

Dublin Historical Society

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What's in a Name?

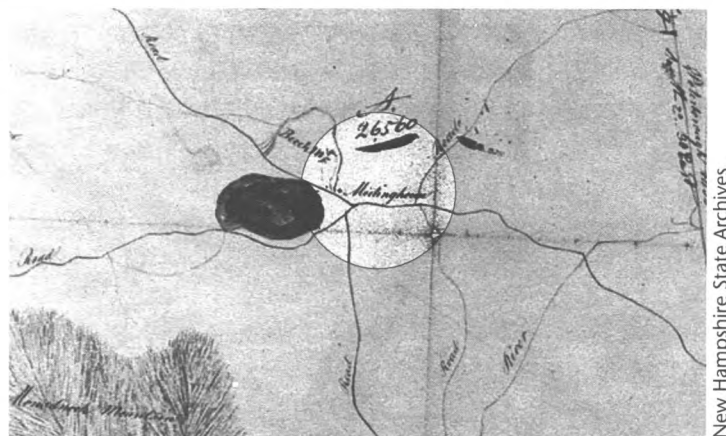
by Lisa Foote

OLD COMMON ROAD

Have you ever wondered why a road or geographical location of interest in Dublin, like Lone Pine Hill, bears the name it does? Clues to the current name can be found in the details of the past history of town. However, chances are that there have been several different names for a particular road or place over time. Many current street names were adopted on the recommendation of a town committee at the time of Dublin's bicentennial in 1952.

Let's take the example of Old Common Road. It is located just to the west of what is now called Dublin Road, formerly the New Harrisville Road. It diverges from Main Street and continues in a westerly direction, creating a triangular piece of land between it and Route 101. You might think that this land was the town common, but in fact it was not. As you can see in the photograph, it is the site of a farmhouse and barn dismantled in 1907 by Fremont Mason, a local housewright.

In fact, Dublin did not have land called a Town Common when it was settled. The land set aside for public use in 1752 was located at the northeast corner of the lake, approximately the geographical center of town. It was only used for the first meetinghouse, the cemetery and land



Detail of Plan of Dublin surveyed by Thomas Batcheller in 1805.

The site of the first meetinghouse is noted in circle.

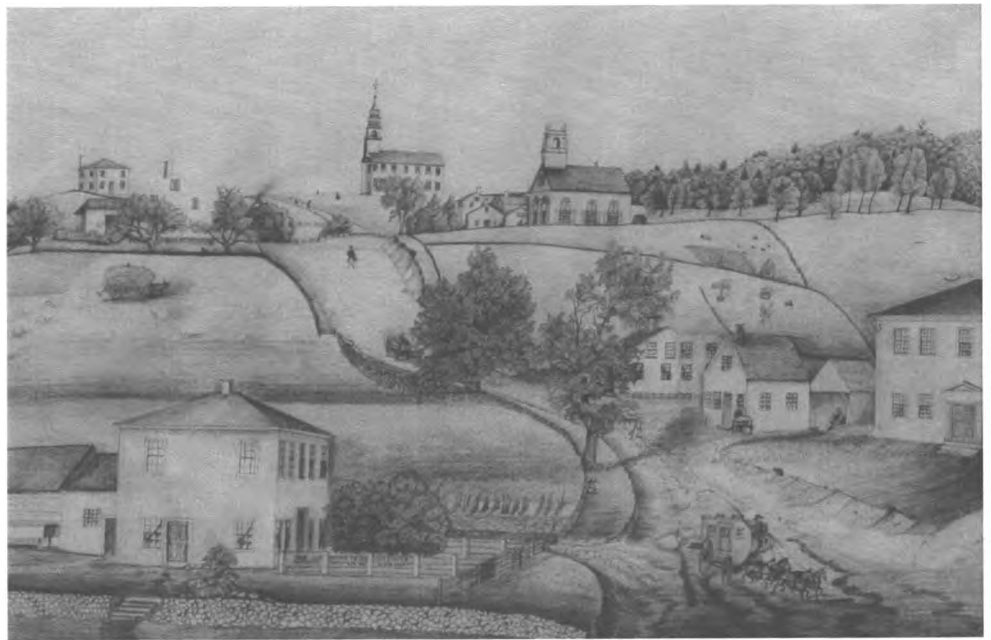
for the minister upon which to build a house. A map of Dublin drawn in 1805 by Thomas Batcheller shows the location of the first meetinghouse (on what is now called Old Common Road) on a road running northwest toward what is now Chesham. It is unknown how people referred to the road at that time.

