

9. CPA SUMMARY PROJECT FORM

[CPC Use Only: Date Received 10/27/21 By: SAMMIE KUL
Assigned CPC #2023 - 02]

This form may be copied. Please type or print clearly, answer all questions, use "N/A" if not applicable. Use additional paper as needed.

1. a.) Applicant Name: Last Gualco First Nikolis
and Organization(s) (if appropriate) Groton Conservation Commission
b.) Regional Project: Yes or No? ☒ If Yes, Town/Organization: _____

2. Submission Date: _____

3. Applicant Address: St 173 Main Street
City/ State: Groton, MA ZIP: 01450

4. Ph. # 978-448-1106 Email: conservation@grotonma.gov

5. CPA Purpose. Check all that apply:

Community Housing: ☐ Affordable Housing: ☐ Historic Preservation*: ☐

Open Space: ☒ Recreation: ☒

* As per MA General Law Chapter 44B, proposed historic projects that are not on the structures listed on the state's registry of historic places require a determination by the Groton Historic Commission that the proposed project is of historic significance.

6. Project Location/Address: Priest Family Conservation Area (Parcel 224-15.1)

7. Project Name: Priest Hill Open Field Habitat Restoration

8. Community Preservation Plan Objectives - use codes from **Section 5** to indicate all that apply:
OSRP: 9.1.2; 9.3.1; 9.3.3; 9.3.4 AND CPP 5.3

9. Project basic description: The Conservation Commission is requesting \$29,050.00 to fund a wildlife habitat project it is planning for the newly acquired Priest Family Conservation Area (Parcel 224-15.1).
The Commission has applied for a MassWildlife Habitat Grant and anticipates learning if our proposal is to be funded in November. In the event that the Habitat Grant comes through, this CPC proposal would be withdrawn from consideration.

This request seeks funding for the initial one-time work of a larger long-range plan to restore the top of a drumlin as open field and shrub habitat. Currently, the hill top is comprised of an approx. 5.3 acre field (a former orchard). The field is grassy with about 100 trees that were planted in the 1980s by the former owner. Bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus) has overgrown most of the trees in the field, and many of the trees in the forest edge along the western side of the field. Specifically, CPA monies would be used to fund the following:

1.) Control of invasive bittersweet (phase 1) in the fall (2022). Bittersweet needs to be controlled in the field and in the western forest edge;

2.) Removal of all the trees in the field. This will open the field to more 'open meadow' conditions;

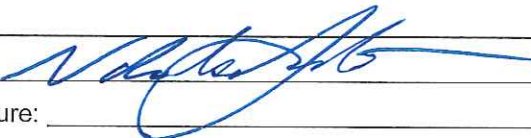
3.) Selective cutting of trees up to 50 feet into the forest along the western edge of the field. This is intended to create an ecotone (transition between vegetative communities [e.g., open meadow, mature forest]). All tree cutting is intended to take place in the winter (2022-2023) to minimize impacts to the

9. Continued - Project basic description: landscape.

4.) Treatment of bittersweet (phase 2) in the spring (2023) after the vine re-sprouts.

The proposal would held the Town meet the following goals of the 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan: "Strengthen partnerships between Groton Town committees, organizations, institutions, neighboring communities, and state agencies; Protect wildlife habitat and contiguous greenway corridors; Provide resources for effective open space stewardship; Promote public awareness of natural resources and ecological issues; Plan and implement strategies for hazard mitigation."

This project will strengthen the partnership between the Conservation Commission and the Invasive Species Committee. Volunteers from Invasive Species Committee can help the Commission keep the invasive vegetation under control in the years following the activies described in this proposal. The proposal will protect existing wildlife habitat and greatly augment the quality of available habitat for a variety of wildlife species, including game and rare/protected species. The plan was created in coordination with wildlife biologists from MA DFW. This project also represents the first time the Commission has requested funding for a purpose like this and therefore this proposal represents a potential means of funding future projects aimed at effectively stewarding open space in Groton. The Commission, in partnership with the Invasive Species Committee, intends to use this property as an educational resource that will explore the complexities of habitat/ecosystem management. Finally, as trees choked out by invasive Bittersweet pose safety hazards to the general public, this proposal will mitigate hazardous conditions on public lands by removing infected trees that pose a risk of falling.

