

**The Totoket Historical Society, Inc.**

**COLONIAL INDUSTRIES IN  
NORTHFORD AND NORTH BRANFORD**

By

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## Introduction:

Several abbreviations were found within the document with no explanation as to their meaning. I have made an educated guess as to their meaning. They may be incorrect.

I.S. = Industrial Site

B.S.S.H. = Blacksmith shop

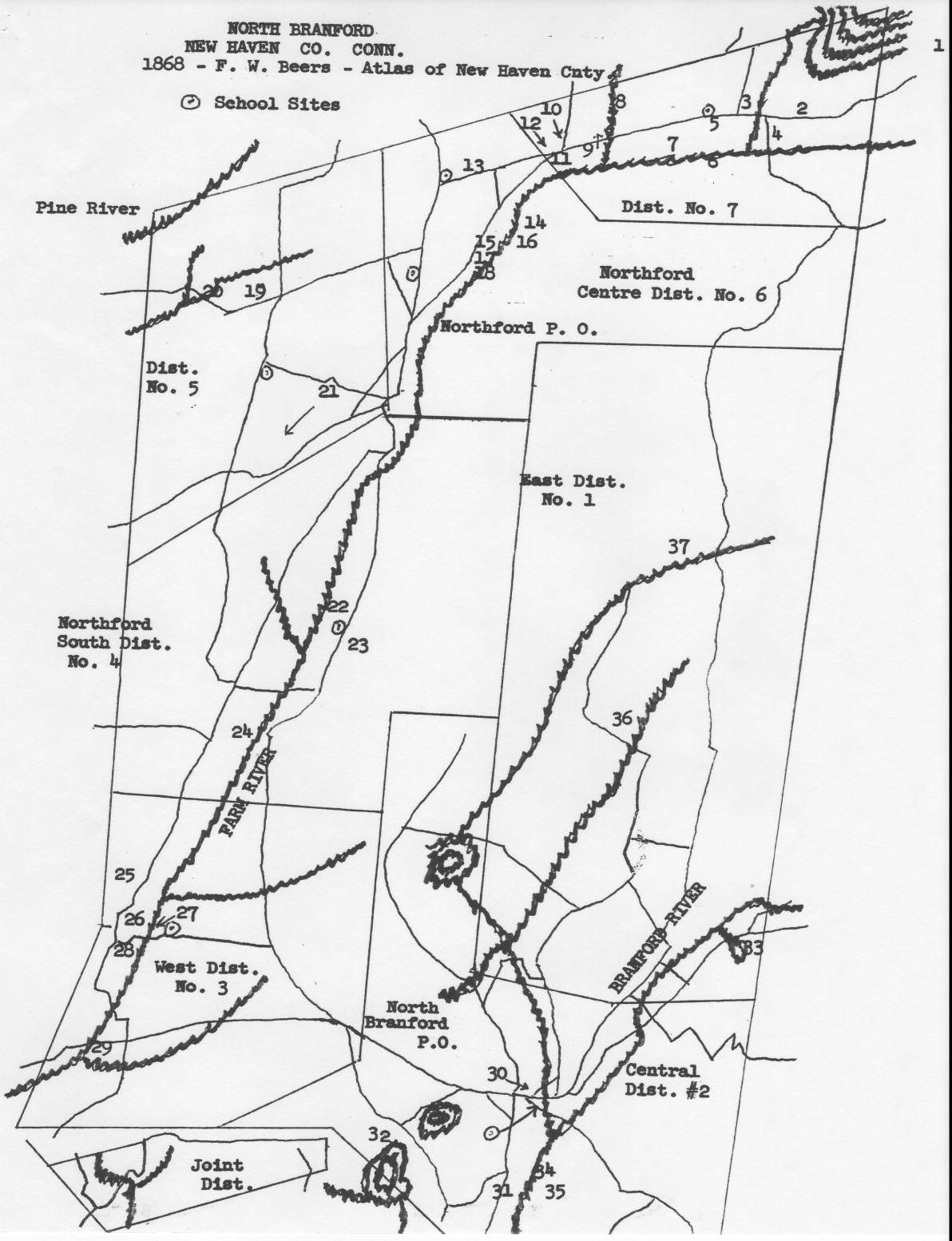
G.N.S.M. = Grist Mill, Saw Mill??

