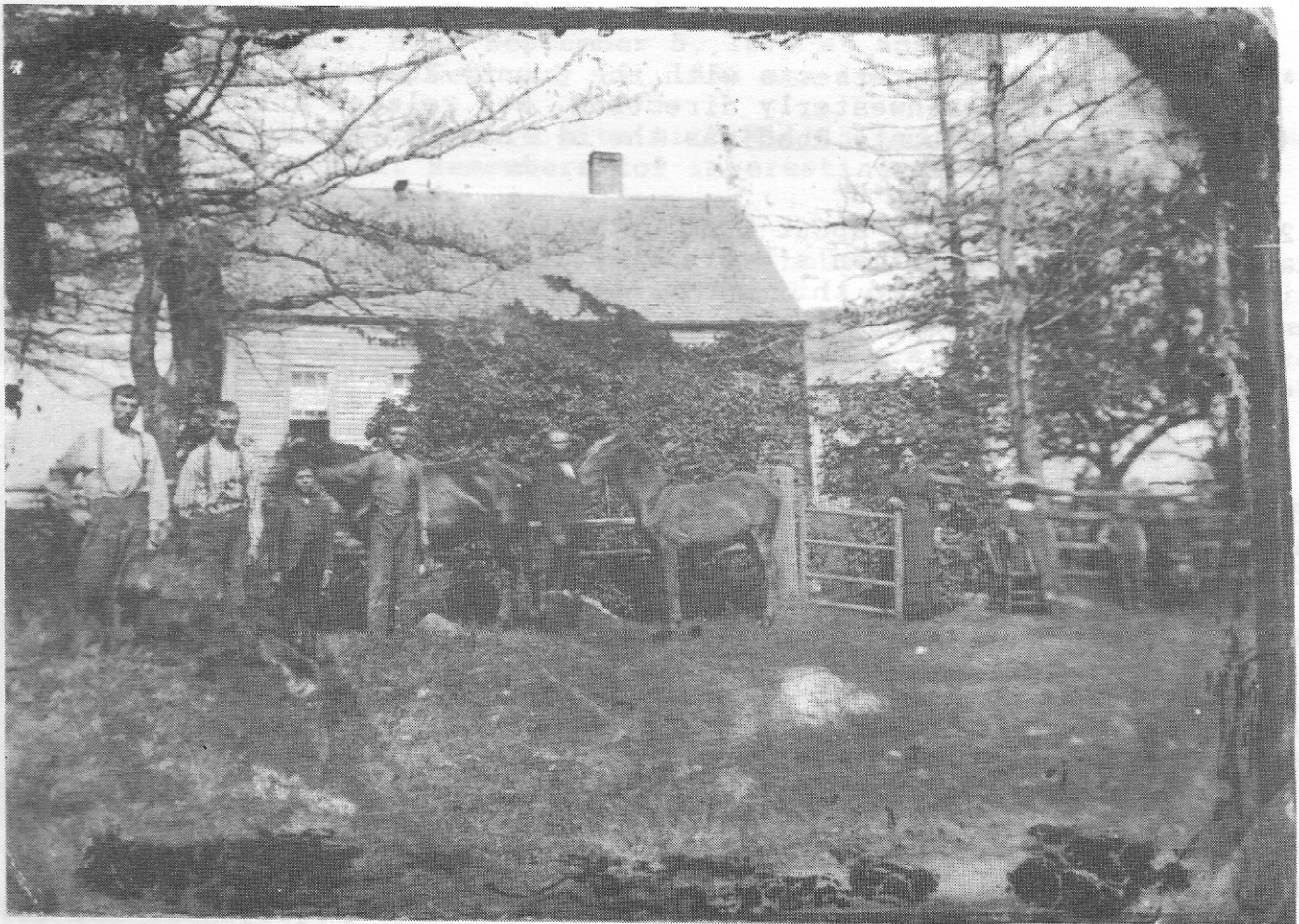


MIDDLE RIDGE - COOPER

Robert Day uses the name Middle Ridge for the area between Dead Stream and Howe Brook. This is logical because it is in the middle, between East Ridge and West Ridge. Justin Day calls the same area Grove Ridge, because the neighborhood is called Grove after its post office. This too is logical. I selected Middle Ridge for the title because it probably is the older name.



ABIAH DAY HOME; 1878 -- on left, Abiah and son Willis at age 13, neighbors with horses, Abiah's wife Margaret by the gate

Middle Ridge was until about 40 years ago cleared land. The south side of the road was fields, mostly two fields deep with other fields back toward the meadow. The north side of the road was a mixture of fields and pasture. The fields which now contain sites (1) and (2) were planted to apple trees.

MIDDLE RIDGE; continued

The paper resources used for this article were the B. R. Jones Plan of Cooper drawn prior to 1838, the 1861 Wallings Map of Washington County, the 1881 Atlas of Washington County by Geo. Colby, Census records, G. R. Moody's 1896 Directory of Alexander, Meddybemps, and Part of Cooper, and the Cooper Assessors Book for 1916.

People who helped were Justin Day of Cooper, his uncle Robert Day of Princeton, and Melva Keen. Justin's mother, Nellie Day loaned the photographs.

(1) In 1976 Elmer Day moved a trailer onto this site. He died a little over a year later. Elmer was the son of Willis and Martha Day. Then Arthur and Sandra (Flood) Haddock built this house. Sandy and her children, Arthur and Matthew, live here now. Sandy is the daughter of Ralph and Arlene (Day) Flood of site (10).

** The Connick Road intersects with the County Road at this point and goes off in a northwesterly direction. See related article in this newsletter. The County Road was the old name for Route 191.