10. Applicant Signature: 

Date: 10/27/21

Co Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Co Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

11. CPA PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

[CPC Use Only: Date Received 2/22/2022 By: SAMMIE KUL
Assigned CPC #2023- 03]

If possible, use word processor to fill out form. Please answer all questions, use "N/A" if not applicable.

1. a.) Applicant Name and Organization: Last Wheatley, George First _____
Organization(s) (if appropriate) Groton History Center and Historic Commission

b.) Regional Project: Yes ☐? or No? ☒ If Yes, Town/Organization: _____

2. Submission Date: January 11, 2022

3. Applicant Address: St. 172 Main Street
City/ State: Groton, MA ZIP: 01450

4. Ph. # 9784480092 Email: Kara Fossey info.grotonhistory.org

5. CPA Purpose. Check all that apply:

Community Housing ☐ (Affordable Housing ☐ Historic Preservation* ☒ Open Space: ☐
Recreation ☐

* As per MA General Law Chapter 44B, proposed historic projects that are not on the structures listed on the state's registry of historic places require a determination by the Groton Historic Commission that the proposed project is of historic significance.

6. Town Committee or boards participating: Historic Commission

7. Project Location/Address: 172 Main Street, groton

8. Project Name: Prescott Stone Project

9. Additional Responsible Parties (If applicable):

Role (specify)	Name	Address	Ph. (w) (cell)	Email
Property/Site Owner	GHC	172 Main Street	see #4	see #4
Project Manager	Kara Fossey	same	same	sameGeorge
Lead Architect	George Wheatley		9784485620	wheat1940@c
Project Contractor				
Project Consultants				
Other:				
Other				

10. As appropriate, indicate if proposal requires P&S agreement ☒ Deed ☒
Option agreement ☒ Other-describe: _____

11. a.) Assessor info. (map/ block/ lot Id.(s)): NA b.) Tax classification type: _____

12. Permits required: Zoning: no Historic Preservation: no Other: George Wheatley

13. Historic Commission Approval signoff (when required): yes Date: _____

14. Funding: a.) Project Cost: \$6000 Estimate: \$ Professional Quote: \$

b.) Requested from CPC: \$6000 c.) Committed from other sources: \$ Labor

d.) Annual anticipated total income: \$0 e.) Annual anticipated total expense: \$0

f.) Anticipated net income (loss): \$ g.) Estimator name/company: _____

15. CCP Objectives - use codes from Section 5 to indicate all that apply: 5.1.2

16. Project Timelines: Proposed Start Date: July 2022 Projected Complete Date: end of 2022

17. Estimated Delivery Date of Completion Report to CPC: December 2022

18. Project description and explanation (attach additional sheets as needed): The Groton History Center and George Wheatley (Historic Commission) are working together to provide a secure and stable setting for the historical Prescott Stone. It will be located at the Governor George Boutwell House in the side yard, protected from weather and available for viewing by Groton's citizens. We intend to engage a professional design firm such as a Landscape Architect or a firm that specializes in securing historical artifacts to develop a plan. We have someone who is willing to provide volunteer labor to complete the project for less cost. Please see attached article by Al Collins and photo of the stone.

19. Feasibility:

20. List of attachments: Article by Al Collins about moving the stone to The Groton History Center property.
Photos of Stone

21. Additional Information:

22. Management Plan: Richard Chilcoat and George Wheatley will secure bids for the design portion of the Project. After review and selection of the design professionals, the Board of Groton History Center will vote to accept the finished design. We will purchase materials and hire or use a volunteer landscaper to complete the project. Kara Fosse Director will coordinate activities to ensure completion and Michelle Colette will oversee expenditures to ensure they do not go over budget and bills are paid.