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NORTH BRANFORD  
NEW HAVEN CO. CONN.  
1868 - F. W. Beers - Atlas of New Haven Cnty

⊙ School Sites



## Confirmed Industries Colonial Period

- |     |  |     |   |
|-----|--|-----|---|
| 1.  | Coe' s Limestone Quarry  | 19  | ?? Oak Ship Elbows  |
| 2.  | Toll Gate  | 20  | 1852 Blacksmith   |
| 3.  | 1792 Saw & Grist Mill *  | 21. | Brownstone Quarry   |
|     | 1837 Grist Mill  | 22. | 1852 L. Blakesley & Sons  |
|     | 1861-65 Straw Paper  | 23. | 1852 Blacksmith   |
|     | 1869 Flatware  | 24  | 1707-1876 Saw Mill, Fulling<br>Mill, carding house, dye house,<br>clothier's shop, cider mill, smoke<br>house                 |
| 4.  | Saw Mill   | 25. | 1852 Brockett & Foote   |
| 5.  | 1852 Button Factory  | 26. | 1746 Grist Mill<br>1747 Flax Mill   |
| 6.  | ?? Mill Site   | 27. | 1852 G.N.S.M.   |
| 7.  | ??? Extensive Earth Works                                      | 28. | 1754 Corn, Saw & Oil Mill   |
| 8.  | 1833 Saw Mill  | 29. | 1852 Blacksmith   |
| 9.  | 1850 Blacksmith  | 30. | 1852 Blacksmith   |
| 10. | 1860 Button Shop B.S.S.H.                                      | 31. | 1852 Blacksmith   |
| 11. | 1852 Miller's Hotel  | 32. | 1868 Axe Forge Shop   |
| 12. | 1852 Tannery   | 33. | 1868 Axe Helve Factory 34-35. 34-   |
| 13. | ??? Store  | 35  | 1734 Saw, Grist, &<br>Fulling Mill  |
| 14  | 1827 Grist Mill  | 36. | 1868 Saw Mill   |
| 15. | 1831 Buttons, Combs,<br>Spoons, Gimmlets, Pens, Common<br>Pins | 37. | 1868 Saw Mill   |
|     | 1850 Coconut Dippers, Buttons,<br>Spoons, Axe Handles          | 38. | Flatware  |
|     | 1861 Self Operating Hay Rake                                   | 39. | Blacksmith<br>?? 1697 Lewellyn Burr mentioned a<br>saw mill on Stoney (Farm) River<br>granted to Samuel Hoadley,<br>Aug. 1697 |
|     | 1871 Christmas, Business,<br>"Sparking" Cards                  | 40. |   |
|     | 1929 Brushes   | 41. |   |
| 16. | 1884 Creamery  | 42. |   |
| 17. | 1852 Buttons   | 43. |   |
|     | 1855 Rivets  |     |   |
|     | ???? Hooks & Eyes  |     |   |
| 18. | 1849 Tinware & Machinery                                       |     |   |
|     |  |     | 44 Branch River / Rose  |
|     |  |     | 45 Bakers / Foote & Rose  |



I.S. #7 (continued)

c1900:

Cider Mill

NOTE: Extensive water channelling from I.S. #6 to spring area.

I.S.#8 Location: North branch Farm River on New Haven Water Co. land, 2 or 300 ft N. of Rte 17.

1833: Saw Mill. James (1/3) and Henry (2/3) Maltby [5]

NOTE: Ca 1975 E. T. Russell stated he had delivered from this site to patio of Mrs. M. E. Alling's tea house, a grist mill stone.

I.S.#9 Location: West boundary line of New Haven Water Co, N. side Rte 17, some 5 or 600 ft east of Woods Hill Rd. Now part of drive way

1850: Wyllys Tucker's Manufactory [5]

1852: Blacksmith Shop [1 B]

I.S.#10 Location: Garage at N. W. Corner of Rte 17 and Woods Hill Rd]

1852: Buttons [1 C]

1868: Blacksmith Shop [10]

I.S.#11 Location: So. side Rte 17, opposite Woods Hill Rd.

1852: Miller's Hotel [1 B]

I.S.#12 Location: Junction Old Post Rd & Rte 17, lot to the east of Simpson Residence.

