

A History of Sawin Hill Road in Waterford and Albany, Maine

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2007

Acknowledgements

In 2004 someone from the Waterford Historical Society asked me if I would make a presentation to the Society on the history of Sawin Hill Road. Although I knew a good deal about my relatives the Sawins, I knew next to nothing about any other families of the road, so I declined the specific request and substituted another topic. But the idea persisted and in March 2006 I took up the challenge. What better way to learn and chronicle than by consulting the Registry of Deeds in South Paris?

After just one attempt, however, I realized that untangling who lived where and when was confusing and would take a very long time. So I checked with Berkeley N. Henley, with whom I had communicated off and on since the mid-1980s, to see if he knew of any previous research. He acknowledged that he had started a similar project back in the 1970s, and said that he had a notebook and some deeds that I could borrow.

I visited him at Market Square in South Paris in April and borrowed his notebook. We had some follow-up email exchanges, but then he didn't reply to a question I posed. When I went back to return his notebook, I was sad to learn that he had died, May 17, 2006. Although I still had months of daunting work ahead, his help must be acknowledged for getting me oriented and explaining a number of transactions, family relationships, and events—some of which I would never have figured out on my own.

“Berk” told me about some Henley family diaries that documented some of the events on the road. In fact, years earlier he had copied several pages from one of them for me. These diaries are still in the family, and I thank Randall Henley of Waterford for loaning them to me and allowing me to copy them. They are a rich source of detailed daily life on Sawin Hill Road spanning many years.

Margaret Bachelder Dutil of Norway was very kind in loaning me the scrapbooks of news clippings kept by her great grandmother Lydia Lord and her grandmother Lillian Lord Brown from circa 1900 to the 1950s. Both of these women lived on Sawin Hill Road for a long time and they naturally saved clippings about people they knew, an activity that was invaluable to supplying anecdotes and family backgrounds of some of the individuals on the road. She also loaned her grandmother's diaries from 1906-1913 and from the 1940s to the 1960s.

I also wish to thank a number of people who loaned photographs of buildings and people connected with the road. These include Arthur E. “Bud” Holt of Waterford, who has a treasure trove of old photographs from the Horr family; Margie Bachelder Dutil of Norway for photos of the Lord and Brown families; Randy Henley and Gary Hill, both of Waterford, for pictures of the Henley family; Marjorie Kimball of Waterford for pictures of some of the houses; Sally Brown of Norway for pictures of the Flint-Canwell house; Tom Connors for an early picture of the Thomas Sawin house, and Evelyn Maxfield for a picture of the Merritt Sawin farm.

Bud and Shirley Holt, Gary Hill, Peter Nason, Sally Brown and others also helped by sharing their memories and more intimate knowledge of the ground to set me straight on some points. Despite all this help, this narrative undoubtedly contains errors, large or small, and for those I am solely responsible. I would be happy to receive any corrections.

Finally, I want to thank Carole Holt and Bill Millar for their review of an earlier draft, and their suggestions for how to improve it.

Table of Contents

Preface..... vii

Introduction..... 1

Early to 1810..... 1

1810-1820 1

1820-1830 9

1830-1840 12

1840-1850 14

1850-1860 19

1860-1870 25

1870-1880 34

1880-1890 40

1890-1900 47

1900-1910 55

1910-1920 65

1920-1930 76

1930-1940 83

1940-1950 92

1950-1960 100

1960-1970 105

1970-1980 110

1980-1990 114

1990-2000 and beyond 117

Conclusion 122

Appendix A: Property Ownership Summaries 125

Appendix B: Sawin Hill Family Trees 133

Appendix C: Deed Abstracts (separate document)..... 146

Preface

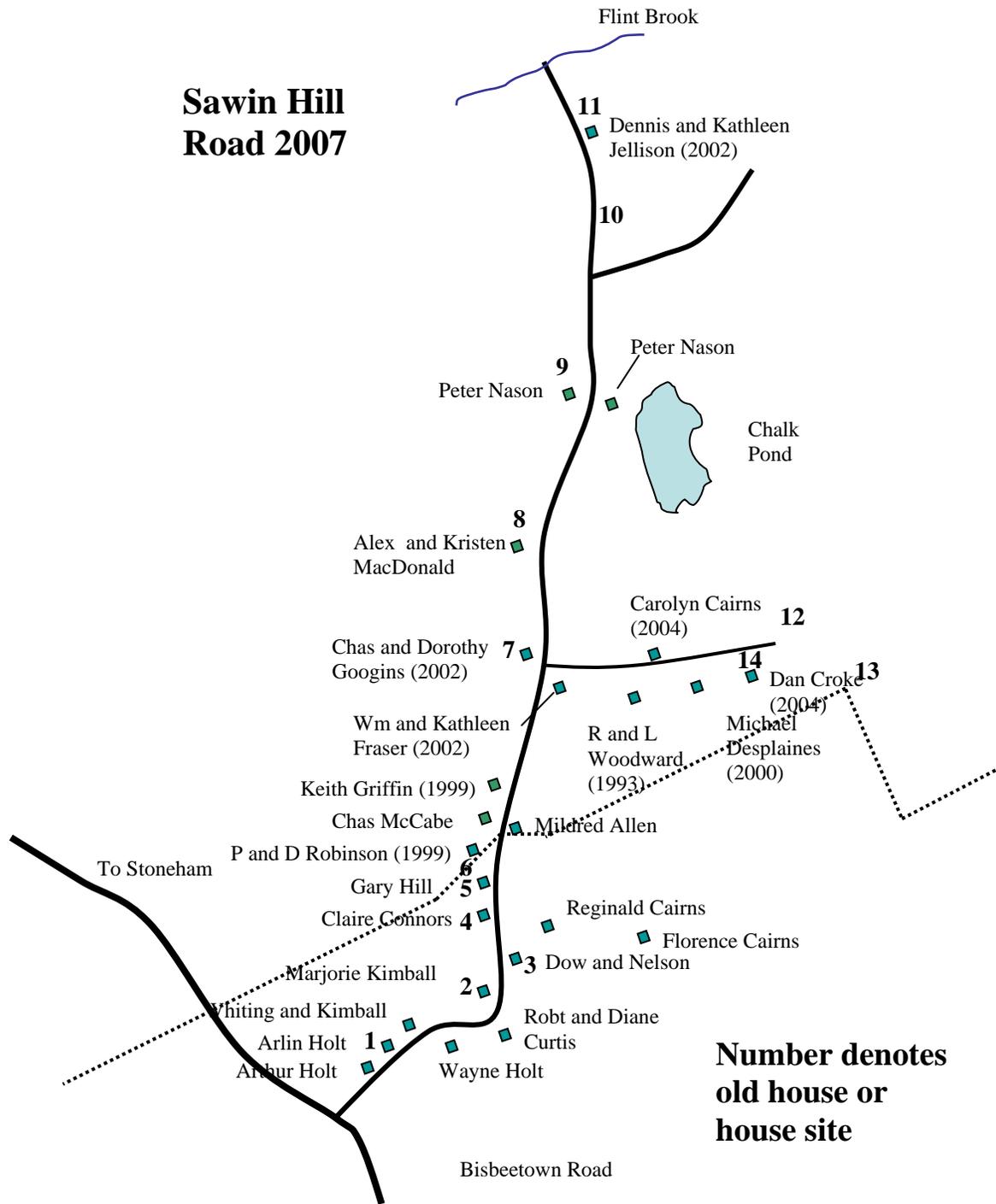
The history of Sawin Hill Road begins with its settlement. The road soon after connected the settlers by widening the footpath and horse and wagon tracks. In the history that follows, readers will meet not only the early settlers but also those that followed, with a description of who owned what and when.

The emphasis is on understanding and documenting property ownership over time. Almost all property transactions are cited to Oxford County Deeds book and page number; deed abstracts are available in a separate document. Nevertheless, many readers may find this history to contain more detail than they have stomach for. For these readers, Appendix A summarizes for each property the list of owners and date of transfer. Even so, these simple summaries may not be absolutely clear because over time some farms were broken up and parcels attached to adjacent farms.

The reader will also find information about the families that lived on the road, and how, in many cases, they were related. This is not intended to be a genealogy, but Appendix B contains trees for families with numerous or interrelated individuals who lived on the road. A few thoughtful residents had the foresight to create diaries and scrapbooks. Though they probably were not undertaken for posterity, these have been preserved by descendants and have been used to insert some insights about work and social activities on the road.

Each decade is marked by a map showing ownership or residency on the road. These are inserted at the end of each decade. By way of introduction, the same basic map is presented below showing today's owners, and marking the older homes, or in some cases the sites of former homes now gone, with numbers. The numbers for the original settler homes are listed here as a key to the map.

| Site No. | Original Owner | Date of Building | Current Owner |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| #1 | John D. Horr | c. 1862 | Arlin J. Holt |
| #2 | Isaac C. Horr | c. 1830 | Marjorie Kimball |
| #3 | Henry Sawin II | c. 1865 | Robert Dow and Heather Nelson |
| #4 | Thomas Sawin | c. 1825-31 | Thomas Connors |
| #5 | Henry Sawin | new building 1968 | Gary and Lori Hill |
| #6 | Benjamin Sawin | new building 1986 | Peter and D'Arcy Robinson |
| #7 | Charles Whitney | c. 1843-49 | Charles and Dorothy Googins |
| #8 | Aaron Cummings | new building c. 2005 | Alex and Kristen MacDonald |
| #9 | Sumner Frost | new buildings 1949 and 1965 | Peter Nason |
| #10 | Benjamin Clark | no building on site | Dennis and Kathleen Jellison |
| #11 | Ephraim Flint | c. 1796 | Dennis and Kathleen Jellison |
| #12 | Jacob Wardwell | no building on site | Carolyn Cairns |
| #13 | Galen Hutchinson | no building on site | |
| #14 | Isaac P. Beckler | | in parts: Daniel Croke, Michael Desplaines, Rich and Linda Woodward, William Fraser and Kathleen Burns-Fraser |



A History of Sawin Hill Road in Waterford and Albany, Maine

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Introduction

For many years Sawin Hill was known as Birch Mountain, and is labeled as Birch Hill on most maps today. The first appearance of the name Sawin Hill found in deeds occurs in 1868, but likely this name was in local use for some time before it showed up in records as such. It was called Sawin Hill for the family that first settled at its base in North Waterford and South Albany, but it was not until 1986 that the name Sawin Hill was officially recognized by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names:

Sawin Hill: hill, elevation 372 m (1,220 ft.), in the White Mountains, 2.1 km (1.3 mi.) N of North Waterford; Town of Albany; named for the Sawin family who owned land in the area from the early 1800s until the early 1940s; Oxford Co., Maine; 44° 15' 01" N, 70° 46' 11" W. Not: Birch Hill, Birch Mountain.

The road that ran from North Waterford up through Albany was early called simply the Sawin road, and it ran along the eastern base of the hill, where the hill rises quite steeply. Now the road runs just about 2.5 miles north from the turn-off from Route 118, and then ends. The way through to Hunt's Corner in Albany has been discontinued and is grown over. The bridge over Flint Brook was washed out in 1936, and the state declined to replace it because by then the road was made redundant by the better paved state roads that went north to Bethel.

In the mid-1800s, however, when the road went through to Hunt's Corner and on to Bethel, it was in frequent use for communication and commerce, and the lands along it were actively farmed. In fact, a number of marriages took place between Waterford and Albany men and women, indicating a social interaction that was much easier than it would be now. Driving the road now, it is hard to tell that it was more evenly populated because so few of the old buildings remain, and most of the fields that the early farmers worked so hard to clear have reverted to woods. Nineteenth century residents returning today would hardly recognize the road.

But before there were any inhabitants in the immediate area, there was just a lot of raw land. The earliest settlers of Waterford took up residence in the central and southern parts of the town. None of the earliest settlers lived up in the north range. At the time of incorporation (1797), there was only one family group living anywhere in the northern part of Waterford. The list of taxpayers for 1797 shows Capt. Stephen Jewett and Nathan Jewett in Lot 5 Range 13 (L5 R13), and Lieut. Ebenezer Jewett and Nathaniel Jewett in L6 R13.

¹ The author may be contacted at 28 Headland Road, Harpswell, ME 04079 or via email at holtfam@igc.org.

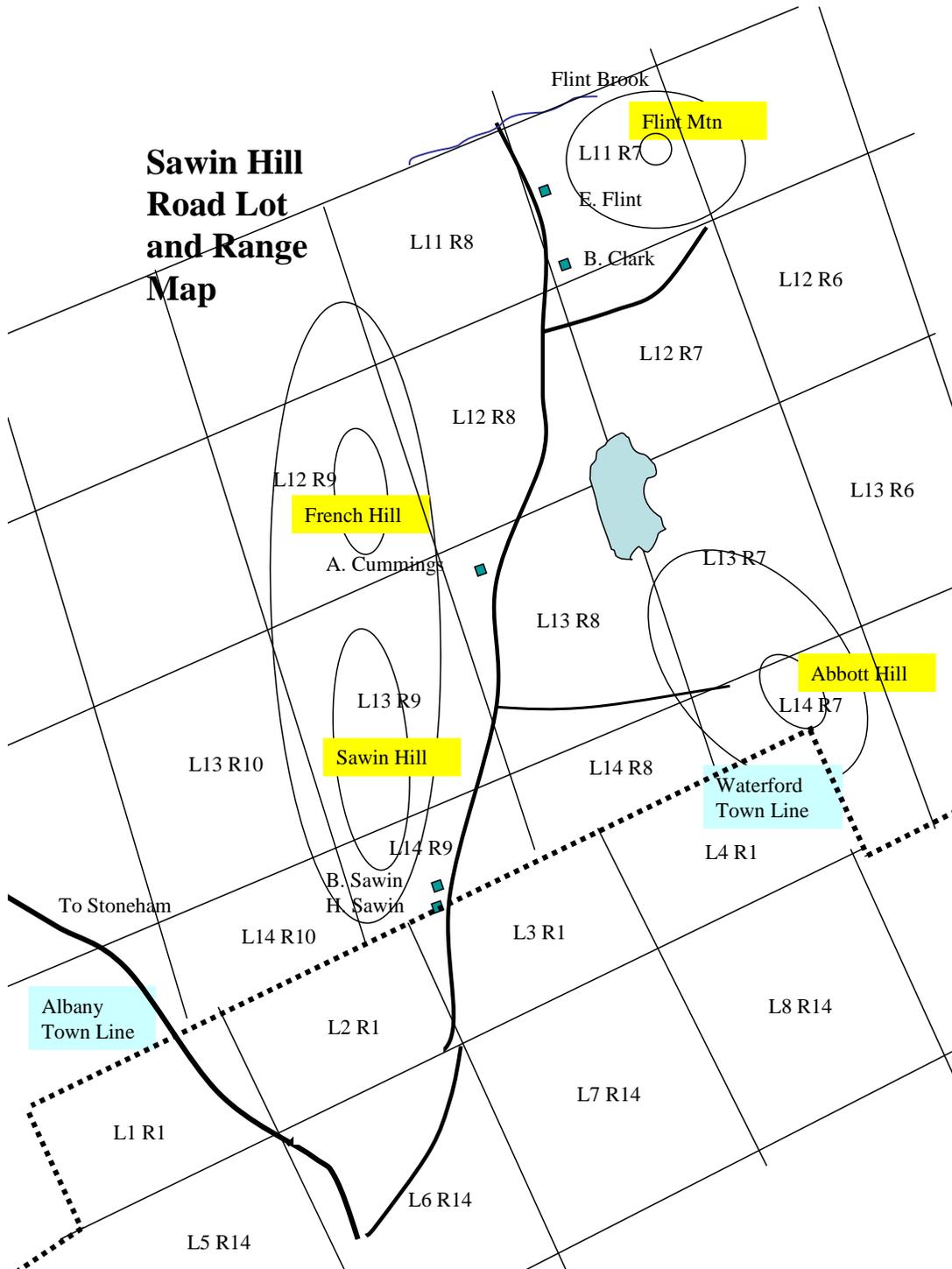
Many of the deeds make reference to the lot and range where property was located. Both towns were surveyed and platted with a system of lots and ranges, each resulting in its own grid pattern. In Waterford, the ranges were more or less horizontal (reflecting that the north-south boundaries of Waterford do not run due north), and the ranges run more or less vertical. The ranges are numbered from range 1 in the south to range 14 in the north. Because only half-lots were surveyed in the southwest corner of the town, however, Waterford was compensated with additional half lots on the northern end.² These were taken out of Albany and were sometimes called the northern range of lots, Range 1 in the north, or simply a “gore of land.”

To confuse matters, Albany arranged its grid differently, with the ranges running vertically and the lots running horizontally. Its ranges ran from 1 in the north to 14 in the south. Because the north-south boundaries of Albany are at a different angle from true north than Waterford’s boundaries, its vertical grid lines are not a continued straight line with Waterford’s, and the lines do not necessarily connect with Waterford’s. And because the surveys were not precise, there was no guarantee that each lot in the grid was the same size as the others.

For this history of Sawin Hill Road, in Waterford we are concerned mostly with the northern range of four half lots, and in Albany lots 11 through 14 in ranges 7 through 10, as shown in Figure 1.

² According to Warren’s *History of Waterford*, at the time the town lines were laid out, “the north-eastern boundary of Bridgton was not well defined. The two north-western lots, 1 and 2, Range 14, beyond the Kezar ponds, were considered worthless by the surveyor, so lines were not run around them; fifty years later they were valuable timber lots. The surveyor could not find the north-west boundary line of Bridgton, so he surveyed but half lots in the south-west corner of the town,—Range 1, lots 1, 2, 3, 4,—and in compensation for the loss took from the unassigned State lands on the north of Waterford, now Albany, lots 1, 2, 3, 4, in north Range 1.” (pp. 16-17)

Figure 1. Approximate Lot and Range Map of Sawin Hill Road Vicinity



Early to 1810

About 1803, Benjamin Sawin moved to Albany or North Waterford from Sudbury, Massachusetts. Born in Marlborough, Massachusetts in 1748, he lived there until about 1795 when he moved to nearby Sudbury. In 1772, he married Martha Howe, daughter of Cyprian Howe of Marlborough, and they produced eleven children, most of whom came to Waterford with their parents.

The surname Sawin is generally pronounced “Só-in” in the family from this area, although the pronunciation “Saw-win” is also used.

In Waterford records and Warren’s History of Waterford, Benjamin is often referred to as General Sawin because he had risen to the rank of Brigadier General in the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, in which he served from 1781 to 1802.³

In 1788 the town of Marlborough sent him as its representative to the Massachusetts convention called to ratify the newly proposed constitution of the United States. At the convention, he cast his vote in opposition to ratification.⁴ According to the minutes, “Major Benjamin Sawin voted nay, but following the vote, declared, ‘that the constitution had had a fair trial, and that there had not, to his knowledge, been any undue influence exercised to obtain the vote in its favor; that many doubts which lay in his mind had been removed; and that, although he was in the minority, he should support the constitution as cheerfully and as heartily as though he had voted on the other side of the question.’”⁵

The earliest record of General Benjamin Sawin’s interest in what is now Oxford County is a deed from 1801, by which Benjamin Sawin of Sudbury, Middlesex County, Esquire, paid \$2,000 to Benjamin Joy of Boston for ten lots of land in Township No. 8.⁶ As he was primarily a farmer, it is unknown how he acquired this much money, but this investment in about 2,000 acres was perhaps the safest “bank” for it. There is no record that he ever lived there, but this purchase suggests that a move to Maine was on his mind.

Benjamin Sawin first appears in the Oxford County Registry of Deeds in 1806, when he was described as “of Albany.” In that year he bought three parcels of land, all from Benjamin Proctor of Waterford. The largest was 100 acres lying in Waterford, being in

³ Records of the Massachusetts Adjutant General’s Office state that Benjamin Sawin was commissioned Captain of the 8th Company, 4th Regiment, Middlesex County Division (of which his father-in-law was Colonel) on July 1, 1781. He was promoted and commissioned Major in the 4th Regiment, 3rd Division, on January 17, 1787, and Colonel in the same on April 11, 1791. In 1798 he was promoted and commissioned Brigadier General of the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division. His discharge date is not given, but he was succeeded as Brigadier General by Joseph B. Varnum on November 22, 1802.

⁴ Many towns, perhaps after a town meeting, instructed their representatives how to vote, although I have not ascertained this to be true in his case.

⁵ Debates and Proceedings in the Convention of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, held in the year 1788. Boston: William White, 1856. This is a reprint of Debates, Resolutions and Other Proceedings of the Convention of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Boston: Oliver & Munroe, and Joshua Cushing, 1808.

⁶ Cumberland County Deeds 35:597 dated 1 September 1801. Township 8 refers to a tract of land in Abbot’s Purchase that was later incorporated as the town of Byron, north of Bethel.

the northerly part of Waterford on the Albany town line, for which he paid \$225.⁷ The second parcel was 31 acres and about 18 square rods in Albany, right on the Waterford line and backed up to Birch Mountain, later called Sawin Hill. This cost him \$62.20.⁸ The third parcel consisted of 56 acres that cost \$84. This parcel was also bounded on the south by the Waterford town line, but the deed says it was located in Range 9 (no Lot number given, but probably 14).⁹



Sawin Hill pre-1900 showing bare fields. The set of buildings on the left is the farm of John D. Horr. Courtesy of Berkeley N. Henley.

At the north end of the road, where it ends today at Flint Brook, lived Ephraim Flint. He was born in 1773 in Reading, Massachusetts, and bought land in Albany from John Jaquith Jr. in 1796. References to this deed and the date have been found, but the deed itself has not been found in Oxford or Cumberland Counties, and may be recorded in York County.

Near the site of the present house, Flint built a log cabin, a hovel and a sheep pen made from logs.¹⁰ This may have been about 1798, because Lillian Lord Brown recorded long afterwards that he went back to Massachusetts in the fall and returned to Albany the next

⁷ Oxford County Deeds 2:301 dated 19 May 1806.

⁸ Oxford County Deeds 2:300 dated 19 May 1806.

⁹ Oxford County Deeds 1:151 dated 24 July 1806.

¹⁰ The following stories of Ephraim Flint are from a manuscript written by Lillian (Lord) Brown about 1962, and in the possession of her granddaughter Margaret Bachelder Dutil of Norway. Lillian Brown lived on the Sawin Hill Road in Albany for most of her life. She was Albany Town Clerk at the time the town was unincorporated in 1937.

spring with his family in an ox cart, a cow and some sheep.¹¹ He married at Andover, Massachusetts in 1799 Eleanor Holt, the daughter of Joseph Holt, one of the original proprietors of Albany. Ephraim Flint is listed in the 1800 census¹² and appears on the list of taxpayers in 1802.¹³

One night as Ephraim Flint was in the hovel milking his cow, he heard a great commotion in the sheep pen. He ran out to find that a bear had killed a sheep and was carrying it away. He gave chase, shouting as he ran, and the bear dropped the sheep as it went over the wall and disappeared in the forest. Flint did not disturb the sheep carcass but set traps around it. The next morning he had Mr. Bruin fastened in two traps.

One later spring as Flint was plowing, a small bear walked out of the woods onto the plowed piece acting dazed as though it could not see. Flint edged around and killed the bear with the butt of his goad stick and a knife. The oxen ran off still hitched to the plow, but no great damage was done, and they were found back at the hovel.

After Ephraim Flint and Benjamin Sawin, the next settler was Benjamin Clark. Background on this settler is not readily available, but in later deeds he is referred to as Captain. Born about 1780, he died in 1866 at the age of 86. He and his wife Betsey are buried in Hunt's Corner Cemetery. In 1807, he bought 122 acres on the west side of the road, just north of where the road forks above Chalk Pond, from James Russell, and the next year he bought an additional 5 acres on the east side of the road from Ephraim Flint.¹⁴ He built a house on this smaller lot, close by Flint's, and the larger lot was cleared.

Seeing that James Russell sold land to Benjamin Clark suggests that he might have been another early settler, though it is uncertain that he actually lived on what eventually became Sawin Hill Road. In addition to his sale to Clark in 1807, in 1810 he sold about 140 acres "together with the buildings thereon" to Aaron Cummings.¹⁵ It is possible, however, that the buildings were farm buildings only and did not include a dwelling house. Aaron Cummings, born in Andover, Massachusetts in 1787, resided on the road with his wife Susan (Stone) and family until he sold to James French, Jr. in 1845.¹⁶

For the U.S. Census in 1810, Benjamin Sawin was appointed the Assistant Marshall for the enumeration district including Albany, East Andover, Bethel, Gilead, Newry, Rumford, East Andover Surplus, Howard's Gore, Ketcham, No. 1, No. 2, and No. 7, for which he was paid \$67.07).¹⁷ However, not all Oxford County census schedules for 1810 survived; Waterford is among those missing, but Albany is available. Twenty-eight heads

¹¹ She probably got this information from Anna Flint, who could have heard it directly from her father-in-law Ephraim Flint.

¹² The 1800 census is for Oxford (as Albany was called prior to incorporation), York County.

¹³ Mitchell and Davis (comp.), *The Town Register: Waterford, Albany, Greenwood, E. Stoneham.* Brunswick, Me.: The H. E. Mitchell Co., 1906.

¹⁴ Oxford County Deeds 59:72 dated 13 February 1840.

¹⁵ Oxford County Deeds 5:455 dated 7 April 1810.

¹⁶ Oxford County Deeds 71:101 dated 6 March 1845.

¹⁷ See U. S. Census for 1810, Maine, pp. 384-401.

of household are listed alphabetically in Albany, with a total population of 158. Benjamin Sawin included his family in Albany. Probably he lived at the top of the hill, just on or over the town line before it was adjusted (see below).¹⁸ It is likely, however, that Benjamin Sawin was the only one living on Sawin Hill Road in 1810 in what is now North Waterford. Ephraim Flint, Benjamin Clark and perhaps James Russell were also listed in Albany.¹⁹ Although Aaron Cummings had bought land on the road, he was probably not resident at the time the census was taken.

In those days the enumerator actually went to each house and asked the prescribed questions. Individual household members were not named, however, as they were beginning in 1850. For the Benjamin Sawin household, we can assume that Benjamin, at age 61, is the one male 45 or older, and his wife Martha, 58, is the one female over 45. The two males between the ages of 10 and 15, are likely George, 14, and Thomas, 10. The census also records two males between the ages of 0 and 9, but it is unknown who these are because Thomas was his youngest child. There is also one female between the ages of 16 and 25. This is probably Mary, who was 18 at the time. Other children were either married and did not live nearby, or had died young. But daughter Martha, who was 26-27, and son Henry, who was 22, do not appear in his household. As the enumerator, Benjamin would be unlikely to make a mistake with his own family.

Some insight into life at this time and place comes from a diary kept by one of Gen. Sawin's daughters.²⁰ Martha Sawin (named for her mother) never married but taught school between 1805 and 1812, sometimes in the "north district," which may have been North Waterford, sometimes in the "middle district," which may have been Waterford Flat, and sometimes in Lovell. For example, in 1807 she opened school in the north district on December 15 and closed it January 15, 1808. Usually, however, she kept school open for about three months at a time. Occasionally the local minister, Rev. Ripley, visited her school and preached a lecture to the scholars.

After 1812, she did not mention teaching school. In that year she recorded that she was taken sick with "bilious fever" and was confined to her room for six weeks, with 60 watchers. But she recovered enough to sew and knit, read scripture, and visit neighbors or receive visitors, even though the area was only lightly settled.

Among her accomplishments in one three-month period were to knit three pairs of stockings and four pairs of mittens, sew two gowns, four caps, one shirt, one handkerchief, make one bed quilt, one shirt, five pairs of socks, one bonnet, spin 23 skeins of yarn, and read various religious magazines or books. Between December 12, 1812 to February 4, 1813, she made one gown, one bonnet, four pairs of socks, one coat, one pair pantaloons, one pair shifts, turned an apron, knit a pair of stockings, one pair of mittens, one glove, one stocking foot, roped six skeins cotton, picked and broke one

¹⁸ My guess is that he lived next door to his son Henry, on the spot where Elijah Johnson resided in 1850, a place that burned in 1853 but was rebuilt by Charles and Martha Whitney, also destroyed by fire in 1918.

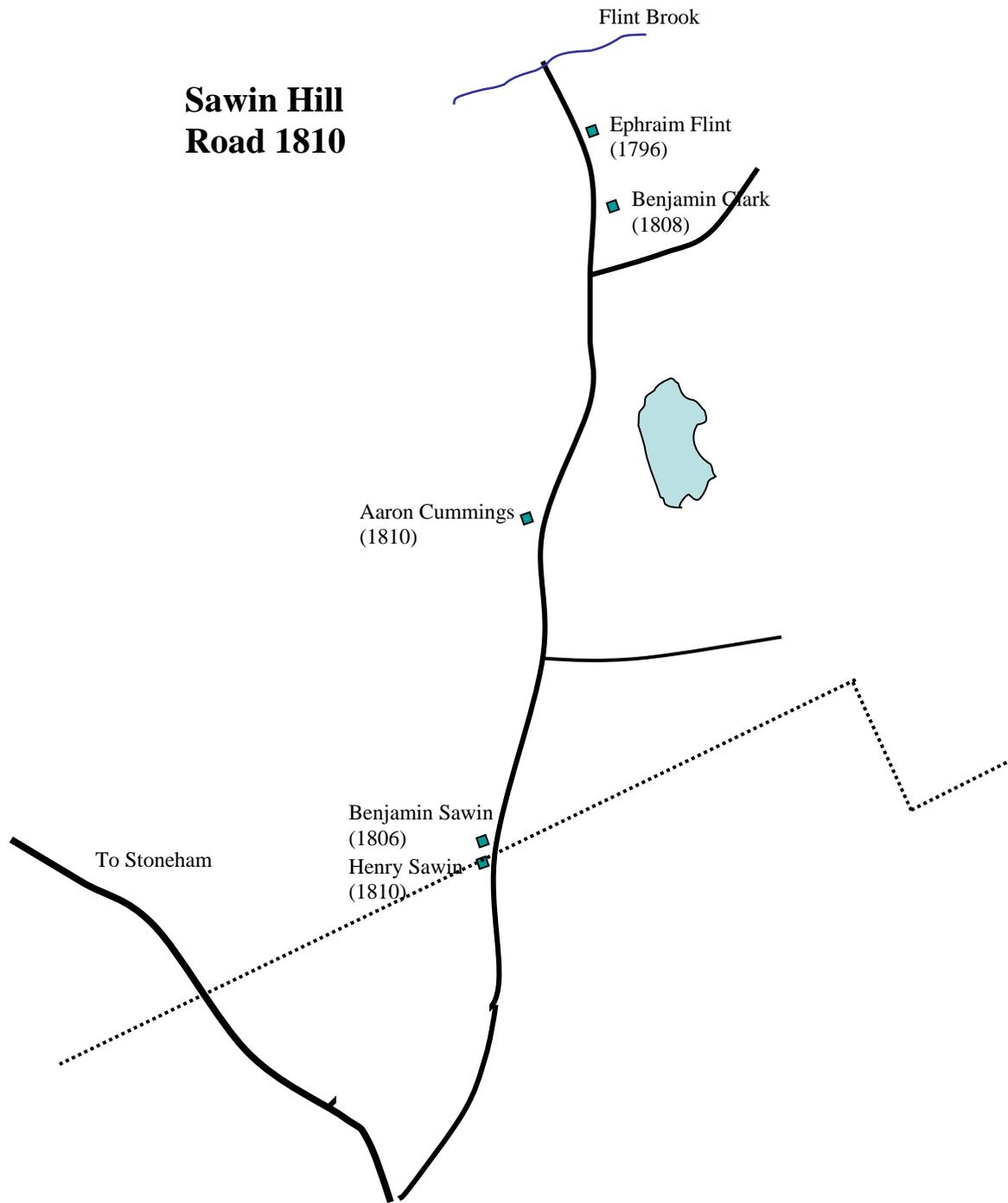
¹⁹ There are three names that are impossible to read between John Lovejoy and Benjamin Sawin. Because the listing is alphabetical, one could be James Russell, and deeds indicate he owned property on the road.

²⁰ Martha Sawin Diary, copy owned and transcribed by Edward A. Holt, 1975.

pound wool, carded half pound wool, spun 26 skeins of yarn, doubled four and twisted six skeins yarn, kept house for Mrs. Jewett three days, paid six visits, and read three magazines.

Weighing just 105 pounds when she was well, in April 1813 she began spitting up blood. She may have had consumption, or tuberculosis, and doctors Carter and Walker began to call. It is pretty clear they didn't have a clue how to treat her because it appears they tried just about everything. Dr. Walker, for example, applied a blister to her left arm, took blood from her foot, from her arm, and left a powder composed of epicac, opium, camphire and nitre. Dr. Carter bled her from the foot, applied a blister to her side, left her a powder composed of opium, camphire and salt peter, and another of opium and epicac, also a solution of salts of wormwood and vitriol and peruvian bark. Among other things she tried cream tarter, lavender, "essence," antimony and gum amoniac.

After enduring the treatment as well as the disease for ten months, she died in February, 1814 at the age of 30.



1810-1820

The Waterford History states that at first there was only a footpath leading from Ebenezer Jewett's to General Sawin's, but about 1811 "a road was opened from the Jewett guideboard (about a third of a mile east of Peter E. Mosher's) through to Albany and Bethel, by way of Hunts hill. This was called the Sawin road."²¹

Although the Waterford history states that previously there was only a footpath, the document from 1811 that approves the road states that this road is to replace "the former County road," which was discontinued. Evidently there was something more than a footpath, although "road" in those days might have a very different meaning than today.

The direction for the new road, or at least the first part of it to Benjamin Sawin's house, is described in the records of the Oxford County Court of Common Pleas:

Oxford County Court of Common Pleas²²

[1810?]

Whereas James Russel [sic] and Jonathan Longley by their petition and application to this Court have represented that an alteration in the County road in the Town of Waterford in the County of Oxford leading from the dwelling house of Gen. Benjamin Sawin in Waterford in said County to the Guide Board near the house of Ebenezer Jewett in said Waterford by Russell's and Longley's Mill in Waterford aforesaid a distance of about a hundred and ninety rods, would be of public utility and of private benefit, And it being determined by the Court to be of common convenience and necessity to have such way laid out as above described.

The Court appoint Asa Cummings Esquire, Stephen Holt Esq., Abner Holt, Daniel Mears and Capt. Joseph Holt, five disinterested freeholders in said County, a committee to lay out the same and to ascertain the place and the course thereof in the best way and manner you can, first giving seasonable notice to all persons interested of the time and place of your meeting, you are to be under oath to perform the said service according to your best skill and judgement with most convenience to the public and least prejudice or damage to private property and you are to make return thereof under your hands and seals to the Court of Common Pleas which is to be holden for the County aforesaid next after said service is performed to the end the service may be accepted allowed and recorded and afterwards known for a public highway; and if any person, be damaged in his property by the laying out of said highway, you are to estimate the same to give notice thereof to one or more of the selectmen of Waterford aforesaid and to make return thereof as aforesaid.

²¹ Warren, p. 105. A guideboard is a sign giving directions for travelers or information about the road.

²² Transcribed by the author from a photocopy in the possession of Berkeley N. Henley, and now Randall Henley.

May Term 1811

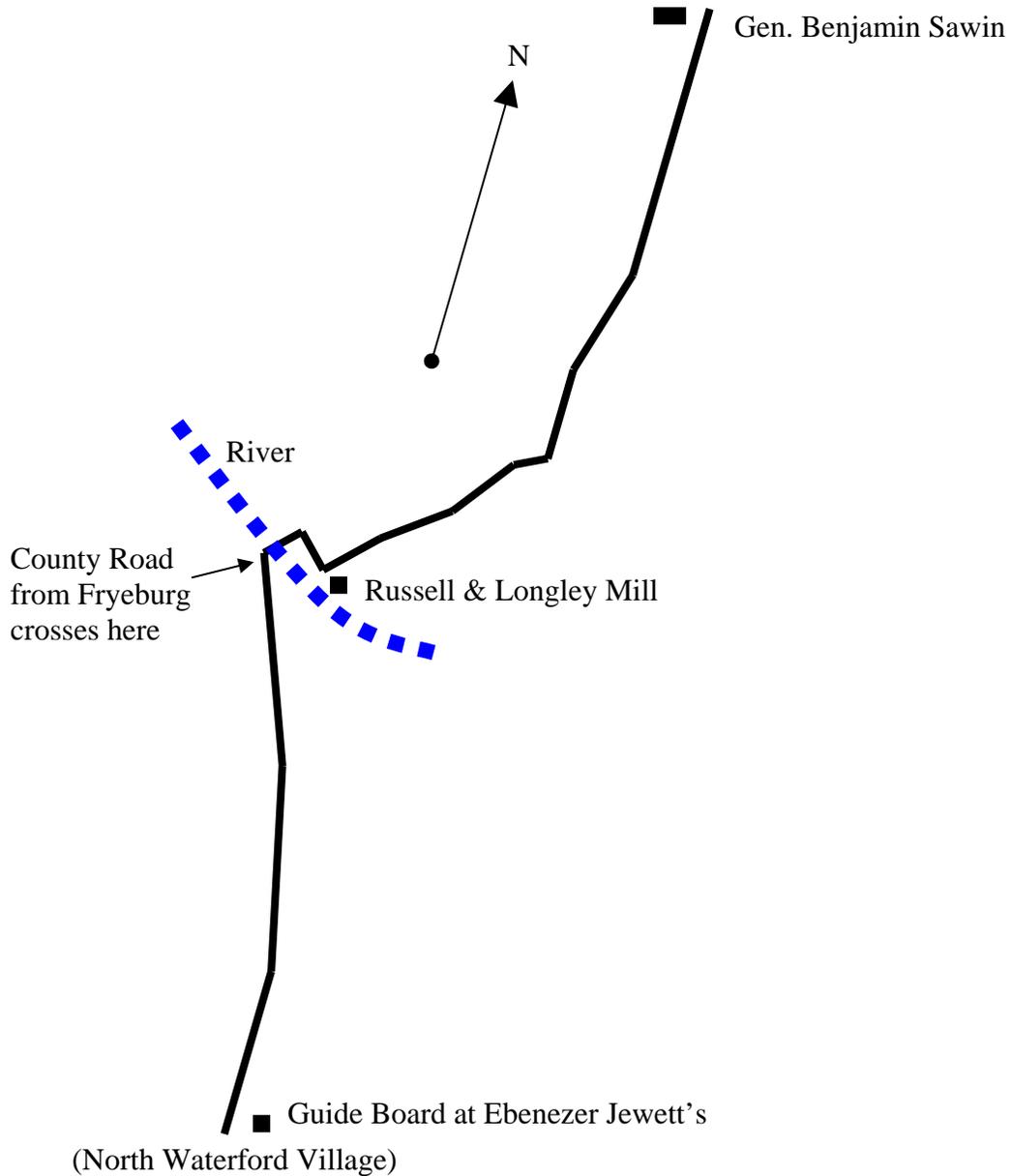
The Committee aforesaid having attended to the service to which they were appointed now make report as follows Viz.

To the justices of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting at Paris in and for the County of Oxford. We the subscribers committee appointed by the honorable Court agreeable to the foregoing commission being duly sworn as therein directed by leave to report after giving due notice to all parties concerned of the time and place of our meeting to pr [?] on said business report as follows Viz. Beginning four rods east of the Guide Board near Ebenezer Jewett's, thence running north eighty rods, thence running N. fourteen degrees west 100 R, thence running north 25 d. west 94 rods to the County road leading from Fryeburg to Gen. Benjamin Sawin's, thence turning and running east 54 d. north 20 rods, thence running east 49 d. south 18 rods to said Russell's and Longley's mill, then east 55 d. north 8 rods, thence north 29 d east 21 rods, thence running north 45 d. east 33 rods, thence running north 32 d. east 8 rods, thence north 24 d. east 20 rods north 37 d. east 12 R., thence running north 1 d. east 38 rods, thence running north 10 d. east 50 rods to a beach tree marked standing on the east side of the above mentioned County road 120 rod south of Gen. Benjamin Sawin's, said road is laid out and spotted and the former County road from the last mentioned bound to the Guide Board near Mr. Jonathan Longley's be discontinued. Waterford May 16th, 1811

Asa Cummings
Stephen Holt
Abner Holt
Daniel Mears
Joseph Holt

The Court after a full hearing of all persons appearing to support the report of the laying out committee and objecting thereto and after a full consideration of the evidence introduced accept the report of said committee and order that the road by them laid be accepted allowed recorded and in future known as a public highway

Based on the precise directions given in the records, Berkeley N. Henley charted this road with the results shown in Figure 2. There is no mention of the Songo or Crooked River, but given the mention of Russell's and Longley's mill, and the sharp jog in the road, it is logical to assume that the jog took the traveler over a bridge at that point.

Figure 2. 1811 County Road to Gen. Benjamin Sawin's (Sawin Hill Road)

Benjamin would have had to clear the land for raising crops and animals, felling trees and creating the now familiar stone walls.²³ But the work was hard and better suited to a younger man, and Benjamin decided to sell to his son Henry Sawin. In 1810, he conveyed to Henry the 56 acres in Range 9 and the 31 acres in Range 10, both in Albany, “with the buildings on the same.” These were two of the three parcels that Benjamin had bought in 1806 from Benjamin Proctor, and evidently the buildings mentioned had been

²³ According to Warren, he also owned the sawmill at North Waterford with James Russell, but it is not known how active he was in its operation, or how long he owned it.

built since then. He also sold to Henry one-half of Lot 3 “lying in the northerly part of the town of Waterford estimated at 50 acres, bounded northerly on Albany line...”²⁴ This was half of the 100 acre lot that Benjamin had purchased from Benjamin Proctor.

Henry Sawin apparently did not want to live in Albany. Perhaps he wanted his tax money to support the church that he attended in Waterford.²⁵ In any case, he identified more with Waterford, and decided to do something about it. He petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts to change the boundary between the towns, and that change would have included his father’s residence as well.

In the printed laws of Massachusetts, of which Maine was then still a part, may be found the following, on a page titled: H. Sawin—Congrega. Society. Feb. 18, 1811.²⁶

CHAP. XLII.

An Act to annex Henry Sawin, with his family and estates, to the town of Waterford.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That Henry Sawin, of Albany, in the County of Oxford, with his family and estate, containing about five acres of land, with the buildings thereon, be, and the same is hereby set off from the said town of Albany, and annexed to the town of Waterford, in the same County. And the said Henry Sawin shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges, and shall also be liable to the same duties and requisitions as an inhabitant of the town of Waterford, in like manner with the other inhabitants of the said towns, as fully and completely as if he with his estate, had been originally incorporated therewith.

This law adjusting the boundary of Waterford and Albany resulted in the way maps are now drawn showing a slight peak in the town line, coming to a point where Sawin Hill Road crosses the town line. This can be seen by a close comparison of the town line shown in the map 1810 with the map for 1820.

The other half of the 100-acre lot, where Benjamin continued to live, was the subject of a family deed of 1813 but not recorded with the Register of Deeds.²⁷ It is somewhat confusing because Henry Sawin appears to be selling a share in the premises to his father that Benjamin already occupied. There is no record of Benjamin having conveyed it to Henry prior to the date of the deed. Perhaps it remained unrecorded because it was never

²⁴ Oxford County Deeds 5:152-153 dated 1 January 1810.

²⁵ In those days the town supported the established church, which was the Congregational Church.

²⁶ Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Passed at the Several Sessions of the General Court holden in Boston. Beginning 31st May, 1809, and Ending on the 29th February, 1812. Vol. V. Boston: Printed by Adams, Rhoades, & Co., 1812. (page 269)

²⁷ This deed was handed down through the Henley family and is now in the possession of Randall Henley of East Waterford. The author has a photocopy.

effectuated.²⁸ Nevertheless, it is interesting in its description of the buildings and shared living arrangements. Since this deed is not available publicly, it is transcribed here.

Unrecorded Deed, original in possession of Randall Henley

Henry Sawin of Waterford, yeoman, sells to Benjamin Sawin Esq. of Waterford for \$800 a tract of land lying on the northerly part of the town of Waterford and on the east side of the County Road estimated at 50 acres, together with all the buildings standing on the same, with a privilege in the kitchen and one half of the sellor [cellar] and of passing and repassing through said house and up the chamber stairs, also on half the wood shed, with the privilege of taking water from the well and also reserving about two-thirds of the new barn, it being the easterly part, and one-half the west linter [?] and one-half the grait [sic] floor, which is to be used in common, the yards before the new and at the south end of the old barn to be used in common, also the wood yard to be used in common, said land is bounded as follows: beginning at land of Benjamin Sawin on the westerly side of the County Road, then running northerly on said road to the northeast corner of the house, then through the threshing floor of the new barn, then westerly to a stake and stones one rod from the northwest corner of said barn, then southerly to a stake and stones one rod from the northwest corner of the old barn, then south to the southwesterly corner of the garden, then westerly as the fence now stands to a stake and stones near a large hemlock stump, then southwesterly to the corner of Lot 2, then south on said lot to land of Benjamin Sawin, then easterly on said Benjamin's land to bounds first mentioned. One other piece of land bounded beginning at a stake and stones at the northwesterly corner of the hog Parster [pasture], then running easterly as the fence now stands about fifty rods to a stake and stones, then northerly to the line of the town of Albany, then easterly on said town line to Lot 4, then southerly on said lot to land of Benjamin Sawin, then westerly on said Sawin's land to the County Road, then northerly on said road to the bounds first mentioned. Also one other piece of land lying in the town of Albany estimated at 8 acres, beginning at a large rock maple tree marked at the southeast corner on the west side of the County Road, then running westerly about 40 rods to a stake and stones, then northerly to the southwest corner of Paul Holt's land then easterly on said Holt's land to the County Road, then southerly on said road to the bounds first mentioned. Signed 1 April 1813 by Henry Sawin in presence of Asa Cummings and Dorcas Brown. Sworn to 20 September 1813 but not recorded on Oxford Registry of Deeds.

In a later recorded deed signed less than a year before Benjamin died, this same half of the 100-acre lot in Waterford was sold to Henry.²⁹ With this transaction, Henry possessed all of Lot 3, in addition to his lands in Albany.

²⁸ Another possible interpretation is that this is a form of maintenance agreement in which the son is being paid to maintain his father and mother for the remainder of their lives, but that is not stated.

²⁹ Oxford County Deeds 12:275 dated 1 April 1816. Abstract: Benjamin Sawin of Waterford, Esq. sells to Henry Sawin of Waterford, yeoman, for \$600, the south half of L3 R1 lying in the northerly part of Waterford estimated at 50 acres, bounded westerly on L2, southerly on land of one Gates of Stow, easterly on L4, and northerly on land of said Henry Sawin. On the same date, Henry Sawin sold "Lot 3 in the first range estimated at 100 acres" to his younger brother Thomas Sawin for \$800. This deed, in the possession of Randy Henley was witnessed by Emerson Jewett and Mary Sawin, but not recorded.

Benjamin Sawin lived in a house no longer standing at the top of the hill near the town line. This house burned in 1853. His son Henry built a separate house immediately next door just south of Benjamin's. The evidence that Benjamin Sawin lived at the top of the hill near the town line is as follows:

- He recorded himself resident in Albany in the 1810 census.
- The top of hill was in Albany until 1811, when Henry petitioned to change the town line so that he would be in Waterford.
- An unrecorded deed from Henry Sawin to Benjamin Sawin in 1813 shows they shared a farm if not a dwelling house.
- In the 1820 census, Henry Sawin and his widowed mother Martha Sawin are recorded as the heads of separate but adjacent households in Waterford.
- Henry sold a small lot with buildings including a dwelling, just north of his own house, to a brother-in-law in 1849.

Benjamin Sawin died 9 February 1817, aged 68, and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in North Waterford.

In the 1820 census, two Sawin households are recorded in North Waterford—Benjamin Sawin's widow Martha Sawin, and Benjamin's son Henry Sawin. (A third Sawin household, that of oldest son William Sawin, is in South Waterford.) Martha Sawin has within her household a male between the age of 16 and 26, probably her youngest son Thomas, and an unmarried daughter, Mary. Henry's household shows his wife Hannah Johnson and their three daughters, all in the 0-10 age range, and one additional female between the age of 16 to 26, probably a domestic helper. These are still the only people living on the Sawin road south of the town line.

