



## New Hampshire Historical Society

December 13, 1984

Faith Harrington  
State Cooperative Regional Archaeological Plan  
Ward Ave.  
Concord NH 03301  
603-224-5405

Dear Mr. Foster:

I came across your letter today and thought you might be interested in a couple of things. First, I enclose my article which I mentioned to you in the off-chance that you have not yet read it. I'm afraid it deals quite specifically with archaeological and historical sources of data; not with the natural and ecological data from vegetational studies that you are interested in. However, I thought I would send it along anyway since you requested it. As you can see, my report is preliminary in nature and covers only a small portion of a very large park. I'd like to hear more about your research in Pisgah.

Second, I have been corresponding with Steven Hamburg at Stanford and his research sounds very similar to yours. He is interested in assembling biological data in formulating a model of a forest site's history, and has found tree cores, soil profiles, and microtopography very valuable in interpreting more traditional historical sources. He will be speaking on his work in New Hampshire at the annual Society for Historical Archaeology meetings in Boston this January (flyer and registration forms enclosed) and I suggest you catch up with him at that time if at all possible.

Third, I am now back to a full-time schedule in Concord, having just about finished my doctoral dissertation. I am here four days a week--all except Fridays. Please call me if you would like to arrange a meeting.

All the best.

Sincerely,

Faith Harrington  
Historic Sites Archaeologist

fh/enc.

1985  
SOCIETY FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY  
ANNUAL MEETING

January 9-12, 1985  
Park Plaza Hotel, Boston

In 5 weeks the Society for Historical Archaeology will hold its annual meeting in Boston, and on Saturday, January 12, there will be 2 symposia devoted exclusively to historical archaeology in New Hampshire. Everyone interested in New Hampshire history and archaeology is strongly urged to attend, and the fee for attending for 1 day is only \$10.00.

Program details are as follows:

Three Decades of Historical Archaeology in New Hampshire:  
What Does the Future Hold?

Saturday Morning, Session #34, 10:15-12:25

Opening Remarks - David Starbuck (RPI)  
New Hampshire History and Historical Archaeology: What Will Cooperative Efforts Mean for Each? - William Taylor (Plymouth State)  
\* Natural Resources and New Hampshire Agriculture: 1780-1950 - Steven Hamburg (Yale)  
Sea Tenure in Early 17th-Century New Hampshire: Native Americans and Europeans - Faith Harrington (New Hampshire Historical Society)  
Underwater Archaeology in New Hampshire - David Switzer (Plymouth State)  
Cookstoves and Canthooks - Billee Hoornbeek (U.S. Forest Service)  
Discussant - Charles Clark (UNH)

Saturday Afternoon, Session #36, 1:45-3:55

Material Culture and Agricultural History Studies in New Hampshire - Richard Waldbauer (Brown)  
New Hampshire Stone Chambers: A Historical Review - Daniel Leary (NEARA)  
The Archaeology of a Neighborhood: Deer Street, Portsmouth, New Hampshire - Aileen Agnew (Strawbery Banke)  
New Hampshire Redware Potters - Mary Dupre (New Hampshire Historical Society)  
The Industrial Archaeology of New Hampshire - David Starbuck (RPI)  
Discussant - Charles Clark (UNH)

In order to register for the meeting, please send in the conference preregistration form.



State of New Hampshire  
Department of Resources and Economic Development  
Division of Parks and Recreation

105 Loudon Road  
P.O. Box 856  
Concord, N.H.  
03301

Wilbur F. LaPage  
Director

May 5, 1987

Dr. Ernest M. Gould, Jr.  
Harvard University  
Harvard Forest  
Petersham, MA 01366

Dear Ernie:

Thank you for the study of forest succession from Pisgah. I will enclose a copy of our draft management plan for Pisgah which I think you will find interesting and relevant.

If you can find the time, we would deeply appreciate your thoughts about the plan's philosophy and objectives. Under this plan, we are not going to try to keep motorized use out of Pisgah; but we do hope to effectively zone it.

Many thanks for your offer of help. I hope we can spend some time together at Pisgah this year. We'll keep you posted on the plan's progress; and on site visit dates. All the best.

