



THE JOHN POORE HOUSE

This picture of the John Poore Mansion--or the Poore Tavern--which was in Newbury, is shown above in an illustration from the Poore genealogy. According to the author, Alfred Poore, the home was occupied by John Poore and eight consecutive generations, in one line, of his descendants for 240 years. Mr. Poore states that about three score of the patriarch's progeny were born in the house. In 1881, Samuel Poore's son, Alfred, with two of his sons (John Lawrence and Alfred Wesley) lived there.

In the beginning, the house consisted of one square room on the ground with a chamber over it and the chimney on the eastern end. Jonathon, son of John and grandson of the progenitor, built the eastern end of the main part and finished the inside of the whole house. Subsequently, the lean-to was added to the back side. The singular projection at the southwestern corner was annexed by John of the fourth generation, who kept the ferry over the Parker River, which flowed by the north end of the farm. Alfred Poore speculates that this projection to the house is where Jonathon Poore kept his office when he was the innkeeper, this being the halfway house between Newburyport and Rowley, and "handy for freight teamsters and others on the highway between East and Boston, to drop in and 'wet their whistle' in dusty summer or 'warm up' in cold winter."

When the house was photographed, the old sign was re-erected for the occasion. But for four generations, prior to 1881, the sign was not used because, after the Newburyport Turnpike (route 1) was built, travel was drawn away from the road which went by the house. Unfortunately, the house has been torn down.