

## Hebron's Governor Nathaniel S. Berry by Ronald Collins

Nathaniel Springer Berry was a tanner in Hebron from 1840 until 1857, and continued to live in Hebron until 1888 when he moved into his son's house in Bristol for his remaining years. In 1860 Nathaniel Berry was elected to be Governor of New Hampshire and guided the state through the turbulent Civil War years. This is his story.

Nathaniel Springer Berry was born in Bath, Maine, September 1, 1796. His grandfather, Captain John Berry, was one of 3 brothers who "came from Scotland and settled in Bath, ME. Capt. John Berry served as a captain of an infantry company in the Revolutionary War."<sup>1</sup>

His mother was Betsy Springer of Swedish descent whose father Nathaniel Springer was a captain of artillery in the Revolutionary War and killed in Bath while defending military supplies stored there. "A British brig sailed up the river and opened fire on the garrison, determined to loot the valuable material, but they met with such a hot reception that they soon slipped their cables and abandoned the undertaking."<sup>2</sup>

Nathaniel's father, Abner Berry, was a ship builder and was killed while repairing a brig at his ship yard for William King (who became Maine's first governor). "while in a heated condition, (Abner Berry) was precipitated into the river, which caused his death."<sup>3</sup> His father died in 1802 when Nathaniel was about six years old. This meant a boyhood of hard work and meager educational opportunity.

He worked in Bath, ME for William Morrison who taught him the saddle, harness making and tanners trade. Some years after Nathaniel's father died his mother remarried a Mr. Morse from New Hampshire, and the family move to New Hampshire.

When he was sixteen years old he bound himself to work during his minority for \$40 a year and his board. He was to buy his own clothes and to have six months of schooling during the year. He worked as a journeyman after learning his trade and in March, 1818, he came to Bristol, NH and in 1820 he bought the tannery on Central St. for \$800 paying \$300 down and giving his note for the remainder. He married Ruth Smith on January 21, 1821, joined the Methodist church in 1823. His only son, William Augustus Berry was born October 23, 1824. William married Laura Ann Pratt, daughter of Varnum Pratt and Elizabeth Lovejoy of Hebron. Nathaniel and Ruth also had a daughter, Emeline Smith Berry who married Charles. E. Morse.

Nathaniel Berry continued his tannery in Bristol until 1836 when he sold to Warren White and moved to Hebron. In Hebron he continued in the tanning business with his son,

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<sup>1</sup> This and other genealogical data come from "Nathaniel Springer Berry" by Col. J. W. Robinson, published in the The Granite Monthly, Vol XV, 1903, pp 302-304., and from a letter written by Berry around 1892 and included in this document.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

William A. Berry, until he was burned out in 1857. He continued to live in Hebron after his tannery burned.

Ruth (Smith) Berry died in 1857, and in January 1860 Nathaniel married Mrs. Louise Farley, a widow from Andover, Massachusetts.

In the 34<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the New Hampshire State Militia Berry served as a Lieutenant, Captain and Lieutenant Colonel.

Nathaniel Berry had little formal education and began his political career as a state representative from Bristol (1828, 1833-4, 1837). He was elected to the State Senate (1835/6) and was a delegate to the Democrats' national convention of 1840 which chose President Martin Van Buren as their candidate for a second term. Governor Berry's career as governor coincides with major changes in the American political system.

Today<sup>4</sup> we can only imagine the political turmoil in the country in the decades prior to the Civil War. There were two major political parties in 1840: The Whigs who had a strong party platform of Federal aid for internal improvements, a national bank, stronger tariffs and free and easy access to western lands for new comers, and the Democrats which were divided into a southern pro-slavery contingency and the northern Democrats who were not pro-slavery, but neither were they anti-slavery. There was also a new fledgling political party the free-Soil party who as an anti-slavery party held that all new states joining the union should be slave free.

General William Henry Harrison, of Tippecanoe fame, and a Whig won the presidency in 1840 over Martin Van Buren who was increasingly distrusted by the South for his Free-Soil anti-slavery sentiments. But Harrison died shortly after taking office and his running mate, John Tyler of Virginia turned out to be more of a Democrat than a Whig. The Whigs had a strong party platform of Federal aid for internal improvements, a national bank, stronger tariffs and free and easy access to western lands for new comers. In 1844 Henry Clay, running for his fourth time for President was up-ended in New York by a little known Free-Soil politician, thus losing the national election to James Polk by the narrowest of margins. (New Hampshire had voted for Clay every time he ran and defiantly included Mount Clay next to Mount Washington in the newly named Presidential Range.)

