

for years at night the weary traveller found rest and food for himself and beast. Sometimes the number of lodgers was so great that they slept in rows on the floor. Here news was exchanged from the up-country and the city. Those still living recall the busy and merry scenes presented. On the broad field at the east the militia paraded at regimental muster, and the children and adults of this and surrounding towns gathered in gala dress to enjoy the holiday and the martial display. On the opposite side of the road near the barn, Mr. Bartlett, of Warner, established a store, which was tended by his son Levi, afterward the well known agricultural and historical writer. Mr. Levi Bartlett in his old age said to the Eatons,—“I have known seven generations of your family.”

In 1786, Caleb Kimball was one of a committee to locate the south meeting-house, and, as one of the selectmen, had care of the expenditure of twelve pounds raised that year for the support of schools. His home was in the “third district,” and the school for his children was located on the ledge at the brow of the hill south of the road and within view of his home—a sightly spot, a solid foundation. Rev. Dr. Horace Eaton, his grandson, who took his first lessons in this school-house, was wont to say that his education was “founded on a rock.” Here the children and grandchildren of Mr. Kimball attended school, and in part acquired the intelligence for which they were noted. Tradition tells us of the sensation of admiration and wonder produced by a visit to the school of a soldier returned from the War of 1812, dressed in a captain’s red coat. When another and better “people’s college” was built, at a point on the road farther toward Warner near the Benjamin Kendrick place, this old house was removed to the new district on the road passing Jonathan Roby’s, and rebuilt near Thomas Morgan’s where it remains to this day. In this house John Eaton, afterward U. S. Commissioner of Education, at sixteen years of age taught his first school.

Near the school-house on the ledge, crossing the road, John Eaton, who married Mary Kimball, built his first house, carried on his trade as a brazier, and opened a store. All trace of this home is now gone except the cellar, the well, and the tansy patch. On the opposite side of the road lived Jonathan Stevens, whose daughter became Mrs. Jacob Osgood, and died in Warner over one hundred and two years of age. Only the old well and a slight depression of ground mark the site of the Stevens house.