



THE SIBLEY PLACE - 1790
The First 200 Years

By Nancy Campbell
with Maps by Dick Campbell

278 Belknap Mountain Road
Gilford, New Hampshire

March, 1992
Second Edition, March 1994
Third Edition, October 2002
Fourth Edition, October 2007

SOURCES

Registry of Probate, Strafford County (1771-1841)

Registry of Probate, Belknap County

Registry of Deeds, Belknap County

Copies of Strafford County Deeds before 1841 at Belknap County Registry

Vital Records--Gilford Town Clerk's Office

Vital Records--State of New Hampshire

THE HISTORY OF GILMANTON by Daniel Lancaster (1845)

THE HISTORY OF GILFORD by J. P. Watson (1885)

THE GILFORD STORY published by Thompson Ames Historical Society in August
1962

RICHMOND ILLINOIS TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES Records, Daniel Weeks Jr. family.

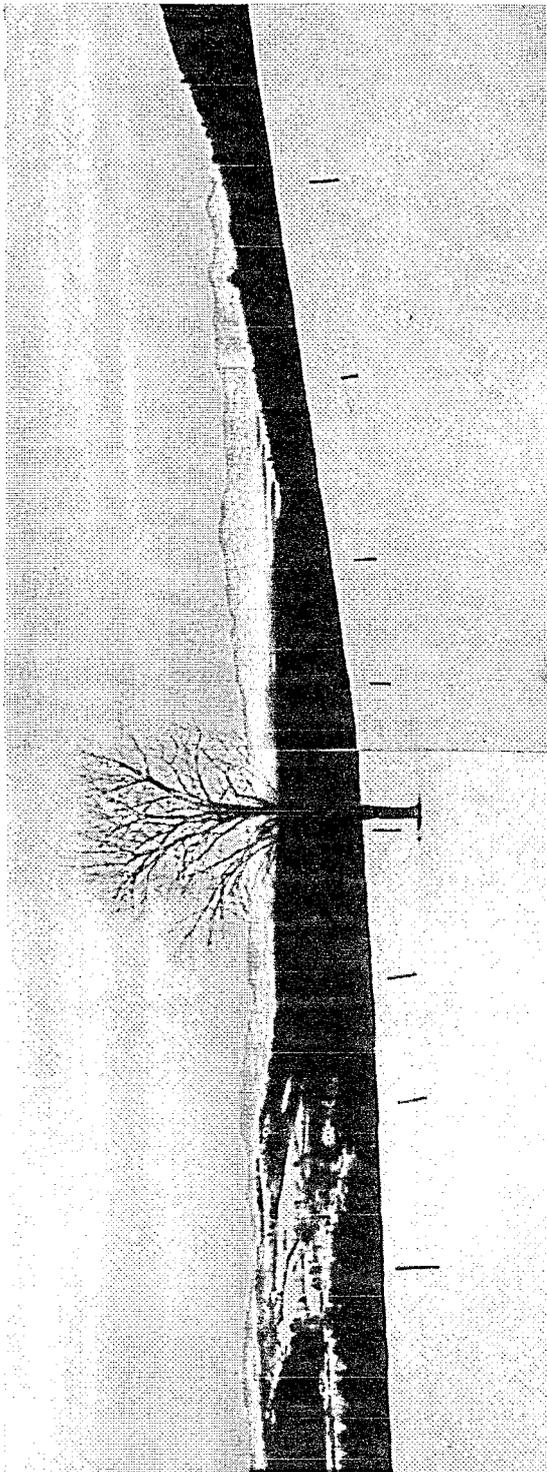
NOTE: This is a true account of what the people did, from the above sources; but what they thought is conjecture suggested by these facts.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

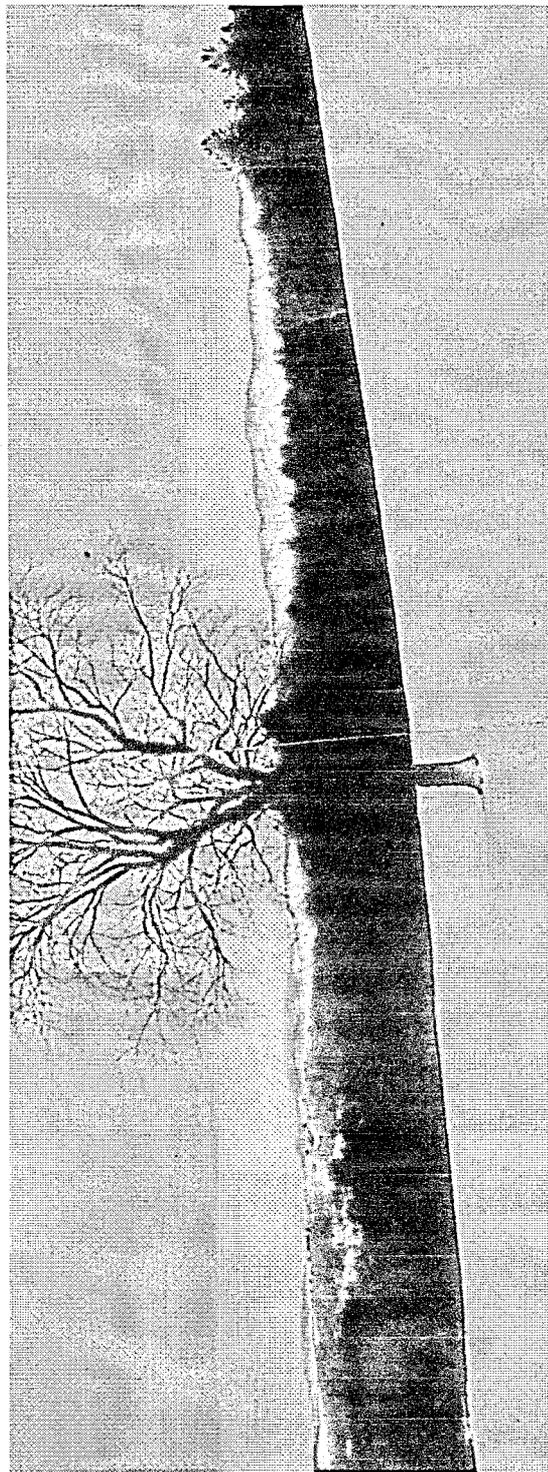
	PAGE
Chapter 1 WILLIAM SIBLEY, SR.	1
Chapter 2 WILLIAM SIBLEY, JR.	11
Chapter 3 SALLY (SIBLEY) ELKINS & JOHN ELKINS	25
Chapter 4 SALLY (SIBLEY) (ELKINS) SAWYER & JOSIAH SAWYER	30
Chapter 5 ANN P. (ELKINS) WEEKS & DANIEL WEEKS, JR.	38
Chapter 6 PAUL GRANT & MARIAM M. (JEWETT) GRANT	42
Chapter 7 DANIEL HOIT & AMANDA (JEWETT) HOIT	47
Chapter 8 HENRY W. JOHNSON & AUGUSTA M. JOHNSON	51
Chapter 9 FRED R. WEEKS & LENA D. WEEKS	52
Chapter 10 MERRILL O. BATES & BARBARA T. BATES	55
Chapter 11 LOUIS RAY & BLANCHE RAY	57
Chapter 12 DICK & NANCY CAMPBELL	59
Chapter 13 THE HOUSE	62
Chapter 14 WATER (IN AND OUT)	67
Chapter 15 FLORA AND FAUNA	70
Chapter 16 THE McLAUGHLIN PLACE	73
Addendum, June 1998	79

MAPS and Pictures

VIEWS TO THE NORTH		Inside Cover
DIVISION OF WILLIAM SIBLEY ESTATE, 1793		10
THE SIBLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ABOUT 1820		24
SIBLEY FAMILY TREE		41
THE SIBLEY PLACE AS A SKI LODGE		54
THE OLD BARN		66
SEPTIC SYSTEM LOCATIONS		69
THE SIBLEY FARM 1994		78



1962 Winter View



1994 Winter View

VIFW from the SIBIFY PI ACF

Both pictures taken from the easternmost living room window.
The Cherry Tree in the foreground was destroyed by the ice storm of 1998.

CHAPTER I WILLIAM SIBLEY, SR.

On July 8, 1762, William Sibley was married to Sarah Shaw in Kensington, New Hampshire. While they were living at Kensington, they had three children: Samuel, Abigail and William. With his family growing, William was interested in a larger farm and found out about the properties available up in Gilmanton through his aunt Sarah Sibley Gilman. An account of her coming to Gilmanton follows. This is taken from THE HISTORY OF GILMANTON by Daniel Lancaster (1845):

"Captain Summersbee Gilman was a son of Col. Daniel Gilman of Exeter and was born October 10, 1734. He was a brother of Hon. Nicholas Gilman, Senator, and an uncle to John Taylor Gilman of Exeter, late Governor of New Hampshire. He held the office of Captain in the French War, was out when Washington was Colonel, and commanded the company in which Capt. John Moody was at that time a private.

"In 1755, he married Sarah Sibley, a sister of Littlefield Sibley, by whom he had 11 children. He moved his family into town on the 10th of November, 1764. He then had six dollars in his pocket, for which, it is said, he was offered 600 acres of land on the hill where Jeremiah Wilson, Esq. now lives. He however declined the purchase as his father had given him the farm on which Judge Cogswell afterwards settled. Here he had put up a camp, and to this he repaired; but the road, which had just been opened that year, was so rough that in going down Garret Hill, the cart on which his furniture was carried was upset and all the crockery which they had brought from Exeter, was broken. He soon erected a framed house, at the raising of which all the men in town were present with their wives; and as the number of men was insufficient, the women stood at foot of the posts while the men raised the broad side. He afterwards removed to the lot now owned and occupied by Richard Rogers. He was one of the petitioners for the first town meeting in 1766, and served as Selectman in 1768 and in 1781. He was also very active in building the Congregational Meeting House, and in procuring soldiers in the Revolutionary struggle. He died June 26, 1786, in his 52nd year."

In the early 1770's, William Sibley acquired his property on Garret Hill, Lots 28 and 29 in the first division of 40 acre lots. According to the Charter of Gilmanton, written on May 13, 1727, the Proprietors were to "build seventy dwelling houses and settel (sic) a family in each, or cause the same to be done, and clear three acres of ground fit for planting or mowing, and that each proprietor pay his proportion of the town charges." Because of the threat from Indians during the French and Indian War, settlement of the town did not

begin until the end of 1762. It was not until 1773 that William Sibley and his family came to settle (from THE HISTORY OF GILMANTON by Daniel Lancaster).

A crude dwelling and barn already were on the site and William, with the help of neighbors, was able to build a permanent house. The land was improved for farming and he planted apple trees. He had 67 acres of land for hayfields, pasture and wood lot.

When the family moved to Gilmanton, the children were around ten, seven and five years old. The first schoolmaster taught in private houses, starting in 1772. School was kept in homes until 1778 when it was voted at Town Meeting that there would be six schools established. One of these was at Joshua Bean's Mill. This first grist mill in the town was located just down the hill from the Sibley farm, and the schoolhouse was built across the road. Samuel, Abigail and William would have attended this school.

Besides his work in developing the land and establishing the farm, William was the first merchant in the town of Gilmanton. It is presumed that he carried on this business from his home, delivering his goods by horse and cart to his customers in the community. Since the homemakers of that era had to make everything for the family to wear, it was essential that they have the utensils with which to do this. Among the kinds of goods which William sold were: flat irons, thimbles, knitting needles, Dutch lace and thread, flax combs, looms, and spinning wheels. He also provided nails and hardware for buildings.

Three years after his arrival in Gilmanton, in 1776, Private William Sibley was among 20 men who joined the Army and they marched under George Washington to New York. They were out for over three months.

Meanwhile, his wife was taking care of the household and the farm with the help of her children. While Samuel was only 13; Abigail, 10; and William, 8; children took on responsibilities early in those days and were a tremendous help to their mother during their father's absence.

In September 1781, another Sibley answered the call to service. Samuel, now 18 years old, served for 2 months when a portion of the Militia was needed.

William had 6 more children from 1774 through 1784. These children were: John, Caleb, Nathaniel, Hannah, Polly, and Joseph. It is not clear from the records when Sarah died, possibly before William moved to Gilmanton. Since there was a space of six years between the birth of William and the next

one, John, it raises the question that there may have been a second wife who bore these six children. However, we found no record of a second marriage.

Presumably William became a widower again, because on July 27, 1786, he and Lydia Hopkinson, of Gilmanton, were married by the Reverend Isaac Smith in Gilmanton. Lydia was 28 years old, and this was her first marriage. They had one son, George Littlefield Sibley, born in 1788.

Shortly before his marriage to Lydia, William purchased from John White of Plaistow one-half of a hundred-acre lot, #10 in the 14th range of hundred acre lots, in the Upper Parish. Following is that deed:

From Belknap County Courthouse

Copies of Strafford County Deeds

3-331 Know all men by these presents that I John White of Plastow in the County of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire in New England, esqr. for and in consideration of Thirty nine pounds Twelve shillings Lawful Money to me in hand paid by William Sibley of Gilmantown in the County of Strafford and State aforesaid, husbandman. To my full satisfaction and content do give, grant, bargain, sell, alien convey and confirm unto him the sd. William Sibley and to his heirs and assigns forever--The one half for Quantity and Quality for one certain hundred acre lott of Land lying in said Gilmantown number ten in the fourteenth range laid out to the original right of Samuel Gilman the Third for his second hundred lot to have and to hold the said granted and bargained premises with the privileges and appurtenances to him the said William Sibley and to his heirs and assigns as an Estate in fee simple forever. And I the said John White for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators do covenant and engage to and with the sd. William Sibley and his heirs and assigns that I am lawfully seized of the premises in fee, that I have good right to sell them, that they are free of all incumbrances. And I will warrant and defend them against the lawful claims or demands of all Persons whatsoever.

In witness whereof, I have set my hand and seal this nineteenth day of July in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty six.

In presencs of us

Peasley Badger

Joseph Badger

Signed: John White

Joseph Badger

Justice of the Peace

July 19, 1786

Received for Record August 28th, 1800

On March 22, 1790, William purchased the whole of the next 100 acre lot to the north. Lot 9 in the 14th range was bought from Thomas Cogswell of Gilmanton who had acquired the property from the original Proprietor, Eleazer Russell of Portsmouth.

Following are excerpts from these two deeds:

3-330 Thomas Cogswell of Gilmantown in the County of Strafford and State of New Hampshire, Esqr. For and in consideration of ninety pounds lawful money to me in hand sold to William Sibley of the same Gilmantown, husbandman . . . one Certain one hundred acre lott of Land Lying in sd. Gilmantown and is number nine in the fourteenth range laid out to the original right of Eleazer Russell for his first hundred acre Lott in said Town.

In presence of:

Cogswell

William Foster

Joseph Badger

Signed:

Thomas

March 22, 1790

Received for Record August 28, 1800

1-617 Know all men by these Presents that we Eleazer Russell Esqr., Anna Russell, single woman, and Martha Russell, single woman, all of Portsmouth in the County of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire, for and in consideration of the sum of Six hundred Spanish milled dollars sold to Thomas Cogswell of Gilmantown in the County of Strafford and State aforesaid, Esqr. . . one whole right or proprietors share of land in said Gilmantown being the original right of Eleazer Russell Esqr. late of said Portsmouth deceased and containing all the land drawn or to be drawn to said right or share in said Gilmantown, be the same more or less.

In Presence of:

Danl Humphrey

George Gains

Signed:

E. Russell

Martha Russell

Anna Russell

March 20, 1790

Received August 21, 1790

This land acquisition was an investment he made for his large family. He died shortly after buying the second lot. It is possible that William attempted to assist William Jr. to clear the land and prepare to build the house and that contributed to his death. He was about 50 years old when he died. Apparently, he did not anticipate his death because he had not prepared a will. As of August 16, 1790, in the Inventory of William Sibley's Estate, it is stated there was the one half of the hundred acre lot in the Upper Parish with the buildings, boards and shingles thereon, which establishes the date the house was built.

Lydia Sibley was appointed Administratrix of his estate. Following is the Inventory of William Sibley's Estate which helps to show what they had and how they lived at that time:

INVENTORY OF WILLIAM SIBLEY, SR.--AUGUST 10, 1790

Wearing apparel	£ 3, 2, 0
One watch	3, 0, 0
Two tea spoons	2, 6
40 lb pewter and one black tin tea pot	2, 1, 0
13 lb. new pewter	1, 1, 0
Five beds, bedsteads and bedding at 5 £ each	25, 0, 0
One small bed	3, 15, 0
2 M bricks	1, 8, 0
Tin ware	3, 0
Half dozen Queen China plates	2, 0
One mug bowl and cups and saucers	3, 0
Knives and forks	4, 0
Brown ware	2, 0
Iron hollow ware	1, 16, 0
Flat irons	2, 0
Two trammels, shovel and tongs	15, 0
Frying pan and toast irons	3, 0
Warming pan	2, 0
Skimmer and ladle, 2 iron candlesticks	3, 6
2 pair Scales and Weights	9, 0
Stilliards	7, 0

5 Looking glafses	14, 0
One case and bottles	8, 0
Eight junk bottles	2, 0
One drinking glafs, vinegar cruse & salt cellar	1, 7
9 dozen Thimbles & half pound knitting needles	5, 0
2 Oz. sewing silk and silk handkerchief	9, 0
Dutch lace and thread	1, 0
Ten pounds Indigo	3, 0, 0
Gause and three combs	5, 0
Table linnen	1, 2, 8
Books	6, 0
Cash	43, 1, 9
One desk	2, 14, 0
Five tables	1, 13, 0
One high case of drawers	1, 16, 0
One low case of drawers	<u>6, 0</u>
	100, 06, 0
1 dozen small chairs & three great chairs	1, 07, 0
Old cask	1, 3, 0
Old chests	8, 6
Flax comb	6, 0
One loom and furniture	1, 10, 0
Tubs, trays, pails and boxes	12, 0
Four spinning wheels	1, 4, 0
One iron bason and salt mortar	5, 0
Two iron crows	1, 1, 0
Two Sickles	2, 5
One gun	18, 0
Two saddles	1, 2, 0
Saddle bags	17, 0
Four meal bags	8, 0
Fifteen harrow teeth	15, 0
One Fro and drawing knife	3, 0
Four hoes	12, 0
Two Sithes	13, 6
One drag	4, 0

Two axes	10,	0
Shoemakers tools	3,	0
Three sleds	12,	0
Wheels and cart	1, 2,	0
Yokes	16,	0
Two shod shovels	5,	0
Four rakes	3,	6
Two forks	2,	0
One half bushel, 1 pr. cards & 1 pr. shears	4,	0
Four thousand nails	1, 2,	8
1600 feet boards 500 feet plank	1, 10,	0
Three hogs	7, 10,	0
2 Pair Oxen	18, 0,	0
Three 3-year-old Steers	9, 10,	0
Three yearlings	4, 10,	0
Two Cows	6, 0,	0
Two Heifers	4, 10,	0
Three calves	2, 8,	0
Thirty sheep	9, 0,	0
One horse saddle and bridle	6,	0

Sixty seven acres of land, 40 acres of said Land is the Lot No. 28 in the 1st Range and 21 acres of the Lot no. 14 in the 3rd Range of 100 acre lots, and 6 acres out of the Lot No. 29 in the 1st Range

of 40 acre lots with the buildings thereon. 165, 16, 6

100 Acres of land lying in the upper parish No. 9 in the fourteenth range 90, 0, 0

The one half of an hundred acre lot of land in the upper parish with the buildings boards and shingles thereon, it being No 10 in the fourteenth range

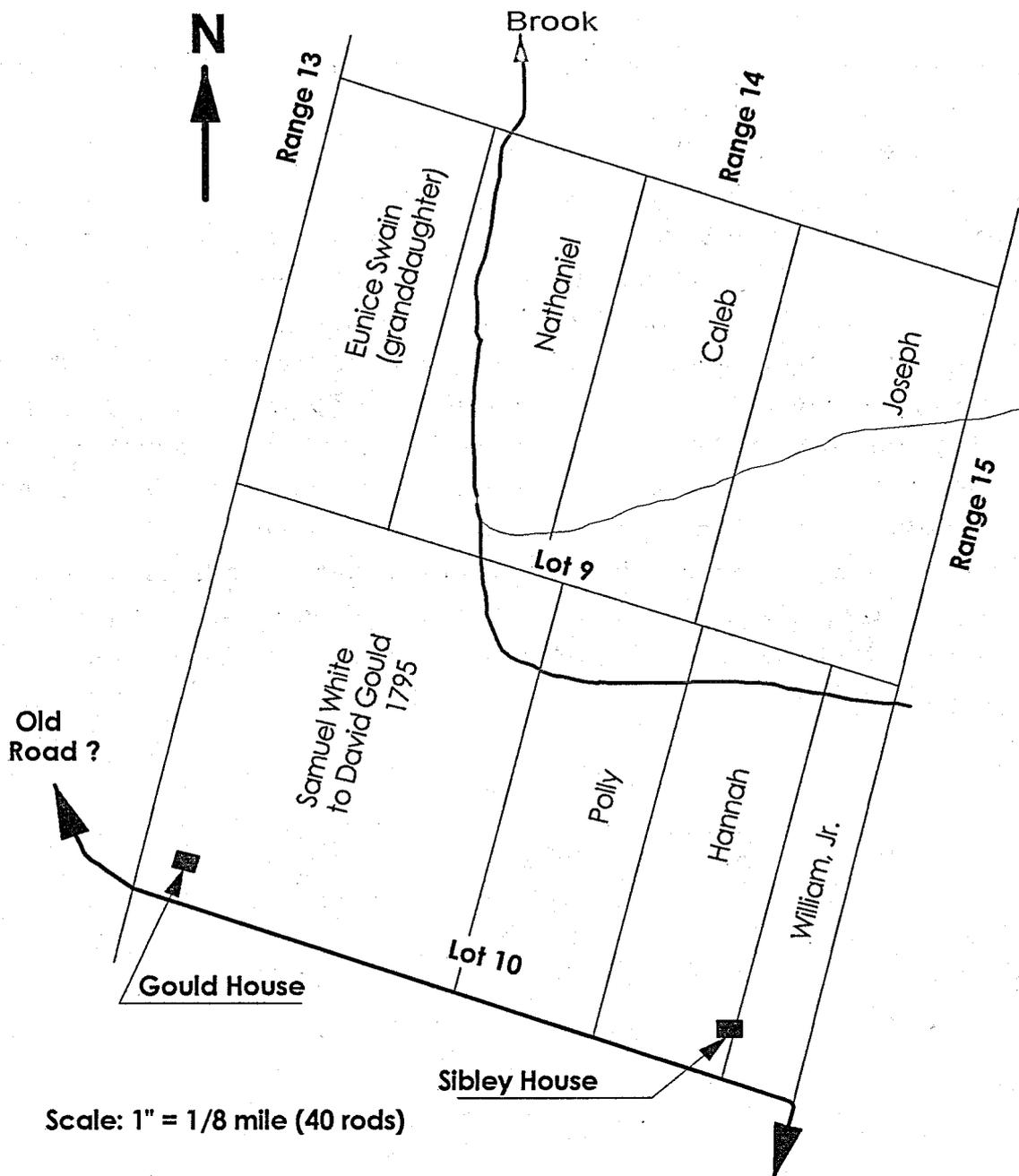
90, 0, 0

435, 9, 7

and the shares of sons John and Littlefield (later known as George L.) made up the farm in the lower parish.

