

## PEST HOUSE

See Pest Isl;and generally.

PJ 10 March 1894 -- Aldermanic committee recommends purchase of Haven Scott farm on Sherburne road, near Fountain Head. One alderman afraid it would be too near Fountain Head, major source of city water.

PJ 7 April 1894 -- Aldermanic committee on Pest House urged building on a 30-acre tract on Lafayette road, which also had an endless supply of gravel. Long discussion of this and the merits of the Piner farm at Little Harbor. Ald. Phinney "accused the committee of consulting the 'bloated plutocrats' at Little Harbor, but not caring for the feelings of the legless hero of Peverly Hill road (Capt. Keyes, whose premises adjoin the site recommended by the committee.) Committee instructed to get cost figures.

PJ 21 April 94

—A communication from the Board of Health, saying that the sites examined for the proposed pest house were all suitable from a sanitary point of view, was received and placed on file.—Ald. Scott, from the committee on site for a pest house said his committee had visited the various localities with the board of health. The Willey place on Peverly Hill road had a frontage of 1400 feet on that road and contained thirty-seven acres and would cost \$2500; the Hammond place on the Banfield road could be bought for \$900, but the Hett place adjoining would have to be bought with a further cost of \$1600; a portion of the Hayes place, ten acres or more, in the rear of Solomon Schurman's place on the Sherburne road,

could also be purchased; the price of the Pinder place on the Little Harbor road was not known, and the Warren Keen place would probably be in the neighborhood of \$4,000, \$3,000 having been refused for it. Ald. Scott then said the committee could not recommend either place as yet and found that objections were raised against any place contemplated, and asked either that the committee be granted further time or that it be discharged or another appointed.—After a long wrangle, during which two numerously signed remonstrances against the location of the proposed building on the Willey lot were read, the committee was granted further time.—Ald. Ham at once resigned from the committee, saying that the remonstrances against the Willey location, which

PJ 28 April 1894 - Charles Hayes willing to sell land for Pest House site.

PJ 1 February 1896 - Mayor Junkins recommends purchase of land on Banfield road for a hospital for contagious diseases, of Frank Brown. It could be bought for \$500 and contains an excellent gravel bank which could be used in repairing roads in the vicinity. Committee to report next meeting.

PJ 22 February 96 - Remonstrances against the location of a pest house on Jones Avenue, near Sagamore Creek, headed by Alfred L. Elwyn, R. Clipston Sturgis, John W. Johnson and T. Jefferson Coolidge, were read. Mayor said committee hadn't even looked at the site, "and had no intention of building the institution there."

PJ 4 Jan 1896 - Strong opposition to proposed site on Peverly Hill road.

See Four Tree (155) for 4 April 96.

PJ 19 December 1896 -

-Miss Kelley, of the Boston & Maine cafe, alleged to be afflicted with varioloid, was conveyed last week to the Keen farm on Jones' avenue, which the city has purchased for a pest house. The authorities have fitted up the place for the purposes intended.

PJ 9 January 1897 - John M. Thistle and James G. Preble applied for post of caretaker of "the new pest house." Referred.

PJ 14 April 1900 - Aldermen informed pest house vacant and Clarence Tilley had asked to lease it. Lease d on same terms as previous lessee, George Perkins. Tilley to take care of any with contagious diseases.

PJ 7 Dec 1901 - Board of Health reports only one room in Pest House, Jones ave, is available for a small pox patient.

PJ 3 January 1903 - Young man named Porter, from Wolfeboro, taken to Pest House as suspected case of small pox. He had come here to learn a trade and was living in a boarding house corner of Madison and Austin streets. House quarantined.

PJ 17 Jan 1903 - Young French Canadian applied for work at power plant. Interviewer became suspicious, called city physician and he was found to be a small pox victim

PJ 7 February 1903 -

—On Saturday the health officers discovered a case of small pox at the house No 85 Vaughan street occupied by Mr and Mrs Arthur L Hersey, their daughter Ida, aged eight years, being afflicted. She was taken to the temporary pest house. There are eleven children in the Hersey home, and a child younger than the above previously had the disease but the case was not reported by the parents, and during all that time people were going into the house. Ida, the present victim, attended the Farragut school regularly, and was there all day Friday at which time she was complaining and was requested by her teacher to go home but would not do so. The school is now closed by order of the board of health. Wilbur B Shaw is day watchman at the Hersey house, and Fred Stackpole at night.

PJ 21 Feb 03 - Small pox found Sunday in the lumber camp on the .S. Storer Whidden farm, Lafayette road. Taken to detention hospital.

PJ 28 February 1903 -

A Greek who said he came from Ipswich, Mass., and who had previously been at the detention hospital in this city under treatment for smallpox, came here on Saturday with two of his countrymen suffering from the same disease, and stating that they preferred treatment here that at Ipswich. The three started to walk to the hospital, and reaching there the nurse answered the knock at the door when the men went in. It was found that the two were very ill with the disease, and they were put to bed and the health officers notified. The Greek who brought the men soon disappeared, and the police were sent to find him, they found him at the depot waiting to take the train. He was

arrested and taken to the police station, admitted that he had been sent here by a Greek grocer of Ipswich who is the leader of the colony there. He gave his name as Coslos Postinos, and was arraigned, and in default of two sureties of \$500 each went to jail to await the April term of court. Postinos was placed in a cell at the detention hospital, and on Monday noon when the jailor went there to give the man his dinner it was found that he had escaped through a window. Late that day a despatch was received from Ipswich saying the man had reappeared there, but had staid only a short time. Later advices located him at Salem where he was identified and taken to Exeter jail.

PJ 28 March 1903 - Last patient discharged from city almshouse on Thursday last week. Young lady nurse will remain on duty two weeks longer.