With James Polk, a Southern Democrat, now President, the United States launched into the Mexican War, ending with vast lands, including; Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, which the South saw as an opportunity to expand the number of slave holding states. The North was horrified at this development.

Oddly, the Whig party reasserted itself in the 1848 election with the election of Zachary Taylor of Mexican War fame. When he died in office Millard Fillmore became President. Fillmore was the first of three succeeding presidents (Franklin Pierce and James Buchanan being the other two) who were Northerners with Southern sentiments – apologists for the Southern slaveholders and easily manipulated by their Southern friends in high places in their administrations.

From 1840 on, Berry acted as an organizer for a fledgling political group which ultimately became the Free Soil Party. With the death of Clay and Webster in 1852, the Whig party ceased to exist as a political force. Meanwhile, all during this period, 1840-1860, there were political movements that captured the attention – and the imagination – of many Americans.

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<sup>4</sup> The following political history was provided in an unpublished manuscript by Howard Oedel, PhD, historian and friend.

In 1844 an anti-Catholic political party called the “Native Americans” provoked a series of riots in Philadelphia and New York and succeeded in electing one of their own as Mayor of New York City. Their platform called for barring all naturalized citizens from office and extending the waiting period for citizenship to 21 years. By 1850 the Native Americans were absorbed into a much larger anti-foreigner movement called the “Know Nothings.”<sup>5</sup> To illustrate their strength they were able to elect governors in Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware and four new England states. Vice President, and later President, Millard Fillmore became a Know Nothing.

There were other issues in society that cried out for a political voice. The most important of these were the Abolitionist. Some Abolitionists were merely against slavery in the abstract; others were keen to end the protections to slavery found in the Constitution.

Another issue calling for a political answer was prohibition, i.e. the Temperance Movement in which Nathaniel Berry was very active.

The Free Soil movement was a major political force in the entire period. Martin Van Buren was interested particularly in this cause: that the new lands being opened up for statehood should be free from slavery. As a free Soil Democrat Van Buren ran unsuccessfully in 1848, but his cause grew in strength yearly. “Conscience Whigs,” so called, joined the movement and leaders like Abraham Lincoln called for the “ultimate extinction” of slavery.

Disgusted by the Democrats' politics and the 1840 political campaign, Berry had cut his Democratic Party roots and became the Free Soil Party's 1846 candidate for governor of New Hampshire. He was nominated each year 1846 to 1850 by the new party and lost each time, but the Free Soil Party grew stronger in every race.

The party organized as a national party in 1848, committed to stopping the spread of slavery into new territories won from Mexico in the Mexican War (1846-8). Former President Martin Van Buren of New York was the Free Soil candidate for president. The party platform stressed, in addition to no expansion of slavery, a commitment to a homestead act, and to a tariff with which to pay for internal improvements.

The Free Soil Party was a combination of anti-slavery Whigs and New York State Democrats, both of which were pro- Van Buren, and members of the former Liberty Party. In the national election the Whigs carried New York State and the result was that Mexican War hero Zachary Taylor became president. Taylor owed his victory to Van Buren and the Whigs, and they prevailed upon Taylor to consent to conservative New York Whig politician Millard Fillmore to be Vice President. When Taylor died of cholera a year later, Fillmore became President of the United States (1850-3). Martin Van Buren, acting as kingmaker, had made the Free Soil Party a power.

Two political events – the Compromise of 1850 and the Kansas-Nebraska Act 1854, further sharpened hostility between North and South. The Compromise of 1850 called for the admission of California as a free state and the passage of a much more fugitive slave act. It was passed by the concerted efforts of Clay and Webster, much to the consternation of their political allies in the North.<sup>6</sup>

The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 which in effect repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820 which had set that there would be no slavery north of the Missouri Territory boundary, and permitted the people in the territories to choose for themselves whether the states organized from

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<sup>5</sup> The “Know Nothings” charged that Irish and German immigrants were stealing American elections and running the big city political machines.

<sup>6</sup> The fact that the Compromise of 1850 passed probably postponed the Civil War for 10 years and assured (because of growth in manufacturing and transportation) a Northern victory.

those territories would be slave or free. This was called “Popular Sovereignty” an appealing idea on its surface: let the people decide – and Stephen Douglas (“I do not care whether slavery is voted up or down”) was its most vocal advocate.

