

WALPOLE BICENTENNIAL FOLIAGE TOUR



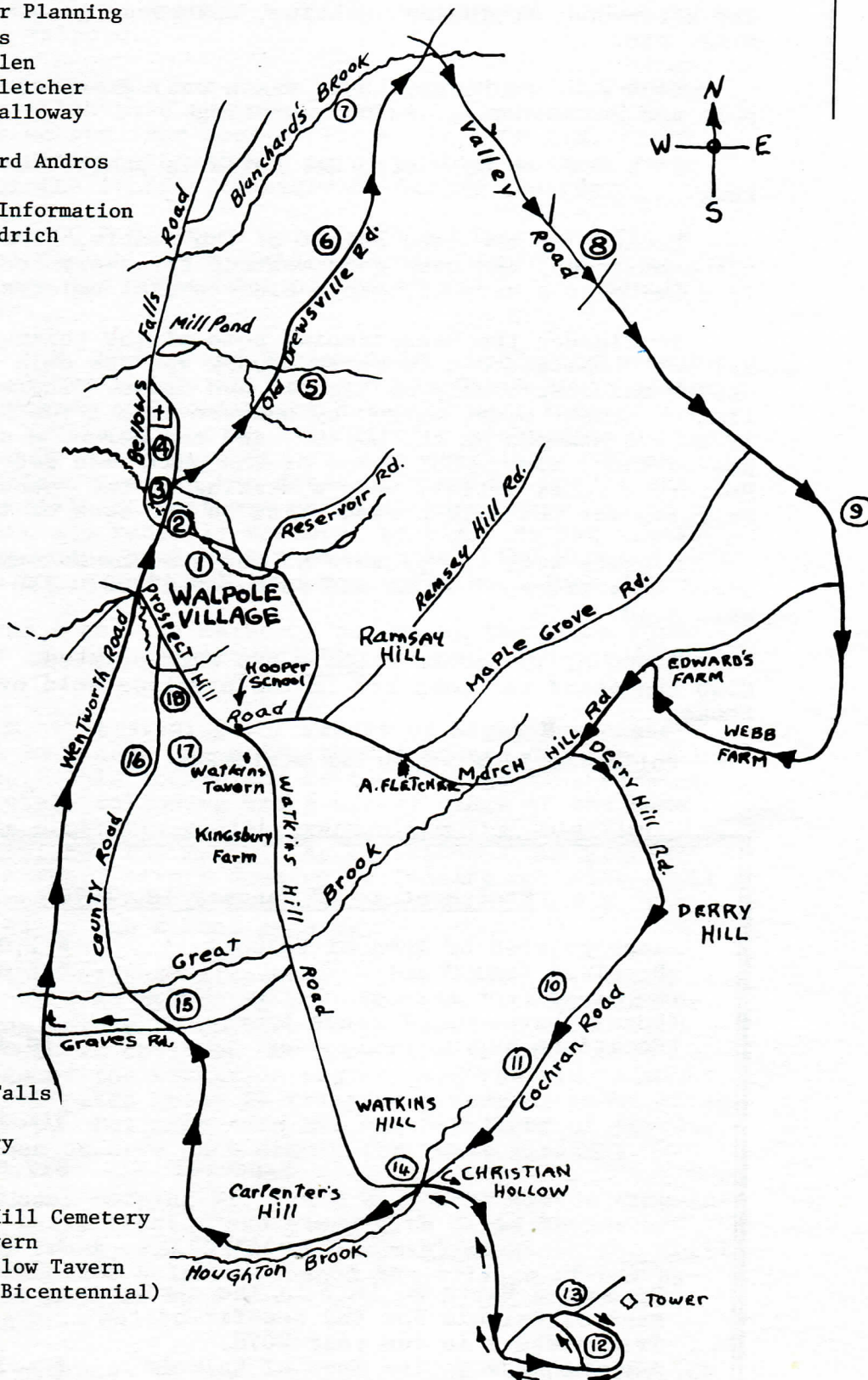
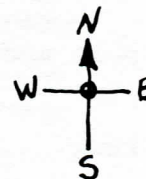
1776 1976 WALPOLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Foliage Tour Planning

