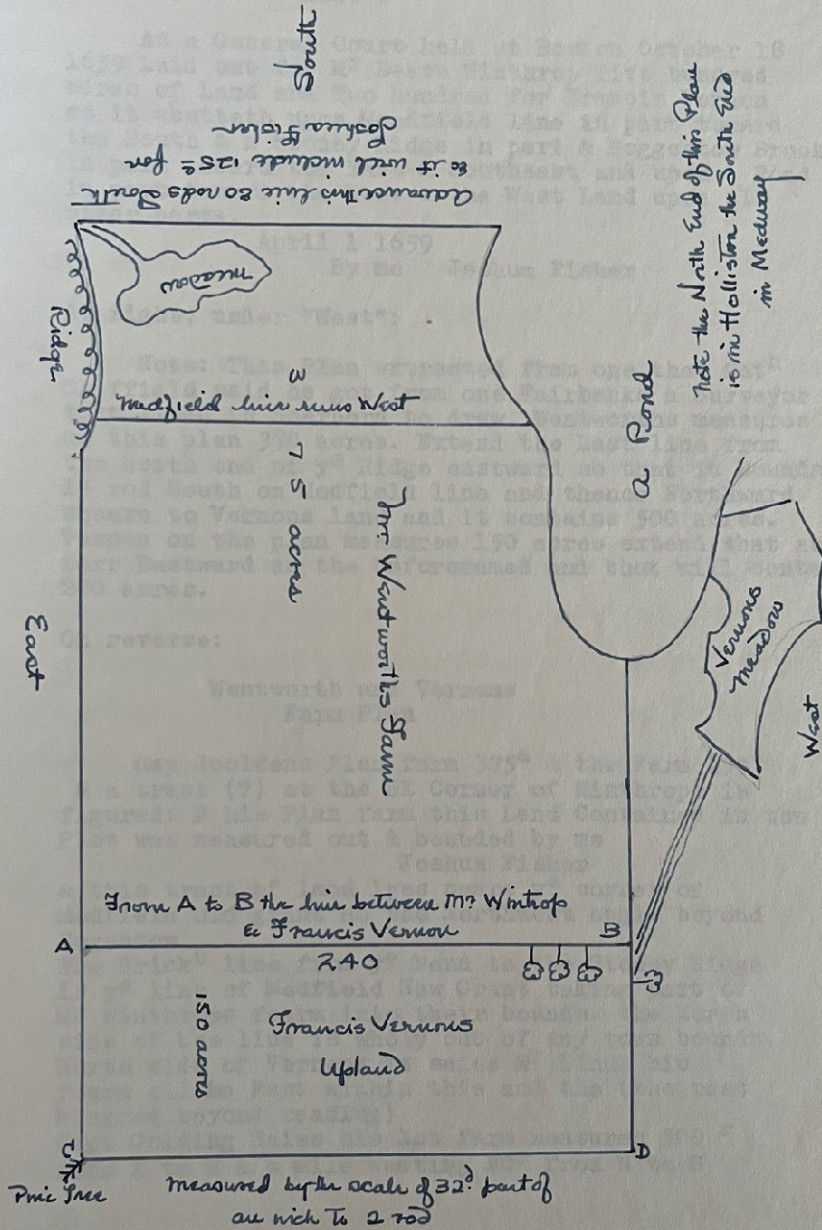


THE WINTHROP GRANT

DANIEL CHASE

1957

from original in Boston Public Library



North
 the line between Mr. Wintrop and Francis Vernons it runs West from the Pine at C to a stake at D

(Text on plan of Winthrop Grant)

At left, under "East":

At a General Court held at Boston October 18, 1659 Laid out for Mr Deane Winthrop five hundred acres of Land and Two hundred for Francis Vernon as it abutteth upon Meadfield line in part toward the South & a Stoney Ridge in part & Boggestow Brook in part toward the East & Southeast and upon a Pond in part toward the West & the Wast[e] Land upon all other parts.

April 1 1659

By me Joshua Fisher

At right, under "West":

Note: This Plan extracted from one that Nath. Sheffield said he got from one Fairbanks a Surveyor that lived in Sherborn to draw. Wentworths measures on this plan 370 acres. Extend the Least line from the North end of ye Ridge eastward so that it Bounds 15 rod South on Medfield line and thence Northward square to Vernons land and it contains 500 acres. Vernon on the plan measures 150 acres extend that as far Eastward as the beforenamed and that will contain 200 acres.

On reverse:

Wentworth and Vernons
Farm Plan

Cap Gooldens Plan farm 375 acres & the Farm 150 acres figured: his Plan farm this Land Contained in the Plot was measured out & bounded by me

Joshua Fisher

& this tract of land lyes neare ye corner of Medfield New Grant taking part of Mr Winthrops farm into their bounds. The North side of the line is wholly out of any town bounds. North side of Vernons it saies Mr Linds his farm all the East within this and the (the rest blurred beyond reading)

Capt Golding Saies his farm measures 200 rods from E to W & a mile wanting 20 rods from N to S

The Winthrop Grant, of 500 acres, lay in the south-east part of the present town of Holliston. As laid out originally, it was bounded on the east by a part of the Sheffield Farm and Medfield First Grant, on the north by the Vernon Grant, on the west by the Hull-Sewall Farm and Winthrop Pond, and on the south by a lot laid out by Medfield in the New Grant. These bounds are shown in the appended plan copied from a plan made in the 1700's now in the archives of the Boston Public Library.

The present bounds of this Grant begin at or near the northwest corner of the land on Norfolk Street [103 Norfolk Street] now or formerly owned by Nathan Banks. The north bound of the Grant follows Norfolk Street and Franklin Street, continues east through land formerly owned by Chase, and follows a line of stone wall eastward to a spot on McGilley's Hill, south of Central Street. The east bound runs south through woods and, at the southern end, follows an esker or glacial ridge to a point where a small stream breaks through this ridge to run southward, and continues south to a wall running west. This wall indicates the south bound of the Grant, crossing Central Street and running to Winthrop Pond. The west bound is the pond, as far as the wall marking the west line of the Banks property and follows that wall to Norfolk Street. From deeds it is evident that Pond Brook was, originally, a part of this western bound; this however is not shown on the plan appended, and no record of transfer of the land between the Banks line [103 Norfolk Street] and the Brook has been found.

This 500 acres was granted by the Great and General Court to Deane Winthrop, son of governor Winthrop; the Grant is so mentioned in a deed of 1705, though no record of the grant to Winthrop appears in the Court's records. Deane Winthrop lived at "Pullin Point", now the town of Winthrop, where his house still stands. By tradition he signaled the Town of Boston on the approach of vessels from overseas, and the grant may have been made for that or other services. The grant was made to Winthrop in a year unknown, and the Grant was laid out by Joshua Fisher of Medfield, a surveyor, on April 1, 1659 and returned or registered with the Court on October 18 of that year.

For his service, Fisher received title from Winthrop of 125 acres at the south end of the Grant. This, I believe but cannot prove, was the ancient Rockwood Farm, the south bound of which is Hill Street, across the south end of the Pond. Medfield Second – or "New" – Grant was made also in 1659. The north bound of this New Grant ran two miles west from the "Old" Grant, crossed Winthrop Pond, and turned south at a point west of Washington Street. This New Grant was laid out in lots running east and west from a road projected to run from the south end of Winthrop Pond to the Charles River. The southern end of the Winthrop Grant and the northwest corner of the New Grant overlapped to the extent of this lot, owned by Fisher, and the south part of the Grant as bounded above. As the Winthrop and New Grants were laid out in the same year, these lands were in dispute between Sherborn, later Holliston, and Medfield, later Medway. I recall, from Jameson's "History of Medway", that the northern part of this disputed territory was not assigned and, as late 1793, appears on Sam Bullard's map of Holliston as "in dispute." While I am not certain I believe that the southern part was either assigned to Rockwood or bought by him of Fisher. The northern part, the "Tom Shaw Farm," became legally a part of Holliston in an exchange of territory between Holliston and Medway in the 1830's.

