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### Archives and Literary History: English House

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# Archives and Literary History: English House

Christina Rose Walcott  
Advisor: Professor Justin Shaw

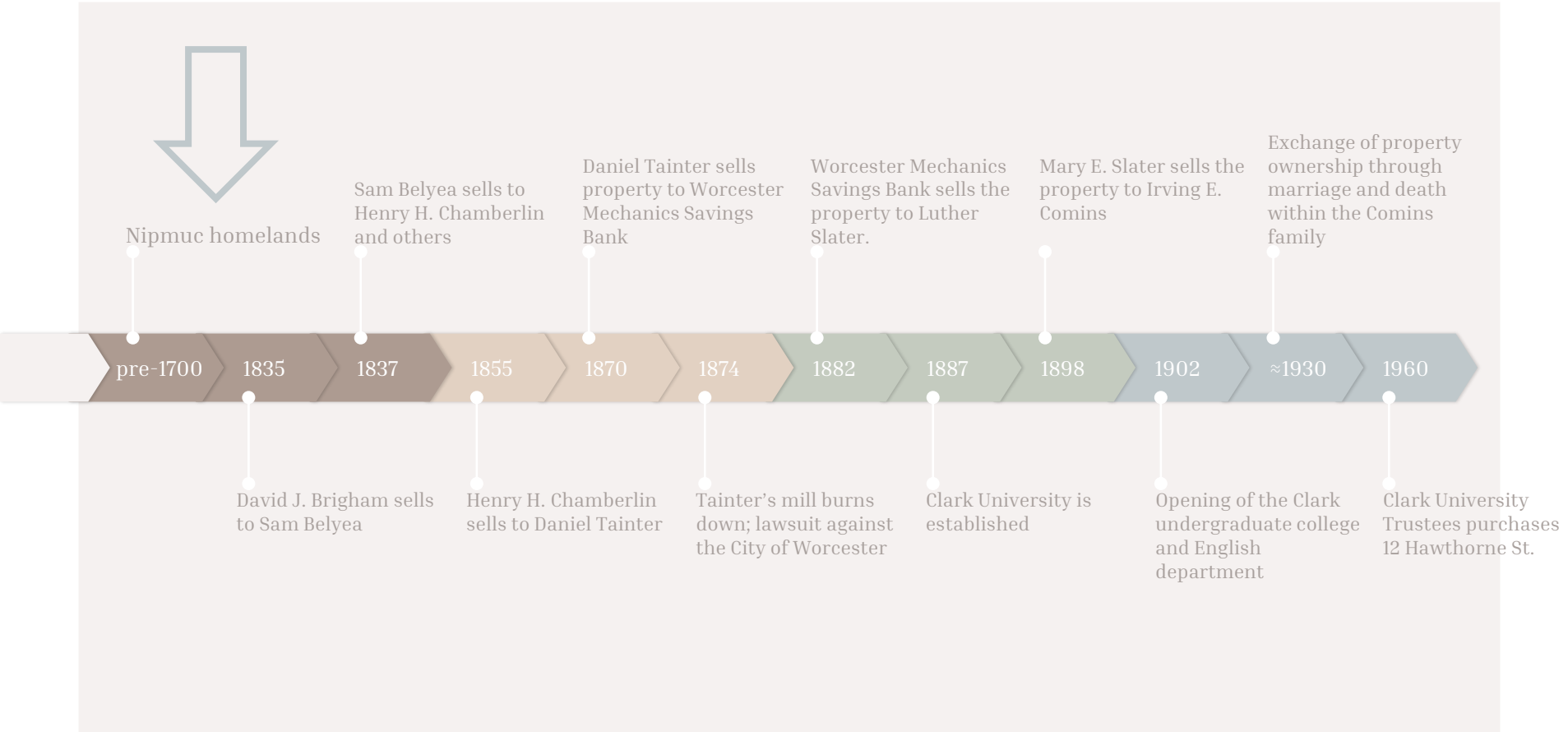


Clark University Yearbook, 1976

# Original Research Questions

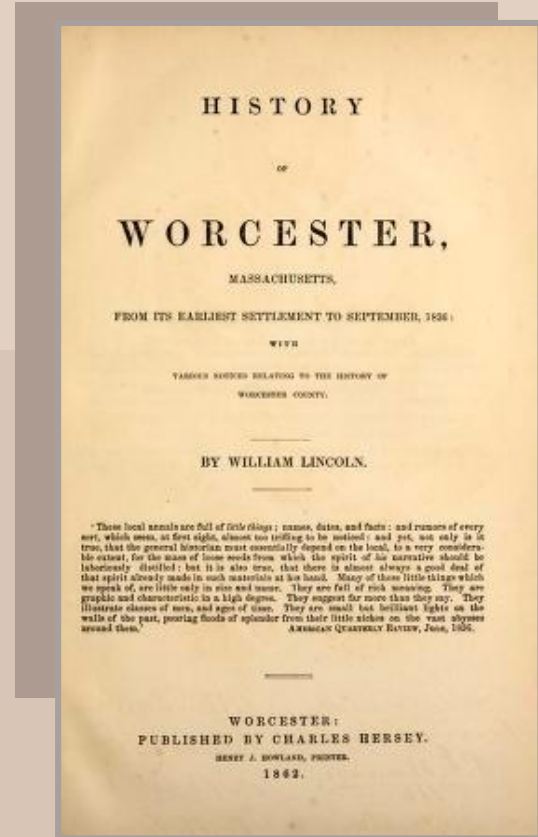
- Who is Anderson?
- When/what year was the house built?
- What is and was the social and architectural relationship of the house to its neighborhood?
- When were the Nipmuc pushed off the land? Where did they go?
- What are the memories of the people who have occupied the house?
- At what point did all of this land become property of the city of Worcester?
- Where did the Comins get the cotton?