Guy Bemis
Gwen Bowlen
Albert Fletcher
Robert Galloway

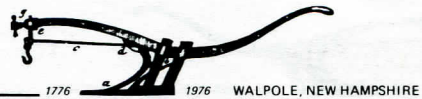
Map by Howard Andros

Historical Information
Anita Aldrich



1. The Academy
2. Print Shop
3. Oldest House
4. First Church
5. Hubbard Farm
6. Flynt Grave
7. Blanchard's Falls
8. Dodge Tavern
9. Slade Cemetery
10. Rock Ledge
11. Log Cabin
12. Carpenter's Hill Cemetery
13. Goldsmith Tavern
14. Christian Hollow Tavern
15. Graves Farm (Bicentennial)
16. Bellows Farm
17. Francis House
18. Lilac Hedge

**WALPOLE BICENTENNIAL
FOLIAGE TOUR
OCTOBER 5, 1975**



You are starting your tour on the earliest surveyed road through Walpole. That was in 1762 (213 years ago) and at that time there were only two or three houses in what is now the present village. One of these houses is still standing and is #3 on your map. The rest of the village was mostly forest land.

One hundred years ago, according to "Fogg's Gazeteer" for 1875, Walpole ranked third in the state in value of agricultural produce totalling \$254,095 and tabulated as follows: acres of improved land 19,433; number of horses 408; number of cattle 1,278; number of sheep 9,219; number of swine 441; bushels of wheat 1,001; of rye 514; of corn 38,660; of barley 33,373; pounds of wool 39,103; bushels of peas and beans 61; of potatoes 15,355; pounds of butter 50,000; of cheese 4,670; gallons of milk sold 145; tons of hay 6,657; pounds of maple sugar 10,500 and pounds of tobacco 95,850.

The following special points of interest are marked on your tour map:

- #1. Academy Museum (your starting point) - Built in 1831 for a private school. Taken over by the Town for its high school and then purchased in 1950 by the Walpole Historical Society for a museum.
- #2. Print Shop - Built in 1793 for a store. Owned by Isaiah Thomas, a printer from Worcester, from 1798 to 1827. Here was published "The Farmers' Museum", an early newspaper and many books, one of which was the first novel printed in the United States, entitled "The Algerine Captive".
- #3. Oldest House - Was here in 1760 and has always been occupied as a dwelling. It was recently restored by Mr. Guy Bemis and he found it held together by the original handcut nails; had its original clapboards, handhewn shingles, and handmade panelling.
- #4. First Church - A building was started here on a site a little northeast of the present house. The early settlers worshiped here but they never finished the building, preferring a site at the top of Prospect Hill for their permanent building. The present dwelling was built by Josiah Bellows in 1792.

At this point your tour bears to the right onto the Drewsville Road which leads by:

- #5. Hubbard Farm - This homestead has been in the Hubbard Family since 1791 and is where the internationally-known Hubbard Farms had its beginning.
- #6. Flynt Grave - In 1755, while after ash logs, two men by name of Flynt and Daniel Twitchell were killed here by Indians. Flynt was buried on the spot. This site was recently marked by local Boy Scouts as a bicentennial project.



- #7. Blanchard's Falls - Toward the northern end of the Drews-ville Road you come again on blacktop. The road dips down and crosses Blanchard's Brook. A short way down the brook are the Falls where Col. Bellows set up his first saw and grist mill.

