

APPLETON FARMS
TERCENTENARY

1638 - 1938

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APPLETON FARMS TERCENTENARY

IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS

On Sunday afternoon July third,
nineteen hundred and thirty-eight, a
reception to family and friends was held
by Mrs. Francis R. Appleton at
Appleton Farms to celebrate
the Tercentenary

1638 - 1938

920
Appleton family
+



TERCENTENARY MEDAL

Appleton Farms Tercentenary Celebration

SUNDAY, JULY 3, 1938

After tea Francis R. Appleton, Jr. and James W. Appleton spoke at follows:

Francis R. Appleton, Jr.

Friends and Kinsmen:

We are here today at my mother's invitation to commemorate three hundred years of continuous operation of Appleton Farms by nine generations of the Appleton family. We rejoice to be with her on this occasion and consider ourselves blessed in having such fair weather after the storms and cold of last week.

The Town of Ipswich in the Massachusetts Bay Colony was first settled in 1630 in the reign of King Charles I. It was then known as Agawam, its old Indian name. In 1634 the Town was incorporated and by decree of the General Court was called Ipswich after old Ipswich in England "in acknowledgment of the great honor and kindness done to our people who took shipping there."

It appears to have been a beautiful and pleasant place in

1630. The summits and the rolling slopes of Sagamore, Heart-break and Town Hills and the lands about had been cleared by the Indians and planted with corn and the news of the good land and rich fisheries of this old Indian village had spread abroad. And so in March, 1633, we find the Court of Assistants of the Massachusetts Bay Company voting to "hasten the planting of Agawam, one of the most commodious places in the country for cattle and tillage."

John Winthrop, Jr., aged twenty-seven, son of the Governor and himself a man of great culture and distinction, was selected to undertake the settlement and twelve men were assigned to him, "the rest to be supplied at the coming of the next ships." There were no roads and their journey to Agawam was made in a shallop skirting the coast.

Three locations considered of great importance were decided on at once—a mill for their food supply, a meeting house (where the First Church now stands) for their spiritual nurture, and a burying ground (the hill slope on High Street) for the burial of their dead. In November of that year a minister from Boston, by leave of his congregation, "went to Agawam to teach the people of that plantation because they had yet no minister." In the following spring, 1634, the Governor himself came on foot to see his son and the new settlement, and later in that same year Martha, the young wife of John Winthrop, Jr., died and was buried in the new burying ground.

The settlement prospered and in 1635 still others came including Governor Thomas Dudley and his sons-in-law Simon Bradstreet and Daniel Denison, Rev^d Nathaniel Ward, author of "The Simple Cocker of Agawam," Rev^d Nathaniel Rogers with his son John, afterwards President of Harvard College, Richard Saltonstall, son of Sir Richard, and Samuel Appleton, the Emigrant, of Holbrook Hall, Little Waldingfield, Suffolk, England, who had been a neighbor and friend of Governor Winthrop in the old country.

Samuel Appleton was born in 1586, so that he was close to fifty years old when he settled in Ipswich. He brought with him his wife and five young children. His eldest brother, Sir

Isaack, had died and the Parish Register at Little Waldingfield records his burial in the Churchyard there. He himself became a Deputy to the General Court in 1637. His sons John and Samuel won distinction and places of importance in the political and military history of the Colony and his three daughters married well-known men of their time.

Soon after his arrival, Samuel Appleton received from the Town a grant of this Appleton Farms estate, recorded in 1638, in the following terms:

"Granted Mr. Samuel Appleton by the company of freemen . . . a farme containing foure hundred and sixty¹ acres more or less meadow and upland as it lyeth bounded by the River commonly called the Mile brook on the Northeast and by the great River on the Northwest on the West in part by the Land of William Warener and by a swamp on the Southeast . . . to enjoy all the sayd Landes to him his heirs and assigns forever. Entered into the Town booke folio 16 the 20th of December, 1638."

