

Flintlock Farm

100 Stark Highway South
Dunbarton, New Hampshire

as excerpted from:

Hugh Jameson Descendants

a book by:

Maynard Hugh Jameson

THE ANCESTRAL JAMESON HOME IN DUNBARTON

The original house was a log cabin that had to meet or exceed a "sixteen feet square" requirement for title to the land. Hugh(1st) built a four room one story structure with a usable loft covered with a well pitched roof that more than filled the requirement. E.O.Jameson provides a description and sketch of the cabin, drawn by Ethelyn Jameson, his niece and daughter of Jeremiah Page(4th) Jameson(1825-1892), the last Jameson to own and farm the homestead.

THE JAMESONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

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THE OLD HOUSE OF HUGH JAMESON.
Sarkisston, N. H., 1753.

The above picture represents the old original house built about 1753 by Hugh Jameson [1652], one of the original proprietors and first settlers of the town. It was a low one-story building, the ridgepole running from north to south. There were four rooms on the ground floor, with a large chimney near the centre, occupying space hardly less than six by eight feet. There was a shed for wood at the east side of the house. The surrounding grounds, the trees, the well with its curb, its sweep, its "old oaken bucket and the tree that stood by it," the whole picture, is much as the old homestead appeared twenty-five or thirty years after the house was built; or in 1782, when Hugh Jameson gave a deed of the place in trust to his sons Alexander and Daniel in exchange for a bond for the support of himself and wife, Jane, during their lives.

A major feature of the original cabin was a huge and somewhat centrally located fireplace with hearths on three sides, all of which are still intact. The largest hearth faces east and was designed for use in the kitchen. This would place the kitchen in the northeast corner, which also probably served as general living quarters. The main bedroom was in the southeast corner. According to E.O. Jameson, the cabin remained in its original form until after 1782, when Hugh had deeded the property in trust to his two oldest sons. It probably was not changed until after 1796, when Daniel purchased the house from his brother, Alexander. Daniel was becoming a successful farmer with a growing family and would likely wish to improve the original cabin, if it has not been done earlier. This first remodeling consisted of extending the structure twenty feet or more to the south and making the entire structure, including the original, two stories.

By the time this work was being done, saw mills had become available in the area. The proprietors of Starkstown, in 1760, voted to grant John Stark one hundred acres as an inducement to build a saw mill. Prior to the establishment of his mill, few, if any, houses in the area were framed. Other mills followed and lumber became inexpensive with the abundance of logs available from clearing the land. The Jamesons were able to expand their home as the framed house one can see facing the road today. The expansion to the back (east) was done later.

Daniel(2nd) appears to have been considerably more interested in farming and in the community than his older brother, Alexander. He managed to purchase the north half of Lot 6, Range 4 (50 acres) from James Guay to supplement the 50 acres of Lot 6, Range 3 he had received from his father. Then in 1796 Daniel purchased Alexander's south half of Lot 6, Range 3, along with the house. This was about six years after the death of their father. Alexander continued to live in Dunbarton until 1800, when he moved to Barnet, Vermont. His wife died in 1803 and he later moved to Canandaigua, N.Y., where his brother, Hugh(2nd), our ancestor, had a farm. Alexander died in 1819 at age 59.

There are stories concerning a disreputable tavern that was in operation, either in the Jameson house or nearby. It was common in those early days for some to establish their homes as an inn and tavern. Several old houses in Dunbarton were once inns and Flintlock Farm, as the homestead came to be known, was one of them. Kenneth Roberts made note of it in his book, "Northwest Passage", published 1937. One story is that Alexander was running a tavern, probably in his home, which some of the townspeople found objectionable. Keep in mind that in those days card playing was considered a sin and could have been the basis of their objections. The townsmen asked Daniel to join his brother in the management of the

tavern, thinking he would be a good influence. Another story is that a house once stood in the vicinity of the Jameson house, on the opposite side of the road, in which the residents kept a disreputable tavern. The Town Fathers asked the Jameson family to open a tavern and try to put the offending one out of business. The location of the offending tavern is "Cellar Site 43", per Hadley's list in "Where the Winds Blow Free". The Jameson Homestead is "Existing Building Site 143".

Daniel(2nd) was an industrious and successful farmer who acquired additional land to bring his total holdings to about 200 acres of woodland, meadow and tillage. He was politically active, having been Town Clerk, Selectman and Representative. Daniel died in 1814 at age 52.