It is not evident that any use was made of this land, the Winthrop Grant, from the layout by Fisher in 1659 until 1705. The "Pond Meadow", at the north end of Winthrop Pond, was mowed by Sherborn men in the 1680's, and perhaps they crossed the brook to mow the lowlands on the east side as well. In 1703 Deane Winthrop sold the grant of 500 acres, minus the 125 acres

previously conveyed to Joshua Fisher, to Eliah Adams of Boston, merchant, for L150. 1/ Who Adams was I do not know. And in 1705 Adams sold the land lately bought of Winthrop to John Goulding of Sudbury, for L110. 2/ If Adams was a speculator, he was not a successful one.

Beyond the fact that Goulding came from Sudbury nothing is known of him. A Peter Goulding of Boston, saddler, in 1682 bought of Isaac Negus of Taunton land north of the Merrimack River and may have been a relative. 2/ There is, I believe, a Goulding homestead still preserved in either Sudbury or Wayland.

Goulding settled here soon after his purchase from Eliah Adams, building his house at a site on the west side of Norfolk Street, near the road, about 100 yards north of the wall, running toward the Pond which marks the line of Medfield New Grant. The house, by tradition, was a two-story building, the first of that description in Holliston; the cellar hole, evidently under half the house, was evident a few years ago but has perhaps been obliterated by recent building in this location. The house itself vanished long ago, at some time unknown; whether burned or taken down there is no record. From the location, looking south from the hills, it must have been a pleasant place. "Old Pout Lane" the highway between Sherborn and Mendon, ran through the woods from the crossing of Boggestow Brook at the Sheffield Farm, to the east, and westward passed the south end of the pond --- perhaps on a causeway still there spanning a marshy cove --- and so on through the Morse-Cutler Farm.

In Holliston's early history John Goulding seems a sort of Paul Bunyan. He is described as an enormous man; he was a Selectman of Sherborn before the partition of 1724, a Captain of militia, and for years first Selectman and Town clerk of Holliston. The earliest town records are in his words if not in his hand; from their arrangement in the Town Book it appears that they were copied out of the sequence of the Town Meetings, perhaps from loose sheets or an earlier book. I have been told by John McGilley, a repository of old legends, that when Goulding was building his house he stayed at "Warnock's" --- that seemed the name though I have found no other record of it --- a house now marked by the first cellar hole on Orchard Street beyond the site of the former Gotz Farm. This, I believe was an Adams place, and in Medway. At the ending of a day's work on the house he started for this place, but as he neared Rockwood's he heard a ruckus at his house. He returned, found that a raiding bear had killed his pig. He shot the bear, dressed it and the pig, and so had both. Maybe. Maybe not. *Ben trovato*, at least, as a tale of pioneer days. But doubtful since it argues two established settlements near here prior to Goulding's, and I doubt if the four Sheffield boys, man-grown by 1705, had left any bear in this region.

Whether Goulding was married at the time of his settlement I do not know. Perhaps not. He married an Abigail Curtis; the Curtises lived just over the present Medway line, and descendants of this family owned the old house on the west of the road within my memory, the last being, I think, Uncle Joe Curtis, an old chap who kept cows and droved to town behind a white horse, delivering milk on the way. The house was later owned by Chet Gilmore; and there was, I have been told, an earlier house east of the road, at the spot marked by flower growth. One of the Curtis family was a schoolmaster in Holliston, at about Revolutionary times, and receipts for his wages, in an angular and stilted hand, still exist.

At some forgotten time I drew off a record of the descendants of John, probably from Abner Morse's history, and shall sketch it here. John and Abigail had five sons and two daughters, the first born in 1707. This was John, Junior, who died young. A second son, Curtis, was born in 1701, married Zipporah Ware of Sherborn, and about 1750 moved to Sherborn. Their children were born there between 1745 and 1757, and descendants of the family still live in

Sherborn. The next two sons, John, born in 1713, and Peter, born in 1715, never married. Their daughter Abigail, born in 1717, married Jonathan Eames; and Mary, born in 1720, married Jonathan Foster --- who appears in the monograph of the Browne Farm, and was probably an owner of the mill on Linden Street. The last son, James, married Bethiah Plimpton, died young, and left a daughter Abigail who will appear later in this record.

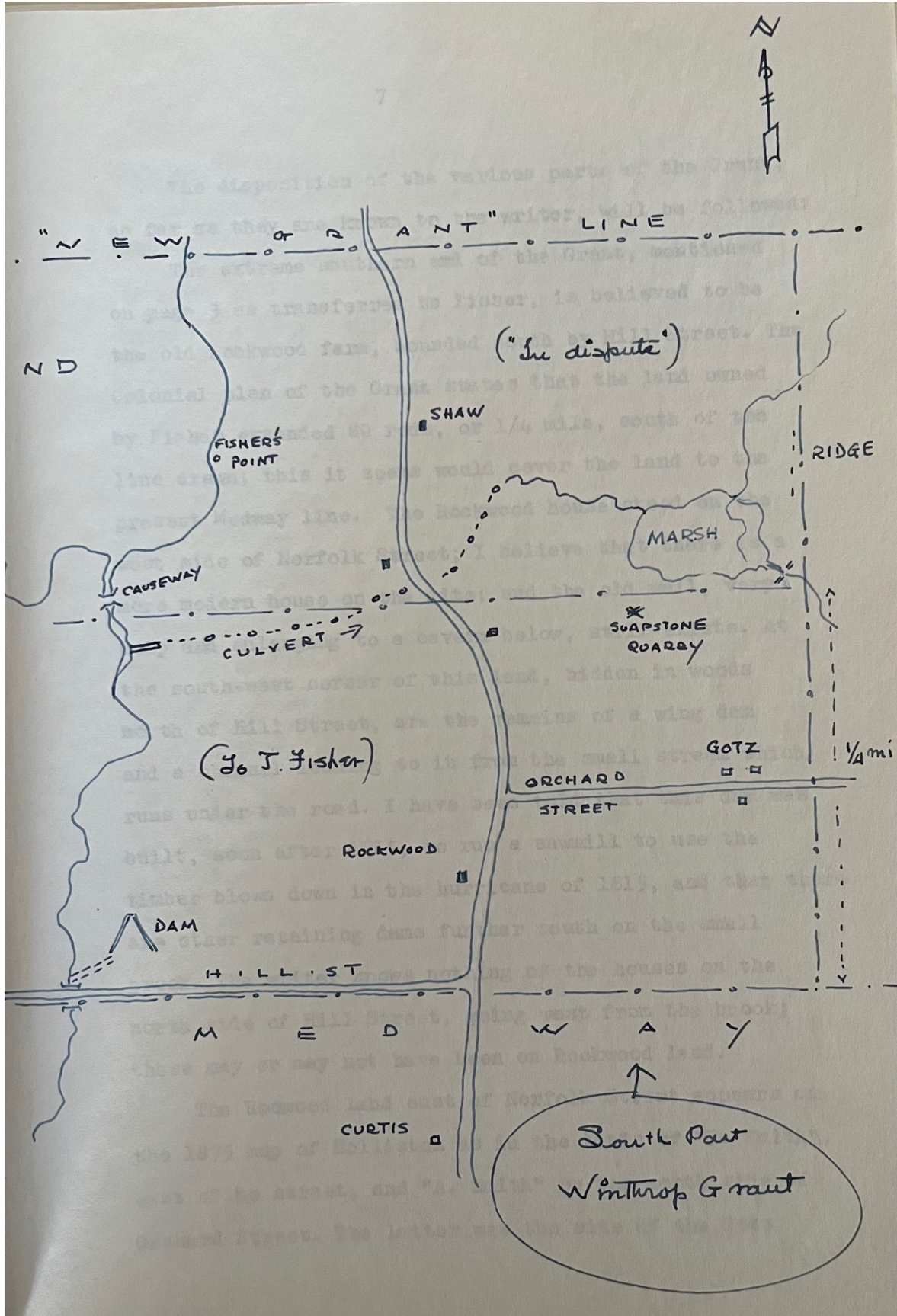
The disposition of the various parts of the Grant, so far as they are known, to the writer, will be followed:

The extreme southern end of the Grant, mentioned on page 3 as transferred to Fisher, is believed to be the old Rockwood farm, bounded south by Hill Street. The Colonial plan of the Grant states that the land owned by Fisher extended 80 rods, or ¼ mile, south of the line drawn; this it seems would cover the land to the present Medway line. The Rockwood house stood on the west side of Norfolk Street; I believe that there is a more modern house on the site; and the old well, very deep and enlarging to a cavern below, still exists. At the south-west corner of this land, hidden in woods north of Hill Street, are the remains of a wing dam and a channel leading to it from the small stream which runs under the road. I have been told that this dam was built, soon after 1815, to run a sawmill to use the timber blown down in the hurricane of 1815, and that there are other retaining dams further south on the small brook, the writer knows nothing of the houses on the north side of Hill Street, going west from the brook; these may or may not have been on Rockwood land.

