

## *MERRIMACK'S "HILLS"*

Merrimack may not be in the Rockies or the White Mountains but we do have a lot of named "Hills" in town. The highest point in Merrimack is only 520 feet above sea level. It is located in the Grater Woods Conservation Area, but I have not been able to find a name for it. The next, at 502 feet, has a water tower between Amherst and Naticook Roads, but still can't find a name for it. Any help?

The third highest is Wilson Hill Rd at 430 ft. on the way to Amherst named for John Wilson and later Jesse,, Jacob and Joseph Wilson. There are two hills in the Horse Hill Nature Preserve: Blodgett Hill (423- Ezra Blodgett) and Horse Hill (385). Well known are Turkey Hill at 310, Cramer Hill (388), Middle Hill (340) and Bumboo Hill (376). The Premium Outlets are built on a high point (378) on a North-South ridge overlooking the Merrimack River Valley.

An interesting hill, is Dickey Hill, which became a section of town known as Christian Hill at the western end of Baboosic Lake Road. Many well-known families lived in this area in the late 1790's and early 1880's. **Deacons** Wilkins, Perry, Fuller and Parkhurst all lived in this area, hence came the name.

At 285, **Deacon** E. Wilkins lived and sold to L.W Fisher, showing on the 1858 and 1892 maps as "Maple Lane Farm". It was destroyed by fire in 1946, and an old cellar hole and gravestone remain.

At 293, **Deacon** Zachaeus Perry built a home in 1773, and it still stands. From 1778 to 1892, it was occupied by the Nichols family and in 1919 David Currie bought it. Cindy Currie, whose grandfather lived there in 1974, wrote many newspaper articles under "Tales of Old Merrimack", and often spoke of this home. It stands today, but was originally a small Cape, which was enlarged with a blacksmith shop.

At 297, Deacon Lemuel Fuller built a home in 1771, which burned in 1918. The home at this location is now owned by another L. Fuller in 2008.

Between 299 and 305, there was a road shown on the 1858 and 1892 maps that went from Reeds Ferry to New Boston, but there is no sign of it how. Nearby, at 305 was a cape built in 1741 by Josiah Smith Roby, but was greatly renovated by Jim Gibson as a salt box.

And at 190 still standing today iAnd at 190 still stands today as a classic colonial home.???????????

s a classic colonial home, built in 1771 by Moses or William Barron. From 1974 it was the home of Jim and Ann Burrows, but recently sold. This home has wall stencils by Moses Eaton and has an underground railroad room behind the walls and cellar.

Nearby on what is now 20 Parkhurst Road, previously called Stowell Road, is the home, built in 1839 by **Deacon** Elijah P. Parkhurst on land from Moses Parker. Deacon Parkhurst moved to Merrimack from Maryland. Stowell's Mill and the Stowell Railroad Station, running from Manchester to Amherst around Baboosic Lake, were located near here. There is now a modern 1990 Covered Bridge at the junction of the new Stowell Road going into Bedford. In 1964 this home was purchased by Peter and Jackie Flood, who have preserved this piece of history.

In the Merrimack Town Report of 1944, there was a whistle system alerting volunteer firemen to the section of town where they were needed. The whistle blew "3-3-3" times for "Christian Hill. "

The Merrimack Historical Society has many of these records, letters and articles, and gains much information from the website, [www.nh.searchroots.com](http://www.nh.searchroots.com), titled "Merrimack History" by local historian, Janice Brown. At this point the Historical Society is still closed to the public, but we have high hopes of opening with limited hours in the near future (hopefully by the time this article is published). Contact Anita Creager at 424-5084 or [anitacreager58@comcast.net](mailto:anitacreager58@comcast.net) for further information.