

Baughman House 2

Dick Baughman and Liz Marshall met to talk about the history of Dick's house on 60 Etna Road in Etna.

Jan. 20, 2025

Liz

Alrighty, so here we are, Dick Baughman and Liz Marshall of Etna Village, and this is part two of a recording where we are focusing on the history of Dick's House at 60 Etna Road.

Okay, so last time we talked about the early history of the house, and today we're going to just reiterate a few points about the early history of the house and then finish talking about some of the more recent history since you've owned the house. So okay, why don't you tell me some of the things you were telling me a minute ago about the early days on the Corey Road.

Dick

The house was framed in 1769, which made it among the first fifty houses built in town. It was a typical cape, and it was right where the Cory Road was adjacent to what was called the town lot in the geographic center of town. And ideally, that's where the population center, the governmental center, the occupational center, that was going to be this focal center of town, but it never happened. And so the home and farm on the Cory Road was like other hardscrabble farms up there with all the animals and so forth. But after three generations, all the land had been cleared, and so most people had sheep if they stayed on the farms up there. So after three generations of the Wright family, it was time for the focus to move. Now, young Mr. Hart then moved down to 30 Three Mile Road.

That was around 1850. Once the house was in Etna, there were a number of different people with ownership interest and so forth.

Liz

In the old maps of Hanover and Etna in particular, there's a 60-acre mill lot.

Dick

This is one of them. So the house was purposely brought down where there was a mill lot because in 1860 we still needed water power. And so that's why the big mills were down

here in the village of ours, which was about the fourth of the mills right along the Mink Brook right here in the center of that.

Liz

And during that time, the Hart family took over the ownership of the house and stayed for many generations.

Dick

Jasper Hart was in the Civil War, came home back to the Shaker community in Enfield, but war and Shakers were incompatible. So he and his wife and their adopted son, Will, left the Shaker community and came here to Etna and took over the house we now live in and then they worked a mill, they had farming they had sugaring. It was a large operation. The Harts had seven children of their own, but when the Harts were married, May Hart had had a child in another arrangement and his name was Stacy McAllister. He was treated like one of the other siblings but was the eldest and also worked in the trades.

Liz

So did Stacey McAllister work with Mr. Trumbull who built the Trumbull House? Is that where he learned some of his building skills?

Dick

Mr. Hart died intestate with seven children. And Stacey McAllister built the three houses across the street from the white house down below us. So all that land and farm and mill was in the Hart family.

Liz

So the houses, the three houses he built were the Metcalf's house, the house to the left of the Metcalf's, and the house on the other side of the Metcalf's house.

Dick

So that was all part of the homestead, and it was, of course, when the Mills and Etna were very important.

Liz

So tell me a little bit about—there were a few families that lived in the house between 1945 and 1965 when you moved in, but tell us a little bit about what it was like when you bought it.

Dick

Tom and Anne Byrne lived at 60 Etna Road for two or three years, but they wanted the kids to go to school in Hanover. So they moved into Hanover, and that made the place available for us. We were very much like them. We had three children. In fact, our youngest was born the day we signed the papers for 60 Etna Road when we bought it. The Byrnes were very important. After their kids were out of school, they moved up to Hanover Center.

Liz

Yes. The house they bought is one of the oldest.

Dick

And then, of course, another of the oldest houses was the Storr's house down here in the village, which was built about the same time. So anyway, Tom and Anne Byrne had two more old houses in Hanover Center.

Liz

Tom actually owned the Etna store for a while too. I can remember that from the 80s. So what was it like when you bought the house?

Dick

Only one upstairs room had been plastered. The upstairs of the L and the main house didn't connect with one another. There was a porch on the front, which so many had. And I don't think the Byrnes knew the age of the house when they sold it to us. I think they were just beginning to get interested in that.

Liz

Let's talk about Niles Lacoss. He taught you of a lot of this history. So the L being the, where your garage is now, that was part of the house when you first bought it. And then the little red barn.

Dick

I don't know when that was built.

Liz

That was there, though.

Dick

Functional.

Liz

So, inside the house, there was one finished bedroom upstairs, but then more space upstairs and more space above the garage, just not connected. And then downstairs was—well, I know at some point you added an addition on the back, right? A very small addition with a summer kitchen and a shower.