1852: J. Harrison [1 B]

Jacob Harrison, Tannery [9A]

I.S.#13 Location: Cekarilli farm House, Old Post Rd.

1856: L. Harrison [1 C]

Store, Lorenzo Harrison, [9A]

I.S.#14 Location: Farm River, ca. 300 ft South of Maltby Lane.

1755: Saw Mill [2, V8A-P36] - To be checked

1768: Grist Mill [2, V9-P105]

1773: Two Grist Mills [2, V9-P351]

1805: Fulling Mill & Dye House [2, V15-P347 & 348]

1854: ] Button Factory [3, V4-P364]

I.S.#15 Location: West side Farm R, opposite Mill Pond Tavern

1739/40: Josiah Bartholomew sells to Abraham Bartholomew 3 acres of land at Ye Old Saw Mill [2, V6-P28]. To be checked.

1777: Elnathan Tyler buys 1/2 Saw Mill & 1/2 of 3 acres on Stoney River [2, V10-P84]

1805: Benjamin Maltby leases to Calvin Mansfield a certain mill place to improve for purpose of fulling mill and dye house [2, V15-P414]

1828: Calvin Mansfield has privelege of rebuilding the dam [2, V21-P484]

1837: Thaddeus Fowler started making common pins [7 -P78]

1850: Thaddeus Fowler makes machinery for the manufacture of buttons [2, V9-P644] Power presses in use [8, V9-P614] Ca 1850 E. Chapman Maltby begins making cocoanut dippers, axe handles, flails, spoons and desicated cocoanut [9A] and [8-P122/127]

1854: Paug Mfg Co. established to make agricultural implements [2, V4-P570/572] Samuel Maltby obtains right to rebuild the dam [3, V4-P364] Blacksmith Shop [3, V4-P28] Foundry [3, V4-P262]

1859: United States Pin Co. established [3, V4-P677]

1860: Smith & Cowles Manfg, 500 [5]

1861: Brittonia dippers & light iron castings [9C, Ch 3, P9]

1862: Horse drawn hay rake patented Sept 10, 1861 [9E] " - - - about this time, 1862, I think, Thaddeus Fowler invented the Fowler horse nail made by machinery [9A] Maltby Fowler & Co. Made

1863: Hooks & Eyes in partnership with Cowles & Leete and Francis & I.H. Bartholomew 3, V5-P616] "The Fowlers and Bartholomews as the Northford Hook & Eye Co made those articles - - - - and later rivets - - -" [7, P78] "In recent years the former (Isaac H. Bartholomew) and his sons, Edward and George, engaged in the invention and manufacture of devices for electric lighting, occupying the old hook & eye factory. Dynamos and other appliances are made" [7 -P78179]

1867: June 25, E. C. Maltby's preserved Cocoanut is patented [9] Maltby Fowler & Co [1 D)

1868: Maltby Fowler & Co. Hooks & Eyes. 10 H. P. 8 machines

1870: 8 employees. 18 ton iron wire & 2 ton brass wire [6] E. C. Maltby, cocoanut dippers. 10 H. P. 8 machines. 5 employees [6]

I.S. #15 (continued)

- 1876: "Twenty six years after - - - launching his shredded cocoanut - - - it won first prize at the Philadelphia Centennial" [3-P127]  
1879: Jan 7 "E. C. Maltby commenced to fill his ice house today (ca 25 ft N. of dam)" [9F]  
1880: March 30 E. C. Maltby sells to David S. Stevens Jr. the mill site [3, V8-P41]  
-, - - the business developed until it became one of the leading interests of the kind in the country. As many as fifty hands have been employed - - - in the manufacture of plain and fancy cards" - - [7 -P 106]

1929: New Haven Brush Co [1 E)

I.S.#16 Location:

- Between Mill Pond Taverne & the bridge  
1884: Northford Creamery [9-Ind Site #16 file]

I.S. #17 Location:

- On Farm R. ca 1600 ft N of Northford P.O.  
1852: S. Maltby's Fox Button Factory [1 B)  
1856: G. M. (Grist Mill?) [1C]  
1870: Northford Rivet Co. Rivet Mfg. 8 H. P. 4 Machines [6]

I.S.#18 Location:

