

12-13-2000

VIEWS OF BARRE

Both of our photographic views were taken from the same location, one hundred years ago. The photographer who took these pictures mounted the roof of a barn on the old Oak Orchard Road in the Town of Barre.

I'm judging these pictures were probably taken in the spring of 1900 or possibly in the late fall. The pictures were recently developed from old glass negatives by Clarendon Historian Alan Isselhard.

The one showing the flooded field is looking north to north-west showing the old Oak Orchard Road. Just beyond on the second house is the intersection of the Angevine Road off to the right. The Oak Orchard Road continues on to the left. The windmill in the picture would have been located at about the head of the Angevine Road.

Our photographer while on the barn roof made a quarter turn and pointed his lens in a westerly direction. Here he caught in the foreground the back wing of the house accompanying the barn and the dooryard. We see a cobblestone smokehouse which appears to be attached to the back wing

also appears that there is a coop as a couple of chickens are seen in the yard.

In the distance to the right we can see a three-story building which was known for years as the Water Cure. (Vol. XXII No. 7). Sulphur water was discovered here in the mid-19th century and used at this hotel for its curative powers. After 1890, the George Gibbs family carried on a business here catering parties and dances. It is believed this was destroyed by fire around 1915.

Note the quantity and various kinds of fences seen in these two pictures. They include split rail crooked fences, stone walls, picket fences, woven wire fencing and wooden snow fence. Surely the need for so much fencing has greatly diminished since we do not have as many farms and farm animals as there were years ago.

The barn our pictures were taken from is now a shambles. Like-wise, several of the buildings pictured have been destroyed. However, in the photo of flooded land the first small barn as well as both of the houses on the left side of the road are still there along with