By 1808, the 1770s meetinghouse had fallen into disrepair. In April of 1817, after 9 years of discussion and disagreement, town meeting voted to build a new meeting house "after the plan of Ashby or Fitzwilliam . . ." and "to purchase a spot of land . . . sufficient for the accommodation of building a meeting house & for a Common etc". The town constructed a grand, two-story structure with a four-stage steeple, very similar to Fitzwilliam's surviving meetinghouse, on the north side of the new common near where Steve Levene and Susan Peter's house now stands.



View looking west at current junction of Route 101 and Old Common Road, circa 1900. In the foreground are the farm buildings in the triangle formed by the two roads. In the background are the Frothingham house (left) and the Farnham house (right), both built in 1885 around the Town Common.

By 1823 a brick town house had been built on the eastern side of the common. Both of these buildings can be seen on the horizon in Maria E. Perry's *View of Dublin* drawn in 1845. (The farmstead in the triangle is also visible.)



New Hampshire Historical Society

Detail of line drawing by Maria E. Perry, *View of Dublin, 1845*, looking west up the Dublin village hill. Perry was born in Dublin in 1826 and died of consumption in 1849, a week short of her 23rd birthday.

For reasons too complicated to explain here, both the meetinghouse and the town house were sold by the town to private individuals and dismantled by 1860, effectively abandoning that location as a town center. The Town Common, too, was sold in 1888 to James Frothingham, owner of the house now owned by the Wolpe family.

Perhaps a newspaper clipping from June 26, 1884 is apt commentary on how completely the Town Common locale had lost its importance to the residents of Dublin:

In answer to a petition the selectmen have opened the west end of the old road north of the cemetery; and the road through its whole length had been put in sufficiently good repair to meet all the demands

of travel without giving it the appearance of a thoroughfare. This is an old historic road. On or near it was built the first church edifice in town and near it stood the old church on the hill.

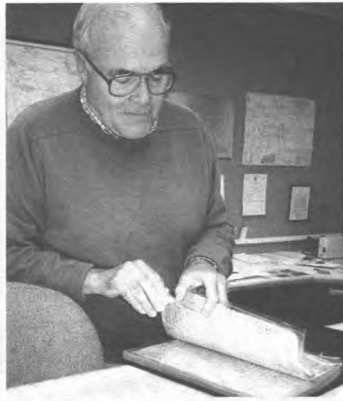
The old church on the hill referred to is the second meetinghouse dismantled only 32 years earlier, and the Town Common land still owned by the town is not mentioned. By the next summer private homes (in the photograph looking west) would be built on the sites of the Town House and the Second Meetinghouse.

The early 20th century a postcard published by Henry D. Allison depicts the "Road from the Old 'Common'", a little traveled lane leading to the only town-owned land left in the area, the cemetery. Today, what we call Old Common Road resembles most of the secondary roads in town, paved ways lined by stone walls. Only its name hints at its importance in town history. ■



Road from the Old "Common". Dublin, N. H.

This circa 1900 postcard illustrates how the early 19th century thoroughfare past the old Town Common has become in essence a country lane.



John Wakefield Harris

September 21, 1930–October 20, 2014

The Dublin Historical Society lost the most important person in our history, when John died unexpectedly in late October. Although he was not an original founder of our organization, in the mid 1980s John and Bill Bauhan revitalized DHS, which had languished during more than 20 years of inactivity. On account of his energy, enthusiasm, and perserverance, we have a state of the art facility to house our collection of documents along side the town records he so ably organized as well. Thanks to his efforts we have databases to locate everything in the two sets of records.

Diana Burnham sent this tribute for John upon his retirement from DHS. “How lucky Dublin has been in John’s stewardship of the Historical Society. His knowledge, high standards and dedication have been paramount in gathering and then offering back to us our own collective stories. An amazing legacy and inspiration. Thank you, John.”

Upon John’s death the Harris family designated the Dublin Historical Society as a recipient of donations in his memory. As a result DHS has established the JWH Fund, the monies of which will be used for special projects and acquisitions for the collection. We thank those of you who contributed.

2014 ANNUAL MEETING

Over 80 people attended our annual meeting on August 24 to hear a presentation by Dennis O’Connor, “Joseph Lindon Smith in the Valley of the Kings, 1905-1907”. Smith, a member of the Dublin Art Colony, is known for his trompe l’oeil representations of the painted decorations on Egyptian tomb walls.

While researching Smith’s work in Egypt (a career spanning 50 years) for an upcoming biography, O’Connor identified the images in the DHS collection of Smith’s glass lantern slides as those taken at the opening of tombs KV 46 and KV 55. The images were taken by archaeologist Theodore Davis’s team during excavations and would have been shown in lectures by Davis, Smith and others. As O’Connor was eager to weave them into a talk, DHS digitized the slides so that they could once again be shown to a large audience.

