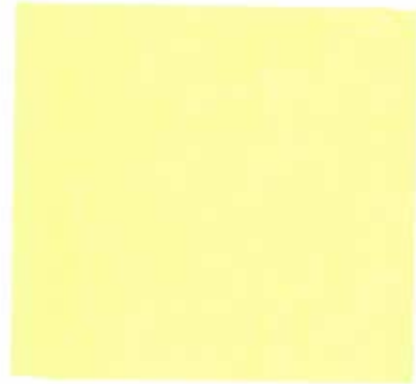


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Smith
Aspen Brook, Random Island
Trinity Bay



Geography 2000

Term Paper: Rural Settlement

April 12 / 1979

Submitted to: Dr. J. J. Mannion
S 158

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Foreword

Aspen Brook, on the topographic sheet is called Aspy Brook. However, this term is colloquial, rather than official.

Much of the information that should, one would think, be available on the fourth generation is not. As shown on the family tree George Smith (3rd generation) was married twice. He had six children by his first wife, Alfreda Cooper. When she died in 1924 the children went to live with various members of the family. When their father remarried (to Sadie Morgan) some two years later the children remained with their aunts and uncles and the family continued to be split up. The children grew up in different homes and thus did not know each other very well.

Lastly, Aspen Brook is an atypical outpost in the Newfoundland context. It has never been strictly dependant on the fisheries, or on any one resource. Its mainstay has always been timber



Birchy Point

Gooseberry Point

Harcourt

Broad Cove

White Rock

Daltons Head

Smith Pt

Gair Cove

Monroe

Upper Rocky Bight

Waterville

S M I T

40

39

Wharf

Snooks Harbour Pond

Snooks Harbour

Snooks Harbour

Southman Bl

Elliotts Cove Pond

Wharf

Elliotts Cove

Wharves

Aspey Brook

Fagans Pond

Double Pond

Island Pond

Lily Pond

Long Pond

Golden Pond

Bluff Head

Big Pond

Gull Pond

Auchen Pond

Nine Island Pond

83

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

R A N N O C H

Bald Nap Pond

Milk Brook

Fosters Pt

Wharves

Weybridge

Bald Nap Pt

Lady Cove

Wharves

Lady Pt

Robinson Bight

Grow Cliff Pt

N O R T H W E S T

1 mile

A R M

Demography

p. 3

William Smith was born in Nant's Harbour, Trinity Bay in 1834 of English stock. He grew up in Nant's Harbour but in later years did some fishing around Random Island and Aspen Brook, in particular.

Around 1860 he married Lydia Hopkins of Winterton, also in Trinity Bay. He had ten children by her, five boys and five girls. It was in 1876 or 1877 that William moved his young family to the uninhabited site of Aspen Brook on Random Island. The approximate date is known through a story that has been passed down from generation to generation. It is said that in disembarking the boat which carried them from Nant's Harbour when they resettled William accidentally dropped Luther, his infant son, in the cold waters of Smith Sound. Now, Luther was born in 1875 which would have made the year either 1876 or 1877

William Smith's family was of the United Church, which indicates that it was likely from the West Country (England).

William came to Aspen Brook in search of a location

where he could set up house and use the natural and ^{p.4} physical resources available to support his family. The soil was good for growing their food and maintaining a few animals. The sea provided fish to supplement their diet. Wild animals could be hunted as well as water birds. William's occupation was that of sawmill operator. Logs could be cut right in the immediate area.

William's land was granted to him. He thus "owned" all the land that is now Aspen Brook, apart from the area west of Mc Brath's Cove, which is inhabited by Phillips's. In size it might be comparable to 210 acres. Whether this was the area in the original grant is questionable. It is hilly land, rising gradually from sea level to a height of 150 feet, in places, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile for the shoreline. The land is mainly grass with mixed deciduous and coniferous trees. There is no heavy forest immediate vicinity of the inhabited area. This is evidence of the deforestation caused by the cutting of logs for the various sawmills which operated (and are still operating) throughout the four

generations. The soil is rocky and is fairly unfertile^{p. 5} these years as much of it is generally unworked. Cod was the most abundant fish with herring and turbot being caught in the fall for winter consumption.

