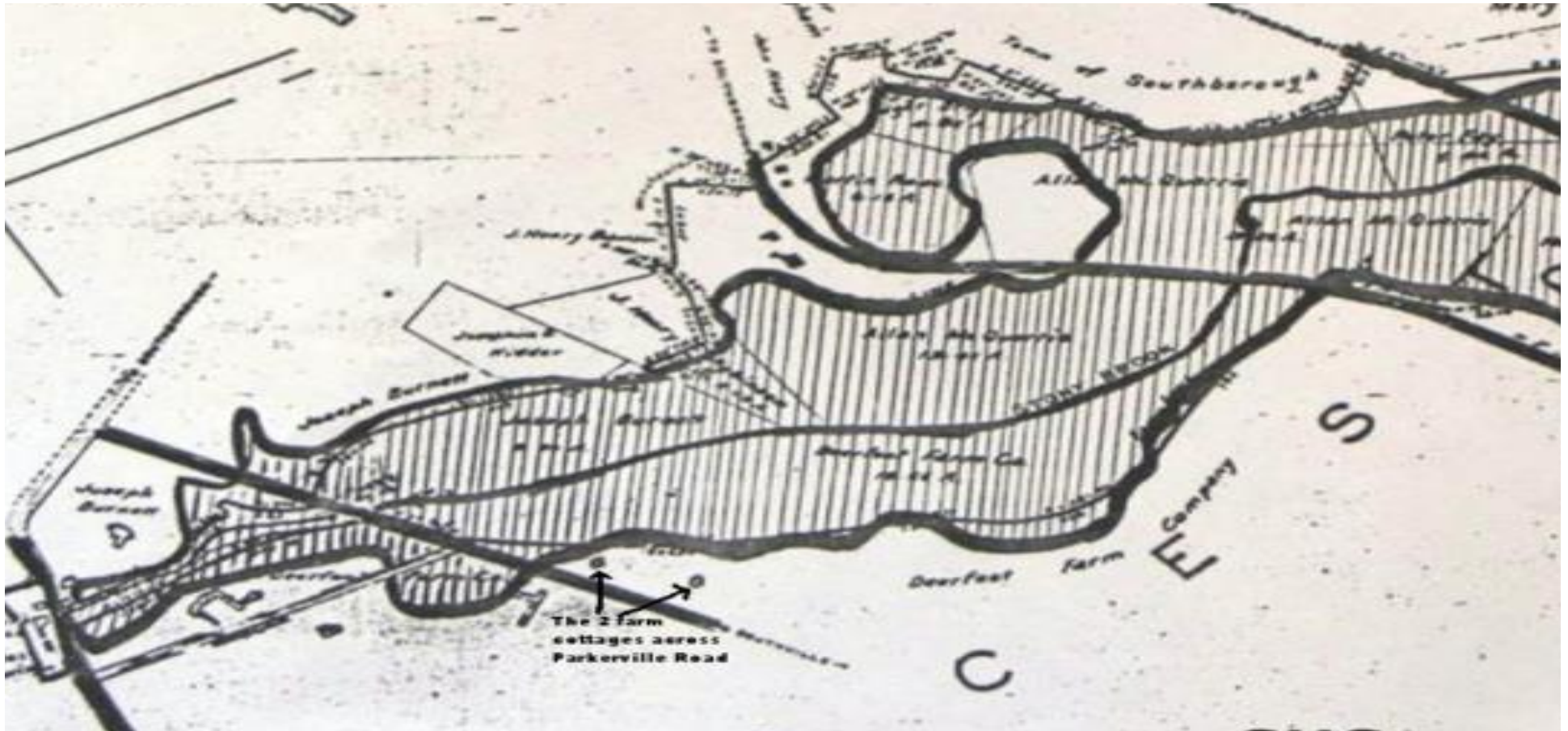


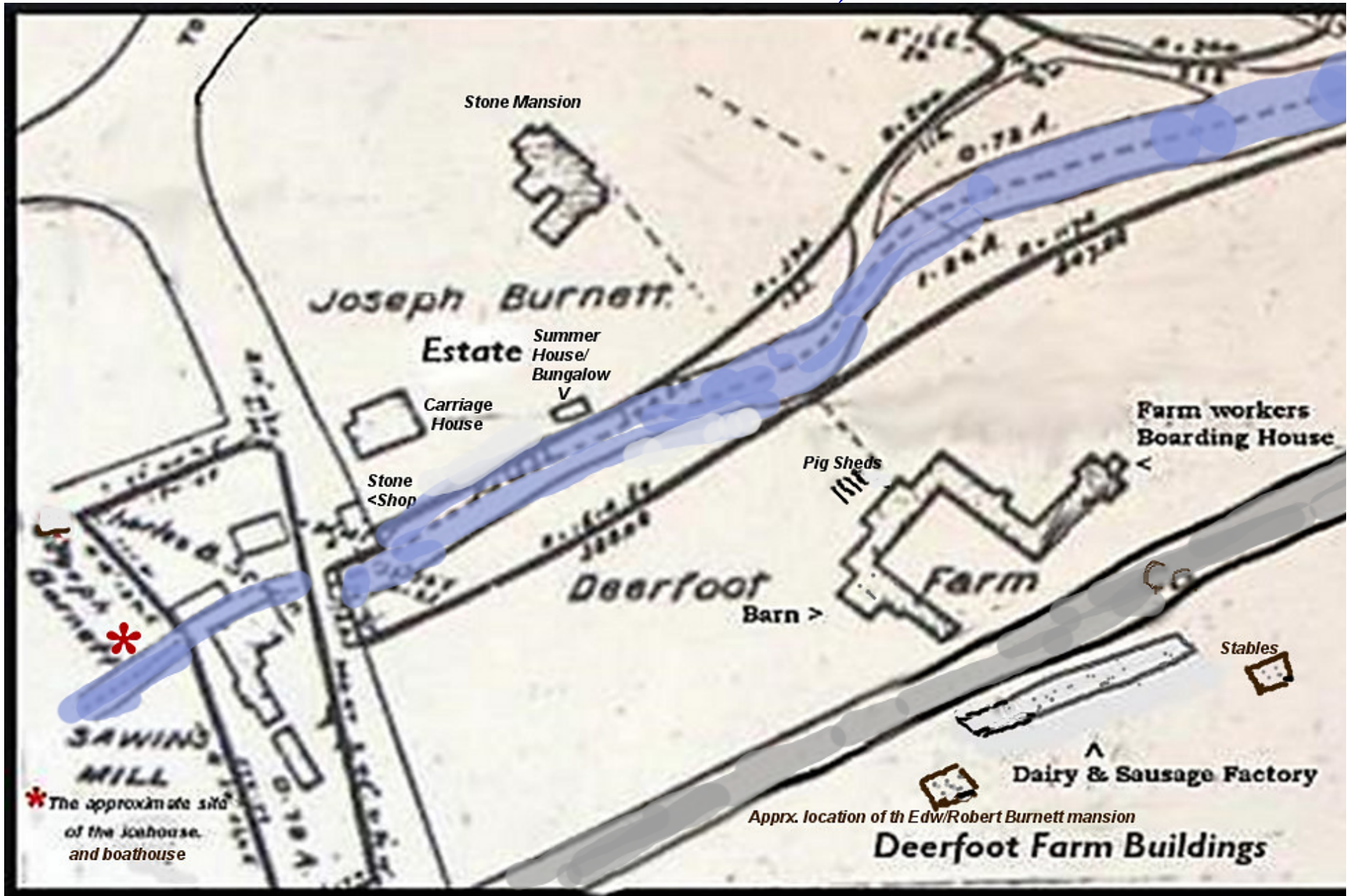
## ***THE ORIGINAL FARM, DAIRY & SAUSAGE PLANT BUILDINGS***

Featured below are images of the original Deerfoot farm buildings along Stony Brook. Beginning in 1894, the original farm buildings along with 20 acres of their land bordering Stony Brook were taken for the creation of the Sudbury Reservoir.



