

## Susan Griggs on Spring Farms and Old Caleb Grosvenor Tavern 1760

### SPRING FARM

Post Road Tavern, Spring Farm, was built by Caleb Grosvenor, and there mail was left for over a quarter of a century before the first post office was officially established between Boston and New York.

The low ell of this overhang house was built about 1750, the main part about 1760. The present owner, \\Tilbur C. Abbott, has restored the house to its original lines by removing the long narrow porches that for many years scanned its colonial beauty.

In an ancient copy of the "New London Gazette" of 1786 is found the following advertisement of this property:

"To be sold or let - A farm containing 300 acres, situated in Ab-ington Society. On the middle post road from Hartford to Boston with a large dwelling house which is now and has been for a number of years improved as a public house. Said house has an excellent or- chard which will make 80 barrels of cider annually."

Caleb Grosvenor had two sons in the Revolution, and his home was undoubtedly sold after his death. The place did not again return to the Grosvenor family for a hundred years, when it was purchased by Benjamin Grosvenor.

Caleb Grosvenor was a rising young man at the time the Abington meetinghouse was built. Because of paying the highest rate in the Parish, he was given first choice of to build his pew.

The old post road, later the Hartford-Boston turnpike, was muddy, rough and precipitous, though heavily traveled. The tavern, built in 1765, was famous through the Revolution. Caleb Grosvenor was a loyal Patriot, but a sign long hung before his door, depicting a post rider carrying the English flag, and riding a galloping horse. This sign, that once bore the date 1765, now hangs before the Ben Grosvenor Inn on Pomfret Street.

History, tradition and controversy met at the tavern. In 1812 the son of Lieut. Joseph Spaulding, a Revolutionary soldier. Rev. Solomon Spaulding, with his wife, spent some time at the Caleb Grosvenor Inn while suffering from loss of voice while teaching school. He wrote for his own amusement a romantic account of the wanderings of the Children of Israel across the Behring Straits, and called it "Manuscript Found" or the "Book of Mormon." Rev. and Mrs. Spaulding removed to Pennsylvania, where they became acquainted with Joseph Smith, who later became the Mormon.

**This account by S Griggs should not be considered as a primary source or actual portrayal of the history of Spring Farms and the Caleb Grosvenor Tavern. Further research is required to validate the history of the C Grosevenor Tavern.**