The eastern half of Lot 10 was divided: 18 rods (11+ acres) at the easterly end "with the house and barn standing on the same" to William; 36 rods (22.5 acres) west of William's to Hannah; and 36 rods west of Hannah's to Polly. (Unfortunately, this doesn't add up. $18 + 36 + 36 = 90$, but the half-lot should have contained only 80 rods. Probably William only got 8 rods, or 5 acres, as a narrow strip along the east side of the lot, next to the rangeway, with the line following the present hedgerow between two fields.) This would put the buildings mostly on Hannah's land, not William's, but since Hannah remained a spinster and lived on the place, this did not matter. The buildings seem to have been William's, even if they were on Hannah's land.

Lot 9 was divided into four parts: the easterly 46 rods (approximately 29 acres) to Joseph; next 40 rods (25 acres) to Caleb; 40 rods (25 acres) to Nathaniel; and the remainder, 34 rods (or about 21 acres) to granddaughter Eunice Swain.



DIVISION OF WILLIAM SIBLEY ESTATE, 1793

First, the previously undivided William Sibley and Samuel White shares of lot 10 were set apart, and then the Sibley land in lots 9 and 10 was divided into seven parts as shown.

William Sibley, Jr., bought Nathaniel's share when Nathaniel died in 1795. William bought Caleb's share in 1798, Polly's in 1804, and Joseph's in 1805. William then sold to Joseph all of Nathaniel's share and 15 acres of Caleb's. About 1808, Joseph added what had been Eunice Swain's share and about 17 acres adjoining in range 13, establishing what was to become the Rowe farm. In 1810, he sold to Jesse Thing, who built the first house there. In 1815, Thing sold to Benjamin Rowe.

By 1805, the boundaries of the Sibley farm were established: about 50 acres in lot 10, range 14, and 40 acres in lot 9, range 14, although title to part of the land remained with Hannah, the spinster sister, until her death in 1832. These boundaries remained unchanged for 150 years.

CHAPTER 2--WILLIAM SIBLEY, JR.

On September 6, 1792, a couple of years after his father's death, William, now 24 years old, married Anna Thing, 23 years old, from Brentwood. They were married in Exeter by the Reverend William F. Rowland. By this time, William had worked very hard on the house in the Upper Parish, to which he brought his bride.

After Lydia Sibley fulfilled her duty as administratrix of William Sibley's Estate in 1793, she married David Boynton of Gilmanton. In 1794, she would have been 36 years old. On March 28, 1793, six of William Sibley's children were placed into guardianship by the Court of Probate, Strafford County. Jothan Gilman, a Gilmanton neighbor, was appointed guardian to John, Caleb and Nathaniel Sibley--minors over 14 years of age. Young William Sibley became the guardian of Hannah, Polly and Joseph--minors under the age of 14. Lydia Sibley was appointed guardian to her son, Littlefield. It had been 2-1/2 years since the time of William's death, and it was a great responsibility for Lydia to take care of so many children, especially the last six months after William was married and moved. When she decided to marry David Boynton, it is not known whether he wouldn't or couldn't take the children.

When Littlefield Sibley was about 15 years old, Simeon Taylor was appointed his guardian. Lydia, who had been made his guardian following William Sibley's death, was 44 years old at this time and lived on for 27 years. Whether this change in guardianship was initiated by David Boynton and Lydia or requested by Littlefield is not known. Possibly, there was friction among the half-brothers or with David Boynton, and it was deemed to be to Littlefield's advantage to be placed elsewhere. Following is the document from probate records of Strafford County: "The Court of Probate holden before the Honourable Ebenezer Smith, Esq., within and for said County on the 27th day of May, 1802, Simeon Taylor of Gilmanton, Gentleman, was chosen and allowed to be guardian unto Littlefield Sibley, a minor upwards of fourteen years of age, and son of William Sibley, late of Gilmanton, Yeoman, deceased, the said minor being now a resident in said Gilmanton, who gave bond in the sum of \$800 with sureties to wit Joseph Bartlett, Yeoman, and Daniel Avery, Trader, both of Gilmanton aforesaid for the faithful discharge of that trust according to law."

Eighteen years later, George L. (Littlefield) Sibley of Meredith in a deed to David Boynton, Sr., Gilmanton, quitclaims for \$300.00 . ." a certain tract of land situate in said Gilmanton and containing all the dower which was sett off to Lydia Boynton, late widow of William Sibley of said Gilmanton lately deceased in the Estate of the said William, and now in the possession of David Boynton husband of said Lydia, hereby intending to quit claim to all the estate of the said William late of Gilmanton, deceased."

David and Lydia Boynton lived at the Sibley farm on Garret Hill. Records show that there were two sons, David, Jr. and Jonathan. June 9, 1821, David Boynton deeded this farm to David Jr. and Jonathan coming into "the full and quiet possession of said premises at the decease of my wife, Lydia Boynton". The elder David Boynton died that year. Lydia lived until 1829. In 1857, one of the Boynton boys was declared insane and a guardian was appointed.

Back in the Upper Parish, Anna and William had six months alone in their house as newlyweds. Then when William became a guardian, he brought his siblings into the homestead in March 1793. Joseph was 9; Polly, 11; Hannah, 13; and Nathaniel, 15. Since Nathaniel was not strong, William wanted to take care of his brother himself, even though Jotham Gilman was the appointed guardian. Presumably, Joseph and Polly were in the household for around 10 years. Polly married John Crosby of Gilford, and Joseph became a trader in Salem, Massachusetts. Nathaniel was a sickly boy and died in 1794 at the age of 16. Maybe he had tuberculosis, or consumption, as they called it at that time. Hannah lived with the family for 39 years. She died in 1832 at 52. Both Nathaniel and Hannah Sibley have a shared marker in the Weeks Cemetery in Gilford.

December 1, 1794, William Sibley was appointed administrator of the Estate of Nathaniel Sibley, and license to sell the estate of Nathaniel was granted January 20, 1795. Benjamin Weeks, Joseph Jones and Jeremiah Bartlet took an Inventory of Nathaniel's estate on January 15, 1795. The estate was as follows:

25 acres of land at 4 dollars per acre	£ 30, 0, 0
1 Hat part worn at 3 s,	3, 0
Top Coat, 2 pairs breeches and one jacket	<u>10, 6</u>
Total	30, 13, 6

N.B. Their (sic) is £ 5,0,0 in Jotham Gilman's hands, the guardian for the deceased as we are informed."

Administration Account of William Sibley, Administrator:

Personal estate	£	5,	13,	6
Real estate sold		<u>22,</u>	<u>16,</u>	<u>0</u>
Total		28,	9,	6
Paid Judge		0,	9,	6
Paid appraisers		1,	4,	0
Journey to return inventory			12,	0
Journey to take administration, etc.			12,	0
Doctor's Bill		5,	8,	0
Boarding and Nursing 62 weeks		10,	12,	0
Funeral, etc.			<u>12,</u>	<u>0</u>
Total		24,	7,	2
		28,	9,	6
Balance		4,	2,	4

In 1794, William and Anna had their only child, Sally. Now there would have been six in the household. Little Polly would have been twelve and a help to Anna with the baby. Joseph, at ten, could have helped his brother with farm chores. Polly and Joseph had some schooling in the winter months, whether this was still being done in the homes or a neighborhood school is not known. While Hannah stayed with them the longest, she was probably more of a burden than help. She was not very bright, unable to attend school, and on legal documents such as a deed and her will, she was capable only of marking an "X" for her signature.

William was a very busy man keeping the farm running for his family. Like many of the people of his time, he was occupied a lot with deeds. In March 1795, Strafford County Deed 3-331, William acquired Nathaniel's share (25 acres, third share from east of Lot 9), for \$76 (22 pounds, 6 shillings). Three years later, 1798, Strafford County Deed 3-339, he gets Caleb's share (25 acres, second share from east of Lot 9), for \$200. Caleb is now 22 years old and listed as a "wheelwright, of Kensington". It wasn't until April 1804 that William could afford to pick up more of the land inherited by his brother and sister. Polly's share (22.5 acres in lot 10, abutting Gould) he bought for \$200, Strafford County Deed 5-334. Polly was 22 years old at this time and not yet married to John Crosby of Gilford. The following February, William was able to acquire Joseph's share, Strafford County Deed 5-484 (29 acres at end of lot 9) for \$250. Joseph is still "Yeoman, of Gilmantown" in 1805, but later is "trader, of Salem, Essex County, Massachusetts".

At this time, William sells brother Joseph, Strafford County Deed 5-210, all of Nathaniel's share and 15 acres of Caleb's share (40 acres total) for \$400. This is described as being bounded on the west by land of Jacob Whittier (Eunice's share). These transactions should leave William with 39 acres in the east part of lot 9, and 27.5 acres, his own share plus Polly's 22.5 acres, in lot 10 (66.5 acres total). Sister Hannah owns the remaining 22.5 acres in lot 10.

Joseph acquires Eunice's share of lot 9 in 1808, plus adjoining land in range 13, from Simeon Hoyt, Strafford County Deed 5-211. In 1810, Joseph, of Salem, Massachusetts by this time, sells all the land he bought from Simeon Hoyt plus the 40 acres he bought from William to Jesse Thing, Strafford County deed 5-485. Five years later, Jesse Thing sells to Benjamin Rowe, Strafford County deed 7-178. The description of the part in Range 13 says "on which the buildings on said farm now stands, which buildings are included".

In February 1795, David Gould buys Samuel White's interest in lot 10, 14th range--western half. Following is that deed:

Strafford County Deed 3-175

Know all men by these presents, that I Samuel White of Haverhill in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Esqr. in consideration of Sixty Pounds lawful Money already paid me by David Gould of Gilmantown in the County of Stafford, State of New Hampshire, Yeoman, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge have given, granted, bargained and sold and by these presents do give, grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff, convey and confirm unto him the said David Gould and his heirs and assigns forever One undivided half for Quantity and Quality of an hundred acre lot of land lying in Gilmantown which lot was laid out to the original Right or Share of Samuel Gilman Junr. or Samuel Gilman the third, it being (as the said Gould saith) lot Number Ten in the Fourteenth Range which land I bought of Samuel Gilman Junr. as by his Deed to me bearing Date the twenty fifth Day of August, Seventeen hundred and fifty two will appear. . . . In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal this twenty first day of February in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety five.

In presence of us:

Signed:

Saml. White

Eliphalet Noyes

Samuel Butters

Received June 4, 1799

This was the Gould farm for many years and later the Hatch farm.

It is not known when the "Under the Mountain" school near the top of Hoyt Road, behind the Weeks' house, was built, but it was on the premises in 1819 when Benjamin Weeks Esq. deeded the school land to the School District. On November 11, 1819, he conveyed to James Hoit, Joseph Thing and Joseph Sleeper (A School Committee) for \$3.00 part of Lot #12 in the 14th range of 100 acre lots for the use of School District #9. One of the bounds stated "parallel with the back side of said schoolhouse". The amount of land was 1/8th of an acre.

By the time Sally was ready for school, about 1800, there might have been this schoolhouse or one somewhere else in the neighborhood. There she would have had an opportunity to be with youngsters more her age. She was a precocious child, having had a lot of attention from her Aunt Polly and Uncle Joseph, as well as her doting parents. She enjoyed helping her mother with the household tasks and particularly liked the outdoor chores. She would dawdle in the fields and pastures when she was sent out on errands. Back then, they checked on the sheep frequently and worked hard on the walls and the fences to prevent the animals from straying into undeveloped property. In those days, there were wild animals to be considered. In 1786, the Town of Gilmanton had voted to pay \$10.00 bounty for every grown wolf, and \$5.00 for every whelp caught during the ensuing year. Two years later, a bounty of 9 pounds per head was offered for catamounts. In 1795, the bounty on wolves was discontinued because the bounty was being abused. But in 1809, the wild beasts continued to be a problem because the bounty was reinstated; same amount as before for wolves, and \$5.00 for wild cats, the carcasses to be disfigured by the Selectmen so that they could not be presented for bounty the second time.

In 1792, a petition was presented from the Upper Parish to be set off into another town. This petition was referred to a Committee of twelve. On request, liberty was given to the people of Gunstock Parish to saw lumber for their Meeting House. Again in 1808 and 1810, a petition to separate the Upper Parish was presented, and it was voted not to divide the Town. The separation was eventually accomplished in 1812, and the new town was named Gilford.

The Union Meeting House was erected after 1792 and was a gathering place for many of the citizens. Going to church was not only for religious purposes but was a social opportunity for the families to go out and mingle with

other people. It was likely through such activities that Sally Sibley met John Elkins of Gilford.

John Elkins and Sally were married December 1, 1814, by the Reverend William Blaisdell. So John now comes to live at the Sibley Place. Of William's siblings, only Hannah is still in the household, so there are five. In 1815, Anna P. Elkins, only child of John and Sally Elkins, is born. Since John was helping on the farm, they continued to live here. By Strafford County deed 10-16 William sells to daughter Sally five acres abutting Gould, part of Lot 10, for "one dollar and much love and good will". This he did in 1821, followed in August 1824 by Strafford County Deed 11-115 selling to his son-in-law, John Elkins, for \$600 "one undivided third of my homestead" in lots 9 and 10. December, 1826, Strafford County Deed 11-115 John Elkins mortgages one third "with the exception of 5 acres . . . 86 acres more or less" to Joseph Thing for \$100. It is presumed that Joseph Thing was a brother of Anna Thing Sibley because he was involved in so many Sibley family's affairs.

On August 13, 1827, William Sibley prepared his will. Either he was being careful and considerate, or he had symptoms that he was declining physically which necessitated this action. On the same day, he signed a warranty deed Strafford County deed 12-46 to his spinster sister Hannah for "easterly part of lots 9 and 10 . . . containing the whole of my homestead farm" for \$500. There was no release of dower from William's wife, Anna. William also arranged for a guardian for Hannah so she would not be a burden to the family after his demise.

On October 5, 1827, (from the Registry of Probate, Strafford County 30-146), Joseph Thing of Gilford in said County was duly appointed Guardian of Hannah Sibley, a non compos mentis person and gave Bond to the Judge of Probate for said County in the sum of \$1000, with sureties to wit, William Sibley of Gilford and Geo. L. Sibley of Meredith, for the faithful discharge of that trust.

The Inventory of Estate of Hannah Sibley 38-49, now under Guardianship was done by Barnard Morrill, Joseph Sleeper and Joseph Sanborn, Jr. on January 16, 1828. The Real Estate consisting of 22 acres 125 rods of land by measure and is part of lot #10 in the 14th range of hundred acre lots in said Gilford, valued at \$15 per acre

	341.72
Cash	23.63
1 bed, bedding, bedstead	15.79
Wearing apparel of said Hannah	30.84

Household furniture	<u>1.85</u>
Total	413.83

Three years later, Joseph Thing filed an account of his guardianship with the probate court. (Strafford County registry of probate, Book 41, page 473.)

The account is copied here in full:

Account of Hannah Sibley Guardianship by Joseph Thing, Esqr.
1827

To Advertising	1.25
To one day over to the Judge's Atkinson he was gone	2.00
To one day over to the Judge's and had the appraisers appointed and got the warrant	2.00
1828 Jany	
To notifying the Appraisers of thear duty	.50
To paid Barnard Morrill Joseph Sleeper Joseph Sanborn, Jr. for thear Services as appraisers and making the invoices of Hannah Sibley's estate	2.50
My services shoing the property . . and finding where the land is . . .	2.00
To 1/2 lb tobacco 1/3d haircomb 1/3d 3/4 yd calco 1/3d	.55
May 18	
To one day work fencing picking stones etc.	.75
Aug 6	
To cutting eight tons of hay got it in the barn borded the man	16.00
To selling grass and hay	1.00
To paid Anna Sibley executor of William Sibley will for boarding Hannah Sibley from the 8th of October 1827 to 22d of June 1828 which was 37 weeks at 4/6 per week	27.75
To settling with and paying Anna Sibley	.50
To Anna Sibley 16 dollars worth of hay in part for boarding Hannah	16.00
Sept 27	
To paid Anna Sibley in part for boarding and nursing Hannah Sibley\	9.13
To interest on twelve dollars one year my money paid	<u>.72</u>
	82.65
To highway tax for 1828 assessed Hannah's land	.86
1829 Jany 17	
To paid State county town school and school house taxes for the year 1828 which was 85 cents	.85
To trouble of Setling and paying taxes for 1828	.25
To leather to mend shoes	.12
Feby 7	
To Anna Sibley in part for boarding Hannah Sibley	.50
December 31	

To paid Anna Sibley for boarding and nursing Hannah Sibley in full for 46-1/2 weeks	17.49
To my services Setling with Anna Sibley for keeping Hannah Sibley 1830 Jany 30	1.00
To paid Benjamin Jewett 3d Esq for qualifiing the appraisers of Hannah Sibley's property and making the affidavitts March 2d	.67
To paid Hannah Sibley's money tax for the year 1829	.90
To my trouble paying taxes setling with Jewett &c	.25
To paid John Elkins for boarding and Nursing Hannah Sibley forty six weeks @ 4/6 per week	34.50
To paid John Elkins for boarding and nursing Hannah Sibley Six weeks when sick 6/ per week	6.00
To interest on fifty one dollars one and half years	4.50
To setling with John Elkins for keeping Hannah Sibley and contracting for the year to come	1.00
To paid highway tax for 1829 April	.60
To paid for advertising in the Spy for Settlement	.75
To trouble of advertising in the Spy	.25
May 10	
To preparing my account and other papers for settlement	1.00
To attending probate court in Gilford for settlement	<u>1.50</u>
	155.62
1831 May 18	
To paid John Elkins in part for the support of Hannah Sibley	18.91
To paid Money tax for the year 1830	.96
To paid highway tax	.59
To paid John Elkins in full for the Support of Hannah Sibley to May 18, 1831 twenty four dollars which was the income of her land in the year 1830	24.00
To one day Setling with John Elkins for keeping Hannah Sibley up to the present time and contracting for the year to come	1.00
To interest on seventy eight dollars and fifty four cents one year and two months my money paid for Hannah's support	5.48
To one pr shoes 1.50 two aprons .85	<u>2.35</u>
	208.92
(signed) Joseph Thing	
Contra cr By me Joseph Thing for my ward	
1827 Jan 15 By cash on hand	23.63
1828 Aug 7 By eight tons hay	32.00
By sold grass standing	5.40
Sept 27 By sold the income of your pasture tillage and orchard	10.00

1829 July	By the income of Hannah Sibley's land	
	Sold it for	24.00
1830 March 22	By a note of hand against John Elkins which	
	the Appraisers thought not worth appraising which is paid	3.62
May 18	By sold the income of Hannah Sibley's land	
	in the year 1830	<u>24.00</u>
		122.65
		208.92
		<u>122.65</u>
		86.27

Strafford ss . . . twelfth day of September A D 1831
. . . I do therefore approve and decree that there
is upon said account a ballance of eighty six
dollars and twenty seven cents due the said
Guardian.

