supplied by pumping it into the standpipes.

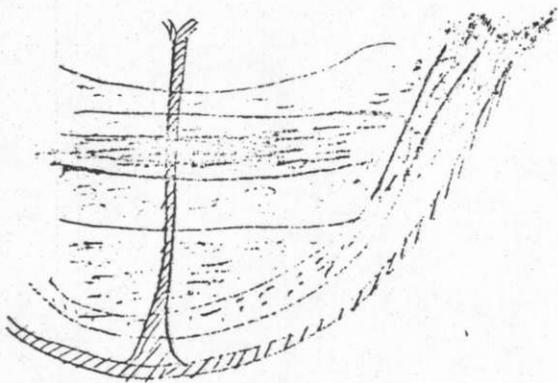


Houses during 1895 were supplied with water only upon written request by its owner. The people were charged a flat fee of twelve dollars regardless whether they used all the water allowed them or not.

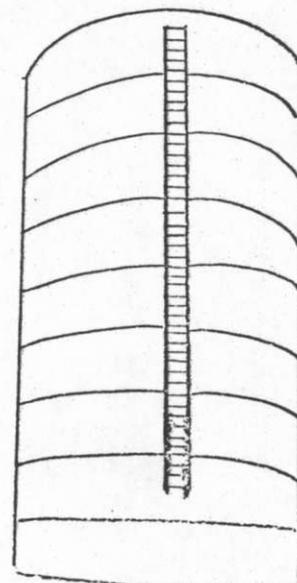
How can you measure the amount of water used by each family? A device called a water meter records the amount of water used.

Today nearly every house has a water meter. Our water supply has expanded so that more standpipes have been built and wells driven.

The water secured from the wells is pure and safe to drink. As the water filters through the various rock layers, the impurities in the water are removed.



An Artesian Well Boring



Standpipe  
Walpole Center

## Roads

In the early 1800's Walpole had three major roads. These included the:

### Old Post Road

The East Walpole section of the Old Post Road is known today as Pleasant Street. In the middle of the 1600's, the Quakers were driven by a whip from the Dedham Village because they refused to attend the Puritan Church. They held fast to their own ideas of worship and they refused to call officers of the British government by their proper titles. The Old Post Road was called the first National Highway in America.

### Road through Walpole Center

It is known today as Main Street or Route 1A. The post riders in the middle 1750's, traveled over this route to Rhode Island. In the 1800's stagecoaches also traveled over this road giving its passengers many jolts. To go to New York from Boston in those days would take six days. The only way it could be shortened was to take a coach from Boston through Walpole to Providence, then to continue on in a packet-sloop to New York. If the weather was good, the trip could be made in three days.

### Washington Street Route

The road was established in 1802 by the General Court of Massachusetts. The turnpike road was opened in 1806 and passed through East Walpole and South Walpole. It was one of the finest roads existing then. At that time most of the roads were dirt roads. This "new" pike was of stone and gravel laid seven feet wide at a cost of five thousand dollars per mile. In 1828 thirty-five thousand people traveled over this toll road. The fare being about two dollars to travel from Boston to Providence.

In addition there are now more than 197 fine paved roads in Walpole.

Many of our roads were named after Walpole's early settlers or people who contributed time and money to Walpole's development. Perhaps you are familiar with some of these roads.

Bird Street was named for the Bird family.

Plimpton Street was named for the Plimpton family.

Stone Street was named for Doctor Stone.

From the chart you can see that many businesses failed to continue operating from one century to another.

Reasons for this are many.

1. Business declined due to depressions.
2. Buildings destroyed by flood or fire.

Construction was usually of wood. Also fire fighting apparatus was poor in our standards today.

3. New inventions came into existence.
4. The products could be produced better and cheaper elsewhere.

These are just a few of the more important reasons why industries fail to survive. Can you name others?

## Industries of Walpole

Some of Walpole's early industries have been previously mentioned. These included the sawmill and gristmills. Forges were also among Walpole's early industries. The forges drew their materials from the bog iron deposits along Spring and Mill Brooks. Its iron was used in cannon for the French and Indian War which occurred in the 1750's.

As you read some interesting facts about each major industry, you will find out what is made, how it is made and in what way their products affect our way of life. However, before you begin your study of Walpole's present industries, you will read a history of paper making. This will enable you to understand East Walpole's paper making industries.

