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Mrs. Kellogg Discloses Little Known Facts in History of Greenfield

"In 1673 when the general court made an addition of grant to Focum-tuck so the township should be seven miles square and which was to mean the present territory of Greenfield and Gill," Mrs. Kellogg said. "There was restriction that a farm of 250 acres be laid out for the country's use. So the surveyors set out a strip 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ rods wide which ran from the Connecticut river on the east across the north part to the seven mile line and so across the entire northern boundary and was called "The Country Farm." This was perhaps the oldest name given to any locality except Petty's plain, she added.

The hill north from Nash's Mills has long been known as Music hill and the road running inn to the Country Farms early known as Fudding lane. The plain above the present Channing L. Bete house on Bernardston road was and still is called Log plain, by reason of the immense pines and uprooted stumps in that vicinity. Lamp-black road was so named because of the quantities of lampblack made on the old Griswo'd farm. The road from Silver street north to the town line was long known as Goose land nearly every place nearby having boasted a flock of geese.

In 1812 the newly formed Franklin county built its jail just south of the old Union house, below the present railroad arch, south of the station, that section came to be known as Charlestown," Mrs. Kellogg added.

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The eastern boundary of the town is Fall river, a stream but little smaller than Green River, but no brooks of any size enter it from Greenfield. It was of much more importance a hundred years ago than now, as it furnished power for several manufacturing interests which have now gone to decay. The pure water of the stream is now taken across the Connecticut in pipes and used in the large paper mills at Turners Falls.

Driving from Greenfield to Gill as you pass through "the swamp" and down the hill to the Factory village you may hear

A noise like a hidden brook,
In the leafy month of June,
That to the sleeping woods all night
Singeth a quiet tune."

This little stream is referred to on the records in early times as Fall brook. It drains the eastern end of White Ash swamp, and this locality was the scene of stirring events at the time of the Falls fight. Even this little rill in early days had its sawmill, which was operated by Andrew Adams and his Stewart sons, Nahum, George, and Pegeg.

Cherry Run brook flows from the west end of White Ash swamp, and continues westward discharging into Mill brook. The thickets which lined its winding way were cover for the Indians who attacked the retreating forces of Captain Turner after the Falls fight, and near its northern bank some of the captured soldiers were burned at the stake. Nearly a century ago its water turned the wheels of a sawmill which was located just east of where the swamp road crosses the brook, Gunn, Am don and Holland built the stone dam just west of the Boston and Maine Railroad, and here began the existence of the prosperous business of the "Millers Falls Company."

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July 2 1864 The Turners Falls Company are building their new dam, George W. Potter being in charge.

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Greenfield
October 2, 1869 Occurred the great storm in this county; the Smead bridge, the bridge at the mouth of Mill brook and the Country Farms bridge over Green river, and the bridges over both the Allen and the Hinsdale brooks were swept away, the culverts north of Main street were badly damaged; the bridge at Russell's factory carried off, and the road badly washed at both ends of the bridge at the Hollow Gactory. R

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April 1872 The Turners Falls Company purchase the Greenfield Manufacturing Company's plant at Factory Hollow. Price, \$40,000.

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Bridges
IN L&A, IT APPEARS that both bridges over Fall river, near its mouth had been swept away; and an effort was made to unite with the new town of Gill to construct a road on the east side of Fall river, so that one of the bridges might be done away with; but this relief not proving practical, the town went to the General Court, and in 1798 a law was passed, directing that the town of Greenfield forever maintain the upper bridge over Fall River, and the town of Gill the lower one. The two bridges were constructed in 1697.

In 1789, a new bridge over Fall river at Chases Mills (Factory Hollow.)

