

Seth Hurd, Colebrook Pioneer

Seth Hurd, of Killingworth, Connecticut, was married to Thankful Ray, of Haddam, Connecticut, by Eleazar May on January 2nd, 1782. The newly married couple moved to Colebrook, where their son Smithy, was born on January 5th, 1783. The next three years saw the birth of two daughters: Esther, born January 28th, 1785, and Edee, born December 17th, 1786.

The wild land that he purchased was the northwest corner of lot 68 located in the second division, fifth tier. This land had been laid out to Peletiah Mills, one of the original proprietors from Windsor. Seth bought the land from Samuel W. Allyn, Susanna DeForest, Stephen Skinner and the selectmen of the town of Colebrook. As a point of interest, Susanna was the daughter of Peletiah Mills, and when the Hurds finally leave Colebrook, Seth gives his last remaining piece of land located in Colebrook River to his sons-in-law Eliphalet and Daniel Mills.

On April 17 1786, Seth buys from Elijah Rockwell, Justice of the Peace, for £4/9/5 (Four pounds, nine shillings, 5 pence, or about \$20.00 and change.), 17 acres of land which had belonged to Timothy McIntosh, an absconding debtor and former resident of Colebrook. Bounded north on the school lot, east on John Summer's land, south on land still belonging to McIntosh, west on a highway. (He paid £0/6/6, or about \$1.60 per acre.) **NOTE:** The British monetary system, especially during the Colonial period, fluxuated somewhat. To compound matters, some Colonies (Connecticut was one of them) also used the same system, but the value was considerably less than that of the British pound. Clerks and other ledger keepers did not tell you what system they were using, as his contemporaries knew, but after 200 years, it is almost impossible to be sure of accuracy when it comes to converting monies. For simplicities' sake, we will use the following scale for the sums in this paper: £4/2/6 equals \$20.00, £2/1/3 equals \$10.00, £1/0/7½ equals \$5.00, £0/4/1½ equals \$1.00, £0/2/½ equals .50¢, £0/1/½ equals .25¢, 5 pence equals .10¢ and two and one half pence equals .05¢.

Colebrook Land Records, Vol. 1, p. 215

On May 20, 1786, Seth purchases 91 acres from Samuel Wolcott Allyn and Joanna Allyn of Windsor, for £54/12/0, (or about \$275.00) with appurtenances.

CLR, Vol. 1, p. 189

On October 29, 1787, Seth sold to Appleton Stillman, of Sandisfield, Mass., for £44/10/0 legal money, 44½ acres and 8 rods. (A rod is a measurement of 16.5 feet) Situated in the 2nd division, 5th tier. This originally laid out to Peletiah Mills, Esq. Bounded east and west on highways, south on Roger Stillman's land, north on part of the same lot now the grantor's own land. [*This is about the top of the first hill near #16 Chapin Road.*] With appurtenances. (With appurtenances means that there has been some improvement to the property, such as clearing trees and possibly the erection of fences, but there will not be any buildings on the land.)

CLR, Vol. 1, p. 215

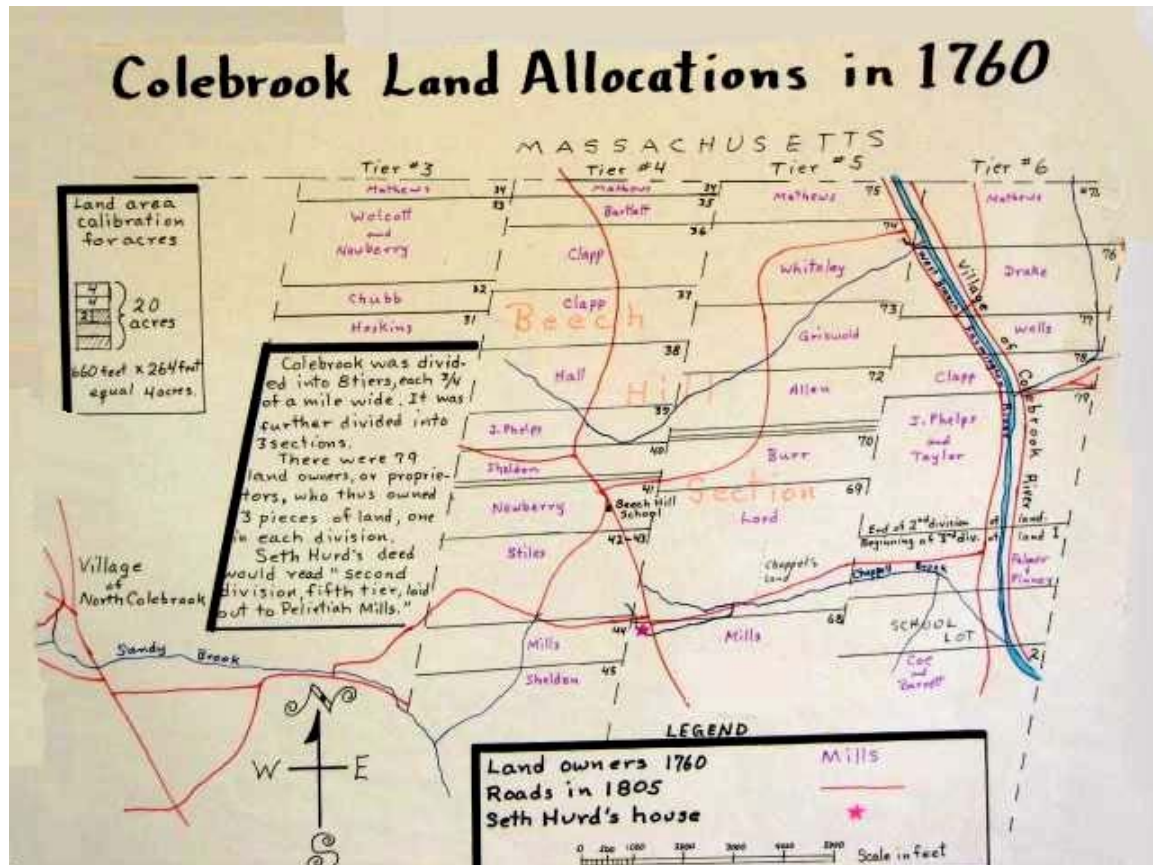
On September 16, 1788, Seth sold the land that he had purchased on April 17, 1786 to Jonathan Sweet of Colebrook for £9/10/0.