The Rockwood land east of Norfolk Street appears on the 1875 map of Holliston as in the hands of "E. Smith", east of the street, and "A. Smith" on the north side of Orchard Street. The latter was the site of Gotz Farm. As remembered, Myer Gotz was born in Russia, went to England, learned the language and the tailor's trade, and came to this country to work in Boston. He wished his young family to grow up in other than a city environment, and bought this place in Holliston, intending to farm – about which he knew nothing. His relatives and his wife's family came out to spend the summers, ate Myer out of house and home; he eventually charged them board and began taking in other boarders. The place prospered and grew; buildings were added; and when I lived on Norfolk Street the arrival of trolley cars in the Square was followed, of weekends, by a procession of people plodding up the hill to Gotz's Farm. However, as motor cars became more common, and the economic status of the Jewish people lifted, the Farm lost popularity. One by one the buildings burned, generally on snowy winter nights, and the land was eventually sold to folks who built a modern house on the land. Myer is pleasantly recalled as a very genial man, who loved to talk and go fishing. I believe that his wife was the moving spirit of the Farm.

The "E. Smith" place was owned, in my time, by a Shatz who also took summer boarders. There is, I believe, a soapstone quarry on this land, used by the Indians.

The next major division of the Grant, to the north, extends to the old New Grant line near the Goulding cellar hole, and from the Pond on the west to Medway line on the east. About the early history of this land this writer, to his sorrow, knows nothing. It was evidently cleared and farmed at an early time, perhaps by John Goulding; the house, east of the road, seems of a period about 1800. In 1875 this was owned by N. Sweeny and another house, west of the road, by P. Conlin. My knowledge of the place begins about 1910, when it was owned by Tom Shaw, a gruff, able man once mate on packet ships. Shaw was followed by Judge Frederick (?) Cabot; who owns the place at present I do not know. In the 1920's the land bordering the Pond was "developed" and cut into lots for summer camps; at about the same time the north part, west of the road became a chicken farm. Near the Pond, on "Fisher's Point" – perhaps so called from



Joshua Fisher? – is or was a quartz ledge, bearing signs of having been mined for arrowhead material. When last visited, in October 1956, the land along Norfolk Street was fast being built up with houses.

At the eastern end of this section, near the Medway line, is marshland showing signs of having once been used for cranberry culture, and the brook issuing from the marsh was at one time dammed. This “cranberry yard”, as they are called on Cape Cod, probably accounts for a construction most interesting to the writer. The level of Winthrop Pond is, evidently, above the level of this cranberry land. At some time unknown to me a covered stone culvert was built to convey water from the Pond, under Norfolk Street, and to a drain above the cranberry land – probably to flood the land in times of frost. The western end of this culvert is a ditch dug from the inlet at the southeast corner of the Pond; I believe that the small stream running north across Hill Street leads into this inlet. The open ditch runs east for some yards, ending in a stone-covered culvert which, apparently, is about 2-1/2 feet wide by 2 feet deep. The culvert is stoned at the sides and covered by flat rocks and earth; at irregular intervals of perhaps 40 to 60 feet open wells connect this culvert with the surface, some shallow, some fairly deep, some to be distinguished only as slight potholes on the ground. The water in the bottom seemed clear, indicating some flow. These wells, or vent holes, appear also on the east side of Norfolk Street, though here they have been tumbled and filled in, probably because this land was later used as pasture. I believe that this culvert ended in a rockpile. Though the writer asked many old time Hollistonians about this culvert, none knew of it. At the time of its building this was a major feat of engineering and deserves research. I recall, either from reading or hearsay, that it was intended to use this flow from the pond for waterpower. This is probably erroneous, as the dam at the southeast corner of this property was but a low construction. The cranberry bog theory seems more probable; if so, this culvert was probably constructed after 1820.

The above two major divisions of, roughly 125 acres each cover the southern half of the original Winthrop Grant. The northern half falls into three major parts.

The first of these is that part west of Norfolk Street and north of the wall marking the line of the New Grant or the way leading to the public beach on the west of the land. This part includes the site of the original Goulding house, as mentioned above. The writer knows only the more recent history of this section. Though he suspects that it was inherited by John Goulding, Jr. The land between the road and the pond, extending north almost to the house now (1957) owned by Drs. Stoddard and Cooke, or one of his sons, built a small house on the southern end of this land; this was “Strawberry Hill.” Land along the road was sold, I believe by Dr. Cook’s heirs, to Bartholomew and Chick, who built there, and the Strawberry Hill site sold to Howard. The main Cooke house was sold to the Gotz family.

This land was formerly in pasture and planting fields. Les Shea once told me that when he was a boy the folks in the village pastured their cows here. It is possible that the enclosed plots constituting the Bartholomew place were included in the Curtis Goulding land, the next major division to the north.

Curtis Goulding, eldest surviving son of John, was born 1710, died 1774 in Sherborn. In 1739 John granted to Curtis, “for and in consideration of parental love, goodwill and affection”, a parcel of land of 100 acres. 3/ This was bounded north by the Browne Farm, westerly by the Hull-Sewall Farm and Pond Brook, southerly by the Pond and John Senior’s land taking in “a field now improved on the premises”, and was to extend so far eastward as to make up the sum of 100 acres. That is, this 100 acres covered the northwest corner of the Grant, as defined on

page 1. The land included the present Bank [103 Norfolk Street] and Laboutlay places, both running from Norfolk Street south to the pond, with probably a section west of the southern part of the Banks land to Pond Brook, and probably also included the land between the east bound of Laboutlay's land and Norfolk street, running south perhaps to include the Howard and Bartholomew lands on that street. The east bound I do not know; Norfolk Street was not laid out until much later.

Ten years later, in 1749, John Goulding conveyed to Curtis 100 acres in Burnt Swamp. This land was along Hoppin River, in the West End.

In 1756 Curtis Goulding, then living in Sherborn, sold for L197:06:08 to Alexander Marsh of Dedham this 100 acres given him by his father. 4/ No buildings were mentioned. The bounds were those of the 1739 transfer.

Marsh, at that time, was married with a young family. His daughter Jerusha, born 1741, married Simeon Newton who lived in Colonel Browne's "New House" on Washington Street. Katherine, born 1743, married Deacon Jesse Haven of the North End. Esek, born 1744, married Sophia Adams, later became a deacon and was a most perplexing thorn in the flesh of the Rev. Timothy Dickinson. A son Amariah married Lois Fisk, and a daughter Penelope married Isaac Johnson. Two sons, Elisha and Reuben, were in the Revolution and, since they do not appear later in the Holliston Vital Records, presumably emigrated westward. Alexander Marsh's wife was named Hannah, her maiden name unknown to me. *[recent genealogical records indicate Hannah Parmenter, born 1714 in Braintree, daughter of Benjamin Parmenter, she died 1788 in Holliston]*

In 1758 Marsh mortgaged this 100 acres, for L66:13:04, to Josiah Quincy of Braintree, the land then occupied by a house and barn. This indicates that the house was built between 1756 and 1758; this may be the dwelling later removed from this site, where the Laboutlay house now stands [97 Norfolk Street], to a site directly east of the eastern Laboutlay line and wall and converted to two tenements. The mortgage was discharged in 1786 by Cotton Tufts, executor of Quincy's estate, for L15:07:08.

