

27 Greeley Street, Hudson NH

History



Lynne Mari
Ruth Parker

Hudson Historical Society
April 2025

After many hours of research, we have reached some conclusions about this beautiful house. Some of the following information is based on fact and some are our theories. We have not determined who built the house or when, but our best guess is 1840's. Builder unknown. Since visiting the house in April of 2025, we saw a newspaper in a frame which had been removed from the wall during a renovation. The newspaper was dated 1843, so we can assume this is when the house was built.

This grid shows the real estate transactions through the years. As you can see up until the Smith's sold the land, some of the residents owned the house for years; (some not consecutively) The Dane's for 46 years, the Wentworth's for 34 years and the Smith's for 54 years! If information is available, these three families are profiled in this document.

Date	Book	Page	Grantor	Grantee (Receiver)
1992-3-10	5321	1035	Michael Powlowsky	Michael and Charlene Brodeur
1992-1-8	5307	962	State Street Bank	Michael Powlosky
1991-5-8	5255	784	Crookers and Countrywide Real Estate	State Street Bank
1988-5-13	4755	58	Comfed Savings Bank	Walter and Elizabeth Crooker
1986-10-31	3752	254	Walter and Elizabeth Crooker	Countryside
1986-4-7			ROD Plan 22077 - Lot 2 of plan 4084 was divided into 2 lots. Probably after the barn was down	
1985-9-25	3383	273	Walter and Elizabeth Crooker	Allen Straub
1977-6-11	2534	232	Allen Straub	James and Theresa Polkey
1976-4-28	2451	152	James and Theresa Polkey	G & R Enterprise
1974-3-29	2349	626	G & R Enterprise	Louise Duff-Still
1969-5-8	2028	313	Louise Duff Still	RoyCraft Homes
1969-5-8	2028	260	RoyCraft Homes	Clayton Smith
1954-9-20	1666	424	Ethelyn Smith (Mrs. Arthur)	Clayton Smith
1926-9-20	850	314, 315, 316	Wentworth heirs	Arthur W. Smith
1892-3-30	523	478	Mary Dane	Martha Wentworth
1851-6-5	268	124	Parker Smith	Rhoda Dane
1840-5-5	205	351	Herman Dane	Parker Smith
1836-4-11	187	330, 331, 332	Luther Haselton	Herman Dane

First, we will look at the connection between 5 and 27 Greeley and 234 Central Street:

Historical Connection of Three Hudson Center Homes by Ruth Parker

Let me introduce to you three Hudson Center homes whose histories are connected by members of the Greeley/ Wenworth family

234 Central Street



Photo from Google.com/map

This house dates to about 1790 when it, and much of Hudson Center, was a part of the farm of Henry Hale. It became home to Reuben Greeley about the time of his marriage to Joanna Merrill in 1817. From then until 1962 it was occupied by Reuben or a member of his family. After Reuben's death in 1863 his son Daniel and his wife Martha (Keniston) continued to live here with their daughter Martha Edwina who later married Nathaniel Wentworth, Jr. from Brighton, MA. The next generation to occupy was their son John Wentworth. John and his wife Jesse (Gilbert) lived here for 25 years until they divorced in 1929. Jesse remained in the home on a life lease until she passed in 1962. John moved to northern New Hampshire and married a second time. By that time the title (or interest) had passed to John's nephew George. In 1963 it was purchased and renovated by the First Baptist Church for use as the church parsonage.

27 Greeley Street – Research dates this home to about 1840 and the earliest resident we know is of Joseph B Dane, his wife Rhoda (Smith), and their family. Census records indicate the family of Martha E. (Greeley) and Nathaniel Wentworth lived here at least as early as 1880. By 1892 the home was sold by the Dane heirs

to Martha Edwina (Greeley) Wentworth, the wife of Nathaniel Wentworth. Ownership remained with this family until the early 1920's when it was sold to Arthur W. Smith.



5 Greeley –

Photo from: <https://gis.vgsi.com/HudsonNH/>

This home was built about 1900 and the first occupant was Martha E. and Nathaniel Wentworth. They, along with some members of their family remain here until his death in 1923, Located adjacent to the railroad depot it became a part of the holdings for Bensons Animal Farm and used for employee housing.

The common 'thread' through these 3 homes is the family and heirs of Martha Edwina (Greeley) and Nathaniel Wentworth, Jr.

Nathaniel was born 8-DEC-1843 in Brighton, MA, the oldest child of Nathaniel, Sr and Lydia Lord. During the Civil War he served with the 1st Mass Calvary 11th Mass Field Battery. Following his discharge he married Edwina (Greeley) on 9-MAY-1870 in Hudson, likely at the Baptist Church nearby her home. Following their marriage they settled in Hudson Center; the exact location of their first home is unclear.

Their family, all born in Hudson, consisted of 2 girls and 4 boys. Significant to this story are **James Greeley**, born 1873, and **John** born 1877. How a young man from Brighton, MA met Martha Edwina of Hudson is a mystery to me! Perhaps through church, a wartime friend?