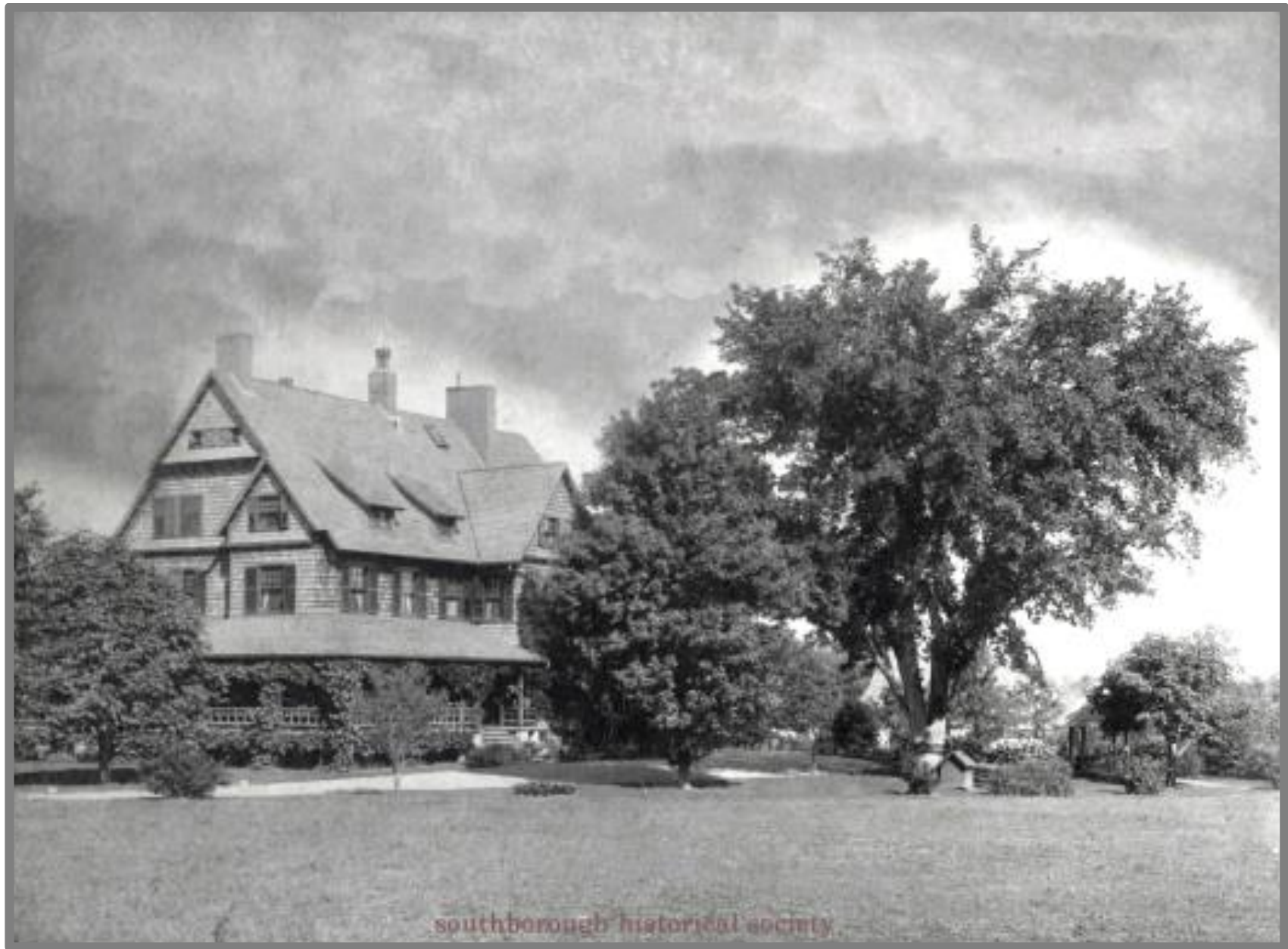
As seen in the [Deerfoot Farms Overview](#) the Joseph Burnett & Deerfoot Farm properties taken by the Boston Water Work are indicated by the lines. The 2 married worker's cottages are indicated by the 2 arrows to the left of center of the bottom of the map.

<sup>1</sup>The Boston Water Works planned and completed the Sudbury Reservoir. Its name was later changed to the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and this name will be used in this document. In 2009 the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) were merged to form the DCR (Department of



Above is enlarged portion of the map showing the shape and location of the Deerfoot Farm buildings which were taken due to the danger of run-off from the animals and farm waste into the reservoir. Stony Brook is shown in blue.





This beautiful mansion's (facing south-west) was the home of Edward and later Robert Burnett (both served as Deerfoot Farm Company presidents). It was located on Deerfoot Farm property so this, in my opinion, would be the main farmhouse, whereas Joseph Burnett's stone mansion would be considered the founder's and the family home.

*More images of the house can be seen below and in the background of the images of the original farm buildings.*



Facing south-east the great house can be seen with a young girl and an infant in the foreground. The little gazebo like structure still exists, but it has been moved next to the stables. It may have been moved to make way for a garage built years later.





A view of the home which is facing north. It was not taken for the reservoir, but disappeared years later by what reason has not surfaced yet. It is sad that such a magnificent home not longer exists.



ROBERT M. BURNETT'S HOUSE

The photo is taken from an article in New England Magazine- Vol. 27- Sept. 1902-Feb. 1902; "Southborough" by Martha I D. White.



## *A description of the home when Edward Burnett lived there with his family.*

“My father (Edward Burnett) was the eldest of 12 children, and the year that he left college, he came back to Southboro, married my mother, and started in the business of dairy farming. We lived in a large shingled house on the hill, a friendly house with plenty of red brick chimneys, and many windows in the four gables. A broad, covered piazza ran around three sides of the west end of the house, and at the front door there were steps which had on each side mounting blocks for the many horseback and carriage riders that came there. These broad verandas served a useful purpose in the days of large families, for in stormy weather when the wind was on the other side of the house we children were turned out to play with ample room for velocipedes, doll carriages, iron railroad trains and blocks, which gave the harassed adults inside a few hours of respite, free from the noise and destruction of children housed by the rain or snow outside.

