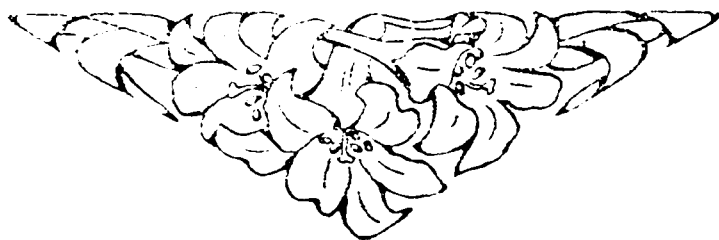


Early Maps of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts



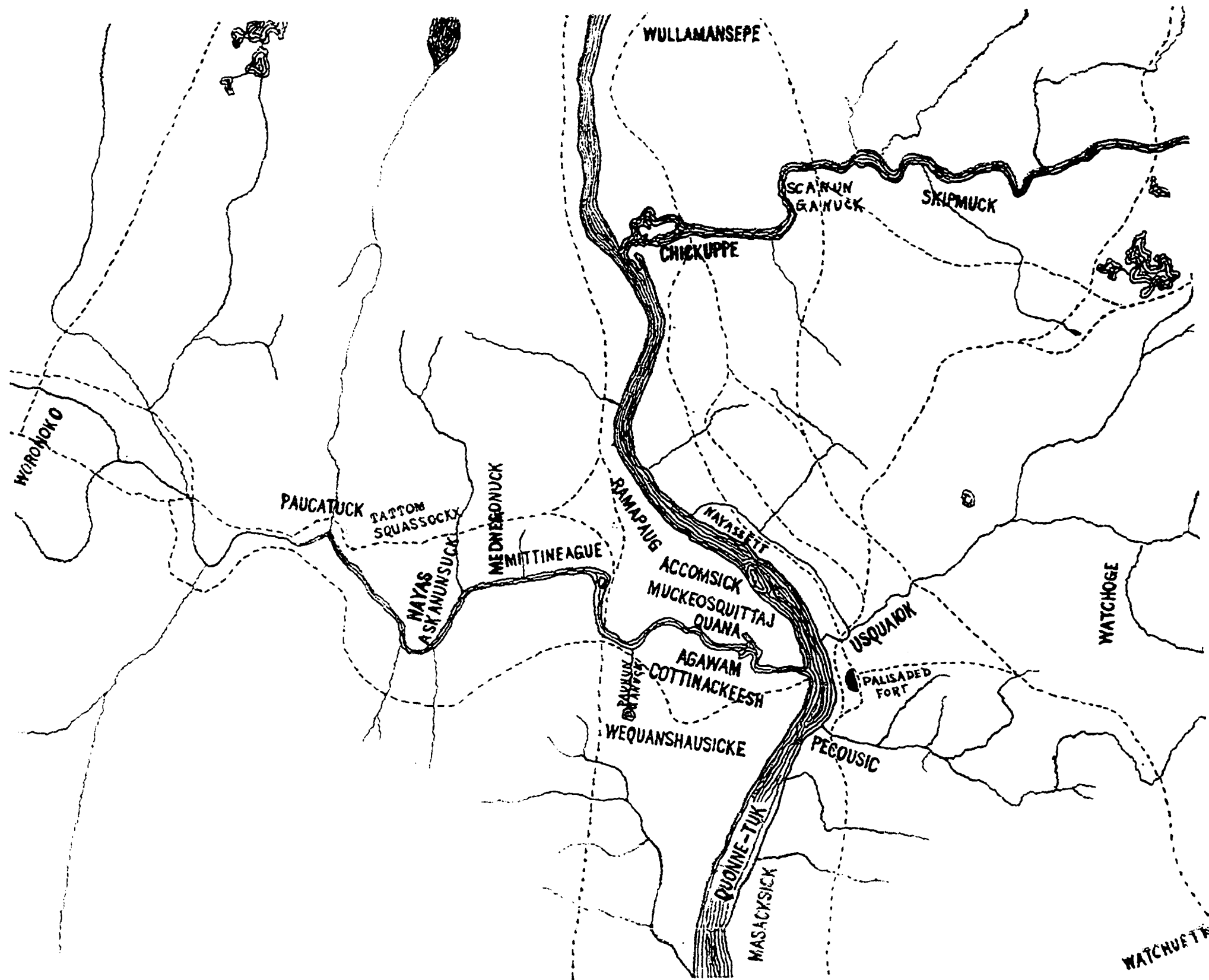
WRIGHT & DEFORD
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

1911

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Indian Trails About Springfield

All early accounts indicate that from a period long prior to the coming of the Whites, the Indians were familiar with places often hundreds of miles distant, one from the other, and that they traveled over the same route in coming and going. The constant passing over the same path, year after year, and generation after generation, often so packed the soil that the paths are still traceable by the depressions in the soil, or by the absence or a difference in the vegetation. Many of them have been obliterated by roads and railways of modern times. Owing to the Indians' habit of marching in single file the trails rarely exceed 18 inches in width, yet these were the ordinary roads of the country. They always followed the line of the least natural resistance. Many of them were originally tracks made by the deer in their seasonal migrations between feeding grounds; some of them remain worn two feet deep into the ground.