Daniel C. Atkinson Judge of Probate

* (Note that although the accounting was in dollars and cents they still thought in shillings and pence, at 6 shillings to the dollar. Thus 4/6, or 4 shillings sixpence, would be \$.75.)

Hannah lived another year after this report was filed, but we don't have any further detail on Joseph Thing's guardianship.

In December 1827 Strafford County deed 12-46, John and Sally Elkins and Anna Sibley sell to Joseph Thing for \$200 "one undivided third part of the homestead farm now in the occupancy of William Sibley . . . by estimation 75 acres . . . in our possession jointly with said William Sibley and is the same that I bought of same Sibley". Anna Sibley, wife of William, relinquishes her right of dower (The 75 acre figure doesn't add up.) Deed signed by Anna and witnessed by William.

William Sibley died in 1828 at the age of 60. He is buried in the Weeks Cemetery. On July 5 of that year, Anna Sibley was appointed Executrix. William Sibley's will from Strafford County Probate Book 37-, page 376 follows:

"First: I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Anna Sibley my eight day clock and my red mare and my one-horse waggon, together with harnessing to the same belonging. I do also give and bequeath unto my only Child Sally Elkins, wife of John Elkins, fifty Dollars to be paid in three equal yearly payments, the first payment to be in one year from my Decease.

"I also give and bequeath unto my Sister Polly Crosby one midling Cow in six months from my Decease.

"I also give and bequeath unto Anna P Elkins, Daughter of John Elkins, fifty Dollars when she shall arrive to the age of eighteen years.

"I also give and bequeath unto William L. Crosby one pair of likely sheep in two years from my Decease.

"And, Lastly, as to all the rest, residue and remainder of my personal Estate, goods and chattles of what kind and nature soever, I give and bequeath the same to my said beloved wife--Anna Sibley, whom I hereby appoint sole Executrix of this my last will and testament." Signed William Sibley, in presence of Benjamin Wiggin, Joseph Thing and Barnard Morrill.

From Strafford County Probate Book 38, Page 233:

INVENTORY OF WILLIAM SIBLEY, JR.: July 22, 1828

Barnard Morrill, Joseph Sleeper and Benjamin Jewett appointed Committee to take inventory by the Honorable Daniel Atkinson, Esqr., Judge of Probate, Strafford County.

The Homestead of said Deceased containing about 44 acres of land with buildings thereon	528.00
N.B. The above is 2/3 of 66 acres of land and 2/3 of the buildings in common and undivided.	
1 Mare \$25, 1 Year old Colt \$20	45.00
1 Hog \$10; 2 Pigs \$2; 5 Sheep \$8.33	20.33
3 Lambs \$3.67; 3 Calves \$10.00	13.67
1 Yoke 3 year old steers	30.00
1 Red Cow \$16; 1 Brown Cow \$14; 1 Red Cow \$15	45.00
1 Yoke 3 yr old Steers	37.50
1 Waggon \$9.00; 1 ax .50; 1 Hoe .25	9.75
4 Chains \$3.36; 1 Grindstone .50	3.86
1 Wer. .50; 1 Cops .34; 2 Sleds .34	1.18
3 Pair Plowirons \$3.00; Crowbar \$1.00	4.00
1 Frow .17; 2 Sythesnaths & Sythe .50	.67
2 Yokes & Irons \$1.00; 1 Pitchfork .25	1.25
1 Dung Fork .25; 1 Sett Waggon boxes .50	.75
1 Sett Cart boxes \$2.00; 1 Coomb 1.50	3.50
Cheese .50; Pork 2.00; Pork barrels 1.00	3.50
1-1/2 Bush. Beans 1.37	1.37
Total	\$221.33

Wearing apparel of said deceased	25.00
Bedding 12.83; 1 Wheelhead .50	13.33
1 Clock 13.75; 1 Bedstead & Bedding 12.00	25.75
Bed Blankets 3.00; Sheeting 3.50	6.50
Pillow cases 1.75; Towelling 2.00	3.75
Table linen 3.00; a case drawers 1.50	4.50
Table 1.00; 1 Looking Glafs .50	1.50
2 Theives .50; 2 Augurs .40; 2 Iron wedges .35	1.25
1 Bed and Bedstead	7.00
Glafsware 1.00; Crockeryware 1.00	2.00
Woodenware .20; Pewter 1.37	1.57
Tinware .75; Knives and forks .63	1.38
9 Spoons .25; Coffee Mill .30	.55
1 Flat Iron .20; 1 Skimmer .17; Choping Knife .08	.45
3 Bottles .50; 3 Grain Measures .38	.88
7 Chairs .88; 2 Tables 1.12	2.00
Books .25	.25
1 Crane 1.00; 2 Shovels 1.16; 1 Pr. Andirons 1.75	3.91
1 Pr. Tongs .34; 1 Five-pint Bottle 1.75	2.09
1 Pot .75; 1 Dutch Oven .75	1.50
1 Tin Kettle .50; 1 Frying Pan .75	1.25
Steelyards .25; Bellows .25	.50
Cheese Prefs 1.50; 1 tin Pail .25	1.75
2 Chests .75; 1 Linnen wheel 2.00	2.75
1 Woolen wheel 1.25	1.25
1 Saddle .50; Horse Harnefs 4.50	5.00
Sheeps wool	4.00
Bed and Bedstead 4.50; Dry casks 1.75	6.25
	<u>349.24</u>
Cider 1.50; Cider Casks 1.50	3.00
1 Bedstead .75; 1 String Horse Bells .75	1.50
	<u>\$353.74</u>

In September, 1830, Anna filed her final report as executrix of William Sibley's estate (Strafford County registry of probate, book 41 page 181):

Account of Anna Sibley Executrix of the estate of William Sibley late of Gilford deceased.

	\$.cts
Chargeth herself with the articles of the personal estate at the appraised value amounting to one hundred and seventy five dollars being the sum allowed the said Anna by order of the Judge as per bill:	175.00
By amount of the proceeds of the sale of the remaining part of said personal estate as sold Dec 11th 1828 amounting to	202.57
By Cow given to Mary Crosby appraised @ 14	<u>14.00</u>
	391.57
By interest on part of the above	<u>6.27</u>
	397.84
By received of John and Sally Elkins	<u>50.00</u>

	437.84
Received by deducted for my services	<u>3.00</u>
	440.84

The said Executrix prays allowance of the following	
payments and charge to be filed in offset to wit:	\$.cts
To paid funeral charges of the deceased	10.00
To paid Hugh Moore acct	.50
To paid Joseph Sleeper acct	8.32
May 10th 1830 To paid Sally & John Elkins legacy	50.00
May 5 1830 To paid Barnard Morrill acct	1.60
" " " Zebedee Morrill Tax	2.29
" " " Nicholas Gilman acct	2.00
" " " Joseph Fifield Collector	5.25
" " " Paul Stevens acct	2.64
" " " George L. Sibley	<u>1.12</u>
	83.92
To Paid Stephen Hunt's acct	1.63
" " Ebenezer Stevens acct	1.60
" " Joseph Sanborn Jr do	1.00
" " Joseph Fifield do	1.25
" " Josiah Sawyer Jr do	3.85
" " John & Mary Crosby their legacy	14.00
" " William S. Crosby's legacy	2.66
" " Henry H. Orne Esq. acct	5.00
" " myself by order of the Judge	175.00
" " Benjamin Jewett 3d acct	7.63
" " William H. Stevens acct	17.89
" " Josiah Gilman do	10.11
" " Morrill Thing do	2.37
" " Nathaniel Goodhue do	3.90
Nov 19th 1829 To paid Benjamin Jewett 3d note	33.06
Oct 12th do To paid Benjamin Jewett 3d note	28.98
Nov 19th do To paid Benjamin Jewett 3d note	9.70
Oct 12 do To paid Benjamin Jewett 3d note	2.57
" " " " Benjamin Jewett acct	1.19
" " David Gale for services settling said estate	7.59
" " Joseph Thing on balance of account	6.64
" " expense of boarding appraisers, Committee to set off Dower & expense of Auction at my house	6.00
" " David Gale for services	1.00
" " my time settling the account	<u>2.50</u>
	440.84

(the addition doesn't check, but it's close.)

(signed) Anna Sibley

Strafford ss Court of Probate holden at Gilmanton in said county the
thirteenth day of September A D 1830

The foregoing account having been presented for the approbation and allowance of the Judge and due notice having been given to all persons interested therein of the time and place of hearing of the same and the said administratrix having duly made oath thereto, and the same appearing to be just & reasonable

I do therefore approve the same and do Decree that there is upon said account nothing due to or from said adm.x and that said account is ballanced

(signed) Daniel C Atkinson Judge of Probate

We Sally Elkins and John Elkins being all and the only heirs to the aforesaid estate have examined the foregoing account and have no objections to the same being allowed to Anna Sibley the Executrix
September 10th 1830

(signed) Sally Elkins

(signed) John Elkins

Recorded agreeably to the original
Examined by

(signed) James Bartlett, Regr

Hannah Sibley's Will was signed with her mark "X" December 12, 1828. Despite the fact she had been declared non compos mentis October 1827, the will prepared for her reads as follows, Strafford County Probate 44-336:

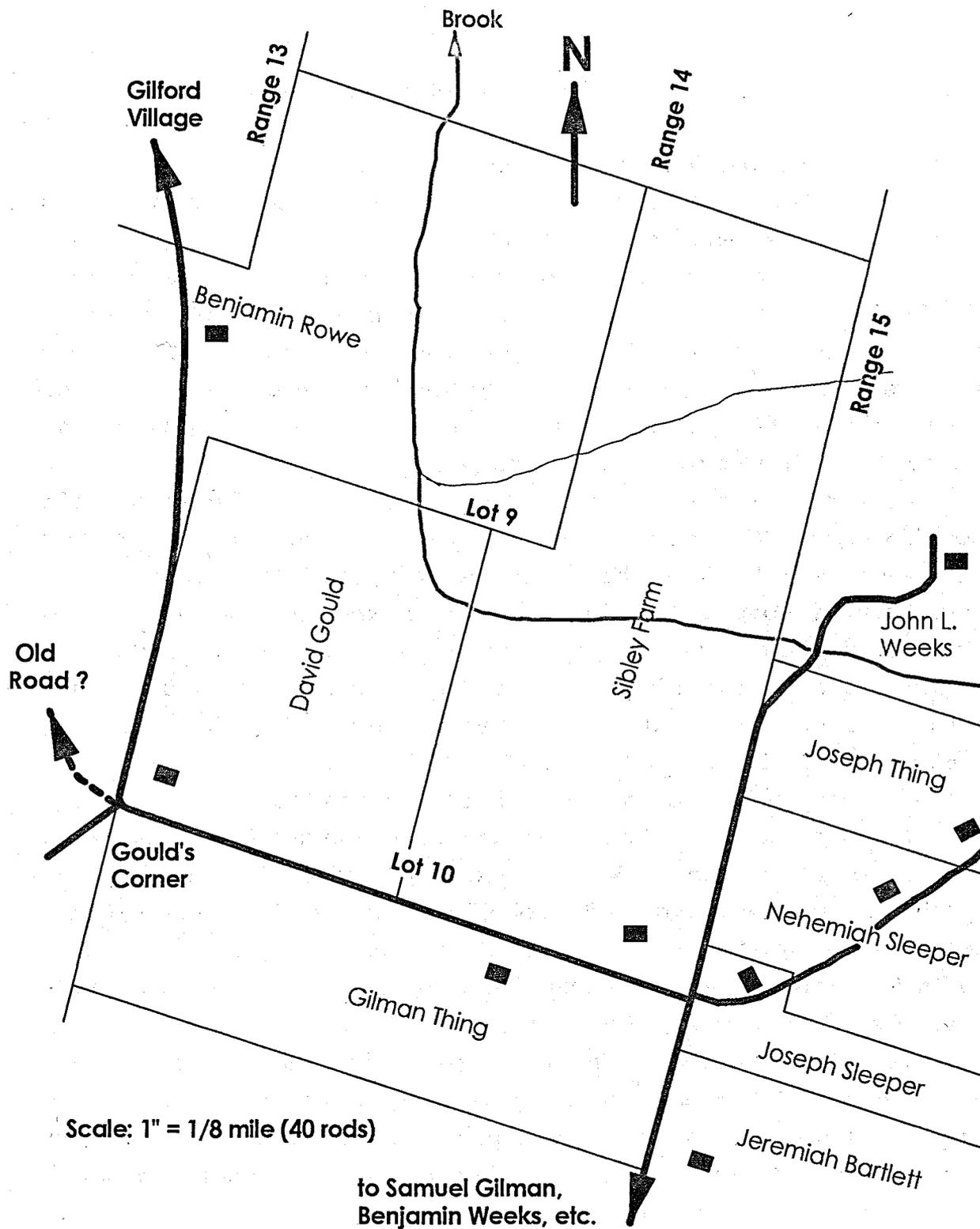
"In the Name of God, Amen. I Hannah Sibley, of Gilford in the County of Strafford and State of New Hampshire, Single Woman, being weak of body but of a sound disposing mind and memory do make this my last will and testament, and after humbly recommending my Soul to God and my body to a decent interment, my worldly estate I dispose of in manner following, to wit:

"I give bequeath and devise unto Anna Sibley my Sister in Law, the widow of my beloved Brother William Sibley, deceased, all my real estate and all my personal estate of whatever manner or nature--by the said Anna paying my lawful debts and funeral charges to have and to hold to her the said Anna Sibley and her heirs and assigns forever. And I do further nominate, constitute and appoint the said Anna Sibley sole executrix of my last will and testament, revoking all former wills by me made." Anna Sibley made Executrix 1832 upon Hannah's death.

During the first four months of 1833, Polly, George (Littlefield), and Joseph quit claimed to Anna Sibley, widow of William, any right they may have to the Estate of Hannah Sibley, deceased. Polly and John Crosby's deed to Anna was written January 18, 1833, but not recoded until October 27, 1848--then Belknap County deed 13-97. George's deed was dated March 27, 1833, and recorded Belknap County February 17, 1844, 5-355. Joseph's was done April 21, 1833, and recorded Belknap County June 11, 1845, 7-258. In May of this

year, Anna Sibley sells to daughter Sally Elkins 15+ acres, "part of 22 acres and 72 square rods of the land of Hannah Sibley, deceased" for \$233. Anna's deed to Sally was written May 3, 1833 and recorded in Strafford County June 25, 1833, 14-70.

(What happens to the other 7 acres? Anna Sibley was left all the rest of the property through Hannah's will.)



THE SIBLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ABOUT 1820

CHAPTER 3--SALLY (SIBLEY) ELKINS & JOHN ELKINS

In the household in 1833 are three generations, consisting of four: Grandma Anna Sibley, John and Sally Elkins, and their daughter Ann. Ann is now 18, and has experienced the death of her grandfather and also the hardships of caring for peculiar Hannah in the household up until her death in 1832. This is a less-strained period for the family with no incapacitated family members. They are able to do a little more socially and have purchased a pew at the Union Meeting House. Like her mother, Ann enjoys roaming the property, savoring the sights and smells around her. She is a happy girl and content with the farm life she is accustomed to.

Ann Elkins was married to Daniel Weeks, Jr. of Gilford in September 1835 by Josiah Sawyer. With the household dwindled down to four, it is likely that Daniel Weeks joined the family here after the marriage. John Elkins had been running the farm alone for about five years, since William Sibley's death, and would welcome the help of a younger man. By now, John was about 42.

Daniel and Anna had their first child, Anna Marie Weeks, in 1836. They had five more youngsters in the next 11 years: Maudie, 1837; Sarah B., 1838; John B., 1841; Eben B., 1846, and Oscar C. in 1848.

John Elkins died in the early part of 1841. Up to the time of his death, there might have been Anna Sibley, John and Sally, Ann and Daniel, and three or four of the latter's children--8 or 9 in the house--depending upon when in 1841 John B. Weeks was born. After John Elkins died and the other two boys were born, there would have been 10 at home, representing four generations. Since Daniel was responsible for running the farm, they may all have lived here. However, Daniel was involved in several real estate transactions, some of which might have included dwellings, although these descriptions have been scanty. With the means of transportation in those years, it would not have been practical for Daniel to have lived very far from the Sibley Farm.

It is presumed that John Elkins was buried in Weeks Cemetery although there is no marker evident there. Many of the stones were tumbled over and broken during the hurricane of 1938 and possibly his was among them. Sally Elkins was appointed Administratrix of John Elkins Estate, Belknap County Probate #16.

In October 1841, Probate Court Committee are looking at 24 acres in the Estate of John Elkins, plus 22 acres held in common and undivided with Anna

Sibley. There is also reference to Anna Sibley's dower and to the Estate of William Sibley. Seven acres and eight rods to Anna Sibley, abutting Anna's dower, which appears to be the balance of Hannah's estate after the 1833 sale to Sally. Five acres, from the common 22 acres, to Sally for her dower, and a 4-acre woodlot. For Sally, "Also a privilege for a pass way for driving her cattle to and from her pasture in the most convenient way for her at all times during the pasturing time across the above-described premises belonging to the estate of the said John Elkins.

"Also have assigned and sett off the whole of that part of the dwelling house upon said homestead of the said William Sibley which belonged to the estate of the said John Elkins to wit: the whole of the kitchen including the small ell, part of said house with one-third part of the cellar under the easterly part of said house, and that part of the chamber 24 feet in length at the northwesterly end of the chamber on the back side of the same, carrying equal width of 12 feet the distance of the said 24 feet.

"Also a privilege in the door yard and well equal to one-third thereof."

INVENTORY OF JOHN ELKINS ESTATE--JUNE 30, 1841

Joseph Thing, Benjamin Jewett, Jr., and Daniel Weeks, all of Gilford, were appointed Appraisers.

They were authorized to take an inventory of the Estate of John Elkins, deceased, to be shown to them by Sally Elkins, Administratrix, June 30, 1841.

Real Estate: One undivided third part of the homestead farm of William Sibley late of Gilford deceased, which farm contains about 75 acres more or less:

	550.00
Stock	107.25
Provisions	38.34
Furniture	9.87
Beds, Bedding, etc.	75.07
Books	1.13
Pew in the Union Meeting House	6.00
Crockeryware, etc.	28.33
Casks, etc.	8.12
Farming tools, etc.	<u>30.85</u>
Total excluding real estate:	304.96
Real estate	<u>550.00</u>
Total Value of Estate	\$854.96

Stock

1 yoke 3-yr.-old cattle	\$37.00
1 4 yr. old Cow	16.50
1 Red Cow	16.00
2 Year-old Steers	14.00
2 Calves	5.00
9 Sheep & 2 lambs	11.25
1 Horse	1.50
1 hog	<u>6.00</u>
TOTAL STOCK	\$107.25

Provisions, etc.

50 lbs. Bacon	3.50
120 " Pork	9.50
12 lbs. Butter	1.44
7 " Lamb	.49
4 Bushels wheat	6.00
3 do corn	3.00
10 do Potatoes	2.50
20 lbs. cheese	1.40
25 lbs. Sheeps wool	<u>10.41</u>
TOTAL PROVISIONS	\$38.34

Tin, Crockery, Glafs Ware, etc.

