

William Keiver/Robert Puglsey Homestead to 1860

First compiled by Mallory Burton January 27, 2023. Last updated February 28, 2024.



View toward Lower Porter Road and farms on Nappan Road

Summary:

In 1805, Michael Keiver purchased 100-acre lots 15, 16, and 17, located in Amherst Township. The western border of the homestead was formed by Lime Kiln Brook and the neighbouring property of J. F. W. DesBarres, originally the Gmelin Grant. The northern border was the Ox Bow bend of the Nappan River and a portion of the original 1000-acre grant to Henry Denny Denson later acquired by Thomas Cochran.

In his will, Michael Keiver left the 350-acre homestead farm to his wife Margaret (Hunter) and to his three youngest sons. However, by 1842, Michael's son William Keiver (1800-1860) and Michael's son-in-law Robert Pugsley (1791-1864) owned the entire homestead jointly.

William Keiver acquired neighbouring properties of Francis Gould and Joseph Gould 2nd and sold a small parcel to William Bird. After William Keiver's death in 1860, his property was devised to his widow Nancy (Jenks) and four daughters Francis, Mary Abba, Ida, and Alice. Robert Puglsey conveyed his lots to schoolmaster George Cruickshank and his son David, who subsequently conveyed to Leonard D. and George W. Puglsey.

The original Michael Keiver homestead eventually became the homesteads of Charles T. Read, Price Read, Gordon Bacon, Robert Coates, Walton Bacon, George Allan Stiles, Henry J. Cousins, Jacob Porter, and others.

1846 Thomas Gould to William Keiver (Deed Book T, p. 74)

Grantor: Thomas B. Gould and Elizabeth his wife of Nappan

Grantee: William Keiver of Nappan

Price: 90 pounds

Property: 50 acres

Boundaries:

Boundaries as described in the deed	Clarification
“easterly by lands now in possession of the said William Keiver,	William Keiver and Robert Puglsey jointly owned the original homestead of Michael Keiver on Lots 15, 16, 17.
Northerly by the main road,	Today’s Nappan Road
westerly by lands owned by George Gould, Lewis Gould, and Lawrence Gould,	Sons and heirs of Francis and Jane Gould who had purchased a 108-acre lot from Augustus DesBarres in 1838 (Deed Book O, p. 591).
and Southerly by lands of Joseph Gould	Joseph Gould 2nd, son of Jedore Gould, had purchased the 67-acre lot from Augustus DesBarres in 1838 (Deed Book P, p. 118).
and Southwesterly by eleven acres of marsh, this day laid off and surveyed for the Thomas B. Gould by William F. Moffat, lying to the Southwest of the old Creek, running through the marsh, the said lands hereby conveyed containing about fifty aces more or less...”	

1847 William Keiver to William Bird (Deed Book U, p. 83)

Grantor: William Keiver of Amherst and wife Nancy (Jenks)

Grantee: William Bird of Amherst

Price: 110 pounds

Property: 12 acres

Boundaries:

Boundaries as described in the deed	Clarification
“beginning at the South West corner of Marsh land owned by Thos. B. Gould	
and running up an old Creek til it strikes land formerly owned by Nicholas Keiver	
thence an Easterly Course til it strikes lands owned by Joseph Gould	
thence down said line of Joseph Goulds til it strikes Thos. B. Goulds line”	

It’s unclear whether the land of Thos. B. Gould mentioned in this deed is the entire 50-acre piece William Keiver purchased or just the 11-acre piece laid off for Thomas as part of the sale.

1856 Alfred Atkinson and Mary Gould to William Keiver (Deed Book AA, p. 45)

Grantor: Mary (Curran) Gould, widow of the late Joseph Gould [2nd] of Nappan and Alfred Atkinson, Merchant administrator with the Will annexed of the goods Chattels rights and credits which were of the said Joseph Gould deceased

Grantee: William Keiver of Nappan

Price: 37 pounds

Property: for a property in Nappan of unknown size

Boundaries:

Boundaries as described in the deed	Clarification
Bounded Easterly by the Creek,	Today's Lime Kiln Brook
Southerly and Westerly by the said William Keiver's land,	The properties to the south and west were the former Bartlet Gould lot Keiver purchased from Thomas Gould in 1848 (see above)
and northerly by the Main road..."	today's Nappan Road

Note:

Joseph Gould 2nd purchased this property in 1844 (Deed Book V, p. 218). It was bounded on the west by the Roach Line, east by today's Lime Kiln Brook, and north by the Nappan River, straddling Nappan Road. The property William Keiver purchased from Joseph's widow was the portion of the 23-acre lot that lay south of Nappan road. This was a court-ordered sale of 4 properties belonging to the late Joseph Gould 2nd to cover debts and expenses. The properties had been advertised in the Halifax Royal Gazette for 30 days sometime after the August 18, 1856 court order.

