

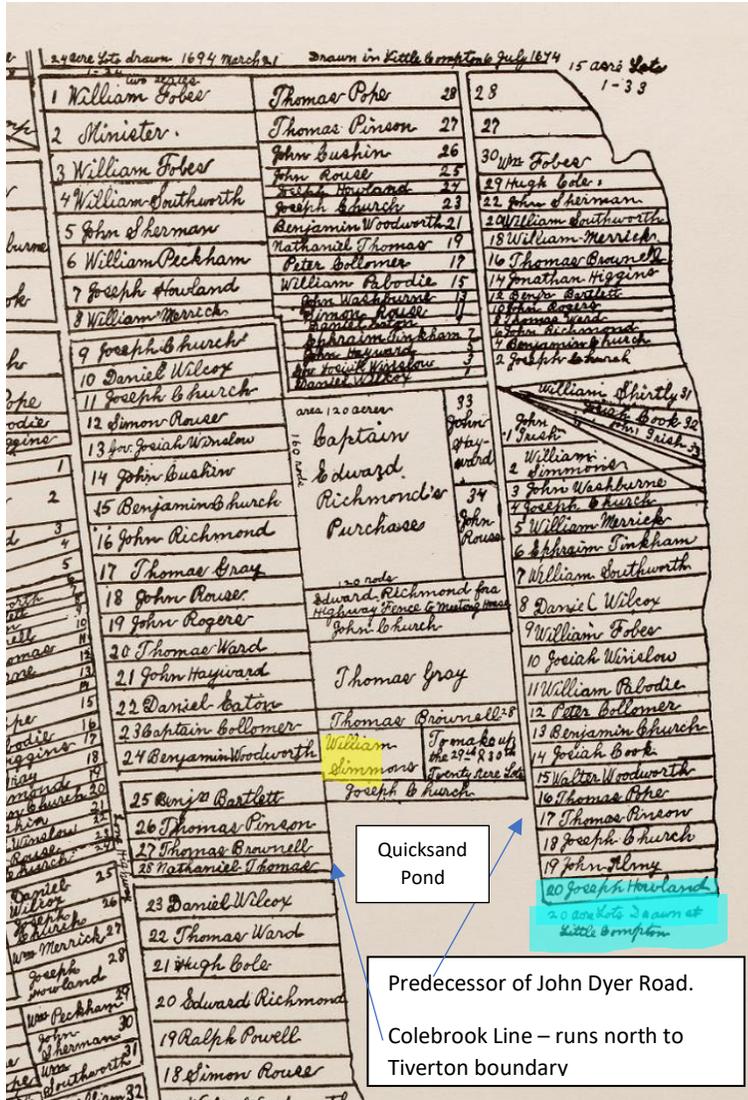
# Manton Homesite Timeline

## Coxit/Stoddard/Manton Property

By Marjory O'Toole, Executive Director, Little Compton Historical Society

- Pre 1694** Acoxet (Coxit) Indian Homelands – Mammanuah is Sachem at time of land purchases. Osemehu alias Peter Quakin is his brother. This property is some of the land east of the Colebrook line that stay under indigenous ownership until sometime after 1694.
- 1704** **Thomas Stoddard, Blacksmith, Marries Ruth Nichols in Little Compton**  
Thomas Stoddard (1676-1756) and Ruth Nichols (1687-1731) are married in LC in 1704. Both are from Hingham. Ruth is 20 years younger than Thomas. Around 1677 a John Stoddard is listed as the first English owner of lot number 11 in the first division of 10-acre house lots in Little Compton. This would be on Willow Avenue, far away from the Manton property. Thomas had a grandfather named John Stoddard but John appears to have died in Hingham in 1661. Some house lots near the Commons were given to “useful” men, like blacksmiths, who promised to settle in Little Compton. These land grants appear in the Proprietor’s Book and are represented on the Proprietor’s map. There are no “normal” deeds for these properties. Thomas could have been living on this house lot before he bought other land. Thomas’s younger brother Jonathan (1686-1774) was also a blacksmith in Little Compton. Jonathan/his descendants are likely the Stoddards that we see on the 1774 map on Willow Avenue. A Stoddard burying ground near the Manton Farm is described in “Remember Me: A Guide to Little Compton’s 46 Historic Cemeteries” p. 108.
- 1705** **Thomas Stoddard’s first land purchase recorded in Taunton.** This purchase is for shares in a large tract of land, not for a specific lot. Shares purchased from William Southworth of LC for 19 L 10 shillings. Paid by “Thomas Stoddard” Blacksmith of LC Seven shares of land and one 8<sup>th</sup> part of a share all in LC lying eastward of the Colebrook Line all within two parcels of land that John Wilcocks, Stephen Wilcocks and Edward Wilcocks surrendered up to the proprietors. William Southworth is almost certainly serving as an agent for the town and is NOT selling his private land. The Pabodie Share, Tinkham one share, Higgins one share, Rogers one share, Southworth one share, Dean half share, Brownell half share, Merrick half a share, Richmond quarter share Easton (Eatton?) Quarter share, Pinshon’s eighth of a share. It may be possible to learn more about this in the Proprietor’s Book. Daniel Wilcox got in trouble for buying land from Indians without permission and had to return land. This large tract of seized land would have been divided into approximately 32-34 shares for the Proprietors. We would have to guess at the size of the share. Maybe 4 acres. So maybe we are talking about 30 acres. Could be more or less. (Taunton Book 5 p. 498)
- 1705/6** **Thomas Buys more land east of Colebrook Line.** Samuel Gray sells to Thomas Stodor of Little Compton for 5 pounds 10 shillings tracts or parcels of land.

