

## The Crawford Family Cemetery

*Last month's article was a compilation of Nelson County family cemeteries and there was one for the Crawford family, early settlers in what is now the new Stoney Creek area of Nellysford. William Harris Crawford was a member of this family and he went on to become a very illustrious man and, save for a few votes, might have become our sixth President. Many thanks to Janie Friedlein of Nellysford who wrote the cemetery article for the May 2020 NCHS newsletter and researched the early genealogy of the Crawford's. Jud Mason, Janie's neighbor, actually located the old graveyard and was instrumental in getting it registered with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Becky Howard of Lynchburg was kind enough to send more research information and some early photos concerning the Crawford family. Gene Hughes, local historian and caretaker of many early cemeteries, offered oral information that the graveyard was possibly that of the Crawford family. L. F. Southard, Jr. wrote an extensive article about William Crawford in the Nelson County Virginia Heritage book, 1807-2000. Elizabeth Richardson, a research guru and "go-to" for anything concerning Nelson County history, sent a detailed genealogical chart for the Crawford family, maps with a possible burial site, a list of their properties in the Wintergreen/Stoney Creek area, and general information about the family. For all their research work concerning this early family, history thanks them, as do I.*

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The Crawford family began its migration from Ayrshire, Scotland, to James City, Virginia, around 1643 when John Crawford and his son David arrived in the newly settled English colony of Jamestown, Virginia. John Crawford received a land grant from Governor Berkley that amassed many acres of land and he owned a large plantation that eventually became the site of Richmond. He was elected to the House of Burgesses as one of the two representatives from New Kent County on April 2, 1692.

In the February 2019 issue of the Jamestowne Society newsletter, it states that David Crawford, Burgess from New Kent County, moved from Jamestown to St. Peter's Parish, Hanover County where he patented land in 1672. He was elected to the House of Burgesses and was instrumental in enacting legislation requiring Clerks of County Courts to maintain offices in their respective court houses.

The Crawford family continued their migration west to Amherst County into the mid-1700s. Traveling down the genealogical ladder, David had a son (David II), and David II had a son (David III), and David III had a son by the name of Joel. Joel is the father of William Harris Crawford, born February 24, 1772 in the new Stoney Creek area of Nellysford. William went on to become a very important figure in early southern history.

# The Crawford Family Cemetery

By Janie Friedlein



***The Crawford Cemetery covered in a blanket of periwinkle***

“When my husband and I retired from our federal government careers, we searched for our retirement location in Virginia, near the Blue Ridge Mountains, surrounded by historical sites. We traveled all of Virginia to find a significant historical site we had yet to explore. Little did we know that a very special place was waiting to be uncovered within 200 yards of our front door.

Early in our move, we talked with our neighbor, Jud Mason, also military retired, who received permission to harvest fallen trees for a wood ministry he supports on an overgrown area near his home. Several years back, he mentioned to me that he was finding evidence of an old cemetery on the property. Around mid-March 2020 as I walked the loop near our house, Jud told me that he found more stones and some ground indentations that indicate a number of burial sites within the tumbling rock walls.

The history spark ignited, urging me to inquire of our local historical resources. Becky Howard, researcher with the Nelson County Historical Society, and Gene Hughes, local



**L/R: Janie Friedlein, Gene Hughes and Jud Mason at the Crawford Cemetery site**



**Nelson Crawford, died Dec. 19, 1829**

old cemetery volunteer caretaker and a treasure trove of information about the early settlers in the area. Gene offered that the cemetery, not recorded on any historical register, was probably the family interment site of the Crawford family whose first home site stands within a mile of the cemetery. My search of early maps and settlers revealed that the Crawford family received land as a result of recruiting new settlers from Scotland to Virginia, at the South Fork of the Rockfish River on Battle Road and at the foot of the Round Top Mountains. This certainly describes the area where the cemetery is located, near the base of a rounded top mountain now known as Crawford's Mountain. Gene visited the grave site and confirmed that this was a very old cemetery due to the rock wall enclosure and the fieldstone grave markers.

Within days, Jud uncovered another stone, the first one with a marking: N C, died December 19, 1829. I searched Ancestry.com for a Crawford



***A section of the old rock wall encircling the Crawford Cemetery***

whose date of death matched. Nelson Crawford matched exactly, he died December 19, 1829, Nelson County, Virginia. We believe we found significant evidence to assert that this is indeed a Crawford family cemetery.