7 tin pans	2.34
1 Lamp Filler	.17
1 Fruit Dish	.08
1 Water pot	.25
1 Black tin Teapot	.20
4 Pewter ware	.67
1 Pr Braf's Candlesticks	1.00
3 Ger. Silver Spoons	.38
5 Silver Tea spoons	1.00
1 Braf's Skimer	.10
1 do Spoon	.10
1 case Knives & forks	.25
1 Butcher Knife	.19
1 Blk Printed Tea Sett (*)	1.00
1 Dz Blk Printed Plates (*)	.90
1/4 dz " " "	.34
2/3 " Edg. do	.34
1 Puding dish	.13
1 Fish plate	.13
2 Fancy Qt. Bowls (*)	.25

2 Printed Qt. Bowls	.25
2 C C " do	.12
6 cups & saucers	.17
1 Cream	.06
2 Pepper Boxes	.08
1 Vinegar cruit	.08
2 Glafs Salts	.12
2 Tumblers	.08
1 Glafs Butter	.25
5 Flasks	.20
6 Vials	.12
1 Tin papper box	.04
1 C C Chamber	<u>.17</u>
Carried up	\$11.54
Brot up	11.54
1 C.C. pt. mug	.06
3 Cream pots	.25
1 2 Gall. Stone Jug	.42
2 1 do " do	.60
2-1/2 " " do	.36
1 Earthen " do	.08
Crane & Hooks	1.00
Shovel & Tongs	.25
1 Cooking Stove and Furniture	12.50
1 Knee funnel	.50
1 Toast Iron	.08
1 Raser & shaving Apporatus	.25
1 Whetstone	.08
A lot of Old Iron	<u>.38</u>
TOTAL Crockery, etc.	28.33

Casks, etc

1 Meat Bbl	.50
1 Fish do	.25
1 Vinegar do	1.50
2 Cider Hhds.	1.00
3 do Casks	.75
2 Dry Casks	.20
2 Butter Firkins	.34
1 Cheese do	.38
1 Wash Tub	.34
1 Keilah	.13
1 Water (funils?)	.34
1 Wood Tray	.12

1 Cheese Box	.25
40 Sap Buckets	1.60
1 Spit Box	.16
1 Flour "	.12
1 Clothes Brush	.12
1 Clothes Basket	<u>.12</u>
TOTAL Casks, etc.	\$8.12

Furniture

1 Bureau	3.00
1 Desk	1.50
1 3-1/2 feet table	1.50
1 old table	.12
1 light stand	.50
1/2 doz dining chairs	1.50
1/4 doz. kitchen do	.50
1 Looking Glafs	1.00
1 Trunk	<u>.25</u>
TOTAL Furniture	\$9.87

Beds, Beding, etc.

No. 1 Bed-Bedstead	2.75
Bed rope	.25
Bed sack	.50
1 Bed	16.00
No. 2 Bed-Bedstead	.25
Bed rope	.10
Bed Sack	.50
Bed	10.50
No. 3 Bed-Bedstead	.75
Bed rope	.25
Bed sack	.25
Bed	7.25
1 Red & White Coverlet	1.75
1 Blue & " "	1.25
1 Black & " "	<u>2.00</u>
Brot over	\$42.35
1 Brown Wool bed quilt	2.25
1 Blue " do do	3.00
1 Calico do do	.50
2 old do do	.50
1 do " do	.50
1 Calico Bed Tacke	2.00
1 Plaid " do	2.50
1 " do	.50
5 Bed Blankets	3.75
4 New sheets	2.00

5 cotton & linen sheets	2.50
3 old sheets	.50
2 prs. Pillow cases	.50
3 " " do	.60
3 " old linen do	.60
2 " " " do	.13
2 Diaper Table covers	3.00
2 do " do	2.00
1 do " do	1.00
1 do " do	.38
2 do " do	.15
5 Towels	.63
2 do	1.00
6 do	1.50
1 do	<u>.13</u>
TOTAL Beds, etc.	\$75.07

Books, etc.

1 Share in the Gilford Social Library	.25
1 Bible	.50
3 Hymn Books	.18
2 N.H. Laws	.12
1 N.H. Gazetteer	<u>.08</u>
	\$1.13
1 Pew in the Union Meeting House	\$6.00

Farming Tools, etc.

1 Wood saw	1.25
1 Hand Saw	.25
1 Saw horse	.13
1 Sickle	.17
1 pr. chisels	.25
3/4 in. Auger	.21
1 Garden hoe	.06
1 nail Hammer	.13
1 Grindstone	2.00
1 Horse Harnefs	1.00
1 Halter	.42
1 Bridle	.17
1 String Bells	.50
1 Cast Iron Plough	6.00
1 Shovel	.90
1 Sythe Snath	.12
1 Chain	1.75
1 Small Chain	.25

1 Old Axe	.17
1 Pr Unfinished oxWheels	7.00
8 Cords fire wood in Woods	8.00
Shoe making pinner	.06
1 Gimlet	<u>.06</u>
TOTAL Farming tools	\$30.85

* While digging in a flower bed near a wall where they had thrown away things, I came upon fragments of china fitting the above descriptions. This was in 1991.

The values for many of these items seem modest, but I believe there was a depression about the time of this inventory. Their library had grown since William Sibley's inventory, when the books were valued at 25 cents. There were a few nice embellishments in the house at this time, such as the brass candlesticks, silver tea spoons, the Black printed tea set and the two fancy bowls. The greatest improvement must have been the cooking stove and its furnishings. Since they had 40 sap buckets, it would indicate they were making enough syrup and sugar for their own use. We found traces of a stone foundation and other remnants of a sugar house out in Lot 10, Range 14 (now McLaughlin land), and could have been in use at this time.

When her husband died, Sally Elkins was 47 years old. Having been brought up on the farm, she had helped her father with many of the chores and later worked alongside John. She was a strong and capable woman and welcomed the opportunity to continue with the planning and the work on the farm. Ann Weeks had more than enough to do taking care of the babies. By now Anna Sibley had reached the age of 72. Once the women of those days lived through the child-bearing years, and were able to escape epidemics, they lived to be very old--many to their 90's. Having kept house in this place since 1792, she had her hand in and knew how to manage the modest equipment they had to run the house. She liked to cook and more than carried her weight in the household. She had the run of the kitchen, which suited all of them.

In October 1842, Belknap County deed 4-87, Sally quitclaims to daughter Ann P. Weeks all her right to the real estate of John Elkins "excepting always my right of dower . . . containing 30 acres more or less exclusive of dower" for \$10.

CHAPTER 4--SALLY (SIBLEY) (ELKINS) SAWYER & JOSIAH SAWYER

Life went along very much the same for a year or so following John Elkins' death. Dr. Josiah Sawyer, who had treated John during his last illness, came by frequently to see how they were managing, and occasionally treating one of the youngsters or Anna Sibley, who began to have some physical complaints. However, mainly the purpose of his visits was to have an opportunity to converse with Sally, whom he found challenging and attractive.

Sally encouraged Josiah's visits because it broadened her interests, acquainting her more with doings in the community and not just those of her household. He was a dashing, quite handsome man, about 9 years Sally's senior. He had a reputation for being unorthodox in many respects, and these traits also appealed to Sally. So in 1842, Sally and Josiah were married.

Some background on Josiah Sawyer is furnished from HISTORY OF GILFORD (1885) by J. P. Watson: "Josiah Sawyer settled on the height of land west of the Miles River Valley and cultivated a large plant there and adjacent. His sons were: Israel, Dr. Josiah, John and Joseph, and of these, Israel had the homestead. John settled in West Alton, Joseph in Gilmanton, and Dr. Josiah practiced medicine in Gilford. He was a practitioner of some medical skill, though not read in the regular course. Religiously, he held deistical sentiment . . . Uriah Morrison was Baptist minister when it worshipped in the Gunstock Meeting house. He lived near the Locklin, in the house afterwards occupied by Dr. Josiah Sawyer . . ."

Marriage records state that Dr. Josiah Sawyer, of Gilford, was married to Betsey Gove, of Gilford, by the Reverend William Blaisdell on August 25, 1822. There is no record of Betsey's death in the Gilford records. There are no deeds to property in Gilford purchased by Dr. Sawyer, which could have identified his wife at the time of sale. While it is possible this marriage concerned another Dr. Josiah Sawyer in Gilford, it seems too much of a coincidence. It is assumed something befell Betsey because he was free to marry Sally Elkins. This marriage of Sally to Josiah is not recorded in the Gilford records.

By virtue of his marriage to Sally, Josiah now holds "in right of Sally Sawyer certain real and personal estate in Gilford". On May 6, 1844, Belknap County deed 6-98, Josiah quitclaims to Daniel Weeks, Jr. all right he might have, through Sally, to John Elkins' estate. This quit-claim deed, signed by Josiah Sawyer, Daniel Weeks, Jr., and Sally Sawyer is quoted below:

"This Indenture made and concluded this sixth day of May AD 1844 by and between Josiah Sawyer of Gilford in the County of Belknap, Physician, of the first place and Daniel Weeks of said Gilford, Yeoman, of the second part and Sally Sawyer, wife of said Josiah, of the third part. Witnesseth that whereas the said Josiah now holds in right of Sally Sawyer aforesaid certain real and personal estate situate in said Gilford and hereinafter described, which said real and personal estate the said Josiah is desirous to place at the disposal of the said Sally to be by her controlled as far as the profits and neat income may be concerned and not hereafter to be controlled by said Josiah, his heirs or assigns.

"Now know all men by these presents that the said Josiah for and in consideration of the love and affection which I bear towards my wife the aforesaid Sally as well as divers other good considerations before the delivery hereof well and truly paid by Daniel Weeks, Jr. aforesaid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have released, remised and forever quit claimed and by these presents do remise, release and forever quit claim unto the said Daniel Weeks his heirs and assigns forever all my right, title, interest and claim, into and upon the real estate herein described, which is as follows:

"To wit the homestead farm situate in said Gilford, which formerly belonged to John Elkins late of said Gilford deceased, and upon which the said Elkins lived and died, containing one hundred acres more or less, a part whereof is subject to the life estate of the mother of said Sally, and I the said Josiah also release to the said Daniel all the personal property which belonged to the said Sally at the time of her intermarriage with me, a particular schedule whereof shall be made and delivered with said property.

"To have and to hold the said described premises to his the said Daniel upon the conditions and for the purposes hereinafter described and his heirs forever. I hereby covenant and agree with the said Daniel his heirs and assigns that I am seized of the aforesaid premises in manner aforesaid and have good right and lawful authority to convey the same in manner aforesaid, and that I and my heirs will well and truly warrant and defend the same against the claims or demands of all persons claiming from, by or under me.

"And I the said Sally Sawyer do hereby assent to said conveyance and promise and agree to abide by its terms.

"And I Daniel Weeks aforesaid do hereby for myself, my heirs and assigns covenant and agree to and with the said Josiah Sawyer, his heirs and assigns that I will well and faithfully manage said real and personal estate, and will (report) annually and at the close of each year during the life of said Sally Sawyer the true income and profits of said real and personal estate after deducting therefrom my reasonable expenses in managing the same, and it is agreed by the Parties hereto that the receipt of said Sally shall at all times be a good and sufficient discharge to the said Daniel, and I the said Daniel do further covenant, promise

and agree with the said Josiah, his heirs and assigns that I will hold said estate in trust for the said Sally and for her use and benefit only, that I will not sell, convey or in any way dispose of the same without the consent in writing of all parties to this instrument, but will in all things conduct with good fidelity in the management of said estate. That I will in all things pursue and follow the directions and wishes of the said Sally in the management of said estate.

"In witness whereof, we the said parties have hereunto interchangeably set our hands and seals the date above written."

After their marriage, Sally lived at Josiah's place. She came back to the farm frequently to see her mother and the Weeks family and was very much involved with the farming being carried out by Daniel. During busy seasons, such as haying, Sally and Josiah stayed at the Sibley Farm.

After a while, Sally was not happy in this marriage and resented Josiah's take-charge attitude in her affairs. He had entered this marriage for his comfort and convenience, and Sally was not about to toady to him passively. Sally still had her independent spirit and had proven herself able to manage her life. She found the real Josiah very different from the provocative friend she had known casually. She would come back home when he became too dominating. When Josiah was ill, Sally took care of him at her home.

Josiah Sawyer died in 1848, and we have not found out where he was buried.

Belknap County Probate, Docket 516:

On June 20, 1848, John Blaisdell, Jr. requests he be Administrator of Josiah Sawyer's Estate. . . . "that the widow and next of kin have neglected for more than 30 days since the decease of the said Josiah Sawyer and still neglect to take administration on said estate. That your petitioner is a creditor to said estate . . . and wishes to take administration thereon." John Blaisdell, Jr. was appointed Administrator. The Inventory of the estate was done by Aaron Robinson, John W. Potter, and Thomas J. Hunt.

INVENTORY OF ESTATE OF DR. JOSIAH SAWYER--1848

Real Estate	.0
Household Furniture	48.84
Farming Utensils & Mechanical Tools	9.56
Books and Maps	1.50
Provisions and Produce	6.25
Livestock	17.00
Other Miscellaneous Articles	63.96
Notes, Bonds, & Book Accounts	<u>323.83</u>
Total	\$470.94

Household Furniture:

6 Chairs @ 20 cents	1.20
1 Close frame	.25
6 Quilts	1.00
1 Bed Tick	.75
1 Time Piece	1.25
6 Tin Pans	.50
1 Table	.20
1 Bead Stead & Card	.25
1 Rocking chair	.20
1 Looking Glass	.17
1 Slate 9"	.12
1 Tin pail	.17
1 Sieve	.10
1 Lanthorn	.25
1 Shovel	.17
1 Sett Fire dogs	.25
1 Oil Cloth	.20
1 Tea Kettle	.25
1 Fry Bason	.20
1 Brass Kettle	.40
Amt. Brt over	\$7.88
1 Dish kettle	.20
1 Pot	.10
1 Meal Chest	.50
4 Bags	.67
1 Chest	.10
1 Beareaugh	2.50
1 Oil Cloth	.20
1 Looking Glass	.17
2 Basketts	.40
38 lb. Feather Bead	7.60
1 Bead Stead	1.00
2 Straw Ticks	.33
2 Boxes @ 10 cents	.20
1 Spinning Wheele	.20
1 Tray	.05
11 Pillow cases	.40
Amt. Brt. forward	22.50
3 Table Covers	.50
1 Towell	.12
4 Curtains	.25
10 Sheets	1.67
4 Blanketts	2.00
4 Blanketts	.25
5 Basketts	1.00

1 Air Tight Stove	2.50
1 Toast Iron	.13
1 Stove & Aparatus	5.00
1 Large Pot	.40
1 Box	.10
1 Pan & Dish	.33
1 Peck measure	.10
1 Half Bushel measure	.30
1 Platter	.12
1 Knife Baskett	.12
2 Cubboards	1.00
9 Plates	.18
Amt. brt. over	38.57
2 Bowls	.10
1 Jug	.13
12 Bottles	.36
1 Decanter	.06
7 Bottles	.21
1 Hatchett	.06
1 Bead Stead & Rope	.17
1 Feather Bed	1.00
3 Tacks	.75
2 Under Beads	.33
1 Chamber	.17
1 Hammer	.17
1 Desk	.25
1 Brush	.06
1 Tin Pail	.12
1 Brass Kettle	1.00
1 Trunk	.12
1 Light Stand	.33
1 Molasses keg	.25
1 Tack	.20
2 Lamps	.33
1 Silver Spoon	1.00
1 Churn	.50
1 Earthen Pot	.10
Amt. Brt. Over	\$46.34
4 Tumblers	.25
1 Tea Sett	.75
1/2 Dz Knives & forks	.75
1 Trunk	.50
1 Trunk	.25
Total Household Furn.	\$48.84

Farming Tools:

2 Hay forks	.25
5 Rakes	.50
2 Sled Runners	.50
1 Saw and frame	.17
1 Barn Shovel	.20
1 Horse Cart	.50
2 Hoes	.25
1 Grind Stone	2.50
1 Basket	.12
1 Trap	.25
1 Garden Hoe	.25
2 Scicickle	.12
1 Trace Chain	.25
1 Sneath	.10
1 Shave and Jointers	.33
Augers and Nails	.25
1 Plow Irons	.75
1 Compas	.13
1 Cultivator	.50
1 Wood saw	.75
1 Hansaw	.12
1 Chain	.10
1 Compas	.50
1 Pr. Pincers	.17
Total Farming tools	\$9.56

Bks. & Maps: Lot books \$1.50

Provisions and Produce:

1 Tub Soap & Vinegar	1.00
1/4 Barrill Damaged Pork	1.00
15 lb. Flour	.50
1 Bushel Wheat	1.50
2-1/2 Bushels Corn	2.25
Total Prov. & Prod.	\$6.25

Livestock: 1 Cow \$17.00

Miscellaneous Articles:

1 Lot Hay on Scaffold	7.00
1 Lot Hay in Bay	2.00
1 Slay	2.00
1 Buffaloe	.50
1 Chaise & Harness	3.75
1/4 Thousand Shingles	.50
1 Whiffletree and Chain	.25

1 Clevis and Pin	.50
2 Barrels	.20
15 lbs. Tallow	1.20
8 Cider Barrils	1.50
2 Sled	.50
1 Barril	.10
2 Gig wheels	1.00
1 Safe	.13
1 Barrel and Funnel	.25
1 Sadle and Straps	.50
1 Pr. Sole Leather	.75
Lot Sash	.25
2 Sad Irons & Scrap Iron	.50
21 lbs. Old Iron	.21
Total Brought Over	\$23.59
50 lights glass	1.00
1 Spy Glass	.75
1 Medicen Case	2.50
1 Syrange	.33
3 Syrange	.18
1 Silver Catheter	.50
1 Umbrella	.12
1 Show glass and Camphor	.42
Lot Medicen	5.00
1 Medicen Bag	.35
1 Trunk and Vials	.50
1 Morter	.06
7 Yds. Sattinutt	3.50
10 Yds. Sattinutt	3.75
4 Magnets	1.50
1 Lot Shot Bags	.33
1 Lot Types and figure	1.50
1 Rifle	6.00
1 Gun	5.00
2 Watches	4.00
1 Dividers	.25
1 Lot Shot Bags	.33
Total Misc. Articles	\$63.96

Schedule of Accounts: There was a list of 107 individuals who owed Josiah Sawyer a total of \$323.83. Among those listed and owing by far the largest debt was Daniel Weeks, Jr. for \$63.05. The others owed small amounts.

Sally requested the Court for an allowance out of the personal property of said Estate, in addition to what she was entitled to by law. John Blaisdell, Jr. enumerated the special reasons why she should not have an allowance:

"1st. On account of the large amount of debts in proportion to the invoice.

"2nd. Another objection is that the said Sawyer just previous or about the time of their marriage paid sundry debts and liabilities of the said Sally. Also paid sundry persons for labour done on said Sally's farm before their marriage--all of which went to lessen his Estate and increase that of hers.

"3rd. That the said Sally has not lived with the said Josiah Sawyer but a small portion of the time since their marriage, though after requested to do so by the said Josiah, leaving him for months without any house-keeper, thereby subjecting him to great inconvenience and trouble.

"4th. That the said Sally is in good circumstances now, having a farm and other estate of her own and no family to support but herself."

The above was signed by John Blaisdell, Jr., Administrator, in Gilford on August 23, 1848.

The following is the rejoinder from Sally Sawyer to the Court, written September 4, 1848:

"1st. A large amount of property of the said deceased, or of property liable to pay his debts is not included in the invoice.

"2nd. The undersigned has a true account against said deceased for services rendered and for articles furnished to him previous to her marriage with him.

"3rd. The undersigned would state that she lived with the said Josiah Sawyer as long as she could do so consistently with safety to her life and limbs; and that afterwards when the said Sawyer became too infirm to take care of himself, she received him into her own house, took care of him herself and supported him for several months from her own estate.

"4th. The undersigned can easily show that property of hers to the amount of several hundred dollars passed into the hands of the said Sawyer during his lifetime, that her estate has been diminished that amount and more by her marriage with him."

Following is Sally's account of what is owed to her from the estate:
 JOSIAH SAWYER TO SALLY SAWYER DR.

1842 Aug 17		
	To board of himself & keeping his horse 11 weeks	19.25
	" boarding Charles Dame 8 weeks	10.00
	" 1 Boys cap @ 1	1.00
	" 2 pairs Feetings for himself	.50
	" 1 Vest for do	1.50
	" 1 do " Boy	1.00
	" 1 pair pants for boy	1.50
	" 2 pairs Feetings for boy	.40
	" 1 pair Mittins for Self	.33
	" 1 " " " Boy	.20
	" 12 Tons Hay	96.00
	" 35 Bushels Wheat	43.75
	" 8 do Corn	6.50
	" 200 do Potatoes	33.33
	" 25 lbs. Butter	4.17
	" 50 lbs. Cheese	3.00
	" 22-1/2 Bbls. Cider	22.50
1843	To Income of my land for the year (1843) the hay and other produce being all hauled away and most of it Sold by said J.S.	70.00
1844	To Cash	<u>5.00</u>
		\$319.93

The personal estate was insufficient to pay demands against same by the sum of \$100.00. John Blaisdell, Jr. prayed to the Court to be licensed to sell at public auction certain Islands in Winnepesaukee Lake, November 20, 1849. His petition was presented to the Court of Probate the 3rd Tuesday of January. On January 15, 1850, the Court decreed the petition to sell at public auction so much real estate as will raise \$100. Signed by Judge of Probate, Warren Lovell.

