

Pelham Centre is a centre in every sense of the word since the opening of the new electric road and the 1000 or more inhabitants of that quaint little town believe that a new era of prosperity is dawning.

The Sun representative took a ride to Pelham Sunday. Needless to remark on the loveliness of the day; the air was toned with what seemed to be a spring sweetness and the wide and continuous carpet of leaves, spread everywhere, and the bareness of the trees, were all that betokened the season of the year. It was even more pleasant than an Indian summer day and the notes of birds that should have gone south two weeks ago were heard in the woods.

The little town of Pelham never looked more picturesque than it did yesterday. Visitors were coming into and passing through the erstwhile quiet hamlet the whole day long. Some who had made arrangements to go further became peculiarly fascinated with the place and remained there instead of proceeding further as originally intended.

The peal of the church organ could be heard in the square except as at such times as the noise of the electric cars drowned it with their business hum.

The words of the pastor could be heard in the street and visitors stopped at the church steps to hear him preach the story of Him who died that the world might be saved.

The only business in operation in the place was at the village store. Mell Woodbury had his store open; he also keeps the postoffice and his is the busiest life in the village. Up to 2 o'clock he had not had time to change his clothes and he was bemoaning the fate that steered him into the channel of country store-keeping.

There are two things that the villagers are grieving over at the present time. One is the mysterious disappearance of Chester Richardson, the story of which appears in another column, and the resignation of Rev. C. L. Merriam, formerly of this city. Mr. Merriam has preached and worked himself into the hearts of the good people of the village. The few who do not attend church in the village say, "he is a very companionable man." Those who do attend church say that he is a strong preacher and a sincere Christian worker.

The Sun representative found a visitor copying the inscription from the monument in the square. It is a monument erected to the memory of Deacon John Butler, who settled in Pelham in that portion of the territory that is now called the Mammoth road, near Gumpus pond. That was in 1721. Mr. Butler was born in Woburn and although the monument in the square would give one the impression that he was the very first settler, it is stated on good authority that he and another man, Deacon Hamblett, went to Pelham from Woburn together. They had been deacons in the same church in Woburn and decided to try their luck in Pelham, that was then a part of Dracut. The story has it that the men disagreed after settling in Pelham. They had a house with a great wide chimney and after deciding that they could no longer live as partners, they built a stone wall through the centre of the house from the front entrance to the fire place in the rear. They divided the fire place; Butler took the north side and Hamblett the south side.

Since Pelham has become intersected by car-lines connecting it with four large cities, it can no longer be considered an isolated country village. Although it still has the atmosphere of its former rural life, its quiet, undisturbed, uneventful career has come to a close and from this time on a new activity is to transform its affairs. With hundreds of people daily passing through the town, stopping to make changes on the cars and investigating, ad interim, its history and interesting spots, there can not help being a growth and development such as has never before been imagined. At present the people have not come to a full realization of their position, but the fact that Pelham has entered upon a new career of service to the surrounding cities, is beginning to be appreciated by the leading men of the town.

Lowell people especially are interested in this beautiful little place, where some of the best families have produced their famous children and sent them out into the world at large to capture life's honors and put credit on their native village. There have been many of those who in the battle for success, have been among the leaders, and their names are known all over the country side. In the wars, when the call for volunteers was issued by the government, Pelham was among the first to contribute her brave sons, and always gave freely of her resources and energy to forward the cause of the Union. A few facts about the history of Lowell's latest suburb will be of interest and instruction to those who contemplate visiting the place by way of the new road.

When Pelham was born there was no blast of bugle, no beating of drum. One man, John Butler, to whose honor there now stands in the center of the town a monument and testament, was the first to see the future value of the lovely woodland and forest, and to him belongs perhaps the credit of first bringing to the attention of the world, the knowledge that a new home for the farmer and woodman had been created. The exact date of the settlement is not known. Tradition gives it as 1721. The earliest settlers were Butler, Hamblett, Richardson, Wyman and Jaques, who came from Woburn and vicinity; also Gage, who came from Bradford. These same names are alive to-day among the population of the town.