CLR, Vol. 1, p. 251

On June 29, 1791, Seth purchases 28 acres from Susanna DeForest. Bounded north on land of Ichabod Lord, south on Seth's own land, east and west by highways.

CLR, Vol. 1, p. 489

On January 20, 1796, Seth buys from Stephen Skinner about 50 rods of land lying in the 2nd division, 5th tier, part of lot 69, for £17/0/0



CLR, Vol. 2, p. 207

On April 27, 1802, Seth buys 50 acres of land from Daniel DeWolf of Colebrook for \$750.00. It came with a house and barn standing in the 5th tier. Bounded east on part of the same original lot now owned by Samuel Chappel, north on Caleb Bush's land, south on Seth Hurd's own land and to extend westward from Chappel's west line parallel with that line to contain 50 acres.

CLR, Vol. 3, p. 183

On December 5, 1805, Seth sold to his son, Smith (then 22 years old), for \$150.00, part of lot #69, 5th tier, laid out to Ichabod Lord. Bounded east on part of the original lot now owned by Samuel Chappel, south on the road leading from my now dwelling house to the Farmington River, north on Caleb Bush's land and to extend westerly from Chappel's west line parallel with that line so far as to contain 10 acres of land.

CLR, Vol. 4, p. 20

On May 20, 1806, Smith Hurd sells this same piece of land back to his father for the same \$150.00.

CLR, Vol. 4, p. 50

On May 20th, 1806, Seth, for £273/0/0, sold to Appleton Stillman, land in the 5th tier with a house and barn. This was part of lot 69 originally laid out to Ichabod Lord. Bounded east on part of the same original lot now owned by Samuel Chappel, north on Caleb Bush's land, south on the road leading from my dwelling house to the Farmington River, [*today Beech Hill Road*] west on part of the same original lot now owned by Daniel DeWolf. Contains 48 acres, more or less.

CLR, Vol. 4, p. 43

On December 10, 1806, Reuben Rockwell, Justice of the Peace, sold, for \$10.00 to Smith Hurd a piece of land, part of an original 10 rod highway between the 5th and 6th tiers, it being all of said highway that lies against the east end of that part of lot 67 in the 5th tier, which is now owned by Smith Hurd. Contains 1½ acres. The lines to run across the highway from the northeast and southeast corners of Seth Hurd's lot, parallel with the side lines of Colebrook.

CLR, Vol. 4, p. 123

On May 21, 1807, Seth sold to his son Smith, for \$235.00, a piece of land in the 5th tier, beginning at a heap of stones on the south line of the highway leading from my house to the Farmington River, then south 17° 30' west for 5 chains and 60 links [*396.6 feet*] to a stake on the north line of my house lot. Thence in said line 9° 15' north 8 chains, 50 links [*561 feet*] to a stake, thence to the first mentioned bound. Contains 2 acres and 20 rods. Also one other piece of land at the east end of my house lot being in width north and south 13 chains 30 links [*877.8 feet*] and length east and west 17 chains 13 links [*1,130.58 feet*] (21 acres)

CLR, Vol. 4, p. 122

On November 24, 1807, Seth Hurd, for \$1,000.00, sold to Solomon Cowles and Zenas Cowles, both of Farmington, a piece of land in the 5th tier, containing 55 acres, more or less, with a house, barn and other buildings bounded east on land of Smith Hurd, west on land of Roger and William Stillman, north on a highway, south on Roger Stillman. It has a highway 3 rods wide [*49.5 feet*] running through it near the westerly end. This together with the winter grain now growing on any part of the land. The land was by me purchased of Samuel W. Allyn, Susanna DeForest, Stephen Skinner and the selectmen of Colebrook, being all the land to which I have any title in Colebrook.

CLR, Vol. 4, p.152

On November 24, 1807, Smith Hurd sold to Solomon and Zenas Cowles, one piece of land containing 24 acres more or less, with a house and other buildings. Bounded east on William Stillman, west on land now or lately owned by my father, Seth Hurd, north on a highway, south on Roger Stillman's land. This is the land I purchased of my father, Seth Hurd and Reuben Rockwell, and all that I own in said Town of Colebrook.

CLR, Vol. 4, p. 154

On April 5, 1808, Seth Hurd of Colebrook [*I think this wording is used because he was still a land owner, although not necessarily a resident.*] for the love and good will I bear to my sons-in-law Eliphalet Mills and Daniel Mills, both of Colebrook, do give them all my right and title to a certain piece of land in the 6th tier of lots. Bounded west on a highway, north on a lot called a school lot, and south on a lot called the Bumpass lot, east on John Summers' land and in lot #2, called the McIntosh lot.

CLR, Vol. 4, p. 225

The various towns issued cattle marks to farmers. These could be brands or patterns cut into ears.

Town Meetings, Vol. 1, p. 174

Seth Hurd's mark for cattle is a half penny, the underside of the left ear.

Smith Hurd's mark is a slit the underside of the left ear.

