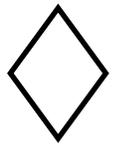


The General Store



John Ralston Nesbitt and his Great Grand Daughter Carolyn Ralston Nesbitt Wagenseller



John Ralston Nesbitt (above) was the son of Hugh and Mary Ann Nesbitt and a nephew of the original John Ralston who built the Ralston General Store. John R. Nesbitt ran the store for a while after his father's death, and later built the Nesbitt grist mill (bottom right) next to Burnett Brook (across the street from Sammy's) in 1848.

Thomas Nesbitt, J.R.Nesbitt's great great uncle came to America from County Armagh, Ireland in 1760 on a ship called "Cyprus." in 1784. J.R. Nesbitt was re-

sponsible for establishing the Ralston Post Office and in naming the western portion of Mendham Township "Ralston," to perpetuate his grandfather's name.

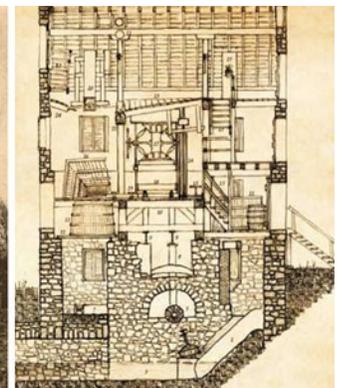
The mill operated until 1908 when Thomas Laughlin purchased it and converted it into a distillery. "Tiger Applejack," or as it was sometimes called, "Jersey Lightening," was made there until prohibition forced the mill to close in 1919.

Carolyn Ralston Nesbitt Wagenseller (right) was in town last November and posed with a copy of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) insignia that she hopes to get approved once she has proven that John Ralston is her patriot.

Carolyn, who now lives in California with her husband, Jay, was here to attend her husband's high school reunion. She



took the opportunity to stop by and catch up with long time friends Valerie Sinclair and Lissa Anderson. All three women visited the Ralston Manor House and the general store established by her ancestor, John Ralston.



New Items Donated to the General Store Museum by Carolyn Wagenseller



The following items have been donated to the museum collection by Carolyn Wagenseller and are now on display in the main showcase in the General Store.

1. Carpenter's square: steel, brass, and wood.
2. Wood Box with bone and mother of pearl trim lined with tin. Silver Peru coins included. Front inscribed Sam H. (Hartnell) Nesbitt.

This box and the foreign coins were brought from Lima, Peru, South America about 1824 by Carolyn's great great grandmother's brother, Stuart Rolston (Ralston) who went back to Peru with his brother T. Jefferson in 1825. T. Jefferson was killed by his servant while crossing the Andes. His brother, Daniel Stuart, was never again heard from.

Letter—John R Nesbitt, October 5, 1880.

3. Antique snuff box circa 1824.

4. Antique candle stick snuffers and trays (2.)

NOTE: The first candle snuffers were made in the 16th century, but became widespread in the 18th century, when models of various forms were produced following the fashions and the taste of the moment. The scissor portion was used to cut off the burning tip of the candlewick. The flaming tip was trapped and extinguished inside the small box. Modern candlewicks are made of pure cotton and do not need to be cut. In older times the wicks were made of a hollow rush stem and necessitated continuous maintenance to preserve the maximum output of light.



5. English walking cane with brass ferrule, horn handle. Carved "Sam" 1898.
6. Rustic twig cane.
7. Crook handle cane with initial silver collar—JDT.
8. Knob head pencil cane.
9. Navy blue silk parasol with ivory and brass handle (not shown.)



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