

*Powder Mills*  
GERRY - Thomas Gerry came to America on a war vessel, on which he served as boatswain~~in~~ sometime in the 17th century and settled in Stoneham; Eldridge Gerry, once governor of Massachusetts, was a descendent; as was Thomas, born in Stoneham, 1732. He was the first settler in the town of Royalston, where he built the first doghouse for another party. David, fourth child of Thomas, was born in Sterling in 1770 and came to Sudbury in 1817. He married Lucy Thompson and they had four children, Thomas, Elizabeth, Charles. He ran the Old Pratt Tavern for five years and then engaged in building business. With his son Charles he built the first span bridge across the Nashua River at Nashua. Charles was a selectman at Sudbury for several years and master builder of the Acton Powder Mills.

PRATT-(page 447-448) Nathan Pratt, one of the founders of the American Powder Company, was a native of Fitchburg, came to Sudbury in <sup>1833</sup>1855 and left the powder business in 1865. Nathan, a nephew of Nathan, was a son of Captain Levi Pratt. He was born in Fitchburg and came to Sudbury in 1849. He was for 21 years in the employ of the American Powder Company, and from 1860 to 1870 was Superintendent of the American Powder Mills. In 1870, he bought the property known as "Moore's Mills" in the west part of Sudbury, consisting of a saw, grist and planing mill. (At time of writing Hudson's "History of Sudbury" in 1889, Mr. Nathan Pratt was still serving as a director of the American Powder Company, Hudson National Bank and Hudson Savings Bank. *Chairman of the selectmen for 1 year.*) From Phalen's "History of Acton", page 140 - Powder Mills founded in 1835. Nathan Pratt had the dam built and operated the mills until 1864. They were then sold to the American Powder Company and merged

with the Massachusetts Powder Mills in Barre, Mass. The business grew and the plant and its storage houses were built closely on land in Sudbury, Concord and what is now Maynard. In 1883, the company became the American Powder Mills, hiring some 60 men to make the powder and collect from the surrounding swamps the willow wood to make prime charcoal.