

# **Genealogical History of the Cam Family of Huntington (now Shelton), Fairfield County, Connecticut and their Properties**

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## **Introduction**

This report was made possible by the extensive research done by Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager for the City of Shelton. Teresa traced the ownership of a number of properties owned by various members of the Cam family, and found vital records (birth, marriage, & death) for the family in city and church records. Her knowledge of local history, geographical landmarks, and experience with deed and survey research was invaluable in finding these old parcels of land. The research for this report was a collaborative effort. This report incorporates various ideas, inferences, and connections contributed by both researchers.

The earliest documented members of the Cam family were Noah and George, likely brothers, who were both free African-Americans. Both bought property in Huntington and raised families. Given George's African-American roots, it was a surprise to find a historic period Native American stone structure ceremonial site within the core of his homestead (i.e. small "one-man" farm). How does one resolve this apparent contradiction? There are two potential explanations: (1) The Cam family intermarried with the Native Americans and built the site themselves; (2) The Cam family had ties to Native American community and allowed them to use the property for their ceremonies. In order to address these possibilities, we needed to reconstruct the extended Cam family in Huntington. This effort proved successful in finding evidence that the Cam family had ties with members of the Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe in Trumbull, CT from the 1860s onward. Since the Cam family has not been previously documented, all of the information uncovered about them has been included in this report.

The report is divided into three sections. The first focuses on the George and Archibald Cam's homestead (6 acres) which contains the ceremonial site. The second section summarizes what is known about the other Cam family members and addresses the question of their relationship with Golden Hills Paugussett Tribe. The third section organizes all of the known information about them by family groups.

## **George & Archibald Cam Family Homestead (6 Acres)**

The Native American ceremonial site is located in the southeast corner of George Cam and Archibald Cam's six acre homestead property. The homestead was in the possession of the Cam family from 1790 through circa 1880. It was briefly owned by the Town of Huntington (now the City of Shelton) before being sold to a real estate speculator buying up land in the area in anticipation of the Shelton Water Company converting Cranberry Swamp into a reservoir. In 1908, the water company purchased the land and knocked down the buildings. All of the available evidence suggests the Cam family were the only people to live on the property.<sup>1</sup> There is no historical or archaeological evidence to suggest anyone lived on the property after 1880. What follows is a genealogical reconstruction of George & Archibald Cam's families and the history of the homestead lot.

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<sup>1</sup> George Cam died in 1838. During the probate proceedings between 1839 and 1842, the estate received rental income from some of George's properties. The probate records do not detail which properties were rented. It could have been the farm fields and/or house on xxxxxxxx ("Popple Hollow" property), the 10.25 acre woodlot, 4 acre swamp outlet property, or George' house. There is no evidence indicating the house was occupied after 1842.

**MAP REDACTED**

Fig. 1 - Excerpt from the 1867 map of Huntington showing A.[Archibald] Cam's homestead.  
*Note: The E.[Elijah] Hawley homestead was once owned by George Cam and later John Cam.*

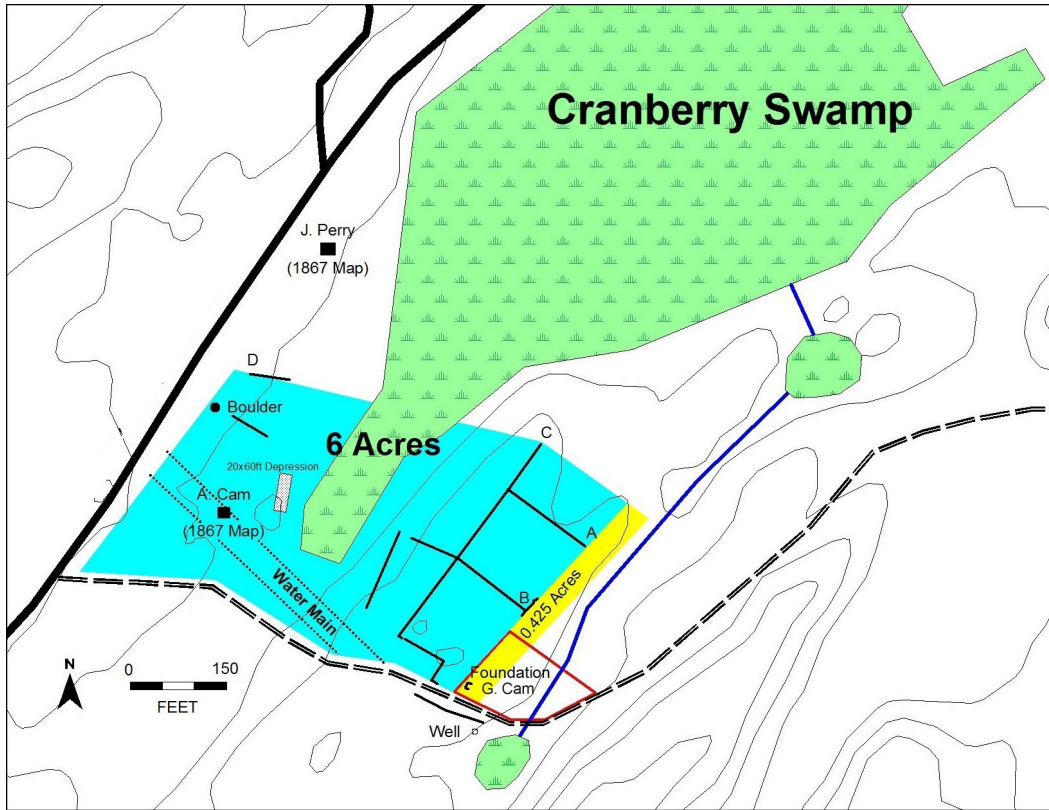


Fig.2 – Reconstruction of the boundaries of the 6 acre lot (blue) & 0.425 acre lot (yellow).  
Red outline represents an alternative configuration of the 0.425 acre lot  
Note: Black line segments indicated stone walls

## Six Acre Lot (Descriptions from Deeds & Probate)

1790 *Isaac Hill to George Cam* – “One certain piece of land Situated in sd Huntington, Ripton Society at the south end of Cranberry Swamp. Containing six acres Bounded Westerly and Southerly On highway. Easterly on Jonathan French. Northerly on Joseph Beardslee.” (v.1 pg.182)

1803 *Jonas French to George Cam* – “a certain piece of land situated in said Huntington and is the same land where the said George’s Dwelling house stands Bounded Westerly on land of said George Southerly and easterly on highway and extends northerly into said French’s land so as to make sixty-eight rods of land and the south line is where the fence now Stands Erected.” (v.12 pg.258)

1842 *Estate of George Cam to John Cam, Archibald Cam & Nancy [Cam] Jackson* – “The homestead so called containing 6 acres more or less bounded East South & West on Highway North on Land of Daniel French & Joseph Perry.”<sup>2</sup>

1842 *Archibald Cam to Joseph Perry (mortgage)* – “a certain piece of land situated in said Huntington at a place called Cranberry Containing six acres more or less Northerly on highway Easterly on Joseph Perry and David French Southerly and Westerly on highway.” (v.13 pg.337)

1878 *Archibald Cam to Town of Huntington* – “one certain piece of land situated in said town of Huntington. Bounded as follows, to wit: Northerly & Easterly by lands now or formerly owned by Mary Jane Hawley in part and in part by lands of Marcus E. Granniss and Southerly and Westerly by Highway containing seven acres more or less. Meaning hereby to convey to the Selectman and their successors of said Huntington the premises where I now live with all the buildings thereon.” (v.18 pg.593)

### *Subsequent Property History*

1882 Town of Huntington to James Blakeman (v.21 pg.282)

1908 Estate of James Blakeman to Charles Blakeman et al (heirs), 37 acres, a consolidation of multiple smaller parcels (v.48 pg. 242)

1908 Charles Blakeman et al to Shelton Water Company, 36 acres (v.47 pg.300)

The 1867 map places Archibald Cam’s homestead at the corner of xxxxxxxx & xxxxxx. The foundation of George Cam’s house located on xxxxxxxx, the subject of the 1803 purchase of 68 square rods of land is still visible in the field. These landmarks provided an initial rough location of the 6 acres and 0.425 acres (i.e. 68 sq. rods).

There is some confusion in the deeds as to how many sides of the property bordered on highways. The 1790 and 1878 deeds list two sides (southerly & westerly) whereas the 1842 probate & 1842 mortgage list three sides (east, south & west).<sup>3</sup> The logical assumption would be the 1842 documents reflect the addition of the 0.425 acre lot which bordered a highway on the easterly side but this hypothesis is not supported by the 1878 deed which lacks the third border along a highway (i.e. easterly). Instead it listed property owners on the east side. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx defines the western side of the property and xxxxxxxxxxxxxx the southern side and possibly a section of the eastern side. It should

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<sup>2</sup> George Cam Probate – Fairfield County, Bridgeport District Probate Court. Records held by the Connecticut State Library.

<sup>3</sup> The 1842 mortgage deed lists the highway bordering northerly southerly and westerly. The deed appears to have transposed the location of the highway on easterly side with the location of Joseph Perry and Daniel French on northerly side. Clerical error?

be noted that xxxxxx, now a xxxxxxxxxxxx, was straighten and shifted to the west of its original location.<sup>4</sup> Therefore the western property line no longer comes out to the edge of the road.

The stone wall system was mapped out from aerial photos. This provided additional landmarks to begin to refine the boundaries. The easterly side of the property was established by drawing a line from point “A” at the end of a stone wall through point “B” at the T wall junction to xxxxxxxxxxxx. This placed the foundation outside of the footprint of the six acre lot which is consistent with the deed history. The northerly boundary likely ran along the stone wall at point “D” to the end of the wall at point “C” then perpendicular to that north/south wall until it intersected with the easterly line. This configuration of the lot as shown in figure 2 is estimated by the GIS software to be 6 acres.

According to the 1803 deed the 0.425 acre lot’s westerly side abuts the 6 acre lot, and its southerly and easterly sides abut a highway. The deed then states “the south line is where the fence now Stands Erected” which contradicts the previously described southerly boundary. This may be nothing more than a clerical error when the deed was transcribed into the town records. The red outline shows a 0.425 acre lot based upon a literal reading of the highway boundary description. There is a section of north-south running stone wall east of the foundation which raises the possibility of an alternative configuration which is shown as a yellow highlighted area. This represents a rectangular strip of land along the border of the 6 acre lot.

The approximate location of Archibald Cam’s house as shown on the 1867 map is indicated in figure 2. A water main was constructed through this section of property by the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company (successor to the Shelton Water Company).<sup>5</sup> An overlay of the water main right of way onto the map in figure 2 shows that Archibald’s house was within the line of water main. In an interview of xxxxxxxxxxxx, who owns a neighboring property, Teresa Gallagher learned the house site was destroyed by the water main construction. She states, “He said he remembers there was an old foundation and the water main serving xxxxxxxxxxxx went right through the middle of it. I had him show me on a map, and it was very close to where you had asked me to look earlier, but closer to xxxxxx. xxxx said there was also a well very close to xxxxxxxxxxxx – not the one we know of, but one associated with the foundation that was destroyed by the water line. He put a covered over many years ago so no one would fall in.”<sup>6</sup>

To the northeast of Archibald’s house is an approximately 20 x 60 feet shallow rectangular depression with a low earthen berm around it. The berm has a high concentration of stones visible in it. These may be the remains of a low sill wall foundation. The feature could potentially be remains of an outbuilding like a barn, woodshed, or workshop. It would need to be archaeologically tested to determine its age and function.

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<sup>4</sup> The map of the 6 acre lot shows xxxxxxxxxxxx in its modern location. I was unable to accurately map its original location as shown on the 1867 map. xxxxxxxx remains largely unchanged except for the section from A. Cam house westward to xxxxxxxx which was altered in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The original 1867 location of the road is shown on the map.

<sup>5</sup> The location of the right of way is shown on a “Map of land to be conveyed by Bridgeport Hydraulic Co. to the City of Shelton Connecticut October 1981” v.33 p.1981

<sup>6</sup> Personal communication (email) Teresa Gallagher 12/15/2015



Fig. 2A – The leaves were raked off the berm into the center of the rectangular depression. There is a high concentration of stones in the berm. The age and purpose of the feature is unknown but it could potentially have been an outbuilding.

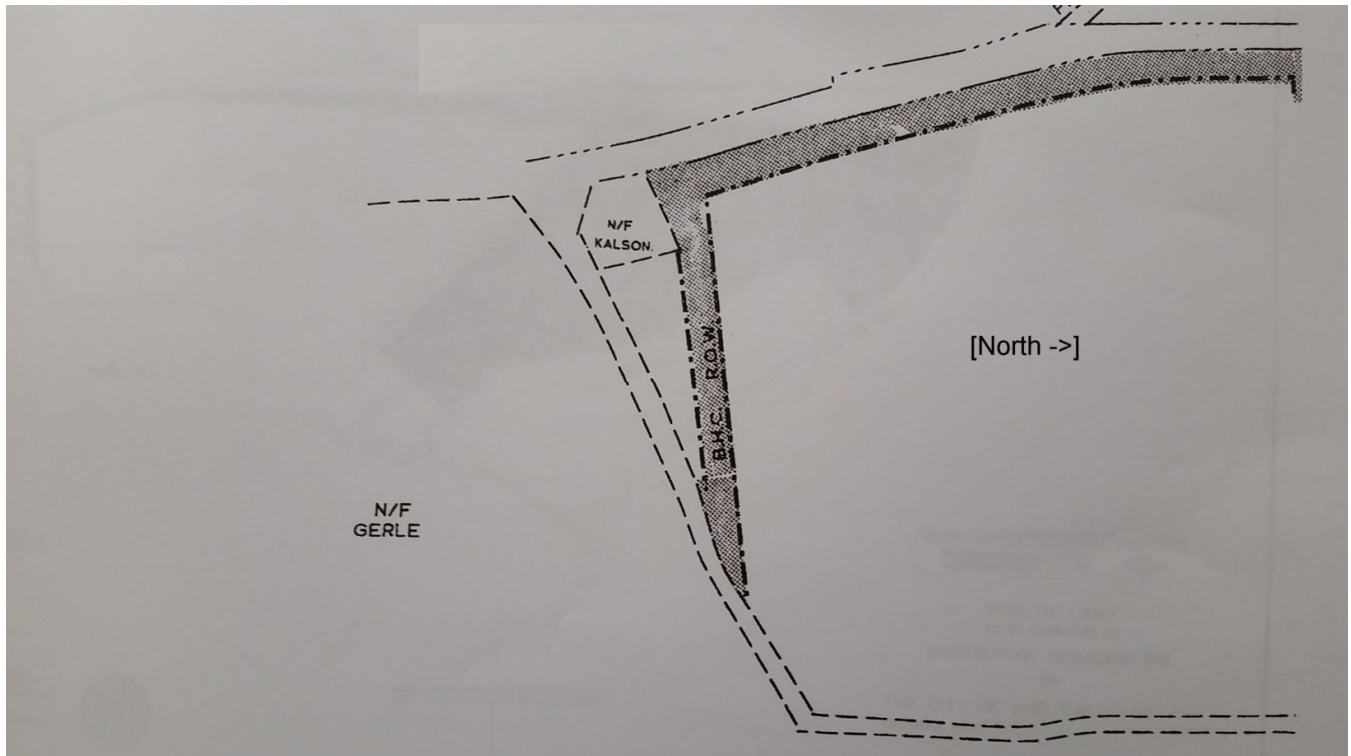


Fig.2B – 1981 map showing the water main right of way which destroyed the Archibald Cam house site.

