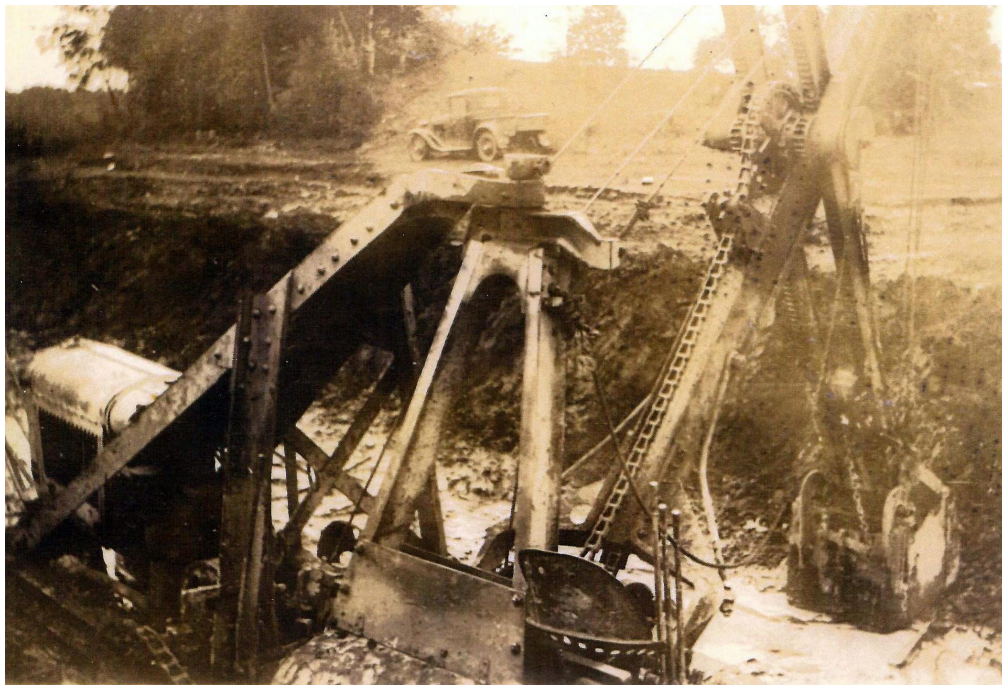# HOPKINTON'S 250TH
HISTORIC WALK
Station 1
Kimball Lake & Cabins

In the 1930's Harold Kimball hired unemployed workers to deepen an old mill pond and rebuild the dam to create Kimball Lake. He then built numerous cabins for a tourist destination as Routes 202-9 and 103 were the main highways to the western and southwestern part of the state. Eventually, the cabins and land around the lake became a Girl Scout Camp until it was taken over by the Town for a Recreation and Conservation Area.

Photo of the digging of Kimball Lake
courtesy of the Hopkinton Historical Society

Station 2
Sand Pit & I-89
Access Road

The construction of I-89 in the 1960's impacted the rural character of Hopkinton. Sand and gravel from this now forested sand pit was trucked out to build the interstate highway. The hiking trail follows part of the access road used to move the sand and gravel.

Photo courtesy of Bob LaPree

Station 3
Beaver Swamp

Early fur traders completely trapped out the beaver before the settlers moved into the area. The marsh grass that grew into the abandoned beaver swamps helped sustain their livestock before they cleared the forests for pasture and hayfields. Beavers did not fully return to Hopkinton until the mid 1900's.

Photo courtesy of Bob LaPree

HOPKINTON'S 250TH
HISTORIC WALK
Station 4
Tall Stone Wall

Stone walls were used to both mark boundaries and to force in or out livestock. Livestock walls had to be tall and well maintained. The abandonment of farms after the civil war and hte invention of wire fence in the late 1800's eliminated the need to mend the walls. Many stones have tumbled over the years, reducing their height.

Photo courtesy of Bob LaPree

Station 5
New Road

New Road was once a town-maintained road to Dunbarton. Only one house (formerly the parsonage for the Congregational Church) was ever built on it. The 3-rod wide right-of-way (49.5 feet) is unusually wide for a time when the main form of transportation was horse and wagon. The road is still a public right-of-way, but is no longer maintained for vehicular traffic.

Photo of the Congregational Church's parsonage on New Road courtesy of the Hopkinton Historical Society.

Station 6
Frog Pond

The Frog Pond is a glacial "kettle hole" created when a large chunk of glacial ice (left behind when the glacier retreated about 10,000 years ago) was covered in sand and gracel outwash. When the ice melted, it created a depression with no outlet. The pond was drained in 1884 to cultivate the land. With a decline in farming, it eventually reverted to a pond.