Sincerely,

Wilbur F. LaPage, Director

WFL/am

pc: Mal Thomas

Enclosure

Administrative  
603 271-3255

Fire Operations  
603 271-3556

Information and  
Education  
603 271-3254

Bureau of Off  
Highway Vehicles  
603 271-3254

Recreation Services  
603 271-3627

Dave

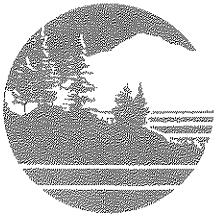
6/26/87

I called William LaPage - he is out till Monday

However, Bill Carpenter, in charge of Parts was there. He said get a key from John Tritchell the new part supervisor. I left a message on his answering device (603-239-8153).

However, the Toys may have run out as I was giving out numbers, so it may be advisable to call again Monday.

Ernie



State of New Hampshire  
Department of Resources and Economic Development  
Division of Parks and Recreation

105 Loudon Road  
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Concord, N.H.  
03301

Wilbur F. LaPage  
Director

June 4, 1987

Dr. Ernest Gould  
Harvard Forest  
Petersham, MA 01366

Dear Ernie:

Thank you for sending the collection of Pisgah research papers. These will be invaluable to us as we begin to develop interpretive materials. I'm sure our new manager, John Twitchell, will be glad to get these.

It was good to see you at Hanover.

Best regards,

Wilbur F. LaPage, Director

WFL/am

pc: John Twitchell

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"New Hampshire Parklands - Worth a Closer Look"

May 29, 1987

Wilbur F. LaPage, Director  
Department of Resources & Economic Development  
105 Loudon Road, Box 856  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Wilbur:

It was good to see you in Hanover. I must say, Hank is one of the few people I've known who could carry off such a thing. It was fun and I am looking forward to his summary.

I've looked over the plan proposal you sent me earlier for use of Pisgah. Judging from your comments in Hanover I believe the specifics of the proposal have changed a good deal. So, I'll stick to general principles and avoid specifics as that may be more useful to you.

Of course, our selfish primary concern is with the old growth stands which are quite uniquely valuable for ecological study. I've put together xeroxes or copies of four papers that contain most of what we have discovered to date.

1. Bulletin 21 is out of print but most of the work was done before the 1938 hurricane. The conclusions are strongly influenced by formal ecological thought of the times.
2. The brief history of Harvard's tract is a quick summary and overview.
3. The Disturbance History by David Foster is currently being perfected and gives a good picture of modern thoughts about Pisgah. See especially figure 2 for the location of old growth areas outside the Harvard Tract.
4. The Whitney and Foster paper is also being worked on and is a more technical study of species composition.

In addition, to these documents we have a wealth of field notes, maps and the like which we will be happy to share with you. I suspect one of your people would have to get together with David Foster to winnow out wheat from the chaff.

Our general desires for use of the park are that it be as primitive as possible to keep the old growth stands available for continued study. In line with that, I think it would help to leave our tract off of maps you give the public. In general, this vast, largely undeveloped area is a unique resource that could be spoiled by over development and over use.

I quite agree that limited access points are a good idea and that one should make "improvements" and changes slowly to test the waters. I would hope that motorized access which will encourage high use will not reach the center of the tract. To fully appreciate the primitive isolation of the park people should walk as much as possible. In line with this, is it really necessary to bring a road into Fullam Pond?

I have posted your rules for the use of Pisgah on our bulletin board so our people will know what is permitted. At the moment we are taking only a single vehicle to the reservoir, parking it out of sight and signing it as a "Research Vehicle". I hope this is satisfactory because it will greatly facilitate Peter Schoenmaker's work on his doctoral thesis.

I am sorry I couldn't go on your outing and that David is in Sweden. He would like to go on such a junket.