Dick

Mela liked Aga Stoves, which is, I believe, a European brand where the stove is on all the time, but it's so well insulated that one only opened the burners or the ovens when they were going to be in use. So our whole kitchen was built around this Aga stove, and then as she worked in her interior design business, she helped other people as they were getting kitchens to have Aga stoves. So that was quite a lineage she started.

Liz

So does the Aga stove run on liquid propane now?

Dick

Propane now. We still use this all the time.

Liz

So, what about your yard? I mean, I know you've made a lot of changes to the yard over the years. You got the barn from Kimball Union Academy, you said.

Dick

There had originally been a large barn with a house, but that had gone to ruin in the 1940s and had fallen down. So while I removed some of the old rubbish, the original barn right behind the house was gone, and we'll get some pictures of that later on for these presentations. So the original barn fell down, but when Scott and Melissa both finished up at Kimball Union, and they found out that there was a barn there that was going to be torn down and that we could have it if we'd have it gone in three weeks, which was pretty amazing. So Jay Barrett, now an architect, just getting started back then, Jay marked up this barn and then he and Scott and I took it down and hauled it home in three weeks. And next thing we have, we'll have some pictures of that.

Liz

Yeah, and so who built the barn? Who rebuilt it? How did you reconstruct it on your property?

Dick

Scott and I and Jay Barrett put it up. I see. We had a barn raising ceremony again. We'll have pictures of that for our next session.

Dick

Getting back to the Harts, they sold all kinds of things. At the peak of their business, that was a huge going farm with the mill across the street and boiling the sap. The little tiny house we have, the little shed, that was a swill house to boil the garbage before it was fed to the pigs. A swill house. That's the real name for it. It had a big fireplace in there with room for a tub, although there was no tub when we bought it. And so the chimney had to come down when we moved it up onto the hills.

Liz

I see, so it sounds like over the years there has been a lot of work that you have done to the house, and the grounds, and the barns, and the outbuildings, and all fun.

Dick

So we were really in phase two, which we could say started in the early 1960s when Tom and Ann Byrne were there but didn't do much with it.

Liz

When you think about the number of years that the Wrights were there and the Harts were there, you're coming close to that number of years.

Dick

We're 60, yeah.

Liz

So if you're 60, I mean, the Wrights were there from, let's say, 1770, we'll round it up a little bit, until 1850. But that was maybe 80 years.

And then the Harts, supposing they were there from around 1850 to 1940, that's 90, 95.

Dick

It seems that these families last about three generations.

Liz

So that's nice to know that you've been part of making that happen for your family. So is there anything else you'd like to talk about regarding your house or anything else that you'd

like to talk about your time in Etna? You've been here for many years and you've seen a lot of changes in Etna during that time.

Dick

Let me think of that. Yeah.

Liz

I mean, a lot of those mills closed probably before World War II, right? Yes. That's correct. When we took our walk up Mink Brook, you and I did, many years ago, we started across from your house and we walked up and we saw some of the relics of the dams that had been used for the hydropower, for the mills, and at one point we stopped in the Etna Fire Station where you were a firefighter for many years, and we took a look at the ladders there that were made in Etna, the ladder factory.

Dick

That's probably the most famous of what was produced in the mill and, yes, the ladder factory. I was very fortunate to see an ad in the Valley News one day for antique ladders for sale, and when I called, I could barely believe it. One of them said, Hanover on it, and the other wasn't clearly marked, and so the person wanted \$300 for these ladders, and I said, I'll take them sight unseen. So Tim Bent and I got a truck and trailer and went up, and we're here with these two extension ladders, and the one had Hanover written all over it. So we knew it came from the Hanover Fire Department, and that was about a 16-footer. It was a shorter one. First I couldn't read it, and then it said, Derby. Derby was the first of the ladder factories, and that was up almost to King Road on Mink Brook.

That was very early, and there were two factories up that north side of the Etna Store, and then two more down our way. One of those was a gristmill originally, and that was 1769, about the same year as our house was built. So the mills were just starting. I'm sure there were other mills.

Liz

It used to be called Mill Village, and that's why.

Dick

And you live in the town clerk's office where we are now talking. And so this was still the focus of activity in the overall town of Hanover, because Dartmouth College wasn't named Dartmouth until 1769 in December, and already our house was thriving, Etna was thriving.