Alexander and his sons cleared this land, farmed it, and evidently prospered; Norfolk Street was laid out as far as their house, and the corner of that street and Central Street was known as "Marsh's Corner." By 1785 Alexander was ageing, and on March 22 of that year he conveyed, for L200, to his sons Elisha, cooper, and Reuben, housewright, one-half part of this 100 acres. Three days later, on March 25, he conveyed, for L100, to Esek Marsh one-half "in Quantity and Quality" of his 100 acres. Esek was supporting his father or was due more as the eldest son. Mon May 7 of that year Elisha and Reuben, for L240, conveyed title to their half to Esek, making him full owner. Marsh – my notes read "Alexander," but it was probably Esek – mortgaged this land and buildings, for L189, to Joseph Lovell of Medway, a mortgage discharged in 1814.

Esek had married Sophia Adams of Medfield in 1775, and had six sons and five daughters between 1776 and 1798. In 1812 Esek granted to Amos Marsh, a son born in 1790, one-half the farm, then containing 86 acres, with the south part of the house, the other buildings to be undivided. The acreage indicates that 14 acres had been sold from the original tract. From the bounds, the west line followed the wall to a large rock at its south end, then ran to Pond Brook and on the brook to the pond. The south bound was the pond and land of Abigail Thayer to Norfolk Street, then turning north on the road to "opposite the north end of a piece of land belonging to Isaac Smith" and crossing the road bounded south (?) on Smith's land to land of Ursula Thayer and bounded east on her land to the "antient bounds of Winthrop's Farm", the

stone wall mentioned earlier in this record. No distances are mentioned. Isaac Smith lived, I believe, on Central Street. The above may indicate that the original transfer from John to Curtis Goulding covered land east of Norfolk Street, perhaps in part that near the corner of Franklin Street formerly owned by Chase and Grover.

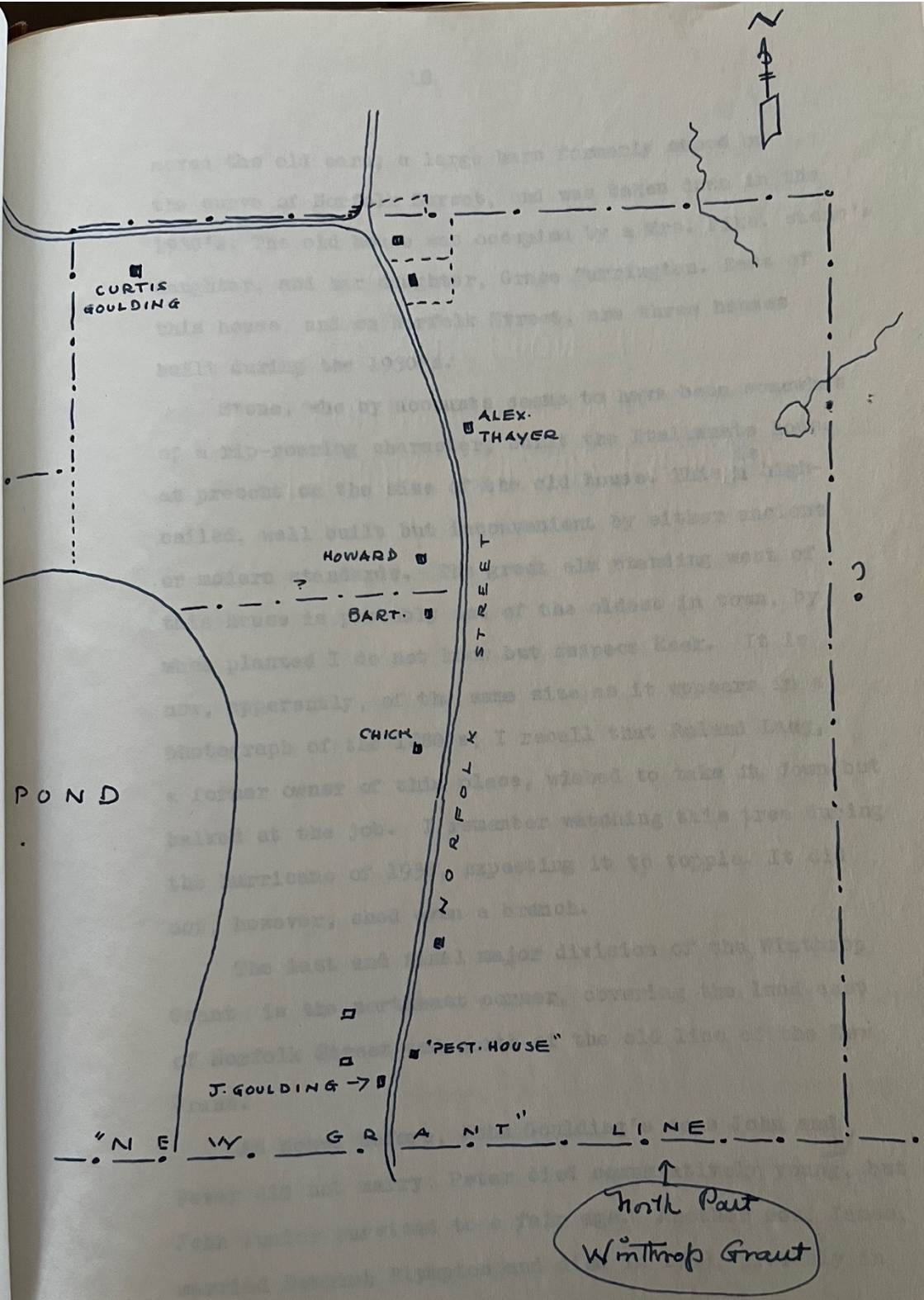
In 1817 Amos Marsh re-conveyed this land to Esek, citing it as “one undivided half of a parcel of land containing forty acres.” 8/ The writer is in some doubt as to whether this forty acres meant the half or the whole but judges it the latter. The bounds are not those of the deed of 1812 and include neither the land toward Pond Brook nor the land east of Norfolk Street. And excluded also is land west of Norfolk Street; from the bounds and mentions of two springs – in a low, marshy section near the east bound of the Laboutlay land – the writer judges that between 1812 and 1817 this section was sold to a former owner of the Koshivos place. Included in the 1817 transfer was one-half acre northwest of the house and half the house.

Why Amos resold or gave back this land to Esek I do not know; it seems likely that he fell out with the old man. He may however been in poor health, for he died comparatively young in 1833.

His death may account for the next transfer by Esek Marsh. In March, 1833, Esek for \$10.00 sold to his three daughters Sophia, Elizabeth and Sarah, described as “Singlewomen”, one-half acre of land at the northwest corner of his farm, on condition that they build, before December 1, a house on this lot “to be occupied jointly by me and them during my life.” The lot seems to have been that mentioned in the deed from Amos to Esek, but the house is probably the small, two-story house just west of the west line of the farm, now or formerly occupied by Merritt Aldrich. This house, which formerly had a central chimney, is of a fashion far older than the date of its building; Esek was 89 years old in 1833 and seems to have had built a house of a type favored in his youth. He lived into 1835. I believe that the house and lot were sold by the last of the three daughters surviving to Philip Pond. It was inherited by Pond’s daughter Abby, who married Edward Eames. Ed was somewhat of a character, an old teamster who always wore home-made shirts with a half- inch standing collar; he was killed while walking down the road, by a car. The place was bought by folks named Moore in the 1920’s; Moore was an invalid and died there; and his widow, I believe, sold to Aldrich. I am unable to account for this house standing beyond the bounds of the Marsh farm; whether Esek bought this land, or the house was moved here I do not know.

Esek Marsh’s place was probably sold soon after his death, but to whom I do not know. A small mortgage, placed in 1817 by his daughter Amelia Sophia, was cleared in 1836 by Elihu Cutler, administrator of Esek’s estate. 10/ The property was later divided, on a line running from Norfolk Street to the pond. The western part was once owned by Charles Alexander’s father, who by repute built the large house on this land, once called “Alexander’s Folly.” I have heard that the house later occupied by Charles Alexander, an old groceryman, on the east side of Norfolk Street, formerly stood on this land and was moved across the road when the large house was built. Within my memory this place was owned by Wallace Watt’s father, then a man named Viets, and later still by Nathan Banks, a professor at Harvard College.