Martha Edwina was born in 1850 in Hudson, NH, her parents were Daniel Greeley and Martha Keniston. The house at 234 Central was her childhood home; the household included her grandfather, Reuben Greeley.

At the time of his move to Hudson, Nathaniel had an occupation of a mason; working with stones and bricks. The Honorable Nathaniel Wentworth passed 19-AUG-1923, a well known and respected resident of Hudson and of the State. He has served as head of New Hampshire Fish and Game for 25 years.

At some point early in their married life, they lived at 27 Greeley, even though title did not pass to Martha Edwina until 1892. He is definitely the first occupant of the home on 5 Greeley here in Hudson Center. It was his residence until he passed in Aug 1923. He and Martha Edwina are interred in Westview Cemetery. He has a military marker in honor of his Civil War service.

James Greeley Wentworth was born in Hudson 11-MAY-1872, the oldest son of Martha Edwina and Nathaniel Wentworth, Jr. During the Spanish American War (1898-1902) he served with Company H – 1st NH Infantry; being the only young man from this town to so serve, as far as we know. Linnie E. (Snowden) and James Greeley Wentworth were married on 26-NOV-1903 at Randolph, ME Looking at the 1892 Hurd map of Hudson and the land ownership transactions, I conclude that the family of Nathaniel and Martha, including James Greeley, lived at 27 Greeley while the property remain under the ownership of the Dane family. Soon after their marriage in 1903 James Greeley moved from Hudson to ME: returning to Nashua by 1935 at the age of 63.

James and Linnie had 2 sons, The oldest Nathaniel S. (born 1906) the younger George (born 1907). Both were born in ME. Nathaniel S died 1933. George Wentworth passed in 1987.

John Wentworth (1877-1950) – Another piece of this story is John Wentworth, the second son of Martha E and Nathaniel. John remained in Hudson Center, living at 234 Central. After his marriage to Jesse Gilbert, they spent 25 years there until they divorced. Following the divorce, John moved to the Concord area and married a second time. John Wentworth passed in 1950; at which time Jesse remained living in the 234 Central Street home. The Wentworth interest in the home passed to John's nephew, George. George was the younger son of Linnie and James Greeley.

More on some of the people mentioned above to follow.

27 Greeley:

Luther Haselton to Herman Dane 1836

Our first clue came from a deed from Luther Haselton to Herman Dane in 1836. (Book 187 Pages 330-332.) The Haselton family had been in Hudson since the 1700's originally from Haverhill MA. Luther Haselton, age 29, and Polly Ladd Smith, age 28, were married here in Nottingham West in 1826, most likely at the Baptist Church in Hudson Center. Luther and Polly lived on the Haselton Farm on Bush Hill, in the house adjacent to the Haselton Barn, long since removed. They had five children and were hard working, prosperous, considered honest, and prominent in the community. More information about this family can be found at rememberhudsonnhwhen.com.



Haselton Farm on Bush Hill Road c 1920

Haselton to Dane	I know all men by these presents that I Luther Haselton of Hudson County of Hillsboro' & State of New Hampshire Husbandman in con- sideration of three hundred and twenty five - dollars to me paid by Herman Dane of said Hudson State and County aforesaid the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge - have given granted bargained sold and conveyed and do for my- self and my heirs by these presents give grant bargain sell and convey unto the said Herman Dane his heirs and assigns Forever I warrant that on the said of land situated in said
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1836 Deed

Hermon Dane

B. 1811 New Boston, NH
d. 1874

Hermon Dane owned 27 Greeley for four years. He married Clarissa Barrett and had three children. She passed away in 1847 and he married Matilda Buttrick and had three more children. One of his sons, Hermon F. Dane was a popular auctioneer in the area. He died in 1911. We will see more Danes in this house in the future! We have not found the connection to Hermon with the future Danes at this time.

DIES ON 71ST BIRTHDAY.

**Hermon F. Dane of Nashua, N H,
Was Widely Known as Auctioneer.**

NASHUA, N H, May 12—Hermon F. Dane, one of the best known auctioneers in southern New Hampshire, died this morning at his home, 13 Thayer ct. He was born in Hudson, N H, May 12, 1840, making him exactly 71 years old. He was a son of Hermon and Clarissa (Barrett) Dane. He went into the auction business with his father in 1864, and succeeded him in 1874.

He was a past master of Ancient York lodge of Masons and a past grand of Pennichuck lodge of Odd Fellows. He leaves a son, George F. Dane of Nashua, and a daughter, Mrs M. W. Warley of Springfield, Mass. The funeral will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

The Boston Globe May 12, 1911

Hermon Dane to Parker Smith 1840

Parker Smith

b. 1804 Hudson NH

d. 1849 Lawrence MA

Parker's parents were James Smith and Mary (Lawrence) Smith. He owned 27 Greeley for 11 years. He moved to Lawrence at some point and died in a tragic accident at 45 years old.

From the Portland Press Herald December 19, 1849.

