

*Goodwin*

In Re: STONE HOUND AT WEST SHAWSHEEN VILLAGE

The local history of this amazing place is to the effect that the property was purchased by a Scotchman some time prior to 1832 when he built the frame dwelling a few yards South. This man, named Follansbee, is described as a little man barely 5'-2" tall. This gives us a background of 113 years. Associated with this Scotchman was another Scotchman (name unknown) who was by contrast to Follansbee a giant, being 6'-8" in height. The giant is said to have been a sea-faring man who had been all over the Seven Seas. Between them they built this huge pile of rocks as a copy of a Scottish cairn. As far as is known, the giant man married but Follansbee devised the place to his daughter who had married a man by the name of John Spaulding whose son also John Spaulding, about 55 years of age, now lives in Lowell, Massachusetts. One of the Spauldings sold to a Swede named Ericson, who in turn sold the property to a French-Canadian who was a foreman in the mills at Shawsheen Village by the name of Harnois, in 1924. Harnois sold to the present owner, an Englishman by the name of Thomas Bredbury, from Cheshire, England.

Thus we have, outside of possibly Spaulding, no native American names and we are checking Spauldings ancestry. Harnois died at 81 last October, 1944, in Lowell, leaving a widow and at least two sons and two daughters, both married, now living in Lowell. When, according to the story, Follansbee bought the Site, prior to 1832, there were no mills or village of Shawsheen, nor in fact any textile city of Lawrence on the Merrimac River. Further, we learn that the giant partner of Follansbee brought back from time to time from his many

voyages rare trees, plants and shrubs from all over the world, planted and surviving today about the mound in a haphazard fashion and the place is termed, at that time, a Nursery and Follansbee was called a Nurseryman. Yet outside of the immediate level at the mound there is little or no evidence that Follansbee conducted anything like a large nursery. Remember that prior to 1832 there was little need for a nursery in the Andover area.

We have, then, in the person of Follansbee a nurseryman, a stone mason and an amateur.

ARGUMENT IN RE: THE WEST SHAWSHEEN SITE

In order to do this, we start with the presumption that Follansbee, whether Scotch or English born, did not conceive all of what in the way of a mound, certainly an effigy mound, we see today.

First, then, let us look up in English Proper Names the name of Follansbee for it is apparently a place name given some man at a very early period.

Secondly, not knowing the name of Follansbee's friend who is associated with him and said to be Scotch, a man 6'-8" high at least, and a seafaring man, who brings back to Follansbee rare plants from all over the world, we simply take it for granted that he had a part-time job only in building the mound, that is between voyages. Whether they came from the old country (England or Scotland) together to some near by port may or may not be ascertained later.

The association between a little man (5'-2") and a big man (6'-8") is not uncommon nor unexpected. That the big man was a sailor, and probably a sea captain, who loved plants seems likely. That they joined forces for some purpose, such as nurserymen, also seems plausible from what we are told. We cannot reconcile this idea, however, with the way the trees and/or shrubs and plants are laid out as we now find them; nor can we readily conceive of a profitable nursery at such an early date (1832) for the locality. Yet we have the evidence of the frame summer house built on the top

of the mound with stone steps leading up to it to give some credence to the theory that some one of the owners, at some time, desired to make the place a beauty spot. These stone steps are, however, very carelessly laid so that we question whether the two friends ever did that work; rather some one of the later owners, say Spaulding and/or Ericson who followed Spaulding.

If Spaulding was the big man, he married Follansbee's daughter and John Spaulding, now living, ought to know something about his father, John Spaulding, Senior, and also Ericsson who followed him.

I have asked Lawyer Cheever of Andover to search the title of the land. A Massachusetts Spaulding family history for Newburyport or Portsmouth might be helpful and Green could do that work most acceptably, starting with John Spaulding, Sr., who married \_\_\_\_\_ Follansbee and had a son, John Jr., now living in Lowell, Mass.

It is not impossible that Ericsson, the Swede, was the actual nurseryman on the site. Harnois to whom he sold the property and who built the shrine is said to have been employed in the near by woolen mills as a foreman at a good salary. Certainly he was a Roman Catholic French-Canadian. Harnois died in Lowell about two or two and a half years ago, and his wife and at least four children are still living there. This can easily be ascertained with their story of their connection with the Site.

Here, then, at West Shawsheen (or West Indoors, if you like) is the most astonishing unmortared mound yet encountered by us. As in the case of all our Sites, it has its own local history as to its origin beginning not much farther back than 1832 - that is within a century past.

It will take some doing to get back of that story. If we fail to do so, it will mean nothing more than that the place is circumstantially a most curious phenomenon as it, taken as a whole, presents as far as we have investigated many characteristics akin to our other sites. Let us enumerate these particular similarities.

- 1 - The mound is all stone, covered with the usual camouflage of glacial gravel.
- 2 - There is a stone passageway at the west end, undoubtedly covered with flat roof slabs no longer existent.
- 3 - The mound, while larger than the mound at North Salem we call the "Y" cavern, is no higher above ground.
- 4 - It commands an unusual far-reaching view from the sides.
- 5 - The road built later up to the mound itself is metaled from stone literally hacked from one of the fore flippers of the "turtle effigy" of which the mound is composed. That is, the inference is plain that the mound itself was in existence before the frame dwelling was erected in 1832, for this road seems to have been built to serve the house rather than the mound for it does not reach that far by some 50 yards at least, if not more.
- 6 - The well made vaulted cell-like entry in the main mound appears to have been in existence long before the owner who sold in 1924 closed it up with a rubble stone wall, laid in cement, in front

of which he set up a shrine with an image of some Saint. We think this owner, Harnois, also pointed up a part of the vaulted cell back of his shrine before he closed it up in order to stop moisture in the vault and so keep out dampness, before he was compelled to build his wall. Certainly there was no cement used originally in building the vault itself.

