

Coy Family in Colebrook, The

Volume 1, Colebrook Town Records, p. 271

Jabez Bacon of Woodbridge Conn., for £220/10, sold to John Porter of Colebrook two pieces of land. The first is lot #17, first tier, consisting of 117 acres. Bounded west on Norfolk, south on Amasa Cowle's land, east on a highway, north on the grantor's own land. The second is part of lot #19, first tier, consisting of 40½ acres. This lot is bounded east on a highway, [This reference, and all subsequent references to "a highway", or "the original 10-rod highway" to the east, refers to the tier line between the first and second tiers, in other words, ¾ of a mile east of the Norfolk town line.] west, north and south on grantor's own land.

April 10, 1789

[This is the land at the top of the hill where the house was eventually built. The house sits on lot #19].

Volume 2, Colebrook Town Records, p. 43

Jerusha and James Porter of Colebrook, for £160/, mortgaged to Capt. Michael Mills of Norfolk, 32 acres of land in the first tier. Bounded north on great country road, [today Conn. Route 182, Stillman Hill Road] west on a new road lately laid out by the selectmen of the Town of Colebrook from said country road to the Winchester line, about the middle of said tier [They are talking about the present Rock Hall Rd. It didn't go as far as the Winchester town line, however.], south on Ira Cowles' land and is to extend eastward in an equal width so far as to contain 32 acres.

Aug. 3, 1793

Volume 2, Colebrook Town Records, p. 161

John Porter of Hartford, for £80/0, sold to Seth and Sarah Porter the whole of the land in Colebrook, which descended to me by the estate of my father, John Porter, late of Colebrook. Bounded on the east by land set out as part of my mother Jerusha Porter's third of said estate. [I believe this land is between Rock Hall Road and the Norfolk line.]

Sept. 16, 1795

Volume 3, Colebrook Town Records, p. 355

Eli Porter of Colebrook, for \$333.34, sold two lots to James Porter of Colebrook, one being the corner of land set out to my mother, Jerusha Porter. [No mention of a dwelling.]

July 12, 1800

Volume 5, Colebrook Town Records, p. 375

Hepzibah Loomis held the mortgage for Benjamin and Rhoda Agard for 30 acres on the south side of the farm **Agard now lives on**. This mortgage was taken out on August 31, 1805, and was paid off on December 1, 1815.

My guess is that this 1805 date seems likely to have been on or near the date the dwelling house was built. Furthermore, I suspect that William Swift was the builder, as the attic window is identical to that of the Colebrook Inn, built by him in 1816. [R.L.G.]

Volume 5, Colebrook Town Records, p. 224

Benjamin and Metilda Agard of Colebrook, for \$2,750.00, received of Elkanah Coy of Norfolk, land and premises that lie in 4 pieces. One piece bounded north on the turnpike road, east on a 40-rod highway and south on land we have this day conveyed to Mary Baldwin and Jerusha Coy to Jerusha Porter's land, then north and west on line of Jerusha Porter's land to the highway, then on the line of the highway to the turnpike road **with a house thereon standing**. Two acres of which described land and a room in the house this day deeded to Mary Baldwin and Jerusha Coy is not to be conveyed by this deed, one other piece in the same land that Hezekiah Loomis has this day given to the said Mary.

2nd piece a quitclaim deed of a description of the same may be seen by said deed. One other piece bounded south on the turnpike road, west on Jerusha Porter and land northerly in part on land of Amasa Cowles and James Pettibone and east on the original 10-rod highway.

Another piece bounded south on the turnpike road, west on Jerusha Porter's land, north on land described aforesaid, east on Jerusha Porter's land with a barn thereon standing. All of said pieces contain 121 acres more or less, and is all the land that I own in Colebrook in the farm where I now live, except what I have deeded to Mary Baldwin and Jerusha Coy.

January 1st, 1816

Volume 5, Colebrook Town Records, p. ?