FATAL ACCIDENTS.—Parker Smith, conductor on the Manchester and Lawrence Railroad, while leaving Lawrence Saturday forenoon, leaned forward from the platform of the car, and losing his hold on the hand-rail, fell beneath the wheels, which passed across his chest, killing him instantly. He was struck in the head by a switch target, which knocked him from the platform, while he clung to the hand-rail with one hand, and swinging around between the cars, fell upon the track. The wheels of two long cars passed across an arm, a foot and his neck. He leaves a wife and three children to mourn his loss.

We know this is him as he is listed here in a death record being from Hudson NH, parents, James and Mary.

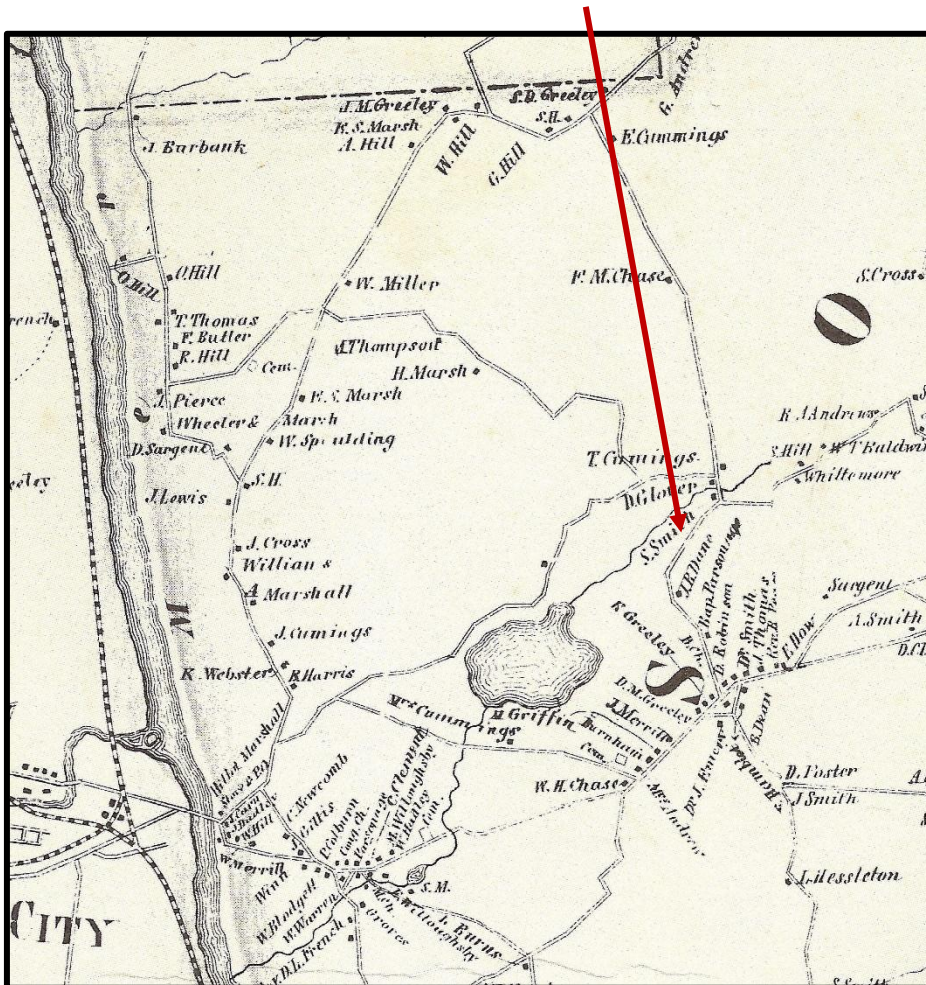
23 1849 Parker Smith 45 Hudson N.H. James & Mary Smith Rem. for 11 yrs.

(Massachusetts Vital Records, 1840–1911. New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts)