Our conclusions are that Harnois had no hand in building any part of the effigy mound itself. The story that the site was the work of two Scotchmen, who copied some "cairn-like mound" known to them in Scotland in the form of the effigy of a gigantic turtle, will have to be taken with a grain of salt. So far we know of no turtle effigy cairns in Scotland. Nor do we believe that any later owner knew that the mound was in the form of an effigy of an animal. That we are positive of for it cannot be seen either from the ground level nor standing on top of the mound itself, and we only discovered the effigy form from a study of the survey of the site made for us by Mr. Douglas Blizzard, C.E. in 1938. Indeed, Mr. Blizzard seems to have been quite unaware of the fact that the mound, as a whole, was an effigy while for our own part we had no realization of the fact until 1944, with the sole exception of the unanswerable view of that insert into the end of the mound which forms the turtle's mouth and jaws in which two pine trees were growing, 8 and 9 inches in circumference. The age of these pines means very little because they only carry back to about the year 1873.

From a map with approximate measurements of distances, made by Malcolm D. Pearson, we have the following -

Starting with the head of the animal effigy as the mouth faces N/W, the head is 30' long and the depth of the mouth is 15' from the top.

The tunnel through the neck of the head is 15' long.

The width of what remains of the left front flipper of the effigy is 14'. The depth of the body of the animal from this flipper to the left hind flipper is 91'-6", and the distance from the left fore flipper to the top of the head of the effigy is 66' flat, and it is 40' from the left fore flipper to the left rear flipper along the wall, to which you add 16' for the length of the left fore flipper and the wall composing the left hind flipper.

It is 40' between the two hind flippers.

From the continuation of the back of the head to where it meets the body, in a straight line, it is 37', at a right angle to the end of the right hind flipper.

This gives us an overall length of the wall forming the effigy as follows: beginning at the lower jaw of the head of the effigy, we get approximately 306' as the line distance of the wall composing the effigy.

The E/W longest distance is 91'-6" and the N/S greatest distance

is 66' flat. The entrance to the grotto between the two front flippers is 5' wide x 2' and 11' deep.

The cave next to the right rear flipper is 9' deep x 3'-6" wide at the entrance.



Registry of Deeds - Salem, Massachusetts

Book 63 Page 47 1731  
Moses Haggete  
To Moscs Haggete Junior  
Records not clear. Records from 1640 but no  
mention of Moses Haggete Senior securing land.

Jacob Haggat has southern portion of land, ( area around  
Haggett's Pond). Thomas Haggat has northern portion ,  
(from Jacob Haggat's land through to Methuen). No record  
of transfer and no date. These are probably sons of  
Moses Haggete Junior.

Book 224 Page 27 No date  
Deed seized from widow of Jacob Haggat by:  
Bartholomew Hutchinson, Millford, N. H., Yoeman, &  
Joseph Howard, Wilton, N. H. Yoeman.

Book 224 Page 27 June 15, 1820  
Bartholomeu Hutchinson &  
Joseph Howard To  
Joshua Abbot 50 acres Price \$450

No record (Assumed from following events)  
Joshua Abbot  
To son and daughter  
Job Abbot (wife Lucy) (Gentlemen)  
Ann Abbot (single) Dexter, Maine  
Line devided barn, house and well in two. Job tak-  
ing east side and Ann taking west side.

Book 240 Page 198 November 25, 1825  
Ann Abbot To  
John Flint (cabinet maker)

Book 240 Page 199 December 8, 1825  
Job Abbot To  
Jonathan D. Trow (blacksmith)

Book 240 Page 199 April 22, 1826  
John Flint To  
Jonathan Trow Price \$671.04

Book 258 Page 110 June 26, 1830  
Jonathan Trow To  
Dudley Trow Senior (wife Annis) Senior yoeman  
Dudley Trow Junior (wife Mary) Senior yoeman

Book 285 Page 179 January 8, 1836  
Registry of Deeds - Lawrence, Massachusetts  
Book 381 Page 541 No date Record not complete  
Dudley Trow Senior  
Dudley Trow Junior To  
Paul Bailey Fallensbee

Registry of Deeds - Lawrence, Massachusetts

From a will, allowed by court  
Paul B. Follansbee To  
Emma W. Spalding, Boston It appears that Emma  
Spalding was a housekeeper or a mistress to  
Paul Follansbee. She died March 1912

From a will, allowed by court Book 381 Page 541 Oct.1,1917  
To  
Charles Spalding  
Roy S. Spalding, Manchester, N. H.  
Laura Spalding  
Each received one third

Book 381 Page 541 October 1, 1917  
Roy S. Spalding  
Laura Spalding To  
Charles Spalding

Book 395 Page 280 January 28, 1919  
Charles Spalding To  
Elof Erickson, Lowell, Mass. (unmarried)

Book 415 Page 58 June 4, 1920  
Elof Erickson To  
John Arnois  
Rosanna Arnois (wife)  
Alphonsine Vohn (wife of Armand Vohn)

Book 502 Page 89 July 17, 1924  
John Arnois  
Rosanna Arnois  
Alphonsine Vohn To  
Thomas Bredbury  
Annie Bredbury Present owners

D. G. Blizzard  
December 9, 1939

*Coal Stearns (?) - 1960*  
*to Dennis F. Murphy (1960)*  
*Alice G. 1960 - 2015*  
*Donated to AVTS 2015*