



DEAR FRIEND:—Elisha Ware's pond was formed by a dam at Avery St., which when desired held the water back and flooded the cranberry meadow, its natural bed, and protected the vines from the frosts of winter. The brook outlet of this pond crosses Avery St. about eight hundred feet west of the Elisha Ware house. There is scarcely a trace left now of the little dilapidated water mill, which forty years ago stood at this point, and was an object of great interest to the writer in his boyhood days. It was on the south line of the road. The water wheel was a "breat" wheel, about three feet long by four feet in diameter, as I recollect it. At this time it was used only to turn a grindstone, with which the sturdy yeomen sharpened their scythes and axes. The flume and raceway crossed the road, and was covered with flat stones. From the little water mill the brook skirted the east edge of "Dirty Brook Plain" (so called in a deed executed in 1774 by Elisha Ware and now in my possession) in a southerly and easterly direction by the old *Mans* homestead, where you were born, and there emptied into your ancestors' pond, which from the time of Moses Mann has been used to operate the family saw mill.

A few hundred feet east of the site of the little water mill on Avery St. is a very old well. It is located exactly on the south line of the road, a gap in the wall being left to fit the well. Exactly opposite the well, on the north side of the road, may be seen the foundations of the house built by Ebenezer Ware (b. 1677-8; d. 1750), the father of Elisha Ware. Ebenezer Ware was born in Dedham and moved to Wrentham about 1700, where all his children were born. A few hundred feet farther east stands the house now known as the Elisha Ware house, probably built by his father Ebenezer, to replace the smaller one first built when he came to Wrentham as a pioneer. The Elisha Ware house, in which also your mother was born, is a large and well built structure, constructed in accordance with the best practice of those early days, with large chimney stack, two cellars and plenty of attic room. It was, of course, celled throughout with beautiful wide white pine boards, and its numerous small windows have inside horizontally sliding shutters, which when closed bid defiance to the cold winter blasts of old Boreas. Although most of the frame is of hewed oak, I have discovered saved oak plates on the west side, which I think may have been put in when perhaps the house was added to at a later period. The window sash were all modernized about twenty-five years ago, taking away a quaint diamond shaped sash with glass set in lead mullions, that used to be visible to the passer by on Avery St.

The old bath, though badly decayed, displays some curious styles of framing well executed in oak, and the two wells, with well sweeps, would be highly valued in some less favored localities, could they with their contents be transported thither intact.

The Elisha Ware house is now owned by my brother, Mr. Robert A. Ware of Boston, a lineal descendant of the original owner.

Sincerely yours,

LYMAN E. WARE.

OMAHA, NEBR., AUG. 27, 1896.

To Mr. FRANKLIN W. MANN,
Milford, Mass.