The eastern part of the Marsh farm was owned by a man named Stone, first name forgotten by me; he may have bought from Esek Marsh’s estate, though I think there was an intervening owner. Stone moved the old house somewhat east, where it still stands. This was



struck by lightning at some time in the 1920's; the roof was burned off and replaced. Stone may also have moved the old barn, a large barn formerly stood on the curve of Norfolk Street, and was taken down in the 1930's. The old house was occupied by a Mrs. Pike Stone's daughter, and her daughter, Grace Farrington. East of this house, and on Norfolk Street are three houses built during the 1930's.

Stone, who by accounts seems to have been somewhat of a rip-roaring character, built the Italianate house at present on the site of the old house. This is high-ceilinged, well built but inconvenient by either ancient or modern standards. The great elm standing west of this house is probably one of the oldest in town, by whom planted I do not know but suspect Esek. It is now, apparently, of the same size as it appears in a photograph of the 1880's; I recall that Roland Lang, a former owner of this place, wished to take it down but balked at the job. I remember watching this tree during the hurricane of 1938, expecting it to topple. It did not, however, shed even a branch.

The last and final chapter division of the Winthrop Grant is the northeast corner, covering the land east of Norfolk Street and north of the old line of the New Grant.

As noted before, John Goulding's sons John and Peter did not marry; Peter died comparatively young, but John Junior survived to a fair age. Another son, James, married Bethiah Plympton and died in 1753, probably in the "Great Sickness," leaving a daughter Abigail, born in that same year. Abigail, in 1773, married Alexander Thayer, of Mendon, a clergyman.

I have two deeds only covering this land at the northeast corner of the Grant. By the first, given in 1768, John Goulding, for L1240, sold to Bethiah Goulding, "spinster", 72 acres of land, bounded north on land of James Goulding, deceased – who was Bethiah's husband – and westerly partly on land of Alexander Marsh. 12/ The remaining bounds are stone walls and fences, not to be identified. As previously noted, it seems that the marsh lands ran east of the present Norfolk Street, at the north end of the Grant. The land of James Goulding was south of this, and the land transferred by John to Bethiah south of the land of James.

The James Goulding land, at some time between 1768 and 1785, came into the hands of Alexander and Abigail Thayer, either through the will of James or by transfer from his widow Bethiah.

For in 1785 Bethiah granted, for "maternal goodwill and love" to her son-in-law Alexander and daughter Abigail the 72 acres bought of John Goulding. 12/ This was then described as bounded north by land of Alexander and Abigail – the former James Goulding land. The deed mentioned "all buildings and edifices thereon erected", indicating that a house had been built on this land between 1768 and 1785. The west bound included land of Marsh and John Goulding; the south bound is land of John Goulding also.

Here, in the absence of other deeds, the writer is stumped. There is on this land but one house that could possibly have existed in 1785, that owned now or formerly by Peter Koshivos; this formerly had two large chimneys and fireplaces and, though of a type built later, may be the house mentioned in the 1785 deed. It seems, however, rather far north to stand on the 72 acres mentioned in that deed – assuming that the James Goulding land, north of this, was of any extent. It is, however, possible that the Koshivos house on Norfolk Street was the one mentioned in this deed.

A second possibility is that this house was built by Isaac Smith. Smith was in Holliston about 1780, lived there until his death in 1838, aged 80, and owned land south and north of Central Street as told in the monograph on the Browne Farm. As noted on page 14 above, the

1812 deed of Esek Marsh indicates that Marsh owned land east of Norfolk Street bounded north by the old line of the Winthrop Farm and south by land of Isaac Smith. This may indicate that Smith owned a part of the Koshivos place and, possibly, built the house now standing there. Alexander Thayer had however died in 1807 and this house and land may have been sold to Smith.

A third possibility is that the house built between 17689 and 1785 was one formerly standing east of Norfolk Street considerably south of the Koshivos place, as noted on the accompanying plot. There was formerly a cellar ole at this site, filled in in the 1920's by Louis Rosoff who built a summer home on this land. Will Kingsbury told the writer that a small house once stood here; it was known as the "Pest House" and probably was used as an isolation hospital during some forgotten epidemic of smallpox. I believe that John McGilley's family lived here about 1867. The house was later taken down or burned. The "small house" suggest that it may have been the house of John Goulding, Junior, a bachelor, but does not suggest that Bethiah, who paid so considerable a sum for the 72 acres, would have built a modest house.

A fourth possibility is that the house built by Bethiah was at the site of a cellar hole north of the Pest House site. A photograph taken in the 1880's, or thereabouts, from Jasper's Hill, shows a house and large barn on this site; from remembrance it was, however, a building of late pattern. The 1875 map shows this place as occupied by E. Leland, and the Pest House occupied by E. Bullard.

Of these possibilities the first is considered the most probable – that the house overlooking the valley of the town was built for Bethiah Goulding and passed to Alexander and Abigail Thayer. Thayer originally of Mendon, was pastor of the church at Paxton, Rhode Island, and was not active in the ministry in Holliston. From a remembered note in Timothy Dickinson's diary Thayer was a hard-drinking man; as noted, he died in 1807, Abigail surviving him by twenty years. There was an Alexander Thayer, Jr., who married Sally Wight of Medway in 1803 and may have inherited the place.

The place was owned in the 1840's by Samuel Payson, and later by Phillip Pond, by the 1875 map. About 1935 Peter Koshivos was visited by a man named Dickerman, then aged 92, from Plymouth, who told that he had owned this place in 1880, had in that year set out the row of maple trees at the east side of Norfolk Street, and then owned some 40 cows and had 3 acres of strawberries. Dickerman stated that he had lived there 37 years. About 1910 the farm was known as the Swallow Farm, from an owner who raised houses and had a training track in the field directly south of the house, later set to an orchard. About that date it was bought by Carl Faelton, of the Faelton Pianoforte School of Boston, and operated by Carl's son Willibald. Carl Faelton was a pleasant old gentleman with a strong Teutonic accent. Following his death it was sold to folks named Buffum, who later sold to Peter Koshivos.

The exact extent and dimensions of this farm are not known to the writer. It extends eastward from the road through cleared fields into woodland, probably to the old line of the Winthrop Grant. There is in the woods a small pond which, it is believed, feeds into a brook running northeast past the Camus place on Central Street; and the small stream known as "Drovers' Run" which runs through Tibbett's cranberry bogs originates in these woods.

Near the northeast corner of the Grant is a stone house, built in the 1920's or thereabouts, reached by a right of way from Central Street.

East of Norfolk Street, near the corner of Franklin, are two houses built in the 1840's. That nearer the corner was built by Samuel Payson in 1845 and the next year sold to Elisha Cotting, from Wayland. The barn formerly stood near the railroad crossing at Central Street and

was removed to this site when the railroad came through, in 1847. It was then some 70 years old. The place was bought by Austin Tenney in 1876 and until 1917 owned by the Tenneys and their daughter, Harriet Wheelock, from whom my parents bought it. It was sold in 1948 to John Littlefield.

South of this a double house was built at about the same time by Thompson brothers; the house was in two apartments with a common kitchen in the ell. An arrangement that did not last long, by the way. It was long owned by Jerry Grover, a hearty, raw-boned man from Tennants Harbor in Maine, and by his widow Jenny. The north half was rented to a variety of tenants, among whom was Asa Whidden, a Civil War veteran, who may still be pleasantly recalled in town. Grover built the small house at the rear of this lot.

As usual, the writer regrets the lack of basic source material regarding the Winthrop Grant, in deeds and wills. Though he lived at the north end of the Grant for nearly forty years and though research, like charity, should begin at home, he left this until the last – and time ran out on him.

