

A plan of the route leading from
 Samuel Lawrence's house, by
 through Barkley's Workshop, Barkley's
 workshop, meeting house, also of a mile
 route from one house to the other
 meeting house which will shorten the distance
 between one place nearly two miles and is
 on much better ground - scale 200 rods to an
 inch - Drafted by Abel Abbott of Wrentham -

The Five Town map

A few facts about the map

This map was found among the maps and papers of Thompson Bacon, of Bedford, although it was drawn by Abel Abbott of Westford. It was not dated but must be about 1800 for Thompson Bacon did his surveying work around the turn of that Century. As you may recall, 1800 is only a few years after 1775 and our Revolution. Things didn't change very fast, then, so the roads shown must be close to the oldest ones. Thompson was in the Revolution and served the Town in other ways, too.

The road from Lexington to Concord was the road the British Regulars took both coming and going looking for weapons in 1775. The strange little "bump" in that path is the old road around Fisk Hill in Lexington, now part of the Minute Man National Park. Where the old road crosses the Concord River is undoubtedly the Old North Bridge.

The road from Bedford toward Lexington has been straightened about 2 in. down from the Bedford Meeting House. The old road went around the cemetery hill in Lexington by going down Pine Street and turning left as shown on the map.

The most important building in those days was the Meeting House, not only the Church for all residents, but the place where Town Meetings and other large gatherings were held. The second most important place was the tavern, something like a motel today. We have one in Bedford, the Fitch Tavern, now a home, just across the street from the Police Station.

Five Town Map

of Westford, Carlisle, Concord, Lexington and Bedford

Drafted by Abel Abbott of Westford

It shows two roads, one running from Westford through Carlisle and Bedford to Lexington and the other from Westford through Carlisle and Concord to Lexington.

“A plan of the roads leading from Samuel Laucey’s tavern in Westford through Concord & through Carlisle to Lexington meeting house. Also of a middle route from said Laucey’s to Lexington meeting house which will shorten the travel between said places nearly two miles and is over much leveller [sic] ground. Scale - 200 rods to one inch -Drafted by Abel Abbot of Westford -”

On the reverse side is noted a filing title, “Plan to accompany the Pek. [?] of Jon^a. Heed [or Heal] Esq.”

The notes on the plan are as follows:

Saml. Laucey’s Tavern, [Carlisle] Carlisle Meeting house, Bedford Meeting house, Lexington Meeting house; This road is eleven miles and one half and seventy rods. [through Bedford] This road is twelve miles and one half and thirty six rods. [through Concord] This road is nine miles three quarters and thirty rods. [almost straight between the other two.] Concord River.

There is a unique watermark as follows:

“C CRIPPS” in bold letters and a large seal of England showing a seated Queen holding a spear and shield emblazoned with a cross all over water. She is also holding a small tree or symbol in the other hand. The oval is topped by a crown holding two crosses and twelve jewels.

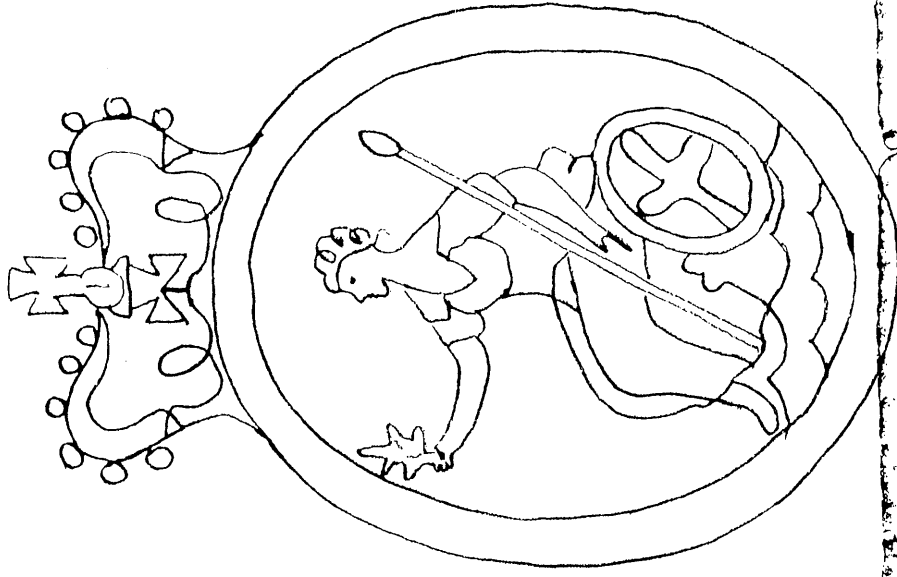
Map lines were drawn by a fine, dull scribe on what appears to be working plans - not being finished plans for deeds. All intersections were punctured by dividers. Areas were calculated by forming triangles using every intersection and are in acres & square rods. Dividers were used to find h in $A = 1/2 b \times h$. Rods calculated only to tenths.