This docket on Josiah Sawyer's estate in Probate files in Belknap County does not tell how Sally Sawyer's plea was resolved. Sally was correct in her Rejoinder that the invoice was not complete concerning real estate. The Inventory states "0", and yet there was property available to settle his debts. Since they sold property enough to raise only \$100, it is unlikely that Sally's request was granted.

From this inventory of Josiah's possessions at the time of his death, Sally would have been entitled to some of the goods, or some of the revenue from the sale of them, as his widow. It should be recalled that in the Indenture Josiah prepared when he quitclaimed to Daniel Weeks that he also released "to the said Daniel all the personal property which belonged to the said Sally at the time of her intermarriage with me". When he turned over the homestead farm and its contents to be held in trust for Sally to Daniel in 1844, it would appear he had good intentions for providing for Sally's future income. However, promises made in the Indenture were broken if, as Sally claims in her itemization of debts owed her, he had taken valuable crops from her farm. There was a change in Josiah during the time of their marriage which resulted in meanness and bitterness.

The inventory contributes some flavor about the man. It seems odd that the doctor had books valued at only \$1.50, while John Elkins had books valued at \$1.13. He had some items that had not shown up in other inventories, such as 2 compasses, a spy glass, a slate, a decanter, and a buffalo robe. Josiah must have been intending to make some repairs on his place to have had 250 shingles on hand.

CHAPTER 5--ANN P. (ELKINS) WEEKS & DANIEL WEEKS, JR.

After the difficulties attending settlement of Josiah Sawyer's estate subsided, Sally continued her life at the Sibley Farm as before. Daniel Weeks worked hard at farming, and he had to hire some help. His oldest three girls were 10, 11 and 12, and while they did all they could do, he was short-handed. The little boys were 7, 2, and a baby. Ann's time was filled making clothes for the children and seeing that they got to school. She spent most of her time with them, trying to fulfill their needs.

Anna Sibley was failing physically, although she was still spry mentally. She resented her body preventing her from being the head housekeeper now, and was less than patient with Sally's performance at the stove and cleaning. Sally had never cared much about "women's work" but took it on now when it had to be done. She found time almost every day to get outside the house and enjoy a walk through the property. She appreciated the delights of the different seasons and usually returned home with some interesting observations to share.

Anna Thing Sibley died in 1850. She was 81. She was buried beside William, Jr. at Weeks Cemetery.

Daniel Weeks was becoming discouraged with the farming here. He was finding it difficult to get help because the young people were moving from the region. Once profitable endeavors such as sheep raising were declining. Even with putting all his energy into the farm, it was barely subsistence and he was concerned about providing for the family.

The end of May 1854, Anna Marie Weeks was taken ill. She was very, very sick, and in eight days she died from "inflammation of the bowels"--probably appendicitis which nowadays is seldom fatal. Anna Marie was buried at the Weeks Cemetery with her great grandparents and also her paternal grandparents. Daniel Weeks' father, Daniel, died in 1853, at 78; and his mother, Hannah, had died in 1852 at 73. From the rubbings off the stone for Anna Marie:

Anna M. Weeks, Died June 7, 1854, at Age 18 Yrs.

FAREWELL DEAR FRIENDS. DO NOT FORGET ME

I LEAVE YOU FOR A BETTER AND HAPPIER WORLD ABOVE.

Losing her lovely granddaughter was the worst blow Sally had suffered--even more poignant than losing her first husband, John. She enjoyed this first-

born Weeks' child especially because she was so much like Ann Elkins had been as a girl. Of course, the whole family was crushed by her death.

With this final blow, it took no encouragement for Daniel and Ann to decide to leave the Sibley Farm and start fresh out West. They wanted Sally to go with them, and they had no difficulty convincing her it was a good idea. Now that the older members of the family were dead, there was nothing to hold them in Gilford. Besides, Sally was glad to leave the community after the ignominious treatment she suffered at the hands of John Blaisdell, Jr. concerning Josiah's estate.

So they started right away to plan their new life. As mentioned before, Daniel Weeks, Jr. had dabbled in real estate. From the 1830's through 1852, he invested \$2715.86 in eight different pieces of property. In 1843, he sold off one piece, and in 1848, 1849 and 1851, he sold some more. Then, after Anna Marie's death, Daniel put a great deal of effort into selling his remaining holdings. By the middle of October 1856, he had sold all but one of the remaining pieces. He had a net gain on his real estate transactions of \$1623.14. This was a tidy sum to help them establish a new farm in Richmond, Illinois.

The last warranty deeds they wrote before they left were two separate deeds to Paul Grant and Mariam M. Grant, husband and wife, for the Sibley Farm, Belknap County deeds 31-95 and 31-96.

So Sally Sawyer and the Daniel Weeks family packed up their possessions and left Gilford to start anew out in Richmond. By this time, there were trains, but it was a long, arduous journey. When the last of the Sibleys left the farm, Sally was 61 years old, and she lived for 16 years in the new location. As time went by, she was able to put aside the difficult times and recall the many pleasant aspects of her life here.

31-197--Power of Attorney Deed (April 2, 1857)

Know all men by these presents, that we Daniel Weeks and wife Ann P. Weeks of the Town of Richmond in the County of McHenry and State of Illinois, have made, constituted and appointed, and by these presents do make, constitute and appoint Morrel Thing of the Town of Gilford, Belknap County and State of New Hampshire, our true and lawful attorney for us and in our name, place and stead to enter into and take possession of all the real estate belonging to us situate in the Town of Gilford in the County of Belknap and State of New Hampshire, and to bargain, sell, grant, convey and confirm the whole or any part thereof for such price or sum of money or on such terms as he may think

best, and for and in our name to make, execute, acknowledge and deliver unto the purchaser or purchasers thereof good and sufficient conveyances with warranty of the same and to demand, receive and collect all sums of money which shall become due and payable to us by reason of such sale or sales and to demand, ask for, sue for, collect and receive all sums of money, debts, rents, dues, accounts and other demands of every kind, nature and description whatever which are due, owing or payable to us from any person or persons whomsoever, and to give good and sufficient receipts, acquitances and discharges therefor. Giving and granting unto our said Attorney full power and authority to do and perform all and every act and thing whatsoever requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises as fully to all intents and purposes as we might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution and revocation hereby ratifying and confirming all that our said Attorney or his substitute shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 2nd day of April one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven.

Ann P. Weeks relinquished her dower.

Signed: Daniel Weeks
Ann P. Weeks

Received September 1, 1858

Daniel and Ann returned in 1863 to sell one remaining small piece of property and visit friends in the community.

Records from Richmond Township Cemeteries, provided to me in 1991, show when each of them died:

Oscar C. Weeks, 1868, at age 20

Sarah R. Weeks, 1870, at age 32

Sally Sawyer, 1871, at age 77

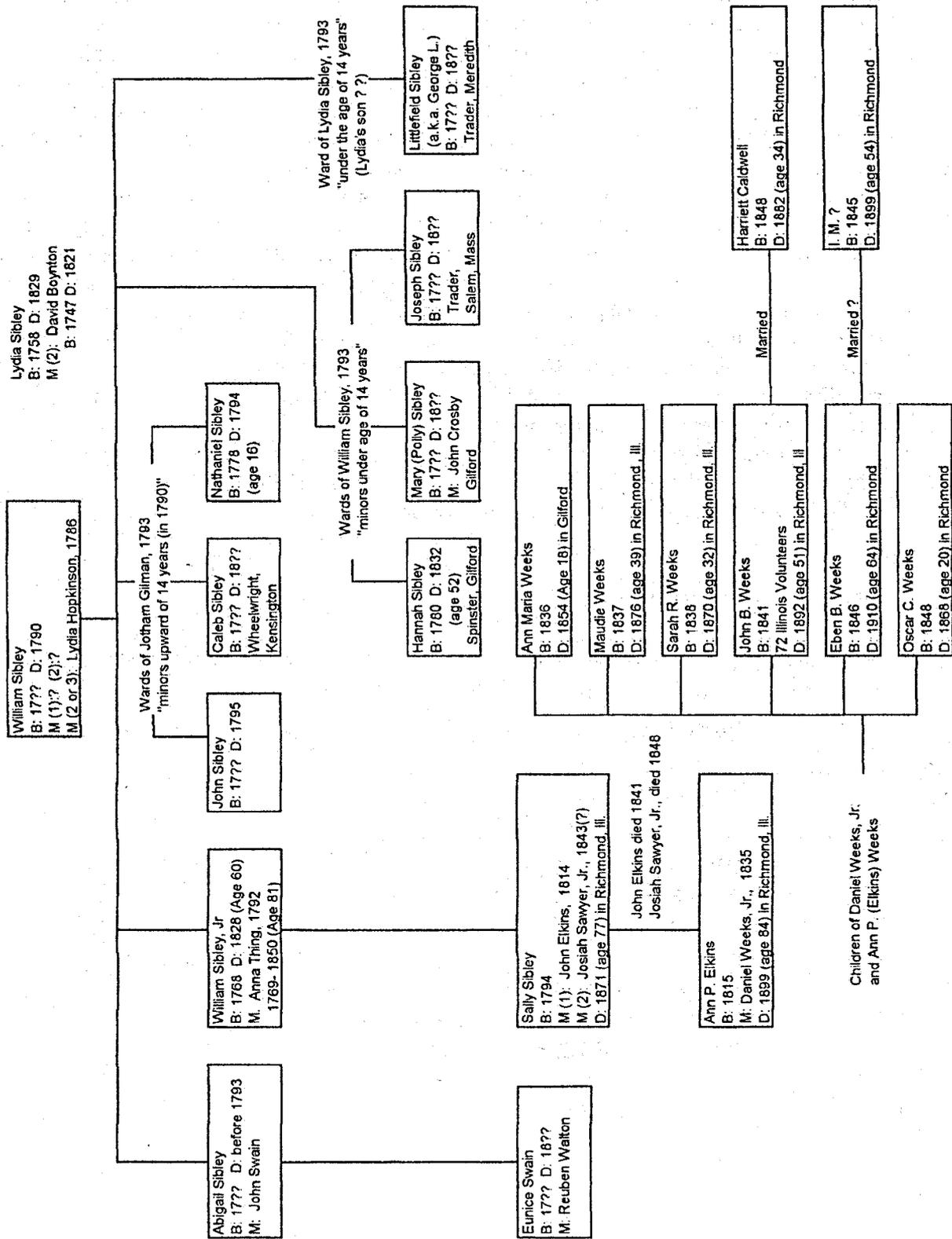
Maudie Weeks, 1876, at age 39

Daniel Weeks, Jr., 1886 at age 73

John B Weeks, 1892, at age 51...(John was a member of the
72^d Illinois Volunteers in the Civil War)

Ann Elkins Weeks, 1899, at age 84

Eben B. Weeks, 1910, at age 64



CHAPTER 6--PAUL GRANT & MARIAM M. (JEWETT) GRANT

On October 13, 1856, the following warranty deed, 31-95, was assigned to Paul Grant:

"Know all men by these presents, that we, Daniel Weeks and Ann P Weeks, wife of said Daniel Weeks, and Sally Sawyer, all of Gilford in the County of Belknap and State of New Hampshire, for and in consideration of the sum of \$1150 to us in hand before the delivery hereof, well and truly paid by Paul Grant of the same Gilford, Farmer, convey . . . One undivided half of a certain tract of land situate in said Gilford known as the Sibley Farm and lying on the road leading from Gilford Village to Ebenezer Bartlett's, and bounded as follows: On the south by the highway, on the east by the rangeway, on the north by land of Sleeper heirs, and on the west by land of David Gould, with the buildings standing on the same."

A twin deed, 31-96, for one undivided half of the premises was written to Mariam M. Grant.

This was different from other deeds to husband and wife, which are usually one document for the whole property. This would indicate that there was a lack of trust between the Grants. Mariam wanted to be sure of her share, and have something to leave her four children. She was a strong-willed woman and insisted upon her separate deed.

Records show that Paul Grant married Alice Sloper, both of Barrington, on January 12, 1809. In 1833, this couple bought a farm in Gilford. The next recorded marriage of Paul Grant is to Ruth Sanborn, both of Gilford, in December of 1842. On April 22, 1849, Mariam M. Jewett married Paul Grant. She was 40 and he was 60. Mariam was the widow of Moses Jewett, who died in 1840 at the age of 41. Mariam's maiden name was Hoit so it is likely that it was through this family connection that Amanda Jewett and Daniel Hoit got acquainted.

Paul and Mariam lived at Paul Grant's farm, located about 2-1/2 miles south of the Sibley Farm on the east side of the road to Durrell Mt. Road, until they sold it in the spring of 1856--the year they acquired the Sibley Farm. Paul had paid \$1200 for his 94 acre farm in 1833, and sold it to Joseph Hunt in 1856 for \$1650. When Paul and Mariam sold the former farm, they stipulated to the new owner: "Reserving the use of the burying ground in the orchard on said farm."

When they moved into the Sibley Farm in the fall of 1856, there were five in the house: Paul and Mariam, Mariam's daughters Amanda Jewett, 18 years old; Rebecca B. Jewett, 27 years old; and the Grant's little 6-year old son, Frank P. Grant. Mariam's other daughter, Joanna Jewett, was married by this time to William S. Mead of Meredith. Within a couple of years, Amanda was married to Daniel Hoit of Gilford, and they lived at the Sibley place where Daniel's help was needed on the farm. Rebecca Jewett remained a spinster and made her home with the Grants.

It was a rather peculiar family with the age spread of 21 years between the half-siblings, Rebecca and Frank, and his parents were considerably older than those of youngsters his age. When he was old enough to go to school, it was good for him to be among young people. He was a considerate and sensitive boy and a comfort to his mother in later years.

In 1858, Paul was 69 years old and his health was declining. He had not been a considerate husband to Mariam and knew he was not worthy, nor should he expect, her continued devotion. Feeling desperate about his being taken care of for the rest of his life, he decided the best way to assure this was to write over his half interest in the farm to Rebecca. He found an ally in Rebecca who agreed to the stipulations he recommended. On the same day, Rebecca writes a deed to her mother for this half of the homestead. It was a crafty maneuver. As can be seen from these deeds, they told Mariam, you be good to Paul, or else.

31-107 "I, Paul Grant, of Gilford, County of Belknap and State of New Hampshire for \$1500 from Rebecca B. Jewett of said Gilford, County and State aforesaid, convey one undivided half of a certain tract of land situate in said Gilford known as the Sibley Farm and lying on the road leading from Gilford Village to Ebenezer Bartlett's and bounded as follows: viz., on the south by the highway, on the east by the rangeway, on the north by land of Sleeper heirs, on the west by land of David Gould, with the buildings thereon, being the same premises which were conveyed to me by Daniel Weeks, Ann P. Weeks and Sally Sawyer by their deed dated October 13, 1856, and recorded Book 31, Page 95. Also all my right, title and interest during my natural life to the rent profits and income of one undivided half of the above described premises which was conveyed to my wife Mariam M. Grant by Daniel Weeks and his wife Ann P. Weeks and Sally Sawyer by deed dated October 13, 1856, to which said premises my said wife is entitled in her own right and title in trust and to the use of said Paul Grant as follows: that is to say to convey to the same Mariam M. Grant during her natural

life to her sole and separate use in all respects whatsoever remainder to my son Frank P. Grant and the heirs of his body begotten, provided said Frank P. Grant shall survive the said Mariam M. Grant, otherwise remainder to said Mariam M. Grant and her heirs and assigns, and upon condition that the said Mariam M. Grant shall at all times during the natural life of said Paul Grant well and suitably maintain said Paul Grant in sickness and in health, and upon the non performance or violation by said Mariam M. Grant of said condition to support and maintain said Paul Grant, then this deed and the deed of said Rebecca to said Mariam to become absolutely null and void and of no effect."

Signed by Paul Grant July 24, 1858.

31-108 Rebecca B. Jewett of Gilford . . . for and in consideration of \$1500 from Mariam M. Grant of Gilford, convey

"one undivided half of a certain tract of land situate in said Gilford known as the Sibley Farm (same boundary description as in deed to Rebecca of this date) . . . being the same premises this day conveyed to me by Paul Grant by his deed of even date herewith.

"Also all my right, title and interest during the natural life of said Paul Grant to the rents, profits and income from one undivided half of the above described premises, which was conveyed to said Mariam M. Grant by Daniel Weeks and his wife Ann P. Weeks and Sally Sawyer by their deed dated October 13, 1856, this day conveyed to me by said Paul Grant by his said deed in trust for the purpose of making this conveyance subject to the conditions, limitations, uses and covenants to be well and truly performed by the said Mariam M. Grant, that is to say the following, that the said Mariam M. Grant shall at all times during the natural life of the said Paul Grant suitably support and maintain the said Paul Grant in sickness and in health, and provide him with suitable food, drink, clothes, nursing, medicine and all other things suitable and necessary in the house of the said Mariam M. Grant upon said premises, and I hereby convey said premises upon the said covenant and condition to said Mariam M. Grant during her natural life remainder to Frank Grant and the heirs of his body begotten, provided he or said heirs, if any, shall survive said Mariam M. Grant; otherwise remainder in fee to said Mariam, her heirs and assigns forever and upon the non performance or violation of the covenant or condition in said deed to maintain the said Paul Grant, then this deed and deed of Paul Grant to me to become absolutely null and void and of no effect."

Signed by Rebecca B. Jewett July 24, 1858.

It would be interesting to know how the payment of \$1500 for each of these transactions worked out. Rebecca would have paid Paul \$1500 for the first deed, and then Mariam would have been obliged to pay \$1500 for the

document presented to her by Rebecca. It is hoped that, since this was all for Paul's benefit, he provided the \$1500 he had received to complete the deal. Actually, maybe no money changed hands; or Rebecca paid Paul, Mariam paid Rebecca, and only Mariam was out of pocket.

Mariam did take care of him until his death around 1860, not abjectly but attacked the assignment in a practical way. This was not a happy time for this family since Rebecca had been a party to forcing her to care for Paul. Mariam would have done it anyway and resented this legal intrusion. Frank was still a little boy and a bright spot during this difficult time. Amanda Hoit was living there too and a source of support for Mariam. Rebecca's deceitful action in this affair had created difficulty among the three sisters because neither Amanda nor Joanna had been consulted about this unkind deed to Mariam.

In connection with the last piece of land sold by Daniel and Ann Weeks, it was necessary to have a survey made of the boundaries. The Widow Grant personally took part in this in 1864, walking to the northern boundary of her property, and with neighbor William Weeks in agreement, placing stake and stones in the appropriate places.

Mariam Jewett Grant died on October 22, 1875 at the age of 66, and she was buried in the McCoy Cemetery next to her first husband, Moses Jewett. The marker reads: "Mariam M., Wife of Paul Grant, Formerly Wife of Moses Jewett". It would seem that Amanda and Joanna believed this to be the appropriate place for their mother. It is believed that Paul's desire to be buried in the burying ground in the orchard of his former farm was fulfilled and he rests there beside his two former wives.

At the time of Mariam's death, Frank was 25. Since these siblings did not get on well with Rebecca, it was decided that none of them would administer her estate. All four petitioned for an Administrator, and Stephen Ayer was appointed. Following is an excerpt from Belknap County Probate records, Docket 3031:

On November 16, 1875, Stephen Ayer, Administrator, and William Weeks, James R. Morrill and William H. Weeks, all of Gilford, appointed by Mr. Ayer to take inventory of the estate. Administrator's bond in the amount of \$4000.

License granted to Ayer to sell at public auction the whole of said real estate: containing about 95 acres--Bounded on the east by the rangeway, on the south by the highway leading from William Weeks to

Gilford Village, on the west by land formerly owned by David Gould, on the north by land of George W. Munsey.