It is noted that no mention of John Goulding's lands west of the pond is made here. 13/ These were covered in the monograph on the Adams Farm. John seems to have set out to establish a family seat; within a century no Goulding was left on his land. And I do not know where he may be buried – perhaps in an unmarked grave in the old Burying Yard by the Town Hall, or perhaps in the Sherborn graveyard by Death's Bridge. To the best of my knowledge, he left no descendants in Holliston.

Daniel Chase
3 February, 1957

Note 1

Middlesex Registry of Deeds. Vol. 21, page 41.

By this Dean Winthrop of Pullin Point in the Township of Boston within the County of Suffolk in New England Gent'n sold for L150 to Eliah Adams of Boston, merchant, a tract of 500 acres – 125 acres on the south side of which had been previously conveyed to Fisher – the bounds of which were those of the Winthrop grant, the lands of Francis Vernon being on the north.

This was signed October 30, 1703.

Entered at Cambridge February 4, 1719.

Note 2.

Middlesex Registry of Deeds.
Vol. 8, page 21.

Goulding.

Sold by Isaac Negus of Taunton in the Colony of New Plymouth, son and sole heir of Jonathan Negus late of Boston, for L10 paid by Peter Goulding of Boston, sadler, "all that part and parcel of land lying on the North East side of Merrimack River, upon a branch of Beaver Brook, next adjoining to the land afore laid out unto Richard Callicott, and w'ch land hereby granted doth contain 200 acres.

Signed April 11, 1682.

Vol. 20, page 412.

Sold by Eliah Adams of Boston, for L110, to John Goulding of Sudbury "all that my certain tract or parcel of vacant land which I lately purchased of Deane Winthrop, late of Pulling Point within the township of Boston aforesaid, gent, Deceased, being a grant made to him by the General Court. . . of 500 acres." Excepting and reserving 125 acres, on the south side, which Deane Winthrop allowed & set off to Joshua Fisher for his service in laying out the same."

Signed December 25, 1705.

Vol. 25, page 544.

Sold by William rider of Sherborn, for L57, to John Goulding of Sherborn, "all my upland lott and meadow lott granted to me by the Proprietors of the Common Lands in Sherborn and laid out to me by their committee in 1716 and 1718." The lands conveyed were an upland lot of 50 acres, the east bound of which was the allowance for a road by Medway line, (Probably west of the road from Metcalf to Medway, v. Duncan Grant) and a meadow lot of 3-1/2 acres and 20 rods, near the lake.

Signed May 10, 1723.

Entered December 25, 1726.

Note 3

Middlesex Registry
Book 49, p. 449

Granted by John Goulding of Holliston, gentleman, for and in consideration of parental love, goodwill and affection toward his dutiful son Curtis Goulding of Holliston, husbandman, a parcel of land in Holliston containing 100 acres. Bounded: northerly with the land belonging to the heirs of Samuel Brown; westerly by land belonging to James Stone and timothy Lealand until it comes to the brook that runs out of the pond called Winthrop's Pond: southerly partly by said pond and partly with his (John's) own land, said southerly line to begin at the pond aforesaid and run easterly as the fence now stands on the southerly side of a field now improved on the premises, and said premises to extend so far east as to make up the full sum of 100 acres.

July 15, 1739

Book 49, p. 450

Granted by the same to the same 100 acres in Holliston on the westerly side of Chicken Brook near a place called Burnt Swamp, being the $\frac{1}{2}$ right I (John) have in said swamp, the other half being already conveyed to his son James Goulding, and the remainder to make up the 100 acres aforesaid bounded westerly by the circumference line of Burnt Swamp, southerly with land of James Goulding, northerly with land of Isaac Morse, and to extend easterly until it makes up the whole 100 acres.

March 24, 1749

(Burnt Swamp is on Cedar Swamp Brook, between Washington and Underwood Streets.)

Note 4

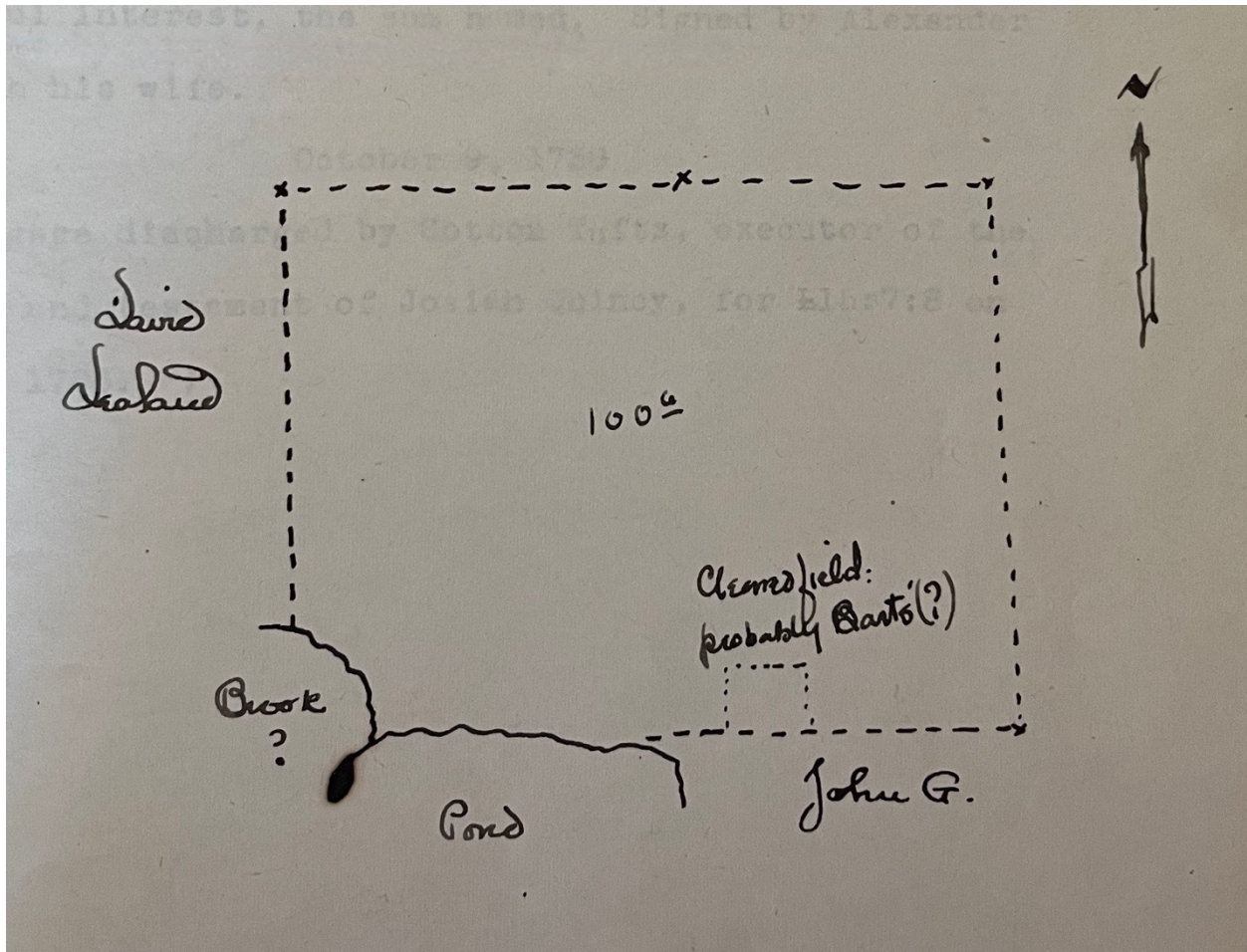
Middlesex Registry

Book 56, p. 48

Sold by Curtis Goulding of Sherborn, yeoman, for L197:6:8, to Alexander Marsh of Dedham, yeoman, a parcel of land in Holliston. Bounded: northerly with "antient Boundmark of Winthrop's Farm"; westerly on land belonging to David Lealand: southerly on a pond in part called Winthrop's and toward the southwest bounded on a brook from said pond to Lealand's aforesaid and partly toward the south "on a Fence of a Field in the said premises now stands" and the said premises to extend so far eastward as to make up the full sum of 100 acres.

April 12, 1756.

