

Transcript of an Oral Interview with Mrs. Kerry Glass,
Concerning the Past Land Uses of the Sandy Pond Area.

Conducted by Joe Springer, July 31, 1981
Lincoln, Massachusetts.

We began our talk by clarifying the Sandy Pond area of research interest. This conservation land near Sandy Pond includes areas south of Rt. 2, west of Lexington Road, and land east and north of Sandy Pond Road.

KG: The only real interesting part of land abutting Sandy Pond is the area south of the pond. This area was farmed on the south part. If you walk around the west side it is rocky and wooded, and was basically woodlot. The other interesting area is the chestnut field.

You must remember that roads indicated early settlement patterns. If you don't have a road cracked probably nobody wants to go there. Today we do the reverse. What we do is build the road then the settlement patterns come. In those days they built the roads to the guy who wanted it. Prior to that the guy had his farm out here somewhere and he went any old way into town. The town at that time, in the 17th C, more or less built all of these little roads going out into the country. They didn't want to be bothered with laying them out, because it was an expense to the town. So that if you lived out here and you wanted to go to the center of Concord, or lived out here and you wanted to go to the center of Lincoln, until you had enough people settled in an area, or important

KG: people, usually you didn't have roads. The main network of roads through Lincoln, prior to 1680, tells you which areas were important. They included Rt. 2A, what we call Battle Road, on the north and on the south part of Rt. 117, Codman Road, 126 into Concord and then south from St. Anne's church and 126 to Wayland. Now those were the roads that linked towns together. This is all a part of the history of actually Lincoln.

Lincoln did not build from the center out, like most towns. In other words most towns started on a road and then expanded out. Lincoln did the reverse. They built from north and south in. This is why the center of town looks like a farm today. In the Sandy Pond area, the first road appears somewhere around 1691. A road layout indicates there is a way to Mr. Flint's farm. We believe this is some form of Sandy Pond Road. It is not what we see today, but it is close. In 1726 they specifically lay out Sandy Pond Road. It comes over this hill to the brook. It does not come around the edge of the pond as you see it today. That part, which you see on the edge here was filled in, and built between 1750 and 1754, by a family by the name of Dakin who owned this.

Dakin owned all ^{of} what is Sumner Smith's now, down to what we know as MacKintosh Lane up along the brook. This part here was all one farm. At one time that farm was over 160 acres. The Simon and Samuel Dakin farm that is. My house is on part of what was once that farm.. (She lives near the corner of Sandy Pond Road and Baker Bridge Road.) That was purchased from the years of 1700 until 1750. In other words, he enlarged his farm.

KG: Now, let's work up the west side of the pond. There were big woodlots over here, what you would call just west of the road. They were owned by: Potter owned one big wood lot, which must have amounted to 30-40 acres; then Stratton owned some land up in here and then east of the road there were what they called slices of woodlot that ran from the road to the pond. To my knowledge there has never been any farming over in this part, what I call the north west and north side of the pond. It must have been woodlot.

Now in here you have Brooks' farms. A couple of Brooks farms, They lived here and owned land in various places. One farm owned land all the way down to the northern side of the pond from Rt. 2 above. That farm was 50 acres, and had a house on it. The farming land was not on the pond. So part of these farms included land in the woodlot.

There are many different names associated with this woodlot, and they are constantly changing hands. John Brooks had a farm in the northern portion above the pond. He sold it in the 1800's to Sumner Smith's great grandfather. This is how Sumner Smith's family acquired so much land around the pond. They first bought the Dakin place in 1788, and were land expanders. They started to either marry into the families or just plain buy it. Those are the only three farms that abutted the farm, the Dakin farm and the two Brooks farms.

Below the Brooks' farms we come to what we call the chestnut fields. This is on the east shore of the northern part. That again was originally given by the town of Concord in small pieces. It must have been quite valuable, these chestnut trees, because

KG: the price of when someone sold them was more expensive than anything over here. (She's referring here to the west side of the pond.) This was cheap land. The chestnut fields here seemed to have quite a bit of value. We assume it is because of the chestnuts, not the trees. They did not cut the trees down. What killed the trees was the blight. They may have cut down occasional ones for the wood, but I do not think so.

