

# Quinabang Historical Society Leaflets.



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## INTERPRETATION OF Woodward's and Saffery's Map OF 1642, OR THE EARLIEST BAY PATH.

BY LEVI B. CHASE.

[REPRINTED FROM NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER  
FOR APRIL, 1901.] With additions.

It may be well at the outset to quote from Hubbard's History of New England,\* written about 1679, respecting some customs of the aborigines,—“Every noated place of fishing or hunting was usually a distinct seigniory, and thither all their friends and allies of the neighboring provinces used to resort in the time of yeere to attend those seasons, partly for recreation, and partly to make provision for the yeere. Such places as they chose for their abode, were usually at the falls of great rivers, or neare the sea side, where was any convenience of catching such as every summer and winter used to come upon the coast: att which times they used, like good fellows, to make all common; and then those who had entertained their neighbors by the sea side, expected the like kindness from them againe, up higher in the country: and they were wont to have their great dances for mirth at these generall meetings. With such kinde of entercourse were their affayres and commerce carried on, between those that lived up in the country, and those that were seated on the sea coast, about the havens and channells that issued into the sea; where there used to be at all times, clams, mussels, and oysters, and in the summer season lobsters, bass, or mullet, and sturgeon, of which they used to take great plenty, and dry them in the smoake, and keep them the rest of the yeare. Up higher, at the falls of great rivers, they used to take salmon, shad, alewives, that used in great quantities, more than cart loades, in the spring to pass up into the fresh watter ponds and lakes, therein to spawn, of all which they, with their wares, used to take great store for their use. In all such places there was wont to bee great resort,”

From wigwam to wigwam, that had hospitable doors always open on the leeward side, the prehistoric people drifted on their long-dis-

\*See First Edition (1815), p. 30.—EDITOR.

tance paths. A stone mortar for the grinding of parched corn, was a halting place; and if necessary, within their wraps of skins or woven feathers, they slept as contentedly in the great pathless forests as the birds within their nests. Their trails, by constant use, became paths.

Upon the advent of another race, the marks of the Indian's moccasined feet were very soon covered by the heavy steps of the white men. The path of the Indian became the earliest roadway of the pioneer settlers. There has been transmitted to us from early time, some knowledge, indefinite in parts, of the general course of some of the long-distance paths used by the Indians.

April 4, 1631, three sachems from Agawam, or vicinity of Springfield, one of whom had for a time been in the service of Sir Walter Raleigh, visited Gov. Winthrop, and bore to the English the first intelligence of the Connecticut river, and of the way overland to their place of residence. This is the route that is to be particularly considered later on; and it is sufficient at present to say that writers agree that from Boston it went through South Framingham to Oxford.

There was another path mentioned in the grant of the old town of Mendon, date about 1660. The township was laid out on both sides, and bounds made at certain distances north and south each way from the path; which proves that the ways usually traveled by the natives were well defined landmarks. This was called "The Path to Nipmug Great Pond," or Chaubunagungamaug. As the Indian village was probably at the outlet of the pond, which was on the side next Oxford, it practically brought this path to unite with the other coming from Boston.

In the history of Windham County, Conn., mention is made of a well known path of the Indians from Mount Hope and the Narraganset country to Wabbaquasset, now Woodstock, known as the "Providence Path." Another, the route of which is there described, came from Norwich and the seacoast to the same point, and was called the "Nipmug Path."

Passing now to the westward, and following the writing of Rev. J. H. Temple, as found in his histories of North Brookfield and Palmer, we find the location of Quabaug Old Fort and another set of Indian paths.

It was Mr. Temple's opinion that the "Ashquoach" of the Indians, called by the English "Quabaug Old Fort," was situated on Indian Hill, north of Great (now Sherman's) Pond in Brimfield.

Quoting from Mr. Temple: "It was directly upon the great Indian trail from Woodstock (the Wabbaquasset country) to the Great Falls at Holyoke; and but a little way south of the trail from Wekabaug

to Springfield."\* This "Fort" is named in the contemporary records oftener than any of the neighboring defenses. The messengers and agents sent at different times by the English authorities to the Quabaugs, for one purpose or another, often mentioned their stop at "Quabaug Old Fort."

