

Letters, cont.

Of days gone by _____

To the Editor:

Bartlett has been prominent in the news recently, but some of the newcomers and younger natives are not well informed about the history and geography of the area. If we might go back several generations and travel down River Street (no River Road) to the Saco, we would cross an old iron suspension bridge. Before this bridge was built, the early settlers would ford the river at a low point. If we turn right, we find the Yates Farm.

Continue on an old dirt road past fields and pastures where the Rogers Family lived. Their little cemetery is at the edge of the woods. Wild roses grow along the fences there. Now go back and cross Razor Brook Bridge. On both sides of the road you will see the Jonas Wilder Stanton Farm. Over the barn door would be a large sign reading "Cave Mountain Farm."

Keep on past the road to the right which is now posted "Dead End." On both sides there are fields where the rich dark earth yielded corn, potatoes, grain and flax. Now we climb Simon's Hill, where the river curves below us on the left. Samuel Stillings, who married Patience Stanton, lived near here. Beyond the swimming hole the road turns to the right, with the river close by. Isaac Stanton was the pioneer on this land. His first home was across the line in Hart's Location. When that house burned, he built another further down in Bartlett.

Now, go back and turn on the dead end road, cross the Little Razor Brook Bridge and admire the work of the beavers on your right. This farm was cleared by William Stanton, who married Julia Moulton. Their first home was the small place that later became the blacksmith shop, and they lived there until the present farm house was built. They had two sons, Alvah H.

and Woodbury L. Stanton. Alvah went West to seek his fortune. Woodbury married Lizzie B. Knight and lived all his life on the farm.

Since we are travelling in the past, let's suppose it is August of 1915. Old fashioned apples—Russets, Porters, Punkin Sweets—are ripening in the orchard. The music of cowbells is heard in the pasture. Alice is raking hay, while Uncle Woodbury pitches to Mattie, who

is making the load in the rick. Effie is in the cellar churning butter, while Aunt Lizzie is in the kitchen frying molasses doughnuts. Gertie, the youngest, is the envy of every girl in the village, because she has her own horse to ride. Now you can understand that this place is not—and never was—Cobb Farm.

All of this land along the river was first owned by Stantons. Stanton Mountain is there behind the farm land. The road on that side of

the river was called Stanton Road, or merely "Over the River," by folks in the village.

A few years ago, Dale wanted to make a camping area on the land he inherited, but was told it was against the law. Now, just what was the wording of this law and where was it found? It is in the Old or New Testament? Please quote book, chapter and verse. It is a strange law that would forbid a camping area in the last place where there is "Peace in the Valley," but would allow condominiums. Of course, they will be built. Developers get their own way, if it is only by threats such as "Don't say a flat 'No.' That will only lead you into bankruptcy."

Our ancestors lived with a sincere faith in God's mercy. Much of today's religion seems to be worship of the Great God Money.

Opal Eastman
Conway