Woodlots that were valuable in the 19thC were where you had pine trees, which were used for ships and masts. This area over here, Pine Hill, just to orient you, over here is 126, right across from Walden, that was called Pine Hill. I have a feeling that most places that were called Pine Hill in the 17th and 18thC meant that they had these beautiful, big, tall pines, which would make it valuable. Otherwise it was just woodlot.

After the chestnut fields, there is an area in here which was owned by the Brooks family. Fifty-eight acres were given to them in the 17thC, somewhere in the 1650's.

JES: Who gave them this land?

KG: The town of Concord. In other words, it was an original grant to the Brooks family of 58 acres, right in here, which would have come out in a narrow slice. We can look up the description of what this refers to. It wasn't a farm, it was a big lot of land, sometimes in the deeds we could tell the importance of the land.

South of the Brooks, this land was owned by the Flints. That was part of his 300 acres, this part of the pond, which is now DeCordova and the Pertzoff's place. In 1726 Edward Flint

KG: sold this land, or most of it along the pond to two men from Redding, the Wessons. There were three brotheres, Stephen, Timothy and Jeremiah. Edward Flint sold two farms. Stephen's was 60 acres and that is an interesting deed, because it talks about drawing water. Then the other Wesson had his land from here to the pond. Edward Flint kept a small part near the pond for himself.

You had four farms that abutted the pond, Flints, Wesson, and the two Brooks farms. Most of this farmland didn't abutt the pond. The only meadow, which abutted the pond was here, which is on Sumner's land now. That would be the only one that I can think of that would have been plowed.

JES: What do you think might have been grown there?

KG: They might have put corn there, grain, rye, anything that they could have, they would have. This is orchard land here, right up behind us. Orchards were on hills. So up by the Pertzoffs that was an orchard too. They liked hills for orchards. At least Sumner's family liked orchards here.

JES: I understand from Mr. Flint that the Wheelers owned apple and peach orchards up near Rt. 2.

KG: Yes, but of course he's talking about the 19th C. This orchard here isn't 19th C. A lot of the use of land depended upon what the person did who owned it. Now, Sumner Smith's great-great-grandfather was a blacksmith. He made his money as a blacksmith. He probably used the land to raise some crops and had a few animals, but he was not a farmer. Dakin was a joiner.

JES: I don't know what a joiner is.

KG: A joiner is a very fine carpenter. He joined wood together.

KG: He was a joiner and also what you called an early 17th C miner. He mined the lime kiln over where the Culvers live. So his living was as a tradesman. He also had a son who was a cooper, who built barrels. So they were not farmers.

The Brooks owned a huge portion of land all the way down to the pond. That was granted to them originally by the town of Concord, just like the Flints. The Wheelers got this hillside here, and the Wheelers had land all over the place.

JES: Do you assume that the Brooks were granted land for their services to the town?

KG: No, usually grants of land were given to the first settlers, the first people who came to occupy the town. They were given either by money, importance, and that was the first division. Concord divided land in two divisions. The first division went out to families and later on, the second division which was more land to important families.

The Flints, Thomas Flint, who came to Concord was called a proprietor and had lots of money. He invested in the town and for his investment they gave him lots of land. The Brooks also had some kind of money. The Dakins, now they are a funny story. He bought his farm from the Bulkeley grant. Bulkeley was the minister in Concord. The town gave him lots of land. There could not have been a man more important than the minister. His land was 800 acres. The Bulkeley grant went on the west side of the brook, (Sandy Pond Brook), started at the south west corner of the pond, ^{and} went down to 117; that was the Bulkeley farm. The Bulkeley farm had 750 acres. Then the Flints had land over on the east side of the pond. The Billings had a farm over near Fairhaven Bay.

KG: Back to the point of the Dakin farm, there is an interesting story to Mr. Dakin. He was the son of the Concord Dakin family. Somewhere in the late 1600's he took his wife and his children and he went to South Carolina. His father was annoyed at him and in the will gave him nothing. He did not give him any land in what we call the nice part of Concord. Dakin came back from South Carolina and he had to purchase his own farm. So that was a very early purchase, in 1701. Most of this other land in 1700 was still owned by the families who had been granted the land by the town.

