

INTRODUCTION

Greetings:

Whether you are a Clemons (or “Clemens”) descendant, current or former tenant, neighbor, camper, hunter of our lands or somehow otherwise connected to the farm, thank you for sharing with us your interest. I have attached some historical recitations/documents I hope you will find interesting, and perhaps give you a bit more insight into the rich history of our farm and surrounding areas. While reading some of the first hand accounts of the struggles endured by the Clemons and others who settled here you may find yourself humbled with a newfound respect for the beauty of the land you are about to explore and enjoy!

Clemons Pond History

Ridlon's introduction is historically interesting and the later excerpts supplied do narrow information to the area and ultimately the Clemons. Be sure to read on to the genealogy where it drills down a bit to the farm's story. Our area has a rich Indian history - there were the Ossipee/Skokis Indians of which 1000's are known to be buried in a single Indian mound about 30 minutes from the farm. There is also Capt. John Lovewell's tragic raid in nearby Fryeburg on the surviving Pequaket's near the Saco on the shore of what is now named Lovewell Pond.

“Tomhegon”

The printed materials also include as best I could find the history of "Tomhegan", an Indian name associated with both the farm as well as the "Bethel raid". While its very difficult for me to reconcile the "Tomhegan" of the notorious raid (and the description of his rumored demise) with the "Tom Heagon" (or "Torn Heagon" as I believe it was misspelled) associated with our farm and the close relationship the Indian had with founders John and Abigail Clemons, its at least as hard for me to imagine that two different well known Indians with such similar names lived in the same area at the same time - both seemingly associated (when named) with the same *other* well known named Indians of the area at that time! While my guess is that they are one and the same it is very hard to reconcile how the same Indian would have been allowed to remain and live in peace at the farm. I have not drilled down into it any further than what I have, but there are hints that it may have been possible be due to the area's geopolitical "divide" relating to the allegiance of the town of Bethel at that time in history.

Based on recently available LiDAR imaging and other known land features we have a pretty good idea of where the farm's described "Indian mound" and the original Clemons homestead was located, and indeed where John and Abigail Clemons (and sadly, their 2 young daughters) along with the Indian(s) are likely buried. This location is not publicized and so far we have not indicated it on our farm's maps. If interested further you may be able to talk someone at the farm into showing you where those locations seem to be...

THE HUNTSTAND APP

The “farm” essentially encompasses about 900 acres, is 2 miles long north-south and about 3/4 miles wide east-west. There are miles of logging roads and snowmobile trails, streams, brooks, lakefront, meadows and blueberry fields. It is difficult to appreciate and explore it all unless you know where you are and how to get around! We have gone to the trouble of mapping the farm and its trails and features to make this easy on the free “Huntstand” app (you can check it out on www.huntstand.com). Download and register the free Huntstand app and let us know when you have done so. We can then send you a link that will allow you to access our farm's specific map which will then also be available to you off-line. On your GPS enable phone you will then not only see the farm, its features and boundaries, but more importantly you will also see in real-time where you are located on the map.