

# North River

Early occupations were farming, lumbering and there was a Cheese factory by 1850 also with a grist mill in 1896.

At one time there were Methodist, Baptist, Union and Jehovah's Witnesses in North River.

The Methodist Church was established first in 1843 and services were held in the log schoolhouse. In 1847 a neat little church was built and is still an active church in excellent condition.

At one time the residents were interested in building a Union Church. The frame was up but a strong gale blew much of it down. Many thought this was an act of God and switched their money and labor to the Methodists Society.

When the Union Church failed to materialize in 1882, the Baptists built a church on the site of the present firehouse. It had a successful congregation for fifty years and functioned side by side with the Methodists. The Baptist Church closed in 1933.

In 1927-28 Kingdom Hall was built on Shields Road on Christian Hill by the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Will Eldridge, drove the four-horse and six- horse Concord stagecoaches for thirty-six years. He was destined to hold the reins when the Great Stagecoach Robbery of the East occurred on the morning of August 14, 1901.

In the 1860s Simon Towne emigrated from Quebec to North River and began a grocery business. The first store burned to the ground but was rebuilt-thus Towne Grocery has been in operation for more than 100 years.

Dunlap's Blacksmith Shop opened about 1917 on the north side of Thirteenth Lake Road, across from Towne's store. This later became the North River Garage.

Ernest J. Ameden moved to the North Country from Scarsdale. He was an excellent photographer and, in addition to running a store and post office, made a living making postcards and taking studio pictures of local people. His pictures still hang in North River homes.

There was a store on Christian Hill, run by Shields, overlooking the brook. The only current business on Christian Hill is the Highlands Bed and Breakfast on Thirteenth Lake Road.

There were several hotels along the Hudson River for people to stay overnight when passing through on the stage; each had a bar. The first was built by Jones Ordway, probably in the late 1840s or early 1850s, it burned around 1908. The second hotel was built shortly before the Civil War by Lyman Roblee. The Roblee hotel was sold in 1896 to Elmer Dunlap who ran it until it was destroyed by fire a few years later.

The North River Hotel was built about the time of the Civil War by William D. Wakeley. The North River Hotel burned in 1897 and was rebuilt by George Ordway and burned again. It was rebuilt by William Lynch and later run by Henry Worden. At one time it had a barber shop run by Howard Farrington, whom everyone called "Searsy."

Charles and Alice Hooper Tibbetts opened the Log House, now called Garnet Hill Lodge, in the 1930s as a summer and winter vacation resort. They operated a ski tow with an open slope and had two trails for their guests." The lodge still operates with a greatly expanded cross-country skiing operation.

Searsy and Willet Randall developed the "Dan Patch" beagle, a superb hunting dog, with some kennels near the river. The Patch beagle is still raised by Mike Capozzi at the old Lee Raymond place on Cleveland Road.

The first post office in North River opened October 4, 1854 with Schuyler Fuller as Postmaster. He was followed by Lincoln M. Root who was appointed February 22, 1856. The post office was discontinued from August 5, 1857 until April 23, 1860 and again from January 13, 1875 until April 19, 1875. Except for these two lapses, the post office has served the people of North River for over one hundred thirty-nine years.

The first school was a one room building on Cleveland Road. Frankie LaPrairie was the teacher. The next school was a little red building on School House Road and in 1900 a two-room school opened on the site.