Rhoda Smith

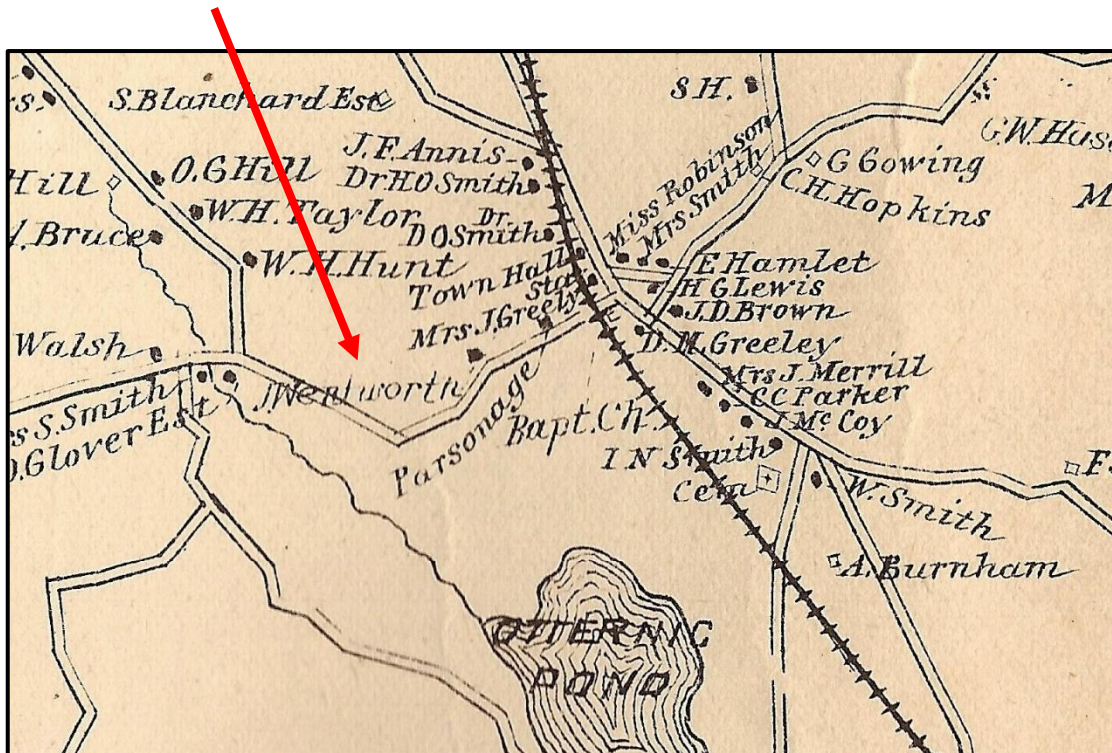
d. 1865 Hudson NH

This 1858 Map of Hudson shows a “J. B. Dane” at this location.



Mary Dane to Martha Wentworth 1893

This 1892 map shows "J. Wentworth" at 27 Greeley, although the deed shows Martha Wentworth bought it in 1893. (This could be that the map was updated before it was published.)



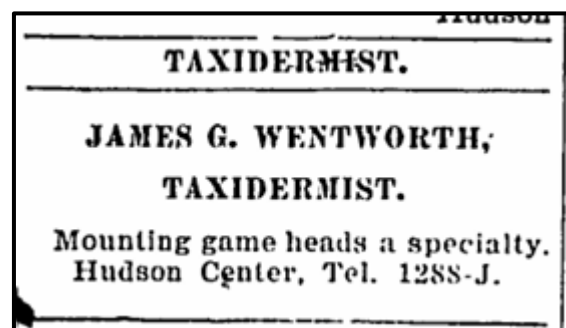
The Wentworth's owned the house for 34 years. The J. Wentworth in the map is no doubt Martha (Greeley) Wentworth's son James Greeley Wentworth.

James Greeley Wentworth.

b. 1872 Hudson NH

d. 1941 Nashua NH

James was a taxidermist, below is an ad in the Nashua Telegraph from 1923. We know from his obituary he lived in Maine for a period of time, was a mason and "excelled in the building of artistic fireplaces".