Best regards,

Ernest M. Gould, Jr.  
Forest Economist  
Assistant Director, Haryard Forest

Note: Copies mailed under separate cover

P



State of New Hampshire  
Department of Resources and Economic Development  
Division of Parks and Recreation

105 Loudon Road  
P.O. Box 856  
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Wilbur F. LaPage  
Director

May 5, 1987

Dr. Ernest M. Gould, Jr.  
Harvard University  
Harvard Forest  
Petersham, MA 01366

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Many thanks for your offer of help. I hope we can spend some time together at Pisgah this year. We'll keep you posted on the plan's progress; and on site visit dates. All the best.

Sincerely,

Wilbur F. LaPage, Director

WFL/am

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"New Hampshire Parklands - Worth a Closer Look"

It was an article of faith for years among forest ecologists that old growth stands, unlike other forest communities, did not change. The trees, having reached their maximum size and height, were believed to exist in a kind of permanent stasis. Studies of the Pisgah old growth forest were among the first to challenge this notion, beginning with Richard Fisher. His pleas to save the tract for scientific study revealed his belief that the forest was in a continuous cycle of growth, death and regeneration. Following his death in 1934, work done at Pisgah particularly after the 1938 hurricane, proved Fisher correct. Soil studies showed the presence of charcoal, for example, that demonstrated the forest had survived fire. Examination of growth rings, vegetation patterns, and ~~forest~~ composition, all showed the tract had gone through a number of successional stages and had weathered previous natural calamities including hurricanes, lightning and disease.

"There is no question he was way ahead of his time," Dave said, speaking of his predecessor. "Because of him, Pisgah has become a very important place."

*changes in the hist. of species.*

From PKS

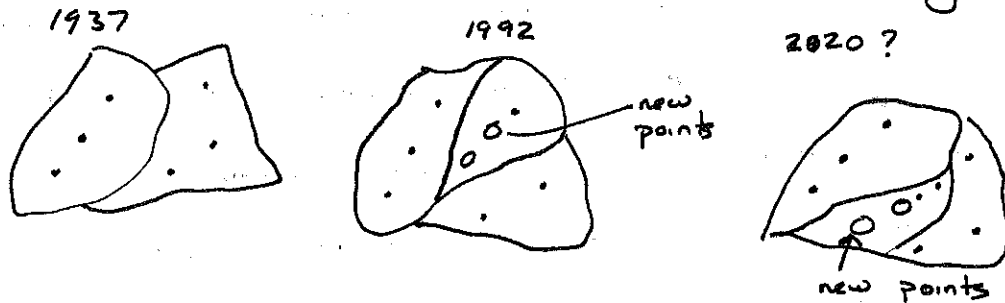
20 March 1992

David,

As you will have probably remarked on my two chapters I just gave you, one of the larger lacunae in both of them is the total lack of reference to other studies of stand dynamics and pollen work in the region. To get that aspect of the discussion rolling, could you lend me the manuscript + figures for Foster & Zybryk 1992, and Foster et al 1992 so I can discuss the different collection properties and species assemblages of ~~these~~ <sup>the</sup> Prospect Hill vs Pisgah?

I have one or two general comments about your planned study of floristic change associated with land use and site factors. ~~###~~  
The changes in stand boundaries between 1937 and 1992 have important implications for the way you sample, and as Bill Wilson pointed out for the data you leave for the next guy in 2037. You certainly want to relocate the 1937 pins and sample from them. But as stand boundaries change, those points will become less and less useful for things other than your floristic/site study. (The same is true for the 1986-? data which have several flaws in sampling design.) I see two or

three options. As stand boundaries change you can add sample points where needed for forest inventory purposes. This is the most practical and logistically feasible way to accommodate unpredictable ~~the~~ future inventory needs.