Daniel(3rd)(1795-1864) and his older brother, Abraham(3rd)(1753-1822), inherited the farm and operated it jointly until Abraham's death in 1822 at age 29. Daniel purchased all claims of his father's heirs and was also responsible for the second addition to the house. This was a one and a half story extension east at the back of the house. The original cabin (1753), the extension south plus a second story (about 1800) and the extension east (perhaps about 1830) comprise the basic structure as it is today. Daniel(3rd) died in 1864 at age 69. The farm then went to Jeremiah Page(4th) Jameson (1825-1892), his oldest son.

Jeremiah continued to improve the ancestral land. He had seven children, two by his first wife and five by his second. Although four were males, three died young. Daniel(5th)(1851-19?) from his first marriage was the only male to survive to adulthood. After Jeremiah's death, his widow and other heirs sold the property in 1893 to the first outsider, Moody Jones. The property had been a Jameson possession for four generations, covering a span of 140 years. His wife then went to live with two of their daughters, Elmina May(5th) and Ethelyn Letticia(5th)-(the artist of the cabin sketch illustrated previously)-in Quincy, Mass. In 1901, when the book, "The Jamesons in America", was published, Daniel(5th) was the proprietor of a market in Manchester, N.H.

The author of "The Jamesons in America", Reverend Ephram Orcutt(4th) Jameson(1832-19-?), was a brother of the last Jameson to own and farm the old homestead. This close relationship enabled the author to write with authority concerning our early family history. Ephram left home in 1846, at age 14, to live with his uncle, Ephram Orcutt and his aunt, Thankful C. Jameson Orcutt. He later attended a private school and became a minister. He was 69 when the book was published. A copy is available in the State Library, Concord, New Hampshire.

E.O. Jameson shows a picture of the house as it was in 1893 when it was sold by the heirs of Jeremiah Page(4th) Jameson(1825-1892). It represents the outside appearance of the house as it was after Daniel(3rd)'s expansion and as it appears today.



THE JAMESON HOMESTEAD,

Dunbarton, N. H., 1893.

THIS OLD HOMESTEAD has a rambling appearance, having grown into its present proportions piecemeal. A hundred years ago, at the least, the roof was raised, the chimney built higher, and some twenty or more feet added to the south end, and the house made two stories, as presented in the picture, so far as the main building is concerned.

At a more recent date the shed was torn down, and quite an addition, a story and a half, made to the eastward, and, later, a large barn, which appears at the extreme east, was erected by Daniel Jameson [1679], a grandson of Hugh Jameson, the original proprietor.

The above view was taken from a position west of north, and shows the front of the house, to the north. The door midway the main house, and the window nearest the front corner, are the same as were in the original house. In fact, the lower story of the northwest part of the main building is the original house, which was put up in 1753 by Hugh Jameson.

This homestead, with additions of lands, outhouses, and barns, made from time to time, was held in the family name, descending from father to son for four generations, a period of one hundred and forty years, from 1753 to 1893, when it was sold by the heirs of Jeremiah P. Jameson [1766], deceased, to its present owners.

After 140 years of continuous Jameson ownership the ancestral home in Dunbarton experienced frequent new owners.

- 1893 Moody Jones
Sharlot B. Jones - by will of Moody Jones
- 1900 George H. Ryder
Grace Ryder Lord - by will of G. H. Ryder
- 1937 The Robert Paynes of N.Y. City
- 1944 Carl and Cathrine Conron
- 1947 Francis and Dorothy Longley
- 1954 Wayne and Helen Kimerlin
- 1959 Frank and Alice Ward
- 1962 The Hans Sharins
- 1969 The Robert Lewellens, Navy Captain, retired
- 1985 John Brown, speculator/builder, retained 125 acres -
sold house and 11 acres the same day
- 1985 Walter and Melinda* Zawacki

The mailing address of the ancestral home is
Flintlock Farm
RFD 1
Goffstown, N.H. 03045

A microfilm in the New Hampshire State Library, Concord shows the house as it was during the Ryder Farm period. A front porch had been added since the 1893 picture, when Jeremiah Page(4th) Jameson was owner. The microfilm picture is reproduced below;



During the early 1900s several summertime boarding houses in Dunbarton were popular with guests from New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts. Flintlock Farm, under the ownership of Grace V. Ryder and her husband was one

*Note: Pages 15 and 19 are in error by listing Melinda Zawacki as Genevieve.

of them. The popularity of this form of summer relaxation ended as the automobile became more widely used.

