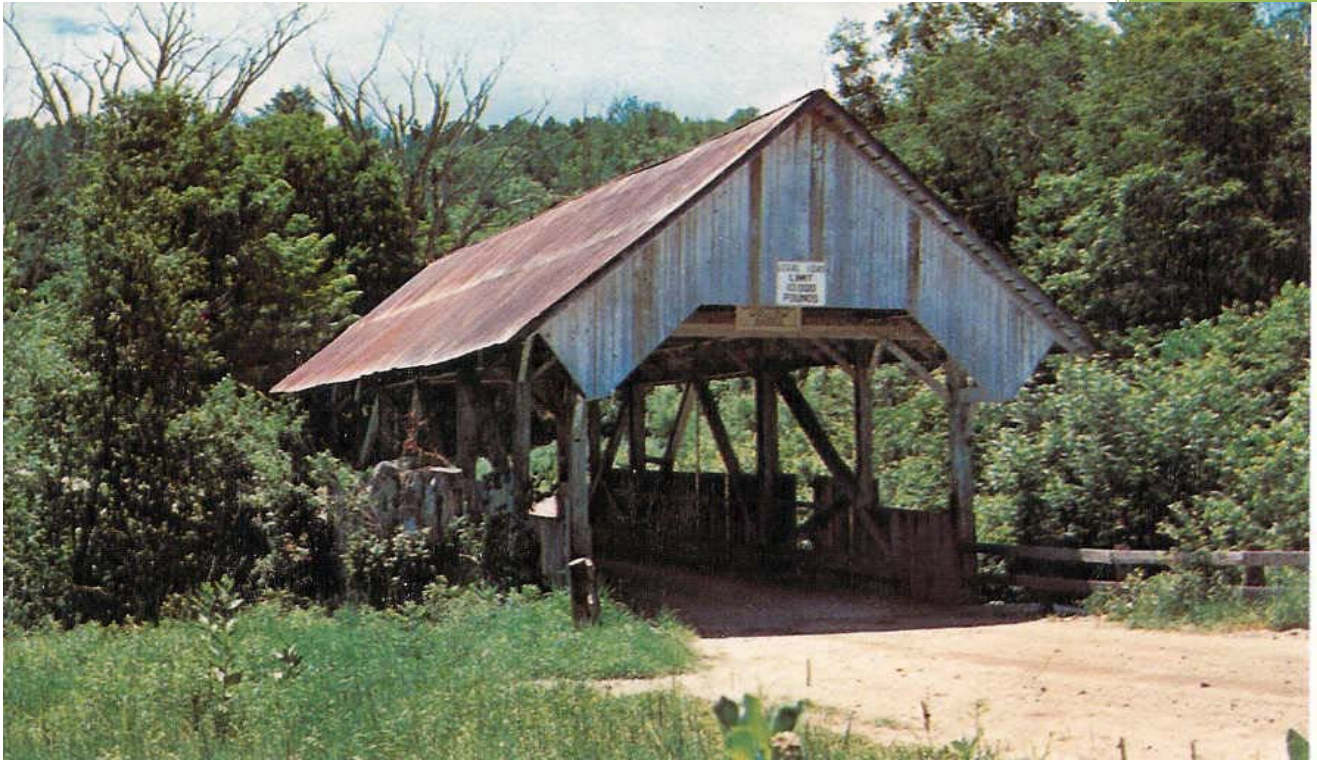


Greenbank's Hollow "A Forgotten Village"



-
- *Historic foundations of water power mills, school, houses*
 - *Nature trail (currently under construction)*
 - *Scenic picnic sites*
 - *On country road which is great for biking and horseback riding*
 - *A letterboxing site*
 - *A geocaching site*
-

Danville School
Senior Project

By Sandra Elliott

2010-2011

History

South Danville (later Greenbank's Hollow) like most little villages at the time was built around water power mills. There was a small store and post office, and a one room school house that served the needs of the residents. Most people lived here because they were employed at one of the mills. Benjamin Greenbank owned the big woolen mill and many other buildings in the little hamlet that became known as Greenbank's Hollow. After the fire in 1885 destroyed his woolen factory, Greenbank chose to relocate his business and start fresh. The fire destroyed the bridge, the store, and several houses on the southern side of the bridge.



The picture on the left is of the covered bridge and it is looking from South to North.