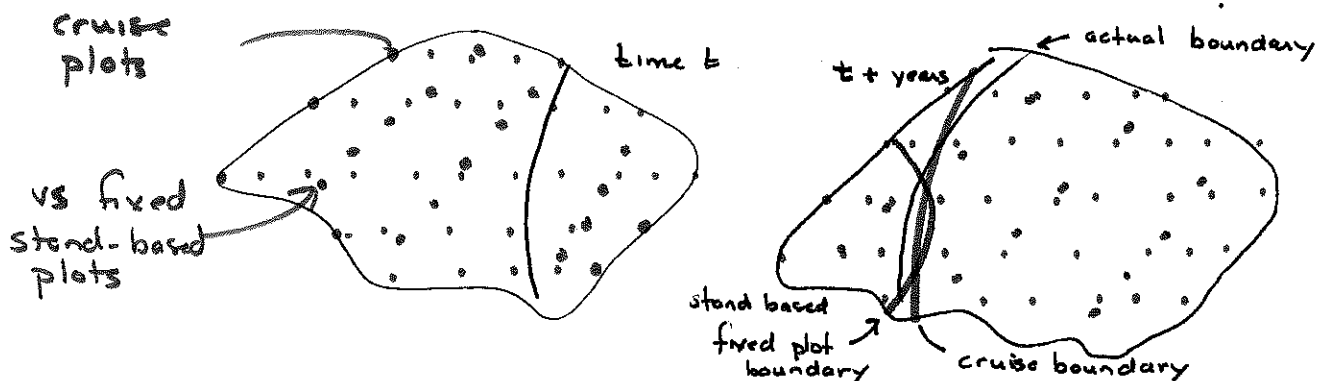


This will lead to a proliferation of sample points over the years, but the original 1937 points can be sorted out and used for long-term comparison (or 1937 + whatever points are needed).

Another suggestion is to sample no additional points as boundaries change and just rely on aerial photos and ground truthing.

A third possibility is an efficient grid based cruise, ~~is~~ with points marking ~~the~~ beginning + end points of lines crossing each of the three major properties. I think that in the long run this system would really be worth the extra trouble. A tight regular cruise ① solves the problem of changing ~~the~~ stand boundaries, ~~and the~~ ② is easier to repeat because there are few pins to locate (just start and end points) ③ is faster than the pin base variable radius plots ④ provides some interesting long-term data

for comparing ~~grid~~ ~~cruise~~ grid based line cruise inventory with fixed plot (1937) data, ⑤ is superior for ground truthing stand boundaries. The 1986 data has the same problems as the 1937 data in that stand boundary changes will ~~often~~ render the data somewhat misleading for some purposes unless plots are added (or deleted!) But the 86 data do not have the 1937 advantages of fixed plots and ~~per~~ ~~ing~~ historical value. It sounds like you are predisposed not to do this, but I would recommend filing the 86 data in the archives and moving on to a line cruise. I'll bet in 50 years the ecologists here will have the most use for #1) the permanent 1937 plots, # 2) Fixed ~~and~~ line cruise plots and ~~will~~ not a very distant #3) 1986 plots. So why not do it? I think putting ourselves in their shoes makes this an easy choice. Which of the three data sets would you use if all three had been taken in 1937? in 1837?

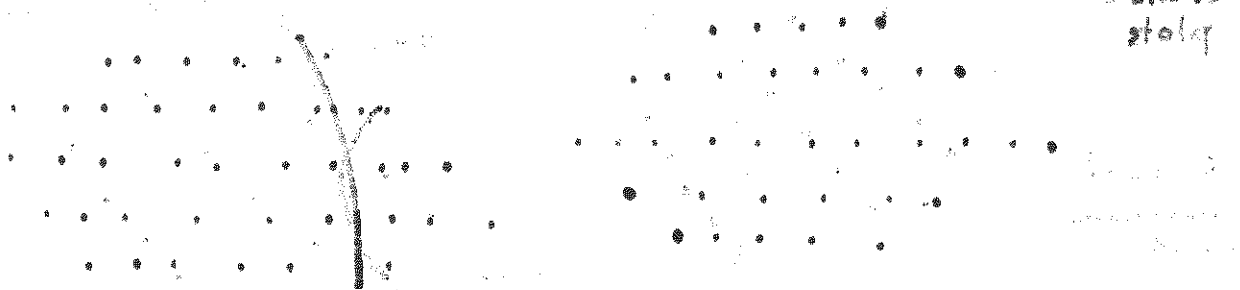


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In summary, top priority goes to resampling 1937 plots. If this is accomplished in time, second priority to a line/plot cruise (this really shouldn't take nearly as long as relocating 1937 plots, or the 1986 samples). Maybe Mauth could be put in charge of finishing up the 1986 data just to get it out of the way.