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December 5, 1814 "Voted to raise three hundred and fifty dollars for the support of schooling to be divided one half equally on all the Districts calling the street District two, and Fall river District half a District and the other half to be divided equally on all

the scholars

Several members of the Bascom family, early settlers of the town, were clothiers. Joseph Bascom, born in 1709 owned land about the west side of Franklin street running to Main. His son Joseph was a clothier and bought in 1796 of Joseph Stebbins land about the mouth of Fall river where he had a clothiers' shop. He sold a piece of land to Pierce Chase in 1811, who had a house there and did a large manufacturing business, which ended in his financial ruin, as elsewhere described in this work. In his old age Mr. Bascom conveyed his farm to his son Chester, who in 1825 sold the farm and manufacturing establishments to Lyman Kendall and Nathaniel E. Russell. Their works were destroyed by fire in 1829. The large stone mill was then built and a good business carried on at this place. In 1834, the Greenfield Manufacturing Company was organized and under the able management of Theodore Leonard did a profitable business until Mr. Leonard's health failed; business methods changed and the property quickly went to decay. The Greenfield Manufacturing Co. conveyed the property in 1872 to Marville W. Cooper, who sold it to Humphrey Stevens as the agent of the Turners Falls Company, who desire the pure water of Fall river for their paper mills.

In 1803 Andrew Adams, described to be from Warwick, R I. bought twenty-five acres of land of Asher Newton and Caleb Lyon, lying on the west side of the old county road leading from Deerfield to Northfield. Within a few years he and his sons, George, Nahum and Peleg came to own nearly all of the land lying on that road between White Ash swamp and the top of Halfway hill, a large share of which still remains in the family name. Andrew at first built a log house just north of the Millard place, and afterwards a better one farther north. His sons were successful business men, the late Peleg Adams at the time of his death being the owner of the Mansion House, one of the most valuable pieces of real estate in the town. It is now the property of his son's widow and here Two daughters.

James Day, father of the late Captain Edwin E. Day, at one time owned the place where stands the house built by J.P. Morgan, and his house stood at the junction of the roads. He purchased this estate from Erastus Merriam in 1851, he having bought it of the administrator of his father's estate in 1846. It came from the Adamses to the father (Joel Merriam) in 1736 and was sold to Andrew Adams by Pierce Chase in 1813. Mr. Merriam made brick several years, and ran the sawmill upon the little stream by the schoolhouse formerly called Fall brook.

One John Boyington in 1790 obtained title to about ninety acres of land on Fall hill from John C. Stephens and Moses Ballard and by an execution against Captain Mack he took an interest in the mills at Fall River. He lived where what is known as the Millard place now stands. The estate went into the Adams family. Boyington was a Revolutionary pensioner.

In 1799 Joseph Mott sold to John E. Hall, a merchant of Greenfield several tracts of land adjoining the Adams and Phillips lands, and he or some former owner built a sawmill on Fall River about a half mile above the present Gill road. The mill went to decay many years ago.

The fine water power at the mouth of Fall River was improved at an early date, and became the seat of important industries. In those times the vicinity was called "Northeast" and was the center of large lumbering interests. In 1784 Capt. Elisha Mack (afterward the builder of the Turners Falls dam) was assessed for a saw mill at Fall River. He was a forcible man and undoubtedly carried things with a strong hand, for in 1786 there was an article in the warrant for a town meeting "to see if they will chuse a Committee to build a bridge over Capt. Mack's mill pond or act as they think proper Respecting ye Town Road which sd Mack stopped by flowing said pond". At the meeting the article was dismissed. Without doubt the road at that time crossed Fall river above the present dam and Capt. Mack's dam built below the road was raised to such a height that the road was overflowed.

In times of high water the floods would set back from the Connecticut into the mouth of Fall River creating a great eddy, and logs rushing down the stream could be coaxed into the river's mouth, and when cut up into lumber and shingles "They knew not their Rightful owners, or whence they came."

Nearly 100 years ago there were sawmills on each side of Fall River, a gristmill on the West side, and Joseph Bascom had a pulping mill on the Greenfield side. Pierce Chase purchased the most of the property there which had formerly belonged to Capt. Mack. Pierce Chase who carried on a large business for several years had misfortunes and committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor Nov. 13, 1824 aged 47 years. To add to the horrible record, two weeks after his burial it was discovered that his grave had been robbed of his body, and the select men offered a reward of \$200 for the detection of the person committing the revolting crime. Time ran on until in 1830 a former physician of this vicinity, named Dumka Cooley, returned to the county and was placed under arrest for the crime, tried, and convicted, but escaped punishment because more than two years had elapsed after the commission of the crime before his arrest and trial.