William's house was located equidistant to his sawmill and shoreline, close enough to both so that he could get there readily and far enough away from the sea to avoid the harsher winds and mist. This is shown of figure 2.

In the second generation, William's children, some of the sons and daughters were born previous to the move from Nant's Harbour. There were relatives in that community and it is highly likely that it was in visits to the Smiths in Nant's Harbour that the second generation brought husbands or wives from that area.

Inheritance was traditionally patrilineal. The sons inherited the land from their fathers. There is one case, an exception to the rule, which has been noted. In this instance a man inherited land through his mother. This is Watson Bowering (a fourth generation lad) and his parents were

Martin Lowring and Lydia Smith.

p.6

Not every inheritor established homes in the community. However, the second generation was less mobile: all the sons remained in Aspen Brook. Of course, the women generally left as they had no land of their own and patrilineal inheritance was the general rule in Newfoundland so the men they eventually married had land of their own. In addition, there was sufficient land that the second generation males could have plots large enough to support families of their own. It was not necessary for that generation to add to property inherited.

The sons did not inherit portions of land equal in size, (as can be seen of figure 3).

In the third generation all the sons inherited land. However, the majority of them left. Some went to the United States; others to St. John's, to Snook's Harbour, Old Perlican, Buchans. The land was either given, or sold, to by those who left to their brothers who stayed. They built new homes for their own families or occupied the structures

already present. It was in this generation that a woman^{p7} inherited land. It may have been that since only two of the men (Luther and George) were interested in staying there, that Lydia wanted to remain where she had grown up even after she married, that this land was willed to her. Another explanation is that the land was ~~was~~ given to her by one of her brothers. In those days land was not bought or sold among family - at least not in the Smith's of Aspen Brook. This is shown on figure 4 and on the family tree diagram.

Once again in the fourth generation all the sons of the men remaining in the community inherited land. More left town, going to Snook's Harbour, Ontario, St. John's, the United States, and other communities of Random Island. They left because employment in the area was minimal and the cash economy had been imposed on them^{by} Confederation. Some years later Clarendville was opened up as a service centre for the area and many jobs were provided. Now virtually all people residing in Aspen Brook work in Claren-

vile.

Logging and Sawing

p. 9

The sawmills were the most prominent characteristic in the economic landscape. The first settler built his sawmill on the edge of the Brook. The machinery was powered by the flow of water through the water wheel. William Smith cut his logs in the immediate vicinity of the mill. The wood was dragged to the mill by horse and sled over the snow in wintertime. He had a schooner aboard which he carried his timber to market in St. John's. The cutting of logs was done in winter, the sawing in spring-time and the marketing in summer.

In the second generation another sawmill sprung up. It was run by William's five sons, Stephen, Silas, Barzallai, Luther, and John. They went further inland to cut their logs. They followed the same lumbering system their father had employed. The timber was shipped by schooner to the same St. John's merchant.

In the third generation there was a total of seven sawmills in Aspen Brook, and increase of seven in one generation. Roland now had one on his property where there

had been none previously. He was Barzallai's son and^{p. 10} learned the trade from watching and working with his father and uncles before he set up his own mill. Ingham set up a mill at the water edge on the land that had been owned by Stephen in the earlier generation. Luther set up a mill on his land and worked it for many years - actually through two generations. Ross had two sawmills. One was close to Luther's, the other by Mc Guath's Cove.

George, Willis, and Watson erected a sawmill in Mc Guath's Cove. This generation of sawmill operators went inland to Long Pond and Island Pond (about 2 1/2 to 3 miles away) to cut logs. Ralph had a sawmill too. It was on the property that Silas had earlier occupied.