Some of these trails were located by documentary evidence. Sometimes an old deed or a grant of land gives a clue, being located on a trail or being bounded by a trail. In 1660, land was granted that "lies by the path to Moheage." The records of 1646 speak of "the playne in the Bay Path."

The first trail east of the river is the present Main street; the next east is Maple, Chestnut and Springfield street to **Chicopee**, where it crossed the Chicopee river "above the island where the Indian's common wading place is," as the early record reads.

On the right from the Indian Fort is the trail which is now Mill, Pine, Walnut, Oak and St. James avenue to **Chicopee Falls**. The trail crossed the Chicopee river, at the low water below the Falls at Scanunganuck, now **Chicopee Falls**. The Bay Path came into this trail from Boston, followed it to the Fort and continued across the Connecticut river, then on to Westfield, Great Barrington, Albany and Buffalo.

It crossed the Connecticut river just below the South End bridge. Before the Agawam was changed, there was a sand bar at that point so that it was possible to walk across the river at low water. Changes in the current have since washed the bar away.

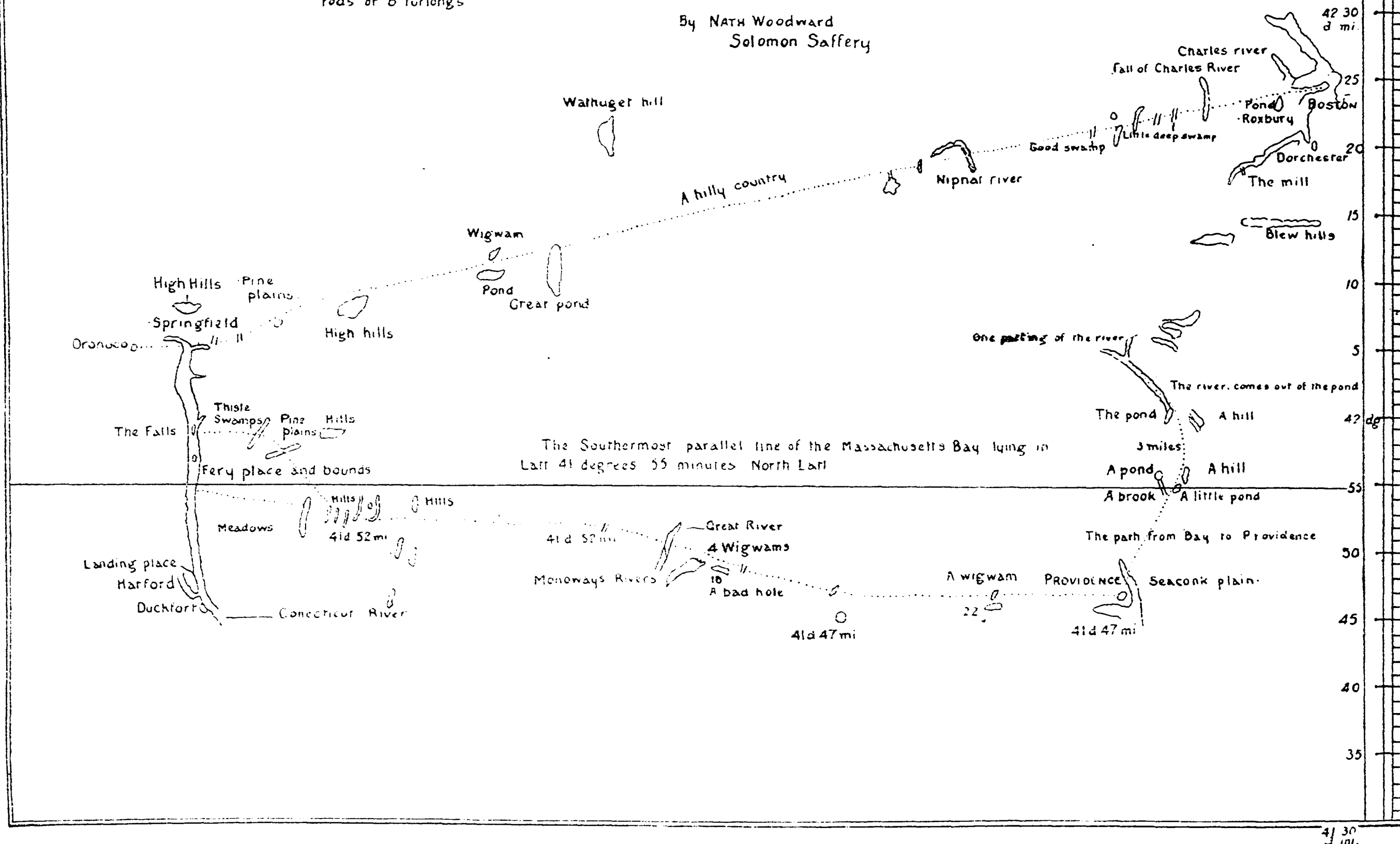
The trail going south, west of the river, went to Windsor, where there were large tribes. The most southeasterly one went to the Pequots and the Mohegans, and was known to Pynchon as the "Pequit path that goes to Moheag."