- Directly behind Northford Post Office  
1829: Maltby Fowler buys 3 acres and privelege of building a dam [2, V21-P170]  
1833: Reference to " - - - factory and machinery and all buildings" [3, V1-P122]  
1837: gimlets and blacksmith shop [3, V2-PP 40/45]  
1849: Manufactory, Fowler & Bartholomew [5]  
1854: Northford Mfg Co. organized [3, V3-P654]  
1870: Northford Mfg Co. Steam, as well as, water power and 15 machines. 11 HP. [6]  
64 categories or types (uses) of tin ware and 303 different sizes [9I.S. #18 File]  
1864: Ellen Fowler letter refers to fire and vote of stockholders to rebuild [9-I.S. #18 File]  
1874: Northford Rivet Works [9-I.S. #18 File]  
1900: Northford Mfg Co, Frederick Fowler [5]

I.S.#19 Location:

- Gas station at junction Rte 22 & 17.  
Blacksmith Shop as late as 1930 [I.S. #19 Photo File]



- I.S.#20      Location:      Great Oak Rd, Northford  
1852:              J. B. Johnson [1 B], oak elbows for ships [9C, Ch 3-P5]
- I.S. #21      Location:      Western junction of Old Clintonville Rd and Rte 22.  
1775:              Ambrose Baldwin sells to Elihu Baldwin 1/2 Blacksmith Shop [2, V11-P184] This to be checked.  
1852:              W. Baldwin, B. S. Sh. [1 B]
- I.S.#22      Location:      Top of hill between Rte 17, Foote Hill Rd and Forest Rd.  
1846:              There was a brown stone quarry operated by the (Dan) Jones family - - - Stones were used to build the present Congregational Church in 1846 [9C-Ch 3, P5]
- I.S.#23      Location:      West side Village St, pond between Old Turnpike Rd & Palanga Rd.  
1793:              Saw Mill [2, V12-P457]
- I.S.#24      Location:      Probably Water Co. pumping station off Tommy's Path.  
1805:              Saw Mill at Great Gulph [2, V15-P412]
- I.S.#25      Location:      West Side Forest Rd, probably near Josie Dr.  
1852:              L. Blakeslee & Sons [1 B]
- I.S.#26      Location:      Forest Rd across from home of Bert Bunnell.  
1852:              Bunnell & Co [1 B]  
NOTE: 1992 Bert Bunnell reported evidence of Blacksmith Shop at this site.
- I.S.#27      Location:      Farm River, Old Forest Rd.  
1707:              Joseph and Isaac Foot share in building a Saw Mill.  
1742:              Cider Mill  
1776:              Smoke house, clothiers shop, fulling mill and dye house  
1829:              Carding house  
1707-1829      [9G]  
1870:              Marcus and A. L. Palmer, Wholesale Butchers: 300 cattle, 1,300 sheep and 100 swine. Beef 150,000 Ibs, Mutton 52,000 lbs, Pork 30,000 Ibs. Value \$52,000. [6]
- I.S.#28      Location:      Totoket Rd. Spezzano's farm  
1852:              Brockett & Foote [1 B)
- I.S.#29A      Location:      N of Mill Rd & West Side Farm R.  
1746:              Joseph Darwin sells to Ens. Josiah Rogers land with Grist

mill and dam [2, V6-P590]

I.S. #29 (continued)