# Timeline

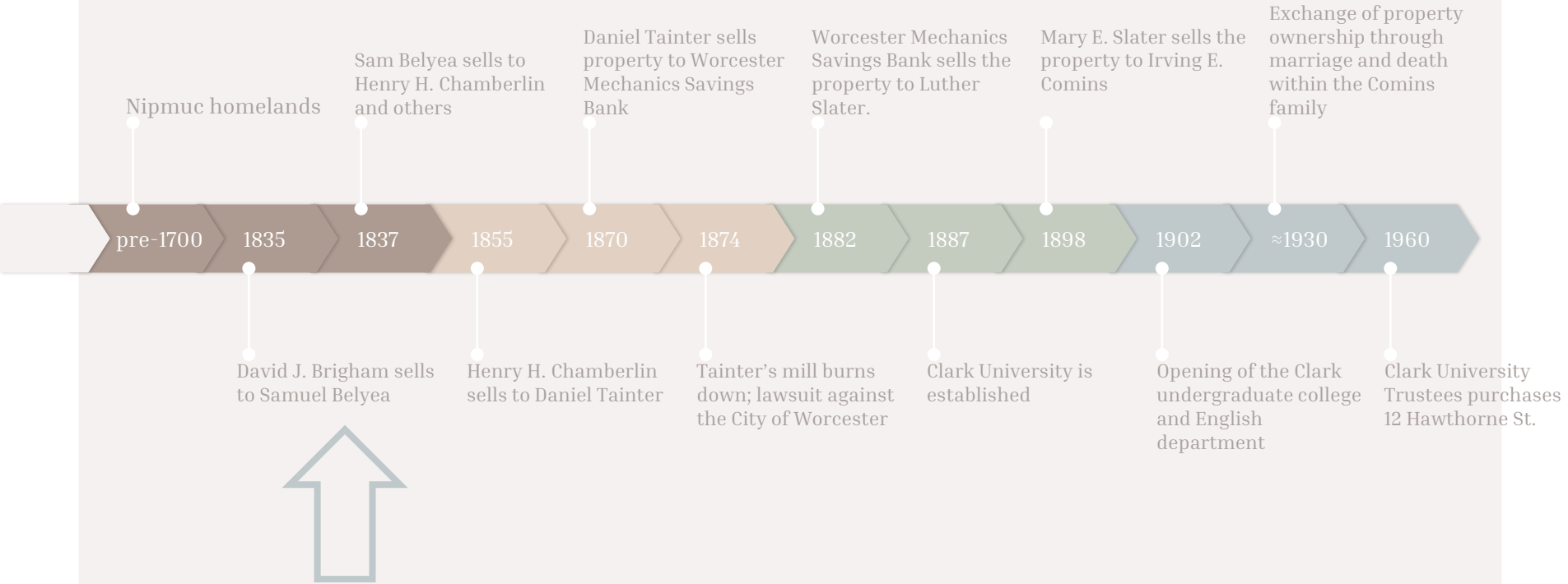


# Nipmuc and Quinsigamond

- What is a land acknowledgement?
- How is history written to include and exclude the Indigenous people who originally inhabited this land?



# Timeline



# Samuel Belyea

1 undivided tenth parts of a certain lot or tract of land lying  
2 and situate on the north side of Mechanick Street in Saide  
3 Worcester bounded as follows ~ on the north by the Boston  
4 and Worcester Rail Road ~ on the west by land of Isaac Davis  
5 and Thomas D. Eaton ~ on the south by said Mechanick Street ~  
6 on the East by a new street that passes from said Mechanick  
7 Street to the Rail Road and thence under said Rail Road - said  
8 new street is always and forever to be kept open forty feet wide  
9 for the use of the public for the purposes of a street ~