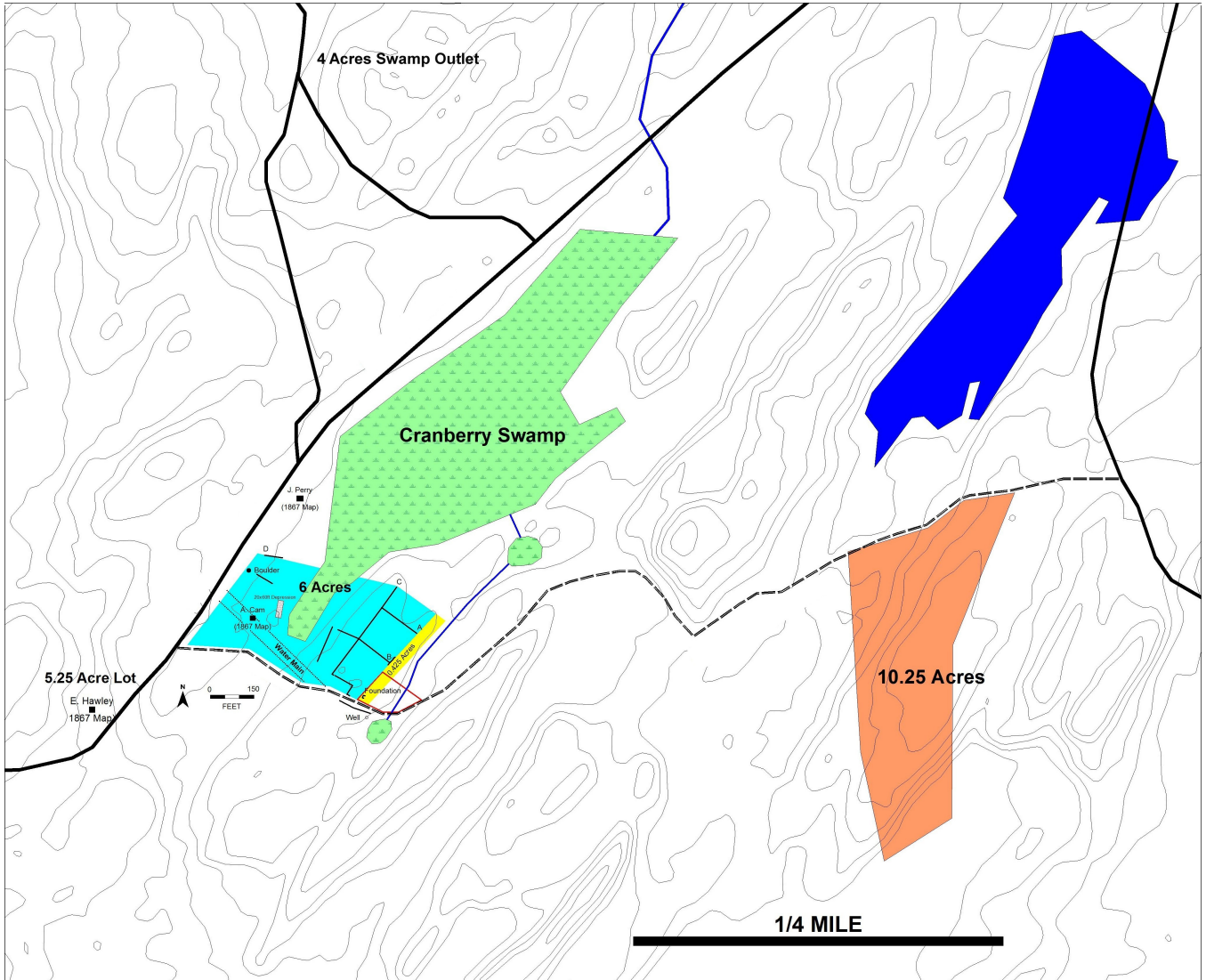
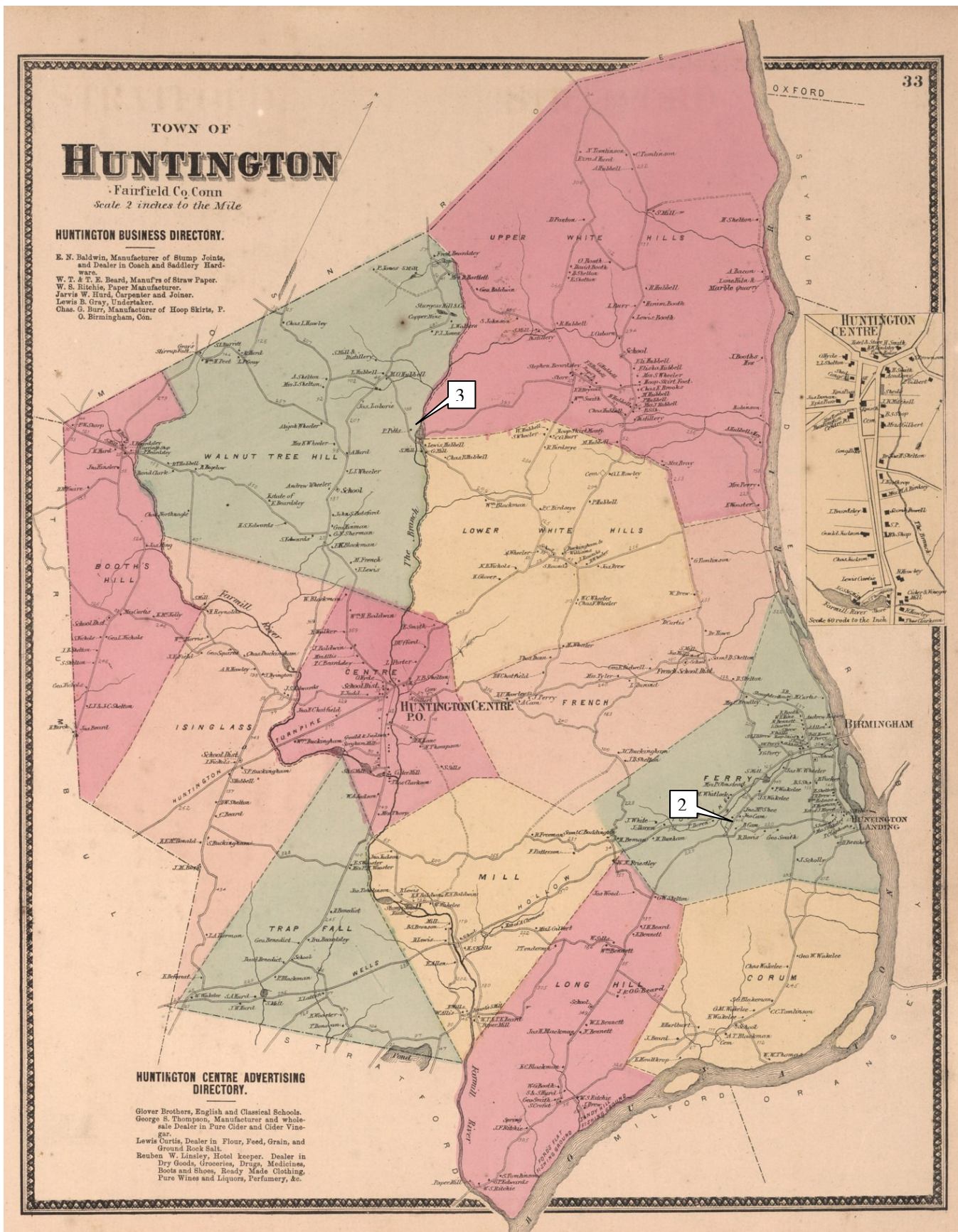


Fig.3 – Overall map of the xxxxxxxx & xxxxxxxxx area showing the location of Cranberry Swamp, 6 acre homestead, 10.25 acre woodlot and 5.25 acre lot.



**Fig.4 – Location of Cam Homesteads**

1 – Archibald Cam & George Cam    2 – John Cam Sr., John Jr. & Burlock Cam    3 – Noah Cam

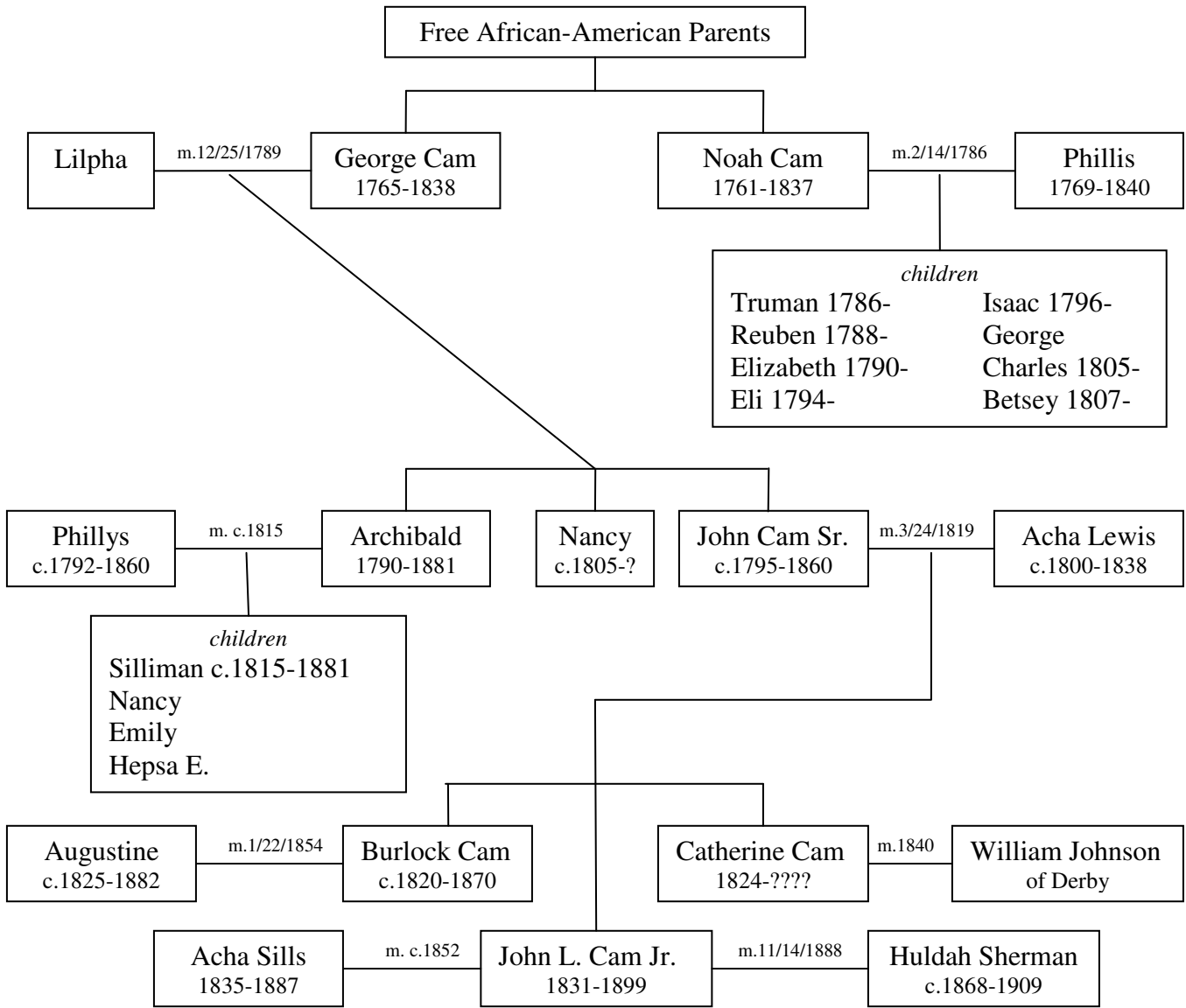


Fig. 5 – Cam Family of Huntington



## Free African-Americans

In 1792, the town clerk of Huntington, Connecticut (now Shelton) recorded the names and vital records of three African American families living in town who were considered free persons. The first family was Phillip Phillipses and Peggy who were lawfully married in February 1769 while “servants” (i.e. slaves) of Mr. Matthew Hawley. Hawley emancipated them in 1792.<sup>7</sup> Apparently, Hawley did not make provisions for emancipating their children. The clerk makes references to the Gradual Abolition Act of 1784 enacted by the Connecticut Legislature which granted freedom to all slaves born after March 1, 1784 upon their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. The names of two girls born after 1784 are carefully recorded.

The clerk also recorded the marriage and children of two other black families. The men were carefully noted as “Free Born Negro” and the wives as “Free Woman”. George Cam, born December 14, 1765 married Lilphia on December 25, 1790. She was five months pregnant at the time. She gave birth to Archabel on April 4, 1790. Noah Cam, born April 12, 1761 married Phillis (b.4-12-1769) on February 14, 1786. Three children are listed in the record in 1792. Four additional children were added in or after 1807 by a clerk with a different handwriting. Unfortunately George & Lilphia’s children are not updated after 1792. George & Noah are both listed as “free born negro” which implies their parents were free as of the 1760s. They were born four years apart. Based upon that information it can be surmised that George and Noah were likely brothers.

Teresa Gallagher noted that these are the only free African-American families listed in the first volume of town records. The majority of the entries are for registering farmer’s earmarks for livestock with some occasional records for the birth of slaves. The clerk’s efforts to record the vital records of these African-American families was likely in response to a 1788 state law, “An Act to Prevent the Slave-Trade,” which outlawed the slave trade (but not slavery) in Connecticut and required the registration with the town clerk of all children born into slavery.

The *Pictorial History of Shelton, Connecticut* (1987) states “The Cams were descendants of slaves of the Shelton Family on Long Hill” The source of this statement is not given and no independent verification has been found. If correct, it would suggest George and Noah were born in Huntington. Ironically, a later generation of the Cam family has a burial plot adjacent to one of Shelton family plots in the Long Hill Cemetery.

Noah Cam purchased a small dwelling house with 1 acre of land in the Upper White Hills section of town in 1802. George Cam purchased a six acre lot in 1790 in the French School District. These are the earliest land transactions in Huntington for the Cam family.<sup>8</sup> Through an extensive search of the land records, Teresa Gallagher traced the parcel with the archaeological and ceremonial site back to George Cam.

## George Cam

George and Lilphia’s first child was born April 4, 1790. A little over a month later, on May 10<sup>th</sup>, George Cam bought a six acre parcel from Isaac Hill for 24 pounds.<sup>9</sup> The lot was located at the corner of xxxxxxxx and xxxxxxxx. The center section of the property was covered by Cranberry Swamp and the southeastern section had exposed bedrock outcrops. The west side near xxxxxxxxxxxx has fairly flat terrain without any outcrops. Although it had some surface glacial stones, it was the most logical place for a house on this marginal piece of land. George instead opted to build a small house in the southeast corner near the outcrops. This location was more isolated being away from xxxxxxxxxxxx which at the time was one of main roads connecting to xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. The ruins of a three side dry masonry

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<sup>7</sup> v.1 pg.642

<sup>8</sup> Earlier records may exist at the Strafford Town Hall. Prior to 1789, Huntington was a parish of Strafford.

<sup>9</sup> v.1 p.182, Isaac Hill to “George a free Negro”. In other sections of the deed he is listed as “George Freeman”. Freeman is likely a description of his legal status rather than a last name.

foundation dug into the slope were found at this location. The recovery of forks, knives and thimbles confirm this was a dwelling house.

Due to an apparent misunderstanding over the angle of the 6 acre lot's easterly boundary line, the house George built was actually 15 to 20 feet into his neighbor Jonas French's property. This problem was found in 1803 possibly during a survey of Jonas' large farm. An amicable solution was found. Jonas sold George 68 square rods (0.425 acres) of land and a fence was erected to delineate one of the boundaries (probably to avoid future problems).<sup>10</sup> Figure 2 shows a reconstruction of the likely boundary lines of the 6 acre lot and 0.425 acre lot. If you draw a line from point A at the end of stone wall through point B at the "T" junction at the end of the second stone wall and project this line to the road, one discovers that the foundation lies just outside of the boundary line.

The water source for the dwelling house was either a well on the property which is no longer visible (i.e. backfilled) or a stone lined well to the southeast of the house across the road. The well is located on a different parcel of land whose ownership has not been ascertained. Teresa Gallagher interviewed xxxxxxxx who is in his 60s and who lives on the south side xxxxxx at the corner of xxxxxx (across the road from the 6 acre Cam homestead). She states,

"I also just spoke with xxxxxxx. He's in his 60's and his family has lived next door to the Cam ruins there for generations. He said when he was a kid, his grandfather told him 'slaves lived in that shack back there', referring to an area behind his property and to the right when viewed from xxxxxxx, or to the south south-west, at what is now xxxxxxxxxx. He said the old xxxxxx used to split towards the end, with one arm headed toward xxxxxxx. He said the 'slaves' also had the ruins we looked at. Also, there was a guy that used to head into the woods near his property and come out with buckets of arrowheads that he sold to some dentist in Derby. Claimed there was a big cave back there, but no one could find it."<sup>11</sup>

xxxxxxx, a xxxxxxx, is about 250 yards south of the well on xxxxxxx. Mr. xxxxx's description could indicate any place in between. The oral history places another African-American dwelling house to the south or southwest of xxxxxxx which was still standing in Mr. xxxxx's grandfather's lifetime. This house may have been associated with the well.

On February 15, 1795, George purchased a 10.25 acre parcel of land from Moses Wheeler for 10 pounds and five shillings. The parcel was described as a "woodlot" in an 1839 probate inventory and as "woodland" in an 1860 probate record.<sup>12</sup> It was likely a woodlot in 1795 given it was less than half the price he paid for the 6 acres five years earlier. Teresa Gallagher successfully forward traced this parcel and identified it as the former xxxx on xxxxxx. (See *Deed Histories* section) It is located less than ½ mile northeast of the six acres. The parcel consists of a sloping upland section (hillside) and a lower swampy section. It has a stream flowing through it. The year 1795 saw the birth of George and Lilphia's second son, John Cam [Sr.]. They also had a third child, Nancy, who was born between 1805-1807 who married Robert Jackson. She is mentioned in George's probate records.<sup>13</sup>

In 1802, George purchased 5.25 acres of land near Popple Hollow for \$116.66. He obtained a two year mortgage from Agur Judson, Esq. for the purchase price.<sup>14</sup> The Popple Hollow property was located on xxxxxxxx to the southwest of the homestead. On the 1867 map excerpt shown in figure 1, it was located where the E.[Elijah] Hawley residence was.<sup>15</sup> George subdivided the property into two lots

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<sup>10</sup> Deed: Jonas French to George Cam dated April 16, 1803. It makes reference to "the same land where George's Dwelling house stands." For more details see the previous section "Six Acre Lot (Description from Deeds & Probate)"

<sup>11</sup> Personal correspondence October 13, 2015.

<sup>12</sup> George Cam Probate Records; John Cam [Sr.] Probate Records

<sup>13</sup> Nancy's birth year estimated from 1840, 1805, & 1860 census data.

<sup>14</sup> The original deed has not been found. Only the mortgage deed exists (v.4 pg.333)

<sup>15</sup> Elijah Hawley purchased the property in 1854 (see *Deed Histories* for more details)

(2.75 & 2.5 acres) and gave the 2.75 acre lot to Peter Freeman for a \$1 in 1809. Peter was likely a relative or in-law. Peter sold the property with a house to William Mills in 1821 for \$40.<sup>16</sup> Mills sold the property with a house back to George for \$75 in 1833.<sup>17</sup> The deed listed Peter as deceased. George retained ownership of the other half (2.5 acres) through this whole time period (1802-1833). George may have used it as an outlying farm field (i.e. crop, hay, or pasture) or he may have rented it out to another farmer. Both scenarios were common practice.

