

# Jonathan Webster's Steam Machinery Factory

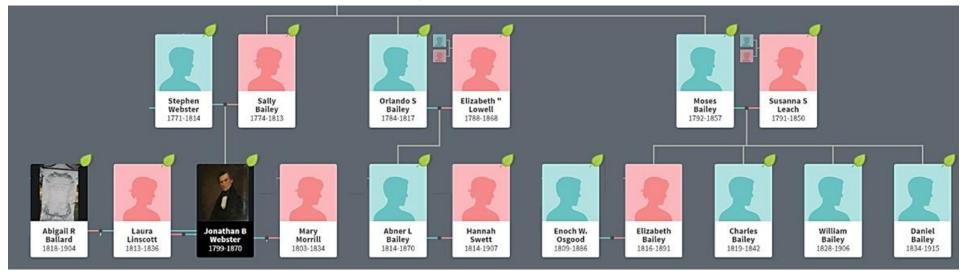
with appearances by Aaron S. Hilton, Enoch W. Osgood, J. R. Huntington, George J. Hunt & Richard F. Briggs, Abner Bailey, and Amos Pettingell,

by
Mike Harrold
Industrial Survey Volunteer

Amesbury Carriage Museum Amesbury, MA

April 30, 2021

#### Jonathan Bailey Webster (1799-1870)



Point Shore was the early Amesbury/Salisbury commercial center, with outside income flowing up the Merrimack River from regional merchant fleets. The other communities of Amesbury Mills and Salisbury Mills were located around Powow River falls<sup>1</sup> where, following the Revolution, available waterpower flowing downstream became sufficiently valuable that water rights and associated properties were eventually bid up to prices beyond the reach of local capital. Town promoters were left to pool their resources for other opportunities.

Jonathan Webster was born at Point Shore to old area families. Relationships included business enterprises, many joint ventures being simple partnerships of casually mixed resources (the original Standard Oil was an unincorporated partnership of Rockefeller and Flagler). Larger size, scope. and stability was achieved with collective community capital through bank lending and/or stock offerings. Stability was also aided by the collective instrument of insurance against fire and loss. (Another threat was inflation and recession (panics) cycles, not well dampened until central banking was introduced in early 20<sup>th</sup> century.)

Johnathan B. Webster was a serial promoter of capital formation and commerce.

1) At that time the Powow River was the dividing line between Amesbury and Salisbury



# Family Matters

This story involves a group of Point Shore families. A somewhat isolated group, they had a fertile economy through building, owning, and captaining of ships, which occurred from Newburyport up through Salisbury and Amesbury. By mid-19<sup>th</sup> century some families had been in the area for nearly 200 years and many generations, so that people of the same surname might really be remotely distant cousins several times removed. But even with only distant family links there would have been deeply-rooted cohesion of community. Family ties are not assumed in the following to be either drivers or deterrents in interactions described, but in some instances they easily could have been valued contributors. Eight surnames frequently encountered herein are:

Bailey Hilton Lowell Morrill
Pettingell Swett Webster Worthen

With Morrill and Swett there were so many individuals, from so many generations, that this study did not uncover many of the genetic relationships. These stories involve a number of wives from the Swett family, only two of whom have been specifically connected.

John Webster of Newbury bought most of what is now Point Shore from the Bailey family (often written Bayley) in 1700, which became known as Webster's Point. Most Webster shipbuilders descended from him. Jonathan Webster's grandfather, Rev. Samuel Webster moved there in about 1750<sup>1</sup>, although the exact relationship has not been found to the original John Webster.

As an aside, steam engines are another common thread, being fundamental (but capital-intensive) to expanding technical capabilities and overall capacity of a shop. Their use accelerated after 1850 when it was easier to deliver such heavy equipment through the use of other steam engines, as the Eastern Railroad, Salisbury Branch, began serving the town in 1848.

1) Researched by Steve Klomps



## Financial and Mechanical Horsepower

Jonathan Webster participated in forming a bank before reaching the age of 30. Separately, Amos Pettingell later did heavy carpentry for building-construction, as well as sash & door joinery, one example being the 1880 Biddle & Smart factory soon to be dismantled at #29 Water Street. His steam mill off Elm Street was a former steam machinery factory organized by Jonathan Webster. The Powow River supplied all local horsepower until supplemented by steam engines, and Webster would naturally have been interested in steam power to increase business scope and opportunity. One of his companies held the last available Powow River water privilege. Webster's companies included:

1828, Amesbury & Salisbury Institution for Savings (later Provident Bank)

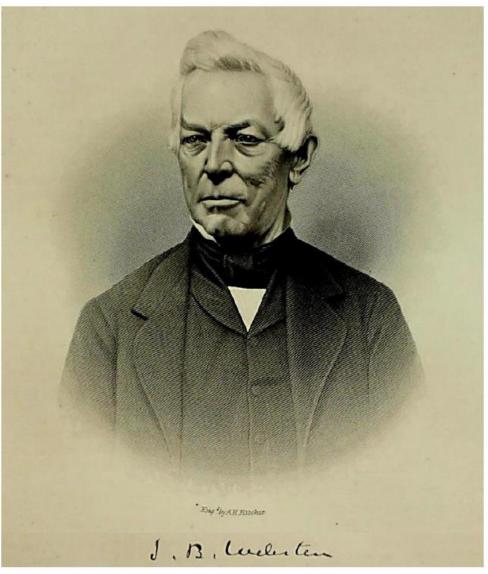
1836, Powow River Bank

1836, Salisbury Mills Steam Company

1852, Powow River Mills Co.

1857, Salisbury & Amesbury Mutual Fire Insurance Company

1860, Amesbury & Salisbury Gas Company



Steel plate engraving of Jonathan B. Webster from: *History of Essex County Massachusetts Vol II*, D. Hamilton Hurd, J. W. Lewis & Co, Philadelphia, 1888, following pg. 1530



#### Loss and Gain

Few children declare that they want to be bankers when they grow up, but they do assimilate into an environment of commerce and entrepreneurship, such as within family businesses. Jonathan Webster's maternal uncle, Orlando Bailey, was a Point Shore manufacturer, but Jonathan's education may have shifted another direction through tragedy, for both his parents died when he was around age fourteen. Orlando Bailey's wife "Betsy" was a Lowell (of Point Shore boat builders) and a niece of Ezra Worhen, who had left boat building to build textile carding machines up at the Mills. Jonathan apprenticed to Ezra a few years after Ezra and Paul Moody had formed the Amesbury Wool and Cotton Co. in 1812 and built the first Powow River textile mill. Jonathan was at the epicenter of Amesbury's industrial rise and of the shift in the local commercial center from Point Shore to the Mills. Not just a migration of people, entire houses were being moved up to the Mills during the 1820s to satisfy growing demand as textile milling became the primary economic engine having immense potential. Such potential for the Mills was new, while the old money was at the Point.

Webster's life shifted to the Mills, likely into the Worthen household, but at least having vast exposure to this exceptional home of work, entrepreneurial, and intellectual energy. He would have overlapped for perhaps a year with Paul Moody (namesake of Moody St. in Waltham) who was drawn away in 1814 to be chief mechanic at Francis Cabot Lowell's Boston Mfg. Co. of Waltham as it achieved the initial fulfillment of American industrial textile manufacture. Ezra Worthen continued with his Amesbury mill until 1822 when he also was drawn away to become superintendent of the new Boston Mfg. Co. venture in their newly created city of Lowell, where his youngest child, Mary Moody Worthen, was born. Ezra Worthen died only two years later, but his family continued to excel. Son, William Ezra, became a nationally prominent civil engineer under the tutelage of Loammi Baldwin Jr. (known for the Middlesex canal), while Mary married William H. Appleton, eldest son of and successor to prominent New York publisher Daniel Appleton. Jonathan Webster came away from the Worthens with a spirit that placed him among the creators of 19th century Amesbury prosperity.



#### Banking and Steam Industrialization

Jonathan Webster stayed with the Amesbury Wool and Cotton Co. until 1827, next becoming involved in forming the Amesbury & Salisbury Institution for Savings in 1828, with offices in the textile mill counting house. President was Joshua Aubin, Agent of the Amesbury Flannel Mfg. Company, brickmaker Robert Patten was Treasurer, and Jonathan B. Webster was Clerk<sup>1</sup>.

Webster was also one of the incorporators of the Powow River Bank in 1836, having \$100,000 capital, along with Seth Clark and Robert Patten<sup>2</sup>. He eventually replaced Patten as president.

The article at right mentions for the same year of 1836 creation of a steam machine factory. This was quite likely the earliest steam engine in town, corresponding to the business entity belonging to "Jonathan B. Webster and others" described on the following page. If such a shop were dependent on a textile related products or custom order work (for which the main customers would have been local textile mills)

The Legislature are still engaged upon banks and reilroads. Nothing of great latportance upon these subjects was as yet been done. I except of course the moorporation of the Mills Steam Company.

I rejoice to see that my native village is "Lat 'getting up in the world.' The new hank, the new factory, the steam machine Factory, and the new Meeting-house which I perceive the Baptists Society are about building, at the Mills—and the consuplated steam factory at the Ferry, will should think, at least double the amount of business in the town. Nothing but a spirit of enterprise has ever been wanting to make 'our town' as prosperous and wealthy a business place as any in the State.

1836-04-08, Morning Courier, Pg. 3

a possible consequence was that such sales might have dried up during hard times, and hard times were near.

<sup>2)</sup> History of Amesbury, Joseph Merrill, Haverhill Press, 1880, pg. 351



<sup>1)</sup> The Essex Memorial, James R. Newhall, Henry Whipple, Salem, 1836, pg. 49

# 1838 Report on Newburyport Area Steam Engines

First entry below is Webster's Salisbury machine factory, already in business for 2 years

Return of all the steam-engines in use in the district of Newburypert, exclusive of those used in steumboats and on railroads; prepared in pursuance of instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury, to enable him to comply with a resolution of the House of Representatives of June 29, 1838.