But with armed conflict breaking out in Kansas, and events like the publication of Harriett Beacher Stowe’s Uncle Tom’s Cabin, and with the near fatal caning of Senator Sumner of Massachusetts, there was now a major movement in the nation to organize a new party. In 1854 The Republican Party was born – some say in Exeter, NH – but most experts agreeing it was in Wisconsin.

The new party snowballed into power. It was composed of all kinds of groups protesting the growth of slavery in the USA. In 1855 it succeeded in electing the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nathaniel Banks of Maine, and in 1856 it selected John Fremont, only 43, with a beautiful wife, Jessie Benton, as the Republican candidate for President. James Buchanan of Pennsylvania with solid Southern support won the contest.

But the die was cast. The Republicans reorganized; some more temperate voices like Abraham Lincoln and Seward of New York moved to take control of the party.

Berry stayed active politically during this period as associate justice on the Grafton County Court of Pleas (1841-50), and as Grafton County Judge of Probate (1856-61). As a new Republican, Berry was nominated for governor by the New Hampshire Republican Party in 1860. The first Republican presidential candidate, Abraham Lincoln, had been elected in 1860, and the Civil War was underway. Berry won over George Stark, 35,467 votes to 31,452 and was inaugurated in June of 1861. Interestingly, Berry lost the Hebron vote to Stark: 36 Hebronites voted for Berry and 39 voted for Stark.

When he took office the condition of the New Hampshire militia was not good. He wrote the following letter to President Lincoln on June 28, 1861:

*Executive Department  
Concord June 28, 1861*

*His Excellency*

*Abraham Lincoln*

*President of the United States*

*Sir – Your circular letter*

*addressed to my predecessor,<sup>7</sup> dated June 24<sup>th</sup> instant was secured this day. The inquiries in the blank which you enclose are such that they cannot be answered directly and I therefore give you a statement which will doubtless answer the purpose designed.*

*It is more than two years since the law providing for an active Militia in this State was abolished; and although some changes have been made in the Statute since that time, we have no general system by which troops are kept organized in the pay of the State. We have a skeleton system, consisting of three Divisions and six Brigades, but only one Militia regiment organized. This is commanded by Colonel John A. Page, and there are thirteen companies which for encampment or service may be ordered into. Aside from this there is a battalion (with a special charter) called the Amoskeag Veterans, and a Regiment of Calvary (also with a special charter) called the Governor’s Horse Guards. This comprises all our active military.*

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<sup>7</sup> Ichabod Goodwin, Governor from 1859 to 1860.

*All the able bodied men in the State are annually enrolled, and the number as per the report of the Adjunct General for the last year is thirty thousand four hundred and seventy eight men.*

*Where your Proclamation only for Regiments was issued it was thought best not to attempt to call out ?? our organized Regiment and my predecessor therefore issued orders for recruiting men. The first Regiment, commanded by Col. Tappan<sup>8</sup> Consisting of seven hundred and eighty officers and privates, enlisted for three months was then produced. It has proceeded to Washington and is now in service.*

*The second Regiment commanded by Col. Gilman Marston<sup>9</sup> Was enlisted for three years in the same way, and consists of one thousand and forty six officers and privates. This Regiment has also proceeded to Washington and is in service.*

*An Act is now pending in the Legislature of the State, and will undoubtedly pass, authorizing the Governor to organize and keep constantly in camp two Regiments ready for the service of the General Government when called for. On the passage of this bill I shall at once organize, equip and uniform these two Regiments, and when one is ??? away, shall supply its place with another. It is the intention of this State to furnish no Regiment which is not prepared for service in all particulars, and therefore we furnish them with all camp equipment, baggage trains in addition to the other and ordinary outfit.*

*In the matters of asses we are deficient. Our first Regiment was armed with the plain (???) percussion musket. In the second Reg. one company was armed with Minnie Muskets, and one other with Sharp's rifles (both on the expense of the State) and the remaining companies were furnished with plain percussion muskets.*

