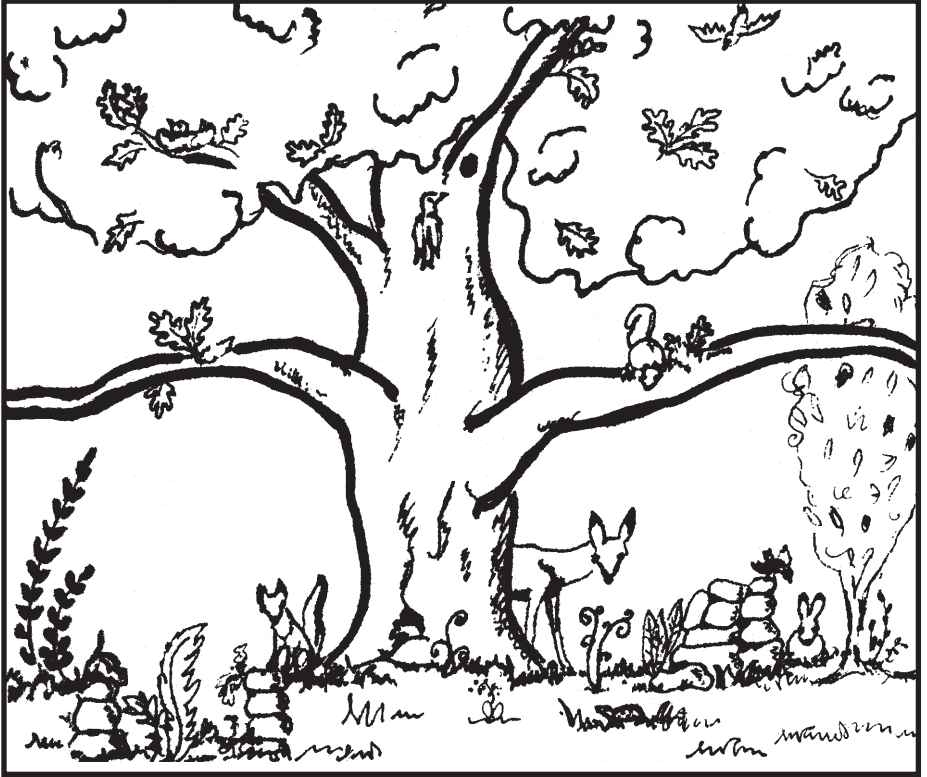




THE HERITAGE TRAIL

A Walk in Hartman Park



Marianne Pfeiffer

1996

Revised and updated

Marta Cone, Linda Bireley 2007

Text adapted to Lyme Corner Trails map 2015



Hartman Park Commission

*We are grateful to this committee whose members were responsible
for the creation and early management of Hartman Park*

Rufus Barringer

Fritz Gahagan

Sally Bill

John Hartman

Bob Buyak

Kelly Bill Hartman

David Cook

Arthur Howe

Bonnie Corey

Anthony Irving

Ralph Eno

K.C. Mazer

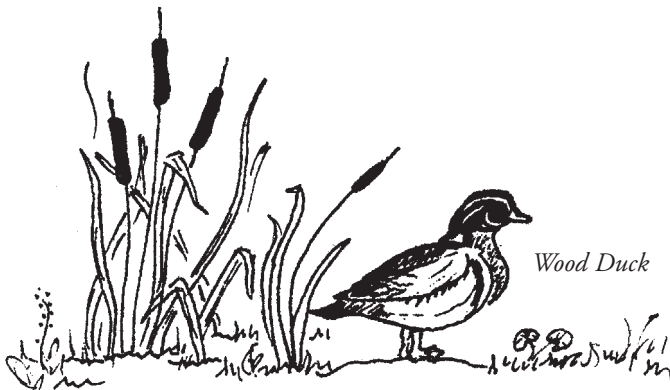


Open Space Coordinator

*Responsible for ongoing management
of the Park's resources*

Linda Bireley 2006 - 2014

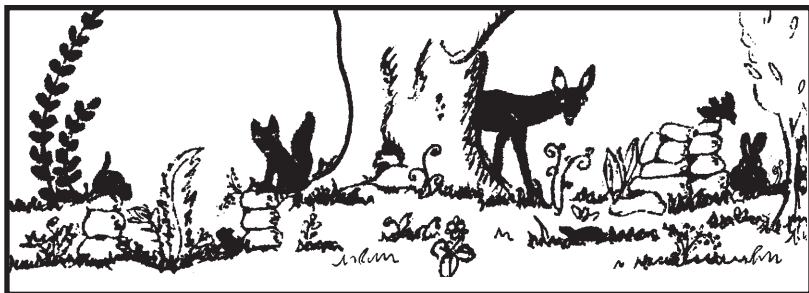
Wendolyn Hill 2014 -



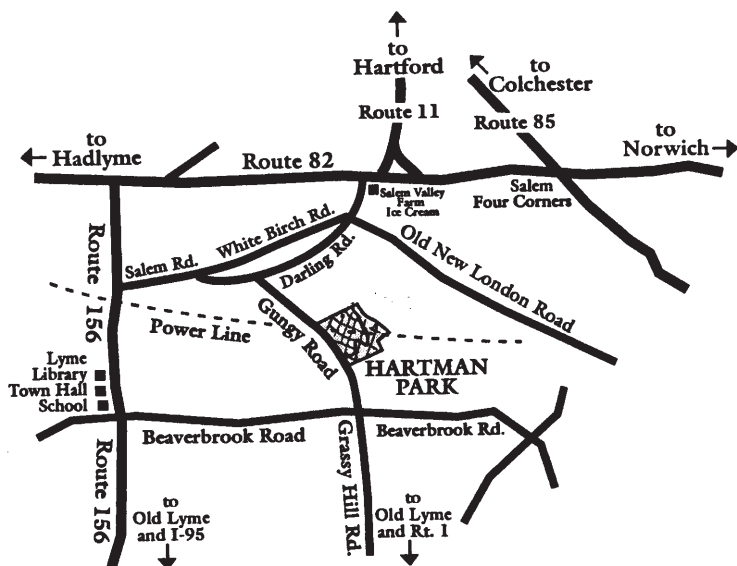
Wood Duck

HARTMAN PARK

A gift from John and Kelly Bill Hartman in
1988 to the people of Lyme
and to their friends and neighbors.



How to Get There



The Lyme Corner Trails

In 2015, the trail network of Hartman Park, Walbridge Woodlands and the Young Preserve were unified to form the Lyme Corner Trails.

The text in this booklet has been adapted to reflect minor changes made in the Hartman Park trail system at that time.

The 430 acres of preserved land in the Lyme Corner Trails system creates a valuable wildlife corridor in combination with surrounding protected land. To the east is Nehantic State Forest in East Lyme, to the south is the Beebe Preserve, and to the west, hundreds of acres of privately-owned woodlands are protected by deeded conservation easements.

The trails were plotted with GPS technology by Lisa Niccolai, environmental director of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust.

The Goodwin Trail

The Goodwin Trail, overseen by the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee, is an extended trail system crossing four towns: East Haddam, Salem, Lyme and East Lyme.

The trail is named after Richard H Goodwin, a botanist who as national president of the Nature Conservancy in the late 1950s and mid-60s helped preserve thousands of acres of open space on both coasts, including 1,100 acres around the farm where he lived in East Haddam, Conn.



