

increase in size through the years. James H. Stanyan's name would appear on the 1860 map as owner of the property.

For reasons clouded by the passage of time but possibly due to the death of James H. Stanyan the prior year, Newell Stanyan conveyed the same property to Emiline Stanyan<sup>201</sup>, wife of James Stanyan, on December 11, 1865, at which time Newell described the property as "*Also a certain piece of land with the buildings thereon situated in Wentworth and described as follows beginning at a stake and stones on the road leading from the Peters farm so called to Wentworth Village; thence southeasterly on said road fourteen rods to land owned by Elbridge True; thence Northeasterly on said True's land thirty three rods to a stake and stones; thence Northwesterly on land owned by Newell Stanyan sixteen rods to a stake and stones; thence Southwesterly on said Stanyan land thirty four rods to the first mentioned bounds being about three and one eighth acres more or less being the same land that I conveyed by deed dated May 6th 1853 to James H. Stanyan and recorded in Grafton County Registry Liber 252 Fol 578*". The date cited in the deed is in error but correctly given in the prior deed above.

The right of Mark Aiken that follows was not determined. James H. Stanyan died in 1864 at the young age of thirty-two. Emiline A. Stanyan, his wife, died several years later in 1915; she was seventy-nine. Newell Stanyan, the father, died October 9, 1881, at the age of eighty three, and Hannah, his wife died December 15, 1875. All are buried in the Wentworth Village Cemetery. William H. Moore was Administrator of the Estate of Newell Stanyan in 1886, but no conveyance was found for the James H. Stanyan property. The description in the deed that follows is, however, clearly the same parcel. The sale date does not correspond with any other known date.

On March 30, 1874, Mark L. Aiken sold a parcel of land to Joseph F. Harris<sup>202</sup> in which deed Aiken described the property as "*A certain tract of land situated in said Wentworth bounded and described as follows to wit: Commencing at a Stake and stones on the road leading from the Peters Place so called, to Wentworth Village. Thence running Southeasterly on said road fourteen rods to land owned by Elbridge G. True Thence running Northeasterly on said True's land Thirty Three rods to a Stake and Stones, thence running Northwesterly on land owned by Newell Stanyan sixteen rods to a Stake and stones. Thence running Southwesterly on land of said Newell Stanyan Thirty Four rods to the first mentioned bound the same being about Three and one Eighth acres be the same more or less the said Harris is to build and keep in repair the entire fence between the land hereby conveyed and the said Newell Stanyan if any fence is required to be built*".

On July 12, 1887, Joseph F. Harris sold the same three acre parcel that Newell had sold to his son James, now with buildings, to Henry and Zilpah Chase<sup>203</sup> describing the parcel as "*a certain tract or parcel of land situate in said Wentworth and described and bounded as follows, to wit: commencing at a stake and stones standing on the Northerly side of the highway leading from the Peters Farm' so called (now owned by Joel A. Wright) to Wentworth Village; thence southerly on said highway fourteen (14) rods to land owned by Elbridge True; thence Northerly on land of said True's thirty three (33) rods to a stake and stones to land of W. W. Brooks; thence Northwesterly on land of said Brooks sixteen (16) rods to a stake and stones; thence Southwesterly on land of said Brooks thirty four (34) rods to the bound begun at. Containing three and one eighth acres ... Hereby meaning to convey the same premises which Mark L. Aiken and his wife E. C. Aiken conveyed to the said Harris by their deed dated the 30th day of March A. D. 1874 and recorded in*

<sup>201</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 292, Page 31.

<sup>202</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 333, Page 214.

<sup>203</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 390, Page 526.



Grafton County Registry of deeds Liber 333 Fol 214". Henry and Zilpah Chase sold the same parcel to Susan E. Howard<sup>204</sup> on March 12, 1889. It would be the name of Leonard Howard, husband of Susan, that would appear on the 1892 map as owner of the property.

Leonard W. Howard died October 18, 1912, not quite seventy years of age. Susan E. Howard died January 26, 1928; she was ninety-seven and one half years of age. Julia A. Nutting was Conservator of the Susan Howard Estate. Julia sold the property, now consisting of just over thirteen acres, to Charley D. Keneson<sup>205</sup> on May 22, 1926. Susan Howard had acquired additional lands from William W. Brooks and wife, who owned abutting property to the west.