On April 17, Jud received confirmation from Michael Pulice, Architectural Historian Western Regional Office that the Crawford Cemetery is now registered with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. We continue our search for more information on the identification of the other 15-20 burials in the cemetery. Other possible burials are Nelson Crawford's first wife, Nancy Ann Ligon Crawford, (no death date) and his second wife, Elizabeth C. Anderson Crawford whose date of death is also December, 1829. His parents, Nathan Crawford, date of death 1833, and his mother, Judith Anderson Crawford, died 1797, are also possible burials.

For local historians and those who appreciate the history of Nelson County, particularly gaining more information on our early residents, we offer this collaborative research as evidence that much can be accomplished in a short period of time with people from many backgrounds working closely together to uncover and research facts that offer another glimpse of Nelson County history.”

## The Crawford House

Information by Elizabeth Richardson and L. F. Southard, Jr.



**Two “before” photos of the Crawford house before restoration**

“The early Crawford house, located on Stone Chimney Road, Stoney Creek at Wintergreen, Nellysford, Virginia, is now privately owned and was restored in 1996.”



**The restored Crawford house as it looks today**

“The first Crawford to the Rockfish Valley was David Crawford, who bought land in the vicinity of Crawford’s Knob in 1752. His father (also named David) and mother soon followed, but for some reason bought land and lived on today’s route 664 (Beech Grove

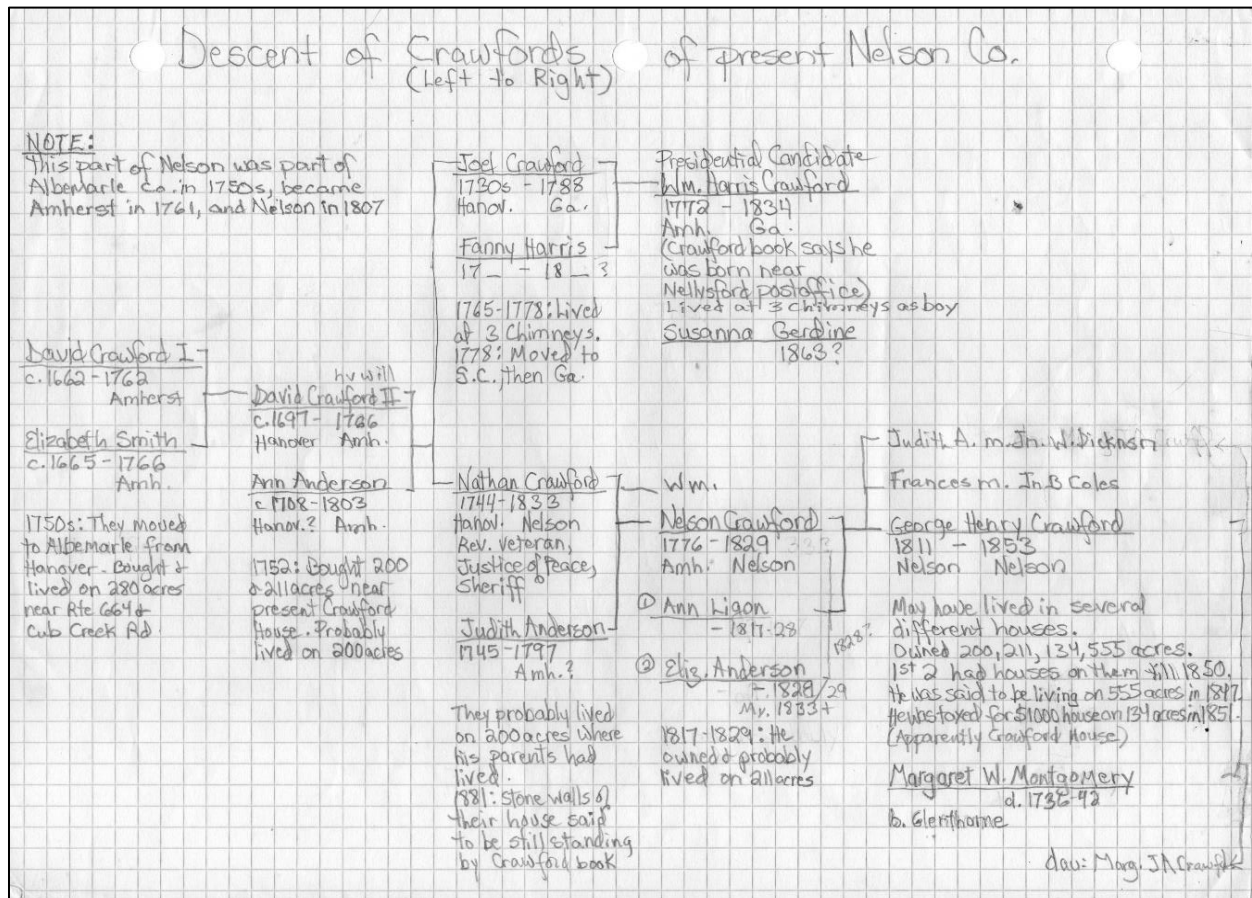
Road). Both lived to be over one-hundred years of age and are said to be buried under a rock pile near the intersection of Rt. 664 and Cub Creek Road.