A description of the extent of the bounds of Massachusetts Bay Patent southward lying in 41deg 55 minutes Lat^r, crossing Connecticut river at Windsor ferry place. The house of John Bissell being on the west side and the Widow Gibbs hir house on the east side of the river.

Also a description of the most remarkable rivers, brooks, ponds, hills, playns, swamps, situation of Indians discovered by the waye with Lat^r of Springfield, 42 deg 6 minutes and the trading house of Oronoco. The 14th of ye 4th moth 1642

The miles are as 60 is to 69½ in proportion to the ordinary chayne miles containing 320 rods or 8 furlongs

By NATH Woodward
Solomon Saffery



The Roads from Boston to Connecticut River in 1642

This represents the country along the old Bay Path, and has great historical interest from the fact that out of its making grew the long dispute with Connecticut over the boundary.

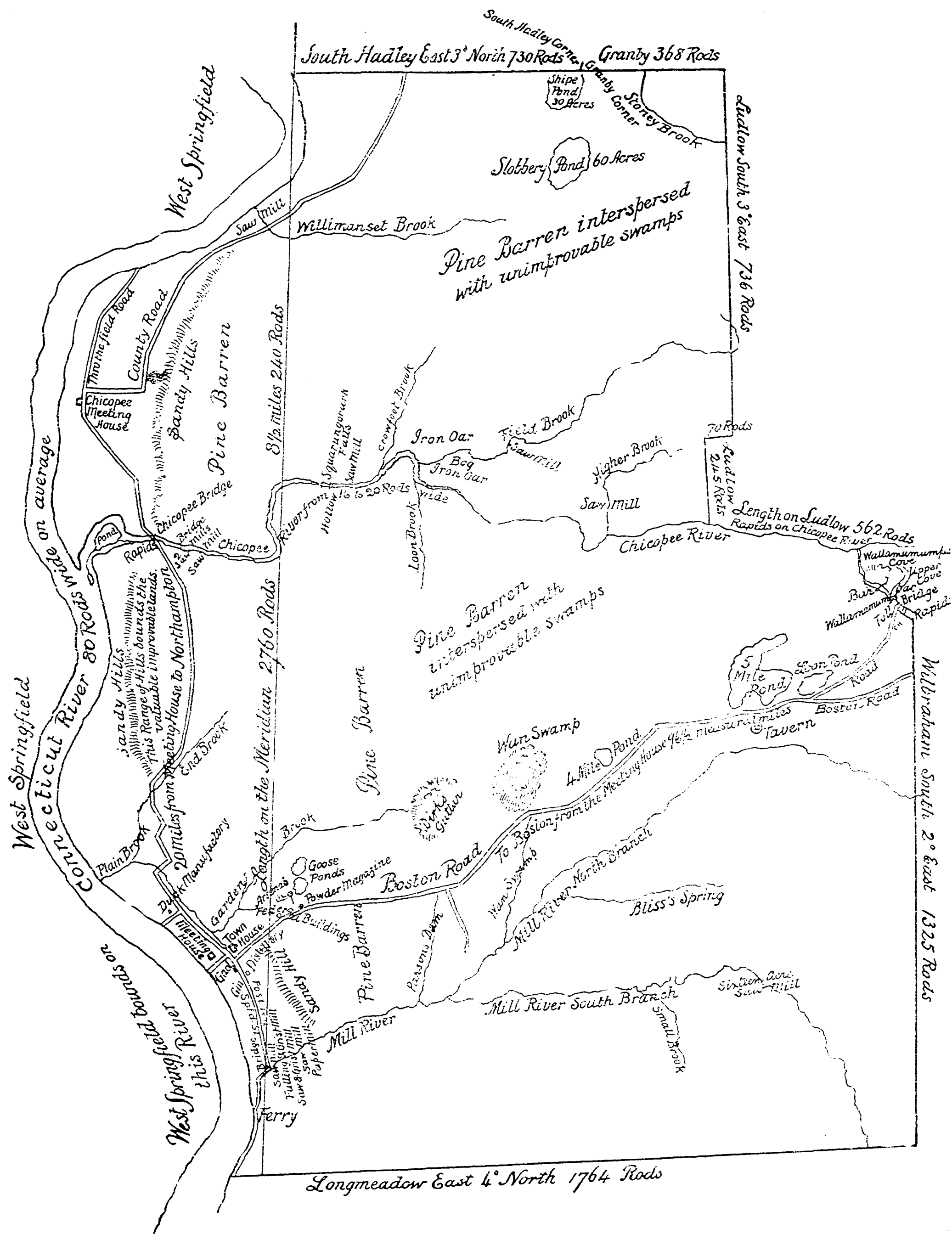
The "4 Wigwams" at about the center of the southern trail, stood on the site of what is now Woodstock. "Monoways river" was the Quinebaug. North of Springfield are the "High Hills" of the Holyoke range. The "High Hills" to the east are the Wilbraham mountains. The wigwam with the two ponds nearby is the site of Brookfield. Woodward and Saffery probably saw from there Watchusett mountain and the Indians told them the name, which is on the map as "Wathuget hill." Nipant river is the Blackstone. East of there the trail led across the Charles river into Boston.