Charley D. Keneson, known by everyone as Dave to avoid confusion with his father of the same name, lived in the house formerly built by James H. Stanyan for nearly fifty years. On August 18, 1920, "Dave" married Gladys H. Howard, daughter of George Howard and Flora A. Lowd, who lived in the Absalom Peters Place opposite the Atwell Hill Church. Dave and Gladys raised a family of three children, Ray, Ruth, and Alice; a fourth child lived for only sixteen hours. Gladys died May 1, 1974, this writer having been fortunate enough to visit their home shortly before her death. Dave Keneson sold the home before the year was over on September 20, 1974, to George A. and Candice Ports<sup>206</sup>, in which deed the now larger property is described as "*Certain tracts or parcels of land with any buildings thereon situate in Wentworth ... Tract No 1: Commencing at a stake and stones standing on the Northerly side of the highway leading from the 'Peter's Farm' so called (formerly owned by Joel A. Wright) to Wentworth Village; thence Southerly on said highway fourteen (14) rods to land formerly owned by Elbridge True; thence Northeasterly on land of the said True thirty three (33) rods to a stake and stones to land formerly of W. W. Brooks; thence Northeasterly on land of said Brooks sixteen (16) rods to a stake and stones; thence Southwesterly on land of said Brooks thirty four (34) rods to the bound begun at, containing three and one eighth acres be the same more or less Being the same premises conveyed to Susan E. Howard by warranty deed of Henry and Zilpah A. Chase dated March 12, 1889 and recorded in the Grafton County Registry of Deeds Book 397, Page 232. Tract No 2: ... Beginning at a stake and stones at the Southwest corner of land formerly of Susan E. Howard; thence Northerly on said Howard's land thirty four (34) rods to a stake and stones at the Northwest corner of said Howard's land; thence westerly to a stake and stones standing thirty four rods Northerly of the highway hereinafter named; thence Southerly thirty four (34) rods on line parallel with the first mentioned bound to the highway running past the said Howard's dwelling house; thence Easterly on said highway to the bound begun at. Meaning hereby to convey just four and one half (4 1/2) acres. Being the same premises conveyed to Susan E. Howard by warranty deed of William W. and Flora J. Brooks dated March 20, 1890 and recorded in the Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 402, Page 158. Tract No. 3: Commencing at the northeast corner of the former Susan E. Howard lot of land at a stake and stones and running in a parallel with the said Howard lot and running Easterly to land now or formerly of James Phelps to a stake and stones; thence southeasterly on said Phelps land to range line and land now or formerly of Elbridge True to a stake and stones; thence southwesterly on said range line to the said Susan E. Howard lot; thence on said Howard lot northerly to bound begun at and containing six acres, more or less. Being the same premises conveyed to Susan E. Howard by warranty deed of William W. Brooks and Flora J. Brooks dated July 7, 1893 and recorded in the Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 582, Page 194 ...*

<sup>204</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 397, Page 232.

<sup>205</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 594, Page 24.

<sup>206</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 1232, Page 301.



*Tract No 4: Commencing at a marker in the stone wall on the southerly side of the highway leading from Wentworth Village to the dwelling house of the late George Howard, and known as the 'Atwell Hill Road'; thence southerly fifty (50) feet to a marker; thence easterly fifty (50) feet to a marker; thence northerly fifty (50) feet to a marker in said stonewall; thence westerly by said stone wall fifty (50) feet to the bound began at. Meaning and intending to describe and convey the same land and premises conveyed to the grantor herein by warranty deed of Walter A. and Eryl J. Rudlin dated September 8, 1941 and recorded in the Grafton county Registry of Deeds, Book 701, Page 244".*

It is interesting to note that all of the pieces that were bought to enlarge the Charles Keneson Place lands came from what was originally the property of Newell Stanyan, father of the builder of this home.

Not much has changed in the property or the house in the years since Dave Keneson owned it. There may be a few more near neighbors at the present than then, but it is far from being the city mentioned on page 1. The road still becomes mud in the springtime but that goes away most of the rest of the year. Trees still closely line the narrow two-lane road in summer and snow banks still line the edge of the road in winter. It is reasonable to believe that Dave would recognize the old home place and its surroundings now nearly half a century later, and still feel at home.



## Absalom Peters Place

The house on this property is shown on the 1860 map as belonging to Ebenezer Atwell. On the 1892 map the owner is identified as being George Howard. The house is located in what was once the west half of a five-hundred acre parcel known as the Governor's Reservation. Reference should be made to the full account of the early history of the Reservation as given on prior pages. A summary of the ownership of this particular property to the year 1800 is as follows:

Richard Herbert	1781	
Jonathan Herbert	1781	Undivided half of 500 acre parcel
Reuben Witcher	1782	West half containing 250 Acres
Absalom Peters	1782	West half of Governor's Reservation
Jeremiah Prescott	1828	250 Acres (See Below)

Having raised five sons and four daughters, and having spent nearly forty years on Atwell Hill in Wentworth, upon the death of his wife, Mary Rogers Peters, in 1819, Absalom Peters moved to Lebanon, Connecticut, near his native hometown of Hebron.

After relocating to Connecticut Absalom remarried to a widowed friend of his youth and they would live together for twenty years. Absalom is buried in Hebron.

On October 26, 1819, Absalom Peters sold his home farm for \$4000 to William M. Morris and Godfrey Morris<sup>239</sup> of West Fairlee, Vermont, describing the property as "*the farm on which I now live in said Wentworth composed of a part of Governor Benning Wentworth's reservation in said Wentworth part of the sixteenth and seventeenth hundred acre lots in the eleventh and a part of the seventeenth lots in the tenth range of lots in Orford in said State of New Hampshire containing by computation about two hundred and fifty acres be the same more or less*". It may be noted that Absalom Peters described himself as still living in Wentworth at the time of the deed.