## History of Paper Making

Making paper is not a new industry. It goes back to the ancient Greeks and Romans. They had parchment paper made from the skin of goats or sheep. They also had papyrus which consists of strips of plants laid together, soaked, pressed and dried to form paper. As papyrus became unavailable about A.D. 200, learning declined. About this time, the Chinese made paper from mulberry leaves or from rags.

These methods produced only a small amount of paper, but larger amounts of paper were needed due to the invention of printing. To supply the demand for paper, mills were constructed in Europe.

Paper remained scarce in the United States during the Colonial Period. Why? Primarily, it was due to the lack of rags and the failure to secure new methods of producing it. Linen rags were best, but scarce, because linen cloth didn't wear out easily. Woolens were not suitable for paper making.

Bleaching paper by chlorine began in 1774, but was not used extensively. The queer colors of the newspapers of that period were due to the scanty supply and the careless sorting of rags from which paper was made.

When the American Army entered Philadelphia in June 1778, they needed paper but little could be found. So 2,500 copies of a minister's sermon were taken and promptly turned into cases for musket cartridges for the colonial troops.

Massachusetts had more printers than the rest of the country. Four of the six American newspapers in the 1770's were published in Boston, two-thirds of the books and pamphlets were printed in Boston.

#### Procedure in Making Paper, 1785

To manufacture paper, a large supply of water was necessary because the rag fibers had to be mixed with it. The clumsy mill machinery was also run by water. Paper making in those days required a great deal of knowledge and know-how which few people acquired. The steps involved in making paper were many.

1. The first step was to sort and grade the rags that had been bought by the mill. Inferior grades were used for coarse papers like printing paper. The better papers were used for writing purposes and bulletins.
2. Pins were removed and the seams were opened.
3. The rags were cut into fairly uniform sizes.
4. Rags were then reduced to fibers of suitable length for the kind of paper to be made.
5. The fibers and water were beaten by hand.
6. The beaten pulp was carried to the molds and the water drained from them.
7. A wet sheet of paper was removed from a mold and placed onto soft felt. Then another felt was laid on top, ready for the next sheet of paper.

8. When 144 sheets had accumulated in a pile, the pile was removed to the great press. All hands joined in turning down the press to expel all the water.

9. After they had been left under pressure, they were released and the felt was removed.

10. The sheets were piled up and put through a second pressing.

11. Four or five sheets of paper were hung together to dry.

#### Paper in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

Paper was especially scarce in 1812 due to the shortage of raw materials and difficulty in procuring molds and engines from abroad.

In the middle 1800's, beating the fibers in water was done by machine. The machine was an oval tub which had a roller and a plate below it. Between the roller and the plate were some knives. Thus, the rags in the water were gradually reduced to pulp. The process sometimes took as long as twelve or more hours.

Today when a fourdrinier machine is used, enormous sheets of paper five to twenty-five feet in length can be produced at a speed of 1,200 feet a minute. All this can be done in one process. In a fourdrinier machine after a jordan cuts the fibers to the correct length, they are pressed together in water, then the water is drained from them. Next, the rollers

squeeze out more water. Then the pressed wet paper passes over large steam-heated drying rollers. Finally, it goes through metal rollers which iron out the paper.

Bird & Son, inc.

In the early 1800's George Bird was looking for a good site for a paper mill. He finally found what he wanted. It was located on the Neponset River in East Walpole. The land was cleared and a small wooden mill with a water wheel was erected in 1817.

At that time, 1817, he produced the paper for the United States currency. Some of the paper was used in printing the three dollar bills now no longer printed.



Tarred paper was also produced. The tarred paper was objectionable to mice and moths, rust and moisture proof. Therefore, it was used by woolen manufacturers to wrap their cloth. Many old government records and documents were also wrapped in it.

The Bird Company, as the business was called then, received its first patent in 1825. It was signed by Henry Clay, Secretary of State and John Quincy Adams, President of the United States. The patent was for a device for polishing and glazing paper.

When Francis W. Bird entered his father's business, the name became George Bird & Son. In 1845 the business name was changed to F. W. Bird.

What kind of machinery was available for paper making in the early 1840's? The company had four small beaters run by water. These beaters mixed the rag strips with water. That was the end of labor-saving devices.