Mabel-Clare(6th) Jameson(1891-1976) tells, in a letter written 1963 to Guilford Stanley(6th) Jameson, of visiting the ancestral home in New Hampshire with her mother, Mary Grace Hubbard Jameson(1867-1950), William Nirick(6th) Jameson(1888-1963) and his wife, Blanche Maynard Jameson(1899-1977). This visit was probably about 1938 or 39, a short time after the Robert Faynes of New York City had purchased it. Their ownership marked the beginning of efforts to restore the house after almost two centuries as a farm dwelling. Mabel-Clare found the following conditions;

1. A long room at the left of the front entrance stretched across the front of the house. It had a fireplace with a very old fender, which was one of three hearths of the original central fireplace. The floor was evidently constructed of wood of varying degrees of hardness. The soft wood had been worn down and the hard was standing up in ridges. This was the bedroom of the Payne's son and he wished to keep the floor as it was. Mabel-Clare speculated that this had been the tap room when the tavern was in operation.

2. The Paynes were trying to restore the place to the original as nearly as possible. They had found most of the fireplaces throughout the house sealed over and they were opening all of them.

3. In the front yard there was a post on which was displayed an old flintlock gun, signifying the name by which the farm had become known.

Grace Jameson(7th) Cross visited the homestead with her sister, Marian Jameson(7th) Bracken and their parents in 1940. They recall a general impression that the place appeared as an old farm house at that time. Grace has a photo of the large hearth of the central fireplace, which had been part of the kitchen of the 1753 cabin. It shows a wall extending south from the face of the fireplace, which means that the livingroom at that time was limited to the space of the kitchen and southeast bedroom of the old cabin. It had not been made into its present "L" shape.

Elizabeth Jameson(6th) Moreland and her husband, John Andrew Moreland, visited Flintlock Farm in the fall of 1957, when Wayne and Helen Kimmerlin were owners and had the place up for sale. Elizabeth noted in a letter of November 1957 to Guilford Stanley(6th) Jameson that the Kimmerlins had spent well over \$10,000 restoring the house. They were probably largely responsible for its present interior design and decor. The realtor's description of the house at that time, included with her letter, could almost be used again in 1987. Much had been done since the time

of the Paynes, who started the process of restoration. The rough floor of the long front room was gone as was the room itself. Hugh(1st)'s cabin area had become an "L" shaped living room around two sides of the central fireplace plus a paneled study on the third side, in the northwest corner. Book shelves lined the east wall of the living room; the dining room featured a built-in pine hutch-cupboard and the raised hearth fireplace in the kitchen had modern electric ovens built into it. This had been the kitchen of the old farmhouse since the time when Daniel(3rd) built the eastern extension. The flue of the kitchen fireplace can be seen in the 1893 picture of the house. The 1957 description states that the house is exquisitely and newly decorated, which certainly fits the description in 1987. One change seems to be the addition of a bar and family room with a new fireplace. These are located at the eastern end of the house in what was probably the screened patio in 1957. The realtor's description of 1957 is recorded below as a valuable specification of Flintlock Farm at that time.

FLINTLOCK FARM

One of New Hampshire's Finest Old Colonials
DUNBARTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

A beautiful and historic (pre-Revolution) Colonial set in 120 acres of field and woodland, with a separate three-room income producing apartment.

This estate, located in the scenic Kuncanouet Hills, is the epitome of country living-yet it is only 10 miles from Concord, 12 miles from Manchester and only one hour by train from Boston. There is a sweeping panoramic view to the east from this high elevation of Mt Kearsarge, Croched Mountain and Monadnock. It is on State Route 13, 5 miles north of Goffstown Village and less than one mile south of the charming New England Village of Dunbarton.

The house, the original part of which was built in 1753 by Hugh Jameson of Scotland, is mentioned in Kenneth Roberts' book, "Northwest Passage". It consists of five bedrooms, living room, dining room, study, kitchen, laundry, bathroom upstairs, lavatory and shower downstairs and screened patio. It is heated by a completely automatic circulating hot air G.E. oil burning system. Water is heated electrically and is supplied by a drilled artesian well, 237 feet deep described as being "one of the best in the County". Plumbing is copper.

A newly installed concrete septic tank and dry well satisfactorily handles the wastes.

The house is equipped throughout with combination storm and screen sash and windows are fully metal weatherstripped.

A picturesque chestnut rail fence sets off the landscaped grounds from the road.

The barn (40x56 feet) and apartment are also in excellent condition. The apartment has one bedroom, a living room, and electric kitchen, lavatory and shower, gas hot water heater and oil steam heat. It is insulated and equiped with window screens

A corral of chestnut rail fencing for horses or livestock is situated just south of the house at the edge of the lawn. A small building serves as a stable.