Edwina Martha Greeley

b. 1850 Hudson NH

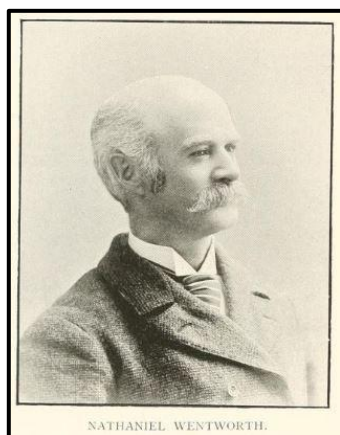
d. 1922 Nashua NH

Nathaniel Wentworth

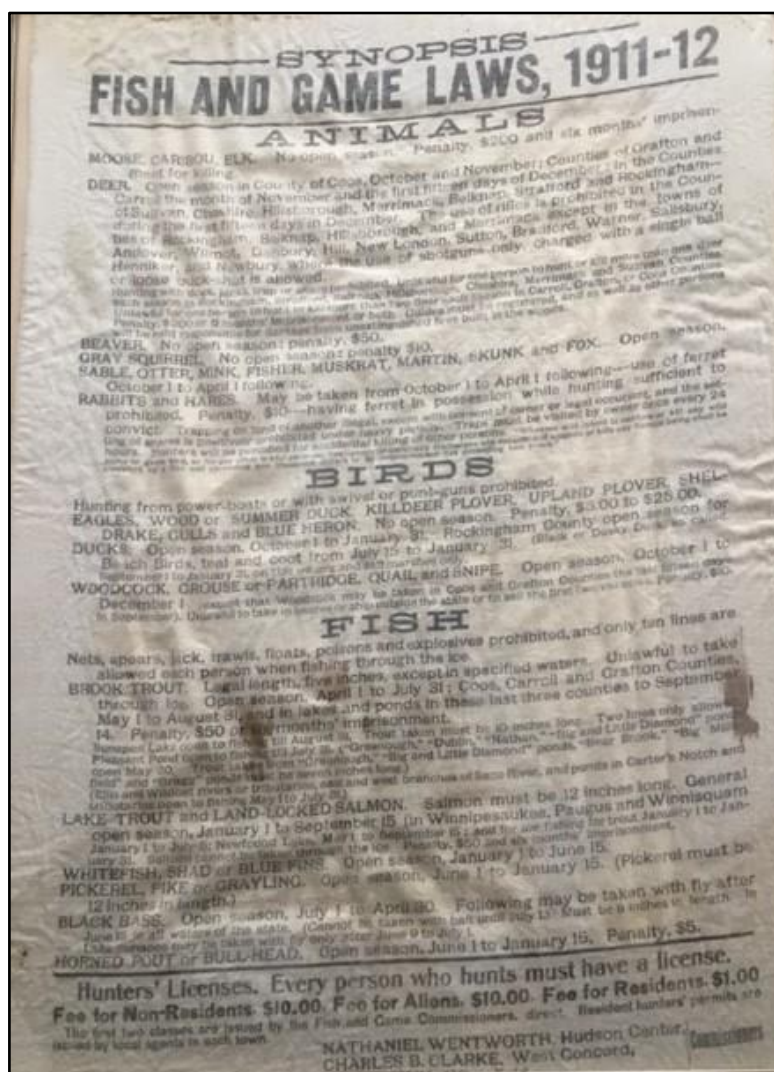
b. 1843 Brighton MA

d. 1923 Fall River MA

Martha married Nathaniel Wentworth Jr. in 1870 and they had six children. Nathaniel enlisted with the 1st Mass Calvary in 1864 at the age of 21 and was discharged about a year later. As a young man he was a mason, later he became the NH Fish and Game commissioner; a position he held for many years. He was active in town affairs, serving on the committee to build the D.O. Smith School in 1896.



Nathaniel Wentworth
Photo from Ancestry.com



Nathaniel Wentworth, author. Photo of framed laws property of the Hudson Historical Society.

Wentworth Heirs to Arthur W. Smith 1926

After owning the house for 34 years, the Wentworth heirs sold the house to Arthur W. Smith in 1926.

Arthur Watts Smith

b. 1884 Nashua NH

d. 1954 Hudson NH

Arthur Smith was very active in town and state politics as seen below in the Nashua Telegraph Article April 28, 1954. He served as a state representative and a selectman in town, re-elected months before his death.

Arthur Smith, Selectman of Hudson, Succumbs



ARTHUR W. SMITH

Hudson, April 28—Arthur Watts Smith of Greeley st. Hudson, a lifelong resident of Hudson, died at his home early Tuesday afternoon after a long illness.

HE WAS BORN in Nashua Oct 27, 1884 the son of Martin Luther and Lucy (Williams) Smith. He was a graduate of Nashua High school and had attended the University of New Hampshire and the University of Vermont. A foreman at the International Paper Box Machine company, Mr Smith had completed over 30 years of service with that company.

Prominent in local politics, Mr Smith had served three terms as

ARTHUR SMITH

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Arthur Smith

Continued from Page One

representative in the New Hampshire Legislature, served as a selectman for the town of Hudson for 21 years and as Overseer of the Poor. He had recently been elected to his eighth consecutive term as selectman.

FRATERNALLY, he was a member of Hill Rock Pomona, State and National granges and past master of Wattanick grange No 327; a member of the Hudson Board of Trade; a member of Ancient York Lodge, No 89, AF & AM; Nashua Lodge No 720, BPOE; the Hudson Lions club and a past noble grand of the Hudson Lodge of Odd Fellows.

He is survived by his wife, Ethelyn (Batchelder) Smith; a daughter, Mrs Doris W. Shackleton of Nashua; two sons, Arthur M. and Clayton E. Smith of Hudson, and six grandchildren.

FRIENDS ARE invited to call at the Farwell funeral home 18 Lock st. Nashua. Wednesday and Thursday evening from 7 to 9 pm.

Ethelyn Batchelder

- b. 1887 Haverhill MA
- d. 1867 Nashua NH

Arthur married Ethelyn Batchelder in 1908. They had three children, one being Clayton, who would eventually buy the house in 1954.



Ethelyn Batchelder Smith photo
from Ancestry.com

From Arthur's draft registration card in 1941, we can see he worked at the International Paper Box Co in Nashua.

