

### Monks Hill.

Should be called Monts Hill as in early records. It was named that at a very early date, but ignorance of the real name has caused it to be corrupted to Monks or Munks Hill. Darby Plain, early granted to Richard Derby (pronounced Darby) was known as Monts Hill Chase after a place in old England.

The hill was used as a signal place in early days. Where the observatory or fire-tower now stands, there used to be a huge iron basket or group of baskets, which were kept filled with pine knots and other inflammable material, and ~~where there was~~ <sup>from which</sup> kept a constant watch day and night in time of war or threat of war. When an enemy ship was sighted off the Cape, the signals ran from Scargo Hill <sup>to Monts Hill,</sup> to the Blue Hills, Wachusett, Monadnock and the Berkshires. When an important battle was fought, the news was spread in this rapid way by a pre-arranged system of signals. Orders for the quick mobilization of the militia or of fighting craft, were sent all over the region. Confirmation by messenger might follow, but by the time he arrived, the troops or the ships were all ready for their orders, and much valuable time was saved. Some of you who saw the movie "David Copperfield" may remember the huge beacon which was shown the stormy night of the wreck. That was the type of beacon used. Beacon Hill in Boston got its name <sup>from</sup> the beacon there. <sup>on the beacon</sup> They selected hills, high spots which <sup>from</sup> ~~would send~~ <sup>could be sent</sup> the message as far as possible, each place selected for its range in connection with other more distant regions, in order to make the system effective.

Monts Hill and Smelt Pond were favorite picnic spots in earlier days just as the Gurnet used to be. It seems a pity for so beautiful a spot to be so little known. Some fifteen years ago, filled with the beauty of NewHampshire, Vermont and other New England states and jealous for the reputation of my own town, which had just as much beauty as many of the others, I succeeded in introducing into the Club an Outing Department, the idea being to acquaint the members and the towns people with our

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beauty spots. We arranged for a series of picnics at these places, and it rained every time. We were fortunate in having Mr. William O'Erien as chairman of the Outing Committee and he brushed and marked the trail to Smelt Pond and Monks Hill from the Trow neighborhood. Then the gypsy moths started their ravages, it was not desirable to be in the woods, nothing more was done, and we were where we started.

It is a place we all should know. For beauty of situation and outlook, it is unexcelled. I hope you will be glad we placed Monks Hill on our picnic program for 1939.