“In 1817 a terrible fire swept through South Albany. No attempt was made to stop it, but only to ward it off the buildings. It burned over immense tracts of wood land and destroyed two barns. Finally all Waterford and Albany turned out and fought it. This fire was a providence in disguise, for the people cleared great tracts of land over which it had run, and sowed it with rye; the next year they reaped a most bounteous harvest...”³⁰ This fire probably benefited Henry Sawin, as a landowner in South Albany, Aaron Cummings, and perhaps Benjamin Clark and Ephraim Flint.

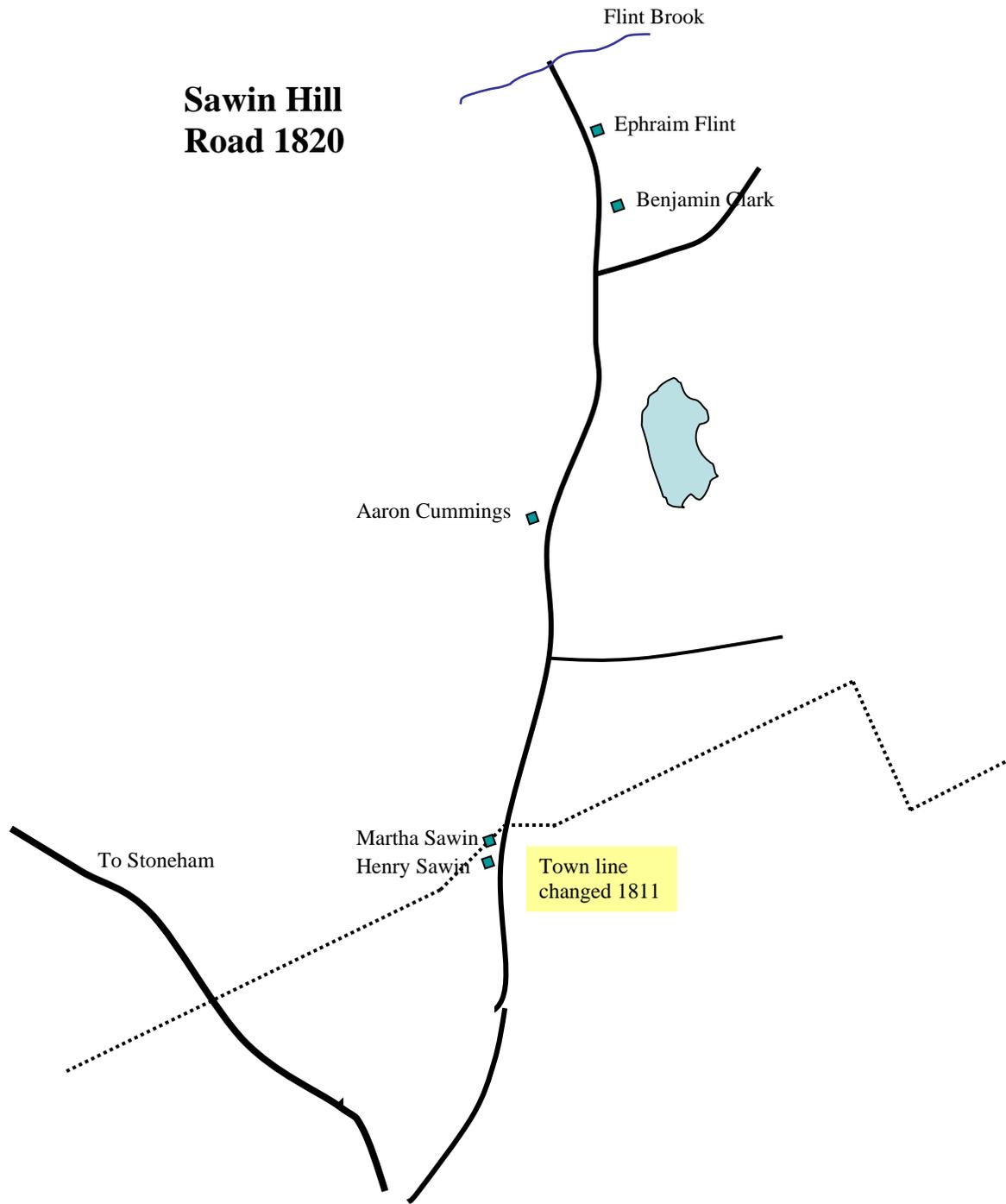
It was remembered years later by L. F. Pingree, but attributed to 1816, which may be correct because it was linked in his memory with another significant natural event of that year.³¹ “The great fires...occurred in 1816, that memorable cold season said to be

³⁰ Warren, p. 128.

³¹ In April 1815, the eruption of the volcano Tamboro east of Java spewed more than 150 million tons of volcanic dust into the atmosphere. Its effects were not felt in New England until 1816 because it took months for stratospheric winds to distribute the ash around the world. The ash reflected solar radiation back into space and so cooled the earth. In New England it was called the year without a summer, or “eighteen hundred and froze to death.” In practical terms, it was a hungry time because no crops grew.

without a summer. Though I was 4 years old at that time I have a vivid recollection of some occurrence of that year, particularly the burning by forest fires of my father's barn filled with hay and grain, a yoke of oxen and a beef creature slaughtered that day before I was carried away crying." One of his neighbors thought the world was burning up. The fire smoldered in the wood duff, which was very deep, until winter when it melted through the snow. An old man by the name of Stowell said it must be hellfire, for it would break out and run on the snow crust.³²

³² Oxford County Advertiser, Albany notes, January 15, 1886.



1820-1830

It may be that General Benjamin Sawin sold his land to his son Henry with an understanding that Henry would help his younger brother Thomas when Thomas was ready to establish his own household. In any event, Thomas married in 1825 Sally Johnson (sister of Henry's wife Hannah), and in 1831 Henry Sawin, yeoman of Waterford, sold to Thomas Sawin, also yeoman of Waterford, "a certain farm lying on the north part of Waterford and on each side of the county road, it being part of Lot 3 Range 1, estimated at 100 acres."³³ One might conclude that this 100 acres in Lot 3 is the same 100 acres in Lot 3 that General Benjamin bought from Benjamin Proctor, but that is not certain because Henry continued living there too.

In the late 1820s or early 1830s, the family of Isaac C. Horr moved to Sawin Hill Road. His grandfather Philip Horr and his father (also Isaac) were among the first to settle in Waterford. The name Horr or Hoar is English-Welsh and is often pronounced with a silent H as Oar, Orr or Ore. Some families pronounce it Haw.³⁴

Isaac (the father) settled in Lot 6 Range 12, close to if not in what is now North Waterford village. In 1826, at the age of 24, his son Isaac C. Horr purchased 100 acres from Thaddeus Brown, "being the northwardly part of lot number two in the first range..."³⁵ This would have been on the Sawin Hill Road, but Isaac C. may not have moved there immediately. It wasn't until 1829, when he married Eleanor Flint,³⁶ that he sold his share of the family homestead to his brother Stephen Horr.³⁷ He might have built his house on Sawin Hill Road that year, but descendants also recall hearing that it was built in 1835.³⁸ Perhaps the sale to his brother gave him the capital to begin building his house.

The 1830 census is not helpful as a check on where these people lived because for Waterford and Albany the names were entered more or less alphabetically. Isaac C. Hor (sic), Henry Sawin and Thomas Sawin are recorded, but it is impossible to tell if Isaac C. Horr was living on Sawin Hill Road by 1830.

³³ Oxford County Deeds 44:381 dated 29 January 1831. In an unrecorded deed signed 1 April 1816 and in the possession of Randy Henley, Henry Sawin sold to Thomas Sawin "Lot 3 in the first range estimated at 100 acres" for \$800. The 1831 deed, also for \$800, may have been to acknowledge the final payment—and it was recorded. Berkeley N. Henley believed that the deed roughly encompassed the 1980 properties of Hervey and Marjorie Kimball, the Connors place above the Kimballs, and the Warren Cairns farm.

³⁴ From <http://www.freewebs.com/horrgenealogy/index.htm> accessed August 1, 2006.

³⁵ Oxford County Deeds 28:49 dated 19 December 1826.

³⁶ Waterford VR m. int. 1 Aug. 1829. Eleanor Flint was a daughter of Ephraim and Eleanor (Holt) Flint, who lived about two miles up the road in Albany—the north end of today's Sawin Hill Road.

³⁷ Oxford County Deeds 34:482 dated 24 December 1829. It is unclear if the grantor was Isaac Horr the father or Isaac C. Horr the son and brother of Stephen. The grantor name, Isaac Horr, lacks the middle initial C. It is my assumption that their father had died, but no record of his death has been found, and if he was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in North Waterford, as seems likely, that information is lost.

³⁸ Arthur E. Holt, Sawin Hill Road.

Travelling north into Albany, one would first pass the home of Aaron Cummings. Beyond Cummings, a new resident, Sumner Frost, came to stay. Frost was in Albany as early as 1827, and he appears in the 1830 census next to Aaron Cummings. Perhaps he was renting, because it wasn't until 1832 that he bought from Jacob Dresser a farm on the easterly side of the county road and the southerly side of the town road near Schoolhouse No. 2, and bounded on the south by land of Aaron Cummings and on the east by Chalk Pond, containing 146 acres.³⁹

Mention of Schoolhouse No. 2 in a deed of 1832 confirms that a school was established on the road by that date. It was locally referred to as the Dresser School, and the road opposite, leading off Sawin Hill Road to the northeast, is now named Dresser School Road. Both the school and the road are named for the Dresser family that lived nearby. We will say more about the school later.

Just above the school, but on the opposite side of the road, lived Benjamin Clark, as already mentioned.

Finally, at the north end of the present road, Ephraim Flint labored on his homestead with a son Daniel, while two other sons, Ephraim Jr. and Joseph H., lived nearby, as shown in the 1830 census.

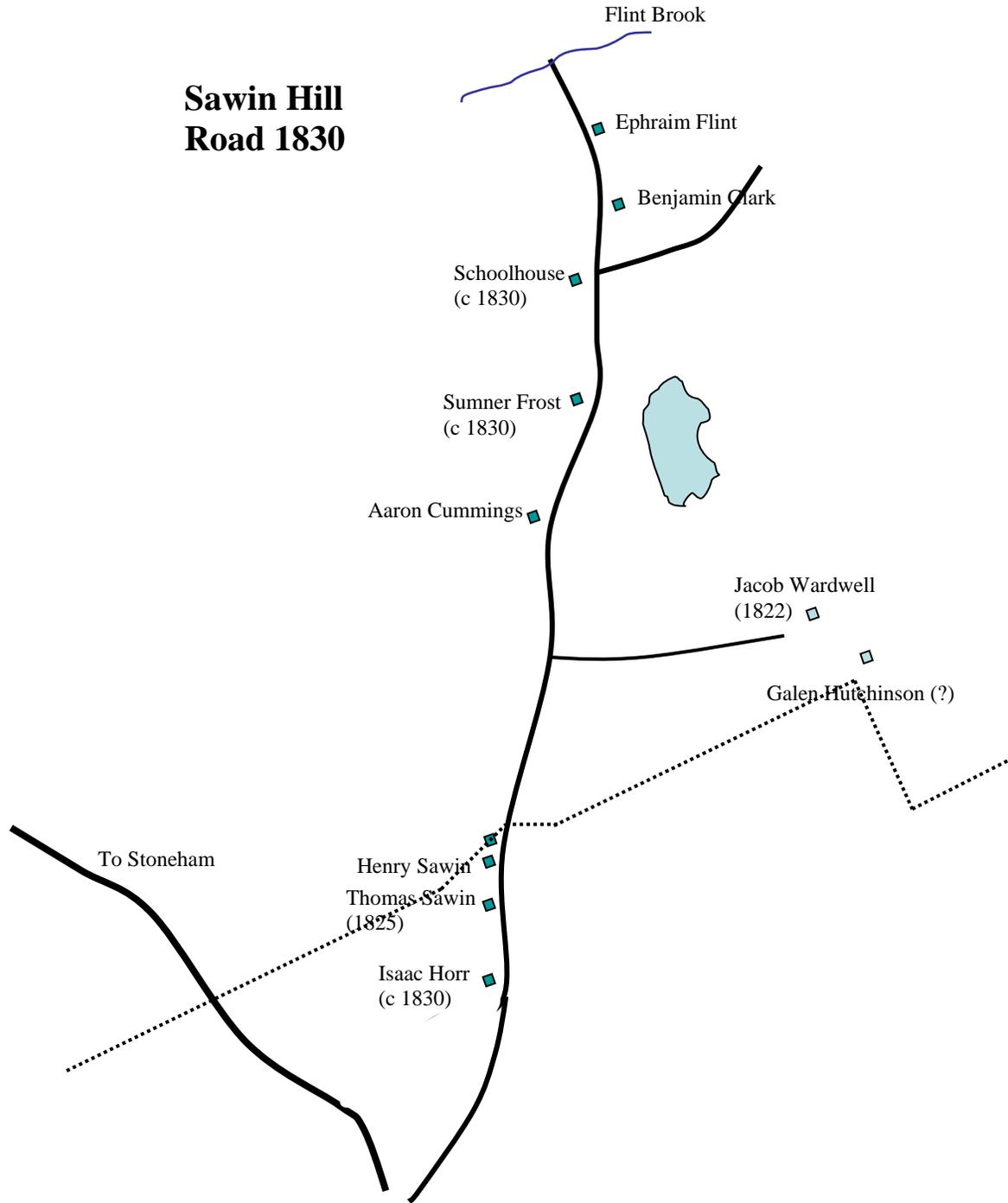
Doubling back, about a half-mile above the town line, and at mile 1.4 from Route 118, an unpaved road or lane intersects with the Sawin Hill Road. From in front of the house currently owned by Charles and Dorothy Googins, this road leads easterly to a hill of 800 feet elevation. In a lot and range map, it is located in parts of Lot 13 Range 7 and 8 and in Lot 14 Range 7 and 8. This hill is unnamed on maps, but the earliest local name used in deeds of the mid-1800s was Miller Hill, and the short road leading up it was sometimes referred to as the town road to distinguish it from the county road that was Sawin Hill Road.

Perhaps the earliest settler here was Jacob Wardwell. In 1822 James Wardwell gave a quitclaim deed to Jacob Wardwell (perhaps his brother) for Lot 4 Range 1 in the northerly part of Waterford, and sold land to him in Range 8 in Albany.⁴⁰ Galen Hutchinson was also a landowner in Albany as early as 1822, but when he first purchased land on Miller Hill is uncertain. He is listed in the 1830 census in this area, and in 1839, he sold three acres on this hill to Jacob Wardwell, land that was adjacent to Wardwell's.⁴¹ The deed contains the first mention of the road that led to their properties. Both Jacob Wardwell and Galen Hutchinson were probably living on the hill in 1830, but because the Albany census is alphabetized, it cannot be said for certain that they were living near each other on the hill.

³⁹ Oxford County Deeds 37:400 dated 14 April 1832.

⁴⁰ Oxford County Deeds 52:477 and 62:420, both dated 7 November 1822.

⁴¹ Oxford County Deeds 62:418 dated 4 July 1839. Hutchinson and family appears in this area in the 1830 and 1840 censuses.



1830-1840

In 1837, Isaac C. Horr, his brother Stephen Horr, and Thomas Sawin jointly bought the northwestern half of L7 R14 in Waterford from Sumner Stone.⁴² They then proceeded to divide it among themselves. In 1840, Isaac rounded out his holdings by purchasing from Henry Sawin about a half acre in the northeasterly part of L6 R14 on the westerly side of the road.⁴³ This transaction did not result in any new residents on the road, however.

Near the northern end of the road, Benjamin Clark and his wife, who had lived next to Ephraim Flint for over 30 years, sold to Perley French in 1840.⁴⁴ Perley was in Albany as early as 1836, and in 1839 he married Betsey Wardwell, daughter of Isaac Wardwell of Albany. According to Bradbury, Perley French was always a farmer, known for his hard working habits, laboring from long before breakfast into the dusk of evening. He was also a great help in the house, in the evening or on rainy days, rug-drawing and making and mending various things. He was an excellent shot with the rifle, and had many an adventure in deer and bear hunting.⁴⁵

In the Flint household, Daniel Flint, living with his parents Ephraim and Eleanor Flint, married Susanna Town in 1835, and according to the present owners, built an addition to the home in 1836.⁴⁶ They had a son Isaac Flint, but Susanna died in 1845.

At the end of this decade, Galen Hutchinson sold a 200 acre farm on the southeast part of the hill just east of Sawin Hill Road to Lorenzo D. Miller.⁴⁷ This was the first appearance of a member of the Miller family after whom the hill was called for the next several decades.

⁴² Oxford County Deeds 50:537 dated 11 March 1837.

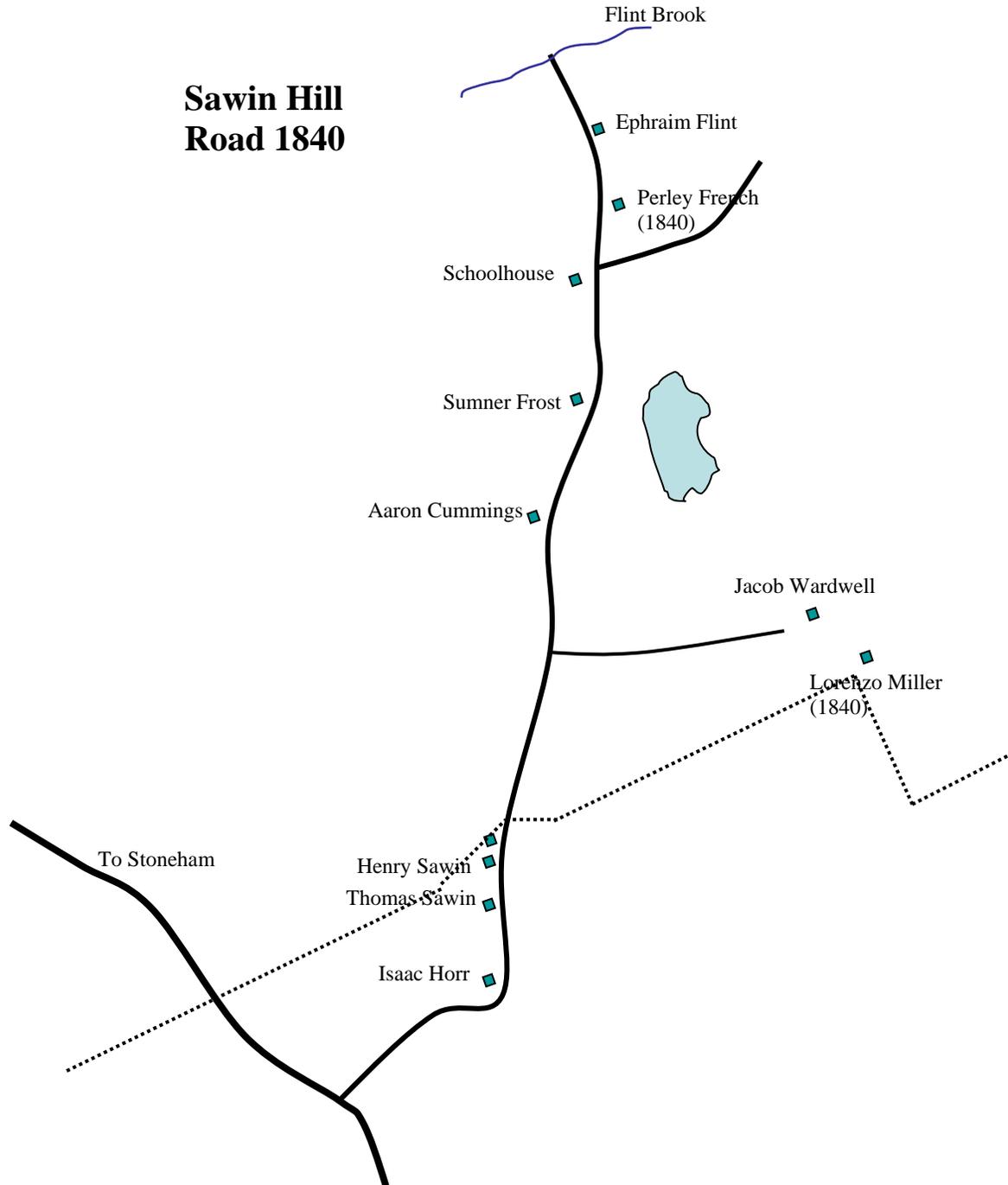
⁴³ Oxford County Deeds 60:59 dated 12 September 1840.

⁴⁴ Oxford County Deeds 59:72 dated 13 February 1840.

⁴⁵ O. N. Bradbury, *Norway in the Forties*, ed. Rev. Don L. McAllister (1986), p. 380.

⁴⁶ Dennis Jellison, email communication, September 4, 2006.

⁴⁷ Oxford County Deeds 65:378 dated 14 August 1840.



1840-1850

The next addition to the families on the road in North Waterford was that of Elijah Johnson. In 1849, he bought two pieces of land from Henry Sawin, both of them partly in Albany and partly in Waterford, and on both sides of Sawin Hill Road. One of them was about 11 ½ acres; the size of the second one is not stated, but it abutted the base of Birch Mountain and included a dwelling house and buildings.⁴⁸ This was probably the house where Benjamin Sawin lived until his death in 1817, and where his wife Martha Sawin was recorded in 1820. Originally it would have been in Albany, but after the adjustment in the town line to accommodate Henry Sawin, it was just under the line in Waterford.

In 1850, a map was made of Waterford showing four dwellings on Sawin Hill Road: I. C. Horr, Thomas Sawin, Henry Sawin and Elijah Johnson, as shown in the map for 1850 below.

The map is consistent with the 1850 census, which provides a little more information about each family. (They are listed here in geographic order from south to north, although the census does not record them in strict order.)

1. Isaac C. Hor [sic], age 48, and his wife Eleanor live below the Sawin families with their children Ebenezer, Ruth, John D., Calvin H., Amos F. and Lewis H. His property is valued at \$800.
2. Thomas Sawin, the younger brother at age 51, is living next door with his wife Sally and their children Miranda, Lewis, Sarah, Thomas Jr. and Henry. His property is valued at \$950.
3. Henry Sawin, the older brother at age 62, is living with his wife Hannah. Their only surviving daughter is married and living just up the road in Albany, though she will soon move next door. His real property is valued at \$700.
4. Elijah Johnson, age 50, his wife Lucy and their children Henry S., Mariah G., George W. and Mary F., live just above the Sawin families, being the most recent arrivals to the road. His property is valued at \$600.

There is another connection among these families other than the fact that they were neighbors on Sawin Hill Road. They were all closely related, the Johnson family being the binding ingredient (see Appendix B). Henry Sawin was married to Hannah Johnson, his brother Thomas was married to Hannah's sister Sally Johnson, and Hannah and Sally were sisters to Elijah Johnson.⁴⁹ These Johnson siblings were first cousins to Isaac C. Horr. Given their proximity and their kinship, they seem like a pretty tight-knit group.

There was also a young family on the road in North Waterford. The 1850 census shows Timothy Butters, age 27, a cooper, his wife Mary and three children living next to the Horr family (though it is not positive that the families were recorded precisely in the

⁴⁸ Oxford County Deeds 84:67-69 dated 30 April 1849.

⁴⁹ The family was numerous. In addition to those named, Ira Johnson, Clarissa Johnson Hersey, and Leonisa Johnson Whiting lived in the McIntire neighborhood in northwest Waterford, and Asa Johnson lived in Albany.

geographic sequence that they lived on the road). Butters also appears in the 1860 census with his second wife, though in a different order of listing. As there is no record of them owning property here, they were likely renting a house from one of the others.



Thomas Sawin and Sally (Johnson) Sawin. Collection of the author.

Continuing north on the road in Albany, Charles Whitney had built a new house on land owned by Henry Sawin. It was then the first house on the left over the town line. Henry Sawin's only surviving child Martha married Charles Whitney in 1843, and in the 1850 census they appear to be living there because they are enumerated next to other known residents in the neighborhood. In fact, their farm is referred to in 1849 in a transaction of an adjacent property,⁵⁰ and possibly they built a house there soon after their marriage. Henry Sawin sold the land where they were living to his daughter in 1851.⁵¹

Next up the road, also on the left or west side, Aaron Cummings sold his farm and residence to James French, Jr. in 1845.⁵² He would stay for about 20 years.

In 1846, after 14 years of residency, Sumner Frost and his second wife Eliza sold their home and land just south of Ephraim Flint to Jeremiah Henley,⁵³ whose descendants have

⁵⁰ Oxford County Deeds 89:7 dated 1 November 1849.

⁵¹ Oxford County Deeds 91:344-346 dated 14 May 1851.

⁵² Oxford County Deeds 71:101 dated 6 March 1845.

⁵³ Oxford County Deeds 72:558 dated 1 April 1846.

played an important role on Sawin Hill Road.⁵⁴ During his tenure, Jeremiah sold off five and one-half acres to James French Jr., and added 20 acres by purchase from Perley French.⁵⁵

In 1850, Ephraim and Eleanor (Holt) Flint were still living on the home place with their son Daniel. As noted previously, Daniel's first wife Susanna Town died in 1845, and he married again in 1850 to Anna F. Eames, with whom he had three sons, Orin, Parker and Charles (see Appendix B for a family tree).

On Miller Hill, land transactions picked up. Some of the owners moved in, while others may have bought land for speculation. Although no deed appears to have been recorded, Jacob Wardwell sold his property to Daniel Proctor on an unknown date, who in turn sold it to Washington French in 1847.⁵⁶ Washington French was born in Greenwood, just over the town line from North Norway. In 1840, he married Mary Henley, daughter of Jeremiah Henley.

By the 1840s, three French brothers lived on (or near) the road. James French, Jr. born in 1811, lived where John F. Lord and J. Ernest Brown later resided (destroyed by fire). Washington French, born in 1813, lived on Miller Hill. Perley French, born in 1815, lived further up the road next to Ephraim Flint. Another brother, George French, was the principal merchant of Hunt's Corner for nearly 40 years. All of them were born in Greenwood, just over the town line from North Norway, and therefore not very far from Sawin Hill as the crow flies.⁵⁷

Ownership and residence on Miller Hill is confusing because properties were bought and split up, with pieces sold to multiple parties and in some cases recombined into one owner. Also, it is difficult to know the exact location because the property descriptions are insufficient or hard to follow. A case in point is the Miller properties. After Galen Hutchinson sold 200 acres on the southeast part of Miller Hill to Lorenzo D. Miller in 1840, Lorenzo sold a large part of it to Robert H. Miller, Jr. in 1846.⁵⁸ Two years later the same Lorenzo D. Miller and his wife Abigail gave a quitclaim deed for the remaining part of his property part (the northerly part of Lot 14 in Range 7—about 60 acres) to James M. Miller.⁵⁹

⁵⁴ In the 1840 census, Henry M. Stone and wife were enumerated between Aaron Cummings and Sumner Frost, but there is no record of Stone owning property here. Perhaps the Stones (he in his 30s and she in her 20s) were living with Aaron and Susan Cummings, who were then in their 50s and had no children living with them.

⁵⁵ Oxford County Deeds 89:8 dated 28 November 1849; and 89:9 dated 20 February 1850.

⁵⁶ Oxford County Deeds 89:11 dated 22 April 1847.

⁵⁷ For more on this family, see O. N. Bradbury, *Norway in the Forties*, ed. Rev. Don L. McAllister, reprinted Norway, Maine, 1986, pp. 368-391.

⁵⁸ Oxford County Deeds 80:382 dated 5 October 1846.

⁵⁹ Oxford County Deeds 95:474 dated 30 August 1848.

Another Miller put in a brief appearance in the area. John B. Miller bought property here in 1844, and his wife Temperance Miller purchased the southerly part of Lot 13 Range 7 in Albany from Peter Wardwell of Otisfield in 1849, but they sold out the same year.⁶⁰

The relationship among these Millers has not been proven, but they may have been brothers, sons of Robert H. Miller Sr. and his wife Lucy. It is not certain where the family originated, but there is evidence of one or another of them in Denmark, Brownfield, Bridgton and Fryeburg.

In 1850, Robert H. Miller (Sr.), his wife Lucy and son James were living on L14 R7.⁶¹ Lorenzo was in Westbrook, John B. Miller was living in Oxford, and Robert H. Miller, Jr., though he still owned property on Miller Hill, has not been found, though he turns up much later (1880) in Minnesota.

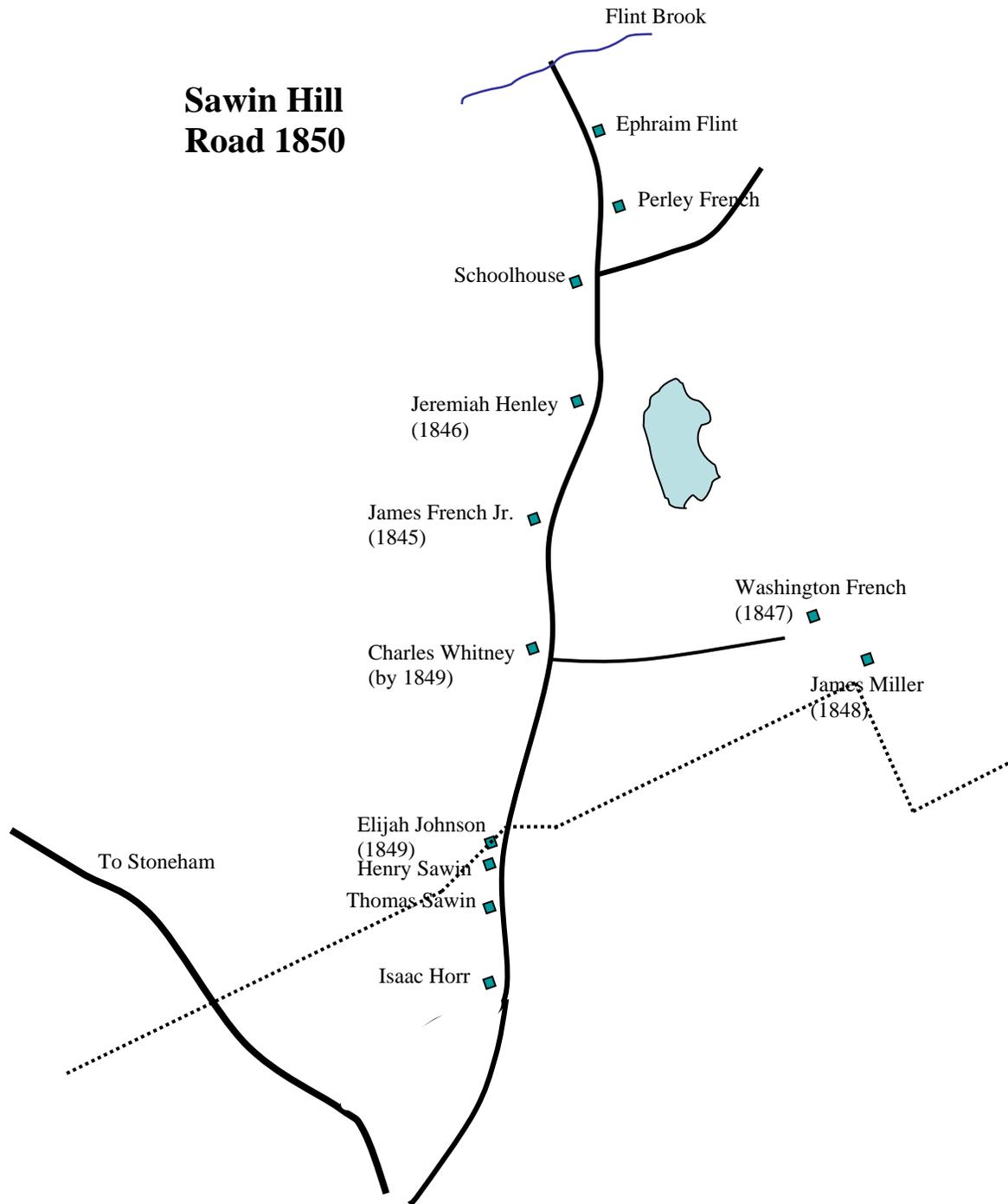
In 1851, Robert H. Miller Jr., wheelwright of Albany, and his wife Sarah R. sold 125 acres to Merrill T. Files of Gorham, his homestead farm “late occupied by me in Albany” and the same that he had purchased of Lorenzo D. Miller in 1846.⁶² It is puzzling how Robert Miller Jr. could sell his homestead farm if his father and brother were still living there. Perhaps James and his parents built a house on his smaller 60-acre property.

In any event, at the time of the 1850 census, there were two families living on Miller Hill—Washington French and a young James Miller and his parents.

⁶⁰ Oxford County Deeds 85:180 dated 3 July 1849.

⁶¹ Although this Robert H. Miller is not called “Senior,” his age suggests that he is the father of Robert H. Miller, Jr. and James M. Miller, and possibly of Lorenzo D. Miller. John B. Miller may have been a younger brother of Robert Sr.

⁶² Oxford County Deeds 92:452 dated 14 July 1851.



1850-1860

The 1858 map of Waterford shows Isaac C. Horr living on the west side of the road, where he had built about 1830. He was still there, age 58, in the 1860 census with his wife Elinor (52) and children Ruth (24), John D. (22), Calvin (20), Amos (17), and Elinor (9), plus Ruth Flint (46), his wife's sister (and daughter of Ephraim Flint, the first settler at the northern end of the road). Appendix B includes a tree of this family.

Sometime around 1860, the southerly end of the road was moved. Berkeley N. Henley described the first road as follows:

The first road had no big curves in it. The road came down from the Dresser School House direction, passed the [Isaac C. Horr home] and continued on straight ahead to the river and across it on a little stone bridge. [The 1858 map confirms this, as the road is nearly straight from north to south, with a slight bend to the west on the southern end.] At some time in the mid 1800s the dam [on the Crooked River] was raised up somewhat and flooded the road with the pond it created. I remember skating on the pond when we were kids and looking through the ice and seeing the remains of the stone bridge a few feet down. Now that the dam is out, and the pond lowered, I think one could find it on dry land now. I believe that is when the new road was built [to avoid this pond in the river].⁶³

The new road, as today, had a sharp bend in it, turning westerly below the Isaac Horr place and intersecting with the Stoneham road further west than the old road. This change is shown on in the map for 1860 below.

Further up the hill, in 1855 Henry Sawin died at the age of 67.⁶⁴ He had done a lot to clear and utilize the land along the road, carrying on the original work of his father, Gen. Benjamin Sawin.

I have found no record of Henry Sawin's home property being transferred to his widow or his daughter, although this is not unusual in the case of inheritance. Before he died, he had already transferred most of his property to his daughter and son-in-law. For example, in 1851, Henry Sawin had sold to his daughter Martha Whitney three pieces of land in Albany on the Sawin Road.⁶⁵ Perhaps he was thinking that he might be near the end of his life, and wanted to transfer more of his real estate to his only surviving child.

On May 31, 1853, Elijah Johnson's home burned,⁶⁶ and a year later he sold the property to his niece Martha Whitney. The description of the property is the same as when Elijah purchased in 1849 from Henry Sawin, but the description says, "where the dwelling

⁶³ Berkeley N. Henley email to the author dated 3 May 2006.

⁶⁴ Woodlawn Cemetery, North Waterford.

⁶⁵ Oxford County Deeds 91:344-346 dated 14 May 1851.

⁶⁶ Ellen Whitney diary, 31 May 1869: "Sixteen years ago today the buildings on this farm were burned to the ground."

house formerly stood.”⁶⁷ Then Elijah Johnson, his wife and four children, moved to Illinois and later Wisconsin.⁶⁸

Charles and Martha (Sawin) Whitney rebuilt on this site on Sawin Road, probably in 1854 or 1855, though the date is uncertain. This brought them to live next door to her parents (or at least her mother) in Waterford, but nearly on the town line. Once their house was built, it appears that her mother Hannah (Johnson) Sawin moved next door with the Whitneys, where she is recorded in the 1860 census.

The 1860 census also suggests that Timothy Butters and his second wife were living in and probably renting Henry Sawin’s vacated home, as there is no record of Butters owing property on the road.

Within a month of purchasing the land from Elijah Johnson, Martha Whitney sold her three parcels in Albany to her cousin, Lewis H. Sawin. This included the southerly half of L13 R9, 30 acres (maybe 90, the deed seems to be contradictory) of L13 R8, and a third piece in L14 R9.⁶⁹

Lewis Holden Sawin was born in 1827, a son of Thomas and Sally (Johnson) Sawin, and had recently married Lydia Maria Abbott of Albany. They resided about one-half mile north of the town line, opposite the town road leading to Miller Hill, in the house where Charles and Martha Whitney had lived. Just one month after he purchased the land from the Whitneys, another deed from Henry Sawin to Charles Whitney refers to “the road leading from Lewis H. Sawin’s house to said Whitney’s and on the most southerly side of the said L. H. Sawin’s farm.”⁷⁰

James French Jr. continued farming on the next farm north of Lewis Sawin. French was also active in town affairs at least during this decade, serving as a selectman for Albany from 1855-1858.⁷¹

In 1857, Washington French sold the farm on Miller Hill where he had lived for 10 years and purchased from his father-in-law, Jeremiah Henley, land on the west side of Sawin Hill Road and just above his brother James, at the time still called the Sumner Frost farm.⁷² This was just one mile away from where he had been living. With this move, three French brothers owned adjacent land, from south to north, James French Jr., Washington French and Perley French. The hill just north of Sawin Hill, and behind James and Washington French, became known as French Hill, a name some maps still

⁶⁷ Oxford County Deeds 98:395 dated 27 September 1854.

⁶⁸ 1860 Census Ontario, Knox County, Illinois (Roll 195 p. 489); 1870 Census Marion, Waushara County, Wisconsin; and 1880 Census Marion, Waushara County, Wisconsin. Both Elijah and his wife Lucy were still living in 1880.

⁶⁹ Oxford County Deeds 105:3 dated 23 October 1854.

⁷⁰ Oxford County Deeds 102:570 dated 27 November 1854. Whitney also owned land on Miller Hill.

⁷¹ Mitchell and Davis, *The Town Register: Waterford, Albany, Greenwood, E. Stoneham. Brunswick, Me.* The H. E. Mitchell Co., 1906.

⁷² Oxford County Deeds 119:260 dated 19 September 1857. See also Bradbury, p. 378.

bear today, and the body of water east of Washington French became known as French's Pond (now Chalk Pond). A French family tree is included in Appendix B.

The earliest settlers Ephraim and Eleanor (Holt) Flint died on their home place in 1859 and 1858, respectively. Their son Daniel and his second wife carried on the original farm.

On Miller Hill, the farm sold by Robert Miller Jr. in 1851 was purchased by Josiah Lovering in 1856.⁷³ In 1853, his brother James M. Miller sold the farm where he had been living with his parents to Matthew W. Reed of Bridgton.⁷⁴ He included in the sale "all...the personal property on said premises which I had of Robert H. Miller," meaning his father. Two years later Matthew Reed sold the same to Isaac P. Beckler,⁷⁵ a son of John C. and Abigail Beckler of Albany. Beckler in turn sold the property to Josiah Lovering in 1857.⁷⁶

In 1854, soon after he sold his land on Miller Hill, James M. Miller married Sarah Ann Sawin. She was a daughter of Thomas and Sally Sawin, and a sister to Lewis H. Sawin who lived at the beginning of the short road to Miller Hill. They apparently moved to Manchester, New Hampshire, where she gave birth to a son in 1856. Sadly, she died about two weeks later and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, North Waterford.⁷⁷ James Miller remarried in Manchester, but he reappeared on Sawin Hill Road several years later, as we shall see.

⁷³ Oxford County Deeds 102:569 dated 16 March 1854 and 112:182 dated 28 August 1856.

⁷⁴ Oxford County Deeds 101:62 dated 17 August 1853. A year after he made the purchase, Reed mortgaged the property to Robert H. Miller (probably Sr.) of Albany, which suggests that Robert H. Miller Sr. did not move away when James sold the farm.

⁷⁵ Oxford County Deeds 106:490 dated 30 June 1855.

⁷⁶ Oxford County Deeds 111:188 dated 13 April 1857.

⁷⁷ Waterford Vital Records p. 443.



Sarah Ann (Sawin) and James M. Miller 1854.
Collection of the author.

When Washington French left Miller Hill, he sold his place there to Isaac P. Beckler.⁷⁸ The property transactions are confusing, but he apparently kept some for himself in the southwest part of Miller Hill, and sold the rest to Josiah Lovering.⁷⁹ Isaac P. Beckler is shown living on Miller Hill on the 1858 Oxford County map, and also appears there with an extended family in the 1860 census, when he and his wife were 30 and 29 years old, respectively.

Josiah Flagg Lovering, having bought the Robert H. Miller Jr. farm in 1856 and the James Miller property and part of Isaac Beckler's purchase in 1857, was now a substantial landowner and farmer on Miller Hill. Josiah's first wife died in early 1850; in late 1850 he remarried to Sarah H. Abbott (sister to Lydia Abbott, the wife of Lewis H. Sawin). In the 1850 census, before his remarriage, he is living with his one-year old daughter and his parents David and Abigail Lovering in Albany. In 1856 his parents sold to him the westerly half of Lot 12 Range 6 in Albany—near, but not quite on, Miller Hill. The 1858 County map shows Josiah as owning two adjacent dwellings—the one that had belonged to Washington French and the one that had belonged to the Millers.

⁷⁸ Oxford County Deeds 111:189 dated 13 April 1857.

⁷⁹ Oxford County Deeds 111:188 dated 13 April 1857.

Josiah F. Lovering must have been a hard-working and determined man. Not only did he own substantial farmland, he worked it with a significant disability. According to Prof. A. E. Verrill, both of Josiah's feet "were badly clubbed and the ankles were turned in, making walking difficult. Later in life he walked mostly on his ankles."⁸⁰ This deformity is incorrectly described as "clubfeet" but is actually a hereditary atrophy of the lower leg muscles and sometimes nerves. In his case, this weakening of the ankles and lower legs resulted in walking on the outside edges of his feet, which eventually turned inward. This affliction was suffered even more severely by his father, and by two of his children, as well as occurring more widely in the Lovering family, as described in a medical journal article.⁸¹ Some in the family called it "the pumple foot," and it has also been referred to as "the Lovering curse."⁸²

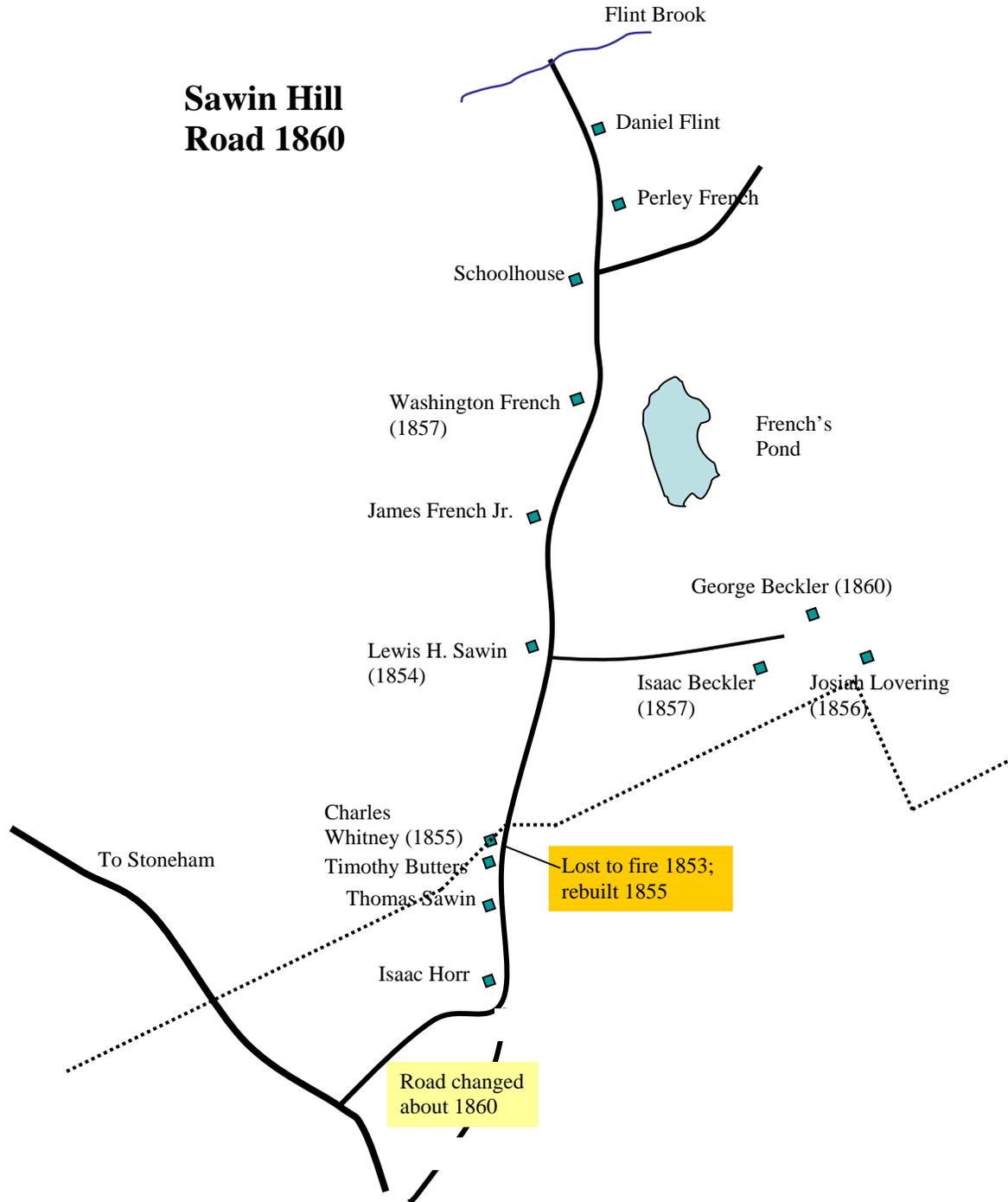
In 1860, Josiah Lovering sold part of his property, about 80 acres, to George Beckler.⁸³

⁸⁰ A. E. Verrill, "Recollections of Early Settlers of Greenwood," *Oxford County Advertiser*, November 27, 1914.

⁸¹ A. C. England, M.D. and D. Denny-Brown, M.D. "Severe Sensory Changes, and Trophic Disorder, in Peroneal Muscular Atrophy (Charcot-Marie-Tooth Type)," *American Medical Association Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry* Vol. 67, No. 1, January 1952, pp. 1-22.

⁸² Susan Cifaldi, "Levi Lovering and His Mode of Notes: A Drum Manuscript of the 1790s," The Colonial Music Institute, at <http://www.colonialmusic.org/Resource/Lovering.htm> (accessed January 4, 2007).

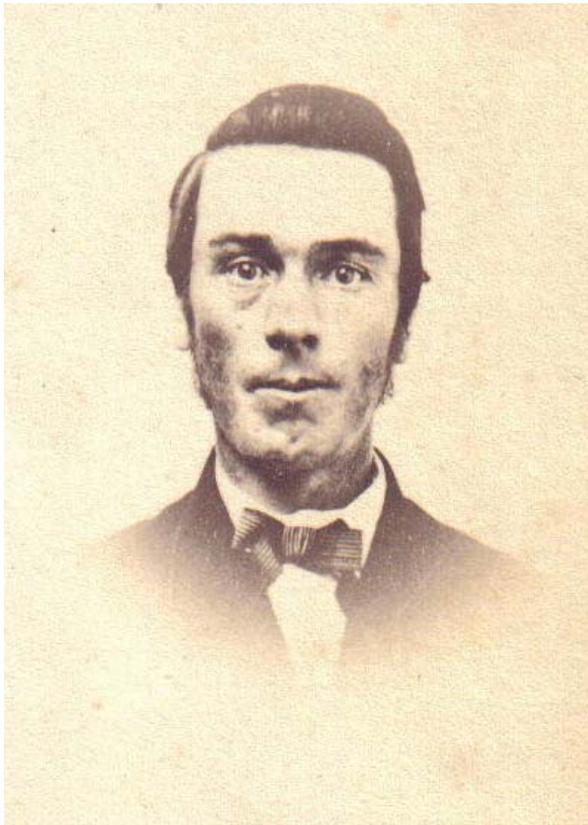
⁸³ Oxford County Deeds 121:286 dated 7 September 1860.