When President Grover Cleveland was still in office and was campaigning for a second term, he came to Southborough and made Deerfoot Farm his headquarters for campaigning in the vicinity. It was in the summer of 1892 (the Cleverlands also visited in August 1889), and my father had been in the U.S. Congress as a Representative of Worcester County. [Edward was what was called a “Mugwamp”, a Republican who supported a Democratic candidate, i.e., Grover Cleveland].

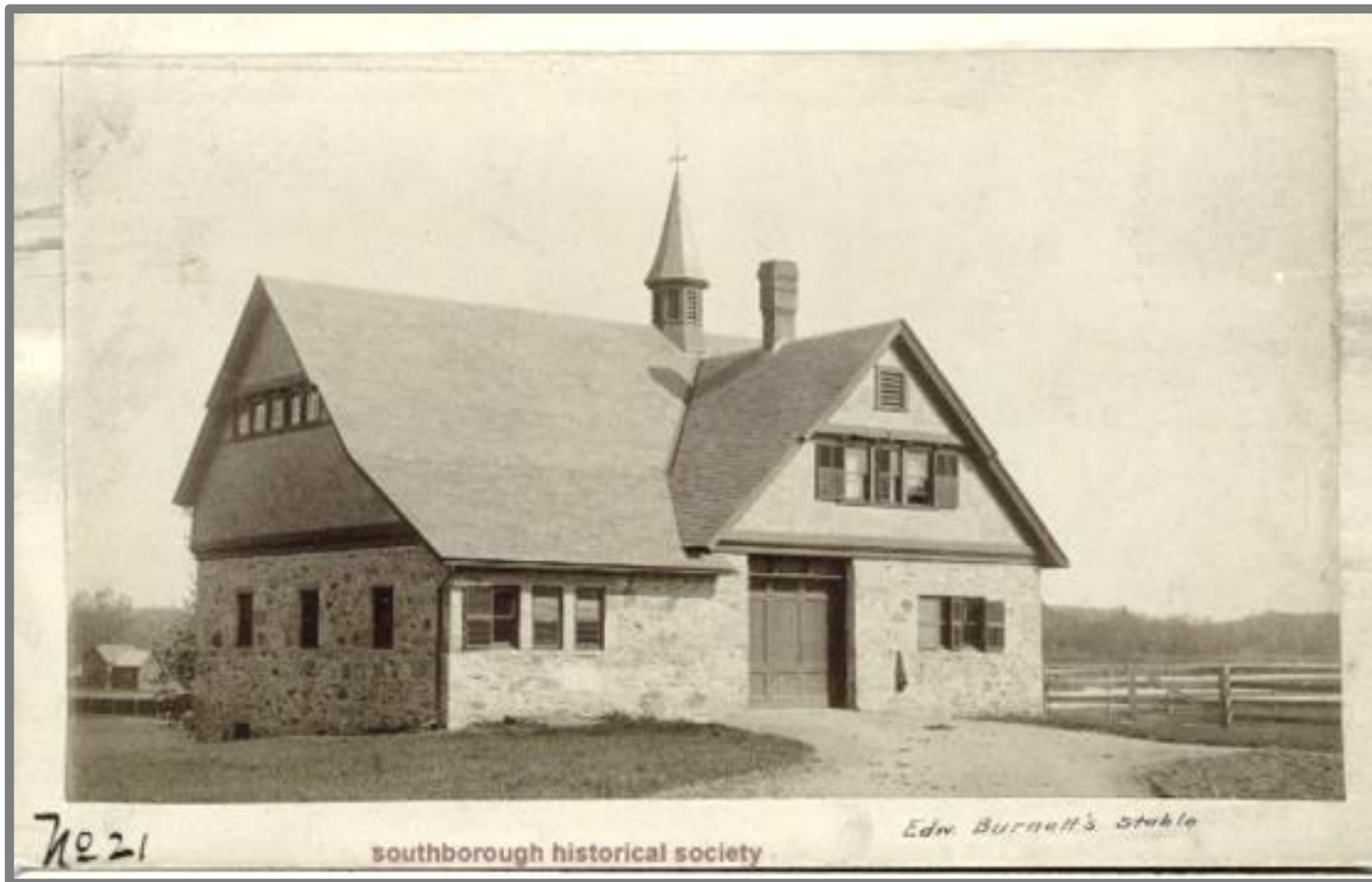
My aunt Ruth was a friend of Mrs. Cleveland and she stayed, along with her husband, in our home. Mr. Cleveland toured the nearby countryside by train and buggy, accompanied by my father, making speeches and cementing political relations in every town and hamlet in the county.”\*

According to the deeds to the property, it appears Edward turned it over to his brother Robert on October 18, 1884. Why at such an early date is unknown especially as it seems Edward lived there for some time after this date\*\*

Edward lived at other addresses, including one at Peterborough, N.H. and he died at his last home, 196 School Street, Milton, Massachusetts on Nov. 5, 1925. He was buried in the family cemetery in Southborough, Mass.