Benjamin Agard, for \$950.00, sold to Mary Baldwin and Jerusha Coy, wife of Elkanah Coy, land and premises lying in two pieces. One piece bounded south on Luman Barbor's land, east on the original 10-rod hwy., west on Jerusha Porter's land and to extend northerly so far as to contain 40 acres, more or less.

The other piece bounded on the turnpike road, east on our own land in the line of a fence dividing it from a pasture, south on Jerusha Porter's land and to extend westerly so far as to contain 2 acres and also we convey as aforesaid, one room in the house where we now live.

January 1st, 1816

Volume 5, Colebrook Town Records, p. 342

Elkanah Coy of Colebrook, for \$500.00, sold to Henry Porter of Colebrook, land and premises bounded as follows: Beginning at the grantee's land he bought from Jerusha Porter Jr. at the southeast corner of said land at the highway, thence northwardly in the line of the grantee's land to the northeast corner, then eastwardly in line of land distributed to William Porter from his father's estate to the 10-rod highway, then southwardly in line of said 10-rod highway to the now traveled road or highway, thence in the line of said highway to the first bound. (35 acres more or less).

May 15, 1817

Volume 7, Colebrook Land Records, p. 70

Elkanah Coy bought from Hezekiah Wakefield for \$378.00, a certain piece of land lying in the first tier of lots bounded northerly on part of Hezekiah Wakefield's and partly on Pattershell Wakefield, east on original 10-rod highway, south on Alpha Pinney

Roswell Griswold & Sally Taylor's land, west on Greenwoods Turnpike road. Contains 27 acres more or less.

January 2, 1822

[This is about where the golf-driving range is at the intersection of Rt. 44 and Rock Hall Rd.]

Volume 8, Colebrook Land Records, p. 23

Elkanah Coy bought from Joseph Taintor for \$100.00, part of the farm lately owned by Taintor's father located on the east side of the turnpike road, west on the turnpike road, north on land owned by the heirs of Edmund Howell, east on the original 10-rod highway and to extend so far south from the line of the heirs of Edmund Howell and parallel thereto as to contain 10 acres.

January 5, 1827

Volume 8, Colebrook Land Records, p. 110

Elkanah Coy bought from Erastus Seymour, for \$410.00, all the rights that we own in the dowry of Jerusha Porter, late of Colebrook. Situated on the north side of the highway, with all the rights to the buildings standing on said land.

May 5, 1828

Volume 8, Colebrook Town Records, p. 248

Elkanah Coy bought two small pieces of land from George & Harriet Norton of Elyna, Lorraine County, Ohio for \$115.00. (5 acres total.)

March 19, 1831

Volume 8, Colebrook Town Records, p. 247

Elkanah Coy bought 2 small pieces of land from Truman Lewis for \$110.00. (8 acres total.)

April 2, 1831

Volume 8, Colebrook Town Records, p. 257

Elkanah Coy bought from John Porter of Hartford, for \$110.00, two small pieces of land. (7 acres total.)

April 30, 1831

Volume 8, Colebrook Town records, p. 377

Elkanah Coy bought from Hiram G. Smith, for \$17.80, 1/8 part of the dwelling house lately occupied by the widow Jerusha Porter and is the same right in the house lately deeded to me by [?] Hinsdale.

July 21, 1831

Volume 8, Colebrook Town Records, p. 379

Elkanah Coy sold 27 acres for \$400.00 to Hezekiah Wakefield. Bounded west on the heirs of Jesse Taylor, north on grantor's own land, east on the original 10-rod highway, south on Jesse Taylor's and Asaph Pinney's.

Sept. 7, 1831

Volume 8, Colebrook Town Records, p. 384

Elkanah Coy bought from Asaph Gillett of Torrington, for 75/100 dollars, a piece of land containing 30 acres on the north side of the farm which said Coy purchased of

Benjamin Agard on the first day of January 1816, being the same land which was deeded to Hephsebah Loomis by the said Elkanah Coy by deed of mortgage on January 2, 1816 and for a more particular description thereof reference may be had.