1860-1870

Isaac C. Horr, who owned much of the land on the southeastern end of the road, died in 1861.⁸⁴ Early the next year, two of his sons split up the farm. On January 21, 1862, Calvin H. Horr sold to his brother John D. Horr “part of the homestead farm together with the buildings thereon...”⁸⁵ The next day, John D. Horr sold to Calvin H. Horr “part of the homestead farm together with the buildings thereon...”⁸⁶

The deeds are difficult to understand, but the result is plain enough. John D. Horr purchased the southwesterly part nearer the beginning of the road and built a barn on the east and a house on the west side of the new road. He was married in 1863 to Henrietta Heald of Lovell, and his house was probably built about that time.⁸⁷



John D. Horr 1860s. Courtesy of Arthur E. Holt

⁸⁴ There is no probate file for Isaac C. Horr in Oxford County, and no record of his death has been found in the Waterford Vital Records. Surprisingly, there is no record of a gravestone for him in Waterford. But Kathleen Horr Blaisdell of Berwick, Maine, has a family register that states he died 27 May 1861.

⁸⁵ Oxford County Deeds 130:397 dated 21 January 1862. This deed refers to the “new town road” and the old town road.”

⁸⁶ Oxford County Deeds 130:396 dated 22 January 1862. Other key deeds that sealed the division are 157:88 dated 25 November 1865, and 152:388 dated 11 January 1869.

⁸⁷ There is no dwelling shown there on the 1858 County map, nor is any family listed there in the 1860 census. It is possible that the buildings referred to in his 1862 deed were farm buildings or sheds. Descendants that own the property today think that the barn across the road from J. D. Horr’s was built earlier than the dwelling house.



Henrietta (Heald) Horr c. 1864. Courtesy of Arthur E. Holt

A neighbor, Ellen Whitney, wrote in her 1869 diary:⁸⁸ “The ladies gleaning Circle has its annual meeting at the house of Mrs. John Horr this afternoon.” (January 13) “Mr. John Horr made us a visit this afternoon.” (March 3) “I went to the village this morning, found better walking than I expected. Called on Mrs. Horr and saw some rugs they have been weaving.” (April 30) “I took dinner with Mrs. John Horr, and went to the Circle at Calvin Horr’s this afternoon.” (June 16)

At the time of the 1870 census, however, John D. Horr and his wife Henrietta were far away in Midland, Michigan, where they were living next to her parents, Solomon and Esther Heald.⁸⁹ John D. is described as a surveyor, and was there to help his father-in-

⁸⁸ Ellen Whitney Diary, in possession of Randall Henley, East Waterford, Maine.

⁸⁹ U.S. Census of 1870, Midland Village, Midland County, Michigan, p. 146.

law manage his timber interests in Midland County.⁹⁰ Nevertheless, the Horrs were back home in Waterford by late 1871.⁹¹

When Isaac Horr's property was divided in 1862, Calvin H. Horr purchased his father's farmstead. In 1870, he and his wife Mary were living there with their five-month old son, Calvin's mother Eleanor and his sister Ruth. Calvin died in November that same year at the age of 30. He had served in the Ninth Maine Regiment in the Civil War.

Just weeks before he died, he sold the portion of his father's farm that he was occupying. Probably he intended to secure the future for his wife and baby. His younger brother Amos F. Horr, age 27, was married with a two-year-old daughter, and was renting the late Henry Sawin's former home just up the road. Maybe because Amos couldn't afford to buy, Calvin sold the home out of the family to Andrew Woodbury of Sweden.⁹²

Andrew Woodbury didn't live on the farm, however. His son George Walker Woodbury, George's wife Agnes and their four-year old son Arthur had been renting the home recently built by John D. Horr while the Horrs were in Michigan.⁹³ When Andrew Woodbury purchased the adjacent old farm from Calvin Horr, George and family moved in.

The next house on the left had been occupied by Thomas Sawin since he built it about 1825. In 1870, he died at the age of 70. He was the youngest son of Gen. Benjamin Sawin, and his children all lived on the road or in North Waterford. Appendix B includes a Sawin family tree.

He might have been a generous man, or at least trusted. For example, he was chosen guardian to Elton B. York, son of Joseph P. York who died in 1859.⁹⁴ Thomas Sawin and his wife Sally also took into their home two grandchildren, Willis and Nettie Rand, whose parents died prematurely.⁹⁵

According to a story repeated by one of his descendants, Thomas was a member of the Congregational Church at North Waterford, but not too long before he died he became a Universalist. As a result there was some controversy about his funeral being at the Congregational Church. The orthodox (Congregational) minister made a formal call when Thomas was on his deathbed and offered him a final chance to save his soul. Thomas replied, "I am content to die as I have lived. If you think that lying on your

⁹⁰ For more on this family see Hillman, Ralph E., "Solomon Heald of Maine and Michigan," *The Maine Genealogist* (28:2-3) May and August 2006.

⁹¹ Pliny B. Henley Diary, in possession of Randall Henley, East Waterford, Maine. "December 7, 1871. a.m. went to the corner to get the horse shod. p.m. hauled boards for John Horr...February 2. Made a new parade. John Horr came in with his horse, is going to drawing logs."

⁹² Oxford County Deeds 159:198 dated 3 October 1870.

⁹³ U.S. Census of 1870, Waterford.

⁹⁴ Elton was born 22 February 1857, son of Joseph P. and Caroline E. York (Waterford VR p. 388). Joseph P. York d. 29 June 1859 and his wife died 30 April 1861. (Woodlawn Cemetery, North Waterford).

⁹⁵ Willis and Nettie Rand were the children of Moses and Miranda (Sawin) Rand. Capt. Moses Rand died as the result of illness contracted in the Civil War, 9 December 1862, and Miranda died 2 February 1865. (Woodlawn Cemetery, North Waterford)

deathbed will fool God you have the right to your opinion. Good day, sir.” The funeral was held in the North Waterford church with the stipulation that the Congregational minister should conduct the service, but that a Universalist minister might offer prayer. One story, probably exaggerated, is that the Universalist prayed for 45 minutes and told off the Congregationalist in detail.⁹⁶

In 1865 Thomas Sawin sold one undivided half of his homestead farm to his son Hubbard Sawin, and just before Thomas died, he sold the remaining half of his homestead to Hubbard.⁹⁷ On October 12, 1859, Thomas Hubbard (called Hubbard to distinguish him from his father), was married to Chloe Elizabeth Sampson of Bisbeetown. In the 1860 census they were living in North Waterford village, but were soon back on the home place living with his parents.



Thomas Hubbard Sawin, 1870s. Collection of the author.

⁹⁶ Glenn R. McIntire, letter to the author dated 13 July 1975.

⁹⁷ Oxford County Deeds 159:276 dated 2 May 1865 and 159:275 dated 10 April 1870.



Chloe Elizabeth “Lizzie” (Sampson) Sawin c. 1870.
Collection of the author.

Also in 1859, Thomas and Sally’s youngest son Henry Sawin (who shall be deemed Henry Sawin II to distinguish him from his uncle of the same name who died in 1855) was married to Maria Upton on the same day that his brother was married, probably in a double wedding. In 1860 they were living with his parents on Sawin Hill Road. In 1865 Thomas Sawin sold about 65 acres on the east side of the road to Henry,⁹⁸ who probably built the present buildings about the same time and lived there but for a brief period until his death in 1913.⁹⁹ Henry was a farmer, engaged in general husbandry, dairying and stock raising. Like many farmers he sought other means of a cash income, and his method was to serve as agent for McCormick mowers. He was also a selectman of Waterford for several years.

⁹⁸ Oxford County Deeds 159:274 dated 2 May 1865.

⁹⁹ The Oxford County Biographical Review states that he lived there continuously except for a year in Norway, and indeed the 1870 census shows him farming in Norway.



Henry Sawin in 1860s. Courtesy of Arthur E. Holt.

As mentioned earlier, Amos Horr was renting the old Henry Sawin place in 1870.

Charles and Martha Whitney and their daughter Ellen continued farming and logging in the next house nearly on the town line.

Over the town line in Albany, there was only one change in the families residing directly on the road.

James Miller left Miller Hill shortly after his marriage to Sarah Ann Sawin in 1854. Even after his wife died and he remarried, however, something about the place drew him back. In late 1863 he paid \$1,200 for a farm purchased of James French, Jr.¹⁰⁰ This was the farm on Sawin Hill Road just north of Lewis H. Sawin, but the land extended east onto Miller Hill. He then mortgaged the farm to James French for \$700, to be paid off with \$200 in two years and the remaining \$500 in five years.¹⁰¹ Over the next two years he purchased adjacent land from Charles Whitney for \$250¹⁰² and from Martha Whitney for

¹⁰⁰ Oxford County Deeds 133:1 dated 3 November 1863. After farming on Sawin Hill Road for nearly 19 years, James French Jr. moved to Bethel, then Gilead. See Bradbury p. 377.

¹⁰¹ Oxford County Deeds 129:454 dated 3 November 1863.

¹⁰² Oxford County Deeds 135:77 dated 29 June 1864.

\$150¹⁰³; purchased a small parcel from Lewis H. Sawin for \$40¹⁰⁴ (but also sold a field to Sawin for \$150); and purchased a tiny piece from Eliza A. Butters for \$12.¹⁰⁵

He may have felt some satisfaction for consolidating this property, but he was overextended. Apparently he didn't make the \$500 mortgage payment in 1868, and James French foreclosed, forcing James M. Miller to sell the farm to pay off his mortgage.¹⁰⁶ It might have been humiliating, but Miller sold the farm for \$2,200 to Josiah F. Lovering in 1868.¹⁰⁷ Having invested only about \$1,650, the profit may have taken some of the sting out of the foreclosure, but he nevertheless moved out of state and did not return. He was the last Miller on Miller Hill.

When Josiah Lovering bought the James French or James Miller place on foreclosure in 1868, he left Miller Hill to live less than a quarter mile away, just above Lewis H. Sawin.¹⁰⁸

On Miller Hill, George Beckler increased his holdings in 1864 with another purchase from Josiah Lovering, and one from his brother Isaac Beckler.¹⁰⁹ A Beckler family tree is included in Appendix B.

In 1867 George W. Beckler sold the southwest corner of Lot 13 Range 7, containing about 19 acres, to his younger brother John L. Beckler.¹¹⁰ In 1870, John L. Beckler, a 25-year old single man, was living with his mother next to his brother George. Perhaps he was in an older building, since disappeared, that had once belonged to one of the Millers.

In 1864 Isaac P. Beckler, older brother of George and John L. Beckler, sold his farm, minus some timberland that he sold earlier, to Thomas Sawin.¹¹¹ The very same day, Sawin sold it to Simeon Cummings of Paris, who mortgaged it back to Sawin.¹¹² Cummings died while it was still under mortgage, so his widow sold it back to Thomas Sawin.¹¹³ In 1868, Thomas Sawin and his wife Sally sold it to Calvin J. Abbott of Albany, "reserving the crops now growing on said farm."¹¹⁴

Calvin Abbott was a brother to Lydia (Abbott) Sawin, who lived with her husband Lewis H. Sawin across from the entrance to Miller Hill. Calvin Abbott was also a brother to

¹⁰³ Oxford County Deeds 137: 64 dated 29 June 1864.

¹⁰⁴ Oxford County Deeds 151:433 dated 31 December 1864.

¹⁰⁵ Oxford County Deeds 151:434 dated 24 October 1865.

¹⁰⁶ Oxford County Deeds 148:249 dated 26 March 1868.

¹⁰⁷ Oxford County Deeds 151:432 dated 12 May 1868.

¹⁰⁸ As noted, he had already sold most of his property on Miller Hill to George W. Beckler. When he bought the James French place from James Miller, it is not clear what became of his remaining property on Miller Hill.

¹⁰⁹ Oxford County Deeds 135:211 dated 15 March 1864 and 135: 210 dated 25 March 1864.

¹¹⁰ Oxford County Deeds 151:195 dated 25 October 1867.

¹¹¹ Oxford County Deeds 135:231 dated 14 September 1864. Isaac Beckler lived in North Waterford in 1870 and 1880, and later moved to Wisconsin.

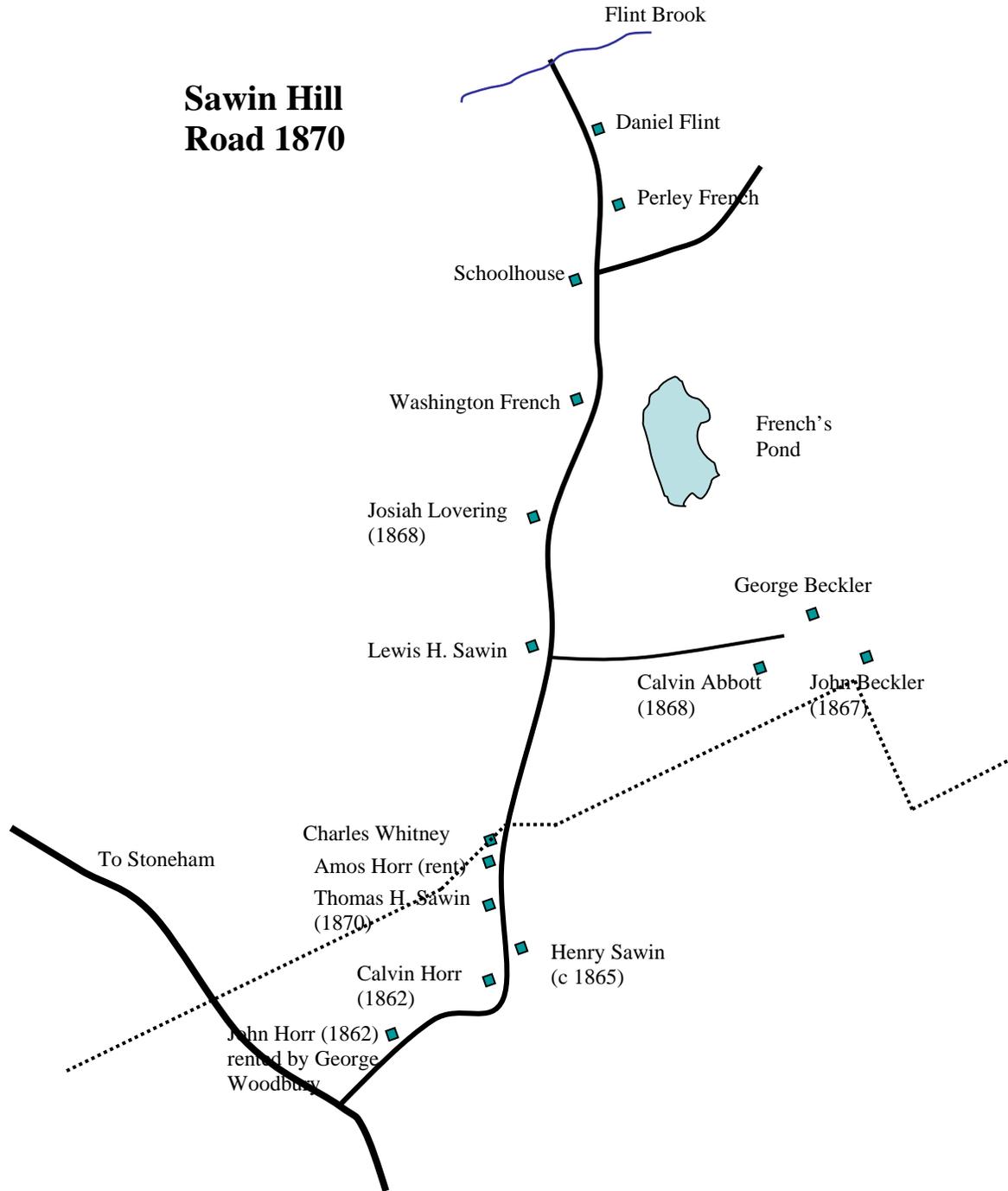
¹¹² Oxford County Deeds 135:444 dated 14 September 1864.

¹¹³ Oxford County Deeds 145:432 dated 12 September 1867.

¹¹⁴ Oxford County Deeds 151:487 dated 17 June 1868.

Sarah H. (Abbott), the wife of Josiah F. Lovering, as shown in the Abbott family tree in Appendix B. Another brother, Luther Abbott, lived nearby just a little north of Chalk Pond. Without automobiles, people in the nineteenth century were less mobile, and without the Internet or telephone, they were more dependent on word of mouth about property for sale. Family connections probably provided much of that information, and seemed to influence where people located.

Calvin Abbott stayed on the hill for over 20 years, and his sons lived there also. With this longevity of ownership, the Abbotts became identified with the hill. The local name was gradually transformed from Miller Hill to Abbott Hill, as it has been called well into the twentieth century.



1870-1880

We already described how Andrew Woodbury of Sweden bought the former Isaac Horr farm from Calvin Horr in 1870, and how his son George W. Woodbury moved in immediately thereafter. In 1874, Andrew Woodbury and his wife Abigail B. conveyed the farm to George W. Woodbury of Waterford for \$1, “being the present homestead farm of said George W. Woodbury by him now occupied.”¹¹⁵ George Woodbury would live there until 1891.

The next house up the road was that of Thomas Hubbard and Chloe “Lizzie” Sawin. He was not that enthusiastic about farming as he was more interested in trade. He ran the store in North Waterford village for a time.¹¹⁶ One year, reflecting his lack of time or interest in farming, he hired out his hay to be cut on shares by Pliny Henley.¹¹⁷



Thomas Hubbard and Chloe “Lizzie” Sawin home 1880s. Courtesy of Tom Connors.

Further up the road, the “old” Henry Sawin home had been rented for nearly two decades. But in 1875, a fire destroyed the home of Perley French up near the top end of the road. The barns were still standing on the west side of the road, but he and his wife had nowhere to live. Probably Henry Sawin’s place was just then available, and the French’s moved in. In any event, Martha (Sawin) Whitney and her daughter Ellen (Whitney)

¹¹⁵ Oxford County Deeds 164:440 dated 28 September 1874.

¹¹⁶ On November 6, 1885, the Oxford County Advertiser reported “T. H. Sawin has moved into the Clark Wight rent,” and on November 20, 1885, added “T. H. Sawin has moved his goods from the W. T. Green store, into the Clark Wight store, formerly occupied by H. M. Fiske.”

¹¹⁷ Elmer C. Henley diaries, June 30, 1890.

Henley sold the old home on two acres of land to Perley's wife Betsy French.¹¹⁸ Martha Whitney also sold to Betsy French a 40-acre piece of land on the east side of the road.¹¹⁹

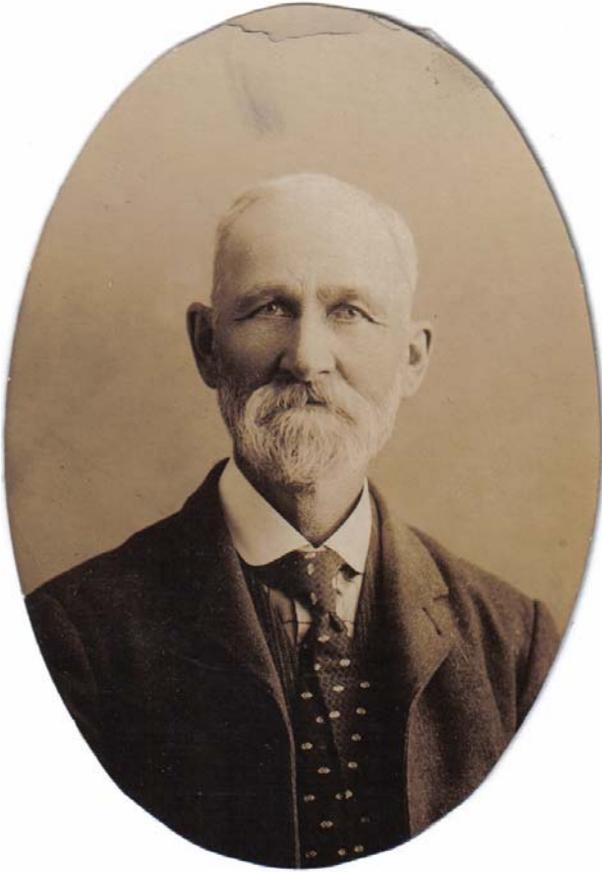
Also about this time, a new house was built on the road. Unmarried at the age of 29, Ellen Whitney, daughter of Charles and Martha (Sawin) Whitney, was nearly a spinster. But Pliny B. Henley of Otisfield came to work in the woods for her father and ended up marrying the boss's daughter. He stayed, much to the credit of the road. He had been married previously, but his first wife died, leaving him with the care of a son. Pliny and Ellen married in 1873, and together they had two children, Elmer (born in 1876) and Sadie (born in 1883). According to deeds, they were living in Otisfield in 1875, but by 1880 they were living on Sawin Hill Road in a new house just across the road from her parents. On the 1880 map of Waterford, this house is located on the east side of the road just across from the Whitney residence, and snug up against the town line. I have not been able to find any solid evidence of who built it, or when, but based on census records, where listed families can be assigned to existing dwellings, it was built between 1870 and 1880, and probably after 1875. It did not exist on the 1858 map but it is shown, occupied by P. B. Henley, on the 1880 map. My guess is that Charles and Martha Whitney built it for their only child, to lure Pliny and Ellen back to live nearby, or Pliny built it himself, between 1875 and 1880.



Ellen (Whitney) Henley. Courtesy of Randall Henley.

¹¹⁸ Oxford County Deeds 172:247 and 174:84, both dated 4 September 1875.

¹¹⁹ Oxford County Deeds 172:247 dated 4 September 1875.



Pliny B. Henley. Courtesy of Randall Henley.

Charles and Martha Whitney transferred a one-half interest in their homestead farm plus other property to Pliny Henley in 1877, provided that “said Henley shall pay one half of all taxes and one half of all expenses in repairing of buildings and fences; also conditioned that said estate shall not be sold in any manner or form during the lifetime of said Charles and Martha Whitney.”¹²⁰ Perhaps the new house that Pliny and Ellen occupied in 1880 was built immediately after this transfer.

In late 1870 Lewis H. Sawin died. He was the eldest son of Thomas and Sally (Johnson) Sawin, and lived over the town line in Albany, at the beginning of the short road to Miller Hill. A farmer like everyone else on the road, he served as selectman in Albany in 1865, 1867 and 1868.¹²¹ He was only 43 at the time of his death and he left his wife Lydia (Abbott) Sawin, age 38, with the care of the farm and three children: Lewis Abbott (age 15), Merritt Newell (11) and Charlotte “Lottie” Madeline (2). Lydia never remarried.

¹²⁰ Oxford County Deeds 196:299 dated 17 May 1877. They may have already given one half interest to their daughter, or planned to leave it to her at their death.

¹²¹ Mitchell and Davis (comp.), *The Town Register: Waterford, Albany, Greenwood, E. Stoneham. Brunswick, Me.: The H. E. Mitchell Co., 1906.*

The next farm above Lydia Sawin's was in the early 1870s occupied by Josiah F. Lovering. In 1872, he sold it to George W. Stone for \$2,200—the same price he had paid for it.¹²² Perhaps Lovering's physical disability made farming too difficult. In 1880 he was living with his family in Oxford. He later moved to Norway village and is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery.¹²³

George W. Stone was a Waterford man who bought and sold lots of property. He probably did not live on this farm, and four years later he sold it to Elsie L. Stevens of Bridgton for \$1,500.¹²⁴ Why the value of the farm dropped so drastically in four years is unclear—perhaps some timber was removed.

In 1877, Elsie Stevens married Seth M. Moore in Lovell. One account says they lived in one part of a long house and Sylvester Abbott and his family in the other part.¹²⁵ Although the 1880 map of Albany identifies the dwelling as “Mrs. Moore,” they were not living there at the time of the census that year. Instead Elsie, age 57, and her husband Seth Moore, cabinetmaker, age 45, are found in Bridgton. Late that same year she sold the farm to John F. Lord.¹²⁶ Perhaps Lord had been renting it from her, because the census shows him living there with his wife and their eight-month old child.

Further up the road, in 1874 or 1875, the home of Perley and Betsey (Wardwell) French was destroyed by fire, but the barns across the road were saved.¹²⁷ One of the three French brothers in a row in the road in Albany, he had lived there since 1840. After the fire, he sold his land to George S. Farnsworth, “reserving the two barns now standing on said land as long as I desire to occupy same with the right to the land on which they stand until the same shall be removed.”¹²⁸ Thus one of the early dwellings on the road disappeared.

Perley and Betsey French then moved about two miles south on Sawin Hill Road to the old Henry Sawin place in Waterford.

A year after Perley French sold his burned out homestead to George S. Farnsworth, Farnsworth, of Bridgton, sold the same 70 acres to Charles H. Farnsworth of Cambridge, Massachusetts.¹²⁹ From here on, the land was used only for timber, and was referred to as “the Farnsworth lot.”

In addition to the deaths of Calvin Horr, Thomas Sawin and Lewis H. Sawin, 1870 saw another death at the northern end of the road in Albany. Daniel Flint, son of the first

¹²² Oxford County Deeds 165:425 dated 4 November 1872.

¹²³ A. E. Verrill, “Recollections of Early Settlers of Greenwood,” *Oxford County Advertiser*, November 27, 1914.

¹²⁴ Oxford County Deeds 176:273 dated 21 August 1876.

¹²⁵ Lillian Brown manuscript.

¹²⁶ Oxford County Deeds 196:105 dated 4 December 1880. According to this deed, Elsie Stevens Moore had already conveyed a portion of this property to her abutting neighbor George W. French.

¹²⁷ O. N. Bradbury p. 379.

¹²⁸ Oxford County Deeds 176:164 dated 10 May 1875.

¹²⁹ Oxford County Deeds 176:169 dated 8 June 1876.

settler, died that year. He was born in 1805 in Albany and lived with his father Ephraim and mother Eleanor (Holt) Flint on the old place. His widow Anna (Eames) Flint continued with the help of a son Charles until his death in 1897. In 1900, Anna, her daughter-in-law Laura and two grandchildren were carrying on by themselves.¹³⁰ Called Aunt Ann by local folks, she raised poultry for sale until the early 1900s.

On Abbott Hill, George Beckler continued to farm. He was active in Albany town affairs, serving as selectman in 1873, 1876, 1879-1880, 1882-1884, and 1886-1888.¹³¹ His younger brother John Beckler, to whom he sold a piece of land in 1867, was living next door.

John Beckler married second in 1874 to Flora Palmer, but in 1877 he sold the same piece plus some other land he had acquired back to George Beckler,¹³² and in 1880 he was living in Stoneham. It is not clear exactly where his house was. In 1962, Lillian Brown described a cellar hole beyond the George Beckler place, in what is now thick woods, where a family by the name of Palmer lived, “she being a sister I believe of Mrs. George Beckler.”¹³³

Perhaps the building burned, causing John Beckler to move, or perhaps he moved for other reasons and the buildings burned after he moved, but no separate building is shown on the 1880 map of Albany.

Nearby, Calvin Abbott sold a half share in his farm to his son Sewall Abbott in 1875, “with one undivided half of the stock and one half of the increase of the same, each party to pay one-half of all expenses as money, labor or otherwise, excepting the expense of the maintenance of Wales Jordan.”¹³⁴ The 1880 census shows Sewall Abbott and his young family living on Abbott Hill in a dwelling next to but separate from his parents.¹³⁵

¹³⁰ Charles’ widow was Laura Patch, whose mother Annie Patch disappeared in East Stoneham in 1895 while living in the home of Daniel Merrill. At the time it was speculated that she committed suicide by drowning, but her body was not found. In 1926, a skeleton of a dismembered woman was found buried beneath the ell of the Merrill house, and most everyone agreed that it must be the remains of Annie Patch. See “The Mystery of Annie Patch,” *Cold River Chronicle*, Issue No. 37, August 2004.

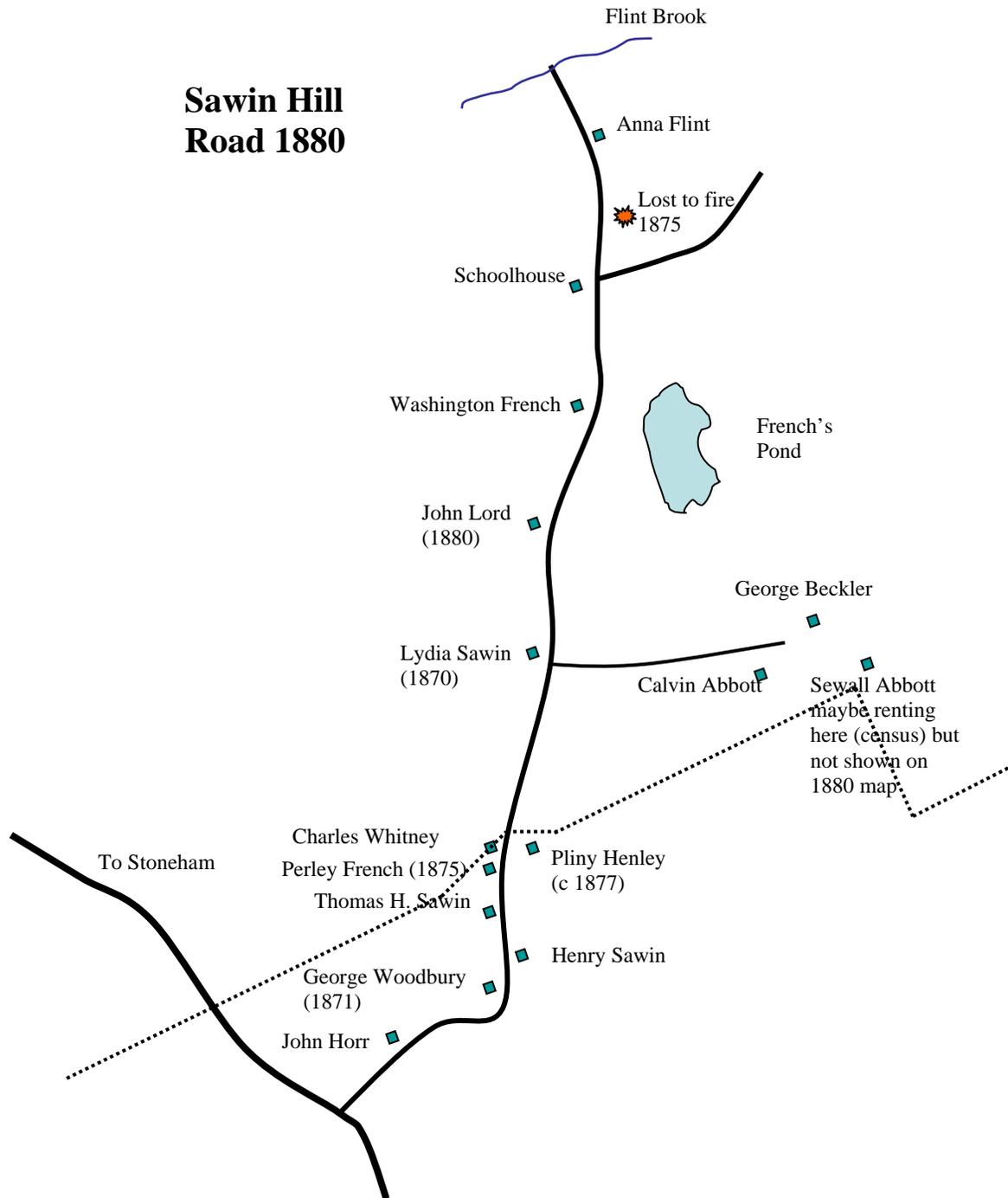
¹³¹ Mitchell and Davis, *The Town Register: Waterford, Albany, Greenwood, E. Stoneham*. Brunswick, Maine: H. E. Mitchell Co., 1906.

¹³² Oxford County Deeds 179:140 dated 27 July 1877.

¹³³ Lillian Brown manuscript. There is no evidence of another family or dwelling there in the 1900 census. George W. Beckler was married to Julia A. Palmer.

¹³⁴ Oxford County Deeds 172:64 dated 2 April 1875. Wales Jordan was Calvin’s father-in-law.

¹³⁵ Census enumerators were instructed to number each dwelling consecutively, and to number each family consecutively. If there were two families in one dwelling, the dwelling number should stay the same, but the second family number would increment by one. The 1880 map of Albany, however, shows only two homes on Abbott Hill, that of G. Beckley (sic) and of C. Abbott. Census records for 1900 and 1910 (1890 does not survive) provide no indication of an unassigned dwelling nearby. Property records suggest that there may have been another dwelling here, at least until about 1877, but perhaps it burned before the 1880 map was drawn.



1880-1890

John D. Horr was tending to his buildings, and had his house painted in 1885.¹³⁶



John D. Horr, his wife Henrietta (Heald) Horr, neighbor Rowena (Bird) Holt Sawin, and Sadie Horr, c. 1900. The sign over the door reads, "White Sewing Machines," for which John was local agent. Courtesy of Arthur E. Holt.

Henry Sawin II was tending to business. It was reported in North Waterford notes, "Henry Sawin has begun butchering. Anyone wanting a good job done will do well to call on him."¹³⁷

As mentioned, in 1875, Betsey (Wardwell) French bought the old Henry Sawin place from Martha (Sawin) Whitney and Ellen (Whitney) Henley. Here "old" refers to the first Henry Sawin, son of General Benjamin Sawin, to distinguish him from Henry Sawin II, son of Thomas and Sally (Johnson) Sawin. A few days before she died on July 12, 1884, Betsey conveyed the property to her husband Perley French.¹³⁸ After living alone for a couple years, he sold to Lydia Sawin,¹³⁹ and moved to Norway to pass his remaining years with his brother Osgood French.

¹³⁶ Oxford County Advertiser, November 20, 1885. It also reported that James Fields was doing the work.

¹³⁷ Oxford County Advertiser, December 4, 1885.

¹³⁸ Oxford County Deeds 205:318 dated 8 July 1884.

¹³⁹ Oxford County Deeds 212:518 dated 13 October 1886.

Lydia Sawin's purchase of the old Henry Sawin house from Perley French, a dwelling not immediately adjacent to her own, may have been speculation, because a month later she sold it to Benjamin Jackson of Waterford.¹⁴⁰ Jackson died in 1890 and left the property to his wife Georgianna.

Across the road, the new house built by Pliny B. Henley around 1877 was moved to Norway in late 1885 or early 1886 by George W. Stone.¹⁴¹ George W. Stone lived in Bisbeetown and engaged in many real estate transactions, but there is no record that he bought the land on which the house sat. As reported in the Oxford County Advertiser, "Geo. W. Stone has bought the P. B. Henley buildings and is taking them down. He talks of moving them to Norway to put them on one of his lots."¹⁴² As it turns out, he reconstructed the buildings at 12 Summer Street in Norway about 1886, as Stone did not buy that property on Summer Street until 1885.¹⁴³

It will be remembered that Ellen Henley's parents, Charles and Martha (Sawin) Whitney, were living directly across the road. Martha died in 1883, and Charles in 1887. Both are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, North Waterford.

Probably after Martha Whitney died, and while Charles Whitney was in declining health, Ellen and Pliny Henley moved in with her father to better care for him, vacating their newer house. In fact, a deed of 1886 indicates that Pliny and Ellen were living with her father. It may also indicate that they had sold the newer house by that time.¹⁴⁴ The sale of the house may also have been motivated by a cash flow problem, because about this same time Pliny and Ellen and her father mortgaged some of their other property for one-year periods.¹⁴⁵

In Albany, Lydia Sawin, a widow since 1870, had not withdrawn from activity. In her own right, she had expanded her holdings. In 1881 she bought a piece north of her farm from John Lord, and she acquired other nearby fields as well. She was carrying on her farm with the help of her three children. Her older son Lewis A. Sawin, like his father Lewis H. Sawin, served as selectman in Albany from 1887-1889. Her second son, Merritt Sawin, married in 1882 to Antoinette J. Hersey and lived on the home place with his mother, brother and unmarried sister Lottie.

¹⁴⁰ Oxford County Deeds 217:153 dated 17 November 1886.

¹⁴¹ As recalled by Walter A. Lord and told to Berkeley N. Henley.

¹⁴² Oxford County Advertiser, November 20, 1885.

¹⁴³ Oxford County Deeds 212:107 dated 28 October 1885. An 1890s photograph by Fred Stone and Horace L. Cleveland, and in the possession of Randall Henley, shows the house. Berkeley N. Henley wrote on the back of it: "Anna Stone house, 12 Summer St., Norway—moved from Sawin Hill Road, N. Waterford." Most of the Stone family posed outside are identified, with a note that the information came from Jim Cleveland.

¹⁴⁴ Oxford County Deeds 210:23 dated 30 April 1886.

¹⁴⁵ Oxford County Deeds 210:23 dated 30 April 1886; and 210:156 dated 10 August 1886.

Although petite-looking in pictures, Lydia's size belied a will of iron, and she was reputed to have ruled the roost, even after her sons married. Her granddaughter recalled that Lydia always controlled the purse strings. As a young man of about 21, my uncle Richard Holt was chided for throwing out a small piece of bread instead of feeding it to the hens. He said to the woman who made the comment, "You sound just like my great grandmother [Lydia Abbott Sawin]." The woman replied, "I take that as a compliment! I know how she managed the farm after her husband died and brought up the children. She knew how to use every scrap."¹⁴⁶



Lydia (Abbott) Sawin, 1880s. Collection of the author.

The next house up the road, also on the left or west side, was that of John Lord. He had married Lydia F. Whitehouse of Sweden in 1878, and bought this house in 1880. Their children were born and grew up on Sawin Hill Road, several of whom remained and owned land here for nearly 80 years.

The eldest was Heywood Leroy, born in 1879 and called Roy Lord. Next was Walter A. Lord, born in 1882. Third was Lottie Lillian, born in 1886, who went by the name of Lillian but was familiarly called "Dot." She married James Ernest Brown in 1907. These three siblings all lived on Sawin Hill Road, and Walter especially bought and sold homes on the road as if they were cards to be dealt, shuffled and redealt. John and Lydia Lord also had a daughter Julia Eliza, called June, and a son Harold who died a baby. A Lord family tree is included in Appendix B.

¹⁴⁶ Glenn R. McIntire letter to the author dated 14 June 1975.

In 1888, their house was destroyed by fire,¹⁴⁷ and while it was being rebuilt, the family lived in a small garden shed on the property, just steps from the burned homestead.¹⁴⁸ They lived in these temporary quarters, where daughter June was born, until the new two-tenement house was finished.



John and Lydia Lord built this home after fire destroyed the previous one in 1888.
Courtesy of Margaret Dutil.

In 1887, Washington French died. He had lived first on Abbott Hill (called Miller Hill at the time) from 1847-1857, and then on Sawin Hill Road between his brother James French, Jr. and his brother Perley French. As he was getting elderly, in the 1880 census his son George W. French was listed as the head of the family. Reaching old age, Washington French conveyed the farm, together with all the stock and farming tools, to his daughter-in-law Elsie E. French, in exchange for which she agreed to support him during the remainder of his life and to “provide him with meat, drink and clothing, nursing medicine and all other things necessary for his comfort and support.”¹⁴⁹ This type of arrangement was a common form of social security long before the federal program was established.

The same deed mentions one exception: a lot at the northeast corner of the French farm previously conveyed to School District No. 2 for a schoolhouse. Although there was a schoolhouse mentioned in much earlier deeds, Lillian Lord Brown wrote in her manuscript that Washington French gave one-quarter of an acre to the school district on April 6, 1884, but the conveyance has not been found. This reference, however, confirms that he did in fact provide the lot where the town road turned away from the county road

¹⁴⁷ Elmer C. Henley diary: November 18, 1888. John Lord’s house burned. I saw it. [He was 12 years old.]

¹⁴⁸ Lillian Lord Brown manuscript.

¹⁴⁹ Oxford County Deeds 212:236 dated May 1886.

that went through to Hunt's Corner and up to Bethel. This school has long been called the Dresser School after the family that lived on the town road nearby.

In the latter half of the nineteenth century and into the first part of the next century, Chalk Pond was known as French's pond for the brothers James, Washington and Perley French who lived nearby. In the neighborhood, it was valued for recreation—fishing and skating—and for ice.

In the 1890s, Elmer Henley frequently mentioned catching pickerel and trout here, though the trout were not very big. Lillian Lord Brown noted that the pond was too muddy for swimming, and that there were plenty of snakes. But both she and Elmer Henley recorded many skating parties on the pond, including skating at night.

For years, at least into the 1940s, the pond provided a source of ice for most families on Sawin Hill.¹⁵⁰ In 1895, Elmer wrote, "We got ice. I sawed and father hauled. Merritt and Lew Sawin and Mason and his boys and George Abbott and Henry Sawin are getting ice up to the pond too."¹⁵¹

When he helped his father, Elmer generally cut ice while Pliny Henley hauled. One year Elmer noted, "I cut ice. Father hauled 4 loads. He hauls 20 cakes at a load. They are 16 x 16 x 13 inches. It is very good ice."¹⁵²

In 1903, Elmer provided more detail about the ice trade. All through January he sawed ice on French's pond, weather permitting. It must have been hard work but he did not complain. On January 20, 1903 he wrote, "I sawed ice this forenoon and helped Charles York pack his ice this afternoon. I am done sawing ice. I sawed for a cent a cake. I sawed

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| For York | 200 |
| For Henry Sawin | 259 |
| For Littlefield | 226 |
| For Father | 216 |
| For Merritt Sawin | 205 |
| For Aunt Anne Flint | 232 |
| For Pod Lord | 130 |
| Total | \$14.68 |

Cutting ice could be dangerous. Although he doesn't say whether it was on French's pond, one year Elmer wrote, "Willie Woodley was drowned the other day, he fell through the ice while at work cutting ice. It was a terrible shock to us all and must be something awful for Mabel."¹⁵³

¹⁵⁰ Lillian Brown diaries, December 18 and 19, 1945, Don Brown was hauling ice; and January 2, 1948, Lillian wrote, "Alton hauled our ice," though she did not say it came from Chalk Pond.

¹⁵¹ Elmer C. Henley diaries, January 7, 1895.

¹⁵² Elmer C. Henley diaries, January 18, 1896.

¹⁵³ Elmer Henley diaries January 28, 1917.

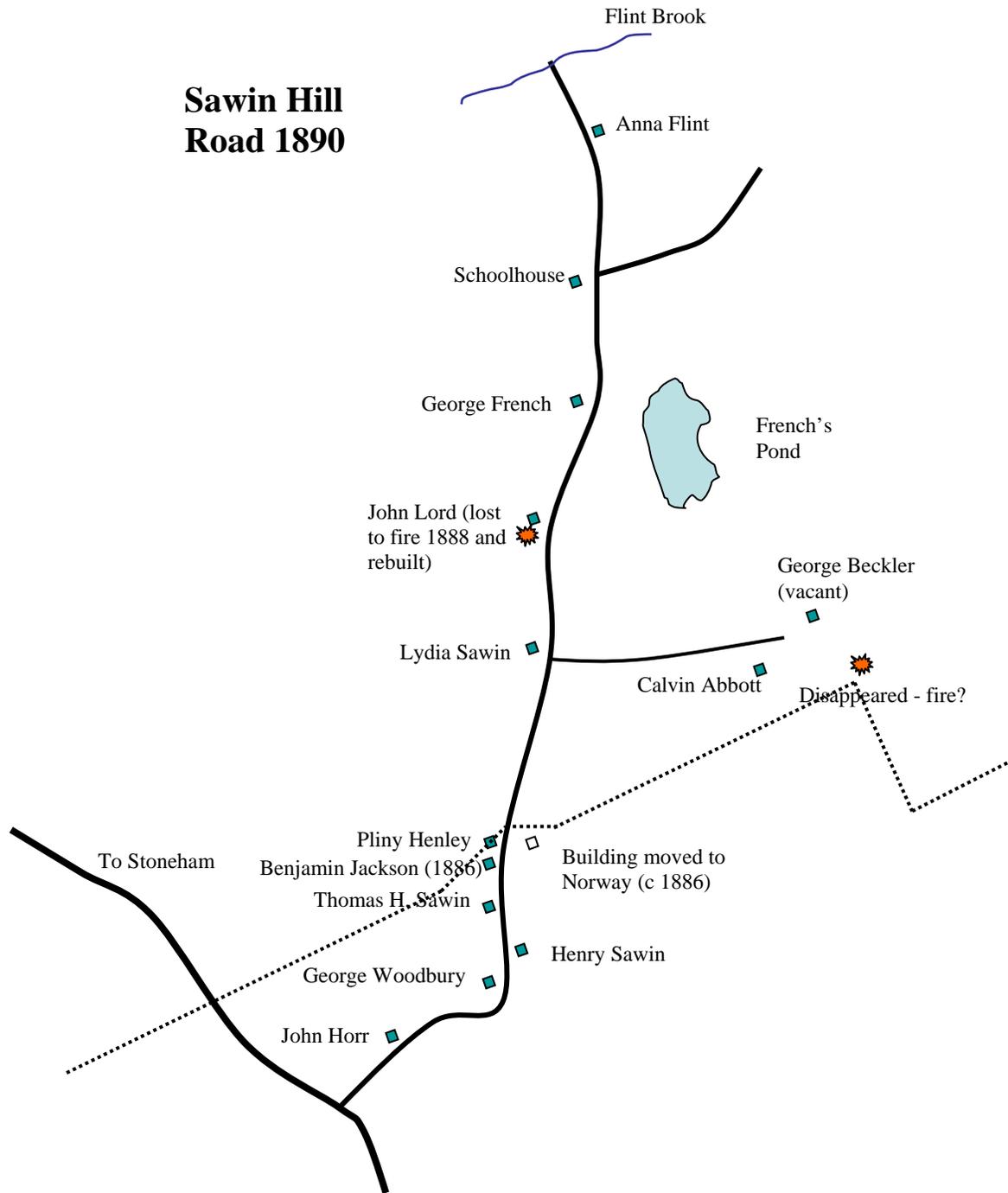
On Abbott Hill, George Beckler, who had lived on Abbott Hill since 1860, moved to near the Albany town house in 1887. The house appears to have been left vacant for a couple years at least, because Pliny Henley bought the rights to the hay in Beckler's fields, and other fields may have been used for crops.

On the southern side of the lane leading up the hill lived Calvin and Beulah (Jordan) Abbott. Calvin Abbott had sold a half share of his farm to his son Sewall in 1875, and this arrangement lasted ten years. Perhaps it wasn't a big enough farm to support two families, however, because in 1885 Sewall Abbott sold his half interest back to his father,¹⁵⁴ and two years later he bought a place on Plummer Hill.

Calvin Abbott remained on Abbott Hill until he died in 1891, while his wife Beulah (Jordan) Abbott remained here until her death in 1902. Their son George Abbott carried on the farm for another 26 years. In 1890, George married a widow, Lenora (Webber) Grover. From her first marriage, she had a daughter Anne and two sons, John and Ernest, the latter of whom lived here and around the road for many years.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵⁴ Oxford County Deeds 218:44 dated 3 December 1885.

¹⁵⁵ Lillian Brown manuscript. The name of Nora's first husband is uncertain. Berkeley N. Henley believed she first married Sumner Grover, son of John Grover of Albany. This Sumner Grover did not die until 1918, however, so Nora would not have been his widow, as Lillian Brown states, rather they would have been divorced.



1890-1900

In 1891, George and Agnes Woodbury, who had lived in the former Isaac Horr place since 1871, sold to James W. McAllister.¹⁵⁶ Within a few months, J. W. McAllister sold the same to Hattie D. McAllister, wife of Oliver S. McAllister.¹⁵⁷ Hattie and her husband may have occupied the house for a couple years, but in 1894 they sold it to Willoughby R. York.¹⁵⁸ Willoughby may have died soon after, because that same year three York sisters—Lucy A. York, Ella C. Elliot and Estella C. Hobson—quitclaimed the property to their brother Charles W. York of Albany.¹⁵⁹ He and his wife Rosa McKeen slowed the turnover of this house by staying for over 30 years.