The "Mile brook" is now known as the Miles River, connecting Wenham Lake with the Ipswich River. The "great River" is the Ipswich River. The "swamp" is that through which the Long Causeway Brook, the present Ipswich-Hamilton line, flows into the Miles River. The Bay Road or "The Road into the Bay" as it was first called was not in existence. It was laid out by Order of the General Court in 1639 and ran from Rowley to Salem, passing "by marked trees over Mr. Appleton's meadow" which lay along the Mile brook. The bridge over the Mile brook, originally plank and built of stone in 1752, was called Appleton's Bridge, its present name. The Waldingfield Road from the Bay Road to the Ipswich River came later pursuant to authorization in the Town records of 1651 for a "Country Road through Mr. Appleton's Farm."

December, 1638, it will be noted, is the date of the entry of the grant in the Town book, not of the grant itself. Allusion to "Mr. Appleton's farme" occurs in an entry in the Town records Feb. 13th, 1636 and again March 2nd, 1637 and

¹Actually 770 acres, based on 1901 survey map of John W. Nourse, Ipswich. The difference is apparently accounted for by the fact that frequently old grants gave as acreage only the good land, not reckoning other land included within the bounds.

it may be that Samuel Appleton received the grant on his arrival in Ipswich with his family in 1635. There can, however, be no doubt about the record date "1638" and so we adopt that for the Tercentenary.

Samuel Appleton also had a grant of eight acres in the Town, on the River, opposite Mr. Saltonstall's, on which it appears he lived. He also received twenty-five acres of salt marsh, still part of the farm, and then useful for thatched roofs. He died and was buried in Rowley in 1670 while staying there with his daughter, Mrs. Samuel Phillips, the ancestress of all the great Phillipses, the founders of Exeter and Andover, and of Bishop Phillips Brooks and of that great soldier General Leonard Wood to whom we owe so much for his efforts in the cause of preparedness prior to 1917.

A slate tablet on the Great Rock in the Great Pasture commemorates the Emigrant, 1586-1670, and the grant of his Farm. It was placed there by my father and was unveiled Sunday, August 22, 1920, with appropriate ceremony.

The farm in 1670 passed to the Emigrant's second son, Major Samuel, who was then a Deputy to the General Court, as was also his brother Captain John, and who was later to command all the Colonial Forces in King Phillip's War and to lead the Massachusetts troops in the Great Swamp Fight, December 19, 1675. Both he and Captain John were leaders in the "Andros resistance" of 1687 which resulted first in their arrest but later in the recall of that tyrannical Royal Governor.

Major Samuel had a saw mill at the "falls at Mile River," on the Bay Road. His house² was on the north side of the Waldingfield Road at the present entrance to "Waldingfield," under the old elm known as the "Lucy Smith Elm" that still stands there. He occupied the whole farm except sixteen acres at the north end bounded by the Mile brook and the Mill River, as the Ipswich River was sometimes called, which had been sold in 1664, and twenty acres at the west where the Mill

²Major Samuel Appleton's house, in which he died in 1696, was moved in 1889 and made a part of R. M. Appleton's new house which he called "Waldingfield." It was destroyed by fire Dec. 15, 1915. The present house on the same site was built by his daughter, Mrs. Charles S. Bird, Jr., in 1928-29.

Road crosses the Ipswich River, sold in 1665, and used then and until recent years as a site for a grist and saw mill, the first on the upper river.

On Major Samuel's death in 1696, he left the farm to his four sons, Colonel Samuel, John, Major Isaac and Oliver. Colonel Samuel, the eldest, received his father's house² and the northwest corner of the farm running to the Ipswich River. Oliver received the northeast corner running to the Bay Road and including Underhill's Corner which derived its present name from Oliver Underhill, Oliver's great-grandson. John, who already had a house³ and land on the farm deeded to him by his father in 1688, received additional lands on the Bay Road extending south past the present Middle Gate.

Major Isaac Appleton, then thirty-two, received the present farmstead including the Great Pasture, the Home Field and the land running along the swamp and the Long Causeway Brook to the Bay Road. He had already, in 1688, received from his father eight acres "east of the great hill," as Pigeon Hill appears to have been then known, and his house was built on these eight acres, on what is now the site of the present "Old House" which was built in 1794 to replace the then old house. The old barn built by Major Isaac in 1696 still stands and is now connected with the main barn at the farm.