Oronoco is Westfield. The "Ferry Place," on the Connecticut river, was known as "Bissell's Ferry," down to modern times.



Dutch Map of the Connecticut Valley

The original is a colored copper plate engraving, measuring 18 x 21 inches in size, and is extremely valuable. It is known as Van Der Donck's and was drawn by N. Visscher, who took it from the map of Jasper Danker, published about 1650. It gets its name from the fact that it was used by Van Der Donck in his book, "Description of New Netherlands," published in 1656. The place on Westfield river is "Pynchon's trading house," later Westfield. "Mr. Pinsers Cleyne Val" is "Mr. Pynchon's little falls." Versche Rievier is Fresh River. To the south are Pacquanack, Voynser (Windsor,) Herford, (Hartford,) Watertuyn (Watertown,) Wethersfield, Hoeren Eylant (Heron Island.) The various animals scattered here and there represent the supposed habitat of these beasts.



Springfield in 1794

The location of the United States small-arms manufactory is designated by the "arsenal," together with the "magazine," at what later became Magazine Street. The jail was then on Main Street. Mill River had not been dammed, and Watershops pond did not exist. Two "Goose Ponds" are shown, which have entirely disappeared. But two streets run west from Main—Elm and Cypress Streets. The Mill River valley was quite a manufacturing center, with a paper mill, a fulling mill, various saw mills and grist mills. A duck factory was on the north side of the "Road to the Upper Ferry," now Cypress Street. The "Meeting House" is the one shown on the map of the Agawam River.

This shows the North meeting house, later Ireland parish, and now the Northampton Street section of Holyoke. The church was originally the property of the Second Baptist church of West Springfield. It was built in 1792, about one-half mile south of the present church, but there was not sufficient money to finish the inside. After a few years, the Congregationalists joined in moving the building north and completing it. It was completed in 1811 and occupied until 1826.

The Great Falls, where the saw mill and the corn mill are, is the site of the Holyoke dam. The road to Hanover and Dartmouth college is now the road to Northampton. The Iron works are just below Ashley ponds, in the valley of Bear Hole brook. Dr. Lathrop's meeting house is the site of the church on the Common in West Springfield, and was built in 1705.

The South meeting house was that of the First Congregational society of Agawam. It was built in 1760, but was never completely finished. In 1779, it was taken down and moved to Feeding Hills and re-erected, where it remained incomplete until 1821, when it was finished.

The saw mill and corn mill, just north of the island in the Agawam river, are where the Ramapogue Ice Company is now located. On February 21, 1649, there was "granted Deacon Samuel Chapin (of St. Gaudens fame) a parcel of land by Agawam Falls." This is what is known as the "Original Mill Grant," and has been used for manufacturing ever since.

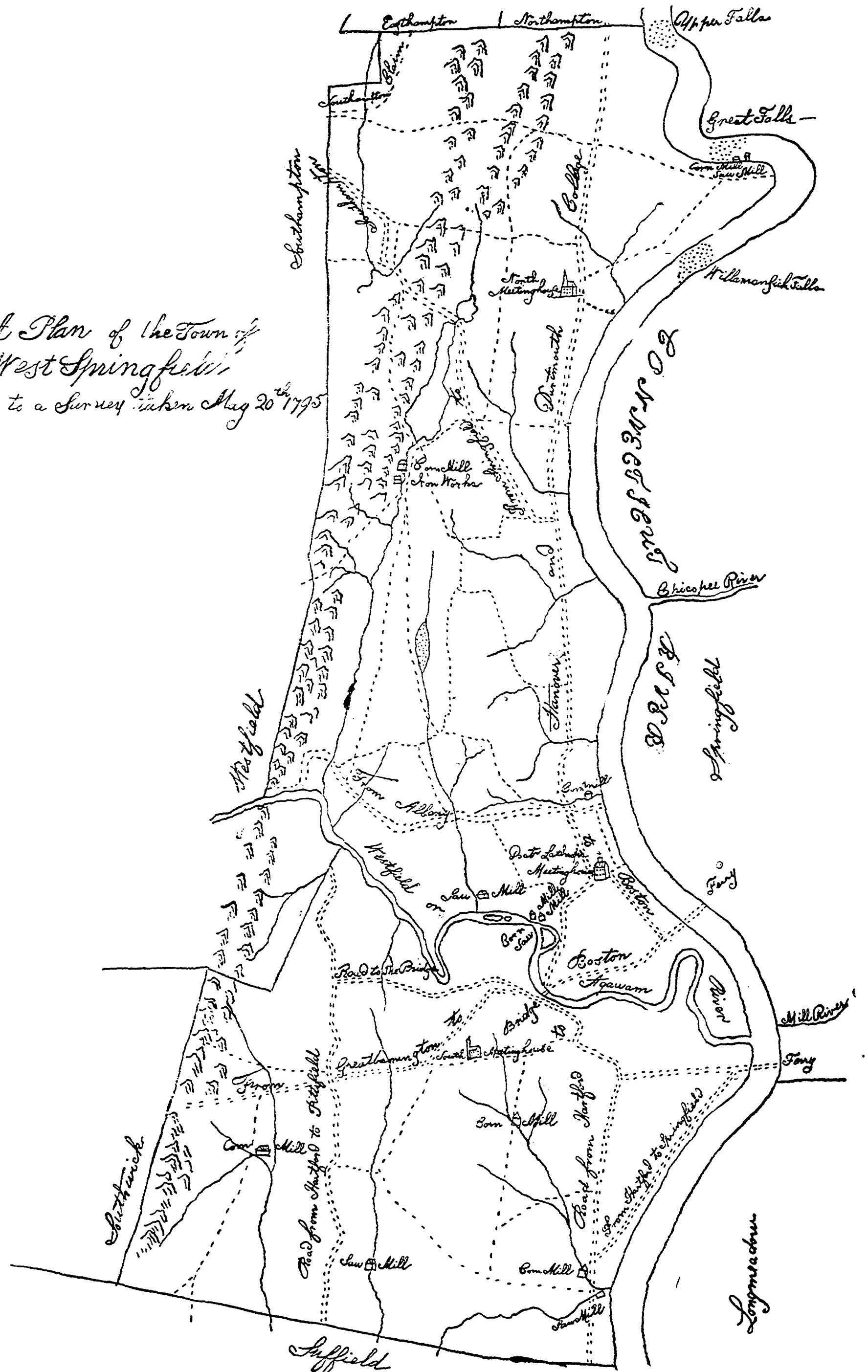
The two smaller islands in the Agawam river are at Mittineague.