23. Applicant Signature: Karl C. Fusley Date: 1/13/22
Co Applicant Signature: George E. Wheatley Date: 1-13-22
Co Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

A Stone With a Story

Al Collins

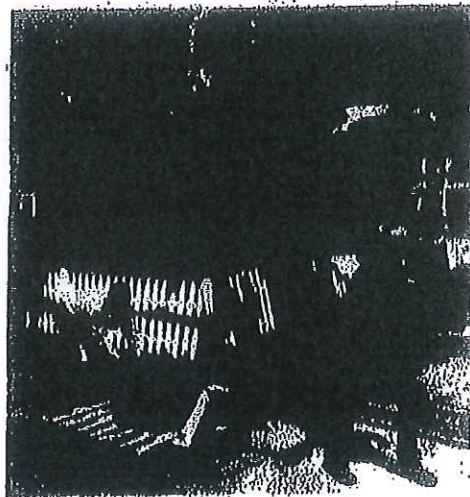
In the late 1600s, Jonas Prescott had a farm on the northwestern side of today's Old Ayer Road. As most inhabitants did back in the early years of Groton, Jonas most likely cleared his fields of rocks & stones and used these stones to build boundary stonewalls. It is believed Jonas placed a stone in one of his walls with the inscription "I P 1680", most likely marking the date he constructed the wall. As years passed, ownership of Jonas' property transferred to his grandson Oliver Prescott. It's believed at some point Oliver rebuilt the wall and in doing so, updated Jonas' inscription by adding "Rebuilt by O P 1784". Further on in time, the property transferred to Stuart J. Park who must have carried on the tradition of maintaining this wall and rebuilt it. Once again the inscription was updated by adding "Rebuilt by S J Park 1841".

In 1875 the property was conveyed from the Park Family to Willard Giles. Willard decided to build a new barn on his property and in doing so needed many stones to build a foundation. There happened to be perfect stones close by in the above stonewall so Willard decided to use some of these stones, including the inscribed stone, to build the barn foundation. A noted Town Historian, Dr. Green, noticed the inscribed stone missing and investigated what Willard had done. It was determined, the stone was now part of the barn foundation so with the blessing of Willard Giles, Dr. Green enlisted the help of two masons who spent two days taking down foundation walls until they came across the Prescott stone.

Dr. Green wanted to preserve this piece of history, so it was given to the son of James Lawrence to be placed in a stone wall at the Lawrence Homestead at the corner of Farmer's Row and Long Hill Rd. Through the years trees grew along the wall. One tree in particular wrapped its roots around the stone forcing it to protrude outward from the wall. As the Farmer's Row sidewalks were improved, soil was placed along the sides to raise the grade, covering the bottom inscription on the stone. If nothing were to be done to save this stone, it would one day be face down, covered with dirt and be gone forever.

The Groton Historical Commission recently raised concern to the Lawrence Family Estate that this historic stone could be broken or lost as the forces of both man and nature take their toll. In working out a solution, the Lawrence Estate graciously gifted the Prescott stone to the Commission with the stipulation it be placed either at Town Hall or at the Groton Historical Society. It was decid-

ed the best place to archive this stone would be the Historical Society's History Center with the big remaining question being, how do we remove and transport it, without destroying this piece of history.

