

Hampshire County Historical Society

2003

NEWSLETTER

THIRD-FOURTH QUARTER

"THE BOXWOOD" IS 2003 ORNAMENT SELECTION

The Hampshire County Historical Society has selected "The Boxwood" as the featured structure on the 2003 Christmas ornament. This house is located at 287 East Main Street in Romney.

Early Commonwealth of Virginia records indicate the property was titled to Charles Lee on October 27, 1793. During this time a log cabin was erected on the land. After owning the parcel for nearly six years, Charles Lee sold it to James M. Marshal for one cent July 13, 1799. Legal documents described it as "all that tract or parcel of land granted by the Commonwealth of Virginia to Charles Lee on the date October 27, 1793 and laying in the county of Hampshire adjoining the lot laid off for a courthouse in the now town of Romney."

Sir Peyton Shipwirth (or Shipwith), the next buyer, purchased the same property consisting of 340 acres for \$100, August 14, 1799, and owned it until his death. On January 9, 1809, his widow, Jane Shipwirth, sold the holding to William Naylor for the sum of \$100. Susan Naylor, widowed in turn, sold out to Alfred P. White for \$200 current money of the United States "a certain lot or parcel of land adjoining at the corner of the stables on the lot sold to Nathal Kuykendall, on the alley then with the alley to the Northwestern Turnpike road, thence with Northwestern Turnpike 136 feet, 3 inches, to a stake, then a line parallel with the alley to Kuykendall's and then with Kuykendall's line to the beginning containing 1 acre of land more or less, the said lot being part of the meadow lot...." During this period an addition was added to the front of the structure, which was used as a law office for William Naylor.

The property changed hands yet again November 5, 1863, when it was purchased for \$975, by Dr. Samuel R. Lupton. Local newspapers indicate it was used both as a doctor's office and a hospital during the Civil War. On July 18, 1895, H.B. Gilkeson, an attorney, was appointed by special commission to represent Patty P. Lupton, Dr. Samuel's widow, George F., Charles H., and Kate (Lupton) Shaffer. On July 30, 1901, Samuel H. Williams purchased the property from the Luptons's representative, H.B. Gilkeson, for the princely sum of \$41,363.07.

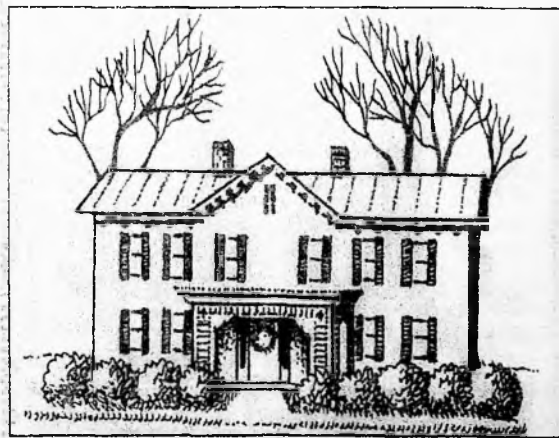
Samuel, owning the parcel for nearly two years, sold a portion of it to Ray M. Buster for \$2,600, "the parcel being situated east of and near the town of Romney on the north side of the Northwestern Grade.

Then on November 3, 1910, Ray M. Busler sold out to M.H. Taylor for the sum of \$3,800 "real estate situated east of and now within the corporate limits of Romney, commonly known as the Lupton property. M.H. Taylor in turn sold to Sallie C. Ailes, June 10, 1912, for \$10 cash in hand "property situated in the town of Romney, commonly known as the Lupton property."

George Billmyre became the next to own the house when he purchased it from Sallie C. Ailes and her husband for \$3,750, June 13, 1916.

After Mr. Billmyre's death, his widow Rosa earned her living by providing hospitality and shelter for tourists and travelers in the area. When Rosa could no longer maintain the property, she indicated to John Blue, her next-door neighbor, that the property was for sale.

John Blue purchased the property July 1, 1940, for \$2,000. He then moved into the house, vacating the structure next door, which became the home of his son,



"The Boxwood" in Romney graces this year's HCHS Christmas ornament.

John and his bride, Madeline.

He erected a brick structure between the two houses for the purpose of installing a coal furnace, the heat being piped into both homes. Many years later this system was changed so that each house had its own oil furnace.

This house has sheltered many owners and families as well as those in need of medical services and legal assistance. The final home of John Blue, which remains in the family, has surely witnessed joy, laughter, love and happiness, and also sorrow, illness, injuries, and death.



Boxwood House

Sept. 2012