



On October 7, 1912, a woman named Carrie posted a card from the post office in Keene, to a cousin in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Postage one penny. The card's face featured a small crowd gathered about Roxbury's original meeting house, built in 1803, later become a church. Men are dressed in jackets and ties, women in dresses. Everyone, men and women, wear hats.



On the back of the card, in beautiful handwriting, a short note. "This picture was taken at the Centennial celebration of the town of Roxbury and is the same church your ancestors attended. Do not know what will be done with the old Nye Farm. Fine weather."

Through the course of the century that followed Cassie's card, a succession of owners doggedly preserved Nye Farm's spanses of open space and woodlands. The decade after that has been spent restoring its orchards, pastures and fields, and today Nye Hill has reclaimed its place in the farming community of Cheshire County, and its place in the community of Roxbury itself.

Now certified Organic by the United States Department of Agriculture, Nye Hill strictly avoids chemical pesticides and herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers. The farm's horses, sheep, llamas and other ruminants ensure the fertility of its fields. As part of the National Organic Program, the farm fully embraces the call to protect natural resources and preserve native habitats. Honey bee hives and Mason bee houses sit aside blueberry fields and fruit trees everywhere. The farm purposefully creates and protects monarch butterfly habitats throughout the grounds. Monarch Watch, the international conservation organization that monitors the treasured species' migration through North America, has formally designated Nye Hill a monarch way-station. The butterflies, bees and other pollinators ensure the farm's productivity.

Nye Hill now boasts the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture's Seal of Quality for its maple syrup and candy, apples, apple cider and honey. Highly regarded amongst New Hampshire's farmers, the seal is strictly regulated by the state, and Nye Hill is proud to have earned it.

While these certifications and recognitions are important testimonies to the farm's success in meeting the highest standards of responsible stewardship, just as important is the farm's success in contributing to the sense of community in Roxbury.

In December the past year, Monadnock Table Magazine wrote glowingly of our town, where "the tone is welcoming, and the emphasis on community is apparent, particularly when it comes to Monday night farm stand meet ups at the Town Hall." What Nye Hill started a few years ago, a small folding table offering fresh produce outside town hall, is now much more. It's folks stopping to say hello, catch up a bit and enjoy the atmosphere of a true meeting house. Conversation, camaraderie, sometimes even commiseration. Part and parcel with the beautiful physical restoration of Roxbury's Meeting House, the communal restoration of that place shines, and the farm is a piece of that. Nye Hill nestles peacefully in this small town, soft-spoken but not still. And not shy.

A bit back, New Hampshire Magazine began its "discovery of Monadnock breweries with a tour of Nye Hill Farm in the beautiful countryside of Roxbury." On "a backroads quest for the best handcrafted, truly New Hampshire beer", the Magazine found what it was looking for right here, on this farm, in this town. Brewing "really excellent beer on the second level of a three-story barn overlooking the farm's spectacular pastures", the brewers of Nye Hill have garnered acclaim for their craft, and admiration for the town in which they practice it. While the brewery is not the tavern that once sat a ways up on Middletown Road not far from the 1803 meeting house, both now gone, it does win Keene's Wyman Tavern Brew Fest year in and year out, and is today a quietly welcoming spot for folks to gather with friends and neighbors.

So, that's what's been done with the old Nye Farm. Or better put, that's what the old Nye Farm continues to do. Farm. For the good of the land and for the good of the community. In any weather.