*I fill out the blanks which you forwarded.*

*Signed  
N. S. Berry  
Gov. of N.H.*

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<sup>8</sup> The First regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers was organized by the appointment of Hon. Mason W. Tappan of Bradford, ex-member of congress, colonel; Thomas Whipple, Esq. of Laconia, a veteran of the Mexican war, lieutenant colonel; and Aaron F. Stevens, Esq., of Nashua, major. It was organized at Concord and mustered in for three months' service May 1, 1861. Moved to Washington, D.C., May 25-28. Camp at Kalorama Heights until June 10, Assigned to Stone's Brigade, Patterson's Army of the Shenandoah. Rockville Expedition June 10-July 7. Action at Conrad's Ferry June 17. At Poolesville until July 3. Moved to Williamsport, Md., July 3-7; thence to Martinsburg, Va., July 8. Advance toward Winchester July 15-17. Moved to Charlestown July 18; to Harper's Ferry July 21, and to Sandy Hook July 28. Ordered to New Hampshire August 2, and mustered out August 9, 1861, expiration of term 9 Organized at Portsmouth May 31 to June 8, 1861. Moved to Washington, D.C., June 20-23, and duty there until July 16. Attached to Burnside's Brigade, Hunter's Division, McDowell's Army of Northeastern Virginia, to August, 1861. Hooker's Brigade, Division of the Potomac, to October, 1861. 1st Brigade, Hooker's Division, Army of the Potomac, to March, 1862. 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 3rd Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, to February, 1863. New Hampshire, Dept. of the East, to June, 1863. 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 3rd Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, to July, 1863. Marston's Command, Point Lookout, Md., District of Saint Marys, to April, 1864. 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 18th Army Corps, Army of the James, Dept. of Virginia and North Carolina, to June, 1864. Provost Guard, 18th Army Corps, to August, 1864. 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 18th Army Corps, to October, 1864. 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, 18th Army Corps, to December, 1864. 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 24th Army Corps, to June, 1865.

Berry was reelected in 1862, (again over George Stark) and his efforts were all associated with war needs. His government enlisted and equipped fifteen infantry regiments, three companies of sharpshooters, four companies of cavalry and one company of heavy artillery.

In the summer of 1862 there was an evident a shortage of manpower to win the War. Federal troops had been stalemated in fierce combat along the Virginia peninsula, south of Richmond. The war was more than a year old, and the Confederacy apparently was stronger than ever, and northern morale plunged. President Lincoln, who wanted more troops, worried that the country would not support a call for more volunteers. The Union Army had suffered a series of defeats in Virginia, raising fears in the North. Enlistments had slowed, and the threat of a draft was very real. Lincoln sent Secretary of State William Seward to New York City in late June 1862 to meet with New York Governor Edwin Morgan and discuss the situation with other governors over the telegraph.

Seward read a letter from the president claiming that 100,000 more troops would “substantially end the war.” “I would publicly appeal to the country for this new force,” Lincoln claimed, “were it not that I fear a general panic and stampede would follow.” A heated exchange of telegrams followed. The president eventually decided to call for 300,000 additional volunteers. But the experience was frustrating for everyone and when Union forces continued to suffer reversals, there was a growing sense of panic.

As a result in July 1862 the following letter was penned by Berry and other Governors to President Lincoln.

A. LINCOLN.

*CALL FOR 300,000 VOLUNTEERS, JULY 1, 1862.*

*June 28, 1862.*

*The undersigned, governors of States of the Union, impressed with the belief that the citizens of the States which they respectively represent are of one accord in the hearty desire that the recent successes of the Federal arms may be followed up by measures which must insure the speedy restoration of the Union, and believing that, in view of the present state of the important military movements now in progress, and the reduced condition of our effective forces in the field, resulting from the usual and unavoidable casualties in the service, the time has arrived for prompt and vigorous measures to be adopted by the people in support of the great interests committed to your charge, respectfully request, if it meets with your entire approval, that you at once call upon the several States for such number of men as may be required to fill up all military organizations now in the field, and add to the armies heretofore organized such additional number of men as may, in your judgment, be necessary to garrison and hold all the numerous cities and military positions that have been captured by our armies, and to speedily crush the rebellion that still exists in several of the Southern States, thus practically restoring to the civilized world our great and good government.*

*All believe that the decisive moment is near at hand, and to that end the people of the United States are desirous to aid promptly in furnishing all reinforcements that you may deem needful to sustain our government.*