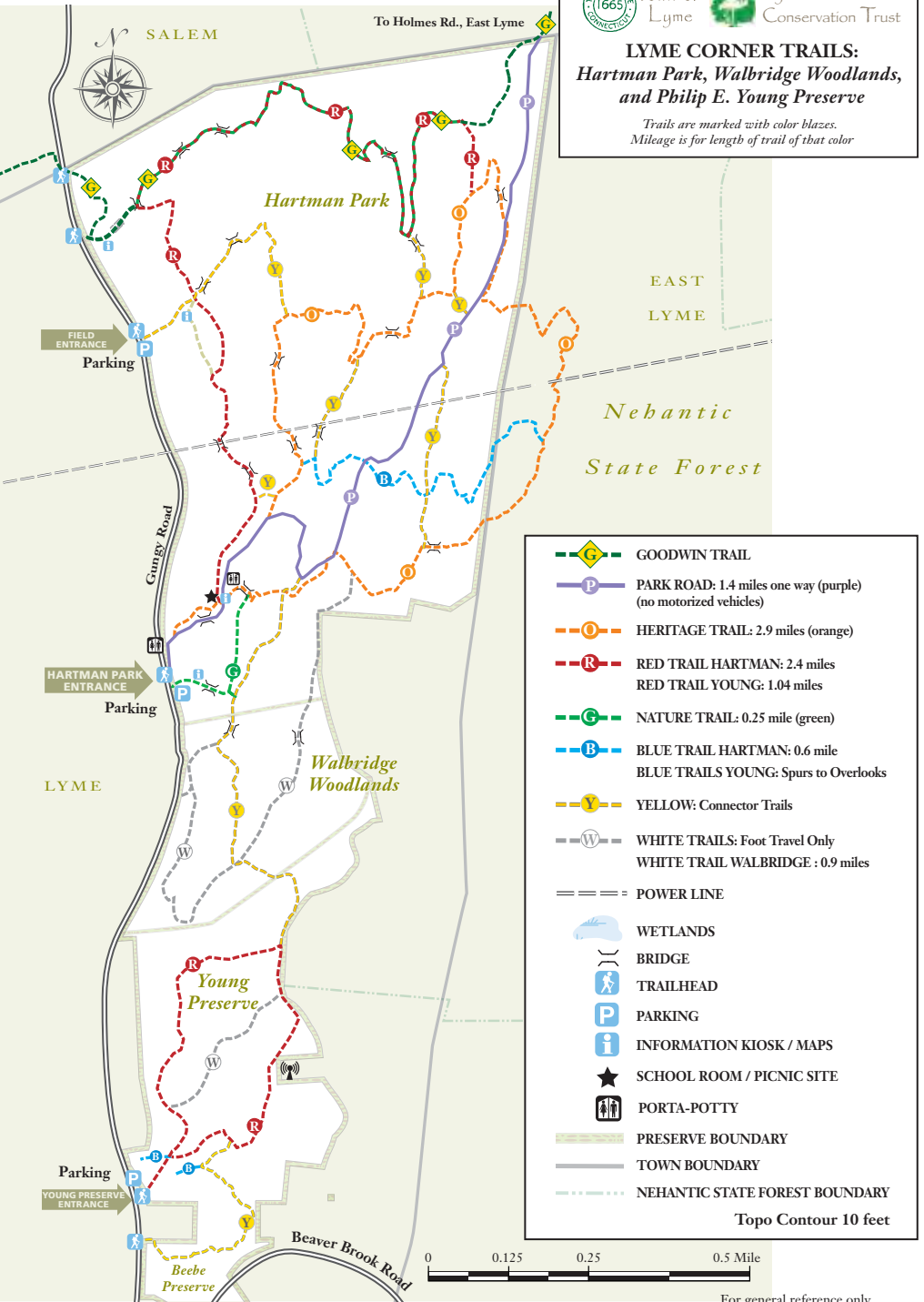
Town of
Lyme

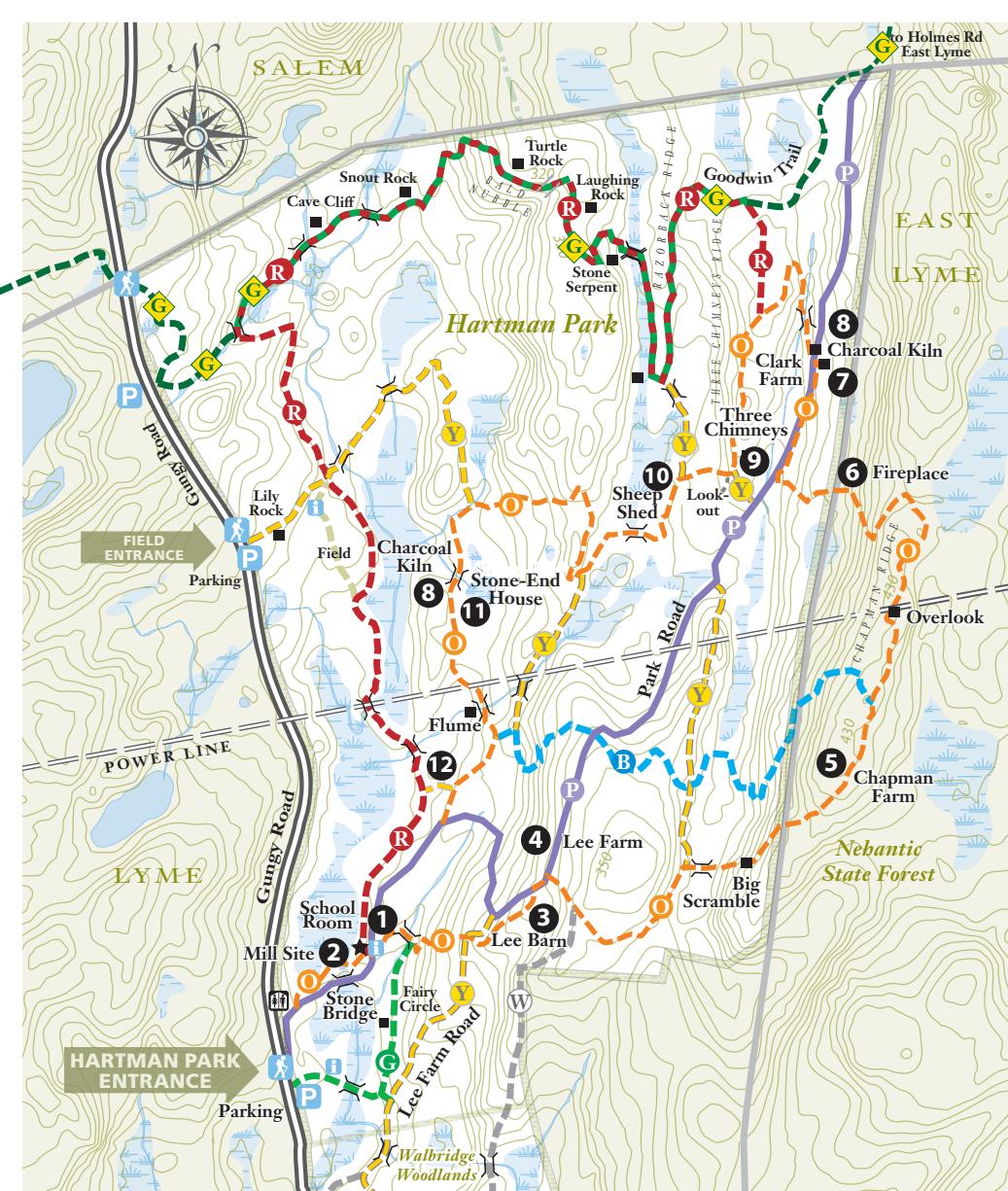


Lyme Land
Conservation Trust

LYME CORNER TRAILS: Hartman Park, Walbridge Woodlands, and Philip E. Young Preserve

Trails are marked with color blazes.
Mileage is for length of trail of that color





Town of
Lyme

Hartman Park Heritage Trail

Trails are marked with color blazes.
Mileage is for length
of trail of that color

- PRESERVE BOUNDARY
- TOWN BOUNDARY
- NEAHANTIC STATE FOREST BOUNDARY

- HERITAGE TRAIL: 2.9 miles (orange)
- PARK ROAD: 1.4 miles one way (purple)
(no motorized vehicles)
- NATURE TRAIL: 0.25 mile (green)
- BLUE TRAIL HARTMAN: 0.6 mile
- YELLOW: Connector Trails
- RED TRAIL HARTMAN: 2.4 miles
- WHITE TRAIL: Foot Travel Only
- GOODWIN TRAIL

- HERITAGE TRAIL HISTORIC SITE
- SCHOOL ROOM / PICNIC SITE
- TRAILHEAD
- PARKING
- INFORMATION KIOSK / MAPS
- BRIDGE
- POWER LINE



03/10/20

The Heritage Trail

A Walk in Hartman Park

Welcome to Hartman Park, a lovely natural and historic area in Lyme presently with ten miles of hiking trails. Today we will explore some of the highlights of the Heritage Trail.

The trail begins a little ways in from the main entrance off the Park Road (purple marker), and loops 2.9 miles across ridges and valleys, through forests and clearings, over steeps and levels and ends on the Park Road a half mile from the parking lot. The very young and less ambitious will have many opportunities to tailor their walk to their inclination as the Heritage Trail meets Park Road, return trails, and shortcut connectors numerous times.

The Heritage Trail will pique your curiosity and imagination as it explores the remains of the homes, farmsteads, and enterprises of early settlers. Come with us and we will tell you some of the facts discovered and hypotheses proposed by those studying these mysteries.



black birch



Club Moss

The orange marked Heritage Trail enters the woods 1/10th mile after the entrance gate on Park Road. As you approach the trail, notice that red and white oaks, sour gum, black birch form the forest canopy; ironwood, hop horn-beam, the understory. A huge white oak, perhaps two hundred and fifty years old, stands nearby. It was a so called “wolf tree” or “nooning tree” in its youth, one of a few left standing in an open field, a “lone wolf” providing shade for the farmer’s noon rest. On the hill above is a stone wall, one of many miles of these in the park, a testament to the early settlers who cleared these rocky fields and pastures and used the stones for fences, boundary markers, chimneys and foundations.



ironwood

Black birch and beech shade the wetland shrubs - alder, sweet pepper, viburnum, and winterberry. Another stone wall disappears into the forest. An opening in it signals a former path across the brook. Today this brook is swampy because three hundred and fifty years of land abuse — logging, grazing and plowing — caused erosion of the hillsides which deposited their soils in the brooks. Almost all the brooks in the park are choked in this manner.



red maple

Notice the cracked and layered boulder. It is gneiss (pronounced “nice”), a metamorphic rock very common in the region. The frost cracks give foot-holds to ferns and tree seedlings contributing to the further disintegration of the rock.