Photo of skating at Frog Pond
courtesy of the Hopkinton Historical Society

Station 7
Town Pound

Stone walls, even the tall ones like those at site 4, did not always keep the livestock where they were supposed to be. Wandering livestock was caught and placed in the Town Pound. Owners then had to pay the Pound Keeper a fine to recover their animals. This pound was built in 1805. Numerous stones have been "borrowed" from its walls over the years.

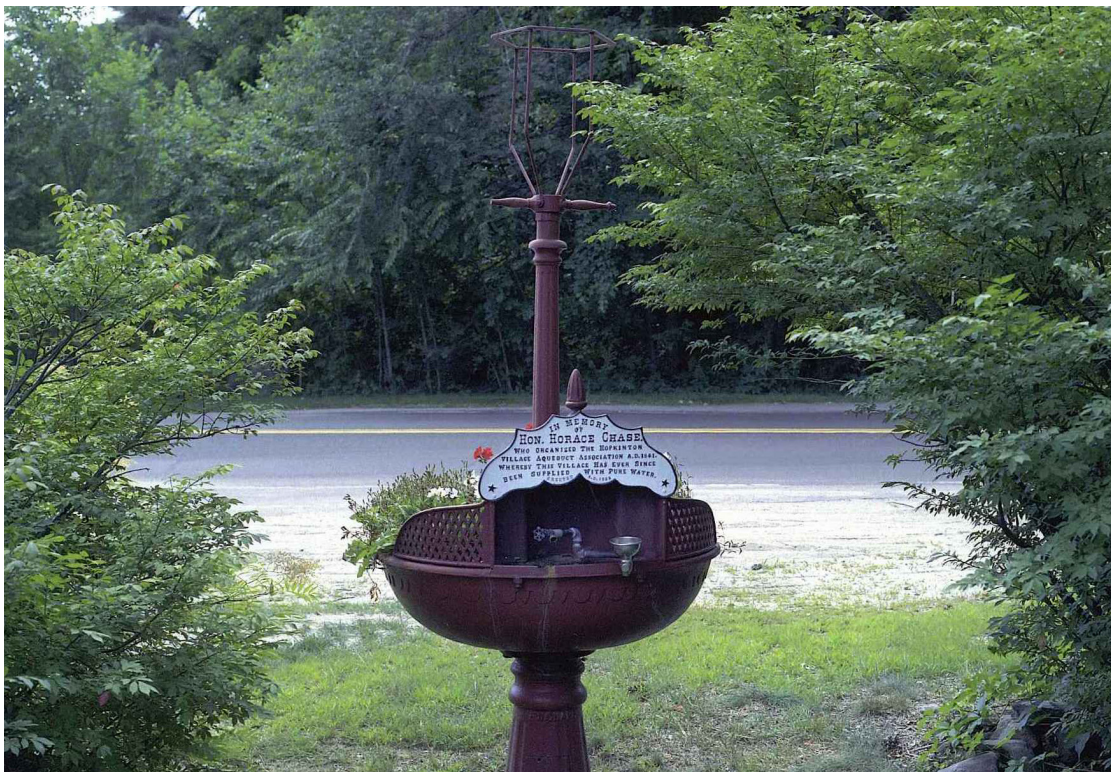

Photo courtesy of the Hopkinton Historical Society

Station 8
Hopkinton
Aqueduct

In 1840, the Hopkinton Aqueduct Association was formed to dliver water from the hand dug wells found in this area to Hopkinton Village by means of wooden pipes. The dug wells were later replaced by drilled wells on this property (capped and visible from the trail). The Village water source is now located off Briar Hill Road.