In 1815, George bought 4 acres of land from Levi Curtiss at the outlet of a swamp for 100 dollars. This was a substantial sum of money and there is no record of George obtaining a mortgage. He most likely paid either in cash or goods for it. Coins which include Spanish silver reals recovered from near the foundation indicate he had cash. The parcel was located southeasterly of Silas Wheeler's house (a reference possibly to the M. Wheeler house shown on the 1867 map in fig.1 which is present day Willoughby Road). The parcel's location at a swamp outlet hints that the land contain some swamp land. Why did he acquire this expensive parcel along with the earlier 10.25 acre woodlot? A crosscut saw for timber harvesting, one or more axes, a wood splitting wedge, and a mortise axe were found at the house site. They are wood working & house carpentry tools. The evidence suggests George had some type of wood working occupation or business. This would account for him having cash to purchase additional land and the need for woodlots to supplied timber for it. George may have been interested in certain types of trees like northern white cedar that grow in wetlands environments.<sup>18</sup> The 6 acre homestead was partially covered by Cranberry Swamp, the 10.25 wood lot has some swamp, and the 4 acre swamp outlet parcel may have swamp land as well.

The 1820 census lists in order: Archable Cam, George Cam, John Cam, Joseph Beardslee, Gideon Mallory, Lemuel Summers, Silas Wheeler. Joseph Beardslee owned 9 acres of land with a house and barn on the north side of George's 6 acres.<sup>19</sup> Lemuel Summers owned land on the north side of Joseph Beardslee.<sup>20</sup> The Mallory family and Silas Wheeler also owned land in the neighborhood, they were abutters to George's 4 acre swamp outlet parcel.<sup>21</sup> The 1867 map shows that Archibald Cam, George's son, built a house in the southwest corner of the 6 acres near the corner of xxxxxxxxxxxx and xxxxxxxxxxxx.<sup>22</sup> James Beardsley Wheeler wrote in 1889, "A little further east, a little ways from the corner, on the road leading to the Alfred Shelton place [xxxxxxxx], stood the house of Archibald Cam ... The house was a small one ..." xxxxxxxx remembers a cellar and well in this area which were destroyed by the installation of a water main.<sup>23</sup> By the 1820 census, Archibald and his wife Phillys and two children had setup their own household. John Cam and his wife Acha and their daughter were living in the same neighborhood as George and Archibald according to the census.

Where was John living? There are several valid possibilities. A stone lined well found near the wetlands on the 10.25 acre woodlot which does not belong to the Eklund family occupation of the property in the early 1900s may indicate an earlier homestead. However, there is no mention in any of the deeds or probate records of any buildings on the property. The second possibility was John lived in

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<sup>16</sup> v.9 pg.130

<sup>17</sup> It is not clear if the property had a house on it when George bought it 1802, or whether either George or Peter built the house.

<sup>18</sup> These swamps are currently populated by red maples. Teresa Gallagher has noted the swamp on 4 acre parcel was more hummocky then is typical for red maples and may indicate a former cedar swamp. A drop in water level and/or extensive cutting of cedar could have led to the maples outcompeting the cedars. Personal correspondence 1/5/2016.

<sup>19</sup> Joseph Beardslee is the northern abutter in George Cam's 1790 deed (v.1 pg.182), acreage and presence of house and barn mentioned in a deed from Elizabeth Tomlinson to Joseph Perry (v.12 pg.111) dated May 11, 1836. J. Perry is shown northeast of A. Cam on the 1867 map.

<sup>20</sup> Lemuel and David Summers northern abutter in deed from Elizabeth Tomlinson to Joseph Perry (v.12 pg.111)

<sup>21</sup> v.12 pg.259

<sup>22</sup> The existence of two or more structures on the 6 acre lot is confirmed by the 1839 probate inventory for George Cam which mentions "buildings" on the property.

<sup>23</sup> Personal correspondence (email) Teresa Gallagher December 15, 2015

the dwelling house on the south / southwest side of xxxxxxxxxxxx across from George and Archibald's houses. This was the house mentioned in xxxxxxxxxxxx's oral history (above). A third possibility is John rented the house on xxxxxx were E. Hawley is shown on the 1867 map. In the fall of 1820, John and his family moved to 8 acres of land with a house & barn that he purchased on Long Hill Avenue.<sup>24</sup> Interestingly, the 1830 census lists Amelia Lewis, a black man and a woman, presumably his wife, right after Archibald indicating they lived in the immediate area. They may have lived in this house. The house may have been a rental property.

George is not listed in the 1830 census. He would have been 65 years old. It is not known whether he was missed by the census taker, out of town, or living in another household. George died on Dec. 25, 1838 at age 73. His death was recorded in St. Paul's Church records. An inventory of his estate was as follows:

The following is an inventory of the Estate of George Cam late of Huntington, Deceast

One coat	\$0.25
1 bead [bed]	0.75
Cash	23.50
Hay	6.50
1 pair wollen blankets	.37 ½
1 pair brown sheets	.37
Homestead with the buildings 6 ½ Acres @ 15 D.	97.50
Land by David Summers @ 8 D. per Acre	32.00
The Popple Hollow 5 ¼ Acres @ 15 D.____	78.75
The wood lot 10 ¼ Acres @ 12 D.____	123.00
	363.00

The above is a true and perfect inventory of the Estate of George cam late of Huntington Deceast as appraised by us on the 2 Feb 1839.

Daniel French  
Jonathon Bulkeley

George's personal estate consisted only of clothing, a bed & bedding, and some cash. There are no household items (chairs, tables, cooking utensils, etc.) The household items were likely distributed before his death and George was living with one of his children. The most logical choice would have been Archibald. George had a substantial amount of hay. This would indicate a small barn on the 6 acres. No evidence of a barn was found near the foundation of his house, so it was likely located near Archibald's house. The recovery of a stirrup, buckles to horse tack, and oxen shoes indicates the presence of a horse and oxen on the property during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The stockpile of hay indicates there was livestock on the property during George's lifetime.

George died insolvent, owing \$177.52 to creditors. The largest debt was \$100 owed to Jemima Tomas. This may have been an unsecured loan. The remaining \$77.52 was owed to 22 people which included his son Archibald, his grandson, Silliman, and various white neighbors and residents of Huntington. George had a network of people in the Huntington community whom he interacted with and who were willing to extend various lines of credit presumably for goods and services. The African-American families seem to have been a part of the larger town community rather than isolated from it.

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<sup>24</sup> v.9 pg.264

In 1841, two of George's four properties were sold to cover his debts. His son John purchased the Popple Hollow property for \$100,<sup>25</sup> and the 4 acre swamp outlet property was sold to Charles Wheeler for \$92.<sup>26</sup> The funeral costs, probate court fees, administrative expenses over the three and half year period the estate was in probate amounted to \$60.25. These costs were partially offset by income of \$49.75 from rental fees. Unfortunately, no further details are supplied as to what lands and/or buildings were rented.

The remainder of the estate, the 6 acre homestead and the 10.25 acre woodlot were distributed to George's children Archibald, John, and Nancy. They held the property in common with no specific provisions for who had use of what buildings or sections of the properties. This type of tenants in common inheritance occurred with some frequency in 19<sup>th</sup> century probate distributions especially when no will existed. This type of arrangement was generally impractical. There were two common solutions: (1) sell the property and divide the money evenly, (2) one person buys out the inheritance from the others. Nancy was living with her husband in New Haven, CT which left Archibald and John as the only two who would directly benefit from the use of properties.<sup>27</sup> The final distribution of the inheritance formally occurred on June 17, 1842. However, five months earlier in January of 1842, Archibald used the 6 acres as collateral for a \$50 loan from his neighbor Joseph Perry. The money most likely was used to buy out Nancy's share of the estate. It can surmised that Archibald and John exchanges their shares, Archibald trading his 1/3 interest in the woodlot for John's 1/3 interest in the homestead. Although the details were never recorded in a registered deed with the town clerk, it appears that Archibald became the sole owner of the six acres and John sole owner of the 10.25 acre woodlot. (In 1847 John bought Nancy & Robert Jackson's 1/3 interest in the woodlot). The 1842 mortgage deed listed Archibald as the only owner. In 1860, John Sr. willed the woodlot to his son John Jr. which indicates he was sole owner of it.

## Archibald Cam

By the 1820 census, Archibald with his wife Phillys, two sons, and a daughter were living in their own household in the southwest corner of the 6 acre parcel. None of the Cam family were listed in 1810 census so it is unclear how early the household was setup. We know the names of four of Archibald's children: Silliman, Hepsa Elizabeth, Nancy and Emily. The 1830 census suggests there may have been one more daughter. Archibald's son, Silliman, is mentioned in James Beardsley Wheeler's 1889 manuscript. Nancy and Emily were baptized at St. Paul's Church in August 1831.

Neither Archibald nor Silliman could read or write. Both signed their documents with an "X".<sup>28</sup> Archibald's father George, his uncle Noah, and his brother John Sr. all signed documents with their name.<sup>29</sup> Archibald's lack of literacy did not stop him from taking on a leadership role in the "Black Governor" movement. The African-American community had its own quasi government which handled both social and political matters within their own community. One of the governor's social responsibilities was to organize an annual celebration of St. Cuffee's Day, a patron saint of the Black community.

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<sup>25</sup> v.12 pg.825

<sup>26</sup> v.13 pg.191

<sup>27</sup> 1840 Census – New Haven, CT

<sup>28</sup> John Sr. - 1860 Will (copy recorded in town records); George – 1802 mortgage v.4 pg.333; Noah – 1804 deed v.7 pg.167

<sup>29</sup> Archibald - 1842 mortgage v.13 pg.337; Silliman – 1834 mortgage v.12 pg.612

“St Cuffee’s Day

Will be celebrated on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> of October at the House of Henry A. Smith in Trumbull, and continue a reasonable time. A general attendance of People of Color is earnestly solicited ; and those liable by Law are hereby commanded to appear equipped and uniformed as is customary on such days. By Order, HARLOW MORRIS, Governor. *Archibald Cam*, Brigadier General. Dated Head Quarters, Huntington, October 4, 1843.”

*Republication Farmer* October 17, 1843

Archibald held the position of “Brigadier General” in the 1843 governor’s organization operated out of Huntington. St. Cuffee’s Day took place in Trumbull. Archibald had to do some traveling to fulfill his duties. A saddle stirrup and buckles to horse tack were found in the area of George’s house foundation. Archibald may have had a saddle horse. This would make sense given his political duties took him to other towns.

Archibald worked as a farm laborer as late as the age of 70. The 1860 census lists this as his occupation. This census appraised his real estate at \$500 and personal estate at \$100. The previous 1850 census listed his real estate at \$200. The 1850 census also revealed that Archibald and his wife were looking after a 3 year old girl Georgianna Freeman their granddaughter (Hepsa [Cam] Freeman’s daughter). She was still living with them in 1860 and was attending school. She married James W. Samuels of Seymour in 1865.<sup>30</sup> Phyllis, Archibald’s wife, passed away in May 1860.

In 1878, Archibald signed over the homestead, listed as 7 acres with buildings, to the selectman of the Town of Huntington, to compensate the town for the costs they were incurring for his care.<sup>31</sup> Although unstated, there appears to have been an understanding that Archibald could continue living there. The 1880 census lists him as head of household. Maria Brinsmade a single black woman age 65 is listed as a housekeeper. She may have been hired by the town. Later in 1880 or sometime in 1881, he was moved to the Huntington Almshouse where he died in December 1881. A brief newspaper obituary gave his age as 101 (it was actually 91).<sup>32</sup>

In October 1882, the selectman sold the property to James Blakeman. The property was described as 7 acres with “all the buildings.”<sup>33</sup> This suggests that in addition to Archibald’s house, George’s house may have still been standing. Around this time, the Shelton Water Company was in the process of acquiring land and building Shelton Reservoir #1 (a/k/a Silent Waters) which was completed in 1884. Cranberry Swamp seemed like a logical place for a future reservoir. Blakeman set about buying and consolidating parcels in and around the swamp in what appears to have been a real estate speculation scheme. The intent appears to have been to sell the land to the water company at a profit. The Shelton Water Company’s expansion was slow: Shelton Reservoir #2 (Pine Lake) built in 1903, and #3 (Hope Lake) in 1915. Blakeman died and in 1908 his estate sold a 34 acre consolidated parcel to the Shelton Water Company for a “valuable sum in dollars.”<sup>34</sup> No doubt the water company insisted the purchase price not be made public. At the time of the sale, the property still had buildings. The buildings were torn down by the company. There is no information available as to whether the houses were rented by Blakeman or not. The lack of late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century metal artifacts suggests they were left vacant.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> St. Paul’s Church records

<sup>31</sup> v.18 pg.593

<sup>32</sup> *New Haven Register* December 27, 1881 pg.1

<sup>33</sup> v.21 pg.282

<sup>34</sup> v.47 pg.300

<sup>35</sup> The one exception being a single wire nail (1890-) which could easily be account by a sign (“for sale”, “no trespassing”, etc) or a board with the nail being dumped.

## OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CAM FAMILY

### John Cam Sr.

John was born between 1794 & 1795 to George and Lilpha Cam.<sup>36</sup> He was Archibald's younger brother. He married Acha Lewis on March 24, 1819 at St. Paul's Church. By the 1820 census, John and Acha had setup their own household in the same neighborhood as Archibald and George. (See discussion under George Cam above). In September 1820, John purchased 8 acres of land with buildings (i.e. house and barn) on the east side of Long Hill Avenue from Philo Wakelee for \$500.<sup>37</sup> The property also had frontage on Kneen Street. In 1835, John purchase 4 acres of land on Long Hill Ave on the north side of his 8 acre lot from Joseph Dart for \$30.<sup>38</sup> The combined 12 acres contained two houses owned by his sons as of the 1867 map: Jno. [John] Cam on Long Hill Avenue and B. [Burlock] Cam on Kneen Street. (The property was divided between his two sons when he died in 1860). It is not clear which of these two houses was the one referenced in 1820 deed. Later deeds indicated both houses had barns with them. The current thinking is the Long Hill Ave house was built by John Jr. between 1857 and 1860 possibly on the 2 acres he purchased from his father.

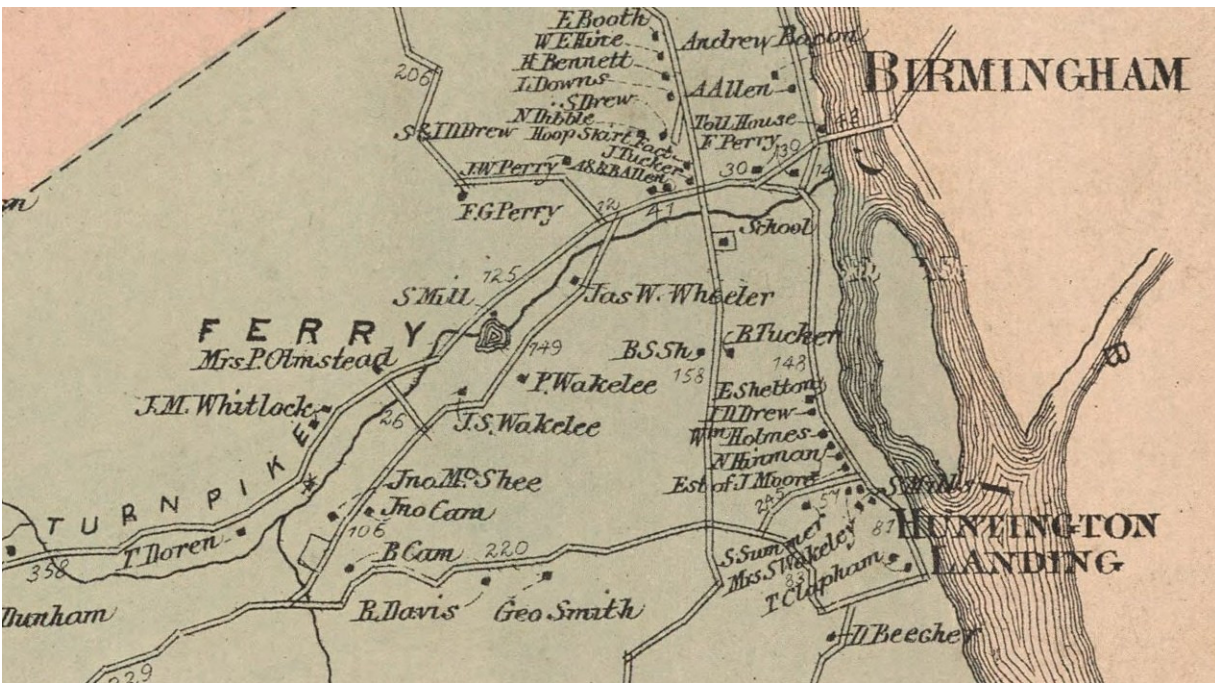


Fig.6 – Excerpt from the 1867 Huntington map showing Jno [John Jr.] Cam & B. [Burlock] Cam's houses. John Jr. inherited the house from his father John Sr.

John Cam Sr. and later his two sons used the property for farming. The property is characterized rocky outcrops along Long Hill Avenue with farmable land on a plateau to the east of the outcrops. The 1934 aerial photo showed both houses were accompanied by open farm fields. In the 1860 probate of John's estate it is listed as a homestead which indicates it was a small farm.<sup>39</sup> A 1910 probate distribution lists the Long Hill Ave house property as containing a dwelling house and barn.<sup>40</sup> The 1850

<sup>36</sup> Gravestone listed his age as 65 & town vital records listed as 66 at his death in 1860.

<sup>37</sup> v.9 pg.264

<sup>38</sup> v.12 pg.85

<sup>39</sup> v.26 pg.51

<sup>40</sup> v.51 pg.66-67

census listed his occupation as a laborer. However, the 1860 mortality census schedule listed his occupation as farmer which is consistent with the other evidence. John most likely worked his own farm as well as hiring out as a farmer laborer.