In the fourth generation there were two sawmills. Luther's was still standing and in operation. Roy took over the operation of Ingham's mill. It was about this time that jobs opened up on the main island and since people could no longer survive on produce from their gardens and fish from the sea, they took jobs elsewhere and left

the mills.

p. 11

Agriculture

p. 12

Agriculture has not dominated the lives of Aspen people men and women. Yet, it has accounted for the rural landscape in that rural settlement patterns were based on the use of the land. The land has always been cultivated to provide food which could not be got nearby in a market (as is the case today) and could not be got without a fair amount of cash.

In the second or third generation land was divided up in long, rectangular-shaped, strips stretching back from the shoreline. There is no evidence of a definite infield-outfield system. The strips were divided some way since many different crops were grown, but whether it was in "ladder" form or "curved-strip" form is debatable. The Commons was a large area where animals were set to graze, much like the system of transhumance. This open area stretched out from the divided plots about $\frac{3}{8}$ mile from the shoreline about 2 miles inland. As the title implies, it was common land, equally available to all the people.

The land closer to the shore was used as grassland

and for vegetable gardens. There were patches for: potato, ^{p. 13} turnip, Cabbage, carrots, parsnip, berries; and larger areas for oats.

There were some apple and cherry trees, as well as numerous berries of all kinds. Cattle was kept for slaughter, and cows for milk. There were horses, which would have been used for transportation. As well they were used to pull the plows for turning the soil. The cattle provided the fertilizer for the soil. Evidence remains of water ditches used for irrigation purposes.

When the original property was divided up among the heirs, boundary fences made of wood were erected to separate individual plots. These were the only fences built since that in a few of the plots, others have been built in the third and fourth generation (as shown on figures 2, 3, 4, 5). As the cultivation of land grew less necessary through the years division of plots may have been more haphazard. There is little left of any agricultural system. Many people still have plots which are more gardens than anything. Potatoes are grown in limited quantities in addition to carrots, peas, Cabbage and turnip.

Traditionally, there was no crop rotation. However,^{p. 14} patches were left fallow at times to renew the fertility of the soil.

The diet of the traditional household was of relatively wide variety. Much of the food was provided from the land: meat, vegetables, and eggs and dairy products, as well as a certain amount of grain. Fish was interchanged with meat various kinds being available. Caribou meat, and moose meat as well as rabbit, seal and water birds were eaten less extensively. Sugar and salt and flour were bought in bulk at markets in St. John's. The cash for these staples came from the sale of timber from the Aspen Brook sawmills.

Fishing

p. 15

As previously mentioned the species of fish caught over the generations are cod, herring, turbot, seals, and lobster. Lobster pots were set within reasonable distance from the shore marked by buoys. Cod was the most abundant of fish. Seals were hunted in the years when Smith Sound froze over in winter. Herring is fairly abundant and has been sold at times by a scattered person in the community. Trout is caught by the weekend fisherman, quite plentifully in fact.

Fish is caught and cleaned on the stages by the wharves. It is salt and sun-cured on the flakes. The wharves stages and flakes are in close proximity to one another to make things more efficient. These facilities were not inherited but the use of them has been open to all family members. Of course, certain individuals would build their own facilities and their sons would use these same facilities. The same system was applied to the boats. There were no longliners and as dories will likely survive only one generation.

As fishing was not the mainstay in Aspen brookers's^{p. 16}
lives there were no general patterns in the composition
of fishing crews.

