

Milliken's Tavern



Milliken's Tavern, later known as the Lary homestead

ran Mulberry's Tavern. His grandson, Dr. John Milliken, became a country doctor and a farmer.

Built around 1815, the brick structure that replaced the original tavern provided a stable across the street to accommodate the horses of travelers, carriages, and stagecoaches, as well as oxen used on the family farm and at the mills. The building's bricks were made from clay found near the Stuart's Brook falls and were burned in a kiln. A stone from the gristmill was cut for the steps. The main house had four large rooms upstairs and downstairs, each with huge fireplaces. One of the two large front bedrooms upstairs accommodated women, the other served men. The tavern business began to shrink after the 1840s when the railroad between Portland and Boston began running.

Silas Lary purchased Milliken's Tavern and farm about 1875, but he died two years later, leaving his wife to raise their two small boys, Alfred and Ralph. She had a piece of glass removed from one of the windows so she could point a gun barrel through the hole to scare away intruders. She added a second story to the ell in back of the house when Ralph married. He raised his three children there—Clarence, Leon, and Elinor. Leon married Marguerite Rice, who taught three generations of Scarborough High School students. Clarence and his mother remained in the main house. After her death, Clarence married Jeannette Douglass, and the couple resided in the main house through the 1970s. The house and farm, owned by fourth and fifth generations of the Lary family, is empty. The brick structure is not significantly changed from 1815. The front doorway, adorned with its fan, and the keystone over the millstone steps are silent reminders of times past when visitors flocked to the tavern; the barn and extensive fields are reminders of its days as a thriving family farm.

—Dr. Susan R. Snow

The most graphic and unchanged reminder of Dunstan's tavern days is the Lary home—a distinguished brick structure nearly two hundred years old on Route 1 at the entrance to Scarborough from Saco. From the 1700s, the Millikens ran a tavern, inn, and stable there for weary travelers. The family also ran a large farm and mills along Stuart's Brook, a tributary of Scarborough River running through their property. Captain Mulberry Milliken was in the shipping industry with Richard King. Later his son, Captain Benjamin Milliken,