On October 22, 1823, Godfrey Morris, still living in West Fairlee, Vt., and his wife Augustus, sold their share in the home farm for \$2000 to William M. Morris<sup>240</sup> now of Wentworth, describing the property as "*the farm on which the said William M. lives composed of a part of Governor Benning Wentworth's reservation in said Wentworth part of the sixteenth and seventeenth hundred acre lots in the eleventh and a part of the seventeenth lots in the tenth range of lots in Orford in said State of New Hampshire containing by computation about two hundred and fifty acres be the same more or less*". On the next day being October 23, 1823, William M. Morris and his wife Esther mortgaged the same two-hundred fifty acres to Absalom Peters<sup>241</sup> in the amount of \$1600.

Absalom Peters received judgment from William Morris at the May Term of Court in 1827, and on October 13, 1828 Absalom Peters sold his farm on the Hill for \$1000 to Jeremiah Prescott<sup>242</sup> describing the property as "*a farm on which William M. Morris now resides in Wentworth and Orford in the County of Grafton State of New Hampshire it being a part of the Governor Benning Wentworth reservation in said Wentworth and a part of sixteenth and*

<sup>239</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 87, Page 156.

<sup>240</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 92, Page 49 - 50.

<sup>241</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 91, Page 376 - 377.

<sup>242</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 107, Page 572.



seventeenth lots in the eleventh range in said Orford containing by computation two hundred and fifty acres more or less said farm contains all the land that I the said Peters deeded to William M. Morris".

On March 5, 1838, Jeremiah Prescott sold the farm to David Wheeler<sup>243</sup> describing the property as "containing by estimation two hundred and fifty acres be the same more or less and bounded as follows, to wit: beginning at the southeast corner of said tract thence running northerly to the southwest corner of Newell Stanyans land, and said line I suppose is 100 rods or thereabouts in length, thence easterly by said Newell Stanyans line to the northeast corner thence northerly on Winthrop Trues line to James Harrimans southeast corner, thence turning and running westerly by said Harriman's line, Ebenezer Atwells line and John Danas Junr line to the northwest corner of said tract, thence turning at right angles & running round the ten acre piece so called which is 40 rods square & surrounded by said Dana's land & returning to the line of my said tract, and thence running southerly by said Danas' line to the southwest corner of my said tract and farm, thence turning & running easterly by the forty four acre lot to the first mentioned bound including all the farm and buildings that I bought of Absalom Peters formerly of said Wentworth & containing two hundred & fifty acres more or less, being part of the Benning Wentworth Reservation".

At the time of the above deed, the property still included over half of the westerly portion of the Governor's reservation that Absalom Peter had purchased from Reuben Whitcher. That would soon change, however.

On January 2, 1839, shortly after buying his two-hundred fifty acre farm, David and Sarah Wheeler sold a portion of the farm to Israel S. Drew<sup>244</sup> and the account of the portion conveyed is followed under the John Atwell Place.

On June 12, 1843, David Wheeler sold the Peters Farm, now reduced in acreage, to Cyrus Sargent<sup>245</sup>, describing the property as "beginning at the South East corner of said tract on land of Newell Stanyan Thence running northerly on land of Stephen Webster to land owned by Levi Davis and Samuel Sargent, thence westerly on said Davis and Sargents land to land of John Danas Junr thence Southerly on said Danas land forty rods thence Easterly on said Danas land forty rods thence southerly on said Danas land to the southwest corner of the above described tract of land thence running easterly by the forty four acre lot to the first mentioned bound with the buildings thereon containing two hundred acres intending to convey all the land I the said Wheeler Bought of Jeremiah H. Prescott by my deed recorded in Grafton Records Lib. 147, Fol 482 Excepting so much of said land as was deeded by Israel S. Drew to Stephen Webster as recorded in Grafton Records Lib. 168 Fol. 566".

On December 6, 1844, Cyrus Sargent sold the same property to Ebenezer Atwell<sup>246</sup> describing the property as "beginning at the South East corner of said tract of land on land of Newell Stanyan Thence running northerly on land of Hiram Webster to land owned by Levi Davis & Samuel Sargent, thence westerly on said Davis and Sargents land to land of John Danas Junr thence Southerly on said Danas land forty rods thence Easterly on said Danas land forty rods thence southerly on said Danas land to the southwest corner of the above described tract of land thence running easterly by the forty four acre lot to the first mentioned bound with the buildings thereon containing two hundred Acres be the same more or less meaning to convey all the land we bought of David Wheeler described in his deed to me dated June 12, 1843 and recorded in Grafton Records Lib. 176, Fol 461".

<sup>243</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 147, Page 482.

<sup>244</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 168, Page 566.

<sup>245</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 176, Page 461.

<sup>246</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 191, Page 222.



It would be the name of Ebenezer Atwell that would appear on the 1860 map. Ebenezer Atwell lived on the property until his death on December 12, 1863, the last reported victim of the spotted fever epidemic that occurred on the hill in that year. Reference should be made to the account of the Samuel Sargent Place for a more detail report of the epidemic as reported in Peter Hoyt's history of the town.