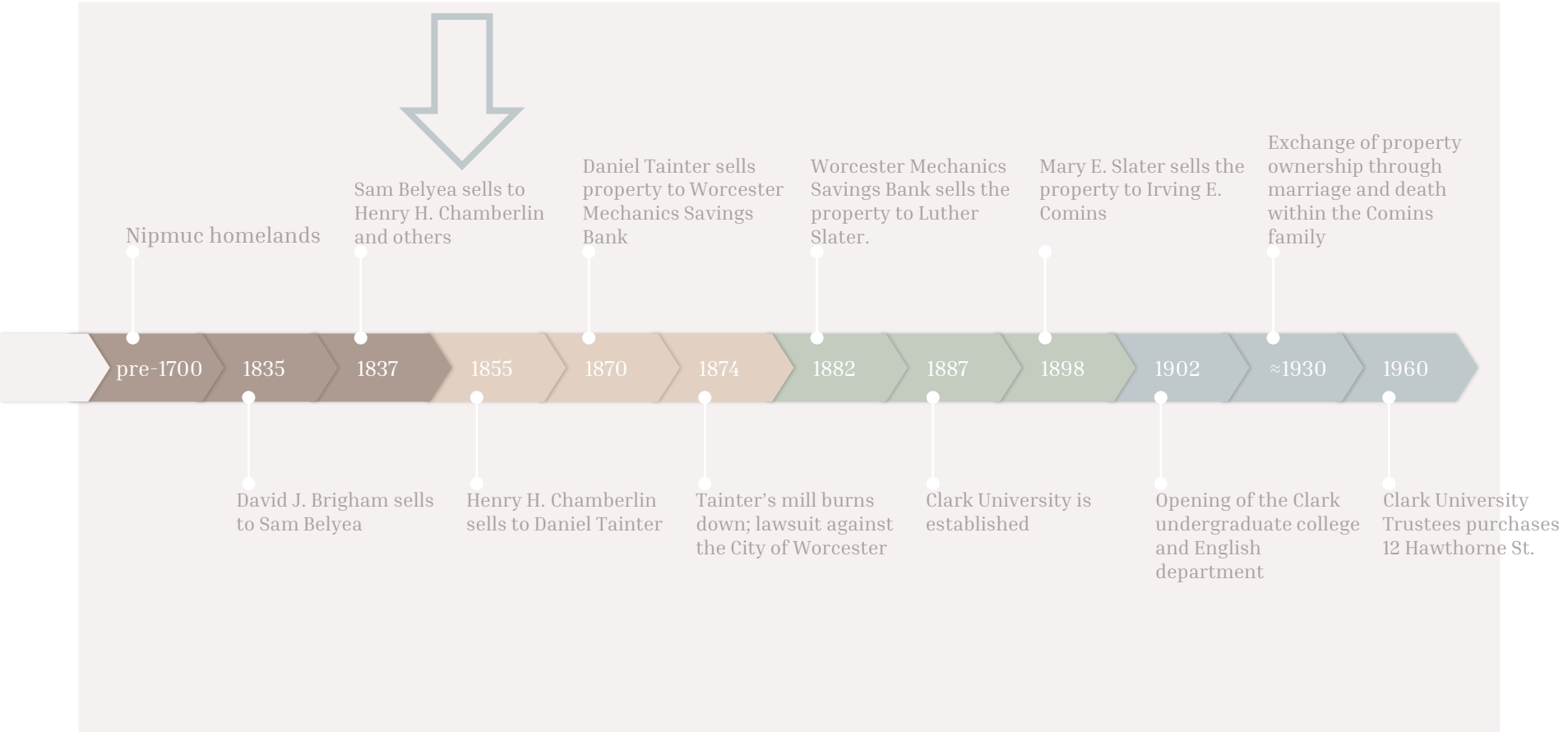
# Samuel Belyea

- What does this document tell us about the creation of land boundaries?
- How do we know that this is the right document?

undivided tenth parts of a certain lot or tract of land lying and situate on the north side of Mechanick Street in Saile Worcester bounded as follows ~ on the north by the Boston and Worcester Rail Road ~ on the west by land of Isaac Davis and Thomas W. Eaton ~ on the south by said Mechanick Street ~ on the East by a new street that passes from said Mechanick Street to the Rail Road and thence under said Rail Road - said new street is always and forever to be kept open forty feet wide for the use of the public for the purposes of a street --



# Timeline



# Henry Chamberlin

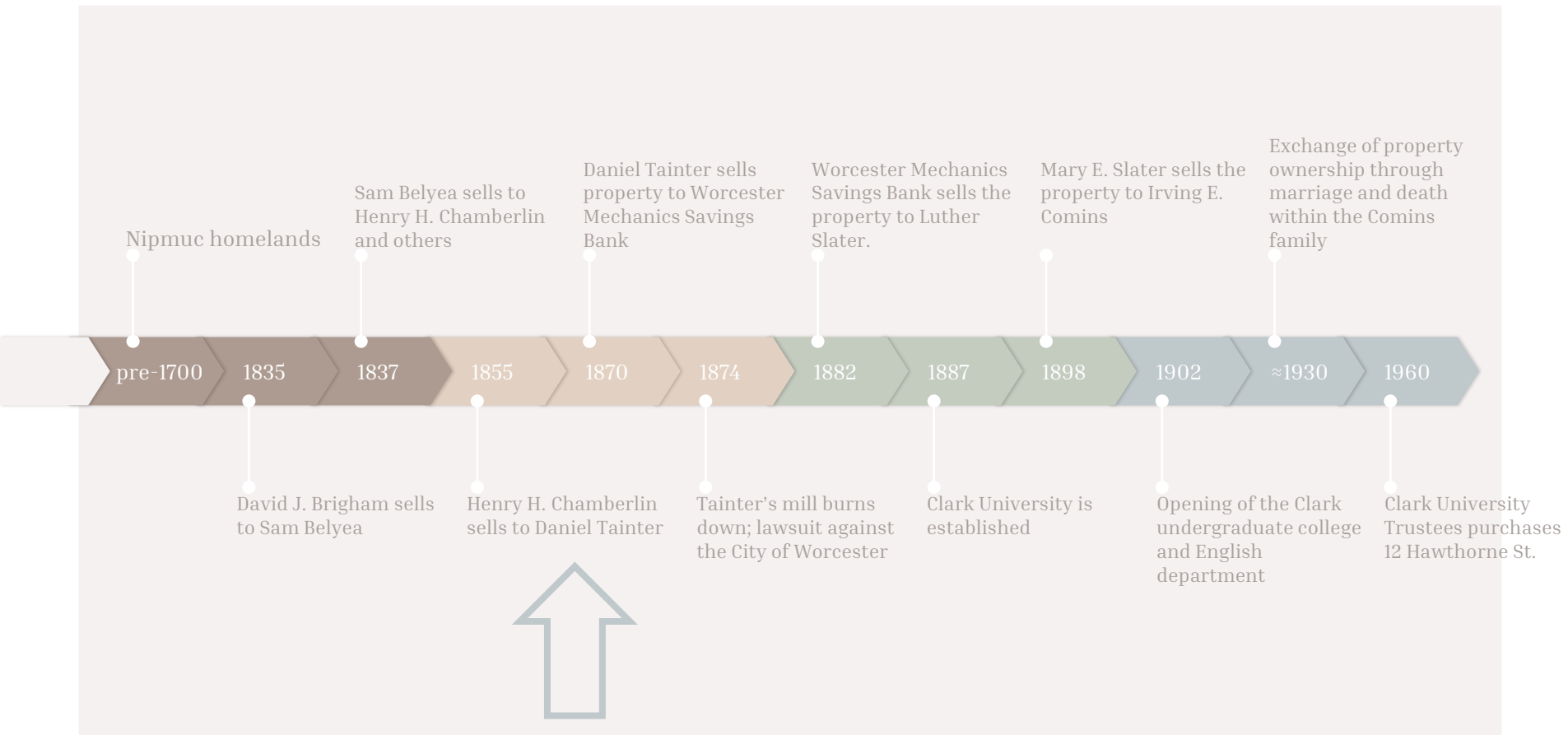
certain lot of land situate on the North side of Mechanick street in said Worcester bounded as follows on the North by the Boston and Worcester Rail Road on the West by land late of Isaac Davis and Thomas B Eaton on the South by said Mechanick street on the East by a new street that passes from said Mechanick street to said Rail Road being the same estate of which nine undivided tenth parts were conveyed to the grantor from David T Brigham by Deed dated the eighteenth day of March A D 1835 and Recorded in the Registry of Deeds for said County Book 310 Page 628 and the remaining tenth part by said Brigham and his wife in her right by Deed of the same date Recorded in said Registry Book 310 Page 629 to which Deeds reference may be had for a more particular description of the premises said premises are conveyed to the abovesaid grantees in common in proportion to the respective amounts due from the grantor to them as hereinafter enumerated -

