

EARLY HISTORY OF THE HARVARD FOREST

JAMES W. BROOKS CORRESPONDENCE - Oct. 26, 1906 - June 19, 1909.

Attached is correspondence and documents from the files of James W. Brooks, Petersham, Mass. most of which relates to the donation and purchase of the Harvard Forest land in Petersham and Phillipston.

These were donated on June, 12, 1973 by Mr John Fiske, Petersham, Mass. Xerox copies were retained by Mr Fiske.

The gift resulted from a casual mention by Dr. Gould and Mr. Lyford that we had very little documentary evidence of the reasons behind the acquisition of the property by Harvard. In a term paper dealing with the Trustees of Public Reservations, Miss Jennifer Richards, one of our students in Bio. 298, found a reference to the interest the Trustees had in a tract of land in Petersham. In fact a committee of the Trustees visited Petersham in June, 1906 and apparently decided they could not raise the money for the purchase and maintainance of the property. As a result Mr. Brooks approached Harvard as evidenced by President Elliot's letter of Oct. 26, 1906 to Mr Brooks.

Mr. Fiske knows a good deal about the early background and we should make an effort to get this down in writing.

W. H. Lyford. Aug. 17, 1973

Harvard Forest
Petersham, Mass. 01366

August 17, 1973

Dear John, *(Fiske)*

I have just read through the folder of early correspondence you gave to Ernie Gould. We certainly appreciate this gift since it gives much information about the early history of the Harvard Forest, previously inaccessible to us.

You probably remember many more details about this, worthy of being kept. Would it be reasonable to propose a taped private discussion with Ernie? Writing down your reminiscences would be ideal of course, but I hate to ask you to go through this chore.

Thank you very much.

*Your sincerely,
Martin*