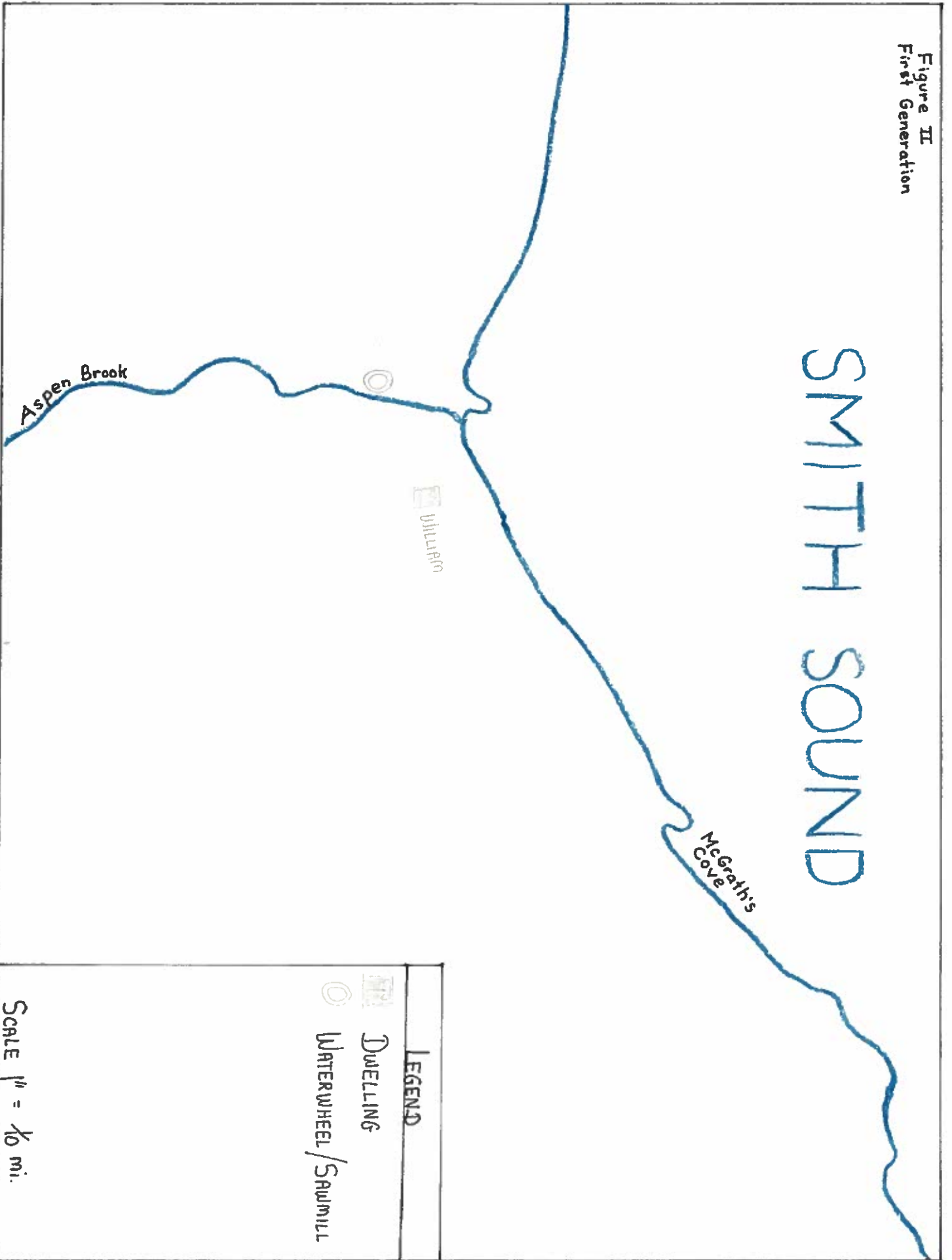
Supplementary Activities

p. 17

In the fall and winter there was traditionally a slack time. This period was used for gathering of food supplies for the long winter months. Fox, lynx, rabbit, otter, bobcat, moose and caribou were hunted. Rabbits were snared, and fox, lynx, otter, and bobcat were trapped. The rabbits preserved for consumption whereas the others ^{were} got for their pelts and sold to St John's merchants. Moose and caribou were shot and the meat cold-packed and cured, also for winter consumption.

