

OUR COVER

Our cover depicts the end of a saw-log with the marks of some of the Medway lumbermen of an earlier era.

Each man or company registered a log mark in the same way that western cattlemen registered a brand.

The logs were marked, sluiced into the rivers and streams, and when they reached the booms in the lower river, they were cut out to each owner in the same manner that western steers were cut out of a mixed herd.

Starting at twelve o'clock around the rim clockwise, the marks belonged to —

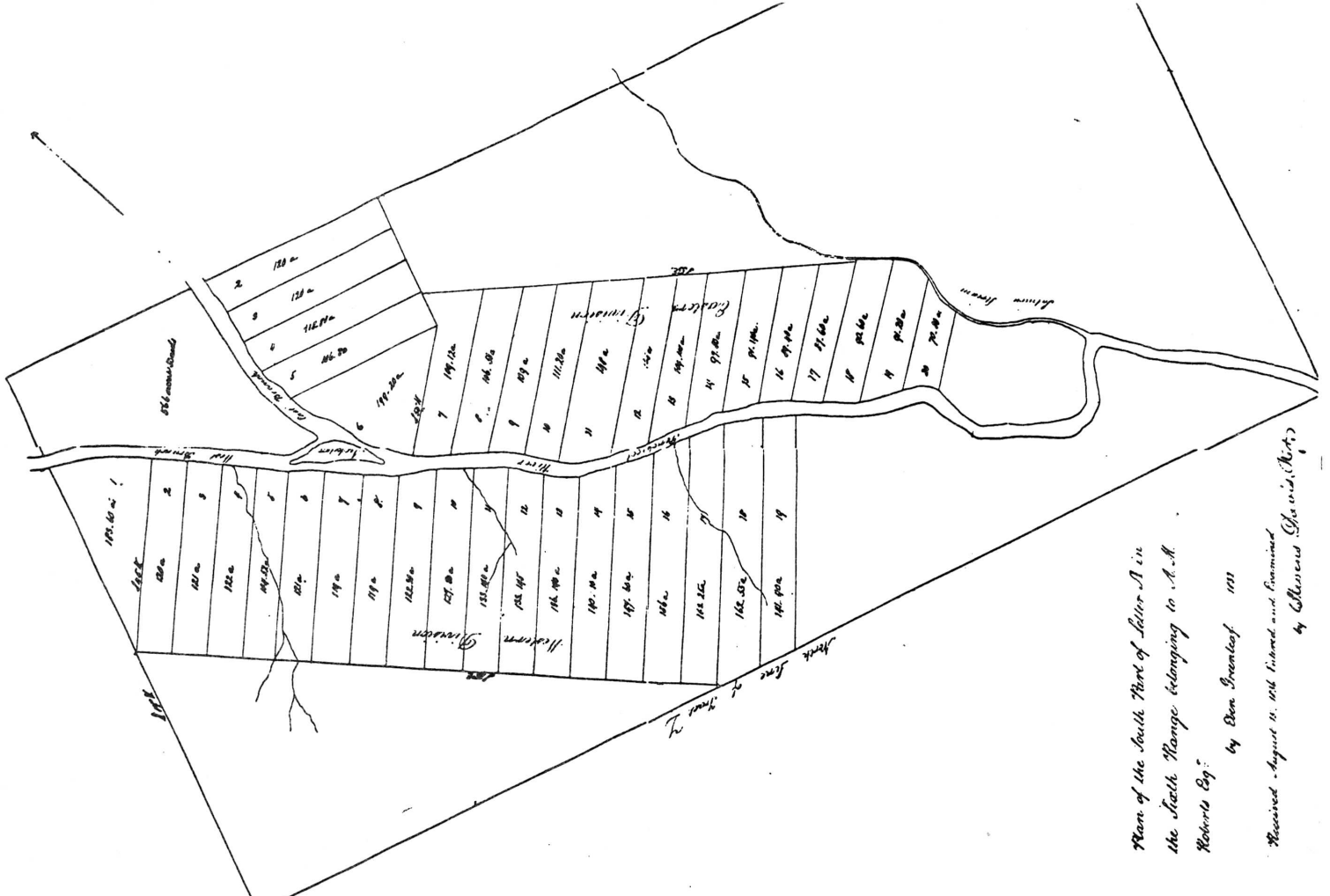
Benjamin A. Fiske
 Thomas Fowler Jr.
 Watson & George A. Daisey
 Justus Hathaway
 Kimball & Nutter
 William H. York

Henry Priest & Son
 William B. Hayford
 Timothy Reed & Allen Hathaway
 Charles W. Powers
 Fred A. Reed
 Charles & Alfred DeGrass

In the Center —

Top — Freeman Dickey
 Bottom — George W. Fiske
 Left — William Waite & Sons
 Right — Charles E. Hathaway

This book is dedicated to the women and men who settled this town. Enduring sorrow and hardships, that we can scarcely imagine. If you doubt our word, visit their burying-grounds. It is written on their headstones.