1842 Robert Pugsley to George Cruickshank (Deed Book R, p. 93)

Grantor: Robert Pugsley of River Hebert

Grantee: George Cruickshank, Teacher of Nappan. George Cruickshank was likely the schoolmaster. The schoolhouse was located on the lot to the west.

Price: 100 pounds

Property: 23 acres “being part of the farm lately in the possession of Michael Keiver and sold and conveyed by the said Michael Keiver to Robert Pugsley aforesaid”

Terms: excepting the barn and manure and reserving rights to take water from a spring on the property

Boundaries:

Boundaries as described in the deed	Clarification
lying on the north side of the main road leading through Nappan from Amos B. Pipes to John Bents	The main road leading from Amos B. Pipes to John Bent’s was Nappan Road. Amos B. Pipes had purchased a portion of the original William Pipes Jr. homestead near the confluence of the Nappan and Maccan Rivers and John Bent’s property lay close to Cobequid Road on the east.
bounded by Cochran’s lands on the North	The Cochran lands on the north were part of the Denson Grant that had been purchased by Thomas Cochran.
and the lands lately owned by Charles Stuart on the east	Charles Stuart was then in possession of 100-acre lot 14, inherited from his father John Stuart and acquired by John Stuart from Peter Porter.
by the road aforesaid on the south	Nappan Road
and on the West by lands now in the possession of William Keiver	The lot sold to Cruickshank was in the northeast corner of the original Michael Keiver homestead. On the William Keiver estate plan, it’s identified as the “Moore” lot as it was later sold to George B. Muir.
save and except for a Barn now upon the place which the said Robert Pugsley reserves to himself his heirs and assigns forever on condition he removes the same from the premises on or before the Middle of January eighteen hundred and forty four, and save and except all the Manure Now about said Barn or under the frame of said Barn at the tie of removing the same	
Rights to take water from a spring were also reserved.	

1849 (Reg 1855) Robert Pugsley to David Pugsley Deed Book Z, p. 338

Grantor: Robert Pugsley of River Hebert and wife Margaret (Keiver)

Grantee: David Pugsley of River Hebert

Price: 400 pounds

Properties: 2 parcels originally part of the Michael Keiver homestead

Property 1: 100-acres

Boundaries:

Boundaries as described in the deed	Clarification
“lying on the South Side of the Main Road leading to Amherst	Today’s Nappan Road
beginning at the angle of William Keiver’s land	This Pugsley lot was directly south of the lot labelled “Moore” on the William Keiver estate map. This lot was later owned by J. Henry Cousins, Amos B. Etter, and Jacob and Sylvester Porter.
thence along the said Road until it meets Edward Noils land	Heading east on Nappan Road to Edward Noils land on neighbouring Lot 14. Charles Stuart had sold the land to Edward Noils in 1842 (Deed Book Q, p. 530).
thence along Edward Noils boundary line until it meets the Read line,	? I have no information on a Read lot south of Pugsley’s Lot.
thence along the said line until it meets William Keiver’s land,	?
thence Along William Keiver’s land until it Meets the Said Road the place of beginning containing one hundred acres more or less”	Heading north along Keiver’s land to the place of beginning

Property 2: 12-acre marsh (labelled D. Pugsley south of Nappan Road on Keiver estate map)

Boundaries:

Boundaries as described in the deed	Clarification
Beginning at the Beaver Lake Brook Bridge	Today’s Lime Kiln Brook and Nappan Road
thence Along the Aforesaid Road until it meets William Keiver’s upland	East along Nappan Road to approximately today’s Lower Porter Road
thence Along the edge of the Said upland until it Meets a ditch Along William Keivers Marsh,	South approximately on Lower Porter Road
thence Along Said ditch until it Meets Said Brook,	Heading northwest along the ditch back to the Brook
thence Along the Said Brook until it Meets the Said Bridge the place of beginning, Containing Twelve Acres More or Less”	Heading northeast on the brook to the bridge