Place.	Name of mill or man-	Name of owners.	Power of engine in horse	For what purpose used.	High or low pressure.	When constructed.	By whom constructed.	How long in use.	
čalisbury -	Company.	Jonathan B. Webster and others.	7	Manufacturing machin- ery.		May, 1836	Holmes Hinkley & Co.	2 years.	
Haverhill -	J. & J. Bradley's last manufactory.	J. & J. Bradley	6	ery. Manufacturing lasts	High	1835	Boller by Kean	3 years.	
Georgetown -	Georgetown hide and bark steam manuf'y.	John Kimball & others	9	Grinding bark and full- ing hides.	High	July, 1835	Holmes Hinkley & Co	3 years.	
Newburyport	Bartlett Mill -	William Bartlett -	15	Spinning and weaving cutton.	High	July, 1837	Adams & Howard -	1 year.	
Newburyport	Newburyport St'm Cot-	Step. W. Marston & others.	40	Manufacture of cotton	High	1835	Providence Steam-Engine	23 year	
Newbury -	Patent cordage manu- factory.	Michael Wormstead & Co.	6	Manufacturing cordage	High	1837		1 year.	
Newburyport	Machine shop -	Edward S. Lesley -	6	Building machinery -	High	1834	Edgely & Riley, . Charles- town, Mass.	3 years.	

It can be seen above that Newburyport had begun assembling its group of steam powered textile mills. Little is known regarding Webster's steam machinery factory, here having a 7-HP engine. The factory appeared in this 1838 report but not in the 1838 Essex County Memorial. As later described this company soon disappeared, almost certainly because of the Panic of 1837, a substantial economic downturn that precipitated many bankruptcies and largely eliminated Amesbury & Salisbury shoemaking shops serving the burgeoning Haverhill shoe industry<sup>1</sup>.

1) History of Amesbury, Joseph Merrill, Haverhill Press, 1880, pg. 354

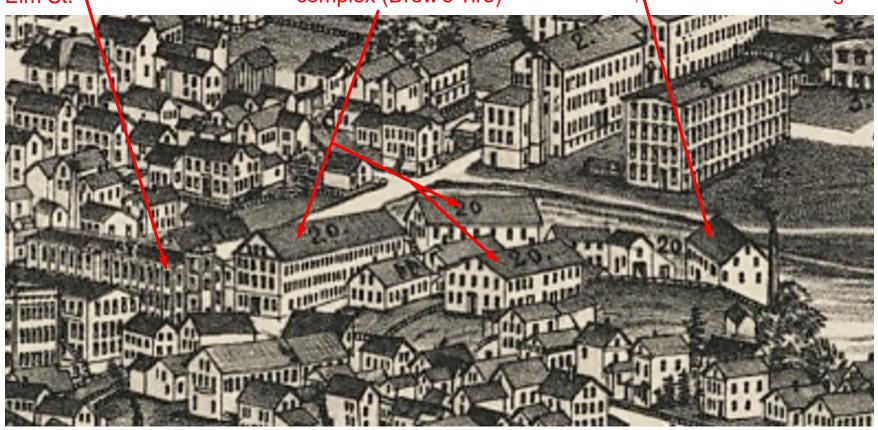


## Jonathan Webster's Steam Factory Location

George E. Norris 1890 Aerial Map Drawing, Elm St. businesses with Cedar St. in background

Colchester Mill

Seth Clark Jr. carriage <u>Webster machine factory</u>, Pettingell complex (Drew's Tire) wood mill, Seth Clark Jr. carriages



The building group marked #20, in the area of today's #79 & #85 Elm Street, here belongs to the Seth Clark Jr. carriage making complex. Allen's carriage history indicates that the far-right building with smokestack had formerly been Amos Pettingell's steam-powered wood planing mill<sup>1</sup> that was destroyed by fire on August 16, 1866. News articles that follow show that Pettingell re-outfitted that mill from Webster's old Steam Machine Factory that Aaron Hilton then bought in 1851, which the Clarks seemingly acquired after the Pettingell fire.

1) History of Carriage Manufacturing and Auto Body Building, John J. Allen, typescript, 1955, pg. 65



# Early Amesbury Steam Engines

Five textile mills built between 1837 and 1845 were Newburyport's first real industry<sup>1</sup>, differing from Amesbury woolen mills in that they processed only cotton and were steam powered because there was no local drop in the river. Steam power was being analyzed during this period for its economic competitiveness, waterpower not being free, and for how to improve engine efficiency.

The Amesbury Flannel Mfg. Co. was reported in the 1850 Census manufacturing data as having both water and steam power, but nothing is known of that engine. After a reorganization during the Panic of 1857, the Salisbury Mills Co. was reported as considering making its coal gas plant available to the public, and ordering a steam engine from T. Greene of Providence, Rhode Island<sup>2</sup>. By 1859 they were stated to have three steam engines to maintain operations during droughts<sup>3</sup>. T. Greene held patents on more efficient engine valve systems, and Providence was becoming a major center of steam engine design and construction.

Civil War demand resulted in a new Amesbury Woolen Mill Co. steam textile mill, built where the Post Office now resides on Main Street. Shortly thereafter, the Colchester Mill on Elm St. was built to use both steam and the small amount of waterpower available from Back River.

Ultimately, a primary use of early steam engines was to perform the brute force work of reducing raw logs to lumber, and then to sized boards and finished components. General carpentry was a universal demand, joined in Amesbury by carriage carpentry. The Locke & Jewell wheel factory had the first carriage-related engine, while Wm. Biddle converted Charles Cadieu's wood mill to carriage work by about 1872

- 1) Bartlett Mills 1837, James Steam Mill 1842, Essex Steam Mill 1843, Globe Mill 1845, Ocean Mills 1845
- Salisbury Mills records from Mass Historical Society, Collection MS. N-332
- 3) 1859-05-05, Villager, Pg. 2, C3

				achine	exiles N	odynork/
Year	Company	НР	/4		2/3	10 / 48 /
1836	Salisbury Mills Steam Co.	7	Х			
1850	Amesbury Flannel Mfg. Co.			Х		
1852	Enoch W. Osgood	8	Х			
1853	Robert Morrill	20			X	
1856	Abner Bailey	20				<u></u>
1856	Amos Pettingell				X	
1858-9	Salisbury Mills Co.			X		
1863	Amesbury Woolen Mills Co.	100		X		
1866	Colchester Mill	60		X		
1867	Charles H. Cadieu				X	
1867	Locke & Jewell	40			X	
1872	William W. Biddle				X	
1872	Cadieu & Clark				X	

Red arrows indicate instances in which the same engine and facility were used by a subsequent firm.



## Aaron Hilton, 1851 and "The Old Steam Machine Shop"

The article at right describes Aaron Hilton's purchase of Webster's former steam machine shop that had briefly made cotton processing machinery but was likely unable to build a stable business before succumbing to the Panic of 1837. Hilton did produce lard oil there for some time, eventually moving the business out of this building to a property he owned on Railroad avenue by Back River (see nest page). His machine shop building then progressed to other uses.

1850-01-10, Villager, Pg. 5, C5

#### Furniture Ware Room.

I HE subscriber would respectfully

I mform the citizens of Schahury

Amosbury and vicinity, that he has

linished his large and convenient

Ware flouse in thousant of his sight in High Street, where he will keep

constantly on hand, and manufacture to order, every variety of CARINET FURNITURE, consisting of Bureaus, Solis, Chairs, Bedsteads and Tables of every description.

Also, Looking Glusses, Feathers, and every other article usually found in Furniture Wate Rooms, which will be sold as low as can be hought elsewherd.

Johning of every description executed in the light manner; and on reasonable terms.

The subscriber begaleave to say that as he manufactures his own furniture; a good stude may be depended upon.

AARON S. HILTON Salisbury Mills, April 6th, 1848.

The old "steam machine, shop," situated near back river; and which has for many years been unoccupied, has been purchased by Mr. Aaron Hilton of this village. We understand that it is Mr. Hilton's intention to convert the same into a Lard Oil Manefactory. It was purchased for the sum of \$3500.

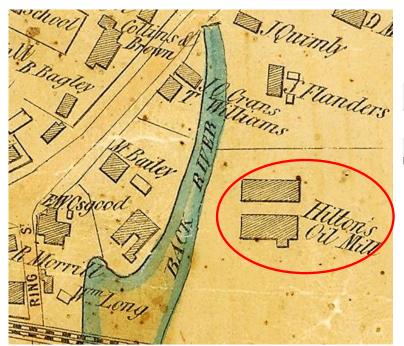
This building, several years age, was built by a company for the minufacturing of cotton machinery, &c., and during the time of its operation turned out some nice work. But from some depression of business it suspended operations. The opinion has been expressed that had the manufacturing been carried on it would in the end have proved a most profitable investment and been the means of building up this section of the village, by adding a new branch of business, and employing as it did between twenty and thirty men.

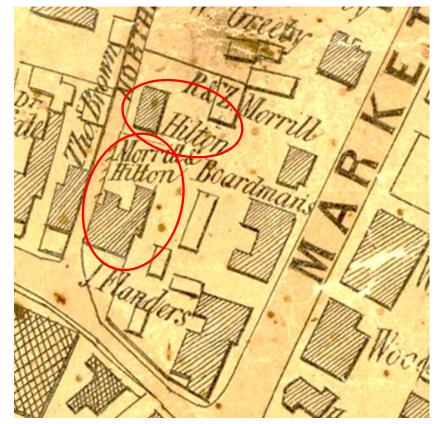
Aaron Swett Hilton (1819-1885, his mother was Elizabeth Swett) was of a Salisbury Point family and trained as a cabinet and furniture maker. His home and shop were on Linwood Street, off Market Square, the 1854 town map (next page) showing that he owned the warehouse with his father-in-law, Thomas Morrill. He had the success or connections to access the then substantial sum of \$3500. His parents and family are interred at Salisbury Point Cemetery, see appendix.

#### Aaron Hilton on the 1854 Clark Map

Hilton's home and shop are shown at right (Linwood St. then called Northern Avenue) in what would now be the Ristorante Molise parking lot. His plot below on Railroad Ave. had formerly been a seasonally swampy source of insects and wild grass. Through drainage and careful tilling, he built this into a agricultural plot¹ from which he sold produce and exhibited at agricultural fairs. His buildings there also served to manufacture lard oil and later children's shoes, plus house some workers. It has not been found how Morrills and Swetts in his family relate to others of that name at Salisbury Point.

1) 1858-07-01, Villager, Pg. 2, C2





GRAPE VINES FOR SALE.

1500 Grape Vines, of the most popular and best varieties, including the Rogers' Nos., which I will sell at a very low price.

AARON S. HILTON.
Salisbury Mills, April 14, 1870.

1870-05-19, Villager, Pg. 3, C6

#### Pure Wine,

THE PURE JUICE OF THE GRAPE, For the Sick and the invalid,

AARON S. HILTON, Salisbury Mills, Mass.

This wine may be relied upon as a pure article, as it is manufactured from grapes of my own raising

Salisbury Mills, June 11, 1868.