John & Acha had at least three children Catherine Elizabeth, Burlock, and John Lewis Jr. The 1830 census indicates there may have been three other daughters as well. The same census indicates an older man and woman (age 36-54) also in the household. They may have been either John's or Acha's parents neither of which were listed in census for that year.<sup>41</sup> Acha died in 1838 likely in child birth. Her gravestone in Long Hill Cemetery has a notation "and an infant." The 1850 census shows the household was made up of John Sr., John Jr. and Hannah Treadway, age 48.

In 1841, John purchased the 5.25 acre Popple Hollow house lot on xxxxxxx from George's estate for \$100. John mortgaged it in 1841 and then sold it in 1847 for \$95.<sup>42</sup> John along with his siblings Archibald and Nancy inherited George Cam's homestead (6 acres) and 10.25 acre woodlot in 1842 as tenants in common. An undocumented agreement was likely reached in which John and Archibald exchanged their 1/3 shares in the homestead and woodlot. In 1847, John purchased a 3.3 acre parcel from Robert Jackson, his brother-in-law, for \$35.<sup>43</sup> Teresa Gallagher noted that this deed appears to be a badly worded transfer of Nancy [Cam] Jackson's 1/3 interest in the woodlot. Rather than stating a 1/3 undivided interest, the deed lists it as 1/3 of the parcel's acreage.<sup>44</sup> Ten years later (1857), he sold to John Jr. 2 acres of the 4 acre parcel he had bought from Joseph Dart in 1835. The parcel was located on Long Hill Ave.

On January 21, 1860, due to failing health, John made a will. He died shortly afterwards on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The 1860 census mortality schedule listed his cause of death as consumption (i.e. tuberculosis) and the condition as having lasted 6 months. The will divided his estate between John Jr. and Burlock's children. Burlock received a life tenancy in his children's half of the estate. John never stated why he made this unusual arrangement. It effectively guaranteed that Burlock's children would inherit it and that neither Burlock nor his wife Augustine could sell it or have it seized to pay debts. The estate went through the probate process.<sup>45</sup> John Sr.'s homestead consisted of the 8 acres (1820 purchase) plus the remaining 2 acres of 4 acres (1835 purchase) for a total of 10 acres. Burdock as guardian of his children received the Kneen Street house & barn and 3 acres of land. John Jr. received the remainder of the homestead (7 acres) plus the 10.25 acre woodlot on xxxxxxxxxxx. The unequal quantity of acreage indicates the estate was divided based on "quality" rather "quantity" basis. The 1860 census indicates both John Jr. and Burlock each had their own households in the same neighborhood. This would suggest that John Jr. had built a house on the 2 acres he purchased from his father on Long Hill Ave. As of 1860, John Jr. had 9 acres of land on Long Hill Ave. When he died in 1899, his homestead had 12 acres, a 3 acre discrepancy. Either John Sr. or John Jr. purchased an additional 3 acres for which a deed has not found. The house currently at #232 Long Hill Ave is likely John L. Cam's house.

In 1864, the town selectman were asked to handle a fence division between John Jr. and Burlock.<sup>46</sup> They divided the common fence between their two halves of the estate into a north and south section with each getting one section. Although unstated, the purpose of this fence division was to determine what part of the common fence each brother was responsible for maintaining and keeping in good repairs. These types of arrangements between adjacent landowners were common practice.

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<sup>41</sup> George Cam would have been 65 in 1830. The ages do not match, but the census taker could have marked the wrong column. The other possibility is Acha Lewis's parents.

<sup>42</sup> v.12 pg.377 (\$175 loan); v.13 pg.190 (sale)

<sup>43</sup> v.16 pg.73

<sup>44</sup> v.16 pg.73

<sup>45</sup> v.26 pg.51

<sup>46</sup> v.16 pg.810





Fig.7 – 1934 aerial photo of Long Hill Avenue and Kneen street (formerly Cam Road).

In 1860 John Cam Sr.'s estate on Long Hill Avenue & Kneen St. (10 acres) was divided between John L. Cam Jr. and Burlock Cam's children. John L. is believed to have built the house on Long Hill Ave. on the 2 acres he bought from his father 1857. The Kneen St. house & barn are believed to be the "buildings" on the 8 acres purchased by John Sr. in 1820. Burlock received a life tenancy in the Kneen St. house and accompany 3 acres (delineated by the stone wall line field around the house in the photo.) When John L. Jr. died in 1899, his farm had 12 acres plus a house, barn, & outhouse along Long Hill Ave.

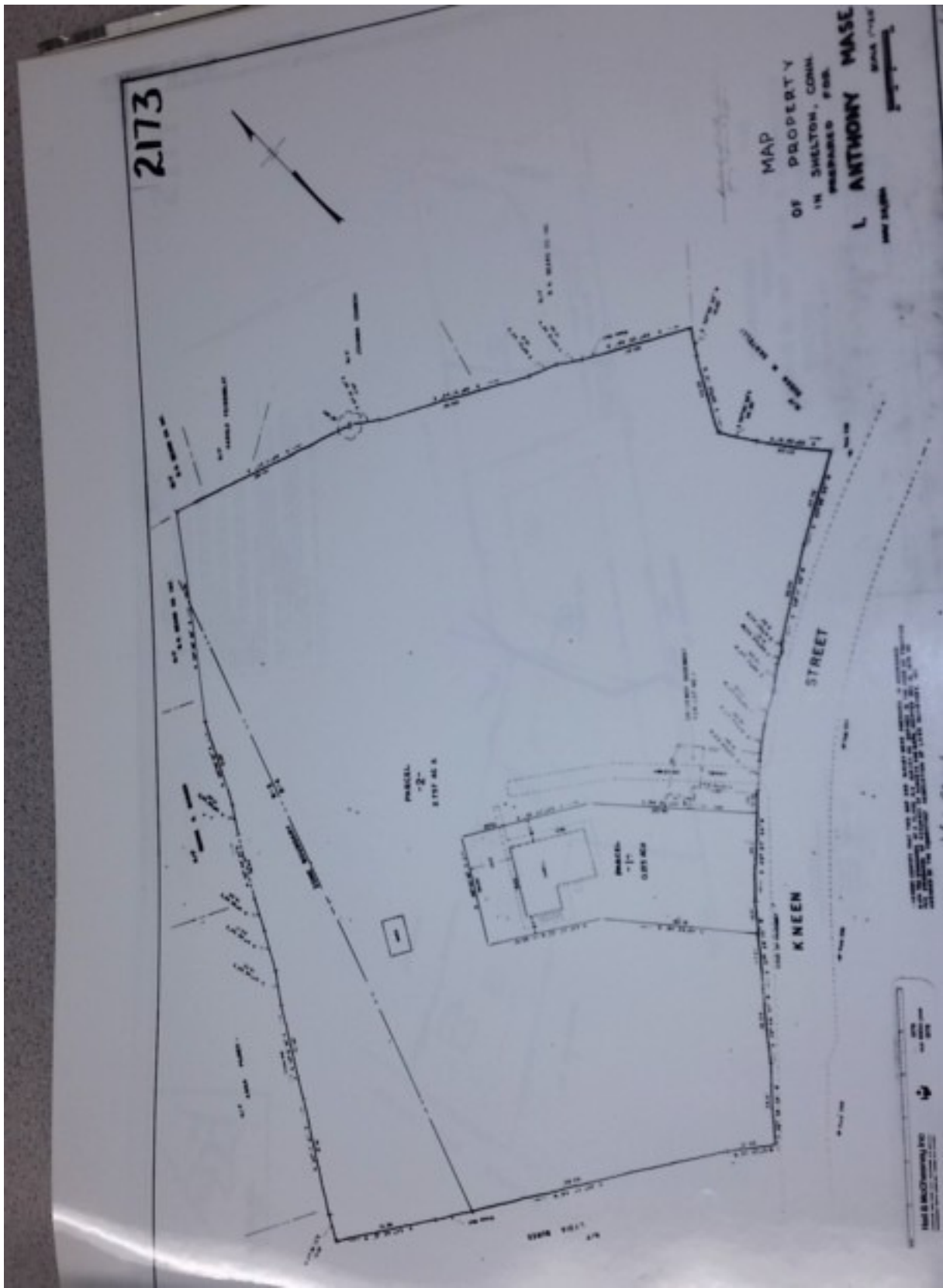


Fig. 8 – 1958 property map (v.35 Map #2173) showing the 3 acre property with house where Burlock Cam and later his daughter Kate Cam lived on Kneen Street. (North is to the right). Some of the boundaries are delineated by stone walls.

## John Lewis Cam Jr.

John Jr.'s middle name "Lewis" was in honor of his mother's maiden surname. He was born September 1, 1831 and married Acha Sills, daughter of Walter and Maryetta Sills. They had at least six children of whom we know the names of five: Charles F., Mary E., Francis E., William Sherman, and John Lewis (3<sup>rd</sup>). William Sherman was named after William Sherman of Trumbull, CT a Native American who was instrumental in reestablishing the Golden Hill Paugusett Tribe's reservation. John Cam had ties with the Shermans. (See: *Native American Connection* below for more details) Sadly William Sherman Cam died at age 4. John Lewis III also died at age 4 from "coup." Their gravestones can be found in Long Hill Cemetery. Mary E. married Julius Camp who she met while both were servants of the Bristol family of Huntington.<sup>47</sup> She died in 1874 at age 23 and is buried in Long Hill Cemetery. Charles learned the printing trade.<sup>48</sup>

John Cam Jr. is listed as a laborer, farm laborer, and farmer in various records from 1850 to 1860.<sup>49</sup> By 1866, John had learned the brick mason trade. A trade he continued to practice into the 1870s.<sup>50</sup> The town death records (1899) listed his occupation as "stone mason."<sup>51</sup>

John's wife Acha died in July 1887.<sup>51</sup> He Married Huldah Sherman, the 20 year old daughter of William and Nancy Sherman in October 1888. She was identified in the 1870 Census (Trumbull) as Native American. John was 57 years old at the time of their marriage. There is no record of them having children. John died in January 1899. His will left his entire estate to Huldah.<sup>52</sup> The estate consisted of 12 acres of land with house & barn on Long Hill Avenue. The 10.25 acre woodlot on xxxxxxxx have been previously sold by John in 1887.<sup>53</sup> Huldah married James Samuel Robinson. She died in 1909 in Hartford, CT. She left the Long Hill Ave. property to her husband.<sup>54</sup>

## Burlock Cam

Burlock, the son of John Cam Sr. & Acha Lewis, was born about 1820.<sup>55</sup> He married Augustine in January 1854. The marriage record listed him as a sailor & mason.<sup>56</sup> He may have learned the masonry trade from his brother John Jr. The 1860 & 1870 census records listed him as a farm laborer.<sup>57</sup> In 1860, Burlock's children inherited the Kneen Street house along with 3 acres. Burlock had a life tenancy in the property. Where he lived between 1854 and 1860 is not known. Burlock's wife shows up in the census records as *Augustine* (1860), *Augusta* (1870), and *Justine* (1880). Hannah Treadway who was in John Cam Sr.'s household in 1850 shows up as Hannah Treadwell in Burlock's household in 1860. According to a newspaper account, Burr went for an evening walk on December 7, 1870 and did not return home. The family found him reclining against a rock dead. An inquest ruled his death was the result of "natural causes."<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> 1870 census

<sup>48</sup> 1870 census

<sup>49</sup> 1850 & 1860 census; Huntington town vital records – 1853 birth of male child, 1860 birth of female child

<sup>50</sup> Huntington town records – 1866 birth of male child occupation listed as "mason"; 1870 census occupation "brick mason"

<sup>51</sup> Huntington town vital records

<sup>52</sup> v.38 pg.347

<sup>53</sup> v.16 pg.726

<sup>54</sup> v.51 pg.66 (certificate of devise)

<sup>55</sup> 1870 census; John Cam Sr. Will v.16 pg.780 & Probate v.26 pg.51

<sup>56</sup> Huntington town vital records

<sup>57</sup> Burlock is not listed in 1840 or 1850 census. His marriage recorded listed one of his occupations as a sailor. He may have been at sea when the censuses were taken.

<sup>58</sup> *Connecticut Intelligence* Dec. 14, 1870 pg.3

They had at least two children: Louisa and Catherine. Catherine was known later in life as “Kate.” Catherine had an illegitimate son, named George. She never married the father, Robert Taylor.<sup>59</sup> In the 1880 census her occupation was listed as “stitching corset”. She eventually owned the Kneen Street property which she sold in 1907.<sup>60</sup> It is believe that Louisa married a member of the Curtis family and died prior to 1880. It may have been a mixed racial marriage. Burlock’s widow, has three grandchildren in the household (George Cam, Frederick Curtis, & Hattie Curtis) as of 1880 along with Catherine age 25. George was Catherin’s son. The two Curtis grandchildren who are listed as mulatto are believed to be Louisa’s children.<sup>61</sup> Hattie [Harriet] Curtis married George Sherman, a member of Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe. George Sherman was Harriet Huldah Sherman (John Cam Jr.’s 2<sup>nd</sup> wife) brother.<sup>62</sup>

### **Silliman Cam**

Silliman was the son of Archibald and Phillys Cam.<sup>63</sup> He signed a mortgage deed with an “X” indicating he was illiterate like his father. He married Hannah Nichols of Milford on August 26, 1831 at St. Paul’s Church.<sup>64</sup> They lived someplace within the Lower White Hills School District of Huntington. In 1834, he purchased a building (dwelling house?) for \$25. He obtained mortgage for \$8.88 to pay for part of the price.<sup>65</sup> Interestingly, the deed only references a “building” but makes no reference to land. St. Paul’s Church records list one child which died in infancy. He married Sally Ann Payne of Poughkeepsie in 1846 presumably after the death of his first wife.<sup>66</sup> She went by Ann (1850 Census). There is no record of any children. He died in 1877 and his death was recorded in the Congregational Church records.

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<sup>59</sup> Huntington town vital records

<sup>60</sup> Kate Cam is listed as an abutter to John L. Cam’s estate in 1899, v.38 pg.347. “Cathrine E. Cam” sold the three acres to Annie Buresch of Derby in a deed dated October 14, 1907 pg.182

<sup>61</sup> Town vital records recorded the death of a colored woman Jane Louisa Curtis, age 27, Dec. 10, 1876 with a marital status of single. The age is a good match for Louisa (born circa 1849).

<sup>62</sup> 1870 census (Trumbull) Huldah and George are listed as children of William Sherman.

<sup>63</sup> Wheeler manuscript 1889, 201-202

<sup>64</sup> St. Paul’s Church records

<sup>65</sup> v.12 pg.611; v.12 pg.612

<sup>66</sup> St. Paul’s Church records

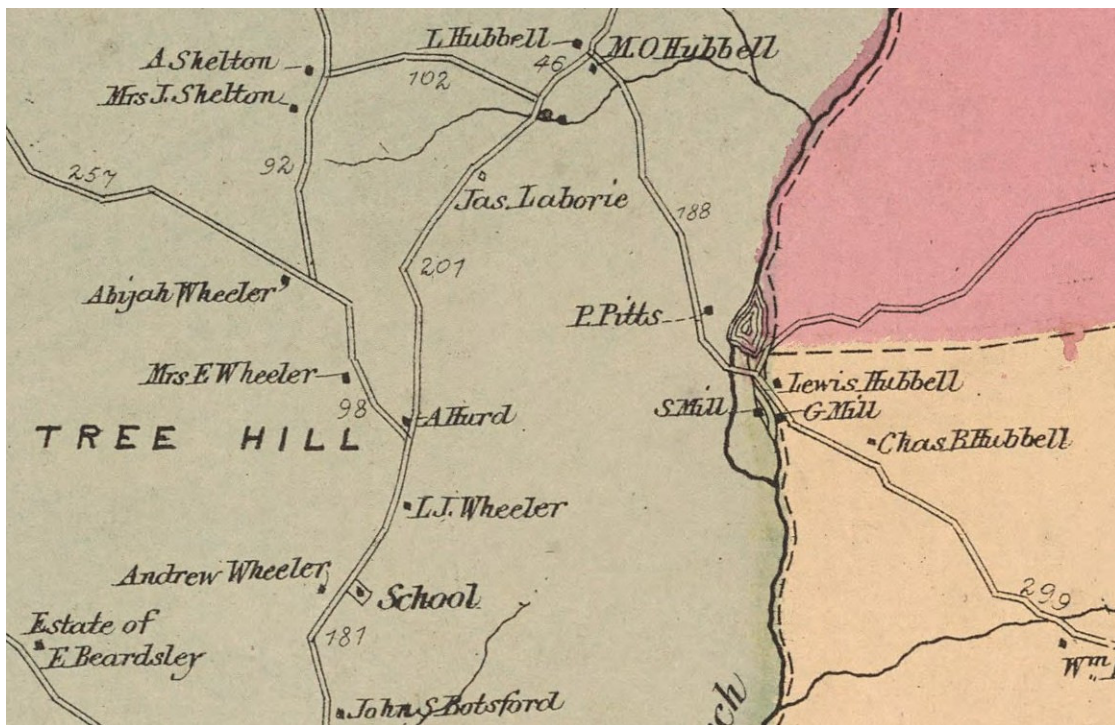


Fig.9– Excerpt from 1867 Huntington map showing P.[Peter] Pitts house. Peter married Noah Cam’s daughter Elizabeth. The house and land purchased by Noah in 1802.