# Henry Chamberlin

- How do we know that this is the right document?
- What does this document tell us?

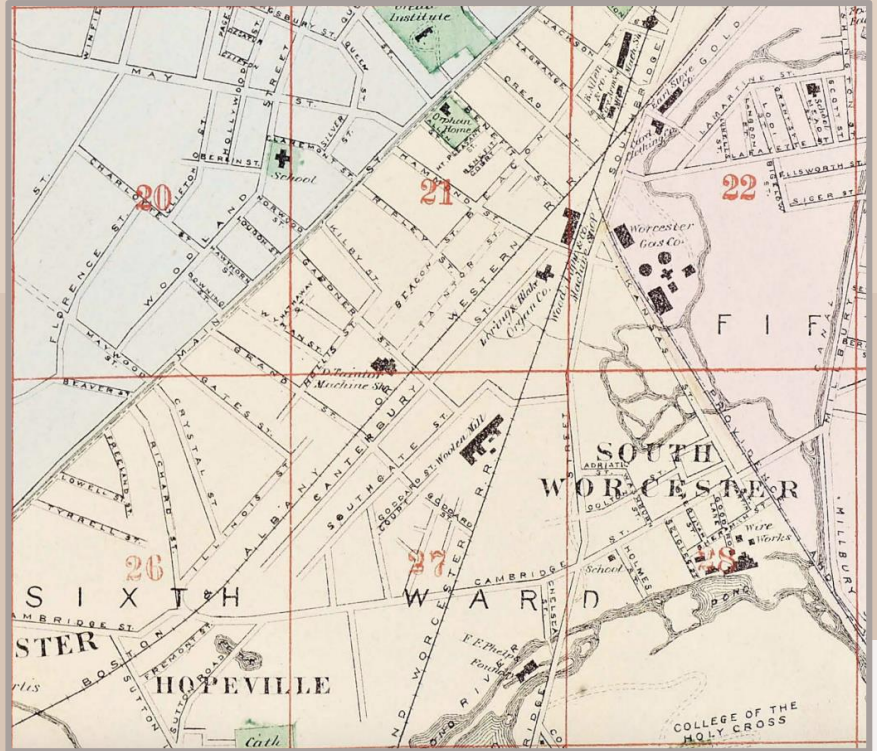
certain lot of land situate on the North side of Mechanick street in said Worcester bounded as follows on the North by the Boston and Worcester Rail Road on the West by land late of Isaac Davis and Thomas B. Eaton on the South by said Mechanick street on the East by a new street that passes from said Mechanick street to said Rail Road being the same estate of which nine undivided tenth parts were conveyed to the grantor from David T. Brigham by Deed dated the eighteenth day of March A.D. 1835 and recorded in the Registry of Deeds for said County Book 310 Page 628 and the remaining tenth part by said Brigham and his wife in her right by Deed of the same date recorded in said Registry Book 310 Page 629 to which Deeds reference maybe had for a more particular description of the premises said premises are conveyed to the abovesaid grantees in common in proportion to the respective amounts due from the grantor to them as hereinafter enumerated —

# Timeline



# Daniel and Sarah Tainter

- What does the property look like at this time?
- What do the surrounding properties tell us about the neighborhood?