1868-09-24, Villager, Pg. 4, C4



#### Aaron S. Hilton's Buildings on Railroad Ave., ca. 1880

from stereopticon card found on ebay

Market St.
Baptist Church

Aaron Hilton's two buildings & orchard

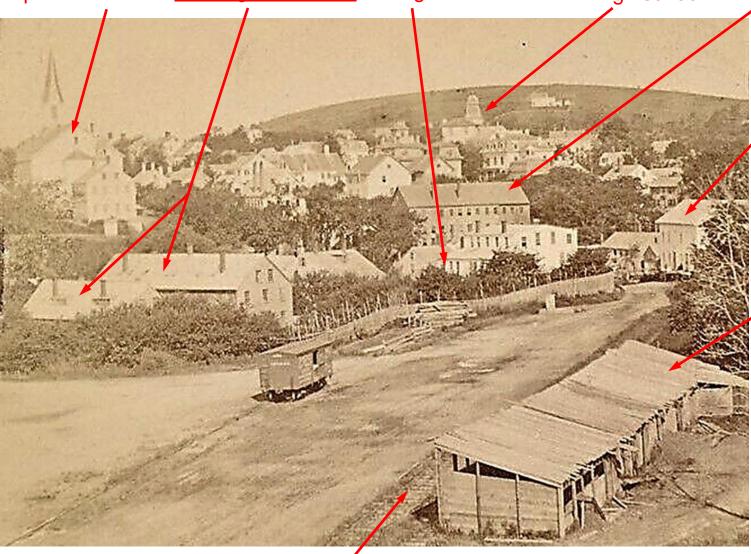
Enoch W. Osgood agricultural land

Salisbury high school

Foster Gale carriage factory, Elm & Clark Sts.

Dodge & Gott (1876) steam grist mill

Dodge & Gott coal bunker

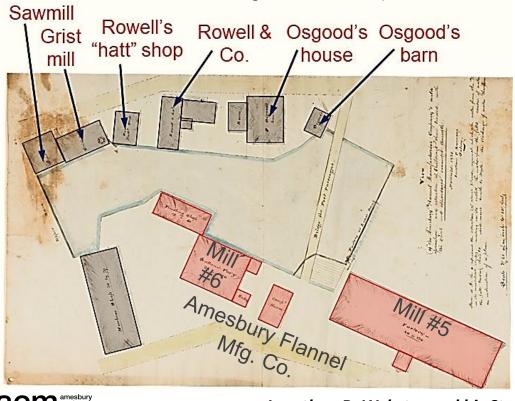


Railroad tracks to Dodge & Gott



# Amesbury Saw & Grain Mill, 1852

An 1887 newspaper contributor recounted¹ that the textile mill co. had acquired the old "Saw and Grist Mill property" (his caps) in years past, and the 1850 manufacturer's census confirms that the water-powered Amesbury Saw and Grain Mill Co. performed the two functions of its name. The business was operated by Philip, Jacob, and Edward Rowell under the name of P. Rowell & Co., the two operations occurring in separate wings of a single building located on the Powow River along Water Street (1831 Amesbury Flannel Mfg. Co. map below). The business came on the market in the late 1840s, to be acquired in about 1852 by the Powow River Mills Co.² formed about then with Jonathan Webster as president and with Philip and Edward Rowell on its board. Notably, the leading asset listed was water usage rights, waterpower being primary. (Mill #6 below was Ezra Worthen's original textile mill.)



#### REAL ESTATE.

#### A GRAND WATER PRIVILEGE

FOR SALE

If JJE Sabsprikers would inform the public that they and information partial partial of the MILLS and WATER PRIVILEGE, now occupied by P. Rowsell & Co., consisting of one Brick Building. 35 feet aquive, three efficient high, with a good breast wheel in a basement stary, how accupied in the manufacture of Carsports. Thus building was erected as that it can be orduged, and make a large Pacture at the first beautiful to the manufactured. It has an equal provides of water with manufacturing Confidence.

Alto a ORIST MILL, with two can of stones, two stories high, 28 %, by 36.

Alen, a SAM MILL and FULLING MICL, in good order.

Aleg. one BRICK STORE, 48 by 22 fr., with a WALL in the second story—the lower story occupied as no English and West India Goods store.

A wooden Building, two stories high, 26 by 17 feet, now occupied as a Tin Ware "hitp.

Also, a three story Dwelling HUUSE, 40 ft. square, in good repute.

The hipper property is bounded or follower, risers. Westerly by the Salesbory Manufacturing Co., Easterly by the the Americany Manufacturing Co., Northerly by the Highway, and Southerly by Power Rose.

The above presents a rate chance for may one wishing in early conflicationalisationing business, so it has an experient Water provings.

For effection physicalism apply to the authorithers on the partitions.

PHILLP ROWELL,

PHILLP ROWELL,

PHILIP ROWELL,

Bultishing Malls, Jon 29, 1546.

Essex Transcript January 29, 1846.

- 1) Amesbury News, August 5, 1887, pg. 3, C2
- 2) Based on information from the later sale of Powow River Mills Co., *Villager*, April 2, 1863, pg. 2

## Jonathan B. Webster, President, Powow River Mills

A 1.14								ENPIREES MERICE NOTIFIED AVMINE PR					DUCT
1 COMPANY	PRODUCT	NYESTE	<b>QUEITINY</b>	KWD	YAWE	TOWER	MALE	FEALE	MAKE	FEYNE	SUP VITTY	KIND	VALUE
<u>].</u>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	ĵo_	11_	_12	13	14
Posiow PIVCLE :	. おり!!cbr	ર્ગ નુજ	135,0000	র ক্রেটিগ	16,300	WATER G18 SPHOLE	8	)i	300	85 —	137,000 LE	<i>Wa</i> xp	<sup>4</sup> 31,600

From the above 1860 Manufacturer's Census data, the Powow River Mills sole product was 127,000 lbs. of cotton warp from 135,000 lbs. of raw material, by 678 water-powered spindles, seemingly sold to the Salisbury Mfg. Company. That latter firm had absorbed the old Amesbury Flannel Mfg. Co. at about the time that Powow River Mills was formed, whereupon they owned all other town textile mills. They continued thriving after reorganizing during the Panic of 1857 as the Salisbury Mills Co. and with Civil War demand purchased Powow River Mills in 1863 amid rapid expansion. Having incorporated for \$27,900 (above & below middle) Webster's mills had paid dividends from the beginning, carried little debt, and sold for \$40,000, having paid an average of 8% dividends for a decade, along with retained profits to distribute to stockholders upon closing out. Shown above is that 8 male employees were paid far more than were 11 female employees. Seen below right, a perceived symptom of the Civil War in a northern textile town was "the cotton famine".

1853-02-04, Villager, Pg. 2

DIVIDEND. The Powow River Mills have declared a dividend of five dollars per share for the last six months, payable 14th inst.

1854-06-01, Villager, Pg. 3

Powow River Mills

HEREBY give notice, that the amount of all assessments, voted by them and actually paid in, is twenty-four thousand seven hundred dollars. The amount of debts due from them on the twentieth instant was two hundred sixty one dollars and five cents

J B, WEBSTER, President
T.P.MORRILL,
D L. DEARBORN.
P ROWELL,
Ed ROWELL,
Salisbory, May 25, 1851

1863-04-02, Villager, Pg. 2

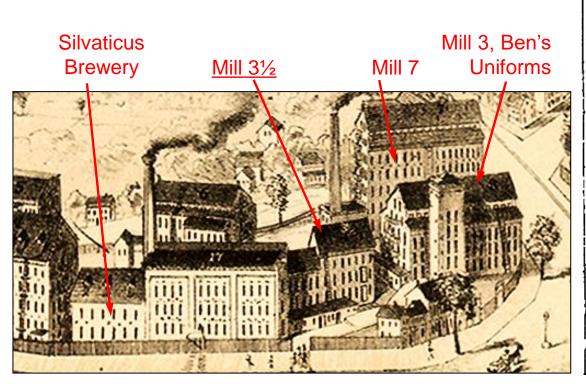
SALE OF MILL PROPERTY. We learn that the Powow River Mills has sold out all its property, including one cotton factory with machinery, three stores on the market, and one dwelling house, for the sum of \$40,000, to the Salisbury Co.

The latter Company now owns all the water power on the river from the "Landing" to Kingston, N. H., a distance of 10 miles, including a flowage territory, with dams and ponds of nearly 4000 acres.

The Powow Company has averaged annual dividends of 8 per cent for ten years up to the time of the cotton famine.

# Powow River Mills Expansion to Become Mill 3½

The 1880 picture below shows familiar buildings around Market Square on Main and Water Streets. Mill 3½ is composed of a smaller section (which no longer exists) on its left, built by Powow River Mills in 1859 as described below, and a larger four-story section on its right later bult by Salisbury Mills Company. The architectural woodwork was produced for Powow River Mills by Amos Pettingell at his steam wood mill in Jonathan Webster's old machinery factory. The remaining later section is somewhat hidden today behind commercial storefronts curving around onto Water Street. Only the first story of the original brick structure remains, the above stories having been removed and replaced by several stories of wood-frame construction. The brick structure actually extends several stories downward in the back, to the river below. Mills 3 and 7 have been reduced in height from their original stature.

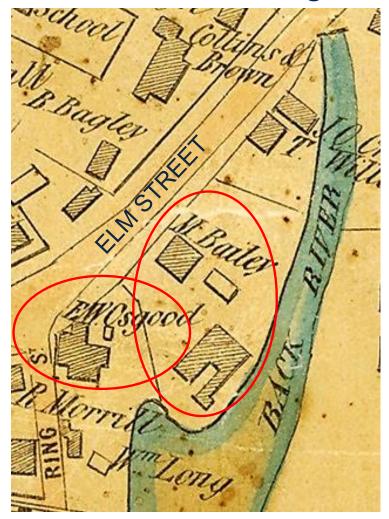


#### 1859-06-09, Villager, Pg. 2

Powow RIVER MILLS. The Powow River Mills of Salishury are to extend their operations by an addition to the present works of a building fifty-five feet in length and three stories high, making when completed, a building ninety feet long. The old saw-mill and grist-mill, lying contiguous to their present factory, and owned by them, is to be torn down to make room for the new building. It is to be completed by the first of October. The contract for the masonry work is let out to Mr Currier of Newburyport, and fhe wood work to Amos Pettingell of Salisbury.

This company has been very successful since its establishment, and for a number of years past has netted good dividends to the stockholders, and leaving a large surplus profit on hand for future operations.

