



Lt. Derek Hinkley is welcomed home by his wife Trish and their East Andover neighbors after being deployed in New York City as part of a medical team on the USNS Comfort.

Photo: Gail Beaufays

Derek Hinkley Returns After Seven-Week Deployment to NYC

Served with medical team on USNS Comfort

Pecco Beaufays

On Saturday, May 16, my wife Gail and I shared a very happy event with our neighbors on Maple Street. Our neighbor and friend Lieutenant Derek Hinkley returned after seven weeks of service in New York City.

Derek and his wife Trish moved to Andover from Florida in May of 2016 due to their employment as anesthesi-

ology nurses at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Hospital. They liked living at Highland Lake so much that they accepted driving to Lebanon every day.

Derek, a reservist in the United States Navy attached to the Navy Operational Support Center in White River Junction, was deployed aboard the USNS *Comfort* in New York Harbor. He was part of a medical team providing support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



This old postcard, shows men using an oxen team to maintain a road in Andover. An early model vehicle is seen in the background.

Andover's Early Road Maintenance Practices Changed with the Times

Town histories show creation of Road Agent role

Rita Norander

When I came across these pictures, I was reminded of Andover's recent Town Meeting with its recurring discussion of road agents, a Town garage, and Town-owned equipment. As a result, I thought it would be interesting to take a quick look at how Andover's early road system developed, how the roads were maintained, and who maintained them.

According to John Eastman's *History of Andover New Hampshire, 1751 to 1906*, the proprietors of what would eventually become the township of Andover realized that passable roads were necessary in order to stimulate settlement. Many of their meetings dealt with this subject, as committees were set up to lay out roads and surveyors and workers were hired and paid by the proprietors to cut and clear the land.

After Andover's incorporation in 1779, money from a highway tax was placed in the hands of surveyors to be used on the roads in their respective districts, and by 1790 there were eight districts. Eastman also mentions that each taxpayer could work out his highway tax in his own district at a fixed rate per hour.

During the 1800s, Andover's road system continued to grow, as more and more settlers arrived. Surveyors were still in charge, and they hired workers to help as needed and as the allotted money allowed.

For the most part, work was done by hand with the help of horses and oxen. But in 1885 the Town purchased a horse-drawn iron road machine, or grader, which was a big help in shaping the road surfaces and carrying out ditching. The use of snow roller machines around this same time provided much better roads for winter traveling.

Ralph Chaffee, in his *History of Andover, 1900 to 1960*, notes that in 1892, Andover abandoned the old system of district highway surveyors in favor of the so-called "town" or two-road-agent arrangement. Instead of a dozen or more men, with each being allotted a small amount of money to maintain a few miles of road as he saw fit, the responsibility for the care of the highways could now be placed in the hands of one person at each end of the town.

Thus the labor and equipment could be used more efficiently and the available money spent where it was needed most. This system remained in use until 1953, when it was changed to a single road agent for the whole town.

Chaffee also mentions that the arrival of the automobile created many problems for Andover's roads, which were not built and maintained for this type of travel. But eventually the automobile also provided some solutions.

Beginning around 1920, dump See Roads on page 18



Pat Frost

Andover, NH

Phone: 603.455.8870

frostbuilding@comcast.net

Sand and Sun - Summer Fun Has Begun
TIME TO GET ORANGE!

An advertisement for The Dumpster Depot. It features a cartoon character of an orange potato wearing a yellow hard hat and sunglasses, standing next to a large orange dumpster. The text "Sand and Sun - Summer Fun Has Begun" is at the top, followed by "TIME TO GET ORANGE!". A circular graphic says "DUMPSTER RENTALS STARTING AT \$410". Another circle says "NO HIDDEN FEES NO FUEL CHARGE NO TRICKY LONG TERM CONTRACTS TO SIGN". The bottom left has the company name "THE DUMPSTER DEPOT" and "Waste Recycling Services". The bottom right shows a coupon for "SAVE WITH OUR DUMPSTER DEPOT BUCKS" with a dollar bill graphic.

THE DUMPSTER DEPOT®
Great Service at "YOUR" Convenience, Not Ours!
Waste Recycling Services
WWW.DUMPSTERDEPOT.COM

Like us on Facebook



This Page Sponsored by

Belletetes Building Products Specialists

24 10 Penny Lane, Andover, NH 03216 • Tel. (603) 735-5544 • www.belleletes.com