

## **Echoes of Old Thompson I - Book Errata & Updates**

*Revision: 11-10-2015*

Dear Friend, 'Echoes of Old Thompson' had several omissions or errors in the text and captions. With this letter, we are providing you with the correct or missing information. Please place this letter in the back of the book so that you or a future reader will have the most correct information.

With thanks, Joseph lamartino

### **Thompson Hill – Section 1:**

Page 69: The caption for the top right photo is replaced with the following text: This home on Rt. 200 was built by the father of Clarence Jacobs, then bought by Charles A. Russell from Providence RI. Russell's daughter, married to a Mr. Lemon, was the next owner of the property. The Coffeys followed as owners. There was a huge barn complex and the turret of the barn may have housed a wind turbine to pump water, similar to that in the surviving Chandler barn on Rt. 193 now owned by the Williams family. The Jacobs building is a dormitory for girls at Marianapolis School today.

Page 71: The Reed home, also known as Thornfield Hall, was believed to be the home shown on the Dark Shadows television show. There has been much debate over this topic but THS has not found any evidence to substantiate this claim. We do agree that the home is spookily similar to that used for the show.

Page 81: The home shown in the center of page 81 has an incorrect caption. The caption should read as follows: "This home in the center of the photograph is located across from the Old Town Hall on West Street, now Rt. 200. If the reader consults the map on page 59, we believe the home just visible at the far left in the photograph is the Waldo Cummins (also spelled Cumins, Comans) home, the home in the middle is that of Otis Perrin and home on the right is one of D. Kinney's."

### **Quadic – Section 2**

Page 87: Referring to the map on page 254, Bell's Barn was situated about half way between the E. Green and A. Eddy properties on the south side of Quaddick Road.

Page 89: The bottom photograph shown on the page was recently found in another collection of old postcards with the title, "View from Borradaile". Borradaile was the name of the building currently known as Lord Thompson Manor which sits at the western edge of Thompson Hill overlooking a valley. Because all of the other postcards in the collection are certainly related to Borradaile, the title "View from Borradaile" is probably accurate. We now believe that the photograph in the book is not a hilltop view of the Quaddick area but instead probably a western view from Thompson Hill. Big Dam pond on Marcy Lane and the icehouse at the edge of the pond can be seen.

Page 90: Bottom photograph – We would like to retract the statement that Mr. Davis ran the mill from 1903 to the 1970s and replace it with the following sentence: "Davis family members were involved in mill operations on the site until the 1970s."

### **Grosvenordale & North Grosvenordale – Section 3:**

Page 105: Bottom right photo of the ice-house. There was originally some debate as to the actual icehouse pictured. There was an icehouse in Grosvenordale located at “Big Dam” pond on Marcy Lane, just off Rte. 200. The other icehouse, described in the book, was behind the present-day Knights of Columbus Hall in North Grosvenordale. Thompson resident Roger Blain was present when his family members would cut the ice with a gasoline-powered blade on a sled at the Big Dam site. Blain has studied the photo and felt that it may not be the Grosvenordale Icehouse or that the building had been modified substantially at some point. However, Charlie Seney pointed out that the background of the photo does not show any Grosvenor-Dale Company barns which would likely be present in the background if the photo was of the North Grosvenordale icehouse. Based on the evidence of the Hoffmann family photographs of the ice house foundations and the geography shown in the photo, the evidence convinces us that this is the Grosvenordale Icehouse at Big Dam, not the No. Grosvenordale Icehouse. The Big Dam icehouse burned about 1945.

Page 120: The N. Grosevenordale train wreck shown occurred in 1913.

Page 128: Middle photo – According to Jim Sali, the person on top left is Archie Myrteza

Page 128: Bottom photo – Changes according to Estelle Bourgeois: Shraf Ravenelle should be Raoul Ravenelle (nicknamed Little Shrafft). The unidentified man in the front row is Hector Ravenelle (nicknamed Big Shrafft).

### **East Thompson – Section 4:**

Page 146: The photo on the top of Page 145 is the Hoyle house as it looked in the 1960s. The picture on the top of page 146 is not the Emerson house, but the Hoyle house with the original porch. Lois Thompson was the one who pointed out that the photo on the top of page 146 is not the Emerson house that was located on the corner of Sand Dam & East Thompson Road.

Related to the Hoyle house is the debate over the purpose of the stone ‘tomb’. Researcher Mark Snay has presented new information that may resolve the debate; Is the structure an icehouse, a store house or a real tomb? Because of the debate fervency, we are including the entire text of a land transfer that clearly states the tomb’s purpose:

Volume 14, page 216:

*We Richard Hoyle and Moses Hoyle of Thompson in the County of Windham & State of Connecticut for the consideration of ten dollars received to our full satisfaction of the inhabitants of the Town of Thompson aforesaid Do give, grant, bargain, sell and confirm unto the said Town of Thompson as aforesaid one lot of land situated in said town on the land or farm of the grantors bounded beginning on the West side of the Boston & Hartford Turnpike road at a heap of stones thence northwesterly a strip of land one rod wide & 8 rods long to near where a Tomb is now building thence on lot of land at the north side of said strip & adjoining the same two rods square on which said Tomb is building; said rod wide being a passway to said tomb. To have and to hold the above granted and bargained premises, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Inhabitants of said town of Thompson & their successors of the said grantors & their heirs for a family vault forever, to them for the proper use and behoof. And also we the said grantors do for ourselves & heirs, executors, and administrators, covenant with the said Town of*

*Thompson & their successors that at and until the en sealing of these presents we are well seized of the premises, as a good indefeasible estate in fee-simple, and have good right to bargain and sell the same in manner and form as is above written, and that the same is free of all incumbrances whatsoever.*