INVENTORY OF THE ESTATE OF MERRIAM M. GRANT, DECEMBER 1875

One half Homestead farm in common and undivided with Frank R Grant, containing about 95 acres in all	\$1350.00
Livestock	66.00
Provisions & Product	64.00
Farming Utensils & Mechanics tools	21.70
Household furniture, books & maps	114.43
Miscellaneous articles	<u>39.45</u>
	\$305.58

ADMINISTRATOR'S ACCOUNT:

Inventory of Estate	\$305.58
Cash collected on book account	50.00
Personal estate not appraised in bank	330.50
Interest on personal property	<u>10.90</u>
	\$696.98
Paid charges of last sickness	24.59
Paid taxes of	15.84
Paid sundry debts, inc. funeral charges	374.95
Paid sundry legacies	255.60
Expenses of administration	<u>26.00</u>
	\$696.98
Sundry debts: Frank P. Grant	53.55
R. B. Jewett	315.90
Daniel Hoit	<u>5.50</u>
	\$374.75
Sundry Legacies:	
Each of 4 Children	\$63.90

CHAPTER 7--DANIEL HOIT & AMANDA (JEWETT) HOIT

Following the distribution made through Probate of Mariam Grant's Estate, a deed, 60-502, was written to Daniel Hoit from Rebecca B. Jewett; Frank P. Grant and Emma D. Grant, Gilford; and Joanna B. Mead, wife of William S. Mead of Meredith for \$2,450.

"Seven undivided eighth parts of the following described tract or parcel of land situate in said Gilford and known as the Sibley Farm, and lying on the road leading from Gilford Village to the Ebenezer Bartlett place and bounded as follows: On the South by the highway; on the East by the rangeway; on the North by land of Sleeper heirs; and on the West by land of Polly Gould with the buildings thereon standing, said premises being conveyed by the grantors in the following proportions: the said Rebecca Jewett one-eighth part, Frank P. Grant five-eighth parts, and Joanna B. Mead one-eighth part. The other undivided eighth part now being owned by Amanda F. Hoitt, wife of the said grantee, in her own right." The Sibley Place at the time the Hoits received it had "about 95 acres".

So Daniel and Amanda now took over running the farm. They provided a home for Rebecca who is now a spinster of 47. Since this had been Rebecca's home for 20 years, she was familiar with the work around the place. In appreciation for being accepted into their household, she helped them all she could and was more agreeable in disposition. .

Daniel and Amanda had a son Benjamin who died at the age of 15. He is buried in the lot subsequently used for Daniel and Amanda Hoit and Rebecca Jewett. His is a small stone imprinted only "BENNIE".

Like Daniel Weeks before him, Daniel Hoit was interested in real estate. The property he acquired came to about \$7,400 and his sales were a little better than \$3,700; suffering a loss over the whole period of over \$3,600.

Daniel and Amanda were enthusiastic about farming and lumbering on the place. They were interested early in the Grange and when Mt. Belknap Grange Number 52 was established in March, 1875, Daniel and Amanda were the first to be initiated.

In 1897, Daniel Hoit died of apoplexy at the age of 61. He is buried in Pine Grove Cemetery.

From Belknap County Probate Docket 5750:

John B. Morrill was appointed Administrator of his estate. His inventory and his debts came out even.

On May 18, 1897, there was a Warrant of Homestead & Dower to be set off to Amanda Hoit. It reads as follows:

HOMESTEAD

Seven-eighths undivided of a piece or parcel of land with the buildings thereon situate in Gilford, County of Belknap, being a part of the homestead farm of Daniel Hoitt late of Gilford, deceased, bounded and described as follows: beginning at a stone bound, having one drill hole in the top thereof (*), at the South East corner of said farm as described in deed of Frank P. Grant and others to Daniel Hoitt, recorded Belknap County records Book 60, page 502, running thence northerly 13 rods and 15 feet along the rangeway to a stake and stones, thence Westerly on the line of the South side wall of the lane leading to the barnyard 24 rods to a stake and stones, thence Southerly 6 rods to a stake and stones on the northerly side of the highway leading from Gilford Village to Orrin H. Weeks, thence Easterly on said line of said highway to the bound begun at, 23 rods."

(*) This stone was removed from the South East corner of this property at the time the road from Gilford Village (Belknap Mt. Rd.) cut the corner at the top of the hill at Weeks Road. When the stone was placed there, it was at the edge of the old road, but with the slight change in Weeks Road, the stone would have been partway into the road, necessitating its removal. The stone with the drill hole in the top now lies crookedly by a clump of basswood trees on the upper side of the present driveway.

DOWER

Seven-eighths, undivided, of a piece or parcel of land with the buildings thereon, bounded and described as follows: beginning at a stake and stones on the Westerly side of the rangeway, being the Northeasterly corner of the Homestead herein above described, thence Northerly along the Easterly side line of the homestead farm of the late Daniel Hoitt, as described in deed of Frank P. Grant and others to Daniel Hoitt, to the Northeasterly corner of said farm, thence Westerly 34 rods along the Northerly line of said farm to a stick and stones, thence Southerly about 200 rods to a stick and stones on the Northerly side of the highway leading from Gilford Village to Orrin H. Weeks, thence Easterly 11 rods along said line of said highway to a stick and stones at the Southwest corner of the Homestead herein above described, thence Northerly 6 rods to a stick and stones at the Northwesterly corner of said Homestead, thence Easterly 24 rods to the bound begun at.

Prepared by Committee:

George W Morrill
William H. Weeks

Orin H. Weeks

John B. Morrill, Administrator, sold the following property at public auction on December 3, 1897.

Real Estate in Gilford bounded as follows: On the North side by land of Mercy Watson; East by land of Levi Grant; South by land of Orrin Weeks and Heman Hunter; West by land of Sarah P. Hunt, Jewett Heirs and Estate of Daniel Hoitt; being the Potter Mountain Pasture so-called, containing 100 acres more or less, to Samuel B. Chadwick, he being the highest bidder, for \$225.

Also sold at public auction 7/8 of Homestead, about 50 acres to Amanda F. Hoit for \$350.

Also sold the right of reversion to 7/8 of Homestead to Amanda Hoit, about 43 acres for \$100.

On the Petition for Dower & Homestead, it states "there are no children". (Their son Bennie having already died.)

INVENTORY OF THE ESTATE OF DANIEL HOITT

Seven-eighths undivided of the Homestead farm occupied by the late Daniel Hoit	1487.50
The Potter Mountain Pasture	<u>400.00</u>
Total real estate	\$1887.50
Livestock: 1 pair Oxen	120.00
1 New Milck Cow	30.00
1 Farrow	10.00
1 Chestnut mare	20.00
1 Buckskin mare	35.00
1 2-Year-old Colt	26.00
14 Sheep	46.00
14 Hens	<u>7.00</u>
Total	\$304.00
Miscellaneous Articles	\$351.30

In this category are included 2 sap pans for 50 cents and 1 lot 45,660 Hemlock Lumber in log at Copp's Mill, valued at \$228.30.

Household Furniture	8.80
Farming Utensils	49.90
Mechanics Tools	5.20
Provisions and Produce	8.25

In the above inventory, the household furniture looks very modest, but the Hoits had lived at Mariam Grant's for their married life and had her furnishings as well as their own. During Daniel's tenure on the farm, he increased the livestock considerably.

December 30, 1897, John B. Morrill wrote two Administrative Deeds from the Estate of Daniel Hoit to Amanda Hoit for the property she purchased at public auction.

99-340 John B. Morrill, Gilford, Administrator of Estate of Daniel Hoitt for \$100 paid by Amanda F. Hoitt, Gilford . . . all the right, title and interest of Daniel Hoitt to the right of reversions of Homestead widow's dower to seven-eighths undivided of the following piece or parcel of land, with the Buildings thereon, situate in said Gilford, being on the highway leading from Gilford Village to the Ebenezer Bartlett Place, bounded and described as follows: On the South by said highway; on the East by the Range-way; on the North by land of the Sleeper Heirs; and on the West by land of the Heirs of Daniel Hoitt, containing about 43 acres of land, be the same more or less.

Signed: John B. Morrill
December 30, 1897

99-463 John B. Morrill, Administrator for \$350 paid by Amanda F. Hoit sold . . . all the right, title and interest of Daniel Hoitt in seven-eighths, undivided of the following piece or parcel of land situate in said Gilford (same description as above, except): On the East by land set off to Amanda F. Hoitt as her dower in the Estate of the said Daniel Hoitt; . . . and on the West by land of Simon Rowe and David Hatch, containing about 50 acres more or less.

Signed: John B. Morrill
December 30, 1897

Rebecca and Amanda stay on for four more years. It was becoming more difficult for them to keep up the farm, and Amanda found a buyer and sold the place on January 1, 1902. She was 64 and Rebecca was 73. They could then afford to go where housekeeping would be easier for them. Rebecca died first, in 1907, of a chronic gastric ulcer and was buried beside Daniel Hoit and Bennie in Pine Grove Cemetery.

INVENTORY OF ESTATE OF REBECCA B. JEWETT

Frank P. Grant of Belmont, Joanna Mead of Meredith and Amanda Hoit of Gilford, request Frank P. Tilton be appointed Administrator of the Estate of Rebecca B. Jewett, which was done.

Real Estate	None.
Deposits in Savings Institutions	\$522.33
Laconia Savings Bank	\$361.18
City Savings Bank	<u>161.15</u>
	\$522.33

Inventory taken by: Arthur J. Mead, Meredith; Alba I. Daniels, Belmont; and Theo J. Grant, Belmont.

Amanda died five years later and she joined the others at Pine Grove Cemetery.

CHAPTER 8--HENRY W. JOHNSON & AUGUSTA M. JOHNSON

On January 1, 1902, Amanda F. Hoit deeds the property to the Johnsons, 107-475. Below is the description of the property from that deed. By this time, the dollar amount of the sale is not revealed in the deeds--merely \$1.00 and other good and valuable considerations.

Amanda F. Hoit, Gilford, to Henry W. Johnson, Haverhill, Grafton County, State of New Hampshire . . . A certain tract or parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situate in said Gilford, and known as the Sibley Place, lying on the highway leading from Gilford Village to the Ebenezer Bartlett Place and bounded as follows: On the South by the above-mentioned highway; on the East by the rangeway; on the North by land formerly owned by the Sleeper heirs; and on the West by land of Simon Rowe and land of David Hatch, containing about 90 acres more or less, as bounded.

The Johnsons moved over from Haverhill, New Hampshire, and lived here only three years. They farmed the place while they were here.

In December, 1905, deed 116-437, they sold the place to Fred R. Weeks, their neighbor up the hill.

CHAPTER 9--FRED R. WEEKS & LENA D. WEEKS

When Mr. Weeks acquired the Sibley Place in 1905, the boundaries for the 90 acres were identical with those in the deed to Henry W. Johnson, and the same as the combined properties of William Sibley and his sister Hannah in the early 1800's. Mr. Weeks did not use the house as a family residence because he was living in the Weeks homestead at the end of Weeks Road. The house where Fred lived was built in 1802 by Nehemiah Sleeper. Fred's grandfather, William Weeks, acquired the homestead from Joseph Sleeper in 1837, and William's descendents have lived there to the present time--five generations. This William Weeks was known locally as Mountain Bill to distinguish him from other William Weeks in Gilford at that time--Storekeeper Bill and Applesauce Bill.

While Fred Weeks had no immediate use for the Sibley house, he was glad to acquire some additional hayfields, pasture and wood lots. Fred and Lena Weeks had three sons: Walter, Kenneth and Arthur. They ran a large farming operation with dairy herd and sheep. Beyond help from his sons, Fred needed to have a full time hired man. The Sibley house was used then for a time as a home for the hired man and his family. A son was born to this family in this house--after the time when there were many home births.

Mr. Weeks had a couple of unsuccessful rentals until the 1930's when a skiing group called "The White Mountain Runners" developed and ran a ski run on the west side of Gunstock Mountain. This skiing organization built a remarkable rope ski tow, starting a little way up from the Belknap Mountain Road in a pasture behind the present Muehlke home. This tow ran straight up the mountainside, with ramps made of boards laid in the path over the steepest ledges on the lift. It took such strength to ride this long, steep tow that hooks were used by the skiers to grip the rope. When we moved to Gilford in 1960, the straight scar on the mountain was very evident. Now there is still a suggestion of where it had been but it is filling in with foliage and soon will be indistinguishable. Even years ago when we walked up the tow, it was not very discernible from the ground.

The ski trails down the side of the mountain were even more hair-raising than the trip up would have been. Considering the primitive ski equipment of that day, it was remarkable that these trails could be run. It took not only skill, but a lot of daring.

This first ski slope in the area was so popular that Mr. Batchelder, who operated the project, needed a place for these intrepid sports people to stay. He approached Fred Weeks about the Sibley house, and so for several years the Sibley house was used as a ski lodge. We have a photograph of the house with 14 cars parked in the front yard. Mr. Batchelder renovated the barn, which later was the Muehlke's, to accommodate skiers. The skiing operation on the west side of Gunstock Mountain phased out with the opening of Belknap Recreation Area late in the 1930's.

During the years Mr. Weeks had the property, he had used the barn out back for hay and storage, and the use of the house did not interfere with his using the land. Both Mr. & Mrs. Weeks were involved in the community, each having served terms as State Representatives to the General Court. They were active in Town, church and Grange affairs too

Fred R. Weeks died January 13, 1938. Later that month, his widow, Lena Weeks, acquired the Sibley Place through will and probate. In October of 1941, Mrs. Weeks sold the house, with around 1-1/2 acres of land surrounding the house, to Merrill & Barbara Bates. Mrs. Weeks kept the balance of the land for farming.

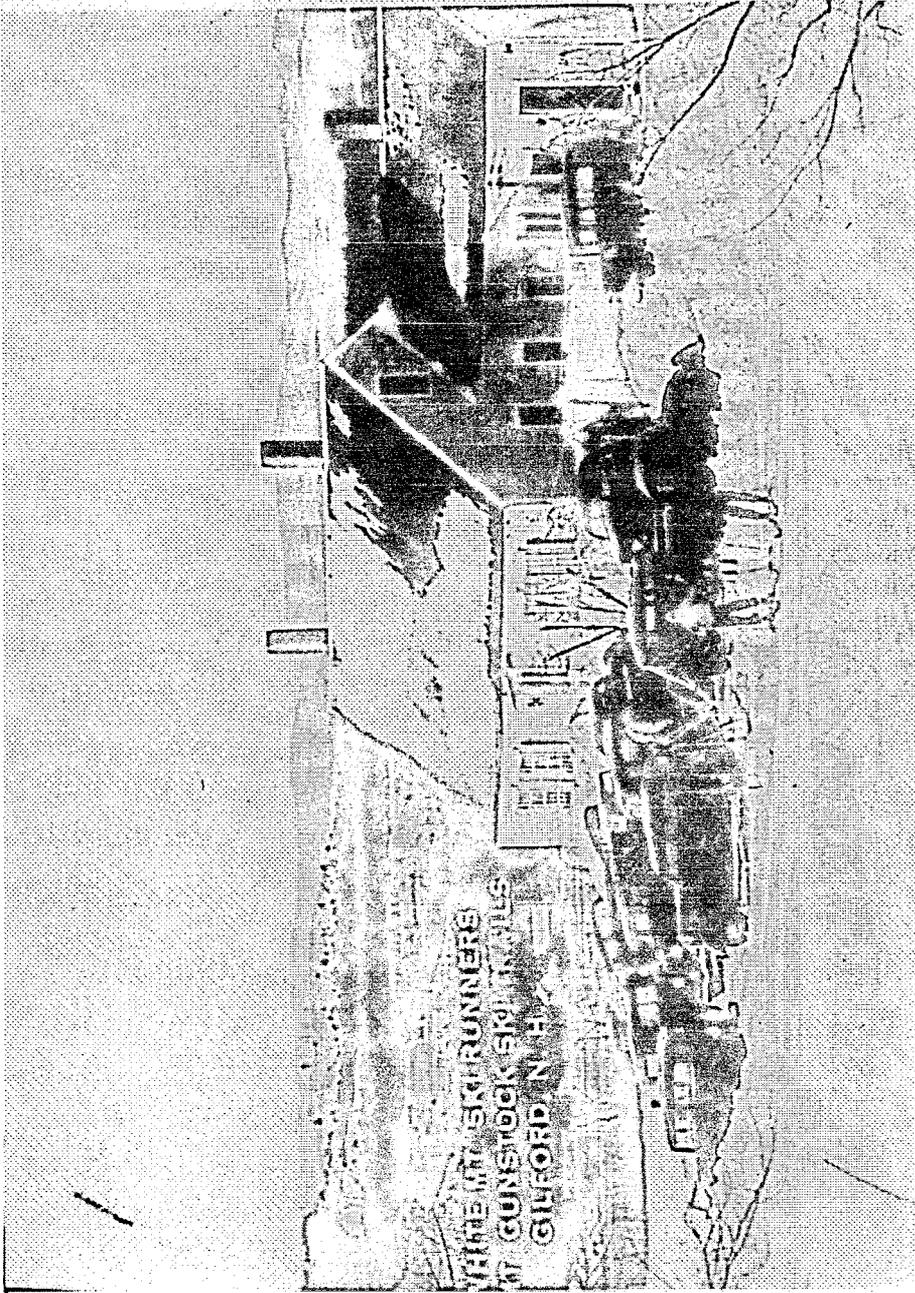
It should be mentioned here that while the deeds concerning the Sibley Place always referred to the Easterly boundary as the Rangeway, much of the land bounding the other side of the Rangeway was Weeks land. So the Sibley Place and the Weeks have been neighbors for 156 years.

I was privileged to know Mrs. Lena Weeks a brief while before her death in 1962. Both Walter and Kenneth, Arthur Weeks' brothers, had left the farm when we moved here. For more than 30 years, Arthur and his son, Peter--fifth generation Weeks on the farm, have been our neighbors. Arthur's late wife, Millie, was a good friend and neighbor; the kind of person one enjoyed being with. When not exchanging visits, it was reassuring to know that she was there.

One example of the fine community spirit of the Weeks was their generous deed to the Town of Gilford which today makes up a good part of the Town Forest. Originally, much of this land had been Sibley property.

Arthur Weeks has a wealth of information concerning olden days. I appreciate very much his sharing some facts he knew about that I have incorporated into this saga.

The Hutchinsons are buried in Weeks Cemetery and the Weeks in Pine Grove Cemetery.



THE SIBLEY PLACE as a SKI LODGE 1936

CHAPTER 10--MERRILL O. & BARBARA T. BATES

In October 1941, deed 254-406, Mrs. Lena Weeks sold to Merrill O. and Barbara T. Bates, both of Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, as joint tenants . . . a certain tract or parcel of land with the building thereon and situated in the Town of Gilford on the road leading from Gilford Village to the Belknap Mountain State Park, bounded and described as follows: commencing on the Northeast side of said highway at a stone wall at the Southeast corner of the Sibley Place, so called, (Note: the granite post with the hole cut in the top is not cited in this deed as a bound); and extending along said stone wall in a northeasterly direction approximately 225 feet to an iron pin at the end of said stone wall; thence turning to the left and extending in a Northwesterly direction about 262 feet to an iron pin; thence turning to the left and extending in a Southwesterly direction 257 feet, more or less, to an iron pin at said highway; thence turning to the left and extending in a Southeasterly direction about 250 feet along said highway to the point of beginning. These premises being a part of the property known as the Sibley Place conveyed to Fred B. Weeks by Henry W. Johnson by his deed dated December 2, 1905, and recorded in Belknap County Registry of Deeds Book 116, page 437.

Reserving to the Grantor, her heirs and assigns the barn and contents thereof on the above described premises; and the Grantor by acceptance hereof agrees to remove said barn and contents by June 25, 1942.

The Grantor covenants for her, her heirs and assigns that they will not erect or permit on the balance of said Sibley Place any obstructions to the view of Lake Winnepesaukee as seen from the present location of the house on the premises hereby conveyed.

Since the house had not been occupied for some time and had had rather hard use, the Bates found that there was a lot of work needed. They rented a place nearby for the summer and got started with contractors to restore the house. In a later chapter, I will tell about changes to the house and premises over the years.

In accordance with the deed from Mrs. Weeks, the barn was moved from the middle of the back yard up the hill off the Bates' property and just onto the Weeks' property. Some sheds were taken off the barn when it was moved. It is still in use for storage. This move did much to open up the view to the lake and mountains.

Mr. Bates was a Unitarian minister in Detroit, and by the following summer, the heaviest work had been done in the house and they were able to be here with their black maid for the summer as the finishing work was being completed. Later on, they moved to Gilford and Mr. Bates preached at the Laconia Unitarian Church for a while. They returned to Detroit in May, 1950.

We know little else about them, but appreciate the tasteful restoration for which they were responsible.

They sold to Blanche and Louis Ray, who were already living in Gilford, a little more than two miles down Belknap Mountain Road, in the house which had been the first farm of Paul Grant.

CHAPTER 11--LOUIS RAY & BLANCHE RAY

On May 31, 1950, a deed, 321-239, was prepared in Detroit and signed by Mrs. Bates turning over the place to Louis and Blanche Ray. The description of the boundaries remained the same as in the deed from Mrs. Weeks to the Bates. It also stated: "together with the benefits of the covenant by Lena D. Weeks that she, her heirs and assigns will not erect or permit on the balance of said Sibley Place any obstructions to the view of Lake Winnepesaukee as seen from the present location of the house on the premises hereby conveyed, as set forth in her deed to the Grantors, dated October 21, 1941, recorded in said Registry in Book 254, page 406."