#### Enoch W. Osgood, 1852 Steam Machine Shop



Jonathan Webster's maternal uncle, Moses Bailey (1792-1857), lived on Elm Street where the Gonthier auto repair shop is now located. His neighbor at the corner of Elm and Ring Streets, Enoch W. Osgood (1809-1886), was a machinist and his son-in-law, married to Elizabeth Bailey. In some family-typical fashion, Moses Bailey had several buildings at the back of his property, along Back River, including a steam powered machine shop seemingly for the benefit of his son-in-law. The business was not mentioned in the 1850 census manufacturing data, but steam powered space with at least an 8 HP engine was advertised for rent in January of 1853 (below left) and Enoch was working in "Bayley's steam mill" in 1855 (below right). He was still working there in the 1880s, living with his mother and family and having a son and a brother-in-law as machinists.

Steam Power to Let

VITH ample accommodations for any lucipess requiring motive force from one eight horse power.

Application can be made to MOSES BAY. 5 0 LEY, or R. W OSGOOD, on the premises, or at dec30tf this office,

#### ENOCH W. OSGOOD, MACHINIST,

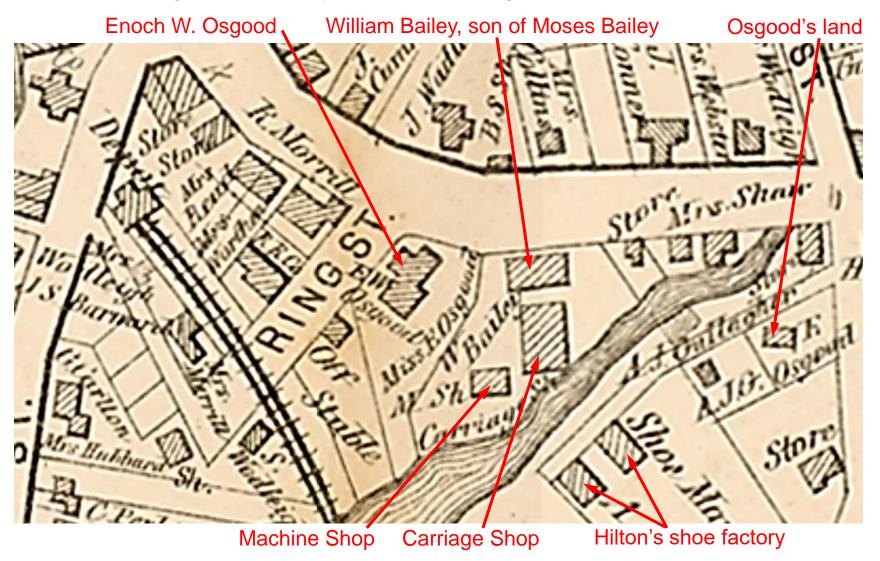
At Bayley's Steam Mill.

Jobs of Iron Work faithfully and promptly done Forging-Turning of Iron and Wood-Drilling-Filing,-and such other work as is usually done in a Job shop. Iron Fences of any desired pattern made to order. Salisbury Mills, Feb. 8, 1855.

855-09-27,

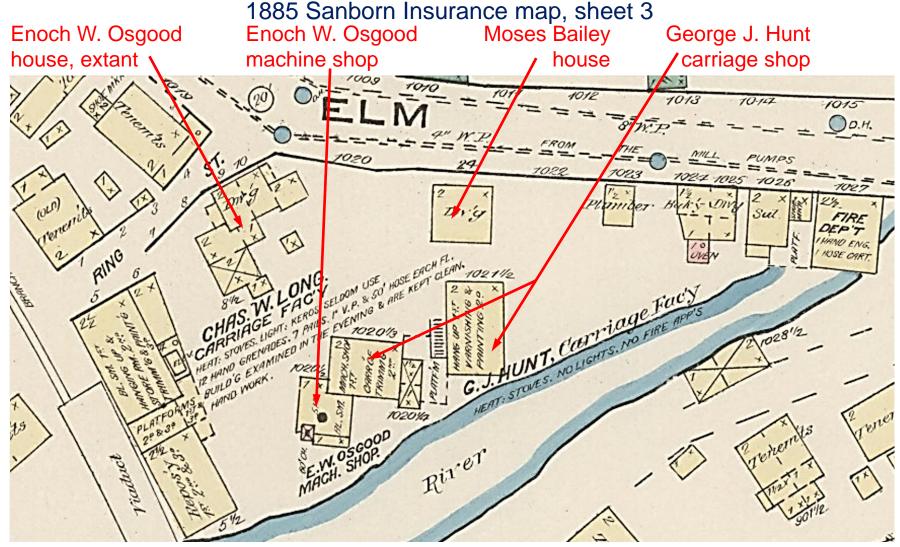
## Enoch W. Osgood and Moses Bailey, 1872 Map

triangle bounded by Elm Street, Ring Street, and Back River



Enoch Osgood's house still stands today. Enoch Osgood and Moses Bailey also had agricultural land on Railroad Avenue adjacent to that of Aaron Hilton, Bailey's lots being sold and developed after his 1857 death. Steam power at the machine shop was removed at some point prior to the mid-1880s.

#### Enoch W. Osgood Machine Shop, 1885



The machine shop was still operating with a 60-foot smokestack but no power, this Sanborn insurance map showing no boiler or engine (later Sanborn maps show no smokestack). Adjacent buildings housed carriage maker George J. Hunt, soon to be discussed. Charles W. Long had left the textile mills to occupy his father's stables along the railroad tracks with a successful carriage making business, his larger building today being The Barn restaurant. Aaron Hilton's old shoe factory buildings across Back River had become tenements.

#### Machine Shops & Carriage Makers, 1880 Aerial Map

Enoch W. Osgood machine shop

#24, Jonathan Webster machine shop



Jacob R. Huntington occupied Webster's old machine factory around 1854-55 to develop his focused approach of efficiently producing a limited line of popular carriage styles<sup>1</sup>. He and E. S. Felch went to Cincinnati, Ohio in 1858, likely sensing better prospects there following the economic downturn of 1857. Huntington returned (Felch did also) to Amesbury in 1859, soon occupying the Enoch Osgood machine shop<sup>2</sup> behind the adjacent house of Osgood's father-in-law, Moses Bailey. Huntington was there perhaps several years, then moving to a shop on Rich's Court (building #23). Two of Moses Bailey's sons, Charles and Daniel C. Bailey, then built carriages<sup>3</sup> in the Bailey family shop and barn through roughly the 1860s and 1870s.

After Huntington's 1857 departure, George J. Hunt and Richard F. Briggs occupied Webster's former machine shop to start their carriage making careers<sup>4</sup>. Both succeeded and by the time of this 1880 map, George Hunt was in building #43, adjacent to Osgood's machine shop, while R. F. Briggs was in the Colchester Mill (#25) as well as buildings on Clark's Pond behind Webster's machine shop.

- 1) See pages 25 and 26 of this presentation
- 2) History of Carriage Manufacturing and Auto Body Building, John J. Allen, typescript, 1955, pg. 117
- 3) ibid., pg. 47
- 4) see page 26 of this presentation



#### Robert Morrill & Associates' 1853 Steam Wood Mill

ENTERPRISE Morrill & Boyd have an extensive establishment at Salisbury Point for manufacturing doors.blinds and sashes, running a twenty horse engine and employing a dozen They receive large orders from or more men abroad which we doubt not they execute as satisfactorily as could any other similas-establishment in the state.

1853-01-13, Villager, Page2, C4

Robert Morrill was the brother of Salisbury Point carriage maker, Edwin Morrill, whose shop was at Laurel Place. Robert Morrell and Newell Boyd (left) built a steam carpentry mill across Main St. from Laurel Place by the river (essentially the same property) having a 20 HP steam engine. The business was reported as using patented morticing machinery to produce 50 doors per day and was bringing in large amounts of lumber from Canada and Michigan<sup>1</sup>.

An early advert lists only Robert (below left) while the next year (1854) the billing was Morrell & Thorndike. An 1855 transformation then finds Robert replaced by a Joseph Morrill, with the original Newell Boyd involved plus Amos Pettingell. It is difficult now to surmise who was involved as silent partners for how long. These are all Salisbury Point people, the last group seeming to have had the money and connections to expand their investment into two separate enterprises.

# DOORS, SASIES.

DLIND MANUFACTORY, AT SALISBURY POINT.

THE Subscriber has constantly on hand, or will manufacture to order, Duors, Sishas Blinds and Montaings of any sizes or quagarity desire! Also, will make to other front yard Blinds and Mouldings of any sizes or quantity fences of any pattern as he has fitted up the most approved machiners for executing any work of the above description. He is confident that he can fulfil all orders with as good satisfaction as any other establishment of the kind in the State Joh work as usual.

The subscriber is grateful for past favors, and by et at attention to business hopes to ment the continuance of public patronage ROBERT MORRILE.

Saladary Point, May 20, 1-63.

Saladagy Point, May 20, 1-63.

Amos Pettingell added another dimension to the business dynamics of the group. 1) 1853-05-26, Villager, Page2, C2

1854-04-06, Villager, Pg. 3, C5

#### MORRILL & THORNDIKE

LUMBER DEALERS

Manufacturers and Dealers in Doors, Blinds, Sashes, Window Frames, Front Yard Fences and Moldings of all sizes

Also, Planing and Sawing to order. R. MORRILL.

Salisbury Point. W. THORNDIRE.

1855-10-18, Villager, Pg. 3, C3

#### NOTICE.

THE Subscribers having purchased the A STEAM MILL formerly owned by Morrill & Thorndike, are now ready to manufacture order, DOORS, SASHES, BLINDS, MOULDINGS. &c.

Also, PLANING and SAWING.

JOSEPH MORRILL, NEWELL BOYD, AMOS PETTENGILL.