Four paths are mentioned as diverging from this point:

The great western path from Quabaug "Old Fort" passed north of Steerage Rock to the bend in Quabaug River; parting there, one branch kept on south of the river, to Springfield, the other crossed the river into Palmer and on to the Great Falls of the Connecticut, now Holyoke City.

Another path ran to the falls of Ware River; and still another to the Indian village of Wickabaug, now West Brookfield.

The character of the country lying between these eastern and western paths, for a distance of twenty or more miles north and south, is peculiarly obstructive to an east and west thoroughfare; so much so that even to this day no road has been made or path found in that direction except where the valley of the Quinebaug furnishes the way.

The town of Sturbridge occupies the middle portion of this territory, and the river enters from the west about midway between the north and south boundaries of the town.

The four long-distance paths from all the seaboard between Boston and New London that have been described as approaching each other as they were extended into the interior, were united as one great path in passing through this valley; and then after reaching "Quabaug Old Fort" stretched away in diverging lines to the various places where the Indians were wont to resort.

To-day a person in Oxford or Woodstock desiring a drive to Springfield, by country road the most direct, will travel along what was once called the "great road" in Sturbridge.

The Quinebaug valley, as it lies in Sturbridge, and the hills that make it, was called by the Indians, Tantiusque, in our language, meaning between breast-shaped hills. Small hills or large knolls of even surface, composed of gravel and sand, are a distinctive feature of this valley.

At the time of the landing of the Puritan emigrants upon the shores of Massachusetts Bay, Webukshem was chief sachem of Tantiusque.

We have the name of Nodowahut, uncle of Webukshem, also Tamuggut, the messenger. Nascomos, or Wascomos, was son of Webukshem and succeeded his father as sachem.

There has been given, thus far, a brief and rough sketch of the con-

\*See History of No. Brookfield, p. 30.—EDITOR.

ditions in reference to paths at the time that the white man entered upon the land.

We are not accustomed to think of any indebtedness to the Indians, but in no respect is so much owed them, as for leading the way through what otherwise had been a trackless wilderness. The Indian paths and landmarks "became, by adoption, those of the pioneers who gave to present generations their homes in a smiling land." The story told to the people of the Bay by the three Indians from Agawam in 1631, of the abundant crops, and of streams overstocked with fish, was not to be forgotten.

John Oldham, Samuel Hall and two others, all of Dorchester, made their way through the wilderness, acting as prospectors in the interests of some of the people of that town, who were being organized by William Pynchon into a company for the purpose of moving to the fertile lands on the Connecticut River. The brief entry in Gov. Winthrop's Journal, under date of Sept. 4, 1633, contains all the account of that memorable journey that has come down to us. The only place, in all their journey, that can be identified as having been visited by John Oldham and his associates, is Tantiusque, now Sturbridge. Their discovery of the mine of graphite, which is in this town, proves their presence in the vicinity.

We now consider the "Interpretation of Woodward's and Saffery's Map of 1642." These gentlemen, "skillful and approved artizans," as they were called, were employed to establish the southern bounds of Massachusetts Bay patent.

The map that they made has been published in "Historical Collections," by Holmes Ammidown, vol. 1, p. 294. Written upon the map we find the following:—

"A description of the extent of the bounds of Massachusetts Bay Patent, southward lying in 41 deg. 55 minutes Latt.: crossing Connecticut river at Windsor ferry place, the house of John Bissell being on the west side, and the widow Gibbs her house on the east side of the river. Also a description of the most remarkable rivers, brooks, ponds, hills, playns, swamps, situation of Indians discover'd by the waye with Latt. of Springfield, 42 deg. 6 minuts, and the trading house of Oronoco, the 14th of ye 4th mo., 1642."