Mrs. Wheeler has a good description of how they did this in her book, Concord: Climate for Freedom. Of course you have heard the different names for the pond?

JES: I've heard it referred to as Flint's Pond, Forest Lake and Sandy Pond.

KG: Yes, and also Great Lake as it was sometimes called. Here Mrs. Wheeler explains the division of land, "The standard checkerboard pattern of town planning (we're talking about the beginning of Concord), was never considered here since the natural contours provided a better plan. In Concord a second division was planned and promised from the beginning, but until it could be made, a common pasture was provided on Great Meadow, between the river and north and east running ridges." In other words, they started out giving land in small, but certain manner. The first division went to the proprietors and important people and then as their families got bigger and they needed more land the second division was promised.

The early history of Sandy Pond is Concord. "Concord

KG: was the first town carved out of the wilderness, every other town out of all America had been close to the ocean or tidal river." Now that is another interesting fact. In other words, it was an inland town.

I believe, if you look at Lincoln today and the way the land is either open or not, has to do with the settlement patterns of the 18th C. I think that the early influence and the use of the land goes back to the 18th C. We'll go back to Sandy Pond, and if you walk around Sandy Pond there is nothing there for animals to graze. The only value was wood, and once the wood was taken off it then what happened to the value of the land?

JES: It went down.

KG: That is right, it went down. Once, and certainly by 1850 or 1860 there was not a tree left. I don't think there was really much value in the land. I think that if they could have plowed it, they would have. There isn't that much tillable land in Lincoln.

JES: As far as I understand, the soil quality is varied here. There are some places where the soil is much deeper and other places where it is just the glacial till left.

KG: Well on this map, (the map that she and Mrs. Elizabeth Little made showing Lincoln in 1775) most of these yellow parts, by the deeds we know these were cultivated. These were called the plains in the deeds. This whole area which you are standing on, to Baker Bridge Road was a plain. In other words, most of these yellow areas are open fields today, and that is no accident. They were the real good parts, the tillable parts. If you take a look at that, a very small portion of

KG: Lincoln was really tillable land. But in the 17th C, these, (meaning the green areas on the map), were meadows, that, Lincoln had a lot of.

JES: Were these mostly fresh meadow or winter hay?

KG: They were fresh meadow. In the beginning these areas, (meaning the green areas) were more valuable than the yellow areas. It wasn't until people really started to till the land and bring in good seed from England, well they had corn and things, like that, but they planted fruit trees and peach trees, but for livestock or animals, the fresh hay off these meadows was very valuable. What they did was ship it into Watertown.

JES: Why Watertown?

KG: Because that is where it was very heavily populated. Where you have a highly populated area, you don't have the farms to support them. A lot of the produce that they could produce could be sold in Boston or in Watertown, or in Waltham. Again, the same pattern is still here today, in the 20th C. People go to Boston to work and make their money there.

No farmer of this area and certainly in the 18th C made any money. Money was made by tradesmen. Money was made by doctors, lawyers, and merchants. The Lincoln farmer had to have something other than his land to make money. If you trace the history of Lincoln and I've talked to Warren Flint about this, people say, "Oh, we've got to bring moderate income people into the town, because that is very good." The people that are talking about this do not understand the history of Lincoln. Why it has been able to be kept the way it is was by MONEY, wealthy people. Now, if you want to call a blacksmith in his day, he was wealthy. He had a trade. Most of the old families that are

KG: still here in Lincoln today were people who made their money not through farming. Sumner Smith's family, the Bemis family, Bemis was a blacksmith and lived here, he came from Watertown, all these families made their money **not** through farming. Tarbell was a doctor.

There was a tremendous exodus after the revolution of these farmers. This is what is so interesting about Sandy Pond is that those woodlands in all of the will or divisions of land, of people buying land after the revolution did not really want this land. Nobody really wanted this land near Sandy Pond, you kind of got it in a will.. It really wasn't worth very much. I'll now get out some of the deeds.

JES: What caused the exodus of farmers after the revolution?

KG: They could not make enough money. Their families had expanded and there was not enough land left. Betty Little and I figured out, to be able to have a farm of a decent size to support yourself and your family and your animals and get enough milk, or sheep or meat and also to raise grain, and corn, you needed in Lincoln, at least 100 acres. We're talking about farms **just** to support the family, we're not talking about farming from a profit point of view. We're talking about just getting by.