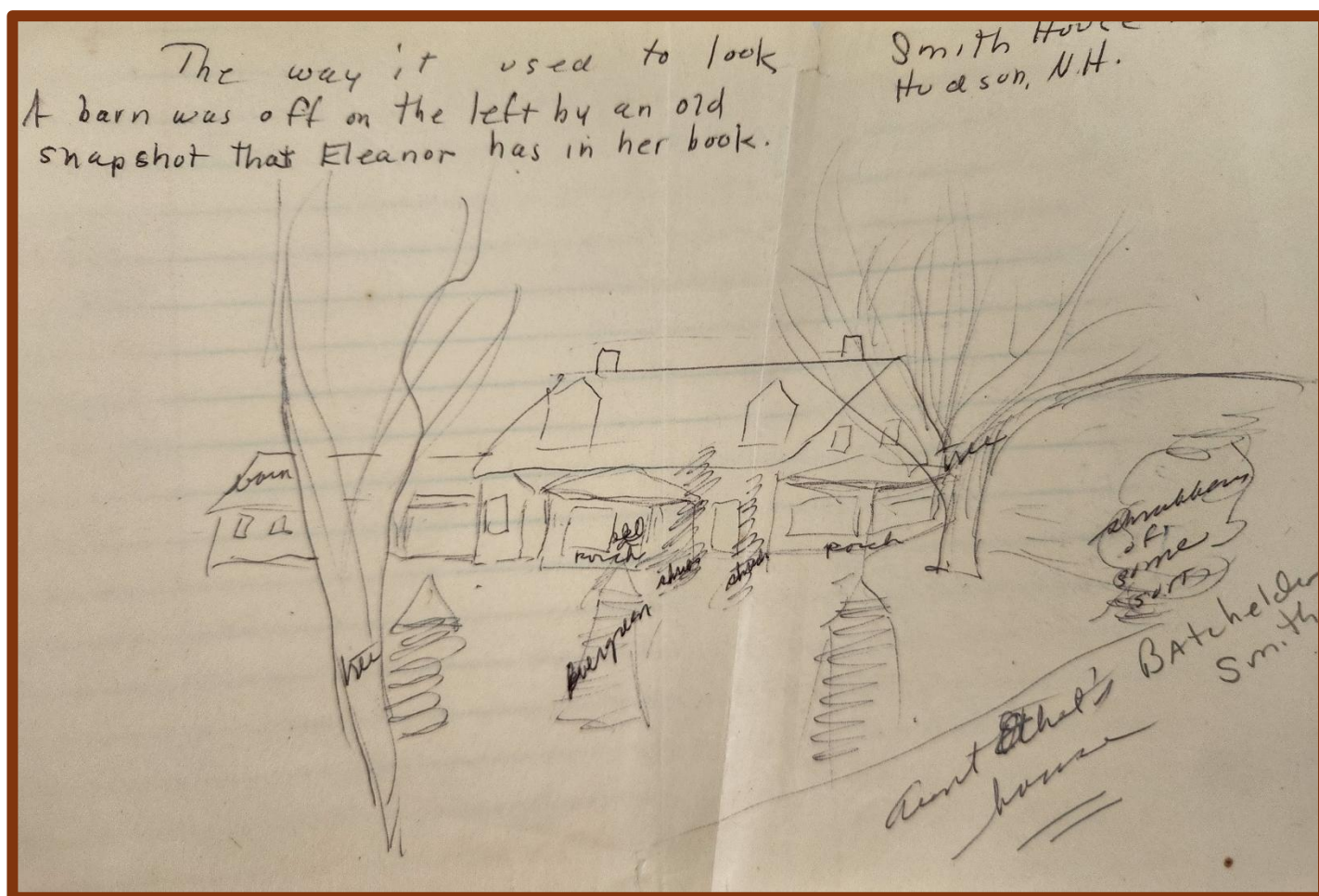
REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)			
SERIAL NUMBER	1. NAME (Print)		ORDER NUMBER
U 1549	ARTHUR	WATTS SMITH	
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State) GREELEY ST., HUDSON Hills, N.H. [THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]			
3. MAILING ADDRESS (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert "same") R.F.D. #2, HUDSON, Hills, Co., N.H.			
4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS	6. PLACE OF BIRTH	
NASHUA 2092J	57	NASHUA	
(Exchange) (Number)	(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	(Town or county) (State)	
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS MRS. ETHELYN A. SMITH, R.F.D. #2 - HUDSON, Hills, Co., N.H.			
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS INT. PAPER BOX MACH. CO.			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 315 MAIN ST., NASHUA Hills, N.H. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE			
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42)		(over) 16-21630-2 Arthur W. Smith (Registrant's signature)	

MRS. ETHELYN A. SMITH
Funeral for Mrs. Ethelyn A. (Batchelder) Smith of Greeley Street, Hudson, widow of Arthur Watts Smith, was held in the Farwell Funeral Home Thursday morning at 10:30. Rev. Dwight V. Meader, pastor of the Hudson Baptist Church, officiated.
Among the large attendance of relatives and friends, were representatives of the Hudson Baptist Church; the Hudson Historical Society; Fortnightly Club; Ladies of The G.A.R.; Pilgrim Chapter No. 55, O.E.S.; Olive Branch Rebekah Lodge No. 1, I.O.O.F.; Wattanick and Hill Rock Pomona Granges, P. of H.; Hudson Town Officials and Hudson Post 48, American Legion.
The bearers were Clayton Smith, Warren Smith and Charles Smith, grandsons; David L. Wells, Walter E. Phinney and Ralph Gordon, nephews.
Committal service was conducted by Rev. Mr. Meader at the family lot in West View Cemetery.
Charles H. Farwell Jr. was the funeral director.