The fields which surround the buildings have been used for grazing and for hay. There are apple, pear and peach trees in the fields.

The woodlands, consisting of mixed hard and softwood, abounds in deer and small game. One area near the house would lend itself to the creation of a small pond, if desired.

The interior of this house is exquisitely and newly decorated. Foremost is the large paneled kitchen with a raised hearth fireplace, two thermostat wall ovens, a thermostat electric stove, an exhaust fan and griddle and a Kitchen-Aid dishwasher with a stainless steel sink. There is more than ample pine cabinets, shelves and drawers in this kitchen.

The "L" shaped living room with beamed ceilings centers around the original central fireplace which also serves the paneled study. Floors are old wide pumpkin colored pine. The windows face north, south and west. Built-in cabinets and book shelves line the east wall.

Two of the bedrooms have their own fireplaces. A third bedroom contains built-in pine drawers and shelves.

The dining room is highlighted by the attractive built-in pine hutch-cupboard which takes up part of one wall, the opposite wall is finished in pine, all set of by tasteful wallpaper and painted woodwork.

The property was being offered in 1957 for \$36,000, but keep in mind there has been substantial inflation since then.

Captain Robert Lewellen, retired-Navy, was responsible for major functional improvements of the house during his ownership (1969-1985). Hidden but essential features for a sound house were renewed, such as plumbing, wiring and hot air furnace, and insulation was installed. He also added solar assistance for heating the house and water. This required construction of a solarium along the south side of the house, causing an appearance problem. The present owner, Walter Zawacki, considered removing this feature but found the

system to be quite efficient in reducing his fuel bills and has retained it to date.

The ancestral house in Dunbarton was visited in August 1987 by Grace Jameson(7th) Cross, her husband, Emmett F. Cross, Mildred Barron Jameson and her husband, Maynard Hugh(7th) Jameson. Not knowing what to expect regarding its condition, we were pleased to find it in excellent shape. Walter Zawacki and his wife, Genevieve, were very generous in permitting us to come into their home, which they have been busy decorating and furnishing during their twenty-one months as owners. They gave us a complete tour of the house and let us take all the pictures we wished.

The exterior appearance of the basic house has changed little since about 1830, when Daniel(3rd) made the final addition. The 1987 picture, below, was taken from somewhat the same location as the 1893 picture shown on page 304 of E.O.Jameson's book. Unfortunately, shrubs and trees in the foreground of the present picture block much of the view.



The original cabin corner - Northwest corner

The northwest corner of the house was the original one story cabin with its central fireplace. Although the cabin door on its north side cannot be seen because of the shrubs, it is still there, though not in use. The end of Daniel(3rd)'s eastern extension can be seen through the opening in the trees.

Below is a view of the front of the house, with a glimpse of the "front" door, also no longer used. The door location and the portion beyond are part of the expansion of about 1800, when the cabin was made into two stories and extended south as a unified frame structure.



Front View - West Side

The next picture shows the south side of the house and the driveway. The 1800 southern extension is at the left of the picture, with the chimney of the original central fireplace shown near the center. The lower roof at the right