The site numbers that are shown on the following pages are taken from the new map at the end of the book which was made from the Beers Atlas map. The owners had the buildings in 1875.

*Geocaching- An outdoor sport/game of searching for hidden objects by using GPS coordinates from the internet.
Letterboxing- An outdoor sport/game of searching for hidden objects by using clues from the internet.*



The Woolen Mill: In 1849, Benjamin Greenbank bought a small woolen mill from H. Bolton. Over the next three decades, he enlarged his *Vermont Valley Woolen Mill* and by the 1870's it had become an imposing five-story factory. It was the largest textile mill in Northeast Vermont, and the focus of the hamlet that became known as Greenbank's Hollow. On Dec.14, 1885, a fire that destroyed the mill, several other buildings, and the bridge--essentially signaled the death of a once thriving village.





Benjamin Greenbank's Residence: Greenbank lived here, across the road from his mill. His sons, Matthew, George, and Frank, were raised here and all were involved in the business. They later lived in the various Greenbank homes (Sites, 3, 5, and 7). Only Matthew and his family remained in the village after the fire. Benjamin, himself, relocated his woolen business to Enfield, N.H.



A Greenbank Home: The quality of the stone work in this cellar foundation, capped by large sections of locally-quarried granite, reveals a high level of workmanship.



The Boarding House: Many factory owners of this era provided lodging for some workers-- Greenbank was no exception. How many people boarded here is not known. The lack of a cellar supports the assumption that this house was not intended to be a family residence.



A Greenbank Home: The footprint shown in the Beer's 1875 Atlas suggests a sizeable home with additions. As in other Greenbank homes, high quality stone work has contributed to the longevity of its foundation.



Store and Post Office: This was the Post Office for South Danville, as well as the “company” store. It operated for many years until it, too, was destroyed by the fire in Dec., 1885. The store was soon rebuilt, and by the next February, the Post Office had returned. Matthew Greenbank ran the store for a number of years--serving those whose livelihoods allowed them to remain in the community.



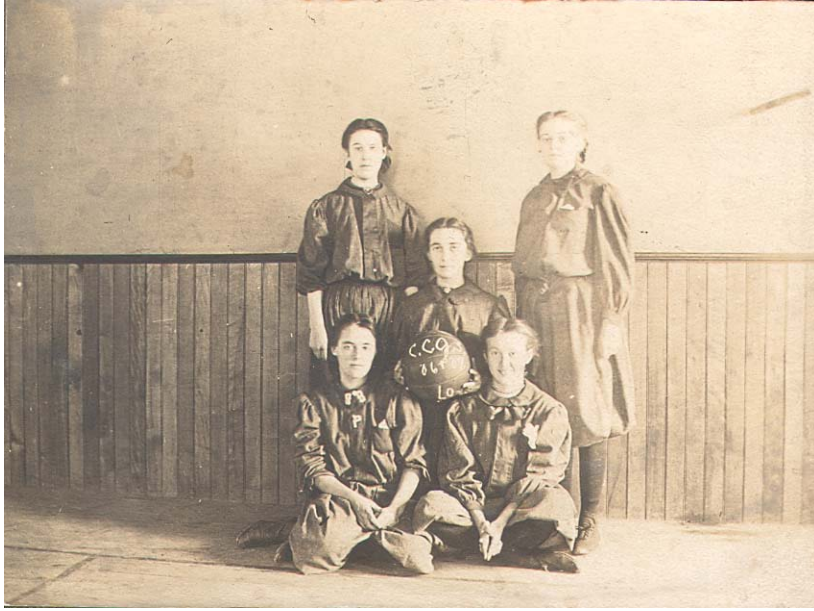
A Greenbank Home: Matthew and his family lived here. His daughter, Sue, born two years after the fire, grew up here and for a while taught in the school next door. Little remains of this home’s foundation. Possibly, much of it was incorporated into the bed of the “new” road when it was straightened and moved closer to the house.



Schoolhouse: The lot for the schoolhouse was purchased by the Town from H.H. Lowell (house across the road) in 1854. But, who built the school, and when, is not known. Although its doors were closed for good on June 4, 1912, it remained Town property until 1944. A former schoolhouse, made of stone, was located about 1/4 mile toward Danville. Who built that school, when, and why it ceased operating, are questions still awaiting answers.



Prior to the opening of the one room school house near the covered bridge in Greenbank's Hollow it is believed that there was a stone school house, which would have been similar to the one above.