At the intersection of roads a sharp right brings you on to the Valley Road. Many of the fine old houses built on this road in the latter part of the 1700's have succumbed to fire. One still remaining is:

- #8. Dodge Tavern - A stopping place for teams freighting goods from Canada to Boston. A huge barn allowed the teams to drive into its shelter. Under the grain room there is supposed to have been a secret cellar used as a hiding place for goods smuggled from Canada.
- #9. Slade Cemetery - Just after passing the last house is Walpole, the site of the Walpole Poor Farm in the 1800's, is a small cemetery in the town of Alstead. A lifelong resident of Walpole, Mrs. Eunice (Angier) Slade, is buried here. She was born in 1799 and died in 1901, thus living in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

You again swing right off the Valley Road onto the old Fay Hill Road. Along here you notice signs of a new development. After passing the Webb Farm a beautiful view is opened up of the surrounding hills. An abrupt turn to the left brings you onto the March Hill Road and shortly a sharp left takes you onto the Derry Hill Road. It is back here on these hills that farmers were making their fortunes with sheep a hundred years ago. Much of this land was then open fields. (Page 285 in The Town History describes this section.) From the Derry Hill Road you bear right to the Cochran Road, named for a family who farmed here for many years.

- #10. Rock Ledge - Here is a chance to stretch your legs. This spot has recently been cleared by Mr. Paul Galloway to reveal one of the most sightly spots in Walpole. Mr. Cochran had two barns here which were destroyed by a tornado in 1822.
- #11. Log Cabin - Built recently by Mr. Paul Galloway who has also put in a water wheel in the brook to provide electricity for his sugar house.

Downhill off the Cochran Road you come to the blacktop County Road and turn left toward Keene. You are ascending Carpenter Hill and at the top turn left to pass by:

- #12. Carpenter Hill Cemetery - There was always quite a settlement in this section of Walpole. For years there was a church at Christian Hollow, named that because it was a Christian Church. This was the burying ground for the Carpenter Hill people.
- #13. Goldsmith Tavern - An inn was established here very early in the history of the town. This was on the main



road from Keene and the way taken by soldiers on their way to the Battle of Bennington during the Revolutionary War. They stopped at the Goldsmith Tavern and devoured a whole ox that had been prepared for them.

Continuing by the old Crehoe Farm, you return to the County Road and for a short distance retrace your way, going down Carpenter Hill by the:

- #14. Christian Hollow Tavern - An old building. It was run as a tavern by William Robinson in early 1800's and later by William Arnold.

As the County Road bears left, you have just passed the site of the Christian Hollow church, now replaced by a modern dwelling.

- #15. Graves Farm - After passing a pond on your left at a sharp curve, the first set of farm buildings is the Graves Farm. This is the only bicentennial area in Walpole. The land was purchased in 1761 by a direct ancestor of Robert Graves, the present farmer on this land. It has always been carried on as a farm by successive generations of the original Graves owner.

Just before reaching the farm buildings of the Graves Farm, you swing left onto the Graves Road which takes you across to the Wentworth Road (the early 1762 road) where you turn right. You cross over Great Brook by a very early dwelling on the bank to your right; by Crescent Farm, another very early Graves place, now owned by Allan Holmes; up over Hooper Hill and just before entering Walpole Village again by:

- #16. Bellows House - This is the original John Bellows' farmhouse. John was one of the sons of Col. Bellows, the founder of Walpole. It is now owned by descendants of Joseph Bellows, another son of Col. Bellows.

- #17. Francis House (often called Knapp House) - This large brick house built by Josiah Bellows 2nd around 1812. Josiah was the son of John who lived next door. This place was purchased by Jacob Newman Knapp in 1824 and stayed in the Knapp family for years. It is now owned by Mr. Henry Francis. It is unique in still having the original wallpaper on the walls of the parlour.

- #18. Lilac Hedge - For years there has been the lilac hedge at the top of the wall to the right after passing the Francis house. Some believe Louisa May Alcott received inspiration from this hedge for her book "Under the Lilacs". Louisa Alcott spent some time in Walpole around 1850 with her family who came here because of Mrs. Alcott's sister who lived in the house just south of the Walpole Library.