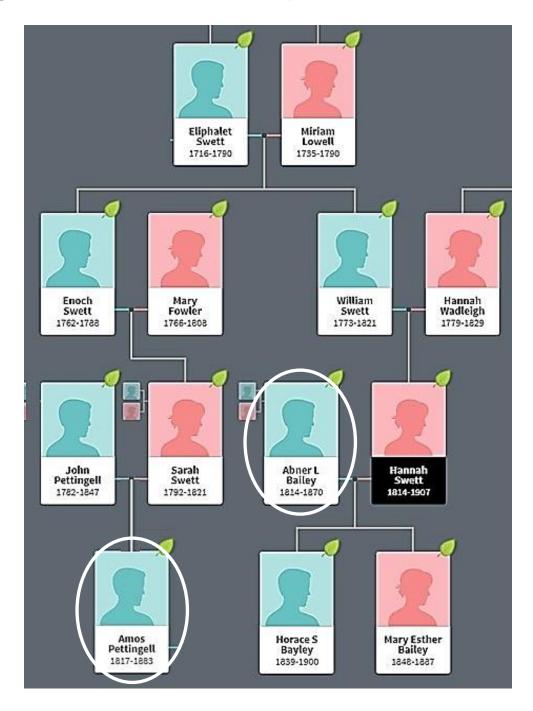
Salisbury Point, July 12, 1855.



#### **Amos Pettingell & Abner Bailey**

Multiple name shifts in Robert Morrill's carpentry mill leave uncertainty over who all was financially involved. Newell Boyd and Amos Pettingell may have been investors all along, a later news article describing Pettingell as "of the late firm of Morrill & Co.". Developments presented on the second following page suggest the possibility that Abner Bailey might have participated.

Regarding family connections, there were numerous Morrills at the Point, as seen with the entry here of Joseph Morrill. In the case of Pettingell, his mother was of the Swett family, a fist cousin of hers being the wife of Abner Bailey (at right and next page). Pettingell and Abner Bailey were about the same age even though they were of different generations.



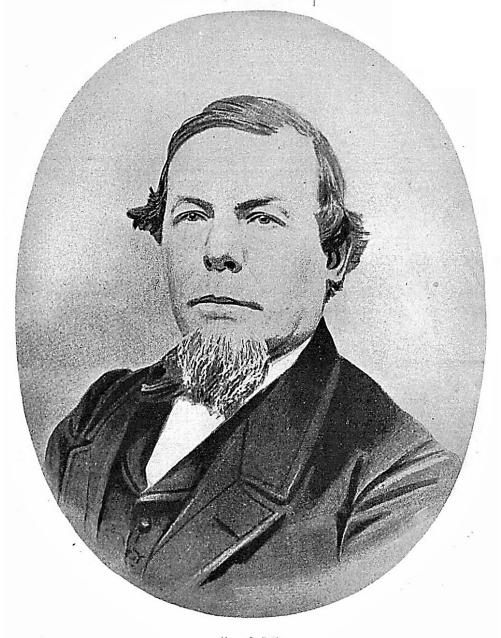


#### **Abner Lowell Bailey**

Abner Bailey's mother was a Lowell and his father was Orlando S. Bailey, a previously mentioned brother of Sally Bailey Webster, the mother of Jonathan B. Webster. Abner and Jonathan were thus first cousins, Abner having a sister named Sally Webster Bailey after their aunt Sally.

In an entirely different aspect of community sentiments of the time, Abner had joined with John G. Whittier in the abolitionist Liberty Party, being its regional secretary and a speaker of "much force and directness". He was noted as being a mechanic of a "clear, logical mind, accustomed to dealing with practical matters in a practical way". While the Liberty Party discussed fiscal and other matters, the abolition of slavery was of "far more importance". <sup>1</sup>

The family of Orlando and Abner Bailey was also entrepreneurial and inclined toward industrial-style manufacture. By the mid-1850s, with Robert Morrill's wood mill blossoming on the river, Abner and the group had an opportunity to expand the use of several existing industrial sites around town.



Abner L. Bailey, founder of the Merrimac Hat Company





# Abner Bailey and the 1856 Merrimac Hat Company

Organized hat making had began locally in 1767 with Moses Chase producing hats of both felt and the tall beaver style then popular<sup>1</sup>. The business flourished, including wool hats being exported to the West Indies in what was likely a cycle of importing rum in return, rum then functioning somewhat as an area medium of exchange. Chase's hat business was later assumed by Orlando S. Bailey, Jonathan Webster's uncle. The trade remained near the river for an ample water supply that was central to felting and hat-making processes.

Orlando's son, Abner Lowell Bailey, started independently making hats in 1846 in partnership with his brother-in-law, William Swett<sup>2</sup>. They equipped a cooper's shop with needed gear and, while Swett exited the venture, Bailey expanded in 1851 to a second location up near the current hat factory. The 1850 manufacturers' census listed Abner's shop as an unpowered but successful business with six employees making 15,000 hats annually, built on a \$2000 investment.

Abner merged in 1856 with Pettingell, Joseph Morrill, and Newell Boyd to create a new hat factory from their steam powered carpentry mill. Joseph Morrill was President and Pettingell was a Director, with a total of seven others of the Morrill family involved. Pettingell then relocated to a new steam powered wood shop up at Salisbury Mills.

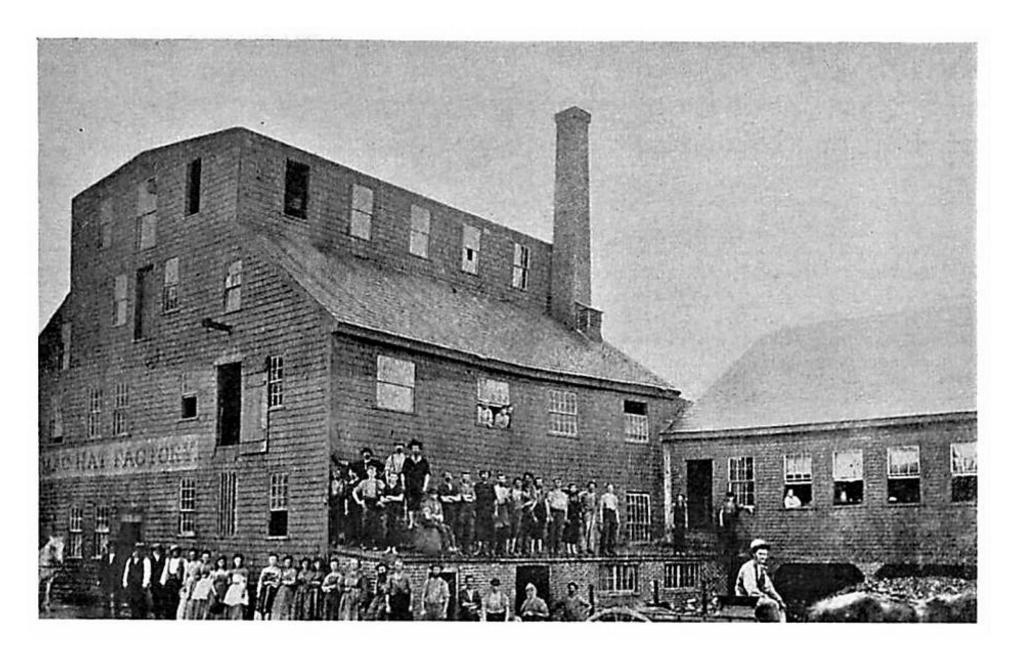
"Merrimac Hat Company." THE President, Directors and Treasurer of the "Merringe Hat Company," a Corporation formed and established under the authority of the Act of 1851, Chapt 133rd, and the said officers having been chosen agreeably to the provisions of the 39th and 44th Chapts of the Rovised Statutes, hereby certify that their corporate name is the " Merrimae Hat Company,"-The object for which said: Corporation is formed, is for the manufacture of Wool Hats The am't! of Capital Stock is 12 the dollars, the amount, m tually paid in as 9475 dollars The par value of the shares is time dollars Names of stock holders, Residence, No shares Ahner L. Bailey, Ameshary, 211 Joseph Morrill, Sah-Juny, Daniel Webster. dø Newell Bord. do Henry Kingsbury, do Moses Morrill, do 10 Amos Petungell, do George Morrill, do James L. Morrill do Moses Morrill and I George Mornil, Timothy P. Osgood, cb Ruby Morrill, 5 Joseph Young, do Ezra C Morrill. do Dated at Salisbury, this 22nd day of July, A. D 1856 JOSEPH MORRILL, President. ABNER L BAILEY, Treasurer JOSEPH MORRILL, DAMEL WEBSTER, Directors. ABNERT, BAILEY, AMOS PET LINGELL. COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHLEETTS, ) Essax as Satisminy, July 22d, 1-56 Subscribed and sworn before me, AZOR O WEBSTI'R. jy21-3w Justice of the Peace

<sup>1)</sup> Making Headlines, published by Merrimac Hat Corporation, 1944

<sup>2)</sup> ibid.

# The Powered Factory of the Merrimac Hat Company

former wood mill of Robert Morrill & Co. at Laurel Place on the Merrimack River



#### Meanwhile

#### Jonathan Webster's 1855 Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

1855 was a busy year for Webster, as a new building was constructed at the corner of Market Street to house both his Powow River Bank and Institute for Savings, and the Salisbury and Amesbury Mutual Fire Insurance Co. was organized with him as a director. Given the frequency of fires and the then limited means of fighting them, insurance would seemingly have been a valuable asset, but many businesses seem to have been notably under-insured according to period newspaper accounts of fires in town.

1) Chronological Record of Amesbury, Emily B. Smith, 1901, pg. 24

S & A M. F I Co. The annual meeting of the Salisbury and Amesbury Mutual Fire Insurance Company was held at the rooms of the Savings Institution of this village, on Monday last The old list of officers were reelected without a dissenting vote. The fourth annual report of the directors of the company for the year ending June 6th, 1859, shows the total amount at risk to be \$163,169; premium notes outstanding, \$10,824.81; cash premiums received, \$1179 90; number of policies outstanding, 215. The company is making sure and steady progress, and since its organization has met with but one loss of \$75.

#### Satisbury and Amesbury Me tual fire insurance Co.

Thomas J Clark. Ezekiel Brown, Win J Boardman, J B Webster, Robert Fowler, J N Clark,

Wm C Binney D L Dearborn. O S Patten. Patten Sargent, Joshua Colby, Cyrus Dearborn, Jr.

This Company continues to insure against loss or damage by Fire, on Dwelling Houses, Stores, Furniture and other property rent or personal, to any amount not exceeding " \$3000 00 on any one risk, on the mutual principle, for the term of seven years

Application for insurance may be made to any of the Directors, or authorized agents, or THOMAS J (LARK, President. WM C BINNEY Secretary

Salishar, & Amesbury Mills, June 26, 1857. at the other of W C Binney, Amesbury Mills.

1859-09-09, V

# New Life in Webster's Old Steam Factory

1856-09-18, Villager, Pg. 2, Hilton, with J. R. Huntington and Amos Pettingell (late of Morrill & Co.)