\*Three Houses, A Narrative, “The Farm” by Esther Lowell Cunningham, Thomas Todd Company, Boston, Publishers-1955.

\*\*Edward is mentioned as being at this address after 1884. For example, the Cleveland’s visit to the home in Southborough in 1887 and 1892, with Edward Burnett as their host. It is possible Edward and his family lived here along with Robert and his family, after this date.



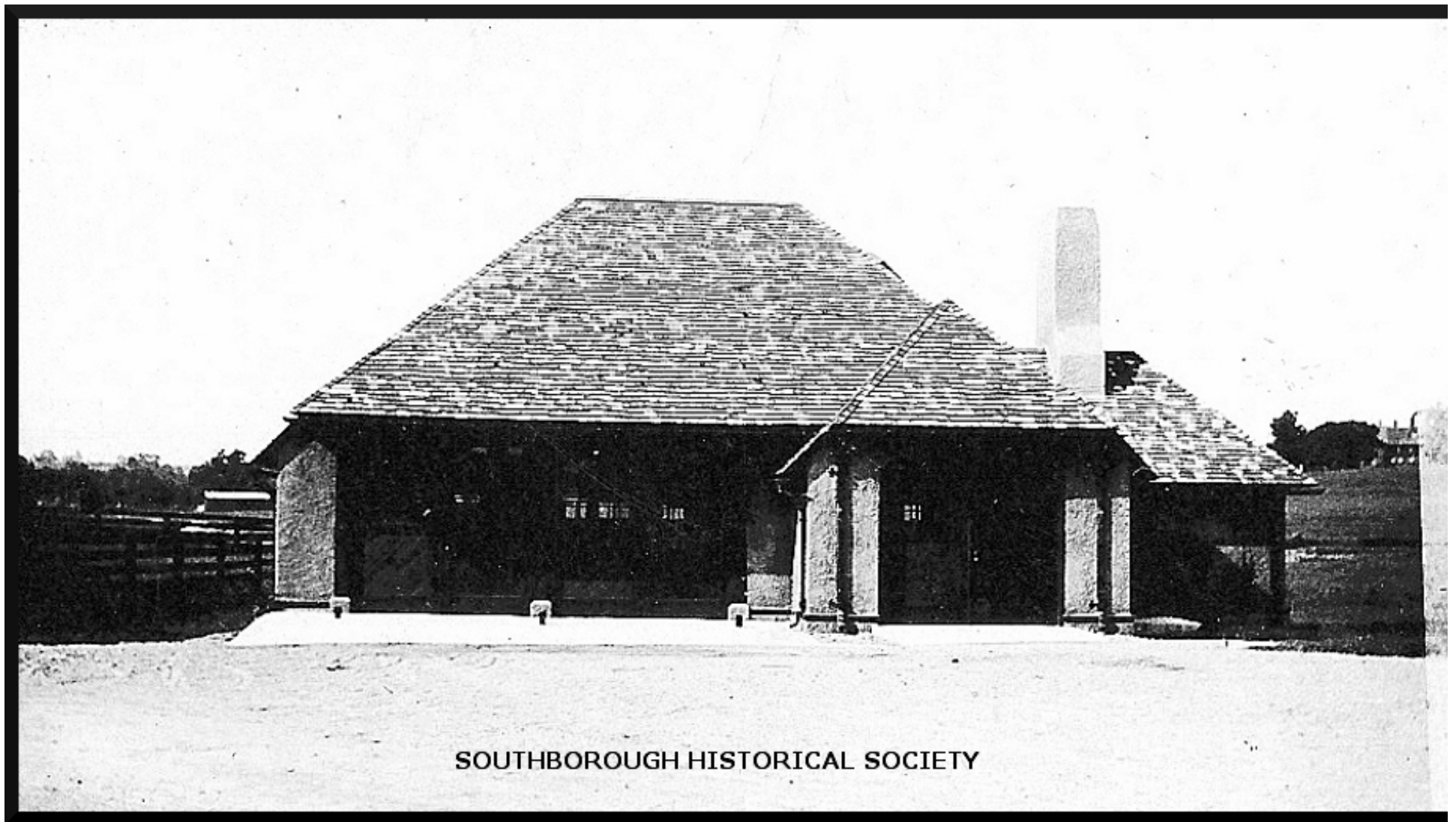
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*Edw. Burnett's Stable*

The stable for the Edward/Robert Burnett mansion to the left of which you can see one of the Deerfoot farm worker's homes. The handsome stable still exists and is being resorted and preserved by its owner.





The garage built for Robert Burnett's autos. It was built sometime during the early part of the 1900's after the construction of the reservoir. It was located near the main house which would have been to the right, just outside this photo. It is still there with an extension added to it which is in keeping with the original architecture.