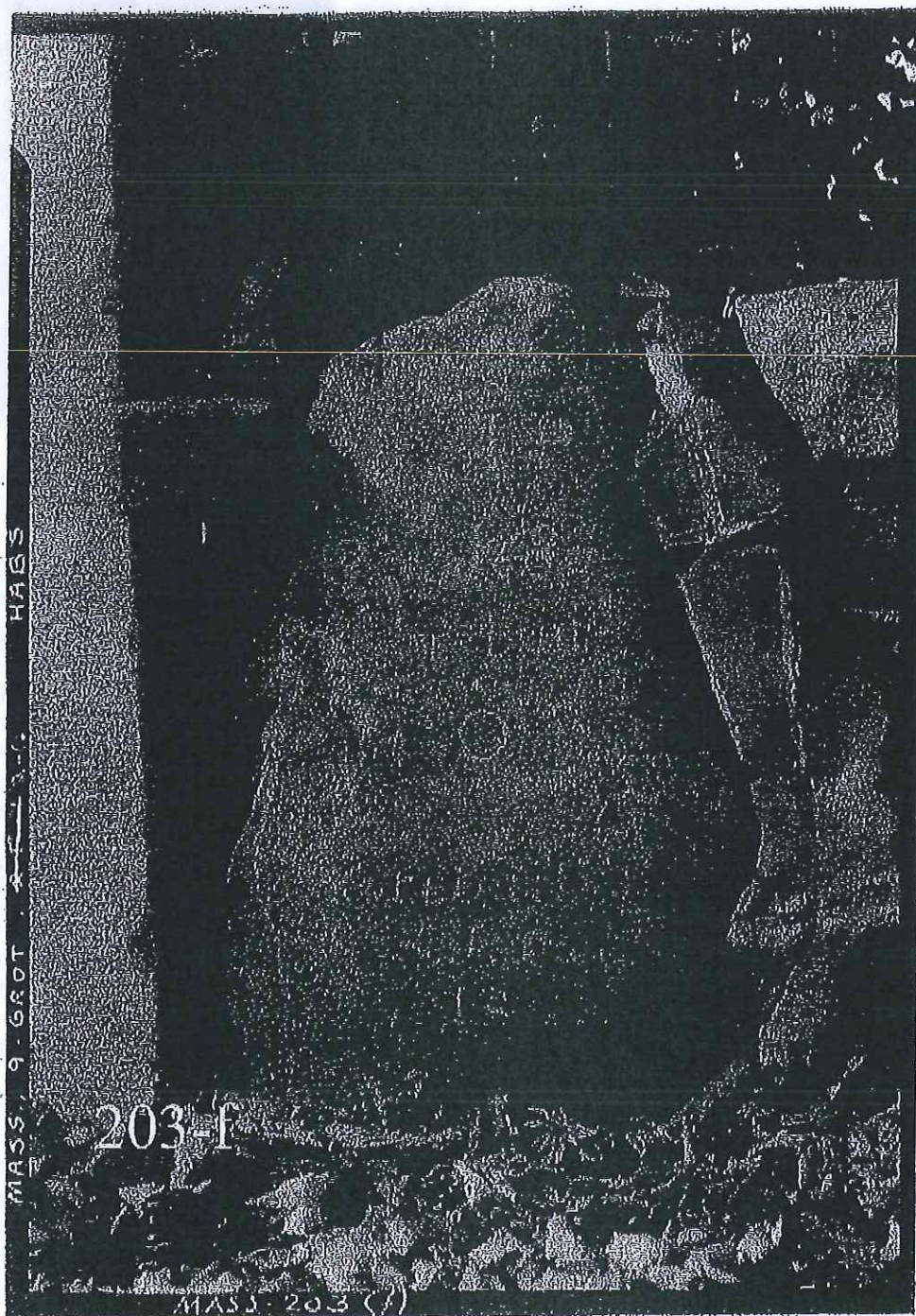


George Wheatley and Al Collins moving the Prescott Stone from Farmer's Row to its new home at the Boutwell House.

At the direction of George Wheatley and Michael LaTerz, both members of the Historical Commission, Peter Benedict and Al Collins embarked on extracting the stone from the wall. With much effort and 2 hours of hard work, they were able to remove the 600 pound stone and maneuver it onto a wooden pallet. This was a great milestone but now what? Peter happened to be in possession of a pallet jack, so it was decided Peter and Al would muscle their way up and down the sidewalks, along the 3/4 mile route to the History Center on Main Street. George and Michael stopped traffic as the stone made its way across the various intersections. Once in front of Town Hall, Peter and Al mustered up what little energy they had left, pulled the pallet jack as fast as they could across Main St and up onto the driveway, resting the pallet onto a grass area of the History Center.