On March 26, 1864, Sarah Atwell sold the farm to Jonathan Judkins<sup>247</sup> with the following description and explanation: "*Beginning at the South East corner of said tract of land on land of Newell Stanyan Thence running northerly on land of Hiram Webster to land owned by Levi Davis & Samuel Sargent, thence westerly on said Davis and Sargents land to land of John Danas Junr thence Southerly on said Danas land forty rods thence Easterly on said Danas land forty rods thence southerly on said Danas land to the southwest corner of the above described tract of land thence running easterly by the forty four acre lot to the first mentioned bound with the buildings thereon containing two hundred acres be the same more or less meaning hereby to convey all the land deeded by David Wheeler to the Sargents by his deed dated June 12, 1843 & recorded in Grafton County Registry Lib. 176, Fol 461 and being the same land by said Sargent deeded to my late husband Ebenezer Atwell by their deed dated December 6th 1844 Recorded in said Registry Liber 191 Folio 222 and conveyed to me by said Ebenezer by his will*".

On January 10, 1867, less than three years later, Jonathan and Lucina Judkins sold the property to William Chase<sup>248</sup> describing the property as "*commencing at the South east corner of said tract on land of Newell Stanyan, thence running Northerly on land of Hiram Webster to land owned by Levi Davis & Samuel Sargent estate, thence Westerly on said Davis line and line of land now owned by Richard Goodwin (late known as Sargent land) to land late of John Danas Jr, thence Southerly on said Leonard land forty rods, thence Easterly on said Danas land forty rods, thence continuing easterly on said Dana land as the fence from said point now runs to the stone wall south of the sugar place on said premises thence continuing on line easterly as said wall now runs to the highway leading from the Aldrich Place so called by said premises to Piermont, thence commencing at said road and running on line of said wall Westerly sixteen rods thence running from said wall in a line parallel with said highway twenty rods, thence running Easterly sixteen rods to said highway, thence running Northerly on said road to the end of said wall between the house and barn on said premises thence commencing at a point opposite the end of said wall & South side of said highway & from thence running Southerly on the Easterly side of said highway as said highway runs to land of Newell Stanyan, thence Easterly on said Stanyan's land to bound begun at conveying all the land east of said highway and north of said fence and wall together with two acres on which barn on said premises is situate as described & being part of land conveyed to me by Sarah Atwell by deed dated March 26, 1864, recorded Liber 280 Folio 438*".

In less than two years William Chase sold the same property on October 5, 1868, to Charles Piper<sup>249</sup>. Charles Piper would hang onto the property for over fourteen years finally selling several parcels on November 15, 1882, to Amos Clark<sup>250</sup> describing the property in this account simply as "*It being the same and all the premises that William Chase and his wife Aurilla Chase conveyed to me the said Piper by their deed dated October 5th A. D. 1868 and recorded in Grafton County Registry Liber 303 folio 557*".

<sup>247</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 280, Page 438.

<sup>248</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 299, Page 399.

<sup>249</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 303, Page 557.

<sup>250</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 370, Page 566.



On the same day of November 15, 1882, Amos Clark conveyed the same property to Joel A. Wright<sup>251</sup>. New abutters warrant repetition of the deed to show the new land owners since the 1867 deed; the parcel is described as "commencing at the South east corner of said tract on land formerly owned by Newell Stanyan, thence running Northerly on land owned by Hiram Webster to land of Auburn L. Simmons, thence Westerly on said Simmons line and line of land formerly owned by Richard Goodwin to land of George E. Leonard, thence Southerly on land of said Leonard forty (40) rods, thence Easterly on said Leonard's land forty (40) rods, thence continuing easterly as the fence from said point now runs to a stone wall south of the sap place on said premises thence continuing said line easterly as said wall now runs to the highway leading from the Browns Mills (so called) in said Wentworth by the dwelling house on these premises to the Old Turnpike in Warren in said County, thence commencing on said highway and running in a line of said wall Westerly sixteen (16) rods thence running from said wall in a line parallel with said highway twenty (20) rods, thence running Easterly sixteen (16) rods to said highway, thence running Northerly on said highway to the end of said wall between the house and barn on said premises thence commencing at a point opposite the end of said wall & on the South side of said highway & from thence running Southerly on the Easterly side of said highway as said highway runs to land formerly owned by the late Newell Stanyan, thence Easterly on said Stanyan's land to bound begun at Meaning hereby to convey all and the same premises that William Chase and his wife Aurilla Chase conveyed to Charles Piper by their deed dated October 5th 1868 and recorded in Records Liber 303 folio 557".

It was during Joel Wright's ownership of this property that the Church on Atwell Hill was built and dedicated. On March 2, 1892, Joel sold the land on which the building already stood to the Freewill Baptist Church<sup>252</sup> of Warren by deed describing the property as "A certain tract or parcel of land situated in the town of Wentworth in the County of Grafton N. H. with the buildings thereon described and bounded as follows, to wit: commencing on the line of the highway leading from Brown's Mills to Warren turnpike, so called, one hundred and nine feet from the Southwest corner of the church, thence running in a Northeast direction to a large stone in front of the house, thence easterly about forty feet, thence northerly about one hundred and five feet, thence Westerly to the line of the highway, thence Southerly on the line of the highway to the bound begun at. Meaning hereby to convey said premises for the use and benefit of the Freewill Baptist church as long as they shall occupy the same for religious purposes. If said premises shall not be occupied by said Freewill Baptist church for six years in succession it is to become the property of the said Joel A. Wright or his heirs, or to George W. Howard if he shall own the farm at the end of said six years. Said church is to keep the said premises suitably fenced at all times". On October 30, 1895, George W. and Flora A. Howard quitclaimed their rights in the same parcel of land to the Freewill Baptist Church<sup>253</sup>, probably on the basis of a existing verbal agreement between Joel Wright and George Howard for George to buy the Absalom Peters Place. Both deeds were recorded March 2, 1897. Joel Wright and his wife Mary list themselves as living in Corinth, Vermont, at the time of the sale to the Freewill Baptist Church. In 1895, George and his wife Flora are already living in Wentworth, indicating that George was living on the Peters Place before the purchase was made final. See explanation that follows.