To be noted that no buildings are mentioned.



Note 5

Middlesex Registry of Deeds.
Book 55, p. 430.

A mortgage grant by Alexander Marsh of Holliston, for L66:13:4, to Josiah Quincy of Braintree, of a parcel of land in Holliston with a dwelling house and barn, of 100 acres. Bounded north with the antient bounds of Winthrop's Farm, westerly by land of David Lealand, southerly in part on a pond called Winthrop's Pond and partly on a brook leading from said pond to Lealand's aforesaid and in part on a fence, and then to extend eastward so far as to complete and make up the full 100 acres, bounded on Golden's Farm or however bounded. This sale to stand unless Alexander or his heirs, before October 9, 1759, did not pay to Josiah or his heirs, with lawful interest, the sum named. Signed Alexander and Hannah his wife. October 9, 1758

This mortgage discharged by Cotton tufts, executor of the last will and testament of Josiah Quincy, for L15:7:8 on March 23, 1786.

Note 6

Middlesex Registry of Deeds
Book 89, p.41

Granted by Alexander Marsh, for L100, to Esek Marsh, one-half "in Quantity and Quality" of a certain parcel of land in Holliston containing 100 acres, the bounds the same as those cited in 55-430. March 25, 1785

Book 93, p. 34

Granted by Alexander Marsh, for L200, to Elisha Marsh, cooper, and Reuben Marsh, housewright, one-half part of a certain tract of land in Holliston containing 100 acres, the bounds the same as the above. March 22, 1785.

Book 93, p. 35

Granted by Elisha and Reuben Marsh, for L240, to Esek Marsh, the one-half part mentioned above. March 22, 1785.

Book 93, p. 35

Granted by Elisha and Reuben marsh, for L240, to Esek Marsh, the one-half part mentioned above. May 7, 1785.

Book 102, p. 520.

A mortgage grant by Alexander (?) Marsh, for L189, to Joseph Lovell of Medway, of a certain tract of land in Holliston, with buildings, containing 100 acres, the bounds as above. October 20, 1788. Mortgage discharged, 1814.

Note 7

Middlesex Registry of Deeds.
Book 209, p. 354.

Granted by Esek Marsh, for \$300.00, to Amos Marsh, one-half a certain tract of land in Holliston with one-half the buildings thereon, namely the south part of the house with the other buildings to remain undivided, said tract containing 86 acres. Bounded northerly by the antient bounds of Winthrop's Farm, westerly by land of Herman Leland, a minor son of Jeremiah Leland deceased, and land of Elihu cutler to a large rock at the south end of the wall, then turning west and continuing on said Cutler's land to the Pond Brook, so called, then bounded on said brook to Winthrop's Pond, southerly on said pond and partly toward the south on land belonging to Abigail Thayer, as the fence now stands, easterly on a town road in part until it comes opposite the north end of a piece of land belonging to Isaac Smith, then crossing the road to the east on land of said smith to a white oak tree marked, and continuing on said land till it comes to land of Ursula Thayer, then continuing on east bounds of the land of said Thayer till it comes to the bound first mentioned. The highway excluded. April 4, 1812.

Note 8

Middlesex Registry of Deeds:

Book 225, p. 43.

Granted, by Amos Marsh of Holliston, to Esek Marsh of Holliston, one undivided half of a parcel of land in Holliston, containing forty acres.

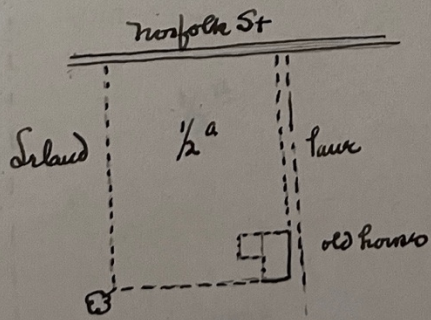
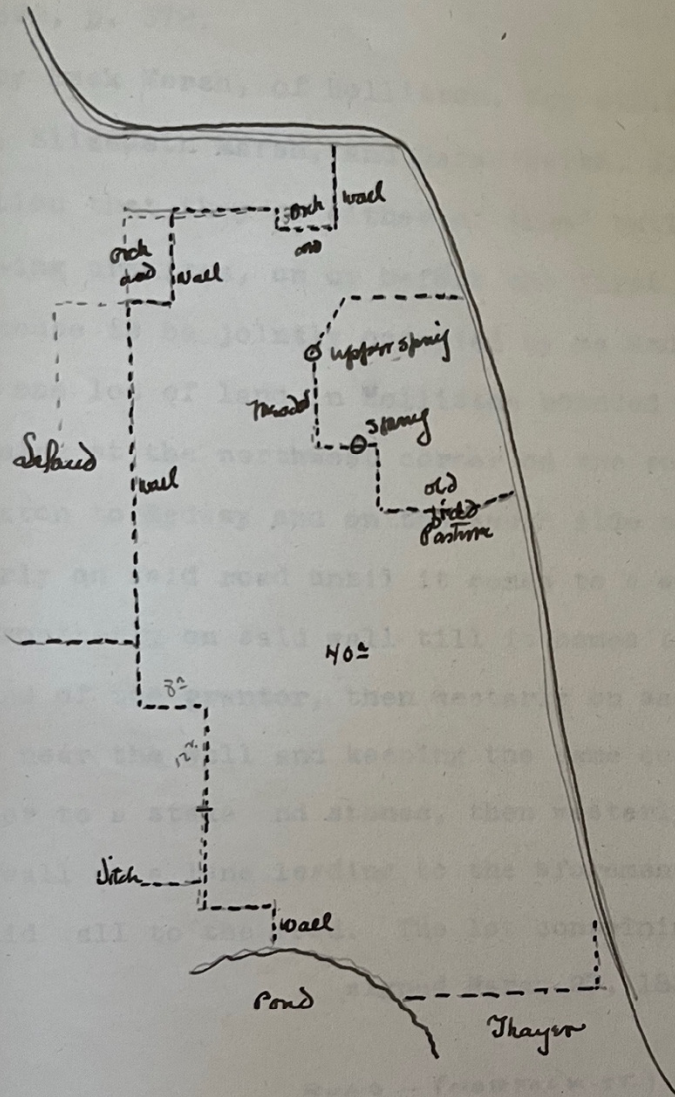
Bounded easterly and northerly by a Town Way leading from Holliston Meeting House to Medway, thence beginning at the northwest corner of the pasture east of the barn, thence southerly by a stone wall to a stake and stones, thence westerly across the little orchard, so called, to a stake and stones at a stone wall, thence southerly on said orchard wall to the corner of the same, being near the great rock, so called, thence westerly over said great rock, as the wall now stands, to land of Hermon Leland, thence southerly on said Leland's land as the wall now stands to the southeast corner of the same, thence southerly and easterly on a stone wall about 8 rods to a stake and stones, thence southerly about 12 rods to the corner of a ditch, thence southerly on said ditch to the southeast corner of the same, thence continuing the same direction about 1 rod to a rail fence, thence easterly on said fence as it now stands to a stone wall, thence southerly to Winthrop's Pond, thence southeasterly on said Pond to land of Abigail Thayer and easterly on said Thayer's land as the wall stands to the corner of the wall near the road, thence northerly on land of said Thayer as the wall stands to the road, thence northerly on said road to a stone wall which divided the old field pasture, so called, thence southwesterly and westerly on said wall to the lower pasture, so called, thence northerly as the wall now stands to a stake and stones near a spring, thence westerly through said spring, thence in the same direction to a stone wall at the meadow, thence northerly on said meadow wall to the upper spring, thence northeasterly and easterly as the wall now stands to the above mentioned road.

Also one other tract of land containing about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre and bounded northerly on the above mentioned road, westerly on land of Hermon Leland as the wall now stands, then running from a white oak tree at land of Hermon Leland to the southwest corner of the two story old dwelling house, then northerly by the two story part of the dwelling house to the center of the same, then westerly across the leanto to the westerly side of the same, thence northerly and easterly by said leanto to the upright part of the dwelling house, thence easterly by said dwelling house to the northeast corner of the same, thence northerly by a lane to the above mentioned road.