The road from Hartford to Pittsfield is at Feeding Hills, and the ranges of hills to the west are Provin mountain, the Bear Hole range, Mount Tom, etc.

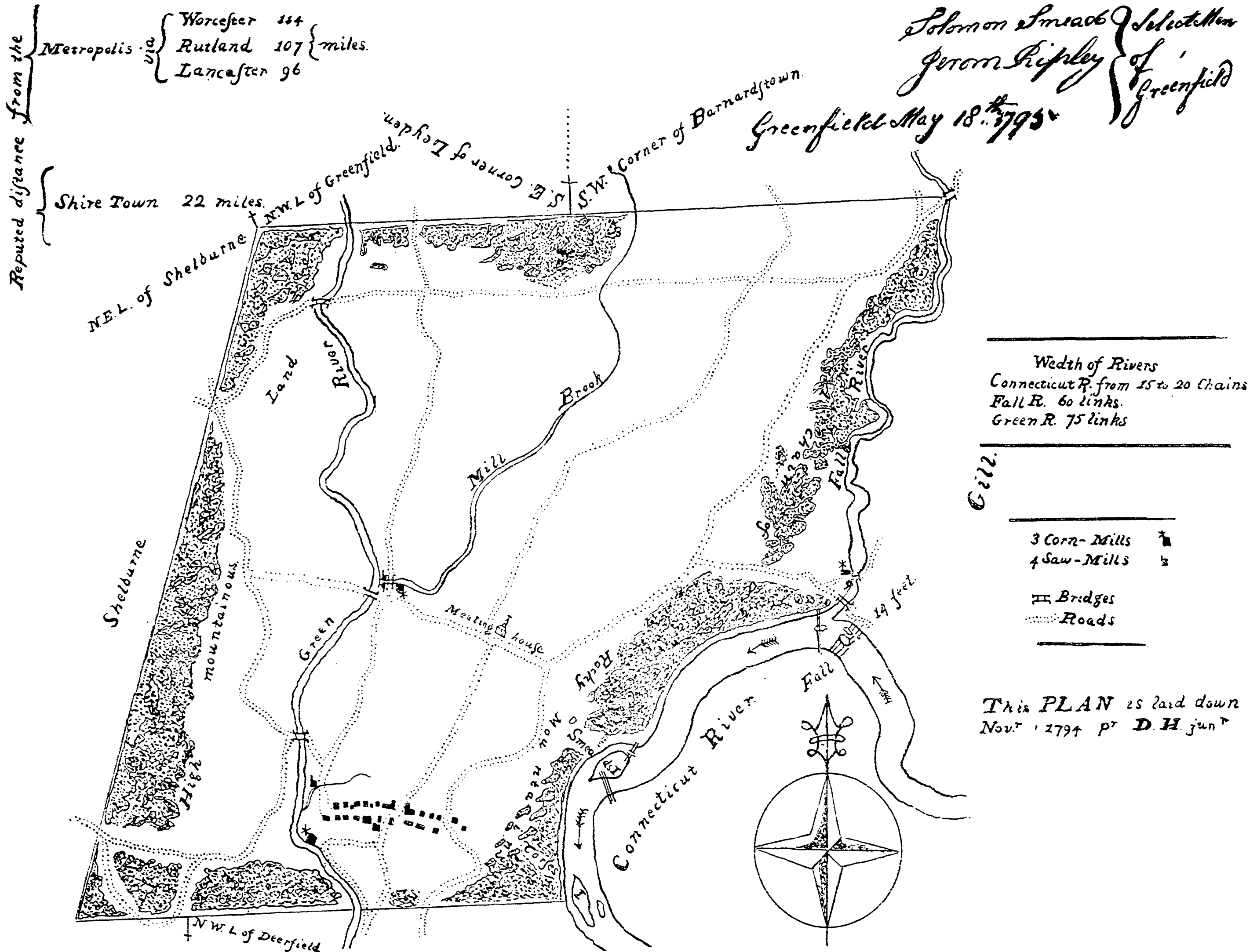
The corn mill, next above Dr. Lathrop's meeting house, is by Holy Smoke spring on the Holyoke road.