Business—and the Old Steam Machine Shop. We are glad to learn that there is a prospect at last, of this establishment, which has lain so long dormant, being turned to some purpose, and that no less than making its locality the scene of busy activity.

Some eighteen years ago this establishment was erected for the purpose of manufacturing machinery, at a cost of \$50,000, and was at one period in full and successful operation, employing in the different departments about seventy workmen. From some cause or other, business was entirely suspended, and a great part of the machinery suffered to go to min. and finally the buildings were sold to Mr. Aaron Hilton, for the sum of \$3500. Mr. H. fitted up the same for the manufacture of lard oil, which he engaged in just so long as the business was one of profit. But owing to the high price which lard attained, and consequently the small margin left for profit, be has been obliged to relinquish for a time, the manufacture of oil.

In the meantime, Mr. J. R. Hontington, a young man of this village, has leased a portion of the buildings, where he manufactures carriages of all descriptions, from a one horse "jumper," to a hand-ome two horse carryall.

On the first floor is the blacksmith shop, where all the iron work for his carriages is done; on the second floor is the wood workers or body makers, painters and trimmers. He

employs six hands in all, and informs us that since the commencement of his business he has manufactured and sold one hundred vehicles. He occasionally receives orders from abroad for carriages, but the most of the sales are made by him, and in every instance be has received cash for them.

May the good success that has thus far attended his labors, continue to attend him until he shall be enabled to enlarge his business, and thus while increasing his own gains, aid the prosperity of the village, by building up a mechanical branch, which only needs industry, tact and perseverance, to become fully established.

In this connection too, we would mention that what was formerly the blacksmith shop and boiler hoose connected with the machine shop, has recently been leased by Mr. Amos Pettengill, of the late firm of Morrill & Co., for a term of five years. A new boiler and engine is to be put up by Mr. Pettengill, and the machinery necessary to carry on the manufactore of doors, sashes and blinds, will be added, such as planing mill, morticing machine, circular saws, &c. We have no doubt but what this will prove a profitable business At all events, whatever of encouragement is necessary to forward the enterprise should-not be withheld, and we hope that plenty of work in his line may add new life and activity, where once was the most attractive business spot in our village, but over which for so long a period has reigned the atillness of death.



#### Continued Use of Webster's Old Steam Mill

1859-01-13, Villager, Page 2

Local Business. We take pleasure in noticing the introduction into this town of any new business, or the enlargement of any business already carried on. It was supposed that when Mr. Huntington gave up the carriage business here and moved to Cincinnati, this branch would be discontinued. Such, however, is not the case, and in place of one firm there is now two engaged in this business. Mesers Hunt & Briggs have recently commenced the carriage business at the old Steam Mills and intend manufacturing a considerable number

the ensuing season. Mr. Wm Hume has, also, leased part of a building on Elm street and is now engaged in the same trade, employing several hands in each department.

Mr Agron Hilton commenced the manufacturing of children's shoes exclusively, some time since, which he has found profitable, and keeps eight or ten hands to work.

At the steam planing mill of Mr. Amos Pettengill business continues prosperous, and he has just completed a large store house for lumber.

Even for John J. Allen, who was married into and had lived through much of Amesbury's carriage history, some of these early details were simply lost in time. His extensive carriage history does not mention that J. R. Huntington had worked in Webster's old steam factory, nor that the above carriage making activity was carried on there at all. Hunt and Briggs are casually mentioned above only by their last names, certainly being the familiar George J. Hunt and Richard F. Briggs. Allen describes Briggs as starting carriage making in 1866 at his long standing #99 Friend street location, after returning from the Civil War¹. Allen states that George Hunt began carriage making in Moses Bailey's buildings in 1876. (Bailey's buildings were later consolidated into Charles W. Long's adjacent carriage complex.) The above article clearly states that Hunt and Briggs were practicing carriage making prior to the Civil War.

<sup>2)</sup> ibid., pg. 131



<sup>1)</sup> History of Carriage Manufacturing and Auto Body Building, John J. Allen, typescript, 1955, pg. 13

# Amos Pettingell 1817-1883, 1856 Steam Carpentry Mill

FIRE. The roof of the "old machine shop" -now occupied by Mr Joseph Morrill, box manufacturer, and by G. Hunt & Briggs, carriage manufactures and Aaron Hilton, shoe manufacturer,-took fire on the roof hy a spark from the chimney of Mr. Amos Pettengell's steam factory, on Monday noon last .-The fire was promptly extinguished before much damage was done.

The newspaper article above describes the aforementioned group operating in Webster's "old machine shop", Amos Pettingell having ignited the building roof. adverts indicate the Accompanying business of Pettingell's new steam wood mill, previously described as burning for a final time in 1866. Amos had been associated with a Joseph Morrill at the Salisbury Point steam wood mill, who then became President of the Merrimac Hat Co. (It is unclear if that was the same Joseph Morrill as mentioned in the above article.). Amos's son, Charles Franklin Pettingell, began on his own around 1870 in the basement of the Locke & Jewell steam wheel factory on Mechanics Row, developing a line of carriage woodworking machinery. In 1881 he combined with a brother in a new factory adjacent to Locke & Jewell<sup>1</sup> to become a successful machinery maker to American carriage manufacturers.

1) From Hub magazine, 1881, quoted in *History of Amesbury Carriage* Makers, Royal Feltner, self-published, Amesbury, MA

Wanted. DY the subscriber. 50,000 feet of DRY D PINE BOARDS in exchange for Doors, Blinds, &c. AMUS PETTINGELL. .j20 tf Steam Mill, Salisbury Mills. Doors for Sale. 859-03-17 DOORS of various sizes for sale, cheap for cash, AMOS PETTINGELL Steam Mill, Sallabury Mills

#### STEAM MILL.

'I'll E subscriber is prepared to attend to all L descriptions of

TURNING and JIGSAWING. Also, STAIR BANISTERS and FRAMING PINS made to order.

AMOS PETTINGELL. Steam Mill, Salisbury Mills. ap7

#### CARRIAGE BOWS

F all descriptions on hand and made to order. Carriage manufacturers will do well to call before purchasing elsewhere.

Amos pettingell. ap7 Steam Mill, Salisbury Mills.

STEAM MILL.

THE subscriber is prepared to attend to all L descriptions of

TURNING and JIG-SAWING. Also, STAIR BANISTERS and FRAMING. PINS made to order.

AMOS PETTINGELL.

ap7 Steam Mill, Salisbury Mills.



Villager,

# Webster's Amesbury & Salisbury Gas Company, 1860

Prior to the 1848 railroad branch, town wharfs at the bottom of Mill St. were the primary access for the textile mills receiving raw wool and cotton, and for shipping finished fabric. Amesbury Flannel Mfg. Co. consequently bought a portion of the Mill St. wharf in 1824<sup>1</sup>, just below their mill. Salisbury Mfg. Co. (the textile mills) purchased the complete wharf in 1855<sup>2</sup> where they could receive coal for a coalgasification plant just across lower Mill Street, see news item below. The company had considered making gas commercially available to the town<sup>3</sup>, for which Webster was among a group that created the *Amesbury and Salisbury Gas Company*.

- 1) History of Amesbury, Joseph Merrill, 1880, pg. 339
- 2) Chronological Record of Amesbury, Emily B. Smith, 1901, pg. 23
- Salisbury Mills records from Mass Historical Society, Collection Ms. N-332

#### 1858-09-09, Villager, Pg. 2

The cotton mill in this village is to be lighted with gas, and workmen are now engaged in laying pipes from the S M Co's works to that mill.

Association has been formed for the pury pose of purchasing or making and selling Gas for light in the towns of Amesbury and Salisbury. The capital stock of the corporation to be five thousand dollars, divided into one hundred shares at fifty dollars per share. The name of the corporation to be the Amesbury and Salisbury Gas Company.

We hereby certify that an assessment of twelve dollars and fifty cents per share, amounting to twelve hundred and fifty dollars, has been laid by the Directors on all the shares in said corporation, and that amount actually paid in. THOMAS J. CLARK, President.

WM. C. BINNEY, Treasurer,
J. B. Webster,
Williams Allen,
J. R. Cheswell,

#### Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

ESSEX, ss., Aug. 2d, 1860.

Then personally appeared the above named Thomas J. Clark, J. B. Webster, Williams Allen, Wm. C. Binney and J. R. Cheswell, and subscribed and made oath to the truth of the above certificate, before me,

GEORGE TURNER, Justice of the Peace.

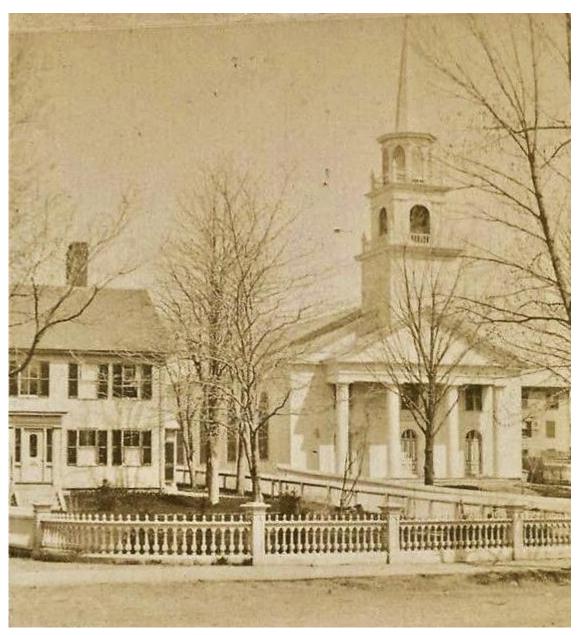
1860-08-23, Villager, Pg. 3

#### Jonathan B. Webster House

Jonathan Webster's house left of the Congregational church on Main Street, with a 2½ story carriage barn in the rear. Jonathan and/or his widow lived there 55 years or more, from about 1850 until his widow's death in 1904.

The elaborate picket fence had curved corners that presented a graceful look to the property. This photo is most likely after his 1870 death. The large back extension would have existed on the house at this time, but the wrap-around sun porches have not yet been added.