1. ¾ of a lot of land lying eastward of the Colebrook Line. The 22<sup>nd</sup> lot in number among the last division of land the whole lot being about four acres. 2. Three quarters of a share of land in two parcels of land lying on the eastward of Cole Brook line which the sons of Daniel Wilcox surrendered up to the proprietors Does not say how many acres. (Taunton LE Book 5 pg.496) This may be in Acoaxet.



**1705/06** Jonathan Greenell of LC sells to Thomas Stodor of LC for 7 pounds 10 shillings – a tract of land on the eastward of Cole Brook line being the **one half of a twenty acre lot the whole lott was formerly allowed William Simmon in Lew of the 2d 10 acre lott to appear in the record books of LC. Being 10 acres at the west end of sd lot there being a line drawn southerly more explanation in the LC records. This shows up on Proprietor's map, but is not part of Manton property.**

**1709** A group of shareholders sell Thomas Stoddard Blacksmith their shares in two parcels east of the Colebrook line near Quicksand Pond. John Woodman, William LINONS? George Pearse, John Price, of LC and Benjamin Woodworth of Plainfield. For L4 six shillings - All of our rights in the land surrendered by the sons of Daniel Wilcox "In the Lew of Captoness? Land" Perhaps this is an Indian name? Think Capon? "Which two parcels of land lyeth ye one on the north corner of William Pabodies land on the eastward of Colebrook and the other

lyeth by the Quicksand pond between the land of Edward Gray and the land of Josiah Sawyer." This does not show up specifically on the Proprietor's map but is likely near the William Simmons lot. The men own various shares – see photograph of doc for detail. Registered 1721/22 Taunton Book 14 p. 262 - Deed written in Feb. 1, 1709.

Thomas Stoddard buys 60 acres from Lieut. Sylvester Richmond of LC For 110 L. A tract containing 60 acres more or less

Bounded: Westerly by a Brook. Southerly by a bunch of old bushes with stones about it which is the bounds between the land above and the land of Edward Gray and at the southeast corner a red oak bush with stones about it and the east bound of it to run ranging from sd bush northerly with a ithe? oak tree that is at the northeast corner of the land that was Buttsis (Butts's) which is now in the possession of John Rogers, and the northerly bounds is by the land of sd Mr. Rogers with two black oak trees ranging east and west Book 15 pg. 474 July 15, 1711