Major Isaac died in 1747 at the age of eighty-three after having been in possession for fifty-one years. He was followed by his son Isaac who was in possession forty-seven years and died in 1794 at the age of ninety-one. On the second Isaac's death in 1794 the farm passed to his son, the third Samuel, whose wife was Mary White of Haverhill, daughter of Rev. Timothy White, Harvard 1720, hence the "Mary White Lane" at the Ipswich entrance to the farm.

Samuel died in 1819, aged eighty, and was succeeded by his

³The John Appleton house, built about 1688, was moved by Francis R. Appleton in 1916 to a site near the farm yard and was destroyed in 1922 by a fire which started in one of the farm buildings. It was the birthplace in 1752 of Nathan Dane, the famous professor of law at Harvard for whom Dane Hall was named, in 1792 of Daniel Safford, who built the fence around the Boston Common, and in 1794 of Nathan Dane Appleton. Its original location, in the Patch Field, is marked by an elm tree planted in 1916 and a slate tablet appropriately inscribed.

sons Samuel G. and Timothy, elder brothers of General James, and they operated the farm until Samuel G.'s death in 1852. It was in their time, in 1837, that plans were filed for the new "Eastern Railroad" which cut the farm in two, and the records show that in 1839 they gave a deed of necessary right of way, part of the consideration for the voluntary deed being, I have been told, a slight deviation by the Railroad to avoid going through the Old House.

Timothy, who was then seventy-four years old, was unable to carry on alone. So in 1853 General James, Timothy's younger brother, who was himself sixty-eight, returned to the farm, his birthplace, from Portland, Maine, where he had been active in the State Legislature and a candidate for Governor in the 1836 election, and he bought out the interests of his father's surviving heirs and made the Old House his home until his death in 1862.

So much for the early history of the farm and the first six generations.

The next owner, 1862, was Daniel Fuller Appleton, born 1826, son of General James and grandson through his mother of Rev. Daniel Fuller who was for fifty years minister of the West Parish of Gloucester. He had been in business in New York since 1846 and resided on Staten Island where his eldest son was born, and for the next forty-two years he made the Old House at Ipswich his summer home and there devoted himself to the welfare of his family and his farm. During this time his sister Harriette, wife of Rev. John Cotton Smith, lived on land across the railroad which he had given to her. She was his nearest neighbor and a monument now marks the site of her house and is inscribed: "Briar Hill the site of Briar Hill House, 1868-1926, summer residence of Rev^d John Cotton Smith D.D. his children and grandchildren."

Daniel Fuller Appleton's active direction and superintendence date from 1866, and the contemporary records indicate his careful and up to date methods. The Essex Agricultural Society's report published 1870 records the details of his thorough underdraining of the thirteen acre pasture, then swamp, which lies east of the railroad bridge and has since been known

as the Drainage Lot and for this he received a diploma and a premium of \$15. The Society's report for 1871 records heavy yields of "English hay" (75 tons in 1871 as against 6 tons in 1866) and increased crops as a result of additional tile drainage and good farming practices, and the award of a premium of \$30 to Appleton Farms with "high commendation to Mr. Appleton for his management." He had as early as 1869 a flock of Cotswold sheep and Kerry and Jersey cattle, the latter the foundation of his well-known "Agawam" herd of Jerseys, one of the earliest in America. In 1892 he had the satisfaction of exhibiting at the Chicago World's Fair the Jersey cow Eurotissima, bred by himself and the world's record butter maker of her day.

On Daniel Fuller Appleton's death in 1904 his eldest son Francis Randall Appleton took active control of the farm, his first act being to repair, improve and where necessary remodel all farm buildings and locations. The legal title had been transferred to him on his twenty-first birthday, August 5, 1875, just after his graduation from Harvard, and in 1891 he had built his "New House" where we now stand. In 1910 he retired from active business in New York and from then until his death, January 2, 1929, he devoted himself enthusiastically and consistently to the advancement of agriculture and to the increase and improvement of his estate.