The Rays moved in that summer. They liked it much better nearer to the village. When they lived down in Gilford Glen, as it is now developed, and the other house one half mile beyond was used only in the summer time. Belknap Mountain Road was a dirt road from Weeks Road down to Durrell Mountain Road.

With the conveniences in the house accomplished by both the Bates and the Rays, they could stay through the winter. They went to Florida during cold weather the last years they were here, and decided to move there permanently in 1960.

They put a "For Sale" sign in the front yard and had an overwhelming response. We were fortunate to be over in Gilford and saw their sign before the place was sold. After moving to the Lakes Region from Vermont in 1956, we had been looking for an old house for four years. In cruising around the countryside, we had driven past the Rays' many times, remarking that it was just the kind of place we wanted but had no hope that the owners would ever want to sell.

When we saw the sign, we were returning to Laconia after picking blueberries on Belknap. While we were disheveled from this outing, we decided we should not delay inquiring about the house by going back to the apartment to change our clothes. Our daughter was five years old when the three of us stopped that day and met the Rays and saw the house for the first time. When we stepped out of the car, we saw a wonderful view out to the west. Mr. Ray came out and greeted this motley little group with purple-stained teeth most graciously. We met Mrs. Ray at the kitchen door, and they took us on a tour of the house. It was evident immediately that Mr. Ray was

CHAPTER 12--DICK & NANCY CAMPBELL

The Rays deed to us was identical to the deed they had received from the Bates.

Once we bought the house, we could hardly wait to move from the apartment. It was with great anticipation we packed and readied for the move. We engaged the mover for Saturday morning of Labor Day weekend, 1960, and I remember Molly asking what would we do in the afternoon. She started kindergarten in Gilford that week. Like Sally Sibley and Ann Elkins before her, Molly was the only daughter in the family. In 1960, the York development on the south side of Belknap Mountain Road had not been built, so there were only two other houses on the hill: the Yorks in the old Sanborn farm, and a new house built along the roadside, its lot once having been the west boundary of the Sibley property. This had been acquired in the 90 acres bought by Fred R. Weeks, and Lena D. Weeks sold this house lot to the Kuss family.

Being a mile from the village, I had reconciled myself to transporting playmates for Molly. However, within the first day that her swing set had been set up out back, which we did on moving day, it drew in the neighboring children like a magnet. We could hardly believe our extraordinary luck to have two little girls as neighbors--Susan Kuss down the hill, and Nancy Keith in a new house up the hill. Soon we met Nancy Pratt, who lived a mile out Belknap Mountain Road. All four children were within four days of each other in age, with June birthdays, and all entered kindergarten together. At that time, Gilford Elementary School provided a kindergarten, but there was no bus service. With four mothers taking turns, it was no hardship providing transportation. In fact, it helped me in getting acquainted with our neighbors.

Molly became friends with another neighborhood girl when Elaine Weeks started school. She lived a half mile out Belknap Mountain Road in the Weeks' house at the corner of Hoyt Road. Her father is Benjamin Weeks, a descendent of the original Benjamin Weeks family who settled here. While Elaine was a year younger than Molly, the two girls had a lot in common, particularly enjoying exploring the property in the neighborhood. With some other children, they started a Nature Club, identifying flowers and birds and, mainly, noticing things around them.

We were fortunate to have the privilege of hiking on the Arthur Weeks land which rose to the top of the saddle between Gunstock and Mt. Rowe, abutting the County land. We all enjoyed going up there, and it looked different at various seasons and times of day.

We settled in as "year-rounders". We were not farmers on our 1-1/2 acres, but have enjoyed the satisfaction which comes from a bountiful vegetable garden. Dick worked for Kinsman Organ, as design engineer, and later for Wilcom Products as V. P. for Engineering. I stayed home, doing projects around the house and having Molly's friends around. In 1965, I started as part-time secretary at Gilford Elementary School. This job grew to full time, and later I was the first employee at the new Middle-High School in 1973. I stayed there until 1982, having worked for the School District 17-1/2 years. Later that year, I joined the Town Clerk-Tax Collector's Office in Gilford, where I worked into 1990.

During over 30 years in Gilford, Dick has always been interested in Town affairs. He served on the Gilford Budget Committee for 15 years--6 as Chairman, and 6 as Clerk. He also was appointed to the Gilford Zoning Board of Adjustment where he served 11 years--6 as Chairman.

Before retiring from Wilcom, he entered his first term as a Representative to the General Court from District 5, Gilford and Belmont. He is completing his fifth term in that office this year.

Stephen Weeks acquired the Arthur Weeks property in the late 1980's, and Arthur's family has stayed on in the house and they are still farming. When we learned that the portion of this property in back of our small plot was being sub-divided, we purchased 5+ acres behind the house which include a hay field and beyond that an old pasture and a small wooded area. The end of this property bounds the Town property, which Arthur and Millie Weeks had deeded them. It is good to have the property in use as it always had been and not have building there ultimately. The deed to Stephen Weeks also carried the stipulation that there should be no obstruction of the view from our place. However, it is good to own the property from the highway out front right back to the Town forest.

In April, 1992, we purchased another 5 acres of land from Stephen Weeks. This piece is parallel to and east of the first acquisition, and includes the old barn, the upper mowing and more pasture and woods back to the Town property. The eastern boundary is the center of the old rangeway.

- Molly has not lived at home since 1977, when she graduated from Bates College. She is an occupational therapist, living in Cambridge and working in the Boston area. She comes here frequently for visits.

We cannot prophesy who may be using this place when we are done. Our hope is to leave it as well, or in better shape than we found it -- both the house and premises. May those who follow us enjoy it even half as much as we have, and I hope this little saga of those who have gone before may enhance their living here.

CHAPTER 13--THE HOUSE

As cited in Chapter 1, William Sibley Sr. purchased one half of Lot 10 in the 14th range in July 1786. The Sibleys immediately began to clear the virgin timber for building the house and barn.

They excavated a partial cellar under the front half of the house. They laid up large field stones dry all the way around the house foundation. A very large pile of the same kind of rock formed the massive foundation for the chimney. Knowing of a site for granite, they hacked their way into lot 10, 15th range, and with their team of oxen drew out large slabs of granite to place on the cellar foundation stones under the wooden sills of the house. These sills were fashioned from large trees and hewn by hand into sturdy beams.

They used these same strong beams in the construction of the 1-1/2 story frame house. They measure 10 inches or more finished. They lock into the long beams which define the ceiling of the downstairs. There are corner posts. Raising these posts and beams must have required the assistance of neighbors.

In the inventory of William Sibley Sr.'s estate, it states that there were buildings, boards and shingles on the property as of August 16, 1790. William Sibley Jr. had built a crude cabin where he lived while working on the house. The inside finishing was accomplished by September 1792, when William Sibley, Jr. moved into the house with his bride.

The original house was the traditional 1-1/2 story Cape Cod design--center front door with two windows on either side, with two downstairs and two upstairs windows on the ends of the house, and windows spaced to suit the rooms across the back. After the boarding was put up, the outside was finished with clapboards, and the roof was topped with wooden shingles. They utilized the large hemlock trees for wide boards for the floors.

Hand made bricks were available and were incorporated into the three fireplaces leading into the big center chimney. The fireplace in the kitchen was the center of the home where they did all of their cooking and most of their living. The kitchen was in the back of the house, with a dining room to one side and a small bedroom on the other side. Upon entering the front door into the hall, there was a stairway leading to two sleeping areas upstairs. The parlor was on one side of the front, and a bedroom on the other side. An interesting feature of the corner posts in the bedroom is that they are concealed by a curved wall constructed in front of them. This curve is

plastered, and the baseboard created out of many parallel short pieces of wood to follow the line.

The interior walls were finished with split lath and plaster. There was panelling around the fire places and also some vertical wide board walls. The ceilings were also finished with plaster. There was a stairway to the cellar where there were shelves to store items which needed to have a cooler location.

After the cabin was made, the raising of the barn was done simultaneously with the start of the house as they had to have a place to house the horses and oxen, and their fodder, while they were constructing the homestead. The barn was placed a short distance from the house in the middle of the back yard. While it may have helped as a wind screen, it would have obliterated the view from most of the windows in the house.

After John and Sally Elkins were married in 1814, it seemed a little crowded in the kitchen area so a modest shed was tacked onto the east end of the house for extra storage of household items and used as a summer work room.

The succeeding families enjoyed the house with just upkeep until Daniel Hoit married Amanda and came to live with the Grants about 1858. After that time, he was instrumental in building the kitchen ell. The little wart of Sally Elkins' day was removed, and the kitchen and adjoining shed room were created. This was a generous sized ell, having two front doors, a back door, and a couple of windows in the kitchen and one in the shed in front. He built a chimney between the kitchen and shed room for the stove. One corner of the kitchen was set off as a pantry. With the cooking activities moved into the ell, it provided needed living space in the main house.

While the fireplaces were attractive, they were not effective. It required a lot of time and watchfulness to keep the fireplaces going, and even with the most diligence, they could not produce efficient heat. Consequently, when heating stoves were improved, they became very popular and were introduced into many old houses. Down came the big central chimney, and up went two little skimpy chimneys on each end of the main house. Thus the stoves were set up proudly in the downstairs rooms. These improvements wrought sometime between 1860 and 1895 sufficed during the years the place was owned by the Johnsons and Weeks.

We know that the shed was the location of an early outhouse. Later, when the skiers were here, the former hen house up along the barnyard lane was transformed into a multi-outhouse.

By the time the Bates acquired the house in 1941, there was a lot of work to be done. They also wanted to remove some of the "improvements" and restore the house in a faithful and attractive way. They took down the stove chimneys at the ends of the main house. The huge rock foundation of the first chimney was still intact in the cellar, and they created a new central chimney with flues for a fireplace in the living room, a fireplace in the dining room, and one for an oil burner.

This big brick chimney was painted white with a black band around the top as was done in earlier times to signify the occupants as Tories. The fireplaces were surrounded with tasteful vertical board panelling.

The ceilings in the living room and dining room were in bad shape so they had the plaster and lath ripped off and exposed the old beams. A new plaster ceiling was provided between the beams. After we had lived in the house a while, the exposed beams began to acquire whitish streaks and showed evidence of being dry. To rectify this condition and restore the rich brown, even patina they had acquired, we used our secret formula for treating old wood. This is a mixture of turpentine and bees wax, with the bees wax shredded into the turpentine and dissolved. When it cannot take any more wax, add some boiled linseed oil. When applying this mixture with a cloth, the jar of finish is kept warm so it will flow and soak into the wood. The other ingredient for best results is lots of elbow grease in application so it is burnished and not tacky when finished. The polish becomes solid when it cools. Fortunately, this application lasts for years, and any dry spots that should appear can be touched up.

One of the first things the Bates did was to convert the shed off the kitchen ell into a room and bath for their black maid whom they had brought with them from Detroit. The Bates also built the first indoor bathroom, installing it where the pantry had been previously. With this much done in the downstairs, the house could be used. They had further structural ideas which they also carried out. Wanting to have better headroom upstairs, they had a dormer almost the full length of the house put in on the back. This did not affect the appearance from the front of the house. Sometime, the old outside doors had been replaced with Victorian type doors with glass lights in them which had an arched top. These were evident in the ski lodge picture of the house. The Bates replaced these with good panelled doors.

All of the basic work, done during the Bates' stay here, was well done. They installed a hot water oil heating system which has been very satisfactory. A hot water heater was used in conjunction with the furnace. They also put in

a new window over a new sink and built handy cupboards and a kitchen closet. They replaced the wood shingle roof with a black asphalt shingle roof. Use of wood shingles was now discouraged as roofing because they could be a fire hazard.

So when the Rays moved in in 1950, the place was very livable. They did the decorating in the two upstairs bedrooms, which had not been finished by the Bates. The floors have yet to be finished. They also worked on the shed, removing the maid's quarters and turning the shed into a single-car garage. Since the shed was not deep enough for the car, they created a little extension at the back of the garage. There was just room for a car and a few garden tools. The Rays had kept the house very well, and the outside paint and inside paint and decorating were in excellent condition when we moved in.

A year or so after we moved in, we detected a slumping of the west wall foundation of the house. With the help of a contractor, jacks were employed and the offensive section of the wall repaired and strengthened with the use of some concrete. That was the only necessary structural work on the main house. We replaced the roof with a light colored asphalt roof, which made the upstairs more comfortable in summer.

About ten years ago, we decided to tear off the old garage and build a roomy two-car garage with room for work benches and outside tools. The arches for the doors were designed and fashioned by Dick. While the garage was being torn up, it was a convenient opportunity to replace the kitchen chimney on the garage wall. Since we were using a wood stove in the kitchen, we wanted to be sure we had a good flue-lined safe chimney. At the same time a flue was put in the chimney to take a wood stove in the garage to be used when working out there in cold weather. We installed a gas hot water heater in the garage. Since we used a gas stove, it was more satisfactory to have the gas heater and not need to use the furnace at all in warm weather. We have replaced the furnace, but not the system.

When the new chimney was put in the kitchen, we laid a tile floor under both stoves. In redecorating the kitchen we put a three-piece horizontal window over the sink area, for the light and to enjoy the view. The window installed by the Bates was set too high to see anything but sky. We also replaced a window in the bathroom and installed some wall tile and a tile floor.

So, aside from any necessary decorating that occurs, we have the place the way we want it.



THE OLD BARN
Removed in 2006.

CHAPTER 14--WATER (IN & OUT)

In olden times, the Sibleys had a well where our driveway is now, about 12 feet out from the garage doors. We know the location because the driveway slumps there every spring. The early dwellers also had a well out back which was convenient to the barn and barnyard. This well is located at the west end of the south wall of the lane leading up the hill from the former barnyard. It is very evident and one can see into it several feet even though it has a big boulder perched on the top.

Water coming in was the important feature in early times; they were not preoccupied as we are today about water going out. They took the basin outside and tossed the water out.

At some time they had pumps for these wells. Cold running water might have been achieved in the early 1900's.

With the advent of the Bates, there was more water consumption. They needed to have a reliable source of water for their new plumbing. They had an artesian well put in outside the kitchen ell. Because of their greater use, it was necessary to cope with the effluence. This was accomplished by putting in a septic system in the back yard. There was a septic tank and a leach field.

These water works lasted through the Rays' stay here.

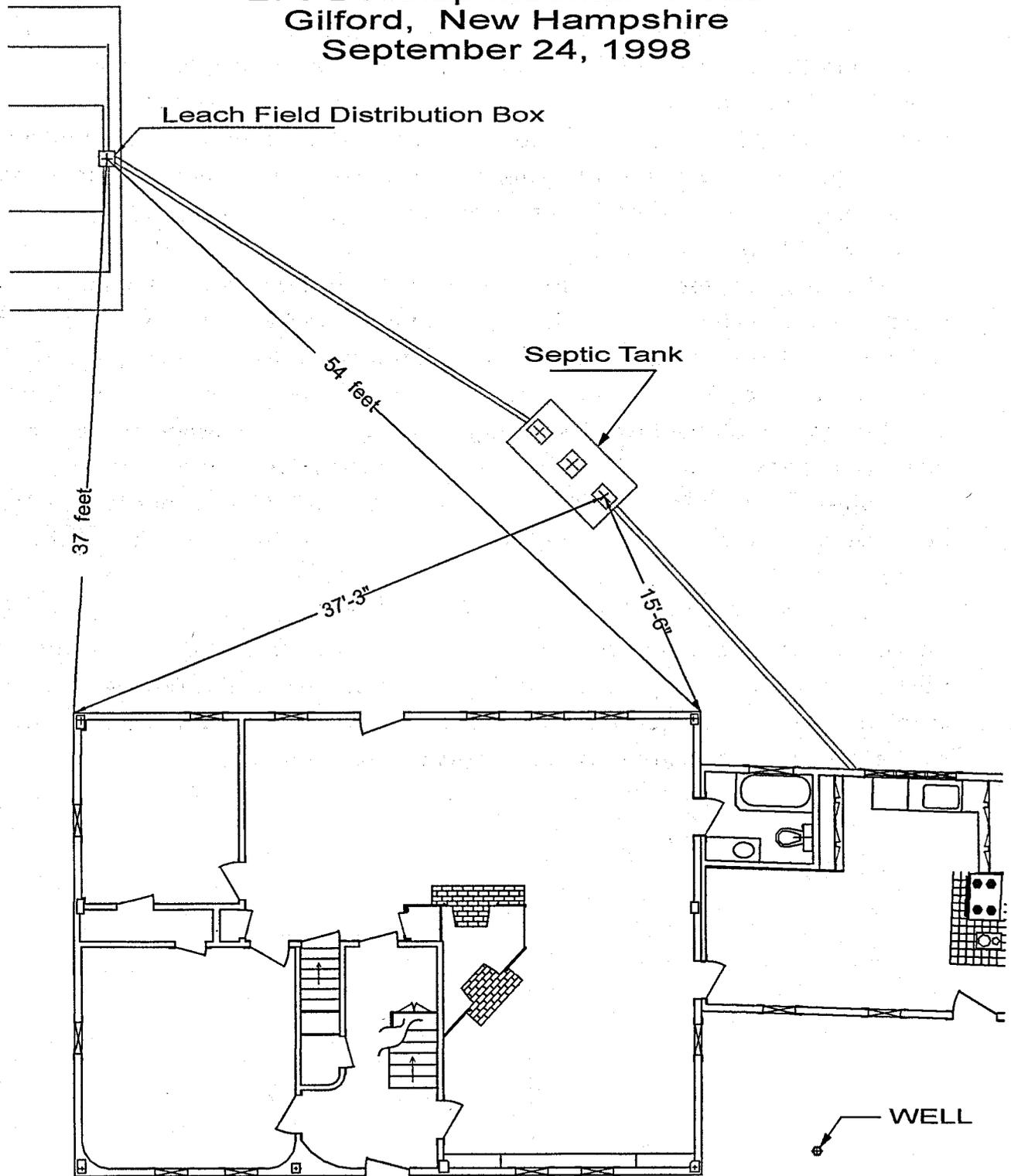
Sometime during the 1970's, the foot valve in the well failed. Gouin Plumbing pulled out the old iron well pipe, replaced the jet and foot valve, and replaced the pipe with plastic. They also installed a man hole for access to the top of the well and pipes leading to the cellar. The well continued to function for several more years, although the pump and pressure tank had to be replaced in 1983. The quality of water gradually deteriorated, containing more and more rusty material. Then the quantity also began to fall off, and the pump had to work overtime. In 1990, Gilford Well pulled the pipe again and replaced the foot valve. They found that the foot valve was right down on the sediment at the bottom of the well, accounting for the poor quality, so shortened the pipe by about 17 feet. Also, the return pressure pipe from the pump to the well top had a hole caused by a manufacturing defect, which accounted for the loss of water and pump overwork. This fixed, the water supply has been fully adequate for our use. The stirred-up sediment settled very gradually, but after a year or so the quality was back pretty much to what it had been in the early days of our residence.

The well is located in front of the house, in the corner between the main house and the ell, about 8 feet from the main house and 9 feet from the ell. There is a removable concrete cover under about 8 inches of soil. The "static level" measured 77 feet down. The well measured 240 feet deep, but that is to the top of the accumulated sediment; the drilled depth may be somewhat more. A good cleaning of the well, perhaps hydraulic cleaning rather than re-drilling, would do no harm.

The original steel septic tank rusted out and had to be replaced, with concrete, in the 60's. The septic tank has functioned well and goes for years without needing to be pumped. It is located behind the house, perhaps 20 feet northwest of the northeast corner. At the time the septic tank was installed, the leach field was just a dug trench filled with crushed stone, which failed and backed up in 1978. An approved leach field was then installed by P. LaBonte & Son. The distribution box for the leach field is located 54 feet from the northeast corner of the main house and 37 feet from the northwest corner.

Back in 1963, through a Soil Conservation program Arthur Weeks was entitled to as a farmer, we joined two neighbors, the Keiths and Weeds, in paying for a pond to be made on Weeks Road. Later, the Fire Department installed a dry hydrant for use in case of a fire. This pond has been employed by the Town in combating subsequent fires on the mountain.

Septic System Locations
278 Belknap Mountain Road
Gilford, New Hampshire
September 24, 1998



CHAPTER 15--FLORA & FAUNA

After the initial hard labor of clearing the trees from the lot and building a dwelling, the early settlers' first attempt at beautification of the yard was to plant a New Hampshire purple lilac. These are seen beside practically every old house and are a tell-tale sign of an old cellar hole. The Sibleys planted one on the back northwest corner of the house, where it still flourishes. On several occasions, it has had to be pruned back from the house to accommodate painting. The last time the house was painted, we had to remove one large branch which was big enough to warrant cutting up for firewood. There may have been maple trees in the yard for shade, but even where the old stumps might have been are no longer distinguishable. We set out two ash trees in the front yard, which we took from the rangeway.