- 1731** Ruth Stoddard dies giving birth to her 12th child, second daughter named Ruth.
- 1734** Thomas Stoddard marries second wife the widow Eleanor Briggs on May 9.
- 1747** Colonial Boundary changes. Acoaxet becomes Dartmouth, MA, now Westport, MA. Thomas Stoddard owned land on both sides of new boundary.
- 1747** **Shows up on Proprietor's Map.** Thomas Stoddard sells land to his son Noah a Mariner for 450 pounds. land that is partly in LC partly in Dartmouth that lately did belong to LC. 40 acres. **One twenty-acre lot the 20<sup>th</sup> in number among the 20 acre lots in LC to extend southerly on south side of 20 acre lots until it amounts to 40 acres. The 20<sup>th</sup> lot had been awarded to Joseph Howland. On one version of the Proprietor's map the land directly south of the 20<sup>th</sup> lot is labeled "Peter Quakin." Pter Quakin was aka Osemehue, the Sachem Mammanuah's brother. See Proprietor's map.** Eleanor Stoddard can sign her name, which is rather unusual for LC women at this time.
- 1747** Thomas Stoddard sells 40 acres to his son Israel, mariner for 600 pounds. It is part of Thomas' homestead farm. (Little Compton Book 1 p. 72) Bounded: West on land formerly of William Palmer South on land formerly of Edward Gray. E. on stone wall
- 1748** Nathaniel Stoddard married Emlin Wilbour and likely built a house around this time. LCF p. 640
- 1750** **This is land to the south of the Manton Property.** Thomas Stoddard sells to his son Ichabod Stoddard mariner for 150 pounds 10 acres from Thomas Stoddard's homestead farm. (LCLE Book 1 p. 130) Bounded: South on land of Israel Stoddard. West partly on Thomas Palmer and partly on a highway. **North on a highway** Easterly – to extend as far as to contain 10 acres. The last two of Ichabod's children are recorded in Dartmouth indicating that his farm crossed the LC Dartmouth line.
- 1753** Thomas Stoddard gives son Nathaniel 10 acres – Nathaniel already has a house at this time. LCLE Book 1 p. 208 Bounded: South on Ichabod Stoddard's land. W. on Israel Stoddard's Land N& E partly on Benjamin Stoddard's Land and partly on land of donor, it being the land where his (Nathaniel's) house now stands. Nathaniel's wife was Emlin Wilbor. She shows up as a widow in later Censuses.

- 1752** **Benjamin Stoddard marries Phebe Brownell on October 5.** Based on inheritance and land records, this couple owned the Manton property. But is their house the Manton house?
- 1753** **Benjamin's heirs are the ones who end up with the Manton Property.** Thomas Stoddard yeoman gives son Benjamin mariner 15 acres of land. No mention of buildings. LC LE Book 1 p. 209 Bounded: East by land given to Nathaniel. West by Israel Stoddard. To extend North to Noah Stoddard's Land.
- 1756** Thomas Stoddard dies – His will gives: Son Israel the part of the farm he improves and Thomas' now dwelling house. Nathaniel – the part of the homestead farm that he now improves with all its housing. **To Benjamin, part of the homestead farm that he now improves with the housing and improvements on it.** Other sons and daughters get money. Several sons got land earlier. Nathaniel and Benjamin get Thomas's share in the land and property of Rev. Richard Billings. If many people in congregation own a share, this may be modest.
- 1756** **Benjamin and Phebe (Brownell) Stoddard have a son named Brownell. He is their only son and eventually inherits their property. Brownell's unmarried sister Mary is also assured a place in the house according to her father's will. LCF p. 641**
- 1774** **Census – Benjamin is listed in this census as a head of a household of 7 people.** Himself. One male over 16 – his son Brownell. His wife Phebe and four girls under 16, their daughters Ruth, Prudence, Patience, Mary and/or Phebe. (That is five girls, one was either not living at home or deceased if the census was accurate. Prudence or Patience may have died early.) His brother Nathaniel is also listed as the head of a household of 7 people. His brother Isreal is the head of a household of 8.
- 1780** Brownell Stoddard marries Hannah Sawdry. LCF p. 641
- 1790** **Census – Benjamin and Brownell Stoddard are living together in one house as two separate households.** Benjamin's household includes himself, one male under 15 (not a son) and five females, likely his wife Phebe, and four of their daughters Prudence, Patience Mary and Phebe. Brownell's household includes himself and two females, likely his wife Hannah and their only child Lydia. His brother Nathaniel lives nearby.
- 1800** **Benjamin Stoddard and Brownell Stoddard are listed separately in this census with Thomas Stoddard (a nephew-cousin) listed in between them.** This census does not count houses. It is possible they are still two separate households in one building.
- 1804** Lydia Stoddard the only surviving child of Brownell Stoddard marries Perry Simmons. They have four kids. Philip, Brownell, Perry and Hannah. The 1810 census indicates that they were living in Tiverton at that time.
- 1810** **Census – Benjamin Stoddard is listed as head of large household.**
- 1819** Benjamin Stoddard Dies age 94. Gives his son Brownell Stoddard all his real estate. No inventory. Brownell is to provide a comfortable home for his single sister Mary

Stoddard. According to census records Benjamin and Brownell were living as two separate heads of families in one house.