South Side and Driveway

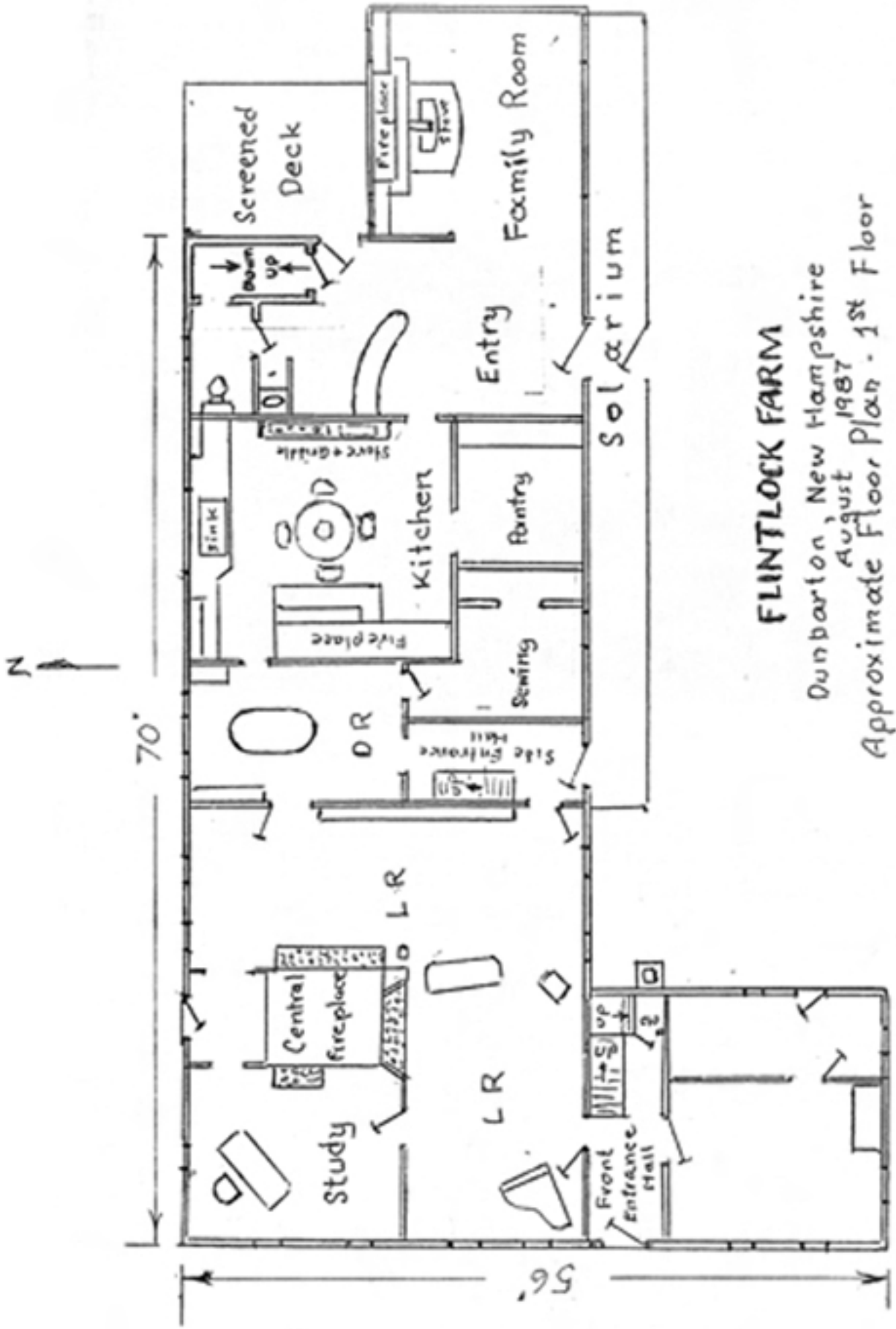
of the picture covers the eastern construction of about 1830. The strange looking lower extension of the roof is part of the sheet plastic covered solarium installed by Capt. Lewellen during his ownership. Entrance to the house is through a door to the solarium and a second door of the house proper into the bar area adjacent to the kitchen.

The view of the north side of the house shows the original cabin area at the extreme right with its second story addition and the portion of its roof with the east-west ridge. The main ridge runs north-south and does not show in the picture. The chimney of the original central fireplace is at the right. Daniel(3rd)'s one and a half story structure is the remainder. The kitchen window is the wide picture window, which provides a fine view of the countryside. The attic over this section is huge, with its windows facing the north. The kitchen fireplace flue extends through its roof. The lowest roof at the left covers the family room with its new fireplace, in front of which is the screened deck. The barn is at the extreme left and contains a one bedroom apartment.



North Side

The floorplan shown on page 18 gives the general distribution of the rooms on the first floor. It is not to scale, having been drawn only with the aid of the several pictures taken during our 1987 visit. It does, however, show all essential features of the first floor and will assist in the understanding of the following interior pictures.



FLINTLOCK FARM

Dunbarton, New Hampshire

August 1987

Approximate Floor Plan - 1st Floor

A view to the north into the kitchen area of the 1753 cabin shows the kitchen hearth of the original central fireplace. This is now part of the "L" shaped living room. The doorway in the far left corner leads through a short hall into the study. The north outside door of the cabin is off from this hall, but is not in use at the present time. The open door on the right leads to the dining room.



North End of Living Room

A view to the south into the main bedroom area of the original cabin shows the east wall of the present living room. The doorway on the left is to the dining room and the one in the far corner is to the back stair hallway and one of two side entrances to the house.

A view towards the southeast corner of the living room looks into the back stair hallway and shows its outside entrance door. The people in the picture are, from left to right, Grace Jameson(7th) Cross, Genevieve Zawacki and Mildred Barron Jameson. The two windows behind Mildred are in the south wall.