“It was Nelson Crawford’s grave they recently discovered in an overgrown burial ground just NE of the intersection of Cedar Glenn Close and Club Highlands Drive in Stoney Creek. The stone reads “N.C., died Dec. 19, 1829,” which was Nelson’s death date. There are other unmarked fieldstones and the remainder of a stone around Nelson’s marker.

“There are two booklets on the Crawford family in the history room of the Nelson County Library: “The descendants of John Crawford of Virginia, 1660-1883,” copyrighted 1883, by Robert Leighton Crawford, and “Descendants of John Crawford, 1643” by Charles Barnett Lampkin, Jr.

“Joel was the son of David II and the father of William Harris Crawford (a presidential candidate), a brother of Nathan, uncle of the latter’s son Nelson. Joel owned and occupied the Three Chimneys property when William was born. In 1778 Joel sold this property and moved first to South Carolina, then Georgia, where he died in 1778. Both the books above list Joel’s children (and possibly grandchildren) and a little bit of information on his life.”

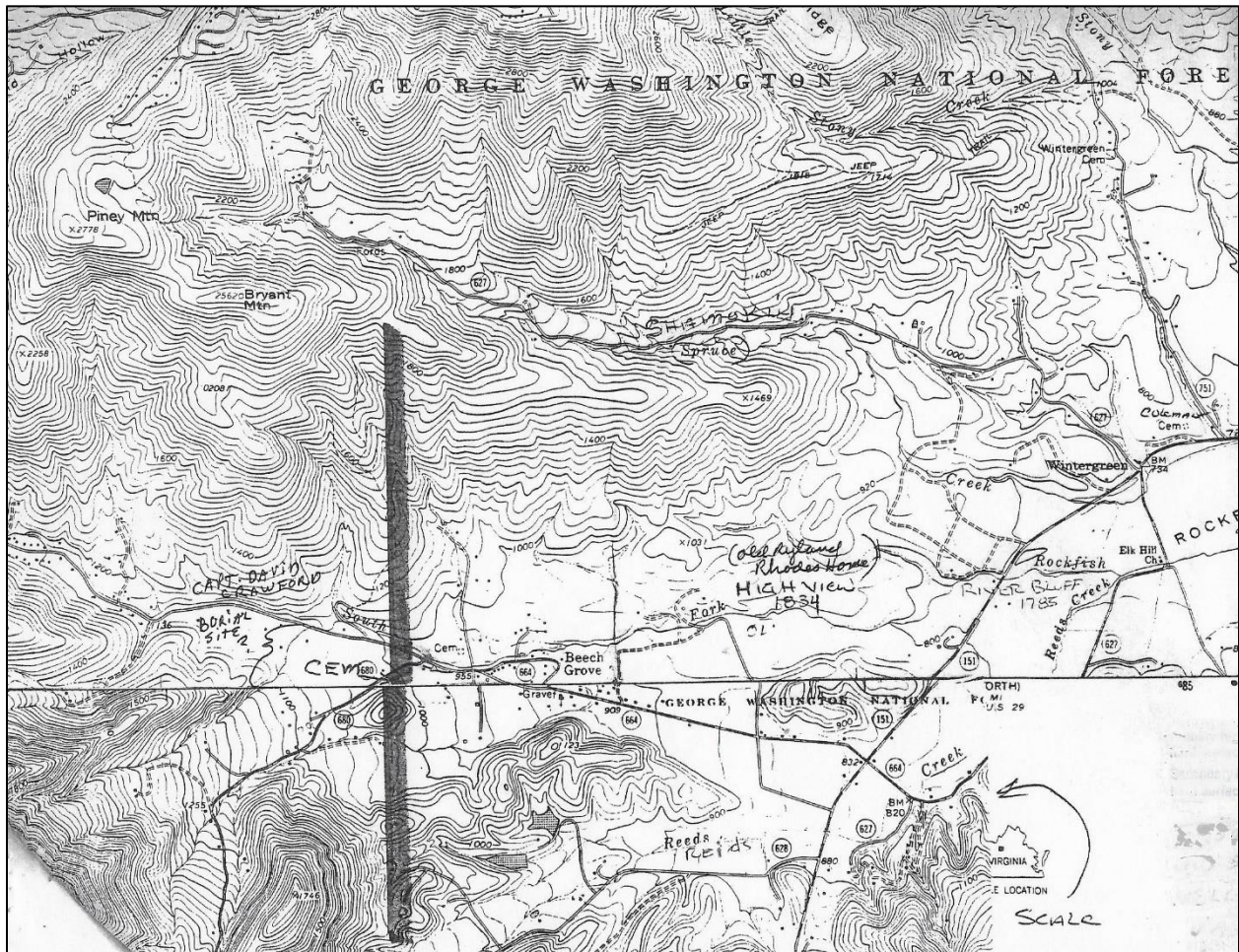
Elizabeth said there is evidence of two (possibly more) foundation remains of old homesites possibly Crawford’s to the rear of the Crawford house that is still standing, closer to the base of old “Round Top Mountain” (now known as Crawford’s Knob).