In the course of this you have to realize that the western frontiers were beginning to open after the revolution. There was better land in New York, there was better land anywhere. So the real farmer who wanted to be a farmer and make enough money was not going to make it in Lincoln. You see I come from the mid-west, and I'll show you a picture of what I consider

KG: a farm, a 500 acre farm and there is not one swamp on it. Every field can be put a plow into it. We have two woods, one we saved to the north and one to the south. Those are not saved for wood now, they are just saved for the woods themselves. Now, that was a farm. If you go through the Midwest or upstate New York or even Vermont you will see today the difference from a farmer's point of view.

Now, a merchant here in Lincoln, could sell his products to the populated areas, but he could not make a living on a small farm.

Now, returning to the deeds. The Flint family which has remained here in Lincoln, basically, at one time or another, were given a lot of land and they were able to maintain it and keep it. They were the exception and not the rule of farmers in Lincoln. Here's the deed in 1724 from Edward Flint to Stephen Wesson. It gives the boundaries.

JES: Is this the one that mentions rights for water for a mill?

KG: Yes.

JES: Where was that mill?

KG: It was on Pierce Hill Road.

JES: The Flint's owned it before the Harrington's?

KG: Well, the Flints owned it, then Nathan Brown owned it. It went through many owners. That particular farm, the Nathan Brown Farm, once was quite profitable. Nathan Brown, who bought this, was a cordwainer and he did various other things. He was a miller too, he owned the mill. This pine hill had beautiful pines, and once they took the pine off this, you couldn't make much money on that farm. Once the mill closed

KG: down, once the pine trees were gone, that whole farm was mortgaged heavily. At at one time the Browns had lots of money. The Carleys own that house now. Have you read my book, The Nathan Brown Farm?

JES: Yes, it is interesting.

KG: Well you see, there you are. It is a case where the land no longer provided something to make money. The same thing happened to the Dakins. They had lots of money. They made money on their lime, from the lime kilns. Once the better lime kilns and better places were erected, they couldn't sell it what use was the land? They sold it to a blacksmith, (Zackariah Smith), not to a farmer. This piece here was owned by a cooper. Again it was owned by somebody who was not a farmer, rather it was owned by a tradesperson.

Reading from the Flint deed to Stephen Wesson, "Wesson for improving his lands, in other words, he can use the brook, that Wesson has the liberty of using the brook for sawing his wood and forever his heirs..." Now Wesson left town very early, he went to Sudbury and died. His brother, Timothy Wesson ~~stayed~~, but he sold out, I guess to his son, Ephraim. These farms abutted the pond and in this deed the pond is called Great Pond, in 1726. The Wessons were housewrights. They were not farmers. They built homes.

By 1755 the Flints had sold all their land that abutted the pond. Now, what does that mean? The Flints kept the nicest parts of their farm and sold off the parts that they considered of less value. Mr. Flint sold, in 1755, 15 acres of upland to William Lawrence, who was a minister, not a farmer. No one

KG: could really make a living on 15 acres. You could keep cows, a few sheep and kind of support yourself on 15 acres, but not without additional income. This piece of property was this slice where today there is a driveway that goes down to the pond, and comes down to the Bertzoff's driveway from Bedford Road. On the other side of that was the Wesson property. The Wesson property sort of came around behind Sumner's.

JES: So you are saying that by 1755 all the land that the Flints owned abutting the pond was sold? Then they did not own the land here in the 1800's when Thoreau wanted to build his cabin on the pond?

KG: No, they did not own this land then. Thoreau is referring to Flint in his journal in general. The pond was called Flint's Pond and maybe Flint still had the say of who could build there. That is why I've always wondered what Thoreau is talking about. Flint did not own land on this pond at that time.

JES: He must have had control over it somehow then.

KG: Well, this is it. Warren Flint was asking me when did the Flints lose the control to the rights of the pond. I don't know. I suppose, somewhere in the legislature, there is an act called the Great Ponds Act. All the great ponds are owned by the state. They have the right to say what you are going to do with them and that means a pond over so many acres.

JES: Do you know when that act was passed?