The description of the company and its operations is from Wisconsin Farmers' Institutes: a hand-book of agriculture (1890); “Deerfoot Farm Pork Products” pp. 114-116, by James Cheesman, Southboro, Mass. At the time Deerfoot owned 300 acres.

The Deerfoot business is divided into three distinct departments or heads. First, the farming proper; second, the creamery or dairy business; and third, the pork business. Each of these is in charge of a competent foreman and all under the control of the office.

#### **Size of Farm.**

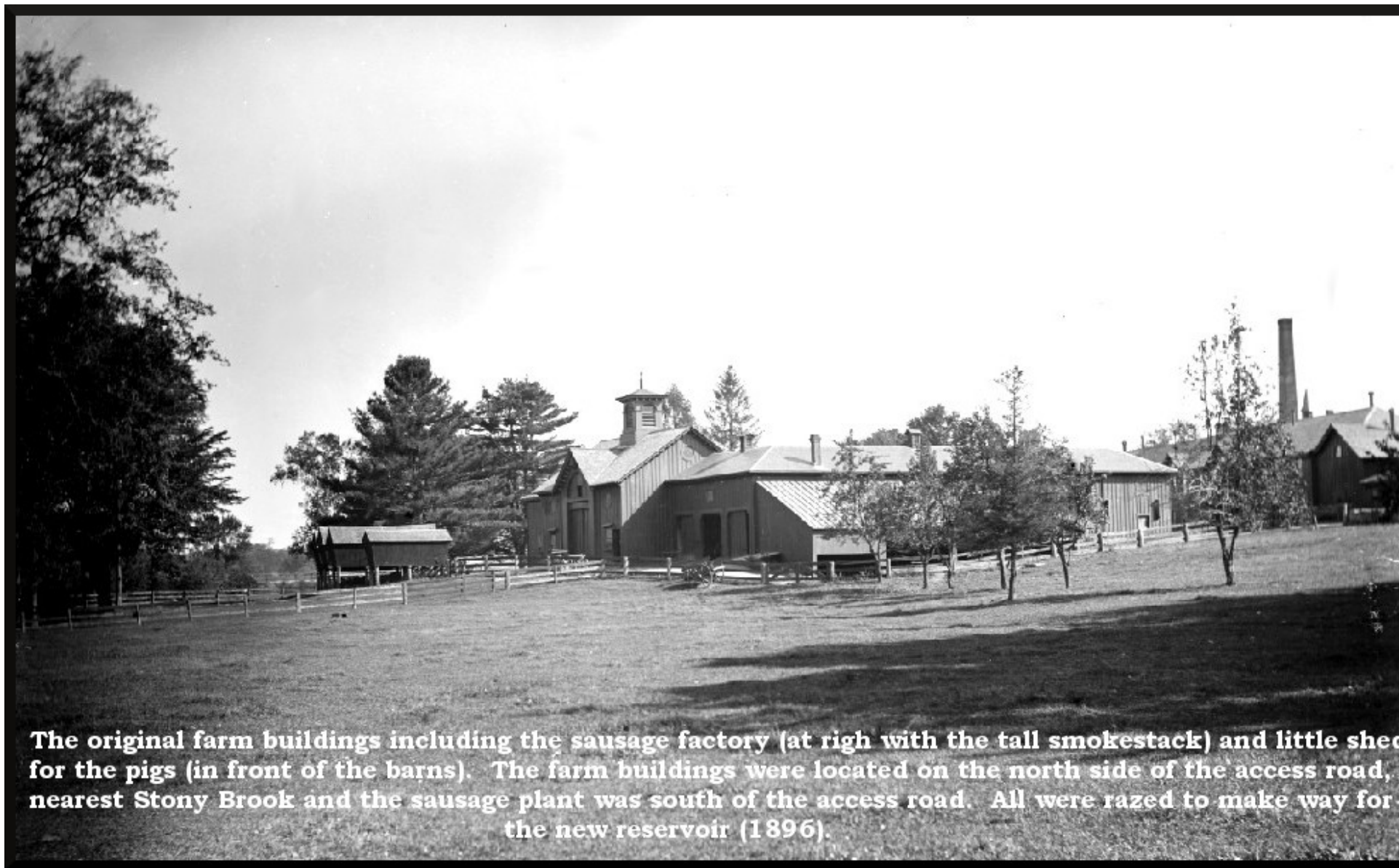
The farm comprises about 300 acres, a little less than one-half of which is under cultivation, raising hay and other fodder for the stock. The rest of the farm is rough, stony and in some places covered with undergrowth of sprouts. Some three or four acres per year are reclaimed and added to the arable portion of the farm.



### **Farm Buildings.**

The farm buildings are somewhat scattered as the business developed from small beginnings, and new buildings were added as was necessary. The barns are all serviceable and have nothing about them different from what any common barn may have.