Left-The girl holding the ball is Sue Greenbank. She was the daughter of Matthew Greenbank and the granddaughter of Benjamin Greenbank. Sue was the teacher at the Greenbank's Hollow school house for a short time. Sue later became Sue Greenbank-Hooker when she married Oram Hooker.

Photo courtesy of Peacham Historical Society



Left-Matthew Greenbank who was Sue Greenbank's father and a son of Benjamin Greenbank.

Right- Frank Greenbank who was Sue Greenbank's uncle and a son of Benjamin Greenbank. Benjamin Greenbank also had another son named George.

(Photos courtesy of the Peacham Historical Society)



Left- Gertrude Clifford Greenbank who was Sue Greenbank Hooker's mother. She was also the wife of Matthew Greenbank. Right-Julia Greenbank. These photos were found in an album owned by Sue Greenbank. (Photos courtesy of Peacham Historical Society)



Left- A farmhouse that was in Greenbank's Hollow area.

Greenbanks Hollow School House

<u>Years</u>	<u>Term(Month)</u>	<u>Term(In Days)</u>	<u>Number of</u>		<u>Attendance of All</u>		<u>Instances of</u>		<u>Teacher</u>
			<u>Students (Total)</u>	<u>Scholars (In Days)</u>	<u>Tardiness</u>	<u>1st Term</u>	<u>2nd Term</u>		
1884-1885	1st May 19-Aug. 8 1884	57	1st Term	21	1st Term	1153	1st Term	1	1st Term Clara Holmes
	2nd Nov. 17 84- Feb.20 85	58	2nd Term	27	2nd Term	1283	2nd Term	88	2nd Term Nettie Clifford
1885-1886	1st May 11-July 3 1885	40	1st Term	24	1st Term	960 1/2	1st Term	0	1st Term Susie Clifford
	2nd Aug. 24-Oct. 30 1885	49	2nd Term	27	2nd Term	1129 1/2	2nd Term	11	2nd Term Clara Holmes
	3rd Nov.30-Feb. 11 1886	49	3rd Term	38	3rd Term	1281 1/2	3rd Term	3	3rd Term Kate Stanton
	All Year	188	All Year	189	All Year	3241 1/2	All Year	14	
1886-1887	1st May 10-July 2 1886	40	1st Term	19	1st Term	653	1st Term	14	1st Term Clara Holmes
	2nd Sept.13-Nov. 6 1886	38	2nd Term	17	2nd Term	560 1/2	2nd Term	0	2nd Term Helen Roberts
	3rd Nov. 29-Feb. 18 1887	60	3rd Term	22	3rd Term	1213 1/2	3rd Term	14	3rd Term Helen Roberts
	All Year	138	All Year	29	All Year	2427	All Year	28	
1887-1888	1st May 2 1887-Aug. 5 87	69	1st Term	23	1st Term	1205	1st Term	25	1st Term Ida Woodward
	2nd Nov. 7 87-Feb. 11 88	70	2nd Term	27	2nd Term	1490	2nd Term	12	2nd Term Ida Woodward
	All Year	139	All Year	32	All Year	2695	All Year	37	
1888-1889	1st May 14 88-July 6 88	38	1st Term	16	1st Term	517	1st Term	0	1st Term Adah Woodward
	2nd Sep. 10 88-Nov. 7 88	39	2nd Term	20	2nd Term	698	2nd Term	0	2nd Term Mary Fitzgerald
	3rd Dec. 9 88-March 2 89	39	3rd Term	23	3rd Term	1130 1/2	3rd Term	1	3rd Term Mrs. L. V. Knapp
	All Year	136	All Year	23	All Year	4690 1/2	All Year	1	
1889	1st May 6- June 28 1889	39	1st Term	20	1st Term	713 1/2	1st Term	3	1st Term Ida Woodward

On the previous page is a spreadsheet that I made to display information I found about the South Danville or Greenbank's Hollow school house. I took all of the information from school registers. It shows years, what month's terms were in and how long they were in days, the number of students that were attending, their attendance in days and their tardiness, and also who the teachers were. You can see that there are not surprisingly more instances of tardiness in the winter than in the summer, most likely because of snow or sickness. The instances of tardiness in the summer can most likely be attributed to kids helping with farming. The fact that there are usually two or more months off in the fall is probably because kids were helping harvest crops for the winter. Back in the day that this school was open they may have had to employ multiple teachers in one year, one reason for this may have been due to teachers getting married. Once a young lady was married she could no longer teach. The one room school house in Greenbank's Hollow had multiple grades and only one teacher. Basically the school had to operate around the farming seasons.