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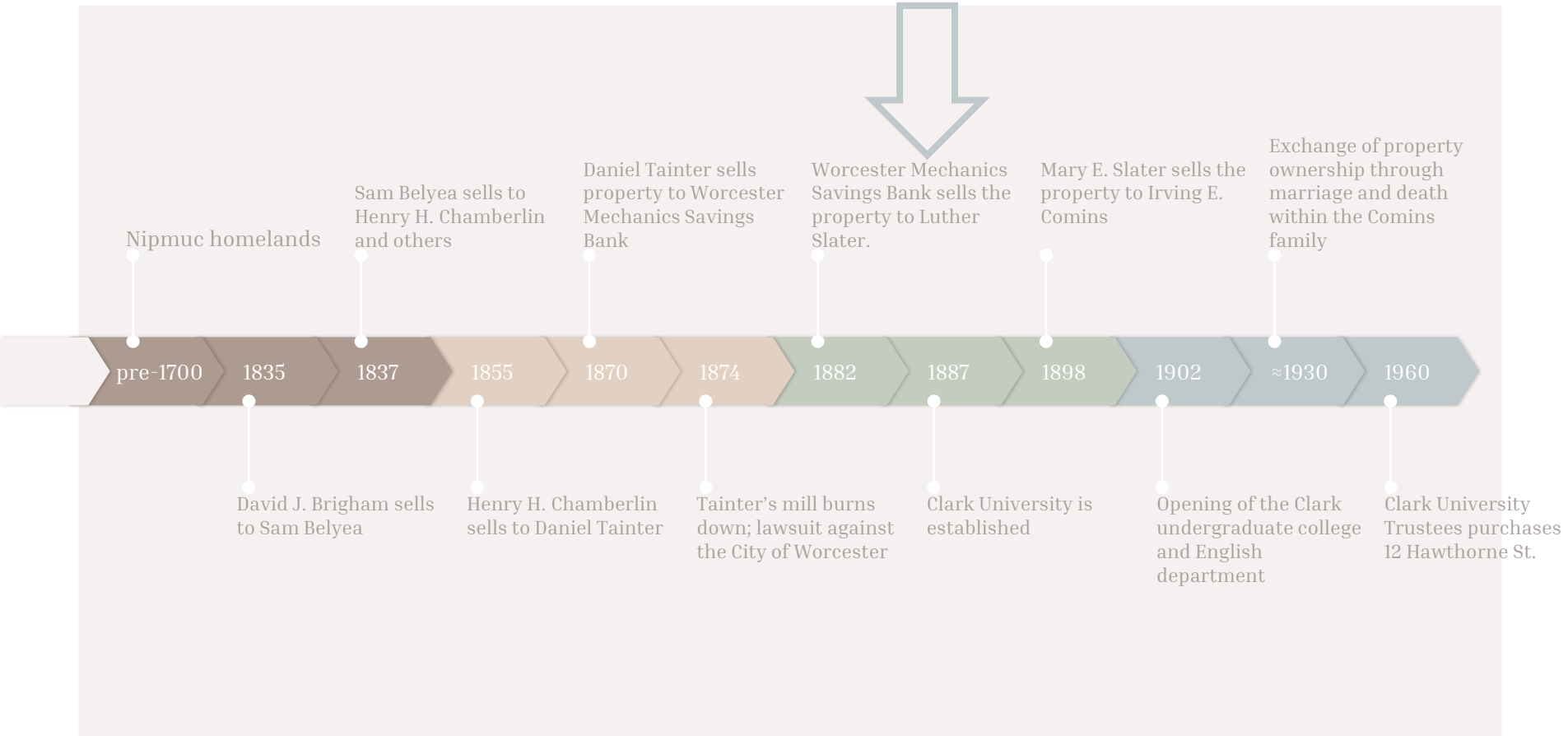
Worcester City Atlas, 1870

# Daniel and Sarah Tainter

- What does the property look like at this time?
- What do the surrounding properties tell us about the neighborhood?



