

## **A History of the Jeremiah Knowlton Land on the Upper Damariscotta River**

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October 19, 2007

We start with information we have found on the Jeremiah Knowlton lot. (We have researched) this parcel of land now owned by the State of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, which has designated the Damariscotta River Association to oversee and manage (it).

The map of Nobleboro done by Ephraim Rollins in 1813 shows Jeremiah Knowlton's lot. We find that Damariscotta was still part of the town of Nobleboro. The Jeremiah Knowlton lot was a 100-acre lot.

When we went to the Lincoln County Registry of Deeds office we started with book 80, page 191. It read, Andrew Knowlton to Jeremiah Knowlton. I Andrew Knowlton of Nobleboro in the County of Lincoln, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Yeoman, Dated May 11, 1814. The word yeoman means a petty officer in the U.S. Navy. We find Jeremiah Knowlton owned this land for 57 years.

Then we found in book 259, page 203, Jeremiah Knowlton to Henry S. Knowlton, this being the same parcel of land. Jeremiah Knowlton to Henry S. Knowlton, dated February 16, 1871, and recorded in the Lincoln County Registry of Deeds, Book 250, page 203.

This parcel of land stayed in the Knowlton family. Henry S. and Addie H. Knowlton keep this parcel of land for 72 years. Then we found in book 446, page 418 Addie H. Knowlton to Elizabeth S. MacDonald of Wiscasset. Addie Knowlton sold this property and land on the second day of April, 1943, to Elizabeth S. MacDonald. When we look back over the years we find that this land stayed in the Knowlton family for 129 years. The Knowltons farmed this land and raised livestock.

The MacDonalds only kept this land and buildings for a year. We find in Book 450, page 349, MacDonald to Winfield F. Cooper. It went on to say, Elizabeth S. MacDonald and husband Alexander MacDonald sold this property and land to Winfield Cooper and Kathleen J.

Cooper, wife of Winfield F. Cooper, on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1944, before Gordon Anderson, Notary Public. Notarial seal .received March 30, 1944 at 10 o'clock 45 M. Recorded from original Edith H. Pines register.

Winfield and Kathleen farmed part of this farm and let their friend David Chapman cut and mow the hayfields for his own use on his dairy farm. (They) kept this land for 39 years. Winfield died in May 1973 and Kathleen kept the farm until her death in January 1983.

During the time when Winfield and Kathleen Cooper owned this land, the state highway department decided to build a new highway to bypass the business district of Damariscotta. The new Route 1 highway passed right through the lower section of the farmland of the Cooper farm. So after the highway was completed, this farm field was divided into two lots. The smaller of these lots, 16 acres with 1,220 feet of shorefront, is the land now owned by the Damariscotta River Association. (This parcel) contains a cemetery, know as the "Knowlton-Russ Cemetery." This cemetery is where Major Jonathan Russ is buried. He was a veteran of the American Revolution. The cemetery also contains other headstones. We have found that down next to the river's edge you can still see remnants of old oyster shell beds. Even back from the river under a light cover of topsoil you will find fragments of oyster shells. This area has always been a great place to see wildlife, like deer, foxes, rabbits, and woodcock. There is also a wonderful spring that overflows and runs down to the river. There are also a large number of partridges and they feed off the buds of the wild apple trees in the area.

Then in the fall of 1983 Marjorie and I became the owners of the Coopers farm and woodlots. We both loved to watch mother nature and always wanted to set aside a section of our land for this reason.

Then after a number of years we were approached by the DRA and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and they wanted to know if we were interested in selling this plot of land. We both agreed this was a wonderful thing to do. So we both went ahead with the sale of the land and have been very pleased ever since to be able to protect another section of land along the upper Damariscotta River.