Herald 13 January 1903 -

What follos should precede above

The property owners of Christian Shore, and of that section of the Creek district lying on the Christian Shore side of the North pond, are much displeased at the action of the board of health in taking the recently abandoned almshouse for use as a smallpox hospital, while the city owns a place on the shore of Sagamore creek, about as far away from the built-up part of the city as it was possible to get, that was bought a few years ago expressly for a hospital for contagious diseases.

They can hardly be blamed for being displeased, for the near proximity of a pest house does not tend toward causing the appreciation of real estate, or to make a neighborhood more desirable as a residential section for the best class of citizens.

The reason the almshouse was taken by the health board is that the city hospital—"pesthouse" is a needlessly objectionable term, and city hospital sounds much better—at Sagamore creek was not large enough to accommodate all the

smallpox cases that had been discovered. While there were but three patients it was all right; but when a fourth case was found, more room was needed, so the three patients already at the hospital were removed to the almshouse and the fourth one taken there also.

For the moving of smallpox patients the health officers have procured an ambulance of their own— an ancient hack that years ago saw its best days, but which answers its present purpose very well. When the disease is stamped out, which they expect will be effected in a short time, they will disinfect this impromptu ambulance by burning it up. The officials have acted with energy since the disease appeared, and there has been nothing that could be called a general scare about it, although, of course, nobody wants it in the city.

The question is asked, and not without reason, why if the city hospital is not large enough to meet the demands that may reasonably be expected to be made on it at some time, it has not been enlarged when there was time enough in which to do it? A contagious disease hospital that can accommodate but three patients is evidently absurdly inadequate to the possible needs of a city of 10,000 or 12,000 inhabitants.

The lack of a decent-size hospital is not due to a lack of land to build one on; the city owns a 25 acre lot on the shore of Sagamore creek, bought in 1895 or '96, with the small farmhouse thereon for \$3,000.

Probably not one in twenty of the city's taxpayers ever saw the place. It is at the end of Jones avenue, and Jones avenue ends at the bank of the creek. It is said there used to be another highway on the opposite side of the creek, which was discontinued

~~after Sagamore road was opened in 1850, and that teams used to drive across at low water, foot passengers being ferried across at high tide in small boat. Since the opening of the new road the visitors to the lower end of Jones avenue have not been numerous. There has been nothing to take people there.~~

At the time the city bought this land a report was current around town that a 10-foot strip along one side of the lot, where it adjoined the land of another owner, had not been included in the purchase, but had been left in possession of the former owner of the farm, under such conditions, however, as would preclude it ever being disposed of or used in any manner that would be prejudicial to the city.

The object of leaving this strip out of the purchase was, it was stated, to shield the city from any liability for damage to the property of the other landowner in consequence of the establishing of a hospital next his holding, the idea being that in some way the 10-foot strip between the city's lands and his would act as a sort of buffer against which any legal or equitable claim he might have or assert would bring up all standing. He could not demand damages as the owner of land abutting on the hospital grounds if there was land of another owner intervening.

It is a fact that such a strip was left to the use of the seller of the farm, but only as a right of way, by

which he could reach other property of his. There never was any thought of damages being claimed by anybody.

Herald 10 March 1904 - A new contagious hospital has been built and properly equipped to receive and care for any contagious disease which might arise in our midst.

PH 2 May 1912 -

The board of health after a consultation with Mayor Badger on Wednesday decided to open the contagious hospital on Jones avenue for the treatment of Cornelius Reagon a resident of Morning street who has small pox. The patient was taken there this afternoon. The home of Mr. Reagon was fumigated and quarantined, but none of the rest of the

family will be removed unless the disease should develop. This is the first time in several years that a patient has been confined in the contagious quarters. The board of health have for some time had the hospital in readiness for occupancy and no delay was occasioned after it was decided to take the man from his home.

PH 22 April 1912

The Sagamore Contagious Hospital, owned by the city, was threatened by fire on Sunday and one of the sheds was damaged and about eight acres of land burned over.

The fire started from a grass fire and spread rapidly into the woods and worked over to the hospital proper. A still alarm was sent in and Chief Randall went down with the Combination wagon and when they arrived they found one of the sheds on fire and the sparks falling

on the roof of the main building. The shed was badly damaged but the fire was checked there and after several hours work it was extinguished in the woods.

Chief Randall stated that he was very much surprised to find the woods so dry after the wet spring, but it was practically as dry as in the middle of summer and the fire spread very rapidly. The fire loss was small, the ground burned over being nothing but a scrub growth.

PH 29 June 1912 - Councilman Rand urged leasing of Sagamore hospital to Mouten for five years, on condition that if needed Mouten is to turn it over. Mouten had been the keeper of the hospital when it was in use. Resolution adopted.

PH 4 Dec 1912

Somebody is wise enough to see that the expense of \$350 to get lights in the Sagamore Hospital is too much and a change has been made to reduce the figures for the work. At the last meeting of the city council on Nov. 21, Councilman Rand for the committee on city lands and buildings introduced a resolution following a petition from the Board of Health calling for the installation of a telephone and lighting system at this place. He stated that the Rockingham County Light and Power company wanted \$200 for the construction of a pole line to the hospital. He recommended instead that a small plant consisting of a gasoline engine and other apparatus be put in including the wiring. The Council voted to have it done with the exception of Councilman Holmes, who voted against the same as he thought it was extravagant. Now the whole thing has been changed. The Board of Health will build the line which is about a half mile from Sagamore avenue at a cost of not more than \$150 or \$160. Some of the good poles of the Telepost, now being taken down by the city, will be used in building the line.

After the line is ready and the hospital wired it will be connected up with the lines of the Rockingham County Light and Power Company.