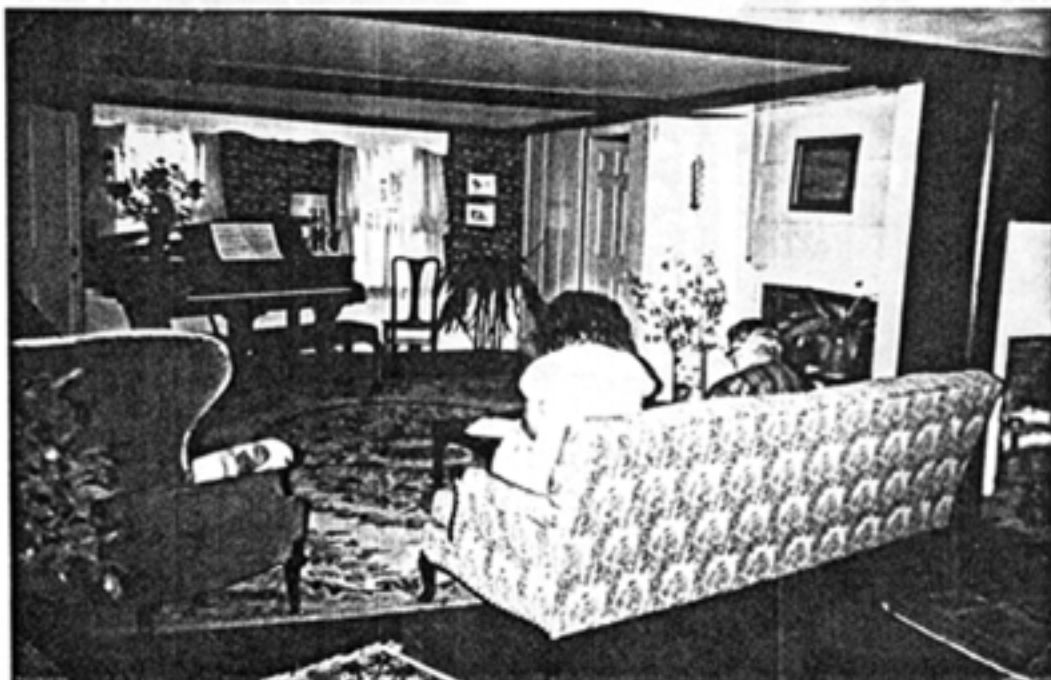


East Wall of Living Room



Southeast Corner of Living Room

The west section of the living room is in the area of the southwest corner of the old cabin. The door in the north wall beyond the fireplace is to the study. Note that this fireplace is the second of three located centrally in the 1753 cabin. Part of the "kitchen" fireplace is at the extreme right of the picture. The door to the left of the piano leads to the front stair hall and the front door. This entrance is not being used. The two windows in the west wall face the road.



West Section - "L" Shaped Living Room

The study is in the northwest corner of the old cabin and the hearth in the picture is part of the original centrally located fireplace. The small hall at its left leads to the cabin's north outside door and the living room beyond. This outside door is no longer used.

The dining room is located between the living room and the kitchen and is part of Daniel(3rd)'s extension of the house to the east. It is just outside the original cabin area, with two windows facing north. The door is to the living room and the door beyond is to the small entrance hall for the cabin, which used its north door.