1857 Robert Pugsley to David Pugsley (Deed Book DD, p. 378, registered 1859)

Grantor: Robert Pugsley of River Hebert

Grantee: David Pugsley of Amherst

Price: 170 pounds

Properties: 2 parcels within the original homestead of Michael Keiver

Property: 9 1/2 acres

Boundaries:

Boundaries as described in the deed	Clarification
a Lot of Marsh land Bounded On the North by a ditch separating it from William Keiver's land	This is the lot marked Pugsley Marsh on the William Keiver estate map, bounded west by Lime Kiln Brook, south by Nappan Road, and east by Lower Porter Road
following Said Ditch to the Creek	Heading west on the ditch to Lime Kiln Brook
up the Creek to the Bridge	South (upstream) on Lime Kiln Brook to the bridge at Nappan Road
from the Bridge Eastward to the road leading to Amherst Corner	East on Nappan Road to Lower Porter Road
thence Northwardly Along Said Road to the place of beginning containing nine and a half acres More or less"	North along Lower Porter Road to the ditch at place of beginning

Property 2: a 15-acre marsh lot jointly owned by William Keiver and Robert Pugsley

Boundaries:

Boundaries as described in the deed	Clarification
"A lot of upland and Marsh Commonly Called the Beaver Lake Marsh	Lime Kiln Brook was once known as Beaver Lake Creek. This property is labelled "Puglsey's Marsh" on William Keiver's estate plan and has a curved ditch running through it.
lying on the West Side of the New Road leading from Amherst to Nappan	Today's Lower Porter Road
and running between the lands of William Keiver and Thomas Bacon	Thomas Bacon owned the Extreme Gore of the 1816 Samuel McCully Grant and the adjoining Amherst Lot 1 to the south.
and being one half of an undivided lot of land owned by the said Robert Pugsley and William Keiver containing fifteen Acres More or Less."	

Notes for further research:

A map of the estate of William Keiver shows the location of the Keiver and Pugsley properties. (Nova Scotia Probate Records, Estate Files 1764-1938, Nos. 1065-1113 (J-K) viewable on Family Search. The estate map is on image 721. A written description of the allocation of the properties beginning on image 745 is very useful as it mentions neighbouring properties not shown on the maps.

An 1860 map shows a Mrs. Keiver, a D. Pugsley and Nathaniel Casey located east of today's Lime Kiln Brook and a road called Baker's or possibly Baken's Rd., probably today's Lower Porter Road.

To view this map online, go to the Nova Scotia Provincial Archives Historical Maps section at <https://archives.novascotia.ca/maps/> and search for "Cumberland County". The map is titled "Cumberland County Grants" and dated 1860. Controls at the bottom of the page will allow you to enlarge and rotate the map. You can also download the map and then use the controls on your computer to enlarge and rotate the map.

The 1873 A. F. Church map shows Mrs. Keiver, D. Pugsley, G.B. Moore and A. Stiles east of Beaver Lake Creek, today's Lime Kiln Brook.

Myrtle Chappell discusses the Keiver homestead in Fenwick 1778-1978, pages 80-82. She mentions several homesteads once located on the original homestead of Michael Keiver including Price Read, Charles Read, the Stiles homestead later owned by Kenneth Smith, Walton Bacon, Gordon Bacon, Jacob Porter, David Pugsley, and G.B. Moore.

The Ernest Coates hand-drawn map shows the following homesteads located on the original Michael Keiver homestead:

#29 Farm of Alan, Allison Stiles, Kenneth Smith, grandson of Alan.

#30 Farm of Roderick Read, son of Charles Read & gson of Burton Read

#31 Farm of Gordon Bacon & Helen (Ripley) Bacon

#32 Farm of Jacob, Sylvester, Russell Porter (Jacob M Ida Read)

The map can be obtained at Cumberland County Genealogical Society (CCGS) or downloaded here:

<https://ripleyresearch.weebly.com/cumberland-county-maps.html>

My website page:

<https://ripleyresearch.weebly.com/the-keiver-properties.html>