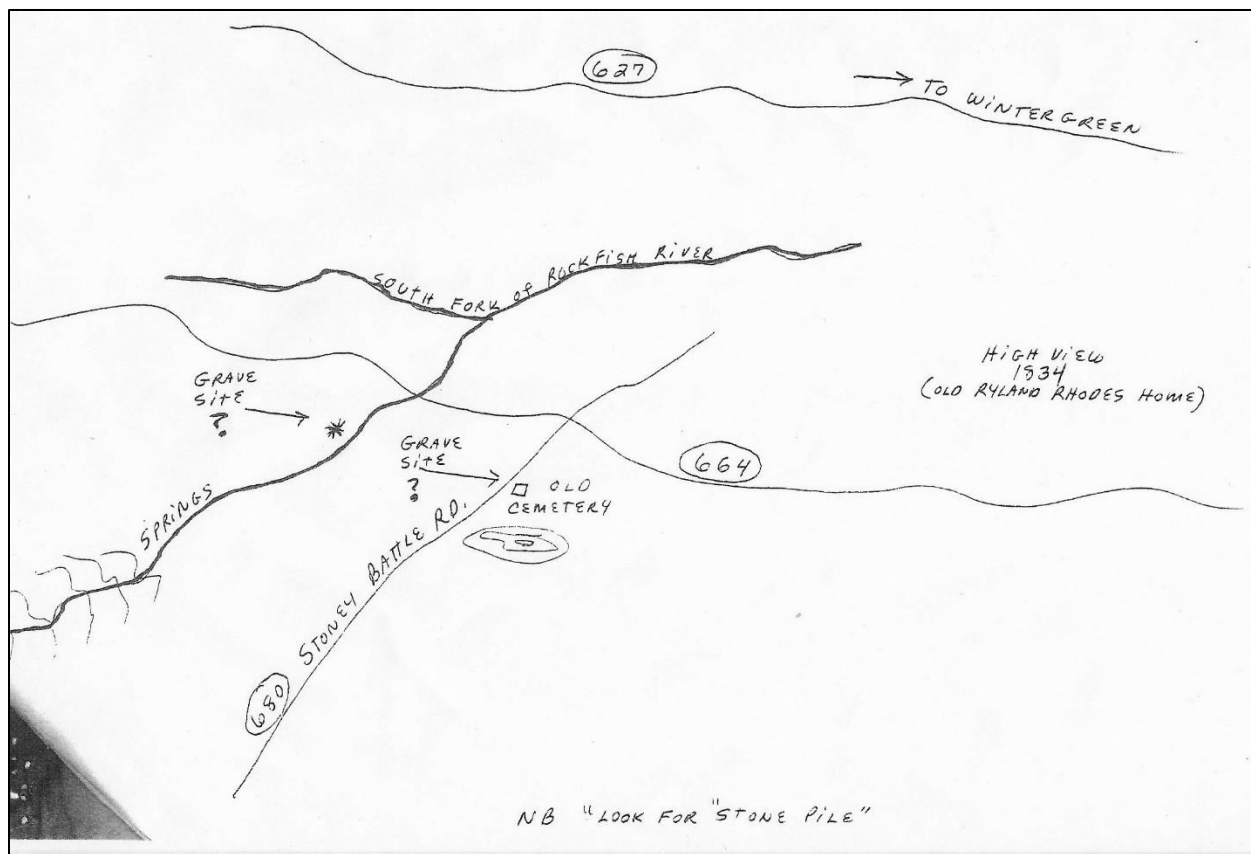
**Elizabeth Richardson’s genealogical chart on the Crawford family**