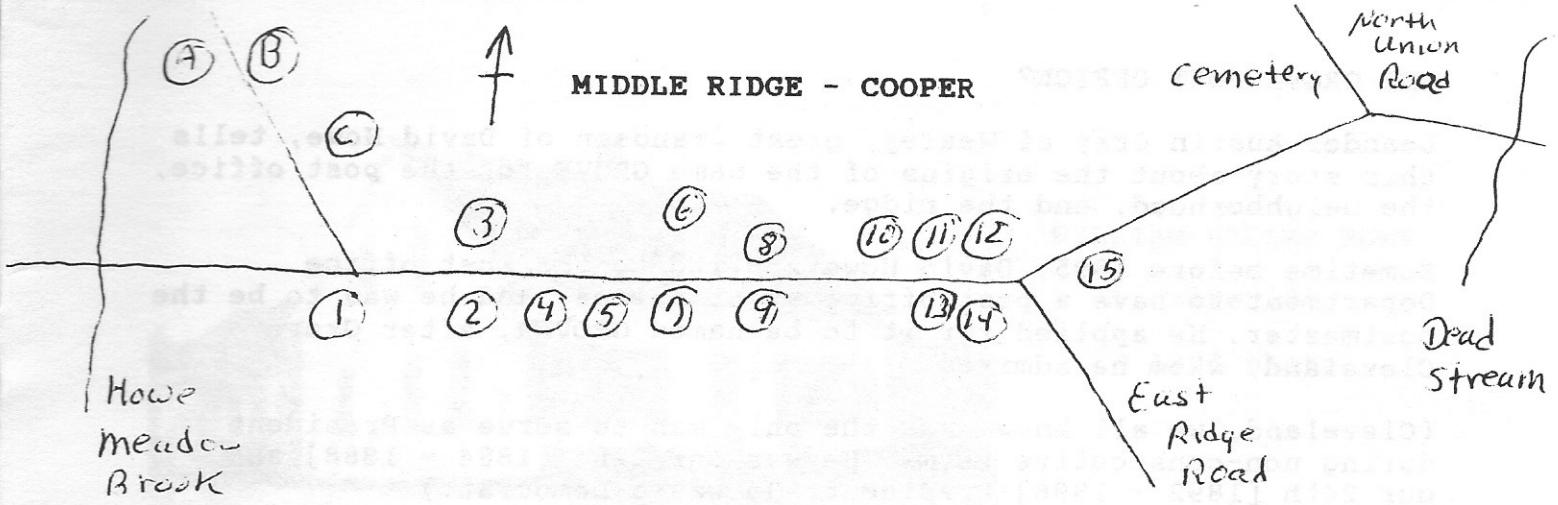
(2) This home was built about 1930 by Norman Day, son of Willis and Martha Day. In 1938 Norman's brother Philip moved here to look after his parents. He acquired this house, added to it and finished it off, and it became the home of Philip and Nellie Day and their children, Arlene, Violet, Willis, Justin, and Louise. Presently, Justin and Nellie are the occupants.

(3) Thomas Ellis was born in Boston in 1811. The 1861 Map indicates that he resided here with his wife Rosanna, age 33 and born in New Brunswick, and their children Henry @ 14, Amelia @ 11, William @ 9, Charles @ 7, George @ 5, Thursay @ 3, and Sarah @ 8/12.

No Ellis family is found in earlier Cooper records. William did marry Laura E. Carey on April 12, 1878 at Cooper. The 1880 census and 1881 Atlas tell us that they lived near the West Ridge School with their son Harry (born 1879), and Laura's sister Lillie V. Carey (ca 1872). Reference to the Carey family is found in Elihu Palmeter's letter (issue 82, page 16).

West Ridge Cemetery has a large gravestone marked: ELLIS, H. H.
H. H. E. 1847 - 1918 [Howard Henry, Civil War Veteran]
S. E. 1855 - 1897 [Syretha, wife of H. H. E. ?]
R. E. 1827 - 1908 [Rosanna, wife of Thomas, and mother of H. H.]
T. E. 1829 - 1901 [Thomas, husband, father, and father-in-law]

Abiah Day was born in Wesley. He arrived in Cooper after 1870 and before 1880. Robert remembers a story of Abiah living in Milltown, and trading farms for this one in Cooper. In 1880 Abiah, a widower at age 46, was here with here with following children; Vienun @ 23, Ella @ 18, Willis @ 15, Veranous @ 13, Alice @ 9, Burton @ 6, Elsie @ 3, and Alphonso who was born in 1879.



A gravestone shaft at the edge of the field across the road tells about the mother of these children. It reads:
 Abiah Day died March 24, 1888 at age 54 years
 Margaret E. died September 5, 1879 at age 40 years, wife
 Elsie M. died February 24, 1898 age 16 years, 2 months

This family continued at this site with Willis and Martha Day. See the related article Robert Remembers for interesting details of life with this family.

Willis died in 1948 and shortly after the house became vacant. Ralph and Arlene (Day) Flood moved in in 1955 and lived here until 1968. This has been home to Terrance and Judy Little since 1969. This is one of two houses on Middle Ridge that are over a century old.



WILLIS DAY HOME
 CHILDREN OF NELLIE AND PHILIP
 VIOLET WITH REX, ARLENE
 WILLIS AND JUSTIN
 LOUISE
 1942

- (4) In 1968 the fire hall was built on land donated by Mildred Howe.
- (5) The townspeople authorized the Cooper Library in 1992. The books are in a couple temporary structures at this site. One is the old state bookmobile and the other is an old school bus.
- (6) The home site of Asa Howe from before 1820. His son David Howe was next, followed by his daughter Florence May Howe, then her son Lee and Mildred (Morton) Howe. The last residents of this home were widowed sisters, Mildred Howe and Lizzie Perkins. See the related articles about the Howe Family in this newsletter for more details.