In the woodland to the right you may see the cairn — a stone pile — approximately two and a half feet high. This is so well constructed we assume it had some important function.

Perhaps it was a boundary marker built around a tree. Other more humble piles are in the area also.

We pass a vernal pool — filled only in spring — a nursery for the young of wood frogs whose clacking love calls are one of the earliest signs of spring.

Fungi work their secret magic everywhere disintegrating the dead, fallen debris. Periodically they send up the parts we recognize, mushrooms, puffballs, shelf-fungi, etc., producers of the spores that grow the next generation.



Stone Walls, Cairns, Foundations

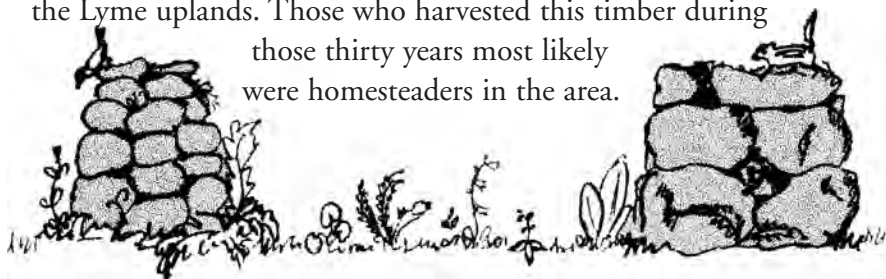
The whole park is a crazy-quilt of long abandoned farms stitched together by stone walls and embroidered with cairns. The walls were generally property boundaries, enclosures for fields, pastures, croplands, and pentways. Those walls incorporating many small stones are believed to have bounded plowed land which was laboriously cleared of all possible stones. Those walls piled together with large stones bounded pastures. Squared openings suggest old gateways. Tumbled openings are the result of recent mechanized lumbering equipment blasting through walls spreading stones in the direction of their forward motion.

Some of these walls are in a zigzag configuration. Knowledgeable people claim this lent strength to a wood railing above the stones. Others suggest — perhaps facetiously — that the old timers who left so many barrels of apple cider in their wills imbibed many others of these during their wall building years.

Many rock cairns and piles are found within the park. Some of these are carefully constructed for purposes not apparent to us. Some are simply the results of clearing fields by piling stones upon boulders too large to move.

The park contains numerous stone foundations of homes and barns. Most of these date from the 1700s and 1800s. An earlier date is possible for some since Saybrook Colony, to which Hartman Park belonged, was settled in 1635. Portions of the Lyme area were granted to the Griswold family in 1647 and the first settlers arrived in 1652 probably in the section now called Old Lyme. By 1683 complaints appear in old records regarding the over-cutting of timber in the Lyme uplands. Those who harvested this timber during

those thirty years most likely
were homesteaders in the area.





We pass spicebush, beech, ironwood, oak, and red maples. We see an orange marker ahead on the left of the Park Road that signals the beginning of the Heritage Trail. Enter it!

Just ahead we see the beaver pond. It is home to thousands of shrill spring peepers, croaking green frogs, prismatic dragonflies, and a multitude of birds. Notice the low earth dam much covered in shrubby vegetation. It is man made. By preventing water overflow here, early owners enlarged the pond basin enhancing the flow at the mill ahead.

Beyond some large beeches a left spur trail leads to the top of a little promontory jutting into the pond — a fine spot for birders, who claim Hartman Park is one of the prime places to see migrating warblers. In spring wild columbine dance here in their scarlet and yellow tutus.



On the main trail the old mill dam is underfoot. The blown out section is just to the right of our little bridge. Thirty feet downstream the brook widens into a small pool where the waterwheel once turned the mechanisms of a reciprocating saw. To the left of the bridge are the remains of the destroyed beaver dam.



Eyed
Elator

2015 note: Recently, beavers are active and have structurally enhanced the dam with branches and mud. They have also built two impressive beaver lodges in the pond.

In the shallow water rare featherfoil raises its inflated flower stalks in spring, water lilies their white stars in summer, burr marigolds their sunny faces in fall. **2**

The trails loop up a short switchback to the schoolroom/picnic ground. If you are lucky an eyed elator may land on your shoulder. This is a large, harmless click beetle colored gray with two black spots that look like eyes.



Spring Peeper



Burr Marigold

The Mill Site

The Mill Site consists of a ten to twelve acre impoundment behind an earth and stone dam. Still recognizable are the remains of a stone-lined head-race and sluice-way, and the site of the wheel-house which at one time housed a vertical, undershot waterwheel, its gears and shafting.

This was probably a saw-mill as there are no signs of mill-stones which are usually found abandoned near grist-mills.

The oldest records do not positively identify this particular mill. However as early as 1683 complaints are documented concerning the over-cutting of timber in the Lyme uplands. Much of this timber was exported to England as staves, planks, and boards. All these were the product of a saw-mill most likely located near the timber source.

In 1758 the estate of John Perkins was filed. He was the owner of this section of Hartman Park. Listed among his effects are "saw-mill irons". These were valuable, imported metal parts carefully stored between lumbering operations until another generation of trees made a saw-mill profitable again.

In 1789 the Booge family bought a house and farm on Gungy Road. The Booges were lumbermen and had just finished a lumbering operation in East Haddam/Millington. Five years later they mortgaged their property to Ebenezer Hayden, shipbuilder, of Essex. The mortgage included "sixty acres and 2/3 of the new saw-mill".

Various later documents mention lumbering and the products of a saw-mill. Land records in 1832 give George Fox "all logging rights on this parcel, but he can not touch the apple trees." The estate of Jarious Perkins, in 1847, lists "rails and railroad ties" as well as "coal pits" for charcoal production.

In the latter half of the 19th century water powered saw-mills were replaced by the more efficient and movable steam powered models. Dams were not repaired and this one apparently blew out and the once-pond grew up in trees and shrubs.

In later years beaver built a dam here and the snags seen in the swamp today are the result of their activities.

The schoolroom bulletin board bears messages, information and maps. Write a message on the blackboard with the chalk provided. Your comments give focus to the Open Space Coordinator. In some springs phoebes raise their young in a nest under the roof, occasionally followed by a family of white-footed mice.



Indian Pipe



Oak Knee

Check out the large glacial boulder. It is a granitic gift of the glacier that covered our area up to thirteen thousand years ago. Note the great quartz seam, and how this huge rock snuggles cozily up to an oak “kissing tree.”

The Heritage Trail (orange marker) continues across Park Road (purple marker).

A graveled stone wall forms the crossing over Sphagnum Brook with its feathery fern garden. This includes a fine station of silvery spleenwort and spinulose wood fern.

Now we meet the Nature Trail (green marker) — Children’s Section — which goes downhill right, south. The Heritage Trail (orange marker) continues up the hill by a series of switchbacks. After the first switch, turn and notice the large oak we just passed. The bend in the trunk is called a “knee.” Oaks such as this were valued by early shipwrights. The knees were used inside a warship’s hull to brace the floor of the gun-deck.

Stone walls and stones piled on boulders too large to move dot this hillside, reminders that this was once cleared land grazed by swine, sheep

and cattle. The large triple oak at the stonewall crossing may have grown from a chipmunk’s cache of acorns or may have started as stump-sprouts from a felled tree with a determination to continue living.



Chipmunk

Now, cross Lee Farm Road (yellow marker) and another stone wall. On the other side of the little ridge is a small valley, the site of walled paddocks. We will visit the foundation of a barn at its head. Wild turkeys feed there in fall on the many acorns. In spring, delicate white rue anemone bloom in joyful abundance along this hillside. We cross two more stone walls to reach a cart-path. Here the orange



Rue Anemone



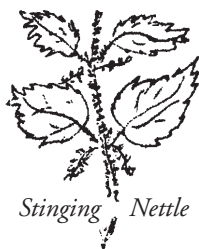
Poison Ivy

trail goes north, left, but we will take the spur (white marker) to the right to the barn foundation fifty feet ahead. A very large dead oak stands at the corner. It was killed by a lightning strike in the fall of 1993.

We approach the top of the barn's rear wall by an earthen ramp. This once gave entrance to the second floor of this building. We look down into the lower section. The

south side was open to the sun with access to the walled paddocks we saw from the trail. The location of this barn was well chosen on a southerly slope with hills breaking the cold winter winds on the other three sides. **3**

Let us return to the orange trail and follow the cart-path north to Park Road (purple marker). The walled field on the right was surely used for crops. There are not many level areas in this rugged, stony terrain.



