



Rita Norander found this picture of the former Portsmouth School in East Andover in her history files. It was part of an article published in *The Granite Monthly* in 1896.

Picture of East Andover's Portsmouth School Discovered

Published in 1896 issue of *The Granite Monthly*

Rita Norander

After saying in my article in the March issue of the *Beacon* that I hadn't previously seen a picture of the Portsmouth School in its original setting, I was surprised to rediscover an early photo (above) – and it was right in my own Andover history files!

The picture appears in a 12-page article of the October 1896 issue of *The Granite Monthly* magazine. The article is simply titled *Andover*, and it is by Miss M. J. Hersey. The author, Mary J. Hersey (known to her family as May J.), and my great-grandfather, Benjamin G. Hersey, were first cousins. This is probably why the article was saved and passed on to other family members.

According to Ralph Chaffee, in his book *East Andover and Its People*, May J. Hersey and her sister Edith grew up on Tucker Mountain. Their home was just before the Little Red Schoolhouse, and it had belonged to their grandparents, Jacob and Polly Rowe. In 1867, Frank G. Hersey, who lived on the other side of Tucker Mountain in Hill, became a hired hand on the Rowe farm,

and two years later he married the Rowes' daughter, Ellen.

In the early days of the 20th century, the farm was known as the "Old Mountain Home," and the Herseys took in summer boarders. After May J. and Edith's parents died, the unmarried sisters continued to live on the farm for a time, but in 1922 they sold the family homestead and moved to California.

The sisters kept in touch with their Andover family and friends and visited New Hampshire a few times. They especially liked to return for the Hersey Reunion, which they had often hosted at their "Old Mountain Home" on Tucker Mountain.

May J. died in 1964 at age 90, and Edith in 1967 at age 90. They are buried in the Lakeview Cemetery in East Andover. Sadly, all of the buildings at their "Old Mountain Home" on Tucker Mountain were destroyed by fire in 1934.

The *Granite Monthly* article and its pictures provide an interesting glimpse into Andover's past. Within its pages are 20 small pictures of public buildings and private homes, as well as 25 pictures of early prominent Andover citizens. It was a wonderful find!

Service Club Relaunches Welcome Bag Program For New Residents

Caroline Moulton Ratzki
Andover Service Club

In these difficult times, as I worry about loved ones and miss the activities we took for granted just a few weeks ago, I am sustained by the strength of our community. I know that if my husband or I were to get sick, there are friends and neighbors who would drop off groceries on our porch and help out in any way they can.

Over a decade ago, when we were viewing the house we bought on Maple Street, I was delighted to see people wave as they drove by. I think that moment sealed our fate!

Throughout that summer of 2009, neighbors walked up our driveway with gifts of cookies or produce from their garden. We fell in love with Andover.

We were quickly roped into some of Andover's many clubs. It's a great way to meet people! My first club was the Andover Service Club. It was founded in the 1950s, to serve people in the community and state and to broaden the social and intellectual life of its members. Membership is open to all women in Andover and surrounding communities.

The Service Club supports many lo-

cal organizations, maintains the town gardens, runs the Thrift and Gift Shop, provides scholarships, and more. We meet monthly from September to June. Currently, the Service Club is working on the relaunch of a Welcome Bag program to greet new residents.

Welcome Bags

The bag contains information about businesses and organizations in town, with gift items and gift certificates generously donated by our local merchants. Also included is a map and a Business Directory which lists the phone numbers of town offices and other important services.

Andover is a great place to live, and being involved is a great way to build community. The Service Club welcomes new members. Contact the president, Sandra Graves, at 735-5531 or JGraves@tds.net.

If you're new to town, or know someone who is, please contact one of us, and we'll be glad to deliver a welcome bag once life returns to normal. Caroline Moulton Ratzki, CarolineMoulton@gmail.com; Margo Coolidge, Margo_Coolidge@hotmail.com; or Ellen Langlais, EllenL@tds.net.

Reminisce!

The *Beacon* wants to publish your memories of Andover in days gone by. Big events or everyday moments, our readers would love to share in your memories.

TIME TO APPLY for Andover Service Club SCHOLARSHIPS

Available to:

Andover's Graduating Seniors and Adults entering or continuing College or Professional/Technical School

DEADLINE: Friday, April 24, 2020

Application forms available on line at:

AndoverBeacon.com/ASC-Scholarship

and at

ASC Thrift Shop, Andover Middle School, Proctor Academy and MVHS Guidance Offices
Mary Phinney, Chairperson • mphinney39@yahoo.com



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