Plan of the South Part of Satter A in
 the South Range belonging to A. A.
 Roberts Esq.
 by Ben Swatloof 1831
 Revised August 11. 1861 and examined
 by Oliver Shain's (Notary)

FOREWORD

Early records are vague and memories are at times hazy but I believe this to be a reasonably accurate history of the Town of Medway from 1818 to 1875, the year of our Centennial.

I wish to thank all those people who helped us with information and invaluable pictures. Helen Powers and Ross York, who is the oldest native son still with us, deserve a special thanks.

I also wish to thank the Editor and Publisher of "Down East" magazine and Mrs. Marion Reed Kimball for allowing us to use material from the article "Steamboating on the Upper Penobscot" written by Mrs. Kimball and published in "Down East" magazine.

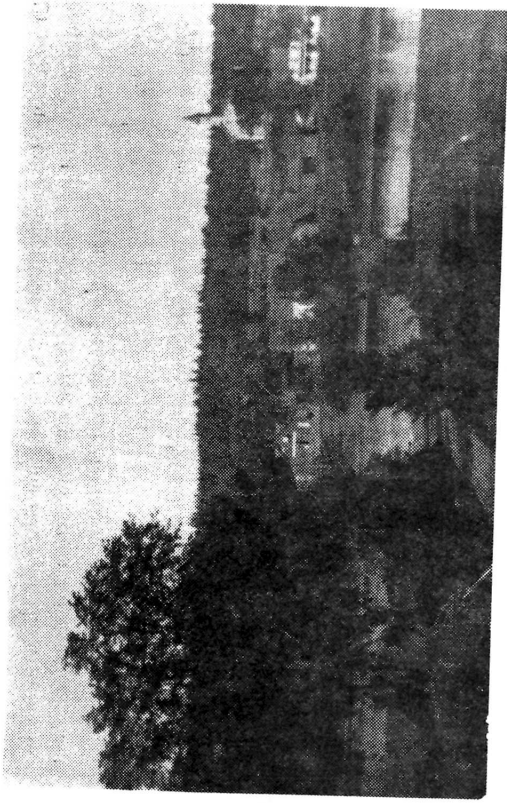
I appreciate the permission given us to use the items concerning Henry David Thoreau, from the book "The Maine Woods", written by Thoreau and published by Thomas Y. Crowell Co. Copyright 1961.

Medway has been settled in three areas; The East Side, including the Salmon Stream area and the Grindstone Road; The West Side, including Powersville, Pattagampus and the Turnpike; The area between the East and West Branches of the Penobscot, where the Power's development and the Horseshoe road are located.

I regret any errors or omissions but in a work of this kind and in the time available, they are bound to occur.

Without the help of my wife, Pauline, and my daughters, Jeri and Linda, this would not have been written.

HCB



Rays from the late afternoon sun reached down across the big island opposite Neekeetow Point and glistened on the setting pole of the young Indian who was driving his birch-bark canoe up along the north shore of the Penobscot. High overhead a half-dozen bald eagles circled on tireless wings. As he cut across to the island where he planned to spend the night, big atlantic salmon, that had been resting along a sand-bar at the mouth of the East Branch, slid off into deeper water. When he beached his frail craft, a small flock of wood ducks, that had been feeding on the acorns under the oaks that lined the shore, bounced into the air and fled downriver.

After preparing and eating his evening meal, he dug into his pack for a map he had borrowed, a map drawn by a white surveyor, Joseph Treat. It was his first trip North, and the map showed the route he would take tomorrow; up the West Branch and across Nolisemack Lake to the mouth of the Millinocket River. Then he would pole up the river two miles to where a portage began which would take him across to the West Branch above Grand Falls, thus avoiding a bad stretch of falls and white water. Almost thirty years later, Thoreau would use this same portage and would remark that it was probably an old Indian trail; and he would be so right.

A notation on the map states that all of the upper townships were reserved for his tribe, the Penobscot Indians. He put away the map, and because he was young and eager, climbed the hog-back at the lower end of the island. At the top, among the virgin pine that covered it, he looked around him. To the South, the main river flowed on relentlessly toward the sea, providing the first and easiest highway to this region. In 1818, roads were few and far between, but the canoes and bateaux of the forerunners and river drivers were able to travel these waterways with comparative ease. Towards the North, and to his right, the East Branch disappeared in the green of the forest; and to his left the sparkling waters of the West

