

WENTWORTH HOME

VERY COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT LIVING

The History of Wentworth Home

Wentworth Home has a long history connected to the generous citizens of the local community. In 1883 Everett Foss first incorporated "The Dover Home for Aged Women" with an act from the New Hampshire Legislature. A few years later, on Christmas Day, members of the Bachelor's Club and friends each contributed one dollar and established the initial fund of the Home. In 1897, Arioch Wentworth, a successful Boston businessman who was born and raised in Rollinsford, NH, donated \$10,000. A Board of Officers were elected and building construction soon began on a piece of land donated by Harrison Haley, at the foot of Garrison Hill. Construction was completed in 1898 for a total cost of \$9,811. There were a total of 25 "member" rooms.

The building was furnished with donations from the community of Dover. Upon completion a celebration was held with Arioch Wentworth in attendance. At this celebration he donated another \$20,000 for the operation of the Home.

The first "members", both men and women, moved into the Home in 1898. A twenty member Board of Trustees, an Executive Committee of one hundred, and a Board of Managers were established to oversee the operation of the Home.

"Annual Donation Day" was inaugurated in 1898. This proved to be a largely attended event generously supported with contributions of cash, groceries, provisions and supplies of many varieties. "Donation Day" was observed for many years with an annual Open House.

In 1899 the philanthropic Mr. Wentworth bestowed another gift of \$70,000, followed by an additional bequest of \$100,000 upon his death in 1903. It was at this time the name was officially changed to "Wentworth Home for the Aged". Arioch Wentworth was also a generous benefactor of Wentworth Hospital in Dover, NH, and the Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston, MA.

In 1904 an annex was added to the north side of the building including a new laundry, drying room, "infirmarium" rooms, and an extensive enlargement to the dining room. The expansion allowed for the care of fifteen additional members.

Harry Gage visited his aunt, Lydia Gage Watson, at the Wentworth Home. Lydia was a member of the Home for 24 years and Harry was so greatly impressed with the care of his Aunt Lydia that he left a generous bequest at his death. This bequest allowed an addition of eight resident rooms and a large function room, named in his honor, was completed in 1968.

Wentworth Home was established through these generous donations. We continue to operate as a non-profit Retirement Home and strive to manage our Endowment Fund carefully to offer the very best assisted living home at the very best value in the area.

We now offer independent, assisted and added care in our beautifully renovated Victorian home with assistance tailored to the individual's needs. We also offer respite care and short-term stays. Our changes continue a long tradition of meeting the needs of seniors in our community.