The Grass Rides and the Round Point with its six converging avenues are a monument to him, by whom they were conceived and built. Their completion was celebrated by a Hunt Breakfast and meet of the Myopia Hounds at the Round Point on Columbus Day, 1912, and on August 5, 1914 the Round Point was memorialized by the granite pinnacle from Gore Hall, the old Harvard College Library, which now stands there as a silent sentry "*ex libris monumentum*."

The C. L. A. Mile in the Rides, actually ten furlongs, was marked with its marble quarter posts after Charles Lanier Appleton's death in 1921.

Francis R. Appleton and his father succeeded between 1868 and 1901 in regaining title to all that part of the original farm which John Appleton had received from his father Major

Samuel in 1696 and also to all which Colonel Samuel and Oliver had then received except what lies on the north or far side of Waldingfield Road. In addition Francis R. Appleton bought the meadow lands, formerly Lamson, at Nancy's Corner, and the woodlands in Hamilton beyond the Long Causeway Brook and the Great Pasture where the Grass Rides are, and recently I myself received as a wedding present a deed from our friend and neighbor Mrs. Clarence Williams of thirty-five acres on the Bay Road which rounded out the farm's road boundary between the Long Causeway Brook and the Hamilton Gate. The result is that Appleton Farms now comprises over one thousand acres of which more than half is pasture and tillage and it includes all of the original grant excepting the part on the far side of Waldingfield Road already referred to and excepting also the piece between the Bay Road and the Miles River, fifty-five acres, which has recently been conveyed to Alice Appleton Hay.

At this point it is interesting to note that title to that part of the original grant which lies on the far side of Waldingfield Road is for the most part also now vested in descendants of General James Appleton by deeds given during the past fifty years—Waldingfield to Randolph M. Appleton 1889, Sunswick to Annie Smith Tuckerman 1890, Applefield to Ruth Appleton Tuckerman 1901, and Myle Brook Farm to Joseph W. Woods 1933—so that at the present day substantially the whole of the lands originally granted to Samuel Appleton, the Emigrant, are owned and occupied by his descendants.

It is also interesting to note that a portion of the "land of William Warener" referred to in the original grant now constitutes part of James W. Appleton's hundred and sixty acre farm known as "Warners" which was conveyed to him some forty years ago by a namesake of the original grantee. Also that the former School House Cottage at the farm entrance on Waldingfield Road was originally the "Appleton District" schoolhouse and was moved from the other side of the road and made into a dwelling by Daniel Fuller Appleton in the early '80's and was occupied for thirty-five years by his daughter Mrs. Gerald L. Hoyt.

Appleton Farms now lies not only in Ipswich (the seat of the farm proper) but also in Hamilton, which, as you know, was originally part of Ipswich, known as the Hamlet or Hamlet Parish. This was set off in 1713 as a separate precinct and relieved of the minister's rate in Ipswich on account of the expense it had suffered the previous year in building its own meeting house. A territorial division followed in 1793 when the Hamlet was incorporated as a separate Township and was given the name Hamilton, chosen for it by Doctor Manasseh Cutler because of his admiration for Alexander Hamilton, and at this time the bounds between the two towns were fixed so as to leave all of the original farm in Ipswich.

The farm industries are varied—Guernsey cattle and milk, White Holland turkeys, timothy, clover and alfalfa hay, corn and root crops for the animals, and occasionally lambs—there were four hundred in 1934 and seven hundred in 1936—to feed and fatten on the pastures.

In closing, the Great Pasture must be mentioned, for it had always been the ambition of my father to bring up these hundred and thirty acres to what the name implies, but somehow the many farm details requiring his attention, and the expenses of other improvements, made the work impossible for him and year by year the gray birches grew bigger and thicker. But the inspiration remained and in 1930, when times were bad and there was much unemployment, it was decided that the opportunity had finally come.