Stinging Nettle

One hundred and fifty feet ahead on the left side of the road is the cellar hole of the Lee house. A large white ash grows inside. This tree is about one hundred years old, dating when this house was destroyed. Poison ivy, stinging nettles, Velcro-like cleavers, and thorny barberries fringe the tumbled foundation. This center chimney house sported an attached kitchen and at one time perhaps an attached barn beyond that. On the opposite side of the road was a shed. Another small foundation hole is two hundred feet down Park Road. **4**



Cleaver

The Lee Farm Barn



This well preserved foundation is of a barn built after 1840, judging by the feather and wedge stone-cutting technique used to cut some of the stones. This technique involved drilling numerous holes along the desired break using a star drill and hammer. This produced a line of holes that were approximately three to four inches long and one half inch in diameter. Each hole was then lined with two separate metal pieces — the feathers. Finally a wedge was tapped between the feathers, one tap to each wedge down the line, repeated until the desired split occurred.

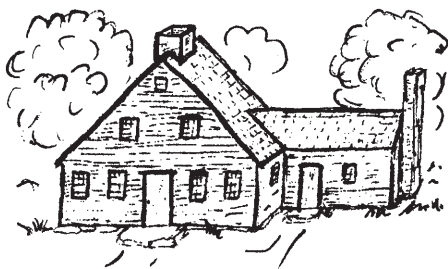
Earlier techniques utilized short chiseled grooves made progressively deeper until the stone split. After the Civil War steam powered pneumatic drills were used. These produced holes two to three feet long and one to two inches wide. Several drill holes three to four inches long by half an inch wide can be found on the east and north walls of this foundation by a careful observer.

This barn was multi-leveled. The lowest floor opened to the south into a walled paddock. The second story was reached by the still extant earth ramp on the north side. This second story, or a third one above, most likely functioned as a hay loft. Many old barns housed pigs on the lowest floor, cattle on the second, with hay stored on the third. Openings in the floors allowed hay to be thrown down to the cattle and manure to be swept into the pig pen.

The small attached foundation on the west side is filled with rubble and anyone may guess at its purpose.

If the feather and wedge technique is dated correctly, this barn would have been built by Ebenezer Mack who owned the “250 acre Clark Farm” between 1838 and 1855 or by Henry S. Lee who owned it from 1855 until his death circa 1878. His heirs then sold the farm to William Bartman of Waterford, an absentee owner not likely to have built a barn.





The Lee Farmhouse

We have named this house "Lee Farm" after the last owner to actually live here and work the land.

The house was a center chimney "mansion house". (Old records designate all houses with cellars as "mansion houses".) It was oriented east toward Park Road. The rear of the building was on a down slope permitting access to the cellar from ground level. Perhaps a garden was located there. Stone steps lead down hill from this terrace. On the north side of the house a later owner added a kitchen with an interior well. This well was recently capped with a cement cover for safety. Beyond this kitchen addition is a depression in the ground sixteen by thirty two feet surrounded by an earthen foundation - perhaps an early barn. Several other ground impressions and foundations of out buildings can be found in the area.

The house chimney was made of naturally occurring as well as rough cut stones but had a finely cut hearth stone and lintel. Mid 19th century brick among the debris testifies to periodic repair to the upper chimney. Above the walk-out cellar the house had two stories, each containing two chambers. The entrance was directly in front of the chimney and a steep stairway led upstairs.

We believe this house was built after 1735 by Dan Clark or his son Dan Clark Jr. The house was occupied by several generations of this family for the next one hundred years. Later names associated to this property, then called "the Clark Farm", were Ebenezer Tiffany, Erastus Caulkins, Nathan Morgan, Ebenezer Mack, and Henry S. Lee. After 1879 the property was periodically sold and/or inherited by absentee landowners. The house itself was destroyed by fire shortly after the death of Henry S. Lee.





Now the Heritage Trail goes uphill, east, on a cart path.

Inside the wall on the left is a strange, carefully built stone pile. A second one is a short distance ahead.

Do they have a purpose? Was the farmer clearing this field just a neat person?

Red cedars grow abundantly here on Lee Hill, the only place in the park that provides tall, thick, ever-green winter cover for birds. Cedar waxwings enjoy the pale blue “berries” on the female trees. Sometimes a

barred owl calls “Who cooks for you-u” even in the daytime. Red cedars are a pioneer species on unplowed fields and pastures — their seeds need sun and turf to germinate. Eventually they create conditions for other species to grow, and then they are killed off by the shade of the encroaching oaks, hickories, and maples. This process takes a hundred years or more. Lee Hill was open land during the early years of the twentieth century and is now reverting to deciduous forest. If we wish to preserve the cedar forest we must take steps to limit the encroaching species.



Green Brier

Notice the wall at right angles to the path at the top of the rise. It has a zigzag configuration. We find both zigzag and straight walls in the park.

We continue through the cedars. The road is well lined by greenbriers with leaves like hearts and thorns like daggers. In spring their new-grown tips make a nice trail nibble. Stone walls, stone piles, and an occasional wolf tree show us this land was cleared in the past. Walls well to the right delineate the park boundary. On a warm winter day watch for velvety brown, yellow edged mourning cloak butterflies. They over winter as adults and sometimes fly on a warm winter day — perhaps hoping that spring has arrived.



Mourning Cloak

Notice fallen trees. Some are covered in brown and buff striped fungi — “turkey tails.” These spread their stacked fans over the outsides of their host releasing spores while the parent plant — thread-like “mycelium” — disintegrates the inner wood.



Turkey Tails

At the bottom of Lee Hill the Tween Brook Trail (yellow marker) goes north through the valley. It can be used to bypass Chapman Ridge entirely or to meet the Chapman Path (blue marker) which is the easiest route to the ridge.

However today we will turn right on the orange trail. We cross Tween Brook and climb the “Big Scramble” by rocky switchbacks. At the top, stop and catch your breath! You have gained the south end of Chapman Ridge.



Marginal Woodfern

Mountain laurel grows thickly on the ridge side. At the end of June the laurel is covered in a froth of pink and white blossoms. An observant walker may surprise a sleepy little saw-whet owl among the branches.

The Heritage Trail now weaves through laurel and among large glacial boulders and passes into Nehantic State Forest. You may notice the yellow State Forest markers on the trees.

The laurel ends abruptly at an opening in a stone wall. Our trail bears north, left, but if you are walking with children, take a moment to walk through the opening, trespassing on private land. Walk fifty feet straight up the hill and look for the “Crocodile” staring at you with hollow eyes.



The Crocodile

The Heritage Trail now follows the flat back of Chapman Ridge. Today it is wooded by oaks, birch, and beech, but during Mr. Chapman’s time this was open fields and pastures. Stone foundations mark the long gone farm buildings. The remains of the house are located just west of a large stone outcrop which has a zigzag wall along-side forming an enclosed path to the eastern down slope. **5**

The Chapman Farm



About two hundred years ago Ezra^h “Fixer” Chapman worked a farm here on the ridge now bearing his name.

His “dwelling house” — this means it had no cellar — was situated in a small hollow protected from the west winds by a low ledge, from the east winds by a stone outcrop circled by a stone wall. The squared-off stone pile is the remains of the chimney. The flat lintel stone which bridged the fireplace lies in front.

Numerous other stone foundations and walls can be found in the vicinity, south, north, and especially east of the outcrop. Most of these were animal shelters and paddocks though one little walled square, just north of the house, is reputed to be Mr. Chapman’s grave.

An old document mentions “a fine spring” nearby but the only water we can find is in the deep valley on the east side of the ridge - a long haul for the women of the family.

We calculate the approximate date of Ezra^h Chapman’s existence here by the documented fact that three of his grandsons were soldiers in the Civil War. They were the sons of Ezra^h’s daughter Temperance, the wife of Charles Perkins. One of these boys, 18 year old Thomas D. Perkins, was killed in action in 1862. A stone in his memory is in the Pleasant View Cemetery in Lyme.





Here, out of the wind, are livestock paddocks and a small cave. A stunted beech grows on top of the outcrop. Notice the many beech-drops growing under it. This small reddish plant contains no chlorophyll. It is parasitic on the roots of the tree.

The squared off stone pile that marks the house site was the chimney. Black stemmed ebony spleenwort and chaffy stemmed marginal woodfern now grow among the stones that once witnessed the Chapman family's toils and pleasures. Life must have been hard up here and mighty cold when the winter winds blew.

A few steps north on the trail we find a small square enclosures of boulders. It has been suggested that this is Ezra Chapman's grave. If so, he now shares it with a young hickory and a large red oak.



*Wolf Spider
carrying egg case*

To the left of the path huckleberries ripen in early August. In fact huckleberries and blueberries cover much of the west side of the ridge. The Chapman Path (blue marker) joins the orange trail here and can be used to descend to Tween Brook Trail (yellow marker) which we met before the "Big Scramble" and the Park Road.