Study Fireplace



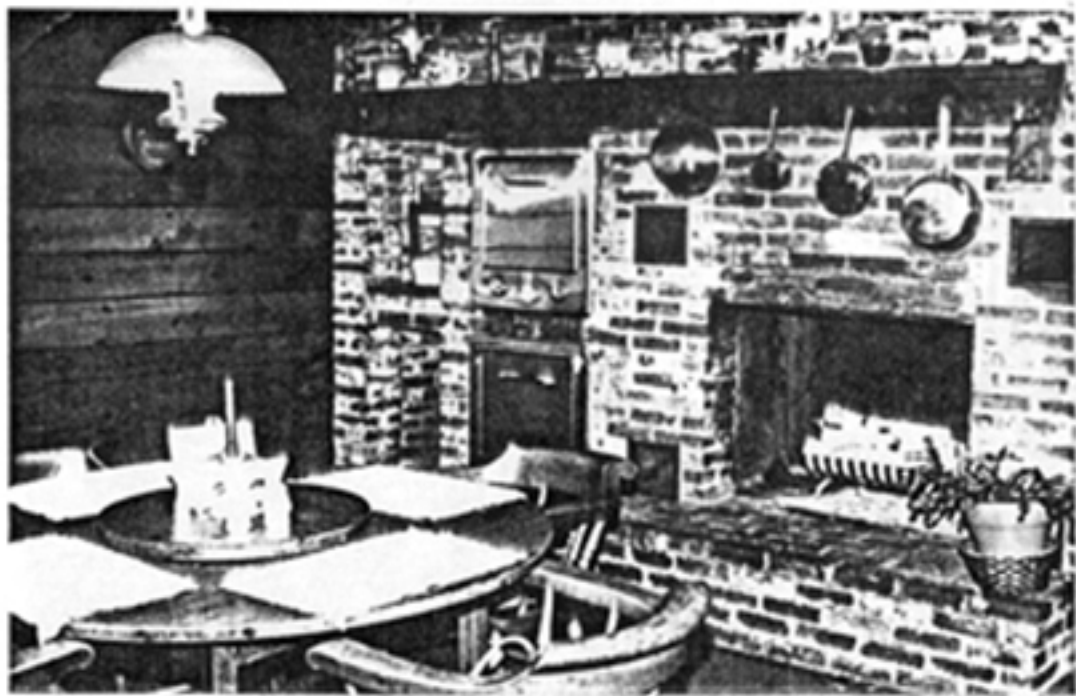
Dining Room - Northwest Corner

The picture of the south wall of the dining room shows the side entrance hall and its back staircase. The hall also leads to the living room. The outside entrance to this hall is seldom used, probably because of the inconvenience of the recently added solarium, which tends to make the door inaccessible.

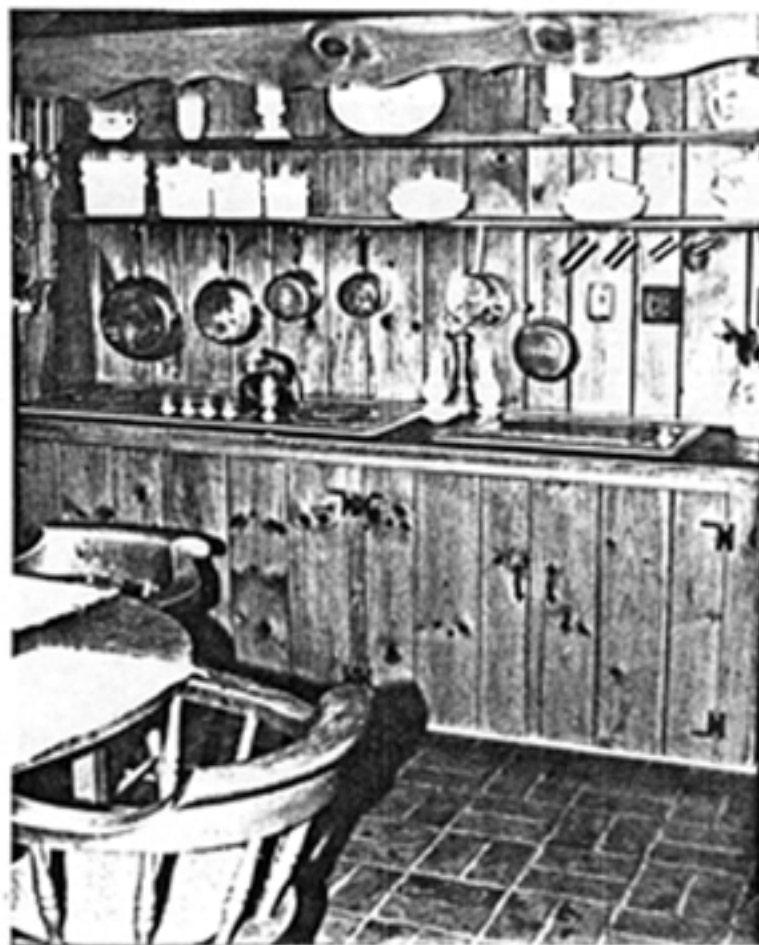


Dining Room - South Wall
Back Staircase

The fireplace in the kitchen picture is along the west wall, between the kitchen and the dining room. This was the location of the kitchen fireplace in Daniel(3rd)'s kitchen of about 1830, although it has been rebuilt to accommodate electric ovens and other modifications. This was one of the fireplaces the Paynes found sealed off in 1937, when they purchased the property.