The Church has maintained and occupied the property on regular occasions to the present time.

<sup>251</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 370, Page 568.

<sup>252</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 432, Page 116.

<sup>253</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 429, Page 164.



On Nov. 6, 1897, Joel A. Wright sold the property to George W. Howard<sup>254</sup> describing the property as "Certain tracts or parcels of land situate partly in Wentworth and partly in Warren in said County of Grafton with the buildings thereon and being all and the same premises conveyed to me the said Joel A. Wright by Amos H. Clark & wife by deed dated Nov. 15, 1882 & recorded in Grafton County Registry of Deeds Liber 370 Folio 568 ... excepting from without the operation of this deed that certain tract of land situate in Wentworth aforesaid which said Wright by Warranty deed and said Howard by quitclaim conveyed to the Warren Free Will Baptist Church in 1892 containing half an acre". The story is that George Howard, formerly of Concord, Vt. area, heard a sermon of Joel A. Wright, who was a traveling preacher of the day, and George voiced an interest in property in New Hampshire. Joel described the Wentworth property that he owned to George and George bought the property sight unseen and never appears to regret doing so. George Howard and his wife Flora Lowd are buried in the Warren Village Cemetery. Their descendents have remained in the Wentworth area to the present day. Although George Howard did not own the property until 1897, the name of George Howard appeared on the 1892 map.

On July 29, 1952, almost fifty-five years later, Flora A. Howard sold the property to Alex H. Alexander and Marian Ellen Alexander<sup>255</sup> by deed describing the property as "A certain tract or parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situate partly in said Orford and partly in Wentworth in said County of Grafton bounded and described as follows: Being all and singular the same premises conveyed by the deed of Joel A. Wright to George W. Howard dated November 6, 1897 and recorded in Grafton County Registry of Deeds book 437 page 212, to which reference may be had for a more full and particular description; EXCEPTING AND RESERVING FROM THE HEREIN CONVEYED PREMISES the two following described tracts or parcels of land: Tract I: A parcel of land with the buildings thereon situate on the west side of the highway leading from Route 25-A to the Lake Tarleton and Warren Highway, bounded and described as follows: Starting at an iron stake in the stone wall about 17 rods from the corner of the stone wall on the north side of the Howard dooryard; running north on said highway 11 rods to an iron stake in said wall; thence westerly along said wall 7 rods to an iron stake in said wall; thence southerly 15 rods to a cement marker in the field; thence easterly 7 rods to the point started at. Meaning hereby to describe the premises conveyed by the grantors hereof to the Atwell Hill Baptist Church of said Wentworth; Tract II: A certain tract or parcel of land situate partly in said Orford and partly in Wentworth in said County of Grafton, bounded and described as follows: Commencing on the westerly side of Cape Moonshine Road at a stone wall at the northeasterly corner of the parsonage lot, formerly the school house lot, thence northwesterly along said stone wall three hundred eleven feet (311') more or less to the end of said stone wall; thence northwesterly two thousand five hundred thirty three feet (2533') more or less to land now or formerly of one Fauver; thence northerly along land now or formerly of said Fauver to land now or formerly of one Wright; thence easterly along a fence and land now or formerly of said Wright to the aforementioned highway; thence southerly by the westerly side of said highway to the bound of beginning".

Alex Alexander and family kept the property for many years with infrequent occasions of use. Alexander had the property surveyed in 1977, and the map of the property on the next page shows the extent of the lands at the time of Alexander's ownership, including the schoolhouse lot, church, and two other lots previously conveyed along the west side of the road. The extent of the land into Orford is also shown.

<sup>254</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 437, Page 212.

<sup>255</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 823, Page 184 - 185.







On March 7, 2003, Richard F. Pescinski and Gary J. Pescinski, co-trustees of the Deer Run Realty Trust, sold the property they had received in 1999 from the Alexander Family<sup>256</sup> with an updated description of the lands to Fred O. Brownson and Linda L. Brownson in whose possession the property remains at this writing.