*ISRAEL WASHBURN, JR., Governor of Maine. N. S. BERRY, Governor of New Hampshire. FREDERICK HOLBROOK, Governor of Vermont. WILLIAM A. BUCKINGHAM, Governor of Connecticut. E. D. MORGAN, Governor of New York. CHARLES S. OLDEN, Governor of New Jersey. A. G. CURTIN, Governor of Pennsylvania. A. W. BRADFORD, Governor of Maryland. F. H. PIERPOINT, Governor of Virginia. AUSTIN BLAIR, Governor of Michigan. J. B. TEMPLE, President Military Board of Kentucky. ANDREW JOHNSON, Governor of Tennessee. H. R. GAMBLE, Governor of Missouri. O. P. MORTON, Governor of Indiana. DAVID TODD, Governor of Ohio. ALEXANDER RAMSEY, Governor of Minnesota. RICHARD YATES, Governor of Illinois. EDWARD SALOMON, Governor of Wisconsin.*

The President responded with a letter:

*THE PRESIDENT*

*EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, July 1, 1862*

*GENTLEMEN:--Fully concurring in the wisdom of the views expressed to me in so patriotic a manner by you, in the communication of the twenty-eighth day of June, I have decided to call into the service an additional force of 300,000 men. I suggest and recommend that the troops should be chiefly of infantry. The quota of your State would be \_\_\_\_\_. I trust that they may be enrolled without delay, so as to bring this unnecessary and injurious civil war to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion. An order fixing the quotas of the respective States will be issued by the War Department to-morrow.*

*ABRAHAM LINCOLN.*

Governor Berry led twenty-two governors in support of the war, delivering their joint address to President Lincoln at the Altoona, PA Conference of 1862. It was a memorable meeting in the old Logan House, in Altoona, Pennsylvania. There were Berry, of New Hampshire; Curtin, of Pennsylvania; Todd, of Ohio; Andrew, of Massachusetts; Washburn, of Maine; Yates, of Illinois; Kirkwood, of Iowa; Sprague, of Rhode Island; Pierpont, of Virginia; Buckingham, of Connecticut; Solomon, of Wisconsin; Morton, of Indiana; Blair, of Michigan; and Olden, of New Jersey.

Prior to the meeting, the pace of the war had quickened. Union forces had stopped the Confederate invasion of Maryland at the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862. President Lincoln had then issued a Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, vowing to free any slaves still held by Rebels as of January 1, 1863.

These events dominated the meeting. The governors discussed emancipation at length. Most of them supported the policy. A statement was prepared which was signed by most of the governors, which endorsed emancipation and called on the president to raise even more troops for the war effort. Such a public statement of support for Lincoln's controversial emancipation policy helped reassure the president that he had made the correct choice on a tough political issue.

No minutes or transcriptions exist of the September 24, 1862 meeting at the Logan House, but some of the participants took notes and later wrote recollections of the event.

The conference called for a large increase in the army, and strongly endorsed the emancipation proclamation. The proclamation to the President was written by Governors Curtin and Andrew, and was to be delivered by Governor Berry. After its adoption it was determined that the governors should call upon the President in person to give the greatest possible effect to their action. On September 26, 1862, twelve of the governors met with the president at the White House, where Governor Berry as spokesman read the proclamation and described the results of their discussions to him.

The President's reply was brief, and consisted of thanks to the Governors for all they had done and for all they had promised to do to help the General Government in this great crisis. As to the proclamation, he said no fact had assured him so thoroughly of the justice of the conclusion at which he had arrived as that the Executives of the loyal States gave it their hearty approbation. As to the suggestions which they had made in the address just read, he was grateful for them all, but at that moment he would not answer them specifically, although he could say that he would give them his most favorable consideration, and believed he should carry most if not all of them out, so far as possible.

Thus the Altoona Conference was, next to the Proclamation of Emancipation, the most decisive civil event of the war. It aroused the latent fires of the Union and gave new strength and hope to our brave soldiers in the field.

During the War, Berry did much besides recruit soldiers. He also formed what is today one of the oldest Army Bands, the Never's Band. Founded during the Civil War as part of a Third New Hampshire Regiment, Nevers' Band is one of the oldest continuing musical organizations in New Hampshire and one of the oldest bands in America. Though originally a



Third New Hampshire Regiment Band,  
Hilton Head, South Carolina. February 28, 1862

24-member, nearly all-brass band typical of mid-19th century ensembles, it has evolved since into a slightly larger organization of standard, modern concert band instrumentation. New Hampshire Governor Nathaniel Berry established the band as part of the Third New Hampshire Regiment on July 31, 1861, by an executive order

to Gustavus W. Ingalls of Concord. Upon its formation, the Third Regiment Band was sent promptly to participate in the siege of Charleston harbor at Hilton Head, South Carolina, but did not remain long. Following a War Department order discontinuing all but brigade bands in 1862, Ingalls and his musicians had to return to New Hampshire.

