



Jason and Jessica Lewis and their mom, Sara Derosier (not pictured), cleaned the shelves and reorganized the stock at the Andover Food Pantry on the day before Thanksgiving.

The pantry has been a busy place this winter, with many families taking advantage of it and many residents, clubs, and organizations stopping by to keep it well stocked.

The pantry, in the basement of the Town Hall, is open whenever the Town Hall is open. Stop by and take what you need (there's no paperwork or registration required) or drop off any *non-perishable, staple* items (please check the expiration date first!) that you'd care to donate.

Staff photo: Charlie Darling



George And Barbara Upton Leave Beech Hill For Kansas

By Suzy Norris
For the Beacon

This article is based on a 2006 interview with Barbara Upton, on the recollections of Dennis Fenton, and on a citation from Brief History of the Potter Place Railroad Station and the Andover Historical Society written by Barbara Upton in October, 1987.

After 30 years of living in Andover, George and Barbara Upton have sold their home on Beech Hill and moved to Topeka, Kansas to be near family. That's a big loss for Andover. Over the course of three decades, they each gave generously of themselves to the town.

Their New Hampshire roots run deep. George and Barbara met as students at Concord High School. Barbara recalls: "I ended up with George on one side of me and another nice guy on the other – just for sociology class. George was captain of the track team, the other, captain of the football team. I liked them both. I made the right choice."

After graduating from high school, George went to MIT and Barbara to UNH. She worked her way through college: "The teachers [had] taken me aside and said, 'You should go to college.' I said I couldn't afford it. They said, 'Yes you can. You can work sum-

mers and work when you are there.'" And so she did... "I did it on my own." She and George completed their college degrees in three years "because there was a war on, and things were very uncertain, and we both wanted to graduate at the same time."

They graduated from college in 1945, married, and settled in Connecticut where George was employed as an aircraft engineer. When his company decided to move to Dallas, Texas, so did the Uptons. Barbara muses: "I always said that the Texans came and gave them [the bigwigs] each a ten-gallon hat and convinced them we [the workers] should go to Texas. We weren't sure we'd like Texas, but we figured, what the heck, we'll go and if we don't like it, we can come back home."

"We bought a modest house and were the first people to air condition that tiny house. I sat in the kitchen drinking iced tea when they put in the air conditioning. I'm not a heat lover. I like Yankee weather."

There they lived and raised their family – Sue, Tom, and Nancy – until they were grown. George and Barbara now have six grandchildren.

In 1979 when Barbara's mother became ill and George was thinking of retiring, they came back to New Hampshire to look after her mother and to look for a place to buy. That place turned out to be at the top of Beech Hill in Andover, a house where Ted Hall had once lived and more recently, Marjorie Patterson.

Barbara remembers seeing the place for the first time: "So we followed this man [the real estate agent] and at the bottom of the hill a whole big flock of gold-finches went across the front of our car. I said to George, 'That's a good omen.' [It was] not a huge house like the ones everyone had been showing us. I said to the [agent], 'I want to go in the front door.' Of course, we've hardly been in the front door since. Nobody goes in the front door around here ... but he took us in the front door."

After moving in, George and Barbara became intensely involved in the town. Dennis Fenton recalls: "They See Uptons on page 25

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