History tells us that Joseph Lindon Smith was working in Luxor at the time of both discoveries and was present at the opening of both tombs which dated to around 1390

B.C.E.. In fact, Smith was the first to peer into the tomb of Queen Tiye (KV 55), which is now known to be the reburial site of the Pharaoh Akenaten. O’Connor read from a first hand account of the event, while displaying the unprepossessing image of a wide board propped in the entrance to a tomb. The slide shows the very board that Smith, who was of small stature, balanced on while describing what he could see to the assembled archaeologists.

During a short business meeting, President Foote highlighted two initiatives accomplished during the year—a technology upgrade for our databases and the repainting of the 1841 Schoolhouse.

She thanked Nancy Campbell for all her help as Assistant Archivist and the audience for their support of DHS through dues and donations.

Sarah Bauhan, who stepped down from the board of trustees, received a framed print in recognition of her five year tenure on the board.

NEW ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Since the most recent oral history interviews in our collection date from before 2002, the board of trustees has decided to organize another round of interviews. The archives has tapes and transcripts from interviews done by DHS before 1998, transcripts from interviews done by Tom Hyman for the publication of the recent town history, *Village on the Hill*, and transcripts of interviews done by Dick Meryman for *Dublin Lake Club – A Centennial History*.

Four of us plan to attend a day-long workshop in January sponsored by N.H. Humanities Council, the Hopkinton Historical Society, and the Hopkinton Town Library. The presenter, Jo Radnor, is the past president of the American Folklore Society and the National Storytelling Network. We hope to learn effective strategies for interviewing and to create a manual for volunteers to follow.

We are seeking volunteers who might enjoy meeting with Dublin residents as part of this new initiative. Please contact Lisa Foote at the DHS Archives at 563-8545, if you would like more information.

ACCESSIONS UPDATE

As ever, we are exceedingly grateful to receive material for the archives' and museum's collections from generous donors.

This fall we received two collections of documents and photographs about early summer residents: Erskine Childers contributed a large collection related to Dr. Hamilton Osgood including a copy of *Riddle in the Sands* by (his great-grandfather) Erskine Childers, and Edie Powell gave us a variety of papers relating to the Raphael Pumpelly, George deForest Brush, and Handasyd Cabot families.

Our library grew by another 3 volumes. Ellen P. Gonant sent *Inventing Asia: American Perspectives Around 1900*. Dayton Duncan sent a copy of *Seed of the Future: Yosemite and the Evolution of the National Park Idea*. In honor of John W. Harris, William Morgan sent *A Simpler Way of Life*, as well as a collection of additional articles.

We thank Lynn Elder for giving us an account book for The Emerald restaurant, 2 panoramic postcards of Dublin Lake, a collection of clippings and correspondence between Henry D. Allison and publishing houses regarding his manuscript for *Dublin Days Old and New*, and a copy of Levi Leonard's discourse at the dedication of the First Congregational Church in 1853.

Sally Shonk, Sharron Monaghan, and Sheila King generously shared their images of Dublin events with us. Sally also let us copy a photo of H. Bronson Shonk playing the saxophone. Lucy Shonk gave us photos from the 1949 Dublin Sailing Club Awards picnic. Pat Walker gave us papers relating to the Dublin Block Company.

Linda Van Wyk sent 4 brass school teachers bells, originally collected by Helen Scribner.

Purchases included 4 postcards from Christine Shook to her father, Hildreth Allison, and a circa 1880s tintype of Albert Frost.

WEB SITE UPDATE

Check our web site www.dublinhistory.org in the coming months for a new look. Peter Imhoff has offered to redesign it for us, and we hope to fill the site with details of Dublin history. We welcome volunteer help in managing the web site. Please contact Lisa Foote at 563-8545 for more information.

MERCHANDISE

As part of our fundraising each year we offer items with a Dublin flavor for sale.

A new set of note cards will soon be available. Lucy Shonk donated cards sent to her grandmother in the mid 1930s depicting local views created by Beckie Malicheff, the oldest daughter of Joe and Corinna Smith. DHS has reproduced 5 of them and will offer 10 cards (2 of each image) and envelopes for sale in early 2015. Please check our web site for details.

We will continue to offer a box of 10 note cards featuring 5 paintings by Abbott Thayer at \$10 per box.

Last call: there is a limited supply of hardbound copies of Will Morgan's *Monadnock Summer: The Architectural Legacy of Dublin, New Hampshire*. The book costs \$55 with an additional cost of \$5 per copy for shipping.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for the Annual Potluck
Supper on Saturday, February 21, 2015.

Ben Kilham will recount experiences
from his work with black bears.