The soil pits sound like a fantastic idea. ~~Arg~~ Again, I think these would be much more useful on a tight line cruise, but if you don't ~~do~~ do the cruise, <sup>they</sup> should certainly be done on the 1937 plots. I see no reason to do them on the 1986 plots.

As for sampling difference in 1937, you might be forced to have some cut-off for uncommon species. How to decide this? A certain threshold for a similarity index by compartment or tract? Numbers of species? Trees and herbs only? Trees only? I don't know.



plots

January 4, 1978

Dean Richard Leahy  
Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
University Hall 20  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Dick:

Here is a brief description of the history and value of the Pisgah Tract. I also included some notes on the present tax status, a map showing the general location and two papers referring to research.

A similar report on the Mathews Plantation is being prepared right now. As this involves review of a large amount of file material, it will take a little longer. However, I expect to be able to send this to you within two or three days.

Yours sincerely,

Martin H. Zimmermann

MHZ:ts

Enclosures - 3

## The Pisgah Tract of the Harvard Forest

### History

Prior to 1938, the Pisgah Tract of Harvard University, a 20-acre parcel, now located in the middle of the Pisgah State Park in the town of Winchester, New Hampshire, contained a stand of beautiful old white pines, considered to be virgin forest.

On July 4, 1926 an article appeared in the New York Times entitled, "New England's Virgin Forest in Danger", written by Mary Lee. In this article Professor R. T. Fisher (first Director of the Harvard Forest) is quoted to have said, "I would like to see it under the joint supervision of the Harvard and Yale Forestry Schools". It appears that this was the beginning of a campaign to collect the money to buy the 20-acre parcel from the owner, which was the New England Box Company in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Many individual contributors made this purchase possible. A letter by Prof. Fisher to Mr. W. E. Dickinson of the New England Box Company dated December 24, 1926, acknowledges the deed. The purchase price was set at \$20,000; of this, \$18,000 was paid immediately, the remaining \$2,000 after January 1st, 1927. After this date, an additional sum of money was solicited to provide a small endowment for the purpose of paying taxes on the property and to study the area.

The Pisgah Tract has been set aside exclusively for the study of a virgin forest. As you know, the 1938 hurricane blew down all large trees with the exception of about 15 to 20 individuals. The University was then approached by Mr. Thomas E. Hanifin of Belchertown, Massachusetts and asked if it would

want to sell the fallen trees to salvage the valuable timber, but it was decided, in the interest of the original purpose of the purchase, to forego this sale. The letter from Assistant Director A. C. Cline of June 20, 1939 contains the following statement. "After thorough consideration of the purposes for which this old growth forest was originally acquired, it has been decided to let nature continue to take her course free from interference by man. I must inform you, therefore, that there is no possibility of making you a stumpage sale."

During the years 1968-75 we had some correspondence with the Department of Resources and Economic Development about the Pisgah Tract. The State acquired considerable land areas in this mountainous region for a new State Park to be named Pisgah Wilderness. State officials were originally interested in buying the Pisgah Tract, until we had convinced them that the University has an interest of its own to keep and study the Tract with a minimum of human interference.

#### Value of the Pisgah Tract to the University

The purchase of the land was made during a period when many people still believed that all of New England was once covered with white pine stands of the type found in the Pisgah area. Subsequent research showed that pure white pine stands must have been rare even before the arrival of white man. In the Pisgah Tract the white pines were even-aged and had all originated around 1650. This indicated that the stand resulted from a major disturbance, namely the hurricane of 1635 which was followed by a forest fire (see Henry, J.D, and Swan, J.M.A., 1974, "Reconstructing Forest History from Live and Dead Plant

Not true of  
RTF

Material - An Approach to the Study of Forest Succession in Southwest New Hampshire", Ecology 55: 772-783). Most of the large white pines were blown down in 1938; these were not salvaged, and the forest succession is now studied.