### Noah Cam

On March 29, 1802 Noah Cam purchased a  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre lot with a “small house” from David Beardslee for 20 Pounds.<sup>67</sup> The deed listed his full name as “Noah Blackleach Cam.” (Blackleach was the surname of a white family that owned slaves in the mid-1700s in Huntington.)<sup>68</sup> In 1803, he mortgaged the property to Erza Wheeler for \$25.<sup>69</sup> In March 1804, Noah deeds the house and property to his children “Truman, Reuben, George, Eli, Elizabeth, Isaac, & Charles”, all underage at the time, with a provision “reserving the use and improvement of the one half of said piece of land for my wife Phillis Cam during her natural life.”<sup>70</sup> Noah did not include himself in the reservation of rights in the property. This suggests he may have been facing a life threatening illness or injury at the time and he was making provisions to insure his wife & children remained on the property and protecting them from creditors. With the property in his children’s names, neither the creditors nor the probate court could have forced the sale of property to pay for any debts incurred by himself or his wife. Noah survived this crisis and was listed in the 1820 & 1830 censuses. Noah & Phillis would have another child, Betsy born in 1807, who was not listed in the deed.

The 1804 deed provided a more detailed description of its location: “being on the West side of Pine Swamp River not far from David Hubbells Mills Containing one acre Bounded on east on said River west side on land of Capt. David Judson and southerly on Highway in part and part on land belonging to Devonshaws wife.” Pine Swamp River is today known as Means Brook<sup>71</sup> and labeled “The

<sup>67</sup> Vol. 4 page 44

<sup>68</sup> See baptismal index in St. Paul’s Church records ex. “Peg servant of Hanford Blackleach Jan. 4 1758” It was not uncommon for freed slaves to adopt the surname of their former owners. This obviously casts doubt on the unsubstantiated statement in the *Pictorial History of Shelton Connecticut* (1987) that the Cams were former slaves of the Shelton family.

<sup>69</sup> Vol. 4 page 144

<sup>70</sup> V.7 pg.167 (1804) not recorded until 1812..

<sup>71</sup> “Writer Tells History of Brook Shown in Photo” *Bridgeport Post* Dec. 11, 1962, page 20.

Branch” [River] on the 1867 map. The 1867 map shows a sawmill and gristmill along “The Branch” near Lewis Hubbell’s house. The road above the mills which crosses the river is today called Sawmill City Road. Noah’s house was likely to the northwest of the junction of Sawmill City Road and Means Brook were the P. [Peter] Pitts residence is shown on the 1867 map. James Beardsley Wheeler’s 1889 unpublished manuscript (Shelton Historical Society) states “(There were several Cam families living in town many years ago.) There was John Cam, Noah Cam, (Peter Pitts wife’s father who lived at Sawmill City).” (p.201-202) Beardsley’s intent in this statement was to convey the fact *Peter Pitts wife’s father was Noah Cam*. The 1850 census for Huntington lists Elizabeth age 61 as Peter Pitts wife. Noah Cam’s daughter born in August 1790 is a good age match for Elizabeth in the census.<sup>72</sup>

The 1820 census lists five people in the household. Based upon the age ranges, the household likely consisted of Noah, Phillis and their children Betsy, Elizabeth, and either Truman or Reuben. The 1830 census lists only Noah and his wife Phillis in the household. Noah’s death on February 8, 1837 was recorded in the Congregational Church records. He was 75 years old. His wife Phillis died August 11, 1840 due to “paralysis.” Her death was recorded in St. Paul’s Church records.

Noah’s son Isaac married Julia and was living in Waterbury as of the 1840 census. They had at least two children: Truman born circa 1827-28 and Isaac G. born circa 1831. The name of Isaac’s wife was discovered on Isaac G. Jr.’s death record.<sup>73</sup> Truman’s relationship was inferred based upon the fact both Truman and Isaac G. used the same spelling variant “Camm”, only 3 to 4 years age difference and both were barbers. According to his gravestone in Mortimer Cemetery, Middletown CT, Truman served Company G 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Connecticut Volunteers [Civil War]. Isaac G. enlisted in the Navy in 1862 and served two years. He was listed as barber and his race as mulatto.<sup>74</sup>

## Church Records

The Cam family shows up sporadically in the records of the Congregational Church and St. Paul’s Church. (St. Paul’s Church was an Anglican Church of England congregation prior to American Revolution War. It was reorganized like many Anglican churches as an Episcopal church after the war.) The records are far from complete. For example, some but not all of Archibald’s children are baptized. There are intriguing question like why Noah Cam’s funeral was handle by the Congregational Church and his wife’s funeral several years later by St. Paul’s Church.

St Paul’s record which go back to the mid-1700s list baptisms for children of black “servants”. Generally the name of the child, the first name of the mother along with the slave owner are listed. The records also include baptism, marriage and deaths of free African-Americans who can be distinguished by the fact their entries followed the same format as the white person entries except for an added note “coloured persons.” It interesting that the church was partially integrated. African-Americans had access to the church’s sacraments of baptism, marriage and funeral. There are even entries for adult baptisms indicated later in life conversions.

## Native American Connection

The presence of a Native American ceremonial stone structure site on an African-American homestead raises some pertinent questions. Did the Cam family have a connection to the Native American community? Did one of the Cam’s discussed in this study marry a Native American? Was one

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<sup>72</sup> Minor discrepancies in ages reported in the census are common. As a general rule census ages have +/- 1 year margin of error.

<sup>73</sup> Mass. Death Records 1841-1915. Parents: Isaac G. and Julia Cam of Huntington CT. He died February 28, 1872 in Boston, MA.

<sup>74</sup> "United States Naval Enlistment Rendezvous, 1855-1891," database, FamilySearch.org

or more of the Cam's of mixed ethnic heritage (black / Indian) from a mixed racial marriage in the 18<sup>th</sup> century?

Our inquiry into this subject began with the discovery that John L. Cam Jr. married Huldah Sherman, daughter of William & Nancy Sherman of Trumbull in 1888. William Sherman was instrumental in reestablishing the Golden Hill Paugussett Tribal reservation and served as tribal chief.<sup>75</sup> William and his family are identified as Indian in the 1870 census for Trumbull. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage for John Jr. He was 57 years and she was 20. John's relationship with the Sherman family likely goes back at least to 1865, twenty-three years before their marriage. In that year, he named his son *William Sherman Cam*.<sup>76</sup> William Sherman in his diary/account book covering 1873 to 1879 has a number of entries that simply read "went to see Cam." This is according to Charles Brilvitch who served as historian for the Tribe and did extensive research on the diary.<sup>77</sup> There is also an entry dated May 13, 1877 which references William going to Mary Cam's funeral. Mary E. Cam who married Julius Camp died May 10, 1877. This is likely the person whose funeral William attended. Researchers for the Golden Hills Paugussett Tribe's federal recognition application argued the "Cam" mentioned in William's diary was John L. Cam Jr.<sup>78</sup> Historian Charles Brilvitch also identifies this individual as "John Cam" in his book *A History of Connecticut's Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe* (2007) but does not identify the town he lived in.<sup>79</sup>

The 1860 census may offer some additional clues. John Jr. is listed as mulatto, his wife Acha as black, his children as mulatto, and another member of the household Elizabeth White as black. John's brother Burlock and his wife and children are listed as mulatto and another household member Hannah Treadwell as black. These are the only census records where this occurs. All of the other censuses listed them as black. Normally, the presumption in census research is that the racial designation was assigned by the census enumerator based upon skin color and other physical characteristics. However, in this case the distinctions which were made suggest it was self-reported by the Cam family. If it is self-reported, it would indicate the Cam's consider their mixed racial ancestry to be an important part of their ethnic identity. The mid 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the members of Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe reasserting their tribal identity and reestablishing their land base.<sup>80</sup>

John Cam Sr. (1795-1860) was listed in the 1860 mortality schedule as mulatto. This pushes the interracial ancestry back to his parents, George and Lilphia. The census enumerator who handled the mortality schedule was a different person from the person who compiled the population schedule (different handwriting).

Scholars are generally reluctant to interpret ethnicity based upon the term *mulatto* because it is a somewhat ambiguous. It was a catchall term used for persons whose ancestry was a mix of either African/Indian, African/White, Indian/White, or African /Indian/White. The two progenitors of the Cam family in Huntington, George and Noah, are both listed in 1792 Huntington town records as "Free Born Negro." George's son Archibald was involved in the "Black Governor" leadership and celebrated St. Cuffee's Day, a patron saint of the African-American community.<sup>81</sup> The Cam's African American ancestry is self-evident. The question then becomes did the Cam family ancestry included Native American or white ancestors?

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<sup>75</sup> Brilvitch 2007.

<sup>76</sup> There is a slight possibility that his son was named after the famous Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman but this seems highly improbable given John Cam's association with William Sherman of Trumbull.

<sup>77</sup> Personal communication e-mail October 12, 2015

<sup>78</sup> Bureau of Indian Affairs, *Final Determination Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe September 17, 1996*, page 49.

<sup>79</sup> Page 89.

<sup>80</sup> Brilvitch 2007.

<sup>81</sup> "St. Cuffee's Day" *Republication Farmer* October 17, 1843

The genealogical reconstruction of the Cam family from George and Noah (born in the 1760s) forward has found no evidence of interracial marriage with a white person. If there was white ancestor it had to date from George and Noah's parents' generation or earlier.

According to historian Charles Brilvitch, Reuben Cam was a partner in a ship carpentry business in 1855 with Rensselaer Pease, William Sherman's father or step father.<sup>82</sup> The Cam family name is fairly rare in Connecticut so Reuben is likely related to the Cams of Huntington. He may be Noah Cam's son or possibly a grandchild. More work needs to be done to clarify Reuben's relationship to the other Cams.

The Cam family of Huntington (now Shelton) had ties to William Sherman and his family of Trumbull (known Golden Hill Paugussett Tribal members) in the 1870s and 1880s. This relationship may date to the 1860s if not earlier. There is circumstantial evidence from the 1860 census in the selective use of the racial designation mulatto for some Cam family members to suggest they may have had Native American ancestry in addition to their African-American roots. The presence of a historic period Native American ceremonial site on an isolated section of the 6 acre property on xxxxxxxxxx suggests the Cams were sympathetic to the Native American's efforts to preserve their traditional culture.

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<sup>82</sup> Brilvitch 2007, 31. Brilvitch identifies Pease as "almost certainly the father of William Sherman" pg. 86



# Genealogical Reconstruction of Family Groups

## Sources

*Note:* “Ripton Parish” in the town of Strafford incorporated as Huntington in 1789 became the city of Shelton in 1915.

**Cong. Church** – Congregational Church Records

**CT Births** – “Connecticut Births & Christenings 1649-1906”, database familysearch.org

**CT Deaths** – “Connecticut Deaths and Burials, 1772-1934”, database, FamilySearch.org

**CT Marriages** – “Connecticut Marriages, 1630-1997”, database, FamilySearch.org

**George Cam Probate** – Fairfield County, Bridgeport District Probate Court. Records held by the Connecticut State Library.

**Gravestone** – Unless otherwise noted gravestones are in Long Hill Cemetery, Shelton, CT

**Hale** – Hale Cemetery Inscriptions and Newspaper Notices, 1929-1934

**MA Deaths** – “Massachusetts Death Records 1841-1915”, database, FamilySearch.org

**MA Marriages** – “Mass Marriages Records 1841-1915”, database, FamilySearch.org

**St. Paul** – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Records (founded in 1740)

**VR** – Vital Records of the Huntington, CT available at city hall, Shelton, CT

**Wheeler Manuscript** – Unpublished hand written manuscript by James Beardsley Wheeler, 1889, in collections of the Shelton Historical Society.

**Census Note:** No Cam family listed for Huntington in 1810 & 1840 census

# 1<sup>ST</sup> GENERATION

<b>George Cam</b>	b. Dec.14,1765 d. Dec. 25, 1838	Huntington Huntington	“free born negro”	VR St. Paul <sup>83</sup>
<b>Lilpha</b>	d. Before 1839 <sup>84</sup>		“free born woman”	VR
<i>Marriage</i>	Dec. 25, 1789	Huntington		VR
<i>Children</i>				
Archable	b. Apr. 4, 1790 d. Dec. 9, 1881	Huntington Huntington		VR VR
John Sr. <sup>85</sup>	b. c.1795 d. Jan. 1860	Huntington Huntington		Gravestone Gravestone
Nancy <sup>86</sup>	b. between 1805-07 d. Aug. 1, 1865	Huntington New Haven, CT		1840, 1850, 1860 Censuses for New Haven, CT Gravestone (Evergreen Cem.) Newspaper <sup>87</sup> George Cam Probate
	*Married Robert Jackson			

## Deeds

1790 – George purchased 6 acres from Isaac Hill for £24 on the northeast side of the corner of xxxx & xxxxxx. The parcel was on the south side of Cranberry Swamp. This parcel includes the house foundation & stone structure site. (v.1 pg.182)

1795 – George purchased 10.25 acres from Moses Wheeler for £10 5s<sup>88</sup> on the south side xxxxxx. (xxxxxx., xxxxxx parcel, public conservation land). (v.2 pg.480)

1802 – George purchases 5.25 acres of land near Popple Hollow for \$116.66 (inferred for mortgage deed) He obtained a two year mortgage from Agur Judson, Esq. for the purchase price. (v.4 pg.333) Popple Hollow was xxxxxx southwest of George’s 6 acre lot. It was located where E. [Elijah] Hawley is shown on the 1867 map. Hawley purchased the property in 1854 (v.15 pg.241)

1803 – George purchased 4/10ths of an acre “where said George’s Dwelling house stands” from Jonas French (1751-1834) for £7 4s. Due to an apparent misunderstanding of the angle of the eastern property line of the 6 acres, George’s house was built 15-20 feet into Jonas French’s land. French sells George 68 square rods of land (0.425 acres) thus resolving the problem. A fence, erected prior to finalization of the sale served as the line between the two properties. (v.12 pg.258)The stone wall east of the foundation at the site may be part of the fence line mentioned in the deed.

1809 – George subdivided the 5.25 acre Popple Hollow parcel into two lots and sold one lot of 2.75 acres to Peter Freeman for \$1. (v.9 pg.241) Peter was likely a relative or in-law.

1815 – George purchased 4 acres from Levi Curtiss for \$100 at the outlet of a swamp. The deed states that it was located southeasterly of Silas Wheeler’s house. (v.12 pg.259) Current thinking is the parcel was located on xxxxxxxxx (southeast of the M. Wheeler house on the 1867 map see fig.1).

<sup>83</sup> CT Deaths and Burials 1772-1934 database lists the date as Jan. 24, 1839. This may have been the burial date.

<sup>84</sup> She is not listed in the probate of George Cam’s estate (1839)

<sup>85</sup> John Cam Sr.’s birth was not recorded in the town records. His year of birth (c.1795) is estimated from his gravestone. John, Archibald, & Nancy received the remainder of George’s real estate through probate. They held the homestead (6 acres) and a woodlot (10.25 acres) in common. This indicates they were all children of George Cam.

<sup>86</sup> Nancy Cam’s birth was not recorded in the town records. Her year of birth is estimated from census records. “Nancy wife of Robert Jackson” was listed as one of the inheritors in George Cam’s probate.

<sup>87</sup> [Obituary] *Constitution* (Middletown, CT) Aug. 9, 1865 pg.2 - “Nancy, wife of Robert Jackson, Age 64 years.”

<sup>88</sup> £ = pounds sterling; s = shillings (British colonial currency)

1833 – George purchased the 2.75 acre parcel back from William Mills for \$75. The deed noted that Peter Freeman was deceased. The deed lists a “small dwelling house”. (v.10 pg.496) Mills purchased the property with a house in 1821 from Peter Freeman for \$40 (v.9 pg.130).

*1790 Census – Huntington*

George Blacklidge [Cam]<sup>89</sup> – All other free persons: 3 [George, Lilpha, & Archibald]

*1792 Town Records Book 1 Page 54*

“George Cam, A Free Born Negro. Born December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1765 was Lawfully Joined in Marriage with Lilpa a free Born Woman on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of December AD 1789 – Names of their Children in the marriage following: Archable Born April 4<sup>th</sup> AD 1790”

*1800 Census – Huntington*

George [Cam] Negro<sup>90</sup> – All other free persons: 4 [George, Lilpha, Archibald, & John]

*1820 Census – Huntington*

George Cam – free colored persons: 1 male 45+, 1 female 45+ [George & Lilpha]

Probate

1839 – George Cam died in December 1838. The estate was probated from 1839 to 1842. Archibald, John Sr., and Nancy inherited the 6 acre homestead and 10.25 acres. An undocumented arrangement was made in which Archibald took sole possession of the 6 acre and John sole ownership of the woodlot. The estate is in debt for the amount of \$170.55. In 1841, the probate court ordered the sale of two parcels to pay the debts: The 4 acre swamp outlet parcel was sold to Charles Wheeler for \$92 (v.13 pg.491); the 5.25 parcel Popple Hollow parcel was sold to John Cam [Sr.] for \$100 (v.12 pg.825).

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<sup>89</sup> As of 1790 there were three people in George’s household: George, his wife Lilphia, and their son Archable. This matches the 3 listed for this census entry. Noah Cam in 1802 deed writes his name “Noah Blachleach Cam”. Blacklidge may have been George’s middle name.

<sup>90</sup> This identification is confirmed by looking at his neighbors in the census: Isaac Hill (from whom purchased the 6 acres), Joseph Beardslee (own 9 acres with house & barn on the north side George’s 6 acre lot), and Jonas French (abutter on the east side of the 6 acre lot).

