

## Andover: "Nature's Choicest Realm"

By Mary Hiller  
Andover Historical Society

The Andover Historical Society has received from Frank Baker and from Anne Landini several copies of undated brochures advertising Andover as a prime vacation resort. These brochures were in the possession of the Thompson family, who were among the many Andoverites who wished to accommodate summer guests in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Some quotes from one brochure: "Andover lies in Nature's choicest realm, amid the mountains and hills of central New Hampshire... There can be no question about the purity of its splendid air.

"East Andover, a typical New England village...

has four mails received daily. Boston papers arrive in the morning, New York papers at 4 p.m. and Sunday papers are received at 6 o'clock Sunday morning.

"Highland Lake, an especially beautiful sheet of water, is one of its chief attractions.... Numerous small craft upon its waters are moored within a few feet of the railroad station and post-office. Its waters are clear and uncontaminated; its shore clean and dry."

The brochure continues extolling the fishing and hunting and then moves on to discuss the "paradise of picturesque

drives" and the "rich landscape effects" that will "surprise you at every turn."

It concludes with a list of the "Farmhouses in Andover" that are "open for the reception of guests." Eleven are listed – four in Andover, one in West Andover, and six in East Andover.

The brochure opens with a picture of Highland Lake and closes with "Ragged Mountain from Andover." Inside are two collages of scenes from our town. The first

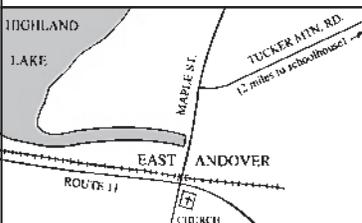
includes "Mountain Brook and the Falls," "Kearsarge Mountain from Bradley Pond," and "the Drive from Beech Hill." The second shows "Black Bass Fishing," "Highland Lake and Halcyon Island," "Kearsarge from Taunton Hill," and "Birch Avenue."

Taking in summer boarders was one way in which

Andover families coped with the loss of their farm revenues as the west opened up and Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois took over the farm markets. Interestingly enough, the same situation is found today in New Zealand, where sheep farmers demonstrate their dogs and sheep to tourists to keep afloat.

These brochures are of great interest to the Historical Society, not only because they extol and illuminate earlier life in our town, but also because they tell about the economics and the entrepreneurship of our earlier residents.

The Historical Society's museum at Potter Place is open for the summer on Saturdays from 10 AM to 3 PM and Sundays from 1 to 3 PM. The Tucker Mountain Schoolhouse (see Ed Hiller's map below) is open on the second Sunday of every month from June to October from 1 to 3 PM.



### I Remember When...

"...the present Blackwater Ski & Cycle Shop on Main Street was the Andover Spa, replete with counter service. It was run by Albert and Donna Wiggins, who lived above the store."

– Suzy Norris

What do you remember? Let us know!

### I Remember When...

"...people would go to the Potter Place station on a Saturday night to watch the "Peanut" train arrive from Boston."

– Jim Emerson

[Ralph Chaffee's history of Andover says that people would go to Franklin or Concord or even Boston for the day for shopping or a movie and come home on the Peanut.]

## This Month In Andover History

Excerpts from John Eastman's *History of Andover 1751-1908* and from Ralph Chaffee's *History of Andover 1900-1965*

"July 9, 1816 – A heavy frost killed much of the corn."

– selected by Ralph Doe

[1816 is known as *The Year Without A Summer*. Mt. Tambora in Sumbawa, Indonesia had exploded in April of 1815, killing nearly 12,000 inhabitants. By the summer of 1816 the eruption's stratospheric cloud reflected enough sunlight away from North America and Europe to cause crop failures. In New Hampshire, the last frost of the winter of 1815-1816 was on July 9. The first frost of the winter of 1816-1817 was on August 21.]

Copies of the Andover histories are available in our libraries.

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