

ell, Mass., where he now resides engaged in the business of fire insurance. His son Frank (as well as all his children) was educated in the public and high schools of the city of Lowell. He became a practical carpenter and draughtsman, and is now residing in Atlanta, Ga. He married Sarah Scott, of Lowell, Mass. Burten Allen married Fresetta Harden, of Philips, Me. He engaged in grammar school teaching and resides in Lowell. Fred Elliot Hodge, youngest son of Allen and Mary, his wife, is a graduate of the Varnum grammar school of Lowell. He is at home with his parents.

I will say old Mrs. Knapp is living with her son, Wallace, in East Bridgewater, Mass.

When the town was first settled the soil was very productive, wheat averaging from twenty to thirty bushels per acre, sometimes going as high as forty, giving a heavy growth of straw. All kinds of grain were very productive such as barley, oats and rye. Potatoes were very productive yielding three to four hundred bushels to the acre, sometimes going as high as five hundred, without any manure, and of the very best quality. The old English white was about the only potato at that time. They were a large round potato, very nearly. I can describe them no better than to compare them when on the table to a dish of popcorn only to size. Indian corn was a good crop at that time. They used to plant it among the logs. Beans and turnips were a good crop. It was a good fruit producing town. What was called the native apple was quite productive. Strawberries, raspberries, cherries, plums, butter nuts, etc., were very plentiful. When I was a boy I can remember mowing where in places the ground would be red with strawberries where my scythe had cut through them. All these productions had no enemies at that time but the frost; no worms, no flies, no potato bugs; not much to fear but frost. Cucumbers and watermelons grew in abundance when the frost did not trouble them. They would plant round where they burnt their log heaps. There is another product of the soil which was very beneficial and of great advantage to the people, which I had almost forgotten, that was flax, from which they made their linen cloth for their summer clothing, also sheets, pillow cases, towels, table linen, handkerchiefs, in fact most every-

thing where cotton is used to day. There were men that went round the first of winter getting out the flax, preparing it for the wheel, when the women took it in and made it into cloth, which they were proud to show their neighbors when they came on a visit. This was a great blessing to them at that time. Well I can remember the linen sheets, as they were about like ice on a cold night to get into. They had what was called a warming pan with a long handle. They put coals in it, shut down the cover, and ran it between the sheets in very cold weather before getting into bed, to take off the chill, but they soon got to making blankets for the winter. The old grandmothers made some very fine dimity, such as table linen, towels, handkerchiefs, etc., which showed great skill in their handiwork with the inconveniences they had to do with. Some of these their descendants have preserved to-day as old keepsakes.

About 1830 the native apple began to die out, and within a few years many orchards entirely disappeared, and what remained became scurvy, so they were of an inferior quality, and they were superseded by the grafts, from which there is some nice fruit raised to-day.

When the township was first settled it was heavily timbered with pine, spruce, tamarac, hemlock, maple, birch, elm and ash, (both brown and white) also some good butter nut. The pine was mostly destroyed by fire. The others were burnt to clear the land and make into ashes for salts. What patches of forest that are left, such as sugar bush and for woodland are not near so majestic. The old trees dying out and the new do not seem to be so thrifty.

If Eaton was timbered to day as it was then, before a blow was struck, with all the facilities for market it now has it would sell for more than it would as it is to-day, although it is one of the finest farming towns in Compton County. Very few of the first settlers had time pieces of any kind. The first I can remember some had what was the Winchester clock, made in Winchester, Mass., with weights running down nearly to the floor, some with cases, some without. There are a few of them in the township to-day. You could hear them tick all over the house, and if the door was open when they struck you could hear them quite a distance from the house. Most everyone had a noon mark. When the surveyors came round