KG: Your guess is as good as mine. I would guess somewhere after 1875 and somewhere before 1890. I think the Great Ponds Act, I think the state decided to own all bodies of water over

KG: a certain size would be called Great Lakes and they would decide how the water would be used. I can not document it. That is just a feeling, because we know Concord made it a reservoir, when, do you know?

JES: I think that piece of legislation was passed in 1872.

KG: Okay then by this time the Flints certainly did not have anything to say about it.

KG: Let us go into the Dakins. This is the deed of Nathaniel Hobbart to Simon Dakin, vol, 14, p.55. Hobbart sold to Dakin, 77 acres ~~of~~ upland, meadow, and swampland. That is exactly what describes this. In other words, from the pond, here is your upland. I like that, swamp, there sure is plenty of swamp here, they call it swampland and meadow. Swampland is about as bad as you could get. I wonder how much they paid for that. Hobbart had bought this from Prout, who had bought it from Peter Bulkeley Jr. Now, there is an indication.

The Bulkeley grant, which was owned by the Reverend Bulkeley, in his will he says, his sons had a choice of this out here or land in downtown Concord. One son got the first choice and chose the downtown Concord land. The other son got this land, what they called remote, undivided, unimproved land. They had not done anything with it by 1758. It just sat here. So Peter Bulkeley, Jr. sold it to Prout, who was quite wealthy and who was from Watertown. So he bought the whole thing for a very small amount. This land came all the way up here to Sandy Pond, but it was only this little part here from here to the brook and everything else was woodlot. So that is the Dakin purchase. It is described as being north westerly from the great pond.

KC: So there it is again, in these very early deeds it is described as Great Pond. It was the biggest body of water in the whole town of Concord.

JES: What year was the deed written?

KG: I will get it in a minute. (She thinks that ^{it} is 1701) Now Ephraim Flint inherited land in the second division of land. In the town records of Concord, the pond is referred to as Mrs. Flint's Pond until her son Ephraim moved here and then it was called Mr. Flint's Pond.

The Flints owned the rights to Beaver Pond at one time. Their farm went all the way to Beaver Pond at one time, but they did not care that much about it, because I never see it mentioned when they sold land. The only reference I see in that deed to Stephen Wesson is about the farm and there is no mention of the rest of the land.

I think the date on that last deed is going to be 1704.

JES: I was curious as to the decade it was written in, so that gives me a rough idea.

KG: Well some of these researchers if you make a mistake of three years they say, ah ha, you are wrong. That was volume 14, and volume 13 is 1702.

Let's see here ... Prout sold it to Hobbart in 1701-02. Now, this is funny, when they are selling this piece of land of Prout's to Hobbart they don't mention the pond. That is why I don't think there was much frontage on the pond. I think it was just this little portion here of the Bulkeley Grant.

JES: Where was Flint's hill?

KG: It was down here near Beaver Pond. Now, Flint owned all this down here and all the way up to Rt. 2 and beyond, north

KG: of Rt. 2. He owned this whole tract of land that came down and around this road over here. It was sort of in a backwards L shape piece of land. It did not quite reach Rt. 2A.

Okay let us see how much Hobbart paid Prout. Peter Bulkeley of London, sold the Bulkeley grant, 750 acres of farmland, the Goble farm, (the Gobles leased it, but I don't think they farmed much of it), for 45 pounds, 750 acres for 45 pounds. That is not much. It was not what they called very valuable land. The Flint grant was always valued at more money than the Bulkeley Grant and yet they were both the same acreage. The Bulkeley Grant, had all of this swampy area in it, which was not as good as this meadow. This, Flint's Great Meadow was pretty valuable land and that is why the Flints kept this. They sold off the northern fringes and sold off this along Bedford Road too, in 1785. What they were keeping was the fertile land. They got rid of the hills, and kept Fierce Park area and the entire plain along Lexington Road where you can still see the beautiful land.

Timothy Prout in 1698, got a mortgage. He mortgaged the Goble farm for 320 pounds. Now that means the land has been improved. They evidently can not pay it back, in 1701, so Nathaniel Hobbart of Hingham, he is not even from this area, graciously gave the mortgage to him and he pays it. In December, 18, 1702, Nathaniel Hobbart sells to Simon Dakin, for 85 pounds, 77 acres, which abutted the pond. That is the beginning of the Dakin farm. Dakin is referred to here as a joiner, in other words he is not a yeoman.