Appendix 1.
Figure 2
Figure 3
Figure 4
Figure 5

Figure II
First Generation



SMITH SOUND

Aspen Brook

Dwelling

McGrath's Cove

LEGEND

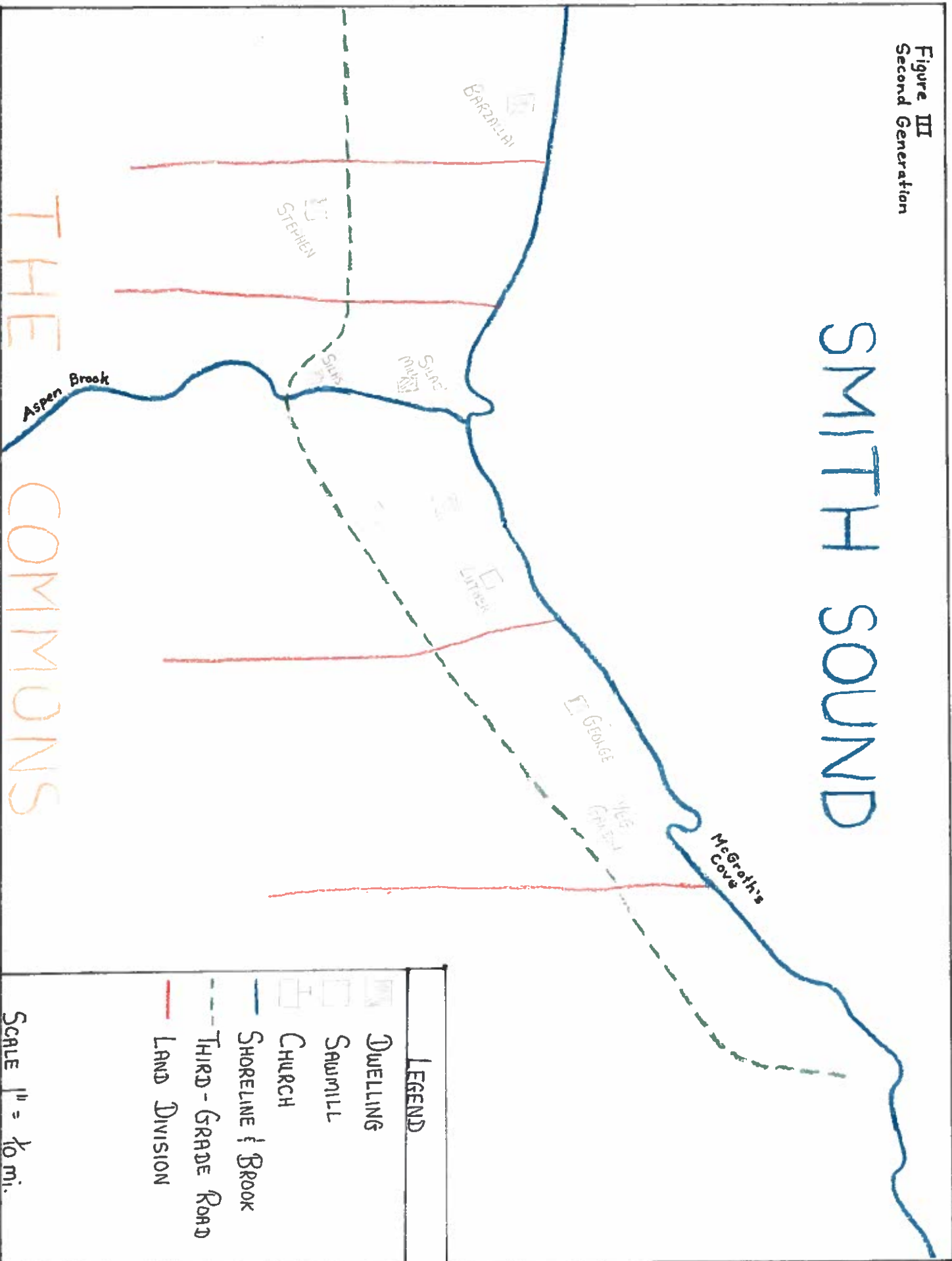
DWELLING

WATERWHEEL/SAWMILL

SCALE 1" = 1/10 mi.