Berry did not run for reelection in 1863. The reasons are unclear and he never gave a reason. Politically Mr. Berry was highly respected for his honesty. He was known for many years as "Honest Tanner Berry of Hebron."

He was noted for the same scrupulous honesty in public affairs as in his private business and in an address before the State Prohibition Convention in 1888 he stated he had never asked a man to vote for him or written a letter to secure the influence of any man on his behalf. For nearly three fourths of as century he was "an aggressive champion of the temperance cause."<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Robinson, pp 303



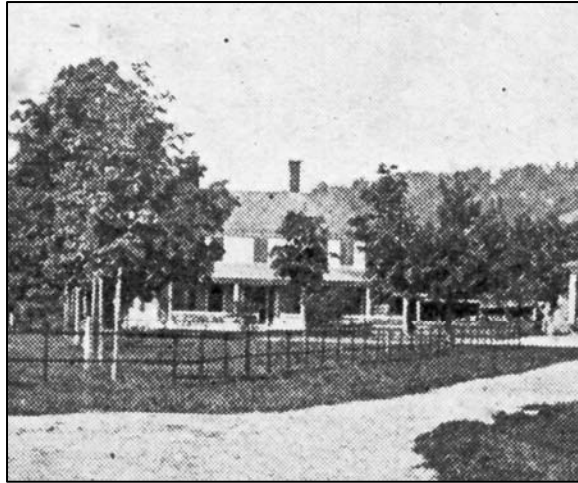
In 1858 West Shore Road built around the west side road of Newfound Lake was started, but it didn't extend to Hebron. When Berry took office in 1861 he ordered the completion of the road to Hebron by blasting the front off of the "Ledges." In fact the whole face of the Ledges was blasted off and dumped into the lake to form the road bed for West Shore Road. Before West Shore Road the only way to Hebron from the south was via Alexandria over "Old Hebron Road" that ran behind Sugar Loaf and came into Hebron at what today is Bear Mountain Road. By completing the road around the west side of the lake the Governor could reach his home in Hebron from Bristol much more quickly.

There are several storied about Governor Berry, one is quoted in Edward Howe Forbush's Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States: "*Mr. C.W. Vibert relates that a small boy wandering about in a tobacco field was attacked by a Ruffed Grouse. The men in the field heard the boy cry out in fear and looked up to see him running wildly across lots, 'yelling at the top of his voice' with the old grouse at his heels. The venerable Governor N.S. Berry of Hebron New Hampshire 1861-63, used to tell a similar story of some little boys in New Hampshire who came out of the woods once with a terrible tale of the awful creature that had suddenly attacked them. An investigation revealed a 'hen partridge' and her chicks.*"

His house sat between today's Hebron Village Store and the old firehouse. In the picture below his house is the middle building just right of the center of the photo.



A close up of Berry's house is below. A close up of Berry's house is below. The house became the "Central House" hotel in 1900 owned by Cyrus Moore. Cyrus's son, Albert, ran it as the "Cherrycroft House." It burnt in May, 1938 when a car tire innertube was thrown into a burning fireplace to heat the house. Following that are two versions of the 1860 map of central Hebron. They show the location of Governor Berry's house and tannery. It is due to his tannery that Tannery Brook in Hebron is so named.



# HEBRON

5 10 20 40 60 80 rods

Scale 60 rods to an inch.

