



Detail from 1892 Map of Canterbury and Plainfield, showing Packerville.

"The Old Mill Wheel at Packerville, Conn." copy of an old postcard of the ruins of the wooden textile mill.

Canterbury Historical Society



The Old Mill Wheel at Packerville, Conn.

Walking Weekend is organized by the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., and the Northeast Connecticut Visitors District. Special thanks to all those people who helped make this event possible.



**THE PLAINFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 104 Central Village, Connecticut 06332

**THE CANTERBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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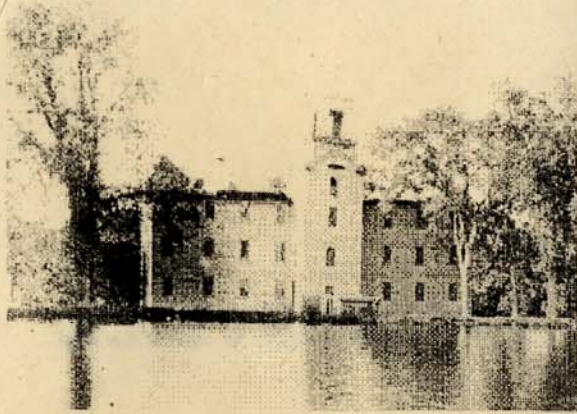
**TOWN OF PLAINFIELD,  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Town Hall, 8 Community Av., Plainfield, CT 06374

## PACKERVILLE

### "The Forgotten Village"



1895 view of Packerville Baptist Church built 1829, and Chapel built 1875. Church destroyed by fire after being struck by lightning in 1921; rebuilt 1955. Canterbury Historical Society



Copy of an early 1900's photo of the wooden textile mill located on the Canterbury/Plainfield town line.  
Canterbury Historical Society

#### PACKERVILLE TIME LINE

**1810** Abel Andrus bought land from Joseph and Stephen Farnham and formed the Andrus Manufacturing Company with a consortium of men: Benjamin Andrus, Thomas Gibbs, Andrew Gibbs, Levi Robinson, Joseph Hutchins, and Stephen Farnham from Plainfield; Titus Adams, John Baldwin, and Joseph Farnham from Canterbury; and Charles Townsend of Newport.

Thomas Gibbs, a noted architect, probably designed and supervised the building of the 3-story wooden textile mill.

**1818** Daniel Packer of North Stonington and Joseph Lester of Groton bought out the Andrus Manufacturing Company. Seven years later Lester sold his shares to Daniel Packer.

**1829** Daniel Packer was so disturbed by the evil temperament within the community that he procured the services of a young Baptist minister, Levi Kneeland, from New York.

Joseph Farnham gave land for a church and burying ground; Daniel Packer built the Packer Baptist Church.

**1832** Daniel Packer enlarged his cotton textile business by building a 3-story granite textile mill in the Canterbury section of Packerville.

**1833** The Packer Baptist Church opened their doors to Prudence Crandall and her "colored" students where they could worship freely and without prejudice.

**1834** Rev. Kneeland died of Typhus on Aug. 22.

**1837** Daniel Packer finished the building of the Parsonage.

**1838** Daniel Packer died on Jan. 9. At the time of his death he left an estate valued at \$70,000 including 300 acres, 2 mills, 14 dwelling houses, a grist mill, blacksmith shop, store, and many other buildings. His sons, Stephen and Daniel, Jr. continued the business. Later they leased out the mills to various companies.

**1875** The parishioners of the Packerville Baptist Church built a small chapel.

**1876** Elisha Packer, Daniel's youngest son, formed the Packer Manufacturing Company and remained its president until his death in 1904.

**1886** Nathaniel Olin, mason, and Isaac Baldwin, surveying engineer, built the stone arch bridge over Mill Brook.

**1904** George Bramwell of New York took over the presidency of the Packer Manufacturing Company and in 1915, along with William Bramwell, bought out the rest of the stock holders to gain control. They, too, leased the mill and buildings to various concerns such as the Lawton Mills of Plainfield who made filter beds there in 1921.

**1921** The copper-covered dome was struck by lightning and the whole Church was destroyed by the resulting fire. The Chapel was now used as the Church until 1955 when ground was broken for the present Church.

**1945** George Bramwell died and William Bramwell began to sell off the land and buildings to various people in 1954 and 1955. In the 1960s the once proud granite mill was torn down.



View looking east (toward Plainfield) showing the 1832 stone textile mill.

Canterbury Historical Society

#### *For Further Information:*

Historic Resource Survey of Plainfield, CT., Phase II Areas Outside the Villages, Historic Resource Consultants, 1987

Historic Resource Survey of Canterbury Center, Packerville, and Rt. 169, Historic Resource Consultants, Inc. 1992.

Local History Resources in Northeastern CT, brochure, 1992, Association of Northeastern CT Historical Societies, Inc., P.O. Box 104, Central Village, CT 06332

Connecticut's Historic Highway Bridges, CT DOT, Bruce Courete and Matthew Roth, 1991

National Register of Historic Places, Packerville Bridge, Plainfield CT, Historic Resource Consultants, 1992

Mill, by David Macaulay, Houghton Mifflin Co. 1983