

Halfway Up The Hill Recalls An Earlier Andover

Copies of Paul Fenton Jr.'s *Halfway Up The Hill* are still available. The book is based on a series of articles he wrote for *The Andover Beacon* from July 1991 through June 2003 in which he reminisces about growing up in Andover.

Here is an excerpt from the section on outhouses:

"When I was a child more people had out houses (privies) than indoor plumbing. Now these conveniences were located according to necessity. Hopefully, they were in a location where the prevailing winds would not cause the inhabitants of the home or public building where meetings were being held any discomfort.

"Here in New England this area of comfort was located in a shed attached to the house or beyond the shed in the barn. If it was a public building it was usually located between the meeting hall and the dining area. The purpose of this was so no one would have to walk outdoors during a blizzard or driving

rain storm to become more comfortable in their circumstance.

"All these facilities were wonderful; however, there came a day they had to be cleaned and prepared for another year's use.

Halfway Up The Hill



A collection of 100 photographs for the Andover Historical Society and the Andover Historical Society.
Paul J. Fenton, Jr.

This usually took a very strong stomach and in some cases several bottles of encouragement before the job got done.

"I am aware of one situation in Knox, Maine where two sons had been asked by their elderly father to clean the privy. Having consumed a substantial amount of encouragement they decided that dynamite was the answer. This resulted in the loss of

the entire north side of their father's barn. Needless to say, the father was not pleased and never asked his sons to do the job again. This probably did not disappoint them."

Half Way Up The Hill can be purchased for \$15 from the Andover Historical Society, the Salisbury Historical Society, or by calling Paul at 735-5754. He lives halfway up Beech Hill at 125 Beech Hill Road here in Andover.



The old stump fence at Thompson's field at Cemetery Corner as it appeared in the 1960s.

The Old Stump Fence Is Gone

By Heather Makechnie and Ethan Collette
For the *Beacon*

According to Jane Currier of Salisbury, her grandmother, Stella Tuttle Thompson of East Andover, was the person responsible for the creation of the stump fence that once fronted the Thompson property on Route 11. That fence, directly opposite Lakeview Cemetery, will likely disappear altogether, now that new construction is recurring the road at Flaghole.

Says Jane, "Stella's husband – my grandfather, Bertelle Thompson – bought and sold a lot of property. Perhaps at some point he gave Stella responsibility for that property, and when it was cleared sometime around 1900, she ordered that the stumps be removed to the side to make a fence."

The stump fence was never cleared away to make a stone wall and remained, even into the late 1980s, a remarkable sight. It was so picturesque

that it appeared in a number of magazine articles, postcards, and calendar photos.

Folks were of divided opinion about it. Some maintained that it depreciated the scenery; others, that it was a link to the town's early history, when stump fences were not so rare.

However, throughout the years many pieces of the fine old weathered stumps were removed by people wishing to use them for doorstops, lamp bases, or even decorative flower pots. "Many times Thompson family members stopped people from stealing those stumps," says Jane. "But little by little it vanished."

When the Thompson family recently deeded a portion of the field to the Town of Andover so that reconstruction of the road could take place, several last pieces of the fence were relocated to the family's lakeside property for preservation. A fine piece has also been donated to the Andover Historical Society.

50 YEARS AGO

JUNE 1959

Here's some old news from the *Andover, East Andover, West Andover, Potter Place, and Cilleyville "gossip" columns of the Franklin Journal Transcript, selected by Heather Makechnie.*

June 4 – [Mrs. Gerald Walker, East Andover correspondent] Correction: Dallas Calley did *not* pass away last week as was reported to me.

June 11 – Webster Valve moved into its new Franklin Plant this week. Starting over the weekend, Webster employees have moved all their equipment and stock from the old two-story plant at 174 North Main Street to the fine new one-story plant at the site of the old Guay airport, under supervision of Production Manager Don Thomann. There are 70,000 square feet of open factory space; a modern design that will eliminate needless handling of materials and allow a smooth flow of production from raw and brass parts at one end of the plant to packaged valves of all sorts at the other end.

June 18 – Miss Linda Kimball celebrated her 10th birthday with a group of her classmates June 10 at her home. Those present were Beverly Miller, Irene Stacey, Betty and Mary Shampney, Patty Wilson, Nancy and Druscilla Keniston, Beryl Gove, Dawn Prescott, Joy Keyser, Beverly Richardson, Corinne Morrill, Brenda and Rhonda Kimball. Linda opened many gifts. Games were played by all. Refreshments of ice cream, tonic, and a birthday cake made by her grandmother, Mrs. Lillie Young, was served by her mother.

June 25 – [Front page feature article] Mr. and Mrs. Horace Schnare of Andover have returned home for the summer from their teaching work in Alaska with a brand new member to add to their family of two boys, Gordon 13 and Dwight 16, and a girl, Susan 8. The new one is Joanne Aukijak, (meaning "Little Fishhook"), a two-year-old Kobuk Eskimo girl recently adopted by the Schnares.

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