Figure III
Second Generation

SMITH SOUND



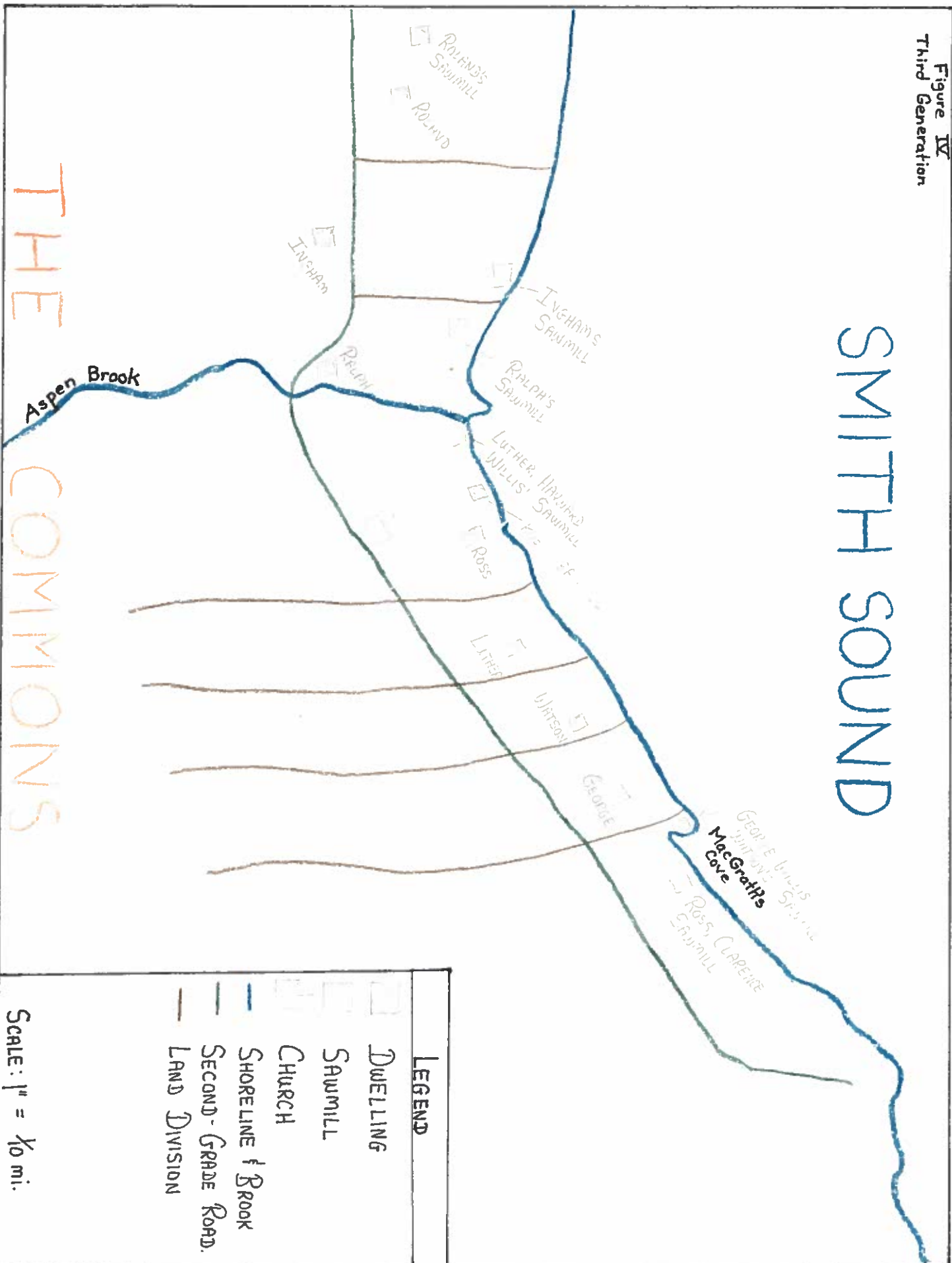
LEGEND

-  DWELLING
-  SAWMILL
-  CHURCH
-  SHORELINE & BROOK
-  THIRD-GRADE ROAD
-  LAND DIVISION