By NATH. WOODWARD\*

SOLOMON SAFFERY\*

To make available and clear the facts that may be learned from this old paper, a new map has been made after the United States Geologi-

\*See Hutchinson's History of Massachusetts (1795), Vol. I, p. 191; Vol. II, pp. 134-6.—EDITOR.

cal Survey, covering the same territory as the ancient map. The checks on the map are 15 minute spaces.

The 1642 map was marked off into the same number of equal spaces and laid upon this, using red ink. The distances from point to point are relatively the same as the original. The dots which indicate the course of the paths are about a mile apart.

The route of Woodward and Saffery between Boston and Springfield is placed upon their map as an imaginary straight line. But when they noted their passage of Nipnet River and Singletary Pond, they gave positive knowledge of their position.

Passing from there over a stretch which they called "a hilly country," we are equally sure of where they were when they struck the ponds and wigwams, which we recognize as the ponds now called Little Alum Pond and Sherman's Ponds in Brimfield, and the wigwams are in the position of "Quabang Old Fort." The path between these points, a distance of about twenty miles, will be described later, after noticing some points on the lower route between the Connecticut River and Providence. It may be a question as to which of the two was the outward bound and which the return route, as traversed by the surveying party. Assuming, therefore, that they followed a well known way from Boston to Springfield, they then passed down the river to latitude 41 degrees 55 minutes, and established a bound at Windsor ferry place. From thence they appear to have made their way as directly as possible across country to Providence, noting latitude from time to time, and remarkable things seen. They passed by Shenipsit pond above Rockville, and through the location of the villages of Tolland, Willington, Warrenville, Ashford and Phoenixville.

The place of their crossing Quinebaug River, on their return trip through Connecticut and Rhode Island, was at Pomfret Landing. The river was called "great river." Then they crossed what they called "Monahag's River," now Five Mile River, at Killingly. Then, what they called "river" was crossed, which is now Whetstone Brook. These rivers are marked rudely on the old map in their relative position and general course at the place of crossing, and when applied to the new map are found to coincide almost exactly in locality.

To return to the northern route of the surveyors. A year or two later, that is, January, 1645, John Winthrop, Jr., passed over this road, having with him one servant and a horse. A free translation of his diary, which was written in abbreviated Latin, has been published by the Massachusetts Historical Society.\*

\*See *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Second Series, VIII, 7-12.*—EDITOR.

It appears that Mr. Winthrop's intention, when he left Boston, was to leave the Springfield Path and pass down into the Mohigan country, but in a snow storm he failed to identify the way. He then thought he would visit his black-lead mine property, and for the same reason missed the way to that also. He started from Boston the 11th of January, and the second night camped on the north-east bank of Nipnet or Blackstone River, having traveled in the two days a distance of thirty miles by air-line. The third night he passed in the woods, and the fourth, which was very cold, in a wigwam beyond "Quabaug Pond." The next morning he was informed by Indians that he had passed the black-lead mine and was headed towards Springfield, to which place he then decided to go. He was obliged to camp out one more night, arriving in Springfield on Sunday, having been six days on the road. Twenty-seven miles for the third and fourth days' journey would have brought him to "Quabaug Old Fort," Springfield being twenty miles farther on. It seems quite evident that the pond that is called "Quabaug Pond," near which he passed the fourth night in a wigwam, was the one near "Quabaug Old Fort."

The pond at East Brookfield called Quabaug is objected to not only because of its being off of the then known route, but it was, in proportionate distance, too near Nipmuck river and too far from Springfield; and could not at any rate have been said to be beyond the black-lead mine.

The first grant of Brookfield, in 1660, describes the six mile square as being near Quabaug ponds; speaking of them in the plural number.

Right here it may not be improper to advance an idea that has occurred to me. The pond at the "Old Fort" John Winthrop, Jr., called Quabaug; the next one east was called by the Indians Pookoo-quabaug (if we choose so to spell it): the next pond, still eastwardly of that, was called the same, making the two Pookoo-quabaug ponds. The valley between was called Puttakoo-quabaug. The pond northward, at West Brookfield, was Wiquabaug, another at East Brookfield called Quabaug, and the whole region was occupied by the Quabaug Indians.