Angles are plotted only on the paper and are not labeled and were measured on his instrument only to minutes.

The drafting paper was made on a screen having 28 lines per inch on the warp and one line per per inch on the woof.

CARRISIE &

C CRIPPS 1805



*Wm. C. Cripps
Printer and Stationer
of No. 10, Fleet St.*

Thompson Bacon

Profile

Rev. 5 Mar. 2001

By John F. Brown

Thompson Bacon, a surveyor of Bedford around 1800, was born on 5 March 1760 and died 4 Dec. 1833. He pursued his calling in Bedford, Concord, Lexington, Billerica, Carlisle, Burlington and maybe others.

Revolutionary War service from the *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolution*:

“Private, Captain Farmer’s Co., Col. Jacob Gerrish regt. of guards; enlisted Feb. 20, 1778; roll made up to May 20, 1778; service, 3 mos., at Bunker Hill; also list of men detached from Capt. Moore’s company for an expedition to Rhode Island as returned to Lt. Col. William Thompson; list dated Billerica, Aug. 2, 1778”

Military service as found on an old piece of paper in the Bacon Box;-

Bacon, Thomas or Thompson, 15 yrs. of age, in Bedford militia and at Concord fight. Also, Private in Capt. Farmers Co. Col. Gerish’s Reg. Feb. 20 1778 to May 20 1778: Private in Capt. Bailey’s Co. Col. Hawes Reg. Aug. to Oct. 1778. Serving under Lt Col. Thompson in the Rhode Island expedition;

Private in Capt. Wright’s Co. Col. Hawes Reg. July 27 to Oct 30 1780.

He was a U.S. Pensioner.

From History of the Town of Bedford, by Abram English Brown:

“He settled on a farm south of the village. He was a land surveyor of skill; his plans and charts are valuable for reference at the present time. He was a prominent Whig and later a Republican, and represented the town at the General Court in 1812.” He was a Justice of the Peace in Bedford.

From A New England Church, 1730 - 1834, by Ina Mansur:

With Moses Fitch he arranged for a committee to adjudicate the problem with the Reverend Mr. Joseph Penniman and strong drink about 1791. In 1817 Thompson bought a pew to help build the original church. He also was one of 23 committee members to bring in the first Unitarian Minister to Bedford.

From the book, A Revolutionary Town, by Louise Brown:

“Thompson was one of three sons of John Bacon who served in the service of his country. After his marriage, he settled in the south part of Bedford and became a prominent land surveyor, working for a wide area, including surrounding towns. He moved the original south school house to the south of the Common in Bedford Center, adding to it and converting it to a dwelling. On opening one of the original old chimneys there, a recent tenant discovered some of Thompson’s surveyors’ plans and working drawings, suggesting that he lived there in the later years of his life.”

“Thompson Bacon was born on March 5, 1760, [in Bedford] the son of John

Bacon and Elizabeth Stearns. He married Martha Hosmer on October 16, 1785, and they had ten children: Reuben, born 1784, who died young; Jonathan, born 1785; John, born 1786; Reuben, born 1788; Nancy, born 1793; Octa, born 1795; Thompson, born 1797; Eliza, born 1799; Elbridge, born 1800 and Albert, born 1802."

Buried in the Old Burying Ground, Springs Road in Bedford, slate stone #17:

"In Memory of Thompson Bacon Esq. who died Dec. 4 1833. AEt. 73 Epitaph:- Not him doth death itself alarm; On Heaven his soul relies; With joy he views his Makers love, And with composure dies. J. Park Jr. Groton. [stone cutter] (Foot stone, "TB")