E. Noyes

E. N. Colburn

W. W. Hazelton

J. E. Jewett

Hazelton Brook

Cockermouth River

L. W. Hammond

J. C. Hammond

J. S. Adams

J. March

T. P. Nutting

C. W. Powers

Tailors Shop

B. S. Shop

E. B. Rogers

Parsonage

Rev. L. Conant

Union Church

Judge Berry

Hazelton & Jaques

Store & Post Office

D. Hazelton

A. E. Jaques

S. G. & K. A. & I. L. Noyes

W. Clement

Hebron Academy

Mrs. Crosby

School

T. P. Nutting

N. Woodbury

J. D. Kimball

U. Pike

Wid. E. Ferrin

Judge Berry

Shoe Shop

T. E. Osgood

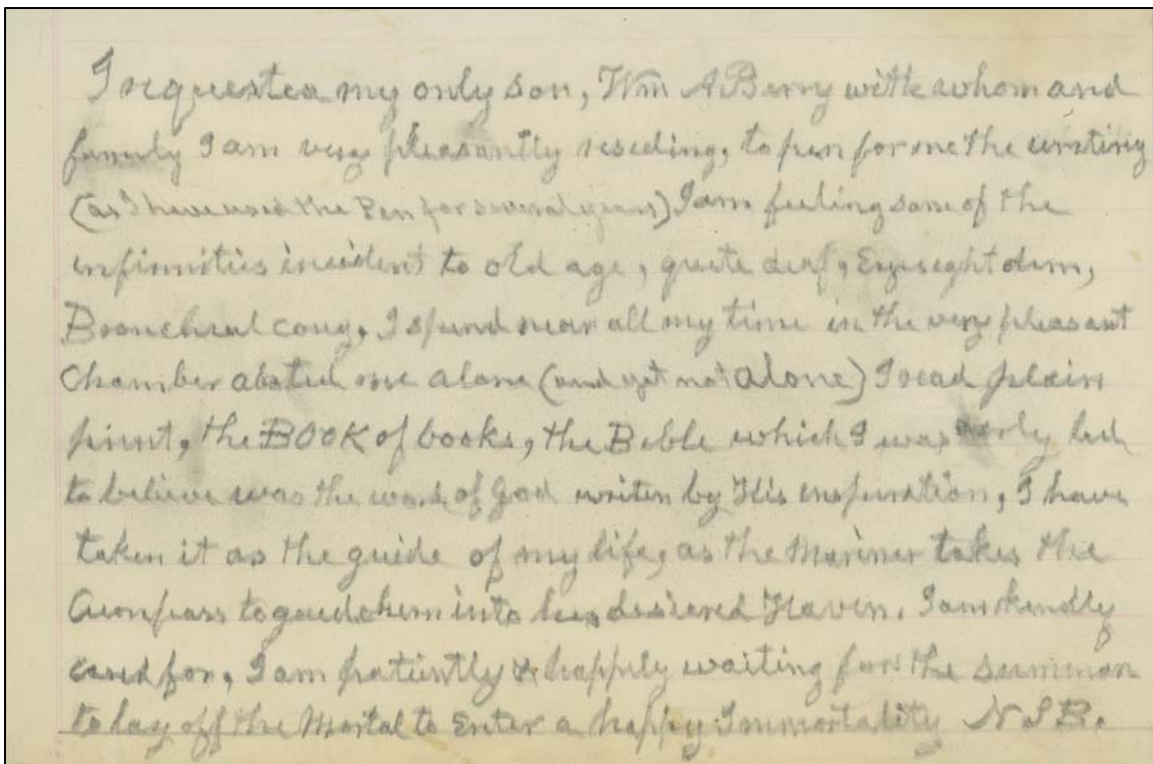
H. Ranlet

I. B. & S. Pierce

After serving as Governor, Berry spent some months in Andover, MA with his wife's family and with his daughter in Milwaukee, Wisconsin before returning to Hebron. Nathaniel Berry left Hebron in 1888 at the age of 91 and spent the last years of his life in Bristol with the family of his son William Augustus Berry. While at his son's home he answered a letter from Isaac Roland of Freeport, Illinois concerning details of his life. The letter reads:

"...I was born in Bath, Me. September first 1796... in Bath learned the Tanner & Currier trade, and in 1818 came to this place where the most of my active business life has been spent. I was elected to... the State Legislature in 1828, and several years thereafter...[to] the State Senate for two years... afterwards appointed one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in this County. Was a member of the National Convention held in Baltimore in 1840... Judge of Probate from 1855 to June 1861 when I accepted the office of Governor and was reelected in 1862, two very important and trying years in the History of our Nation and State. And now in the evening of life I have it to say that I have not been an office seeker, having never asked a person for his aid or support in my nomination or election, but have always with feelings of gratitude to my friends for the confidence placed in me, sought to be true to the oath taken as I accepted the office. I am quite comfortable for a person of my age, able to go out in pleasant weather and to spend much of (my) time in clear daylight in reading."