And so during the summers of 1930, 1931 and 1932 men and tractors were put to work pulling out birches, grubbing out roots, piling up rocks and plowing the land, thereby helping the unemployed and accomplishing the long cherished plan. Finally in 1933 the Great Pasture was laid down to grass. Since then its increasing richness and beauty have been a source of gratification and have well repaid the thought, attention and skilled advice that have gone into it.

The man who did more for the Farms than any of his predecessors, the guiding genius during his lifetime and the inspiration since his death, whose patience, vision and ability have made all things possible, was my father Francis R. Appleton,

and so at this time I will ask you all to join me in a toast to his memory.

What the next three hundred years will bring to this Farm we cannot foretell, and if the March of Time and progress of civilization make farming and perhaps living here impossible, I can only hope that some member of the Appleton family of the future will feel it his duty and privilege to preserve at least the Great Pasture with its Great Rock as a Park in memory of his ancestors and his ancient heritage, to be enjoyed by the free citizens of Ipswich and Essex County forever.

James Waldingfield Appleton

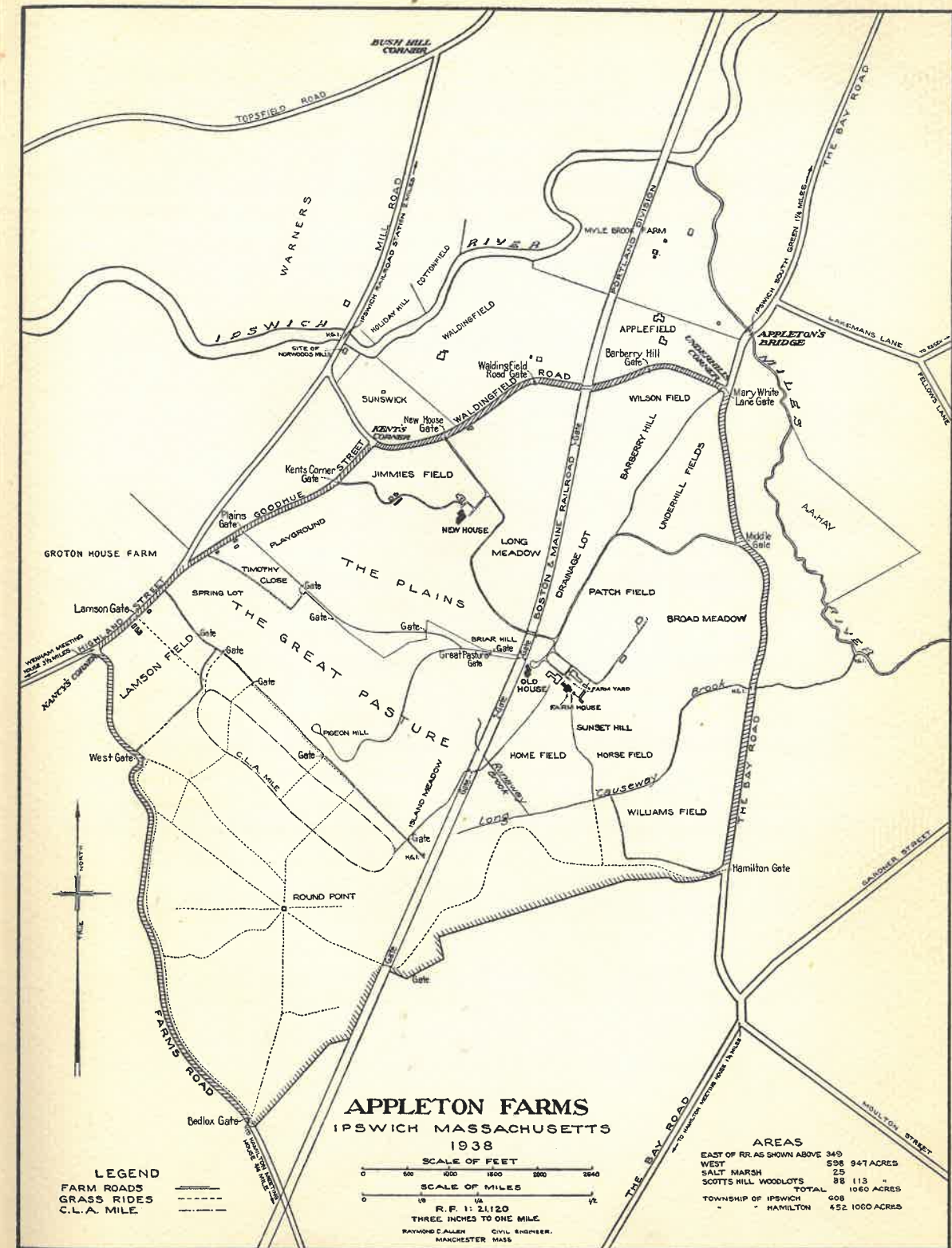
At the usual birthday celebration we expect the one we honor to stand with us to receive our congratulations. Today she stretches about us and enfolds us.