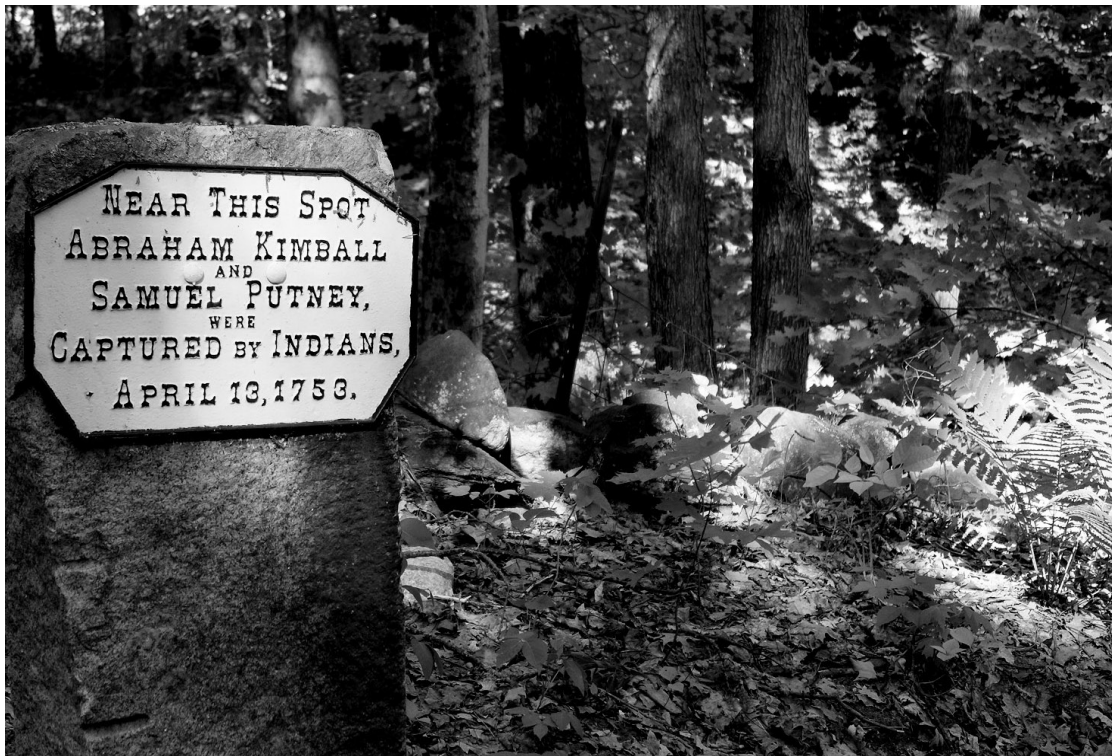*Photo courtesy of the Hopkinton Historical Society.*

Station 9
Indian Raid

In 1753, young Abraham Kimball and Samuel Putney were captured by Indians near this site while working on nearby land. They escaped from the captors in Boscawen, thus avoiding being taken to Canada for ransom. Such raids were a frequent part of the French and Indian War (1754 - 1763), when France and Great Britain battled for the dominion of North America.

Photo courtesy of the Hopkinton Historical Society.

HOPKINTON'S 250TH
HISTORIC WALK
Station 10
Putney Garrison

The Putney Garrison was one of three garrison houses built in Hopkinton to protect residents from Indian Raids during the French and Indian War. It was built in 1744 in the geographical center of Hopkinton. During that war, lookouts were posted on the summit of Gould Hill to look for campfire smoke of raiding Indians.

Photo courtesy of the Hopkinton Historical Society.

Station 11
First Parsonage

With the idea that the geographic center of Hopkinton was to become the Town Center, the Town's first minister, Reverend James Scales, purchased this land in 1757 for a parsonage. The house may have already been standing. A meeting house was planned near the top of Putney Hill, but after much debate, the churches were all built in other parts of Town.

Photo of the First Parsonage courtesy of the Hopkinton Historical Society.

Station 12
Short Stone Wall

Short stone walls like this were made mainly from rocks that needed to be removed from crop land. Such walls were not intended as livestock fences. Later, when crop land was converted to pasture, wire fencing would be added over the low stone wall to keep animals in place.

Photo courtesy of the Hopkinton Historical Society.

HOPKINTON'S 250TH HISTORIC WALK
Station 13
Derek's Brook

In 2013, this brook was named after Derek Owen, a local farmer, stone mason, and long-time Chair of the Hopkinton Conservation Commission. Parts of the brook near the bridge were channelized in the 1800's to drain the wetland found upstream in an attempt to improve the growing conditions on the adjacent pastureland.

Photo courtesy of Bob LaPree.

Station 14
Sweatt Preserve

In 2003, the heirs of Robert Sweatt generously donated 73 acres of forestland to Five Rivers Conservation Trust in memory of Robert Sweatt. The forest was a great addition to the ring of protected land around Hopkinton Village and provides a loop trail off the Hopkinton Village Greenway.


Photo courtesy of Bob LaPree.

