

Platter Returned to Hollis Church

Used in Rites 227 Years Ago

Hollis, April 8 — A pewter communion platter used 227 years in the ordination of the first minister in Hollis was returned to the church yesterday. Mrs Lulu Bancroft of Pepperell gave the platter to the present and 17th minister Rev Seth W. Newton.

It was used in the church for the ordination of Rev Daniel Emerson April 20, 1743, and has been in Mrs Bancroft's family.

The gift was given during an all day meeting of the Ladies Reading and Charitable society.

Mrs Bancroft was 90 last month. The geneology records read that her background is traced to Jonathan Lovejoy who was born in Andover, Mass in 1719 and came to Hollis April 20, 1743—the day Rev Emerson was ordained.

Jonathan Lovejoy was the 13th family to settle in Hollis by a grant from the Indians. He is buried in the Hollis churchyard.

The fourth generation of Jonathan's family, Sarah Lovejoy, left the communion platter to her daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, born in 1847 and who married John Smith. She was the mother of Lulu Grace Smith Bancroft.

Mrs Bancroft read from the back of a family photograph of the Lovejoy Homestead in Hollis in reference to her great grandfather, Ralph Lovejoy, as follows: "Ralph Lovejoy had the first cook stove and painted floor in Hollis and was thought to be an extravagant man but when he built a coach and painted it yellow and took his family to church in it behind two horses they were sure of it."



(Telegraphphoto)

An ancient pewter communion platter, first used when Rev Daniel Emerson of the Hollis Congregational Church was ordained on April 20, 1743, is presented to the Hollis Church by Mrs Lulu Bancroft of Pepperell, Mass, during ceremonies yesterday afternoon.

Accepting the platter is Rev Seth W. Newton, pastor of the church.