Ethelyn was very active in the Baptist Church and the Grange. There are numerous mentions of her in the Telegraph being very involved in both.

Nashua Telegraph December 21, 1967

Below is a sketch found on Ancestry.com. Unfortunately, we don't know the year it was drawn.



On April 3, 2025, Lynne Mari, Ruth Parker and Steve Kopiski visited the house. Steve's brother had lived in the house during the 1970's and had fun reliving the memories and describing some of the changes that had taken place since his brother sold it. The house has had extensive renovations by the current owner's father, Michael Brodeur. Lynne Mari's daughter Shayna spent a lot of time in the house in the late 1980's and early 1990s as she was good friends with the current owner Jennifer. It was fun for both Steve and Lynne to revisit this wonderful house!

One feature we were particularly excited about was the fireplace in the kitchen. It has been untouched, pictures below. Ruth believes the opening on the right was a hot water heater. The house has all the original fireplaces intact.



Notes:

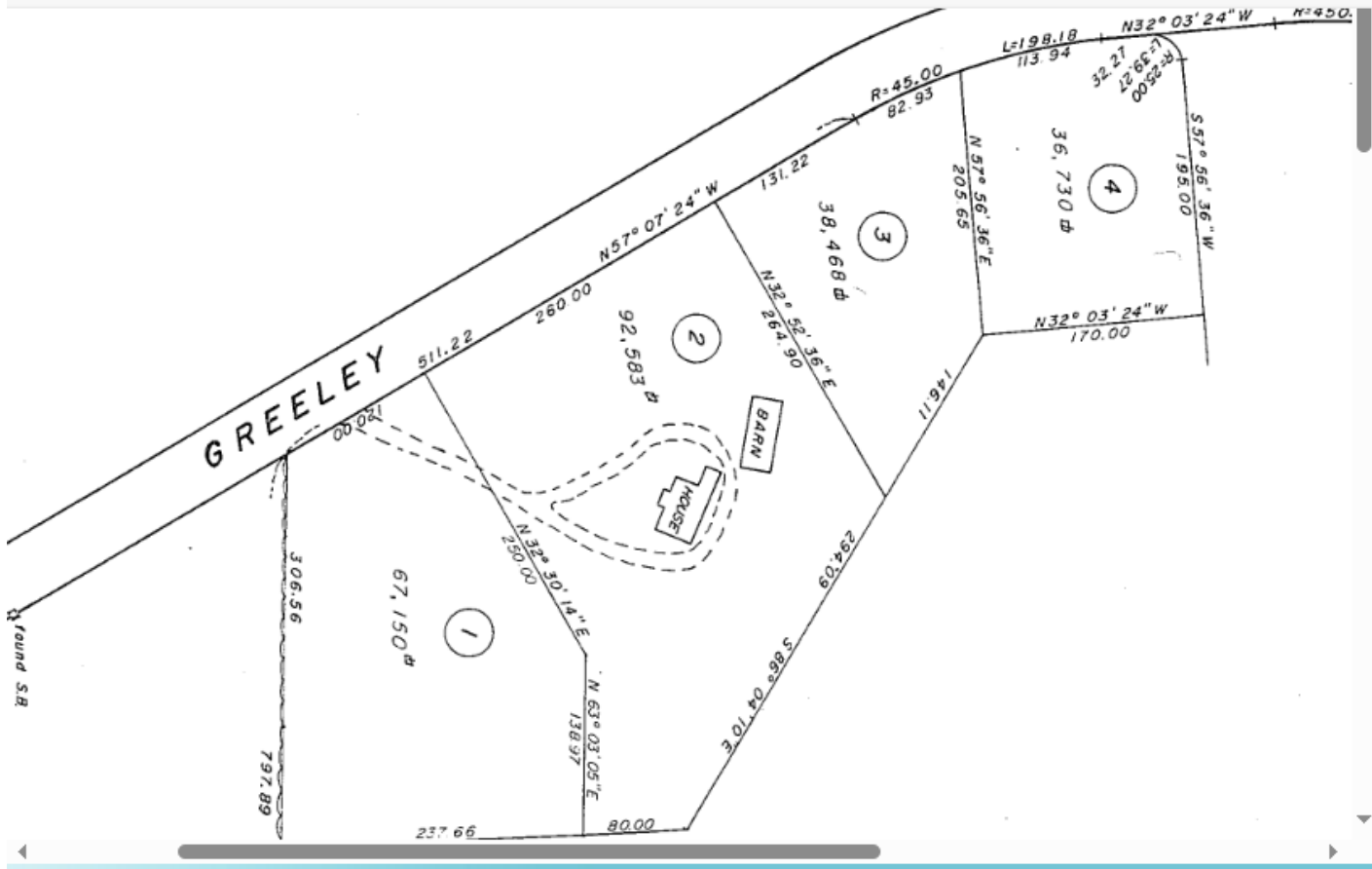
- Much of the data surrounding the individuals in this document came from documents on Ancestry.com. Proving data comes from cross-referencing information and at this time is to the best of our knowledge.
- The number of children listed in these profiles is from information known at this time and may not include all offspring.
- There are many Smith families in Hudson, we think through the years and currently there are 5. We also believe these families are not related to each other.
- For more information about information contained, please visit rememberhudsonnhwhen.com.