The tract is of considerable value to the Harvard Forest (and, of course, also to ecologists in Cambridge and to the scientific community at large), because it is the only truly virgin forest the University owns; in fact, it is one of the very few virgin forest stands of New England. As it is located in the middle of a State wilderness area, it is quite well protected.

The annual endowment income is accumulated until enough is available to have an interested student do research on the property. The Henry-Swan study is a good example of this. A small segment of the area was then studied by "archaeological methods" which had been pioneered at the Harvard Forest in the early 1950's by Earl Stephens (see Oliver, C.D. and Stephens, E.P., 1977, "Reconstruction of a mixed-species forest in Central New England", Ecology 58: 562-572).

Notes on Present Tax Status of Pisgah Tract

Early in 1977, the Town of Winchester, New Hampshire, reassessed properties in the township, for the purpose of taxation for 1977. In prior years we had to pay approximately \$80 in taxes per year to the Town of Winchester; this year we received a bill for \$272.69. The endowment income for the current (1977-78) fiscal year is \$474. We filed an abatement, because in view of the undisturbed natural condition of the land, it should be valued and taxed as Natural Preserve land as authorized under RSA 79-A as amended. More of the endowment income would then be available for occasional research activities.

Extract of the Deed of the portion of the Cathedral Woods to

the Town of Conway

*Similar forms were used in Keene and Springfield N.H.*

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances to the same belonging to it, the said Town of Conway and its successors in municipal jurisdiction, upon the trusts and conditions hereinafter mentioned.

And we, the said Charles W. Hubbard and the said Annie H. Davis, and our heirs, executors and administrators, do hereby covenant, grant and agree to and with the said Town of Conway and its successors in municipal jurisdiction and its successors in trust that until the delivery hereof we are the lawful owners of the said premises and are seized and possessed thereof in our own right in fee simple; and have full power and lawful authority to grant and convey the same in manner aforesaid; that the premises are free and clear from all and every incumbrance whatsoever, except taxes for the current year, which taxes it is part of the consideration hereof that the said Town shall not collect; and that we and our heirs, executors and administrators shall and will warrant and defend the same to the said Town of Conway and its successors in municipal jurisdiction and its successors in trust, against the lawful claims and demands of any person or persons, claiming by through or under us but against none other; but it is part of the consideration hereof that said Town shall not collect any taxes against the said premises for the current year.

PROVIDED, however, that this conveyance shall be upon the trusts and conditions that the said Town of Conway and its successors in municipal jurisdiction over the premises hereby conveyed and its successors in trust shall hold, use and manage the said premises for the public use and benefit as a public forest reserve forever, doing and suffering no cutting of the trees thereon except such as may be necessary permanently to preserve the forest growth thereon in the most healthy condition possible, and upon the further trust and condition that if the said Town of Conway or its successors as aforesaid shall derive any net income from the said property hereby conveyed, such net income shall be employed in caring for and improving the said property for the public benefit or in buying additional tracts of land to be held in connection with the foregoing upon the same trust and conditions as herein declared. And provided, further, that upon the said Town of Conway or its successors in municipal jurisdiction ceasing to hold, use and manage the same in the manner prescribed, or doing or suffering to be done ~~the~~ on the premises any act which shall interfere with the full use of the same for the purposes and trusts above prescribed, then upon such happening the fee hereby conveyed shall be divested from the said Town of Conway and its successors in municipal jurisdiction and shall vest in the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests or its corporate successor, if the said Society or a corporate successor thereof shall then be in existence, but upon the same trusts and conditions as are above prescribed, subject to be divested from the said Society and its corporate successors and to be vested in the State of New Hampshire upon the said Society or its successors committing or suffering any default such as would under the terms hereof divest the said Town of Conway of

title. Provided, further, that in case the said Society or its ~~an~~ corporate successor shall at any time cease to exist without corporate succession able and willing to assume the said trusts and conditions, and the said fee shall have been vested, or shall in accordance with the foregoing become vestible, in the said Society or any successor thereof, then the said fee shall be divested and shall vest in the State of New Hampshire; and the State of New Hampshire, if and however it shall acquire title to the said premises, shall observe all of the trusts and conditions above imposed upon the said Town of Conway as to the use and management of the said premises.