The saw mill, north of the two small islands in the Agawam, is on the brook about half way between Mittineague and Tatham.

*A Plan of the Town of
West Springfield
according to a Survey taken Aug 20th 1795*



West Springfield in 1795



Greenfield in 1794

This map was made by David Hoit, Jr., of Deerfield.

The Meeting House was at "Trap Plain," and the road is now known as Silver Street. It was opposite the house in latter days occupied by Lemuel A. Long. It was built in 1766, though not completed until 1773.

The present Main Street was laid out in 1749.

The road from the west end of Main Street to the Country Farms was laid out in 1736.

The road from the church to the proprietors' road (Silver Street) was laid out in 1760.

The road from the church to the Barnardston line was laid out in 1763.

The road from the street to the church (now Federal Street) was laid out in 1788.

The "fourteen foot fall" was at Turner's Falls.

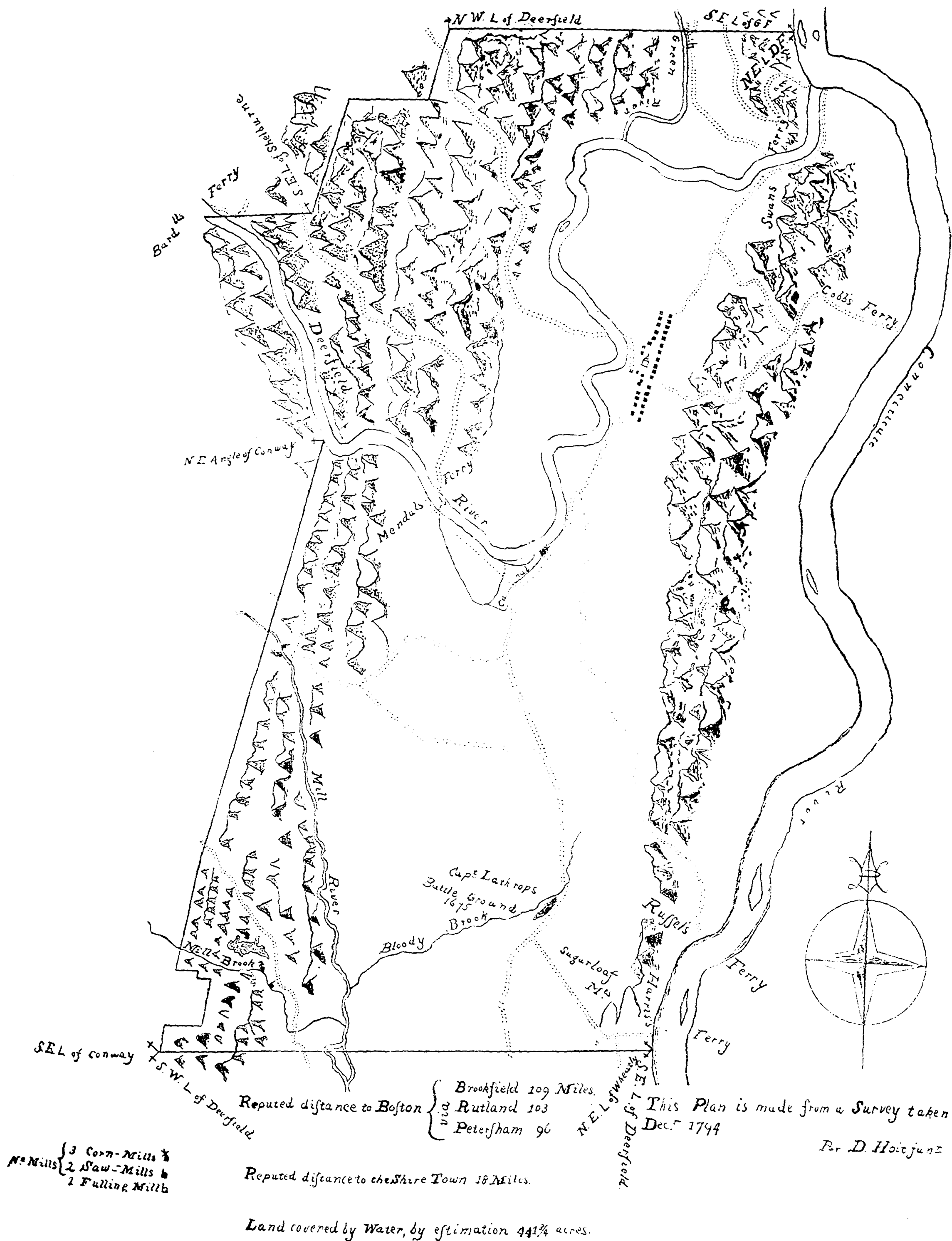
The first dam at Turner's Falls was built by Capt. Elisha Mack in 1793. It was originally attempted at a point two miles below the falls at Smead's Island, but proved impracticable on account of the depth of water and was abandoned after considerable labor and expense.

