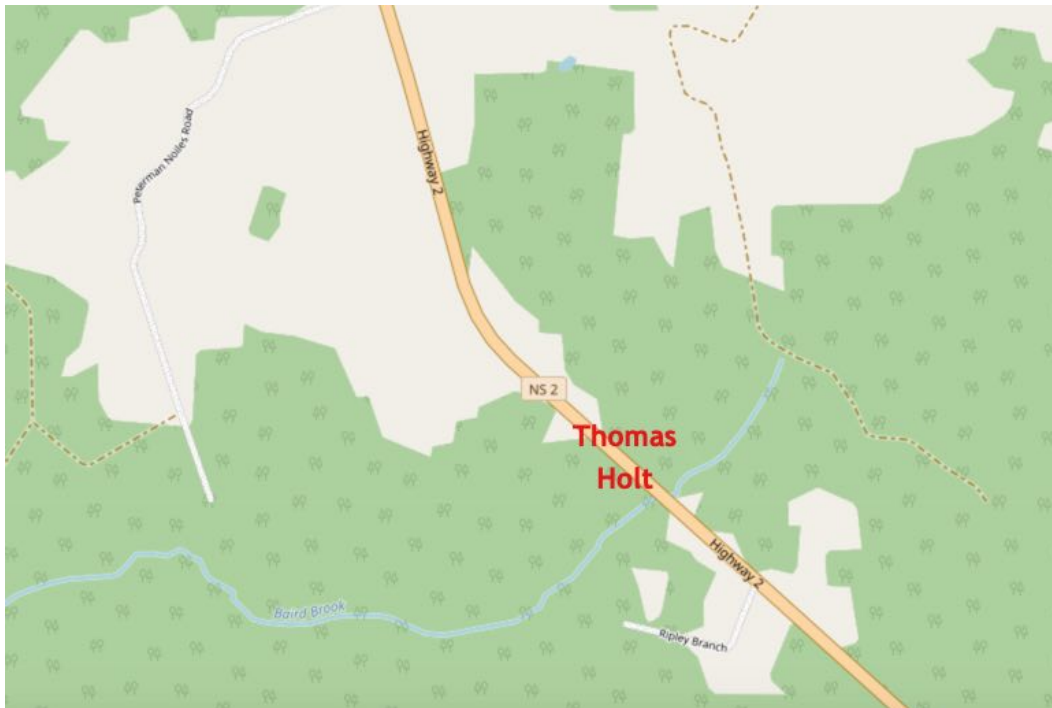


Thomas Holt Homestead

Originally compiled by Mallory Burton March 25, 2024. Last updated March 27, 2024.



Approximate location of Thomas Holt lot as shown on Open Street Map

Summary:

The Thomas Holt homestead was located on the original 20,000-acre grant made in 1764 to Captain Adam Gmelin. In 1771, Col. J. F. W. DesBarres acquired the northernmost 8,000 acres of the Gmelin Grant in a court-ordered sale to cover a debt owed by Gmelin to DesBarres. At first, DesBarres leased his properties, but in 1817 he began to sell them to former tenants. After his death in 1824, his son Augustus continued selling the properties. The DesBarres estate eventually became the communities of Maccan, Nappan, and Fenwick.

Thomas Holt's 100-acre lot was bounded on the north by properties belonging to William Bulmer and William "Squire" Pipes, on the east by the Gmelin Line adjacent to Samuel McCully's 1816 grant, and on the south by a lot sold by Augustus DesBarres to Samuel Holt. Most of the lot lay east of today's NS-2. At the present time, it is unknown how Thomas Holt obtained the property.

Thomas Holt died sometime before 1871 and his widow Charlotte (Brown) and daughters continued to live on the homestead. The heirs sold the property to William Dale in 1907. On the 1911 census the 90-year old Charlotte Lewis was living with William Dale's family. The 1907 deed was not properly executed, so in 1931, William Dale re-affirmed the sale with the remaining heirs. A large portion of the lot east of NS-2 was later owned by Harvey Brownell who sold to Clarence Black. Horace Dale and Frank Colin Ripley purchased smaller lots west of NS-2.