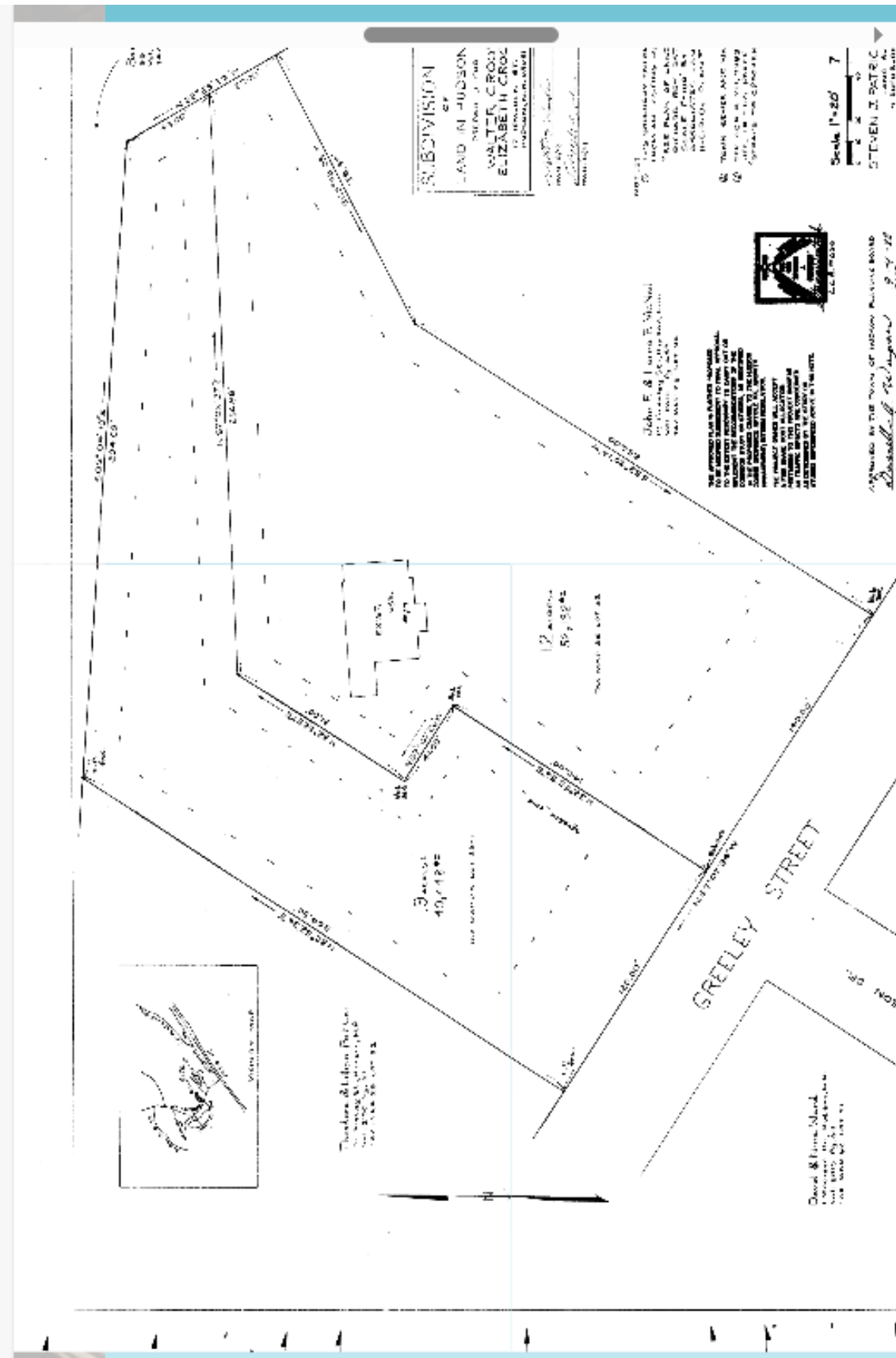
Attached Deeds:

			Grantor	Grantee
1892-3-30	523	478	Mary Dane	Martha Wentworth
1851-6-5	268	124	Parker Smith	Rhoda Dane
1840-5-5	205	351	Herman Dane	Parker Smith
1836-4-11	187	330, 331, 332	Luther Haselton	Herman Dane

Attachments Other:

	Document #
Plan 1969 Richard Roy	4084
Plan 22077 - Lot 2 of plan 4084 was divided into 2 lots. Probably after the barn was down	22077
Current Tax Map	168-42





168-72 Current Tax Map