As many may know, to the rear of the History Center's Boutwell House, the Groton Business Association, along with many volunteers, has been working hard to create a garden for the enjoyment of the general public. The infamous Prescott stone will likely find a permanent resting place within the public garden becoming part of a stone-wall maze. Everyone is invited to volunteer in this public effort to create a serene place at the History Center where people can enjoy wildflowers with views of Gibbs Hill, as well as a Stone with a Story.

HABS 203-f



Groton Community Preservation Committee
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

February 9, 2022

Dear Committee Members,

The Groton History Center is requesting CPA funds to be used to permanently place and protect an unusual piece of Groton's History called the Prescott Stone.

Groton is rich in history but with every passing day, pieces of this rich history unknowingly disappear. Groton is fortunate to have residents who realize the importance of preserving the Town's past while bringing it into the future for generation to come. The Prescott Stone is a piece of this history that should be protected and displayed in a public place for all to enjoy. The History Center works tirelessly to serve the residents of Groton in protecting historic artifacts relevant to Groton's rich past such as this stone. A final resting place for the Prescott Stone to be displayed would be perfect at the Groton History Center but unfortunately, to do so will take money to place and protect it properly.

I firmly support the use of CPA Funds to place and protect the Prescott Stone at the Groton History Center.

Respectfully,
Al Collins

Ps...I've attached an article pertaining to the rescue of the Prescott Stone which may have submitted with the History Center's application but if not, enjoy reading it.

A Stone with a Story

In the late 1600s, Jonas Prescott had a farm on the northwestern side of today's Old Ayer Road. As most inhabitants did back in the early years of Groton, Jonas most likely cleared his fields of rocks & stones and used these stones to build boundary stonewalls. It is believed Jonas placed a stone in one of his walls with the inscription "I P 1680", most likely marking the date he constructed the wall. As years passed, ownership of Jonas' property transferred to his grandson Oliver Prescott. It's believed at some point Oliver rebuilt the wall and in doing so, updated Jonas' inscription by adding "Rebuilt by O P 1784". Further on in time, the property transferred to Stuart J Park who must have carried on the tradition of maintaining this wall and rebuilt it. Once again the inscription was updated by adding "Rebuilt by S J Park 1841".

In 1875 the property was conveyed from the Park Family to Willard Giles. Willard decided to build a new barn on his property and in doing so needed many stones to build a foundation. There happened to be perfect stones close by in the above stonewall so Willard decided to use some of these stones, including the inscribed stone, to build the barn foundation. A noted Town Historian, Dr. Green, noticed the inscribed stone missing and investigated what Willard had done. It was determined, the stone was now part of the barn foundation so with the blessing of Willard Giles, Dr. Green enlisted the help of two masons who spent two days taking down foundation walls until they came across the Prescott stone.

Dr. Green wanted to preserve this piece of history, so it was given to the son of James Lawrence to be placed in a stone wall at the Lawrence Homestead at the corner of Farmer's Row and Long Hill Rd. Through the years trees grew along the wall. One tree in particular wrapped its roots around the stone forcing it to protrude outward from the wall. As the Farmer's Row sidewalks were improved, soil was placed along the sides to raise the grade, covering the bottom inscription on the stone. If nothing were to be done to save this stone, it would one day be face down, covered with dirt and be gone forever.

The Groton Historical Commission recently raised concern to the Lawrence Family Estate that this historic stone could be broken or lost as the forces of both man and nature take their toll. In working out a solution, the Lawrence Estate graciously gifted the Prescott stone to the Commission with the stipulation it be placed either at Town Hall or at the Groton Historical Society. It was decided the best place to archive this stone would be the Historical Society's History Center with the big remaining question being, how do we remove and transport it, without destroying this piece of history.