In 1812 Erastus Clark came down from Colrain and purchased property from Chase, David Newman, and Seth S. Howland, and John E. Hall, and carried on the milling and carding works for some years. In 1825 Nathaniel E. Russell, a native of Greenfield, ~~returned~~ returned to town from Colrain where he had been in trade, and in partnership with Lyman Kendall purchased all the water power and buildings on both sides of the river and commenced the manufacture of satinet. In 1829 their mill was destroyed by fire, causing an estimated loss of \$30,000 In its place was built that large stone building which for nearly 30 years has stood a monument to a departed industry. In 1834 the Greenfield Manufacturing Company was incorporated and this property came into its hands. In 1837 this concern had four sets of machinery, and consumed 36,000 pounds of cotton and 150,000 pounds of wool, and manufactured 180,000 yards of satinet valued at \$110,000. 26 men and 63 females were employed. the Company had invested \$80,000/

Later, under the skillful management of the late Theodore Leonard the product of their looms (the finest of doeshins and broadcloths) gained a great reputation in the American markets. April 16, 1872 this property came into the hands of the Turners Falls Company since

which time it had ~~been~~ been un&proved and this once busy hamlet now has the appearance of Goldsmith's Deserted Village.

John C. Hall also had a sawmill on Fall River a half mile or more above the hamlet of Factory Hollow, on land which he purchased of Joseph Mott, in 1799.

Sept. 22, 1875 The old store at Factory village owned by Turners Falls Company and occupied by Thomas Burke burned. Loss \$2,000. Insurance \$700.

May 4, 1829 A committee was appointed to "REbuild the brkdge over Fall River. (Factory village)

Nov. 19, 1828 The satinet factory at Fall River was burned. Two large building containing 24100ms and other machi nery and 4,000 pounds of wool. 80 hands were thrown out of employment. Estimated loss \$30,000. N.E. Russell, Levi P. Stone and A. J. Spaulding owners.

Before the building of the Turners Falls Dam, just below the upper suspension bridge, on the edge of the cataract, stood a great rock, forming a small island, known as "Burnham's Rock," once the most celebrated fishing place on the river. It was claimed by William Smalley and others as private property, but the people interfered in their quiet possessions, and in 1792 the claimants made a petition to the General Court praying that it might be granted to them.

The public was a good deal disturbed at this proceeding, and a special town meeting was held in Greenfield on the 2d day of April, 1792, to see if the town would not purchase "Burnham's Rock." Perhaps before the day of the meeting came, the public had learned that the Commonwealth had commissioned Samuel Henshaw to sell "Burnham's Rock," at private sale, as the meeting was adjourned to the first Monday of May at which time the town voted not to buy "Burnham's Rock." That there was a good deal of feeling aroused will appear by the following notice taken from the Impartial Intelligencer of June 13, 1792:

"Advertisement Extraordinary.

"found in Greenfield the 2d instant, a written paper of the following tenor; viz:

"Deerfield, May 28, 1792

"To all whom it may concern: We the subscribers selectmen of the town of Deerfield, in the County of Hampshire, certify that it is our opinion that it would be advantageous to the public to grant to William Smalley Esq. and others, his associates, the exclusive right of taking fish at "Burnham's Rock" (so-called) opposite the town of Montague in said County.

(Signed)

"Joseph Barnard
"Seth Nims
" Anzi Childs

Selectmen
of
Deerfield."

The editor adds:

"If the owner will appear and prove property, he may have the same at this office, and no questions asked."