The buildings are grouped together for ease of supervision and for the purpose of convenience in the use of power and system. The dairy is at the end nearest the foreground and the pork business at the other so that no unpleasant odors from the hogs can effect the butter. The boiler and steam engine is in the centre, with the office and laboratory over head.



**The original farm buildings including the sausage factory (at right with the tall smokestack) and little shed for the pigs (in front of the barns). The farm buildings were located on the north side of the access road, nearest Stony Brook and the sausage plant was south of the access road. All were razed to make way for the new reservoir (1896).**



### **The Farm**

is devoted to making milk and raising pigs. The neat stock includes about 80 head of Jerseys, Guernseys and their grades.

The farm is now milking 53 cows, the balance being young animals. Everything about the barns is the ideal of neatness; the stables are continually sprinkled with plaster and other absorbents. Much hay is cut, and this is a prominent article of feed, with corn meal, gluten meal and linseed meal.

Ensilage is being used now for the first season, a new silo 32x20 feet having been constructed during the last summer.

The farm is situated at four corners of the town's highways, about a mile and a half west of Southboro station. On it are located the family residences of Mr. Joseph Burnett, Hon. Edward Burnett, Mr. Robert Burnett and Mrs. Gardner, several cottages for the employes, besides the barns and other

#### **The Dairy Department**

uses all the milk made upon the farm, and also such of the milk of the adjoining farms as comes up to the Deerfoot standard. The milk of 1,000 cows is used daily. The farm runs a car from Southboro to Boston every day, on which is sent much milk as well as cream, butter and pork products.





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*Deerfoot Farm Co's boarding house.*

*The boarding house for unmarried workers as it appeared in 1894 while it was still in use. The farm buildings are in back of and behind the boarding house.*



*Just 2 years later (1896) the boarding house shows signs of neglect although it may still have been in use at this time its replacement further up Deerfoot Road was not finished until 1897.*





*The boarding house is ready to be razed in 1897. The farm buildings beside and behind it have already been taken. Trees have been removed and their remains lie near the boarding house. You can see the tower of the Joseph Burne stone mansion in the background.*

### **The Pork Business**

uses about 20 hogs per day. Such as are not raised at the farm are selected by its buyers from the best dairy districts in New England and shipped alive to Deerfoot farm for final feeding and butchering. The most prominent of the well known products of this department are the Deerfoot sausages, which are known the country over. But a large business is also done in fancy bacon, lard, and in small 15, 25 and 50 pound tubs of family pork. Pig's feet are put up in glass jars, and some of the sausages are put up in two-pound packages, and some of the sausage meat is also put in two-pound packages in parchment paper. This building is also equipped with machinery for doing work expeditiously, with rooms for butchering, cutting, making the sausages, filling and chilling, packing them, trying the lard, smoking the bacon, and everything else that is needed. Every-



thing is neat and clean about the premises. The pork products are so well known and so popular that they are shipped all over the country, to Montana, New Orleans and St. Louis, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and other places.



MASIN NO. 2 - SOUTHBOROUGH  
JOSEPH BURNETT - SAC. A  
- NOV. 29, 1897

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*The sausage plant, slaughter house, and dairy are in the process of being razed in these photos from November 189*



BASIN NO. 5 - SOUTHBOROUGH  
JOSEPH BURNETT - SEC. A  
NOV. 29, 1897

1892

*By late 1897 the farm buildings are nearly gone and the sausage plant & boarding house are in the process of being razed. The Robert Burnett stables can be seen behind the lodge & remains of the farm.*





*In a similar photo from the previous one, looking directly to the south behind the buildings in the process of being razed can be seen the Robert Burnett stables at left and what appears to be his mansion on the right, obscured by trees.*



*The view looking towards the east and across the new reservoir which is being constructed. The Deerfoot Farm buildings can be seen on the right and the summer bungalow, belonging to Joseph Burnett, can be seen on the left*



The boarding house and a portion of the farm can just be seen at left in this photo from 1897





A blow-up of the previous photo showing the boarding house and other farm buildings.



The barn in this photo is identified as a Deerfoot Farm cow barn. No such building appears in the photo of the entire farm near the beginning of this article. We're not sure where this was located at this time, however, the Southborough Assessor Report, May 1, 1886 lists a barn for Deerfoot Farm located on Southville (Parkerville Road) which would also have been taken for the reservoir.



Two farm cottages (one pictured on the next page) for married workers. They look alike, but are two different cottages located across Parkerville Road. Please refer to the map of the land taken for the Sudbury Reservoir for the location of the cottages.

