

the hill, with a tiny sheet of water in front, and, calling the doctor's attention to the place, remarked: "There is the spot for your new home." Equally impressed with the possibilities of the place, the doctor adopted his relative's suggestion, and began to clear the land and build the house, which was first occupied as a family residence in 1783. Various improvements have since been made, as the needs of the family required or the gratification of their tastes suggested; but the original structure still stands, with its sunny windows looking southward and its roof shaded by the boughs of elms and maples planted by members of the family in different generations. Its hospitable doors are still quick to respond, as in all previous years of its existence, to the timid knock of the stranger and the needy, wayfaring man. The farm, however, has been changed by the sale of several tracts of land, sufficient for other smaller homesteads and the construction of a road through it, which was for many years the direct highway between Boston and Albany. The place still comprises 160 acres of hill and dale adjoining the house, and though rocky and rough, like most New England farms, it yet retains unchanged the beauty of location which first claimed the admiration of the sportsman.

After the death of the doctor the property was held by Argalus and Sylvanus, his two younger sons. About 1820 Argalus sold his interest to Sylvanus. At the death of the latter, in 1863, the title passed to Mandley Pierce, who m. Emily Thomas, dau. of Sylvanus, and by whom it is still held.

Dr. William Thomas d. March 2, 1805, aged 62. His wife d. Nov. 17, 1817, aged 76. His remains lie in the old cemetery at West Brookfield, and on the headstone of his grave is found the following:—