Liz

You know, one thing that you had told me about that we didn't mention, we haven't mentioned in either of these two discussions, is the old maps of New Hampshire, and Hanover in particular. Hanover was divided up into parallelograms. They followed the river and then maybe lines that were latitude, you know, parallel to the latitude, and then lines that sort of followed the river. So the town, and I think this was true of many towns, was divided up into these segments.

Dick

110 acre lots.

Liz

Yeah, and they were purchased by people from mostly Massachusetts and Connecticut. Mostly Connecticut. So they were owned by these folks, not knowing what the land was like, whether it was steep or soggy or anything, but only some of those original owners came and settled on the land.

Dick

Fewer than ten came to sell, so the lots were sold, but only about ten of the people who bought the lots. And there was a lot of swapping back and forth and changing.

Liz

The geographic center of town, which is near where your house was built, was fairly flat there, but it was at the base of a mountain.

Dick

And now the Appalachian Trail goes right through there. It crosses the Corey Road, right near where our house sat.

Liz

I find that interesting, that they drew maps just looking at a 2D layout of the land, and they weren't paying any attention to the topology of the land, whether it was hilly or whether there were cliffs, not that there were cliffs, but you know

Dick

It was very old, but there was no action where the house was built near the geographic center of town, and hence it moved down here in the village.

Dick

The person at the savings bank that gave me my mortgage when we bought the house in 1965 said don't put a lot of money into Etna. It's a slum!

Liz

Let's talk about the fire department.

Dick

Soon after we arrived in Etna, I was working in the shop one evening, and I heard screeching tires as a car was coming from Lyme down at a high rate of speed, and so I went back into the house and I told my wife, I said, this SOB isn't going to make it, and then the lights went out. We had only been in town less than a year, and it was an accident down on George Levitt's corner. The car took down a telephone pole, not the first or the last time. At any rate, at that time we had no ambulance services, and the fire department responded for almost everything, so at that point I said, well, I could volunteer along with the firefighters and go out on calls where first aid might be needed. So it was very soon after our arrival in Etna that I joined the fire department. I was number 39, almost all the young men in the village belonged to the fire department, and it was both a social group and a community, and we were needed. Two years before Hanover had taken over the Etna fire department, but there was a lot of friction in the old days between the Hanover and the Etna groups, which I missed. I came in after that, but the next big event, of course, was the plane crash on Moose Mountain, and that was 1968. I was standing in the kitchen and didn't hear the alarm, and I saw a Hanover truck going up towards the village with men on the back, and I thought, that's still unusual, probably our usual chimney fire or something, so I told my guests, who were going to go out to dinner with us, I'll be right back. Well, that was about six o'clock. I never got home until six in the morning. But that was the plane crash up there that killed 32 people. And remarkably, some survived. Yes. Well, they survived because the plane was about 50 feet from clearing the South Peak of Moose Mountain. And when it came through, it cut the tops off the trees like a rotary mower. The tail broke off. The survivors were in the tail. And then the plane exploded. But it was like a battle scene. It was a unique experience.

Liz

We knew a guy who was in the tail section.

We moved here in 1987, and I remember hearing the fire alarm practice, I think, every Saturday at noon, or there was some time during the week when the fire alarm sounded as a test. But it doesn't do that anymore, and I'm guessing it's because of cell phone technology.

Dick

So anyway, the important institutions in Etna were the church and the fire department and the library. The school was no longer used, but many of the people that still go to church here also went to school in Etna and tried to think what else.

Liz

And there was a store between our house and the next-door neighbor's house. There was a store there. The library had its origins on the second floor of that store. That was a lending library, but just nothing very formal in terms of its own building. Then that building burned down in the twenties, I think. When we redid the siding on our house, the old siding came off, and you could see the black scorch marks on that side of the house.

Dick

That's pretty impressive.

Liz

But now we have the library. So yes, we have a pretty vibrant little community here, and the store, of course, and post office. For many years, the post office was the little room attached to the L off of Willa's house. Do you remember that? Yeah. And Stan Elder, who was the postmaster when we moved in. And his mother beforehand. Yeah, and his mother beforehand. But Stan, they lived in the house that's the store. And he was born in that house. He was born in the house that is now the store. And then he and his mom were both postmasters. Yeah, it's interesting.

So the first time we talked about the very early origins of your house, and then today we summarized some of that and then spent a lot of time talking about what life has been like since you moved here.