





Groton Historical Society
Groton, Vermont 05046

BRICK HOUSE OF GROTON

This painting of the house John Taisey built in about 1823 was spotted in an antique shop in East Barre in 1993 by Dorothy Main. She recognized this Groton home which is now owned by Dr. & Mrs. Page.

Remembering that Doug French had lived here with his parents and younger brother from 4 years of age to adulthood, Mrs. Main kindly told the French family of the painting.

The family is pleased to donate the painting to the Groton Historical Society in memory of Doug.

THE BRICK HOUSE OF GROTON

A trail across the Northwest corner of the land occupied by the brick house was used by Indians for centuries. the trail, leaving the Winooski River in Plainfield, crossed the land in a near straight line to the Coos Meadows at Wells River. When New York State laid claim to Vermont, the area of the brick house became a part of Gloucester County New York. And for access to the County, New York made the trail navigable for wagons and troop movement. Surveying records located the county road across the farm of the brick house.

Although French troops had used the trail, the first Englishman by the name of John Wells used the path in 1709 on a scouting mission to rescue captives from the French Mohawks.

Groton was chartered in October, 20, 1789 to Thomas Butterfield and 61 others. James Whitelaw and Ira Allen (Ethan's brother) surveyed the land and laid out the first division of 86 lots for the town. At a meeting of charter members in Newbury, lot numbers were drawn from a bean pot and assigned to members.

The lot to be occupied by the brick house was lot 17, however, the close proximity of lot 18 was usually associated with it. The stone wall on the hillside in back of house was the boundry line between the two allotments. At the Newbury meeting, Elijah Galuska drew lot 17 and No. 18 rights were drawn by Nathanial Louwell. No im-

provements of the lands were recorded.

In 1801, Ephraim Garey purchased lots 17 and 18 where in 1805 ^{he} built ^{he} a home; somewhere near Legare's sugar house. In the early 1900,s , it should be noted that the pasture land in back of the brick house was ^{still} known as Garey Hill.

On march 21,1814, Mr Garey deeded 50 acres of lot 17 and 40 acres of lot 18 to Robert Taisey (1). Robert Taisey had settled in Groton on the Joe Fellows place and built the first stone house in town.

John Taisey, who had worked at his father's grist mill, west of the turning works, for two years; purchased 40 acres of his father's land on lot 17. The deed was recorded April 29,1823 (2). John was an ambitious person and over the years increased the acreage to 300. He started a brick yard and built his home from the brick. (The brick were soft and easily broken.) Clarence Brown stated that the brick kilm was near the road that led down to the bridge crossing the Wells River. Ashes from the kilm were used to make potash and pay for his land. John Taisey and his wife Phoebe Heath had 17 children. Ten lived to adulthood.

William, the oldest son of John Taisey, lived on the home place all his life. The home included the brick house and the attached two-bay shed. The two rooms over the shed may have been used as bedrooms for his nine brothers and sisters. John deeded his home and 40 acres to William on April 2,1860 (3).

George W. Taisey, the oldest of the William Taisey family, left the farm at age 21 and served as a teamster

in Boston for six years. He returned to the home place in 1870 and married Phoebe Whitehill in 1872. He built the white house on the end of the shed and farmed with his father. In his later years, William deeded the white house, the east end of the shed, the brick house and equal rights to the basement to George W. March 18, 1884 (4). The estate settlement of William Taisey in 1895 left to George W. the west half of the shed and half the remaining real estate (5).

George W. Taisey had four children; one died in infancy. Harry was a barber, Herbert was a stonecutter in Groton and Goerge E. (Ernie) Taisey was a clerk in Boston at the time of their father's death. On May 31, 1905, George Ernest Taisey at age 27, was willed $\frac{1}{2}$ interest in his father's estate (George W. Taisey). (6)

Two years later, May 18, 1907 (7), Ernie sold his interest in the farm to his aunt Margaret Mead. Margaret Taisey had married Harrison Mead of Dorchester Mass. The death of her husband, her father William, and her brother's wife Phoebe in 1895 was the possible reason for her return to the home place. She lived in the white house and could have done the housework for her brother George.

Two days after Mrs. Mead gained possession of the property, the brick house was deeded to Crissie Whitehill, her sister (8). (John Whitehill, Crissie's husband, was previously married to her older sister Mary Taisey.)

Between the years 1907 and 1925 there may have been a falling out between the two sisters, Maragret and Crissie.

(basement privilege was one) for Margaret left her estate to the Groton Baptist Church.

On Nov. 14, 1925 Crissie Whitehill purchased the Mead estate from the church (9) thus returning the Taisey farm to one owner. (Somehow in my search I have lost a $\frac{1}{2}$ interest in the land and buildings outside of the homestead.)

On August 22, 1930 (10) Crissie sold the farm to Robert Taisey Heath. During his ownership, two granddaughters, Annie and Jessie Murray lived with him. They did the house work and attended Groton High.

John French purchased the Taisey farm from Rob Heath June 1, 1932 (11). His first years on the farm was the raising of turkeys and selling gravel. Before his death, the addition of large farm buildings and land purchases made it one of the larger farms in the area.

Nellie French, John's wife, was bequeathed the estate upon her husband's death on July 30, 1957 (12). She in turn sold the farm three ^{years} later to I.N.H. Darling (Newty Darling). December 5, 1960 (13). Newty's son Gerry was deeded the estate on August 12, 1980 (14) and on May 2nd, 1985 (15) Dr. H. Gordon Page and wife Louise took possession of the farm. Since that time the brick house has never been the same.

N.D. Brown
2/15/1988

REFERENCES

Sources of information taken from the following:

Indian Trails and County Roads by Hosea Welch.

Groton in 1901 compiled by J.H.Walbridge,

Groton Town Records at the town clerks office,

(1) Vol 2 page 539.

(2) Vol 4 page 335.

(3) Vol 8 page 601.

(4) Vol 11 page 271.

(5) Vol 12 page 660.

(6) Vol 14 page 413.

(7) Vol 14 page 136.

(8) Vol 14 page 137.

(9) Vol 14 page 331.

(10) Vol 16 page 410.

(11) Vol 19 page 40.

(12) Vol 22 page 243.

(13) Vol 23 page 293.

(14) Vol 30 page 400.

(15) Vol 33 page 379.