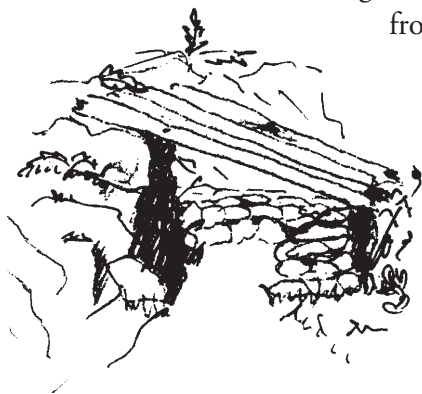
But we will continue on the Heritage Trail. We pass the remains of another animal shelter. It is built



*Wolf Spider
carrying spiderlings*

against a ledge. Poles from the top of the ledge to the top of the stone wall once formed a shed roof.

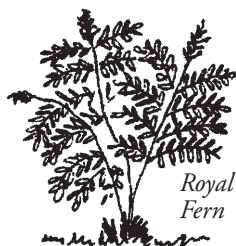
The low building would have suited sheep.



The eastern edge of the ridge drops off ever more precipitously as the ridge widens. We come into the open at the power line. Huckleberries interspersed with mountain laurel, fragrant sweet-fern, and tall, thorny blackberries form an impenetrable barrier. The view down the power line to the west reveals much of Hartman Park, Gungy Road, the hills beyond, and even the hills on the other side of the Connecticut River. In summer and fall hawks and vultures can be seen here circling gracefully or sitting on the power line poles. The large boulder on the right is the highest point. The cliff drops off very suddenly a dozen feet behind it.



Opossum



Royal Fern

The power line is a very hot place on sunny mid-summer days. Then we cross it hastily to its road, then east, right, on the road a few hundred feet, and north, back into the cool of the forest. Smooth trunked beeches grow here in a pocket of rich soil. They have formed a little copse because young beeches arise along the roots of their elders. Note the large wetland on the right ahead. It is rather a surprise so high on the ridge.

We turn west, left, slowly descending from the ridge. The thin soils support tall chestnut oaks above the huckleberry ground-cover. Now we drop more steeply over ledges, through laurel, along a switchback — the “Little Scramble” — and reach a level area. Here we come upon a lone, stone fireplace, with no other sign of former occupation. **6**

We leave the state forest, re-enter Hartman Park, and drop down another slope to Park Road (purple marker). The Heritage Trail goes north, right. If Park Road is inundated by mud and water at this junction stay on the path just uphill.





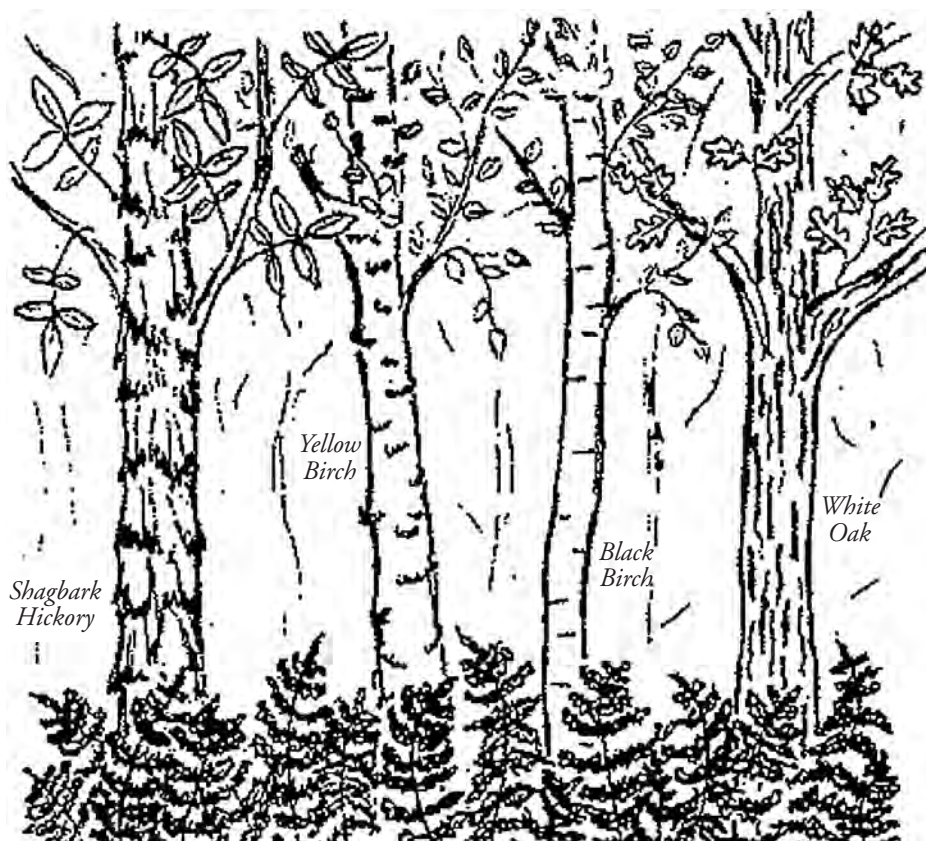
The Fireplace

This crude fireplace may be the remains of a hut associated with a charcoal kiln reputed to be nearby but as yet undiscovered.

The reddened stones attest to its use at one time. The lichens growing on these stones prove it must have been a long time ago.

Nails found underfoot at this site date the hut to about 1850. Visitors have recently replaced some of the tumbled stones — not necessarily in their original positions.

This fireplace is located just within the Nehantic State Forest. The Hartman Park boundary is a few yards to the West.





*Yellow
Warbler*

Ahead notice the giant tulip tree on the left, its arms, elbows bent and raised to the sky. Also growing here are several tall poplars. Both these fast growing species quickly fill sunny holes in the canopy.

Tulip trees are our tallest trees. They have showy, green and orange tulip shaped flowers in spring and cone-like upright wooden seed spikes in winter.

Native Americans made much use of this tree. They used the inner bark for cordage, the outer bark for containers and covering for their wigwams. They shaped the limbs into bowls, platters and utensils and the trunks into dug-out canoes. Fire charring and then scraping the charcoal was the method of felling these giants and of shaping the wood.

Just to the right ahead, we see a foundation. Its floor was even with the road until the latter was graded recently. We think this was an outbuilding of the Dan Clark Jr. homestead. which is straight ahead on the left, where the Heritage Trail turns off Park Road.



*Spicebush
Swallowtail*

The Dan Clark Jr. house remains look more like a pile of debris but the back reveals some of the chimney stones. This was most likely a “dwelling house” — meaning it had no cellar — with a dirt floor. **7**

Observe the other side of the trail, opposite the Clark Jr. house. There is a faint circular trench approximately thirty feet across. This is the ground impression of a charcoal making enterprise dating to the 1800s. We have discovered seven of these “kilns” within the park boundaries. Later the Heritage Trail will pass one of the others. **8**



Cinnamon Fern

The Dan Clark Jr Farm

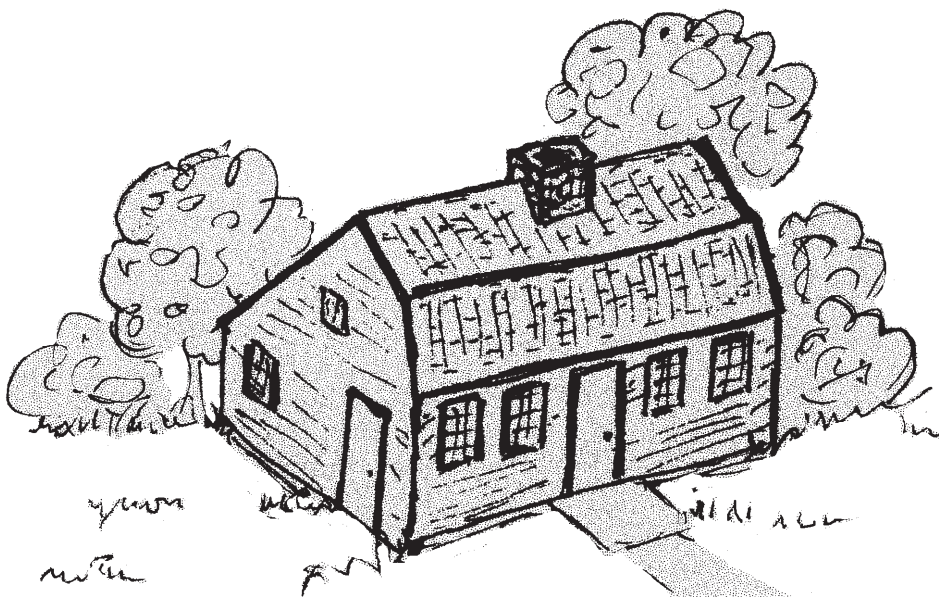


The foundation to the left of the road was an outbuilding of the Clark Farm which eventually had homesteads at the north end as well as at the south end of the property. The opening in the foundation faces Park Road and was originally on the same level as the road bed which was re-graded.