Dear David —

3/28/85

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
HARVARD FOREST  
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS  
U. S. A. 01366



AREA CODE 617  
724-3285

Sorry but I do not remember any more. It was my only  
and only trip to the area and was still February 12, 1985  
a mass of windblown trees in '48. Good Luck —

Dr. Earl Smith  
Box 440  
Fairfield, Pennsylvania 17320

My regards to Ernie and Dottie —  
Earl Smith

Dear Dr. Smith:

1948

I'm writing in the hopes of jogging your memory concerning some of  
your work from the past - 1948 to be exact! Along with some graduate  
students I have compiled all of the data from past Harvard Forest studies  
at the Pisgah site in Winchester, New Hampshire. These extend from the  
early work by R. T. Fisher in 1915 to include Branch, Lotti and Daley's  
studies in the late 1920's, Steve Spurr's work after the hurricane and,  
more recently, Mark Swan and David Henry's study in 1968. We have ex-  
tensively sampled the vegetation and downed wood from the 1938 hurricane  
and thus have great data on the pre-hurricane forest and the changes  
following the storm.

In our files there is data from a transect sampled by you and  
J. Scudder in 1942. Unfortunately there is little accompanying informa-  
tion and I'm hoping that you may be able to supply some background. In  
particular we are interested in the following:

1. What was the motivation for the study - was this a project of  
Spurr's or Cline's? *No. Scudder & I were interested in Dr. Raup's  
description - you walked along and the first thing you knew you were 20' off*
2. Is the transect you sampled the same as that sampled by Spurr  
and described in his 1954 paper in Ecology? *I have no idea.*
3. There is no description of the location of the transect. Would  
you be able, even very generally, to locate it on the enclosed  
map? *The information on page 1 of the 1948 report is more  
than I remembered.*

I realize that it has been a long time but I would be very grateful  
for any information that you might provide. The historical studies con-  
tinue to be the best description of the dynamics of virgin forest in New  
England and we hope to make them as complete as possible.

Thanks very much for your help.

Sincerely yours,

DRF

David R. Foster  
Assistant Professor

Enclosure  
P

West Willington  
Connecticut 06279  
June 23, 1984

Mr. David R. Foster  
Assistant Professor  
Harvard Forest  
Petersham, Massachusetts 01366

Dear Professor Foster:

I have no recollection of the map with old-growth plot locations, or the location of a 1927 permanent sample plot on the Pisgah Tract in New Hampshire.

Some of the data may have been obtained by transect lines across the whole tract. From the White Pine study, "In the field work at Mt. Pisgah seventy-five one-tenth acre plots were laid out with compass and tape in representative physiographic sites and the trees on each plot were tallied by species, D.B.H., height and crown class."

Sincerely,

R. N. Daley.

June 12, 1984

Dr. William Branch  
1217 Running Springs Road 2  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Dear Dr. Branch:

Since assuming the position of ecologist at the Harvard Forest in September I have become involved in a study of the Pisgah Tract in southwestern New Hampshire. My interest is to supplement the extensive unpublished information in the Harvard Forest Archives with field studies to document the disturbance history of the area and the vegetation dynamics in response to broad-scale perturbations.

I have been thoroughly impressed by the quantity and quality of historical material available, especially from your study in 1929-30. Although I have uncovered all the original notes, cruise notebooks, and photographs, I have some questions concerning other material that I hope you may be able to answer.

1. Ernie Gould and I have been unable to locate a map with the old-growth plot locations. Was one prepared and do you have any idea on its whereabouts?
2. Where was the 1927 permanent sample plot located? We have detailed maps and analyses but no location.
3. How extensive were the old growth areas in the 1920's and what was the history behind the study?

If you know of any additional information it would be greatly appreciated. I am also compiling a bibliography of the Harvard Forest and would appreciate a list of your publications, if available, to include in this record.

