

John Pitman

Farmer, Dairy man, Woodsman

*previous owner of what is now the
~ Pitman Town Forest ~*



Born: Alexandria New Hampshire, 1894

Died: North Haverhill, New Hampshire
1981

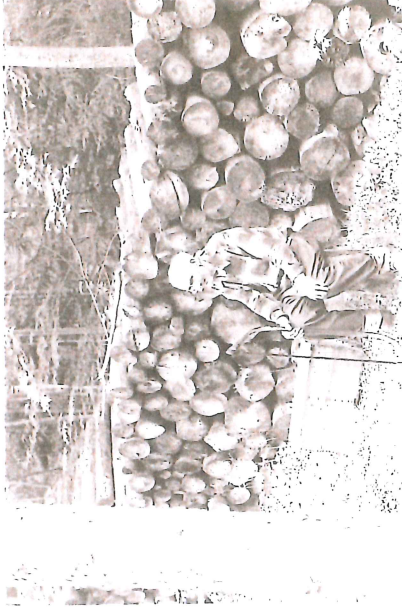
Buried: Riverside Cemetery, Alexandria



The Alexandria town forest, known as the Pitman Town Forest, is named in honor of the Pitman owner of the property, John Pitman. Mr Pitman lived and worked in the town of Alexandria his entire life. He originally had a farm located on property presently owned by the Laberge family. There, through the 1930's and 40's, he made his living selling eggs and milk to Alexandria residents. In 1929 he purchased the property (approximately 55 acres) now known as the Pitman Town Forest. He owned this land until his death in 1981. In his later years, John lived in a small structure near the south border of the Town Forest property. The remains of this dwelling can still be seen, although very decayed, at its original site. He traded wood for groceries from the nearby Shacketts Market.

John Pitman's wood was cut as "pulp", to be sold for the pulp wood market. Pulp wood consists of logs totally debarked and cut into 4' lengths. He cut and debarked all his trees himself, by hand, using the saw seen in this photo. He gathered his wood and took it to the wood pile sites with only a wheelbarrow. John had a multitude of wood piles, perfectly stacked, scattered throughout the property. His desire to market this wood to a pulp wood buyer proved fruitless. No one ever came to buy it. That is why we can still see the remains of his wood piles today. At the age of 92, John was still cutting his trees by hand and creating pulp wood.

The many piles of wood that John Pitman stacked throughout his property over 50 years ago can still be seen, much diminished, now turned to mulch and covered with moss. Originally 4-5 feet high, over time they have sunk and decomposed. These remnants of John's work offer an excellent example of what happens to cut wood that is left out in the elements for 75 years! Some of those piles can be seen here at their original height.



John Pitman with his saw, in front of one of his typical wood piles. Note the wood is all debarked, a tedious and tiring job.



John Pitman stands in front of his last dwelling. The log piles behind him can still be seen today, as well as the much damaged remains of this building.