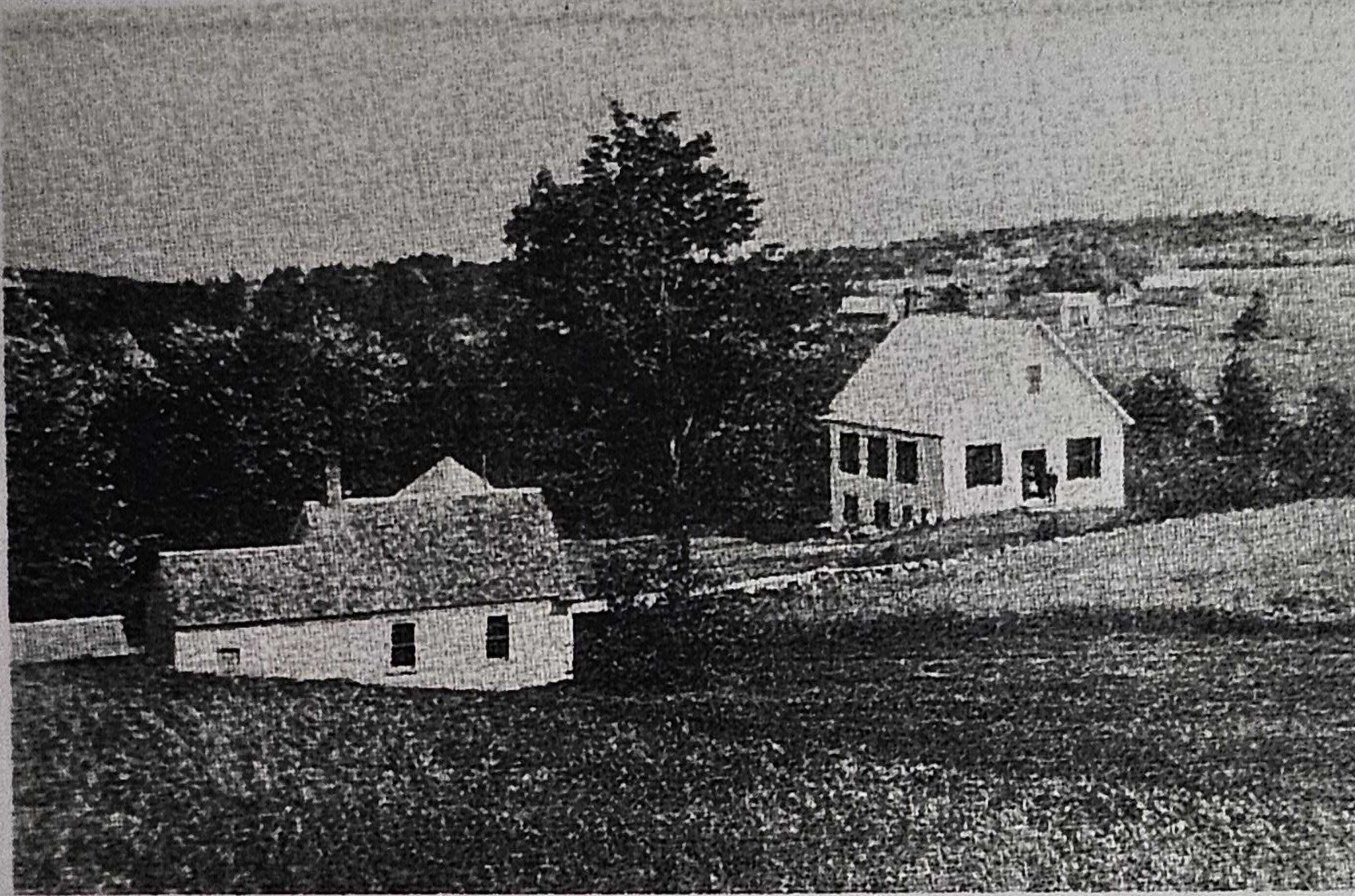
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<sup>256</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 2788, Page 619 - 622.



## Atwell Hill School

The Atwell Hill School is possibly the oldest of the existing buildings that once served as schools in town. The district in that area was numbered One in the second districting of the town but was number four in each of the others.



Atwell Hill Schoolhouse and Baptist Church, circa 1920

The school may have been built in 1798 when the second districting was carried out but does not appear to have been in the present location. Hoyt, in his history, tells us that the school in 1798 was near where the present one stands. The school does not appear to ever have had a large enrollment in its early years with

barely a dozen students in most of those years. As the other schools in the town phased out, this school increased in student population to over thirty students before it too declined in size.

Lena Comings, Emma Goodwin, Belle C. McLoskey, Grace Little, Abbie Wallace, Ivanilla Colburn, Julia Cutting, Lucy Cummings, Berthie Clough, Alice Herbert, Mertie Huckins, Effie Cross, Georgia Holden, Millie Day, Meta Moses, George Brown, Lena Libbey, Edith Sherburne, Jennie Sargent, Katie B. Foster, Mayme Barnum, Virginia Eaton, Mildred Witcher, Della Huckins, Annie Brown, Maud Pease, Edna Downing, Grace Barnes, Ruth Batchelder, Alma Jesseman, Marion Batchelder, Beatrice Downing, Thelma Downing, Catharine Alger, Irene Bilodeau, Martha Nichols, Dorothy Keuhn, Gertrude Gilman, Marjorie McCoy, Marion Atwood, Carole Lavoie, and Minnie B. Blodgett, as well as a few others, taught on the Hill.

In 1951 the town voted to dispose of the Atwell Hill School; it was the last school outside of the center of town to close its door to the children of the area. The land and buildings were sold as a parsonage for the Free Will Baptist Church and remains in much the same condition as when it was last used as a school.