<b>Noah Cam</b>	b. Apr 12, 1761 d. Feb. 8, 1837	Huntington Huntington	“Free Born Negro”	VR Cong. Church
<b>Phillis</b>	b. Apr. 12, 1769 d. Aug. 11, 1840	Huntington	“Free Woman”	VR St. Paul “age 83 Paralysis”
<i>Marriage</i>	Feb. 14, 1786	Huntington		VR
<i>Children</i>				
Truman/Freeman <sup>91</sup>	b. Apr. 2, 1786	Huntington		VR
Reuben/Rubin <sup>92</sup>	b. Mar. 16, 1788	Huntington		VR
Elizabeth	b. Aug. 12, 1790	Huntington		VR
Eli	b. Jan, 19, 1794	Huntington		VR
	m. Nov. 28, 1816	Mary Lou		St. Paul
Isaac	b. May 12, 1796	Huntington		VR
George		Huntington	*Listed in 1804 deed	
Charles	b. May 2, 1805	Huntington	*listed in 1804 deed, either year is incorrect in VR or Charles added to deed after the fact. Deed was not registered until 1812.	
Betsy	b. Feb. 4, 1807 m. Feb. 23, 1828 to George Chatfield	Huntington		VR CT Marriages

#### *1790 Census – Huntington*

Noah Shelton [Cam?]<sup>93</sup> – All other free persons: 3 \*unconfirmed identification

#### *1792 Town Records Book 1 Page 54*

“Noah Camm a Free Born Negro was Born April 12 AD 1761 and was Lawfully joined in Marriage with Phillis a Free Woman on the 14 day of February AD 1786

Truman, a Son was Born April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1786

Rubin was Born March 16<sup>th</sup> 1788

Elizabeth was Born August 12 1790

*Eli a son born January 19<sup>th</sup> 1794*

Phillis Noah’s wife was born April 12, 1769

*Isaac a son born May 12<sup>th</sup> 1796*

*Charles a son born May 2d 1805*

*Betsey a daughter born Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 1807”*

*\*Italics indicate entries added in/after 1807. Written in a different ink and handwriting*

#### *Deeds*

1802 – “Noah Blackleach Cam” purchased  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre of land with a “small house” from David Beardslee for £25. (v.4 pg. 44)

1803 – The property was mortgaged to Ezra Wheeler for \$25. (v.4 pg.144)

1804 – Noah deeds the house and property to his children “Truman, Reuben, George, Eli, Elizabeth, Isaac, & Charles”, all underage at the time, with a provision “reserving the use and improvement of the one half of said piece of land for my wife Phillis Cam during her natural life.”<sup>94</sup> Noah did not include himself in the reservation of rights in the property. In this deed then property is listed as 1 acre. Property

<sup>91</sup> Handwriting in town records is unclear as to whether it is “Tru” or “Free”

<sup>92</sup> Spelled “Rubin” in town vital records and “Reuben in 1804 deed.

<sup>93</sup> This is an unconfirmed identification. There should have been at least 4 persons in the household in 1790 yet only 3 are indicated. This is the only Noah listed in Huntington.

<sup>94</sup> Vol. 4 page 249, recorded in 1812; vol. 7 page 167 (1812) warranty deed with identical language.

is described as “being on the west side of Pine Swamp River [Means Brook] not far from David Hubbells Mills.” It is bounded “southerly on Highway in part”. (v.7 pg.167) The property was located northwest of the junction of Sawmill City Road and Means Brook. On the 1867 map, the house is at the location marked “P.Pitts”. Noah’s daughter Elizabeth married Peter Pitts, so the property was still in the family as 1867. The deed was not registered with the town clerk until 1812.

*1820 Census – Huntington*

Noah Cam

Free colored persons

1	male 26-44	[Truman or Reuben]
1	male 45+	[Noah]
1	female 0-13	[Betsey]
1	female 26-44	[Elizabeth]
1	female 45+	[Phillis]

*1830 Census – Huntington*

Noah Cam

Free colored persons

1	male 55-99	[Noah]
1	female 55-99	[Phillis]

*1830 Census – Woodbridge*

Reuben Cam

Free colored person

1	male 36-54	
1	female 36-54	

*1830 Census – Woodbury*

Geo Camm

Free colored persons

1	male 0-9	
1	male 24-35	
1	female 10-23	
1	female 24-35	

## 2<sup>ND</sup> GENERATION

### Archable/

<b>Archibald Cam</b>	b. Apr. 4, 1790 d. Dec. 9, 1881 <i>Parents: George &amp; Lilphia Cam</i>	Huntington Huntington	VR VR (died at Walnut Tree Hill, widower, Laborer), Obituary (died at Almshouse) <sup>95</sup> 1850 census
<b>Phillys</b>	b. 1792 or 1793 d. May 9, 1860	Huntington	VR (Married, age 68, cause apoplexy)
<i>Marriage</i>	in/before 1815		

### Children

Silliman	b. c.1811-1815 d. May 1, 1877	Huntington Huntington	1850 Census; Cong. Church ("Age 66"), Wheeler manuscript VR
Nancy	bapt. Aug. 21, 1831	Huntington	St. Paul
Emily	bapt. Aug. 21, 1831	Huntington	St. Paul
Hepsa Elizabeth Cam			

She was married to Lyman Freeman of Monroe January, 2 1831 (VR) by a Justice of the Peace. She was baptized the same date (Aug. 21, 1831) as Nancy & Emily Cam. She is listed on the line above them in the church records. She may be 0-9 year old female listed in Archibald's household in 1820. Lyman Freeman was born Nov. 11, 1795 in Huntington. His father was Roman Freeman.<sup>96</sup> Georgiana Freeman (born c.1847) is listed in Archibald's household in the 1850 census and is likely Hepsa's daughter. Georgiana married James Samuel, age 25, November 16, 1865 (VR). She died Feb. 27, 1881 in Seymour, CT (CT Deaths).

Daughters \*1830 census indicates as many four

### Deeds

1842 – June 17, Archibald, John Sr., & Nancy inherit the six acre homestead and 10.25 acre woodlot as tenants in common. (George Cam Probate)

1842 – January 31, Archibald sold the 6 acres to his neighbor Joseph Perry for \$50. The deed contains the following clause, "The condition of the above Deed is such that if the above named Archibald Cam does will and truly keep the peace by not slandering himself or allowing his wife to utter or circulate slanderous reports to the injury of the character of Joseph Perry or his family then this Deed is void otherwise in full force." Archibald signs the deed with an "X". (v.13 pg.337) The presumption is this deed was a mortgage but no repayment terms are given. This deed occurred 5 months prior to the formal distribution of George's estate. It suggests a deal was worked out between the three siblings in which Archibald became the sole owner of the 6 acres. The mortgage may have used to purchase Nancy's share. John Sr. became sole owner of the woodlot suggesting that John and Archibald swapped their 1/3 shares in each other properties. (John purchased Nancy's share of the woodlot in 1847).

1878 – Archibald transferred the property to the town to defray the cost of his support from the town. The deed lists the property as 7 acres (original 6 acres plus the 0.425 acres purchased by his father George.) The deed states "the premises where I now live with all the buildings." The *buildings* likely refers to Archibald's house along with his father's house and possibly some outbuildings. Although unstated, there seems to have been understanding that Archibald had a life tenancy in the property. In

<sup>95</sup> *New Haven Register* Dec. 27, 1881

<sup>96</sup> Connecticut Births & Christenings 1649-1906 database familysearch.org

the 1880 census, Archibald is listed as head of the household and Maria Brinsmade, age 65, is listed as a housekeeper. She was likely hired to take care of him.

*Republication Farmer* October 17, 1843

“St Cuffee’s Day

Will be celebrated on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> of October at the House of Henry A. Smith in Trumbull, and continue a reasonable time. A general attendance of People of Color is earnestly solicited ; and those liable by Law are hereby commanded to appear equipped and uniformed as is customary on such days. By Order, HARLOW MORRIS, Governor. *Archibald Cam*, Brigadier General. Dated Head Quarters, Huntington, October 4, 1843.”

*1820 Census – Huntington*

Archable Cam

Free colored persons

2	male 0-13	[Silliman]
1	male 26-44	[Archibald]
2	female 0-13	
1	female 26-44	[Phillys]

*1830 Census – Huntington*

Archibald Cam

Free colored persons

1	male 10-23	[Silliman]
1	male 36-54	[Archibald]
1	female 0-9	
3	female 10-23	
1	female 36-54	[Phillys]

*1850 Census - Huntington*

Archibald Cam, 59, male, Black, Labourer, real property \$200, born in CT

Phillys, 57, female, Black, born in CT

Georgianna Freeman, 3, female, black, born in CT [granddaughter?]

\*Marriage November 16, 1865 “James W. Samuels of Seymour and Georgiana Cam of Huntington at the Parsonage” – St. Paul’s Church Records

*1860 Census – Huntington*

Arch’d Cam, 70, male, black, farm laborer, real estate \$500, personal estate \$100, born in CT

Phillis, 64, female, black, born in CT

Georgina, 14, female, black, attending school, born in CT

*1880 Census – Huntington*

Archabel Cam, 93, male, black, widowed

Maria Brinsmade, 65, female, black, single, housekeeper

<b>John Cam Sr.</b>	b. c.1794-1795		VR, Gravestone
	d. Jan. 24, 1860	Huntington	Gravestone (age 65), VR (age 66, farmer, widowed, inflammation of lungs), 1860 Mortality Schedule
	<i>Parents: George &amp; Lilphia Cam</i> <sup>97</sup>		
<b>Acha Lewis</b>	b. c.1800		Gravestone, St. Paul
	d. Aug. 7, 1838	Huntington	Gravestone "age 38 / Also an infant", Hale
<i>Marriage</i>	March 24, 1819	Huntington	St. Paul

*Children*

Catherine Elizabeth	b. c.1819-1820 <sup>98</sup>		
	bapt. Mar 4, 1824	Huntington	St. Paul
	m. Oct. 12, 1840 to William Henry Johnson	of Derby	VR
Burlock	b. After June 1820 <sup>99</sup>	Huntington	1870 Census, 1860 Will (John Cam Sr.)
	Bapt. Mar 4, 1824	Huntington	St. Paul
	d. Dec. 7, 1870	Huntington	VR, Obituary <sup>100</sup>
John Lewis Jr.	b. Sept. 1, 1831	Huntington	Gravestone
	d. Jan. 26, 1899	Huntington	Gravestone
Infant	d. 1838	Huntington	Gravestone (see Acha above)

*Deeds*

1820 – (September) John purchased 8 acres of land with buildings from Philo Wakelee for \$500. The parcel was located on Long Hill Ave with some frontage on Kneen St. (v.9 pg.264) The current thinking is the “buildings” were a house and barn on Kneen Street, the same later owned by Burlock Cam and shown on the 1867 map as B. Cam.

1835 – John purchased 4 acre parcel from Joseph Dart for \$30. It is located “near the Derby Bridge” and bounded “West on the highway North and East on the heirs of Joseph Wheeler South on land of said John Cam.” (v.12 pg.85) This parcel was located on Long Hill Ave on the north side of his 8 acre parcel.

1841 – John purchased the 5.25 acre Popple Hollow parcel on xxxxx from the estate of George Cam for \$100. (v.12 pg.825)

1841 – John Cam obtained a mortgage for \$175 from John Mills using the Popple Hollow property as collateral (v.12 pg.377)

1842 – John, Archibald, and Nancy inherited the 6 acre homestead and 10.25 acre parcel on xxxxxxxx from the estate of George Cam. It is surmised that an agreement was reached between the three children in which Archibald takes sole ownership of the 6 acres and John the 10.25 acres.<sup>101</sup>

1847 – John sold the 5.25 acre Popple Hollow parcel to David Lane for \$95. (v.13 pg.190)

1847 – John purchased 3.3 acre triangular shaped parcel from Robert Jackson for \$35. It is bounded on the north by a highway and on all other sides by Alfred Shelton. (v.16 pg.73) The description is similar to the 1842 description of the 10.25 acre woodlot in the probate record (same abutter). This deed transferred Nancy [Cam] Jackson’s 1/3 interest (i.e. 3.3 acres) in the woodlot to John.

1857 – John sells to John L. Cam Jr. 2 acres of land “near the Long Hill Burying ground” which is on Long Hill Ave. It is bounded “Northerly on land of James W. Wheeler, Easterly on land of Grantor,

<sup>97</sup> John Cam’s birth was not recorded in the town records. His parentage determined through George Cam’s Probate records in which the remainder of the real estate was distributed to Archibald, John, and Nancy (i.e, George’s children).

<sup>98</sup> Possibly the female child listed in 1820 census.

<sup>99</sup> Not listed 1820 census which was enumerated in June 1820.

<sup>100</sup> *Connecticut Intelligence* December 14, 1870 (page 3)

<sup>101</sup> See George Cam Probate for inheritance. John Cam Sr.’s 1860 will and probate indicates he is sole owner of the 10.25 acres. No mention of any share in the 6 acres.



Westerly on Highway, Easterly on land of grantor.” The description of the property suggests it was a subdivision of 4 acres he purchased in 1835. (v.15 pg.207)

#### *1820 Census – Huntington*

John Cam

Free colored persons

- 1 male 14-25 [John]
- 1 female 0-13 [Catherine E.]
- 1 female 26-44 [Acha – incorrect age, she was 20]

Note: Archibald Cam, George, John Cam are listed together in the census suggesting they were neighbors.

#### *1830 Census – Huntington*

John Cam

- 1 male 0-9 [Burlock]
- 1 male 24-35 [John Sr.]
- 1 male 36-54
- 3 female 0-9
- 1 female 10-23 [Catherine E.]
- 1 female 24-35 [Acha]
- 1 female 36-54

#### *1850 Census – Huntington*

John Cam, 49, male, Black, Labourer, no real property value listed, born in CT [Age is incorrect]

John Jr., 20, male, Black, Labourer, born in CT

Hannah Treadway, 48, female, Black, Born in CT

#### *1860 Census Mortality Schedule*

John Cam, 65, male, mulatto, widow, born in CT, farmer, died of consumption (6 months with condition)

#### *1860 Will (v.16 pg.780)*

Provisions

- (1) All his debts & funeral expenses to be paid.
- (2) John Cam [jr.], his son, received ½ of his real and personal estate.
- (3) Burlock Cam, his son, received ½ of his real and personal estate for his use during his lifetime, Burlock’s children received the inheritance upon Burlock’s death.
- (4) William L. Bennett named executor.

#### *1860 Probate Distribution (v.26 pg.51)*

(1) 3 Acres with house & barn were given to the children of Burlock. It was a subdivision of the 8 acre property John Sr. purchased in 1820. The parcel is bordered on the west and north sides by the remainder of the estate.<sup>102</sup>

(2) John L. Cam received “the remainder of the homestead.” The probate record does not specify what the “remainder” constituted. It would have consisted of the remaining 5 acres of the 8 acre parcel, as well as the 2 acres of the 1835 purchase. John Jr. had previous purchased 2 acres from John Sr. All total,

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<sup>102</sup> Based upon a 1910 description of the property in Certificate of devise for the estate of Huldah Sherman [Cam] Robinson, John Cam Jr.’s 2<sup>nd</sup> wife (v.51 pp.66-67).

John Jr. was in possession of 9 acres along Long Hill Ave in 1860. A 1910 probate record for John Jr.'s 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Huldah lists the property as 12 acres with house, barn, and outhouse.<sup>103</sup> There is a 3 acre discrepancy. Either John Sr. or John Jr. purchased an additional 3 acres for which a deed has yet to be found.

(3) John L. Cam also received a 10 acre woodlot at "Great Ledge." This is the 10.25 acre property on xxxxxxx, now the xxxxxxx parcel.

*1864 Division Fence Line (v.16 pg.810)*

John L. Cam and Burdock Cam agree to have the town selectman handle a fence division between them.<sup>104</sup> They divided the common fence between their two halves of the estate into a north and south section with each getting one section. Although unstated, the purpose of this fence division was to determine what part of the common fence each brother was responsible for maintaining and keeping in good repairs. These types of arrangements between adjacent landowners were common practice.

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<sup>103</sup> Ibid.

<sup>104</sup> v.16 pg.810

**Nancy Cam** b. between 1805-07   Huntington  
d. Aug. 1, 1865           New Haven, CT  
*Parents: George & Lilphia Cam*

1840, 1850, 1860 Census (New Haven, CT)  
Gravestone (Evergreen Cem.), Newspaper<sup>105</sup>

**Robert Jackson**  
*Marriage*

George Cam Probate

Note: George Cam's probate transferred the remainder of estate (after the sale of two parcels of land to pay debts) to Archibald, John, and "Nancy wife of Robert Jackson."

*Deeds*

1847 –Robert Jackson sold a 3.3 acre triangular shaped parcel To John Cam [Sr.] for \$35. It is bounded on the north by a highway and on all other sides by Alfred Shelton. (v.16 pg.73) This was Nancy's 1/3 interest in the 10.25 acre woodlot.

*1840 Census – New Haven, CT*

Robert Jackson

Free colored persons

1 male           36-54 [Robert]

1 female        24-35 [Nancy]

*1850 Census – New Haven, CT*

Robert Jackson, 40, male, black, laborer, born in CT

Nancy, 35, female, black, born in CT

Henrietta, 14, female, black, born in CT

Jane Field, 35, female, black, born in PA

*1860 Census – New Haven, CT*

Robert Jackson, 54, male, black, born in NY

Nancy, 53, female, black, born in CT

Harriet J. Goodmon, 48, female, black, born in MD

Nancy Petit, 5, female, born in CT

Richard Petit, 4, male, born in CT

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<sup>105</sup> [Obituary] *Constitution* (Middletown, CT) Aug. 9, 1865 pg.2 - "Nancy, wife of Robert Jackson, Age 64 years."