The house just above the Young's, on the same side of the road, was the former home of Thomas Sawin, subsequently occupied by his son Thomas Hubbard Sawin, who with his wife Chloe Elizabeth "Lizzie" Sampson farmed there for most of their married life. He also operated a store in North Waterford village.¹⁶⁰ In 1891, Hubbard and Lizzie gave up farming entirely and sold the farm of 80 acres to George F. Nason of Freedom, New Hampshire and Lois A. Littlefield of Waterford.¹⁶¹ The place was then occupied by Alonzo and Lois Littlefield and their family; George Nason was married to their daughter Flora Littlefield. Civil War veteran "Lon" Littlefield died in 1897, but his wife and sons continued living there into the next century.



Littlefield House (formerly Thomas Sawin) c. 1900. Collection of the author.

¹⁵⁶ Oxford County Deeds 227:404 dated 13 October 1891.

¹⁵⁷ Oxford County Deeds 223:302 dated 13 February 1892.

¹⁵⁸ Oxford County Deeds 238:582 dated 3 May 1894.

¹⁵⁹ Copy of original deed dated 25 August 1894, provided by Marjorie Kimball, current owner of the house, 26 November 2006.

¹⁶⁰ T. H. and Chloe Elizabeth Sawin sold land in North Waterford village to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, where the IOOF building was built. It is now owned by the Waterford Historical Society.

¹⁶¹ Oxford County Deeds 227:312 dated 9 September 1891.

The next house on the left, the old Henry Sawin home on two acres, was occupied by the widow Georgianna Jackson who remarried to Samuel H. Merrill in 1892. In 1896 Georgia A. Merrill sold to Emily J. Paige,¹⁶² who in turn sold shortly thereafter to Lillian M. Young.¹⁶³ Clearly, the pace of change was picking up. As the size of farms diminished, the commitment to the land also waned, resulting in short-term ownership or temporary rentals.

In the last house at the top of the hill, Pliny and Ellen Henley, having vacated the house that was moved to Norway, moved across the road to live with her father Charles Whitney. They carried on farming and cutting timber into the new century. The 1900 census shows Pliny, Ellen and daughter Sadie living here, but their son Elmer, who was now married, was living on his own.

One thing the Henleys did for cash income was to make maple syrup. In 1891 they arranged to tap the large maple orchard of George French, who lived further up the road, in exchange for one gallon of every seven gallons of syrup produced.

In late March they began tapping trees and over two days tapped nearly a hundred trees. This was before the days of flexible tubing to connect the trees and collect the sap. Elmer and his father were kept busy carrying the buckets to the evaporator. On the first day of boiling, Elmer noted, “Boiled some sap, had bad luck, evaporator leaks.”¹⁶⁴

Apparently they got the problem fixed, because for two weeks his diary entries read either “Worked on sap,” or just “Boiled sap.” It must have been a good season because he wrote, “We could not boil sap as fast as it runs over to French’s so we moved the evaporator over [home] and set it up in the hogshed and hauled the sap over here and boil it. We can boil longer at home.”¹⁶⁵

Continuing north but on the Albany side of the town line, the first house on the left was that of Merritt Sawin, his brother Lewis A. Sawin, and their mother Lydia (Abbott) Sawin. In 1893 Lewis A. Sawin married Martha Brown. This made the house rather cramped for him and his wife, his brother Merritt and his wife and growing family, and their mother and unmarried sister. About 1894, the small house was extensively remodeled and rebuilt by making it into a two-family home—one up and one down. It was patterned on the two-tenement house that was built just a few years earlier by John F. Lord—which happened to be “next door,” about one-half mile up the road.

¹⁶² Oxford County Deeds 249:174 dated 21 December 1896.

¹⁶³ Oxford County Deeds 249:250 dated 2 February 1897. Lillian was a daughter of Alonzo and Lois Littlefield, born in 1877 and married in 1893 to Sam Young. With this purchase, she and her husband took up residence next door to her parents, who were living in the former home of Hubbard Sawin.

¹⁶⁴ Elmer C. Henley diaries, March 28, 1891.

¹⁶⁵ Elmer C. Henley diaries, April 8, 1891.

The carpenter was Valmont Edwards, and they used the old house as much as possible.¹⁶⁶ The original house was jacked up and a new first floor was built underneath it, making it a two and a half story building, and a new two-story ell was added to accommodate two families.¹⁶⁷ The upper “rent” was the home of Lewis A. and Martha Sawin and their three children born 1894-1906. The lower level was occupied by Merritt and Nettie Sawin, his mother Lydia and sister Lottie. Merritt and Nettie had three daughters: Annie, born in 1884, who married Hiram Holt; Grace, born in 1890, who married Arthur Millett; and Hazel, born in 1897, who married Merton Kimball.

Through the years this house and the John Lord home next door were often mistaken. Once in the 1930s a couple from Paris drove into the Sawin yard thinking they were at the Lord’s. They alighted and were on the steps when Merritt opened the door and asked “Where are you going, old gal?” The visitors replied, “Up to see Don and Ev.” Merritt said, “I guess you’ve made a mistake, old gal, they live over to the next place.”¹⁶⁸



Remodeled home of Lydia, Lewis and Merritt Sawin, c. 1899. Courtesy of Evelyn Maxfield.

Even with the remodel, the living arrangements did not work very well. For one thing, Lew’s wife Martha (Brown) found it difficult to live under the same roof with her mother-in-law Lydia Sawin, who was used to running the household her way. Martha’s

¹⁶⁶ Lillian Brown manuscript.

¹⁶⁷ As remembered by Walter A. Lord, and told to Berkeley N. Henley.

¹⁶⁸ Lillian Brown manuscript. Donald Brown married Evelyn Cummings in 1934.

parents gave her a wedding present of a flock of chicks. She was very pleased because it meant she would have something of her own, and they were brought to the Sawin farm. Lydia Sawin ruled the roost, however, and when the hens were old enough to lay eggs and provide some income she declared that all income should be pooled to help provide for the farm, where she would have a strong say in how it was used.

John and Lydia Lord lived in the next house. This family was long prominent in the vicinity of Sawin Hill. The Lords and some of their children bought and sold property on Sawin Hill Road with great frequency. John was confident and energetic. He was a prosperous farmer, cattle dealer and lumberman. He always kept a number of cows, and sold more cream than any one person to the creamery. He was also active in town affairs, serving as town agent, highway surveyor, constable, truant officer, moderator, school superintending committee and, for seven years, tax collector.¹⁶⁹



John F. Lord. Courtesy of Margaret Dutil.

For her part, Lydia Lord was a very smart and talented woman. For over 50 years, she was a correspondent for the Norway Advertiser and Advertiser Democrat. She also wrote for the Lewiston Journal and the Portland Press Herald for several years, including news items, illustrated picture stories and poems. One of her poems was awarded first prize in

¹⁶⁹ John F. Lord obituary, newspaper clipping dated 2 February 1940.

a contest, winning her a piano and a gold watch.¹⁷⁰ Of value to this history, she kept a scrapbook of news clippings relating to local people and activities.¹⁷¹

About 1896 John Lord purchased 1,000 acres of land with buildings, known as the Albany Basin Farm, or Albany Basins, where he and Lydia ran a boarding house for “city company.” Many summer visitors came to vacation here, also woodsmen and hunters during the winter. Shortly after they bought the place, the Lords built a large dance hall where a July 4 celebration was held with several hundred people in attendance. Mrs. Lord and her two daughters furnished meals for the crowd. They moved up there in 1898.¹⁷²



Lydia F. (Whitehouse) Lord. Courtesy of Margaret Dutil.

The Lords did not, however, relinquish their home on Sawin Hill Road. They continued carrying on their farm on Sawin Hill Road with the help of their sons Roy and Walter. Walter and Frank McAllister, a hired man who lived on the place, milked 32 cows for a time, the cream going to W. K. Hamlin, the milk fed to the calves and pigs. Roy and his family and Walter and his family lived on the place at different times.

¹⁷⁰ “A Correspondent of Long Years Standing,” newspaper clipping dated 11 September 1942.

¹⁷¹ These scrapbooks, and those of her daughter Lillian Brown, are in the possession of her great granddaughter Marjorie Dutil of Norway.

¹⁷² Lillian Lord Brown diary for 1906.

After the death of his father Washington French, George W. French carried on for a few years, but in October 1892 this farm burned and was not rebuilt.¹⁷³ Almost immediately, Elsie E. French sold for \$550 the homestead farm of the late Washington French, about 300 acres, to Edwin E. French, the youngest son of Washington French.¹⁷⁴ George, Elsie and their family moved to West Sumner.

A few years later, in 1894, Edwin French sold his late father's homestead farm to John F. Lord.¹⁷⁵ Also included in the transaction was the "Frost lot" just west of the Washington French property. John Lord was expanding his holdings.

Finally, we backtrack a bit to Abbott Hill. With decreasing use, the road to Abbott Hill was little more than a dirt lane. Near the end of the lane towards the north side was the home of George W. Beckler. After leaving his house vacant for a few years, Beckler sold his farm, plus the land that had been occupied by his brother John L. Beckler, to Edwin E. French in 1891.¹⁷⁶

Edwin had married in 1892 Jennie Mason, daughter of John Perry Mason, and he needed a place to set up housekeeping—and to farm. He probably assumed that his older brother George French was set for life on their father's place, and he had no way of knowing that within a year the buildings would be destroyed and that he would own the land. In any event, he took up residence on Abbott Hill.

But sad to say, his wife died in 1894, and he sold the entire property later that year to his father-in-law John P. Mason and brother-in-law John F. Mason.¹⁷⁷ This sale on Abbott Hill, and that of his father's homestead farm to John F. Lord in the same year, gives the unavoidable impression that he simply felt unable to carry on with either farm.

In 1900, the Masons sold the farm back to Edwin French,¹⁷⁸ though when the census was taken, they had not moved out and Edwin was listed as a widower boarding nearby with Phineas Parker Dresser.

At the Abbott place, George and Nora Abbott worked their farm and participated in local social activities. A letter written at this time by Nettie Sawin reveals both concern for and judgement of her neighbors, while illustrating the involvement in social groups. "Nora Abbott went to the circle Tuesday and had to go afoot and come home afoot and alone, and she got back as far as here and came in and stayed all night because she did not want

¹⁷³ Elmer C. Henley diary: "October 15, 1892. George French's buildings burned last night at about 1 or 2 o'clock. I think they were insured quite heavily. It is supposed to have caught from the chimney which burned out about seven p.m."

¹⁷⁴ Oxford County Deeds 234:244 dated 19 November 1892.

¹⁷⁵ Oxford County Deeds 239:139 dated 7 July 1894.

¹⁷⁶ Oxford County Deeds 230:11 dated 21 December 1891.

¹⁷⁷ Oxford County Deeds 239:436 dated 12 July 1894.

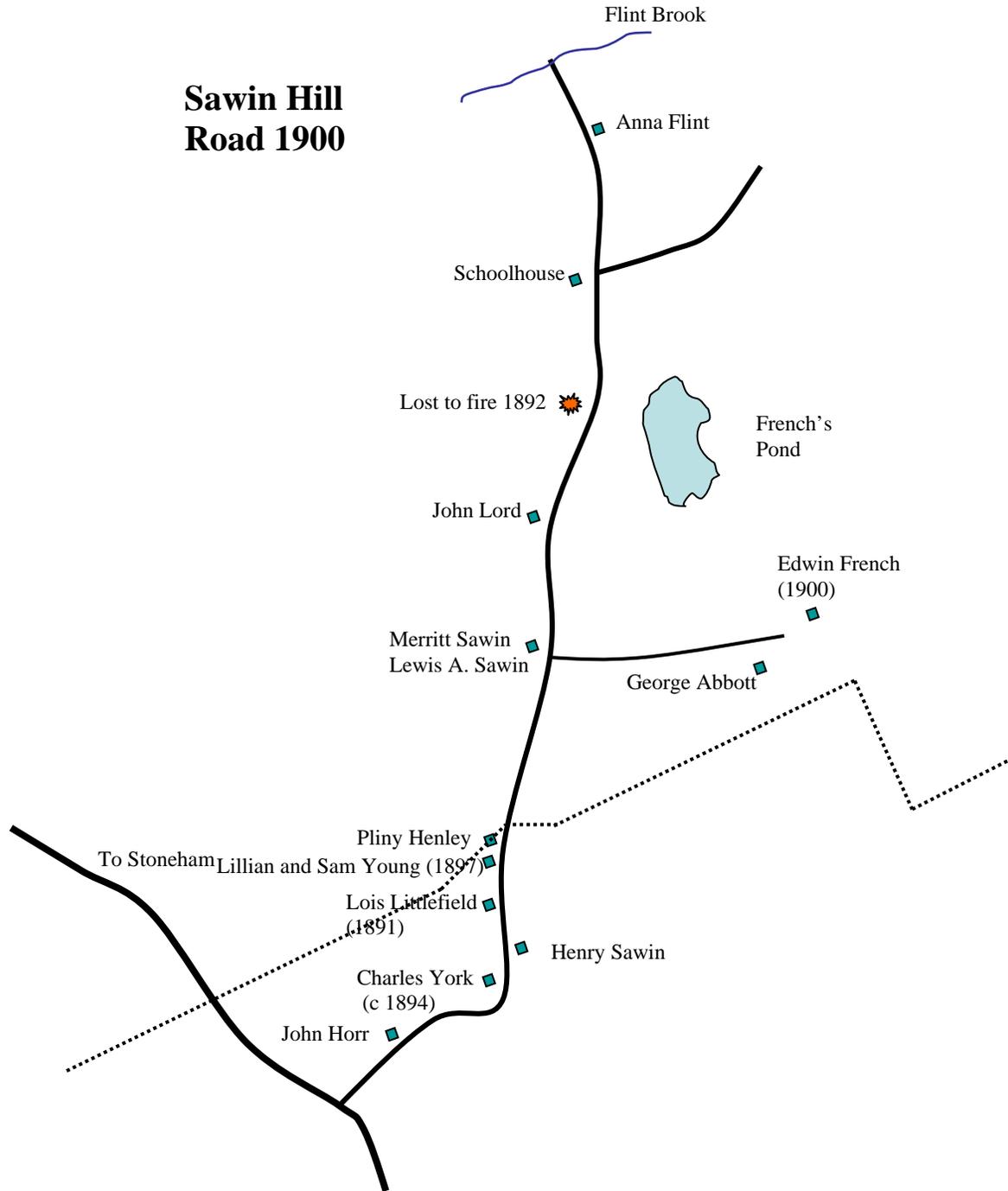
¹⁷⁸ Oxford County Deeds 264:327 dated 1 June 1900.

to go home and wake them all up. Everybody spoke about it and I hope George will hear about it.”¹⁷⁹



John Lord, Merritt Sawin and Henry Sawin and double team of oxen on their way to the Word's Fair c.1900. Collection of the author.

¹⁷⁹ Letter from Antoinette Sawin to her mother-in-law Lydia Sawin (who was visiting in New Hampshire), dated 27 October 1895.



1900-1910

Barrels were a necessity for packing farm produce, especially apples and potatoes. People who bought barrel goods often found a variety of uses for a few empty barrels, but farmers who shipped bulk produce needed them in quantity. Necessity being the mother of invention (and farmers not having a lot of cash with which to buy barrels), barrel making became just another skill that farm families learned.

Barrel making, or cooperage, was an activity for some on Sawin Hill Road. Having learned the craft at a young age, Elmer Henley began making barrels for himself in 1904, and in 1907 he began training his 8-year old son Berkeley, who helped when he was not at school.

When word got out, others wanted to buy from him. In his diary, Elmer noted, "I cannot make all the bbls I can sell."

Two weeks later he took time off his part-time job delivering mail to make barrels full time. He also started training a neighbor, Roland Littlefield, to help him. After a few weeks he noted, "Role...has got to be quite a bbl maker." This work went on for several weeks. When he ran out of his own staves, he got Virgil Littlefield to saw for him, and he bought a load of staves in East Waterford.

By October 27, he wrote, "My old stock is all gone and I can not get stock fast enough. Role is making for me and he worked 5 days last week. Verge Littlefield is sawing staves for me but he cannot get them out fast enough. I have made nearly 2,000 so far. I never saw such a rush for bbls and hope I will never see another unless I am better prepared for it."

Despite his tiring of it, he continued until mid-December. "I have finished making bbls, made just 3,000 in all, have been tinkering around home some afternoons."¹⁸⁰ Clearly he was making them to sell for cash, but he was not that interested in doing it for others. He continued making barrels for his own use over the years, the number varying with the size of his crops. In 1908 he made 371, in 1909 he made 740 and in 1910 he made 1,037 barrels, but he never again approached his record year of 1907.

One result of 1907, however, was that he helped launch Roland Littlefield into the cooperage trade for a while, and this led to a small building being located at the corner of Route 118 and Sawin Hill Road (not shown on map). The 1977 town history made note of this. "At the beginning of the century Roland Littlefield operated a cooper shop on the Sawin Hill road near the Herman Holt farm. He produced shook and barrel staves."¹⁸¹

Just beyond the location of this now-disappeared shop, John D. Horr and his wife Henrietta continued to live in the house that he built about 1863. He farmed and was the local agent for White sewing machines. John and Henrietta had a son who died young

¹⁸⁰ Elmer C. Henley diaries December 15, 1907.

¹⁸¹ Waterford Historical Society, *Waterford Maine 1875 – 1976*, p. 70.

and two daughters. One of these, Sadie, lived a long life in Waterford. She was born in 1878 and married Herman E. Holt. Herman was a son of Arthur D. and Rowena (Bird) Holt of Bethel, but after his father died, his mother married in 1895 the widower Henry Sawin, who lived just up the road from the Horrs. Thus Herman came to live on Sawin Hill Road when he was about 18 years old. Sadie Horr was the same age.



Rowena (Bird) Holt and Henry Sawin at the time of their marriage, 1895. Collection of the author.

Herman Holt and Sadie Horr were married in 1901 and started housekeeping at the Horr homestead, but in 1904 they moved to Lovell where Herman worked in a livery stable and drove a team delivering goods.



Sadie Horr about the time of her marriage to Herman Holt.
Courtesy of Arthur E. Holt.



Herman E. Holt about the time of his marriage,
1901. Courtesy of Arthur E. Holt.

Just a little further up the road in Waterford and on the east side, Henry Sawin II was no longer a young man. Anticipating his old age, and wanting to pass his farm and home that he built about 1865 to his only son, he deeded one-half interest to Harry T. Sawin in 1896.¹⁸² But Henry wasn't ready to leave the scene yet, and he continued to farm until his health failed around 1910.

Harry wasn't that keen on farming; however. In 1910, he and his wife Cora Bean were living in North Waterford village where he operated the store. Henry Sawin and his wife Rowena were living with them. The 1910 census reveals that Henry's house on the hill was occupied by Walter Lord and his wife Fay and four children, undoubtedly renting.

Back on the west side of the road, the next house up the hill was the old Thomas Sawin place, sold by Thomas Hubbard Sawin to George Nason and Lois Littlefield in 1891. Alonzo "Lon" Littlefield died in 1897, but the place was occupied by the Littlefields until 1906,¹⁸³ and was known long after as the Littlefield place. A Littlefield family tree is included in Appendix B. About the time they sold the place, it began to lose the character of a farm and became simply a house. The pasture was sold separately, and although later recombined with the buildings, the property was bought and sold many times during the next half century.

When the Littlefield sons, Roland and Fred, were old enough to strike out on their own, Nason and Littlefield sold the property to Dr. C. M. Coolidge and W. A. Manning,¹⁸⁴ who promptly resold it to John F. Lord, "excepting and reserving however all wood, timber and trees of all kind for the term of 99 years on that part of the premises described which is included in the pasture and wood lot on said farm...with the right at all times to pass through the barnyard into the pasture, said Lord to place convenient gates or bars to pass through, also the right to pass over any part of the farm when the snow is on the ground for the purpose of hauling wood or timber. Also reserving the right to store carriages, sleighs and farming tools and farm implements of all kinds so long as the said Coolidge shall wish to do so for himself. The stable to be kept in suitable condition by said Lord to store the above described property."¹⁸⁵

John Lord sold it to his son Walter A. Lord in 1908, who sold three acres on the east side of the road to his brother Roy Lord on the same day, further breaking up the property.¹⁸⁶

The next place near the top of the hill, the old Henry Sawin house, was owned by Sam and Lillian Young in 1900. Lillian was a daughter of Lon and Lois Littlefield. She sold it to John F. Lord in 1903,¹⁸⁷ and it was occupied by his son Roy H. Lord as a rent, and by another son Walter A. Lord in 1907.¹⁸⁸ In 1909 John Lord sold it Walter, who reeded

¹⁸² Oxford County Deeds 246:100 dated 1 January 1896.

¹⁸³ The 1900 census also shows the family of Elmer Cordwell living with them, probably in a rent.

¹⁸⁴ Oxford County Deeds 299:561 dated 12 October 1906.

¹⁸⁵ Oxford County Deeds 300:112 dated 21 November 1906.

¹⁸⁶ Oxford County Deeds 304:353 dated 30 June 1908; and 304:352 dated 30 June 1908.

¹⁸⁷ Oxford County Deeds 279:232 dated 2 March 1903.

¹⁸⁸ Lillian Brown diary, March 23, 1907.

it to his father in 1910.¹⁸⁹ And as noted above, Walter Lord and family were renting the Henry Sawin II place in 1910. Property transactions by the Lords were numerous and confusing in this period. The family was also numerous, though not as confusing as the property transactions. A Lord family tree is included in Appendix B.

At the top of the hill, in the last house before the town line, Ellen (Whitney) Henley died at the end of 1904. With daughter Sadie planning to marry soon, Pliny Henley would be left alone in the house. It was a good time for Elmer and his wife Rena (Jackman) Henley to move back home.¹⁹⁰ See Appendix B for a Henley family tree.

So Sadie married and moved out (to reappear soon at the top end of the road as Mrs. Walter Canwell), and Elmer and his wife and children moved into the home on the town line. The next year, Elmer contracted with his father to buy the place. Over the next three years he saved enough so that he could pay his father \$400. He got a mortgage for the rest, and he got a deed from his father. The deed describes “land with the buildings thereon in Waterford and partly in Albany, and being the homestead place where the said P. B. Henley has resided for many years past until recently, and being the premises a part of which was formerly occupied by Charles and Martha Whitney, and including in said homestead all the original farm and also all other parcels occupied and owned therewith whether the same were connected with the home farm or not. And it is my intention to convey all the land which I own and which was occupied by me as my farm and lying on the road leading from North Waterford to Albany, whether being adjacent parcels or not. And a certain portion of the title to this land is already held by said Elmer C. Henley and by his sister Sadie M. Canwell.”¹⁹¹

In 1905, people on the road got access to telephones. On July 31, Elmer Henley noted in his diary, “The poles are already set and some of the wire strung.” But like cable today, not everyone was ready to take advantage of it immediately. It wasn’t until November 3, 1912, for example, that Elmer wrote, “I had the telephone put in last week.”

This decade also saw the introduction of mail delivery on the road. In North Waterford and Albany, there was no rural free delivery until 1905. When people went to the village, they stopped at the postmaster’s to pick up their mail. In mid-1905, however, Elmer Henley got the job as the first mail carrier. This was a part time job. In good weather, he might complete the 17 miles through North Waterford outside the village, Bisbeetown and South Albany in less than three hours. In bad weather, however, it could take all day—if it could be completed at all.

Depending on conditions, he covered the route on horseback, horse and wagon, horse and sleigh, skis or snowshoes. When he was sick or took vacation, Walter Lord was his substitute.

¹⁸⁹ Oxford County Deeds 306:600 dated 18 May 1909; 305:517 dated 10 November 1910.

¹⁹⁰ Elmer C. Henley diary, February 12, 1905: “Sadie is going to be married in the spring and we are going to move up on the hill soon.”

¹⁹¹ Oxford County Deeds 306:386 dated 1 March 1909. Pliny remarried in 1907 and was living in Albany in 1909.

He needed that substitute in 1908, when scarlet fever visited the Henley family, causing them all to be quarantined. Elmer wrote in his diary January 12, "Well we are shut in. Erna came down last Sunday with scarlet fever. She is up and apparently about as well as ever now but we have to be shut in 4 weeks and if any of the rest of us have it, it will be much longer. None of us have ever had it but Rena. They will not even take my cream to the butter factory. Father has two of my cows for their keep, and we have two cans of cream that we have got to churn."

Nevertheless, Elmer could work in the fields and woods by himself, so he was not entirely cooped up in the house. A week later he noted that he had been hauling barrel timber all week. "None of the rest of us have the fever yet." The following week he reported pretty much the same. "No more scarlet fever yet. We shall be out in another week if no more of us have it."

On February 3, he was getting restless. "It is four weeks yesterday since Erna came down with scarlet fever. We expected to be disinfected yesterday but they did not come and they have not come today yet." Finally, the following week he reported, "They smoked the house and let us out last Tues." Then he added, "The rest of the children have the chicken pox."

Across the town line into Albany, Lydia Sawin and her sons carried on the farm from their recently expanded home. It has already been related how Lew Sawin's wife Martha chafed under the rule of her mother-in-law Lydia Sawin. Merritt's wife Antoinette or "Nettie" was more adaptable, and benefited from a cheery, optimistic nature. She always had a smile for everyone and according to her contemporaries was a delight to talk with.

The brothers Lew and Merritt Sawin had their differences, however. Lew liked his hard cider, while Merritt could not abide anyone that used intoxicating drink. Further, they did not always see eye to eye about how to carry on the farm work, probably because of Merritt's "strength of character," the family euphemism for stubbornness.

In February 1902, Lewis and family moved out of the family farm and into a beautiful old home near Keoka Lake in Waterford Flat.¹⁹² When their mother Lydia died in 1910, she bequeathed the farm to Merritt.

John and Lydia Lord owned the next house. He and his wife and daughters had been living at Albany Basins where they operated a boarding house and resort. In 1906 they sold the Albany Basins and returned to their home on Sawin Hill Road on December 22 that year.¹⁹³

John Lord had accumulated a large property. At one time he had about 300 acres of contiguous farm or timberland under his management on Sawin Hill Road. Above his

¹⁹² Lillian Lord Brown manuscript, 1962.

¹⁹³ Lillian Lord Brown diary for 1906.

house, the homes of two French brothers, Washington and Perley, had burned years before, so there was little but farmland and the Dresser school. Studying the deeds early in the century, however, reveals that there was a cider mill on the east side next to the road, and some other buildings, opposite on the west side of the road.

Lord owned the former Washington French farm, but he sold the portion on the westerly side of the road to his son Walter Lord in 1909.¹⁹⁴ A few months later, Walter sold this to Mattie E. Lord, wife of his brother Roy Lord, along with “the Cider Mill on the lower or easterly side of the [Sawin Hill] road with twenty feet of land on the south side of the building, ten feet on the north side of said building, and one foot in the rear or easterly side of said building.”¹⁹⁵ Then a month later John Lord sold the portion of the Washington French farm located on the easterly side of the road to Walter Lord.¹⁹⁶ The same day Walter Lord sold this portion of the old farm to Elmer C. Henley, excepting the Cider Mill that had been conveyed to Mattie Lord.¹⁹⁷

John Lord also purchased the former Perley French farm. Commonly called the Farnsworth lots, he bought this 70 acre parcel in 1902 from Elizabeth Farnsworth, after her husband Charles H. Farnsworth died.¹⁹⁸ In 1909, John Lord sold this property to his son Walter Lord in the same transaction by which he conveyed the Washington French farm.¹⁹⁹

The last house on the north end of the road was the Flint farm. In 1904, after failing health, the widow Anna Flint sold this place to a son, Orin Flint.²⁰⁰ In 1906, Orin Flint sold the farm to Harry Brown of Waterford,²⁰¹ and died soon after. Anna lived her final years with her only surviving son, Parker Flint of Albany, and died aged 90 in 1913.²⁰²

Harry Brown did not take possession of the place however. Instead, Walter Canwell moved in. It was an arrangement in which Canwell had decided to buy the place, and Brown agreed to finance it for him.²⁰³ When Canwell made the payments, Brown gave him a deed to the place.²⁰⁴

Walter E. Canwell married in 1905 to Sadie Henley, daughter of Pliny and Ellen (Whitney) Henley, and a sister of Elmer Henley, so at this time there was a Sawin descendant living on both ends of the road, as well as in the middle. The Canwells came from Oxford with a son Harold. Three daughters were born to them here: Marjorie, Edith and Beatrice. This was their home for nearly 40 years.

¹⁹⁴ Oxford County Deeds 306:600 dated 18 May 1909.

¹⁹⁵ Oxford County Deeds 321:69 dated 3 November 1909.

¹⁹⁶ Oxford County Deeds 305:324 dated 11 December 1909.

¹⁹⁷ Oxford County Deeds 309:549 dated 11 December 1909.

¹⁹⁸ Oxford County Deeds 271:347 dated 3 October 1902.

¹⁹⁹ Oxford County Deeds 306:600 dated 18 May 1909.

²⁰⁰ Oxford County Deeds 287:199 dated 12 November 1904.

²⁰¹ Oxford County Deeds 299:342 dated 30 April 1906.

²⁰² Mrs. Anna Eames Flint obituary from the Advertiser, dated 26 September 1913.

²⁰³ Oxford County Deeds 298:220 dated 30 April 1906.

²⁰⁴ Oxford County Deeds 304:548 dated 7 September 1908.

Early on, French Pond was known for its chalk. Although he did not specify the reason for doing so, in 1890 Elmer Henley mentioned, "I went over to French's pond and got some chalk in the evening." In 1904, an entrepreneur thought he could make some money by extracting it. Elmer Henley wrote in his diary, "A man from New York has secured the right to work French's pond for the chalk or mud that is in the bottom. Today Role Littlefield, Roy Lord and I went out to the Flat and saw Potter who is to have charge of the job and hired out to work on the pond."²⁰⁵

An undated newspaper clipping contained a follow-up to this idea. It confirms the essential information in Elmer's diary, but suggests that the work was delayed for some time—perhaps years.

Leon Kimball is cutting ice on Chalk pond for a number in North Waterford. Chalk pond has changed its name to the more fancy one of Crystal Polish lake. A party from Vermont having leased it for a year or more, is mining it for the valuable polish they are gathering from it. The clay what is called infusorial earth, being composed of minute shells and insects, the bones of fish. It is thought the wash from the mountains above the lake bring into it some mineral matter too. They are composed mainly of mica and feldspar, etc. Roy Lord has taken a contract to get about 40 or 50 barrels into powder. It is dried and then ground, making a fine chalk-like powder, that is unsurpassed in polishing and cleaning glass and metals of all kinds. Clarence Potter, a miner from the Provinces, first formed the idea of its value, and leased a portion of the pond, and made great preparation for dredging. But he was soon after instantly killed on the railroad, and the matter was dropped until last fall, a gentleman from Vermont went to prospecting. It ended by his leasing the whole pond.²⁰⁶

So in addition to French Pond and Chalk Pond, someone tried to name the body of water Crystal Polish lake. Thankfully, it didn't stick.

Over on Abbott Hill, Edwin French had bought back his former farm from his father-in-law John P. Mason in 1900. On a summer day in July the next year, Edwin and Walter Lord, who was about 19 years old at the time, were hoeing corn for Merritt Sawin when a thunderstorm passed overhead and Edwin's buildings were struck by lightning. Merritt and Edwin, who had seen the lightning strike, started for the fire afoot, while Walter rode over on his bicycle. Edwin called out, "Save my coat on the back of the bed!" Walter, knowing where his bedroom was, broke the window, went in and got the coat, which contained \$85. The burning roof fell into the room as Walter was going out the window. The fire burned the buildings and a nice horse.²⁰⁷

Edwin French built a new set of buildings further down the lane where he and his second wife Minnie A. Paine, whom he married in 1902, lived until his early death. Elmer

²⁰⁵ Elmer C. Henley diaries August 5, 1904. Elmer made no further mention of this enterprise.

²⁰⁶ Lydia Lord Shedd scrapbook newspaper clipping c. 1914 (based on other dated clippings on the page).

²⁰⁷ This story is largely as told by Lillian (Lord) Brown in a 1962 manuscript. She lived nearby and was about 15 years old at the time of the fire. Elmer Henley's diary places the event on 2 July 1901.

Henley wrote in his diary for December 25, 1904, "Ed French is a little better. He has been almost given up by the doctors but has hung on to life and now it seems as though he might pull through but he has very bad erysipelas sores on his leg." On February 5, 1905, however, Henley noted, "Ed French cannot live much longer. It is a very sickly time..." Edwin French died February 15, 1905, at the age of 41.

As the administratrix of Edwin's estate, his widow sold the entire property at auction to William H. Chadbourne of Waterford.²⁰⁸ It consisted of about 200 acres and according to Lillian (Lord) Brown, who lived there briefly soon thereafter, it was a nice fertile farm with a field running north to the shore of French or Chalk Pond.²⁰⁹

Chadbourne kept the timberland, but sold the farm to Fannie B. Kimball of Albany on the same day that he bought it.²¹⁰ Fannie and her husband Elliot Kimball sold it to James Ernest Brown in 1908.²¹¹ The year before, J. Ernest Brown, also called "Dutch," had married Lillian "Dot" Lord, daughter of John F. and Lydia Lord, who lived on Sawin Hill Road a short distance away.

By this time the only other house on Abbott Hill was that of the Abbott family. In 1901, the children of Calvin Abbott deeded their inherited interest in the place to their mother, Beulah Abbott.²¹² Upon her death in 1902, her son George, who had been farming the place since his father's death in 1891, apparently took full possession.

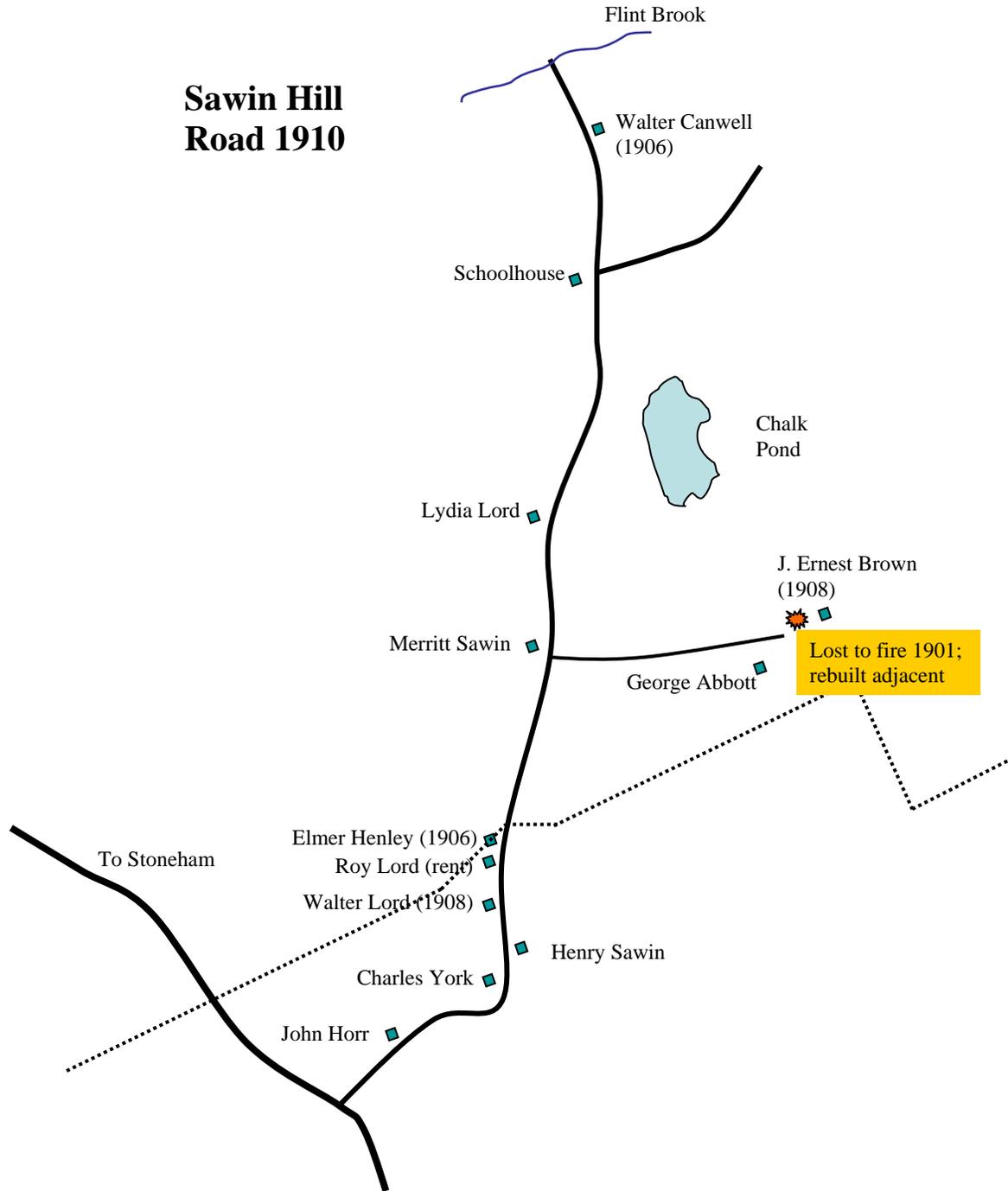
²⁰⁸ Oxford County Deeds 244:81 and 283:451, both dated 7 August 1905.

²⁰⁹ Lillian Brown manuscript, 1962.

²¹⁰ Oxford County Deeds 290:340 dated 7 August 1905

²¹¹ Oxford County Deeds 304:247 dated 11 May 1908

²¹² Oxford County Deeds 271:47 dated 22 August 1901.



1910-1920

In 1911, Herman and Sadie Horr Holt returned to care for her father until he died later that year. Shortly before John D. Horr died, he conveyed his homestead to Sadie, his only surviving child.²¹³

Further up the road on the east side, Henry Sawin II died in 1913, but his son Harry wasn't interested in carrying on the farm. Harry worked in the corn shop, in the spool mill, and had the store in North Waterford village for a time. After Henry's death, and acting for his own half interest and as administrator of his father's estate for the other half, Harry T. Sawin sold the farm (part of Lot 3 in the north range and part of Lot 7 Range 14) to Walter A. Lord.²¹⁴ He was already renting the place.

Back on the other side of the road, the old Thomas Sawin home, more recently owned and occupied by the Littlefields, was owned by Walter Lord since 1908 when he purchased it from his father. On the same day in 1913 that he bought the Henry Sawin II farm, he sold the Littlefield place to Frank McAllister, and soon after sold the stable across the road to him.²¹⁵ It is clear from the second deed that there was a barn on the east side of the road, a few feet south of the stable, that was not included in the sale. A related agreement states, "and it is hereby agreed by Lord that so long as he lives on his present place called the Sawin place [Henry Sawin II on the east side of the road], McAllister shall have the right to pasture one cow throughout the proper season of each year in the pasture on the premises of said Lord without charge, but this agreement shall be terminated in case said Lord removes from said Sawin place and also in case said McAllister removes from said Littlefield place."²¹⁶

Frank McAllister sold both of these properties to Lydia F. Shedd in 1916.²¹⁷ Lydia was the former wife of John Lord. In one way or another, the Lords traded a lot of property among themselves in those days. A week later, Frank also sold to Lydia "the pasture on the farm known as the Alonzo Littlefield farm in Waterford."²¹⁸ Lydia and her second husband Edgar K. Shedd then sold the package to Pearl A. Weymouth,²¹⁹ who split it up again, selling the house and land on the west side of the road to Eva W. McAllister of Bethel,²²⁰ and the stable and pasture to Walter Lord,²²¹ who had owned it just a few years before.

²¹³ Oxford County Deeds 316:514 dated 29 April 1911.

²¹⁴ Oxford County Deeds 323:245 dated 19 September 1913.

²¹⁵ Oxford County Deeds 320:219 dated 19 September 1913; and 328:41 dated 10 April 1914.

²¹⁶ Oxford County Deeds 323:374 dated 19 September 1913.

²¹⁷ Oxford County Deeds 335:319 dated 31 October 1916. The deed specified, however, that McAllister was to continue possession until 1 April 1917.

²¹⁸ Oxford County Deeds 335:588 dated 6 November 1916.

²¹⁹ Oxford County Deeds 341:264 dated 14 June 1917.

²²⁰ Oxford County Deeds 343:291 dated 2 May 1918.

²²¹ Oxford County Deeds 343:292 dated 2 May 1918.

On the same date that he sold this place, Pearl Weymouth bought from Burton Patterson, the smaller house next up the road, the “old” Henry Sawin house.²²² This house and two or four acres (deeds from different eras are contradictory) was owned by John Lord, and in 1910 was occupied by his son Roy H. Lord. John Lord sold the property to Burton Patterson in 1911.²²³ Patterson was married to Winona Holt, a daughter of Rowena (Bird) Holt Sawin, the second wife of Henry Sawin II. So Winona Patterson was living nearly across the road from her mother until 1918, when the Pattersons sold the property to Pearl A. Weymouth.²²⁴

The next house was the last house on the road in North Waterford at the top of the hill. It was built by Charles and Martha (Sawin) Whitney in 1854-55 to replace the one burned in 1853, and was owned and occupied at this time by Elmer Henley. Unfortunately, it too was destroyed by fire on August 24, 1918.

According to the Norway Advertiser, “The entire farm buildings...were consumed by fire with all their contents with the exception of a part of the furniture. Saturday afternoon a strong wind was blowing. The buildings were connected and a barn full of hay made such heat, and smoke, it was impossible to do much. Many fine farming tools were lost. Four barrels of beans. Maple syrup, sugar, about two hundred cans of fruit, the other valuables and treasures that cannot be replaced...They didn’t save a mouthful of food stuff of any description or a dish to cook in. They are living in a tent on the ground and taking their meals at the neighbors who invited them in.”²²⁵

Elmer Henley tells the story very briefly in his diary.²²⁶

Sunday September 1, 1918. Well I have not written for quite a while and have a lot to write. Ernest Mills and his nephew came down and helped us finish haying and we went back to Franconia with him on a 3 days vacation. Got back a week ago Thursday and had the bad luck to be burned out a week ago yesterday. We are living in a tent. I don’t feel much like writing.

Sunday September 8, 1918. I have bargained for Walter Lord’s place, which includes all the old Littlefield place except the house and 3 acres of land on the west side of the road. I am to pay \$2300 for it. I get eleven hundred insurance. There is already 8 hundred owing on my place so there will be just \$2000 on the whole ranch.

September 22, 1918. We have got moved into 3 rooms in Pod’s [Walter Lord’s] house. They are still there or rather here. We were all sick about all the time we were in the tent and have had an awful time. Have not picked corn yet. I have been to two auctions and bought quite a lot of furniture and other things that we had to have and got them very reasonable. We have not got very much work done.

²²² Oxford County Deeds 343:310 dated 2 May 1918.

²²³ Oxford County Deeds 343:290 dated 16 September 1911.

²²⁴ Oxford County Deeds 343:310 dated 2 May 1918.

²²⁵ Norway Advertiser, September 3, 1918.

²²⁶ Elmer C. Henley diary, in possession of Randall Henley, East Waterford, Maine.

Elmer was so discouraged that he did not record the fact that on the same day that his house burned, fire also took the house next door, the old Henry Sawin house. Pearl "Ted" Weymouth had the bad luck to buy this place just four and a half months before it burned. The Norway Advertiser continued the story:²²⁷

The buildings of Pearl Weymouth caught fire from E. C. Henley's buildings, the wind carrying the sparks. The whole business was soon in flames and his, too, was burned to the ground with a greater part of the contents including the hay, etc.

Mr. Weymouth had recently purchased the place and was making a cozy home for himself. He is a hard working young man and it seems very hard for him as he too is left homeless.

The buildings of Ingalls McAllister were directly in the path of the flames too and caught fire but by prompt action was saved there bring plenty [of help] by that time. Also the stable owned by Walter Lord caught fire twice but was fortunately put out. It was thought all of the building on the hill must go. But plenty of help and water saved the place. No live stock was burned. There was a small insurance [on] both set of buildings, we understand, but hardly a drop in the bucket as might be said compared with their loss.

It was not until 1968 that an entirely different house was built near the site where the two houses formerly stood.

Elmer and Rena Henley had eight children in their family at this time, ranging from 19 to 3 years of age, so the condition of living in a tent, and then crowding in with another family, was undoubtedly difficult. They moved into the Henry Sawin II house just down the hill on the east side of the road. It was this house with 65 acres that Elmer purchased of Walter Lord shortly thereafter.²²⁸

Less than a year after he was burned out and bought the Henry Sawin II place from Walter Lord, Elmer Henley also bought what he called "the old Littlefield place" in the diary excerpt above, from Eva and Ingalls McAllister.²²⁹ This was the house and three acres on the opposite side of the road. He noted, "Now I have all of the hill I want except the Ted Weymouth field. I now own all around it."²³⁰ He would soon have that.

A few years earlier, in August, 1912, Elmer bought a Ford car, to help him make his mail route more quickly, but by December of that year, he was back to using a horse and

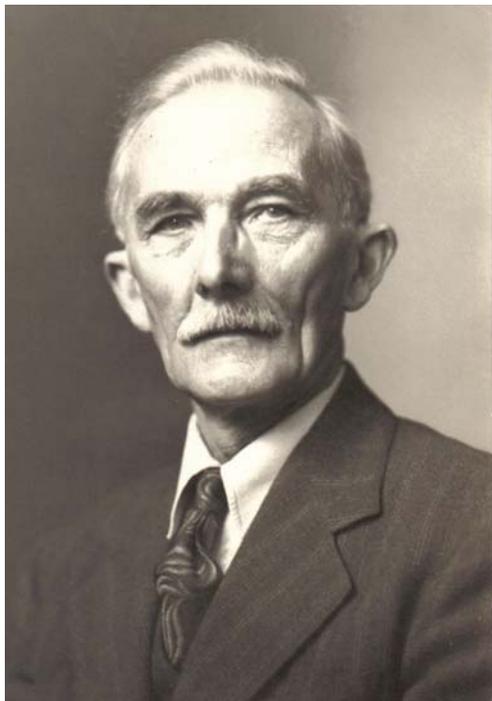
²²⁷ Norway Advertiser, September 3, 1918.

²²⁸ Oxford County Deeds 345:42 dated 11 October 1918. The transaction also conveyed two other parcels, being most of the land that had once been part of the Littlefield property (the original Thomas Sawin place, later that of Thomas Hubbard Sawin), lying on the east side of the Sawin Hill Road.

²²⁹ Oxford County Deeds 345:528 dated 13 May 1919.

²³⁰ Elmer C. Henley diary, May 11, 1919.

sleigh.²³¹ He noted in early December 1917, “It was snowing yesterday morning and I started with car and had to give it up and take a team.” This pattern continued for a number of years, where he used the car from May to about December, then switched to horse and sleigh, and in the spring as the snow disappeared and the ground grew soft, he switched again to horse and wagon.



Elmer Henley. Courtesy of Randall Henley.

There always seemed to be a lot of visiting and shared work, but during this decade the socializing was frequent with neighborhood dinners and card games. A number of these get-togethers were mentioned in Lillian Brown’s diaries from 1911 to 1913 (there are no diaries for the rest of the decade). Included among others were the Sawins, the Abbotts, the Lords and the Browns, and some unnamed Flints and Leon Kimball. They called themselves with apparent humor the “Wildcats.” They seemed to meet between November, after the harvest, and May, when the planting season began. On February 25, 1913, Lillian Brown noted, “Roy [Lord] had Wildcat party here. Oyster stew etc. 29 here. Good time.” The good times were memorable enough to tell their grandchildren, because even I heard about the Wildcats in the 1970s.

The Wildcats were not the only form of entertainment. Both Elmer Henley and Lillian Brown mention dances. In 1911 there were several masquerade balls at J. B. Haskell’s Hall in East Waterford, a Valentine dance in Lovell, and Apron and Necktie dance, frequent dances at Hunt’s Corner, and sometimes a dance at home.

²³¹ Elmer’s was not the first car on the road. Lillian Brown noted in her diary for June 9, 1912: “Pod [Walter Lord] and Add [Addison] Holt bought autos of Ripley.”