# Timeline





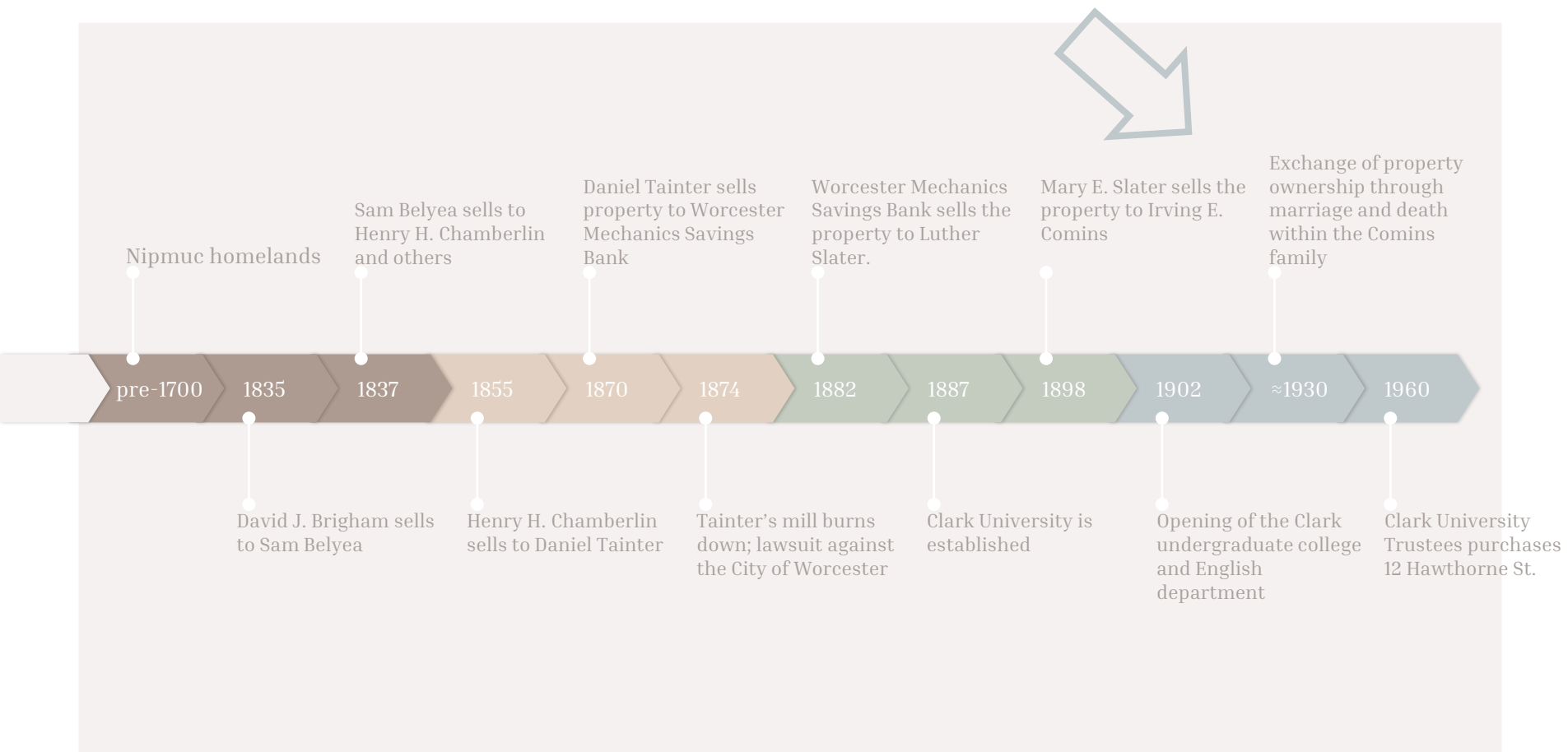
# Luther Slater

- What does this document tell us?






Worcester City Atlas, 1886

# Timeline

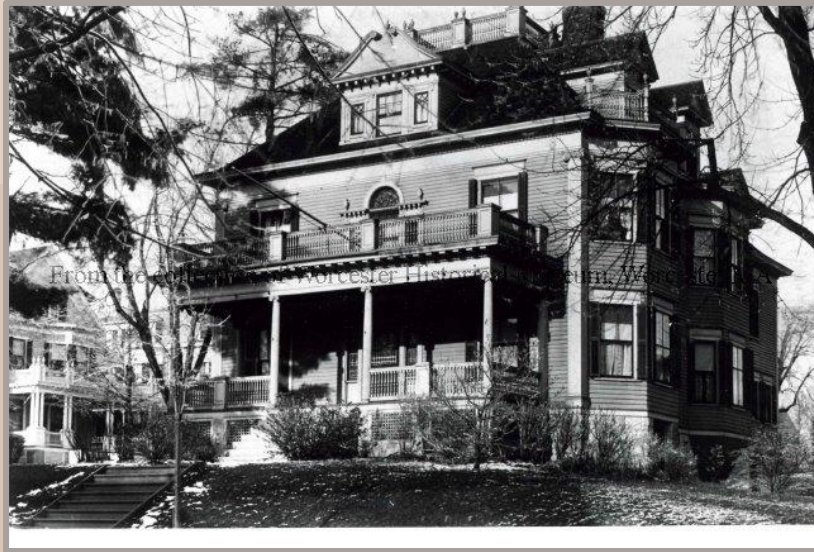


# Comins Family

- How does this deed compare to ones that we have viewed previously?

I, DOROTHY R. COMINS, 4160  
5 4 9  
of West Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts,  
a widow ~~being unmarried~~, for consideration paid, grant to TRUSTEES OF CLARK UNIVERSITY, an  
educational corporation duly established by law and located in the  
City and County of Worcester,  
~~of the County of Worcester, State of Massachusetts~~  
with quitclaim covenants  
~~of the land in~~  
[Description and embraces, if any]  
a certain parcel of land situated on the southerly side of Woodland Street, Worcester,  
Massachusetts, and bounded and described as follows:  
BEGINNING at a point where the southerly line of said Woodland Street  
intersects with the easterly line of Hawthorne Street;  
THENCE easterly on said southerly line of Woodland Street one hundred  
twenty (120) feet to a bound;  
THENCE southerly on a line parallel with said easterly line of Hawthorne  
Street one hundred (100) feet to a bound;  
THENCE westerly on a line parallel with said southerly line of Woodland  
Street one hundred twenty (120) feet to said easterly line of said Hawthorne Street;  
THENCE northerly on said easterly line of Hawthorne Street one hundred (100)  
feet to the place of beginning.  
Containing 12,000 square feet, more or less.  
Being the same premises referred to in deed from Edward I. Comins to Etta L.  
Comins, dated September 9, 1930 and recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds,  
Book 2529, Page 466, in which said deed the fourth course in the description is  
incomplete.  
Being also the same premises conveyed to Edward I. Comins and Dorothy R.  
Comins by Edward I. Comins by deed dated January 20, 1959, recorded in Worcester  
District Registry of Deeds, Book 4000, Page 531.  
~~husband~~ of said grantor,  
~~wife~~  
~~release to said grantee all rights of tenancy by the curtesy and other interests therein~~  
~~dower and homestead~~  
Witness my hand and seal this 30th day of November 1960  
  
  