On June 11, 1951, shortly after the above mentioned vote of the town to dispose of the Atwell Hill School, and shortly before Flora A. Howard sold her farm property on which the school house stood, Flora sold a small parcel of land for one Dollar to the



Atwell Hill Baptist Church<sup>257</sup>, describing the property as "*A certain parcel of land situated on the west side of the Highway leading from route 25A to the Lake Tarleton and Warren Highway Starting at an Iron stake in the stone wall about 17 rods from the Corner of wall on north side of Howard door yard, running north on said highway 11 rods to an Iron stake in wall, thence Westerly along wall 7 rods to an iron stake in wall, thence southerly 15 rods to a cement marker in field easterly 7 rods to point started at. The same being part of property recorded in Grafton County records in Lib. 437 Fol. 212*".

On September 15, 1951, three months later, Hazel M. Morrison, Esther M. McCarthy, and Alson L. Brown, as School Board of the Town of Wentworth, and with the consent of the voters of the town at the prior annual meeting of March 9, 1951, for the sum of one hundred dollars sold to the Atwell Hill Baptist Church Society<sup>258</sup> "*all the right, title and interest of the Wentworth School district in and to the Atwell Hill School house and lot and buildings thereon situate*".

The two above sales were needed to convey the land and buildings since a search of any right of the School District to the land on which the school sat was not found. The school built on this property was established during Absalom Peters' ownership of the land, but no deed of the land from him to the Town of Wentworth or to the Wentworth School District was found recorded at Grafton County Registry of Deeds. It is likely that the Wentworth School Board at the time was aware of this glitch in the ownership of the land and called upon Flora Howard to contribute the land to the Church as the building was being conveyed by the Town. Subsequent sales of this property would refer to the property as two separate parcels.

On June 25, 1996, after nearly one-half century of ownership of the building as a parsonage, the Wentworth Baptist Church sold the two parcels to John Reed, Sr. and Norma Reed<sup>259</sup>.

On November 28, 2005, John Reed, Sr., now widower and not remarried at this time, sold the same property with the same two-parcel description to Judith Monteiro<sup>260</sup> whose residence is listed as being the same as John Reed's home town of North Dartmouth, MA,

On April 13, 2013, Judith Monteiro, now married to Brian Farrington, conveyed the property to Brian<sup>261</sup> and herself. The property description, consisting of the same two described parts or parcels, has remained unchanged since the conveyance by the Atwell Hill Baptist Church. The school and lands on which it has sat for two centuries is owned by the Harringtons at this time.

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<sup>257</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 808, Page 455.

<sup>258</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 813, Page 454.

<sup>259</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 2206, Page 304.

<sup>260</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 3325, Page 604 - 605.

<sup>261</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 3972, Page 757 - 758.



Staniels or Stanyan owned the Lorenzo W. Webster Place an account of which is found elsewhere in this compilation.

On April \_\_, 1840, John Dana Jr. of Wentworth sold a tract of land for \$454 to Hannah Dana<sup>271</sup> of Orford, N.H., described as "*a farm known by the name of the Maxfield farm situated partly in Wentworth and partly in Orford in said County of Grafton bounded northerly by land owned by s<sup>d</sup> Dana, westerly by land owned by John Dana, southerly by the Russell farm and easterly by lands owned by Ebenezer Atwell, the same farm mortgaged to me by Hiram Webster*." No date of the month was given on the above deed, but it was witnessed on April 4, 1840, and recorded December 9 of the same year.

A sale by the above Hannah Dana was not found. but the possibility exists that the Hannah Webster that follows was the former Hannah Dana.

On October 9, 1840, Hiram Webster and his wife Hannah sold a tract of land for \$750 to Samuel Sargent and Levi W. Davis<sup>272</sup> of Bow, N.H., described as "*a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being situated partly in Wentworth and partly in Orford in said County of Grafton known by the name of the Maxfield Farm, be the same more or less the above farm is bounded northerly and westerly by Land owned by said John Dana Jr, southerly by the Prescott Farm and easterly by lands owned by Ebenezer Atwell*".

On January 24, 1846, Levi W. Davis and his wife Francinah sold his half interest in the tract of land for \$300 to Samuel Sargent<sup>273</sup>, now of Wentworth, described as "*one undivided half of a certain tract or parcel of land lying and situated partly in Wentworth and partly in Orford State and County aforesaid known by the name of the Maxfield Farm, be the same more or less. The above farm is bounded on the north and west by land owned by the Leavitts, southerly by the Peters farm (so called) and eastwardly by land of John Atwell*".

On October 29, 1849, Samuel Sargent sold a parcel of land to Richard M. Goodhue<sup>274</sup> for \$300 describing the parcel as "*A certain tract or parcel of land lying and situate partly in said Wentworth and partly in Orford in said County, known by the name of the Maxfield farm, be the same more or less, and bounded on the North and West by the land owned by the Leavitts, Southerly by the Peters farm (so called) and Easterly by land of John Atwell*".