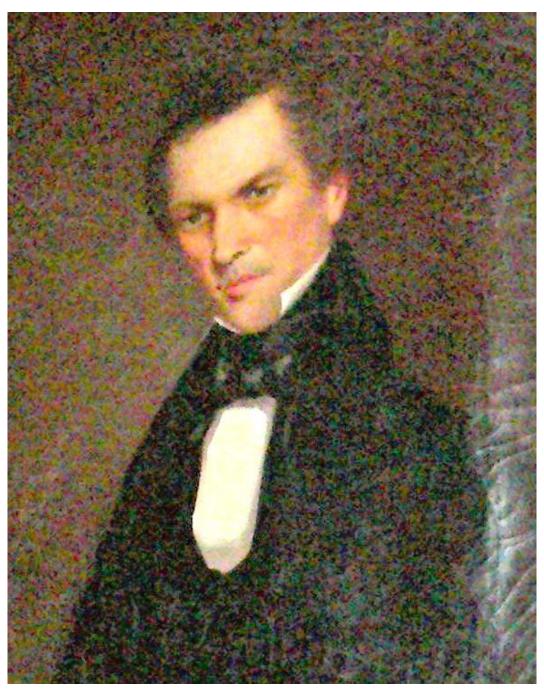
Webster's sole surviving child, Abigail Marie Webster, married dentist Dr. Arthur T. Brown shortly after Jonathon died. They remained in the house, with his dental practice there, until her 1913 death. Dr. Brown had preceded her the previous year



From stereopticon card ca. 1880 found on ebay



## Jonathan B. Webster Portrait by Samuel Rowell



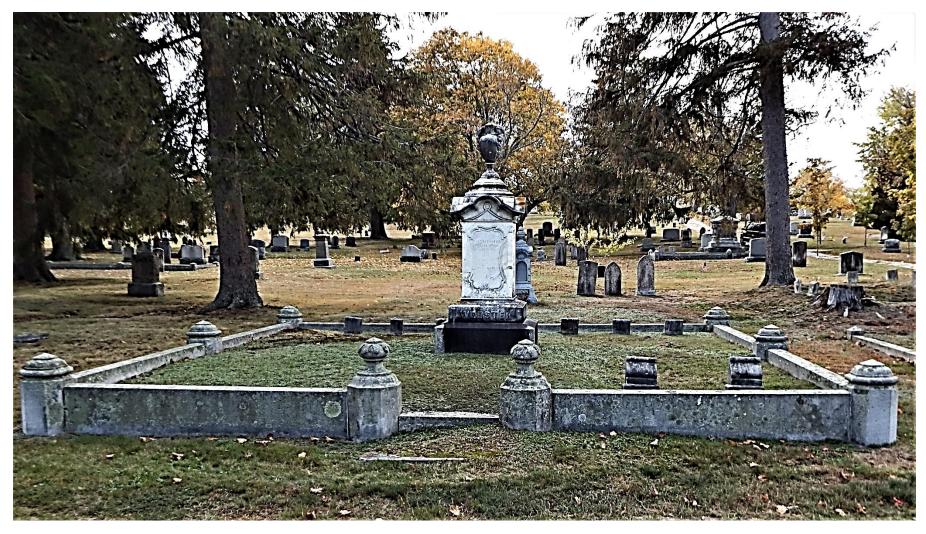
#### PORTRAITS

The fine portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan B. Webster and the frames have been cleaned and restored and are now hanging opposite the fireplace in the large room of the parish house, which was formerly the home of the Websters. Jonathan Bayley Webster was born in 1799 and died in 1870. He was the great grandson of Rev. Dr. Samuel Webster, pastor at Rocky Hill Meeting House from 1741 to 1796. Jonathan married Abigail R. Ballard of Lancaster. Mass. in 1837. abigail outlived her husband thirty-four years. In her will she left \$1,000 to our Church. The interest from a fund known as the Jonathan B. Webster Fund, a fift to the First Congregational Church and Society of Salisbury and .mesbury, dated 1871, has made possible the purchase of library books.

Mrs. Brown, wife of Dr. Brown, a dentist who lived and practiced in the Webster house, was a daughter of Jonathan and Abigail.

The portraits were painted in 1840 by Samuel Rowell, a local artist and carriage builder. It appears that Mr. Rowell preferred portrait painting to carriage building and for a time he maintained a studio in town. The restoration of the portraits and frames was done by Mrs. Marguerite Blanchard as a gift to the church.

## Jonathan B. Webster Family Plot at Union Cemetery



After losing his parents at about age fourteen, Jonathan visited his own plot, above, numerous times during his remaining life. He buried his first wife here in 1834, after fourteen years of marriage, and their son, William, when William was age forty (d. 1861). In between, his second wife died almost exactly a year after they were married (d. 1836), plus two additional sons by his third wife (d. 1848 & 1853). His single surviving child, Abigail Marie Webster, was interred here in 1913, joining her late husband, Dr. Arthur T. Brown, who had been buried here in 1912.



#### (Jonathan) Webster Building, 61 Main Street Amesbury





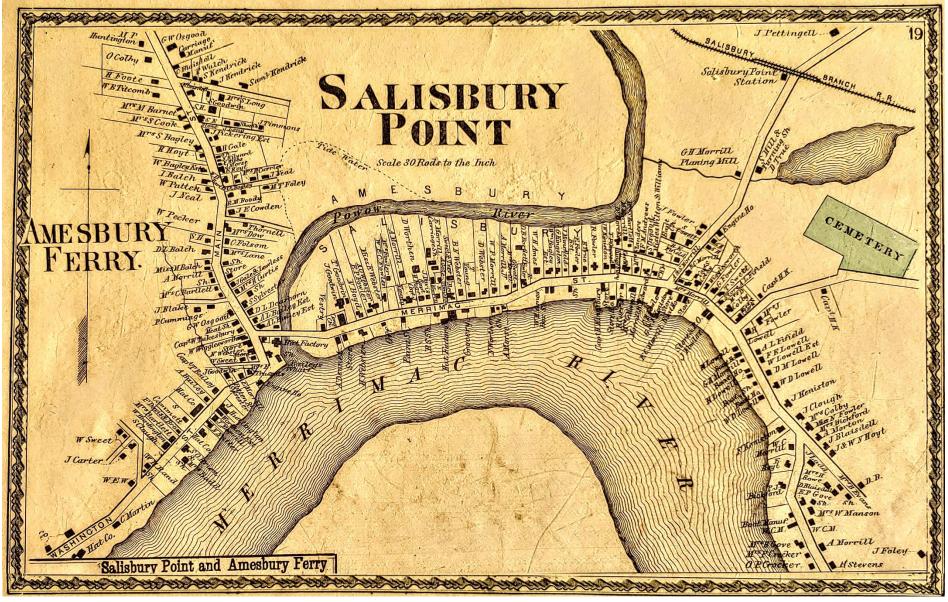
This was built around 1873 on the site of a previous building owned by a Mrs. French. The land and building were purchased ca. 1871 by a Mrs. Mary Young, nee Mudge, with some undetermined involvement by Dr. Arthur T. Brown, recent husband of Abigail M. Webster. Arthur Brown then purchased the property in 1875, the building having seemingly been named for his father-in-law, Jonathan B. Webster.

Researched and photographed by Steve Klomps

# Appendix



#### Point Shore 1872 Map



This map is sufficiently detailed that it can be enlarged. Nearly all families and many individuals discussed are represented. The "Swett" name is misspelled "Sweet". Newell Boyd lives just right of the Congregational Church. A Pettingell lives on Rocky Hill Rd. at upper right. Four hat factory locations are: Washington at far left, Washington St. near Main St., Main St. at now Larry's Marina, and Main St. on the river opposite Laurel Place.



#### Jonathan B. Webster

from D. Hamilton Hurd's 1888 History of Essex County Vol. II, pg.1531

Jonathan B. Webster, who was for many years a prominent citizen of Amesbury, died of pneumonia, February 17, 1870. He was an active and successful man, shrewd in business, of marked integrity and always held in high estimation by all his numerous acquaintances. Starting on the common level with his fellows, he maintained a steady, persistent course of life, until he became one of the wealthiest men in the community. He took no great interest in public affairs, but bestowed his greatest attention on the financial interests of Amesbury, which owes much of its prosperity to his efforts.

Mr. Webster was born at Amesbury Ferry February 23, 1799. When about fourteen years of age he came to the Mills, and worked as an apprentice with Ezra Worthen, the first manufacturer of woolen goods in this place. He continued with Mr. Worthen until 1827, when he contracted with the Salisbury Mills to finish their goods, occupying that position until 1846, when he succeeded Mr. Nathaniel White as cashier of the Powow River Bank, which office he filled until May, 1858, when he was elected president, that office having been rendered vacant by the death of Robert Patten.

Mr. Webster was one of the principal men in establishing the bank, and was one of its directors from the time of its establishment, in May, 1836,

until his death. He was also one of the prime movers in the organization of the Savings Bank, having been its treasurer for twenty years and vice-president for twelve years. He also suggested the formation of the Amesbury and Salisbury Mutual Fire Insurance Company in this town, and through his efforts this institution was incorporated.

Jonathan B. was the oldest in a family of five children, and was born at Amesbury Ferry February 23, 1799. His mother's name was Sarah (Bailey) Webster. He married, for his first wife, Mary Morrill, by whom he had one child,—William B. Mary Morrill died in 1833. The son, William B., married Julia Collins, of New York (no children). William B. died November 6, 1861.

Jonathan B. married, for his second wife, Laura Linscott, who died shortly after marriage. For his third wife, he married Abby R. Ballard, daughter of Henry and Abigail (Richardson) Ballard. She was born in Brattleboro', Vt., November 2, 1818. They had three children, viz.: Abby M., born March 30, 1839; Stephen H., born March 5, 1843, and died September 5, 1848; Stephen H. (again) born July 3, 1849, and died August 25, 1853.

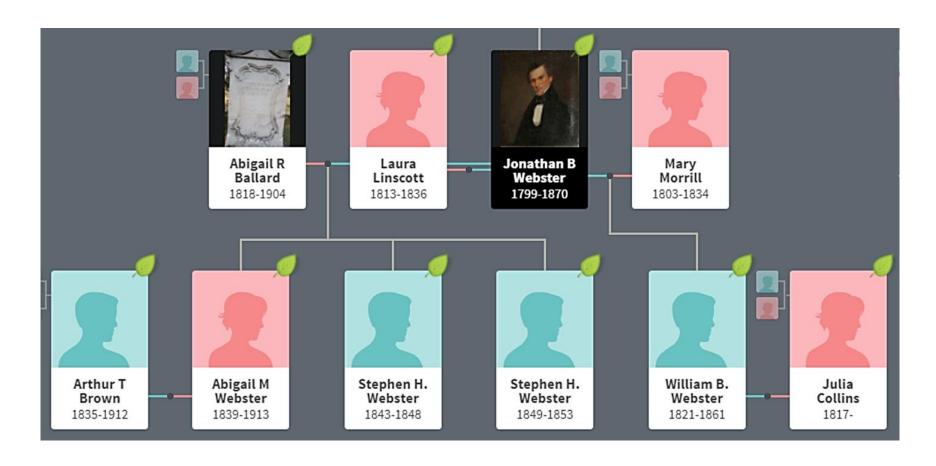
Abby M. married Dr. Arthur T. Brown, a native of Kingston, N. H., and who has been for twenty years a dentist of Amesbury, Mass.