Above the town line, Merritt and Nettie Sawin continued an active life. He always had a sleek pair of oxen for field work, and a few cows from which he sold cream to W. K. Hamlin's creamery at South Waterford. For many years he also raised corn for the canning factory and had some nice veal calves for market. He helped neighbors slaughter their animals. He did not take to new technology, however, continuing to use oxen into the 1930s rather than use a tractor, and insisting on pitching hay into the haymow rather than use a hayfork—probably an attitude similar to those of us who resist learning to use computers because telephone, the U.S. mail, and public libraries serve our needs just fine.

Next above the Sawins lived the Lords. In 1909, John Lord had a midlife crisis and left his family, traveled to California briefly but came back to Maine and settled in West Durham for a while, then later returned to Waterford. On her own, Lydia was capable of butchering a calf if need be, and she led a beef animal on foot from Albany to Durham by herself.²³² John and Lydia divorced in 1912; she kept the home place (he had conveyed it to her when they rebuilt in 1888) and got the Farnsworth lots, about 70 acres, further up the road.²³³ Soon after, she sold the homestead farm to her daughter Lillian Lord Brown.²³⁴



J. Ernest and Lillian (Lord) Brown house about 1915. Courtesy of Margaret Dutil.

Above this place was the land of the former Washington French farm, on which the dwelling had burned in 1892. Part of it was owned by Mattie Lord, wife of Roy Lord. In 1913, Mattie Lord sold her portion of the old farm on the westerly side of the road to James Ernest Brown, “excepting and reserving to myself the following parcel of land situated nearly in the center of the above parcel, with the buildings thereon, beginning at

²³² Margaret B. Dutil, personal interview 2006.

²³³ Oxford County Deeds 321:101 dated 16 March 1912; and 318:194 of the same date.

²³⁴ Oxford County Deeds 321:235 dated 7 May 1912.

a maple tree near the aforementioned highway, then westerly 8 rods to a corner, then northerly 20 rods to a stone wall, then easterly by said wall 9 rods to said road, then southerly by said road to the point begun at.”²³⁵

In making this sale, she was still keeping it in the Lord family, because Ernest Brown was married to her sister-in-law Lillian (Lord) Brown. Ernest Brown had by this time purchased, and was living in, the Lord place immediately to the south. But Mattie kept a small plot “with the buildings thereon” that may have become the location of Mocking Bird Hill cottage of Ray and Marion (Lord) Langway. Marion was a daughter of Roy Lord, so even with all this turnover, some of the land stayed in the Lord family.

It is unclear why there were so many transactions among the Lords. Perhaps it was due to the divorce of John and Lydia Lord, and they were just trying to keep as much in the family as possible.

Next above the schoolhouse was the so-called Farnsworth lot, 70 acres of farmland on the west side of the road. John Lord had sold this to his son Walter in 1909, but somehow this land came back into his possession, because in 1912 when his divorce was final, the Farnsworth lots were conveyed to Lydia Lord, his former wife.²³⁶

The Dresser School stood on a small lot just between the Washington French farm and the Perley French farm (or Farnsworth lots) on the west side of Sawin Hill Road at the point where a road branches off to the right above Chalk Pond. A schoolhouse here is mentioned in several deeds over the years, the earliest found being from 1832.²³⁷ Also called Schoolhouse No. 2 in the early years, it was part of School District No. 2 and came to be called the Dresser School because of the Dresser family that lived nearby on the road branching off from Sawin Hill Road.

The school was described by Lillian Brown as “a nicely constructed building with granite underpinning and stone steps. It was heavily enrolled with pupils for many years.” In 1918, the Norway Advertiser reported, “Leon Kimball has taken the contract to remodel the Dresser Schoolhouse in Albany. He is to put in hard wood floors and new desks, sheath the walls and overhead, build a door on the side wall and a walk to the woodshed. When finished, it will be an up-to-date schoolhouse.”²³⁸

School reunions were held in the 1920s and 1930s. At one in 1926, over 60 people attended. The oldest among them, Dexter Flint, went to school here when he was a boy in the 1850s. The oldest teacher that the organizers were able to get in touch with was Mrs. Rowena Hutchinson Wheeler of Gorham, New Hampshire, who taught here 63 years earlier, or 1863.²³⁹

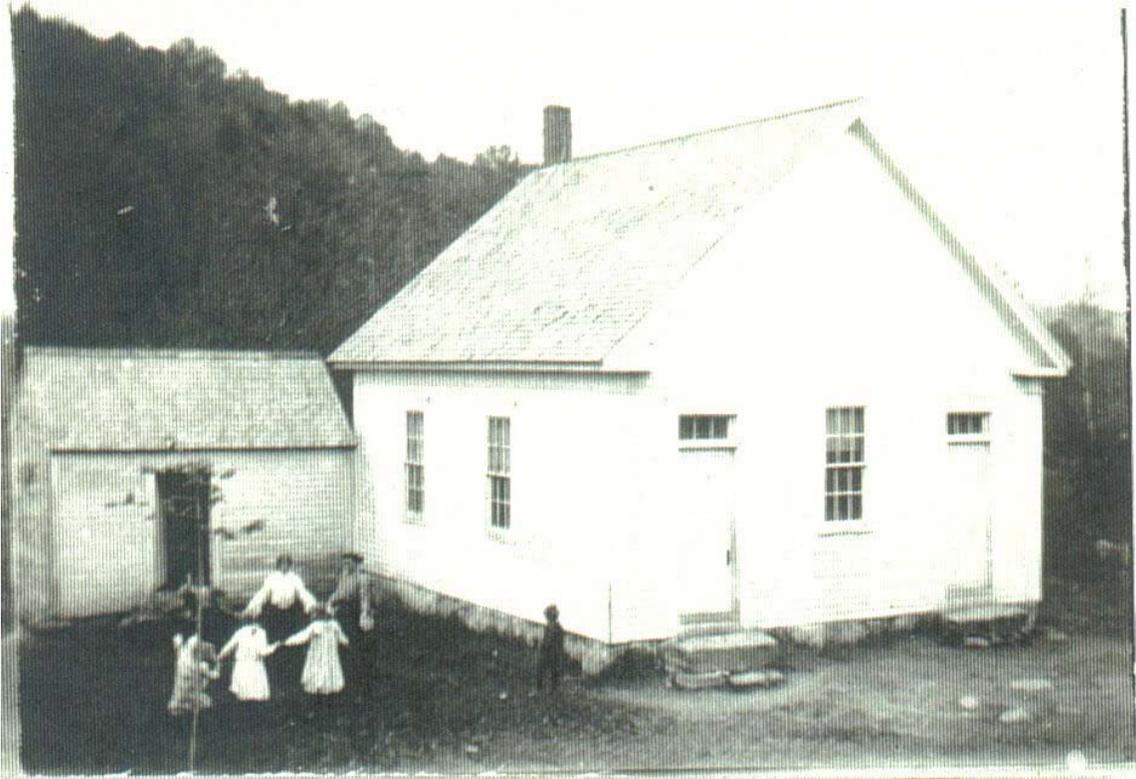
²³⁵ Oxford County Deeds 322:351 dated 5 March 1913.

²³⁶ Oxford County Deeds 321:101 dated 16 March 1912.

²³⁷ Oxford County Deeds 37:400 dated 14 April 1832; 72:558 dated 1 April 1846; and 212:236 dated May 1886.

²³⁸ Norway Advertiser, January 25, 1918.

²³⁹ News clippings from Lydia Lord and Lillian (Lord) Brown scrapbooks.



Dresser Schoolhouse with children and teacher playing ring around the rosie. Courtesy of Margaret Dutil.

The Dresser family that gave its name to the school also made another impressive contribution to the school. Mary (Wardwell) Dresser, wife of Phineas Parker Dresser, taught here, as did five of her children: Adria Dresser Doughty, Jacob Dresser, Lizzie Dresser Chaplin, Edna Dresser Godfrey, and Maud Dresser Brown. Although we do not know exactly when they taught here, it would probably have been during the years 1880-1910.

Other teachers, who were also earlier pupils here, were Mrs. Martha (French) Jewett, Mrs. Calista (Abbott) Swett, Mrs. Annie (Sawin) Holt and Mrs. Lillian (Lord) Brown.

At the end of the road, the Canwells were active in farming. Walter acquired a second farm adjacent to the Flint farm, so he had his hands full with lots of land and buildings to maintain.



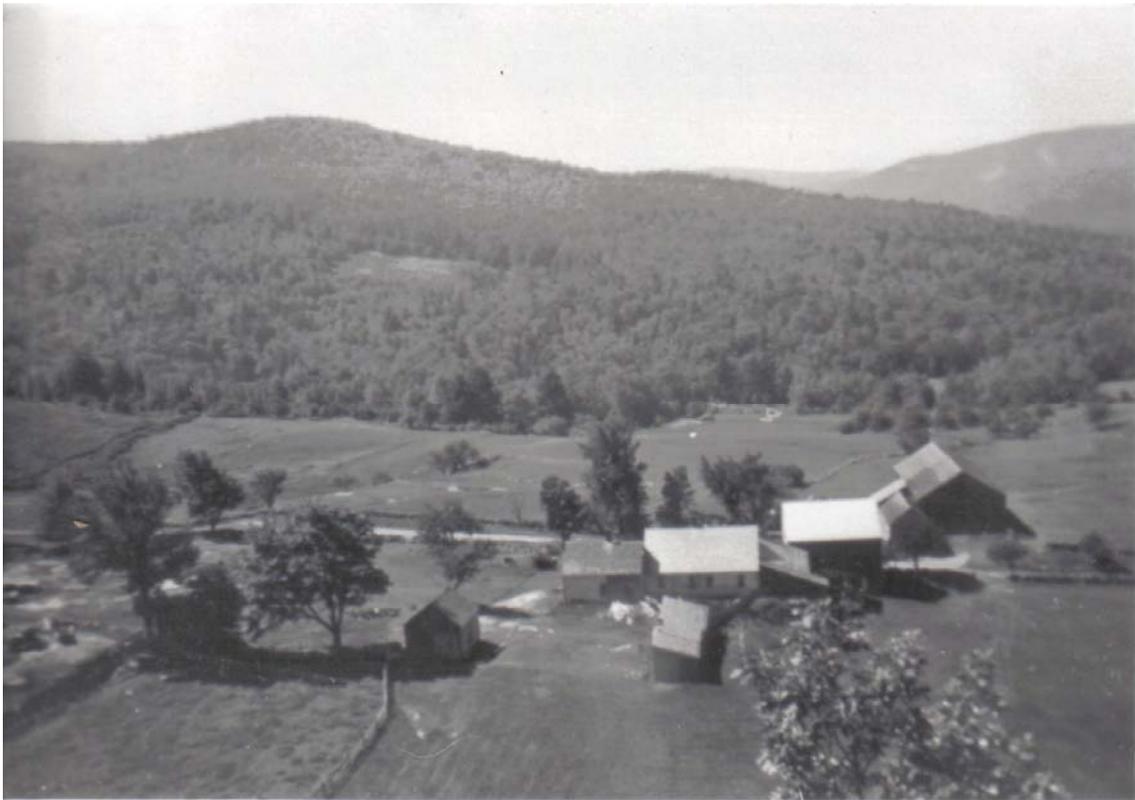
Walter and Sadie (Henley) Canwell home. Courtesy of Sally Brown.



Barns across the road from Canwell house. There were lots more buildings to maintain in those days. Courtesy of Sally Brown.



The Canwell place covered in snow. Courtesy Sally Brown.



This rare early aerial view of the Canwell farm shows how much of the land was cleared. Courtesy of Sally Brown.

On Abbott Hill, Lillian “Dot” (Lord) and J. Ernest “Dutch” Brown were living in the home that had been rebuilt by Edwin French in 1901. When Lillian’s parents divorced and the Lord farm became available, she and Dutch moved there and sold the Ed French place to her brother Walter Lord in 1911.²⁴⁰ The property was in his hands less than two years before he sold it to Will McAllister of Stoneham.²⁴¹

In 1917, the McAllisters sold it to Merton D. Kimball of Waterford.²⁴² Kimball was married to Hazel Sawin, the youngest daughter of Merritt and Nettie Sawin who had grown up in the house at the beginning of the lane to Abbott Hill. Merton and Hazel may have lived there for a few months, but in February 1918 he sold the farmland to Herman Holt, reserving the house for his own use.²⁴³

The next month, the Norway Advertiser noted that Merton Kimball was taking down the house and intended to haul it to South Waterford to be put up again as a residence. A couple weeks later it was reported, “Merton Kimball has finished taking his house down and has moved his stock and furniture to South Waterford where he will rebuild his house for a residence. Merritt Sawin carried Mrs. Kimball and children to their new home, Monday.”²⁴⁴

Maybe Kimball got the idea from George W. Stone’s action some 30 years earlier in moving a house to Norway, or maybe he already had a South Waterford location in mind and saw a bargain in the Abbott Hill property. In any event, it must have been a challenge to move the deconstructed house over and down Abbott Hill via a narrow lane, then turn a sharp left onto Sawin Hill Road. Even though fields were cleared and there was less tree overhang on the road than today, the road would have been narrow, and from Merritt Sawin’s to the town line is very hilly before crossing the town line and starting the long downhill to Route 118. The long haul from North Waterford village up the hill and down Valley road to the Flat, then along Tom’s Pond (now Keoka Lake) into South Waterford must have required tremendous determination and not a little skill. He used two teams of oxen, and it took four days to accomplish, according to his daughter Evelyn Maxfield of Harrison. The house still stands at Mutiny Corner on the Sweden Road.

In 1917, George Abbott sold his property to Will H. McAllister of Albany, and the deed describes the easterly boundary, in part, as the town line between Waterford and Albany.²⁴⁵ He and his wife Nora were the last of the Abbotts to live on Abbott hill.

²⁴⁰ Oxford County Deeds 314:467-68 dated 29 December 1911.

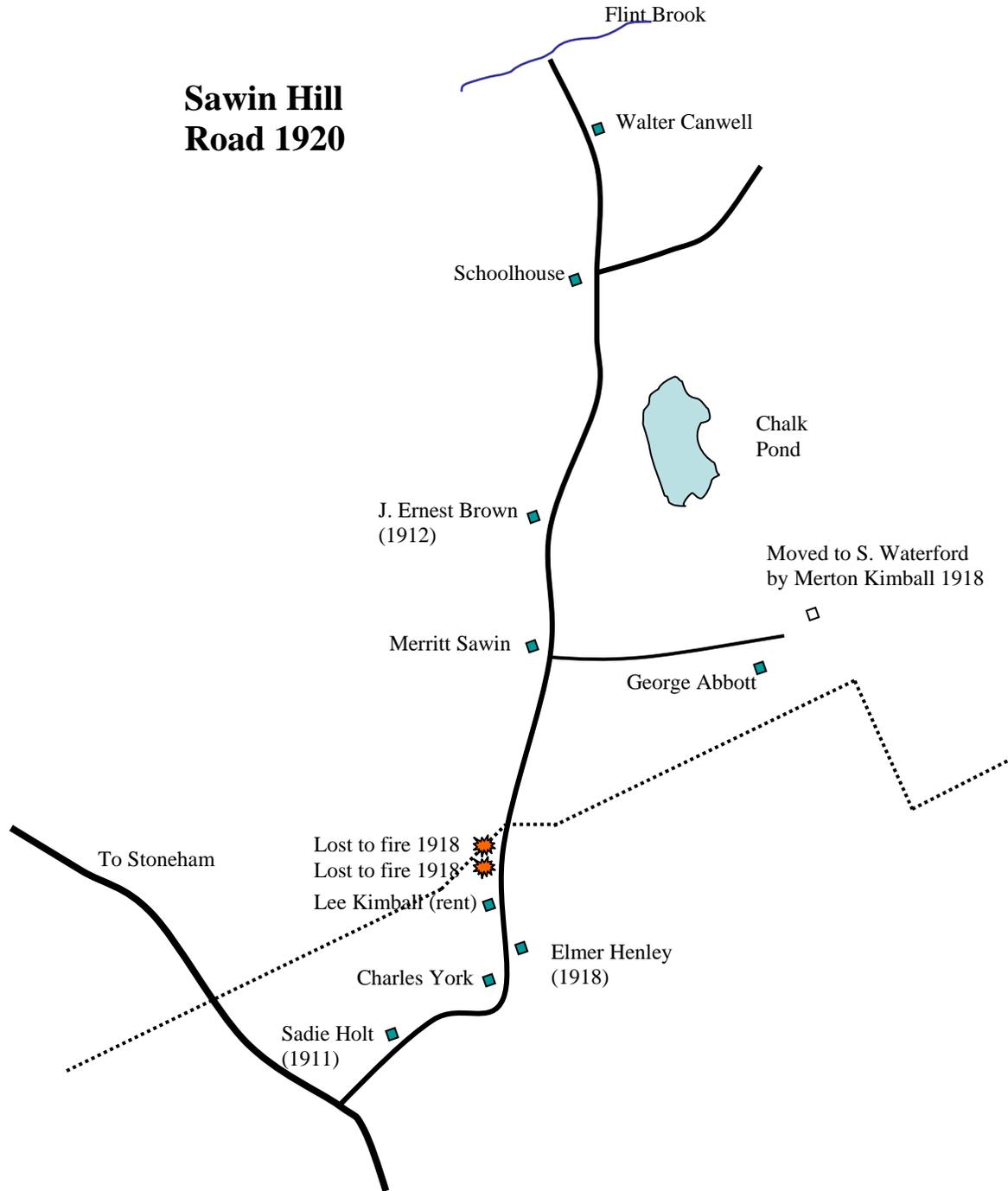
²⁴¹ Oxford County Deeds 326:138 dated 29 July 1913.

²⁴² Oxford County Deeds 341:287 dated 15 June 1917.

²⁴³ Oxford County Deeds 343:186 dated 28 February 1918.

²⁴⁴ Norway Advertiser, March 8 and March 29, 1918.

²⁴⁵ Oxford County Deeds 341:299 dated 28 June 1917.



1920-1930

Herman and Sadie (Horr) Holt were living in the first house on the road in the early 1920s. In 1926, their son Chester Holt married Edith Merrill of East Stoneham, and they moved into an upstairs apartment in the house. Then in 1929, Herman and Sadie moved to South Waterford to care for his aunt, Ida (Bird) Riggs, leaving Chet in charge of the family home.

The next house going up the road was the original Isaac Horr house. It was occupied by Charles W. York, who died probably in 1926 or 1927 and left the house to his wife Rosa.²⁴⁶ In 1927, she sold the farm and buildings to Ezra Lebroke.²⁴⁷ He and his wife Nora may not have moved in right away, because they did not sell their home on Abbott Hill until 1930.

The next place on the right was owned and occupied by Elmer Henley. He also owned the next place above on the left, the so-called Littlefield place. He rented it out for about ten years. In 1920, Lee Kimball occupied the place, and Gardner Libby rented it from May, 1923 to May, 1927, when he moved to Bridgton.²⁴⁸ This is a useful little fact because the Waterford town history (1977) says that the cooper shop down at the corner next to Route 118 later became a garage run by Gardner Libby until about 1916. It appears instead that it was operated as a garage in the 1920s when Libby lived nearby. In fact, on January 2, 1927 Elmer Henley wrote in his diary, "We have got the big car into Gard's garage. It has got to have a new ring and pinion gears."

In 1928 Elmer Henley sold the Littlefield homestead and stable across the road to Ernest Grover, son of Nora Lebroke.²⁴⁹

Until the early 1920s, the mail was brought over from Norway to North Waterford in the afternoon, and delivered in the morning of the next day. This way Elmer Henley could deliver mail in the morning and do farm work or logging in the afternoon. But in December, 1921, some of the patrons petitioned the post office department for delivery in the afternoon, thinking they would get their mail more quickly, and the change was made.

Elmer wrote, "Well they have changed my mail time to 12:30 p.m. I do not get in till after dark." But he also observed, "The stage does not get in till about 2 o'clock so it makes it too late for me to take the mail same day it comes." He added, however, that if the mail were brought over from Norway by car, it would get in to North Waterford between noon and one o'clock, which allowed him to deliver it the same day. Reading between the lines, Elmer would rather have continued with the morning delivery.

For most of the 1920s, the road was not plowed in winter. Instead, they had to "break out" the roads. This meant that Elmer Henley had to frequently adjust his mode of

²⁴⁶ Oxford County Deeds 383:18 dated 8 February 1927.

²⁴⁷ Oxford County Deeds 385:468 dated 9 December 1927.

²⁴⁸ Elmer Henley diary.

²⁴⁹ Oxford County Deeds 391:338 dated 4 August 1928.

delivery to suit conditions. In January, 1927 he wrote in his diary, "I took out the big car Wed. morning and was going part way round the route to break out ruts into it. Went all right but rear end gave out so I have used horse since a little too much for the Ford."

A month later he tried a snowmobile, which was a converted car or truck with a top speed of about 15 miles per hour, with mixed results. "It vibrated so much I did not dare go all the way around." Chet Holt, who had taken over as his substitute, covered the remainder with the snowmobile, and Elmer said the machine did the job in spite of a lot of drifts. In November 1927 Elmer bought a snow car in Rumford. It was a built-over Chevrolet ton truck that cost \$650. A couple weeks later he used it to help move some timber that was being cut on his land. One can almost feel his disgust when he wrote, "I got out my snow car and broke an axle first thing."

A month later he voiced frustration with it, saying, "I cannot do anything with the snow car. I think I will have to let it go back to the man I had it from."

But he still had it a year later, and got some use out of it before trading it in. In February, 1929 he wrote, "I used the snow car on the route yesterday, but it went pretty hard for it was so sticky...I had to mend the radiator and waterjacket on the snow car engine." And his diary entry for the next week stated, "I am carrying the mail now with the snow car. It works fine."

Across the line in Albany, Merritt and Nettie Sawin continued in their old-fashioned ways to manage their farm. Neighbors came around to see Merritt when they wanted a haircut, and during these visits Nettie picked up the neighborhood gossip, which she used as the South Albany correspondent for the Advertiser.



Field behind Merritt Sawin barn towards Abbott Hill, still plowing with oxen, c. 1930.
Note how clear the fields are compared to today. Collection of the author.

They also kept busy as grandparents to the growing families of their three daughters. In particular, they filled a void for the children of their widowed daughter Annie Holt, whose husband Hiram Holt (a one-time post-master in North Waterford) had died when their five children were young. Several of these children spent a lot of time growing up on this farm.



Merritt and Antoinette “Nettie” (Hersey) Sawin, 1920s. Collection of the author.

In the next house, J. Ernest “Dutch” and Lillian “Dot” (Lord) Brown lived for 36 years on the place where she was born. Here they raised two children, Donald, who married Evelyn Cummings, and June, who married Graham Bachelder.

It is uncertain when the Dresser school was discontinued, but the description of the 1926 reunion states that the scholars, who presented a program, have been carried to the Clark school this term, so classes may have ended in the 1920s.

On Chalk Pond, ice was still an important commodity prior to the advent of electrical refrigeration. In 1929, Elmer Henley used his “snow truck” to haul his ice. He noted that he could haul 12 or 15 cakes a load and haul three times as many loads as with a team.

On Abbott Hill, there was now just one dwelling, but lots of woods and fields.

Herman Holt, who purchased the farmland from Merton Kimball, called his property “Dundee,” according to his grandson Arthur E. Holt.

Will H. McAllister, who bought the Abbott farm from George Abbott in 1917, sold it in 1920 to Fred Littlefield.²⁵⁰ Littlefield split the property a year later. He sold the so-called Abbott woods to W. B. and G. H. Hamlin of Milan, New Hampshire, and the fields and buildings to Walter Lord.²⁵¹ The Hamlin brothers cut the timber and sold to Elmer Henley in 1929.²⁵²

The fields with buildings constituted about 50 acres “situated in Albany and Waterford, bounded on the northerly side by the road leading over Sawin’s Hill to the premises herein described; on the easterly side by land of Herman Holt, formerly owned by Merton Kimball, and by the land of the Hamlin Brothers of Milan, N.H., on the southerly and westerly sides. The same being part of the George Abbott farm, so-called...”

The Abbott fields and buildings continued in use. Less than a year after acquiring them in 1921, Walter Lord and his wife Eva sold them to Ezra Lebroke.²⁵³ This was the same Ezra Lebroke who as previously described bought the Isaac Horr home in 1927. In 1923, Ezra married Lenora (Webber) Grover Abbott, widow of George Abbott of Abbott Hill. This was the third marriage for both of them. Nora had already lived on this farm for almost 30 years with her second husband George Abbott, who died in 1920. It was while Ezra and Nora were living there (1923-1927 or 1930) that lightning struck and burned the barn. Nora went into the burning barn and saved a valuable horse, and Ezra was badly scorched by the flames in his effort to save the barn.²⁵⁴

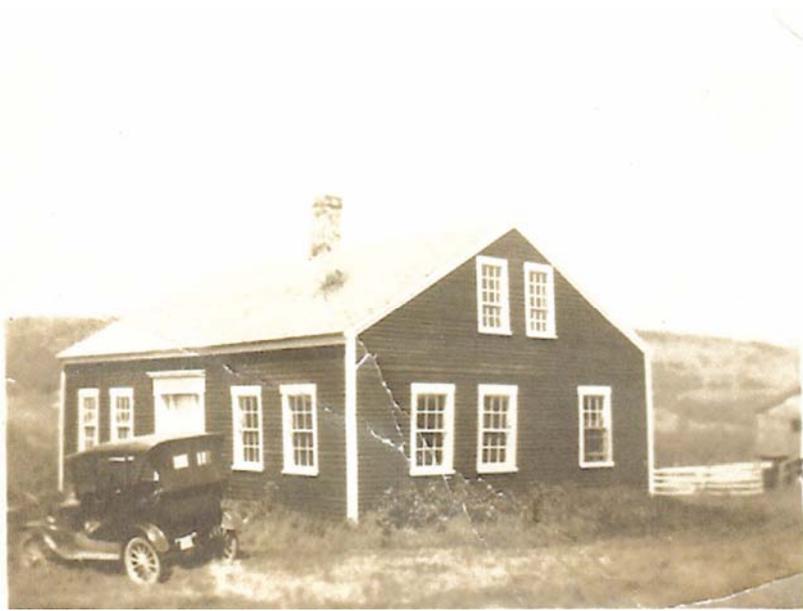
²⁵⁰ Oxford County Deeds 358:565 dated 7 May 1920.

²⁵¹ Oxford County Deeds 348:572 dated 21 July 1921; and 360:11 dated 29 June 1921.

²⁵² Oxford County Deeds 388:401-2 dated 15 October 1929.

²⁵³ Oxford County Deeds 360:556 dated 4 March 1922.

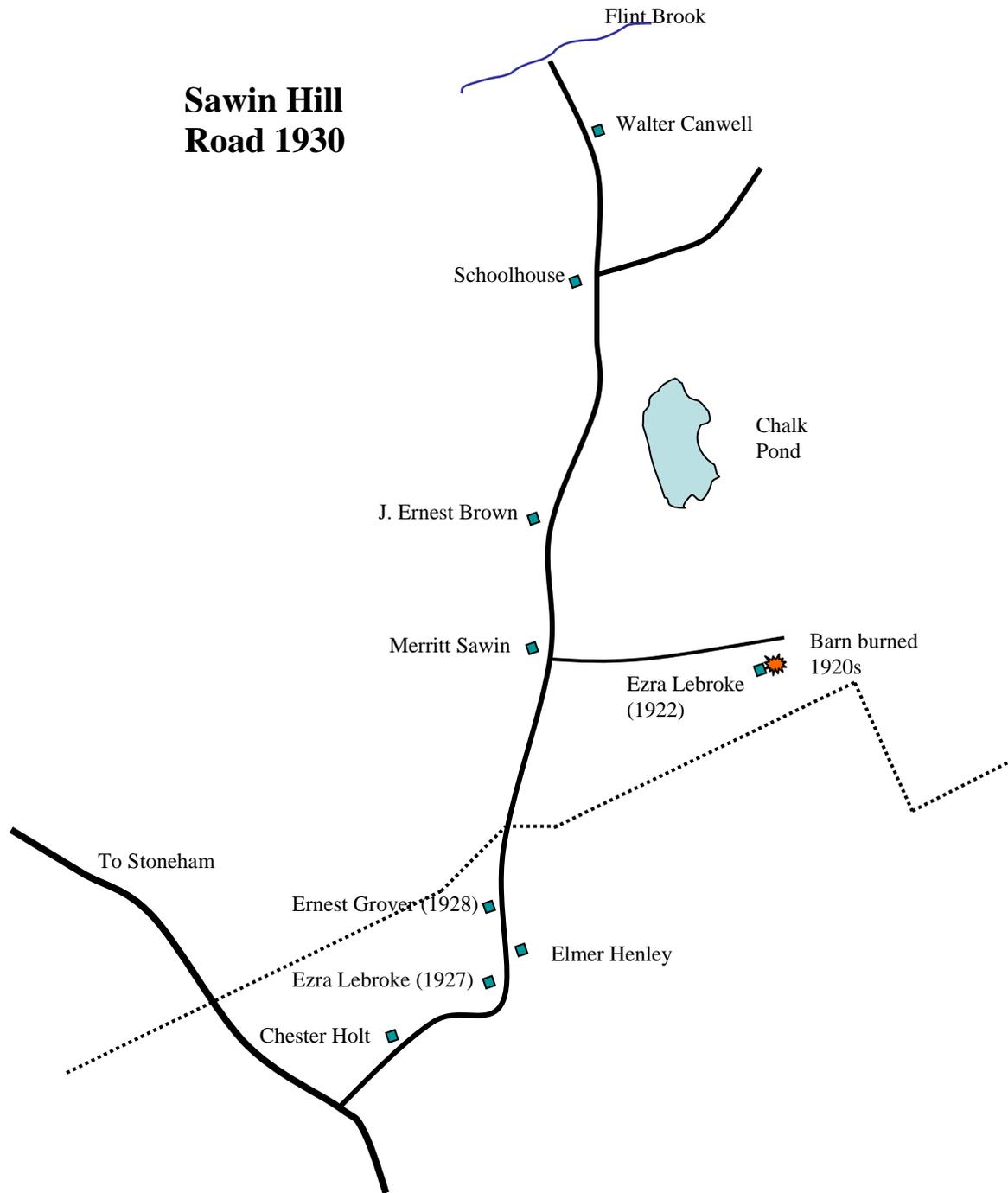
²⁵⁴ Lillian Brown manuscript, 1962.



George Abbott house probably when Ezra and Nora Lebroke lived there in the 1920s. Courtesy of Shirley Holt.



Nora Abbott Lebroke with pail and lantern in front of barn that burned. Courtesy of Shirley Holt.



1930-1940

The flood of 1936 damaged a lot of roads and bridges, including the bridge over Flint Brook at the top of the road. Water also flooded the beginning (south end) of the road. Berkeley N. Henley had a snapshot showing how the flood covered Route 118 at the corner of Sawin Hill Road, and he identified a building in the picture as the Gard Libby garage that was owned by Winfield Perkins in the 1930s. He also said that Win Perkins “also had another garage, also long gone, right in back of [the Gard Libby garage] and it contained a Queens automobile which we boys used to climb into and make believe that we were driving. I have often wondered what became of that auto. I remember hearing my father tell stories about Gard Libby at the garage...”²⁵⁵



The former Gard Libby garage on the right, later owned by Win Perkins, in 1936. Courtesy of Berkeley N. Henley.

The first house on the road was that of Herman and Sadie Holt, but it was occupied by Chet and Edith (Merrill) Holt, who reared five children here. See Appendix B for a Holt family tree (under the Horr family).

²⁵⁵ Berkeley N. Henley, email to the author dated May 5, 2006.



Chet Holt with daughter Pat on new tractor, 1938. Courtesy of Arthur E. Holt.

Ezra and Nora Lebroke lived in the next house up the road, the house built c. 1830 by Isaac C. Horr. In 1937, they sold the place to his grandson Willis Littlefield.²⁵⁶



Horr family reunion, 1932, at the house built by Isaac C. Horr, at the time owned by Ezra and Nora Lebroke. Courtesy of Arthur E. Holt.

²⁵⁶ Oxford County Deeds 421:277 dated 23 October 1937.

The next house, on the right, had been occupied by Elmer Henley since he lost his house to fire in 1918. Elmer had farmed, logged and delivered mail on the road for years, but in 1934 he was transferred to the Harrison RFD mail route, and he and his wife moved down there. His oldest son Berkeley G. Henley moved into the house on Sawin Hill Road on May 20, 1934, and the next year bought the farm and most of the surrounding land owned by his father.²⁵⁷ Over the years Berkeley rebuilt this farm. According to his son Berkeley N. Henley, Berkeley G. put on new roofs, put new shingles on the house and ell, put in new foundations under the ell and barn, brought in electricity from the Stoneham road, put in running water and rebuilt the kitchen, as well as cutting bushes and reclaiming some rundown fields.²⁵⁸



The Henry Sawin home built about 1865, owned 1918-1935 by Elmer C. Henley.
Courtesy of Berkeley N. Henley.

At the age of 36, Berkeley Henley owned a substantial amount of land on Sawin Hill Road. This included the land on which sat the home of Charles and Martha Whitney and the old Henry Sawin home, both of which burned in 1918, the Henry Sawin II home on the right side of the road, and a couple other parcels and timber rights in the neighborhood. Plus in 1940, Berkeley brought the Littlefield place back into Henley ownership.

²⁵⁷ Oxford County Deeds 414:499 dated 20 March 1935. The date of moving in is from Elmer Henley's diary.

²⁵⁸ Electricity may have been available a little earlier, because Elmer Henley recorded in his diary for October 19, 1930, "We are thinking of having the electric line put in to the neighborhood." He did not mention it again, however, so it is probable that power lines were installed in the mid-1930s after he moved to Harrison.

Back on the west side of the road, the former Littlefield place was owned by Ernest Grover. Bud Holt recalls that Nora and Ezra Lebroke lived here at one time, and it may well have been during Ernest Grover's ownership of the place, because Nora was Ernest's mother, and she and Ezra sold their house just down the hill in 1937.²⁵⁹

In 1939, Ernest Grover sold this home to Mary Edna Henley.²⁶⁰ Mary Edna Harriman of Bridgton, known as "Pete" in her family and as Edna to neighbors, was the wife of Berkeley G. Henley. Exactly why the next transaction took place is unclear, but about seven months later Mary E. Henley sold it to Clarence W. Buck of Norway,²⁶¹ and on the same day Buck sold it back to Mary's husband Berkeley G. Henley.²⁶² This place would stay in the Henley family for the next 16 years.

Because of poor health and an inability to work his farm, Merritt Sawin sold his farm in 1935 to his nephew Dwight Holden and Emma (Wentworth) Sawin, "excepting and reserving to myself and my wife the right to remain on the premises and occupy the buildings above mentioned for as long as we both shall live."²⁶³ Merritt and Nettie continued living on the farm summers and spent winters with their daughters until he died in 1938. She died in 1941.

²⁵⁹ Ezra and his wife Nora both lived to 1950. At the time of his death, Ezra was 96 and held the Boston Post cane as the oldest man in town.

²⁶⁰ Oxford County Deeds 433:524 dated 3 June 1939.

²⁶¹ Oxford County Deeds 434:269 dated 25 January 1940.

²⁶² Oxford County Deeds 434:270 dated 25 January 1940.

²⁶³ Oxford County Deeds 415:305 dated 3 December 1935.



Nettie and Merritt Sawin on their porch, 1930s.
Collection of the author.

Ernest and Lillian Brown continued farming, but they had so many frequent visitors it is hard to imagine how they got much done. In her diary, Lillian records having 10-15 people or even 20 to supper—lots of family and friends. One way they and their neighbors got things done, though, was by helping each other. For example, one man might help another cut up wood, while the other would help with plowing or haying. This mutual aid is also frequently mentioned in Elmer Henley's diaries.



Ernest and Lillian (Lord) Brown. Courtesy of Margaret Dutil.

Like many others on the road, they earned money investing in animals—pigs, cows, steers or bulls. Generally, the animals would be pastured and fed until larger, then sold for a profit, but sometimes they changed hands so quickly it nearly amounted to financial speculation, unless one had a very good eye for quality and knew the market well. Lillian wrote April 28, 1945, “Ernest bought 2 heifers of August ? I bought brown heifer of Thayer on Lincoln Chaplin place, \$25.” She added later, “I sold above heifer in 1947 for \$95.”

In September 1945, Ernest bought a cow for \$40 and later (Lillian’s diary doesn’t say when) sold it for \$70. That same year, they were offered \$350 for two cows. Clearly, adult cows could vary in value. The Browns and others often led a cow to another farm to be bred, and the birth of a calf was worth noting.

The Browns also earned cash selling potatoes, strawberries and other produce.



Ernest Brown's barn, and crew headed out for another load of hay. Courtesy of Margaret Dutil.

Even though teaching at the Dresser schoolhouse had been discontinued, the community still felt an attachment to the place. In 1937, for example, a notice in the paper announced that the "Dresser schoolhouse annual reunion will be held on Saturday, August 28, with the usual picnic dinner in the grove or in the schoolhouse if too wet outside. All should bring drinking cups for lemonade."²⁶⁴

Continuing north to the old Flint homestead, now owned by Walter and Sadie (Henley) Canwell, the road no longer went through to Hunt's Corner. The bridge over Flint brook was washed away in the floods of 1936 and was never replaced. In these years the bridge served only a small population, and during the depression there just wasn't enough money to do the work. Probably it was a low priority for the state or county after so many other bridges were also lost.

An undated clipping may relate to the loss of the bridge.²⁶⁵ The clipping notes that Donald Brown took a load of the neighbors to a special town meeting Saturday to see if the road leading from Walter Canwell's to the Dresser schoolhouse would be discontinued. Although it is pasted in the scrapbook near other clippings from 1932-1933, it would make sense to consider whether the road from the schoolhouse to the Canwells should become a private driveway if the road no longer continued past their house. The proposal was voted down.

On the former Abbott farm, Elmer Henley continued logging in the Abbott woods, and after he moved to Harrison he sold the land to Walter Cullinan of Norway.²⁶⁶

²⁶⁴ Lillian Brown scrapbook, newspaper clipping, issue of 20 Aug 1937.

²⁶⁵ Lillian Brown scrapbook newspaper clipping, undated.

²⁶⁶ Oxford County Deeds 411:330 dated 23 April 1935.

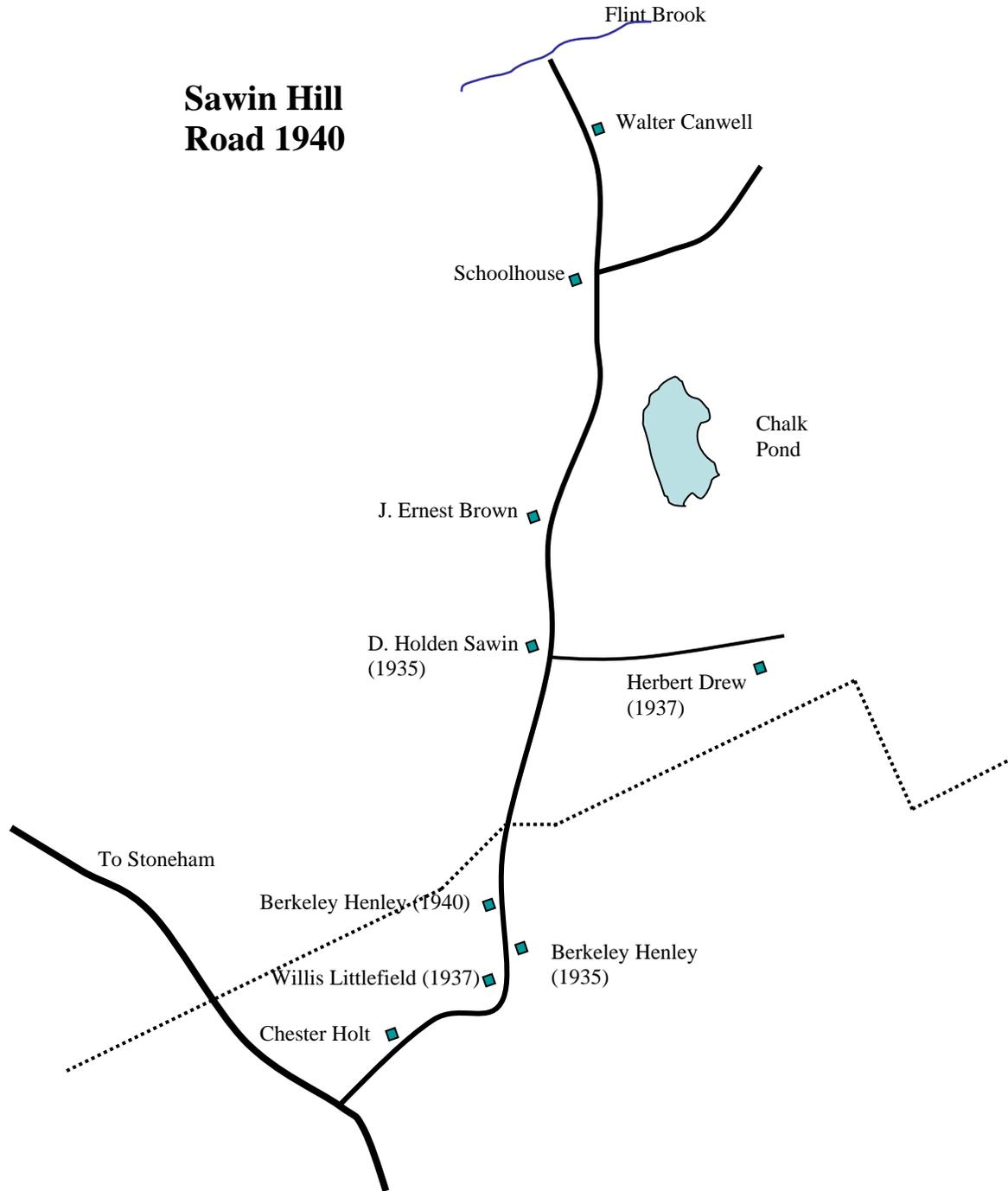
The 50 acres of Abbott buildings and fields were split further in 1930, when Ezra Lebroke sold the house and seven acres to a group from Kennebunk.²⁶⁷ This was used as a retreat for hunting and fishing. In 1937 the group sold to Herbert Drew of Kennebunkport,²⁶⁸ and he used it as a hunting camp. The fields were sold separately in 1939 to Holden and Emma Sawin.²⁶⁹

Herman Holt died in 1939, leaving “Dundee” to his widow Sadie.

²⁶⁷ Oxford County Deeds 399:532 dated 21 July 1930.

²⁶⁸ Oxford County Deeds 421:244 dated 21 September 1937.

²⁶⁹ Oxford County Deeds 434:140 dated 25 September 1939. Holden was the son of Lewis A. Sawin, who moved to South Waterford about 1904.



1940-1950

As in the 1920s and 1930s, change in the 1940s was slow. Willis Littlefield, who owned the old Isaac Horr home, apparently was divorced from his wife Ann, because in 1945 Willis, of Rochester, New Hampshire, sold to Ann Littlefield of Berwick.²⁷⁰ She remarried to Frank C. Hart and sold the place to Hervey and Marjorie Kimball of Waterford in 1950.²⁷¹

Across the road and a little further up the hill, Berkeley G. Henley was running a substantial poultry business. He wrote a summary of its development in 1946, accompanied by photographs.²⁷² In this summary, he described the farm he moved onto in 1934 as being in “very poor shape.”

I had absolutely no money, tools or livestock when we moved there—only the will and ability to work, sometimes up to 16 hours a day, 365 days a year. I tried about every type of farming that could be managed under the circumstances.

For poultry I borrowed a 100-egg oil incubator, got 100 Barred Rock eggs from a neighbor for 4 dollars—two dollars down and the balance later. Hatched 73 good chicks and housed 33 good pullets and 3 good roosters.

By keeping very careful accounts we found that this little flock turned a profit of around \$1.80 per bird which was considerably better than any of the other farm projects.

The next year we managed to pick up another small oil machine and hatched about 750 chicks, selling some to our neighbors and raising the balance.

That Fall...I built a 20x20 foot hen house...and housed 100 Barred Rock pullets and 5 males...This pen produced a little better than 200 eggs per bird for the year.

I continued to add small, used, oil incubators until in the Spring of 1937 we had eight machines with a total capacity of 2000 eggs.

In the Fall of 1937 we entered a pen of Barred Rock pullets in the Maine Egg Laying Test and won several ribbons. We also entered a pen in 1938 and 1939 but did not do so well.

By the spring of 1938 I bought the first mammoth incubator, a Buckeye #31, 2700 egg capacity, operated partly by electricity and partly by oil.

²⁷⁰ Oxford County Deeds 465:596 dated 13 April 1945.

²⁷¹ Oxford County Deeds 507:155 dated 13 April 1950.

²⁷² Berkeley G. Henley scrapbook, in possession of Gary Hill.

It did not seem possible that we would use or sell all the chicks this machine could hatch but it worked out all right. We hatched about 10,000 chicks that year and increased this to 16,000 in 1940.

I had been trying to sex Barred Rock chicks by color for two or three years but could not get satisfactory results with chicks less than 4 weeks old. So in August 1939, I went to Haverhill, Massachusetts and learned to sex chicks. Since then I have sexed chicks for a great many of the Maine hatcherymen and have handled well over a million chicks.

In the course of my chick sexing work I learned more and more about baby chicks, hatching methods and different strains of poultry. There seemed to me to be a real need for a good commercial hatchery in Maine so I decided to use the knowledge I was picking up and put it to some use.

In the summer of 1941 a new Buckeye Clipper with separate hatches raised our output to 20,000. Needing more eggs, I built a new two-story hen house 24 feet wide by 48 feet long in which we housed about 1000 of what I believe to be as good pullets as could be found. This was 1942.

1943, the first war boom year, everybody was chicken crazy. We bought more incubators--anything that would hatch a chicken. We hatched 65,000 chicks but very promptly discovered that with incubators, the best was just as important as with parent stock. So I made a real jump, bought a building in Mechanic Falls, junked all the old incubators and bought new Buckeyes. The building is 36x60 feet and has been very largely reconditioned. The egg capacity was increased to 50,000. The new machines were started in January 1944 and have never been completely shut down for more than a week or so since then. The total batch for 1944 was about 185,000 and for 1945, a little over 200,000. This year I have doubled the size of the hen house on the farm and have also had to take on some 20 more flocks. These flocks have been very carefully selected to get the best possible chickens.

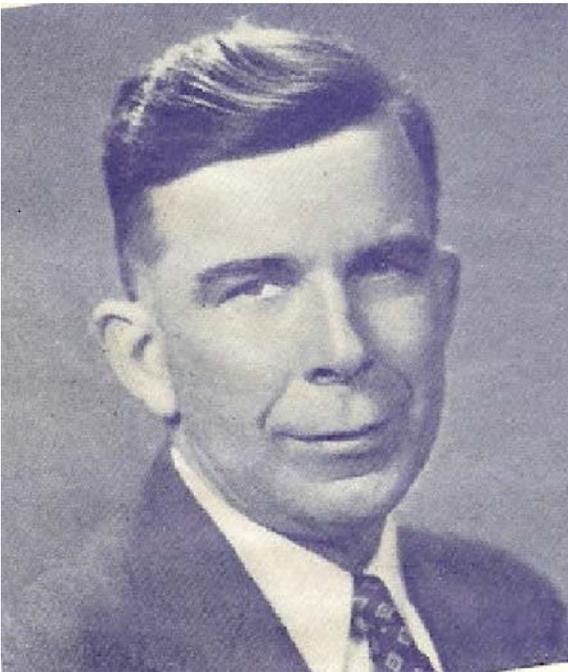
Berkeley raised pure breeds including Rhode Island Reds, New Hampshires and Barred Rocks, as well as specializing in sex-linked cross breeds. He described the cross breeds as very profitable, and wrote, "They are produced by mating specially selected Rhode Island Red males to selected Barred Rock pullets. The chicks from this cross inherit the egg producing ability of the Reds plus the high meat quality of the Rocks, and in addition have the vigor from the hybrid mating. Pullets are black, while the males are barred."²⁷³

At the time he wrote this (1946), he had a total of nearly 600 acres made up of what were originally five small farms on Sawin Hill Road, as well as his new operation in Mechanic Falls.

²⁷³ Berkeley G. Henley scrapbook.



Berkeley G. Henley henhouse built 1942 and expanded 1946. Courtesy of Gary Hill.