In his postscript, Berry explains that the two pages of the letter were penned by "my only son, Wm- A. Berry with whom and family I am very pleasantly residing... I have [not ] used the Pen for several years. . . am feeling some of the infirmities incident to old age, quite deaf, eyesight dim, Bronchial cough[h], I spend near all my time in the very pleasant chamber allotted me alone (and yet not alone). I read plain print, the BOOK of books, the Bible which I was early led to believe was the word of God written by His inspiration, I have taken it as the guide of my life, as the mariner takes the compass to guide him into his desired Haven. I am kindly cared for, I am patiently & happily waiting for the summons to lay off the mortal to enter a happy Immortality."



I requested my only son, Wm A Berry with whom and family I am very pleasantly residing, to pen for me the writing (as I have used the Pen for several years) I am feeling some of the infirmities incident to old age, quite deaf, Eyesight dim, Bronchial cough, I spend near all my time in the very pleasant Chamber allotted me alone (and yet not alone) I read plain print, the BOOK of books, the Bible which I was early led to believe was the word of God written by His inspiration, I have taken it as the guide of my life, as the Mariner takes the Compass to guide them into his desired Haven. I am kindly cared for, I am patiently & happily waiting for the summons to lay off the Mortal to enter a happy Immortality. N B B

In 1894 he was visited by a contingent of VIP well wishers. *“It was a great pleasure to the writer to be somewhat instrumental in arranging a pilgrimage to the beautiful town of Bristol, on the first day of September, to pay a tribute of respect to the venerable ex-governor on his ninety-seventh birthday. Many distinguished men, among whom were His Excellency Governor John B. Smith, ex-Governors Frederick Smyth and David H. Goodell, ex-Congressman Warren F. Daniell, Col. Peter Sanborn, Hon. Ezra S. Stearns, the venerable Prof. John W. Merrill, Hon. Joseph B. Walker, Hon. John D. Lyman, Col: Daniel Hall, and many others gladly embraced the opportunity to personally greet the noble old man whom all delight to honor. Several telegrams were received during the day from those who hoped to be present but were at the last moment prevented, sending cordial greeting and congratulations on the happy event. Among these were ex-Governors Person C. Cheney and Charles H. Sawyer, Hon. Allen Tenney and Hon. N. B. Bryant. Letters of regret at their inability to be present, and expressing their: admiration for the venerable ex-Governor, were received from ex-Governors Bell, Weston, Currier, Prescott, and Tuttle, Chief-Justice Doe, Hon. A. S. Batchellor, and many other leading citizens.*

*We found Governor Berry enjoying the best of health, happy and contented. He considers his labors on earth well completed, and is simply waiting the summons of his Master to come up higher, though to all appearances he may live to become a centenarian. Some of the party were obliged to return on the first train, and therefore repaired at once to his residence, and had a brief interview, but those who remained passed a delightful hour in his company in the afternoon. The governor entertained his friends with many incidents of his long life, and astonished all by his remarkable memory. He sang a favorite sacred song, and the Rev. Prof. J. W. Merrill, who is eighty-five years old, recited an original poem. After a hearty handshaking by all, and a God bless your to all by the patriarch, the visitors retired, greatly pleased with their delightful interview. It has since been ascertained that the governor greatly enjoyed the day, that its excitements”<sup>11</sup>*

He died in 1894 at the good age of 97 years.

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<sup>11</sup> Robinson pp 304.

Bristol N.H. April 30<sup>th</sup> 1892

Esau R. Roland Esq

Freeport Ills -

Dear Sir In compliance with your request by letter of the 22<sup>d</sup> will say that I was born in Bath Me. September first 1796. in 1809 I removed to this State, and in Bath learned the Farmer and Carriage Trade, and in 1818 came to this place where the most of my active business life has been spent, I was elected to the office of Representative in the State Legislature in 1828, and several years thereafter, a member of the State Senate for two years, was afterwards appointed one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in this County, was a member of the National Convention held in Baltimore in 1840, held the Office as Judge of Probate from 1855 to June 1861, when I accepted the office

of Governor and was reelected in 1862, two very important and trying years in the history of our Nation and State. And now in the evening of life I have it to say that I have not been an office seeker, having never asked a person for his aid or support in my nomination or election. but have always with feelings of gratitude to my friends for the confidence placed in me, sought to be true to the oath taken as I accepted the office.

I am quite comfortable for a person of my age able to go out in pleasant weather and to spend much of time in clear daylight in reading.

I am very truly Yours  
Nathaniel Springer Berry  
My usual signature N. S. Berry.