Mr. Henshaw proceeded to the performance of the duty committed to his trust by the General Court, and made sale of the island as will appear by his deed recorded in Franklin Registry, book 6, page 44, which recites: "Whereas William Smalley & others have represented to the General Court that they have carried on the salmon & shad fishery on the island of Rock in Connecticut river called "Burnham's Rock" that they have always claimed by virtue of their first discovery & experiment the exclusive right of fishing there, but lately having been informed that the said Island or Rock being in a navigable river, is the property of said Commonwealth, they prayed that the court would be pleased to grant to them the exclusive right of the said fishing at the rock aforesaid/ So Mr. Henshaw sold to William Smalley, Esq., Moses Arms, Gentleman, Solomon Smead, Gentleman, Philip Ballard, Yeoman, Jeremiah Ballard, Yeoman, all of Greenfield, in the County of Hampshire; and Jonas Burnham, Henry Ewers, & Moses Burnham, Yeoman, all of Montague in the same County; & Daniel Smalley of Guilford, in the county of Windham & State of Vermont, Yeoman; & their heir & assigns forever, the aforesaid Rock Island called "Burnham's Rock" lying in Connecticut River between the towns of Greenfield and Montague. beginning at the northeast corner of the town of Greenfield and

Montague, beginning at the northeast corner of said Burnham's Rock, called the "Boiling place" & running on said Rock northwest two rods, thence running on said rock west ten degrees, south eight rods, thence running south on said Rock six rods, thence running on said Rock to the first mentioned corner." If any of the descendants of those old worthies wish to make claim to their interest in said "Rock," they will find it submerged in about twenty feet of water, the result of the building of the great dam.

Hoyt, in his history of the Indian wars, says; "No river in New England afforded a greater number of fish than the Connecticut, and no place on the river present a more favorable station for taking them, than the falls between the present towns of Gill and Montague. Upwards of five thousand shad have been taken in a day by dipping nets at Burnham's Rock at that place. This rock was situated at the pitch of the cataract, and none but the most skillful waterman attempted to navigate a light canoe or batteau to it; and even to these that task was considered extremely dangerous. It was only approached from above by a delicate use of the paddle, and an eye that could measure a mite, and resolve compound forces at a glance. A deviation of a few degrees in steering was certain to plunge the adventure down the rugged atract in which case drowning must ensue."

A writer in the Student and Schoolmate says: "Two instances in which a canoe has been carried over these falls and the occupants have escaped drowning, have been transmitted to us by tradition. One was that of an Indian. The other instance belongs to the story I am to tell you, which occurred about 1792. A Mr. Burnham, supposed by my informant to belong to the Montague side (Jonathan or Moses Burnham, of Montague), had, with a company of eleven, taken possession of this rock, making yearly use of it, to the envy and vexation of a community which considered itself as having equal claims on the location. On one year, a Captain Mack (Elisha Mack, the builder of the first Turners Fall's Dam) an ingenious, persevering man, proposed to eleven other men to join him in an attempt to gain possession of the fishing rock.

"Burnham's men had used a large canoe scooped out of an immense tree which, being attached to the rock, held the twelve men, as they dipped their nets in the current. Secretly as possible, Capt. Mack's company felled a giant tree in the forest on the river bank above the falls intending to dig themselves a canoe which would be a counterpart of Burnham's, and firmly believing that "Turn about was fair play" hoped to launch it and take possession before their neighbors thought of beginning their fishing season.

"But one of the enemy's company discovered the half made canoe, and taking the hint, made know the same to his party. Consequently the public soon became informed through the public paper, that Burnham's party had obtained a legal claim on the rock, from the Great and General Court.

"We wont be outwitted so," said Capt. Mack; "they have paid their three hundred dollars, let them enjoy it. Do as I tell you, and we will have equal chance with them." The eleven having full confidence in the genius of their leader, assented without hesitation, though how they were to have equal chance with Burnham's Company baffled

even their Yankee sharpness to guess. I give you this story as it comes to me, from a family connection of one of Captain Mack's company.

"Under their leader's direction they felled large trees, and floated them down the river, drew them upon the island opposite the rock of contention. These logs they hewed on two sides, and when finished the first two were thirty feet long, ten feet were placed on land and twenty feet projected out over the river, the shore ends being secured by heavy stones. These timbers were partly covered with plank to support the next timbers. Then two timbers forty-five feet long were prepared in the same manner, thirty feet projecting over the water, and fastened to the lower logs. Then followed a tier of logs sixty feet long, and a tier ninety feet long, the shore end being loaded by stone to counterbalance the added weight. The top was now covered with a floor and steps reaching nearly to the water attached to the projecting timbers. Then they launched their canoe, and to convey it to the exact spot from which they wished to throw their nets, they attached a large stout rope to a tree standing upon the upper end of the island, and fastened the lower end to their bridge near the steps. Around this stout rope they looped a smaller one which was attached to the boat. It was expected that the rushing current would swing the boat into the exact position which they coveted. When all was ready some sort of ballast was needed; instead of putting in stones, Captain Mack in the moment asked if some of the men wouldn't like to jump in. Two men volunteered, one of whom was the ferryman of the place.