Berkeley G. Henley. Courtesy of Gary Hill.

Having moved to Mechanic Falls, in 1949 Berkeley G. Henley sold his father's old home (built by Henry Sawin II) along with buildings and 34 acres to his son and daughter-in-law, Basil and Dorothy Henley, and a few years later he transferred more land to them.²⁷⁴

²⁷⁴ Oxford County Deeds 506:91 dated 23 August 1949; 545:119 dated 15 September 1954.

In Albany, Holden and Emma Sawin owned the Merritt Sawin farm, and they and her brother Fred Wentworth lived there for a few years. The place had been in the Sawin family for over 100 years when Holden Sawin sold to J. Ernest and Lillian L. Brown in 1949.²⁷⁵

The Browns had lived in the next house up the road—the former home of John and Lydia Lord—since 1912. They carried on this farm until 1945, when they downsized by selling most of their land to Ernest W. Wentworth.²⁷⁶ Once they had agreed to this transaction, they visited Holden Sawin next door to see if he would sell his place. Because of his asking price and the poor condition of the buildings, they decided against it—for the time being—and went back to Ernest Wentworth to see about buying back the house they were living in.

As a result, a few days after buying the Brown farm, Ernest Wentworth redeeded the buildings and approximately 50 acres back to the Browns, “reserving all white birch which is to be cut and removed from said premises within three years from this date. It is also agreed by said Wentworth that the said Brown is allowed the use of his pastures adjoining this land as long as he holds title to same.”²⁷⁷

After this transaction the Browns still owned on the west side of the road from Merritt Sawin’s to the Dresser schoolhouse, and on the east side of the road from the swamp to the shore of Chalk Pond, a large farm by most standards. They had plenty of their own milk and cream, and Lillian was forever churning butter. In their gardens, according to Lillian’s diaries, they grew squash, pumpkin, citron, corn, cabbage, beets, potatoes, turnips, carrots, cauliflower, kale and lettuce, and their orchards provided apples. Ernest was a diligent worker and a good planner. For many years it was he who helped break out roads in winter with the big snow roller, and mowed the sides of the roads in summer.

The Browns were very active in Albany. For many, they were the local banker where one could go for a cash loan, all recorded in Lillian’s diaries. She wrote up numerous deeds for neighbors on the road and other friends, and it is remarkable how frequently they came to her and Ernest for a mortgage so they could buy property.

Lillian held various town offices in Albany up to the time of its disorganization in 1938. She was town clerk 16 years, and constable and tax collector 10 years each. In the report to the state auditor, dated January 12, 1938, is this statement.

“Your tax collector, Mrs. Brown, is to be complimented on the collecting of poll and personal estate taxed in full. Her method of collecting has been unique. On being asked how she managed to collect all she said she took anything a person was willing to offer if worth the tax, paid the tax herself and got her pay as best she could.”

²⁷⁵ Oxford County Deeds 501:574 dated January 9, 1949.

²⁷⁶ Oxford County Deeds 473:40 dated October 6, 1945.

²⁷⁷ Oxford County Deeds 473:57 dated 11 October 1945.

At the last collection a few persons had not paid. She told the auditor: "Give me a few days and I'll get those." The people were anxious to pay and offered a rifle in two cases, as security, with the privilege of redeeming them. The list was complete.²⁷⁸

Lillian was also a director of the Albany Telephone Company for many years and treasurer for longer than she wanted to be. On March 20, 1948 she wrote in her diary, "We went to Tel meeting at Town House. I gave up Treas. job to Van and glad to get rid of it. I've been tied twenty years to bookwork, collecting taxes and tel. bills etc. etc."

Their support for the local telephone company took the form of physical labor too. Lillian and Ernest together often replaced telephone lines and poles, cleared bushes and trees growing over the lines, connected new residents or disconnected those who moved away. Lillian recorded one example of frequent activity during this time in her diary May 16, 1945. "I worked on line from N.W. thru Bisbeetown to H. Corner and back to Picnic Hill - mending wire, resetting 11 poles and trimming out."

Lillian was also a notary and justice of the peace for a long time, and performed the marriage ceremony for numerous couples.

The article did not say so, but in addition to her significant role in Albany town affairs, she was also an avid and accomplished deer hunter. Her daily diary entries from 1945 until the early 1970s mention how many deer she saw and where she saw them, as often as she mentions each friend and neighbor who stopped to see her or her husband. For example, on January 9, 1949 she noted "A deer ate apples within 15 ft. of our bedroom window," almost suggesting that the deer was taunting her. But she often had her way with them. Although she didn't leave a lifetime tally, on November 25, 1952 she wrote, "I went over on the hill hunting and tagged my 23rd deer."

Three years after buying back their house, the Browns sold it to Roy and Eleanor Moxcey of Waterford in the fall of 1948,²⁷⁹ and then finally bought the former Merritt Sawin farm next door from Holden Sawin. Apparently they were ready to cut back on their farming activities, but were not yet ready to leave Sawin Hill Road. In their sale to the Moxceys, the Browns reserved the "full and free use of said premises until sometime in May, 1949," and according to Lillian's diary they moved in on May 21, 1949, after moving 75 to 100 loads and wood, farming tools, junk, etc. etc."

Further up the road, there had been no home on the Washington French farm since 1892. But on this land, owned by J. Ernest Brown since 1913, a new building was built. In 1949 Ernest Brown sold the French land on both sides of the road to Marion L. Langway of Greenwood.²⁸⁰ Marion was the daughter of Roy Lord and granddaughter of John F. Lord, so this purchase was also somewhat of a return to her roots. On the west side of the road,

²⁷⁸ Julia M. Chadbourne, "Sisters Enjoy an Informal Visit with Another Sister at Albany." September 1947. Mrs. Chadbourne may have been slightly biased as she was an aunt to Lillian Lord Brown.

²⁷⁹ Oxford County Deeds 502:509 dated 18 September 1948.

²⁸⁰ Oxford County Deeds 502:276 dated 23 April 1949.

opposite Chalk Pond, she and her husband Raymond built a cottage that they called Mocking Bird Hill.²⁸¹



Cottage built by Raymond and Marion (Lord) Langway. 1978 photo. Courtesy of Berkeley N. Henley.

Although the Langways lived in and around Waterford and Locke Mills for a number of years, they used Mocking Bird Hill as a summer getaway. Ray Langway briefly owned and operated a woodworking mill in Lynchville until it was destroyed by fire in 1951.

Some time after the Dresser school was discontinued it was used as a game warden haven, but it was apparently not maintained because in 1949 it was condemned by the Maine Forest Service and razed and hauled away.²⁸²

The last place on the north end of the road is the original Ephraim Flint homestead, dating in part from 1796. This remained in the Flint family until 1906, when Walter Canwell moved in. After farming here for nearly 40 years, he sold it to Raynor Brown in 1944 and moved to Oxford.²⁸³ Soon after, Canwell sold an adjacent property known as the Meserve farm (also called Valley Farm) that he had acquired in 1918 to Harry Logan of Norway.²⁸⁴ This was not on Sawin Hill Road but could be confused with it because Canwell owned it.

²⁸¹ Lillian Brown scrapbook. Clipping: Mr. and Mrs. Ray Langway have started building on the French place (27 May 1949).

²⁸² Lillian Brown scrapbook newspaper clipping, labeled only 1949. The Clark School was also demolished at the same time.

²⁸³ Oxford County Deeds 465:4 dated 4 August 1944.

²⁸⁴ Oxford County Deeds 473:139 dated 27 October 1945.

In 1946, Raynor Brown sold the buildings and an estimated 25 acres from the Flint farm to Gertrude Lerner of New York City, who spent a few summers here.²⁸⁵

Abbott Hill in this period was a pretty lonely place, quickly growing back to woods. The Abbott house was sold by Herbert Drew in 1946 to Armand St. Pierre of Somersworth, New Hampshire, and he used it occasionally as a hunting camp.²⁸⁶

Also in this decade, Walter Cullinan, who had bought the Abbott woods from Elmer Henley, sold to Winfield Brown, and Brown sold to Ernest Wentworth.²⁸⁷

The reduced number of families living here year-round may have contributed to the general neglect of road maintenance during this time. But some action was finally taken on this front, judging from a newspaper clipping from October 1950.

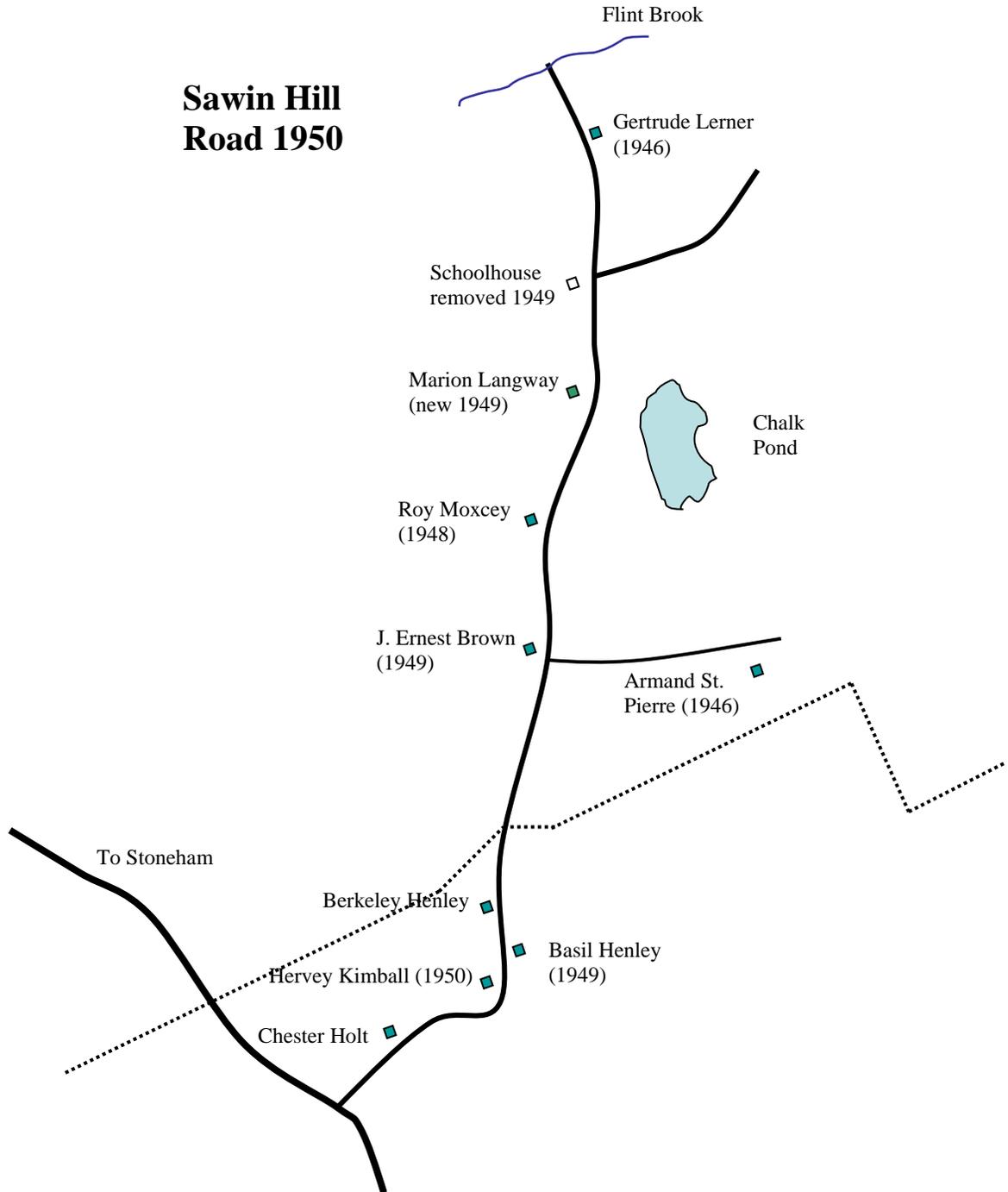
South Albany - Work on Roads. Through funds available for R.F.D. routes, considerable work has been done on the roads in Albany. More gravel has been applied on the Sawin Hill road in two days than during the past 10 years. If this work could continue each year, those living here and working away would not have to walk out during mud time, and would be much appreciated by our mail carrier and those living on this road. Many cars have been damaged by large rocks in the road and scores have been stuck on the hill near the Dresser place ever since the rain last April. During the past two years, bushes have grown in so thickly in places that the paint on the cars passing through has been ruined. The work just finished was under the supervision of Bert Brown of Bethel and a mighty fine job for the money spent. It is understood by the writer that unless something is done about the situation, mail will not be delivered to some of the patrons more than three times a week.²⁸⁸

²⁸⁵ Oxford County Deeds 483:491 dated 15 August 1946.

²⁸⁶ Oxford County Deeds 820:64 dated 22 March 1946.

²⁸⁷ Oxford County Deeds 451:455 dated 7 October 1942; and 596:564 dated 19 November 1948. Coincidentally, in 1961 it was purchased by Elmer Henley's son Berkeley G. Henley.

²⁸⁸ Lillian Lord Brown scrapbooks, handwritten date October 1950.



1950-1960

From the mid-1940s into the early 1950s (at least), Carl Barker was the mail carrier on the road. Lillian Brown made note of the fact when in winter he stopped going past her house, and in spring when he began going “over the hills” with mail.²⁸⁹ So the mail did not always go through even at this relatively recent date.

It appears that the road was paved in 1958, at least in Waterford up to the town line.²⁹⁰ This may have made carrying the mail easier at least part way.

Initially, the first stop on the road was the John D. Horr farm. It had been transferred to his daughter Sadie (Horr) Holt in 1911, and in 1950 was occupied by her son Chester and his wife Edith (Merrill) Holt. Chester died of a heart attack in 1951, but his wife and children continued to live here with his mother Sadie, who had returned to the homestead in 1946. She still owned the farm and lived downstairs.



Chester and Edith (Merrill) Holt in 1950. Courtesy of Arthur E. Holt.

Chet and Edith’s oldest son Arthur E. Holt, or “Bud” as he is known to family and friends, married Shirley Thompson in 1953. When first married, they lived upstairs in the old home, but in 1959 they located a new home on land just south of the house, so that theirs is now the first house encountered on the road, on the left.

²⁸⁹ Lillian Brown diaries, Jan. 29, 1949 and May 25, 1954.

²⁹⁰ Lillian Brown diaries, Aug. 6, 1958. “They are building road onto Sawin Hill.”

In the next house above the Holts, Hervey and Marjorie Kimball raised a family of nine children. They farmed and he did carpentry work.

As the road rises steadily, just beyond the Kimball home is the farm that belonged to the Henleys in 1950. Berkeley G. Henley had sold the original Henry Sawin II farm with 34 acres to his son Basil and daughter-in-law Dorothy (Woodworth) Henley in 1949, and added to it in 1954.²⁹¹ Basil enlarged the poultry buildings and added a bathroom.

The Henley family continued to play an important role up and down the road in the last half of the twentieth century. Berkeley G. Henley bought the old Thomas Sawin home in 1940, and probably rented it out since he was living in Mechanic Falls. He sold the property—3 ¼ acres with 445 feet frontage on the road—to David Erickson in 1956.²⁹²

Though he sold his home and poultry farm to his son Basil in 1949, and moved to Mechanic Falls, in the 1950s Berkeley G. Henley began buying up more land on the Albany end of the road. In 1956, he and his son Basil purchased of Ernest Wentworth about 100 acres on the west side of the Sawin Hill Road stretching from Ernest Brown's place to the former Canwell place at the northern end of the road. This would have included much of the land owned by John Lord and Washington French.²⁹³ About the same time he and Basil also purchased from Wentworth another 15 acres near the Canwell farm bounded in part by Flint brook.²⁹⁴

In 1957, he bought the former Merritt Sawin farm from J. Ernest and Lillian Brown.²⁹⁵ The same purchase also included land on Abbott Hill extending down into Waterford.

Berkeley did not necessarily own all of this at one time—for example, he sold the Merritt Sawin place in 1960—but the extent of his holdings illustrates his influence. Like his father before him, he logged much of this land that had returned to timber growth. In 1960, he planted 12,500 pine trees and his son Basil planted 9,500 for a total of 22,000 seedlings.²⁹⁶ They were planting for the future.

Just over the town line, on the left (west) side of the road, Berkeley G. Henley built a camp in 1925.²⁹⁷ It was used by various sons of Elmer Henley at least into the 1930s, but apparently fell into disrepair and may have been removed. In 1950, Berkeley sold this

²⁹¹ Oxford County Deeds 506:91 dated 23 August 1949; and 545:119 dated 15 September 1954.

²⁹² Oxford County Deeds 560:289 dated 24 July 1956.

²⁹³ Oxford County Deeds 557:537 dated 4 June 1956

²⁹⁴ Oxford County Deeds 574:379 dated 26 October 1957.

²⁹⁵ Oxford County Deeds 561:242 dated 30 March 1957.

²⁹⁶ Lillian Brown diaries, May 27, 1960.

²⁹⁷ Elmer Henley diary, October 31, 1925. I have been over today helping Berkeley build his camp... We got the camp pretty well closed in.

one-eighth acre lot to Herbert Drew.²⁹⁸ Drew put a trailer on the lot and used it as a hunting camp, and in 1955 built a new camp on the site.²⁹⁹

In 1950, the Merritt Sawin place was owned by Ernest and Lillian Brown. The Browns lived there for over eight years until they moved to Lynchville and sold to Berkeley G. Henley in 1957, reserving a ten-acre pasture back of the buildings.³⁰⁰ This pasture was later owned by their children Donald Brown and June (Brown) Bachelder, and is now owned by June's daughter Margaret Dutil. Even into the 1960s, and perhaps more recently, bears have been seen in this pasture.³⁰¹

Berkeley G. Henley sold the buildings, including the barn across the road and about three acres, to Richard Sawin Holt in 1960.³⁰² The property was much smaller than it had been. Richard was a son of Annie (Sawin) Holt and grandson of Merritt and Nettie Sawin, and his motivation was mainly to bring the farm back into the family. He lived out of state during his three-year ownership, and then sold it to his sister and brother-in-law Ruth (Holt) and Chester C. Kinsley.³⁰³

Chet and Ruth Kinsley had purchased the so-called Plummer place on Plummer Hill in Waterford in anticipation of retirement, and were in the process of restoring, at great effort, that even older home. Chet was attached to that place, but the Sawin farm (still called that in the family) was special to Ruth and her siblings, and the Kinsleys eventually sold the Plummer place and moved to Sawin Hill Road.

The next place north was a large two-tenement house, long owned by Ernest and Lillian Brown, but they sold it in 1949 to Roy and Eleanor Moxcey. The Moxceys took possession of 30 acres of the former Brown farm, and mortgaged it back to the Browns, with the stipulation that it be insured for \$2,000.³⁰⁴ This was fortunate because the buildings were destroyed by fire on a cold winter day in 1951.

“A family of eight was made homeless by fire which destroyed the two and one-half story home of Roy Moxcey at South Albany late Thursday afternoon in near zero weather and a high wind. Mrs. Moxcey, who was alone with the children at the time, led them to safety and saved a new rifle which Mr. Moxcey had recently purchased. Everything else was lost in the fire. Mr. Moxcey and family will occupy the Ernest Brown rent at Papoose Pond as soon as enough is gathered for housekeeping.”³⁰⁵ The Moxceys discharged the

²⁹⁸ Oxford County Deeds 522:338 dated 20 May 1950. Herbert Drew was the same who had owned the Abbott place on Abbott Hill and used it for a hunting camp, but he sold it in 1946.

²⁹⁹ Lillian Brown scrapbook. Albany clippings: Herbert and Levena Drew from Kennebunkport have bought a piece of land from Berkeley Henley and will move their trailer there (1950). Herbert Drew and friends spent their weekends in their trailer here on the hill (October 1950). Herbert Drew of Kennebunk is building a camp on his lot in this place (September 1955).

³⁰⁰ Oxford County Deeds 561:242 dated 30 March 1957. Their last day on the “Merritt farm,” as Lillian Brown sometimes called it, was November 30, 1957.

³⁰¹ Lillian Brown diary, May 21, 1960. “Don Holden saw 3 bears in the Merritt field.”

³⁰² Oxford County Deeds 591:303 dated 8 February 1960.

³⁰³ Oxford County Deeds 619:223 dated 20 March 1963.

³⁰⁴ Oxford County Deeds 476:232 dated 18 September 1948.

³⁰⁵ Newspaper clipping dated 13 Dec 1951 from the scrapbook of Lillian (Lord) Brown.

mortgage and sold the land back to the Browns shortly afterwards.³⁰⁶ The land remained vacant for nearly 50 years.

Opposite Chalk Pond, Marion Langway sold most of the Washington French land back to Ernest Brown in 1953, reserving only the cottage and one acre of land.³⁰⁷ In 1954 she sold the cottage to Robert Gann of South Huntington, New York.³⁰⁸

On the Canwell place, Gertrude Lerner sold it to Lucille Marock of Garden City, New York in 1957.³⁰⁹ Lucille and her husband George Marock made it their permanent home. Lillian Brown, writing in 1962, said they “have remodeled and finished a beautiful home...where a magnificent view is enjoyed.”

The Abbott fields had been purchased in 1939 by Dwight Holden Sawin from Ezra Lebroke, and anticipating his death, Holden Sawin gave a quitclaim deed to his wife Emma (Wentworth) Sawin.³¹⁰ She in turn sold the fields (about 25 acres) to Rodney Kimball three months later.³¹¹

³⁰⁶ Oxford County Deeds 528:63 dated 23 April 1952.

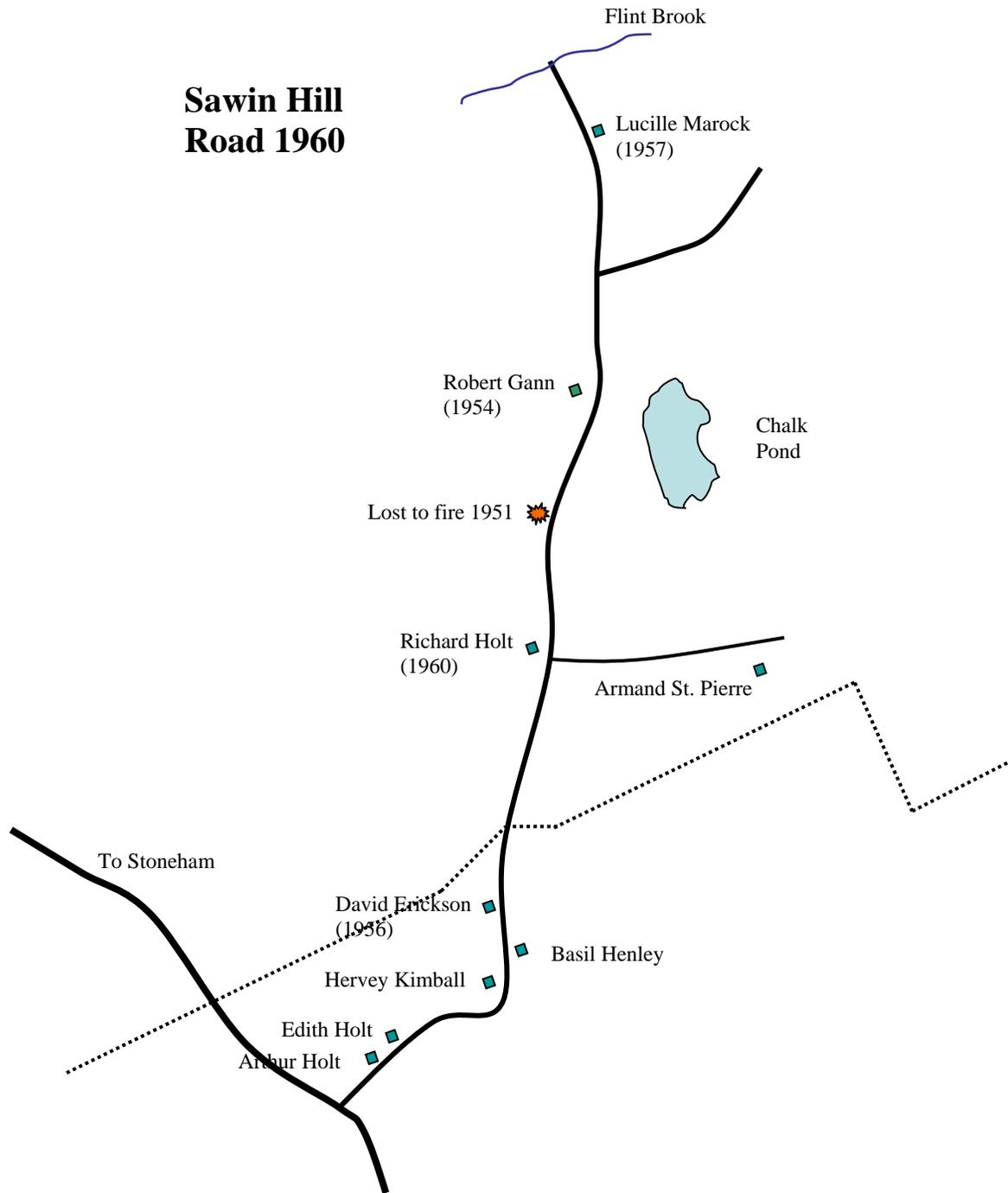
³⁰⁷ Oxford County Deeds 529:408 dated 18 April 1953.

³⁰⁸ Oxford County Deeds 538:577 dated 10 June 1954.

³⁰⁹ Oxford County Deeds 561:107 dated 30 January 1957.

³¹⁰ Oxford County Deeds 550:382 dated 23 April 1956.

³¹¹ Oxford County Deeds 560:71 dated 24 July 1956.



1960-1970

A more significant change to Sawin Hill Road occurred in 1966, when Sadie Holt granted a right of way across her land to the Town of Waterford.³¹² Until 1967, the Bisbeetown Road commenced directly off Route 118, crossed the river over the island, and turned easterly towards that part of Waterford known as Bisbeetown. The island is small and also was home to a lumber mill, and the road across it was a tight squeeze. Sadie's grant of right of way enabled the Town to move the Bisbeetown Road so that it commenced on Sawin Hill Road. Travelers from North Waterford to Bisbeetown now cross the river by turning onto Sawin Hill Road directly from Route 118, and then turning right immediately over the bridge.



Sadie (Horr) Holt at home. Courtesy of Arthur E. Holt.

Sadie (Horr) Holt lived in the home her father built until she died in 1969 at the age of 90. She bequeathed the farm property to her daughter-in-law Edith, widow of Chester Holt.³¹³ Not long after, Edith conveyed a portion of the land below her house to her son Arthur Holt—land on which he was already living.³¹⁴ He and Shirley and their daughter Sally continue there today.

³¹² Oxford County Deeds 658:496 dated 31 October 1966.

³¹³ Oxford County Deeds 651:308 dated 28 May 1969.

³¹⁴ Oxford County Deeds 693:169 dated 10 December 1970.

Further up the hill on the right side of the road, Basil Henley died in 1963 and the place went to his widow Dorothy (Woodworth) Henley. She sold the farm to her sister Florence and her husband Warren Cairns in 1964.³¹⁵ The Cairns modernized the farm and added two large hen houses.



Warren and Florence Cairns farm 1978. Courtesy of Berkeley N. Henley.

The original Thomas Sawin house, just a little further up the road and on the west side, was occupied by David and Kathleen Erickson. In 1965 they sold it to Leo and Claire Connors of Rhode Island.³¹⁶ The Connors have used it as a second home and frequent get-away since then.

The next place up the hill on the left is a newer building. As Berkeley G. Henley's land acquisition phase was drawing to a close, he and his wife Mary located a mobile home near where the old Henry Sawin place stood until it burned in 1918, and built an attached porch, living room and garage, in 1968.³¹⁷ The site has excellent views to both the west and the east.

³¹⁵ Oxford County Deeds 631:227 dated 28 May 1964.

³¹⁶ Oxford County Deeds 646:85 dated 10 July 1965.

³¹⁷ Gary Hill, email communication, 27 April 2007.



Berkeley G. and Mary Edna Henley home 1978. Courtesy of Berkeley N. Henley.

At the Merritt Sawin farm, his granddaughter Ruth (Holt) and her husband Chet Kinsley were settling into their small patch of family history. They paid for a power line extension so the house could be wired for electricity.³¹⁸ Diagonally southeast across the road from this Sawin farm is an 11-acre field. In 1970, another granddaughter of Merritt and Nettie Sawin, Della (Holt) Klament and her granddaughter Stephanie Sawin Townsend, bought this field from Berkeley G. Henley.³¹⁹

Fred Wentworth owned much of the former Washington French farm in the 1950s. With the loss of homes to fire, the road at this time was sparsely settled. But in 1963 Wentworth sold six acres on the east side of Sawin Hill Road, a small portion of the French place, to Peter Nason.³²⁰ Nason built the first section of his house directly opposite the Langway-Gann cottage in 1964-65. He used gas lights initially, but later he and Chet Kinsley worked together to bring in power to their homes.

Also about 1970, Sawin Hill Road was first paved north of the town line.

³¹⁸ Oxford County Deeds 804:168 dated 11 September 1970.

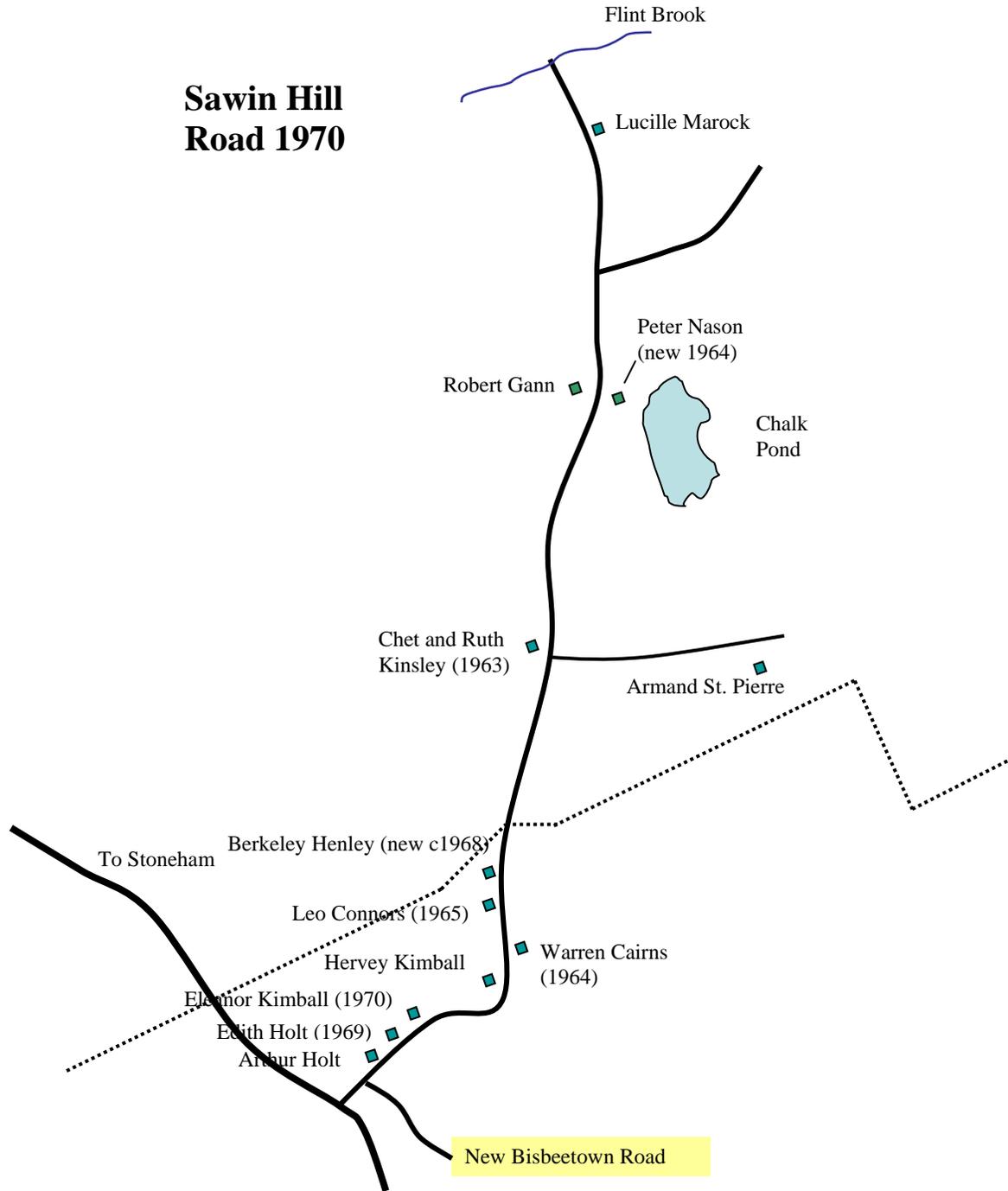
³¹⁹ Oxford County Deeds 678:588 dated 28 September 1970.

³²⁰ Oxford County Deeds 696:59 dated 30 October 1970. Peter Nason recalls the date of 1963, and he may have bought the land under contract at that time, and finished paying it off in 1970, when the deed was transferred. Fred Wentworth acquired this land from J. Ernest Brown in 1954.

The Abbott woods had been split off from the original farm in 1921, and was owned successively by the Hamlin brothers, then Elmer Henley, Walter Cullinan and Ernest Wentworth. In 1961 Ernest Wentworth sold the timberland to Berkeley G. Henley, who continued to log the timber.³²¹

Sadie (Horr) Holt owned Dundee until her death in 1969, when she willed it to her grandson Arthur "Bud" Holt.

³²¹ Oxford County Deeds 614:275 dated 24 August 1961.



1970-1980

After Sadie Holt left her father's farm to her daughter-in-law Edith Holt, Edith conveyed another piece of land to her daughter Eleanor in 1970. The location was also on the left, above the original house where the road turns and begins to rise steeply.³²² Here Eleanor and her husband Robert Kimball, Sr. built a new house in 1971.



Home of Chet and Edith Holt, Sadie (Horr) Holt, and originally built by Sadie's father John D. Horr about 1862. 1978 photo courtesy of Berkeley N. Henley.

At the Cairns' chicken farm, Warren Cairns and his son Reginald went into business together in 1976. In 1978, Warren and Reggie were raising about 100,000 broilers every seven weeks.

Berkeley G. Henley suffered a stroke about 1970 and died in February 1974. His widow Mary Edna continued living in the house they built.

At the Merritt Sawin farm, Chet and Ruth Kinsley hosted many family gatherings at the old farm. Ruth loved to entertain visitors, and was disappointed when they couldn't eat any more food. When Ruth's brother (and one-time owner of the farm) Richard Sawin Holt retired in 1976, he moved back to Maine and lived in the upstairs apartment on the farm until he died in 1984.

³²² Oxford County Deeds 716:146 dated 10 December 1970.



Chet and Ruth Kinsley home. 1978 photo courtesy of Berkeley N. Henley.

In the 1970s, Peter Nason began accumulating property around his original six-acre holding. He purchased an additional 12 acres on the east side of the road from Fred Wentworth in 1970.³²³ In 1972 he purchased 12 acres from Rodney Kimball, also on the east side of the road.³²⁴ He bought the Langway cottage, Mocking Bird Hill, from Robert Gann in 1973,³²⁵ 24 acres on the west side of the road in 1978 from Mary E. Henley,³²⁶ and another 12 acres on the shore of Chalk Pond from Raynor Brown in 1980.³²⁷ Nason continued living in the house he built just across the road from the Langway-Gann cottage. In 1975 he built an addition to his home, and added a trout pond just beyond the house to the east. He lives there today with his wife Jude.

On Abbott Hill or Dundee, the only remaining dwelling was no longer inhabitable. In 1977 Armand St. Pierre and his wife put it solely in his wife's name, Beatrice H. St. Pierre,³²⁸ and from then on it stood derelict, home to porcupines and other creatures, and the old fields grew back to woods. The house still stood, but barely, in 1978.

³²³ Oxford County Deeds 696:77 dated 21 November 1970. This was land that Roy and Eleanor Moxcey had sold to Fred Wentworth in 1952.

³²⁴ Oxford County Deeds 759:191 dated 7 September 1972. Kimball had bought the land from Fred Wentworth less than a year earlier.

³²⁵ Oxford County Deeds 801:251 recorded 12 October 1973.

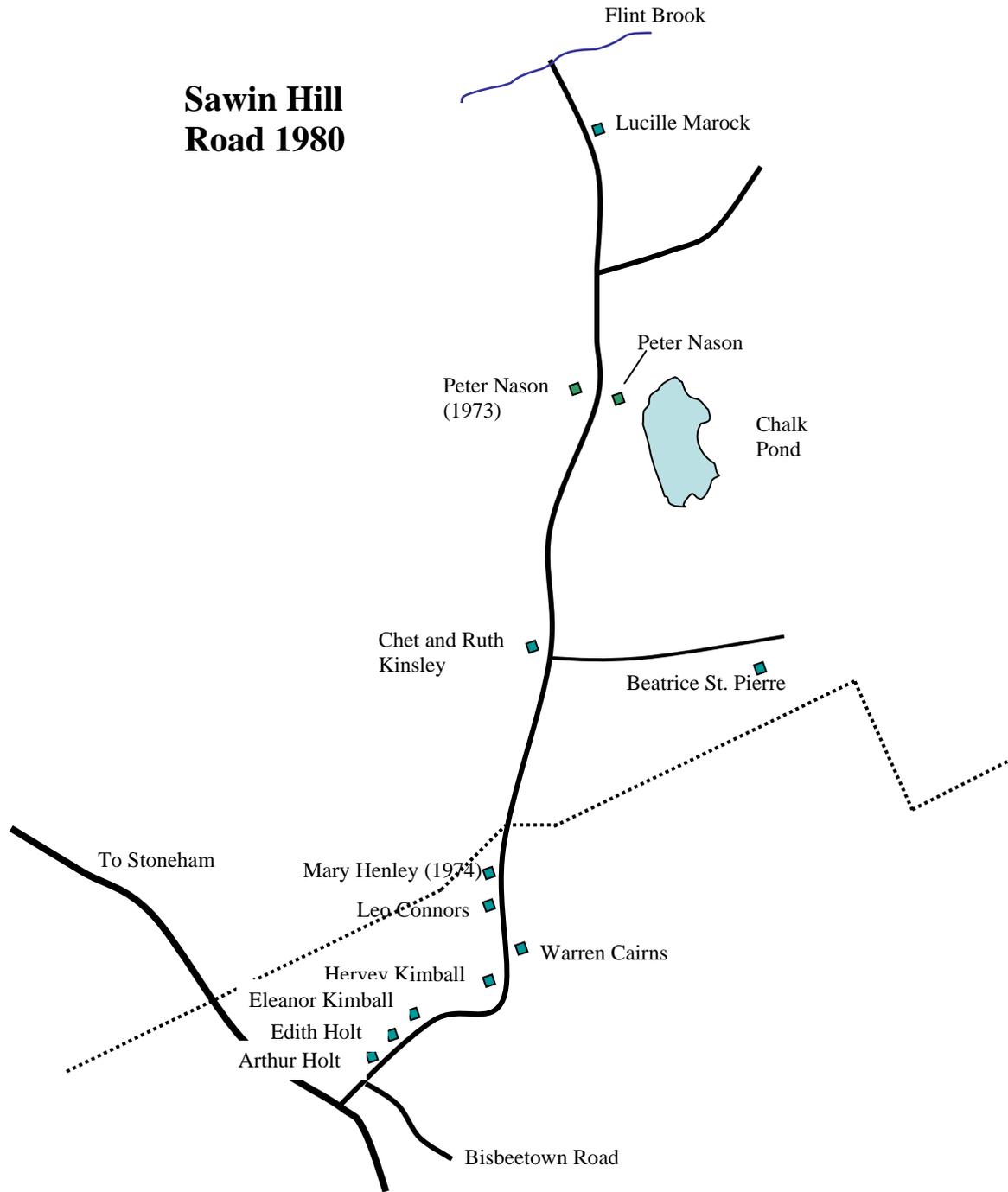
³²⁶ Oxford County Deeds 998:145 dated 27 July 1978. She and her husband Berkeley had purchased it from Fred Wentworth in 1970.

³²⁷ Oxford County Deeds 1064:129 dated 4 January 1980.

³²⁸ Oxford County Deeds 954:253 dated 30 August 1977.



Remains of the Abbott place. 1978 photo courtesy of Berkeley N. Henley.



1980-1990

The house built by John D. Horr about 1863 was conveyed to his great grandson Arlin J. Holt, the youngest son of Chet and Edith Holt, in 1989.³²⁹ Arlin and his wife Brenda, who live in Norway, are currently renovating the house.

The house built by Henry Sawin II about 1865 was owned and occupied by Warren and Florence Cairns. Beginning in 1982, they began conveying to their son Reggie and his wife Carolyn (Holt) Cairns portions of the property.³³⁰ In 1989, Warren and Florence sold the old house to David and Barbara Brown of Cumberland.³³¹ Warren died in 2005 but Florence, and Reggie and Carol Cairns, live on the property today.

The house built by Thomas Sawin around 1825 is still in the Connors family. Although Leo died in 1982, Claire still visits, and her son Tom now has the care of the place.



Thomas Sawin, now Claire Connors home 2006. Photo by author.

In the newer home of Berkeley G. and Mary Henley, after his death she continued to live there until she died in 1988. Because she lived there so much longer, her son Berkeley N.

³²⁹ Oxford County Deeds 1693:169 dated 3 November 1989.

³³⁰ Oxford County Deeds 1167:165 dated 12 July 1982; also 1645:233 dated 3 April 1989 and 2758:226 dated 13 October 1999.

³³¹ Oxford County Deeds 1700:331 dated 5 December 1989.

Henley always thought of it as the “Pete” Henley home. As Mary was in declining health, her daughter Lynda and her husband Don Davis built a new home in 1986 just to the north (and over the line in Albany township) to be near her mother.³³²

After Mary E. Henley died, the Henley property came to her daughter, Lynda A. (Henley) Davis. In 1990 Lynda sold her mother’s home to her son Gary L. Hill and his wife Lori.³³³

Skipping way up to the end of the road, George and Lucille Marock lived on the old Flint or Canwell place for over 20 years, but as they got older it became harder to maintain the many old farm buildings. Nevertheless, they were very attached to the place. They both died in 1989 and are buried in the small cemetery on Picnic Hill Road with an etching of this house on their grave stone.

In 1988, Lucille Marock sold the old farm to Robert V. Brown of Colorado.³³⁴ He was looking for a farm in Maine as an investment and for his mother Sarosa “Sally” Brown. The farm was run down, the barns and outbuildings were falling in, but it was a beautiful spot with lilacs and apple trees.

Sally Brown had grown up on a farm in New York and quickly moved in. The first thing she did was to fix the leaking roof and put in bathrooms. For the first three months she lived with propane and a generator. Then she had the power line extended from Peter Nason’s house, which required 17 poles. Unfortunately, the barns were in such sad shape that they had to be removed.

In 1989, Beatrice St. Pierre Labrie sold the decrepit Abbott place to William Klingehofer or Klingelhofer of Concord, Massachusetts.³³⁵ He kept it only for a short time, selling to Lima Cheryl Olson of Gloucester, Massachusetts in 1990.³³⁶ At some point the old home was torn down.

Rodney Kimball sold the former Abbott fields in 1990 to Jean Meister, who, with his wife Rebecca, built a new house part way up the hill.³³⁷

³³² Gary Hill, email communication, 27 April 2007.

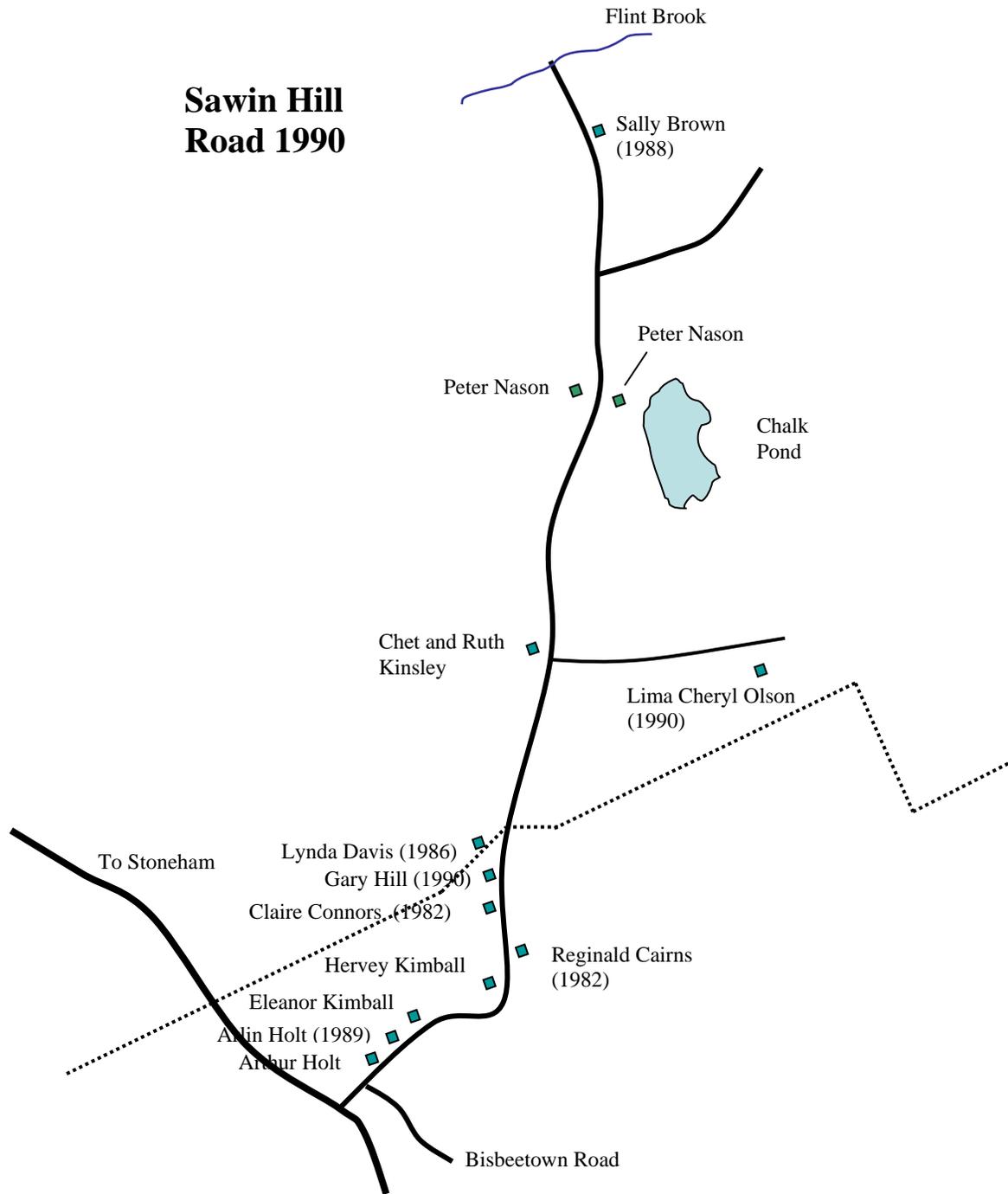
³³³ Oxford County Deeds 1736:123 dated 5 June 1990.

³³⁴ Oxford County Deeds 1583:86 dated 19 August 1988.

³³⁵ Oxford County Deeds 1642:133 dated 23 March 1989

³³⁶ Oxford County Deeds 1727:176 dated 23 April 1990.

³³⁷ Oxford County Deeds 1731:235 dated 17 May 1990.



1990-2000 and beyond

On the old Horr property where they built a new house in 1971, Robert Kimball Sr. and Eleanor (Holt) Kimball died in 1997 and 2002, respectively, and their home is now owned by Robert Kimball Jr. and Wendy Lee (Kimball) Whiting. It is occupied by Wendy and her husband Frank Whiting, while Robert Jr. has a camp on the property.

On the right side of the road, across from the Whitings, Wayne Holt, son of Arlin and Brenda Holt, erected a modular home in 1993, that is still part of his parents' farm.