In the late 1840's a new kind of machine was installed, known as the fourdrinier machine. It came equipped with five steam driers.

After paper had been made either from rags or pulp, it was cut into sheets to be polished. To polish paper consisted in putting it between iron or other metal sheets and when a sufficient quantity was ready, a thick heavy piece of paper was placed at the top and bottom. This was passed through rollers eight or more times. About one hundred fifty pounds of paper was made per hour.

In 1850 F. W. Bird was buying twenty tons of rags a day. Most of these were shipped from Belgium, France and England. Now the company began manufacturing industrial papers. These included brown wrapping paper and other heavier quality paper.

The company employed less than fifty men. F. W. Bird operated the paper mill twenty-four hours a day. There were two, twelve hour shifts.

During the middle 1800's fire and floods were the company's greatest danger. A destructive flood occurred in 1864 when a dam broke. The company was without power. That was bad enough without including loss of some machinery. F. W. Bird had no sooner gotten over this loss when a fire raged.

out of control. Only two machine rooms escaped damage.

Many paper mills had the advantage of water or railroad transportation for their products. F. W. Bird's company had neither. They transported heavy rolls of paper to Boston by large wagons drawn by four or six horses. The round trip including stops for supplies took the whole day.

Water power was still used in 1877 and the paper was still produced the same way.

Can you imagine factory men being let off today to do chores around their home, especially during the summer haying season? This was a practice until Francis W. Bird's son, Charles S. Bird, curbed it.

There were constant difficulties arising in the operation of the paper mill. One day in the late 1800's the old walking beam engine called "Colonel Cobb" slipped from the belting and walked right through the roof. However, there was little damage and the next day the machinery was back in its place and running smoothly.

In 1880 another flood filled the machine room with fourteen inches of muddy water. The water had no sooner receded when another fire broke out. Four buildings burned to the ground. Machinery, paper and supplies were lost. The total loss was about fifty thousand dollars.

Could you recognize the trademark of Bird & Son, inc? It is a little girl holding a sheet of waterproof paper over her head. It was first used in 1890. Perhaps you have seen it on

a television advertisement.

In 1880 a bronze medal was awarded jointly to F. W. Bird & Son and to Hollingsworth & Vose, another East Walpole industry, for wrapping paper.

In the late 1800's the company manufactured shoe-boxes, boxes for tacks, shipping-cases and flower-pots. These are still being sold throughout the United States and other countries. Floor covering was manufactured in five colors in 1894, but it was unsuccessful until 1911.

In the early 1900's many developments took place. The roofing plant was built in Norwood, Massachusetts in 1903. Bird Machine Company was established in 1909, and it is now located in South Walpole. Mills were built in Rhode Island, five in Canada and one in Chicago.

Today Bird & Son, inc. have in addition to the plants mentioned above one in Arkansas, Louisiana, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine and a granule plant in Norwood. The Norwood plant takes rock from its quarries from Roslindale to Rhode Island, crushes, heats and forms it into granules to be colored.

A new product recently put on the market was Bird linoleum. You will see this and some of the other products in the display.

Briefly let's turn back to 1875 and you will see how the production of the company has grown. One and one-half tons of paper per day were produced by twenty people in 1875. In 1959

around one thousand people in the East Walpole area produce seven to ten tons per hour. Quite a difference isn't it!

Raw materials used in producing its many products come from the United States and from countries all over the world. However, most of the raw materials used in manufacturing paper come from the United States. The rags and waste papers come from dealers in and around Boston.

The leadership of the business which started in 1817 in East Walpole has passed to George Bird's son, grandson and great grandson.

George Bird	founder
Francis W. Bird	son of George Bird. He operated the business in the middle and late 1800's.
Charles S. Bird	son of F. W. Bird, grandson of George Bird. He controlled the mill in the early 1900's.
Charles S. Bird, Jr.	son of C. S. Bird. At present he is Chairman of the Board of Directors.

## Damon Forge

The forge is located on Washington Street, East Walpole. Perhaps you have recognized this place by the anvil which has hung over the doorway.

The wooden building is about two hundred years old. Inside you will see huge beams and large wooden pegs which hold the beams together. There are also two brick fireplaces. There is no wooden or cement floor, just a dirt one. Perhaps you know why? Because the blacksmith works over intense heat, which is essential for the heating of iron bars, the danger of fire becomes great. Therefore, wooden floors couldn't be used. There is also another reason. This structure was built before the Revolutionary War and cement was not used in buildings in that period.

