

THE SPAULDING/SPALDING/SPALDEN FAMILY

The first Spalding family headed by Edward, came to America around 1619 to Virginia, eventually settling in Chelmsford, MA. The name has various spellings over the years. The first Spalding to appear in Merrimack was Samuel, (5) who arrived from Chelmsford before 1753 as one of the first settlers in the new town, arriving with his brother, Daniel and settling on 80 acres southwest of "Naticook Pond". Captain Samuel cleared his land and built a home before marrying Sarah Woods in 1753. He fought in the Revolutionary War and was a frequent leader in the town, including Selectman. He and his wife, Sarah had seven sons and one daughter. Sons were: Samuel (6), Abajah, Henry, Oliver, Isaac, Silas and Asa, along with daughter Sarah, who died young. All were born between 1754 and 1769. Over time, he expanded his land and several of his sons built homes adjacent to their father as well. Several of these homes are still standing today in the area near Lake Naticook, which was, at one point called "Spalding Pond".

Son Samuel (6) married Sarah Heald and they had 5 sons: Ephraim, Abijah, Luther, Ira and Joash and 4 daughters. The sons settled elsewhere, but only Capt. Ira's son, George Franklin Spalding came back to settle on the old homestead in Merrimack.

Son Abajah had 3 sons and 4 daughters, settled in Nahua.

Son Henry settled in New Boston

Son Oliver settled in Merrimack near his father marrying Abigail Nourse, then Lucy Davis and then Sally Caldwell. They had three children: Oliver Jr, Abigail and an infant.

Son Capt. Isaac settled in New Ipswich

Son Silas settled in Merrimack on the homestead, moving to Vermont and returning to Merrimack. He married Rebecca Shedd, then Elizabeth Hills and then Dorcas Chandler. They had 7 children.

Son Asa married Joanna Chandler and they had 10 children, all born in Merrimack and one of which, Asa Jr, remained in Merrimack. Joanna, Asa and several children died of spotted fever.

Ira (7) son of Samuel (6). B 1794- owned and ran the farm which belonged to his father. Very active in town. Children Ira, William Moore, Ephraim, Nancy, Eliza, George Franklin.

Samuel's brother Daniel had 8 sons and four daughters, all born in Merrimack. He married Hannah Putnam and then Mary Butterfield. Of his children, sons Daniel, Jonathan, Willard, Benjamin, Solomon, Henry, Daniel, David and 4 daughters: Sarah, Hannah, Mary and Sally. Daniel was active in Merrimack serving in several positions. None of his children appear to have stayed in Merrimack.

Of Samuel's (5) sons who lived in Merrimack, there remain several homes and foundations. There is a fenced foundation on the Old King's Highway near the entrance to Horse Hill Preserve at the end of Gerard Road. Access is by foot. It belonged to (Capt. Samuel?) Spaulding. Another early Spalding

home site shows on the Old King's Highway as Capt. Ira Spaulding on the 1858 map on this road, with George Franklin Spalding in 1892. No sign of the foundation now.

There are other Spalding homes on Naticook Road. At 157, is the home of Samuel Spaulding. The land was owned by Edward Spalding in 1740, but the home built in 1753, later occupied by Silas Spaulding in 1797. For many years it was in the Read (sic) family, for whom Reeds Graveyard is named. It is currently occupied proudly by George May. Lake Naticook was also known as Spaulding Pond and Reeds Pond at various times.

At 115 Naticook Rd. was the home of Henry, then Daniel, then Benjamin and then Solomon, Charles and John A Spaulding. It stood as the home of Samuel and Frances Sidman, who created a summer camp, "Camp Naticook", which is at the current Wasserman Park. The home demolished in 2003.

At 7-9 Peaslee Rd. currently Currier Orchards, stood the land of Henry, and then Samuel Spaulding who built it as a wedding gift for his son, also Samuel in 1771. This passed on into the ownership of Ira and then George Franklin Spalding. The current home at this location was moved here from elsewhere.

At 17 Peaslee Rd. was the home of Samuel Spaulding, built in 1753 although tax records show as 1832. In 1994 the home was divided as part of a legal settlement, and this portion was moved further back on the road and renovated

At 19 Peaslee Rd. stands the rest of the above home, still at the roadside with a sign stating "1745 Samuel Spaulding house" on the adjacent barn.

At 20 Peaslee Rd. the cape was in the Spaulding families since 1832: Ira, Eliza George and then Caribel Spaulding Haynes and now Parks. Records show it was moved here from the Old King's Highway between Peaslee and Seaverns Bridge Rds. Rev. Charles Haynes, who married Caribel Spaulding, was a prominent minister in Merrimack.

Another Capt. I Spaulding' home shows on the 1858 map at 45 Peaslee Rd., where the Old King's Highway met with Peaslee Rd. Known as "The Kent Homestead". The land without a home was shown belonging to Asa Spalding previously.

A Spalding home shows O.(Oliver) Spaulding in 1892 on the Concord Rd. (now DW Highway) on the western side just north of Manchester St. It was located on what is now BAE property.