January 27, 1832

Volume 8, Colebrook Town Records, p. 509

Elkanah Coy, for \$150.00, sold to C. B. & R. Phelps, a tract of land bounded north on land of C. B. & R. Phelps, east on John Phelps, south on Erastus Seymour, and running west so far as to include the former highway across the land formerly owned by Asa Bowsls. Contains 12 acres more or less.

Feb. 11, 1832

Volume 10, Colebrook Town Records, p. 575

Jerusha Coy sold to her son Harvey L. Coy, a portion of the house she and her late husband lived in.

April 18, 1846

Volume 16, Colebrook Town Records, p. 283

We, Clarissa Coy and Merriman C. Butler of Colebrook, widow and heirs at law of Remus B. Coy, late of Colebrook, deceased, for \$700.00 sold to Harvey S. Coy of Colebrook two pieces of land, bounded north on a highway leading from Colebrook to Norfolk, east on land of grantors, south and west on land of the grantor, Harvey S. Coy, and containing 4 acres more or less, and is located on the south side of said highway, and east of said Harvey S. Coy's dwelling house. The east boundary of said lot is marked by a stake and stones.

The second piece is located partly in Colebrook and partly in Norfolk. It is bounded north on a highway leading from Colebrook to Norfolk, east on the highway leading from Harvey S. Coy's, past the dwelling house of John O'Connell, south on land of John O'Connell and Thomas Cowles and west on land of Thomas Cowles and contains 75 acres, more or less.

March 29, 1876

Volume 19, Colebrook Town Records, p. 151

The estate of the late Harvey L. Coy, deceased, was settled in Probate Court. Distributed to Janett P. Coy of Colebrook, one undivided 3rd part of a farm of land with buildings thereon lying both in Colebrook and Norfolk. It is bounded on the east by land of Hiram A. Smith, heir of Martin L. Phelps, deceased. [More names and descriptions follow.]

October 14, 1899

Volume 20, Colebrook Town Records, p. 35

Janett P. Coy and Timothy P. Coy of Colebrook, for love and affection, deeded the farm to Wilbur H. Coy of Colebrook. (85 acres, more or less.)

January 12, 1901

Volume 21, Colebrook Land Records, p. 445

Janett P. Coy died and left a 100-acre farm to Timothy P. Coy of Colebrook.

Sept. 1, 1909

Timothy Coy died in 1911, as Samuel A. Cooper was deeded 4 acres of land for serving as conservator.

Volume 23, Colebrook Land Records, p. 202

Alfred W. Atkins and wife, of Brooklyn, N.Y., mortgaged the farm to Lester N. Smith and Hiram D. Northrup for \$2,300.00. On the same date, Atkins also mortgaged the farm to Guy Loomis for \$2,000.00.
November 19, 1921

Volume 22, Colebrook Land Records, p. 243

Atkins sold the farm to Lillian Haaker Williams.

October 15, 1924

Volume 22, Colebrook Land Records, p. 600

Anna Haaker inherited the farm from her daughter Lillian upon her death.
September 18, 1935

Volume 25, Colebrook Land Records, p. 520

Anna Haaker of Colebrook sold the farm to Helen A. Grosvenor of West Hartford.
September 18, 1936

Volume 34, Colebrook Land Records, p. 58

Nancy G. English received two pieces of land from Helen A. Grosvenor.
No date

Volume 34, Colebrook Land Records, p. 60

Edwina W. Plummer of Stamford, Conn. bought the farm (mortgaged to the Winsted Savings Bank for \$10,500.00) from Nancy G. English.
June 13, 1955

Volume 36, Colebrook Land Records, p. 113

Robert L. and Mary M. Cormier bought two pieces of land with all buildings, totaling 90 acres from Edwina W. Plummer.