Twenty-five houses are shown in the town plot.



Stoddard's Island is now known as Shepherd's Island. The

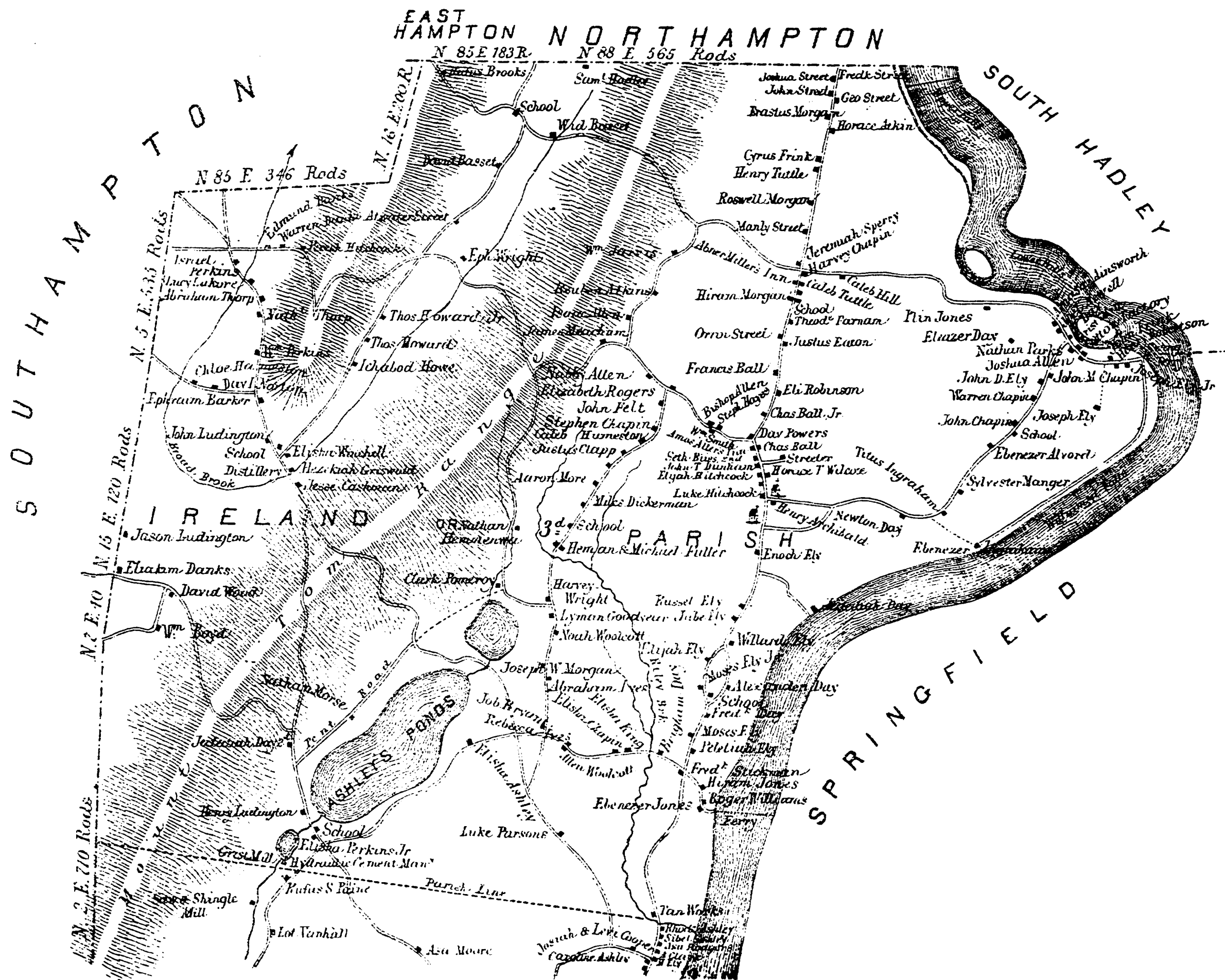
At the "Mineral Mountains" was the lead mine discovered by Robert Lyman in 1679. The "Mineral Company" was formed that year, the town relinquishing "all their right in that mine lying about six miles off, at the west side of the town." Other companies have worked these hills at various times since.