At the direction of George Wheatly and Michael Laterz, both members of the Historical Commission, Peter Benedict and Al Collins embarked on extracting the stone from the wall. With much effort and 2 hours of hard work, they were able to remove the 600 pound stone and maneuver it onto a wooden pallet. This was a

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As many may know, to the rear of the History Center's Boutwell House, the Groton Business Association, along with many volunteers, have been working hard to create a garden for the enjoyment of the general public. The infamous Prescott stone will likely find a permanent resting place within the public garden becoming part of a stonewall maze. Everyone is invited to volunteer in this public effort to create a serene place at the History Center where people can enjoy wildflowers with views of Gibbet Hill, as well as, a Stone with a Story.

Community Preservation Committee
Groton Town Hall
Groton, MA 01450

Please accept this letter of support for the CPC application before you, requesting funds to make a permanent place for the Prescott Stone on the grounds of the Boutwell House.

The origin date of 1680, inscribed on the stone, makes this one of the oldest artifacts of historical significance in the town of Groton.

The Boutwell House grounds would be the ideal location for the stone, in the custody of The Groton History Center.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Michael F. LaTerz, February 9, 2022

Sammie Kul

From: Carolyn Perkins <cperki297@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 3:44 PM
To: Sammie Kul
Subject: Fwd: letter of support

Sammie, attached is a letter of support for the Prescott Stone Project, from Bobbie Spiegelman.
Carolyn

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bobbie Spiegelman <bobbies7903@gmail.com>
Date: February 13, 2022 at 9:35:20 AM EST
To: Carolyn Perkins <cperki297@gmail.com>
Subject: letter of support

The Groton Historical Society is the appropriate repository for preserving the town's history. Its location is central and prominent and as the town reimagines itself as a destination town, its historical society should be the intended interpreter/preserver of its past. When the Prescott stone marker was uncovered and determined to be in a state of degradation, GHC was asked to consider siting the stone on the Boutwell property. With the reimagining of the back garden through the efforts of the Groton Business Association, already-installed Groton Woman's Club bench and garden, and the award-winning Groton Garden Club designed space, the exterior of the property is perfect place to add another piece of history to be prominently displayed.

Please consider funding to keep this precious piece of history in restored condition and visible for our community to learn and appreciate.

Bobbie Spiegelman



Groton Historical Commission
173 Main St.
Groton, MA 01450

Community Preservation Committee
Groton Town Hall
Groton, MA 01450
February 15, 2022

Dear Mr. Chairman-

I'm writing regarding the Groton History Center's application for CPA funding. Please accept this letter from the Groton Historical Commission (GHC) in support of CPC application 2023-03.

The Prescott Stone is one of Groton's earlier artifacts. As a community, Groton was very fortunate to find this stone again. It was being used as a main supporting stone in a decorative stone wall on Farmer's Row. The stone was relocated by members of the Groton Historical Commission, and will now have a prominent place at the Groton History Center. This application will provide the needed funding to ensure this artifact is properly preserved for years to come.

The GHC strongly supports this funding proposal from the Groton History Center for \$6,000.00. This is clearly a worthwhile investment of CPA funds.

Sincerely,

Bob DeGroot
Chair
Groton Historical Commission

A Stone with a Story

In the late 1600s, Jonas Prescott had a farm on the northwestern side of today's Old Ayer Road. As most inhabitants did back in the early years of Groton, Jonas most likely cleared his fields of rocks & stones and used these stones to build boundary stonewalls. It is believed Jonas placed a stone in one of his walls with the inscription "I P 1680", most likely marking the date he constructed the wall. As years passed, ownership of Jonas' property transferred to his grandson Oliver Prescott. It's believed at some point Oliver rebuilt the wall and in doing so, updated Jonas' inscription by adding "Rebuilt by O P 1784". Further on in time, the property transferred to Stuart J Park who must have carried on the tradition of maintaining this wall and rebuilt it. Once again the inscription was updated by adding "Rebuilt by S J Park 1841".