The Adams Residence: A Mrs. Adams lived in this house in 1875. The house burned sometime after 1875. It was rented out after Mrs. Adams no longer owned it.



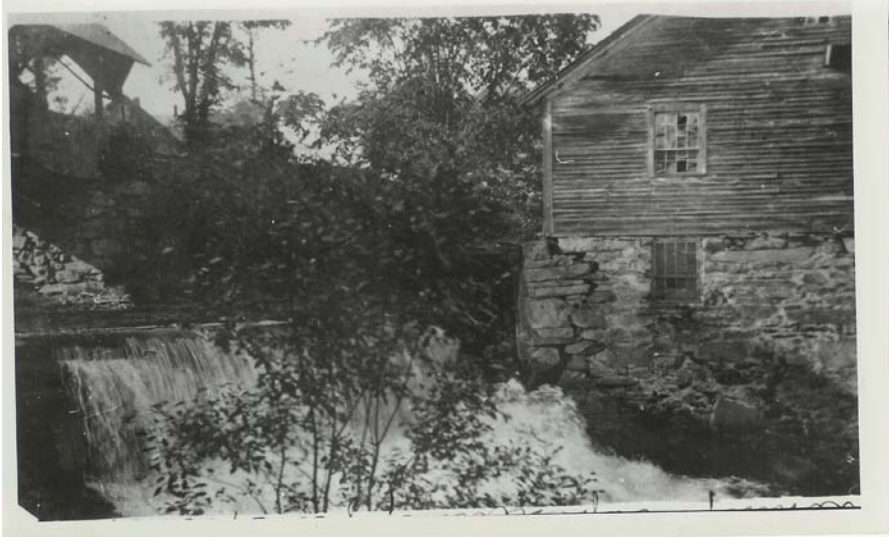
Right-The Lowell house mentioned below.



Gristmill: In most early villages, mills to grind corn and other grains grown by local farmers were among the first to be constructed. The first gristmill here was built in 1786 by Daniel Whitcher (who lived where the Lowell House is today). Subsequent owners enlarged and improved the mill, and in 1875 it was owned by L.H. Harris. The mill survived the fire, and continued operation for many years.



Left-A picture of the grist mill showing the two dams, the upper dam that provided water for the woolen mill and the lower dam below the bridge that supplied water for the grist mill.



Left-A close up of the grist mill with water flowing over the lower dam.



Sawmill: The first sawmill here was also built by Daniel Whitcher—and the area, with its two mills, became known as Whitcher Mills. Exactly how the mill was set up to use waterpower isn't clear. Presumably, water impounded by the small millpond dam below the bridge, flowed through a penstock to power an “up and down” saw. About a century later, Benjamin Greenbank owned a sawmill, but it was located about ½ mile upstream from the bridge.

Fire

There was a fire in Greenbank's Hollow that occurred in 1885. The fire started in the woolen mill from a broken lantern. Once the fire started it spread fast. Most sources say that the entire woolen mill, Benjamin Greenbank's residence, the store and post office, the covered bridge, and some barns were destroyed during the fire.