Elizabeth also sent more information from the book (Descendants of John Crawford 1643, by Charles B. Lampkin, Jr.) about Capt. David Crawford, born ca. 1662, died in Amherst County, Virginia, at age 101. He married in 1695 Elizabeth Smith, born 1665, died 1766 at age 101. They lived in the forks of the North and South Anna Rivers in Hanover County, Virginia. In 1753/58, a few years after his son David moved to Amherst County. He, Capt. David and wife settled on the Rockfish River, near the road passing over Duke's (or Doake's) Gap, and near the foot of "Round Top" mountain. He was buried in the forks of Three Ridges Mountain at the base, being one mile west of the home of Ryland Rhodes (High View). David's burial site, according to Lou Southard of Nelson County and Nancy Foley Johnson of Lexington, Kentucky, was possibly near Hwy. 664 (current Beech Grove Road) and 680 (current Cub Creek Road). This seems to fit the description, "Forks of Stoney Battle Road, base of Three Ridge Mountains, one mile west of old Ryland Rhodes home and one hundred yards west of the spring at a large stone pile.

This burial site could either be to the west of the intersection of Rts. 664 and 680, one hundred yards west of the spring that comes down the mountain, or the old cemetery, providing the cemetery has a spring. See the following topo map and hand-drawn map of the possible burial site below:



***Topo map of David Crawford's possible burial site by Beech Grove Road & Cub Creek Road***



**Hand drawn map of David Crawford's possible burial site close to Rts. 664 and 680**

**CRAWFORD PROPERTIES**  
**in Wintergreen's Stoney Creek area**  
 Submitted by Elizabeth Richardson

Between the mid-1700s and mid-1800s, several generations of the Crawford family owned a number of adjoining tracts in the general vicinity of present-day Crawford House, stretching from the slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Rockfish River in Nellysford, and from Stoney Creek northeast past Lake Monocan. The five tracts that apparently had dwellings on them at some point during the above time period consisted of 200 acres, 211 acres, a tract variously listed as 133/134/135 acres, 400 acres, and a 300-acre part of 555 acres.

The properties can be traced through patents, deeds, wills and tax records. Property started being taxed in 1782, but a separate appraisal for buildings did not start until 1820 (and then only if valued at over \$100) and no reappraisals were done from then till 1840. Therefore, unless a document such as a deed or will states that a dwelling house was on the property or that somebody was living on the property, it is impossible to know if a house existed until 1819.

**200 ACRES** (Appears to have been David and Nathan Crawford's home)

1752-1766 death: David Crawford II owned. Probably lived on this property.

1766: David's widow Ann owned the 200 acres where she had been living.

1782: 200 acres taxed to son Nathan Crawford. He probably lived on the property.

1819-1833 death: Property taxed to Nathan with buildings valued at \$200.

1834-1850: Property taxed to Nathan's grandson George H. Crawford. (His parents were deceased.) Buildings valued at \$200.

1851: Taxed to George, but there was no valuation for any buildings from this year on.

**211 ACRES** (Appears to have been Nelson Crawford's home)

1752-1766 death: David Crawford II owned.

1782: 211 acres taxed to his widow Ann.

1803-1817: Owned by their grandson William (son of Nathan Crawford).

1817-1833 death: Owned by Nathan's son Nelson (brother of William). Nelson lived on the property. Starting in 1819, Nelson taxed for 211 acres with buildings worth \$500.

1833: Nelson's widow gave 50 of the 211 acres, including the dwelling house, to her stepson George H. Crawford.

1834?-1839: 50 acres taxed to George with buildings valued at \$500.

1840-1850: George taxed for 50 acres with buildings worth only \$200.

1851: Tax for buildings disappeared from this year on.

**133/134/135 ACRES** (Appears to be Crawford House and George H. Crawford's home)

1792: Patented by Nathan Crawford.

1798: Gave to son Nelson.