Some of you may be wondering if this building was used as a blacksmith shop in the 1700's. According to the present owner of the forge, it was not. The owner pointed out that the original builders when putting in one of the fireplaces sawed a piece out of a huge beam near one corner of the building. The support of the roof was weakened by this. However, the roof has stood through many storms even when modern structures have crumbled under the weight of heavy snow.

We are now ready to discover what a blacksmith does and how he operates his forge. A forge is a place where iron is heated and hammered into many objects like iron railings,

hinges, fireplace sets, weather vanes and many other useful items.

Perhaps you would like to follow the owner in his work. First, he takes a straight iron bar twenty-two feet long which he secured from a steel concern. Next, he measures the length he needs and cuts the bar with an acetylene torch. He also might use a hardy which is a device for cutting off iron when it is cold. The iron bar is now put into the hot coal fire. The intense fire makes it red hot, but not hot enough to melt it. When the bar glows a bright red, the blacksmith removes it from the fire with suitable tongs. There are many different tongs in the shop. The heated bar is then hammered into the desired shape. Perhaps a bar for an iron railing. The owner welds the bars together instead of riveting them as was done in the olden days. There is a device on the blow torch that blows the molten steel away. It is the moltened steel that makes the sparks not the flame of the acetylene torch when he is welding.

## Farrington Texol Corporation

The factory was opened in 1950 to produce artificial leather, steel and wooden cases for radios and phonographs. Today the corporation employs about seventy people. Most of their work is devoted to making artificial leather. There's quite a fascinating process connected with its production.

First, the corporation begins with some cotton similar to handkerchief material. To make this material, the southern cotton mills wash the cotton, remove the seeds and dirt and weave its fibers into muslin, a coarser cotton cloth. This muslin remains unbleached. Next, the cotton handkerchief material is put on a heavy paper base. Then it is coated many times with a laquer. Finally, it is colored with colored pigments and grained by an embossing press. The corporation has several presses which produce different grains. These include a pig grain, an ostrich grain, an alligator grain and a printed grain. Be sure you see the printed grain artificial leather in the exhibit.

Artificial leather is used for jewel boxes, boxes for watches and many other things.

Texol is their registered trademark. The Farrington Texol Corporation is known in Germany, France, Italy, Mexico, Argentina, Australia, Canada and throughout the United States.

## Hollingsworth & Vose

The buildings now occupied by this company on Washington Street, East Walpole were operated by the Bird family until 1858. In 1871 it was sold to I. J. Hollingsworth. Shortly after, Charles Vose entered the business and the business name became Hollingsworth & Vose. They manufactured paper from manila rope fibers. The seven men employed in the 1870's made a ton of paper a day.

You recall an award of a bronze medal was presented jointly to F. W. Bird & Son and to Hollingsworth & Vose at the International Australian Exhibition in Melbourne in 1880.

Today they make paper from manila rope and jute fibers which come from a tropical plant. Their products are used in insulation materials, sandpaper, tag paper and other types of paper products.

## The Kendall Company

In 1903 George Kendall purchased the Lewis Batting Company on West Street. It manufactured cotton batting. After acquiring the company, absorbent cotton and gauze were produced under the name of Lewis Manufacturing Company. The First World War brought a need for surgical supplies for our soldiers. Due to the great increase in demand, new buildings were added to the company.

The Lewis Manufacturing Company extended its operations outside Massachusetts by purchasing the Slattersville, Rhode Island mill. This greatly increased the production of surgical supplies.

A great amount of tobacco and gray cloth and other coarser cotton cloths were used. The cloth had to be secured from various states in the south. This had its disadvantages. Not only the amount available varied at different times, but the quality as well. To eliminate these conditions, two plants were built in South Carolina to spin and weave tobacco cloth and other low-count fabric used for gauze and cheesecloth.

When The First World War was over, the demand for cotton products fell sharply downward. There was a large surplus of cotton and surgical supplies. Thus, business declined and the company needed less workers. However, in the early 1920's, the demand for cotton products increased.

The company was incorporated in 1924 and was called

Kendall Mills, Inc. until 1928 when it became known as The Kendall Company.