*And furthermore, we the said grantors do by these presents bind ourselves and our heirs forever to warrant and defend the above granted and bargained premises to the said Town of Thompson & their successors against all claims and demands whatsoever for the use of a family vault as aforesaid.*

*In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals the 17th day of November Anno Domini 1837. Signed, sealed and delivered in presents of Simon Davis and Edward Shaw*

*(signed) Richard Hoyle L.S.; Moses Hoyle L.S.*

*Windham County, SS Thompson Nov. 17th 1837. Personally appeared Richard Hoyle & Moses Hoyle signers and sealers of the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the same to be their free act and deed before me. Rec'd for record Nov. 17th 1837 Simon Davis Justice of the piece and recorded by Jonathan Nichols (next word here went off page - cannot read)*

We are putting a silver spike through the legend that the Hoyle structure was built for ice storage. The old stone vault is at last allowed to rest in peace as intended as a tomb.

Page 160: The East Thompson Four Engine Wreck article in the book states two lives were lost in the wreck. Once again thanks to many of hours of research, Mark Snay is closing the door on the debate over the third victim. Mark has located several articles relating to the missing man, R.H. Rath of New York, presumed dead by his family, but his body was never found in the wreckage. Mr. Rath, a real estate developer, was traveling to Boston on a mission to see a special type of flowering plant. He never arrived. Rath's brother visited the wreck site and identified keys belonging to his brother. Stories in the NY press made it clear that the family accepted his death. The Thompson Historical Society now believes evidence of Mr. Rath's demise in the burning wreckage is sufficient to declare three people died in the accident. We also mention that, according to rail historian Bob Belletzkie, the Four Engine Wreck is not the only four engine wreck in history though, as far as Thompson is concerned, it is still the Great Four Engine Wreck to us! Our thanks to Bob Belletzkie and Tom Chase for the great effort working the Ramsdell collection to find all of the known photos of 'our' wreck.

Page 150: Middle photo – Thomas Wieloch writes that the Little Pond schoolhouse had been purchased by a Weiloch family member, was moved to rt. 193 and turned into a house. It is still there today.

Page 154: Top photo – This photo is identified as Jacobs Tavern, famous for George Washington's less than flattering diary comment - "not a good house" - written after eating breakfast there in 1789. The research team of Susan Vincent and Mark Snay has concluded that the building shown in the photo is on Jacobs land but is not the actual tavern site. Through deeds, Hale Jacobs ownership records of the actual tavern helped Snay and Vincent pinpoint the location of the tavern to be slightly off the road, as can clearly be seen on the 1869 Thompson map from Grey's Atlas of Windham County. The tavern's original foundation location is roughly hole three of the golf course, on the east side of the lane next to the home shown in the photo. The tavern burned between 1910 and 1937, and assumed before 1934 because aerial images do not show a building large enough to be a tavern.

Page 155: Bottom photo – After extensive research, we conclude that the grist mill and dam shown in the photograph is not on East Thompson Road, but is instead located south of Robbins Road on the property currently owned by Ben and Lucille Barrette, and was called for a time the Clark-Pierce Farm. The photograph was contributed by the Barrettes. We checked the 1855 and 1869 maps to find such a grist mill and none was documented at that time on Robbins Road but a grist mill was on both old maps on East Thompson Road. Old deeds however confirmed there was a mill on Robbins Road but was not specifically called a grist mill. We took rough measurements of the mill footings and of the dam itself at the old Sheldon mill on East Thompson Road and it was built in a similar fashion to the one on Robbins Road. We apologize for the dam confusion.

#### **Wilsonville – Section 5:**

Page 182: Mark Snay reports that the Haggerty House location was on Rt. 12, not 1344 Wilsonville Rd. It was located just past where the winery used to be on the right side of the road when heading south towards North Grosvenordale.

Page 183: After extensive research by Mark Snay, the note on the post card indicating Maplehurst Farm was a Tourtellotte homestead is true. Maplehurst Farm however was not the birthplace of Dr. Jacob F. Tourtellotte, benefactor with his wife of TMHS. It is believed that Dr. Tourtellotte was raised on Labby Rd. Records exist that Marquis Jacobs purchased the farm from Joseph Tourtellotte proving the farm on the postcard was owned by a Tourtellotte family.

#### **Mechanicsville – Section 7:**

Page 225: Top photo – Archie Mytega should be Archie Myrteza. Jim Sali reports that the name Archie was used because his real “Greek or Albanian” name was unpronounceable.

Page 226: According to Jim Sali, and confirmed by Larry Houle, Sr., the second person from top right is not Leo Laflamme but his brother Philip Laflamme.

#### **Fabyan – Section 8:**

Page 236: The middle photo is not the Fabyan School picture but a photo of the old Thompson Hill school on Chase Road.

#### **Quinebaug – Section 9:**

Page 234: Missing name is Walter Lenky

Page 238: Unidentified boy with the sailor suit is Vangel Thomas. The girl identified as Vernetta Ohs is incorrectly identified and at present, we do not know the name of the girl. The boy identified as Peter Strand is Carl Strand, Jr. The photo is circa 1944/1945.

Page 240: Ada G. Temple adds that the name of the fourth daughter of Albert & Josephine Jones Randell was Amy Vinton.

Page 241: Top photo – Thomas Wieloch writes that his father Frank Wieloch is driving the wagon which was used to deliver milk in the Dudley, MA area.

Page 251: Bottom photo – Thomas Wieloch writes that the boy walking across the photo is Bernie Tokarz.