Continuing up the steep hill on the right, where the road bends, is a newer home built by Charles and Vicky McCabe. The land had been part of the Basil Henley farm, and his widow sold it to Marguerite Grant in 1971,³³⁸ who sold it in turn to the McCabes.³³⁹ The property is situated where the old road prior to 1860 continued more or less straight south instead of bending. The McCabes sold the 23 acres to Barbara and Nicholas Santora in 2002.³⁴⁰ In 2006, the Santoras sold it to the present owners, Robert and Diana Curtis of Harrison.³⁴¹

The next house is the Kimball farm, occupied by one generation of Kimballs for 57 years. Hervey Kimball died in 1993, but the home is still occupied, little changed, by Marjorie, who is active in the North Waterford Congregational Church and in the Waterford Historical Society.



Marjorie Kimball home in 2006, originally built buy Isaac C. Horr about 1830. Collection of the author.

³³⁸ Oxford County Deeds 711:322 dated 18 June 1971.

³³⁹ Oxford County Deeds 2120:6 dated 5 May 1994.

³⁴⁰ Oxford County Deeds 3181:272 dated 15 October 2002.

³⁴¹ Oxford County Deeds 3983:18 dated 17 May 2006.

On the right hand side of the road, the Henry Sawin II house was owned and occupied by David and Barbara Brown. In 1997, David conveyed his interest in it to Barbara as part of a divorce settlement.³⁴² Barbara sold it to Robert Dow and Heather Nelson, the current owners, in 2002.³⁴³

Gary Hill, who still lives in the home of his grandparents Berkeley G. and Mary Henley with his wife Lori and son Levi, has extensively remodeled the house, adding a basement and building a larger residence. Gary also now owns the remains of Berkeley G. Henley's approximately 350 acres on Sawin Hill, which he continues to log and manage for timber growth.³⁴⁴

After Lynda (Henley) Davis died in 1997, Gary Hill's step-father Don Davis owned most of Berkeley G. Henley's land holdings. He sold the house they built to Peter and D'Arcy Robinson with 12 acres in 1999.³⁴⁵ They live there currently.

Directly across the road on the right, also in Albany township, is the new home of Mildred Allen, mother of Lori Hill.

The next building going north, the camp built by Herbert Drew on a small lot on the left side of the road, is still used as a hunting camp, now owned by Charles McCabe.

A bit beyond that camp and on the same side is another small home built about 2000 by Patrick Keith Griffin of Rhode Island. In 1999 Keith bought one acre from Dennis Morse.³⁴⁶ In 2000 he bought an additional 9.5 acres, abutting the first piece on the west side of Sawin Hill Road but without frontage on the road, from Don Davis.³⁴⁷ Keith Griffin hopes to move to this place full time.

Next up the road is the Merritt Sawin house and stable with the barn across the road. Chet Kinsley died in 1991 and Ruth in 2000, and their daughter Elizabeth White sold it to the present owners, Charles and Dorothy Googins in 2002.³⁴⁸ The Googins are retired and do some light farming here, including raising a few sheep. Dot spins the wool herself, keeping the old traditions alive.

As to the 11-acre field diagonally across from the house, Stephanie Townsend sold her interest to her grandmother in 2000, and shortly before Della H. Klament died in 2003

³⁴² Oxford County Deeds 2488:297 dated 23 October 1997.

³⁴³ Oxford County Deeds 3144:12 dated 31 July 2002. She sold as Barbara Stowell.

³⁴⁴ Oxford County Deeds 3685:125 dated 11 March 2005.

³⁴⁵ Oxford County Deeds 2753:37 dated 4 October 1999.

³⁴⁶ Oxford County Deeds 2789:2 dated 11 December 1999. Morse purchased it from Merle and Evelyn Grover in 1977.

³⁴⁷ Oxford County Deeds 2882:186 dated 1 November 2000.

³⁴⁸ Oxford County Deeds 3089:250 dated 22 March 2002.

she sold it to William Fraser and Kathleen Burns-Fraser of Massachusetts, who have built a nice log home on the site.³⁴⁹

The ten-acre pasture behind and beyond the Merritt Sawin place, once owned by J. Ernest and Lillian Brown, then by their children Don Brown and June (Brown) Bachelder, is now owned by June's daughter Margaret (Bachelder) Dutil.

The original site of the Brown farm, burned in 1951, was purchased by Alex and Kristen MacDonald from John and Susan Leite in 1998.³⁵⁰ This 2-acre lot had been sold in 1959 by Fred Wentworth to Walter and Eleanor Garnett,³⁵¹ who sold it to the Leites.³⁵² The MacDonalds first had a mobile home and built a new house here about 2005.

In the summer of 2006, Peter and Jude Nason hosted the first "block party" for Sawin Hill Road. Some residents who live close to each other, or who have lived on the road for a number of years, already know each other, but with a number of newcomers, there are some who are known only by their cars as they drive by and wave. This neighborhood party helped foster a new sense of community among the now more numerous residents.

At the end of the road, Sally Brown occupied the Canwell farm for six years, but although she loved the place the porcupines drove her out—they were just too numerous and persistent. Her son sold the place in 1994 to Luis A. Suarez Clausen and Celinda de Suarez of Boca Raton, Florida, and originally from Peru.³⁵³ Suarez was a vice-president for Pepsi-Cola and they were visiting friends at Kezar Lakes. Looking around, they fell in love with the place and wanted to retire here. According to Sally Brown, they changed the traditional look of the house. During their first winter, they enjoyed skiing and snowmobiling, but were surprised in May by the black flies and ticks, not to mention the porcupines. They left a month later and put it on the market, returning to civilization in Connecticut.

The Suarezes sold to Charles K. "Ken" and Margaret D. Wille in 1996.³⁵⁴ The Willes and their two children lived here, where they had horses, mules and four dogs. They also added a barn. They noted that the road no longer went through to Hunts Corner, and that the road, from the point where Dresser Schoolhouse Road turns to the right, served only their property and ended at the brook. As a result, they petitioned the Oxford County Commissioners to discontinue all but the initial 120 feet of the four-rod right-of-way of

³⁴⁹ Oxford County Deeds 3172:23 dated 17 September 2002. See also Oxford County Deeds 2804:228 dated 2 March 2000.

³⁵⁰ Oxford County Deeds 2637:235 dated 23 November 1998.

³⁵¹ Oxford County Deeds 615:351 dated 16 November 1959.

³⁵² Oxford County Deeds 1432:9 dated 1 November 1986.

³⁵³ Oxford County Deeds 2173:277 dated 4 November 1994. The most interesting thing about this deed is the change in size of the parcel. Prior to this sale, the land was surveyed and it was determined that the parcel was not the 25 acres estimated by Raynor Brown when he sold to Gertrude Lerner, and not the 28 acres estimated in the deed from Lucille Marock to Robert V. Brown, but was instead about 60.55 acres—quite a big difference.

³⁵⁴ Oxford County Deeds 2360:139 dated 22 August 1996.

Sawin Hill Road northward from the Dresser Schoolhouse Road. The Commissioners agreed, and Sawin Hill Road was shortened.³⁵⁵

To bring this residence up to the current owners and occupants, the Willes sold in 2002 to Dennis and Kathleen Jellison of Waterford.³⁵⁶ They have expanded the property to 225 acres registered as a commercial shooting area. Dennis Jellison is a Master Maine Guide and his son Torin is a Registered Maine Guide. Along with their Llewellyn Setters, they take parties out for bird hunting, clay shooting or fly fishing on a two-acre stocked trout pond.³⁵⁷

And now for a final look at Abbott Hill and Dundee. Property deeds from this time refer to both Dundee and Abbott Hill for this neighborhood, and the lane up to it is now called Dundee Road, so the earlier name is dying out as the former Abbott occupants have receded into dim memory. Since the 1990s, this hill has seen a mini-renaissance of interest and activity.

The land called Dundee by Herman and Sadie Holt, and later owned by Arthur Holt, is now owned by his daughter Carolyn Cairns, who has a camp up there.³⁵⁸

In 2004 Lima Cheryl Olson sold the property where the Abbott house was located to Daniel Croke of Brockton, Massachusetts, who is preparing to build there.³⁵⁹

Jean Meister died in 1997 and the house he built in the 1990s was sold by his wife Becky to Michael Desplaines, who lives there now.³⁶⁰

Down in the low area, on the south side of Dundee Road, Richmond and Linda Woodward of Stoughton, Massachusetts bought some land in 1993 from Donald S. and Lynda Davis and have created an organic cranberry business.³⁶¹ They added to it by purchasing adjacent land from Don Davis in 2002.³⁶² We often think that cranberries grow in bogs, but generally the land is flooded only to make it easier to pick them. This cranberry patch is not the first time there have been cranberries in these parts before, because Elmer Henley mentioned in his diary that he picked cranberries at French (Chalk) Pond where he got ten quarts, and Lillian Brown picked cranberries near where the Woodwards now raise them.

³⁵⁵ Oxford County Deeds 2873:222 dated 17 October 2000, "Discontinuance of Portions of Sawin Hill Road across Property of Charles K. Wille and Margaret D. Wille, Albany Township, Oxford County, Maine."

³⁵⁶ Oxford County Deeds 3136:54 dated 21 June 2002 and 3531:157 dated 15 June 2004.

³⁵⁷ See <http://www.setterspoint.com>.

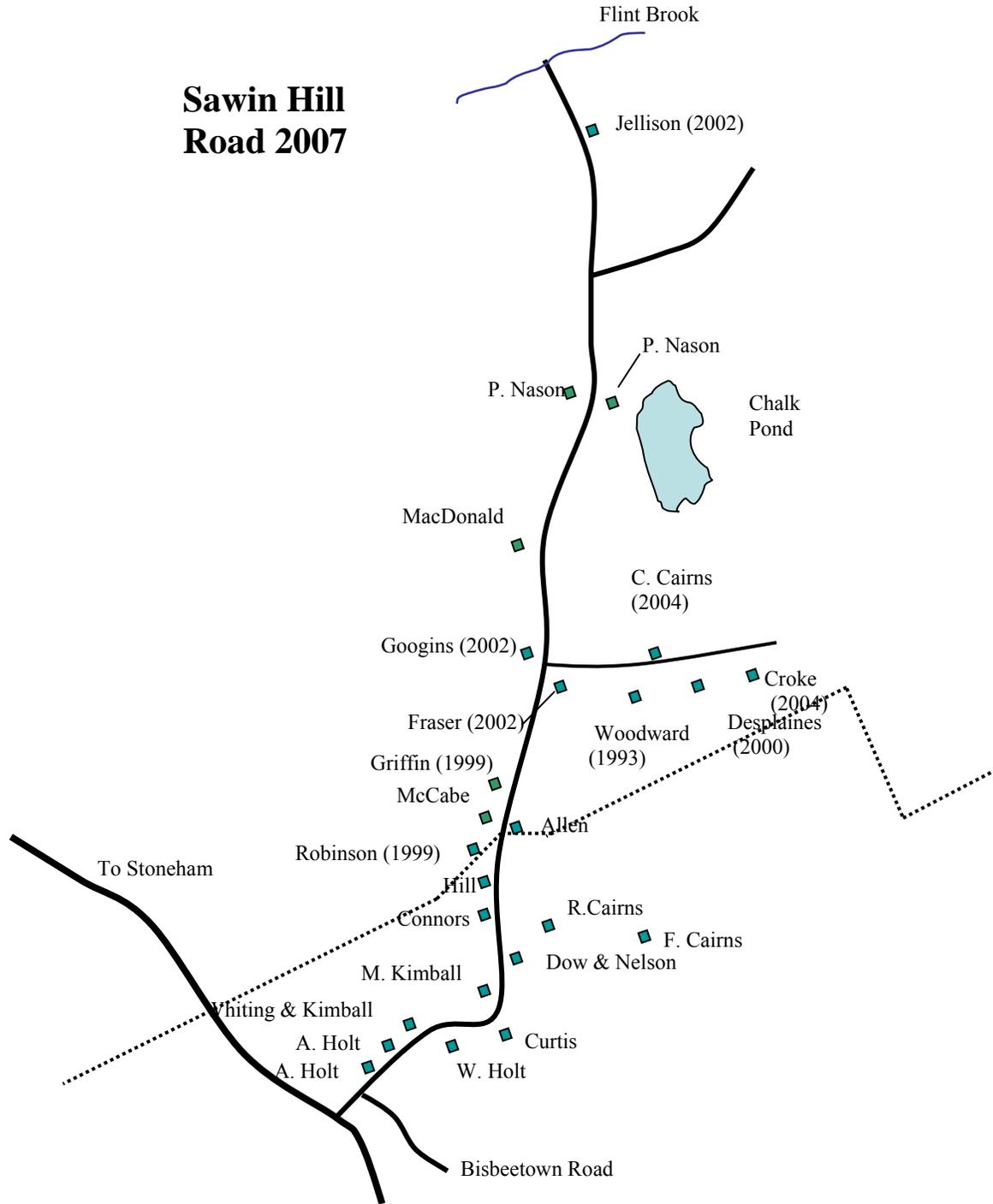
³⁵⁸ Oxford County Deeds 3604:67 dated 5 October 2004.

³⁵⁹ Oxford County Deeds 3595:216 dated 24 September 2004.

³⁶⁰ Oxford County Deeds 2871:341-342 dated 6 Oct 2000.

³⁶¹ Oxford County Deeds 2032:263 dated 15 July 1993. This was conveyed to Don and Lynda Davis by her mother, Mary E. Henley, in 1986, another legacy of the Berkeley Henley land holdings.

³⁶² Oxford County Deeds 3176:28 dated October 2002.



Conclusion

Development and habitation on Sawin Hill Road began with settlement by the early pioneers Benjamin Sawin and Ephraim Flint, and remained sparse for the first 50 years while they and other early settlers cleared land for farming, grazing and timber harvesting. The prospect of economic growth was unmistakable as the settlers accumulated land and focused on rural agriculture. As the early settlers aged, however, their holdings sometimes got smaller as they sold off pieces to others that were younger, stronger and better able to manage them, or their holdings were redistributed at their deaths. In many cases, property was kept in the same family, and the process of land accumulation was repeated.

The second 50 years seems perhaps the most vibrant. There was still the potential to develop and make economic gains. Since most everywhere nearby was rural, and people could not travel very far in a day, the opportunity for local, small enterprises was as good on Sawin Hill Road as any other place outside the commercial hubs of the towns and villages. Sawin Hill Road was a commercial, communications and social link between the village of North Waterford, Hunt's Corner and Bethel. This is evident from the way the families went about their business, described in Elmer Henley's and Lillian Brown's diaries, and from the marriages between families of those who lived on or near the road.

But the signs of decline also began to appear in that second half-century when homes were burned and not replaced, or the first home was moved away. Some homes were rebuilt, to be sure, but loss to fire and removal continued in the first half of the twentieth century. During this period, though some families continued to farm and remained on their land through long years, there began to be more turnover. Properties were sold more quickly, some were broken into smaller farms and the timber was sold separately to logging entrepreneurs, and some homes were used more frequently for rentals. The road itself became of lesser importance as state roads were better maintained. The road ceased as a through road in 1936, when the floods washed out the bridge at Flint Brook and it was not replaced.

Not to minimize the stability of the families that stayed put, the buildings on the road seemed to decline as the population declined in the latter half of the twentieth century. Less income was received from working the land, and more people, even those who continued farming in a small way, made their livings in jobs away from home. Sawin Hill Road had become a backwater retreat, a beloved home to a few, but lagging more heavily settled areas with paved roads and electricity, and overlooked by most passersby on the road to Stoneham.

The quiet and sense of retreat were the foundation of a revival, however, as in recent years, new homes have begun to dot the road. Just comparing the map of 2007 with the maps of 1950 or 1960 shows how much change has taken place.

On most maps available today, the hill for which the road was named does not carry the name Sawin Hill. If it is given a name at all, it is likely to be labeled Birch Hill. Early

deeds refer to the Sawin Road, and to Birch Mountain. Not until the 1900s do we see Birch Mountain called Sawin Hill in deeds, and not until the 1950s do we see the road referred to as the Sawin Hill road. But though by common practice it is Sawin Hill, USGS topographic maps have labeled it Birch Hill, a comedown from Birch Mountain, but still ignorant of local usage. Just north of it is French Hill. In a 2001 DeLorme Atlas of Maine, the two hills are not even distinguished, both being given the name French Hill.

In the 1980s, my father Fred E. Holt, a former Forestry Commissioner of the State of Maine and native of Waterford (and grandson of Merritt and Nettie Sawin), took upon himself the task of formally changing the name Birch Hill to reflect local usage. In his request, he cited the history of the Sawins in Waterford and Albany, and an 1810 deed from Benjamin Sawin to his son Henry Sawin that mentions Birch Mountain as a boundary of the land conveyed by the deed. He also noted that French Hill and Flints Mountain in the immediate vicinity (Albany) were both named years ago for families settled near their base. He wrote, "Sawin is not a common name in Maine. However there are innumerable Birch Hills throughout the state. It would seem appropriate to provide a more distinctive and locally recognized family name."

On January 27, 1985 [probably intended 1986], the United States Board on Geographic Names replied:

Dear Mr. Holt:

We are pleased to inform you that the Board on Geographic Names, at its January 9, 1986 meeting, approved the name Sawin Hill. This name will be published in Decision List 8601 and the entry will read as follows:

Sawin Hill: hill, elevation 372 m (1,220 ft.), in the White Mountains, 2.1 km (1.3 mi.) N of North Waterford; Town of Albany; named for the Sawin family who owned land in the area from the early 1800s until the early 1940s; Oxford Co., Maine; 44° 15' 01" N, 70° 46' 11" W. Not: Birch Hill, Birch Mountain.

Sincerely yours,
Donald J. Orth
Executive Secretary
Domestic Geographic Names

Presumably future USGS maps will recognize the formal change in name.

Some of the property on the road is still owned by descendants of residents from a hundred years ago or earlier.

Arthur "Bud" Holt, who lives in the first house on the road from North Waterford, is a great grandson of John D. Horr. His daughter Carolyn (Holt) Cairns, wife of Reggie Cairns, lives further up the road and also owns land on Abbott Hill previously owned by her great grandparents Herman and Sadie (Horr) Holt. Arthur's brother Arlin Holt owns the original John D. Horr house and barn next to his brother's home. Their niece Wendy

Lee (Kimball) Whiting, also a descendant of John Horr, lives in the next house up the road, and Wayne Holt, son of Arlin and Brenda Holt, has a home on the other side of the road.

Gary Hill, who lives on the Waterford side near the top of the hill, is a great grandson of Elmer Henley and grandson of Berkeley G. Henley. His cousin Randall Henley is also a great grandson of Elmer Henley and grandson of Berkeley G. Henley, and he owns a piece of land in Albany on the right side of the road above the Sawin barn. Through their great great grandfather's marriage to Ellen Whitney, daughter of Charles and Martha (Sawin) Whitney, they are also descendants of Gen. Benjamin Sawin and his son Henry Sawin.

Margaret (Bachelder) Dutil, a great granddaughter of John and Lydia Lord, and granddaughter of J. Ernest and Lillian (Lord) Brown, owns a parcel on the left side of the road north of the Googins, under the shadow of Sawin Hill.

These descendants of the early settlers living on the road today are direct links to the history of the Sawin Hill Road, but the people who have come more recently are also linked to the history of the road through their homes and their land.

Appendix A: Property Ownership Summaries

In the property summaries below, if the building is still standing, an estimate for the date first constructed is given. If an old building has been replaced and is occupied, the date of the new building is given (camps are ignored). Also, the first owner to live on the land is named, followed by the current owner if known.

#1 John D. Horr c. 1862 (current owner Arlin J. Holt)

Thaddeus Brown to Isaac C. Horr 1826
 Sumner Stone to Isaac C. Horr 1837
 Henry Sawin to Isaac C. Horr 1840
 William Whitney to Isaac C. Horr 1841
 Calvin Horr to John D. Horr 1862, 1869
 John D. Horr to Sadie (Horr) Holt 1911
 Sadie (Horr) Holt to Edith (Merrill) Holt 1969
 Edith (Merrill) Holt to Arthur E. Holt 1970
 Edith (Merrill) Holt to Eleanor (Holt) Kimball 1970
 Edith (Merrill) Holt to Arlin J. Holt 1989

#2 Isaac C. Horr c. 1830 (current owner Marjorie Kimball)

Thaddeus Brown to Isaac C. Horr 1826
 Sumner Stone to Isaac C. Horr 1837
 Henry Sawin to Isaac C. Horr 1840
 William C. Whitney to Isaac C. Horr 1841
 John D. Horr to Calvin H. Horr 1862
 Calvin H. Horr to Andrew Woodbury 1870
 Andrew Woodbury to George Woodbury 1874
 George W. Woodbury to James W. McAllister 1891
 James W. McAllister to Hattie D. McAllister 1892
 Hattie D. McAllister to Willoughby R. York 1894
 Charles W. York to Rosa York 1927
 Rosa York to Ezra Lebroke 1927
 Ezra Lebroke to Willis Littlefield 1937
 Willis Littlefield to Ann R. Littlefield 1945
 Ann R. [Littlefield] Hart to Hervey and Marjorie Kimball 1950
 Marjorie Kimball 1993

#3 Henry Sawin II c. 1865 (current owners Robert Dow and Heather Nelson)

Benjamin Proctor to Benjamin Sawin 1806
 Benjamin Sawin to Henry Sawin 1810

Henry Sawin to Thomas Sawin 1831
Thomas Sawin to Henry Sawin II 1865
Henry Sawin II to Harry T. Sawin 1896
Henry Sawin II to Harry T. Sawin 1913
Harry T. Sawin to Walter Lord 1913
Walter Lord to Elmer Henley 1918
Elmer Henley to Berkeley G. Henley 1935
Berkeley G. Henley to Basil and Dorothy Henley 1949, 1954
Basil Henley to Dorothy Henley 1963
Dorothy Henley to Warren Cairns 1964
Warren and Florence Cairns to Reginald and Carolyn Cairns 1982, 1989, 1999
Warren and Florence Cairns to David and Barbara Brown 1989 (the old house)
David Brown to Barbara Brown 1997
Barbara [Brown] Stowell to Robert Dow and Heather Nelson 2002

#4 Thomas Sawin c. 1825-31 (current owner Thomas Connors)

Benjamin Proctor to Benjamin Sawin 1806
Benjamin Sawin to Henry Sawin 1810
Henry Sawin to Thomas Sawin 1816
Henry Sawin to Thomas Sawin 1831
Thomas Sawin to Thomas H. Sawin 1865
Thomas H. Sawin to George Nason and Lois Littlefield 1891
George Nason and Lois Littlefield to C. M. Coolidge and W. A. Manning 1906
C. M. Coolidge and W. A. Manning to John F. Lord 1906
John F. Lord to Walter Lord 1908
Walter Lord to Roy Lord 1908 (3 acres on east side of road)
Roy Lord to Walter Lord ????
Walter Lord to Frank McAllister 1913 (homestead)
Walter Lord to Frank McAllister 1914 (stable on east side of road)
Walter Lord to Frank McAllister 1915 (pasture)
Frank McAllister to Lydia F. Shedd 1916 (homestead, stable and pasture)
Lydia F. Shedd to Pearl A. Weymouth 1917 (all)
Pearl A. Weymouth to Eva McAllister 1918 (homestead on west side of road)
Pearl A. Weymouth to Walter Lord 1918 (stable and pasture on east side of road)
Walter Lord to Elmer Henley 1918 (land and pasture on east side of road)
Eva McAllister to Elmer Henley 1919 (homestead)
Elmer Henley to Ernest Grover 1928 (homestead and stable)
Ernest Grover to Mary Henley 1939 (homestead and stable)
Mary Henley to Clarence Buck 1940 (homestead and stable)
Clarence Buck to Berkeley G. Henley 1940 (homestead and stable)
Berkeley G. Henley to David Erickson 1956
David and Kathleen Erickson to Leo and Claire Connors 1965
Claire Connors to Thomas Connors

#5 Henry Sawin, new building 1968 (current owner Gary and Lori Hill)

Benjamin Proctor to Benjamin Sawin 1806
Benjamin Sawin to Henry Sawin 1810
Henry Sawin died 1855
Martha Whitney and Ellen (Whitney) Henley to Betsy French 1875
Betsy French to Perley French 1884
Perley French to Lydia Sawin 1886
Lydia Sawin to Benjamin Jackson 1886
Benjamin Jackson to Georgianna Jackson 1890
Georgia A. [Jackson] Merrill to Emily Paige 1896
Emily Paige to Lillian Young 1897
Lillian Young to John F. Lord 1903
John F. Lord to Walter Lord 1909
Walter Lord to John F. Lord 1910
John F. Lord to Burton Patterson 1911
Burton Patterson to Pearl A. [Ted] Weymouth 1918
Buildings burned 24 August 1918
Pearl A. Weymouth to Walter Lord 1918
Walter Lord to Elmer Henley 1922
Elmer Henley to Berkeley G. Henley 1935
New home built c. 1968
Berkeley G. Henley to Mary Henley 1974
Mary Henley to Lynda (Henley) Davis 1988
Lynda and Donald Davis to Gary and Lori Hill 1990

#6 Benjamin Sawin, new building 1986 (current owner Peter and D'Arcy Robinson)

Benjamin Proctor to Benjamin Sawin 1806
Benjamin Sawin to Henry Sawin 1810
Henry Sawin to Elijah Johnson 1849
Buildings burned 31 May 1853
Elijah Johnson to Martha (Sawin) Whitney 1854
Henry Sawin to Charles Whitney 1854
Martha and Charles Whitney to Ellen (Whitney) Henley
Martha and Charles Whitney to Pliny Henley 1877
Pliny Henley to Elmer Henley 1909
Buildings burned 24 August 1918
Elmer Henley to Berkeley G. Henley 1935
Berkeley G. Henley to Mary Henley 1974
Mary Henley to Lynda (Henley) Davis 1988
Donald and Lynda (Henley) Davis built 1986
Donald Davis to Peter and D'Arcy Robinson 1999

#7 Charles Whitney c. 1843-49 (current owners Charles and Dorothy Googins)

Benjamin Proctor to Benjamin Sawin 1806
Benjamin Sawin to Henry Sawin 1810
Henry Sawin to Martha (Sawin) Whitney 1851
Martha (Sawin) Whitney to Lewis H. Sawin 1854
Lewis H. Sawin to Lydia Sawin 1870
Lydia Sawin to Merritt Sawin 1910
Merritt Sawin to D. Holden and Emma Sawin 1935
D. Holden and Emma Sawin to J. Ernest and Lillian Brown 1949
J. Ernest and Lillian Brown to Berkeley G. Henley 1957
Berkeley G. Henley to Richard S. Holt 1960
Richard S. Holt to Chester and Ruth S. Kinsley 1963
Ruth S. Kinsley estate to Charles and Dorothy Googins 2002

#8 Aaron Cummings, new building 2003 (current owners Alex and Kristen MacDonald)

James Russell to Aaron Cummings 1810
Aaron Cummings to James French Jr. 1845
James French Jr. to James M. Miller 1863
James M. Miller to Josiah F. Lovering 1868
Josiah F. Lovering to George W. Stone 1872
George W. Stone to Elsie L. Stevens 1876
Elsie L. (Stevens) Moore to John F. Lord 1880
House burned in November 1888; rebuilt the next spring
John F. Lord to Lydia F. Lord 1888
Lydia F. Lord to Lillian (Lord) Brown 1912
J. Ernest Brown to Ernest Wentworth 1945 land and buildings
Ernest Wentworth to J. Ernest Brown 1945 land and buildings
J. Ernest Brown to Roy and Eleanor Moxcey 1948
Buildings burned 1951
Roy and Eleanor Moxcey to J. Ernest Brown 1952 (land)
...
Fred Wentworth to Walter and Eleanor Garnett 1959
Walter and Eleanor Garnett to John and Susan Leite 1986
John and Susan Leite to Alex and Kristen MacDonald 1998 (new home)

#9 Sumner Frost, new buildings 1949 and 1965 (current owner Peter Nason)

Jacob Dresser to Sumner Frost 1832
Sumner Frost to Jeremiah Henley 1846

Jeremiah Henley to Washington French 1857
Washington French to Elsie E. French 1886
George French to Edwin French 1891
Buildings burned in October 1892
Elsie E. French to Edwin French 1892
Edwin French to John F. Lord 1894
John F. Lord to Walter Lord 1909
Walter Lord to Elmer Henley 1909 (east side of road)
Walter Lord to Mattie Lord 1909 (west side of road)
Mattie Lord to James E. Brown 1913
J. Ernest and Lillian Brown to Ernest Wentworth 1945 (part)
J. Ernest Brown to Marion Langway 1949 (part)
Marion Langway to J. Ernest Brown 1953 (land)
Marion Langway to Robert Gann 1954 (building)
Ernest Wentworth to Berkeley G. and Basil Henley 1956 (part)
...
Fred A. Wentworth to Berkeley G. and Mary E. Henley 1970
Fred A. Wentworth to Peter Nason 1970
Fred A. Wentworth to Rodney Kimball 1971
Rodney Kimball to Peter Nason 1972
Robert Gann to Peter Nason 1973 (building)
Mary E. Henley to Peter Nason 1978
Raynor Brown to Peter Nason 1980

#10 Benjamin Clark (no building on site)

James Russell to Benjamin Clark 1807
Ephraim Flint to Benjamin Clark 1808
Benjamin Clark to Perley French 1840
Buildings burned 1875, never rebuilt
Perley French to George Farnsworth 1875
George Farnsworth to Charles Farnsworth 1876
Elizabeth Farnsworth to John F. Lord 1902
John F. Lord to Walter Lord 1909
Walter Lord to John F. Lord ????

#11 Ephraim Flint c. 1796 (current owners Dennis and Kathleen Jellison)

John Jaquith Jr. to Ephraim Flint 1796
Benjamin Jenkins to Ephraim Flint 1822
Ephraim Flint to Daniel Flint 1853
Daniel Flint to Anna (Eames) Flint 1870
Anna Flint to Orin Flint 1904
Orin Flint to Harry Brown 1906

Harry Brown to Walter Canwell 1908
Walter Canwell to Raynor Brown 1944
Raynor Brown to Gertrude Lerner 1946
Gertrude Lerner to Lucille Marock 1957
Lucille Marock to Robert V. Brown 1988
Robert V. Brown to Luis Suarez Clausen and Celinda de Suarez 1994
Luis Suarez Clausen and Celinda de Suarez to Charles K. and Margaret Wille 1996
Charles K. and Margaret Wille to Dennis and Kathleen Jellison 2002

#12 Jacob Wardwell (no building on site)

Northeast Miller Hill

James Wardwell to Jacob Wardwell 1822
Galen Hutchinson to Jacob Wardwell 1839
Jacob Wardwell to Daniel Proctor (not recorded)
Daniel Proctor to Washington French 1847
Washington French to Isaac P. Beckler 1857
Isaac P. Beckler to Josiah F. Lovering 1857
Josiah F. Lovering to George W. Beckler 1860
Isaac P. Beckler to George W. Beckler 1864
Josiah F. Lovering to George W. Beckler 1864
George W. Beckler to Edwin French 1891
Edwin French to John P. and John F. Mason 1894
John P. and John F. Mason to Edwin French 1900
House burned July 2, 1901; new house built a short distance away
Edwin French to Minnie French 1905
Minnie French to William Chadbourne 1905
William Chadbourne to Fannie Kimball 1905 (farm only)
Fannie Kimball to James E. Brown 1908
James E. Brown to Walter Lord 1911
Will McAllister to Merton Kimball 1917
House moved to South Waterford 1918
Merton Kimball to Herman Holt 1918
Herman Holt to Sadie (Horr) Holt 1939
Sadie (Horr) Holt to Arthur E. Holt 1969
Arthur E. Holt to Carolyn J. Cairns 2004

#13 Galen Hutchinson (no building on site)

Southeast Miller Hill

Galen Hutchinson to Lorenzo D. Miller 1840
Lewis Allen to John B. Miller 1844
Lorenzo D. Miller to Robert H. Miller Jr. 1846
Lorenzo D. Miller to James M. Miller 1848
Peter Wardwell to Temperance (Wardwell) Miller 1849

John B. and Temperance Miller to James French Jr. 1849
Robert H. Miller Jr. to James French Jr. 1849
James French Jr. to Robert H. Miller Jr. 1849
Robert H. Miller Jr. to Merrill Files 1851
Merrill Files to Albion K. P. Henley 1854
James M. Miller to Matthew Reed 1853
Mathew Reed to Isaac P. Beckler 1855
Albion K. P. Henley to Josiah F. Lovering 1856
Isaac P. Beckler to Josiah F. Lovering 1857
Isaac P. Beckler to Josiah F. Lovering 1864
Josiah F. Lovering to George W. Beckler 1860
George W. Beckler to John L. Beckler 1867 (part)
John L. Beckler to George W. Beckler 1877 (part)
Burned? No building shown on 1880 map

#14 Isaac P. Beckler (current owners of parts: Daniel Croke, Michael Desplaines, Rich and Linda Woodward, William Fraser and Kathleen Burns-Fraser)
Southwest Miller Hill

Washington French to Isaac P. Beckler 1857
Isaac P. Beckler to Thomas Sawin 1864
Thomas Sawin to Simeon Cummings 1864
Emeline Cummings to Thomas Sawin 1867
Thomas Sawin to Calvin Abbott 1868
Calvin Abbott (one half) to Sewall Abbott 1875
Sewall Abbott (one half) to Calvin Abbott 1885
Calvin Abbott heirs to Beulah Abbott 1901
George Abbott to Will McAllister 1917
Will McAllister to Fred Littlefield 1920
Fred Littlefield to Walter Lord 1921 (buildings and field)
Walter Lord to Ezra Lebroke 1922
Barn burned while Lebrokes lived here
Ezra Lebroke to Perley Watson et al. 1930 (house and seven acres)
Perley Watson, Elmer Mitchell, Brierly Wildes, and Ezra Mitchell to Herbert Drew 1937
Herbert Drew to Armand St. Pierre 1946
Armand St. Pierre to Beatrice St. Pierre 1977 (building)
Beatrice St. Pierre Labrie to William Klingelhofer 1989
William Klingelhofer to Lima Cheryl Olson 1990
Lima Cheryl Olson to Daniel Richard Croke 2004

Ezra Lebroke to D. Holden Sawin 1939 (land about 25 acres)
D. Holden Sawin to Emma Sawin 1956
Emma Sawin to Rodney Kimball 1956
Rodney Kimball to Jean Meister 1990
Jean Meister to Jean Meister and Rebecca Meister 1995
Rebecca Meister to Michael Desplaines 2000

Fred Littlefield to W. B. and G. H. Hamlin 1921 (woods)
W. B. and G. H. Hamlin to Elmer Henley 1929
Elmer Henley to Walter Cullinan 1935
Walter Cullinan to Winfield Brown 1942
Winfield Brown to Ernest Wentworth 1948
Ernest Wentworth to Donald Brown 1960 (swamp)
Donald Brown to Hugh Roak 1960, 1961 (swamp)
Hugh Roak to Berkeley Henley 1964 (swamp)
Ernest Wentworth to Berkeley G. Henley 24 August 1961
Berkeley G. Henley to Della H. Klament and Stephanie Sawin Townsend 1970 (part)
Mary E. Henley to Don and Lynda Davis 1986
Don and Lynda Davis to Richmond and Linda Woodward 1993
Stephanie Sawin Townsend to Della H. Klament 2000
Della H. Klament to William Fraser and Kathleen Burns-Fraser 2002
Don Davis to Richmond and Linda Woodward 2002

Appendix B: Sawin Hill Family Trees

Names and dates are to a large extent from secondary sources and have not been carefully researched; hence no citations are given for them.

Abbott family

Beckler family

Flint family

French family

Henley family

Horr family

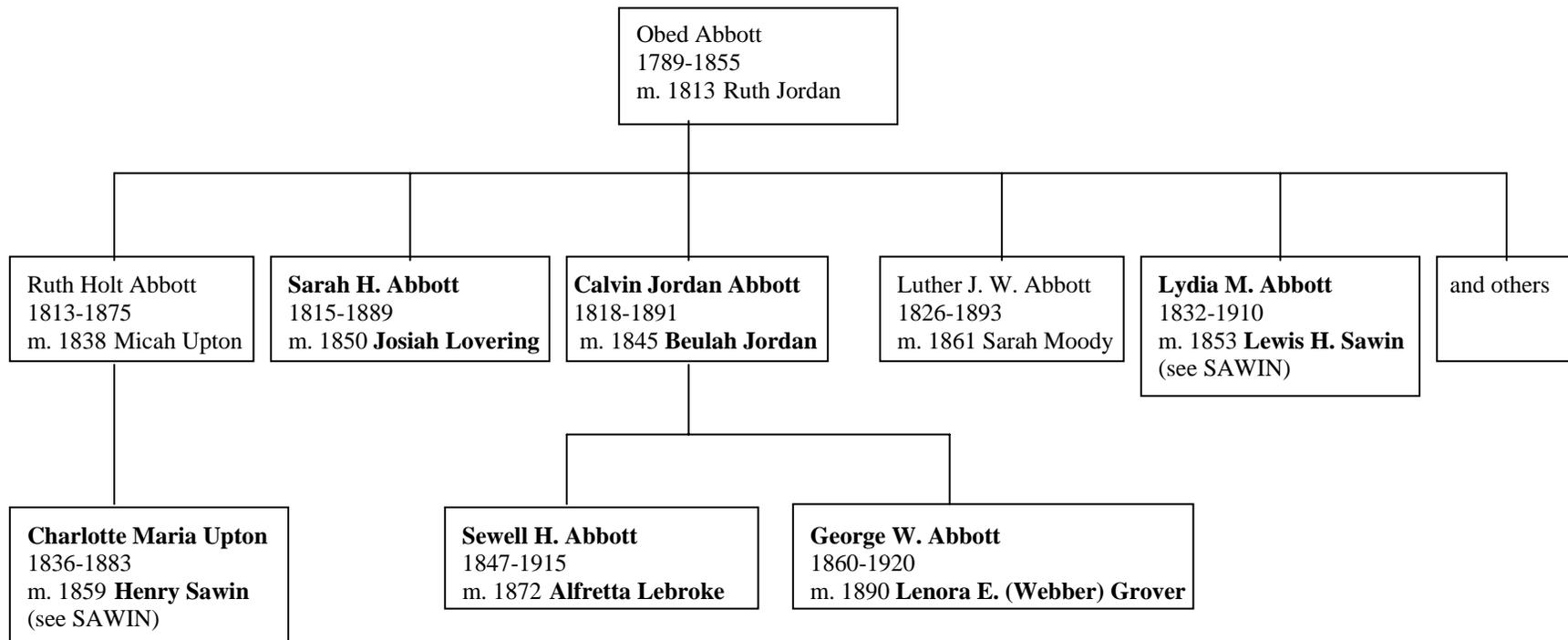
Johnson family

Littlefield family

Lord family

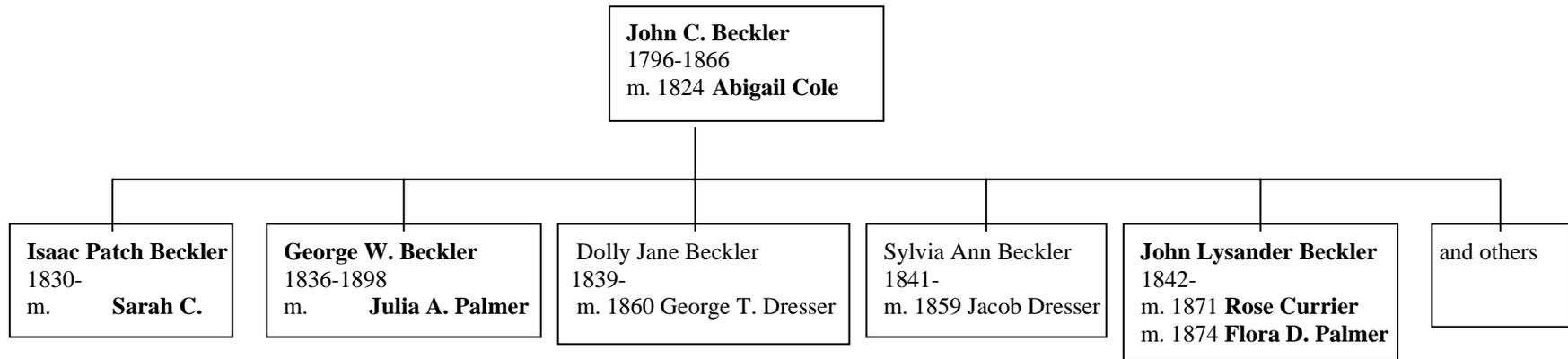
Sawin family

ABBOTT FAMILY



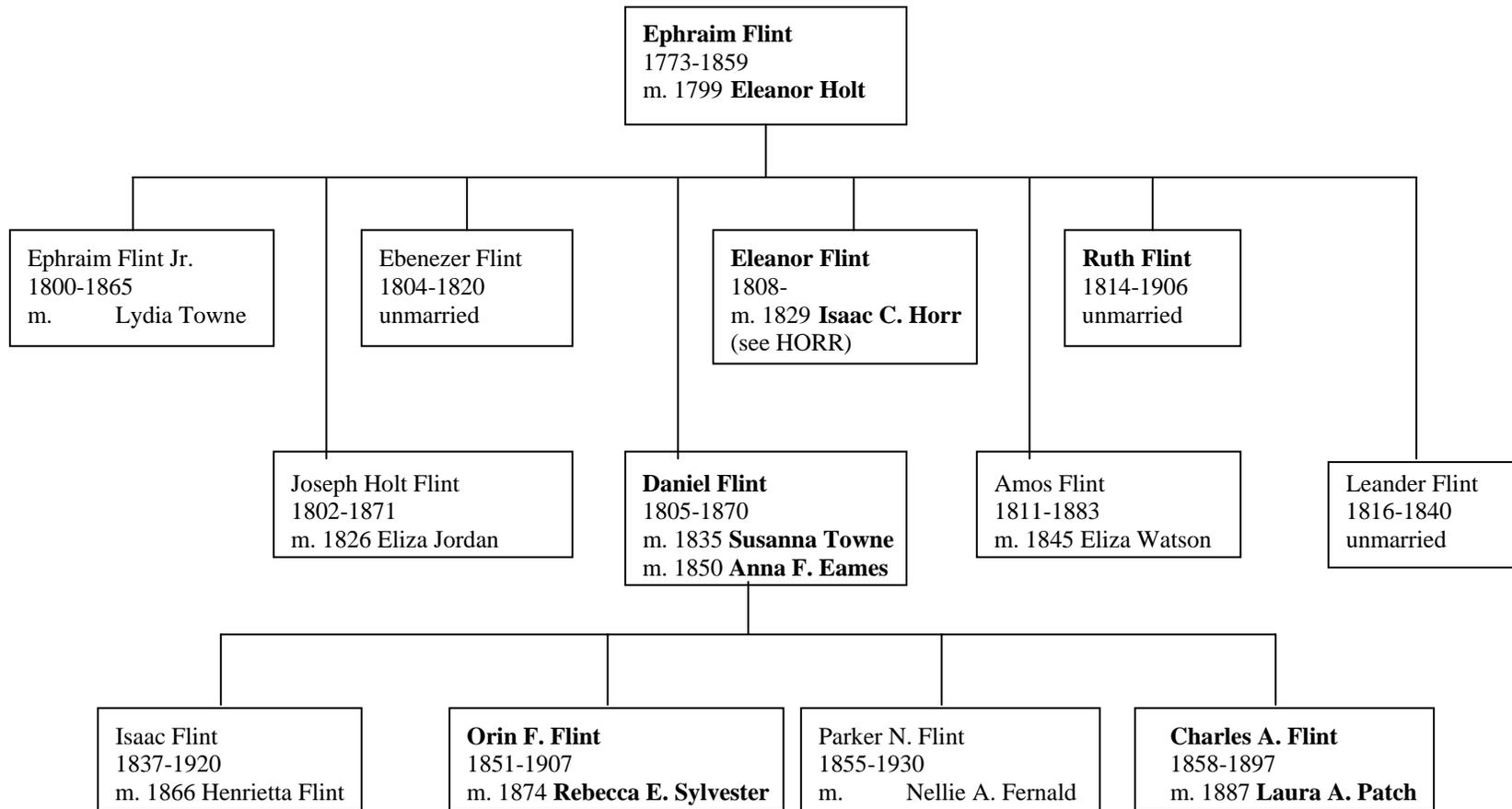
Names in bold indicate they lived or owned on Sawin Hill Road as adults.

BECKLER FAMILY



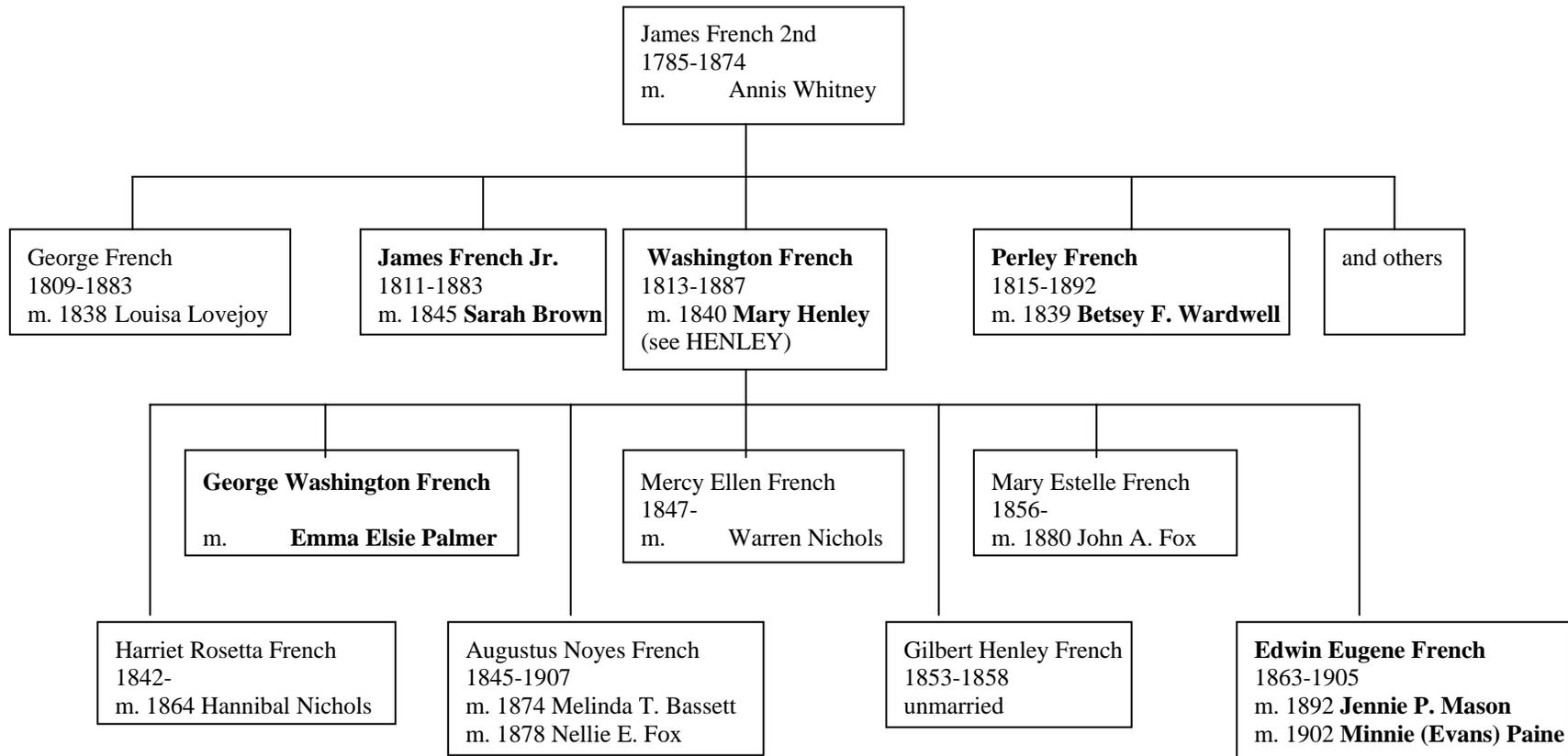
Names in bold indicate they lived or owned on Sawin Hill Road as adults.