February 3, 1958

Volume 37, Colebrook Land Records, p. 596

Robert and Mary Cormier sold the farm to John M. and Dorothy B. Henry of West Hartford. At this time, the Cormiers sold only 9.85 acres surrounding the buildings, retaining the rest as woodland.
June 7, 1967

Volume 45, Colebrook Land Records, p. 340

The Henry's (for \$160,000) sold the farm, which they had surveyed at 8.029 acres, to Richard W. and Sally M. Ackerly.
September 27, 1983

Volume 50, Colebrook Land Records, p. 2

The Ackerleys of Oakland, Calif. sold the property to Rachel E. Adler of NYC, (who took a \$150,000 mortgage).
September 8, 1988

Adler sold to Koster, who sold to Rice. (2003)

There have been 12 different owners since the last Coy owned the property. There seems to have been 7 different Coys who were preceded by Benjamin Agard, who had the house built.

Volume 24, Colebrook Town Records, p. 226

Wilbur H. Coy of Newtown, Conn., still owned the property west of Rock Hall Road and abutting the Norfolk town line, as he signed a mortgage release on this date:
October 8, 1927

Historic and Architectural Resources Survey, Town of Colebrook, June 1997

This book was prepared by David F. Ransom for the Connecticut Historical Commission. It contains a photograph and description of every house deemed to be of either architectural or historic significance. In many instances information such as the date a building was erected derived from the Colebrook assessor's office, which, unfortunately, sometimes relies upon information supplied to them by a real estate agent who believes that the older a building date, the better the success rate will be for selling the property. There are other cases where carelessness on the part of the person making an entry, and the subsequent failure to either proofread or double check those entries comes into play. A classic example is the house located at 17 Old Forge Road. This road was not constructed until 1772 as part of Richard Smith's new road to Hartford, yet the date supplied to Ransom by the Colebrook assessor's office lists the construction date as 1742. In this case, it should read 1842. Having alerted the reader to the possibilities of misinformation, while at the same time realizing that in general, this is valuable resource material, we will proceed to reprint the information concerning the dwelling located at 3 Rock Hall Road in Colebrook.

The property name (as of 1997) is "Blueberry Hill Farm", with the historic name of "H. L. Coy House". The style is Federal, and the construction date is 1820. The approximate dimensions are 30' x 38' with an ell measuring 16' x 28'. The text reads as follows:

"The H. L. Coy house is a two-story frame five-bay, central entrance house with tall, large central chimney. While the building is essentially plain, limited decorative architectural features suggest the Federal style, in accord with the construction date of 1820. These features are a semi-elliptical window in the transom over the front door and pilasters on either side of the entrance. The window is glazed with three vertical muntins (under a flat cap), instead of in the more usual radial pattern, and the pilasters appear shallow for the Federal style. Windows are 12-over-12. The one-story ell with open porch and patio was added in 1988."

"The amount of decorative architectural treatment at 3 Rock Hall Road is below the norm for the Federal style; nevertheless, the general proportions of the building and

the little trim that is there are consistent with the style, the date is right, and there are no contradictory indications. Consequently, the style assigned to the house is Federal.”

“The 1859 map and 1874 atlas show a building on this corner with the name H. L. Coy, who died in 1899 at age 81. Information that the historical use of the house was an inn was provided by a resident.”

The Colebrook Historical Society’s estimate of the construction date of 1805 has been spelled out above. Additionally, the attic windows in both the Coy house and the Colebrook Inn, home to the Colebrook Historical Society, appear to be identical, and we know for sure that Colebrook resident and master builder William Swift built the inn in 1816. Builders had their own individual patterns, and it is highly unlikely that the similarities of these windows would allow for two different builders.

As a point of interest, here is what David Ransom had to say about the attic window in the Colebrook Inn:

“The small half-round gable-end attic windows are radially glazed, suggesting Federal influence, but the small size and half-round shape appear to make them alterations. Early 19th century Federal attic windows tended to be larger in size and semi-elliptical in shape.”

Close inspection of the attic windows in the inn show clearly that they are in fact original, and not alterations, as Ransom suggested.

One more item that our research has revealed; there is nothing in the Colebrook town records that indicates the Coy house was ever used as an inn. The earliest detailed tax records that Colebrook has are for 1809, and this and subsequent years on up through the present, never mention the house being anything other than a dwelling.

Compiled in 2003 by Robert Grigg, Municipal Historian, Town of Colebrook.