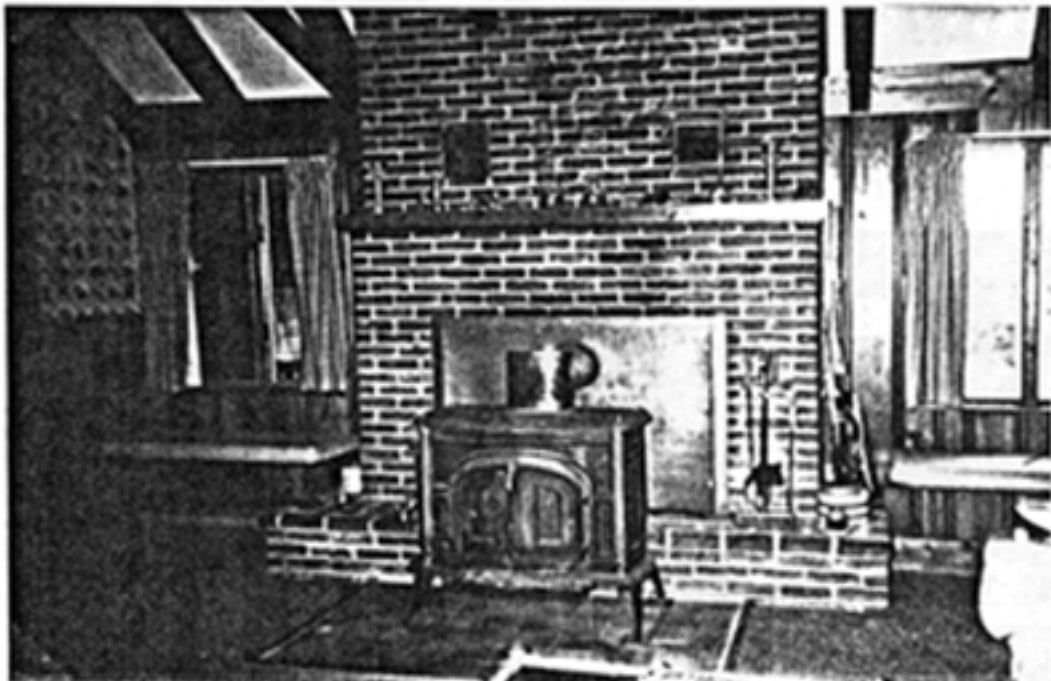
Kitchen Fireplace - West Wall



Stove and Grill
East Wall
Kitchen



Bar - East of Kitchen



Family Room - Fireplace and Stove
North Wall - East of Bar

Two bedrooms, the front hall and staircase comprise the south extension of the original cabin. This was the addition which was made when the cabin was converted into two stories, about 1800. One bedroom is downstairs and the other is up. Both have fireplaces. For some unknown reason, a north-south wall was later built to divide the downstairs bedroom into two small rooms, the smallest with one window and an outside door to the back of the house. The full upstairs bedroom, the hallway stairs and the lower rooms could have been an apartment at one time for a retired family member, with the larger of the downstairs rooms, with its fireplace, as a sitting room.



Downstairs Rooms-Dividing Wall-Fireplace



Upstairs Bedroom - Fireplace



Upstairs Bedroom



Front Hall
Staircase
South Extension

The realtor's 1957 description of the house lists five bedrooms, although one of these would be the divided downstairs room in the southern extension of the original cabin. This could become a full-size bedroom with a fireplace by removal of the dividing wall. The bedroom directly above is of a comfortable size with a fireplace. Three bedrooms and a bath are located over the original cabin area. The half story attic over the Daniel(3rd) eastern extension of the house is huge and is lighted by windows to the north.

The community has changed over the years from its farm economy to computer-residential. George H. Ryder, who purchased the farm in 1900, was one of the last to work the farm as such. Although his daughter, Grace V. Ryder Lord, inherited the property, she and her husband lived in a transition period. Summertime boarding of vacation guests supplemented their farm income. By 1937 the property and community had become of interest to city dwellers for semi retirement or a second home. It was then that the Faynes of New York City purchased the farm and took the first steps to restore the house. The Kisserlins and Lewellens, as subsequent owners, continued the process. The land gradually became overgrown and is now wooded for the most part. A major portion of the acreage was separated from the house in 1985 and combined with adjacent property for use in a real estate development. Divided into five acre lots, a community of homes is in the process of development, which will be populated by people working in Manchester or Concord. The present owner of Flintlock Farm commutes to Manchester and continues the process of refurbishing the dwelling into a comfortable home, while retaining its historical character.