- IS#29B Location: N. of Mill Rd & East side of Farm R.  
1754: Joseph Darin (Darwin) sells to Thomas Rogers Corn Mill,  
Saw Mill and oyl mill [2, V7-pp 409/410]
- IS#29C Location: South of Mill Rd, ca 25 to 100 ft on Farm R.  
1747: When Joseph Darwin uses the flax mill that stands - - - below the  
Grist mill he will keep up the Gate or Gates - - - [2, V9-P43]  
NOTE: Saw Mill operated
- I.S.#30 Location So. Side Mill Rd, 1st house & garage West of Farm R.  
1784: Josiah, Gideon & Elihu Rogers sell to Ebenezer Rogers dwelling,  
barn & Smith's shop---also Smith's tools [2, V11-P345]  
1868: B.S. shop [10]
- I.S.#31 Location So side Mill Rd, 2nd house West of Farm R.  
Newton Robinson's Carriage Shop [90]
- L.S.#32 Location S.W. Corner Foxon Rd & Totoket Rd.  
1852: B.S. Shop [1B]
- I.S.#33 Location N. Side Foxon Rd & just east of Great Hill Rd.  
1836: Blacksmith shop erected 1836 by Charles Cooper [9B]  
1868: B.S. Sh [10], Walter Baldwin [90]
- I.S.#34 Location S.E. corner Rte 80 & rte 139  
1852: "There was a shop for repairing wagons, blacksmith shop, etc.  
Across the road from the house marked J. Roial on 'Beer's Map'" [9B]
- I.S.#35 Location Linsley Lake Assoc.. property, ca 50 ft So. Of Linsley Lake Rd.  
1868: Axe Manuf. Linsley's [10]
- I.S.#36 Location Branford River, East of No. End of Valley Park on Rte 139.  
1868: Axe Handle Mfg. [10]
- I.S.#37 Location Branford R, about due East of Luther Chidsey's [1810] barn.  
1761 Samuel Brockway sells to Istreal Linsley 1/4 Saw Mill standing on  
same stream & dam with Grist Mill [2, V8-P194] until ca 1915.

- I.S.#38      Location:      So. side Rte 80, opposite North St.  
1804:            Joseph Baldwin sells to Amos Page 1 3/4 acres - - - with a  
                      blacksmith shop [2, V15-P60]
- I.S.#39      Location:      North St. near the home of Dudley Harrison.  
                      "Near the Brockways (on the left below Sibbies Hill) was a  
                      place where potash was manufactured in the early times  
                      and in the early part of the century (19th) a Distillery was  
                      erected for the making of cider brandy [9B]
- I.S. #40      Location:      Behind North Branford Congregational Ch.  
                      "Another (Blacksmith Shop) was back of the  
                      Congregational Church run by John Grovenor" [90]
- I.S. #41      Location:      196 Sea Hill Rd  
1778:            " - - - went to - - - Samuel Ford's and got my saddle stuffed  
                      and bridle mended [10]  
1799:            Tanner, Samuel Ford [4]  
                      Saddler, Elisha O Ford [4]
- I.S.#42A      Location:      Rte 80, between entrance of Sea Hill Rd and Branford R.  
1868:            Wm A. Reynolds, cabinet maker [10 and 9B]
- #42B          Location:      Rte 80 just west of entrance of Sea Hill Rd.  
1852:            Toll Gate [1 B & 1 C]. Abigail Reynolds' wife of William A.  
                      "kept the gate" [9B-]
- I.S. #43:      Location:      Clear Lake Rd. opposite Lake Rd.  
1868:            Axe Helve (Handle) Factory [10]  
---                "There was one grist mill - - - run by George Glover" [90]  
1885:            G. H. Glover, distributor of Lister's Agricultural Chemical  
                      Works' Ground Bone [9, Ind. Site #43 File]
- I.S.#44      Location:      Branch R., N. of where Beech formerly crossed.  
1811 :            Giles Harrison leases to Jonathan Russell 1/4 part of Saw  
                      Mill on land of Solomon Rose [2, V17-P469]  
1868:            Saw Mill [10]
- I.S. #45      Location:      Junction Sea Hill Rd & brook that feeds the head of Lake  
                      Gaillard.  
1736:            Sam'II Baker sells to George Smith land at place called  
                      Baker's Mill - - - Jr. Foot has the privelege of passing  
                      through the Saw Mill to ye Grist Mill [2, V5-P728]

I.S. #45 (continued)

1751: Sam Russell sells to Dan Linsley 1/2 Grist Mill & 1/4 Saw Mill & Fulling Mill at upper end of Long Hill called Bakers Mill [2, V7-P169]

- NOTE: 1) Further research on many sites would be warranted, particularly sites #44 and #45, as well as those identified with maps of 1852 & 1856.
- 2) Sheet #177 of Beer's Ledger (THS files) refers to Joseph Baldwin's "Colpit & carting of coal". And Vol 15-P60 of BLR refers to Joseph Baldwins B. S. Sh. on So. side of Rte 80, opposite North St. Could this be the site referred to by Prof Len Labaree as a very large charcoal operation servicing the origins of the U. S. Steel plant in New Haven. (See "other industry" file A to L.TH.S).
- 3) Further data is available from the files of the Totoket Historical Society.

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Jan., 1997

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