The discovery of the path from Oxford to Brimfield, by the only process, perhaps, by which it ever could have been accomplished in detail, was in its first inception accidental.

In 1729, an association of gentlemen obtained from the General court of the Province of Massachusetts a grant of land "lying between Brimfield and Oxford, Brookfield and the Province line," for a new township, which, after its settlement, was incorporated and received the name of Sturbridge.

As early as the following spring, 1730, the grantees proceeded to

lay out a portion of their land for settlement. A careful description of the lots surveyed was recorded in what is called "The Proprietors' Book," which is preserved in the archives of the town. These earliest records contain occasional mention of the Brimfield and Oxford Path, or the "Old Path," and "Old Fordways." As found in the old book, these words convey to the casual reader little knowledge as to the location of these paths. For the purpose of studying local history I drew upon paper, from the verbal descriptions found in the records, the lines of all the first surveys of land, placed the lots in their relative positions, and made a map of the town. This enabled me to establish the actual position of the lots in the town and also to locate the Brimfield and Oxford Path. There is a record which locates the "Old Oxford Path" at a certain point, which we find upon the line between Sturbridge and Charlton. We will first follow this path eastward, up a hill into pasture land. The path is soon obscured by a field and a north and south road, beyond which we enter a branch road extending easterly, then turning to the north after a walk of about a mile. Right at the elbow, the Path leaves the public highway and continues as a path for about two miles, being cut by two north and south roads and broken by farm improvements. It then connects with the present road extending four or five miles onward to Oxford Plains, entering the village parallel with what was, in the early history of that town, called Quabaug Lane or Path.

Returning to the Sturbridge and Charlton line, we find the path extending westward about half a mile, then obliterated for about the same distance, then appearing for a mile in pasture and woodland, and so alternating in shorter sections to the "Great Road" near the Worcester South Agricultural Society Fair Grounds. The grounds occupy the site of the Indian village of Tantiusque.

The Path conformed with the "Great Road" as far as Fiskdale, thence bore to the right over a swell of land, cropping out on uncultivated soil, crossed the valley where once dwelt Wattalloowekin and Nakin, the good Indians of Puttakookuppog who, in 1655, gave to the Rev. John Eliot, apostle to the Indians, a large tract of land upon which to found a village of "Praying Indians," like that at Natick. The Path passed on the north side of Little Alum Pond, called on the old map, "great pond," and on to "Quabaug Old Fort."

So we have Quabaug Lane or Path at Oxford village, and Quabaug Fort at Brimfield, connected by a path still traceable, and very direct in its course.

It is this section of the old way from Boston to Springfield which I claim as my own discovery, and that no other person could have traced this old road in detail, without the resurrection, in the manner

described, of the records found in Sturbridge.

We have ascertained, by the Interpretation of Woodward's and Saffery's Map, that this path from Boston to Springfield was used by white men as early as 1642. From the records of town orders and votes passed by the inhabitants of Springfield, we learn the name of this old highway. In the History of Springfield, by M. A. Green, page 99, we find transcribed from the earliest town records, that have survived to this day, the following:—"Ordered by the town in November 1646: That Jno. Clarke or those that shall Joyne with him in ye burninge of Tarr shall have liberty to gather candlewood in ye playne in ye Bay Path, p'vided they come not to gather any in this side the great pond and ye swamps that point out from it to Chickopee river and the Mill river which is judged to be about five miles from the town."

In April following, 1647, special instructions to surveyors were, besides keeping the highways in condition, to open "A Horse way over the meddow to ye 'Bay Path,' and a Bridge over the 3 corner Brooke into the plaine."

The Rev. John Eliot wrote, while at Windsor, in 1649: "20 myles up the river layeth Springfield where Mr. Moxon is pastor. And this town overland from the Bay layeth: 80: or: 90: myles South West and is the road way to all the towns upon this river and [that] lye more southward."