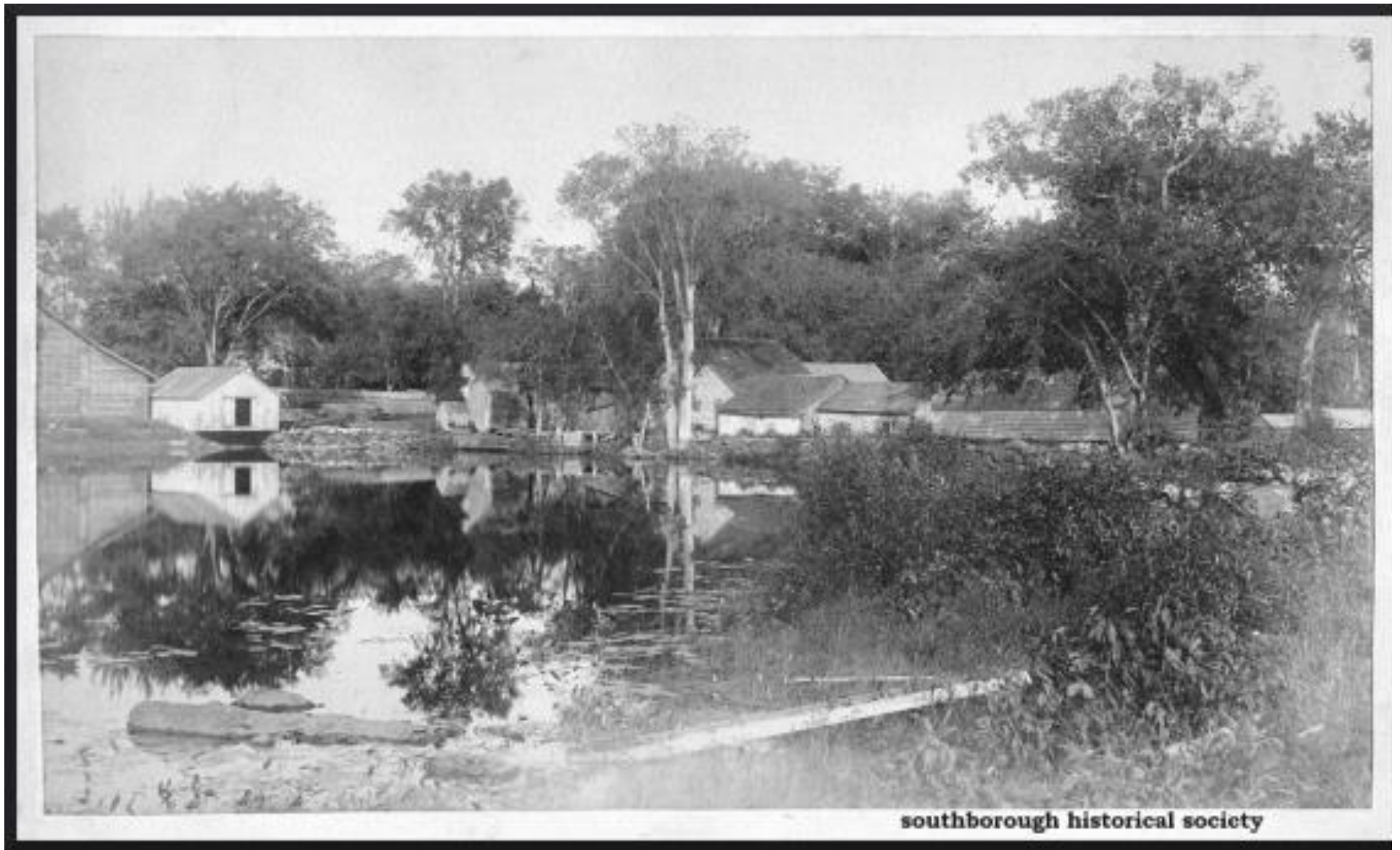




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*Deerfoot Farm Co.*



In the above photo can be seen the boat house (small light colored building to the left of center in the photo), the ice house (next to the boat house and partially outside the photo), and Sawin's Mill to the right on Parker's Pond. This is how they appeared before the reservoir was constructed. They were all taken and Sawin moved his operation to another location in the town.



N. A. - SOUTHBORO ICE HOUSE  
HEIRS OF JOSEPH BURNETT

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The ice house for Deerfoot Farm looking south. It was located across Deerfoot Road from the Joseph Burnett estate and near Sawin's Mill on Burnett/Deerfoot land. The little boat house can be seen next to it.





Here are the ice and boat houses looking north from across the former pond. The pond (Parker's Pond) has been dammed during the creation of the reservoir and they now are next to dry land.



By August 1898 all of the original Deerfoot Farm buildings are gone and the reservoir has been created. They were located at what is now the road along the banks of the reservoir. The Robert Burnett mansion can just be seen left of center in this photo (below the 'arrow'). The above photos are thanks to "Digital Commonwealth"

@<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/>



The footprint of the original farm, dairy and factory (highlighted in gray). Thanks to Al Bezanson for this print.  
The Private Road still exits running along the banks of the reservoir.