

NOW!



Stiles Road¹

The property was Shrewsbury Land Grant Lot #17 originally granted to Moses Newton, December 30, 1718, containing 59 acres situated east from Asharris Hill, bounded easterly by the town line, and westerly by the 18th house lot and northerly by undivided land. This lot was near or a little westerly of Straw Hollow on what is today known as Stiles Road. In 1729 it was in the possession of Aaron Newton. In later years, this place was known as the Benjamin Fassett Place.

Relocation to Shrewsbury North Precinct (*Area Incorporated in 1786 as Boylston*)

Jonathan Fassett, Sr. was born in Bedford, Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1742, marrying Sarah Davis in 1761 in that town. By 1863, Jonathan and Sarah had relocated to Shrewsbury where they would proceed to have 9 children in this homestead on Stiles Road.

Service to town and country

Capt. Jonathan Fassett was a Revolutionary War veteran, initially serving as a private under Captain Robert Andrews Company of Minutemen which marched on the alarm from Shrewsbury North Precinct (later known as Boylston) to Cambridge on April 19, 1775.

On Monday, March 18, 1786, at the first Town Meeting held after the incorporation of the Town of Boylston Jonathan Fassett was elected to serve as one of the first Board of Selectmen. He also served eight years as an Assessor.

His youngest son, Benjamin Fassett, would also serve as a member of the Town of Boylston Board of Selectmen in 1836. The wife of Benjamin was the daughter of Calvin Dunton, who lived and had a small mill or shop which was operated by water-power at the Breakneck Ledge on the Worcester and Nashua Railroad, and near the West Boylston town line.

Anabaptist Society Formed

In 1815, Benjamin Fassett was an Anabaptist, and opposite his residence, he erected a small wooden building on the northerly corner of Stiles Road. This was used as a Meeting House for the Shrewsbury and Boylston Baptist Society, the Boylston members of which lived mostly in the eastern part of the town, and the adjacent parts of Northborough. This was the forerunner of the Northborough Baptist Church. The building was afterwards used by D. T. Moore and sons as a tenement for their employed. The old church building which was located around 211 Stiles Road has been taken down, and its site leveled and planted with grass. The nineteenth century Fassett house itself remains standing as a memory to this family and their descendants and their service to the Town of Boylston.

¹Google Earth Pro Photograph, December 15, 2023
Boylston Historical Series, Bruce D. Filgate, 2012