This was the way over which passed all the parties of immigrants, and all the intercourse between the Bay settlements and those on Connecticut river, overland, previous to 1648. This was "The Bay Path" of Dr. J. G. Holland's historical novel bearing that title, of which the author writes as follows:—

"The principal communication with the Eastern settlement was by a path marked by trees a portion of the distance, and by slight clearings of brush and thicket for the remainder. No stream was bridged, no hill graded, and no marsh drained. The path led through woods which bore the marks of the centuries, over barren hills that had been licked by the Indians' hounds of fire, and along the banks of streams that the seine had never dragged. This path was known as the 'Bay Path,' or the path to the Bay, and received its name in the same manner as the multitudinous 'old Bay-roads' that led to Boston from every quarter of Massachusetts. It was wonderful what a powerful interest was attached to the Bay Path. It was the channel through which laws were communicated, through which flowed news from distant friends, and through which came long, loving letters and messages. It was the vaulted passage along which echoed the voices that called from across the ocean, and through which, like

low-toned thunder, rolled the din of the great world. That rough thread of soil, chopped by the blades of a hundred streams, was a bond that radiated at each terminus into a thousand fibres of love and interest, and hope and memory.

The Bay Path was charmed ground—a precious passage—and during the spring, the summer, and the early autumn, hardly a settler at Agawam went out of doors, or changed his position in the fields, or looked up from his labor, or rested on his oars upon the bosom of the river, without turning his eyes to the point at which that Path opened from the brow of the wooded hill up on the east, where now the bell of the huge arsenal tells hourly of the coming of a stranger along the path of time.

And when some worn and weary man came in sight, upon his half-starved horse, or two or three pedestrians, bending beneath their packs and swinging their sturdy staves, were seen approaching, the village was astir from one end to the other. Whoever the comer might be, he was welcomed with a cordiality and universality that was not so much an evidence of hospitality, perhaps, as of the wish to hear of the welfare of those who were loved, or to feel the kiss of one more wave from the great ocean of the world.

And when one of the settlers started forth upon the journey to the Bay, with his burden of letters and messages, and his numberless commissions for petty purchases, the event was one well known to every individual, and the adventurer received the benefit of public prayers for the prosperity of his passage and the safety of his return."

## SUPPLEMENT.

"Indian Trails," reprinted in number six leaflet of the publication of Quinabaug Historical Society, was first read to the Worcester Society of Antiquity April 2, 1895, and in reference to the location of "The Old Bay Path" presented the bearing of such facts as were then in hand; assuming little more than argumentative suggestion, and personal conviction.

Subsequently the writer came across the Woodward and Saffery's Map of 1642, and at once it was seen that the facts contained upon that paper of contemporary record when brought out in understandable form, would lift the matter of the location of the first path used from Boston to the Connecticut river from the position of suggestion or argument, and place it in the class of historical facts.

A preliminary paper upon the subject was read before the Quinabaug Historical Society June 9, 1897. Then the paper of which this

leaflet is a reprint was read before the New England Historic Genealogical Society June 6, 1900. The map, which was exhibited in the audience room at that time, was drawn upon a scale of three miles to the inch. When the New England Society prepared the plates for the small reproduction of the map the proof sheet sent to the writer miscarried; so that some minor changes, called for by such considerable reduction in size, were not made; therefore that which appears in the N. E. Hist. Gen. Register is unfortunately not so satisfactory.

Previous to making the reprints for this leaflet some alterations were made in the plates; bringing out some essential points more clearly. Duplicate plates have been made for a gentleman in San Francisco who requested the privilege of using the map in a book he is about to issue. The foregoing brief sketch of the progress of this historical study is preliminary to the particular object of this supplement; which is, to put on record a description of the location of the path through the towns of Charlton, Southbridge and Sturbridge more in detail than has hitherto appeared.

Striking in to follow the path from Oxford westward any of the old residents of the village will point out the location of the "Quabaug Path" mentioned in the early history of the town. It is found to have been southerly of the present highway leading westward; but after leaving the village the traditional location of the path appears to have been, in a general way, the same as the road now used to and beyond Charlton line.

