

EBENEZER GROSVENOR INN, POMFRET STREET 41
THE EBENEZER GROSVENOR INN ON POMFRET STREET

"Who e'er has traveled earth's dull round
What e'er his stage may have been
May sigh to think he yet has found
His wannest welcome at the Inn."

The mystery of olden times still clings to the old homes along the main village street of old Pomfret, east from Overlock's corner, where stands the residence of Mrs. E. A. J. Wiggins (the Waldo house). In the days when this was the business section of the village, Samuel Waldo on this corner did custom tailoring, and there is still a cupboard in the east room where he kept the cloth of his trade.

But the Wiggins' residence is of much later date than the other homes of interest on the street. On their grounds may yet be seen the vine-covered walls of the old Harrison house, amid the trees of an old-fashioned garden, where deepening shadows fall cool in summer and dark on winter snow, and lure fancy back to those historic days when Pomfret had barely twenty families whose pioneer fires lighted along the primitive trails with no organized protection against the Indian attack. As early as 1712, Ebenezer Grosvenor was numbered among these families by Capt. John Sabin. It is traditional that the Harrison house was built by Ebenezer Grosvenor who there lived out his day. Born in 1684 and died in 1730—his was an active, useful life. He was on the committee to decide upon the site of the first meeting-house and "school house by the sign post." He was also Sergeant of Pomfret's First Military Company. In 1800 the Harrison house was the home of Sylvanus Backus, Pomfret's famous lawyer, Avho was elected to Congress by both parties in 1817 but died before taking his seat. His law office stood until recently.

A monument in the North Burying Ground commemorates him. Ebenezer Grosvenor, Jr., born in 1713, like his father, held offices of responsibility, and was one of the committee to choose the site of the second meeting-house in 1760. He married Miss Lucy Cheney, and they were said to have been the handsomest couple ever to enter the meeting-house. She was the first to be buried in the Hall (North) Burying Ground.