

## *History of Harlow Brook Farm - Site of My Excavations to Date*

The house that I live in was built sometime from 1777 to 1791. 1777 was when the builder showed up and made “large improvements” to the land, but the first official record was in 1791. The issue with the 1791 date is that that is when the Vermont Republic dissolved and we became a state. It may be that records were lost during the transition, as many old houses in Vermont are dated to 1791. It was originally much smaller, as a good bit of the current house was built in the 1960s/70s. There used to be a summer kitchen where the new part of the house is now. We think that there may have been a structure here that is earlier than the house as one of the barns is made out of older materials. One of the barns, the other large one, we know was built in 1877 from a newspaper I found online, saying “Nathan Harlow (an owner of the house) is having a new 30x40 feet barn built.” (The Vermont Standard, May 10th, 1877.) The oldest thing I have found was a Conestoga Bell from an old covered wagon. This dates to the late 18th to early 19th century.

Many families over the years have owned the house, starting with Oliver Taylor, who built it. After Oliver died in 1797, his son, also named Oliver, inherited it. Over the next 23 years, Oliver Jr. then accumulated a lot more land, but then lost it all after he

over extended. In 1820, by Writ of Execution, the entire farm was taken over by Josiah Fitfield. From 1820-1850, we believe it was owned by Josiah, but we do not really know. There is a map from 1856 showing the house being owned by T. Haley and the house across the road, which is now gone, being owned by P. Haley. I figured out that Nathan Harlow, who the farm is named after, got the house between 1850 and 1860 due to census records. Then, after Nathan died in 1904, the house went to Josiah and Jennie (used to be Harlow) Larrabee when they were married in 1906. Jennie was Nathan's daughter. Fred, the eldest child, had already moved away so the house went to her and her family. Her sister, Florence, continued to live with them. Josiah died in 1925 and Jennie died in 1929. Most of the items I have found belonged to the Harlows or the Larrabees.

After Jennie died, the house went to George “Pop”

Larrabee. George died in 1960. After this, between 1960 and 1968 it gets a little foggy as we do not have access to census records after 1960, but we know that the Clouds got it at some point, although not for long. We believe they were trying to flip it. My grandparents, Faith and John Dunne got it after them in 1968. At this point, the house was in terrible shape, what was left of the summer kitchen had collapsed, and the barns were falling in. My grandparents cleaned up the summer kitchen and added the newer part of the house where it was, but used many of the original materials. They also did work on the barns. John died in 1982 and after Faith died in 2001, my dad and his brother inherited the farm. My dad bought out his brother's half and in 2002, my parents, Matt Dunne and Sarah Taylor, moved in. They did more work on the barns, stabilizing and repairing them, and they are the current owners.



*Harlow Brook Farm,  
Hartland, VT  
My family's Farm. Site  
of the excavations.*