1819-1833 death: Taxed to Nelson with no value listed for buildings.

1834-1847: Taxed to Nelson's estate, no value for buildings.

1848-50: Taxed to Nelson's son George H. Crawford, no value for buildings.

1850-1853 death: Taxed to George, with buildings worth \$1000.

**775 ACRES** (included all tracts above, plus some other Crawford properties)

1854: Court awarded 775 acres to Durrett and Farrar. George H. Crawford said to have sold property to them before his death but no deed recorded.

1854: They sell to Samuel Woods who lived at Three Chimneys (which was owned by Joel Crawford in the 1760s and 1770s.)

1855: Samuel Woods taxed for \$1000 worth of buildings on 775 acres.

1883: Court awarded 775 acres to J.R. Peebles in lawsuit after Samuel Woods' death.

1902: Court and Peebles awarded 764 1/2 acres known as Crawford Place to Henry C. Page. (He died 1920.)

1920: Widow Mattie P. Page and children deeded 475.8 acres (part of 765.26 acres) known as Crawford Tract to her daughter Lottie Goodwin. Rest of property sold to Napier's, 1927.)

1946: Lottie and C.P. Goodwin deeded 487 acres to Frank and Mary Astroth

1957: Mary Astroth deeded 489.63 acres to William R. Mattox, owner, the Big Survey.

1972?: Mattox sold to what became Wintergreen Resort.

**400 ACRES** (Three Chimneys. Joel Crawford's home, likely birthplace of son William H. Crawford)

Between 1742 and 1765: David Crawford II bought 400 acres (included future site, Nellysford).

1765: David gave these 400 acres to son Joel, who may have built the Three Chimneys house.

1772: Joel's son William H. Crawford was born. (Crawford book says born near Nellysford P.O.)

1778: Joel sold 400 acres where he lived to John Pope. (Joel moved to S.C., then Georgia.)

1791: Taxes show 410 acres sold by John Pope to William Duvall.

1796: Taxes show 410 acres sold by William Duvall to James Woods (grandson of James Woods who patented nearby land in 1746.) James Woods II lived at present Three Chimneys.

1819-1830s: James Woods taxed for buildings worth \$2500 on 410 acres. Died intestate in 1832.

1839: James' son Samuel ended up with "home tract", which now included 438 acres.

1840-1870: Samuel taxed for buildings worth \$1500 on 438 acres.

(1854: Samuel Woods bought 775 adjoining acres including Crawford House.)

1871: Tax valuation of buildings on 438 acres was \$1200.

1872-1899: Tax valuation of buildings was \$1000.

1883: Samuel Woods died and willed his land to be sold, with profits to his 8 illegitimate children.

1883: Court sells 428 acres to Edward and W.S. Carter, who immediately resold to R.M. Kyle.

1894: R.M. Kyle transfers to daughter Myra E. Maupin.

1901: Maupins, Kyles, Carters sold 428 acres known as Sam Wood home place to W.H. Goodwin.

1902: Tax valued buildings at only \$800.

1906: W.H. Goodwin's sons J.J. and C.P. acquired the 428 acres.

1909: J.J. and C.P. divided property, Jeter getting south of Rte. 151 (including Three Chimneys house), and Charles getting north of the highway where he built a home that later became offices for Wintergreen Resort until it fell victim to arson in the 1970s.

1964: Jeter Goodwin's widow died, leaving the property to relatives who sold it the following year.

**300 ACRES (part of 555 acres)** (Copper mines/Boy Scout camp/Lake Monocan)

1842: George H. Crawford bought 555 acres, 300 acres of which had buildings taxed at \$700. Property had belonged to John A. Woods.

1847: George mortgaged 490 acres of John Woods property, where George then lived.

1850: George taxed for buildings worth \$700 on 300 acres, \$800 the following year (tho' he had sold).

1850: George sold 400 acres to Francis Allen.

1850: Allen sold 1/3 interest in Rockfish Copper Mines "on which he is now at work", where he lived.

1854-1856: Allen was taxed for buildings worth \$800 on 400 acres. (Allen died 1874.)

1905: Rockfish Mining and Milling Co and 400 acres sold to Pennsylvanian. Buildings valued at \$500.

1946: Heirs transfer property for use as Boy Scout's Camp Monocan. Scouts build lake, present clubhouse, eventually tear down old 2-story log house which may have been Allen's home.

1972: Scouts sell to forerunner of Wintergreen Resort, which wants lake's water for snowmaking.