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Jonas Prescott

Jonas Prescott settled in Groton, Massachusetts. He, or his father for him, built the mill in the south part of Groton, now within the limits of Harvard, and is still called the 'old mill.' At a town meeting held in Groton, 19 November 1673, it was voted that 'By agreement of the town Jonas Prescott is to grind the town's corn for the town every second and every sixth day in every week.' At a town meeting at Groton, 13 June 1681, liberty was granted to Jonas Prescott to set up his corn mill at Stony Brook. An agreement between Jonas Prescott and the town of Groton that he, the said Prescott, have liberty to set up a saw mill at Stony brook on conditions that he furnish the town with merchantable boards at six pence a hundred (feet) cheaper than they are sold at any other saw mill, and for town pay, and that the town be supplied before any other person. (This privilege was to continue or cease at the pleasure of the town.) John Prescott bought lands in Groton until he became one of the largest landholders in the town. He was also a blacksmith. The town of Groton, being in great want of a blacksmith, invited Jonas Prescott to remove to near the center of the town to a lot of land which the town voted to give him as an inducement. He accepted the invitation and built a house and shop on said lot (lying on the east side of James' brook, so called), and removed there in 1675. To be found on a large stone in a wall which encloses this farm can be seen an inscription (visible in 1866) I. P. 1680 Rebuilt by O. P. 1784 Rebuilt by S. J. Park 1841 The I. P. is for Jonas Prescott. Upon the resettlement of the town, after its destruction by the Indians in 1676, he built mills and a forge for the manufacture of the iron from the ore at Forge Valley (so called), which was then in Groton, but now in Westford. He was a man of extensive influence. He was town clerk in 1691; a selectman for several years; represented the town in the General Assembly in 1699 and 1705; was also captain in the militia and justice of the peace. He maintained an elevated rank in the community. Source: 'The Prescott Memorial', William Prescott, 1870, p 42-44. ----- From findagrave.com: Birth: Jun 30 1648, Groton, Middlesex Co, MA, USA Death: Dec 31 1723, Groton, Middlesex Co, MA, USA c1680, blacksmith & Groton landholder Jonas Prescott (b 1648), son of John (1605-1681) & Mary Prescott, built 1st iron works in nearby Forge Village & began its 300-yr history of industrial activity. He lived w/wife Mary (Loker) (1653-1735) at SW corner of Pine & Town Farm Rds. He mined bog-ore in Groton to be smelted into iron at mill site on Stony Brook. Iron was used for making candlesticks, farm tools & household items such as irons according to local historian Gordon Seavey's 1988 local news article on influence of Stony Brook. Mr Prescott might also have operated grist mill at outflow of Forge Pond at this time according to town histories of Westford & Chelmsford. Some of his descendants who influenced development of town are town clerk Jonas Prescott Jr (1678-1750) & his wife Thankful Wheeler (1682-1716), Jonas Prescott III (1701-1784) & his wife Esther Spalding (1705-1730) & Lt Jonas Prescott (1727-1813). (Info from Westfords Historic Commission) Children: Jonas Prescott (1678-1750) James Prescott (1684-1704) Susanna Prescott Lawrence (1691-1771) Burial: Old Burying Grd, Groton, Middlesex Co, MA, USA

Oliver Prescott

" OLIVER PRESCOTT was the son of Hon. Benjamin Prescott and was born at Groton, 1731 and was graduated at Harvard College, 1750. He settled in Groton, and was a practical physician in that town for nearly half a century. He was very successful and popular. For the period of thirteen years he was town clerk of Groton. He held many civil offices. He was appointed by the King major in the militia, then lieutenant-colonel and colonel. When the revolutionary war broke out he espoused the cause of freedom, and early in the year 1776, he was appointed brigadier-general, and he mustered and organized the militia of Middlesex county. His judgment on military matters was very valuable at that time. In 1778, he was appointed the third major-general of the militia throughout the commonwealth. In 1799 he received the appointment of Judge of Probate for the county of Middlesex, which office he held until his death in 1804. He was the most influential man in this vicinity and well worthy of being a brother of the hero of Bunker Hill. He was learned without ostentation, popular without being a demagogue, and extremely prepossessing in his appearance, apparently without knowing it."