HOPKINTON'S 250TH
HISTORIC WALK
Station 15
Meadow Hearth
Art Colony

This colonial home was a renowned artists' colony in the late 1940's and 1950's. The owners, Grace and Kurt Graff, taught dance and encouraged local artists. A 300-seat theater behind the house was the site of dance, musical and dramatic performances. The Graffs and many other artists were drawn to Hopkinton by David Campbell, an architect and early director of the League of NH Craftsmen. Campbell designed the neighboring house on the corner of Briar Hill Road for dancer Paul Reck.
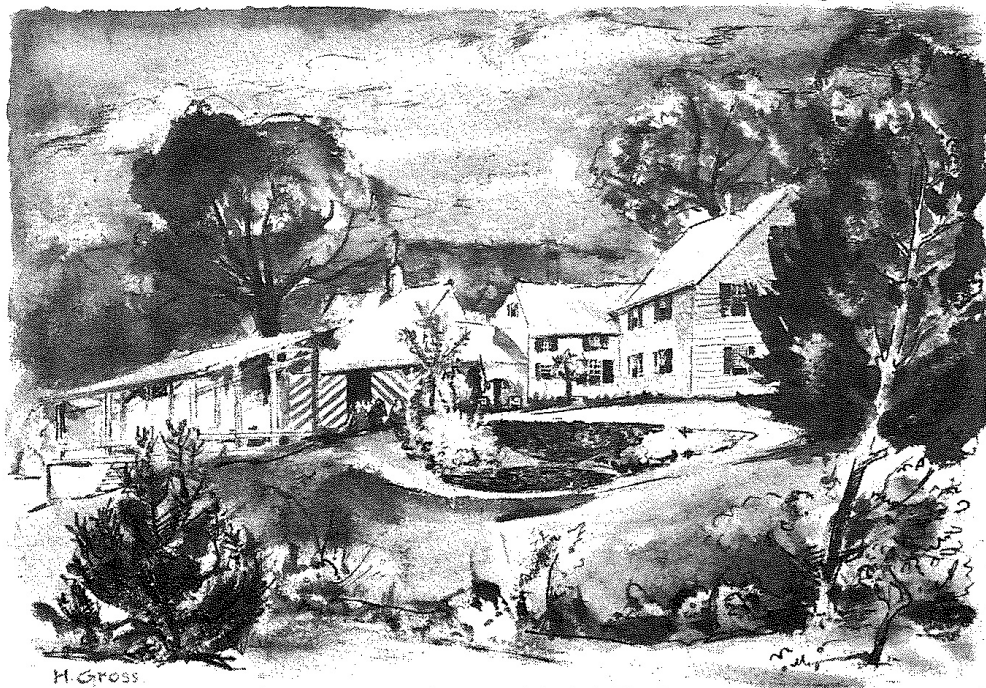
MEADOW HEARTH
heater Art Center of New Hampshire located in Hopkinton, six miles west of Concord, N.

Photo courtesy of the Hopkinton Historical Society.

Station 16
Graves Road

Graves Road was the route to Beech Hill from Hopkinton Village before Rollins Road was constructed across the wetland near what is now the Town beach. Use of Graves Road was eventually discontinued due to its steepness; today it is a Class VI road. Much of the road is located on a glacial esker, which is a ridge of sand and gravel that was deposited by a melt-water stream as it ran through or over the glacier.

Photo courtesy of Bob LaPree.

Station 17
Hopkinton
Village Dump

This site was used as the Hopkinton Village dump from the late 1800's to the mid 1900's and then used as the Town's stump dump. A portion of the old dump area was re-graded in the 1990's to create a winter sliding slope and trailhead parking lot.

Photo courtesy of Bob LaPree.

Station 18
Rachael's Brook

This brook was named for Rachael Johnson whose donation allowed the Town to acquire her ancestral property, now called Hawthorne Forest. When Rachael was young, she fished for trout in the brook which used to run all year round. As her family's pastures were abandoned and grew to forest, the trees consumed so much water in the summer that the stream no longer ran year round.

Photo courtesy of Bob LaPree.

HOPKINTON'S 250TH
HISTORIC WALK
Station 19
Ancient Pine Tree

In the 1930's, most of the white pines that grew into the abandoned pastures were clear-cut by Rachael Johnson's father, allowing the present forest to develop. He set up a portable sawmill on the property and sold the lumber as was common practice until the 1950's. This white pine was left un-cut due to its poor shape and quality and is now the lone survivor of an earlier day.

Photo courtesy of Bob LaPree.

Station 20
Grist Mill Site

The Town's first corn grist mill was built at this site in 1765. Mills of various nature occupied the site until the mid 1800's. Local water-powered mills helped colonial Hopkinton remain almost totally self-sufficient for its food and industrial needs.

Photo courtesy of the Hopkinton Historical Society.