"The canoe immediately swept down the swift current, when to the consternation of the occupants, and all of the beholders, the rope of the boat gave way. One man caught at the large rope which was attached to the bridge, and was rescued. The canoe with the ferryman in it went over the falls. Though once the boat, in the whirl of the waters, neared the island, there was not time for him to leap out before it was dashed onward and downward, toward the whirlpool below. The man had no oar or paddle, but with keen eye and senses all alert, he looked about for means of escape. He had perfect knowledge of his surroundings, and long experience in the management of a log canoe, and, just at the right moment, a small piece of board was swept by the waters within his reach, which he providentially caught and with it guided his canoe away from the whirlpools to a place of safety. The company were not discouraged and had no thought of giving up. Oxen were brought and the canoe was drawn up to the ferry and ~~was~~ launched again, this time with perfect success. The rope was made firm, the canoe was ballasted with stone and swept beautifully to the desired point and stopped there. The next day the men entered from the steps with their nets. Burnham's men fished from their canoe and the rocks, and each party had equal opportunity in the same channel. The haul of fish that day was five thousand from Burnham's Rock, and six thousand from the boat at Mack's bridge."

If this story is authentic, and I have no doubt of the building of the bridge, it would seem that the first application of the principles of the cantilever bridge are to be credited to Captain Elisha Mack, the builder of the first dam at Turners Falls.

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Kendall and Russell became partners both in general trade and in the manufacture of cashmeres at Factory Hollow.

F. 868

1849, September 10. Seth Wood, for many years postmaster at the Factory Hollow, died, aged 84.

P. 979

Durning the Revolutionary War the committees of safety assumed almost autocratic powers; for instance: Now and then a smoke had been noticed coming from the deep woods near Fall river; the committee of safety was notified and Daniel Nash, Timothy Childs, Ben. Hastings and Aaron Denio made search and found in a hut a man name Harrington with a lot of tools used by counterfeiters of the coin. They took him to Northampton, but Judge Hawley told them that the jail was full of Tories and they could send no more to prison. He suggested that they take him back a mile or so into the woods and give him as many lashes as they thought best and let him go. They did as suggested, all but Nash giving light blows, but he put it on heavily, "drawing blood at every stroke." They then bathed his wounds with spirits, gave him some to drink and let him go. The victim thanked them for their lenity and struck out for liberty.

P. 982

Witches and Hobgoblins

The "Hollow" or "Factory Village" was once called "Northeast" and there were many there who believed in witches. An old lady Thatcher was supposed to be one, and she told fortunes occasionally. One of her neighbors had a calf bewitched; and a woman by the name of Dewey frequently screamed out in the night, and when her friends went to see what ailed her she was found in profuse perspiration and wet as if taken from the river. This continued, and she was taken to be bewitched.

Ezekiel Bascom, the owner of a gristmill and falling mill there, a man of strong mind and much thought of, asserted that one night when he slept at the Falls a horseshoe came into his room and performed various evolutions, and although a strong, resolute and determined man, he so far yielded to superstitious feeling as never to ledge there again. A horseshoe was nailed up at the mill to keep off witches. ~~It~~ It was pretended that the mill wheels sometimes stop and could not be induced to go; Mr. Bascom's cattle and cart stopped in the road without his being able to make them go; he said he heard female voices under the cart; a fox soon came out from under it, and the cattle went on again and all was well. In fine, Northeast was a sort of enchanted ground, the residence of witches and hobgoblins, and furnished many stories for the credulous.

