

John E. Leland
PO Box 797
Dover NH 03821

Thomas Daly
5 Jasper Lane
Nashua NH 03063

February 8, 2021

Subject: History of Land at 190 Piscataqua Rd. and Surrounding

Dear Tom,

Good to see you last week during the Town of Durham Conservation Committee Site Walk. As discussed, please see below for a brief history of the property:

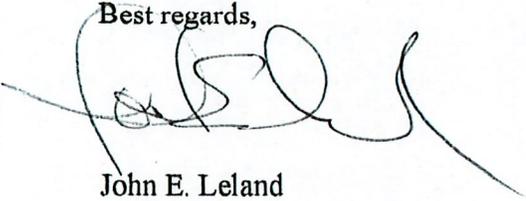
- My great grandfather Samuel Emerson bought the land from Nathaniel Ladd in 1894.
- My grandfather sold the land in pieces to Elisha Brown starting 1901 with the final portion sold in 1911.
- In 1904, my grandfather was contracted to build the seawall that still exists on the eastern side to keep the livestock contained.
- The property was transferred to Harold Brown in 1922 when Elisha died.
- My parents bought the land along with the buildings in November 1956 from the Brown estate.
- It was split into 2 parcels when it was sold to Philip Johnson around 1960 (Tax Map 12 Lot 7) (Book 719, Page 369).
- In February of 1991 the last part was split into 2 lots by way of a Lot Line Adjustment, with Tax Map 12 – Lot 6-2 conveyed to my sister Dale Eichorn (now owned by Michael & Erin Olsen).
- In 1994 the last piece (Tax Map 12 – Lot 6-3) was conveyed to myself.

I have known this property as the “Ladd Field” my entire life. It was used to graze and exercise the Brown family horses and was also used, when my mother was young, to hold livestock. The area in what is now the wetland area and driveway was part of the field while the Brown family used it as a summer retreat and enjoyed recreation on Little Bay. The area was clear of forest to accommodate the animals and hay was taken each summer. Over the years it slowly became what it is today. As a boy this is where we picked blueberries. Now only a few highbush blueberry plants remain.

My understanding is that what are now the wetland areas were created in the early 1900's to allow runoff from the upland at 184 Piscataqua Rd (Tax Map 12 Lot 6-1) and my property at 194 Piscataqua Rd (Tax Map 12 Lot 6-2) to run into Little Bay. Other than runoff collection, I'm not aware of any discussion of ecological significance. The family home and barn up on the hill is built on the 5 to 6 feet of topsoil that sits on solid granite. I have seen those areas wet for short times, but never with standing water.

I hope this helps with your research in the area, and the permitting processes you have presented to Town of Durham officials. Let me know if you or they would like any further clarification.
Thanks.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John E. Leland', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

John E. Leland