1931 David Blenckhorn and Holt Heirs to William Dale (Deed Book 184, p. 673, registered 1940)

Date: March 5, 1931; original deed August 29, 1907 not correctly executed)

Grantors: Heirs of Thomas (commonly called "Tot") Holt including Charlotte Holt, David Blenckhorn of Springhill, miner, and Augusta Blenckhorn his wife, Annie Skidmore of Canaan, wife of Alexander Skidmore and the said Alexander Skidmore, Stephen Faulds of Maccan and Nina Soppa wife of John Soppa of Springhill and the said John Soppa

Grantee: William Dale of Fenwick, farmer

Price: not given

Property: 100 acres in Fenwick previously acquired by William Dale in 1907

Boundaries:

Boundaries as described in deed	Clarification
Beginning at the land line between property of Bert Dickinson and the Holt land on the east side of the road leading from Amherst to James McLaurins;	This is the former Bulmer Lot to the north acquired by F. Roberto Dickinson in 1907 (Deed Book 84, p. 457). By 1929, Bert Dickinson had sold the property to Elmer Ripley, so this boundary must have been used in the 1907 deed. The road leading to Amherst was NS-2
Thence easterly along the said line to land of Clarence Dickinson	This is the former Pipes Lot to the north acquired by Clarence Dickinson in 1896 (Deed Book 46, p. 330)
Continuing easterly to the cross line between land of George Smith and the said Holt lands;	No info on this property which would have been on the McCully Grant.
Thence southerly along the Smith line and Ezra Bird line to lands of James McLaurin;	
Thence westerly along the James McLaurin and Joseph E. Ripley line to the road leading to Amherst;	James McLaurin and Joseph E. Ripley each owned half of a lot purchased by Samuel Holt from Augustus DesBarres in 1865.
Thence northerly along the road to the place of beginning	NS-2

Note: Charlotte Holt, 90 years old, was living with William Dales' family on the 1911 census. Her daughter Amy had married William's nephew Jeremiah.

William Dale died intestate in 1934, and in 1935 daughters Florence and Elizabeth Dale signed over their interest in the property to their mother Agnes, William's widow. (Deed Book 184, p. 675). Widow Agnes Dale, who had moved to Ford Bank in Kent County, sold the 100-acre property to Harvey W. Brownell in 1940 (Deed Book 185, p. 20). Two months later, Harvey Brownell sold a property of unknown size west of today's NS-2 to Horace Dale. (Deed Book 185, p. 95). Brownell sold another small property west of NS-2 to Frank Colin Ripley. (Deed Book 188, p. 457). In 1942, Brownell sold the remainder of Samuel Holt's original 100-acre lot east of NS-2 to Clarence E. Black (Deed Book 187, p. 668).

Notes for further study:

I have been unable to determine how Thomas Holt obtained the property. Searches in the provincial deed registry for J. F. W. DesBarres as grantor/grantee, Augustus DesBarres as grantor/grantee, Charles Twining (agent for DesBarres estate) as grantor/grantee, Thomas Holt as grantor/grantee, Charlotte Holt, Charlotte Brown and Holt surname only as grantor/grantee in both Cumberland and Halifax County did not yield any information about the property.

T. Holt and A. Lewes are shown in this location near the end of a road that became today's NS-2.

Myrtle Chappell in *Ferwick 1798 to 1978* discussed the Thomas Holt homestead and Dale family on pages 71-73. The additional property owners mentioned by Chappell up to and including the McKillops were located on the original Holt/Dale lot. I could find no information on the Irvin Fraser property. The remaining properties were on the Samuel Holt lot to the south.

The Ernest Coates Map File contains a facsimile of William Baker's plan of the estate of J. F. W. DesBarres that shows the Thomas Holt lot south of the Bulmer and Pipes lot adjacent to the Gmelin Line. 05 050 05 MO3 H50