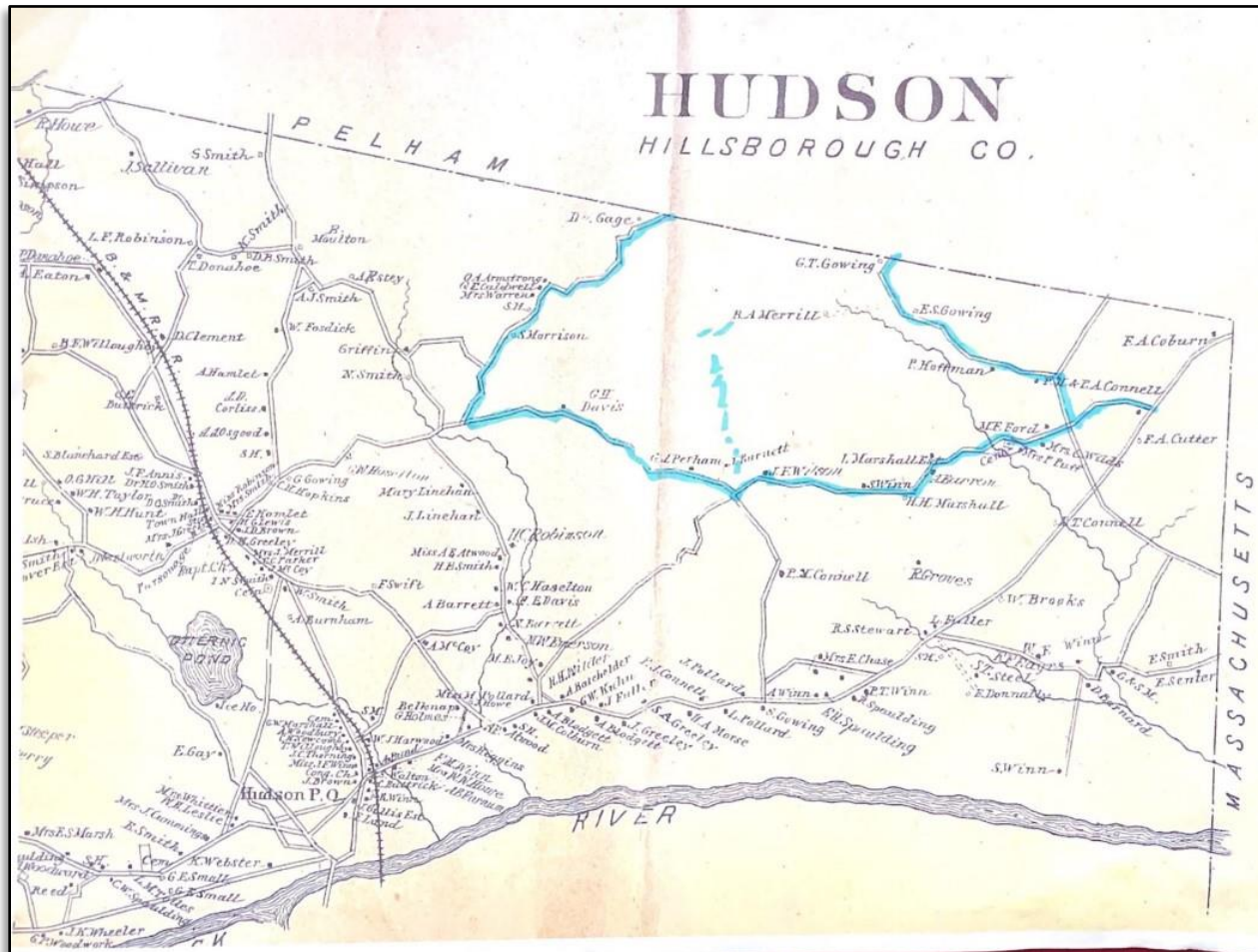


Hudson History "Ride Around Town" Trip 1

Ruth Parker
Priscilla Clegg
Lynne Mari



Our goal for this project is to "ride around town" to look at historic sites in Hudson. We will focus on one section of town at a time. This first takes us to the southwest corner of town namely Wason, Musquash, Gowing, and Trigate Roads.

We met at the Hills House in the morning. Ruth passed out some old maps to each of us; a Hurd map of Hudson from 1892 and a map of Dunstable (includes Hudson) from "History of the Old Township of Dunstable" by Charles J. Fox, 1846. The roads for this trip plus a discontinued road from Trigate to Gowing are highlighted on the 1892 Hurd map shown above.

Lowell Road

Driving down Lowell to start our tour Ruth and Priscilla said the road, now lined with businesses, had been mostly farms. Lynne asked about the Fox Hollow Clubhouse located at 131 Lowell Rd in front of the condominiums. [Picture from Google Street view](#). Ruth said she thought it was originally one of the A. Blodgett homes on the 1892 map (southly one). Information on the northern most and older of these Blodgett homes can be found on [RememberHudson](#).



As we sat at the light in front of the Presentation of Mary, Priscilla and Ruth mentioned the archway had been moved from the original location, the arch previously being directly in front of the front door of the academy. [Click for more information](#).