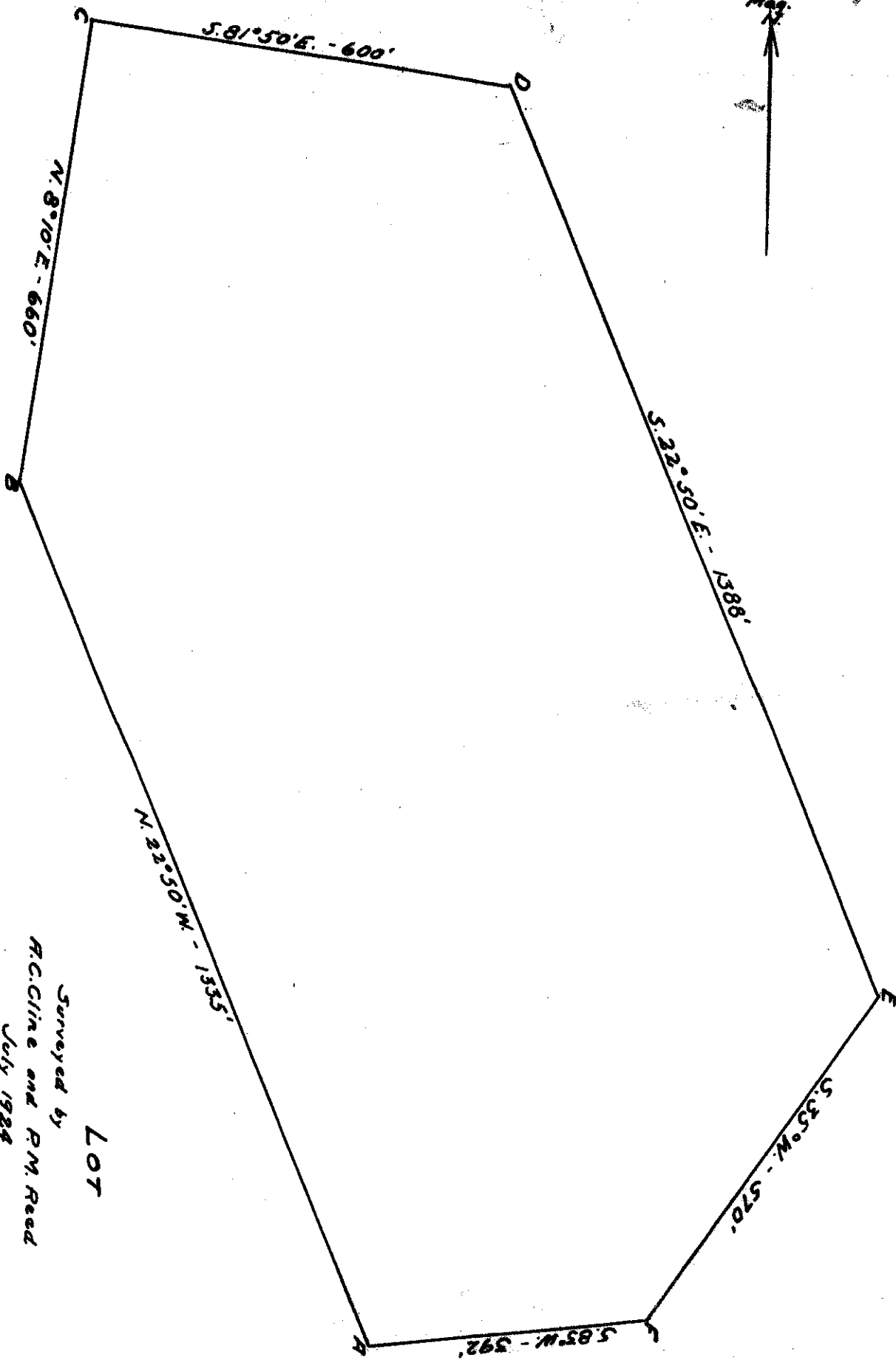
I look forward to hearing of any information that you may be able to provide and having read so much of your work, am glad to have the opportunity to correspond with you.

Sincerely,

David R. Foster  
Assistant Professor

Enclosures

p



Surveyed by  
 R.C. Cline and P.M. Reed  
 July 1924  
 Bearings - magnetic. Scale - 1" = 200'  
 Area - 33 1/2 acres