Signed, February 12, 1817.

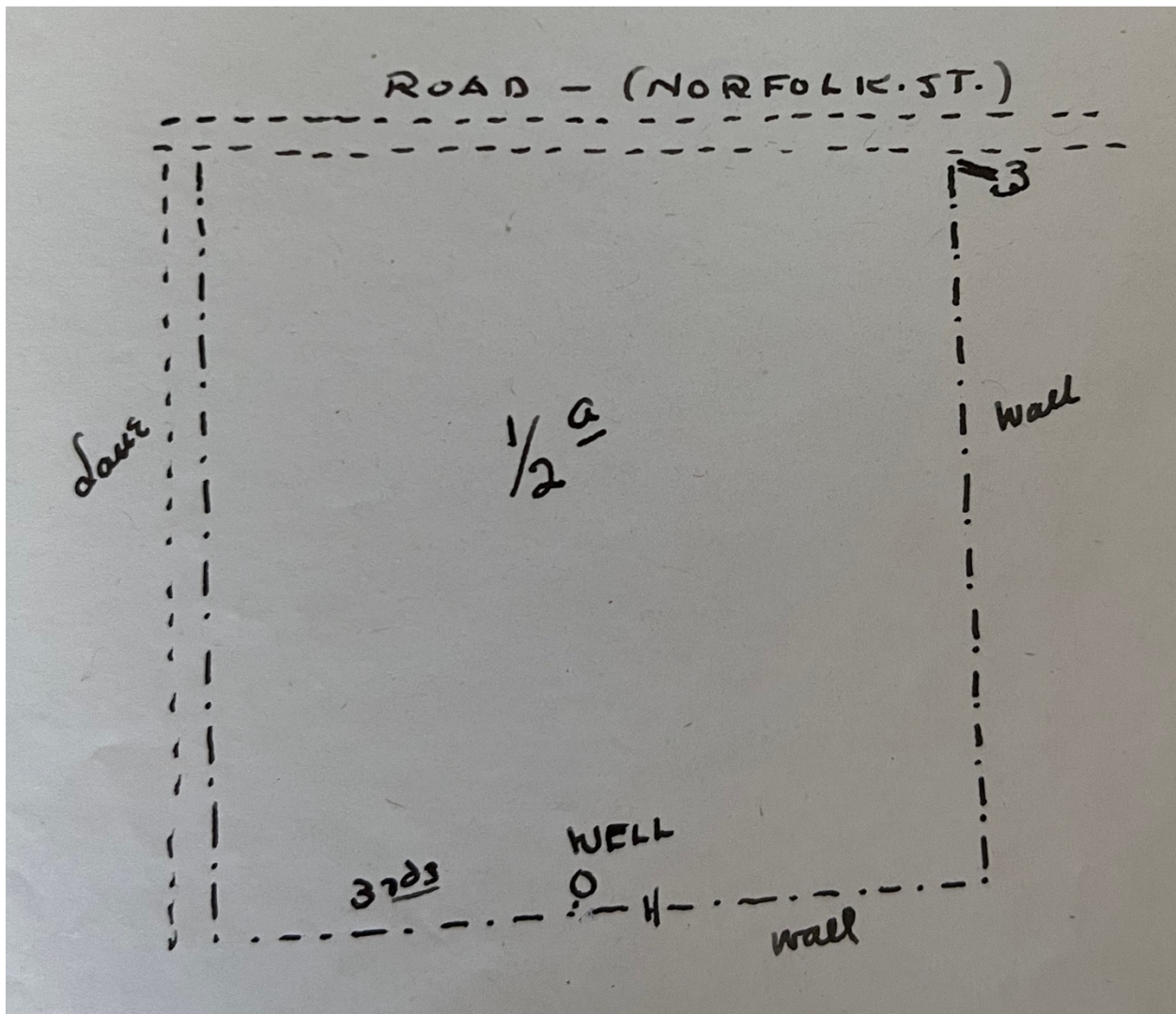
225-43

8-



Middlesex Registry of Deeds:
Book 322, p. 378.

Sold by Esek Marsh, of Holliston, for \$10.00, to Amelia Sophia Marsh, Elizabeth Marsh, and Sarah Marsh, singlewomen, on condition that they or "either of them" build a house on the following premises, on or before the first of December next, said house to be jointly occupied by me and them during my life one lot of land in Holliston bounded as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner on the road leading from Holliston to Medway and on the south side of the same, running easterly on said road until it comes to a wall and a maple tree, then southerly on said wall till it comes to a stake and stones on land of the grantor, then westerly on said wall to the end of it near the well and keeping the same course about 3 rods further to a stake and stones, then westerly to the south end of. Wall on a lane leading to the aforementioned road and on said wall to the road. The lot containing about one half acre. Signed March 27, 1833.



Note 10:
Middlesex Registry of Deeds.
Book 225, p. 45.

A mortgage grant by Esek Marsh, for \$217.83, to Amelia Sophia Marsh, Sempstress, of the properties described in Book 225, page 43. Date, April 1, 1817. This mortgage was cleared through payment by Elihu Cutler, administrator of Esek's estate, June 22, 1836.

Note 11:
The "Sickness of 1742" in Holliston.

It is written somewhere that this epidemic was, considering the number of people in Holliston at the time, almost as severe as the "Great Sickness" of 1753-4. This may be, but the Vital Records show far fewer deaths. It was, evidently a summer sickness; deaths appear normal during the first and last parts of that year. On July 7, David Underwood and Peter Goulding died. Probably during that month a number lay sick; the next recorded death was that of John Death, on July 27. The Rev. Mr. James Stone died on the following day, July 28 – exhausted, it is told, by visiting the sick. On the 30th, Aaron Jones died. ON the 1st of August Aaron Morse passed on; of the three Aaron Mores then in Holliston, this was probably Aaron "Farm" Morse, of Phipps Hill. And on the 3rd of August Bethiah (Perry) Morse died, wife to Aaron.

This seems the end and total of this sickness. There were, probably, many seriously ill, who later recovered; there may have been other deaths beyond those recorded. Those who died were mainly in early middle age and lived in the vicinity of Phipps Hill. The Morse family seem to have been the chief sufferers. Beside Aaron and Bethiah, Ann (Lealand) Morse, wife of Aaron Morse 3rd, died June 4; and John Death was son-in-law to Aaron "Farm" Morse.

Note 12:
Middlesex Registry of Deeds.
Book 92, p. 52

Granted by John Goulding of Holliston, yeoman, for L1240, to Bethiah Goulding of Holliston, spinster, a tract of land in Holliston containing 72 acres. Bounded northerly on land the heirs of James Goulding, deceased, westerly partly on land of Alexander Marsh then running southerly on a rail fence till it comes to a stone wall and on said wall till it comes to a rail fence and on said fence till it comes to a stone wall and on said wall till it make 72 acres. April 6, 1768.

Book 92, p. 53

Granted by Bethiah Goulding, spinster, for maternal goodwill and love to her son in law Alexander Thayer, clerk, and Abigail Thayer her daughter, both of Mendon, a tract of land of 72 acres in Holliston, bounded northerly on land of Alexander and Abigail his wife, westerly partly on Alexander Marsh and partly on land of John Goulding till it comes to a stone wall and on said wall till it comes to a rail fence which is the dividing line between the land of John Goulding and the above 72 acres, then turning easterly on said fence and running an easterly course till it makes up 72 acres, together with all buildings and edifices thereon erected. November 30, 1785.

Note 13:

RE: Goulding

Middlesex Registry of Deeds.
Vol 35, p. 616.

Granted by Edmund Morse of Holliston, for L128, to John Goulding, a tract of land of 69 acres in Holliston. Bounded easterly with Chicken Brook, southerly partly on the land of Jonathan Cutler until it comes to Medway line, and then with said line until it comes to Goulding's land, and then on said Goulding's land until it comes to the circumference line of the 3rd division of land in Sherborn, and northerly with land of Eleazer Perry. Signed July 19, 1731.

South-East Corner of
Winthrop Grant.

March 29 1938

