



NOW!

298 Sewall Street

In 1828 Simeon Partridge, age 29 years, purchased from Joseph Flagg 206 acres of land, known as the Abel-Osgood property which included a home that was originally built in 1785. Simeon and his family operated it as the Sewall Pond Farm. Between 1840-1850 he built this new home (298 Sewall Street) as well as a new barn on the property. The south road to Shrewsbury and Worcester ran through the farm from the north to south dividing it into two nearly easterly and westerly sections. The buildings and this house were on the westerly side and the large barn was on the easterly side of the road. Simeon continued to farm and expanded his operation to become the only Boylston coke dealer by using the oak taken from the 1785 Osgood house to make oak lump coke (charcoal). By 1860, he had 113 acres in improved farmland, 67 acres of unimproved land, a house, a barn and other buildings as well as one horse, 7 milch cows, 6 oxen, 4 other cattle, and 4 swine. In addition to the livestock dairy contributions, his farm produced 50 bushels of Irish potatoes, 400 lbs. butter, 17 tons of hay, 8 bushels of rye, 140 bushels of Indian corn, 125 bushels of oats, orchard products valued at \$90, and livestock which had been slaughtered valued at \$278. Based on tax records, he was one of the more prominent farmers in the Town of Boylston.

Simeon served as a Deacon in the Congregational Church of Boylston from 1844 to 1865. His only son, John William Partridge, a school teacher from Boylston and West Boylston, served as a private for the Signal Corps during the Civil War when he was captured during the brutal attack on Bachelor Creek and would subsequently die of neglect as a prisoner of war in the infamous Confederate Andersonville Prison. Over 100 letters of John W. Partridge were written to his family. These letters are currently held in the Boylston Historical Society Special Collections. Even before the town officially began its celebration of Decoration Day (Memorial Day) his stepmother, Mrs. Simeon Partridge (Sarah G. Hartshorn) is attributed as the first person to honor our military veterans by decorating their graves.

Simeon would die in 1866 and the farm and its land would change ownership over the years. From 1929-1946, what had been known previously as the Sewall Pond Farm of Deacon Simeon Partridge, was run as "*Bright-side*" by a madam and for a time this farm house even doubled as a "*Speak-easy*" during the Prohibition era. Today it serves as a private home in the quiet rural town of Boylston, Massachusetts.