

LYNDE FAMILY

In 1648, Thomas (2) Lynde of Malden with his associate, Joseph Hill, were appointed with others, to survey the "great highway" planned from Winnisimmet Ferry to Reading, thence to Andover, and to Haverhill and Merrimac. ~~Haverhill~~ Nicholas Holt and Lieut. Thomas Marshall, laid out the Andover-Reading section, which occasioned wrangling and an appeal, in 1651 to John Osgood, our Andover Representative, and Robert Clements of Haverhill and Francis Smith of Reading, who, suspecting favoritism on the part of the Malden surveyors, had them dropped from the project.

Unfortunately, both Osgood and Smith both died that year, and the course of the road, which was the cause of the holdup, remained unsettled.

In 1652, the Court acted again, and set Thomas Marshall of Reading, John Smith and John Sprague, to go on with the work. Thomas Lynde, who had deposed that it would be more convenient to set the new highway on the old road to Reading "from Tom Lines corn fields and over some part of his fields to firm ground above his house", — got the road located as he wished, due to strenuous wire-pulling. Tom always got what he wanted.

These roads followed trails, in part, and did not go around hills, but over them. When the early land lookers made a tour of several days to the north of Charlestown, they reported great hills of rocks of no use to the settlers and said that settlements would go no farther. In Wilmington there were terrible swamps under water all the year round- which were not invaded or drained until the Railroad went through in 1830.

The highway to Salem ^{via} Middleton was surveyed the same year, i.e., 1648.