Deerfield in 1794

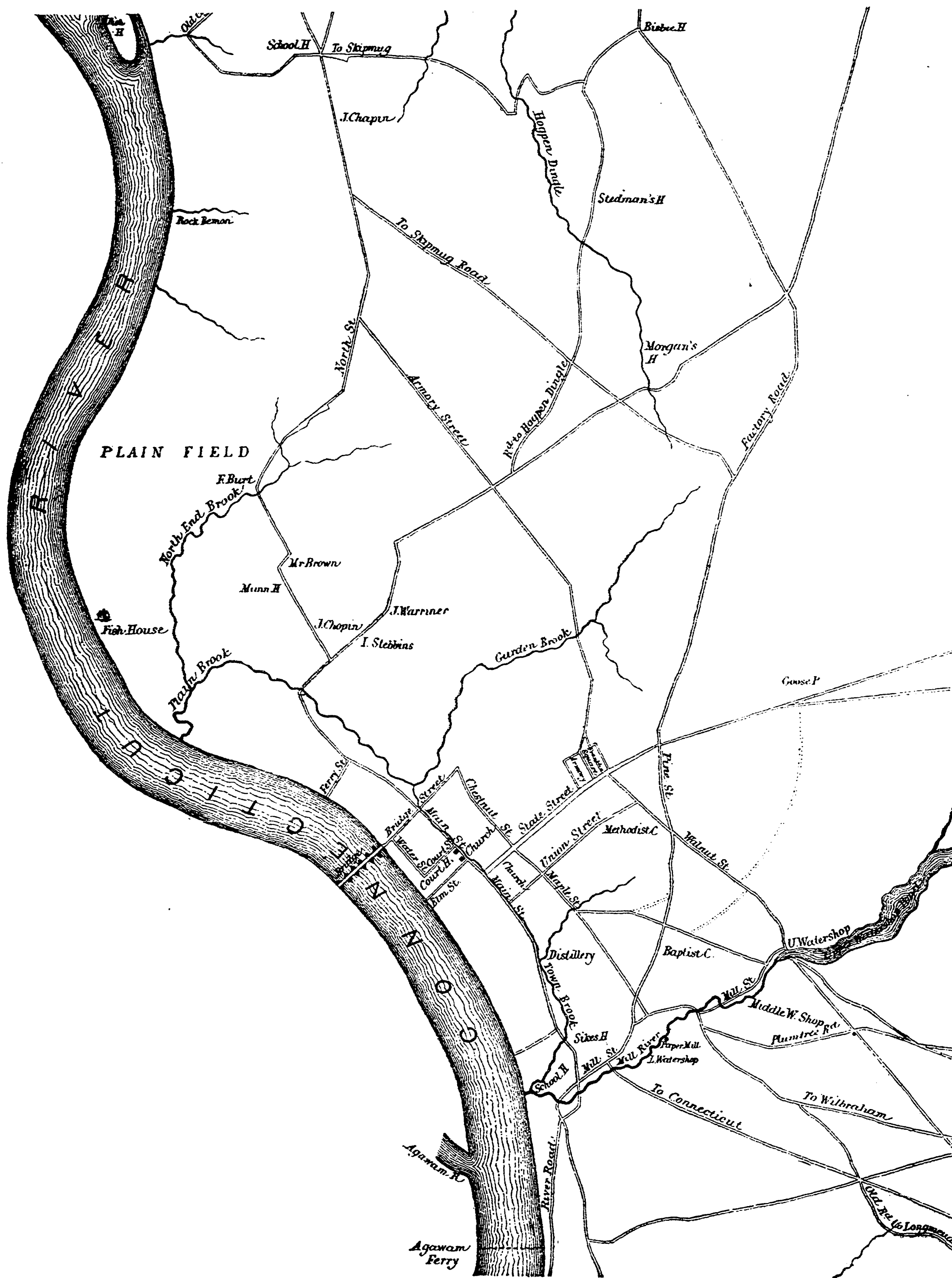
This map was made by David Hoit, Jr., of Deerfield. The mill near the canal was at the South Meadow. In recognition of the public spirit of Colonel Joseph Stebbins, and his brother, Asa Stebbins, in building a grist mill at this point, the town agreed that it should be forever free from tax. The mill was burned in 1838, but was rebuilt at once, and was finally destroyed by floods. Around the water power developed by the Stebbins brothers, Mill Village grew up. Nearby was the ferry of Church Mendell, who sold to Stebbins a part of the land needed for the dam.

Israel Russell of Sunderland owned the ferry that in modern times was known as Whittemore's ferry. Cobb's Ferry was owned by Jonathan Cobb. It was later known as Rice's Ferry to Montague. The ferry of Benjamin Swan was at the point where the railroad now crosses the river at Cheapside. Harris Ferry is at the point where the bridge to Sunderland now crosses the Connecticut. The church shown in the town plot was built in 1729. It was the third building of the church, and was used until 1824.



Ireland Parish, now Holyoke, in 1827

The Northampton Street district was still the important section of the town. The dam had not yet been built, although there was a cotton factory at the falls. The "Iron Works" of 1794, below Ashley ponds, had given way to a cement factory. Southampton had established its claim to the northwest corner, which was in doubt in 1794. Seven schools, two churches and one inn are in evidence.



Springfield in 1827

The Agawam river still had but one outlet into the Connecticut, and Bondi's Island was not yet cut away from the mainland. Mill river had been dammed; the Upper, Middle and Lower Watershops were in operation. The town brook still ran along by Main Street, and one Goose pond has ceased to exist. Water street had been opened from Bridge to Court and Ferry Lane had become Ferry Street.

