

Stories of the Houses of Bloomfield Connecticut

108 TUNXIS AVE.
BLOOMFIELD, CONN.

I am not as competent a writer as Mrs. Charlotte Goodrich, who has written a book "Along Tunxis Trails" a history of Bloomfield.

I have tried to find some of the history of what is now 108 Tunxis Ave. it is difficult to trace transfers of property before the days of street names and numbers. In many cases it only refers to the name of the adjoining property owner.

Much information has been gained from talking with old time residents.

From Mrs. Goodrich I learned that Elihu Mills, who built the house in 1776 originally lived on what was known as Messenger's Farm on what is now Wintonbury Ave. where the A. C. Peterson Farm is. Mr. Mill's mother was a Messenger.

As far as I have been able to determine the property originally extended from the cemetery on Tunxis Avenue north to Terry Plains Road, west to Brown Street and east to Woodland Avenue.

In 1870 there is a transfer from an Elihu Mills to George Rathbun. There was a page and a half of transfers from an Elihu Mills to many people which would indicate that there might have been a number of Elihu Mills after the one who built 108 Tunxis Avenue house.

The late Charles Rathbun told me that when his Grandfather was a small boy he had travelled [sic] from Rhode Island on an Ox Cart to this house. The transfer to George Rathbun in 1870 seems much too late for it to have been his Grandfather unless the family had rented prior to this.

On December 6., 1907 there was a transfer from Charles Richardson of Westfield., Mass to Emily Cummings and for many years the property was known as the Cummings Place.

After the death of Mr. & Mrs. Cummings the property passed to Mr. Cumming's nephew Dr. H. Bailey., Health Officer of Hartford.

Dr. Bailey sold parts of the property to various people and in 1942 sold the house and approximately 30 acres to William Robinson.

In 1951 the house and 30 acres were sold to Russell Isham, a Real Estate man who in turn sold the house and 2 acres to us. He retained ownership of the additional acres and developed Wyndemere Road, selling individual lots and owners building homes of their choice so that it has a great deal of individuality [*sic*].

The apple orchard that was originally part of this property is now the front yard of the Bilodeau home on Tunxis Avenue.

In many of the transfers there was mention of the railroad tracks going thru [*sic*] the property.

I have heard from some people that the house at the northwest corner of Mills Lane and Woodland Avenue was originally built for the foremen of the large farm.

One thing that has interested me is the number of people who have lived in this house ever the years. I am always hearing someone say they lived here or had friends that lived here. In fact in December of 1950 the day we decided to buy the house I visited friends in Ashford, Connecticut and described the house and my friend's husband said he knew the house because his Granparents [*sic*] had lived here at one time.

Later in the office a man in his fifties who grew up in Bloomfield said when he was about 10 years old one of his biggest thrills was coming here to visit a friend.

I am sure many of you have known people that have lived here. It would certainly be interesting, if the walls could tell us about the people and the happy and sad occasions that have taken place here.

If anyone has more to add to the story, I would appreciate hearing from them.

Carol Morrison

[Carol A. Morrison - B: 27 June 1912; D: 11 September 1989]