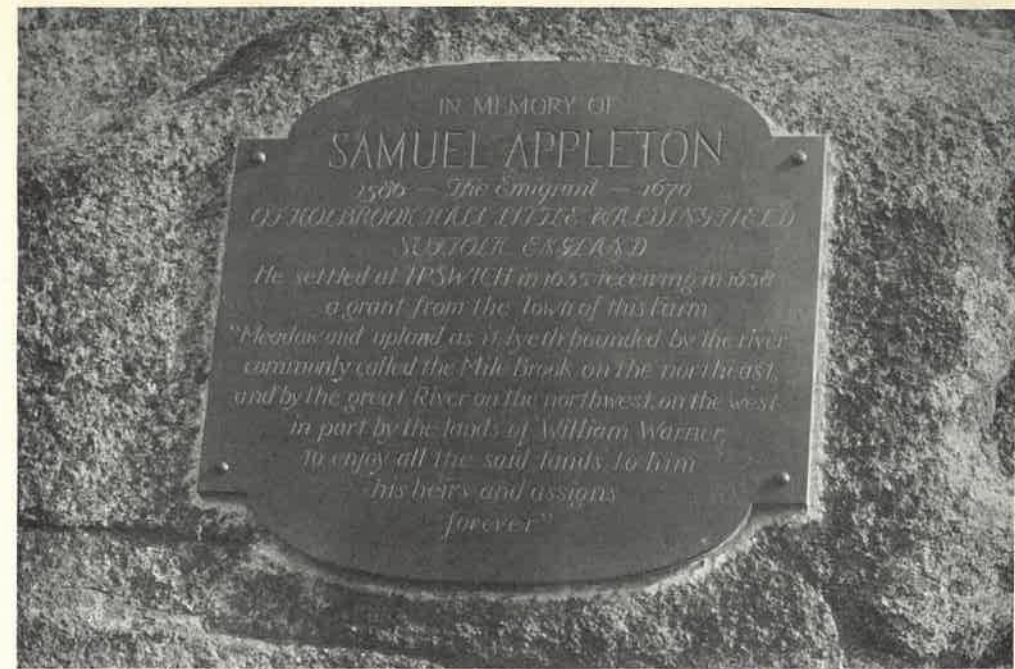
We meet to commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of the awakening of a Mother of Men—a fostering Mother, who has nurtured in her ample lap ten generations of men and women of the same name and the same blood. Some of these, her children, have stayed by her side. Many of them have left her apron strings to do their work in the world outside, but all with the love of her constant in their hearts.

The centuries have passed lightly over her, and I'll warrant she is as fair today as in those early days when "Ancestor Sam" chose her for his own. Age has not withered her loveliness, nor has custom staled her infinite charm to those who have rested in her bosom, and love her.

And now she lies, serene in the fullness of matronly dignity, yet fresh with the beauty of perennial youth.

So, Mother, we salute you. May the coming centuries deal kindly with you, and today, Happy Birthday to you!





SAMUEL APPLETON MEMORIAL TABLET, GREAT PASTURE, 1922



OLD HOUSE, APPLETON FARMS, 1938