On January 26, 1852 Richard M. Goodhue sold a parcel of land for \$375 to Samuel Sargent<sup>275</sup> in which deed the property is described as "*A certain tract or parcel of land lying and situate partly in said Wentworth and partly in Orford in said County, known by the name of the Maxfield farm be the same more or less and bounded on the north and west by land owned by the Leavitts, southerly by the Peters farm (so called), easterly by land of John Atwell, it being the same premises that I purchased of said Sargent by deed dated Oct. 29, 1849 & Recorded in Grafton Registry Lib 203 Folio 143*". On the same date Samuel Sargent mortgaged the property to Richard M. Goodhue<sup>276</sup> of Bow for \$750. Included in the mortgage deed was another parcel described as "*another piece of land situate in said Orford and being a part of Lot No nineteen in the ninth range of Hundred acre lots in said town of Orford. Beginning at the south east corner of William Chase Jr. land and running west far enough to contain seventeen acres*". The location of this lot is not contiguous to the parcel in Wentworth, however.

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<sup>271</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 159, Page 282.

<sup>272</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 159, Page 332.

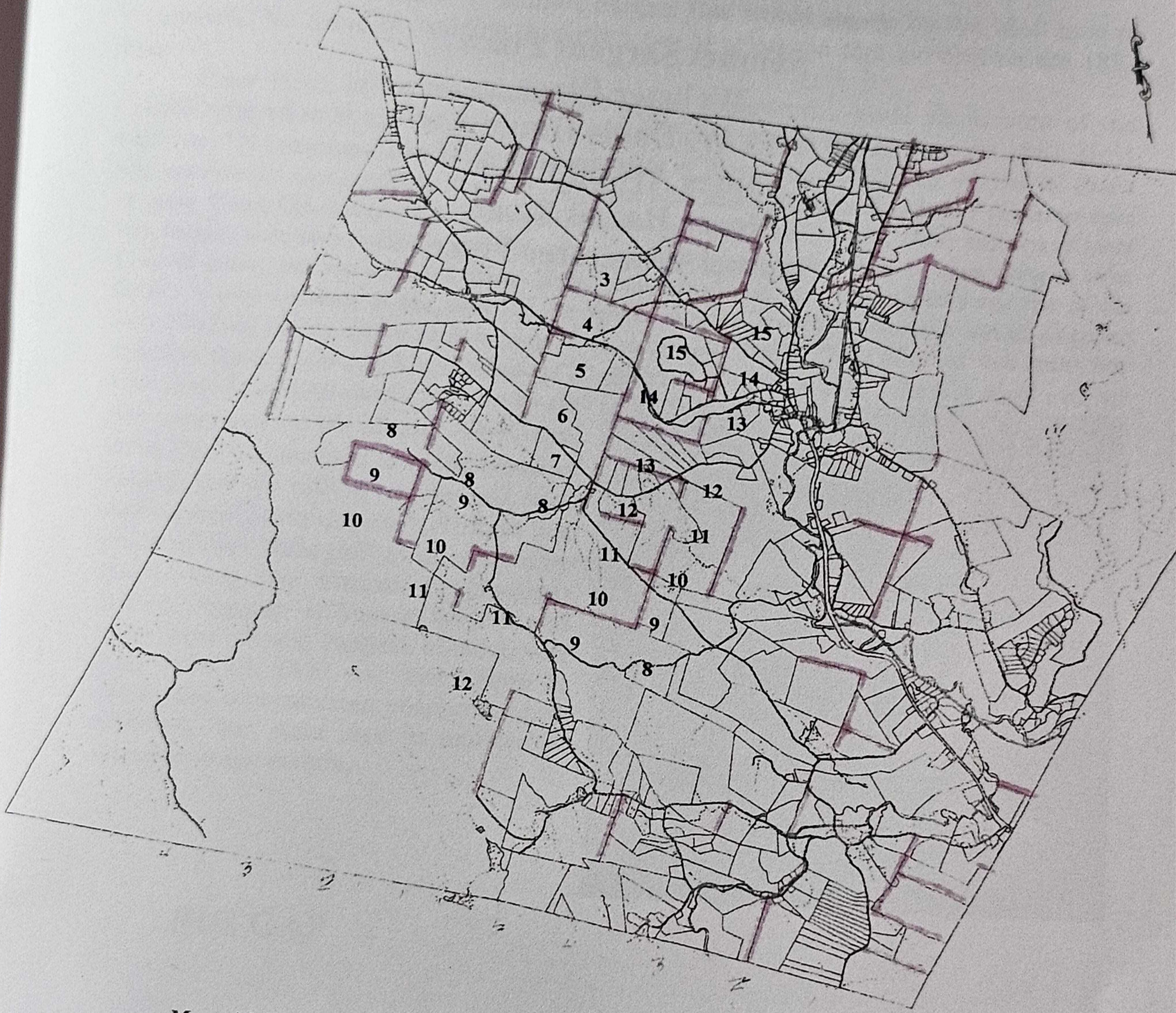
<sup>273</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 192, Page 88.

<sup>274</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 203, Page 143.

<sup>275</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 214, Page 387.

<sup>276</sup> Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 214, Page 388.





**Map with Numbered Lots Whose Original Lines Are Clearly Visible on A Modern Tax Map**