FLINT FAMILY



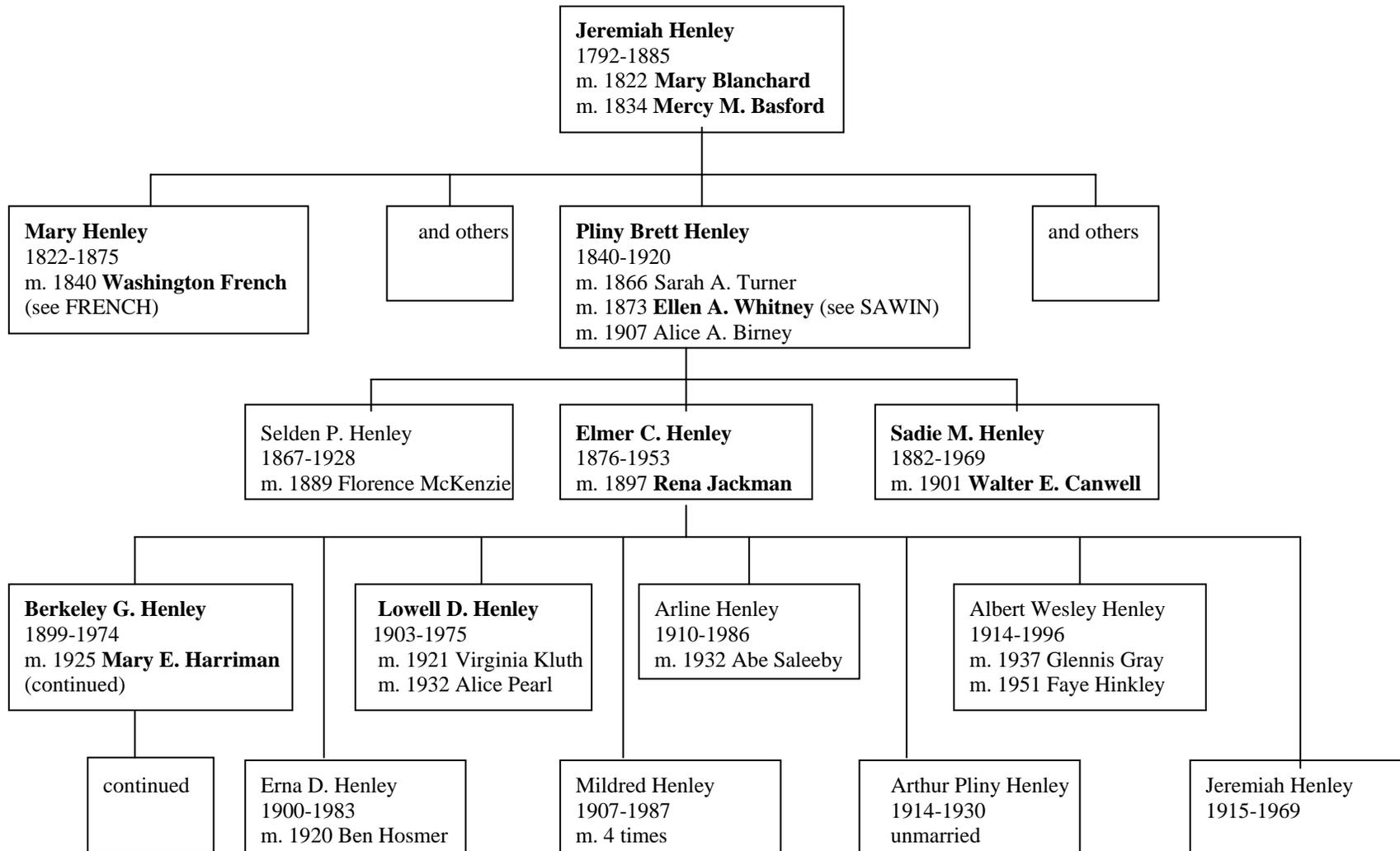
Names in bold indicate they lived or owned on Sawin Hill Road as adults.

FRENCH FAMILY



Names in bold indicate they lived or owned on Sawin Hill Road as adults.

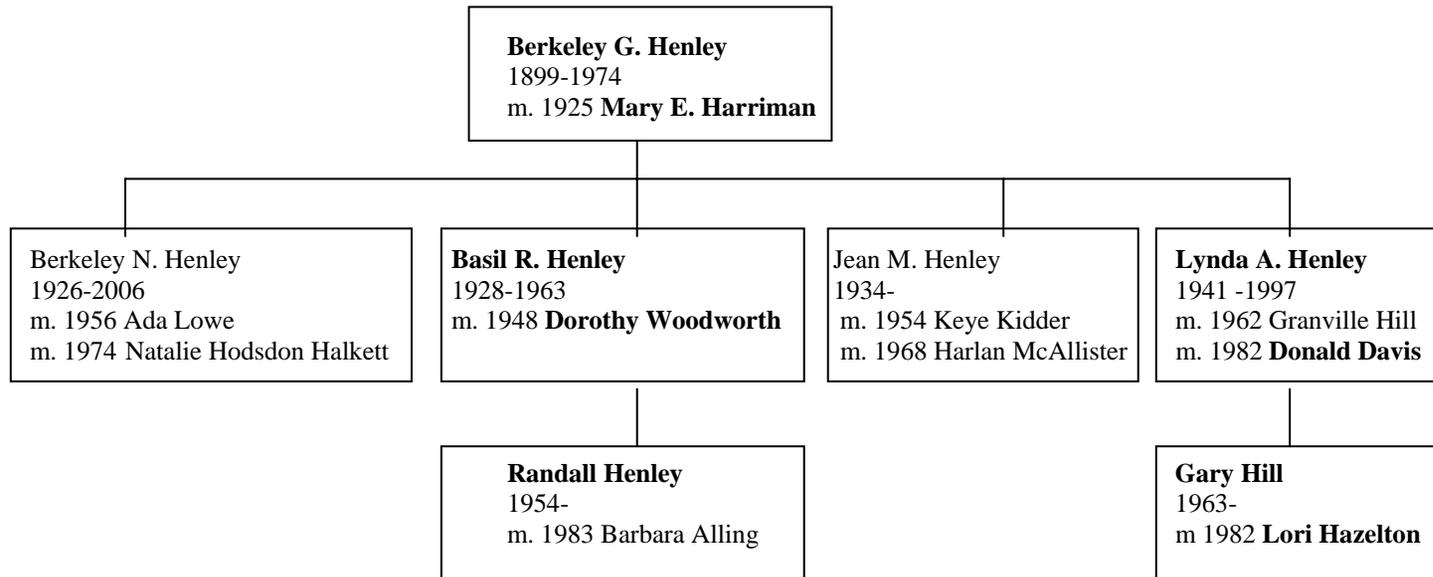
HENLEY FAMILY



Names in bold indicate they lived or owned on Sawin Hill Road as adults.

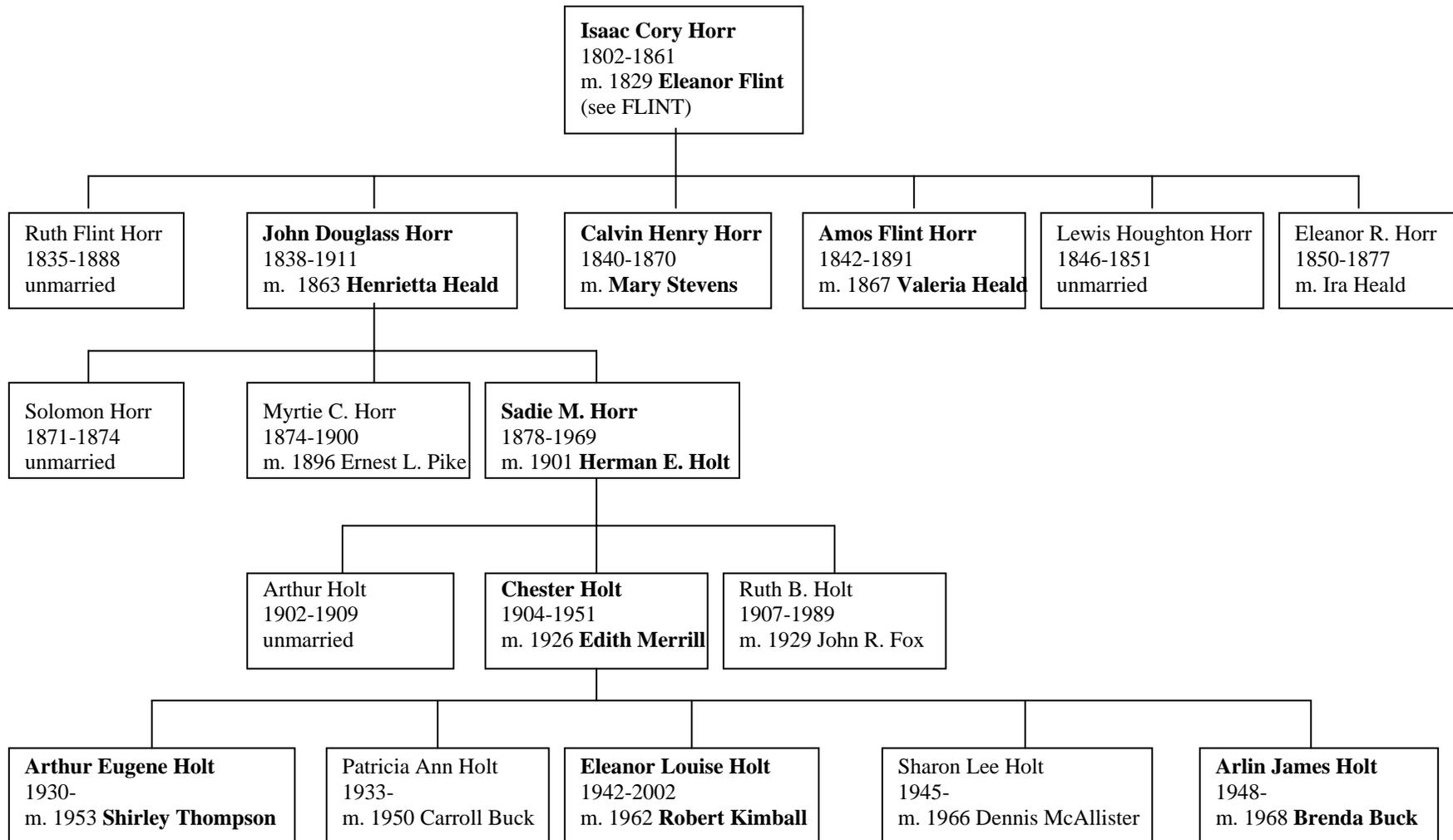
HENLEY FAMILY

(continued)



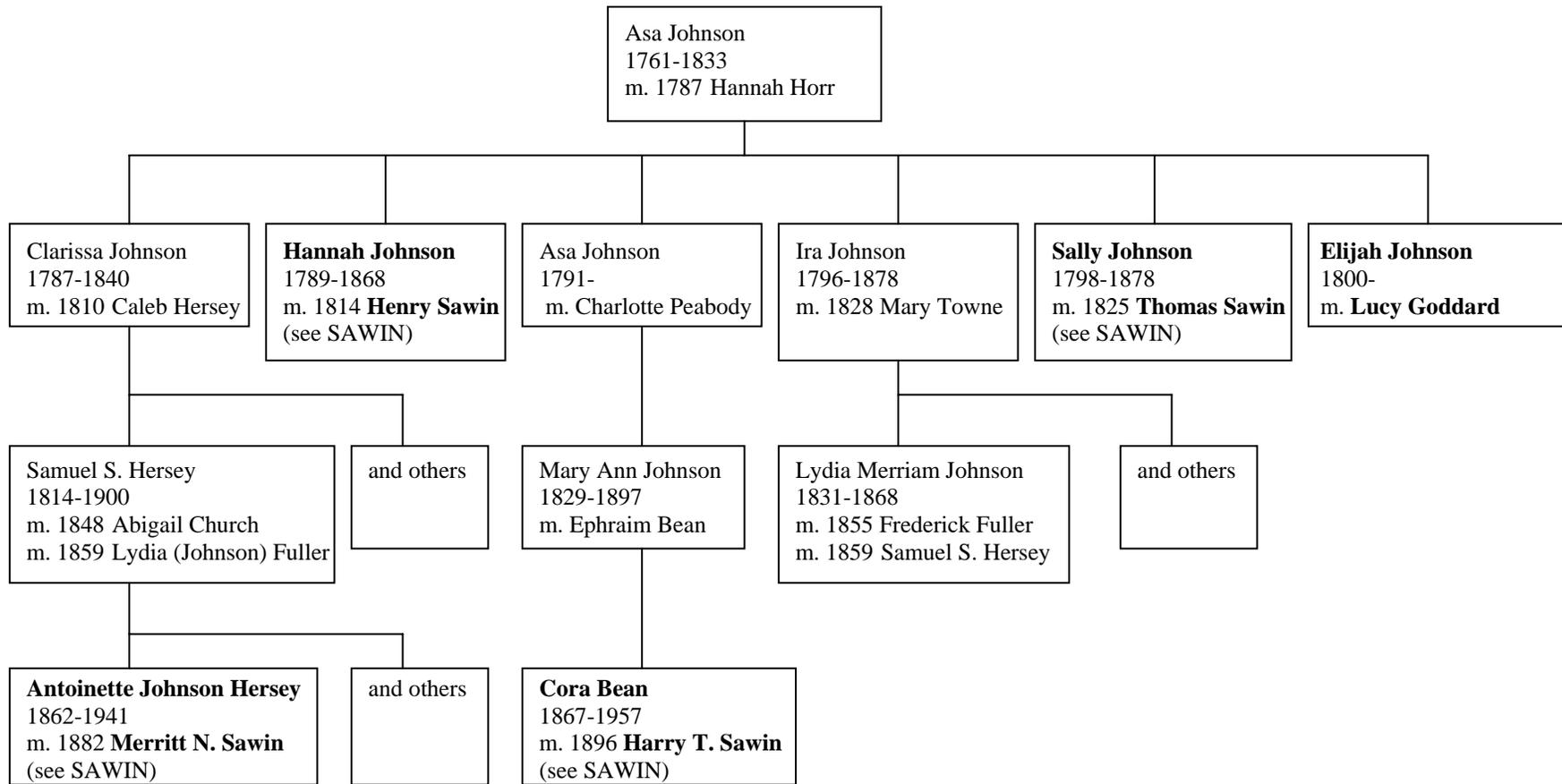
Names in bold indicate they lived or owned on Sawin Hill Road as adults.

HORR FAMILY



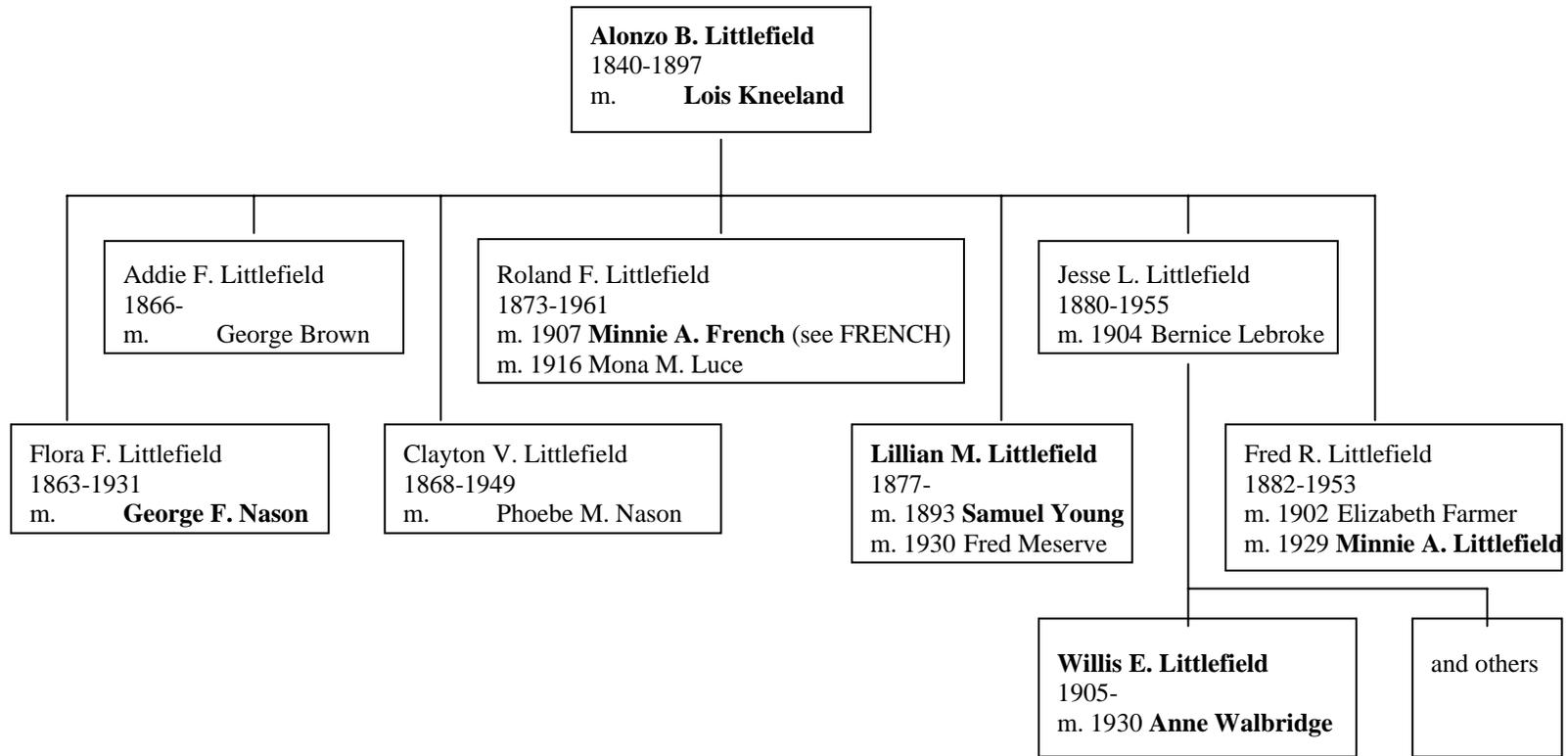
Names in bold indicate they lived or owned on Sawin Hill Road as adults.

JOHNSON FAMILY



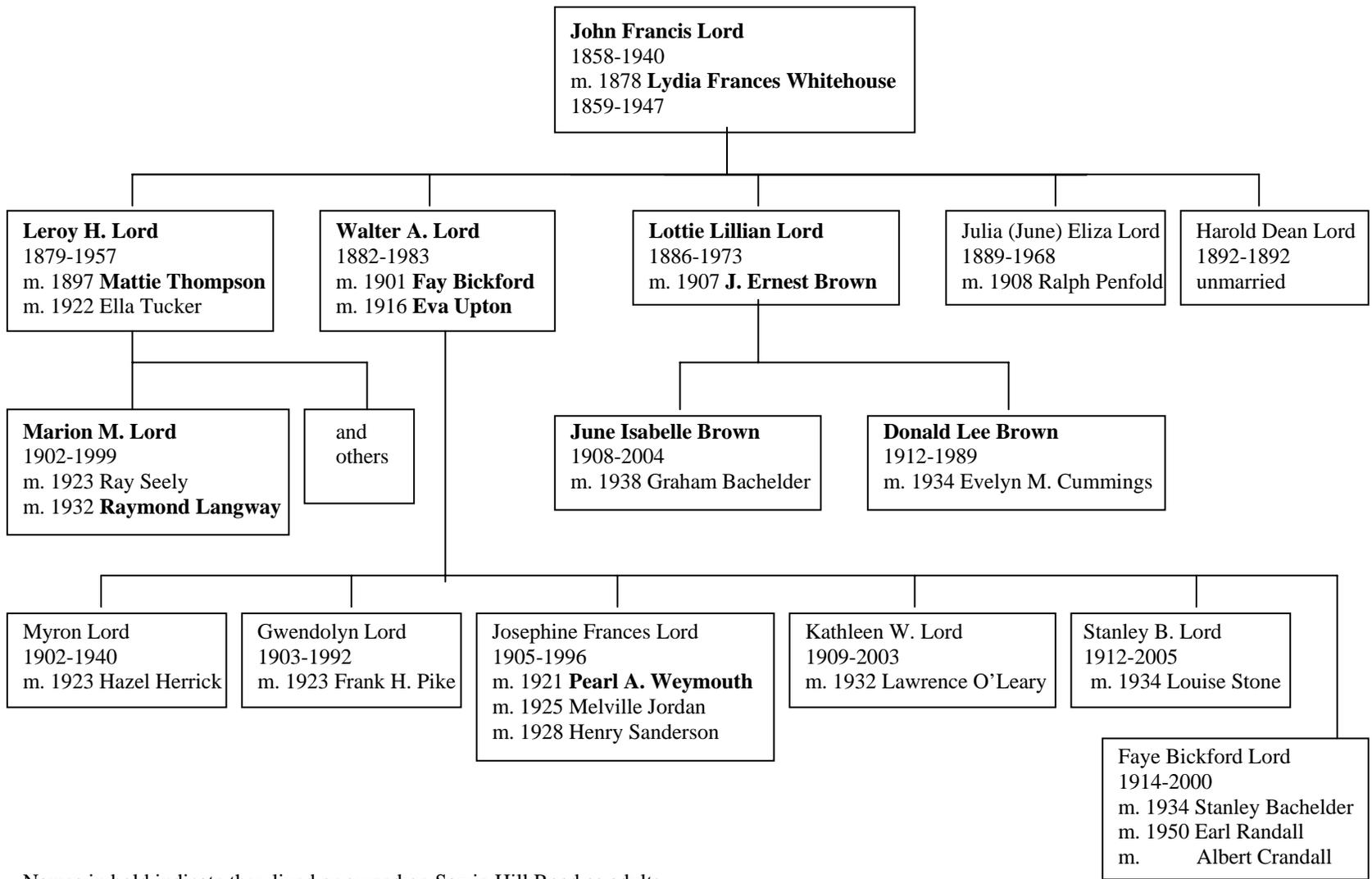
Names in bold indicate they lived or owned on Sawin Hill Road as adults.

LITTLEFIELD FAMILY



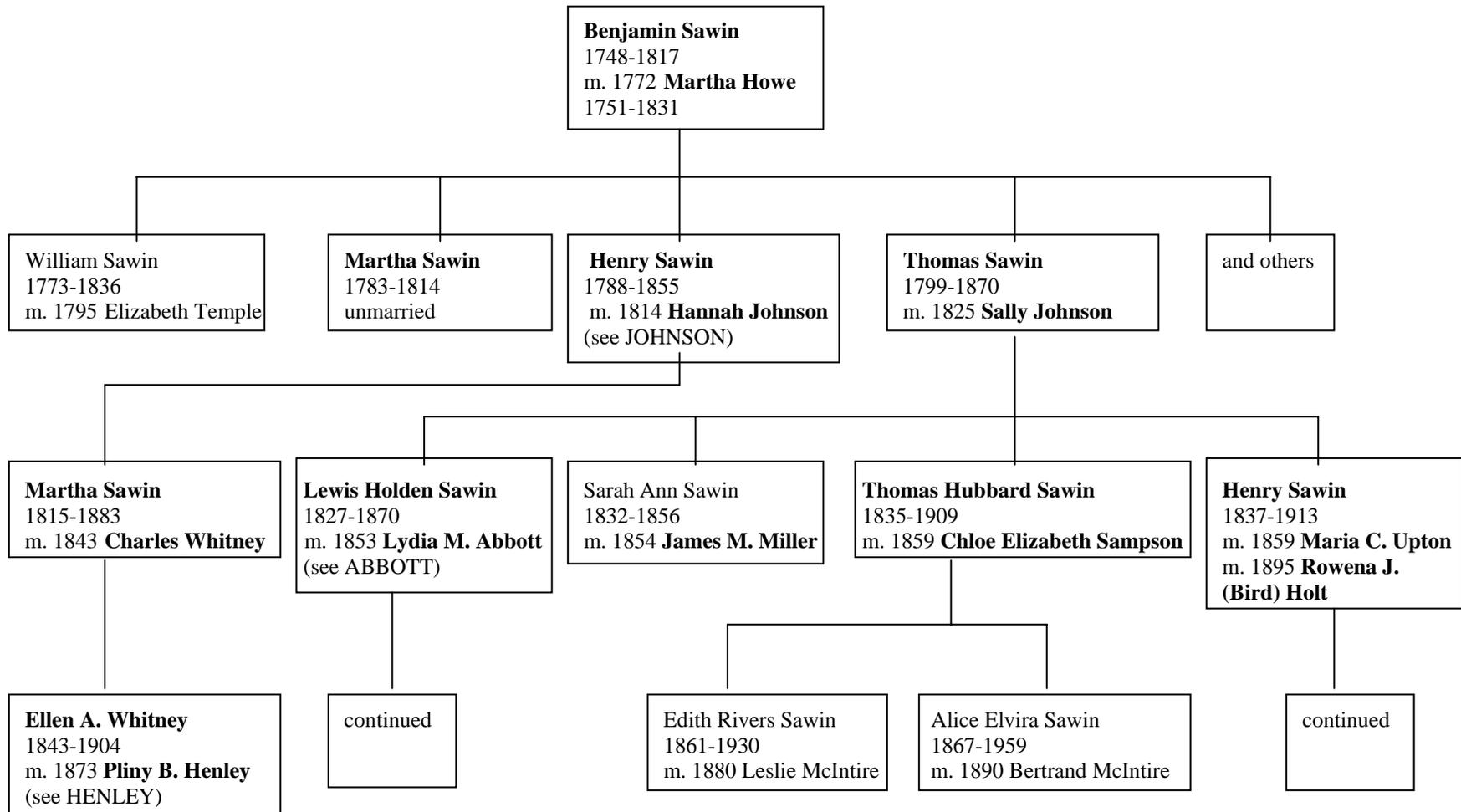
Names in bold indicate they lived or owned on Sawin Hill Road as adults.

LORD FAMILY



Names in bold indicate they lived or owned on Sawin Hill Road as adults.

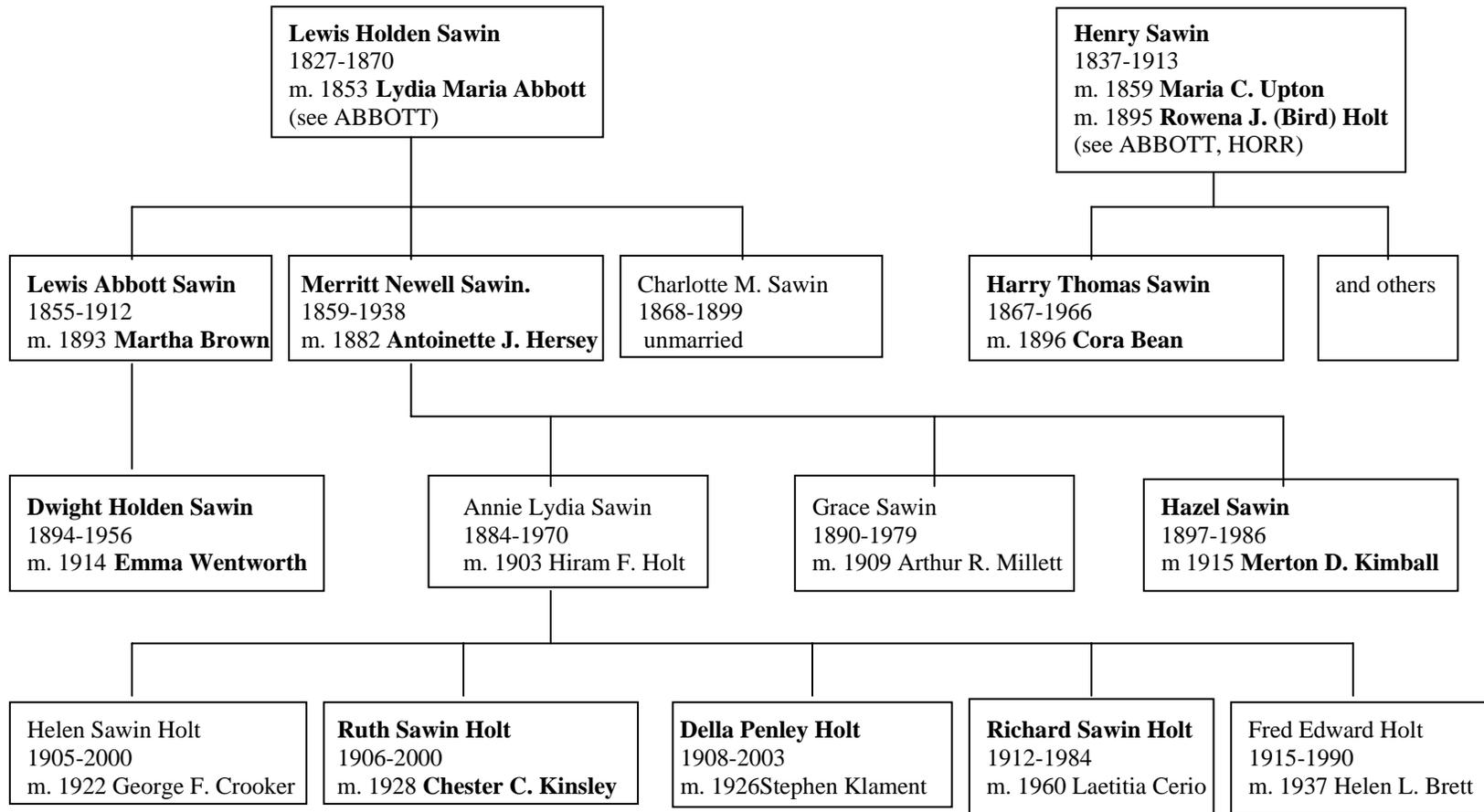
SAWIN FAMILY



Names in bold indicate they lived or owned on Sawin Hill Road as adults.

SAWIN FAMILY

(continued)



Names in bold indicate they lived or owned on Sawin Hill Road as adults.

Appendix C: Deed Abstracts (separate document)

Index

- Abbott, 68, 112
 Beulah (Jordan), 45, 63
 Calvin J., 31, 38, 45, 63
 George, 44, 45, 52, 63, 74, 80, 81
 Lenora (Webber), 52, 74
 Luther, 32
 Lydia Maria, 20, 22
 Sarah H., 22
 Sewall, 38, 45
 Sylvester, 37
- Allen
 Mildred, 118
- Bachelor
 Graham, 79
 June (Brown), 79, 102, 119
- Barker
 Carl, 100
- Bean
 Cora, 58
- Beckler
 Abigail, 21
 Flora (Palmer), 38
 George W., 23, 31, 38, 45, 52
 Isaac P., 21, 22, 31
 John C., 21
 John L., 31, 38, 52
 Julia (Palmer), 38
- Bisbeetown road change, 105
- Bradbury
 O. N., 12
- Brown, 68
 Barbara, 114, 118
 Bert, 98
 David, 114, 118
 Donald, 44, 49, 79, 89, 102, 119
 Dorcas, 5
 Evelyn (Cummings), 49, 79
 Harry, 61
 J. Ernest, 16, 42, 63, 69, 74, 79, 87, 88, 95, 96,
 101, 102, 107, 119, 124
 June, 79
 Lillian (Lord), 2, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 49, 51, 60,
 63, 68, 69, 70, 71, 74, 79, 87, 95, 100, 101,
 102, 103, 119, 120, 122, 124
 Martha, 48
 Maud (Dresser), 71
 Raynor, 97, 98, 111
 Robert V., 115
 Sally, 115, 119
 Thaddeus, 9
 Winfield, 98
- Buck
 Clarence, 86
- Burns-Fraser
 Kathleen, 119
- Butters
 Eliza A., 31
 Mary, 14
 Timothy, 14, 20
- Cairns
 Carolyn (Holt), 114, 120, 123
 Florence, 106, 114
 Reginald, 110, 114, 123
 Warren, 9, 106, 110, 114
- Canwell, 89, 101
 Beatrice, 61
 Edith, 61
 Harold, 61
 Marjorie, 61
 Sadie (Henley), 59, 61, 72, 73, 89
 Walter, 59, 61, 71, 72, 73, 89, 97
- Carter
 Dr., 5
- Chadbourne
 Julia, 96
 William H., 63
- Chalk pond, 3, 10, 21, 32, 44, 62, 63, 70, 79, 95,
 97, 103, 111, 120
- Chaplin
 Lincoln, 88
 Lizzie (Dresser), 71
- Clark
 Benjamin, 3, 6, 10, 12
 Betsey, 3
- Clark School, 79, 97
- Cleveland
 Horace L., 41
 Jim, 41
- Connors
 Claire, 9, 106, 114
 Leo, 106, 114
 Tom, 114
- Coolidge
 C. M., 58
- Cordwell
 Elmer, 58
- Croke
 Daniel, 120
- Crystal Polish lake, 62
- Cullinan
 Walter, 89, 98, 108
- Cummings
 Aaron, 3, 6, 10, 15, 16
 Asa, 1, 2, 5

- Evelyn, 49
 Simeon, 31
 Susan, 16
 Susan (Stone), 3
 Curtis
 Diana, 117
 Robert, 117
 Davis
 Donald, 115, 118, 120
 Lynda (Henley), 115, 118, 120
 Desplaines
 Michael, 120
 Doughty
 Anna (Dresser), 71
 Dow
 Robert, 118
 Dresser, 98
 Jacob, 10, 71
 Mary (Wardwell), 71
 Phineas P., 52, 71
 Dresser School, 10, 19, 44, 61, 70, 71, 79, 89, 95, 97
 Drew
 Herbert, 90, 98, 102, 118
 Levena, 102
 Dutil
 Margaret, 2, 102, 119, 124
 Eames
 Anna F., 16
 Edwards
 Valmont, 49
 Electricity access, 85, 107, 115
 Elliot
 Ella C., 47
 Erickson
 David, 101, 106
 Kathleen, 106
 Farnsworth
 Charles H., 37, 61
 Elizabeth, 61
 George S., 37
 Fiske
 H. M., 34
 Flint, 68, 89
 Anna (Eames), 3, 38, 61
 Charles, 16, 38
 Daniel, 10, 12, 16, 21, 37
 Dexter, 70
 Eleanor, 9
 Eleanor (Holt), 9, 12, 16, 21, 38
 Ephraim, 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 38, 97, 122
 Ephraim Jr., 10
 Isaac, 12
 Joseph H., 10
 Laura (Patch), 38
 Orin, 16, 61
 Parker, 16, 61
 Ruth, 19
 Susanna (Town), 16
 Flint Brook bridge, 1, 83, 89, 122
 Fraser
 William, 119
 French
 Betsey (Wardwell), 35, 37, 40
 Edwin E., 52, 62, 74
 Elsie E., 43, 52
 George, 16
 George W., 37, 43, 48, 52
 James Jr., 3, 15, 20, 30, 31, 43, 44
 Mary (Henley), 16
 Minnie, 62
 Osgood, 40
 Perley, 12, 16, 20, 34, 35, 37, 40, 41, 43, 44, 61, 70
 Washington, 16, 17, 20, 22, 43, 52, 61, 69, 70, 96, 101, 103, 107
 French's pond, 21, 44, 62, 63, 120
 Frost
 Eliza, 15
 Sumner, 10, 15, 20
 Gann, 107
 Robert, 103, 111
 Garnett
 Eleanor, 119
 Walter, 119
 Godfrey
 Edna (Dresser), 71
 Googins, 124
 Charles, 10, 118
 Dorothy, 10, 118
 Grant
 Marguerite, 117
 Green
 W. T., 34
 Griffin
 Keith, 118
 Grover
 Anne, 45
 Ernest, 45, 76, 86
 Evelyn, 118
 John, 45
 Lenora (Webber), 45
 Merle, 118
 Sumner, 45
 Hamlin
 G. H., 80
 W. B., 80
 W. K., 51, 69
 Hamlin brothers, 108
 Harriman
 Mary Edna, 86

- Hart
 Ann, 92
 Frank, 92
- Haskell
 J. B., 68
- Heald
 Esther, 26
 Henrietta, 25
 Solomon, 26
- Henley
 Basil, 94, 101, 106, 117
 Berkeley G., 55, 85, 86, 92, 94, 98, 101, 106,
 107, 108, 110, 111, 114, 118, 120, 124
 Berkeley N., 2, 9, 45, 49, 83, 85, 115
 Dorothy (Woodworth), 94, 106
 Ellen (Whitney), 34, 35, 36, 40, 41, 48, 59, 61
 Elmer C., 34, 35, 43, 44, 48, 52, 55, 59, 61,
 63, 66, 67, 68, 76, 79, 80, 85, 87, 89, 98,
 101, 108, 120, 122, 124
 Erna, 60
 Jeremiah, 15, 20
 Mary, 16
 Mary Edna, 86, 106, 107, 110, 111, 114, 118,
 120
 Pliny B., 27, 34, 35, 36, 41, 44, 45, 48, 59, 61
 Randall, 4, 124
 Rena (Jackman), 59, 60, 67
 Sadie, 35, 48, 59
- Hersey
 Antoinette J., 41
 Clarissa (Johnson), 14
- Hill
 Gary, 106, 115, 118, 124
 Levi, 118
 Lori, 115, 118
- Hobson
 Estella C., 47
- Holden
 Don, 102
- Holt
 Abner, 1, 2
 Addison, 68
 Annie (Sawin), 71, 78, 102
 Arlin J., 114, 117, 123
 Arthur D., 56
 Arthur E., 9, 80, 86, 100, 105, 108, 120
 Brenda, 114, 117, 124
 Chester, 76, 77, 83, 84, 100, 105, 110, 114
 Edith (Merrill), 76, 83, 100, 105, 110, 114
 Eleanor, 3, 110
 Fred E., 123
 Herman, 55, 56, 57, 65, 74, 76, 80, 83, 90,
 120, 123
 Hiram, 49, 78
 Joseph, 3, 1, 2
 Pat, 84
- Paul, 5
 Richard S., 42, 102, 110
 Rowena (Bird), 56
 Sadie (Horr), 56, 65, 76, 83, 90, 100, 105, 108,
 110, 120, 123
 Sally, 105
 Shirley (Thompson), 100, 105
 Stephen, 1, 2
 Wayne, 117, 124
- Horr, 84
 Amos F., 14, 19, 27, 30
 Calvin H., 14, 19, 25, 26, 27, 34, 37
 Ebenezer, 14
 Eleanor (Flint), 9, 14, 19, 27
 Henrietta (Heald), 26, 40, 55
 Isaac, 9
 Isaac C., 9, 12, 14, 19, 25, 27, 34, 47, 76, 80,
 84, 92, 117
 John D., 2, 14, 25, 26, 27, 40, 55, 65, 100,
 110, 114, 123
 Lewis H., 14
 Mary (Stevens), 27
 Philip, 9
 Ruth, 14, 19, 27
 Sadie, 40, 56, 57
 Stephen, 9, 12
- Howe
 Cyprian, 1
 Martha, 1
- Hutchinson
 Galen, 10, 12, 16
- Jackson
 Benjamin, 41
 Georgianna, 41, 48
- Jaquith
 John, 2
- Jellison
 Dennis, 120
 Kathleen, 120
 Torin, 120
- Jewett
 Ebenezer, 1, 2
 Martha (French), 71
 Mrs., 5
 Nathan, 1
 Nathaniel, 1
 Stephen, 1
- Johnson
 Asa, 14
 Clarissa, 14
 Elijah, 6, 14, 19, 20
 George W., 14
 Hannah, 6, 14
 Henry S., 14
 Ira, 14
 Leonisa, 14

- Lucy, 14
 Mariah G., 14
 Mary F., 14
 Sally, 9, 14
 Jordan
 Wales, 38
 Joy
 Benjamin, 1
 Kimball
 Eleanor (Holt), 110, 117
 Elliot, 63
 Fannie, 63
 Hazel (Sawin), 74
 Hervey, 9, 92, 101, 117
 Lee, 76
 Leon, 62, 68, 70
 Marjorie, 9, 92, 101, 117
 Merton, 49, 74, 80
 Robert Jr., 117
 Robert Sr., 110, 117
 Rodney, 103, 111, 115
 Kinsley
 Chester, 102, 107, 110, 111, 118
 Ruth (Holt), 102, 107, 110, 111, 118
 Klament
 Della (Holt), 107, 118
 Klingehofer
 William, 115
 Labrie
 Beatrice St. Pierre, 115
 Langway, 107, 111
 Marion (Lord), 70, 96, 97, 103
 Raymond, 70, 97
 Lebroke
 Ezra, 76, 80, 81, 84, 86, 90, 103
 Lenora (Webber), 76, 80, 81, 84, 86
 Leite
 John, 119
 Susan, 119
 Lerner
 Gertrude, 98, 103
 Libby
 Gardner, 76, 83
 Littlefield
 Alonzo, 47, 58, 65
 Ann, 92
 Flora, 47
 Fred, 58, 80
 Lois A., 47, 58
 Roland, 55, 58, 62
 Virgil, 55
 Willis, 84, 92
 Logan
 Harry, 97
 Longley
 Jonathan, 1, 2
 Lord, 68
 Eva, 80
 Fay, 58
 Harold, 42
 John F., 16, 37, 41, 42, 48, 50, 52, 53, 58, 60, 63, 66, 69, 70, 95, 96, 101, 124
 Julia Eliza, 42
 Lottie Lillian, 42
 Lydia (Whitehouse), 50, 51, 60, 63, 69, 70, 95, 124
 Mattie E., 61, 69
 Roy, 42, 51, 58, 61, 62, 66, 68, 69, 96
 Walter A., 41, 42, 49, 51, 58, 59, 61, 62, 65, 66, 67, 68, 70, 74, 80
 Lovering
 Abigail, 22
 David, 22
 Josiah F., 21, 22, 23, 31, 32, 37
 Sarah H. (Abbott), 32
 MacDonald
 Alexander, 119
 Kristen, 119
 Manning
 W. A., 58
 Marock
 George, 103, 115
 Lucille, 103, 115
 Mason
 Jennie, 52
 John F., 52
 John P., 44, 52, 62
 Maxfield
 Evelyn, 74
 McAllister
 Eva W., 65, 67
 Frank, 51, 65
 Hattie D., 47
 Ingalls, 67
 James W., 47
 Oliver S., 47
 Will, 74, 80
 McCabe
 Charles, 117, 118
 Vicky, 117
 McIntire
 Glenn R., 42
 McKeen
 Rosa, 47
 Mears
 Daniel, 1, 2
 Meister
 Jean, 115, 120
 Rebecca, 115, 120
 Merrill
 Daniel, 38
 Georgia A., 48

- Samuel H., 48
 Meserve, 97
 Miller
 James M., 16, 17, 21, 22, 30
 John B., 17
 Lorenzo D., 12, 16
 Lucy, 17
 Robert H., 17, 21
 Robert H. Jr., 21, 22
 Sarah Ann (Sawin), 22, 30
 Temperance, 17
 Millett
 Arthur, 49
 Mills
 Ernest, 66
 Moore
 Elsie (Stevens), 37
 Seth M., 37
 Morse
 Dennis, 118
 Mosher
 Peter E., 1
 Moxcey
 Eleanor, 96, 102, 111
 Roy, 96, 102, 111
 Nason
 George F., 47, 58
 Jude, 111, 119
 Peter, 107, 111, 115, 119
 Nelson
 Heather, 118
 Olson
 Lima Cheryl, 115, 120
 Paige
 Emily J., 48
 Paine
 Minnie, 62
 Palmer
 Flora, 38
 Julia A., 38
 Patch
 Annie, 38
 Patterson
 Burton, 66
 Winona (Holt), 66
 Paving road, 100, 107
 Perkins
 Winfield, 83
 Pingree
 L. F., 6
 Plummer, 102
 Potter
 Clarence, 62
 Proctor
 Benjamin, 1, 4, 9
 Daniel, 16
 Rand
 Miranda (Sawin), 27
 Moses, 27
 Nettie, 27
 Willis, 27
 Reed
 Matthew W., 21
 Riggs
 Ida (Bird), 76
 Ripley, 68
 Rev., 4
 Robinson
 D'Arcy, 118
 Peter, 118
 Russell
 James, 3, 1, 2, 3
 Sampson
 Chloe Elizabeth, 28
 Santora
 Barbara, 117
 Nicholas, 117
 Sawin, 68
 Annie, 49
 Antoinette (Hersey), 52, 60, 69, 74, 77, 79, 86,
 102, 107, 123
 Benjamin, 1, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 14, 19, 27, 40,
 122, 123, 124
 Charlotte M., 36, 41, 49
 Chloe Elizabeth (Sampson), 29, 34, 47
 Cora (Bean), 58
 D. Holden, 86, 90, 95, 96, 103
 Emma (Wentworth), 86, 90, 95, 103
 George, 4
 Grace, 49
 Hannah (Johnson), 6, 9, 14, 20
 Harry T., 58, 65
 Hazel, 49
 Henry, 4, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 14, 15, 19, 20, 27,
 29, 30, 34, 37, 40, 41, 44, 48, 53, 56, 58, 59,
 65, 66, 67, 85, 101, 114, 118, 123, 124
 Lewis A., 36, 41, 44, 48, 49, 60, 90
 Lewis H., 14, 20, 21, 22, 30, 31, 36, 37, 41
 Lydia (Abbott), 31, 36, 37, 40, 41, 48, 49, 53,
 60
 Martha, 4, 6, 14, 15
 Martha (Brown), 49, 60
 Mary, 4, 6
 Merritt N., 36, 41, 44, 48, 49, 53, 60, 62, 69,
 74, 77, 79, 86, 95, 96, 101, 102, 107, 110,
 118, 123
 Miranda, 14
 Rowena (Bird), 40, 56, 58, 66
 Sally (Johnson), 9, 14, 15, 20, 21, 27, 31, 36,
 40
 Sarah Ann, 14, 21

- Thomas, 4, 6, 9, 12, 14, 15, 20, 21, 27, 28, 31,
 36, 37, 40, 47, 58, 65, 67, 101, 106, 114
 Thomas Hubbard, 14, 28, 34, 47, 48, 58, 67
 William, 6
 Sawin Hill road change, 19
 Shedd
 Edgar, 65
 Lydia Lord, 62, 65
 St. Pierre
 Armand, 98, 111
 Beatrice H., 111
 Stevens
 Elsie L., 37
 Stone
 Anna, 41
 Fred, 41
 George W., 37, 41, 74
 Henry M., 16
 Sumner, 12
 Stowell, 7
 Barbara, 118
 Suarez
 Celinda, 119
 Luis A., 119
 Swett
 Calista (Abbott), 71
 Telephone access, 59
 Telephone line maintenance, 96
 Thayer, 88
 Town
 Susanna, 12, 16
 Town line change, 4, 6
 Townsend
 Stephanie, 107, 118
 Upton
 Maria, 29
 Verrill
 A. E., 23, 37
 Walker
 Dr., 5
 Wardwell
 Betsey, 12
 Isaac, 12
 Jacob, 10, 16
 James, 10
 Peter, 17
 Wentworth
 Ernest, 95, 98, 101, 108
 Fred, 95, 107, 111, 119
 Weymouth
 Pearl A., 65, 66, 67
 Wheeler
 Rowena Hutchinson, 70
 White
 Elizabeth (Kinsley), 118
 Whitehouse
 Lydia F., 42
 Whiting
 Frank, 117
 Leonisa (Johnson), 14
 Wendy (Kimball), 117, 124
 Whitney
 Charles, 15, 20, 30, 35, 36, 41, 48, 59, 66, 85,
 124
 Ellen, 19, 26, 30, 35, 124
 Martha (Sawin), 15, 20, 30, 34, 35, 36, 40, 41,
 59, 66, 85, 124
 Wight
 Clark, 34
 Wille
 Charles K., 119
 Margaret, 119
 Woodbury
 Abigail B., 34
 Agnes, 27, 47
 Andrew, 27, 34
 Arthur, 27
 George, 27, 34, 47
 Woodley
 Mabel, 44
 Willie, 44
 Woodward
 Linda, 120
 Richmond, 120
 York
 Caroline E., 27
 Charles, 44
 Charles W., 47, 76
 Elton B., 27
 Lucy A., 47
 Rosa, 76
 Willoughby, 47
 Young
 Lillian M., 48, 58
 Samuel, 48, 58