The public highway that appears to have succeeded to the general course of the old path branches off from the Charlton Centre road as it turns up the hill to the northeast, and runs through a more southerly part of the town; striking just north of Dresser Hill, and so on westerly to the Albee place.

Our westward course by public highway is here interrupted; and we enter upon the more interesting old path itself; but before doing so, it may be well to mention a local tradition here of "The Old Bay Path." An old path beginning in the westerly part of the village of Charlton Centre on what is known as the Frank Farnum place can be traced southerly to the Prindle place, and is there continued by a public road southeasterly to the Albee place mentioned above. The unused portion of this way bears by tradition the name of "The Bay Path." Its position, and its trend in a north and south direction, makes it very unlikely to have been a section of any east and west thoroughfare. Circumstances, however, furnish a reasonable and satisfactory explanation.

One of the first settlers of that part of Oxford now Charlton, who, like other first settlers, made use of the "Old Bay Path" as a way to

and from the new territory, was Salem Town, Senior.

From the Bay Path northward, he opened a cartway to his own land. Following after this statement of fact, it is not unreasonable to conclude that "Bath Path" or "Bay Path Way," came to be used in that family to distinguish this from other paths or roads subsequently opened; and though applied to a sort of side track, it may be equivalent to a local tradition of "The Old Bay Path." Returning now to the Albee place, we find one road from there running southwesterly by the old Merritt place, and another northwesterly by the Craig or Prindle place, form at the Albee place a fork of roads. An old and well worn path continues westward directly from the angle of the fork of roads, and comes out at a Southbridge and Charlton road near the house where the late Daniel Harrington resided. Passing between that house and barn, the marks are seen on the opposite side of the road, continuing the same general direction down the hill to an ancient fordway across Cady brook, and over the location of the lower road into the Sherwood farm. Which, of the several ways discoverable up the hill to another road entering the northern part of Southbridge has not as yet been decided upon.

This last mentioned road coming from the north, strikes the old path and turns westward overlaying the latter to the house of the late Nathan McKinstry, having passed on hard land between two long swamps; the only way provided by nature for long distances north-erly and southerly.

We now cross the road leading from Globe Village to "Barefoot," and then a field; beyond which, emerging from under the wall into pasture land we find the marks of the old path. The path is well defined as it passes diagonally down the hill to where was formerly the line between Sturbridge and Oxford. And right there as put upon the records of Sturbridge, the selectmen of the two towns marked a tree "the north side of the old Oxford path;" the language seeming to signify that it was even then gone out of use. This was done at the time of the perambulation of the town lines in 1740, when trees, a short distance apart, were marked for the line.

We learn by the record that the tree by the path was not far south of "cutleg meadow"? A meadow situated near the southeast corner of the John Smith place, and on the Sturbridge and Charlton line, still bears the name of "cutleg meadow" and is a permanent landmark which enabled the writer in the first place to find the location indicated by the record here referred to.

On our course westward we immediately cross the McKinstry brook at a fordway in the southeast corner of Mrs. McGilpin's farm; and follow a well defined path up the hill to the farm improvements.



No further cropping out of the path that can be identified is seen upon this farm, or the next small farm; but beyond that, in the farm which was for many years owned by the late Simeon F. Marsh, there are interesting indications and important records referring to the same.

An outlying field of an acre or two situated in the northwest corner of the farm occupies a site of some antiquarian interest. When Tantiusque was unoccupied land, this was evidently a place of call or camping ground. A slight and even rise of ground in the middle of the field, perhaps in old times a cleared place shaded by an immense tree, is ascertained to be the starting point of the survey of Saltonstall's two thousand acres in 1715.

It was also the place of beginning the survey of a range of fifty acre lots, the first laid out by the proprietors in April, 1730. Near by, outside of the field, is to be seen an immense granite boulder, which, when left by the ice movement (no date), had been broken in two and one part rolled over once, thus forming two sides of a quadrangle with walls five feet or more high. The appearance indicates that the ground there was leveled up for an earth floor; and undoubtedly by the use of logs and bark a cabin was fitted up where travelers could sleep. Southerly, and not far away, there was, and is, a never failing spring of water.

