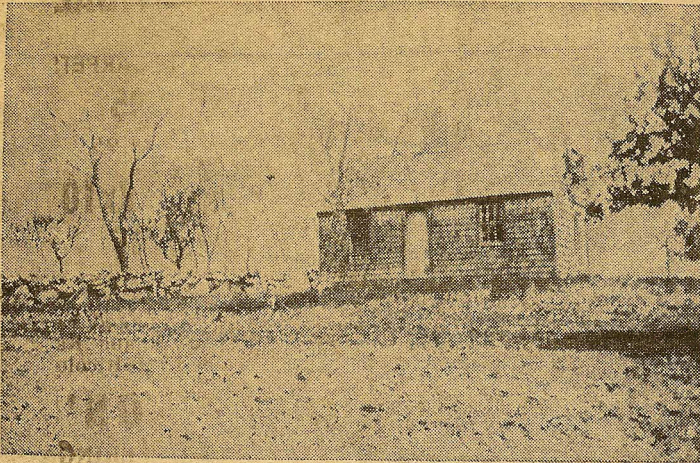


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EXETER'S HISTORIC SITES—NO. 66



NEWMARKET, A PART OF EXETER 1727

By REV. ROLAND D. SAWYER

Newmarket was the largest town carved out of Exeter. It was made a parish by the Legislature of the Province of New Hampshire on Dec. 14, 1727. On Aug. 10, 1737, it was made a

town with full town rights. It then contained what is now Newfields which on June 27, 1849 was made South Newmarket.

When in 1870 THE NEWS-LETTER enlarged its size and used local correspondence from other towns, the two Newmarkets received a lot of space and together had a circulation reaching that in Exeter for a time.

In June 1870 a part of Durham was attached to Newmarket and it became the sixth town in size even without South Newmarket. This was because of its large textile industry.

The Newmarket Company was organized in 1822 and had Mill No. 1 in operation in 1824. The next year it had Mill No. 2; then in 1827 came Mill No. 3, and 13,000 spindles were in operation.

In 1869 came Mill No. 4, and in 1881 came Mill No. 5. Over 700 hands worked in these mills and 55,000 spindles were turning and 300,000 yards of cloth

were turned out weekly. The town had its own bank and was a busy little place.

When the Exeter Mill was opened, Newmarket hands, plus some brought over from England, rode in barges to Exeter each day to run the mill and teach others how to run the machines.

The family names of Nutter, Moody, Burley, Chapman, and Durell have been prominent in its earlier history.

In 1668 Edward Colcord of Exeter made affidavits in a legal case in which he stated that when he came to New Hampshire the chief of local Indians was Chief We-han-now-it who lived on the river about six miles from Exeter.

But for its textile industry Newmarket would have ever remained a hamlet of farmers, and I think the person to be honored in any sketch of the town is one "Lois," a slave girl of Smith Chapman, who did all the spinning and weaving for the clothing of his family.

The little house in the picture was her house; in one end she lived and in the other she worked. She was an exceedingly intelligent woman, and after her working days were over she was affectionately called "Aunt Lois" by members of the family and the neighbors.

The house was standing, back from the road, a few years ago, and I suppose is still standing. It's a beacon of the industry which made Newmarket large and prosperous.

J. F. (Rev. J. Fullonton of Raymond) was THE NEWS-LETTER's first local correspondent, and in THE NEWS-LETTER of March 27, 1874, he gives a column long history of the first ministers and the church. I have sought to speak only of the industrial history of the town.

In the Civil War when help was scarce the mill-owners made a deal with some Frenchmen down here working in brickyards to move down with their families and work in the mills. Thus a large French population came there. And it was very interesting to me to hear, around 1890, a Frenchman from Newmarket say to one of Exeter, "You come down on top New-mar-ket, and you get a job."