# Comins Family



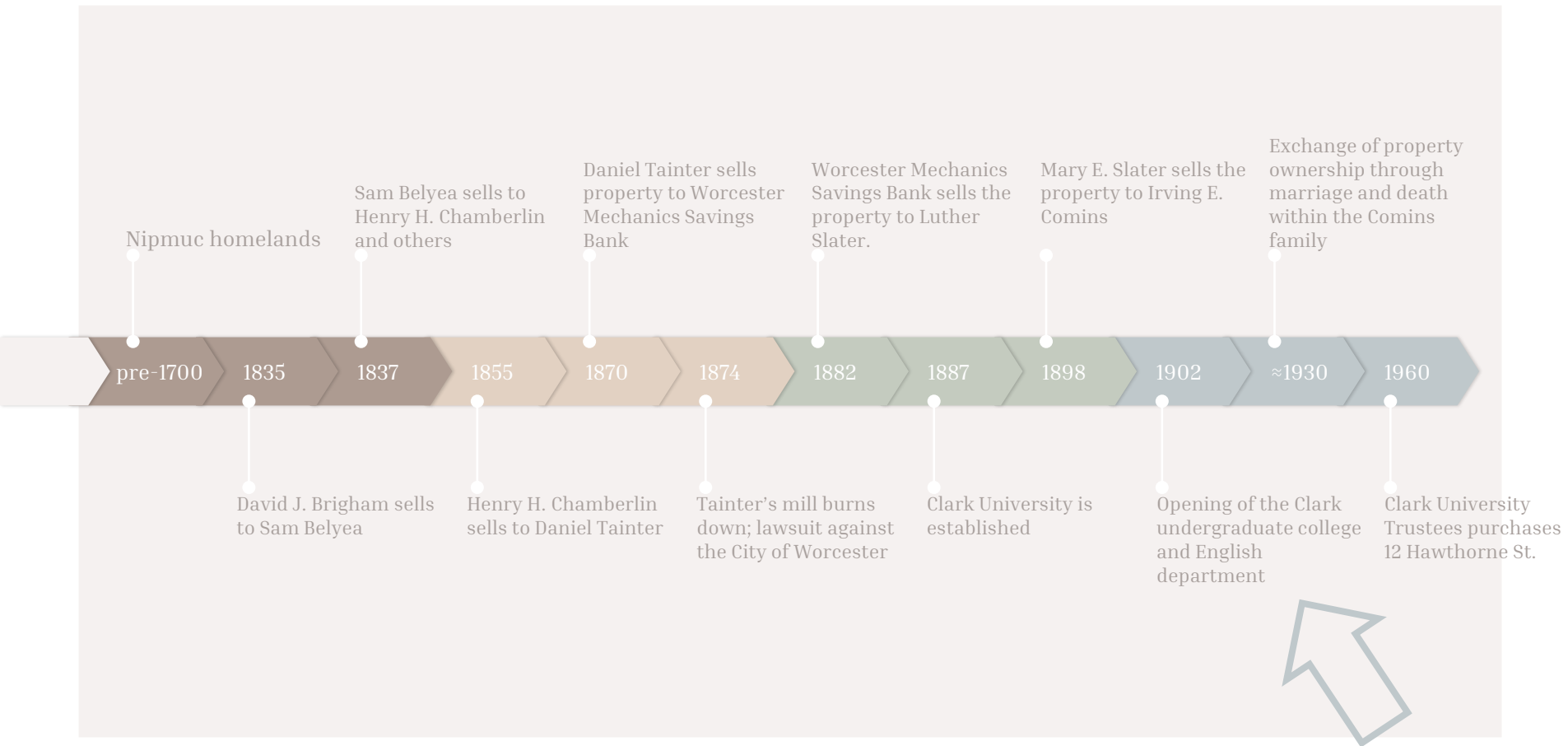
12 Hawthorne St., 1910, Paul Tasse



From the collection of Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester MA