Experimentation was done and new products were produced to meet the growing needs of the American people. For example, gauze diapers were unheard of until the 1930's when research done by The Kendall Company proved that they were superior to other types of diapers.

Gradually the company purchased or built many plants throughout the United States. These include:

1. Bike Web Manufacturing Company -- producers of knee caps and supports for athletic use including Little League Programs
2. Griswoldville Mill in Massachusetts -- a cotton finishing plant
3. Bauer and Black Chicago, Illinois -- makers of surgical dressings and elastic goods, blue jay plasters, adhesive tape, Curad plastic bandages and Curity products like diapers and other baby products

Other plants are located in Cuba, Mexico and Canada.

One of the products that accounted for the increased sales of the company was small attractive packages of cheesecloth. Cheesecloth is a coarsely woven cloth used for dusting, netting, straining fruits for jelly and many other things. Ready-made dressings also became popular and were in demand by hospitals. Previously hospitals had to make their own dressings from one hundred yard bolts of gauze.

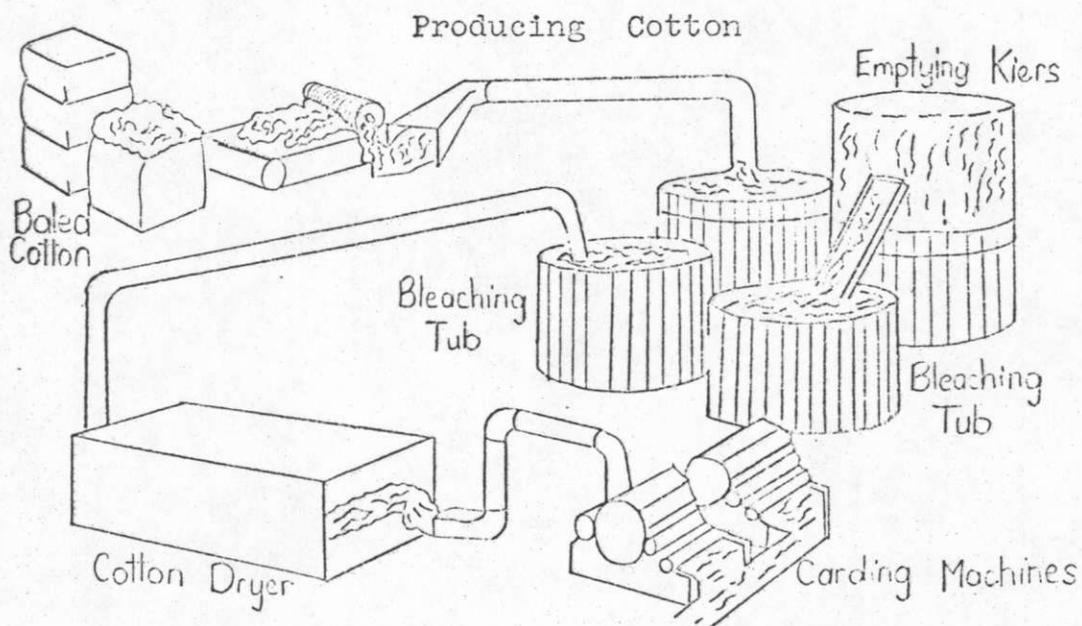
Today the company also manufactures polishing cloth, dish towels, bibs, mosquito netting, sheets, organdies, curtain materials and a number of new products like Clex and

Webril. Clex is a chemically-tested fabric used in men's collars. Webril is a non-woven fabric used for tea bags, permanent waving pads and oil filters.

