



Dyers Crossing School, taken from a postcard belonging to Nancy Waldo of Franklin. The postcard belonged to Nancy's great aunt Jeanette Cullen, who was born in 1881. On the back of the card, Jeanette had written: "This is where I went to school. Hog back East Andover."

The History of the Dyers Crossing Area

Was the crossing named for a musician?

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In this article I revisit the Dyers Crossing area of East Andover – an important location which I've mentioned briefly in earlier articles.

Before the arrival of the railroad, the general area around today's Dyers Crossing was referred to as "hog-back." The name has been written many different ways, including hog-back, hog back, Hog back, Hog Back and Hog-back. I will use the latter version.

The writings of Ralph Chaffee explain the origin of this rather strange name. It came about because of the nearby high, rounded hill which looked somewhat like the posterior end of a huge, well-fed hog.

Its appearance changed drastically in 1940, when its clay was excavated for the building of the Franklin Falls Dam. From then on, it was referred to as the Clay Bank.

Mill Brook (Sucker Brook today), which made its way around Hogback, offered potential water power for early settlers and may have been instrumental in attracting them to this area. Once the settlers arrived, roads were necessary, and many important early roads passed through, or were in close proximity to, Hogback.

I have previously written about the Center Road (1762), the Philbrick Road (1801), and the Brook Road (1824). According to John Eastman's History of Andover, two other roads also converged in this area.

The Back Road (1783) began near the intersection of today's Sam Hill Road and Route 11 and joined the Center Road. Dyers Crossing Road (1801) came down from Marston Hill's Emery Road and merged with the other roads near Hogback. Since so many people needed to travel on these five roads, Hogback was an important and busy place.

Dyers Crossing

In 1847, the builders of the Northern Railroad were quickly cutting a path and laying tracks through Andover. Many times during its northwesterly journey, these tracks crossed over town roads. If these railroad crossings happened to be near someone's house, the crossing often took on the name of the family living there.

This was the case with Dyers Crossing. It is not clear to us today exactly where the Dyer family was living in 1847. Was it one of the two houses which still remain near the crossing? Or did they live in a house which has since burned, been torn down, or been moved?

Ralph Chaffee speculated that William and David Dyer lived in the old Keniston house. I question this, however, since Albert Hoyt's recorded interview relates how his great-grandfather, who was married in 1849, moved their house down from the mountain.

The second house east of the crossing is a possibility and was listed on the 1892 map as belonging to Frank Austin. My uncle, Ray Hersey, who lived most his 90 plus years in this area, believed the Dyer family may have lived a little farther west of the crossing, where the remains of a cellar hole can still be found.

Members of the Dyer family had a rather unusual occupation for their day, or at least one that was a surprise to me. Ralph Chaffee, in his 1974 book *East Andover and Its People*, relates: "David Dyer was said to be a musician, and he invented and manufactured parts for the seraphine, melodeon, and other musical instruments in his home."

Frank Joseph Brown, in an article written in 1898 for the *Journal Transcript*, says, "Sixty years ago or more, John and David Dyer manufactured organs at Dyers Crossing." To me, it is interesting and exciting to think that in 1838, or even before, a family right here in East Andover, and within walk-

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Fifty Years Ago in Andover: March 1966

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.*

March 3, 1966

At a meeting of the Regional School Planning Board held in New London on March 2, 1966, it was unanimously voted to approve the request of the Andover School Board that another vote be taken in that community on the proposed articles of agreement to establish the Kearsarge Regional School District. On February 21, the proposed District was overwhelmingly approved by the voters of all the other towns. The proposal was defeated in Andover by one vote. The State Attorney General gave permission for another vote to be taken in Andover.

A new history of the Town of Andover has recently been written by ex-selectman Ralph G. Chaffee. This covers mainly the last 65 years since the earlier Eastman history was compiled and published.

At that time Andover was just beginning to emerge from the horse and buggy days. There was then no electricity in the local area, and there were no phones, automobiles, or fire departments. There were 14 one-room schoolhouses, each in its own district. \$3,000 for publishing the book has been included in the budget to be considered at the March 8, 1966 Town Meeting.

March 10, 1966

Andover passed the warrant in the Town Meeting to regulate all billboards in the town.

Martha Burney, 8th grade daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Burney, is the winner of this year's Andover Elementary School Spelling Bee.

Fireman Apprentice Pio C. Shampney, USN, son of Mr and Mrs Chester C. Shampney, is a crew mem-

ber aboard the anti-submarine warfare (ASW) support aircraft carrier USS Yorktown. The 41,000-ton "Fighting Lady" is the nucleus of an ASW group composed of surface, sub-surface, and air units designed, trained, and equipped to seek out and destroy enemy submarines.

The Southern New Hampshire State Grange Square Dance Festival was held at the Andover School Gymnasium with some 225 Grangers and guests present.

March 17, 1966

The School Board regrets the error which left the name of Donna Keyser, the daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Keyser, off the Town Report perfect attendance sheet. Donna has had perfect attendance for seven years in a row and is half-way into her eighth year.

Showing at the Regal Theatre in Franklin: *The Hallelujah Trail*, or "How The West Was Fun!" starring Burt Lancaster and Lee Remick.

March 24, 1966

Andover had its second vote last Saturday and reaffirmed its stand against the Kearsarge Cooperative School District ... this time by a margin of 21 votes. "Everyone who was able to walk, and in some cases you might even say crawl, was out Saturday to vote. Voters registered in the Town of Andover but presently living in another area due to their employment made the trip, too, some coming from as far away as Massachusetts. Of the more than 700 registered voters, 545 cast their ballots; 283 against and 262 for.

"All concerned are interested in a cooling-off period now. It has been years since a vote of this dimension has been recorded. And with the vote went a lot of enthusiasm which boiled over in letter writing and telephone campaigns. Now apologies are the order of the day as many renew speaking terms."

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