Let us look at some other deeds. In 1817 it says who the abutters are. Remember, I said the Weston land and then this up here had been Lawrence land. Haggart bought the Timothy Wesson farm. It was called the Haggart farm. Then this part here which

KG: is now Sumner Smith's land, you know where Sumner Smith's house now is? That had previously been Cole, Stearns, Adams, and Flint. So Haggar owned ~~the~~ Timothy Wesson farm.

(Reading bits and pieces of deeds) Bounded by the swamp that runs through Mrs. Flint's Pond to pond meadow on the north, that would be Obadiah Wheeler. He got three acres, that is an original grant and is woodland. It does not say how much it is worth. He also got six acres. They were giving out this land in small pieces. Thomas Wheeler got nine acres of upland near the chestnut field, bounded on the south by Mrs. Flint's Pond. Somebody else got three acres, somebody else got six acres, and those are both on the pond.

These are the original divisions. You have Thomas Wheeler, Obidiah Wheeler, George Meriam, five acres of woodland bounded upon the south by Mrs. Flint's Pond, on the north by John Farwell, woodland, upland, woodland, upland... Let's see what else do they call it? Joshua Brooks, 50 acres, it does not say what it is. William Hartwell got three acres in the chestnut field. Those are just samples. That is how they gave them out.

JES: When were those first divisions?

KG: Those would have been in 1666. These are in the Concord Records, volume one, page 170A, and page 45.

Now, here is the Flint's farm and here are all the abutters. Some of the names in the chestnut field were the early Concord names; Lambson, Taylor, Brooks, Wheeler, etc. We tried to figure out once how many people owned the chestnut field at one time. I would say at least ten people, probably basically three or four families. Now the Flints never owned any land in the chestnut fields. They did not because they had all this other

KG: land so that the ones that had the smaller farms could get these small pieces. Eleazer Ball sold to Fletcher eight acres near the chestnut fields. The abutters here are: John Jones, Christopher Woolley, ^{and} Johnathon Prescott. This gives you a pretty good idea there were a lot of people owning little pieces of land here. So you did not have a big chunk of land owned by any one individual in the chestnut area.

Then you have ~~there~~ the road layout down here, the 1735 road layout. It starts up here and does not come down through the chestnut field. That is the discontinued road now, on the east side going in from Bedford Road.

In this deed, Daniel Brooks is going to sell his farm, 50 acres, house and barn to Cyrus Smith. He is one of Sumner Smith's relatives. Now this Smith married the daughter of Daniel Brooks. In 1826, he sold 50 acres for \$2,500, deed number 263495. This deed is interesting because it talks about other pieces of land north of the pond. He is going to sell all of his real estate in Lincoln, which crosses the turnpike, (Route 2), and runs north west to Timothy Brooks, and comes down and touches the pond.

These are some of the names of the abutters: on the east, Timothy Brooks, in 1726, Jones, the heirs of Joshua Brooks, Thaddeus Hunt, Edmund Wheeler, Johnathon Smith, and to the pond by the land of Ebenezer Wooley.

JES: Do you feel that the swamp area on the north east side of the pond was ever used for the cultivation of cranberries?

KG: No. I don't think so, because the Brooks owned it and they only referred to it as a meadow. There is no mention in the deeds of a cranberry bog.

KG: original land settlers kept this land in the family since it was so valuable. However, around 1722 Benjamin Brooks began buying portions of the chestnut field and thus expanded his farm to the south. His land started right where Rt. 2 is. His father, Noah Brooks gave to Benjamin, 54 acres of land which was near Noah Brooks fields and houses. Benjamin bought land from: Edward Flint, 5 acres, from Noah Brooks, 17 acres, from Taylor, 9 acres near the chestnut field, 5½ acres from June Wesson, 12½ acres from Ebenezer Flagg, 10 acres from Benjamin Stowe, 2 acres from Hoar, in the chestnut field, and 4 acres from Jack Taylor.