Notes – Marry Morrill died in January of 1834 (not 1833)

Julia Collins, wife of Webster's first son, William B. Webster, was from Chicago (not New York)



## Jonathan Webster Family



#### Marriages:

Mary Morrill July 2, 1820 Laura Linscott March 21, 1835 Abigail Ballard October 25, 1837



## 1838 Report on Steam Engine in America

Ordered by Congress for review of explosions and history of risk to life and property

#### December 13, 1838. ...

Read, and referred to a Schotz Committee of soren parabeta.

Privated by the primate of the House, under the expectatered acc of the Surretary of the Treasury, which suffered to senter to him in the program of the principal of the program of the principal.

#### TREASCAT DEPARTMENT, December 18, 1838.

Size The House of Representatives, on the 29th of June last, adopted

2 resolution in the following words:

"Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be required to collect and report to Congress, on the first day of the next session, all the information that can be obtained as to the use of steam-engines in the United States, and the accidents and loss of life or property which have attended their use; and especially that he ascertain and report:

1. The whole number of steam-engines in the United States; where and by whom they were constructed; where they are used; how long they have been used; their capacity or power, respectively; and the purpotes or uses to which applied; and whether high or low pressure.

4. The explosions or other disasters which have happened to such engines; when and where; with as many of the circumstances attending the same as can be collected.

3. The causes, as far us they can be ascertained, of such explosious or other disasters.

4. The loss of life or property, or injury to persons or property, which

#### The Powow River (National) Bank - 1

The Villager, pg. 2, 9/28/1865

# The VILLAGER.

#### THURSDAY, SEPT. 28th, 1865.

POWOW RIVER BANK. It is especially fitting that more than a passing notice be given to the Institution bearing the simple name of "Powew River Bank," which for a period of twenty-pine years has been the place where our merchants and manufecturers have done their banking business. This bank, like the giver bearing the same name, that runs quietly through the village, has been a source of power in the community, adding to the wealth and business capacity of the village, until it has acquired a name at home and abroad, Tanking it as one of the best managed institutions in the State. "As good as Powow River Bank" was held as a sufficient "backer" for any men's thonor, and such an endorsement of a person's note would gain bim accommodation among the most distinguished of moneyed men. But Powow River Bank. the a State institution, has already occased to exist in name, and hereafter its bills will be issued under the broader title of "Powow River National Bank." Its control by the State has ceased, and it new accounts to the .national authority for its existence.

The act of incorporation of the bank was resented March 30th, 1836, when Edward Everett-wargovernor of the State, although two years previously efforts had been made to se--cure a bank-charter, but which were not suc--secoful for the reason-of an opposition against an increase of banking -capital. The names of Seth Clark, Robert Patten and Jonathan Webster, appear first on the petition for its -charter. Its capital stock of \$100,000.was subscribed and all paid in in ninety days. Its first discounts were made Sept. 1st, 1836. The first meeting of the stockholders was held May 12th when the following board of directors was chosen: Seth Clark, Jonathan B. Webster, Robert Cross, David L. Dearborn, Patten Sargent, William M. Colby, Thomas J. Clark, Robert Patten and Samuel Walton. At a meeting of the directors, Seth Clark was chosen president, and Natheniel White cashier. In the choice of a president the bank was very fortunate, for no one gave -more close effection to the duties of his office, or more carefully guarded the interests of the bank. Upon the death of Mr. Clark, Robert Patten was chosen president, and he also held the office until his semoral by death. August 16th, 1847, Mr. White resigned the

#### The Powow River (National) Bank - 2

The Villager, pg. 2, 9/28/1865

office of cashier, and Jonathan B. Webster was elected to fill his place. Mr. Webster had long been identified with the interests of the bank, was one of its first projectors, and had been one of the leading men in the board of directors, and his thorough acquaintance. with its business rendered him a very value-, ·ble man for the office. He served in this capacity for a period of ten years, when, desicing to be calleved from its active duties. be. was appointed the third president of the bank, which office he now holds. George F. Bagley, employed for a term of years as clerk, succeeded to the office of cashier, and now holds that position, for which he is eminently fitted. The stockholders could not entrust their money and business to more honest and conscientions hands.

There have been three presidents and three-cashiers of the bank, and three of the first directors chosen, viz.: Jonathan B. Webster, Thomas J. Clark and David L. Dearborn, continue to serve in that capacity.

A considerable portion of the business of the bank is with neighboring towns in New Hampshire, and as a large amount of stock is owned in that State, accordingly, in 1836, by vote of the bank, "Moses Eston, Jr., of South-Hampton, was invited to act with the board of directors in managing the affairs of the bank."

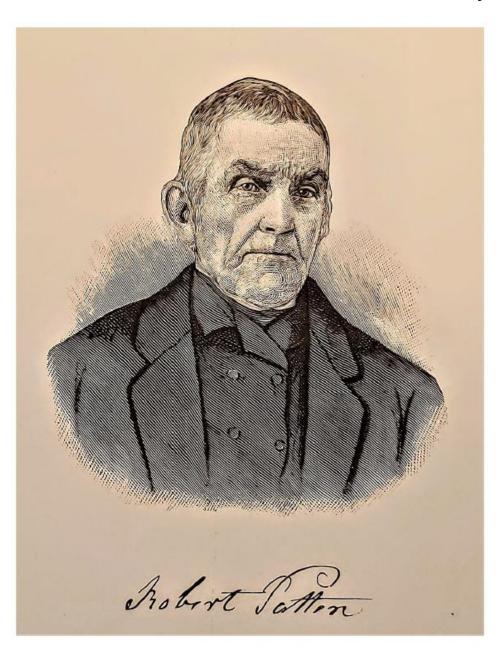
The first year was quite a successful one to the stockholders, for a dividend of seven per cont. was the result of its business.

Up to April, 1861, it had paid out in dividends the round sum of \$179,000, or an average yearly dividend of 7 15-49 per cent. and its average dividends up to the present time, a period of 29 years, amount to 8 per cent. Thus, in spite of losses incident to all banks, and all business, it has paid a hand-some interest to its stockholders, and has now a surplus of \$12,243.79.

The great want of the hank now is more capital. Since its incorporation the business interests of this vicinity have more then tripled, and it finds itself unable to accommodate all who seek accommodation at its counter. It has made a strong claim to secure this result, but the Comptroller of the Treasury Department has reached the limit allowed by Congress, and until that body shall see fit to enlarge the banking capital of the nation, it will be obliged to do business on its present capital stock.

## Robert Patten - Beyond Brickmaking

from D. Hamilton Hurd's 1888 History of Essex County Vol. II, pg.1531

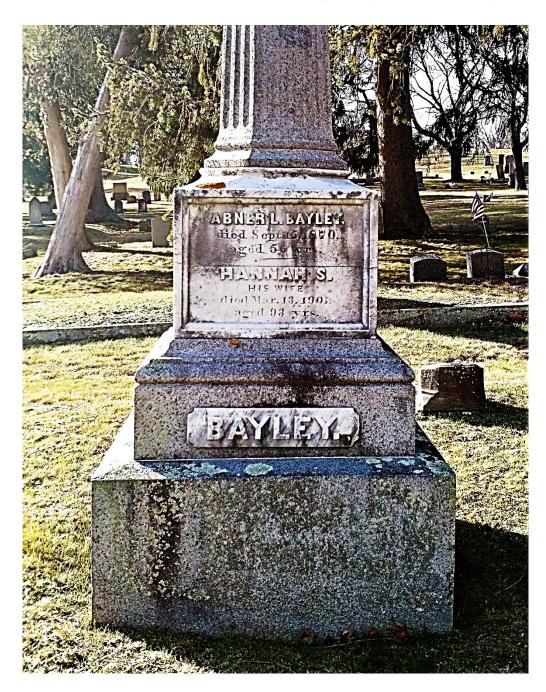


#### ROBERT PATTEN.

Stephen Patten, the grandfather of Robert, was born June 19, 1707, and his father, Willis, December 11, 1738, and died September 12, 1816. The occupation of Willis Patten, was that of cooper, brickmaker and farmer. He married Hannah Sargent, and had nine children, viz.: Stephen, Jonathan, Willis, Moses, Amos, Robert, Hannah, Unis and Thomas.

Robert, whose portrait is here shown, was born at South Amesbury, October 28, 1776, when the great struggle of independence was progressing. About 1807 he bought the John Hoyt, Sr., homestead of one of his descendants and moved to the Mills, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was president of the Powow River Bank from 1860 until his death, February 27, 1858, and was the first treasurer of the Savings Bank, which office he held for several years. He was frequently called into town business, holding the office of selectman nine years, and was three times elected representative to the General Court. In 1841 he was elected county commissioner for three years, and served the town in various capacities during his life. His principal business was farming and brick-making, which he pursued for more than half a century. For many years he furnished all supplies in that line, there being no other brick-yard in this section of the town. No doubt it is the oldest brick-yard in town, and was first used by John Hoyt, Sr., and, in fact, the remains of an ancient yard were to be seen when Robert Patten moved there, so ancient that the oldest inhabitants knew nothing about it.

# Abner Lowell Bayley Family Plot at Union Cemetery



Spellings "Bayley" and "Bailey" were used interchangeably, both inside and outside the family. Newspaper articles somewhat consistently used "Bailey", even during Abner's lifetime, when discussing him or other family members. Abner's grave makes clear that Abner preferred Bayley.

While about 15 years younger than his cousin, Jonathan B. Webster, Abner died only about seven months after Jonathan, both in 1870 and both interred at Union Cemetery.

# Aaron Swett Hilton Family Plot at Salisbury Point

Aaron Hilton's parents and family are interred in a family plot at Salisbury Point Cemetery, with several other Hiltons in individual nearby graves.





# 1850 - Amesbury Saw & Grain Co.

plus and Robert Patten, and steam power at Amesbury Flannel Mfg. Co. 1850 Census Manufacturer's Data, transcribed by Courtney MacLachlan

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#### Jonathan Webster House today on Main Street