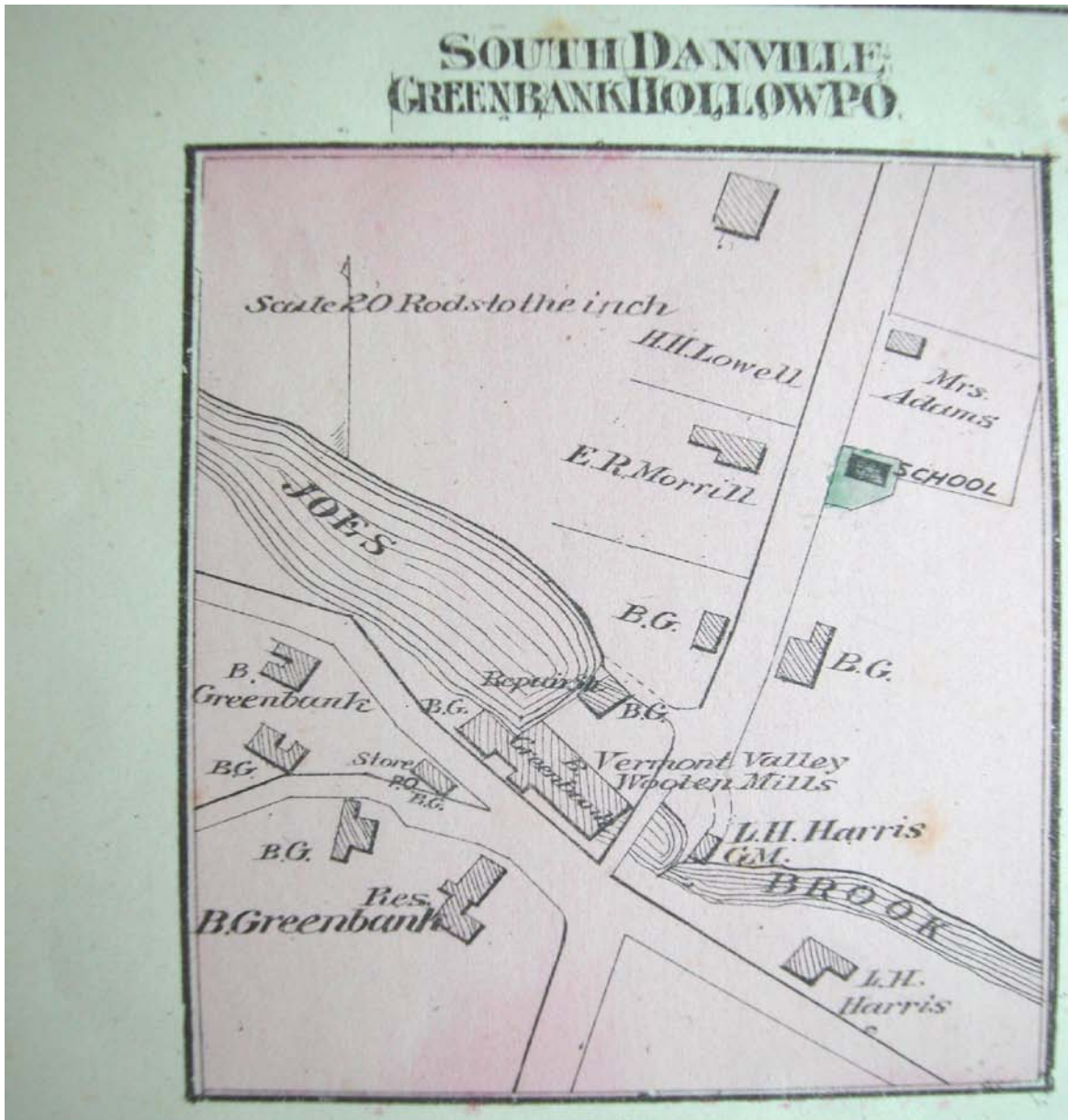


On the left-This is the ruins of the woolen mill a day after the fire in 1885. You can also see all of the debris in the river and that the bridge is no longer there.