Musquash Road

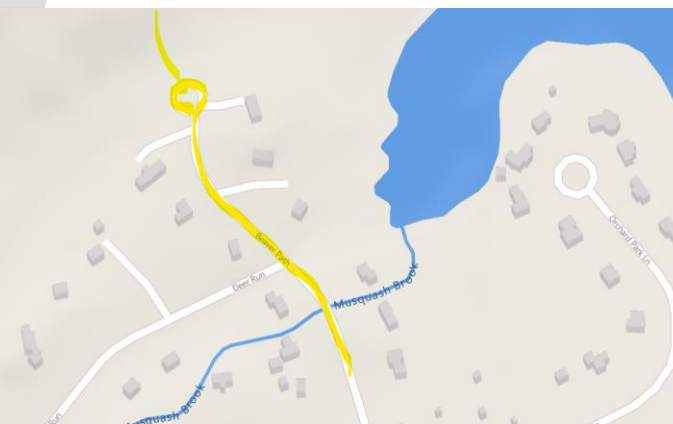
Continuing on Lowell we took a left onto Wason Road, and a right onto Musquash stopping at 20 Musquash Road where a foundation only can be found. The earliest family to occupy this house that we are aware of was that of Zaccheus Colburn, born 1765 the youngest son of Thomas and Mary Colburn. [More details can be found here](#).

Gowing Road/Beaver Path

We then continued to the intersection with Gowing and turned left and drove to the end and found ourselves at the entrance for Gumpas Pond in Pelham. We turned around again and seeing a local known tower to the north, we triangulated with the map and drove to the end of Beaver Path where we found the below road with a chained entrance. Our belief is this is a discontinued road leading to Trigate Road.



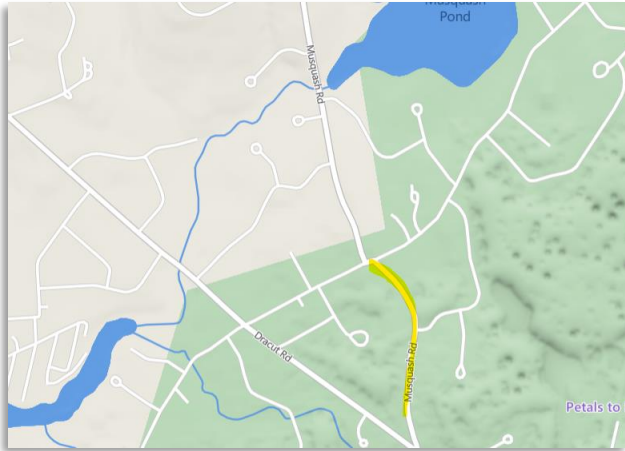
Entrance to a discontinued road



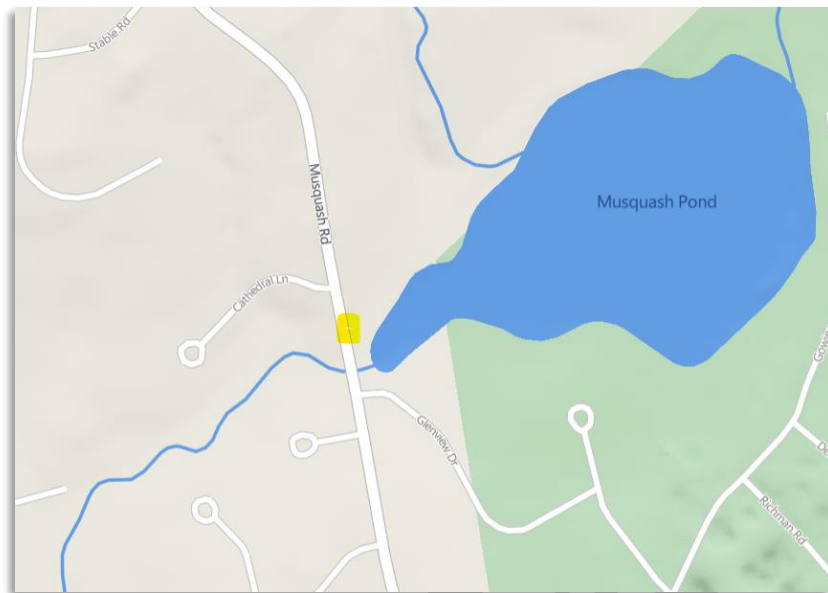
Musquash Road

We next drove back and turned left onto Musquash Road to see the marker which commemorates *the* site of Ensign John Snow's house where the first town meeting of Nottingham, MA was held in 1733.

[Click for more information.](#)



Being nothing else of interest we reversed direction and went north on Musquash and pulled into the Musquash Conservation Area. This was the site of the first Meeting House of Nottingham, built 1734, and Rev Nathaniel Merrill was the first pastor. Years later this was also the approximate site of the District #1 School. There is a granite marker facing Musquash Road for the Meeting House. Click here for more information on the [Meeting House](#) and here for the [#1 School](#).



Back onto Musquash and going north we pulled into a short drive to the [Ford Cemetery](#). It is interesting to get out of the car and walk amongst the cemetery markers of the earlier settlers, including those of the Ford, Merrill, and Colburn families.

North again on Musquash we pulled into the driveway of 67 Musquash. The exact build date is unknown, but we can date it to the 1700's as it was the home of Nathaniel Merrill who died in 1797.¹



There is much more to learn about this house and other house relics in the area, likely connected to Reverend Merrill and his family.

Back again and going north on Musquash we turn right onto Wason and shortly later another right onto Trigate Road.

Trigate Road

Our last stop was the former home of Deacon Benjamin Merrill on Trigate Road built before 1800 by either Benjamin or his father². We were lucky enough to tour the inside and were impressed with the wide floorboards and wainscoting, the original fireplaces all still intact, and the "birthing room" off of the kitchen. At 400', this property has beautiful views over large meadows!



^{1,2} "OLD NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSES BUILT BEFORE 1840" IN TOWN OF HUDSON As Presented by THE HUDSON FORTNIGHTLY CLUB in contest of New Hampshire Federation of Women's Clubs -- 1942 --

Submitted by Lynne Mari