The house itself was located just beyond the little stream on the other side of the road. Our orange trail winds between the 18th century dwelling remains on the south side of the trail and the 19th century charcoal kiln ground impression on the north side.

The jumbled pile of rocks is all that remains of the central chimney. There is no sign of a foundation. The sill timbers most likely were laid directly upon the ground. This must have been a simple dwelling with a dirt floor and a single open living area. Perhaps it had a sleeping loft above the rafters reached by a ladder.

The records show that Dan Clark Jr. first lived at the north end of the Clark Farm and later moved into a new house. Perhaps this little dwelling was a "starter house" for young Clarks.



Charcoal Kilns



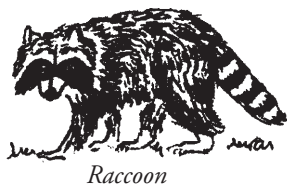
Of the seven charcoal kilns we have found in the park this one is easiest to reach. However it is almost invisible to the untrained eye. Look closely and you will find a subtle circular moat enclosing an almost non-existing mound about thirty feet across. This remnant ground impression is all that remains of this charcoal kiln or “coal pit”.

Charcoal was used as a fuel by the steam engines that ran early industrial age machinery. It is also a component in reducing iron ores. Both were prevalent uses during the 19th century in many local towns. Because charcoal is much lighter and therefore easier to transport than wood, the kilns were situated near the wood source and the finished product was carried to the factories and smelters.

Charcoal is produced by a tedious process involving controlled burning of wood. This meant tightly stacking the wood and sealing the huge pile with mud and clay to limit the flow of air. Preventing flare-ups and compacting and filling the burned out sections was a hazardous occupation for the attendants. Each stack smoldered for several weeks and attendants camped in small shacks or in the abandoned farm houses which we often find associated with kilns in the park.

Charcoal making was one of many occupations practiced by these subsistence farmers to make ends meet. Even poor quality wood of small size is usable for this process such as the debris and small under story trees left by a lumbering operation.

Lyme land records document the existence of these kilns in the 19th century. The 1846 estate of Jarious Perkins listed among his effects “two coal pits”. The Perkins owned land on the western side of the park so that this particular kiln was not one of those belonging to the Perkins family. The later one we will meet on our walk, most likely was.



Raccoon



Maidenhair Fern

Now we walk through the Dan Clark Jr. homestead and down to a narrow, swampy ravine. The soil here is rich and moist. Beeches revel in it as do many kinds of ferns — cinnamon, interrupted, lady, maiden hair, hay-scented, Christmas, broad beech. We cross the brook in front of a steep cliff — Whirlpool Ledge.

This narrow valley was carved by a sand-laden glacial stream flowing under the ice. It ground away the softer portions of rock in the ledge forming the pot holes we see. Today the ledge is a home site for phoebes. Marginal wood-fern rejoice in the damp fissures. Several lucky birders have met pileated woodpeckers here. We follow the path among the ferns at the base of the ledge and then up the switch-back. The nubbles and ridges trail (red marker) veers off to the right, north.

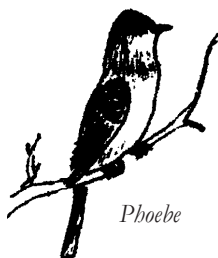


Underside View

Pileated Woodpecker

We head to the south on the Heritage Trail (orange marker), left, through laurel, beech, and oak following the Three Chimneys Ridge. A few pink lady slippers still bloom here in spring so far protected by a tangle of thick under brush from the many hungry deer that relish them.

At the bottom of a slope we pass through a stone wall. A spur (white marker) leads left.



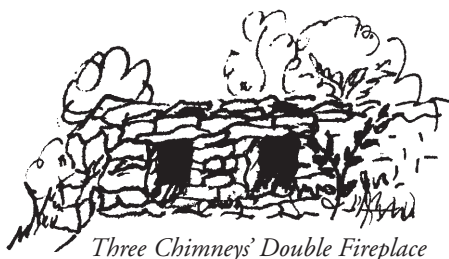
Phoebe



Lady Slipper

We take the spur and move into main portion of the mysterious compound that has sparked the imagination of professionals as well as the just plain curious. We are at Three Chimneys!

Stone walls form this rectangular compound. Huge stone piles dot the inside. Located in the upper (northern) wall, backed by hillside and ledge, are two little fireplaces side by side. Sill-stones here imply the former existence of a small house. A third fireplace is in a low spot at the south corner of the compound. Numerous stone walls sur-



Three Chimneys' Double Fireplace

round and stretch out to the east, west, and especially to the south. A small foundation in a hillside can be found just to the south-east outside the compound, below the north to south oriented stone wall.



Poplar

The amount of rock moved in the Three Chimney area is prodigious and astonishing.

The place is a mystery yet to be solved. **9**

Let us return to the orange trail. We will continue on the Heritage Trail with its orange marker. This passes the large boulder guarding a western entrance to Three Chimneys, goes down the steep hillside, levels, and joins a cart road (yellow marker). At this junction a small stone enclosure backed by a tall ledge marks an old barn like the one on Chapman Ridge. The roof slanted from the top of the ledge to the parallel wall, a crude but simple shelter to protect livestock in winter. **10**



We turn south, left, past a stone pile and over very level ground. The old cart path, the level area, the presence of



tall poplar trees — those early colonizers of sunny openings in the forest — suggest this place may have been cleared and used during a lumbering operation within the last one hundred years.



Spotted Wintergreen



Three Chimneys

Three Chimneys is a remarkable network of stone enclosures, walls, and piles. The innermost enclosure is 145 feet by 125 feet and contained, at its north end, a partially underground building 14 feet by 16 feet. This building had two fireplaces and chimneys set side by side in the rear wall which was also the rear wall of the entire enclosure. A third chimney is located in the south wall of this enclosure but in a spot so low it would have been inundated by water at every rain storm. Several huge stone piles dot this compound. This enclosure is situated part way up a south sloping ridge with steep drop-offs to the east and west. Stone walls form further enclosing arms around the inner enclosure at various intervals. A hundred and fifty feet to the south-west a very small, steep, tongue-like promontory stands above the more distant walls; unaccountably it carries stone walls along its summit.

A humorist speculated “this must have been the local jail. The miscreant wasn’t released until he had moved a ton of rocks.” A former researcher suggested this might have been a pound for the community’s stray livestock. Several historians and an archaeologist speculated “this may have been one of the nine forts Lyonel Gardiner was supposed to build near the perimeter of Saybrook Colony shortly after 1635”.

We will leave the humorist to his joke, the researcher to his idea. The historians and archaeologist have a more interesting hypothesis.

The Background

A company of fifteen proprietors composed of Puritan gentlemen were granted the territory surrounding the mouth of the Connecticut River. They named their colony “Saybrook” after two of their number. In 1635 they sent an engineer, Lyonel Gardiner, to build nine forts, one at the mouth of the river, the others near the perimeter of the colony. Saybrook Colony was designed to be a safe haven for these Puritan gentlemen and their families in case the political and religious problems in England turned to their disadvantage. The forts were to be defenses against English royalist forces.

The Evidence

Hartman Park is located near the northeast corner of Saybrook Colony. The topography and layout of Three Chimneys resembles the medieval forts of the periods. The twin chimneys are similar to those at a partially below ground dwelling at Plimouth Plantation built in the 1620s. The third “chimney” is located in a water storage area and so far is of undetermined function. The little promontory to the southwest is a sentry outpost. The various walls, one inside the other, afford measured retreats for the defenders until men and livestock are safely in the innermost enclosure with its keep at the north end. A wooden palisade would have topped the walls of the innermost compound. The location of the whole complex on a ridge is a defensive one.

The Interpretation

Three Chimneys may very well be one of Gardiner’s lost forts. It was abandoned almost as soon as it was built since the royalist threat to the Puritans ended with the success of the Puritan cause.

We believe that the complex may have been used in subsequent centuries as a farmstead. Perhaps it became the first home of Dan Clark Sr., the first settler of record in the park area.

This gentleman recorded his will in 1736, leaving “to all my children my earthly possessions” including “one quarter of my dwelling at the north end”. Three days later he recorded a deed adding to Dan Jr.’s land “one half acre beginning at the highway to the middle part of my dwelling house (viz through the middle part of the chimney) to the south side of said house” etc.

No other mention attributable to Three Chimneys has been found in any of the old records studied.

