



**“Uncle” Seth Washburn Jr.  
(1769–1860)**

“Uncle” Seth was the son of Seth and Fear (Howard) Washburn of Kingston and brother of Captain Ichabod Washburn who built the Coar House on Summer Street. Seth Jr. was born in 1769; in 1792 he married Sarah, daughter of John Adams, the old sheriff and not the future president, and he and Sarah had twin daughters, Hannah and Judith. Washburn was also the grandfather of Walter H. Faunce.

Washburn lived in a house built by or for William Bradford, brother of Major John Bradford before 1687 and removed when Evergreen Street was laid out. Washburn was an ironworker and he had a little shop with a hand forge, close to the brook on the

southwest side of the highway (Summer Street) where he did all kinds of blacksmithing. In 1805, he and Deacon Seth Drew started an auger works called the Stony Brook Iron Works, later known as “Drews”. After his death, Washburn’s little shop by the brook was moved to Evergreen Street and used by Mr. Frank Holmes as a horse shed.

Washburn was a great joker and spinner of yarns. He joked about his private railroad, “right from his bedroom window to Boston,” so closely did the railroad run to his house. The town’s residents often called the older men of the community, who were beloved and inspired respect in their daily lives, “Uncle” – so was the case with “Uncle” Seth Washburn Jr.