Scale 1" = 10 mi.

Figure IV
Third Generation

SMITH SOUND



LEGEND

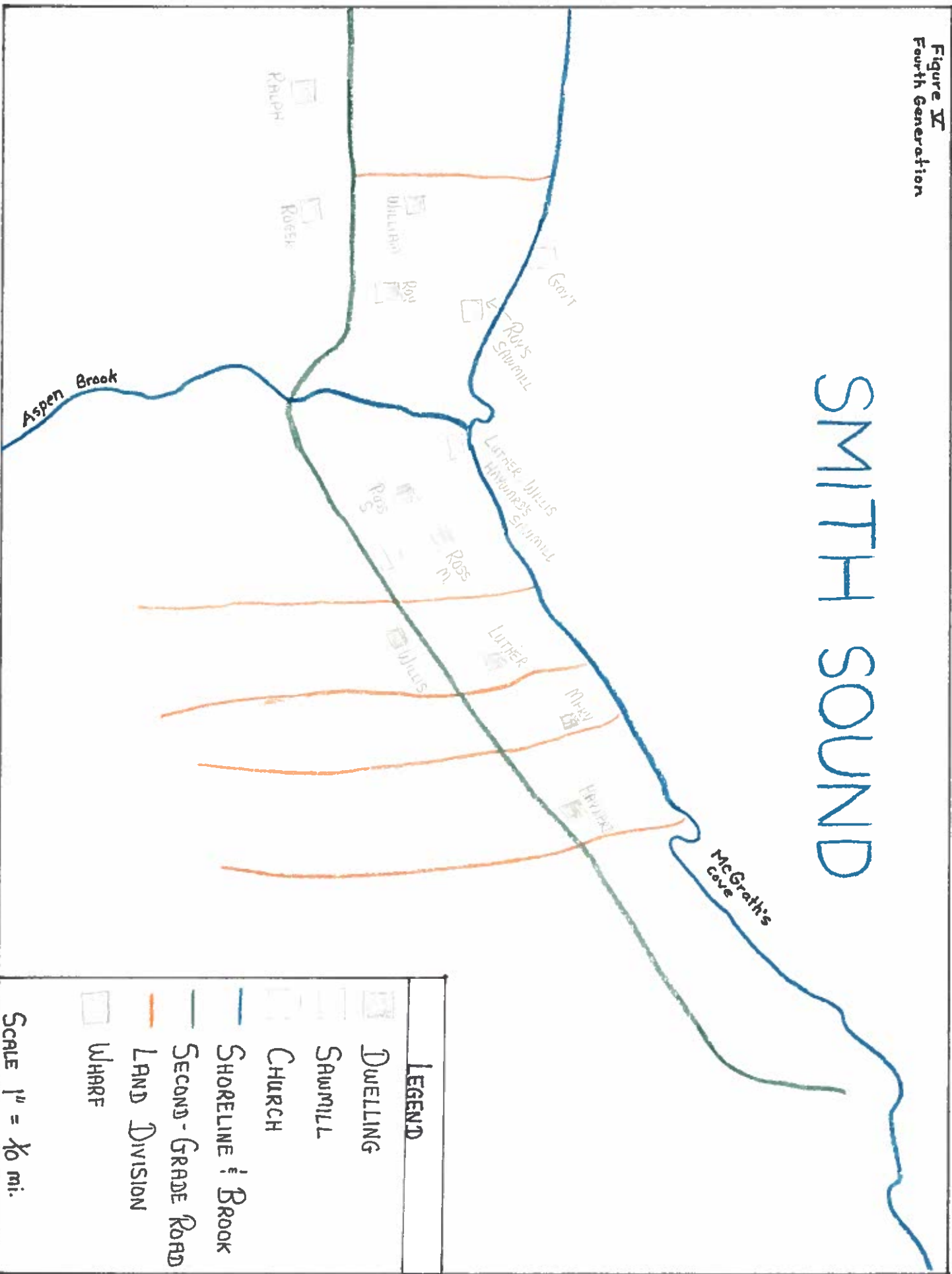
- DWELLING
- SAWMILL
- CHURCH
- SHORELINE & BROOK
- SECOND-GRADE ROAD
- LAND DIVISION