<b>Elizabeth Cam</b>	b.Aug. 12, 1790	Huntington	VR, 1850 Census
	<i>Parents: Noah and Phillis Cam</i>		
<b>Peter Pitts</b>	b.1784	Oxford	1850 Census, Cong. Church
<i>Marriage</i>	Feb. 14, 1811	Huntington	Cong. Church
<i>Children</i>			
Henry Pitts	b. 1821	Huntington	1850 Census
Sarah Pitts	b. 1827	Huntington	1850 Census
<i>Relationship?</i>			
Mary Pitts	b. 1834	Connecticut	1850 Census
James Pitts	b. 1837	Connecticut	1850 Census
Adolpheus Pitts	b.1844	Connecticut	1850 Census
Edson Pitts	b.1846	Connecticut	1860 Census

- James Beardsley Wheeler 1889 unpublished manuscript (Shelton Historical Society) states “(There were several Cam families living in town many years ago.) There was John Cam, Noah Cam, (Peter Pitts wife’s father [i.e. Noah Cam] who lived at Sawmill City).”
- “P. Pitts” listed on 1867 map in Upper While Hills District. Location matches the description of the homestead owned by Noah Cam and described in 1804 deed from Noah Cam to his children.
- Congregational Church Records “Cam, Eliza, of Ripton [Parish], m.Peter Pitts, of Oxford, persons of color, Feb.14, 1811”

*1850 Census – Huntington*

Peter Pitts, 66, male, black, Labourer, no real property value listed, born in CT  
Elizabeth [Cam], 61, female, black, born in CT  
Sarah, 23, female, black, born in CT  
Henry, 29, male, black, Labourer, born in CT  
Adolpheus, 6, male, black, born in CT

*Erza & Laura Deforest Household*

Mary Pitts, 16, female, black, born in CT  
James Pitts, 13, male, black, born in CT

*1860 Census – Huntington*

Charles Hubbell household  
Edson Pitts, 16, male, black, farm laborer, born in CT

*1870 Census – Bridgeport, CT*

Mary Jane Pitts, 45, female, mulatto, laundry-woman, \$350 real estate, \$200 personal estate, born in CT [head of household]  
Beers Smith, 35, male, mulatto, coach driver, born in CT  
Abby Wright, 25, female, mulatto, domestic servant, born in CT

*1880 Census – Huntington*

Theodore Hubbell household  
Henry Pitts, age 55, widowed, Black, laborer [farm]

<b>Isaac Cam</b>	b. c.1806-1816	Huntington	1840 Census Waterbury
	<i>Parents: Noah and Phillis Cam</i>		
<b>Julia</b>	b. c.1806-1816	Huntington	1840 Census Waterbury
<i>Marriage</i>			
<i>Children</i>			
Isaac G.	b. c.1831	Waterbury	
Truman	b. c.1827-1828		1870 Census, Gravestone *inferred relationship
	d. Sept. 16 1905	Middletown CT	Gravestone, Mortimer Cemetery Age 78, Co. G. 29 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Conn. Vols.

Note: Information from Isaac G. Camm death record in Mass. Death Records 1841-1915 except for Isaac Sr. & Julia's estimated dates of birth. Isaac G. & Truman are inferred to be brothers based upon that the fact they both had the same profession: *barber*.

*1840 Census – Woodbury, CT*

Isaac Cam – Black

Free colored persons

- 1 male 0-9 [Isaac G.]
- 1 male 10-23 [Truman ?]
- 1 male 24-34 [Isaac]
- 1 female 24-34 [Julia]

### 3<sup>rd</sup> GENERATION

**Silliman Cam** b. c.1811-1815      Huntington      1850 & 1870 Census, Cong. Church  
d. May 1, 1877      Huntington      VR, Cong. Church (“age 66”)  
*Parents: Archibald & Phillys Cam*      Wheeler manuscript

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Marriage

**Hannah Nichols**      b. c.1815      Of Milford      St. Paul<sup>106</sup>  
Burial Aug. 10, 1844      Huntington      St. Paul<sup>107</sup>  
*Marriage* August 26, 1831      St. Paul

#### *Children*

Male infant      d. Jan. 22, 1834      Huntington      St. Paul

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Marriage

**Sally Ann Payne**      b. c.1811      of Poughkeepsie      St. Paul, 1850 Census  
*Marriage* Nov. 23, 1846

#### *Deeds*

1834 – Ambrose Hyde sold a building to Silliman Cam for \$25. No land was included. (v.12 pg.611)

1834 – Silliman mortgaged a “building” (dwelling house?) to Edward Penderson for \$8.88. The building was located in the Lower White Hills district “southeasterly of a Dwelling house now belonging to Nathan Birdsleye.” (v.12 pg.612)

#### *1850 Census – Huntington*

Silliman Cam, 35, male, black, labourer, no real property value listed, born in CT<sup>108</sup>

Ann, 39, female, black, born in CT

Jube White, 54, male, black, born in CT

#### *1870 Census – Huntington*

Silliman Cam, 56, male, black, farm laborer, no real property value, personal estate \$210, born in CT

Sally Ann, 54, female, black, keeping house, personal estate \$100, born in Illinois [State is incorrect]

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<sup>106</sup> Birth years estimated from death record (see next footnote)

<sup>107</sup> Aug. 10 1844 “Hannah Camp a coloured communicant aged 29 years” Index listed her as “Hannah Cam”

<sup>108</sup> The original handwritten census returns are a bit confusing as to the state of birth. They were born in CT not NY. The enumerator used “ to indicate CT while occasionally putting “N York” when required but failed to start the next line again with CT thus causing confusion.

<b>John Lewis Cam Jr.</b>	b. Sept. 1, 1831 d. Jan. 26, 1899	Huntington Huntington	Gravestone Gravestone "age 67"; VR (stone mason, married, name of parent John)
<i>Parents: John Sr. Cam &amp; Acha Lewis</i>			
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Marriage</i>			
<b>Acha Sills</b>	b. Jan. 5, 1835 d. July 4, 1887	Huntington	Gravestone Gravestone "age 52"; VR
<i>Parents: Walter Sills &amp; Maryetta Freeman<sup>109</sup></i>			
<i>Children</i>			
Charles F.	b. Jan. 2, 1853	Huntington	VR (male b. to John Cam, age 21, laborer); 1860 Census
Mary E.	b. 1854 d. May 10, 1877	Huntington Huntington	Gravestone, 1860 census Gravestone "age 23, wife of Julius S. Camp"
Francis E.	b. Feb. 19, 1860	Huntington	VR (female b. to John L. Cam. Farmer, age 27, & Acha Cam, 25); 1860 Census
William Sherman	d. Apr. 3, 1864 b. 1865 d. Oct. 3, 1869	Huntington Huntington Huntington	VR Gravestone Gravestone "age 4 / Children of John L. & Acha Cam"
Male John Lewis III	b. Feb. 19, 1866 b. 1868 d. Apr. 7, 1872	Huntington Huntington Huntington	VR (b. to John Cam, age 34, Mason) Gravestone (same stone as Wm.), VR (Age 4, died of coup)
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Marriage</i>			
Huldah Sherman	Oct. 14, 1888 b. c.1868 d. 1909	Trumbull Hartford, CT	VR, 1870 Census (Trumbull)
Buried in Spring Grove Cemetery			
Daughter of William & Nancy Sherman (Paugussett Tribe)			1870 Census (Trumbull)

\* Huldah married Joseph Samuel Robinson after John Jr.'s death. In her will she left the Long Hill Ave. property to Joseph. (v.? pg.66)

#### *Will & Probate*

1899 Will left the residue (after all debts and funeral expenses paid) of all real and personal property to Huldah H. Cam, his wife. (He had no surviving children). (v.38 pg.347) 1910 Certificate of Devise for the estate of Harriet Huldah Robinson (a/k/a Huldah Sherman; Huldah Cam) left a single parcel of land on Long Hill Ave. containing 12 acres and "dwelling-house, barn and out-house" to her husband Joseph Samuel Robinson (v.51 pp.66-67) November 29, 1918 Joseph mortgaged the property for \$2000. Twenty days later he sold the property to Frank and Antonette Brangaccio of Huntington who agreed to repay the mortgage (v.65 pg.204) Frank Brangaccio subdivided the property into 7 lots between 1942 and 1958. The Cam house was still existences as of a 1958 subdivision map but was subsequently demolished (see *Deed Histories* section for more details).

<sup>109</sup> 1850 Census for Huntington lists Walter & Marietta Sills; St. Paul Church Records – Marriage, September 10, 1826 "Wa[l]ter Sills of Long Island to Maryetta Freeman of Huntington (coloured persons)"

### *Deeds*

1857 – John sold to John L. Cam Jr. 2 acres of land “near the Long Hill Burying ground” which is on Long Hill Ave. It is bounded “Northerly on land of James W. Wheeler, Easterly on land of Grantor, Westerly on Highway, Easterly on land of grantor.” The description of the property suggests it a subdivision of 4 acres John Sr. purchased in 1835. (v.12 pg.207)

1860 John Cam Sr. Probate Distribution (v.26 pg.51) – John L. Cam received “the remainder of the homestead.” The probate record does not specify what the “remainder” constituted. It would have consisted of the remaining 5 acres of the 8 acre parcel, as well as the 2 acres of the 1835 purchase. John Jr. had previous purchased 2 acres from John Sr. All total, John Jr. was in possession of 9 acres along Long Hill Ave in 1860. A 1910 probate record for John Jr.’s 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Huldah lists the property as 12 acres with house, barn, and outhouse.<sup>110</sup> There is a 3 acre discrepancy. Either John Sr. or John Jr. purchased an additional 3 acres for which a deed has yet to be found. He also received a 10 acre woodlot at “Great Ledge.” This is the 10.25 acre property on xxxxxxxx, now the xxxxxxxxxxxx parcel. (v.26 pg.51)

1867 – John & Acha and James & Eliza Drake (of New Haven) sold Walter Sills house to Christina Munroe for \$500. The property contained a “dwelling house”, ½ acre of land and “said premises having the memories of Walter Sills.” (v.16 pg.726)

### Occupation

1850 census - Laborer

1853 birth record – Laborer

1860 birth record – Farmer

1860 census – Farm laborer

1866 birth record – Mason

1870 census – Brick mason

1899 death record – Stone mason

### *1850 Census – Huntington*

John Cam, 49, male, Black, Labourer, no real property value listed, born in CT

John Jr., 20, male, Black, Labourer, born in CT

Hannah Treadway, 48, female, Black, Born in CT

### *1860 Census – Huntington*

Jno L. Cam [Jr.], 29, male, mulatto, farm laborer, real estate \$200, personal estate \$100, born in CT

Archa, 24, female, black, born in CT

Charles F., 8, male, mulatto, attending school, born in CT

Mary E., 6, female, mulatto, attending school, born in CT

Francis E, 3 months, female, mulatto, born in CT

Elizabeth White, 25, female, black, born in CT

### *1870 Census - Huntington*

John L. Cam, 37, male, black, brick mason, real estate \$1000, born in CT

Acha, 34, female, black, keeping house, personal estate \$100, born in CT

John L. [jr.], 1, male, black, born in CT

Chas [Charles] F., 18, male, printer, born in CT

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<sup>110</sup> Ibid.



<b>Burlock Cam</b>	b. c.1820 Bapt. Mar 4, 1824 d. Dec. 7, 1870 <i>Parents: John Sr. &amp; Acha Cam</i>	Huntington Huntington Huntington	1870 Census, 1860 Will (John Cam Sr.) St. Paul VR, Obituary <sup>111</sup>
<b>Augustine</b>	b. c.1825 or 1830 d. May 18, 1882		1860 & 1870 census VR (“Justine Cam”)
<i>Marriage</i>	Jan. 22, 1854	Huntington	VR (Listed as sailor / mason)
<i>Children</i>			
Louisa	b. c.1849 d. Dec. 10, 1876 (?) <sup>112</sup>	Huntington	1860 Census
Catherine	b. c.1854-1855	Huntington	1860 & 1870 Census
<i>Grandchildren</i>			
George Cam	b. c.1874		1880 Census
Hattie [Harriet] Curtis	b. c.1868 m. 1887 George Sherman (son of William Sherman & Huldah Sherman’s brother.)		1880 Census VR
Frederick Curtis	b. c.1869		1880 Census

## NOTES

Hattie and Frederick Curtis are likely Louisa’s children.

George Cam was Catherine Cam’s illegitimate son. His father was Robert Taylor. (VR) Catherine also known as Kate never married. As of 1899, she owned the 3 acre homestead (John L. Cam probate v.38 pg.347)

*Connecticut Intelligence* Dec. 14, 1870 pg.3

“A colored man named Burr Cam was found dead near his house in Huntington, on the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. He went out of his house about nine o’clock, and not coming in as soon as expected, the family went out to look for him, and found him dead, by the side of a rock on which he was reclining. The verdict of the jury was that he came to his death from natural causes.”

## *Deeds*

1859 Burlock bought from Evans Williams 1 acre of land near the sawmill in the Ferry District for \$200. (v.16 pg.66) Burlock obtained a mortgage from Williams for \$150. (v.16 pg.122)

1860 John Cam Sr. Probate Distribution (v.26 pg.51) – Burlock receives a life tenancy in 3 acres of land with house & barn on Kneen St. The property was willed to Burlock’s children.

\*Burlock is not listed in 1840 or 1850 census. His marriage recorded listed one of his occupations as a sailor. He may have been at sea when the censuses were taken.

<sup>111</sup> *Connecticut Intelligence* December 14, 1870 (page 3)

<sup>112</sup> Town vital records recorded the death of a colored woman Jane Louisa Curtis, age 27, Dec. 10, 1876 with a marital status of single. The age is a good match for Louisa (born circa 1849). It is also consistent with the Curtis grandchildren living with their grandmother in 1880 census.

*1860 Census – Huntington*

Burlock Cam, 37, male, mulatto, farm laborer, real estate \$500, personal estate \$50, born in CT

Augustine, 35, female, mulatto, born in CT

Louisa, 11, female, mulatto, born in CT

Catherine, 5, female, mulatto, born in CT

Hannah Treadwell, 65, female, black, born in CT

*1870 Census – Huntington*

Burlock Cam, 50, male, black, farm laborer, real estate \$1000 personal estate \$100, born in CT

Augusta, 40, female, black, keeping house, born in CT

Catherine, 16, female, black, at home, born in CT

*1880 Census – Huntington - Listed under “village of Shelton”*

Justine Cam, 40, female, black, widowed, keeping house [head of household]<sup>113</sup>

George Cam, 6, male, black, grandson

Frederick Curtis, 11, male, mulatto, grandson, at school

Hattie [Harriet] Curtis, 12, female, mulatto, granddaughter, at school

Catherine E. Cam, 25, female, black, single, daughter, stitching corset

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<sup>113</sup> Justine was likely Burlock’s wife (a/k/a Augustine/Augusta), now widowed since his death in December 1870. Her age is incorrect but Catherine’s age is a good match for Burlock’s daughter.

<b>Isaac G. Camm</b>	b.1831	Woodbury	Mass. Death
	d. Feb. 28, 1872	Boston, MA	Listed as "hair dresser"
	<i>Parents: Isaac and Julia, both born in Huntington</i>		Mass. Death
<b>Eunice Sophia Gardner</b>	b. 1838	Littleton, MA	
	<i>Parents: Lovell Gardner &amp; Eunice Boston</i>		
Marriage	Mar. 12, 1862	Boston, MA	Mass. Marriages Isaac listed as "barber"

Oct. 11, 1862 Isaac enlisted in the Navy for two years – Barber, Mulatto, 5'4" height, hazel eyes, curly hair<sup>114</sup>

At time of marriage Isaac was listed as living in Dorchester, MA & Eunice in Boston, MA. Both were listed as colored. Isaac's occupation was "barber"

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<sup>114</sup> "United States Naval Enlistment Rendezvous, 1855-1891," database, FamilySearch.org

<b>Truman Camm</b>	b. c.1827-1828 d. Sept. 16 1905	Middletown CT	1870 Census, 1880 Census Gravestone, Mortimer Cemetery Age 78, Co. G. 29 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Conn. Vols.
	<i>Parents: Isaac and Julia, both born in Huntington</i>		*inferred
Catherine <i>Marriage</i>	b. c.1835-1840		1870 Census, 1880 Census
<i>Children</i>			
George L.	b. c.1856	Middletown CT	1870 Census
Ida	b. c.1858-1859	Middletown CT	1870 Census, 1880 Census

\*Truman & Isaac G. were brothers – inferred: same spelling of last name, same occupation (barber)

*1870 Census – Middletown, CT*

Truman Camm, 38, male, mulatto, barber  
 Catherine Camm, 30, Female, mulatto, keeping house  
 George L. Camm, 14, mulatto, male  
 William F. Chatfield, 10, mulatto, male

Clara Alsop household

Ida Camm, 11, female, black, domestic servant [Daughter of Truman & Catherine Camm]

*1880 Census – Middletown, CT*

Truman Camm, 52, male, black, barber  
 Catherine Camm, 45, female, black, keeping house, wife  
 Ida Camm, 22, female, black, waiter, single, daughter

<b>Nancy Maria Cam</b>	b. Apr. 28, 1838 d. Mar. 6, 1865	Middletown CT	Gravestone, Mortimer Cemetery
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\*Same cemetery as Truman's gravestone, relationship unknown

## 4<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION

**Mary E. Cam** b. 1854                      Huntington                      Gravestone  
                    d. May 10, 1877              Huntington                      Gravestone “age 23, wife of Julius S. Camp”  
                    *Parents: John L. Cam Jr. & Acha Sills*