The most important plants, of course, were hay, flax, wheat and corn. Apple trees were an early addition to the farm. The fruit had many uses, not the least of them making cider. There were lush blueberries up the hill where fields were cleared for sheep grazing. Wild grapes also grew on the property. They probably grew a few herbs to dry for various purposes. When Sally Elkins' dower was established, part of it included her one-third of the cellar where root vegetables could have been laid away.

It is doubtful that the first families living here had much time for any frivolous gardening such as flower beds. They might have set out a rose bush, orange day lilies, or something that didn't require much care. Wild flowers of the season would have been abundant once the forests and fields were cleared. Some of these on the property were: starting with arbutus in the spring, followed by yellow and purple violets, painted trillium and red trillium, Jack-in-the-pulpit, dogtooth violet, red wood lily growing among the blueberries, wild roses, wild morning glory, lady slippers, daisies, black-eyed Susans, vetch, buttercup, Queen Anne's lace, shepherd's laurel (hardhack), wild asters, and several kinds of goldenrod. The woods had many kinds of ferns, including the evergreen Boston fern, partridge berries, wintergreen, pipsissewa, and several varieties of ground pine.

At some point, a basswood tree was either planted or encouraged at the roadside beside the driveway. It grew to be the biggest of its kind we had ever seen. It seeded others and ultimately the old one died and we had to

remove it. After that, some spindly lilacs, which had barely survived under its shade, began to grow and bloom.

Mrs. Ray was an enthusiastic gardener and set out flower beds of perennials we still enjoy--particularly white peonies outside the kitchen. Mr. Ray was more a tree fancier and filled the side yard with a variety of trees--red maples, soft maples, ash, and a Chinese chestnut. Some of these died of their own accord and other have been removed. He planted five little spruce trees in a row on the western edge of the lawn. They were mere shrubs about shoulder height when we came. They grew rapidly, and, after a few years, were crowding one another so that we took out numbers 1, 3, and 5. The two remaining ones are majestic tall evergreens today.

Where we enjoyed sitting in the back yard, there was no shade. From the hedgerow up our rangeway, we brought down a little maple tree in a wheelbarrow. Today it can be seen from the front, towering over the garage roof. We put in two locusts trees in the side yard. These were brought over in the trunk of the car from Dick's parents' place in Vermont. Their place also provided the white phlox that are so prolific around our yard today.

Over the years we have been here, we have spent more time and energy clearing out than adding new plants. All of our firewood was provided from taking out brush and weed trees along the walls of our small plot. After acquiring the back pasture, our main thrust has been eradicating bittersweet, pasture rose and juniper bushes. Our back pasture is clear of those now and the gray birch which had been taking over has been cut down and is being used for firewood.

Our first project out back was to try to salvage a row of apple trees at the end of the hayfield. Walter Weeks, Arthur's brother, was a pomologist at Massachusetts State College in Amherst, and he planted these trees as an experiment. One season in the 1970's, before we owned them, these trees produced excellent fruit, even without special care. Later, they had become entwined with bittersweet and roses and were being strangled. One winter was spent tugging this foliage out of the trees and trying to reclaim them. Since then, the apple trees have been heavily infested by gypsy moths, and their ultimate recovery was dubious. In 1993, it was evident they were not going to recover, so we cut them down and brought them in for firewood.

The multiflora roses which were introduced to the farmers in the 1950's have become a curse in the fields and pastures. The proponents of planting

these roses along fence lines claimed that they would prohibit the passage of cattle; they would make keeping fences an easier, or even unnecessary, task as the shrubs would replace fencing; they would provide cover for small animals and birds; and they would be beautiful. If confined, they might have accomplished all these worthy objectives, but the birds and animals scattered seed, and they began to spring up in every available spot where they could get started. Soon the hayfields and pastures were peppered with these prickly plants. One of their more objectionable features is that they do not just make a neat shrub, but they crawl along the ground forming mats of shrubs. Worst of all, they climb trees and, along with entwining bittersweet, kill the upper parts of the trees. They also have vicious thorns which make eradicating them a difficult and irritating undertaking.

As far as fauna is concerned, the inventories of the estates of the various families give a picture of the kinds of creatures they had. None of the inventories mentioned cats or dogs although they must have had them around then. Perhaps they were considered of no value and expendable. One would think any farm would need cats to discourage vermin where they had grains. Some dogs have been taught how to herd cattle. The first inventory to mention hens was that of Daniel Hoit in 1897. Surely both chickens and eggs were used much earlier than that.

There were fish in the streams and in the lakes, and probably they hunted grouse, wild turkeys, rabbits and deer. As mentioned before, there were wolves and wild cats which threatened livestock.

The Weeks family have for many years hayed the field out in back of our house, and they also let out cattle to pasture there. It was nice to see the cows there, but now it is used only for a hayfield in the front section. The old pasture we have reclaimed is used still some by the Weeks for young stock.

We have bird feeders near the house and enjoy bird watching in all seasons. While we are working or sitting outdoors we spot many interesting birds. When the apple trees bore fruit, they attracted deer which could be seen from the house. We have seen fox in the field. There are plenty of skunks and raccoons around, as well as smaller animals. The best fauna that I have experienced in the 31 years we have been here was seen last fall. While preparing dinner, I looked out the kitchen window and beheld, only a couple of hundred feet away in the field, a cow moose with a calf.

CHAPTER 16--THE MC LAUGHLIN PLACE

As mentioned earlier, the acreage in the Sibley Place remained the same from the time William Sibley, Jr. and David Gould divided the 100-acre Lot 10 in Range 14 into two 50-acre sections until Mrs. Lena Weeks sold some of the property almost 150 years later.

The dividing stone wall between the two sections is the existing stone wall running behind the present houses on the east side of Hazelnut Lane.

In 1938, Lena D. Weeks inherited the property after Fred R. Weeks' death. She sold the Sibley house with 1-1/2 acres of land to the Bates in 1941. The next parcel she sold in 1955 was 7.7 acres of Lot 10 Range 14, along the western boundary of the property abutting the former Gould/Hatch land. This was a long, skinny strip extending from Belknap Mountain Road almost to what is now Town land. A small parcel of land adjacent to the Town land was reserved by the Weeks as a possible right of way into their property in the future.

The house near the road was built by Fred and Mary Kuss. The deed from Mrs. Weeks had some interesting stipulations. Following are excerpts from deed 363-361:

"(selling) part of the land deeded to Fred R. Weeks by H. Johnson on December 2, 1905, deed 116-437 . . . It is a condition of this deed that the Grantees, and heirs and assigns shall never sub-divide said granted premises, nor operate or cause to be operated thereon any cabin colony, motel, or gas station, and that only one dwelling or residence shall be built on the premises." It must be remembered that at this time there were no zoning regulations in the Town of Gilford, and Mrs. Weeks' reservations showed considerable foresight. Fred and Mary Kuss were in the nursery business and Fred set out several different kinds of evergreen trees in the strip behind the house.

September 8, 1958, Mrs. Weeks wrote the following deed to Fred and Mary:

391-548 "I, Lena D. Weeks, quit claim any rights I may have in a certain condition relating to sub-division of certain premises conveyed by me to the said Grantees, by deed dated June 16, 1955, 363-361, in so far as said rights pertain to the present house located on the premises and about 1 acre of land. The purpose of this deed is to allow the Grantees to sell their present house and

one acre of land, but remaining land is still subject to the condition that it shall not be sub-divided."

Fred R. and Mary Kuss deeded the property to Florence H. Kuss (Fred's mother) on April 17, 1961. October 29, 1964, Arthur H. and Mildred H. Weeks wrote the following deed to Florence Kuss:

447-542 Arthur H. and Mildred H. Weeks for consideration paid by Florence H. Kuss (Mrs. Fred A. Kuss) of Gilford, hereby release and discharge the conditions respecting sub-division and use of the premises in Gilford on the Northerly side of the road leading from Gilford Village to Mt. Belknap, being the premises conveyed by Lena D. Weeks to Fred R. and Mary T. Kuss June 16, 1955, 363-361, including by this release and discharge any rights we or either of us have or ever may have to enforce any such condition. Provided, however, that as a part of the aforesaid consideration, and as a condition of the acceptance of this release by Florence H. Kuss, the following conditions, which shall be covenants running with the land, shall be imposed upon so much of these premises as are now owned by Floence H. Kuss and shall be included in any deed by her of the premises or any portion of them:

1. It is to be used for residence purposes only, and any house or houses erected shall be designed and built for use by one family.

2. No loam, sand, gravel, or similar material shall be removed from the premises for use outside the premises, except to the extent that such removal shall be necessary or convenient for house site preparation, land clearing, and construction of roads, walks and drives. . . .

Signed: Arthur H. Weeks
Mildred H. Weeks
October 29, 1964

Since the time of this deed, the Kuss house with the 1 acre and the remaining 6.7 acres have changed ownership several times. The present owner of the strip of land is Jerry Gagnon, who is in the real estate business. Upon acquiring the property, he opened a crude road into the back section. It is a damp section of property, and the predominant tree growth was poplars. He had many of these trees cut to open up house lots. Some of the fine evergreens planted by Fred Kuss were also removed to afford a view up the hill to Gunstock Mountain. Subsequently, Everett McLaughlin planted spruce trees

on his side of the line for a screen preventing the multitude in the development from peering into their glass living room.

The timing of this land acquisition by Mr. Gagnon was unfortunate for him because bad times in real estate came upon the heels of his attempted reclamation of this property. Nothing has been sold there. Much of the cut wood and slash is still piled on the premises, and the fast-growing poplars are again attempting to take over the land.

The next change in Lot 10, Range 14, occurred March 30, 1971, when Arthur and Millie Weeks sold 17-1/2 acres of this lot, along with contiguous land, to the Town of Gilford by the following deed:

555-340 Arthur H. and Mildred H. Weeks . . . grant to the Town of Gilford . . . with WARRANTY COVENANTS;

Certain parcels of land in said Gilford, namely all of the land conveyed by Henry W. Johnson to Fred R. Weeks by deed dated the 2nd of December 1905 and recorded in Belknap County Registry of Deeds in Book 116, Page 437, which lies northerly of the following described line:

Beginning at the easterly end of a stone wall on the westerly side of the rangeway that marks the easterly side line of said Johnson land, which wall is approximately four hundred fifty feet south of the second parcel to be so conveyed, as hereinafter defined, and running in a general northwesterly direction following said wall and the line thereof to its intersection with a stone wall on the westerly side of said Johnson land, at land of one Fellman, plus all the land conveyed to Arthur H. Weeks by Laconia Milling Corporation by deed dated the 16th of May 1949, Book 312, Page 192, and by deed dated the 2nd of June 1949 and recorded in Book 312, Page 202, except for the most southerly portion thereof, which consists of approximately three acres which was conveyed by Daniel Weeks to Ernest C. Haserick by deed dated the 21st of November 1863, in Book 40-Page 293.

SUBJECT HOWEVER, To a restriction in a deed from Lena D. Weeks to Merrill O. Bates and Barbara T. Bates, dated the 21st of October, 1941 and recorded in Book 254, Page 406, that reads as follows:

The Grantor covenants for herself, her heirs and assigns that they will not erect or permit on the balance of said Sibley Place any obstructions to the view of Lake Winnepesaukee as seen from the present location of the house on the premises hereby conveyed, it being understood that the Sibley Place is the property conveyed by Henry W. Johnson to Fred R. Weeks as aforesaid.

TOGETHER WITH the benefit of a restriction, hereby imposed on certain other land of the grantors known as the former Thomas J. Guay property and being all that they now own of all the land described in two deeds to Fred R. Weeks, one from Thomas J. Guay, dated the 29th of October 1924, and the other from Orman M. Sanborn, Collector, dated the 29th of August 1927, recorded respectively in Book 174, Page 250, and Book 183, Page 233, which restriction is that during a period of ten years from the 13th of March 1971, said former Thomas J. Guay property is not to be sub divided or developed, or used for residential purposes, or used for commercial purposes other than blueberry raising and other agricultural and forestry . . .

Signed: Arthur H. Weeks
Mildred H. Weeks
March 30, 1971

This was a very generous contribution from Arthur and Millie to the Town of Gilford. At the time this was deeded it was thought to be 80 acres, but after a later survey it was more like 90 acres. It included the northern portion of the Sibley property in Lot 10, Range 14 and all of the Sibley property in Lot 9, Range 14, to the north, plus a portion of Lot 10, Range 15, up hill to the east. It is a great asset to the Town to have this undeveloped land.

That covers the changes in this lot up to the time Arthur and Millie sold their entire property to Stephen Weeks. At that time, there was left about half of the Sibley 50 acres in Lot 10, Range 14, or 25 acres or so, from the rangeway down to the Kuss line. In the deed from Arthur and Mildred Weeks to Steve, there were restrictions on the number of house lots which could be sold immediately and reservations concerning continued use of hayfields, pasture and woodlots during the life tenancy of Arthur and Millie.

In November 1988, Steve and Pauline Weeks sold Lot #1, 13.57 acres, more or less, to Michael and Judith Sullivan. Less than a year later, on August 11, 1989, the Sullivans sold the premises to Everett and Sandra McLaughlin.

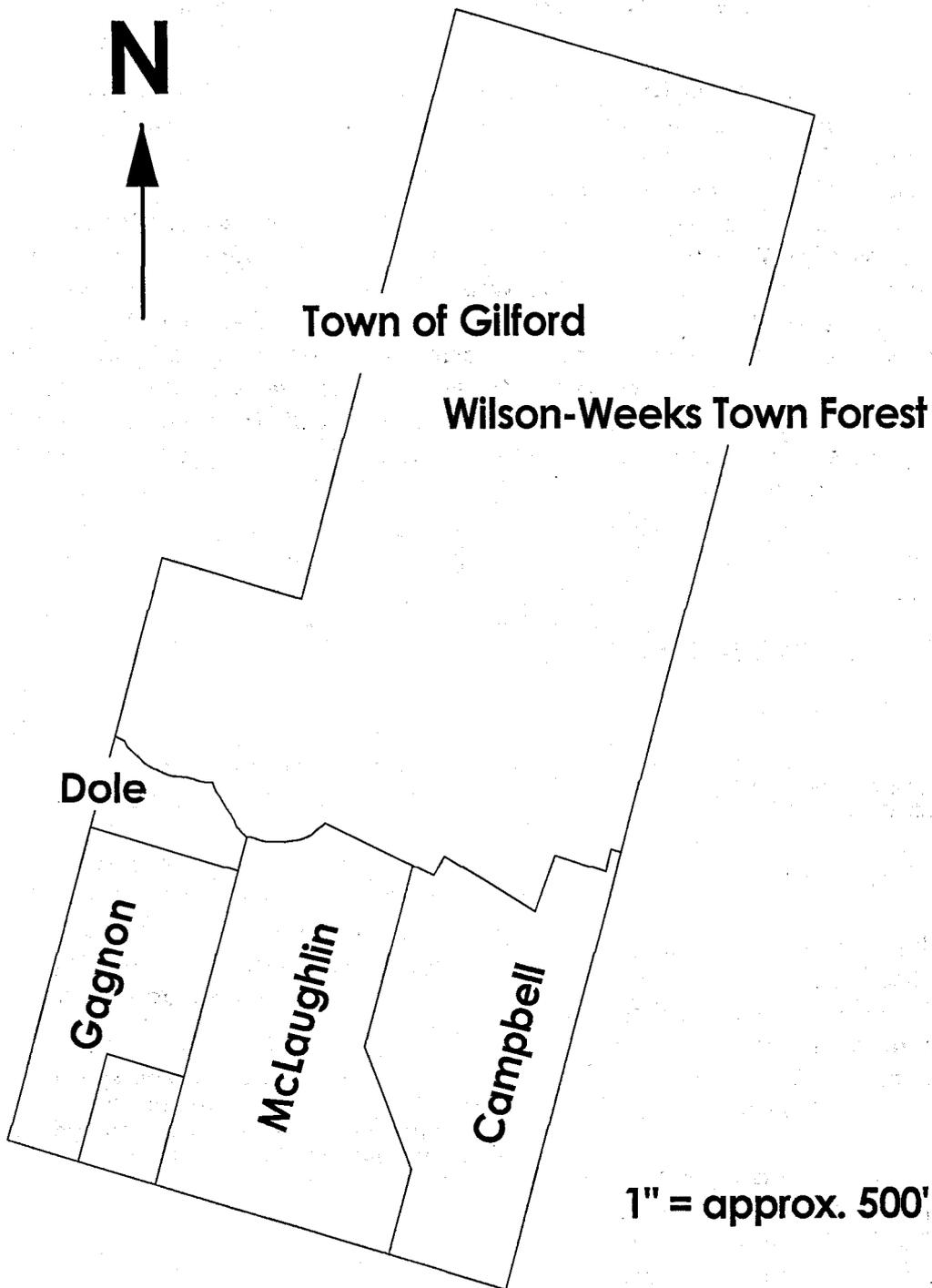
In March of 1988, Steve Weeks had sold about 6 acres of land to us. At this time he also sold the small right-of-way lot, which had been reserved by Lena Weeks at the end of the Kuss strip, to the Doles who owned abutting property on Hazelnut Lane. We acquired our upper section of back land in April 1992. This made our total acreage 11.25.

So with the McLaughlins 13.57 acreage, the two families account for 24.82 acres--all of Steve Weeks land west of the mid-boundary of the rangeway road separating Ranges 14 and 15.

Mike and Judy Sullivan had better luck in selling their land to McLaughlins than the McLaughlins had in selling their Gilford property on Chipmunk Circle. The real estate market became very slow right after Everett and Sandy bought their lot. Even though this prevented construction of the house, they were able to enjoy the land. For a couple of years they had a vegetable garden where, among other things, they grew giant pumpkins. It is probably pretty good dirt for the garden as it had been a fertilized hayfield for many years. More recently, they set out blueberry bushes running down the hill in the shelter of their woods. With all the succulent foliage in the vicinity, the deer took a particular liking to these fragile new shrubs. When the house is occupied, the deer may not be so daring.

In the summer of 1993, Everett and Sandy sold their place on Chipmunk Circle. In the fall, grading and foundations were completed. Then came the framing and with the roof and sides added, it took shape. The winter weather has not been kind to the builders before the openings can be closed. From the well-digging up to watching the windows being installed now, it has been a great source of interest. We are eagerly awaiting its completion and occupancy.

It is hoped that this chronicle of the history of this land may be of interest to the McLaughlin family and followers. It is interesting to note that, as of now, there are only 3 houses (ours, McLaughlins and the Kuss place) on the original Sibley lot, whereas the Gould/Hatch half has been entirely built up, except for Pine Grove Cemetery.



THE SIBLEY FARM 1994

The last of Fred Weeks' hired men to live in the Sibley house was Lester E. Adams, with his wife, Helen (Clow) Adams, and an adopted daughter, Frances. This was in the early 1930's. Apparently, Adams packed up and left without notice in the middle of haying season in 1932.

Adams had planted a vegetable garden in the lower part of the back field, where later Walter Weeks set out his apple orchard. One hot summer day in 1932, Arthur Weeks, then age 12, was with his father at the County Commissioners' office at the Belknap County courthouse, Fred at that time being a Commissioner. Arthur remembers Adams coming in to tell Fred that he was planning to go out and harvest whatever crops were in the garden. Fred informed him, in no uncertain terms, "You set out that garden and planted it on my time, and I provided most of the seeds. Now it's my garden and you're to stay away from it."

The Citizen, Laconia, N.H.

Page 6 THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1998

Obituaries

Lester E. Adams

PORTSMOUTH - Lester Earl Adams, 91, of 175 High St., died May 26, 1998 at Portsmouth Regional Hospital after a period of declining health.

Born in Malden, Mass., he was the son of Frederick and Helen (Tucker) Adams.

Mr. Adams moved to the Seacoast area some 55 years ago. He was employed by Public Service of New Hampshire as an electrician for more than 40 years, retiring in 1973.

He was an avid reader and

enjoyed woodworking and fishing.

His wife, Helen (Clow) Adams, died in 1975.

Family members include a daughter, Frances I. (Adams) Mooradian of Durham; three grandchildren; a brother, Carl Adams of Missouri; and a sister, Barbara Tefft of Laconia.

Contributions may be made to Strawberry Banke, 454 Court St., Portsmouth 03001.

Arrangements are by the Farrell Funeral Home, 684 State St., Portsmouth.