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The bell purchased by the old Court of Sessions and place upon the courthouse (now the Gazette office) was bought by Mr. Theodore Leonard and placed upon the stone mill at Factory Hollow.

and placed upon the stone mill at Factory Hollow where it remained until it was given by the Turners Falls Company to the German Methodist Church in this town upon whose edifice it now hangs.

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With Captain Edwin Ely Day is associated all our early Experience of the war. He was the first man to enlist from this town. He was born September 3, 1825, in Gill, the son of James and Merciline Sprague Day. He resided in Boston and afterward in Greenfield, and was twice married- first to Mary F. Blaisdell of Maine, and second to Aura C. Wood of Greenfield. He left one son. He was captain of the military company here when the war began, and was mustered into the United States service, June 21, 1861, as Captain of Co. G., in the famous 10th regiment, which position he honorably filled until his death, on the 31st of May, 1862. I can do no better than to quote an extract from the discourse given at the Unitarian church here, on the 26th of November, 1865, when Captain Day's remains were buried in our Green River cemetery: "The 10th, after a quiet winter at Camp Brightwood, near Washington, was moved to the Peninsula, and in the first battle in which it engaged, at Fair Oaks, of the last day of May 1862, Captain Day was killed, at the head of his company. He received three bullet wounds. One of them was fatal; one was received after he had received the fatal wound, and had been laid upon the stretcher to be taken from the field. He was buried on the field, and recently his remains have been disinterred and brought home to be laid among the familiar scenes of home and kindred. His going out was generous and manly and noble. He went conscientiously and from a sense of duty. He conducted himself as became his office and position. He was a wise, faithful, useful and brave officer. He died as a soldier would wish to die, if the appointed time had come, with his armor on, amid the din and roar of battle. The fatal bullet pierced him as he stood facing the foe."

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The death of Aura Catharine, 71, widow of Captain Edward E. Day, occurred February 12, 1907. She was a daughter of Seth Wood who carried on a farm and conducted a small store at Factory Hollow. After Captain Day's death she made her home with her brother-in-law, Robert Day, at Factory Hollow.

Robert Day died at Factory Hollow, March 21, 1913. He was born in Gill at the old Day homestead in 1828, one of the nine children of James and Mercilene (Sprague) Day. At the age of 23, he accompanied a party of gold seekers to California, going by way of the Isthmus of Panama. ~~He returned in 1866 and for a greater part of the time since had lived at Factory Hollow.~~ He returned in 1866 and for a greater part of the time since had lived at Factory Hollow. His was a rare, kindly nature and he was an especial favorite with children.

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Fourth of July pranksters in 1933 brought an end to the colorful career of the OLD STONE MILL AT FACTORY HOLLOW, a landmark since 1830 and subject of countless paintings by artists. The fire started so early in the morning that the department could only save nearby buildings and the stone walls of a factory out of production from 1870. It had been erected in 1830 by Nathaniel E. Russell and Lyman Kendall to make satinetts on a former mill foundation, the upper structure earlier having been victim of flames. As the Greenfield Manufacturing Company during the Civil War, this mill had produced woollens and suitings for the army before going into receivership in 1869. The International Paper Company with plants in Turners Falls had purchased the idle buildings as insurance for water supplies from Fall River. After the July 4 prankster fire, the mill mouldered with the weather, pieces of the stone walls being used in construction of Camp Stonehenge.

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One of the largest civil awards was made by a superior court July 20, 1938 after trying eight actions arising from an automobile collision April 27, 1937, in Factory Hollow. A total of \$68,682 went to Frederick Anderson of Orange who sustained a back injury crippling him for life. Anderson, his son, and Wesley O. Hadsel of Warwick were passengers in a car which was racing another eastward from Greenfield. All were GTD employes and the car in which Anderson rode collided sideways with the other in trying to pass.

Page 2327

A 125 year old mecca of artists, empty for the previous 48 hours went up in smoke Jan. 27, 1930, with the Warren Potter residence in Factory Hollow. Believed to have started near the chimney, the flames razed a \$6,000, almost perfect example subject of countless paintings. Built in 1805, successive owners paid \$5 rent yearly on land which was owned by the Turners Falls Water Power Company.