In 1721 or 1722, John Butler and David Hamblett bought land two miles west of the center, at what has since been known as the John Gage corner, or Mammoth road. They cleared land, sowed grain and went back to Woburn for the winter, returning in the spring with their families. Mr. Butler's house is said to have been on the site of the present John Gage house. In the following years families came to this region and generally settled in the hills. There came probably between 1735 and 1740, four families of Gages from Bradford, who settled on what is now known as Gage hill. These were Josiah Gage, Daniel Gage and Amos Gage, sons of Daniel and Martha Gage, and their nephew, James Gage. About a mile and a half from the center, tradition points to the spot where the first sermon was preached—a high rock on a ledge. A company going to some place above, having their minister with them, encamped here over Sunday.

The present pa Charles Merriam has done as not more in building up the wo progressive lines than any one predecessors.

The town records show no upon the subject of education until years after the incorporation. from this time there was a gra and substantial growth of the ed tional sentiment. The school and school house gave a rise to vic controversies. There were season intense excitement. However, s were built and the children rec their education. The town made necessary appropriation and appo masters. At one time there wa town lyceum which furnished intel ual nurture and culture in speal and writing. There is a record t of the men who received their elea tary instruction here and then s uated with honors from Dartm Harvard and other places. The tellectual growth of the town rapid. In music the Pelham pe were always leaders. Mr. Alon Greelev has won fame througho state for the Pelham Sing of wht was the founder.

The town from the first tea thoughtful interest in the con tions of both the state and nat governments. In civic affairs have been progressive. Their ml record is what is today a living m ment to the patriotism of the They have enlisted in all the w the country and shed their blo

nearly every battlefield. In the library today there are raised tal upon which are listed in alpha order the names of those who s ficed their lives in the country's ca. In the American revolution, no of the colonies exhibited a more olute and determined spirit of re ance to the oppression of Great tain than New Hampshire, and ta town of the state was the spiri m pronounced than in Pelham. same spirit and alacrity in hea the calls of the country was exhib in the war of the rebellion.

Today, surrounded by the beaut natural scenery of the New Ha shire forests and hills, the New J ham lives and breathes out its existence. Its farms supply the joining cities with vintage and ag cultural products, and the Farm milk reaches the homes of hundreds city customers. Every year but numbers of Lowell people visit woods for game and the supply ne seems to become exhausted, so be tiful is nature to this people.

In the center of the place is a s park, where is raised the monum John Butler, the first settler. C site this on the north is the church, a building which reflects credit on its owners. It has be modeled recently and can now pare with any church miles aw There are five roads leading into square, from Lowell, Nashua, J rence and Haverhill and other to The public library, which is near church and on the same side of road, is a new building and const ed according to modern archite Its finish both inside and out is best material and is finely ex The cosy reading room is s with the latest literature, and lary is well stocked with books. pposite place and a little up the road, is the Pilgrim hall for the meetings of the organizatio held, and where also other

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The incorporation and settlement of the town was probably delayed by the unsettled condition of the line between the provinces of Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The old town of Dunstable, included a large territory. The Northwestern portion of the present town of Pelham was within this territory. The boundary line between the provinces was established in 1741.

At the first town meeting which was called July 11, 1747, Capt. Henry Baldwin, was chosen moderator. Some of the names of the first settlers were, Whiting, Hamblett, Richardson, Gage, Butler, Beard, Elliot, Jones. These names are still in existence, and large numbers of the older families have their traditions and names preserved in Lowell households and all over the world. Mr. James Hobbs was called to be the first minister of the gospel and was ordained Nov. 13, 1751.

The ecclesiastical record of Pelham has been a noble one. A meeting house for the town was about the first institution thought of. Many pastors of note have served in the pulpit since Mr. Hobbs's day. Mr. Amos Moody, Mr. John Smith, Mr. John Emerson, Mr. John H. Church, Mr. John Keep, Rev. Cyrus W. Allen, Rev. Edwin I. Foster, Rev. Charles Reckweh, Augustus Berry, and many others.

take place. The town hall is on the common on the west and is a white wooden building. It is old but still answers the purpose of the town executives. There are still in existence the old homesteads of the first families and these are interesting to visitors from afar.

The general store of Pelham, owned by Mr. F. M. Woodbury, is the most affable gentleman and is known by every inhabitant of the town. Daniel Atwood lives on the west side of the common near the blacksmith's shop, and he is one of the fathers of the town who love to tell of her noble record in times past. There are many other interesting things about the place and the country territory which visitors will find upon investigation for every part of the town has its landmark and Pelham has entered upon a new era of its growth in the near future. Its growth is on the rise and the next years will witness a development and expansion which will not be the night life of a gold craze, but shall, as the years pass, be a permanent plane of support and consequence in the state.

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