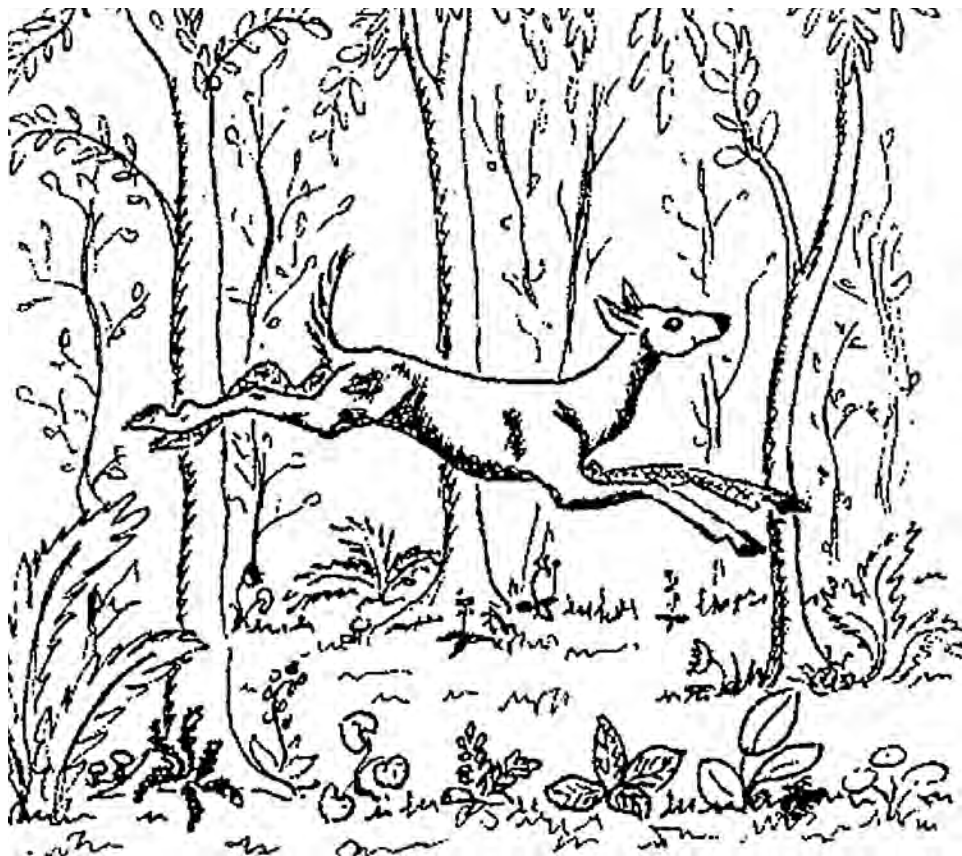




A Barn

In the western valley below Three Chimneys, a huge boulder forms the west wall of a small animal shelter. Poles laid from the boulder to the stone wall held up a roof. This might have been thatched with hay. We met a barn just like it on Chapman Farm on the ridge of the same name.

We speculate this barn may have housed swine belonging to the farmstead at Three Chimneys in the 1700s. Later it may have stabled oxen used to pull logs to a steam powered saw mill nearby during a more recent lumbering operation.





The Heritage Trail turns west, right, through beeches, crosses a brook, and picks its way among rocks. Deer occasionally leap away through the brush at this place. Soon we meet another connector trail on the left. This is the Three Chimneys Shortcut (yellow marker). It is the shortest route across the power line to Park Road. We will meet its southern end later.

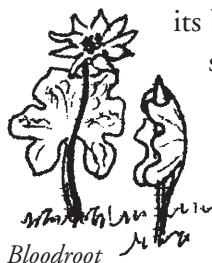
We follow the orange markers upwards. Now we reverse direction and follow the east edge of Jumble Ridge northward. This ridge traverses the park north to south from the park border to the power line. Oaks and hickories surround us. Piled boulders and outcrops tease us to explore.

Another reverse brings us downhill to Split Rock, a fine glacial boulder. Here we drop through laurel, cross a little swale, climb up then down a long slope until we meet another old cart path, the Beech Hill Connector (yellow marker). We go south, left, and shortly reach a spur trail (white marker) which locates our second charcoal kiln. The kiln moat is clearly visible. Here in early spring bloodroot holds its buds in a green embrace of folded leaves until on a



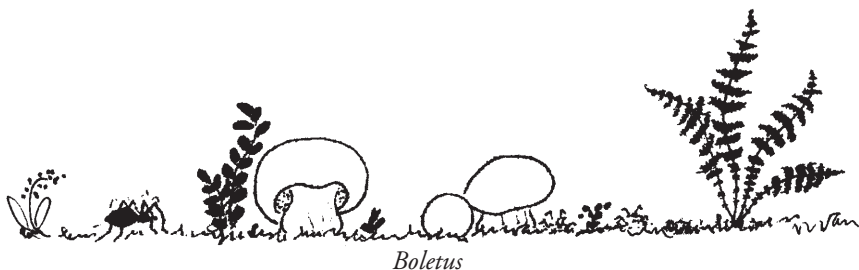
Rattlesnake Fern

sunny morning, it fleetingly opens its virginal petals to attract pollinating bees to its golden anthers. In fall squat bolete mushrooms sit like fat muffins on the rain-soaked earth.



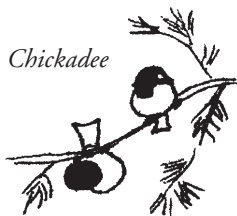
Bloodroot

Onward! We step over the little brook which drains the wetland on the left, and we are in the homestead of the Storey family. Pale New York and rattlesnake ferns march up the rise with us to the remains of the house. **11**



Boletus

Chickadee



It was a “mansion house” of unusual architecture. Instead of a center chimney this house had its chimney at the end as was popular in Rhode Island. Perhaps Sam Storey built this house for a Rhode Island bride. The walled garden on the south side of the house must have been a pleasant feature of this homestead. Christmas, marginal wood, and royal ferns grow in the area. Great shagbark hickories rise high above ironwood and dogwood. Chickadees and downy wood peckers frequent this home site.

A few steps more brings us to the power line. This man-made open area provides Hartman Park with an environment totally different from the rest of the park. Sun-lovers flourish here — bracken fern, beaked hazelnut, sweet fern, sumacs, wild cherry.



The twisted, yellow petals of the witch hazel's little flowers throw a golden haze over early November's bare branches. In spring catbirds, robins, song sparrows and gold finches raise families here. Bluebirds, tree swallows, and pert wrens may nest here. Hawks and vultures are visible patrolling the park.



After a few steps east, to the left, on the power line road, we turn south again, right, climbing upwards through bracken and sumac. Halfway up, a noisy brook falls across the path, slides down a long smooth flume, and spills into a cattail marsh. Cattails sustained Indian populations for centuries with their useful fibers and their starch filled roots, protein rich pollen, succulent sprouts and flower spikes. They still feed and shelter many bird and animal populations today.



Stone End House



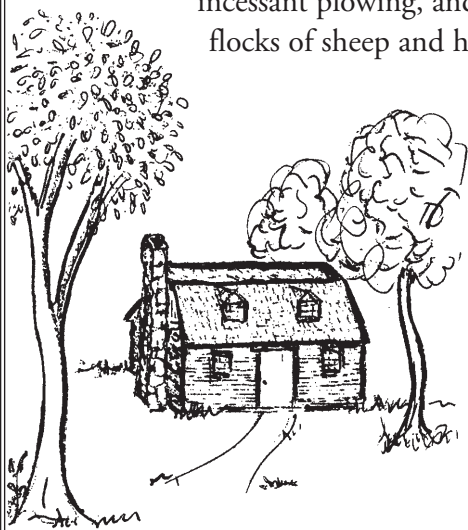
This fifteen by twenty foot “mansion house” — meaning it had a cellar — appears to have had its chimney at the end, Rhode Island style, instead of in the center as was typical of Connecticut colonial design and construction.

The stones of the chimney and foundation were selected for and/or cut with straight sides and were carefully laid up. One corner is still well preserved. If the lintel and hearth stones are in their original position, there might have been a small Dutch oven on the southwest side of the chimney. Stairs or a ladder may have led to the cellar where a well could have been located.

Researchers believe this house was built sometime during the early 1700s and belonged to either the Huntley or the Storey family.

We have been unable to detect signs of barns or other out buildings nearby. Either there were none or the evidence has long since disappeared. However farming is indicated by the presence of stone walls that enclose various portions of the surrounding areas and by the streams to the east and west that have long since become swampy. These streams, like most in the park, were clear and free-flowing in pre-colonial days. The periodic lumbering and clear-cutting, the incessant plowing, and the damage done to the land by flocks of sheep and herds of pigs caused erosion of the

hill sides and the silting-in of the streams. The land became more and more marginal for farming. One hundred to one hundred and fifty years ago most of these farms were abandoned as better land opened up in the west.

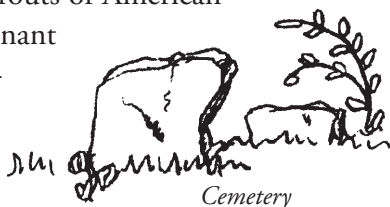




Wood Lily

At the brook crossing maleberry, alder, and winterberry offer handholds during times of high water. Orange wood lilies raise their bright bells skyward on the slope ahead in July and scarlet cardinal flowers bloom in and along the stream in August.

At the top of the rise, we again enter the woods. Black and yellow birches grow here among the oaks and maples. A few stump-sprouts of American chestnut - once the dominant tree in our eastern forest - linger here. The Blue Trail and the Three Chimneys Shortcut (yellow marker) appear on the left. We had passed their other ends earlier.



