

# Historical Society of Clarendon, Vermont

Meeting January 16, 2019

Town Hall 6PM

Present: Edwin Congdon, Lynn Edmunds, Dale Christie, Barry Griffith, Robert and Joan Bixby, Ellen Whooley, Heather Kent, Peter Savage, Bob Underhill, Becky and Phil Mandolare, Joyce and Mike Barbieri

The previously announced topic to start this meeting with was the bridges, abutments and crossing on the Otter Creek. Bob prepared a couple easels with visuals to aid the discussion.

The two abutments on Rt 7B South were discussed. Mike Barbieri researched in Wallingford and found an August, 1868 survey plot of Creek Road as it was to be laid out. The Wiley farm on the west side of Otter Creek was started in 1777 and by 1840 the Smiths were there as well. The house built by the Wileys in 1791 is still there as is the Smith house which is said to date to 1820. If so, either the Smiths were there earlier or another family preceded them. The key question is why would there have been two bridges serving only two farms as there wasn't a road connecting further into Wallingford at the time? Even if only one existed at any given time, why go through the bother of building a 2<sup>nd</sup> set of abutments? Creek Rd south of Walker Mt. Rd did not yet exist at the time of the 1869 map.

The two Congdon bridge abutments south of Walker Mt. Rd were also discussed. They are less robust than the Wylie/Smith abutments. Are they older or did they serve a lesser purpose?

Congdon diaries began in 1860 and there was mention of the then bridges in them. The Hodges house was built ca 1810, Ed's guess. Men working on the Hodges Bridge bridge boarded at the Congdon farm. Selectboard minutes diary notes talk about the disrepair of Hodges bridge in 1860 and the need of getting the poor people out of Town. Short discussion on getting the "poor people" out of Town, what defined poor and that often they were just moved from Town to Town.

Mike Barbieri shared that a 1762 map ordered by General Amherst with Lake George and Lake Champlain with Crown Point Road on it possibly indicates the road came further south than thought, to just north of the Mill River. If so, the Button Tavern advertised in 1773 starts to make sense, and possibly one of the Congdon bridge abutments.

The crossing previously identified by the Crown Point Road Association's 1983 Al Ransom survey as having been about 800' north of the Walker Mountain Bridge was discussed. Was it associated with the C.P.R. or was it just a farm use crossing?

An interesting story was shared about the Lashes farm detached summer kitchen being moved to Perry farm because females cooking did not like how some men were acting.

The Crown Point Road marker at Horton Rd on Creek Rd is also where a school had been. No photos of the school have surfaced yet but a newspaper article from 1950 by a woman who attended school there said it was made of brick and had been torn down about 1900. Per Phil, no brick remnants have been found there. The East Street and School House Hill Road schools were also discussed.

Fort Hill and where it was located was discussed, the location thought to be on the mound in North Clarendon Village by Thomas Sawyer who bought Dr. Cook's property. It was likely more a fortified house than a military fort but very little is written about it.

Newly donated material since the last meeting includes a couple boxes of Flora Weeks material passed our way from the Rutland Historical Society, the personal ledger books for Elias H. Stewart from the 1840's – 70's passed our way from the Wallingford Historical Society, and from Dawn Hance photostats of 1860's/70's Ewing diaries, East Tinmouth and Walker Mtn Road research material, Tory confiscations material, and scanned photos of the Crossman Tavern, North Clarendon village, and the tearing down of the H. Tubbs homestead. Also received from Lynn Edmund were photostats of an Edmunds family diary, and misc documents from the Wallingford Historical Society and photos or documents from several individuals.

Next month's topic will be Taverns. The meeting will be Wednesday February 20, 2019 at 6PM at Town Hall.

Future meetings topics could be Post Offices and Schools.