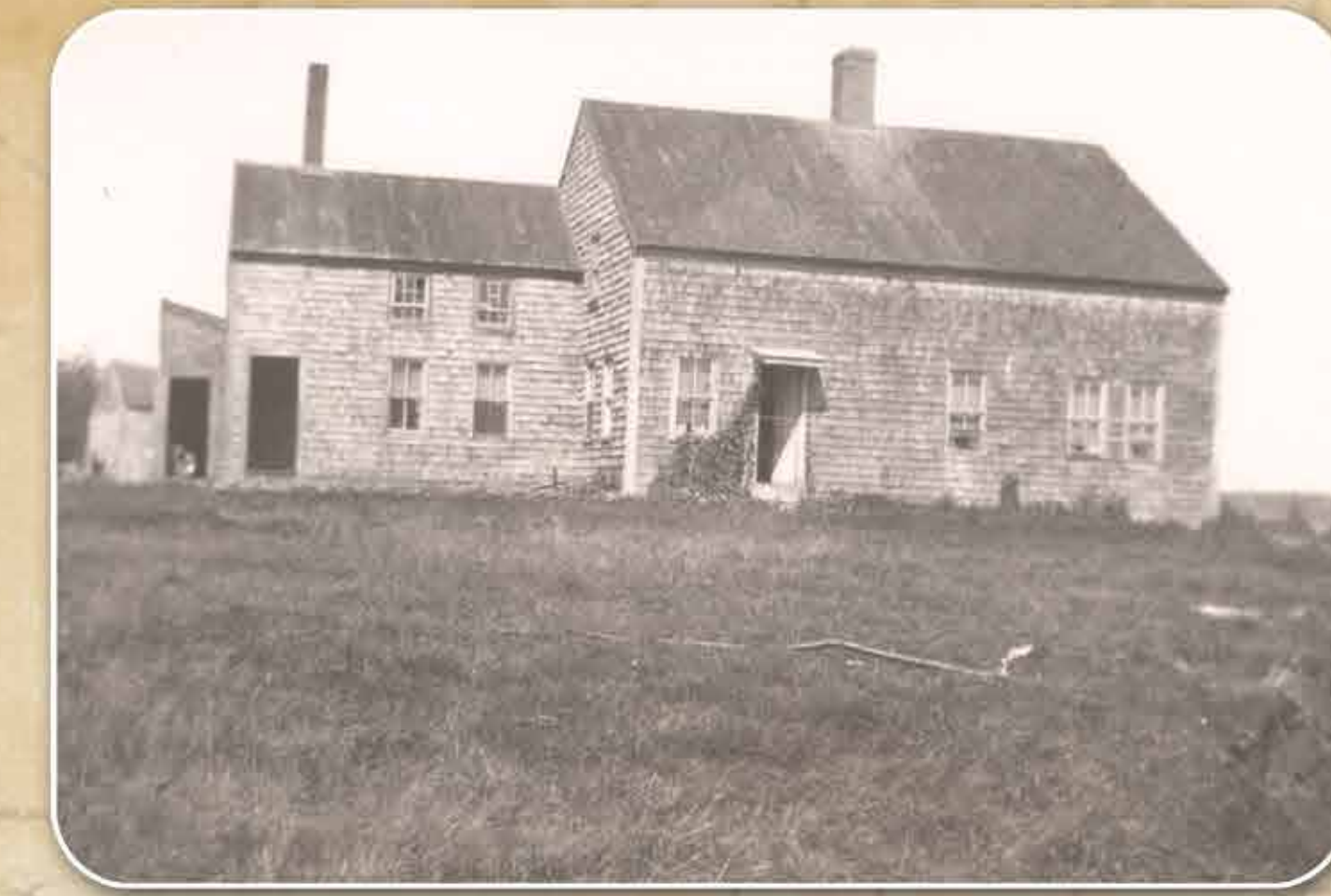


Broad Cove Reserve

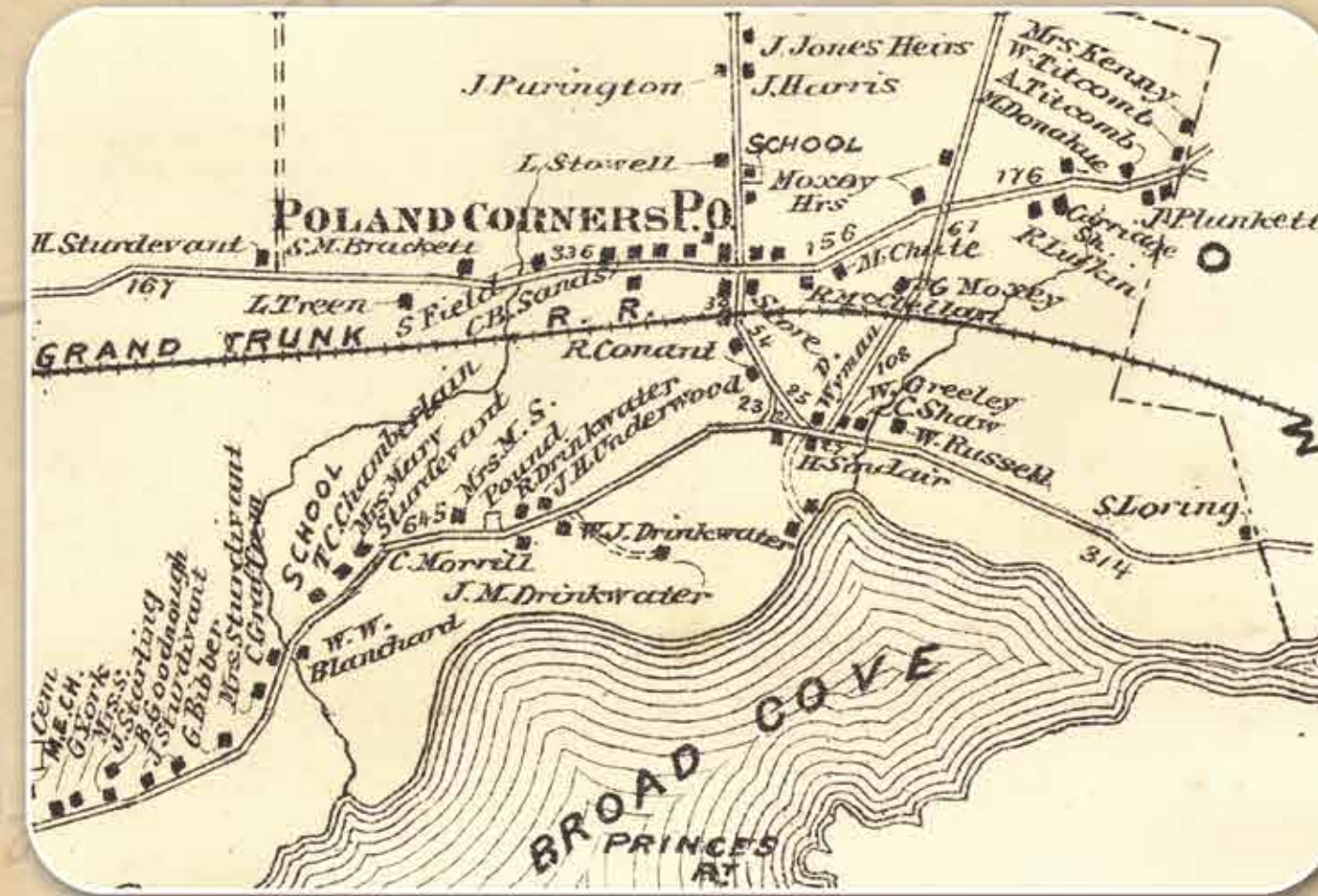
Town of Cumberland

History



Dalton Farm, circa 1915

Broad Cove Reserve was once the location of Cumberland's town farm. Nineteenth-century Maine law authorized the building of work houses for the employment of the "idle and indigent," and anyone receiving support from a town was liable to be sent to a work house. Town records show that on April 3, 1837, Cumberland voters approved the purchase of "a suitable farm on which to keep and maintain the paupers belonging to this town..." The Scales farm, which was listed on the original settlers' lots of 1727, was purchased by the Town from the five Scales siblings. A workshop and new building were added, and from 1837 to 1864 the town farm provided Cumberland's paupers with a place to live, raise produce and livestock, and perform other work to offset the cost of their care. Archaeological investigations at the Spears Hill Subdivision area uncovered stone foundations believed to be remnants of the town farm.



