

EXPLANATION OF THE MAP.

The lots, with their owner's names attached, are nearly as they stood immediately after William Hayden settled here. The land between the meadow hill and the river is subject to overflow by the spring freshets, and the fertility of these meadows and their freedom from forest trees was largely due to those freshets. The land between the top of the meadow hill and the base of Rocky Hill, where the houses were built, is simply a higher level than the meadow ("High Down, Heydon," see page 11).

A little below the "Ferry" the meadow hill diverges again from the river at the head of the "great meadow;" this meadow is about two miles in length and averages about half a mile in width. Along the brow of this hill the first settlers lived, to be near the only land then ready for cultivation. The record of the layout of this highway says "the road that runneth north and easterly from the Palizado shall be four rods wide as far as any house lots are laid out, [2½ miles] that is to the upper side of William Hayden's lot." But soon some parties living along Windsor street, below what is now known as Haydens, wanted a way to the land they had taken up in Pine Meadow, a tract of meadow land containing about seventy acres, lying a mile and a half north of William Hayden's. This was before New brook had been opened, and the course along which the present highway runs was then a swamp, so they made a way around over the hill, and along the present lane, and so on back to the line of the present highway, before crossing the next brook. They could not take a direct course to Pine Meadow from the point where the railroad crosses the lane, because a swamp barred the way, and any distance was sacrificed rather than make a road through a swamp. The road afterwards described as running "from William Hayden's northwesterly to Norwoet" (Northampton), was not the road to Springfield before Northampton was settled (1654), as I have heretofore stated. It ran through "Mr. Stoughton lot," proving that it was not open in 1640. It seems probable that it was at first a trespass road to the Commons to get pipe staves (to be sent to the West Indies for rum and molasses), but may have been the trail used from the first to go to Warranoke, Westfield, Mass. Mr. Pynchon settled Springfield the year after