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A neurosurgeon with Upper Valley Neurology and Neurosurgery (UVNN), Dr. Harold Pikus is seeing patients at New London Hospital. He specializes in neurological surgery, including brain, spinal, neck and low back surgery as well as peripheral nerve procedures. He holds a bachelor's degree in physics from McGill University in Canada and earned his medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore. Dr. Pikus completed his surgical internship and his neurosurgical residency at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.

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**Fourth from page 14**

place this time in Andover Centre, at the New Meeting House) was strikingly, and distressingly, different – even though both the program and the presiding dignitaries were much the same as before. In 1828, there was no longer a simple Andover township celebration; instead there was a “Democratic Republicans of Andover” celebration. One political party, the new Jacksonian faction of the old Democratic Republican party, had commandeered the occasion, and now proceeded to make a partisan weapon of it.

Political factionalism had become significant and increasingly fierce before and especially during the presidency of John Quincy Adams, and American “party politics” was born during this time. The old Democratic Republican party was fracturing, the old Federalist party fading, and in 1828, an election year, the contest between incumbent Adams and challenger Andrew Jackson became what one eminent historian has called “probably the dirtiest in American history.” Andover’s elders had felt the early tremors of these developments back in 1817 and had guarded against them: the 1817 Fourth of July celebration, for example, proceeded “without distinction of political parties,” included an “impartial” oration, and adopted this resolution on “Party Spirit – Incompatible with the principles of liberty, may it be extirpated by a steady adherence to correct principles.” But by 1828 “Party Spirit” had won the day, and Andover was no exception.

The celebration got off to a contentious start: “some of the most degraded of the opposition” had stolen the cannon that the Republicans had procured for their event, but another cannon was quickly found. The formal events in the meeting house – procession, music, prayers, reading of the Declaration of Independence, speech – were as before. But the dinner afterward was for “subscribers”; and the toasts that followed were often nastily partisan (for example, “John Quincy Adams. His political hypocrisy, profuse expenditures, . . . his deserting one party to get office, and betraying the other to

keep it; eminently qualify him for retirement to private life”). Worse, some of these partisan toasts also struck close to home. In particular, there were two toasts directed at Jacob B. Moore, a young New Hampshire man already prominent as a publisher and political figure. (Moore had earlier, in 1822, written and published A Topographical and Historical Sketch of the Town of Andover, our first town history. Later in life he would be one of the founders of the New Hampshire Historical Society.) First came this toast from the toastmaster: “Jacob B. Moore. The sexton who rings the Bell of New Hampshire; he must have his spades and pick axes in good order, for on the fourth of March next he must bury the Coalition in the six Coffins.” And then this one, channeling Aesop, came from the floor: “Jacob B. Moore. And as a certain benevolent man walked out one frosty morning, he found a snake benumbed and helpless; he took him to his house and warmed him, and lo! The serpent bit his Benefactor.”

(Some quick background here: earlier in 1828 a Philadelphia publisher printed an anti-Jackson handbill or broadside prominently featuring six coffins, calling attention to the six militiamen executed by Jackson’s orders in questionable circumstances in Mobile in late February 1815, some six weeks after the Battle of New Orleans and a few days after the news of the peace treaty had arrived. This “coffin handbill,” and take-offs from it, circulated widely during the 1828 campaign. Samuel Bell, senator from New Hampshire, was aligned with the anti-Jacksonian, Quincy/Clay “Coalition.” The winner of the presidential election would be inaugurated on March 4.)

Jacob B. Moore was a native son of Andover. His father, for whom he had been named, had been an important and popular figure in Andover – the town doctor, a Justice of the Peace, occasionally a Selectman, frequently the Town Clerk. When his father died in 1813, Jacob Moore, then sixteen, had moved to Concord to apprentice himself to Isaac Hill, publisher of the New Hampshire Patriot (who later would become a New Hampshire Senator and then Governor). Moore thrived in the business and became Hill’s partner in 1819; then, in 1820, he married Hill’s sister and became Hill’s brother-in-law as well. The two men apparently worked well together; but by 1826 their political differences had grown, and Moore then left their partnership, on amicable terms, from all I can learn, and established a new newspaper, the New Hampshire Journal, which became an organ of the “National Republicans” (the New Hampshire Patriot, on the other hand, was fiercely Jacksonian).

So, Jacob B. Moore was the “serpent” of the parable-toast, foolishly taken in by and then turning on his benefactor, Isaac Hill. Many townspeople in Andover still remembered Jacob as a fine, upstanding youth, a classic instance of “local boy makes good,” and many, many more gratefully remembered his father. But this was party politics now; this was war. By 1828, even the Fourth of July celebration, in Andover and in so many other parts of the country as well, had fallen prey to “Party Spirit.”