In 1739, Hugh Brooks sold 20 acres of woodland near the chestnut field to Job Brooks. This acreage was bounded by Benjamin Brooks, Ephraim Flint, and John Stowe. Joshua Brooks owned 58 acres south of the chestnut field. In other words, by the end of the 18th C the Brooks owned much of the land on the east side of the pond and the major portion of the chestnut field.

In the first grants and first division of Concord land, the woodlots on the west side of the pond were divided into small portions among many families. If we start at the south west end of the pond and work our way around the pond we would find the following people owning land: Hubbard owned 15 acres of woodland, which was later sold to Dakin, Potters owned 50 acres; Fletbher owned 50 acres, Brooks, Scotsford, 3½ acres, Obidiah Wheeler, 6 acres, Cirshim, 5 acres, George Meriam, 5 acres, as you reach the north end we have Timothy Wheeler and Brooks, and then on the east side working our way south we have Hartwell, Wheeler, Stowe, Jacob Taylor, Brooks and the Flints. Flint sold 15 acres of this to Lawrence.

The tape ended and the following ~~notes~~ notes^{all} from our discussion that followed. Credit for the information goes to Mrs. Glass.

In 1666 a deed shows Joshua Brooks owning 58 acres of land bounded: on the south by Mrs. Flint's Farm, on the west by Mrs. Flint's Pond, on the north by the chestnut field and on the east by Timothy Wheeler.

Luke Potter's land, which was near the present day pump station, included 40 acres of woodland. Luke Potter is a good example of the wealthy, early Concord settler who had little portions of land in many different places.

In the 1740's, Dakin bought land on the south west corner of the pond. In 1746, Hubbard sold 12 acres to Samuel Dakin for 140 pounds. This area was described as woodland and is now open pasture that goes between the pond and Sandy Pond Road. This land was later bought, in 1788 by Zackariah Smith. Mr. Smith began acquiring much of his land through mortgages. Farmers were not buying land in Lincoln after the revolution. Tradespersons began acquiring mortgaged land from farmers who could not pay their bills.

The development of Lincoln was shaped by her terrain, which initially started the pattern of roads going around the town. Seldom did people want to go to Lincoln, because the roads were not as efficient as the roads of the surrounding towns. The wealthy people that lived here, did not want to bring people through their land, so they did not want to donate the money for road building.

Lincoln, however, Mrs. Glass pointed out, is now trying to change all this with the mall, by attracting people to Lincoln,

She believes that Lincoln is still influenced by the mother towns. For example, the road system as it is now planned makes it much easier for many Lincoln residents to do their shopping outside of Lincoln. Many still make their money outside of Lincoln. It is still the wealthy families that determine the look of Lincoln today; without their money Lincoln could not have preserved the town with so much open space and conservation land.

In 1821 a man by the last name of Hales conducted a survey of roads in the Boston area. Hales, unimpressed with Lincoln, described the roads leading to Lincoln as existing in poor repair. He mentioned that they were little traveled on. He said the soil was coarse and rocky with great portions of the land covered with woods and that less than one third of the land was cultivated.

A comparison of the roads on the east side of the pond with those on the west side of the pond hints to the divergent values of land on the east and west sides of the pond. In 1735, the boundaries of the roads on the east side of the pond were marked in terms of the owners who lived there. These owners included: Brooks; Taylor, Wheeler, Hoar, Brooks, Stowe, Meriam, Jones, Fletcher, and Wooley. In contrast, the road on the west side of the pond leading from present Rt. 2 to Flint's Brook was described only in terms of trees and stones, and not by land owners. This land on the western shores was much less valuable. The road here was marked by rocks, many little pines, (the large pines were already taken), great black oaks, and by white oaks. The hill on the south west corner of the pond was marked by a black oak and does not yet mention the orchard which was later planted here.

A survey of the pond, in 1795, shows the pond covering 197 acres. By 1875 the pond is described as covering 172 acres. The town of Concord paid Dakin to fill in the south west portion of the pond in 1754. Throughout the last two centuries the shape of Sandy Pond has been depicted on maps in various shapes and sizes, many appearing quite improbable.

The beauty of Sandy Pond has been saved through a variety of circumstances including it's low value as farmland in the early colonial development, and a later generation's desire to prevent the development of this valuable water source and preserve it for future generations to enjoy.