**Julius Camp** b. c.1837                      1850 Census Litchfield CT  
                    d. June 27, 1874              Huntington                      Gravestone “age 37”  
                    Son of Triphenia Camp (1803-1865)              (mother) 1850 Census Litchfield, CT  
*Marriage*      Sept. 25, 1871 Newspaper “25<sup>th</sup>, Julius Camp of Ansonis, to Mary Cam of  
Huntington”<sup>115</sup>

### *Children*

Fannie              d. May 5, 1873              Huntington                      Gravestone “age 9 months”  
Mary E.              d. May 29, 1874              Huntington                      Gravestone “age 4 months”

### *1850 Census – Litchfield, CT*

Triphenia Camp, 45, female, black, born in CT [died July 21 1865 age 62]  
George W., 19, male, black, born in CT  
Ann E., 17, female, black born in CT  
Mary J., 15, female, black, born in CT  
→ Julius S., 13, male, black, born in CT [b.1837]  
Lucy M., 11, female, black, born in CT  
Amanda B., female, black, born in CT  
Hannah T. L., 5, female, black, born in CT  
Oliver A. B., 2, male, black, born in CT

### *1860 Census – Woodbury, CT*

Booth household  
Julius Camp, 23, male, black [b.1837]

### *1870 Census Huntington, CT*

Bristol household  
Mary Cam, 16, female, black, servant  
Julius Camp, 30, male, black, servant [correct age is 33]

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<sup>115</sup> *Columbian Register* October 7, 1871 (page 3)

## Unassigned Information (Huntington Censuses)

Henry Cam, age 13, in Elias Hall household in 1850 Census

Sarah Cam, age 12, in Augur Judson household in 1850 Census

Sarah Cam, age 12, in William Judson household in 1860 Census

James Cam, age 55, farm laborer, in Ann Birdsey household in 1870 Census

Georgia A. Cam, female, age 40, housekeeper, in Sly household in 1870 Census

## Miscellaneous Information

Feb. 15, 1913 Catherine Cam was removed from Long Hill Cemetery, Shelton CT (VR)

Apr. 16, ??? Charles Cam was removed from Long Hill Cemetery, Shelton, CT (VR)

Eliza Cam, Waltersville, Bridgeport, CT (1840 census)

married Edward Hawley of Newtown June 30, 1846 (Brilvitch 2007, 38)

Eliza (age 45, born in NY) & Edward (age 57) Hawley living in Newtown, black (1850 census)

Died October 23 1876 age 72 (CT Deaths)

## Peter Freeman

In 1809, George Cam gave 2.75 acres of a 5.25 acre lot to Peter Freeman for \$1. George's relationship with Peter is unknown but presumable he was a relative or in-law. Peter Freeman sold the property with a house to William Mills in 1821 for \$40. He signed the deed with an "X". Almost nothing is known about Peter beyond the 1809 & 1821 deeds and the fact he died in or before 1833. The 1833 deed in which George Cam bought the property back listed Peter Freeman as deceased. An effort was made to identify Peter and following information was collected:

1800 Census – Peter [no surname], free person of color, is listed few lines down Rev. Ambrose Todd. Todd own land which abutted the parcel Peter acquired from George Cam in 1809.

1820 Census – Peter Plat, free person of color, is listed two lines about Archibald Cam. He lives in the general neighborhood.

## Huntington Vital Records

### *Birth entries for children of slaves*

"Peter (Negro Boy)" b. Sept. 15, 1786, owned by Daniel Shelton (v.1)

### *Emancipation entries*

1802, Peter freed by Elisha Mills (v.3 p.548)

Date?, Peter freed by ? (v.2 p.567)

Peter & Robin freed by Eli Heide (v.2 p.544)

Peter freed by Elisha Mills in 1802 (v.3 pg.548)

## St. Paul's Church Records

Baptism Dec 16, 1783 "Peter Negro" (v.2 p.42)

## St. Paul's Church, Shelton, CT – Transcribed Entries

Baptism March 7, 1765 Elizabeth Negro Child of Hudson Blackleach  
Death July 13, 1797 John Pan --- 69 Indian  
Death August 26, 1797 Black George's wife  
Death July 9, 1814 John Pan (coloured)  
Marriage March 24, 1819 John Cam to Acha Lewis, Blacks  
Baptism March 4, 1824 Catherine Elizabeth, and Burlock Children of John & Acha Cam  
Marriage September 10, 1826 Wa[l]ter Sills of Long Island to Maryetta Freeman of Huntington (coloured persons)  
Baptism August 21, 1831 E-sa [Hepsa – *see index*] Elizabeth, wife of Lyman Freeman  
Baptism August 21, 1831 Nancy Cam, daughter of Archibald Cam  
Baptism August 21, 1831 Emily, Daughter of do [ditto], Coloured People  
Marriage August 26, 1831 Silliman Cam of Huntington to Hannah Nichols of Milford. Coloured persons.  
Baptism July 17 1831 Frances – Susan, children of Walter Sills, coloured people.  
Death December 25 1838 George Cam aged 74 years, a coloured man  
Funeral May 20, 1840 Chloe Freeman (colored woman)  
Death August 11 1840 Philis Cam [age] 83 Paralysis  
Burial August 10, 1844 Hannah Camp a coloured communicant aged 29 years [listed as Hannah Cam in index] [Silliman Cam's 1<sup>st</sup> wife?]  
Death October 2, 1849 Flora Freeman (colored person) Widow of Richard Freeman. Found dead in the woods near great Ledge so called [age 86]  
Marriage November 16, 1865 James W. Samuels of Seymour and Georgiana Cam of Huntington at the Parsonage  
[Baptism?] April 18, 1762 Mary Ether [spelling?] the Daughter of Sam'l & Flo Cams [last name in different ink – added later]  
Baptism Susan Maua Freeman, Infant August 22, 1852  
Mary Freeman an adult Nov. 22 1852  
Harriet daughter of Richard & Drautha [spelling?] Freeman May 14, 1853

### Indexes

Baptism July 2, 1797 Tobias Child of Rose, Servant of Abyah Shelton  
Baptism July 2, 1797 Archibald Child of Rose, Servant of Abyah Shelton  
Baptism 1831 Sydney Carloe son of Walter Sills  
Baptism 1831 Frances Susan of Walter Sills  
Baptism 1831 Hepsa Elizabeth wife of Lyman Freeman  
Baptism 1831 Nancy *wife* [should be *daughter*] of Archibald Cam  
Baptism 1831 Emily daughter of Archibald *and Nancy Cam* [“and Nancy Cam” not in original entry – transcription error]  
Baptism Peg, Percy, Noah Servants of Hanford Blackleach Jan. 4, 1758  
Baptism Levi Child of Noah Cloe May 11, 1797  
Death January 22, 1834 Infant son of Silliman Cam  
Death August 11, 1849 *Philo* Cam [Should be Philis Cam Aug.11 1840]  
Marriage November 28, 1816 Eli Cam of Huntington to Mary Lou  
Marriage August 26, 1831 Silliman Cam to Hannah Nichols (Milford)  
Marriage November 23, 1846 Silliman Cam to Sally Ann Payne Poughkeepsie

## Congregational Church Records, Shelton, CT – Transcribed Entries

*From Index*

**CAIN** [Cam], Silliman, colored, d.May 3, 1877, AE 66

**CAM**, **CAMM**, Eliza of Ripton, m.Peter Pitts, of Oxford, persons of color, Feb. 14, 1811  
Noah, colored, d.Feb.8,1837, AE 81



## Wheeler Manuscript

Wheeler, James Beardsley

1889 *Recollections of Huntington Center and Vicinity*. Unpublished manuscript. Shelton Historical Society collections. Transcribed by the Huntington Historical Society. Courtesy of Rob Novak, Shelton Historical Society president.

Page 201-202

“Stepping outside the Center District on the road to Shelton and Birmingham, we come to the residence of the late Elijah U. Hawley, a son of Beach Hawley of the Isinglass District. Mr. Hawley married Sarah Jane, a daughter of Joseph Perry, who lived on the hill early a quarter of a mile on. He was the Sexton of the Congregational Church for several years, and came to his death accidentally by falling into a raceway in Birmingham and drowning, April 29th, 1870, aged 52 years and 8 months. He had one daughter, Mary Jane, who married Warren C. Wheeler and lived with him a short time, and had one child, a boy. The widow Hawley remained there for a while after her husband's death, and is said to have married a man by the name of \_\_\_ Taylor; and finally, she and her daughter, I think, moved to Milford. Mention is made elsewhere of Shelton Edwards and of Franklin J. Northrop, and Benjamin Patterson, who have occupied this place.

A little further east, a little ways from the corner, on the road leading to the Alfred Shelton place, stood the house of Archibald Cam, who died a few years since, probably between the ages of 90 and 100. He was a colored man; and Silliman Cam, who married Ann \_\_\_\_, was his son. The house was a small one, it is true, but on this account it should not be forgotten. (There were several Cam families living in town many years ago). There was a John Cam, Noah Cam, (Peter Pitts wife's father who lived at Sawmill City). John lived somewhere in the eastern part of the town. I do not think there are as many colored people in town as there were thirty or forty years ago (at least not outside of the Village of Shelton). Arch Cam died \_\_\_ 18\_\_.”

Page 202.-203

“A little further eastward we come to the former residence of Joseph Perry and family. One of Mr. Perry's daughters, Mary Ella, married Edwin A. Lewis, and had one son; Francis Perry Lewis, who enlisted in the Army and died during the (Civil) War. He also had a son, Henry, who, I think, went to Danbury to live. Mr. Perry was a kindhearted, but very plain old man, used to work bareheaded in the fields; and having plenty of muscular power, would work hard at whatever he endeavored to accomplish. A few rods from the house almost to the corner, there is an immense boulder above ground! How it came there in such a peculiar position, seems to the common mind a mystery. Some tell us these rocks were brought down by the presence of glaciers, when this whole country was covered with ice! At any rate, it is there, one of God's handiworks; and had been there for no one knows how long, or how much longer it will remain in that position! There is also a fair sized one in the lot across from the Perry place, a little this side.”

## Deed Histories

### 6 Acre Homestead – xxxxxxxx

- 1790 v.1 pg.182 Isaac Hill to George Cam  
1803 v.12 pg.258 Jonas French to George Cam \*0.425 acres with George's house  
1842 Probate<sup>116</sup> Estate of George Cam to John Cam [Sr.], Archibald Cam & Nancy [Cam] Jackson  
1842 v.13 pg.337 Archibald Cam to Joseph Perry (mortgage)  
1878 v.18 pg.593 Archibald Cam to Town of Huntington (7 acres)  
1882 v.21 pg.282 Town of Huntington to James Blakeman  
1908 v.48 pg. 242 Estate of James Blakeman to Charles Blakeman et al (heirs), 37 acres, a consolidation of multiple smaller parcels  
1908 v.47 pg.300 Charles Blakeman et al to Shelton Water Company, 36 acres

### 4 Acre Swamp Outlet Lot

- 1815 v.12 pg.259 Levi Curtiss to George Cam  
1841 v.13 pg.491 Estate of George Cam to Charles Wheeler

### 5.25 Acre "Popple Hollow" on xxxxxxxx

- c.1802 Agur Judson Esq. to George Cam (mention in 1802 mortgage)  
1802 v.4 pg.333 George Cam to Philo Judson (5.25 acres)(mortgage \$116.66)  
1809 v.9 pg.241 George Cam to Peter Freeman (2.75 acres subdivision of larger lot) (\$1)  
c.1833 Estate of Peter Freeman to William Mills (2.75 acres)  
1833 v.10 pg.496 William Mills to George Cam (2.75 acres w/house) (\$75)  
1841 v.12 pg.825 Estate of George Cam to John Cam [Sr.] (5.25 acres)(\$100)  
1841 v.12 pg.377 John Cam [Sr.] to John Mills (mortgage \$175)(5.25 acres)  
1847 v.13 pg.190 John Cam [Sr.] to David N. Lane (5 acres) (\$95)  
1854 v.15 pg.241 David Lane to Elijah Hawley (5 acres)

### 10.25 Acre Woodlot – xxxxxxxxxx

- 1795 v.2 pg.480 Moses Wheeler to George Cam  
1842 Probate<sup>117</sup> Estate of George Cam to John Cam [Sr.], Archibald Cam & Nancy [Cam] Jackson  
1847 v.16 pg.73 Robert Jackson to John Cam [Sr.]<sup>118</sup>  
1860 v.26 pg.51 Estate of John Cam [Sr.] to John L. Cam [Jr.]  
1887 v.16 pg.726 John L. Cam to George Russell  
1927 Tax Lien Estate of George B. Russell  
1937 v.77 pg.137 Lien released  
1932 v.82 pg.483 Isaac Russell to Arthur Sperry  
1934 v.88 pg.19 Arthur Sperry to Lillian Eklund  
1938 Maps v.1 #127

Property now owned by the City Shelton

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<sup>116</sup> George Cam Probate – Fairfield County, Bridgeport District Probate Court. Records held by the Connecticut State Library.

<sup>117</sup> Ibid

<sup>118</sup> According Teresa Gallagher this is a badly worded transfer of Nancy [Cam] Jackson's 1/3 interest in the woodlot. Rather than specify "1/3 undivided interest" it lists it as 1/3 of parcel's acreage. The abutter "Alfred Shelton" is same abutter listed in probate record.

#### 4 Acre – Long Hill Avenue

- 1835 v.12 pg.85 Joseph Dart to John Cam  
1857 v.15 pg.207 John Cam [Sr.] to John L. Cam [Jr.] (2 acres subdivision)

#### 8 (later 12) Acre Homestead - Long Hill Avenue

- 1820 v.9 pg.264 Philo Wakelee to John Cam [Sr.] (8 Acres)  
1860 v.26 pg.51 Estate of John Cam [Sr.] to John L. Cam [Jr.]  
\*Per the terms of John Sr.'s will and probate distribution, the estate, consisting of the 8 acres (1820 purchase) along with 2 acres of the original 4 acre 1835 purchase is divided between John Jr. and the children of Burlock Cam. Burlock's children received 3 acres with house & barn on Kneen Street and John Jr. received the remainder (7 acres). The unequal distribution of land indicates the estate was divided based on "quality" rather than "quantity." When John Jr. dies in 1899 the homestead consists of 12 acres (2 acres of which John Jr. owned before his inheritance). This leaves 3 acres unaccounted for. Either John Sr. or John Jr. purchased an additional parcel of land.
- 1899 v.38 pg.347 Estate of John L. Cam [Jr.] to Huldah H. Cam (his wife) (12 acres w/ buildings)  
1910 v.51 pg.66-67 Estate of Harriet Huldah Robinson [a/k/a/ Huldah H. Cam] to Joseph Samuel Robinson (her husband) (12 acres with house, barn, & out-house)  
1918 v.65 pg.204 Joseph Samuel Robinson to Frank & Antonette Brangaccio  
1920 v.66 pg.123 Frank & Antonette Brangaccio to United Lumber and Supply Co. (mortgage?)  
?? Frank & Antonette Brangaccio to Mary V. Chromik  
1942 v.104 pg.109 Mary V. Chromik to Frank & Antonette Brangaccio  
Property was subdivided ...  
19xx v.117 pg.234 Frank Brangaccio to Stanley & Anna Plurek  
19xx v.117 pg.276 Frank Brangaccio to Alphonso & Louise Brangaccio  
19xx v.120 pg.19 Frank Brangaccio to Hubert & Maary Wakenigg  
19xx v.123 pg.294 Frank Brangaccio to Frances Brangaccio  
19xx v.135 pg.54 Frank Brangaccio to Peter & Rose Donofrio  
19xx v.138 pg.326 Frank Brangaccio to Alphonso & Louise Brangaccio  
1958 v.144 pg.54 Estate of Frank Brangaccio to Edward Sciongay (land with buildings)  
1958 Map v.5 pg.217 "Laurel Crest Heights" subdivision. Shows the John L. Cam Jr. house at what is now #232 Long Hill Ave. The house currently at this location has the same footprint as the one shown in the 1958 map. It may be the same house. There is a possibility that Cam house has survived. The current thinking is the houses was built on the 2 acres John L. bought from his father 1857. John L. had his own household in the 1860 census suggesting the house existed as of that date.

#### 3 Acres w/House & Barn – Kneen St.

- 1860 v.26 pg.51 Estate of John Cam [Sr.] to children of Burlock Cam  
\*Burlock Cam has a life interest in property  
1864 v.16 pg.810 Fence division between John L. Cam & Burlock Cam  
\*The common fence (i.e. stone wall) between the John & Burlock's properties is divided into a north and south section with each taking responsibility for one section. Although unstated, the purpose of this division had to do with maintenance and repair responsibilities for the fence.  
1899 v.38 pg.347 \*Kate Cam (Burlock's daughter) mentioned as abutter to John L. Cam estate (i.e. she is the owner of the 3 acres)  
1907 v.? pg.182 "Cathrine E. Cam" sold the three acres to Annie Buresch of Derby in a deed dated October 14, 1907 pg.182

1 Acre Ferry School District (Near a Sawmill)

1859 v.16 pg.66 Evans Williams to Burlock Cam

1859 v.16 pg.122 Burlock Cam to Evans Williams (mortgage)

1 Acre (Noah Cam homestead) - Northwest of the junction of Sawmill City Road and Means Brook

1802 v.4 pg.44 David Beardslee to Noah Cam (0.75 acre with house)

1804 v.7 pg.167 Noah Cam to his children (1 acre with house)

Building – Lower White Hills District

1834 v.12 pg.611 Ambrose Hyde to Silliman, a building for \$25. No reference to any land.

1834 v.12 pg.612 Silliman Cam to Edward Penderson (\$8.88 mortgage) for the building.

0.5 Acres & House (Walter Sills estate) – Lower White Hills District

1867 v.16 pg.726 John L. Cam [Jr.] & Acha Cam to Christiana M----

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