- 1820** **Brownell Stoddard is listed as head of household of six people**
- 1828** **Sells highway south of Manton property.** Brownell Stoddard yeoman sells strip of land to town for road. \$69.64 Strip of land 3 rods (about 45 feet) wide accepting the top of the hill where it was previously wall of a less width. Bounded west by line wall of Israel Palmer now an open highway. North by land of Brownell Stoddard. East by Westport Line. South by land of Thomas Stoddard (this is a new Thomas (2) the original is long gone) and Brownell Stoddard. (LCLE Book 8 p. 148)  
**So Brownell Stoddard owned the land north of the road all the way to the Westport line. According to LC Land Evidence Books Brownell Stoddard never bought any land. Everything he had would have been through inheritance. I think the location of the highway is good evidence that Brownell Stoddard's property/house is the Manton property.**
- 1843** Brownell Stoddard has died without a will and Lydia Stoddard Simmons is his only surviving child and inherits it all. LC Probate Book 9 p. 16
- 1853** Perry Simmons Sr. dies of dropsy. Age 75. He was born in Tiverton the son of Peleg and Eliphial Simmons.
- 1857** Perry Simmons Jr., the son of Perry and Lydia (Stoddard) Simmons, married Eliza Pierce of Fall River in 1857.
- 1868** **Lydia Stoddard Simmons Dies – Probate Book 11, p. 516. Her son Perry Simmons gets use and improvement of all real estate and personal estate if he pays legacies and debts and purchases suitable gravestones for his parents. Neither parent has a gravestone today.**
- Perry Simmons Jr. buys his brother Phillip's share of land he inherited from his mother Lydia Simmons – a lot containing about 40 acres. Bounded north on Wilbor, east on land of Benjamin Seabury and Philip Simmonds, South on the highway and land of Philip Simmonds, and West on land of Wilbor Palmer and Solomon Wilbor. Land Evidence Book 13, p. 47. (40 acres is much larger than the 30 acres the Mantons purchase below. Was some sold for debt?)
- Perry mortgages the property to Hezeikiah Wilbor and pays it off in 1879. LE Book 14, p. 15
- 1878** Perry Simmons Jr. dies. In his will he gives all real estate to his wife Eliza after debts are paid. After Eliza's death, property is to go to her daughter Ardelia Maria Palmer wife of Jesse Palmer. (Probate Book 12, p. 163) Book 14 p. 15 Perry had gotten a \$120 mortgage from Hezeikiah Wilbor. It is paid back in 1879 after Perry's death.
- The inventory (p. 170) mentions

Sundry articles in crib  
8 bu Shelled corn  
1 monkey wrench  
½ mowing machine  
1 Bay Mare \$14.50 most  
valuable possession  
1 lumbar wagon and harness  
1 stack fodder  
25 Bu Nuthershed Oats @35  
cents \$9  
Old Running Gear  
1 pig 80 lbs 3.20  
1 grind stone  
1 horse rake  
1 drag rake  
1 plow  
Hoe and fork  
Ton Hay - \$10  
Ladder  
Pumpkins  
Iron Bar  
Water Cask  
Basket 10 cents  
1 stove \$3  
2 tables  
Churn drill etc.  
Farm valued at \$450 with  
interest subject to mortgage of  
\$225 with interest \$238.50

Eliza wants to keep and is allowed to keep – 8 bushels shelled corn, pig, pumpkins, stove, two tables totaling \$13

**1879** The estate of Perry Simmons is insolvent and is sold by the Executor, Isaac Cowen (no relation. He was town clerk), for \$380 to the highest bidder – Jesse L. Palmer, the husband of Perry's step-daughter Ardelia. Perry wanted the estate to go to Ardelia after his wife's death. So this arrangement honors his wishes. (LE Book 14. Pg. 123)

Jesse Palmer mortgages land with all the buildings thereon to Isaac Cowen. Pg.

1884 Cowen assigns mortgage to Ella Hunt (Book 15, p. 35)

1884 Henry Manton and Ida Johnson marry in New Bedford.

1888 Frank Taber buys property from Jesse L. and Ardelia Palmer of New Bedford with buildings and improvements upon them. For \$615. (LE Book 15, p. 476)

**1892 Henry and Dora (Johnson) Manton purchase two tracts of land from Frank Taber (LE Book 16, p. 245)** With all the improvements thereon, 28 acres north of the highway, 2 acres south of the highway, and immediately mortgages the property to Samuel Palmer. Followed by 5 discharged mortgages.

**The Mantons had 12 children. The property stayed in the possession of their descendants until it was purchased by the Nature Conservancy.**

**Sometime in the 1930s-40s the family moved into a stone structure on the property and the house was gone only a cellar hole remaining. Later they moved into a trailer.**

**The property was occupied until the 1990s by the Manton's grandsons the Wood brothers, Ray, Bill, and Henry.**

**2013 Neighbors worked together to prevent a housing development on the Manton Farm. The Nature Conservancy purchased the majority of the farm. Not currently open to the public.**