Scale: 1" = 1/2 mi.

THE COMMONS

Figure V
Fourth Generation

SMITH SOUND



Appendix 2
Family Tree Diagram

* BARZALLAI = HESTER CRITCH
1866-1916 | HANT'S HR., T.B.
HANT'S HR., T.B.

* ROLAND
LUCY
* JARVIS
VIOLET
* CLARENCE
LYDIA

* STEPHEN = SARAH BLUNDELL
1882-1921 | ASPEN Bk.

* INGHAM
* WILLIAM
* EDWIN
EFFIE
* ALBERT
* ROY

* SILAS = CAROLINE HISCOCK
1871-1943 | HANT'S HR.
1874-1960

* HAROLD
LEAH
* RALPH
* VERNON

* LUTHER
1875-1950 | HANT'S HR.

* LUTHER = MAY COISH
1901-1976 | 1911-
BRITANNIA

(WENT TO U.S.A.)
* AARON
1897-

* LYDIA = MARTIN BOWRING

BRITANNIA
* WATSON

AGNES

ELIZABETH
BARBARA
PHYLLIS
JEAN

* INHERITOR
† INFORMANT

(WENT TO SNOOK'S HR.)
* LINDO + VICTORIA BUGDEN
1913- | 1918-
PETLEY

* WILLIS = JUNE GEORGE
1923-

(WENT TO SNOOK'S HR.)
* HIRVIN =
1921-

WILLIAM SMITH
1834 - 1925
HANT'S HARBOUR, T. BAY

LYDIA HOPKINS
1841 - 1930
WINTERTON, T. BAY

R = MIRIAM VERGE

* JOHN
1862-1928
HANT'S HR.

= ELIZABETH FIFIELD
- 1946
ENGLISH HR., TRIN. B.

(WENT TO U.S.A.)
LUCY = ALBERT COOPER

(WENT TO SNOOK'S)
MARY ANN = JOHN SMITH

ROSS
HUTTLEY
ELOISE
LUCY
DAISY

WILLIAM

(WENT TO ST. JOHNS)
= HERBERT GARLAND

MARY = LAWRENCE LEAWOOD
1903- 1900
BRITANNIA

(WENT TO SNOOK'S HR.,
THEN ELLIOTT'S CV.)
ETHEL = WILLIAM COOPER[†]
-1977 1899-
SNOOK'S HR.

(WENT TO OLD PERLICAN)
LOUISA = GEORGE BARRET
1894-1959
OLD PERLICAN

ABETH
BARA
LLIS
AN

JOHN
FRANKLIN

ALVINA
GARY

YVONNE
JOHN
ALMA
MAXWELL

(WENT TO ONTARIO)
= ADA

(WENT TO ST. JOHNS)
* LAWRENCE = SUSAN BOWRING
1919 1923-

(WENT TO U.S.A.)
LYDIA = JUSTIN O'NEAL
1917-

* HAYWARD = CECELIA COISH
1915- 1918-
- BRITANNIA

