

TAFT FAMILY ASSOCIATION - TAFT TREE TALKS Jun 2004

MENDON / UXBRIDGE and VICINITY FAMILY SITES

This is a listing of local sites and their locations with family related information. Information comes from the research of Richard Taft Messinger and others. Locations are taken from the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Map, Mendon 1865, and Mendon 1667-1967.

Town	Site	Location	Information
Blackstone	Otis Taft Homestead	Millville; northeast of Providence St., just south of intersection with Central St.	From 1865 map
Blackstone	Japhet Taft Homestead	Chestnut St. on east side between Hickory Rd. and Hill St.	From 1865 map
Mendon	Albee Grist Mill	West side of Mill River, south of Hartford Ave., west of Neck Hill Rd. intersection.	"Albee Corn Mill... on the stream by the 'Country Road' now known as Hartford Avenue. There by Benjamin Alby (Albee)... built the first grist mill... The first reference to this mill in the town records was 10 Sep 1672 at which time the town confirmed the contract... Albee's name... first appears in Mendon Jun 1677.. (thus) the mill was probably built about that time... When the town burned, Albee's mill and house suffered the same fate..."
Mendon	Frank Taft Place	Maple Street	Built in 1820 by Caleb Hayward. Three generations of Tafts lived there for 75-80 years (abt 1887-1967)
Mendon	Nipmuc Pond	Rte 16 west (Uxbridge Rd) about 2 miles from center of Mendon	"Lake Nipmuc Park was a popular resort. Its theater drew top-notch vaudeville acts and its ballroom attracted the best in the musical world. Transportation was originally by trolley from Milford and Uxbridge."
Mendon	Little Pond	South on Millville Rd, about 2-1/2 miles. Little Pond is just north and east of intersection with Pleasant and Lovell Sts.	see TTT Nov 88 (Thomas Taft)
Mendon	Fairbanks Brook	Exit from southwest corner of Nipmuc Pond	see TTT Nov 88 (Daniel Taft)
Mendon	Mowry Street	Rte 16 east past Nipmuc Pond about 1-1/2 miles to Morey St.	see TTT Nov 88 (Robert Taft)
Mendon	Amariah Taft Cellar Hole	Providence St. at foot of hill from center of Mendon, left side of road	
Mendon	Location of bridges built by Tafts	Over Blackstone River, near Uxbridge	Sites unsure at this time, one abutment is reputed to still exist
Mendon	Mill Site of J. F. Taft	Millville Rd. in town forest (west of Millville Rd., north of Millville)	Reputed stone located in forest commemorating the mill site (? 1816 or 1876)
Mendon	Robert Taft Memorial Stone	Rte 16, south on Millville Rd about 1 mile; on left just after "tomato soup colored" house	
Mendon	Arnold Taft House	Rte 16, south on Millville Rd. about 2 miles; brick house on left	

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Mendon	Putman W. Taft House	South side near intersection of Washington and Northbridge Sts.	Photo of house in 1896 with Ada, Althea and Helen Taft; Mary Taft Thayer with Putman Taft and Helen Thayer in wagon
Mendon	Reuben Taft Homestead	South of Wigwam Hill; west side of Tower St?	From 1865 map
Mendon	? Dennison Taft Homestead	South of Wigwam Hill, northeast of Reuben Taft; east or west side of Tower St?	From 1865 map
Mendon	Daniel Taft Homestead	Millville Rd., south to Old Chestnut Hill Rd., east on Vineyard St., which becomes Southwick St.	Currently Southwick Animal Park
Millville	Caleb Taft's Blacksmith Shop Site	north side of intersection of Vineyard, Chestnut and either Tower or Millville Sts.	From 1865 map Early texts imply this was the blacksmith shop which served as inspiration for Longfellow's poem; however this smithy was actually in Cambridge. "The first Taft to work the shop was Japhet, who had the forge built in 1787... Japhet passed it on to Luther, who in turn gave it to his son Caleb, for whom it was named." Quoting again : In a corner of the main exhibition hall of the Edison Institute Museum at Dearborn, MI stands in completely restored form the historic Taft blacksmith shop from Mendon, MA with its famous forge, said to be the second oldest in America. Arranged within walls built to resemble those of the original shop, is the equipment as it was..."
Millville	Dudley Taft Homestead	Off Grove St. (perhaps on south side of Legg St.)	From 1865 map
Uxbridge	Chocolog / Schockalog Pond / Cedar Swamp	Rte 16 to 146 South (Providence Rd). Continue c 4-3/4 miles, turn left onto Chocolog Rd. Go abt 4-3/4 miles to the Pond on the south side of the road. The Cedar Swamp is to the south of the pond and bounded by Aldrich St. on the south.	
Uxbridge	B. Taft Homestead	West of Johnston Rd just south of Black Pond. Also north side of intersection of Douglas Rd (Rte 16) and West St.	From 1865 map. One of the B. Taft Homesteads belonged to Bezaleel Taft and is currently the "Cock and Kettle" Restaurant.
Uxbridge	E. Taft Homestead	East on Locust St. about 1/2 mile south of Chestnut St.	From 1865 map
Uxbridge	G. W. Taft and A. Taft Homesteads	West side of Richardson St. near Landry Ln.	From 1865 map
Uxbridge	H. Taft, J. Taft Homesteads	East side of Pond St. about 1 mile south of intersection with High St.	From 1865 map
Uxbridge	Miss S. Taft Homestead	North side of Hazel St. about 3/4 mile east of intersection with Hartford Ave.	From 1865 map

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Uxbridge	J. S. Taft Homestead	North side of Hazel St. just west of Spring Brook and pond (J.S.T. sawmill at north side of pond)	From 1865 map
Uxbridge	Zacheus Taft, Mrs. Taft Homesteads	West side Rte 122, just south of intersection with High St.	From 1865 map
Uxbridge	Taft Tavern	North Uxbridge, probably on Sutton St.	Site of two presidential visits: "George Washington (denied a stay at the Ammidon Tavern in Mendon) stayed here during his tour of New England in 1789. He was so pleased with the accommodations that he sent the innkeepers' daughters Patty and Polly a piece of chintz. In 1909 Pres. William H. Taft, whose grandfather was born in Uxbridge, took time out... to visit his ancestral home."
Uxbridge	H. G. Taft Homestead	West side of Rte 122 north of intersection with Spinning Wheel Dr.	From 1865 map
Uxbridge	Taft Central Mill and Rice City Pond	South end of Rice City Pond, north of intersection of Hartford Ave. and Oak St.	"After the Blackstone Canal Co. went out of business in 1849, owners of the Taft Central Mill built a 14 ft dam about a mile south along Hartford Ave., creating a 100 acre mill storage pond."
Uxbridge	S. Taft Homestead	North side of intersection with East Hartford Ave. and Rockmeadow Ln.	From 1865 map
Uxbridge	H. M. Taft Homestead	Southwest at intersection of Hartford Ave. East and Rockmeadow Ln.	From 1865 map
Whitinsville	Gustavus Taft Home	46 Hill St., north of center of town, after High St. intersection	