Winding through the northerly part of the Marsh farm from the eastward there are still to be seen traces of the "Old Bay Path" coming to this camping ground, and like traces are also dimly seen continuing westward; though leaving the grounds at right angles to the course of entrance on account of the obstruction of rocks. The "old path" or "road" from Brookfield to Woodstock, after following the Bay Path from the westward a mile and a half here branched off following the ridge of Fisk Hill southward. The junction of roads here furnishes another reason for the conjecture that this place may have been in old times a point of some note or perhaps having a name known to the travelers of those days.

The Bay Path is quite distinct as it approaches the road between the house of the writer and the Ladd brothers' residence. In fact, Rowland Taylor built before 1738, several rods of wall along by it, evidently thinking it would remain a public road.

The town of Sturbridge laid out a road in 1738 from the meeting house northward to the "Country Gore." It is described as running "by marked trees northward from the meeting house through the woods to the old path." This junction was at the foot of the (north) Cemetery Hill; and easterly of that near a small swamp the town way, "left the old path" bending northward. Hence the path crossed the brook where now is situated the dam of "Pistol pond," and run-

ning eastward over a field it came in line with the trace above mentioned where Rowland Taylor built the wall. This last half mile has been described from the west eastward, for the convenience of following the description in the town records.

This brings us in our westward course to the foot of the cemetery hill. From this point across to the house of Erastus White the path is distinct and interesting. Near Mr. White's house, (the old Francis D. Allen place), is a location mentioned in the deed of "six acres to set a meeting house on", from the Saltonstall heirs to the proprietors of New Medfield in 1732.

The gift was to be located "in Pineland" "at or near where the road from Brookfield to Woodstock unites with the road from Brookfield to Oxford." Other records in the work of the proprietors in 1730 locate this old Brookfield road at this place, and on northward, where it is now.

The group of records bearing upon this matter establishes the fact of the union of the two roads here, and that they continued as one a distance of about a mile and a half easterly to the old camping ground which has been described; where the road to Woodstock branches to the southward. Continuing to trace the old path westward, we pass the north side of Mr. White's house and find a foot path to the "great road" from Sturbridge Centre to Fiskdale; crossing that east of the "Fair Grounds" our way is "south of a small pond hole" and along by Mr. George Wight's house to the "Old Fordway" over Cedar Brook. Our next record is in the Village of Fiskdale near the Saltonstall west line. The location of the record is north of Mr. C. E. Munroe's store and Post Office. The town road laid out in 1738, there "left the old path to the south of a popple tree". There appears to be a lack of any records referring to the old path west of this point, within the limits of Sturbridge.

Referring to the map of the route of Woodward and Saffery in 1642, we find that the old path passed by the north side of Little Alum pond. A careful examination of the ground leads the writer to the opinion that the path passed up the slope north of Fiskdale, and over the hill crossing the Brookfield road near the south line of the S. F. Bemis farm. Outside of ploughed fields or farm improvements, there is a cropping out of sections of the path having a trend applicable to this theory.

This is also the most direct course. From the Brookfield road the probable course was northwesterly to the front side of the old house lately owned by the Griffiths family. It is an open question whether the continuation was directly over the hill westward or around the north end of the hill. Whichever way it may have been, it finally

arrived at a passage way between swamps which extend long distances either way and approaching the outlet of the pond.

It passed north of the residence of Mr. E. H. Davenport, and through the woods skirting the north shore of the pond where Mr. C. S. Allen showed the writer the trace of the old path. One of the first roads laid out by the town of Brimfield, ran from near Sherman's pond to the north end of Little Alum pond. Much of the way the records describe this road as following "the old path." The foregoing description of the location of "The Old Bay Path" between Oxford and Brimfield is brief as possible, and yet, is intended to be sufficiently clear to enable any reader who so desires to find any part of it.