Cemetery

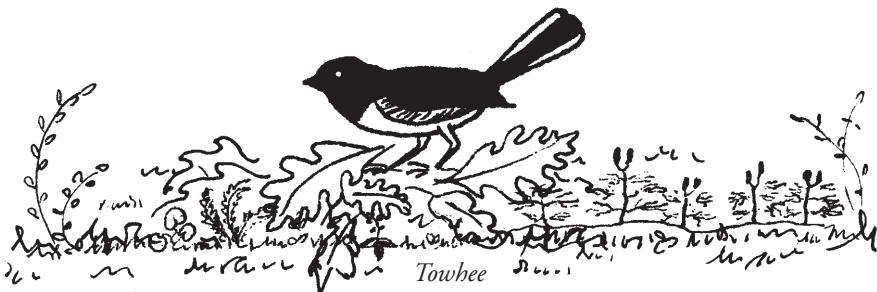
We follow the old woods road south to the junction with the Red/Orange Crossover (yellow marker) and a spur trail (white marker). We will make a short side trip west on the spur to visit the little cemetery on top of the rise.



Tree Swallow

The cemetery is located in a pretty spot, now wooded but probably cleared when the cemetery was in use. PLEASE STAY ON THE PATH. The flat stone markers are placed at the head and foot of the graves but have no names or dates inscribed. We have found no records to tell

us who is buried here or who wept for the deceased. **12**



Towhee

The Cemetery



The Hartman Park Cemetery is situated on a small hill overlooking a pond and a brook both now obscured by vegetation. The site seems to have been chosen with sensitivity to natural beauty. Who is buried here?

The first settlers came to Lyme about 1650. In 1672 the traditional hunting grounds of the Nehantic Indians were given to them as hunting territory for their reservation. Hartman Park was a portion of this territory. The main village of the Nehantic Indians was in what today is East Lyme's Black Point area.

Over the next one hundred and fifty years the Gungy area was settled by people of pure and mixed Native American and African blood as well as whites. Most were impoverished homesteaders, and slaves and tenants of absentee landowners. Any of these may be interred here. In short this cemetery is the resting place of the less wealthy, and probably of those of lower social standing such as slaves, paupers, and itinerants.

The markers are of field-stone, set at head and foot, none with any apparent lettering. These stones may have come from the ledge on the west side of this little hill. Many local cemeteries include some unlettered field-stones. In the Coult Cemetery on Beaver Brook Road embossed markers begin shortly after 1800.

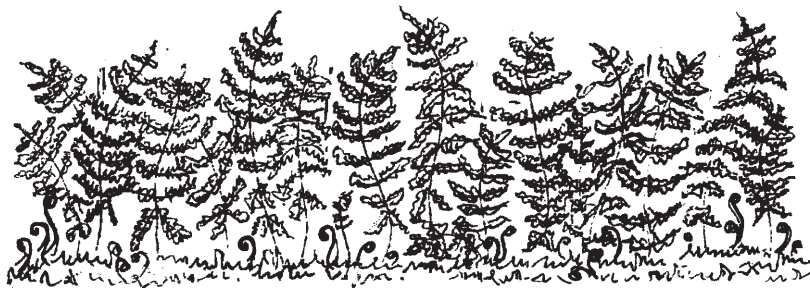
The only documentation found in Lyme records is as follows:

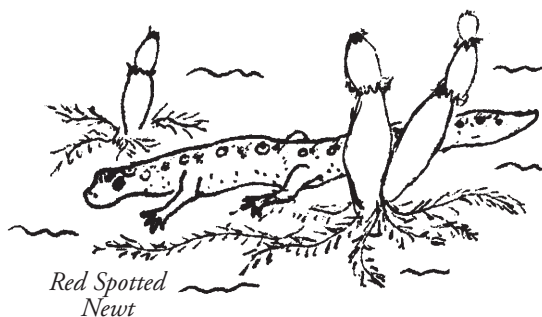
1806 - Joseph Pomham died penniless. He was part Native American. He and his wife had been living in a house on Gungy Road which had been turned over to them in 1792 by Sarah Siles and Daniel Wright, both of whom were listed in town records as part Native American and part African. When it became apparent that Joseph was mortally ill, Ebenezer Tiffany, a white land-owner to the north of Pomham's land, took Joseph and his wife into his home and cared for them for five days until Joseph died. Tiffany paid for Joseph's funeral which included a coffin. Later he sought reimbursement from the town for his expenses.

There is no record of where Joseph Pomham is buried. His grave may be one of those in this cemetery.

We now return to the Heritage Trail and follow the orange markers south, uphill, to Park Road (purple marker). Here the orange trail markers end. We will follow Park Road straight ahead for one half mile to the parking lot. We walk by a large glacial boulder, by several dying oak wolf trees, pass the schoolroom/picnic ground again, and cross the brook below the Mill Site on three giant slabs of stone — a bridge that dates to the early settlement. Shortly we see the orange trail marker which we recognize from the beginning of our walk, and pass several ancient oaks standing in sight of the entrance gate.

Finally we regain the ease and comfort of our cars, a contrast to the end-less toils of the settlers we met today.





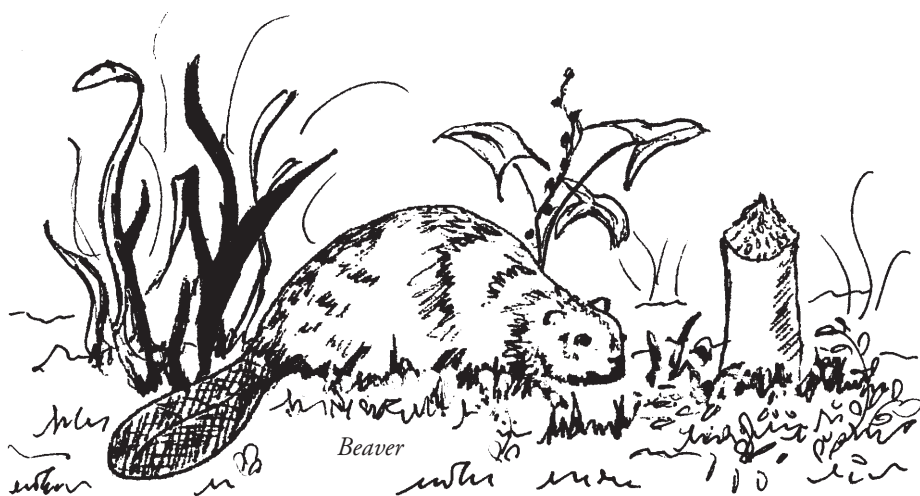
You Can Help

Please note on the chalkboard any trail hazards or unusual circumstances.

We are especially interested in any prohibited activity, as well as unusual or interesting wildlife.

If you are interested in becoming a “Friend of Hartman Park” or in becoming involved in park activities, please let us know.

Contact the Town of Lyme Open Space Coordinator, through the Lyme Town Hall, 860 434-7733 or email openspace@townlyme.org or contact the Lyme Land Conservation Trust: info@lymelendtrust.org



Hartman Park

Trail Layout and Construction

Marianne Pfeiffer

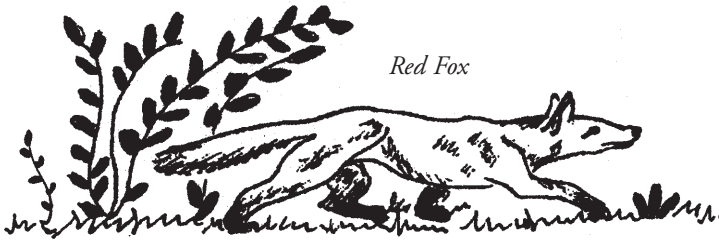
Jeanne Thomson



Trail Maintenance

Open Space Coordinator

Friends of Hartman Park



References

Cook, David

1989 *Trails of Hartman Park, Lyme CT*

Brochure prepared for Hartman Park

Town of Lyme

Pfeiffer, John E.

1993 *Cultural Resources in Hartman Park, Lyme CT*

An Archival and Archaeological Project Ms prepared for

Hartman Park Commission, Town of Lyme

Both available at Lyme Library and Lyme Town Hall



Sassafras

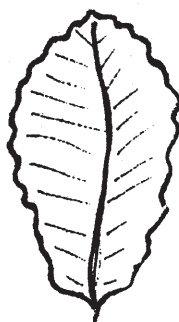


Sugar Maple



Tulip Tree

*Thank you Anna Holland for set-up, design, typing,
inspiration, and encouragement 1996.*

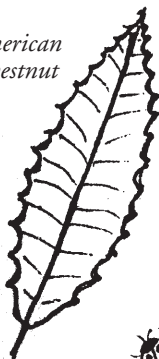


Chestnut Oak



Red Oak

*American
Chestnut*



*Shagbark
Hickory*