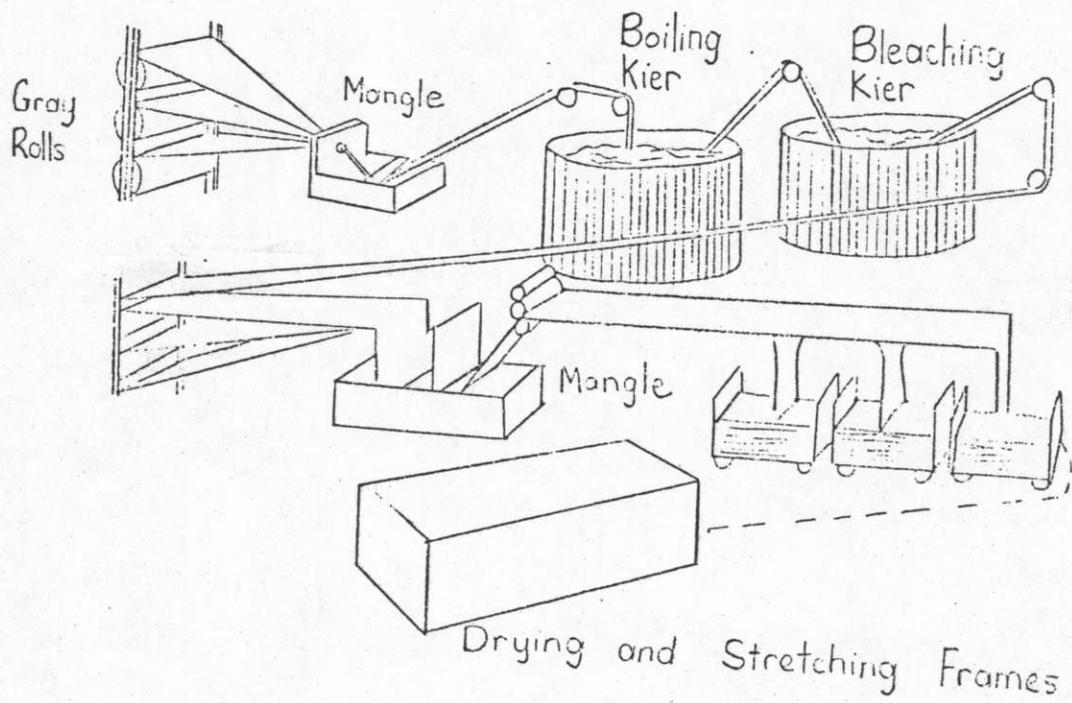
It takes over 300,000 spindles and 6,800 looms to produce the cloth needed by the company for its many different products which are sold throughout the world. What does the Walpole plant produce? In turning our attention to Walpole let's find out what is manufactured in our town and how it is produced.

The Walpole plant converts lightweight coarsely woven cloths like tobacco cloth, and raw cotton into finished products such as gauze, cheesecloth, bookbinding cloth, cotton, milk filters and new synthetic products like Webril which you have read about previously and Perx, an interlining for men's coats.

To understand how cotton, cheesecloth and towels are produced at The Kendall Company in Walpole, look at the following diagrams.



# Producing Towels or Cheesecloth



## Walpole Woodworkers

In the early 1930's Philip Allen began making fences and railings from cedars growing on land he owned in Walpole. People liked his fencing and soon he was sold out. So in 1933 he formed his business. The little shop on East Street, Walpole, produced fencing and furniture.

In 1938 a destructive hurricane hit Massachusetts. Many pine trees were uprooted throughout Walpole. Something had to be done! Philip Allen quickly erected a small sawmill and began turing out lumber from the fallen trees. This was used in sectional tool houses which were pre-cut and ready to be erected.

Soon the local supply of timber was exhausted. Then cedar and pine was purchased from Maine suppliers. This proved to be unsatisfactory. Can you tell why? Some of the reasons include:

1. Quantity of wood was not available when needed
2. Quality of wood was often poor
3. Cost of shipping the trees to Walpole was extremely expensive, especially when you consider the amount of wasted material on each tree.

What would you do if you were faced with this situation? To eliminate this situation, the Walpole Woodworkers bought ten acres of land in Detroit, Maine. There they erected a sawmill.

Today their trees come from:

1. Their own land
2. Farmers who bring them logs
3. Land which they don't own but have secured privileges to cut trees

After the trees are trimmed at Detroit, Maine, they are stacked. As demand for them arises, they are loaded onto trucks to be sent to their Maine plant for peeling, splitting and shaping into posts and other objects. Then a scoop loads several tons of wood at a time onto a huge truck which arrives in Walpole, Massachusetts the same day. Another huge scoop unloads the posts and boards. Then craftsmen transform these into tool houses, benches, cottages, fences and furniture. Left over materials are used in making three-legged milking stools or colored building blocks for children.

Today the company employs between sixty to one hundred people. The larger number is employed during the spring through the fall of the year.