Cumberland Foreside, from the 1871 Cumberland County Atlas

On February 26, 1866, Cumberland voters approved a measure to "sell the Town Farm and all the appurtenances thereof..." The reason for the sale is clearly stated in the 1864 Overseers report, being that the last town farm residents had either died or left the home. Cumberland purchased and operated another town farm on Blanchard Road from 1888 to 1904.

The Foreside town farm was sold by the Town of Cumberland to Ephraim Sturdivant, an abutter, in 1866, for \$1,900. The Dalton Family owned the property from 1873 until 1919 and rented a portion of the property to the Cram Family. Elmira Cram Willson shared the photographs of the farm we have today. The images are the only existing visual record of an institution that served the town's most disadvantaged residents for 27 years.

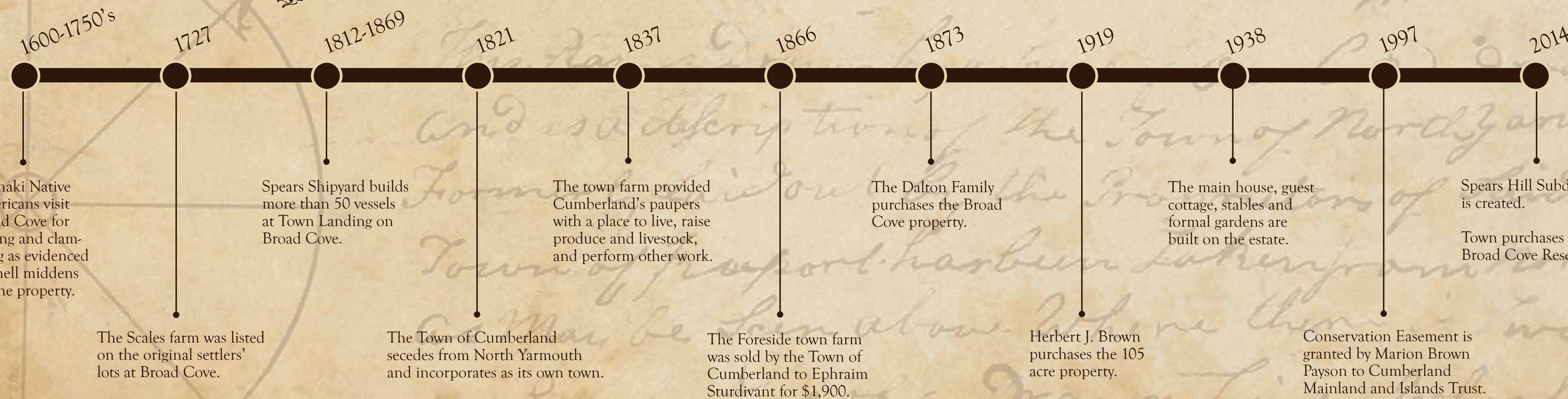


The Scales farm (1727) was purchased by Cumberland in 1837 and became the town farm for the employment of the "idle and indigent".

On August, 2, 1919, the Dalton Family sold the farm, other buildings and approximately 105 acres to Herbert J. Brown of Portland. Herbert Brown's daughter Marion and her husband Phillip Payson built the main house overlooking Casco Bay in 1938. A guest cottage, formal gardens designed by prominent garden designer Louise Payson, a grass tennis court and equestrian stables were also built overtime at the country estate. Marion Brown Payson granted a conservation easement on the property in 1997 to the Cumberland Mainland and Islands Trust reserving the right to build seven additional houses on the property and granting a public trail along Route 88. The Payson heirs sold the property in December 2014 to 179 Foreside, LLC, the developers of the Spears Hill Subdivision. The Town of Cumberland subsequently purchased part of the parcel to create Broad Cove Reserve.



Linwood Cram, Dalton Farm, c. 1915



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