Pictures Of The Project In Progress



Maps

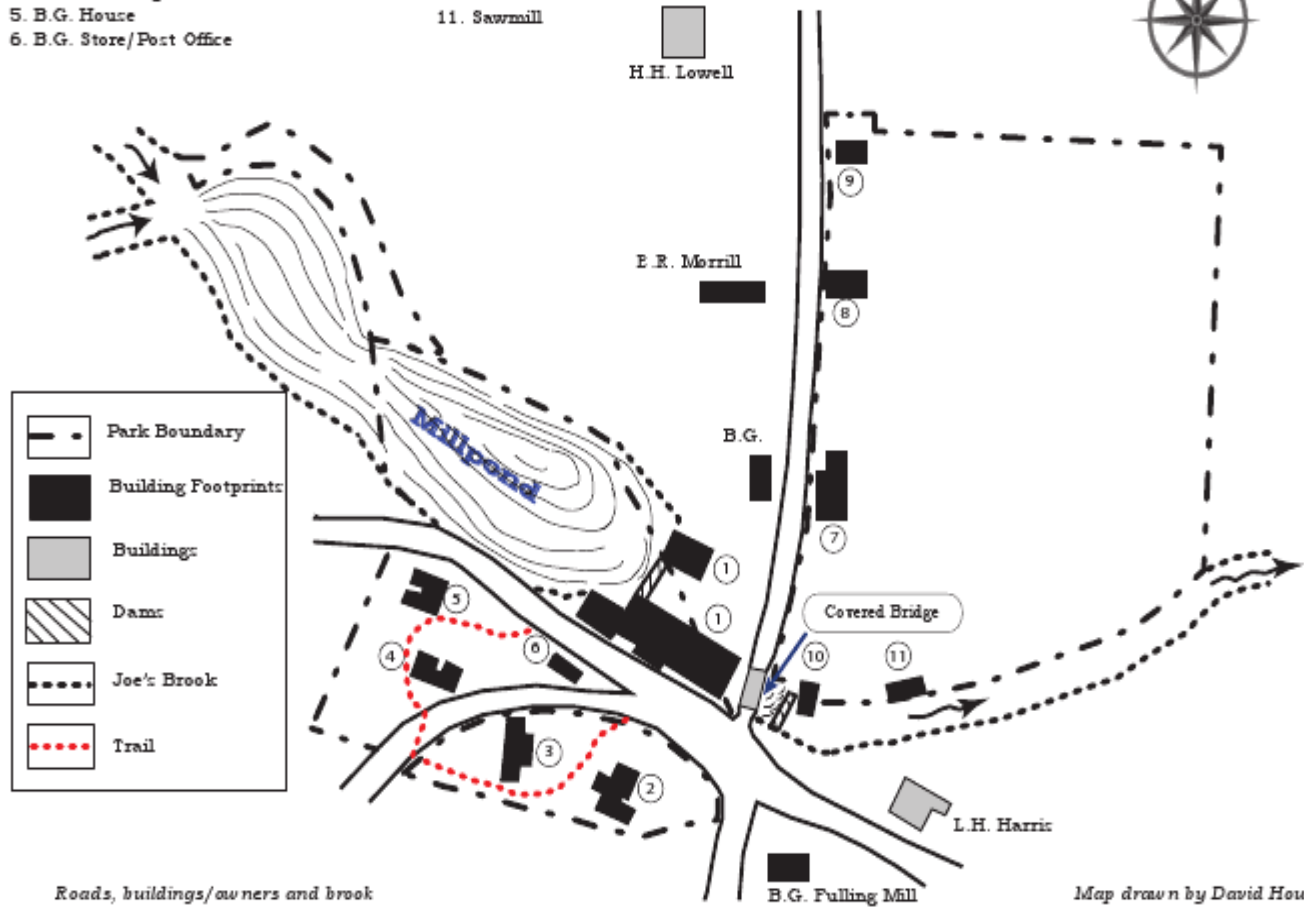


This map was from Beers Atlas which was printed in 1875. It is one of few maps made of Greenbank's Hollow. (The BG stands for Benjamin Greenbank)

Maps (continued)

Greenbank's Hollow Park Site

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Benjamin Greenbank's (B.G.) Woolen Mill | 7. B.G. House |
| 2. B.G. Residence | 8. School House, District 5 |
| 3. B.G. House | 9. Adams Residence |
| 4. B.G. Boarding House | 10. L.H. Harris Gristmill |
| 5. B.G. House | 11. Sawmill |
| 6. B.G. Store/Post Office | |



Roads, buildings/owners and brook as in Beer's Atlas, 1875

Map drawn by David Houston Graphics, Sharon Lakey

This map was created this year by Dave Houston and Sharon Lakey. The sites are the same as the ones in the Beers Atlas Map which was created in 1875. The owners had the buildings in 1875.

Thank You

- My father- For helping me with my proposal letter, taking pictures, helping me with my spreadsheet, and just checking in with me to see if I was getting everything done.
- My mother- For buying me supplies for my display board. For driving me to and from places.
- Dave Houston- For being my senior project mentor, for helping me do research, for keeping me on track, for editing my pamphlet and giving me feedback when I needed it.
- Ms. Budde-For being my senior project advisor, for giving me feedback on everything.
- Sharon Lakey-For helping me compose a letter to Mr. Greenbank, for helping me with research, for editing my e-book.
- Lorna Quinby- For helping find pictures of Sue Greenbank and other pictures.

I would also like to thank anybody else that I may have forgotten that helped me throughout my senior project.

Works Cited

- The Danville Historical Society Records(Pictures)
- Danville Town Hall Records (Land Records)
- Danville Town Hall Records (School Registers)
- Peacham Historical Society Records (Pictures)
- Talks with Dave Houston