12 Hawthorne St., 1910, Paul Tasse

# Timeline



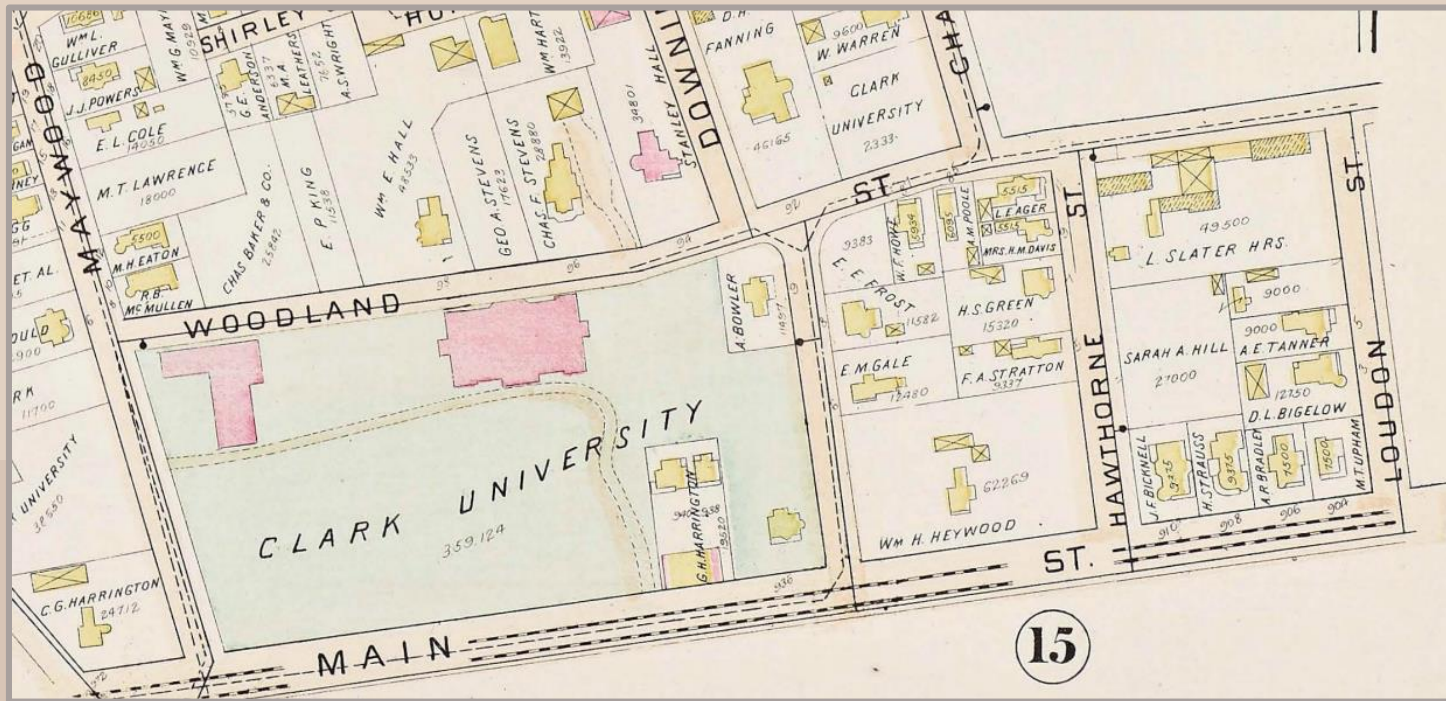
# Clark

- English House & Clark University



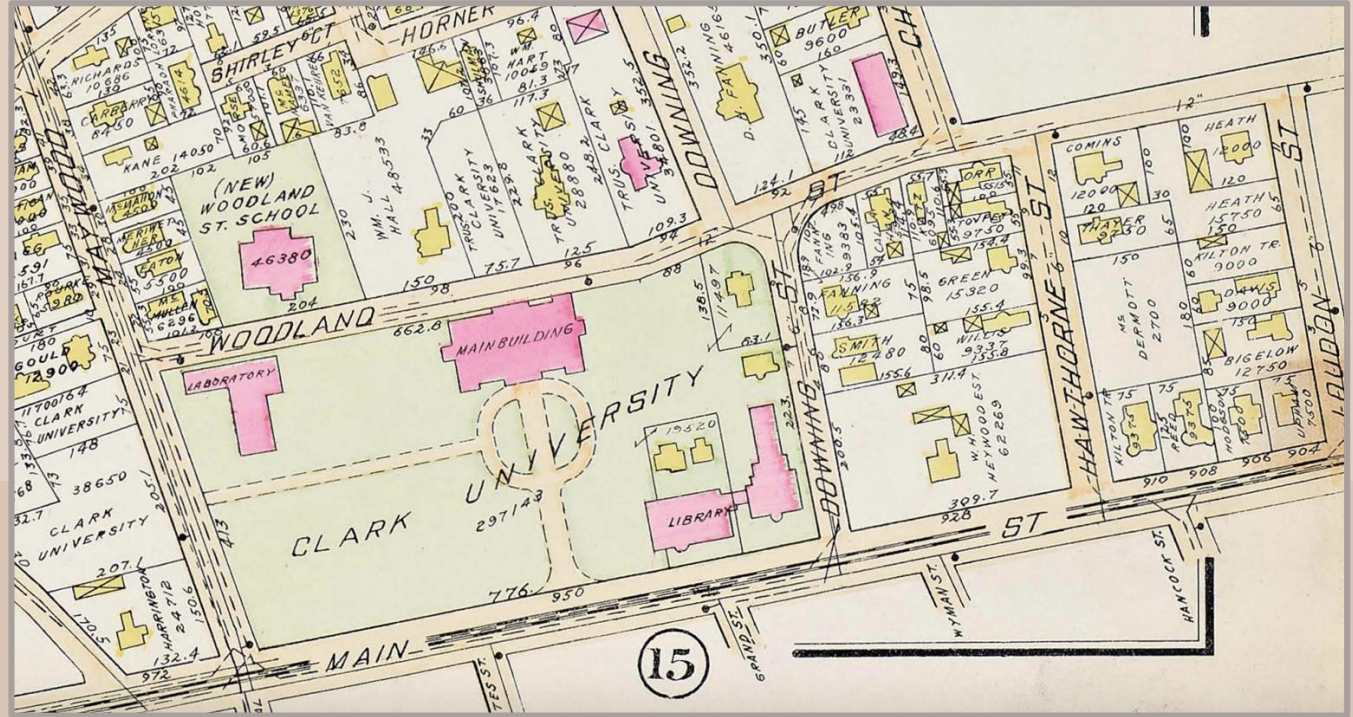
1886 Worcester City Atlas

# Clark



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# Clark





# Who is the “Anderson” of Anderson House?



<https://clarknow.clarku.edu/2020/04/28/clark-english-department-to-host-virtual-spring-fling/>

## Option 1

Roy and Barbara  
Andersen?

## Option 2

A donor

## Option 3

Karl Anderson

# Researching in the Archive: History of the English Department

- Originally part of Clark College, not Clark University
- English and History office were located in the same office in Clark College, room 51 (in what is now Jonas Clark hall)
- English Dept. moves to “English House” at 12 Hawthorne in late 1960s
- Originally had a garage behind/beside the house on the property, also purchased by Clark
- House contained many stained glass windows (now stolen) from earlier residents.
- Shifts in the curriculum over time

# Common Themes Throughout the Oral Histories

## Home

The warm feeling of camaraderie, family, and home within the department house.

## Teaching

Each professor's love of teaching and meaningful relationships with students.

## Who is Anderson?

The illusive nomenclature of English house.



# Questions that Remain & Future Work

- What do the Andersons mean to the house?
- Go back further with the “owners” of English House
- Floor plans of each of the structures on the property
- Testimony from descendants of the Comins
- Testimony from student alumni
- More recent written history of Worcester and Nipmuc

# Thank you!

- Cindy Shenette at the Goddard Archives and Special Collections
- Kim Toney at the American Antiquarian Society
- Wendy Essery at the Worcester Historical Museum
- State Library of Massachusetts
- Emeriti Professors of the English Dept
  - Professors Vaughn, Elliott, and Conron

# Works Cited

## Primary Sources:

Clark University Course Catalogs.

Worcester County House Directories.

Worcester Registry of Deeds.

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Lincoln, William. *History of Worcester, Massachusetts, from its earliest settlement to September 1836*, 1837.

O'Brien, Jean M. *Firsting and Lasting: Writing Indians Out of Existence in New England*, 2010.

Questions?